Mo Ibrahim Foundation

2026 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (2016-2025) Key Findings

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The 2026 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)

Created in 2007 in collaboration with the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, the IIAG is a tool to measure public governance performance and trends for 54 Africa countries and different group averages – continent, regions, Regional Economic Communities – over the last decade of available data (for the 2026 IIAG: 2016-2025).

The 2026 IIAG is based on:

- 319 variables from 59 data publications (collected from 51 African and international sources).
- 96 indicators, more than 90% of these being clustered, i.e. based on multiple sources or variables.
- These indicators are organised under 16 sub-categories and 4 broad dimensions: *Security & Rule of Law*; *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*; *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* and *Human Development*.
- For each sub-category but two (*Rural Economy* and *Sustainable Environment*), the IIAG includes a public opinion indicator, sourced from Afrobarometer, to complement the Index with the public perception of Africa's citizens on the delivery of public goods and services.

How to use the IIAG

Whether at country or governance dimension level, the IIAG provides a view of:

- The final performance in 2025.
- The change from 2016 to 2025.
- The trajectory followed over the decade.

To ensure a comprehensive and qualified analysis of any country or dimension, users of the IIAG need to consider both the final performance/rank in 2025, and the trajectory followed between 2016 and 2025.

Strength of the IIAG: ten-year trend analysis

- To assess the trajectory of a country or measure over the decade, the IIAG uses trends.
- Trends compare the rates of change over the latest five years (2021-2025) to the rates of change over the full decade (2016-2025).

Trend	Characteristic
Increasing Improvement	Score is better in 2025 compared to 2016, with the rate of improvement increasing since 2021.
Slowing Improvement	Score is better in 2025 compared to 2016, but the rate of improvement is slowing since 2021.
Warning Signs	Score is better/no change in 2025 compared to 2016, but showing decline since 2021.
Bouncing Back	Score is worse/no change in 2025 compared to 2016, but showing progress since 2021.
Slowing Deterioration	Score is worse in 2025 compared to 2016, but the rate of deterioration is slowing since 2021.
Increasing Deterioration	Score is worse in 2025 compared to 2016, with the rate of deterioration increasing since 2021.

2026 IIAG Framework

OVERALL GOVERNANCE

SECURITY & RULE OF LAW

Security & Safety

- Absence of Armed Conflict
- Absence of Violence against Civilians
- Absence of Forced Migration
- Absence of Human Trafficking & Forced Labour
- Absence of Crime
- Public Perception of Security & Safety

Rule of Law & Justice

- Executive Compliance with the Rule of Law
- Impartiality of the Judicial System
- Judicial Processes
- Equality before the Law
- Law Enforcement
- Property Rights
- Public Perception of the Rule of Law

Accountability & Transparency

- Institutional Checks & Balances
- Absence of Undue Influence
- Civic Checks & Balances
- Disclosure of Public Records
- Accessibility of Public Records
- Public Perception of Accountability

Anti-Corruption

- Anti-Corruption Mechanisms
- Absence of Corruption in State Institutions
- Absence of Corruption in the Public Sector
- Public Procurement Procedures
- Absence of Corruption in the Private Sector
- Public Perception of Anti-Corruption

PARTICIPATION, RIGHTS & INCLUSION

Participation

- Freedom of Association & Assembly
- Political Pluralism
- Civil Society Space
- Democratic Elections
- Deliberative & Participatory Governance
- Public Perception of Political Participation

Rights

- Personal Liberties
- Freedom of Expression & Belief
- Media Freedom
- Digital Freedom
- Protection against Discrimination
- Public Perception of Freedom of Speech

Inclusion & Equality

- Equal Political Power
- Equal Political Representation
- Equal Civil Liberties
- Equal Socioeconomic Opportunities
- Equal Access to Public Services
- Public Perception of Inclusion & Equality

Women's Equality

- Political Power & Representation of Women
- Rights & Civil Liberties for Women
- Socioeconomic Opportunity for Women
- Access to Public Services for Women
- Laws on Violence against Women
- Public Perception of Female Leadership

FOUNDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Public Administration

- Civil Registration
- Capacity of the Statistical System
- Effective Administration
- Tax & Revenue Mobilisation
- Budgetary & Financial Management
- Public Perception of Easiness to Obtain an Identity Document

Business & Labour Environment

- Regional Integration
- Economic Diversification
- Business & Competition Regulations
- Access to Banking Services
- Labour Relations
- Secure Employment Opportunities
- Public Perception of Economic Opportunities

