

Overview of indicators and sources



This Annex lists the indicators and sources for each of the attributes and subattributes within the GSoD Indices conceptual framework. The V-Dem Electoral Regime (v2x_elecreg) indicator has been used to recode a number of other indicators. Likewise, the Electoral indicator from BRRD is used in connection to the Electoral Government attribute and the Direct Democracy subattribute (see Tufis 2018a).

1. Representative Government

1.1. Indicators of Clean Elections

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
1.1.1	EMB autonomy (vzelembaut)	ES: Does the election management body (EMB) have autonomy from government to apply election laws and administrative rules impartially in national elections?	V-Dem
1.1.2	EMB capacity (vzelembcap)	ES: Does the Election Management Body (EMB) have sufficient staff and resources to administer a well-run national election?	V-Dem
1.1.3	Election other voting irregularities (vzelirreg)	ES: In this national election, was there evidence of other intentional irregularities by incumbent and/or opposition parties and/or vote fraud?	V-Dem
1.1.4	Election government intimidation (vzelintim)	ES: In this national election, were opposition candidates/parties/campaign workers subjected to repression, intimidation, violence or harassment by the government, the ruling party or their agents?	V-Dem
1.1.5	Election free and fair (vzelfrfair)	ES: Taking all aspects of the pre-election period, election day and the post-election process into account, would you consider this national election to be free and fair?	V-Dem
1.1.6	Competition (competitive elections)	IC: The chief executive offices and seats in the effective legislative body are filled by elections characterized by uncertainty, meaning that the elections are, in principle, sufficiently free to enable the opposition to gain power if they were to attract sufficient support from the electorate.	LIED

Notes: ES = expert surveys; IC = standards-based in-house coding.

1.2. Indicators of Inclusive Suffrage

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
1.2.1	Suffrage (vzelsuffrage)	OD: What percentage (%) of adult citizens (as defined by statute) has the legal right to vote in national elections?	V-Dem
1.2.2	Election voter registry (vzelrgstry)	ES: In this national election, was there a reasonably accurate voter registry in place and was it used?	V-Dem

Notes: ES = expert surveys; OD = observational data.

1.3. Indicators of Free Political Parties

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
1.3.1	Party ban (v2psparban)	ES: Are any parties banned?	V-Dem
1.3.2	Barriers to parties (v2psbars)	ES: How restrictive are the barriers to forming a party?	V-Dem
1.3.3	Opposition parties' autonomy (v2psoppaut)	ES: Are opposition parties independent and autonomous of the ruling regime?	V-Dem
1.3.4	Elections multiparty (v2elmulpar)	ES: Was this national election multiparty?	V-Dem
1.3.5	Competitiveness of participation (parcomp)	IC: The competitiveness of participation refers to the extent to which alternative preferences for policy and leadership can be pursued in the political arena.	Polity
1.3.6	Multiparty elections (multiparty legislative elections)	OD: The lower house (or unicameral chamber) of the legislature is (at least in part) elected by voters facing more than one choice. Specifically, parties are not banned and (a) more than one party is allowed to compete or (b) elections are nonpartisan (i.e., all candidates run without party labels).	LIED

Notes: ES = expert surveys; IC = standards-based in-house coding; OD = observational data.

1.4. Indicators of Elected Government

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
1.4.1	Elected officials index (v2x_elecoff)	CM: Are the chief executive and legislature appointed through popular elections? Measure based on 16 variables from expert survey data, in-house coded data and observational data collected by V-Dem.*	V-Dem
1.4.2	Competitiveness of executive recruitment (xrcomp)	IC: Competitiveness refers to the extent that prevailing modes of advancement give subordinates equal opportunities to become superordinates.	Polity
1.4.3	Openness of executive recruitment (xropen)	IC: Recruitment of the chief executive is 'open' to the extent that all the politically active population has an opportunity, in principle, to attain the position through a regularized process.	Polity
1.4.4	Electoral	IC: Does a country have no regular elections, elections in an effectively one-party state, elections with opposition parties but without an actual chance of government change, or full democracy?	Bjørnskov and Rode

Notes: IC = standards-based in-house coding; CM = composite measures.

