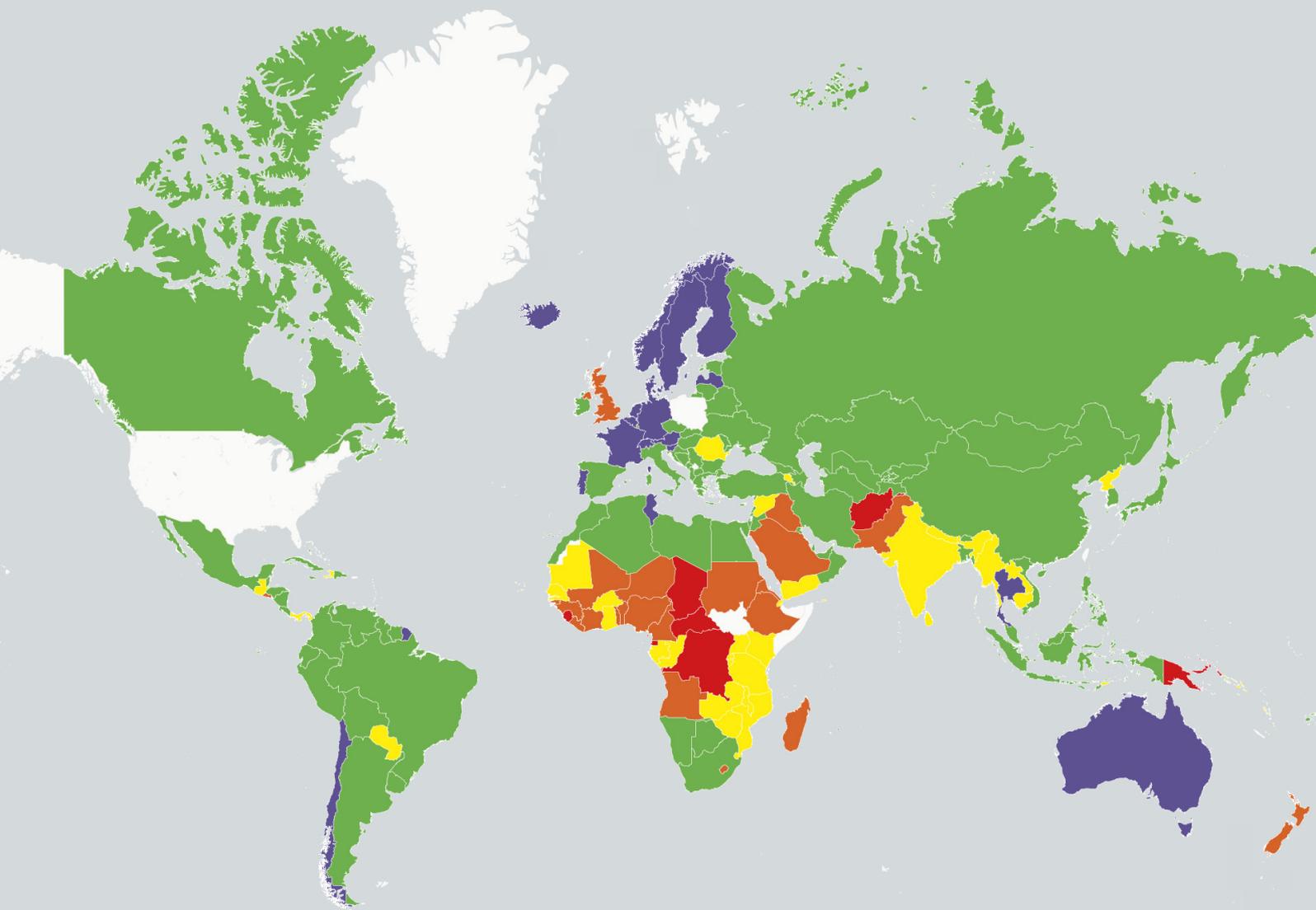


# The KidsRights Index 2019



The KidsRights Index and its domains are accessible on [www.kidsrightsindex.org](http://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](http://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> 

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 2019 this is a total number of 181 countries. 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](http://www.kidsrightsindex.org). In 2019 the seventh 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.



*“Structural problems need structural solutions.”*

Baruani Ndume (International Children's Peace Prize Winner 2009)

# Table of Contents

<b>1. The results of the KidsRights Index 2019</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Overall ranking	1
1.2 Striking results	1
1.3 Overall conclusions	2
1.3.1 Developed countries are not necessarily performing better	2
1.3.2 Economic growth does not lead to better implementation of children’s rights	3
1.3.3 Worldwide, countries allocate insufficient budget for children rights	4
1.3.4 All over the world children are being discriminated, denied participation and their rights are being neglected	4
1.3.5 Legislation should be improved	5
1.3.6 The need for data collection remains high	6
<b>2. The Methodology of the KidsRights Index</b> .....	<b>7</b>
2.1 The domains and indicators	7
2.2 Data before 2009	9
2.3 Adjustment of the Education Domain in the KidsRights Index 2018	10
<b>Annex 1 - Domains and Indicators</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Annex 2 - Regions</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Endnotes</b> .....	<b>13</b>

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

**181**  
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](http://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.

