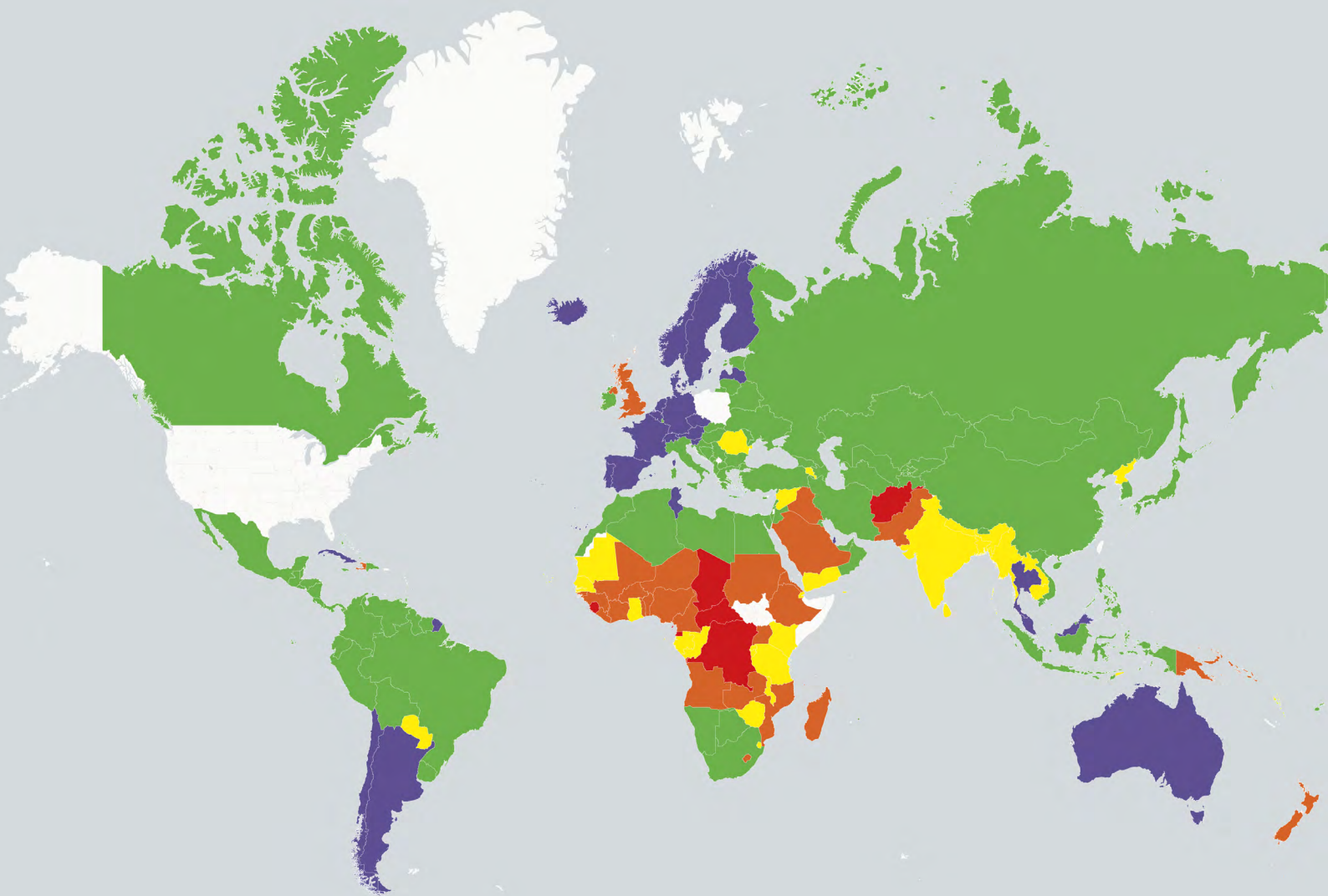


The KidsRights Index 2018



The KidsRights Index and its domains are accessible on www.kidsrightsindex.org 

About KidsRights

KidsRights is an international non-governmental organization that promotes the wellbeing of very vulnerable children across the world and advocates the realisation of their rights. KidsRights strives for a world where all children have access to their rights and are empowered to realise the great potential they carry within them. KidsRights sees children as '*changemakers*' who have the power to move the world, and facilitates them in voicing their opinions and taking action in order to bring about change.

