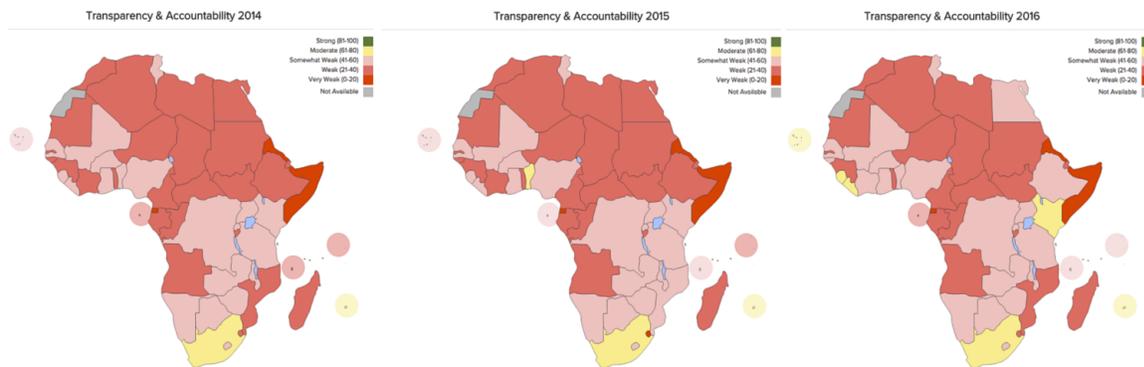


## Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



### 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](http://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](mailto:aai@globalintegrity.org).

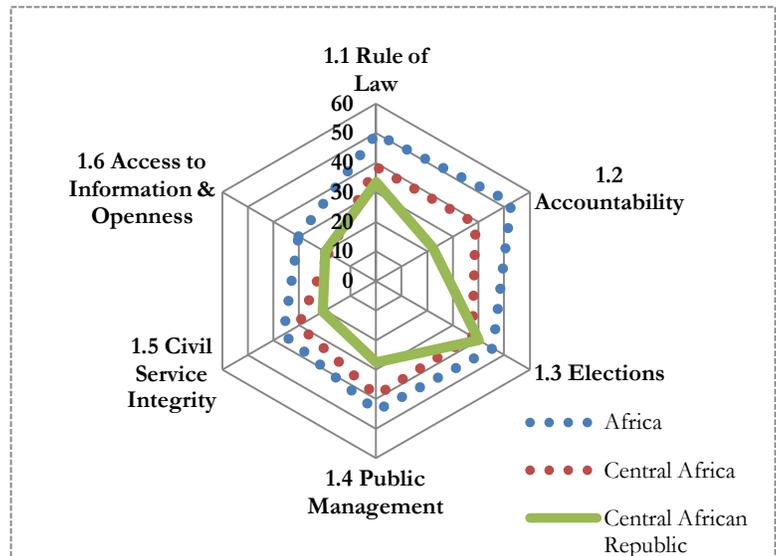
# Central African Republic – Country Findings Summary

## 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 score did not show any substantial change, increasing by only one point from 26 in 2015 to 27 in 2016 (“weak” on the Global Integrity scale).<sup>1</sup>

Of all [six subcategories](#), Elections remains the highest performing subcategory with an average score of 40. This is a decrease of five points from 2015, and the subcategory now falls in the “somewhat weak” area of the Global Integrity scale. There were score increases for two subcategories: the Rule of Law subcategory improved from 22 in 2015 to 33 in 2016, and the Public Management subcategory that increased from 20 in 2015 to 28 in 2016. Both fall in the “somewhat weak” area of the Global Integrity scale. The score for the Accountability subcategory remained unchanged at 22, while the scores for the Civil Service Integrity and the Access to Information & Openness subcategories decreased slightly.



< Figure 1 > Central African Republic'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).

