



How child-friendly are African governments? Measuring and monitoring accountability to children

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The No 1 Challenge for African development

Accountability

Promoting it

Enabling it

Securing it

Further on Securing Accountability

- Requires a multipronged approach
- Need for credible, objective & quantitative framework
- Must provide an authentic voice

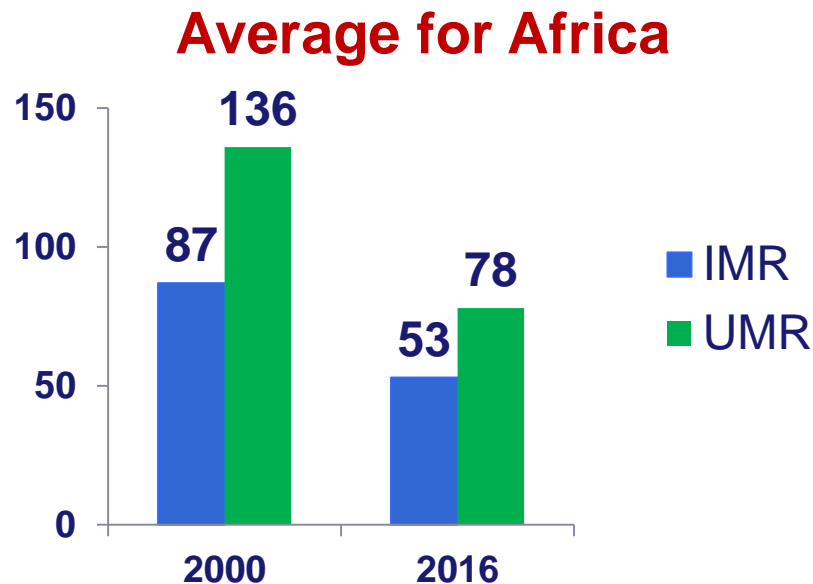
Our origin and our raison d'être

- ❑ Anger about the situation of the African child
- ❑ To correct the missing African voices on Human Rights issues
- ❑ Need to give development discourse an African context
- ❑ We chose to focus on state accountability



Progress: Some key statistics

1) Huge reduction in infant and child mortality



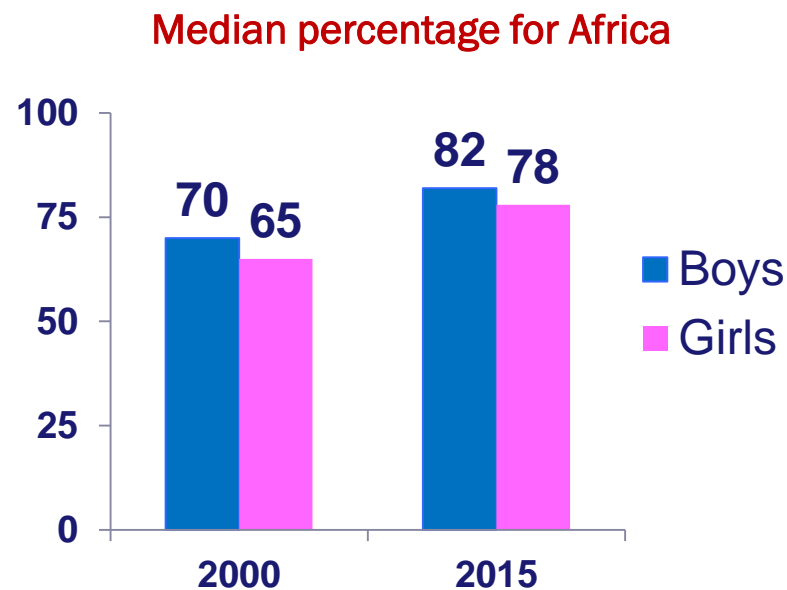
Sources: UNICEF 2017; ACPF 2008

Significant reduction in:

- ✓ Rwanda
- ✓ Niger
- ✓ Ethiopia
- ✓ Mozambique
- ✓ Liberia

Progress :Some key statistics ... (Cont'd)

