

## Introduction

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation defines its mission as a commitment to improving the quality of governance in Africa. Governance is defined as a set of services that a government delivers to its citizens. To provide a criterion for policy makers and citizens in assessing governance, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation developed a quantitative measure of governance: the Ibrahim index. The index spans the years of 2000 through 2009. This EADS snapshot highlights the results of the latest edition (2008/09) of the Ibrahim Index.

## Background

Governance is a multi-dimensional concept. Governments are responsible for providing for the physical well-being of their citizens. They are also responsible for the allocation of national resources and provision of basic services such as health and education. Good governments provide their citizens with the tools to hold the State accountable through the provision of free and fair elections and the right to freely express their opinions.

The Ibrahim Index rates countries on a scale of 0-100 using 88 indicators. These indicators are aggregated into four categories: Safety and Rule of Law, Participation and Human Rights, Sustainable Economic Opportunity and Human Welfare. Each country's overall score is the average of the four scores. To attain a high overall score, a country must have a high score across all categories. The highest and lowest scoring countries are Mauritius and Somalia, with scores of 83 and 8, respectively.

## 2010 Ibrahim Index of African Governance

Scored 0-100 where 100=best

1 Mauritius	83	19 Mali	53	37 Nigeria	43
2 Seychelles	79	20 Mozambique	52	38 Liberia	43
3 Botswana	76	21 Burkina Faso	52	39 Togo	43
4 Cape Verde	75	22 Malawi	52	40 Niger	42
5 South Africa	71	23 Libya	51	41 Congo	42
6 Namibia	67	24 Uganda	51	42 Angola	39
7 Ghana	65	25 Swaziland	51	43 Guinea-Bissau	39
8 Tunisia	62	26 Kenya	51	44 Côte d'Ivoire	37
9 Egypt	60	27 Gabon	50	45 Guinea	36
10 Lesotho	60	28 Madagascar	49	46 Equatorial Guinea	35
11 São Tomé and Príncipe	58	29 Comoros	49	47 Sudan	33
12 Benin	57	30 Djibouti	49	48 Central African Republic	33
13 Morocco	57	31 Rwanda	47	49 Zimbabwe	33
14 Senegal	56	32 Sierra Leone	46	50 Eritrea	32
15 Algeria	55	33 Burundi	45	51 Congo, Democratic Rep.	31
16 Tanzania	55	34 Cameroon	44	52 Chad	29
17 Zambia	55	35 Ethiopia	44	53 Somalia	8
18 Gambia	53	36 Mauritania	43		



## Sub-category Scores

The following examines the sub-category scores of the top and worst performers by region.<sup>1</sup>

### Safety and Rule of Law

The Safety and Rule of Law category assesses the ability of the government to guarantee citizens' personal safety and legal recourse if their rights are violated or if they are victims of a crime. This extends to the absence of conflict in a country (National Security) and to the ability to maintain law and order through a strong and independent judicial system. Accountability of public officials and measures to reduce corruption are included in this category as these reflect a government's commitment to the efficient use of resources.

Overall, Mauritius is the highest ranking country in this category with a score of 90. Cape Verde and the Seychelles rank highest in West and East Africa with perfect scores in National security. Regionally, South Africa is the safest region with a score of 66. West and North Africa rank second with an average score of 57. Central and East Africa have the lowest scores with Somalia and Congo (Kinshasa) as the worst performers. Generally, the bottom performers in this category experience periods of conflicts and unrest.

