

Countries' Risk Classification

Countries' Risk Classification

amfori BSCI

The risk classification of countries relies on the Worldwide Governance Indicators from the World Bank, being aggregate indicators of governance 1996-2019. These determine the level of risks related to governance in sourcing countries.

World Governance Indicators (WGI)

There are 6 dimensions of governance identified by the World Bank:

1. Voice and Accountability (VA) – capturing perceptions of the extent to which a country's citizens are able to participate in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, freedom of association and a free media.
2. Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism (PV) – capturing perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism.
3. Government Effectiveness (GE) – capturing perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies.
4. Regulatory Quality (RQ) – capturing perceptions of the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development.
5. Rule of Law (RL) – capturing perceptions of the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police, the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence.
6. Control of Corruption (CC) – capturing perceptions of the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption, as well as 'capture' of the state by elites and private interests.

Full interactive access to the aggregate indicators and the underlying source data is available at www.govindicators.org

Worldwide Governance Indicators update incorporates revisions to data for previous years, and so this data release supersedes data from all previous releases.

The 2019 Worldwide Governance Indicators were published by the World Bank on the 25th September 2020 and extracted on the 21st September 2019 for use in this Countries' Risk Classification.

Application

When reading this document, risk is scored from 0 to 100 with 0 being highest risk and 100 being lowest risk. For the purpose of amfori BSCI, countries are classified in two different categories:

Risk countries: Countries with WGI average rating between 0-60 or three or more individual dimensions rated below 60.

Low-risk countries: Countries with WGI average rating higher than 60 and no more than two individual dimensions rated below 60.

An additional call-out is made for **Most Severe Risk countries:** countries with WGI average rating below 3 or at least two individual dimensions rated below 1.

This classification supports amfori BSCI members in their human rights' due diligence approach to define their priorities in terms of monitoring, capacity building and stakeholder engagement. An additional tool, the [Country Due Diligence tool](#), is available to provide more specific information on sustainability issues, which are not reflected in the classification below.

It is up to each amfori BSCI member to define its own due diligence approach. amfori shall not be held responsible for any action or omission deriving from the way amfori BSCI members decide to use this classification.

Validity

This countries' risk classification version 2021 enters into force on 1 January 2021. It overrules amfori BSCI list of Risk countries version 2020 and will remain valid until the next version.

Further Explanation

amfori has provided further guidance for countries that have changed their classification (risk to high risk, or vice-versa). We have also prepared information on countries that have seen a significant change in rating but stayed within the same classification since the 2020 edition. Further special notes are added for countries that have changed to risk countries with an overall score of over 60.

This edition has explanations added for the following countries:

- Bulgaria
- Greece
- Tuvalu
- Grenada
- Jamaica
- Seychelles
- Puerto Rico
- Tonga
- Hong Kong
- Bolivia
- Maldives

These countries are marked with an asterisk in the risk listing. This indicates that a further information is available below the full list of countries, starting Page 8.

