

The KidsRights Index 2026

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

BRAZIL



BRAZIL

OVERALL

RANK: **107**

SCORE: **0,633**

LIFE

RANK: **84**

SCORE: **0,829**

HEALTH

RANK: **88**

SCORE: **0,815**

EDUCATION

RANK: **56**

SCORE: **0,791**

PROTECTION

RANK: **85**

SCORE: **0,890**

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: **149**

SCORE: **0,214**

INTRODUCTION TO THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children's rights. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Index synthesizes and ranks the children's rights performance records of state parties to the CRC in relation to the most crucial aspects of children's lives for which global and comparable data is available. 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. The five domains that jointly make up the Index are:

- 1. Right to Life**
- 2. Right to Health**
- 3. Right to Education**
- 4. Right to Protection**
- 5. Enabling Environment for Children's Rights**

DATA SOURCES OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

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 Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Index also incorporates 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.¹

DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Domain 5, the 'Enabling Environment for Children's Rights', is an important and unique domain of the KidsRights Index. 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. It reveals the extent to which countries have operationalized the general principles of the CRC (non-discrimination; best interests of the child; respect for the views of the child/participation) and the extent to which there is a basic 'infrastructure' for making and implementing child rights policy (in the form of enabling national legislation; mobilization of the 'best available' budget; collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and state-civil society cooperation for child rights). The Domain 5 scores for the respective countries are derived from the latest Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

¹ 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 are legally bound by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Domain 5 - 'Child Rights Environment' - is based on the Concluding Observations adopted by the CRC Committee. The Committee's assessment of the country performance on the earlier mentioned 7 indicators that make up the Domain 5 is used to generate scores on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned to each indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee in the Concluding Observation. The resulting final scores are standardized.

KidsRights Index scoring system for the Domain 5 indicators:

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

DOMAIN 5: BRAZIL

Country (Year in which CO was issued)	Non- discrimination	Best interests of the child	Respect for the views of the child	Enabling legislation	Best available budget / Resources	Collection and analysis of disaggregated data	State-civil society cooperation for child rights
Brazil 2015	1	NA	2	2	1	1	2
Brazil 2025	1	2	1	1	1	1	2

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - BRAZIL

1. Increase investment in the areas of social security and education.² While the 2017 amendment to the Child and Adolescent Statute [Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente - ECA] broadens the definition of violence against children³ and assigns responsibilities to child protection services, it only provides general guidance on training and does not establish standardized and mandatory training requirements for those working with children.⁴ Such training is essential for the early identification of child abuse and for ensuring that cases are reported to the relevant authorities.⁵ (Best Available Budget, Enabling Legislation, Respect for the Views of the Child)
2. Expand the *National Fund for the Rights of Children and Adolescents* to facilitate the effective implementation of the *National Policy for the Rights of Children and Adolescents*.⁶ Ensure that the funds deposited in the account are effectively utilized, considering that nearly USD 120 million remains in the Fund's account without the possibility of execution.⁷ (Best Available Budget & Enabling Legislation)
3. Increase investment in mental health services for children and adolescents,⁸ including the expansion of Child Psychosocial Care Centers. Despite the high prevalence of mental health disorders among children (10.8 per cent) and adolescents (19.9 per cent)⁹ limited national budget allocation has resulted in a shortage of services, with only one Center available per 164,000 children.¹⁰ (Respect for the Views of the Child & Best Available Budget)
4. Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to eliminate structural police violence affecting Afro-Brazilian, Quilombola, Indigenous, and Roma children.¹¹ It is concerning that Black youth (12 to 29 years) account for 71.7 per cent of the victims of police violence.¹² (Enabling Legislation & Non-Discrimination)

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fifth to seventh periodic reports of Brazil', *U/V Doc. CRC/C/BRA/CO/5-7*, 25 July 2025, para 10(a).

³ Law No. 13,431, 4 April 2017, https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2015-2018/2017/lei/l13431.htm.