**196**  
STATES



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

**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)



### 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)

### 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



The KidsRights Index is an initiative of the KidsRights Foundation, in cooperation with Erasmus University Rotterdam; Erasmus School of Economics and the International Institute of Social Studies.

# 1. The results of the KidsRights Index 2019

## 1.1 Overall ranking

Iceland ranks number one in the KidsRights Index 2019, as compared to Norway in 2018.

Rank KRI 2019	Countries/181	Score KRI 2019
1	Iceland	0,967
2	Portugal	0,948
3	Switzerland	0,937
4	Finland	0,912
5	Germany	0,907
6	Netherlands	0,906
7	Belgium	0,905
8	France	0,901
9	Sweden	0,896
10	Denmark	0,894

El Salvador is new in the list of 10 lowest performing countries.

Rank KRI 2019	Countries/181	Score KRI 2019
181	Afghanistan	0,197
180	Sierra Leone	0,197
179	Chad	0,222
178	Equatorial Guinea	0,278
177	Central African Republic	0,282
176	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,300
175	Papua New Guinea	0,330
174	El Salvador	0,337
173	Guinea-Bissau	0,340
172	Eritrea	0,362

## 1.2 Striking results

In the KidsRights Index 2019, 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 2018 in the state reporting procedure. The following fifteen states that appear in the KidsRights Index 2019 were subject to the CRC state reporting procedure in 2018 and thus received a new score for the domain 'Child Rights Environment': Angola, Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Laos, Lesotho, Montenegro, Niger, Norway, Palau, Panama, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Spain and Sri Lanka.

The results of the KidsRights Index remain mostly constant. Even when we look at the rankings from the KidsRights Index 2013 to the KidsRights Index 2019, most regions perform in a similar pattern over the years.

However, from the countries that were subject to the CRC state reporting procedure in 2018 and thus received a new score for domain 5 'Enabling Environment for Child Rights', some have significantly improved their scores and others

are performing worse than in previous years. Palau deserves honourable mention for having risen among the ranks significantly in domain 5 since their previous Index score on this domain. To the contrary, the 2019 scores on domain 5 of El Salvador, the Seychelles, Spain, Argentina and Guatemala are remarkably poor and these countries are urged to do more to foster the rights of their youngest generation.



### 1.3 Overall conclusions

#### 1.3.1 Developed countries are not necessarily performing better

Interestingly, economically prosperous countries are not necessarily outperforming the rest. In line with article 4 of the CRC, the Index does not only assess countries' commitments to children's rights in absolute terms, but also relative to the resources they have at their disposal. This is reflected, among other examples, by high scoring developing countries such as Thailand (rank 14) and Tunisia (rank 15), which both perform well in cultivating an enabling environment for the rights of the child. Overall, the Index shows that various developed nations are falling drastically short of allocating sufficient budgets to support efforts to create a stable environment for children's rights. Although many developing states deserve praise for their efforts relative to their budgets and other means, it is alarming that the developed world is neglecting its leadership responsibilities and failing to invest in the rights of children to the best of its abilities.

For example, the developed nations the United Kingdom (rank 170) and New Zealand (rank 169) both hold bottom positions following very poor performances in domain 5, that is the Enabling Environment for Child Rights. This is 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 and New Zealand. 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. It does mean that the United Kingdom should invest more in children's rights, in line with the resources it has available.

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 too contributes to the fact that the United Kingdom ranks unexpectedly very low on the KidsRights Index.

Other countries on the other hand, 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.



### 1.3.2 Economic growth does not lead to better implementation of children's rights

A general finding in the KidsRights Index is that countries with a higher GDP (Gross Domestic Product) on average have a higher rank on the index. This raises the question whether economic resources improve the rights of children. It is difficult to answer this question as countries with a higher GDP might also differ in dimensions other than the GDP, such as the level of education, the political system or general health. As such, it is not clear whether the higher ranking of countries with a higher GDP is the result of having more economic resources or the result of other factors. To get some insight into the relationship between economic resources and the ranking on the KidsRights Index the association between economic growth and changes in the KidsRights Index ranking over time was investigated. In particular, it was investigated whether the economic growth in the period 2007–2012 is related to changes in the KidsRights Index ranking between 2013 and 2019.