Infrastructure

- Transport Network
- Access to Energy
- Mobile Communications
- Internet
- Shipping & Postal Network
- Public Perception of Infrastructure

Rural Economy

- Rural Land & Water Access
- Rural Market Access
- Rural Economy Support
- Rural Representation & Participation

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Health

- Access to Healthcare
- Access to Water & Sanitation
- Control of Communicable Diseases
- Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)
- Child & Maternal Health
- Health Quality
- Public Perception of Health Provision

Education

- Equality in Education
- Education Enrolment
- Education Completion
- Human Resources in Education
- Education Quality
- Public Perception of Education Provision

Social Protection & Welfare

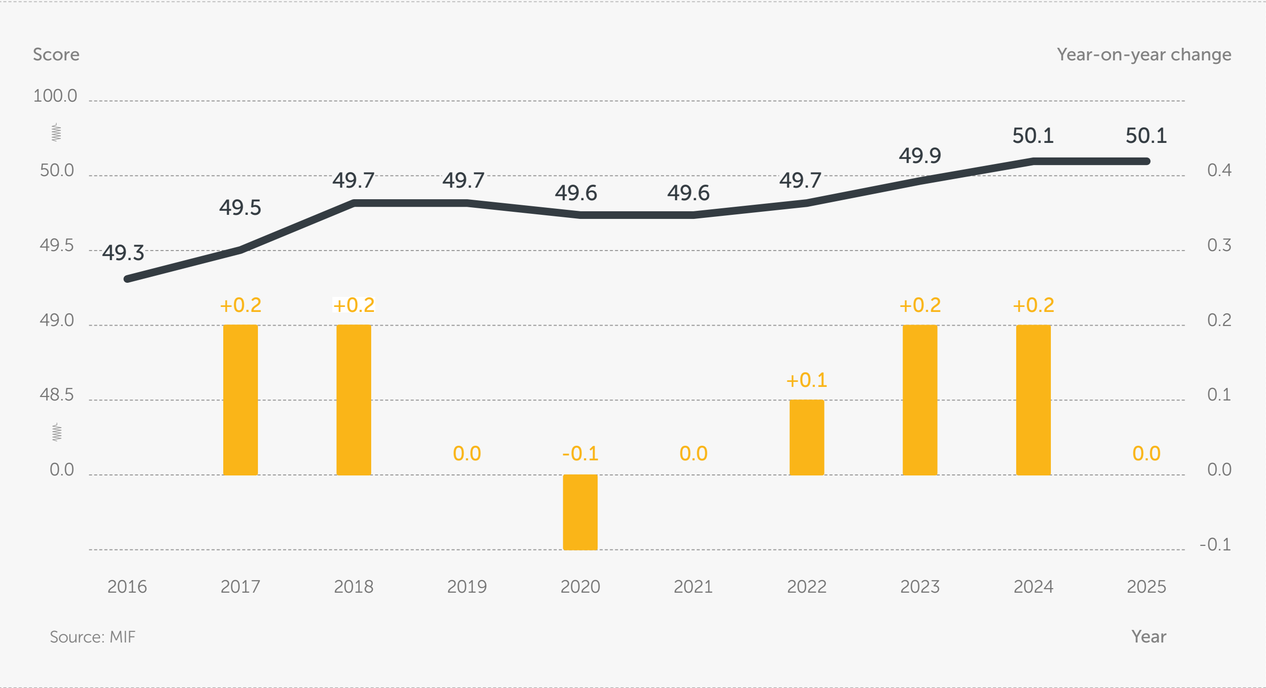
- Social Safety
- Poverty Reduction Policies
- Socioeconomic Inequality Mitigation
- Decent Housing
- Food Security
- Public Perception of Social Protection & Lived Poverty

Sustainable Environment

- Promotion of Environmental Sustainability
- Enforcement of Environmental Policies
- Air Quality
- Sustainable Use of Land & Forests
- Land & Water Biodiversity Protection

Overall Governance in Africa is slightly better in 2025 than in 2016

Africa: *Overall Governance* score & year-on-year change (2016-2025)

