

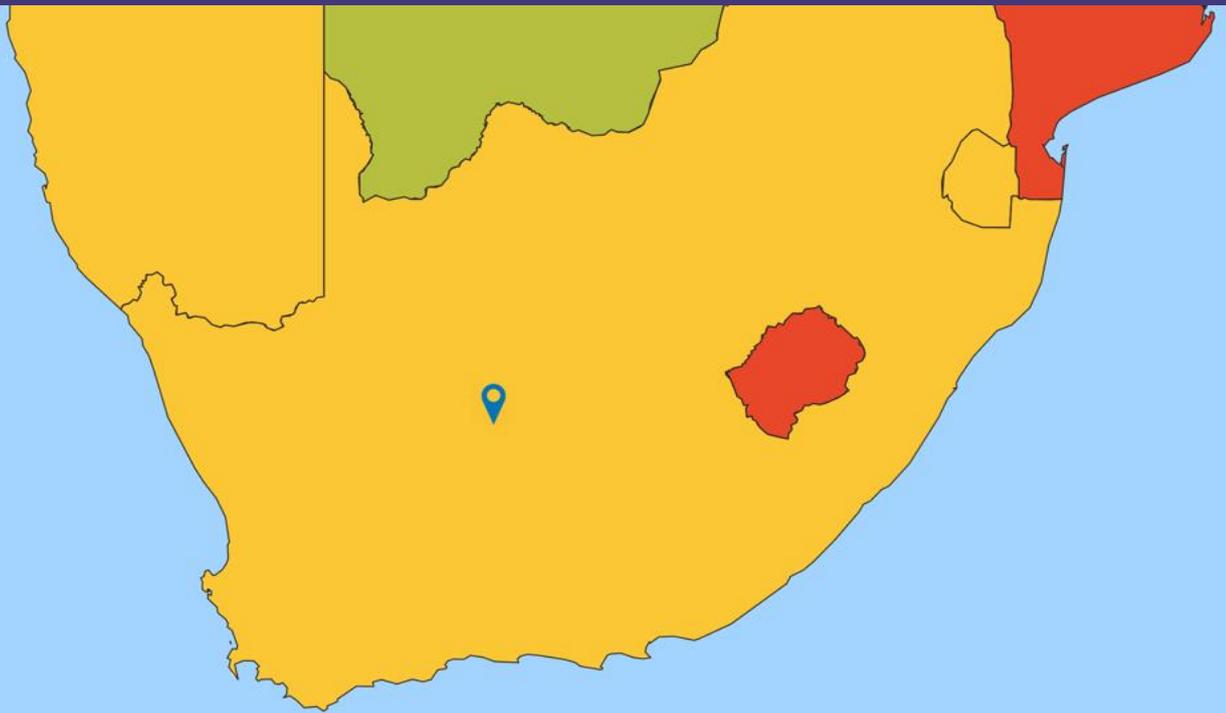


KIDSRIGHTS  
Index

# The KidsRights Index 2025

## COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

### SOUTH AFRICA



### SOUTH AFRICA

#### OVERALL

**RANK: 146**

**SCORE: 0,541**

#### LIFE

**RANK: 137**

**SCORE: 0,659**

#### HEALTH

**RANK: 124**

**SCORE: 0,818**

#### EDUCATION

**RANK: 80**

**SCORE: 0,721**

#### PROTECTION

**RANK: 99**

**SCORE: 0,838**

#### ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

**RANK: 174**

**SCORE: 0,143**

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY ARE  
ACCESSIBLE ON [WWW.KIDSRIGHTS.ORG/KIDSRIGHTS-INDEX/](http://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.<sup>1</sup>

## 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.

---

<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: SOUTH AFRICA

	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>South Africa 2016</b>	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>South Africa 2024</b>	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

## COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS – SOUTH AFRICA

1. Allocate sufficient resources and enhance the implementation of existing laws, policies, strategies, and action plans aimed at preventing discrimination against children. **(Non-Discrimination)**
2. Intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination faced by children in vulnerable situations, such as those with disabilities, children living on the streets, migrant, asylum-seeking, and refugee children, children living in poverty, girls, children with albinism, those without identification, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex children. **(Non-Discrimination)**
3. Ensure that the BI principle is consistently incorporated and applied in all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings, as well as in policies, programs, projects, and resource allocations, particularly at the provincial and local levels, that affect children, including in the environmental, economic, and administrative sectors. **(BI of the Child)**
4. Facilitate the meaningful and empowered participation of all children in family, community, and school settings, as well as in courts and other relevant processes affecting them. Ensure children are included in decision-making on all issues related to their well-being, including environmental matters. **(Respect for the Views of the Child)**
5. Establish the annual Nelson Mandela Children’s Parliament as a regular event, providing it with a clear mandate, sufficient human, technical, and financial resources, and ensuring that its resolutions are formally communicated and followed up by national, provincial, and local authorities. **(Respect for the Views of the Child)**
6. Implement legislation in line with the CRC and its Optional Protocols (OPs), particularly by fast-tracking the adoption of the second part of the Children’s Amendment Bill. In this regard, ensuring that adequate human, technical, and financial resources are available to support the effective implementation of laws protecting children’s rights is essential. **(Enabling Legislation)**
7. Evaluate the financial requirements for children and allocate the necessary resources in line with Article 4 CRC to uphold children’s rights, particularly in social sectors. Safeguard these sectors from the impacts of inflation, budget reductions, or unfavorable economic conditions. **(Best Available Budget)**
8. Implement a comprehensive approach, such as the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, to monitor the progress of children’s rights and guide the planning,

monitoring, and allocation of resources for the National Plan of Action for Children.

(Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)

9. Rapidly enhance the data collection system to ensure that information on children's rights encompasses all areas of the CRC and its OPs, with disaggregation by age, sex, disability, location, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, to enable thorough analysis of the situation, particularly for children who are victims of crime, those with disabilities, and children in street situations. (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)
10. Engage communities and civil society, including NGOs and children's organizations, in the planning, execution, monitoring, and assessment of policies, plans, and programs that focus on children's rights. (State-Civil Society Cooperation)