

The KidsRights Index 2026

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

QATAR



QATAR

OVERALL

RANK: **157**

SCORE: **0,504**

LIFE

RANK: **30**

SCORE: **0,943**

HEALTH

RANK: **67**

SCORE: **0,838**

EDUCATION

RANK: **151**

SCORE: **0,588**

PROTECTION

RANK: **25**

SCORE: **0,984**

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: **187**

SCORE: **0,071**

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: QATAR

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
QATAR 2017	2	2	2	2	NA	2	NA
QATAR 2025	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - QATAR

1. Take effective measures to eliminate discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, children of migrant workers, and children born out of wedlock, and ensure their equal access to rights and services.² It is concerning that discrimination against girls continues through the male guardianship system, which restricts their ability to independently marry, travel, work, and access reproductive healthcare services.³ **(Non-Discrimination)**
2. Ensure that the principle of best interest of the child consistently applied in all judicial and administrative proceedings affecting children, particularly in matters relating to adoption and custody, and provide adequate training for professionals working with and for children to facilitate its effective implementation.⁴ **(Best Interest of the Child)**
3. Amend Articles 168, 173, and 175 of Family Law No. 22 of 2006 to ensure that decisions relating to child custody are guided by the best interests of the child rather than criteria such as the mother's marital status after divorce, religion, or the age of the child.⁵ **(Best Interest of the child & Enabling legislation)**
4. Establish awareness-raising programmes and activities within families, communities, and schools to strengthen child participation in national decision-making processes, including in the development of laws and policies affecting children.⁶ **(Respect for the view of the child)**
5. Adopt a comprehensive legal framework on children's rights and continue harmonizing existing legislation with international child rights standards.⁷ **(Enabling Legislation)**
6. Expand investment in health and education services, particularly for migrant children, children born out of wedlock, children with disabilities, and adolescent girls.⁸ Access to disability assessments remains limited due to the centralized diagnostic system which has resulted in waiting periods of up to two years for disability diagnoses.⁹ **(Best Available Budget)**
7. Improve the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on children by age, sex, ethnicity, and disability,¹⁰ with particular attention to out-of-school children. Although the Ministry of Education publishes annual education reports to support evidence-based policymaking, the

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Qatar', *UN Doc. CRC/C/QAT/CO/5-6*, 11 July 2025, para 19.

³ Amnesty International, 'Human rights in Qatar', <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/qatar/report-qatar/>.

⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Qatar', *UN Doc. CRC/C/QAT/CO/5-6*, 11 July 2025, para 21.

⁵ Ministry of justice, LAW NO. 22 of 2006, Promulgating 'THE FAMILY LAW', <https://www.almeezan.qa/LawArticles.aspx?LawTreeSectionID=8812&lawId=2558&language=en>, chapter 2.

⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Qatar', *UN Doc. CRC/C/QAT/CO/5-6*, 11 July 2025, para 24.

⁷ *Ibid.*, para 8.

⁸ *Ibid.*, para 11.

⁹ Rahman, M. M., Al-Ghanim, K., Hossain, Z., & Umar, S., 'Handbook of Families in the Arab Gulf States', 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-3412-5>, 2025, p. 580.

¹⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Qatar', *UN Doc. CRC/C/QAT/CO/5-6*, 11 July 2025, para 12.

most recent report for 2023–2024 does not include information on out-of-school children.¹¹
(Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)

8. Take effective measures to ensure the freedom, safety, and independence of non-governmental human rights organizations and human rights defenders. Foster a trust-based environment for cooperation in the implementation and monitoring of policies, particularly those relating to children's rights.¹² (State-civil society cooperation for child rights)

¹¹ State of Qatar, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Education annual statistics, 2023-2024, <https://www.edu.gov.qa/en/Content/EducationAnnualStatistics>.

¹² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Qatar', *UN Doc. CRC/C/QAT/CO/5-6*, 11 July 2025, para 16.