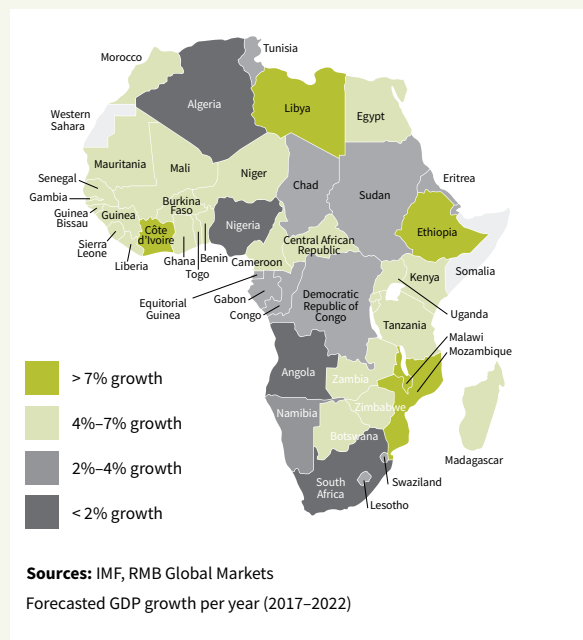


## Theme 3 Africa's failure to translate GDP growth into economic opportunities for its populations

**While the growth story for Africa persists, the opportunities are fragmented. But economic growth is not the real problem. The real problem is translating economic growth into the development of a stable middle class.**

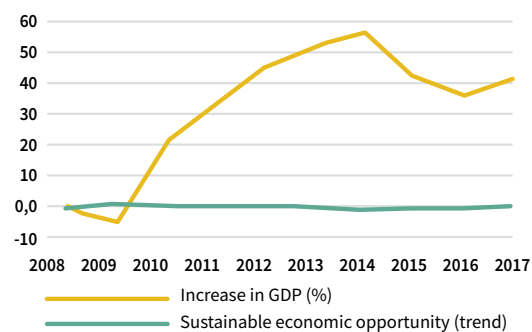
- Libya, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast and Mozambique are expected to experience the highest growth rates.
- Namibia, Botswana and Zambia are likely to grow in line with the rest of the continent at 4%–7%.
- Regions such as Zimbabwe and Nigeria will see little to no growth.
- **Africa growth prospects fragmented, with few regional or continental trends evident.**



**The 2017 Ibrahim Report on African Governance identifies perhaps the greatest challenge to economic growth: the fact that African governments have failed to produce environments that enable their citizens to pursue economic goals and that provide the opportunity to prosper.**

Africa's combined GDP has increased by +39.7% over the last decade, but this has not translated into a similar level of progress in providing sustainable economic opportunity for its citizens. In contrast, the increase in the African average score in this category of the IAG is only +0.1 (a percentage increase of only +0.2%). Of the ten African countries with the largest percentage increase in GDP in the period 2008–2017, only four feature among the ten largest improvers at the category level over the decade: Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

Africa: Sustainable economic opportunity average trend and percentage increase in GDP (2008–2017)

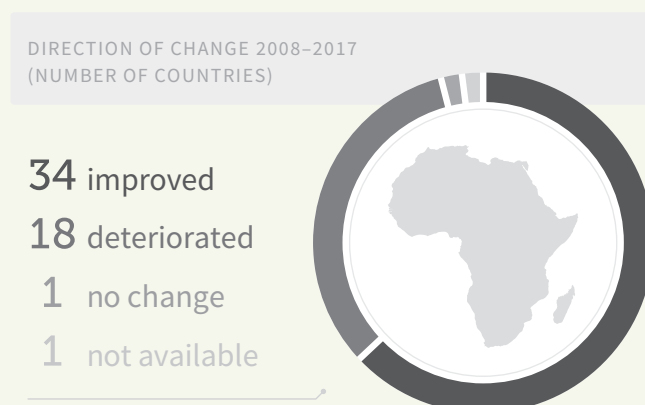


**Sources:** IMF, World Bank

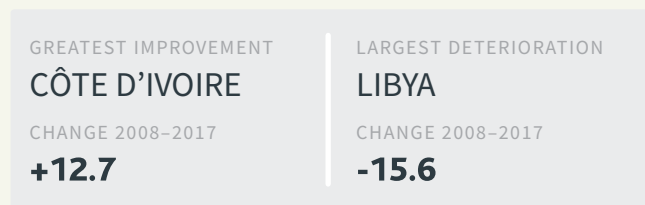
In many respects, this failure to translate a country's economic growth into financial wellness and financial stability for its citizens is a function of failed institutions and failed governance. We need to pay close attention to how the trends on overall governance are playing out for different countries on the continent.