* The 16 variables are: legislature bicameral; lower chamber elected; upper chamber elected; percentage of indirectly elected legislators lower chamber; percentage of indirectly elected legislators upper chamber; head of state selection by legislature in practice; head of state appointment in practice; head of government selection by legislature in practice; head of government appointment in practice; head of state appoints cabinet in practice;



head of government appoints cabinet in practice; head of state dismisses ministers in practice; head of government dismisses ministers in practice; head of state the same as head of government; chief executive appointment by upper chamber implicit approval; and chief executive appointment by upper chamber.

2. Fundamental Rights (individual liberties and resources)

2.1. Indicators of Access to Justice

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
2.1.1	Access to justice for men (v2clacjstm)	ES: Do men enjoy secure and effective access to justice?	V-Dem
2.1.2	Access to justice for women (v2clacjstw)	ES: Do women enjoy equal, secure and effective access to justice?	V-Dem
2.1.3	Judicial corruption decision (v2jucorrdc)	ES: How often do individuals or businesses make undocumented extra payments or bribes in order to speed up or delay the process or to obtain a favourable judicial decision?	V-Dem
2.1.4	Judicial accountability (v2juaccnt)	ES: When judges are found responsible for serious misconduct, how often are they removed from their posts or otherwise disciplined?	V-Dem
2.1.5	Fair trial (fairtrial)	IC: Extent to which citizens have the right to a fair trial in practice, that is, they are not subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile; they have the right to recognition as a person before the law, the right to be under the jurisdiction of, and to seek redress from, competent, independent and impartial tribunals, and the right to be heard and to be entitled to trial without undue delays if arrested, detained or charged with a criminal offence.	CLD

Notes: ES = expert surveys; IC = standards-based in-house coding.

2.2. Indicators of Civil Liberties

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
Freedom of expression			
2.2.1	Print/broadcast censorship effort (v2mecenefm)	ES: Does the government directly or indirectly attempt to censor the print or broadcast media?	V-Dem
2.2.2	Harassment of journalists (v2meharjrn)	ES: Are individual journalists harassed, i.e. threatened with libel, arrested, imprisoned, beaten or killed, by governmental or powerful non-governmental actors while engaged in legitimate journalistic activities?	V-Dem
2.2.3	Media self-censorship (v2meslfcen)	ES: Is there self-censorship among journalists when reporting on issues that the government considers politically sensitive?	V-Dem
2.2.4	Freedom of discussion for women (v2cldiscw)	ES: Are women able to openly discuss political issues in private homes and in public spaces?	V-Dem
2.2.5	Freedom of discussion for men (v2cldiscm)	ES: Are men able to openly discuss political issues in private homes and in public spaces?	V-Dem
2.2.6	Freedom of academic and cultural expression (v2clacfree)	ES: Is there academic freedom and freedom of cultural expression related to political issues?	V-Dem
2.2.7	Freedom of opinion and expression (freexp)	IC: The extent to which individual citizens, groups and the media have freedom of opinion and expression, that is, the right of the citizens, groups and the press to hold views freely and to seek, obtain and pass on information on political issues broadly understood without being subject to actual limitations or restrictions.	CLD
Freedom of association and assembly			
2.2.8	CSO entry and exit (v2cseeorgs)	ES: To what extent does the government achieve control over entry and exit by civil society organizations into public life?	V-Dem
2.2.9	CSO repression (v2csreprss)	ES: Does the government attempt to repress civil society organizations?	V-Dem
2.2.10	Freedom of assembly and association (freass)	IC: The extent to which individuals and groups have freedom of assembly and association, that is, the right of the citizens to gather freely and carry out peaceful demonstrations as well as to join, form and participate with other persons in political parties, cultural organizations, trade unions or the like of their choice without being subject to actual limitations or restrictions.	CLD
Freedom of religion			
2.2.11	Freedom of religion (v2clrelig)	ES: Is there freedom of religion?	V-Dem
2.2.12	Religious organization repression (v2csrlgprep)	ES: Does the government attempt to repress religious organizations?	V-Dem
2.2.13	Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (frerel)	IC: The extent to which individuals and groups have freedom of thought, conscience and religion, that is, the right of citizens to have and change religion or belief of their own volition and alone or in community, manifest their religion or belief in practice, worship, observance and teaching in private or public, as well as proselytize peacefully without being subject to actual limitations or restrictions.	CLD
Freedom of movement			
2.2.14	Freedom of foreign movement (v2clfmov)	ES: Is there freedom of foreign travel and emigration?	V-Dem



