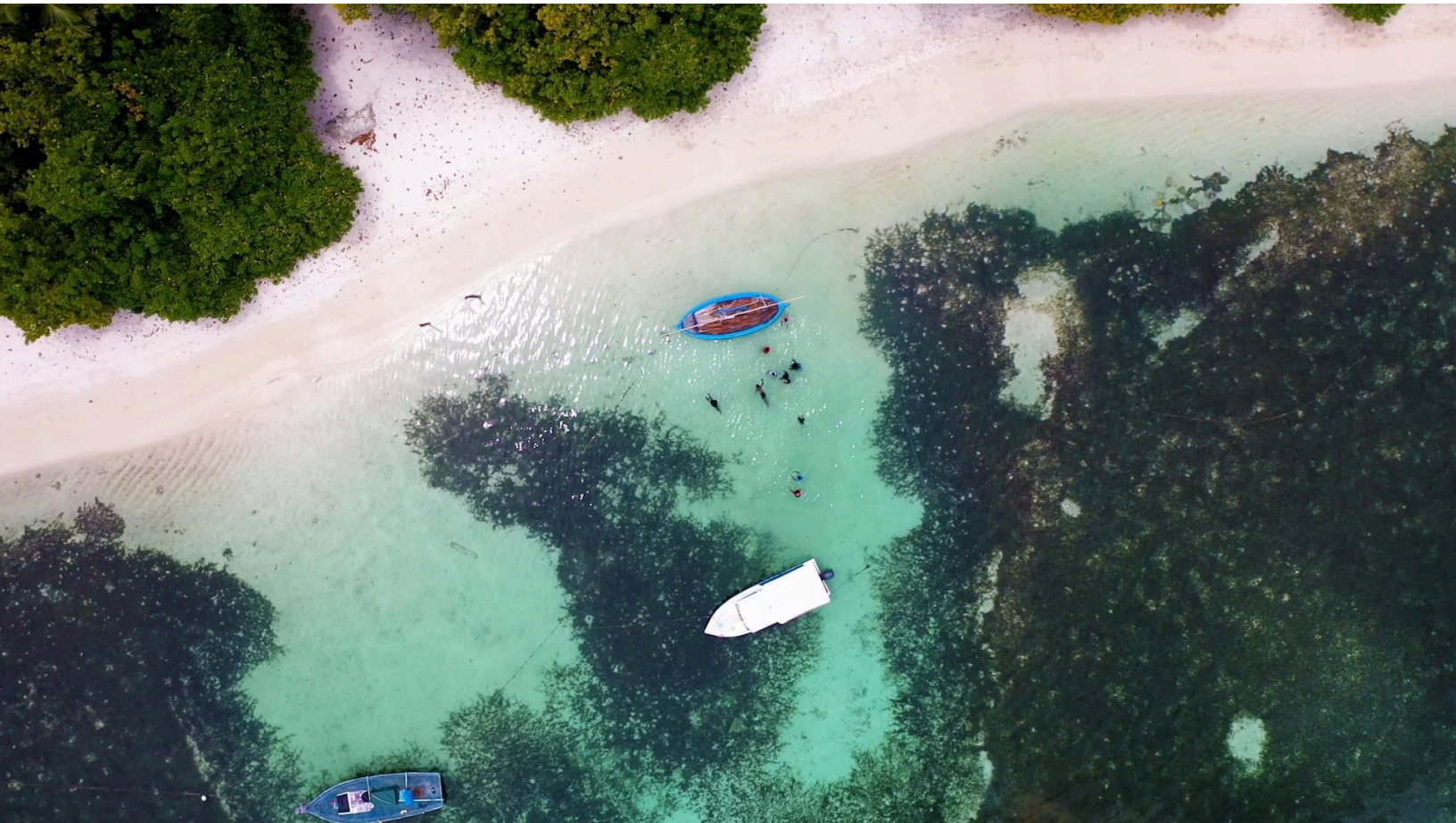




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FY 2025 USAID Country Roadmap Methodology Guide

August 2024

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I. Overview

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is focused on ensuring that it is best supporting its partner countries' abilities to plan, finance, and implement solutions to address their own development challenges. To that end, USAID must understand each country's overall development strengths and challenges based on a set of objective and transparent metrics to ensure our programs and partnerships are well-suited to supporting partner countries' abilities across the range of contexts within which USAID operates. To facilitate that contextual assessment, each year USAID releases Country Roadmaps, an analytical tool for assessing global development progress across all low- and middle-income countries. This Methodology Guide has been updated based on the FY 2025 Country Roadmap, which will be launched in October 2024.

This Methodology Guide provides the conceptual framework underlying the Roadmaps, the metric definitions, data sources, and linkage between each metric and the overall conceptual framework. It also summarizes data techniques and analyses used to assess overall country-level commitment and capacity levels and to ensure comparability across metrics and time.

2. Conceptual Framework

The Country Roadmaps aim to capture, at a high level, a country's development along two key dimensions: **commitment** and **capacity**. A country's commitment and capacity to plan, finance, and manage its development journey are key, mutually reinforcing aspects that largely determine development outcomes in USAID partner countries. Development progress depends on a country's ability to govern effectively and with accountability; design and implement transparent, responsible, and effective policies; mobilize adequate resources effectively; deliver services efficiently and equitably; grow its economy inclusively; and adapt to changing circumstances. The development journey is typically long and seldom linear, often characterized by setbacks.

Country commitment is the degree to which a country's laws, policies, actions, behaviors, and informal governance mechanisms—such as cultures and norms—enable the country to create and strengthen institutions to solve its own development challenges. This includes commitment toward democracy (or open and accountable governance), inclusive development (inclusiveness across gender, social groups, and geographic sub-regions), and sound economic policy (micro-economic and macro-economic policy).

Country capacity, on the other hand, relates to a country's political, social, and economic development, including its ability to work across these sectors. A country's capacity to plan, resource, and manage its own development hinges on the capacity of the government (including the quality of government services, the competence of civil servants, government's ability to mobilize domestic resources, and the ability to maintain stability and security), the capacity of civil society including free

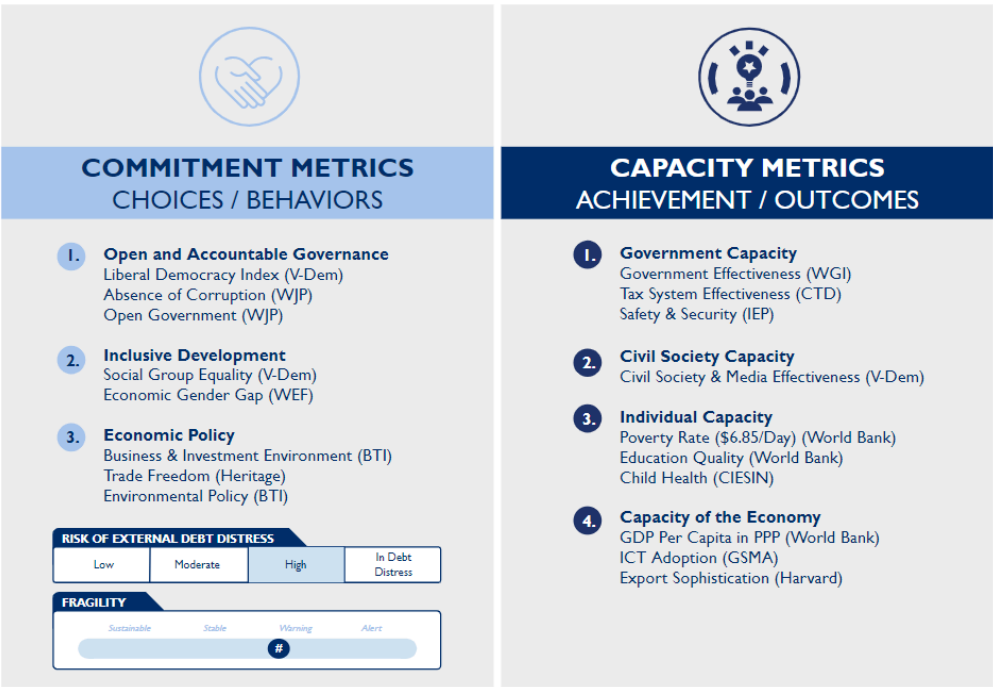
media (as a means to hold government accountable and to provide mechanisms beyond elections by which citizens can be heard), the capacity of a country’s citizens (the extent to which citizens are engaged and informed, and able to lead productive and meaningful lives), and the productivity and functioning of the economy (including the extent to which the private sector is capable of generating sustained, broad-based economic growth).

These dimensions of country commitment and capacity are mutually reinforcing and align closely with USAID’s core values and priorities. The Country Roadmap’s summary scatter plot depicts the relationship between the commitment and capacity dimensions for all low- and middle-income countries worldwide.

3. Primary Roadmap Metrics

USAID uses a set of 18 primary metrics to track country progress on the Country Roadmap: eight metrics focused on three key aspects of country commitment, and ten metrics on four key aspects of country capacity.

FIGURE I. FY 2025 Primary Roadmap Metrics



Originally, the primary Roadmap metrics were derived over the course of a nine-month iterative process in 2018, drawing on extensive consultations within USAID and with key external stakeholders, as well as substantial analyses and testing toward identifying the most targeted, accurate, and comprehensive set of indicators available. Key parameters and considerations guided the choice of metrics, prioritizing those

that are: 1) closely and directly aligned with commitment and capacity; 2) publicly available and easily accessible; 3) comparable across countries and over time; 4) widely available across low- and middle-income countries; and 5) developed by independent, reliable third-party institutions. Country Roadmaps are produced for all 132 low- and middle-income countries worldwide (as published by the World Bank in July 2024) considered to be independent by the U.S. Department of State (as well as West Bank and Gaza), and are updated on an annual basis following each year's release of updated World Bank income group classifications.

Each year, USAID reviews the primary metrics and feedback received on the tool to ensure that the Country Roadmaps reflect the most relevant, complete, and timely data available according to the parameters listed above.

What's New in FY 2025?

In FY 2025, USAID elected to revise two Country Roadmap metrics previously sourced from the *Legatum Prosperity Index* to ensure measurements remain timely, as the *Legatum Prosperity Index* has not been released since February 2024 and had relied, in part, on the now-discontinued World Bank *Doing Business* report:

- **Business & Investment Environment metric:** This metric will now be sourced from the *Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI)*, a source already used for the Roadmap's Environmental Policy metric. BTI offers a suite of four indicators—Private Enterprise, Market Organization, Competition Policy, and Property Rights—that collectively assess an array of business and investment factors that impact private sector vibrancy and growth. Collectively, these four BTI indicators are highly aligned to the Roadmap's conceptual framework and to the issue areas formerly assessed by Legatum. Beyond its rigorous methodology, a substantial advantage of the BTI is that indicator scores are accompanied by rich qualitative narratives.
- **Safety & Security metric:** This metric will now be sourced from the Internal Peace Index component of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)'s *Global Peace Index (GPI)*. This index draws on 14 indicators assessing the degree of internal conflict, criminality, political instability and violence, and generalized societal safety in each country. IEP's Internal Peace measure aligns closely to the former Legatum safety and security assessment, although this measure factors several new issues (i.e. political instability, small arms proliferation, security personnel density, and incarceration rate).

4. Secondary Metrics and Analytics

No single set of country-level metrics can comprehensively capture each country's unique development trajectory. The primary metrics are high-level, broad in scope, and limited in number. Furthermore, issues of interest, socioeconomic contexts, subnational variation, and data availability vary widely across and within regions and countries. While USAID staff and partners worldwide are encouraged to use these primary metrics as entry points during examinations of each country's development context, any such analytical exercise should also closely factor other quantitative and qualitative information at a secondary, deeper level to ensure the full picture of a country's development progress comes into focus.

Given that need, USAID has developed the [Secondary Metrics Compendium](#) to help identify the types of quantitative and qualitative information that might be needed in addition to the Roadmaps to bring a country's development story into full focus.¹ The compendium was developed in close consultation with technical sector experts across the Agency and the external partner community, and the tool remains a “living” analytical resource that is updated periodically as new rigorous development data become available. Organized within the Country Roadmap conceptual framework, the secondary metrics help users unpack Roadmap results to better understand countries' relative strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. Users can use the Secondary Metrics Compendium to:

- Unpack the Roadmap and delve deeper by exploring the sub-indices of metrics included on the Roadmap;
- Triangulate and fill gaps by leveraging additional data on existing Roadmap concepts; and
- Explore and highlight new issues not explicitly captured in the Roadmap that are pertinent to understanding a country's development progress.

This secondary analytical tool includes a wide range of sector-level metrics, resources for capturing region-specific and issue-specific trends, and other relevant qualitative tools. Ultimately, these primary and secondary metrics and analytics are meant to augment, not replace, the wide range of country analyses the Agency already uses.

¹ Please consult the [‘About’ tab](#) on the Secondary Metrics Compendium portal for more information on this resource, including a supplemental user guide.

5. Country Commitment Metrics

The commitment dimension measures the degree to which a country's laws, policies, actions, behaviors, and informal governance mechanisms—such as cultures and norms—support a country's development. The framework includes three aspects of country commitment measured using eight metrics.

Commitment toward open and accountable governance comprises **Liberal Democracy**, **Absence of Corruption**, and **Open Government**. Commitment toward inclusive development includes **Social Group Equality** and **Economic Gender Gap**. Commitment toward sound economic policy consists of **Business and Investment Environment**, **Trade Freedom**, and **Environmental Policy**.

Open and Accountable Governance

1) Liberal Democracy

The *Liberal Democracy Index* measures freedom of expression and association, the share of the population with suffrage, clean elections, judicial and legislative constraints on the executive branch, equality before the law, and various other individual rights and freedoms. According to Varieties of Democracy, “the liberal principle of democracy embodies the intrinsic value of protecting individual and minority rights against a potential ‘tyranny of the majority’ and state repression. This principle is achieved through constitutionally-protected civil liberties, strong rule of law, and effective checks and balances that limit the use of executive power.”²

Source: [Varieties of Democracy \(V-Dem\) project](#), V-Dem Institute of the University of Gothenburg³

Methodology: The *Liberal Democracy Index* is one of V-Dem's five high-level democracy indices measuring different “varieties,” or core principles, of democracy.⁴ The other four high-level “varieties of democracy” indices center on electoral, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian democracy—each representing a different way of understanding and defining “rule by the people.” The *Liberal Democracy Index* comprises two primary elements:

² Varieties of Democracy, [Methodology Report](#), March 2024, p. 4.

³ Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, Staffan I. Lindberg, Jan Teorell, David Altman, Fabio Angiolillo, Michael Bernhard, Cecilia Borella, Agnes Cornell, M. Steven Fish, Linnea Fox, Lisa Gastaldi, Haakon Gjerløw, Adam Glynn, Ana Good God, Sandra Grahn, Allen Hicken, Katrin Kinzelbach, Joshua Krusell, Kyle L. Marquardt, Kelly McMann, Valeriya Mechkova, Juraj Medzihorsky, Natalia Natsika, Anja Neundorff, Pamela Paxton, Daniel Pemstein, Josefine Pernes, Oskar Rydén, Johannes von Rømer, Brigitte Seim, Rachel Sigman, Svend-Erik Skaaning, Jeffrey Staton, Aksel Sundstrøm, Eitan Tzelgov, Yi-ting Wang, Tore Wig, Steven Wilson and Daniel Ziblatt. 2024. “V-Dem [Country-Year/Country-Date] Dataset v14” Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project. <https://doi.org/10.23696/mcwt-fr58>, and Pemstein, Daniel, Kyle L. Marquardt, Eitan Tzelgov, Yi-ting Wang, Juraj Medzihorsky, Joshua Krusell, Farhad Miri, and Johannes von Rømer. 2024. “The V-Dem Measurement Model: Latent Variable Analysis for Cross-National and Cross-Temporal Expert-Coded Data”. V-Dem Working Paper No. 21. 9th edition. University of Gothenburg: Varieties of Democracy Institute.

⁴ *Liberal Democracy Index* raw data can be accessed via code ‘v2x_libdem’ in V-Dem v14 dataset ‘Country-Year: V-Dem.’

1. The *Electoral Democracy Index* is formed by taking the average of, on one hand, the weighted average of five indices measuring freedom of association, clean elections, freedom of expression and alternative sources of information, elected officials, and suffrage, and, on the other, the five-way multiplicative interaction between those indices.⁵ V-Dem uses the following aggregation formula to calculate Electoral Democracy Index scores, in order to capture each of these five variables' importance in their own right, as well as their influence on and contribution to “rule by the people” across the other four features:

$$\text{Electoral Democracy Index} = 0.5 * (1/8 * \text{elected executive} + 1/4 * \text{clean elections} + 1/4 * \text{freedom of expression} + 1/4 * \text{freedom of association} + 1/8 * \text{suffrage}) + 0.5 * (\text{elected executive} * \text{clean elections} * \text{freedom of expression} * \text{freedom of association} * \text{suffrage})$$

2. The *Liberal Component Index* comprises three sub-indices focused on three key “components” inherent in liberal democracies: 1) equality before the law and individual rights, 2) judicial constraints on the executive branch, and 3) legislative constraints on the executive branch. These three indices, in turn, draw on twenty-three individual indicators summarized in the table below. V-Dem considers these three “components” to be substitutive, and therefore takes the simple average of the three elements to construct the *Liberal Component Index*. For each of the three “components,” V-Dem calculates scores by taking the point estimates from a Bayesian factor analysis model.⁶

The Liberal Democracy Index is an average of additive and multiplicative combinations of the Electoral Democracy Index and the Liberal Component Index: Liberal Democracy Index = $1/4 * \text{electoral democracy}^{1.585} + 1/4 * \text{liberal component} + 1/2 * \text{electoral democracy}^{1.585} * \text{liberal component}$.

FIGURE 2. Variety of Democracy Project's Liberal Component Index

Component	Indicators ⁷
Equality before the Law and Individual Liberty Index	Rigorous and impartial public administration Transparent laws with predictable enforcement Access to justice for men Access to justice for women Property rights for men Property rights for women Freedom from torture Freedom from political killings Freedom from forced labor for men Freedom from forced labor for women Freedom of religion Freedom of foreign movement Freedom of domestic movement for men Freedom of domestic movement for women

⁵ Details on the *Electoral Democracy Index*'s components can be found in V-Dem's [Codebook](#) (V. 14, March 2024).

⁶ V-Dem [Methodology Report](#) (V. 14, March 2024) provides elaboration on the Bayesian factor analysis model used to calculate scores, as well as V-Dem's general conceptual scheme, data collection methods, and measurement considerations.

⁷ Details on the 23 indicators used to calculate the *Liberal Component Index* are found in V-Dem's [Codebook](#) (V. 14, March 2024).

Judicial Constraints on the Executive Index	Executive respects constitution Compliance with judiciary Compliance with high court High court independence Lower court independence
Legislative Constraints on the Executive Index	Legislature questions officials in practice Executive oversight Legislature investigates in practice Legislature opposition parties

Indicators take the form of nominal (classifications, texts, dates), ordinal (e.g., Likert-style scales), or interval scales. Some refer to de jure aspects of a polity—rules that statute or constitutional law stipulate. Others refer to de facto aspects of a polity—the way things are in practice. Factual indicators are coded by members of the V-Dem team. Evaluative indicators are based on multiple ratings provided by approximately 4,000 country experts worldwide who respond to V-Dem’s questionnaire. V-Dem recruits experts based on their academic or other credentials as field experts in the area for which they code. Typically, five or more independent experts respond to each question for each country and year.

The Liberal Democracy Index results depicted on the Country Roadmaps do not show the confidence intervals associated with these V-Dem results. V-Dem’s confidence intervals—representing the level of confidence in the reliability of the estimates—may vary variable by variable and country by country, as they are determined based on the degree to which country raters disagree and/or where little information is available because few raters have contributed assessments. Please consult V-Dem Dataset Version 14 or V-Dem’s Online Graphing feature to view the confidence intervals associated with this metric’s results for your country(s) of interest.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: A country will not advance in a meaningful and sustained way without progress toward liberal democracy. Liberal democracy promotes political inclusiveness and fairness, through the dispersion of political power, effective rule of law, and the protection of the individual. This, in turn, provides strong incentives for broad-based political and economic engagement among citizens. Democracy facilitates the development of institutions (laws and structures) that aggregate citizens’ preferences and protect the minority from the tyranny of the majority, promoting inclusion. Politicians and government officials are ultimately “agents” of the people, with the judiciary as the arbitrator. Through such democratic institutions as fair elections, freedom of speech, and an independent judiciary, citizens are able to affect change by pressuring politicians and governments to act.

2) Absence of Corruption

The Absence of Corruption Factor of the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index* measures the prominence of 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, the judiciary, the military, police, and the

legislature, as well as among private and commercial entities in their interactions with public officials. The Factor considers a wide range of possible situations in which corruption can occur, from petty bribery to major fraud.

Source: [World Justice Project \(WJP\), *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index*](#)[®]

Methodology: WJP identifies Absence of Corruption as a core feature of the rule of law in each society and includes it as one of eight factors comprising the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index*—a diagnostic tool measuring adherence to rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions worldwide in the 2023 edition. WJP considers four components or sub-factors in the measurement of Absence of Corruption⁸:

- 1. Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain -**
Measures the prevalence of bribery, informal payments, and other inducements in the delivery of public services and the enforcement of regulations. It also measures whether government procurement and public works contracts are awarded through an open and competitive bidding process, and whether government officials at various levels of the executive branch refrain from embezzling public funds.
- 2. Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain -**
Measures whether judges and judicial officials refrain from soliciting and accepting bribes to perform duties or expedite processes, and whether the judiciary and judicial rulings are free of improper influence by the government, private interests, and criminal organizations.
- 3. Government officials in the police and the military do not use public office for private gain -**
Measures whether police officers and criminal investigators refrain from soliciting and accepting bribes to perform basic police services or to investigate crimes, and whether police and military officials are free of improper influence by private interests or criminal organizations.
- 4. Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain -**
Measures whether members of the legislature refrain from soliciting or accepting bribes or other inducements in exchange for political favors or favorable votes on legislation.

Scores primarily draw from two data sources collected in 142 countries and jurisdictions: 1) a general population poll (GPP) conducted by leading local polling companies using a probability sample of 1,000 respondents,⁹ and 2) qualified respondents' questionnaires (QRQ) carried out annually, consisting of closed-ended questions completed by in-country experts, practitioners, and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law; constitutional law, civil liberties, and criminal law; labor law; and public health. The GPP questionnaire is generally conducted every few years using one of three polling methodologies:

⁸ See the [WJP Rule of Law Index Variable Map](#) for more details on these four sub-factors, their respective components, and how each is factored into overall Absence of Corruption Factor scores.

⁹ Due to small populations or obstacles to data collection in certain countries and jurisdictions, in some cases the sampling plan was adjusted and/or the sampling size was decreased.

face-to-face, online, and telephone.¹⁰ The Absence of Corruption Factor includes 58 questions from the QRQ and 14 questions from the GPP.

WJP normalizes raw data onto a 0 to 1 scale, and aggregates from variable level scores to sub-factor, factor, and overall scores for each country and jurisdiction. All underlying scores are aggregated into sub-factors and factors using simple averages. Scores are validated and cross-checked against qualitative and quantitative third-party sources to identify possible errors or inconsistencies.

The *WJP Rule of Law Index 2023* presents a portrait of the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions by providing scores and rankings based on each of these eight factors: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: Corruption, and the systems and norms that fuel it, divert scarce resources away from essential public services, critical infrastructure, and competitive investment ventures, posing a fundamental constraint to the achievement of sustainable, broad-based development outcomes. Corruption stifles growth-enabling private investment, undermines local businesses and entrepreneurs, impedes the use of natural resources for development, and deprives citizens of equitable access to critical public services. The World Economic Forum estimates that corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion, and other illicit financial flows cost developing countries \$1.26 trillion annually.¹¹ Corruption also undermines key democratic values and norms—including transparency, accountability, citizen-responsive governance, and the integrity of elections—and citizen trust in public institutions. Corruption intensifies social inequities, with undue consequences for women, minorities, and marginalized communities.

3) Open Government

The Open Government Factor of the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index* measures the degree to which governments share information, empower people with tools to hold the government accountable, and foster citizen participation in public policy deliberations. It measures whether basic laws and information on legal rights are publicized and evaluates the quality of information published by the government. This indicator measures not only a government's openness and transparency, but also its responsiveness and accessibility to citizenry requesting such openness and transparency.

Source: [World Justice Project \(WJP\), *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index*](#)[®]

Methodology: WJP identifies Open Government as a core feature of the rule of law in each society and includes it as one of eight factors comprising the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index*—a diagnostic tool measuring adherence to rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions worldwide in the

¹⁰ See pgs. 186-189 of the [WJP Rule of Law Index 2023 Methodology Guide](#) for country-level details on polling year, locations, and methodology, as well QRQ contributors.

¹¹ [World Economic Forum](#), December 9, 2019

2023 edition. WJP considers four components or sub-factors in the measurement of Open Government:¹²

1. **Publicized Laws and Government Data** measures whether basic laws and information on legal rights are publicly available, presented in plain language, and made accessible in all languages. It also measures the quality and accessibility of information published by the government in print or online, and whether administrative regulations, drafts of legislation, and high court decisions are made accessible to the public in a timely manner.
2. **Right to Information** measures whether requests for information held by a government agency are granted, whether these requests are granted within a reasonable time period, if the information provided is pertinent and complete, and if requests for information are granted at a reasonable cost and without having to pay a bribe. It also measures whether people are aware of their right to information, and whether relevant records are accessible to the public upon request.
3. **Civic Participation** measures the effectiveness of civic participation mechanisms, including the protection of the freedoms of opinion and expression, assembly and association, and the right to petition the government. It also measures whether people can voice concerns to various government officers, and whether government officials provide sufficient information and notice about decisions affecting the community.
4. **Complaint Mechanisms** measures whether people are able to bring specific complaints to the government about the provision of public services or the performance of government officers in carrying out their legal duties in practice, and how government officials respond to such complaints.

Scores primarily draw from two data sources collected in 142 countries and jurisdictions: 1) a general population poll (GPP) conducted by leading local polling companies using a probability sample of 1,000 respondents,¹³ and 2) qualified respondents' questionnaires (QRQ) carried out annually, consisting of closed-ended questions completed by in-country experts, practitioners, and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law; constitutional law, civil liberties, and criminal law; labor law; and public health. The GPP questionnaire is generally conducted every few years using one of three polling methodologies: face-to-face, online, and telephone.¹⁴ The Open Government Factor includes 44 questions from the QRQ, 20 questions from the GPP, and one third-party variable, the Open Knowledge Foundation's Global Open Data Index (GODI) assessing the publication of open government data in each country from a civic perspective. GODI measures the openness of clearly defined data categories proven to be

¹² See the [WJP Rule of Law Index Variable Map](#) for more details on these four sub-factors, their respective components, and how each is factored into overall Open Government Factor scores.

¹³ Due to small populations or obstacles to data collection in certain countries and jurisdictions, in some cases the sampling plan was adjusted and/or the sampling size was decreased.

¹⁴ See pgs. 186-189 of the [WJP Rule of Law Index 2022 Methodology Guide](#) for country-level details on polling year, locations, and methodology, as well QRQ contributors.

useful for the public: government budget, national statistics, procurement, national laws, administrative boundaries, draft legislation, air quality, national maps, weather forecasts, company register, election results, locations, water quality, government spending, and land ownership.¹⁵

WJP normalizes raw data onto a 0 to 1 scale, and aggregates from variable level scores to sub-factor, factor, and overall scores for each country and jurisdiction. All underlying scores are aggregated into sub-factors and factors using simple averages. Scores are validated and cross-checked against qualitative and quantitative third-party sources to identify possible errors or inconsistencies.¹⁶

The *WJP Rule of Law Index 2023* presents a portrait of the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions by providing scores and rankings based on each of these eight factors: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: A public informed of its government's workings, and outfitted with the tools for citizens to hold their government accountable, is an essential ingredient of development progress. An open government empowers its citizens, uses available resources responsibly and effectively, provides clear rules of the game to private sector actors, and provides the political basis for broad-based participation and ultimately citizen "buy-in." An open government helps lay the foundation for an effective and representative government, and a system of rules to keep a country's citizens safe, resolve disputes, encourage private enterprise and investment, and ultimately, facilitate economic prosperity.

Inclusive Development

1) Social Group Equality

This metric measures the scope of equal protection in regards to civil liberties across social groups as defined by ethnicity, religion, caste, race, language, and region. Civil liberties are understood to include access to justice, private property rights, freedom of movement, and freedom from forced labor. Such political inclusion largely reflects the commitment on the part of the government to provide equal protection to civil liberties for all citizens, and more broadly, assesses a country's commitment to include and protect marginalized social groups.

Source: [Varieties of Democracy \(V-Dem\) project](#), V-Dem Institute of the University of Gothenburg

Methodology: Raters are asked to score subject countries on a 0-4 scale based on whether some social groups enjoy much fewer (0), substantially fewer (1), moderately fewer (2), slightly fewer (3), or the same level (4) of civil liberties as the general population. For this and all evaluative V-Dem indicators

¹⁵ See [Open Knowledge International's website](#) for more details on the Global Open Data Index results.

