Introduction

The Global Peace Index (GPI) is produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace in collaboration with the Economist Intelligence Unit to rank countries based on their level of peace by measuring the level of safety and security in a country, the extent of domestic or foreign conflicts and the degree of militarization. The index is the weighted average of 22 qualitative and quantitative indicators from a variety of sources, which is then scaled to have values range from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most peaceful and 5 least peaceful. The GPI has been produced since 2007 and is in its seventh edition, expanding its coverage to 162 independent states with four new countries added this year: Timor-Leste, Kosovo, South Sudan, and Togo. This snapshot focuses on the 91 low- and middle-income countries that received at least $2 million USAID funding in fiscal year 2011.

Peacefulness vs. Violence in USAID Assisted Countries

Costa Rica ranked as the most peaceful USAID-assisted country in 2013, despite a worsening in its score this year. However, the authors of the report expect Panama to overtake Costa Rica in the rankings in the next few years if the current upward trend in crime continues. Vietnam has also maintained its rank as the second most peaceful country, despite a deterioration of relations with its neighbor China over competing claims to the South China Sea. Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Mozambique dropped from the top ten most peaceful from 2012 while Zambia, Morocco, and Timor-Leste joined the top ten most peaceful USAID-assisted countries.

Most Peaceful Countries, 2012–2013

2012			*2013*		
Rank	Country	GPI	Rank	Country	GPI
35	Costa Rica	1.68	40	Costa Rica	1.75
42	Vietnam	1.74	41	Vietnam	1.77
45	Ghana	1.79	46	Namibia	1.81
47	Namibia	1.81	48	Zambia	1.83
52	Mozambique	1.85	50	Lesotho	1.84
53	Tanzania	1.86	51	Timor-Leste	1.85
54	Jordan	1.86	52	Jordan	1.86
55	Burkina Faso	1.86	54	Indonesia	1.88
56	Lesotho	1.87	55	Tanzania	1.89
57	Indonesia	1.87	57	Morocco	1.90

NOTE: 2012 ranks are based on the updated GPI methodology.

This year, Somalia moved up from its position as the least peaceful country for the first time in two years due to a decrease in the number of conflict related deaths and improving relations with its neighbors. In August 2012, Somalia's first formal parliament since 1991 took office. Afghanistan moved to the bottom of the rankings amid a climate of political instability and terrorist activity. Kabul was the site of two major suicide attacks in 2012: on the parliament building, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) headquarters and the British and German embassies in mid-April and on a hotel in June. By UN estimates, the number of deaths linked to internal conflict fell from 3,021 in 2011 to 2,754 in 2012 and the number of refugees and displaced people also decreased.

Libya saw the most improvement in peacefulness over the past year with a newly elected government and recovering institutions following the recent revolution and civil war. Sudan and Chad followed as second and third most improved as their respective conflicts receded. In Sudan, measures of internal conflict, battle-related deaths and the homicide rate all receded. However, violent conflicts erupted in North Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. With the end of its civil war in 2010, Chad has seen a drop in the number conflict related deaths and improved relations with its neighbors.

Cote d'Ivoire saw the most deterioration in peacefulness as a wave of violence hit the country in the second half of 2012 including attacks in the south of the country attributed to forces loyal to the former president Laurent Gbagbo. For the second year in a row, Burkina Faso saw a decline in its peacefulness. Violent protests have increased as public anger over the cost of living and inadequate government services and corruption remain high. Peru saw the third largest deterioration in its score due to increases in the homicide rate and terrorist activities. In addition, the country saw violent protests relating to fears over the environmental and social impacts of mining projects.

Least Peaceful Countries, 2012–2013

2012			*2013*		
Rank	**Country**	**GPI**	**Rank**	**Country**	**GPI**
145	Yemen	2.70	149	Zimbabwe	2.70
146	Nigeria	2.71	151	Cote d'Ivoire	2.73
148	Libya	2.82	152	Yemen	2.75
150	Central African Republic	2.91	153	Central African Republic	3.03
153	Pakistan	3.00	156	Congo (Kinshasa)	3.09
154	Congo (Kinshasa)	3.10	157	Pakistan	3.11
155	Iraq	3.23	158	Sudan	3.24
156	Afghanistan	3.37	159	Iraq	3.25
157	Sudan	3.40	161	Somalia	3.39
158	Somalia	3.49	162	Afghanistan	3.44

NOTE: 2012 ranks are based on the updated GPI methodology.

