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African governance progress lagging behind needs and expectations of growing population, finds 2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance

Despite strong GDP growth over the last ten years, Africa has failed to generate economic opportunities for its booming youth population

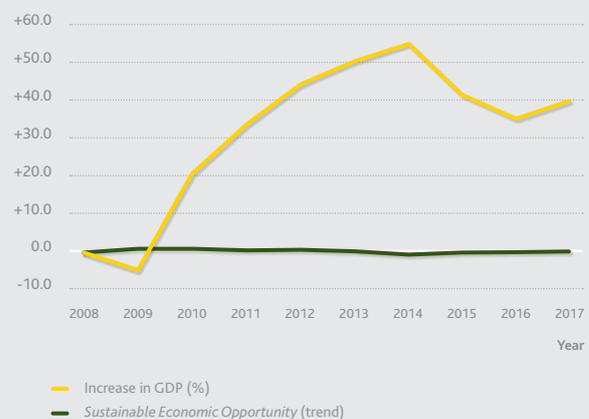
Dakar and London, 29 October 2018 – The 2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched today by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, highlights that public governance progress in Africa is lagging behind the needs and expectations of a growing population, composed mainly of young people.

Over the last decade, *Overall Governance* has on average maintained a moderate upward trajectory, with three out of four of Africa's citizens (71.6%) living in a country where governance has improved.

African governments have struggled to translate economic growth into improved *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* for their citizens

Since 2008 the African average score for *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* has increased by 0.1 point, or 0.2%, despite a continental increase in GDP of nearly 40% over the same period. There has been virtually no progress in creating *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*, meaning it remains the IIAG's worst performing and slowest improving category. Defined as the extent to which governments enable their citizens to pursue economic goals and prosper, the almost stagnant *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* trend strikes a concerning contrast with demographic growth and youth expectations. Africa's population has increased by 26.0% over the last ten years and 60% of the continent's 1.25 billion people are now under the age of 25.

Africa: Sustainable Economic Opportunity average trend & percent increase in GDP (2008-2017)



A diverging picture across Africa

African countries show increasing divergence in *Overall Governance* performance. Continental progress is mainly driven by 15 countries that have managed to accelerate their pace of improvement over the last five years. Progress is most striking in Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Kenya. Divergence is also reflected in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* trends. While 27 of Africa's countries have shown some improvement, in 25 countries, accounting for 43.2% of Africa's citizens, *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* performance has declined over the last ten years.



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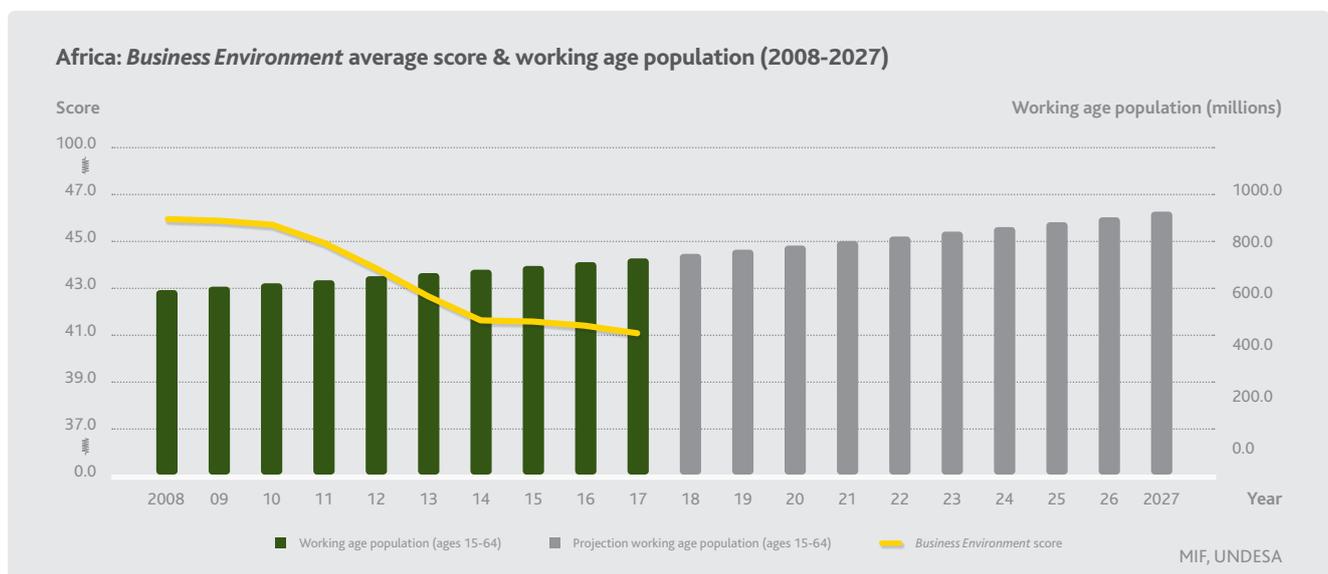
There is no strong relationship between the size of a country's economy and its performance in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity*. In 2017, four of the ten countries with the highest GDP on the continent score below the African average score for *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* and sit in the lower half of the rankings, namely: Algeria, Angola, Nigeria, and Sudan. Meanwhile two of the smallest economies on the continent, Seychelles and Cabo Verde, reach the 5th and 6th highest scores in providing *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* for their citizens.

