# 2026 Ibrahim Index of African Governance

—

## Indicator Definitions & Sources

OCTOBER 2026
MO IBRAHIM FOUNDATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **SECURITY & RULE OF LAW** | |
| **SECURITY & SAFETY** | |
| Absence of Armed Conflict (ACLED/UCDP) | This indicator measures the number of violent events in both state-based and non-state-based conflicts as well as the number of non-state-based armed conflicts within a country. |
| Absence of Violence against Civilians (ACLED/PTS) | This indicator measures the number of violent events against civilians committed by government forces and non-state actors, as well as the level of political violence and terror in a country. |
| Absence of Forced Migration (IDMC/UNHCR) | This indicator measures the total stock of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the number of refugees fleeing a country. |
| Absence of Human Trafficking & Forced Labour (ENACT/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which human trafficking activity and forced labour are prevalent in a country. |
| Absence of Crime (ENACT/WHO) | This indicator assesses the extent of organised crime and the homicide rate in a country. |
| Public Perception of Security & Safety (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel safe walking in their neighbourhood, public trust in the police and military, as well as the extent to which citizens feel the government is doing well at reducing crime. |
| **RULE OF LAW & JUSTICE** | |
| Executive Compliance with the Rule of Law (V-DEM/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which the executive respects the constitution, the government complies with decisions by the courts and transitions of power are subject to the law. |
| Impartiality of the Judicial System (AFIDEP/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which the judicial system is impartial based on the independence of the courts, the autonomy of judges, and the appointment of judges. |
| Judicial Processes (V-DEM/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which justice is accessible and affordable, due process of law and rights of the accused are guaranteed, trials are timely, and justice is enforced effectively. |
| Equality before the Law (FH/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there is equality before the law and civil and criminal justice systems are impartial and free of discrimination. |
| Law Enforcement (AFIDEP/WEF/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which the police are reliable, subject to effective misconduct investigations and sanctioning, and the criminal investigation and prosecutorial system is functional. |
| Property Rights (BS/V-DEM/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which private property rights are guaranteed and enjoyed by citizens. |
| Public Perception of the Rule of Law (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel that the head of the executive does not ignore the courts and laws and the extent to which citizens feel that they are treated equally under the law. |
| **ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY** | |
| Institutional Checks & Balances (BS/V-DEM/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there is a separation of powers, government powers are checked upon and limited by both the legislature and the judiciary, and public office holders are sanctioned for abuse of office. |
| Absence of Undue Influence (AFIDEP/BS/FH) | This indicator assesses the extent to which the elected government has the effective power to govern, the government and legislature determine policies without undue influence from veto powers, and civil servants' work is not compromised by political interference. |
| Civic Checks & Balances (BS/V-DEM/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which effective citizen complaint mechanisms exist, citizens have the right to petition and to civic engagement, and cooperative associations, interest groups and civil society organisations (CSOs) are consulted in policymaking. |
| Disclosure of Public Records (AFIDEP/IBP/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which budget information is made publicly available in a timely manner, public officials and civil servants disclose their assets, and laws and judicial information are publicised. |
| Accessibility of Public Records (AFIDEP/UNDESA/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which records and information of interest to the public are accessible and citizens have the right to request that information, as well as the scope and quality of online services provided by the government. |
| Public Perception of Accountability (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel that the head of the executive does not ignore parliament and that officials who commit crimes are punished. |
| **ANTI-CORRUPTION** | |
| Anti-Corruption Mechanism (AFIDEP/BS) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there is an anti-corruption policy in place contributing to the containment of corruption, there is a functioning and independent anti-corruption body, and corruption allegations are investigated. |
| Absence of Corruption in State Institutions (V-DEM/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which corruption is absent in the judiciary, the legislature, and the executive. |
| Absence of Corruption in the Public Sector (V-DEM/WEF/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which public sector employees (including the police and military) do not engage in corruption and administrative processes are free from bribery. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Public Procurement Procedures (AFIDEP/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there are competitive bidding procedures for public procurement, government procurement is free from corruption, and companies found guilty of violating the law are excluded from participating in future bidding. |
| Absence of Corruption in the Private Sector (WB/WEF) | This indicator assesses the extent to which individuals/companies do not engage in corrupt activities to conduct business. |
| Public Perception of Anti-Corruption (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel that the head of the executive, members of parliament, government officials, and the police are not involved in corruption, as well as citizens' satisfaction with how the government is doing at fighting government corruption. |
| **PARTICIPATION, RIGHTS & INCLUSION** | |
| **PARTICIPATION** | |
| Freedom of Association & Assembly (AFIDEP/FH) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens can associate and assemble freely. |
| Political Pluralism (AFIDEP/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which political parties are free to operate and have equal access to state-owned media and public financing for campaigns. |
| Civil Society Space (AFIDEP/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are free to establish and operate and are free from repression and persecution. |
| Democratic Elections (AFIDEP/CDD-Ghana/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which elections are free and fair and the extent to which election monitoring bodies and agencies are independent and have operating capacity, including for reporting. |
| Deliberative & Participatory Governance (V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which, prior to policy changes, political elites acknowledge and respect counterarguments, provide public, reasoned and common good considerations, and hold a wide range of consultation at elite levels. |
| Public Perception of Political Participation (AFR) | This indicator assesses whether citizens were able to vote in the last national election and to what extent they considered it free and fair, trust the electoral commission, and think that political pluralism is beneficial. |
