

Preface

“The rule of law is the foundation for communities of opportunity and equity—it is the predicate for the eradication of poverty, violence, corruption, pandemics, and other threats to civil society.”

-WILLIAM H. NEUKOM, FOUNDER AND CEO, THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multi-disciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the world. The rule of law provides the foundation for communities of opportunity and equity - communities that offer sustainable economic development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

Where the rule of law is weak, medicines fail to reach health facilities, criminal violence goes unchecked, laws are applied unequally across societies, and foreign investments are

99
**COUNTRIES &
JURISDICTIONS**

held back. Effective rule of law helps reduce corruption, improve public health, enhance education, alleviate poverty, and protect people from injustices and dangers large and small.

Strengthening the rule of law is a major goal of governments, donors, businesses, and civil society organizations around the world. To be effective, however, rule of law development requires clarity about the fundamental features of the rule of law, as well as an adequate basis for its evaluation and measurement. In response to this need, the World Justice Project has developed the WJP Rule of Law Index®, a quantitative measurement tool that offers a comprehensive picture of the rule of law in practice. The Index portrays the rule of law in a nation by means of 47 indicators organized around nine themes: constraints on government powers; absence of corruption; open government; fundamental rights; order and security; regulatory enforcement; civil justice; criminal justice; and informal justice.

>100,000
**HOUSEHOLDS & EXPERTS
SURVEYED**

The WJP Rule of Law Index 2014 is the fourth report in an annual series. It builds on years of development, intensive consultation, and vetting with academics, practitioners, and community leaders from over 100 countries and 17 professional disciplines.

The Index is the world's most comprehensive data set of its kind and the only to rely solely on primary data, measuring a nation's adherence to the rule of law from the perspective of how ordinary people experience it. This year's country scores and rankings include the latest data collected and processed by WJP, based on more than 100,000 household and expert surveys in 99 countries and jurisdictions. This year's report also includes, for the first time, an analysis of changes over time.

The Index is intended for a broad audience of policy makers, civil society, practitioners, academics, and others. The rule of law is not the rule of lawyers and judges; all elements of society are stakeholders. It is our hope that, over time, this diagnostic tool will help identify strengths and weaknesses in each country under review and encourage policy choices that strengthen the rule of law.

The WJP Rule of Law Index



The WJP Rule of Law Index

The rule of law is notoriously difficult to define and measure. A simple way of approaching it is in terms of some of the outcomes that the rule of law brings to societies – such as accountability, respect for fundamental rights, or access to justice – each of which reflects one aspect of the complex concept of the rule of law. The WJP Rule of Law Index is an attempt to outline these outcomes in a simple and coherent framework that is broadly accepted, and to approximate by means of performance indicators the extent to which countries attain these outcomes. These indicators are designed to provide a comprehensive and multi-dimensional picture of the extent to which each country adheres to the rule of law in practice, and to benchmark its performance against that of other countries measured.

In attempting to capture a broad view of the rule of law in a nation, the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index® looks at 47 outcomes (or sub-factors) organized around nine dimensions (or factors): constraints on government powers; absence of corruption; open government; fundamental rights; order and security; regulatory enforcement; civil justice; criminal justice; and informal justice. These policy outcomes, which emanate from the WJP's four universal principles, represent specific goals or end results that are directly influenced by the degree of adherence to the rule of law in a society, such as whether government officials are held accountable under the law, or whether state institutions protect fundamental rights and allow for delivery of justice to ordinary people.

The Index has been designed to include several features that set it apart from other indices, and which make it valuable for a large number of countries:

- **Rule of law in practice:** The Index measures adherence to the rule of law by looking at policy outcomes (such as whether people have access to the courts or whether crime is effectively controlled), in contrast to efforts that focus on the laws on the books, or the institutional means by which a society may seek to achieve these policy outcomes.
- **Comprehensive/Multi-dimensional:** While other indices cover particular aspects of the rule of law, such

BOX 1: FOUR UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RULE OF LAW

The WJP uses a working definition of the rule of law based on four universal principles, derived from internationally accepted standards. The rule of law is a system where the following four universal principles are upheld:

1. The government and its officials and agents as well as individuals and private entities are accountable under the law.
2. The laws are clear, publicized, stable, and just; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and property.
3. The process by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced is accessible, fair, and efficient.
4. Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are of sufficient number, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

as absence of corruption or human rights, they do not yield a full picture of rule of law compliance. The WJP Rule of Law Index is the only global instrument that looks at the rule of law comprehensively.

- o **Perspective of the ordinary people:** The WJP Rule of Law Index puts people at its core by looking at a nation's adherence to the rule of law from the perspective of ordinary individuals who are directly affected by the degree of adherence to the rule of law in their societies. The WJP Index examines practical, everyday situations, such as whether people can access public services without needing to bribe a government officer, or whether a dispute among neighbors can be resolved peacefully and cost-effectively by an independent adjudicator.
- o **New data anchored in actual experiences:** The Index is the only comprehensive set of indicators on the rule of law that are based almost solely on primary data. The Index's scores are built from the assessments of local residents (1,000 respondents per country) and local legal experts, which ensure that the findings reflect the conditions experienced by the population, including marginalized sectors of society.
- o **Culturally competent:** The Index has been designed to be applied in countries with vastly differing social, cultural, economic, and political systems. No society has ever attained - let alone sustained - a perfect realization of the rule of law. Every nation faces the perpetual challenge of building and renewing the structures, institutions, and norms that can support and sustain a rule of law culture.

These features make the Index a powerful tool that can help identify strengths and weaknesses in each country, and help to inform policy debates both within and across countries that advance the rule of law.

THE COMPONENTS OF THE RULE OF LAW

The WJP Rule of Law Index captures adherence to the rule of law (as defined by the WJP's universal principles, see Box 1) through a comprehensive and multi-dimensional set of outcome indicators, each of which reflects a particular aspect of this complex concept. The theoretical framework linking these outcome indicators (or sub-factors) draws on two main ideas pertaining to the relationship between the state and the governed, namely that 1) the law imposes limits on the exercise of power by the state and its agents, as well as individuals and private entities (Factors 1, 2, 3, and 4), and 2) that the state limits the actions of members of society

and fulfills its basic duties toward its population, so that the public interest is served, people are protected from violence, and members of society have access to mechanisms to settle disputes and redress grievances (Factors 5, 6, 7, and 8). Although broad in scope, this framework assumes very little about the functions of the state, and when it does so, it incorporates functions that are recognized by practically all societies, such as the provision of justice or the guarantee of order and security.

The resulting set of indicators also sums up an effort to strike a balance between what scholars call a "thin", or minimalist, conception of the rule of law that focuses on formal, procedural rules, and a "thick" conception that includes substantive characteristics, such as self-government and various fundamental rights and freedoms. Striking this balance between "thin" and "thick" conceptions of the rule of law allows the WJP Index to be applicable to various different types of social and political systems, including those which lack many of the features that characterize democratic nations, while still including sufficient substantive characteristics that renders the rule of law as more than merely a system of rules. Indeed, a system of positive law that fails to respect core human rights guaranteed under international law is at best "rule by law", and does not deserve to be called a rule of law system.

THE 2014 WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX

The 2014 WJP Rule of Law Index comprises nine aggregate indicators (or factors) further disaggregated into 47 specific indicators (or sub-factors). These indicators are presented in Table 1 and described in detail in the section below.

Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers

Factor 1 measures the extent to which those who govern are bound by law. It comprises the means, both constitutional and institutional, by which the powers of the government and its officials and agents are limited and are held accountable under the law. It also includes non-governmental checks on the government's power, such as a free and independent press.

Governmental checks take many forms; they do not operate solely in systems marked by a formal separation of powers, nor are they necessarily codified in law. What is essential, however, is that authority is distributed, whether by formal rules or by convention, in a manner that ensures that no single organ of government has the practical ability to exercise unchecked power.¹ This factor addresses the effectiveness

¹ The Index does not address the further question of whether the laws are enacted by democratically elected representatives.

BOX 2: THE RULE OF LAW IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Although we may not be aware of it, the rule of law is a profoundly important part of our lives. It is the foundation for a system of rules to keep us safe, resolve disputes, and enable us to prosper. Let's consider a few examples:



Business environment: Imagine an investor seeking to commit resources abroad. She would probably think twice before investing in a country where corruption is rampant, property rights are ill-defined, and contracts are difficult to enforce. Uneven enforcement of regulation, corruption, insecure property rights, and ineffective means to settle disputes undermine legitimate business and drives away both domestic and foreign investment.

Public works: Consider the bridges, roads, or runways we traverse daily - or the offices and buildings in which we live, work, and play. What if building codes governing their design and safety were not enforced, or if government officials and contractors employed low-quality materials in order to pocket the surplus. Weak regulatory enforcement and corruption decreases the reliability and security of physical infrastructures, and wastes scarce resources, which are essential to a thriving economy.

Public health and the environment: Consider the implications of pollution, wildlife poaching, and deforestation for health, the economy, and the environment. What if a company was pouring harmful chemicals into a river at a highly populated area, and the environmental inspector turned a blind eye in exchange for a bribe? While countries around the world have laws to protect the public's health and the environment, these laws are not always enforced. Adherence to the rule of law is essential to effectively enforce public health and environmental regulations and to hold the government, businesses, civil society organizations, and communities accountable for protecting the environment without unduly constraining economic opportunities.

Public Participation: What if residents of a neighborhood were not informed of an upcoming construction project commissioned by the government that will cause disruptions to their community? Or what if they did not have an opportunity to present their objections to the relevant government authorities prior to the start of the construction project? Being able to voice opinions about government decisions that directly impact the lives of ordinary people is a key aspect of the rule of law. Public participation ensures that all stakeholders have the chance to have their voice be heard and provide valuable input in the decision-making process.

Civil Justice: Imagine an individual having a dispute with another party. What if the system to settle such dispute and obtain a remedy was largely inaccessible, unreliable, and corrupt? Without a well-functioning civil justice system –a core element of the rule of law– individuals faced with a dispute have few options other than giving up on any attempt to solve it or resorting to violence or intimidation to settle the conflict.

The rule of law affects all of us in our everyday lives. It is not only important to lawyers and judges; it matters to businessmen, builders, consumers, doctors, and journalists. Every sector of society is a stakeholder in the rule of law.

of the institutional checks on government power by the legislature (1.1), the judiciary (1.2), and independent auditing and review agencies (1.3)², as well as the effectiveness of non-governmental oversight by the media and civil society (1.5), which serve an important role in monitoring government actions and holding officials accountable. The extent to which transitions of power occur in accordance with the law is also examined (1.6).³ In addition to these checks, this factor also measures the extent to which government officials are held accountable for official misconduct (1.4).

Factor 2: Absence of Corruption

This factor measures the absence of corruption in a number of government agencies. The factor considers three forms of corruption: bribery, improper influence by public or private interests, and misappropriation of public funds or other resources. These three forms of corruption are examined with respect to government officers in the executive branch (2.1), the judiciary (2.2), the military and police (2.3), and the legislature (2.4), and encompass a wide range of possible situations in which corruption - from petty bribery to major kinds of fraud - can occur.

Factor 3: Open Government

Factor 3 (previously Factor 5 in past editions of the WJP Rule of Law Index series) measures the open nature of a government, which is essential for effective public oversight. Specifically, this factor measures the extent to which the society has clear, publicized, accessible, and stable laws (3.1 and 3.2); whether administrative proceedings are open to public participation (3.3); and whether official information, including drafts of laws and regulations, is available to the public (3.4). The first two sub-factors relate to the clarity, publicity, accessibility, and stability that are required for the public to know what the law is and what conduct is permitted and prohibited. The other two sub-factors encompass the opportunity for the people to participate in the processes by which the laws are made and administered. Among the indicia of participation are: whether people have the ability to petition the government; whether proceedings are held with timely notice and are open to the public; and whether official information, including drafts of legislation and records of legislative and administrative proceedings, are available to the public.

2 This includes a wide range of institutions, from financial comptrollers and auditing agencies to the diverse array of entities that monitor human rights compliance (e.g. "Human Rights Defender", "Ombudsman", "People's Advocate", "Defensor del Pueblo", "Ouvidoria", "Human Rights Commissioner", "Öiguskantsler", "Médiateur de la République", "Citizen's Advocate", "Avocatul Poporului"). In some countries these functions are performed by judges or other state officials; in others, they are carried out by independent agencies.

3 This sub-factor does not address the issue of whether transitions of political power take place through democratic elections. Rather, it examines whether the rules for the orderly transfer of power are actually observed. This sub-factor looks at the prevalence of electoral fraud and intimidation (for those countries in which elections are held), the frequency of coups d'états, and the extent to which transition processes are open to public scrutiny.

Factor 4: Fundamental Rights

Factor 4 measures protection of fundamental human rights. It recognizes that a system of positive law that fails to respect core human rights established under international law is at best "rule *by* law", and does not deserve to be called a rule of law system. Since there are many other indices that address human rights, and as it would be impossible for the Index to assess adherence to the full range of rights, this factor focuses on a relatively modest menu of rights that are firmly established under the Universal Declaration and are most closely related to rule of law concerns. Accordingly, Factor 4 encompasses adherence to the following fundamental rights: effective enforcement of laws that ensure equal protection(4.1)⁴; the right to life and security of the person (4.2)⁵; due process of law and the rights of the accused (4.3)⁶; freedom of opinion and expression (4.4); freedom of belief and religion (4.5); the right of privacy (4.6); freedom of assembly and association (4.7); and fundamental labor rights, including the right to collective bargaining, the prohibition of forced and child labor, and the elimination of discrimination (4.8).⁷

Factor 5: Order and Security

Factor 5 (previously Factor 3 in past editions of the WJP Rule of Law Index series) measures how well the society assures the security of persons and property. Security is one of the defining aspects of any rule of law society and a fundamental function of the state. It is also a precondition for the realization of the rights and freedoms that the rule of law seeks to advance. This factor includes three dimensions to cover the various threats to order and security: crime (particularly conventional crime⁸); political violence (including terrorism, armed conflict, and political unrest); and violence as a socially acceptable means to redress personal grievances (vigilante justice).

4 The laws can be fair only if they do not make arbitrary or irrational distinctions based on economic or social status - the latter defined to include race, color, ethnic or social origin, caste, nationality, alienage, religion, language, political opinion or affiliation, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity, age, and disability. It must be acknowledged that for some societies, including some traditional societies, certain of these categories may be problematic. In addition, there may be differences both within and among such societies as to whether a given distinction is arbitrary or irrational. Despite these difficulties, it was determined that only an inclusive list would accord full respect to the principles of equality and non-discrimination embodied in the Universal Declaration and emerging norms of international law.

5 Sub-factor 4.2 concerns police brutality and other abuses - including arbitrary detention, torture and extrajudicial execution - perpetrated by agents of the state against criminal suspects, political dissidents, members of the media, and ordinary people.

6 This includes the presumption of innocence and the opportunity to submit and challenge evidence before public proceedings; freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and abusive treatment; and access to legal counsel and translators.

7 Sub-factor 4.8 includes the four fundamental principles recognized by the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998: (1) the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; (2) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor; (3) the effective abolition of child labor; and (4) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

8 In this category, we include measures of criminal victimization, such as homicide, kidnapping, burglary, armed robbery, extortion, and fraud.

TABLE 1: THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT RULE OF LAW INDEX

The four universal principles which comprise the WJP's notion of the rule of law are further developed in the nine factors of the WJP Rule of Law Index.



Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers

- 1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature
- 1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary
- 1.3 Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review
- 1.4 Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct
- 1.5 Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks
- 1.6 Transition of power is subject to the law



Factor 2: Absence of Corruption

- 2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.3 Government officials in the police and the military do not use public office for private gain
- 2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain



Factor 3: Open Government

- 3.1 The laws are publicized and accessible
- 3.2 The laws are stable
- 3.3 Right to petition the government and public participation
- 3.4 Official information is available on request



Factor 4: Fundamental Rights

- 4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination
- 4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- 4.3 Due process of law and rights of the accused
- 4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed
- 4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed
- 4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed
- 4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed
- 4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed



Factor 5: Order and Security

- 5.1 Crime is effectively controlled
- 5.2 Civil conflict is effectively limited
- 5.3 People do not resort to violence to redress personal grievances



Factor 6: Regulatory Enforcement

- 6.1 Government regulations are effectively enforced
- 6.2 Government regulations are applied and enforced without improper influence
- 6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- 6.4 Due process is respected in administrative proceedings
- 6.5 The government does not expropriate without adequate compensation



Factor 7: Civil Justice

- 7.1 People can access and afford civil justice
- 7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination
- 7.3 Civil justice is free of corruption
- 7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence
- 7.5 Civil justice is not subject to unreasonable delay
- 7.6 Civil justice is effectively enforced
- 7.7 ADR is accessible, impartial, and effective



Factor 8: Criminal Justice

- 8.1 Criminal investigation system is effective
- 8.2 Criminal adjudication system is timely and effective
- 8.3 Correctional system is effective in reducing criminal behavior
- 8.4 Criminal system is impartial
- 8.5 Criminal system is free of corruption
- 8.6 Criminal system is free of improper government influence
- 8.7 Due process of law and rights of the accused



Factor 9: Informal Justice

- 9.1 Informal justice is timely and effective
- 9.2 Informal justice is impartial and free of improper influence
- 9.3 Informal justice respects and protects fundamental rights

Factor 6: Regulatory Enforcement

Factor 6 measures the extent to which regulations are fairly and effectively implemented and enforced. Regulations, both legal and administrative, structure behaviors within and outside of the government. Strong rule of law adherence requires that these regulations and administrative provisions are enforced effectively (6.1), and are applied and enforced without improper influence by public officials or private interests (6.2). Additionally, strong rule of law requires that administrative proceedings are conducted timely, without unreasonable delays (6.3); that due process is respected in administrative proceedings (6.4); and that there is no expropriation of private property without adequate compensation (6.5).

This factor does not assess which activities a government chooses to regulate, nor does it consider how much regulation of a particular activity is appropriate. Rather, it examines how regulations are implemented and enforced. To facilitate comparisons, this factor considers areas that all countries regulate to one degree or another, such as public health, workplace safety, environmental protection, and commercial activity.

Factor 7: Civil Justice

Factor 7 measures whether ordinary people can resolve their grievances peacefully and effectively through the civil justice system. The delivery of effective civil justice requires that the system be accessible and affordable (7.1), and the system be free of discrimination (7.2), as well as be free of corruption (7.3), and without improper influence by public officials (7.4). The delivery of effective civil justice also necessitates that court proceedings are conducted in a timely manner that is not subject to unreasonable delays (7.5), and that judgments are enforced effectively (7.6). Finally, recognizing the value of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms (ADRs), this factor also measures the accessibility, impartiality, and efficiency of mediation and arbitration systems that enable parties to resolve civil disputes (7.7).

Factor 8: Criminal Justice

Factor 8 evaluates the criminal justice system. An effective criminal justice system is a key aspect of the rule of law, as it constitutes the conventional mechanism to redress grievances and bring action against individuals for offenses against society. Effective criminal justice systems are capable of investigating and adjudicating criminal offenses successfully and in a timely manner (8.1 and 8.2) through a system that is impartial and non-discriminatory (8.4), and is free of corruption and improper government influence (8.5 and 8.6), all while ensuring that the rights of both victims

and the accused are effectively protected (8.7).⁹ The delivery of effective criminal justice also necessitates correctional systems that effectively reduce criminal behavior (8.3). Accordingly, an assessment of the delivery of criminal justice should take into consideration the entire system, including the police, lawyers, prosecutors, judges, and prison officers.

Factor 9: Informal Justice

Finally, Factor 9 concerns the role played in many countries by customary and 'informal' systems of justice - including traditional, tribal, and religious courts, and community-based systems - in resolving disputes. These systems often play a large role in cultures in which formal legal institutions fail to provide effective remedies for large segments of the population, or when formal institutions are perceived as remote, corrupt, or ineffective. This factor covers three concepts: whether these dispute resolution systems are timely and effective (9.1); whether they are impartial and free of improper influence (9.2); and the extent to which these systems respect and protect fundamental rights (9.3).¹⁰

MEASURING THE RULE OF LAW

The analytical framework discussed above provides the roadmap for developing the indicators that measure adherence to the rule of law. These indicators – presented in the form of scores and rankings – are constructed from over five hundred variables drawn from two novel data sources collected by the World Justice Project in each country: (1) a general population poll (GPP) conducted by leading local polling companies using a representative sample of 1,000 respondents in the three largest cities; and (2) qualified respondents' questionnaires (QRQ) consisting of closed-ended questions completed by in-country practitioners and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law, criminal justice, labor law, and public health. Taken together, these two data sources provide up-to-date firsthand information from a large number of people on their experiences and perceptions concerning their dealing with the government, the police, and the courts, as well as the openness and accountability of the state, the extent of corruption, and the magnitude of common crimes to which the general public is exposed.¹¹ These data

⁹ Sub-factor 8.7 includes the presumption of innocence and the opportunity to submit and challenge evidence before public proceedings; freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and abusive treatment; and access to legal counsel and translators.

¹⁰ Significant effort has been devoted during the last four years to collecting data on informal justice in a dozen countries. Nonetheless, the complexities of these systems and the difficulties of measuring their fairness and effectiveness in a manner that is both systematic and comparable across countries, make assessments extraordinarily challenging. Although the WJP has collected data on this dimension, it is not included in the aggregated scores and rankings.

¹¹ On top of the variables drawn from the QRQ and the GPP, some variables from third-party sources have been incorporated into this version of the Index to account for certain conduct, such as terrorist bombings and battle-related deaths, which may not be captured through general population polls or expert opinion. These variables include, among others, the number of events and deaths resulting from high-casualty terrorist bombings (from the Center for Systemic Peace), the number of battle-related deaths, and the number of casualties resulting from "one-sided violence" (from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program). These indicators are proxies for civil conflict (sub-factor 5.2).

BOX 3: THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX METHODOLOGY IN A NUTSHELL

The production of the WJP Rule of Law Index may be summarized in eleven steps:



are processed, normalized on a 0-1 scale, and aggregated from the variable level all the way up to the factor level for each country, and then to an overall score and ranking using the data map and weights reported in Botero and Ponce (2012).

The WJP has produced the Rule of Law Index for the last four years. During this time, country coverage has increased, and the surveys and indicators that comprise it have evolved to better reflect the rule of law landscape of countries around the world. The 2014 surveys and indicators are closely aligned with those used in the previous edition. This year's report, however, introduces a measure to illustrate whether the rule of law in a country, as measured through the factors of the WJP Rule of Law Index, changed over the course of the past year. This measure is presented in the form of arrows, and represents a summary of rigorous statistical testing based on the use of bootstrapping procedures (see Data section). The 2014 WJP Rule of Law Index report also includes two new countries (Afghanistan and Myanmar), achieving a record of 99 countries and jurisdictions that account for more than 90 percent of the world's population.

The country scores and rankings presented in this report are based on data collected and analyzed during the third quarter of 2013, with the exception of general population data for the countries indexed in 2011 and 2012, which were gathered during the spring of 2011, and the spring of 2012. A detailed description of the process by which data is collected and the rule of law is measured is provided in the Methodology section of this report, and in Botero and Ponce (2012).

USING THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX

The WJP Rule of Law Index has been designed to offer a reliable and independent data source for policy makers, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and other constituencies to assess a nation's adherence to the rule of law as perceived and experienced by the average person; identify a nation's strengths and weaknesses in comparison to similarly situated countries; and track changes over time. The Index has been designed to include several features that set it apart from other indices and make it valuable for a large number of countries, thus providing a powerful resource that can inform policy debates both within and across countries. However, the Index's findings must be interpreted in light of certain inherent limitations.

