A hand is shown placing a puzzle piece into a globe that is constructed from many interlocking puzzle pieces. The globe is the central focus, and the hand is positioned to the right, with fingers carefully fitting a piece into the structure. The background is dark and out of focus, showing more puzzle pieces scattered on a surface.

Out of the Shadows: Benchmarking country responses to child sexual abuse and exploitation

Identifying gaps and the road forward

12 October 2020

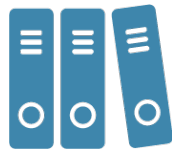
Overview

The Out of the Shadows Index is a benchmarking tool that assesses how countries and industries are responding to child sexual abuse and exploitation across four categories and 60 countries.



Environment

- Instability
- Livelihoods
- Social protections
- Consumption of stimulants
- **Societal attitudes**
- **Perceptions of violence**
- **Attitudes to law enforcement**



Legal Framework

- Contextual legal framework
- Age of consent
- Child sexual offenses
- Child marriage
- Child-specific rape laws
- General sex laws
- Exemptions and qualifiers
- **Purchasing sexual services**
- **Procurement of minors**
- Visual depictions of minors
- **Online grooming**
- Protecting child interests
- **Internet protections**



Government Capacity & Commitment

- International standards/conventions
- National plans and policies
- Resources for legal and enforcement professionals
- Data collection: prevalence
- Reporting
- Government and law enforcement capacity
- Complaint mechanisms
- Access to victim support programmes
- Access to offender support programmes



Engagement: Industry, Civil Society & Media

- **Technology industry engagement**
- Travel and tourism industry engagement
- Frontline support workers
- Civil society engagement
- Media industry engagement

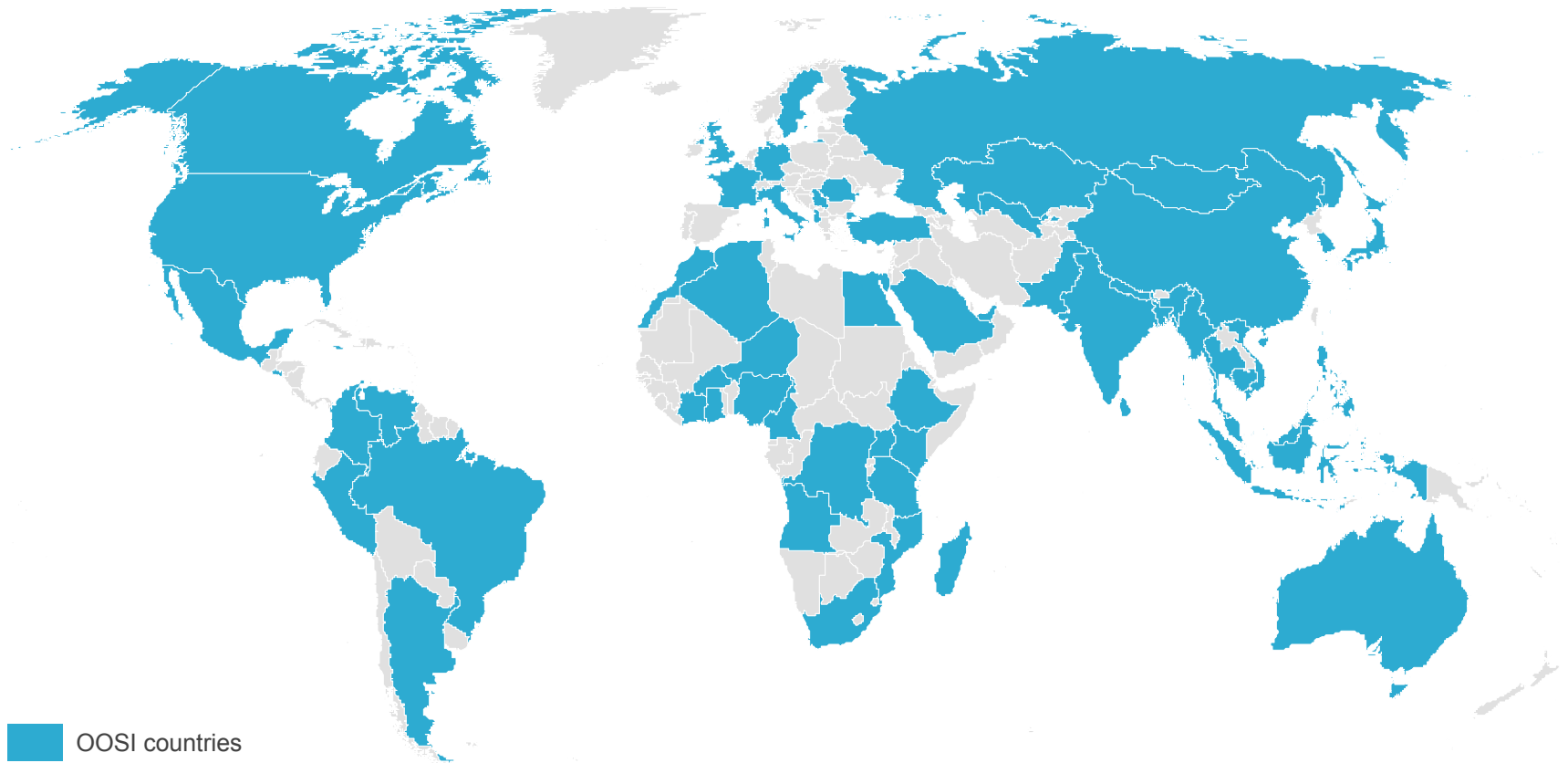
Objectives of the 'Out of the Shadows' Index