KidsRights supports children by commanding global attention for the realisation of children's rights and acting as a catalyst to ignite change, together with children and youth. This advocacy is supported with research and action. The foundation also finances local projects aimed at directly improving the rights of vulnerable children and stimulating child participation and *changemaking* by youths.

www.kidsrights.org 

About Erasmus School of Economics

Erasmus School of Economics (ESE) is a leading centre for scientific research and education. As an internationally acclaimed institute, Erasmus School of Economics contributes to future economic developments and to answering issues related to government and business policy.

<https://www.eur.nl/ease/english/> 

About the International Institute of Social Studies

The International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) is an international graduate school of critical policy-oriented social science. ISS staff does research, teaching and public service in the field of development studies and international cooperation. The ISS is part of Erasmus University Rotterdam, but based in The Hague.

<https://www.iss.nl> 

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1. General information on the KidsRights Index

The KidsRights Index is the annual global index published by the KidsRights Foundation which maps the extent to which states adhere to and are equipped to improve children's rights. The KidsRights Index is an initiative of the KidsRights Foundation, and has been developed in cooperation with Erasmus University Rotterdam: Erasmus School of Economics and the International Institute of Social Studies. The KidsRights Index ranks all states that are parties to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and for which sufficient data is available. In 2018 this is a total number of 182 countries (compared to 165 last year). At present the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) is ratified by all of the world's nations but one: the United States of America.

The first KidsRights Index was presented on 19 November 2013. Both the KidsRights Index itself and the underlying data are accessible since on www.kidsrightsindex.org.  In 2018 the sixth KidsRights Index is published.

There is still a considerable gap between international and national children's rights policies and the local day-to-day realities of children and youth worldwide. The KidsRights Index provides crucial insights into what is being done and where countries need to do better to fully implement the CRC.

The KidsRights Index has been developed to stimulate attention for children's rights at large, and more in particular public debate concerning the state of respect for children's rights across the world. It is a tool for governments, civil society, politicians, academics and other actors that are interested in generating action to improve children's rights.

1.1 Sources

The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources: quantitative data published and regularly updated by UNICEF (www.data.unicef.org)  and UNDP (www.hdr.undp.org/data)  and qualitative data published by the [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#)  in the detailed individual country reports (the so-called Concluding Observations) that it adopts for all states that are parties to the CRC. The KidsRights Index makes these data more accessible to a broader audience, in an effort to stimulate dialogue about children's rights.

The Index covers five domains with a total of 20 indicators. It synthesizes the performance records of states for the most crucial general children's rights areas and implementation requirements of the CRC for which sufficient data is available. The five domains are:

1. Right to Life
2. Right to Health
3. Right to Education
4. Right to Protection
5. Enabling Environment for Child Rights

The KidsRights Index provides an overview of country performance on each of the five domains and is a basis for making concrete recommendations to countries on how to improve. The KidsRights Index includes a total of 16 quantitative and 7 qualitative indicators which, when available, are systematically rated in the same way for all countries. An overview of all indicators and their definitions can be found in Annex 1 to this Report.

Domain 5, the 'Enabling Environment for Child Rights' - or Child Rights Environment in short - is an important and unique domain within the KidsRights Index. It reveals the extent to which countries have operationalized the general principles of the CRC (*non-discrimination; best interests of the child; respect for the views of the child/participation*) and the extent to which there is a basic 'infrastructure' for making and implementing child rights policy, in the form of *enabling national legislation; mobilization of the 'best available' budget; collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and state-civil society cooperation for child rights*).

The scores on domain 5 are derived from the Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. These Concluding Observations finish off the state reporting procedure under the CRC and represent the Committee's views on the level of realization of children's rights in a particular country.