2 Increase in access to primary education



Source: UNESCO 2013

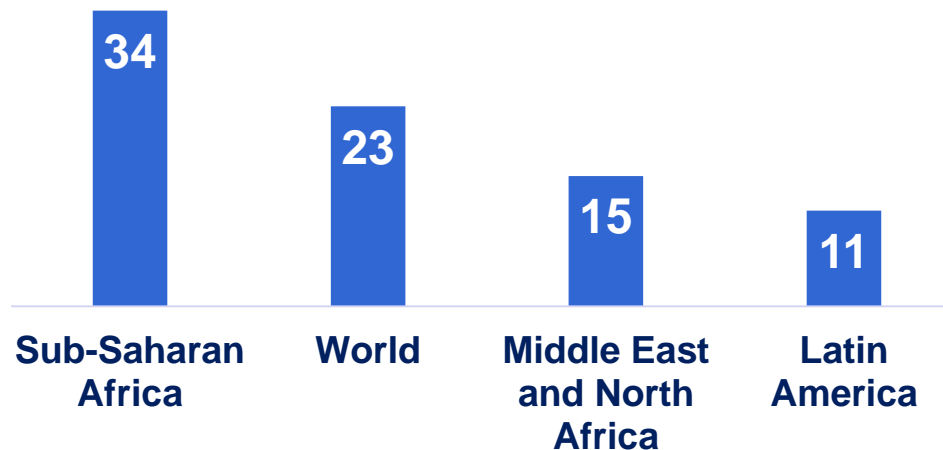
Significant progress in:

- ✓ Angola
- ✓ Tanzania
- ✓ Zambia
- ✓ Ethiopia

Persistent challenges

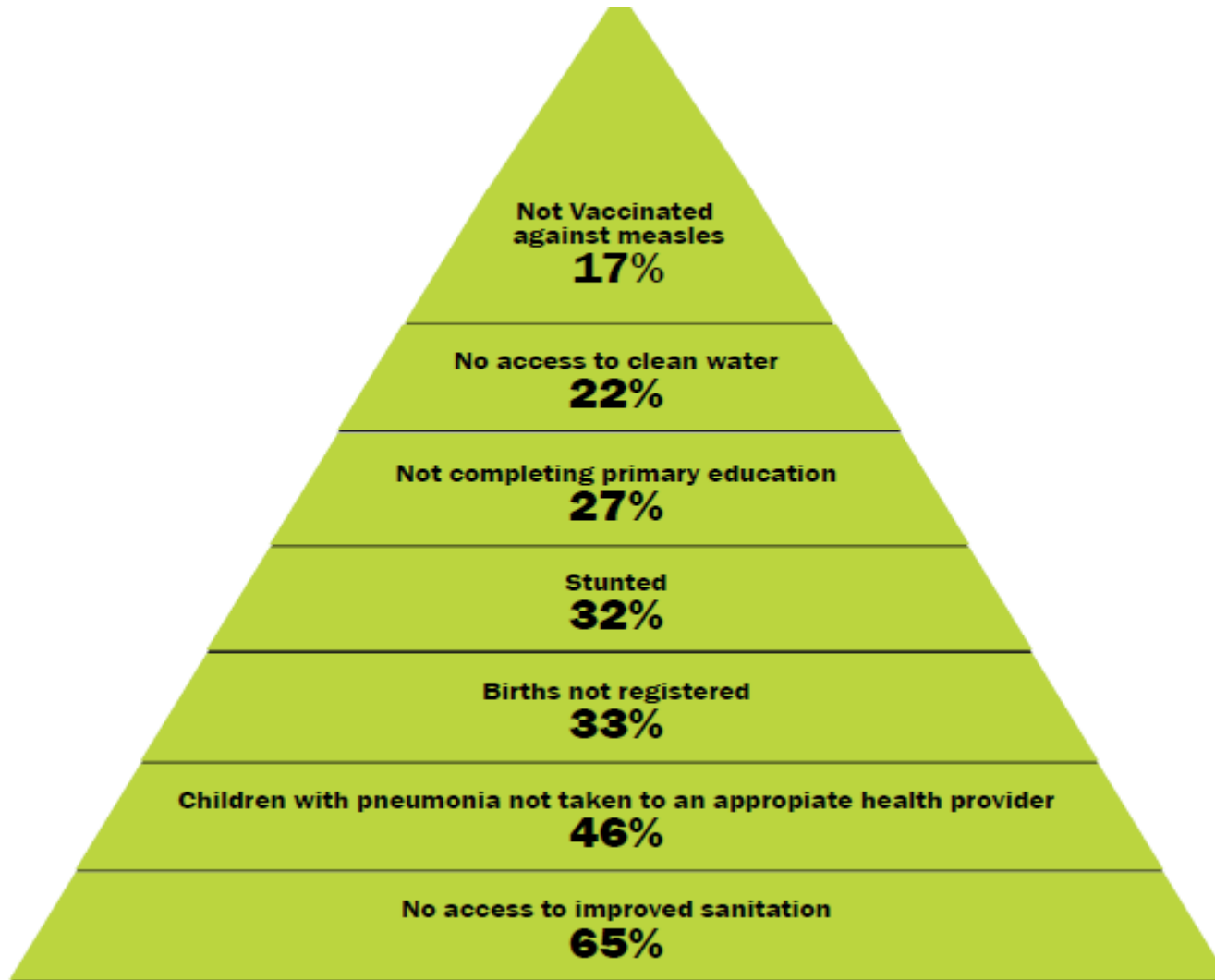
But . . .