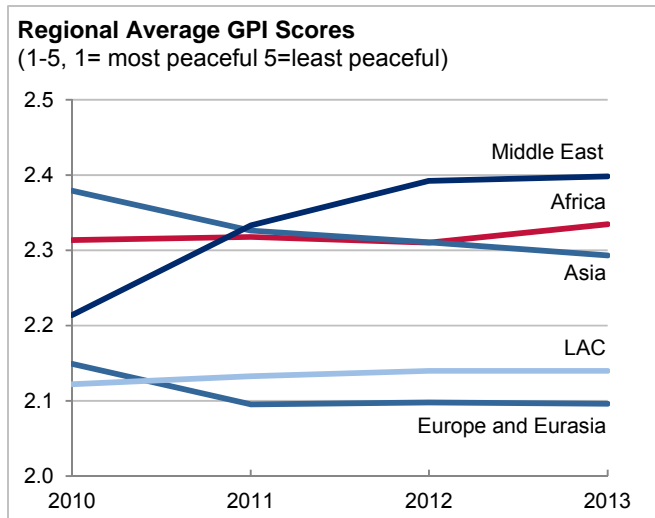**Most and Least Improved Countries, 2012–2013**

Rank	Country	2012	2013	Change
	Most Improved			
145	Libya	2.82	2.60	−0.22
158	Sudan	3.40	3.24	−0.16
138	Chad	2.63	2.49	−0.14
78	Kazakhstan	2.15	2.03	−0.12
141	India	2.67	2.57	−0.10
92	Haiti	2.18	2.08	−0.10
66	Nicaragua	2.03	1.93	−0.10
109	Guatemala	2.31	2.22	−0.09
161	Somalia	3.49	3.39	−0.09
98	Armenia	2.21	2.12	−0.09
	Least Improved			
157	Pakistan	3.00	3.11	0.11
116	Guinea	2.16	2.27	0.12
153	Central African Republic	2.91	3.03	0.12
84	Paraguay	1.93	2.06	0.13
136	Kenya	2.33	2.47	0.13
142	Lebanon	2.43	2.57	0.14
111	Ukraine	2.08	2.24	0.16
113	Peru	2.09	2.26	0.16
87	Burkina Faso	1.86	2.06	0.20
151	Cote d'Ivoire	2.49	2.73	0.24

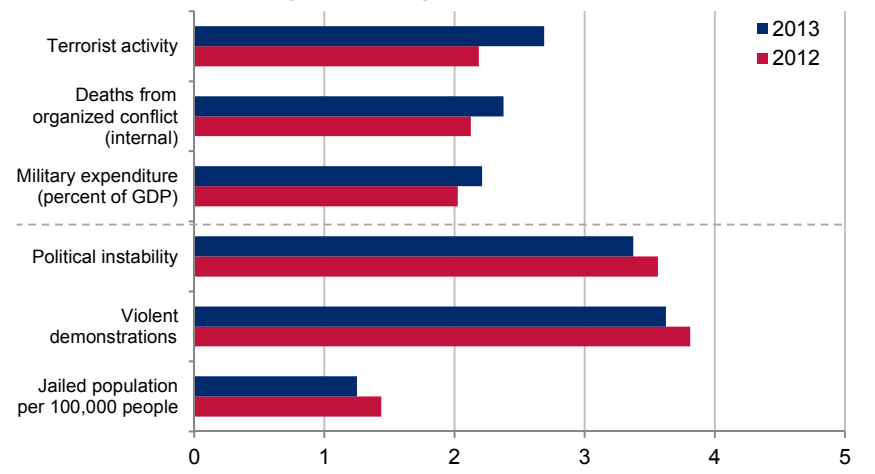# Regional Analysis of Global Peace Index Scores 2013

Overall, peacefulness in USAID regions has decreased since 2012. Peacefulness increased in Asia, Europe and Eurasia, and Latin America and the Caribbean but decreased in Africa and in the Middle East and North Africa. The best performing region is Europe and Eurasia, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean while Africa and MENA were the worst performers.