¹⁶ More information on the score calculation process can be found in the [Methodology](#) for the WJP Rule of Law Index and in the [Variable Map](#), which outlines the construction of the WJP Rule of Law Index scores.

drawing on country experts responding to a questionnaire, V-Dem strives to solicit responses from five country experts for each country each year. V-Dem converts this ordinal variable (i.e., 0-4 Likert scale) to an interval scale (i.e., continuous 0-1 score) by combining expert ratings using V-Dem's measurement model, which accounts for rater confidence, reliability, and bias. The "Social Group Equality in Respect to Civil Liberties" indicator is a component of a broader measure of equality, the *Egalitarian Democracy Index*, which includes measures of equal access to political power and equal distribution of resources (including educational and health equality), as well as equal protection in regards to civil liberties.¹⁷

The Social Group Equality results depicted on the Country Roadmaps do not show the confidence intervals associated with these V-Dem results. V-Dem's confidence intervals—representing the level of confidence in the reliability of the estimates—may vary variable by variable and country by country, as they are determined based on the degree to which country raters disagree and/or where little information is available because few raters have contributed assessments. Please consult the source V-Dem Dataset Version 14 or V-Dem's Online Graphing feature to view the confidence intervals associated with this metric's results for your country(s) of interest.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: A country's ability to plan, finance, and implement solutions to its own development challenges will not be realized, nor will limited gains be sustained, in the absence of broad-based sharing of the gains and costs resulting from economic and social development and political advancement. Without equality in the political sphere, including equal civil liberties protections, broad-based economic gains are unlikely, and vice versa. Political empowerment supports economic development, and economic equality facilitates political inclusiveness. Inversely, political barriers to participate in society, to pursue and maintain personal wealth, and to challenge injustices all hinder marginalized populations' abilities to challenge socioeconomic inequities.

V-Dem's egalitarian principle, of which social group equality is a component, "holds that material and immaterial inequalities inhibit the actual use of formal political (electoral) rights and liberties. Ideally, all groups should enjoy equal *de jure* and *de facto* capabilities to participate; to serve in positions of political power; to put issues on the agenda; and to influence policy making."¹⁸ Without political inclusion and voice, in the absence of commitment toward those ends on the part of a country's government, excluded social groups cannot hold their government to account, they cannot be productive members of society, and they cannot freely and reasonably pursue private enterprise. The capacity of the government, citizens, and the economy are all hindered in the absence of widespread political rights and liberties among the population.

¹⁷ Social group equality in respect for civil liberties raw data can be accessed by viewing code 'v2clsocgrp_osp' in [V-Dem dataset 'Country-Year: V-Dem Full+Others.'](#)

¹⁸ Varieties of Democracy, [Methodology Report](#), March 2024, p. 4.

2) Economic Gender Gap

This index assesses the economic disparities between women and men by measuring differences between male and female labor force participation rates, salary or wage remunerations, and career advancement.

Source: [World Economic Forum \(WEF\), *Global Gender Gap Report*](#)

Methodology: The index, formally known as WEF's *Economic Participation and Opportunity* sub-index within the *Global Gender Gap* report, draws on the following third-party sources: the International Labour Organization ILOSTAT database, WEF's *Executive Opinion Survey*, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) *World Economic Outlook* Database, and the World Bank *World Development Indicators Database*. It contains three concepts and groupings of indicators provided below, with each indicator's weighting listed in parentheses:

1. Participation Gap

- Difference between female and male labor force participation rates (19.9%)

2. Remuneration Gap

- Ratio of estimated female-to-male earned income (22.1%)
- Wage equality between women and men for similar work, based on qualitative data gathered through the WEF's annual Executive Opinion Survey (31.0%)

3. Advancement Gap

- Ratio of women to men among legislators, senior officials, and managers (14.9%)
- Ratio of women to men among professional and technical workers (12.1%)

WEF establishes weightings by normalizing the indicators' standard deviations, ensuring that indicators with the largest variability do not exhibit more weight on the overall index scores.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: "Gender parity is fundamental to whether and how economies and societies thrive. Ensuring the full development and appropriate deployment of half of the world's total talent pool has a vast bearing on the growth, competitiveness, and future-readiness of economies and businesses worldwide."¹⁹ Advances toward gender parity in the economic sphere have a widespread impact on development, particularly in the poorest countries, not only because such advances increase the productivity and welfare of women, but in so doing, they often increase household investments in child health and education. Hence, a key positive externality in increasing the human capital of women is the realization of higher levels of human capital in the generation to follow.

¹⁹ WEF, [Global Gender Gap Report 2021](#).

Economic Policy

I) Business & Investment Environment

This metric assesses the conduciveness of each country's business and investment climate to spur broad-based economic growth based on four factors: (1) *Private Enterprise* in terms of the extent to which private companies are permitted and protected, as well as whether privatization processes are conducted in a manner consistent with market principles; (2) *Competition Policy* in terms of the extent to which safeguards to protect competition exist and are enforced; (3) *Market Organization*, in terms of the level of development of fundamentals of market-based competition; and (4) *Property Rights* in terms of the extent to which government authorities ensure well-defined property rights and regulate the acquisition, benefits, use, and sale of property.

Source: [Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index \(BTI\)](#)

Methodology: Guided by a standardized codebook, country experts score their focus country on a 1-10 scale for each factor based on available qualitative and quantitative evidence. Each country's Business & Investment Environment metric score is derived using a simple arithmetic average of 1-10 scores for four variables detailed further below. See the BTI Technical Codebook for summaries of the 1-10 Likert scale used for each of the four BTI variables.²⁰

1. **Private Enterprise:** Assesses whether private enterprises are treated institutionally as primary engines of economic production and are afforded sufficient, functioning legal safeguards. Also considers whether the privatization of state companies proceeds consistently with market principles, as opposed to serving clientelistic purposes.
2. **Competition Policy:** Assesses whether antitrust or competition laws exist and are enforced against monopolization (e.g. mergers, dominant market positions) and cartelistic conduct (e.g. collusion, price fixing, predatory pricing). Essential elements of efficient competition protection comprise: the existence of antitrust law with clear rules regarding combating cartels and collusion, abuse of market power, and merger control regulation; the existence of an independent competition authority and membership in the International Competition Network; implementation of antitrust law, including transparency and legal certainty of decisions through guaranteed judicial procedures, as well as no discrimination between domestic and foreign companies; and consistency in the state's role, including low importance of state subsidies, tax reliefs, and sector- or firm-specific exemptions for clientelist purposes.
3. **Market Organization:** Assesses if free and fair competition is guaranteed by an institutional framework that ensures unrestricted participation in the market and a level playing field for all market participants. Market-based competition fundamentals comprise: no significant entry and

²⁰ BTI 2024 Technical Codebook

exit barriers in product and factor markets, including sound licensing and permit procedures, and optimized administrative barriers to market access; price setting that is determined mainly by market forces; freedom to launch and withdraw investments, including foreign ownership barriers; no discrimination based on ownership type (i.e. state or private, foreign or local, etc.) and size; and free cross-border labor and capital movement. A large informal sector could also be a signal of an inappropriate institutional framework of economic policy or an inefficient application of the rules. Even though the state's role should primarily be to guarantee compliance with the rules, active or protective state engagement (i.e. industry policy) can prove beneficial to long-term economic development, if it supports innovation, empowers nascent markets, addresses market failures, and does not result in heavy state intervention and control of important market segments for clientelist purposes.

4. ***Private Property.*** Assesses the extent to which property rights and regulations on acquisition, benefits, use, and sale are well-defined, implemented, and enforced consistently under the rule of law. Property rights should be safeguarded against arbitrary state intervention or illegal infringements. Property rights should only be limited, solely and rarely, by overriding rights of constitutionally defined public interest.

For this and all BTI indicators, each country's score is determined sequentially by two country raters and is reviewed and confirmed through a regional and interregional calibration process. The first rater drafts a qualitative country assessment report—drawing on relevant research, quantitative data, and other evidence—that is used as the basis for the first rater's scores.²¹ The second rater references available evidence and blindly reviews the first rater's assessment report, submitting a second rating and incorporating adjustments into the qualitative country assessment. Regional coordinators then conduct an intra-regional review and calibration process to ensure consistency within and across scores. In a final step, the BTI global project team and regional coordinators convene to calibrate ratings across regions to reflect international differences and ensure global comparability.

The overall BTI evaluates whether and how developing countries are steering change toward democracy and a market economy. The BTI is organized into three pillars: (1) state of political transformation, (2) state of economic transformation, and (3) state of governance, specifically how effectively policymakers facilitate and steer development and transformation processes. The four indicators factoring into the Country Roadmap's Business & Investment Environment metric assessment are among 14 indicators used by BTI to assess the state of economic transformation in each developing economy. BTI is published every two years.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: An enabling business environment is foundational to the growth of the private sector. It promotes and encourages innovation, risk-taking, and productivity

²¹ Qualitative Environmental Policy analyses are available for each of the 137 countries worldwide covered in the [BTI Transformation Atlas 2024](#). To access qualitative narrative analysis for each indicator, select the "Countries" button at the top, then select "Economy" at top-middle, then select your dimension and indicator of interest, then select "Read more..." at bottom-right.

growth at the firm level, and provides opportunity and incentives at the individual level, both of which contribute to development at the country level. Through fair and transparent rules, regulations, and protections, it encourages market competition and entrepreneurship, thus leading to greater productivity and economic growth. Market contestability, free and open competition, a predictable regulatory environment, and consistently applied and enforced property rights are all critical for incumbent and new private enterprises and entrepreneurs to respond to new market- and firm-level opportunities and to leverage rapidly evolving technologies. A favorable business environment draws economic activity into the formal economy, enabling greater possibilities for enterprise growth (e.g., through greater access to credit), generating more employment opportunities, and expanding the tax base, hence greater capacity for domestic resource mobilization for governments.

A healthy investment environment is also critical for developing and sustaining economic growth. An effective system of property rights and other investment protections, including the free access to and cross-border flows of capital, ensures investor confidence to mobilize capital toward the most promising enterprises, individuals, and ideas. Private sector credit, including from abroad, can be critical for bolstering domestic economic competitiveness and connectivity, through investments in transportation, financial, and communications infrastructure. Private investment is also increasingly important for furthering critically urgent climate mitigation and adaptation measures in many contexts. Especially in contexts where domestic capital may be limited, access to global markets for international investments boosts access to capital, as well as international business best practices.

2) Trade Freedom

This metric measures a country's openness to international trade based on average tariff rates and non-tariff barriers that affect imports and exports of goods and services.

Source: [Heritage Foundation, *Index of Economic Freedom*](#)

Methodology: The Trade Freedom indicator is a composite measure based on tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade. The indicator scale ranges from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the highest level of protectionism, and 100 represents the lowest level of protectionism. The trade-weighted average tariff measure uses weights for each tariff based on the share of imports for each good. The tariffs score forms the base score for the Trade Freedom indicator and is calculated based on the weighted average tariff rates in a country, ranging from a minimum score of 0 and an upper bound set at 50 percent. An NTB penalty is then subtracted from the base score.

NTBs are assessed using both qualitative and quantitative information. The categories of NTBs considered include quantitative restrictions (such as import quotas); regulatory restrictions (licensing, domestic content, and mixing requirements); customs restrictions (advance deposit requirements and customs valuation procedures); and direct government intervention (subsidies, government industrial policies and government procurement policies).

Trade data are derived in order of priority from the following sources: World Trade Organization, *World Tariff Profiles*; World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; World Trade Organization, *Trade Policy Review*; Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, *National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers*; U.S. Department of Commerce, *Country Commercial Guide*; and official government publications of each country.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: Trade openness generates greater economic growth by enabling greater economic specialization and diversification according to a country's comparative advantages vis-à-vis its trading partners. Such specialization and diversification can increase economic efficiency and productivity, creating jobs for citizens through export expansion, while benefiting consumers through lower cost imports. Increased, uninhibited trade can bolster and diversify the domestic resource base, better position the economy to weather endogenous and exogenous shocks, and strengthen the government's capacity to mobilize domestic resources by increasing tax revenues that result from an expanding economy. It sets in motion dynamic gains to the economy as a result of greater diversification of economic output, and greater competition and sophistication of the production process.

Furthermore, trade openness provides for critical external discipline on firm behavior and that of public officials, reducing opportunities and incentives for rent-seeking behavior and corruption. Wide variations in tariff schedules and intricate systems for quotas are breeding grounds for rent-seeking behaviors in setting and enforcing trade policies and customs regulations.

3) Environmental Policy

This metric measures the soundness of environmental stewardship and natural resource management, factoring a wide array of macroeconomic policies with environmental consequences, such as energy and tax policies, national climate plans, and incentives at the firm and household levels. The metric also factors whether legislation and regulations are effectively executed, as well as the influence of societal stakeholders beyond the government, including the private sector and civil society.

Source: [Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index \(BTI\)](#)

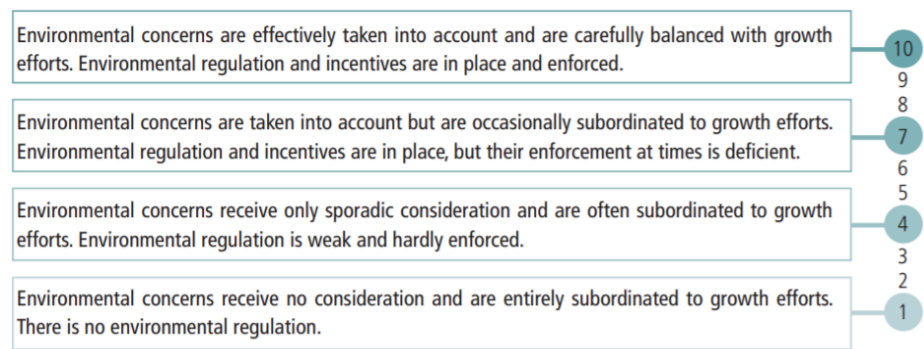
Methodology: Guided by a standardized codebook, country experts score their focus country on a 1-10 scale based on the extent to which environmental concerns are effectively taken into account in economic growth policies and related public policies.²² Raters are asked to determine whether tax and energy policies take environmental goals and measures into account, as well as whether the government sets climate protection goals and incentives for environmentally sound consumption and investments to households and companies. The rating centers on the extent to which each country has struck an optimal, long-term balance between its economic growth and environmental policies, based on its unique

²² [BTI 2024 Codebook](#).

socioeconomic context, environmental landscape and risks, and natural resource endowments. Figure 3 summarizes the 1-10 Likert scale used in the Environmental Policy assessment.

The assessment is context-driven in that raters factor all relevant policies and issues in the subject country’s context that determine whether the country’s economic growth is balanced, environmentally sustainable, and future-oriented. BTI considers a wide range of environmental concerns, including but not limited to air and water pollution, water and waste management, deforestation, soil and coastal erosion, mining, electricity and clean energy, agricultural land and fertilizer use, biodiversity conservation, wildlife management, environmental tourism, and desertification. The extent to which a deeply ingrained awareness of the environment or nature in society exists is also factored in.

FIGURE 3. Environmental Policy Rating Scale



For this and all BTI indicators, each country’s score is determined sequentially by two country raters and is reviewed and confirmed through a regional and interregional calibration process. The first rater drafts a qualitative Environmental Policy country assessment report—drawing on relevant research, quantitative data, and other evidence—that is used as the basis for the first rater’s scores.²³ The second rater references available evidence and blindly reviews the first rater’s assessment report, submitting a second rating and incorporating adjustments into the qualitative country assessment. Regional coordinators then conduct an intra-regional review and calibration process to ensure consistency within and across scores. In a final step, the BTI global project team and regional coordinators convene to calibrate ratings across regions to reflect international differences and ensure global comparability.

