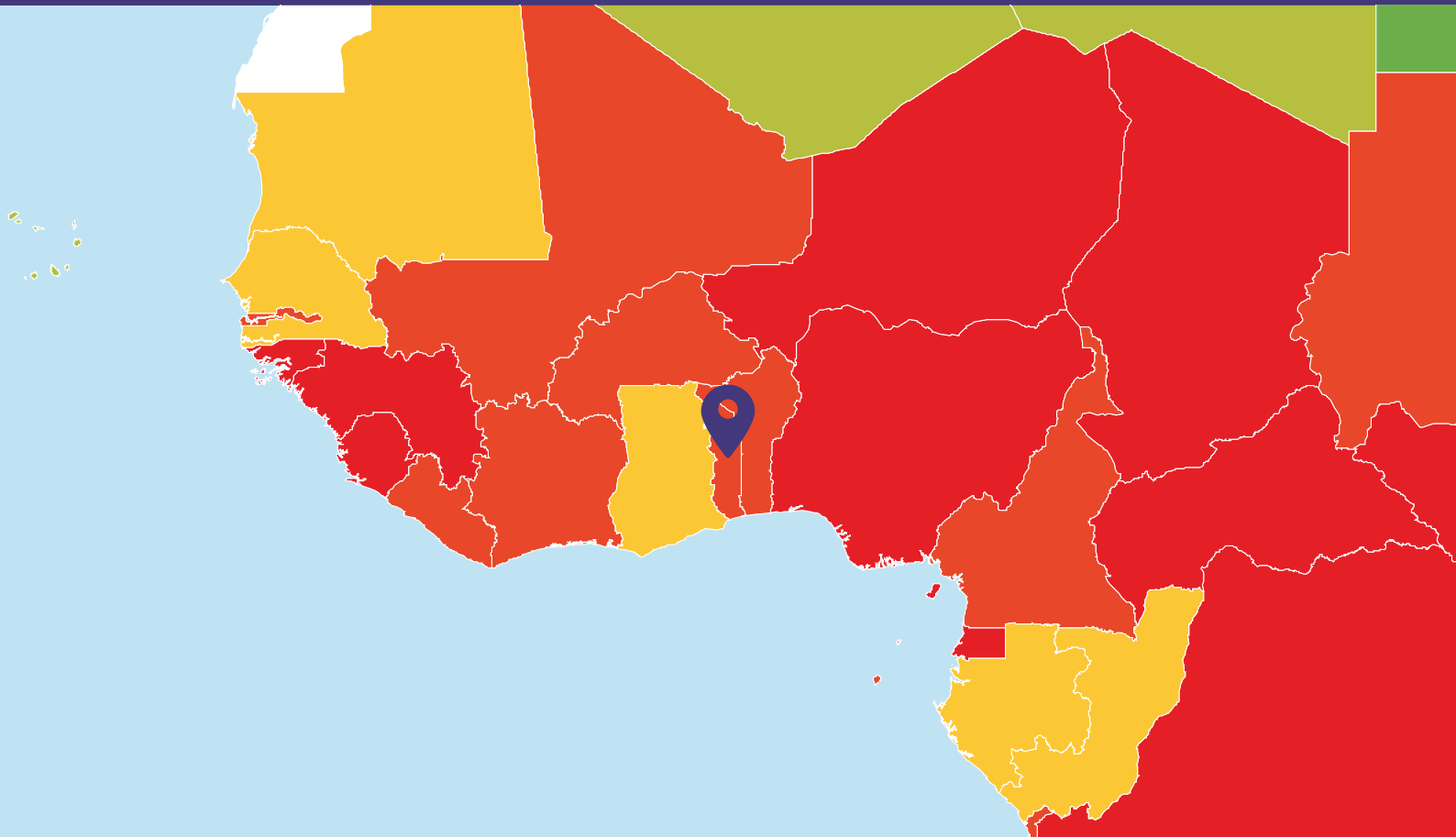


The KidsRights Index 2024

Togo scores 167th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



TOGO

OVERALL SCORE	LIFE	HEALTH	EDUCATION	PROTECTION	CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: 167	RANK: 174	RANK: 177	RANK: 133	RANK: 149	RANK: 152
SCORE: 0,465	SCORE: 0,470	SCORE: 0,499	SCORE: 0,606	SCORE: 0,533	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: TOGO

	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
Togo 2012	1	2	2	2	1	1	2
Togo 2023	1	1	2	2	2	2	1

