

2024 IIAG: Key findings



OVERALL GOVERNANCE



SECURITY & RULE OF LAW

Security & Safety 

- Absence of Armed Conflict
- Absence of Violence against Civilians
- Absence of Forced Migration
- Absence of Human Trafficking & Forced Labour
- Absence of Crime
- Public Perception of Security & Safety

Rule of Law & Justice 

- Executive Compliance with the Rule of Law
- Impartiality of the Judicial System
- Judicial Processes
- Equality before the Law
- Law Enforcement
- Property Rights
- Public Perception of the Rule of Law

Accountability & Transparency 

- Institutional Checks & Balances
- Absence of Undue Influence
- Civic Checks & Balances
- Disclosure of Public Records
- Accessibility of Public Records
- Public Perception of Accountability

Anti-Corruption 

- Anti-Corruption Mechanisms
- Absence of Corruption in State Institutions
- Absence of Corruption in the Public Sector
- Public Procurement Procedures
- Absence of Corruption in the Private Sector
- Public Perception of Anti-Corruption



PARTICIPATION, RIGHTS & INCLUSION

Participation 

- Freedom of Association & Assembly
- Political Pluralism
- Civil Society Space
- Democratic Elections
- Deliberative & Participatory Governance
- Public Perception of Political Participation

Rights 

- Personal Liberties
- Freedom of Expression & Belief
- Media Freedom
- Digital Freedom
- Protection against Discrimination
- Public Perception of Freedom of Speech

Inclusion & Equality 

- Equal Political Power
- Equal Political Representation
- Equal Civil Liberties
- Equal Socioeconomic Opportunity
- Equal Access to Public Services
- Public Perception of Inclusion & Equality

Women's Equality 

- Political Power & Representation of Women
- Rights & Civil Liberties for Women
- Socioeconomic Opportunity for Women
- Access to Public Services for Women
- Laws on Violence against Women
- Public Perception of Female Leadership



FOUNDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Public Administration

- Civil Registration
- Capacity of the Statistical System
- Effective Administration
- Tax & Revenue Mobilisation
- Budgetary & Financial Management
- Public Perception of Easiness to Obtain an Identity Document

Business & Labour Environment

- Regional Integration
- Economic Diversification
- Business & Competition Regulations
- Access to Banking Services
- Labour Relations
- Secure Employment Opportunities
- Public Perception of Economic Opportunities

Infrastructure

- Transport Network
- Access to Energy
- Mobile Communications
- Internet & Computers
- Shipping & Postal Network
- Public Perception of Infrastructure

Rural Economy

- Rural Land & Water Access
- Rural Market Access
- Rural Economy Support
- Rural Representation & Participation



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Health

- Access to Healthcare
- Access to Water & Sanitation
- Control of Communicable Diseases
- Control of Non-Communicable Diseases
- Child & Maternal Health
- Health Quality
- Public Perception of Health Provision

Education

- Equality in Education
- Education Enrolment
- Education Completion
- Human Resources in Education
- Education Quality
- Public Perception of Education Provision

Social Protection & Welfare

- Social Safety Nets
- Poverty Reduction Policies
- Socioeconomic Inequality Mitigation
- Decent Housing
- Food Security
- Public Perception of Social Protection & Lived Poverty

Sustainable Environment

- Promotion of Environmental Sustainability
- Enforcement of Environmental Policies
- Air Quality
- Sustainable Use of Land & Forests
- Land & Water Biodiversity Protection

Published since 2007, the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) assesses governance performance in each African country over the latest available ten-year period.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation defines governance as the provision of the political, social, economic and environmental public goods that every citizen has the right to expect from its government, and that every government has the responsibility to deliver to its citizens.

The 2024 IIAG covers the 2014-2023 decade. The data for the 2024 IIAG comes from 49 data sources, from which 322 variables, clustered into 96 indicators, are collected. In total there are more than 265,000 data points in the 2024 IIAG dataset.

The 96 indicators are organised under 16 sub-categories and four categories – *Security & Rule of Law; Participation, Rights & Inclusion; Foundations for Economic Opportunity; Human Development* – that make up the *Overall Governance* score.

Each category is composed of four sub-categories.

Each sub-category is composed of a number of indicators ranging from four to seven. When possible, each sub-category includes one indicator composed of public perception variables sourced from Afrobarometer.

Nearly 95% of the 2024 IIAG indicators (90 out of 96) are clustered indicators, which are composed of more than one variable collected from sources.

Categories	Sub-categories
Security & Rule of Law	Security & Safety Rule of Law & Justice Accountability & Transparency Anti-Corruption
Participation, Rights & Inclusion	Participation Rights Inclusion & Equality Women's Equality
Foundations for Economic Opportunity	Public Administration Business & Labour Environment Infrastructure Rural Economy
Human Development	Health Education Social Protection & Welfare Sustainable Environment

Four main criteria can be used to analyse the performance of a country or a governance measure: latest year score, latest year rank, change over the past decade and trend over that decade.

Scores and ranks

Rounded to one decimal point, the IAG scores quantify a country’s performance for each governance measure for each data year, expressed out of 100.0 (with 100.0 always being the best score).

Ranks are calculated based on the respective scores and are expressed out of 54. When two or more countries have the same score, they share the same place in the ranking table (tied ranks).

Changes and trends

Ten-year changes quantify the difference in absolute score between the last and the first data years of the decade under review. The 2024 IAG ten-year changes compare the country’s performance reached in 2023 to the one reached in 2014.

Trends are a fourth layer of analysis, complementing scores, ranks and ten-year changes. The IAG trends serve to assess the trajectory over the decade, by comparing the average rate of change over the latest five years (2019-2023) to that of the full decade series (2014-2023). This comparison helps identify early signs of the direction and pace of country trajectories – ‘trends within trends’.