¹ The data for the KidsRights Index 2018 was downloaded from www.data.unicef.org in January 2018 and from www.hdr.undp.org/data in March 2018

The KidsRights Index provides an overview of country performance on each of the five domains and is a basis for making concrete recommendations to countries on how to improve. The KidsRights Index includes a total of 13 quantitative and 7 qualitative indicators which, when available, are systematically rated in the same way for all countries. An overview of all indicators and their definitions can be found in Annex 1 to this Report.

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1.2 Methodology

From the start of the KidsRights Index in 2013, its scientific methodology has been work in progress. Based on the annual findings, small methodological adjustments were made nearly every year. However, this year we decided to make more comprehensive methodological changes in the domain Education, so as to generate a yet higher quality assessment and comparison of country performance records on education. The consequence of these methodological adjustments is that it is not possible to compare the 2018 KidsRights results one-on-one to the 2017 and previous results, although on the whole the differences in rankings caused by the methodological changes are limited. Section 2.2. below provides further details. Obviously, all countries have still been compared to each other on the same footing, as has been the case in previous versions of the KidsRights Index. Thus, a comparative assessment between countries remains possible.

In the previous versions of the KidsRights Index the score on the domain Education was based on six indicators:

1. Primary school net enrolment ratio
2. Secondary school net enrolment ratio
3. Female/male enrolment ratio primary
4. Female/male enrolment ratio secondary
5. Survival rate to last grade (female as % of male)
6. Primary school net attendance rate rural.

These indicators aim to capture differences in enrolment in private and secondary education and gender inequalities. However, over the years many indicators of this domain suffered from missing values. For many high income countries in particular, scores on enrolment ratios turned out not to be available. To address these concerns a new Education domain has been constructed.

From the 6th KidsRights Index (2018) onwards the Education domain is based on the indicator ‘Expected years of schooling’. This indicator, which is also used in the Human Development Index (HDI), is a measure of the years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child’s life.² As such, the new indicator shows the opportunities for learning or educational development of a child in a specific country. In order to also capture differences between girls and boys, the Education domain is now constructed on the basis of three indicators:

1. Expected years of schooling of girls
2. Expected years of schooling of boys
3. Gender inequality in expected years of schooling (absolute difference between girls and boys).

The data for the three indicators of the Education Domain come from UNDP and are available at www.hdr.undp.org/data. 

The new indicators used in the improved Education domain are also available for more countries than the previously used indicators were. Thus, in the 2018 KidsRights Index a total number of 17 countries that previously could not be included for a lack of sufficient data, are added. The new countries that are included in the KidsRights Index 2018, which now includes 182 countries, are: Antigua

² The HDI also uses ‘Mean years of schooling’. The KidsRights Index does not use this measure as it is about the population of 25 and older and not about children.

General information on the KidsRights Index

and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Cape Verde, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Grenada, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Seychelles, Solomon Islands and Sudan.

The scores for each domain are calculated as the mean of the scores on the underlying indicators. The scores are standardised between a minimum of 0.01 and a maximum of 1. If scores of indicators are missing then the domain score is calculated over the score of the remaining indicators.

The total score of the KidsRights Index is calculated as the geometric mean of the scores on the five specific domains. In general, the geometric mean is used, instead of the arithmetic mean, because this makes it more difficult to compensate for low scores on specific domains. Such compensation is not desired, because all children's rights are considered important. Therefore, an extremely low score in one area of children's rights, for example on providing an 'enabling environment for child rights', cannot be compensated by a high score on for example 'education'.

If a country has the lowest possible score on all indicators of a specific domain that would lead to a zero score on that domain. Because of the geometric mean, a zero score on one domain would also result in a zero score on the total KidsRights Index. To avoid a situation in which one domain fully determines the total score of the Index, zero scores on specific domains are not allowed. When zero scores appear, they are replaced by scores very close to zero (0.01). This is similar to the approach used, for example, in the Human Development Index.

In this way countries that score the lowest possible score on all indicators within a specific domain, will also score very low on the total KidsRights Index. In the KidsRights Index 2018 this is the case for Sierra Leone (rank 182), Afghanistan (rank 181), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (rank 173) and New Zealand (rank 172)³.

The information for domain 5 - 'Child Rights Environment' - derived from the qualitative Concluding Observations adopted by the CRC Committee is scored on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned to each sub-indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee in the document. The resulting final scores have also been standardized.