No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
2.2.15	Freedom of domestic movement for women (v2cldmovew)	ES: Do women enjoy freedom of movement within the country?	V-Dem
2.2.16	Freedom of domestic movement for men (v2cldmovem)	ES: Do men enjoy freedom of movement within the country?	V-Dem
2.2.17	Freedom of movement and residence (fremov)	IC: The extent to which individuals and groups have freedom of movement and residence, that is, the right of citizens to settle and travel within their country as well as to leave and return to their country of without being subject to actual limitations or restrictions.	CLD
Personal integrity and security			
2.2.18	Freedom from forced labour for women (v2clslavew)	ES: Are adult women free from servitude and other kinds of forced labour?	V-Dem
2.2.19	Freedom from forced labour for men (v2clslavem)	ES: Are adult men free from servitude and other kinds of forced labour?	V-Dem
2.2.20	Freedom from torture (v2cltort)	ES: Is there freedom from torture?	V-Dem
2.2.21	Freedom from political killings (v2clkil)	ES: Is there freedom from political killings?	V-Dem
2.2.22	Political terror scale (PTSsd)	IC: What is the level of political violence and terror?	Gibney et al.
2.2.23	Internal conflict (D)	ES: Is there political violence in the country? The rating assigned is the sum of three sub-components: civil war/coup threat, terrorism/political violence and civil disorder	ICRG

Notes: ES = expert surveys; IC = standards-based in-house coding.

2.3. Indicators of Social Rights and Equality

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
Social group equality			
2.3.1	Social class equality in respect for civil liberties (v2clacjust)	ES: Do poor people enjoy the same level of civil liberties as rich people?	V-Dem
2.3.2	Social group equality in respect for civil liberties (v2clsocgrp)	ES: Do all social groups, as distinguished by language, ethnicity, religion, race, region or caste, enjoy the same level of civil liberties, or are some groups generally in a more favourable position?	V-Dem
2.3.3	Power distributed by socio-economic position (v2pepwrse)	ES: Is political power distributed according to socio-economic position?	V-Dem
2.3.4	Power distributed by social group (v2pepwrso)	ES: Is political power distributed according to social groups?	V-Dem
2.3.5	Representation of disadvantaged social groups (v2lgdsadlo)	ES: Considering all disadvantaged social groups in the country, how well represented are these groups, as a whole, in the national legislature?	V-Dem
2.3.6	Religious tensions	IC: What is the degree of tension within a country attributable to religious divisions, domination, or suppression?	ICRG
2.3.7	Ethnic tensions	IC: What is the degree of tension within a country attributable to racial, nationality, or language divisions?	ICRG
Basic welfare			
2.3.8	Infant mortality rate	OD	UN statistics
2.3.9	Life expectancy	OD	UN statistics
2.3.10	Kilocalories per person per day	OD	FAO
2.3.11	Literacy	OD	UNESCO
2.3.12	Mean years of schooling	OD	GHDx
2.3.13	Educational equality (v2peedueq)	ES: To what extent is high quality basic education guaranteed to all, sufficient to enable them to exercise their basic rights as adult citizens?	V-Dem
2.3.14	Health equality (v2pehealth)	ES: To what extent is high quality basic health care guaranteed to all, sufficient to enable them to exercise their basic political rights as adult citizens?	V-Dem
Gender equality			
2.3.15	Power distributed by gender (v2pepwrge)	ES: Is political power distributed according to gender?	V-Dem
2.3.16	CSO women's participation (v2csgender)	ES: Are women prevented from participating in civil society organizations?	V-Dem
2.3.17	Female vs. male mean years of schooling	OD	GHDx
2.3.18	Lower chamber female legislators (v2lgfemleg)	OD	V-Dem



No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
2.3.19	Election women in the cabinet (v2elwomcab)	OD	V-Dem

Notes: ES = expert surveys; IC = standards-based in-house coding; OD = observational data.