Risk Countries

Country	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Afghanistan	8.5	21.67	0.95	7.21	10.10	4.33	6.73
Albania	48.6	52.22	52.86	50.48	63.94	38.94	33.17
Algeria	20.9	20.20	13.81	33.65	7.69	20.67	29.33
Angola	19.6	25.62	35.24	12.98	16.35	13.46	13.94
Argentina	47.2	66.50	43.33	49.04	33.65	37.02	53.37
Armenia	48.0	47.78	27.62	50.00	63.46	49.04	50.00
Azerbaijan	28.2	7.39	21.90	46.15	43.75	30.29	19.71
Bahrain	48.2	9.85	22.38	63.94	67.79	68.75	56.73
Bangladesh	20.9	27.09	15.24	23.56	15.38	27.88	16.35
Belarus	36.7	11.33	56.67	44.23	32.21	21.63	53.85
Belize	40.5	63.55	50.00	26.92	31.73	22.12	48.56
Benin	38.0	50.25	34.29	36.06	37.50	26.92	42.79
Bolivia*	23.3	42.36	23.33	24.52	12.50	11.06	25.96
Bosnia and Herzegovina	37.0	38.92	30.48	28.85	47.12	46.63	30.29
Brazil	44.2	58.62	24.76	43.75	48.08	47.60	42.31
Burkina Faso	33.0	39.90	11.90	22.12	37.02	37.50	49.52
Burundi	7.9	4.93	7.14	10.10	14.90	5.77	4.81
Cambodia	25.1	15.27	46.19	31.73	30.29	17.79	9.62
Cameroon	14.2	16.26	8.10	19.23	19.23	11.54	11.06
Central African Republic	7.3	15.76	3.81	2.88	7.21	3.37	10.58
Chad	8.3	9.36	10.48	5.77	11.06	7.21	5.77
China	41.2	6.40	38.10	71.63	42.79	45.19	43.27
Colombia	46.6	55.17	15.71	55.77	66.35	38.46	48.08
Comoros	18.7	28.08	41.90	3.85	10.58	12.50	15.38
Cuba	38.1	8.87	67.62	44.71	5.77	43.27	58.65
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5.7	12.81	5.71	4.81	5.29	2.40	3.37
Djibouti	21.5	10.84	34.76	24.04	20.67	18.27	20.67
Dominican Republic	43.4	53.69	48.57	38.94	52.40	41.83	25.00
Ecuador	35.1	48.77	40.95	37.02	19.71	29.81	34.62
Egypt	23.7	8.37	12.86	36.54	18.75	37.98	27.88
El Salvador	40.4	51.72	42.86	35.58	56.25	23.56	32.69
Equatorial Guinea	10.6	2.46	40.48	9.13	4.81	6.25	0.48
Eritrea	6.2	0.49	20.48	2.40	1.44	5.29	7.21
Ethiopia	25.1	19.70	10.95	28.37	16.83	34.62	39.90
Fiji	59.7	50.74	77.62	61.06	45.67	52.88	70.19
Gabon	22.5	20.69	41.43	16.35	14.42	24.52	17.79
Gambia	38.8	38.42	51.43	29.33	26.92	41.35	45.19