KidsRights Index Scoring System:

Score 1 'low'	= only negative remarks
Score 2 'average'	= negative and positive remarks
Score 3 'high'	= only positive remarks
NA	= not addressed

The Index is a ranked country list, with colour-coding indicating relevant clusters of rankings. Five different clusters each display a more or less similar performance level, as each cluster represents countries for which the scores belong to the same distribution (see figure 1). Within a cluster the scores of countries are thus more similar than across clusters. The clusters are expressed in coloured world maps on www.kidsrightsindex.org.

☐ Not included in the KidsRights Index

☐ Insufficient data in this domain



Figure 1

As said, the KidsRights Index 2018 includes 182 countries. A country is not included in the overall Index if the score on domain 5 'Child Rights Environment' is missing. A country is also not included if more than half of all the domain scores are missing (e.g. when three or more domains are missing). The score for a domain is not calculated if more than half of the indicators of that domain have a missing value.

³ For further explanation on this unexpected ranking of the UK and New Zealand, see the second last paragraph of section 1.4 below.

1.3 The main goal of the KidsRights Index is to improve children's rights all over the world

The scope for realising the full spectrum of children's rights is not only determined by income, or by level of economic development. In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child considers the implementation record of states parties to the Convention with a certain level of consideration for the development level and/or implementation capacity of those states parties. For example, according to article 4 of the CRC, states have to mobilize 'the maximum extent of their available resources'. This explains why in certain situations perhaps rather unexpected scores may be obtained on the KidsRights Index.

The KidsRights Index shows that many economically developed countries invest far below their possibilities in children's rights. An example of this is the United Kingdom that, mainly due to a harsh assessment by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child relating to the enabling environment for children's rights in the UK, ranks very low in the KidsRights Index since 2017. However, this doesn't mean that children in the United Kingdom are necessarily worse off than children living in countries ranking above the United Kingdom.

As said, the KidsRights Index assesses countries within their capabilities on their efforts to realize children's rights. A country that performs well on children's rights, relative to its economic situation and implementation capacity, will score relatively higher than a country that leaves opportunities unused. An additional factor that co-determines rankings in domain 5 is that the CRC Committee seems to assess a state more strictly over time (for example because previous Concluding Observations were not acted upon).

Besides the contextual assessment outlined above, a second important principle is that very low scores in one of the five research domains cannot be compensated by high performance in other domains. Since all children's rights are important, gaps in one domain cannot be made up for by strong performance in another domain. This does explain why some countries rank unexpectedly very low on the KidsRights Index, such as the United Kingdom and New Zealand (which both received a rather harsh assessment of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2016 and thus have a very low score on domain 5. Other countries rank comparatively high on the Index. For example in situations in which relatively limited means are available to implement the CRC, political will to genuinely prioritize children's rights by allocating the maximum/best available budget can make a significant difference.

These so-called unexpected results manifest themselves mainly in, and because of, domain 5, the 'Enabling Environment for Child Rights' - an important and unique domain within the KidsRights Index. As stated earlier, it reveals the extent to which countries have operationalized the general principles of the CRC and the extent to which there is a basic 'infrastructure' for making and implementing child rights policy. Domains 1 to 4 have a very strong correlation with the economic performance of a country and therefore present a much more 'known' view of the world. However, as argued above, the KidsRights Index shows that there is more to children's rights than just income, or economic development.

1.4 Data gaps and the need for better collection of disaggregated data

Even though 17 additional countries have been added to the KidsRights Index of 2018, the need for additional data remains high. Within the domains countries still lack data and there are many missing indicators. In order to become more effective in developing initiatives for the improvement of children's rights, action should be based on sound and specific information about problems, gaps and achievements. Worldwide, countries should do more to collect and analyse disaggregated data (that is data collected on the situation of specific (groups of) children in a particular country. Disaggregated data reveals the position of vulnerable and marginalised children in society and highlights specific children's rights violations in a country. This data should be systematically collected, made publicly available and discussed, and used for the development of policies and plans on children's rights.

