

Worldwide Governance Indicators 2024 Update: Changes in Underlying Source Data

November 5, 2024

This note describes revisions to the source data used in the current 2024 update of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI). The 2024 WGI update covers the period 1996-2023, while the previous 2023 WGI update covered the period 1996-2022.

1. New Data Sources

In the 2024 data update we have added one new data source, the **World Bank Enterprise Surveys (WBS)**. The World Bank Enterprise Surveys are a long-standing firm survey program started in the early 2000s. However, except for a set of transition economies that were covered every three years until 2015 and were included in the WGI as the Business Environment and Enterprise Performance Surveys (BES) during this time, the program did not have a sufficiently regular schedule of coverage to be included in the WGI. Starting in 2023, the World Bank Enterprise Survey has been significantly expanded to cover a global sample of about 180 countries on a rotating three-year cycle of about 60 countries per year. We include data from the first round of 56 countries in the data for 2023, with survey questions contributing to five of the six WGI aggregate indicators (Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption).

2. Dropped Data Sources

The last round of the Transparency International **Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)** survey was conducted in 2020, and we have used this data for 2020, 2021, and 2022. As of August 2024, no new data from this source was available. We have therefore dropped this data source from the 2023 data in the current WGI update. Data from this source will continue to be used in earlier years in the WGI dataset as it appeared in previous WGI vintages.

3. Revisions to Existing Data Sources

1. **Afrobarometer (AFR)**. The current WGI update uses data from the newly available Afrobarometer Round 9 carried out in 2022 for most countries. In the 2023 WGI update we used Round 8 data for 2019/20/21/22 since Round 9 was not available at the time of the 2023 WGI update. For most countries we have replaced the 2022 data with the new Round 9 data and also used this data for 2023. This affects the data for these countries for WGI year 2022. In addition:
 - a. Round 9 data for Namibia referred to 2021. We use this data to populate the WGI data for 2019/20/21, replacing the previous Round 8 data released in 2019. This affects the data for Namibia for WGI years 2019/20/21.
 - b. Round 8 data for Mozambique referred to 2022 and Round 9 data was not available as of August 2024. We use the Round 8 data for WGI years 2022/23 and remove it from WGI years 2019/20/21.

2. **Gallup World Poll (GWP).** In the data for 2013 through 2020 we had incorrectly used the three-letter country code for Maldives (MDV) to refer to Moldova (MDA). This meant that the actual data for Moldova was incorrectly assigned to Maldives during this period. Correcting this mistake has very minor effects on the aggregate indicators for Voice and Accountability, Government Effectiveness, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption for both countries during this period.
3. **Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRM).** Each annual update of the HRM dataset includes their revisions to data for previous years. Accordingly, we also update the WGI component data from this source for all years since 2017 when it first appears in the WGI. This introduces some minor changes to the aggregate indicators Voice and Accountability and Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism for the years 2017-2022.
4. **Political Terror Scale (HUM).** At the time of the 2023 WGI update, data from the Political Terror Scale was only available through 2021, and so we used the 2021 data for 2021 and 2022. At the time of the 2024 WGI update, data from this source for 2022 is available. We use this data for 2022, and also carry it forward for 2023. This revision affects only the Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism indicator for 2022.
5. **African Electoral Index (IRP).** This data source is updated every two years and reports two years' worth of data with each annual update. This year we use data from the 2024 update, reporting data for 2022 and 2023. We use the newly available 2022 data to replace the carried-forward 2021 data that was available at the time of the 2023 WGI update, and the new 2023 data for 2023. In addition, each update of this data source contains revisions to previous years data. This affects data for Lesotho (2017-21), Mali (2020 and 2021), and Tunisia (2021).
6. **World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (PIA).** We only use publicly available data from this source, which the World Bank publishes only for countries eligible for concessional lending. Data for Somalia in 2017 is publicly available but was not included in last year's WGI update. We have corrected this in the 2024 WGI update by adding data for Somalia in 2017. This affects Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption.

These revisions only have very minor effects on the aggregate indicators in previous years. Because of these revisions to data from previous years, this update of the entire WGI dataset supersedes previous versions for all years – as is the case with each annual update of the WGI. For reference, previous years' versions of the full WGI dataset can be downloaded at www.govindicators.org (Documentation tab, section on WGI data sources).

For questions about the 2024 WGI Update, please contact wgi@worldbank.org.

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