3. Checks on Government (effective control of executive power)

3.1. Indicators of Effective Parliament

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
3.1.1	Legislature questions officials in practice (v2lgqstexp)	ES: In practice, does the legislature routinely question executive branch officials?	V-Dem
3.1.2.	Executive oversight (v2lgotovst)	ES: If executive branch officials were engaged in unconstitutional, illegal or unethical activity, how likely is it that a body other than the legislature, such as a comptroller general, general prosecutor or ombudsman, would question or investigate them and issue an unfavourable decision or report?	V-Dem
3.1.3	Legislature investigates in practice (v2lginvstp)	ES: If the executive were engaged in unconstitutional, illegal or unethical activity, how likely is it that a legislative body (perhaps a whole chamber, perhaps a committee, whether aligned with government or opposition) would conduct an investigation that would result in a decision or report that is unfavourable to the executive?	V-Dem
3.1.4	Legislature opposition parties (v2lgoppart)	ES: Are opposition parties (those not in the ruling party or coalition) able to exercise oversight and investigatory functions against the wishes of the governing party or coalition?	V-Dem
3.1.5	Executive constraints (xconst)	IC: The extent of institutionalized constraints on the decision-making powers of chief executives, whether individuals or collectivities.	Polity

Notes: ES = expert surveys; IC = standards-based in-house coding.

3.2. Indicators of Judicial Independence

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
3.2.1	High Court independence (v2juhcind)	ES: When the High Court in the judicial system is ruling in cases that are salient to the government, how often would you say that it makes decisions that merely reflect government wishes regardless of its sincere view of the legal record?	V-Dem
3.2.2	Lower court independence (v2juncind)	ES: When judges not on the High Court are ruling in cases that are salient to the government, how often would you say that their decisions merely reflect government wishes regardless of their sincere view of the legal record?	V-Dem
3.2.3	Compliance with High Court (v2juhccomp)	ES: How often would you say the government complies with important decisions of the High Court with which it disagrees?	V-Dem
3.2.4	Compliance with judiciary (v2jucomp)	ES: How often would you say the government complies with important decisions by other courts with which it disagrees?	V-Dem
3.2.5	Law and order	IC: To what extent is the legal system strong and impartial and to what degree is there popular observance of the law?	ICRG

Notes: ES = expert surveys; IC = standards-based in-house coding; OD = observational data; CM = composite measures.

3.3. Indicators of Media Integrity

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
3.3.1	Print/broadcast media critical (v2mecrit)	ES: Of the major print and broadcast outlets, how many routinely criticize the government?	V-Dem
3.3.2	Print/broadcast media perspectives (v2merange)	ES: Do the major print and broadcast media represent a wide range of political perspectives?	V-Dem
3.3.3	Media bias (v2mebias)	ES: Is there media bias against opposition parties or candidates?	V-Dem
3.3.4	Media corrupt (v2mecorrupt)	ES: Do journalists, publishers or broadcasters accept payments in exchange for altering news coverage?	V-Dem
3.3.5	Media freedom	IC: Is criticism of government and government officials a common and normal part of the political dialogue in the mediated public sphere?	Media Freedom Data

Notes: ES = expert surveys; IC = standards-based in-house coding.

