



ETHIOPIA



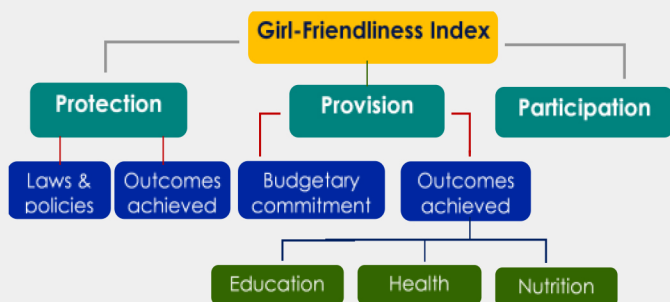
HOW FRIENDLY IS THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS GIRLS IN 2020?

INTRODUCTION

The girls in Africa are among the most vulnerable groups, subjected to widespread violations of their rights to survival, protection, participation and development. A complex interplay of cultural norms, legal, social, economic and political factors contribute to their situation.

The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) comprehensively examined the overall situation of girls in Africa and assessed the performance of governments in realising the rights and wellbeing of girls using a rights-based statistical framework called the Girl-Friendliness Index (GFI). This framework is composed of three central pillars of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) which deal with girls' rights to: Protection, Provision and Participation. The GFI is adapted from the Child-Friendliness Index (CFI), uses 23 relevant indicators and applies robust statistical techniques to measure and compare the relative performance of African governments in fulfilling their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil girls' rights and ensure their wellbeing.

GFI framework



The following is a brief summary of the status of Ethiopia in the 2020 GFI in relation to other African countries. For details, see the full report at: <https://www.africanchild.report>.

Government that is friendly towards girls is defined as: "...one which is making the maximum effort to meet its obligations to respect, protect and fulfil girls' rights and ensure gender equality among children as compared to other governments."

This effort will be reflected in the laws and policies a government adopts, its allocation of resources, its achievement of outcomes for girls and progress made in addressing gender inequality among children.

WHERE IS ETHIOPIA IN THE 2020 GFI?

Ethiopia scored low and ranked 40th out of the 52 countries assessed through the index and among the less girl-friendly countries in Africa.

GFI scores and rankings, 2020

Country	Score	Rank	Category
Mauritius	0.8109	1	Most-friendly
Tunisia	0.7766	2	
South Africa	0.7761	3	
Seychelles	0.7439	4	
Algeria	0.7400	5	
Cabo Verde	0.7156	6	
Namibia	0.7105	7	
Egypt	0.6604	8	Friendly
Lesotho	0.6504	9	
Eswatini	0.6428	10	
Zimbabwe	0.6381	11	
Rwanda	0.6343	12	
São Tomé & Príncipe	0.6139	13	
Botswana	0.6112	14	
Ghana	0.6016	15	Fairly-friendly
Morocco	0.5624	16	
Kenya	0.5533	17	
Benin	0.5478	18	
Gabon	0.5393	19	
Togo	0.5368	20	
Angola	0.5275	21	
Côte d'Ivoire	0.5175	22	
Congo	0.5152	23	
Djibouti	0.5139	24	
Senegal	0.5040	25	
Mozambique	0.4863	26	
Sierra Leone	0.4858	27	
Burkina Faso	0.4807	28	
Equatorial Guinea	0.4648	29	

GFI scores and rankings, 2020

Country	Score	Rank	Category
Malawi	0.4633	30	Less-friendly
Burundi	0.4573	31	
Tanzania	0.4491	32	
Mali	0.4409	33	
Uganda	0.4349	34	
Gambia	0.4332	35	
Madagascar	0.4286	36	
Zambia	0.4279	37	
Mauritania	0.4139	38	
Nigeria	0.4028	39	
Ethiopia	0.3866	40	
Guinea-Bissau	0.3792	41	
Sudan	0.3789	42	
Guinea	0.3712	43	
Cameroon	0.3703	44	Least-friendly
Liberia	0.3534	45	
Comoros	0.3330	46	
Central African R.	0.2844	47	
Niger	0.2772	48	
DRC	0.2721	49	
Eritrea	0.2499	50	
Chad	0.1697	51	
South Sudan	0.1590	52	

Developed by ACPF, 2020

WHY IS ETHIOPIA CLASSIFIED AS LESS-FRIENDLY IN THE 2020 GFI?

