



Youth – AII Findings

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The Youth subcategory provides an assessment of the juvenile protective systems. The *de jure* indicators (60, 61, 63) focus on legal procedures and requirements surrounding age limits for legal responsibility and the employment of minors. The three *de facto* indicators (62, 64, 101) assess whether these provisions are adhered to and whether there are programs in place to increase the socioeconomic integration of youth. Youth Integrity makes up one of the integral components of the Social Development category.

Youth Integrity Findings

- All but one of the African countries assessed have a law requiring a minimum age limit for criminal responsibility.** Mauritius is the only exception and a child under 14 can technically be found responsible for a crime, even though he will not face sentencing or imprisonment. In some countries, such as Namibia or Mauritania, the age for criminal liability is seven years old, while in other countries the age ranges from 10 to 18 years. Angola is a unique example where by law the degree of criminal punishment may depend on the age group – for example, a child 14 to 16 may receive a lesser punishment than one in the 16 to 18 group.
- Every African country has implemented child friendly procedures in courts and jail, but in practice they are not always implemented.** This is caused by lack of training for criminal justice personnel or by the absence of adequate infrastructure separating minors from adult offenders in prison, such as in Chad. On the other hand, there are also examples of alternative forms of detention for adolescents, such as in the case of UNICEF in Angola. Instead of incarceration, the convicted minors can complete community service projects, be enrolled in school, or participate in vocational training. The Gambia is an exemplary case where social workers regularly make home visits, a specialized police unit I assigned to handle children’s cases, and detained children are kept separately from adults.
- All countries have a minimum age for employment, but in most countries it is not respected, particularly in the informal sector.** For instance, Cape Verde violations of child labor laws seems to be becoming more blatant, for example in agriculture. Meanwhile, there are also reports of child labor violations in ‘informal’ trade in the streets. These issues are difficult to police and address in Cape Verde due to the fact that these types of activities are standardized, and deeply rooted in the local culture. In contrast, Sao Tome and Principe saw improvement in this indicator, reporting that the employment age is respected in the formal sector in the capital, though it continues to be difficult to monitor violations in small agricultural and construction companies in the rural area.

Youth Integrity Indicators
60. In law, there is a minimum age for criminal responsibility/liability.
61. In law, child-friendly procedures exist in courts and jail.
62. In practice, child-friendly procedures exist in courts.
63. In law, there is a minimum age for admission to employment (formal and informal sectors).
64. In practice, the minimum age of employment is adhered to.
101. In practice, there is a government policy/strategy to increase the socio-economic integration of youth.



- **Only nine countries have solid programs in place to support the socio-economic integration of youth.** Elsewhere, the research reported that even where some programs exist, they have not been properly established. In the case of Togo, the Ministry of Development sponsors a program for youth employment in addition to a national strategic plan for youth employment that has generated around 200,000 jobs since its implementation in 2011. In Liberia’s case, youths make up 60% of the population, and the government believes that uplifting this segment of the population would foster development in the country; therefore, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) has implemented several programs aimed at youth empowerment, skill building, vocational training and providing employment opportunities. On the other hand, in Mozambique the research shows that although there are two entities monitoring youth affairs, there is no specific strategy being carried out for the socioeconomic integration of the youth.

It is important to note that aggregate scores mask very substantial - and very informative – country-level differences that can be found in the disaggregated data. An interested user benefits from exploring the data in detail, focusing on individual indicators and the country context described in the researcher’s comment and sources. The indicators are designed to be granular in order to provide actionable information for each country covered, so should be viewed individually for the clearest view of each country’s performance - and opportunities for improvement.

Global Integrity is dedicated not only to producing high quality data, but ensuring that it is as useful as possible for reformers (both inside and outside of government) around the world. If you’re interested in working with this data to identify such opportunities in your country, contact us at aii@globalintegrity.org.



Youth Indicators	#60	#61	#62	#63	#64	#101	Average
South Sudan	100	100	0	100	0	0	50
Congo Brazzaville	100	100	0	100	0	25	54
Equatorial Guinea	100	100	0	100	0	25	54
Eritrea	100	100	0	100	0	25	54
Guinea-Bissau	100	100	25	100	0	0	54
Libya	100	100	0	100	25	0	54
Mozambique	100	100	25	100	0	0	54
Sao Tome and Principe	100	100	0	100	25	0	54
Somalia	100	100	25	100	0	0	54
CAR	100	100	0	100	0	50	58
Egypt	100	100	0	100	0	50	58
Mauritius	0	100	25	100	50	75	58
Republic of Cote d'Ivoire	100	100	0	100	0	50	58
Sudan	100	100	50	100	0	0	58
Swaziland	100	100	50	100	0	0	58
Angola	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Benin	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Chad	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Guinea	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Madagascar	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Mauritania	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Namibia	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Nigeria	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Tanzania	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Uganda	100	100	25	100	0	50	63
Algeria	100	100	25	100	25	50	67
Burkina Faso	100	100	25	100	0	75	67
Burundi	100	100	25	100	25	50	67
Comoros	100	100	50	100	0	50	67
Congo DRC	100	100	50	100	0	50	67
Djibouti	100	100	25	100	0	75	67
Gabon	100	100	25	100	25	50	67
Ghana	100	100	50	100	0	50	67
Lesotho	100	100	25	100	25	50	67
Morocco	100	100	50	100	0	50	67
Sierra Leone	100	100	50	100	0	50	67
Togo	100	100	0	100	0	100	67
Tunisia	100	100	50	100	0	50	67
Zimbabwe	100	100	50	100	0	50	67
Botswana	100	100	25	100	25	75	71
Cameroon	100	100	25	100	25	75	71
Cape Verde	100	100	50	100	25	50	71
Ethiopia	100	100	50	100	25	50	71
Kenya	100	100	50	100	25	50	71
Liberia	100	100	25	100	0	100	71
Malawi	100	100	50	100	25	50	71
Niger	100	100	75	100	0	50	71
Rwanda	100	100	50	100	0	75	71
Senegal	100	100	50	100	25	50	71
South Africa	100	100	50	100	50	25	71
The Gambia	100	100	75	100	0	50	71
Zambia	100	100	50	100	25	50	71
Mali	100	100	50	100	0	100	75
Seychelles	100	100	50	100	50	50	75