Correlates of the Good Society Index in the 2020s

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Correlates of the Good Society Index in the 2020s

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The Good Society Index: 2025 Edition

The **Good Society Index (GSI)** has been updated using the latest available data for 2021. In a good society, newborn babies should survive, people should grow to be old, and in between birth and death, people should feel they have a good life. The Good Society Index continues to measure how well countries support the well-being and quality of life of their people, based on three basic ideas:

- **Focusing on Essentials:** The index looks at components that focus on essential characteristics of human life; health, mortality and happiness.

- **Keeping It Simple:** It uses only a few important measures to make it easier to interpret.

- **A Nuanced Picture:** It combines both facts (objective data) and feelings (subjective data) to get a more complete view of how a society is doing.

Following the work of the GSI 2007 (Holmberg, 2007) and 2014 (Holmberg and Rothstein, 2014), the GSI 2025 uses three key indicators:

- **Infant Mortality:** Data from the World Bank (*World Development Indicators*, 2024).

- **Life Expectancy:** Also from the World Bank (*World Development Indicators*, 2024).

- **Subjective well-being:** Based on the *World Happiness Report* (2023).

Each countrys ranking on these three indicators is combined to create its GSI score. All indicators are weighted equally, and the index is based on rank order, not exact numbers. The ranks are added up and averaged to give a score, ranging from **1** (best) to **148** (worst).

The GSI shows how close or far countries are from achieving a good society compared to others. However, it does not measure exactly how good or bad each country is; it simply ranks them.

The 2025 Good Society Index provides an updated, easy-to-understand way to compare countries and inspire action to improve global well-being.

Good Society Index

Rank	Country	GSI
1	Iceland	5,33
2	Norway	5,67
3	Finland	7,33
4	Sweden	8,33
5	Luxembourg	11,33
6	Singapore	12,33
7	Israel	12,83
8	Switzerland	13
9	Australia	13,83
10	Ireland	13,83
11	Denmark	15,17
12	Japan	16,67
13	Spain	17,5
14	Germany	18
15	Italy	18
16	Austria	18,33
17	Netherlands	19
18	New Zealand	19,17
19	Slovenia	19,33
20	France	21,33
21	Estonia	21,67
22	Czech Republic	22
23	Cyprus	22,67
24	Canada	23,67
25	Belgium	24
26	United Kingdom	26,5
27	Korea, South	26,83
28	Malta	31,5
29	Croatia	32,83
30	United States	33,67
31	Slovakia	35
32	Portugal	35,67
33	Lithuania	36,33
34	United Arab Emirates	37
35	Greece	37,67
36	Uruguay	37,67
37	Costa Rica	39,33
38	Latvia	40
39	Saudi Arabia	40,67
40	Poland	40,83
41	Chile	41
42	Bahrain	41,67
43	Montenegro	41,67
44	Hungary	44
45	Romania	44,33
46	Belarus	48,67

Rank	Country	GSI
47	China	49,67
48	Thailand	49,67
49	Kuwait	50
50	Serbia	50
51	Malaysia	52
52	Bosnia and Herzegovina	53
53	Argentina	55
54	Maldives	55,33
55	Panama	56
56	Bulgaria	61
57	Albania	61,33
58	Trinidad and Tobago	62,33
59	Brazil	64
60	Kazakhstan	64
61	Nicaragua	64,33
62	Russia	65,67
63	Colombia	66,67
64	Mauritius	67
65	North Macedonia	68,17
66	Kyrgyzstan	68,33
67	Sri Lanka	70
68	Mongolia	70,5
69	Guatemala	70,67
70	Armenia	72,33
71	Vietnam	73
72	Turkey	73,33
73	Libya	74,33
74	Honduras	74,67
75	Mexico	75
76	Jamaica	76
77	Ecuador	76,17
78	Paraguay	76,83
79	Georgia	77
80	Moldova	77,33
81	Uzbekistan	77,5
82	Algeria	77,67
83	Ukraine	77,67
84	Iran	78,33
85	El Salvador	78,83
86	Peru	80,33
87	Lebanon	81,33
88	Tunisia	83,33
89	Nepal	83,67
90	Morocco	88,17
91	Bangladesh	89
92	Dominican Republic	89,33

