

2026 IIAG: Key Findings - *Overall Governance*

2026 Ibrahim Index of African Governance

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Key Findings - *Overall Governance*

Beyond *Overall Governance*: explore the full breadth of the IIAG

The findings presented here focus on *Overall Governance* results, covering country scores, changes over the decade and trend trajectories. This provides just a starting point for exploring the wealth of insights offered by the full 2026 IIAG dataset.

With 16 sub-categories, 96 constituent indicators and coverage of 54 African countries, five regions and eight Regional Economic Communities over ten years, the IIAG provides a comprehensive picture of governance across the continent, revealing patterns, progress and challenges that extend well beyond aggregate scores.

The comprehensive 2026 Index Report delves deeper into each of the 16 sub-categories, covering governance dimensions ranging from security and rights to business environment and social protection.

Readers are encouraged to look beyond these headline findings and explore the full report to uncover the trends, country-specific developments and thematic insights most relevant to their interests.

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MO IBRAHIM FOUNDATION

Contents

The 2026 IIAG framework	6
About the IIAG	8
Reading the results	9
IIAG trends by countries	10
Data insights: <i>Overall Governance</i>	12
<i>Overall Governance</i> in Africa ends up slightly better in 2025 than in 2016, despite faltering over the mid-point of the decade	14
Spotlight: Strong alignment between <i>Overall Governance</i> and SDG performance across Africa, five years ahead of the SDG's deadline	15
Increasing improvement is the most widespread trend over the decade, both by number of countries and continent's population share	16
At country level, substantial improvement is taking place at different levels of <i>Overall Governance</i>	17
Average gains are larger than average losses among the biggest movers over the decade	18
Important reshuffles within both the ten top- and bottom-ranked countries	18
<i>Overall Governance</i> progress is driven by gains in economic opportunity and human development, outweighing deterioration in security, rights and participation	20
In many countries, economic opportunity and human development improve despite declining security and participation	21
<i>Foundations for Economic Opportunity</i> improves across contrasting security and rule of law trajectories	22
At sub-category level, <i>Infrastructure</i> leads improvements while <i>Participation</i> declines the most	23
Infrastructure indicators lead progress while participation, rights and accountability measures give cause for concern	24



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 Opportunities
- 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
- 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 (NCDs)
- 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
- 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 2026 IIAG covers the 2016-2025 decade. The data for the 2026 IIAG comes from 51 data sources, from which 319 variables, clustered into 96 indicators, are collected. In total there are more than 265,000 data points in the 2026 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 2026 IIAG indicators (90 out of 96) are clustered indicators, which are composed of more than one variable collected from one source or several 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 IIAG 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).

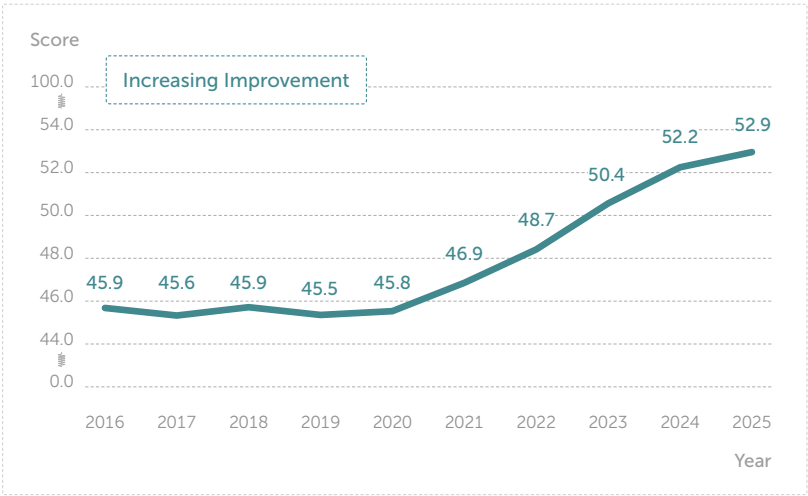
Changes and trends

Ten-year changes quantify the difference in absolute score between the last and the first data years of the decade under review. The 2026 IIAG ten-year changes compare the country's performance reached in 2025 to the one reached in 2016.

Trends are a fourth layer of analysis, complementing scores, ranks and ten-year changes. The IIAG trends serve to assess the trajectory over the decade, by comparing the average rate of change over the latest five years (2021-2025) to that of the full decade series (2016-2025). 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 2025 compared to 2016, with the rate of improvement increasing since 2021.
Slowing Improvement	Score is better in 2025 compared to 2016, but the rate of improvement is slowing since 2021.
Warning Signs	Score is better/no change in 2025 compared to 2016, but showing decline since 2021.
Bouncing Back	Score is worse/no change in 2025 compared to 2016, but showing progress since 2021.
Slowing Deterioration	Score is worse in 2025 compared to 2016, but the rate of deterioration is slowing since 2021.
Increasing Deterioration	Score is worse in 2025 compared to 2016, with the rate of deterioration increasing since 2021.
No Change	Score has not changed at all over the decade 2016-2025.
Not Classified	Data is missing so trend cannot be assessed.

Country A: Overall Governance score (2016-2025)

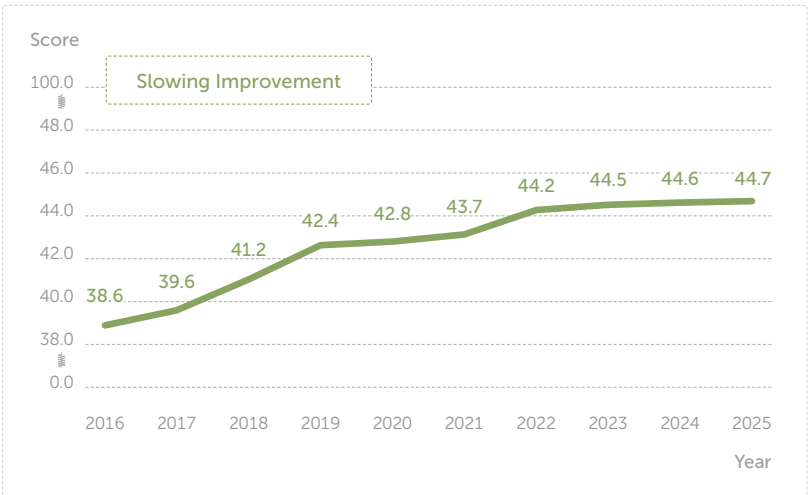


18 26.1% of population

Algeria, Benin, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Score is better in 2025 compared to 2016, with the rate of improvement increasing since 2021.

