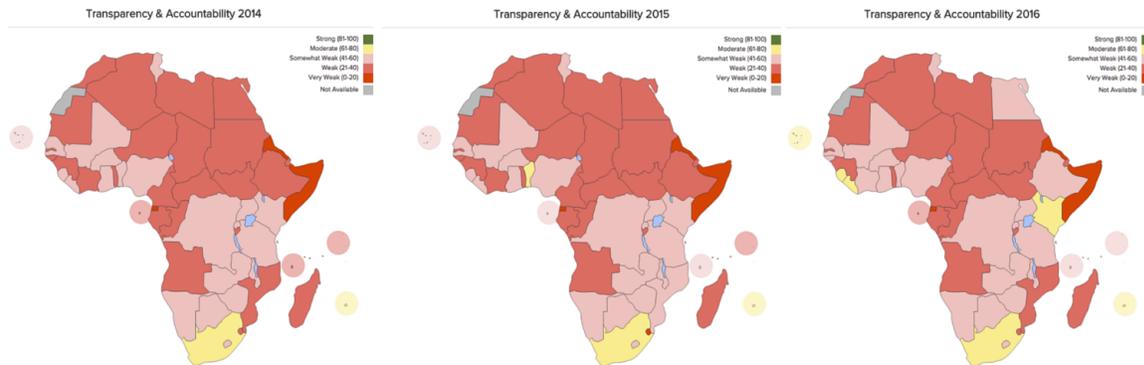


Africa Integrity Indicators – Country Findings



Who is Global Integrity?

Global Integrity supports progress toward open and accountable governance in countries and communities around the world. We focus on generating research and data, supporting the work of country-level reformers, and influencing global conversations on open governance. Our work covers a number of themes, with data, learning and citizen engagement at the core of everything we do. To know more about us, visit our website at www.globalintegrity.org.

What are the Africa Integrity Indicators?

In 2012, Global Integrity embarked on a five-year collaboration with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to generate the Africa Integrity Indicators (AII), which assesses key social, economic, political and anti-corruption mechanisms at the national level across the continent. Global Integrity staff recruits and manages teams of in-country contributors in 54 countries to generate original governance data on an annual basis.

The questionnaire has 114 indicators and is divided in two main categories: Transparency & Accountability and Social Development. The Transparency & Accountability category consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management, civil service integrity, and access to information. The Social Development indicators category consists of 51 indicators about gender, rights, welfare, rural sector, business environment, health and education.

The rich data set is designed to be particularly fruitful in identifying both bright spots as well as areas for improvement at the country level. The years of data include [2013](#), [2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#); the next round of research will begin later in 2016 and be published in April 2017. To access our data, visit our project website at <http://aii.globalintegrity.org>.

Note: Each round of research is named from its year of publication. Thus, the 2016 round of research covers the period from September 2014 to September 2015, with only sources relevant to this period of study being accepted.

Get in touch with us

Global Integrity is dedicated not only to producing high quality data, but ensuring that it is as useful as possible for reformers (both inside and outside of government) around the world. If you're interested in working with this data to identify opportunities to support open governance efforts in your country, contact us at aai@globalintegrity.org.