Rank	Country	GSI	Rank	Country	GSI
93	Jordan	89,67	121	Zambia	120
94	Philippines	90,33	122	Pakistan	120,33
95	Bolivia	93,33	123	Tanzania	120,83
96	Azerbaijan	95,33	124	Mauritania	121
97	Tajikistan	96	125	Nigeria	121,33
98	Turkmenistan	99	126	Cote d'Ivoire	122,33
99	Indonesia	99,67	127	Liberia	122,33
100	Egypt	100,67	128	Mozambique	122,33
101	Venezuela	101,33	129	Malawi	122,83
102	Iraq	102	130	Niger	123
103	Laos	102,17	131	Madagascar	123,33
104	Cambodia	105,67	132	Yemen	125,33
105	South Africa	105,67	133	Guinea	128,67
106	Ghana	106	134	Burkina Faso	129,33
107	Gabon	106,33	135	Burundi	129,67
108	Senegal	107,83	136	Haiti	129,67
109	India	109	137	Eswatini	130,33
110	Congo	110,33	138	Togo	130,67
111	Gambia	112,17	139	Benin	132
112	Myanmar	115	140	Zimbabwe	133
113	Uganda	116,17	141	Afghanistan	134,33
114	Ethiopia	116,83	142	Mali	137,33
115	Kenya	116,83	143	Chad	140,67
116	Namibia	118,17	144	Lesotho	141
117	Cameroon	118,67	145	Congo, Democratic Republic	141,67
118	Botswana	119,17	146	Sierra Leone	142,33
119	Comoros	119,67	147	South Sudan	144
120	Rwanda	120	148	Central African Republic	144,33

Methodology and Sources

The index is constructed using rank orders rather than actual rates, meaning that the countries' rankings on each indicator are used to create the composite index. The rankings for each country are summed and divided by three to produce an index value, which can theoretically range from **1** (the highest-ranked nation on the Good Society Index) to **149** (the lowest-ranked nation). A value of **1** represents the country closest to achieving the ideals of a good society among the nations analyzed, while **149** represents the furthest. However, these figures do not indicate how close or far each country is from achieving the maximum good society; the index functions as a rank-order scale rather than a continuous measure.

The data comes from:

- The World Bank. (2024). *Data Indicators for Life Expectancy and Infant Mortality*. Retrieved from https://data.worldbank.org

- Helliwell, Layard, Neve and Wang. (2023). *World Happiness Report 2023 (11th ed.)*. Retrieved from https://www.oecd.org/statistics

Subjective Well-being Ranking by Country

Country	Rank
Finland	1
Iceland	2
Denmark	3
Switzerland	4
Netherlands	5
Luxembourg	6
Sweden	7
Germany	8
Norway	9
New Zealand	10
Austria	11
Israel	12
Australia	13
Ireland	14
United States	15
Canada	16
Czech Republic	17
Belgium	18
United Kingdom	19
Romania	20
France	21
Saudi Arabia	22
Slovakia	23
Croatia	24
Spain	25
Italy	26
Slovenia	27
United Arab Emirates	28
Estonia	29
Lithuania	30
Singapore	31
Costa Rica	32
Uruguay	33
Nicaragua	34
Guatemala	35
Cyprus	36
Kyrgyzstan	37
Latvia	38
Trinidad and Tobago	39
Bahrain	40
Kazakhstan	41
Malta	42
Chile	43
Poland	44
Japan	45
Brazil	46
Kuwait	47

Country	Rank
Panama	48
Serbia	49
Hungary	50
Mauritius	51
Malaysia	52
Mongolia	53
Nepal	54
Mexico	55
Honduras	56
Argentina	57
Thailand	58
Uzbekistan	59
Belarus	60
Moldova	61
Korea, South	62
Greece	63
China	64
Portugal	65
Montenegro	66
Colombia	67
Bulgaria	68
Bolivia	69
Bosnia and Herzegovina	70
Nigeria	71
Paraguay	72
Russia	73
Armenia	74
Turkmenistan	75
Vietnam	76
El Salvador	77
Algeria	78
Jamaica	79
Tajikistan	80
Albania	81
Ecuador	82
Libya	83
Ghana	84
Laos	85
Bangladesh	86
Ukraine	87
Cote d'Ivoire	88
Cameroon	89
Maldives	90
Azerbaijan	91
Dominican Republic	92
Gambia	93
Georgia	94

Country	Rank	Country	Rank
Liberia	95	Namibia	122
Philippines	96	Myanmar	123
Congo	97	Benin	124
North Macedonia	98	Eswatini (former Swaziland)	125
Niger	99	Cambodia	126
Peru	100	Madagascar	127
Guinea	101	Mali	128
South Africa	102	Chad	129
Mozambique	103	India	130
Gabon	104	Yemen	131
Iran	105	Togo	132
Turkey	106	Mauritania	133
Zambia	107	Jordan	134
Indonesia	108	Malawi	135
Morocco	109	Tanzania	136
Iraq	110	Burundi	137
Sri Lanka	111	Haiti	138
Senegal	112	Lesotho	139
Tunisia	113	Central African Republic	140
Uganda	114	Botswana	141
Burkina Faso	115	Sierra Leone	142
Pakistan	116	Rwanda	143
Comoros	117	Congo, Democratic Republic	144
Venezuela	118	Zimbabwe	145
Ethiopia	119	South Sudan	146
Kenya	120	Lebanon	147
Egypt	121	Afghanistan	148