As the Ibrahim Index of African Governance highlights in their latest 2017 report: 'While in 2017 the range between the highest (Mauritius) and lowest (Somalia) governance scores is the smallest it has been in ten years, increasing divergence appears between country scores. In the earlier years of the last decade, countries were concentrated around the African average score, but over the last ten years have dispersed. Within the last three years, 18 countries displayed their worst overall governance performance in a decade, and 28 achieved their best in the same period, highlighting the diverging trends on the continent.'

# Overall governance



\* Lesotho shows no change over the decade and decline in the last five years, so is included in this classification.

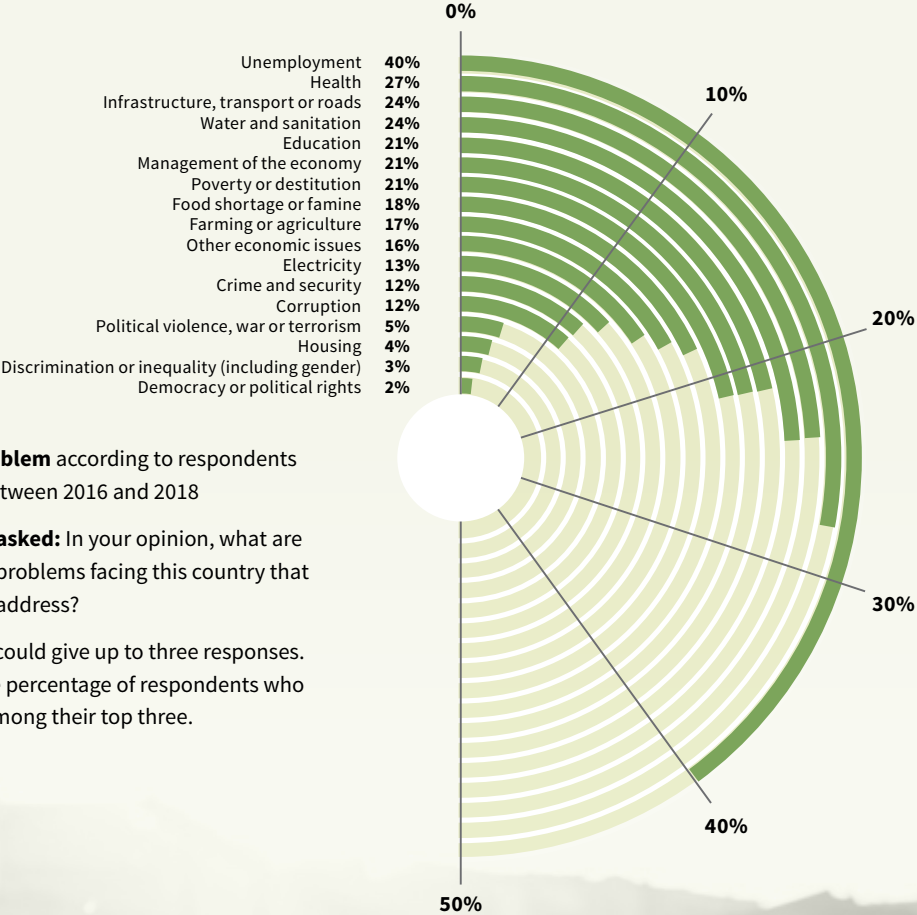


RANK /54		2017 SCORE /100.0	CHANGE 2008-2017
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mauritius	79.5	-0.7
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Seychelles	73.2	+4.0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cabo Verde	71.1	-0.8
4 <sup>th</sup>	Namibia	68.6	+3.3
5 <sup>th</sup>	Botswana	68.5	-3.7
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ghana	68.1	+0.9
7 <sup>th</sup>	South Africa	68.0	-0.6
8 <sup>th</sup>	Rwanda	64.3	+5.9
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tunisia	63.5	+6.9
10 <sup>th</sup>	Senegal	63.3	+5.9
11 <sup>th</sup>	Kenya	59.8	+6.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	São Tomé & Príncipe	59.2	+2.3
13 <sup>th</sup>	Benin	58.7	-0.1
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tanzania	58.5	+1.3
15 <sup>th</sup>	Morocco	58.4	+7.3
16 <sup>th</sup>	Burkina Faso	57.1	+4.8
16 <sup>th</sup>	Lesotho	57.1	0.0
18 <sup>th</sup>	Zambia	56.2	+1.8
19 <sup>th</sup>	Malawi	55.8	-1.4
20 <sup>th</sup>	Uganda	55.0	+1.4
21 <sup>st</sup>	Gambia	54.9	+3.0
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Côte d'Ivoire	54.5	+12.7
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Liberia	51.6	+4.8
24 <sup>th</sup>	Niger	51.2	+5.6
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mozambique	51.0	-3.0
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sierra Leone	50.9	+0.5
27 <sup>th</sup>	Algeria	50.2	-1.3
28 <sup>th</sup>	Mali	50.1	-4.0
29 <sup>th</sup>	Egypt	49.9	+3.9
30 <sup>th</sup>	Togo	49.1	+5.2
31 <sup>st</sup>	Madagascar	49.0	-4.4