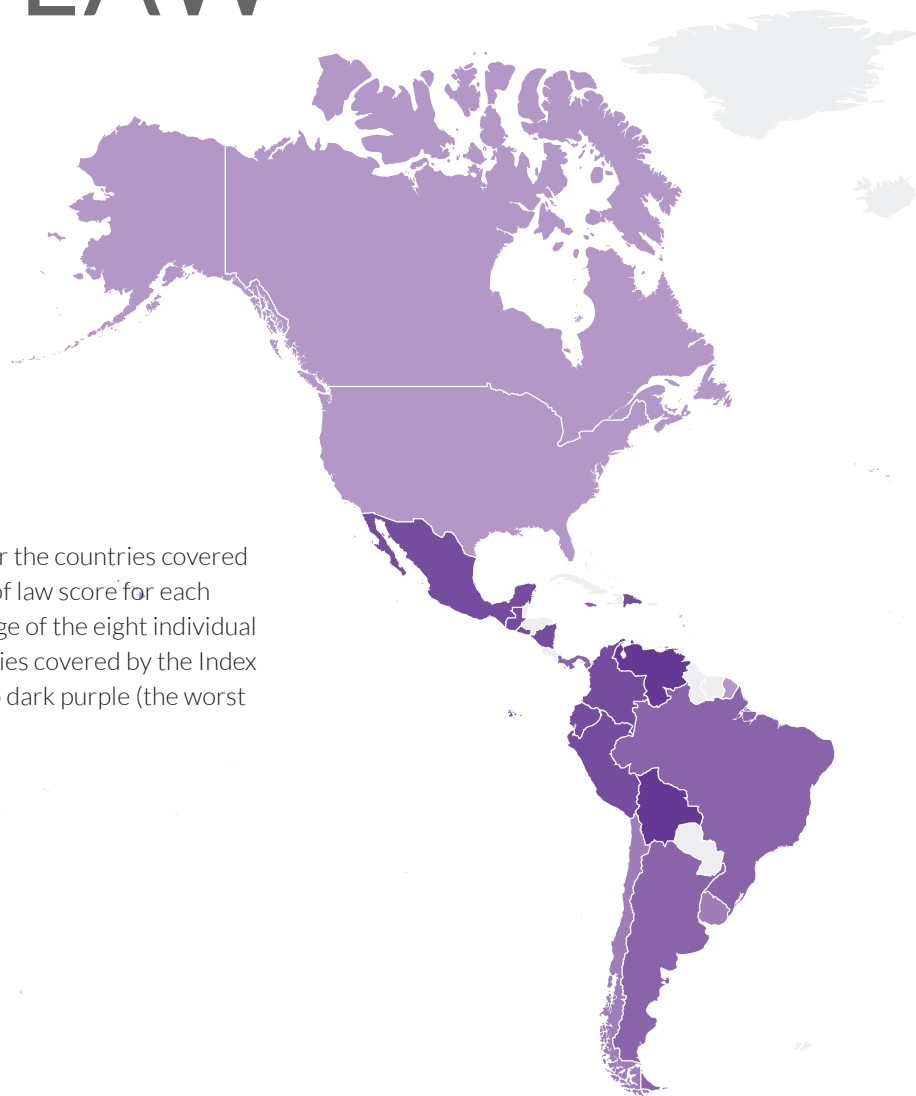
1. The WJP Rule of Law Index does not identify priorities for reform, and is not intended to establish causation or to ascertain the complex relationship among different rule of law dimensions in various countries.

2. The Index's rankings and scores are the product of a rigorous data collection and aggregation methodology. Nonetheless, as with all measures, they are subject to measurement error.¹²
3. Given the uncertainty associated with picking a particular sample of respondents, standard errors have been calculated using bootstrapping methods to test whether the annual changes in the factor scores are statistically significant.
4. Indices and indicators are subject to potential abuse and misinterpretation. Once released to the public, they can take on a life of their own and be used for purposes unanticipated by their creators. If data is taken out of context, it can lead to unintended or erroneous policy decisions.
5. Rule of law concepts measured by the Index may have different meanings across countries. Users are encouraged to consult the specific definitions of the variables employed in the construction of the Index, which are discussed in greater detail in Botero and Ponce (2012).
6. The Index is generally intended to be used in combination with other instruments, both quantitative and qualitative. Just as in the areas of health or economics, no single index conveys a full picture of a country's situation. Policymaking in the area of rule of law requires careful consideration of all relevant dimensions - which may vary from country to country - and a combination of sources, instruments, and methods.
7. Pursuant to the sensitivity analysis of the Index data conducted in collaboration with the Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, confidence intervals have been calculated for all figures included in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2014. These confidence intervals and other relevant considerations regarding measurement error are reported in Saisana and Saltelli (2014) and Botero and Ponce (2012).

¹² Users of the Index for policy debate who wish to have a thorough understanding of its methodology are encouraged to review the following papers: (a) Botero, J and Ponce, A. (2012) "Measuring the Rule of Law", and (b) Saisana, M and Saltelli, A. (2014) "Statistical Audit of the WJP Rule of Law Index", available online at: www.worldjusticeproject.org.

Overall Scores and Rankings

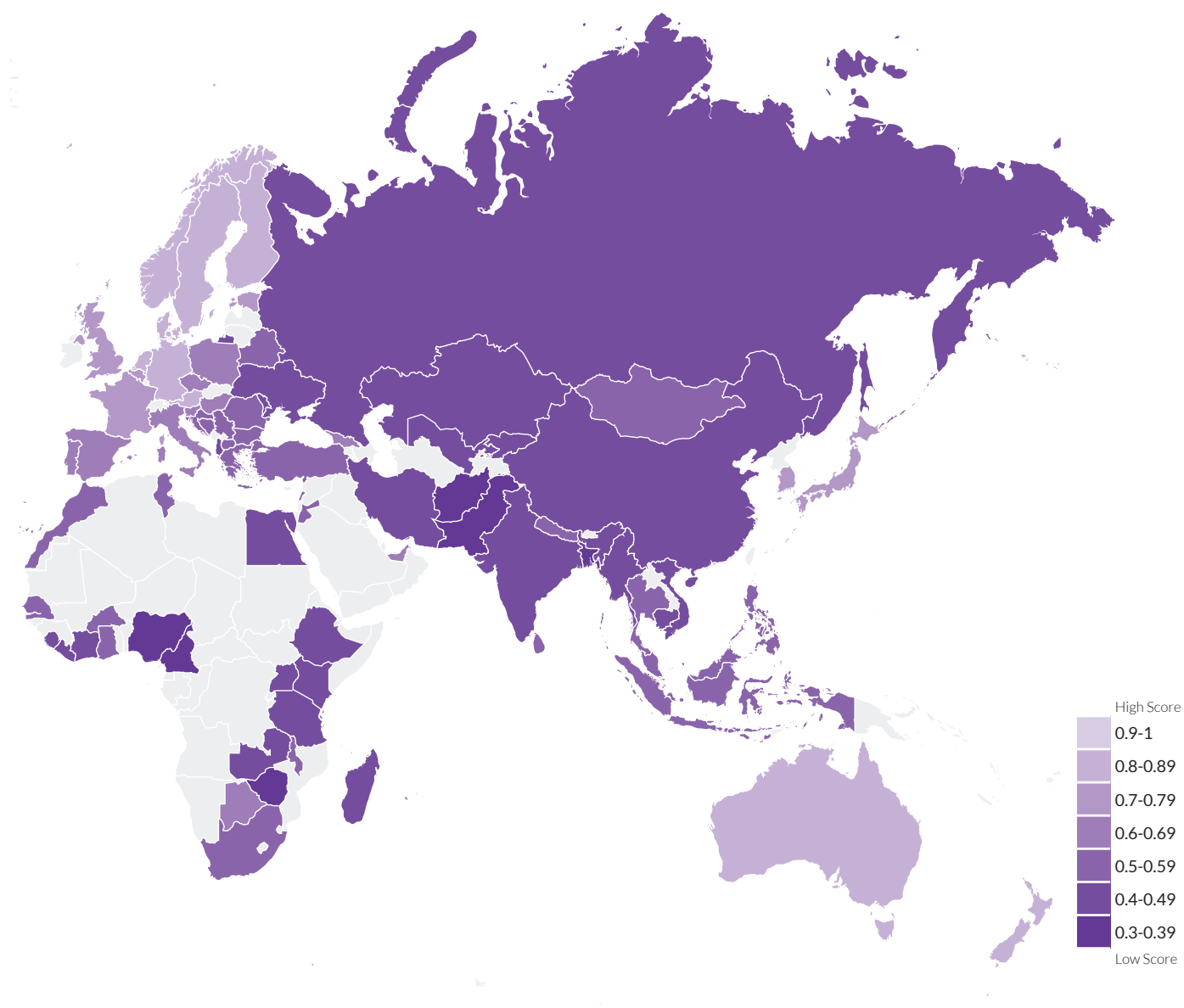
THE GLOBAL RULE OF LAW



OVERALL SCORES AND RANKINGS

This map shows the overall rule of law scores for the countries covered by the WJP Rule of Law Index. The overall rule of law score for each country is calculated by taking the simple average of the eight individual factors, listed in the table on page 8. The countries covered by the Index range from light purple (the best performers) to dark purple (the worst performers.)

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
1	Denmark	0.88	14	Republic of Korea	0.77	27	United Arab Emirates	0.65
2	Norway	0.88	15	Estonia	0.76	28	Slovenia	0.65
3	Sweden	0.85	16	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.76	29	Italy	0.63
4	Finland	0.84	17	Belgium	0.76	30	Hungary	0.61
5	Netherlands	0.83	18	France	0.74	31	Georgia	0.60
6	New Zealand	0.83	19	United States	0.71	32	Greece	0.59
7	Austria	0.82	20	Uruguay	0.69	33	Romania	0.59
8	Australia	0.80	21	Chile	0.68	34	Macedonia, FYR	0.58
9	Germany	0.80	22	Poland	0.67	35	Malaysia	0.58
10	Singapore	0.79	23	Czech Republic	0.67	36	Croatia	0.57
11	Canada	0.78	24	Spain	0.67	37	Ghana	0.57
12	Japan	0.78	25	Botswana	0.67	38	Jordan	0.57
13	United Kingdom	0.78	26	Portugal	0.66	39	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.55
						40	South Africa	0.55
						41	Tunisia	0.55
						42	Brazil	0.54
						43	Senegal	0.54
						44	Bulgaria	0.53
						45	Jamaica	0.53
						46	Indonesia	0.52
						47	Thailand	0.52
						48	Sri Lanka	0.52
						49	Lebanon	0.51
						50	Belarus	0.51
						51	Mongolia	0.51
						52	Morocco	0.51



53 Burkina Faso	0.51	66 India	0.48	79 Mexico	0.45	92 Bangladesh	0.39
54 Serbia	0.51	67 Dominican Republic	0.47	80 Russia	0.45	93 Nigeria	0.39
55 Malawi	0.51	68 Ukraine	0.47	81 Madagascar	0.45	94 Bolivia	0.39
56 Panama	0.50	69 Tanzania	0.47	82 Iran	0.44	95 Cameroon	0.39
57 Nepal	0.50	70 Zambia	0.47	83 Guatemala	0.44	96 Pakistan	0.36
58 Argentina	0.50	71 Kazakhstan	0.47	84 Sierra Leone	0.44	97 Zimbabwe	0.34
59 Turkey	0.50	72 Cote d'Ivoire	0.46	85 Nicaragua	0.43	98 Afghanistan	0.34
60 Philippines	0.50	73 Uzbekistan	0.45	86 Kenya	0.43	99 Venezuela	0.31
61 Colombia	0.49	74 Egypt	0.45	87 Liberia	0.42		
62 Peru	0.49	75 Moldova	0.45	88 Ethiopia	0.42		
63 Albania	0.49	76 China	0.45	89 Myanmar	0.41		
64 El Salvador	0.48	77 Ecuador	0.45	90 Uganda	0.41		
65 Vietnam	0.48	78 Kyrgyzstan	0.45	91 Cambodia	0.40		

GLOBAL RANKINGS

OVERALL GLOBAL RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	CONSTRAINTS ON GOVERNMENT POWERS	ABSENCE OF CORRUPTION	OPEN GOVERNMENT	FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS	ORDER & SECURITY	REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT	CIVIL JUSTICE	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
1	Denmark	1	1	5	2	3	2	4	3
2	Norway	2	2	1	3	19	1	1	4
3	Sweden	3	4	4	1	6	3	5	6
4	Finland	5	6	11	4	8	11	8	1
5	Netherlands	7	7	7	6	22	4	2	9
6	New Zealand	4	3	2	7	11	5	9	12
7	Austria	6	10	6	5	10	6	7	5
8	Australia	8	8	12	10	14	7	12	11
9	Germany	9	12	14	8	13	16	3	16
10	Singapore	21	5	21	26	2	8	6	2
11	Canada	13	14	3	16	15	9	13	15
12	Japan	15	11	8	20	1	12	11	18
13	United Kingdom	10	15	9	15	23	10	14	14
14	Republic of Korea	16	16	13	23	7	17	10	8
15	Estonia	12	18	15	12	24	13	15	13
16	Hong Kong SAR, China	24	9	10	29	4	15	16	10
17	Belgium	11	13	18	9	16	19	19	20
18	France	14	20	16	18	30	14	18	21
19	United States	20	21	17	27	18	22	27	22
20	Uruguay	18	19	20	19	64	18	17	42
21	Chile	17	22	19	21	61	21	26	28
22	Poland	22	27	27	24	25	26	22	17
23	Czech Republic	23	31	33	11	28	24	20	19
24	Spain	28	25	28	14	34	25	24	25
25	Botswana	25	23	22	54	26	20	28	23
26	Portugal	19	26	25	17	58	27	23	26
27	United Arab Emirates	42	17	52	73	9	23	33	7
28	Slovenia	30	32	23	13	37	28	29	27
29	Italy	26	30	39	22	50	29	36	24
30	Hungary	36	29	35	30	21	30	55	34
31	Georgia	55	24	43	51	17	31	32	36
32	Greece	29	34	34	28	49	37	25	43
33	Romania	43	41	47	25	31	45	34	29
34	Macedonia, FYR	61	37	24	38	47	44	41	37
35	Malaysia	49	28	42	85	12	48	37	33
36	Croatia	40	36	38	37	39	53	46	31
37	Ghana	27	58	37	33	57	43	35	49
38	Jordan	64	33	65	77	20	35	21	30
39	Bosnia & Herzegovina	51	55	44	32	45	49	56	32
40	South Africa	37	46	26	41	86	40	44	47
41	Tunisia	41	43	49	64	41	47	43	45
42	Brazil	32	45	36	35	71	39	50	69
43	Senegal	33	48	70	39	69	33	39	54
44	Bulgaria	58	64	51	36	36	57	45	56
45	Jamaica	34	50	59	44	74	32	64	53
46	Indonesia	31	80	29	65	42	46	67	71
47	Thailand	63	40	50	52	48	62	89	35
48	Sri Lanka	54	39	41	56	59	69	80	38
49	Lebanon	44	70	62	43	43	66	70	55
50	Belarus	95	38	79	83	33	42	30	50
51	Mongolia	53	71	93	45	38	70	48	39
52	Morocco	46	62	46	84	44	36	51	81
53	Burkina Faso	76	54	71	50	65	34	42	64
54	Serbia	65	67	48	40	51	65	71	58
55	Malawi	60	65	80	58	68	77	31	40
56	Panama	75	57	31	46	62	55	69	65
57	Nepal	45	73	61	48	55	56	75	52
58	Argentina	71	47	56	31	83	73	40	70
59	Turkey	72	35	69	78	67	38	47	62
60	Philippines	39	44	55	67	56	60	82	73
61	Colombia	47	61	40	61	89	50	54	79
62	Peru	38	79	63	34	78	61	83	67
63	Albania	68	83	60	49	53	64	53	75
64	El Salvador	66	53	84	42	70	52	62	90
65	Vietnam	86	59	77	71	32	86	73	41
66	India	35	72	30	63	95	81	90	48
67	Dominican Republic	67	77	45	47	87	76	60	66
68	Ukraine	84	94	53	55	27	84	49	83
69	Tanzania	52	74	72	70	90	74	61	44
70	Zambia	57	68	66	86	63	72	65	77
71	Kazakhstan	93	60	87	74	35	63	66	61
72	Cote d'Ivoire	77	69	88	72	85	58	57	60
73	Uzbekistan	97	81	78	95	5	59	58	59
74	Egypt	74	52	64	90	66	75	84	57
75	Moldova	79	88	58	68	40	79	76	82
76	China	92	49	74	96	29	78	79	51
77	Ecuador	85	51	75	62	91	54	77	86
78	Kyrgyzstan	70	96	73	66	52	68	74	85
79	Mexico	48	78	32	60	96	51	88	97
80	Russia	89	66	67	79	75	67	68	76
81	Madagascar	83	84	68	76	46	82	78	80
82	Iran	90	42	90	99	77	41	38	63
83	Guatemala	59	76	57	57	92	85	93	93
84	Sierra Leone	50	82	98	59	88	87	63	88
85	Nicaragua	96	75	54	69	72	71	91	78
86	Kenya	62	93	83	80	79	80	72	84
87	Liberia	56	85	86	53	93	96	87	87
88	Ethiopia	91	56	94	94	73	89	85	46
89	Myanmar	82	63	96	97	60	92	86	89
90	Uganda	81	89	92	93	84	90	59	72
91	Cambodia	94	86	82	82	54	94	97	95
92	Bangladesh	80	95	85	87	76	91	92	94
93	Nigeria	69	97	76	88	98	83	52	91
94	Bolivia	88	87	81	75	82	88	96	98
95	Cameroon	87	98	91	81	80	93	95	92
96	Pakistan	73	91	95	92	99	95	94	68
97	Zimbabwe	98	92	99	98	81	98	81	74
98	Afghanistan	78	99	89	91	97	97	99	96
99	Venezuela	99	90	97	89	94	99	98	99

World Maps of the Rule of Law by Factor



Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers

At its heart, the rule of law defines and limits the power of those who govern. Modern societies have developed systems of checks and balances, including constitutional, institutional and non-governmental, to limit the reach of excessive government power and hold the government and its officials and agents accountable. These checks and balances take many forms in various countries around the world: they do not operate solely in systems marked by a formal separation of powers, nor are they necessarily codified in law. What is essential is that the authority is distributed in a manner that ensures no single organ of government has the ability to exercise unchecked power, and that its agents are held accountable under the law for their actions. Unchecked government power may lead to abuse of authority, preferential treatment towards special groups, wasted resources, and ineffectiveness in achieving the most basic purposes of government.

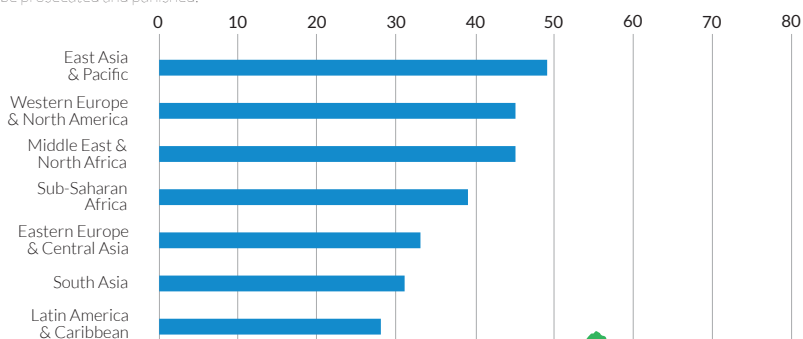
Factor 1 of the WJP Rule of Law Index assesses the effectiveness of the institutional checks on government power by looking at the performance of legislative and judicial oversight, and independent auditing and review agencies, as well as the effectiveness of non-governmental oversight by the media and civil society, which serve an important role in monitoring government actions and holding officials accountable. It also examines the extent to which transitions of power occur in accordance with the law, as well as the extent to which government officials are held accountable for official misconduct.



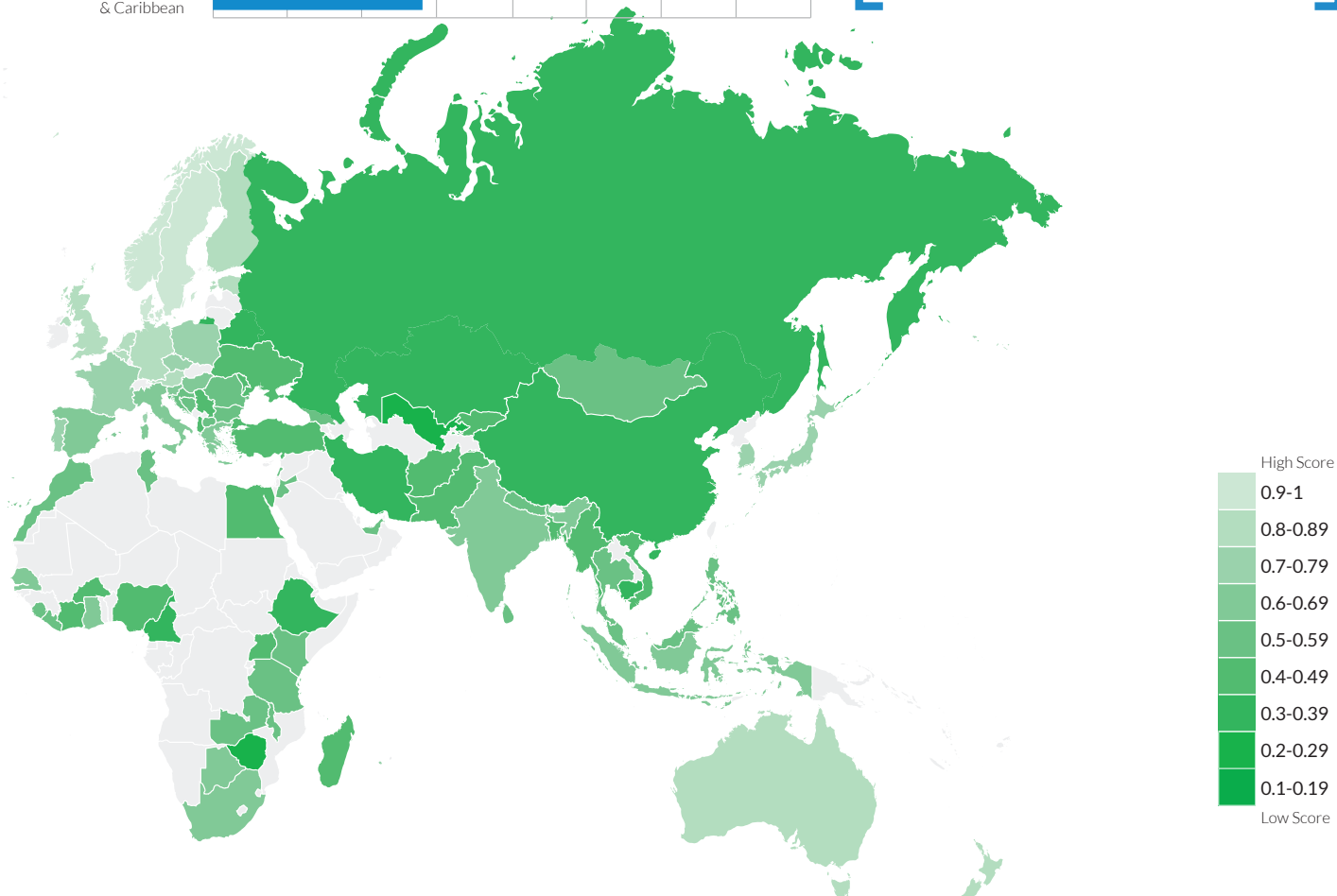
Rank	Country	Score									
1	Denmark	0.94	14	France	0.79	27	Ghana	0.68	40	Croatia	0.58
2	Norway	0.90	15	Japan	0.76	28	Spain	0.68	41	Tunisia	0.58
3	Sweden	0.90	16	Republic of Korea	0.76	29	Greece	0.66	42	United Arab Emirates	0.58
4	New Zealand	0.88	17	Chile	0.76	30	Slovenia	0.65	43	Romania	0.58
5	Finland	0.88	18	Uruguay	0.75	31	Indonesia	0.64	44	Lebanon	0.57
6	Austria	0.86	19	Portugal	0.74	32	Brazil	0.63	45	Nepal	0.56
7	Netherlands	0.86	20	United States	0.74	33	Senegal	0.63	46	Morocco	0.56
8	Australia	0.86	21	Singapore	0.73	34	Jamaica	0.62	47	Colombia	0.55
9	Germany	0.83	22	Poland	0.73	35	India	0.61	48	Mexico	0.55
10	United Kingdom	0.81	23	Czech Republic	0.72	36	Hungary	0.61	49	Malaysia	0.55
11	Belgium	0.81	24	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.72	37	South Africa	0.61	50	Sierra Leone	0.55
12	Estonia	0.80	25	Botswana	0.69	38	Peru	0.60	51	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.54
13	Canada	0.80	26	Italy	0.69	39	Philippines	0.59	52	Tanzania	0.54

Impunity around the world

% of respondents replying that a high-ranking government officer exposed to be taking government money would be prosecuted and punished.



This graph shows the percentage of respondents replying that a high-ranking government officer exposed to be taking government money for personal benefit would be prosecuted and punished. Respondents from Western Europe & North America have the highest expectation of punishment at 51%, while respondents from Latin America & the Caribbean have the lowest expectations of punishment at 28%.



53 Mongolia	0.53	66 El Salvador	0.49	79 Moldova	0.43	92 China	0.35
54 Sri Lanka	0.53	67 Dominican Republic	0.48	80 Bangladesh	0.41	93 Kazakhstan	0.35
55 Georgia	0.53	68 Albania	0.47	81 Uganda	0.41	94 Cambodia	0.34
56 Liberia	0.53	69 Nigeria	0.47	82 Myanmar	0.41	95 Belarus	0.34
57 Zambia	0.53	70 Kyrgyzstan	0.47	83 Madagascar	0.41	96 Nicaragua	0.31
58 Bulgaria	0.53	71 Argentina	0.47	84 Ukraine	0.41	97 Uzbekistan	0.29
59 Guatemala	0.52	72 Turkey	0.46	85 Ecuador	0.40	98 Zimbabwe	0.25
60 Malawi	0.52	73 Pakistan	0.46	86 Vietnam	0.40	99 Venezuela	0.17
61 Macedonia, FYR	0.52	74 Egypt	0.45	87 Cameroon	0.39		
62 Kenya	0.51	75 Panama	0.45	88 Bolivia	0.38		
63 Thailand	0.50	76 Burkina Faso	0.45	89 Russia	0.36		
64 Jordan	0.50	77 Cote d'Ivoire	0.44	90 Iran	0.36		
65 Serbia	0.49	78 Afghanistan	0.43	91 Ethiopia	0.35		



Factor 2: Absence of Corruption

The absence of corruption – conventionally defined as the use of public power for private gain – is one of the hallmarks of a society governed by the rule of law, as corruption is a manifestation of the extent to which government officials abuse their power for their own interest. Corruption can take many forms – including bribery, nepotism, extortion, fraud, embezzlement, and involvement of organized crime – and may involve a variety of public servants. Corruption is costly for citizens: it siphons off scarce resources, introduces inefficiencies and inequities in public service delivery, lowers regulatory compliance, weakens accountability, curtails the public’s opportunities for participation, undermines the government’s credibility, and leads to injustice. Addressing corruption is a complicated political endeavor requiring creative thinking and a coordinated effort by numerous stakeholders, including government, businesses, academia, and the civil society at large.

