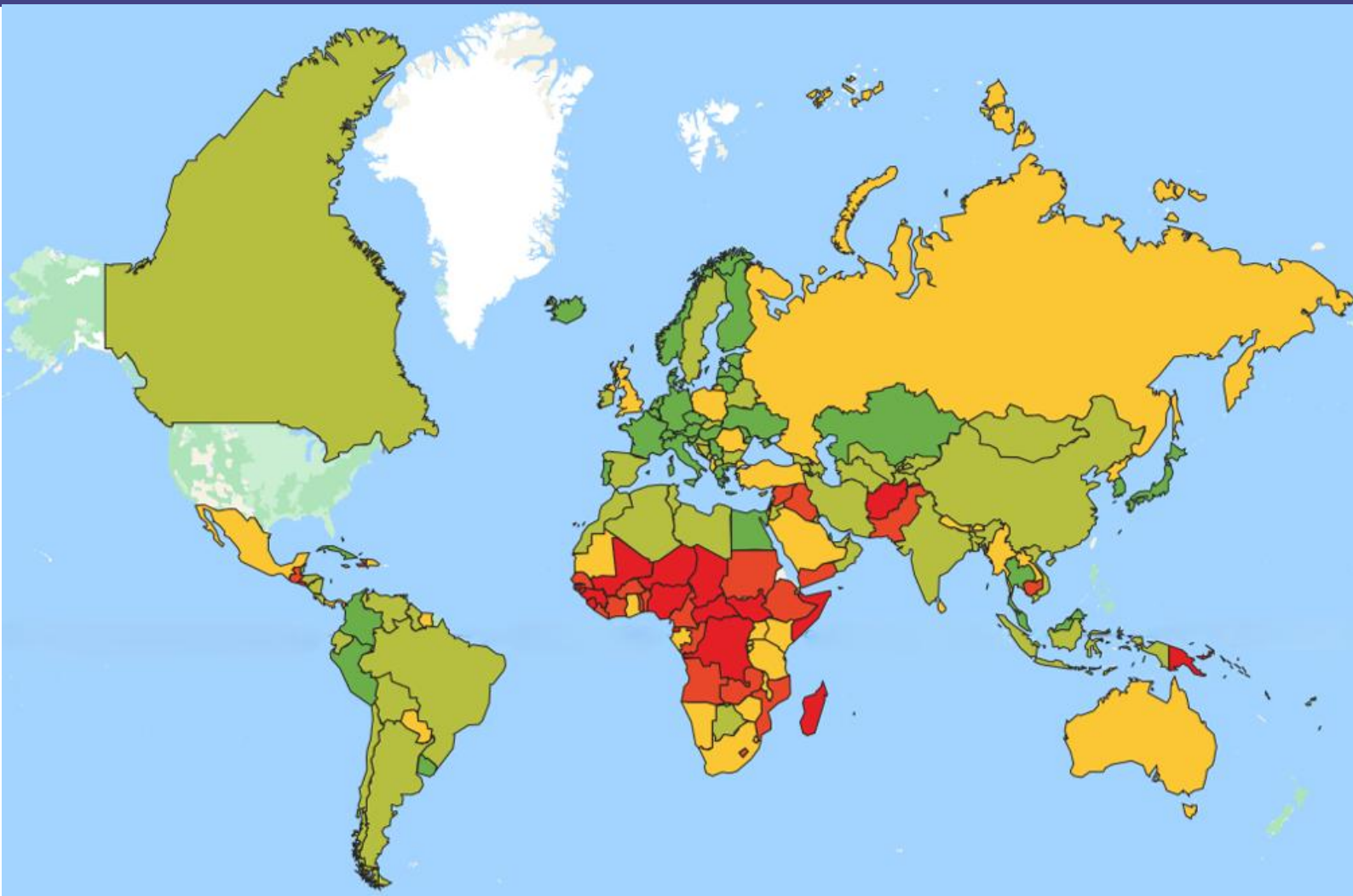




The KidsRights Index 2025

Report



THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY ARE ACCESSIBLE AT WWW.KIDSRIGHTS.ORG/KIDSRIGHTS-INDEX/

ABOUT



KidsRights

KidsRights is an international non-governmental organization that promotes the wellbeing of vulnerable children across the world and advocates for the realisation of their rights. KidsRights strives for a world where all children have access to their rights and are empowered to realise the great potential they carry within them. KidsRights sees children as 'changemakers' who have the power to move the world and facilitates them in voicing their opinions and in taking action to bring about change.

KidsRights supports children by commanding global attention for the realisation of children's rights and by acting as a catalyst to ignite change, together with children and youths. This advocacy is supported with research and action. The KidsRights Foundation also finances local projects aimed at directly improving the rights of vulnerable children and stimulating child participation and changemaking by youths.

www.kidsrights.org 

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The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children's rights.

194
countries

Unique: Domain Child Rights Environment provides insight into the extent to which a country is equipped to carry out the UN CRC.

The goal of the KidsRights Index:
To stimulate compliance with children's rights worldwide.



ONLINE: the KidsRights Index is easily accessible on www.kidsrightsindex.org



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is the global framework for children's rights.



1989

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources:



- 1 Quantitative data published and regularly updated by UNICEF <https://data.unicef.org>
- 2 UNDP www.hdr.undp.org/data
- 3 Qualitative data from the Concluding Observations by the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**.

The KidsRights Index: 20 indicators: 13 quantitative and 7 qualitative indicators

1. LIFE

- Under five mortality rate
- Life expectancy at birth
- Maternal mortality ratio



2. HEALTHCARE

- % of under five year olds suffering from under-weight
- Immunization of one year old children
- % of population using improved sanitation facilities (urban and rural)
- % of population using improved drinking water sources (urban and rural)



3. EDUCATION

- Expected years of schooling of girls
- Expected years of schooling of boys
- Gender inequality in expected years of schooling (absolute difference between girls and boys)



4. PROTECTION

- Child labour
- Adolescent birth rate
- Birth registration



5. CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT

- Non-discrimination
- Best interests of the child
- Enabling legislation
- Best available budget
- Respect for the views of the child/child participation
- Collection and analysis of disaggregate data
- State-civil society cooperation for child rights participation



The KidsRights Index is an initiative of the KidsRights Foundation, in cooperation with Erasmus University Rotterdam, Erasmus School of Economics and the International Institute of Social Studies.

PREFACE

The KidsRights Index 2025 delves into the performance of 194 countries to provide insights on the performance of countries in line with the rights enshrined in the UN Convention the Rights of the Child. Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, and Germany emerged as the top performers of the Index, while Afghanistan, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic remained at the bottom of the rankings. Lithuania recorded the most substantial improvement this year - climbing 92 ranks, while Mexico and Bulgaria experienced the sharpest decline, dropping 87 ranks and 75 ranks respectively, after their Domain 5 scores were updated based on their 2024 Concluding Observations. Insights for the KidsRights Index indicators - Under-5 mortality, immunization, birth registration and expected years of schooling show that children's rights continue to remain under severe pressure across several countries and regions. The findings emerging from the experimental climate change domain also highlights the urgency to reinforce climate change mitigation efforts to effectively protect children.

In light of the technological advancements, the KidsRights Index 2025 reports on the children's mental health crisis. 14 per cent of children and adolescents (10-19 years) globally are reportedly facing mental health concerns. Due to lack of adequate safeguards in the digital environment, including social media platforms, children's mental health is at a great risk. Countries are therefore scrambling to regulate and, in some cases, prohibit children's access to digital environment, including social media platforms. However, such quick-fix bans on children's access to the digital environment will deprive children of beneficial educational and well-being content, lead to their social isolation and can turn out to be counter-productive for their mental health. Governments should prioritise children's safety but should also adopt a balanced approach to ensure that children's right to participation and privacy are not violated.

Over the past 13 years, the KidsRights Index has established itself as a unique and informative tool to advocate for the rights of children and to usher child-rights based policymaking globally. I hope that all the stakeholders - especially governments, policymakers, child rights defenders, businesses, financial institutions and the international community, will continue to use the KidsRights Index to prioritise children's rights.

Marc Dullaert
Chair and founder KidsRights Foundation

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1. INTRODUCTION: URGENT NEED TO ADDRESS DATA DEFICITS: THE CASE OF MENTAL HEALTH

By Avinash Reddy Pichhili (KidsRights), Karin Arts (ISS), and Tolga Doğan (KidsRights), supported by data inputs by Mirthe Hendriks (ESE) and Philip Hans Franses (ESE).

An Index can only be compiled if sufficient data is available on the subject involved. In the case of the KidsRights Index, from the start we have deliberately opted for only working with existing data of the highest available quality. Rather than generating data ourselves, we use data compiled by the best, and best-placed, organizations in the field: UNICEF, UNDP and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. We also require the data we use to be available for the large majority of states parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereafter referred to as UNCRC or CRC). On this basis only can we guarantee a scientifically sound, reliable and fully comparable ranking and interpretation of the results.

However, as we have pointed out in some of our earlier annual KidsRights Index reports too, the availability of data leaves much to be desired. On a broad range of specific issues affecting children in all countries in the world and over long timespans already, such as (domestic and other) violence against children, mental health concerns, climate change, the impact of the business sector on children's rights, or the situation of children with disabilities, still way too little precise and systematic information is available. Section 5 of this Report, on 'missing data', reveals that for some indicators that *are* used in the KidsRights Index, such as child labour, data availability also is problematic. The datedness of some of the existing information is an issue too. For instance, one could say that the Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the end of the state reporting procedure under the UNCRC are one of the very best available sources for assessing state performance on children's rights. While these documents are indeed helpful and the Committee delivers remarkable quality under the difficult and under-resourced circumstances in which it has to do its work, the following facts are telling. Of the 19 countries that received Concluding Observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2023 or 2024, for nearly half (eight and nine respectively) ten or more years had lapsed since the adoption of the previous ones.¹ In the interim, the information-base about the situation of children in these countries cutting across all realms of the UNCRC, thus has been out-of-date for a long time. This is the result of a culmination of factors stemming from, for instance, the long-standing tendency of many states to procrastinate reporting for UN treaty body procedures, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the limited capacity and resources made available to the CRC Committee.

While there is not much point in blaming a particular reason or actor alone for this situation, it is a fact that, if we wish to do improvements for children we must improve the available information-base. In that way only policymakers and other relevant actors will gain deeper insight into, for example: the precise situation of particular (groups of) children; what support, protection or development measures would be required in specific settings; and what progress (if any) has been made over time.

¹ The Concluding Observations adopted in 2023 reveal that this was the case for: Albania, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Finland, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo and Turkey. In 2024, this applied to: Armenia, Congo, Egypt, Israel, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mali, Namibia, Paraguay, and the Russian Federation.

The example of mental health

In this introduction we seek to illustrate the urgent need to address data deficits of the kind introduced above by zooming in on the aspect of mental health concerns, especially among adolescents. Already more than a decade ago, in April 2013, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed its concern about:

“the increase in mental ill-health among adolescents, including developmental and behavioural disorders; depression; eating disorders; anxiety; psychological trauma resulting from abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation; alcohol, tobacco and drug use; obsessive behaviour, such as excessive use of and addiction to the Internet and other technologies; and self-harm and suicide.”²

Also according to the Committee at the time, “[t]here “is growing recognition of the need for increased attention for behavioural and social issues that undermine children’s mental health, psychosocial wellbeing and emotional development”.³ It cautioned against “over-medicalization and institutionalization” and urged “States to undertake an approach based on public health and psychosocial support to address mental ill-health among children and adolescents and to invest in primary care approaches that facilitate the early detection and treatment of children’s psychosocial, emotional and mental problems”.⁴

Currently, reportedly over 14 per cent of children and adolescents aged 10 to 19 years globally are experiencing mental health concerns.⁵ The nature of these concerns varies significantly based among other things on their age and gender. This is further exacerbated by their vulnerabilities owing to factors such as experiences of conflicts, poverty, exclusion, discrimination, and/or displacement.⁶ For instance, girls and older adolescents are at a greater risk of being impacted by mental health concerns.⁷

The child right to the highest attainable standard of health is presented in Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). While that provision itself does not explicitly include the term “mental health”, the CRC Committee’s General Comment No. 15 has clarified unequivocally that Article 24 does cover mental health. It refers to the state obligation “to provide adequate treatment and rehabilitation for children with mental health and psychosocial disorders while abstaining from unnecessary medication”,⁸ and underlines the importance of preventive health care.⁹ Several other provisions across the UNCRC explicitly refer to protecting children’s mental health and development. For instance, children have the right to access information that is aimed at promoting their “social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health”.¹⁰ States are required to develop guidelines to protect children from information that is harmful to

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘General Comment No. 15 (2013) on the Right of the Child to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health’, UN Doc. CRC/C/GC/15, 17 April 2013, para. 38.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ World Health Organization, ‘Mental Health of Adolescents’, 10 October 2024, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-mental-health>.

⁶ See e.g. Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘General Comment No. 20 (2016) on the Implementation of the Rights of the Child During Adolescence’, UN Doc. CRC/C/GC/20, 6 December 2016, para. 58.

⁷ See e.g. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe and UNICEF, ‘Child and Adolescent Health in the WHO European Region: Adolescent Mental Health Fact Sheet’, 2024, <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/379214>.

⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘General Comment No. 15 (2013) on the Right of the Child to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health’, UN Doc. CRC/C/GC/15, 17 April 2013, para. 39.

⁹ Ibid., para. 62.

¹⁰ UNCRC, Art. 17.

their well-being.¹¹ States must also protect children against all forms of mental violence.¹² In addition, children have the right to a standard of living that is adequate for their mental development,¹³ and must be protected from any work that is harmful to their mental development.¹⁴ Lastly, the aims of education under Article 29 of the UNCRC extend to the development of children's mental abilities to their fullest potential.¹⁵

Re-emphasizing the indivisible and interrelated nature of children's rights,¹⁶ according to the CRC Committee, the child right to mental health must be promoted and safeguarded by also reinforcing their rights to: non-discrimination, be heard, information, privacy and association, education, and protection against all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation, among other rights.¹⁷

Digital technology

Technological advancements in recent years have opened a Pandora's box of challenges as well as opportunities for the child right to mental health.¹⁸ The digital environment, while being both a potential and actual blessing for enhancing access to mental health care services and information,¹⁹ also exposes children to a heightened risk of mental violence, bullying, abuse and exploitation, and even of "sexual exploitation and abuse, child trafficking, gender-based violence, cyberaggression, cyberattacks and information warfare".²⁰ Countries are required to regulate the digital environment to protect children's rights, including children's exposure to social media, games and information that undermines their development.²¹

According to the World Health Organization, between 2018 and 2002 problematic social media use among adolescents aged 11, 13 and 15 across 44 countries and regions in Europe, Central Asia and Canada has reportedly increased from 7 to 11 per cent.²² The term 'problematic social media use'²³ is broadly used to refer to a compulsive and addictive usage of social media that adversely impacts the users' everyday functioning.²⁴ In Europe, 13-year-olds are reportedly at a greater risk of problematic social media usage (13 per cent),²⁵ while 11-year-olds are at greater risk of problematic gaming (13 per cent).²⁶ Further, continuous

¹¹ Ibid., Art. 17(e).

¹² Ibid., Art. 19(1).

¹³ Ibid., Art. 27(1).

¹⁴ Ibid., Art. 32(1).

¹⁵ Ibid., Art. 29(1)(a).

¹⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Comment No. 4 (2003) on Adolescent Health and Development in the Context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child', UN Doc. CRC/GC/2003/4, July 2003, para. 5.

¹⁷ Ibid., paras. 6-13.

¹⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Comment No. 15 (2013) on the Right of the Child to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health', UN Doc. CRC/C/GC/15, 17 April 2013, para. 6.

¹⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Comment No. 25 (2021) on Children's Rights in Relation to the Digital Environment', UN Doc. CRC/C/GC/25, 2 March 2021, para. 93.

²⁰ Ibid., para. 82.

²¹ Ibid., para. 96.

²² World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, 'Teens, Screens and Mental Health', 25 September 2024, <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/25-09-2024-teens--screens-and-mental-health>.

²³ Emily O'Day and Richard Heimberg, 'Social Media Use, Social Anxiety, and Loneliness: A Systematic Review', *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, Vol. 3, 2021, 100070, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chbr.2021.100070>, pp. 1-9.

²⁴ See e.g. Christian Montag et al., 'Problematic Social Media Use in Childhood and Adolescence', *Addictive Behaviours*, Vol. 153, 2024, 1079; Maartje Boer et al., 'The Course of Problematic Social Media Use in Young Adolescents: A Latent Class Growth Analysis', *Child Development*, Vol. 93(2), 2022, p. 168; and Silvia Casale et al., 'Has the Prevalence of Problematic Social Media Use Increased Over the Past Seven Years and Since the Start of the COVID-19 Pandemic? A Meta-analysis of the Studies Published Since the Development of the Bergen Social Media Addiction Scale', *Addictive Behaviours*, Vol. 147, December 2023, 107838.

²⁵ World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, 'Teens, Screens and Mental Health', 25 September 2024, <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/25-09-2024-teens--screens-and-mental-health>, p. 7.

²⁶ Ibid., p. 11.

online contact with friends and others throughout the day is also reported to be at a high of 39 per cent among 15-year-olds.²⁷ Therefore, the nature of the problematic usage of the digital environment varies based on e.g. the age, gender and digital access of children and adolescents. Thus, targeted and curated preventative and diagnostic measures are required to address the mental health concerns.

Another cross-country analysis of data on problematic gaming among adolescents in five European countries (Azerbaijan, England, Serbia, Slovenia, and the Netherlands) revealed a positive correlation between problematic gaming tendencies of adolescents and their well-being indicators such as lower life satisfaction and peer support, and more psychological complaints.²⁸

Only more limited empirical research is available on the impact of social media use on the wellbeing of adolescents in the Global South.²⁹ However, it has been established that at least one in five children (9 to 17 years) in Zambia reportedly faced cyberbullying,³⁰ leaving them vulnerable to adverse mental health outcomes. On the other hand, in Chile, the digital environment was reportedly used by 29 per cent of children (aged 11 to 17) to seek information about "feelings, emotional distress, mental health and well-being",³¹ which showcases the role of internet in providing access to mental health resources.

Social media ban: Protection or further infringement of children's rights

A 30-country³² study in 2024 that surveyed between 1,000 and 2,200 individuals per country revealed that, except in Germany, the majority of the respondents was in favour of a complete ban on social media usage for children younger than 14 years.³³ This result is in line with the existing regulations for most social media platforms. However, effective implementation is lacking, evidenced by the £12.7 million fine imposed on TikTok by the UK for using the personal data of children under 13-years of age and for not adopting effective age verification mechanisms to prevent those children from using the platform.³⁴ In Kazakhstan, even though the minimum age to create a social media account is 13 years, around 60 per cent of the children aged 9 to 12 reportedly have their own accounts.³⁵

A recent trend has emerged where several countries are moving towards increasing the minimum age required to register on social media platforms, away from the almost universal age-limit of 13 years. Citing harm to children's physical and mental health, Australia passed the 'Online Safety Amendment (Social Media

²⁷ Ibid., p. 4.

²⁸ Damian Van der Neut et al., 'A cCross-national Comparison of Problematic Gaming Behavior and Well-being in Adolescents', *Journal of Behavioral Addictions* Vol. 12(2), 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1556/2006.2023.00010>, p. 452.

²⁹ Sakshi Ghai et al., 'Social Media and Adolescent Well-being in the Global South', *Current Opinion in Psychology*, Vol. 46, 2022, 101318, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352250X22000288>, pp. 1-4.

³⁰ Patrick Burton, Miselo Bwalya and Sydney Sihubwa, 'Zambia Kids Online', Save The Children, <http://globalkidsonline.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FINAL-ZKO-Study-Report-APRIL-2022.pdf>, p. 58.

³¹ Global Kids Online, 'Three in Ten Children in Brazil Look for Mental Health and Well-being Information Online', <http://globalkidsonline.net/brazil2022/>, 16 August 2022.

³² The 30 countries covered by the IPSOS Education Monitor 2024 are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Türkiye, United States.

³³ IPSOS Education Monitor 2024, August 2024, https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2024-08/Education_Monitor_2024_Ipsos.pdf, pp. 10 and 72.

³⁴ Information Commissioner's Office, 'ICO Fines TikTok £12.7 Million for Misusing Children's Data', 4 April 2023, <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2023/04/ico-fines-tiktok-127-million-for-misusing-children-s-data/>.

³⁵ Patrick Burton, Aislu Bekmussa and Lidiya Beisembayeva, 'The Digital Lives of Children in Kazakhstan', UNICEF Kazakhstan, 12 October 2023, <http://globalkidsonline.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/KazKidsOnline-FINAL-report-121023.pdf>, p. viii.

Minimum Age) Bill’ in November 2024 banning social media access for children under 16-years.³⁶ However, the ban, set to come into effect in December 2025, has received criticism for its adverse impact on children’s rights. While the aim of this blanket ban is to prevent young child exposure to the ill-effects of social media usage, it infringes on Australian children’s civil and political rights, as well as socio-economic rights, including their rights to access information (Art. 17), to privacy and association (Arts. 17 and 15), to health and development (Arts. 24 and 6) and to education (Art. 28 and 29), as provided by the UNCRC.³⁷ Further, a blanket ban on accessing social media may remain ineffective without complementary measures aimed at educating children and their caregivers about responsible usage of these platforms.³⁸

France’s 2023 law,³⁹ and Norway’s recent proposal to increase the social media consent age to 15 from the existing 13, are relatively more flexible as they allow for parental consent for children below the age of 15 to access social media platforms.⁴⁰ The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules in India require verifiable parental consent for the processing data of children, without any exceptions.⁴¹

Failure of governments to fully comprehend and regulate the digital environment and the providers of digital services should not be masked using quick fix bans on children’s access to the digital environment. Such measures deprive children of beneficial educational and well-being content, lead to their social isolation and can turn out to be counter-productive for their mental health.

Acknowledging the inadequacy of the level of “privacy, safety and security” of children online, the European Commission recently published Guidelines in an effort to support providers of online platforms too to address online risks faced by children.⁴² These Guidelines suggest several measures and present good practice examples.

Suicides among adolescents and children

The linkages between mental health concerns and suicides have been well-established through several global and cross-country studies.⁴³ According to data from the World Health Organization, the global average suicide rate is 6 per 100.000 among adolescents aged 15 to 19 years.⁴⁴ Among adolescents and young people aged 15 to 29 years, suicide is reported as the third leading cause of death.⁴⁵ These numbers are already alarming

³⁶ Australian Government, ‘Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024: Fact Sheet’, <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/social-media-minimum-age-and-age-assurance-trial-fact-sheet.pdf>

³⁷ Australian Human Rights Commission, ‘Human Rights Explainer: Proposed Social Media Ban for Under-16s in Australia’, https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/AHRC_Social-Media-Ban-Explainer.pdf

³⁸ Ibid., p. 4.

³⁹ République France, ‘Law No. 2023-566 of July 7, 2023 Aimed at Establishing a Digital Majority and Combating Online Hatred (1) [in French], *Journal Officiel de la République France*, no. 0157, 8 July 2023 <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000047799533>.

⁴⁰ Miranda Bryant, ‘Norway to Increase Minimum Age Limit on Social Media to 15 to Protect Children’, *The Guardian*, <http://theguardian.com/world/2024/oct/23/norway-to-increase-minimum-age-limit-on-social-media-to-15-to-protect-children>, 23 October 2024.

⁴¹ Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, Rule 10, <https://www.meity.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/02/f8a8e97a91091543fe19139cac7514a1.pdf>

⁴² European Commission, ‘Commission Guidelines on Measures to Ensure a High Level of Privacy, Safety and Security for Minors Online pursuant to Article 28(4) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2065’, 13 May 2025, <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/document/115476>.

⁴³ José Manoel Bertolote and Alexandra Fleischmann, ‘Suicide and Psychiatric Diagnosis: A Worldwide Perspective’, *World Psychiatry*, 1(3), 2002, pp. 181–185. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1489848/>. See also Matthew Nock et al., ‘Cross-national Analysis of the Associations Among Mental Disorders and Suicidal Behavior: Findings from the WHO World Mental Health Surveys’, *PLoS Medicine*, 6(8), 2009, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1000123>.

⁴⁴ World Health Organization, ‘Mortality and Global Health Estimates: ‘Suicide Rates’, in: *The Global Health Observatory*, 2021, <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/mental-health/suicide-rates>.

⁴⁵ World Health Organization, ‘Global Health Estimates 2021: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2021’. See also World Health Organization, ‘Mental Health of Adolescents’, 10 October 2024, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-mental-health>.

but suicides are underreported globally due to various factors, including the stigma associated with suicides, misclassification, and a general lack of appropriate reporting mechanisms on deaths.⁴⁶ The current situation calls for concerted efforts from all stakeholders, and especially governments and caregivers, to strategize and implement appropriate measures that can address the growing mental health concerns among children and adolescents and prevent suicides wherever possible.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child also noted that adolescents are at greater risk of suicides,⁴⁷ and has flagged this matter as one of the hazards that children are exposed to through the digital environment.⁴⁸ A research study has also broadly established a direct correlation between the heavy use of internet/social media and the increase in suicide attempts among under 19-year-olds, based on reports from Türkiye, Austria, Europe, Korea, Taiwan, Australia, Canada and China.⁴⁹ While there are no studies that clarify the correlation between committed suicides and internet/social media usage among children or adolescents, the suggested correlation based on attempted suicides can form the basis for all countries to implement appropriate measures to curb such adverse impacts of the digital environment on adolescents.

Noting the high prevalence of suicides among adolescents, the CRC Committee has underscored the importance of states providing the necessary support services to address concerns relating to violence, abuse, bullying, and high expectations, among other aspects.⁵⁰ States therefore must ensure the availability of mental health care services and facilities that are suitable for adolescents, and implementing other measures necessary to promote their mental health.⁵¹

Safeguarding children's health and development rights also requires strategic efforts at the school level, such as ensuring the availability of mental health care providers or services,⁵² implementing a comprehensive mental health and well-being curriculum,⁵³ and activating efforts aimed at destigmatizing mental health problems.

Quantitative data collection on children's mental health

Despite the generic information that is available already for quite some time about the serious and widespread nature of mental health problems among children and youth across the globe, data collection is still in its infancy and far from comprehensive and complete. Some data collection effort on the mental health of adolescents and young people is now underway as part of the 7th round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster

⁴⁶ Saloni Dattani et al., 'Suicides', OurWorldinData.org, 2023, <https://ourworldindata.org/suicide>.

⁴⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Comment No. 20 (2016) on the Implementation of the Rights of the Child During Adolescence', UN Doc. CRC/C/GC/20, 6 December 2016, para. 13.

⁴⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Comment No. 25 (2021) on Children's Rights in Relation to the Digital Environment', UN Doc. CRC/C/GC/25, 2 March 2021, para. 14.

⁴⁹ Rosemary Sedgwick et al., 'Social Media, Internet Use and Suicide Attempts in Adolescents', *Current Opinion in Psychiatry*, 32(6), 2019, 534–541.

⁵⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Comment No. 4 (2003) on Adolescent Health and Development in the Context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child', UN Doc. CRC/GC/2003/4, July 2003, para. 22.

⁵¹ Ibid., para. 39.

⁵² World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, 'Child and Adolescent Health in Europe: Report on Progress to 2021', 2024, <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/378973/9789289058407-eng.pdf?sequence=1>, p. 146. See also Mina Fazel et al., 'Mental Health Interventions in Schools in Low-income and Middle-income countries', *Lancet Psychiatry*, 2014: 1, pp. 388–398.

⁵³ European Commission Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, 'Wellbeing and Mental Health at School: Guidelines for School Leaders, Teachers and Educators', 2024, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/760136>.

Surveys (MICS)⁵⁴ which began in 2023. The MICS questionnaire has been expanded to include data on anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and behaviours, impact of emotions on daily life and on care-seeking and connectedness (speaking and feeling understood).⁵⁵ As of April 2025, the 7th MICS has been initiated in forty-five countries or specific regions of countries, with thirty of them still in the survey design phase and two of them on hold. Of the remaining thirteen, five are in the data collection phase, six are in the data processing/analysis phase and only two have the key findings available: Mongolia and the Punjab region of Pakistan. Only Mongolia has provided data insights on the mental health indicators among adolescents.⁵⁶

Considering this development on MICS data collection and analysis, comparable quantitative data on the mental health status of adolescents is not expected to be sufficiently available within the next 2-3 years.⁵⁷ In addition, the MICS data on mental health will only be generated for the age groups 15 to 19 years and 20 to 24 years. This excludes children aged 14 years and younger from mental health data collection. In the absence of an alternative data collection system for these children, this may potentially leave governments without ground-level data to curate their mental health strategies and programmes for the younger children.

Qualitative data collection on mental health: The Concluding Observations 2024

Through the Concluding Observations (COs), the Committee on the Rights of the Child also draws the attention of states parties to children's mental health concerns and the states' obligations in this realm. We have analyzed the nineteen COs issued by the Committee in 2024 to gain insights into the nature and extent of the findings and recommendations of the CRC Committee with respect to the child right to mental health.

Sixteen of the nineteen Concluding Observations adopted in 2024 include a specific section on 'mental health' (for Argentina, Armenia, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Congo, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Israel, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, Russian Federation, South Africa, and Turkmenistan) or a specific section on 'adolescent health' (for Guatemala). The other three COs (for Mali, Paraguay, and Senegal) addressed mental health concerns in sections on harmful practices, health/health services and, in the case of Senegal, also in a section on asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children with a call for government to develop:

"comprehensive referral and case management frameworks for services to children, including in the fields of physical and mental health, education and the police and justice sectors, including the provision of free legal aid, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children."⁵⁸

⁵⁴ These are household surveys conducted by UNICEF. According to UNICEF (see <https://mics.unicef.org/about-mics>): "Since its inception in the mid-1990s, the (...) MICS, has become the largest source of statistically sound and internationally comparable data on children and women worldwide".

⁵⁵ UNICEF, 'A New Tool to Measure Mental Health Among Adolescents and Young People at the Population Level', 2023, <https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/MMAP-Brochure-22March2023.pdf>.

⁵⁶ National Statistics Office of Mongolia, UNFPA and UNICEF, 'Mongolia Social Indicator Sample Survey 2023 Key Indicators Report', July 2024, https://mics.unicef.org/sites/mics/files/2024-08/Mongolia%202023%20SISS-MICS%20Key%20Indicators%20Report_English.pdf, pp. 13-14.

⁵⁷ The MICS are carried out in a phased manner every three to five years, and around 120 countries have carried it out at least once since the mid-1990s.

⁵⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Report of Senegal', UN Doc. CRC/C/SEN/CO/6-7, 29 February 2024, para. 38(e).

On suicides among children vis-à-vis their mental health, the Committee expressed concerns regarding the increase in suicide rates in Argentina,⁵⁹ Estonia,⁶⁰ Israel,⁶¹ and Russia,⁶² while also recommending strengthening suicide prevention strategies and policies in Lithuania,⁶³ Paraguay,⁶⁴ and Turkmenistan.⁶⁵ The Committee urged Congo⁶⁶ and Turkmenistan⁶⁷ to collect data on suicides to inform their respective prevention strategies, while Bhutan,⁶⁸ Bulgaria,⁶⁹ Israel,⁷⁰ and Namibia⁷¹ received recommendations to improve their data collection systems on children's mental health.

Twelve of the nineteen countries reviewed also received recommendations to raise awareness about the harmful effects of child marriages on the "physical and mental health and well-being" of children.⁷² In the 2024 COs the CRC Committee recommended Congo,⁷³ Lithuania,⁷⁴ and the Russian Federation⁷⁵ to ensure access to justice and remedies for children in mental health settings/facilities.

Bhutan,⁷⁶ Congo,⁷⁷ and Turkmenistan⁷⁸ were advised to implement awareness raising sessions on children's mental health to remove the stigma associated with it. Further, stressing the importance of the availability of

⁵⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Seventh Periodic Report of Argentina', UN Doc. CRC/C/ARG/CO/7, 18 October 2024 (re-issued for technical reasons on 21 November 2024), para. 36.

⁶⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth to Seventh Periodic Reports of Estonia', UN Doc. CRC/C/EST/5-7, 18 June 2024, para. 30.

⁶¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Israel', UN Doc. CRC/C/ISR/5-6, 16 October 2024, para. 37.

⁶² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of the Russian Federation', UN Doc. CRC/C/RUS/6-7, 1 March 2024, para. 35.

⁶³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Lithuania', UN Doc. CRC/C/LTU/5-6, 7 March 2024, para. 37.

⁶⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fourth to Sixth Periodic Reports of Paraguay', UN Doc. CRC/C/PRY/4-6, 18 June 2024, para. 34.

⁶⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Turkmenistan', UN Doc. CRC/C/TKM/5-6, 9 October 2024, para. 32.

⁶⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of the Congo', UN Doc. CRC/C/COG/5-6, 1 March 2024, para. 37.

⁶⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Turkmenistan', UN Doc. CRC/C/TKM/5-6, 9 October 2024, para. 33.

⁶⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Bhutan', UN Doc. CRC/C/BTN/CO/6-7, 21 June 2024, para. 10.

⁶⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Bulgaria', UN Doc. CRC/C/BGR/CO/6-7, 15 March 2024, para. 10.

⁷⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Israel', UN Doc. CRC/C/ISR/5-6, 16 October 2024, para. 12.

⁷¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fourth to Sixth Periodic Reports of Namibia', UN Doc. CRC/C/NAM/4-6, 26 June 2024, para. 10.

⁷² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Mexico', UN Doc. CRC/C/Mex/6-7, 8 October 2024, para. 29.

⁷³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of the Congo', UN Doc. CRC/C/COG/5-6, 1 March 2024, para. 11.

⁷⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Lithuania', UN Doc. CRC/C/LTU/5-6, 7 March 2024, para. 14.

⁷⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of the Russian Federation', UN Doc. CRC/C/RUS/6-7, 1 March 2024, para. 11.

⁷⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Bhutan', UN Doc. CRC/C/BTN/CO/6-7, 21 June 2024, para. 34.

⁷⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of the Congo', UN Doc. CRC/C/COG/5-6, 1 March 2024, para. 37.

⁷⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Turkmenistan', UN Doc. CRC/C/TKM/5-6, 9 October 2024, para. 33.

trained mental health care professionals, the Committee recommended Bhutan,⁷⁹ Egypt,⁸⁰ Estonia,⁸¹ Israel,⁸² Lithuania,⁸³ the Russian Federation⁸⁴ and South Africa⁸⁵ to ensure specialized training of health care professionals to address the specific mental health needs and concerns of children and adolescents.

Mental health has been noted under the section 'main areas of concern and recommendation' of the COs only for Estonia,⁸⁶ Israel,⁸⁷ and Turkmenistan.⁸⁸

In the 2024 COs, the Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the increasing health concerns among children in many of the nineteen reviewed countries and issued various recommendations in this realm. This shows that the Committee is increasingly actively advocating for children's mental health rights. However, with the exception of Georgia,⁸⁹ the Committee has not made any reference to the digital environment vis-à-vis its impact on children's mental health or the relevant State parties' obligations.⁹⁰ Considering the growing concerns of states regarding the ill-effects of the digital environment on children's mental health, as well as the Committee's General Comment No. 25 of 2021 which also highlighted these concerns, for the future the Committee might consider to include explicitly and systematically recommendations or observations on the digital environment and children's mental health in all Concluding Observations.

For as long as there won't be a drastic improvement in the availability of data on children's mental health, the KidsRights Index will not be able to cover this increasingly important dimension of children's lives. Should the data deficit be tackled in the future, then, we would include it in the Index after all.

KidsRights Index 2025

With the caveats relating to the above sketch of the (non-)availability of data on children in mind, and after the usual basic introduction of the KidsRights Index in the subsequent section of this report, we present the specific findings of the Kids Rights Index 2025 (reporting developments up to the end of 2024). Climate change remains another core aspect impacting children's lives on which comprehensive data are not yet available. Our work on developing an additional domain to the KidsRights Index to integrate climate into the

⁷⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Bhutan', UN Doc. CRC/C/BTN/CO/6-7, 21 June 2024, para. 34.

⁸⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Egypt', UN Doc. CRC/C/EGY/5-6, 20 June 2024/1 March 2024, para. 35.

⁸¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth to Seventh Periodic Reports of Estonia', UN Doc. CRC/C/EST/5-7, 18 June 2024, para. 31.

⁸² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Israel', UN Doc. CRC/C/ISR/5-6, 16 October 2024, para. 37.

⁸³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Lithuania', UN Doc. CRC/C/LTU/5-6, 7 March 2024, para. 37.

⁸⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of the Russian Federation', UN Doc. CRC/C/RUS/6-7, 1 March 2024, para. 35.

⁸⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Third to Sixth Periodic Reports of South Africa', UN Doc. CRC/C/ZAF/3-6, 11 March 2024, para. 36.

⁸⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth to Seventh Periodic Reports of Estonia', UN Doc. CRC/C/EST/5-7, 18 June 2024, para. 4.

⁸⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Israel', UN Doc. CRC/C/ISR/5-6, 16 October 2024, para. 6.

⁸⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Turkmenistan', UN Doc. CRC/C/TKM/5-6, 9 October 2024, para. 4.

⁸⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Georgia', UN Doc. CRC/C/GEO/5-6, 25 June 2024, para. 21.

⁹⁰ The search terms used on excerpts relating to mental health in the 2024 COs were: technology, internet, social media, digital.

review of the child rights performance of states continues and is likely to lead to new steps next year. For now, after the section reporting our 2025 regular KidsRights Index findings, we will therefore share a third, still experimental progress report on climate.

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

2.1. What is the KidsRights Index?

The KidsRights Index⁹¹ is published every year. It is based on the almost universally ratified United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).⁹² The Index synthesizes and ranks the children's rights performance records of state parties⁹³ to the CRC in relation to the most crucial aspects of children's lives for which global and comparable data is available. A particularly distinctive feature of the Index is its Domain 5. This Domain charts how states are faring in creating the conditions that need to be in place for realizing children's rights and/or for making children's rights policies and putting them into effect. In other words, Domain 5 assesses how states are doing in providing the 'enabling environment' for children's rights required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Overall, the KidsRights Index presents an accessible, general, and comparative overview of state performance on selected children's rights. It also creates a basis for making concrete and evidence-based recommendations on how governments might improve on various children's rights matters.

2.2. Methodology of the KidsRights Index

The KidsRights Index has developed a fully comparable measure of state performance on children's rights, applicable to as many States Parties to the CRC as there are data for. Specific child rights issues, such as child marriage or the situation of children in armed conflict, are much more prevalent in some countries than in others. This makes it difficult to arrive at a fair comparison between countries when scoring such issues in an index. In addition, and as also explained in the introduction to this Report, insufficient or non-availability of data on certain specific issues (such as violence against children, or the treatment of refugee children) makes it hard to measure those issues and/or to come to adequately comparable results.

Therefore, the KidsRights Index focuses on more generic issues which in principle are equally relevant for all states parties to the CRC and for which, on the whole, reliable data are available. The KidsRights Index rankings are the outcome of an integrated analysis of existing, high-quality data published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.⁹⁴

The Index covers the following five Domains:

⁹¹ Hereafter also referred to as the 'Index'.

⁹² UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, p. 3, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>.

⁹³ The term 'state party' refers to states that have formally bound themselves to the CRC (through ratification or accession). Since 2015, this is the case for 196 states. The USA remains the only state that did not follow up on its signature with a ratification.

⁹⁴ These data are drawn from <https://data.unicef.org/>, www.hdr.undp.org/data, and the 'Concluding Observations' published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the end of the periodic state reporting procedure for all states that have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The latter are available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en.

- 1. Domain 1: Right to Life**
- 2. Domain 2: Right to Health**
- 3. Domain 3: Right to Education**
- 4. Domain 4: Right to Protection**
- 5. Domain 5: Enabling Environment for Child Rights**

Twenty indicators together cover and measure these five Domains. Thirteen indicators are quantitative (Domains 1 to 4) and seven are qualitative (Domain 5). The data collected is systematically rated for all the countries included in the Index, by applying a standard calculating method. Countries are ranked on each of the five Domains, which in turn generates a comprehensive overall ranking.

An overview of all indicators is presented in the Annexure to this Report. Further specifications on the calculation of scores are provided in the next sub-sections of this Report (2.2.1-2.2.3).

2.2.1. Calculation of scores for Domain 5

Domain 5, or the 'Enabling Environment for Children's Rights', is an important and unique Domain of the KidsRights Index. Closely based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it reveals to what extent countries have operationalized the Convention's general principles and the state of their basic 'infrastructure' for making and implementing children's rights policies. The scores on Domain 5 are derived from the latest Concluding Observations (COs) adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. These COs are the final product of the state reporting procedure that monitors how states are doing in implementing the Convention. They communicate the views of the CRC Committee on the level of realization of children's rights achieved in a particular country and period of time.

The specific scores on Domain 5 are generated as follows. First, the Committee's Concluding Observations are analyzed for remarks about a country's performance on the seven selected indicators that make up Domain 5:

- 1. Non-discrimination**
- 2. Best interests of the child**
- 3. Respect for the views of the child/child participation**
- 4. Enabling national legislation**
- 5. Mobilization of the 'best available' budget**
- 6. Collection and analysis of disaggregated data**
- 7. State-civil society cooperation for children's rights.**

These seven selected indicators together represent what can be seen as the general enabling environment, or 'infrastructure' for children's rights that every State Party to the CRC is expected to have in place. The first three (non-discrimination, best interests, and child participation) are general principles of the

Convention.⁹⁵ The last four (legislation, budget, data, and state civil society collaboration) represent basic elements or tools that states must mobilize to be able to make and carry out child rights policies and to trigger child rights practice. This set of requirements can be applied to all countries in the world, is equally relevant to all countries in the world, and crucial for creating capacity to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Thus, they form a pertinent and fully comparable measure for children's rights performance.

For each of the above seven indicators, countries are scored on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned for each indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its Concluding Observations. A score of 1 (or 'bad') means that the Committee made exclusively negative remarks. A score of 2 (or 'average') implies that the Committee made both negative and positive remarks. A score of 3 (or 'good') means that the Committee presented positive remarks only. In case the Committee did not address a particular indicator in the Concluding Observations on a particular country, the score of NA (for 'not addressed') applies.

The scoring for Domain 5 is carried out separately and independently by two researchers. If upon comparison of their scores it turns out that there are differences between them (which happens relatively rarely because the scoring system is simple and in most cases its application is straightforward), the final score is determined jointly, in consultation between the two researchers. These scores are then standardized into a Mean of the scores received. The specific text in the Concluding Observations on which the scores are based is made publicly available in an overview table at <https://www.kidsrights.org/kidsrights-index/reports-and-publications/>.

2.2.2. Calculation of scores for Domains 1 to 4

The scores for Domains 1 to 4 are also calculated as the mean of the scores on the underlying indicators. These scores are standardized between a minimum of 0.01 and a maximum of 1. If scores are missing for particular indicators, the domain score is calculated over the score of the remaining indicators. However, a country is not included in the overall Index if the score on Domain 5 'Enabling Environment for Child Rights' is missing, or if more than half of all the domain scores are missing. The score for a particular domain is not calculated if there is data missing for more than half of the indicators in that Domain.

2.2.3. Calculation of overall scores, ranks and clusters

The total score of the KidsRights Index is calculated as the geometric mean of the scores on the five Domains. In general, the geometric mean is used instead of the arithmetic mean, because this makes it more difficult to compensate for low scores on specific Domains. This is justified by the argument that such compensation is not desirable, because all the children's rights aspects covered in the Index are considered

⁹⁵ These general principles were identified by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and are supposed to be leading considerations in all CRC implementation efforts. Survival and development of children has been identified as another general principle of the Convention. However, this is of a different (including more substantive) nature than the three other general principles mentioned, and in fact only fully pursued through realizing the Convention as a whole. In that spirit, the general principle of survival and development is integrated into the KidsRights Index via Domains 1 to 4 and not addressed separately again in Domain 5.

equally important. Therefore, an extremely low score in one area of children's rights, for example on providing an 'enabling environment for children's rights', cannot be compensated by a high score, for instance, on 'education'.

