Governance Assessment Profile

Freedom House’s *Freedom in the World Report* (FIW)

**Summary**
Published since 1973, Freedom House’s *Freedom in the World Report* (FIW) assesses the condition of political rights and civil liberties around the world. It is composed of numerical ratings and supporting descriptive texts for 195 countries and 15 territories. The information below was compiled from responses to AidData’s 2016 GDA Snap Poll, which asked public, private and civil society leaders to answer 11 questions about whether, when, and why they use governance data in their work. A total of 121 participants to the snap poll indicated familiarity with the FIW.

121 survey respondents were familiar with the FIW.

Who is familiar with the FIW (by policy domain)?

- Governance: 36%
- Macroeconomic: 10%
- Social: 20%
- Environment: 10%
- Agriculture: 5%
- Other: 3%

68 (36%) out of 190 data users working within the governance domain were familiar with the FIW.

How did data users become familiar with the FIW?*

- Active web search: 32%
- Email: 10%
- External written communication: 20%
- Formal meeting / consultation: 30%
- Informal verbal communication: 5%
- Internal written communication: 10%
- Social media: 10%
- Traditional media: 5%

32% of data users became familiar with the FIW through active web search (e.g., Google).

*Snap poll participants could select multiple channels of communications for how they became familiar with a particular assessment.
How many data users found the FIW to be \textit{important} or \textit{essential} to their work?

- **All Sectors**: 71% of all data users considered the FIW to be important or essential to their work, 4% below the average assessment.
- **Governance**: 79% of data users in the governance domain considered the FIW to be important or essential to their work.
- **Macroeconomic**: 67% of data users in the macroeconomic domain considered the FIW to be important or essential to their work.

How many data users found the FIW to be \textit{helpful} or \textit{very helpful} to their work?

- **All Sectors**: 67% of all data users evaluated the FIW to be helpful or very helpful to their work, 1% below the average assessment.
- **Governance**: 68% of data users in the governance domain evaluated the FIW to be helpful or very helpful to their work.
- **Macroeconomic**: 58% of data users in the macroeconomic domain evaluated the FIW to be helpful or very helpful to their work.

**Background**

Designed and fielded by AidData at the College of William & Mary, the 2016 Governance Data Alliance Snap Poll offers a unique window into the experiences of public, private, and civil society leaders in advancing reforms in their countries and the role of a broad range of governance data in that process. Respondents answered 11 questions about whether, when, how, and why they use governance data in their work. 3000+ policy-makers and practitioners in low- and middle-income countries received an invitation to participate in the online snap poll. 515 individuals in 111 countries participated, yielding a response rate of 17.7%.

**Citation**

Takaaki Masaki, Tanya Sethi, and Samantha Custer. 2016. \textit{In the Eye of the Beholder: When is governance data “good enough”?} Williamsburg, VA. AidData at the College of William & Mary and the Governance Data Alliance.