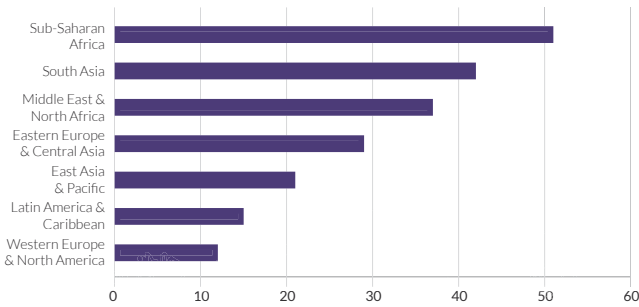
The WJP Rule of Law Index considers three forms of corruption: bribery, improper influence by public or private interests, and misappropriation of public funds or other resources (embezzlement). These three forms of corruption are examined with respect to government officers in the executive branch, the judiciary, the military and police, and the legislature, and encompass a range of possible situations in which corruption – from petty bribery to major kinds of fraud – can occur, from the provision of public services, to the procurement processes, to the enforcement of regulations.



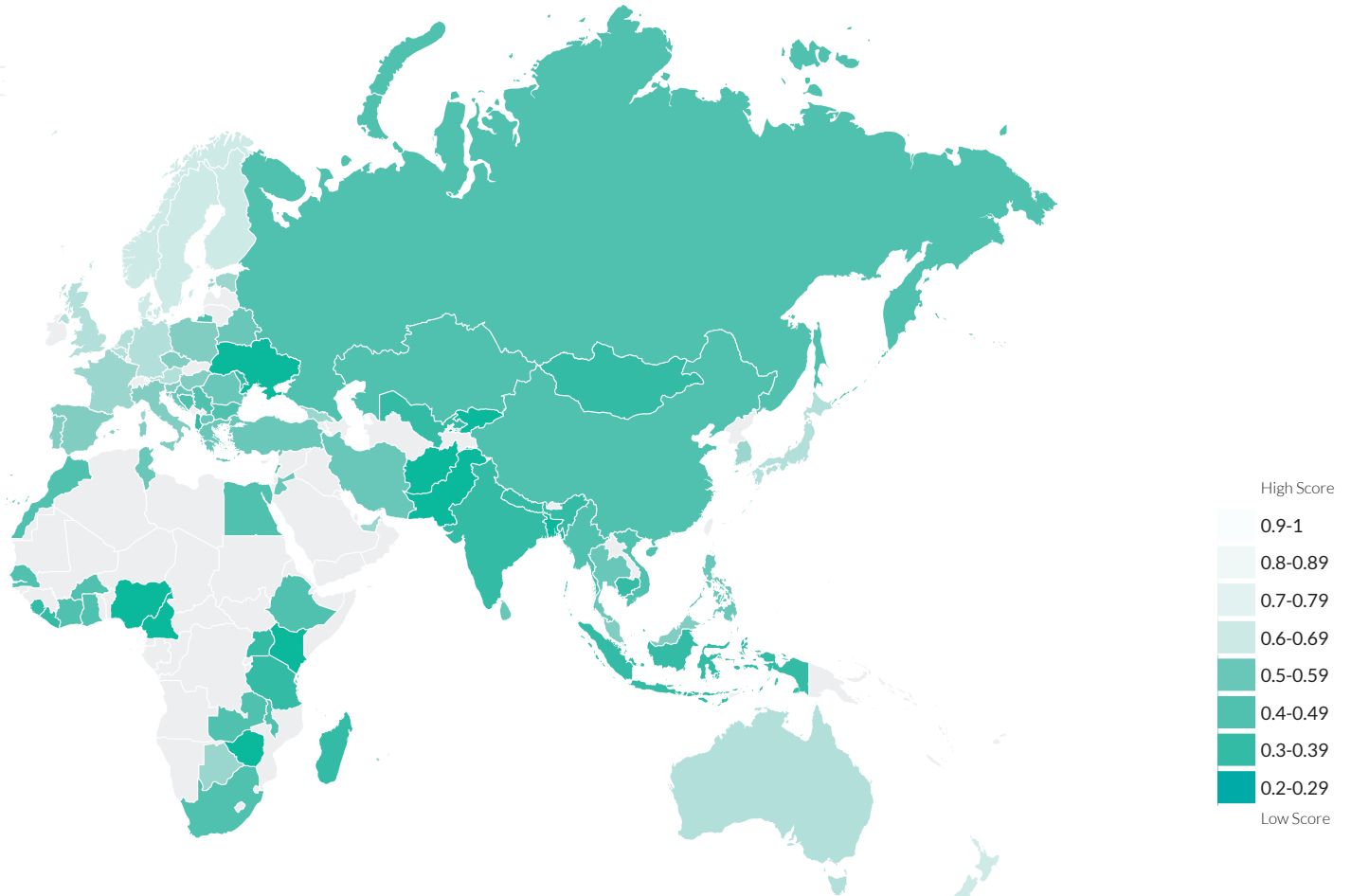
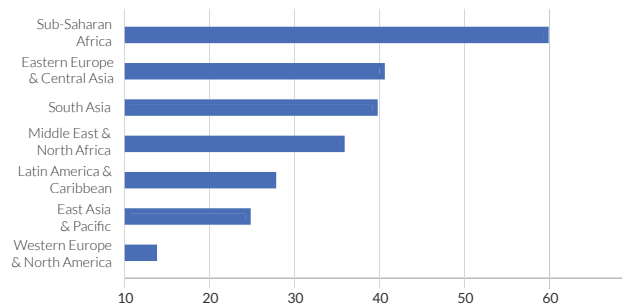
Rank	Country	Score									
1	Denmark	0.96	14	Canada	0.81	27	Poland	0.66	40	Thailand	0.51
2	Norway	0.94	15	United Kingdom	0.80	28	Malaysia	0.64	41	Romania	0.50
3	New Zealand	0.91	16	Republic of Korea	0.79	29	Hungary	0.64	42	Iran	0.50
4	Sweden	0.91	17	United Arab Emirates	0.79	30	Italy	0.60	43	Tunisia	0.50
5	Singapore	0.90	18	Estonia	0.78	31	Czech Republic	0.60	44	Philippines	0.50
6	Finland	0.90	19	Uruguay	0.78	32	Slovenia	0.60	45	Brazil	0.50
7	Netherlands	0.88	20	France	0.78	33	Jordan	0.57	46	South Africa	0.49
8	Australia	0.86	21	United States	0.75	34	Greece	0.56	47	Argentina	0.49
9	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.85	22	Chile	0.73	35	Turkey	0.55	48	Senegal	0.48
10	Austria	0.84	23	Botswana	0.73	36	Croatia	0.54	49	China	0.48
11	Japan	0.84	24	Georgia	0.71	37	Macedonia, FYR	0.53	50	Jamaica	0.48
12	Germany	0.83	25	Spain	0.69	38	Belarus	0.53	51	Ecuador	0.47
13	Belgium	0.81	26	Portugal	0.69	39	Sri Lanka	0.53	52	Egypt	0.46

Bribery

% of respondents who had to pay a bribe when stopped by the police.



% of respondents who had to pay a bribe while requesting a government permit.



53 El Salvador	0.46	66 Russia	0.42	79 Peru	0.36	92 Zimbabwe	0.28
54 Burkina Faso	0.45	67 Serbia	0.41	80 Indonesia	0.36	93 Kenya	0.28
55 Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.45	68 Zambia	0.41	81 Uzbekistan	0.35	94 Ukraine	0.28
56 Ethiopia	0.45	69 Cote d'Ivoire	0.41	82 Sierra Leone	0.35	95 Bangladesh	0.27
57 Panama	0.44	70 Lebanon	0.40	83 Albania	0.34	96 Kyrgyzstan	0.27
58 Ghana	0.44	71 Mongolia	0.39	84 Madagascar	0.34	97 Nigeria	0.26
59 Vietnam	0.44	72 India	0.39	85 Liberia	0.34	98 Cameroon	0.26
60 Kazakhstan	0.43	73 Nepal	0.38	86 Cambodia	0.33	99 Afghanistan	0.24
61 Colombia	0.43	74 Tanzania	0.38	87 Bolivia	0.32		
62 Morocco	0.43	75 Nicaragua	0.38	88 Moldova	0.32		
63 Myanmar	0.43	76 Guatemala	0.37	89 Uganda	0.30		
64 Bulgaria	0.43	77 Dominican Republic	0.37	90 Venezuela	0.30		
65 Malawi	0.43	78 Mexico	0.37	91 Pakistan	0.29		



Factor 3: Open Government

An open government – conventionally understood as a government that is transparent, accessible, participatory, collaborative, and responsive – is fundamental to establishing the rule of law. An open government fosters citizens' participation in decision making, shares information, and empowers people with tools to hold the government accountable. Openness ultimately enhances the government's legitimacy among the population.

Factor 3 of the WJP Rule of Law Index assesses the extent to which the society has clear, publicized, accessible, and stable laws; whether administrative proceedings are open to public participation; and whether official information, including drafts of laws and regulations, is available to the public. Clear, stable, and publicized laws allow the public to know what the law is and what conduct is permitted and prohibited. Public participation provides citizens with a voice in decision-making processes that may impact their lives. Finally, access to information provides citizens with knowledge to address public issues, scrutinize the government, and demand accountability.

During the past few years, governments around the world have taken new steps to become more transparent, responsive, and participatory. The Open Government Partnership, which 62 countries have joined since 2011, is representative of this global trend.

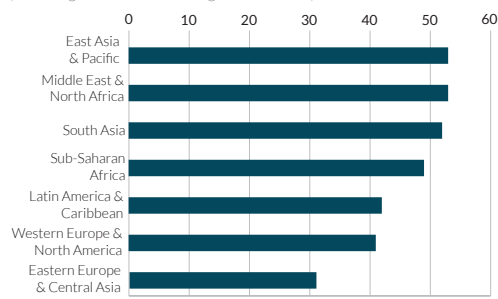


Rank	Country	Score									
1	Norway	0.85	14	Germany	0.73	27	Poland	0.56	40	Colombia	0.49
2	New Zealand	0.83	15	Estonia	0.71	28	Spain	0.55	41	Sri Lanka	0.48
3	Canada	0.82	16	France	0.70	29	Indonesia	0.54	42	Malaysia	0.48
4	Sweden	0.82	17	United States	0.70	30	India	0.53	43	Georgia	0.48
5	Denmark	0.79	18	Belgium	0.67	31	Panama	0.52	44	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.48
6	Austria	0.78	19	Chile	0.65	32	Mexico	0.52	45	Dominican Republic	0.48
7	Netherlands	0.78	20	Uruguay	0.65	33	Czech Republic	0.52	46	Morocco	0.48
8	Japan	0.77	21	Singapore	0.64	34	Greece	0.50	47	Romania	0.47
9	United Kingdom	0.77	22	Botswana	0.61	35	Hungary	0.50	48	Serbia	0.47
10	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.77	23	Slovenia	0.60	36	Brazil	0.50	49	Tunisia	0.47
11	Finland	0.76	24	Macedonia, FYR	0.60	37	Ghana	0.50	50	Thailand	0.47
12	Australia	0.75	25	Portugal	0.59	38	Croatia	0.49	51	Bulgaria	0.46
13	Republic of Korea	0.74	26	South Africa	0.58	39	Italy	0.49	52	United Arab Emirates	0.46

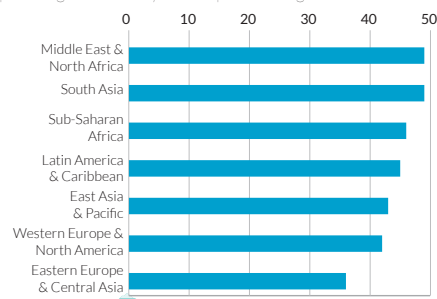
Perception of government openness

% of respondents replying that their government performs well or fairly well at:

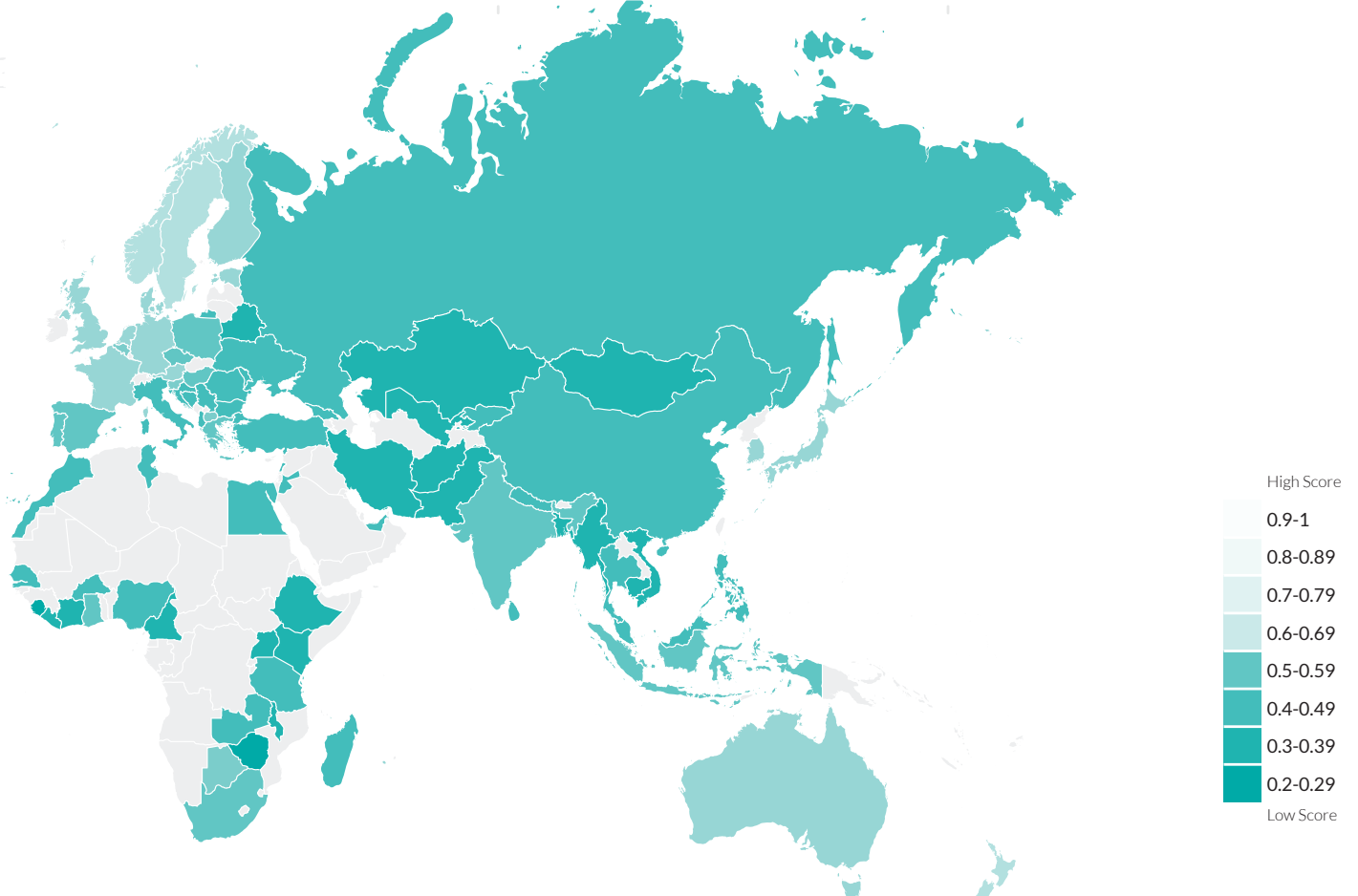
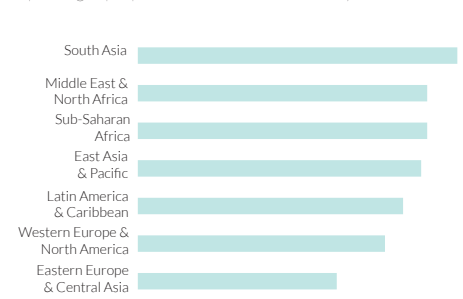
providing information about government expenditures



providing effective ways to complain about government services



responding to people's concerns about community matters



High Score

0.9-1

0.8-0.89

0.7-0.79

0.6-0.69

0.5-0.59

0.4-0.49

0.3-0.39

0.2-0.29

Low Score

53 Ukraine	0.46	66 Zambia	0.43	79 Belarus	0.39	92 Uganda	0.33
54 Nicaragua	0.45	67 Russia	0.43	80 Malawi	0.39	93 Mongolia	0.33
55 Philippines	0.45	68 Madagascar	0.42	81 Bolivia	0.38	94 Ethiopia	0.32
56 Argentina	0.45	69 Turkey	0.42	82 Cambodia	0.38	95 Pakistan	0.32
57 Guatemala	0.45	70 Senegal	0.42	83 Kenya	0.38	96 Myanmar	0.31
58 Moldova	0.44	71 Burkina Faso	0.41	84 El Salvador	0.37	97 Venezuela	0.30
59 Jamaica	0.44	72 Tanzania	0.41	85 Bangladesh	0.36	98 Sierra Leone	0.29
60 Albania	0.44	73 Kyrgyzstan	0.41	86 Liberia	0.36	99 Zimbabwe	0.24
61 Nepal	0.44	74 China	0.41	87 Kazakhstan	0.35		
62 Lebanon	0.44	75 Ecuador	0.40	88 Cote d'Ivoire	0.34		
63 Peru	0.44	76 Nigeria	0.40	89 Afghanistan	0.34		
64 Egypt	0.44	77 Vietnam	0.39	90 Iran	0.34		
65 Jordan	0.43	78 Uzbekistan	0.39	91 Cameroon	0.33		



Factor 4: Fundamental Rights

In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its Preamble explicitly recognizes the centrality of fundamental rights to the rule of law, stating that *“it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law...”*

The WJP Rule of Law Index addresses protection of fundamental rights in Factor 4, measuring how effectively countries uphold and protect a menu of rights and freedoms that are firmly established under international law. These include the right to equal treatment and the absence of discrimination; the right to life and security of the person; due process of law and rights of the accused; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of belief and religion; the absence of arbitrary interference with privacy; freedom of assembly and association; and the protection of fundamental labor rights.

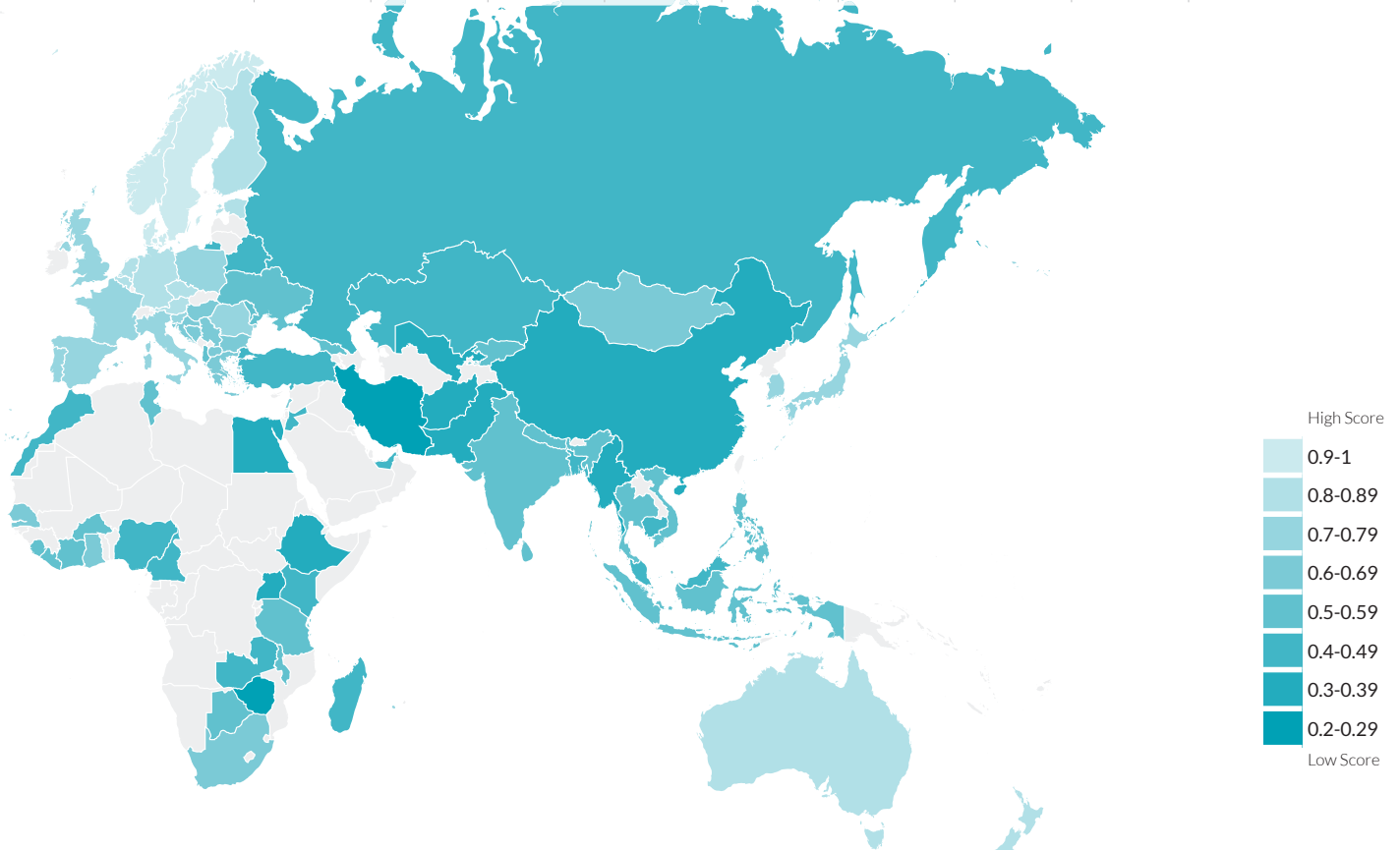
The figure on the opposite page illustrates the wide variations from region to region in the extent to which fundamental rights are effectively protected.



Rank	Country	Score									
1	Sweden	0.91	14	Spain	0.78	27	United States	0.71	40	Serbia	0.62
2	Denmark	0.90	15	United Kingdom	0.78	28	Greece	0.69	41	South Africa	0.62
3	Norway	0.90	16	Canada	0.77	29	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.68	42	El Salvador	0.62
4	Finland	0.89	17	Portugal	0.76	30	Hungary	0.68	43	Lebanon	0.62
5	Austria	0.87	18	France	0.76	31	Argentina	0.67	44	Jamaica	0.61
6	Netherlands	0.85	19	Uruguay	0.76	32	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.67	45	Mongolia	0.61
7	New Zealand	0.84	20	Japan	0.75	33	Ghana	0.66	46	Panama	0.60
8	Germany	0.84	21	Chile	0.74	34	Peru	0.66	47	Dominican Republic	0.60
9	Belgium	0.83	22	Italy	0.73	35	Brazil	0.66	48	Nepal	0.59
10	Australia	0.82	23	Republic of Korea	0.73	36	Bulgaria	0.65	49	Albania	0.58
11	Czech Republic	0.80	24	Poland	0.72	37	Croatia	0.64	50	Burkina Faso	0.58
12	Estonia	0.80	25	Romania	0.71	38	Macedonia, FYR	0.63	51	Georgia	0.58
13	Slovenia	0.79	26	Singapore	0.71	39	Senegal	0.63	52	Thailand	0.58

Fundamental Rights around the World

Regional averages for each underlying sub-factor of Factor 4



53 Liberia	0.57	66 Kyrgyzstan	0.52	79 Russia	0.46	92 Pakistan	0.38
54 Botswana	0.57	67 Philippines	0.52	80 Kenya	0.46	93 Uganda	0.37
55 Ukraine	0.56	68 Moldova	0.51	81 Cameroon	0.46	94 Ethiopia	0.36
56 Sri Lanka	0.56	69 Nicaragua	0.51	82 Cambodia	0.46	95 Uzbekistan	0.36
57 Guatemala	0.56	70 Tanzania	0.51	83 Belarus	0.46	96 China	0.31
58 Malawi	0.55	71 Vietnam	0.50	84 Morocco	0.45	97 Myanmar	0.30
59 Sierra Leone	0.55	72 Cote d'Ivoire	0.50	85 Malaysia	0.45	98 Zimbabwe	0.29
60 Mexico	0.55	73 United Arab Emirates	0.49	86 Zambia	0.43	99 Iran	0.23
61 Colombia	0.55	74 Kazakhstan	0.48	87 Bangladesh	0.43		
62 Ecuador	0.54	75 Bolivia	0.48	88 Nigeria	0.42		
63 India	0.54	76 Madagascar	0.48	89 Venezuela	0.42		
64 Tunisia	0.54	77 Jordan	0.47	90 Egypt	0.39		
65 Indonesia	0.54	78 Turkey	0.47	91 Afghanistan	0.39		



Factor 5: Order & Security

Human security is one of the defining aspects of any rule of law society and a fundamental function of the state. Not only does violence impose wounds on society, it also prevents the achievement of other aims, such as exercising fundamental human rights, and ensuring access to opportunities and justice. It leads to instability and undermines the trust in state institutions. In extreme situations, violence might become the norm if legal rules are not enforced.

