

IOA | 2019 | ACBR

AFRICA COUNTRY BENCHMARK REPORT



Burkina Faso Profile



Djembe drums are beaten by musicians for dancers at matrimonial ceremonies. Burkina Faso's rich musical heritage draws from the folk music of 60 different ethnic groups.



Image courtesy of Marco Fumasoni



BURKINA FASO

#27

BURKINA FASO

OVERVIEW ANALYSIS

Because of the long suffering of the people under decades of dictatorial governments installed by military coups d'état, the Burkinabe people have demanded greater political rights. This is reflected in the score of their Politics quadrant. Business scores rose as a result. Burkina Faso is a poor country due to corrupt and inept governance rather than a paucity of natural resources. With the dawning of the government of President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré dedicated to national development, the business community has been inspired to assist with economic growth by exploiting opportunities long available but suppressed. Burkina Faso's better governance and reviving business sector drove the country's ACBR 2019 ranking up three countries to 27th from 30th place, scoring 44.62 compared to the previous score of 41.64.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Industrial sector growth seems good but is rising from a small base
- Government has sacked repressive policies and is amending laws to ensure Burkinabe freedoms
- New exports can exploit existing trade ties with West Africa

KEY CONCERNS

- A potential workforce exists, but low education levels will require extensive training
- A poor transportation infrastructure inhibits national development
- Low life expectancy and a high birth rate indicate poor social development

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PREDOMINANT
RELIGION



Islam

PREDOMINANT
LANGUAGE



French

POPULATION
WITHOUT
ELECTRICITY



80.8%
(#46) ▼⁵

LITERACY
RATE



36%
(#49) ▬

PRIMARY
ELECTRICITY
SOURCE



Oil

IMPORT/
EXPORT



Refined
Petroleum/Gold

EXTERNAL
DEBT



US\$ 3.075
billion
(#29) ▬

ACTIVE
CONFLICT



Yes

LAND
SIZE



274,200 km²
(#28)

INTERNET
PENETRATION



14%
(#33) ▲¹

31.9%



AGRICULTURE

22%



INDUSTRY

46.1%



SERVICES

44.9%



0-14

20.1%



15-24

29.4%



22-54

5.6%



55+



Term:

29/11/2015 - present
5 years (2 term limit)



Political Party:

People's Movement for Progress



Recent Electoral Information:

29/11/2015
1 096 814 Votes
53.5%
Voter turnout: 60%



President
Roch Marc
Christian Kaboré

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GDP BY SECTOR

POPULATION AGE BREAKDOWN

NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

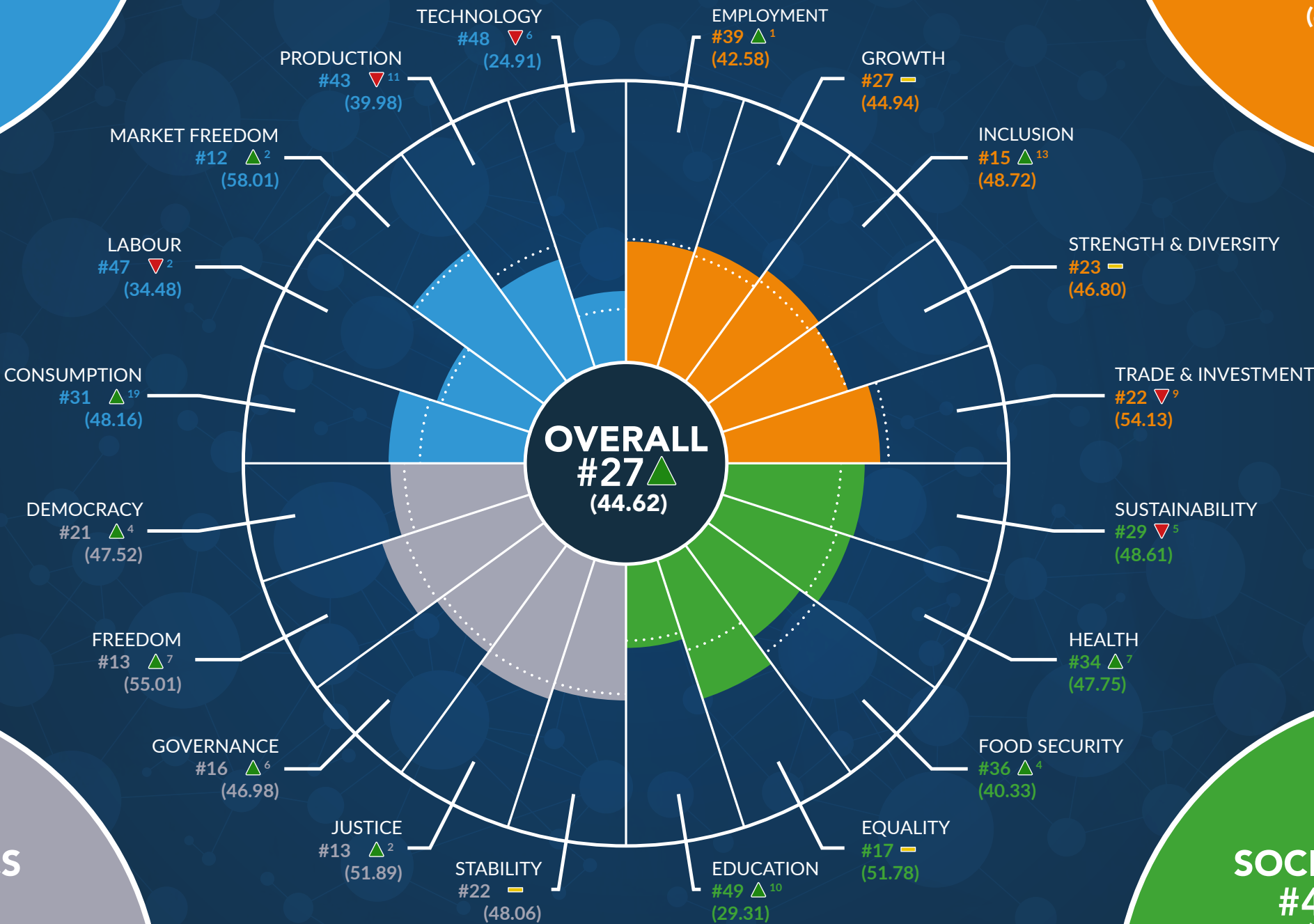
BUSINESS

#36
(41.11)

BURKINA FASO PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

ECONOMICS

#24
(45.89)



POLITICS

#17
(49.89)

SOCIETY

#42
(41.57)

BURKINA FASO BUSINESS ANALYSIS



BUSINESS OVERVIEW

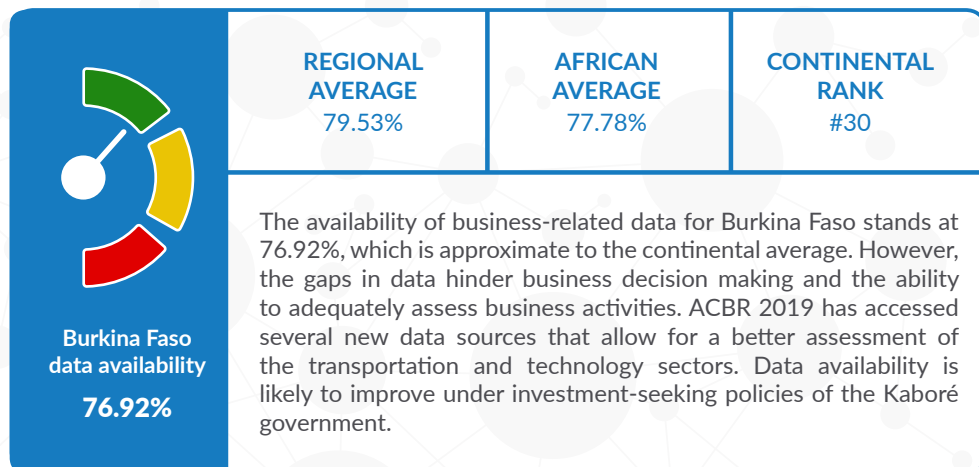
Good rainfall is the foundation for business investment in agriculture. Food shortages have been common in the country. Cotton is the main cash crop and can be cultivated for greater export.