Trend	Characteristic
Increasing Improvement	Score is better in 2023 compared to 2014, with the rate of improvement increasing since 2019
Slowing Improvement	Score is better in 2023 compared to 2014, but the rate of improvement is slowing since 2019
Warning Signs	Score is better/no change in 2023 compared to 2014, but showing decline since 2019
Bouncing Back	Score is worse/no change in 2023 compared to 2014, but showing progress since 2019
Slowing Deterioration	Score is worse in 2023 compared to 2014, but the rate of deterioration is slowing since 2019
Increasing Deterioration	Score is worse in 2023 compared to 2014, with the rate of deterioration increasing since 2019



Overall Governance

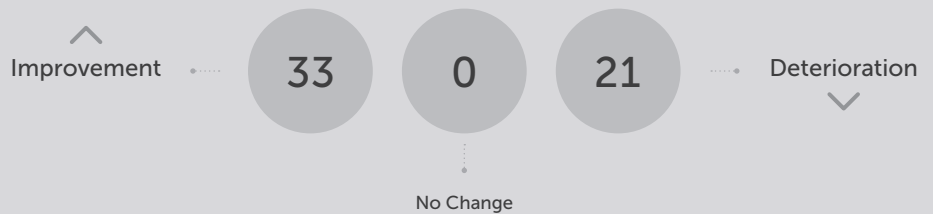
African average

Source: MIF

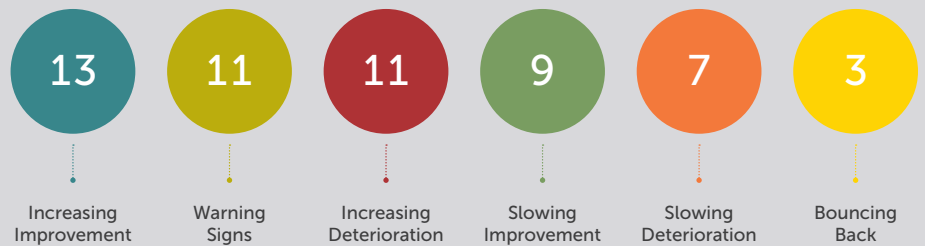
2023 score (out of 100.0)	49.3
10-year change (2014-2023)	+1.0
Trend: 5-year change (2019-2023) compared to 10-year change	Slowing Improvement ●

African countries

10-year change (2014-2023) by number of countries



Trend: 5-year change (2019-2023) compared to 10-year change by number of countries

