



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

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### Introduction

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The Ibrahim Index is an annual assessment of the quality of governance in Africa. Reflecting the fact that governance is a multi-dimensional concept, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation aggregates 88 measures from 23 independent data sources to rank 52 African countries. The index itself has four cluster components: safety and rule of law, participation and human rights, sustainable economic opportunity, and human development. This snapshot summarizes highlights from the 2012 Index, which presents new rankings and ratings for 2011. With data covering 2000 to 2011, progress in improving governance in Africa can be demonstrated quantitatively.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation also awards a prize for achievement in leadership to heads of state who deliver security, health, education, and economic development to their constituents, and who democratically transfer power to their successor. This year, for the third time in six years, the selection committee decided to not award a prize. The lack of an award-worthy head of state suggests that, despite overall measured progress, African countries still have much room for improvement.

### Conceptual Framework for Governance

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Good governance encompasses a wide range of policies and institutions, reflecting the variety of expectations for governments as providers or facilitators. Governments are responsible for public safety, including personal safety, crime prevention, national security, and a rule of law. Just as importantly, they need to be accountable and transparent in the provision of public safety and other objectives. Governments need to provide the means for citizen participation, democratic wielding of power, equity, and human rights. Governments must also ensure that the business environment provides for economic opportunity, that infrastructure is sufficient to facilitate economic activity, and that the public sector is managed responsibly. Governments must also ensure that human development is widespread, with education, health, and social welfare to meet the needs of the people.

The four category areas each have three to four sub-categories, and each sub-category has between five and twelve indicators. Taking averages of the indicators, the sub-categories, and then the categories generates an index score between zero and a hundred for each country.

### Highlights for 2011 Data: Overall Index

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For 2011, as was true in 2010, the top ranked country was Mauritius (82.8) and the lowest was Somalia (7.2). At the top end, there were no changes in the top five countries, although it is notable that the Seychelles dropped nearly two index points while holding on to fourth place in the rankings. The Seychelles scores on safety and rule of law, as well as on participation and human rights, both fell sharply from 2010 to 2011. With respect to the human development scores, the Seychelles was unchanged and remained the highest on the continent.

The most notable gain toward the top end of the rankings was for Tunisia, up nearly three index points and climbing from 10th to 8th place in a single year. The scores for participation and human rights were up sharply, more than offsetting a fall off in safety and rule of law. The Tunisian Revolution led to a change in government by



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January 2011, and eventually to elections by October 2011. The Ibrahim Index score for participation and human rights shot up in the wake of elections and a more representative government.

At the other end of the index, Somalia continues to trail the rest of the continent by a wide margin. Since 2005, Somalia has been in last place, with an overall score never above 10 while the next lowest African country has never had an overall score below 27. Somalia's 2011 score of 7.2 was below the 8.0 of 2010, as participation and human rights worsened. Each of the four main components of the Ibrahim Index show Somalia consistently in last place.

For 2011 data, Libya posted the largest drop and was off nearly six index points to 44.5. The civil war pushed its safety and rule of law score down sharply, leaving it above only Somalia on that component. Although the rebels had effective control of Libya by October 2011, civil unrest continued into 2012.

Overall, the improvement of governance in Africa over the last year has been somewhat positive, even if limited. Of the 52 countries in the index, 32 improved an average of one index point, while 19 countries dropped by an average of 1.1 points. Lesotho was unchanged in terms of index score, but slipped from 8th to 9th place in the rankings.

The pattern of small, positive change on an annual basis is not unusual for the Ibrahim Index. A longer-term view shows cumulative gains as more substantive. Comparing the 2011 values with the first period for which data are available (2000) shows nearly all the countries (46 of 52) recorded progress by an average of more than five index points. Indeed, Liberia, Angola, and Sierra Leone all had double-digit gains. Six countries declined over the eleven-year period by an average of more than four index points. Madagascar, down more than 12 points over the period, fared worst.

### **Regional Variation in Levels and Trends**

Southern African countries, as an average, consistently lead the other regions by several index points. Just as reliably, the Central African countries trail the others by a notable margin. However, during the past four years the Central African country average score has gained nearly two index points, an improvement matched only by the West African countries. For North African countries, the average score over the past four years has dropped by an index point even though it remains in second place among the regions. (See the table at the end of this snapshot for the Ibrahim Index classification of regions in Africa.)

