

Morocco

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)	8,640
Population (m)	36.2
Population under 19 (%)	34.8
Access to broadband Internet (%)	3.9

Source: EIU



Brief summary

Morocco has adopted several national policies and laws focused on countering the abuse and exploitation of children. Data collection and technology industry engagement need to be strengthened.

Where has progress been made?

National plans and policies: The country has several national plans that focus on sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The Programme for the Care of Women and Children Victims of Violence is a planning tool to combat sexual violence against children.

Legal framework: The country's laws provide gender-neutral protections for children against trafficking and exploitation for sexual purposes, and against sexual abuse.

Reporting: The government collects and publishes data on reported incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation in the country.

Resources for legal and law enforcement professionals: The Ministry of Justice published a practical guide under the 2008 "Action Plan" that discusses standards of care for child victims of sexual abuse. The guide has been widely distributed to police, prosecutors and legal aids.

What more needs to be done?

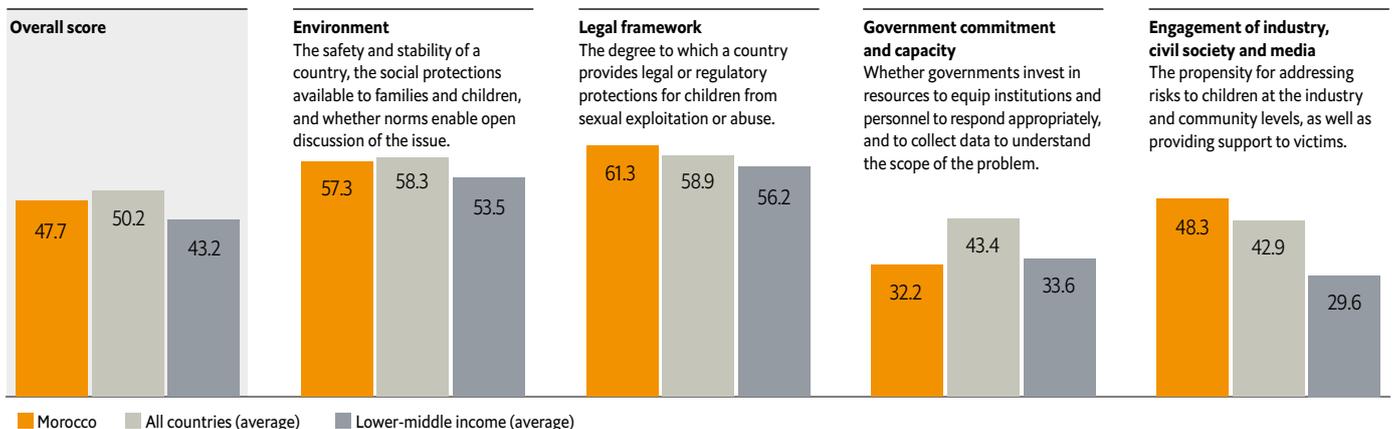
Data collection: Information on the prevalence of child sexual abuse and exploitation is not currently collected. The Directorate General of National Security collects data on reported cases of child sexual abuse, but not on prevalence.

Technology industry engagement: The country does not yet have a notice and takedown system that would allow the public to report potentially unlawful child sexual abuse content so that it can be quickly removed from the Internet. It also does not participate in an international notice and takedown network.

Institutional capacity: The country does not appear to have a dedicated law enforcement unit to respond to cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Internet protections: Internet service providers are not required by law to report any suspected or detected representation of sexual abuse and exploitation. Laws that criminalise online grooming of children are absent and a UNICEF study on Morocco notes that there are no national reporting obligations for child pornography.

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. Lower-middle income average (as classified by the World Bank) includes 20 countries. Full methodology at <https://outoftheshadows.eiu.com>.

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Indicator	Score / 100	Indicator	Score / 100
1.1) Instability	70.0	2.11) Online grooming	0.0
1.2) Livelihoods	69.9	2.12) Protecting child interests	50.0
1.3) Social protections	51.7	2.13) Internet protections	0.0
1.4) Consumption of stimulants	92.5	3.1) International standards or conventions	60.0
1.5) Societal attitudes	48.3	3.2) National plans and policies	40.0
1.6) Perceptions of violence	78.4	3.3) Resources for legal and enforcement professionals	75.0
1.7) Attitudes to law enforcement	22.9	3.4) Data collection: prevalence	0.0
2.1) Contextual legal framework	50.0	3.5) Reporting	100.0
2.2) Age of consent	100.0	3.6) Government and law enforcement capacity	14.3
2.3) Child sexual offenses	60.0	3.7) Complaint mechanisms	16.7
2.4) Child marriage	50.0	3.8) Access to victim support programmes	16.0
2.5) Child-specific rape laws	100.0	3.9) Access to offender support programmes	0.0
2.6) General sex laws	0.0	4.1) Technology industry engagement	0.0
2.7) Exemptions and qualifiers	87.5	4.2) Travel and tourism industry engagement	66.7
2.8) Purchasing sexual services	100.0	4.3) Frontline support workers	25.0
2.9) Procurement of minors	100.0	4.4) Civil society engagement	50.0
2.10) Visual depiction of minors engaging in sexual activities	100.0	4.5) Media industry engagement	100.0

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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