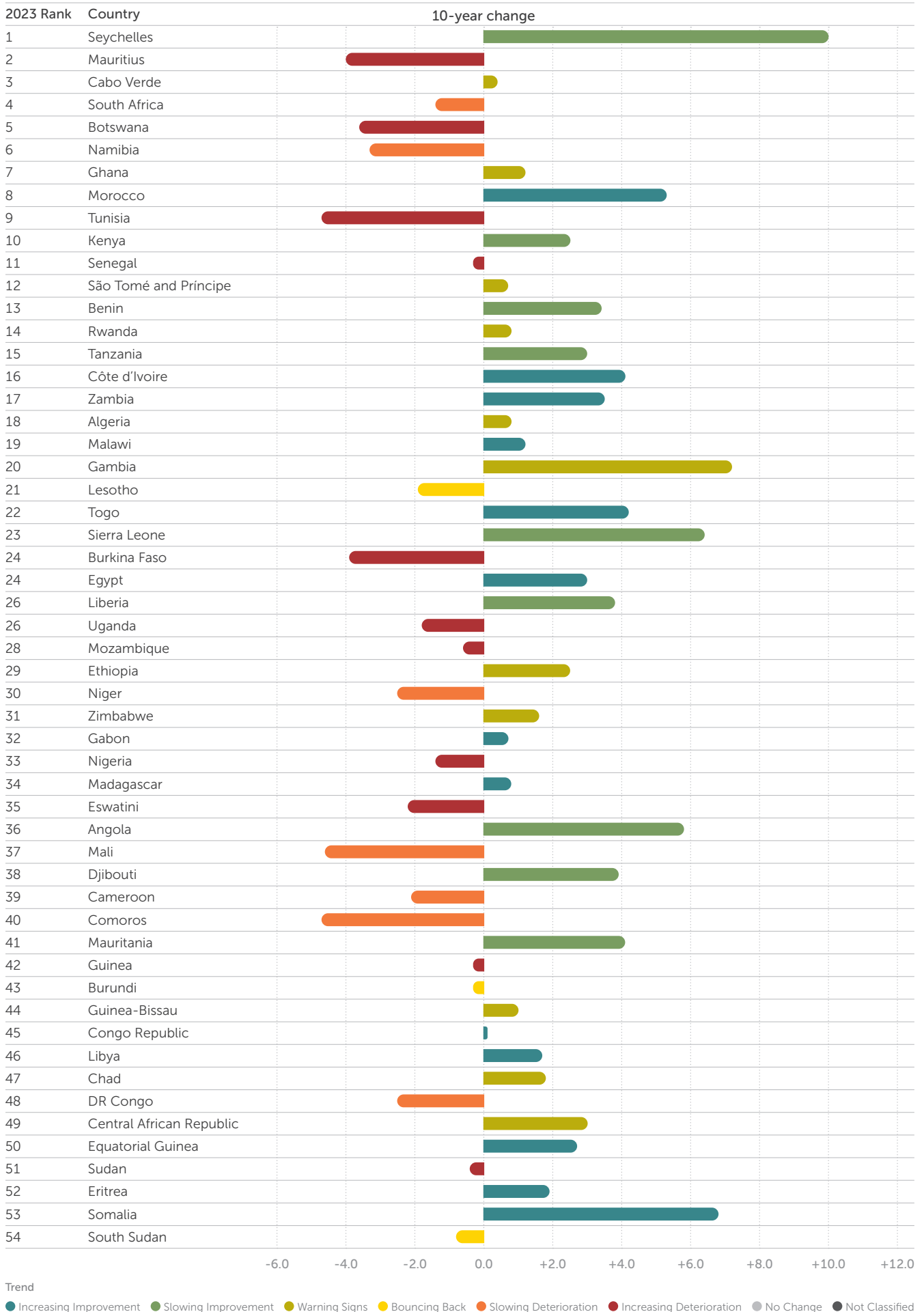


Largest Improvement	Seychelles
Change 2014-2023	+10.0
Score/Rank (2023)	75.3/1st
Largest Deterioration	Comoros and Tunisia
Change 2014-2023	-4.7
Score/Rank (2023)	42.8/40th and 61.2/9th

Underlying measures	Score (2023)	10-year change (2014-2023)	
Security & Rule of Law	47.9	-1.6	●
Participation, Rights & Inclusion	48.7	-0.2	●
Foundations for Economic Opportunity	48.9	+2.8	●
Human Development	51.6	+2.9	●

Overall Governance: 2023 rank, 10-year change & trend (2014-2023)

Source: MIF



Overall Governance 2014-2023: A gloomy picture at continental average level, which masks highly diverging trends within the continent and among governance dimensions.

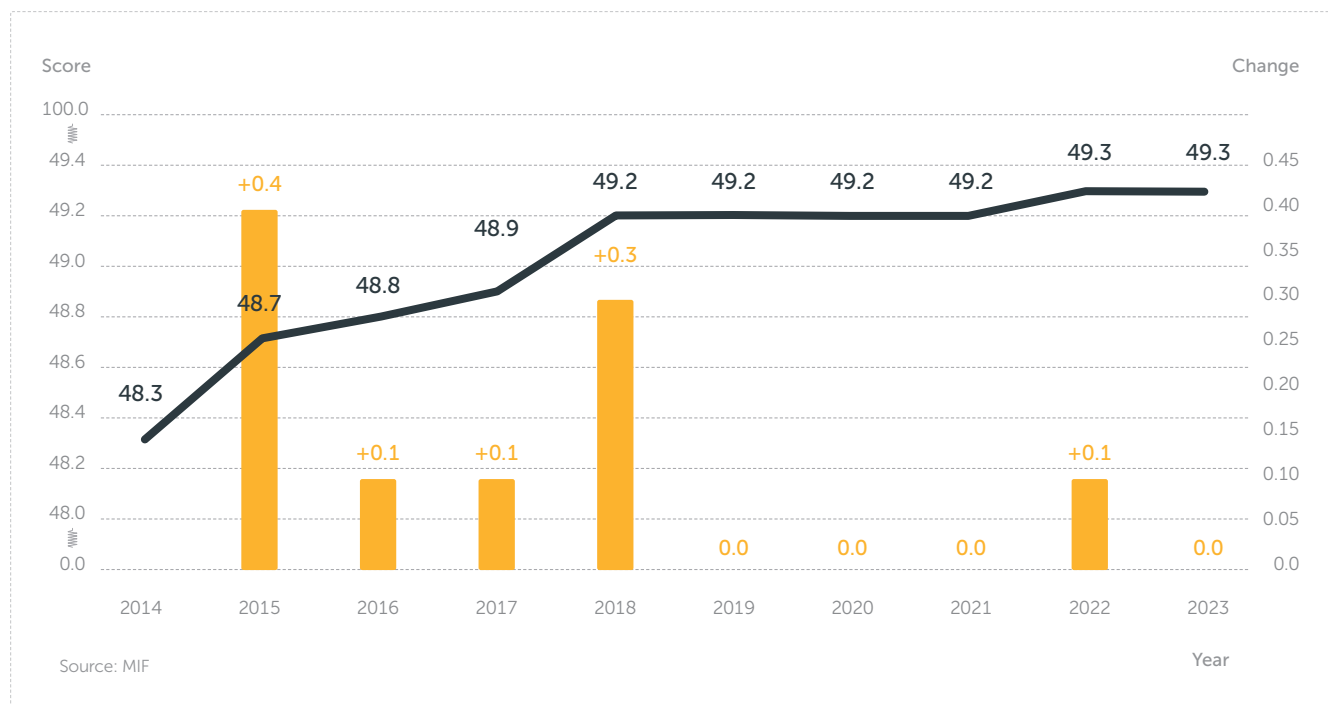
Key findings

At the continental average level, *Overall Governance* progress between 2014 and 2023 has been at a standstill since 2022

1. Progress for just over half (52.1%) of Africa's population, deterioration for the remaining half

Progress at the continental average level has been limited to +1.0 point, registering almost no change since 2018, and coming to a complete stop in 2022. 33 countries, hosting just over half (52.1%) of the continent's population, have made progress in *Overall Governance* over the decade. But for the remaining 21 countries, hosting 47.9% of the population, the overall governance level is worse in 2023 than in 2014.

