ODB 4TH EDITION REGIONAL REPORT AFRICA

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IDRC Grant/ Subvention du CRDI: 108347-001-Measuring the supply, use, and impact of open data
The Web Foundation believes that open data must be:

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

As citizens demand accountability, governments keep data locked away. Governments are too dependent on third-parties for creating and sustaining open data initiatives.

**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.

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.

**General regional highlights and findings**

This regional snapshot covers the 25 Sub-Saharan African countries assessed in the fourth edition of the Barometer. Four new countries have been added since the third edition: Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Swaziland and Togo.

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

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

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.

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**Readiness for open data initiatives**

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**

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**

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.

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