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Ghana	52.7	65.52	50.48	41.83	50.48	55.29	52.40
Grenada*	60.8	71.43	81.90	46.63	40.38	59.62	64.90
Guatemala	27.3	35.47	25.24	26.44	44.23	13.94	18.75
Guinea	18.9	26.11	17.62	21.15	21.15	9.13	18.27
Guinea Bissau	14.3	33.00	24.29	6.25	9.13	7.69	5.29
Guyana	41.6	56.16	38.57	37.50	28.85	36.54	51.92
Haiti	13.5	26.60	19.52	1.44	8.65	16.83	8.17
Honduras	26.8	31.03	27.14	30.29	34.13	15.38	23.08
India	47.9	57.64	21.43	59.62	48.56	52.40	47.60
Indonesia	45.4	52.71	28.10	60.10	51.44	42.31	37.98
Iran	16.1	12.32	6.19	32.21	6.73	24.04	14.90
Iraq	9.4	22.66	1.90	9.62	9.62	3.85	8.65
Ivory Coast	32.4	37.44	14.29	35.10	43.27	30.77	33.65
Jamaica*	59.9	68.47	59.52	70.67	62.02	44.23	54.33
Jordan	49.1	28.57	33.33	56.73	57.21	58.17	60.58
Kazakhstan	43.2	14.78	45.71	57.69	61.06	36.06	43.75
Kenya	31.5	36.45	12.38	38.46	41.35	35.58	24.52
Kosovo	37.0	40.89	30.95	39.42	38.94	39.90	31.73
Kuwait	51.0	29.06	54.29	52.88	57.69	61.06	50.96
Kyrgystan	27.2	33.50	30.00	25.00	38.46	19.23	17.31
Lao People's Democratic Republic	24.0	3.94	64.76	20.67	23.56	17.31	13.46
Lebanon	21.0	32.51	7.62	17.79	36.54	19.71	12.02
Lesotho	38.0	46.80	33.81	18.27	33.17	40.38	55.77
Liberia	23.5	44.33	39.05	8.65	13.46	16.35	19.23
Macedonia	49.8	44.83	46.67	52.40	69.71	46.15	38.94
Madagascar	23.6	37.93	37.62	12.02	22.60	15.87	15.87
Malawi	32.2	41.87	37.14	22.60	24.52	42.79	24.04
Maldives*	40.8	33.99	48.10	42.79	34.62	39.42	46.15
Mali	21.6	34.48	4.29	13.94	29.81	20.19	26.92
Marshall Islands	48.1	86.70	77.14	6.73	11.54	51.92	54.81
Mauritania	26.2	25.12	26.19	34.62	22.12	28.85	20.19
Mexico	36.9	45.32	20.95	45.67	59.62	27.40	22.60
Micronesia	59.2	83.74	83.33	43.27	13.94	54.33	76.44
Moldova	39.8	42.86	31.43	37.98	55.77	40.87	29.81
Mongolia	51.2	59.11	68.57	42.31	53.85	45.67	37.50
Montenegro	55.1	46.31	47.62	58.65	65.38	57.21	55.29
Morocco	41.7	29.56	32.38	47.60	46.15	48.56	45.67
Mozambique	22.0	31.53	20.00	18.75	23.08	14.90	23.56
Myanmar	18.3	23.65	11.43	11.54	21.63	12.98	28.85
Nauru	50.8	67.98	77.14	47.12	53.37	23.08	36.06
Nepal	27.8	40.39	28.57	14.90	24.04	31.73	27.40
Nicaragua	16.9	19.21	13.33	21.63	25.00	9.62	12.50
Niger	25.2	30.54	9.52	20.19	26.44	32.21	32.21

