



THE 17 SELF-RELIANCE METRICS

Self-reliance — defined as the ability of a country to plan, finance, and implement solutions to solve its own development challenges — is driven by two factors: commitment and capacity. Commitment captures how well a country’s laws, policies, actions and informal governance mechanisms — such as cultures and norms — support progress toward self-reliance. Capacity measures how far the country has come in its ability to manage its own development journey across the dimensions of political, social, and economic development, including the ability to work across these sectors.

To this end, USAID has identified an initial set of third-party, publicly available, high-level metrics which the Agency feels best-capture the concepts of “commitment” and “capacity,” and therefore, self-reliance. These metrics will help USAID better-understand where each country is on its journey so that the Agency can better tailor its partnerships according to each country’s unique self-reliance needs.

COMMITMENT METRICS

Open and Accountable Governance

- [*Liberal Democracy Index, Varieties of Democracy \(V-Dem\)*](#). Measures freedom of expression, freedom of association, suffrage, clean elections, rule of law, judicial constraints on the executive branch, and legislative constraints on the executive branch. (This indicator is referred to as “Liberal Democracy” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- [*Open Government Factor, World Justice Project Rule of Law Index, World Justice Project*](#). Measures open government defined as a government that shares information, empowers people with tools to hold the government accountable, and fosters citizen participation in public policy deliberations. Sub-factors include publicized laws and government data, right to information, civic participation, and complaint mechanisms. (This indicator is referred to as “Open Government” on the Country Roadmaps.)

Inclusive Development

- [*Social Group Equality in Respect for Civil Liberties, Varieties of Democracy \(V-Dem\)*](#). Measures the extent to which all social groups as distinguished by language, ethnicity, religion, race, region, or caste, enjoy the same level of civil liberties. Civil liberties are understood to include access to justice, private property rights, freedom of movement, and freedom from forced labor. (This indicator is referred to as “Social Group Equality” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- [*Economic Gender Gap Component, Global Gender Gap Report, World Economic Forum*](#). Measures the gender difference in economic participation and opportunity. Comprised of five components: (1) wage equality between women and men for similar work; (2) the ratio of female estimated earned income to male income; (3) the ratio of female labor force participation to male participation; (4) the ratio of female legislators, senior officials, and managers to male counterparts; and (5) the ratio of female

professional and technical workers to male counterparts. (This indicator is referred to as “Economic Gender Gap” on the Country Roadmaps.)

Economic Policy

- **[Business Environment Component, Legatum Prosperity Index, Legatum Institute](#)**. Measures the entrepreneurial climate by measuring business’ access to infrastructure (such as the internet, transport, and credit), business flexibility (the costs of starting business and of hiring and firing), clear and fair regulations (e.g., intellectual property rights), and perceptions of meritocracy and opportunity. (This indicator is referred to as “Business Environment” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- **[Trade Freedom Component, Index of Economic Freedom, Heritage Foundation](#)**. Measures a country’s openness to international trade based on average tariff rates and non-tariff barriers to trade. (This indicator is referred to as “Trade Freedom” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- **[Biodiversity and Habitat Protections Indicator, Environmental Performance Index, Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy and Columbia Earth Science Information Network](#)**. Measures extent of marine protected areas, terrestrial biome protection (weighted for both national and global scarcity), representativeness of protected areas, and whether protected areas cover the ranges and habitats of critical species. (This indicator is referred to as “Biodiversity & Habitat Protections” on the Country Roadmaps.)

CAPACITY METRICS

Government Capacity

- **[Government Effectiveness, Worldwide Governance Indicators \(WGI\), World Bank](#)**. Measures the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and its independence from political pressure, the quality of policy formulation and implementation (including the efficiency of revenue mobilization and budget management), and the credibility of the government’s commitment to its stated policies. (This indicator is referred to as “Government Effectiveness” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- **[Efficiency of the Tax Administration, Institutional Profiles Database \(IPD\), French Directorate-General of the Treasury and the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales \(CEPII\)](#)**. Measures the efficiency of tax collection in relation to corporate taxes, household income taxes, national geographic consistency and reach, and the government's ability to limit tax evasion. (This indicator is referred to as "Efficiency of Tax Administration" on the Country Roadmaps.)
- **[Safety and Security Component, Legatum Prosperity Index, Legatum Institute](#)**. Measures citizen safety and security through the combination of objective measures of security and subjective measures of personal safety, personal freedom, and social tolerance. (This indicator is referred to as “Safety & Security” on the Country Roadmaps.)

Civil Society Capacity

- **[Diagonal Accountability Index, Varieties of Democracy \(V-Dem\)](#)**. Measures the range of actions and mechanisms that citizens, civil society organizations, and an independent media can use to hold the government accountable. The mechanisms include using informal tools such as social mobilization and investigative journalism to enhance vertical and horizontal accountability. (This indicator is referred to as “Civil Society & Media Effectiveness” on the Country Roadmaps.)

Citizen Capacity

- **[Headcount Ratio, Percent of Population Living on Less than \\$5 Per Day \(Purchasing Power Parity\), Povcalnet, World Bank](#)**. Measures household resilience as an indicator for the ability of households to better withstand economic shocks. (This indicator is referred to as “Poverty Rate (\$5/Day)” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- **[Percentage of Students Attaining a Minimum Proficiency in Reading toward the End of Primary School, World Bank](#)**. Measures student achievement in reading through comparative cross-country international tests, providing an evaluation of the relative performance of educational systems worldwide. (This indicator is referred to as “Education Quality” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- **[Child Health Indicator, Center for International Earth Science Information Network \(CIESIN\), Columbia University](#)**. Measures child health through a composite index derived from the average of three proximity-to-target scores for access to improved sanitation, access to improved water, and child mortality. (This indicator is referred to as “Child Health” on the Country Roadmaps.)

Capacity of the Economy

- **[Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\) Per Capita \(Purchasing Power Parity\), World Development Indicators, World Bank](#)**. Measures flow of resources available to households, firms, and government to finance development. (This indicator is referred to as “GDP Per Capita (PPP)” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- **[ICT Use Sub Component of the Technological Readiness Component, Global Competitiveness Index, World Economic Forum \(WEF\)](#)**. Measures a country's Information and Communication Technology infrastructure through the combination of six indicators: (1) internet users as percent of population; (2) fixed-broadband internet subscriptions per 100 population; (3) internet bandwidth kb/s/user; (4) mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 population; (5) mobile telephone subscriptions per 100 population; and (6) fixed telephone lines per 100 population. (This indicator is referred to as “Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Use” on the Country Roadmaps.)
- **[Export Concentration Index \(or the Herfindahl-Hirschmann index\), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#)**. Measures the diversification of a country's export products and is one key marker of the sophistication of

the economy and its resilience to economic shocks. (This indicator is referred to as “Export Diversification” on the Country Roadmaps.)