Category 1: Safety and Rule of Law								
Region	Regional Average	Country	Rank	Score	Personal Safety	Rule of Law	Accountability and Corruption	National Security
<b>Top Performers by Region</b>								
South Africa	66	Mauritius	1	90	85	94	82	100
West Africa	57	Cape Verde	3	84	77	78	80	100
East Africa	48	Seychelles	4	81	81	74	68	100
North Africa	57	Egypt	11	67	61	63	53	93
Central Africa	43	Gabon	24	57	48	54	29	96
<b>Bottom Performers by Region</b>								
North Africa	57	Mauritania	44	42	21	25	48	73
West Africa	57	Cote d'Ivoire	48	38	33	11	33	74
South Africa	66	Zimbabwe	50	35	21	26	15	78
Central Africa	43	Congo (Kinshasa)	51	33	16	30	29	56
East Africa	48	Somalia	53	8	6	0	3	23

### Participation and Human Rights

The Participation and Rights sub-categories have overlapping criteria such as the right to vote, the right to a fair election and freedom of expression. The former category assesses citizens' ability to participate in the political process through free and fair elections and electoral self-determination. Both sub-categories measure human and political rights as well as civil liberties. The latter sub-category assesses states on their level of participation in core international human rights treaties.

Women are often accorded fewer rights and opportunities and are overrepresented in the household economy. The Ibrahim index gender sub-category measures gender parity with respect to women's political and economic rights as well as their access to key services such as education. Countries are also assessed on specific legislation relating to gender-based-violence.

Within the Participation and Human Rights category, Cape Verde is the highest performing country, ranking first in Rights and second in Participation. South Africa was the best performing region with an average score of 56 while Central and North Africa performed poorly with average scores of 33 and 35 respectively with Somalia and Libya ranked among the lowest on Participation and Rights. The lowest performing countries in this category all had authoritarian regimes.

1. Regions are based on the Ibrahim Index classification. Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon. East Africa: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia. South Africa: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Category 2: Participation and Human Rights							
Region	Regional Average	Country	Rank	Score	Participation	Rights	Gender
<b>Top Performers by Region</b>							
West Africa	52	Cape Verde	1	80	85	86	68
South Africa	56	Mauritius	2	77	87	82	63
East Africa	41	Seychelles	5	69	72	53	81
North Africa	35	Mauritania	28	44	24	43	64
Central Africa	33	Gabon	29	42	28	47	50
<b>Bottom Performers by Region</b>							
West Africa	52	Cote d'Ivoire	46	29	12	35	40
South Africa	56	Swaziland	47	27	10	27	45
North Africa	35	Libya	51	19	3	16	38
Central Africa	33	Equatorial Guinea	52	19	13	14	30
East Africa	41	Somalia	53	12	4	9	23

### ***Sustainable Economic Opportunity***

Fostering policies and institutions conducive to a strong private sector is important to a country's economic growth and prosperity. Within this sub-category, the Ibrahim Index measures whether the legal and regulatory environment promotes a healthy competitive private sector as well as the extent to which bureaucracy and red tape hinder the development of private enterprise. While infrastructure is typically provided by the State it can also be supplied and/or maintained by the private sector within a framework defined by the State. The index measures the quality and reliability of the physical infrastructure.

Given that the majority of the African population still lives in rural areas, the final sector assessed by the Ibrahim index in this category relates to rural and environmental issues. The Ibrahim index measures the environmental sustainability of current policies as well as the institutional and legal framework supporting the access to land and water by the rural poor.

Within this category, Mauritius is the highest ranking with high performance in the Environment and Rural Sector and Public Management. North Africa was the best performing region in this category with a score of 58. Tunisia performed best in North Africa with high scores in Public Management and the Environment and Rural sector. Zimbabwe and Somalia were the bottom performers in this category, performing well below the regional average scores of South and East Africa.

Category 3: Sustainable Economic Opportunity								
Region	Regional Average	Country	Rank	Score	Public Management	Private Sector	Infrastructure	Environment and the Rural Sector
<b>Top Performers by Region</b>								
South Africa	53	Mauritius	1	84	73	97	78	89
West Africa	45	Cape Verde	3	67	68	63	48	88
East Africa	42	Seychelles	4	66	55	67	78	63
North Africa	58	Tunisia	5	66	71	61	60	71
Central Africa	36	Cameroon	28	46	67	45	16	55
<b>Bottom Performers by Region</b>								
North Africa	58	Mauritania	27	47	58	45	35	53
West Africa	45	Liberia	48	29	54	25	10	25
Central Africa	36	Congo (Kinshasa)	50	26	43	16	3	44
South Africa	53	Zimbabwe	52	19	29	6	24	16
East Africa	42	Somalia	53	4	3	3	3	6

## Human Development

Governments hold the responsibility for allocating resources in a manner that reflects national development priorities and meets societal needs. The development of a country's human capital base through the provision of key services such as education and health provides an important link to its ability to successfully participate in the global economy. The Ibrahim Index evaluates the provision of health and education with measures of mortality and disease incidence as well as access to basic health and sanitation services.

