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The Mo Ibrahim Foundation Ibrahim Index of African Governance

Introduction

The Ibrahim Index of Africa Governance seeks to provide simple, comprehensive, and comparable measurements of governance for all 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The index does this by looking at a broad range of indicators, normalizing them on a 0 to 100 scale, and aggregating them. The indicators were chosen based on their ability to capture “what citizens regularly look to their nation-state, provincial, municipal, and village polities to provide.” The Index is the first attempt to explicitly rank sub-Saharan African countries according to governance quality. It will be expanded and refined on an annual basis, offering a continually improving assessment of governance.

Indicators and Sources

An overall score is assigned to each country; this is an aggregation of scores in five categories, 15 sub-categories, and 58 sub-sub-categories. The categories and sub-categories break down as follows:

Categories	Sub-Categories
1. Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Security• Public Safety
2. Rule of Law, Transparency, and Corruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ratification of Critical Legal Norms• Independent and Efficient Judicial Systems• Corruption
3. Participation and Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation• Civil and Political Rights• Gender Discrimination
4. Sustainable Economic Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wealth Creation• Macroeconomic Stability and Financial Integrity• Commerce• Environmental Sensitivity
5. Human Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poverty• Education

Data were collected from a variety of international organizations, including the IMF, World Bank, African Development Bank, International Peace Research Institute, Economist Intelligence Unit, Heritage Foundation/Wall Street Journal, Freedom House, Transparency International, CIA World Factbook, OECD, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, and UNESCO. Data were also collected from national statistical offices and by Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) researchers on the ground. In the future, the MIF plans to collect more of the data directly through its own in-country investigation.

Methodology

The 2007 Ibrahim Index uses data from 2005, 2002, and 2000. Scores are calculated using the same minimum and maximum values across all years so that they are comparable across time (as well as across countries). The primary drawback to this method is that minimum and maximum values may have to be changed in future years, meaning the scores in fu-

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ture indices may not be comparable to scores in the 2007 index. The MIF acknowledges shortcomings in data collection and some gaps in the data.

In determining a country's overall score, categories are weighted evenly. Within categories, sub-categories are weighted evenly, with the exception of the Safety and Security category, in which National Security is weighted twice as heavily as Public Safety. (This is due primarily to lack of reliable crime data.) Within sub-categories, sub-sub-categories are weighted evenly.

Comparison Between the Index and Other Governance Indices

The MIF asserts that, aside from the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators, no other index is both as broad as the Ibrahim Index *and* covers all 48 sub-Saharan African countries. Other projects with similar breadth of scope do not cover all of Africa: the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's African Governance Report covers only 26 countries, and the Afrobarometer surveys, the Global Integrity Index, UNDP's Governance Indicators Project, ODI's World Governance Assessment, and Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer all cover even fewer. The World Economic Forum's Global Governance Initiative doesn't look at individual countries, but at trends worldwide.

Other indices that do cover all of Africa, such as the World Bank's Doing Business Reports, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, and Freedom House's Freedom in the World, do not cover governance broadly, focusing on specific governance elements.

The World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) is comparable to the Ibrahim Index in terms breadth and country coverage. (The WGI covers most countries worldwide.) In fact, the two projects use many of the same sources. The major distinguishing characteristics of the WGI are 1) The WGI does not include human development factors, 2) the WGI uses 311 variables (versus 58 sub-sub-categories for the MIF), and 3) the WGI does not aggregate its six major indicators into an overall score. Given that the WGI is well-established (notably, it is used by the Millennium Challenge Corporation), draws from a larger pool of sources, and covers the entire world, it may be difficult for the Ibrahim Index to distinguish itself.

USAID's country-level Economic Performance Assessments (CAS Reports) also cover a broad range of indicators and use many of the same sources as the above indices. These reports, however, do not aggregate this information into an index. Additionally, they only cover a handful of African countries.

About the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was founded in 2006 by Dr. Mo Ibrahim, the founder of Celtel, a large African telecommunications company. The foundation is funded exclusively by Mr. Ibrahim, and has two major initiatives: 1) The Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership—US\$ 5 million over 10 years and US\$ 200,000 annually thereafter—which is awarded to a former African executive head of state or government for leadership and 2) the Ibrahim Index of African Governance. The board of the Foundation consists of Mo Ibrahim, Lalla Ben Barka, Lord Cairns, Mamphela Ramphele, Mary Robinson, Salim Ahmed Salim, and Nicholas Ulanov.

Country Performance

Highest and Lowest Ranking Countries Overall, 2005

Rank	Country	Ibrahim Index of African Governance	Safety and Security	Rule of law, transparency and corruption	Participation and human rights	Sustainable Economic Opportunity	Human Development
1	Mauritius	86.2	91.7	85.2	88.7	75.5	90.0
2	Seychelles	83.1	83.3	74.2	79.3	80.5	98.3
3	Botswana	73.0	75.0	88.3	75.5	58.1	67.9
4	Cape Verde	72.9	84.0	80.4	74.6	52.8	72.8
5	South Africa	71.1	61.1	75.2	81.1	67.4	70.5
6	Gabon	67.4	94.4	57.1	59.9	62.4	63.0
7	Namibia	67.0	77.7	74.5	69.4	55.0	58.3
8	Ghana	66.8	85.9	70.1	67.7	46.5	63.8
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41	Central African Republic	46.7	68.8	45.0	54.5	38.7	26.6
42	Angola	44.3	67.8	38.1	36.8	40.7	38.3
43	Liberia	42.7	65.1	32.2	40.4	41.4	34.4
44	Guinea-Bissau	42.7	71.2	33.8	38.7	28.2	41.5
45	Sudan	40.0	31.1	31.4	38.3	41.3	57.8
46	Chad	38.8	68.3	42.1	43.3	24.2	15.9
47	DR Congo	38.6	69.4	25.4	24.3	31.6	42.3
48	Somalia	28.1	63.5	19.4	23.5	5.1	28.9

Greatest change in Rank, 2000 - 2005

Country	Change in Rank
Rwanda	+18
Ethiopia	+10
Mali	+9
Central African Republic	-8
Zimbabwe	-10
Ivory Coast	-12
Guinea-Bissau	-21