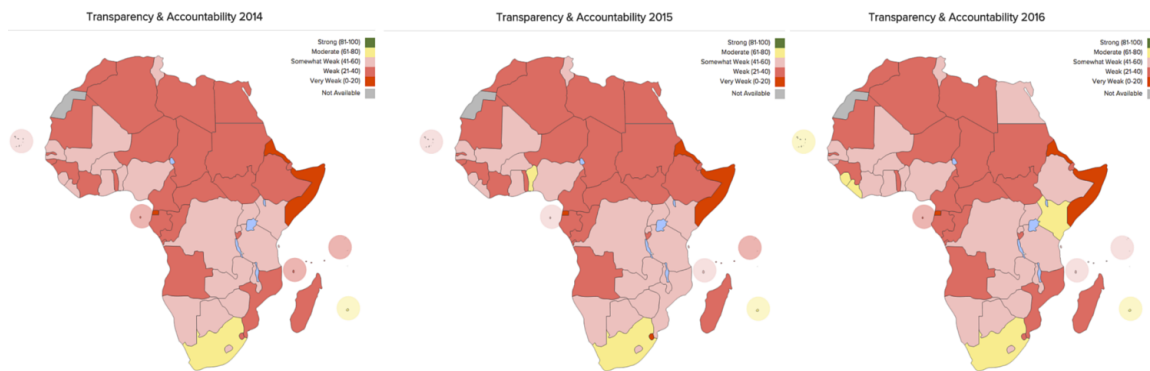


Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



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.

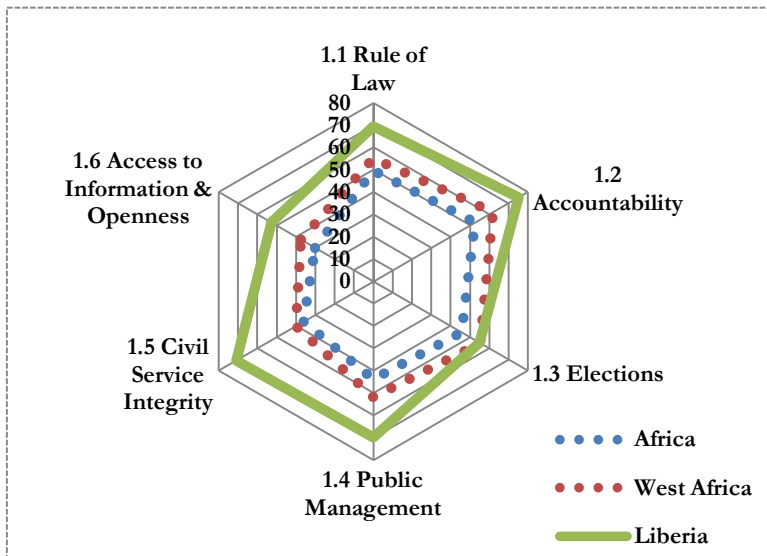
Liberia – Country Findings Summary

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 shows a slight change, increasing by five points from 60 in 2015 to 55 in 2016; this moves Liberia from the “somewhat weak” to the “moderate” area on the Global Integrity scale.¹

On five of the [six subcategories](#), Liberia’s aggregate scores were higher than both the West African and the continental average scores. Four out of the six subcategories fall in the “moderate” area on the Global Integrity scale and the two remaining fall in the “somewhat weak” area. The most significant score increase (+14) was observed in the Accountability subcategory which went from 61 in 2015 to 75 in 2016, primarily due to the increased frequency and accessibility of the audit agency’s publications. Accountability was also the highest performing subcategory. The Rule of Law subcategory recorded the second most significant score increase (+11) from 58 in 2015 to 69 in 2016; this increase, which moves the subcategory from the “somewhat weak” to the “moderate” area on the Global Integrity scale, can be attributed to the increased efficiency of the anti-corruption agency. The Public Management and the Civil Service Integrity subcategories each recorded a 4-point increase from their 2015 scores, and the Elections subcategory score increased from 50 in 2015 to 55 in 2016. Access to Information & Openness was the lowest performing subcategory and its score decreased from 58 in 2015 to 53 in 2016.



< Figure 1 > Liberia’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).

