

The KidsRights Index 2026

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

ECUADOR



ECUADOR

OVERALL

RANK: 185

SCORE: 0,328

LIFE

RANK: 73

SCORE: 0,854

HEALTH

RANK: 95

SCORE: 0,810

EDUCATION

RANK: 70

SCORE: 0,765

PROTECTION

RANK: 126

SCORE: 0,714

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: 193

SCORE: 0,010

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: ECUADOR

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
ECUADOR 2017	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
ECUADOR 2025	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - ECUADOR

1. Ensure equal access to social services for Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian, and Montubio children, particularly those living in rural and border areas.² Several reports reveal significant disparities, including higher malnutrition rates among Indigenous children under the age of two in rural areas,³ illiteracy rates among Indigenous and Montubio populations that are nearly three times the national average⁴, and a higher prevalence of child labour in rural areas.⁵ (Non-Discrimination)
2. Ensure essential training and awareness-raising programmes for national police officers and professionals involved in the judicial system to prevent the disproportionate use of force, including racial profiling.⁶ (Non-Discrimination & Enabling Legislation)
3. Facilitate participation of children by improving access to the internet, particularly among rural households and Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian, and Montubio communities.⁷ In 2024, only 48.1 per cent of rural households had access to the internet, limiting children's equal access to education, information, and digital opportunities.⁸ (Non-Discrimination, Best Interest of the Child)
4. Establish a national entity specialized in children, as mandated by the Constitution,⁹ and take necessary measures to facilitate children's meaningful engagement in the updating of the Code on Children and Adolescents.¹⁰ This should include creating opportunities for children and adolescents to receive training on participation and effectively express their views and decisions.¹¹ (Respect for the Views of the Child)
5. Strengthen cybersecurity policies and mechanisms to identify and trace missing children,¹² while taking immediate and effective measures to prevent the initial recruitment of children

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Ecuador', *UN Doc. CRC/C/ECU/CO/7*, 27 February 2025, para. B (a).

³ Redrobán, J. D. S., Alomía, M., Reyes, P., & García, S, 'Systemic barriers undermine parental education as a strategy for chronic child malnutrition prevention in Ecuador', <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-7810472/v1>, p. 2.

⁴ Alternative Report of the Red Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna, Network to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEUCU%2F58172&Lang=en, p. 26.

⁵ Ibid., p. 39.

⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Ecuador', *UN Doc. CRC/C/ECU/CO/7*, 27 February 2025, para. 23(a).

⁷ Ibid., para. 24(b).

⁸ Monica Salazar, Asambleaista, Acceso A La Educación En Ecuador Información, 2024 https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FIFS%2FEUCU%2F62069&Lang=en, p. 17.

⁹ Child Rights International Network, 'Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for its 98th pre-session Working Group ahead of the adoption of recommendations in the periodic review of Ecuador', 1 April 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEUCU%2F58162&Lang=en, p. 6.

¹⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Ecuador', *UN Doc. CRC/C/ECU/CO/7*, 27 February 2025, para. 20(d).

¹¹ Alternative Report of the Red Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna, Network to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEUCU%2F58172&Lang=en, p. 56.

¹² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Ecuador', *UN Doc. CRC/C/ECU/CO/7*, 27 February 2025, para. 19(b).

by organized crime groups through social networks and digital platforms.¹³ (Enabling Legislation)

6. Undertake adequate measure to facilitate access to birth registration for children of same-sex parents. Although the Constitutional Court recognized the right to register a child as the daughter of two same-sex parents,¹⁴ the Civil Registry continues to impose additional requirements which are often financially inaccessible for many families.¹⁵ (Enabling Legislation, Non-Discrimination)
7. Increase the budget allocated to digital literacy programmes to strengthen children's access to education and learning opportunities in digital spaces.¹⁶ (Best Available Budget)
8. Increase long term investment in the implementation of policies and plans aimed at preventing and combating all forms of violence against children,¹⁷ including sexual violence in educational settings,¹⁸ and sexual abuse perpetrated by clergy of the Catholic Church.¹⁹ (Best Interest of the child)
9. Adopt effective measures to protect human rights defenders working on children's rights, particularly those engaged in sexual and reproductive rights.²⁰ Defenders and organizations in this field continue to be actively targeted by "antiderechos" (anti-rights) groups strongly linked to the Catholic Church, which employ misinformation campaigns, legal obstructions, and attacks on social media to undermine their work.²¹ (State-civil society cooperation for child rights)
10. Implement a comprehensive policy to prevent the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by gangs and organized crime groups.²² While the Public Integrity Law, approved in June 2025, aims to eliminate violence and corruption across public institutions, it increased the maximum prison sentence for crimes committed during an internal armed conflict from 8

