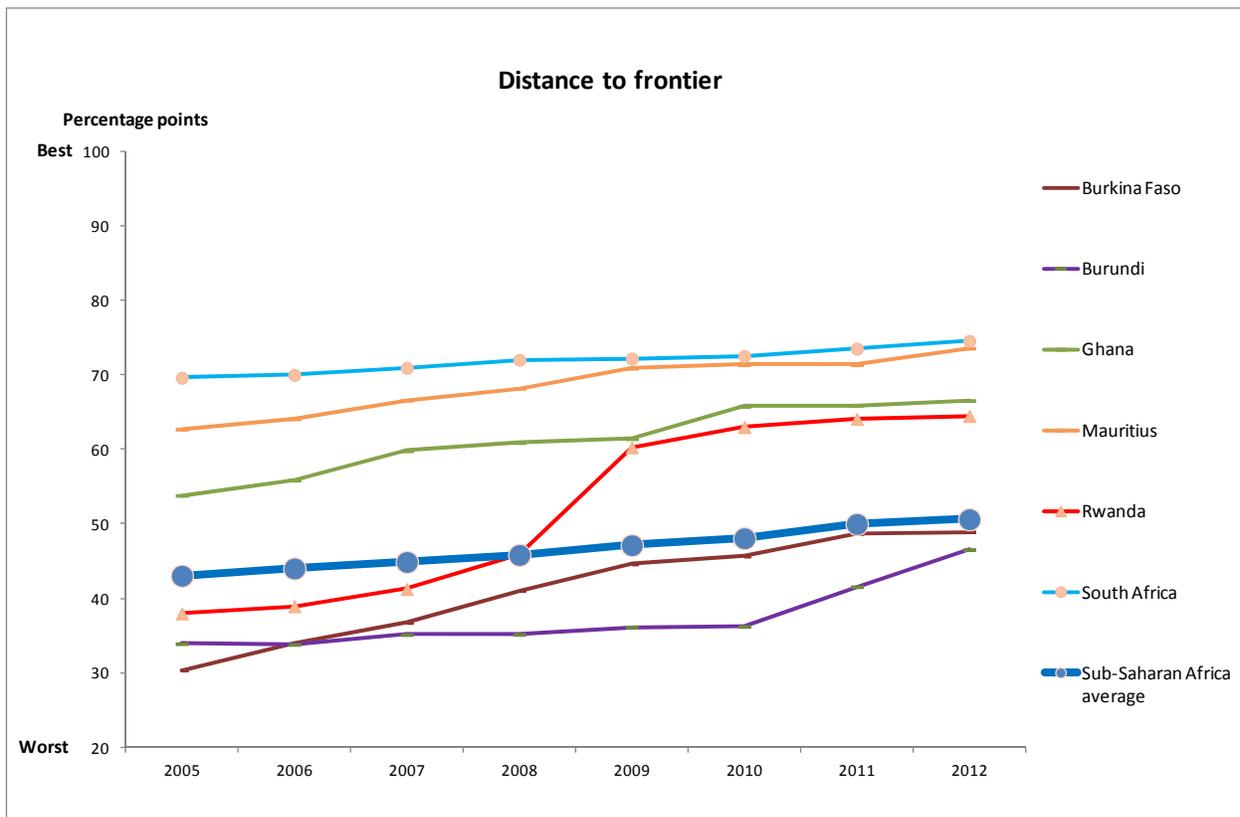


Doing Business 2013 Fact Sheet: Sub-Saharan Africa

- Of the 50 economies making the most improvement in business regulation for domestic firms since 2005, 17 are in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- From June 2011 to June 2012, 28 of 46 governments in Sub-Saharan Africa implemented at least one regulatory reform making it easier to do business—a total of 44.
- Burundi, with four reforms, ranks among the 10 economies globally that improved the most in the past year across three or more areas measured by *Doing Business*—the only low-income economy on the list.
- A case study in this year’s report features Rwanda, which since 2005 has implemented 26 regulatory reforms as recorded by *Doing Business*.



Note: The distance to frontier measure shows how far on average an economy is from the best performance achieved by any economy on each *Doing Business* indicator since 2005. The measure is normalized to range between 0 and 100, with 100 representing the best performance (the frontier). The data refer to the 174 economies included in *Doing Business 2006* (2005). Eleven economies were added in subsequent years.
Source: *Doing Business* database.

