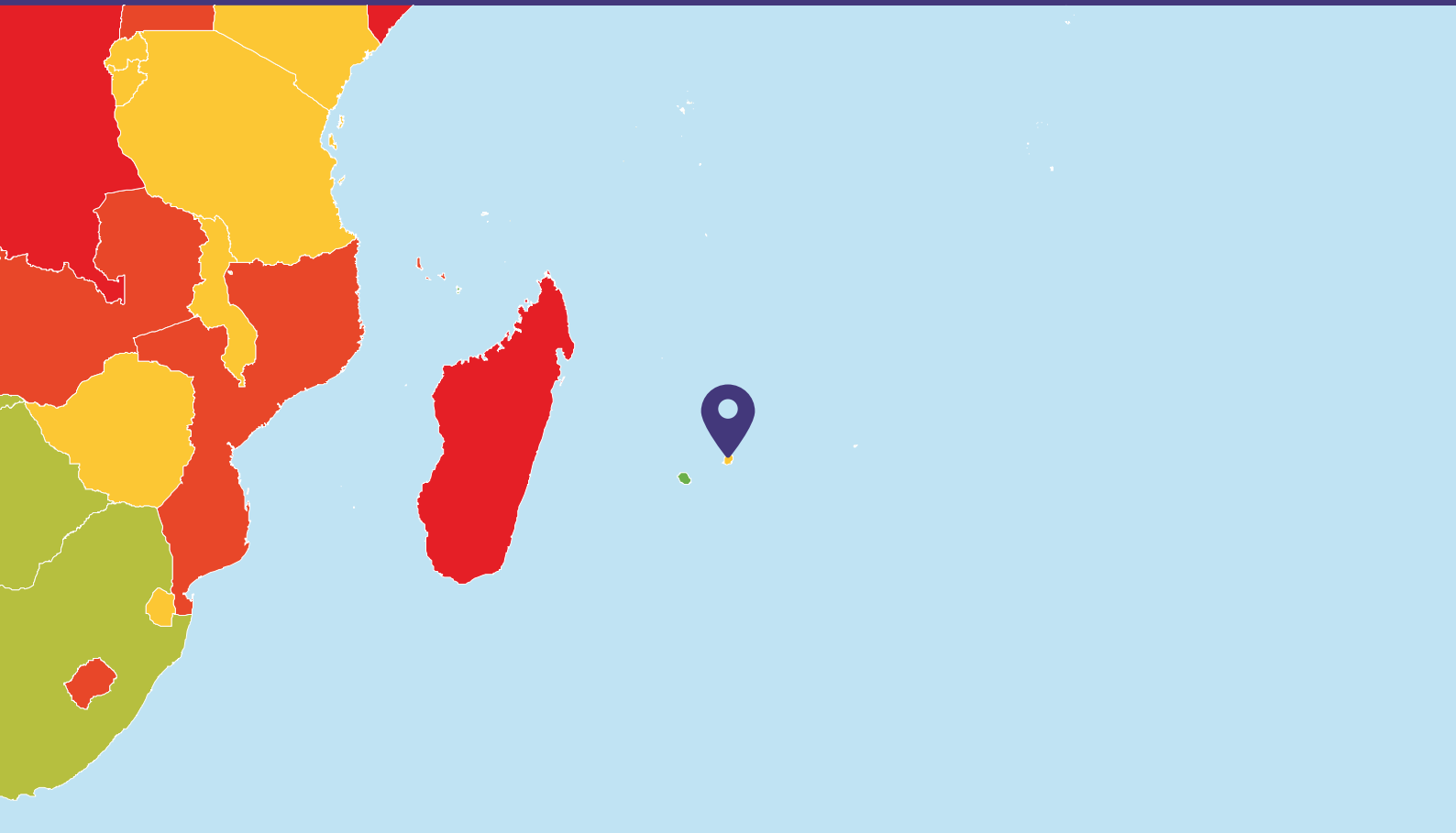




KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

Mauritius scores 116th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



MAURITIUS

OVERALL SCORE
RANK: 116
SCORE: 0,642

LIFE
RANK: 89
SCORE: 0,810

HEALTH
RANK: 33
SCORE: 0,980

EDUCATION
RANK: 70
SCORE: 0,747

PROTECTION
RANK: NA
SCORE:

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: 147
SCORE: 0,286

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: MAURITIUS

| | 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 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Mauritius 2015 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Mauritius 2023 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

