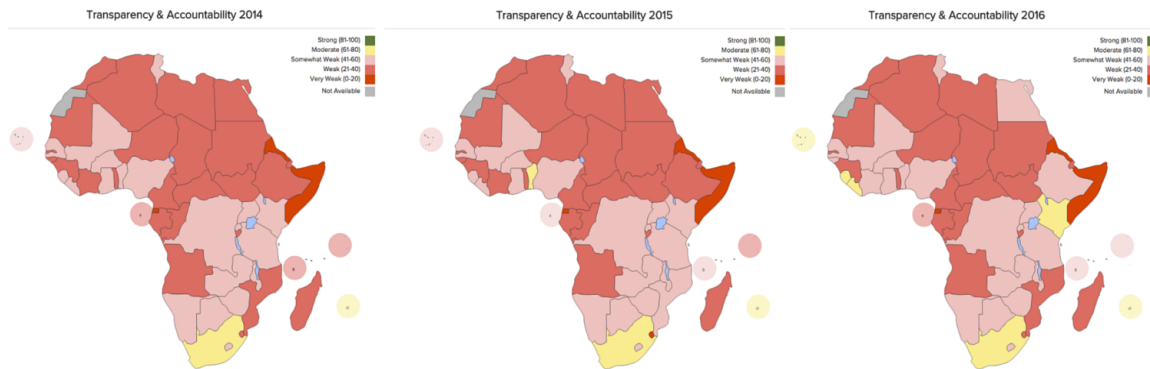


Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



Who is Global Integrity?

Global Integrity supports progress toward open and accountable governance in countries and communities around the world. We focus on generating research and data, supporting the work of country-level reformers, and influencing global conversations on open governance. Our work covers a number of themes, with data, learning and citizen engagement at the core of everything we do. To know more about us, visit our website at www.globalintegrity.org.

What are the Africa Integrity Indicators?

In 2012, Global Integrity embarked on a five-year collaboration with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to generate the Africa Integrity Indicators (AII), which assesses key social, economic, political and anti-corruption mechanisms at the national level across the continent. Global Integrity staff recruits and manages teams of in-country contributors in 54 countries to generate original governance data on an annual basis.

The questionnaire has 114 indicators and is divided in two main categories: Transparency & Accountability and Social Development. The Transparency & Accountability category consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management, civil service integrity, and access to information. The Social Development indicators category consists of 51 indicators about gender, rights, welfare, rural sector, business environment, health and education.

The rich data set is designed to be particularly fruitful in identifying both bright spots as well as areas for improvement at the country level. The years of data include [2013](#), [2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#); the next round of research will begin later in 2016 and be published in April 2017. To access our data, visit our project website at <http://aii.globalintegrity.org>.

Note: Each round of research is named from its year of publication. Thus, the 2016 round of research covers the period from September 2014 to September 2015, with only sources relevant to this period of study being accepted.

Get in touch with us

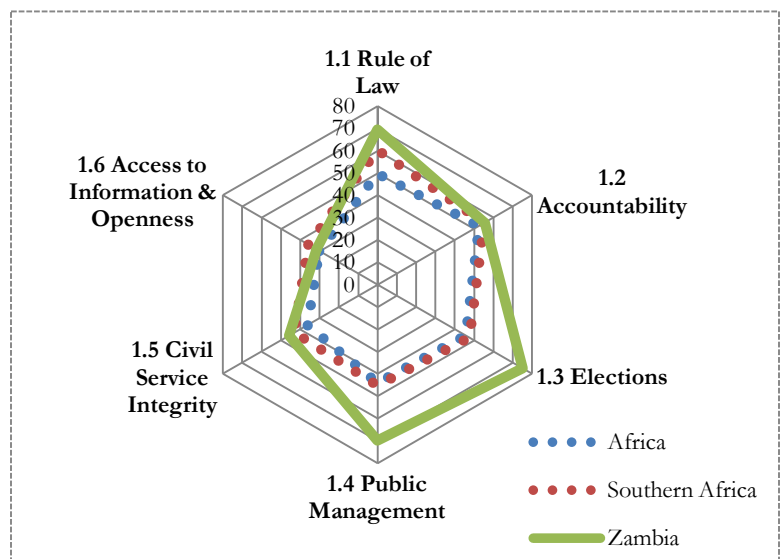
Global Integrity is dedicated not only to producing high quality data, but ensuring that it is as useful as possible for reformers (both inside and outside of government) around the world. If you're interested in working with this data to identify opportunities to support open governance efforts in your country, contact us at aai@globalintegrity.org.

Zambia – Country Findings Summary

1. Transparency & Accountability

The Transparency & Accountability category consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management, civil service integrity, and access to information & openness. The indicators look into transparency of the public procurement process, media freedom, asset disclosure requirements, independence of the judiciary, and conflict of interest laws, among others.