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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)

Selected highlights

- **National-level judges are appointed based on merit and their judgments are accessible to the public, but lower court judges faced limited autonomy.** In Liberia, Supreme Court judges are first nominated by the president, then vetted by the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) to ensure that they meet the minimum standards to serve as judges. Based on the LNBA's recommendations, they are then appointed by the president ([indicator 3](#)). [Indicator 4](#) notes that judges of all courts do provide formal reasoning for their rulings including reference to the laws and jurisprudence, and members of the public can obtain copies of these rulings upon request. The rulings can also be accessed on the website liberlii.org. However, Liberian judges are occasionally subject to negative political incentives; as noted in [indicator 2](#), under the country's political culture, judges "are socialized to defer to executive authority in cases in which the government has an interest." Judges who comply are rewarded, and those who do not do receive sanctions, such as demotions or reassignments to unfavorable environments.
- **The General Auditing Commission (GAC) released many publicly accessible reports, but its audits were limited to the executive branch of government.** The General Auditing Commission (GAC) is Liberia's supreme audit institution. Although the GAC is an autonomous agency that is charged with auditing all government expenditures, the law does not allow it to audit agencies with national security implications ([indicator 5](#)). [Indicator 7](#) reports that GAC auditors operated without fear or favor, but that they only audited agencies that are part of the executive branch. Over the study period, the judiciary and the legislature were not audited. This limited efficiency could be attributed to the GAC's lack of financial autonomy. GAC's budget is dependent on the executive's allocation and legislative approval, and the Commission's funding has not been secure nor consistent over the years. Contrary to the previous study period, [indicator 9](#) notes that the GAC released 24 reports during the study period; among these reports, there was one regarding the funds that were provided to the Liberian government to fight the Ebola virus.
- **The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) intensified its investigations against senior level politicians and/or civil servants, and its recommendations were acted upon.** [Indicator 12](#) reports that LACC investigators conduct their activities without fear or favor, and that over the study period, the Commission investigated several senior civil servants and recommended their prosecution to the Ministry of Justice. Acting on the findings of LACC investigations into procurement violations by the National Port Authority (NPA), President Sirleaf suspended Matilda Parker, one of her key confidantes and NPA Managing Director, alongside the NPA comptroller Christina Pealay, and all members of the board of directors of the NPA. To increase the effectiveness of the LACC, the government was also considering a Bill that will give direct prosecutorial powers to the LACC, and the establishment of the Criminal Court 'F', a specialized court for economic crimes of corruption. [Indicator 13](#) notes that the LACC has a functioning system to receive allegations of public sector corruption; this includes dedicated hot lines for citizens and boxes at various locations in the country where written complaints can be dropped. For instance, the LACC investigation of alleged corruption at the NPA was initiated after an anonymous complaint was addressed to the executive chairperson of the LACC in March 2014.

- **There is an access to information law, but citizens generally faced difficulties accessing public information in general, and financial records of state-owned companies and assets disclosures in particular.** As noted in [indicator 41](#), the Freedom of Information Act of 2010 grants every Liberian the right to access information that is received and or held by public and autonomous bodies. However, [indicator 42](#) notes that the Independent Information Commission was underfunded, making the implementation of the law extremely difficult if not impossible. In practice, requests by citizens to access information were denied or rebuffed, and there is no record of any government agency sharing information upon request. [Indicator 29](#) notes that financial records of state-owned companies are not available to the public, including journalists; this information is made public only in exceptional cases, when the government commissions audit of a company over corruption allegations. [Indicator 30](#) also reports that citizens cannot access financial records associated with the extractive industries in Liberia. The National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), which was created to ensure that all concession agreements are profitable to the government has never reported on its work, and the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) has yet to issue a report on companies in the extractive industries. In Liberia, senior officials of the executive branch are required to declare their assets and do comply to some extent, but [indicator 45](#) notes that citizens cannot access these disclosure statements.

