



Out of the Shadows

COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

A global benchmark of countries' efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and adolescents. Use it to strengthen your advocacy and communications.

EMBARGOED UNTIL MAY 18, 2026



Researched and developed by

**ECONOMIST
IMPACT**

Background

What is the Index?

The Out of the Shadows Index measures global and country-level **efforts to address sexual violence against children and adolescents.**

It covers 60 countries – home to 83% of the world’s children – and ranks them across four pillars through 23 indicators. The indicators assess the foundational laws, policies, programs, and services that a country should have in place to end this sexual violence.

Together for Girls leads advocacy efforts for the Index, which was researched and developed by Economist Impact.

How is it used?

Activists, civil society, advocates, and policymakers worldwide use the Index to drive government accountability and action.

This comms toolkit

Provides simple assets to help you:

- Navigate the Index
- Strengthen your communications and advocacy efforts
- Share the Index and its findings with your network



Country leaders

Top 20

 Australia	83 / 100
 United Kingdom	78 / 100
 Germany	74 / 100
 France	74 / 100
 Canada	71 / 100
 Sweden	71 / 100
 Italy	71 / 100
 Colombia	70 / 100
 United States	67 / 100
 India	66 / 100
 South Korea	66 / 100
 Romania	63 / 100
 Japan	62 / 100
 Vietnam	62 / 100
 Philippines	61 / 100
 Kenya	60 / 100
 South Africa	59 / 100
 Brazil	58 / 100
 Malaysia	58 / 100
 El Salvador	57 / 100

By region

- Americas and the Caribbean: **Canada** (71 out of 100)
- East Asia and the Pacific: **Australia** (83 out of 100)
- Eastern & Southern Africa and West & Central Africa: **Kenya** (60 out of 100)
- Europe and Central Asia: **United Kingdom** (78 out of 100)
- Middle East and North Africa: **Egypt** (50 out of 100)
- South Asia: **India** (67 out of 100)
 - No country scored higher than 83 out of 100.

By Index pillar

- Governance and Accountability: **Australia** (Pillar score: 89)
- Prevention: **Colombia** (Pillar score: 83)
- Healing (7-way tie): **Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Nepal** and **Sri Lanka** (Pillar score: 85)
- Justice: **Australia** (Pillar score: 85)
 - Countries scored worst on governance and accountability (41.7 out of 100) and prevention (42.9 out of 100) efforts. More investment is needed across the board.

By income-level

- Low-income: **Uganda** (48 out of 100)
- Lower-middle income: **India** (67 out of 100)
- Upper-middle income: **Colombia** (70 out of 100)
- High-income: **Australia** (83 out of 100)
 - The 20 highest-scoring countries are not made up exclusively of the world's richest nations.

How to navigate the Index

Start exploring!