The overall category average showed no substantial change, with a slight increase from 55 in 2015 to 58 in 2016. Elections and Public Management were Zambia’s highest scoring subcategories in 2016 with respective aggregate scores of 75 and 70 (both in the “moderate” range on the Global Integrity scale).¹ For these two subcategories, Zambia fared fairly well compared to the Southern African region and the continent. On Elections, the Southern African average was 48 and the continental average 46. On Public Management, the regional average stood at 45 and the continental average at 46.



< Figure 1 > Zambia’s subcategory scores in comparison to the region and the continent. The radar chart depicts the country’s aggregate scores of each of the six subcategories under Transparency & Accountability, in comparison to average scores of the continent (blue dotted lines) and the country’s region (red dotted lines).

The Access to Information & Openness was the lowest performing subcategory at an aggregate score of 32 (“weak” on the Global Integrity scale).

Selected highlights

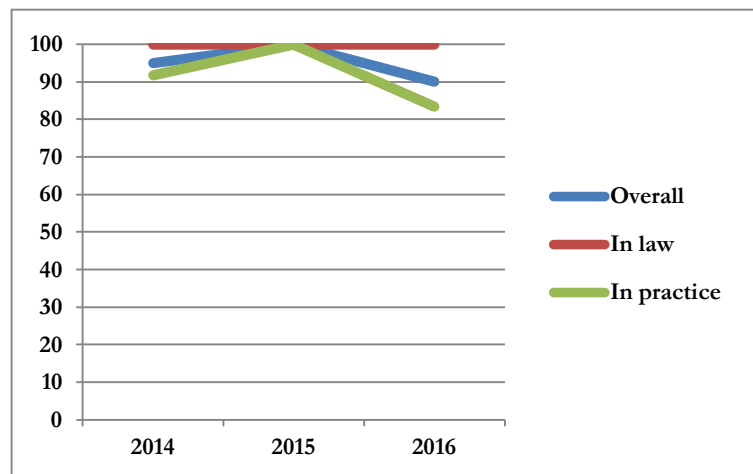
- **Appointments to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) are overall merit-based, but election reports are not published in a timely manner.** The most recent appointments within the study period took place in April 2015, when Justice Esau Chulu was promoted to the chairmanship and Emile Sikawe appointed as a commissioner. While the president can appoint and remove electoral commissioners at his own discretion ([indicator 21](#)), according to [indicator 20](#), both appointees hold the necessary qualifications to fulfill their roles; Justice Chulu is a former lawyer and Supreme Court justice, and Emile Sikawe “a distinguished gender and governance activist”.

¹ The Global Integrity scale on the Africa Integrity Indicators website is as follows: 81-100 (Strong), 61-80 (Moderate), 41-60 (Somewhat weak), 21-40 (Weak), 0-20 (Very Weak)

However, questions were raised on the timing of the chairman’s appointment, as the decision occurred three months after President Lungu was voted into office in January 2015 and Justice Chulu originates from the same province as the President.

Regarding the presidential elections of January 2015, the Commission informed the public about “issues such as conduct during elections, concerns, results [...] immediately after verification”, as reported in [indicator 22](#). Yet, the detailed post-election report was not available until the end of the 2016 research period, nine months after the elections were held, which supports the 50 score for the indicator.

- **Zambia’s public procurement indicators scored high on both *in law* and *in practice***, which translates into a relatively small implementation gap (see Figure 2). Zambia’s Public Procurement Act of 2008 requires in its sections 25 and 26 that procurements be subject to open and competitive bidding ([indicator 24](#)). It also empowers the procurement authority to suspend or permanently bar any bidder or supplier having violated procurement regulations ([indicator 27](#)). Such requirements are upheld effectively in practice. For instance, [indicator 25](#) reveals that with some



< Figure 2 > *De jure* and *de facto* gap of Zambia’s public procurement indicators (24-28): This graph provides an overview of the aggregate gap between *in law* indicators (green) and *in practice* indicators (red) of a particular set of indicators, and how they affect the change of the overall aggregate score (blue) between the three rounds of research 2014, 2015 and 2016.

exceptions, most bids were subject to open and competitive bidding and were made public through “print and electronic adverts, as well as websites of companies offerings tenders.” Evaluation criteria are also openly accessible, and advertisements usually leave bidders enough time to prepare their offers; this can vary from a month to a longer period. The public can access results and procurement contracts upon request to the relevant organization or the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA), as noted in [indicator 26](#). In addition, oversight of suspended and barred companies is exercised through a publically available registry on the ZPPA website. As [indicator 28](#) reports, no companies figured on the list since no violations were detected during the study period. Previously during the 2015 research, one bidder, the Quantum Technology Limited, was barred and the year before, a number of bidders had been suspended or barred.