Country B: Overall Governance score (2016-2025)

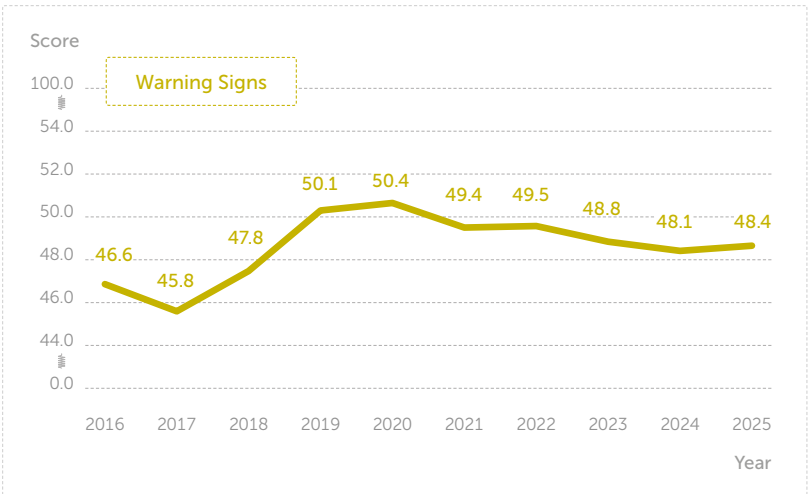


9 10.0% of population

Angola, Burundi, Chad, Gambia, Morocco, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo

Score is better in 2025 compared to 2016, but the rate of improvement is slowing since 2021.

Country C: Overall Governance score (2016-2025)

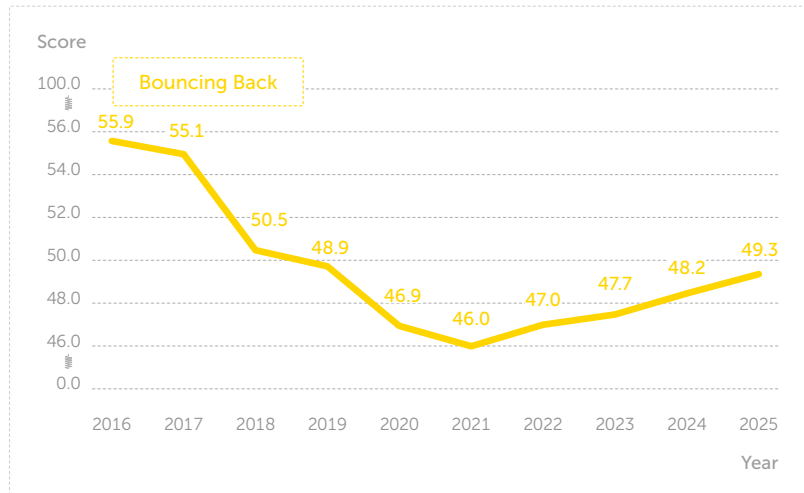


3 13.5% of population

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Tanzania

Score is better/no change in 2025 compared to 2016, but showing decline since 2021.

Country D: Overall Governance score (2016-2025)



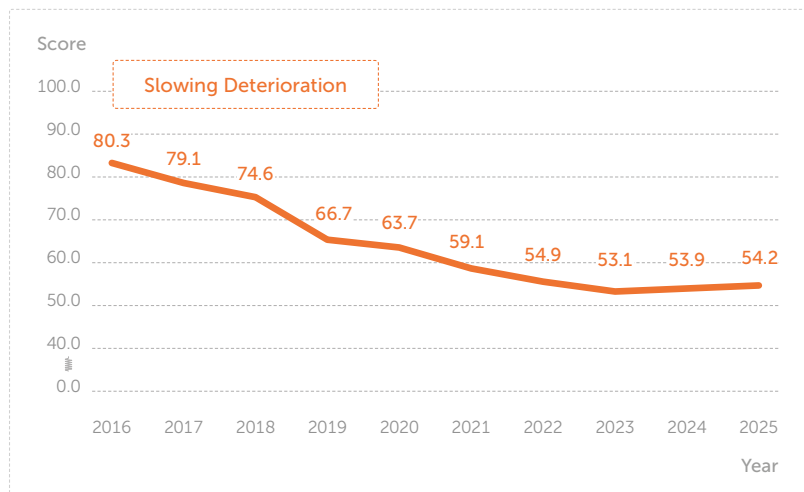
11

17.5% of population

Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, DR Congo, Eswatini, Ghana, Libya, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Uganda

Score is worse/no change in 2025 compared to 2016, but showing progress since 2021.

Country E: Overall Governance score (2016-2025)



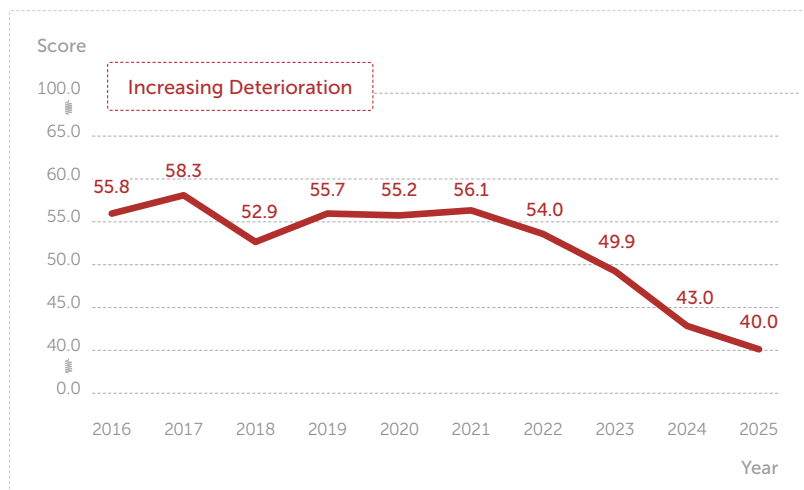
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15.3% of population

Nigeria

Score is worse in 2025 compared to 2016, but the rate of deterioration is slowing since 2021.

Country F: Overall Governance score (2016-2025)



12

17.6% of population

Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia

Score is worse in 2025 compared to 2016, with the rate of deterioration increasing since 2021.



Overall Governance

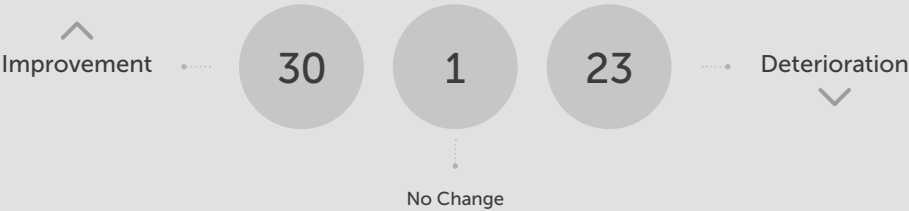
African average

Source: MIF

2025 score (out of 100.0)	50.1
10-year change (2016-2025)	+0.8
5-year change (2021-2025)	+0.5
Trend: 5-year change (2021-2025) compared to 10-year change	Increasing Improvement

African countries

10-year change (2016-2025) by number of countries



Trend: 5-year change (2021-2025) compared to 10-year change by number of countries