Africa: *Overall Governance* scores & yearly change (2014-2023)



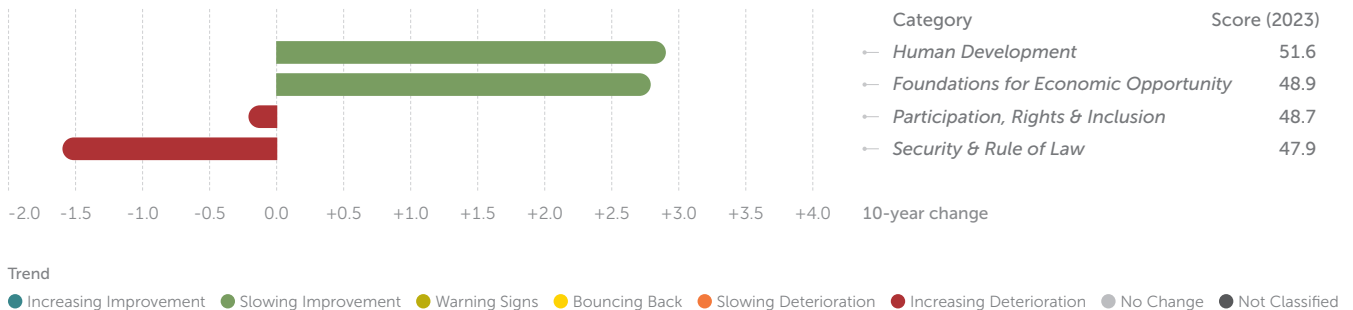
2. Ongoing deterioration in *Security & Rule of Law* continues to undermine progress that is still registered in *Human Development* and *Foundations for Economic Opportunity*

This concerning overall trend is driven by the ongoing deterioration of *Security & Rule of Law*, which has been the most deteriorated category since 2014 (-1.6 points), as well as, to a lesser extent, by the irregular trajectory of *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*, ending with a loss of -0.2 points between 2014 and 2023. For both categories, the pace of deterioration has even worsened in the latest five years.

- Deterioration is worst in the *Security & Safety* and *Participation* sub-categories, with a substantial loss of -5.0 and -4.5 points respectively, while *Rights* (-2.8) and *Accountability & Transparency* (-1.4) also decline, but to a lesser extent.

Africa: category scores, 10-year changes and trends (2014-2023)

Source: MIF



Meanwhile, *Human Development* (+2.9) and *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* (+2.8) improved over the decade under review, but progress has ultimately slowed from 2019.

- This slowing improvement trend applies to all underlying sub-categories of these two categories since 2019, with the exception of *Health*, which still has managed to accelerate progress, and *Social Protection & Welfare*, which has remained constant.

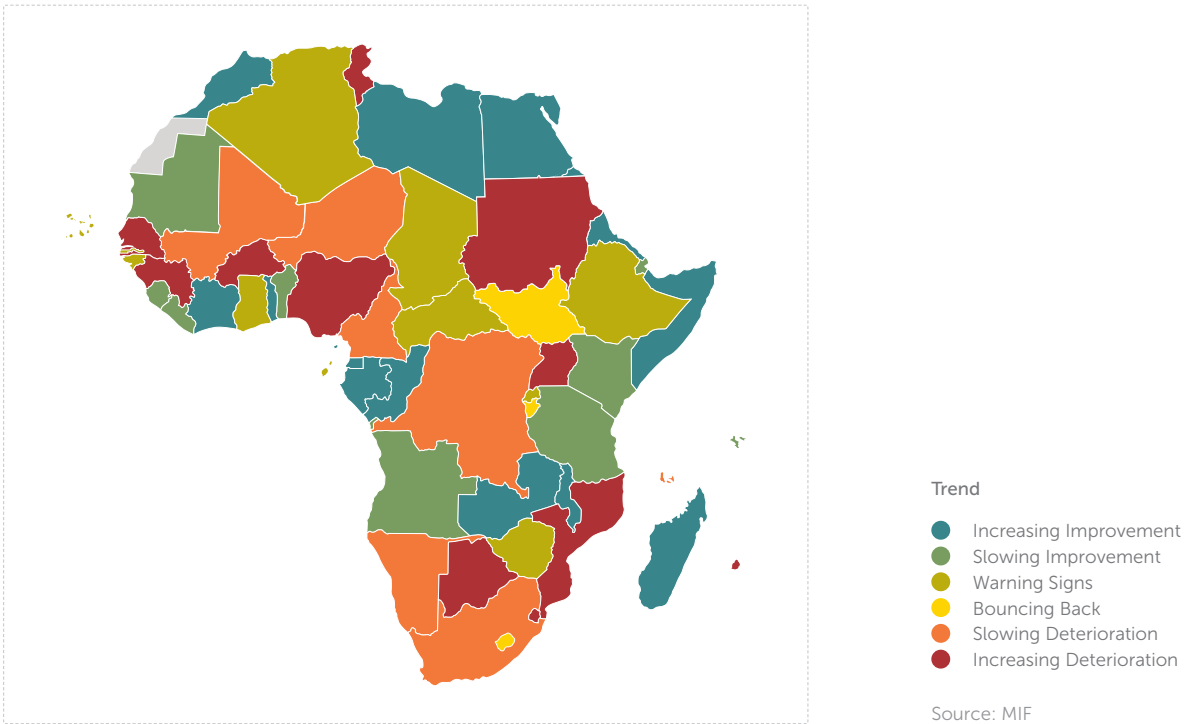
Reshuffles and unexpected moves at country level for *Overall Governance*

1. 13 countries on a course of accelerating progress, 11 countries on a course of worsening deterioration

For 13 countries – Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Somalia, Togo, Zambia – hosting over 1/5th (20.5%) of the continent's population, there has been progress over the decade and the pace of this has even accelerated since 2019.

Meanwhile, for 11 countries – Botswana, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Guinea, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda – home to almost 1/3 (29.3%) of the population, there has been deterioration since 2014 and the pace of this is even worsening over the second part of the decade.

