



KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

Oman scores 76th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



OMAN

OVERALL SCORE
RANK: **76**
SCORE: **0,728**

LIFE
RANK: **71**
SCORE: **0,837**

HEALTH
RANK: **95**
SCORE: **0,896**

EDUCATION
RANK: **57**
SCORE: **0,788**

PROTECTION
RANK: **38**
SCORE: **0,972**

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: **127**
SCORE: **0,357**

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: OMAN

	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
Oman 2016	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Oman 2023	1	1	2	2	2	2	2

Oman has experienced a significant drop in its ranking on the KidsRights Index (KRI 12), sliding 51 ranks to 76th with a score of 0.728, compared to its previous position at 25th with a score of 0.838 in KRI 11. This decline is notably reflected in the Enabling Environment category, where Oman's ranking plummeted by 102 places to 127th, scoring 0.357. While most of the seven assessed indicators have remained stagnant, marked declines were observed in the areas of Non-discrimination and the Best Interests of the Child, signaling key areas where improvements are necessary to better uphold children's rights in Oman.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - OMAN

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights emphasises the importance of taking both legislative (de jure) and practical (de facto) measures to eliminate discrimination against vulnerable groups of children within Oman. KidsRights recommends the following specifically targeting children in vulnerable and marginalized situations, pointing out the need for targeted interventions that address the unique challenges these children face.

Recommendations

- Adopt comprehensive measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against vulnerable groups of children. Focus on addressing societal attitudes and institutional practices that hinder equal access for such children.
- Place special emphasis on improving children's access to social services, health care, and educational opportunities to ensure equitable access to these fundamental services which is crucial for their development and integration into society.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

Recommendations

- Ensure that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is not only integrated into but also consistently interpreted and applied across all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings. This includes crucial areas such as court rulings regarding parental guardianship, the child's residence, and other related decisions.
- Develop specific procedures and criteria that can provide clear guidance to all relevant persons in authority to guide them in determining the best interests of the child in various situations.

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

KidsRights appreciates the participatory approach used in the preparation of Oman Vision 2040 and the UNICEF Voluntary National Review in 2019.

Recommendations

- Ensure effective implementation of legislation that recognizes the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal proceedings.
- Conduct research to identify the most important issues faced by children and ensure that their true concerns and priorities are recognised and addressed.
- Identify channels through which children can most effectively influence both national and local decision-making.
- Establish clear and accessible channels, through which children can actively participate and contribute to societal and community decisions.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights acknowledges recent advancements made by Oman in enhancing its legislations for children.

Recommendations

- Enhance the legislative framework to ensure it fully aligns with the provisions and spirit of the UNCRC. Specific areas needing attention include nationality laws and the minimum age of criminal responsibility. By addressing these areas, Oman can better protect children's rights and align with international standards.

- Develop a child-rights impact assessment procedure for all national legislation and policies relevant to children to systematically evaluate the potential impacts of any legislative or policy changes on children, ensuring that their rights and best interests are considered at every stage of policy development and legislative drafting.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 2):

KidsRights expresses appreciation for Oman's strides toward child-friendly budgeting and the adoption of program and performance budgeting techniques.

Recommendations:

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of budgetary needs specifically focused on children, including identification of the financial requirements necessary to address disparities in children's rights indicators, and establishing transparent allocations based on this assessment to ensure equitable resource distribution aimed at mitigating identified disparities.
- Ensure that budgeting processes are transparent and include participatory mechanisms, especially involving public dialogue with children. Engaging children and the community in budget discussions fosters greater accountability and ensures that the needs and rights of children are considered more thoroughly in budget allocations.
- Specific budgetary lines for all child-related programs and needs must be clearly defined to facilitate targeted allocations. These budgetary lines should be safeguarded against cuts during economic crises, natural disasters, or other emergencies to maintain access to essential services and support for children in challenging times.

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

KidsRights emphasizes enhancing the capacities of the National Centre for Statistics and Information, which is pivotal in gathering and analysing data concerning children's rights.

Recommendations:

- Enhance the National Centre for Statistics and Information, particularly in its role under the Council of Ministers, with a clear focus on improving data collection in areas where gaps currently exist, such as child marriage, child protection, violence against children, children with disabilities (CWDs), and education. Enhancing capabilities in these specific areas is crucial for forming effective policies and interventions to protect and support children.
- Ensure that data collection on children's rights covers all areas of the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, disability status, geographical location, ethnic origin, nationality, and socioeconomic background.
- Ensure that data and indicators on children's rights are regularly updated and shared openly among relevant ministries and other stakeholders. The effective use of this data is fundamental in evaluating the impact of policies, adjusting strategies as needed, and fostering collaboration across different sectors and levels of government.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (SCORE 2):

Recommendations:

- Implement measures to maintain the autonomy of civil society organisations (CSOs) to allow them to advocate effectively for children's rights.
- Systematically involve children in the development, execution, and assessment of policies and programs related to their rights, ensuring their participation is meaningful and impactful.



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