

# RISK DRIVER 4

# GOVERNANCE

## FACTORS

considered under Risk Driver 4 are mainly related to democracy, government effectiveness and rule of law.

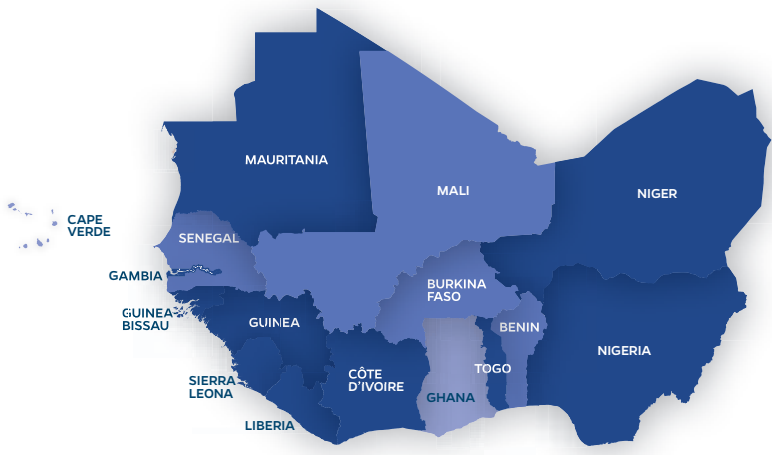
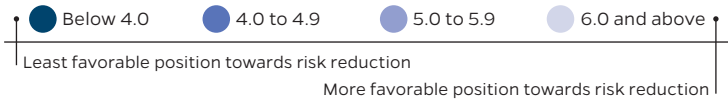
**BASED** on the composite indicator for the Risk Driver 4 on Governance, governance in West Africa is weak, and on par with levels in East Africa and South and Central Asia.

**HIGH LEVELS** of illiteracy and lack of access to education, with an enrolment gender gap favouring men in West Africa, are linked to poor governance and less meaningful political participation.

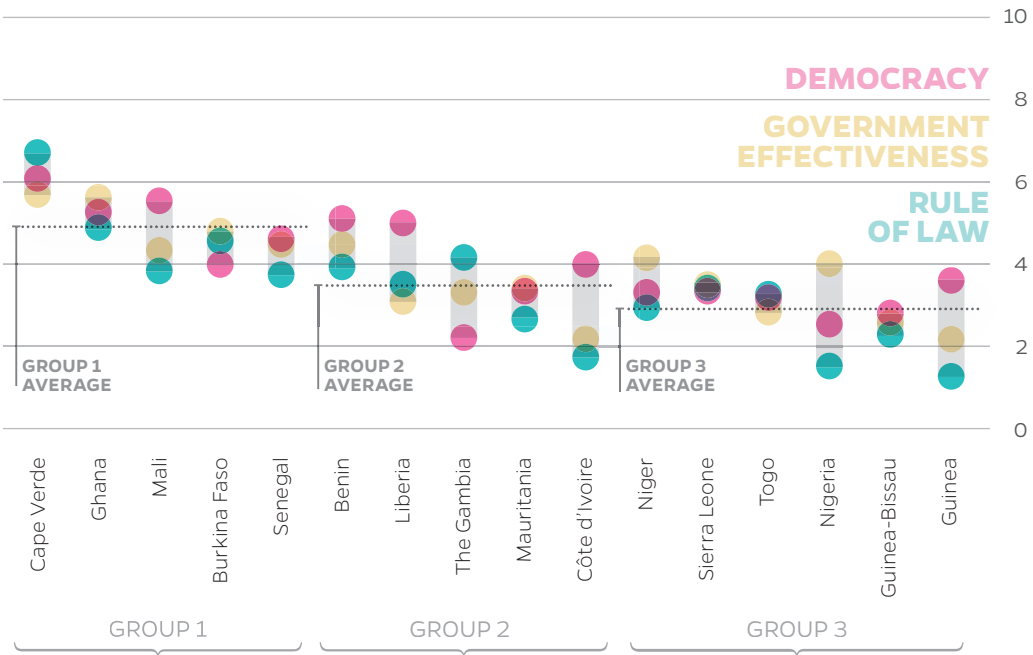
Rule of law received the worst scores among the indicators considered for most countries in the region. Here Cape Verde and The Gambia are exceptions; both received their highest governance-related scores in this indicator. Democracy appears to require greater commitment as well, with all countries except Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Benin and Liberia scoring below 5 for this indicator.

**IN THE CONTEXT** of governance in West Africa, issues of conflict and protracted crisis situations also must

### SCORES LEGEND



# DEMOCRACY, GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND RULE OF LAW IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES



be taken into account. Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are 4 out of a total of 22 countries in the world that were facing a protracted crisis in 2010, meaning that they are susceptible to repeated natural disasters and/or conflicts in a context where there are long-term food crises, breakdown of livelihoods and insufficient institutional

capacity to respond. Nigeria and Mali have also experienced conflict within their boundaries. In addition, population movements across the region, including significant numbers of refugees and internally displaced people in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, contribute to increased levels of both instability and vulnerability.