Improvements in the transportation infrastructure are essential to lift business prospects. Burkina Faso is a landlocked country and is dependent on neighbouring countries for market access and the passage to import and export.

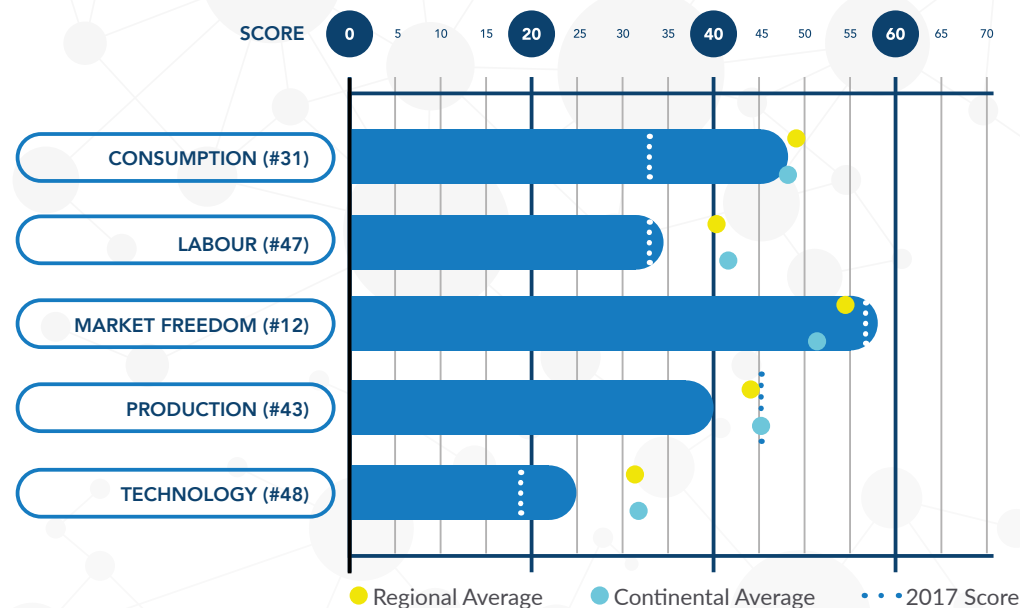
Skills training is required to provide a robust workforce, which has been limited by poverty and a lack of education. Educated Burkinabe have long found work abroad, while farm labourers by the thousands tend to West African plantations.

Burkina Faso performed well in the Business quadrant by rising six country rankings to 36th position from 2017's 42nd, scoring 41.11 compared to the previous 38.16. This occurred despite a double-digit drop of 11 country positions in the Production segment and a two position drop in Labour, reflecting strides achieved in these segments by other countries as well as Burkinabe shortcomings. One of the highest country position jumps was accomplished in the Consumption segment, where Burkina Faso rose by 19 places. The rise suggests the economic potential to be realised when economic inequities fostered by previous governments make way for a more affluent population and business investment.