| **RIGHTS** | |
| Personal Liberties (FH/V-DEM/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens enjoy freedom of movement, personal social freedoms, and the right to privacy. |
| Freedom of Expression & Belief (FH/V-DEM/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens enjoy freedom of expression, academic freedom, and freedom of religion and belief. |
| Media Freedom (AFIDEP/RSF/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which the legislative framework and the political, economic, and sociocultural contexts allow journalists to do their work freely, as well as the extent to which there are abuses against media and against journalists in connection with their work. |
| Digital Freedom (AFIDEP/DSP&V-DEM/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent of internet and social media shutdowns, the protection of internet users' privacy, and the extent to which people are free to express themselves online and there is no limited access to online content. |
| Protection against Discrimination (AFIDEP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there are official functioning mechanisms to protect citizens against ethnic, religious, and sexual orientation-based discrimination. |
| Public Perception of Freedom of Speech (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel free to say what they think. |
| **INCLUSION & EQUALITY** | |
| Equal Political Power (V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which political power is distributed by socioeconomic position, sexual orientation, social group, and urban-rural location. |
| Equal Political Representation (FH/IPU/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which various segments of the population have political rights and electoral opportunities and to which extent disadvantaged social groups and youth (age 40 years and under) are represented in the legislature. |
| Equal Civil Liberties (V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which the enjoyment of civil liberties is equal by region, income level, social group, political group, and urban-rural location. |
| Equal Socioeconomic Opportunities (AFIDEP/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which state jobs and business opportunities are equally accessible regardless of income level, social group, or urban-rural location, and there are programmes dedicated to the socioeconomic integration of youth. |
| Equal Access to Public Services (V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which access to basic public services is distributed equally by socioeconomic position, social group, political group and urban-rural location. |
| Public Perception of Inclusion & Equality (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel their ethnic group is treated fairly by the government and would dislike having people of a different ethnic group, different religion, or homosexuals as neighbours. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **WOMEN'S EQUALITY** | |
| Political Power & Representation of Women (AFIDEP/IPU&UNWomen/ V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which political power is distributed by gender and measures the proportion of women in the executive, in the legislature, and the highest branch of the judiciary. |
| Rights & Civil Liberties for Women (V-DEM/WB) | This indicator assesses the extent to which women enjoy the same level of civil liberties and property rights as men and are free to participate in civil society organisations, as well as the extent to which women's civil society organisations are free to operate. |
| Socioeconomic Opportunity for Women (AFIDEP/V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which state jobs and business opportunities are equally accessible regardless of gender and women receive equal pay, benefits and treatment to men in the workplace. |
| Access to Public Services for Women (V-DEM) | This indicator assesses the extent to which access to basic public services, such as order and security, primary education, clean water, and healthcare, are distributed equally according to gender. |
| Laws on Violence against Women (WB) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there are laws and regulations on violence against women by assessing whether there is legislation on sexual harassment in employment, whether there are criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment, whether the law is free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband, whether there is legislation specifically addressing domestic violence, and whether a woman can obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man. |
| Public Perception of Female Leadership (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens believe women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men. |
| **FOUNDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY** | |
| **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION** | |
| Civil Registration (AFIDEP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which birth and death certificates are available within 30 days and free of charge. |
| Capacity of the Statistical System (AFIDEP/ODW/V-DEM/WB) | This indicator assesses the capacity of a country's statistical system, the extent of statistical data coverage and openness, the independence of national statistics offices (NSOs), and the government's cyber security capacity. |
| Effective Administration (AfDB/AFIDEP/V-DEM/WB) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there is an effective and professional public administration. |
| Tax & Revenue Mobilisation (AfDB/UNU-WIDER/WB) | This indicator measures a country's taxation capacity and assesses the efficiency of its revenue mobilisation. |
| Budgetary & Financial Management (AfDB/WB) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there is a comprehensive and credible budget linked to policy priorities, effective financial management systems, and timely and accurate accounting and fiscal reporting. |
| Public Perception of Easiness to Obtain and Identity Document (AFR) | This indicator assesses citizens' perceptions of how easy it is to obtain the identity documents they need. |
| **BUSINESS & LABOUR ENVIRONMENT** | |
| Regional Integration (AfDB/AfDB&AUC/UNCTAD) | This indicator assesses the extent of government's development of regional integration, the extent of a country's intra-African trade, and its visa openness towards other African countries. |
| Economic Diversification (OEC/UNCTAD) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there is a diversification of exports and the extent of a country's economic complexity. |
| Business & Competition Regulations (AfDB/BS/WB) | This indicator assesses the extent to which a country's regulatory environment helps private businesses and the extent to which safeguards are enforced to protect competition. |
| Access to Banking Services (IMF/WB) | This indicator measures the extent to which the population has access to bank branches, ATMs, and financial institution accounts as well as the usage of mobile money services. |
| Labour Relations (AFIDEP/ITUC/WEF) | This indicator assesses the extent to which labour-employer relations are generally cooperative, workers are free to organise into trade unions, and countries comply with collective labour rights. |
| Secure Employment Opportunities (ILO/WB) | This indicator measures the extent to which employed persons are not living in poverty and are not in vulnerable employment. |
| Public Perception of Economic Opportunities (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens feel the government is doing well at creating jobs and their perception of the country's present economic condition. |
| **INFRASTRUCTURE** | |
| Transport Network (AfDB/WEF) | This indicator assesses the quality, coverage and efficiency of a country's transport network including road, rail and air infrastructure. |
