



KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

Turkey scores 113th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



TURKEY

OVERALL SCORE	LIFE	HEALTH	EDUCATION	PROTECTION	CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: 113	RANK: 55	RANK: 47	RANK: 12	RANK: 59	RANK: 179
SCORE: 0,646	SCORE: 0,875	SCORE: 0,969	SCORE: 0,987	SCORE: 0,939	SCORE: 0,143

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: TURKEY

	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
Turkey 2012	1	2	2	3	2	2	1
Turkey 2023	1	1	2	2	1	1	1

Turkey has experienced a significant decline in its standing in the KidsRights Index (KRI), showing marked changes between the KRI 11 and KRI 12 assessments. In the latest KRI 12, Turkey's overall rank plummeted to 113 with a score of 0.646, a sharp fall from the previous rank of 21 and a score of 0.853, indicating a dramatic rank change of -92 places. Particularly concerning is the enabling environment for children's rights, which now stands at a rank of 179, scoring only 0.143, representing a decrease of 99 places. This decline is reflected in the performance of key indicators where four out of seven have worsened, specifically in areas such as the best interest of the child, enabling legislation, best available budget, and the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, with the remaining three indicators showing no improvement. This substantial decline highlights significant challenges and areas needing urgent attention to enhance children's rights and protections in Turkey.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - TURKEY

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is concerned regarding persistent discrimination against children in Turkey, especially those in situations of vulnerability. This includes children with disabilities (CWDs), asylum-seeking, refugee, and migrant children, as well as those from ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTI children, and children of parents accused of having links to terrorist organizations.

Recommendations

- Implement urgent measures to ensure non-discrimination and equal access to services for all children, especially those in vulnerable situations.
- Provide targeted support and services to children with disabilities, asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTI children, and children of parents accused of links to terrorist organizations.
- Ensure that vulnerable children have unrestricted access to essential services including education, health care, and protection from violence.
- Take steps to guarantee that all children enjoy an adequate standard of living.
- Initiate systematic efforts to change persistent adverse and traditional attitudes and norms that foster discrimination.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

Recommendations

- Ensure that the right of children to have their best interests taken as a primary consideration is fully integrated into domestic laws and is consistently applied across all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings and decisions. This includes areas such as parental guardianship, medical consent procedures, and migration decisions.
- Apply the BI principle in all policies, programs, and projects that affect children or are relevant to their welfare to ensure that children's best interests are a primary focus in all decision-making processes.
- Create harmonized national procedures and criteria to guide all relevant authorities in effectively determining the best interests of children, providing a standardized approach to protect and prioritise children's rights in all relevant domains.

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

Recommendations

- Improve the functionality and impact of provincial committees on the rights of the child and municipal children's councils to better facilitate their roles in safeguarding children's rights.
- Increase opportunities for children to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes that affect them, ensuring that these platforms are accessible and responsive to the voices of all children, particularly those from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights recognises advancements in Turkey's legal, regulatory, and policy framework that enhance child protection.

Recommendations

- Create comprehensive legislation that fully integrates all provisions of the Convention on the Rights of

the Child and its Optional Protocols. This legislation should aim to ensure a cohesive and systematic approach to child protection across all legal and policy areas, thereby strengthening the overall framework for safeguarding children's rights.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is concerned regarding the transparency and tracking of budget allocations dedicated to advancing children's rights.

Recommendations:

- Enhance the child rights-based approach in the development of State and municipal budgets by implementing a tracking system that monitors the allocation and use of resources for children across the entire budget process.
- Utilize the tracking system to conduct impact assessments to evaluate how investments in any sector may promote the best interests of children (BIs). This should include analyzing the differential impacts of such investments on various groups of children, particularly those in vulnerable situations.
- Promote transparent and participatory budgeting practices that involve stakeholders in the budgeting process, ensuring that children's rights are prioritized, and that the public has insight into how resources are allocated and utilized for children's initiatives.

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

Recommendations:

- Urgently improve the data collection system managed by the Turkish Statistical Institute, ensuring that data on children are disaggregated by critical variables such as age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin, religious affiliation, and socioeconomic background.
- Use the disaggregated data to enable thorough analysis of the situation of children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability, to better inform policies and programs tailored to their needs.
- Regularly conduct the child profile survey to gather data on established child well-being and vulnerability indicators.
- Ensure that the data collected are shared systematically among ministries and relevant central and local state agencies to enhance coordinated action and policy-making for child welfare.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is concerned about the operational environment for Civil Society Organizations working on children's rights in Turkey.

Recommendations:

- Take immediate action to guarantee that journalists, human rights defenders, and all CSOs focused on children's rights can exercise their rights to freedom of expression and opinion without facing threats or harassment.
- Promptly and independently investigate all reported cases of intimidation and harassment against these groups. Hold those responsible accountable to deter future occurrences and uphold justice.



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