Government Type and Public Spending in Africa: Coding rules

1 Variables

- country
- year
- ccode
  Correlates of War Project country code.
- polity2
  Polity2 Variable from the Polity V dataset, codebook available here (variable described on p.17).
- govtsyear
  The number of governments identified in a given year. Data was coded from the Ariotti (2018) dataset on democratic governments in Africa, 1990-2015.
- demtype
  Type of democracy according to the Democracy-Dictatorship classification in 2008 (other than Botswana, The Gambia, Lesotho, and Seychelles).
  1. Parliamentary (0)
  2. Semi-presidential (1)
  3. Presidential (2)
- pres
  Recodes demtype such that presidential regimes are coded as 1, and parliamentary/semi-presidential are coded as 0.
- ENPP
  The effective number of parliamentary/legislative parties (appears in manuscript as ENLP). Calculated using legislative seat shares in Ariotti (2018) dataset on democratic governments in Africa, 1990-2015.
- electoral
  Electoral system information from Golder and Bormann 2016; supplemented with data from IPU-Parline. Coded with the following scheme:
  1. Majoritarian
  2. Proportional

3. Mixed

- PR Converts the electoral variable to a binary indicator – countries coded as proportional or mixed in the 'electoral' variable above are given a value of 1, while countries with majoritarian electoral rules have a value of 0.

- mcoalition
  Months per year that included ≥ 1 day(s) of coalition government. Recodes the government data from main dataset to be country-year.

- total_min_port *(source: Africa South of the Sahara)*

  1. Include Prime Minister.
  2. Include President/Vice President(s) only if they hold portfolios.
  3. Include Deputy PM(s) only if they hold portfolios.
  4. Do not include deputy ministers, assistant ministers, etc.
  5. Include all ministries. Note that "Ministers of State in the President's Office" and Ministers at the Presidency are excluded from this count, unless they appear to have independent possession of a ministry. See coding notes.
  6. Include ministers without portfolio.

- total_min_noH *(source: Africa South of the Sahara)*

  1. Exclude head of government and head of state (PM/President/Chancellor/etc.) even if they hold ministerial portfolios. Sometimes this includes both the president and the PM, depending upon portfolio assignments by country and across time.
  2. Include Deputy PM(s)/VP(s) only if they hold ministerial portfolios.
  3. Do not include deputy ministers, assistant ministers, etc.
  4. Include all ministries. Note that "Ministers of State in the President's Office" and Ministers at the Presidency are excluded from this count, unless they appear to have independent possession of a ministry. See coding notes.
  5. Include ministers without portfolio.

- spending_min_wehner *(source: Africa South of the Sahara)*

  1. Exclude PM, President, and/or Chancellor regardless of portfolio(s) held.
  2. Include Deputy PM and/or VP only if they hold a portfolio in addition to this title (note that if it is one of the below finance ministers, they will be excluded).
  3. Exclude Finance Ministers: including Budget Ministers, Ministers of the Economy, and Ministers of the Treasury (also excludes Ministers of Planning and Economic Planning*). Note that if a minister holds one excluded portfolio in addition to at least one other one countable portfolio, the minister *remains* counted

*Ministers of Planning and Ministers of Economic Planning are excluded. Ministers of Development Planning and Finance are also excluded. However, Minister of Rural Development is included, as this would constitute a clear spending priority.

as a spending minister (See coding notes for Cameroon 1992, for example). Also includes Ministers with titles that extend beyond one of the excluded ministries (such as Zaire 1992, whose State Commissioner of Economy, Industry, and External Trade is counted, but whose State Commissioner of Finance and the Budget is excluded). See coding notes for clarifications.

4. Exclude ministers directly attached to the chief executive (Ministers of State, etc.). Note that when Ministers of State appear to be full rank ministers with independent offices, they are included in the count of spending ministers in spite of the difference in title. Excludes "Ministers of Presidential Affairs" (Ministers of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, etc.), who are presumed to lack an independent spending agenda even where they are listed as an independent Ministry from the Office of the President.
5. Exclude deputy ministers, assistant ministers, etc.
6. Exclude ministers without portfolio (see examples such as Ethiopia 1992, or Kenya 1997).

Note: Vacant ministries are included in the totals, under the assumption that no ministry would be likely to remain vacant for the entire year period.

- ne_con_govt_zs; General government final consumption expenditure (% of GDP) *(source: World Bank)*[†]
  General government final consumption expenditure (formerly general government consumption) includes all government current expenditures for purchases of goods and services (including compensation of employees). It also includes most expenditures on national defense and security, but excludes government military expenditures that are part of government capital formation. Source details: World Development Indicators; World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files

- IMF_expense IMF GFS for the "budgetary central government" sector, their "expense" data (line GF2) from the main aggregates. See article appendix for more information.