Countries that experienced a higher growth in these years are expected to have more economic resources available for improving the rights of children in the next years. However, the analysis<sup>1</sup> showed that there is no clear evidence that more resources translate into an improvement of the rights of children in this period. There can be several reasons for this. An

increase in GDP usually brings additional income both for private persons and government. Governments should do more to make the additional income available for the development of the youngest generation by investing in health, education, protection and the enabling environment for the rights of the child.

### 1.3.3 Worldwide, countries allocate insufficient budget for children rights

The first two conclusions can be illustrated by a third conclusion from the data: countries are failing to invest their 'best available' budget in children rights. 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 best available budget can make a significant difference.

Despite the obligations in this realm in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, none of the countries in the KidsRights Index scores well on *best available budget*. In 2019, on average the worst scores occur on the indicator *best available budget* in domain 5. The Industrialized countries as a whole are the worst scoring region on this indicator, including wealthy countries such as Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden. The Latin American and Caribbean region scores relatively the best.

### 1.3.4 All over the world children are being discriminated, denied participation and their rights are being neglected

The lack of investment in children's rights shows itself in children's daily realities, as children are being discriminated, the best interests of the child are considered insufficiently and children are not included in decision-making on matters that affect them. Vulnerable and marginalised children such as girls, refugee children, migrant children, LGBTQI children, children with disabilities, street children or indigenous children especially continue to face serious neglect of their rights in the societies in which they live.

Many children all over the world face discrimination, no country excluded. None of the countries in the KidsRights Index achieves the highest score on the indicator of non-discrimination. The Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrines the principle of *non-discrimination* in article 2. All children should be treated, protected, and cared for in the same manner. Many children seek to access education and basic health care services but are not given the same opportunities to develop themselves as other children, for example because they belong to a minority or marginalised group of children. Countries should put more effort in banning discrimination of children to make sure all children can fully enjoy their rights.

The CRC principle of the best interests of the child (article 3) ensures that 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 high, while 54 (out of 160) countries score low, 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 to 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. Not only should the best interests of the child be a primary consideration when adults make decisions regarding children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and to have their opinions taken into account.

Children need to be taken seriously in decision making in matters that affect them directly. Child participation is one of the core principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which (in article 12) asserts that children and young people have the right to freely express their views and that there is an obligation to listen to children's views and to facilitate their participation in all matters affecting them within the family, schools, local communities, public services, institutions, government policy, and judicial procedures.

The indicator *respect for the views of the child* in domain 5 of the KidsRights Index measures the extent to which a country has operationalized this general principle of the CRC. There is still a lot to achieve on this aspect. Again, none of the countries in the KidsRights Index score high on *respecting the views of the child*. 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.

Countries should remove barriers for children to really exercise their right to participate. Recommendations include, among others, that all relevant laws should be in line with the Convention, to ensure respect – in practice – of the right of children to be heard. Professionals from different areas who work for and with children should be trained in children's rights including the implementation of the right of the child to be heard, as a right, rather than as an obligation. Awareness-raising activities to promote participation of all children, at any age, within the family, the community and schools should be conducted, paying particular attention to girls and children in disadvantaged or marginalized situations.



### 1.3.5 Legislation should be improved

Of all indicators in domain 5, countries on average score best on the indicator *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 and underlying procedures still fail to fully comply with the principles and provisions of the CRC. States should

enact good quality enabling legislation for child rights and implement this legislation in all procedures. South Africa and the United Kingdom are examples of countries that still need to bring their domestic legislation yet more in line with the CRC.

### 1.3.6 The need for data collection remains high

Conducting research to identify the issues of most importance to children is crucial. Disaggregated data, that is data collected on the situation of (particular groups of) children in a (particular) country, are important drivers of decisions on the development of children's rights. Better collection and analysis of 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, for example based on income, sex, age, race or ethnicity.

Within the KidsRights Index, the need for additional data remains high as well. Within the domains many countries still lack data and thus there are many missing scores on the indicators. An analysis of developments concerning missing data from the KidsRights Index 2013 to the KidsRights Index 2019 revealed that there hasn't been improvement over the years. The indicator *collection and analysis of disaggregated data* in domain 5, has shown no progress either. In the KidsRights Index 2019, 72 (out of 181) countries score low on the *collection and analysis of disaggregated data*. It is striking that, of all regions, developed 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. 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.

## 2. The Methodology of the KidsRights Index

### 2.1 The domains and indicators

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 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.

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.

From the start of the KidsRights Index in 2013, its scientific methodology has been work in progress. Based on the annual findings, methodological adjustments were made nearly every year. In 2019 there are no methodological adjustments.

The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources: quantitative data published and regularly updated by UNICEF ([www.data.unicef.org](http://www.data.unicef.org))<sup>www</sup> and UNDP ([www.hdr.undp.org/data](http://www.hdr.undp.org/data))<sup>www</sup><sup>2</sup> and qualitative data published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child<sup>www</sup> 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 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.