National-level average scores for subjective well-being:

QoG Code: whr_hap

National-level average scores for subjective well-being, as measured by answers to the Cantril ladder question asking people to evaluate the quality of their current lives on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 represents the worst possible life for them, and 10 the best. Data from the World Happiness Report (Helliwell et al., 2023).

Infant Mortality by Country

Country	Rank	Country	Rank
Estonia	1	Maldives	47
Finland	4	United Arab Emirates	49
Norway	4	Chile	50
Slovenia	4	Saudi Arabia	52
Singapore	4	Bahrain	52
Japan	4	Sri Lanka	52
Iceland	8	Malaysia	54
Sweden	8	Costa Rica	55
Montenegro	8	Argentina	56
Belarus	10	Ukraine	57
Luxembourg	12	Lebanon	58
Czech Republic	12	Thailand	59
Cyprus	12	Kuwait	60
Italy	14	Turkey	61
Spain	16	Albania	62
Korea, South	16	Georgia	63
Portugal	17	Kazakhstan	64
Israel	19	Libya	65
Ireland	19	Armenia	66
Lithuania	20	Jamaica	67
Austria	21	El Salvador	69
Germany	22	Ecuador	69
Denmark	24	Iran	70
Australia	24	Peru	71
Latvia	25	Colombia	72
Switzerland	28	Mexico	73
Belgium	28	Nicaragua	74
France	28	Panama	75
Hungary	28	Moldova	76
Greece	28	Jordan	77
Netherlands	31	Brazil	78
United Kingdom	33	Mongolia	80
Poland	33	Uzbekistan	80
New Zealand	35	Tunisia	81
Croatia	35	Honduras	82
Russia	36	Mauritius	83
Canada	37	Trinidad and Tobago	84
Slovakia	38	Kyrgyzstan	85
Serbia	39	Paraguay	87
Bosnia and Herzegovina	40	Morocco	87
Malta	42	Vietnam	88
North Macedonia	42	Egypt	89
United States	44	Azerbaijan	90
Uruguay	44	Indonesia	91
Bulgaria	44	Algeria	92
Romania	47	Guatemala	93
China	47	Bolivia	94

Country	Rank	Country	Rank
Philippines	95	Zimbabwe	122
Venezuela	96	Burundi	123
Iraq	97	Comoros	124
Cambodia	98	Zambia	125
Nepal	99	Eswatini	126
Bangladesh	100	Togo	127
India	101	Afghanistan	128
South Africa	102	Madagascar	129
Dominican Republic	103	Yemen	130
Tajikistan	104	Haiti	131
Kenya	106	Cameroon	132
Botswana	106	Mozambique	133
Gabon	107	Burkina Faso	134
Senegal	109	Pakistan	135
Namibia	109	Benin	136
Rwanda	110	Cote d'Ivoire	137
Uganda	112	Liberia	138
Malawi	112	Lesotho	139
Congo	113	Niger	140
Mauritania	114	Mali	141
Ghana	115	South Sudan	142
Myanmar	116	Congo, Democratic Republic	143
Gambia	118	Guinea	144
Tanzania	118	Chad	145
Laos	120	Nigeria	146
Ethiopia	120	Central African Republic	147
Turkmenistan	121	Sierra Leone	148

Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)

QoG Code: wdi_mortinf

Infant mortality rate is the number of infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 live births in a given year. Data from the World Bank (World Bank, 2024).

