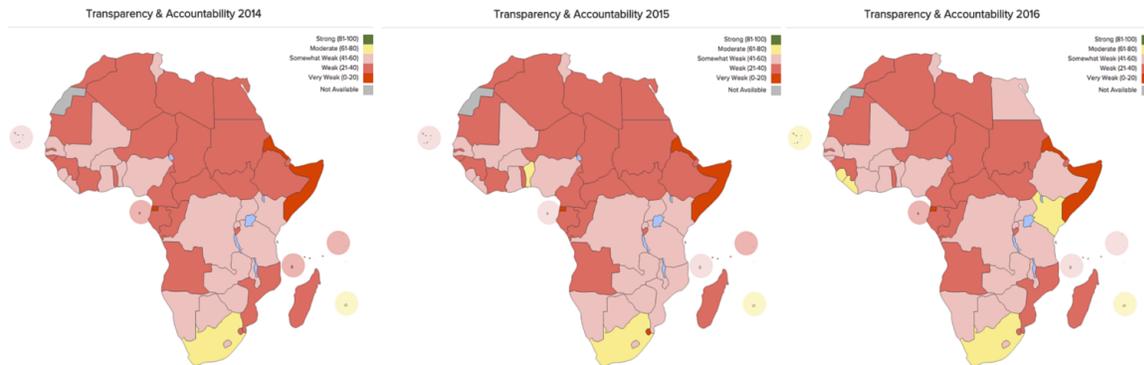


Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



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.

Sierra Leone – Country Findings Summary

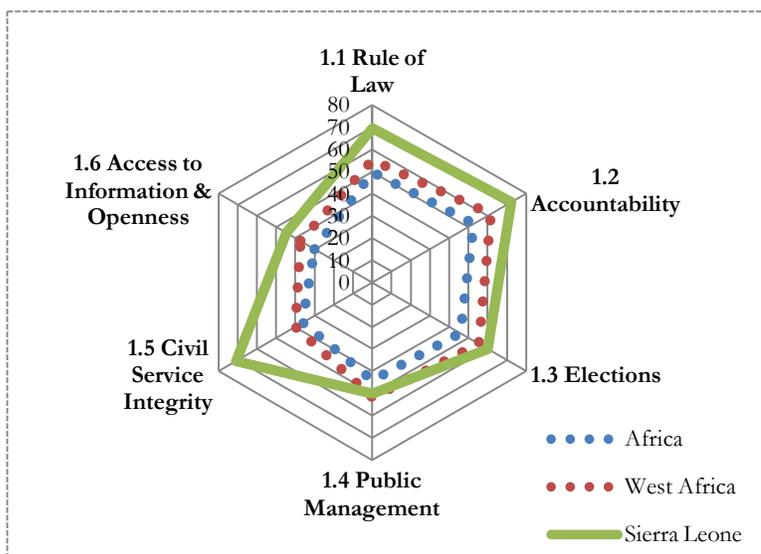
1. Transparency & Accountability

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 increased by nine points from 52 in 2015 to 61 in 2016, moving up from the “somewhat weak” to the “moderate” area on the Global Integrity scale.¹ On five out of the [six subcategories](#), Sierra Leone’s aggregate scores were higher than those of the West African region and the continent. Public Management scored 50 and fell short of the West African average of 52.

Accountability was the highest performing subcategory with an aggregate score of 72 (“moderate” on the Global Integrity scale). The lowest performing subcategory was Access to Information & Openness with an aggregate score of 45. Neither of the two

saw any significant changes compared to the 2015 research. Notable score increases were observed in the Rule of Law and Elections subcategories; the aggregate score for Rule of Law increased by 19 points from 50 in 2015 to 69 in 2016, while the aggregate score for Elections improved by 20 points from 40 in 2015 to 60 in 2016. The remaining subcategories Public Management (50) and Civil Service Integrity (71) saw respective score increases by seven and eight points in comparison to the 2015 research.



< Figure 1 > Sierra Leone’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).