The Index is a ranked list of countries, with colour-coding indicating relevant clusters of rankings. There are five different clusters (see figure 1 below). Each cluster displays a similar performance level. This means that each cluster represents countries for which the scores are in the same range, for example 0.991 to 0.981. Within a cluster, the scores of countries are more similar than across clusters. The clusters are expressed in coloured world maps on <https://www.kidsrights.org/research/kidsrights-index/>.

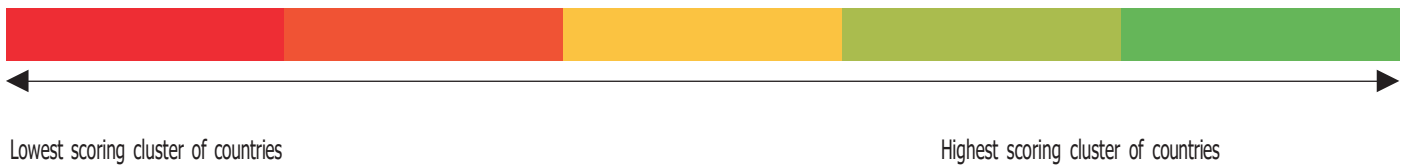
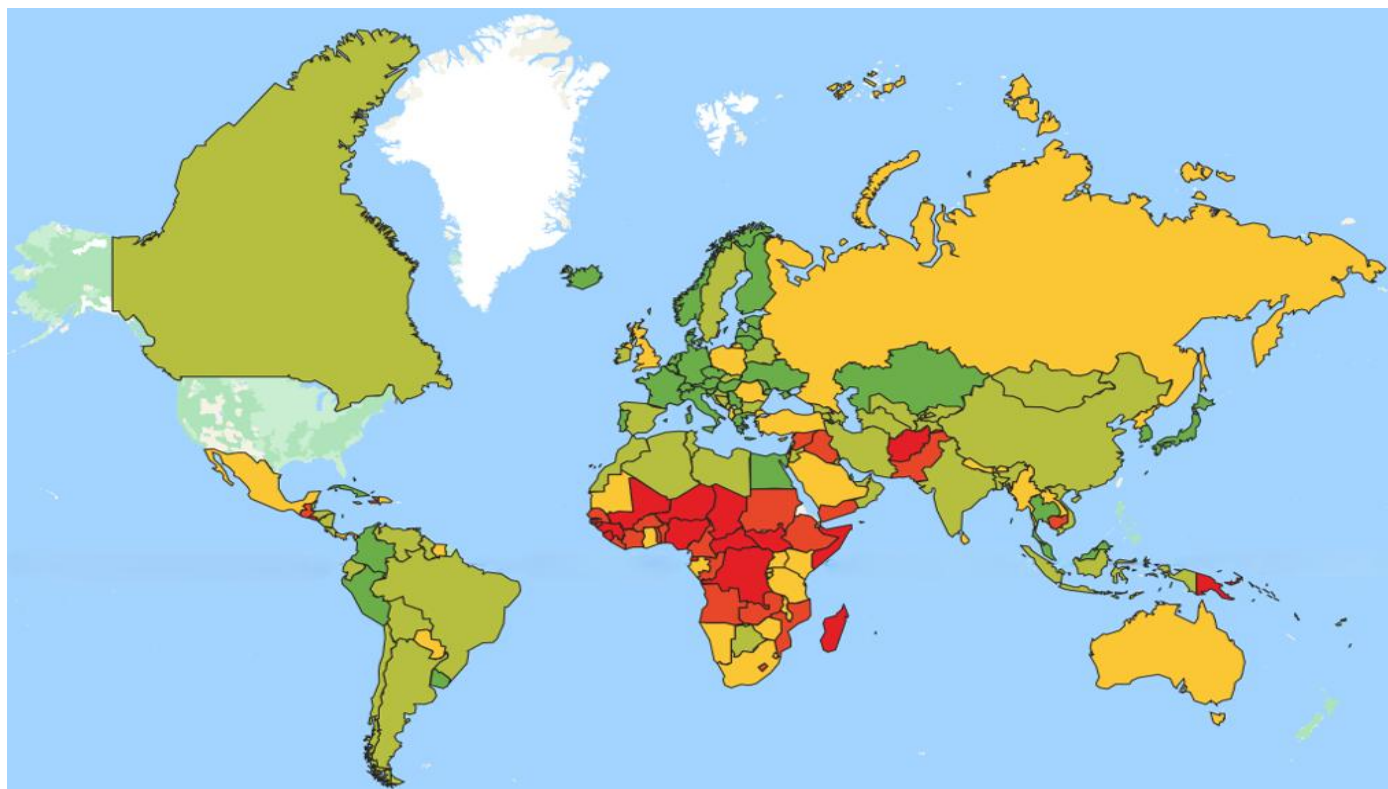


Figure: Colour-coding indicating relevant clusters of rankings

3. SPECIFIC RESULTS OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX 2025

3.1. Overview of the overall KidsRights Index 2025



Map 1: Overall KidsRights Index

Top ten countries KRI 2025	Rank KRI 2025	Score KRI 2025
Greece	1	0,879
Iceland	2	0,878
Luxembourg	3	0,878
Germany	4	0,876
Monaco	5	0,862
Denmark	6	0,857
Belgium	7	0,857
Norway	8	0,857
Finland	9	0,856
Thailand	10	0,855

Table 1: Top ten countries in the KidsRights Index 2025

The number of countries included in the KidsRights Index 2025 remains the same as in 2024: 194 in total. Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg and Germany continue to constitute the top four of the KidsRights Index (KRI) with only minimal differences in their total scores. In 2025, Greece and Luxembourg have interchanged their positions (1st and 3rd), while Iceland and Germany maintained their 2nd and 4th positions, respectively. Greece recorded a minute improvement in its total score from 0.878 in 2024 to 0.879 in 2025. Luxembourg and

Iceland recorded a minor reduction in their total scores compared to 2024, from 0.885 to 0.878 and from 0.884 to 0.878, respectively.

Greece

As noted in the KRI 2023, Greece ranked 32nd in the KRI 2022 and improved to the 6th position in 2023 after the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child made positive observations in its Concluding Observations issued in 2022.⁹⁶ With minor changes in the domain scores, combined with a relative decline in the domain scores of the other countries in the top ten, Greece climbed up to the 3rd position in the KRI 2024 and to the 1st place in KRI 2025.

In the Concluding Observations 2022 the Committee appreciated the measures undertaken by Greece to combat discrimination against various groups of vulnerable children, but expressed concerns about the persisting discrimination against migrant, asylum-seeking, unaccompanied and undocumented children, among others.⁹⁷ The situation of unaccompanied children has remained concerning since, especially considering the 2024 judgment of the European Court of Human Rights⁹⁸ which found Greece to have violated the rights of children by subjecting them to degrading treatment at the then reception and identification center on the island of Samos (2020). The newly established EU-funded Samos Closed Controlled Access Center (CCAC) too is subject to criticism for its unsuitable conditions for children.⁹⁹ In Greece, children under the age of 17 are also prone to a higher risk of poverty than the population at large, at 28.1 per cent compared to 26.1 per cent,¹⁰⁰ putting them at a greater risk of deprivation when compared to adults.

The top three countries in the KidsRights Index 2025 are only separated by one-thousandth point in their scores, reflecting no real difference between them in terms of their realization of the child rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In fact, Germany, ranking 4th, is also separated from the top three countries by a difference of mere 0.002 in the overall score, basically placing it on par with these countries.

Countries	Life Rank	Health Rank	Education Rank	Protection Rank	Enabling Environment Rank
Greece	30	10	4	21	45 (+7)
Iceland	14	47	11 (-4)	14	29 (+7)
Luxembourg	18 (-5)	11 (+5)	58 (-9)	8	2
Germany	31 (-5)	14	13	13	28 (+7)

Table 2: Top four countries in KidsRights Index 2025 with their respective domain-wise rankings

⁹⁶ 'Specific Results of the KidsRights Index 2023', in: Karin Arts (ISS), Avinash Reddy Pichhili (KidsRights) and Ujjwal Dubey (KidsRights) - with data inputs from Mirthe Hendriks (ESE) and Philip Hans Franses (ESE), 'The KidsRights Index Report 2023', Section 3, <https://files.kidsrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/18142918/KidsRights-Index-2023-Report.pdf>, p. 18.

⁹⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fourth to Sixth Periodic Reports of Greece', UN Doc. CRC/C/GRC/CO/4-6, 28 June 2022, para 17.

⁹⁸ European Court of Human Rights Case of T.A. AND OTHERS v. GREECE, Applications nos. [15293/20](https://www.echr.coe.int/ViewDoc.aspx?id=1529320) and 3 others, 3 October 2024.

⁹⁹ I Have Rights., 'Degrading Conditions in Samos CCAC: The European Court of Human Rights grants Interim Measures, Vathy (Samos)', 7 February 2024, <https://ihaverights.eu/european-court-of-human-rights-grants-interim-measures/>.

¹⁰⁰ European Anti-Poverty, 'Greece: Towards Systemic Approach to Social Protection', Poverty Watch 2024, https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/eapn-Greece_Poverty-Watch-6023.pdf, p. 5.

The above table provides an overview of the domain-level ranks of the top four countries in the KRI 2025 and their change in ranks from KRI 2024, if notable. Among the top four countries, Greece is the best in the Domains Health and Education, while Luxembourg is the best in the Domains Protection and Enabling Environment. Iceland is the best of these four countries in the Domain Life. Even though Germany does not outperform the top three countries in any of the domains, its performance is the most consistent across the 5 domains.

Monaco entered the top ten of the KRI 2025 by climbing 13 ranks, from the 18th place in 2024 to the 5th place in 2025. **Norway** is the other new entrant in the top ten as it improved from ranking 11th in 2024 to 8th in 2025. To the contrary, **Slovenia** dropped from the 6th to the 12th position and **Austria** dropped from being 10th to 11th and thus both countries lost their position in the top ten of the KidsRights Index.

At the regional level, among the top twenty-five countries of the KRI 2025, eighteen are from Western Europe, three from East Asia and Pacific (**Thailand, the Republic of Korea** and **Japan**), two from Latin America and Caribbean (**Uruguay** and **Barbados**) and one each from Eastern Europe and Central Asia (**Kazakhstan**) and the Middle East and North Africa (**Qatar**).

Bottom ten countries KRI 2025	Rank KRI 2025	Score KRI 2025
El Salvador	185	0,332
Sierra Leone	186	0,332
Niger	187	0,310
Democratic Republic of the Congo	188	0,309
Madagascar	189	0,295
Guinea	190	0,292
Chad	191	0,259
Central African Republic	192	0,255
South Sudan	193	0,228
Afghanistan	194	0,206

Table 3: Bottom ten countries in the KidsRights Index 2025

At the other end of the overall ranking table, **Afghanistan** and **South Sudan** remain the lowest ranked countries in the KidsRights Index. **Sierra Leone** dropped by two ranks to enter the bottom ten of the KRI 2025, replacing **Equatorial Guinea** which improved by six ranks, from 190th in 2024 to 184th in 2025.

3.1.1. Biggest movers in the overall KidsRights Index 2025

Climbers 2025

Lithuania improved the most in the KidsRights Index 2025. It climbed up 92 ranks, from 112th in 2024 to 20th in 2025. It is followed by **Armenia**, which improved by 56 ranks from being 125th in 2024 to 69th in 2025, and **Argentina**, which improved by 36 ranks from the 84th place in 2024 to the 48th place in 2025. The significant improvement of the overall rankings for these three countries is attributable to their improved scores in Domain 5, the Enabling Environment for Children's Rights, based on their assessments by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. **Section 3.6** below provides a detailed overview of the most notable changes in Domain 5.

China improved its overall rank by 35 ranks, from the 100th to the 75th position. This is primarily due to its improved scores in Domains 3 and 4 (Education, and Protection, respectively). Due to its significantly improved performance in the Domain Education, **the Marshall Islands** also improved their result by 28 ranks, climbing from the 130th up to the 102nd position.

The other countries to have shown notable improvements are Jordan (+22), Malaysia (+21), Guyana and Tuvalu (+20).

Descenders 2025

Mexico descended the most in the KidsRights Index 2025 as it dropped by 87 ranks, from 42nd in 2024 to 129th in 2025. It is closely followed by **Bulgaria** which fell by 75 ranks, from 30th in 2024 to 105th in 2025. The Russian Federation (-60), Paraguay (-59), Senegal (-58), South Africa (-53), Turkmenistan (-49), Israel (-45), Bhutan (-40) and Jamaica (-29) are the other countries that saw a significant decline in their overall KRI rankings this year.

All these countries, except for Jamaica, declined in their overall rankings primarily due to a significant reduction in their Domain 5 scores after receiving their respective Concluding Observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2024. Jamaica's decline is attributable to its drop in the Domain Education. **Sections 3.4** and **3.6** below on the Domains Education and Enabling Environment for Children's Rights provide further insights into these movements.

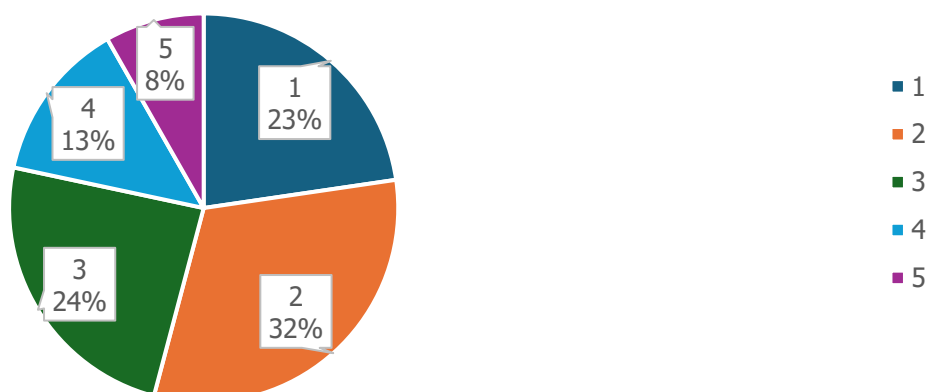
Guatemala (-25), Namibia (-24), Mali (-23) and Grenada (-21) are the other countries that have descended in the overall rankings of the KRI 2025.

3.1.2. Global cluster insights for the overall KidsRights Index 2025

The 194 countries included in the KidsRights Index are categorized into 5 clusters. Cluster 1 contains the best performing countries and Cluster 5 holding the worst performing countries. Countries that are grouped together in the clusters can be broadly understood as performing at the same level, despite the differences in their respective rankings. Cluster movement of countries is a strong signifier of major improvements or downgrades in the situation of children's rights. In this report, cluster insights are provided for the overall KidsRights Index 2025, as well as for each of the domains in their respective sections, along with a granular overview of the cluster groupings at the regional level. These global and regional level cluster insights further help in assessing and contextualizing the progress made in realizing the children's rights standards set out in the UNCRC.

In the overall cluster categorization in the KidsRights Index 2025, the highest concentration of countries is in Cluster 2 (at 32 per cent), followed by Clusters 3 (24 per cent) and 1 (23 per cent). A breakdown of all clusters is visualized in the next pie chart.

Overall KRI 2025: percentage breakdown of countries per cluster



Compared to the cluster categorization of last year, nineteen countries improved their clusters, while fifteen countries descended. Of the climbers, **Lithuania** is the only country that moved up by two clusters, while the rest of the eighteen climbers improved by a single cluster. None of the fifteen descending countries dropped by more than one cluster.

Overall Cluster	No. of countries in 2025	No. of countries in 2024
1	44	39
2	61	65
3	47	48
4	26	27
5	16	15

Table 4: Overall KRI Clusters 2025 vs 2024

The above table reveals that in 2025, the number of countries in Cluster 1 increased by five when compared to 2024. At a granular level, seven countries (**Hungary, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and San Marino**), moved up from Cluster 2 to 1. However, three countries (**Bulgaria, Montenegro and Turkmenistan**) moved down from Cluster 1 to 2. A further eight countries each moved up and down between Clusters 2 and 3. Similarly, three countries each moved up and down between Clusters 3 and 4. **Mali** is the only country that moved down from Cluster 4 to 5, signaling a further deterioration in the situation of children's rights in the country.

3.1.3. Regional level cluster insights for the overall KidsRights Index 2025

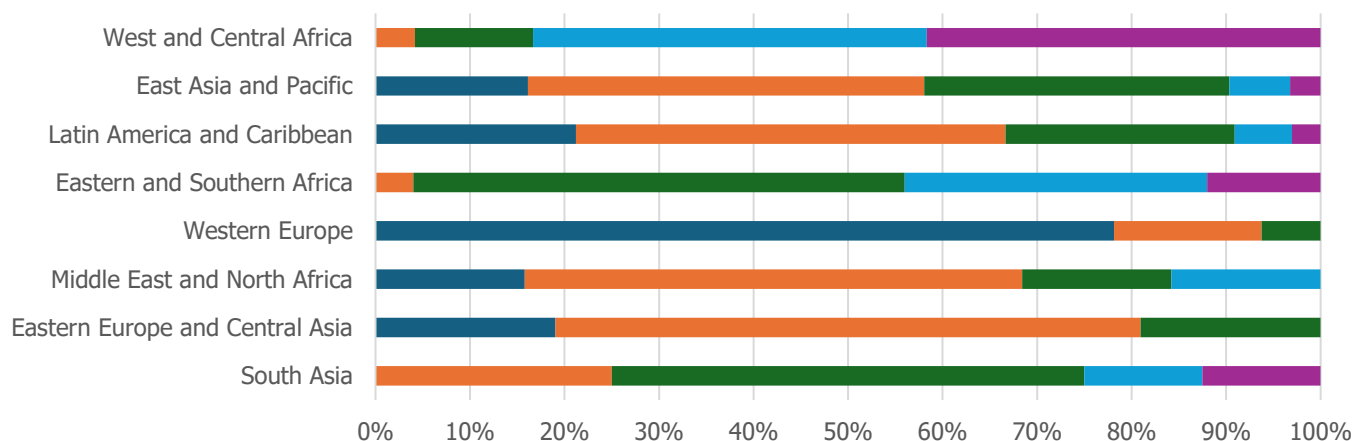
Four regions, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (62 per cent), the Middle East and North Africa (53 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (45 per cent), and East Asia and the Pacific (42 per cent), have the highest proportion of countries in Cluster 2. Western Europe is the only region that has the highest concentration in Cluster 1, with 78 per cent of countries. Overall, these five regions are performing better than the other regions on upholding children's rights in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The table below provides a detailed overview of the cluster representation at regional level.

Regions	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
South Asia	0	2	4	1	1
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	4	13	4	0	0
Middle East and North Africa	3	10	3	3	0
Western Europe	25	5	2	0	0
Eastern and Southern Africa	0	1	13	8	3
Latin America and Caribbean	7	15	8	2	1
North America	0	1	0	0	0
East Asia and Pacific	5	13	10	2	1
West and Central Africa	0	1	3	10	10

Table 5: Region-level cluster representation based on the overall KRI 2025 scores

Countries from the regions South Asia and Eastern and Southern Africa are heavily concentrated in Cluster 3, with 50 and 52 per cent respectively. West and Central Africa have an equal proportion of countries, 42 per cent each, in Clusters 4 and 5 or the bottom two clusters. Further, none of these three regions have a representation in Cluster 1 and barely have any representation in Cluster 2. This shows that these three regions are seriously challenged in implementing the UNCRC and that there is a significant scope and need for improvement in this situation. The following chart visualizes the percentage of countries per region that are represented in the different clusters based on the overall KRI 2025.

**Percentage representation of countries per region
in the clusters: Overall KRI**



	South Asia	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Middle East and North Africa	Western Europe	Eastern and Southern Africa	Latin America and Caribbean	East Asia and Pacific	West and Central Africa
Cluster 1	0%	19%	16%	78%	0%	21%	16%	0%
Cluster 2	25%	62%	53%	16%	4%	45%	42%	4%
Cluster 3	50%	19%	16%	6%	52%	24%	32%	13%
Cluster 4	13%	0%	16%	0%	32%	6%	6%	42%
Cluster 5	13%	0%	0%	0%	12%	3%	3%	42%

This section highlighted the most significant changes in the overall rankings of the countries included in the KidsRights Index, with several countries declining or improving mainly due to their updated scores for Domain 5 or the Enabling Environment for Children's Rights. These are based on the issuance of new Concluding Observations from the CRC Committee in 2024. However, we also observed some significant changes in the overall rankings due to performance in other domains. For instance, in the Domains Education and Protection for **China**, and in the Domain Education for the Marshall Islands, these countries showed clear improvements. And in the Domain Education, **Jamaica's** record declined, causing a fall in its overall ranking too. This year, **Lithuania**, the only country to have improved by two clusters based on its overall scores, has shown the most significant improvement of all 194 countries in the Index.

At the regional level, Western Europe constitutes the majority of the top twenty-five countries in the overall rankings, while it also is the only region which has its majority of countries in Cluster 1. As highlighted earlier, regional disparities in implementing the UNCRC can be clearly observed, considering that regions such as South Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa have no representation in Cluster 1 and are heavily concentrated in the bottom Clusters 3-5.

Global ranks: Overall KRI 2025

Countries	Score	Rank
Greece	0,879	1
Iceland	0,878	2
Luxembourg	0,878	3
Germany	0,876	4
Monaco	0,862	5
Denmark	0,857	6
Belgium	0,857	7
Norway	0,857	8
Finland	0,856	9
Thailand	0,855	10
Austria	0,855	11
Slovenia	0,854	12
Latvia	0,850	13
Portugal	0,840	14
Republic of Korea	0,837	15
Czech Republic	0,836	16
Italy	0,836	17
Qatar	0,829	18
France	0,827	19
Lithuania	0,823	20
Netherlands	0,821	21
Uruguay	0,818	22
Kazakhstan	0,816	23
Japan	0,811	24
Barbados	0,807	25
Estonia	0,804	26
Malaysia	0,798	27
Bahrain	0,795	28
Andorra	0,795	29
Singapore	0,795	30
Antigua and Barbuda	0,794	31
Peru	0,793	32
Serbia	0,793	33
Malta	0,792	34
Liechtenstein	0,792	35
Ukraine	0,791	36
Switzerland	0,790	37
Cuba	0,785	38
Colombia	0,785	39
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,782	40
Hungary	0,779	41
San Marino	0,777	42
Republic of Moldova	0,775	43
Egypt	0,775	44
Algeria	0,774	45
Morocco	0,770	46
Montenegro	0,767	47
Argentina	0,764	48
Cyprus	0,762	49
Chile	0,762	50
Trinidad and Tobago	0,762	51
Guyana	0,757	52
Cabo Verde	0,754	53

Lebanon	0,751	54
Tunisia	0,749	55
Georgia	0,747	56
Tonga	0,745	57
Costa Rica	0,744	58
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0,744	59
North Macedonia	0,741	60
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0,739	61
New Zealand	0,739	62
Brunei Darussalam	0,738	63
Spain	0,737	64
United Arab Emirates	0,734	65
Ireland	0,732	66
Canada	0,731	67
Azerbaijan	0,730	68
Armenia	0,729	69
Samoa	0,726	70
Kuwait	0,725	71
Philippines	0,722	72
Nicaragua	0,719	73
Sweden	0,717	74
China	0,716	75
Jordan	0,716	76
Fiji	0,716	77
Oman	0,715	78
Ecuador	0,712	79
Belarus	0,712	80
Botswana	0,708	81
Turkmenistan	0,708	82
Slovakia	0,708	83
Belize	0,707	84
Croatia	0,707	85
Honduras	0,706	86
Kyrgyzstan	0,706	87
Grenada	0,706	88
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0,704	89
Jamaica	0,703	90
Mongolia	0,701	91
Saint Lucia	0,691	92
Bangladesh	0,687	93
Uzbekistan	0,687	94
Tuvalu	0,676	95
India	0,673	96
Cook Islands	0,671	97
Tajikistan	0,671	98
Brazil	0,669	99
Libya	0,669	100
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0,664	101
Marshall Islands	0,656	102
Indonesia	0,654	103
Viet Nam	0,652	104
Bulgaria	0,652	105
Turkey	0,647	106
Timor-Leste	0,645	107
Romania	0,644	108
State of Palestine	0,643	109

Suriname	0,642	110
Palau	0,642	111
Mauritius	0,640	112
Israel	0,634	113
Malawi	0,621	114
Poland	0,620	115
Rwanda	0,618	116
Dominica	0,610	117
Dominican Republic	0,610	118
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0,608	119
Eswatini	0,607	120
Vanuatu	0,602	121
Nepal	0,599	122
Kiribati	0,596	123
Gabon	0,595	124
Namibia	0,591	125
Myanmar	0,590	126
Panama	0,588	127
Bahamas	0,588	128
Mexico	0,582	129
United Kingdom	0,582	130
Ghana	0,581	131
Mauritania	0,581	132
Australia	0,579	133
Bhutan	0,576	134
Kenya	0,576	135
Maldives	0,575	136
Nauru	0,572	137
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0,568	138
Paraguay	0,565	139
Seychelles	0,562	140
United Republic of Tanzania	0,560	141
Zimbabwe	0,555	142
Burundi	0,547	143
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,546	144
Saudi Arabia	0,545	145
South Africa	0,541	146
Russian Federation	0,541	147
Albania	0,536	148
Uganda	0,532	149
Djibouti	0,530	150
Sri Lanka	0,525	151
Solomon Islands	0,519	152
Haiti	0,516	153
Gambia	0,516	154
Pakistan	0,512	155
Syrian Arab Republic	0,503	156
Zambia	0,500	157
Lesotho	0,497	158
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0,496	159
Angola	0,487	160
Liberia	0,482	161
Congo	0,476	162

Cameroon	0,476	163
Yemen	0,472	164
Côte d'Ivoire	0,467	165
Togo	0,465	166
Burkina Faso	0,463	167
Iraq	0,459	168
Sao Tome and Principe	0,457	169
Guatemala	0,453	170
Benin	0,449	171
Comoros	0,449	172
Eritrea	0,445	173
Cambodia	0,442	174
Mozambique	0,421	175
Sudan	0,401	176
Ethiopia	0,399	177
Senegal	0,396	178
Guinea-Bissau	0,381	179
Papua New Guinea	0,375	180
Nigeria	0,364	181
Somalia	0,361	182
Mali	0,351	183
Equatorial Guinea	0,344	184
El Salvador	0,332	185
Sierra Leone	0,332	186
Niger	0,310	187
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,309	188
Madagascar	0,295	189
Guinea	0,292	190
Chad	0,259	191
Central African Republic	0,255	192
South Sudan	0,228	193
Afghanistan	0,206	194

Netherlands	18
Estonia	19
Andorra	20
Malta	21
Liechtenstein	22
Switzerland	23
Hungary	24
San Marino	25
Cyprus	26
Spain	27
Ireland	28
Sweden	29
Slovakia	30
Poland	31
United Kingdom	32

Eastern Europe & Central Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Overall KRI 2025
Kazakhstan	1
Serbia	2
Ukraine	3
Republic of Moldova	4
Montenegro	5
Georgia	6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7
North Macedonia	8
Azerbaijan	9
Armenia	10
Belarus	11
Turkmenistan	12
Croatia	13
Kyrgyzstan	14
Uzbekistan	15
Tajikistan	16
Bulgaria	17
Turkey	18
Romania	19
Russian Federation	20
Albania	21

Zambia	15
Lesotho	16
Angola	17
Comoros	18
Eritrea	19
Mozambique	20
Sudan	21
Ethiopia	22
Somalia	23
Madagascar	24
South Sudan	25

Middle East & North Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Overall KRI 2025
Qatar	1
Bahrain	2
Egypt	3
Algeria	4
Morocco	5
Lebanon	6
Tunisia	7
United Arab Emirates	8
Kuwait	9
Jordan	10
Oman	11
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12
Libya	13
State of Palestine	14
Israel	15
Saudi Arabia	16
Syrian Arab Republic	17
Yemen	18
Iraq	19

Regional ranks: Overall KRI 2025

Western Europe	
Countries	Regional rankings Overall KRI 2025
Greece	1
Iceland	2
Luxembourg	3
Germany	4
Monaco	5
Denmark	6
Belgium	7
Norway	8
Finland	9
Austria	10
Slovenia	11
Latvia	12
Portugal	13
Czech Republic	14
Italy	15
France	16
Lithuania	17

Eastern & Southern Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Overall KRI 2025
Botswana	1
Mauritius	2
Malawi	3
Rwanda	4
Eswatini	5
Namibia	6
Kenya	7
Seychelles	8
United Republic of Tanzania	9
Zimbabwe	10
Burundi	11
South Africa	12
Uganda	13
Djibouti	14

West & Central Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Overall KRI 2025
Cabo Verde	1
Gabon	2
Ghana	3
Mauritania	4
Gambia	5
Liberia	6
Congo	7
Cameroon	8
Côte d'Ivoire	9
Togo	10
Burkina Faso	11
Sao Tome and Principe	12
Benin	13
Senegal	14
Guinea-Bissau	15
Nigeria	16
Mali	17
Equatorial Guinea	18
Sierra Leone	19

Niger	20
Democratic Republic of the Congo	21
Guinea	22
Chad	23
Central African Republic	24

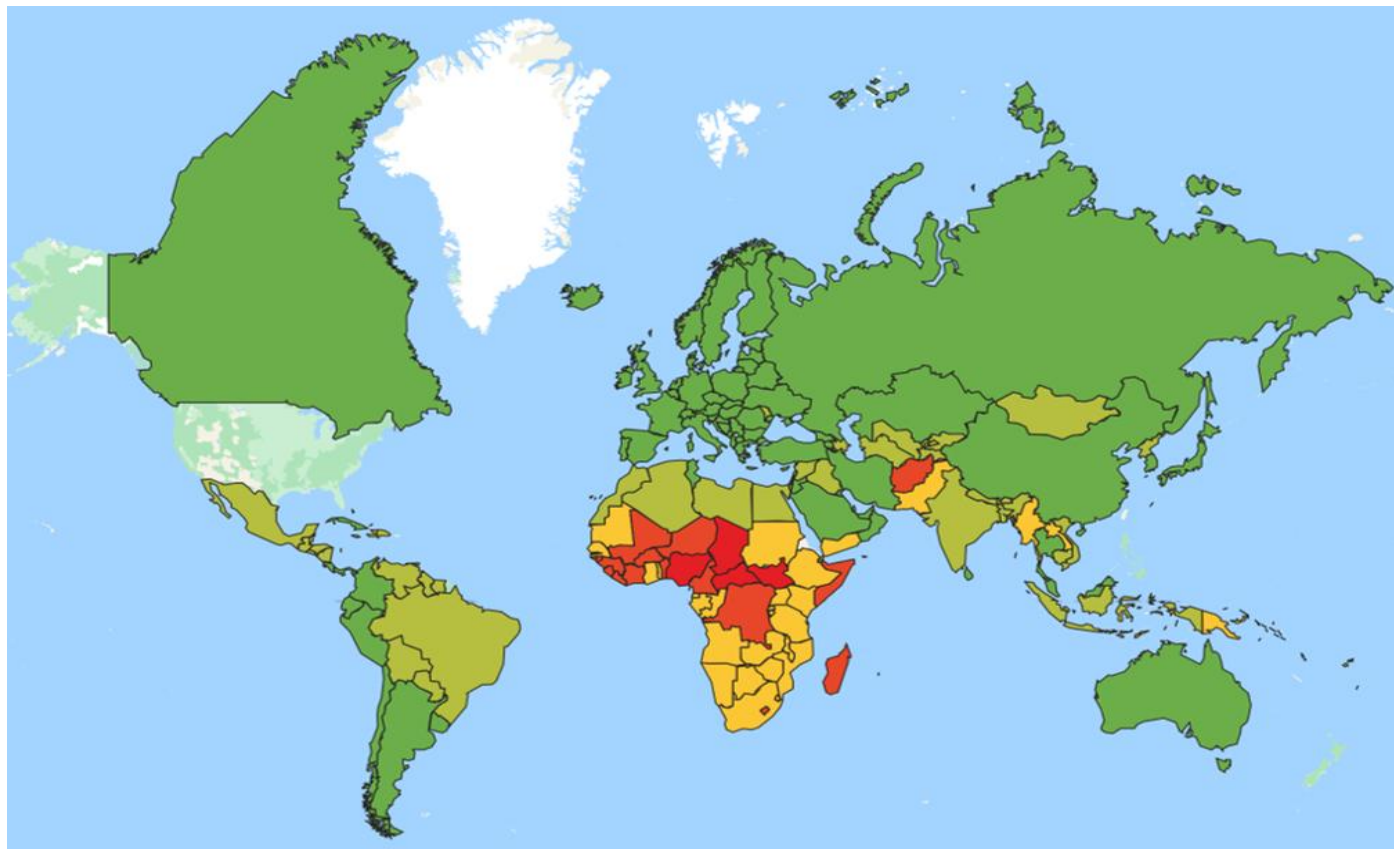
Latin America & Caribbean	
Countries	Regional rankings Overall KRI 2025
Uruguay	1
Barbados	2
Antigua and Barbuda	3
Peru	4
Cuba	5
Colombia	6
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	7
Argentina	8
Chile	9
Trinidad and Tobago	10
Guyana	11
Costa Rica	12
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	13
Nicaragua	14
Ecuador	15
Belize	16
Honduras	17
Grenada	18
Jamaica	19
Saint Lucia	20
Brazil	21
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	22
Suriname	23
Dominica	24
Dominican Republic	25
Panama	26
Bahamas	27
Mexico	28
Paraguay	29
Saint Kitts and Nevis	30
Haiti	31
Guatemala	32
El Salvador	33

South Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health
Bangladesh	1
India	2
Nepal	3

Bhutan	4
Maldives	5
Sri Lanka	6
Pakistan	7
Afghanistan	8

East Asia & Pacific	
Countries	Regional rankings Overall KRI 2025
Thailand	1
Republic of Korea	2
Japan	3
Malaysia	4
Singapore	5
Tonga	6
New Zealand	7
Brunei Darussalam	8
Samoa	9
Philippines	10
China	11
Fiji	12
Mongolia	13
Tuvalu	14
Cook Islands	15
Marshall Islands	16
Indonesia	17
Viet Nam	18
Timor-Leste	19
Palau	20
Lao People's Democratic Republic	21
Vanuatu	22
Kiribati	23
Myanmar	24
Australia	25
Nauru	26
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	27
Solomon Islands	28
Micronesia (Federated States of)	29
Cambodia	30
Papua New Guinea	31

3.2. Overview of the Domain Life



Map 2: Domain Life

Top ten countries Domain Life	Life Rank KRI 2025	Life Score KRI 2025
Monaco	1	0,994
San Marino	2	0,990
Japan	3	0,979
Republic of Korea	4	0,973
Singapore	5	0,969
Italy	6	0,968
Australia	7	0,967
Spain	8	0,967
Norway	9	0,966
Switzerland	10	0,966

Table 6: Top ten countries in Domain Life of KidsRights Index 2025

Monaco remains the top performing country in the Domain Life for the third consecutive year. **Liechtenstein** remains as the only country again that is included in the KRI but is missing the Domain Life score due to the unavailability of data.

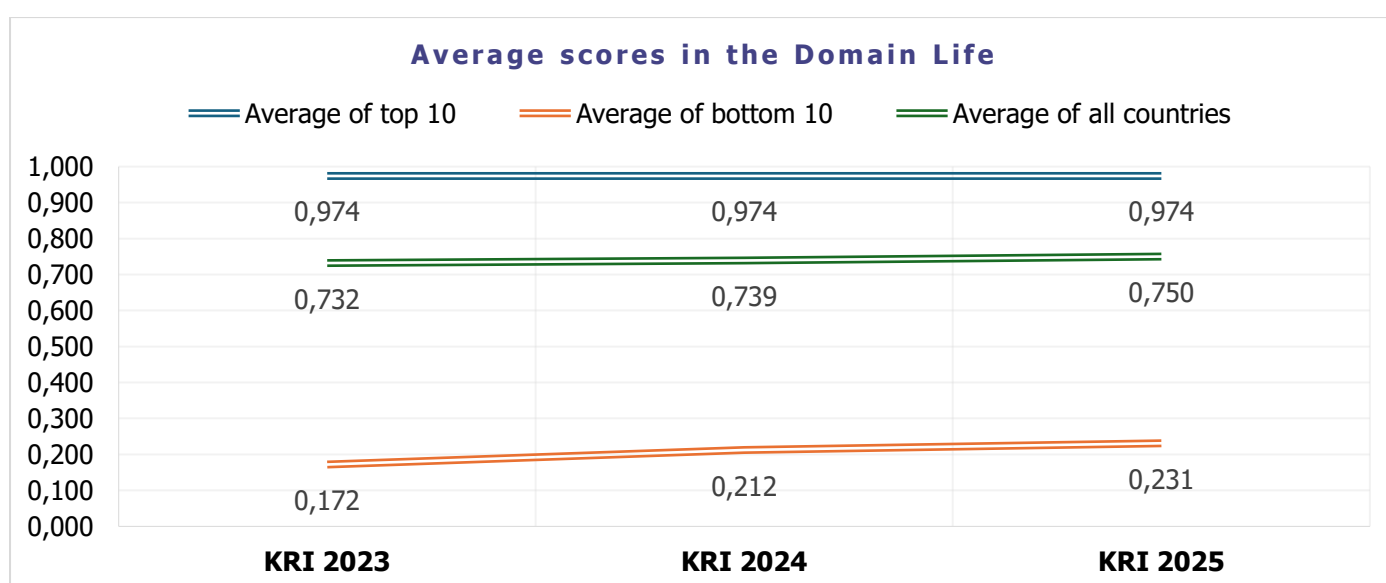
San Marino entered the top ten of the Domain Life aided by an improvement of 28 ranks, from the 30th position in 2024 to 2nd in 2025. **Singapore** is the other new entrant in the top ten since last year as it climbed

up from the 11th to the 5th rank. **Malta** and **Sweden** dropped out of top ten as they fell by seven and four ranks, respectively.

Among the top twenty-five countries in the Domain Life, eighteen are from Western Europe, followed by four countries (**Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore** and **Australia**) from East Asia and the Pacific – with all four also featuring among the top ten countries in this domain. Two countries from the region Middle East and North Africa (**Israel** and the **United Arab Emirates**), and **Canada** from the region North America complete the top twenty-five.

Compared to their respective ranks in the Domain Life in the KidsRights Index 2024, twenty countries maintained the same rank, eighteen countries improved by ten ranks or more, and fifteen countries fell by ten ranks or more.

Some notable positive trends can be observed in the Domain Life. The average score of countries has gradually increased from 0.732 in the KRI 2023 to 0.739 in the KRI 2024 and 0.75 in the KRI 2025. This is an improvement of 2.5% compared to the Domain Life scores in 2023. The average score of the bottom ten countries is also on an upward trend, increasing from 0.172 in the KRI 2023 to 0.212 in the KRI 2024 and 0.231 in the KRI 2025. Compared to the KRI 2023, the average score of the bottom ten countries in the KRI 2025 has recorded a staggering improvement of 34.3%, along with a year-on-year improvement of 9%. The average score of the top ten countries in this domain has plateaued at 0.974 since the KRI 2023.



3.2.1 Biggest movers in the Domain Life

Climbers

San Marino showed the highest improvement in the Domain Life by climbing 28 ranks and recording a 7 per cent increase in its domain score. It is closely followed by **Oman** (+27), which recorded the highest year-on-year increase (of 8 per cent) in the Domain Life score of all countries. Other countries that have shown notable improvement in this domain are **Yemen** (+22), Andorra (+20) and Azerbaijan (+20).

San Marino

San Marino improved both on its under-5 mortality rate and life expectancy at birth, by 15 and 6 per cent respectively. Thereby it became the 2nd best performing country in the Domain Life. It has the lowest under-5 mortality rate (1.5) and the second highest life expectancy at birth (85.7 years). The improvement of San Marino's under-5 mortality and life expectancy at birth reportedly can be inferred from its universal healthcare system which operates based on the principle of equity. The system provides basic healthcare free of charge to all citizens and others with residence in San Marino, funded by general taxation and statutory health contributions.¹⁰¹

Descenders

The **State of Palestine** dropped by 49 ranks, the highest downfall in the Domain Life in the 2025 KRI. It fell from the 75th to 124th place due to a 12 per cent reduction in its domain score as compared to 2024. Since the beginning of the ongoing war in October 2023, life expectancy in the State of Palestine has essentially been halved¹⁰², but this may not yet be fully reflected in the official data used for compiling this Index. Given the current conditions of Palestinian children, especially in Gaza, caused by the unlawful and disproportionate violence exercised by Israel and the deliberate withholding of humanitarian assistance, Palestine's ranking in the Domain Life is expected to drop further in the future. Most of the population of Gaza, including many children, has been internally displaced and faces inhumanely limited access to basic necessities including food, water and sanitation, shelter, education and essential health services.¹⁰³

Libya (-26), **Thailand** (-23), **Barbados** (-21), and **Antigua and Barbuda** (-20) are some of the other countries that saw a decline in their Domain Life rankings.

3.2.2. Underlying indicator data for the Domain Life

The scores in Domain Life are determined by the performance of countries on the three underlying indicators: under-5 mortality rate, life expectancy at birth and maternal mortality rate. Data on the maternal mortality rate did not receive any updates compared to last year, whereas new data *is* available for several countries on the under-5 mortality rate and life expectancy at birth. Therefore, any significant movement of the countries in the Domain Life rankings is directly attributed to a better or worse performance on these two indicators.

Under-5 mortality rate

¹⁰¹ Teresa Cetani and Reinhard Busse, *Health Care Systems in Transition: San Marino*, World Health Organization: European Observatory on Health Care Systems, 2002, p. 13.

¹⁰² Michel Guillot et al., 'Study Shows Drop in Life Expectancy in the Gaza Strip', *Penn Today*, 23 January 2025, <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/penn-sociology-study-shows-drop-life-expectancy-gaza-strip>.

¹⁰³ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Humanitarian Situation Update #284 Gaza Strip', 30 April 2025, <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-284-gaza-strip>; Ana Gomez Ugarte et al., 'The Effect of War on Palestinian Life Expectancy in 2023', *SocArXiv Papers*, April 2024, pp. 1-2.

The under-5 mortality rate, which indicates the number of deaths of children under the age of five per 1,000 live births, showed an alarming increase in several countries. **Lebanon** experienced the most dramatic rise, with the rate jumping by 110%, from 8 to 17. Similarly, **Cuba** saw an increase of 59%, rising from 5 to 8. **Antigua and Barbuda** followed closely with a 54% increase, going from 6 to 10. **Jamaica** also experienced a 51% spike in its under-5 mortality rate, going from 12 to 19. **Palau** and **Argentina** too recorded an increase in their under-five mortality rate by 37% and 36%, respectively.

Conversely, some countries made notable progress in reducing their under-5 mortality rates. **Yemen** achieved a 33.3 per cent reduction, bringing the rate down from 62 to 41. Both **Saint Lucia** and **Tunisia** saw a substantial improvement of around 30 per cent, with their respective rates declining from 25 to 17 and from 16 to 11. **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** and **Vanuatu** also recorded a reduction of around 21 per cent. These improvements reflect significant strides in child health and healthcare access in those countries.

Lebanon: Under 5 mortality rate has more than doubled

Lebanon's healthcare system suffers from multiple crises, including economic hardship, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 Beirut explosions, and inflation.¹⁰⁴ Lebanon has recorded an increase in neonatal mortality (i.e., the number of children dying within the first four weeks of their lives), especially among refugees.¹⁰⁵ In addition to this, several essential healthcare workers have reportedly left the country, including neonatologists, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurses and midwives, "seriously affecting the quality and accessibility of health care for women and children".¹⁰⁶

Yemen

Despite armed conflicts, child mortality has decreased in Yemen overall due to the concerted efforts of Civil Society Organizations and international organizations. Examples of the latter are the World Health Organization's 110 therapeutic feeding centers (TFCs) which nourished children, lowering the mortality rate of admitted children from 10 to 5 per cent between 2016 and 2022, during which 70009 children were treated.¹⁰⁷ In addition, UNICEF has taken measures to ensure the health of Yemeni children, such as training healthcare personnel, providing free healthcare, and vaccination campaigns.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ UNICEF Lebanon, 'A Worsening Health Crisis for Children: The Consequences of the Failing Health System has Immediate and Longer-Term Impacts on Children', UNICEF Country Office Lebanon, Beirut, April 2022, p. 2.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., p. 6.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid., p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ World Health Organization, 'Life-saving Emergency Nutrition Care to Children Under 5 in War-torn Yemen' <https://www.who.int/about/accountability/results/who-results-report-2020-2021/country-story/2021/yemen>, accessed 17 April 2025.