The overall BTI evaluates whether and how developing countries are steering change toward democracy and a market economy. The BTI is organized into three pillars: (1) state of political transformation, (2) state of economic transformation, and (3) state of governance, specifically how effectively policymakers facilitate and steer development and transformation processes. The Environmental Policy indicator is

²³ Qualitative Environmental Policy analyses are available for each of the 137 countries worldwide covered in the [BTI Transformation Atlas 2024](#). To access the Environmental Policy analysis, select the “Countries” button at the top, then select “Economy” at top-middle, then select “Sustainability” at bottom-right, then select “Environmental Policy” at middle, then select “Read more...” at bottom-right.

one of two factors of “Sustainability,” which in turn is one of seven criteria used to assess the state of economic transformation in each developing economy. BTI is published every two years.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: Country progress depends on the sustainable use of natural resources and a relatively equitable sharing of the benefits derived from ecosystem goods and services. Environmental protection is sound economic policy, and one that promotes inclusive economic growth. Natural resource capital (such as fertile soil, clean air and water, forests, wildlife and fish, and renewable energy), as with physical, human, and social capital, is a critical input into an economy’s “production function.” Renewable natural capital constitutes a substantial proportion of wealth in low-income countries and is fundamental to protecting the health and well-being of billions of people. In many contexts, environmental assets are essential to the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, the foundation of a thriving travel and tourism industry, or the linchpin to the country’s long-term energy security outlook.

Healthy environmental systems contribute to meeting food, nutrition, and human health needs. The communities most dependent on ecosystem vitality are more likely to be the rural poor, those who rely directly on ecosystem resources for their food security and livelihoods, and those who are less likely to have social protection mechanisms that help ensure resilience to environmental disturbances. These communities are often most adversely impacted by irresponsible environmental governance and associated impacts. Subsistence and small-scale livelihood activities, such as agriculture and fishing, are especially reliant on responsible stewardship of environmental assets. Thriving, biodiverse ecosystems may also help reduce the cost of financial damage to human systems from weather events, climate-related events, and natural disasters.

The investments and technology needed to promote environmental stewardship also provide favorable economic spillovers toward a more dynamic economy. Promoting national climate plans and participating in international agreements on climate change mitigation serve the dual purpose of (1) reducing negative ecological, social, and economic effects at the national level and (2) meeting global responsibilities. Finally, sound natural resource management facilitates better relations among countries, and contributes to greater global stability and security.

6. Country Capacity Metrics

The capacity dimension gauges how far each country has come across the dimensions of political, social, and economic development, including the ability to work across these sectors. The framework includes four aspects of country capacity measured using ten metrics. **Government Effectiveness**, **Tax System Effectiveness**, and **Safety and Security** comprise government capacity. Civil society capacity is measured using the **Civil Society and Media Effectiveness** metric. Individual capacity is gauged using the **Poverty Rate**, **Education Quality**, and **Child Health**. The capacity of the economy is measured using **GDP Per Capita**, **Mobile Connectivity**, and **Export Sophistication**.

Government Capacity

1) Government Effectiveness

This indicator measures expert assessments and popular perceptions of the quality of public services, the competence of the civil service and its independence from political pressure, the quality of policy formulation and implementation (including the efficiency of revenue mobilization and budget management), and the credibility of the government's commitment to stated policies.

Source: [World Bank, Worldwide Governance Indicators](#)

Methodology: The Government Effectiveness index draws on nearly 50 indicators from 17 sources. Issue areas range from the quality of bureaucracy, public administration, and fiscal management; to coverage of and satisfaction with education, health, water, telecommunications, power, and transportation systems; to government policy and decision-making coherence, stability, and responsiveness.²⁴ The World Bank uses a statistical methodology known as an unobserved components model to re-scale and combine original data to calculate the aggregate index.

Sub-indicator data availability varies per country; some data sources (such as *Afrobarometer*, *Latinobarometer*, and the *Country Policy and Institutional Assessments* from both the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank) provide regional coverage only. Main sources include Economist Intelligence Unit, *Riskwire* and *Democracy Index*; World Economic Forum, *Global Competitiveness Report*; World Bank, *Country Policy and Institutional Assessments*; the French Government, *Institutional Profiles Database*; Gallup, *World Poll*; Bertelsmann Foundation, *Bertelsmann Transformation Index*; International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Rural Sector Performance Assessments*; the World Bank, *Business Enterprise Environment Survey*; the Global Insight, *Business Conditions and Risk Indicators*; and Political Risk Service, *International Country Risk Guide*.

²⁴ See the “Description of Methodology” section on the World Bank’s [Worldwide Governance Indicators website](#) for a full list of individual indicators that comprise Government Effectiveness.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: The effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity of government in the formulation and implementation of sound policy, and in the provision of services provided by a meritocratic civil service are foundational to a country's long-term development. An effective and credible government facilitates capacity building in other country domains, namely in the capacity of civil society, citizen capacity (and building human capital), and private sector capacity (in part through responsible administration of a business-friendly regulatory framework). Moreover, without adequate government capacity, government commitment to development will be ineffective, inadequately, or inconsistently applied, and likely short-lived. Government capacity and government commitment are mutually reinforcing.

2) Tax System Effectiveness

This metric is the ratio between a country's actual tax collection levels and the estimated level of tax revenue that a country could achieve, given its macroeconomic, demographic, and institutional features.

Source: [USAID, Collecting Taxes Database, Tax Effort Indicator](#)

Methodology: The Tax System Effectiveness metric—referred to as the “Tax Effort” indicator in the USAID Collecting Taxes Database (CTD)—measures how much tax revenue a country collected (as a percentage of GDP) relative to its expected tax capacity. A tax effort of 1.0 indicates that a country has achieved its full tax capacity. A tax effort below 1.0 indicates that a country is collecting less than its predicted capacity. While the CTD is maintained by a USAID implementing partner, it is based on a methodology implemented in an International Monetary Fund (IMF) working paper and other leading technical literature, and the model draws on publicly available statistical information.²⁵

A country's tax capacity provides a benchmark for the maximum amount of tax revenue (as a percentage of GDP) that could be collected, given different country characteristics. This benchmark takes into account a country's specific macroeconomic (agriculture value added, GDP per capita), demographic (age dependency ratio), and institutional features (trade openness, control of corruption). Tax capacity, and therefore tax effort, were not calculated for major outliers²⁶ nor for countries that fall in the IMF's “Export Earnings: Fuel” category²⁷ due to inconsistent inclusion of resource revenues in the tax as a percentage of GDP values for resource rich countries.

A low tax effort can be the result of technical efficiency gaps within a government to strike optimal tax laws and targets, or capacity limitations in administering the collection of taxes adequately and efficiently. It is also noteworthy that, in some contexts, a low tax effort could be the result of factors unrelated to

²⁵ Janet Stotsky and Asegedech WoldeMariam (1997).

²⁶ In the latest release of the CTD, the only outlier excluded from the tax capacity calculation was Lesotho.

²⁷ As defined by the IMF, “Export Earnings: Fuel” category includes countries whose oil exports comprise over 50 percent of their total exports. The countries classified as “Export Earnings: Fuel” include: Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, and Yemen.

government capacity, including the commitment of the government to maintain consistently applied and well-structured tax systems, or the result of the broader society's cultural norms around tax compliance.

Tax capacity is estimated using the Stochastic Frontier Approach (SFA).²⁸ The underlying data are available from the following sources: Tax as a percentage of GDP is drawn from the IMF, World Revenue Longitudinal Data (WoRLD) database or International Centre for Tax and Development (ICTD), Government Revenue Database.²⁹ Tax as a percentage of GDP captures all tax revenue, but excludes other revenues, such as user charges, investment income, and social security contributions.³⁰ GDP per capita, in current U.S. dollars is drawn from the World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI) Dataset. Agriculture Value Added (% of GDP), Age Dependency Ratio (ratio of people younger than 15 and older than 64 to the working age population aged 15 to 64), and Trade Openness (exports plus imports as a percentage of GDP) are also drawn from WDI. The Control of Corruption index is drawn from the World Bank, Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) Dataset.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: Increasing a government's capacity to effectively generate and mobilize resources is a core part of its efforts to resource the institutional foundations, socioeconomic conditions, and physical infrastructure needed for development. A country can have a wealthy and productive economy, engaged and productive citizens, and a government committed to sensible market-friendly policies, and yet without government capacity to adequately mobilize and use domestic resources to protect existing capacities and invest in future economic and social needs, meaningful and sustainable progress will not be realized.

3) Safety and Security

The Internal Peace measure, one component of the Institute for Economics and Peace's Global Peace Index (GPI), assesses the extent to which societies are free from internal conflict, crime and criminality, political instability and political terror, arms proliferation, and terrorism.

Source: [Institute for Economics and Peace, GPI, Internal Peace Scores](#)

Methodology: IEP's Internal Peace measure draws on 14 indicators sourced from various third-party sources, as listed in Figure 4 below with each indicator's weighting in the overall Safety and Security metric scores listed in parentheses).

²⁸ The methodology for estimating tax capacity follows [Ricardo Fenochietto and Carola Pessino \(2013\)](#) on the use of Stochastic Frontier Approach (SFA), with explanatory variables following Le, Tuan Minh; Moreno-Dodson, Blanca; Bayraktar, Nihal (2012); and technical efficiency following Battese and Coelli (1992). Due to the use of a SFA model, there may be a small difference between the estimated tax efforts generated by the model and calculated tax efforts using actual tax-to-GDP ratios. This is because estimates of tax capacity are weighted averages for each country with idiosyncratic errors in addition to the inefficiency in revenue collections. The difference may be substantial in some cases; as such, users are also encouraged to examine real tax-to-GDP ratio trends in conjunction with tax effort scores to attain a more comprehensive picture of tax system effectiveness in each country.

²⁹ ICTD data are used for the following countries because they are missing WoRLD data: Cuba, Mexico, Vietnam, and West Bank and Gaza.

³⁰ Tax revenue is calculated based on the IMF's 2001 Government Finance Statistics Manual framework.

FIGURE 4. IEP Internal Peace Indicators, Weighting, and Sources

Indicator (Weight)	Description and Source
Perceptions of Criminality (6.3%)	This indicator uses a question from the Gallup World Poll as the basis for perceptions of criminality: “Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live?” IEP calculates the score based on the percentage of people who answer ‘no’ to this question.
Security Officers and Police Rate (6.3%)	Calculated based on the number of internal security officers and police per 100,000 people. Sourced from the UNODC Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, this indicator refers to the civil police force, not to national guards and local militia.
Homicide Rate (8.4%)	Calculated as the number of intentional homicides per 100,000 population, this indicator comes from the UNODC Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems.
Incarceration Rate (6.3%)	Calculated as the prison population rate per 100,000 population, as reported by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research. In most cases, the original source is the national prison administration. Estimates may not be fully comparable across countries, due to varying policies regarding pre-trial detainees, juveniles, psychiatrically ill offenders, and offenders being detained for treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction.
Ease of Access to Small Arms and Light Weapons (6.3%)	Qualitative assessment of the accessibility of small arms and light weapons, ranked from 1-5 (very limited access to very easy access) by the EIU’s Country Analysis team annually.
Intensity of Organized Internal Conflict (10.5%)	Qualitative assessment of the intensity of conflicts within the country, ranked from 1-5 (no conflict to most severe conflict) by EIU’s Country Analysis team annually.
Violent Demonstrations (6.3%)	Factors the number and severity of violent demonstrations within a country in a given year. Four different event types tracked by ACLED are factored, weighted more heavily for more severe event types (such as “mob violence”), and less heavily for less severe events (such as “protest with intervention”). The indicator includes not only violent protests, but initially peaceful protests that were repressed violently by security forces. For each event type, the number of incidents and fatalities are calculated, with the latter weighted more heavily. Where ACLED data are unavailable, Cross National Time Series conflict data was used for imputation.
Level of Violent Crime (8.4%)	Qualitative assessment of the likelihood of violent crime, ranked from 1 to 5 (very low to very high) by EIU’s Country Analysis team. Scores are derived from the question: “Is violent crime likely to pose a significant problem for the government and/or business over the next 2 years?”
Political Instability (8.4%)	Qualitative assessment of political instability, ranked from 0 to 100 (very low to very high instability) by EIU’s Country Analysis team. EIU considers levels of social unrest; the clarity and acceptance of constitutional mechanisms for the orderly transfer of power; likelihood that an opposition party or group will come to power and cause a significant deterioration in business operating conditions; excessiveness of executive authority; and risk that international tensions will negatively affect the economy and/or polity. The EI assessment is conducted quarterly.
Political Terror (8.4%)	The PTS measures levels of political violence and terror that a country experiences in a given year based on a 5-level “terror scale” originally developed by Freedom House, and is maintained by an academic coalition. Data used in compiling this index are sourced from two reports: Amnesty International yearly country reports and the U.S. Department of State’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. The PTS averages assessments from the two sources.

Weapons Imports (4.2%)	Calculated as the total volume of major conventional weapons transfers (i.e. to each country as import recipients) per 100,000 population for the four most recent years of available data. Raw data derived from the SIPRI Arms Transfer Database, which covers all international sales and gifts of conventional weapons, and the technology needed for producing them, including aircraft, armored vehicles, artillery, radar systems, missiles, ships, and engines. Volume is measured using SIPRI's trend-indicator value, effectively a harmonized military capability price index.
Impact of Terrorism (4.2%)	Derived using IEP's GTI, tracking the societal impact of terrorism, defined as <i>"intentional acts of violence or threat of violence by a non-state actor;"</i> using a comprehensive, event-based Terrorism Tracker. The GTI tracks four terrorism variables annually: total event incidence, total fatalities, total injuries, and the approximate value of property damage. The GTI captures the direct physical effects in any given year, but also factors residual effects of terrorism on psychological health and fear by factoring damage inflicted in previous years.
Deaths from Organized Internal Conflict (10.5%)	Total number of conflict-related deaths, as defined by the UCDP in its Georeferenced Event Dataset. Conflict is defined as <i>"a contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in a year."</i>
Internal Conflicts Fought (5.4%)	Number and duration of all conflicts that have occurred in each country's legal boundaries within the past five years. Raw data is sourced from UCDP's Battle-Related Deaths Dataset, Non-State Conflict Dataset, and One-Sided Violence Dataset. Includes interstate, internal/civil, internationalized internal, one-sided, and non-state conflict. For any year in the past five years, conflicts resulting in 1,000+ battle-related deaths receive a score of '1', while conflicts resulting in between 25-999 deaths receive a score of '0.25'. Each country's score is determined by adding up these conflict incidence scores over the past five years.

Legend:

ACLED - Armed Conflict Location and Event Database

EIU - Economic Intelligence Unit

ICPR - Institute for Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck, University of London

IEP - Institute for Economics and Peace

GTI - Global Terrorism Index

PTS - Political Terror Scale

SIPRI - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

UCDP - Uppsala Conflict Data Program

UNODC - U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime

Each underlying indicator is graded on a scale of 1-5, and assigned weights by an independent panel of experts, which indicates the relative importance of the indicator in question to global peace. The weights are reviewed by the advisory panel prior to the compilation of each edition of the GPI every year.