Declining *Business Environment* runs counter to the growing working age population

Calling for attention is the trajectory of the African average score for *Business Environment*. Deteriorating by almost -5.0 points over the last ten years, this is a worrying trend given that the number of working age Africans (15-64 years old) is expected to grow by almost another 30% over the next ten years.

This will increase demand for jobs in an environment where on average progress in *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* is almost non-existent. Such demographic figures create a further striking contrast with the drop of -3.1 points in *Satisfaction with Employment Creation* since 2008.

Additionally, the indicator measuring *Promotion of Socio-economic Integration of Youth* registers an average continental decline of -2.3 over the last decade.



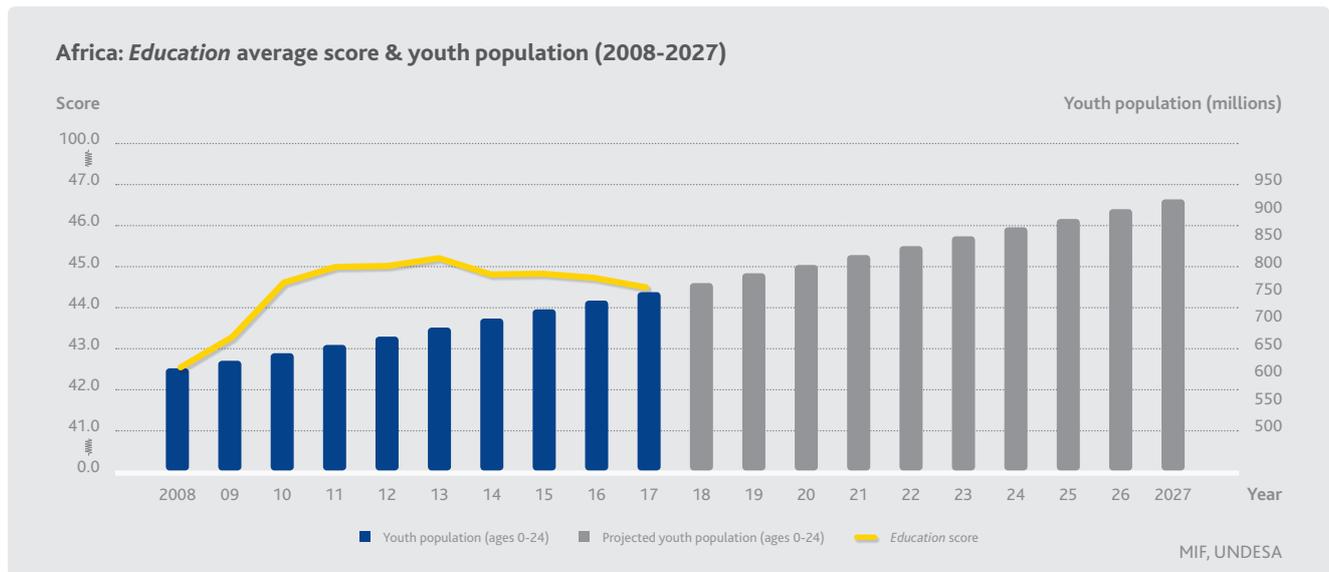
Education outcomes are worsening

Further cause for concern is *Education*. While *Human Development* is one of the bigger success stories of the 2018 IIAG, driven by improvements in *Health*, the stalling progress in *Education* seen in last year's IIAG has now turned to decline.