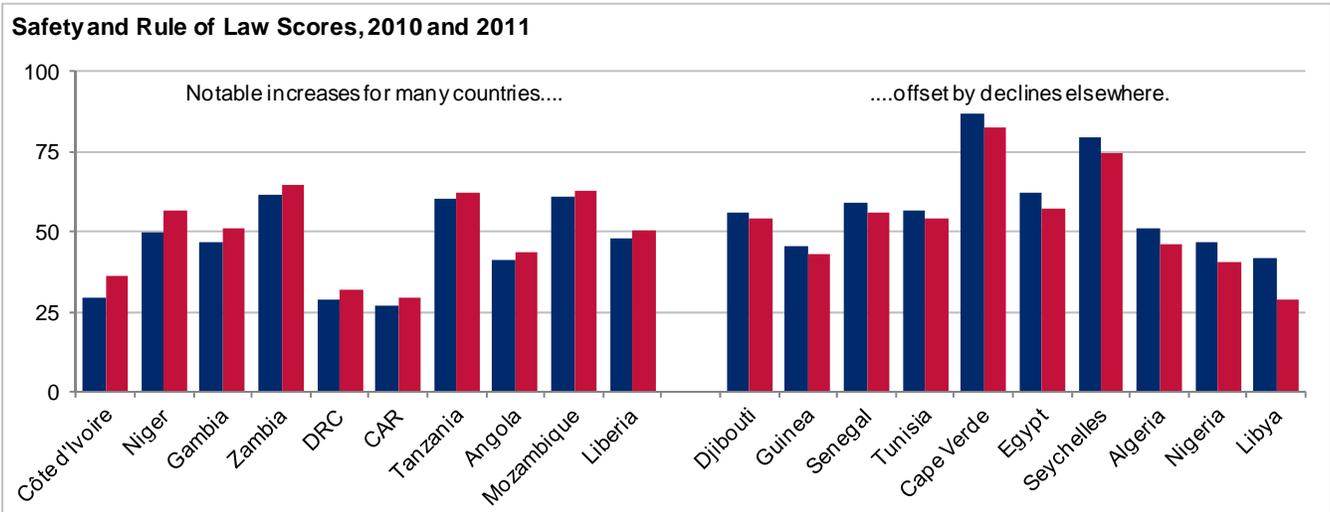
### **Safety and Rule of Law: Big Changes in Both Directions in 2011**

The safety and rule of law component exhibited wide swings in 2011 alone. Overall, there was not a general direction, as 19 countries increased by more than a half of an index point while 19 others decreased by more than a half of an index point. The remaining 14 countries had small gains or losses in this component.

Côte d'Ivoire and Niger both had a much higher safety and rule of law component score in 2011. For Côte d'Ivoire, the rule of law sub-component score nearly doubled in one year while the other sub-components all gained. Its scores illustrate how the timing of political changes and crises can affect Ibrahim Index scores. The country plunged into a post-election crisis in the second half of 2010, bringing down the rule of law scores. The resolution of the crisis in the first half of 2011 boosted the scores and left Côte d'Ivoire with much higher scores than in 2009.

For Niger, the rule of law sub-component scores were up nearly 28 index points in 2011, with a similar timing of political events as in Côte d'Ivoire. The coup in 2010 was the culmination of several years of crisis. The successful election and adoption of a new constitution in 2011 boosted the Ibrahim Index scores.

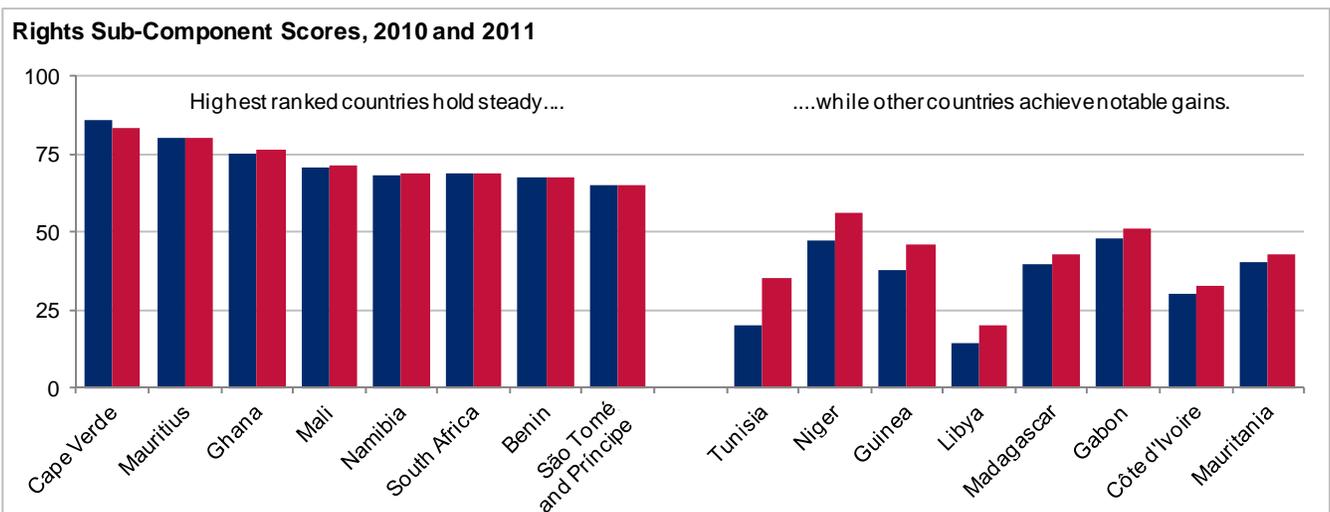
Libya moved sharply in the other direction in 2011. The safety and rule of law component score plunged nearly 13 index points as personal safety and rule of law measures were hit hard during the civil war. A gain in the government accountability sub-component score was not enough to offset steep declines in the other scores.