Thematically, approximately 37% of the weighting of the Internal Peace score is based on measurements of conflict, terrorism, and violent demonstration incidence and severity, while 23% is based on perceived or actual levels of homicides and other violent crimes, 17% is based on measurements of political stability and terror, and 10% is based on measurements of weapons and arms proliferation, with the remainder of the index centered on police personnel and incarceration rates.

All GPI index and indicator scores are normalized onto a 1-5 scale, where a '5.0' is the least peaceful condition possible and a '1.0' is the most peaceful condition possible.

The Internal Peace measure constitutes 60% of the weighting of IEP's overall GPI, the other 40% being centered on measures of External Peacefulness. Overall GPI scores are also disaggregated across three topical pillars: Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict, Societal Safety and Security, and

Militarization. IEP also produces a separate Positive Peace Index which gauges the extent to which the attitudes, institutions, and structures within a country create and maintain a peaceful society.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: A capable government must possess a monopoly on violence, enforced through security and judicial systems that protect their citizens. Research shows that crime and organized political violence, such as coups or civil war, hinder economic growth. Vicious conflict cycles exacerbate poverty, slow economic growth, destabilize weak institutions, and lead to violent relapse. Conflict erodes the social capital of trust and cooperation upon which strong political and economic systems depend. Exposure to violence also hurts those who participate in armed groups, as they often must overcome an educational deficit, social stigma, and psychological distress that can leave them economically and socially marginalized.

A safe and secure environment is a prerequisite to a well-functioning economy and democracy and the meaningful participation of the citizenry therein. In the absence of such an environment (and a government able to maintain such an environment), economic and social well-being are jeopardized. Without national security and a stable social environment, productive investments in the economy and in its citizens (and human capital) will fail or not even occur. When citizens worry about their personal safety or when their access to food or shelter is precarious, they are not able to dedicate their attention and resources to bettering their household's socioeconomic status. Many people emigrate or flee as a matter of necessity. When businesses worry about political instability and generalized criminality, they are less confident to establish operations or make investments in local economies. In the midst of instability, local stakeholders cannot coalesce around long-term economic and social development plans, as all dimensions of country capacity will tend to erode. At best, development will be put on hold.

Civil Society Capacity

1) Civil Society and Media Effectiveness

This composite index measures the range of actions and mechanisms that civil society organizations (CSOs) and independent media use to hold governments accountable. It includes the extent to which citizens are engaged in public and policy deliberations and the extent to which they participate in CSOs. It includes the extent to which print and broadcast media cover politics impartially, hold a range of perspectives and are able and willing to provide a dissenting voice to the government. It also measures the extent to which the government attempts to censor media, harass journalists, oppress CSOs, and ration or otherwise control internet access. It also gauges freedom of discussion and expression, namely the extent to which men and women are free to openly discuss political issues in private homes and public spaces.

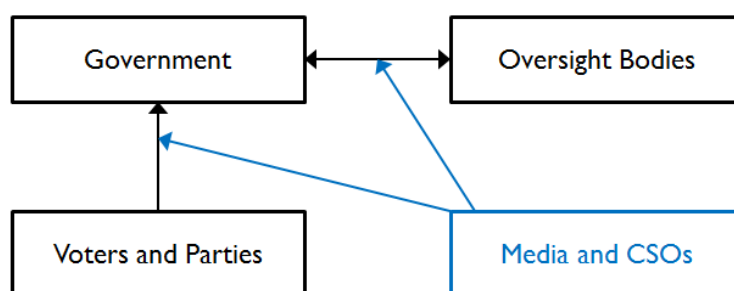
Source: [Varieties of Democracy \(V-Dem\) project](#), V-Dem Institute of the University of Gothenburg

Methodology: The *Civil Society and Media Effectiveness* index, formally referred to by V-Dem as *Diagonal Accountability Index*, comprises 14 indicators organized around four primary “nodes”:

1. Seven indicators focused on media freedom and capacity (Media Bias, Print/Broadcast Media Critical, Print/Broadcast Media Perspectives, Government Censorship Effort-Media, Harassment of Journalists, Media Self-Censorship, and Internet Censorship);
2. Three indicators tracking CSOs’ abilities to operate freely and/or the extent to which citizens are engaged in public deliberations (CSO Entry and Exit, CSO Repression, and CSO Participatory Environment);
3. Three indicators pertaining to freedom of discussion and expression (Freedom of Discussion for Men, Freedom of Discussion for Women, and Freedom of Academic and Cultural Expression); and
4. One indicator centering on engaged society, specifically the breadth and depth of public deliberations when important policy changes are under consideration.

The *Diagonal Accountability Index* is one of three V-Dem indices gauging the accountability of or constraints on the government’s use of political power.³¹ *Vertical Accountability* refers to the ability of citizens to hold governments accountable through elections and political parties. *Horizontal Accountability* focuses on the capacity of government institutions to hold each other accountable, most notably the legislatures and the judiciary in overseeing the executive branch of government. *Diagonal Accountability*, or the oversight and capacity of civil society organizations and media, contributes to constraining government’s political power both directly and indirectly, the latter by providing a forum and a medium for *Vertical* and *Horizontal Accountability* to be more effective.³²

Figure 5: Diagonal Accountability by Media and CSOs



³¹ *Diagonal Accountability Index* raw data can be accessed by viewing code ‘v2x_diagacc_osp’ in V-Dem’s v14 dataset ‘Country-Year: V-Dem Full + Others’.

³² For elaboration on the Diagonal Accountability Index, including sub-indicator details and aggregation techniques used, see Anna Luhrmann, Kyle Marquardt and Valeriya Mechkova, [Constraining Governments: New Indices of Vertical, Horizontal and Diagonal Accountability](#), V-Dem Institute, *Working Paper Series 2017:46* (April 2017).

Indicators take the form of nominal (classifications, texts, dates), ordinal (e.g., Likert-style scales), or interval scales. Some refer to de jure aspects of a polity—rules that statute or constitutional law stipulate. Others refer to de facto aspects of a polity—the way things are in practice. Factual indicators are coded by members of the V-Dem team. Evaluative indicators are based on multiple ratings provided by approximately 4,000 country experts worldwide who respond to V-Dem’s questionnaire.³³ V-Dem recruits experts based on their academic or other credentials as field experts in the area for which they code. Typically, five or more independent experts respond to each question for each country and year.

The Diagonal Accountability Index results depicted on the Country Roadmaps do not show the confidence intervals associated with these V-Dem results. V-Dem’s confidence intervals—representing the level of confidence in the reliability of the estimates—may vary variable by variable and country by country, as they are determined based on the degree to which country raters disagree and/or where little information is available because few raters have contributed assessments. Please consult the source V-Dem Dataset Version 14 or V-Dem’s Online Graphing feature to view the confidence intervals associated with this metric’s results for your country(s) of interest.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: A strong civil society, engaged citizens, and a capable free media are key to good governance. As noted by Luhrmann et al., diagonal accountability mechanisms, by empowering citizens and actively involving them in the monitoring of government performance, enhance government transparency, and exert sanction power via “naming and shaming,” thus potentially serving as powerful tools to ensure that government agencies serve the interest of the people.³⁴ In fact, empirical analysis conducted by Luhrmann et al. shows that vertical, horizontal, and diagonal accountability are all strongly correlated with better development outcomes, and in particular higher life expectancy, literacy, and school enrollment rates, and lower mortality of children under the age of five. Enhanced capacity and effectiveness of civil society and free media go hand-in-hand with greater country capacity in other areas, including human capital, government capacity, and economic capacity.

Individual Capacity

1) Poverty Rate (\$6.85/Day)

This metric measures the percentage of a country’s population living on less than \$6.85 a day, standardized across countries using 2017 purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates.

Source: [World Bank, Poverty and Inequality Platform](#)

Methodology: The World Bank measures absolute poverty rates at different thresholds, ranging from less than \$2.15 a day to less than \$6.85 per day. USAID’s Country Roadmap uses the expansive,

³³ V-Dem’s [Methodology Report](#) (Version 14, March 2024) provides elaboration of its general conceptual scheme, data collection methods and measurement considerations.

³⁴ *Constraining Governments*, April 2017, p. 24.

ambitious poverty line (\$6.85 per day, in purchasing power parity terms) because sustainable country progress will not be realized if household poverty, even relatively mild poverty, remains widespread, or in other words, if development gains are not broad-based. This higher threshold is relevant across the full range of developing countries, from low-income to upper middle-income countries. This poverty rate indicator is a broad gauge of the spread of shared prosperity across populations and household resilience to withstand livelihood shocks and engage meaningfully and productively in society.

World Bank poverty estimates may be based on household income or consumption, depending on the country and year. Income-based poverty estimates reflect the percentage of a country's population *earning* less than the poverty line in daily income, whereas the consumption-based poverty estimates reflect the percentage of a country's population *spending or consuming* less than the poverty line amount each day. The availability of income- and consumption-based poverty estimates varies by country and, at times, by year within a given country. For example, a country's most recent poverty estimate may be income-based whereas all previous poverty estimates were consumption-based, or the World Bank may calculate both an income-based and a consumption-based poverty estimate for the same country in the same year. The Roadmaps reflect whichever type of poverty estimate is most recently available for each country from 2012-2023. If both income- and consumption-based poverty estimates are available in the latest year, the Roadmaps use the type most frequently available for the country between 2012-2023. If both types are equally prevalent over time, the consumption-based estimate is used. Please refer to the World Bank's *Poverty and Inequality Platform* to view which poverty estimates are available for each country.

To compare poverty rates across countries, PPP exchange rates are used because they more accurately reflect the difference in the prices of goods and services, both traded and non-traded, across countries than do market exchange rates, the latter reflecting only purchasing power over internationally traded goods. The most recent World Bank estimates combine PPP exchange rates for household consumption across 44 expenditure categories from the 2017 International Comparison Program, with data from 176 countries.

Poverty estimates presented in the USAID Country Roadmaps are inverted, so that higher poverty rates lead to lower, less favorable Roadmap estimates closer to 0.0 and lower poverty rates lead to higher, more favorable estimates closer to 1.0. Poverty estimates draw on World Bank poverty estimates for 2023 or the latest year available from 2012 onward. Approximately one-fifth of low- and middle-income countries do not have poverty data for the entire period.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: At the public institutional level, widespread poverty drains limited resources and the capacity for public goods provision. At the household level, impoverished individuals are locked into subsistence activities and do not have the ability to invest in or plan for bettering their long-term economic outlook through educational attainment or otherwise. While mitigating poverty is an important goal in itself, lower poverty rates also lead to more productive citizens in the economy and more engaged citizens in the political sphere.

2) Education Quality

This metric gauges both the quality of education—using harmonized scores across major international student achievement testing—and the quantity of schooling received—using age-specific enrollment rates—to provide a comparative evaluation of the relative performance of educational systems worldwide.

Source: [World Bank, Human Capital Index \(HCI\), Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling Indicator](#)

Methodology: The Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling (LAYS) indicator includes two components:

1. **Expected Years of Schooling** is calculated as the sum of age-specific enrollment rates between ages 4 and 17. These age-specific enrollment rates are approximated using available data on repetition-adjusted pre-primary, primary, lower-secondary, and upper-secondary school enrollment rates. This indicator represents the expected years of schooling a child born today can reasonably expect to receive by age 18. The 2020 LAYS indicator reflects enrollment data up to 2019, based on the February 2020 update to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's Institute for Statistics (UIS), supplemented by inputs from World Bank specialists and country teams. If 2019 enrollment data are not available, the most recent enrollment rate within 10 years is carried forward. Approximately 92% of enrollment data is from 2015 or later.
2. **Harmonized Test Scores** from major international and regional student achievement testing programs are used by the World Bank to gauge the learning outcomes achieved by educational systems among their student populations, a key marker of the quality of those systems. Proficiency levels are recorded on a harmonized Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)-equivalent unit scale, where 300 is minimal attainment and 625 is advanced attainment. The following testing programs are included: TIMSS, PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study), PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment), SACMEQ (Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality), PASEC (Program of Analysis of Education Systems), LLECE (Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education), (PILNA) Pacific Island Learning and Numeracy Assessment, and EGRA (Early Grade Reading Assessments). The most recent testing results as of 2019 are used for each country. Approximately 95% of testing data used is derived from testing administered in 2010 or later. For each country, the World Bank takes a simple average of demonstrated proficiency using all available reading, science, and mathematics testing results across all primary and secondary grade levels to derive the overall Harmonized Test Score used in the Human Capital Index.³⁵

³⁵ For more information on the calculation of the Harmonized Test Score and Expected Years of Schooling datasets, please refer to Angrist, et. al., (2021), [Measuring human capital using global learning data](#); Filmer, et al., (2020), [Learning-adjusted years of schooling \(LAYS\): defining a new macro measure of education](#); and Kraay (2019) [The World Bank Human Capital Index: A guide](#).

Combined, LAYS is calculated as expected years of schooling multiplied by the ratio of each country's harmonized test score to a benchmark score representing advanced attainment. The FY 2025 Country Roadmaps draw on the LAYS results reported in the World Bank's 2020 HCI.

The year of measurement varies widely by country for both enrollment rates (2010-2019) and testing (2000-2019), and also varies between each component (80% of countries' LAYS scores are calculated based on enrollment and testing data from different years). Users are encouraged to reference the [country-specific HCI briefs and data files](#) for more details on the years of measurement used in their country of interest.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: Advancing the quality of the educational system promotes household- and country-level progress. Better education is linked to economic and social gains at the household level, including more and better employment, lower fertility rates, and better health, including lower child mortality rates. Household gains at the micro level translate to systemic gains at the macro economy-wide level, including enhanced labor productivity and competitiveness, greater participation and engagement among citizens in the political system, and stronger economic growth. Education enables all other aspects of development.

3) Child Health

This metric measures three basic, major health challenges in the developing world: child mortality rates and two conditions that disproportionately affect children, namely access to at least basic sanitation facilities and access to at least basic water sources. The *Child Health* index is a proxy for the capacity of a country's healthcare system to adequately address health challenges and improve health outcomes among its population.

Source: [Center for International Earth Science Information Network \(CIESIN\), Columbia University. 2023. Natural Resource Protection and Child Health Indicators, 2023 Release. Palisades, NY: CIESIN.](#) Accessed July 15, 2024.

Methodology: The *Child Health* indicator is calculated as the average of three equally weighted indicators:

1. **Child Mortality Rate**, which is the probability of a child dying between the age of one and his or her fifth birthday;³⁶
2. **Access to At Least Basic Water Sources**, which measures the percentage of the population with access to at least 20 liters of water per person per day from an improved source

³⁶ The Child Mortality Rate indicator does not include infant mortality, which tends to be driven by an absence of prenatal care or reproductive health services as opposed to environmental conditions.

(household connections, public standpipes, boreholes, protected dug wells, protected springs, and rainwater collection) with water collection times less than 30 minutes per round trip; and

3. **Access to At Least Basic Sanitation Facilities**, which measures the percentage of the population with access to facilities that hygienically separate excreta from human, animal, and insect contact. Facilities such as sewers or septic tanks, pour-flush latrines, simple pit, or ventilated improved pit latrines, and composting toilets are considered improved sources, provided that they are not shared.

