Political corruption has tremendous consequences worldwide. Transparency in political finance, political influence, and state administration can help reduce corruption and make democratic processes more legitimate, more pluralistic, and more representative. Open data on decision-making and decision makers can be a powerful tool to identify whose interests shape how governance decisions are made and implemented.

New data from 67 countries from the Open Government Partnership (OGP), including five Francophone African countries, shows that there are significant gaps in data frameworks and data availability across a variety of areas related to countering political corruption. This analysis is part of the *Broken Links: Open Data to Advance Accountability and Combat Corruption* report[1] which offers an overview of data frameworks and data availability in OGP countries across eight policy topics using data from the Global Data Barometer (GDB).[2] The goal of the report is to identify areas for improvement and generate recommendations for future OGP commitments.

This analysis focuses specifically on the state of data frameworks and availability in the five Francophone African countries in OGP assessed by the GDB (see *Countries in this Analysis*). This regional analysis includes:

- A summary of GDB's assessment of the state of data to counter corruption in the region
- An overview of OGP commitments across assessed policy areas
- Highlights in featured policy areas with data from both GDB and OGP
- Examples of regional innovations

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[1] You can find the report *Open Data to Advance Accountability and Combat Corruption* here: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/broken-links/.
[2] View more details about the Global Data Barometer here: https://globaldatabarometer.org/.

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Open
Government
Partnership

Countries in this Analysis

Francophone African countries assessed by GDB and included in this analysis

- ❖ Burkina Faso
- ❖ Côte d'Ivoire
- ❖ Morocco

- ❖ Senegal
- ❖ Tunisia

Key Takeaways

→ **Making data available in any form is the region's main area for improvement.** Public procurement is the only area assessed where most countries in Francophone Africa publish data. No countries have available data for most policy areas, including asset disclosure, company beneficial ownership, and lobbying.

→ **Requirements for data collection and publication are lacking across many policy areas.** While all countries in Francophone Africa require collection of asset disclosure data, most countries do not require the data to be published. No countries require the collection of lobbying data. Where data is required to be collected, data publication is often not mandated.

→ **Countries have made few commitments related to these policy areas in their OGP action plans.** More commitments are needed, particularly around lobbying and political finance. Asset disclosure is the only area where most countries in the region have made a commitment.
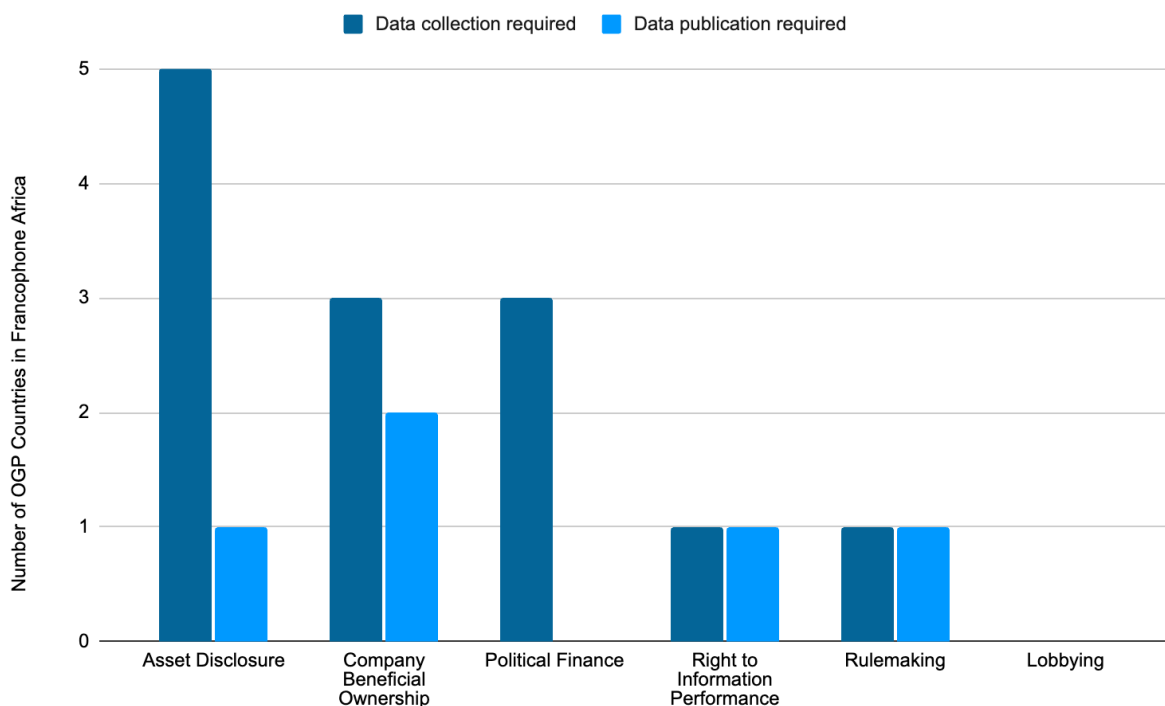
Overall State of Data to Combat Political Corruption