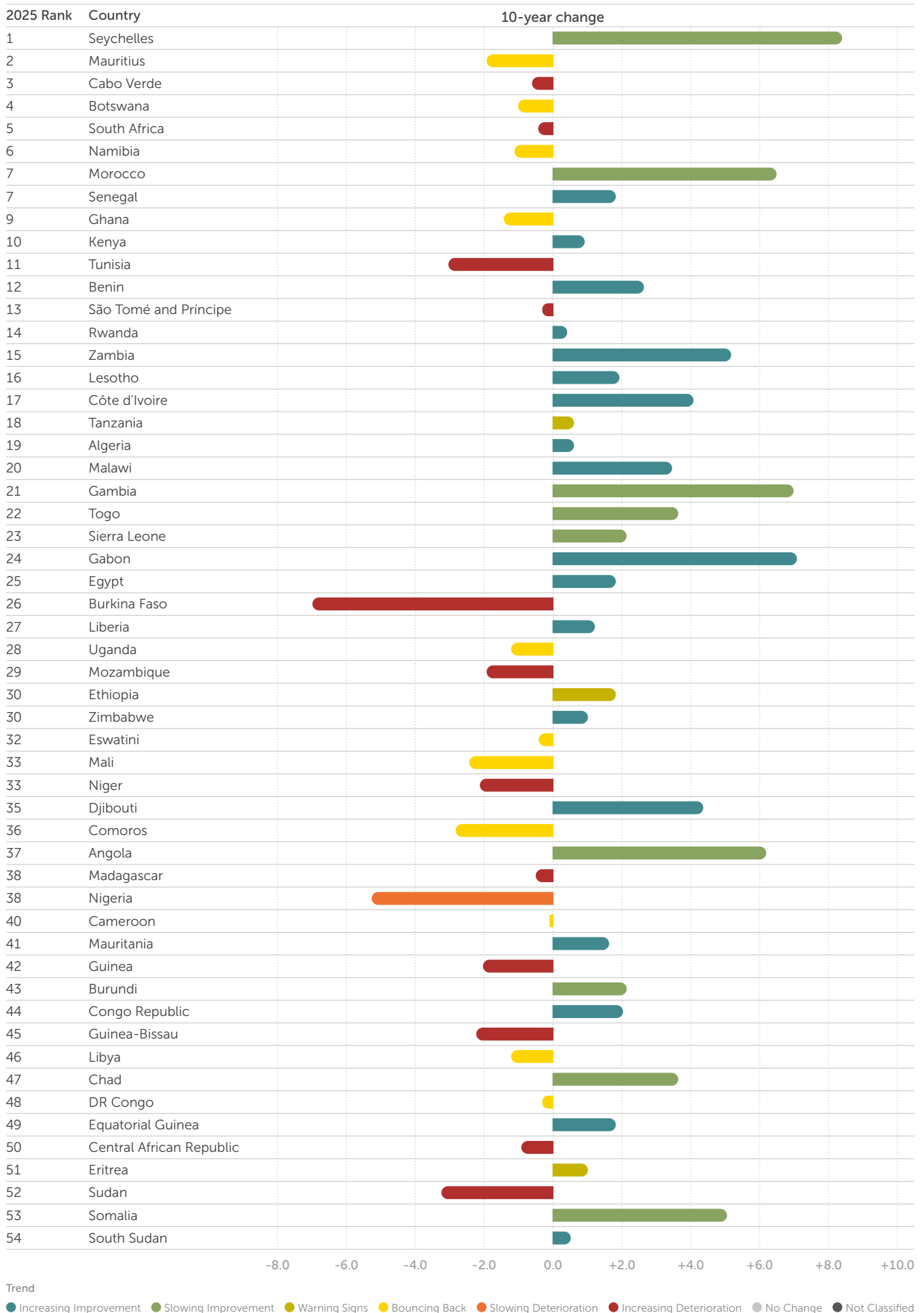


Largest Improvement	Seychelles
Change 2016-2025	+8.3
Score/Rank (2025)	78.6/1st
Largest Deterioration	Burkina Faso
Change 2016-2025	-6.9
Score/Rank (2025)	50.7/26th

Underlying categories	Score (2025)	10-year change (2016-2025)	
Security & Rule of Law	47.8	-1.7	
Participation, Rights & Inclusion	48.5	-1.0	
Foundations for Economic Opportunity	51.1	+3.7	
Human Development	53.2	+2.5	

Overall Governance: 2025 rank, 10-year change & trend (2016-2025)

Source: MIF

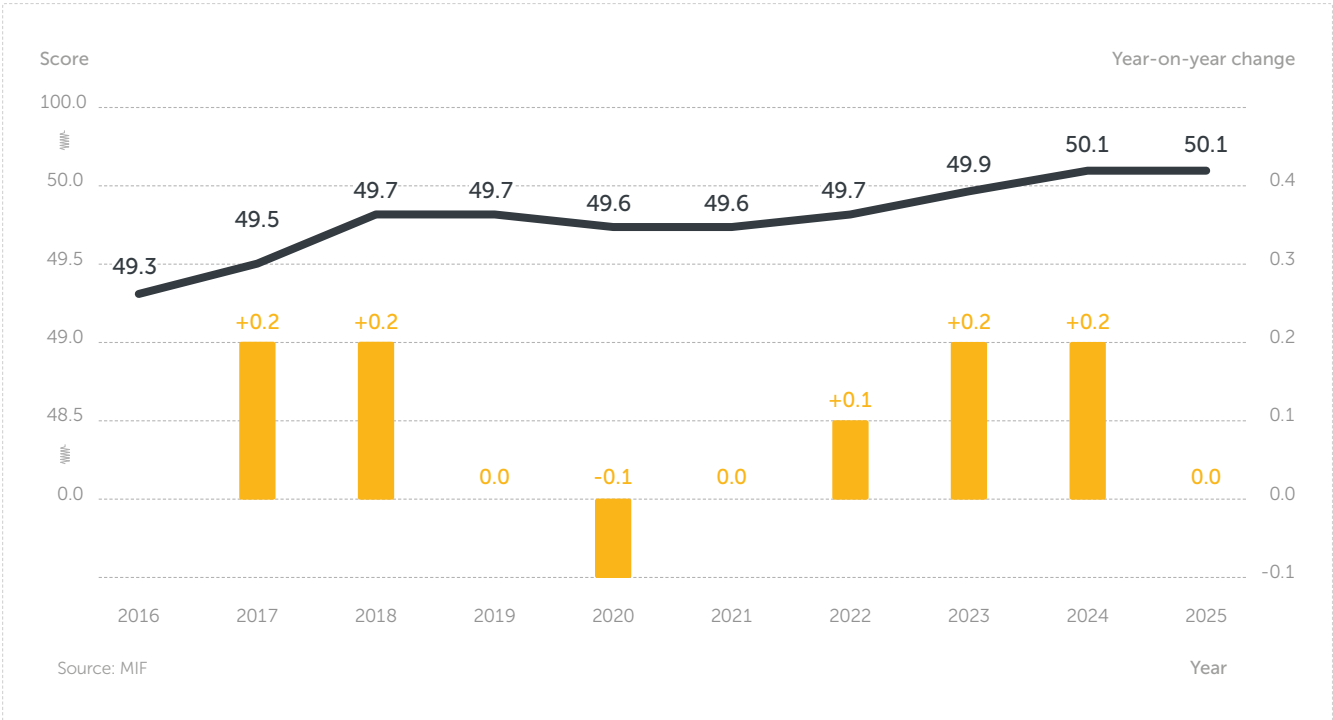


Overall Governance in Africa ends up slightly better in 2025 than in 2016, despite faltering over the mid-point of the decade

Over the decade under review (2016-2025), Africa's *Overall Governance* score has slightly edged up by +0.8 points, moving from 49.3 to 50.1 via a bumpy road. Year-on-year gains were achieved until 2018 and then again from 2022. The period in between (2019-2021) was marked by stagnation or even slight decline, broadly corresponding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

30 countries, hosting 49.6% of the continent's population, have improved in *Overall Governance* since 2016

Africa: *Overall Governance* score & year-on-year change (2016-2025)



A total of 30 countries, home to almost half (49.6%) of the continent's population, record a higher *Overall Governance* score in 2025 than in 2016. Twenty-three have deteriorated and one remains unchanged. With some of Africa's most populous countries – Nigeria, DR Congo and South Africa – recording deterioration, just over half of Africa's citizens live in a country where *Overall Governance* has declined.