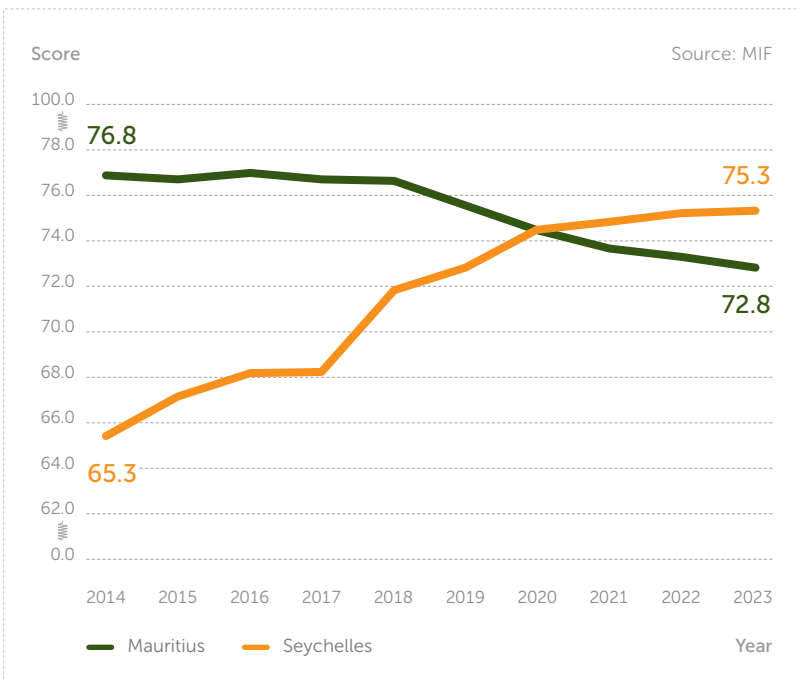
Africa: Overall Governance trends (2023)



2. A reshuffle at the top of the ranking table

Seychelles has displaced Mauritius from 2020 taking over the 1st rank. Seychelles is both the best performing and most improved country on the continent, gaining an impressive +10.0 points following progress over the decade, starting from 7th rank in 2014. Meanwhile, Mauritius is on an opposite course of worsening deterioration over the decade, losing -4.0 points.

Seychelles & Mauritius: Overall Governance scores (2014-2023)



3. Largest deteriorations spread across the continental scale

Along with Mauritius (-4.0/2nd), three top-ten ranking countries also feature among the top-ten largest deteriorations at continental level, falling by about -5 points: Tunisia (-4.7/9th), Botswana (-3.6/5th) and Namibia (-3.3/6th).

Comoros, the continent's most declined country over the decade, has dropped 12 ranks. DR Congo, the 4th most populated country, ranks 48th and has followed a path of worsening deterioration since 2014.

10 most deteriorated countries

	10-year change	Rank
Comoros	-4.7	40
Tunisia	-4.7	9
Mali	-4.6	37
Mauritius	-4.0	2
Burkina Faso	-3.9	24
Botswana	-3.6	5
Namibia	-3.3	6
DR Congo	-2.5	48
Niger	-2.5	30
Eswatini	-2.2	35

Source: MIF

4. Largest improvements also spread across the continental scale

Six countries, ranking across the continental scale from 1st to 53rd, record the most notable improvements of over 5 points: Seychelles (+10.0/1st), Gambia (+7.2/20th), Somalia (+6.8/53rd), Sierra Leone (+6.4/23rd), Angola (+5.8/36th) and Morocco (+5.3/8th).

Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania and Djibouti also register notable progress, with increases of around four points.

10 most improved countries

	10-year change	Rank
Seychelles	+10.0	1
Gambia	+7.2	20
Somalia	+6.8	53
Sierra Leone	+6.4	23
Angola	+5.8	36
Morocco	+5.3	8
Togo	+4.2	22
Côte d'Ivoire	+4.1	16
Mauritania	+4.1	41
Djibouti	+3.9	38

Source: MIF

5. 11 countries registering warning signs and three bouncing back

11 countries showing warning signs rank from 3rd to 49th: Cabo Verde (+0.4/3rd), Ghana (+1.2/7th), São Tomé and Príncipe (+0.7/12th), Rwanda (+0.8/14th), Algeria (+0.8/18th), Gambia (+7.2/20th), Ethiopia (+2.5/29th), Zimbabwe (+1.6/31st), Guinea-Bissau (+1.0/44th), Chad (+1.8/47th) and Central African Republic (+3.0/49th).