The KidsRights Index covers all states parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child for which sufficient data is available. A list of countries that are included and those that are not included in the Index can be found in Annex 2 to this report. As indicated earlier, the United States of America is the only state in the world that has not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As they have not ratified the Convention they are not legally bound by it and do not report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Thus, no data is available for domain 5 'Child Rights Environment' and the USA therefore cannot be included in the KidsRights Index.

1.5 Countries that reported to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2017

In the KidsRights Index 2018, domain 5 ('Enabling Environment for Child Rights') has been updated to include all Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child about states that interacted with the Committee in 2017 in the state

General information on the KidsRights Index

reporting procedure. The following twenty-one states that appear in the KidsRights Index 2018 were subject to the CRC state reporting procedure in 2017 and thus received a new score for the domain 'Child Rights Environment': Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bhutan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Georgia, Lebanon, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia, Qatar, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Tajikistan, Vanuatu and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

2. The results of the KidsRights Index 2018

2.1 Overall ranking

Norway ranks number one in the KidsRights Index 2018.

Overall Rank	Country/182	Overall score
1	Norway	0,974
2	Iceland	0,965
3	Portugal	0,954
4	Spain	0,947
5	Switzerland	0,936
6	The Netherlands	0,911
7	Finland	0,909
8	Germany	0,906
9	France	0,902
10	Slovenia	0,898

This year's overall worst performing countries are Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Papua New Guinea, Eritrea and The United Kingdom.⁴

Overall Rank	Country/182	Overall score
182	Sierra Leone	0,201
181	Afghanistan	0,205
180	Chad	0,242
179	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,273
178	Equatorial Guinea	0,279
177	Central African Republic	0,291
176	Guinea-Bissau	0,339
175	Papua New Guinea	0,342
174	Eritrea	0,352
173	The United Kingdom	0,379

2.2. Results 2018

The improved Education domain has caused some significant shifts in positions for several countries. For example, the changes for Germany (18 in 2017 to 8 in 2018), Austria (35 in 2017 and 12 in 2018) and Uruguay (14 in 2017 to 33 in 2018) are largely contributed to the improved Education domain. For 31 countries (out of 182) the difference in ranking between the improved method and the previously used method is more than 10 places in ranking.

This, plus the inclusion of 17 new countries, makes it hard to compare countries in the KidsRights Index 2018 with previous editions of the KidsRights Index. Nevertheless, countries can be assessed for how they rank in relation to other countries of comparable nature (same region, neighbours, economic situation, cultural background etc.).

From the countries that were subject to the CRC state reporting procedure in 2017 and thus received a new score for domain 5 'Enabling Environment for Child Rights', some have really improved their scores and others are performing worse. Denmark, Vanuatu, Georgia, Central African Republic, Qatar and Estonia deserve honourable mentions for having risen among the ranks significantly in domain 5 since their previous Index score on this domain. These can still be compared as no methodological changes occurred in domain 5. The above-mentioned countries score relatively high as they have improved substantially in fostering an enabling environment for children's rights. To the contrary, the 2017 scores on domain 5 of Romania, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Bhutan, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ecuador are remarkably poor and these countries are urged to do more to foster the rights of their youngest generation.

⁴ For an explanation on this unexpected ranking of the UK, see the second last paragraph of section 1.4 above.

2.3. Overall conclusions

When taking a closer look especially at domain 5 ‘Enabling Environment for Child Rights’, the KidsRights Index generates material for some notable conclusions.

1) In all countries groups of children suffer from discrimination

Discrimination is a great concern for groups of children all over the world, without exception. Many children – including girls, indigenous children, poor children or children with disabilities - lack access to education and basic health care and they are not given the same opportunities to develop themselves as other children. Unfortunately there are no exceptions; none of the countries in the 2018 KidsRights Index receive the score ‘good’ on the *non-discrimination* indicator in domain 5. Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the MENA region score worst on ‘non-discrimination’. And 68 (out of 179) countries score ‘bad’ on *non-discrimination*. Vulnerable and marginalised children such as girls, refugee children, migrant children, children with disabilities, street children or indigenous children especially continue to face discrimination in the societies in which they live.