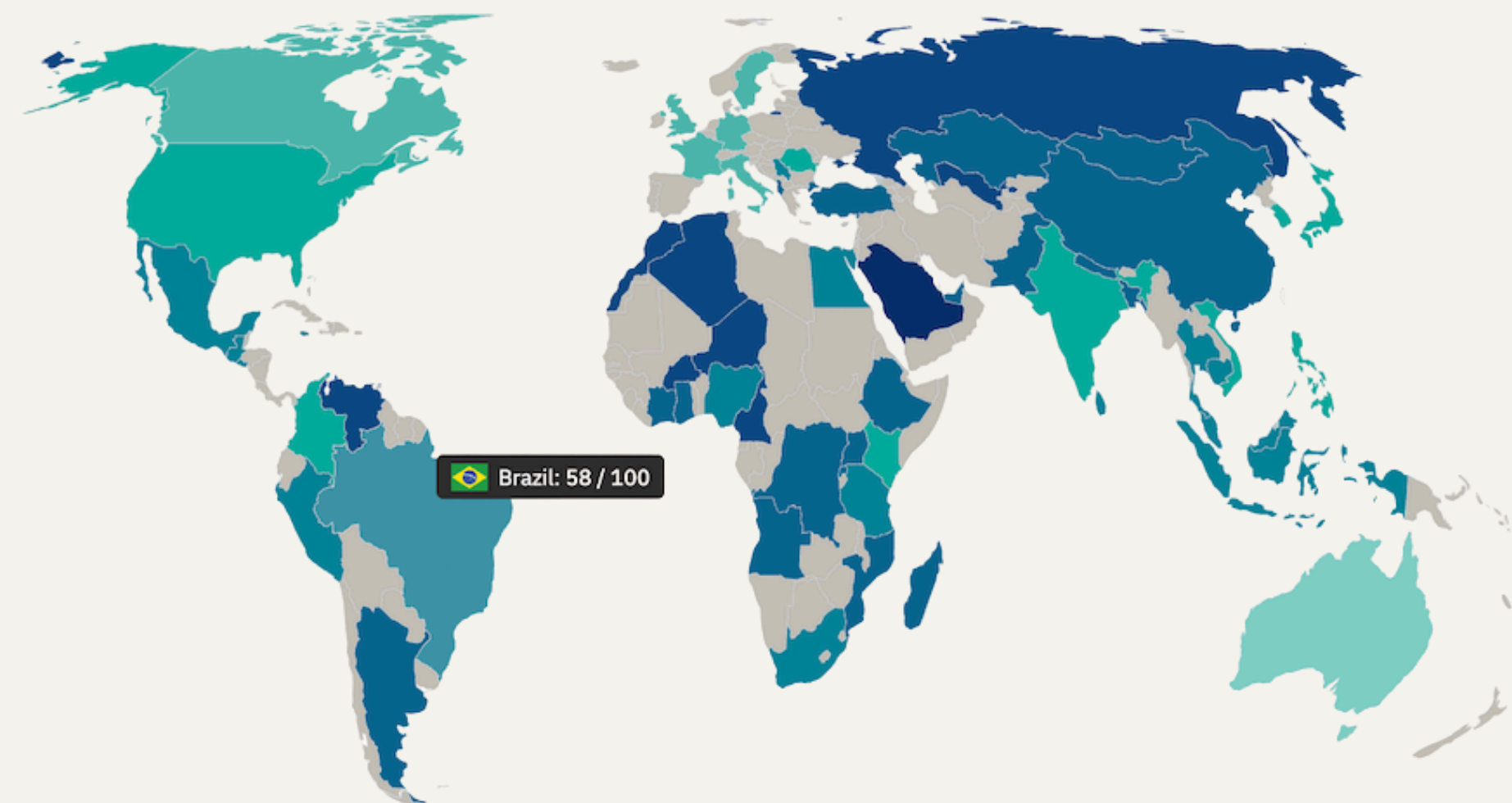
Visit outoftheshadows.global.

Click **EXPLORE** for an overview of how countries are performing overall – via map and table view.

- **Darker shading** = lower score (in the shadows)
- **Lighter shading** = higher score (coming out of the shadows)

On the left, you can see how countries perform within four areas (pillars):

1. **Governance and accountability** (coordinated national action)
2. **Prevention** efforts (child protection)
3. **Healing** efforts (high-quality care)
4. **Justice** measures (strong legal systems)



How to navigate the Index



If you work on a **SPECIFIC ISSUE**:

- Eg: Child marriage, online safety, early childhood education
- **Visit Pillars & Indicators** on the main menu. Click on the indicator (issue area) most relevant to your work, and see high-level findings, stats, and country rankings on that indicator.



If you work in a **COUNTRY**:

- Eg: Kenya, India, United States
- **Visit Countries** on the main menu to view a country's ranking, areas of strengths and weaknesses, regional and income-level comparisons, and how many children this impacts. Scroll through to dive into its performance across indicators.



If you work within a **REGION** or **GROUP OF COUNTRIES**:

- Eg: South Asia, G7, countries that made EVAC pledges
- **Visit Country Groupings** on the main menu to compare how countries stack up within regions and influential groups.



