

As citizens demand accountability, governments keep data locked away

The Web Foundation believes that open data must be:



for *everyone* —
a right for all



the data
people *need*



data people can
easily use

In this edition of the Barometer, 1,725 datasets from 15 different sectors across 115 countries were assessed. We found that most governments are not meeting the basic [Open Data Charter principles](#). In most cases, the right policies are not in place, nor is the breadth and quality of the datasets released sufficient.



Governments are too dependent on third-parties for creating and sustaining open data initiatives.



Only two out of 375 datasets in our regional analysis are truly open.



Only two countries in sub-Saharan Africa —Kenya and South Africa— rank in the top 50.



General regional highlights and findings

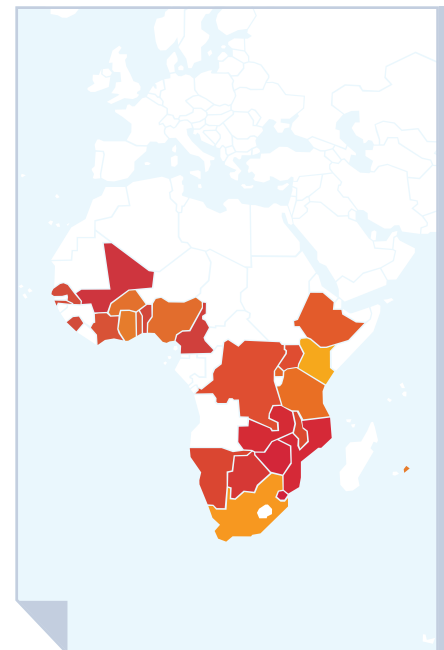
This regional snapshot covers [the 25 Sub-Saharan African countries assessed in the fourth edition of the Barometer](#). Four new countries have been added since the third edition of the Barometer: Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Swaziland and Togo.

Africa lags behind other regions in the implementation and impact of open data. No sub-Saharan African country is in the top 30. Only one country, Kenya, ranks in the top 40, while there are seven countries in the bottom ten.

Kenya climbed seven places and remains the regional champion, ranking 35th globally. Ghana jumped 11 places, yet it is still recovering from a big drop in the previous edition. Other countries such as Tanzania or Burkina Faso have also improved, especially in implementation.

What is Open Data and why is it important?

Open data is data which is freely available and shareable online, without charge or any other restrictions. Without good data, it is impossible to hold governments to account for the decisions that they make, the policies they pass, and the money they budget and spend.



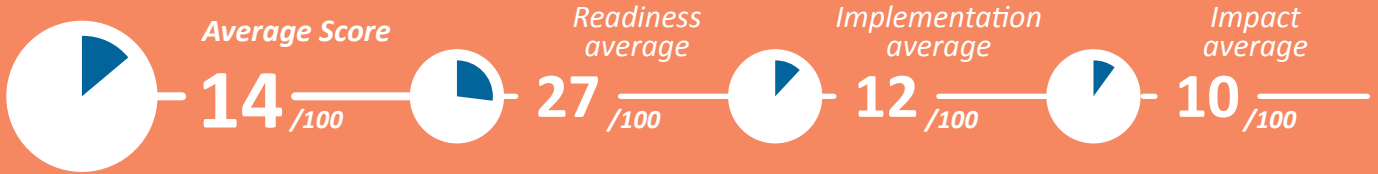
Open Data Barometer 4th Edition Regional Ranking

Global Rank	Score	Country	Global Rank	Score	Country
35	40	Kenya	93	11	Malawi
46	34	South Africa	98	9	Namibia
59	26	Mauritius	98	9	Senegal
59	26	Ghana	100	8	Sierra Leone
67	22	Tanzania	103	7	Benin
67	22	Burkina Faso	104	6	Botswana
70	21	Nigeria	107	5	Cameroon
71	20	Rwanda	108	4	Zambia
81	16	Ethiopia	110	3	Mozambique
81	16	Togo	111	2	Mali
90	12	DR Congo	111	2	Zimbabwe
90	12	Uganda	114	0	Swaziland
93	11	Côte d'Ivoire			

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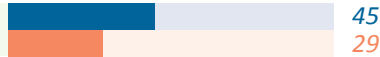


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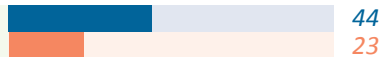


Readiness for open data initiatives

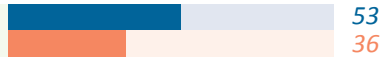
Government Policies



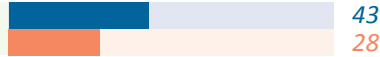
Government Action



Citizens and Civil Rights



Entrepreneurs and Business



Some countries such as Tanzania, Kenya and Burkina Faso improved on open data initiatives, policies, civil society engagement and support for innovation.



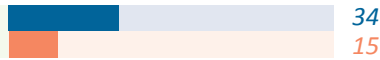
In other countries such as Nigeria, Mozambique and Mauritius, three main areas are stagnating: funding for open data initiatives to ensure sustainability, proper data management and right to information reforms.



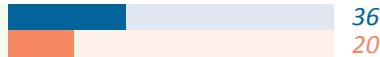
Nigeria is well positioned to be an open data leader in Africa. Yet, it appears to be sliding backward given that its education and health data is no longer fully open due to a lack of open licenses. However, the country has begun to see a few strong, civil society-led initiatives emerge. These include [Your BudgetIT](#), created on the principle that every citizen should have access to and understand public budgets. In addition, [Tracka](#), a tool used to collaborate, track and give feedback on government projects, helps to [disseminate budget and expenditure-related data](#) published by government.

Implementation of open data programmes

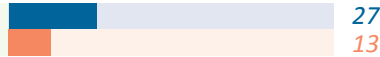
Innovation Datasets



Social Policy Datasets



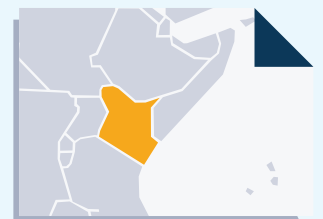
Accountability Datasets



Rwanda and DR Congo each have one fully open dataset. Significant improvements have been made by Ghana, Tanzania and Burkina Faso.



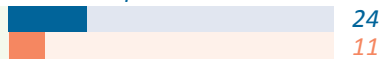
Even regional champions still score low on openness of datasets, with all countries lacking fully open data. Nigeria's health and education datasets are no longer fully open.



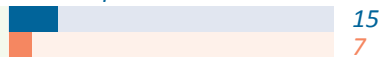
One study in **Kenya** looked at the [impact of open data within grassroots communities](#), focussing on the delivery of services related to health, water and education. The findings revealed that the low quality of available data limits its use. Another example is the [Hunger Safety Net Program](#) that has designed a fully interactive dashboard to display information on cash transfers to support vulnerable and poor people in Kenya. The initiative has the potential to improve inter-agency data sharing, leading to greater efficiency.

Impact that open data is having

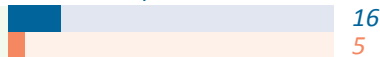
Political Impact



Social Impact



Economic Impact

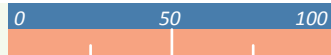


Most countries are improving in political impact, demonstrated by projects such as the [Municipal Money](#) budget initiative on fiscal transparency in South Africa.



The majority of countries show little to no impact in other areas such as inclusion or economy.

Global average scores



Regional average scores