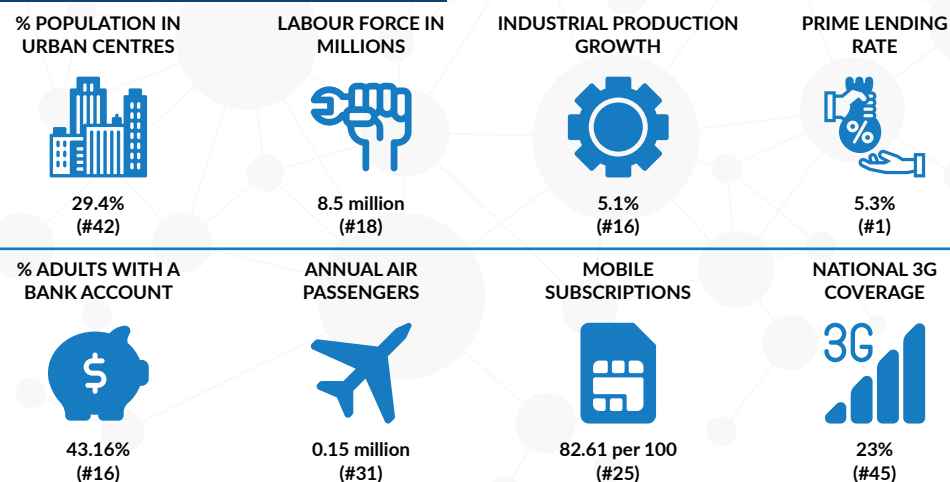
BUSINESS DATA COMMENTARY



BUSINESS SCORES & RANKINGS



BUSINESS STATISTICS



BURKINA FASO ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

#24

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

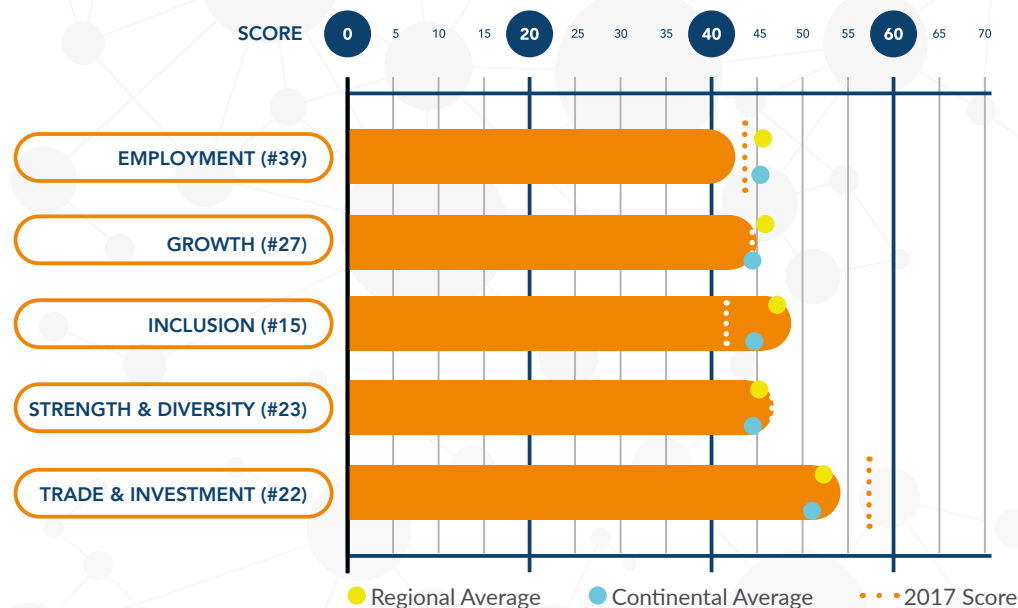
Burkina Faso's economy is hamstrung by poor infrastructures: communications, transportation, water and waste. Roads are in disrepair and do not exist at all in some places where they are needed for development or to move farm and business goods to market roads. In a case of an underdeveloped country leapfrogging over traditional communications technologies, Burkina Faso has overcome a poor fixed line phone system by embracing mobile phones. However, mobile telephony service is restricted by infrastructure limitations.

Burkina Faso's Economic quadrant position of 24th, with a score of 45.89, lowers their ranking by one position, from 23rd in ACBR 2017 achieved with a score of 46.7. An

