

README for the Reproducibility Package for The Path Forward to Effective Reform

Overview

This Report presents a newly constructed Database of Court Reform. The database documents 1,887 reforms attempted between 2000 and 2025 in 189 countries, generating over 15,000 new data points. The database can serve as a practical tool for the World Bank Group and other development institutions to inform programming and design reform roadmaps based on past interventions. By consolidating detailed information on the content and sequencing of judicial reforms across a wide range of countries, it enables practitioners to benchmark a country's reform trajectory against global and regional peers, identify common strategies in enhancing access, efficiency, or quality, and tailor interventions to specific institutional contexts.

The code in this replication package constructs the analysis file from ten data sources using Stata. One main dofile runs all the code to generate the data for Figures 4-5, 7-13 and 17-28 in the report. The replicator should expect the code to run for about 1 minute.

Data Availability Statement

Dataset Name	File Name(s)	Link/Access Instructions	Access Date	Data Access
Reform	Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx	-	July 8, 2025	-
Selection	Database on Judicial Independence_DR_For Reproducibility Verification.xlsx	-	May 16, 2025	-
GDP (World Bank)	GDP_per_capita_2000_2024.xlsx	Link	Aug 6, 2025	Open
Income Group and Region (World Bank)	CLASS_2025_10_07.xlsx; OGHIST_2025_10_07.xlsx	Link	Jan 14, 2026	Open
HCI (World Bank)	P_HCI.xlsx	Link	Dec 15, 2024	Open
Growth (World Bank)	P_Growth.xlsx	Link	Jan 15, 2026	Open
Varieties of Democracy	V-Dem-CY-Core-v15.dta	Link	Mar 5, 2025	Open
World Justice Project	WJP-ROL.xlsx	Link	Jun 8, 2025	Open
Policy V Project	p5v2018.xls	Link	Apr 29, 2025	Open
Economist Intelligence Unit	EIU-DI.xlsx	Link	Mar 27, 2025	Open
Afrobarometer	R9.Merge_39ctry.20Nov23.final.release_Updated.25Oct24 2 2.sav	Link	Jun 10, 2025	Open

Statement about Rights

I certify that the author(s) of the manuscript have legitimate access to and permission to use the data used in this manuscript.

I certify that the author(s) of the manuscript have documented permission to redistribute/publish the data contained within this replication package. Appropriate permissions are documented in the LICENSE.txt file.

Instructions for Replicators

New users should follow these steps to run the package successfully:

- Update \Code\00_main.do line 10 with your directory paths
- Run the \Code\00_main.do file.

- For Figures 3, 14, 15, 16: utilize “Calculations for Figures 3_14_15_16.xlsx” file in the “Figures 3, 14, 15, 16” folder to get the same numbers shown in the report itself. More detailed instructions are below:

- **Fig 5:** Adopted vs Not Adopted Reforms by Branch
 - Open the “Calculations for Figures 3_14_15_16.xlsx” file in the “Figures 3, 14, 15, 16” folder, go the tab labelled Fig 3
 - The table at the top of the sheet (A1 through C7) reflects the outputs obtained from the “Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx” in the ‘Compiled Database’ sheet
 - To obtain each specific number, utilize the code in B9 through B17 using the data from the Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx to get the number that corresponds to the specific cell mentioned in A9 through A17.
 - The numbers obtained are then plugged into Apple Keynote to create the figure.
- **Fig 14:** Path of Reform initiated by the executive
 - Open the “Calculations for Figures 3_14_15_16.xlsx” file in the “Figures 3, 14, 15, 16” folder, go the tab labelled Fig 14
 - The table at the top of the sheet (A1 through D5) reflects the outputs obtained from the “Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx” in the ‘Compiled Database’ sheet
 - To obtain each specific number, utilize the code in B7 through B14 using the data from the Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx to get the number that corresponds to the specific cell mentioned in A7 through A14.
 - The numbers obtained are then plugged into Apple Keynote to create the figure.
- **Fig 15:** Path of Reform initiated by judiciary
 - Open the “Calculations for Figures 3_14_15_16.xlsx” file in the “Figures 3, 14, 15, 16” folder, go the tab labelled Fig 15
 - The table at the top of the sheet (A1 through D5) reflects the outputs obtained from the “Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx” in the ‘Compiled Database’ sheet
 - To obtain each specific number, utilize the code in B7 through B14 using the data from the Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx to get the number that corresponds to the specific cell mentioned in A7 through A14.
 - The numbers obtained are then plugged into Apple Keynote to create the figure.
- **Fig 16:** Path of Reform initiated by legislative
 - Open the “Calculations for Figures 3_14_15_16.xlsx” file in the “Figures 3, 14, 15, 16” folder, go the tab labelled Fig 16
 - The table at the top of the sheet (A1 through D5) reflects the outputs obtained from the “Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx” in the ‘Compiled Database’ sheet
 - To obtain each specific number, utilize the code in B7 through B14 using the data from the Database of Court Reform_DR.xlsx to get the number that corresponds to the specific cell mentioned in A7 through A14.
 - The numbers obtained are then plugged into Apple Keynote to create the figure.