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. The total score of the KidsRights Index is calculated as the geometric mean of the scores on the five specific domains. In

## The Methodology of the KidsRights Index

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. This leads to some unexpected results in the KidsRights Index.

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

## The Methodology of the KidsRights Index

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](http://www.kidsrightsindex.org).

Not included in the KidsRights Index

Insufficient data in this domain



Figure 1

### 2.2 Data before 2009

In the KidsRights Index 20 countries are included for which the data in domain 5 is older than ten years. The analysis of children's rights in these 20 countries is thus based on Concluding Observations from 2008 and before (see the table below). This is unavoidable because this is the latest available data at the moment. More recent data is not available as these countries have not presented them before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child after 2008. The ranking of these countries may therefore not reflect the current children's rights situation.

Also, in case of wars, such as in Syria, natural disasters or political upheaval, it is expected that the current children's rights situation is not reflected in the KidsRights Index. It takes time for recent developments to be reported to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and then for this data to be considered in the Concluding Observations and thus reflected in the KidsRights Index. This process will often take at least a few years, depending on the schedule of reporting to the Committee.

#	Rank	Country	Year of Concluding Observations
1	113	Micronesia (Federated States of)	1998
2	38	Comores	2000
3	32	Cape Verde	2001
4	42	Côte d'Ivoire	2001
5	136	Paraguay	2001
6	99	Libya	2003
7	148	San Marino	2003
8	172	Syrian Arab Republic	2003
9	23	Botswana	2004
10	56	Equatorial Guinea	2004
11	135	Papua New Guinea	2004
12	12	Bahamas	2005
13	18	Belize	2005
14	184	Uganda	2005
15	91	Kiribati	2006
16	169	Swaziland	2006
17	179	Trinidad and Tobago	2006

### 2.3 Adjustment of the Education Domain in the KidsRights Index 2018

For the KidsRights Index 2018 and onwards, comprehensive methodological changes were made in the domain Education, so as to generate a yet higher quality assessment and basis for 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. 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.

From the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.hdr.undp.org/data) .



## Annex 1 - Domains & Indicators

	<b>Domains:</b>	<b>Indicators:</b>
1	<b>Right to Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under 5 mortality</li> <li>• Life expectancy at birth</li> <li>• Maternal mortality ratio</li> </ul>
2	<b>Right to Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of under five year olds suffering from underweight</li> <li>• Immunization of 1 year old children</li> <li>• % of population using improved sanitation facilities (urban and rural)</li> <li>• % of population using improved drinking water sources (urban and rural)</li> </ul>
3	<b>Right to Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected years of schooling of girls</li> <li>• Expected years of schooling of boys</li> <li>• Gender inequality in expected years of schooling (absolute difference between girls and boys)</li> </ul>
4	<b>Right to Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child labour</li> <li>• Adolescent birth rate</li> <li>• Birth registration</li> </ul>
5	<b>Enabling Environment for Child Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-discrimination</li> <li>• Best interests of the child</li> <li>• Respect for the views of the child/child participation</li> <li>• Enabling legislation</li> <li>• Best available budget</li> <li>• Collection and analysis of disaggregate data</li> <li>• State-civil society cooperation for child rights</li> </ul>

## Annex 2 - Regions KidsRights Index 2019 (181 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 – 29 countries

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, 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, Surinam, 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 <sup>4</sup> – 20 countries

**Asia and the Pacific:** Cook Islands, 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.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> For this analysis we could use data of 162 countries. The results of a regression of a change in children's rights on economic growth are shown in Table 1. Column (1) shows the results of a regression in which the change in the ranking on the total KidsRights Index is used as an outcome, column (2) uses the change in the ranking on the environmental domain of the KidsRights Index. Standard errors are shown in brackets.

	KRI 2013-2019	ENVIRONMENT 2013-2019
	(1)	(2)
<b>GROWTH 2007-2012</b>	2.916	0.002
	(9.591)	(0.005)
<b># COUNTRIES</b>	162	162

Table 1. Estimates of the association between economic growth and child rights

The estimates suggest a positive relationship between economic resources and children's rights. However, the estimates are very imprecise and therefore statistically insignificant. This implies that we don't find clear evidence that more resources translate into an improvement of the rights of children in this period.

- <sup>2</sup> The data for the KidsRights Index 2019 was downloaded from the listed UNICEF and UNDP sources in January 2019. In addition, the latest available Concluding Observations for each country were used.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.



KidsRights Foundation

Noorderakerweg 90  
1069 LW Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 20 225 82 25

✉ [info@kidsrights.org](mailto:info@kidsrights.org)

www [www.kidsrights.org](http://www.kidsrights.org)