Legal Frameworks

Francophone African countries in OGP lack legal frameworks governing data collection and publication across most policy areas (see Figure 1). While all five countries legally require collection of asset disclosure data, the region lacks requirements around the collection of right to information performance, rulemaking, and lobbying data. Where collection is mandated, the publication of data is often not required. The gap between required data collection and publication is largest for asset disclosure and political finance data.

Figure 1: Gaps between required data collection and publication
This figure shows the number of OGP countries in Francophone Africa with data collection and disclosure requirements across policy areas. The sample includes the five OGP countries in Francophone Africa assessed by the Global Data Barometer.

Note: This analysis only considers binding laws and policies that exist and are operational.[3]
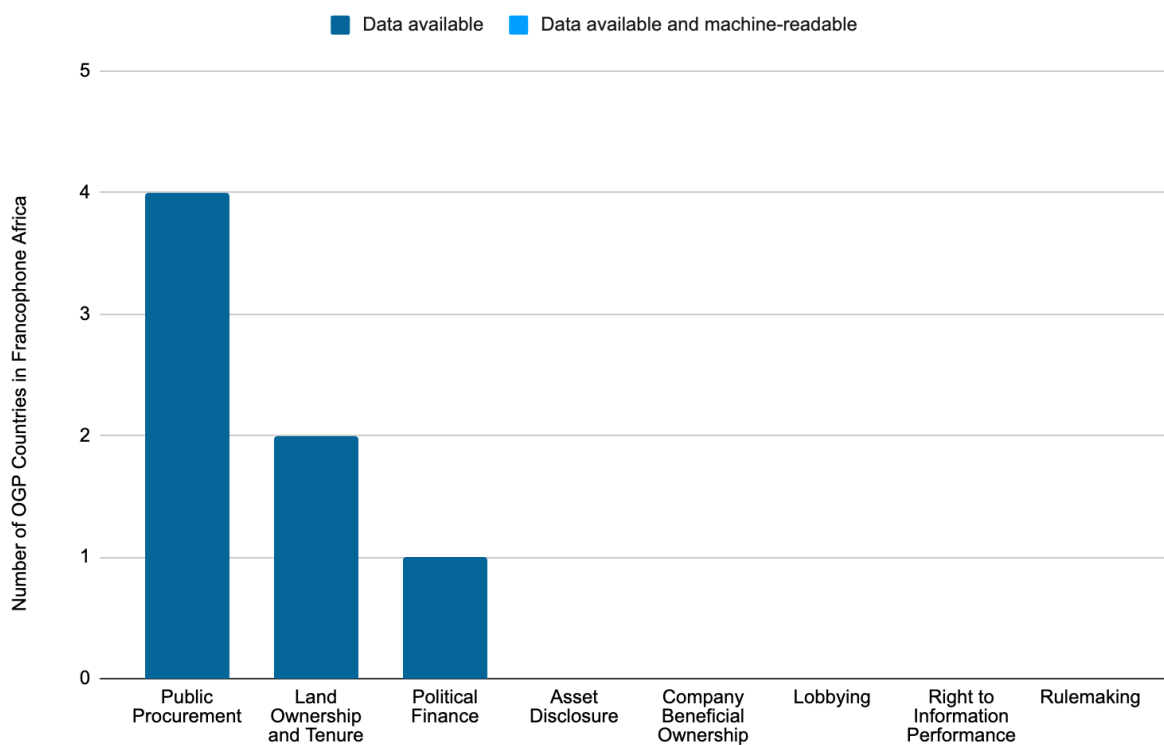
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[3] For more details see the *About Broken Links* section of the report: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/broken-links/.

