



13 June 2007

COUNTRY INDICATORS FOR  
FOREIGN POLICY  
[www.carleton.ca/cifp](http://www.carleton.ca/cifp)

Country Indicators for Foreign Policy (CIFP) is a project located at Carleton University. Its core mandate is to develop methodologies that will generate information on the key features of the political, economic, social and cultural environments of countries around the world, providing at-a-glance global overviews, issue-based perspectives and country performance measures. Our data analysis focuses on armed conflict, fragile states and more recently core measures of democratic processes and governance.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- CIDA through ODG, has contracted CIFP to carry out the implementation of the project.
- CIDA's Policy Branch is also supporting CIFP's research on state fragility.

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**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Democracy and Governance Processes Project aims to contribute to a better understanding of democratic processes in a selected number of countries, thereby providing support to decision-makers engaged in Canadian foreign policy and development. In this way, the project aims to support informed, evidence-based decision making for Canadian foreign policy and development assistance related to democratization.

The project offers a number of valuable contributions to Canadian development efforts:

- The multi-source data structure enables more robust analysis than any method depending on a single type of information;
- The intensive research focus provides a comprehensive resource for desk and field officers
- The comparative case study structure ensures that the project's processes and general research outcomes will be useful to a much broader audience than solely those working in the countries covered in the study;
- Most importantly, collaboration with CIDA officers working in the field ensures that the results of the project are specifically tailored to the policy needs of CIDA and the Canadian government.

**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

Presentation at CIDA - Presentation of research methodology to Canada Corps, Democracy Council	CIDA Building, Ottawa ON	8 March 2006
CIGI '06 – Conference on International Governance Innovation - presentation of research	Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo ON	15-16 September 2006
Presentation to Asia Branch— Presentation of governance research project, identification of case study countries	CIDA Building, Ottawa ON	4 October 2006
Presentation to CIDA Governance Core Group—Presentation of governance research project, identification of case study countries	CIDA Building, Ottawa ON	10 October 2006
Presentation to Americas Branch - Presentation of governance research project, identification of case study countries	CIDA Building, Ottawa ON	16, 27 November 2006
Meeting with Swisspeace – presentation of research, discussion of potential collaboration	Bern, Switzerland	21-23 January, 2007

## CLUSTERS & INDICATORS

### Rule of Law

Police, law and criminality  
 Prison population rate  
 Prison occupancy level  
 Number of political prisoners  
 Judicial independence  
 Impartial courts  
 Integrity of the legal system  
 Property rights  
 Military interference in the rule of law

### Human Rights

Human rights – physical integrity  
 Human rights – empowerment  
 Political rights  
 Civil liberties

### Government Transparency and Accountability

Corruption—World Bank  
 Voice and Accountability  
 Press Freedom

### Government and Market Efficiency

Economic growth—% of GDP  
 Economic size—relative— GDP per capita  
 Economic size—GDP  
 External debt—% of GNI  
 Ease of doing business  
 Starting a business  
 Protecting investors  
 Trading across borders  
 Closing a business  
 Economic freedom  
 National savings level  
 Foreign investment freedom  
 Intellectual property  
 Contract regulation  
 Enforcing contracts  
 Dealing with licences  
 Registering property  
 Enrolment rates  
 Health expenditure  
 Access to services—improved water  
 Government effectiveness  
 FDI- % of GDP  
 Foreign Aid—% of the central government expenditures  
 Inequality—GINI coefficient  
 Trade balance—% of GDP  
 Paying taxes

### Democratic Participation

Percentage of women parliamentarians  
 Degree of Party Dominance  
 Checks and Balances  
 Polity Score  
 Executive Constraints

### Political Stability and Violence

Permanence of regime type  
 Black Market  
 Battle-related deaths  
 Dependence on external support  
 Military expenditures (% of GDP)  
 Political stability  
 Refugees produced  
 Terrorism fatalities  
 Terrorism incidents  
 Polity fragmentation

Structural indicators are grouped into six clusters with a number of indicators in each cluster. The data are drawn from a variety of sources and provide a detailed quantitative baseline portrait of the country.

## METHODOLOGY

The methodology has been adapted from that used for the CIFP Fragile States project and consists of three parts:

1. Structural data
2. Events monitoring data
3. Questionnaire-based surveys of country and subject experts located in-country and Canada

## STRUCTURAL DATA

The structural indicators are grouped into six clusters that reflect the broad categories of governance and democratic processes and are listed to the left. The data are drawn from the wide variety of sources and taken together the indicators provide a detailed quantitative baseline portrait of the country, analyzing governance structures, human rights issues, and other matters relevant to the process of democratization. The database now contains baseline information for 190 countries over a 15 year period.

## EVENTS MONITORING DATA

Event monitoring data is compiled by CIFP researchers. This information is collected from a variety of web-based sources, including both international and domestic news sources. The events are **quantitatively assessed** to identify general trends of **relevance** to democratic processes and governance. Highly significant events are also **qualitatively analyzed** to highlight their specific causes and consequences.

### Questions addressed in event monitoring:

- Is the event stabilizing or destabilizing?
- How direct is the impact of the event on governance?
- How broad is the impact of the event in terms of state stakeholders?
- How intense is the event in the context of other similar events?
- What cluster does the event belong to?
- What type of event is it?

## KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT REPORTS



### NICARAGUA

- Police and judiciary are functional but susceptible to political pressures and corruption
- Civil society is active but with no direct influence on government policies
- Poor government accountability with limited oversight and access to information
- Lack of reliable energy sources hampers industrialization and foreign investment
- Tradition of fund mismanagement by government officials

Events are recorded in a database specifically created for CIFP projects (see image below). The analysis occurs in both aggregate and disaggregate by using quantitative data in two ways.

