

The Good African Society Index

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Abstract This paper constructs a Good Society Index for 45 African countries, termed the Good African Society Index (GASI). The GASI consists of nine main indexes: (1) economic sustainability, (2) democracy and freedom, (3) child well-being, (4) environment and infrastructure, (5) safety and security, (6) health and health systems, (7) integrity and justice, (8) education, and (9) social sustainability and social cohesion. Each component is split into four sub-components for a total of 36 indicators. Tunisia ranks highest on the GASI, followed by Cape Verde and Botswana. Chad has the lowest GASI score, followed by Central African Republic and Cote d'Ivoire. The GASI is strongly related to the 2012 Human Development Index and Fragile States Index, to a lesser extent, GNI per capita.

Keywords Good Society Index · Well-being · Quality of life · Suffering · Africa

1 Introduction

Over the past few decades, many studies have examined the dimensions of individual subjective well-being and quality of life. This important strand of literature has uncovered some vital aspects that enhance the well-being of people around the world (cf. Clark et al. 2008; Dolan et al. 2008). An interest has also emerged recently in examining societal well-being and the overall quality of societies or countries (Holmberg 2007; Anderson 2011, 2012a; Pop et al. 2013; Tay and Kuykendall 2013; Holmberg and Rothstein 2014). Knowledge of factors that positively affect the overall well-being of countries is important for understanding societal dimensions and how countries allow their citizens to lead normal and flourishing lives.

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