ODB 4TH EDITION REGIONAL REPORT AFRICA

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Sub-Saharan Africa
Regional Snapshot

OpenData Barometer
Fourth Edition

As citizens demand accountability, governments keep data locked away

The Web Foundation believes that open data must be:

for **everyone** — a right for all	the data people **need**	data people can **easily use**

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

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

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

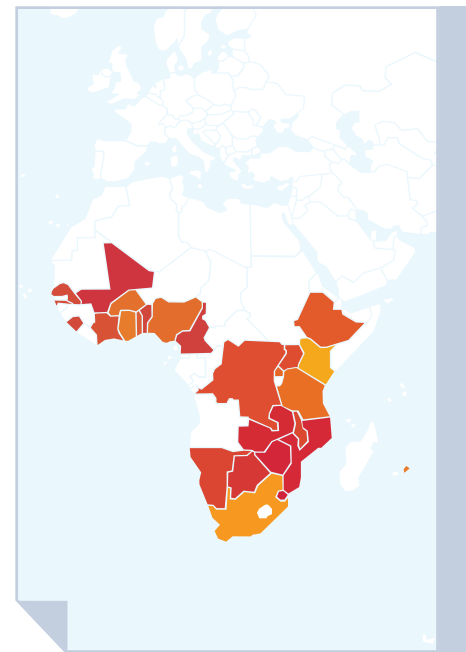*Only two countries in sub-Saharan Africa —Kenya and South Africa— rank in the top 50.*

What is Open Data and why is it important?

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

Open Data Barometer
4th Edition Regional Ranking
General regional highlights and findings

This regional snapshot covers the 25 Sub-Saharan African countries assessed in the fourth edition of the Barometer. Four new countries have been added since the third ...ongo, Swaziland and Togo.

Africa la...d other regions in the implementation and impact of open data. No ... Only one country, Kenya, ranks in the top 40 whi... re seven countries in the bottom ten.

...onal champion, ranking 35th globally. Ghana jumped ...s, yet it is still recovering from a big drop in the previous edition. Other ... also improved, especially in implementation.
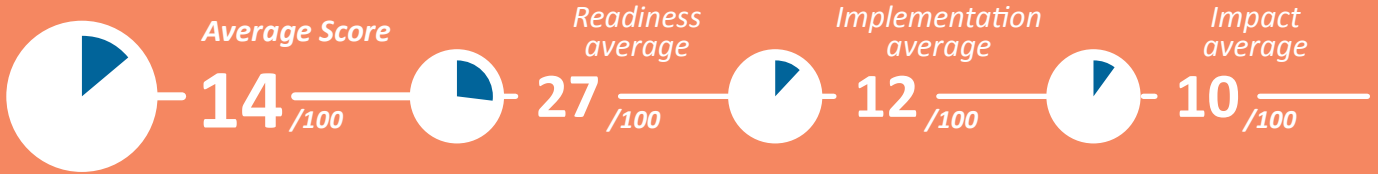
Open Data Barometer 4th Edition Regional Ranking

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

0   25   50   75   100

Produced by:

WORLD WIDE WEB FOUNDATION

opendatabarometer.org

Sub-Saharan Africa

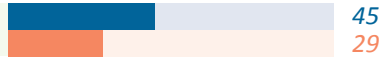**Average Score** 14 /100 — **Readiness average** 27 /100 — **Implementation average** 12 /100 — **Impact average** 10 /100

Readiness for open data initiatives

Government Policies
45
29

Government Action
44
23
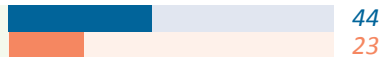
Citizens and Civil Rights
53
36
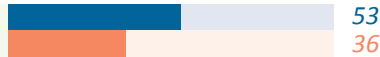
Enterpreneurs and Business
43
28
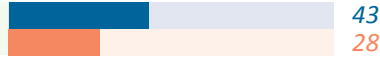
✔ Some countries such as Tanzania, Kenya and Burkina Faso improved on open data initiatives, policies, civil society engagement and support for innovation.
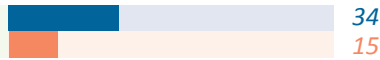
✘ In other countries such as Nigeria, Mozambique and Mauritius, three main areas are stagnating: funding for open data initiatives to ensure sustainability, proper data management and right to information reforms.

Implementation of open data programmes

Innovation Datasets
34
15

Social Policy Datasets
36
20

Accountability Datasets
27
13
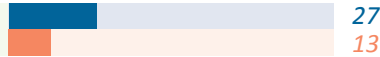
✔ Rwanda and DR Congo each have one fully open dataset. Significant improvements have been made by Ghana, Tanzania and Burkina Faso.

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

Impact that open data is having

Political Impact
24
11

Social Impact
15
7

Economic Impact
16
5
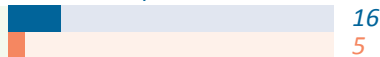
✔ Most countries are improving in political impact, demonstrated by projects such as the Municipal Money budget initiative on fiscal transparency in South Africa.

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

Global average scores
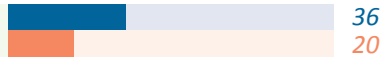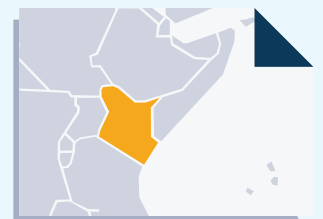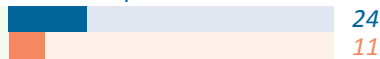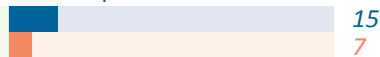0   50   100
Regional average scores

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

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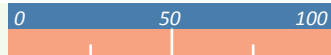
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