



EADS Snapshot on The Ibrahim Index: Governance on the African Continent

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Introduction

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation defines its mission as a commitment to improving the quality of governance in Africa. To provide a criterion for policy makers and citizens in assessing governance, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation developed a quantitative index to measure governance. It is measured on a scale of 0 to 100 with higher scores indicating better governance outcomes. This EADS snapshot highlights the results of the latest edition (2011) of the Ibrahim Index, which spans the years 2000 through 2010.

Mauritius continues to have the highest score, though slightly lower than in the previous year—82.9 in 2009 and 82.5 in 2010. Somalia, with the continent's lowest score of 7.9, marginally improved its performance from 7.6 in 2009 but continues to severely lag the rest of Africa. Chad has the next lowest overall score of 30.6. Overall, the improvement of governance in Africa over the last year has been mixed. 34 countries improved an average of 0.8 points, while 19 countries fell an average of 0.7 points. The fall in Madagascar's overall score was the largest at nearly 3 points from 50 to 47.1. Sierra Leone improved the most, from 45.5 to 48.2. Unsurprisingly, North Africa was the only region whose average score fell, from 55.9 to 55.5. West Africa's average score improved the most, by 0.6 points from 50.5 to 51.1.

Background

Under the Ibrahim Index, governance is defined as a set of services that a government delivers to its citizens. Governments are responsible for providing for the physical well-being of their citizens, including 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 53 countries, grouped into 5 regions¹, using 86 indicators (see table on page 2). These indicators are aggregated into four categories: Safety and Rule of Law, Participation and Human Rights, Sustainable Economic Opportunity, and Human Development (the previous methodology called the last one Human Welfare). Each country's overall score is the average of the four scores so that higher scores indicate better governance outcomes.

Category and Sub-category Scores

The Ibrahim index relies on 86 indicators (under a revised methodology that used to use 88 indicators). These indicators are converted to index scores, which are then averaged to calculate sub-category scores—all of which use the same 0–100 scale. The sub-categories are then averaged to arrive at category scores, which are in turn averaged to get the overall scores listed above. The following section examines the category and sub-category scores of the top and worst performers by region.

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



2010 Ibrahim Index of African Governance

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
1	Mauritius	82.5	19	Burkina Faso	55.1	37	Burundi	45.1
2	Cape Verde	79.0	20	Uganda	55.0	38	Cameroon	45.0
3	Botswana	76.1	21	Mozambique	54.6	39	Niger	44.2
4	Seychelles	73.5	22	Mali	53.6	40	Congo	42.4
5	South Africa	70.6	23	Kenya	52.6	41	Nigeria	41.1
6	Namibia	69.7	24	Gambia	51.8	42	Angola	40.8
7	Ghana	66.0	25	Rwanda	51.7	43	Guinea	37.8
8	Lesotho	62.8	26	Swaziland	51.4	44	Guinea-Bissau	37.2
9	Tunisia	61.7	27	Gabon	50.7	45	Equatorial Guinea	36.5
10	Egypt	60.7	28	Libya	49.9	46	Côte d'Ivoire	36.3
11	Benin	59.9	29	Djibouti	48.7	47	Eritrea	34.8
12	São Tomé and Príncipe	58.4	30	Sierra Leone	48.2	48	Sudan	33.1
13	Tanzania	58.1	31	Comoros	47.4	49	Central African Republic	32.6
14	Morocco	57.8	32	Mauritania	47.3	50	Congo, D.R.	32.4
15	Senegal	57.5	33	Madagascar	47.1	51	Zimbabwe	30.9
16	Zambia	57.0	34	Ethiopia	45.8	52	Chad	30.6
17	Malawi	56.5	35	Togo	45.6	53	Somalia	7.9
18	Algeria	55.3	36	Liberia	45.4			

NOTE: Scored 0–100, where 100 = best.

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.

