

Cote d'Ivoire

Out of the shadows: Shining light on the response to child sexual abuse and exploitation

It takes place mostly in the shadows, but sexual violence against children is happening everywhere, regardless of a country's economic status or its citizens' quality of life. Yet, child sexual abuse and exploitation is preventable, and there are strategies that have been proven successful in reducing it. When government, civil society and the private sector act together, progress is possible.

The Out of the Shadows Index illustrates how countries are responding to the problem, highlighting areas for attention and advancement towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, which include a target (16.2) to end all forms of violence against children by 2030.

Background indicators

GDP per capita at purchasing power parity (US\$ at PPP)	4,200
Population (m)	24.9
Population under 19 (%)	49.7
Access to broadband Internet (%)	0.6

Source: EIU



Brief summary

Cote d'Ivoire has taken some steps to combat child sexual abuse through engagement with civil society and international organisations. More structured policy and legislation are needed to drive progress.

Where has progress been made?

National plans and policies: Cote d'Ivoire has a national plan to protect children against forms of trafficking and exploitation, including child prostitution and pornography. In 2012, the country established a "National Policy on Child Protection", which seeks to reduce violence against, and abuse and exploitation of children.

Internet protections: Internet service providers (ISPs) are required by law to report any illegal activity on the Internet. The Cybercriminality Law of 2013 states that ISPs are required to place an easily accessible and identifiable mechanism on their websites for reporting any illegal activities.

Civil society engagement: Some civil society organisations provide support for victims, such as emergency shelter, legal aid and awareness-raising. Several international organisations provide medical services specifically for child victims of sexual violence.

What more needs to be done?

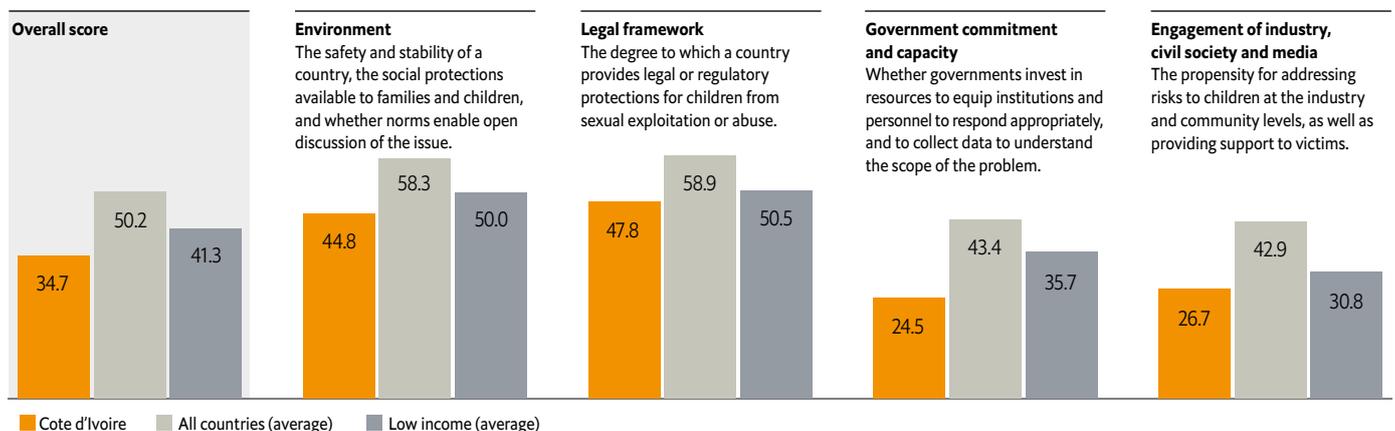
Industry engagement: The country does not have its own notice and takedown system that would enable the public to report unlawful child sexual abuse content so that it can be quickly removed from the Internet. Engagement from the travel and media industries regarding sexual violence against children is also lacking. Neither industry issues guidelines for dealing with incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Complaint mechanisms: In the past, the government operated a hotline for people to report cases of or concerns about child sexual abuse. However, this is no longer operational and there are no clear alternatives for the public to be able to report potential incidents of sexual violence against children.

Data collection: Information on the prevalence of child sexual abuse and exploitation is limited. Some studies and estimates do exist, but in general data on prevalence, trends and drivers of violence is limited.

Offender support programmes: The country does not appear to provide preventive or rehabilitative programmes for prospective offenders or those at risk of reoffending.

Index scores



All countries average includes 60 countries across East Asia & the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East & North Africa, North America, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Low income average (as classified by the World Bank) includes 10 countries. Full methodology at <https://outoftheshadows.eiu.com>.

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Indicator	Score / 100
1.1) Instability	67.4
1.2) Livelihoods	46.6
1.3) Social protections	35.0
1.4) Consumption of stimulants	86.5
1.5) Societal attitudes	38.4
1.6) Perceptions of violence	38.0
1.7) Attitudes to law enforcement	38.3
2.1) Contextual legal framework	35.7
2.2) Age of consent	0.0
2.3) Child sexual offenses	40.0
2.4) Child marriage	50.0
2.5) Child-specific rape laws	83.3
2.6) General sex laws	66.7
2.7) Exemptions and qualifiers	87.5
2.8) Purchasing sexual services	0.0
2.9) Procurement of minors	100.0
2.10) Visual depiction of minors engaging in sexual activities	100.0

Indicator	Score / 100
2.11) Online grooming	0.0
2.12) Protecting child interests	0.0
2.13) Internet protections	66.7
3.1) International standards or conventions	80.0
3.2) National plans and policies	70.0
3.3) Resources for legal and enforcement professionals	0.0
3.4) Data collection: prevalence	0.0
3.5) Reporting	50.0
3.6) Government and law enforcement capacity	28.6
3.7) Complaint mechanisms	0.0
3.8) Access to victim support programmes	16.0
3.9) Access to offender support programmes	0.0
4.1) Technology industry engagement	0.0
4.2) Travel and tourism industry engagement	33.3
4.3) Frontline support workers	50.0
4.4) Civil society engagement	50.0
4.5) Media industry engagement	0.0

First quartile (75-100) Second quartile (50-74.9) Third quartile (25-49.9) Fourth quartile (0-24.9)

For a full explanation of indicators, underlying weightings and further details on the country profile, please see the interactive Excel model available at <https://outoftheshadows.eiu.com>.

In addition to the full methodology, an interactive Excel model and a white paper outlining overall findings are available at <https://outoftheshadows.eiu.com>

What is the Out of the Shadows Index?

The Out of the Shadows Index examines how stakeholders are responding to the threat of child sexual abuse and exploitation in 60 countries. It does not attempt to measure the scale of the problem in each country, nor does the index incorporate information on the prevalence of sexual violence against children. It includes data and information from 34 indicators and 132 sub-indicators, grouped into four categories that measure the extent to which countries are acknowledging the problem of sexual violence against children, and whether they are implementing measures to address and prevent it.

While the index can help to highlight areas for attention, existing resources such as the “INSPIRE” package of seven strategies for ending violence against children (http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire-package/en/) and the WePROTECT Model National Response for preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse (<https://www.weprotect.org/the-model-national-response/>) offer detailed guidance and support on implementation of solutions.

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For further information, please contact:

The Economist Intelligence Unit

Katherine Stewart, Project Manager: katherinestewart@economist.com

Ayesha Khan, Project Analyst: ayeshakhan@eiu.com

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