Original data sources include the U.N. Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (for child mortality rates and the U.N. World Health Organization/U.N. Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) for estimates of access to water sources and sanitation facilities. The underlying source indicators employ a smooth trend curve approach to estimating child mortality and access to at least basic water sources and sanitation facilities, as these estimates are based on relatively infrequent survey, census, and vital registration data. In some cases, the original sources average estimates derived from several disparate data sources for individual countries. This approach is robust and appropriate for gauging long-term trends, but does not facilitate consistent, reliable year-on-year trends analysis across countries. As a result, longitudinal Child Health estimates are excluded from the Country Roadmap's Trend Data Feature.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: Health is a direct source of human welfare and productivity, and thus a prerequisite for sustained well-being. Citizen capacity and workforce productivity depend on a viable, supportive, and equitable health care system. Healthy workers lose less time from work and are more productive when working. Good health also allows people to participate fully in their families, communities, and political life. A dysfunctional and/or unevenly distributed health care system, which would be reflected in part in high child mortality rates and poor access to water and sanitation, impedes human capital development and participation in society, which in turn impedes overall development.

Similarly, improving child health leads to a more productive workforce, setting in motion a host of positive dynamics immediately and in the future. Improved child health and nutritional status positively affect physical and cognitive development, enhance the ability of children to attend school and learn, and ultimately increase the likelihood of economic success as an adult. Better health outcomes increase household productivity and economic well-being in the immediate term, while more positive health outlooks improve households' ability and incentives to save and invest, helping create the basis for greater productivity for the next generation workforce. Improving access to water and sanitation typically benefits the most vulnerable, marginalized groups (i.e., children, women, the disabled, and the poorest households in the economy). Hence, improvement in this composite Child Health metric also signals advances in inclusive development.

Capacity of the Economy

1) GDP Per Capita (PPP)

This metric measures the gross value added by all resident producers in an economy divided by the country's population. It is a measure of the flow of resources available to households, firms, and the government to finance development.

Source: [World Bank, World Development Indicators and International Comparison Program databases](#)

Methodology: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is the sum of gross value added by all resident (i.e., domestic) producers in the economy, plus any product taxes, minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products, divided by the population. It is calculated without deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are in constant international dollars based on the 2021 International Comparison Program (ICP) round; i.e., made comparable across countries by converting GDP to international dollars using purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: GDP per capita is a standard measure of an economy's wealth and of the capacity of households and firms to finance a country's development. Moreover, higher GDP per capita corresponds to stronger government capacity (partly as a result of greater availability of domestic resources, such as domestic investment and tax revenues), of greater citizen capacity (with higher household incomes), and of greater capacity on the part of civil society (as more funding likely becomes available to CSOs).

2) Mobile Connectivity

The Mobile Connectivity Index measures the key enablers of mobile internet connectivity, including the availability of high-performance mobile internet infrastructure, the affordability of mobile services and devices, consumer readiness in terms of internet skills and awareness, and the accessibility and relevance of secure online content and internet services for local populations.

Source: The GSM Association (GSMA), [Mobile Connectivity Index \(MCI\), 2024](#).

Methodology: The MCI comprises four core Enablers, 11 dimensions, and 32 underlying sub-indicators. Figure 6 provides each of the four Enablers' definitions, dimensions, sub-indicators, weighted by the overall MCI scores. Each Enabler is equally weighted (25%) in the calculation of the overall MCI, while the weighting of individual dimensions and input indicators vary (weightings for each dimension and indicator in overall Enabler estimates are listed in parentheses in Figure 6).

Figure 6: Four Enablers of Mobile Connectivity and Sub-Indicators

Enabler	Dimension <i>(Weight in Overall MCI)</i>	Indicators <i>(Weight in Overall MCI, Source)</i>
Infrastructure <i>Availability of high-performance mobile internet network coverage</i>	Network Coverage (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2G population coverage (1%, ITU World Indicators) • 3G population coverage (4%, GSMA intelligence) • 4G population coverage (4%, GSMA intelligence) • 5G population coverage (1%, GSMA intelligence)
	Network Performance (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile download speeds (3.33%, Ookla Speedtest Intelligence) • Mobile upload speeds (3.33%, Ookla Speedtest Intelligence) • Mobile latencies (3.33%, Ookla Speedtest Intelligence)
	Spectrum (5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectrum assigned in bands below 1 GHz (2.5%, GSMA Intelligence) • Spectrum assigned in bands between 1-3 GHz (1.5%, GSMA Intelligence) • Spectrum assigned in bands between 3-6 GHz (0.75%, GSMA Intelligence) • Spectrum assigned in mmWave bands (.25%, GSMA Intelligence)
Affordability <i>Availability of mobile services and devices at price points that reflect the level of income across a national population</i>	Mobile Data Affordability (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability of entry basket (2.5%, Tarifica) • Affordability of higher basket (2.5%, Tarifica) • Affordability of entry basket for poorest 40% (2.5%, Tarifica) • Affordability of higher basket for poorest 40% (2.5%, Tarifica)
	Handset Affordability (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device affordability (5%, Tarifica) • Device affordability for poorest 40% (5%, Tarifica)
	Taxation (5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of taxes on mobile data (1.66%, GSMA Intelligence) • Cost of taxes on handsets (1.66%, GSMA Intelligence) • Cost of sector-specific taxes on mobile data (1.66%, GSMA Intelligence)
Consumer Readiness <i>Citizen awareness and skills needed to value and use the internet</i>	Basic Skills (8.33%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult literacy rate (4.165%, UN and UNESCO) • School life expectancy (4.165%, UN)
	Gender Equality (8.33%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender gap in mobile ownership (4.165%, GSMA Intelligence and Gallup) • Gender gap in mobile internet use (4.165%, GSMA Intelligence, Gallup, DataReportal)
	Mobile Ownership (8.33%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penetration of mobile users (8.33%, GSMA Intelligence)
Content and Services <i>Availability of secure online content and services accessible and relevant to the local population</i>	Local Relevance (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top-level domains per person (4%, ZookNIC) • E-government score (2%, UN) • Mobile social media penetration (4%, DataReportal) • Locally developed apps per person (4%, Appfigures) • Digital language support (4%, Derivation) • Language accessibility of top ranked apps (2%, Appfigures, Ethnologue, and GSMA Intelligence)

	Online Security (5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global cybersecurity index (5%, ITU)
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The GSMA calculates overall MCI scores only for countries with available data for at least 75% of indicators overall and at least 50% of indicators within each of the four Enablers. Prior to normalization, the GSMA applies several transformations to raw data, including: (1) removing extreme outliers through winsorization, (2) applying a logarithmic transformation to highly skewed indicators to factor improvements at less advanced stages of connectivity more substantially than improvements of the same magnitude at the more advanced stages of connectivity, (3) applying linear interpolation and extrapolation to fill missing values, where possible, and (4) in cases where interpolation and extrapolation are impossible, imputes missing values based on countries' results for other relevant variables (via an expectation-maximization technique using a bootstrapping (EMB) multiple imputation algorithm). Data is normalized to a 0-100 scale using a standard min-max normalization technique.

While mobile connectivity is particularly relevant in low- and middle-income contexts, the MCI does not capture uptake of broader ICT enabling infrastructure, such as fiber-optic internet, internet exchange points, and electricity access. Furthermore, the MCI uses traditional skills variables, such as literacy and expected years of schooling, in lieu of assessment of digital skills, for which cross-country comparable data is currently unavailable. Lastly, MCI indicators measuring the availability of mobile-specific content focus primarily on smartphone applications due to the lack of cross-country comparable data on other types of mobile content.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: Mobile connectivity, and broader information and communication technologies (ICTs), are essential components in an economy's infrastructure, and essential elements of maintaining and building economic capacity. An advanced and widely used digital infrastructure provides an essential enabling environment from which to innovate and compete domestically and internationally. Mobile internet and other ICTs facilitate commerce in part by making electronic commerce possible. Such technologies increase the government's capacity by increasing government effectiveness, efficiency, responsiveness, and transparency with the advent and growth of e-government services, such as electronic tax filing and online healthcare services. The COVID-19 pandemic starkly demonstrated that widely available and affordable internet infrastructure also create learning, training, and advocacy opportunities, thus enhancing human capital and citizen capacity. Digital infrastructure can be a powerful tool for civil society organizations to advocate, network, and mobilize in support of issues of common concern more widely and effectively.

For individuals in low- and middle-income country contexts, mobile technologies often represent the only practical method for accessing the internet. Despite substantial connectivity gains in recent years, 48% of people in these contexts still did not possess mobile internet connectivity as of 2022, compared to only 15% of people in high-income countries, according to the GSMA. In least developed countries, only 25% of people enjoyed mobile connectivity in 2022. Growth in mobile internet adoption drives

digital inclusion, which in turn, drives broader forms of societal inclusion. Widespread connectivity affords marginalized populations access to new information and resources that can foster their economic and social development. Mobile communications have a particularly important impact in rural areas and in less developed areas and have become key inclusive development tools.

3) Export Sophistication

This metric measures the diversity of exports a country produces and the ubiquity of those exports, or the number of countries able to produce them (and those countries' complexity). It gauges the amount of productive knowledge each society holds as expressed in the products it makes. Diversity and ubiquity of exports are, respectively, approximations of the variety of capabilities and productive know-how available overall in each economy, which in turn, are determinants of future economic growth.

Source: [Center for International Development at Harvard University, Atlas of Economic Complexity](#)

Methodology: The Export Sophistication metric—formally referred to as the *Economic Complexity Index (ECI)*³⁷—estimates a country's economic complexity using the diversity and average ubiquity of a country's exported goods. The average ubiquity of exported products is calculated as the diversity of the countries that make those products.

“Diversity” is related to the number of products that a country competitively exports (i.e., the density of export links a country has in the global trade network). “Ubiquity” is related to the number of countries that produce the product that is produced by the subject country (i.e., the rarity of a product in the global export market). Ubiquitous products are more likely to require few capabilities, and less ubiquitous products are more likely to require a large variety of capabilities. High value-added goods, such as microchips and medical equipment, demonstrate low ubiquity, as only a small number of countries produce such goods. Low ubiquity can originate in either a product's scarcity (e.g., diamonds) or complexity (e.g., microchips); for any given country that exports rare products, the ECI model examines the diversity of other products that country exports to determine whether the exported rare product is likely a matter of scarcity or complexity, rewarding the latter in the calculation of overall ECI scores.

Harvard draws on U.N. Comtrade country-level trade data, at the SITC 4-digit level of product classification, accessible via the Atlas of Economic Complexity, to generate a Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) matrix connecting each country to the products in which the country has a comparative advantage. The RCA is a measure of whether a country is an exporter of a product, based on the relative advantage or disadvantage the country has in the export of that certain good. A country is an effective exporter of a product, and thus receives a high RCA value for that product, if it exports more than its “fair share,” or a share that is at least equal to the share of total world trade that the

³⁷ For further details on the calculations behind the ECI, see the [Atlas of Economic Complexity: Mapping Paths to Prosperity](#) for a full overview of the theory and methodology behind the Economic Complexity Index.

product represents, in the global marketplace. This RCA matrix is used to determine which export goods are factored for each country when calculating the diversity and ubiquity of that country's export sector. Each country's ECI value is derived by taking the average Product Complexity Index value of all export products for which the country has been identified by the RCA matrix to have a comparative advantage.

The Atlas relies on U.N. Comtrade international trade data to estimate ECI because such data is the only available that provides rich, detailed cross-country information linking countries to the products that they produce using standardized classifications. Due to limited, delayed, or inaccurate host government reporting of trade data to U.N. Comtrade in some cases, Harvard cross-checks worldwide importer and exporter reporting to identify inconsistent reporting practices, cleaning the raw data accordingly as inconsistencies are identified.³⁸ This allows for more reliable estimates of trade flows between countries; however, some countries reporting to U.N. Comtrade may not have ECI scores as a result.

While these international trade data provide rich insights into the sophistication of each economy, the approach does pose several limitations. Firstly, it examines exports, not overall economic production. Countries may be able to produce products domestically that they do not export (although those economies are not likely to produce those items efficiently if not exporting those items), and they may re-export products they did not produce (the ECI controls for the latter by requiring that countries export a fair share of the products the ECI connects them to). Secondly, the ECI model only factors goods exports and excludes services exports, whose reporting is not sufficiently available and reliable across countries. This is an important, yet inescapable drawback of the current state of international trade reporting, as services are becoming a rising share of international trade yet are not reported reliably. Finally, the data do not include information on non-tradable activities, an important part of the economic ecosystem that allows products and services to be made.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: Countries that are home to a diverse range of productive know-how, particularly complex specialized know-how, are able to produce a great diversity of sophisticated products that few other countries can make. The diversification and ubiquity of a country's export products are key markers that can help gauge the broader economy's overall production sophistication, as well as its resilience to external and domestic economic shocks.

Countries do not make all the products and services they use and need. They make the ones they can, using the knowledge embedded in their own people, organizations, networks, systems, and technology. Some goods, like medical imaging devices or jet engines, require large amounts of knowledge, and are the results of very large networks of people and organizations. By contrast, wood logs or coffee beans require much less knowledge, and the supply chain networks required to support these operations do

³⁸ This data cleaning technique is known as the *Bustos-Yildirim Method*.

not need to be as large. Complex economies have larger webs of interactions than more simple economies.

Thus, the Export Sophistication metric provides a strong insight into how the economic capacity of countries have evolved over time and how much each economy is likely to grow in the future. The complexity of a country's exports is not only a predictor of current income levels, this accumulation of capabilities and productive know-how are also key drivers of future economic growth. Countries whose economic complexity is greater than what we would expect, given their level of income, will tend to grow faster than those that are “too rich” for their current level of economic complexity. Economic complexity is not just a symptom or an expression of prosperity; it is a driver.

A strong export sector also provides some protection and resilience to external and domestic economic shocks. Economies that depend on few export products, particularly primary products, are more vulnerable, for example, to price changes in those products and/or fluctuations in demand. These fluctuations have adverse consequences on economic growth. Moreover, countries with energy export-dependent economies tend to have less political pressures for accountability and democracy to the extent that energy revenues and resources mitigate the need for taxing citizens. As documented in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Transition Report (2013), the relationship between economic development and democracy is considerably weaker in countries that rely heavily on the extraction of natural resources. Hence, export product sophistication is both an indication of an economy's capacity and level of development, as well as an important characteristic in an economy that facilitates economic growth, helps shield against economic downturns, and even contributes to a country's commitment to democracy.

7. Risk of External Debt Distress

This IMF-World Bank Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries (LIC DSF) provides a methodology for conducting standardized Debt Sustainability Analyses (DSAs) comparable across countries. Debt distress is defined by the inability of a country to service its debt. External debt, for the purposes of the risk rating, is in principle defined as externally held (i.e., debt held by non-residents of the country) public and publicly guaranteed (PPG) debt.³⁹

USAID includes the risk of external debt distress rating for informational purposes only; the rating does not factor into the Roadmap's Commitment or Capacity dimension estimates. The rating is not available for many middle-income countries, and recent ratings may not be available for all low-income countries. While not all Roadmap countries have recent debt risk ratings, the rating is intended to emphasize the importance of sound debt management policy, while underscoring the potential economic risks posed by unsustainable public sector borrowing from foreign creditors. Of course, these issues may be as

³⁹ For more details on the coverage of debt, see IMF/World Bank [Guidance Note on the Bank-Fund Debt Sustainability Framework for Low Income Countries](#), pgs. 13-14.

critically important for many countries without the IMF's external debt risk ratings; secondary data and analytics should be examined to better understand the risks of unsustainable debt management for a given country.