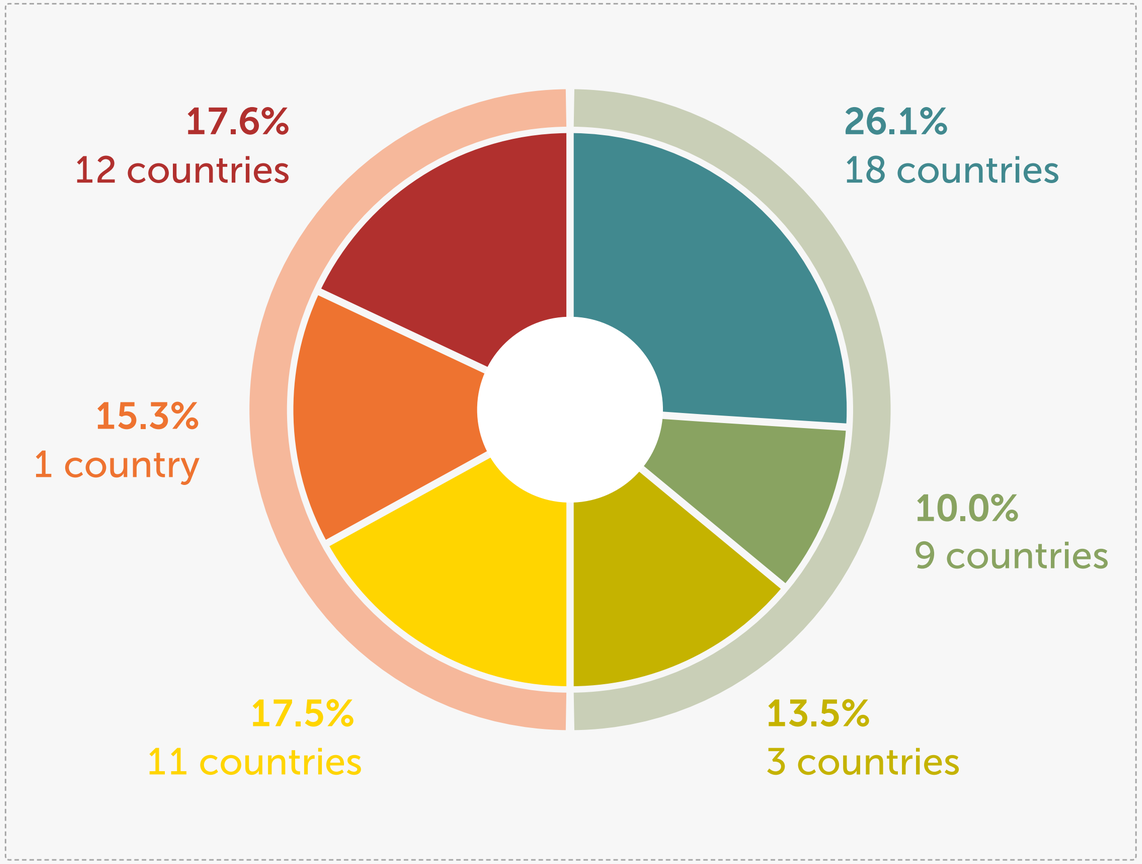


After faltering from 2018 to 2021, roughly corresponding to the COVID-19 years, the continental average has edged up again to reach 50.1 in 2025 (+0.8 since 2016).

In 30 countries, home to 49.6% of the continent's population, *Overall Governance* is better in 2025 than in 2016.

Increasing Improvement is the most widespread trend over the decade

Overall Governance: share of Africa's population by trend (2016-2025)



For 18 countries, hosting 26.1% of Africa's population, *Overall Governance* progress is accelerating over the decade.

Some of the continent's most populous countries have deteriorated in *Overall Governance*: DR Congo, Nigeria, South Africa and Sudan.

Average gain (+5.5) of the top ten improvers is larger than the average loss (-3.1) of the top ten most deteriorated countries.