¹⁰⁸ UNICEF Yemen, 'Health', <https://www.unicef.org/yemen/health>, accessed 17 April 2025; UNICEF Yemen, 'Free Healthcare Saves Children's Life in Yemen', <https://www.unicef.org/yemen/stories/free-healthcare-saves-childrens-life-yemen>, 28 March 2023. UNICEF Yemen, 'Training Midwives to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes in Remote Areas', <https://www.unicef.org/yemen/stories/training-midwives-improve-maternal-health-outcomes-remote-areas>, 1 December 2023.

San Marino, at 1.5, has the lowest under-5 mortality rate of all countries included in the KidsRights Index 2025, while **Niger**, at 117.3, is at the other end of the spectrum as more than 11 per cent of the children are not expected to survive beyond 5 years.

Region	Lowest	Highest
South Asia	5.6, Maldives	61, Pakistan
East Asia and Pacific	2.2, Singapore	56.4, Kiribati
Eastern and Southern Africa	14.5, Rwanda	106, Somalia
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	2.6, Belarus	40.4, Turkmenistan
Latin America and Caribbean	6.2, Chile	56.4, Haiti
Middle East and North Africa	3.4, Israel	41.3, Yemen
West and Central Africa	12.3, Cabo Verde	117.3, Niger
Western Europe	1.5, San Marino	5.9, Slovakia

Table 7: Countries with the lowest and highest under-5 mortality rate per region

South Asia: Three countries in the region (**Afghanistan, Bangladesh** and **Nepal**) recorded an increase in under-5 mortality rates, while the remaining five countries recorded a decline. Bhutan improved the most on this indicator, by 11.1 per cent, whereas Bangladesh recorded the highest deterioration, by 5.5 per cent - nearing the regional average of 29.9.

East Asia and Pacific: Twenty-three of the thirty-one countries in the region witnessed a reduction in under-5 mortality rates. The remaining eight countries (**Australia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Kiribati, Malaysia, Palau, Philippines** and **Singapore**, deteriorated on this indicator. **Vanuatu** showcased the highest improvement as its under-5 mortality rate dropped by 22 per cent, from 23 to 18. **Palau** deteriorated the most, with its under-5 mortality rate increasing by 37.5 per cent, from 16 to 22. It is concerning that the situation in **Kiribati** worsened further, by 17 per cent, from 48 to 56, as it became the worst performing country in this region by falling lower than **Timor-Leste** which recorded a minor improvement from 51 to 49.

Eastern and Southern Africa: **Botswana, Kenya, Seychelles, South Africa** and **South Sudan** recorded a deterioration on this indicator. Both **Botswana** and **Kenya** witnessed a spike of around 11 per cent in their respective under-5 mortality rates. **United Republic of Tanzania** improved the most on this indicator in the region – by 14%. Even with an improvement of 5%, from 112 to 106, **Somalia** still remains the poorest performing country in the region.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Five countries in the region recorded an increase in under-5 mortality rates, with **Montenegro** realizing the highest increase: 20 per cent. It became the 2nd best performing country in the region as **Belarus** improved by over 5 per cent and became the best performing country on this indicator.

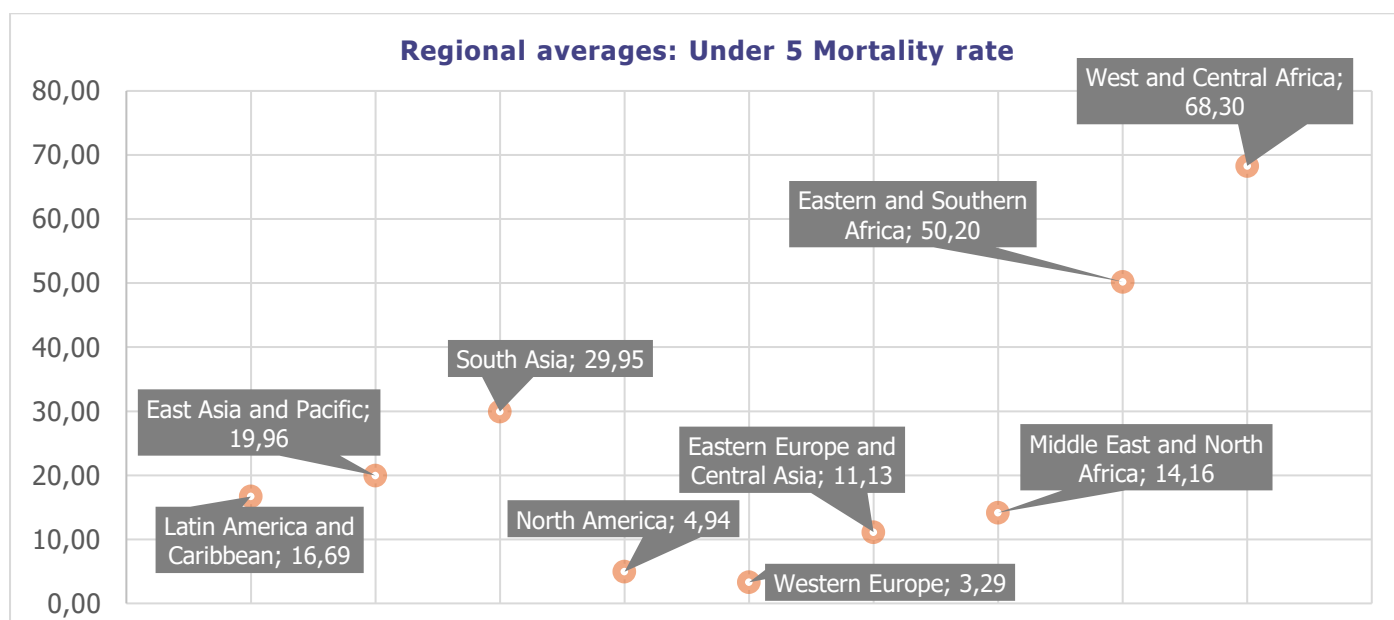
Latin America and the Caribbean: Of the thirty-three countries in the region, nine witnessed an increase in their under-5 mortality rates. **Cuba** recorded the highest increase of 59.1 per cent, closely followed by **Antigua and Barbuda** with 54.7 per cent, **Jamaica** with 51.5 per cent and **Argentina** with 36.4 per cent. **Saint Lucia** and **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** recorded the highest improvement on this indicator, by 30.3 and 20.5 per cent, respectively.

The Middle East and North Africa: **Israel, Lebanon** and **Oman** are the only three countries in the region to have recorded a spike on this indicator. The under-5 mortality rates in **Lebanon** have more than doubled from 8.2 to 17.3. **Yemen** and **Tunisia** witnessed the highest improvement regionally as well as globally, by reducing their under-5 mortality rates by around 30 per cent. **United Arab Emirates** also improved on this indicator by 16.7 per cent, from 6.4 to 5.3.

West and Central Africa: **Cameroon** and **Niger** are the only two countries in the region that recorded a minor increase in under-5 mortality rates, with the remaining twenty-two countries witnessing an improvement on this indicator. **Cabo Verde**, already the best performer in this region, further improved by 9.3 per cent, from 13.5 to 12.3. **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Sao Tome and Principe** also recorded an improvement of around 7 per cent on this indicator.

Western Europe: Twelve of the thirty-one countries in the region recorded an increase in their under-5 mortality rates. These are **Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden** and **Switzerland**. While Western Europe has the lowest regional average in under-5 mortality rate, it is also the region with the highest percentage of countries (38.7 per cent) that have recorded a spike. This signals a relatively poorer situation for children when compared to the region's previous performance. This is despite San Marino, Latvia, Austria and **Belgium** recording over 10 per cent reduction in under-5 mortality rates, with **San Marino** improving the most by 14.95 per cent.

The following chart visualizes the regional averages of under-5 mortality rates. West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa average alarmingly high under-5 mortality rates at 68.3 and 50.2 (per 1000 livebirths), respectively.



Data source: UNICEF Database: Child Mortality Estimates;¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ UNICEF, 'Under-five Mortality', <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/>, as updated in March 2024. Regional averages calculated only for the countries included in the KidsRights Index 2025.

Life expectancy at birth

Life expectancy at birth has seen a significant increase in several countries. **Namibia** experienced the most notable rise, with life expectancy growing by 13.7 per cent, from 59 to 67 years. Similarly, **Botswana** witnessed a 13 per cent increase, moving from 61 to 69 years. **Eswatini** followed closely, with a 12.4 per cent improvement, rising from 57 to 64 years.

In **Oman**, life expectancy grew by 10.3 per cent, climbing from 72.5 to 80 years. Studies have shown that increased health care expenditure has a positive effect on life expectancy rates, including in Oman.¹¹⁰ Oman is a country with a high GDP per capita. Its economic and social advancement is facilitated by the sustained level of high oil prices.¹¹¹ The improvements in overall health and healthcare services are reportedly driven by public-private partnerships, resulting in a positive impact on Oman's life expectancy.¹¹²

The **State of Palestine** saw a significant decrease of 11.3 per cent, dropping from 73.5 to 65 years. The **Federated States of Micronesia** also recorded a decline, with life expectancy falling by 5 per cent, from 70 to 67 years.

At 54.5 years, **Nigeria** has the lowest life expectancy among all countries even after improving by 3.4 per cent (up from 52.6 years). **Chad**, which was the lowest in KRI 2024, improved by 5 per cent (from 52.5 to 55 years) to become the second lowest in KRI 2025.

Region	Highest life expectancy	Lowest life expectancy
South Asia	81, Maldives	67.6, Pakistan
East Asia and Pacific	84.7, Japan	62.1, Nauru
Eastern and Southern Africa	74.9, Mauritius	57.4, Lesotho
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	79.6, Albania	70, Turkmenistan
Latin America and Caribbean	81.1, Chile	64.9, Haiti
Middle East and North Africa	82.9, United Arab Emirates	65.1, State of Palestine
West and Central Africa	76, Cabo Verde	54.5, Nigeria
Western Europe	86.3, Monaco	76, Lithuania

Table 8: Countries with the lowest and highest life expectancy at birth per region

South Asia: All eight countries in this region recorded an improvement. **India** improved the most (by 7 percent %, from 67 to 72). All countries in the region have a life expectancy of over 70 years, except **Pakistan** (at 67.6 years). Only **the Maldives** has a life expectancy of over 80 years.

East Asia and Pacific: **Indonesia** improved the most (by 5.3 per cent, from 67 to 71 years, in this region). Five countries (of 31 in total in the region) have a life expectancy of over 80 years – **Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea** and **Singapore**.

¹¹⁰ Mohammed Al-Azr et al., 'Healthcare Expenditure and Health Outcome Nexus: Exploring the Evidences from Oman', 20(4) *Journal of Public Affairs*, 2020, pp. 4 and 6.

¹¹¹ Mohamed Ismail and Shereen Hussein, 'Population Aging and Long-term Care Policies in the Gulf Region: A Case Study of Oman', 31(4) *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, 2019, p. 16.

¹¹² No author, 'Birth Rate Decreases, Life Expectancy Increases', *Muscat Daily*, 5 August 2024, <https://www.muscatdaily.com/2024/08/05/birth-rate-decreases-life-expectancy-increases/>.

Eastern and Southern Africa: **Madagascar** is the only country in this region where life expectancy decreased, by 1.3 per cent. The remaining twenty-four countries recorded an improvement. **Namibia** and **Botswana** by 13.7 per cent and 13 per cent respectively and **Eswatini** by 12.4 per cent. **Mauritius** (75) and **Seychelles** (73) are the only two countries in the region where life expectancy continues to remain above 70 years. Until the KidsRights Index 2024, seven countries in this region had a life expectancy under 60 years. As of the KRI 2025, only three countries - **Lesotho**, **Somalia** and **South Sudan** have a life expectancy under 60 years, all reaching closer to the 60 years life expectancy mark.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia: **Azerbaijan** improved the most in the region (by 7.3 per cent, from 69.3 to 74.5 years). None of the countries in this region recorded a decline in life expectancy and none of them have a life expectancy lower than 70 years. Previously, six countries in this region had a life expectancy lower than 70 years.

Latin America and Caribbean: **Antigua and Barbuda**, **Barbados** and **Dominica** are the only three countries in this region which recorded a decline in life expectancy, of between 1 and 2 per cent. **Bolivia** (Plurinational State of) improved the most (by 7.8 per cent, from 63.6 to 68.6 years). **Chile** and **Costa Rica** are the two countries in the region where life expectancy is over 80 years, while **Bolivia** and **Haiti** are the only two countries where it is below 70 years.

Middle East and North Africa: The State of **Palestine**, **Libya** and **Algeria** are the three countries in this region that recorded a decline, with Palestine showing the most decline (11.3 per cent). **Oman** recorded the highest improvement (by 10.3 per cent, from 72.5 to 80 years). **Libya**, the State of **Palestine** and **Yemen** are the only three countries with life expectancy under 70 years. Six of the nineteen countries have a life expectancy over 80 years.

West and Central Africa: **Cabo Verde** is the only country in the region with a life expectancy of over 70 years. **Nigeria**, **Chad** and the **Central African Republic** are the three countries with a life expectancy of below 60 years, and all three of them recorded an improvement compared to previously available data. Previously, ten countries in the region had a life expectancy below 60 years. **Niger** is the only country in the region that recorded a decline in life expectancy, by 0.64%, while **Guinea-Bissau** recorded the highest improvement (by 7.4 per cent, from 59.6 to 64 years).

Western Europe: **Finland**, **Malta**, **Luxembourg** and **Switzerland** recorded a minor decline in life expectancy. They are the only four countries (of 32 in total) in the region to record a decline. Even though **Lithuania** improved by 3.1 per cent, from 73.7 to 76 years, it stands as the country with the lowest life expectancy in the region replacing **Latvia** which increased by 3.5 per cent, from 73.6 to 76.1 years. **San Marino** improved the most, by 6 per cent from 80.9 to 85.7 years, and became only the 2nd country after Monaco to have a life expectancy of over 85 years. Twenty-five of the thirty-two countries in the region have a life expectancy of over 80 years. This is the most of all regions, both in percentage and absolute numbers.

3.2.3. Global cluster insights for the Domain Life

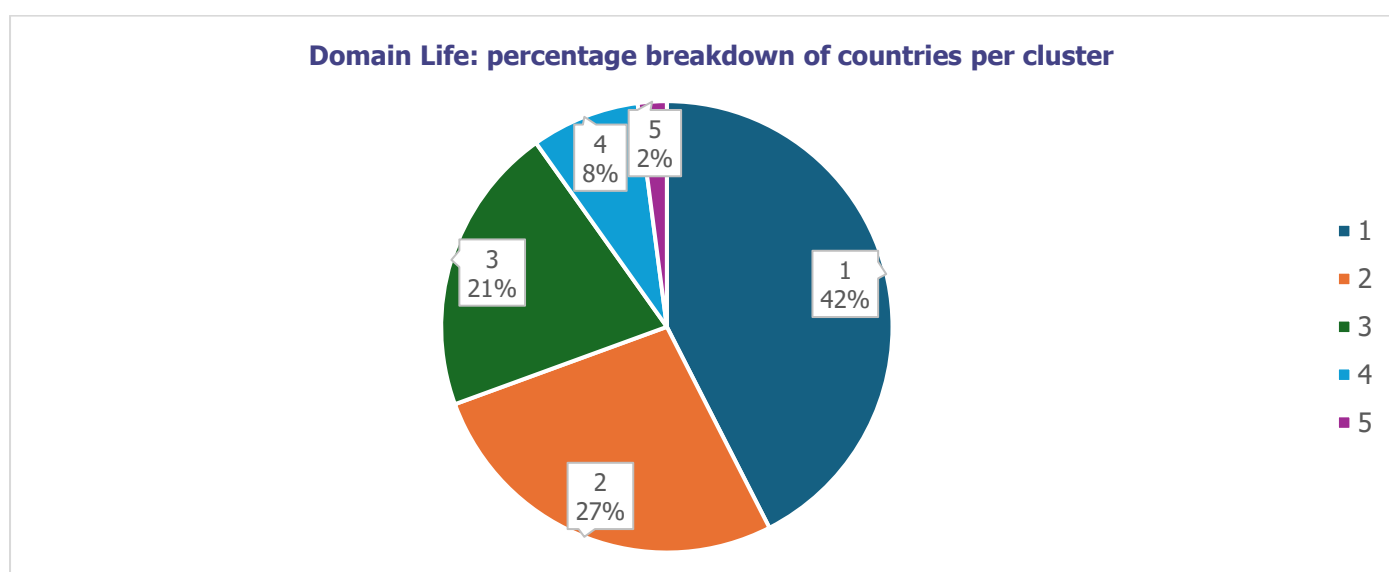
Comparing the Domain Life cluster classification of countries for the KidsRights Index 2025 against the results of 2024 reveals that eighteen countries have moved up by a cluster, with sixteen of them moving up from Cluster 2 to Cluster 1. One country each has moved up from Cluster 3 to Cluster 2 (**Bolivia**) and from Cluster

5 to Cluster 4 (**Somalia**). Only one country (**Madagascar**), has moved down from Cluster 3 to Cluster 4. The remaining 174 countries remained in the same cluster as before.

Domain Life Cluster	No. of countries in 2025	No. of countries in 2024
1	82	66
2	52	67
3	40	42
4	15	13
5	4	5

Table 9: Domain Life Clusters 2025 vs 2024

The overall cluster classification of countries for the Domain Life in 2025 and 2024 is provided in the table above. This table shows that, in both years, 70 per cent of all the countries in the Domain Life are concentrated in Clusters 1 and 2. Overall, cluster movement in the Domain Life indicates a positive development for countries that were in Cluster 2 in 2024, as nearly 25 per cent of these countries (16 of 67 countries) have moved up to Cluster 1 in KRI 2025. However, no significant developments can be identified for the countries in Clusters 3 to 5, except for **Somalia** which improved from Cluster 5 to Cluster 4. The percentage breakdown of the countries in each cluster of the Domain Life in KRI 2025 is visualized in the following pie-chart.



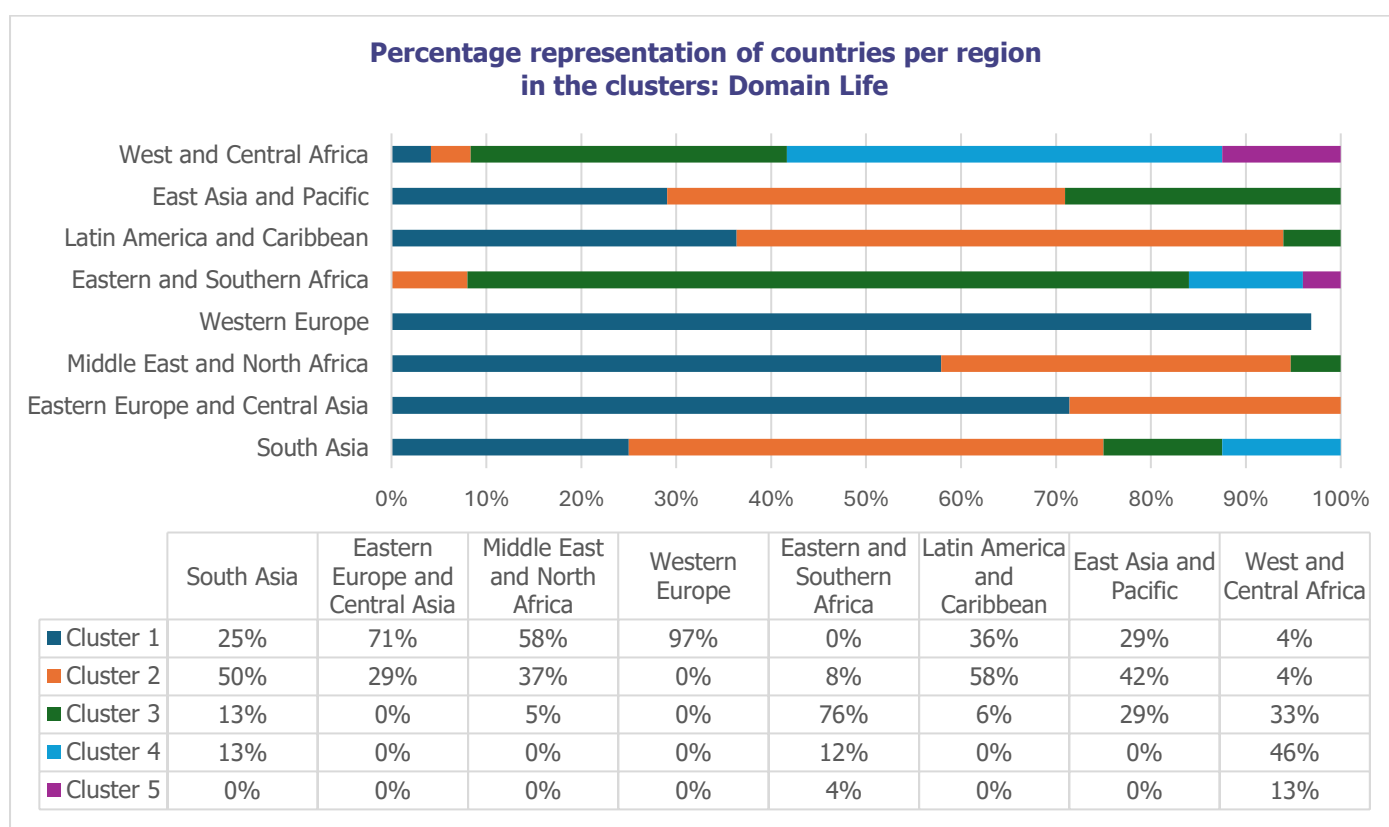
3.2.4. Regional level cluster insights for the Domain Life

Interesting insights emerge when further dividing the number of countries in each cluster, based on their regional classification. As shown in the following table, there are significant disparities in regions that make up most of Clusters 1 and 2, and the regions that make up Clusters 3 to 5.

Regions	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
South Asia	2	4	1	1	0
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	15	6	0	0	0
Middle East and North Africa	11	7	1	0	0
Western Europe	31	0	0	0	0
Eastern and Southern Africa	0	2	19	3	1
Latin America and Caribbean	12	19	2	0	0
North America	1	0	0	0	0
East Asia and Pacific	9	13	9	0	0
West and Central Africa	1	1	8	11	3

Table 10: Region-wise cluster representation based on Domain Life scores

The majority of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (71 per cent), Middle East and North Africa (58 per cent), and Western Europe (97 per cent) are concentrated in Cluster 1. All the thirty-one countries of Western Europe for which a Domain Life score could be calculated in the KRI 2025 are categorized in Cluster 1. The majority of countries in South Asia (50 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (58 per cent), and East Asia and the Pacific (42 per cent) are concentrated in Cluster 2. While 76 per cent of the countries in the Eastern and Southern African region are categorized in Cluster 3, 46 per cent of the West and Central African countries are categorized in Cluster 4. Countries from the West and Central African region also make up around 75% of the total number of countries in Cluster 4 (11 of 15 countries) and Cluster 5 (3 of 4 countries). This means that the children's rights connected to the Domain Life are under severe pressure in the region.



Country performances in the Domain Life are on an upward trend, as deduced from the consistent improvement in the average domain scores over the past three years, as well as from the positive cluster movement – with sixteen countries improving their cluster and only one country (Somalia) declining. Further, countries from all regions, except West and Central Africa, are mostly concentrated in the clusters 1-3, which indicates a general positive momentum for the children’s right to life.

It is notable that most of the countries from the regions East Asia and the Pacific, and West and Central Africa have recorded an improvement in the under-5 mortality rates. However, it is concerning that the under-5 mortality rate has increased in twelve of the thirty-one countries in the Western European region. The latter necessitates a strategic assessment of the underlying causes, both at the regional and country level, to prevent any further deterioration.

Specific concerns also remain for countries such as Lebanon, and the State of Palestine where the under-5 mortality rate and the life expectancy at birth remains under severe pressure, respectively.

Global ranks: Domain Life KRI 2025

Countries	Score	Rank
Monaco	0,994	1
San Marino	0,990	2
Japan	0,979	3
Republic of Korea	0,973	4
Singapore	0,969	5
Italy	0,968	6
Australia	0,967	7
Spain	0,967	8
Norway	0,966	9
Switzerland	0,966	10
Sweden	0,963	11
France	0,959	12
Andorra	0,958	13
Iceland	0,958	14
Malta	0,955	15
Ireland	0,953	16
Israel	0,952	17
Luxembourg	0,952	18
United Arab Emirates	0,951	19
Portugal	0,950	20
Finland	0,949	21
Austria	0,948	22
Belgium	0,948	23
Canada	0,948	24
Netherlands	0,948	25
Denmark	0,947	26
Slovenia	0,947	27
New Zealand	0,945	28
Qatar	0,945	29
Greece	0,944	30
Germany	0,941	31
United Kingdom	0,937	32
Bahrain	0,928	33
Chile	0,928	34
Czech Republic	0,928	35
Cyprus	0,927	36
Estonia	0,922	37
Costa Rica	0,918	38
Maldives	0,917	39
Kuwait	0,915	40
Poland	0,910	41
Croatia	0,908	42
Albania	0,904	43
Oman	0,903	44
Saudi Arabia	0,902	45
Slovakia	0,902	46
Montenegro	0,898	47
North Macedonia	0,897	48
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0,896	49
Uruguay	0,894	50
China	0,891	51
Hungary	0,891	52
Serbia	0,887	53
Sri Lanka	0,885	54

Cuba	0,884	55
Latvia	0,884	56
Lithuania	0,884	57
Panama	0,882	58
Antigua and Barbuda	0,880	59
Turkey	0,876	60
Malaysia	0,875	61
Bulgaria	0,873	62
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0,873	63
Romania	0,873	64
Belarus	0,872	65
Argentina	0,871	66
Thailand	0,869	67
Jordan	0,863	68
Lebanon	0,859	69
Colombia	0,858	70
Ecuador	0,858	71
Tunisia	0,858	72
Armenia	0,856	73
Barbados	0,856	74
Peru	0,852	75
Cabo Verde	0,850	76
Brunei Darussalam	0,849	77
Russian Federation	0,849	78
Kazakhstan	0,848	79
Georgia	0,846	80
Ukraine	0,840	81
Grenada	0,836	82
Brazil	0,835	83
Mexico	0,833	84
Bahamas	0,823	85
Seychelles	0,821	86
Morocco	0,820	87
Nicaragua	0,820	88
Mauritius	0,819	89
Trinidad and Tobago	0,818	90
Azerbaijan	0,817	91
Algeria	0,815	92
Uzbekistan	0,812	93
El Salvador	0,809	94
Belize	0,804	95
Paraguay	0,804	96
Cook Islands	0,803	97
Mongolia	0,802	98
Republic of Moldova	0,802	99
Honduras	0,798	100
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,798	101
Tonga	0,798	102
Suriname	0,797	103
Egypt	0,794	104
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0,793	105
Saint Lucia	0,792	106
Samoa	0,789	107
Viet Nam	0,789	108

Kyrgyzstan	0,788	109
Syrian Arab Republic	0,786	110
Bhutan	0,780	111
Libya	0,777	112
Guatemala	0,771	113
Vanuatu	0,771	114
Iraq	0,769	115
Jamaica	0,768	116
Bangladesh	0,766	117
Tajikistan	0,760	118
Solomon Islands	0,753	119
Dominican Republic	0,750	120
Sao Tome and Principe	0,749	121
India	0,743	122
Indonesia	0,737	123
State of Palestine	0,736	124
Philippines	0,731	125
Guyana	0,728	126
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0,719	127
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,717	128
Turkmenistan	0,717	129
Fiji	0,714	130
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0,714	131
Cambodia	0,713	132
Nepal	0,711	133
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0,706	134
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0,672	135
Botswana	0,663	136
South Africa	0,659	137
Yemen	0,657	138
Gabon	0,642	139
Palau	0,642	140
Senegal	0,642	141
Namibia	0,639	142
Myanmar	0,637	143
Rwanda	0,630	144
Dominica	0,629	145
Eritrea	0,626	146
Papua New Guinea	0,622	147
Uganda	0,621	148
United Republic of Tanzania	0,621	149
Tuvalu	0,617	150
Kiribati	0,614	151
Timor-Leste	0,614	152
Comoros	0,602	153
Ethiopia	0,600	154
Zambia	0,599	155
Congo	0,593	156

Ghana	0,593	157
Pakistan	0,592	158
Malawi	0,587	159
Djibouti	0,578	160
Marshall Islands	0,578	161
Mauritania	0,578	162
Sudan	0,573	163
Eswatini	0,563	164
Mozambique	0,542	165
Gambia	0,534	166
Angola	0,524	167
Haiti	0,523	168
Zimbabwe	0,523	169
Nauru	0,512	170
Kenya	0,504	171
Equatorial Guinea	0,499	172
Burundi	0,487	173
Togo	0,475	174
Madagascar	0,471	175
Afghanistan	0,457	176
Cameroon	0,447	177
Burkina Faso	0,442	178
Côte d'Ivoire	0,419	179
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,382	180
Guinea-Bissau	0,367	181
Liberia	0,363	182
Benin	0,362	183
Mali	0,344	184
Lesotho	0,340	185
Sierra Leone	0,337	186
Guinea	0,310	187
Niger	0,284	188
Somalia	0,242	189
Central African Republic	0,196	190
Chad	0,092	191
South Sudan	0,086	192
Nigeria	0,077	193
Liechtenstein	N/A	N/A

Luxembourg	13
Portugal	14
Finland	15
Austria	16
Belgium	17
Netherlands	18
Denmark	19
Slovenia	20
Greece	21
Germany	22
United Kingdom	23
Czech Republic	24
Cyprus	25
Estonia	26
Poland	27
Slovakia	28
Hungary	29
Latvia	30
Lithuania	31
Liechtenstein	N/A

Comoros	10
Ethiopia	11
Zambia	12
Malawi	13
Djibouti	14
Sudan	15
Eswatini	16
Mozambique	17
Angola	18
Zimbabwe	19
Kenya	20
Burundi	21
Madagascar	22
Lesotho	23
Somalia	24
South Sudan	25

Eastern Europe & Central Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Life
Croatia	1
Albania	2
Montenegro	3
North Macedonia	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5
Serbia	6
Turkey	7
Bulgaria	8
Romania	9
Belarus	10
Armenia	11
Russian Federation	12
Kazakhstan	13
Georgia	14
Ukraine	15
Azerbaijan	16
Uzbekistan	17
Republic of Moldova	18
Kyrgyzstan	19
Tajikistan	20
Turkmenistan	21

Middle East & North Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Life
Israel	1
United Arab Emirates	2
Qatar	3
Bahrain	4
Kuwait	5
Oman	6
Saudi Arabia	7
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	8
Jordan	9
Lebanon	10
Tunisia	11
Morocco	12
Algeria	13
Egypt	14
Syrian Arab Republic	15
Libya	16
Iraq	17
State of Palestine	18
Yemen	19

Regional ranks: Domain Life KRI 2025

Western Europe	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Life
Monaco	1
San Marino	2
Italy	3
Spain	4
Norway	5
Switzerland	6
Sweden	7
France	8
Andorra	9
Iceland	10
Malta	11
Ireland	12

Eastern & Southern Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Life
Seychelles	1
Mauritius	2
Botswana	3
South Africa	4
Namibia	5
Rwanda	6
Eritrea	7
Uganda	8
United Republic of Tanzania	9

West & Central Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Life
Cabo Verde	1
Sao Tome and Principe	2
Gabon	3
Senegal	4
Congo	5
Ghana	6
Mauritania	7
Gambia	8
Equatorial Guinea	9
Togo	10
Cameroon	11
Burkina Faso	12
Côte d'Ivoire	13

Democratic Republic of the Congo	14
Guinea-Bissau	15
Liberia	16
Benin	17
Mali	18
Sierra Leone	19
Guinea	20
Niger	21
Central African Republic	22
Chad	23
Nigeria	24

Latin America & Caribbean	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Life
Chile	1
Costa Rica	2
Uruguay	3
Cuba	4
Panama	5
Antigua and Barbuda	6
Argentina	7
Colombia	8
Ecuador	9
Barbados	10
Peru	11
Grenada	12
Brazil	13
Mexico	14
Bahamas	15
Nicaragua	16
Trinidad and Tobago	17
El Salvador	18
Belize	19
Paraguay	20
Honduras	21
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	22
Suriname	23
Saint Lucia	24
Guatemala	25
Jamaica	26
Dominican Republic	27
Guyana	28
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	29
Saint Kitts and Nevis	30
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	31
Dominica	32
Haiti	33

South Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Life
Maldives	1
Sri Lanka	2
Bhutan	3
Bangladesh	4
India	5
Nepal	6
Pakistan	7
Afghanistan	8

East Asia & Pacific	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Life
Japan	1
Republic of Korea	2
Singapore	3
Australia	4
New Zealand	5
China	6
Malaysia	7
Thailand	8
Brunei Darussalam	9
Cook Islands	10
Mongolia	11
Tonga	12
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	13
Samoa	14
Viet Nam	15
Vanuatu	16
Solomon Islands	17
Indonesia	18
Philippines	19
Fiji	20
Micronesia (Federated States of)	21
Cambodia	22
Lao People's Democratic Republic	23
Palau	24
Myanmar	25
Papua New Guinea	26
Tuvalu	27
Kiribati	28
Timor-Leste	29
Marshall Islands	30
Nauru	31

Greece and **Hungary** are the two new entrants in the top ten of the Domain Health. They improved from 11th and 12th in 2024 to 10th and 7th in 2025, respectively. They replaced **Japan** and **Czech Republic** which recorded a significant decline in their Domain Health rankings. Japan fell by twenty-one ranks, from 7th in KRI 2024 to 28th in KRI 2025, due to a 2 per cent reduction in its score. Similarly, Czech Republic fell by fifty-one ranks, from 10th in 2024 to 61st in 2025, due to a 4.6 per cent reduction in its score.

Among the top twenty-five countries in the Domain Health, fifteen are from Western Europe, followed by five from the Middle East and North Africa (**Bahrain, Qatar, Israel, United Arab Emirates** and **Kuwait**), four from East Asia and the Pacific (**Brunei Darussalam, Republic of Korea, Singapore** and **Palau**), and **Belarus** from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Compared to their Domain Health ranks in the KidsRights Index 2024, a total of fifteen countries improved by ten ranks or more, whereas twenty-three countries fell by ten ranks or more. Twenty countries maintained the same rank as in 2024.

While no significant change can be noticed in the average score of the top ten countries in the Domain Health for the past couple of years, the average score of all countries in this domain has declined from 0.809 in 2024 to 0.796 in 2025: a reduction of 1.61 per cent. This reduction in average score is more pronounced for the bottom ten countries in the domain which recorded a 16 per cent decline (dropping from 0.313 in 2024 to 0.270 in 2025). The average score of these countries has fallen closer to their average score in 2023 (which was 0.261), thereby undoing the improvement in 2024. This development contrasts with the general trend in the Domain Life where the overall performance of countries has improved over the past three years.

3.3.1. Biggest movers in the Domain Health

Climbers

El Salvador improved the most in Domain Health as it climbed 57 ranks, from the 119th to the 62nd position, aided by a 12.3 per cent increase in its Domain score. It is followed by **Egypt** which has jumped up by 35 ranks, from the 69th to the 34th position. **Paraguay** (+30), **Azerbaijan** (+27), and **Jordan** (+27) are some of the other countries that have improved their rankings in this domain compared to the KidsRights Index 2024.

El Salvador and Paraguay

El Salvador achieved a near universal immunization rate (99%) by improving 52% from its previous coverage of 65%. This has contributed to its staggering rise in ranking in the Domain Health in the KidsRights Index 2025. In the KRI 2024, its immunization rate was the joint-second lowest, with **Haiti**, in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Paraguay recorded the highest improvement in immunization rate (53.7 per cent) in Latin America and the Caribbean region and the second highest improvement overall, increasing from 54 per cent to 83 per cent. It had the lowest immunization rate in the region as of KRI 2024.

Descenders

As noted earlier, **Czech Republic's** drop of 51 ranks (from the 10th to the 61st place¹) is the highest in the Domain Health. Eight other countries have dropped by over 20 ranks: **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** (-27), **Panama** (-24), the State of **Palestine** (-24), the **Seychelles** (-23), **Albania** (-22), **Australia** (-22), **Mexico** (-22), and **Japan** (-21).

3.3.2. Underlying indicator data for the Domain Health

The scores for the Domain Health are calculated based on the performance of countries on four underlying indicators: underweight children, immunization rate, access to drinking water and access to sanitation facilities. In 2025, the source data for access to drinking water and sanitation facilities remained the same as in 2024. The source data for underweight children has been updated by only considering the data that was generated in the last 10 years, so post 2014. The data on immunization has also changed as new and updated data is available. Therefore, the changes in the Domain Health scores and ranks in KRI 2025 can be directly attributed to the changes in immunization rates, and the availability of relevant data on underweight children.

Immunization rate

The immunisation rate in the KidsRights Index refers to the MCV1¹¹³ vaccination rate among one-year olds. Numerous countries have shown significant improvements in their immunisation rates compared to previous years. The **Syrian Arab Republic** experienced the most notable increase of its immunisation rate which went up from 41 to 74 per cent, an improvement of 80.5 percent. **Paraguay** followed with a 53.7 per cent improvement of its immunisation rate, from 54 to 83 per cent. Similarly, **Djibouti** and **El Salvador** both saw a 52 per cent increase, with Djibouti improving from 50 to 76 per cent, and El Salvador from 65 to 99 per cent. The **Cook Islands** recorded a 38 per cent rise, from 61 to 84 per cent. **Angola** also made progress, with its immunisation rate increasing by 35 per cent, moving from 37 to 50 per cent, while **Poland's** rate increased by 28 per cent, from 71 to 91 per cent.

A few countries, however, are still experiencing a decline in immunisation rates. **Yemen** saw the steepest drop of 38 per cent, going down from 73 to 45 per cent, which is the lowest rate in the Middle East and North African region. Yemen is one of 31 countries designated as having a fragile, conflict-affected, or vulnerable (FCV) setting and among this group of countries: "*MCV1 coverage declined from 70% in 2019 to 66% in 2021 and 2022 and to 67% in 2023. By 2023, [...] 55% of those who did not receive MCV1 lived in FCV countries*".¹¹⁴ In 2025 alone, more than 230,000 children under 59 months old did not receive MCV1 vaccinations due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen.¹¹⁵

¹¹³ Measles-containing-vaccine first-dose.

¹¹⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 'Routine Vaccination Coverage: Worldwide, 2023', 73(43) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 2024, p. 981.

¹¹⁵ Wadhah Hassan Edrees et al., 'Trend of Measles Outbreak in Yemen from January 2020 to August 2024', *International Journal of General Medicine*, 2025, p. 1210.

Sudan's immunisation rate also declined by 37%, falling from 81% to 51%. **Montenegro** experienced a 27.3% decline in its immunisation rate, from an already low coverage of 33% to 24%, making it the country with the lowest immunisation rate among the 194 countries in the KRI 2025. Anti-vaccine sentiments and fake news might serve as an explanation for Montenegro's low immunization rate.¹¹⁶

The following table lists the countries with the highest and lowest immunisation rates per region.

Region	Highest immunization rate	Lowest immunization rate
South Asia	99, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka	55, Afghanistan
East Asia and Pacific	99, Fiji and Tonga	28, Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Eastern and Southern Africa	97, Botswana	46, Somalia
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	99, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	24, Montenegro
Latin America and Caribbean	99, Cuba and El Salvador	65, Haiti
Middle East and North Africa	99, Algeria, Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Morocco, Oman and Qatar	45, Yemen
West and Central Africa	95, Cabo Verde	41, Central African Republic
Western Europe	99, Andorra, Hungary, Luxembourg,	82, Cyprus

Table 12: Countries with the highest and lowest immunization rates per region

The above table shows that, except in the regions Eastern and *Southern Africa*, and West and Central Africa, at least some of the countries in the other regions have achieved the highest possible immunization rate of 99. The difference between the highest and lowest immunization rates is the highest in the regions Eastern Europe and Central Asia and East Asia and Pacific. Among other aspects, this is due to the dramatically low immunization rates in **Montenegro** (24 per cent) and the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (28 per cent).

South Asia: The immunization rate in **Afghanistan** dropped by 19 per cent from 68 to 55 per cent. India is the only other country in this region to record a decline (by 2.1 per cent from 95 to 93 percent). Other than Afghanistan, **Pakistan** (at 84 per cent), is the only country in the region with an immunization rate of less than 90%.

Eastern and Southern Africa: **Djibouti** recorded the highest increase in immunization rate in the region (52 per cent), improving from 50 to 76 per cent. Sudan recorded the highest decline – by 37 per cent, from 81 to 51 per cent. Eight countries (of 25 in total) in the region recorded a decline in immunization rates. **Somalia**, with an immunization rate of 46 per cent, became the country with the lowest immunization rate replacing **Angola** which improved its coverage from 37 to 50 per cent, realizing an improvement of 35%.

East Asia and Pacific: The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** increased its immunization rate from 0 to 28 per cent - but remains the lowest of all countries in the region. Eleven countries (of 31 in total) in the region recorded a decline in immunization rates. The **Solomon Islands** decreased the most (by 24.5

¹¹⁶ Boban Mugoša et al., 'Measles Outbreak, Montenegro January–July 2018: Lessons Learned', 94 *Journal of Medical Virology*, 2021, p. 515.

per cent), from a commendable 90 per cent before to a lowly 68 per cent this year. The **Cook Islands** recorded the highest increase (of 37.7 per cent), going up from 61 to 84 per cent.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia: **Montenegro** recorded the highest decline (by 27.3 per cent), from 33 to 24 per cent. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Romania** are the two other countries that recorded a significant reduction in immunization rates, by 5 and 6 per cent, respectively. **Ukraine** recorded the highest improvement in the region (of 24.3 per cent), as the rates increased from 74 to 92 per cent based on the latest available data.

Latin America and Caribbean: **Paraguay** improved the most, by 53.7 per cent from 54 to 83 while **Panama** declined the most, by 15.2 percent (from 92 to 78 per cent). Nine countries (of 33 in total in the region) recorded a decline in immunization rates. Since Paraguay and **El Salvador** showed a significant improvement in immunization rates, from 54 to 83 per cent and 65 to 99 per cent respectively, **Haiti** with its immunization rate of 65 per cent became the country with the lowest immunization rate in the region.

Middle East and North Africa: The **Syrian Arab Republic** improved its immunization rate the most (by 80.5 per cent), while **Yemen** recorded the highest decline (38 per cent), going down from 73 to 45 per cent. Five countries recorded immunization rates lower than 90 per cent, compared to seven countries based on the previously available data.