To raise awareness and mobilise action globally to address child sexual abuse and exploitation.

- Develop a best-practice framework to identify policy gaps
- Create an independent assessment of responses to child sexual abuse and exploitation
- Ensure accountability in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 and allow countries to track progress
- Raise awareness of the role of civil society and the private sector in safeguarding children from sexual abuse



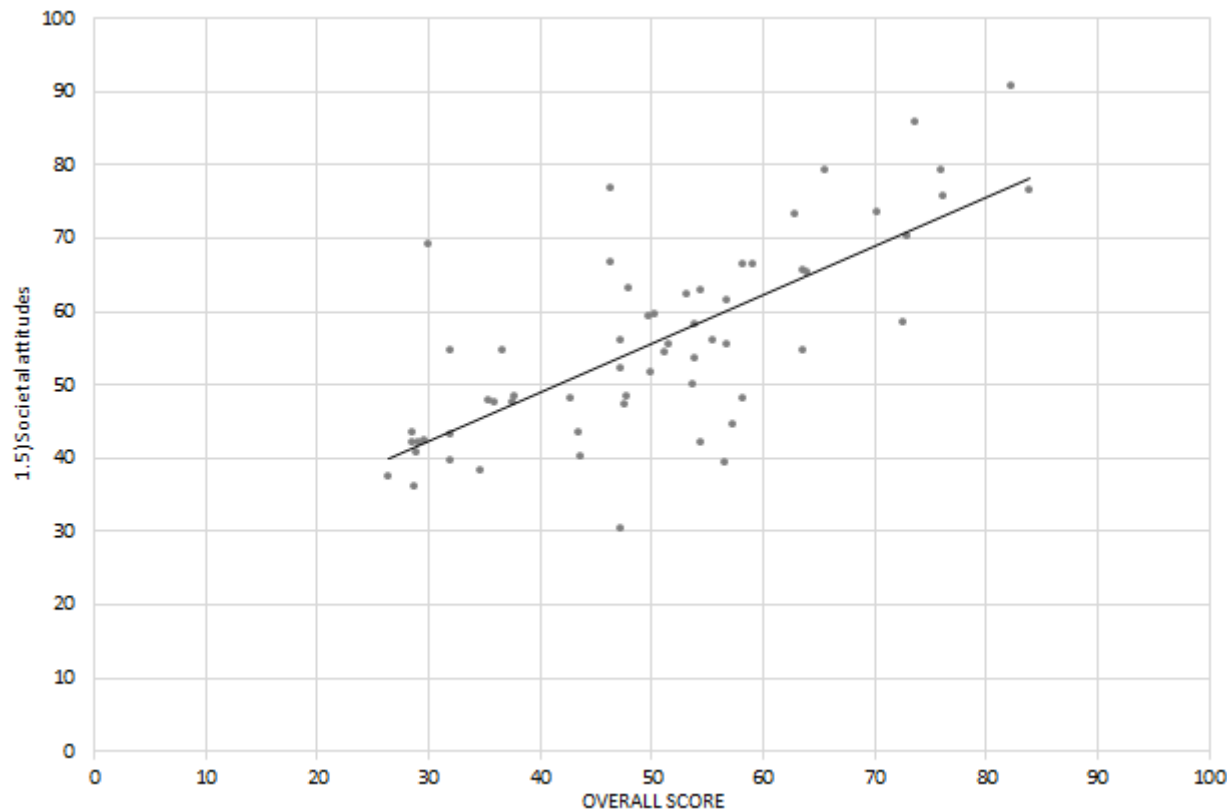
Index scope: 60 countries globally



Findings

There is a strong relationship between social norms and responses to sexual violence

Stigmas around perceptions of sex, sexuality and gender can create a more secretive environment in which sexual abuse and exploitation are not openly addressed.