The summary statistics provide an overview of the average event scores. The second avenue of analysis is via trend lines to observe whether the events demonstrate any positive or negative trend over time. The trend line uses a weekly aggregate in order to account for the change magnitude of events, as well as any increase or decrease in the total number of events. In analysis, both stabilizing and destabilizing trend lines reflect improvements through positive slopes.

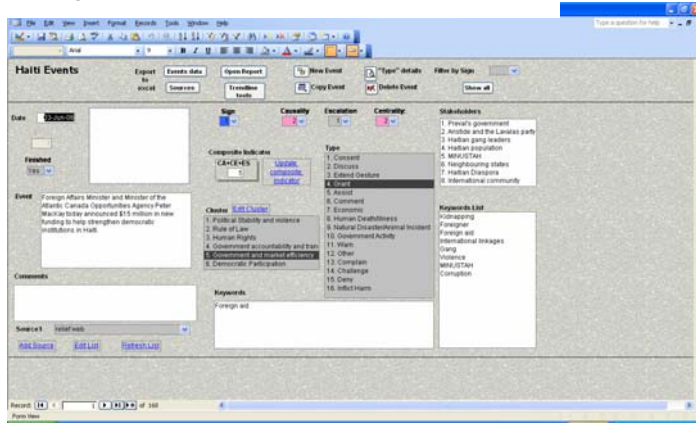
## KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT REPORTS



### HAITI

- Insecurity continues to impede development and investment
- Massive poverty and unemployment continue unabated
- An antiquated electoral system has proved complex and difficult to implement
- Parliamentary paralysis and corruption continue to impede social and economic reform

## QUESTIONNAIRE-BASED SURVEYS



These consultations draw together the experience and knowledge of experts around the world to expand upon, and whenever necessary, modify the assessment arising from structural and events-based analysis.

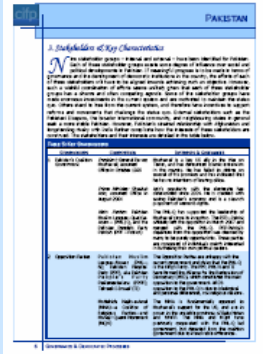
The survey questionnaire upon which the interviews are based, consists of structured questions based on scale rating, ranking, and level of agreement, as well as a limited number of open-ended questions that allow respondents to offer more

detailed answers. Interviews take between one and two hours to complete per person and detailed notes are taken during interviews to augment questionnaire derived information.

Surveys provide nuanced insights into issue areas by tapping into local expertise with high levels of knowledge and experience on governance related matters (parliamentarians, NGOs, civil society, the private sector).

This nuance is reflected in the results generated from the interview process. The questionnaire results are a general framework that complement CIFP governance monitoring.

## KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT REPORTS



### PAKISTAN

- Insurgencies in Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) continue to threaten stability
- The government is becoming increasingly autocratic and democratic freedoms are severely limited
- Frustration and discontent with the government is on the rise
- Poverty, inflation, crime, unemployment continue unabated
- Religious radicalism is gaining momentum
- Corruption and disregard for the rule of law

## KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT REPORTS



### GHANA

- Steady GDP growth over 5% and declining inflation are economic success stories
- Poverty reduction remains a challenge
- Access to secondary and tertiary school is limited
- Gender equality is improving but major gaps persist
- Religious peace and interaction provides important social cohesion
- Civil society organisations and capacity remains underdeveloped but is improving

## CIFP AND THE BROADER GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

There are a number of other agencies and projects that engage in similar governance-based analysis. For instance, POLITY IV, Freedom House, IDEA, and the World Bank all provide global measures of democracy and governance; the Political Instability Task Force and Fund for Peace both provide measures of country stability; and Swisspeace provides event-based monitoring

through its FAST methodology. The CIFP methodology provides a competitive analysis based on truly comprehensive, multi-sourced data.

The CIFP project is uniquely positioned to incorporate such information into an analytical framework that explicitly considers both the goals of Canadian foreign policy and the limited means available to achieve those goals. In particular, there is a great potential to align such research with the current work of the Democracy Council (DC), an informal forum established in 2005 to guide the Government's policy-making related to democratization. The Council is comprised of arm's length Government-generated organizations such as Elections Canada, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Parliamentary Centre, Right and Democracy, the Forum of Federations and the National Judicial Institute, and is co-chaired by CIDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Its overarching goal is to make the delivery of Canadian programs and policy on democracy more efficient and effective by drawing on the proven expertise of its constituent members. The CIFP approach could be adapted in an innovative fashion to contribute to this work.

## CIFP RESEARCH TEAM

- David Carment, Principal Investigator
- Stewart Prest, Project Manager and Senior Researcher
- Anemone Fritzen, Liaison Officer
- Martin Fischer, Methodology
- Andrew Harrington and Quillan Nagel, Background Research
- Kevin Wyjad, Ghana and survey methodology
- Muneeba Omar, Pakistan
- Sonia Bouffard, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua
- Katherine Januszewska, Ghana

## KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT REPORTS



### GUATEMALA

- State authority, legitimacy, capacity are weak
- Narco-trafficking and the involvement of the drug trade in politics is highly destabilizing
- High corruption and involvement in criminal activities among the police force
- The government is unable to ensure the security of its citizens and urban violence is common
- Weak and fragmented political system
- Exclusion of indigenous population, women and youth from the political, social and economic realm
- Number of incidences of human rights violations

If you wish to read our reports in their entirety please contact Stewart Prest, Project Manager, at [cifp@carleton.ca](mailto:cifp@carleton.ca) for full access to [www.carleton.ca/cifp](http://www.carleton.ca/cifp).