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Nigeria	17.2	34.98	5.24	13.46	17.79	18.75	12.98
Oman	58.2	17.24	67.14	62.50	64.42	70.67	67.31
Pakistan	21.2	23.15	3.33	25.96	27.40	26.44	21.15
Palau	60.9	83.74	77.14	51.44	54.33	62.98	36.06
Panama	54.4	67.00	58.10	55.29	64.90	50.48	30.77
Papua New Guinea	26.3	49.26	18.10	19.71	32.69	21.15	16.83
Paraguay	38.3	49.75	47.14	33.17	46.63	31.25	22.12
Peru	48.4	57.14	42.38	49.52	71.63	33.17	36.54
Philippines	39.9	47.29	16.67	54.81	55.29	34.13	31.25
Puerto Rico*	61.0	62.56	53.33	45.19	74.52	72.12	58.17
Republic of Congo	10.5	14.29	16.19	8.17	8.17	10.10	6.25
Romania	58.4	61.58	65.24	40.38	67.31	64.42	51.44
Russia	30.8	18.23	25.71	58.17	36.06	25.00	21.63
Rwanda	52.8	18.72	52.38	60.58	58.17	56.25	70.67
Sao Tome and Principe	42.5	59.61	62.86	29.81	15.87	25.96	61.06
Saudi Arabia	45.6	5.91	29.52	64.42	51.92	58.65	62.98
Senegal	52.1	55.67	49.52	50.96	50.00	47.12	59.13
Serbia	48.6	45.81	45.24	53.37	60.10	50.00	37.02
Seychelles*	64.6	58.13	69.05	71.15	49.04	59.13	81.25
Sierra Leone	29.4	41.38	44.29	12.50	17.31	22.60	38.46
Solomon Islands	44.6	66.01	62.38	15.38	18.27	48.08	57.21
South Africa	58.0	69.46	40.00	66.35	61.54	50.96	59.62
Sri Lanka	46.2	43.84	39.52	48.08	47.60	53.85	44.23
Sudan	6.6	5.42	6.67	5.29	3.85	10.58	7.69
Suriname	43.5	61.08	51.90	30.77	25.48	51.44	40.38
Swaziland	28.0	13.30	31.90	25.48	29.33	32.69	35.10
Tajikistan	11.9	3.45	23.81	14.42	12.02	8.65	9.13
Tanzania	30.0	32.02	32.86	17.31	27.88	29.33	40.87
Thailand	45.7	24.14	26.67	65.87	60.58	57.69	39.42
Timor Leste	34.3	60.10	55.24	16.83	20.19	12.02	41.35
Togo	23.6	27.59	18.57	15.87	25.96	28.37	25.48
Tonga*	60.5	65.02	90.48	59.13	39.90	66.83	41.83
Trinidad and Tobago	53.6	67.49	49.05	57.21	49.52	49.52	49.04
Tunisia	44.4	56.65	17.14	48.56	35.58	55.77	52.88
Turkey	38.9	24.63	10.00	54.33	54.81	44.71	44.71
Turkmenistan	11.7	0.99	44.76	11.06	2.88	6.73	3.85
Uganda	29.6	30.05	22.86	31.25	37.98	43.75	11.54
Ukraine	31.8	48.28	8.57	39.90	42.31	25.48	26.44
Uzbekistan	19.8	6.90	36.19	34.13	12.98	14.42	14.42
Vanuatu	54.8	68.97	84.76	32.69	35.10	60.10	47.12
Vietnam	41.5	11.82	53.81	53.85	41.83	53.37	34.13
West Bank	31.0	21.18	4.76	23.08	56.73	33.65	46.63
Zambia	33.8	36.95	43.81	27.40	31.25	35.10	28.37
Zimbabwe	11.1	16.75	14.76	10.58	6.25	8.17	10.10

Low Risk Countries

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Andorra	91.4	87.19	98.57	98.08	86.06	90.87	87.50
Antigua and Barbuda	67.2	72.41	81.90	51.92	68.27	65.38	63.46
Aruba	86.0	92.61	95.24	80.29	75.96	86.54	85.10
Australia	93.4	93.10	88.57	92.79	98.56	93.27	94.23
Austria	91.3	93.60	82.86	91.83	91.35	97.12	90.87
Barbados	76.5	86.21	80.00	73.56	66.83	63.94	88.46
Belgium	84.3	95.57	61.90	80.77	87.50	88.46	91.35
Bhutan	68.3	51.23	89.52	64.90	39.42	72.60	91.83
Botswana	71.0	63.05	84.29	68.27	65.87	69.23	75.48
Brunei	71.1	22.17	91.90	87.02	73.08	74.04	78.37
Bulgaria*	61.4	60.59	66.19	65.38	71.15	54.81	50.48
Canada	93.4	96.06	85.24	95.19	95.67	94.71	93.27
Cape Verde	69.2	79.31	78.10	63.46	44.71	69.71	79.81
Cayman Islands	78.1	62.56	96.67	85.10	78.85	77.40	67.79
Chile	78.0	81.28	54.76	81.73	84.13	82.69	83.17
Costa Rica	71.5	85.71	60.48	67.79	68.75	70.19	75.96
Croatia	66.7	64.04	71.90	67.31	72.12	64.90	60.10
Cyprus	75.5	82.27	63.33	78.85	80.77	76.44	71.63
Czech Republic	78.9	77.83	80.48	78.37	86.54	81.73	68.75
Denmark	94.9	98.52	83.81	99.04	92.31	98.08	97.60
Dominica	67.8	74.88	87.14	40.87	59.13	75.00	69.71
Estonia	85.4	88.67	68.10	85.58	92.79	87.02	90.38
Finland	95.5	99.01	79.05	98.56	97.60	100.00	99.04
France	84.2	87.68	58.57	89.42	90.87	89.42	88.94
French Guiana	82.2	92.61	56.19	89.90	87.98	85.58	80.77
Georgia	63.0	53.20	29.05	76.92	82.69	62.02	74.04
Germany	89.8	95.07	66.67	93.27	96.15	92.31	95.19
Greece*	64.8	77.34	57.14	66.83	70.67	60.58	56.25
Greenland	89.0	92.61	100.00	75.48	89.42	94.23	82.21
Hong Kong*	78.4	54.19	36.67	96.15	99.52	91.83	92.31
Hungary	65.8	54.68	71.43	70.19	72.60	68.27	57.69
Iceland	94.0	94.09	99.52	92.31	89.90	95.19	92.79
Ireland	89.2	94.58	82.38	86.54	93.27	88.94	89.42
Israel	70.8	70.44	19.05	87.50	87.02	82.21	78.85
Italy	68.4	79.80	60.95	69.23	76.92	61.54	62.02
Japan	87.8	78.33	85.71	93.75	88.46	90.38	89.90
Jersey, Channel Islands	87.6	92.61	94.29	86.06	76.44	94.23	82.21
Kiribati	64.9	85.22	93.33	41.35	28.37	75.96	65.38