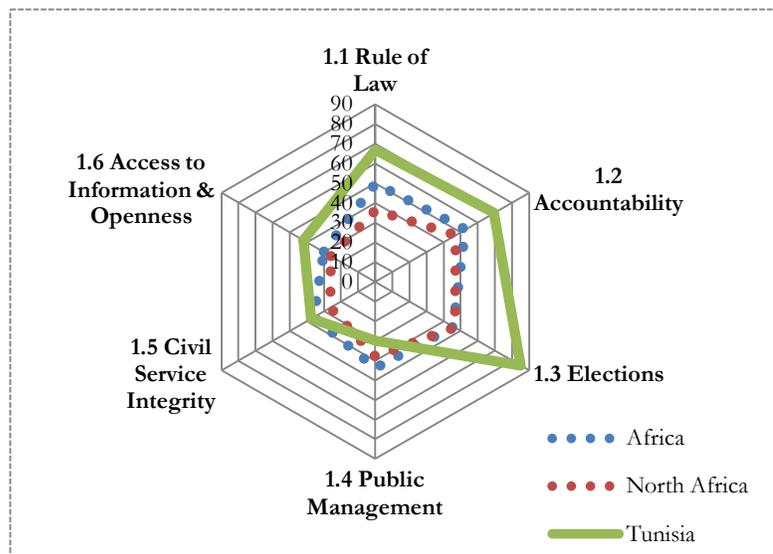
Tunisia – Country Findings Summary

1. Transparency & Accountability

The Transparency & Accountability category consists of 59 indicators examining issues divided in the thematic areas of rule of law, accountability, elections, public management, civil service integrity, and access to information & openness. The indicators look into transparency of the public procurement process, media freedom, asset disclosure requirements, independence of the judiciary, and conflict of interest laws, among others.

The overall category score did not show any substantial change, increasing by only 2 points from 53 in 2015 to 55 in 2016 (“somewhat weak” on the Global Integrity scale).¹ Significant differences were observed among the aggregate scores of individual subcategories.

Elections was the highest performing subcategory with an aggregate score of 85 (“strong” on the Global Integrity scale) and a slight score decrease from 90 in 2015. It was followed by Accountability with an aggregate score of 69, and Rule of Law with an aggregate score of 67. The Rule of Law subcategory saw the biggest aggregate improvement going from 53 in 2015 and 67 in 2016. On the other hand, Public Management was the lowest scoring subcategory with an aggregate score of 30 that falls within the “weak” area of the Global Integrity scale. On the lower performing end of the Transparency & Accountability category were also Civil Service Integrity with an aggregate score of 38 and Access to Information & Openness with an aggregate score of 42.



< Figure 1 > Tunisia’s subcategory scores in comparison to the region and the continent. The radar chart depicts the country’s aggregate scores of each of the six subcategories under Transparency & Accountability, in comparison to average scores of the continent (blue dotted lines) and the country’s region (red dotted lines).

Selected highlights

- **The Court of Accounts worked independently from other offices of government. However, its reporting practices leave room for improvement.** As [indicator 5](#) notes, the Court of Accounts is mandated by law with auditing government accounts. As part of the judiciary, its independence is guaranteed by the Constitution of 2014, as reported in [indicator 1](#). During the study period, the

¹ The Global Integrity scale on the Africa Integrity Indicators website is as follows: 81-100 (Strong), 61-80 (Moderate), 41-60 (Somewhat weak), 21-40 (Weak), 0-20 (Very Weak)

Court was able to audit accounts independently from other branches of the government and remained free from external pressure, as reported in [indicator 7](#). For instance, it audited sensitive sectors such as the oil and gas industry and also published a critical report on the government's archeological heritage management. In June 2015, it further published the audit results of political campaign financing for the parliamentary and presidential elections in late 2014. However, as [indicator 9](#) highlights, despite the fact that the Court publishes an annual report and other audit reports every year, reports are not always published on time. For instance, the annual report for the year 2011 was not published until three years later. Moreover, while no removals took place during the study period, past practices show that the president of the Court of Accounts is directly appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister. The current president of the Court Abdellatif Kharrat was appointed in 2014 by the then Prime Minister Ali Larayedh. His predecessor Abdelkater Zgouli had been removed by the Prime Minister in March 2014 without consultation with the Superior Council of Magistrate, as reports [indicator 8](#).

