



2026 Ibrahim Index – Slight progress in African governance over the past decade, driven by gains in economic and human development

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Cairo, 31 October 2026 — The Mo Ibrahim Foundation released today the 2026 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), the most comprehensive assessment of public governance performance and trends across all 54 African countries. *Overall Governance* combines scores across four main dimensions (*Security & Rule of Law*; *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*; *Foundations for Economic Opportunity*; and *Human Development*), covering 16 sub-categories, drawing on 96 indicators built from data produced by 51 sources.

Covering the decade 2016-2025, the Index shows that *Overall Governance* in Africa has improved despite cumulative global shocks, even if these gains remain uneven and fragile.

Progress at the continental level is driven by improvements in the economic and human development dimensions (*Foundations for Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development*), with notable improvements in *Infrastructure*, *Health* and *Education*. *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* progress is particularly notable, having improved over 2016-2025 in 44 countries, hosting 68% of the continent's population, demonstrating the continent's resilience in the face of multiple challenges over the decade, such as the COVID pandemic, the impact of the Ukraine/Russia war on access to energy and food security and historical decreases in development aid.

The largest progress is achieved in *Infrastructure*, the most improved of the Index's 16 sub-categories, with gains that are both widespread (52 countries – all bar Nigeria and Gambia – covering 84% of the continent's population), and accelerating over the decade. This is led by significant improvement in mobile connectivity, as well as in access to energy and internet. Following closely, both *Education* (in 34 countries hosting 75% of the continent's population), and *Health* (in 40 countries, covering 87% of the continent's population) also improve.

However, stronger and further progress remains impeded by continued deterioration in security, rule of law and participation. Both *Security & Rule of Law* and *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* register decline over the decade in 34 and 31 countries, hosting 78% and 60% of Africa's population respectively. Positively though, the deterioration of security slows down from 2022, with progress beginning to appear in 27 countries.

The 2026 IIAG also shows that 25 countries (home to almost 47% of the continent's population) have managed to increase economic progress despite the deterioration of security over the decade. However, progress in *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* is stronger on average where *Security & Rule of Law* also improved, as shown for 20 countries, home to 22% of the continent's population.

At the end of the decade under review (2025), Seychelles ranks first, and Morocco replaces Tunisia in the top ten. Though still in the top ten (5th), South Africa follows a concerning trend of increasing deterioration.

Concerningly, in four of the continent's most populous countries – Nigeria, DR Congo, South Africa and Sudan – *Overall Governance* has deteriorated over the decade. At the other end of the governance ladder, Angola and Congo Republic leave the bottom ten, replaced by Libya and Guinea-Bissau. Meanwhile, over the decade, Sudan, Central African Republic and Guinea Bissau follow a trend of worsening deterioration. (full list below).

Commenting on the findings, **Mo Ibrahim, Chair and Founder, Mo Ibrahim Foundation**, said: “*The 2026 IAG results highlight Africa’s resilience in a challenging global environment. They also show that many countries manage to achieve economic and human development despite deterioration in security and rule of law. But this is not a sustainable trade-off. Economic and social gains will not last, and will anyway always be weaker, without progress in security, rule of law and participation*”.

Overall Governance: 2025 rank, and 2016-2025 trend

Rank	Country	Trend	Rank	Country	Trend
1	Seychelles	Slowing Improvement	28	Uganda	Bouncing Back
2	Mauritius	Bouncing Back	29	Mozambique	Increasing Deterioration
3	Cabo Verde	Increasing Deterioration	30	Ethiopia	Warning Signs
4	Botswana	Bouncing Back	30	Zimbabwe	Increasing Improvement
5	South Africa	Increasing Deterioration	32	Eswatini	Bouncing Back
6	Namibia	Bouncing Back	33	Mali	Bouncing Back
7	Morocco	Slowing Improvement	33	Niger	Increasing Deterioration
7	Senegal	Increasing Improvement	35	Djibouti	Increasing Improvement
9	Ghana	Bouncing Back	36	Comoros	Bouncing Back
10	Kenya	Increasing Improvement	37	Angola	Slowing Improvement
11	Tunisia	Increasing Deterioration	38	Madagascar	Increasing Deterioration
12	Benin	Increasing Improvement	38	Nigeria	Slowing Deterioration
13	São Tomé and Príncipe	Increasing Deterioration	40	Cameroon	Bouncing Back
14	Rwanda	Increasing Improvement	41	Mauritania	Increasing Improvement
15	Zambia	Increasing Improvement	42	Guinea	Increasing Deterioration
16	Lesotho	Increasing Improvement	43	Burundi	Slowing Improvement
17	Côte d'Ivoire	Increasing Improvement	44	Congo Republic	Increasing Improvement
18	Tanzania	Warning Signs	45	Guinea-Bissau	Increasing Deterioration
19	Algeria	Increasing Improvement	46	Libya	Bouncing Back
20	Malawi	Increasing Improvement	47	Chad	Slowing Improvement
21	Gambia	Slowing Improvement	48	DR Congo	Bouncing Back
22	Togo	Slowing Improvement	49	Equatorial Guinea	Increasing Improvement
23	Sierra Leone	Slowing Improvement	50	Central African Republic	Increasing Deterioration
24	Gabon	Increasing Improvement	51	Eritrea	Warning Signs
25	Egypt	Increasing Improvement	52	Sudan	Increasing Deterioration
26	Burkina Faso	Increasing Deterioration	53	Somalia	Slowing Improvement
27	Liberia	Increasing Improvement	54	South Sudan	Increasing Improvement

Source: MIF

About the IIAG

The 2026 IIAG draws on 319 variables from 59 datasets published by 51 African and international sources. It assesses performance across 16 sub-categories grouped under four categories: *Security & Rule of Law*; *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*; *Foundations for Economic Opportunity*; and *Human Development*.

The complete 2026 IIAG dataset, including country scores, rankings and trends, is freely accessible through the IIAG online Data Portal at iiag.online. The Portal allows policymakers, researchers, journalists and citizens to explore and compare governance performance across all 54 African countries, and to identify where progress is being made and where further action is needed.

How to cite the IIAG

Users of the IIAG are requested to attribute all use of its data to the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, referencing the iteration of the IIAG used. Please use the following attribution format for references, including for all graphics and visualisations: Mo Ibrahim Foundation. [Year] *Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)*. iiag.online.

If you are citing a specific indicator, country score, or finding, please also specify the year of the IIAG edition you are drawing from (e.g. '2026 IIAG').

Please note that given the constant updating of the IIAG dataset over the years, it is not possible to draw conclusions comparing different datasets/IIAG editions.

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Founded in 2006, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation aims to amplify Africa's voice on global issues, with a focus on the importance of governance and leadership. The Foundation provides data and analysis on the continent's challenges, brings together key actors for discussion, and supports initiatives to improve leadership and governance.

In this regard, the Foundation concentrates on defining, assessing, and strengthening governance and leadership in Africa as key drivers of the continent's progress. The Foundation places particular importance on Africa's youth, as a key actor in building their own continent. This is achieved through five key initiatives:

- [Ibrahim Index of African Governance](#)
- [Ibrahim Governance Weekend](#)
- [Ibrahim Fellowships and Scholarships](#)
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- [Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership](#)