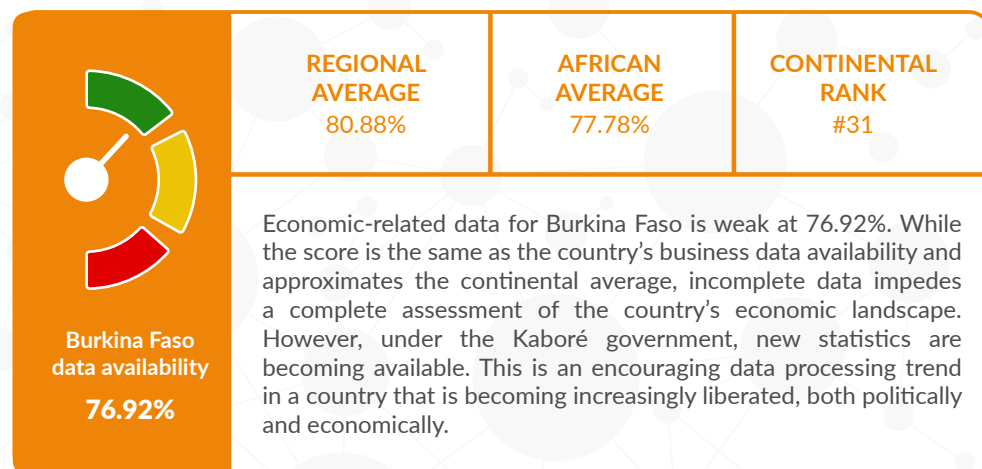
examination of individual scoring segments points to a nine country drop in the Trade and Investment segment, which is critical to Burkina Faso's economic revival if this is to come. However, the country's other segment scores are more impressive, led by a 13 position rise for Inclusion.

The replacement of an autocracy with a more democratic government accounts for a widening of citizen participation in the economy. Burkina Faso's other segment scores are either unchanged from the previous period, like Growth and Strength & Diversity, or have performed slightly better, such as Employment that saw a rise by one ranking.