- ❑ Significant challenges in realising children's rights
- ❑ Unacceptably high prevalence of stunting



Persistent Challenges (Cont'd)

High exclusion of children from basic needs and services



Monitoring performance and disparities

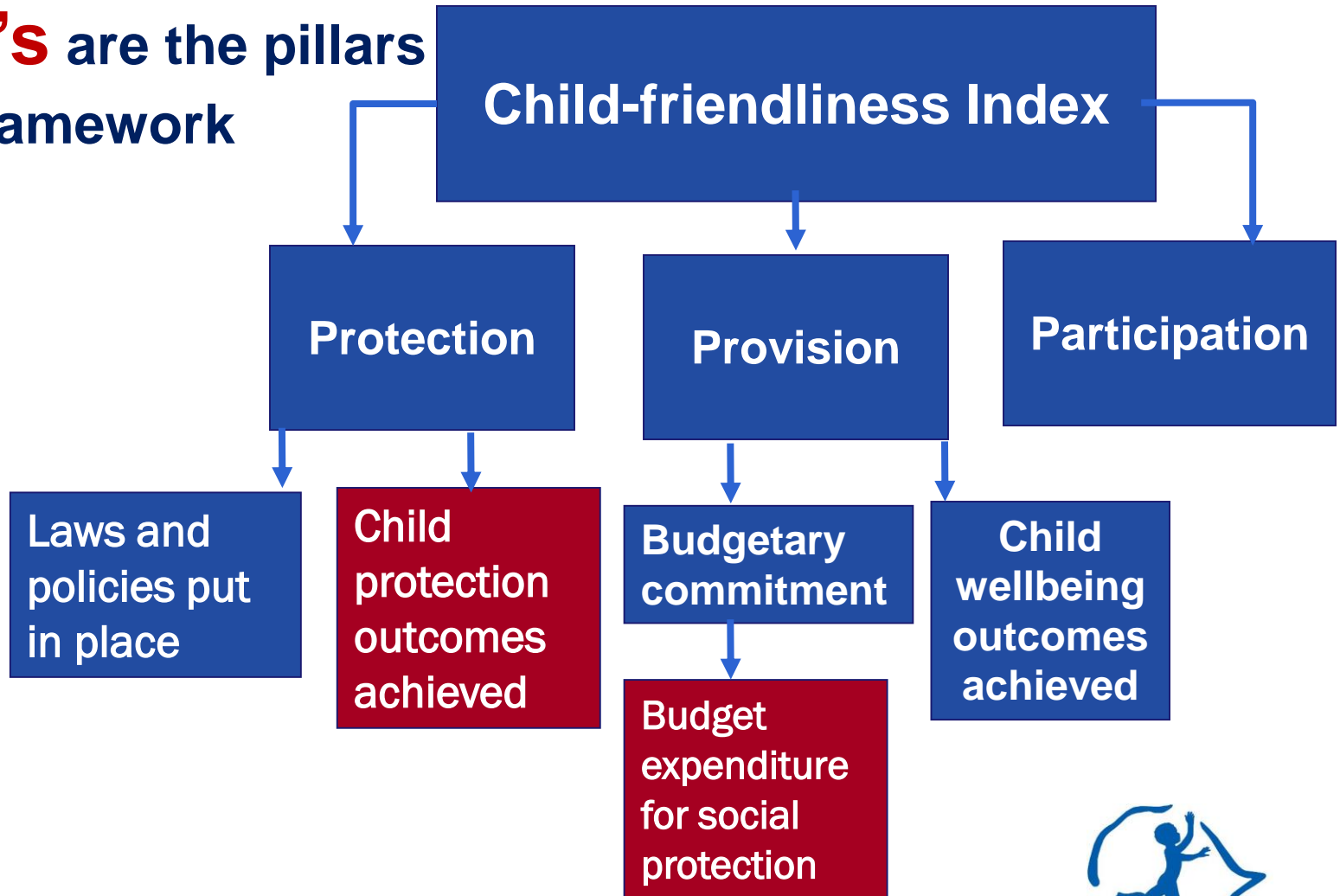
- ❑ Which countries are doing well, which ones not
- ❑ What are the most common elements among those that are the best and worst performing
- ❑ Hence the statistical and quantitative framework - the **Child-Friendliness Index**