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For 27 countries *Education* scores registered deterioration in the last five years, meaning that for more than half (52.8%) of Africa's youth population, education outcomes are worsening. This drop is driven by a fall in the indicators measuring whether *Education* is meeting the needs of the economy, education quality, and citizens' expectations of education provision.



Civil society space is shrinking

Progress in *Participation & Human Rights* has been made on average. Almost four out of five of Africa's citizens (79.6%) live in countries that have progressed in this dimension over the last decade. However, 'free and fair' executive elections do not always translate into a better participatory environment. Alarming, citizens' political and civic space in Africa is shrinking, with worsening trends in indicators measuring *Civil Society Participation, Civil Rights & Liberties, Freedom of Expression* and *Freedom of Association & Assembly*.

Welcome progress in *Rule of Law* and *Transparency & Accountability*, which are key to sound governance performance

Although *Personal Safety* and *National Security* continue to show average decline over the last decade, *Rule of Law* and *Transparency & Accountability* have begun to register welcome progress. *Rule of Law* is the most improved sub-category in the IIAG over the last five years. African average performance in *Transparency & Accountability* has also improved, though more needs to be done as it remains the worst performing sub-category.



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The IAG highlights that citizens' rights and welfare are key to progress in public governance. *Overall Governance* scores are strongly correlated with citizen-centred measures, including property rights, civil rights & liberties, government accountability and social welfare policies.

The IAG results also confirm that *Rule of Law* and *Transparency & Accountability* are key pillars of good governance. These two sub-categories show the strongest relationships with *Overall Governance* scores in Africa, with strong performance in these areas being the most common components of countries that perform well. *Transparency & Accountability* is also strongly related to the *Sustainable Economic Opportunity* category and *Business Environment* sub-category, indicating that improvements in these areas will support progress and economic opportunity in Africa.

Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said:

"We welcome progress in Overall Governance, but the lost opportunity of the past decade is deeply concerning. Africa has a huge challenge ahead. Its large and youthful potential workforce could transform the continent for the better, but this opportunity is close to being squandered. The evidence is clear – young citizens of Africa need hope, prospects and opportunities. Its leaders need to speed up job creation to sustain progress and stave off deterioration. The time to act is now."

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Note to editors:

- The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was established in 2006 with a focus on the critical importance of leadership and governance in Africa, by providing tools to assess and support progress in leadership and governance.
- The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) provides an annual assessment of the quality of governance in African countries and is the most comprehensive collection of data on African governance.
- The 2018 IIAG will be launched with a Facebook Live event with Mo and two African next generation voices, Yvonne Apea Mensah from Ghana and Nasi Rwigema from South Africa, on Monday 29 October at 12.00 GMT.
- The Facebook Live will take the discussion directly to the public to encourage dialogue across social media using the hashtags #AskMIF and #IIAG.
- With ten years of data to draw from, the 2018 IIAG is uniquely positioned to measure trends in governance, providing in-depth analysis on how the quality of governance has changed over the past five years (2013-2017) within the context of the last decade (2008-2017), and what has or could be key to Africa's transformation.
- In every iteration, MIF – assisted by the IIAG's Advisory Council – looks at improving the structure, components and methodology of the IIAG. Due to this annual revision, every year MIF recalculates all scores in the Index.
- Previous iterations of the IIAG covered data from 2000 onwards. The 2018 IIAG is for the first time providing comparable governance data for the last decade only, to strengthen the robustness of the findings.
- For the first time, an assessment of youth inclusion is part of the IIAG. Through the indicator *Promotion of Socio-economic Integration of Youth* (provided by Global Integrity), the Index assesses whether there is a government policy/strategy to increase the socio-economic integration of youth.
- This year's IIAG will have the added focus of analysing the data through thematic frameworks and broader themes including: economic opportunity for Africa's citizens, the demographic dividend, transparency and accountability.
- The IIAG contains analysis across 102 indicators from 35 independent African and global data institutions to cover all 54 African countries in the areas of *Safety & Rule of Law, Participation & Human Rights, Sustainable Economic Opportunity and Human Development*.
- The Data Portal is a user-friendly interface that offers a bespoke analysis of governance ranks, scores and trends for each country. Users can create printable charts and graphics from the data.
- Access the IIAG Data Portal directly: <http://iiag.online/>
- Join the Facebook Live, Monday 29 October, 12.00 GMT: <https://www.facebook.com/MoIbrahimFoundation>
- Learn more about the Mo Ibrahim Foundation:
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