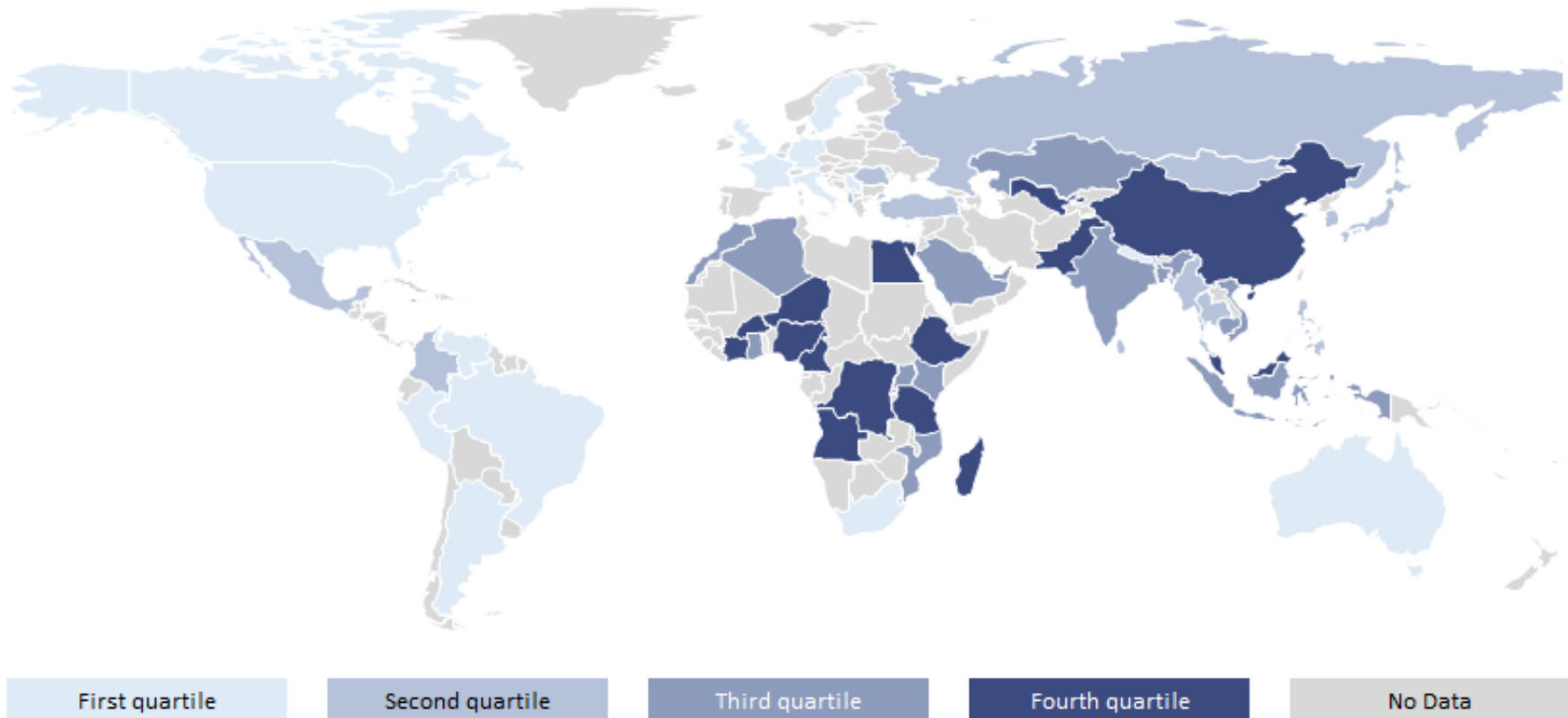


Correlation co-efficient (r) = +0.73

And often these norms are most prevalent in lower-middle and low-income countries

1.5) Societal attitudes

Score 0-100 where 100=best environment for children.



Resource constraints are not insurmountable

The top ten countries in the index are among the world's richest, but middle- and low-income countries are not far behind.

Overall scores, quartiles

First quartile		Second quartile		Third quartile		Fourth quartile	
United Kingdom	83.9	South Africa	58.1	Jamaica	50.0	Myanmar	36.6
Sweden	82.3	Uganda	57.3	Albania	49.8	Ghana	35.9
Australia	76.1	Philippines	56.7	Mongolia	47.9	Bangladesh	35.3
Canada	76.0	Turkey	56.7	Morocco	47.7	Cote d'Ivoire	34.7
Germany	73.6	Tanzania	56.5	Indonesia	47.6	Egypt	32.0
United States	72.9	Thailand	55.4	Nigeria	47.3	Algeria	31.9
South Korea	72.6	Malaysia	54.5	Kazakhstan	47.2	Uzbekistan	31.9
Italy	70.3	Mexico	54.5	Russia	47.2	Venezuela	30.0
France	65.5	El Salvador	53.8	Nepal	46.4	Angola	29.7
Japan	63.9	Kenya	53.8	Argentina	46.3	Ethiopia	29.1
Colombia	63.5	Cambodia	53.7	Madagascar	43.6	Cameroon	28.9
Peru	63.5	Romania	53.1	China	43.4	Niger	28.7
Brazil	62.9	Sri Lanka	51.5	Vietnam	42.8	Burkina Faso	28.6
Serbia	59.1	UAE	51.1	Mozambique	37.7	Pakistan	28.6
India	58.2	Rwanda	50.3	Saudi Arabia	37.6	Dem Rep of Congo	26.4

