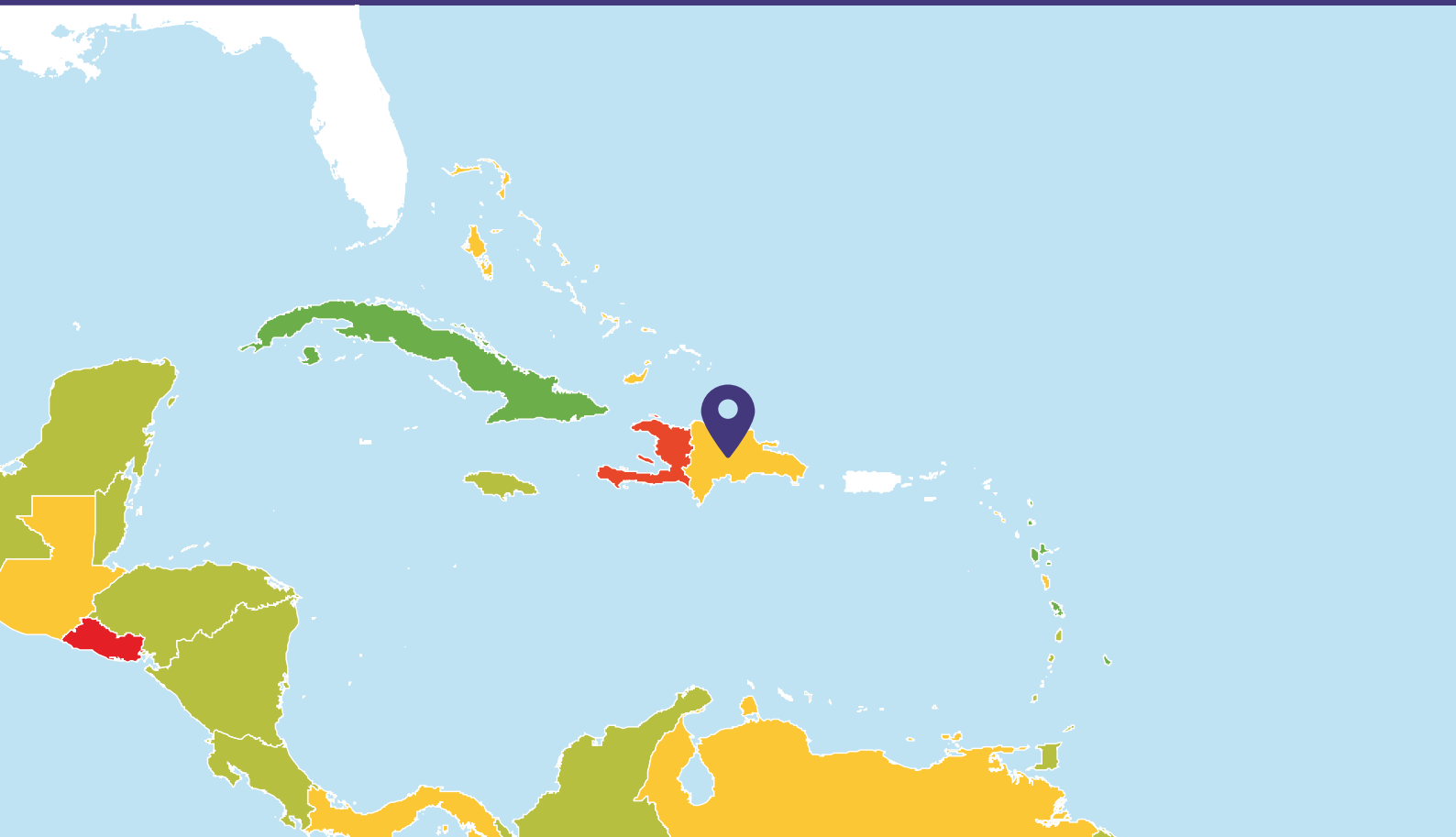




KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

Dominican Republic scores 118th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

OVERALL SCORE

RANK: 118

SCORE: 0,626

LIFE

RANK: 121

SCORE: 0,746

HEALTH

RANK: 82

SCORE: 0,917

EDUCATION

RANK: 103

SCORE: 0,686

PROTECTION

RANK: 99

SCORE: 0,823

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT

RANK: 157

SCORE: 0,250

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

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 the performance records of states on the most crucial aspects of children's lives for which comparable data is available. In addition, the Index charts how states are faring in mobilizing the enabling environment for children's rights that the CRC requires them to have. 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 Child Rights**

The KidsRights Index ranks countries on each of these five domains which in turn generate a comprehensive overall ranking. The content of the Index is a sound basis for making concrete recommendations on how the children's rights record of specific countries could be improved.