Main Features of the Child-Friendliness Index

- ❑ **1. Framework based on International Law/Conventions (CRC) and the African Children's charter**
- ❑ **2. Focusses on Government effort & performance**

Child-friendliness Index: Core Elements

The **3P's** are the pillars of the framework



Measuring Child-Friendliness (CFI)

❖ What it measures

1. Government Performance in **Protection**
2. Government Performance in **Provision**

**Protection + Provision = Child
Friendliness Score**



- ❖ Based on more than 40 indicators
- ❖ Covers all 52 African states (except 2)
- ❖ Convert the scores on Protection and Provision into a Child-Friendliness Ranking for each country

Child-Friendliness Grouping

- ❖ Most Child Friendly
- ❖ Child Friendly
- ❖ Somewhat Child Friendly
- ❖ Less Child Friendly
- ❖ Least Child Friendly

The Child-friendliness Index: Scores and ranking

Country	Score	Rank 2013	Category
Mauritius	0.7971	1	Most child-friendly
South Africa	0.7668	2	
Tunisia	0.7507	3	
Egypt	0.7486	4	
Cape Verde	0.7365	5	
Rwanda	0.7361	6	
Lesotho	0.7330	7	
Algeria	0.7243	8	
Swaziland	0.7194	9	
Morocco	0.7107	10	
Seychelles	0.7032	11	Child - friendly
Libya	0.7017	12	
Togo	0.6975	13	
Malawi	0.6937	14	
Senegal	0.6899	15	
Botswana	0.6881	16	
Nigeria	0.6727	17	
Ghana	0.6668	18	
Burkina Faso	0.6639	19	
Gambia	0.6636	20	
Kenya	0.6607	21	Fairly child-friendly
Mali	0.6596	22	
Burundi	0.6569	23	
Madagascar	0.6563	24	
Djibouti	0.6535	25	
Namibia	0.6528	26	
Liberia	0.6428	27	
Benin	0.6409	28	
Gabon	0.6340	29	
Uganda	0.6338	30	
United Republic of Tanzania	0.6256	31	
Congo	0.6255	32	
Sierra Leone	0.6136	33	Less child-friendly
Guinea	0.6088	34	
Mozambique	0.6080	35	
Zambia	0.6038	36	
Ethiopia	0.6037	37	
Sudan	0.5966	38	
Niger	0.5864	39	
Guinea-Bissau	0.5850	40	
Angola	0.5801	41	
Equatorial Guinea	0.5782	42	

The Good Guys

Most child-friendly countries

Mauritius	1
South Africa	2
Tunisia	3
Egypt	4
Cape Verde	5
Rwanda	6
Lesotho	7
Algeria	8
Swaziland	9
Morocco	10