Trend

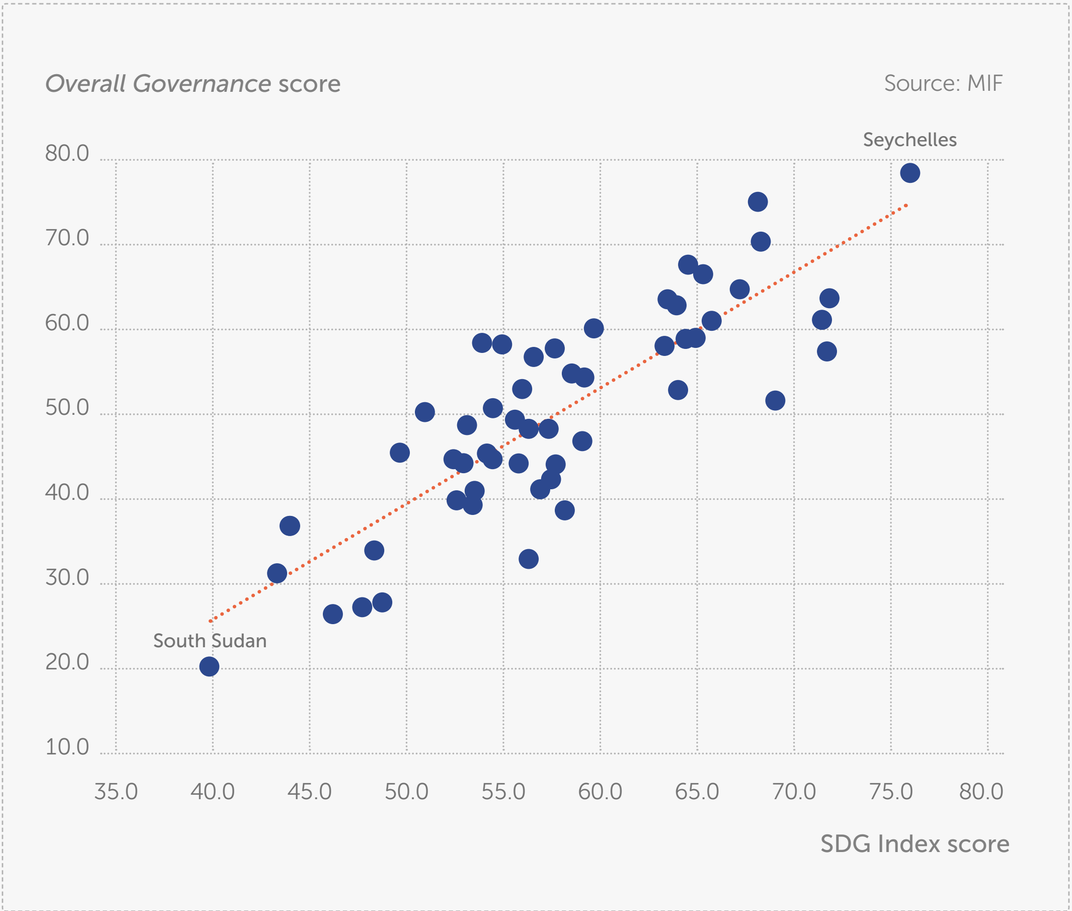
- Increasing Improvement
- Slowing Improvement
- Warning Signs
- Bouncing Back
- Slowing Deterioration
- Increasing Deterioration

- Improved
- Deteriorated

Source: MIF

Strong alignment between *Overall Governance* performance & SDG implementation level across the continent

African countries: *Overall Governance* & SDG Index scores (2025)



Five years ahead of the SDG deadline, the correlation between 2025 *Overall Governance* and SDG Index scores highlights that sound public governance is key to ensuring efficient implementation of the SDGs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Top performers in 2025: Seychelles, Mauritius & Cabo Verde lead *Overall Governance* performance

Overall Governance: top 10 countries by score (2025)

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025	Score 10-year change	Rank 10-year change	Trend
1	Seychelles	78.6	+8.3	+2	Slowing Improvement
2	Mauritius	75.0	-1.9	-1	Bouncing Back
3	Cabo Verde	70.3	-0.6	-1	Increasing Deterioration
4	Botswana	67.5	-1.0	-	Bouncing Back
5	South Africa	66.6	-0.4	-	Increasing Deterioration
6	Namibia	64.8	-1.1	-	Bouncing Back
7	Morocco	63.6	+6.4	+8	Slowing Improvement
7	Senegal	63.6	+1.8	+2	Increasing Improvement
9	Ghana	62.8	-1.4	-2	Bouncing Back
10	Kenya	61.0	+0.9	-	Increasing Improvement

Source: MIF

Morocco enters the top 10, replacing Tunisia

Mixed trend trajectories within the top 10 performers

South Africa - 6th in population, 1st in GDP - remains in the top 10, but follows a trend of *Increasing Deterioration*

Largest improvements over the decade take place across all rungs of the governance ladder

Overall Governance: 10 most improved countries by 10-year change (2025)

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025	Score 10-year change	Rank 10-year change	Trend
1	Seychelles	78.6	+8.3	+2	Slowing Improvement
24	Gabon	52.9	+7.0	+12	Increasing Improvement
21	Gambia	54.8	+6.9	+9	Slowing Improvement
7	Morocco	63.6	+6.4	+8	Slowing Improvement
37	Angola	44.7	+6.1	+8	Slowing Improvement
15	Zambia	58.4	+5.1	+6	Increasing Improvement
53	Somalia	26.6	+5.0	-	Slowing Improvement
35	Djibouti	45.0	+4.3	+7	Increasing Improvement
17	Côte d'Ivoire	58.1	+4.0	+2	Increasing Improvement
47	Chad*	36.9	+3.6	+1	Slowing Improvement
22	Togo*	54.3	+3.6	+1	Slowing Improvement

*Chad and Togo improved the same between 2016 and 2025.

