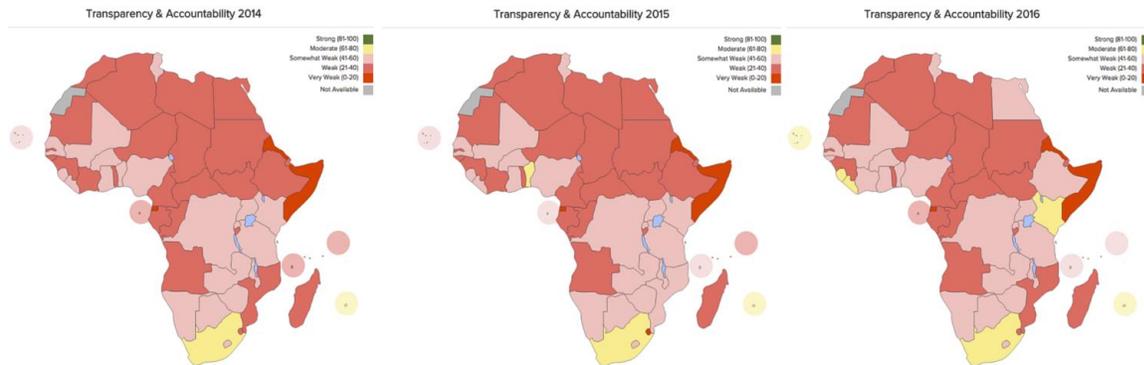


Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



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 aii@globalintegrity.org.

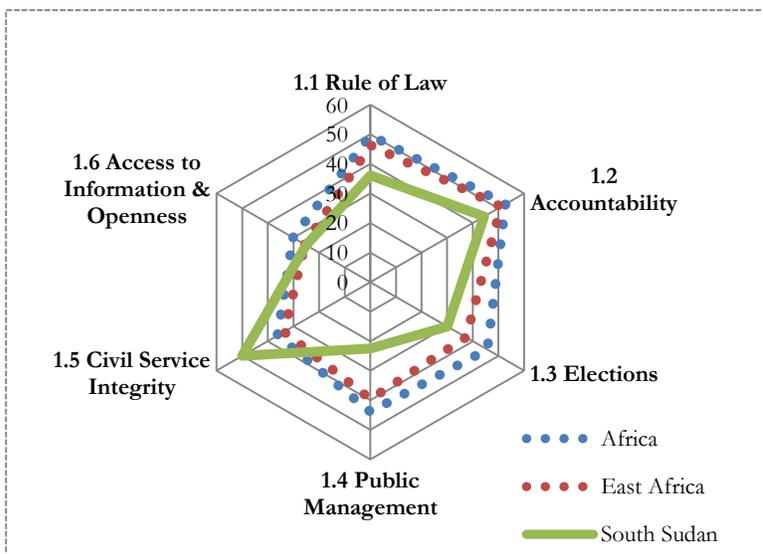
South Sudan – Country Findings Summary

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 change from 2015 and remained at 35 in 2016 (“weak” on the Global Integrity scale).¹

Of all [six subcategories](#), Civil Service Integrity was the highest performing with an aggregate score of 50 (“somewhat weak” on the Global Integrity scale). It was the only subcategory standing above the East African and continental averages, and was followed by the subcategories Accountability (40), Rule of Law (36), Elections (30) and Access to Information & Openness (25). Public Management was the lowest performing subcategory with an aggregate score of 23 in 2016 (“weak” on the Global Integrity scale).



< Figure 1 > South Sudan’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

- **The National Audit Chamber enjoys a certain degree of autonomy in auditing government accounts. However, it faces budgetary constraints and the appointments of auditors do not fully support the independence of the Chamber.** By law, the National Audit Chamber (NAC) is mandated to audit government accounts ([indicator 5](#)), and the South Sudan Audit Chamber Act of 2011 further gives the Auditor General the power to summon any person for the purpose of investigation, in consultation and approval of the Prosecutor General ([indicator 6](#)). In practice, the NAC works independently from other offices of government and generally has the autonomy to

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)

audit different accounts. However, [indicator 7](#) earned a low score of 25 as the NAC did not have access to certain key institutions, such as the military and the national intelligence service, and its efficiency was restricted by budgetary constraints. The reduction of state budget since the shutdown of oil productions in South Sudan in 2012 also led to budget cuts for the NAC. On appointments, [indicator 8](#) reports that even though NAC officials are generally qualified for their positions, there are certain cases of conflict of interest. For instance, the Auditor General Steven Wondu had served as a senior official of the ruling party SPLM for several years prior to his appointment. The NAC released two reports during the study period – an audit report on the state-owned Ivory Bank in late 2014, and an audit report on the Central Bank in May 2015. Reports were only released to the legislative and executive branches in hard copy, and even after their release, are not accessible on the NAC website ([indicator 9](#)).