Life Expectancy by Country

Country	Rank
Japan	1
Singapore	2
South Korea	3
Norway	4
Australia	5
Iceland	6
Switzerland	7
Israel	8
Ireland	9
Sweden	10
Malta	11
Spain	12
New Zealand	13
Italy	14
France	15
Luxembourg	16
Finland	17
Canada	18
Denmark	19
Cyprus	20
Netherlands	21
Greece	22
Austria	23
Germany	24
Portugal	25
Belgium	26
Slovenia	27
United Kingdom	28
Maldives	29
Chile	30
Costa Rica	31
Thailand	32
Bahrain	33
United Arab Emirates	34
Estonia	35
Uruguay	36
Czech Republic	37
China	38
Lebanon	39
Croatia	40
Albania	41
United States	42
Kuwait	43
Slovakia	44
Panama	45
Poland	46
Sri Lanka	47

Country	Rank
Saudi Arabia	48
Bosnia and Herzegovina	49
Malaysia	50
Montenegro	51
Argentina	52
Turkey	53
Hungary	54
Vietnam	55
Tunisia	56
Latvia	57
Jordan	58
Lithuania	59
Iran	60
Colombia	61
Serbia	62
Algeria	63
Trinidad and Tobago	64
North Macedonia	65
Romania	66
Mauritius	67
Brazil	68
Morocco	69
Peru	70
Bulgaria	71
Paraguay	72
Dominican Republic	73
Georgia	74
Libya	75
Belarus	76
Armenia	77
Ecuador	78
Mongolia	79
Philippines	80
Bangladesh	81
Jamaica	82
Kyrgyzstan	83
Guatemala	84
Nicaragua	85
Honduras	86
Kazakhstan	87
Russia	88
Ukraine	89
Venezuela	90
El Salvador	91
Egypt	92
Cambodia	93
Uzbekistan	94

Country	Rank	Country	Rank
Moldova	95	Malawi	122
India	96	Uganda	123
Mexico	97	Namibia	124
Nepal	98	Kenya	125
Iraq	99	Gambia	126
Indonesia	100	Afghanistan	127
Turkmenistan	101	Zambia	128
Laos	102	Burundi	129
Senegal	103	Niger	130
Tajikistan	104	Mozambique	131
Azerbaijan	105	Zimbabwe	132
Myanmar	106	Togo	133
Rwanda	107	Liberia	134
Gabon	108	Cameroon	135
Tanzania	109	Benin	136
Pakistan	110	Sierra Leone	137
Botswana	111	Congo, Democratic Republic	138
Ethiopia	112	Burkina Faso	139
South Africa	113	Eswatini (former Swaziland)	140
Madagascar	114	Guinea	141
Yemen	115	Cote d'Ivoire	142
Mauritania	116	Mali	143
Bolivia	117	South Sudan	144
Comoros	118	Lesotho	145
Ghana	119	Central African Republic	146
Haiti	120	Nigeria	147
Congo	121	Chad	148

Life expectancy at birth, total (years):