¹³ Childfund International, Commercial sexual exploitation in Ecuador, 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEUCU%2F58168&Lang=en, p. 5.

¹⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Seventh periodic report submitted by Ecuador under article 44 of the Convention', *UN Doc. CRC/C/EUCU/7*, 13 February 2024, para. 63.

¹⁵ Comité De Los Derechos Del Niño, En el marco del Séptimo informe periódico que el Ecuador debía presentar en 2023 en virtud del artículo 44 de la, August 2024, Convención https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEUCU%2F61686&Lang=en, para. 8.

¹⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Seventh periodic report submitted by Ecuador under article 44 of the Convention', *UN Doc. CRC/C/EUCU/7*, 13 February 2024, para. 24(b).

¹⁷ Ibid., para. 26(a)

¹⁸ Human Rights Watch, 'Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Review of Ecuador 98th Session', December 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEUCU%2F61593&Lang=en, p. 1.

¹⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Seventh periodic report submitted by Ecuador under article 44 of the Convention', *UN Doc. CRC/C/EUCU/7*, 13 February 2024, para. 26(h).

²⁰ Ibid., para. 14(a)(b).

²¹ Surkuna e Ipas Latinoamérica y el Caribe (Ipas LAC), Carta con información independiente sobre Ecuador para la consideración del Informe del Estado que el CRC tiene previsto realizar en su sesión 98, July 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEUCU%2F61687&Lang=en, p. 13.

²² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Seventh periodic report submitted by Ecuador under article 44 of the Convention', *UN Doc. CRC/C/EUCU/7*, 13 February 2024, para. 32(a)&(b).

years to up to 15 years.²³ This risks treating children recruited by organized crime groups solely as offenders rather than victims of recruitment and exploitation.²⁴ (Best Interest of the child, Enabling legislation)

11. Strengthen the Intersectoral Policy for the Prevention of Pregnancy in Girls and Adolescents (2018–2025)²⁵ and ensure effective training for medical Center staff to prevent mistreatment, stigma, and criticism directed at pregnant adolescents.²⁶ (Best interest of the Child, Enabling Legislation)
12. Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and facilitate access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services for adolescents, while ensuring that their views are duly considered in decision-making processes.²⁷ (Respect for the view of the child, Best Interest of the child, Enabling legislation)

²³ Ley Orgánica De Integridad Pública, <https://www.cpcs.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/LEY-ORGANICA-DE-INTEGRIDAD-PUBLICA-LOIP.pdf> p.33; Human Rights Watch, 'Ecuador: Public Integrity Law Endangers Children Reforms Fail to Protect Victims of Recruitment, Violate International Standards', <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/06/27/ecuador-public-integrity-law-endangers-children>, 27 June 2025.

²⁴ The Ecuadorian Center for the Promotion and Action of Women, Alternative report for the evaluation of the State of Ecuador to the 98th session 13-31, January 2025, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEKU%2F61685&Lang=en, para. 11.

²⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Seventh periodic report submitted by Ecuador under article 44 of the Convention', *UN Doc. CRC/C/EKU/7*, 13 February 2024, para. 41(a)(c).

²⁶ Alternative Report of the Red Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna, Network to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FEKU%2F58172&Lang=en, p. 14.

²⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Seventh periodic report submitted by Ecuador under article 44 of the Convention', *UN Doc. CRC/C/EKU/7*, 13 February 2024, para. 41(d).