SOURCES OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources: quantitative data published and regularly updated by **UNICEF** (<https://data.unicef.org>) and **UNDP** (www.hdr.undp.org/data)¹, and qualitative data published by the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** (www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcindex.aspx) 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 aims to make the data more accessible to a broader audience, in an effort to stimulate dialogue about children's rights. Since the United States of America is the only state in the world that is not yet a party to the CRC, there is no material for scoring the country on domain 5 and thus it cannot be included in the KidsRights Index.

DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILD RIGHTS

Domain 5, the 'Enabling Environment for Child Rights', is an important and unique domain of 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 (COs) 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.

¹ The data for the KidsRights Index 2023 was downloaded from the listed UNICEF and UNDP sources in January 2023. In addition, the latest available Concluding Observations for each country were used.

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 domain 5 is used to generate scores 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 are 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 |

| Color | Meaning |
|--------|-----------------|
| Red | Negative change |
| Orange | Stayed the same |
| Green | Positive change |

DOMAIN 5: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

| | 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 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Dominican Republic 2015 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Dominican Republic 2023 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | NA |

The Dominican Republic has experienced a significant decline in the enabling environment domain, as it dropped by 39 ranks and its currently at 157th place with a score of 0,250. No indicators have noted a positive change. The indicators best interests of the child and enabling legislation witnessed a decline in the indicator scores while the indicator score for state-civil society cooperation for child rights is not available due to lack of data. The remaining indicator scores stayed the same.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights welcomes the National Development Strategy for 2030, emphasizing the importance of focusing on reducing discrimination. KidsRights also notes progress in normative and public policies on social inclusion and equal opportunities

Recommendations

- Implement measures outlined in the National Development Strategy for 2030 to combat discrimination.
- Take urgent actions to address discrimination, prioritizing non-discrimination efforts.
- Strengthen normative and public policies to ensure social inclusion and equal opportunities for all.
- Address racial discrimination against Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent through targeted interventions and policies.
- Combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity through legislative reforms and awareness-raising campaigns.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

Recommendations

- Strengthen efforts to ensure that the right of the child to have their best interests taken as a primary consideration is integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings, as well as in policies, programs, and projects impacting children.
- Make efforts to finalize the draft judicial policy on children.
- Further develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance and regular training to all relevant authorities on determining the best interests of the child in every area as a primary consideration.

ON RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

Recommendations

- Consider reviewing and harmonizing article 21 of the Constitution with article 12 of the CRC to recognize the right of children to participate in all matters that affect them and to have their views be given due weight.
- Create and institutionalize innovative mechanisms at the national, sectoral, and local levels to guarantee the meaningful participation of the diversity of children in all decision-making relating to their rights, including legislative, policy, and budgeting processes.
- Conduct research to identify the issues that are most important to children, to hear their views on those issues and integrate them into decision-making processes.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

Recommendations

- Implement legislation in compliance with the CRC, including expediting the adoption of decrees to establish implementation mechanisms.
- Ensure adequate human, technical, and financial resources for implementing legislation concerning children's rights.
- Develop a comprehensive law on children's rights and continue reviewing existing laws related to

children's rights, such as the revised Criminal Code, to ensure full compliance with CRC principles and provisions.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 2):

Recommendations:

- Define budgetary lines for all children, with particular attention to those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations such as girls, children living in poverty, children with disabilities (CWDs), children in situations of migration, children without legal documentation, and LGBTI children. Ensure that these budgetary lines are protected even in situations of economic crisis, natural disasters, or other emergencies.
- Increase the amounts allocated to social protection, health, and protection from violence to adequate levels.
- Establish a transparent budgeting process that includes a child rights perspective.

ON COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DISAGGREGATED DATA (SCORE 1):

KidsRights acknowledges the improvements in the compilation of statistical information including the Child and Adolescent Information System.

Recommendations:

- Expedite the improvement of data-collection system, ensuring coverage across all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and disaggregation by age, sex, disability, geographic location, racial/ethnic origin, nationality, migratory status, and socio-economic background. This will facilitate comprehensive analysis, particularly focusing on vulnerable groups such as girls, children with disabilities (CWDs), migrant children, children lacking legal documentation, and LGBTI children.
- Enhance the generation of disaggregated, regular, high-quality, and gender-sensitive statistics and data on children, with a particular emphasis on various forms of violence against children, child labor, and the impacts of climate change.



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