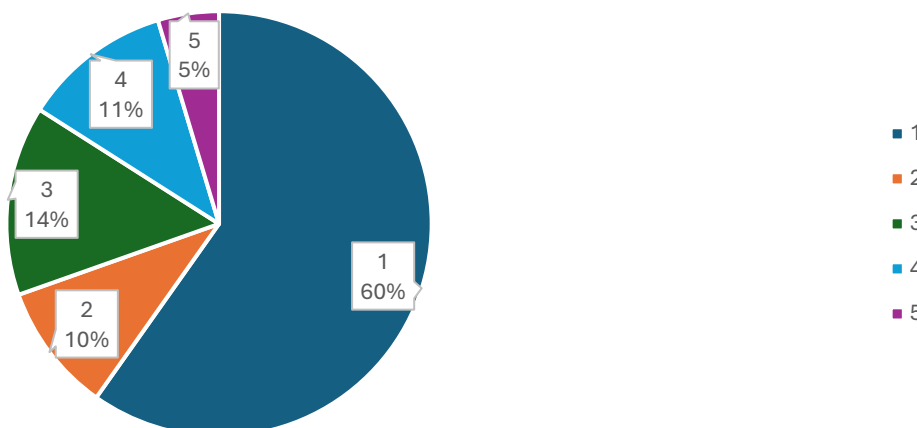
West and Central Africa: **Benin** recorded the highest decline in the region (by 23.5 per cent), falling from 68 to 52 per cent. **Mauritania** improved the most in the region (by 27.8 per cent), increasing from 72 to 92 per cent. Only five countries in the region recorded a decline in immunization rates: **Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau** and **Senegal**. The **Central African Republic** (41 per cent) and **Guinea** (47 per cent) continue to be the only two countries with an immunization rate of under 50 per cent. **Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Mauritania** and **Sierra Leone** are the five countries with an immunization rate of over 90 per cent - up from three countries based on the previously available data.

Western Europe: **Poland** had the lowest immunization rate in Western Europe in the KidsRights Index 2024 but has now improved the most in the region (by 28 per cent), going up from 71 to 91 per cent. **Estonia**, which was the second lowest in the region in 2024, has now improved by 8.5 per cent, increasing its immunization rate from 82 to 89 per cent. **Cyprus** reduced its coverage from 86 to 82 per cent to become the country with the lowest immunization rate in the Western European region. Eight of the thirty-two countries in the region have an immunization rate of less than 90. **Czech Republic** recorded the highest decline in the region as its immunization rate went down by over 10 per cent, from 97 to 87 per cent.

3.3.3. Global cluster insights for the Domain Health

In the Domain Health of the KidsRights Index 2025, 60% of all countries are categorized in Cluster 1. Compared to 2024, thirty-one countries have moved up by a cluster in the Domain Health. A significant movement can be observed between Clusters 1 and 2, and Clusters 3 and 4. Seventeen of the thirty-one countries that moved clusters improved on their cluster ranking, from being in Cluster 2 in 2024 to being in Cluster 1 in 2025, while nine countries improved from Cluster 4 to 3. Of the remaining five countries, three improved from Cluster 3 to 2 and two other countries – **Yemen** and **Eritrea** improved from Cluster 5 to 4.

Domain Health: percentage breakdown of Clusters 2025



Domain Health Cluster	No. of countries in 2025	No. of countries in 2024
1	116	99
2	19	34
3	28	22
4	22	28
5	9	11

Table 13: Domain Health Clusters 2025 vs 2024

The table above shows the comparative cluster categorization of countries in the Domain Health based on the KRI rankings 2025 and 2024. Only two countries have moved down by a cluster in the Domain Health – **Montenegro** (from Cluster 2 to 3) and **Comoros** (from Cluster 3 to 4). Overall, the cluster movement of countries in the Domain Health shows a relative positive trend for the children’s right to health,¹¹⁷ as compared to the situation represented in the KRI 2024.

It is interesting to note that the Domain Health in the KRI 2025 has the largest number of countries categorized under Cluster 1 (116 countries) when compared to the other four domains of the KidsRights Index.

3.3.4. Regional level cluster insights for the Domain Health

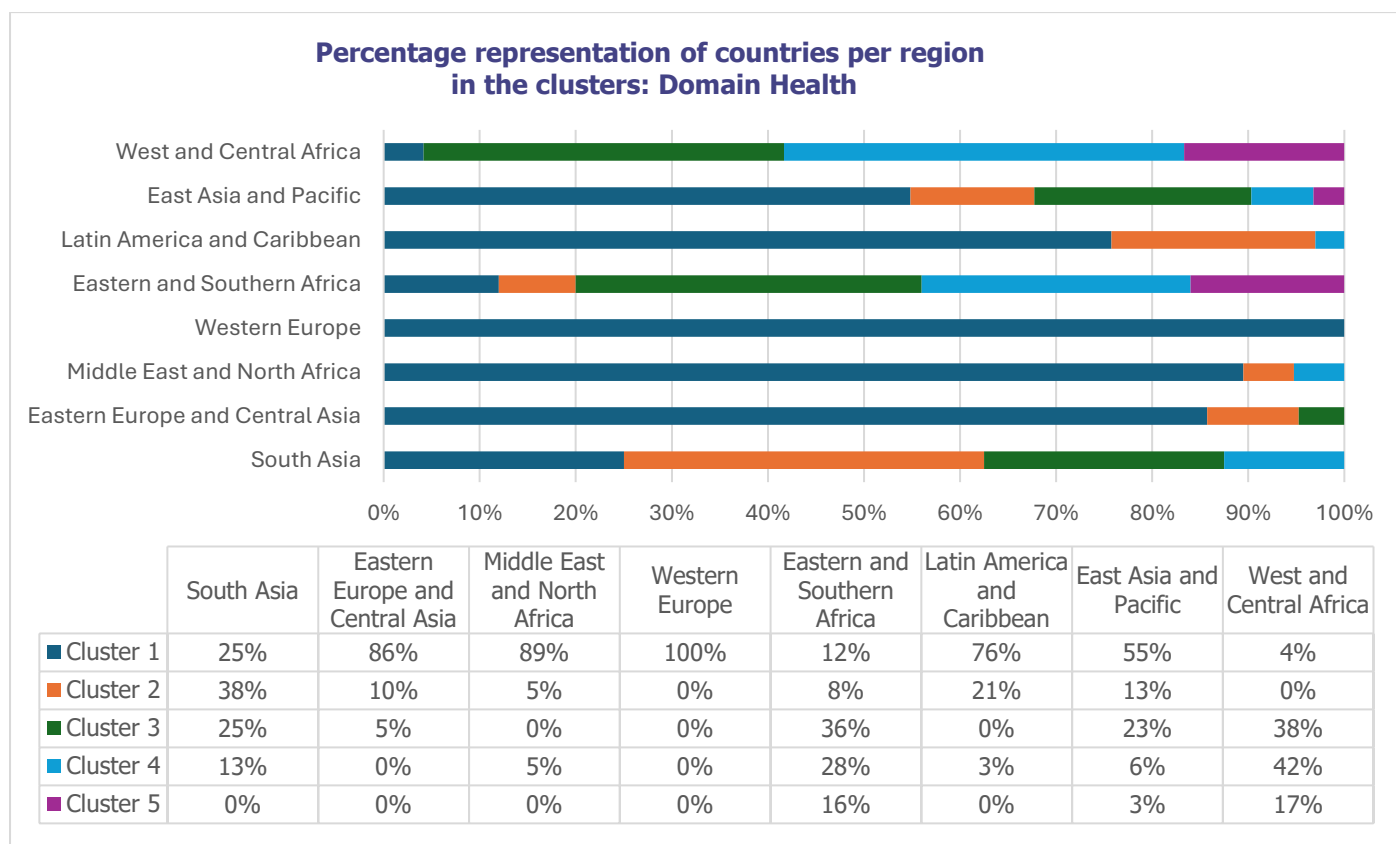
All countries (100 per cent) in the Western European region are included in Cluster 1 in the Domain Health. A significant majority of countries from Eastern Europe and Central Asia (86 per cent), the Middle East and North Africa (89 per cent), and Latin America and the Caribbean (76 per cent) are concentrated in Cluster 1. The majority of the countries from East Asia and the Pacific (55 per cent) also appear in Cluster 1 for the Domain Health.

¹¹⁷ UNCRC, Art. 24.

Regions	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
South Asia	2	3	2	1	0
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	18	2	1	0	0
Middle East and North Africa	17	1	0	1	0
Western Europe	32	0	0	0	0
Eastern and Southern Africa	3	2	9	7	4
Latin America and Caribbean	25	7	0	1	0
North America	1	0	0	0	0
East Asia and Pacific	17	4	7	2	1
West and Central Africa	1	0	9	10	4

Table 14: Region-wise cluster representation based on Domain Health scores

36 per cent of the countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (9 out of 25 in total) are categorized under Cluster 3, while 42 per cent of the countries in West and Central Africa (10 out of 24) are categorized under Cluster 4. As can be observed from the table above, both these regions together constitute 89 per cent of all countries categorized under Cluster 5 (four countries each), and 77 percent of all countries categorized under Cluster 4 in the Domain Health. As presented earlier, similar regional-level cluster insights for Clusters 4 and 5 have emerged for the Domain Life, which indicates a relatively greater need for improvement of children's rights related to both the Health and Life Domains in Eastern and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa.



The Domain Health presents mixed results in the KidsRights Index 2025. On the one hand, the cluster movement indicates a positive trend for the child right to health, with the majority of the countries being

categorized under Cluster 1 (116 countries in 2025 compared to 99 countries in 2024). This is the case both at the global as well as at the regional level. On the other hand, in 2025 the average domain scores of countries have declined compared to 2024, especially for the bottom ten countries. Although the immunization rates have improved in some countries, it is concerning that several countries (across regions) continue to record a decline, several years post the Covid-19 pandemic.

Global ranks: Domain Health KRI 2025

Countries	Health Score	Health Rank
Andorra	1,000	1
Bahrain	1,000	2
Liechtenstein	1,000	3
Qatar	1,000	4
Israel	0,996	5
United Arab Emirates	0,996	6
Hungary	0,993	7
Belarus	0,991	8
Brunei Darussalam	0,991	9
Greece	0,991	10
Luxembourg	0,991	11
Republic of Korea	0,991	12
Singapore	0,991	13
Germany	0,990	14
Portugal	0,990	15
Belgium	0,987	16
Palau	0,987	17
Spain	0,987	18
Austria	0,982	19
Denmark	0,982	20
Italy	0,982	21
Kuwait	0,982	22
Malta	0,982	23
Switzerland	0,982	24
Norway	0,979	25
Chile	0,978	26
Finland	0,978	27
Japan	0,978	28
Turkmenistan	0,978	29
France	0,977	30
Tonga	0,977	31
Slovenia	0,976	32
Uruguay	0,972	33
Egypt	0,971	34
Mauritius	0,970	35
Slovakia	0,969	36
Sweden	0,969	37
Latvia	0,965	38
Australia	0,964	39
Canada	0,964	40
China	0,964	41
Turkey	0,964	42
Uzbekistan	0,964	43
Tunisia	0,961	44
Antigua and Barbuda	0,960	45
Azerbaijan	0,960	46
Iceland	0,960	47
Kazakhstan	0,960	48
United Kingdom	0,960	49
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,957	50
Estonia	0,956	51
New Zealand	0,956	52
San Marino	0,956	53

Armenia	0,955	54
Costa Rica	0,955	55
Iraq	0,955	56
Jordan	0,955	57
Seychelles	0,955	58
Monaco	0,951	59
Saudi Arabia	0,950	60
Czech Republic	0,947	61
El Salvador	0,947	62
Netherlands	0,947	63
State of Palestine	0,946	64
Barbados	0,941	65
Cuba	0,940	66
Russian Federation	0,937	67
Kyrgyzstan	0,936	68
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0,933	69
Trinidad and Tobago	0,932	70
Fiji	0,930	71
Samoa	0,930	72
Tuvalu	0,930	73
Colombia	0,929	74
Ukraine	0,928	75
Cyprus	0,924	76
Thailand	0,924	77
Paraguay	0,922	78
Algeria	0,921	79
Lithuania	0,921	80
Serbia	0,920	81
Bhutan	0,919	82
Croatia	0,919	83
Bahamas	0,918	84
Bulgaria	0,918	85
Dominican Republic	0,918	86
Albania	0,917	87
Georgia	0,914	88
Brazil	0,912	89
Poland	0,911	90
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,910	91
Belize	0,908	92
Argentina	0,903	93
North Macedonia	0,896	94
Ireland	0,895	95
Morocco	0,895	96
Maldives	0,893	97
Jamaica	0,891	98
Oman	0,890	99
Botswana	0,881	100
Cook Islands	0,880	101
Guyana	0,878	102
Mexico	0,872	103
Grenada	0,871	104
Cabo Verde	0,868	105
Malaysia	0,866	106
Romania	0,864	107
Tajikistan	0,863	108
Saint Lucia	0,861	109
Lebanon	0,860	110

Micronesia (Federated States of)	0,856	111
Libya	0,855	112
Nauru	0,855	113
Peru	0,855	114
Dominica	0,851	115
Panama	0,850	116
Ecuador	0,841	117
Republic of Moldova	0,841	118
Syrian Arab Republic	0,840	119
Mongolia	0,831	120
Viet Nam	0,831	121
Suriname	0,823	122
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0,822	123
South Africa	0,818	124
Honduras	0,816	125
Sri Lanka	0,797	126
Marshall Islands	0,769	127
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0,767	128
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0,763	129
Indonesia	0,760	130
Nepal	0,757	131
Guatemala	0,755	132
Nicaragua	0,745	133
Bangladesh	0,736	134
Rwanda	0,728	135
Philippines	0,724	136
Montenegro	0,713	137
Sao Tome and Principe	0,687	138
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0,672	139
Eswatini	0,671	140
Cambodia	0,667	141
India	0,667	142
Pakistan	0,666	143
Senegal	0,664	144
Gabon	0,662	145
Lesotho	0,657	146
Gambia	0,653	147
Kiribati	0,639	148
Ghana	0,637	149
Myanmar	0,637	150
Namibia	0,634	151
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0,631	152
Vanuatu	0,631	153
Djibouti	0,623	154
Malawi	0,619	155
Mauritania	0,608	156
Zambia	0,587	157
Zimbabwe	0,585	158
Kenya	0,582	159

Mali	0,579	160
Liberia	0,557	161
Cameroon	0,553	162
Uganda	0,550	163
United Republic of Tanzania	0,544	164
Sierra Leone	0,537	165
Comoros	0,534	166
Equatorial Guinea	0,526	167
Afghanistan	0,525	168
Côte d'Ivoire	0,524	169
Haiti	0,520	170
Timor-Leste	0,515	171
Nigeria	0,511	172
Solomon Islands	0,473	173
Togo	0,466	174
Mozambique	0,465	175
Burundi	0,463	176
Burkina Faso	0,453	177
Guinea-Bissau	0,446	178
Congo	0,423	179
Guinea	0,409	180
Angola	0,405	181
Eritrea	0,402	182
Yemen	0,398	183
Benin	0,374	184
Sudan	0,374	185
Somalia	0,332	186
Chad	0,318	187
Ethiopia	0,283	188
South Sudan	0,269	189
Madagascar	0,262	190
Niger	0,259	191
Papua New Guinea	0,239	192
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,195	193
Central African Republic	0,168	194

Regional ranks: Domain Health KRI 2025

Western Europe		
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health	
Andorra	1	
Liechtenstein	2	
Hungary	3	
Greece	4	
Luxembourg	5	
Germany	6	
Portugal	7	
Belgium	8	
Spain	9	
Austria	10	
Denmark	11	
Italy	12	

Malta	13
Switzerland	14
Norway	15
Finland	16
France	17
Slovenia	18
Slovakia	19
Sweden	20
Latvia	21
Iceland	22
United Kingdom	23
Estonia	24
San Marino	25
Monaco	26
Czech Republic	27
Netherlands	28
Cyprus	29
Lithuania	30
Poland	31
Ireland	N/A

Eastern Europe & Central Asia		
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health	
Belarus	1	
Turkmenistan	2	
Turkey	3	
Uzbekistan	4	
Azerbaijan	5	
Kazakhstan	6	
Armenia	7	
Russian Federation	8	
Kyrgyzstan	9	
Ukraine	10	
Serbia	11	
Croatia	12	
Bulgaria	13	
Albania	14	
Georgia	15	
North Macedonia	16	
Romania	17	
Tajikistan	18	
Republic of Moldova	19	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	20	
Montenegro	21	

Eastern & Southern Africa		
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health	
Mauritius	1	
Seychelles	2	
Botswana	3	
South Africa	4	
Rwanda	5	
Eswatini	6	
Lesotho	7	
Namibia	8	
Djibouti	9	
Malawi	10	
Zambia	11	

Zimbabwe	12
Kenya	13
Uganda	14
United Republic of Tanzania	15
Comoros	16
Mozambique	17
Burundi	18
Angola	19
Eritrea	20
Sudan	21
Somalia	22
Ethiopia	23
South Sudan	24
Madagascar	25

Middle East & North Africa		
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health	
Bahrain	1	
Qatar	2	
Israel	3	
United Arab Emirates	4	
Kuwait	5	
Egypt	6	
Tunisia	7	
Iraq	8	
Jordan	9	
Saudi Arabia	10	
State of Palestine	11	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12	
Algeria	13	
Morocco	14	
Oman	15	
Lebanon	16	
Libya	17	
Syrian Arab Republic	18	
Yemen	19	

West & Central Africa		
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health	
Cabo Verde	1	
Sao Tome and Principe	2	
Senegal	3	
Gabon	4	
Gambia	5	
Ghana	6	
Mauritania	7	
Mali	8	
Liberia	9	
Cameroon	10	
Sierra Leone	11	
Equatorial Guinea	12	
Côte d'Ivoire	13	
Nigeria	14	
Togo	15	
Burkina Faso	16	
Guinea-Bissau	17	

Congo	18
Guinea	19
Benin	20
Chad	21
Niger	22
Democratic Republic of the Congo	23
Central African Republic	24

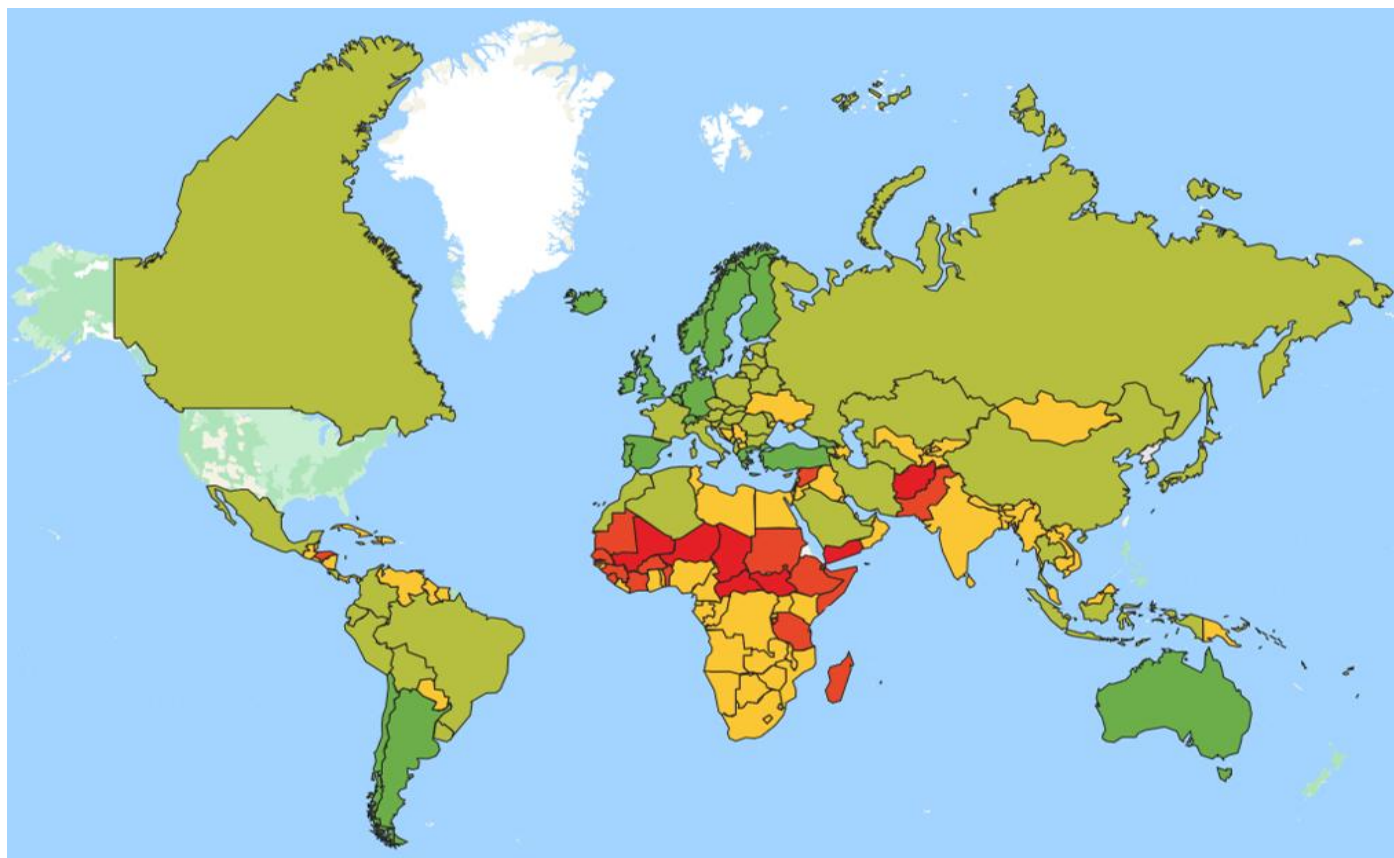
Latin America & Caribbean	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health
Chile	1
Uruguay	2
Antigua and Barbuda	3
Saint Kitts and Nevis	4
Costa Rica	5
El Salvador	6
Barbados	7
Cuba	8
Trinidad and Tobago	9
Colombia	10
Paraguay	11
Bahamas	12
Dominican Republic	13
Brazil	14
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	15
Belize	16
Argentina	17
Jamaica	18
Guyana	19
Mexico	20
Grenada	21
Saint Lucia	22
Peru	23
Dominica	24
Panama	25
Ecuador	26
Suriname	27
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	28
Honduras	29
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	30
Guatemala	31
Nicaragua	32
Haiti	33

South Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health

Bhutan	1
Maldives	2
Sri Lanka	3
Nepal	4
Bangladesh	5
India	6
Pakistan	7
Afghanistan	8

East Asia & Pacific	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health
Brunei Darussalam	1
Republic of Korea	2
Singapore	3
Palau	4
Japan	5
Tonga	6
Australia	7
China	8
New Zealand	9
Fiji	10
Samoa	11
Tuvalu	12
Thailand	13
Cook Islands	14
Malaysia	15
Micronesia (Federated States of)	16
Nauru	17
Mongolia	18
Viet Nam	19
Marshall Islands	20
Indonesia	21
Philippines	22
Lao People's Democratic Republic	23
Cambodia	24
Kiribati	25
Myanmar	26
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	27
Vanuatu	28
Timor-Leste	29
Solomon Islands	30
Papua New Guinea	31

3.4. Overview of the Domain Education



Map 4: Domain Education

Top ten countries Domain Education	Education Rank KRI 2025	Education Score KRI 2025
Australia	1	1,000
Denmark	2	1,000
Finland	3	1,000
Greece	4	1,000
Ireland	5	1,000
Monaco	6	1,000
Netherlands	7	1,000
New Zealand	8	1,000
Turkey	9	1,000
Belgium	10	0,999

Table 15: Top ten countries in Domain Education of KidsRights Index 2025

Scores for the Domain Education are now also available for the following six countries: **Andorra, Bahamas, Equatorial Guinea, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco** and **Somalia**. The domain score for the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** is not available for the KidsRights Index 2025 even though it was available for 2024. It could also not be generated for the **Cook Islands**, which was missing in 2024 as well. Therefore, in the KRI 2025, the Domain Education scores are available for a total of 192 countries.

Monaco and **Turkey** are the new entrants in the top ten of this domain as they both achieved the perfect score. **Iceland**, **Sweden** and **Grenada** gave up their perfect score in this domain and dropped out of the top ten as they fell by 4, 3 and 24 ranks respectively. A total of nine countries have received the perfect score in this domain in KRI 2025, which is two fewer than in KRI 2024.

Among the top twenty-five countries in Domain Education, fifteen are from Western Europe, four are from East Asia and Pacific – **Australia**, **New Zealand**, **Singapore** and **Palau**, four are from Latin America and Caribbean – **Argentina**, **Saint Kitts and Nevis**, **Chile** and **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**, and two are from Eastern Europe and Central Asia – **Turkey** and **Georgia**.

Twenty-eight countries have improved by ten ranks or more, while fifty-two countries have fallen by ten ranks or more. Only seven countries maintained the same rank as they did in 2024. While there is no significant change in the average score of all countries in this domain, the average score of the bottom ten countries fell from 0.322 in 2024 to 0.317 in 2025: a reduction of 1.55 per cent.

3.4.1. Biggest movers in the Domain Education

Climbers

The **Marshall Islands** showed the most significant improvement in the Domain Education for 2025. The country rose by 115 ranks, from the 152nd to the 37th position with a remarkable 48 per cent increase in its score. This is followed by **Armenia** which jumped 49 ranks, and **Albania** and **Jordan** which jumped 40 ranks each. Other notable advancements in the Domain Education include **Barbados** and **Haiti** which improved by 38 ranks each, and **Saint Kitts and Nevis** and **Tuvalu** which improved by 36 ranks each.

Descenders

Jamaica dropped 68 ranks (from the 92nd position in 2024 to 160th in 2025) and thereby deteriorated the most in the Domain Education. It is closely followed by **Oman** and the **Dominican Republic**, which declined by 51 and 44 ranks respectively.

Jamaica

Jamaica's education system remains heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to school closures during the pandemic, Jamaican children have lost around 1.3 billion hours of in-class education.¹¹⁸ Especially children who struggle to access remote education due to socio-economically related vulnerabilities remain disengaged from education.¹¹⁹ Pregnancy and financial difficulties have been identified as the primary causes for disadvantaged children to drop out of school.¹²⁰ Additionally, Jamaica is facing a 'brain-drain', with teachers leaving the country to work abroad. In 2023 alone, the UK issued around 1,100 work visas to Jamaican secondary school teachers.¹²¹ The resulting teacher shortage further negatively affects Jamaican students' access to education, as well as the quality of education.

¹¹⁸ UNICEF Jamaica, 'Education Our Vision: Support all Children to Learn in a Safe Environment', <https://www.unicef.org/jamaica/education>.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Richard Adams, Carmen Aguilar García, 'Steep Rise in Schools in England Recruiting Teachers from Jamaica', *The Guardian*, 2 April 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2024/apr/02/steep-rise-in-schools-in-england-recruiting-teachers-from-jamaica>.

Zimbabwe (-40), **Ukraine** (-39), **Botswana** (-38), **Fiji** (-37) and **El Salvador** (-36) also recorded a significant decline in their rankings in this domain.

3.4.2. Underlying indicator data for the Domain Education

The scores for the Domain Education are based on the underlying indicator data on the expected years of schooling for males and females.¹²² The expected years of schooling indicates the number of years that children of school entrance age are expected to receive throughout their life, which also varies based on the gender. In this way, the gender inequality between the male and female population, which is calculated as the absolute difference between their respective expected years of schooling, is considered too as it helps us gain insights into the gendered barriers faced by children in accessing education.

Increase in expected years of schooling

The **Marshall Islands** recorded the highest increase in expected years of schooling, for both female and male populations by 64 and 56 percent respectively. This improvement has effectively increased the expected years of schooling for the female population from 10.4 to 17 years, and for the male population from 10.1 years to 15.8 years. An explanatory factor might be that the Marshall Island's education system has received significant financial assistance since 2019 through the World Bank.¹²³ The grants of the 'Early Childhood Development Project' amount to USD 30.000.000 and aim to increase pre-school classrooms, recruit and train teaching staff, and invest in learning materials, including technology-based learning.¹²⁴ These measures may have contributed to its increase in expected years of schooling.

Tuvalu recorded an increase of around 30 per cent for both the female and male population. The expected years of schooling improved for the female population from 9.5 to 12.4 years, and for the male population from 9.3 to 11.8 years. The expected years of schooling in **Jordan** improved by around 19 per cent for both the female and male population, from 10.8 to 12.9 years and from 10.5 to 12.4 years respectively.

Saint Kitts and Nevis is one other country where significant improvements could be observed, with increases from 16 to 19.7 years for the female population and from 14.9 to 17 years for the male population.

Haiti improved on its expected years of schooling for the female population by 23 per cent, increasing from 9 to 11.1 years. The **United Arab Emirates** also recorded a 20 per cent improvement for the female population, taking up the expected years of schooling from 16.5 to 19.8 years.

For the male population, **Uganda** recorded a 17.6 per cent increase in expected years of schooling, improving from 10.1 to 11.9 years.

Decrease in expected years of schooling

¹²² Expected years of schooling: Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child's life.

¹²³ World Bank Group, 'Boosting Early Childhood Development in the Marshall Islands', 28 February 2019, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/01/28/boosting-early-childhood-development-in-the-marshall-islands>.

¹²⁴ World Bank Group, 'Healthy, Educated and Ready to Thrive: A Boost for Early Childhood Development in Marshall Islands', 6 June 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/06/06/-healthy-educated-and-ready-to-thrive-a-boost-for-early-childhood-development-in-marshall-islands>.

While numerous countries have improved their performance on the indicator expected years of schooling, several others have experienced a decline. **Mauritania** recorded a decline for both the female and male population. It saw a 14.7 per cent decrease for females, with the expected years dropping from 9.6 to 8.2 years, and a 13.4 percent decrease for males, going down from 9.2 to 8 years. A similar phenomenon can be observed for the **Syrian Arab Republic**, where the expected years of schooling declined for females by 21 per cent, from 9.1 to 7.2 years, and for males by 17.1 per cent, decreasing from 9.2 to 7.7. It recorded the most significant reduction of all for the expected years of schooling for females. **Suriname** follows closely as the expected years of schooling for the female population fell by 20.1 per cent from 14.2 to 11.3 years. For the male population, Yemen followed with a 15 per cent drop from 10.5 to 8.9 years. The other countries recording a decline in the expected years of schooling for the male population are **Jamaica, Oman** and **Ukraine**, all recording a decline of around 13 per cent compared to the KidsRights Index 2024.

Expected years of schooling – Gender Inequality

Gender-based barriers that hinder access to education lead to disparities between the expected years of schooling for the male and female population within a country. A higher difference in the expected years of schooling indicates the existence of deeply rooted socio-economic and legal barriers that adversely and disproportionately impacts either of the genders.

The highest disparity is observed in **Afghanistan** as the expected years of schooling for the female population is 5.2 years lower than that for the male population. Since the Taliban's ban on girls attending secondary education in 2021 (i.e., after grade 6), around 1.5 million girls are deprived of their right to continue their education.¹²⁵ Furthermore, deteriorating economic and humanitarian conditions result in boys having to work, instead of pursuing an education. 66 per cent of absent boys from primary school indicate economic reasons for their absence, while 47 per cent of girls indicated the same in this category. Overall, the discriminatory policies in Afghanistan have contributed to a decrease in the expected years of schooling for Afghan children, especially for girls.

Chad is one of the other countries where the female population is at a significant disadvantage as the expected years of schooling is 2.7 years lower.

However, in **Kuwait**, the expected years of schooling for males is four years lower than that of females. Other countries where the expected years of schooling for the male population is over three years lower when compared to the female population are: **Argentina** (3.8 years), **Barbados** (3.5 years), **United Arab Emirates** (3.4 years), **Nauru** at (3.3 years) and **Sweden** (3.1 years).

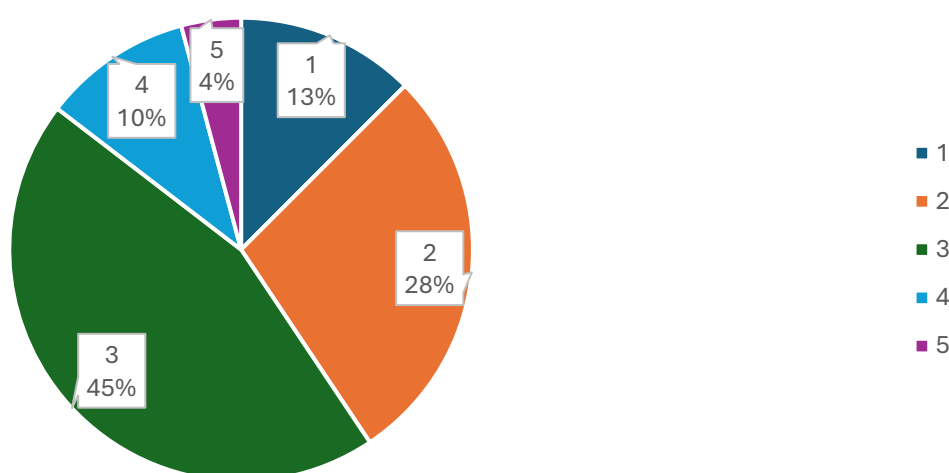
Overall, among the 192 countries included in the Domain Education of the KidsRights Index 2025, the expected years of schooling is higher for the female population in 144 countries, an increase of thirteen countries from the KRI 2024, and higher for the male population in 48 countries, a decreasing of eight countries.

¹²⁵ UNESCO, 'Banned from education: A review of the right to education in Afghanistan', 2025, p. 9, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000393229>.

3.4.3. Global cluster insights for Domain Education

Unlike in the Domains Life and Health, where a significant percentage of countries are categorized under Cluster 1 (42 and 60 per cent respectively), in the Domain Education only 13 per cent of all countries are in Cluster 1. This is the lowest performance level among all the domains. The highest percentage of countries (45 per cent) in this domain is concentrated in Cluster 3 which reflects the scope for improvement in realizing the education rights of children, globally.

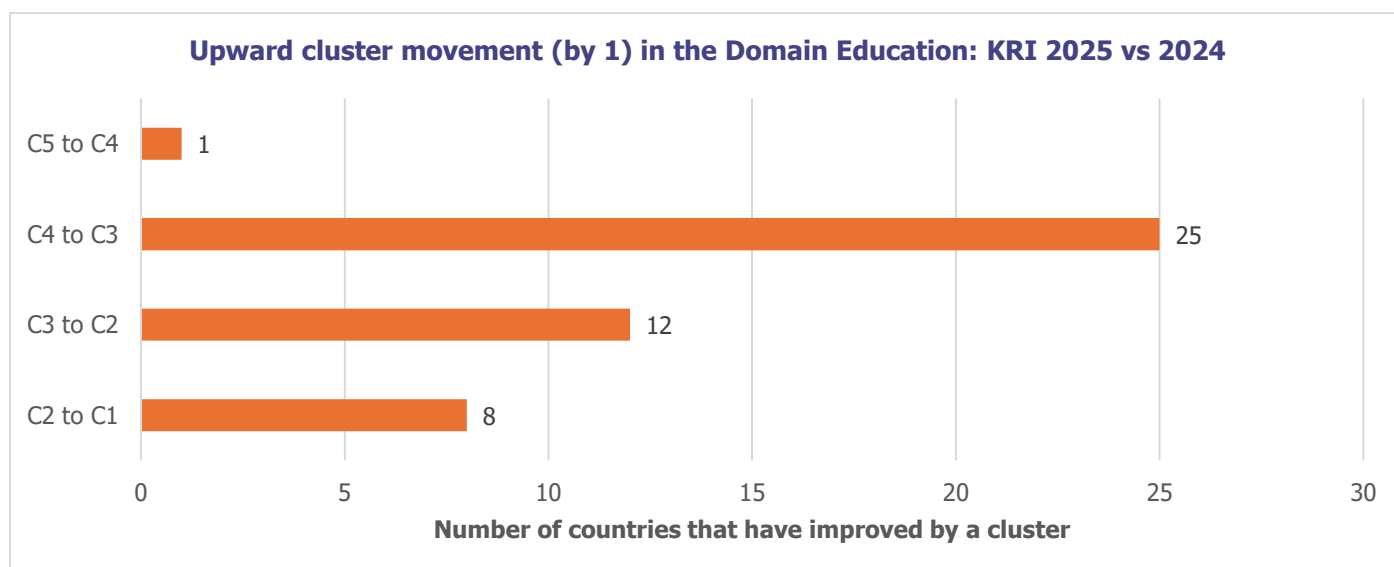
Domain Education: percentage breakdown of Clusters 2025



Domain Education Cluster	No. of countries in 2025	No. of countries in 2024
1	24	16
2	54	53
3	86	64
4	20	45
5	8	9

Table 16: Domain Education Clusters 2025 vs 2024

Based on a comparative analysis of the cluster categorization of countries for the Domain Education in the KidsRights Index 2025 and 2024, the **Marshall Islands** is the only country that has moved up by two clusters (from Cluster 4 to Cluster 2), marking an exceptional improvement in this domain. Forty-six other countries have improved by a cluster, while six countries have moved down by a cluster. Of the forty-six countries that climbed up a cluster, more than half (twenty-five countries) have improved from Cluster 4 to 3. This upward cluster movement of the countries, especially from Cluster 4 to 3, shows an improvement in access to education for children in numerous countries. A detailed breakdown of the cluster movement of all the countries that have improved by a cluster is provided in the following graph.



3.4.4. Regional level cluster insights for Domain Education

Western Europe has an equal number of countries, fifteen each (46.9 per cent), in Clusters 1 and 2, while the region Eastern Europe and Central Asia has the highest proportion (eleven out of twenty-one countries or 52.4 per cent) in Cluster 2. These insights from Western Europe and Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the Domain Education are less than impressive, especially considering their performance in the other domains where countries from these two regions are predominantly categorized in Cluster 1 of the respective domains.

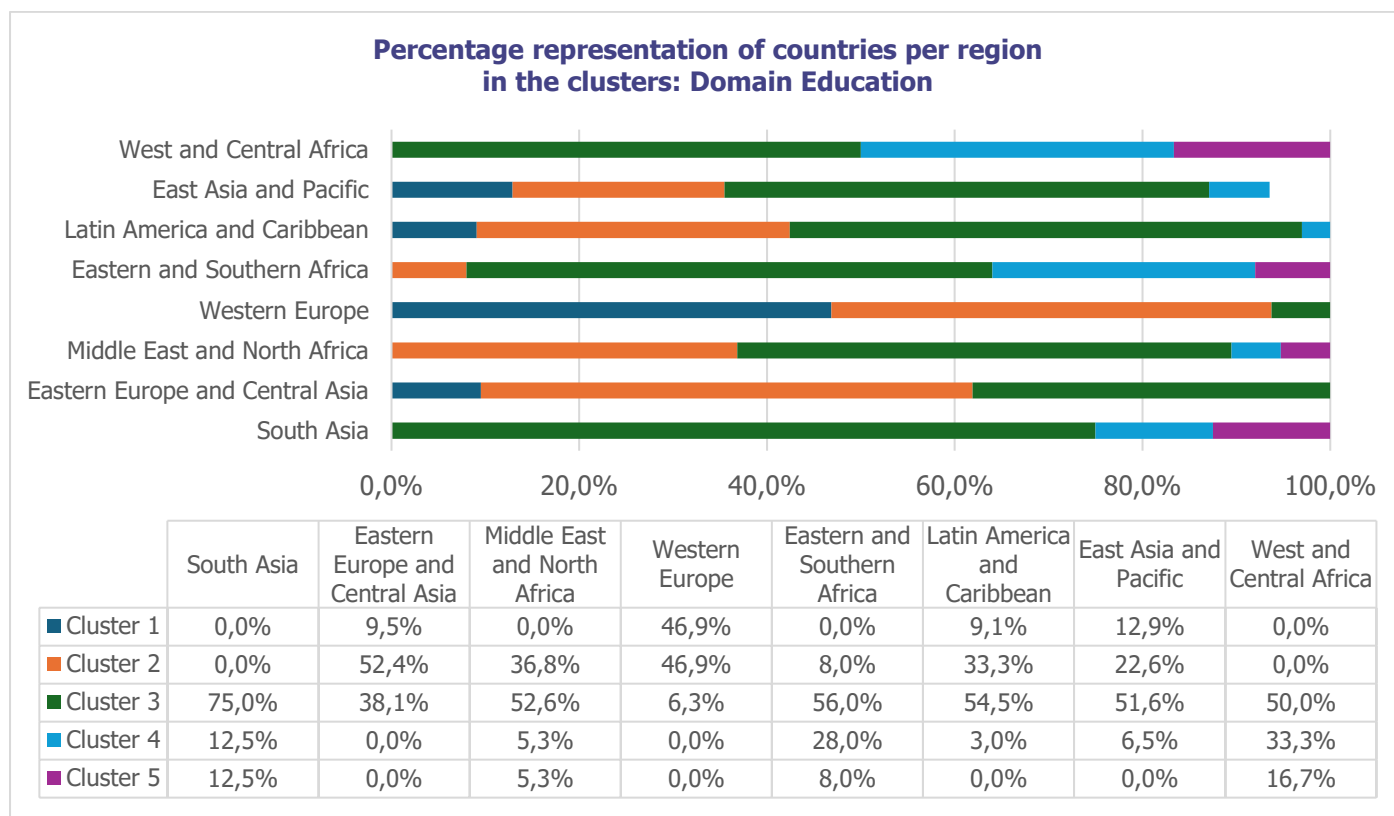
Five regions, South Asia (75 per cent), Eastern and Southern Africa (56 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (54.5 per cent), East Asia and the Pacific (51.6 per cent), and West and Central Africa (50 per cent), have the highest proportion of countries in Cluster 3. This was also expected considering that the overall concentration of the countries is the highest in Cluster 3 for the Domain Education.

Regions	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
South Asia	0	0	6	1	1
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	2	11	8	0	0
Middle East and North Africa	0	7	10	1	1
Western Europe	15	15	2	0	0
Eastern and Southern Africa	0	2	14	7	2
Latin America and Caribbean	3	11	18	1	0
North America	0	1	0	0	0
East Asia and Pacific	4	7	16	2	0
West and Central Africa	0	0	12	8	4

Table 17: Region-level cluster representation based on scores in the Domain Education

None of the countries from the regions South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa have any representation in Cluster 1. South Asia and West and Central Africa are considerably lagging in realizing the education rights of children, considering that none of the countries from these regions have a representation even in Cluster 2.

Considering these insights, countries across all regions are significantly underperforming in this domain despite making some improvements since last year. It is important to identify and address the barriers that are hindering the realization of the child's right to education.



In the Domain Education, data availability has improved, as six new countries could be included in 2025. Improved access to education for children can be inferred from the cluster movements in this domain: forty-seven countries improved while 'only' six countries deteriorated. There still is significant scope for further improvement considering that countries from all regions (except Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Western Europe) are heavily concentrated in cluster 3, with little to no representation in the top cluster (1). The regions of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Western Europe, also fall short when compared to their performance in the other domains. Gender inequality in the expected years of schooling continues to pose serious concerns for children in several countries, including in Afghanistan and Chad where the girls are at a significant disadvantage, and in Kuwait and Argentina where the boys are disadvantaged in their access to education. The need of the hour is to identify and address the explicit and implicit challenges encountered specifically by girls and boys by developing and adopting localized response, both in policies and practice.