If you're **ADVOCATING** for greater accountability, prevention, healing, and justice:

- Visit [Advocacy tools](#) for materials that will help you use the Index when speaking to decision makers. It includes email templates, meeting toolkits, and factsheets.

How to use the Index in your communications

1) Use the data & insights to make your case

- Tailor findings to your audience. Eg:
 - **Working in online safety?**
 - Use insights, data, and solutions from indicator [4.4 Laws against online child sexual violence](#) in your organization's messaging.
 - **Advocating in France?**
 - Use scores and insights related to prevention, healing and justice efforts from the [France](#) country to strengthen your case.

2) Share ready-made advocacy tools

- Share the [Advocacy tools](#) with your stakeholders.
- They're designed to help your audiences engage decision-makers and push for political will, funding, and evidence-based action.

3) Build momentum ahead of November

- Promote the Index and its findings to your networks in the lead-up to the 2nd Global Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children.
- The more it's used to spotlight gaps and push for action, the greater the impact.
- Stay tuned for more social posts you can use in the lead-up!



Key messages for launch

What the data shows – and how to say it



- Every child has the right to grow up safe. Yet, sexual violence against children remains an urgent threat to children's safety globally: **1 in 5 girls** and **1 in 7 boys** will experience sexual violence before the age of 18.
- **Despite the scale of the crisis, countries are falling dangerously short in protecting children.** According to the Out of the Shadows Index, 60 countries score an average of **52.6 out of 100** for their efforts preventing and responding to sexual violence against children and adolescents – a failing grade when it comes to keeping them safe.
- The Index finds:
 - **Legal systems need to be more responsive** to the realities of what children face.
 - **Countries that protect civil liberties and sign onto international commitments** perform better on the Index.
 - **Wealth alone does not determine Index scores.** 45% of the top scoring 20 countries on the Index are middle-income countries. All governments can make meaningful progress if they make child protection a priority.
 - **National governments are more invested in responding to violence, than using proven solutions to protect children from harm in the first place.** More investment is needed full stop.
- Despite its scale and these results, sexual violence against children is preventable, and we know what works. **Now we need governments to act.**
- **Use the gaps identified by the Index** in your country as a roadmap for change.



Customizable newsletter copy

Share this on or after May 18!

A new global Index reveals how countries are failing children

The **2026 Out of the Shadows Index** shows that, on average, countries score just 52.6 out of 100 in their efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children.

If this were a test, governments would be failing.

Covering 60 countries – home to 83% of the world’s children – the Out of the Shadows Index highlights major gaps in the laws, policies, programs, and services needed to keep children and adolescents safe. In **[INSERT COUNTRY]**, that score is only **[INSERT SCORE]**, revealing **[INSERT KEY NATIONAL INSIGHT OR GAP]**.

[ORGANIZATION NAME] is joining Together for Girls and partners around the world to use the Out of the Shadows Index (researched and developed by Economist Impact) to call for stronger political will, sustained investment, and evidence-based solutions to end violence against children and adolescents. We encourage you to use these **advocacy tools** to help us do that.

Explore how countries stack up, and easy-to-use tools to push for change at: **outoftheshadows.global**.

Social toolkit

Share these posts on or after May 18 – INTRODUCING THE INDEX



[Click to download video](#)
(live on May 18)

X(TWITTER)

📣 Announcing a NEW global ranking shaped by global experts, survivor activists & youth advocates. The results are shocking. How does your country score to #EndSexualViolenceAgainstChildren ? ⚡ The evidence demands action! See 🏠 outoftheshadows.global 🏠 #ViolenceIsPreventable 1 / 2

Researched and developed by @economistimpact, with advocacy and engagement led by @together4girls. Together we can #EndChildhoodSexualViolence and bring it #OutOfTheShadows #BeBrave (2/ 2)

INSTAGRAM

★ IT'S HERE! ★

The #OutOfTheShadows Index has officially launched at #WHA79!

