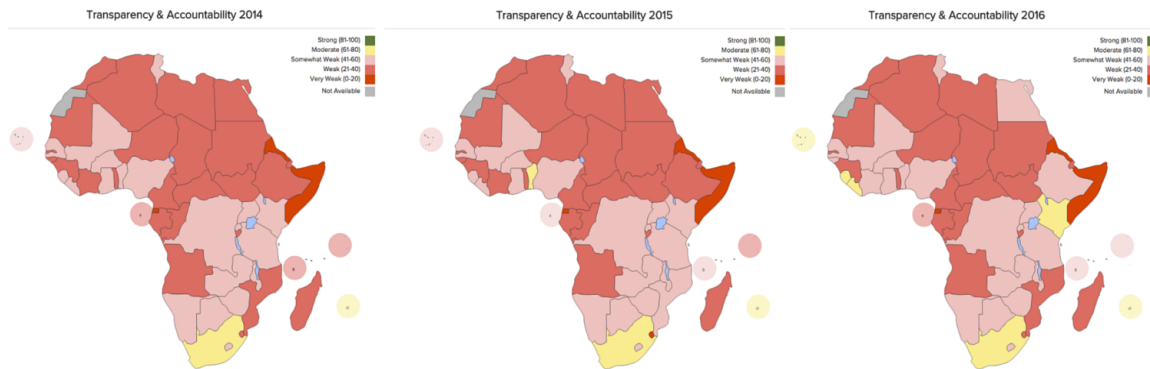


## Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



### 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](http://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](mailto:aai@globalintegrity.org).

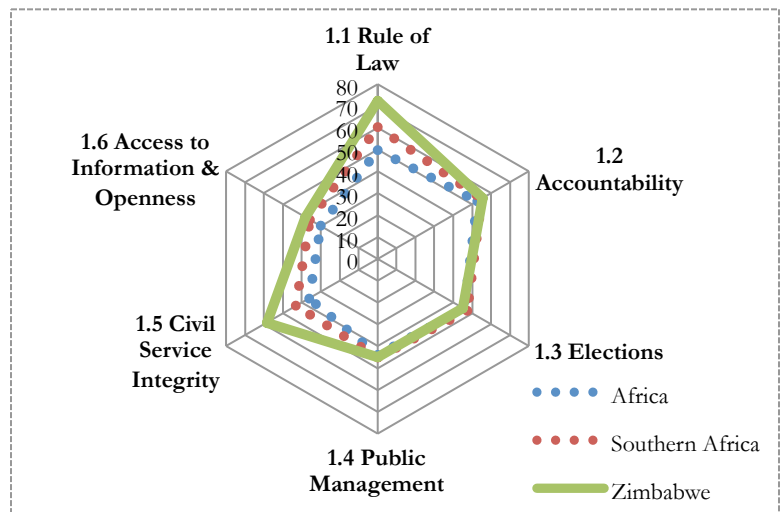
# Zimbabwe – Country Findings Summary

## 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 average showed a slight increase from 46 in 2015 to 52 in 2016, with the Rule of Law subcategory receiving the highest average score of 72 (“moderate” on the Global Integrity scale<sup>1</sup>) and the Access to Information & Openness subcategory being the lowest performing at an average score of 38 (“weak” on the Global Integrity scale).

The slight upward trend stems from the +14 point improvement in the Rule of Law subcategory (58 in 2015 to 72 in 2016), as well as the +13 improvement in the Public Management subcategory (32 in 2015 to 45 in 2016). No aggregate level changes were observed in the Accountability, Elections or Civil Service Integrity subcategories.



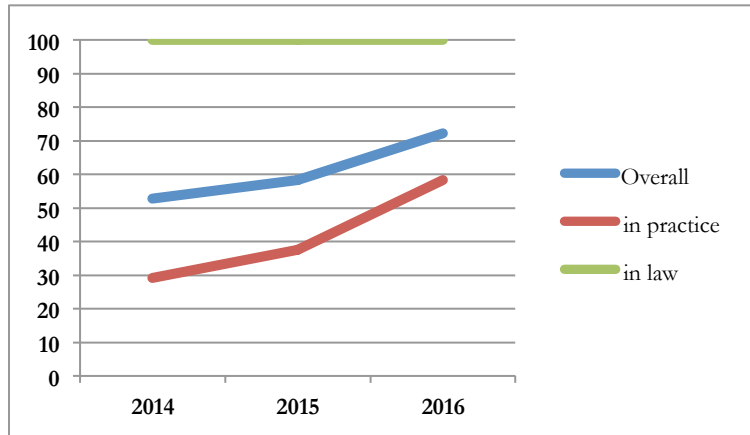
< Figure 1 > Zimbabwe’s subcategory scores in comparison to the region and the continent. The radar chart depicts the country’s aggregate scores of each of the six subcategories under Transparency & Accountability, in comparison to average scores of the continent (blue dotted lines) and the country’s region (red dotted lines).