Global ranks: Domain Education KRI 2025

Countries	Score	Rank
Australia	1,000	1
Denmark	1,000	2
Finland	1,000	3
Greece	1,000	4
Ireland	1,000	5
Monaco	1,000	6
Netherlands	1,000	7
New Zealand	1,000	8
Turkey	1,000	9
Belgium	0,999	10
Iceland	0,984	11
Norway	0,982	12
Germany	0,961	13
Sweden	0,954	14
Singapore	0,927	15
Spain	0,925	16
Argentina	0,918	17
Switzerland	0,911	18
United Kingdom	0,911	19
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,910	20
Portugal	0,903	21
Georgia	0,895	22
Palau	0,895	23
Chile	0,892	24
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,883	25
Republic of Korea	0,874	26
Slovenia	0,867	27
Italy	0,866	28
Japan	0,858	29
Grenada	0,853	30
Austria	0,851	31
Cyprus	0,851	32
Russian Federation	0,849	33
United Arab Emirates	0,848	34
France	0,836	35
Czech Republic	0,835	36
Marshall Islands	0,833	37
Latvia	0,832	38
Lithuania	0,830	39
Thailand	0,830	40
Bahrain	0,826	41
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0,823	42
Costa Rica	0,823	43
Canada	0,815	44
Peru	0,815	45
Uruguay	0,807	46
Morocco	0,803	47
Kazakhstan	0,800	48
Saudi Arabia	0,799	49
China	0,796	50
Hungary	0,796	51
Malta	0,792	52

Poland	0,787	53
Brazil	0,784	54
Albania	0,783	55
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0,783	56
Montenegro	0,780	57
Luxembourg	0,779	58
Estonia	0,778	59
Colombia	0,775	60
Belarus	0,774	61
Ecuador	0,773	62
Indonesia	0,769	63
Republic of Moldova	0,769	64
Eswatini	0,767	65
Israel	0,767	66
Tonga	0,764	67
Algeria	0,763	68
Armenia	0,753	69
Croatia	0,752	70
Slovakia	0,751	71
Mexico	0,750	72
Liechtenstein	0,744	73
Bulgaria	0,742	74
Trinidad and Tobago	0,742	75
Mauritius	0,741	76
Romania	0,741	77
Turkmenistan	0,740	78
Serbia	0,721	79
South Africa	0,721	80
Ukraine	0,719	81
Timor-Leste	0,718	82
Andorra	0,714	83
Mongolia	0,711	84
Egypt	0,709	85
Azerbaijan	0,708	86
Antigua and Barbuda	0,707	87
Kyrgyzstan	0,707	88
Cuba	0,706	89
Brunei Darussalam	0,705	90
Fiji	0,705	91
India	0,703	92
Libya	0,701	93
Sri Lanka	0,701	94
Tunisia	0,699	95
Barbados	0,697	96
Viet Nam	0,696	97
Guyana	0,691	98
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0,691	99
Paraguay	0,691	100
Comoros	0,690	101
Nepal	0,685	102
Sao Tome and Principe	0,682	103
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0,679	104
Gabon	0,678	105
North Macedonia	0,675	106
Jordan	0,674	107
Oman	0,671	108

Uzbekistan	0,670	109
Nicaragua	0,669	110
Malaysia	0,665	111
Bhutan	0,663	112
Cameroon	0,662	113
Philippines	0,661	114
Equatorial Guinea	0,660	115
Namibia	0,659	116
Panama	0,655	117
Vanuatu	0,655	118
Dominica	0,648	119
Belize	0,647	120
Malawi	0,645	121
Togo	0,643	122
San Marino	0,642	123
Tuvalu	0,641	124
Kenya	0,640	125
Ghana	0,639	126
Bahamas	0,631	127
State of Palestine	0,630	128
El Salvador	0,628	129
Samoa	0,628	130
Rwanda	0,627	131
Congo	0,626	132
Saint Lucia	0,624	133
Cambodia	0,621	134
Haiti	0,621	135
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0,621	136
Cabo Verde	0,616	137
Iraq	0,615	138
Zambia	0,615	139
Kuwait	0,614	140
Bangladesh	0,611	141
Qatar	0,605	142
Uganda	0,602	143
Angola	0,601	144
Myanmar	0,599	145
Botswana	0,597	146
Dominican Republic	0,596	147
Seychelles	0,595	148
Guatemala	0,592	149
Kiribati	0,587	150
Lesotho	0,581	151
Zimbabwe	0,580	152
Lebanon	0,577	153
Suriname	0,568	154
Tajikistan	0,560	155
Mozambique	0,555	156
Nigeria	0,555	157
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0,553	158
Papua New Guinea	0,553	159
Jamaica	0,552	160
Liberia	0,550	161
Maldives	0,549	162
Guinea-Bissau	0,544	163

Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,535	164
Burundi	0,534	165
Ethiopia	0,533	166
Honduras	0,515	167
Madagascar	0,507	168
Côte d'Ivoire	0,501	169
Solomon Islands	0,492	170
Nauru	0,490	171
Sierra Leone	0,490	172
Benin	0,479	173
United Republic of Tanzania	0,471	174
Sudan	0,457	175
Burkina Faso	0,450	176
Mauritania	0,447	177
Djibouti	0,445	178
Guinea	0,445	179
Senegal	0,422	180
Somalia	0,408	181
Gambia	0,396	182
Syrian Arab Republic	0,395	183
Pakistan	0,383	184
Eritrea	0,363	185
Mali	0,335	186
Niger	0,328	187
Yemen	0,325	188
Chad	0,302	189
Afghanistan	0,280	190
Central African Republic	0,272	191
South Sudan	0,190	192
Cook Islands	N/A	N/A
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	N/A	N/A

Regional ranks: Domain Education KRI 2025

Western Europe	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Education
Denmark	1
Finland	2
Greece	3
Ireland	4
Monaco	5
Netherlands	6
Belgium	7
Iceland	8
Norway	9
Germany	10
Sweden	11
Spain	12
Switzerland	13
United Kingdom	14
Portugal	15

Slovenia	16
Italy	17
Austria	18
Cyprus	19
France	20
Czech Republic	21
Latvia	22
Lithuania	23
Hungary	24
Malta	25
Poland	26
Luxembourg	27
Estonia	28
Slovakia	29
Liechtenstein	30
Andorra	31
San Marino	N/A

Eastern Europe & Central Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Education
Turkey	1
Georgia	2
Russian Federation	3
Kazakhstan	4
Albania	5
Montenegro	6
Belarus	7
Republic of Moldova	8
Armenia	9
Croatia	10
Bulgaria	11
Romania	12
Turkmenistan	13
Serbia	14
Ukraine	15
Azerbaijan	16
Kyrgyzstan	17
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18
North Macedonia	19
Uzbekistan	20
Tajikistan	21

Eastern & Southern Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health
Eswatini	1
Mauritius	2
South Africa	3
Comoros	4
Namibia	5
Malawi	6
Kenya	7
Rwanda	8
Zambia	9
Uganda	10
Angola	11

Botswana	12
Seychelles	13
Lesotho	14
Zimbabwe	15
Mozambique	16
Burundi	17
Ethiopia	18
Madagascar	19
United Republic of Tanzania	20
Sudan	21
Djibouti	22
Somalia	23
Eritrea	24
South Sudan	25

Middle East & North Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Health
United Arab Emirates	1
Bahrain	2
Morocco	3
Saudi Arabia	4
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	5
Israel	6
Algeria	7
Egypt	8
Libya	9
Tunisia	10
Jordan	11
Oman	12
State of Palestine	13
Iraq	14
Kuwait	15
Qatar	16
Lebanon	17
Syrian Arab Republic	18
Yemen	19

West & Central Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Education
Sao Tome and Principe	1
Gabon	2
Cameroon	3
Equatorial Guinea	4
Togo	5
Ghana	6
Congo	7
Cabo Verde	8
Nigeria	9
Liberia	10
Guinea-Bissau	11
Democratic Republic of the Congo	12

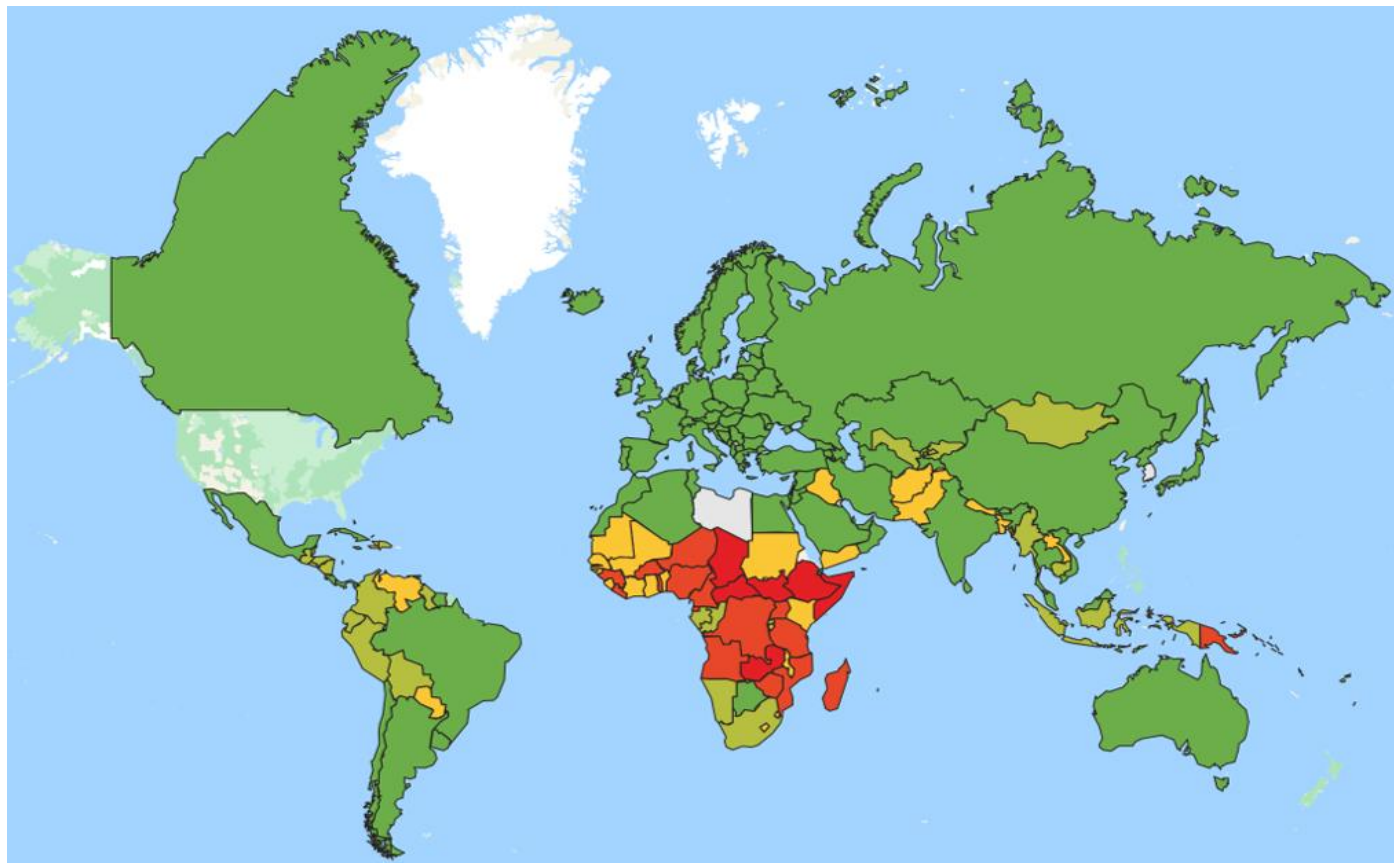
Côte d'Ivoire	13
Sierra Leone	14
Benin	15
Burkina Faso	16
Mauritania	17
Guinea	18
Senegal	19
Gambia	20
Mali	21
Niger	22
Chad	23
Central African Republic	24

South Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Education
India	1
Sri Lanka	2
Nepal	3
Bhutan	4
Bangladesh	5
Maldives	6
Pakistan	7
Afghanistan	8

Latin America & Caribbean	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Education
Argentina	1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2
Chile	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4
Grenada	5
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	6
Costa Rica	7
Peru	8
Uruguay	9
Brazil	10
Colombia	11
Ecuador	12
Mexico	13
Trinidad and Tobago	14
Antigua and Barbuda	15
Cuba	16
Barbados	17
Guyana	18
Paraguay	19
Nicaragua	20
Panama	21
Dominica	22
Belize	23
Bahamas	24
El Salvador	25
Saint Lucia	26
Haiti	27
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	28
Dominican Republic	29
Guatemala	30
Suriname	31
Jamaica	32
Honduras	33

East Asia & Pacific	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Education
Australia	1
New Zealand	2
Singapore	3
Palau	4
Republic of Korea	5
Japan	6
Marshall Islands	7
Thailand	8
China	9
Indonesia	10
Tonga	11
Timor-Leste	12
Mongolia	13
Brunei	14
Darussalam	15
Fiji	16
Viet Nam	17
Micronesia (Federated States of)	18
Malaysia	19
Philippines	20
Vanuatu	21
Tuvalu	22
Samoa	23
Cambodia	24
Myanmar	25
Kiribati	26
Lao People's Democratic Republic	27
Papua New Guinea	28
Solomon Islands	29
Nauru	N/A
Cook Islands	N/A
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	N/A

3.5. Overview of the Domain Protection



Map 5: Domain Protection

Top ten countries Domain Protection	Protection Rank KRI 2025	Protection Score KRI 2025
Switzerland	1	0,997
Denmark	2	0,996
Netherlands	3	0,996
Norway	4	0,996
Singapore	5	0,996
Japan	6	0,994
Slovenia	7	0,994
Luxembourg	8	0,993
Sweden	9	0,993
Finland	10	0,992

Table 18: Top ten countries in Domain Protection of KidsRights Index 2025

The top ten countries of the Domain Protection in the KidsRights Index 2025 remain the same as they did in 2024. There is in fact no change in the ranks of the top forty-two countries in this domain. The domain ranks could be calculated for a total of 172 countries of the 194 countries in 2025. This went up from 170 countries in the Domain Protection in 2024. **China** and **Malaysia** could be added as the minimum required data for

calculating the score on the Domain Protection is now available for these two countries which rank 43rd and 44th respectively.

Eight of the top ten countries in this domain are from Western Europe, while the remaining two (**Singapore** and **Japan**) are from the East Asia and Pacific region.

Since the source data for several countries has not been updated since last year, 43 countries maintained the same domain rank as in 2024. Only seven countries improved by ten ranks or more. Five countries fell by ten ranks or more. No significant changes could be observed in the average scores of all countries, or the top ten and bottom ten countries in this domain.

3.5.1. Biggest movers in Domain Protection

Climbers

Comoros improved by 24 ranks and is the highest gainer in the Domain Protection. Other countries that have climbed up the rankings are **Côte d'Ivoire** (+21), **Botswana** (+19), and **Guyana** (+14).

Descenders

Trinidad and Tobago fell the most in this domain, by 14 ranks from 61st in 2024 to the 75th place in 2025. **Mozambique** (-12), **Mali** (-11), **Costa Rica** (-10) and **Ecuador** (-10) are the other countries that recorded a decline in the Domain Protection.

3.5.2. Underlying indicator data for Domain Protection

The scores on the Domain Protection are based on three underlying indicators: percentage of child labour, adolescent birth rate, and percentage of birth registration of children. Source data on adolescent birth rate remained the same as in the KidsRights Index 2024. Therefore, this year's changes in the Domain Protection scores and ranks can be directly attributed to the newly available data on child labour and birth registration indicators.

Percentage of child labour

Based on the latest available data on child labour, **Eswatini** recorded a staggering 75 per cent rise, with the percentage of child labour climbing from 7.8 to 13.6 per cent. Similarly, **Mali** recorded a 72 percent increase, going up from 13.2 to 22.7 per cent.

Afghanistan also witnessed a notable rise of 48.5 per cent, with child labour rates increasing from 13 to 19.3 per cent. The Taliban has not taken any concrete measures to monitor and penalise instances of child

labour and continues to recruit and use children in armed forces.¹²⁶ It also puts girls at a higher risk of child labour due to its ban on their secondary education.¹²⁷

Eswatini

Eswatini's legal framework shows significant gaps with regard to labour conditions connected to customary practices, such as *Kuhlehla* in which residents, including children, may be required to perform communal work.¹²⁸ Further, Eswatini's free schooling is extended and mandated only to children in the primary school or below 12 to 13 years,¹²⁹ while the minimum age for work is set at 15 years.¹³⁰ This leaves a gap by which children who have completed primary education remain exposed to child labour since they are no longer required to attend school.¹³¹

Contrary to Article 7 of the Minimum Age Convention (1973) which sets a minimum age of 13 years for children to be engaged in light work, Eswatini's Employment Bill 2022 does not prescribe a minimum age for such work.¹³² By allowing children to be engaged in family work or business for 6 hours per day and 33 hours per week, even with the requirement that they should not miss school to carry out such work, the Employment Bill opens the door for children to be engaged in work at the cost of their education, leisure and rest.¹³³ The increase in child labour in Eswatini may therefore be attributed to the absence of legislative measures that effectively safeguard children from being engaged in work.

Mali

Mali's compulsory schooling provision ends at 12 years while the minimum age for work is 15 years. This legislative vacuum of 3 years leads to exploitation of children's labour, as has been repeatedly pointed out by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Committee of Experts.¹³⁴ Further, school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic pushed children in Mali towards working in gold mines, including in areas controlled by armed groups.¹³⁵ These armed groups are also reported to be involved in trafficking children for their labour to finance their military efforts.¹³⁶ Due to conflicts in Mali, over 1700 schools remained closed even in 2024, depriving half a million children of education and leaving them exposed to the risk of child labour.¹³⁷

¹²⁶ Bureau of International Labour Affairs, '2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour: Afghanistan', US Department of Labour, 2023, https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labor_reports/tda2023/Afghanistan.pdf, p. 1.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Bureau of International Labour Affairs, '2017 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Eswatini: Minimal Advancement' US Department of Labour, 2017, p. 1; Bureau of International Labour Affairs, '2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Eswatini (Swaziland): Minimal Advancement', US Department of Labour, 2023, p. 1.

¹²⁹ Government of Eswatini, the Free Primary Education Act 2010, sections 3 and 11..

¹³⁰ International Labour Organization, 'Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations Elimination of Child Labour and Protection of Children and Young Persons', Report III (Part A), 111th International Labour Conference Session, 2023, p. 464.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Ibid, p. 463.

¹³³ Ibid, p. 464.

¹³⁴ International Labour Organisation, 'Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (articles 19, 22 and 35 of the Constitution)', Report III (Part A), 113th International Labour Conference session, 2025, p. 520.

¹³⁵ UNHCR, 'Child-trafficking in Mali Increasing Because of Conflict and COVID-19', 1 December 2020, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/news-releases/child-trafficking-mali-increasing-because-conflict-and-covid-19>.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ UNICEF, 'In Mali, More than Half of the 7.1 Million People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance in 2024 are Children', 19 April 2024, <https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/press-releases/mali-more-half-71-million-people-requiring-humanitarian-assistance-2024-are-children>.

The most dramatic surge occurred in **Trinidad and Tobago**, where child labour spiked by an alarming 465 per cent, rising from a lowly 0.8 to 4.3 per cent, reportedly resulting in a renewed focus from the government on ending all forms of child labour by 2025.¹³⁸

Comoros recorded the highest decrease in child labour (by 68 per cent), from 28.5 to 9.1 per cent. In 2020 and 2021, Comoros implemented legal reforms to criminalize trafficking of children and forced child labour.¹³⁹ The 'Emerging Comoros Plan 2020-2030' also set the goal to eliminate all forms of child labour.¹⁴⁰ There is still room for improvement considering that Comoros has prohibited the worst forms of child labour since 2012, but is yet to harmonise its laws to penalize violators.¹⁴¹

Brazil follows closely as it achieved a 66.7 per cent reduction in child labour, with the actual rates dropping from 5.4 to 1.8 per cent. The decrease of child labour in Brazil correlates to the gain in per capita household income seen in 2023.¹⁴² The average income per household also increased together with the number of households covered by 'Bolsa Família',¹⁴³ a direct monthly cash transfer programme for families living in poverty, conditioned on keeping children in school, among other terms.¹⁴⁴

Guyana and **Gabon** also recorded a significant reduction in child labour as the rates went down by 41 and 39 per cent respectively. **Côte d'Ivoire** (-33.5 per cent) and **Egypt** (-24.8 per cent) are the other countries which have significantly improved on this indicator.

Percentage of birth registration

Birth registration saw significant improvements in several countries since the KidsRights Index 2024. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, birth registration increased dramatically by 156.5 per cent (from 26.4 to 67.7 per cent), the highest improvement of all. In December 2023, Tanzania rolled out its Simplified Birth Registration System Programme, allowing families to register new births in all 26 regions in the country.¹⁴⁵ The new system is free of charge and offers decentralized registration points, where families can additionally immunize their children and receive nutrition services.¹⁴⁶

Rwanda also recorded substantial progress, with a 52.9 per cent increase, moving from a coverage of 56 to 85.6 per cent. Rwanda's Law 32/2016 and its 2020 amendment decentralized birth registration to health

¹³⁸ Sunshine Arthur, 'Government Working to End Child Labour', Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, 10 May 2024, <https://newsday.co.tt/2024/05/10/government-working-to-end-child-labour/>.

¹³⁹ Bureau of International Labour Affairs, '2020 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Comoros', US Department of Labour, 29 September 2021; Bureau of International Labour Affairs, '2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Comoros', US Department of Labour, 24 June 2024.

¹⁴⁰ Plan Comores Emergent 2030, pp. 112-113, <https://www.nepad.org/agenda2063-national-development-plan/plan-comores-emergent-2030#>

¹⁴¹ Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 'Compilation of Information Prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights', Forty-sixth session, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/WG.6/46/COM/2, 16 February 2024, para. 33.

¹⁴² Vitor Abdala, 'Child labor in Brazil drops 14.6% in one year', Agência Brasil, 18 October 2024, <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/economia/noticia/2024-10/child-labor-brazil-drops-146-one-year>.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Gazola Hellmann, 'How does Bolsa Familia Work?: Best Practices in the Implementation of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean', Inter-American Development Bank, 2015, p. 5.

¹⁴⁵ UNICEF, 'Simplified Birth Registration Implemented in all 26 Regions of Mainland Tanzania: 248,000 More Children Receive Birth Certificates in Dar es Salaam', 13 December 2023, <https://www.unicef.org/tanzania/press-releases/simplified-birth-registration-implemented-all-26-regions-mainland-tanzania>.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

facilities and offices spread across the country.¹⁴⁷ Furthermore, the National Centralized and Integrated Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System enables electronic birth registrations, allowing real time registration services across Rwanda.¹⁴⁸

Côte d'Ivoire and **Cambodia** surpassed the 90 percent coverage line by recording a 33.2 and 25 per cent rise in birth registration respectively. Eswatini followed closely with a 22.8 per cent increase (from 53.5 to 65.7 per cent). Botswana's birth registration rates increased by 14.3 per cent to achieve the perfect 100 per cent coverage.

Mozambique, however, experienced a decline in birth registration, with the rates falling by 43 per cent (from 55 to 31.3 per cent). Despite increased decentralization efforts and registration policies, the national birth registration rate in Mozambique dropped in 2023.¹⁴⁹ This is partly attributable to the long distances parents need to travel to reach the registration centres, as well as social and cultural norms influencing parents (and especially women acting alone) not to register their child(ren).¹⁵⁰ Furthermore, the direct and indirect costs associated with birth registration act as another barrier, in conjunction with the difficulties that parents who themselves are not registered face in proving their own identity.¹⁵¹

Of all the countries with updated source data on birth registration, only eleven recorded a decline. Twenty-six recorded an improvement which signifies a positive momentum in working towards the children's right to identity and nationality as enshrined in the UNCRC.¹⁵²

3.5.3. Global cluster insights for Domain Protection

Over 70 per cent of the countries in the Domain Protection of the KRI 2025 are categorized under Clusters 1 (55 per cent) and 2 (17 per cent). While these insights appear to indicate a positive situation for children's rights in most countries, it is important to highlight that this year the domain scores for Protection could only be calculated for 172 countries out of 194, due to the unavailability of data for the remaining 22 countries.

A detailed percentage breakdown of clusters for the Domain Protection in the KidsRights Index 2025 is visualized in the following pie-chart.

¹⁴⁷ UNICEF, 'Birth Registration in Sub-Saharan Africa: Current Levels and Trends', 2025, p. 7-8, https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UNICEF_Birth-Registration-in-SSA_FNL_March-2025.pdf.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

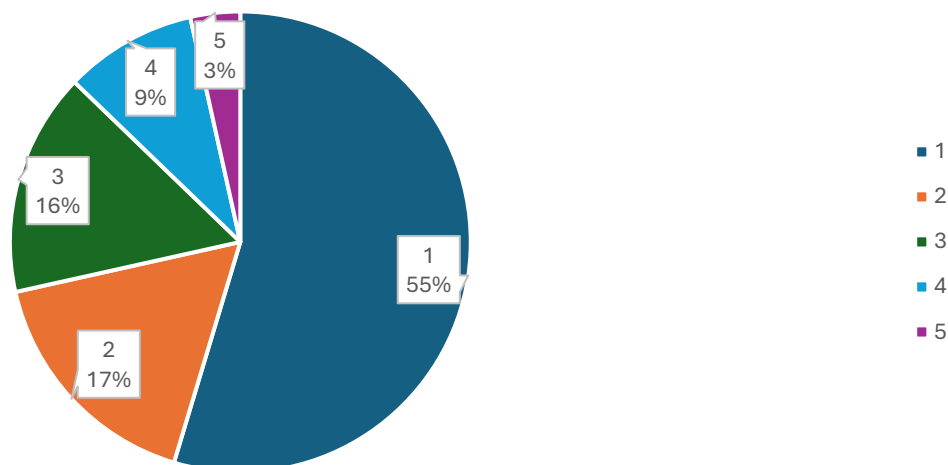
¹⁴⁹ UNICEF Mozambique, 'Birth Registration', p. 2, 2024, https://www.unicef.org/mozambique/media/7246/file/UNICEF_Moz_VACcompanionBirthReg_FinalWeb.pdf.pdf.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 2.

¹⁵¹ Ibid., p. 3.

¹⁵² Art. 7, UNCRC.

Domain Protection: percentage breakdown of clusters 2025



Eight countries have moved up by a cluster in the Domain Protection, while six countries have moved down by a cluster compared to the results for 2024. The total number of countries in Clusters 1 and 2 has increased from 119 in 2024 to 123 in 2025, which can be considered as an overall positive development in this domain. Of the eight countries that moved up by a cluster, four improved from Cluster 2 to 1, three improved from Cluster 3 to 2, and one improved from Cluster 4 to 3. However, **South Sudan** and **Zambia** have moved down from Cluster 4 to 5, which reflects the relatively worse situation of children's protection rights in their jurisdictions when compared to the global developments.

Domain Protection Cluster	No. of countries in 2025	No. of countries in 2024
1	94	88
2	29	31
3	27	31
4	16	16
5	6	4

Table 19: Domain Protection Clusters 2025 vs 2024

3.5.4. Regional level cluster insights for Domain Protection

At the regional level, except in Eastern and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa, where most countries are categorized under Clusters 3 and 4, in all the other regions most countries are categorized under Cluster 1 for the Domain Protection. In addition, countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, and East Asia and Pacific also make up 65 per cent of the countries in Cluster 2 (nineteen out of twenty-nine countries).

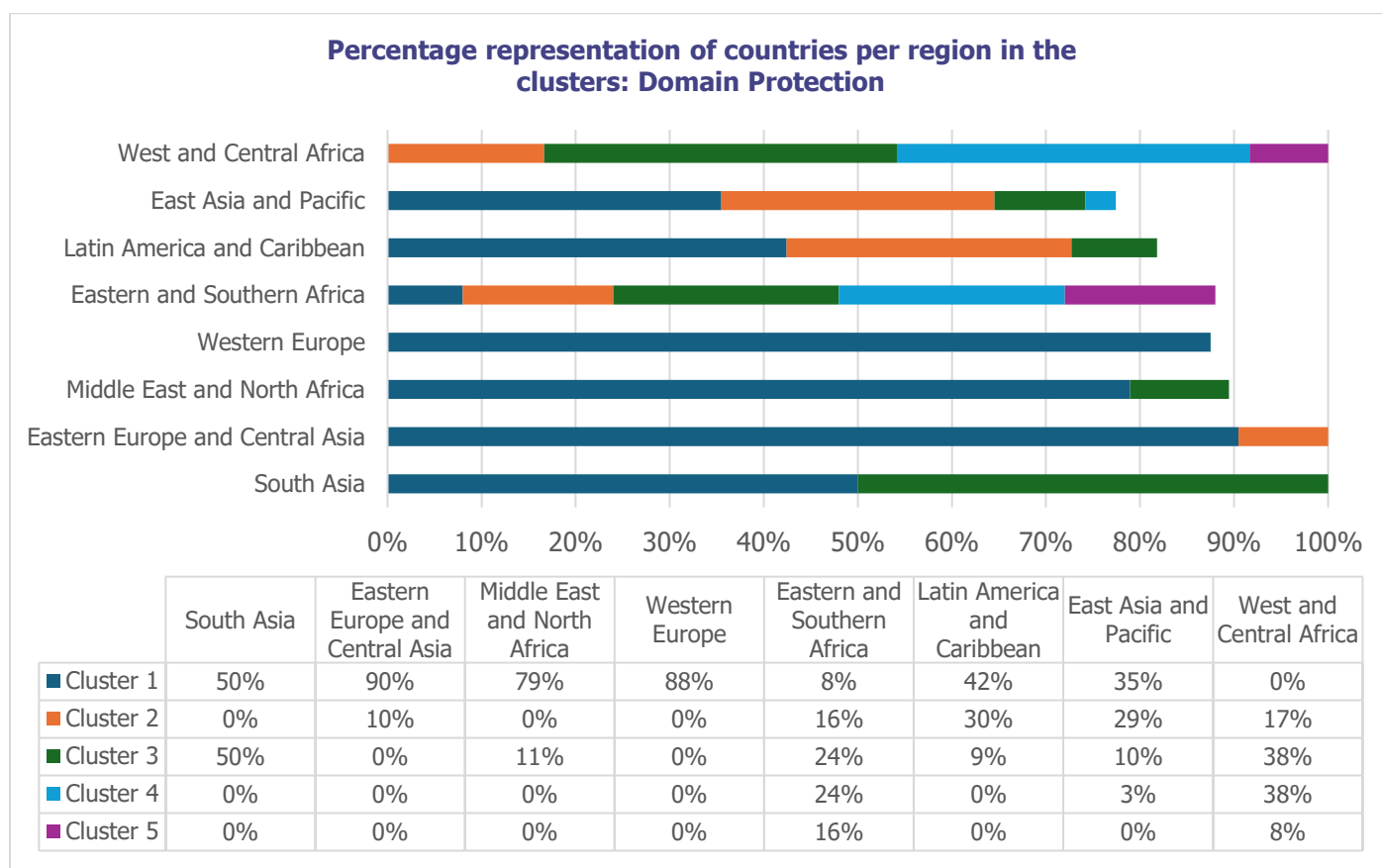
Similar to the cluster categorization in both the Domains Life and Health, all the countries in Western Europe for which data is available (that is, 28 out of 32 countries), are categorized under Cluster 1 in this domain. A detailed breakdown of the clusters at the regional level is provided in the following table and graph.

Regions	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
---------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

South Asia	4	0	4	0	0
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	19	2	0	0	0
Middle East and North Africa	15	0	2	0	0
Western Europe	28	0	0	0	0
Eastern and Southern Africa	2	4	6	6	4
Latin America and Caribbean	14	10	3	0	0
North America	1	0	0	0	0
East Asia and Pacific	11	9	3	1	0
West and Central Africa	0	4	9	9	2

Table 20: Region-wise cluster representation based on Domain Protection scores

The 2025 scores for the Domain Protection could only be calculated for all the countries in three of the regions: South Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and West and Central Africa. Among all the regions, the region East Asia and the Pacific stands out negatively as the only region where the domain scores are available for less than 80 per cent of the countries. Therefore, the insights from this section must be read together with Section 5 of this report on 'Missing Data' for a clear overview on indicator data and its impact on the domain scores and rankings.



Data unavailability for several countries in the Domain Protection remains the predominant challenge for monitoring and analyzing the performance of these countries. Due to the lack of (updated) data for several countries, no significant cluster movement trend could be observed in this domain.

A broader increase in birth registrations, including in the **United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire** and **Cambodia** is a welcome development considering its significance for children's right to identity and nationality. Birth registrations are also crucial for children and their families since they facilitate access to public benefits and services. They also provide valuable information for the governments and policymakers that can aid in specific policy development and implementation, and budget allocations for services and programmes relevant to children's rights.

Child labour has reduced in countries such as **Comoros, Brazil, Gabon** and **Guyana** but is on a rise in **Eswatini, Mali** and **Afghanistan**, among others. Children's lack of access to education can be identified as one of the common denominators for countries where child labour is on a rise, especially legislative gaps between the age for mandatory schooling and the minimum age to work. That is, not providing access to mandatory education until children reach the minimum age to work leaves children vulnerable to child labour.

Global ranks: Domain
Protection KRI 2025

Countries	Score	Rank
Switzerland	0,997	1
Denmark	0,996	2
Netherlands	0,996	3
Norway	0,996	4
Singapore	0,996	5
Japan	0,994	6
Slovenia	0,994	7
Luxembourg	0,993	8
Sweden	0,993	9
Finland	0,992	10
Italy	0,991	11
Belgium	0,990	12
Germany	0,990	13
Iceland	0,989	14
Austria	0,988	15
Cyprus	0,988	16
Ireland	0,988	17
Spain	0,987	18
Portugal	0,986	19
France	0,985	20
Greece	0,984	21
Croatia	0,983	22
Israel	0,983	23
Tunisia	0,982	24
Estonia	0,981	25
Qatar	0,980	26
Saudi Arabia	0,980	27
Canada	0,979	28
Poland	0,979	29
Australia	0,977	30
Czech Republic	0,977	31
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0,976	32
Lithuania	0,976	33
Malta	0,976	34
Maldives	0,975	35
United Kingdom	0,975	36
New Zealand	0,974	37
Oman	0,972	38
Latvia	0,971	39
Algeria	0,970	40
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0,970	41
Bahrain	0,967	42
China	0,966	43
Malaysia	0,965	44
Sri Lanka	0,965	45
Turkmenistan	0,962	46
Lebanon	0,961	47
North Macedonia	0,959	48
Russian Federation	0,957	49
Belarus	0,954	50
Hungary	0,954	51
Albania	0,951	52
Kazakhstan	0,950	53

Ukraine	0,950	54
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0,946	55
Jordan	0,946	56
Slovakia	0,946	57
Republic of Moldova	0,944	58
Georgia	0,941	59
Turkey	0,940	60
Armenia	0,939	61
Bhutan	0,937	62
Montenegro	0,930	63
United Arab Emirates	0,930	64
Romania	0,925	65
India	0,923	66
Bulgaria	0,921	67
Barbados	0,918	68
Morocco	0,918	69
Thailand	0,916	70
Djibouti	0,915	71
Uruguay	0,912	72
Serbia	0,911	73
Jamaica	0,909	74
Trinidad and Tobago	0,907	75
Viet Nam	0,903	76
Argentina	0,898	77
Botswana	0,896	78
Brazil	0,895	79
Egypt	0,895	80
Tuvalu	0,893	81
Saint Lucia	0,892	82
Cuba	0,891	83
Chile	0,889	84
Costa Rica	0,887	85
Suriname	0,880	86
State of Palestine	0,879	87
Belize	0,874	88
Azerbaijan	0,873	89
Philippines	0,872	90
Syrian Arab Republic	0,867	91
Tajikistan	0,866	92
Panama	0,861	93
Mexico	0,859	94
Mongolia	0,855	95
Guyana	0,846	96
Colombia	0,845	97
El Salvador	0,844	98
South Africa	0,838	99
Cabo Verde	0,833	100
Indonesia	0,832	101
Myanmar	0,826	102
Dominican Republic	0,823	103
Peru	0,821	104
Comoros	0,820	105
Honduras	0,816	106
Uzbekistan	0,816	107
Cambodia	0,801	108
Fiji	0,801	109
Sao Tome and Principe	0,791	110

Kyrgyzstan	0,786	111
Kiribati	0,782	112
Guatemala	0,780	113
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0,774	114
Gabon	0,772	115
Tonga	0,772	116
Ecuador	0,768	117
Rwanda	0,755	118
Namibia	0,754	119
Timor-Leste	0,740	120
Samoa	0,731	121
Nicaragua	0,729	122
Congo	0,728	123
Solomon Islands	0,719	124
Côte d'Ivoire	0,705	125
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0,704	126
Bangladesh	0,692	127
Benin	0,678	128
Kenya	0,676	129
Paraguay	0,671	130
Eswatini	0,662	131
Ghana	0,661	132
Pakistan	0,656	133
Lesotho	0,652	134
Senegal	0,651	135
Sierra Leone	0,640	136
Burundi	0,635	137
Sudan	0,634	138
Iraq	0,631	139
Nepal	0,626	140
Vanuatu	0,621	141
Gambia	0,616	142
Haiti	0,610	143
Malawi	0,592	144
Mauritania	0,591	145
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0,583	146
Afghanistan	0,558	147
Mali	0,558	148
Yemen	0,549	149
Guinea-Bissau	0,540	150
Togo	0,533	151
Guinea	0,524	152
United Republic of Tanzania	0,522	153
Zimbabwe	0,511	154
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,494	155
Burkina Faso	0,470	156
Liberia	0,469	157
Nigeria	0,453	158
Mozambique	0,439	159
Madagascar	0,426	160
Papua New Guinea	0,420	161
Cameroon	0,416	162
Uganda	0,415	163

Niger	0,413	164
Equatorial Guinea	0,391	165
Angola	0,378	166
Zambia	0,339	167
South Sudan	0,336	168
Somalia	0,321	169
Central African Republic	0,291	170
Ethiopia	0,222	171
Chad	0,206	172
Andorra	N/A	N/A
Antigua and Barbuda	N/A	N/A
Bahamas	N/A	N/A
Brunei	N/A	N/A
Darussalam	N/A	N/A
Cook Islands	N/A	N/A
Dominica	N/A	N/A
Eritrea	N/A	N/A
Grenada	N/A	N/A
Kuwait	N/A	N/A
Libya	N/A	N/A
Liechtenstein	N/A	N/A
Marshall Islands	N/A	N/A
Mauritius	N/A	N/A
Micronesia (Federated States of)	N/A	N/A
Monaco	N/A	N/A
Nauru	N/A	N/A
Palau	N/A	N/A
Republic of Korea	N/A	N/A
Saint Kitts and Nevis	N/A	N/A
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	N/A	N/A
San Marino	N/A	N/A
Seychelles	N/A	N/A

Austria	13
Cyprus	14
Ireland	15
Spain	16
Portugal	17
France	18
Greece	19
Estonia	20
Poland	21
Czech Republic	22
Lithuania	23
Malta	24
United Kingdom	25
Latvia	26
Hungary	27
Slovakia	28
Monaco	N/A
Liechtenstein	N/A
Andorra	N/A
San Marino	N/A

Eswatini	8
Lesotho	9
Burundi	10
Sudan	11
Malawi	12
United Republic of Tanzania	13
Zimbabwe	14
Mozambique	15
Madagascar	16
Uganda	17
Angola	18
Zambia	19
South Sudan	20
Somalia	21
Ethiopia	22
Mauritius	N/A
Seychelles	N/A
Eritrea	N/A

Eastern Europe & Central Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Protection
Croatia	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
Turkmenistan	3
North Macedonia	4
Russian Federation	5
Belarus	6
Albania	7
Kazakhstan	8
Ukraine	9
Republic of Moldova	10
Georgia	11
Turkey	12
Armenia	13
Montenegro	14
Romania	15
Bulgaria	16
Serbia	17
Azerbaijan	18
Tajikistan	19
Uzbekistan	20
Kyrgyzstan	21

Middle East & North Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Protection
Israel	1
Tunisia	2
Qatar	3
Saudi Arabia	4
Oman	5
Algeria	6
Bahrain	7
Lebanon	8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	9
Jordan	10
United Arab Emirates	11
Morocco	12
Egypt	13
State of Palestine	14
Syrian Arab Republic	15
Iraq	16
Yemen	17
Libya	N/A
Kuwait	N/A

Regional ranks: Domain Protection KRI 2025

Western Europe	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Protection
Switzerland	1
Denmark	2
Netherlands	3
Norway	4
Slovenia	5
Luxembourg	6
Sweden	7
Finland	8
Italy	9
Belgium	10
Germany	11
Iceland	12

Eastern & Southern Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Protection
Djibouti	1
Botswana	2
South Africa	3
Comoros	4
Rwanda	5
Namibia	6
Kenya	7

West & Central Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Protection
Cabo Verde	1
Sao Tome and Principe	2
Gabon	3
Congo	4
Côte d'Ivoire	5
Benin	6
Ghana	7
Senegal	8
Sierra Leone	9

Gambia	10
Mauritania	11
Mali	12
Guinea-Bissau	13
Togo	14
Guinea	15
Democratic Republic of the Congo	16
Burkina Faso	17
Liberia	18
Nigeria	19
Cameroon	20
Niger	21
Equatorial Guinea	22
Central African Republic	23
Chad	24

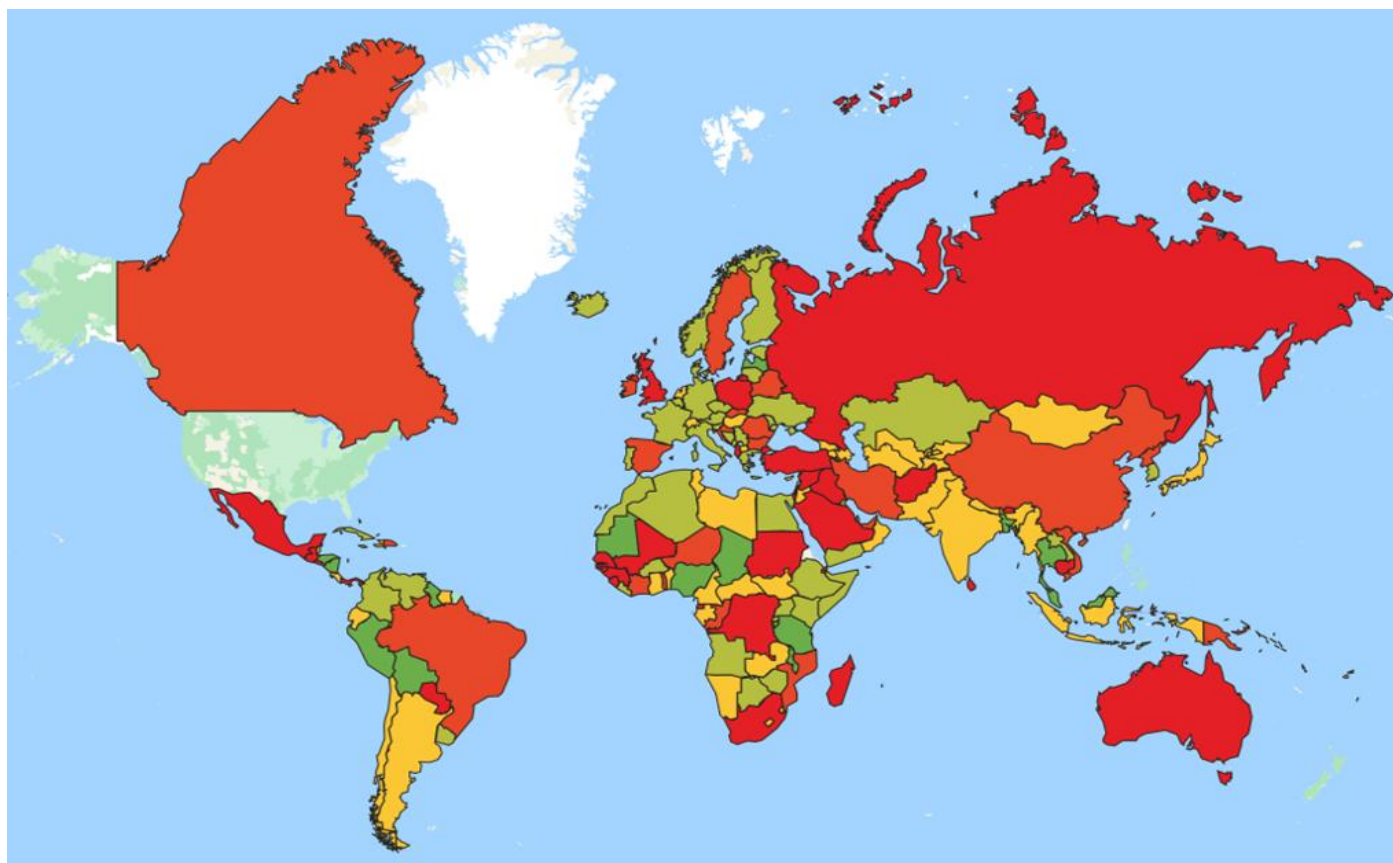
Dominica	N/A
Bahamas	N/A

South Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Protection
Maldives	1
Sri Lanka	2
Bhutan	3
India	4
Bangladesh	5
Pakistan	6
Nepal	7
Afghanistan	8

Latin America & Caribbean	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Protection
Barbados	1
Uruguay	2
Jamaica	3
Trinidad and Tobago	4
Argentina	5
Brazil	6
Saint Lucia	7
Cuba	8
Chile	9
Costa Rica	10
Suriname	11
Belize	12
Panama	13
Mexico	14
Guyana	15
Colombia	16
El Salvador	17
Dominican Republic	18
Peru	19
Honduras	20
Guatemala	21
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	22
Ecuador	23
Nicaragua	24
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	25
Paraguay	26
Haiti	27
Saint Kitts and Nevis	N/A
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	N/A
Grenada	N/A
Antigua and Barbuda	N/A

East Asia & Pacific	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Protection
Singapore	1
Japan	2
Australia	3
New Zealand	4
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	5
China	6
Malaysia	7
Thailand	8
Viet Nam	9
Tuvalu	10
Philippines	11
Mongolia	12
Indonesia	13
Myanmar	14
Cambodia	15
Fiji	16
Kiribati	17
Tonga	18
Timor-Leste	19
Samoa	20
Solomon Islands	21
Vanuatu	22
Lao People's Democratic Republic	23
Papua New Guinea	24
Palau	N/A
Republic of Korea	N/A
Marshall Islands	N/A
Brunei Darussalam	N/A
Micronesia (Federated States of)	N/A
Nauru	N/A
Cook Islands	N/A

3.6. Overview of the Domain Enabling Environment for Children's Rights



Map 6: Domain Enabling Environment for children's rights

Top twelve countries Domain Enabling Environment	Enabling Environment Rank KRI 2025	Enabling Environment Score KRI 2025
Thailand	1	0,750
Luxembourg	2	0,714
Mauritania	3	0,714
Qatar	4	0,700
Antigua and Barbuda	5	0,667
Barbados	6	0,667
Guyana	7	0,667
Liechtenstein	8	0,667
Malawi	9	0,667
Malaysia	10	0,667
Timor-Leste	11	0,667
United Republic of Tanzania	12	0,667

Table 21: Top twelve countries in Domain Enabling Environment of KidsRights Index 2025

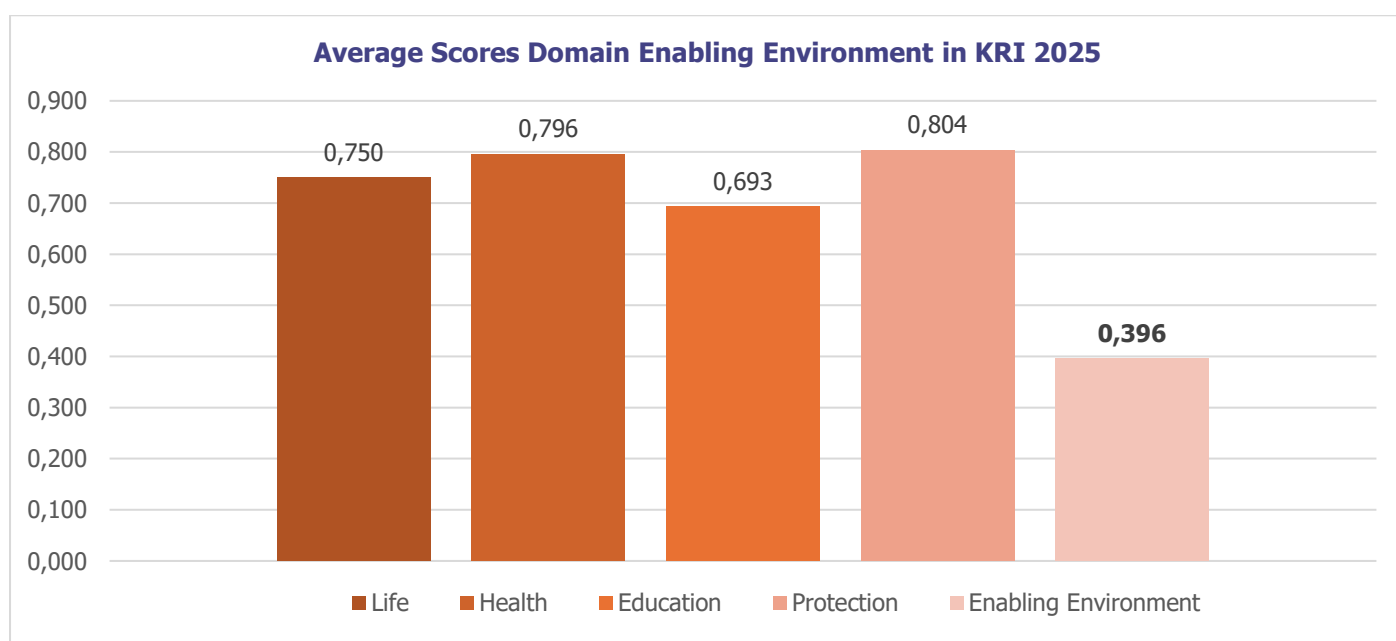
In 2024, nineteen countries received their Concluding Observations (COs) from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereafter referred to as the Committee or the CRC Committee). Thus, their scores and

ranks on the Domain Enabling Environment (or Domain 5) could be updated, which in turn has also caused changes in the ranks of the countries who were not reviewed by the Committee.