Source: MIF

The 10 most improved countries are found all over the governance ladder: two within the top ten performers, two within the bottom ten, the rest between 15th and 37th rank.

Among those ten most improved, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon and Zambia even record *Increasing Improvement*.

Worst performers in 2025: South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan rank lowest in *Overall Governance*

Overall Governance: bottom 10 countries by score (2025)

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025	Score 10-year change	Rank 10-year change	Trend
54	South Sudan	20.4	+0.5	-	Increasing Improvement
53	Somalia	26.6	+5.0	-	Slowing Improvement
52	Sudan	27.4	-3.2	-1	Increasing Deterioration
51	Eritrea	27.8	+1.0	+1	Warning Signs
50	Central African Republic	31.3	-0.9	-1	Increasing Deterioration
49	Equatorial Guinea	33.1	+1.8	+1	Increasing Improvement
48	DR Congo	34.0	-0.3	-1	Bouncing Back
47	Chad	36.9	+3.6	+1	Slowing Improvement
46	Libya	38.8	-1.2	-3	Bouncing Back
45	Guinea-Bissau	39.4	-2.2	-5	Increasing Deterioration

Source: MIF

Though both improve over the decade, South Sudan and Somalia are still the worst performers in *Overall Governance* in 2025

Congo Republic and Angola leave the bottom 10, replaced by Libya and Guinea-Bissau

Sudan, Central Africa Republic and Guinea-Bissau follow a trajectory of *Increasing Deterioration*

Most deteriorated countries: also at various levels across the governance ladder

Overall Governance: 10 most deteriorated countries by 10-year change (2025)

Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025	Score 10-year change	Rank 10-year change	Trend
26	Burkina Faso	50.7	-6.9	-13	Increasing Deterioration
38	Nigeria	44.2	-5.2	-11	Slowing Deterioration
52	Sudan	27.4	-3.2	-1	Increasing Deterioration
11	Tunisia	60.9	-3.0	-3	Increasing Deterioration
36	Comoros	44.9	-2.8	-5	Bouncing Back
33	Mali	45.6	-2.4	-4	Bouncing Back
45	Guinea-Bissau	39.4	-2.2	-5	Increasing Deterioration
33	Niger	45.6	-2.1	-2	Increasing Deterioration
42	Guinea	41.2	-2.0	-3	Increasing Deterioration
2	Mauritius*	75.0	-1.9	-1	Bouncing Back
29	Mozambique*	48.8	-1.9	-6	Increasing Deterioration

*Mauritius and Mozambique deteriorated the same between 2016 and 2025.

