



# Assessing commitment to children: The CFI as tool to measure and monitor progress

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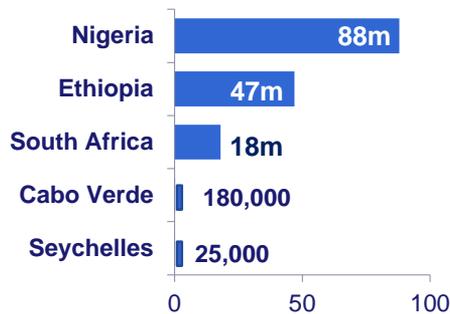
## Overview

- Contextual realities
- The Child-friendliness Index as a monitoring tool
- Application in advocacy and impact
- Gaps and focus areas for future research



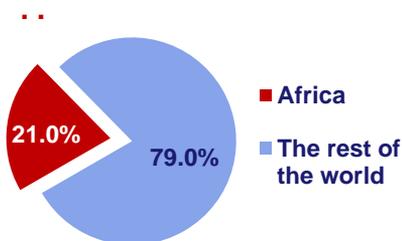
## Contextual realities

- ❑ Africa home to half a billion children
  - Major constituents of most African societies
- ❑ Significant variation in child population . . .

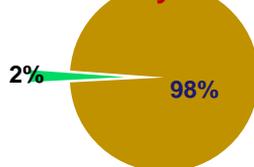


## Contextual realities . . . (cont'd)

### Share of Africa's child population . . .



### Africa's share in the global economy . . .



- The huge child population demands for enormous resources
- Limited resources
- The need for efficient utilisation of resources
- Good governance key
- Monitoring and accountability key component



**The good news . . .**

- Africa going through socio-economic transformation
- Most countries enjoying consistent economic growth
- Relative improvement in governance
- Infrastructure development

**All these have contributed to . . .**

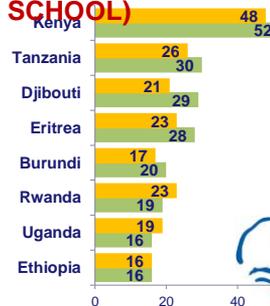
- Significant reduction in child morbidity and mortality
- Increase in school participation
- Increase in access to healthcare and other essential services (water, sanitation, information, etc.)



**But still . . .**

- ❑ Good governance is a challenge in most countries
- ❑ Weak accountability systems
- ❑ Chronic capacity limitations across the public sector
- ❑ High and growing inequality
- ❑ As high as 40% of children malnourished in some countries
- ❑ Secondary education a luxury for most children/youth
- ❑ Girls particularly deprived of access to secondary education

**Net enrolment (SECONDARY SCHOOL)**



**And yet . . .**

- ❑ **Not much is known about children**
  - ✓ Inadequate data on children (disaggregation a challenge)
  - ✓ Only few countries have child rights observatories
- ❑ **Survey programmes main sources of child related indicators**
  - ✓ MICS; DHS; WMS; CR Situation Assessments
  - ✓ Other sources (Joint monitoring on water and sanitation)
- ❑ **National level monitoring of child rights/wellbeing almost non-existent**
  - ✓ Children's Institute – Child Gauge



## The Child-friendliness: The conceptual basis

- ❖ Provides framework for analysis of governments performance with respect to CRC/ACRWC
- ❖ Provides tool for CSOs to use in their advocacy initiatives
- ❖ A response to the demand for a monitoring framework that:
  - Spells out commitments/obligations
  - Systematically analyses, scores and compares performance
  - Identifies strengths, gaps and provides viable policy options



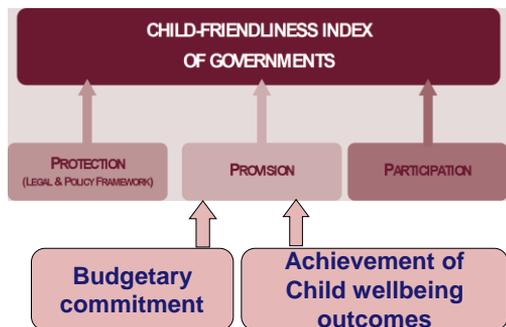
❖ **Definition: child-friendly government defined as:**

**“one which is making the maximum effort to meet its obligations to respect, protect and**

**fulfill child rights.**  
❖ **Governments' obligations broadly summarised into the 3P's)**

❖ **The three dimensions :**

- ✓ **Legal, policy and administrative framework put in place (Protection)**
- ✓ **Governments' budget and achievement of child wellbeing outcomes (Provision)**
- ✓ **The efforts to ensure child participation (Participation)**



## Highlights on the approach and methodology

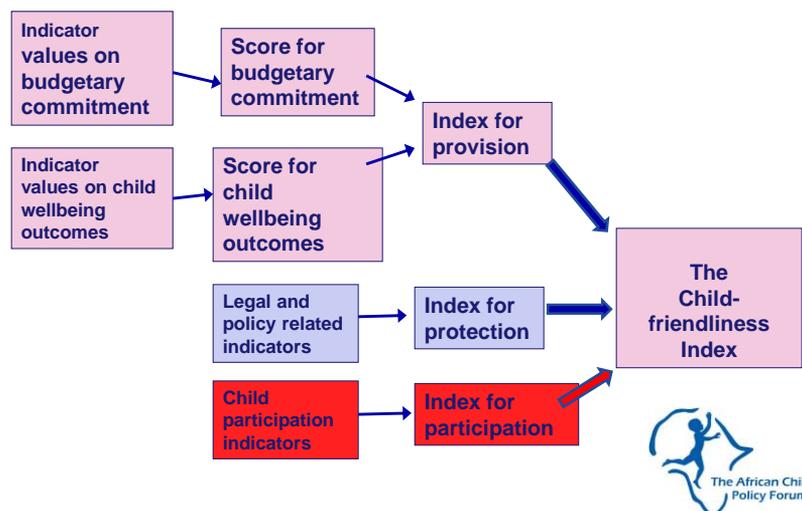
### The approach

- Rights-based (CRC and ACRWC used as references)
- Concept driven (not data driven)
- Quantitative analysis (uses hard facts)
- A combination of data sources
  - o Government sources
  - o UN sources
  - o Other sources