🌍 The index is a global benchmark of how countries are preventing and responding to sexual violence against children. Researched and developed by @economistimpact, with advocacy and engagement led by @together4girls.

📊 It covers 60 countries | 83% of the world's children. 🧑

📌 It scores countries across 23 indicators that measure the core of what governments should have in place to prevent and respond to this issue.

👉 It's a powerful advocacy tool for survivor activists, civil society, and youth advocates to demand real accountability.

Governments know the gaps. Now they must act.

Dive into the data! Raise your voice! Demand change! 🏠 outoftheshadows.global 🏠

#EndChildhoodSexualViolence #ViolenceIsPreventable #BeBrave

LINKEDIN

★ Official launch of the #OutOfTheShadows Index at #WHA79!

Our new landmark global benchmark measures how governments are preventing and responding to sexual violence against children and adolescents.

🌍 It ranks 60 countries across six regions, representing 83% of the world's children, and evaluates performance across 23 indicators researched and developed by @economistimpact with input from technical experts, including youth and survivor voices.

Researched and developed by @EconomistImpact, with advocacy efforts led by @togetherforgirls, this is a vital advocacy tool equipping survivor activists, civil society and youth advocates with the information they need to demand accountability and drive measurable progress.

The way forward is clear. Governments can and must do better.

How does your country rank to #EndSexualViolenceAgainstChildren ?

Explore the Index. Use the evidence. Call for action. 🏠 outoftheshadows.global 🏠

#ViolenceIsPreventable #BeBrave

Social toolkit

Share these posts on or after May 18 – AVG SCORE ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH



[Click to download zip file of 6 x PNG images](#)



[Click to download GIF for LinkedIn](#)

X (TWITTER)

📢 Global data shows we are failing to protect kids – with an avg. national score of 52/100 on a new Index. With accountability, prevention, healing, justice we can #EndChildhoodSexualViolence and bring it #OutOfTheShadows
Act now 📩 outoftheshadows.global 📩
1 / 2

This new benchmarking tool is researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy and engagement led by @togetherforgirls #ViolenceIsPreventable #BeBrave
2 / 2

INSTAGRAM & LINKEDIN

! REVEALED: Did you know countries are only doing half of what they should to keep kids and teens safe from sexual violence? The data makes it clear: We are failing to protect them.

Launched at #WHA79 our NEW global benchmarking tool for advocates shows the average national score is only 52/100. If this were a test, governments would be failing.

But there is hope. #ViolenceIsPreventable, change is possible. We must bridge the gaps of inaction related to governance & accountability, prevention, healing, and justice efforts.

Together, we can #EndChildhoodSexualViolence and bring it #OutOfTheShadows.

See how your country ranks and take action. #BeBrave.

📩 outoftheshadows.global 📩

This Index is researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy and engagement led by @togetherforgirls.

Social toolkit

Share these posts on or after May 18 – PROGRESS AT ALL INCOME LEVELS



[Click to download zip file of 4 x PNG images](#)



[Click to download GIF for LinkedIn](#)

X (TWITTER)

? Did you know that a country being wealthy is NOT a prerequisite to ending childhood sexual violence? The #OutOfTheShadows Index shows progress is possible at all income levels.

⚖️ Accountability is non-negotiable #ViolenceIsPreventable Act now.

Close the gaps. #BeBrave. 📩 outoftheshadows.global ➡️
1 / 2

The NEW 2026 Index is researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy led by @togetherforgirls
2 / 2

INSTAGRAM

🛡️ Preventing sexual violence against children isn't about wealth. It is about will.

📄 The #OutOfTheShadows Index shows that countries at all income levels can make measurable and meaningful progress in preventing and responding to this violence.

📈 Progress is possible anywhere.

⚡ What matters is political will, accountability, and evidence-based action.

Act on the evidence. Close the gaps. Protect children. #BeBrave. 📩 outoftheshadows.global ➡️

📊 Researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy led by @togetherforgirls

LINKEDIN

💰 NEW data shows that countries at any income level can make meaningful progress to #EndChildhoodSexualViolence and bring it #OutOfTheShadows.