- WEO_expenditure World Economic Outlook database (WEO subject code GGX_NGDP). See article appendix for more information.

- gc_xpn_totl_gd_zs; Expense (% of GDP) *(source: World Bank)*
  Expense is cash payments for operating activities of the government in providing goods and services. It includes compensation of employees (such as wages and salaries), interest and subsidies, grants, social benefits, and other expenses such as rent and dividends. Source info: World Development Indicators; International Monetary Fund, Government Finance Statistics Yearbook and data files, and World Bank and OECD GDP estimates.

- sp_pop_dpnd; Age dependency ratio *(source: World Bank)*
  Age dependency ratio is the ratio of dependents–people younger than 15 or older than

[†]World Bank data downloaded October 2019.

64–to the working-age population–those ages 15-64. Data are shown as the proportion of dependents per 100 working-age population. Source: World Development Indicators; World Bank staff estimates using the World Bank's population and age distributions of the United Nations Population Division's World Population Prospects. The World Bank's population estimates are from various sources including the United Nations Population Division's World Population Prospects; census reports and statistical publications from national statistical offices; Eurostat's Demographic Statistics; United Nations Statistical Division, Population and Vital Statistics Report (various years); U.S. Census Bureau: International Database; and Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Statistics and Demography Programme.

- ny_gdp_pcap_kd; GDP per capita (constant 2010 US$) *(source: World Bank)*
  GDP per capita is gross domestic product divided by midyear population. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are in constant 2010 U.S. dollars. Source: World Development Indicators; World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.

- dt_oda_alld_gd_zs; Net ODA received (% of GDP) *(source: World Bank)*
  Africa Development Indicators; Official development assistance and net official aid record the actual international transfer by the donor of financial resources or of goods or services valued at the cost to the donor, less any repayments of loan principal during the same period. Source org: Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Developing Countries, Development Co-operation Report, and International Development Statistics database. Data are available online at: www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline. World Bank GDP estimates are used for the denominator.

- sl_uem_totl_zs; Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate) *(source: World Bank)*
  Unemployment refers to the share of the labor force that is without work but available for and seeking employment. Source: World Development Indicators; International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market database

- ne_trd_gnfs_zs; Trade (% of GDP) *(source: World Bank)*
  Trade is the sum of exports and imports of goods and services measured as a share of gross domestic product. Source: World Development Indicators; World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files

- ny_gdp_mktp_kd; GDP at market prices (constant 2010 US$) *(source: World Bank)*
  GDP at purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation

of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are in constant 2010 U.S. dollars. Dollar figures for GDP are converted from domestic currencies using 2010 official exchange rates. For a few countries where the official exchange rate does not reflect the rate effectively applied to actual foreign exchange transactions, an alternative conversion factor is used. Source: World Development Indicators; World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files

- ny_gdp_totl_rt_zs; Total natural resources rents (% of GDP) *(source: World Bank)*
  Total natural resources rents are the sum of oil rents, natural gas rents, coal rents (hard and soft), mineral rents, and forest rents. Estimates based on sources and methods described in "The Changing Wealth of Nations: Measuring Sustainable Development in the New Millennium" (World Bank, 2011)

- sp_pop_totl; Population, total *(source: World Bank)*
  Total population is based on the de facto definition of population, which counts all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship. The values shown are midyear estimates. Source: World Development Indicators; (1) United Nations Population Division. World Population Prospects, (2) Census reports and other statistical publications from national statistical offices, (3) Eurostat: Demographic Statistics, (4) United Nations Statistical Division. Population and Vital Statistics Report (various years), (5) U.S. Census Bureau: International Database, and (6) Secretariat of the Pacific Community: Statistics and Demography Programme

2 Coding Example

The following example is provided to illustrate the differences in counting ministries for *total_min_port*, *total_min_noH*, *spending_min_wehner*. Given the following cabinet:

- President: Minister of Defense
- Vice-President: Minister of Finance
- Minister of the Budget
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Education
- Minister of the Interior

For the *total_min_port variable*, the following ministries would be counted:

- President: Minister of Defense
- Vice-President: Minister of Finance
- Minister of the Budget

- Minister of Health
- Minister of Education
- Minister of the Interior

For the *total_min_noH*, however, the following ministries would be counted:

- Vice-President: Minister of Finance
- Minister of the Budget
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Education
- Minister of the Interior

For the *spending_min_wehner*, the following ministries would be counted:

- Minister of Health
- Minister of Education
- Minister of the Interior

Note that if the vice president held a portfolio, but the president did not, the *total_min_port* would include the vice president, but not the president (but would drop the vice president for *spending_min_wehner*, as he is the Minister of Finance, as well as the vice president):

References

Ariotti, Margaret H. 2018. Parties and Coalitions: Executive-Legislative Relations in African Democracies PhD thesis The Pennsylvania State University.