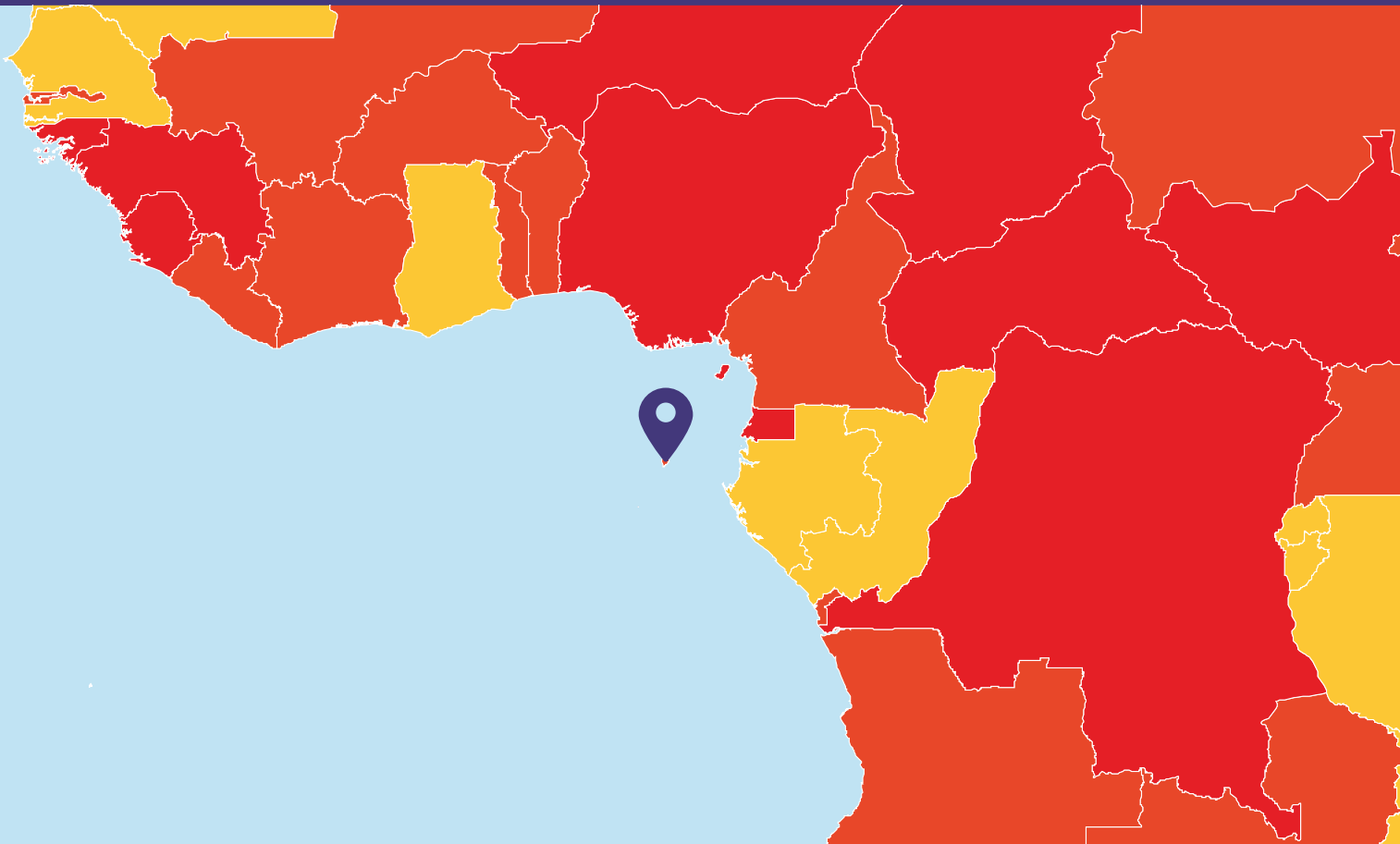




KIDSRIGHTS  
Index

# The KidsRights Index 2024

Sao Tome & Principe scores 169<sup>th</sup>  
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



## SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

OVERALL SCORE

RANK: 169

SCORE: 0,461

LIFE

RANK: 124

SCORE: 0,737

HEALTH

RANK: 144

SCORE: 0,679

EDUCATION

RANK: 75

SCORE: 0,738

PROTECTION

RANK: 105

SCORE: 0,791

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT

RANK: 190

SCORE: 0,071

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY  
ARE ACCESSIBLE ON [WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG](http://WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG)

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## THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

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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](http://www.hdr.undp.org/data))<sup>1</sup>, and qualitative data published by the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** ([www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcindex.aspx](http://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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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:

<b>Score 1 'bad'</b>	= <b>only negative remarks</b>
<b>Score 2 'average'</b>	= <b>negative and positive remarks</b>
<b>Score 3 'good'</b>	= <b>only positive remarks</b>
<b>NA</b>	= <b>not addressed</b>

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

## DOMAIN 5: SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

	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
<b>Sao Tome &amp; Principe 2013</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Sao Tome &amp; Principe 2023</b>	1	1	2	2	2	2	2

Sao Tome & Principe has experienced a significant decline in its enabling environment rank for children's rights, dropping by 80 places to rank 190 with a score of only 0.071. While certain indicators such as Non-discrimination and State-civil society cooperation have remained stable, most other indicators have shown negative changes. This substantial decrease underscores challenges in the country's legislative and policy frameworks concerning children's rights, highlighting areas that require urgent attention and improvement.

## COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

### ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 1):

#### Recommendations

- Implement comprehensive measures, including policy, legislative, and awareness-raising efforts to prevent and combat discrimination.
- Focus on children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, girls, children with disabilities (CWDs), and children from rural and remote areas, especially on Principe Island.
- Guarantee that vulnerable children have access to essential services such as birth registration, high-quality health care, education, and all basic social services.
- Enhance access to transport, clean water, and sanitation for these groups.

### ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

#### Recommendations

- Update legal frameworks to ensure the Best Interest of the Child (BIC) principle is formally integrated and recognized.
- Create comprehensive guidelines to help relevant officials effectively understand and apply the BIC principle.
- Conduct training and capacity-building programs for officials to ensure they are equipped to apply the BIC principle consistently.
- Monitor and ensure the consistent application of the BIC principle in all proceedings, policies, and programs affecting children.

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

#### Recommendations

- Implement measures to guarantee that all children's voices are heard in judicial and administrative proceedings affecting them, as per the principles outlined in general comment No.12.
- Provide comprehensive training for judges, social workers, and other relevant professionals must be provided to effectively uphold this principle.
- Actively promote and facilitate the meaningful participation of all children, paying special attention to girls, children from rural and remote areas, and children with disabilities (CWDs).
- Encourage their engagement within families, schools, and community activities, ensuring their voices are considered and valued.

### ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 1):

#### Recommendations

- Ensure that all provisions of the Convention are fully embedded within the country's legal frameworks to promote compliance and enforcement.
- Develop clear, accessible guidelines to facilitate the consistent application of the Convention across all relevant domestic laws and practices.

## ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 1):

### Recommendations:

- Substantially raise budget allocations for social protection, especially targeting families in vulnerable situations, to better support the needs outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implement results-based planning and budgeting processes to ensure effective use of resources. Enhance interministerial and cross-sectoral coordination to optimize the impact of these allocations.
- Develop and adopt a child-friendly budgeting process that includes clear allocations specifically earmarked for the implementation of children's rights as stipulated in the Convention.
- Introduce specific indicators for tracking the effectiveness of funds allocated to child protection and establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to assess outcomes and impacts.

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

KidsRights emphasises the importance of a robust data management system that supports informed decision-making and policy development for the protection and promotion of children's rights.

### Recommendations:

- Continue efforts to establish a comprehensive system to generate, collect, and manage disaggregated data on all aspects of children's rights covered by the Convention.
- Enhance coordination and facilitate data-sharing among various ministries to ensure that data relevant to children's rights are accessible and utilized effectively across different sectors.

## ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (SCORE 1):

### Recommendations:

- Actively increase the participation of children and civil society organizations in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes of laws, policies, plans, and programs related to children's rights.
- Foster a more inclusive and collaborative environment in which the voices and expertise of civil society and the children themselves are integral to the development and execution of initiatives impacting child welfare and rights.



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