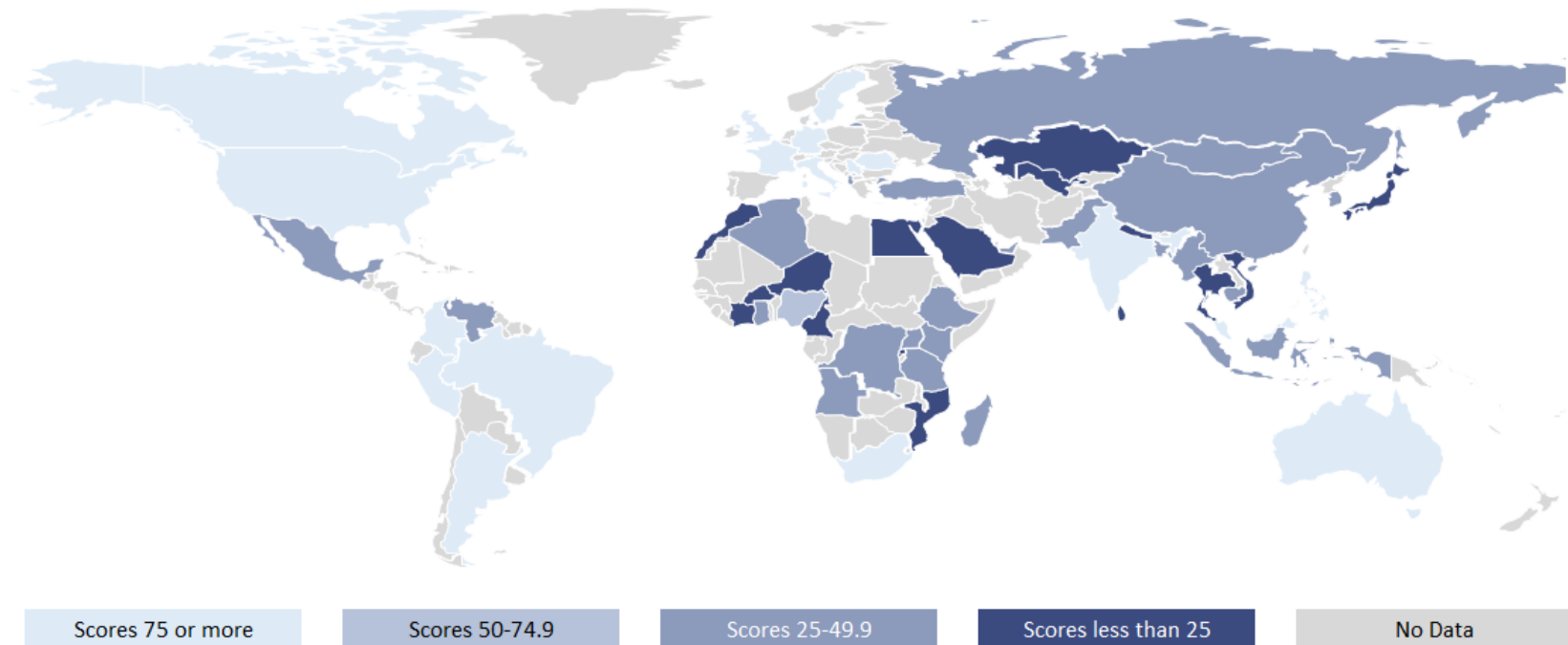
Improved Internet connectivity carries risks

The rapid rise of Internet access, especially among burgeoning youth populations in developing countries, requires action. For example, 16 (of 60) countries do not have laws that protect children against online grooming.

2.11) Online grooming

Score 0-100 where 100=best environment for children.

Considers if there is legislation that seeks to protect children from online grooming.



Gaps exist between legal systems and implementation

Country action has been most pronounced on legal frameworks that protect children. However, most have not implemented policies or created effective institutions.

