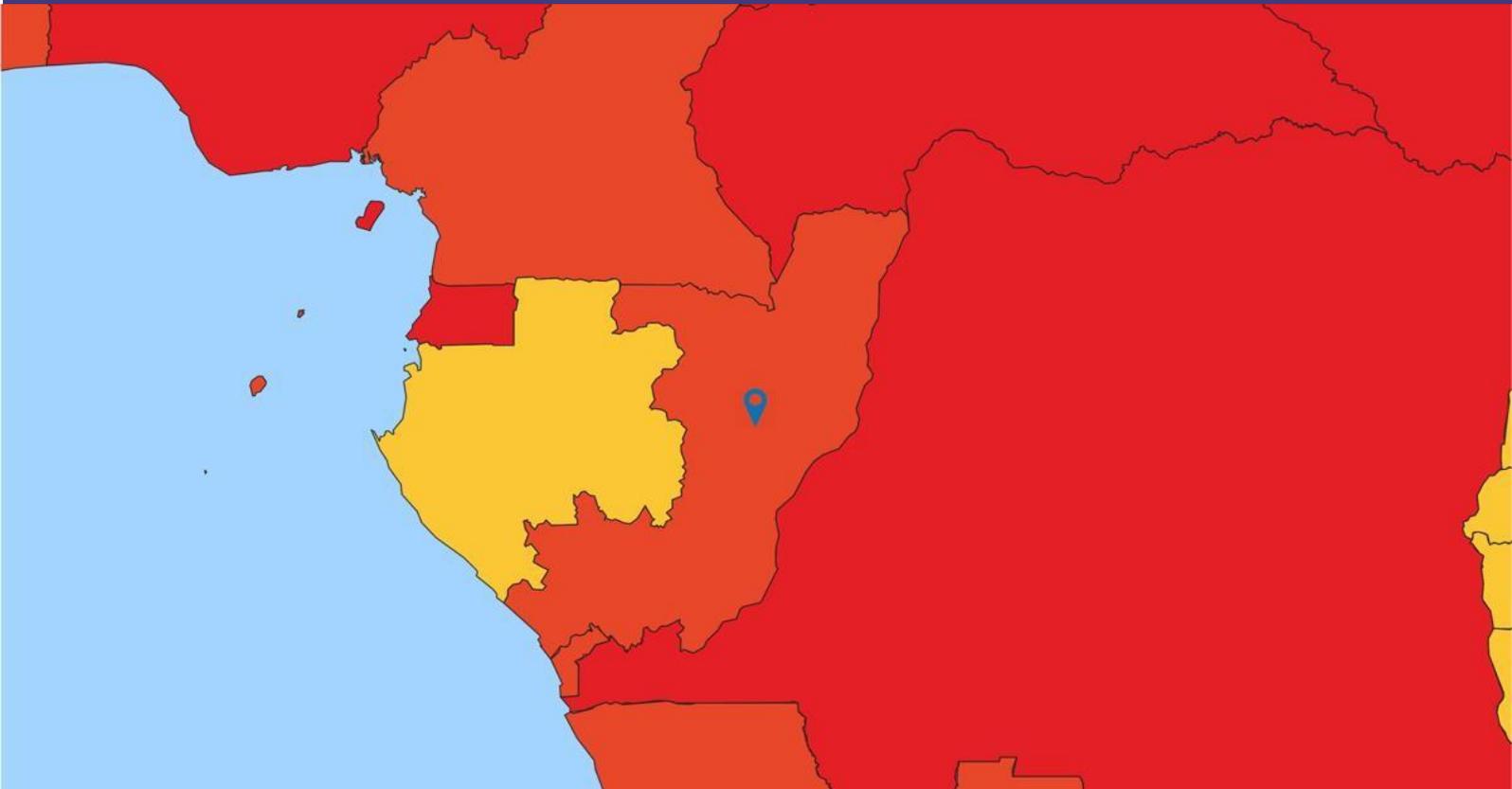




KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2025

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS CONGO



CONGO

OVERALL

RANK: **162**
SCORE: **0,476**

LIFE

RANK: **156**
SCORE: **0,593**

HEALTH

RANK: **179**
SCORE: **0,423**

EDUCATION

RANK: **132**
SCORE: **0,626**

PROTECTION

RANK: **123**
SCORE: **0,728**

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: **154**
SCORE: **0,214**

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY ARE
ACCESSIBLE ON 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.¹

DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILD 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.

¹ These data are drawn from <https://data.unicef.org/>, 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: CONGO

	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
Congo 2014	2	1	1	2	1	2	2
Congo 2024	1	1	2	2	1	2	1

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - CONGO

1. Take targeted measures to combat discrimination against the marginalized groups mentioned above, with a particular focus on girls. Most notably, the access of girls to education needs to be prioritized as boys are five times more likely to follow secondary education than girls.² Moreover, it is crucial to protect girls from all forms of violence. (Non-Discrimination)
2. Ensure that the BI principle is consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and legal decisions and acts impacting children. (BI of the Child)
3. Introduce mandatory impact assessments for introduced laws and policies affecting children to ensure that the BI principle is fully incorporated. (BI of the Child)
4. Provide the Children's Parliament of Congo with a meaningful mandate in conjunction with adequate human, technical and fiscal resources to allow children to engage with national legislative processes on issues affecting them while ensuring that the results are considered in public decision-making. (Respect for the Views of the Child)
5. Expedite the enforcement of legislation implementing the State Party's commitments under the CRC. Most notably, Act n°04-2010 of 14 June 2010 (the Child Protection Act) is still awaiting enforcement, as the decrees implementing the Act have yet to be signed. Similarly, the decrees for Law n°12-2014 (the Family and Children in Difficulty Fund) have not been issued so far.³ (Enabling Legislation)
6. Finalize the pending decree to establish the National Child Protection Coordinating Committee and provide with an adequate mandate and budget to coordinate the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and to address the differences therein between the various regions of the State Party. (Enabling Legislation)
7. Allocate more financial resources for social spending for children and families within the State Party's budget. (Best Available Budget)
8. 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 at the national and local levels. (Best Available Budget)

² US Department of State, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo 2023 Human Rights Report: Executive Summary', 2023, p. 27.

³ Réseau des Intervenants sur le Phénomène des Enfants en Rupture (REIPER), Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil International and Apprentis d'Auteuil (Special consultative status ECOSOC), 'Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 45th Session January 2024: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO', January 2024, p. 4.

9. Enhance the capacities of the State Party's data collection system to ensure it covers all aspects of the CRC with corresponding disaggregated data. (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)
10. Mandate ministries to utilize the above-mentioned data to serve as the foundation of the implementation and evaluation of policies and programs connected to the CRC and its OPs. (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)
11. Cease efforts to intervene in the work of CSO that express criticism for the current political leadership of the State Party, such as through arrests, replacing of employees, and other forms of judicial repression.⁴ These practices can have a negative impact on CSOs working on children's rights. (State-Civil Society Cooperation)

⁴ See for example: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 'BTI 2024 Country Report: Republic of the Congo', 19 March 2024, p. 27.