Source: [International Monetary Fund / World Bank, Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries](#)

Methodology: The risk of external debt distress is determined by the IMF and World Bank by comparing country performance using four external debt burden indicators compared against indicative GDP, export, and revenue thresholds over a projected time period, reflecting a country's debt carrying capacity. External debt, as defined above, is captured by four PPG external debt burden indicators:

- Present value of PPG external debt-to-GDP;
- Present value of PPG external debt-to-exports;
- PPG external debt service-to-exports; and
- PPG external debt service-to-revenue.

Because countries with different policy and institutional characteristics, macroeconomic performance, and buffers to absorb shocks, have different abilities to handle debt, the DSF classifies countries into one of three debt-carrying capacity categories—strong, medium, or weak—using a composite indicator calculated as a weighted average of the World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) overall score, the country's real GDP growth, remittances, international reserves, and world growth.⁴⁰ Countries designated with stronger debt carrying capacity have higher indicative thresholds, above which the risk of debt distress is considered elevated. This presumes that countries with strong macroeconomic performance and policy can handle greater debt accumulation.

An initial, quantitatively based external risk rating is assigned by comparing both baseline and stress scenario projections of the external debt burden indicators to the thresholds established by the country's debt carrying capacity. The results of this comparison are classified into four categories of external debt distress risk:

- **Low risk** of external debt distress if none of the PPG external debt burden indicators breach their respective thresholds under the baseline or the most extreme stress test.
- **Moderate risk** of external debt distress if none of the PPG external debt burden indicators breach their thresholds under the baseline, but at least one indicator breaches its threshold under the stress tests.

⁴⁰ For more details on the composite indicator, see IMF/World Bank, [Guidance Note on the Bank-Fund Debt Sustainability Framework for Low Income Countries](#), pg. 27.

- **High risk** of external debt distress if any of the PPG external debt burden indicators breaches its threshold under the baseline.
- **In debt distress** when there are ongoing or impending debt restructuring negotiation, or outstanding external arrears on debt, with qualifications.⁴¹

The final risk rating, which shares the same 4-category classification, can also incorporate IMF and World Bank staff judgment, to capture country-specific factors not fully accounted for in the model.

The data coverage of the public sector should be near-complete but can vary across countries due to data limitations and country-specific debt vulnerabilities associated with the broader public sector.⁴² The Roadmap risk rating is included for countries for which a DSA was completed in January 2022 or later⁴³ to ensure timeliness and improve rating validity.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: The ability of a country to sustainably manage its public sector debt is a key aspect of its development planning. Governments and lenders should clearly weigh the long-term economic implications of high public sector debt burdens, especially when the debt is held by foreign entities. Lower income countries have often struggled with large external debts, and the DSF is designed to help guide countries and donors in mobilizing the financing for lower income countries' development needs, while reducing the chances of an excessive build-up of debt in the future.

Debt sustainability is as critical as ever in the wake of the compounding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, global supply chain disruptions, a cost-of-living crisis, and tightening global financial conditions, collectively triggering a dual pressure of decreased government revenues as a result of economic contraction and increased expenditure needs as countries seek to mitigate the health, economic, and social effects of the pandemic and inflation. As DSA ratings provided in the FY 2025 Country Roadmaps were prepared in January 2022 or later, these ratings likely capture any prolonged strain of the pandemic on public debt sustainability in covered countries.

8. Fragility

The Fund for Peace (FFP) annually produces the Fragile States Index (FSI), an assessment of fragility across 179 countries in terms of the risk of the pressures facing a state overwhelming the state's capacity to manage said pressures. As such, it assesses each state's ability to maintain stability and the vulnerability of states to conflict and collapse using 12 conflict risk indicators across cohesion, political,

⁴¹ For a complete overview of qualifications to the ranking of "in debt distress," see IMF/World Bank, [Guidance Note on the Bank-Fund Debt Sustainability Framework for Low Income Countries](#), pg. 43.

⁴² For more details on the coverage of the public sector, see IMF/World Bank, [Guidance Note on the Bank-Fund Debt Sustainability Framework for Low Income Countries](#), pgs. 12-13.

⁴³ <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/dsalist.pdf>, as of April 30, 2024.

economic, and social dimensions. The FSI serves as an entry point for deeper interpretive analysis, specifically to measure trends in pressures and relative fragility within an individual state over time.

USAID includes the FSI rating in the Country Roadmaps for informational purposes only; the rating does not factor into the Roadmap's Commitment or Capacity dimension estimates. The FSI was created in 2006 and is produced annually.

Source: [Fund for Peace, Fragile States Index](#)

Methodology: The FSI is based on the FFP's proprietary Conflict Assessment System Tool (CAST) analytical approach that methodically and critically triangulates data across three data collection channels: 1) content analysis using hundreds of Boolean search phrases that are applied to global media data to determine the level of saliency of issues factored by the FSI in each country, 2) pre-existing quantitative data sets from authoritative third-party sources (e.g. World Bank, U.N., etc.) are cross-referenced with the results of the content analysis phase, and 3) finally, a team of social science researchers conduct qualitative analysis and validation of trends in each country, to mitigate the potential for false positives in media content analysis and to ensure the latest trends are factored.

The FSI comprises 12 key indicators across cohesion, political, social, economic, and cross-cutting categories, each with an array of unique sub-indicators assessed in the FSI's media content analysis phase:

Category	Indicator	Description
Cohesion	Security Apparatus	Considers security threats, serious criminal factors, and citizen trust in domestic security. The security apparatus may include traditional military and police, state sponsored or supported militias, a deep state, or armed resistance.
	Factionalized Elites	Considers fragmentation of state institutions along ethnic, class, clan, racial or religious lines, as well as brinkmanship and gridlock between ruling elites. Also factors use of nationalistic political rhetoric and the credibility of electoral processes.
	Group Grievance	Focuses on societal divisions and schisms, particularly those based on social or political characteristics, and their role in access to services and resources, as well as inclusion in the political process.
Economic	Economic Decline and Poverty	Identifies patterns of progressive economic decline and shocks, such as sudden drops in commodity prices, trade revenues, foreign investment, and major currency devaluations. Also factors whether corresponding austerity policy responses result in extreme social hardships.
	Uneven Development	Considers real and perceived structural economic inequality based on group (such as racial, ethnic, religious, or other identity group) or based on education, economic status, or region (such as urban-rural divide).
	Human Flight and Brain Drain	Considers the economic impact of human displacement, namely emigration of skilled, economically productive segments of the population.
Political	State Legitimacy	Considers the representativeness and openness of government and its relationship with its citizenry. It assesses where citizen confidence in state institutions is absent, manifested through mass public demonstrations, sustained civil disobedience, or the rise of insurgencies.

	Public Services	Considers the presence and maintenance of basic state functions and their distribution amongst the population. Functions may include essential services, such as health, education, water and sanitation, transport infrastructure, electricity and power, and internet and connectivity, as well as the state's ability to protect its citizens through effective policing.
	Human Rights and Rule of Law	Considers whether fundamental human, legal, political, and social rights are observed and respected across, individuals, groups, and institutions, such as the press.
Social	Demographic Pressures	Considers pressures on the state from the population and the environment around it, such as those relating to the food supply, access to safe water and other critical natural resources, and prevalence of disease. Factors population growth pressures, such as youth bulges, and whether sharply divergent population growth rates exist across competing communal groups.
	Refugees and IDPs	Measures the pressures placed upon states as a result of forced population displacement. Considers internal displacement within countries and refugees both by country of origin and country of asylum.
Cross-cutting	External Intervention	Considers how external security, political, economic, and humanitarian interventions impact states' ability to function through the subversion of the balance of power or creation of economic dependencies.

For each of the 12 indicators, each country is assigned a 0-10 score, with higher scores representing greater fragility, based on the CAST assessment. Each country's overall 0-120 FSI score is a simple sum total of its scores across the 12 indicators. To facilitate interpretation of results, the FFP groups overall FSI results into four categories: countries scoring between '0-30' out of 120 possible points are considered '*Sustainable*'; countries scoring between '30.1-60' are considered '*Stable*'; countries scoring between '60.1-90' are considered to be at '*Warning*' levels of fragility; and countries scoring between a '90.1-120' are considered to be at '*Alert*' levels of fragility.

While these fragility data provide a wealth of information about a state's vulnerabilities, the FSI methodology poses several limitations. Firstly, while FFP's CAST approach is robustly peer reviewed, the methodology itself is opaque. The FSI is based on algorithms and content aggregators that scan tens of thousands of public reports, which are then triangulated with information from pre-existing quantitative data sets and independent social science reviews for each country. The algorithms and criteria for aggregation and triangulation, however, are not fully disclosed. This makes it harder to interpret the aggregate scores over time and between countries with confidence. Secondly, while the FSI continues to expand its consideration of environmental factors under the Demographic Pressures category, its scope of environmental considerations remains limited. While the most recent FSI iteration factors the effects from natural disasters and deforestation, it does not consider a wide breadth of other systemic environmental vulnerabilities, such as sea level rise or transboundary resource conflicts.

Linkage to Conceptual Framework: The level and type of fragility a state faces is an essential element to consider in development planning. Fragility represents a mismatch between the risks faced by a country and its capacity to cope across these cohesion, security, political, and economic issues. Left unaddressed, fragility can lead to recurrent cycles of violence and crisis, thereby reversing previously achieved developmental gains and eroding citizen trust and confidence in public institutions. States'

abilities to manage societal pressures are as important now as ever, as countries worldwide are increasingly contending with a multitude of pressures and structural risks—including food insecurity, climate change, rising inequality, demographic change, violent extremism, and most recently, the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain disruptions—that are often interconnected, with effects that transcend borders. More than 980 million people live in countries that fall within FSI's highest 'Alert' category of fragility.

9. Data Techniques and Analysis

Normalization

USAID's Country Roadmaps use a min-max scaling technique to normalize all data onto a common 0.0 to 1.0 scale to facilitate visualization, comparison across metrics, and calculation of the Commitment and Capacity indices. The same normalization technique is used to calculate estimates for both the Roadmap's "latest year" snapshot on the front page and the Trend Data Feature on the second page.

A country scoring 0.0 on a given metric indicates that the country recorded the least favorable outcome globally in the raw dataset, and a country scoring 1.0 indicates that the country recorded the most favorable outcome globally in the raw dataset. All other countries receive estimates within the 0.0-1.0 range based on where they fall between the worst and best outcomes globally, preserving the source organization's data distribution. While USAID Roadmaps are only produced for low- and middle-income countries, all countries globally, including high-income countries, are used to establish the range of possible outcomes for each metric. The formula for min-max scaling is as follows:

$X_{norm} = \frac{X - X_{min}}{X_{max} - X_{min}}$, where:

- X_{norm} is the new scaled estimate for a country (0-1 scale);
- X is the raw value for a country;
- X_{min} is the worst outcome globally; and
- X_{max} is the best outcome globally.

When determining the best and worst outcomes observed globally, USAID examines results within a fixed, or "anchored," year range for each metric to provide a consistent reference point against which country progress or backsliding can be measured over time. The reference time period used to determine the range of observed outcomes is typically the years 2010-2017 (in terms of year of measurement, not year of reporting) for most metrics, with limited exceptions (listed below) that are the result of data availability constraints and/or USAID's efforts to reflect the true range of recent performance. This performance "anchoring" is undertaken to ensure that the maximum and minimum reference points remain consistent over time and across Roadmap editions, although certain historical

values (and by extension, the minimum and maximum values) may change if prior year data are revised by the source institutions.⁴⁴ The exceptions to the use of 2010-2017 for the reference time period include:

- *Economic Gender Gap* - The global minimum value used in the min-max scaling is Yemen's performance on this variable in the 2010 Global Gender Gap Report, which primarily uses 2009 data. This exception ensures the use of a more representative global minimum observed across that report's history.
- *Mobile Connectivity Index* - Results are only available starting with the 2014 Mobile Connectivity Index Report (measuring performance predominantly in 2013), and thus, a truncated 2013-2017 range is used for min-max scaling.
- *Export Sophistication* - As of July 2024, Harvard University's Economic Complexity Index scores were only available for the 2019-2022 period; thus, this truncated 2019-2022 range is used for min-max scaling purposes.
- *Open Government* - As the Open Government's methodology evolved substantially in the 2015 WJP Rule of Law Index (measuring 2014 performance), scores from earlier years are not factored into min-max scaling. Thus, USAID uses the 2014-2017 range for this metric.
- *Absence of Corruption* - For the same reasons as with Open Government sourced from the same WJP Rule of Law Index, USAID uses the 2014-2017 range for this metric.
- *Trade Freedom* - Longitudinally comparable results are only available starting in 2017, and thus, to ensure a representative range of possible performance, USAID uses the 2017-2018 range to determine the best and worst observed performance globally.

For most metrics, the period used for determining the global minimum and maximum differs from the full period of performance depicted on the Roadmaps. As a result, estimates above 1.0 or below 0.0 are mathematically achievable. If a country achieves a better estimate than the fixed reference year range maximum or regresses below the fixed year range minimum, this procedure would result in scaled estimates that would fall outside of the 0-1 framework used on the Roadmap. In such cases, estimates below 0 are adjusted to '0.0', and estimates above 1 are adjusted to '1.0'. See the "Temporal Coverage" section for more information.

When converting each set of raw data, USAID aligns, or "flips," the directionality of estimates across the 18 metrics so that an estimate of 1.0 always represents the most favorable position and an estimate of 0.0 always represents the least favorable position, given that higher raw numbers are more advantageous for some metrics (GDP Per Capita) while lower raw numbers are more advantageous for others (Poverty Rate). For the FY 2025 Roadmaps, this transformation of directionality is needed for the Poverty Rate and Safety and Security metrics.

⁴⁴ The minimum and maximum values used for normalization purposes for each FY 2025 Country Roadmap metric are provided in the FY 2025 Country Roadmap Dataset, which will be available via the public portal from October 1, 2024, onward.

Three other manual adjustments are made prior to employing the Country Roadmap’s standard min-max scaling technique:

- The natural log of GDP Per Capita is taken to accommodate a large variation across countries worldwide.
- Several extreme outliers are removed from the Trade Freedom scaling. Any country with a raw score under 40 in Trade Freedom (on Heritage Foundation’s 0-100 scale, where a higher score is better) for any year is assigned a score of 40 for this indicator for that year (and subsequently a 0.0 in this framework’s normalized 0.0-1.0 scale). For the FY 2025 Country Roadmap’s period of analysis (years of measurement 2017-2023) and country sample, North Korea (2017-2023), Kiribati (2019-2020), Comoros (2021), Zimbabwe (2021), and Bhutan (2022-2023), and Sudan (2023) are the only countries scoring below that threshold and receiving a 0.0.
- An unweighted arithmetic average of the four Bertelsmann Transformation Index variables factored in the Business & Investment Environment metric, all scored on a 1-10 scale where a higher score is better, is taken to generate a raw 1-10 aggregate metric score. The min-max scaling technique is performed on the averaged values, not on the raw Pillar scores, for the reference period of performance (2011-2017).