Togo has experienced fluctuations in its rankings on the KidsRights Index (KRI) between the two most recent assessments. The country's overall rank dropped from 159 in KRI 11, with a score of 0.496, to 167 in KRI 12, rounding to a score of 0.465. This change indicates a total rank decrease of 8 places. In terms of the enabling environment for child rights, Togo's rank fell by 27 places to 152, scoring 0.286. Out of seven assessed indicators, three remained unchanged, while the indicator for State-civil society cooperation for child rights decreased. However, there were positive developments in two other indicators: Best available budget, and Collection and analysis of disaggregated data, demonstrating areas of progress amid overall challenges.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - TOGO

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is concerned regarding persistent discrimination against various vulnerable groups of children in Togo.

Recommendations

- Formulate a comprehensive, long-term anti-discrimination strategy aimed at children in vulnerable situations, including girls, children with disabilities (CWDs), LGBTIQ+ children, children living with HIV/AIDS, and children in conflict with the law.
- Focus on modifying and eliminating negative societal attitudes and practices, as well as deep-rooted stereotypes against vulnerable children.
- Ensure that the implementation of the anti-discrimination strategy is effectively managed and periodically assessed for impact. It should be coordinated with various stakeholders, including organizations representing children and women, as well as traditional and religious leaders, and the media, to ensure broad support and effectiveness.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

Recommendations

- Review Article 4 of the Children's Code to refine the definition of the BI principle to ensure it is clearly articulated and understood.
- Develop comprehensive guidelines to aid relevant officials in accurately applying the BI principle across various scenarios.
- Enhance training programs to build the capacity of officials, ensuring they are well-equipped to apply the BI principle effectively.

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

Recommendations

- Actively work against the negative perception that children are incapable of understanding matters that concern them. Recognize and promote the capability of children to contribute meaningfully to discussions about their lives and welfare.
- Encourage and facilitate the meaningful and empowered participation of all children, particularly focusing on girls, children from rural areas, and children with disabilities (CWDs). Ensure their active involvement within families, schools, communities, and media.
- Ensure that children's involvement in judicial and administrative proceedings is conducted in a child-friendly manner. Their opinions should be taken into account, and legislation should be reviewed and adjusted to facilitate this approach.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

Recommendations

- Focus on the effective implementation of the newly adopted codes and laws across the country on children's rights, particularly in rural areas where challenges are more pronounced.
- Provide sufficient financial resources to support the enforcement and application of these laws to ensure they have the intended impact on protecting children's rights.
- Enhance the capacity of judges, law enforcement officials, lawyers, teachers, health professionals, and

other relevant professionals through targeted training and development programs. This will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively apply the new codes and laws in their work with children.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 2):

KidsRights recognises Togo's efforts in creating a specific budget line to combat trafficking in children and increasing resource allocations to social sectors. However, it remains concerned that the current levels of social expenditure are insufficient to significantly improve the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Recommendations:

- Enhance budget allocations specifically to child protection and other critical social sectors to ensure sufficient resources are dedicated to creating meaningful change.
- Implement a child-friendly budgeting process that includes clear financial allocations for children, especially those in vulnerable situations. This process should incorporate specific indicators and robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track the effectiveness and impact of the allocated resources.
- Intensify efforts to combat corruption within all sectors involved in the allocation and use of funds for social and child protection programs to ensure that resources reach their intended targets without diversion.

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

Recommendations:

- Develop and maintain an integrated data-collection and management system that consolidates all sectoral databases, including the Child Protection Dashboard.
- Ensure that the data system comprehensively covers all areas stipulated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Incorporate detailed data on children with HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities (CWDs), LGBTI+ children, children without parental care, child victims of trafficking, violence (including institutional violence), sexual exploitation, abuse, and other children in vulnerable situations.
- Make the consolidated data publicly available online to ensure transparency and ease of access.
- Commit to regular updates of the data to reflect current conditions and trends accurately.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (SCORE 1):

Recommendations:

- Formally recognize and protect child human rights defenders and children's rights defenders from intimidation and stigmatization, legitimizing their work.
- Foster a safe and trusting environment for civil society by building cooperation and adopting the new draft law concerning non-governmental organizations.
- Ensure systematic involvement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and children's organizations in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies, plans, and programs related to children's rights. This involvement aims to ensure that these programs are comprehensive, effective, and reflective of the needs and rights of children.



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