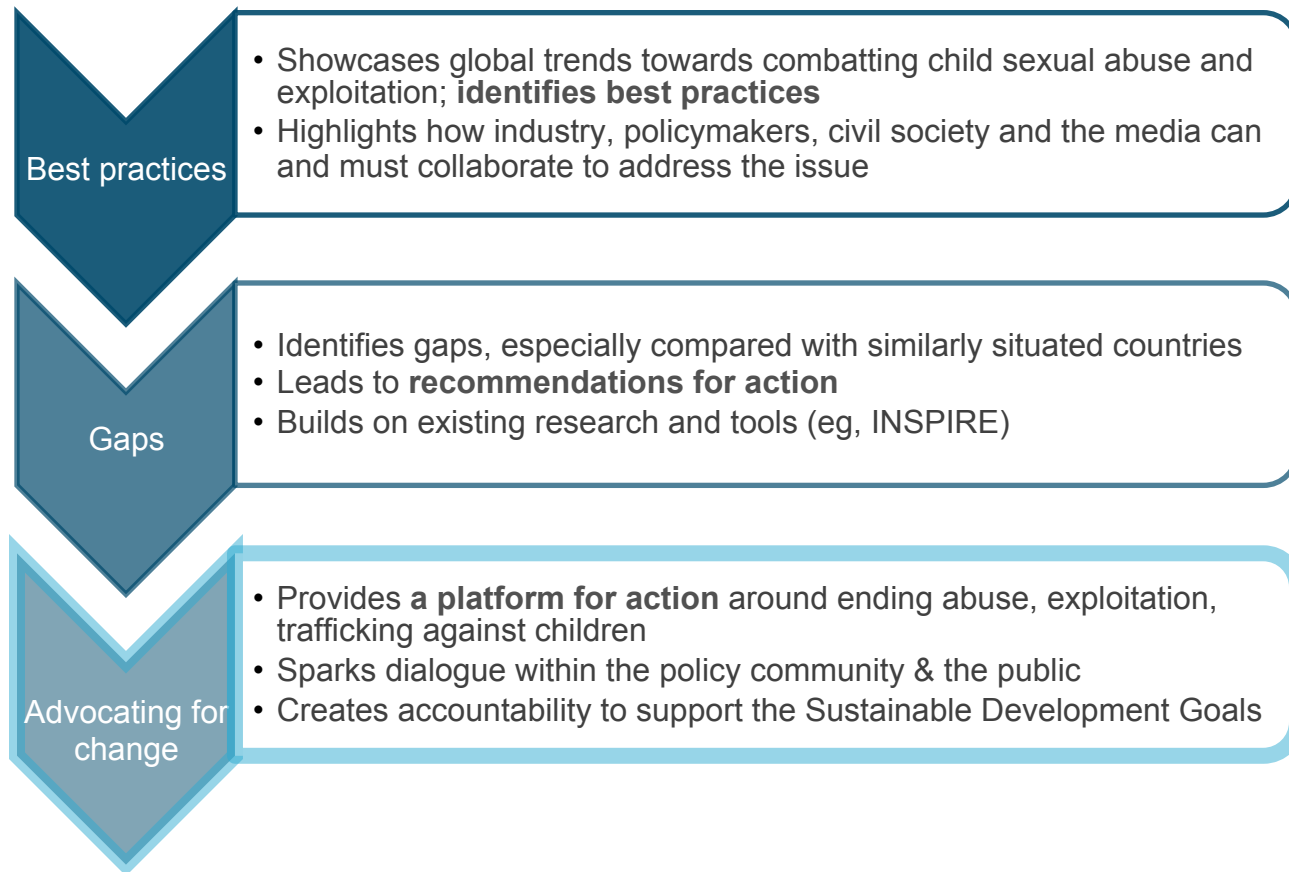
Index category	Average score (60 countries)	Average score (lower-middle income countries)	Average score (low-income countries)
Risk environment	58.3	53.5	50.0
Legal framework	58.9	56.2	50.5
Domestic capacity and commitment	43.4	33.6	35.7
Engagement: Industry, civil society & media	42.9	29.6	30.8

Scoring: 0-100, where 100=best environment for children

Using the OOSI: An advocacy tool to drive change

Using the 'Out of the Shadows' Index

The Out of the Shadows Index helps stakeholders identify gaps in responding to the scourge of sexual violence against children globally.



Using the Index: Developing policy response

The Index has been used to start dialogues with governmental organisations working to end all forms of violence against children.

- The Index has been presented to the European Parliament Intergroup on the Rights of the Child.
- A roundtable discussion with the Brazilian government, CONANDA, the State of Sao Paulo and the municipality of Sao Paulo drew attention to Index findings.
- Working sessions with government leaders, particularly in the Middle East, leveraged the Index to identify next steps
- The Index was presented to officials from UNICEF in NY, who introduced us to their country representatives.



Using the Index: Building out private-sector action

“It is absolutely crystal clear that the arrival of fast broadband in a particular country will be followed by the patterns of offending behavior that we’ve seen in richer countries.”