### Selected highlights

- **Judges' autonomy to interpret laws improved, but the influence of the executive branch remained significant.** The Central African Republic (CAR) was in a political transition during the study period. The Transitional Constitution establishes that the interim president heads various judicial institutions, including the Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM), the organ charged with the appointment, transfer and dismissal of judges ([indicator 1](#)). In practice, [indicator 2](#) reports that judges of the Constitutional Court asserted some autonomy from the other branches when they issued a ruling in July 2015 on the contentious matter of the voting rights of refugees and citizens

<sup>1</sup> 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)

living abroad; this ruling rebuffed the legislature's position that these groups should not be allowed to vote. Through another ruling in April 2015, judges of the Constitutional Court also asserted their legitimacy to swear in the President of the Republic who will be elected at the end of the transitional period. However, the executive continued to wield influence on the lower courts, particularly on cases involving politicians. [Indicator 3](#) reports that not all judges of the higher courts are appointed based on merit, neither do all of them have tenure. Unlike the Constitutional Court judges who have a 7-year tenure, judges of the Supreme Court and appeal courts are appointed based on personal loyalties and are removed at will by members of the executive branch, through their positions within the CSM. For instance, in May 2015 members of the executive promoted some judges based on personal loyalties. On the transparency front, [indicator 4](#) notes that judges of the higher courts give reasons for their decisions and judgments. For criminal cases, rulings can be accessed by members of the public within ten days of submitting a request. This takes more than two months for civil cases, whereas rulings on constitutional matters are immediately published in the media.

- **The National Elections Authority is protected from political influence, but it did not publish reports as required by law.** According to the Electoral Code, the Autorité Nationale des Elections (ANE) is an autonomous entity charged with organizing national elections and referenda, and declaring the results. However, as noted in [indicator 19](#), the ANE cannot issue binding decisions, as this is the purview of the Constitutional Court. The seven acting members of the ANE were appointed in 2013 based on merit, including knowledge of electoral matters, integrity, neutrality and independence from political parties ([indicator 20](#)). As reported in [indicator 21](#), ANE members have a 7-year tenure which is respected in practice. For instance, none of them was removed when a new administration took power in 2014. The ANE, however, did make its reports accessible to the public. Although it is required to publish two annual reports and one report after each election, [indicator 22](#) notes that these reports are only communicated to international donors only.
- **Citizens had unrestricted access to the internet and were free to publish contents online. However, journalists were forced to self-censor.** As was the case in the previous study periods, the government did not block or require ICT firms to block online content ([indicator 57](#)). Citizens were not subject to pre-publication censoring of contents they posted online, and they were not forced to self-censor on their online activities, such as on social media and blogs ([indicator 56](#)). However, [indicator 55](#) reports that despite the government's stated commitment to cooperate with the media throughout the transitional period, it promoted self-censorship by discriminating against some private media on advertising.

## 2. Social Development

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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.

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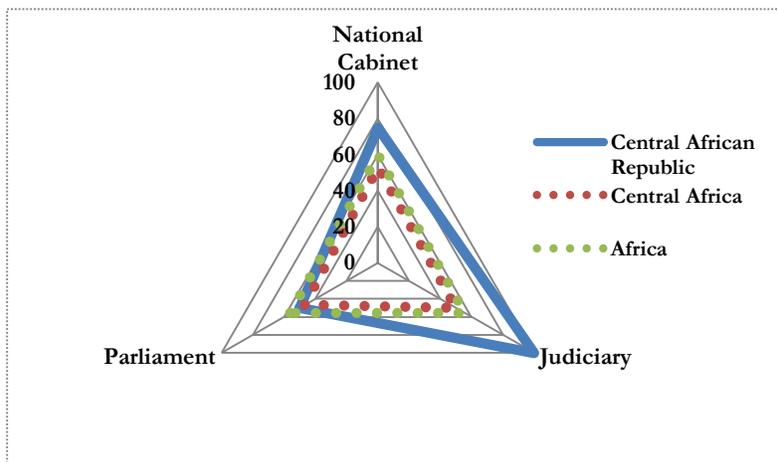
### Selected highlights