4. Impartial Administration (fair and predictable public administration)

4.1. Indicators of Absence of Corruption

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
4.1.1	Public sector corrupt exchanges (v2excrptps)	ES: How routinely do public sector employees grant favours in exchange for bribes, kickbacks or other material inducements?	V-Dem
4.1.2	Public sector theft (v2exthfts)	ES: How often do public sector employees steal, embezzle or misappropriate public funds or other state resources for personal or family use?	V-Dem
4.1.3	Executive embezzlement and theft (v2exembez)	ES: How often do members of the executive (the head of state, the head of government and cabinet ministers) or their agents steal, embezzle or misappropriate public funds or other state resources for personal or family use?	V-Dem
4.1.4	Executive bribery and corrupt exchanges (v2exbribe)	ES: How routinely do members of the executive (the head of state, the head of government and cabinet ministers) or their agents grant favours in exchange for bribes, kickbacks or other material inducements?	V-Dem
4.1.5	Corruption (F)	ES: How widespread is actual or potential corruption in the form of excessive patronage, nepotism, job reservations, 'favour-for-favours', secret party funding or suspiciously close ties between politics and business?	ICRG

Notes: ES = expert surveys.



4.2. Indicators of Predictable Enforcement

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
4.2.1	Executive respects constitution (v2exrescon)	ES: Do members of the executive (the head of state, the head of government and cabinet ministers) respect the constitution?	V-Dem
4.2.2	Transparent laws with predictable enforcement (v2cltrnslw)	ES: Are the laws of the land clear, well-publicized, coherent (consistent with each other), relatively stable from year to year and enforced in a predictable manner?	V-Dem
4.2.3	Rigorous and impartial public administration (v2clrspect)	ES: Are public officials rigorous and impartial in the performance of their duties?	V-Dem
4.2.4	Bureaucratic quality (L)	ES: Bureaucracy has the strength and expertise to govern without drastic changes in policy or interruptions in government services.	ICRG

Notes: ES = expert surveys.

5. Participatory Engagement (instruments for and realization of political involvement)

5.1. Indicators of Civil Society Participation

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
5.1.1	CSO participatory environment (v2csprtpt)	ES: Are people involved in civil society organizations?	V-Dem
5.1.2	Engaged society (v2dlengage)	ES: When important policy changes are being considered, how wide and how independent are public deliberations?	V-Dem
5.1.3	CSO consultation (v2csnsult)	ES: Are major civil society organizations (CSOs) routinely consulted by policymakers on policies relevant to their members?	V-Dem

Notes: ES = expert surveys.

5.2. Indicators of Electoral Participation

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
5.2.1	Election VAP turnout (v2elvaptrn)	OD	V-Dem

Notes: OD = observational data.

5.3 Indicators of Direct Democracy

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
5.3.1	Direct popular vote index (v2xdd_dd)	CM: Measure based on 12 observable variables from V-Dem, resulting from the combination of scores for each type of popular vote (i.e. popular initiatives, referendums, plebiscites and obligatory referendums). The measure captures how easy it is to initiate and approve each type of popular vote and how consequential that vote is (if approved). Ease of initiation is measured by the existence of a direct democratic process, the number of signatures needed and the time limit to collect signatures. Ease of approval is measured by quorums pertaining to participation, approval, supermajority and district majority. Consequences are measured by the legal status of the decision made by citizens (binding or consultative) and the frequency with which direct popular votes have been used and approved in the past.	V-Dem
5.3.2	Electoral	IC: Does a country have no regular elections, elections in an effectively one-party state, elections with opposition parties but without an actual chance of government change, or full democracy?	Bjørnskov and Rode

Notes: IC = standards-based in-house coding; CM = composite measures.

5.4. Indicators of Local Democracy

No.	Indicator	Description/question	Data set
5.4.1	Local government index (v2xel_locelec)	CM: Are there elected local governments, and if so to what extent can they operate without interference from unelected bodies at the local level?	V-Dem
5.4.2	Subnational elections free and fair (v2elfelr)	ES: Taking all aspects of the pre-election period, election day and the post-election process into account, would you consider subnational elections (regional and local, as previously identified) to be free and fair on average?	V-Dem

Notes: ES = expert surveys; CM = composite measures.