QoG Code: wdi_lifexp

Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life. Data from the World Bank (World Bank, 2024).
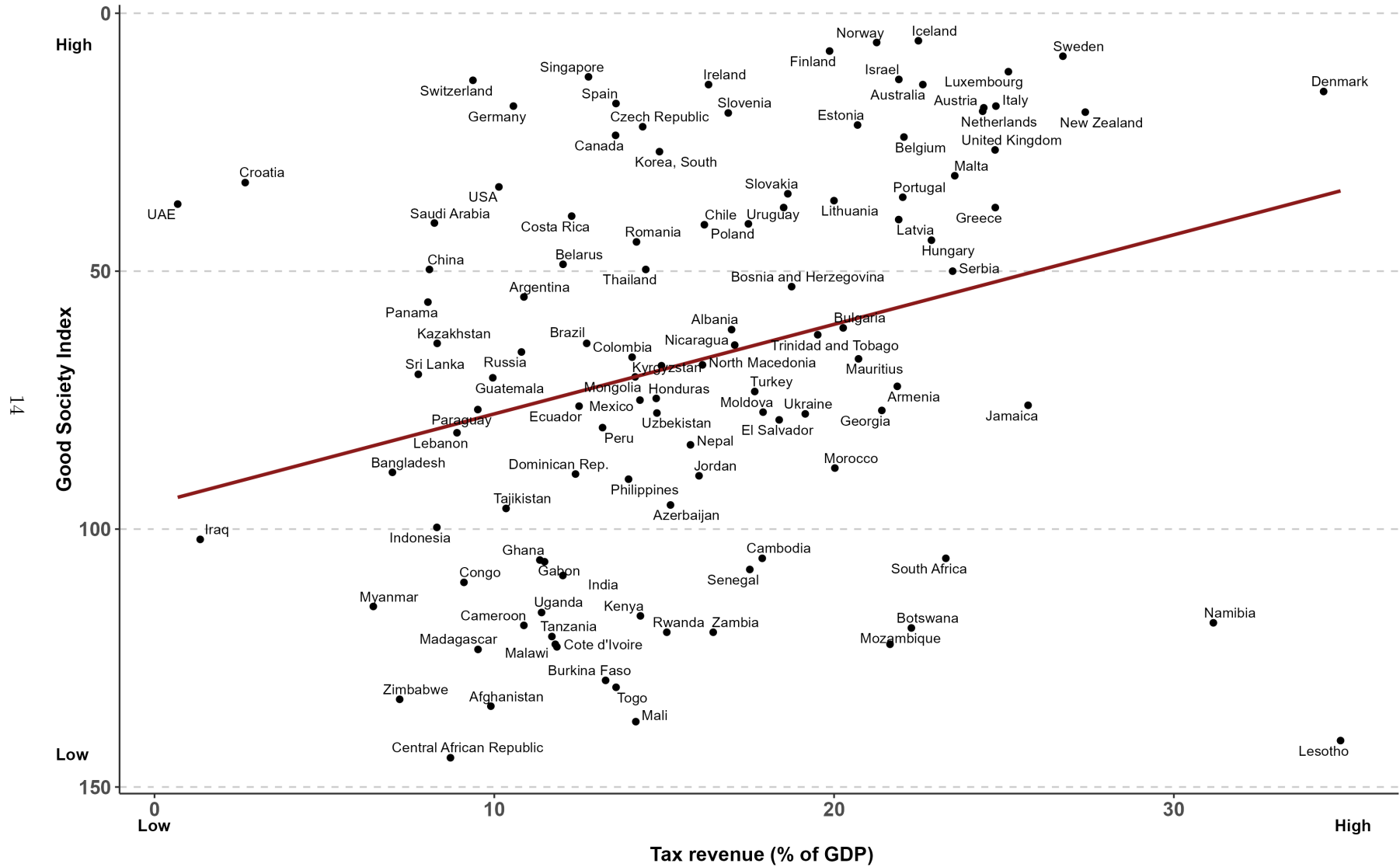
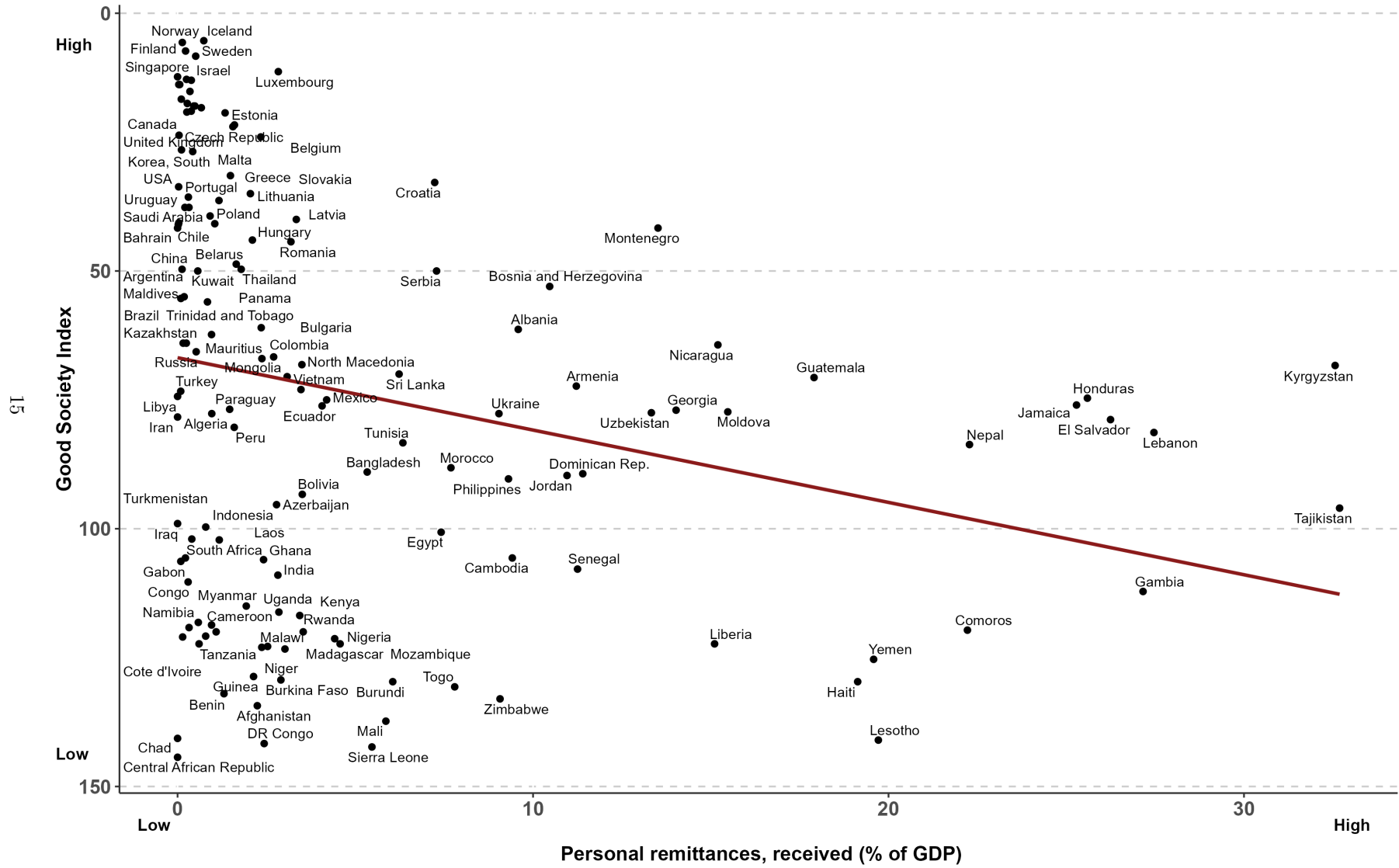# Correlations with GSI