Overall Governance has deteriorated in some of the continent's most populous countries: Nigeria, DR Congo, South Africa

Strong alignment between *Overall Governance* and SDG performance across Africa, five years ahead of the SDG's deadline

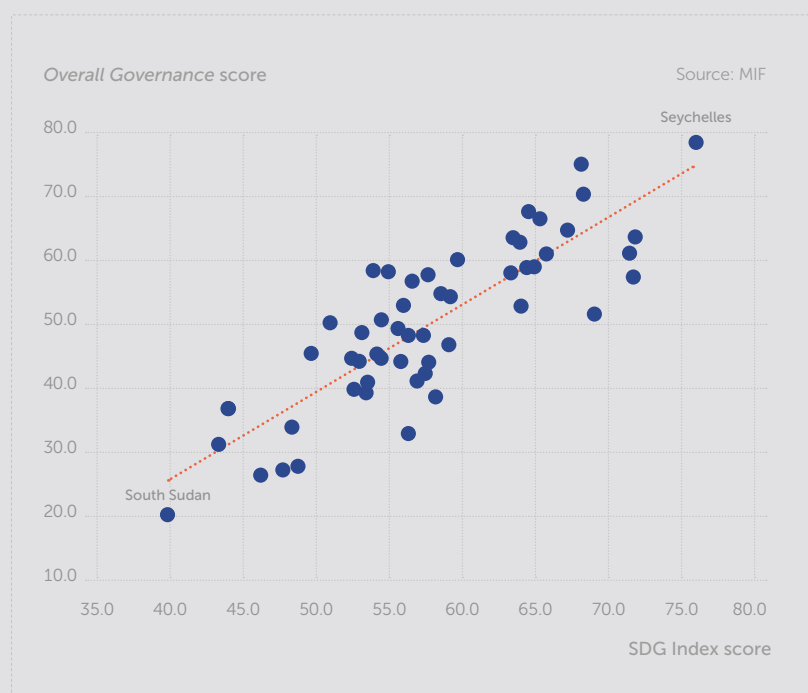
Based on the IIAG's definition of governance as 'the provision of political, social, economic and environmental goods that a citizen has the right to expect from their state, and that a state has the responsibility to deliver to its citizens', there is substantial conceptual overlap between the IIAG and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Many of the outcomes captured by the IIAG are also relevant to countries' progress towards the SDGs. Both the IIAG's *Overall Governance* and the SDG Index identify Seychelles and South Sudan as the highest- and lowest-performing countries in 2025, and most countries occupy similar positions across the two.

Twenty-two (about 18%) of the SDG Index's 123 underlying variables are common to both frameworks and contained in the IIAG. While both indices remain distinct in scope and methodology, both assess related dimensions of governance and public service delivery: the SDG Index prioritises measures related to human development and inequality, while the IIAG complements that with an emphasis on security, rule of law, civil rights and participation.

Overall Governance and the SDG Index show similar country patterns

African countries: *Overall Governance* & SDG Index scores (2025)



SDG implementation level is strongly correlated with *Overall Governance* performance

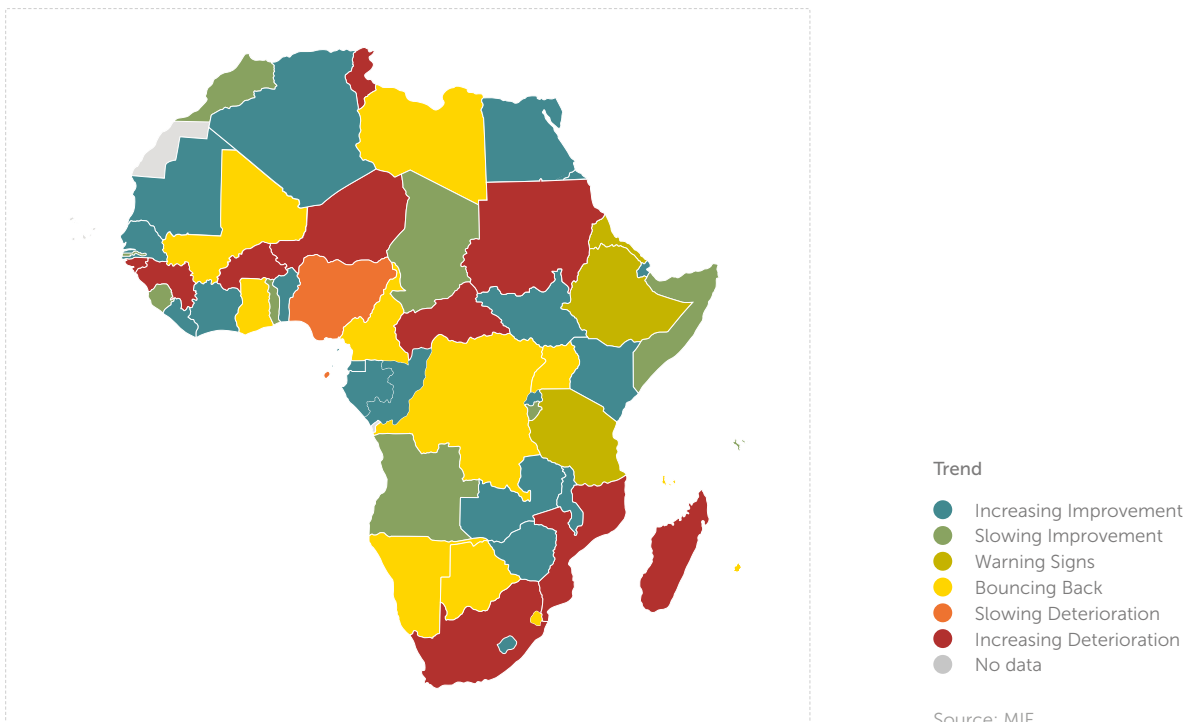
Increasing improvement is the most widespread trend over the decade, both by number of countries and continent's population share

The slightly positive average *Overall Governance* trend masks varied movement beneath the surface. The continent's 54 countries have progressed and deteriorated at very different speeds, while developments across individual dimensions of governance have often moved in contrasting directions. In some cases, gains in one area have offset deterioration in another; elsewhere, recent trends mark a clear acceleration, slowdown or reversal of the longer-term trajectory.

Directions and magnitudes of travel remain mixed across Africa. Among the 30 countries (hosting 49.6% of the continent's population) that improved their *Overall Governance* between 2016 and 2025, 18 have done so at an accelerated rate, making *Increasing Improvement* the most common trend. Conversely, 12 countries have declined at an accelerated rate, classifying them as *Increasing Deterioration*.