- **South Sudan does not have any laws regulating the public procurement sector, and no regulatory authority exists to ensure the transparency of the sector.** As reported in [indicator 24](#), a Public Procurement Bill was drafted in 2011 and tabled before the National Assembly in 2012, but had not been passed until the end of the study period. Therefore, no legal requirements for competitive bidding exist, nor any restrictions on companies found guilty of violating procurement regulations from participating in future bids ([indicator 28](#)). Due to the lack of a legal framework, the government has also not yet established any regulatory authority; during the study period, only a Public Procurement Unit at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development existed, but it lacked the capacity to ensure transparency within the sector. Therefore, not all bids followed open and competitive bidding ([indicator 25](#)), and tenders were awarded without being advertised, as was the case in October 2014 when the government signed a deal with the Spanish oil company Star Petroleum for two of the country’s remaining oil blocks. Citizens were also not able to access the results of documents associated with procurement contracts (full contracts, proposals, execution reports and financial audits), as reported in [indicator 26](#).
- **The country has strong legal frameworks to ensure integrity in the civil service. However, in practice, civil servants’ work is compromised by political interference.** According to [indicator 35](#), the Anti-Corruption Act of 2009 requires civil servants to report cases of alleged corruption. The same Act also protects civil servants who report such cases from recrimination or other negative consequences ([indicator 36](#)). An employer who takes retaliatory measures against a whistleblower in the civil service shall be liable to a civil suit. Alongside the Anti-Corruption Act, the Penal Code of 2008 provides for rules to prevent conflicts of interest, nepotism, cronyism and patronage in all branches of government ([indicator 37](#)). Whereas the law prevents conflicts of interest during the time a civil servant holds his/her position, there are no restrictions for civil servants on entering the private sector after leaving the government, even if a transition poses a conflict of interest ([indicator 40](#)). In practice, conflicts of interest are observed in the appointment, promotion and removal of civil servants. As reported in indicators [38](#) and [39](#), especially at the lower level, appointments are based on criteria other than merit, such as personal loyalties, political party affiliations or family connections. President Salva Kiir and some of his ministers are also reported to have removed senior civil servants without following due process.

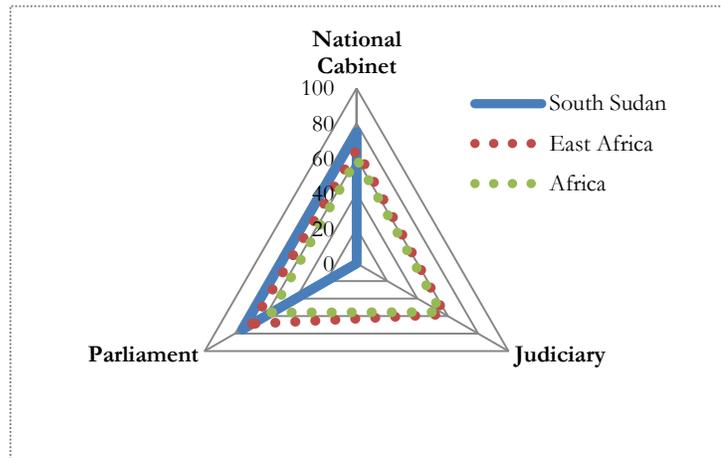
2. Social Development

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

- **NGOs operated in a highly restrictive environment, and citizens were not always able to associate freely.** According to [indicator 68](#), NGOs are subject to onerous and costly registration requirements. Unlike business operations which are required to register once, NGOs are obliged obtain a 'letter of no objection' from their line ministry, before registering with the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Once the Ministry issues a certificate of incorporation, the NGO is required to return to the line ministry to obtain an operating license. The entire process can cost more than US\$ 5,000. Several NGOs were asked to renew their registration on an annual basis. Cases were also reported of existing NGOs being shut down or harassed with unwarranted administrative burdens as a retribution for their work ([indicator 70](#)). For instance, the South Sudan National Security Service ordered the Dutch NGO Free Voice to halt its operations for not having followed its requests to reregister. Free Voice officials, however, reported that they had been duly registered. In August 2015, the local NGO Foundation for Democracy and Accountable Governance (FODAG) was also shut down after sensitizing the local population of on-going South Sudanese peace talks in the Ethiopian capital. As noted in [indicator 69](#), there were also cases of individual NGO employees being killed or physically threatened, as was the case of an employee of the U.S. organization Carter Center who was murdered in his home in the capital Juba in February 2015, or two staff of the French medical charity Médecins sans Frontières who were killed in Unity State in August 2015. Although citizens in South Sudan are free to join any association or political party, [indicator 67](#) reports that they are occasionally restricted in expressing their dissent in public, particularly when it comes to views critical of the government. There were a few examples of public gatherings during the study period, such as the one in November 2014 to protest against on-going conflicts between forces of President Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar. They were, however, organized by groups close to the government.

- Women’s representation was comparatively high in the national cabinet and parliament. However, there were no women in the highest branch of the judiciary.** Out of 21 cabinet ministers, five were women (23.8%). [Indicator 85](#), thus, earned a 75 score and stood above the regional average of 65 and the continental average of 60. In the National Legislative Assembly, 88 out of a total of 332 members were women (26.5%). The 75 score of [indicator 87](#) stood



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

above the East African average of 69 and significantly above the continental average of 56. On the other hand, there were no women within the highest echelon of the judiciary, as all five judges of the Supreme Court were men. This is despite the fact that the country's Transitional Constitution of 2011 establishes that 25% of all appointments to the executive, legislative and judiciary branches are to be women. [Indicator 86](#) earned a 0 score and stood far below the regional average of 58 and the continental average of 56.

- The country showed low statistical capacity.** The National Bureau of Statistics does not collect and publish statistics on youth unemployment or infrastructure (indicators [91](#) and [93](#)). The only time the Bureau collected data on unemployment was in 2008, before South Sudan's independence in 2011 and when it operated as the Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE). The collected data, however, was not detailed enough to provide an overview of youth-specific unemployment. The Bureau also rarely collects data on poverty, but published some statistics indicating the level of poverty of each of the country's ten states in 2011 and 2012 as part of data around more general indicators ([indicator 92](#)). All three indicators earned low scores of 0.

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