Wealth is not a determiner of a country's ability to prioritize prevention, healing, justice.

Researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy led by @togetherforgirls, the #OutOfTheShadows Index reveals that some lower-middle income countries are ranking high - proving that all governments can take actionable steps to create a safer world.

See the rankings. Use them to take action.

📩 outoftheshadows.global ➡️

#ViolenceIsPreventable, change is possible. #BeBrave.

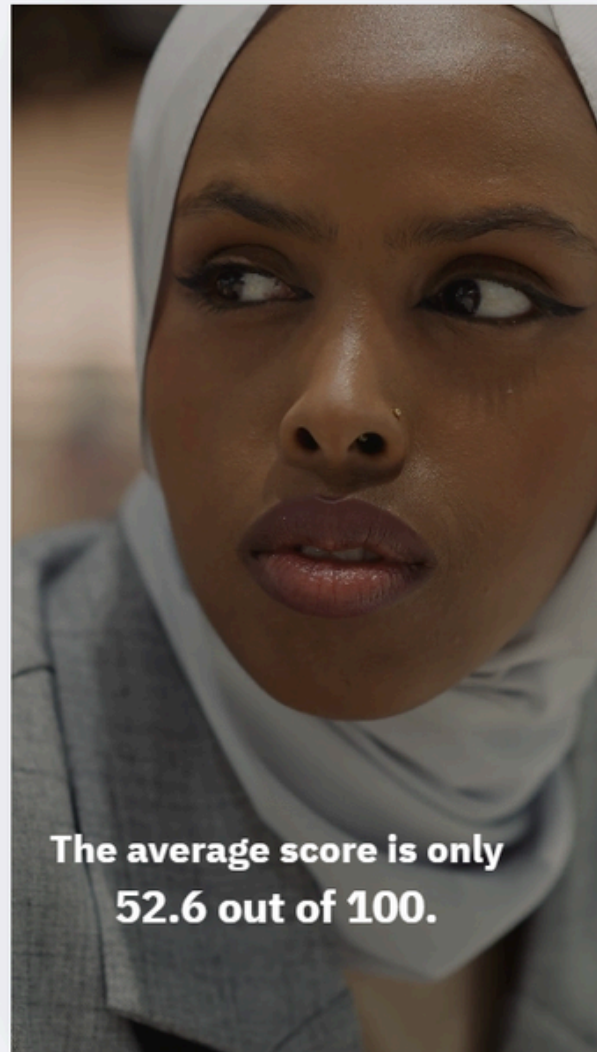
Social toolkit

Share these posts on or after May 18 – WHAT’S NEEDED

<p>X (TWITTER)</p> <p><i>Please add the following as a reply to create a tweet thread: “2 / 2 The #OutOfTheShadows Index is researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy led by @togetherforgirls.”</i></p>	<p>INSTAGRAM / LINKEDIN</p>	<p>VISUALS</p> <p><i>Live on May 18</i></p>
<p>To #EndChildhoodSexualViolence we need strong political will. The #OutOfTheShadows Index helps govts take coordinated action to fund & design the entire system to keep every child protected. #ViolencelsPreventable. How accountable is your country? outoftheshadows.global/pillars/governance-and-accountability →</p> <p>1 / 2</p>	<p>To #EndChildhoodSexualViolence we need strong political will. The #OutOfTheShadows Index, researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy led by @togetherforgirls, helps govts take coordinated action to fund & design the entire system to keep every child protected. #ViolencelsPreventable.</p> <p>How accountable is your country? outoftheshadows.global/pillars/governance-and-accountability →</p>	<p>Click to download Governance clip</p>
<p>If we stop harm before it happens we can #EndChildhoodSexualViolence. The #OutOfTheShadows Index shows govts that #ViolencelsPreventable by investing in proven, cost-effective solutions. How well does your country prevent harm? outoftheshadows.global/pillars/prevention →</p> <p>1 / 2</p>	<p>If we stop harm before it happens we can #EndChildhoodSexualViolence. The #OutOfTheShadows Index, researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy led by @togetherforgirls, shows govts that #ViolencelsPreventable by investing in proven, cost-effective solutions.</p> <p>How well does your country prevent harm? outoftheshadows.global/pillars/prevention →</p>	<p>Click to download Prevention clip</p>
<p>We can #EndChildhoodSexualViolence & help survivors heal. The #OutOfTheShadows Index shows govts the high quality, trauma-informed care to restore dignity & helps survivors reclaim their futures #ViolencelsPreventable. How is healing in your country? outoftheshadows.global/pillars/healing →</p> <p>1 / 2</p>	<p>We can #EndChildhoodSexualViolence & help survivors heal. The #OutOfTheShadows Index, researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy led by @togetherforgirls, shows govts the high quality, trauma-informed care to restore dignity & helps survivors reclaim their futures #ViolencelsPreventable.</p> <p>How is healing in your country? outoftheshadows.global/pillars/healing →</p>	<p>Click to download Healing clip</p>
