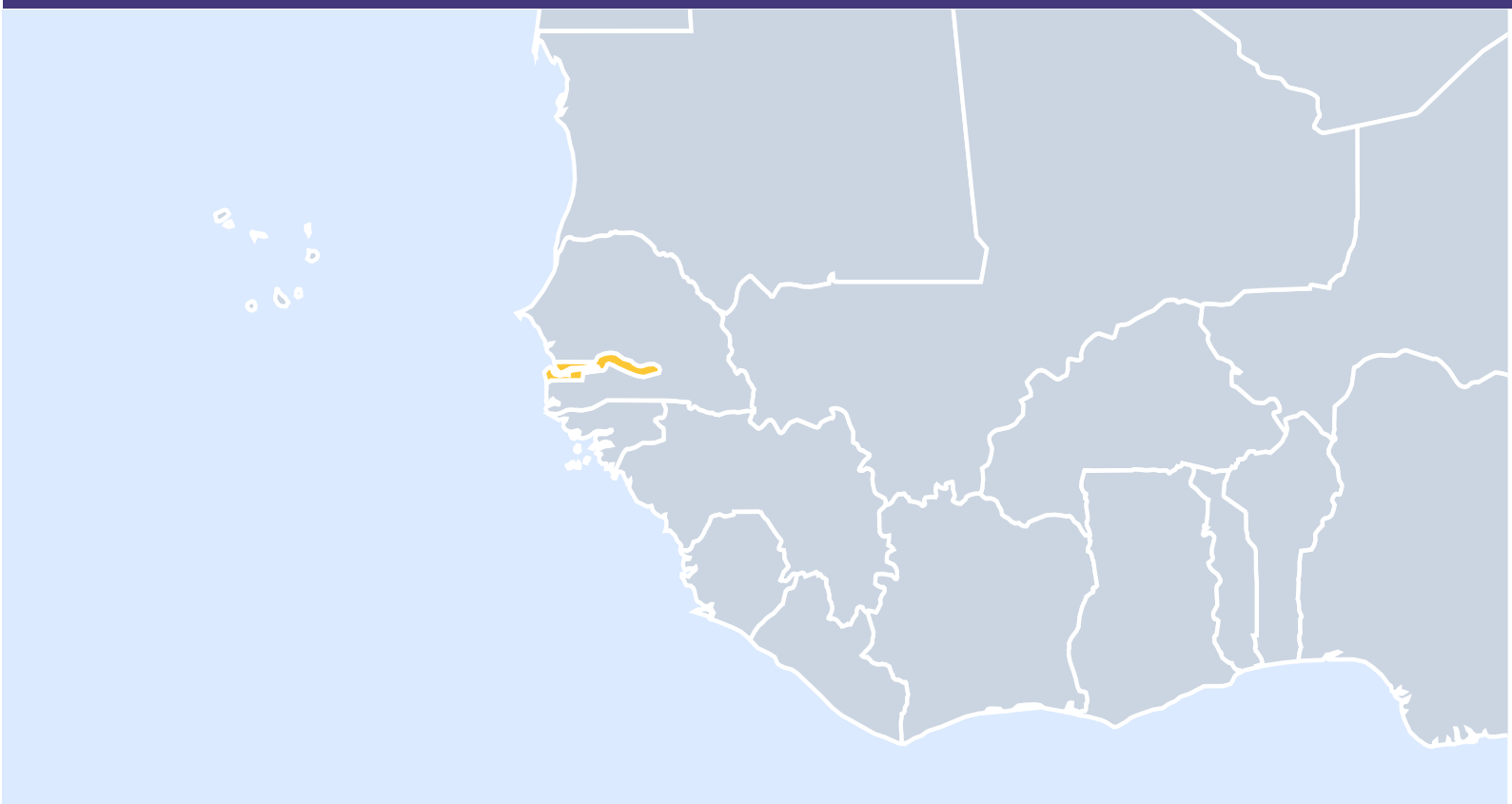


The KidsRights Index 2026

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

GAMBIA



GAMBIA

OVERALL

RANK: **140**

SCORE: **0,550**

LIFE

RANK: **167**

SCORE: **0,541**

HEALTH

RANK: **130**

SCORE: **0,752**

EDUCATION

RANK: **181**

SCORE: **0,402**

PROTECTION

RANK: **146**

SCORE: **0,618**

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: **61**

SCORE: **0,500**

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: GAMBIA

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
GAMBIA 2015	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
GAMBIA 2025	1	2	2	2	2	2	NA