Good Society Index vs. Real GDP per Capita

Good Society Index

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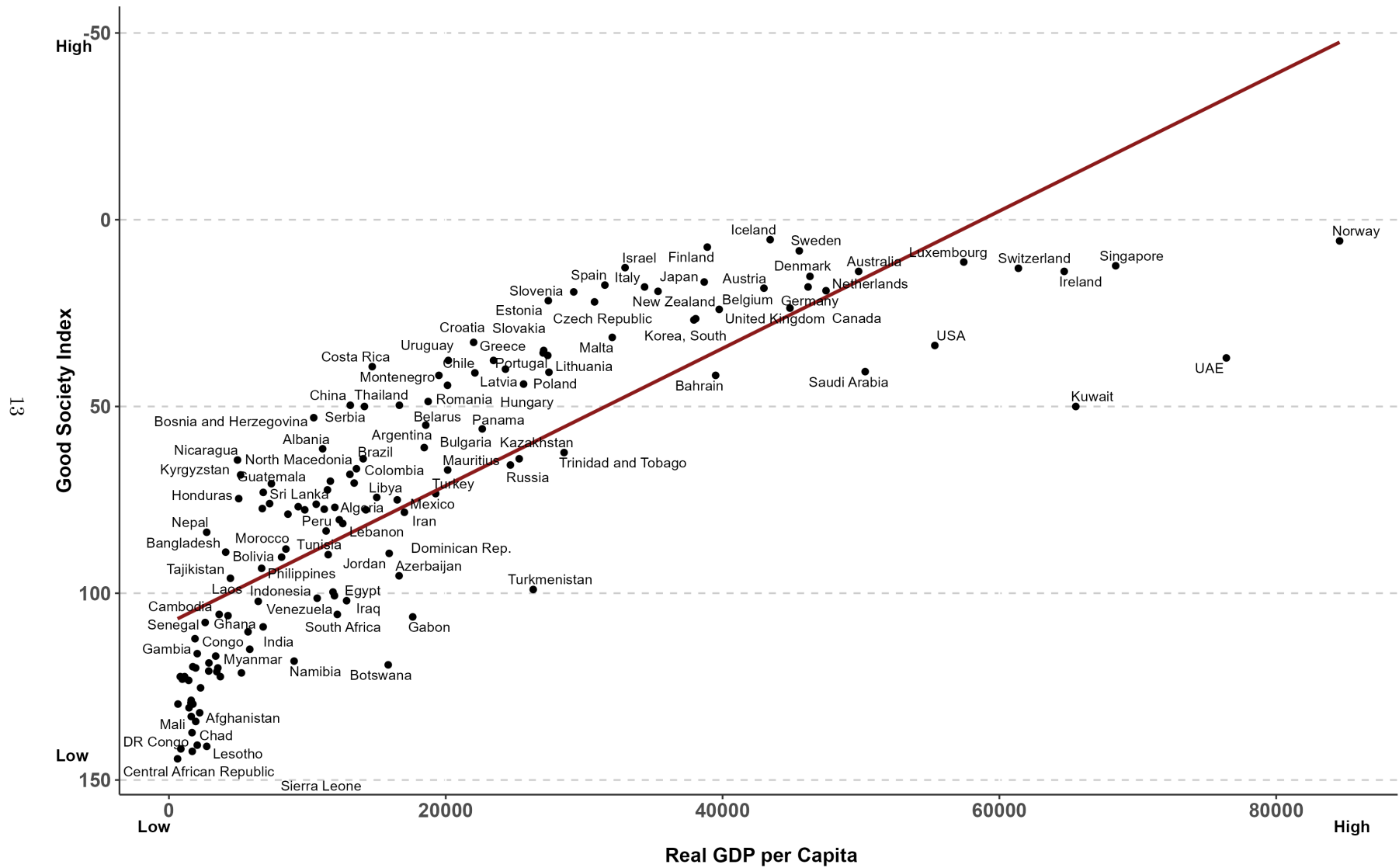
Number of observations: 140
R-squared: 0.67
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Maddison Project Database 2020 (2018)