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Data Availability and Usability

Data that can be used to counter political corruption is widely unavailable in Francophone African countries (see Figure 2). Public procurement is the area of exception, as most countries in the region publish contract data online. Where data is available, it is not published in machine-readable format, which makes it difficult for users to analyze the data for monitoring and accountability purposes. No OGP countries in Francophone Africa publish data on key areas of anti-corruption, including asset disclosure, company beneficial ownership, and lobbying.

Figure 2: Gaps between data availability and usability

This figure shows the number of OGP countries in Francophone Africa with available data and the number with machine-readable data. The sample includes the five OGP countries in Francophone Africa assessed by the Global Data Barometer.

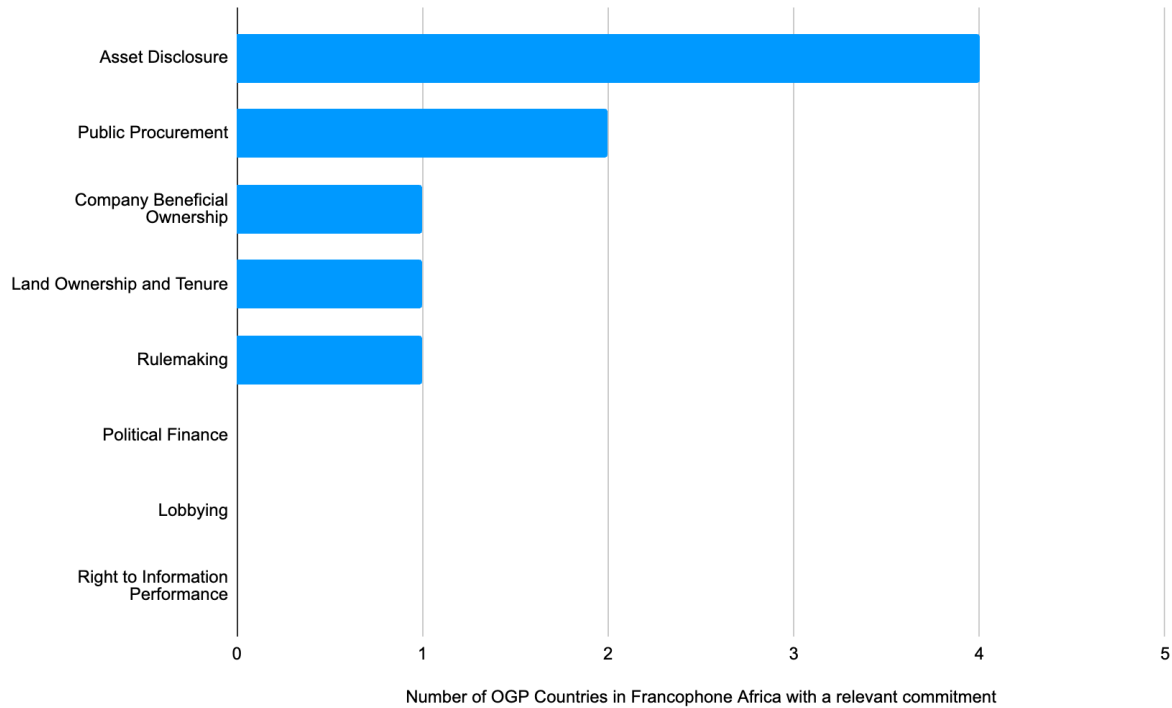*Note: For this analysis, countries with "partial" disclosure are considered cases of "no" disclosure.[4]*

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[4] For more details see the *About Broken Links* section of the report: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/broken-links/.