### Selected highlights

- **In practice improvements raise aggregate score of Rule of Law subcategory.** The improvement in Zimbabwe’s Rule of Law subcategory is due to improvements of *in practice* indicators (see Figure 2). While the legal landscape did not change between 2015 and 2016, numerous practical improvements occurred on the appointment/removal of judges and auditors. Some institutions also became more transparent. For example, the Office of the Auditor General published several reports on its website during the 2016 research period, whereas it had not always published its annual reports in previous years as mandated, raising the score on [indicator 9](#) from 0 to 50. During the current study period, rulings of the Supreme Court were also made easily available to the public through the court or the website of the Judicial Service Commission.

<sup>1</sup> 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)

The 2016 research also revealed that appointments of Supreme Court judges and the Auditor General follow a merit-based system in Zimbabwe, whereas the 2015 research noted some inadequacies in candidates that were interviewed by the Judicial Service Commission for positions as Supreme Court judges. Judges are also guaranteed security of tenure and the two cases of disciplinary actions against a senior regional magistrate and a Gweru magistrate from within the 2016



< Figure 2 > De jure and de facto gap: This graph provides an overview of the aggregate gap between *in law* indicators (green) and *in practice* indicators (red) of a particular subcategory, and how they affect the change of the overall aggregate score (blue) between the three rounds of research 2014, 2015 and 2016.

research period was handled by a peer panel, in accordance with the law. The removal of the Auditor General requires a majority vote of more than half of the parliament, and there have been no removal or disciplinary cases against the current Auditor General since he was appointed in 2004.

- **Oversight of the budget and government spending has increased.** The 2015 national budget was tabled in front of the parliament in November 2014, and all government spending was approved by the legislature. This stands in contrast to the previous round of research, when questions remained about \$1.6 million given by the government to the Information and Media Panel of Inquiry without the parliament’s knowledge. During the 2016 research, in-year budget amendments were also presented to and approved by the parliament in July 2015. The score for the relevant [indicator \(31\)](#) improved from 50 to 100.

Moreover, the Parliament of Zimbabwe has an active Public Accounts Committee that exercises oversight of public funds, as is observed in [indicator 34](#). It meets weekly when the need arises and conducted a number of investigations during the study period, such as the case of presumed mismanagement of public resources at the government-owned enterprise Grain Marketing Board (GMB).

- **Public Officials do not disclose their assets. Nor do political parties disclose any records regarding their funding.** The Access to Information & Openness subcategory is the lowest performing within the Transparency & Accountability category. One of the reasons is the absence of any law requiring senior officials or members of the civil service to file and publish asset disclosures, and the lack of such a practice.

Another reason for the lack of transparency is that no information on state funding for political parties is available to the public, despite the existence of a law requiring the government to publish such information. When it comes to private funding, “no provision in the Political Parties (Finance)

Act [...] requires political parties to regularly disclose private donations” and there have been no cases of parties disclosing any such records during the study period.

- **The government’s promotion of media self-censorship, and the extent to which it prevents publication of criticism has increased.** During the most recent round of research, this has caused the score for [indicator 55](#) to drop from 50 to 0. The case of a senior assistant editor at the state-run Herald newspaper, who was suspended in March 2015 for referring to the country’s economy as “dying” in a published article on Zimbabwe’s latest inflation level, is one example. Private newspapers also face more hurdles in covering stories and have been subject to open threats by the president because of critical coverage of the ruling party.

## 2. Social Development

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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.

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### Selected highlights

- **Citizens faced fewer restrictions to associate freely compared to the previous round of research.** The score for [indicator 67](#) saw an improvement from 0 in 2015 to a 50 in 2016. Security forces were less strict in enforcing the Public Order and Security Act and demanding clearance for public meetings, as they did during the 2015 research that coincided with general elections. The score improvement, however, did not go beyond 50 as there were reported cases of citizens being forced to participate in rallies of the ruling party during the campaigns of the June 2015 parliamentary by-elections.
- **Zimbabwe fares poorly on all four welfare indicators.** According to [indicator 101](#), the Department of Youth within the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, is mandated to promote the empowerment of youth. However, it has not implemented any permanent programs to ensure education, employment and/or housing during the study period. The Youth Fund, set up to specifically tackle employment issues, was also not operational during the study period.

As note [indicators 102, 103](#) and [104](#), the Department of Social Services, within the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, has the mandate to ensure a safety net for the elderly, the disabled and the unemployed. It only implemented a limited number of activities, such as the Harmonized Social Cash Transfer, which is jointly funded by development partners such as UNICEF, and benefits households in need. No programs were put in place for the unemployed, and the elderly could only benefit from a contributory pension scheme of the National Social Security Authority (NSSA). The grants the government is mandated to give registered elderlies under the Older Persons Act have not been disbursed in the past four years.

*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 all 114 individual indicators.*