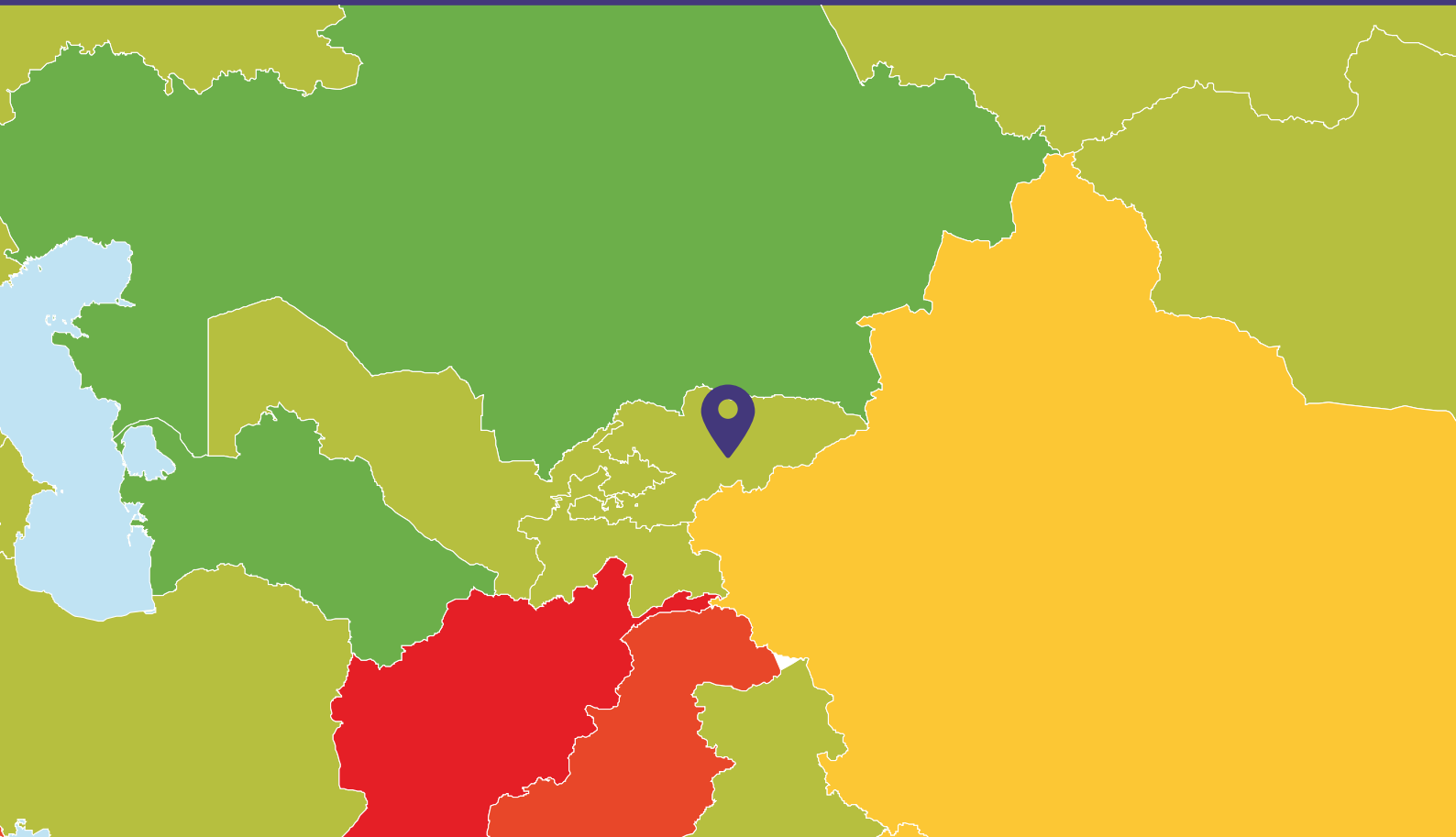




KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

Kyrgyzstan scores 89th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



KYRGYZSTAN

OVERALL SCORE
RANK: **89**
SCORE: **0,705**

LIFE
RANK: **108**
SCORE: **0,781**

HEALTH
RANK: **72**
SCORE: **0,935**

EDUCATION
RANK: **91**
SCORE: **0,708**

PROTECTION
RANK: **106**
SCORE: **0,786**

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: **97**
SCORE: **0,429**

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: KYRGYZSTAN

	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
Kyrgyzstan 2014	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
Kyrgyzstan 2023	1	2	2	2	2	2	1