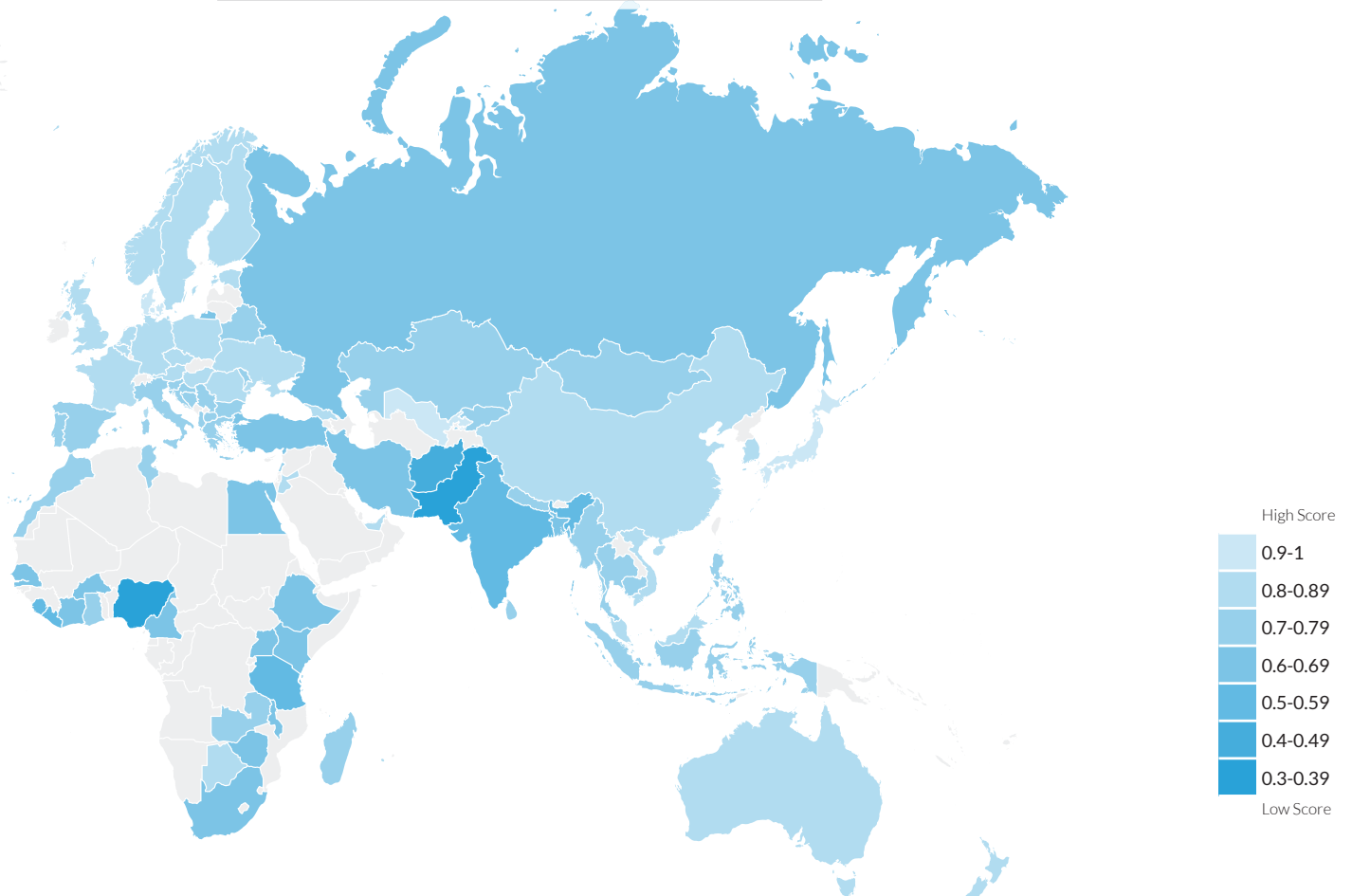
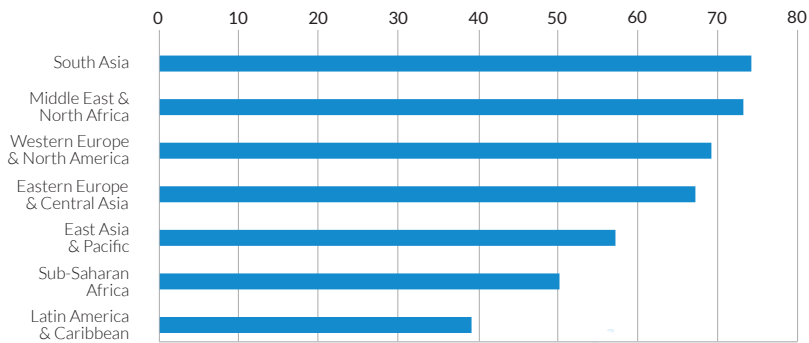
Factor 5 of the WJP Rule of Law Index measures the absence of three forms of violence: crime — particularly conventional crimes such as homicide, kidnapping, burglary, armed robbery, extortion, and fraud — political violence, including terrorism, armed conflict, and political unrest; and violence as a mean to redress personal grievances, which results from the loss of confidence in the police and the criminal justice system. Whatever the cause of violence may be, its effect on people can be devastating. That is why the rule of law necessitates that the state be effective at preventing crime and violence of every kind.



Rank	Country	Score									
1	Japan	0.92	14	Australia	0.86	27	Ukraine	0.82	40	Moldova	0.77
2	Singapore	0.91	15	Canada	0.86	28	Czech Republic	0.82	41	Tunisia	0.77
3	Denmark	0.90	16	Belgium	0.85	29	China	0.81	42	Indonesia	0.77
4	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.90	17	Georgia	0.85	30	France	0.81	43	Lebanon	0.76
5	Uzbekistan	0.90	18	United States	0.85	31	Romania	0.81	44	Morocco	0.76
6	Sweden	0.89	19	Norway	0.85	32	Vietnam	0.80	45	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.76
7	Republic of Korea	0.89	20	Jordan	0.85	33	Belarus	0.79	46	Madagascar	0.76
8	Finland	0.89	21	Hungary	0.84	34	Spain	0.79	47	Macedonia, FYR	0.75
9	United Arab Emirates	0.89	22	Netherlands	0.84	35	Kazakhstan	0.79	48	Thailand	0.75
10	Austria	0.88	23	United Kingdom	0.84	36	Bulgaria	0.79	49	Greece	0.74
11	New Zealand	0.87	24	Estonia	0.84	37	Slovenia	0.78	50	Italy	0.74
12	Malaysia	0.87	25	Poland	0.83	38	Mongolia	0.78	51	Serbia	0.74
13	Germany	0.87	26	Botswana	0.82	39	Croatia	0.77	52	Kyrgyzstan	0.74

Perception of safety around the world

% of respondents replying that they feel very safe or safe walking in their neighborhood at night



53 Albania	0.74	66 Egypt	0.67	79 Kenya	0.63	92 Guatemala	0.54
54 Cambodia	0.73	67 Turkey	0.67	80 Cameroon	0.63	93 Liberia	0.54
55 Nepal	0.73	68 Malawi	0.67	81 Zimbabwe	0.62	94 Venezuela	0.53
56 Philippines	0.73	69 Senegal	0.67	82 Bolivia	0.61	95 India	0.51
57 Ghana	0.72	70 El Salvador	0.66	83 Argentina	0.61	96 Mexico	0.47
58 Portugal	0.72	71 Brazil	0.66	84 Uganda	0.61	97 Afghanistan	0.42
59 Sri Lanka	0.72	72 Nicaragua	0.66	85 Cote d'Ivoire	0.60	98 Nigeria	0.36
60 Myanmar	0.72	73 Ethiopia	0.66	86 South Africa	0.60	99 Pakistan	0.30
61 Chile	0.71	74 Jamaica	0.65	87 Dominican Republic	0.59		
62 Panama	0.71	75 Russia	0.64	88 Sierra Leone	0.59		
63 Zambia	0.70	76 Bangladesh	0.64	89 Colombia	0.58		
64 Uruguay	0.69	77 Iran	0.63	90 Tanzania	0.57		
65 Burkina Faso	0.69	78 Peru	0.63	91 Ecuador	0.57		



Factor 6: Regulatory Enforcement

Modern societies use enforcement of government regulations to ensure that the public interest is not subordinated to the private interests of regulated entities. Around the world, regulations vary widely due to differences in policies, institutional environments, and political choices. Whatever those choices may be, regulations are futile if they are not properly enforced by authorities. Ensuring compliance with regulations is thus a key feature of the rule of law. Effective regulatory enforcement depends, in turn, on accountability, independence, and transparency to ensure that regulatory institutions act within the limits authorized by law

The WJP Rule of Law Index addresses regulatory enforcement in Factor 6. This factor assesses the effectiveness of regulatory enforcement in practice; the presence or absence of improper influence by public officials or private interests; the timeliness of administrative proceedings; and the level of adherence to due process of law in administrative procedures. Rather than analyzing specific statutes, the WJP Index uses simple scenarios to explore the outcomes associated with activities that are regulated in all jurisdictions, such as environmental standards, public health, workplace safety regulations, and permits and licenses. This factor also addresses whether the government respects the property rights of people and corporations; refrains from the illegal seizure of private property without adequate compensation; and provides adequate compensation when property is legally expropriated.

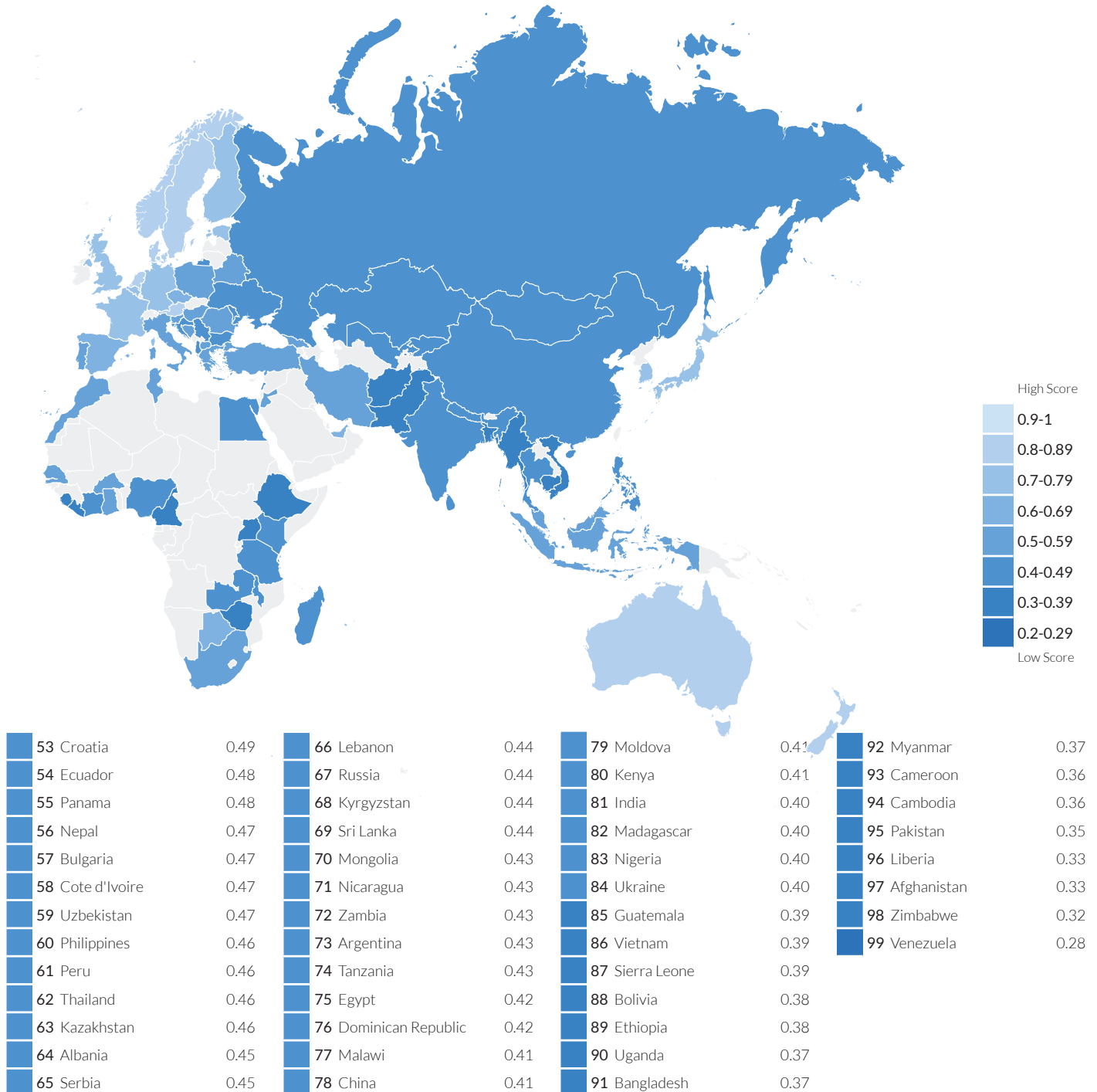
As countries engage in regulatory reforms, special efforts should be made to improve the mechanisms used to guarantee that such laws are implemented and enforced in an efficient, effective, and accountable manner.



Rank	Country	Score									
1	Norway	0.87	14	France	0.75	27	Portugal	0.59	40	South Africa	0.53
2	Denmark	0.84	15	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.74	28	Slovenia	0.59	41	Iran	0.53
3	Sweden	0.83	16	Germany	0.74	29	Italy	0.59	42	Belarus	0.53
4	Netherlands	0.82	17	Republic of Korea	0.74	30	Hungary	0.57	43	Ghana	0.53
5	New Zealand	0.81	18	Uruguay	0.73	31	Georgia	0.57	44	Macedonia, FYR	0.53
6	Austria	0.81	19	Belgium	0.71	32	Jamaica	0.56	45	Romania	0.52
7	Australia	0.80	20	Botswana	0.68	33	Senegal	0.55	46	Indonesia	0.52
8	Singapore	0.79	21	Chile	0.68	34	Burkina Faso	0.55	47	Tunisia	0.52
9	Canada	0.79	22	United States	0.67	35	Jordan	0.54	48	Malaysia	0.51
10	United Kingdom	0.78	23	United Arab Emirates	0.66	36	Morocco	0.54	49	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.51
11	Finland	0.78	24	Czech Republic	0.63	37	Greece	0.54	50	Colombia	0.50
12	Japan	0.78	25	Spain	0.63	38	Turkey	0.54	51	Mexico	0.50
13	Estonia	0.75	26	Poland	0.59	39	Brazil	0.53	52	El Salvador	0.49

Over the course of the past year:

7 countries have improved
4 countries have deteriorated
87 countries remained the same





Factor 7: Civil Justice

In a rule of law society, ordinary people should be able to resolve their grievances and obtain remedies through formal institutions of justice in a peaceful and effective manner, rather than resorting to violence or self-help. Well-functioning civil justice systems enable people to protect their rights against infringement by others, including powerful parties and the state. As an essential component of a society where the rule of law thrives, effective civil justice systems preserve peace and contribute to cultures of personal accountability.

As understood by the World Justice Project, the delivery of effective civil justice requires that the system be accessible and affordable, as well as be free of discrimination, corruption, and improper influence by public officials. The delivery of effective civil justice also necessitates that court proceedings be conducted in a timely manner that is not subject to unreasonable delays, and that judgments are enforced effectively. Finally, if alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADRs) are available to divert disputes away from the courts and the legal processes, these mechanisms must be accessible, impartial, and efficient.

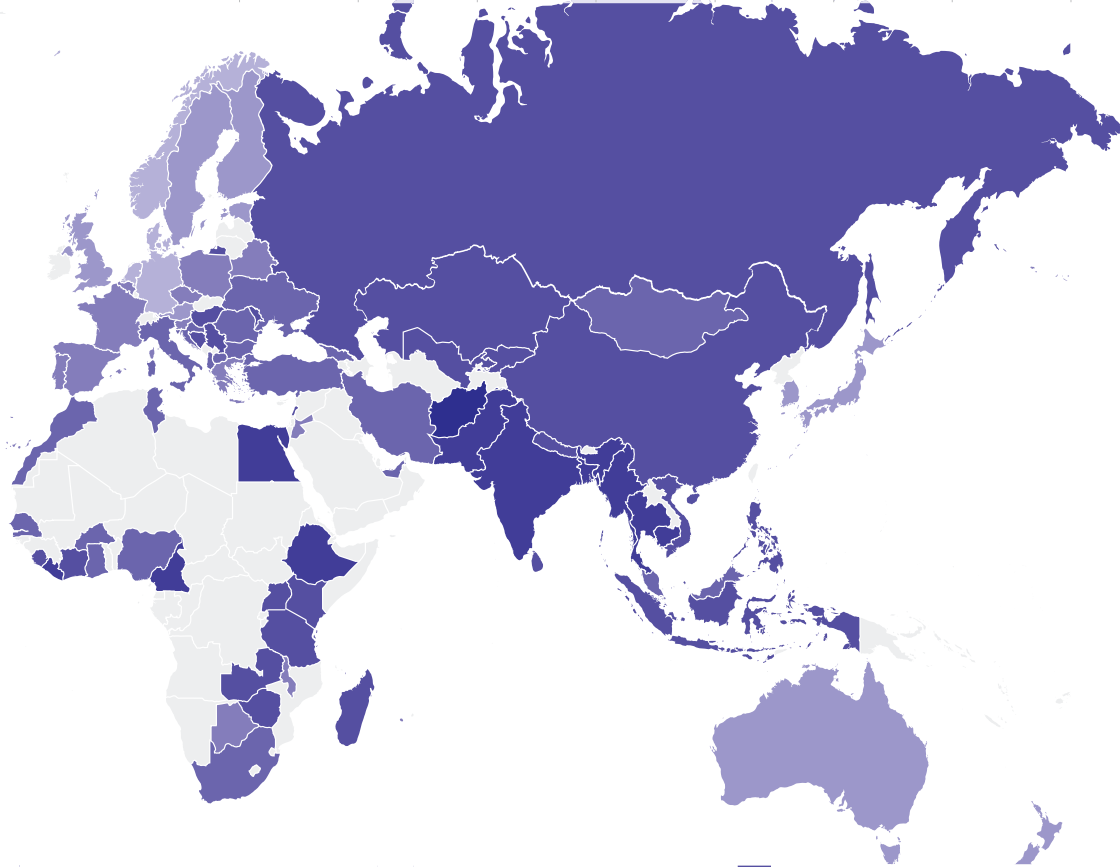
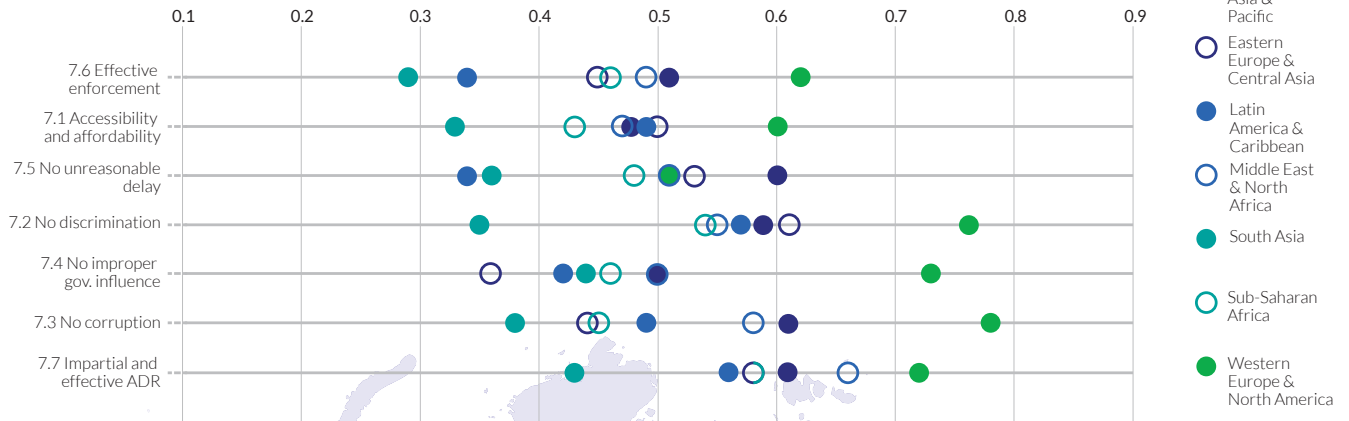
All around the world, people's ability to use legal channels to resolve their disputes is often impeded by obstacles such as financial barriers, complexity of procedures, corruption of court personnel, influence of powerful parties in judicial decision making, or simply lack of knowledge, disempowerment, and exclusion. These problems, which are not restricted to developing countries, call for more work to ensure that all people have the opportunity to resolve their grievances effectively, impartially, and efficiently through the civil justice system.



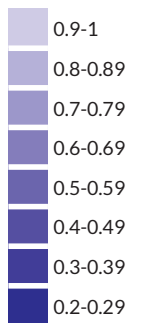
Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
1	Norway	0.86	14	United Kingdom	0.72	27	United States	0.61
2	Netherlands	0.84	15	Estonia	0.72	28	Botswana	0.61
3	Germany	0.82	16	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.72	29	Slovenia	0.61
4	Denmark	0.82	17	Uruguay	0.70	30	Belarus	0.60
5	Sweden	0.78	18	France	0.69	31	Malawi	0.60
6	Singapore	0.77	19	Belgium	0.69	32	Georgia	0.59
7	Austria	0.75	20	Czech Republic	0.65	33	United Arab Emirates	0.59
8	Finland	0.75	21	Jordan	0.62	34	Romania	0.59
9	New Zealand	0.74	22	Poland	0.62	35	Ghana	0.59
10	Republic of Korea	0.74	23	Portugal	0.62	36	Italy	0.58
11	Japan	0.73	24	Spain	0.62	37	Malaysia	0.57
12	Australia	0.73	25	Greece	0.61	38	Iran	0.56
13	Canada	0.72	26	Chile	0.61	39	Senegal	0.55
						40	Argentina	0.54
						41	Macedonia, FYR	0.54
						42	Burkina Faso	0.54
						43	Tunisia	0.54
						44	South Africa	0.53
						45	Bulgaria	0.53
						46	Croatia	0.52
						47	Turkey	0.52
						48	Mongolia	0.52
						49	Ukraine	0.52
						50	Brazil	0.51
						51	Morocco	0.50
						52	Nigeria	0.50

Civil Justice around the World

Regional averages for each underlying sub-factor of Factor 7



High Score



Low Score

53 Albania	0.50	66 Kazakhstan	0.47	79 China	0.41	92 Bangladesh	0.36
54 Colombia	0.49	67 Indonesia	0.47	80 Sri Lanka	0.41	93 Guatemala	0.36
55 Hungary	0.49	68 Russia	0.46	81 Zimbabwe	0.40	94 Pakistan	0.36
56 Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.48	69 Panama	0.45	82 Philippines	0.40	95 Cameroon	0.34
57 Cote d'Ivoire	0.48	70 Lebanon	0.45	83 Peru	0.39	96 Bolivia	0.34
58 Uzbekistan	0.48	71 Serbia	0.45	84 Egypt	0.39	97 Cambodia	0.34
59 Uganda	0.48	72 Kenya	0.44	85 Ethiopia	0.39	98 Venezuela	0.33
60 Dominican Republic	0.48	73 Vietnam	0.42	86 Myanmar	0.39	99 Afghanistan	0.27
61 Tanzania	0.48	74 Kyrgyzstan	0.42	87 Liberia	0.39		
62 El Salvador	0.47	75 Nepal	0.42	88 Mexico	0.39		
63 Sierra Leone	0.47	76 Moldova	0.41	89 Thailand	0.39		
64 Jamaica	0.47	77 Ecuador	0.41	90 India	0.39		
65 Zambia	0.47	78 Madagascar	0.41	91 Nicaragua	0.37		



Factor 8: Criminal Justice

An effective criminal justice system is a key aspect of the rule of law, as it constitutes the conventional mechanism to redress serious grievances and bring action against individuals for offenses against society. Effective criminal justice systems are capable of investigating, prosecuting, adjudicating, and punishing criminal offenses successfully, reliably, and in a timely manner through a system that is impartial and non-discriminatory, as well as free of corruption and improper government influence, all while ensuring that the rights of both the victims and the accused are effectively protected. The WJP Rule of Law Index assesses comparatively how systems around the world fulfill these goals.