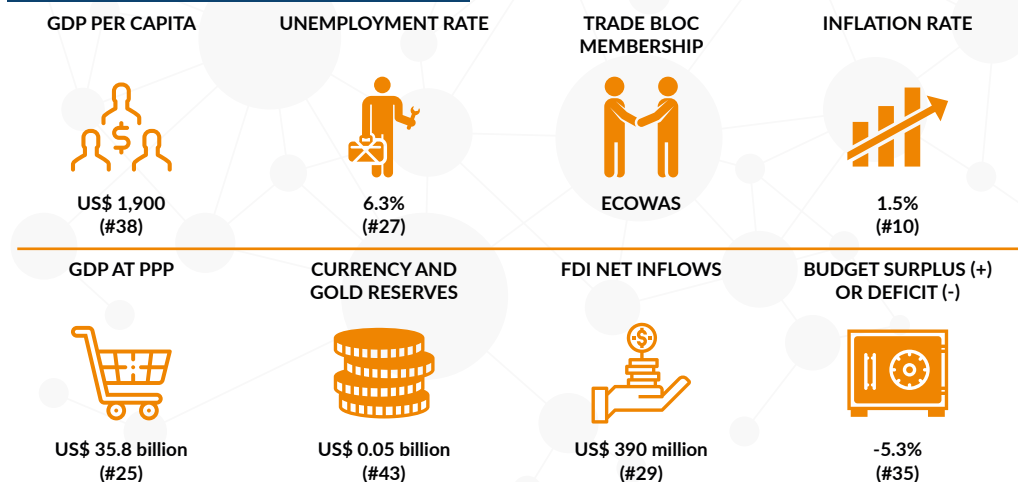
ECONOMIC SCORES & RANKINGS



ECONOMIC DATA COMMENTARY



ECONOMIC STATISTICS



BURKINA FASO POLITICAL ANALYSIS



POLITICAL OVERVIEW

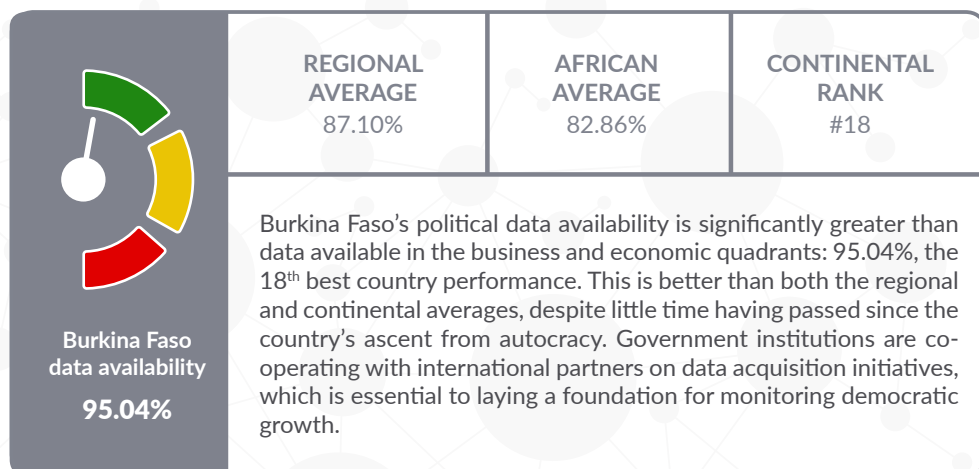
The country is in their second year of an elected democratic government and have achieved their best Politics quadrant scores in Democracy, Freedom and Governance, for which Burkina Faso advanced these segments' positions by four, seven and six positions respectively. Burkina Faso moved ahead two positions in Justice and retained their 2017 position in Stability.

The country is a semi-presidential republic. The nation's courts are considered independent in the post-Campaoré era. Perhaps the greatest encumbrance to political development is not the absence of political parties and democratic institutions but rather the low education level of the Burkinabe people, which limits involvement in civic engagements. In terms

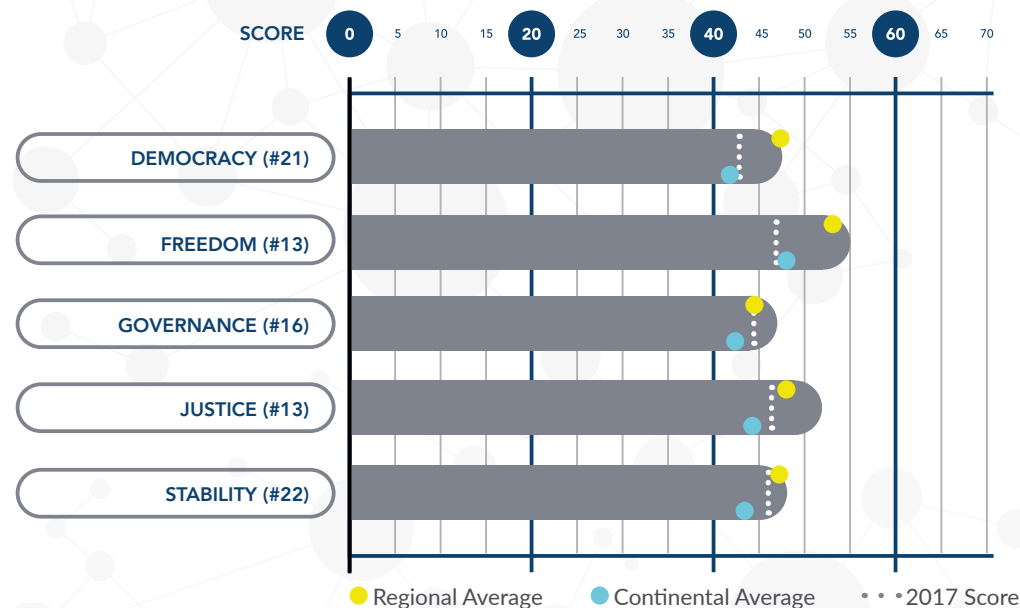
of civic participation, women's associations and movements play an important role in Burkinabe politics. Women's groups were active in the 2016 municipal elections and were participants in the protests that led to the downfall of the Campaoré regime. A commission has been formed to write a new constitution, which when done will create the Fifth Republic of Burkina Faso and institute a true break from the earlier era of autocratic regimes.

Burkina Faso's improving political situation is reflected in their Politics quadrant's score and overall ranking, with a total of 49.89 points improved from 44.56 in 2017. Relative to other nations, Burkina Faso's political system statistically rose from 20th position to their current position of 17th.