### Standardization of indicators

- The indicators have different values and ranges; some have direct and others inverse relationship.
- Linear Scaling Technique (LST) used

### Child-friendliness Index of Governments: How it is constructed



- ❑ Key in generating advocacy messages
- ❑ Helps in identifying:
  - Countries which did relatively well
  - Those which did not do so well
  - What were the things they did well
  - What were the areas that still need improvement
  - Contributes to prioritizing action.
- ❑ Helps analyze performance with economic indicators; governance

2013 CFI Ranking <u>The Top Ten</u>
Mauritius
South Africa
Tunisia
Egypt
Cape Verde
Rwanda
Lesotho
Algeria
Swaziland
Morocco

2013 CFI Ranking <u>The Bottom 10</u>
Chad
Eritrea
São Tomé and Príncipe
Zimbabwe
Comoros
Central African Republic
Cameroon
DRC
Côte d'Ivoire
Mauritania

# Application in advocacy and impact

The rankings lend to effective policy communication.

These are disseminated through:

- ✓ Press Release
- ✓ Facts and Figures
- ✓ Full Report
- ✓ Background papers (methodological, conceptual)
- Use prominent figures to reiterate advocacy messages
- Helps engage with governments, treaty bodies, CSOs, the academic.



The African Child Policy Forum

## Application in advocacy and impact . . . (cont'd)

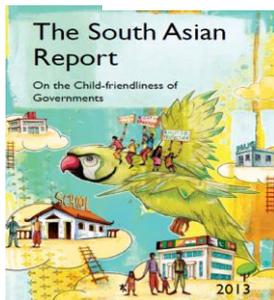
Engaging with international and local media . . .



The African Child Policy Forum

Encouraging others to apply the CFI framework.

- ✓ Used to assess the performance of governments in South Asia;
- ✓ Comparing performance of states in India



	Total ranking	General Measures of Implementation	Children's right to be heard	Non-state actors
India	1	Significant results	Notable results	Significant results
Nepal	2	Notable results	Some results	Significant results
Bangladesh	3	Notable results	Notable results	Notable results
Sri Lanka	4	Notable results	Some results	Notable results
Bhutan	5	Some results	Some results	Significant results
Pakistan	6	Notable results	Some results	Significant results
Maldives	7	Some results	Some results	Notable results
Afghanistan	8	Some results	Some results	Notable results

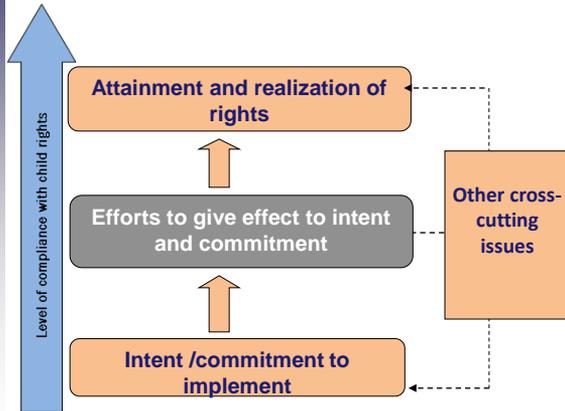


## Gaps and focus areas for future research

- ❑ Friendliness is more than the provision of laws or budgets.
- ❑ There are important elements that constitute friendliness:
  - ✓ Effective implementation of all rights
  - ✓ Quality related and psychological parameters
- ❑ Budgetary allocations do not necessarily indicate whether or not :
  - ✓ The allocated money is expended on children
  - ✓ Its efficiency and effectiveness
  - ✓ Distributional concerns (rural and urban communities or between the poor and the not-so-poor)
- ❑ Difficulty to measure child participation
- ❑ Getting time series and comparable data



- ❑ Most indicators focus on outcomes,
- ❑ Process issues ignored in child indicators research



- ❑ The need for exploring process issues (Grey area)
- ❑ Indicators such as:
  - ✓ Ratio of child population to the workforce in child-focused organisations
  - ✓ Percentage of budget allocated to ministry for children's affairs
  - ✓ Budget absorption rate
  - ✓ Ratio of pediatricians to child population
  - ✓ Other process related



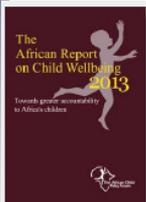
## Few things about the ACPF

### Who are we?

- ❑ An independent pan-African policy research and advocacy organisation on children
- ❑ Works with regional bodies (AU/RECs); bodies, CSOs, academia, UN

Major products/publications

- ❑ The African Report Series on:
  - ✓ Child Wellbeing
  - ✓ Violence against Children
  - ✓ Children with Disabilities
- ❑ Some of them have STATISTICAL ANNEX to provide data
- ❑ Data portal and Information Hub



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[www.africanchildforum.org](http://www.africanchildforum.org)





**Thank you for your attention!**