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Modernizing the Marketplace for Governance Data

Numerous organizations collect and analyze data on the different dimensions of governance — ranging from corruption perceptions to fiscal transparency to business regulation and freedom of the press — to help shape policy reforms and ultimately improve economic, human, and democratic development. Unfortunately, the current state of the marketplace for governance data limits the potential impact of this information.

Data sets are available on various platforms in different formats. As a whole, they are also wildly incomplete, covering some countries and years but not others, and they are often produced with little to no understanding of who actually uses these data, and for what purpose. Additionally, production costs remain high despite possibilities for economies of scale.

No single organization can solve those problems alone. We need a collective response to strengthen the production, use, and impact of governance data. **This is why we formed the Governance Data Alliance.**



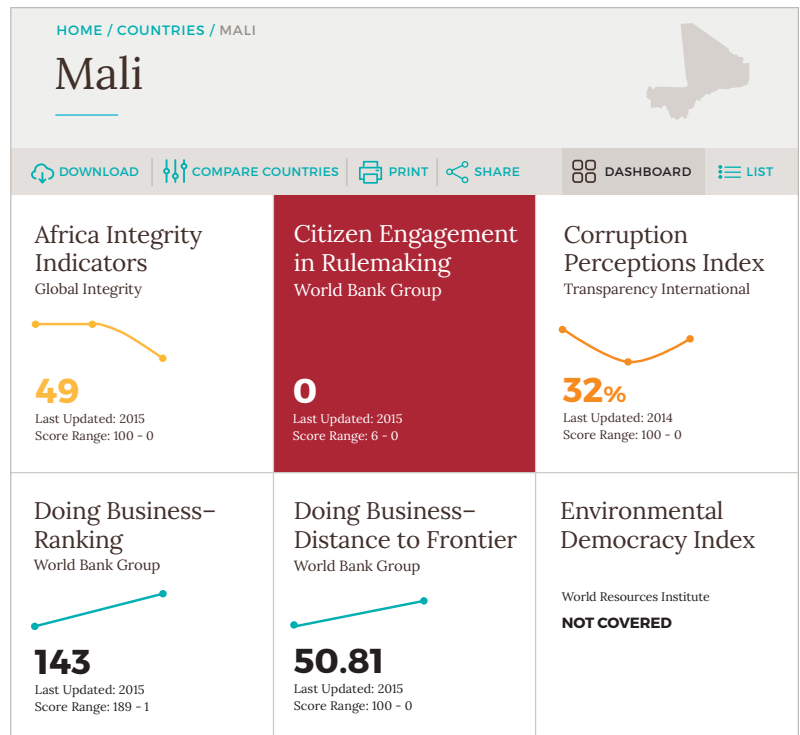


WHAT WE DO

The Governance Data Alliance encourages greater coordination amongst data producers to fill data gaps while simultaneously investigating who governance data users actually are. The goal is to produce and aggregate high-quality, accessible governance data that policymakers and other change agents can use to take action.

The Alliance’s work is currently organized around four work streams:

- 1. Knowledge sharing and collaboration among data producers.** This work stream supports peer exchange and technical assistance between groups within (and beyond) the Alliance on topics ranging from research methodology design and data analysis tools to data storage, data visualization techniques, and managing government feedback.
- 2. Publishing and promoting a governance data dashboard that aggregates high-quality data in one place:** www.governancedata.org. This work stream promotes improved accessibility, standardization, and use of existing governance data.
- 3. Collecting and analyzing governance data user habits and trends** to better understand and meet the needs of those users in future data production efforts. This work stream involves an analysis of responses collected through the 2014 Reform Efforts Survey as well as the collection of new data through novel “snap polls” focused on understanding future demand for governance data.
- 4. Piloting coordinated data co-production efforts to explore possible economies of scale.** This work stream aims to improve the availability of data, particularly for under-assessed countries, and to drive down the costs of data production over time.



The Governance Data Alliance website centralizes governance data and offers a snapshot of how countries are doing across data sets (as seen in this partial country dashboard for Mali).



WHO WE ARE

The Alliance brings together a number of world-class organizations committed to the effective production and use of high-quality governance data.

Current data producers include the Centre for Law and Democracy, Freedom House, Global Financial Integrity, Global Integrity, the International Budget Partnership, the Natural Resource Governance Institute, Transparency International, the World Justice Project, the World Resources Institute, and the World Bank’s Global Indicators Group.

Other key Alliance members include the Millennium Challenge Corporation; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); government institutions in Guatemala, the Philippines, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone; AidData; the OECD; AmidaTech; and philanthropic donors active on governance and transparency issues.

The Alliance’s secretariat is currently hosted at the Results for Development Institute, and the Alliance’s work is supported by Omidyar Network, the Hewlett Foundation, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

DATA SETS	AFGHANISTAN ▾	LIBERIA ▾	VIETNAM ▾
Open Budget Index International Budget Partnership	41.81	37.61	17.74
Resource Governance Index Natural Resource Governance Institute	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA
Rule of Law Index World Justice Project	0.35	0.45	0.50
RTI Rating Centre for Law and Democracy	77	124	NO DATA

The Governance Data Alliance website centralizes governance data and allows comparisons across countries (as seen in this partial multi-country dashboard).



WHAT'S NEXT

Now that the foundations of the Alliance have been laid, we are excited to launch a number of new initiatives in the coming weeks and months:

- **Expanding membership.** We look forward to identifying and welcoming new governance data producers and users to the Alliance.
- **Sharing knowledge.** Building on the good practices identified by current Alliance members, we will provide support to members developing or investing in new governance data production efforts.
- **Improving data production and dissemination for impact.** We will leverage the Alliance's new evidence about data user needs and preferences to inform future production and dissemination efforts by Alliance organizations.
- **Engaging in global policy debates and initiatives.** Moving forward, the Alliance will more proactively contribute to key global communities of practice, including the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Coordinated data production.** Finally, the Alliance will pilot joint data collection efforts in under-assessed countries to test possibilities for economies of scale.

JOIN US

As a data producer member of the Alliance, you will:

- **Reach more data users:** Have your dataset featured alongside world-renowned indices on governancedata.org.
- **Get better at what you do:** Leverage the Alliance's expertise around research design, data collection, and dissemination as well as its access to actionable evidence about data user needs.
- **Leverage your data for greater impact:** Be part of an important voice in global conversations about governance data and governance reforms.

As an Alliance funder, you will:

- **Improve the impact** of current and future governance data production efforts.
- **Generate a better return on your investment** from portfolios and grants that are already supporting governance data production efforts.

As a data user member of the Alliance, you will:

- **Join a global community:** Connect with the world's leading governance data producers and users to help modernize the marketplace for governance data.
- **Be better informed:** Leverage the Alliance's expertise on data availability, collection, and design to help inform the work you do.
- **Increase your impact:** Be part of an important voice in global conversations about governance data and reforms.