| Access to Energy (WB/WHO) | This indicator measures the extent to which a country's population has access to electricity and clean cooking fuels. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Mobile Communications (ITU) | This indicator measures the extent to which mobile phones and mobile internet are accessible and affordable. |
| Internet (Cable/ITU/WB) | This indicator measures broadband internet pricing, internet speed and internet security. |
| Shipping & Postal Network (UNCTAD/UPU) | This indicator assesses a country's integration level into global shipping liner networks as well as its performance in postal development. |
| Public Perception of Infrastructure (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens are satisfied with how the government is doing at maintaining roads and bridges and at providing a reliable supply of electricity. |
| **RURAL ECONOMY** | |
| Rural Land & Water Access (IFAD) | This indicator assesses the extent to which rural people have access to land and water. |
| Rural Market Access (IFAD) | This indicator assesses the extent to which existing agricultural input markets and produce markets are reliably providing value for money to smallholders for inputs and the highest proportion of the retail price for produce. |
| Rural Economy Support (IFAD) | This indicator assesses the extent to which government strategies foster rural development and investment as well as the extent to which policy and legal frameworks create an enabling environment for the provision of rural financial services and provide access to public or private extension services for smallholder farmers. |
| Rural Representation & Participation (IFAD) | This indicator assesses the extent to which rural people can organise into autonomous groups and have representation and power in policy-making processes. |
| **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** | |
| **HEALTH** | |
| Access to Healthcare (V-DEM/WHO) | This indicator estimates how much households spend on health directly out-of-pocket and assesses the extent to which basic high-quality healthcare is guaranteed to all. |
| Access to Water & Sanitation (WHO&UNICEF) | This indicator measures the availability of drinking water and handwashing facilities, as well as the use of improved sanitation facilities. |
| Control of Communicable Diseases (UNAIDS/WHO) | This indicator measures the absence of malaria and tuberculosis deaths as well as the extent to which the HIV-positive population receive antiretroviral treatment, and children receive vaccines against measles, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and hepatitis B. |
| Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (IHME) | This indicator measures the years of healthy life lost (DALYs) due to metabolic risks and the death rate due to non-communicable diseases. |
| Child & Maternal Health (UNDESA/UNICEF&WHO&WB/ UN IGME/UN MMEIG) | This indicator measures the prevalence of child mortality and stunting among children under 5 years of age, as well as the annual number of maternal deaths and the proportion of women of reproductive age using modern contraceptive methods. |
| Health Quality (WHO) | This indicator measures a country's compliance with 3 out of 15 WHO International Health Regulations, namely human resources, health services provision and health emergency management. |
| Public Perception of Health Provision (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens are satisfied with how the government is doing at improving basic health services and water and sanitation services, and how easy it is to obtain the medical care they need. |
| **EDUCATION** | |
| Equality in Education (UNESCO/V-DEM) | This indicator measures the gender parity ratio in primary and lower secondary education and assesses the extent to which high-quality basic education is guaranteed to all citizens. |
| Education Enrolment (UNESCO) | This indicator measures the percentage of students enrolled from pre-primary to tertiary education over the corresponding eligible official school-age population for each level of education. |
| Education Completion (UNESCO) | This indicator measures the completion rate at primary and secondary education levels. |
| Human Resources in Education (UNESCO) | This indicator measures the average number of pupils per qualified teacher at primary level of education and the percentage of teachers in primary education who have received the minimum standard of training required for teaching. |
| Education Quality (BS/WB/WEF) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there are solid educational institutions and education policy is successful in delivering high-quality education and supports research and development, as well as the extent to which the education system meets the needs of a competitive economy and the number of expected years of learning-adjusted years of schooling. |
| Public Perception of Education Provision (AFR) | This indicator assesses the extent to which citizens are satisfied with how the government is doing at addressing educational needs and how easy it is to obtain the public school services they need. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **SOCIAL PROTECTION & WELFARE** | |
| Social Safety (AFIDEP/BS) | This indicator assesses the extent to which social safety nets exist to compensate for social risks of the market economy, including social safety nets for the elderly, those with an illness or health conditions, and the unemployed. |
| Poverty Reduction Policies (AFIDEP/BS/WB) | This indicator assesses the extent to which socioeconomic factors are not a barrier to participation in society, while also assessing the social protection, labour and welfare policies that guarantee a minimum level of welfare and ensure access to quality health and education services. |
| Socioeconomic Inequality Mitigation (AfDB/FFP/WB/WID) | This indicator assesses the extent to which there is equity of public resource use and income equality as well the extent to which there is no structural economic inequality. |
| Decent Housing (CAHF/UN-Habitat) | This indicator measures the share of the urban population living in slum households, as well as the affordability of the cheapest newly built urban housing constructed by formal developers. |
| Food Security (FAO) | This indicator measures the prevalence of undernourishment, the adequacy and variability of food supply, and the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity. |
| Public Perception of Social Protection & Lived Poverty (AFR) | This indicator assesses citizens' food, water, and cooking fuel deprivation, their perception of their present living conditions, and their satisfaction with how the government is doing at improving the living standards of the poor. |
| **SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT** | |
| Promotion of Environmental Sustainability (AfDB/BS/WB) | This indicator assesses the extent to which economic policy considers environmental concerns and government environmental policies foster sustainability and pollution management. |
| Enforcement of Environmental Policies (WEF/WJP) | This indicator assesses the extent to which environmental laws and regulations are enforced effectively. |
| Air Quality (HEI&IHME) | This indicator measures the ratio of disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) due to pollution both outside and inside the household. |
| Sustainable Use of Land & Forests (FAO/WB/WRI) | This indicator measures the extent to which land, soil and forests are used sustainably. |
| Land & Water Biodiversity Protection (ENACT/WB/Yale&Columbia) | This indicator measures the extent to which terrestrial biomes and marine areas are protected as well as the extent to which flora and fauna are not illegally exploited. |