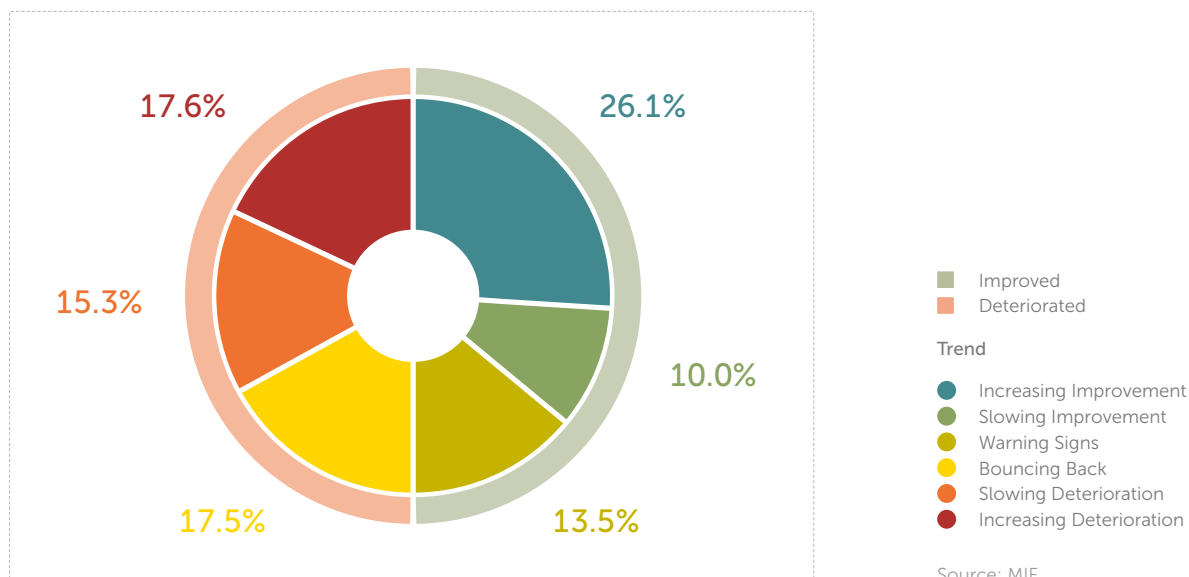
1/3 of African countries hosting over 1/4 of the continent's population record increasing improvement in *Overall Governance*

African countries: *Overall Governance* trend (2016-2025)



Population weighting produces a somewhat different overall picture, largely because Nigeria alone accounts for 15.3% of Africa's population and is classified as *Slowing Deterioration*. As a result, a slight majority of Africans live in countries where *Overall Governance* has deteriorated over the decade. However, this is spread across three different trends: *Increasing Deterioration* (12 countries, 17.6%), *Slowing Deterioration* (15.3%, Nigeria only) and *Bouncing Back* (11 countries, 17.5%). *Increasing Improvement* therefore remains the single most prevalent trend, both by number of countries (18) and by share of Africa's population (26.1%).

Overall Governance: share of Africa's population by trend (2016-2025)



At country level, substantial improvement is taking place at different levels of *Overall Governance*

Seychelles stands out for both performance and progress: alongside being the top performer in 2025, it records the largest improvement of all countries since 2016 (+8.3). But substantial gains have also been made by countries still in the middle or lower ranks, demonstrating that some of the strongest improvements can take place at very different starting levels of *Overall Governance*: Gabon (+7.0, 24th), Gambia (+6.9, 21st), Angola (+6.1, 37th) and Zambia (+5.1, 15th). On average, the eleven (Chad and Togo being tied) largest improvers have gained an impressive +5.5 points between 2016 and 2025.

Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Morocco and Zambia are among the 10 most improved countries over the decade

Overall Governance: 10 most improved countries by 10-year change (2025)

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025	Score 10-year change	Rank 10-year change	Trend
1	Seychelles	78.6	+8.3	+2	Slowing Improvement
24	Gabon	52.9	+7.0	+12	Increasing Improvement
21	Gambia	54.8	+6.9	+9	Slowing Improvement
7	Morocco	63.6	+6.4	+8	Slowing Improvement
37	Angola	44.7	+6.1	+8	Slowing Improvement
15	Zambia	58.4	+5.1	+6	Increasing Improvement
53	Somalia	26.6	+5.0	-	Slowing Improvement
35	Djibouti	45.0	+4.3	+7	Increasing Improvement
17	Côte d'Ivoire	58.1	+4.0	+2	Increasing Improvement
47	Chad*	36.9	+3.6	+1	Slowing Improvement
22	Togo*	54.3	+3.6	+1	Slowing Improvement

*Chad and Togo improved the same between 2016 and 2025.

Source: MIF

Average gains are larger than average losses among the biggest movers over the decade

The average decline in *Overall Governance* among the eleven most deteriorated countries (Mauritius and Mozambique being tied) is -3.1 points since 2016. This is around half the average progress recorded by the most improved countries, which gained on average +5.5 points. Concerningly, however, seven of the most deteriorated countries are declining at an accelerated pace: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia. Six of these seven countries (all except Mozambique) experienced a coup over the decade under review, driving the worsening trend.

Of the 11 most deteriorated countries over the decade, 7 underwent at least one coup

Overall Governance: 10 most deteriorated countries by 10-year change (2025)

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025	Score 10-year change	Rank 10-year change	Trend
26	Burkina Faso	50.7	-6.9	-13	Increasing Deterioration
38	Nigeria	44.2	-5.2	-11	Slowing Deterioration
52	Sudan	27.4	-3.2	-1	Increasing Deterioration
11	Tunisia	60.9	-3.0	-3	Increasing Deterioration
36	Comoros	44.9	-2.8	-5	Bouncing Back
33	Mali	45.6	-2.4	-4	Bouncing Back
45	Guinea-Bissau	39.4	-2.2	-5	Increasing Deterioration
33	Niger	45.6	-2.1	-2	Increasing Deterioration
42	Guinea	41.2	-2.0	-3	Increasing Deterioration
2	Mauritius*	75.0	-1.9	-1	Bouncing Back
29	Mozambique*	48.8	-1.9	-6	Increasing Deterioration

*Mauritius and Mozambique deteriorated the same between 2016 and 2025.

Source: MIF

Important reshuffles within both the ten top- and bottom-ranked countries

The top ten countries by *Overall Governance* score in 2025 are Seychelles, Mauritius, Cabo Verde, Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Morocco, Senegal, Ghana and Kenya. Between them, they record an average of 67.4 points, 17.3 points above the continental mean.

Yet this high final performance conceals mixed results when it comes to the trends followed over the decade. Only four of the top ten – Seychelles, Morocco, Senegal and Kenya – have continued to improve over the decade, while six – the majority – have deteriorated. For Cabo Verde and South Africa, the decline has even accelerated over the most recent five years.

Despite these contrasting trajectories, the composition of the top *Overall Governance* performers remains mostly the same, with nine of them keeping their position in the top ten. Morocco is the only newcomer to the top ten, replacing Tunisia after gaining +6.4 points and moving up eight ranks, earning it 7th place in 2025.