Good Society Index vs. Tax revenue (% of GDP)

14

Good Society Index

High

Low

Low   High
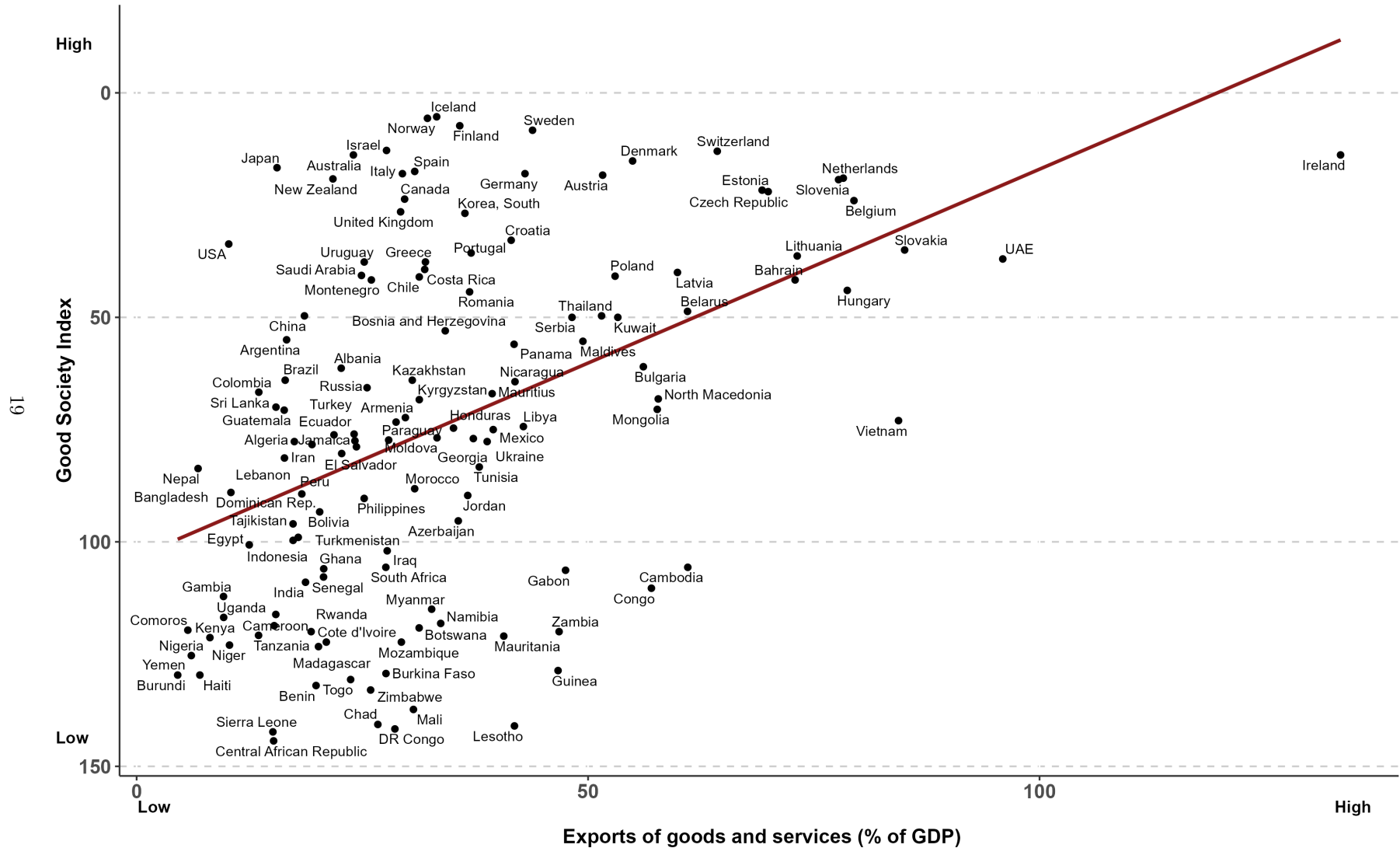
Tax revenue (% of GDP)

