

AII Project & Methodology Summary

April 4, 2017

Global Integrity

Global Integrity champions open, accountable and effective governance around the world, taking action to inform, connect, and empower civic, private and public reformers seeking more open societies through our innovative research and direct support.

We collaborate with local stakeholders, helping to put adaptive learning — a structured, data-driven, problem-focused and iterative approach to learning by doing, which engages with local political realities while drawing on experiences from elsewhere — at the heart of their efforts to design and implement effective governance reforms.

This can help reformers close the gaps between policy commitments and implementation and contribute to better governance and development outcomes. Further, we seek to support and enhance the effectiveness of other key players in the governance arena by sharing more widely the insights generated from our innovative and exploratory work with local partners.

Our governance assessments provide detailed data and reporting on the mechanisms in place to prevent abuses of power and promote public integrity at the national, local, and sector levels. Using a blend of social science and journalism, in-country teams of independent researchers, academics and journalists report on the *de jure* as well as *de facto* reality of corruption and governance.

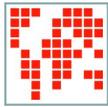
Measuring both the existing legal framework and the “in practice” implementation is key in our effort to produce actionable governance data that support governments, citizens and civil society understand and evaluate the *status quo* and identify intervention points for subsequent reform efforts.

Scope of 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 recruit and manage teams of in-country contributors in 54 countries to generate original governance data on an annual basis.

The questionnaire has 102 indicators and is divided in two main categories: Transparency and Accountability, and Social Development.

The Transparency and Accountability category consists of 56 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management integrity, civil service integrity, and access to information. This category draws from the indicators of the [Global Integrity Report \(GIR\)](#), which uses 320 indicators to assess the existence, effectiveness, and citizen access to key governance and



anti-corruption mechanisms in countries across the globe. 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. They take into account both existing legal measures on the books and *de facto* realities of implementation in each country.

The Social Development category consists of 46 indicators about gender, rights, welfare, rural sector, business environment, health and education. It is important to note that this category of the questionnaire was designed to feed into the [Ibrahim Index of African Governance \(IIAG\)](#) in areas not covered by the secondary data sources it utilizes. Therefore, it does not attempt to be a comprehensive assessment by itself. The 46 indicators included there were selected based on areas in which the IIAG required more in practice data to substantiate its assessment.

Because the Social Development portion of the questionnaire only includes a small number of questions per each topic area, Global Integrity only provides the scores per each individual indicator and won't provide category or subcategory scores. For example, there are only six questions about health and education and users can access the score for each of those two indicators, but they won't find an overall health and education score or an overall Social Development score.

Periods of Study

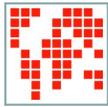
The period of study for each cycle is 12 months and the first research round (pilot) took place between June 2011 and September 2012 (termed 2013 on the website). An improved version of the indicators was used in the second round between September 2012 and September 2013 (2014), and the third round between September 2013 and September 2014 (2015). The 2016 data covers the period from September 2014 to September 2015 and the latest round of research (2017), covers a study period from September 2015 to September 2016.

Country Selection

The Africa Integrity Indicators project covers all 54 African countries. The pilot phase (2012) covered 50 out of the 54 African countries, excluding the Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Lesotho. Beginning with the 2013 research, all African countries are covered.

Evidence-based Expert Assessment Methodology

Global Integrity's evidence-based expert assessments require researchers (typically journalists, academics or civil society experts) to compile and document evidence to inform and support their score choices for each of the indicators. Rather than relying on experiences or pre-existing perceptions by experts, the strength of Global Integrity's methodology is that it requires a variety of sources of information to be reviewed and documented (including legal and scholarly reviews, interviews with experts, and reviews of media stories) to substantiate the score choice.



Personality, language, and culture can all affect the interpretation of a particular indicator and the score assigned to it. To minimize this effect and to maximize inter-coder reliability, Global Integrity provides researchers and peer reviewers with scoring criteria for every single indicator. The scoring criteria anchor each indicator to a set of predefined criteria. In essence, the scoring criteria guide the researcher and the peer reviewer by suggesting, "If you see X on the ground, score this indicator in the following way."

For "in law" indicators, scoring criteria are provided for "Yes (100)" "Mixed (50)" and "No (0)" responses. For "in practice" indicators, scoring criteria are provided for 100, 50 and 0 – the researchers also have the option to score 75 or 25, whenever the higher or lower defined criteria don't accurately represent the research's findings and/or when specific context-relevant interpretations of the data warrant a nuance in the scoring.