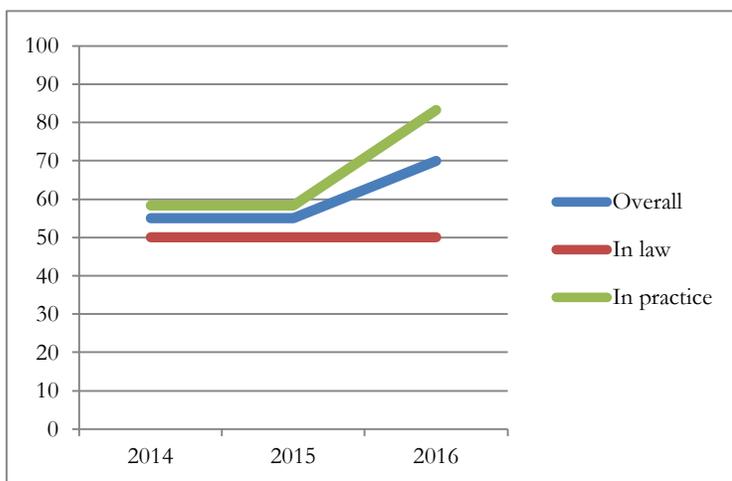
Selected highlights

- **Even though appointments of national-level judges are based on merit, judges are not free from executive interference in their rulings.** The Supreme Court is composed of five members

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)

and Valerius Thomas was the Chief Justice at the time of the research. Before his appointment in 2014, he held the position as senior judge at the Supreme Court. Judges are scrutinized by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission before being recommended to the President of the Republic. All Supreme Court justices also have security of tenure and are disciplined or removed according to due process through a peer panel, as reported in [indicator 3](#). No removals of Supreme Court judges took place during the study period. However, the merit-based selection of judges in itself did not guarantee the independence of the judiciary. [Indicator 2](#) notes a case of March 2015 that “some viewed as indicative of political interference.” The President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, dismissed his Vice President Samuel Sam Sumana for “alleged false claim of religious faith, questionable academic credentials, fomenting violence and intending to form a new political party.” The latter challenged the president’s decision in the Supreme Court. Despite the fact that the reasons for dismissal had no basis in the law, and the power to remove or impeach the vice president is only conferred to the parliament, the Supreme Court denied the recourse. Whereas some rulings of the Supreme Court are available online on the website of the Sierra Leone Legal Information Institute, the ruling on the vice president’s dismissal was not posted during the study period, as reports [indicator 4](#). The Supreme Court or related courts do not have websites, but in some cases, hard copies of rulings can be obtained upon request in person.

- **In law, the independence of the Audit Service is not guaranteed. In practice, however, it operates free from any influence and its members are appointed based on merit.** The Audit Service Act of 1998 mandates the Audit Service to scrutinize all public accounts ([indicator 5](#)). Its independence from other branches of government is not



< Figure 2 > *De jure* and *de facto* gap of Sierra Leone’s indicators on the country’s supreme audit institution (5-9): 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.

fully guaranteed by law, as it is required to submit reports to the parliament and has no authority to directly refer cases to the prosecutor’s office ([indicator 6](#)). Yet in practice, the Audit Service operates without fear or favor as reflected in the high score of [indicator 7](#). For instance, the Service revealed irregularities after auditing the management of Ebola funds during the study period, and presented these findings to the parliament as well as to the Anti-Corruption Commission. Its funding comes from the annual government budget and has been consistent over the past years; it was allocated Le4.7 billion (\$1.2 million) for the financial year 2015, Le4.0 billion (\$946,000) in 2014, and Le3.4 billion (\$804,000) in 2013. During the study period, it also published five reports on its website, which included the 2013 annual report, three performance reports and the audit report on the management of Ebola funds, as

noted in [indicator 9](#). Finally, appointments to the Audit Service were also based on merit. For example, the auditor general Lara Taylor Pearce, appointed in November 2011, had occupied the position as deputy auditor general since 2007 and had previously been active as auditor at KPMG Peat Marwick Sierra Leone ([indicator 8](#)). No evidence exists raising concerns of conflicts of interest. The auditor general is recommended by the Public Service Commission to the president and subject to approval of the parliament.

- **Despite the existence of the Right to Access Information Act and certain other laws, access to information remains difficult for citizens.** According to [indicator 41](#), the country adopted a Right to Access Information Act in October 2013. In practice, little information is to be found online and obtaining information upon request involves costs higher than photocopying ([indicator 42](#)). At the same time, the Right to Access to Information Commission (RAIC) established for the implementation of this Act, had not been fully functional due to the Ebola outbreak. Commissioners were only appointed in September 2014 and in March 2015, the commissioner general announced the commencement of full operations. However, when it comes to legislative processes and documents specifically, access is easier ([indicator 43](#)). For instance, minutes, votes and proceedings of sessions can be accessed free of charge via the parliament’s website. The same applies to bills and laws passed. The public can also access such documents through the parliamentary library.