The top three countries in the Domain Enabling Environment in the KidsRights Index 2025 remain the same as in 2024. **Namibia** dropped out of the top ten of this domain after having received its Concluding Observations in 2024. Countries ranked between the 5th and 12th position in the domain kept the same domain score and are all exactly at the same level of performance. The rank placement then was a mere normative exercise of alphabetical ordering.

Among the top twenty-five countries of this domain, only four are from Western Europe: **Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Latvia and San Marino**. This is in stark contrast to the other four domains where this region had the highest representation. Seven countries, most of all regions, are from Latin America and the Caribbean (**Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Honduras, Nigeria and Peru**). Five countries are from East Asia and the Pacific (**Thailand, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Philippines and Samoa**). Four countries are from West and Central Africa (**Mauritania, Cabo Verde, Chad and Nigeria**). Three countries are from Eastern and Southern Africa (**Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi**). One country each is from the region of the Middle East and North Africa (**Qatar**), and South Asia (**Bangladesh**). Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the only region without representation among the top twenty-five countries of this domain, as the best-ranked country from the region, **Kazakhstan**, holds the 30th place.

At 0.396, the average domain score for the Domain Enabling Environment is significantly lower than all the other four domains. It has reduced from 0.479 in 2023 to 0.415 in 2024 and went further down to 0.396 in KRI 2025. This amounts to a 17 per cent decline in just three years. Although many different factors play a role here, this downward trend poses serious concerns regarding the State parties' adherence to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and their willingness to act on the recommendations issued by the Committee.



3.6.1. Biggest movers in the Domain Enabling Environment

Climbers

Lithuania improved the most after having received its Concluding Observations in 2024: it climbed a phenomenal 123 ranks, from the 170th position in 2024 to the 47th place in 2025, and improved its domain score from 0.167 to 0.571.

Armenia (+58) and **Argentina** (+30) are the only two other countries of the nineteen that have improved their rankings in this domain based on the latest COs.

Descenders

Senegal fell the most in this domain (by 165 ranks, from the 14th place in 2024 to the 179th in 2025). It is closely followed by **Mali** which declined by 157 ranks (from the 12th to the 169th position) and **Paraguay** which declined by 150 ranks (from the 13th to the 163rd position).

The remaining countries that fell down the rankings in this domain after having received new COs in 2024 are **Mexico** (-131), **Bulgaria** (-119), **Namibia** (-116), **Turkmenistan** (-96), **South Africa** (-94), **Bhutan** (-48), **Georgia** (-46), the **Russian Federation** (-40), **Congo** (-34), **Guatemala** (-24), **Egypt** (-22), and **Israel** (-21).

3.6.2. Underlying indicator data for Domain Enabling Environment

The scores of the Domain Enabling Environment are based on seven qualitative indicators that are rooted in the latest Concluding Observations, a document adopted by the CRC Committee at the end of the periodical state reporting procedure under the UNCRC. The first three selected indicators listed reflect general principles of the Convention. The other four indicators are elements of the general enabling environment for children's rights that all states parties must have, foster and strengthen in order to be able to implement the UNCRC. Thus, the total set of indicators comprises non-discrimination, best interests of the child, respect for the views of the child, enabling legislation, allocation of budget/resources, collection and analysis of disaggregated data, state-civil society cooperation for child rights. For these seven qualitative indicators, the indicator scores range between 1 to 3, with 1 being the lowest and 3 being the highest. The following table provides a detailed overview of the indicator scores received by the nineteen countries that were reviewed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2024, in comparison with their previous indicator scores that were based on the earlier COs of the respective countries.

Legend for the table:

Red	Negative change
Orange	Stayed the same
Green	Positive change

Country (Year in which CO was issued) ¹⁵³	Non-discrimination	Best interests of the child	Respect for the views of the child	Enabling legislation	Best available budget	Collection and analysis of data	State-civil society cooperation
Argentina (2018)	2	NA	1	1	2	1	NA
Argentina (2024)	2	NA	1	2	1	2	NA
Armenia (2013)	1	1	2	2	1	1	NA
Armenia (2024)	2	1	2	2	2	1	1
Bhutan (2017)	2	1	2	1	2	2	1
Bhutan (2024)	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Bulgaria (2016)	2	2	2	2	1	2	NA
Bulgaria (2024)	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Congo (2014)	2	1	1	2	1	2	2
Congo (2024)	1	1	2	2	1	2	1
Egypt (2011)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Egypt (2024)	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Estonia (2017)	NA	2	2	2	1	2	2
Estonia (2024)	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Georgia (2017)	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
Georgia (2024)	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
Guatemala (2018)	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
Guatemala (2024)	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Israel (2013)	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
Israel (2024)	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lithuania (2013)	2	1	2	2	2	2	NA
Lithuania (2024)	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
Mali (2007)	2	NA	2	3	1	2	3
Mali (2024)	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
Mexico (2015)	2	2	2	2	2	1	NA
Mexico (2024)	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
Namibia (2012)	2	2	NA	2	2	2	NA
Namibia (2024)	2	1	2	2	2	1	1
Paraguay (2010)	2	2	2	2	2	2	NA
Paraguay (2024)	2	1	1	NA	1	1	1
Russian Federation (2014)	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
Russian Federation (2024)	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Senegal (2016)	2	2	2	2	2	2	NA
Senegal (2024)	1	1	1	1	2	1	NA
South Africa (2016)	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
South Africa (2024)	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Turkmenistan (2015)	2	2	1	3	2	2	2
Turkmenistan (2024)	1	2	2	2	2	1	1

Table 22: Domain 5 Indicator scores of countries that received COs in 2024 compared to their previous scores

¹⁵³ The year appears in red when there was a period of more than 10 years between the adoption of the 2024 and the previous Concluding Observations.

Change in indicator scores of the nineteen countries with new Domain 5 scores

The indicator scores of the nineteen countries that received new COs in 2024 have led to changes in this domain. Compared to their previous scores, 47 per cent of the new indicator remained the same as before. Only 16 per cent of the indicator scores improved when compared to the previous scores, whereas 37 per cent of the indicator scores declined.

Domain Enabling Environment: 19 countries with new indicator data in KRI 2025 vs previously available indicator data		
Change	Number of datapoints (out of 133)	Percentage change
Negative change	49	37%
No change	63	47%
Positive change	21	16%

Table 23: Domain 5 indicator score change for countries that received their COs in 2024

Improved indicator scores: **Armenia** improved its score on 3 of the 7 indicators in this domain, which is the best performance of all the nineteen countries with new scores in 2024. Five countries improved their scores on 2 of the 7 indicators: **Argentina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania** and **Namibia**. Eight other countries improved their score on 1 of the 7 indicators: **Bhutan, Congo, Israel, Mali, Mexico, Paraguay, South Africa** and **Turkmenistan**. The remaining five countries did not receive an improved score on any indicator: **Egypt, Georgia, Guatemala, Russia Federation** and **Senegal**.

Downgraded indicator scores: **South Africa** received a lower score on 6 of the 7 indicators, which makes for the worst performance of all nineteen countries with new scores in 2024. It is closely followed by **Paraguay** and **Senegal** which received a lower score on 5 of the 7 indicators. Three countries (**Bulgaria, Mali** and **Turkmenistan**) received a lower score on 4 of the 7 indicators, and three others (**Bhutan, Israel, Mexico**) received a lower score on 3 indicators. Four countries (**Congo, Georgia, Namibia, Russian Federation**), received a lower score on 2 indicators, while four other countries (**Argentina, Egypt, Guatemala, Lithuania**) received a lower score on 1 indicator. **Armenia** and **Estonia** did not receive a lower score on any indicator in this domain.

Based on their latest COs, none of the nineteen countries received an indicator score of 3 (the highest) on any of the seven indicators. **Mali** and **Turkmenistan** had previously received a score of 3 for the indicator 'enabling legislation', which has now come down to 1 for Mali and 2 for Turkmenistan. Mali had previously received a score of 3 as well for the indicator 'state-civil society cooperation', which has now been downgraded to 2.

The occurrence of the least possible score for these indicators, a score of 1, has more than doubled as it increased from 35 indicator datapoints (based on previous COs) to 76 indicator datapoints based on the latest COs received in 2024. Accordingly, indicator datapoints that received the least possible score increased from 26 per cent to 57 per cent of all the updated datapoints in this domain.

The middle score of 2 could only be given to 40 per cent (53 of 133) of the indicator datapoints in this domain. This is a substantial downgrade from the 62 per cent (83 out of 133) which they had received based on their previous COs.

In the 2025 KidsRights Index, the indicator score of 2 is the highest score received or maintained on the Domain Enabling Environment by any of the nineteen countries that were reviewed by the Committee in 2024. Eleven of these nineteen countries received or maintained a score of 2 on the indicator 'enabling legislation', which is the highest among all the indicators. This is followed by the indicators 'best available budget' (where ten countries received or maintained a score of 2), and 'non-discrimination' and 'respect for the views of the child' with nine countries each receiving a score of 2 for both. Only three of the nineteen countries with new COs in 2024 (**Estonia**, **Lithuania** and **Mali**) have a score of 2 for the indicator 'state-civil society cooperation'.

Indicator-level downward score movement of countries

Non-discrimination: Eight out of the nineteen countries with new scores received a lower score on this indicator, with all of them being downgraded from a score of 2 to 1.

Best interests of the child: On this indicator too, eight countries received a lower score and all of them went down from a score of 2 to 1.

Respect for the views of the child: Seven countries received a lower score on this indicator. All went down from a score of 2 to 1.

Enabling legislation: Eight of the nineteen countries received a lower score on this indicator. Five countries have been downgraded from a score of 2 to 1, and data is not available anymore for one country (**Paraguay**). Two other countries (**Turkmenistan** and **Mali**) have been downgraded from a score of 3 to a lower score of 2 and 1, respectively.

Best available budget: Only four countries received a lower score on this indicator, down from a score of 2 to 1.

Collection and analysis of disaggregated data: Nine of the nineteen countries received a lower score than before on this indicator. All nine have been downgraded from a score of 2 to 1, the lowest possible score.

State-civil society cooperation for child rights: Five countries received a lower score on this indicator. All five have been downgraded from a score of 2 to 1, except for **Mali** – which has been downgraded from 3 to 2.

Availability of indicator scores in Domain 5 for the nineteen countries

Indicator data availability has improved in this Domain in 2025 as compared to 2024. In 2024, based on the previous Concluding Observations, indicator scores could not be calculated for 12 of the 133 indicator

datapoints.¹⁵⁴ In 2025, this has come down to 4 as 8 more indicator datapoints have become available in this domain through the new COs.

The availability of indicator scores for this domain might for instance depend on whether the State party reports submitted to the Committee as part of the reporting process provide information on the seven indicators of the Domain Enabling Environment. In turn, this may co-determine whether the Committee makes any observations or recommendations on these indicators in the respective COs. But many different factors influence the process. The fact of the matter is that, when the Committee does not address a specific indicator for a State party, the respective indicator score cannot be generated.

Non-discrimination: This indicator score was missing for **Estonia** previously but has become available through the 2024 COs.

Best interests of the child: In the KRI 2024, two of the nineteen countries (**Mali** and **Argentina**), were missing scores on this indicator. In 2025, this indicator score is only missing only for Argentina.

Respect for the views of the child: In 2024 this indicator score was only missing for **Namibia**. It became available through the 2024 COs and therefore, all nineteen countries reviewed by the Committee in 2024 have received a score on this indicator that was processed into the KidsRights Index 2025.

Enabling legislation: Until 2024, scores for this indicator were available for all nineteen countries, but after receiving the new 2024 COs this indicator score could not be generated anymore for **Paraguay** due to the unavailability of relevant information in its latest COs. Paraguay previously had a score of 2 on this indicator.

Best available budget and collection and analysis of disaggregated data: Indicator scores for all nineteen countries reviewed in 2024 continue to be available for both these indicators.

State-civil society cooperation for child rights: Eight of the nineteen countries reviewed in 2024 were missing the scores for this indicator previously. Based on the new COs issued in 2024, this indicator score is now available for six more countries. Only **Argentina** and **Senegal** continue to miss the data for this indicator.

Overall, even with an improved data availability compared to the KRI 2024, this year the indicator scores in this domain could be generated for all nineteen countries only for four of the seven indicators: non-discrimination, respect for the views of the child, best available budget, and the collection and analysis of disaggregated data.

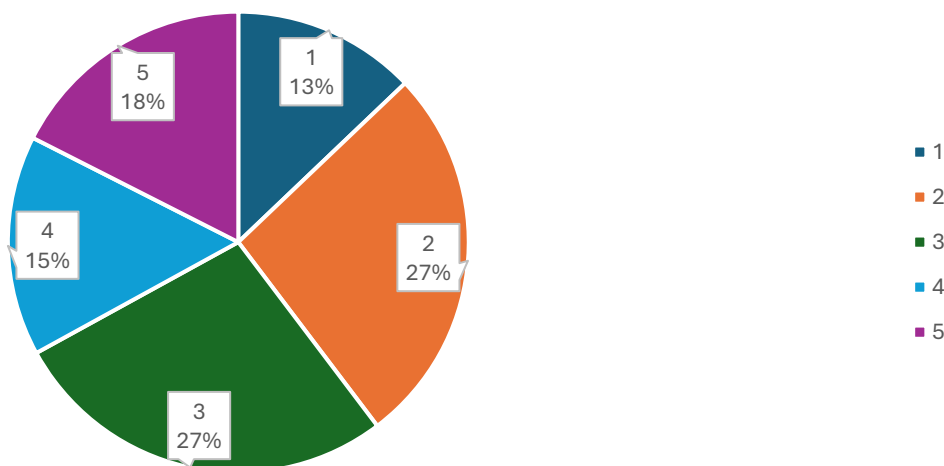
3.6.3. Global cluster insights for the Domain Enabling Environment

Only 13 per cent of the countries in Domain 5 are categorized under Cluster 1, which is the second lowest performance level among all the domains. 18 per cent of the countries are categorized under Cluster 5, the highest shared, and thus the lowest level performance among all the domains by a significant margin: the highest proportion of countries in Cluster 5 in Domains 1 to 4 does not even exceed 5 per cent. The highest

¹⁵⁴ 7 indicators x 19 countries.

concentration of countries in this domain is in Cluster 3 with 53 countries, closely followed by Cluster 2 with 52 countries.

Domain Enabling Environment: percentage breakdown of clusters



Domain Enabling Environment Cluster	No. of countries in 2025	No. of countries in 2024
1	25	57
2	52	28
3	53	46
4	30	36
5	34	27

Table 24: Domain Enabling Environment Clusters 2025 vs 2024

Cluster movements observed in Domain 5 are a serious cause for concern. The number of countries in Cluster 1 has drastically reduced from fifty-seven countries in 2024 to only twenty-five countries in 2025, a reduction of 56 per cent. Thirty-nine countries recorded a decline in their cluster categorization in Domain 5. No other domain recorded a decline in cluster categorization for more than six countries (which occurred in the Domains Education and Protection). **Mali**, **Micronesia**, **Paraguay** and **Senegal** each moved down by 4 clusters, from Cluster 1 to 5. This amounts to the worst possible downward cluster movement. Two countries dropped by 3 clusters each: **Bulgaria** moved down from Cluster 1 to 4 and **South Africa** moved down from Cluster 2 to 5. Three other countries recorded a downward cluster movement by 2: **Bhutan** (from Cluster 3 to 5), **Namibia** and **Turkmenistan** (from Cluster 1 to 3).

A total of seven countries improved their clusters in this domain. **Lithuania** moved up by 3 clusters, from Cluster 5 to 2 and **Armenia** moved up by 2 clusters, from Cluster 5 to 3. The other five countries moved up by a cluster, from Cluster 4 to 3.

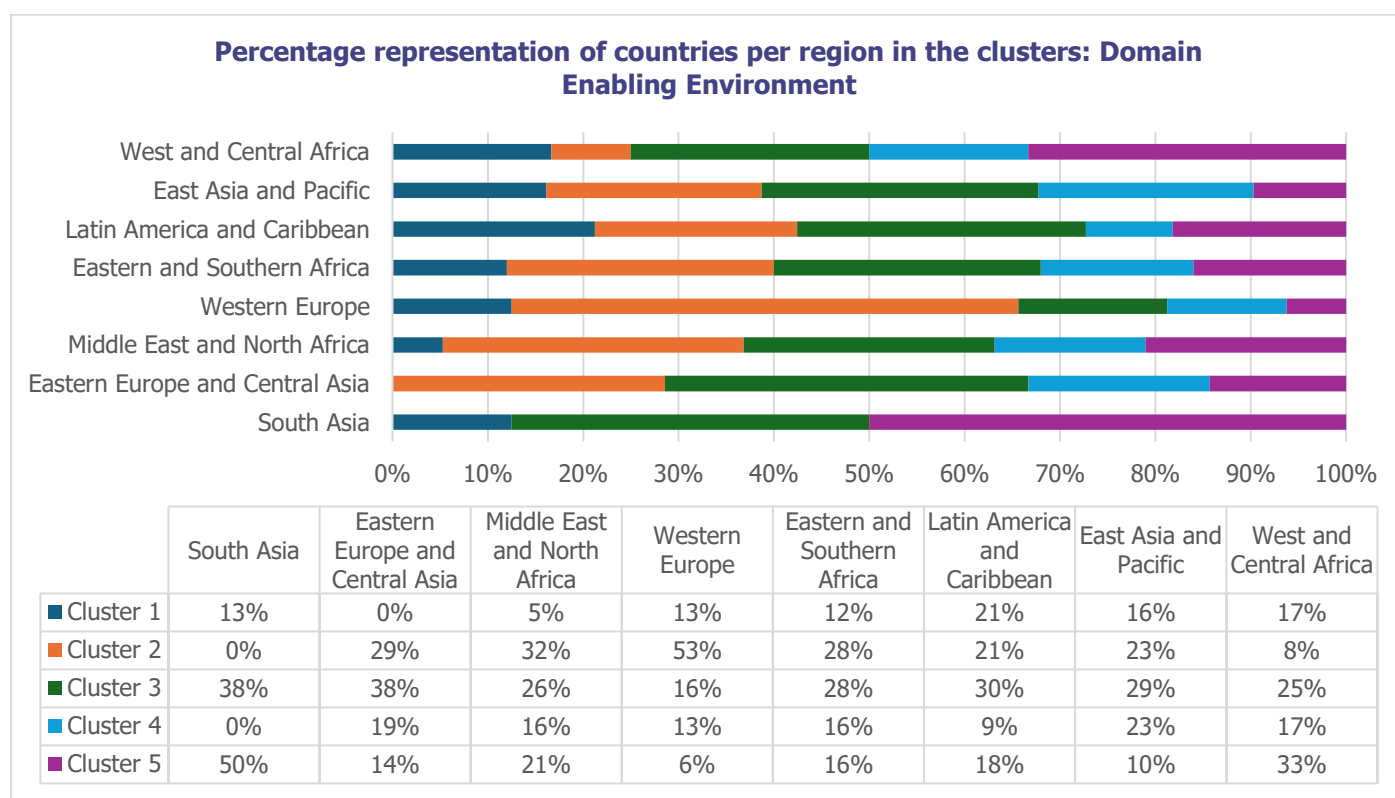
3.6.4. Regional level cluster insights for the Domain Enabling Environment

None of the regions have the highest proportion of countries in Cluster 1 in comparison with the other clusters. In both South Asia and West and Central Africa, the highest proportion of countries is in Cluster 5, with 50 and 33 per cent respectively. This is the only domain in which countries from one or more regions are heavily concentrated in the lowest cluster. In addition, none of the regions have a higher proportion of countries in Cluster 1, a trend that is in stark contrast to the other four domains where at least one region has had a higher proportion of countries in the top-most cluster.

The regions of the Middle East and North Africa (with 32 per cent) and Western Europe (with 53 per cent), have a higher proportion of countries in Cluster 2, while Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean have a higher proportion of countries in Cluster 3. The region of Eastern and Southern Africa has an equal proportion of countries (28 per cent) each, in both Clusters 2 and 3. A detailed breakdown of the clusters at the regional level is provided in the following table and graph.

Regions	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5
South Asia	1	0	3	0	4
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	0	6	8	4	3
Middle East and North Africa	1	6	5	3	4
Western Europe	4	17	5	4	2
Eastern and Southern Africa	3	7	7	4	4
Latin America and Caribbean	7	7	10	3	6
North America	0	0	0	1	0
East Asia and Pacific	5	7	9	7	3
West and Central Africa	4	2	6	4	8

Table 25: Region-level cluster representation based on Domain Enabling Environment scores



3.6.5. Specific insights into the UNCRC performance record of the 19 states parties that obtained new scores on the Domain Enabling Environment

Argentina

Argentina improved in the Domain Enabling Environment from being 136th in 2024 to 106th in 2025. The Committee appreciated the “programmes implemented to prevent and eradicate discrimination against children”,¹⁵⁵ as well as the measures undertaken to implement the UNCRC in Argentina. It expressed concern about the government decision to shut down and take over the functions of the country’s independently functioning National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism which has adverse implications on approachability for complainants, including children and young people and recommended to guarantee that complaints can be filed against discrimination faced by children.¹⁵⁶

The Committee also expressed its concern regarding the status of the children’s right to be heard and the continuing budget reductions that adversely impact children.¹⁵⁷ It is incomprehensible that the budget allocated for children in 2024 witnessed a 75% year-on-year reduction.¹⁵⁸ Argentina must actively prioritize its children at all times, including in times of economic crisis as clearly put forth by the Committee in its General Comment on public budgeting for the realization of children’s rights,¹⁵⁹ and should refrain from disproportionately reducing the budgets allocated for children’s health and education.

Armenia

In the Domain Enabling Environment, Armenia improved from being 168th in 2024 to 110th in 2025. Armenia’s efforts that have led to a reduction in sex-selective abortions have received appreciation from the Committee, but it recommended the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that aligns with all the elements of Article 2 of the UNCRC.¹⁶⁰

The Committee reiterated its recommendation to incorporate the usage of the best interests principle in all proceedings and placed emphasis on the need to establish appropriate mechanisms to collect and analyse data relating to children’s rights.¹⁶¹ Following the recommendations of the Committee, it is notable that Armenia has initiated the process to revise its legislative reforms relating to children, including the draft law on the rights of the child.¹⁶² It must, however, expedite the process to finalize and implement these laws without any further delays.

¹⁵⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Seventh Periodic Report of Argentina’, UN Doc. CRC/C/ARG/CO/7, 18 October 2024 (re-issued for technical reasons on 21 November 2024), para. 16.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Seventh Periodic Report of Argentina’, UN Doc. CRC/C/ARG/CO/7, 18 October 2024 (re-issued for technical reasons on 21 November 2024), paras. 11 and 16.

¹⁵⁸ Julia Frenkel, *Análisis del Presupuesto Nacional 2024 Con Foco en Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes*, Unicef Argentina, 2024, pp. 4-5.

¹⁵⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘General Comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the Realization of Children’s Rights (art. 4)’, UN Doc. CRC/C/GC/19, 20 July 2016, para. 31.

¹⁶⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Armenia’, UN Doc. CRC/C/ARM/CO/5-6, 14 October 2024, para. 15.

¹⁶¹ Ibid., paras. 10 and 16.

¹⁶² National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, ‘Package of Legislative Reforms of Protection of Child’s Rights System Debated’, 24 October 2024,

http://www.parliament.am/news.php?cat_id=2&NewsID=21277&year=2024&month=10&day=24&lang=eng.

It is also noteworthy that Armenia has improved its budgetary allocations for children in sectors such as healthcare, education and social protection,¹⁶³ but it must continue to improve its allocations to social sectors to work towards ending child poverty as over 30 per cent of its children are living in poverty.¹⁶⁴

Bhutan

In 2024, Bhutan received a range of negative remarks from the Committee, including for the restrictions placed on civil society organisations through a legislative amendment, lack of recent statistical data on children, absence of measures to uphold the child right to be heard, and for the inconsistent application of the best interests principle.¹⁶⁵ It therefore dropped from being the 117th in 2024 to the 165th in the Domain Enabling Environment. The Committee also recommended Bhutan explicitly to:

“[i]mplement targeted policies and programmes to eliminate discrimination against children with disabilities, children living in remote areas or in communities that are difficult to reach, children deprived of a family environment, children of single parents, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and children of migrant informal workers.”¹⁶⁶

It also advised Bhutan to take active measures to secure the rights of both children in remote areas and socio-economically disadvantaged children.¹⁶⁷

While the Committee appreciated Bhutan for having increased its budget allocations for children, and for the ongoing review of legislation relating to children’s rights, it remained concerned about the progress made on the latter so far and insisted on the need to harmonize the relevant provisions with the UNCRC.¹⁶⁸ Among others, it is concerning that under Bhutanese law corporal punishment of children is allowed.¹⁶⁹

Bulgaria

Bulgaria recorded a significant decline in the Domain Enabling Environment as it dropped from being the 34th in 2024 to 153rd in 2025. In the Concluding Observations 2024, the Committee pointed out the lack of capacity of Bulgarian professionals to implement the best interests principle, and expressed its concerns over the non-consideration of children’s views at both national and local levels.¹⁷⁰ According to the Committee, Bulgaria must consider strengthening the role of the Council of Children to the State Agency for Child Protection and other children’s councils at the municipal and school level. According to the National Network

¹⁶³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Armenia’, UN Doc. CRC/C/ARM/CO/5-6, 14 October 2024, para. 9.

¹⁶⁴ The Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Albania, ‘Alternative Report on the Status of Commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols by the Republic of Armenia: For the Years 2013-2024’, Yerevan, 2024, <https://ombuds.am/images/files/613c87eb5f0d49bd9125f10d09556202.pdf>, p. 6.

¹⁶⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Bhutan’, UN Doc. CRC/C/BTN/CO/6-7, 21 June 2024, paras. 10, 13, 16 and 17.

¹⁶⁶ Ibid., para. 15(b).

¹⁶⁷ Ibid., para. 15(c).

¹⁶⁸ Ibid., paras. 6 and 9.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid., para. 25.

¹⁷⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Bulgaria’, UN Doc. CRC/C/BGR/CO/6-7, 15 March 2024, paras. 18 and 20.

for Children too, while it is commendable that the children's councils have been established, such bodies should be enabled and equipped to go beyond a tokenistic expression of children's participation, and appropriate measures must be undertaken to facilitate a systematic integration of children's views in decision-making processes, especially on matters that directly affect them.¹⁷¹

The Committee recommended Bulgaria to strengthen its national information system to facilitate the collection, monitoring and analysis of data relating to children.¹⁷² The Committee also recommended the effective implementation of preliminary impact assessments of new laws and amendments, and to "develop mandatory child rights impact assessment procedures" for any proposed policies, regulations and budget.¹⁷³ In addition, Bulgaria must hasten to finalize and implement the draft National Strategy for Children (2024-2030).¹⁷⁴ The Committee also expressed concerns about the "increased opposition to civil society engagement in children's rights matters".¹⁷⁵

Bulgaria received positive observations from the Committee for its ongoing efforts against discrimination and for having enhanced budgetary allocations for children.¹⁷⁶

Congo

In the Domain Enabling Environment, Congo dropped from being the 120th in 2024 to 154th in 2025. The Committee appreciated Congo for having established the Children's Parliament and recommended giving it a meaningful mandate and the resources needed to facilitate the effective engagement of children.¹⁷⁷ Appreciating the legal reforms carried out based on its previous COs,¹⁷⁸ the Committee recommended accelerating the enforcement of national legislation that implements the UNCRC.

There are also concerns regarding the discrimination faced by "children with disabilities, children in street situations, indigenous children, children with albinism, and girls, particularly girls", as the Committee urged Congo to address the discriminatory practices and attitudes by engaging with local and tribal leaders and mass media.¹⁷⁹ The Committee also noted Congo's reluctance to adequately invest in social sectors for children despite the increased availability of financial resources.¹⁸⁰

Congo must also address the grave concerns relating to the "difficulties faced by non-governmental organisations in obtaining legal status",¹⁸¹ and should cease intervening in their work for expressing criticism

¹⁷¹ 'Progress of Republic of Bulgaria in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2016 - February 2021' (National Network for Children 2021), p. 9.

¹⁷² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Bulgaria', UN Doc. CRC/C/BGR/CO/6-7, 15 March 2024, para. 10.

¹⁷³ Ibid., para. 6.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid., para. 7.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid., para. 14.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid., paras. 4 and 9.

¹⁷⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of the Congo', UN Doc. CRC/C/COG/5-6, 1 March 2024, para. 18.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid., para. 6.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid., para. 16.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid., para. 9.

¹⁸¹ Ibid., para. 14.

against the State and its leadership, especially through arrests and other forms of judicial repression,¹⁸² as these practices adversely impact the functioning and independence of NGOs working on children's rights.

Egypt

Egypt declined from being the 22nd in 2024 to the 44th in 2025 in the Domain Enabling Environment. It received positive observations from the Committee in recognition of its efforts through the 2023 amendments to the Children's Code which provide, among other things, for taking children's views into consideration, implementing the best interests principle, and improved child protection and diversion measures for children in conflict with the law.¹⁸³ According to the Committee, Egypt must still repeal all discriminatory legal provisions, including those against women and girls.¹⁸⁴ In its input into this state reporting procedure, the NGO Human Rights Watch drew attention to the need to cease the prosecution of girls in connection to their online presence under the guise of morality laws.¹⁸⁵

The severe restrictions placed on civil society organisations received criticism from the Committee. These restrictions are not limited to barriers on registration, access to funding, and independent and non-partisan functioning, but also extend to the State-sanctioned "harassment, intimidation, criminal investigation and arbitrary detention" of human rights defenders.¹⁸⁶ Egypt should specifically review Act No. 149 of 2019 and its subsequent implementing regulations of 11 January 2021. In April 2021, Human Rights Watch had already pointed out that these laws are highly problematic indeed, as they authorize the Social Solidarity Ministry to maintain databases with sensitive information on employees and persons related to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and to share this information with other authorities. Furthermore, the Act allows the Ministry to dissolve CSOs and seize their assets, suspend their work and carry out unannounced inspections. In conjunction with the lengthy registration procedures for CSOs and restrictions on foreign organizations, these laws this significantly impede the work of CSOs working on children's rights.¹⁸⁷

Estonia

In the Domain Enabling Environment, Estonia recorded a minor improvement as it climbed up from the 64th rank in 2024 to the 58th in 2025. In the new 2024 Concluding Observations on Estonia, the CRC Committee appreciated the various legislative and judicial measures undertaken by Estonia to domesticate various aspects of the UNCRC, including the use of the best interests principle, and allowing all children to express

¹⁸² See for example: BTI Transformation Index, 'Country Report Republic of the Congo' (2024), <https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report/COG>, p. 27.

¹⁸³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Egypt', UN Doc. CRC/C/EGY/5-6, 20 June 2024/1 March 2024, paras. 6, 15 and 18.

¹⁸⁴ Ibid. paras. 2 and 6.

¹⁸⁵ Human Rights Watch, 'Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child: Review of Egypt', 96th pre-session, July 2023, p. 4.

¹⁸⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Egypt', UN Doc. CRC/C/EGY/5-6, 20 June 2024, para. 12.

¹⁸⁷ Human Rights Watch, 'Egypt: Restrictions on Civic Work Underscored – Implementing Regulations Stifle Independent Work', 16 April 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/16/egypt-restrictions-civic-work-underscored>.

their views in legal proceedings.¹⁸⁸ The Committee also appreciated the systematic collection of data on some child wellbeing indicators, and the strategic long-term partnerships with civil society.¹⁸⁹

Estonia must further ensure the effective implementation of its legislative measures by providing adequate human, technical, and fiscal resources. This should include increasing the number and qualifications of child protection workers in all municipalities in Estonia.¹⁹⁰

On non-discrimination, the Committee recommended Estonia has been recommended to speed up the revision of the Equal Treatment Act 2009 and “combining it with the Gender Equality Act (2004) to expand its scope of protection against discrimination relevant to children in all spheres and sectors on all prohibited grounds under the Convention”..¹⁹¹ In addition, Estonia must ensure equal access to essential services, housing, education, childcare facilities, health care, leisure and State support for:

“children in vulnerable situations, including children from economically disadvantaged households, children belonging to linguistic and ethnic minority groups, including Russian-speaking children, children in situations of migration, children with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and children who are victims of violence and of trafficking.”¹⁹²

Georgia

Georgia dropped from the 69th rank in 2024 to the 115th in 2025 in the Domain Enabling Environment. The Committee appreciated Georgia for domesticating the CRC through its Code on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests principle and the right of children to be heard.¹⁹³ However, it recommended Georgia undertake measures for the effective implementation of this legislation.

The Committee expressed specific concern about discrimination and hate speech against children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, or belong to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender families. The Committee called on Georgia to ensure that such instances of discrimination and hate speech will not occur, by “raising public awareness of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity”.¹⁹⁴

The Committee also raised concerns about the adoption of the *Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence* by which Georgia is effectively stifling civil society organisations. This adversely impacts the CSOs working on children’s rights too.¹⁹⁵ This law creates a new regime of registration, monitoring and sanctions on organisations and entities that receive funds from foreign sources and defines them as “organizations pursuing the interests of a foreign power”. Reportedly, the law also imposes an unreasonable regulatory

¹⁸⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth to Seventh Periodic Reports of Estonia’, UN Doc. CRC/C/EST/5-7, 18 June 2024, paras. 6, 18 and 20.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid., paras. 10 and 14.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid., para. 18.

¹⁹¹ Ibid., para 17(a).

¹⁹² Ibid., para. 17(b).

¹⁹³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Georgia’, UN Doc. CRC/C/GEO/5-6, 25 June 2024, paras. 7, 17 and 19.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid., para. 16.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid., para. 13.

burden on CSOs and gives the Ministry of Justice a broad discretion as to enforcement measures, thereby potentially allowing it to intrude on the activities of certain organizations.¹⁹⁶

Guatemala

Guatemala dropped to the bottom ten countries of the Domain Enabling Environment as it declined from the 162nd rank in 2024 to 186th in 2025. Guatemala is yet to incorporate the best interests principle and the children's right to be heard in its legislation and in 2024 the Committee has recommended that the country take appropriate measures to implement these general principles of the UNCRC at all levels and in all procedures.¹⁹⁷ It has also recommended the adoption of the Bill on a national comprehensive child and adolescent protection system and suggested undertaking relevant amendments to the Constitution and the Civil Code to safeguard children against discrimination and violence.¹⁹⁸ The Committee has also noted that Guatemala is falling short on the allocation of adequate resources for implementing children's rights and has called for an increase of "the budget allocated to social sectors" and for "addressing disparities on the basis of indicators related to children's rights".¹⁹⁹ This is especially important considering that 68 per cent of all children and adolescents in Guatemala live in poverty and 29 per cent of them live in extreme poverty.²⁰⁰

In its 2024 Concluding Observations, the CRC Committee expressed serious concern about the "pervasive structural discrimination against Indigenous peoples and peoples of African descent who constitute almost half of the population and the widespread poverty and social exclusion among those populations, disproportionately affecting Indigenous children and children of African descent".²⁰¹ According to the Committee, Guatemala must act to address these serious matters.

The Committee also notes that Guatemala must improve its efforts on state-civil society cooperation to meaningfully involve CSOs in implementing children's rights.²⁰²

The CRC Committee appreciated Guatemala for its "Multidimensional Poverty Index and the Social Registry of Households", while recommending further improvements to data collection.²⁰³

Israel

In the Domain Enabling Environment, Israel declined from the 146th rank in 2024 to 167th in 2025. At the start of the 2024 Concluding Observations, the CRC Committee took a very clear stance on Israel's obligations towards Palestinian children in Gaza and the Westbank:

¹⁹⁶ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 'Georgia: Urgent Opinion on the Law of Georgia on Transparency of Foreign Influence', Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, 30 May 2024, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/d/569922.pdf>, p. 26.

¹⁹⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Seventh Periodic Report of Guatemala', UN Doc. CRC/C/GTM/7, 21 June 2024, paras. 18 and 20.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid., para. 6.

¹⁹⁹ Ibid., para. 9(a).

²⁰⁰ Merike Blofield et al., 'Public Opinion on Cash Transfers for Children and Adolescents in Guatemala: Overwhelming Support for Increased Coverage and Adequacy', Universidad de Costa Rica, no year, https://eulacfoundation.org/system/files/digital_library/2024-02/04_Guatemala_ENG.pdf, p. 2.

²⁰¹ Ibid., para. 16.

²⁰² Ibid., para. 14.

²⁰³ Ibid., para. 10.

"the Committee deeply regrets the State party's repeated denial of its legal obligations under the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, based on its position that the Convention "does not apply ... to areas beyond a State's national territory" (...) and "was not designed to apply in situations of armed conflict" (...) and that international humanitarian law is the relevant and specific body of law applicable in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Committee regrets the limited information that it received on the situation of children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory due to that position. The Committee is of the view that the State party's denial of the application of the Convention cannot be used to justify its grave and persistent violations of international human rights and humanitarian law."²⁰⁴

This led the Committee to condemn, "in the strongest terms the severe violations of rights under the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the tremendous loss of life as a result of the State party's military actions"²⁰⁵ and to call on Israel to take a long list of measures to ensure that children and civilian infrastructure are not targeted.

The CRC Committee noted Israel's efforts to address racial discrimination against persons of Ethiopian descent through its Unit for the Coordination of the Fight against Racism. However, the Committee also referred to the findings of the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 establishing that Israel's laws and policies amount to a breach of Article 3 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which "refers to two particularly severe forms of racial discrimination, including apartheid"²⁰⁶.

According to the Committee, Israel must actively work towards eliminating discriminatory practices and structural inequalities that disproportionately impact Palestinian and other marginalized children, including those from Ethiopian descent, Bedouin, migrant, asylum-seeking, and impoverished communities, by implementing anti-racist, gender-sensitive, and inclusive policies that uphold all rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child ('CRC') without discrimination.²⁰⁷

The Committee also recommended Israel to systematically apply the best interests principle, promote meaningful participation of children at all levels, fully incorporate the UNCRC in its domestic legal system, and to ensure that the rights of children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are also safeguarded in line with the UNCRC.²⁰⁸ It expressed profound concern regarding the unavailability of resources for children's rights as a result of the impact of the armed conflict on Israel's financial resources, and recommended a child-rights based approach to budgeting and the allocation of resources.²⁰⁹

The Committee also recommended Israel to repeal legislations that hinder the work of CSOs working on children's rights, and to cease "practices that amount to the intimidation or silencing of child human rights

²⁰⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Israel', UN Doc. CRC/C/ISR/5-6, 16 October 2024, para. 3.

²⁰⁵ Ibid., para. 50.

²⁰⁶ Ibid., para. 18.

²⁰⁷ Ibid., para. 6.

²⁰⁸ Ibid., paras. 8, 19 and 22.

