**Global Integrity**

Global Integrity champions transparent and accountable government around the world by producing innovative research and technologies that inform, connect, and empower civic, private, and public reformers seeking more open societies. Utilizing its award-winning original methodology and a global network of on-the-ground journalists, and experts, Global Integrity generates actionable and action-worthy data and qualitative research.

Typical Global Integrity assessments provide detailed data and reporting on the mechanisms in place to prevent abuses of power and promote public integrity at the national, local, and sector levels. Using a blend of social science and journalism, in-country teams of independent researchers, academics and journalists report on the *de jure* as well as *de facto* reality of corruption and governance.

Measuring both the existing legal framework and the "in practice" implementation is key in our effort to produce actionable governance data that help governments, citizens and civil society understand and evaluate the *status quo* and identify intervention points for subsequent reform efforts.

**Scope of 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 recruit and manage teams of in-country contributors in more than 50 African countries to generate original governance data on an annual basis.

The questionnaire has 110 indicators and is divided in two main sections: Transparency and Accountability, and Social Development.

The Transparency and Accountability section consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management integrity, civil service integrity, and access to information. This section draws from the indicators of the [Global Integrity Report (GIR)](#), which uses 320 indicators to assess the existence, effectiveness, and citizen access to key governance and anti-corruption mechanisms in countries across the globe. 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. They take into account both existing legal measures on the books and *de facto* realities of implementation in each country. They are scored by in-country researchers following an evidence-based investigation methodology. The resultant data points are then reviewed blindly by a panel of peer reviewers, drawing on the expertise of a mix of in-country experts as well as outside experts.

The Social Development section consists of 51 indicators about gender, rights, welfare, rural sector, business environment, health and education. It is important to note that this section of the questionnaire was designed

to feed the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) in areas not covered by the secondary data sources it utilizes. Therefore, *it does not attempt to be a comprehensive assessment by itself.* The 51 indicators included there were selected based on areas in which the IIAG required more data to feed any of its four sector dimensions: Safety and Rule of Law, Participation and Human Rights, Sustainable Economic Opportunity, and Human Development1.

Because the Social Development portion of the questionnaire only includes a small number of questions per each topic area, we only provide the scores per each individual indicator and won't provide category or section scores. For example, there are only two questions about Health and users can access the score for each of those two indicators, but they won't find an overall Health score or an overall Social Development score.

## Periods of Study

The research rounds are dated from the completion of the research process. The period of study for each research cycle is 12 months, and the research is completed approximately 4-6 months after the close of the period of study. The 2013 research round (pilot) had a period of study of June 2011 to September 2012. An improved version of the indicators was used in the 2014 round, with a period of study from September 2012 to September 2013, and in the 2015 round, with a period of study from September 2013 to September 2014.

## Country Selection

The Africa Integrity Indicators research covers all 54 African countries. The pilot phase covered 50 out of the 54 African countries, excluding the Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Lesotho. Starting the second round, all African countries are covered.

## Evidence-based Expert Assessment Methodology

Global Integrity's evidence-based expert assessments require researchers (typically journalists, academics or civil society experts) to compile and document evidence to inform and support their score choices for each of the indicators. Rather than relying on experiences or pre-existing perceptions by experts, the strength of Global Integrity's methodology is that it requires a variety of sources of information to be reviewed and documented (including legal and scholarly reviews, interviews with experts, and reviews of media stories) to substantiate the score choice.

Personality, language, and culture can all affect the interpretation of a particular indicator and the score assigned to it. To minimize this effect and to maximize inter-coder reliability, Global Integrity provides researchers and peer reviewers with scoring criteria for every single indicator. The scoring criteria anchor each indicator to a predefined set of criteria. In essence, the scoring criteria guide the researcher and the peer reviewer by suggesting, "If you see X on the ground, score this indicator in the following way."

For "in law" indicators, scoring criteria are provided for "Yes (100)" "Mixed (50)"and "No (0)" responses. For "in practice" indicators, scoring criteria are provided for 100, 50 and 0 – the researchers also have the option

to score 75 or 25, whenever the higher or lower defined criteria don't accurately represent the research's findings.

Researchers must provide a fact-based rationale to substantiate the score chosen for each indicator. They must also provide at least three references to substantiate their rationale. Evidence can take on the form of interviews conducted with knowledgeable domain experts, a website link to information provided by government or civil society, a relevant report produced within the period of study, published news articles, or a widely acknowledged and regularly-read blog produced by a subject matter expert.

In the case of *de jure* indicators, the laws or regulations and a reference to relevant articles or legislative/regulatory sections serve as evidence. In some cases, more than just one law is needed as a valid reference, and in those cases any number of laws or other aspects of the legal framework (including court decisions) may serve as evidence.

A lead in-country researcher conducts the initial field research (including legal research, documentary review and interviews) and scores the indicators. Global Integrity staff rigorously verify sources and perform fact checking and quality control together with the researcher prior to declaring the research as final. After completion of the draft research, the indicators follow a double-blind peer review process, in which a peer reviewer (a similarly qualified in-country domain expert) carefully scrutinizes and amends, supplements and enhances the research. The scorecard is also reviewed by functional reviewers, who are to focus on development-related indicators (rural sector, welfare, gender, labour, education, infrastructure, human rights and others), and  regional reviewers., who are to assess if the scoring is consistent with the regional realities.

The double-blind nature of the peer review process guarantees feedback free of considerations associated with who collected the data and scored the indicators, and to avoid a peer-influenced consensus. Until the public release of the indicators, the researchers and peer reviewers are unaware of the identities of other members of the country team. Peer review comments on all reporting are published transparently alongside the original data, offering reads an alternative perspective on the indicators.
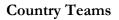
Along with the scoring criteria, researchers and peer reviewers are also provided with a series of guidelines and definitions they should adhere to when performing their research and coding or reviewing the data (in essence, a code book). These guidelines also provide guidance about appropriate sources and about how to score complex indicators in certain scenarios.

**Data Aggregation**

For the purpose of producing a country's aggregate scorecard, a simple aggregation method is used. After the researcher scores each indicator and Global Integrity, with the help from the peer reviewers, conducts its rigorous quality control, each indicator score is then averaged within its parent category. The category score is in turn averaged with the other category scores to average and produce an overall country score.

For the Africa Integrity Indicators, the aggregation method was only applied to the Transparency & Accountability section. As explained above, because the Social Development portion of the questionnaire only includes a small number of questions per each topic area, we do not provide category or sub-category scores for this part.

**Country Teams**

As with all its projects, Global Integrity has hired independent country experts with a significant track record in civil society, journalism or academia. Following Global Integrity's traditional policy, none of the researchers has worked directly for the country's government during the past three years. Researchers undergo a recruitment process that may include an interview and completion of an exercise (consisting on answering a sample question) to gauge their interest and capacity to adhere to the research method, including the need to employ journalistic skills to conduct interviews, obtain updated information, and produce a comprehensive quality assessment within the project's timeline. In each country, Global Integrity also contracts peer reviewers with a similar background who will review and enhance the initial research where needed (as described above).

The teams are coordinated from Washington DC via the Internet and phone.

Alongside providing an original data source for the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Global Integrity aims to contribute - through the Africa Integrity Indicators initiative - to building a community of research practitioners across the continent and to ensuring that African experts who are rooted in the local context of each country develop governance data on Africa. We welcome any feedback you might have to improve our work. If you have any questions about the Africa Integrity Indicators or would like to join the team – as a researcher or reviewer – please contact Hazel Feigenblatt (hazel.feigenblatt@globalintegrity.org), Global Integrity's Managing Director, Research. You can also visit our website www.globalintegrity.org.