Countries all over the world need to do more to ban the discrimination of marginalised groups of children. Children cannot fully enjoy their rights if discrimination is rooted in society and even excludes groups of children from accessing such important services as school and health care. All children should be given the same opportunities to develop and grow up in a safe and peaceful environment.

2) The principle of the ‘best interests of the child’ is nowhere fully implemented

According to the CRC, the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, so that when decisions are taken about the child they reflect what will serve the child best. On taking the best interests of the child at heart, there is not a country in the world that scores ‘good’, while 54 (out of 165) countries score ‘bad’, including Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom. All over the world decisions are taken about children without considering their best interests adequately. This occurs for example in cases where children are being separated from their parents or for migrant and refugee children. Judges and other professionals working for and with children should be trained on how the principle of the best interests of the child should be implemented better in judicial and administrative decisions and other interventions.

3) Participation of children is lacking behind

There is still a lot to achieve on the aspect of *respecting the views of the child*. At present, none of the countries in the KidsRights Index score ‘good’ on this aspect. This means that all countries in the world still have to make sure that they structurally engage children and youth in decision-making processes and take into account children’s views on matters that affect them directly. In the 2018 KidsRights Index 46 (out of 179) countries score ‘bad’ on *child participation*. Of all regions, the Asia and the Pacific region and the African region score worst on *child participation*. The industrialised countries score best on this indicator.

Despite increased awareness of child participation, there are major obstacles which still stand in the way of its realisation. Among those who are aware of it, there remains a lack of clarity about what exactly child participation is, and why it is significant. Then there are many who know nothing at all about child participation, and resist its implementation. The capacity of children to contribute is consistently underestimated, and the capacity of adults to properly encourage, support and facilitate child participation is often limited. Finally, legislation in this area is limited, along with policy-formation, monitoring and means of redress. Countries therefore should take measures to implement legislation recognising the rights of the child to be heard in relevant legal and administrative proceedings and meaningful and empowered participation of all children should be promoted and implemented.

4) Legislation should be improved

Of all indicators in domain 5, countries on average score best on enabling legislation. All six different regions also score best on *enabling legislation*. Various states have adopted new child laws in recent years. This is a major achievement that has been stimulated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Disappointingly, however, the Index also reveals that implementation is often lagging. Moreover, many new laws still fail to fully comply with the principles and provisions of the CRC. States should enact enabling legislation for child rights and implement this legislation in all procedures. Laws and procedures should be in conformity with the CRC. South Africa and the United Kingdom are examples of countries that need to bring their domestic legislation yet more in line with the CRC.

5) Worst scores on 'best available budget'

All over the world countries allocate insufficient budget for children rights. In 2018 this has led to worst scores on average on the indicator 'best available budget' in domain 5. Governments should allocate their best available budget to realize the rights of children. None of the countries in the KidsRights Index scores 'good' on *best available budget*. The CEE/CIS region and the Industrialized countries are the two worst scoring regions on this indicator, including wealthy countries such as Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden. The Latin American and Caribbean region scores relatively the best.

These outcomes are partly explained by the fact that, as explained before, according to the CRC (art. 4) states have to mobilize 'the maximum extent of their available resources'. This may have different actual implications for some states as compared to others. For example, a highly developed country can be expected to mobilize more resources than a least developed country. Accordingly, in situations in which relatively limited means are available to implement the CRC, political will to genuinely prioritize children's rights by allocating the maxim/best available budget can make a significant difference.

6) More data collection is crucial

Disaggregated data, that is data collected on the situation of (particular groups of) children in a (particular) country, are important to be able to drive decisions on the development of children's rights. Better collection and analysis of the data can assist in realizing and protecting the rights of all children as decisions can be taken on the specific needs of particular groups of children, based on for example income, sex, age, race or ethnicity. As discussed previously, worldwide countries should do more to collected disaggregated data.

The (non-)availability of data remains influential. 46 (out of 181) countries score 'bad' on 'collection and analysis of disaggregated data'. It is striking that, of all regions, the Industrialised countries score relatively worst on this indicator. They should have the means to collect and analyse disaggregated data and thus the CRC Committee has found that they have not performed well enough.