Though still in the top 10, South Africa (5th) follows a trend of increasing deterioration over the decade

Morocco replaces Tunisia in the top 10, gaining over 6 points over the decade

Overall Governance: top 10 countries by score (2025)

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025	Score 10-year change	Rank 10-year change	Trend
1	Seychelles	78.6	+8.3	+2	Slowing Improvement
2	Mauritius	75.0	-1.9	-1	Bouncing Back
3	Cabo Verde	70.3	-0.6	-1	Increasing Deterioration
4	Botswana	67.5	-1.0	-	Bouncing Back
5	South Africa	66.6	-0.4	-	Increasing Deterioration
6	Namibia	64.8	-1.1	-	Bouncing Back
7	Morocco	63.6	+6.4	+8	Slowing Improvement
7	Senegal	63.6	+1.8	+2	Increasing Improvement
9	Ghana	62.8	-1.4	-2	Bouncing Back
10	Kenya	61.0	+0.9	-	Increasing Improvement

Source: MIF

The ten lowest-ranked countries in 2025 reach an average *Overall Governance* score of 31.6 – 18.5 points below the continental average. Libya (46th) and Guinea-Bissau (45th) are new entrants, replacing Angola and Congo Republic. Meanwhile the two worst performers, South Sudan and Somalia, stay stuck at rank 54th and 53rd, respectively. The remaining six countries only moved one rank up or down between each other. All six trends are found between the ten lowest-ranked countries over the decade, from *Increasing Improvement* to *Increasing Deterioration*.

Congo Republic and Angola leave the bottom 10 countries, replaced by Libya and Guinea-Bissau

Overall Governance: bottom 10 countries by score (2025)

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025	Score 10-year change	Rank 10-year change	Trend
54	South Sudan	20.4	+0.5	-	Increasing Improvement
53	Somalia	26.6	+5.0	-	Slowing Improvement
52	Sudan	27.4	-3.2	-1	Increasing Deterioration
51	Eritrea	27.8	+1.0	+1	Warning Signs
50	Central African Republic	31.3	-0.9	-1	Increasing Deterioration
49	Equatorial Guinea	33.1	+1.8	+1	Increasing Improvement
48	DR Congo	34.0	-0.3	-1	Bouncing Back
47	Chad	36.9	+3.6	+1	Slowing Improvement
46	Libya	38.8	-1.2	-3	Bouncing Back
45	Guinea-Bissau	39.4	-2.2	-5	Increasing Deterioration

Source: MIF

Overall Governance progress is driven by gains in economic opportunity and human development, outweighing deterioration in security, rights and participation

Beneath the slight progress of *Overall Governance* over the decade, the four underlying dimensions have followed strongly diverging trajectories. While in 2016 it started out 1.9 points below the *Overall Governance* score, *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* recorded the strongest improvement over the decade, gaining +3.7 points, with progress accelerating particularly since 2021. It now stands one point above the *Overall Governance* performance. *Human Development* has also consistently improved over the decade, rising by +2.5 points, and remains the best-scoring category across the decade.

In contrast, while starting out relatively close to the average *Overall Governance* score in 2016, *Security & Rule of Law* as well as *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* settle below at the end of the decade. *Security & Rule of Law* started to deteriorate from 2018, ending with a loss of -1.7 points. The decline in *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* occurred from 2020 and has accelerated since 2022, losing -1.0 points over the decade.

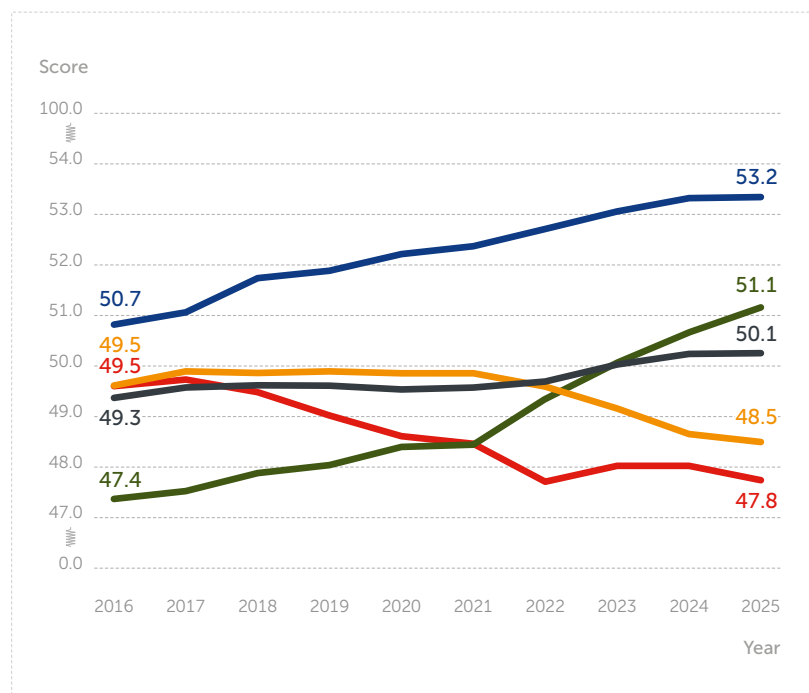
Taken together, however, the progress recorded both in economic opportunity and human development have more than offset losses in the other two dimensions, leaving Africa's 2025 *Overall Governance* score slightly higher than in 2016.

Foundations for Economic Opportunity is the most improved, becoming the second-best scoring category from 2022

The decline in *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* occurred from 2020 and has accelerated since 2022

Progress in both economic opportunity and human development have more than offset losses in security, rule of law & participation

Africa: Overall Governance & categories scores (2016-2025)



Category

- Security & Rule of Law
- Participation, Rights & Inclusion
- Foundations for Economic Opportunity
- Human Development
- Overall Governance

Source: MIF

In many countries, economic opportunity and human development improve despite declining security and participation

