

Madagascar

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)	1,640
Population (m)	25.9
Population under 19 (%)	49.4
Access to broadband internet (%)	0.1

Source: EIU



Brief summary

Madagascar has enacted important legislation to address sexual violence against children and also provides support services to victims. Data collection around this issue and Internet protections need to be strengthened.

Where has progress been made?

Laws to prevent child sexual exploitation: The country's laws provide protections for children in areas related to the trafficking and exploitation of children for sexual purposes in a gender-neutral manner.

Access to victim support programmes: The government co-ordinates with various stakeholders to provide public support services to child victims of sexual violence such as medical services, therapeutic care and legal aid.

Travel and tourism industry engagement: The leading industry association for travel and tourism, Madagascar National Tourism Office, has signed up to a code of conduct that commits its members to protecting children from sexual violence.

Government capacity: Madagascar has dedicated law enforcement units and an inter-ministerial committee that respond to reports of child sexual abuse and exploitation and coordinate governmental efforts to address these issues, respectively.

What more needs to be done?

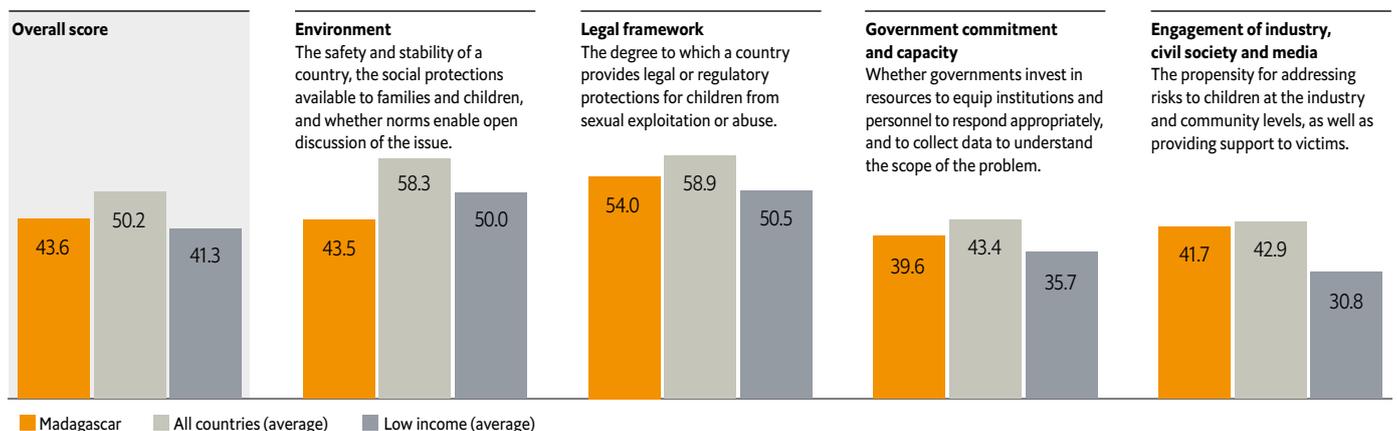
Media industry engagement: Madagascar does not have a professional body of media professionals or journalists that provides guidance to its members for reporting issues of sexual violence against children.

Guidelines for frontline support workers: Guidelines on supporting and interacting with victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation are lacking for teaching professionals, social workers and psychiatric workers.

Internet protections: Internet service providers in Madagascar are not specifically or explicitly required by law to report, autonomously take down or maintain records of any suspected or detected representation of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Data collection: Madagascar does not yet collect comprehensive prevalence data on sexual violence against children. Data on the number of reported sexual abuse offences against children, if collected, is also not publicly available.

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	63.4
1.2) Livelihoods	28.7
1.3) Social protections	40.8
1.4) Consumption of stimulants	85.2
1.5) Societal attitudes	40.2
1.6) Perceptions of violence	38.8
1.7) Attitudes to law enforcement	34.1
2.1) Contextual legal framework	42.9
2.2) Age of consent	100.0
2.3) Child sexual offenses	20.0
2.4) Child marriage	0.0
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	100.0
2.9) Procurement of minors	100.0
2.10) Visual depiction of minors engaging in sexual activities	60.0

Indicator	Score / 100
2.11) Online grooming	25.0
2.12) Protecting child interests	50.0
2.13) Internet protections	0.0
3.1) International standards or conventions	70.0
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	42.9
3.7) Complaint mechanisms	83.3
3.8) Access to victim support programmes	80.0
3.9) Access to offender support programmes	0.0
4.1) Technology industry engagement	33.3
4.2) Travel and tourism industry engagement	100.0
4.3) Frontline support workers	25.0
4.4) Civil society engagement	50.0
4.5) Media industry engagement	0.0



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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