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Latvia	75.1	74.38	60.00	83.65	83.65	80.77	68.27
Liechtenstein	94.0	90.15	99.05	94.71	91.83	92.79	95.67
Lithuania	79.5	81.77	75.24	81.25	83.17	81.25	74.52
Luxembourg	96.1	96.55	95.71	95.67	95.19	95.67	98.08
Macao	77.2	35.96	93.81	85.10	94.23	79.33	75.00
Malaysia	63.8	43.35	50.95	79.33	73.56	73.08	62.50
Malta	78.2	84.24	89.05	77.40	77.40	79.81	61.54
Mauritius	74.3	73.40	74.29	77.88	79.33	76.92	63.94
Namibia	61.0	64.53	65.71	56.25	50.96	62.50	65.87
Netherlands	93.5	97.54	75.71	96.63	98.08	96.15	96.63
New Zealand	97.7	98.03	97.14	94.23	99.04	97.60	100.00
Norway	97.3	100.00	92.38	97.60	97.12	99.52	97.12
Poland	71.2	70.94	64.29	73.08	81.25	66.35	71.15
Portugal	84.0	89.16	90.95	84.13	77.88	84.62	77.40
Qatar	64.6	13.79	70.00	75.00	74.04	75.48	79.33
Samoa	72.1	71.92	90.48	68.75	45.19	83.17	73.08
Singapore	88.9	39.41	97.62	100.00	100.00	96.63	99.52
Slovakia	72.9	75.37	72.38	74.04	79.81	71.15	64.42
Slovenia	80.3	80.79	73.81	82.21	80.29	84.13	80.29
South Korea	78.0	72.91	61.43	88.46	82.21	86.06	76.92
Spain	76.2	82.76	59.05	79.81	81.73	80.29	73.56
St. Kitts and Nevis	70.1	73.89	70.95	72.60	69.23	67.31	66.35
St. Lucia	70.3	76.35	79.52	62.02	62.98	71.63	69.23
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	71.0	75.86	81.90	62.02	62.50	65.87	77.88
Sweden	96.2	99.51	86.67	97.12	96.63	98.56	98.56
Switzerland	96.9	97.04	94.76	99.52	94.71	99.04	96.15
Taiwan	83.3	80.30	70.48	90.87	90.38	85.10	82.69
The Bahamas	69.2	76.85	74.76	69.71	52.88	56.73	84.13
Tuvalu*	62.0	85.22	93.33	27.88	30.77	67.79	66.83
United Arab Emirates	69.4	17.73	69.52	88.94	78.37	77.88	83.65
United Kingdom	87.3	90.64	63.81	90.38	93.75	91.35	93.75
United States	81.9	78.82	57.62	91.35	88.94	89.90	84.62
Uruguay	80.5	89.66	86.19	74.52	70.19	74.52	87.98

Incomplete Risk Classification Ratings

A total of eight (8) countries could not be assigned with an updated Risk Classification Rating, as no data is available for one or more dimensions.