While societies may have different cultural preferences about the emphasis they assign to various goals of the criminal justice system – retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation, and restoration of community harmony – there is general consensus that a well-functioning criminal justice system is an essential component of a society governed by the rule of law. An ineffective and corrupt criminal system provides little deterrence to criminal behavior, undermines public confidence, and can lead to citizens taking justice on their own hands or authorities adopting harsh measures that violate human rights without enhancing public safety or punishing perpetrators.

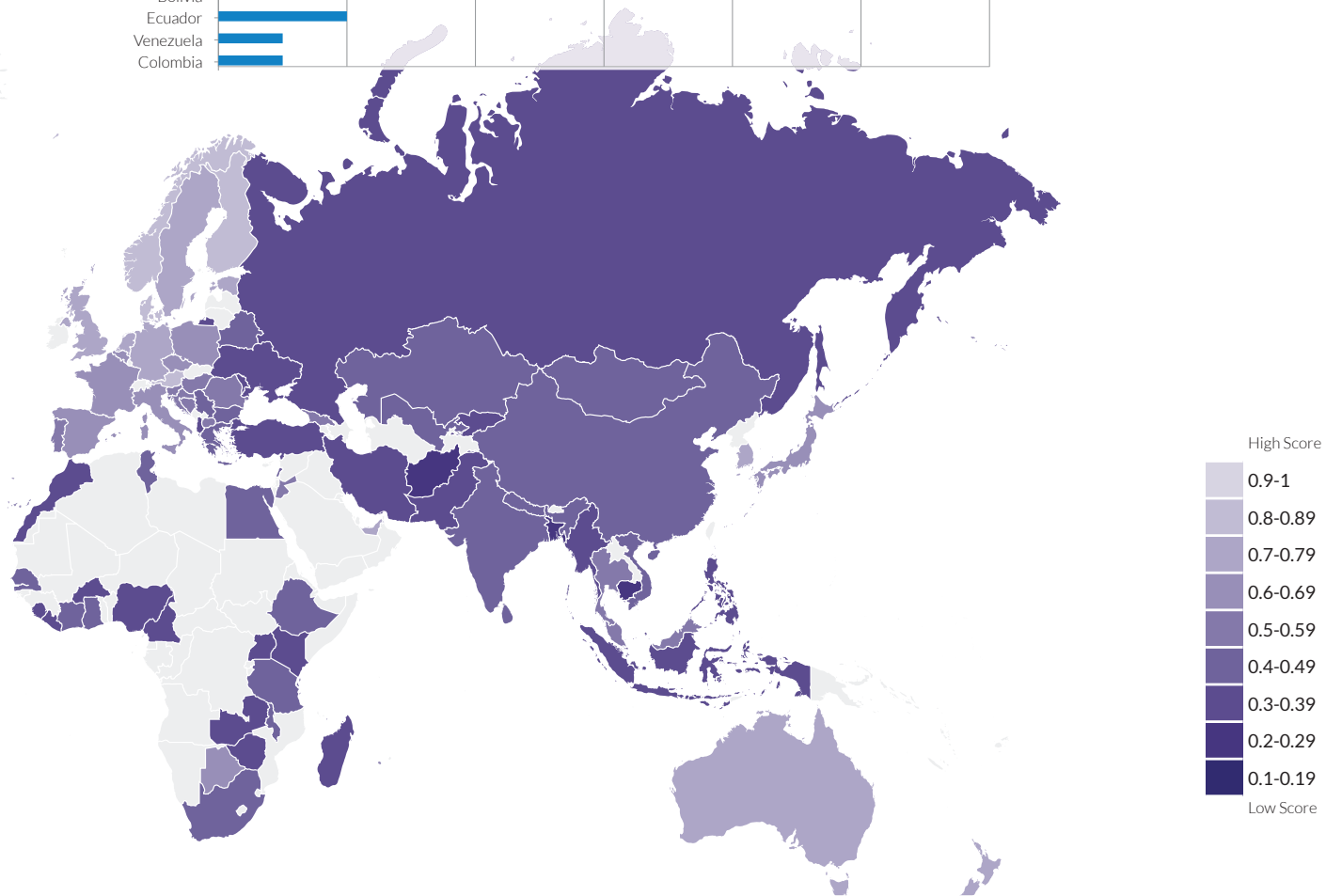
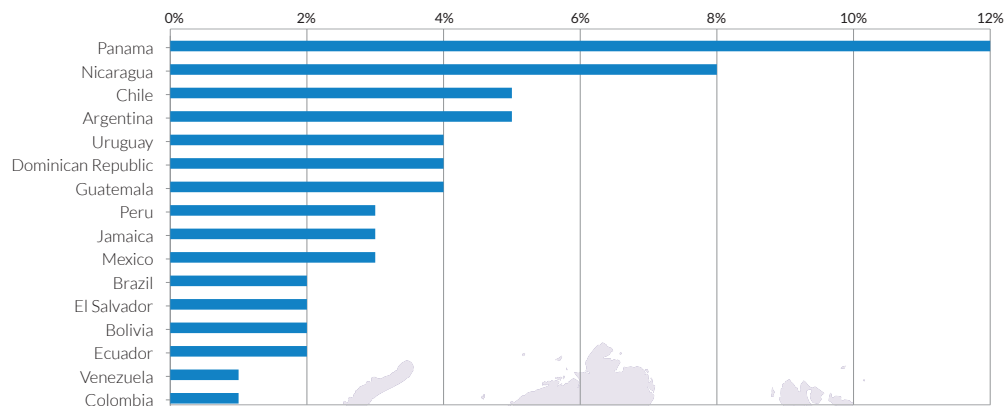
Responding to the challenges of criminal justice systems requires, among other things, comprehensive policies that embrace all the pertinent actors – including police, prosecutors, lawyers, judges, and prison officers – in order to build systems that are capable of deterring crime and handling criminal offenses while respecting human rights.



Rank	Country	Score									
1	Finland	0.85	14	United Kingdom	0.72	27	Slovenia	0.58	40	Malawi	0.48
2	Singapore	0.85	15	Canada	0.72	28	Chile	0.57	41	Vietnam	0.47
3	Denmark	0.84	16	Germany	0.71	29	Romania	0.56	42	Uruguay	0.47
4	Norway	0.83	17	Poland	0.69	30	Jordan	0.56	43	Greece	0.46
5	Austria	0.81	18	Japan	0.69	31	Croatia	0.55	44	Tanzania	0.46
6	Sweden	0.78	19	Czech Republic	0.67	32	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.54	45	Tunisia	0.45
7	United Arab Emirates	0.78	20	Belgium	0.67	33	Malaysia	0.53	46	Ethiopia	0.45
8	Republic of Korea	0.76	21	France	0.65	34	Hungary	0.53	47	South Africa	0.45
9	Netherlands	0.75	22	United States	0.65	35	Thailand	0.51	48	India	0.44
10	Hong Kong SAR, China	0.73	23	Botswana	0.63	36	Georgia	0.51	49	Ghana	0.44
11	Australia	0.73	24	Italy	0.63	37	Macedonia, FYR	0.50	50	Belarus	0.43
12	New Zealand	0.72	25	Spain	0.61	38	Sri Lanka	0.49	51	China	0.43
13	Estonia	0.72	26	Portugal	0.59	39	Mongolia	0.48	52	Nepal	0.43

Conviction rates in Latin America

% of perpetrators of burglaries who are captured, prosecuted, and punished.



53 Jamaica	0.42	66 Dominican Republic	0.37	79 Colombia	0.35	92 Cameroon	0.31
54 Senegal	0.42	67 Peru	0.37	80 Madagascar	0.35	93 Guatemala	0.30
55 Lebanon	0.42	68 Pakistan	0.37	81 Morocco	0.35	94 Bangladesh	0.29
56 Bulgaria	0.41	69 Brazil	0.37	82 Moldova	0.33	95 Cambodia	0.29
57 Egypt	0.41	70 Argentina	0.37	83 Ukraine	0.33	96 Afghanistan	0.28
58 Serbia	0.41	71 Indonesia	0.37	84 Kenya	0.33	97 Mexico	0.25
59 Uzbekistan	0.41	72 Uganda	0.37	85 Kyrgyzstan	0.33	98 Bolivia	0.23
60 Cote d'Ivoire	0.40	73 Philippines	0.36	86 Ecuador	0.33	99 Venezuela	0.16
61 Kazakhstan	0.40	74 Zimbabwe	0.36	87 Liberia	0.33		
62 Turkey	0.39	75 Albania	0.36	88 Sierra Leone	0.32		
63 Iran	0.38	76 Russia	0.36	89 Myanmar	0.32		
64 Burkina Faso	0.38	77 Zambia	0.36	90 El Salvador	0.31		
65 Panama	0.38	78 Nicaragua	0.35	91 Nigeria	0.31		

Rule of Law Trends 

RULE OF LAW TRENDS

The WJP Rule of Law Index 2014 introduces a new feature to the report: an analysis of whether a country's primary rule of law indicators experienced significant change over the past year. A label of "UP" indicates a statistically significant improvement, while a label of "DOWN" represents a significant decline. A detailed explanation of these measures can be found in the Methodology section.

- o **Criminal justice declining worldwide:** The indicator that deteriorated the most was criminal justice: 20 countries showed a significant decline in their score over the last year while none of the 99 countries in the Index demonstrated significant improvement.
- o **Order and security improving:** The indicator that improved the most was order and security: 25 countries showed a significant improvement in their score while 7 experienced a decline in it.
- o **Split global trends:** Out of the eight factors that are reported on in the Index, four improved on average and four deteriorated. The factors that improved were "absence of corruption," "open government," "order and security", and "regulatory enforcement." Those that deteriorated were "constraints on government powers", "fundamental rights", "civil justice", and "criminal justice".

RULE OF LAW TRENDS

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	CONSTRAINTS ON GOVERNMENT POWERS	ABSENCE OF CORRUPTION	OPEN GOVERNMENT	FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS	ORDER & SECURITY	REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT	CIVIL JUSTICE	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Albania	-	-	-	DOWN	-	-	-	-
Argentina	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-	-
Australia	DOWN	-	-	-	-	DOWN	-	-
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	UP	-
Belarus	-	-	UP	-	-	-	DOWN	DOWN
Belgium	-	UP	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Bolivia	-	UP	-	-	DOWN	-	-	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Botswana	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN
Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Burkina Faso	-	-	-	-	DOWN	-	-	DOWN
Cambodia	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-	DOWN
Cameroon	UP	-	UP	UP	-	UP	-	-
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chile	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN	-
China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN
Colombia	-	-	-	-	UP	-	DOWN	-
Cote d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Czech Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	DOWN	-	-	DOWN	-	-	-	DOWN
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN
Egypt	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
El Salvador	-	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Estonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Finland	-	-	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-
France	-	-	-	-	DOWN	-	-	-
Georgia	-	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghana	DOWN	-	-	DOWN	UP	-	-	-
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	-	UP	-	DOWN	DOWN	-	-	DOWN
Hong Kong SAR, China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary	-	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	-	UP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	-	UP	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Iran	-	-	-	-	DOWN	-	DOWN	DOWN
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jamaica	-	-	UP	-	UP	-	-	-
Japan	DOWN	-	-	-	UP	DOWN	-	-
Jordan	DOWN	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	-	UP	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Kenya	UP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	UP	UP	-	DOWN
Liberia	-	-	-	UP	-	-	UP	-
Macedonia, FYR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	-	DOWN	-	DOWN	-	-	DOWN	DOWN
Malawi	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN
Mongolia	-	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Morocco	-	UP	-	-	UP	UP	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal	UP	-	UP	-	UP	UP	-	DOWN
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	DOWN	-	-	-
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	UP	-	-
Pakistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	-	UP	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-
Peru	DOWN	-	-	DOWN	-	-	-	DOWN
Philippines	-	UP	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Poland	DOWN	DOWN	-	DOWN	UP	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Republic of Korea	UP	UP	-	-	UP	UP	-	-
Romania	-	-	-	-	DOWN	-	-	-
Russia	UP	UP	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Senegal	UP	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN
Serbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	DOWN	-	UP	DOWN	-
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	DOWN	DOWN	-	DOWN	-	DOWN	-	DOWN
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	UP	-	-	DOWN
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tanzania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	DOWN	UP	-	-	UP	DOWN	-	-
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	-	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Uganda	-	DOWN	-	DOWN	UP	-	-	-
Ukraine	-	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-
United Arab Emirates	-	UP	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	DOWN	-	-	-	UP	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN	-
Uzbekistan	-	UP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Venezuela	DOWN	-	-	-	-	-	DOWN	DOWN
Vietnam	-	-	UP	-	-	-	-	-
Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Regional Highlights

East Asia & Pacific

Strengths: Taken as a whole, the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region outperforms all other regions of the world, with the exception of Western Europe and North America, in most categories. A high level of safety from crime and other forms of violence is the most notable regional strength. In other aspects, however, the region shows significant internal variations. The wealthy jurisdictions in the region - Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Hong Kong SAR, China - rank among the top twenty globally. These countries display low levels of corruption, open governments, effective regulatory enforcement, and efficient judicial systems. Low and middle income countries in the region do not show the same strengths.

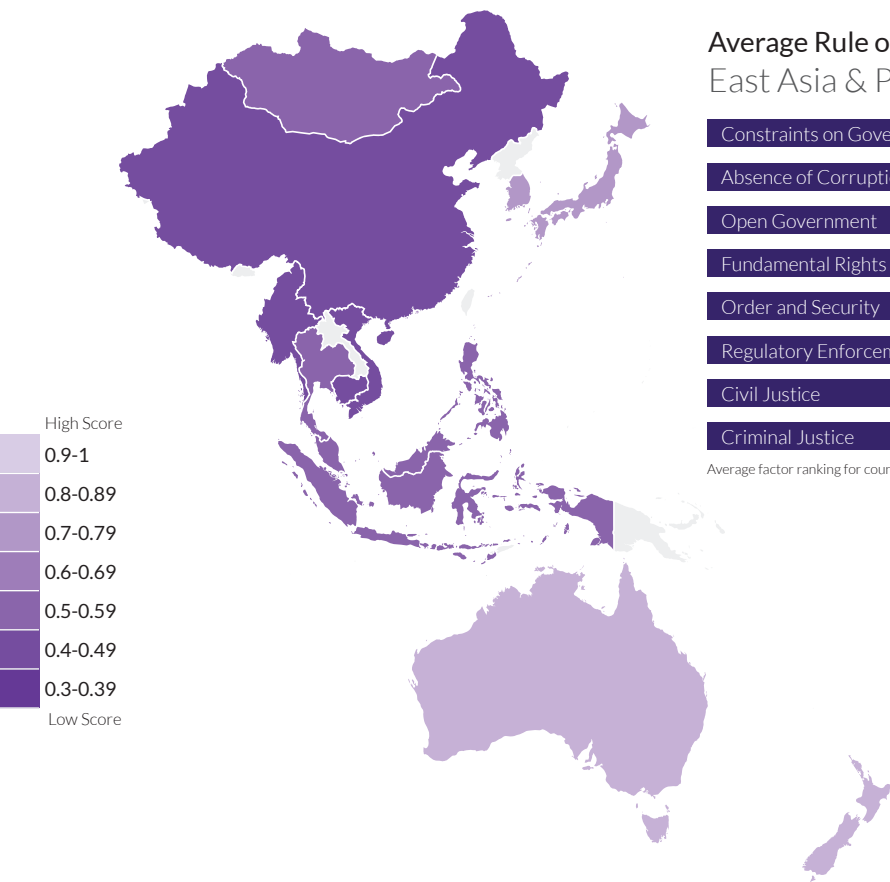
Rule of law challenges: The most salient regional challenge is its relatively weak protection of fundamental rights, particularly the freedoms of expression, religion, and association. Availability of official information, and the accessibility and affordability of civil justice, are also areas in need of attention in the region as a whole.

Best and worst performers: The best overall rule of law performers in the region are New Zealand and Australia, ranking 6th and 8th globally. The worst is Cambodia, ranking 91st among the 99 countries included in the Index.

Trends to watch: There were significant improvements in order and security throughout the region during the past year. Most of the rich countries in the region saw a small but significant deterioration in people’s perceptions of the effectiveness of constraints to government power. The Republic of Korea improved the most in the past year, in comparison to the rest of the region. Most other countries, including China, saw relatively little change in the same period.

Global Rankings

6	New Zealand
8	Australia
10	Singapore
12	Japan
14	Republic of Korea
16	Hong Kong SAR, China
35	Malaysia
46	Indonesia
47	Thailand
51	Mongolia
60	Philippines
65	Vietnam
76	China
89	Myanmar
91	Cambodia



Average Rule of Law Factor Rankings: East Asia & Pacific

Constraints on Government Powers	45/99
Absence of Corruption	38/99
Open Government	44/99
Fundamental Rights	52/99
Order and Security	27/99
Regulatory Enforcement	47/99
Civil Justice	48/99
Criminal Justice	39/99

Average factor ranking for countries within the region. 1/99 being the best, 99/99 the worst.

Eastern Europe & Central Asia

Strengths: Regional strengths include low rates of crime and other forms of violence, as well as relatively efficient and effective civil justice delivery and regulatory enforcement.

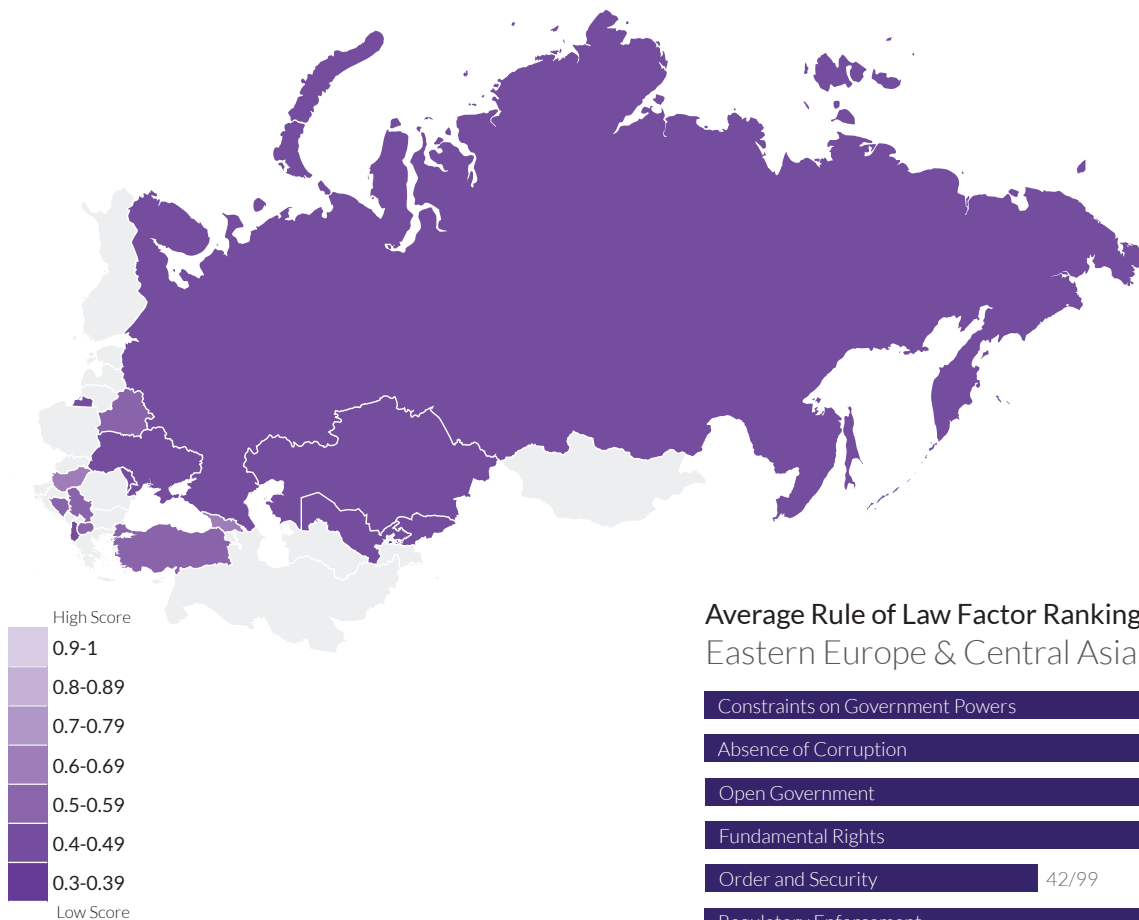
Rule of law challenges: While there are variations amongst countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region covered by the Index, when the region is taken as a whole, several rule of law challenges become noticeable. These challenges include poor government accountability, lack of judicial independence, weak protection of freedom of speech and the right to privacy, and significant levels of corruption and undue influence of private interests in all branches of government.

Best and worst performers: The best overall rule of law performers in the region are Georgia and Macedonia, ranking 31st and 34th globally. The worst is Russia, ranking 80th among the 99 countries included in the Index.

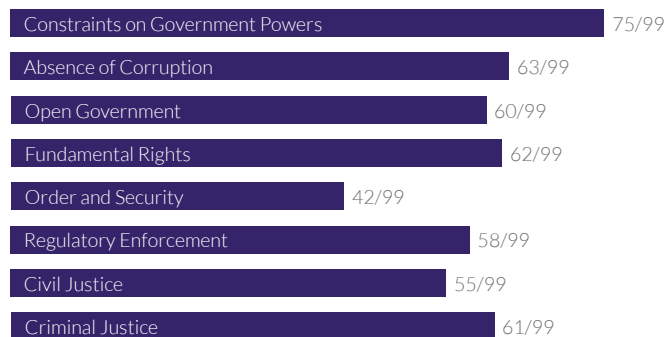
Trends to watch: During the past year there were improvements in order and security and deteriorations in criminal justice in several countries in the region. Russia was the country that improved the most during the past year, with relative advances in the areas of government accountability, control of corruption, and order and security.

Global Rankings

31	Georgia
34	Macedonia, FYR
39	Bosnia & Herzegovina
50	Belarus
54	Serbia
59	Turkey
63	Albania
68	Ukraine
71	Kazakhstan
73	Uzbekistan
75	Moldova
78	Kyrgyzstan
80	Russia



Average Rule of Law Factor Rankings: Eastern Europe & Central Asia



Average factor ranking for countries within the region. 1/99 being the best, 99/99 the worst.

Latin America & the Caribbean

Strengths: Protection of fundamental rights and government openness are stronger in the Latin America and Caribbean region than in all other regions of the world, except Western Europe and North America.

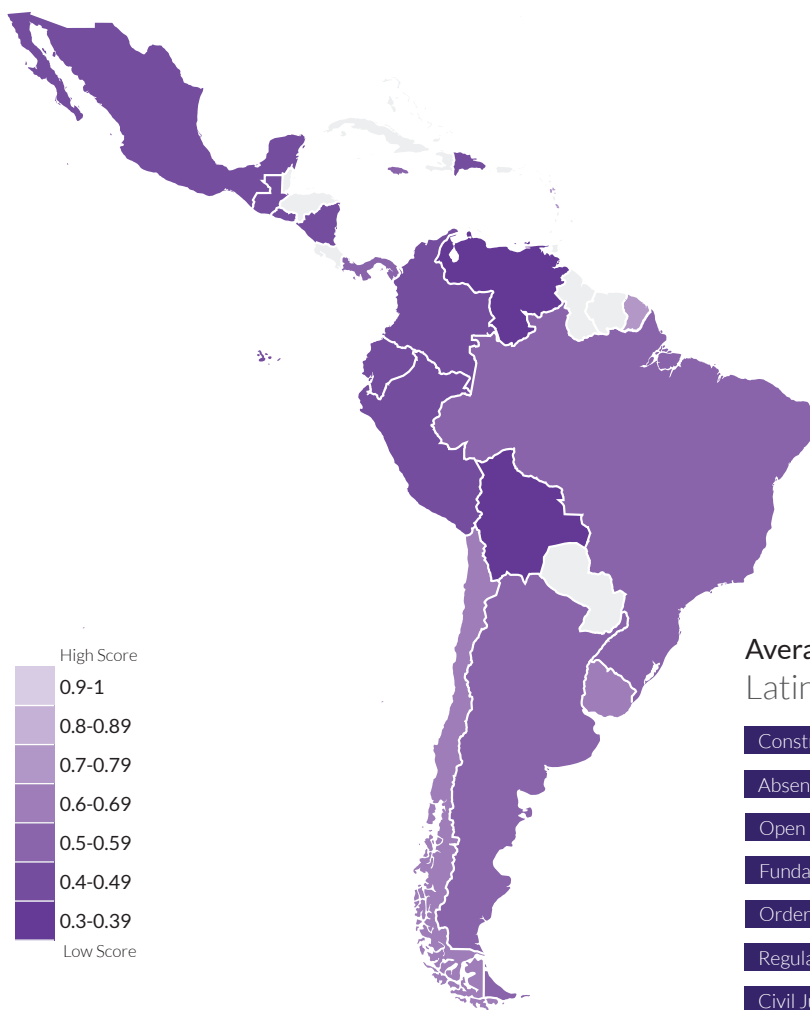
Rule of law challenges: Latin American countries struggle the most with violence, ineffective justice, and corruption. Crime rates are the highest in the world, and the use of violence to resolve personal grievances is widespread in most countries in the region. The criminal justice systems are on average the least effective in the world. Judicial delays and ineffective enforcement of civil justice are widespread. Corruption and impunity remain major regional challenges, particularly among the legislature.