Mauritius has experienced a notable decline in its performance on the KidsRights Index (KRI12), falling 53 ranks to 116th with a score of 0.642, compared to its previous rank of 63rd at 0.769 in KRI11. The country also saw a significant drop in its Enabling Environment ranking, plunging 92 ranks to 147th with a score of 0.286. While the indicator for the collection and analysis of disaggregated data showed fair improvement, the remaining indicators including the Best Interest of the Child, Respect for the Views of the Child, Best Available Budget, and State-Civil Society Cooperation for Child Rights have all shown poor performance. This suggests a critical need for Mauritius to re-evaluate and enhance its strategies and policies related to children's rights across these areas.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - MAURITIUS

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 2):

Recommendations

- Undertake targeted measures to improve access to all social services for children facing severe vulnerabilities, such as those living in street situations, victims of violence and abuse (including sexual violence), children using drugs, children deprived of a family environment, children with disabilities (CWDs), and those within the child justice system.
- Special measures must be undertaken to enhance the living conditions of Chagossian children - a need for focused attention on this group.
- Publicise the work done by the Equal Opportunities Commission for greater awareness of its activities which can foster broader engagement and support for its initiatives in combating discrimination.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

KidsRights reiterates the importance of the principle that a child's best interests should be a primary consideration in all decisions affecting them. This principle is not only a fundamental aspect of the Convention on the Rights of the Child but is also enshrined in the Children's Act 2020.

Recommendations

- Strengthen the efforts to ensure that the right of the child to have their best interests taken as a primary consideration is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied across all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings. This includes its application in all policies, programs, and projects that impact children.
- Capacity of all relevant people in authority, particularly judges, educators, and social workers, be built up. This training should focus on how to effectively determine the best interests of the child in every relevant area and ensure that these interests are given the priority they require.

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

Recommendations

- Ensure the effective implementation of legislation that supports the right of the child to be heard in legal proceedings. This includes the establishment of the guardian ad litem program under section 66 of the Children's Act 2020, which is designed to advocate for the child's best interests in legal settings.
- All child-related laws and policies must be made available in child-friendly language to ensure that children can understand their rights and the legal proceedings that may affect them. This step is crucial in empowering children to participate more fully in matters concerning their own lives.
- Ensure that all relevant professionals who engage with children—such as social workers, legal representatives, and educators— receive systematic and appropriate training. This training should focus on respecting and facilitating the right of children to express their views and have these views considered in accordance with their age and maturity.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights commends the adoption of the Children's Act 2020 and provides the following specific recommendations aimed at enhancing its implementation and the broader legislative framework concerning children's rights.

Recommendations

- Strengthen the effective implementation of this legislation to ensure full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. This includes enhancing mechanisms for enforcing these legal standards.
- Intensify efforts to raise public awareness about the new legislative developments. Increasing public understanding and support for these laws is crucial for their effective implementation and for fostering a protective environment for children.
- Develop a child-rights impact assessment procedure for all national legislation and policies relevant to children. This procedure should aim to systematically evaluate the potential impact of any proposed legal and policy changes on children, ensuring that their rights are considered and prioritised in all governmental decisions.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 1):

Recommendations:

- Establish a budgeting process that adopts a child-rights perspective. This approach should specify clear budget allocations directed to sectors and agencies responsible for children's welfare, ensuring that these allocations are used effectively to advance the rights outlined in CRC.
- Set performance targets that link child-related program goals with budget allocations and actual expenditures. This includes implementing a robust tracking system to monitor and evaluate the distribution and use of resources allocated for the implementation of the CRC. Such a system would help assess the effectiveness of the funds in achieving intended outcomes for children's rights.
- Develop detailed budget lines and codes for all planned, enacted, revised, and actual expenditures that directly affect children. This specificity would enhance the transparency and accountability of child-related spending, allowing for more precise adjustments and improvements in resource allocation strategies.

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

KidsRights appreciates Mauritius efforts in data collection across various domains and further emphasises the need to enhance data system.

Recommendations:

- Prioritise and expedite the development of a common data platform. This platform should be capable of collecting disaggregated data to gain a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the situations faced by children with special protection needs.
- The data collected should specifically include children with HIV, children with disabilities (CWDs), children in alternative care, children living in street situations, child victims of neglect, violence, or abuse (including those subjected to sexual exploitation and trafficking), and children in conflict with the law.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights emphasises the importance of engaging civil society organisations (CSOs) in the process concerning children's rights and provides the following specific recommendation for fostering effective state-civil society cooperation.

Recommendations:

- Establish a formal mechanism that systematically involves civil society organizations working on children's rights. This mechanism should facilitate the active participation of these organizations in various stages including the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of laws, policies, and programs affecting children.



Stichting KidsRights
Postbus 59555
1040 LB AMSTERDAM
The Netherlands
T +31 (0)20 225 82 25
E info@kidsrights.org

KvK Amsterdam: 34192528

www.kidsrights.org