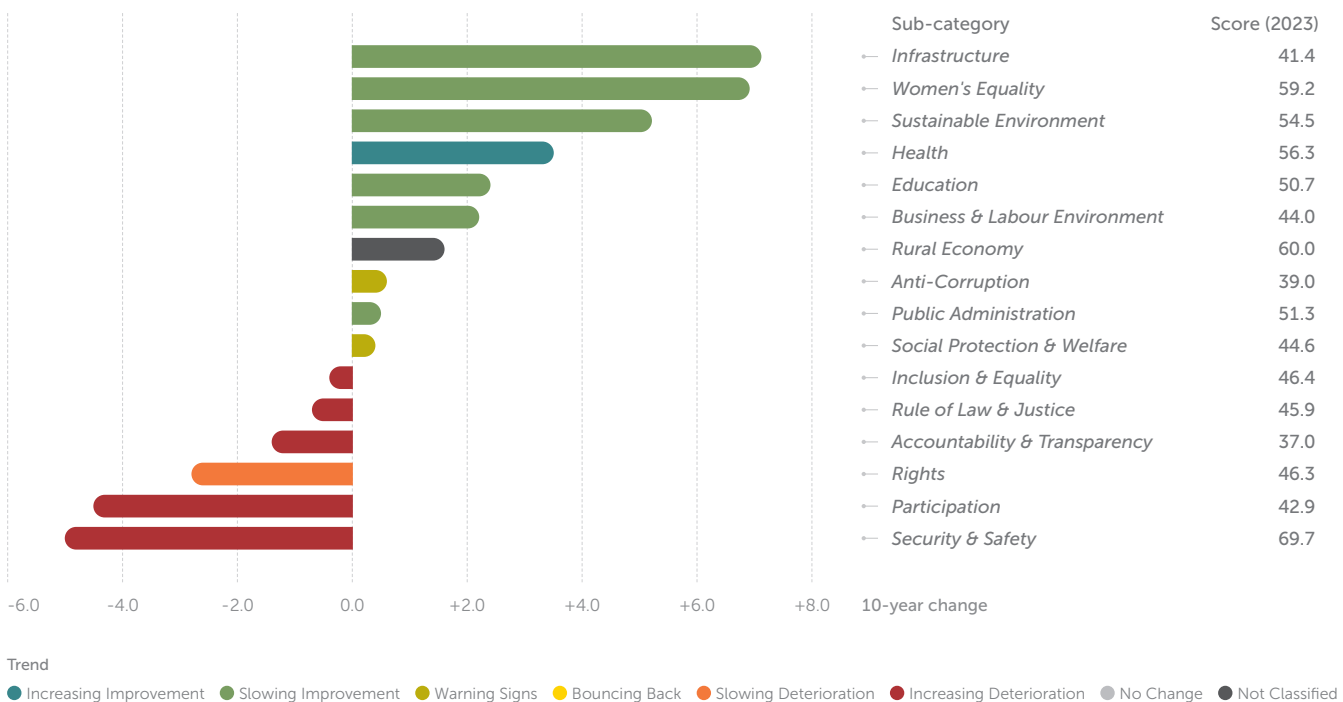
Only three countries are on bouncing back trajectories ranking from 21st to 54th: Lesotho (-1.9/21st), Burundi (-0.3/43rd) and South Sudan (-0.8/54th).

Highly diverging trajectories among governance dimensions

The continent continues to register progress in the economic- and human development-related sub-categories, but further progress is stunted by the deterioration of key governance-related sub-categories such as *Participation*, *Rights*, *Rule of Law & Justice* and *Security & Safety*.

Africa: sub-category scores, 10-year changes and trends (2014-2023)

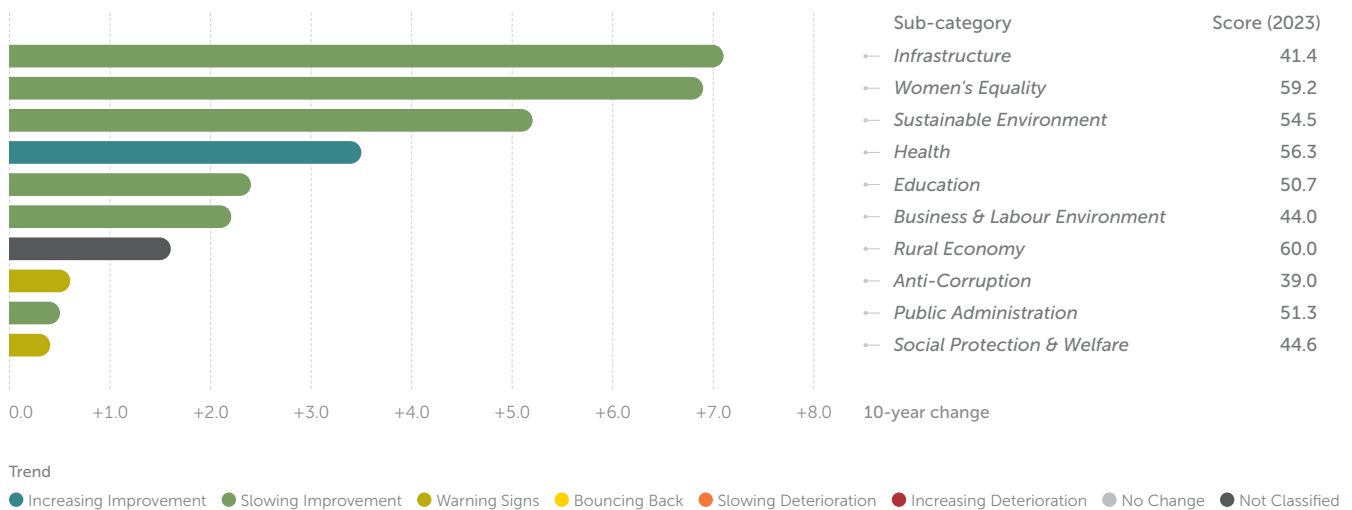
Source: MIF



1. In Infrastructure, Women's Equality and Health, more than 90% of Africa's citizens experienced improvement over the decade 2014-2023 – in these areas, a majority of countries even accelerated progress from 2019

Africa: selected sub-category scores, 10-year changes and trends (2014-2023)

Source: MIF



Infrastructure (+7.1 points at continental level)

- For almost the entire continent's population (95.7%), living in 52 countries, *Infrastructure* has improved over the decade – with over 1/3 (36.1%) living in 24 countries where it has progressed at an accelerating pace since 2019.
- The positive trend here is mainly driven by substantial progress in *Mobile Communications* (+19.8), *Internet & Computers* (+16.2) and *Access to Energy* (+7.2).
- Meanwhile, *Shipping & Postal Network* (-4.0) has declined.

Women's Equality (+6.9 points at continental level)

- For 94.8% of Africa's population, living in 47 countries, *Women's Equality* has improved since 2014 – with 60% living in 23 countries where it has even increasingly improved since 2019.
- The positive trend here is mainly driven by substantial progress in *Laws on Violence against Women* (+16.7), *Public Perception of Female Leadership* (+14.5) and *Political Power and Representation of Women* (+6.5).

