



KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

Finland scores 7th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



FINLAND

OVERALL SCORE

RANK: 7

SCORE: 0,859

LIFE

RANK: 14

SCORE: 0,958

HEALTH

RANK: 29

SCORE: 0,983

EDUCATION

RANK: 4

SCORE: 1,000

PROTECTION

RANK: 10

SCORE: 0,992

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT

RANK: 67

SCORE: 0,500

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: FINLAND

	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
Finland 2011	2	2	2	2	2	1	NA
Finland 2023	2	2	1	2	1	2	NA

Finland has experienced a significant decline in the enabling environment domain, as it dropped by 34 ranks and is currently at 67th place with a score of 0,500. Only one indicator has noted a positive change, namely the collection and analysis of disaggregated data. The indicator scores for respect for the views of the child and the best available budget/resources have declined over the years. The remaining indicator scores stayed the same.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - FINLAND

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights underscores the need for urgent measures in addressing persistent discrimination against children and adolescents.

Recommendations

- Ensure the development and implementation of action plans on racism, bullying, Roma policy, and disabilities.
- Tackle discrimination based on gender, age, language, origin, migratory background, disability, and LGBTI status, as well as bullying.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 2):

Recommendations

- Guarantee consistent application of the principle of the best interests of the child (BIs) in all areas of rights protection, following the Committee's general comment No. 14 (2013).
- Establish mechanisms to monitor the impact of applying the BIs principle in programs, legislative, administrative, and judicial procedures.
- Provide guidance and training to professionals and authorities responsible for upholding children's rights and applying the BIs principle.

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

Recommendations

- Ensure that all children can express their opinions and be heard in all decisions affecting them, including in court and administrative proceedings.
- Prioritise children's right to be heard in matters of migration, asylum, custody, residence, parental contact, alternative care, social services, and domestic violence.
- Eliminate the need for parental or guardian consent for children to express their views.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

Recommendations

- Consider incorporating the Convention on the Rights of the Child into national legislation.
- Enhance children's rights impact assessments in the legislative process.
- Reform the laws related to the Sami people, focusing on the cultural and linguistic rights of Sami children.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 1):

Recommendations:

- Incorporate a children's rights-based approach into the state budgeting process.
- Implement a system to track, allocate, use, and monitor resources for children, assessing investments' impact on their best interests.
- Define budget lines for disadvantaged or vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, from minority groups, living in poverty, and asylum-seeking, refugee, and migrant children.
- Strengthen transparent and participatory budgeting at national and municipal levels.

ON COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DISAGGREGATED DATA (SCORE 2):

Recommendations:

- Continue improving the system for collecting qualitative and quantitative data on all areas of the CRC.
- Ensure data is disaggregated by disability, migratory background, socioeconomic background, minority group status (e.g., Roma), Indigenous People status (e.g., Sami), and vulnerability (e.g., children of imprisoned parents, in violence, or in alternative care).
- Ensure effective coordination and sharing of data among relevant ministries and entities and promote the use of this data.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (NA)



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