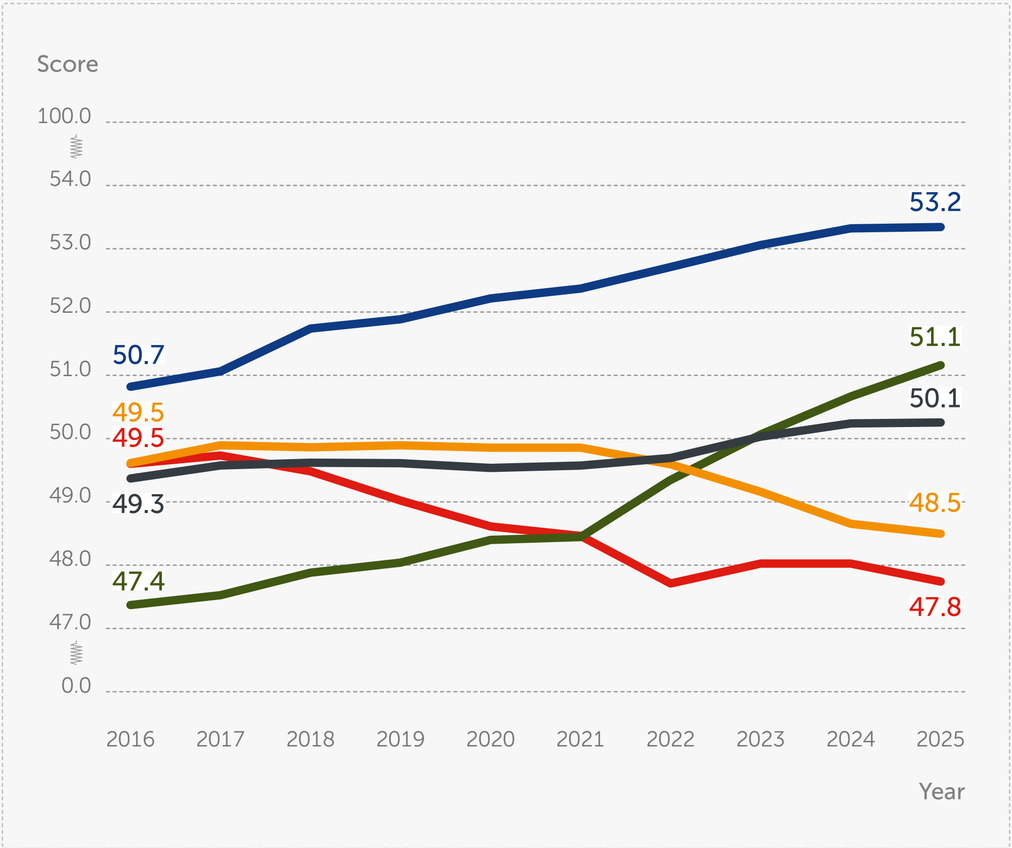
Source: MIF

Of the 10 most deteriorated countries over the decade, 7 underwent at least one coup

Nigeria — 1st in population, 3rd in GDP — features among the most deteriorated countries over the decade, though deterioration is slowing since 2021. It is also the only country out of 54 that deteriorates in all four IIAG categories.

Overall Governance progress is driven by economic opportunity and human development, outweighing declines in security, rights and participation

Africa: *Overall Governance* & categories scores (2016-2025)



Accelerating since 2021, *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* is by far the most improved governance dimension (+3.7), followed by *Human Development* (+2.5).

While in 2016, *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* was the lowest-performing dimension of the IIAG, it is the second-best one in 2025.

Category

- *Security & Rule of Law*
- *Participation, Rights & Inclusion*
- *Foundations for Economic Opportunity*
- *Human Development*
- *Overall Governance*

Source: MIF

In many countries, economic opportunity and human development improve despite declining security and participation

While most countries have deteriorated in *Security & Rule of Law* (34 — 78.1% of Africa's population) and *Participation, Rights & Inclusion* (31 — 60.4%), even larger majorities have improved over the decade in *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* (44 — 68.5%) and *Human Development* (40 — 70.8%).

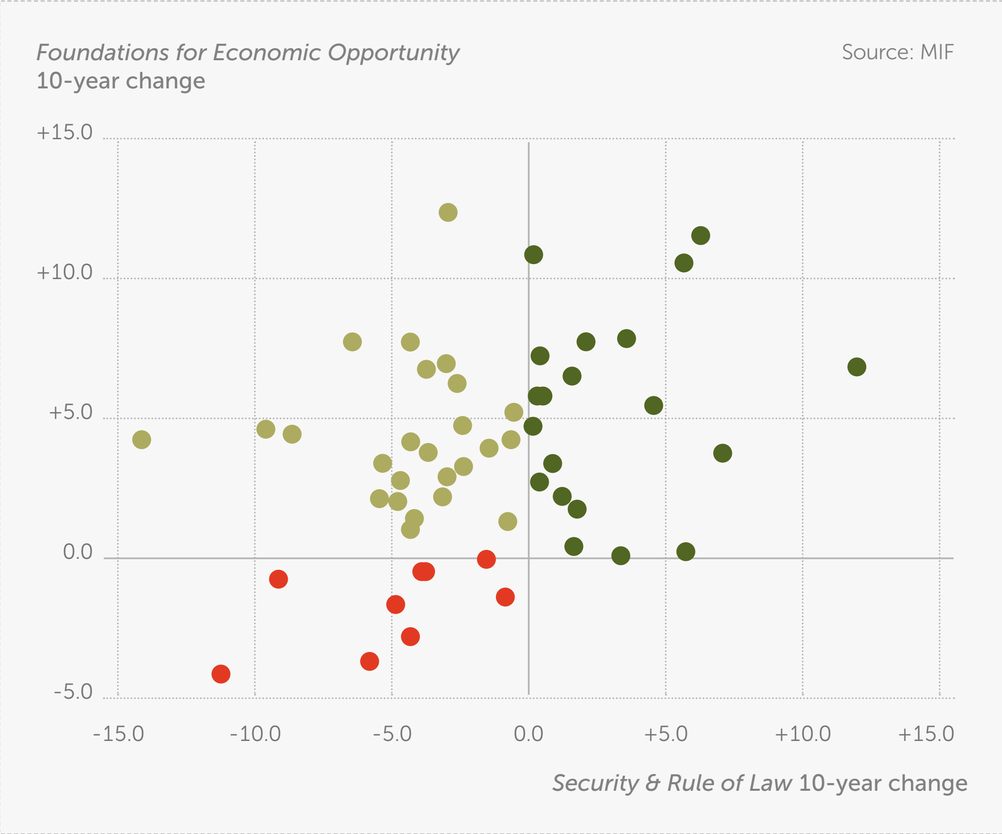
IIAG categories: number of countries improved or deteriorated per category (2016-2025)