Aggregation

Overall “Commitment” and “Capacity” composite estimates are calculated using the arithmetic mean of all available scaled components for each country. The Commitment Index comprises eight underlying metrics, each receiving an equal weight (i.e., one-eighth weighting, if all sub-components are available). The Capacity Index comprises ten underlying metrics, each receiving an equal weight (i.e., one-tenth weighting, if all sub-components are available). If dimension components (i.e., individual metrics) of either index are missing, Commitment and Capacity estimates are still generated using an arithmetic mean of all available components, but only when at least six of ten Capacity metrics are available and five of eight Commitment metrics are available.

Temporal Coverage

Page 1 of the Country Roadmap provides a “latest year” view of each country’s performance using the most recent value available between 2012 and the present (available as of July 1, 2024, unless specified otherwise), where “year” represents year of *measurement*, not necessarily the year in which the data were eventually reported or published. In some instances, the results depicted on the Country Roadmap’s first page may be derived from years prior to or following the reference time period used to determine the minimum and maximum estimates (see the “Handling Data Gaps” section below for more details).

Page 2 of the Country Roadmap provides a “trend” view of each country’s historical estimates for all 18 Roadmap metrics from the years 2015 to 2023, data coverage permitting. This Trend Data Feature

allows users to assess each country's trajectory more easily over time within and across the Roadmap's three Commitment sub-dimensions and four Capacity sub-dimensions. This feature uses the same normalization technique as the "latest year" results presented on the Roadmap's first page. In cases where a country has data for any years in the range 2012-2014, but no data in the range 2015-2023 for a certain metric, the older data from the 2012-2014 range for that metric would be shown on Page 1 but not on Page 2.

To ensure that all data used on both Pages 1 and 2 are comparable, USAID reports all data in the Roadmap based on year of measurement, rather than year of reporting or publication. USAID has made every effort to align each data point as closely as possible to the year of actual measurement, as opposed to year of source reporting, to ensure comparability of results across metrics and years. Figure 7 provides source information and an explanation of the year ranges used for each individual metric.

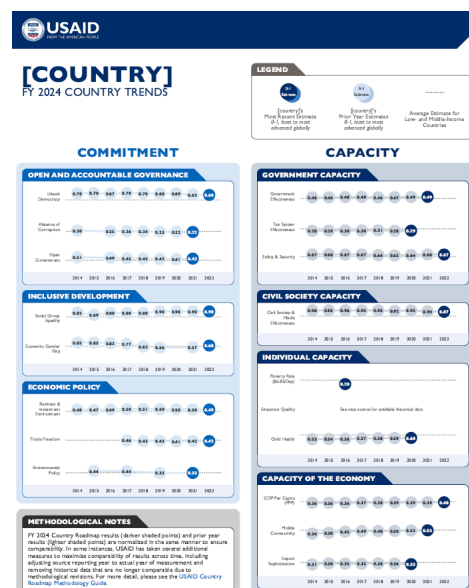


FIGURE 7. Temporal Coverage of the Roadmap Metrics

Roadmap Metric	Source (Indicator Name)	Lag Between Year of Measurement and Year of Source Report	Year Range Covered by Roadmap (Performance Period) ⁴⁵	Global Min/Max Year Range (Normalization Reference Period)
Absence of Corruption	WJP Rule of Law Index 2023 (<i>Absence of Corruption</i>)	Typically one year, varies by report edition and data input ⁴⁶	2016-2022	2014-2017
Business and Investment Environment	Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2024 (<i>Private Enterprise, Competition Policy, Market Organization, and Property Rights</i>)	One year	2015-2023	2011-2017
Child Health	CIESIN (Columbia University), Natural Resource Protection Indicator (NRPI) and Child Health Indicator (CHI), 2024 Release (<i>Child Health Indicator</i>)	None	2015-2022 ⁴⁷	2010-2017
Civil Society & Media Effectiveness	V-Dem Dataset Version 14 (<i>Diagonal Accountability Index</i>)	None	2015-2023	2010-2017

⁴⁵ Does not include values carried forward from prior to 2015 for the Roadmap's Page 1, when data are unavailable in the 2015-2023 performance period.

⁴⁶ The lag between the year of reporting and year of measurement for Absence of Corruption varies by the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index report and between the survey and questionnaire data underlying the index.

⁴⁷ The Child Health metric's underlying source indicators employ a smooth trend curve approach to estimating child mortality and access to at least basic water sources and sanitation facilities, as estimates are based on relatively infrequent survey, census, and vital registration data. This approach is robust and appropriate for gauging long-term trajectories, but does not necessarily estimate year-on-year trends with annual precision.

Economic Gender Gap	WEF, Global Gender Gap Report 2024 (<i>Economic Participation and Opportunity Sub-Index</i>)	Roughly one year; varies by component. Exception: 2020 and 2021 reports reflect two-year lag	2015-2023	2009-2017 ⁴⁸
Education Quality	World Bank, Human Capital Project, 2020 (<i>Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling</i>)	Year of measurement varies by component and country, ranging from 2000-2019	2019	2010-2017
Environmental Policy	Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2024 (<i>Environmental Policy</i>)	One year	2015-2023	2011-2017
Export Sophistication	Harvard, Atlas of Economic Complexity database, accessed July 2024 (<i>Economic Complexity Index</i>)	None	2019-2022	2019-2022
GDP Per Capita (PPP)	World Bank, World Development Indicators online database, accessed July 1, 2024 (<i>GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2021 int'l \$)</i>)	None	2015-2023	2010-2017
Government Effectiveness	World Bank, Worldwide Governance Indicators online database, accessed July 1, 2024 (<i>Government Effectiveness</i>)	None	2015-2022	2010-2017
Liberal Democracy	V-Dem Dataset Version 14 (<i>Liberal Democracy Index</i>)	None	2015-2023	2010-2017
Mobile Connectivity	GSMA, 2024 Mobile Connectivity Index	Typically one year; varies by component	2015-2022	2013-2017
Open Government	WJP Rule of Law Index 2023 (<i>Open Government</i>)	Typically one year; varies by report edition and data input ⁴⁹	2016-2022	2014-2017
Poverty Rate (\$6.85/Day)	World Bank, Poverty and Inequality Platform online database, accessed July 1, 2024 (<i>Poverty Headcount Ratio (\$6.85/Day, PPP)</i>)	None	2015-2023	2010-2017
Safety & Security	IEP, 2024 Global Peace Index (<i>Internal Peace</i>)	Typically one year; varies by component	2015-2023	2010-2017
Social Group Equality	V-Dem Dataset Version 14 (<i>Social Group Equality in Respect for Civil Liberties</i>)	None	2015-2023	2010-2017
Tax System Effectiveness	USAID, Collecting Taxes Database, 2024 release (<i>Tax Effort</i>)	None	2015-2022	2010-2017

⁴⁸ For the “Economic Gender Gap” metric, the global minimum value used in the min/max scaling is Yemen’s performance on this variable in the 2010 *Global Gender Gap Report*, which primarily uses 2009 data. This exception ensures the use of a more representative global minimum observed across that report’s history. This adjustment results in a global minimum raw value of ‘0.19’, as opposed to a minimum of ‘0.22’ observed over the 2010-2017 period.

⁴⁹ The lag between the year of reporting and year of measurement for Open Government varies by the WJP Rule of Law Index report and between the survey and questionnaire underlying the index.

Trade Freedom	Heritage Foundation, 2024 Index of Economic Freedom (<i>Trade Freedom</i>)	One year	2017-2023 ⁵⁰	2017-2018
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Figure 8 provides the year and month that IMF DSAs were conducted for each low- and middle-income country with debt distress risk ratings based on the IMF-World Bank LIC DSF. The Roadmap risk rating is included for countries for which a DSA was completed in January 2022 or later⁵¹ to ensure timeliness and improve rating validity.

FIGURE 8. Date of Debt Distress Risk Assessment

Year and Month	Country(s)
March 2024	Kyrgyz Republic, Micronesia, Togo
February 2024	Cameroon, Timor-Leste
January 2024	Benin, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Comoros, Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nicaragua
December 2023	Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Moldova, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Somalia, Zambia
November 2023	Central African Republic, Malawi, Maldives, Sierra Leone, Tonga
October 2023	Burkina Faso, Marshall Islands
September 2023	Honduras, Kiribati
July 2023	Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Grenada, Lesotho, Niger, Senegal, Tuvalu,
June 2023	Mali, Uganda
May 2023	Laos, Nepal, Solomon Islands
April 2023	Tanzania
March 2023	Madagascar, Samoa, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Vanuatu
February 2023	Haiti
January 2023	Chad, Guinea
November 2022	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
September 2022	Liberia, São Tomé and Príncipe
June 2022	Uzbekistan
May 2022	Bhutan
April 2022	Zimbabwe

Handling Data Gaps

To reduce skewing or inconsistencies within countries' overall Commitment and Capacity estimates caused by data gaps, the Roadmap's first page depicts "latest" performance based on the most recent

⁵⁰ In the 2018 Index of Economic Freedom (measuring 2017 performance), the Heritage Foundation revised its method for determining the extent of non-tariff barriers within each economy, constituting 20% of the weight of the overall score, to ensure more accurate assessments. Because of this shift, Trade Freedom scores from earlier years are not included on the Roadmaps, nor are they factored into global min and max scaling, to ensure comparability of results.

⁵¹ <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/dsalist.pdf>, as of April 30, 2024.

observation available from 2012 onward for each metric.⁵² If, for instance, a given country was last covered in a source organization's 2012 dataset, the Roadmap's first page would depict the country's performance on that particular metric as of 2012, even though the performance period for most other metrics would be sometime between 2021 and 2023, depending on the metric. The Country Roadmap's Page 2 results from 2015-2023 do not pull most recent values forward from prior to 2015, as is undertaken to ensure a full assessment of overall Commitment and Capacity performance on Page 1.

For two metrics, the Economic Gender Gap and Trade Freedom metrics, the source institutions have elected not to produce updated estimates for a given country due to deteriorating social, political, and economic conditions and/or other data reliability concerns. In these limited cases, the "latest year" data is not shown on Page 1 of the Roadmap, under the assumption that the latest year of data available cannot be expected to accurately reflect conditions on the ground. These exceptions (including high-income countries for the purposes of normalization) include:

- Economic Gender Gap: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Burma (Myanmar), Cuba, Iraq, Malawi, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela, and Yemen.
- Trade Freedom: Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and Yemen.

Country Coverage

The Country Roadmaps are produced for all 132 low- and middle-income countries worldwide, based on the World Bank's income group classifications (as of July 2024) and country designations provided in the U.S. Department of State's *Independent States in the World* list (June 2024).⁵³ Only countries that are assigned an income group by the World Bank *and* considered independent by the U.S. Department of State are included in these calculations, with one exception: West Bank and Gaza is also included.

Based on underlying data availability and aggregation parameters, 104 of the 132 low- and middle-income countries worldwide have estimates for both the Commitment and Capacity dimensions. Figures 10 and 11 depict the availability of Commitment and Capacity estimates for each country globally.

⁵² The one exception to the "2012 forward" rule is Economic Gender Gap, where the Roadmap includes the most recent value from 2009 forward.

⁵³ For further details, see the World Bank's [income group classifications](#) and the U.S. Department of State's [Independent States in the World](#) list. While Venezuela has been temporarily unclassified in the July 2021 version of the World Bank's income group classifications pending release of revised national accounts statistics, a Country Roadmap is still produced for this country.

FIGURE 9. Commitment Metric Estimate Availability by Country (Out of 8 Metrics)

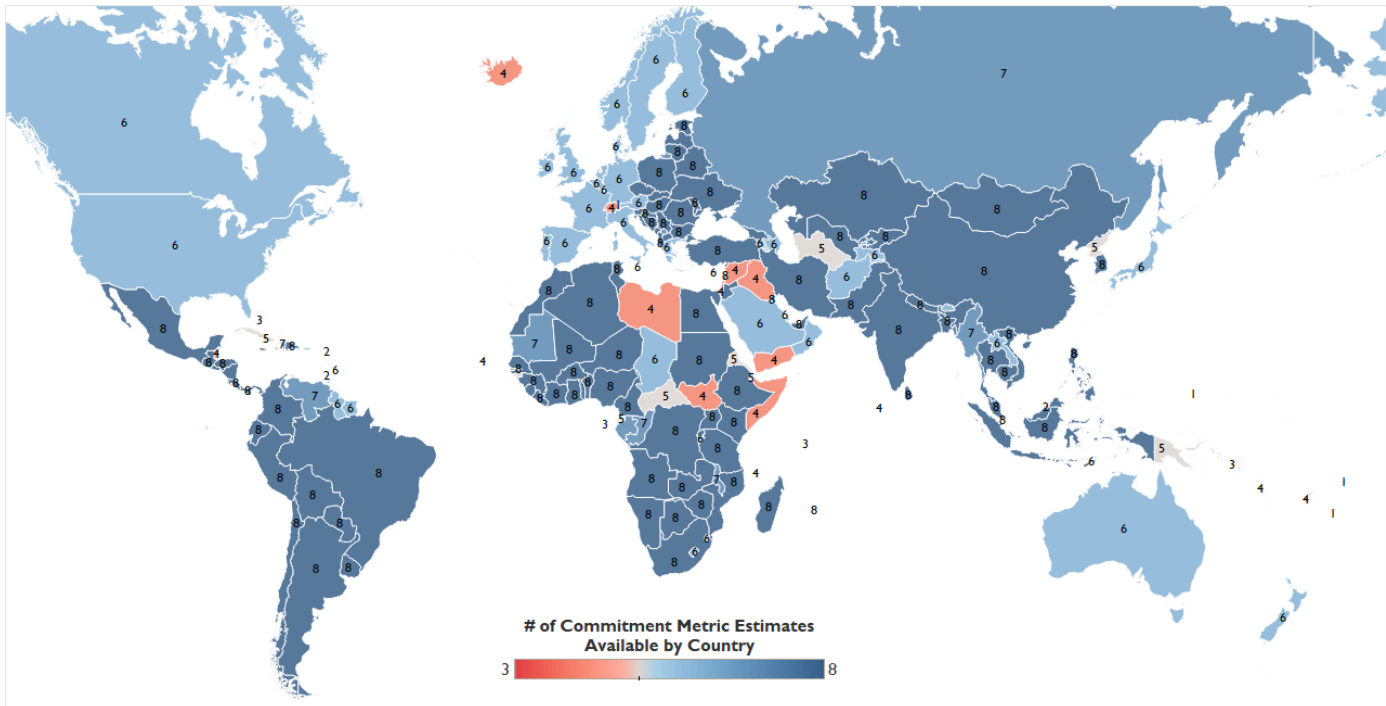


FIGURE 10. Capacity Metric Estimate Availability by Country (Out of 10 Metrics)