The public has no access to asset disclosures of public officials. While the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008 requires public officers of all levels to disclose their assets and liabilities to the Anti-Corruption Commission, such disclosures are to remain confidential (indicators [44](#) and [46](#)). Hence, in practice no disclosures are accessible to the public (indicators [45](#) and [47](#)). Citizens also have no access to the financial records of political parties, despite the existence of the Political Parties Act of 2002 that requires every political party to submit a statement of its accounts to the Political Party Registration Commission, and obliges the latter to publish these reports via the government notice ([indicator 50](#)). This requirement only applies to private donations, as political parties in Sierra Leone do not receive state funding (indicators [48](#) and [49](#)). However, even when it comes to private donations, no information was made available to the public during the study period, as all parties, including the main opposition Sierra Leone People’s Party and the ruling party All People’s Congress failed to report their funding ([indicator 51](#)).

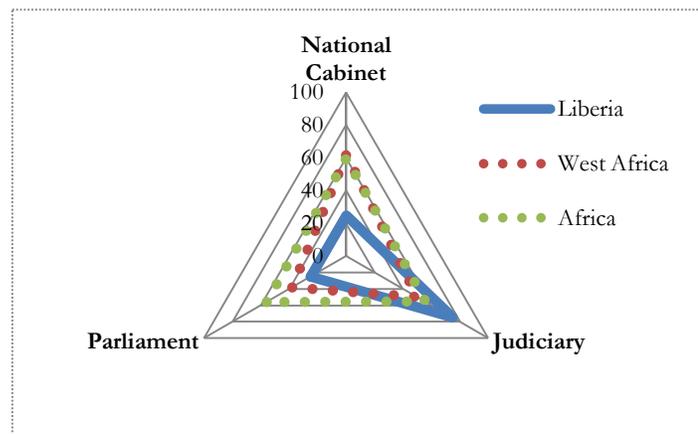
2. Social Development

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

- Citizens faced hurdles in exercising their rights to freely associate in public. At the same time, NGOs were subject to strict registration procedures, but did not face any obstacles in their operations once in existence.** As reported in [indicator 67](#), several complaints against police brutality and arrests at assemblies were voiced during the study period. For instance, in March 2015, a meeting of the Sierra Leone Bar Association, which intended to announce a resolution on the matter of the vice president's removal by the president, was dispersed. The president's declaration of a public health emergency due to the persisting Ebola epidemic also had restrictive effects on citizens' freedom of assembly. Protests against the government's response to the misuse of Ebola funds were met with police repression, while assemblies organized by the ruling party did not meet any resistance. Indicators [69](#) and [70](#), on the other hand, scored high as no cases were reported of NGO employees being killed or physically harmed as retribution for their work, nor of NGOs being shut down or harassed with unwarranted administrative burdens. In particular, the high score indicator 70 earned in 2016 stands in contrast to its score in 2015. During the previous research round, some NGOs had been summoned to give accounts of their funds to the parliament. When it comes to registration, NGOs are required to file more paperwork than other legal persons, as noted in [indicator 68](#).

- Women's representation in the highest branch of the judiciary was relatively high. Only a smaller percentage of women were represented in the national cabinet and the legislature.** Until February 2015, there were two female judges out of five members in the Sierra Leonean Supreme Court (40%). After Justice Umu Tejan-Jalloh retired and was replaced by a male justice, the percentage of women dropped to 20%. [Indicator 86](#) still earned a 75 score and stood above the West African average of 50 and the continental average of 56. Less



< Figure 2 > Sierra Leone's female representation in the three branches of government compared to the country's region and the continent.

women were represented in the national cabinet. Out of a total of 30 ministers, only two were women (6.7%), and the 25 score of [indicator 85](#) was significantly below the regional average of 62 and the continental average of 60. In regards to the parliament, there were only 15 women among the 124 members (12.1%). The 25 score of [indicator 87](#) remains below the West African average of 38 and the continental average of 56.

- **No recent data on youth unemployment, poverty or infrastructure are available.** Statistics Sierra Leone, the government body in charge of collecting and publishing official statistics, has not collected any statistics on youth employment in recent years ([indicator 91](#)). Neither have there been any recent data on poverty, as the last report on Sierra Leone's gross domestic product (GDP) was conducted for the 2001-2006 period and its results were only launched in 2012. The annual economic survey report 2013 also relies on data from 2011 ([indicator 92](#)). Data on infrastructure could be found in different reports, such as the annual statistics digest 2013 that contained data on transport and electricity, and the transport sector statistics bulletin 2013/2014 that contained data on the transport sector from the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 ([indicator 93](#)). The website of Statistics Sierra Leone was not always functional during the study period and paper copies of reports were also not always available at the statistics office. It is also to be noted that the national survey Sierra Leone undertakes every decade could not take place in 2014 as planned due to the Ebola epidemic.

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.