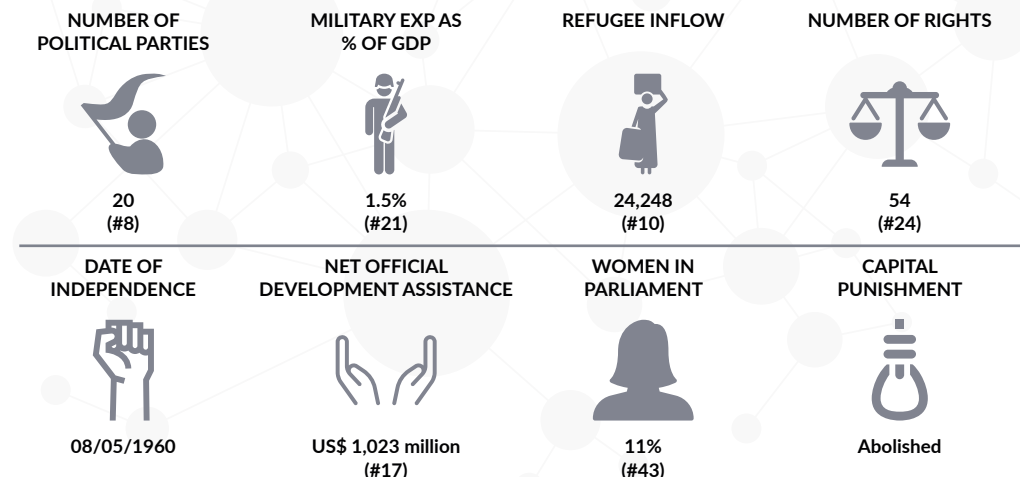
POLITICAL DATA COMMENTARY



POLITICAL SCORES & RANKINGS



POLITICAL STATISTICS



BURKINA FASO SOCIETAL ANALYSIS

#42

SOCIETAL OVERVIEW

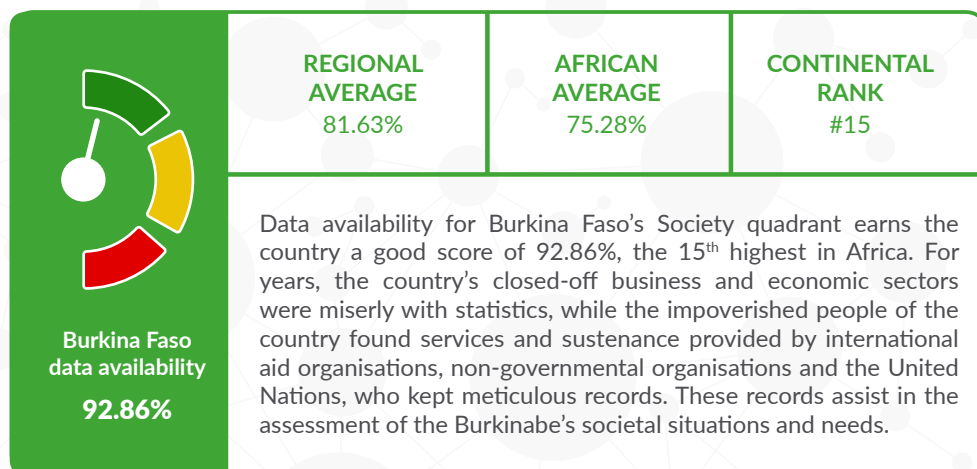
In addition to the need to improve the education system, there is a need to boost societal information campaigns. One designed to lower the country's fertility rate would assist with economic and social development. The average Burkina Faso woman gives birth to about six children. Unfortunately, the country slipped five ranks downwards on ACBR 2019 in the Education segment to 49th place, one of the lowest five countries in this segment in Africa. Only 36% of Burkinabe are literate. The country's poor transportation infrastructure denies some children the ability to attend school.