Best and worst performers: The best overall rule of law performers in the region are Uruguay and Chile, ranking 20th and 21st globally. The worst is Venezuela, ranking last among the 99 countries included in the Index.

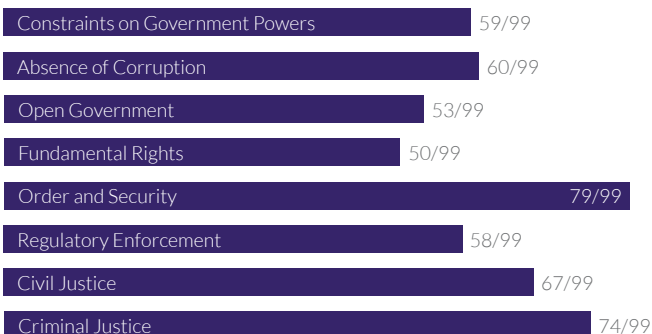
Trends to watch: Criminal justice effectiveness experienced a significant decline in most regions around the world, and this trend was most pronounced in Latin America. The largest countries, Brazil and Mexico, saw no rule of law improvement in 2013.

Global Rankings

20	Uruguay
21	Chile
42	Brazil
45	Jamaica
56	Panama
58	Argentina
61	Colombia
62	Peru
64	El Salvador
67	Dominican Republic
77	Ecuador
79	Mexico
83	Guatemala
85	Nicaragua
94	Bolivia
99	Venezuela



Average Rule of Law Factor Rankings: Latin America & the Caribbean



Average factor ranking for countries within the region. 1/99 being the best, 99/99 the worst.

Middle East & North Africa

Strengths: The Middle East and North Africa region as a whole ranks in the top half of the world in most categories, including order and security, control of corruption, effective regulatory enforcement, and effective civil and criminal justice.

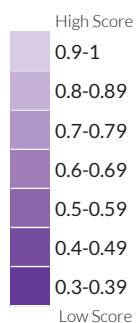
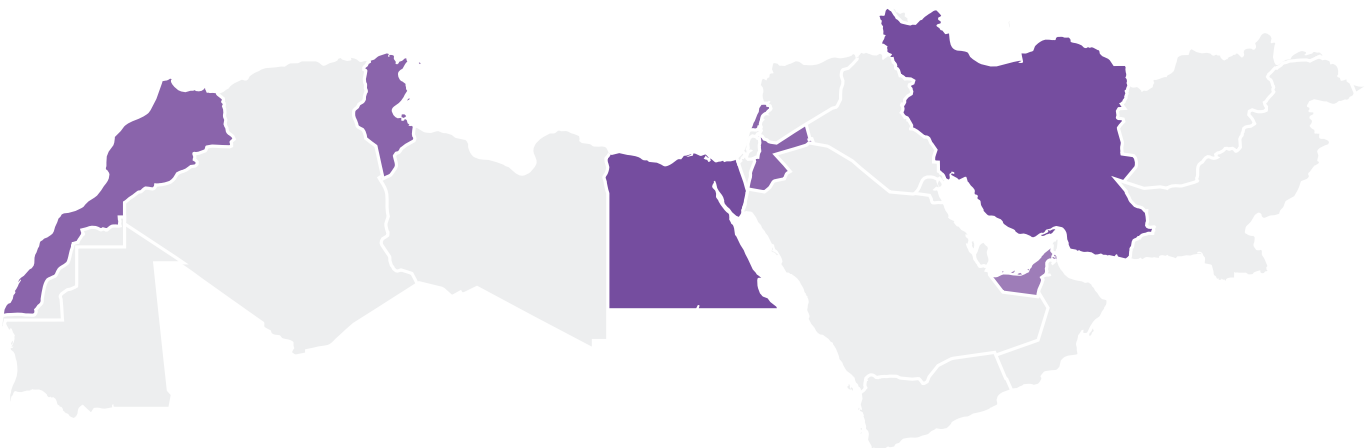
Rule of law challenges: The most serious rule of law challenges facing the region are its deficient protection of fundamental rights, limited accessibility of official information, and relatively weak constraints on government powers.

Best and worst performers: The best overall rule of law performer in the region is the United Arab Emirates, ranking 27th globally. The worst are Egypt and Iran, ranking 74th and 82nd among the 99 countries included in the Index.

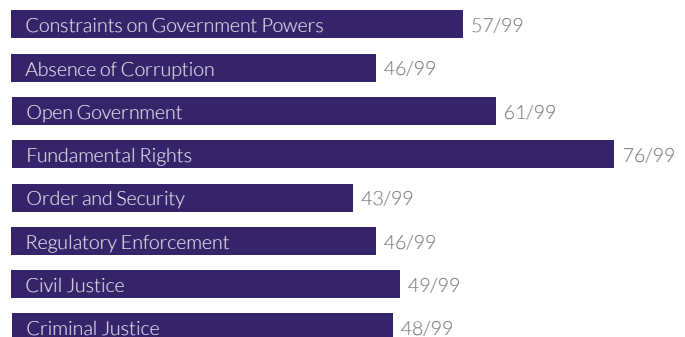
Trends to watch: Morocco showed the most improvement in the region during the past year, while Iran deteriorated the most. Egypt saw a significant deterioration in the area of constraints on government powers.

Global Rankings

27	United Arab Emirates
38	Jordan
41	Tunisia
49	Lebanon
52	Morocco
74	Egypt
82	Iran



Average Rule of Law Factor Rankings: Middle East & North Africa



Average factor ranking for countries within the region. 1/99 being the best, 99/99 the worst.

South Asia

Strengths: Countries in South Asia generally perform better than countries in other regions in protecting the freedoms of speech and assembly and the right to petition, as well as in guaranteeing judicial independence and other non-governmental checks on the government.

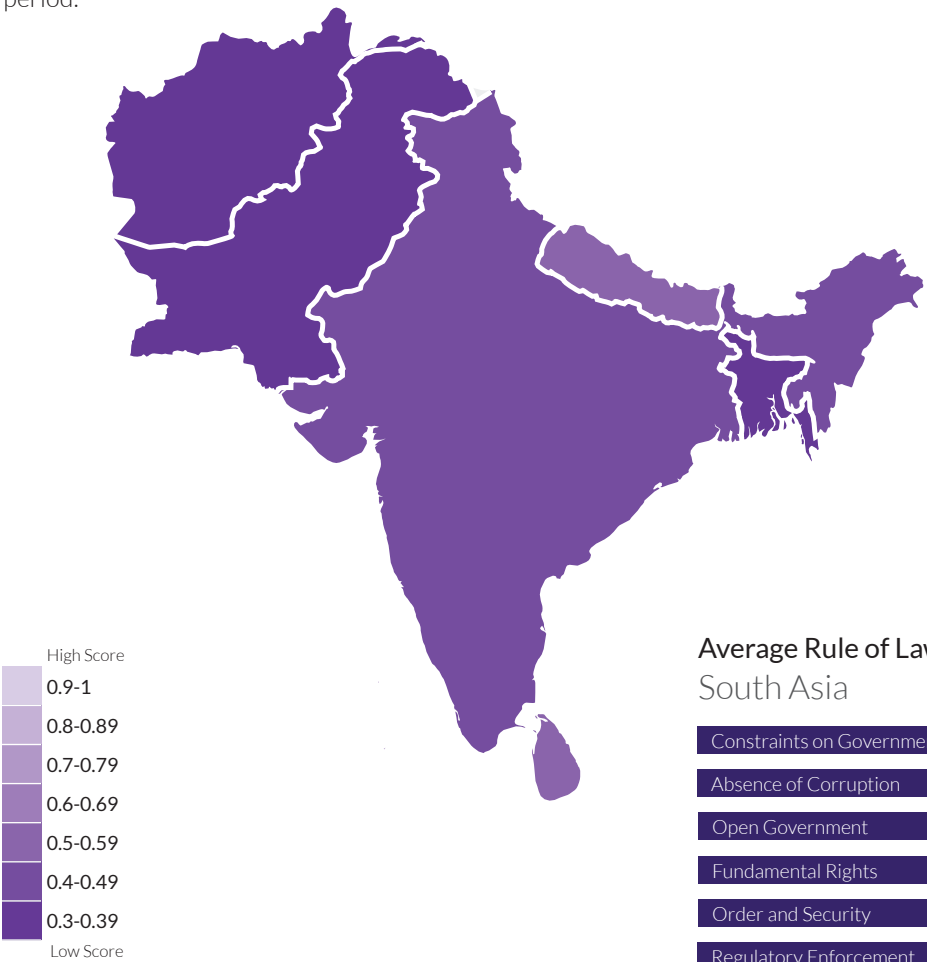
Rule of law challenges: South Asia, as a region, is the weakest performer overall in most dimensions of the rule of law. Corruption is generally present in these countries in all branches of government, as well as in the police and the military. Regulatory enforcement is poor, and civil courts are slow and ineffective. While crime rates are not as high as in other regions of the world, civil conflict and the use of violence to redress personal grievances are major threats to stability and progress.

Best and worst performers: The best overall rule of law performer in the region is Sri Lanka, ranking 48th globally. The worst is Afghanistan, ranking 98th among the 99 countries included in the Index.

Trends to watch: Nepal showed the most improvement during the past year, while other countries in the region, including India, saw very little change during the same period.

Global Rankings

48	Sri Lanka
57	Nepal
66	India
92	Bangladesh
96	Pakistan
98	Afghanistan



Average Rule of Law Factor Rankings: South Asia

Constraints on Government Powers	61/99
Absence of Corruption	78/99
Open Government	67/99
Fundamental Rights	73/99
Order and Security	80/99
Regulatory Enforcement	82/99
Civil Justice	88/99
Criminal Justice	66/99

Average factor ranking for countries within the region. 1/99 being the best, 99/99 the worst.

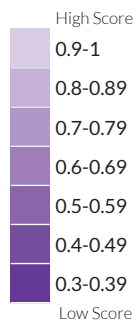
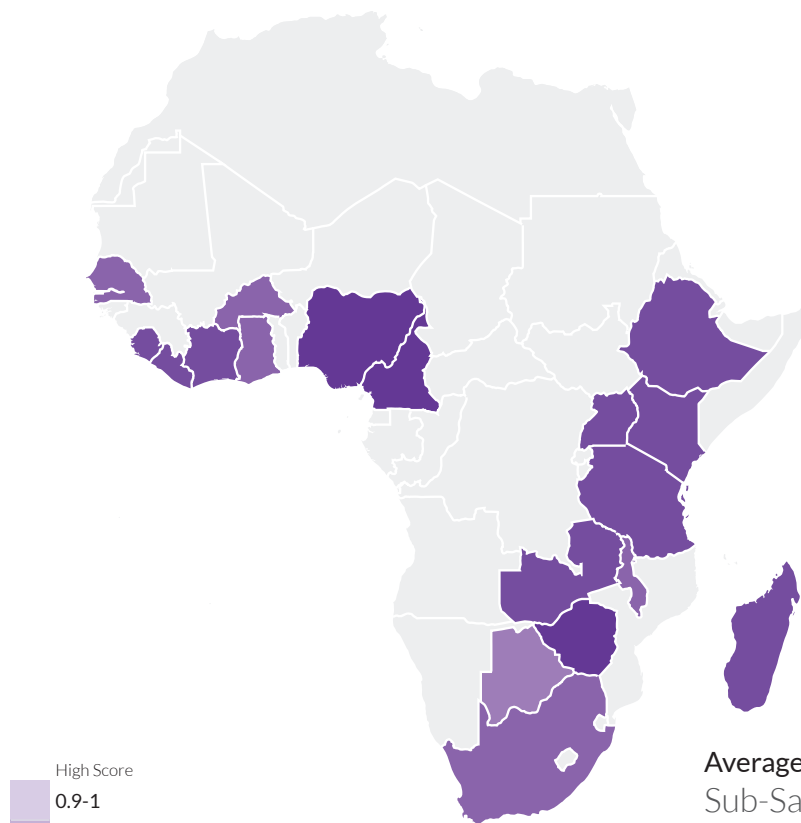
Sub-Saharan Africa

Strengths: The Sub-Saharan African region's best performances are in the areas of constraints on the government power and delivery of civil justice. In these two areas the region's average rank is similar to most other regions in the world.

Rule of law challenges: Sub-Saharan Africa faces multiple rule of law challenges. Crime and vigilante justice are widespread, corruption is prevalent in all branches of government and in the police and the military, and the legal system is not accessible to the ordinary citizen. Deficient protection of the rights to life and security of the person, and due process of law, are also areas of concern in this region.

Best and worst performers: The best overall rule of law performers in the region are Botswana and Ghana, ranking 25th and 37th globally. The worst is Zimbabwe, ranking 97th among the 99 countries included in the Index.

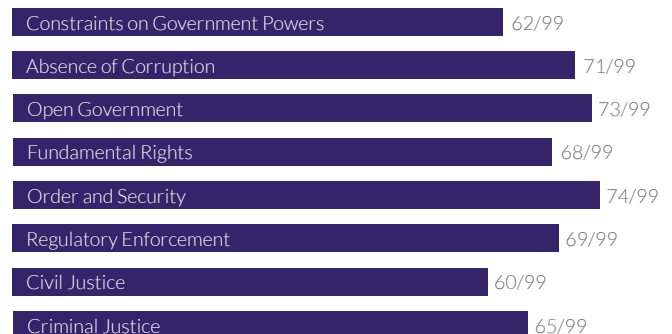
Trends to watch: Overall, the region did not experience a noticeable increase or decline during the past year in the level of adherence to the rule of law. Individually, Cameroon improved the most, while Madagascar saw the biggest deterioration. There was no significant improvement in reducing the levels of corruption throughout the entire region.



Global Rankings

25	Botswana
37	Ghana
40	South Africa
43	Senegal
53	Burkina Faso
55	Malawi
69	Tanzania
70	Zambia
72	Cote d'Ivoire
81	Madagascar
84	Sierra Leone
86	Kenya
87	Liberia
88	Ethiopia
90	Uganda
93	Nigeria
95	Cameroon
97	Zimbabwe

Average Rule of Law Factor Rankings: Sub-Saharan Africa



Average factor ranking for countries within the region. 1/99 being the best, 99/99 the worst.

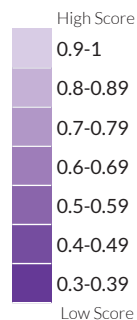
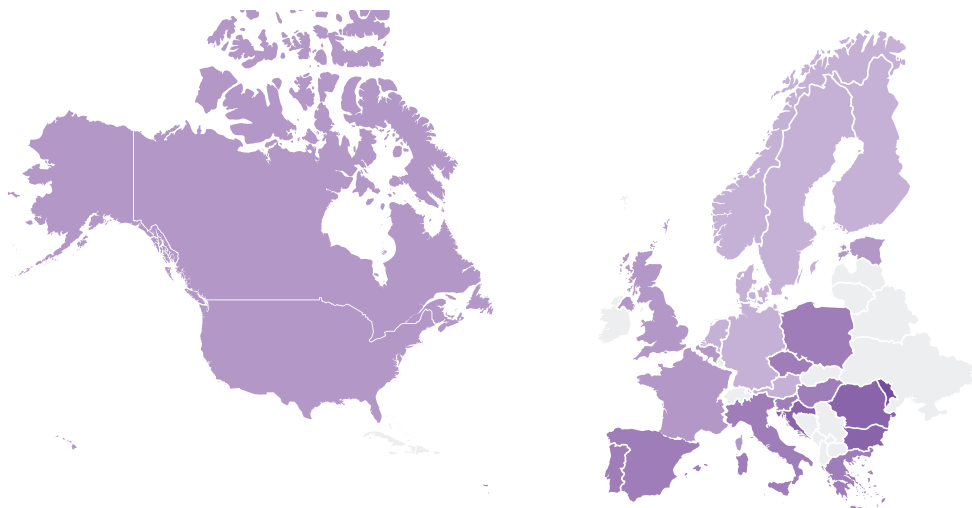
Western Europe & North America

Strengths: Countries in Western Europe and North America tend to outperform most other countries in all dimensions. These countries are characterized by relatively low levels of corruption and crime, open and accountable governments, and effective and independent judicial systems.

Rule of law challenges: Generalized delays in the delivery of civil justice constitute the greatest weakness in the region. While protection of fundamental rights in this region is the highest in the world, police discrimination against foreigners and ethnic minorities is an issue of concern in most countries. Equal access to justice for marginalized populations is also problematic.

Best and worst performers: Five countries in the region - Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands - are the top five overall rule of law performers in the world. The worst performer in the region is Bulgaria, ranking 44th among the 99 countries included in the Index.

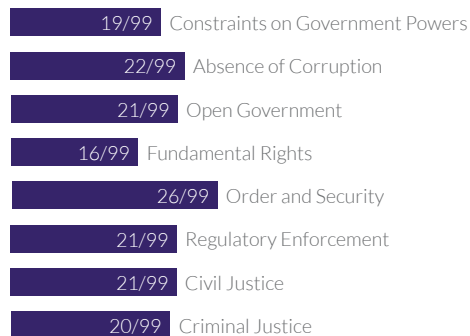
Trends to watch: While the level of adherence to the rule of law remained relatively stable throughout the region, Spain saw the largest individual decline. Peoples' perception of corruption in the legislature appears to be growing in several countries. The United States saw a significant decline during the past year in people's trust in the system of checks and balances and the protection of the right to privacy.



Global Rankings

- 1 Denmark
- 2 Norway
- 3 Sweden
- 4 Finland
- 5 Netherlands
- 7 Austria
- 9 Germany
- 11 Canada
- 13 United Kingdom
- 15 Estonia
- 17 Belgium
- 18 France
- 19 United States
- 22 Poland
- 23 Czech Republic
- 24 Spain
- 26 Portugal
- 28 Slovenia
- 29 Italy
- 30 Hungary
- 32 Greece
- 33 Romania
- 36 Croatia
- 44 Bulgaria

Average Rule of Law Factor Rankings: Western Europe & North America



Average factor ranking for countries within the region. 1/99 being the best, 99/99 the worst.

EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia ranks in the 8th position overall, and ranks within the top 15 places globally in all dimensions measured by the Index. The civil courts are efficient and independent, although access to affordable legal counsel remains limited, particularly for disadvantaged groups. Constraints on government powers and regulatory enforcement are effective (ranking 8th overall and 7th overall, respectively), despite a slight deterioration in performance since last year. Corruption is minimal (ranking 8th overall and 3rd in the region). The country ranks 10th in the world in protecting fundamental rights, but lags behind other high income countries in guaranteeing equal treatment and non-discrimination, especially for immigrants and low-income people.

Cambodia places 91st globally and ranks lower than most other countries in the region in all dimensions. Cambodia is relatively safe from crime, ranking 3rd out of 16 low-income countries in guaranteeing order and security. While the country's score in protection of fundamental rights improved during the past year, the overall legal and institutional environment remains weak. Constraints on government powers and regulatory enforcement are poor (ranking 94th in both categories), and the justice system is ineffective. Property rights are weak, and corruption remains a significant problem (ranked 86th overall and last in the region).

China is ranked in the 76th position globally. It scores well on public safety, ranking 29th overall and 4th among its income peers, marking a slight improvement from last year. The delivery of criminal justice is relatively effective, but compromised by political interference. Civil justice is relatively speedy and accessible, but vulnerable to corruption and improper government influence. Constraints on government powers are ineffective (ranking 92nd globally). Protection of fundamental rights is weak, ranking 96th globally, notably due to substantial limitations on freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

The jurisdiction of **Hong Kong SAR, China** ranks 16th overall, and places in the top 10 globally in four dimensions, ranking 4th in providing order and security; ranking 9th in controlling corruption; ranking 10th in open government as well as effective criminal justice. Administrative agencies and courts are efficient and free of corruption. The jurisdiction lags behind most income peers in guaranteeing fundamental rights (ranking 29th overall), due to restrictions on freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

Indonesia ranks 46th globally and it is in the top half of the rankings among lower-middle income countries in most dimensions. The country performs well in open government

(ranking 1st among income peers and ranking 29th overall), and constraints on government powers (ranks 2nd among income peers and ranking 31st overall). Indonesians enjoy higher degrees of participation in the administration of the laws than individuals in other East Asia and Pacific region countries. On the other hand, the country faces challenges in the functioning of government agencies and courts. Despite improvements in comparison to last year, corruption remains a major problem (ranking 80th globally and next to last in the region). The courts are perceived to be independent of government control, but are affected by powerful private interests. While crime rates are low, the use of violence to redress personal grievances is a source of concern. Restrictions on the freedom of religion and harsh conditions at correctional facilities are also significant problems.

Japan ranks 12th globally, and is among the highest performers in the East Asia and Pacific region in most dimensions. The country ranks 1st in the world in delivering order and security to its people, moving up several positions from last year's score, and ranks 8th overall in the area of open government. The system of checks and balances on the government's powers is well developed (ranking 15th overall and 3rd in the region), corruption is minimal (ranking 11th overall), and regulatory enforcement is effective (ranking 12th overall). While courts are efficient and independent of government influence and corruption, they are perceived as relatively inaccessible to the people.

Malaysia ranks 35th globally and ranks in the top third among upper-middle income countries in most dimensions in the Index. Malaysia scores well on public safety, ranking 1st among its income peers. Despite a slight decline when compared to last year's scores, corruption remains low, with Malaysia ranking 3rd among income peers and 28th globally. Courts are efficient (ranking 6th among income peers), although relatively inaccessible and not fully independent of government influence. Accessibility of official information is limited. Violations of fundamental rights (ranking 85th overall and 13th in the region), most notably the freedoms of expression, religion and association, are areas of concern.

Mongolia ranks 51st globally and performs well among its lower-middle income peers, placing in the top half of the rankings among lower-middle income countries in most dimensions. The country scores relatively well on delivering civil and criminal justice, ranking 4th and 3rd respectively among lower-middle income countries, as well as on protection of fundamental rights (ranking 4th among income peers). Mongolia's performance in the dimension of order and security improved from last year's scores, ranking 5th within its income group. The press and civil society organizations

generally operate without government interference. The country's weakest performance is in the area of open government, ranking 93rd overall and next to last among its income peers. This deficiency is explained by severe limitations on citizens' right to petition the government, and on their right to access to official information. Other areas of concern are corruption (ranking 71st globally and third to last in the region), particularly in the legislature, and unchecked influence of powerful private interests on all branches of government.

Myanmar enters the rankings for the first time at 89th place. The country is safe from crime and places 3rd among 16 low-income countries in control of corruption (placing 63rd overall). The country, however, faces a number of challenges in its ongoing efforts to strengthen the rule of law. Myanmar ranks 82nd overall and 12th among 16 low-income countries in the area of accountability and constraints on the executive branch, mainly due to political interference within the legislature and the judiciary, deficiencies in the functioning of auditing mechanisms, and lack of non-governmental checks. The country's administrative agencies are somewhat ineffective in enforcing regulations, albeit more efficiently than their counterparts in other low-income countries (ranking 92nd overall), and the justice system, although relatively accessible, is perceived to be affected by corruption and political interference. Restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms are sources of concern (ranking 97th overall).

New Zealand ranks 6th globally and it stands out as the best performer in the region, placing in the top ten globally in six of the eight dimensions measured by the Index. Government agencies and courts are efficient, transparent, and free of corruption. Constraints on government powers are effective, and fundamental rights are strongly protected. While the judicial system is independent and effective, there are relative weaknesses in the areas of accessibility of civil justice for marginalized populations. The country's ranking for criminal justice deteriorated slightly during the past year, with effectiveness of criminal investigations and equal treatment of criminal suspects standing out in particular as areas in need of attention.

The **Philippines** ranks 60th globally and it stands out among lower-middle income countries for having reasonably effective checks on government power (ranking 5th among its income group), including a vibrant civil society and a free media. The Philippines ranks 3rd among lower-middle income countries in control of corruption, showing significant improvements during the past year. Civil conflict and political violence remain problematic, in spite of recent improvements. The country also has challenges with respect to protection

of fundamental rights (ranking 67th overall), particularly in regard to violations against the right to life and security of the person, police abuses, due process violations, and harsh conditions at correctional facilities. The civil court system scores poorly (ranking 82nd globally and 12th in the region) due to deficient enforcement mechanisms and the lengthy duration of cases.