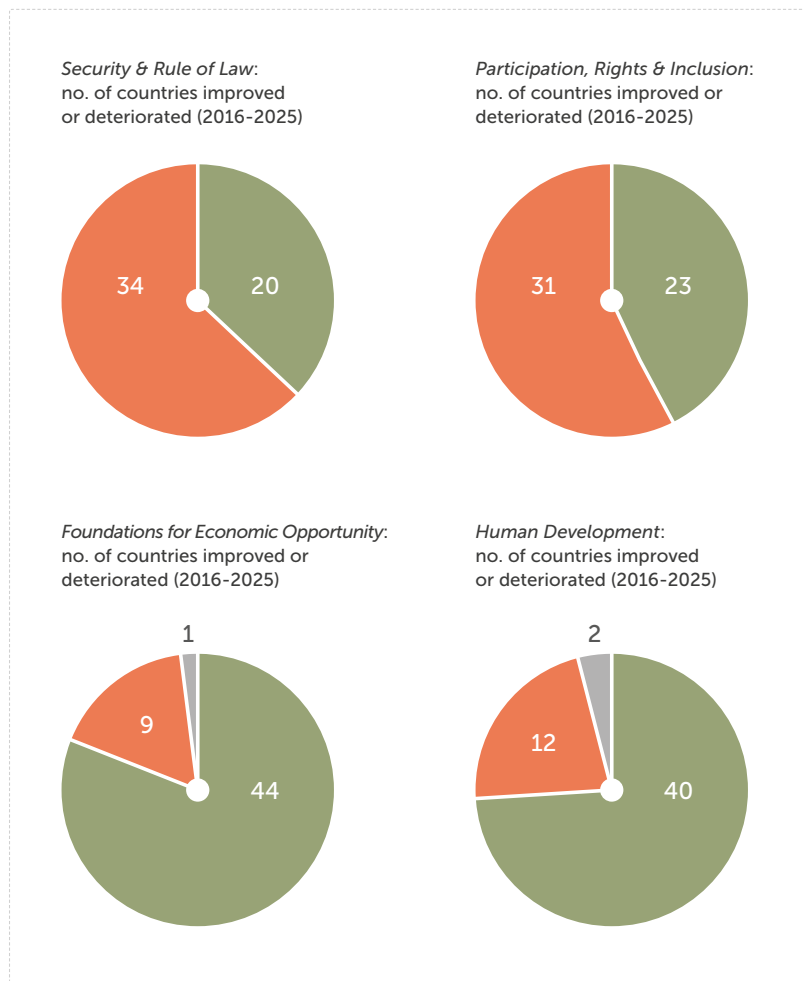
The numbers of improved and deteriorated countries by governance dimension further illustrate the split trajectories. While most countries have since 2016 deteriorated in both *Security & Rule of Law* and *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* (34 and 31 countries, respectively), even larger majorities (44 and 40 countries, respectively) have improved over the decade in both *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development*.

Thirteen countries display this divergence clearly, improving in both the economic and human development categories despite declines in security and participation: Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Tunisia, Uganda and Tanzania.

Declines in *Overall Governance* are most often driven by a deterioration in security and participation: Of the 23 countries whose *Overall Governance* declined since 2016, 22 deteriorated in *Security & Rule of Law* (except Libya); 17 also deteriorated in *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*.

In 8 of the 10 countries* that underwent a coup in the last decade, *Overall Governance* declined

IIAG categories: number of countries improved or deteriorated per category (2016-2025)



* The ten countries that underwent a coup in the last decade are: Burkina Faso (2022, 2022), Chad (2021), Gabon (2023), Guinea (2021), Guinea-Bissau (2025), Madagascar (2025), Mali (2020, 2021), Niger (2023), Sudan (2021) and Tunisia (2021).

Key

- Improved
- Deteriorated
- No change

Source: MIF

However, of those 23 overall declined countries, 15 still improved – from different initial levels – in *Foundations for Economic Opportunity*: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Tunisia and Uganda. Twelve still improved in *Human Development*: Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, DR Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Tunisia and Uganda.

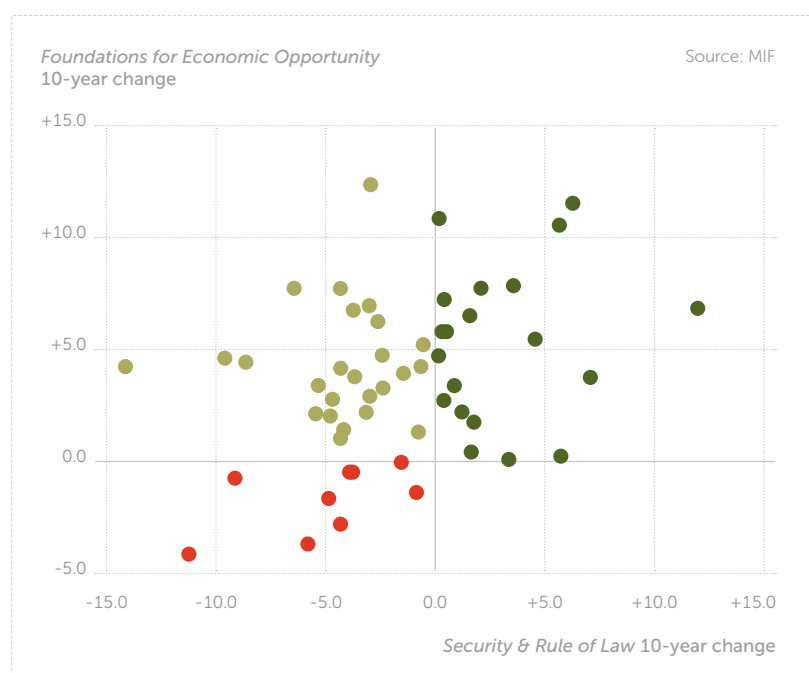
This highlights that in many countries (21), economic opportunity and/or human development have continued to improve despite the deterioration of security, rule of law, rights and participation, and across a wide range of country contexts. However, the sustainability of this trend remains to be seen.

***Foundations for Economic Opportunity* improves across contrasting security and rule of law trajectories**

Foundations for Economic Opportunity stands out as the most broadly improved IIAG category: its continental score has risen by +3.7 points since 2016, with 44 of 54 countries improving. Mapping these ten-year changes against *Security & Rule of Law*, where 34 countries have deteriorated, reveals a one-sided pattern: economic opportunity has frequently prevailed where security and rule of law have weakened. Worsening security and rule of law has not necessarily, or at least not yet broadly, prevented progress in economic opportunity.

For almost half (46.9%) of the continent's population, hosted in 25 countries – the largest group in the chart (upper left quadrant) – economic opportunity has improved despite declining *Security & Rule of Law*. A further 20 countries improved or held steady across both dimensions (upper right), while only nine deteriorated in both (lower left). In all countries where *Security & Rule of Law* improved, *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* also improved.

African countries: *Security & Rule of Law* and *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* 10-year changes (2016-2025)



6 of the 10 'coup countries' (Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Tunisia) have improved in both economic opportunity and human development

25 countries (46.9% of Africa's population) improved in economic opportunity despite deteriorating security and rule of law

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

There is, however, a difference in magnitude of improvement between the two groups: In the 25 countries where *Security & Rule of Law* deteriorated and *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* improved (upper left quadrant), the latter increased by an average of +4.4 points over the decade. By comparison, in the 20 countries where both categories progressed (upper right quadrant), *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* increased by an average of +5.2 points. This suggests that while *Security & Rule of Law* is not a necessary condition for economic progress, such progress tends to be larger where it is also improving.