32 <sup>nd</sup>	Swaziland	48.7	+1.4
33 <sup>rd</sup>	Nigeria	47.9	+2.8
34 <sup>th</sup>	Comoros	47.5	+3.9
35 <sup>th</sup>	Ethiopia	46.5	+2.6
36 <sup>th</sup>	Cameroon	46.2	-0.3
37 <sup>th</sup>	Guinea	45.9	+6.1
38 <sup>th</sup>	Djibouti	45.1	+0.8
39 <sup>th</sup>	Zimbabwe	44.7	+10.8
40 <sup>th</sup>	Mauritania	43.4	+1.2
41 <sup>st</sup>	Gabon	42.4	-0.1
42 <sup>nd</sup>	Guinea-Bissau	40.2	+0.9
43 <sup>rd</sup>	Burundi	39.8	-5.0
43 <sup>rd</sup>	Congo	39.8	+0.7
45 <sup>th</sup>	Angola	38.3	+0.7
46 <sup>th</sup>	Chad	35.4	+4.6
47 <sup>th</sup>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	32.1	-2.8
48 <sup>th</sup>	Equatorial Guinea	30.9	-0.1
49 <sup>th</sup>	Sudan	30.8	+1.4
50 <sup>th</sup>	Central African Republic	29.5	-2.5
51 <sup>st</sup>	Eritrea	29.3	-2.9
52 <sup>nd</sup>	Libya	28.3	-15.6
53 <sup>rd</sup>	South Sudan	19.3	.
54 <sup>th</sup>	Somalia	13.6	+6.0
	African average	49.9	+1.0

Source: Mo Ibrahim Foundation

This is where the private sector, specifically employers, can play a more proactive role. By understanding where citizens are more concerned about delivery failure from the local governments, employers can consider where they might help fill the gaps for their employees. Note how continuing employment and health top the list. What we have learned from the progress in human development data is that health is probably the most improved governance score on the continent, but there is still a long way to go before most African nations can address the issue of universal healthcare. With good health being a core contributor to employee productivity, this places significant pressure on employers to fill the gap here in terms of addressing needs.

**Voices of Africa: priorities for the region**  
**Be it in job availability, quality or growth, survey data from a diverse group of countries all over Africa shows that people are chiefly concerned about the future of work.**



**Most important problem** according to respondents from 34 countries between 2016 and 2018

**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?

**Note:** Respondents could give up to three responses. The figure shows the percentage of respondents who cite each problem among their top three.

**Source:** Logan, C., Coulibaly, M. & Silwé, M. 2018. Taking stock: *Citizen priorities and assessments three years into the SDGs*, Afrobarometer Policy Paper 51 (online)