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Anguilla	no data	N/A	96.19	76.44	75.48	63.46	87.50
Bermuda	no data	N/A	88.10	87.98	75.48	78.85	87.50
Guam	no data	N/A	73.33	62.98	58.65	87.98	87.50
Martinique	no data	N/A	73.33	83.17	86.06	73.56	87.50
Monaco	no data	N/A	55.71	83.17	86.06	78.85	72.60
Réunion	no data	88.18	78.57	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
San Marino	no data	N/A	88.10	76.44	86.06	83.65	72.60
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	no data	N/A	96.19	76.44	75.48	63.46	87.50

Country Name Change

No countries have changed their name in 2020

Most Severe Risk Countries

The most severe Risk Countries are countries with a WGI average rating below 3 or at least two individual dimensions rated below 1.

	Overall risk	Voice and Accountability	Political Stability & Absence of Violence	Government Effectiveness	Regulatory Quality	Rule of Law	Control of Corruption
Country	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Libya	2.8	7.88	1.43	1.92	0.96	1.92	2.40
North Korea	8.5	0.00	35.71	7.69	0.00	4.81	2.88
Somalia	1.6	2.96	2.86	0.96	1.92	0.00	0.96
South Sudan	1.4	1.97	2.38	0.00	2.40	1.44	0.00
Syria	1.8	1.48	0.48	3.37	3.37	0.96	1.44
Venezuela	4.8	10.34	9.05	4.33	0.48	0.48	4.33
Yemen	2.3	4.43	0.00	0.48	4.33	2.88	1.92

Most Severe Risk Countries present a higher risk of human right violations perpetrated against workers. At the same time, extremely poor governance and political instability may hinder amfori members from pursuing reasonable due diligence in their supply chains in those countries: monitoring and capacity building activities might not be possible.

amfori members should aim to:

- Assess if they have direct or indirect business linkages with Most Severe Risk Countries (e.g. for specific components or commodities)
- Consult the Country Due Diligence Tool and identify critical risks on social, environmental and trade issues
- Alert sourcing department and / or suppliers on the critical risks and collect information on any risk prevention practices in place
- If need arises, contact the amfori main office for support on policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement.

Risk Classification Changes

Five (5) countries have seen a change in its classification while three (3) countries have seen significant change in either their overall rating or in individual dimensions without a change in classification.

Three (3) countries are high risk country even though their overall score is higher than 60, because three (3) or more of their indicators have a score lower than 60.

Please find more details below per country and some explanation as to what could have influenced this change.

Countries that went from Risk to Low Risk

- Bulgaria
- Greece
- Tuvalu

Bulgaria

Bulgaria's overall risk has slightly improved and now becomes low risk, but two indicators remain below 60 (Rule of Law and Control of Corruption).

- ✦ The police have been accused of misconduct, including arbitrary arrests and the justice system is vulnerable to political and outside pressure.
- ✦ Ethnic minorities, particularly Roma, face discrimination in employment, health care, education, and housing. Migrants and asylum seekers are also at risk with reported beatings and extortion from the Bulgarian government.
- ✦ Discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is illegal, but societal bias against LGBT+ people persists.
- ✦ Corruption hampers business and investment. Although the legal and regulatory framework is generally supportive of property rights and private business, property rights are not always respected in practice. Jurisprudence is inconsistent, and the judiciary is the least trusted institution in the country.

Greece

Greece became a Risk Country in 2018 when its overall risk fell to 58.06. The score has increased in the last 2 years to 64.8 and is now a low risk country.