Kyrgyzstan has shown modest progress in the latest KidsRights Index (KRI12), improving its overall ranking to 89th with a score of 0.705, up from 98th with a score of 0.704 in KRI11, marking an ascent of 9 ranks. Notably, the country has made significant strides in the Enabling Environment category, climbing 24 positions to rank 97th with a score of 0.429. Among the seven assessed indicators, most have remained stable except for three; two indicators—respect for the view of the child and collection and analysis of disaggregated data—have shown improvement, while the non-discrimination indicator has experienced a decline. This mixed performance highlights areas of both advancement and ongoing challenges in the protection and promotion of children's rights in Kyrgyzstan.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - KYRGYZSTAN

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 1):

Recommendations

- Implement comprehensive strategies to combat discrimination and support the most vulnerable groups within the child population.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 2):

KidsRights expresses its approval of the inclusion of the principle of the “Best Interests of the Child” in Article 27 of the Constitution. To further solidify and operationalise this principle, it makes the following recommendations.

Recommendations

- Ensure that the principle of the Best Interests of the Child is consistently applied across all programs and in all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings that affect children. This should include critical areas such as domestic violence, parental custody, alternative care, asylum procedures, and the child justice system, ensuring that the child’s best interests are always a primary consideration in decisions.
- Strengthen the capacity of all relevant professionals, including judges, social workers, and educators, to accurately assess and determine the Best Interests of the Child. Training and resources should be provided to ensure these professionals can give due weight to this principle in their daily practices and decision-making processes.

ON RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 2):

KidsRights recognises and appreciates the efforts made by Kyrgyzstan through the Decree on Participatory Local Governance. However, it expresses concerns regarding the current lack of mechanisms that ensure children’s right to express their views and have these views meaningfully considered in decisions affecting them.

Recommendations

- Develop and implement specific mechanisms that enable children to actively participate in local governance and other decision-making processes. These mechanisms should facilitate children’s ability to express their opinions and ensure that these opinions are appropriately considered and weighed in all relevant decisions.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights acknowledges the legislative efforts made by Kyrgyzstan to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). However, it also highlights significant concerns and areas where urgent action is needed to strengthen and clarify legislation affecting children.

Recommendations

- Address uncertainty about the legal framework governing children’s rights, especially the Children’s Code, as it affects the protection afforded to children’s rights.
- Clarify the status of the Children’s Code and ensure that any revisions to the Family Code adequately incorporate and prioritize children’s rights. Immediate and focused action is recommended to resolve these legislative ambiguities and ensure that children’s rights are not only recognized but fully safeguarded and promoted within the national legal framework.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 2):

KidsRights appreciates the guidelines for tracking financial resources for children and the adoption of program-based budgeting aligned with the SDGs. However, it expresses concern over the inconsistent application of these measures across different ministries.

Recommendations:

- **Ensure Uniform Application:** Mandate systematic implementation of these budgeting guidelines across all relevant ministries.
- **Boost Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** Strengthen coordination among ministries to ensure cohesive budgeting practices for child-related programs.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Enhance training for officials in relevant ministries to ensure competent application of these budgeting principles.
- **Enhanced Monitoring:** Implement strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of budget allocations on children's well-being and ensure effectiveness.

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

KidsRights welcomes the improvements in data collection related to the SDGs but expresses concern over the lack of efficiency in data sharing due to varying methodologies and software used by the National Statistics Committee and relevant ministries.

Recommendations:

- **Harmonise data collection methodologies and software** across the National Statistics Committee and all relevant ministries to facilitate efficient data sharing.
- **Develop and integrated data management system** that ensures compatibility and seamless exchange of information between different government bodies.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights expresses deep concern about the draft law on non-commercial NGOs and its potential impact on civil society's independence.

Recommendations:

- **Ensure the draft law supports the independence of civil society** by creating an enabling environment for NGOs. This includes removing undue restrictions on registration and access to foreign funding.
- **Guarantee that civil society organisations and human rights defenders, including those advocating for children's rights, can operate without interference** and continue to promote and protect children's rights effectively.



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