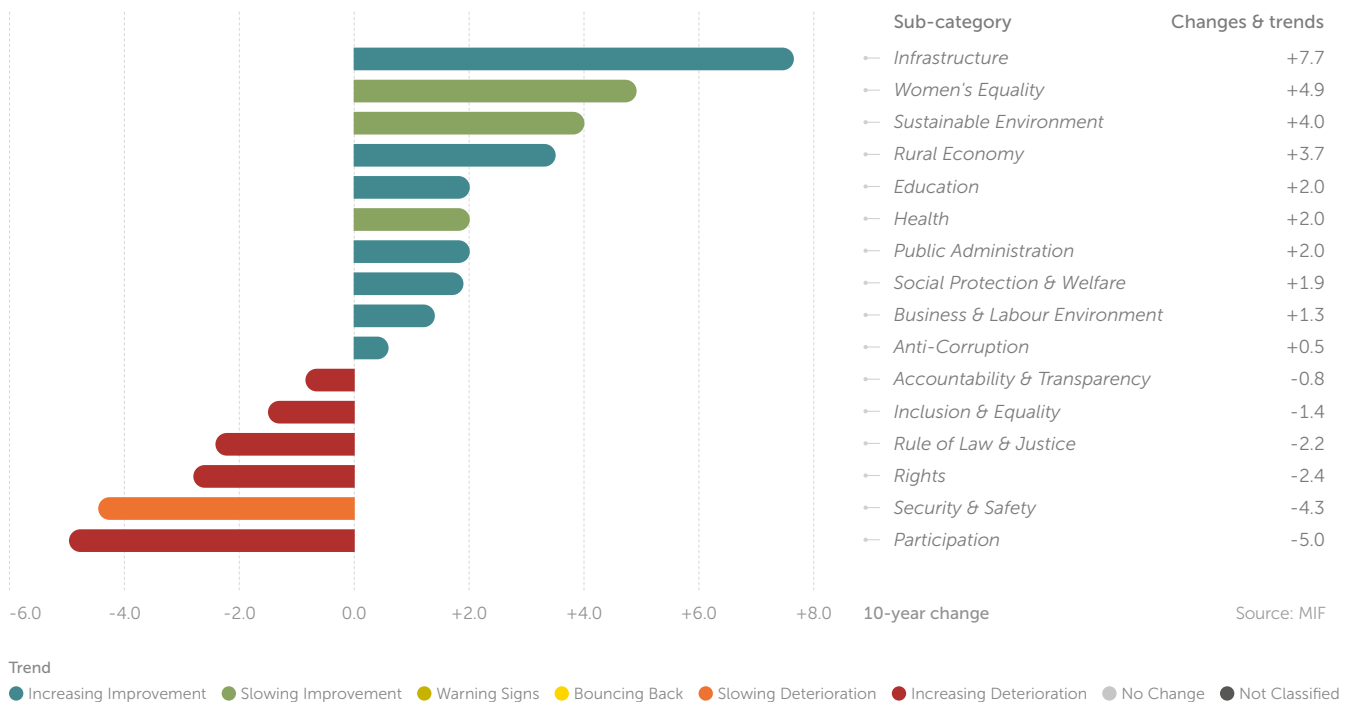
Economic progress is stronger in countries where *Security & Rule of Law* also improved

At sub-category level, *Infrastructure* leads improvements while *Participation* declines the most

The 16 sub-categories that make up the IIAG's four governance dimensions follow broadly the same split between improvements and deteriorations, with a majority of ten sub-categories recording progress.

10 of the IIAG's 16 sub-categories record progress over the decade

Africa: sub-categories 10-year changes & trends (2016-2025)



All eight sub-categories within *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* — led by *Infrastructure* — and within *Human Development* — led by *Sustainable Environment* — have improved their continental average since 2016. *Infrastructure* records by far the largest gain (+7.7), followed by *Sustainable Environment* (+4.0) and *Rural Economy* (+3.7).

Contrary to the average decline of the *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* category, two of its sub-categories break this pattern and record progress over the decade: *Anti-Corruption* (+0.5) and *Women's Equality* (+4.9). *Women's Equality* is the second most improved out of the IIAG's 16 sub-categories.

On the other hand, six of the eight sub-categories in *Security & Rule of Law* and *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* have declined over the decade, five of them at a rate of *Increasing Deterioration*. *Participation* (-5.0) leads as the most declined sub-category, followed by *Security & Safety* (-4.3).

Infrastructure indicators lead progress while participation, rights and accountability measures give cause for concern

At African average level, the strongest gains are concentrated in *Infrastructure*. Four of its six indicators feature among the top ten most improved in the overall IIAG: *Mobile Communications* (+16.8), *Internet* (+10.2), *Shipping & Postal Network* (+8.8) and *Access to Energy* (+7.0), cementing the sub-category's leadership. *Women's Equality*, the second most improved sub-category, also contributes two indicators to the top ten: *Laws on Violence against Women* (+14.8) and *Political Power & Representation of Women* (+6.6).

With *Capacity of the Statistical System* (+10.6) and *Disclosure of Public Records* (+8.9), progress is also commendable in data robustness and transparency, both key pillars of sound governance.

Infrastructure records by far the largest progress of all 16 IIAG sub-categories (+7.7)

Participation leads as the most declined sub-category, losing 5 points over the decade

4 of the IIAG's 10 most improved indicators sit within *Infrastructure*

Africa: 10 most improved indicators by 10-year change (2016-2025)

Source: MIF

Sub-category	Indicator	Score (2025)	10-year change	Trend
Infrastructure	Mobile Communications	74.2	+16.8	●
Women's Equality	Laws on Violence against Women	80.7	+14.8	●
Public Administration	Capacity of the Statistical System	49.7	+10.6	●
Infrastructure	Internet	33.4	+10.2	●
Accountability & Transparency	Disclosure of Public Records	33.7	+8.9	●
Rural Economy	Rural Economy Support	63.2	+8.8	●
Infrastructure	Shipping & Postal Network	36.4	+8.8	●
Health	Control of Communicable Diseases	77.7	+8.1	●
Infrastructure	Access to Energy	45.4	+7.0	●
Women's Equality	Political Power & Representation of Women	50.4	+6.6	●

Trend

● Increasing Improvement ● Slowing Improvement ● Warning Signs ● Bouncing Back ● Slowing Deterioration ● Increasing Deterioration ● No Change

The picture among the ten most deteriorated indicators is markedly different. Half belong to *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* and four to *Security & Rule of Law*, leaving only one from *Foundations for Economic Opportunity*. The largest losses therefore cluster around institutional accountability, civic space, rights and security.

Notably, five of the 12 most declined (with *Media Freedom*, *Public Perception of Health Provision* and *Public Perception of Social Protection & Lived Poverty* being tied) are public opinion indicators measuring the perception of security, inclusion, public administration, health and lived poverty, pointing to a deterioration in how citizens experience and assess governance.

Africa: 10 most deteriorated indicators by 10-year change (2016-2025)

Source: MIF

Sub-category	Indicator	Score (2025)	10-year change	Trend
Accountability & Transparency	Absence of Undue Influence	28.2	-9.7	●
Participation	Civil Society Space	46.7	-8.5	●
Accountability & Transparency	Institutional Checks & Balances	39.9	-7.5	●
Rights	Freedom of Expression & Belief	55.1	-7.2	●
Security & Safety	Absence of Human Trafficking & Forced Labour	52.4	-6.8	●
Security & Safety	Public Perception of Security & Safety	50.3	-6.8	●
Participation	Freedom of Association & Assembly	29.6	-6.7	●
Public Administration	Public Perception of Easiness to Obtain an Identity Document	49.4	-6.6	●
Inclusion & Equality	Public Perception of Inclusion & Equality	53.7	-6.3	●
Rights*	Media Freedom	51.4	-5.7	●

* Two other indicators also deteriorated by -5.7: *Public Perception of Health Provision* and *Public Perception of Social Protection & Lived Poverty*.

Trend

● Increasing Improvement ● Slowing Improvement ● Warning Signs ● Bouncing Back ● Slowing Deterioration ● Increasing Deterioration ● No Change



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