



KIDSRIGHTS  
Index

# The KidsRights Index 2025

## COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

### BHUTAN



### BHUTAN

#### OVERALL

RANK: **134**  
SCORE: **0,576**

#### LIFE

RANK: **111**  
SCORE: **0,780**

#### HEALTH

RANK: **82**  
SCORE: **0,919**

#### EDUCATION

RANK: **112**  
SCORE: **0,663**

#### PROTECTION

RANK: **62**  
SCORE: **0,937**

#### ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: **165**  
SCORE: **0,143**

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY ARE  
ACCESSIBLE ON [WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG/KIDSRIGHTS-INDEX/](http://WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG/KIDSRIGHTS-INDEX/)

## INTRODUCTION TO THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children’s rights. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Index synthesizes and ranks the children’s rights performance records of state parties to the CRC in relation to the most crucial aspects of children’s lives for which global and comparable data is available. Overall, the KidsRights Index presents an accessible, general, and comparative overview of state performance on selected children’s rights. It also creates a basis for making concrete and evidence-based recommendations on how governments might improve on various children’s rights matters. The five domains that jointly make up the Index are:

- 1. Right to Life**
- 2. Right to Health**
- 3. Right to Education**
- 4. Right to Protection**
- 5. Enabling Environment for Children’s Rights**

## DATA SOURCES OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index focuses on more generic issues which in principle are equally relevant for all states parties to the CRC and for which, on the whole, reliable data are available. The KidsRights Index is the outcome of an integrated analysis of existing, high-quality data published by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.<sup>1</sup>

## DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Domain 5, the ‘Enabling Environment for Children’s Rights’, is an important and unique domain of the KidsRights Index. This Domain charts how states are faring in creating the conditions that need to be in place for realizing children’s rights and/or for making children’s rights policies and putting them into effect. 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 Domain 5 scores for the respective countries are derived from the latest Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

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<sup>1</sup> These data are drawn from <https://data.unicef.org/>, [www.hdr.undp.org/data](http://www.hdr.undp.org/data), and the ‘Concluding Observations’ published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the end of the periodic state reporting procedure for all states that are legally bound by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Domain 5 - 'Child Rights Environment' - is based on the Concluding Observations adopted by the CRC Committee. The Committee's assessment of the country performance on the earlier mentioned 7 indicators that make up the Domain 5 is used to generate scores on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned to each indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee in the Concluding Observation. The resulting final scores are standardized.

### KidsRights Index scoring system for the Domain 5 indicators:

Score 1 'bad'	= only negative remarks
Score 2 'average'	= negative and positive remarks
Score 3 'good'	= only positive remarks
NA	= not addressed

## DOMAIN 5: BHUTAN

	Non-discrimination	Best interests of the child	Respect for the views of the child	Enabling legislation	Best available budget / Resources	Collection and analysis of disaggregated data	State-civil society cooperation for child rights
<b>Bhutan 2017</b>	2	1	2	1	2	2	1
<b>Bhutan 2024</b>	1	1	1	2	2	1	1

## COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - BHUTAN

1. Legislate to explicitly prohibit all forms of discrimination, especially considering that the constitution only mentions race, sex, language, religion, and politics as protected grounds.<sup>2</sup> Further protected grounds should include national or ethnic origin, disability and socioeconomic, residence or other status, and sexual orientation and gender identity to protect children belonging to such marginalized groups. **(Non-Discrimination)**
2. Ensure due consideration for the best interest (BI) of the child in all administrative and judicial acts, processes, and decisions affecting children with particular regard to alternative care, asylum and migration policies and judicial proceedings in which children participate. **(BI of the Child)**
3. Increase opportunities for substantial participation of children, especially those belonging to marginalized groups, with regard to decision-making at a family, community, and school setting locally and nationally. This includes the allocation of sufficient resources to institutions and programs facilitating youth participation. **(Respect for the Views of the Child)**
4. Implement the legislative proposals by the National Law Review Taskforce to amend the Child Care Protection Act and other child rights-related laws to bring them in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Among others, Articles 109 and 111 of the Penal Code allowing corporal punishment of children through parents/legal guardians and persons of authority respectively are contrary to the CRC and General comment no. 8.<sup>3</sup> **(Enabling Legislation)**
5. Introduce a budgeting process explicitly concerned with child rights to be included in state budgeting together with a tracking system to allow for the monitoring of the allocation and use of financial resources on children. **(Best Available Budget)**
6. Establish a centralized collection system for disaggregated data covering all aspects of the CRC, as opposed to fragmented collection of data through multiple agencies and bodies as currently operated by the State Party. This data shall be used to introduce and evaluate policies connected to the CRC. **(Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)**
7. Reconsider the 2021 amendments to the Civil Society Organizations Act (CSOA), in so far as they restrict the registration and operation of civil society organizations

<sup>2</sup> US Department of State, 'Bhutan 2023 Human Rights Report', 26 June 2024, p. 18.

<sup>3</sup> Bhutan Penal Code arts. 109, 111; Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'GENERAL COMMENT No. 8 (2006): The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment (arts. 19; 28, para. 2; and 37, inter alia)', UN Doc CRC/C/GC/8, 2 March 2007, paras. 31-32.

(CSOs) working on children’s rights. Notably, Article 16 CSOA allows the Civil Society Organizations Authority to prescribe a minimum Endowment Fund requirement. In conjunction with the Authority’s decision to set this minimum at NU 3 million for public benefit organizations and NU 1.5 million for mutual benefit organizations, Article 16 CSOA is problematic for the continuation of many CSOs.<sup>4</sup>  
(State-Civil Society Cooperation)

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<sup>4</sup> Civil Society Organizations (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2022; Civicus, ‘Bhutan: Restrictive funding requirements for civil society, defamation laws and detention of political prisoners’, 23 January 2025, <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/bhutan-restrictive-funding-requirements-for-civil-society-defamation-laws-and-detention-of-political-prisoners/>; Sonam Deki, ‘Civil Society Organizations Face Uncertainty Over Stringent Endowment Fund Rules’, Bhutan Today, <http://www.bhutantoday.bt/civil-society-organizations-face-uncertainty-over-stringent-endowment-fund-rules/>.