The **Republic of Korea** ranks 14th globally, and was among the most improving countries in the world during the past year, with advances in the areas of constraints on government powers, control of corruption, order and security, and effective regulatory enforcement. The country presents a strong and fairly even picture across most of the dimensions measured by the Index. It performs well in the area of order and security (ranking 7th in the world and 4th in the region), and the courts are independent and effective (both civil and criminal justice rank in the top ten in the world and the top 3 in the region). The country's lowest score is in the area of protection of fundamental rights, where it lags behind most of its high-income peers.

Singapore ranks 10th overall. The country is free from crime and violence, and its criminal justice system is among the most effective in the world (ranking 2nd in both categories). The public administration of the country is highly effective, ranking 8th overall and 3rd in the region on regulatory enforcement. Singapore performs well in the dimension of open government as well as in constraints on government powers, placing 21st in the world in both dimensions. Corruption is minimal (ranking 5th in the world and 2nd in the region). The country's lowest score is in the area of fundamental rights (ranking 26th overall and 24th in its income group), which is a reflection of substantial limitations on freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

Thailand is ranked 47th overall, earning high marks on the effectiveness of the criminal justice system (ranking 35th globally and 7th among its income peers). The country's performance in order and security has improved, and its score in this area has moved up several positions since last year. Despite relatively low crime rates, civil conflict and political violence remain substantial problems. Corruption, particularly within the legislature, also remains a source of concern, despite significant improvements during the past year. The country's lowest score is in the dimension of civil justice (ranking 89th overall and second to last in the region), partly because of difficulties in enforcing court decisions.

Vietnam comes in at 65th globally. The country performs well in the area of order and security (ranking 32nd globally and 4th among its income peers), due to low crime rates. Compared with other lower-middle income countries,

criminal justice is relatively effective (ranking 4th among income peers), and corruption relatively low (ranking 8th among the same group). Major rule of law challenges include ineffective constraints on government powers and poor regulatory enforcement (ranking 86th overall and third to last in the region in both categories). Other areas faced with significant limitations include judicial independence, freedoms of speech and association, and availability of official information.

EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

Albania is ranked 63rd this year, outperforming its regional peers in most dimensions of the rule of law. Its system of checks and balances ranks 68th overall and 5th among its regional peers. The performance of administrative agencies and civil courts is similar to that of other countries in the region, although significant room for improvement remains, particularly with regards to corruption. Turning to fundamental rights, the country is ranked 49th globally and 4th in the region, despite suffering a drop in positions since last year. The criminal justice system ranks 75th overall, mainly because of corruption, police abuses, and harsh conditions at correctional facilities.

Belarus ranks 50th overall and 4th in the region. The country outperforms most of its income-level and regional peers in several rule of law dimensions, including order and security (ranking 33rd globally), regulatory enforcement (ranking 42nd), and civil and criminal justice (ranking 30th and 50th, respectively). On the other hand, the country shows deficiencies in government accountability (ranking 95th), weak protection of fundamental rights (ranking 83rd), and a lack of governmental openness (ranking 79th), although the assessment in this area is slightly better than it was a year ago. Major problems include lack of independence of the judiciary and the legislature; restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of association, and the right to privacy; and limitations on citizens' right to petition the government and to access official information.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, at 39th position, places third within the region. The country shows a fairly stable and even performance across the different dimensions of the Index. The country leads the region in the area of checks on executive power (ranking 51st overall), protection of fundamental rights (ranking 32nd overall), and delivering effective criminal justice (ranking 32nd overall), and places 3rd regionally in the area of open government. The country's weakest performance is in the dimension of civil justice (ranking 16th among upper-middle income countries and 56th overall), mainly due to delays and ineffective enforcement mechanisms. Other areas of concern are official

corruption, particularly among the executive and legislative branches; lack of effective sanctions for official misconduct; and weaknesses in the criminal investigation and adjudication systems.

Georgia is the best performer within Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and ranks 31st overall. The country leads the region in two dimensions – absence of corruption and regulatory enforcement — and is second in the region in five other dimensions. The country's best performance is in the area of security, where it places 17th overall. In contrast to these positive elements, the country ranks 55th in providing effective checks on the government's power, mainly due to political interference within the legislature and the judiciary, and 51st in protecting fundamental rights, chiefly because of perceived violations of the right to privacy.

Kazakhstan is ranked 71st overall. The country is relatively safe from crime and violence (ranking 35th overall and 5th among its regional peers), and the civil courts, although inaccessible to most people and subject to undue influence, are relatively efficient. The country, however, continues to receive low marks in the area of accountability and constraints on the executive branch (ranking 93rd) due to political interference in the legislature, the judiciary, and the electoral process. Although some progress is visible, corruption is another area in need of attention, as is open government, on which Kazakhstan ranks third to last among upper-middle income countries.

Kyrgyzstan is ranked 78th overall. In spite of recent advances toward a functioning system of checks and balances, the country still faces important challenges in establishing effective limits on government power (ranking 70th overall and 8th among low-income countries), and in reducing corruption (ranking 96th globally and last in the region). Administrative agencies are lax in enforcing regulations (ranking 68th overall), although they perform slightly better than those in other low-income countries. The performance of courts in civil cases is relatively poor (ranking 8th among low-income countries). The country is relatively safe from crime, but its criminal justice system ranks last in the region and 85th overall, mainly due to corruption among judges and law enforcement officials, political interference in judicial processes, and violations of due process and rights of the accused.

At 34th, **Macedonia, FYR** places second in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, with a performance nearly unchanged since last year. The country earns high marks for open government (ranking 24th overall and third among upper-middle income countries), and regulatory enforcement (ranking 44th overall and 4th in the region). Although

corruption is low in comparison with its peers (ranking 37th overall and 6th among its income-level peers) and transitions of power occur in accordance with law, the system of checks and balances is relatively weak (ranking 61st overall and 15th among upper-middle income countries). Civil justice is accessible, but slow. Limitations on the freedom of the press and undue influence on the criminal justice system are sources of concern.

Moldova is ranked 75th overall and places in the bottom half of lower-middle income countries on most dimensions of the rule of law, with a performance akin to that of last year. The country outperforms most of its regional and income-level peers in delivering order and security (ranking 40th overall and 6th among lower-middle income countries), and in providing access to official information. Yet, it still faces challenges in most of the other areas covered by the Index. Government accountability is weak due to corruption (ranking 88th globally and third to last in the region), ineffective checks on the government power, and impunity for misconduct by government officials, and regulatory agencies are perceived as ineffective and inefficient (ranking second to last in the region). Of related and continuing concern is the delivery of civil and criminal justice, which is hampered by government interference, corruption, and violations of due process.

Russia is ranked 80th overall. The country earns relatively high marks on labor rights, availability of official information, and absence of crime, particularly as compared with other upper-middle income countries. Since last year, Russia's scores improved in three of the main indicators of the Index: constraints on government power (now ranking 89th globally), absence of corruption (ranking 66th), and order and security (ranking 75th), although serious problems remain. The judicial system, although accessible and relatively efficient, is perceived to be affected by corruption and political interference. While civil conflict and terrorism decreased during the past year, they remain significant threats. Protection of fundamental rights, including property rights, freedom of opinion, freedom of association, due process and privacy are also areas of concern.

Serbia, at 54th, shows a stable performance since last year but one that varies considerably across the different dimensions. Its system of checks and balances ranks 65th overall and 4th among its regional peers, reflecting a lawful transfer of power but also the presence of political interference within the legislature and the judiciary. Turning to fundamental rights, the country receives relatively high marks (ranking 40th overall and 3rd in the region), although discrimination against minorities and violations of the right

to privacy are areas in need of attention. The judicial system is not as efficient as others in the region and is affected by corruption and political interference. Regulatory enforcement is ineffective even by regional standards (ranking 65th overall and 9th regionally). Lack of effective sanctions is a source of concern.

At 59th, **Turkey** places in the middle of Eastern European and Central Asian nations in most dimensions. The country performs relatively well in regulatory enforcement (ranking 38th) and absence of corruption (ranking 35th and second in the region), and its civil justice system ranks 47th. Turkey receives lower marks in the dimensions of government accountability (ranking 72nd overall and 21st among upper-middle income countries) and fundamental rights (ranking 78th globally), mainly because of political interference within the legislature and the judiciary, and restrictions on freedom of expression and privacy.

Ukraine is ranked at 68th position, standing out among lower-middle income countries for its low crime rates and relatively strong civil society. Administrative agencies are perceived to be as efficient as those in other countries in the region, albeit more corrupt and ineffective in enforcing regulations. However, the country faces major challenges that include political instability and unrest, weak government accountability (ranking 84th), and widespread corruption (ranking 94th). Courts are relatively efficient, but affected by undue influence, corruption, and political interference.

Uzbekistan comes in at 73rd overall, showing a relatively steady performance. The country scores very well in the area of security (ranking 5th overall and first in the region) and its administrative agencies and courts perform slightly better than their counterparts of other lower-middle income countries. Notwithstanding these strengths, the country still faces significant challenges in constraining the concentration of power in the executive branch (ranking third to last globally), addressing corruption, and protecting fundamental rights and civil liberties (ranking 95th overall and last among its income peers), including freedoms of speech, press, and association, right to life and security of the person, and privacy. Protection of property rights is relatively weak.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

At 58th overall, **Argentina** shows a fairly stable performance since last year. The country is ranked in the 71st place in providing effective checks on the executive's power, reflecting political interference within the legislature and the judiciary and a perceived culture of impunity among government officials. Administrative agencies perform slightly worse than their counterparts of other upper-middle income countries,

and corruption, although still present, is not as high as in other countries of the region (ranking 47th overall and 4th in the region). Civil courts are accessible and rank among the best in Latin America. Argentina's lowest score is in the area of security, placing 83rd overall, due to high crime rates. Deficiencies in police investigations and violations of the due process are also areas that require attention.

Bolivia comes in at 94th overall and occupies the bottom half of the rankings among lower-middle income countries in most of dimensions, presenting a relatively steady performance. Checks on the executive branch remain weak (ranking 88th), and the performance of regulatory agencies continues to lag behind that of its regional and income peers. The judicial system is inefficient and affected by corruption and political interference. Of particular concern is the deterioration of the country's security situation (ranking 82nd), although overall the score in this area is better than that of other countries of the region. Bolivia's best performance is in the area of fundamental rights, where it ranks 75th globally, although discrimination and violations of due process are still sources of concern.

At 42nd, **Brazil** follows Chile and Uruguay as the third-best performer in the region. The country has a good system of checks on the executive power (ranking 32nd overall), and an open government (ranking 36th overall), and obtains relatively high marks on respect for fundamental rights (ranking 35th overall and 6th among upper-middle income countries). Regulatory agencies are perceived as relatively independent, but inefficient. The civil justice system is relatively accessible, although court procedures are prone to delays and decisions are sometimes difficult to enforce. On a less positive note, the country still faces several challenges, especially in the areas of security, on which it places 71st overall due to high crime rates. In addition, Brazil continues to score poorly in criminal justice, dropping some positions to reach 69th place this year, owing to deficiencies in the criminal investigation and adjudication systems, violations of due process, and poor conditions at correctional facilities. A perceived culture of impunity among government officials remains also a source of concern.

Chile is ranked 21st overall and places second in the Latin American region, with a performance nearly identical to last year's. The government is accountable and generally free of corruption, and administrative agencies and courts are fairly efficient and transparent. The criminal justice system is effective and generally adheres to due process, although deficiencies in police investigations do exist. Arguably, the country's most important challenge is in the area of security, on which it ranks 61st overall. Other areas in need of

attention include discrimination against low income groups and ethnic minorities, harsh conditions in correctional facilities, and criminal recidivism.

Colombia comes in at 61st overall. The country outperforms most Latin American countries in the dimensions of regulatory enforcement (ranking 5th in the region), and open government (ranking 6th in the region and 40th globally). The country's judicial system is independent and one of the most accessible and affordable in the region; however, it is afflicted by delays and lack of effectiveness in the investigation and prosecution of crimes. On a less positive note and notwithstanding some recent progress in resolving its longstanding civil conflict, the country still faces serious challenges in the area of security (ranking 89th), particularly in regard to high levels of crime, which is partly attributable to the presence of powerful criminal organizations. Police abuses, violations of human rights, and poor conditions at correctional facilities are also areas that require attention.

The **Dominican Republic** is ranked 67th overall, losing ground in three of the eight factors of the Index: constraints on government power, fundamental rights, and criminal justice. The country performs relatively well in open government (ranking 45th overall and 7th in Latin America), and has a relatively efficient civil court system. However, it ranks 67th on checks on the executive authority, in part because of political interference within the legislature and the judiciary, and deficiencies in the functioning of auditing mechanisms. Corruption is still a problem (ranking 77th globally and 26th among upper-middle income countries), as is the relatively weak performance of regulatory agencies (ranking 76th overall and 13th in the region). The criminal justice system, although good by regional standards, has dropped some positions over the past year to reach 66th overall. Crime and vigilante justice, and lack of accountability for misconduct of government officers, are other areas in need of attention.

Ecuador is ranked 77th this year, showing a stable performance since last year. As compared to other countries in the region, the country scores relatively well in the areas of regulatory enforcement (ranking 54th overall and 8th in the region), absence of corruption (ranking 51st globally and sixth in the region), and protection of labor rights. Yet the country continues to lag behind most of its Latin American and income peers in the rest of the categories. It is ranked 85th in government accountability, mainly because of concentration of executive power and political interference among the branches of government, and occupies the 75th place in open government. The country's civil courts are inefficient and vulnerable to corruption and government influence

(ranking 77th globally and 24th among upper-middle income countries), and the criminal justice system continues to score poorly, falling several positions to take the 86th overall position (third to last among upper-middle income countries). Protection of property rights is weaker than in other countries of the region.

At 64th, **El Salvador** falls in the middle of the global rankings in most categories. The country ranks relatively well in protecting fundamental rights and freedoms (ranking 42nd globally and sixth in the region), and in the areas of regulatory enforcement and access to civil justice, particularly when compared with countries at similar stages of economic development. The country has also seen a marked improvement to its security situation (ranking 70th overall and fourth in the region), although significant room for improvement remains. The country, however, faces challenges in the area of criminal justice – where it ranks 90th in the world –chiefly because of corruption among judges and law enforcement officials, ineffective police investigations, and harsh conditions at correctional facilities. Limited access to official information is another area that needs attention.

Guatemala ranks 83rd and places in the bottom half of Latin American countries in most dimensions of the rule of law. As compared to its income peers, the country scores relatively well on government accountability, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and effective protection of the right to petition the government, and perceived corruption, although still present, has dropped over the last year (ranking 76th globally and 11th in the region). The country, however, continues to suffer from a deteriorating security situation (ranking 92nd overall), and a weak criminal justice system (ranking 93rd overall) affected by corruption and lack of effectiveness in the investigation and prosecution of crimes.

Jamaica is ranked in the 45th overall position, showing progress in a number of areas. The country performs strongly in guaranteeing basic civil liberties and obtains high marks in establishing effective checks on the government's power (ranking 34th globally and fourth in the region). Administrative agencies perform better than those of its regional and income peers, and the judicial system, although slow, is independent and relatively free of corruption. Despite slight improvements, the country's main weaknesses continue to lie in the area of security, on which the country places 74th overall, due to the high levels of crime and a high incidence of mob and vigilante justice.

At 79th, **Mexico** shows a relatively stable picture. The country stands out among Latin American countries for effective checks on government power (ranking 48th overall and seventh in the region), and an open government (ranking

32nd globally and fourth within the region), supported in large part by a long constitutional tradition with an independent judiciary, and strong protections for free speech and freedom of religion. Administrative agencies perform on par with those in other upper-middle income countries, which contrasts with the poor marks earned by the civil justice system (ranking 88th globally and third to last among upper-middle income countries), where delays and inefficiencies are common. Corruption remains a serious problem in all branches of government (ranking 78th globally). Turning to security, Mexico's police forces continue to struggle in guaranteeing the safety of its citizens against crime and violence (ranking 96th globally). Moreover, the criminal justice system has not fully implemented the newly enacted reforms, and continues to score poorly (ranking 97th overall), mainly because of weaknesses in the criminal investigation and adjudication systems, prevalent discrimination against vulnerable groups, corruption among judges and law enforcement officials, and violations of due process of law and the rights of the accused. Failure to prosecute government officials who commit violations and acts of corruption are also cause for concern.

Nicaragua comes in at 85th overall and places in the bottom half of lower-middle income countries on most of the dimensions of the Index, with a parallel performance to that of last year. The country continues to score relatively well on measures of openness and civic participation (ranking 54th overall and 8th among its income peers), but it still trails its income and regional peers at 96th place in government accountability, due to the erosion of checks on the executive branch and political interference within the legislature and the judiciary. The performance of administrative agencies is on par with other countries in the region, but civil courts are less efficient and perceived as more corrupt than its regional counterparts. Although not as large a problem as in other countries of the region, crime is an area in need of attention.

Panama comes in at 56th this year, earning high marks on open government (ranking 31st overall and third in the region), and protection of fundamental rights (46th overall and 8th in the region). The country lags slightly behind its peers in constraining executive authority and addressing corruption, although overall the marks on this dimension are better than they were a year ago. Administrative agencies and courts perform on par with those in other Latin American nations, but worse than those in other upper-middle income countries. Crime remains a significant problem, although it is not as high as in most of the region.

Peru comes in at 62nd globally and ranks in the middle of Latin American countries in most dimensions of the rule

of law. Despite a slight decline since last year, the country scores relatively well with regard to checks on executive power (ranking 38th globally and fifth in the region) as well as in protection of fundamental rights (ranking 34th globally and fourth in the region), including freedom of thought and religion and freedom of opinion and expression. However, the country ranks 79th on corruption (and second to last among upper-middle income countries) and 61st on regulatory enforcement. The civil justice system is perceived as slow, expensive, and inaccessible, particularly for disadvantaged groups. The criminal justice system moved down to the 67th position due chiefly to an increased perception of corruption, deficiencies in the criminal investigation and adjudication systems, and discriminatory treatment of the poor and ethnic minorities.

Uruguay is the highest-ranked country in Latin America, at 20th overall, showing a stable performance since last year. The country scores relatively well on government accountability (ranking 18th globally) and absence of corruption (ranking 19th overall and first in the region). Administrative agencies are effective in enforcing regulations and civil courts are independent, accessible, and free of improper influence. Uruguay's lowest score is in the area of security, on which it ranks 64th overall. The country also faces challenges in strengthening the functioning of its criminal justice system (ranking 42nd globally and second to last among high income countries).

At 99th, **Venezuela** is the weakest performer among all indexed countries, showing downward trends in performance across many areas since last year. The country is ranked last in government accountability, owing to an increased concentration of executive power and a debilitated system of checks and balances. Corruption is commonplace (ranking 90th overall and last in the region); administrative agencies suffer from inefficiencies and lack of transparency; and the justice system, although relatively accessible, loses positions on the back of increased political interference. Crime and violence are also areas of concern, as are the violations of fundamental rights, in particular, freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to privacy. Venezuela's strongest scores are in the areas of religious freedom, accessibility of the civil courts, and protection of labor rights.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Egypt ranks 74th overall and shows a significant deterioration during the past year in civil order and the effectiveness of constraints on government powers. Courts and administrative agencies are generally slow and ineffective. Protection of fundamental rights is weak (ranking 90th), mainly due to violations to the rights to life and security of

the person, due process of law and rights of the accused, and freedom of religion. While crime rates are relatively low, the use of violence to redress personal grievances remains a source of concern. On the other hand, Egypt outperforms its income peers in the areas of control of corruption (ranking 5th among lower-middle income countries) and effective criminal justice (ranking 8th), as well as in providing mechanisms for citizen participation, respecting judicial independence, and protecting property rights.

Iran ranks 82nd overall but scores in the middle ranks in several areas, including control of corruption (ranking 42nd), regulatory enforcement (ranking 41st) and delivery of civil justice (ranking 38th). Iran's performance is among the worst in the world in protecting fundamental rights (ranking last), as well as in ensuring effective constraints on government powers and open government (ranking 90th in both areas). The judiciary is relatively efficient and free of corruption, but subject to political interference, and the delivery of both civil and criminal justice weakened during the past year. Order and security also deteriorated in the same period; crime rates, civil unrest and the use of violence to redress personal grievances, are higher than in other countries in the region.

Jordan ranks 38th overall and it is in the top half of the rankings among upper-middle income countries in most dimensions, with relatively high marks in the areas of security (ranking 20th globally and 2nd among income peers), civil justice (ranking 21st overall and first among income peers), criminal justice (30th overall and 4th among income peers), absence of corruption (33rd overall and 4th among income peers), and effective regulatory enforcement (35th overall and fourth among income peers). Property rights are also well protected. Protection of fundamental rights is weak (ranking 77th overall and 22nd among income peers), particularly with regard to the right to life and security of the person and the freedoms of speech, religion, privacy and assembly. The country also lags behind its peers in the areas of constraints on government powers (ranking 64th), which deteriorated during the past year, and open government (ranking 65th).

Lebanon ranks 49th overall. The country's best performances are in the areas of protection of fundamental rights (ranked 43rd globally and first in the region), and constraints on government powers (ranking 44th overall and 3rd regionally), mostly due to a vibrant civil society and a free media (non-governmental checks) and relatively effective legislative oversight. The country ranks poorly on measures of corruption (70th) and government agencies struggle with inefficiencies (ranking 66th), despite recent improvements. The country is relatively safe from crime, but political violence is a major problem. The civil court system ranks poorly

(70th and second to last in the region), mainly because of corruption, delays, and discrimination against marginalized groups. Due process violations and harsh conditions in correctional facilities are also a source of concern.

Morocco ranks 52nd overall and it has seen improvements as a result of ongoing reforms in the areas of open government (ranking 46th globally and first in the region), order and security (ranking 44th overall and 8th among income peers), and regulatory enforcement (ranking 36th globally and 3rd among income peers). Morocco also outperforms most lower-middle income countries in the area of constraints on government powers (ranking 46th overall and 6th among income peers). Despite the progress achieved, substantial challenges remain in the dimensions of protection of fundamental rights (ranking 84th and 19th among income peers), and control of corruption (ranking 62nd). The civil justice system ranks 51st overall and the criminal justice system 81st, mainly due to due process violations, harsh conditions at correctional facilities, and political interference.

Tunisia ranks 41st overall and near the top among the countries in the region in several dimensions, including constraints on government powers (ranking 41st and first in the region), and open government (49th and second in the region). While protection of fundamental rights is stronger than in other countries in the region (ranking 64th globally and second regionally), violations to the rights to life and security, due process and privacy remain a source of concern. The country's performance in all other areas falls in the middle of both global and regional rankings, including corruption (43rd), order and security (41st), regulatory enforcement (47th), civil justice (43rd) and criminal justice (45th).

The **United Arab Emirates** ranks 27th overall and it leads the region in several dimensions of the rule of law. Public institutions in the country are relatively well developed and free of corruption (ranking 17th globally), and government officers are held accountable for misconduct. The country is safe from crime and violence (ranking 9th in the world) and the court system is efficient and relatively independent by regional standards. Nonetheless, due process violations, lack of access to civil courts, and discrimination of marginalized groups remain areas in need of attention. On the other hand, the country ranks last among high income peers in three areas: constraints on government powers (ranking 42nd globally), open government (52nd) and protection of fundamental rights (73rd). In particular, accessibility of official information and protection of labor rights and the freedoms of assembly, religion and opinion and expression, are lower than in other high income countries.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan enters the Index for the first time this year at 98th position overall, placing below its regional and income peers in most dimensions. Despite ongoing efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the country, Afghanistan continues to face challenges in increasing the accountability of public officials and improving the functioning of its public institutions. The country occupies the 78th position on checks on government power, with relatively high marks on limits by the legislature and non-governmental checks, and low marks on judicial independence and effective auditing and review. Corruption is prevalent in all branches of government (ranking last overall), and the country's administrative agencies fail to perform at the same levels as their counterparts of other low-income countries. With regard to fundamental rights, the country performs relatively well on freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, but receive weak marks on equal treatment, freedom of religion, and labor rights. The country's security situation remains fragile (ranking 97th overall) due to armed conflict, crime and the use of violence for redress. Although not as prone to delays, the judicial system presents a number of challenges including corruption and undue influence, inefficient enforcement, discrimination against women and religious minorities, and violations of due process

At 92nd, **Bangladesh** shows deficiencies in most areas of the rule of law. Corruption is prevalent (ranking 95th), particularly among the police and the military. Constraints on government powers are weak (ranking 80th overall and last in the region), reflecting deficiencies in sanctions for misconduct of government officials. Administrative agencies and courts are inefficient and affected by corruption and political interference. Human rights violations and police abuses are also a significant problem. Bangladesh's best performance is in the area of order and security, where it ranks 76th globally and 3rd in the region, mostly due to its relatively low crime rates, although the use of violence to redress personal grievances remains an area of concern. Protection of property rights is stronger than in other lower-middle income countries.