The repercussions of the Arab Spring continue to echo in the Middle East and North Africa region. Increased peacefulness in Libya and Jordan is offset by decreases in peacefulness in Morocco, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen and Lebanon. Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen's score deteriorations have been due to a resurgence in violent protests, violent crime and in the case of Egypt and Yemen, an increase in terrorist activity. While Libya has seen large improvements in its score, it is still lowly ranked, ranking 6th out of the 8 MENA countries covered in this snapshot.
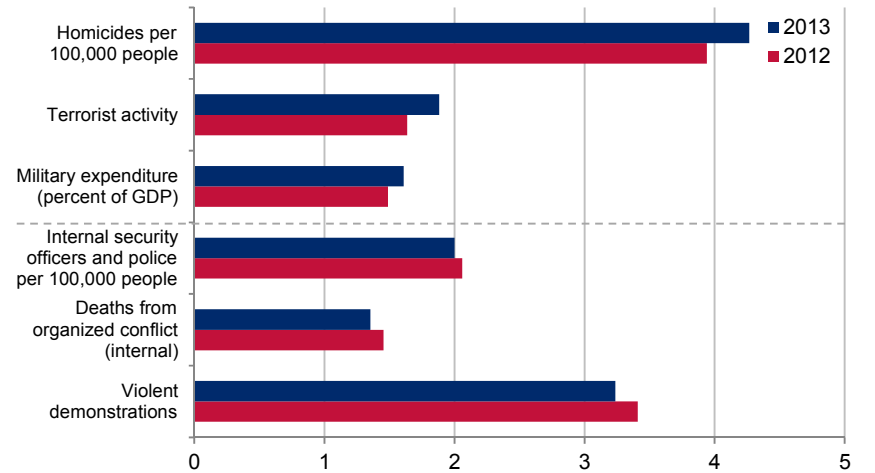
The average GPI score for Sub-Saharan African countries receiving USAID assistance increased modestly from 2012 to 2013. The most peaceful country in Africa was Namibia, with a score of 1.8 while the least peaceful country was Somalia with a score of 3.4. Almost half (16 out of 33) of African countries saw an improvement over the past year with Sudan, Chad and Somalia seeing the most improvement. The region's improvements over the past year include decreasing number conflict-related deaths, fewer people in jail and improving relations with neighbors.

Regional Average GPI Scores
(1-5, 1= most peaceful 5=least peaceful)

Middle East: Top 3 Rising and Falling Indicators

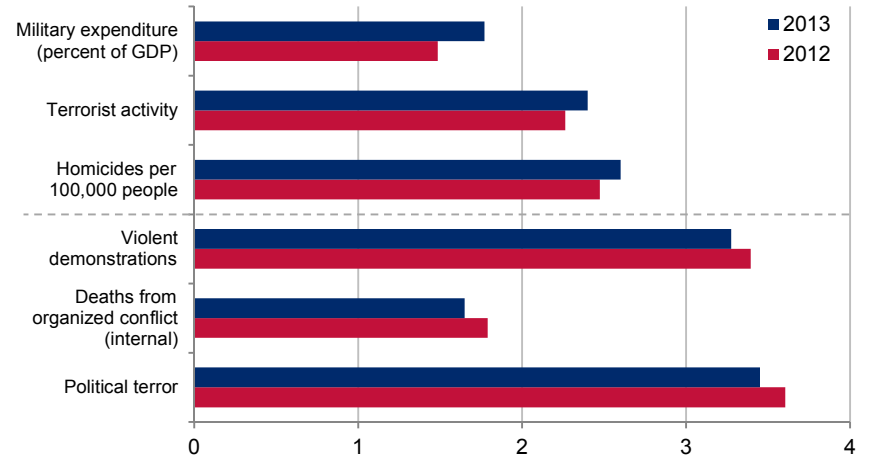**Africa: Top 3 Rising and Falling Indicators**

Almost half (9 out of 19) the countries in Asia saw improvements over the past year with Kazakhstan and India leading while Pakistan and Tajikistan saw the largest deterioration in their scores driven by an increase in the number of conflict-related deaths for Pakistan and increase in the homicide rate and a decline in the respect for human rights. The most peaceful country in Asia is Vietnam, followed by Timor-Leste with scores of 1.8 and 1.9 respectively. The least peaceful countries were Afghanistan and Pakistan with scores of 3.4 and 3.1 respectively.
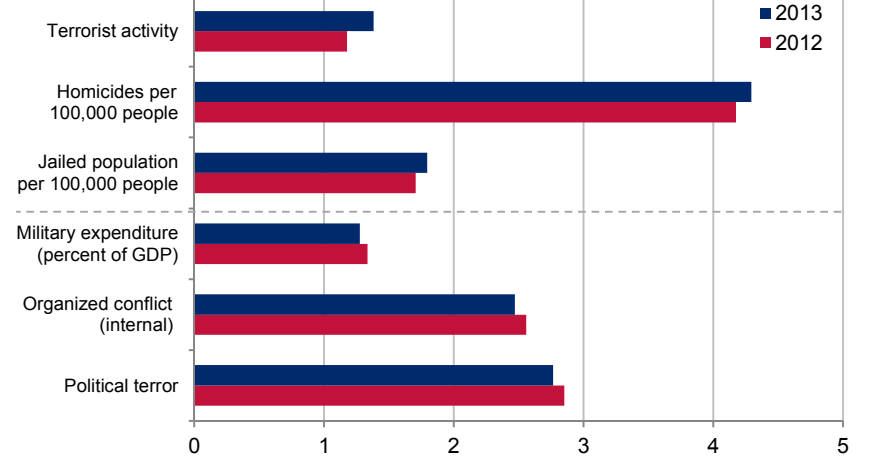
Almost half (8 out of 17) countries in the LAC region saw improvements in their peacefulness over the past year, with Haiti and Nicaragua leading the charge. Haiti moved up two rankings up to position 11 among LAC countries due to an improvement in its homicide rate, which is now the third lowest in the Caribbean. Nicaragua resolved a border dispute with Costa Rica, moving up to position 3 in the region and an overall rank of 18 from 29 in 2012.