This year's list of top scoring countries is the same as the previous year. Personal safety was the largest factor in holding scores down, especially in Seychelles and Egypt. The only significant improvement was Cape Verde's score in rule of law. Cape Verde was also the only top scoring country to show no backsliding in any of its sub-category scores. The countries comprising the bottom scoring countries, however, did change this year. Libya replaced Mauritania as North Africa's lowest scorer, though this year's index was measured before the onset of Libya's turmoil. Central Africa's lowest overall score is now the Central African Republic. Zimbabwe's overall score dropped to 28.2 from 31.3, and apart from Somalia's stagnant score of 4.8, East Africa still had Africa's lowest score with Sudan's 21.0 (up from 19.5).²

² This year's index was prepared prior to the independence of South Sudan.

Category 1: Safety and Rule of Law

Country	Rank	Personal Safety	Rule of Law	Accountability	National Security	Score	Region	Regional Average
<i>Top Performers by Region</i>								
Mauritius	1	80.0	94.0	81.7	100	88.9	Southern Africa	62.8
Cape Verde	3	76.6	87.9	81.7	100	86.5	West Africa	55.6
Seychelles	5	70.0	74.1	67.9	99.7	77.9	East Africa	46.3
Egypt	12	48.8	62.7	52.4	87.5	62.8	North Africa	54.2
Gabon	21	52.5	54.2	32.5	94.9	58.5	Central Africa	40.9
<i>Bottom Performers by Region</i>								
Libya	43	38.8	30.1	21.4	74.8	41.3	North Africa	54.2
Côte d'Ivoire	48	22.5	11.5	32.7	59.0	31.4	West Africa	55.6
Central African Republic	50	30.0	35.6	25.6	23.3	28.6	Central Africa	40.9
Zimbabwe	51	16.3	26.6	15.1	54.8	28.2	Southern Africa	62.8
Somalia	53	3.1	0	2.9	13.3	4.8	East Africa	46.3

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 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.

Category 2: Participation and Human Rights

Country	Rank	Participation	Rights	Gender	Score	Region	Regional Average
<i>Top Performers by Region</i>							
Cape Verde	1	82.7	85.9	65.7	78.1	West Africa	50.8
Mauritius	2	79.5	81.4	65.0	75.3	Southern Africa	55.0
Seychelles	6	75.0	52.2	74.2	67.1	East Africa	41.2
Mauritania	24	38.9	37.9	65.2	47.3	North Africa	34.5
Gabon	31	29.2	43.8	44.2	39.1	Central Africa	31.4
<i>Bottom Performers by Region</i>							
Côte d'Ivoire	45	20.2	32.3	38.4	30.3	West Africa	50.8
Zimbabwe	47	19.4	20.5	40.8	26.9	Southern Africa	55.0
Libya	51	2.9	16.0	38.9	19.3	North Africa	34.5
Equatorial Guinea	52	12.7	10.8	26.5	16.7	Central Africa	31.4
Somalia	53	7.1	8.7	23.0	12.9	East Africa	41.2

The composition of this category's top performing countries also did not change compared to last year. However, the standout was Mauritania as the only country whose rank improved (from 28th to 24th), owing predominantly to an improvement in its participation score. The sub-category for rights was the only one in which all countries saw their scores fall—this was also true for the bottom scoring countries. The only change to the bottom scoring countries was the replacement of Swaziland with Zimbabwe in Southern Africa. Notably, Somalia was the only bottom scoring country (ranked 53rd both this year and last) to see no deterioration in any of its sub-category scores.

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. The index also 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, covering environmental sustainability and land and water access for the rural poor.

Within this category, the majority of countries improved their scores—evidenced by both the top and bottom scoring countries. Mauritius repeated its performance as the continent's highest scorer. Egypt's top rank in North Africa this year evidences the index's change in methodology: last year's edition/methodology had Tunisia ranked above Egypt, but the new methodology would have ranked Egypt higher. The top five performers showed improvement across all sub-category scores except in public management where only Seychelles improved its score. The list of bottom countries is the same as last year except for Guinea, which replaced Liberia as West Africa's lowest performer. Guinea was also the only bottom scoring country whose overall score in this category fell (from 33.8 to 30.4). Somalia showed no movement in any sub-category score. The next lowest score in East Africa was Comoros' 29.3.