Ethiopia categorized as less-friendly towards girls in the rankings mainly for the following reasons.

PROVISION

NUTRITION

Malnutrition among girls is relatively high in Ethiopia. For instance, one in every three girls under-five of age are stunted.

HEALTH

Health outcomes in Ethiopia remain low. Only 47.5 percent of births occurred in health facilities and Basic vaccination coverage among girls aged 12-23 months is also relatively low at 43 percent.

BUDGETARY COMMITMENT

Investments in some of the sectors benefiting children are relatively low in Ethiopia. Health expenditure is only 4.8 percent of total government expenditure and government contribution to the costs of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) is just 43 percent.

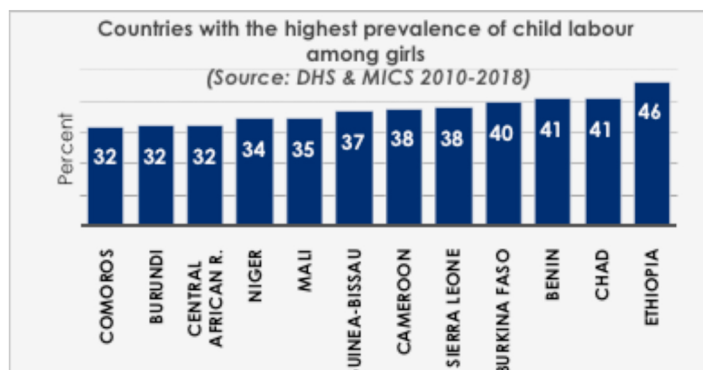
PROTECTION

BIRTH REGISTRATION

Ethiopia is a country with the lowest birth registration in Africa – only 3 percent of the girls under-five of age have their births registered with civil authority.

CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD MARRIAGE

Ethiopia has the highest prevalence of child labour among girls (46 percent) and one of the highest child marriage rates in Africa (about 40 percent).



LAWS

Although Ethiopia has put in place several laws and policies to protect children from abuse and exploitation, some more remains to be endorsed. These include: the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the Kampala Convention, and the Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Ethiopia is also to ban corporal punishment in all settings and raise minimum age of criminal responsibility from 9 to 14.

CONCLUSION AND PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

Ethiopia is among the less-friendly countries towards girls and much more remains to be done. The government should further enact or amend legislations that protect girls and put greater attention to the implementation of existing legislation; as well as increase national investments to improve and strengthen the country's education, health, and child protection systems.

Overall, ten priority areas of action identified to be taken by African governments to improve the wellbeing of girls and these actions need active involvement of relevant actors including the private sector, civil society organisations and girls themselves for greater results and impact.

The Ten Priority Areas for Action to Improve the State of Girls Wellbeing and Rights in Africa

1. Develop girl-friendly laws and policies, repeal discriminatory provisions
2. Withdraw reservations to regional and international treaties relevant to the rights of girls
3. Invest in girls' education at all levels
4. Invest in girls' health and nutrition
5. Address the emerging mental health problems among adolescent girls
6. Initiate comprehensive social protection programmes specifically targeting girls in impoverished communities
7. Eliminate violence against girls in all settings
8. Address the needs and circumstances of vulnerable girls
9. Create regular platforms to enhance girls' participation
10. Invest in gender-disaggregated data on children.

In conclusion, **African governments**, including the government of **Ethiopia**, need to recognise that girls are key drivers of transformation who can trigger a chain reaction that ultimately leads towards a peaceful and prosperous Africa. A society that marginalises and discriminates against girls is abdicating its nation building responsibility. Therefore, everyone should aspire for a continent no less than one where every girl develops to her full potential in an atmosphere of dignity and equality and join hands to create a continent that is friendly to girls throughout their life cycle.

