

Niger

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)	1,380
Population (m)	22.3
Population under 19 (%)	53.8
Access to broadband Internet (%)	0.0

Source: EIU



Brief summary

Niger has partnered with civil society organisations to develop a national plan to combat sexual violence against children. Engaging with industry groups and strengthening government capacity would improve outcomes.

Where has progress been made?

National plans and policies: The country has a national plan for children that covers sexual violence, specifically issues related to child sexual exploitation. Several child protection documents focus primarily on sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Resources for legal and law enforcement professionals: The government provides guidelines—created in partnership with UNICEF—for prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and legal aid workers who are dealing with cases of child sexual abuse.

Civil society engagement: Civil society organisations provide support services for child victims of sexual violence, including medical services, emergency accommodation and care, therapeutic care and legal aid.

What more needs to be done?

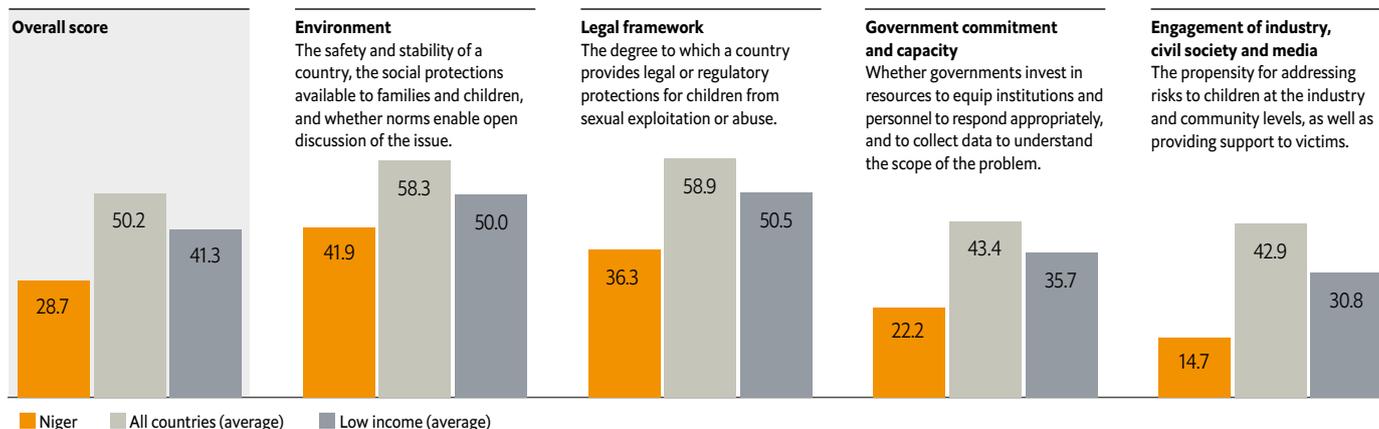
Government and law enforcement capacity: There does not appear to be a dedicated law enforcement unit working to combat sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

Data collection: Information on the prevalence of child sexual abuse and exploitation is not available. The only available document on child abuse analyses the situation of children and women in Niger, following an equity and human rights approach.

Access to victim support programmes: The country does not collect data on children or adolescents who seek institutional or professional help for sexual violence, and there are no mechanisms for child victims of sexual violence to seek financial reparations.

Technology and media industry engagement: Niger does not host or participate in a notice and takedown system that would allow members of the public to report child sexual abuse content so that it can be quickly removed from the Internet. Journalism associations have not issued guidelines for reporting on 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	40.7	2.11) Online grooming	0.0
1.2) Livelihoods	50.8	2.12) Protecting child interests	50.0
1.3) Social protections	22.8	2.13) Internet protections	0.0
1.4) Consumption of stimulants	85.2	3.1) International standards or conventions	80.0
1.5) Societal attitudes	36.1	3.2) National plans and policies	40.0
1.6) Perceptions of violence	54.5	3.3) Resources for legal and enforcement professionals	75.0
1.7) Attitudes to law enforcement	49.5	3.4) Data collection: prevalence	0.0
2.1) Contextual legal framework	42.9	3.5) Reporting	0.0
2.2) Age of consent	0.0	3.6) Government and law enforcement capacity	7.1
2.3) Child sexual offenses	20.0	3.7) Complaint mechanisms	0.0
2.4) Child marriage	75.0	3.8) Access to victim support programmes	20.0
2.5) Child-specific rape laws	83.3	3.9) Access to offender support programmes	0.0
2.6) General sex laws	66.7	4.1) Technology industry engagement	0.0
2.7) Exemptions and qualifiers	50.0	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	40.0
2.10) Visual depiction of minors engaging in sexual activities	0.0	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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