²⁰⁹ Ibid., para. 11.

defenders and civil society actors working on children's rights or to the violation of their rights, including harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention, criminalization and their being labelled as 'terrorists' ".²¹⁰

Lithuania

Lithuania improved in the Domain Enabling Environment from being the 170th in 2024 to the 47th in 2025. Overall, in 2024 Lithuania received positive recommendations from the Committee for its legislative developments on children's rights but has reiterated that it needs adapt concrete measures for systematically implementing the laws in practice. In particular, the Committee appreciated Lithuania's legislative reforms aimed at protecting children from discrimination and stigma and recommended it to ensure the effective implementation of the anti-discrimination legislation.²¹¹ It specifically appreciated the revised Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child which includes the principles of non-discrimination, the recognition of children as rights holders, the best interests of the child and respect for the views of children", but reiterated its recommendation to ensure the effective implementation of the law by adopting concrete measures.²¹² As Eidukevičiūtė and others have argued in their 2021 publication already, it is concerning that, despite legal safeguards, the views of children are not respected appropriately in all settings in Lithuania due to a focus on the views of parents.²¹³ A child-centric approach must be adopted in practice to ensure that children's views are not discounted in favour of parent's views.

The CRC Committee also acknowledged the increased budgetary allocation for child protection, and the updated indicators on children for data collection.²¹⁴ The increased allocation of funds towards social benefits in the 2025 budget, which is reported to result in an increase of 27.3 per cent in child benefits, is indeed a commendable step.²¹⁵

Mali

Mali declined in the Domain Enabling Environment from the 12th rank in 2024 to the 169th rank in 2025. The Committee appreciated Mali for the progress it has made on children's participation in decision-making processes, including the establishment of the Children's Parliament and the inclusion of child-focused policies.²¹⁶ However, it expressed concerns about the de facto discrimination faced by several groups of disadvantaged and marginalised children, and recommended that Mali strengthen its legal and institutional framework to uphold the principle of non-discrimination, coupled with concrete measures such as launching

²¹⁰ Ibid., para. 16.

²¹¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Lithuania', UN Doc. CRC/C/LTU/5-6, 7 March 2024, para. 20.

²¹² Ibid., para. 6.

²¹³ Eidukevičiūtė et al., 'The Voice of the Child: An Analysis of the Child Protection System in Lithuanian Family Social Work', Society Integration Education: Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference, September 2021, p. 53.

²¹⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Lithuania', UN Doc. CRC/C/LTU/5-6, 7 March 2024, paras. 11 and 13.

²¹⁵ Rimas Rudaitis, 'The Seimas Approved the State Budget for 2025', press release, 19 December 2024, https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_r=35403&p_k=2&p_t=290433.

²¹⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Third to Fifth Periodic Reports of Mali', UN Doc. CRC/C/MLI/3-5, 11 June 2024, para. 21.

public awareness campaigns promoting diversity and tolerance, and building professional capacities to combat social stigma.²¹⁷

According to the Committee, Mali must integrate the best interests principle in its domestic systems, adopt child rights-based budgeting and improve its data collection system on children's rights.²¹⁸ The adoption of the child protection bill must also be prioritised since that instrument can address some grave violations of children's rights. The bill qualifies the usage of children under the age of 15 years as a war crime in an effort to combat the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts.²¹⁹

The adoption of Law No. 2018-003 on human rights defenders garnered special appreciation from the Committee while it still reiterated the need to create a safe and inclusive civic space to allow civil society organizations and human and child rights defenders to operate without harassment and threats.²²⁰

Mexico

Mexico dropped by 131 ranks in the Domain Enabling Environment as it declined from the 39th rank in 2024 to 170th in 2025. The Operational Consultative Council for Children and Adolescents was mentioned in the Concluding Observations 2024 for its role in promoting respect for the views of the child.²²¹ The Committee further recommended that Mexico adopt measures to ensure children's participation in all processes and proceedings concerning them, and to ensure the effective implementation of its General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents at all levels of governance, including through raising awareness of the content of the Act.²²²

The Committee expressed concerns regarding discrimination "rooted in cultural practices", especially gender-based discrimination and the "generational marginalization of Afro-Mexican and Indigenous children".²²³ Mexico must strengthen its policies aimed at addressing inequalities and allocate adequate and equitable resources to ensure all children can exercise their rights on an equal footing.

The Committee also recommended Mexico to integrate and ensure the application of the best interests principle,²²⁴ and to improve its data collection system with an emphasis on disaggregation by "age, sex, disability, geographical location, Indigenous, ethnic, national and Afrodescendent origin, migration status, socioeconomic background and alternative care situation".²²⁵

It is notable that Mexico has increased budget allocations to sectors relevant for children, such as an increase of 1.6 per cent to 450.88 billion Mexican pesos for the Public Education Ministry,²²⁶ after having received

²¹⁷ Ibid., para. 18.

²¹⁸ Ibid., paras. 9, 12, 13 and 19.

²¹⁹ See UN Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict in Mali: Report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2024/883, 9 January 2025, para. 40.

²²⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Third to Fifth Periodic Reports of Mali', UN Doc. CRC/C/MLI/3-5, 11 June 2024, para. 17.

²²¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Mexico', UN Doc. CRC/C/Mex/6-7, 8 October 2024, para. 21.

²²² Ibid., paras. 6 and 21.

²²³ Ibid., para. 16.

²²⁴ Ibid., para. 18.

²²⁵ Ibid., para. 10.

²²⁶ MND staff, 'Who are the Winners and Losers of the 2025 Federal Budget?', *Mexico News Daily*, 18 November 2024, <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/winners-and-losers-mexico-2025-federal-budget/>.

criticism from the Committee in the 2024 COs for significantly decreasing budget allocations for children.²²⁷ The Committee also recommended Mexico to ensure a better framework to provide a safe civic space for civil society organizations, human and child rights defenders to be able to effectively exercise their rights and operate to improve children's rights.²²⁸

Namibia

Namibia dropped down to the 120th rank in the Domain Enabling Environment in 2025. It was at the 4th rank in this domain in 2024. In the Concluding Observations 2024, the Committee noted Namibia's efforts towards addressing discrimination and recommended it to strengthen its programmes to combat "discrimination against children belonging to Indigenous or ethnic minority groups, including San, Ovahimba and Ovazemba children, children with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, children in remote areas, children of single mothers and other children in disadvantaged situations".²²⁹ It raised concerns about the inconsistent application of the best interests principle and the data gaps on children's rights.²³⁰

Namibia received positive observations from the Committee for its Child Care and Protection Act, which explicitly incorporates specific provisions on child participation and the best interests principle.²³¹ However, the Committee also emphasized the need for Namibia to undertake concrete measures for the implementation of the Act.

The Committee also appreciated Namibia for its "generous budget allocations for education and health", while recommending the employment of a child rights perspective in budgeting.²³² Namibia has recorded an increased funding for the education sector indeed, with the 2024-25 budget allocation of 18.4 billion Namibian dollars representing an 8.7 per cent increase in nominal terms and a 3.5 per cent rise in real terms compared to the estimated expenditure for 2023/24 of 16.9 billion Namibian dollars.²³³

Paraguay

Paraguay dropped from the 13th rank in 2024 to the 163rd rank in 2025 in the Domain Enabling Environment. While the Committee appreciated Paraguay for legislative developments aimed at addressing discrimination against people of African descent, it expressed serious concerns about the persisting resolutions from government agencies and speeches from its officials that "contain strong discriminatory content towards certain groups of children".²³⁴

²²⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Mexico', UN Doc. CRC/C/Mex/6-7, 8 October 2024, para. 9.

²²⁸ Ibid., para. 14.

²²⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fourth to Sixth Periodic Reports of Namibia', UN Doc. CRC/C/NAM/4-6, 26 June 2024, para. 16(b).

²³⁰ Ibid., paras. 10 and 17.

²³¹ Ibid., para. 6 and 19. This refers to Namibia's Child Care and Protection Act 3 of 2015, brought into force in 30 January 2019, Sections 3 and 4.

²³² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fourth to Sixth Periodic Reports of Namibia', UN Doc. CRC/C/NAM/4-6, 26 June 2024, para. 9.

²³³ UNICEF, 'Namibia Budget Brief: Education 2024/2025',

<https://www.unicef.org/namibia/media/1901/file/BB24%20EDUCATION%20ONLINE.pdf>, p. 4.

²³⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Fourth to Sixth Periodic Reports of Paraguay', UN Doc. CRC/C/PRY/4-6, 18 June 2024, para. 14.

The Committee called on Paraguay to effectively integrate the best interests principle in all its processes, and to strengthen the children's right to participation by giving due consideration to their views, and especially empowering girls and children in vulnerable situations.²³⁵

The continuing decrease in budget allocations for children and lack of an efficient data collection system were also pointed out by the Committee, resulting in recommendations that Paraguay improve on both these aspects.²³⁶ It is concerning indeed that the budget allocations for children and adolescents decreased from 4.6 per cent to 4.1 per cent of Paraguay's GDP between 2019-2023.²³⁷ The Committee also urged Paraguay to "build a climate of trust and cooperation" in order to encourage the involvement and participation of CSOs to work towards realizing children's rights.²³⁸

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is at the 189th rank in the Domain Enabling Environment in 2025, as it dropped down by 40 ranks. In its Concluding Observations 2024, the Committee recommended numerous legislative reforms to strengthen the rights of children in the Russian Federation, in line with the UNCRC. It specifically urged reforms to fully incorporate a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, to improve the legislation to better reflect the best interests principle and to promote the freedom of expression.²³⁹ The Committee expressed serious concerns regarding the proposed amendment to the Family Code which effectively prioritizes parental rights over those of the children and reminded of the Russian Federation of its obligations to respect and recognize children's evolving capacities.²⁴⁰

It also drew attention to the need for urgent measures to be taken by the Russian Federation concerning "violations of children's rights under the Convention in Ukraine and violations of children's rights in the Autonomous Republic Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation."²⁴¹

The Committee noted the increased budgetary allocation towards children at both the federal and regional levels and further recommended the Russian Federation to monitor and allocate specific budget lines for children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations.²⁴² The Committee also expressed serious concerns about legislations, judgements and practices that persecute and jeopardize civil society organizations, including those working on children's rights.²⁴³

²³⁵Ibid., paras. 15 and 18.

²³⁶ Ibid., paras. 7 and 8.

²³⁷ UN ECOSOC, 'Draft country programme document: Paraguay' (2024), UN Doc. E/ICEF/2025/P/L.4, <https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/27976/file/2025-PL4-Paraguay-draft-CPD-EN-2024-11-11.pdf>, 11 November 2024, para 5.

²³⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of the Russian Federation', UN Doc. CRC/C/RUS/6-7, 1 March 2024, para. 12.

²³⁹ Ibid., paras. 6 and 18.

²⁴⁰ Ibid., para. 19.

²⁴¹ Ibid., paras. 4, 46 and 48.

²⁴² Ibid., para. 9.

²⁴³ Ibid., para. 4.

Senegal

Senegal declined by 165 ranks in the Domain Enabling Environment, dropping down from the 14th rank in 2024 to the 179th in 2025. The Committee expressed concerns about Senegal's constitutional and legal framework not being in line with regional and international protections afforded to children, including the UNCRC.²⁴⁴ For instance, the constitutional framework does not yet guarantee the right not to be discriminated.²⁴⁵ The Committee reiterated its General Comments Nos. 14 and 12 as bases for recommend Senegal to incorporate the best interests principle as well as to safeguard children's participation rights in all processes and settings (family, school, courts).²⁴⁶

While the Committee noted the increased budgetary allocation for children, it also expressed that the proportion of budget allocations for the social sector and for children's rights in general remained insufficient.²⁴⁷ Senegal's recent efforts, with international support, to improve support for vulnerable children (including children in conflict with the law) is noteworthy.²⁴⁸ Such measures are especially important considering that child protection mechanisms are severely lacking in Senegal, including with respect to gender-based violence against girls, and the marginalization and exploitation of *talibé* children (Quaranic students), especially in the absence of adequately legislative safeguards.²⁴⁹

South Africa

In the Domain Enabling Environment, South Africa dropped from the 80th rank in 2024 to the 174th rank in 2025. The Committee noted South Africa's efforts in eliminating discrimination against children but expressed concerns regarding the persisting discrimination that impacts children's full access to basic education, health, protection and infrastructure.²⁵⁰

It is notable that South Africa has incorporated the best interests principle and the children's right to express their views in its Children's Act²⁵¹ as well as in the Children's Amendment Bill which further strengthens the Children's Act.²⁵² Reiterating its previous Concluding Observations, the Committee recommended South Africa to effectively implement the best interests principle,²⁵³ and to:

²⁴⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Senegal', UN Doc. CRC/C/SEN/6-7, 29 February 2024, para. 6.

²⁴⁵ Ibid., para. 13.

²⁴⁶ Ibid., paras. 14 and 16.

²⁴⁷ Ibid., para. 3.

²⁴⁸ See for instance: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), 'Program for Improving Access and Quality of Socio-Educational Child Protection Services (PAQ-SPE)', implemented by the Ministry of Justice of Senegal, 28 February 2025, <https://www.aics.gov.it/news/protezione-dellinfanzia-in-senegal-al-via-il-programma-paq-spe/?lang=en>.

²⁴⁹ See Human Rights Watch, 'Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: Review of Senegal', 95th pre-session, February 2023, , https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2023/02/HRW%20Submission%20to%20the%20Committee%20on%20the%20Rights%20of%20the%20Child%20Review%20of%20Senegal_0.pdf, pp. 5 and 6.

²⁵⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding Observations on the Combined Third to Sixth Periodic Reports of South Africa', UN Doc. CRC/C/ZAF/3-6, 11 March 2024, para. 4.

²⁵¹ This refers to Art. 28(2) of the Constitution and Art. 9 of the Children's Act, South Africa.

²⁵² See no author, 'Children's Amendment Act Signed', *GoLegal*, 11 January 2023, <https://www.golegal.co.za/children-amendment-act/>.

²⁵³ Ibid., para. 18.

“promote meaningful and empowered participation of all children, within the family, communities and schools, in the courts and in all relevant administrative and other processes concerning them, and include children in decision-making in all matters related to children, including environmental”.²⁵⁴

Further, the Committee recommended South Africa to incorporate child rights-based budgeting, improve its data collection system and to systematically involve civil society organizations in working towards the effective realisation of children’s rights.²⁵⁵

Turkmenistan

In the Domain Enabling Environment, Turkmenistan dropped to the 125th rank in 2025 from the 29th rank in 2024. The Committee expressed concerns regarding de facto discrimination against children, including “children with disabilities, children living in poverty and children belonging to minorities, in particular Baluchi, Nohur, Kazakh and Uzbek minorities”, and recommended Turkmenistan to take both legislative and administrative measures to address the persisting disparities among children.²⁵⁶ The Committee also recommended Turkmenistan to improve its data collection system, especially considering that “data on the status of children’s rights remains largely unavailable, outdated and insufficiently disaggregated” even after its 2022 national census.²⁵⁷

Turkmenistan’s legislative reforms received appreciation from the Committee, including its criminal law reforms.²⁵⁸ It is notable that Turkmenistan has incorporated the best interest principle and the right of children to express their views in its Law on State Guarantees of the Rights of the Child (SGRC).²⁵⁹ While the Committee noted the 18.7 per cent budgetary increase towards children in the period 2015-2022, it expressed concern regarding the lack of budget transparency.²⁶⁰ The Committee also urged Turkmenistan to withdraw legislative restrictions imposed on CSO registrations,²⁶¹ considering that these restrictions hinder the independence and functionality of CSOs working on children’s rights.²⁶²

Lithuania, Armenia and Argentina are the only three countries (of nineteen) that have improved their ranking in this domain after having received their Concluding Observations (COs) from the CRC Committee in 2024. **Senegal, Mali and Paraguay** have dropped the most in this domain.

The downfall in the average domain scores of the countries (already being the lowest of all domains) is a cause for serious concern as it reflects continued deterioration of children’s rights globally, moving further away from making effective children’s rights implementation a reality.

²⁵⁴ Ibid., para. 20.

²⁵⁵ Ibid., paras. 9, 10 and 14.

²⁵⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Turkmenistan’, UN Doc. CRC/C/TKM/5-6, 9 October 2024, para. 16.

²⁵⁷ Ibid., para. 11.

²⁵⁸ Ibid., paras. 6 and 17.

²⁵⁹ This refers to the Law of Turkmenistan on State Guarantees of the Rights of the Child, Arts. 4(2) and 16.

²⁶⁰ Ibid., para. 9.

²⁶¹ Ibid., para 15.

²⁶² See also International Partnership for Human Rights, ‘Closed Civic Space in Turkmenistan: Widening Crackdown on Dissent’, Brussels, June 2021, <https://www.iphronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CLOSED-CIVIC-SPACE-IN-TURKMENISTAN-JUNE-2021-1.pdf>, p. 9.

The cluster insights in this domain further exhibit the poor performance of countries, at both the global and regional levels. Based on their 2024 COs, none of the countries received the top score (3) for any of the seven indicators of this domain, and the lowest score (1) received for these indicators has more than doubled – a clear indication of the overwhelming magnitude of negative remarks received by the nineteen countries reviewed by the Committee. Countries must reassess their policies and practices to revamp, reorient and further strengthen their efforts for effective promotion and safeguarding of children’s rights as enshrined in the CRC.

Global ranks: Domain Enabling Environment KRI 2025

Countries	Score	Rank
Thailand	0,750	1
Luxembourg	0,714	2
Mauritania	0,714	3
Qatar	0,700	4
Antigua and Barbuda	0,667	5
Barbados	0,667	6
Guyana	0,667	7
Liechtenstein	0,667	8
Malawi	0,667	9
Malaysia	0,667	10
Timor-Leste	0,667	11
United Republic of Tanzania	0,667	12
Bangladesh	0,643	13
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0,643	14
Burundi	0,643	15
Cabo Verde	0,643	16
Chad	0,643	17
Honduras	0,643	18
Latvia	0,643	19
Nicaragua	0,643	20
Nigeria	0,643	21
Peru	0,643	22
Philippines	0,643	23
Samoa	0,600	24
San Marino	0,600	25
Andorra	0,583	26
Austria	0,583	27
Germany	0,583	28
Iceland	0,583	29
Kazakhstan	0,583	30
Lebanon	0,583	31
Monaco	0,583	32
Republic of Korea	0,583	33
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,583	34
Serbia	0,583	35
Somalia	0,583	36
Ukraine	0,583	37
Zimbabwe	0,583	38
Angola	0,571	39
Botswana	0,571	40
Colombia	0,571	41
Cuba	0,571	42
Czech Republic	0,571	43
Egypt	0,571	44
Greece	0,571	45
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0,571	46
Lithuania	0,571	47
Montenegro	0,571	48
Republic of Moldova	0,571	49

Slovenia	0,571	50
Uruguay	0,571	51
Algeria	0,500	52
Belgium	0,500	53
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0,500	54
Brunei	0,500	55
Darussalam	0,500	56
Burkina Faso	0,500	57
Denmark	0,500	58
Estonia	0,500	59
Ethiopia	0,500	60
Fiji	0,500	61
Finland	0,500	62
France	0,500	63
Italy	0,500	64
Jamaica	0,500	65
Kenya	0,500	66
Kuwait	0,500	67
Liberia	0,500	68
Marshall Islands	0,500	69
Morocco	0,500	70
Nauru	0,500	71
Norway	0,500	72
Portugal	0,500	73
Tonga	0,500	74
Trinidad and Tobago	0,500	75
Uganda	0,500	76
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0,500	77
Yemen	0,429	78
Azerbaijan	0,429	79
Bahrain	0,429	80
Belize	0,429	81
Cook Islands	0,429	82
Ecuador	0,429	83
Eritrea	0,429	84
Eswatini	0,429	85
Gambia	0,429	86
Hungary	0,429	87
India	0,429	88
Japan	0,429	89
Kyrgyzstan	0,429	90
Libya	0,429	91
Malta	0,429	92
North Macedonia	0,429	93
Tajikistan	0,429	94
Tuvalu	0,429	95
Zambia	0,429	96
Benin	0,417	97
Central African Republic	0,417	98
Ghana	0,417	99
Kiribati	0,417	100
Mongolia	0,417	101
Netherlands	0,417	102
Rwanda	0,417	103
Saint Lucia	0,417	104
South Sudan	0,417	105
Tunisia	0,400	106
Argentina	0,400	107

Dominica	0,400	108
Grenada	0,400	109
Vanuatu	0,357	110
Armenia	0,357	111
Cameroon	0,357	112
Chile	0,357	113
Costa Rica	0,357	114
Cyprus	0,357	115
Georgia	0,357	116
Haiti	0,357	117
Jordan	0,357	118
Lesotho	0,357	119
Myanmar	0,357	120
Namibia	0,357	121
Oman	0,357	122
Pakistan	0,357	123
Singapore	0,357	124
Switzerland	0,357	125
Turkmenistan	0,357	126
Uzbekistan	0,333	127
Gabon	0,333	128
Indonesia	0,333	129
Nepal	0,333	130
Suriname	0,300	131
Palau	0,300	132
Solomon Islands	0,286	133
Belarus	0,286	134
Canada	0,286	135
China	0,286	136
Côte d'Ivoire	0,286	137
Croatia	0,286	138
Djibouti	0,286	139
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0,286	140
Mauritius	0,286	141
Niger	0,286	142
Slovakia	0,286	143
State of Palestine	0,286	144
Togo	0,286	145
United Arab Emirates	0,286	146
Viet Nam	0,286	147
Bahamas	0,250	148
Brazil	0,250	149
Dominican Republic	0,250	150
Ireland	0,250	151
New Zealand	0,250	152
Spain	0,214	153
Bulgaria	0,214	154
Congo	0,214	155
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0,214	156
Mozambique	0,214	157
Papua New Guinea	0,214	158
Romania	0,214	159
Seychelles	0,214	160
Sweden	0,167	161
Guinea-Bissau	0,167	162
Panama	0,167	162

Paraguay	0,167	163
Sudan	0,167	164
Bhutan	0,143	165
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,143	166
Israel	0,143	167
Maldives	0,143	168
Mali	0,143	169
Mexico	0,143	170
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0,143	171
Poland	0,143	172
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,143	173
South Africa	0,143	174
Syrian Arab Republic	0,143	175
Turkey	0,143	176
Comoros	0,100	177
Madagascar	0,083	178
Senegal	0,083	179
Sri Lanka	0,083	180
United Kingdom	0,083	181
Albania	0,071	182
Australia	0,071	183
Cambodia	0,071	184
Equatorial Guinea	0,071	185
Guatemala	0,071	186
Guinea	0,071	187
Iraq	0,071	188
Russian Federation	0,071	189
Sao Tome and Principe	0,071	190
Saudi Arabia	0,071	191
Sierra Leone	0,071	192
Afghanistan	0,010	193
El Salvador	0,010	194

Regional ranks: Domain Enabling Environment KRI 2025

Western Europe	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Enabling Environment
Luxembourg	1
Liechtenstein	2
Latvia	3
San Marino	4
Andorra	5
Austria	6
Germany	7
Iceland	8
Monaco	9
Czech Republic	10

Greece	11
Lithuania	12
Slovenia	13
Belgium	14
Denmark	15
Estonia	16
Finland	17
France	18
Italy	19
Norway	20
Portugal	21
Hungary	22
Malta	23
Netherlands	24
Cyprus	25
Switzerland	26
Slovakia	27
Ireland	28
Spain	29
Sweden	30
Poland	31
United Kingdom	32

Eastern Europe & Central Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Enabling Environment
Kazakhstan	1
Serbia	2
Ukraine	3
Montenegro	4
Republic of Moldova	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6
Azerbaijan	7
Kyrgyzstan	8
North Macedonia	9
Tajikistan	10
Armenia	11
Georgia	12
Turkmenistan	13
Uzbekistan	14
Belarus	15
Croatia	16
Bulgaria	17
Romania	18
Turkey	19
Albania	20
Russian Federation	21

Eastern & Southern Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Enabling Environment
Malawi	1
United Republic of Tanzania	2
Burundi	3
Somalia	4
Zimbabwe	5

Angola	6
Botswana	7
Ethiopia	8
Kenya	9
Uganda	10
Eritrea	11
Eswatini	12
Zambia	13
Rwanda	14
South Sudan	15
Lesotho	16
Namibia	17
Djibouti	18
Mauritius	19
Mozambique	20
Seychelles	21
Sudan	22
South Africa	23
Comoros	24
Madagascar	25

Middle East & North Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Enabling Environment
Qatar	1
Lebanon	2
Egypt	3
Algeria	4
Kuwait	5
Morocco	6
Yemen	7
Bahrain	8
Libya	9
Tunisia	10
Jordan	11
Oman	12
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	13
State of Palestine	14
United Arab Emirates	15
Israel	16
Syrian Arab Republic	17
Iraq	18
Saudi Arabia	19

West & Central Africa	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Enabling Environment
Cabo Verde	1
Sao Tome and Principe	2
Senegal	3
Gabon	4
Gambia	5
Ghana	6
Mauritania	7
Mali	8

Liberia	9
Cameroon	10
Sierra Leone	11
Equatorial Guinea	12
Côte d'Ivoire	13
Nigeria	14
Togo	15
Burkina Faso	16
Guinea-Bissau	17
Congo	18
Guinea	19
Benin	20
Chad	21
Niger	22
Democratic Republic of the Congo	23
Central African Republic	24

Saint Kitts and Nevis	31
Guatemala	32
El Salvador	33

South Asia	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Enabling Environment
Bangladesh	1
India	2
Pakistan	3
Nepal	4
Bhutan	5
Maldives	6
Sri Lanka	7
Afghanistan	8

Latin America & Caribbean	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Enabling Environment
Antigua and Barbuda	1
Barbados	2
Guyana	3
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	4
Honduras	5
Nicaragua	6
Peru	7
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	8
Colombia	9
Cuba	10
Uruguay	11
Jamaica	12
Trinidad and Tobago	13
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	14
Belize	15
Ecuador	16
Saint Lucia	17
Argentina	18
Dominica	19
Grenada	20
Chile	21
Costa Rica	22
Haiti	23
Suriname	24
Bahamas	25
Brazil	26
Dominican Republic	27
Panama	28
Paraguay	29
Mexico	30

East Asia & Pacific	
Countries	Regional rankings Domain Enabling Environment
Thailand	1
Malaysia	2
Timor-Leste	3
Philippines	4
Samoa	5
Republic of Korea	6
Lao People's Democratic Republic	7
Brunei Darussalam	8
Fiji	9
Marshall Islands	10
Nauru	11
Tonga	12
Cook Islands	13
Japan	14
Tuvalu	15
Kiribati	16
Mongolia	17
Vanuatu	18
Myanmar	19
Singapore	20
Indonesia	21
Palau	22
Solomon Islands	23
China	24
Viet Nam	25
New Zealand	26
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	27
Papua New Guinea	28
Micronesia (Federated States of)	29
Australia	30
Cambodia	31

4. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

As we have presented in the two previous KidsRights Index reports (2023 and 2024), climate change poses a persistent and grave challenge to the fulfilment of children's rights, especially considering the disproportionate impact that it has proven to have on children.²⁶³ The implications of climate change on children's lives are far-reaching as they not only have a magnifying effect on children's existing vulnerabilities (based on age, gender, and socio-economic factors among other features) but also have severe adverse effects on their development. For instance, in 2024 alone, the education of nearly a quarter billion children was disrupted due to a range of climate hazards, predominantly in low-and-middle income countries.²⁶⁴

In this context, the KidsRights Index continues to work towards integrating climate change as a sixth domain of the Index to account for the climate change responses (mitigation and adaptation) by states. Currently this domain is still experimental, and we are yet to integrate a methodologically sound indicator (in tandem with the rest of the KidsRights Index) on adaptation efforts. For the KRI 2025 we have incorporated the 'climate change mitigation' scores from the *Environmental Performance Index 2024* of Yale University.²⁶⁵ Similar to 2024, the climate change mitigation scores are available for 180 countries.²⁶⁶ However, the KidsRights Index 2025 can only incorporate it for 178 countries, excluding Taiwan and the United States of America which are not yet included in the KidsRights Index due to the fact that they are not yet states parties to the UNCRC and thus lack all data for Domain 5 or the 'Enabling Environment for Children's Rights'.

4.1. KidsRights Index 2025 with a climate change domain

If we integrate the results of the sixth domain on climate change with those of the five original domains of the KidsRights Index 2025, some interesting changes occur to the rankings of countries. The following table provides a comparative overview of the ranks and scores of the top ten countries in the KRI 2025 upon integrating the climate change domain compared to their KRI 2025 performance based on the original five domains.

Top ten countries KRI 2025 with climate change domain	Rank KRI 2025 with climate change domain	Score KRI 2025 with climate change domain	Overall Rank KRI 2025	Overall Score KRI 2025	Change in overall rank with climate change domain
Greece	1	0,849	1	0,879	0
Germany	2	0,833	4	0,876	2
Finland	3	0,831	9	0,856	6

²⁶³ KidsRights Index 2023 Report, <https://files.kidsrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/18142918/KidsRights-Index-2023-Report.pdf>, pp. 35-39 and KidsRights Index 2024 Report, <https://files.kidsrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/27144335/The-KidsRights-Index-report-2024.pdf>, pp. 40-43.

²⁶⁴ UNICEF, 'Learning Interrupted: Global Snapshot of Climate-Related School Disruptions in 2024', January 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/media/170626/file/Global-snapshot-climate-related-school-disruptions-2024.pdf>.

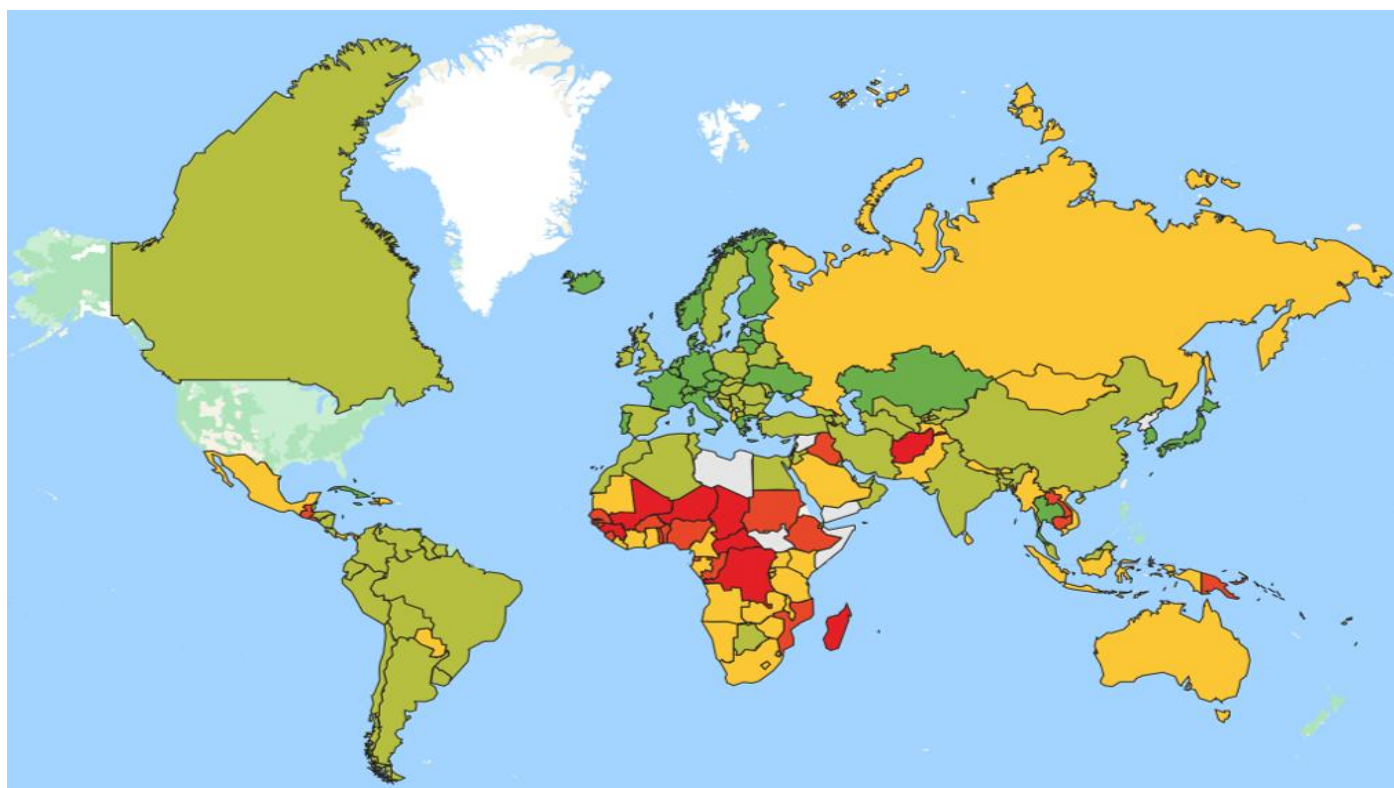
²⁶⁵ Sebastián Block et al., *Environmental Performance Index 2024*, New Haven, CT: Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, 2024, <https://epi.yale.edu/downloads/2024-epi-report-20250106.pdf>, p. 32, Table 3.1.

²⁶⁶ The indicators for climate change mitigation measure the climate change mitigation efforts of countries by tracking their respective emission trends on four greenhouse gases and black carbon.

Luxembourg	4	0,829	3	0,878	-1
Denmark	5	0,823	6	0,857	1
Estonia	6	0,808	26	0,804	20
Belgium	7	0,807	7	0,857	0
Slovenia	8	0,8	12	0,854	4
Iceland	9	0,794	2	0,878	-7
Austria	10	0,792	11	0,855	1

Table 26: Top ten countries in KRI 2025 with climate change domain compared with overall KRI 2025

As can be seen above, **Greece** remains at the top of the KRI 2025 even after the integration of a climate change domain, despite a reduction in its overall score. Since, based on its climate change mitigation scores, Greece ranks third in the Environmental Performance Index 2024,²⁶⁷ it retains its top position also with the integration of the climate change domain. **Belgium** too maintains its position (seventh) compared to its overall KRI 2025 rank. **Estonia** climbs twenty ranks, from 26th in the overall KRI 2025 to the sixth position when climate change mitigation scores are integrated. It ranks the highest in climate change mitigation which fuels this impressive climb into the top ten of the KidsRights Index. It also ranks the highest in the overall *Environmental Performance Index 2024* which combines a total of eleven issue categories of which climate change mitigation is only one. While Austria and Slovenia enter the top ten with minor improvements, of one and four ranks respectively, Thailand and Norway drop out of the top ten due to a decline of nine and three ranks respectively.



Map 7: Overall KidsRights Index with climate change domain

²⁶⁷ Sebastián Block et al., *Environmental Performance Index 2024*, New Haven, CT: Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, 2024, <https://epi.yale.edu/downloads/2024-epi-report-20250106.pdf>, p. 32, Table 3.1, <https://epi.yale.edu>.

4.2. KidsRights Index 2025 and 2024 with the climate change domain

Since we carried out a similar exercise in 2024 by incorporating the climate change mitigation scores from the 2022 Environmental Performance Index, we can now make a comparative analysis between the results of 2024 and 2025. The table below provides a comparative overview of the top ten countries in the KRI 2025 as compared to their rankings in the KRI 2024, both including the experimental climate change domain.

Top ten countries KRI 2025 with climate change domain	Rank KRI 2025 with climate change domain	Score KRI 2025 with climate change domain	Rank KRI 2024 with climate change domain	Score KRI 2024 with climate change domain	Rank change 2025 vs 2024
Greece	1	0,849	7	0,801	6
Germany	2	0,833	10	0,789	8
Finland	3	0,831	2	0,855	-1
Luxembourg	4	0,829	3	0,846	-1
Denmark	5	0,823	1	0,869	-4
Estonia	6	0,808	23	0,746	17
Belgium	7	0,807	12	0,779	5
Slovenia	8	0,8	5	0,817	-3
Iceland	9	0,794	4	0,82	-5
Austria	10	0,792	11	0,782	1

Table 27: KRI 2025 with climate change domain compared with KRI 2024 with climate change domain

Denmark, which was at the top in KRI 2024 after climate change domain was integrated, declined by four ranks in KRI 2025 to be ranked at 5th. **Greece** improved by six ranks compared to 2024 to claim the top position. **Estonia** recorded a significant improvement, as it climbed seventeen ranks compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, **Germany** also improved by eight ranks to be ranked at 2nd from its previous 8th rank.

Climbers

With the integration of the experimental climate change domain, **Lithuania** improved the most compared to the previous year by climbing 72 ranks (from the 93rd to the 21st). It is followed by **Armenia** (+46 ranks), **Malaysia** (+42 ranks), **Algeria** (+40 ranks), **Argentina** (+36 ranks), **China** (+36 ranks) and **Colombia** (+30 ranks).

The improvement recorded by Lithuania, Armenia and Argentina is primarily due to their stronger performance in Domain 5 based on their latest Concluding Observations.

Descenders

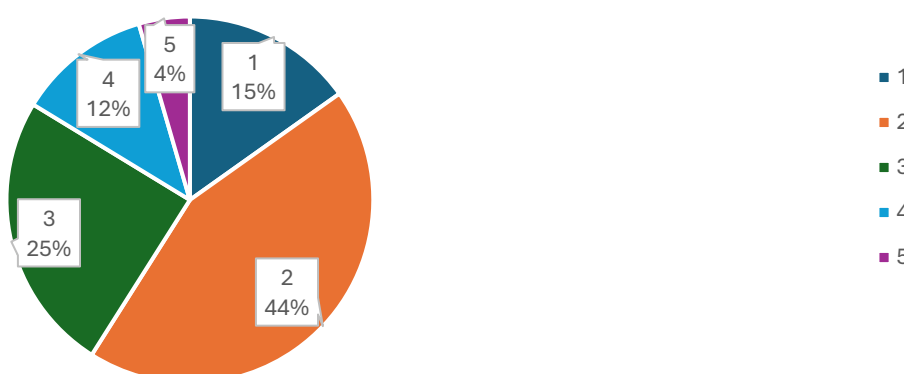
Several countries also recorded a downfall compared to previous year, including **Bulgaria** (-63 ranks), **Mexico** (-63 ranks), **Namibia** (-57 ranks) and **Senegal** (-43 ranks), all of which fell due to their performance in Domain 5.

Botswana (-52 ranks), and **Grenada** (-47 ranks) also recorded a significant decline in their rankings compared to the previous year.

4.2.1. Global cluster insights for KidsRights Index with climate change

Out of the 178 countries that could be ranked by incorporating the scores of the experimental climate change domain with overall KRI 2025 scores, the highest concentration is in Cluster 2 with 44 per cent of the countries. 27 countries (15 per cent) are categorized under Cluster 1, which is even lower than the overall KRI 2025, where 23 per cent of all countries are categorized under Cluster 1. Therefore, a relatively lesser proportion of countries are doing enough to secure children's rights by also actively working on their climate change mitigation efforts. A breakdown of all clusters is visualized in the following pie chart.

Overall KidsRights Index with climate change: % breakdown of clusters



KidsRights Index with climate change Cluster	No. of countries in 2025	No. of countries in 2024
1	27	18
2	78	66
3	44	48
4	21	30
5	8	16

Table 28: KidsRights Index with climate change, clusters 2025 vs 2024

From the above table, it can be observed that 59 per cent of the 178 countries in 2025 are categorized under Clusters 1 and 2, which is an improvement from the 47 per cent of the countries that were categorized in the first two clusters in 2024. The number of countries in Clusters 4 and 5 have also recorded a drastic reduction (by 30 and 50 per cent, respectively), when compared to 2024. **Lithuania** is the only country that has moved up by two clusters, aided by its significant improvement in the overall KRI 2025. Fifty-eight countries (or 33% of the 178 countries) improved by a cluster, while only five countries (**Congo, Mali, Mexico, Namibia** and **Senegal**) dropped down by a cluster. These insights indicate a relatively positive global momentum for children's rights and climate change mitigation efforts.

Integrating an experimental climate change domain with the overall KidsRights Index 2025 altered the rankings of (178) countries based on their climate change mitigation efforts. **Estonia's** improvement by 20 ranks to feature among the top ten countries is notable, while several other countries recorded a minor change to their overall rankings. However, after inclusion of the climate change domain only 15 per cent of the countries are categorized in cluster 1, compared to 23 per cent for the overall KidsRights Index. This underlines the need for the countries involved to more actively integrate climate change mitigation efforts in their efforts to secure children's rights.

5. MISSING DATA

Missing indicator data points: Global insights from KRI 2023 to KRI 2025

As already flagged in the introduction to this Report, data unavailability remains a persistent challenge in monitoring children's rights, despite some minor improvements. The overall availability of indicator data for the KidsRights Index can be seen to be gradually improving over the past three years. In 2025, thirteen more indicator data points are available compared to 2024, and 31 more indicator points than in 2023.

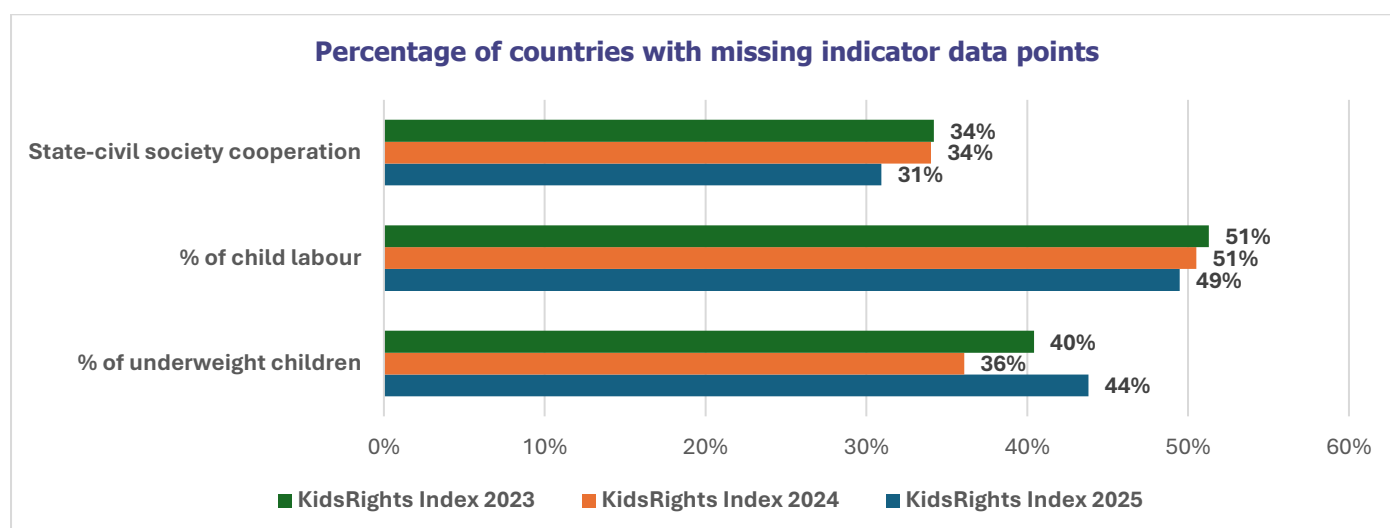
Indicators	KidsRights Index 2025	KidsRights Index 2024	KidsRights Index 2023
Under 5 mortality rate	1	1	1
Life expectancy at birth	0	0	1
Maternal mortality rate	11	11	11
% of underweight children	85	70	78
Immunisation (MCV1 of children under 1)	1	1	1
Access to improved sanitation	0	0	2
Access to improved drinking water	1	1	3
Expected years of schooling - Boys	2	7	8
Expected years of schooling - Girls	2	7	8
Expected years of schooling - Gender Inequality	2	7	8
% of child labour	96	98	99
Adolescent birth rate	12	12	12
% of birth registration (children under 5)	14	17	17
Non-discrimination	2	3	3
Best interests of the child	18	19	19
Respect for the views of the child	1	2	3
Enabling legislation	1	0	0
Allocation of budget/resources	3	3	3
Collection and analysis of disaggregated data	0	0	0
State-civil society cooperation	60	66	66
Total missing indicators	312	325	343

Table: Global insights on missing indicator data points from KRI 2023 to KRI 2025

However, on various important aspects, the situation is less positive. 77 per cent of the total missing indicator data points in the KidsRights Index 2025 relate to the indicators '% of underweight children', '% of child labour' and 'State-civil society cooperation'. Their contribution to the total missing indicator data points has in fact increased from 71 per cent in KRI 2023 to 77 per cent in KRI 2025.