⁴ Filho, S. P., Assini-Meytin, L. C., Alvares, N. K., Lourenço, A. P., Hoinski, R., Carrascoso, M., Benevides, A. R., Benelli, S. J., Gagliano, T., & D'Afonseca, S. M., 'The path to "Integral Protection": The evolution and challenges of child protection in Brazil. Child Protection and Practice', 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chipro.2025.100179>, p. 1, 3.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ ANCED-CNPJ-CEDECA-Coalition, Alternative report to the review of Brazil's responses to the list of issues in relation to the combined fifth to seventh periodic reports by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2025, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FBRA%2F62902&Lang=en, p. 11.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fifth to seventh periodic reports of Brazil', *U/V Doc. CRC/C/BRA/CO/5-7*, 25 July 2025, para 38.

⁹ Vertentes Mental Health Ecosystem, Additional Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on Mental Health and Children's Rights, INT_CRC_NGO_BRA_62999_E, 2025, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FBRA%2F62999&Lang=en, p. 4.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 5.

¹¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined fifth to seventh periodic reports of Brazil, UN Doc. CRC/C/BRA/CO/5-7, 25 July 2025, para 18(a).

¹² FÓRUM BRASILEIRO DE SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA, 18th Brazilian Yearbook of Public Security: 2024, <https://publicacoes.forumseguranca.org.br/handle/123456789/253>. P.66.

5. Ensure access to reproductive healthcare and age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents to reduce the high adolescent birth rate.¹³ (BI of the Child)
6. Review and amend Articles 123 to 128 of the Brazilian Penal Code (Decreto-Lei nº 2.848/1940), which criminalize abortion with limited exceptions, including where it is necessary to save the life of the mother or in cases of rape.¹⁴ (Enabling Legislation, Respect for the Views of the Child, BI of the Child)
7. Take clear measures to ensure the effective implementation, at the national level, of *Resolução nº 258/2024* issued by the Conselho Nacional dos Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente¹⁵, to facilitate access to legal abortion services for children and adolescents without mandatory parental notification or consent in certain cases, including situations involving suspected intrafamily violence.¹⁶ (Enabling Legislation, Respect for the Views of the Child, BI of the Child)
8. Ensure meaningful participation of children and adolescents in legislative and institutional initiatives concerning their rights, including in the development of child-centered climate adaptation policies.¹⁷ (Enabling Legislation, Respect for the Views of the Child)
9. Recognize children as a distinct group at heightened risk in the Brazilian National Adaptation Strategy under the Climate Plan, as its first draft only categorizes them under broader terms such as “vulnerable groups” and “age-related issues,” thereby limiting the development of child-sensitive plans.¹⁸ (Enabling Legislation, Respect for the Views of the Child)
10. Strengthen data collection system to ensure that data are systematically disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background.¹⁹ Address the gaps between the National Policy for the Comprehensive Health of the Black Population and its implementation in practice.²⁰ (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)

¹³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding observations on the combined fifth to seventh periodic reports of Brazil’, *UN Doc. CRC/C/BRA/CO/5-7*, 25 July 2025, para 40(a), (b).

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, para 40(e).

¹⁵ Government of Brazil, Conanda Resolution No. 258, <https://www.gov.br/participamaisbrasil/resolucao-do-conanda-n-258-de-23-de-dezembro-de-2024>.

¹⁶ Ipas Partners for Reproductive Justice Network, and the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR), ‘Information for the periodic report of Brazil for the consideration of the Committee of the Rights of the Child 99th session’, INT_CRC_NGO_BRA_63017_E, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FBRA%2F63017&Lang=en, p. 27.

¹⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined fifth to seventh periodic reports of Brazil, *UN Doc. CRC/C/BRA/CO/5-7*, 25 July 2025, para 48(a)-(f).

¹⁸ Alana Institute, ‘Additional Information1 submitted by Alana Institute for the 99th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding Brazil’s review’, NT_CRC_NGO_BRA_62991_E., 2025, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FBRA%2F62991&Lang=en, p.14-16.

¹⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘Concluding observations on the combined fifth to seventh periodic reports of Brazil’, *UN Doc. CRC/C/BRA/CO/5-7*, 25 July 2025, para 11(a).

²⁰ Da Silva Cordeiro, M. V., De Cássia Duarte Lima, R., Werneck, G. L., & Maciel, E. L. N., ‘Information, Transparency, and Equity: Disaggregated Data by Race/Color as a tool for public health management’. *Revista Da Sociedade Brasileira De Medicina Tropical*, 58, e03052025, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1590/0037-8682-0305-2025>, p.1.