- **Tunisia's election body is protected from political interference and the appointment of its members supports the body's independence.** The country's Decree-Law 2011-27 establishes the Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Elections (ISIE), an independent body mandated to organize and monitor national elections, as noted in [indicator 19](#). According to [indicator 20](#), members of the ISIE are elected by the parliament based on their experience and moral qualities, as specified by the law. Members cannot be part of a political party, but can practice their previous profession as long as no conflicts of interest exist. Disciplinary measures or the removal of a member are decided by all ISIE members and for a decision, a favorable vote of 2/3 of the members is required. The current 16 members of ISIE were appointed in January 2014 and no member had been removed until the end of the study period. As [indicator 21](#) observed, ISIE members accomplish their tasks without political pressure and the latest parliamentary and presidential elections in October and November 2014 were organized without any major incidents. For the 2014 elections, however, the ISIE did not publish any reports before the elections. It only published a post-election report in March 2015, as reported in [indicator 22](#).
- **Weak legal frameworks and practices in public procurement contribute to the low score of the Public Management subcategory.** Decree 2014-1039 on public procurement requires major procurements to follow competitive bidding and specifies the threshold amounts for different types of services, as noted in [indicator 24](#). However, in practice, not all procurements follow these procedures, as was the case in October 2014 when a bid concerning the duty free boutiques at the Tunisian airport was illegally awarded to the group Hamila-Heinmann-ATÜ, as reported in [indicator 25](#). While call for bids are generally published online and contain information such as the terms of the offer and the evaluation criteria, [indicator 26](#) notes that the public does not have access to award results or other documents associated with procurement contracts. Furthermore, no law exists in Tunisia that bars companies found guilty of violating procurement regulations from participating in future bids, as noted in [indicator 27](#). As a result, even though such companies do face sanctions such as fines or prison terms, they are not prevented from participating in subsequent bids, as reported in [indicator 28](#).

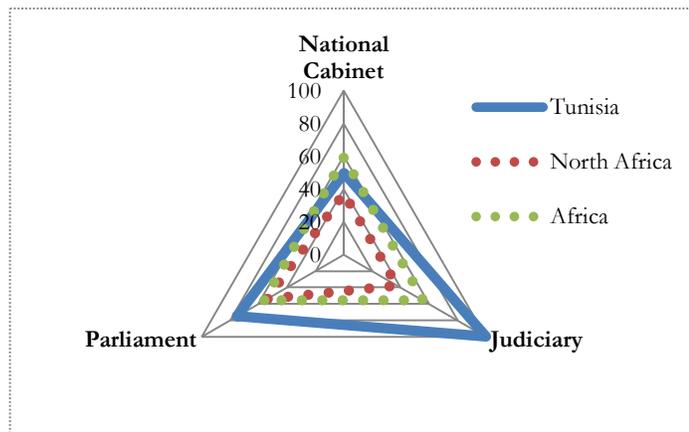
2. Social Development

This category covers seven subcategories, including rights (civil society space and minority rights), gender, business environment and infrastructure, rural sector, welfare, health, education, and civil registration. Because the Social Development portion of the research only includes a small number of questions per each topic area, we only provide the scores for each individual indicator and don't provide aggregated category or subcategory scores. However, the individual indicators themselves contain a wealth of information across a breadth of topics, a select few highlights of which are noted below.

Selected highlights

- **While citizens and NGOs enjoyed a high degree of freedom in general, the fight against terrorism restricted the country's civic space during the study period.** As reports [indicator 67](#), citizens are in general free to associate with their peers and express dissent in public, provided that a prior notice is submitted to the Ministry of Interior. However, the President of the Republic declared a state of emergency in June 2015 following a terrorist attack in the resort city of Sousse. The state of emergency, initially declared for one month, was extended until the end of the study period, and gatherings of more than three persons remained prohibited. Following the June attack, an increased number of organizations faced obstacles in their operations. An example is the surveillance and suspension of 157 Islamic organizations reported [indicator 68](#). Already in October 2014, the organization "Appel pour la réforme et le travail de la charité" was dissolved for allegedly having incited religious hatred, as reported in [indicator 70](#). However, [indicator 69](#) highlights that no cases were reported of NGO employees being killed or physically harassed as retribution for their work. Overall, the simple registration procedure for NGOs enabled the significant increase from a few hundred NGOs in 2010 to more than 18000 during the study period.
- **No civil or customary laws restrict women's equal rights to land and non-land property ownership, divorce petition, independent travel and access to employment opportunities. However, in matters of inheritance, the law disadvantages women.** Indicators [77](#), [78](#) and [82](#) received 'Yes' scores, as no particular laws exist that give precedence to men in terms of access to land and non-land property, or the right to independent travel. The Code on Personal Status of 1956 clearly states in its article 31 that a divorce is pronounced at the request of the husband or the wife, as noted in [indicator 80](#), guaranteeing the same rights to both parties. The Labor Code of 1996 prohibits the termination of employment as a result of pregnancy, as notes [indicator 83](#), ensuring women have equal access to employment opportunities and relevant benefits. Yet, in matters of inheritance, the Code on Personal Status of 1956 follows the principles of the Islamic law according to which men inherit double than women. [Indicator 79](#) thus earned a 'No' score.