- ✦ The eight-year Greek debt crisis formally ended in 2018 but the government still faces an enormous level of general government debt. Macroeconomic stability has been restored and fiscal measures have been adopted for the economy but there are still many measures to take to transform the country.
- ✦ The judiciary is independent but also inefficient and slow. Tax corruption and evasion has been a serious problem in Greece, but a new code of criminal procedure was passed in July 2019 to give better resources to institutions to combat corruption, which remains a problem.
- ✦ Violence targeting immigrants, refugees, and LGBT+ people remains a problem. The Romani minority is also subject to discrimination despite legal protections. The new penal code introduced in July lengthens sentences for racist crimes.

Tuvalu

Tuvalu's overall score is improving and is now considered low risk country. However, the following indicators still demonstrate a risk: Government Effectiveness and Regulatory Quality.

- ✦ Tuvalu is a parliamentary democracy, holding regular, competitive elections. In July 2017, an election was held to replace the former Prime minister Lelemia, removed from Parliament in 2016 after a corruption conviction.
- ✦ Ongoing problems include a lack of anti-discrimination laws to protect women and LGBT+ people.
- ✦ Government operations and legislative processes are generally transparent, though there is no freedom of information law to guarantee and regulate public access to official records.

- ✦ The highest point of Tuvalu being at only 4.5m above sea level and so Tuvalu's politicians campaign against climate change.
- ✦ There are no streams or rivers so collecting water is essential. Increasing salination of the soil threatens traditional subsistence farming.

Countries that went from Low Risk to Risk

- Grenada
- Jamaica

Grenada

Grenada's overall score has almost remained unchanged, but it has become a risk country because three of the six indicators are now low: Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality and Rule of Law.

- ✦ Grenada is a parliamentary democracy, with fair and impartial elections, but an unbalanced size of constituencies has resulted in unequal voting power among citizens.
- ✦ All propositions to reform the Constitution in 2016 were rejected in a referendum with a very low turnout. After the elections in 2018, the lack of opposition in the House of Representatives created concerns and three former ministers were appointed to Senate.
- ✦ Corruption remains a prominent issue in Grenada, despite safeguards enshrined in the Prevention of Corruption Act (2007) and the Integrity in Public Life Act (2007). More anti-corruption rules were proposed in the Constitutional reform in 2016 but were all rejected.
- ✦ The Constitution protects the right of worker to form and join unions and to strike. 'Essential workers' may strike too, but this right is limited by compulsory arbitration to resolve disputes. The definition of essential workers is more extensive than the list of services considered as essential by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- ✦ The Constitution prohibits gender discrimination but in practice discrimination remains common, so does violence against women and children. LGBT+ people face significant societal discrimination. An amendment to the Constitution to protect the equal treatment of people in Grenada was rejected in the 2016 referendum.

Jamaica

Jamaica's overall score slightly decreased this year after increasing over the years and is back to being a Risk Country. Three indicators are below 60: Political Stability and Absence of Violence & Terrorism, Rule of Law and Control of Corruption.

- ✦ The bipartisan parliamentary democracy is stable but participation in elections has declined over recent decades, translating a lack of trust in the Jamaican institutions.
- ✦ High unemployment rate is one of the most important issues in Jamaica. Employment policies are dependant of economic growth, which has been very low in the last decade.
- ✦ Jamaica's high crime rate and violent crimes are another important issue, which is exacerbated by the ties between elected representatives and organised criminals. A state emergency was declared in 2018 to tackle violence, since then murder rate has dropped by 21%.
- ✦ Killings by police remain a serious problem in Jamaica. According to the Independent Commission of Investigations, 86 people were shot and killed by security personnel in 2019. This represents a decline in reported shooting deaths by security forces; 168 people were killed in 2017, and 137 in 2018.
- ✦ A large backlog of cases and a shortage of court staff at all levels continue to undermine the justice system. Trials are often delayed for many years and at times cases are dismissed due to systemic failures.
- ✦ Harassment of and violence against LGBT+ people remains a major concern and is frequently ignored by the police. Legal protections for women and girls are also poorly enforced, and violence and discrimination remain widespread.