Source: MIF

Foundations for Economic Opportunity improves across contrasting *Security & Rule of Law* trajectories

African countries: *Security & Rule of Law* and *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* 10-year changes (2016-2025)



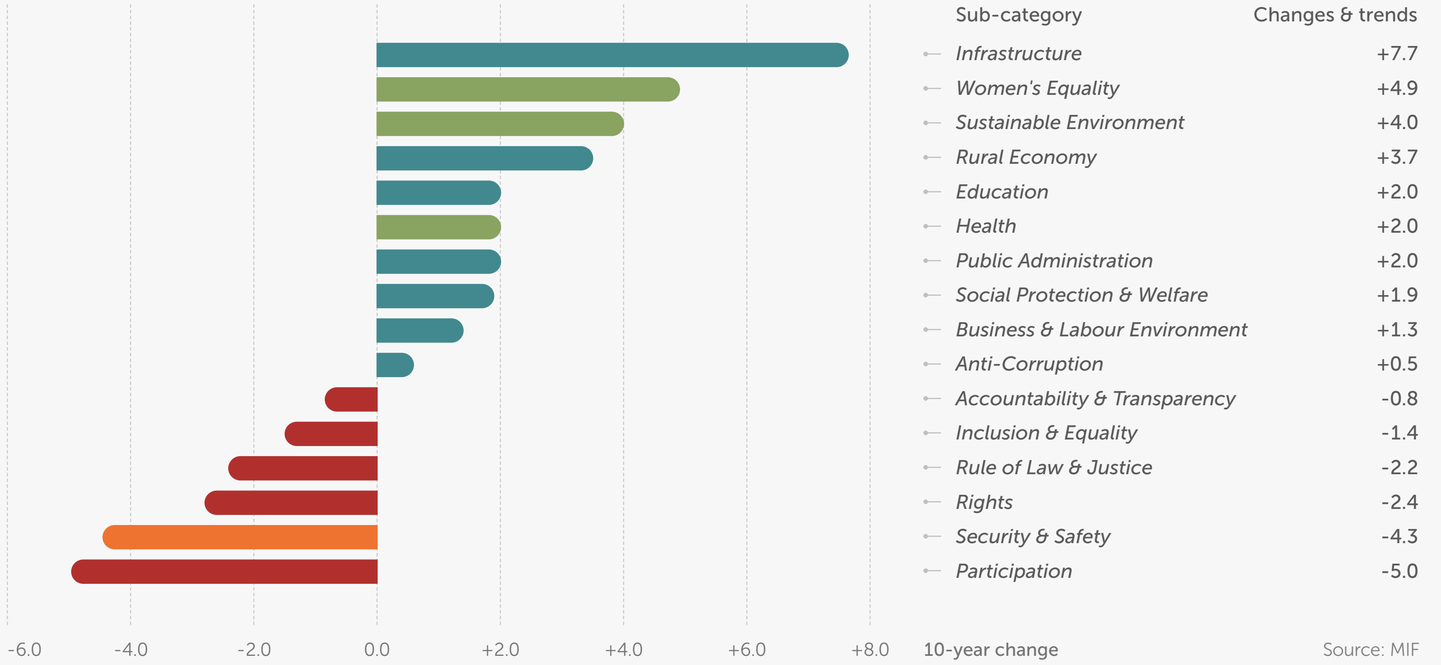
In the 20 countries, hosting 21.9% of the population, in which both dimensions improved, the average progress in *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* is strongest (+5.2 points).