Europe and Eurasia is the most peaceful region in 2013, followed by LAC and Asia. The most peaceful countries in the region are Serbia and Albania while the Georgia and Azerbaijan are the least peaceful. Armenia saw the most improvement over the past year due to improvements in relations with neighboring countries and lower homicide rates. Ukraine worsened the most with perceptions of criminality and political imprisonment increasing. In addition, relations with its neighbor Russia worsened over the country's refusal to join its Eurasian Economic Union.
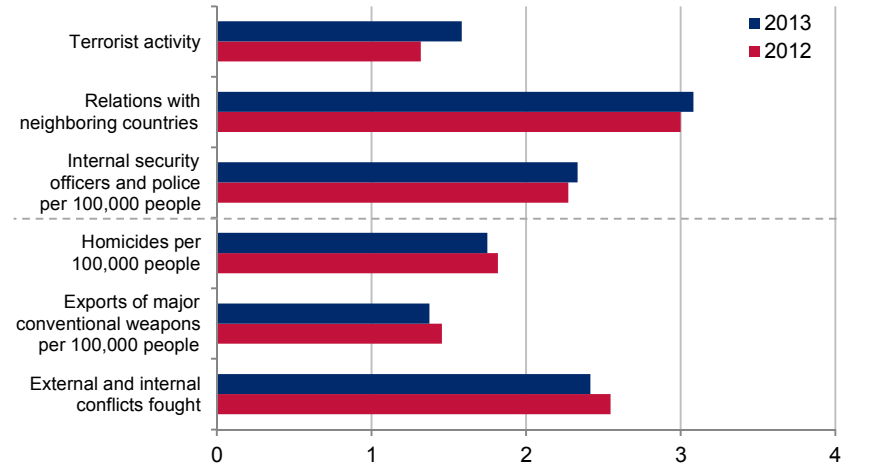
Asia: Top 3 Rising and Falling Indicators

LAC: Top 3 Rising and Falling Indicators

Europe and Eurasia: Top 3 Rising and Falling Indicators

Calculating the Global Peace Index

The GPI overall composite score is calculated by applying a weight of 60 percent to the measure of internal peace and 40 percent for external peace. Each of the 22 indicators in the index are first normalized on a scale of 1-5 after which an indicator is assigned a relative weight. The table summarizes the indicators and weights included in the GPI.

Methodological Changes

This year, the indicator military capacity/sophistication was removed from the indicator and its weight was redistributed among the remaining indicators. The concept of military capability has been preserved in the indicator nuclear and heavy weapons capability, which is no longer scaled by population. The normalization of the number of external conflicts fought has been revised so that countries that have not been in conflict receive a score of 1 and countries that experienced one conflict receive a score of 2, etc. Finally, financial contribution to UN peace-keeping missions was revised to remove a bias towards countries with large debt to the UN.

Calculating the Global Peace Index

Indicator	Weight
Internal Peace Sub-Index (60%)	
Level of perceived criminality in society	3
Number of internal security officers and police per 100,000 people	3
Number of homicides per 100,000 people	4
Number of jailed population per 100,000 people	3
Ease of access to small weapons and light weapons	3
Level of organized conflict (internal)	5
Likelihood of violent demonstrations	3
Level of violent crime	4
Political instability	4
Political Terror Scale	4
Volume of transfers of major conventional weapons, as recipient (imports) per 100,000 people	2
Terrorist activity	2
Number of deaths from organized conflict (internal)	5
External Peace Sub-Index (40%)	
Military expenditure as a percentage of GDP	2
Number of armed services personnel per 100,000 people	2
Financial contribution to UN peacekeeping missions	2
Nuclear and heavy weapons capability	3
Volume of transfers of major conventional weapons as supplier (exports) per 100,000 people	3
Number of displaced people as a percentage of the pop.	4
Relations with neighboring countries	5
Number of external and internal conflicts fought	5
Number of deaths from organised conflict (external)	5

Additional Information

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To access the complete Global Peace Index dataset, please visit the Economic and Social Database (ESDB) at http://esdb.eads.usaidallnet.gov/. The ESDB website also offers related datasets, such as the Foreign Policy Magazine and Fund for Peace, Failed States Index.

The full report is available from the Vision for Humanity, Global Peace Index site at http://www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi-data/.