Category 3: Sustainable Economic Opportunity

Country	Rank	Public Management	Business Environment	Infrastructure	Rural Sector	Score	Region	Regional Average
<i>Top Performers by Region</i>								
Mauritius	1	66.5	97.6	70.1	81.3	78.9	Southern Africa	53.6
Egypt	2	60.3	80.0	63.4	75.4	69.8	North Africa	59.6
Cape Verde	3	63.5	69.6	51.9	87.0	68.0	West Africa	45.2
Seychelles	8	52.5	64.9	81.3	53.0	62.9	East Africa	43.6
Cameroon	29	59.1	48.5	22.1	60.3	47.5	Central Africa	37.6
<i>Bottom Performers by Region</i>								
Mauritania	28	51.2	41.5	38.1	60.9	47.9	North Africa	59.6
Guinea	48	39.7	36.3	1.9	43.7	30.4	West Africa	45.2
Congo, D.R.	51	47.9	22.5	0.8	44.4	28.9	Central Africa	37.6
Zimbabwe	52	44.0	9.3	36.6	8.1	24.5	Southern Africa	53.6
Somalia	53	3.6	3.2	4.0	-	3.6	East Africa	43.6

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.

All top five countries were top scorers last year as well (although, the change in methodology is exhibited here too, as last year's edition/methodology had Libya ranked first in North Africa, whereas the new methodology has Tunisia ranked first in both years). Seychelles was the only country whose sub-category scores all fell over the last two years (the sparse availability of the indicators that underlie this category necessitates comparing scores from at least two years earlier). The only top scorer with improvement in all its sub-category scores was Cape Verde, whose overall human development score improved from 82.2 two years ago to 83.3 this year, improving its rank to fourth place. Of the bottom performers, backsliding in all sub-categories was seen only in Mauritania; whereas Somalia, Angola, and Sierra Leone improved all their sub-category scores. All bottom performing countries have had their regions' lowest scores for the last three years in a row.

Category 4: Human Development

Country	Rank	Welfare	Education	Health	Score	Region	Regional Average
<i>Top Performers by Region</i>							
Tunisia	1	83.2	87.0	94.7	88.3	North Africa	73.6
Mauritius	2	88.7	84.4	87.2	86.8	Southern Africa	61.9
Seychelles	3	62.5	95.8	99.4	85.9	East Africa	53.4
Cape Verde	4	80.5	74.1	95.2	83.3	West Africa	52.6
Gabon	16	58.6	63.9	69.0	63.8	Central Africa	44.5
<i>Bottom Performers by Region</i>							
Mauritania	38	46.4	36.9	56.9	46.8	North Africa	73.6
Angola	48	41.7	21.3	55.1	39.4	Southern Africa	61.9
Sierra Leone	49	40.8	34.8	38.2	37.9	West Africa	52.6
Chad	52	29.9	28.3	28.9	29.0	Central Africa	44.5
Somalia	53	3.6	0	26.7	10.1	East Africa	53.4

Changes in the Last Ten Years

This section looks at the change in index scores in percentage terms since 2000. Liberia's overall index score improved from 25.3 in 2000 to 45.4 in 2010, a nearly 80 percent improvement. Among the top five improving countries, overall improvement tracks mostly with the category of sustainable economic opportunity. More variability is exhibited in the other sub-categories, especially safety and rule of law. Liberia and Sierra Leone more than doubled their scores, while D.R. Congo's improved 12.5 percent and Burundi's improved only 3 percent. For the five countries whose overall scores fell the most, their backsliding is explained most consistently by the categories of participation and human rights and safety and rule of law. For all these countries, human develop-