India ranks 66th overall. The country has a robust system of checks and balances (ranked 35th worldwide and first in the region), an independent judiciary, strong protections for freedom of speech, and an open government (ranking 30th globally and second among lower-middle income countries). Administrative agencies are slow and ineffective (ranking 81st), and the civil court system ranks poorly (ranking 90th), mainly because of deficiencies in the areas of court congestion, enforcement, and delays in processing cases. Corruption remains a significant problem (ranking 72nd),

despite some improvements during the past year. Order and security — including crime, civil conflict, and political violence— is the most significant rule of law weakness (ranked 95th). Police discrimination and abuses are also a source of concern.

Nepal ranks 57th globally and it outperforms its regional peers and most other low income countries in several dimensions of the rule of law. The country's best performance is in the area of protection of fundamental rights (ranking 48th overall and first among regional and income peers). It has also shown improvements in the areas of constraints of government powers (ranking 45th overall and first among income peers), open government (ranking 61st and first among income peers), order and security (ranking 55th), and regulatory enforcement (ranking 56th). Rule of law areas of particular concern in Nepal include corruption, especially among the judiciary and the legislature, instability of the legal framework, the use of violence to redress personal grievances, limitations in the accessibility and affordability of civil justice, due process violations, and poor conditions at correctional facilities.

Pakistan, ranking 96th overall, shows weaknesses in most dimensions when compared to its regional and income peers. The country's strongest performance is in the area of constraints on government powers (ranking 73rd globally and 14th among income peers), due to a relatively independent judiciary and comparatively effective oversight by the legislature and non-governmental checks. However, corruption is common in all branches of government (ranking 91st), administrative agencies are ineffective in enforcing regulations (ranking 95th), and impunity for official misconduct of government officials is prevalent. While serious human rights violations are common, including violations to the right to life and security of the person, the country affords greater protection to the freedoms of speech and assembly than most of its income and regional peers. The most significant rule of law challenge facing Pakistan is in the area of order and security (ranking last in the world), due to civil conflict, terrorism, crime and the use of violence to resolve personal grievances. Despite the relative independence of the courts, the judicial system is slow and ineffective, and it is affected by corruption, due process of law violations, and the poor condition of correctional facilities.

Sri Lanka ranks 48th globally and outperforms its regional peers in most dimensions of the rule of law. The country also outpaces most lower-middle income countries in several areas, ranking second in delivering effective criminal justice, despite a recent deterioration in this area. Control of corruption is relatively effective (ranking 39th globally and

first in the region). On the other hand, violence and human rights violations related to the legacy of a protracted civil conflict remain problematic, despite recent improvements. Other areas of concern are delays and barriers to access civil justice, ineffective criminal investigations, due process violations, and lack of accessibility of official information.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Botswana is the highest-ranked country in the Sub-Saharan African region, and comes in at 25th overall, even ahead of some of the high-income level countries. Despite a slight drop in positions since last year, the country continues to enjoy an effective system of checks and balances, including a fairly independent judiciary and a free press (ranking 25th). Corruption remains minimal and all branches of government operate effectively. Fundamental rights are generally respected (ranking sixth in the region), although limitations on the right to privacy, and discrimination against immigrants and ethnic minorities are still areas of concern. Finally, although the civil and criminal justice systems compare favorably to other countries in the region (ranking 28th and 23rd, respectively), delays and political interference in judicial processes remain areas that require attention.

Burkina Faso is ranked 53rd this year, outperforming most of its regional and income peers in all but one dimension of the rule of law. As compared to other countries in the region, the country scores fairly well in the areas of regulatory enforcement and civil justice, ranking third and fifth in the region, respectively. The country also performs relatively well in freedom of speech, assembly, and religion. However, the country is ranked 76th in government accountability due to the lack of effective checks on the executive branch, and political interference among the different branches of government. Although not as pervasive as in other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, corruption is commonplace, and crime and vigilante justice remain significant challenges. The performance of the criminal justice system registered a slight deterioration since last year (ranking 64th), and remains an area in need of attention, particularly concerning violations of due process, political interference in judicial decisions, and harsh conditions in correctional facilities.

Cameroon is ranked 95th overall, lagging behind its regional and income peers in most categories. Despite slight improvements in several areas since last year, the country still faces many challenges in terms of accountability and the functioning of public institutions. Checks and balances are poor (ranking 87th overall and third to last within the region); protection of fundamental rights is relatively weak (ranking 81st overall and 13th among its regional peers); corruption is common (ranking second to last in the world); and the

civil justice system is slow and subject to political influence. Cameroon, however, has a relatively low incidence of crime, although police abuses, a high incidence of mob and vigilante justice, and harsh conditions in correctional facilities are areas in need of attention.

Cote d'Ivoire is ranked 72nd overall and 9th in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, with a performance similar to that of last year. The country occupies the 77th position on checks on government power due to limitations on the independence of the judiciary and the legislature, and governmental pressure on the media and civil society organizations. Conflict-related violence and violations of fundamental rights are serious concerns, including torture, disappearances, and restrictions on freedom of speech and privacy. The criminal justice system ranks 60th, due in part to weaknesses in the criminal investigation system, violations of due process, and poor conditions of correctional facilities. The country's best performance is in the area of civil justice (ranking 57th overall and 9th among lower-middle income countries), and effective regulatory enforcement (ranking 6th in the region and 7th among lower-middle income countries).

Ethiopia ranks 88th this year and occupies the bottom half of the rankings among low-income countries in most dimensions. Despite important gains in the area of security (ranking 73rd overall), the country still faces significant challenges across most of the areas covered by the Index. Accountability is weak by regional standards, ranking 91st globally and second to last in the region, and the performance of regulatory agencies and courts lags behind that of its regional peers. The country also has a poor record in protecting fundamental rights, ranking 94th globally and second to last in the region. Of greatest concern are restrictions limiting freedom of speech and assembly, as well as illegal detentions, and due process violations. The criminal justice system, although not without problems, performs slightly better than those of other countries in the region.

At 37th position overall, **Ghana** is the second-ranked country in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, and the strongest performer among lower-middle income countries. Despite a slight decline since last year, the country continues to enjoy an effective protection of fundamental rights (ranking 33rd overall and first in the region), a functioning system of checks and balances (ranking 27th overall and second in the region), and an open government (ranking 37th and third in the region). On a less positive note, administrative efficiency and corruption remain important challenges, although the country outperforms most of its regional peers in both dimensions. The civil justice system is relatively independent, but slow and inaccessible to most people. Finally, although improving since

last year, the safety situation (ranking 57th), particularly in regard to security from crime and vigilante justice, is an area that still requires attention.

Kenya ranks 86th overall and occupies the bottom half of the regional rankings across all the major dimensions captured by the Index. In spite of improvements in the perceived ability of the legislature and the judiciary to act as effective checks on the executive branch (ranking 62nd overall, up 13 places), and relatively good marks in the areas of freedom of religion and freedom of assembly and association, the country presents a number of challenges. Corruption remains widespread (ranking 93rd globally and third to last in the region); regulatory enforcement is ineffective by regional standards; and the civil justice system, although on par with the regional average, needs improvements across many areas. Crime and vigilante justice are also areas of concern.

Liberia is ranked 87th overall and 13th in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country ranks relatively well in the areas of government accountability (ranking 56th overall) and protection of fundamental rights (ranking 53rd), outperforming most of its regional and income peers on the back of improvements in protecting basic civil liberties and advances toward a functioning system of checks and balances. Yet, corruption is commonplace and the quality of administrative agencies and the judiciary continues to be hampered by inefficiencies and lack of resources. The country also faces significant challenges in the area of order and security (ranking 93rd).

Madagascar comes in at 81st place. The country sustains one of the region's sharpest drops, registering a fall in four of the eight dimensions of the Index, including government accountability and fundamental rights. The country continues to receive relatively weak assessments on checks on government power (ranking 83rd and 15th within the region), corruption (ranking 84th overall and 12th in the region), and regulatory enforcement (ranking 82nd). There are limitations on freedom of speech and privacy, as well as on the ability to petition the government and to access official information. Police abuses and political interference in the justice system are also areas of concern. The country's strongest scores are in the area of order and security (ranking second in the region and first among low-income countries).

Malawi ranks 55th overall and 6th in the region. The country achieves its highest scores in the dimension of civil justice (ranking second in the region), and has moved up significantly in the rankings in the area of fundamental rights, thanks to improvements in protecting freedoms of speech, religion, privacy, and assembly. The country scores relatively well on checks on government power (6th in its income group

and 9th in the region), and the judiciary is free of political interference. Its weakest performance is in the area of open government (ranking 80th overall and 10th in the region), particularly in regard to the availability of official information. Enforcement of government regulations, violations of due process, and poor conditions of correctional facilities are also areas of concern.

Nigeria ranks 93rd overall and near the bottom half of lower-middle income countries in most dimensions. The country ranks 69th for checks on the executive branch and 76th for open government, putting it slightly behind the average rankings of Sub-Saharan African countries. Yet, in most of the other dimensions, the country remains one of the poorest performers of the region. Corruption is widespread (ranking third to last in the world), the criminal justice system has deficiencies (ranking 91st overall and second to last in the region), fundamental rights are poorly protected (ranking 88th overall), and a deteriorating security situation continues to raise significant concern (ranking second to last overall). Nigeria's best performance is in the area of civil justice, where it ranks 52nd globally and 7th among its income peers.

Senegal is ranked in the 43rd position, and is in the top half of the rankings among lower-middle income countries in most dimensions, attributable to ongoing reforms. The country continues its steady progress and scores fairly well on checks on government power (ranking 33rd overall and third among its income group). Administrative proceedings are more efficient than elsewhere in the region, and the civil justice system is relatively independent, although a bit slow and inaccessible to most people. Although not as extensive as in other countries in the region, corruption is still a problem, as is open government, on which the country ranks 70th. The country places 39th globally and second in the region for protecting fundamental rights, although police abuses and harsh treatment of prisoners are a source of concern.

Sierra Leone is ranked 84th overall and 11th in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country ranks second among low-income countries and fifth in the region with respect to checks on government power. The judiciary and the legislature are relatively independent, and the press and civil society organizations are mostly free from government interference. The country, however, faces many challenges. Major problems include high crime rates, widespread corruption, ineffective regulatory enforcement, lack of official information, and severe deficiencies in the criminal justice system.

South Africa, at 40th place, leads the BRICS countries and shows a rather stable performance since last year. The country has relatively effective checks on government power (ranking

37th), and an open government (ranking 26th). The country's civil justice system is independent, but slow, and the criminal justice system, although ranked 47th overall, is still afflicted by deficiencies in the investigation of crimes, and poor conditions of correctional facilities. Arguably, the country's most important challenge is in the area of security (ranking 86th) due chiefly to the prevalence of crime and vigilante justice.

Tanzania, at 69th, ranks in the upper half of low-income countries in most dimensions of the rule of law, with a performance similar to that of last year. The country features a reasonable system of checks and balances (ranking 52nd overall and third among low-income countries), and administrative agencies, although not without problems, are slightly more efficient than those in other countries in the region. The judiciary, however, is inefficient and affected by corruption, and crime and vigilante justice continue to be major problems (ranking 90th overall). Lack of access to official information is another area of concern.

At 90th, **Uganda** ranks below the majority of countries in the region, with weakening performances across several dimensions of the rule of law. Government accountability remains relatively weak by regional standards (ranking 14th regionally and 81st globally), and administrative agencies are perceived to be inefficient and corrupt (ranking 89th overall and 14th within the region). Protection of fundamental rights is weak and is deteriorating since last year (ranking 93rd), and crime and political violence, while improving slightly, remain significant challenges. Courts, although relatively independent, are under-resourced, slow, and inaccessible to most people.

Zambia comes in at 70th position overall and 8th in the region, showing a relatively steady performance on the eight dimensions assessed by the Index last year. The country scores relatively well in the areas of government accountability, absence of corruption, and open government, and the performance of the country's administrative agencies is on par with the regional average. Yet protection of fundamental rights, including freedom of speech and assembly, remains relatively weak, ranking 86th overall. Other rule of law concerns include political interference within the legislature and the judiciary, police abuses, poor protection of property rights, vigilante justice, and poor conditions of correctional facilities.

With a performance essentially unchanged from the previous edition, **Zimbabwe** comes in at 97th this year, the lowest-ranked country in Sub-Saharan Africa. Checks on government power are weak (ranking 98th), and the country fails to protect fundamental rights (ranked 98th globally and last amongst both its regional and income peers), including

freedom of speech, assembly, and association. Corruption is pervasive and voting irregularities are common. Open government and protection of property from expropriation are weak. Zimbabwe's best performance is in the area of criminal justice (ranking 11th in the region and 7th among low-income countries), although severe violations of due process of law and the rights of the accused prevail.

WESTERN EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA

At 7th, **Austria** places among the top 10 globally in all dimensions of the rule of law, with a stable performance since last year. The government is accountable and free of corruption, and fundamental rights are strongly protected. Although the country's government is very open (ranking 6th globally), people in Austria face more difficulties in accessing official documentation than do individuals in most other developed nations. The country's courts are accessible and free of improper influence; however, discrimination against disadvantaged groups by judicial personnel and law enforcement officers is perceived to be a problem.

Belgium is ranked in the 17th position overall, and places in the top 20 worldwide in all the eight dimensions measured by the Index. The country continues to score well in government accountability (ranking 11th overall), as well as in protection of fundamental rights (ranking 9th overall), although police discrimination against foreigners is still perceived to be a significant problem. The judicial system is independent and free of corruption, although it is not as accessible to disadvantaged groups. Judicial delays in civil cases, as well as a limited effectiveness of the criminal investigation system in capturing offenders, are areas that need attention.

Bulgaria is ranked in the 44th position. The country outperforms most upper-middle income countries in protecting the security of its citizens from crime and in respecting the freedoms of speech, religion, and assembly, although it still scores lower than its EU counterparts. The right to petition the government and citizen participation are also significant strengths. However, the country faces challenges in the dimensions of government accountability, corruption, and regulatory enforcement, where it ranks 58th, 64th, and 57th, respectively. The criminal justice system performs on par with those in other upper-middle income countries (ranking 56th globally and 15th among its income peers), although deficiencies in police investigation and corruption are weaknesses that remain to be addressed.

Canada occupies the 11th position overall, and places in the top 15 in seven of the eight categories of the Index, displaying little change since last year's edition. The government is accountable (13th globally) and open (3rd globally); corruption is minimal (ranking 14th overall); and the country generally

observes fundamental rights (ranking 16th overall), although discrimination against immigrants and the poor is still a source of concern. The country is relatively safe from crime, civil courts are accessible and independent, and the criminal justice system is effective in bringing offenders to justice. However, delays in court processes, and unequal access and treatment of disadvantaged groups at courts and police services, are areas in need of attention.

Croatia places in the middle of the rankings in most categories, with a fairly even performance across all dimensions captured by the Index. The country is ranked in the 40th position in checks on the government's power and in the 38th position in open government. Although good by global standards good, Croatia's institutions lag behind those of other high-income countries. Its public administrative bodies, for example, are not as efficient as others in the region, and the judicial system, while generally accessible, is slow and subject to improper influence. The country is relatively safe from crime, but there is an increasing use of violence to express discontent. Corruption is an area of concern (ranking 36th globally and last among high-income countries).

Czech Republic is ranked in the 23rd position overall and occupies the 15th place in the region, showing a similar performance to that of last year. The country obtains high marks in providing effective checks on the executive's power (ranking 23rd overall), and in protecting fundamental rights (ranking 11th overall and 9th in the region). The country's administrative agencies are relatively effective in enforcing regulations, albeit less efficiently than those in other EU countries. Courts are independent, but slow. Other areas in need of attention include corruption among government officials (ranking 31st), lack of effective sanctions for official misconduct, and limitations on citizens' right to petition the government and to access official information.

Denmark attains the 1st position overall as a result of its continuous strong performance across all dimensions. The country is the world leader in two dimensions — government accountability and absence of corruption — and places in the top 5 in all other dimensions. Denmark's public institutions are transparent, efficient, and free of corruption. The country is relatively safe from crime, and the criminal justice system is effective in bringing offenders to justice; however, police discrimination against foreigners and ethnic minorities are perceived to be a problem. Court delays are also an area where improvement is needed.

Estonia ranks 15th overall and ranks globally among the top 20 in all but one dimension, thanks to its well-functioning and open institutions. Administrative agencies and courts are accountable,

effective, and free of corruption, and fundamental rights are strongly protected. On the other hand, the crime rates in Estonia are slightly higher than in most of its high income peers. Judicial delays are another area in need of attention.

Finland is ranked 4th overall, and places in the top 10 globally in six dimensions, and places in the top 15 globally in the other two dimensions of the Index. The country has well-functioning, accountable, and transparent institutions, and the court system is independent and free of improper influence. Nevertheless, the country registered a slight decline in the area of open government (ranking 11th overall), driven by the perceived deterioration in the people's ability to petition the government and access official information. The criminal justice system ranks 1st overall, but police discrimination against foreigners and ethnic minorities is perceived to be a problem.

France comes in at 18th overall, with high marks in the areas of accountability (ranking 14th overall), open government (ranking 16th overall), and effective regulatory enforcement (ranking 14th overall). The country also scores well on absence of corruption (ranking 20th globally), and protection of fundamental rights (ranking 18th globally), although police discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities as well as perceived violations of the right of privacy are both areas that need to be addressed. The country has an independent, accessible, and affordable civil justice system (ranking 18th overall). However, judicial delays are a weakness in both the civil and criminal justice systems, where cases can take a long time to resolve.

At 9th, **Germany** places in the top 15 worldwide in six dimensions, and in the top 20 worldwide in the other two dimensions, with a rather stable performance since last year. Government accountability is strong (ranking 9th overall), and corruption is minimal (ranking 12th overall). Administrative agencies are transparent and effective in enforcing regulations (ranking 16th). The country's civil justice system ranks 3rd overall, and is characterized by the affordability of attorneys, accessibility and efficiency of courts, and lack of undue influence. Police discrimination against foreigners, as well as difficulties in bringing criminal offenders to justice, are areas that need attention.

Greece is ranked in the 32nd position globally, underperforming most of its regional and income peers in all dimensions, and displaying a broadly similar performance to that of last year. The country has a fair system of checks and balances (ranking 29th overall), but its administrative agencies are inefficient, lax in enforcing regulations, and affected by improper influence. The country's civil justice system is independent, but slow (ranking 25th overall), and the criminal justice system scores below levels found in other advanced economies (ranking 43rd overall and last among high-income countries), mainly because of difficulties

in identifying and prosecuting offenders, corruption, and poor conditions at correctional facilities. While the country is relatively safe from crime, riots in the streets still occur. Overall, Greece earns high marks in protecting basic rights and liberties, but discrimination against disadvantaged groups is perceived to be a problem.

Hungary places in the top-third worldwide in most dimensions of the rule of law, but lags behind its regional and income group peers. The country ranks third to last among high income countries for effective checks on government powers, due in part to political interference among the different branches of government. Despite a slight drop of positions since last year, corruption remains relatively low (ranking 29th overall), and administrative agencies are relatively effective in enforcing regulations (ranking 30th overall). The country is relatively safe from crime. The civil justice system, however, ranks 55th overall and last among high-income countries, mainly because of lengthy delays in the resolution of cases, difficulties enforcing court decisions, discrimination against marginalized groups, and political interference in judicial decisions. Deficiencies in police investigations and difficulties in bringing criminal offenders to justice are other areas in need of attention.

Italy is ranked in the 29th position overall. The country scores 26th globally in checks on the government's power, and receives high marks for observing fundamental rights (ranking 22nd overall). Administrative agencies are effective in enforcing regulations, although they are less efficient than their counterparts in other countries throughout the region (placing 19th in the region, and ranking 29th overall). The country's civil justice system is independent, but slow. The country's lowest positions are in the areas of security (ranking 50th overall), and open government (ranking 39th overall), attributable to an increasing use of violence to express discontent, and to perceived difficulties in petitioning the government and accessing official information, respectively. Corruption and discrimination against disadvantaged groups are other areas in need of attention.

The **Netherlands** comes in at 5th overall. Checks on executive power are strong (ranking 7th overall), corruption is minimal (ranking 7th overall), the government is open and transparent (ranking 7th overall), and administrative agencies are efficient and effective in enforcing regulations. The country's civil courts are accessible and free of improper influence, placing 2nd worldwide. Fundamental rights are also well protected (ranking 6th overall), although labor market discrimination and police discrimination against disadvantaged groups are perceived to be issues needing attention. Although the country is relatively safe from crime, burglaries and thefts are somewhat common.

Norway comes in at 2nd overall, and is the world leader in the areas of open government, regulatory enforcement, and civil

justice. The government is accountable (ranking 2nd overall), and the justice system operates independently and without improper influence. The criminal justice system is effective and adheres to due process. While the country is safe from crime, burglary and theft are ongoing issues.

Despite a slight drop of scores in three of the eight dimensions measured by the Index, **Poland**, at 22nd place, continues to earn high marks across all areas. The country places 22th globally in checks on the government's power, and its public institutions rank 27th overall in absence of corruption, and 26th in effectiveness of regulatory enforcement. In general, the country has a good record in protecting fundamental rights. The civil justice, although accessible and free of undue influence, is affected by lengthy delays in the resolution of cases and difficulties in enforcing court decisions (ranking 22nd overall). Poland's lowest score is in the dimension of open government (ranking 27th overall), mainly because of limitations on citizens' right to petition the government and to access official information. Delays in administrative proceedings are another area in need of attention.

Portugal places 26th overall and 17th in the region. While lagging behind many of its regional peers in most dimensions, Portugal still maintains a stable performance since last year. The country ranks 19th overall in checks on the government's power, and 26th overall on absence of corruption. Administrative agencies are relatively effective in enforcing regulations, albeit less efficiently than those in the majority of other countries in the region. The civil courts are independent, but slower than their counterparts in the European Union. Portugal's lowest score is in the area of order and security (ranking 58th overall), mainly because people are increasingly resorting to violence to express discontent. Its highest position is on respect for fundamental rights (ranking 17th overall).

Romania is ranked in the 33rd position overall, trailing its EU peers but outperforming most upper-middle income countries. The country performs relatively well in the dimensions of security (ranking 31st overall), respect for fundamental rights (ranking 25th globally and 2nd among upper-middle income countries), and criminal justice (ranking 3rd among its income peers and 29th overall). However, the country does less well on administrative and judicial efficiency. While administrative agencies perform on par with those in other upper-middle income countries, they rank worse than those of other countries of the region. Corruption is still an area in need of attention, (ranking 41st globally and second to last in the region), particularly in the legislature, as are the difficulties in petitioning the government and accessing official information.

Slovenia places in the top-third worldwide in most dimensions of the rule of law. The country has a good system of checks and balances (ranking 30th overall), and obtain relatively high marks

in protecting basic civil liberties. The country's administrative agencies and courts perform well by global standards, but below its regional and income counterparts. Among the challenges faced by the country are delays and inadequate enforcement of administrative and judicial decisions, impunity for misconduct by government officials, and police corruption.

Ranked 24th, **Spain** drops several positions in five of the eight dimensions measured by the Index this year, but nonetheless maintains relatively good marks across all areas. The government remains generally accountable, despite some decline over the past year in the areas of judicial independence and legislative corruption. Fundamental rights and basic civil liberties remain strongly protected (ranking 14th overall), and administrative agencies, although slightly inefficient, are effective in enforcing regulations (ranking 25th overall). By contrast, Spain lags behind its regional and income-group peers in providing mechanisms for public participation — including the right to petition public authorities. Judicial delays, ineffective enforcement of civil justice, police discrimination, and corruption in the civil and criminal justice systems are also areas in need of attention.

Sweden is ranked in the 3rd position worldwide and places in the top 5 in six dimensions and in the top 10 in the other two, with a performance similar to that of last year. Government accountability is strong (ranking 3rd overall), corruption is minimal (ranking 4th overall), and fundamental rights are strongly protected (ranking 1st overall). In addition, the country's administrative agencies and courts are rated among the most effective and transparent in the world. Notwithstanding these strengths, some concerns remain with regard to police discrimination against foreigners and ethnic minorities, perceived delays in court processes, and difficulties in bringing criminal offenders to justice.

The **United Kingdom** is ranked 13th overall, with a stable performance since last year. The country scores high on government accountability (ranking 10th overall) and corruption is minimal (ranking 15th overall). Administrative agencies are efficient and effective in enforcing regulations. Fundamental rights are well protected (ranking 15th overall and 13th in the region) and the country is relatively safe from crime. The court system is independent and free of undue influence, but it is not as accessible and affordable as others in the region. Undue infringement of privacy is an area of concern.

The **United States** ranks 19th overall, with a relatively uniform performance across all dimensions of the rule of law. The country maintains a well-functioning system of checks and balances (ranking 20th), in spite of a slight relative decline during the past year. The United States scores well in the areas of Open Government (ranking 17th) and Order and Security (ranking 18th), with a significant improvement from the previous

measurement. Protection of fundamental rights is strong, particularly with regard to the rights of association, opinion and expression, and freedom of religion. The country underperforms income and regional peers in the protection of the right to privacy, due process of law and fundamental labor rights. The judicial system is independent and free of undue influence, but it lags behind its peers in providing equal treatment to ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged groups. Civil legal assistance is frequently expensive or unavailable, and the gap between rich and poor individuals in terms of both actual use of and satisfaction with the court system is significant.