Most IIAG source acronyms follow the organisations' official abbreviations, e.g. FAO or IMF. For some organisations where no official abbreviation exists, e.g. Bertelsmann Stiftung, MIF has developed its own acronyms to identify and annotate indicator and source names in various IIAG datasets and documentation.

| | |
|---|---|
| ACLED | Armed Conflict Location and Event Data |
| AfDB | African Development Bank |
| AFIDEP | African Institute for Development Policy |
| AFR | Afrobarometer |
| AUC | African Union Commission |
| BS | Bertelsmann Stiftung |
| Cable | Cable |
| CAHF | Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa |
| CDD-Ghana | Ghana Center for Democratic Development |
| Columbia | Center for Integrated Earth System Information, Columbia University |
| DSP | Digital Society Project |
| ENACT | ENACT Africa |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FFP | Fund for Peace |
| FH | Freedom House |
| HEI | Health Effects Institute |
| IBP | International Budget Partnership |
| IDMC | Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IHME | Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| IPU | Inter-Parliamentary Union |
| ITU | International Telecommunication Union |
| ITUC | International Trade Union Confederation |
| ODW | Open Data Watch |
| OEC | Observatory for Economic Complexity |
| PTS | Political Terror Scale |
| RSF | Reporters sans frontières |
| UCDP | Uppsala Conflict Data Program |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNDESA | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UN-Habitat | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UN IGME | United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimates |
| UN MMEIG | United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group |
| UNU-WIDER | United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| UPU | Universal Postal Union |
| V-DEM | Varieties of Democracy Institute |
| WB | World Bank |
| WEF | World Economic Forum |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WID | World Inequality Database |
| WJP | World Justice Project |
| WRI | World Resources Institute |
| Yale | Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy |

**mo.ibrahim.foundation**

LI→ moibrahimfoundation

X → Mo_IbrahimFdn

FB→ MoIbrahimFoundation