



Governance progress in Africa grinds to a halt as security and democracy on the continent deteriorate further, threatening substantial advances in human and economic development, according to the 2024 Ibrahim Index of African Governance

Covering the decade 2014-2023, the 2024 IIAG shows that Africa's overall governance progress came to a halt in 2022, following four years of almost complete stagnation, as substantial advances in both human and economic development are undermined by the ongoing deterioration of the security and democratic landscape. However, this concerning continental average picture masks very diverse performances and trajectories across the 54 African countries and between the 16 IIAG sub-categories.

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London, 23 October – The Mo Ibrahim Foundation today released the 2024 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), the latest iteration of the biennial dataset assessing governance performance and trends in the 54 African countries over the decade 2014-2023. Collected from 49 independent sources, with some data commissioned by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the IIAG is based on 322 variables clustered in 96 indicators, organised under 16 sub-categories and four main categories: *Security & Rule of Law*; *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*; *Foundations for Economic Opportunity*; and *Human Development*.

The 2024 IIAG shows that after four years of almost complete stagnation, Africa's *Overall Governance* progress ground to a halt in 2022 as rising conflict and insecurity, as well as a shrinking democratic space across the continent, undermine critical progress achieved in human and economic development. Over the decade 2014-2023, there is progress for just over half (52.1%) of Africa's population, living in 33 out of 54 countries, but for the remaining half, the level of overall governance reached in 2023 is worse than in 2014.

However, this concerning picture at the continental average level masks very dynamic and diverse performances and trajectories across the 54 African countries and between the 16 IIAG sub-categories.

At country level, 13 countries – including Egypt, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Somalia – manage to follow a successful course of overall governance progress over the decade, even accelerating improvement since 2019. The latter four also rank in the top 10 most improved countries between 2014 and 2023, along with Seychelles, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Angola, Mauritania and Djibouti. Seychelles, having made striking progress over the decade (+10.0 points), overtakes Mauritius and is the top-ranking country in 2023.

Following an opposite course, 11 countries are on a concerning decade-long trend of deterioration that even worsens since 2019. Some of them, such as Sudan, grapple with ongoing crises. However, decade-long deteriorations are also seen in high-ranked countries. Mauritius (2nd), Botswana (5th), Namibia (6th), and Tunisia (9th), though still ranking in 2023 among the ten highest-scoring countries, also feature among the most deteriorated countries over 2014-2023, along with Comoros, Mali, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Niger and Eswatini.

The ten highest-scoring countries follow very diverging courses, with Morocco being the only country managing to accelerate improvement over the decade, while Mauritius, Botswana and Tunisia are on a concerning trend of worsening deterioration.

The 2024 IIAG also highlights significant divergences at the sub-category level. Progress remains substantial in the majority of economic and human development-related sub-categories. *Infrastructure* is the most improved sub-category across the decade, underpinned by impressive advancements in access to mobile

communications, internet and computers, and to energy – closely followed by remarkable progress in *Women's Equality*. In these two areas, around 95% of Africa's citizens live in a country where the level achieved in 2023 is far better than in 2014.

Concurrently, however, all security and democracy related sub-categories deteriorate over the decade, with declines being the worst in both the *Security & Safety* and *Participation* sub-categories. Over 77% of Africa's citizens live in a country where the level reached in 2023 in these two areas is worse than in 2014.

Despite the progress observed in key areas, public perceptions signal growing frustration among Africa's citizens. With the exception of *Public Perception of Female Leadership*, all public perception indicators showcase some degree of deterioration, even when the corresponding governance dimensions display progress. This is particularly notable in *Public Perception of Economic Opportunities* (-12.4) – the most deteriorated indicator out of the total 96 IIAG indicators.

Reflecting on the findings of the 2024 IIAG, **Mo Ibrahim, the Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation**, said:

"The 2024 IIAG is a sobering reminder of the threat that a deepening security crisis and shrinking participatory environment poses to the continent's progress. Of course, it also reflects the global crisis. Escalating conflicts and deepening mistrust in democratic institutions and values are not specific to Africa; we see it right around the world. But it is specifically concerning in Africa because it threatens our progress in economic and social development, as well as the advancements which we are yet to achieve.

But let us not summarise too quickly Africa's governance landscape under a single average. Ours is a huge continent of 54 countries, with highly diverging trends, some with strikingly successful trajectories, others with concerning warning signs. Indeed, deteriorations in Sudan, in Sahelian countries as well as in the DRC, Tunisia and Mauritius are concerning. However, the remarkable progress registered by countries such as Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Seychelles, Angola and Benin, and in some key areas, such as Infrastructure and Women's Equality, should offer hope of what can be achieved."

The full 2024 IIAG dataset is available to access for free on the IIAG data portal at iiag.online.

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About the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Established in 2006, MIF is dedicated to strengthening the African voice on global challenges. The Foundation provides data and analysis to assess continental challenges, convenes stakeholders for discussions, and supports initiatives to enhance leadership and governance in Africa.

The Foundation, which is a non-grant making organisation, focusses on defining, assessing and enhancing governance and leadership in Africa through various key initiatives:

- Ibrahim Index of African Governance
- Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership
- Ibrahim Governance Weekend
- Ibrahim Fellowships and Scholarships
- Now Generation Network

About the IIAG

- Published since 2007, the IIAG assesses the public governance performance of 54 African countries every two years over the last available decade. IIAG provides a framework and dashboard for anyone interested to assess the availability of public goods and services as well as the results of public policies for each of the countries of the continent.
- IIAG data comes from 49 independent sources, some of which are financially supported by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.
- The IIAG 2024 is based on 322 variables, clustered into 96 governance indicators, which are organised into 16 subcategories and four main categories: *Security & Rule of Law; Participation, Rights & Inclusion; Foundation of Economic Opportunities; Human Development*
- The IIAG constitutes the most comprehensive dataset measuring African governance, providing specific scores and trends at the continental, regional and national levels, on a whole spectrum of governance themes, from security and justice to rights and economic opportunities and health.
- The available data remain insufficient despite the progress made. In 2024, significant gaps remain, particularly in the rural economy, health structures, youth employment and economic inequalities.