- **NGOs and trade unions did not face any administrative or bureaucratic hurdles. They nonetheless operated in a hostile environment during the study period.** [Indicator 68](#) reports that the government did not create obstacles to NGOs' operations or registration. In CAR, it takes just 48 hours to register a company or an NGO. At the same time, while the cost to register a company amounts to US\$140, the registration cost for an NGO is US\$5. There were also no cases of NGOs being shut down or harassed with unwarranted administrative burdens, investigations or sanctions as retribution for their work, as noted in [indicator 70](#). However, many NGO employees were harmed in relation to their work. Cases of kidnappings, holdups and attacks against humanitarian convoys were reported, which caused the death of at least two people and injuring others ([indicator 69](#)). Unions too operated in a hostile environment. While they were able to implement some activities, union leaders were subject to intimidation. For instance, the Minister of Justice threatened to suspend judges who were participating in a strike called to demand a special status for judges ([indicator 65](#)). Citizens' rights to assemble and express dissent were also curtailed; [indicator 67](#) reports that the government discriminated against some organizations by denying their requests for rallies, and repressed both a demonstration organized by high school students to protest against the outcome of their annual exams, and a demonstration organized by students of the University of Bangui to demand the payment of their financial aid.
- **Despite the country's political crisis fueled by religious violence, there are no legal frameworks for the protection of minorities.** CAR's political crisis was characterized by fighting between the Muslim militia Seleka and the Christian militia Anti-Balaka. However, [indicator 71](#) notes that no law exists to protect citizens from religious discrimination, and in cases of religious discrimination or persecution, there is no specific mechanism victims can turn to; the only recourse are organizations with a broad mandate to promote human rights, as noted in [indicator 72](#). Although CAR is home to indigenous Pygmies who are a de facto minority group, [indicator 73](#) reports that the country also has no law that protects members of ethnic minorities from discrimination. While victims of discrimination can rely upon ad hoc human rights organizations such as the national High Commission for Human Rights, [indicator 74](#) notes that this institution is present only in the capital. It is, therefore, not accessible to members of minority groups who live in remote areas. CAR neither has a law that protects citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation ([indicator 75](#)), nor a specific mechanism that receives and investigates cases of such form of discrimination. The regular

court system and entities with a broad mandate to protect human rights are the only recourse for victims of such type of discrimination ([indicator 76](#)).

- **Women’s representation in the highest echelons of the three branches of government is comparatively high.**

During the study period, the country had a female Head of the Transitional Government, Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza. Eight out of 32 cabinet members (25%) were women; on [indicator 85](#) CAR thus earned a score of 75, which was higher than both the regional



< Figure 2 > Central African Republic’s female representation in the three branches of government compared to the country’s region and the continent.

average of 53, and the continental average of 60. [Indicator 86](#), which assesses women’s representation in the highest courts, reports that there were ten women out of 26 judges in both the Transitional Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court. On this indicator, CAR earned a score of 100, significantly higher than the regional average of 50 and the continental average score of 56. Regarding women’s representation in the legislature, [indicator 87](#) reports that 23 out of 135 members (17%) of the transitional parliament were women. CAR earned a score of 50, which is slightly higher than the regional average of 47, but lower than the continental average of 57.

- **The country’s statistical capacity was extremely low.** [Indicator 91](#) notes that due to the political crisis and insecurity that has been going on in the country, the national statistics office Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques (ICASSE), has not been able to collect and publish data on youth unemployment for the past few years. Although a private entity called Agence Centrafricaine pour la Formation Professionnelle et d’Emploi (ACFPE) does collect labor statistics, they focus on vacancies and applications, but do not include youth unemployment. ICASSE does not collect and publish any data on poverty ([indicator 92](#)) and there are only sporadic estimates provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). [Indicator 93](#) notes that the collection of statistics on infrastructure is highly dependent upon funding by international donors, such as the European Union, but this happens only every two to four years on an infrequent basis.

*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 114 individual indicators.*