**Participation and Human Rights Also Impacted By Political Upheaval**

In a similar manner to the impact on safety and rule of law, the Ibrahim Index scores for participation and human rights were significantly affected by countries in crisis during 2011. In Niger, the new constitution boosted its political participation sub-component score by nearly 17 index points and its rights score by nearly 10 index points. The impact on its gender equality sub-component score was relatively modest at less than five points, leaving Niger among the lowest ranked countries for gender equality in Africa.

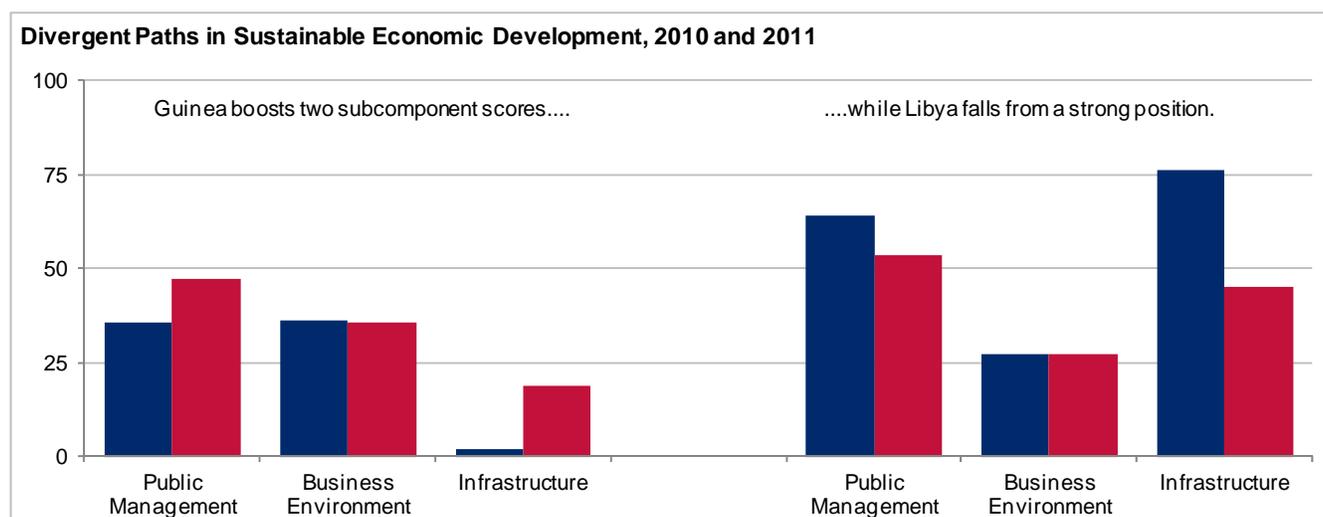
For Libya, the civil war did not have the same effect on safety and rights. As noted above, the safety and rule of law scores dropped sharply. In contrast, the scores for participation, rights, and gender equality all improved in 2011. However, Libya remained lowly ranked in the bottom five countries for all three sub-components.



### Sustainable Economic Development Shows Modest Gains

The component scores for sustainable economic development were, on balance, up modestly during 2011. Seventeen countries had a component score gain greater than a half of an index point, with the average rise for those countries at 1.7 points. A dozen countries moved in the opposite direction, with an average drop of nearly three index points. However, the steep drop in Libya weighed heavily on the average for the twelve countries.

Guinea's component score for sustainable economic development was up 7 index points, more than tripling the gain made by any other country from 2010 to 2011. Guinea achieved a sharp rise in the quality of its public management and infrastructure, more than offsetting a small decline in the business environment. Guinea's rural sector sub-component score was unchanged.



### Human Development Component Scores Relatively Stable

The Ibrahim human development component scores showed little change from 2010 to 2011. More than half of the countries (29) posted an annual change of less than a half index point in either direction. No country moved more than 2.4 index points in either direction. On balance, conditions improved slightly.

The human development component is generally where African countries score the highest. The continent average for this component was 56.7 in 2011, led by a North African country average just under 72.0. The health sub-component is particularly favorable, with four of the five regional averages at sixty or higher, and the North African average at 78.8. Three African countries posted health sub-component scores of more than ninety.

**Ibrahim Index Regional Classifications**

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

**Additional Information**

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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/>.