With good governance should come better economic policies, providing revenue to improve the healthcare system. The

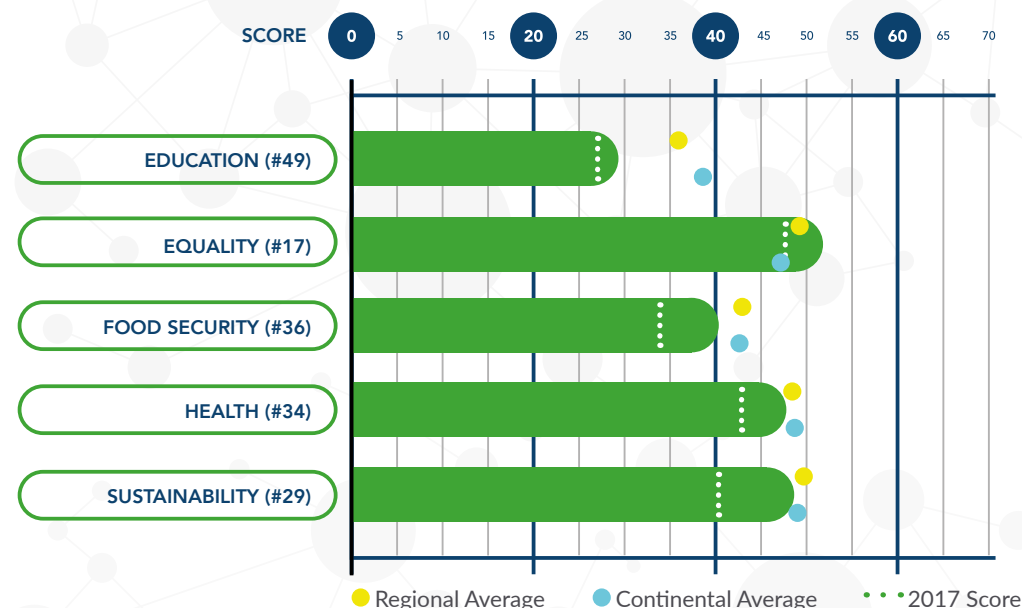
prevalence of disease and the lack of healthcare facilities have resulted in a low life expectancy of approximately 56 years.

However, Burkina Faso is making demonstrable progress forwards in the Society quadrant's segments, rising an impressive 10 positions in Sustainability, holding steady on their health system relative to the rest of Africa and rising seven ranks in Equality. Burkina Faso rose four positions in Food Security. Burkina Faso's position of 42nd among African countries in the Society quadrant is unchanged from the position obtained in 2017. However, a marked improvement in the quadrant's score was achieved, though not ranking, with a point rise from 37.14 recorded previously to a current 41.57.

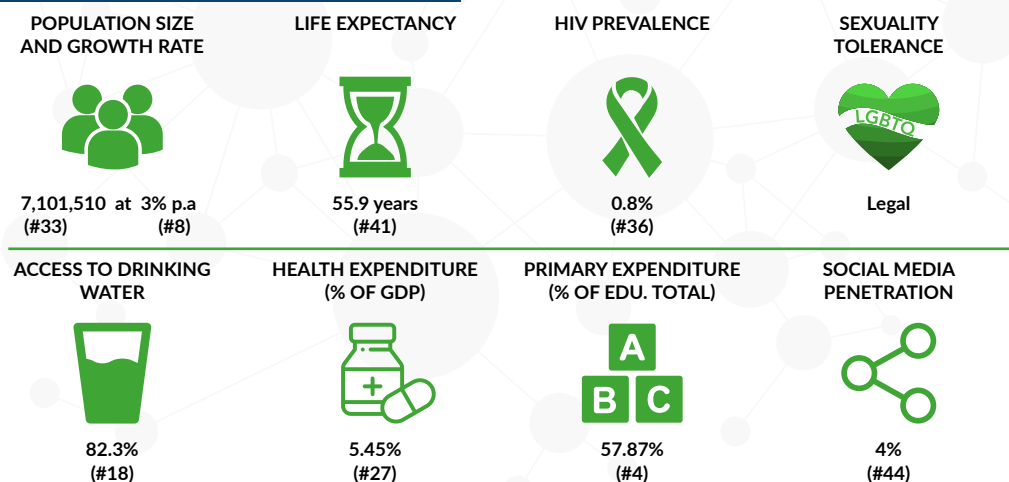
SOCIETAL DATA COMMENTARY



SOCIETAL SCORES & RANKINGS



SOCIETAL STATISTICS



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