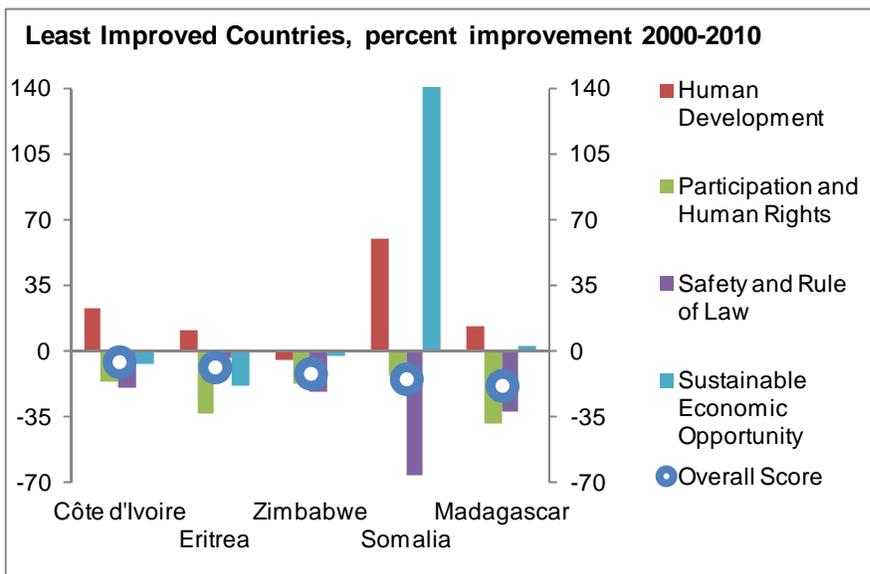
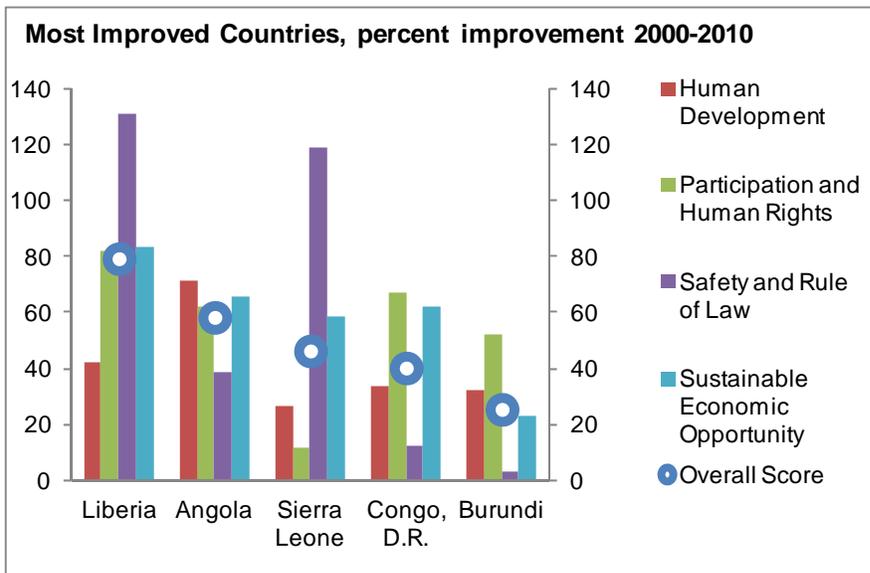
ment improved except in Zimbabwe—the only country in all of Africa to see backsliding in all sub-categories. Somalia’s improvement in sustainable economic opportunity reflects an increase from 1.5 in 2000 to 3.6 in 2010.

Madagascar’s backsliding is the most significant as its overall rank fell from 9th to 33rd place over the ten year period. This poor overall performance is due mostly to deterioration in the sub-category of participation and human rights, which fell from 71.8 (5th place) to 43.6 (26th place). Likewise, its score in safety and rule of law fell from 65.4 (14th place) to 44.3 (40th place).

Concluding Remarks

In many cases, good governance seems self-reinforcing; the countries of 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 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—and the Arab Spring demonstrates that such situations are far from sustainable.



Additional 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/>.