

The KidsRights Index 2026

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

Romania



Romania

OVERALL

RANK: 27

SCORE: 0,788

LIFE

RANK: 63

SCORE: 0,872

HEALTH

RANK: 64

SCORE: 0,848

EDUCATION

RANK: 88

SCORE: 0,715

PROTECTION

RANK: 81

SCORE: 0,898

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: 21

SCORE: 0,643

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: ROMANIA

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
ROMANIA 2017	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
ROMANIA 2025	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS – ROMANIA

1. Take effective measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against children in vulnerable situations through the effective implementation of legal frameworks and training for professionals working with children.² Discrimination against Roma children remains particularly concerning in the education sector, where segregation³ in separate classes or school buildings increased from 28 per cent in 2016 to 51 per cent in 2022.⁴ (Non-Discrimination)
2. Ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is consistently considered and applied in all administrative and judicial proceedings affecting children and provide adequate training for professionals responsible for implementing this principle.⁵ (Best Interest of the Child & respect for the view of the child)
3. Ensure the meaningful participation of children in national and local policymaking processes, particularly children belonging to marginalized groups, including asylum-seeking and refugee children, through strengthening the National Council of Students and other child-led initiatives.⁶ (Respect for the Views of the Child)
4. Establish comprehensive and transparent procedures for child participation that promote meaningful dialogue between children and adults and ensure that children's views are not only heard but also taken into consideration in decision-making processes.⁷ (Respect for the Views of the Child)
5. Ensure the effective implementation of Law No. 105/2022 to guarantee birth registration and the issuance of birth certificates for all children.⁸ Reports indicate that Stateless children and children of same-sex parents continue to face difficulties in obtaining birth certificates through the Romanian civil registration system.⁹ (Enabling Legislation)

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined six and seventh periodic reports of Romania, 28 July 2025, *UN Doc. CRC/C/ROU/CO/6-7*, para. 15

³ Amnesty International, 'Human rights in Romania', 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/western-central-and-south-eastern-europe/romania/report-romania/>.

⁴ Varga, F, Roma Children's school segregation as a persistent public educational system issue in Romania, Research and Education, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.56177/red.7.2022.art.7>, p. 88.

⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined six and seventh periodic reports of Romania', 28 July 2025, *UN Doc. CRC/C/ROU/CO/6-7*, para. 16

⁶ Ibid., para. 17.

⁷ Hopes and Homes for Children, Child-Led Report on the rights of the children in Romania, Civil Society Alternative Report, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FROU%2F62058&Lang=en, p. 8.

⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined six and seventh periodic reports of Romania', 28 July 2025, *UN Doc. CRC/C/ROU/CO/6-7*, para. 18(b).

⁹ Jesuit Refugee Service (Romania) and European Network on Statelessness (ENS), Written Input to the Committee on the Rights of the Child at the 100th Pre-Sessional Working Group on the State Report, Dec 2024, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FROU%2F62057&Lang=en, p. 4.

6. Expand investment in education, healthcare,¹⁰ mental health services, and social and child protection systems¹¹, including by increasing the number of trained psychologists and psychiatrists, particularly in rural areas. ¹² **(Best Available Budget)**
7. Establish a transparent and accountable budget allocation system to prevent financial mismanagement and ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to meet the needs of local communities.¹³ Although the decentralization process transferred budgetary responsibilities to local authorities, insufficient financial resources continue to limit the ability of municipalities to provide adequate services. ¹⁴ **(Best Available Budget)**
8. Improve the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on children by age, sex, ethnicity, disability and migration status, with particular attention to children in vulnerable situations, including refugee and asylum-seeking children, LGBTQ+ children, children with disabilities, and stateless children.¹⁵ This remains particularly important given the absence of an official mechanism in Romania to monitor violence and discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons, highlighting the need for comprehensive reforms in data collection systems.¹⁶ **(Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data & Non-Discrimination)**
9. Improve cooperation between the State and civil society organizations by facilitating service accreditation and licensing procedures and reducing unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles to service provision. ¹⁷ **(State-civil society cooperation for child rights)**

¹⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined six and seventh periodic reports of Romania', 28 July 2025, *UN Doc. CRC/C/ROU/CO/6-7*, para. 8.

¹¹ Ibid., para. 21(d).

¹² Ibid., para. 34(c).

¹³ Ibid., para. 8(a)&(c).

¹⁴ The NGOs Federation for Children – FONPC, Alternative report of the federation of nongovernmental organisations for children on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Romania, 2024, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FROU%2F62055&Lang=en, p. 3.

¹⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the combined six and seventh periodic reports of Romania', 28 July 2025, *UN Doc. CRC/C/ROU/CO/6-7*, para. 9.

¹⁶ The NGOs Federation for Children – FONPC, Alternative report of the federation of nongovernmental organisations for children on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Romania, 2024, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FROU%2F62055&Lang=en, p. 18.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 6.