Computational Requirements and Runtime

The do-files will run for about 1 minute

Software Requirements

Stata version 18 (packages needed: kountry, xtevent, binscatter, coefplot)

Excel

Memory and Storage Requirements

The whole package requires 600 MB of storage.

Code Description

\Code\00_main.do sets project paths, install packages and runs all do-files.

\Code\01_cleaning.do cleans the raw data.

\Code\02_merge.do merges the cleaned data.

\Code\03_graphs.do produces figures in the report.

“Calculations for Figures 3_14_15_16.xlsx” includes Excel calculations to produce the numbers that underlie figures 3, 14, 15, and 16 in the report

List of Exhibits

Figures 4-8, 10-17 and 21-30 can be found in the \Outputs\, produced in 03_graphs.do.

“Fig 3_Adopted vs Not Adopted Reforms by Branch”: produced using Apple Keynote and plugging in numbers derived from Excel equations into a pie chart

“Fig 14_The Path of Reform initiated by the Executive”: produced using Apple Keynote and making bubbles that approximately show the numbers derived from Excel equations

“Fig 15_The Path of Reform initiated by Judiciary”: produced using Apple Keynote and making bubbles that approximately show the numbers derived from Excel equations

“Fig 16_The Path of Reform initiated by Legislative”: produced using Apple Keynote and making bubbles that approximately show the numbers derived from Excel equations

Folder Structure

Documentation

- README.docx
- Calculations for Figures 3_14_15_16.xlsx

Figures 3, 14, 15, 16

- Calculations for Figures 3_14_15_16.xlsx
- Fig 3_Adopted vs Not Adopted Reforms by Branch.png
- Fig 14_The Path of Reform Initiated by the Executive.png
- Fig 15_The Path of Reform Initiated by the Judiciary.png
- Fig 16_The Path of Reform Initiated by the Legislative.png

Data

- Raw
- Cleaned

Code

- ado
- 00_main.do
- 01_cleaning.do
- 02_merge.do
- 02_graphs.do

Outputs

- Figure 4. Share of Attempted Reforms per Category Across Years.png
- Figure 5. Reforms on Efficiency are Most Likely to Be Adopted.png
- Figure 7. Discrimination in civil justice is increasing.png
- Figure 8. The Use of Customary Justice around the World.png
- Figure 9. Corruption in the Judiciary.png
- Figure 10. Adopted and Not Adopted Reforms per Region.png
- Figure 11. Who Initiates Reform per Region.png
- Figure 12. Reform Categories per Region.png
- Figure 13. Who Initiates Reform.png
- Figure 17. Rich Countries Reform More.png
- Figure 18. Independent Judiciaries Attempt More Reform.png
- Figure 19. Independent Judiciaries are Prevalent in Democracies.png
- Figure 20. Share of Adopted Reforms by Category.png
- Figure 21. Access to Justice Improves with Reform_1.png
- Figure 21. Access to Justice Improves with Reform_2.png
- Figure 21. Access to Justice Improves with Reform_3.png
- Figure 22. Nearly 70% of Reforms on Quality are not Adopted.png
- Figure 23. Perceptions do not Improve after Reform on Quality_1.png
- Figure 23. Perceptions do not Improve after Reform on Quality_2.png
- Figure 24. Technology-enhanced Reforms have been Steadily Increasing.png
- Figure 25. Perceptions Improve after Reform on Efficiency_1.png
- Figure 25. Perceptions Improve after Reform on Efficiency_2.png
- Figure 26. Election Years Bring Reform.png
- Figure 27. Court Reform is Uncorrelated with Economic Cycles.png
- Figure 28. Court Reform and Subsequent Economic Growth.png