7) Cooperation between the state and civil society should improve

For effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child governments need to work together with civil society organisations. In some countries this is going well. On the indicator 'state-civil society cooperation for child rights' six countries score 'good'. Unfortunately, cooperation between the state and civil society in some other countries is far from a positive reality. Alarming is the growing concern for the safety of children's rights defenders, journalists and civil society activists, working to protect the rights of all children in societies. The KidsRights Index 2018 makes notice of at least 22 countries where children's rights defenders are harassed, under threat, abused and jailed. Countries should ensure that such threats against children's rights defenders, journalists and civil society activists are prevented and otherwise independently investigated. Those responsible for these threats should be held accountable and punished where due.

Another concern is the lack of data on this indicator. Information on state – civil society cooperation is available for only 118 (out of 182)

Annex 1 - Domains & Indicators

	Domains:	Indicators:
1	Right to Life	• Under 5 mortality • Life expectancy at birth • Maternal mortality ratio
2	Right to Health	• % of under five year olds suffering from underweight • Immunization of 1 year old children • % of population using improved sanitation facilities (urban and rural) • % of population using improved drinking water sources (urban and rural)
3	Right to Education	• Expected years of schooling of girls • Expected years of schooling of boys • Gender inequality in expected years of schooling (absolute difference between girls and boys)
4	Right to Protection	• Child labour • Adolescent birth rate • Birth registration
5	Enabling Environment for Child Rights	• Non-discrimination • Best interests of the child • Respect for the views of the child/child participation • Enabling legislation • Best available budget • Collection and analysis of disaggregate data • State-civil society cooperation for child rights

Annex 2 - Regions (182 countries)

Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) – 20 countries

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of), Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Asia and the Pacific – 30 countries

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Korea Democratic People's Republic of, Lao, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federates States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Vietnam

Africa – 45 countries

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo Democratic Republic of the, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Industrialized countries – 37 countries

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic of, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Latin America and Caribbean – 31 countries

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) – 19 countries

Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Countries not in the Index ⁵ – 39 countries

Asia and the Pacific: Marshall Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu

Africa: Somalia, South Sudan

Industrialised countries: Andorra, Poland, Liechtenstein, Hong Kong, USA

Latin America and Caribbean: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Turks and Caicos Islands

Middle East and North Africa (MENA): State of Palestine

⁵ The score for a domain is not calculated if more than half of the indicators of that domain have a missing value. A country is not included in the overall Index if the score on domain 5 'Child Rights Environment' is missing. A country is also not included if more than half of the domain scores are missing.

The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children's rights.

182
COUNTRIES

Unique: domain Child Rights Environment provides insight into the extent to which a country is equipped to carry out the UN CRC.

The goal of the KidsRights Index is to stimulate compliance with children's rights worldwide.



Online: the KidsRights Index is easily accessible on kidsrightsindex.org

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is the global framework for children's rights.



1989

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources: ① quantitative data published and regularly updated by UNICEF at www.data.unicef.org, ② UNDP at www.hdr.undp.org/data and ③ qualitative data from the *Concluding Observations* by the [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#).

The KidsRights Index: 20 indicators: 13 quantitative and 7 qualitative indicators

1. Life

- Under 5 mortality rate
- Life expectancy at birth
- Maternal mortality ratio



2. Health

- % of under five year olds suffering from underweight
- Immunization of 1 year old children
- % of population using improved sanitation facilities (urban and rural)
- % of population using improved drinking water sources (urban and rural)



4. Protection

- Child labour
- Adolescent birth rate
- Birth registration



5. Child Rights Environment

- Non-discrimination
- Best interests of the child
- Enabling legislation
- Best available budget
- Respect for the views of the child/child participation
- Collection and analysis of disaggregate data
- State-civil society cooperation for child rights



3. Education

- Expected years of schooling of girls
- Expected years of schooling of boys
- Gender inequality in expected years of schooling (absolute difference between girls and boys)



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KidsRights Foundation

Noorderakerweg 90
1069 LW Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Tel: +31 20 225 82 25

info@kidsrights.org 

www.kidsrights.org 