<p>To #EndChildhoodSexualViolence we need consequences. The new #OutOfTheShadows Index shows govts steps for strong child-friendly, survivor-centered, accessible justice systems. Does your country hold perpetrators accountable? #ViolencelsPreventable outoftheshadows.global/pillars/justice →</p> <p>1 / 2</p>	<p>To #EndChildhoodSexualViolence we need consequences. The new #OutOfTheShadows Index, researched and developed by @EconomistImpact with advocacy led by @togetherforgirls, shows govts steps for strong child-friendly, survivor-centered, accessible justice systems.</p> <p>Does your country hold perpetrators accountable? outoftheshadows.global/pillars/justice →</p> <p>#ViolencelsPreventable</p>	<p>Click to download Justice clip</p>

Social toolkit

Share these posts on and after May 18 – CUSTOMIZABLE POST



0:25  0:37

[Click to download video](#)

(live on May 18)

[COUNTRY] scores [SCORE] on protecting children from sexual violence 📊. We must do more.

The Out of the Shadows Index shows where systems are falling short in preventing and responding to sexual violence against children – highlighting major gaps in the laws, policies, and services needed to keep children safe.

[ORGANIZATION] is proud to join @TogetherforGirls & partners around the world who are using this new global resource (researched and developed by @EconomistImpact) to call for stronger political will, investment, and action to end violence against children. 🌟

Explore the Index and easy-to-use advocacy tools to push for change:
<https://outoftheshadows.global/en/advocacy-tools>

#ViolenceIsPreventable #BeBrave [TAG YOUR PARTNERS IN THIS SPACE]



**Out of the
Shadows**

Thank you!

More about the Index

Which countries are included in the Index?

Americas & the Caribbean

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Peru
- United States
- Venezuela

East Asia & the Pacific

- Australia
- Cambodia
- China
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Philippines
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Vietnam

Europe & Central Asia

- Albania
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Russia
- Romania
- Serbia
- Sweden
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- Uzbekistan

Middle East & North Africa

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Morocco
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates

South Asia

- Bangladesh
- India
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Angola
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Cote d'Ivoire
- DRC
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda

What indicators does the Index assess countries against?

Governance & Accountability



- Ratifications of intl legal instruments
- National action plans to end SVAC
- Survivor and youth engagement
- Budgetary commitment
- Collection of prevalence data

Prevention



- Education
- Parenting & caregiver support
- Background checks
- Training for health care providers
- Availability of helplines

Justice



- Laws against corporal punishment
- Minimum marriage age
- Laws against online and in-person child sexual abuse
- Extraterritoriality & extradition
- Statute of limitations
- Dedicated SVAC units
- Special procedures for child survivors

Healing



- Access to medical care
- Access to mental healthcare
- Guidelines for health sector
- Legal aid
- Compensation