Health (+3.5 points at continental level)

- For almost 90% (89.1%) of Africa's population, living in 47 countries, *Health* has improved since 2014 – with over 1/3 (36.2%) living in 28 countries where it has even increasingly improved since 2019.
- The positive trend here is mainly driven by substantial progress in *Child & Maternal Health* (+7.9), *Control of Communicable Diseases* (+6.6) and *Access to Water & Sanitation* (+5.3).
- However, despite this almost general progress, *Public Perception of Health Provision* has registered a sharp deterioration (-6.9).

Education (+2.4 points at continental level)

- For 64.1% of Africa's population, living in 40 countries, *Education* has improved since 2014 – with 23% of Africa's population living in 17 countries where the pace of improvement has even accelerated since 2019.
- The positive trend here is mainly driven by progress in *Education Completion* (+6.1).

2. In Sustainable Environment and Business & Labour Environment, a large majority of Africa's citizens experienced progress over the decade, even though the pace of improvement has been slowing since 2019

Sustainable Environment (+5.2 points at continental level)

- 90.3% of Africa's population live in 45 countries where *Sustainable Environment* has improved in the ten-year period – even if for 54.7% of the population, living in 25 countries, the pace of progress has been slowing since 2019.
- This is driven by strong progress in all underlying indicators but mostly in *Air Quality* (+11.9).

Business & Labour Environment (+2.2 points at continental level)

- 71.1% of Africa's population live in 38 countries where *Business & Labour Environment* has progressed throughout the decade – even if for 1/5th of the continent's population, living in 14 countries, the pace of progress has been slowing since 2019.
- This is mainly driven by substantial progress in *Access to Banking Services* (+6.7) and *Regional Integration* (+4.4).
- However, *Public Perception of Economic Opportunities* deteriorates strongly over the period (-12.4).

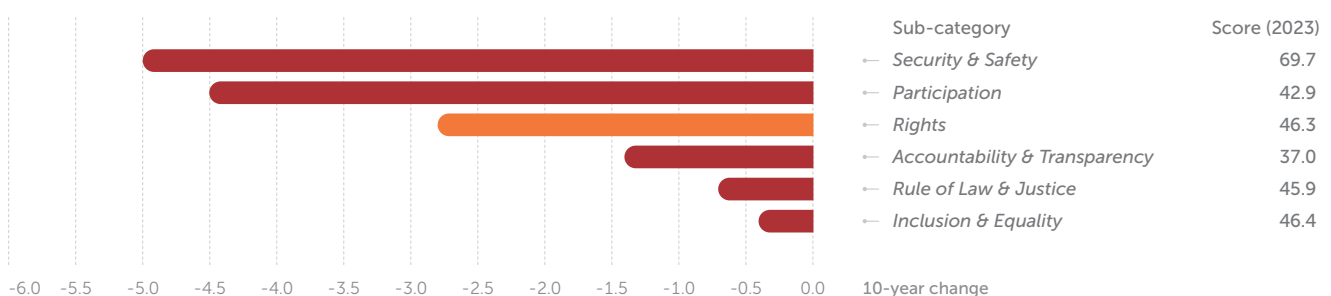
Public Administration (+0.5 points at continental level)

- 43.8% of the continent's population live in 28 countries where *Public Administration* has improved – even if for 1/5th of Africa's population, living in 12 countries, the pace of progress has been slowing since 2019.
- This is mainly driven by substantial progress in *Capacity of the Statistical System* (+7.9) and *Effective Administration* (+5.0).
- However, *Budgetary & Financial Management* (-6.4) and *Public Perception of Easiness to Obtain an Identity Document* (-5.2) have registered concerning declines.

3. Since 2014, around 80% of Africa's population have experienced concerning deteriorations in Security & Safety, Participation and Rights – for most of these areas, the pace of decline has even accelerated since 2019

Africa: selected sub-category scores, 10-year changes and trends (2014-2023)

Source: MIF



Trend

● Increasing Improvement ● Slowing Improvement ● Warning Signs ● Bouncing Back ● Slowing Deterioration ● Increasing Deterioration ● No Change ● Not Classified

Security & Safety (-5.0 points at continental level)

- 77.9% of Africa's population live in 43 countries where *Security & Safety* declined between 2014 and 2023 – with over half (53.9%) living in 26 countries experiencing increasing deterioration over the last five years.
- This negative trend is mostly driven by a strong deterioration in *Public Perception of Security & Safety* (-10.9) and *Absence of Violence against Civilians* (-7.7).

Participation (-4.5 points at continental level)

- 77.3% of Africa's population live in 38 countries where *Participation* has deteriorated since 2014 – with 30.3% living in 20 countries experiencing an accelerated pace of deterioration over the last five years.
- This negative trend is mostly driven by a strong deterioration in *Freedom of Association & Assembly* (-8.4) and *Civil Society Space* (-6.3).
- The only positive signal is the minimal progress registered in *Deliberative & Participatory Governance* (+0.1).

Rights (-2.8 points at continental level)

- 80.3% of Africa's population live in 38 countries where *Rights* has deteriorated since 2014 – with almost 50% living in 16 countries worsening at a faster pace since 2019.
- This concerning trend is mostly driven by *Public Perception of Freedom of Speech* (-8.0) and *Digital Freedom* (-6.0).
- However, substantial progress is registered in *Protection against Discrimination* (+7.7).