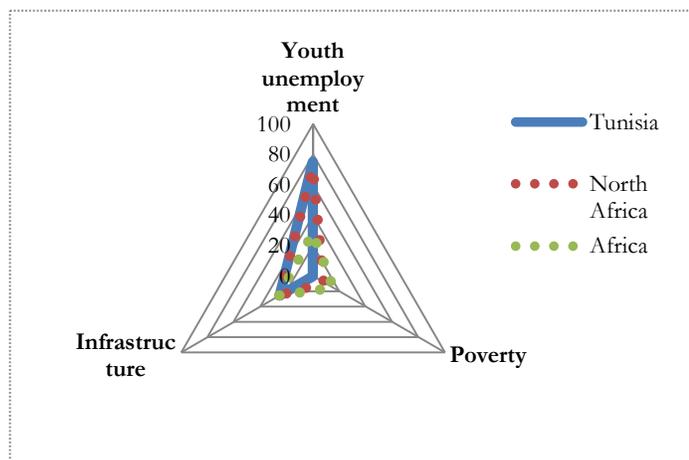
- **Women’s representation in the parliament and the highest branch of the judiciary is relatively high. A smaller percentage of women were represented in the national cabinet.** The Court of Cassation of Tunisia counted 11 women out of 29 judges. The provisional Constitutional Court had one female judge out of six members. Women’s representation in the highest echelon of the judiciary therefore was at 34% and [indicator 86](#) earned



< Figure 2 > Tunisia’s female representation in the three branches of government compared to the country’s region and the continent.

a 100 score, as compared to the North African average of 38 and the continental average of 56. In Tunisia’s parliament, 68 out of a total of 217 members were women (31%). [Indicator 87](#)’s score of 75 stood above the regional average of 54 and the continental average of 56. Women were less represented in the national cabinet, occupying only seven out of 41 seats (17%). [Indicator 85](#) scored 50 and while standing above the North African average of 38, it was below the continental average of 60.

- **Tunisia’s National Statistics Institute (INS) regularly publishes statistics on youth unemployment. On the other hand, data on poverty or infrastructure are only published at a greater interval.** [Indicator 91](#) reports that the Institute has published quarterly data on unemployment since January 2015. The data is, however, not disaggregated by age. The Institute also published a study on youth unemployment in 2014 in cooperation with the National



< Figure 3 > Tunisia’s statistical capacity compared to the country’s region and the continent.

Observatory for Employment and Qualification (ONEQ) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). According to the study, unemployment in the age bracket 19-25 years was at 18%. Statistics on poverty are only published every five years through the national survey on household consumption, as reports [indicator 92](#). Infrastructure-related data are available on the institute website at a 3-year interval and include information on electric grid, water pipes and road networks. The latest available data are from 2012. Even statistics that can be obtained from other institutions, such as the Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Territory Planning, are outdated as noted in [indicator 93](#).

Tunisia's high scoring for youth unemployment statistics, as opposed to the low scoring on indicators for poverty and infrastructure data follows the average trend of the North African region (see Figure 3).

The above findings capture selected highlights and are not an exhaustive analysis of the collected data. We encourage interested users to access our website [here](#) for detailed comments and sources for 114 individual indicators.