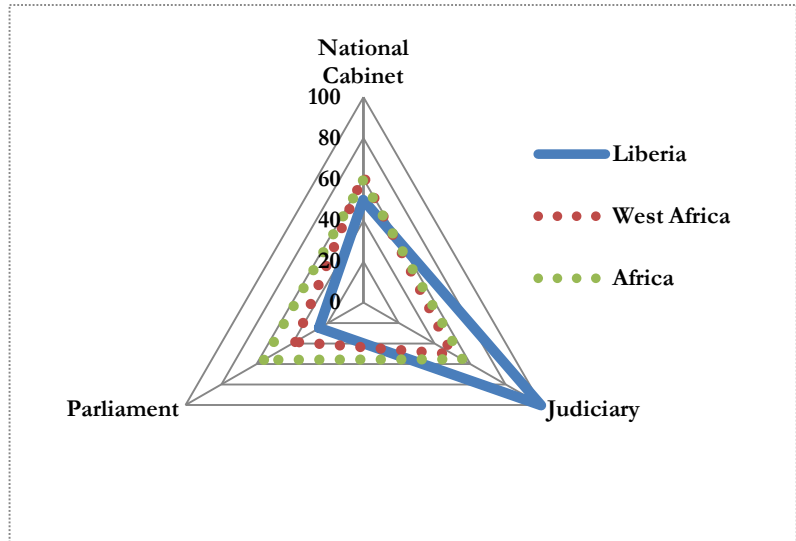
2. Social Development

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

- **The civic space remained unrestricted, but workers' rights were generally violated.** The Liberia Business Registry is the one-stop shop where all processes for NGO registration can be done, but while it takes less than one week to complete this process, the cost varies between \$70 for community-based organizations and \$150 for national organizations ([indicator 68](#)). NGOs operated free from intimidation and as noted in [indicator 70](#), there were no cases of NGOs being shut down. [Indicator 69](#) also reports that there were no cases of NGO employees being killed, imprisoned, interrogated, threatened or physically harmed as retribution for their work during the study period. Liberian citizens have the constitutional right to assemble, and [indicator 67](#) reports that they were able to assemble with peers to express dissent without fear of reprisal. Also, citizens' rights to organize into trade unions was respected, and union leaders faced no intimidation and restrictions ([indicator 65](#)). However, compliance with labor laws remained dire and as [indicator 66](#) reports, it was hard for workers to file complaints in an intimidating environment where the government often back employers in labor conflicts, or fails to take action on complaints filed by workers.
- **Legal frameworks and practices for the protection of minorities remained generally weak.** [Indicator 73](#) notes that in Liberia, religious discrimination is prohibited under article 14 of the Liberian Constitution of 1986, and Section 13.1 of the Penal Code. However, in practice, there are no mechanisms citizens can turn to for redress when faced with religious discrimination ([indicator 74](#)). Unlike with religious discrimination, Liberia has no laws that protect its citizens against ethnic discrimination ([indicator 71](#)), and against discrimination based on sexual orientation ([indicator 75](#)). [Indicator 72](#) reports that although there are 16 ethnic groups, some larger than others, there is no mechanism established to receive and resolve complaints of ethnic discrimination. As for discrimination based on sexual orientation, [indicator 76](#) notes that there is no mechanism to respond to cases of victimization, and LGBT citizens suffer stigmatization in the Liberian society to the point of even being blamed for the occurrence of Ebola epidemic.

- **Women’s representation decreased in the national cabinet, but remained unchanged in the highest echelons of the judiciary and the legislature.** Since 2006, Liberia has been presided by a woman, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and while the promotion of women has been part of the government agenda, their representation has been decreasing in the national cabinet. During the study



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

period, only three out of 17 (17.6%) cabinet members were women, a decrease from 22% in

2015 and 32% in 2014. Liberia’s score of 50 on the [indicator 85](#) is lower than the West African regional average score of 62 and the continental average score of 60. Women’s representation in the highest court of the country remained unchanged from previous years; [indicator 86](#) reports that two out of five (40%) Supreme Court Justices were women. Liberia thus earned a score of 100 on this indicator, twice the regional average of 50, and significantly higher than the continental average score of 56. On the other hand, women’s representation in the legislature remained very low, as there were only 11 women out of 104 members (10.6%) of Liberia’s legislature ([indicator 87](#)). Liberia thus earned a score of 25, lower than the regional average of 38, and significantly lower than the continental average of 56.

- **The country’s statistical capacity is extremely low.** [Indicator 91](#) notes that although the youth make up 60% of Liberian population, there is no updated data regarding their employment; at the time of the research, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) had not collected any statistics on youth unemployment for more than three years. Also, for the past few years, LISGIS did not collect and publish any data on poverty ([indicator 92](#)). [Indicator 93](#) notes that LISGIS has no record on data collection regarding the infrastructure in the country.

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.