- John Carr, expert adviser to the European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online

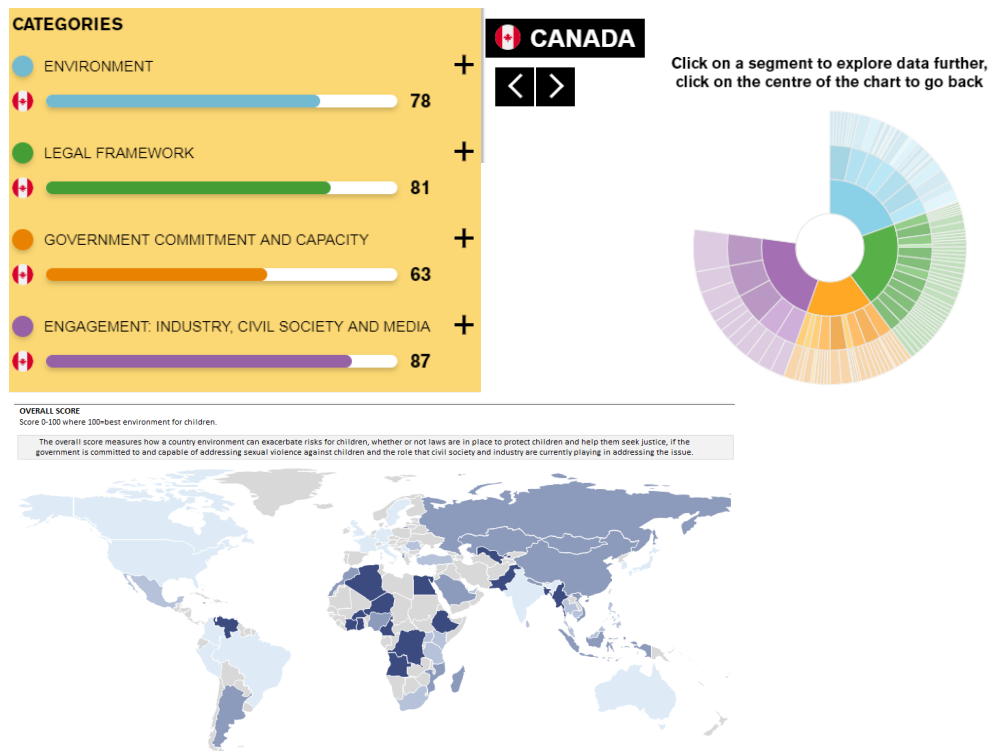
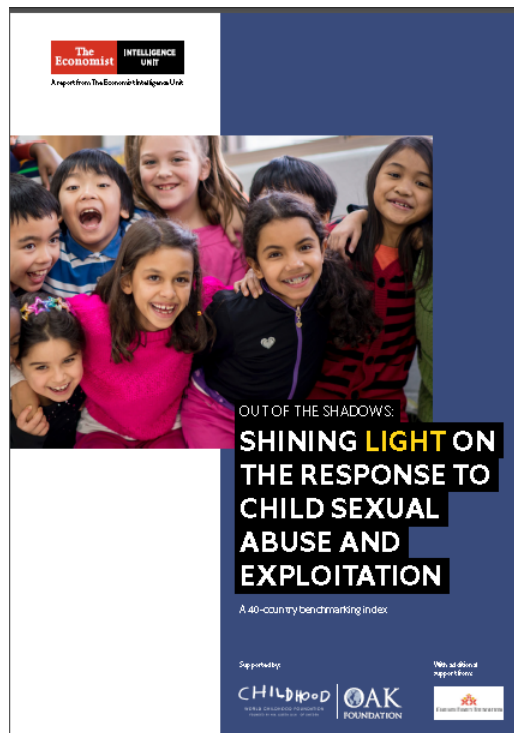
- The UN Broadband Commission has used Index insights in discussions with regulators and business operators to encourage child protection online.
- Index results were discussed at a child-protection meeting organised by GSMA, the mobile operators group, in Barcelona.
- Our research team is in discussions to use data from NetClean, a company that helps businesses detect child sexual abuse materials.
- World Childhood Foundation in Brazil initiated a dialogue with Microsoft to discuss child safety.



Outputs and communications: Building support for action

The findings from the study are highlighted in a white paper, index tool and country profiles that can be downloaded from the *Out of the Shadows* digital hub. A social – media campaign is also underway.

outoftheshadows.eiu.com



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CARLSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

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