Special note for other risk countries with an overall score above 60

- Seychelles
- Puerto Rico
- Tonga

Seychelles

Seychelles' overall score is continuing to improve and although three indicators are still scored below 60, they are also improving over the years. The indicators considered as risk are Voice & Accountability, Regulatory Quality and Rule of Law.

- ✦ During the presidential election in 2015, narrowly re-electing the President Michel, claims of harassment and intimidation of candidates and allegations of vote buying were made. However, in 2016, an opposition coalition won the election for the National Assembly, increasing political pluralism and leading to the resignation of the President.
- ✦ In 2016, the National Assembly passed an anticorruption law establishing the first independent anticorruption commission in the country, and strengthened the legal framework to fight corruption, but only a few investigations have followed.
- ✦ Journalists often self-censor themselves and newspapers often take political sides, so reporting is often biased.
- ✦ Seychelles does not have enough judges and has to bring judges from abroad. The government controls the contracts of the expatriates, impartiality of non-Seychellois judges is therefore compromised.
- ✦ There are many bureaucratic and procedural hurdles to set up a company and the labour market is not fully developed.
- ✦ Migrant workers lack certain legal protections and remain vulnerable to abuses, particularly in the Seychelles International Trade Zone.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico's overall result continues to lower now reaching the score of 61. The indicators Political Stability & Absence of Violence, Government Effectiveness and Control of Corruption are considered as a risk.

- ✦ Protests erupted in July 2019 leading to the resignation of Governor Rosselló and other government officials. The protests were exacerbated by corruption charges against members of the administration
- ✦ Puerto Rico declared bankruptcy in 2015 and efforts to restructure the economy are ongoing but the U.S. territory still faces fiscal challenges and a lack of economic competitiveness.
- ✦ After the hurricane Maria causing the death of nearly 3000 people and \$94 billion of damages two years ago, the reconstruction was slow and tourism is still weak, making the economy recovery slower.

Tonga

Tonga's overall score remains at 60 but it is considered a Risk Country because of Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality and Control of Corruption.

- ✦ Tonga is a constitutional monarchy with a Prime Minister backed by mostly elected parliament since 2010. However, the king retains important powers including the authority to veto legislation, dissolve the parliament and appoint judicial officials.
- ✦ The constitution protects equality before the law. However, women face discrimination, in laws governing land and inheritance.
- ✦ Politicians often sue media, exposing them to the risk of heavy fines. In these conditions, journalists say they are forced to censor themselves due to the threat of bankruptcy.
- ✦ Public sector dominates the market which slows economic dynamism.
- ✦ The judicial system is inefficient and lacks transparency.
- ✦ Tonga was hit by Cyclone Gita in 2018, the worst storm to hit Tonga in 60 years.

Countries which have seen a significant change in rating, but have not changed classification

- Hong Kong
- Bolivia
- Maldives

Hong Kong

Hong Kong remains a low risk location with a score of 78,4, although it has decreased by 8,7 points this year, especially in the areas of Voice and Accountability and Political Stability and Absence of Violence according to the World Bank Indicators.

Bolivia

Bolivia remains a high risk country with a score of 23.3, although it has decreased by 6.1 points this year, especially in the areas of Political Stability, Absence of Violence and Government Effectiveness according to the World Bank Indicators.

Maldives

Maldives remains a high risk country with a score of 40.8, although it has increased by 7.7 points this year, all areas showed improvement, in particular Control of Corruption, which gained 28.9 points, according to the World Bank Indicators.

Sources:

- Freedom House
- Index of Economic Freedom
- Gan Business Anti-corruption portal
- Transformation Index BTI
- Human Rights Watch World Report
- Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index
- The Washington Post
- The Economist

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