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - GAMBIA

1. Ensure effective measures to eliminate discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, children of unmarried parents, and children living in poverty.² Reports indicate that these groups continue to face multiple forms of discrimination, including stigmatization against children with albinism and the disinheritance of children born out of wedlock from their fathers under Sharia law.³ (Non-Discrimination, Enabling Legislation)
2. Ensure that the principle of the best interest of the child is fully considered in decisions regarding separation from families, following a comprehensive assessment of each child's situation by national courts, and that placement decisions are subject to periodic review.⁴ Concurrent jurisdiction between Children's Courts and Cadi Courts (Sharia law) concerning maintenance and custody continues to create inconsistencies in determining the best interests of the child.⁵ (Best interest of the Child)
3. Ensure systematic training for all professionals working with children on child-friendly procedures and remedies, children's rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁶ While efforts have been made to train judicial officials, law enforcement personnel, and health workers on the CRC, these trainings remain non-systematic and frequently depend on the availability of donor funding.⁷ (Enabling Legislation)
4. Ensure that cases of violence against children, including sexual abuse linked to tourism, are promptly and effectively investigated.⁸ It is concerning that organized sex trafficking networks use travel agencies to promote Gambia as a destination for commercial sexual exploitation of children.⁹ (Enabling Legislation)
5. Allocate an adequate national budget to ensure the empowered participation of all children in family, community, school, care, and judicial systems, with particular attention to girls and children in vulnerable situations.¹⁰ While the Children's National Assembly of Gambia (CNAG)

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of the Gambia', *UN Doc. CRC/C/GMB/CO/4-7*, 28 February 2025, para 17.

³ Child Protection Alliance–The Gambia, 'CPA complementary report on the combined 4th to 7th periodic reports submitted by The Gambia under Article 44 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', June 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FGMB%2F61693&Lang=en, p.13.

⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of the Gambia', *UN Doc. CRC/C/GMB/CO/4-7*, 28 February 2025, para 28(f).

⁵ Child Protection Alliance–The Gambia, 'CPA complementary report on the combined 4th to 7th periodic reports submitted by The Gambia under Article 44 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', June 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FGMB%2F61693&Lang=en, p.20.

⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of the Gambia', *UN Doc. CRC/C/GMB/CO/4-7*, 28 February 2025, para 13(c).

⁷ Child Protection Alliance–The Gambia, 'CPA complementary report on the combined 4th to 7th periodic reports submitted by The Gambia under Article 44 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', June 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FGMB%2F61693&Lang=en, p.11.

⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of the Gambia', *UN Doc. CRC/C/GMB/CO/4-7*, 28 February 2025, para 23(e).

⁹ U.S department of state, 'Trafficking in Persons Report: The Gambia', 2025, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2025-trafficking-in-persons-report/gambia/>

¹⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of the Gambia', *UN Doc. CRC/C/GMB/CO/4-7*, 28 February 2025, para 19.

provides an important platform for children to advocate for their rights, it lacks a dedicated national budget.¹¹ (Best Available Budget, Respect for the Views of the Child)

6. Ensure immediate birth registration for all children, with particular attention to children of unmarried parents and children of non-Gambian parents.¹² Although Gambia has established an electronic Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system, birth registration is still not automatic upon birth at the health centers.¹³ (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data, Best Interests of the child)
7. Establish a national integrated data collection system with disaggregated data to enable monitoring and comprehensive analysis of the situation of children.¹⁴ (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)

¹¹ Child Protection Alliance–The Gambia, 'CPA complementary report on the combined 4th to 7th periodic reports submitted by The Gambia under Article 44 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', June 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FGMB%2F61693&Lang=en, p.15.

¹² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of the Gambia', *UN Doc. CRC/C/GMB/CO/4-7*, 28 February 2025, para 20(c).

¹³ Child Protection Alliance–The Gambia, 'CPA complementary report on the combined 4th to 7th periodic reports submitted by The Gambia under Article 44 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', June 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FGMB%2F61693&Lang=en, p.16.

¹⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of the Gambia', *UN Doc. CRC/C/GMB/CO/4-7*, 28 February 2025, para 12.