However, in 25 countries, home to 46.9% of the population, economic opportunity has improved despite declining security and rule of law. The average gain in *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* is +4.4 points.

- Among those: Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo.
- Among those: Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger.

At sub-category level: *Infrastructure* leads improvements (+7.7) while *Participation* declines the most (-5.0)

Africa: sub-categories 10-year changes & trends (2016-2025)



Sub-category	Changes & trends
Infrastructure	+7.7
Women's Equality	+4.9
Sustainable Environment	+4.0
Rural Economy	+3.7
Education	+2.0
Health	+2.0
Public Administration	+2.0
Social Protection & Welfare	+1.9
Business & Labour Environment	+1.3
Anti-Corruption	+0.5
Accountability & Transparency	-0.8
Inclusion & Equality	-1.4
Rule of Law & Justice	-2.2
Rights	-2.4
Security & Safety	-4.3
Participation	-5.0

Source: MIF

Trend

Increasing Improvement · Slowing Improvement · Warning Signs · Bouncing Back · Slowing Deterioration · Increasing Deterioration · No Change · Not Classified

10 of the IIAG's 16 sub-categories record progress over the decade

All eight sub-categories within *Foundations for Economic Opportunity* and within *Human Development* have improved since 2016. *Infrastructure* records by far the largest gain (+7.7).

Foundations for Economic Opportunity: digging into sub-category improvements

Infrastructure

- The most improved sub-category (out of 16): +7.7 over the decade.
- Improved for 52 countries (all but Gambia and Nigeria).
- Progress is driven mostly by *Mobile Communications*.
- *Access to Energy* improves consistently but unequally between regions; in Nigeria, *Satisfaction with Electricity Supply* declines by -29.0.

Business & Labour Environment

- Progress is driven mostly by *Access to Banking Services* and *Access to Mobile Money Accounts*.
- Challenge: *Labour Relations* (*Freedom of Trade Unions*: -9.7).

Public Administration

- The fifth most improved sub-category: +2.0.
- Mostly driven by progress in *Capacity of the Statistical System* (+10.6).
- Challenge: *Civil Registration* is worse in 2025 than in 2016 for 37.9% of the continent's population.
- Challenge: *Tax & Revenue Mobilisation* (key for domestic resource mobilisation) is worse in 2025 than in 2026.

Human Development: digging into sub-category improvements

Health

- 40 countries (87.1% of the continent's population) improve over the decade.
- Widespread progress in *Access to Water & Sanitation* for 92.1% of the population.
- Challenge: accessibility for all citizens – *Perceived Ease of Obtaining Medical Care*: -6.3 points.
- Challenge: *Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)* deteriorates over the decade (-2.1).

Education

- Better in 2025 than in 2016 for three quarters of Africa's population.
- Challenge: *Human Resources in Education* deteriorates by -2.3.

Social Protection & Welfare

- Gain at continental level (+1.9), but deterioration in Nigeria (-11.7) and South Africa (-6.4).
- Progress is mostly driven by *Decent Housing* (+5.6).
- Challenge: a continental deterioration of *Food Security* (-1.1) over the decade.

Participation, Rights & Inclusion: digging into sub-category deteriorations

Participation

- The most declined sub-category (out of 16): -5.0 over the decade.
- Mostly driven by a decline in *Civil Society Space* (-8.5) and *Freedom of Association & Assembly* (-6.7).

Inclusion & Equality

- The most widespread decline is recorded by *Public Acceptance of Different Ethnic Groups* (-13.5) (public perception sub-indicator).
- Overall progress in two youth representation and integration measures.

Security & Rule of Law: digging into sub-category deteriorations

Security & Safety

- The strong deterioration slows substantially from 2022: since then, the continental level has stabilised and 27 countries improve.
- Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Sudan and Cameroon record the sharpest deterioration.

Accountability & Transparency

- Marginal decline between 2016 and 2025 but increasing deterioration.
- Mostly driven by poor performance in ‘coup countries’.
- Improvements in *Disclosure and Accessibility of Public Records* driven by digitisation efforts.

Rule of Law & Justice

- Deterioration for 81.4% of Africa’s population.
- Most deteriorated indicator is *Impartiality of the Judicial System* (-5.2).
- Only indicator to improve is *Law Enforcement* (+2.2).

Anti-Corruption

- Strong deterioration from 2018 to 2020, but increasingly improving since 2020.