What the Good ones did right

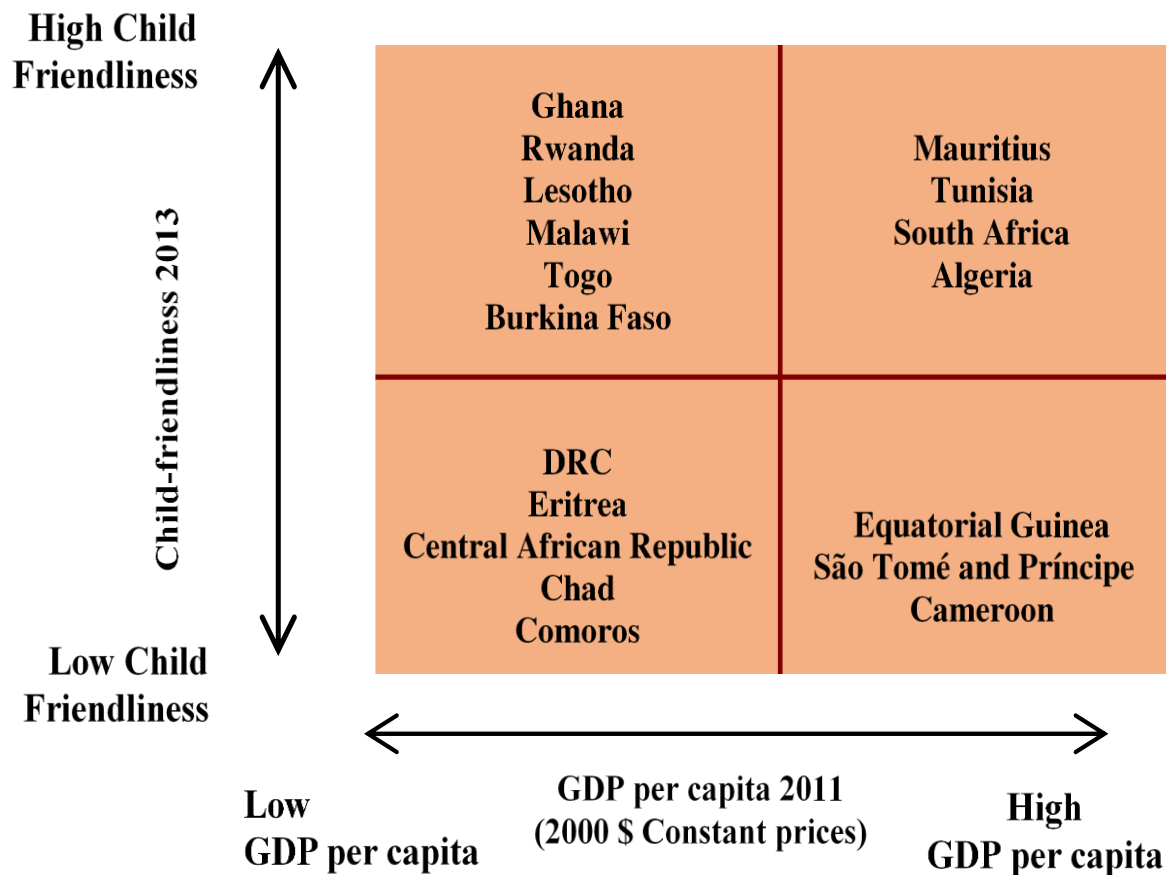
What did they do well . . .

- ✓ Spent relatively higher proportion of their budgets to sectors benefiting children
- ✓ Put in place appropriate laws and policies to provide better protection
- ✓ Effective in achieving better results in child-related outcomes and access to basic services

Least Child-Friendly countries

Least child-friendly countries	
Chad	52
Eritrea	51
São Tomé and Príncipe	50
Zimbabwe	49
Comoros	48
Central African Republic	47
Cameroon	46
Dem. Rep. Congo	45
Côte d'Ivoire	44

Child-Friendliness & GDP



- ❖ What matters: Not Gold or Oil but Policies
 - Laws, policies based on the Best Interests of the Child
 - Pro-children Budgetary Policies

Final words: Three things that matter

- ❖ Politics that value children
- ❖ Laws that protect them, and
- ❖ Budgets that provide for them



And finally finally.....

- ❖a government that is accountable
- ❖ What we therefore need is for Movements and Mechanisms that
 - make governments accountable and



...make them keep the promise