- **Weak legal frameworks result in *in practice* hurdle for citizens to access information.** No specific access to information law exists in Zambia ([indicator 41](#)), and [indicator 42](#) points out that in general, the absence of such a law “makes it difficult for citizens or even journalists to demand information” in practice. For instance, written requests made to government ministries often do not receive responses, and both indicators scored a 0 over the past three research rounds.

On the other hand, when it comes to financial records of state-owned companies specifically, some companies, such as the Zambia Telecommunications Co. (Zamtel) and the Zambia Electricity Supply Corp. (ZESCO), do make their records available to the public once or twice a year ([indicator 29](#)). Furthermore, access to legislative documents and processes was reported to be smooth for citizens as the 100 score of [indicator 43](#) indicates. Transcripts of debates, roll call votes and the full text of bills were accessible to the public online on the parliament’s website within a day of legislative proceedings, or on paper upon request.

Concerning asset disclosure of public officers, the Code of Ethics and Conduct of Officers of 2008 requires such persons to disclose their assets ([indicator 44](#)). However, as per the law, in practice citizens need to visit the Supreme Court in person to access disclosure forms, and the few available at the Court were not up to date during the study period ([indicator 45](#)). Ordinary civil servants are not required to disclose their assets, according to [indicator 46](#), explaining the lack of such a practice in [indicator 47](#). None of these four indicators scored higher than a 25.

On political parties’ funding, no specific law is in place that requires public or private funding to be disclosed, supporting the 0 scores for [indicators 48](#) and [50](#). As a result, no practice of publishing such records was observed in [indicators 49](#) and [51](#). In fact, indicator 49 also clarifies that political parties in Zambia do not receive public funding.

2. Social Development

This category covers seven subcategories, including Rights (civil society space and minority rights), gender, business environment and infrastructure, rural Sector, welfare, health, education, and civil registration. Because the Social Development portion of the research only includes a small number of questions per each topic area, we only provide the scores for each individual indicator and don't provide aggregated category or subcategory scores. However, the individual indicators themselves contain a wealth of information across a breadth of topics, a select few highlights of which are noted below.

Selected highlights

- **The government showed increased willingness to consult NGOs for the review of the 2009 NGO Act that has been deemed to be onerous. The government also entered into negotiations with trade unions.** No cases were reported of NGO employees being killed, imprisoned, interrogated or physically harmed in relation to their work ([indicator 69](#)). Neither were there any reported cases of NGOs being shut down or harassed with unwarranted administrative obstacles. [Indicator 70](#), in fact, saw a score increase from 0 in 2015 to 75 in 2016, as the government consulted NGOs regarding a review of the NGO Act of 2009. This is an improvement compared to the 2015 research, when NGOs had faced regular threats of deregistration from the government, unless they register under the NGO Act. In effect since July 2013, the Act is deemed to be onerous on NGOs requiring a lengthy registration process. Trade unions also saw their voices heard. As [indicator 65](#) reports, President Edgar Lungu commenced dialogue with the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) shortly after his election in January 2015 about an on-going 2-year wage freeze in the public service. In May 2015, he lifted the wage freeze.
- **The existence of discriminatory customary laws restricts women's equal rights on certain aspects.** For instance, the Land Act of 1996 leaves room for customary laws to influence women's rights to access land property. The latter mainly grants land ownership to men, as reported in [indicator 77](#). [Indicator 78](#), which assesses women's right to property, also notes that women in customary marriages are not able to acquire non-land property. Likewise, under customary law, women and children cannot inherit, despite the fact that the Intestate Succession Act of 1989 mentioned in [indicator 79](#) guarantees that both widows and widowers can inherit 20 percent of their late spouse's property. All three relevant indicators received a 'Mixed' score. On the other hand, when it comes to divorce petition, women have equal rights to men in both civil and customary laws, as notes [indicator 80](#). No customary laws exist that restrict women's rights to independent travel and [indicator 82](#) further elaborates that no civil laws hinder women from enjoying freedom of movement. The Labour Relations Act of 2008 also prohibits gender-based discrimination in terms of employment, and the Employment Act of 1965 provides protection against the termination of employment as a result of pregnancy ([indicator 83](#)). No customary laws exist that restrict women's equal access to employment opportunities.

- **The Central Statistical Office (CSO) publishes statistics on poverty, youth unemployment, and infrastructure, but such data is not collected frequently.** Youth unemployment statistics are collected and published every four years or less, and the latest data available in the Zambia Labour Force Survey is from 2012 ([indicator 91](#)). Likewise, indicators [92](#) and [93](#) reveal that the most recent statistics on poverty and on infrastructure are from 2012. All three indicators earned a 0 score.

The above findings capture selected highlights and are not an exhaustive analysis of the collected data. We encourage interested users to access our website [here](#) for detailed comments and sources for all 114 individual indicators.