4. About 60% of Africa's population also experienced declines in Accountability & Transparency, Rule of Law & Justice and Social Protection & Welfare over the decade – in most of these sub-categories the pace of decline has even increased since 2019

Accountability & Transparency (-1.4 points at the continental level)

- 63.7% of Africa's population live in 31 countries where *Accountability & Transparency* has declined since 2014 – with 42.1% living in 17 countries deteriorating faster since 2019.
- This concerning trend is mainly driven by substantial decline in *Absence of Undue Influence* (-9.1) and *Institutional Checks & Balances* (-6.7).
- However, significant progress has been made in *Disclosure of Public Records* (+5.9) and *Accessibility of Public Records* (+5.1).

Rule of Law & Justice (-0.7 points at the continental level)

- 64.8% of the continent's population live in 33 countries that have experienced deterioration since 2014 in *Rule of Law & Justice* – with almost 40% living in 17 countries experiencing an accelerated pace of decline since 2019.
- This decline is mostly driven by deterioration in *Public Perception of the Rule of Law* (-5.0) and *Executive Compliance with the Rule of Law* (-3.1).

Social Protection & Welfare (+0.4 points at the continental level)

- 62.8% of Africa's population live in 27 countries where *Social Protection & Welfare* has deteriorated since 2014 – with 41.9% of the population living in 16 countries deteriorating at a worsening pace since 2019.
- This concerning trend is mainly driven by the strong decline in *Public Perception of Social Protection & Lived Poverty* (-9.4), as well as, though to a lesser extent, *Food Security* (-1.9).
- However, progress is registered in *Decent Housing* (+3.4), *Socioeconomic Inequality Mitigation* (+3.3) and *Social Safety Nets* (+2.7).

Inclusion & Equality (-0.4 points at the continental level)

- 47.3% of Africa's population live in 29 countries where inclusion and equality has declined since 2014 – with over 1/3 (34.3%) living in 20 countries experiencing increasing deterioration since 2019.
- This negative trend is mostly driven by decline in *Equal Political Representation* (-1.4) and *Equal Civil Liberties* (-1.3).

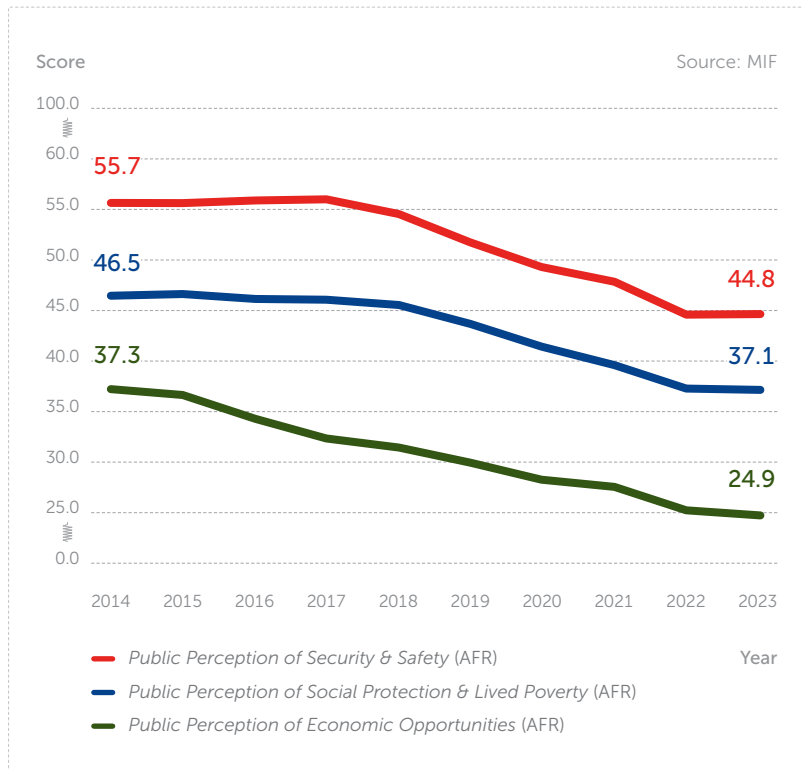
Anti-Corruption: Warning Signs

While Africa has registered minimal progress (+0.6) throughout the decade, almost half (46.9%) of the continent's population live in 28 countries where *Anti-Corruption* has deteriorated since 2014. For 14.8% of Africa's population living in 11 countries *Anti-Corruption* has deteriorated at a worsening pace since 2019. This recent decline is mostly driven by the deterioration of *Public Perception of Anti-Corruption* (-8.4) and *Public Procurement Procedures* (-0.4). The positive trend is still seen at the continental level, in *Absence of Corruption in the Private Sector* (+4.2) and *Absence of Corruption in the Public Sector* (+2.2).

Even when corresponding governance dimensions display progress, public perceptions mostly plummet

The IIAG's three most deteriorated indicators between 2014 and 2023 all relate to public perceptions: *Public Perception of Economic Opportunities* (-12.4), *Public Perception of Security & Safety* (-10.9) and *Public Perception of Social Protection & Lived Poverty* (-9.4).

Africa: selected indicators scores (2014-2023)



Relevant governance data availability remains a challenge: despite key improvements, weak data and data gaps hinder measurements

The Foundation has been at the forefront of strengthening the data landscape in Africa since its inception and continues to support some key data providers.

Reflecting improvements in data availability, the 2024 IIAG includes key new variables measuring issues such as political interference in the civil service, independent appointments to anti-corruption bodies as well as access to public services by political groups.

However, weak data hinders measurements in key sub-categories such as *Education* and *Rural Economy*. In both, more than 1/5 of variable-level data points across the 2024 IIAG time series (2014-2023) were not available at source and could not be estimated (23.7% and 21%, respectively).

Key governance data gaps remain, relating to the informal economy, health structures and capacities, child labour, illicit financial flows, prevalence of discrimination/hate crimes, disability and recycling and waste management.



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