State of Progress Through OGP

Many Francophone African countries have yet to make an OGP commitment across most policy areas covered in this report (see Figure 3). Nearly all OGP countries in Francophone Africa have made a commitment on asset disclosure, and the region has seen some commitments related to public procurement, company beneficial ownership, land ownership and tenure, and rulemaking. No Francophone African countries, however, have used their OGP action plans to address political finance or lobbying reforms.

Figure 3: Progress made through OGP commitments

This figure shows the number of OGP countries in Francophone Africa that have made at least one relevant OGP commitment across each area assessed in this report. The sample includes the five OGP countries in Francophone Africa.

Number of OGP Countries in Francophone Africa with a relevant commitment

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Featured Policy Areas

The following policy areas were selected for a more detailed analysis based on a variety of factors, including regional priorities, areas of momentum, and areas for growth.

Company Beneficial Ownership

Key Findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Some countries have legal frameworks in place.** Three countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Tunisia) have operational legal frameworks that require the collection of company beneficial ownership data. Cote d'Ivoire is the only country that requires the data to be published.
- **No countries publish data online.** Even though some countries collect company beneficial ownership data, none of the Francophone African countries had published data online during GDB's assessment period.

State of Progress Through OGP

- **Most countries have not committed to beneficial ownership transparency through their OGP action plans.** Burkina Faso is the only country in Francophone Africa that has made an OGP commitment related to beneficial ownership transparency.[5] The 2019 [commitment](#) focused on increasing transparency in the mining sector.[6]

Public Procurement

Key Findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Most countries publish public procurement data online.** Four OGP countries in Francophone Africa make information on public procurement freely accessible online to the public. The only country that does not publish procurement data online is Burkina Faso.
- **Data lacks usability.** While data is freely available in four countries, the datasets typically do not meet other important standards of open data. Senegal is the only country who publishes procurement data with an open license, while no countries publish data that is machine-readable. This prevents the public from re-using the data for monitoring and analysis purposes.
- **High-value information is limited.** While procurement data covers the tender and award stages in some countries, data only covers the contract implementation stage in Morocco. No countries publish data on contract start and end dates, contract documentation, or information on spending against the contract.

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[5] As of August 2022, five national and three local OGP members in Francophone Africa had submitted at least one action plan. See an updated list of OGP national and local members: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/our-members/.
[6] Burkina Faso, "Mining Sector Transparency" (BF0016), https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/burkina-faso/commitments/bf0016/.

BROKEN LINKS: OPEN DATA TO ADVANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMBAT CORRUPTION

- **Some countries have used their OGP action plans to increase transparency in public procurement.** Two countries (Cote d'Ivoire and Tunisia) and one local member, Tangier – Tetouan – Al-Hoceima, Morocco, have made at least one commitment related to public procurement. Tangier – Tetouan – Al-Hoceima, Morocco is the only member currently implementing a commitment in this area.
- **Commitments generally do not mention open data.** Only one [commitment](#) made by Tunisia references open data and open contracting principles.[7] Other commitments focus more broadly on public procurement transparency.
- **Commitments have lacked effective implementation.** According to the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM), two of four assessed commitments were substantially or fully completed. However, none of the commitments have produced significant early results so far.[8]

Regional Innovations	
Morocco	Morocco's public procurement [portal](#) uses unique Identifiers that connect procurement processes across stages.[9]

Right to Information Performance

Key Findings from the Global Data Barometer

- **Most countries do not have legal frameworks in place.** Côte d'Ivoire is the only Francophone African country that has an operational law requiring collection of right to information performance data.
- **No countries publish data online.** Even though Côte d'Ivoire requires publication of RTI performance data, none of the Francophone African countries had published data online during GDB's assessment period.

State of Progress Through OGP

- **No commitments have been made on right to information performance data.** Although each Francophone African country has made at least one commitment on right to information laws, none of these commitments have explicitly mentioned collecting or publishing performance data on the fulfillment of right to information requests.

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[7] Tunisia, "Open Contracting in Hydrocarbons" (TN0042), https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/tunisia/commitments/tn0042/.
[8] Learn more about how the Independent Reporting Mechanism assesses commitments: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/irm-guidance-overview/.
[9] The General Treasury of the Kingdom of Morocco, "Moroccan portal for public procurement", https://www.marchespublics.gov.ma/pmmp/?lang=ar.

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