



The KidsRights Index 2025

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

GUATEMALA



GUATEMALA

OVERALL

RANK: 170

SCORE: 0,453

LIFE

RANK: 113

SCORE: 0,771

HEALTH

RANK: 132

SCORE: 0,755

EDUCATION

RANK: 149

SCORE: 0,592

PROTECTION

RANK: 113

SCORE: 0,780

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: 186

SCORE: 0,071

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY ARE ACCESSIBLE ON WWW.KIDSRIGHTS.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: GUATEMALA

	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
Guatemala 2018	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
Guatemala 2024	1	1	1	1	1	2	1

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - GUATEMALA

1. Take measures against the structural discrimination against Indigenous peoples through legislative measures tackling the root causes of such (racial) discrimination. Alarming, of the school-aged Indigenous population, about 54% of the girls and 71% of the boys attend the school, while by the age of 16 only 25% of the girls and 45% of the boys remain enrolled.² Affirmative action is necessary to remedy this insufficient degree of education, including by providing support for Indigenous schools, which often are inadequately staffed, especially in rural areas.³ (Non-Discrimination)
2. Ensure due consideration for the best interests (BI) of the child in all processes and decisions affecting them, including by undertaking capacity building training of professionals involved in such processes and decision-making. (BI of the Child)
3. Ensure that children are heard in all legal proceedings affecting them by diligently implementing the legislation recognizing this right. Such implementation measures should include establishing protocols for social workers and courts to comply with this principle. (Respect for the Views of the Child)
4. Facilitate the meaningful participation of children in family, school and community environments by including children in all decision-making processes affecting them with a particular focus on environmental matters. (Respect for the Views of the Child)
5. Expedite the adoption of Bill No. 5285 by Congress establishing a System for the Comprehensive Protection for Children and Adolescents.⁴ (Enabling Legislation)
6. Assess the budgetary needs of children and allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of children's rights. In particular, this shall be done by increasing budgets allocated to the social sectors to address identified disparities. This is crucial considering that around 68% of all children and adolescents live in poverty, while 29% of all children and adolescents in extreme poverty.⁵ (Best Available Budget)

² Cultural Survival, 'Convention on the Rights of the Child Alternative Report Submission: Indigenous Children's Rights Violations in Guatemala January 2018 Prepared for the 77th CRC Session (CRC Alternative Report Submission Indigenous Children's Rights Violations in Guatemala 2018)', 17 January 2018, p. 4.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 'Follow-up of recommendations issued by the IACHR in its country or thematic reports', 2020, para. 101.

⁵ Merike Blofield, Juliana Martínez Franzoni, Luis Ángel Oviedo, 'Public Opinion on Cash Transfers for Children and Adolescents in Guatemala', December 2023, p. 2.

7. Improve the data collection capabilities of the National Institute of Statistics to ensure that disaggregated data is collected covering all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. **(Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)**
8. Involve non-governmental organizations active in the field of children's rights in the implementation an overseeing of laws and policies related to children's rights. **(State-Civil Society Cooperation)**