Data availability on the percentage of underweight children has decreased from 70 missing data points in KRI 2024 to 85 in KRI 2025 as the KRI does not consider data sourced before 2014. The data source for this indicator, the 'Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates' (JME) data sharing methodology 2024 and the SDG 2

indicator metadata²⁶⁸ does not even mention the underweight indicator and instead focuses only on stunting, wasting and overweight for children under 5.²⁶⁹ In light of these developments, it is not clear whether data will be consistently generated for the underweight indicator through the JME. The following chart shows the increase in data unavailability for underweight children, from 36 per cent of countries lack the data in 2024 to 44 per cent of countries in 2025.



Further, the data on the percentage of child labour remains unavailable for nearly half of the countries in the KRI despite it being a prevalent concern globally. While the source data accounts for the child labour statistics generated from 2015,²⁷⁰ it still includes pre-2015 data for the following 18 countries (out of 98, see Table below). To allow for more effective monitoring of the rights of children impacted due to child labour it is important to generate updated data (post-2014) for numerous countries. The data on child labour is not available for an alarming 114 of the 194 countries included in the KRI 2025.

Countries in KRI 2025	Latest update to the child labour indicator data - Year	Domain Protection Rank
Albania	2010	52
Barbados	2012	68
Belize	2013	88
Bhutan	2010	62
Cameroon	2014	162
Chile	2012	84
Haiti	2012	143
Nepal	2014	140
Niger	2012	158
Rwanda	2013-14	118

²⁶⁸ United Nations Statistics Division, 'SDG Indicator Metadata', 28 March 2025, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-02-02-02a.pdf>.

²⁶⁹ UNICEF, 'The UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) Standard Methodology', 30 August 2024, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-standard-methodology/>.

²⁷⁰ UNICEF, 'Child labour', July 2024, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour>.

Saint Lucia	2012	82
Sudan	2014	138
Tunisia	2011-12	24
Ukraine	2012	54
United Republic of Tanzania	2014	153
Uruguay	2010	72
Vanuatu	2013	141
Zambia	2012	167

Table: Countries included in the KRI 2025 with child labour data pre-2015

It is also important to note that the data for the indicator 'Adolescent Birth Rate' has not been updated in the past 5 years, since 2019.

A minor improvement can be noticed in the indicator data availability for 'state-civil society cooperation'. This might be attributed to improved consistency on the part of the CRC Committee in referring to the aspect of state-civil society cooperation in its Concluding Observations. If so, we expect to see a further increase in the data availability for this indicator.

Regional level insights into indicator data (un)availability

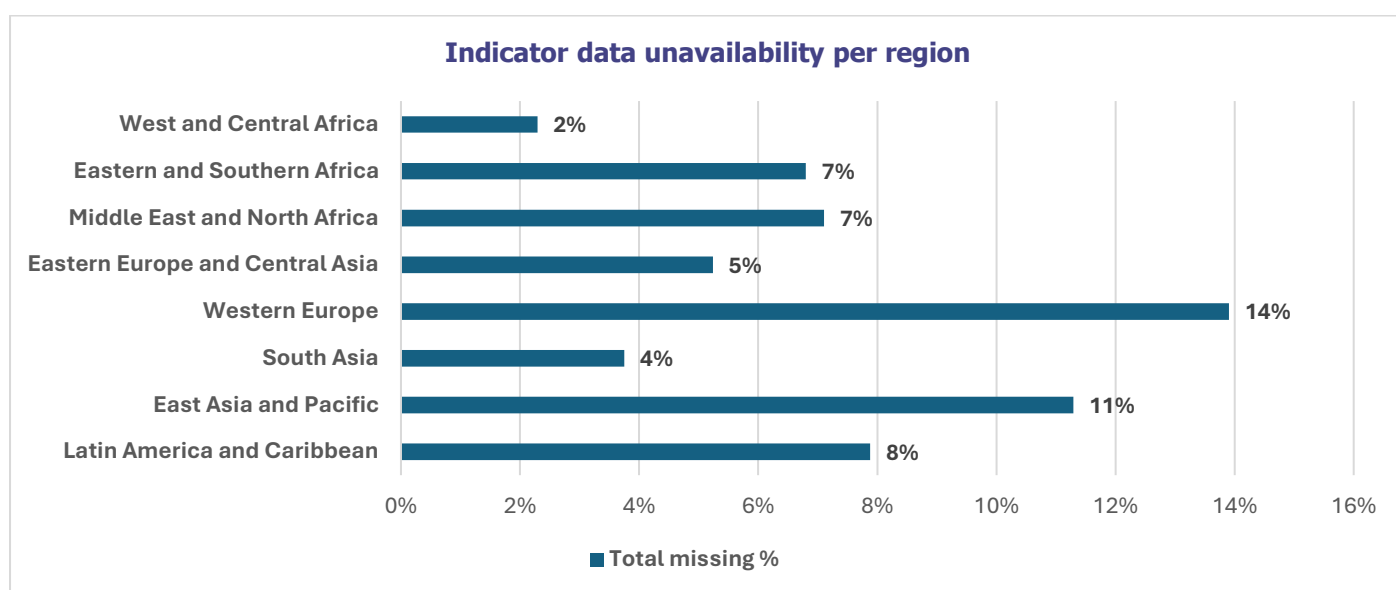
The following table provides a detailed breakdown of the number of missing indicator data points per indicator per region.

Missing data KidsRights Index 2025 per region	Latin America and Caribbean	E Asia & Pacific	S Asia	W Europe	E Europe & C Asia	MENA	E & S Africa	W & C Africa
Under 5 M rate	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Life expectancy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MMR	2	5	0	4	0	0	0	0
Underweight children	13	12	1	28	9	8	10	3
Immunisation	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drinking water	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Expected years of schooling - Boys	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expected years of schooling - Girls	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expected years of schooling - Gender Inequality	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
% of child labour	11	17	2	32	9	13	10	2
Adolescent birth rate	2	6	0	4	0	0	0	0
% of birth registration (children under 5)	6	3	0	0	0	2	3	0
Non-discrimination	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

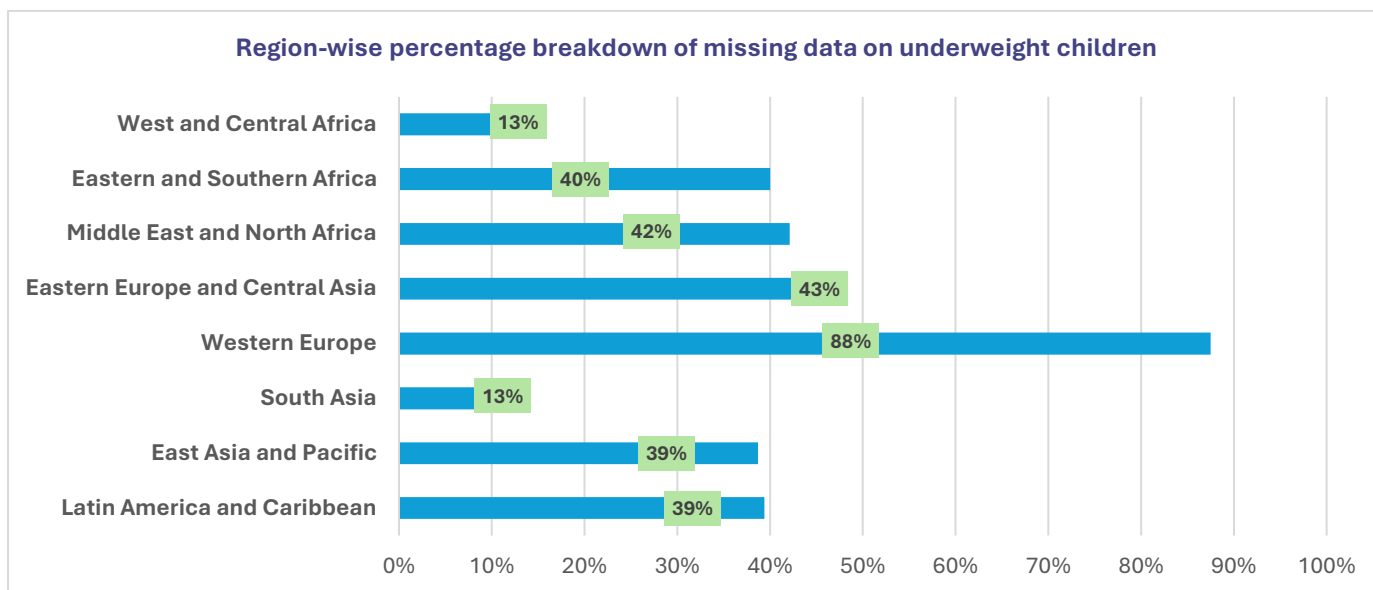
Best interests of the child	6	5	1	1	0	0	4	1
Respect for the views of the child	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enabling legislation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allocation of budget	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Collection & analysis of data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State-civil society cooperation	10	14	2	17	3	3	7	4
Total	52	70	6	89	22	27	34	11

Table: Breakdown of the number of missing indicator data points per indicator per region in KRI 2025

Among all the regions, and perhaps unexpectedly, indicator data unavailability is the highest in Western Europe at 14 per cent, closely followed by East Asia and Pacific at 11 per cent. In absolute numbers, Western Europe is missing 89 indicator data points, and East Asia and Pacific is missing 70 indicator data points.



For indicators such as ‘% of underweight children’, the regional disparities in the unavailability of data are more pronounced. The data on underweight children is unavailable for a staggering 88 per cent of the countries in Western Europe. For all the other regions, except South Asia and West and Central Africa, the data is unavailable for around 40 per cent of the countries. In South Asia and West and Central Africa, data on underweight children is only missing for 13 per cent of the countries in the respective regions. This may have to do with the lower prevalence of underweight in Western Europe, and therefore lower priority for the matter, as compared to other regions.



Domain 5 indicator data: Efficiency of the Treaty Body reporting procedure

All states that have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child must submit an initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child within two years after that ratification. Thereafter they are required to submit their respective periodic reports every five years.²⁷¹ These State party reports – initial and periodic – are meant to provide an overview of the progress made in realising the child rights enshrined in the UNCRC, including the measures adopted by the State, as well as the challenges and any other factors that may be hindering the realisation of these rights.²⁷² Notably, among the nine global UN human rights treaties, the UNCRC not only has been ratified by the largest number of states (196 per May 2025) but also is the treaty for which all the states parties have indeed submitted their initial reports.²⁷³

As noted by the CRC Committee, the reporting process provides an avenue for each state party to undertake a comprehensive legal and policy analysis to align its domestic framework with the UNCRC, while also ushering in a monitoring process as the basis for the state party report.²⁷⁴ If taken seriously and done periodically, this process can build an enormously important domestic knowledge base on the implementation (or lack thereof) of children's rights in the country concerned. The state party reports combined with the Concluding Observations issued by the CRC Committee in response act as a progress report and a guidance vehicle for further improving the situation of children's rights.

Despite the quintessential role of the reporting process in the realisation of children's rights, it is marred with inordinate delays, both on the part of the state parties as well as the Committee itself. This challenge has been prevalent across all the treaty bodies, which resulted in a UN General Assembly Resolution encouraging

²⁷¹ UNCRC, Art. 44.

²⁷² Ibid., Art. 44(2).

²⁷³ OHCHR, 'UN Treaty Body Database', no date, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx.

²⁷⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Guidelines Regarding the Form and Content of Initial Reports to be Submitted by States Parties under Article 44, Paragraph 1(a) of the Convention', UN Doc. CRC/C/5, 30 October 1991, para. 2.

the State parties and the treaty bodies to adopt a more efficient reporting and review process.²⁷⁵ In 2022, all the treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, adopted the 'Simplified Reporting Procedure' as the default reporting procedure for the State parties.²⁷⁶ The traditional reporting procedure is initiated by the State party's submission of the report, followed by a 'List of Issues' formulated by the Committee and a written reply to the 'List of Issues' by the state involved. On the other hand, the Simplified Reporting Procedure is initiated by the Committee through the issuance of a 'List of Issues Prior to Reporting', and the response is considered as the state's report to the Committee. Effectively, this eliminates the back-and-forth written communications between the Committee and State party, while also narrowing down the scope of the reporting process itself. Even with the availability of the Simplified Reporting Procedure, many periodic state reports remain overdue, and sometimes long overdue.²⁷⁷

Understandably, the periodic state reports reaffirm the respective state's commitment to upholding the rights of the children enshrined in the UNCRC.²⁷⁸ At the same time, they also reaffirm the State party's willingness to be open to scrutiny and constructive dialogue with civil society actors engaging in the process and with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Beside a violation of state obligations under the UNCRC, undue delays in reporting to the Committee might be seen as an indication of wavering commitments to taking action on children's rights.

On the other side of the table, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is still lagging in reviewing the state party reports that have already been submitted. At the conclusion of the 98th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in January 2025, there was still a backlog of 62 state party reports that were yet to be reviewed by the Committee.²⁷⁹ The delays in state reporting combined with additional delays in completing the review process by the Committee adversely impacts the effectiveness of the entire review procedure. This affects the scope to improve the situation of children's rights in the countries involved in a timely manner. This delay, in turn, also results in the availability of outdated information for these countries for Domain 5 scores and their analysis in the KidsRights Index. As stated in the introduction to this Report already: "Of the 19 countries that received Concluding Observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2023 or 2024, for nearly half (eight and nine respectively) ten or more years had lapsed since the adoption of the previous ones".²⁸⁰

The following table provides an overview of the State parties that have not been fully reviewed and received their COs in the past 15 years (2010 to 2024).

²⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, 'Strengthening and Enhancing the Effective Functioning of the Human Rights Treaty Body System', UN Doc. A/RES/68/268, 21 April 2014.

²⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, 'Implementation of Human Rights Instruments', UN Doc. A/77/228, 26 July 2022, para. 55.

²⁷⁷ OHCHR, 'UN Treaty Body Database', no date, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx.

²⁷⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Guidelines Regarding the Form and Content of Initial Reports to be Submitted by States Parties under Article 44, Paragraph 1(a) of the Convention', UN Doc. CRC/C/5, 30 October 1991, para. 3.

²⁷⁹ OHCHR, 'Committee on the Rights of the Child Holds Sixteenth Informal Meeting with States', 30 January 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/meeting-summaries/2025/01/committee-rights-child-holds-sixteenth-informal-meeting-states>.

²⁸⁰ The Concluding Observations adopted in 2023 reveal that this was the case for: Albania, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Finland, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo and Turkey. In 2024, this applied to: Armenia, Congo, Egypt, Israel, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mali, Namibia, Paraguay, and the Russian Federation.

S. No.	Country	Latest CO from UN Committee on the Rights of the Child	Domain 5 Rank in KRI 2025
1	St. Kitts and Nevis ²⁸¹	1999	173
2	Comoros	2000	177
3	Libya	2003	90
4	San Marino	2003	25
5	Dominica	2004	107
6	Equatorial Guinea	2004	185
7	Papua New Guinea	2004	157
8	Bahamas	2005	147
9	Belize	2005	80
10	Uganda	2005	75
11	Trinidad and Tobago	2006	74
12	Malaysia	2007	10
13	Chad	2009	17

Table: Countries that haven't received their Concluding Observations in the past 15 years

As shown in the table above, 13 of the 194 countries that are included in the KRI 2025 have not received their COs for 15 years (that is, between 2010 and 2024). Five of these thirteen countries, **Comoros, San Marino, Dominica, Bahamas** and **Trinidad and Tobago**, have not reported to the Committee in more than 15 years. This is despite the requirement to report to the Committee every five years.²⁸²

Libya, Uganda and **Malaysia** submitted their state reports to the CRC Committee in 2021, around a decade later than their respective reports were due. While **Uganda** and **Malaysia** have received the 'List of Issues' and are scheduled by the Committee for review in 2025, the review process has not yet been initiated for **Libya**. Similarly, **Belize** submitted its latest country report in 2023, while **Equatorial Guinea, Papua New Guinea**, and **Chad** submitted their respective country reports in 2024. The review process for these countries is also yet to be initiated by the CRC Committee.

²⁸¹ St. Kitts and Nevis has reported to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in February 2025. This will be considered in the KidsRights Index 2026.

²⁸² UNCRC, art, 44 (1)(b).

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The KidsRights Index 2025 serves not only as a benchmarking tool but as a call to action for governments, civil society, and international organizations. Its findings reveal both progress and persistent challenges in realizing the rights of children across the five domains.

Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, and Germany emerged as the top performers of the Index. The differences in scores among the top three countries are statistically negligible (one-thousandth point) which indicates a similar level of compliance with children's rights standards. Monaco entered the top ten of the KRI 2025 by climbing thirteen ranks, from the 18th place in 2024 to the 5th place in 2025. Conversely, countries like Afghanistan, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic remained at the bottom of the rankings due to persistent gaps in basic children's rights, weak legal frameworks and implementation infrastructure, and conflict(s). Improvements in countries such as Lithuania and Armenia demonstrate the tangible impact of improved legal frameworks, more inclusive policies, and effective child rights monitoring. Conversely, declines in countries like Mexico, Israel, and South Africa underline the fragility of progress when institutional support weakens, as noted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in their most recent Concluding Observations on these countries.

One of the pressing conclusions from the report is the need for improved data infrastructure. While the quantitative domains of the KidsRights index benefit from extensive international datasets, it is also a fact that, for instance, data on child labour and adolescent birth rate is not being updated at regular intervals. The Domain 5 indicators and to a greater extent the newer focus areas not yet (fully) integrated into the Index (such as mental health and the impact of climate change) still suffer from limited, uneven data availability. Such gaps hinder the monitoring process and inhibit the ability of countries to design effective interventions to improve child rights in their jurisdictions.

After integrating the (still experimental and incomplete) climate change domain (Domain 6) into the original 2025 KidsRights Index, only 15 per cent of the countries are categorized in cluster 1, compared to 23 per cent without considering climate. Given the huge impact of climate change on children's rights, now and in the future, this outcome reflects the need for states to more actively integrate climate change mitigation efforts in their efforts to secure children's rights. The 2025 KidsRights Index also sharpens focus on contemporary concerns such as the mental health of children. Due to lacking data, this issue cannot be included in the Index as yet. However, the report's reflection on mental health data and digital harms provides an important reminder that well-being and rights are multifaceted and cannot be protected and met in silos. Initiatives targeting digital safety, while important, must avoid infringing on civil rights and should be supplemented with awareness raising, education, support services, and accountability mechanisms.

Looking forward, the findings of the KidsRights Index 2025 are a clear basis for urging states and other actors that can make a difference for children to recommit to the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, strengthen their legislative and institutional frameworks, and address the economic, social, and environmental determinants that shape children's lives. Progress is possible, as evidenced by several climbers in the rankings, but requires coordinated political, policy, legal and other action, sustained investment, and a willingness to engage meaningfully with children and youth as rights holders and participants in the process of fully realizing children's rights.

7. Annexure 1: Regions KidsRights Index 2025*

Region	No. of countries	Countries
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	21	Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of); Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; Montenegro; Romania; Serbia; Tajikistan; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; Uzbekistan
Western Europe	32	Andorra; Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Monaco; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; San Marino; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
East Asia and Pacific	31	Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; Indonesia; Japan; Kiribati; Korea Republic of; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federates States of); Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; New Zealand; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; Vanuatu; Vietnam
South Asia	8	Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; India; Maldives; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka
Middle East and North Africa	19	Algeria; Bahrain; Egypt; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Libya; Morocco; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; State of Palestine; Syrian Arab Republic; Tunisia; United Arab Emirates; Yemen
Eastern and Southern Africa	25	Angola; Botswana; Burundi; Comoros; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Kenya; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Rwanda; Seychelles; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Sudan; Swaziland (Eswatini); Uganda; United Republic of Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe
West and Central Africa	24	Benin; Burkina Faso; Cape Verde; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Liberia; Mali; Mauritania; Niger; Nigeria; Sao Tome and Principe; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Togo
North America	1	Canada
Latin America and Caribbean	33	Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Jamaica; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Saint Lucia; San Marino; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Uruguay; Venezuela
*Based on the Regional Classifications by UNICEF, June 2023		

Countries not included in the KidsRights Index due to insufficient data:

East Asia and Pacific: Niue; Tokelau; **Western Europe:** Holy See; **Latin America and Caribbean:** Anguilla; Montserrat; Turks and Caicos Islands; British Virgin Islands; **North America:** USA.

8. Annexure 2: KRI 2025 and KRI 2024 with climate change

Countries	Ranks KRI 2025 with climate change domain	Score KRI 2025 with climate change domain	Ranks KRI 2024 with climate change domain	Scores KRI 2024 with climate change domain	Rank change 2025 vs 2024
Greece	1	0,849	7	0,801	6
Germany	2	0,833	10	0,789	8
Finland	3	0,831	2	0,855	-1
Luxembourg	4	0,829	3	0,846	-1
Denmark	5	0,823	1	0,869	-4
Estonia	6	0,808	23	0,746	17
Belgium	7	0,807	12	0,779	5
Slovenia	8	0,8	5	0,817	-3
Iceland	9	0,794	4	0,82	-5
Austria	10	0,792	11	0,782	1
Norway	11	0,79	15	0,764	4
France	12	0,787	17	0,758	5
Latvia	13	0,784	8	0,795	-5
Portugal	14	0,783	25	0,737	11
Netherlands	15	0,781	14	0,768	-1
Italy	16	0,775	16	0,761	0
Czech Republic	17	0,773	13	0,778	-4
Japan	18	0,771	31	0,726	13
Thailand	19	0,771	22	0,749	3
Malta	20	0,764	6	0,811	-14
Lithuania	21	0,763	93	0,613	72
Barbados	22	0,761	9	0,79	-13
Republic of Korea	23	0,76	41	0,708	18
Switzerland	24	0,753	18	0,757	-6
Cuba	25	0,743	21	0,752	-4
Ukraine	26	0,742	20	0,754	-6
Kazakhstan	27	0,731	40	0,708	13
Uruguay	28	0,728	38	0,711	10
Antigua and Barbuda	29	0,726	19	0,755	-10
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	30	0,726	26	0,736	-4
Hungary	31	0,722	35	0,718	4
Serbia	32	0,718	37	0,712	5
Singapore	33	0,713	32	0,722	-1
Malaysia	34	0,711	76	0,646	42
Peru	35	0,71	54	0,678	19
Republic of Moldova	36	0,709	44	0,701	8
Colombia	37	0,708	67	0,664	30
Spain	38	0,707	59	0,672	21
Sweden	39	0,702	29	0,73	-10
Montenegro	40	0,697	28	0,733	-12
North Macedonia	41	0,697	24	0,742	-17
Egypt	42	0,695	61	0,671	19
Cyprus	43	0,692	30	0,726	-13
Qatar	44	0,692	71	0,654	27
Argentina	45	0,69	81	0,633	36
Chile	46	0,689	60	0,672	14
Georgia	47	0,689	39	0,709	-8
Ireland	48	0,689	51	0,685	3
Cabo Verde	49	0,688	36	0,715	-13
Costa Rica	50	0,687	55	0,677	5

New Zealand	51	0,687	63	0,671	12
Bosnia and Herzegovina	52	0,686	45	0,7	-7
Samoa	53	0,685	62	0,671	9
Algeria	54	0,682	94	0,612	40
Canada	55	0,682	84	0,629	29
Croatia	56	0,68	52	0,68	-4
Tunisia	57	0,679	47	0,695	-10
Fiji	58	0,677	66	0,664	8
Morocco	59	0,675	73	0,65	14
Jamaica	60	0,673	43	0,705	-17
Trinidad and Tobago	61	0,673	34	0,719	-27
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	62	0,671	83	0,629	21
Lebanon	63	0,67	53	0,68	-10
Bahrain	64	0,668	42	0,707	-22
Ecuador	65	0,668	70	0,657	5
Armenia	66	0,667	112	0,567	46
Slovakia	67	0,666	58	0,673	-9
Jordan	68	0,662	82	0,632	14
Belarus	69	0,658	72	0,652	3
Kyrgyzstan	70	0,656	87	0,624	17
Guyana	71	0,651	68	0,663	-3
United Arab Emirates	72	0,651	79	0,634	7
China	73	0,649	109	0,573	36
Saint Lucia	74	0,649	50	0,686	-24
Tonga	75	0,649	46	0,698	-29
Timor-Leste	76	0,646	105	0,581	29
Azerbaijan	77	0,645	75	0,646	-2
Honduras	78	0,645	78	0,635	0
Nicaragua	79	0,645	74	0,649	-5
Grenada	80	0,633	33	0,722	-47
Brunei Darussalam	81	0,632	57	0,673	-24
Belize	82	0,631	69	0,662	-13
Philippines	83	0,631	111	0,571	28
Brazil	84	0,627	106	0,581	22
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	85	0,627	101	0,588	16
Oman	86	0,627	100	0,602	14
Uzbekistan	87	0,621	80	0,633	-7
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	88	0,619	95	0,612	7
Romania	89	0,616	89	0,622	0
Bulgaria	90	0,615	27	0,734	-63
Turkmenistan	91	0,612	56	0,674	-35
Bangladesh	92	0,608	118	0,557	26
Kuwait	93	0,607	77	0,639	-16
Marshall Islands	94	0,607	102	0,587	8
Mauritius	95	0,605	97	0,608	2
Poland	96	0,605	113	0,566	17
India	97	0,604	121	0,552	24
Suriname	98	0,602	90	0,619	-8
Dominica	99	0,597	92	0,613	-7
United Kingdom	100	0,597	85	0,627	-15
Botswana	101	0,596	49	0,687	-52
Israel	102	0,595	64	0,664	-38
Eswatini	103	0,594	98	0,605	-5
Vanuatu	104	0,591	104	0,585	0
Turkey	105	0,589	127	0,538	22
Gabon	106	0,583	107	0,576	1
Indonesia	107	0,581	122	0,549	15
Bahamas	108	0,568	108	0,576	0

Dominican Republic	109	0,562	110	0,572	1
Kiribati	110	0,56	99	0,603	-11
Mexico	111	0,56	48	0,694	-63
Australia	112	0,558	119	0,557	7
Mongolia	113	0,557	124	0,545	11
Panama	114	0,556	116	0,562	2
Rwanda	115	0,555	125	0,544	10
Zimbabwe	116	0,552	126	0,54	10
Albania	117	0,545	130	0,523	13
Myanmar	118	0,542	142	0,484	24
Tajikistan	119	0,541	103	0,585	-16
Bhutan	120	0,531	86	0,624	-34
South Africa	121	0,53	91	0,619	-30
Namibia	122	0,529	65	0,664	-57
Viet Nam	123	0,526	143	0,481	20
Djibouti	124	0,521	123	0,547	-1
Nepal	125	0,521	131	0,521	6
Solomon Islands	126	0,52	115	0,562	-11
Paraguay	127	0,514	88	0,623	-39
United Republic of Tanzania	128	0,511	145	0,471	17
Maldives	129	0,51	129	0,53	0
Sri Lanka	130	0,51	144	0,473	14
Haiti	131	0,509	150	0,447	19
Russian Federation	132	0,508	96	0,611	-36
Kenya	133	0,506	137	0,499	4
Ghana	134	0,504	133	0,507	-1
Malawi	135	0,504	117	0,561	-18
Mauritania	136	0,504	132	0,517	-4
Saudi Arabia	137	0,502	140	0,486	3
Seychelles	138	0,5	114	0,566	-24
Uganda	139	0,498	147	0,465	8
Gambia	140	0,489	134	0,507	-6
Angola	141	0,488	146	0,467	5
Micronesia (Federated States of)	142	0,487	148	0,453	6
Burundi	143	0,485	135	0,506	-8
Lesotho	144	0,483	136	0,499	-8
Zambia	145	0,481	152	0,444	7
Pakistan	146	0,468	155	0,435	9
Liberia	147	0,464	154	0,442	7
Cameroon	148	0,461	149	0,45	1
Côte d'Ivoire	149	0,457	160	0,405	11
Lao People's Democratic Republic	150	0,447	139	0,49	-11
Sao Tome and Principe	151	0,444	141	0,486	-10
Congo	152	0,439	128	0,537	-24
Eritrea	153	0,434	151	0,444	-2
Togo	154	0,429	153	0,442	-1
Guatemala	155	0,424	138	0,496	-17
Burkina Faso	156	0,418	157	0,429	1
Iraq	157	0,414	168	0,345	11
Mozambique	158	0,41	162	0,387	4
Comoros	159	0,408	158	0,428	-1
Benin	160	0,401	159	0,421	-1
Sudan	161	0,394	164	0,376	3
Guinea-Bissau	162	0,387	163	0,381	1
Senegal	163	0,382	120	0,554	-43
Ethiopia	164	0,378	165	0,361	1
Cambodia	165	0,376	161	0,392	-4
Nigeria	166	0,376	170	0,339	4

Papua New Guinea	167	0,375	167	0,353	0
Equatorial Guinea	168	0,36	172	0,321	4
Sierra Leone	169	0,352	169	0,34	0
El Salvador	170	0,351	166	0,356	-4
Democratic Republic of the Congo	171	0,323	171	0,328	0
Mali	172	0,31	156	0,432	-16
Madagascar	173	0,305	173	0,308	0
Niger	174	0,287	176	0,286	2
Guinea	175	0,279	175	0,292	0
Central African Republic	176	0,263	174	0,295	-2
Chad	177	0,25	178	0,233	1
Afghanistan	178	0,23	177	0,253	-1

9. Annexure 3: The KidsRights Index score table 2025

Overall ranks	Countries	Overall scores	Life	Health	Education	Protection	Enabling environment
1	Greece	0,879	0,944	0,991	1,000	0,984	0,571
2	Iceland	0,878	0,958	0,960	0,984	0,989	0,583
3	Luxembourg	0,878	0,952	0,991	0,779	0,993	0,714
4	Germany	0,876	0,941	0,990	0,961	0,990	0,583
5	Monaco	0,862	0,994	0,951	1,000		0,583
6	Denmark	0,857	0,947	0,982	1,000	0,996	0,500
7	Belgium	0,857	0,948	0,987	0,999	0,990	0,500
8	Norway	0,857	0,966	0,979	0,982	0,996	0,500
9	Finland	0,856	0,949	0,978	1,000	0,992	0,500
10	Thailand	0,855	0,869	0,924	0,830	0,916	0,750
11	Austria	0,855	0,948	0,982	0,851	0,988	0,583
12	Slovenia	0,854	0,947	0,976	0,867	0,994	0,571
13	Latvia	0,850	0,884	0,965	0,832	0,971	0,643
14	Portugal	0,840	0,950	0,990	0,903	0,986	0,500
15	Republic of Korea	0,837	0,973	0,991	0,874		0,583
16	Czechia	0,836	0,928	0,947	0,835	0,977	0,571
17	Italy	0,836	0,968	0,982	0,866	0,991	0,500
18	Qatar	0,829	0,945	1,000	0,605	0,980	0,700
19	France	0,827	0,959	0,977	0,836	0,985	0,500
20	Lithuania	0,823	0,884	0,921	0,830	0,976	0,571
21	Netherlands	0,821	0,948	0,947	1,000	0,996	0,417
22	Uruguay	0,818	0,894	0,972	0,807	0,912	0,571
23	Kazakhstan	0,816	0,848	0,960	0,800	0,950	0,583
24	Japan	0,811	0,979	0,978	0,858	0,994	0,429
25	Barbados	0,807	0,856	0,941	0,697	0,918	0,667
26	Estonia	0,804	0,922	0,956	0,778	0,981	0,500
27	Malaysia	0,798	0,875	0,866	0,665	0,965	0,667
28	Bahrain	0,795	0,928	1,000	0,826	0,967	0,429
29	Andorra	0,795	0,958	1,000	0,714		0,583
30	Singapore	0,795	0,969	0,991	0,927	0,996	0,357
31	Antigua and Barbuda	0,794	0,880	0,960	0,707		0,667
32	Peru	0,793	0,852	0,855	0,815	0,821	0,643
33	Serbia	0,793	0,887	0,920	0,721	0,911	0,583
34	Malta	0,792	0,955	0,982	0,792	0,976	0,429
35	Liechtenstein	0,792		1,000	0,744		0,667
36	Ukraine	0,791	0,840	0,928	0,719	0,950	0,583
37	Switzerland	0,790	0,966	0,982	0,911	0,997	0,357
38	Cuba	0,785	0,884	0,940	0,706	0,891	0,571
39	Colombia	0,785	0,858	0,929	0,775	0,845	0,571
40	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,782	0,798	0,910	0,883		0,583
41	Hungary	0,779	0,891	0,993	0,796	0,954	0,429
42	San Marino	0,777	0,990	0,956	0,642		0,600
43	Republic of Moldova	0,775	0,802	0,841	0,769	0,944	0,571
44	Egypt	0,775	0,794	0,971	0,709	0,895	0,571
45	Algeria	0,774	0,815	0,921	0,763	0,970	0,500
46	Morocco	0,770	0,820	0,895	0,803	0,918	0,500
47	Montenegro	0,767	0,898	0,713	0,780	0,930	0,571
48	Argentina	0,764	0,871	0,903	0,918	0,898	0,400
49	Cyprus	0,762	0,927	0,924	0,851	0,988	0,357
50	Chile	0,762	0,928	0,978	0,892	0,889	0,357
51	Trinidad and Tobago	0,762	0,818	0,932	0,742	0,907	0,500
52	Guyana	0,757	0,728	0,878	0,691	0,846	0,667
53	Cabo Verde	0,754	0,850	0,868	0,616	0,833	0,643

54	Lebanon	0,751	0,859	0,860	0,577	0,961	0,583
55	Tunisia	0,749	0,858	0,961	0,699	0,982	0,417
56	Georgia	0,747	0,846	0,914	0,895	0,941	0,357
57	Tonga	0,745	0,798	0,977	0,764	0,772	0,500
58	Costa Rica	0,744	0,918	0,955	0,823	0,887	0,357
59	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0,744	0,896	0,767	0,679	0,976	0,500
60	North Macedonia	0,741	0,897	0,896	0,675	0,959	0,429
61	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0,739	0,706	0,763	0,823	0,774	0,643
62	New Zealand	0,739	0,945	0,956	1,000	0,974	0,250
63	Brunei Darussalam	0,738	0,849	0,991	0,705		0,500
64	Spain	0,737	0,967	0,987	0,925	0,987	0,250
65	United Arab Emirates	0,734	0,951	0,996	0,848	0,930	0,286
66	Ireland	0,732	0,953	0,895	1,000	0,988	0,250
67	Canada	0,731	0,948	0,964	0,815	0,979	0,286
68	Azerbaijan	0,730	0,817	0,960	0,708	0,873	0,429
69	Armenia	0,729	0,856	0,955	0,753	0,939	0,357
70	Samoa	0,726	0,789	0,930	0,628	0,731	0,600
71	Kuwait	0,725	0,915	0,982	0,614		0,500
72	Philippines	0,722	0,731	0,724	0,661	0,872	0,643
73	Nicaragua	0,719	0,820	0,745	0,669	0,729	0,643
74	Sweden	0,717	0,963	0,969	0,954	0,993	0,214
75	China	0,716	0,891	0,964	0,796	0,966	0,286
76	Jordan	0,716	0,863	0,955	0,674	0,946	0,357
77	Fiji	0,716	0,714	0,930	0,705	0,801	0,500
78	Oman	0,715	0,903	0,890	0,671	0,972	0,357
79	Ecuador	0,712	0,858	0,841	0,773	0,768	0,429
80	Belarus	0,712	0,872	0,991	0,774	0,954	0,286
81	Botswana	0,708	0,663	0,881	0,597	0,896	0,571
82	Turkmenistan	0,708	0,717	0,978	0,740	0,962	0,357
83	Slovakia	0,708	0,902	0,969	0,751	0,946	0,286
84	Belize	0,707	0,804	0,908	0,647	0,874	0,429
85	Croatia	0,707	0,908	0,919	0,752	0,983	0,286
86	Honduras	0,706	0,798	0,816	0,515	0,816	0,643
87	Kyrgyzstan	0,706	0,788	0,936	0,707	0,786	0,429
88	Grenada	0,706	0,836	0,871	0,853		0,400
89	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0,704	0,873	0,933	0,783	0,946	0,286
90	Jamaica	0,703	0,768	0,891	0,552	0,909	0,500
91	Mongolia	0,701	0,802	0,831	0,711	0,855	0,417
92	Saint Lucia	0,691	0,792	0,861	0,624	0,892	0,417
93	Bangladesh	0,687	0,766	0,736	0,611	0,692	0,643
94	Uzbekistan	0,687	0,812	0,964	0,670	0,816	0,357
95	Tuvalu	0,676	0,617	0,930	0,641	0,893	0,429
96	India	0,673	0,743	0,667	0,703	0,923	0,429
97	Cook Islands	0,671	0,803	0,880			0,429
98	Tajikistan	0,671	0,760	0,863	0,560	0,866	0,429
99	Brazil	0,669	0,835	0,912	0,784	0,895	0,250
100	Libya	0,669	0,777	0,855	0,701		0,429
101	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0,664	0,719	0,822	0,621	0,704	0,500
102	Marshall Islands	0,656	0,578	0,769	0,833		0,500
103	Indonesia	0,654	0,737	0,760	0,769	0,832	0,333
104	Viet Nam	0,652	0,789	0,831	0,696	0,903	0,286
105	Bulgaria	0,652	0,873	0,918	0,742	0,921	0,214
106	Turkey	0,647	0,876	0,964	1,000	0,940	0,143
107	Timor-Leste	0,645	0,614	0,515	0,718	0,740	0,667
108	Romania	0,644	0,873	0,864	0,741	0,925	0,214
109	State of Palestine	0,643	0,736	0,946	0,630	0,879	0,286
110	Suriname	0,642	0,797	0,823	0,568	0,880	0,333
111	Palau	0,642	0,642	0,987	0,895		0,300

112	Mauritius	0,640	0,819	0,970	0,741		0,286
113	Israel	0,634	0,952	0,996	0,767	0,983	0,143
114	Malawi	0,621	0,587	0,619	0,645	0,592	0,667
115	Poland	0,620	0,910	0,911	0,787	0,979	0,143
116	Rwanda	0,618	0,630	0,728	0,627	0,755	0,417
117	Dominica	0,610	0,629	0,851	0,648		0,400
118	Dominican Republic	0,610	0,750	0,918	0,596	0,823	0,250
119	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0,608	0,672	0,672	0,553	0,583	0,571
120	Eswatini	0,607	0,563	0,671	0,767	0,662	0,429
121	Vanuatu	0,602	0,771	0,631	0,655	0,621	0,400
122	Nepal	0,599	0,711	0,757	0,685	0,626	0,333
123	Kiribati	0,596	0,614	0,639	0,587	0,782	0,417
124	Gabon	0,595	0,642	0,662	0,678	0,772	0,333
125	Namibia	0,591	0,639	0,634	0,659	0,754	0,357
126	Myanmar	0,590	0,637	0,637	0,599	0,826	0,357
127	Panama	0,588	0,882	0,850	0,655	0,861	0,167
128	Bahamas	0,588	0,823	0,918	0,631		0,250
129	Mexico	0,582	0,833	0,872	0,750	0,859	0,143
130	United Kingdom	0,582	0,937	0,960	0,911	0,975	0,083
131	Ghana	0,581	0,593	0,637	0,639	0,661	0,417
132	Mauritania	0,581	0,578	0,608	0,447	0,591	0,714
133	Australia	0,579	0,967	0,964	1,000	0,977	0,071
134	Bhutan	0,576	0,780	0,919	0,663	0,937	0,143
135	Kenya	0,576	0,504	0,582	0,640	0,676	0,500
136	Maldives	0,575	0,917	0,893	0,549	0,975	0,143
137	Nauru	0,572	0,512	0,855	0,490		0,500
138	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0,568	0,793	0,631		0,970	0,214
139	Paraguay	0,565	0,804	0,922	0,691	0,671	0,167
140	Seychelles	0,562	0,821	0,955	0,595		0,214
141	United Republic of Tanzania	0,560	0,621	0,544	0,471	0,522	0,667
142	Zimbabwe	0,555	0,523	0,585	0,580	0,511	0,583
143	Burundi	0,547	0,487	0,463	0,534	0,635	0,643
144	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,546	0,717	0,957	0,910		0,143
145	Saudi Arabia	0,545	0,902	0,950	0,799	0,980	0,071
146	South Africa	0,541	0,659	0,818	0,721	0,838	0,143
147	Russian Federation	0,541	0,849	0,937	0,849	0,957	0,071
148	Albania	0,536	0,904	0,917	0,783	0,951	0,071
149	Uganda	0,532	0,621	0,550	0,602	0,415	0,500
150	Djibouti	0,530	0,578	0,623	0,445	0,915	0,286
151	Sri Lanka	0,525	0,885	0,797	0,701	0,965	0,083
152	Solomon Islands	0,519	0,753	0,473	0,492	0,719	0,300
153	Haiti	0,516	0,523	0,520	0,621	0,610	0,357
154	Gambia	0,516	0,534	0,653	0,396	0,616	0,429
155	Pakistan	0,512	0,592	0,666	0,383	0,656	0,357
156	Syrian Arab Republic	0,503	0,786	0,840	0,395	0,867	0,143
157	Zambia	0,500	0,599	0,587	0,615	0,339	0,429
158	Lesotho	0,497	0,340	0,657	0,581	0,652	0,357
159	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0,496	0,714	0,856	0,691		0,143
160	Angola	0,487	0,524	0,405	0,601	0,378	0,571
161	Liberia	0,482	0,363	0,557	0,550	0,469	0,500
162	Congo	0,476	0,593	0,423	0,626	0,728	0,214
163	Cameroon	0,476	0,447	0,553	0,662	0,416	0,357
164	Yemen	0,472	0,657	0,398	0,325	0,549	0,500
165	Côte d'Ivoire	0,467	0,419	0,524	0,501	0,705	0,286
166	Togo	0,465	0,475	0,466	0,643	0,533	0,286
167	Burkina Faso	0,463	0,442	0,453	0,450	0,470	0,500
168	Iraq	0,459	0,769	0,955	0,615	0,631	0,071
169	Sao Tome and Principe	0,457	0,749	0,687	0,682	0,791	0,071

170	Guatemala	0,453	0,771	0,755	0,592	0,780	0,071
171	Benin	0,449	0,362	0,374	0,479	0,678	0,417
172	Comoros	0,449	0,602	0,534	0,690	0,820	0,100
173	Eritrea	0,445	0,626	0,402	0,363		0,429
174	Cambodia	0,442	0,713	0,667	0,621	0,801	0,071
175	Mozambique	0,421	0,542	0,465	0,555	0,439	0,214
176	Sudan	0,401	0,573	0,374	0,457	0,634	0,167
177	Ethiopia	0,399	0,600	0,283	0,533	0,222	0,500
178	Senegal	0,396	0,642	0,664	0,422	0,651	0,083
179	Guinea-Bissau	0,381	0,367	0,446	0,544	0,540	0,167
180	Papua New Guinea	0,375	0,622	0,239	0,553	0,420	0,214
181	Nigeria	0,364	0,077	0,511	0,555	0,453	0,643
182	Somalia	0,361	0,242	0,332	0,408	0,321	0,583
183	Mali	0,351	0,344	0,579	0,335	0,558	0,143
184	Equatorial Guinea	0,344	0,499	0,526	0,660	0,391	0,071
185	El Salvador	0,332	0,809	0,947	0,628	0,844	0,010
186	Sierra Leone	0,332	0,337	0,537	0,490	0,640	0,071
187	Niger	0,310	0,284	0,259	0,328	0,413	0,286
188	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0,309	0,382	0,195	0,535	0,494	0,143
189	Madagascar	0,295	0,471	0,262	0,507	0,426	0,083
190	Guinea	0,292	0,310	0,409	0,445	0,524	0,071
191	Chad	0,259	0,092	0,318	0,302	0,206	0,643
192	Central African Republic	0,255	0,196	0,168	0,272	0,291	0,417
193	South Sudan	0,228	0,086	0,269	0,190	0,336	0,417
194	Afghanistan	0,206	0,457	0,525	0,280	0,558	0,010



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