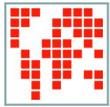
Researchers must provide a fact-based rationale to substantiate the score chosen for each indicator. They must also provide at least three references to substantiate their rationale. Evidence can take on the form of interviews conducted with knowledgeable domain experts, a website link to information provided by government or civil society, a relevant report produced within the period of study, published news articles, or a widely acknowledged and regularly-read blog produced by a subject matter expert.

In the case of *de jure* indicators, the laws or regulations and a reference to relevant articles or legislative/regulatory sections serve as evidence. In some cases, more than just one law is needed as a valid reference, and in those cases any number of laws or other aspects of the legal framework (including court decisions) may serve as evidence.

Each indicator is presented for the user with three elements - score, explanatory comment, and sources. These components mean that a given scorecard contains a wealth of information. Scores allow for comparisons across countries, while sources and comments provide a unique window into the realities of regulation and enforcement in each country.

A lead in-country researcher conducts the initial field research (including legal research, desk research, and interviews) and scores the indicators. Global Integrity staff rigorously verify sources and perform fact checking and quality control together with the researcher prior to declaring the research as final. After completion of the draft research, the indicators follow a double-blind peer review process, in which a peer reviewer (a similarly qualified in-country domain expert) carefully scrutinizes and amends, supplements and enhances the research. The scorecard is also reviewed by functional reviewers, who focus on indicator topics, such as rural sector, welfare, gender, labour, education, infrastructure, human rights and others.

The double-blind nature of the peer review process guarantees feedback free of considerations associated with who collected the data and scored the indicators, and to avoid a peer-influenced consensus. Until the public release of the indicators, the researchers and peer reviewers are unaware of the identities of other members of the country team. Peer review comments on all reporting are published transparently alongside the original data, offering reads an alternative perspective on the indicators.



Along with the scoring criteria, researchers and peer reviewers are also provided with a series of guidelines and definitions they should adhere to when performing their research and coding or reviewing the data (in essence, a code book). These guidelines also provide guidance about appropriate sources and about how to score complex indicators in certain scenarios.

2012 Pilot Round

As noted, the 2012 round of research was considered a pilot round. After the 2012 research was collected and analyzed, the scoring criteria were improved to provide 2013 and 2014 researchers with more direct and detailed scoring criteria. While the information gathered in 2012 is very valuable, this change in criteria prevents direct comparability between 2012 and later rounds. Users may notice some indicators where the scoring changed substantially between 2012 and 2013; in some cases, this is due to the scoring criteria change. Thus, Global Integrity does not include this first research round in our combined download sheets.

Data Aggregation

For the purpose of producing a country's aggregate scorecard, a simple aggregation method is used. After the researcher scores each indicator and Global Integrity, with the help from the peer reviewers, conducts its rigorous quality control, each indicator score is then averaged within its parent subcategory. The subcategory score is in turn averaged with the other subcategory scores to average and produce an overall category score.

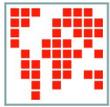
For the Africa Integrity Indicators, the aggregation method was only applied to the Transparency & Accountability category. As explained above, because the Social Development portion of the questionnaire only includes a small number of questions per each topic area, we do not provide aggregated category or subcategory scores for this part.

Country Teams

As with all its projects, Global Integrity has hired independent country experts with a significant track record in civil society, journalism or academia. Following Global Integrity's traditional policy, none of the researchers has worked directly for the country's government during the past three years. Researchers undergo a recruitment process that may include an interview and completion of an exercise (consisting on answering a sample question) to gauge their interest and capacity to adhere to the research method, including the need to employ journalistic skills to conduct interviews, obtain updated information, and produce a comprehensive quality assessment within the project's timeline. In each country, Global Integrity also contracts peer reviewers with a similar background who will review and enhance the initial research where needed (as described above).

The teams are coordinated from Washington DC via the Internet and phone.

Alongside providing an original data source for the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Global Integrity aims to contribute - through the Africa Integrity Indicators initiative - to building a community of research practitioners across the continent and to ensuring that African experts who are rooted in the local context of



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**AFRICA INTEGRITY
INDICATORS**

each country develop governance data on Africa. We welcome any feedback you might have to improve our work. If you have any questions about the Africa Integrity Indicators or would like to join the team – as a researcher or reviewer – please contact Johannes Tonn (johannes.tonn@globalintegrity.org). You can also visit our website www.globalintegrity.org.