

# Ethiopia

## 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)	2,020
Population (m)	107.5
Population under 19 (%)	49.5
Access to broadband Internet (%)	0.1

Source: EIU



### Brief summary

**Ethiopia has enacted laws to protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation. A comprehensive national plan, regular incident reporting and strengthening of institutional capacity would support these efforts.**

#### Where has progress been made?

**Laws against child sexual abuse and exploitation:** Ethiopia's criminal code protects adolescent and infant minors against sexual abuse. There are also laws that specifically criminalise the rape of children and detail punishments for offenders, as well as those that criminalise the procurement of children for sexual activities.

**Child pornography laws:** Ethiopia has enacted legislation specific to online platforms, including legislation that penalises production, sale and possession of electronic child pornographic material. Article 640 of the criminal code prohibits obscene publications.

#### What more needs to be done?

**National plans and policies:** An overarching plan for tackling child sexual abuse and exploitation would help to enhance the commitment and capacity of Ethiopia's government and law enforcement agencies to combat this issue.

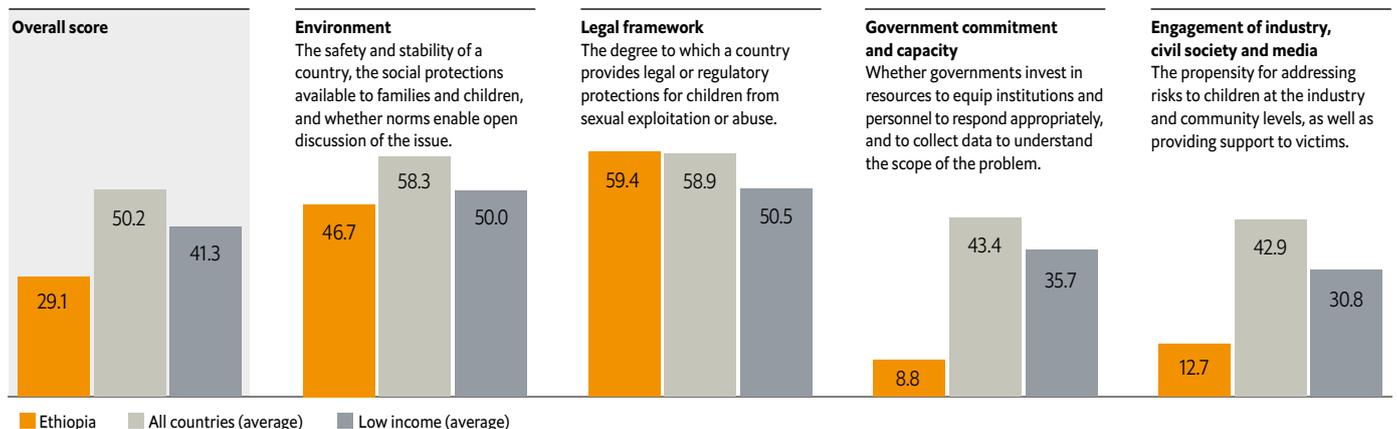
**Industry engagement:** Civil society organisations provide limited support services and awareness programmes for victims. The technology, travel and media industries are also not engaged in efforts to tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation. Preventing sexual violence against children is not discussed on the websites of these industry actors, nor is it listed among their priorities.

**Data collection:** Ethiopia does not collect data on the prevalence of child sexual abuse and exploitation. It also does not mandate the reporting of sexual crimes against children, and there is no national registry of sex offenders.

**Government capacity:** There are no guidelines for prosecuting cases of sexual abuse against children. There is also no dedicated government agency or ministry to co-ordinate efforts to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation, although the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs aims to co-ordinate all stakeholders to protect the rights of children.

**Government support for victims:** No data is collected on children or adolescents who seek institutional or professional help for sexual violence. Any data that is collected by ministries, hospitals or the police is not available. There is also no hotline for reporting cases of or concerns about child sexual abuse.

### 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	Indicator	Score / 100
1.1) Instability	43.5	2.11) Online grooming	25.0
1.2) Livelihoods	64.0	2.12) Protecting child interests	50.0
1.3) Social protections	30.0	2.13) Internet protections	0.0
1.4) Consumption of stimulants	85.2	3.1) International standards or conventions	60.0
1.5) Societal attitudes	42.2	3.2) National plans and policies	0.0
1.6) Perceptions of violence	55.9	3.3) Resources for legal and enforcement professionals	0.0
1.7) Attitudes to law enforcement	46.0	3.4) Data collection: prevalence	0.0
2.1) Contextual legal framework	21.4	3.5) Reporting	0.0
2.2) Age of consent	100.0	3.6) Government and law enforcement capacity	7.1
2.3) Child sexual offenses	80.0	3.7) Complaint mechanisms	16.7
2.4) Child marriage	75.0	3.8) Access to victim support programmes	4.0
2.5) Child-specific rape laws	100.0	3.9) Access to offender support programmes	0.0
2.6) General sex laws	33.3	4.1) Technology industry engagement	0.0
2.7) Exemptions and qualifiers	87.5	4.2) Travel and tourism industry engagement	33.3
2.8) Purchasing sexual services	0.0	4.3) Frontline support workers	0.0
2.9) Procurement of minors	100.0	4.4) Civil society engagement	30.0
2.10) Visual depiction of minors engaging in sexual activities	80.0	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/](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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