Summary of 2011/12 *Doing Business* Reforms in Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola made getting electricity easier by eliminating the requirement for customers applying for an electricity connection to obtain authorizations from the two utility companies.

Areas of business regulation reform: Getting electricity

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 172

Benin implemented reforms in several areas of business regulation: it reduced the time required to obtain a construction permit by speeding up the processing of applications; made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a new code of civil, administrative, and social procedures; made starting a business easier by appointing a representative of the commercial registry at the one-stop shop and reducing some fees; and reduced the time required to trade across borders by implementing an electronic single-window system integrating customs, control agencies, port authorities, and other service providers at the Cotonou port.

Areas of business regulation reform: Dealing with construction permits, Enforcing contracts, Starting a business, Trading across borders

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 175

In **Botswana** exporting and importing became faster thanks to the introduction of a scanner by the country's customs authority and an upgrade of South Africa's customs declaration system, both at the Kopfontein–Tlokweng border post. At the same time, Botswana made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the profit tax rate.

Areas of business regulation reform: Trading across borders, Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 59

Burundi implemented reforms in several areas of business regulation: it made obtaining a construction permit easier by eliminating the requirement for a clearance from the Ministry of Health and reducing the cost of the geotechnical study; made property transfers faster by establishing a statutory time limit for processing property transfer requests at the land registry; made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirements to have company documents notarized, to publish information on new companies in a journal, and to register new companies with the Ministry of Trade and Industry; and reduced the time to trade across borders by enhancing its use of electronic data interchange systems, introducing a more efficient system for monitoring goods going through transit countries, and improving border coordination with neighboring transit countries.

Areas of business regulation reform: Dealing with construction permits, Registering property, Starting a business, Trading across borders

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 159

Cameroon made enforcing contracts easier by creating specialized commercial divisions within its courts of first instance.

Areas of business regulation reform: Enforcing contracts

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 161

The **Central African Republic** made obtaining a construction permit more costly.

Areas of business regulation reform: Dealing with construction permits (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 185

Chad made starting a business easier by setting up a one-stop shop.

Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 184

The **Comoros** made it easier to transfer property by reducing the property transfer tax. In addition, the Comoros made starting a business easier and less costly by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company's registration and by reducing the fees to incorporate a company.

Areas of business regulation reform: Registering property, Starting a business

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 158

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** made starting a business easier by appointing additional public notaries.

Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 181

The **Republic of Congo** made dealing with construction permits less expensive by reducing the cost of registering a new building at the land registry. And it made starting a business easier by eliminating or reducing several administrative costs associated with incorporation.

Areas of business regulation reform: Dealing with construction permits, Starting a business

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 183

Ethiopia improved access to credit information by establishing an online platform for sharing such information and by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data. Ethiopia also introduced a social insurance contribution.

Areas of business regulation reform: Getting credit (credit information), Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 127

In **Gabon** registering property became more difficult because of longer administrative delays at the land registry.

Areas of business regulation reform: Registering property (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 170

Ghana added to the time required to import by increasing its scanning of imports and changing its customs clearance system.

Areas of business regulation reform: Trading across borders (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 64

Guinea made obtaining a building permit less expensive by clarifying the method for calculating the cost and made getting electricity easier by simplifying the process for connecting new customers to the distribution network. In addition, Guinea made starting a business easier by setting up a one-stop shop for company incorporation and by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company's registration

Areas of business regulation reform: Dealing with construction permits, Getting electricity, Starting a business

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 178

Kenya made paying taxes faster for companies by enhancing electronic filing systems.

Areas of business regulation reform: Paying taxes

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 121

Lesotho strengthened investor protections by increasing the disclosure requirements for related-party transactions and improving the liability regime for company directors in cases of abusive related-party transactions. In addition, Lesotho made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop for company incorporation and by eliminating the requirements for paid-in minimum capital and for notarization of the articles of association.

Areas of business regulation reform: Protecting investors, Starting a business

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 136

In **Liberia**, obtaining an electricity connection became easier thanks to the adoption of better procurement practices by the Liberia Electricity Corporation. In addition, Liberia made enforcing contracts easier by creating a specialized commercial court and made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing the profit tax rate and abolishing the turnover tax.

Areas of business regulation reform: Getting electricity, Enforcing contracts, Paying taxes

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 149

Madagascar made starting a business easier by allowing the one-stop shop to deal with the publication of the notice of incorporation.

Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 142

In **Malawi**, trading across borders became easier thanks to improvements in customs clearance procedures and transport links between the port of Beira in Mozambique and Blantyre. At the same time, Malawi made dealing with construction permits more expensive by increasing the cost to obtain the plan approval and to register the property. Malawi also introduced a mandatory pension contribution for companies.

Areas of business regulation reform: Trading across borders, Dealing with construction permits (making it more difficult), Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 157

Mali made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also introduced a new tax on land. At the same time, Mali simplified the process of paying taxes by introducing a single form for joint filing and payment of several taxes.

Areas of business regulation reform: Paying taxes

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 151

Mauritius improved access to credit information by starting to collect payment information from retailers and beginning to distribute both positive and negative information. In addition, Mauritius made property transfers faster by implementing an electronic information management system at the Registrar-General's Department.

Areas of business regulation reform: Getting credit (credit information), Registering property

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 19

Namibia made getting electricity easier by reducing the time required to provide estimates and external connection works and by lowering the connection costs. At the same time, Namibia made transferring property more difficult by requiring conveyancers to obtain a building compliance certificate beforehand.

Areas of business regulation reform: Getting electricity, Registering property (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 87

Niger reduced the time to import by expanding and optimizing the use of an electronic data interchange system for customs clearance.

Areas of business regulation reform: Trading across borders

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 176

Nigeria introduced a new compulsory labor contribution paid by the employer.

Areas of business regulation reform: Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 131

Rwanda made enforcing contracts easier by implementing an electronic filing system for initial complaints. And it made getting electricity easier by reducing the cost of obtaining a new connection.

Areas of business regulation reform: Enforcing contracts, Getting electricity

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 52

São Tomé and Príncipe made obtaining a construction permit more expensive by increasing the fees.

Areas of business regulation reform: Dealing with construction permits (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2013: 160

Sierra Leone improved access to credit information by establishing a public credit registry at its central bank and guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data. In addition, Sierra Leone made registering property easier by computerizing the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment.

Areas of business regulation reform: Getting credit (credit information), Registering property
Rank in Doing Business 2013: 140

South Africa reduced the time and documents required to export and import through its ongoing customs modernization program.

Areas of business regulation reform: Trading across borders
Rank in Doing Business 2013: 39

Swaziland introduced value added tax.

Areas of business regulation reform: Paying taxes
Rank in Doing Business 2013: 123

Tanzania made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for inspections by health, town, and land officers as a prerequisite for a business license. At the same time, Tanzania made dealing with construction permits more expensive by increasing the cost to obtain a building permit and made importing more difficult by introducing a requirement to obtain a certificate of conformity before the imported goods are shipped.

Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business, Dealing with construction permits (making it more difficult), Trading across borders (making it more difficult)
Rank in Doing Business 2013: 134

Togo made starting a business easier and less costly by reducing incorporation fees, improving the work flow at the one-stop shop for company registration, and replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company's registration.

Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business
Rank in Doing Business 2013: 156

Uganda strengthened its insolvency process by clarifying rules on the creation of mortgages, establishing the duties of mortgagors and mortgagees, defining priority rules, providing remedies for mortgagors and mortgagees, and establishing the powers of receivers. At the same time, Uganda made transferring property more difficult by introducing a requirement for property purchasers to obtain an income tax certificate before registration, resulting in delays at the Uganda Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Finance. But Uganda also made transferring property easier, by digitizing records at the title registry, increasing efficiency at the assessor's office.

Areas of business regulation reform: Resolving insolvency, Registering property (making it more difficult)
Rank in Doing Business 2013: 120

Zambia strengthened its insolvency process by introducing further qualification requirements for receivers and liquidators and by establishing specific duties and remuneration rules for them.

Areas of business regulation reform: Resolving insolvency
Rank in Doing Business 2013: 94

About the *Doing Business* report series

Doing Business analyzes regulations that apply to an economy's businesses during their life cycle, including start-up and operations, trading across borders, paying taxes, and protecting investors. The aggregate ease of doing business rankings are based on 10 indicators and cover 185 economies. *Doing Business* does not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firms and investors. For example, it does not measure the quality of fiscal management, other aspects of macroeconomic stability, the level of skills in the labor force, or the resilience of financial systems. Its findings have stimulated policy debates worldwide and enabled a growing body of research on how firm-level regulation relates to economic outcomes across economies. This year's report marks the 10th edition of the global *Doing Business* report series. For more information about the *Doing Business* report series, please visit www.doingbusiness.org. Join us on [Facebook](#).

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