Seychelles is the highest performing country in this category with near perfect scores in both Health and Welfare and Education. Libya ranked next highest overall with a score of 85. It performed well above the North African average score of 70 with the seventh highest score in education provision and quality on the continent. It also ranked among the top 10 performers in areas such as child mortality and immunization rates.

Category 4: Human Development						
Region	Regional Average	Country	Rank	Score	Health and Welfare	Education
<b>Top Performers by Region</b>						
Central Africa	49	Seychelles	1	99	100	97
East Africa	70	Libya	2	85	87	83
North Africa	55	Mauritius	4	80	90	71
South Africa	46	Cape Verde	9	72	77	66
West Africa	39	Gabon	15	59	55	62
<b>Bottom Performers by Region</b>						
North Africa	70	Mauritania	39	40	44	37
South Africa	55	Angola	49	33	46	19
West Africa	46	Guinea-Bissau	50	31	43	19
Central Africa	39	Chad	52	23	19	26
East Africa	49	Somalia	53	8	16	0

## Changes in the Last Five Years

The last table examines the change in the Ibrahim Index since the 2003/04 edition. Liberia and Angola have experienced significant increases in their scores due to improvements Safety and Rule of Law and Participation and Human Rights. Other countries such as Somalia have fallen behind without an effective central government since 1991.

Over this period, sixteen countries' overall score decreased including Somalia, Eritrea, Chad, Mauritania and Madagascar. These countries all experienced significant decreases in the following sub-categories: Safety and Rule of Law and Participation and Human Rights. Somalia and Mauritania saw the greatest decrease in Safety and Rule of Law while Somalia, Chad and Niger experienced the largest decrease in Participation and Human Rights. Forty-one countries saw improvements in Human Development, among them Angola and Niger, which saw improvements of more than 40 percent in their scores of Human Development over this period.

Percent Change in the Last Five Years					
Country	Overall Score	Category 1: Safety and Rule of Law	Category 2: Participation and Human Rights	Category 3: Sustainable Economic Opportunity	Category 4: Human Development
<b>Top Ten Improvements</b>					
Liberia	53	90	64	46	20
Angola	34	13	42	40	50
Central African Republic	25	3	99	20	0
Burundi	19	13	41	20	5
Congo, Democratic Rep.	14	5	37	13	6
<b>Bottom Ten Improvements</b>					
Somalia	-27	-52	-25	207	-15
Eritrea	-15	-27	-9	-18	-1
Chad	-11	-20	-24	-4	21
Mauritania	-10	-31	-11	7	3
Madagascar	-10	-25	-19	4	14

## Concluding Remarks

In many cases, good governance seems self-reinforcing; the countries of Botswana, Mauritius, Seychelles and Cape Verde were consistently ranked in the top performers across all categories. Certainly, Safety and Rule of Law, and Sustainable Economic Policy and Human Development seem correlated. Policies that ensure economic and political stability will tend to foster economic growth and human development. However, a government can perform well in these categories while maintaining a repressive regime. For example, Libya and Tunisia were ranked among the top five for the category of Human Development while scoring among the lowest for Participation and Human Rights.

### For more information...

For more information on the Ibrahim Index visit the **Mo Ibrahim Foundation** website at: <http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/en>.

The Economic and Social Database (ESDB) carries many of the source indicators for the Ibrahim Index such as the Bertelsmann Foundation's Transformation Index, the Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights Dataset and the Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom. To access the complete datasets, visit ESDB website on the USAID Intranet at <http://esdb.eads.usaidallnet.gov/>.