Number of observations: 112
R-squared: 0.08
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2017 - 2021)

Good Society Index vs. Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)

Good Society Index (y-axis, labeled High at top, Low at bottom, with markers 0, 50, 100, 150)

Personal remittances, received (% of GDP) (x-axis, labeled Low to High, with markers 0, 10, 20, 30)

Number of observations: 139
R-squared: 0.07
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Migration and Remittances Data (2021)

Good Society Index vs. Economic Freedom of the World Index (current)

Good Society Index

Economic Freedom of the World Index (current)
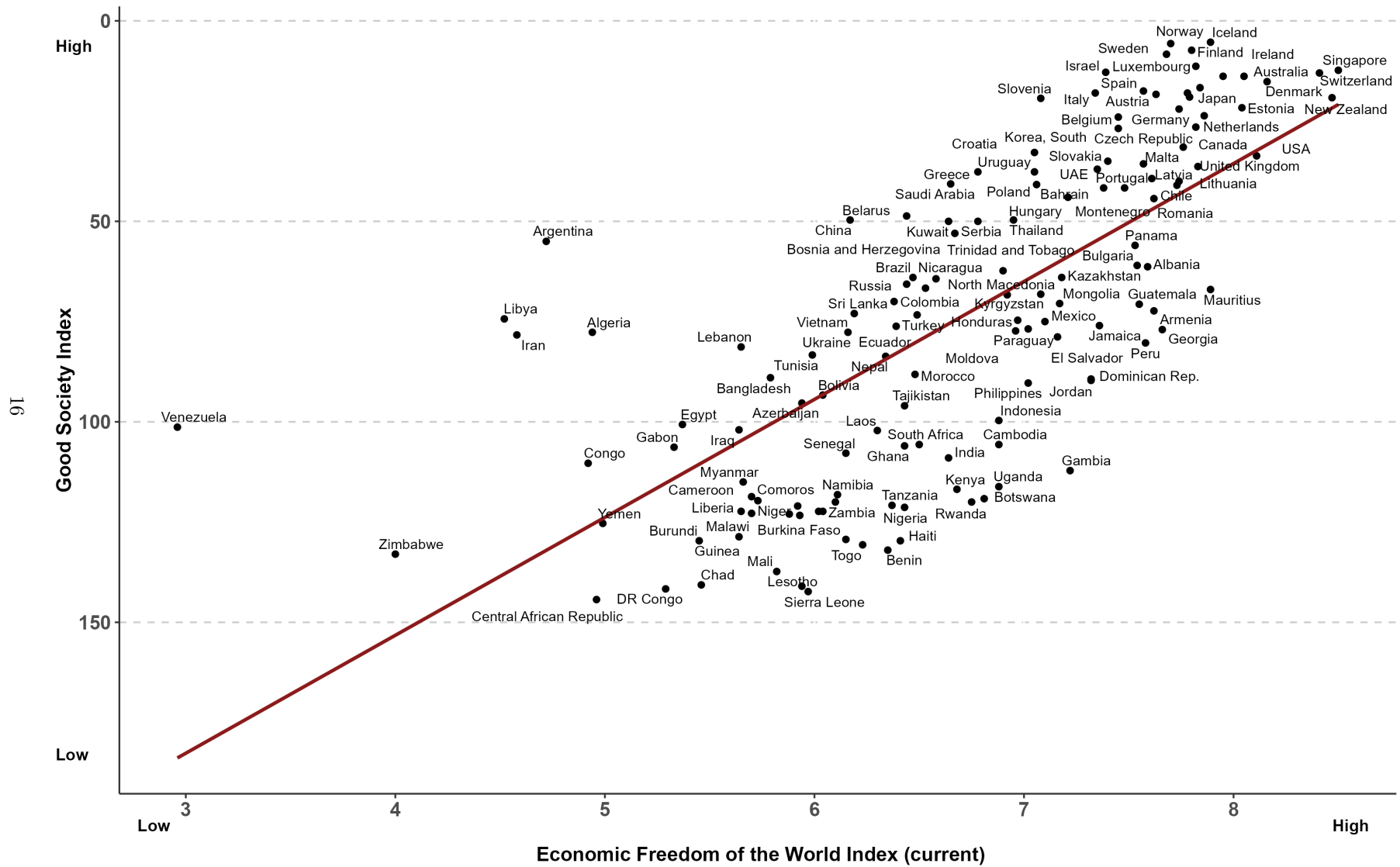
Number of observations: 137
R-squared: 0.51
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Economic Freedom of the World Dataset (2020)

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Good Society Index vs. Gini index
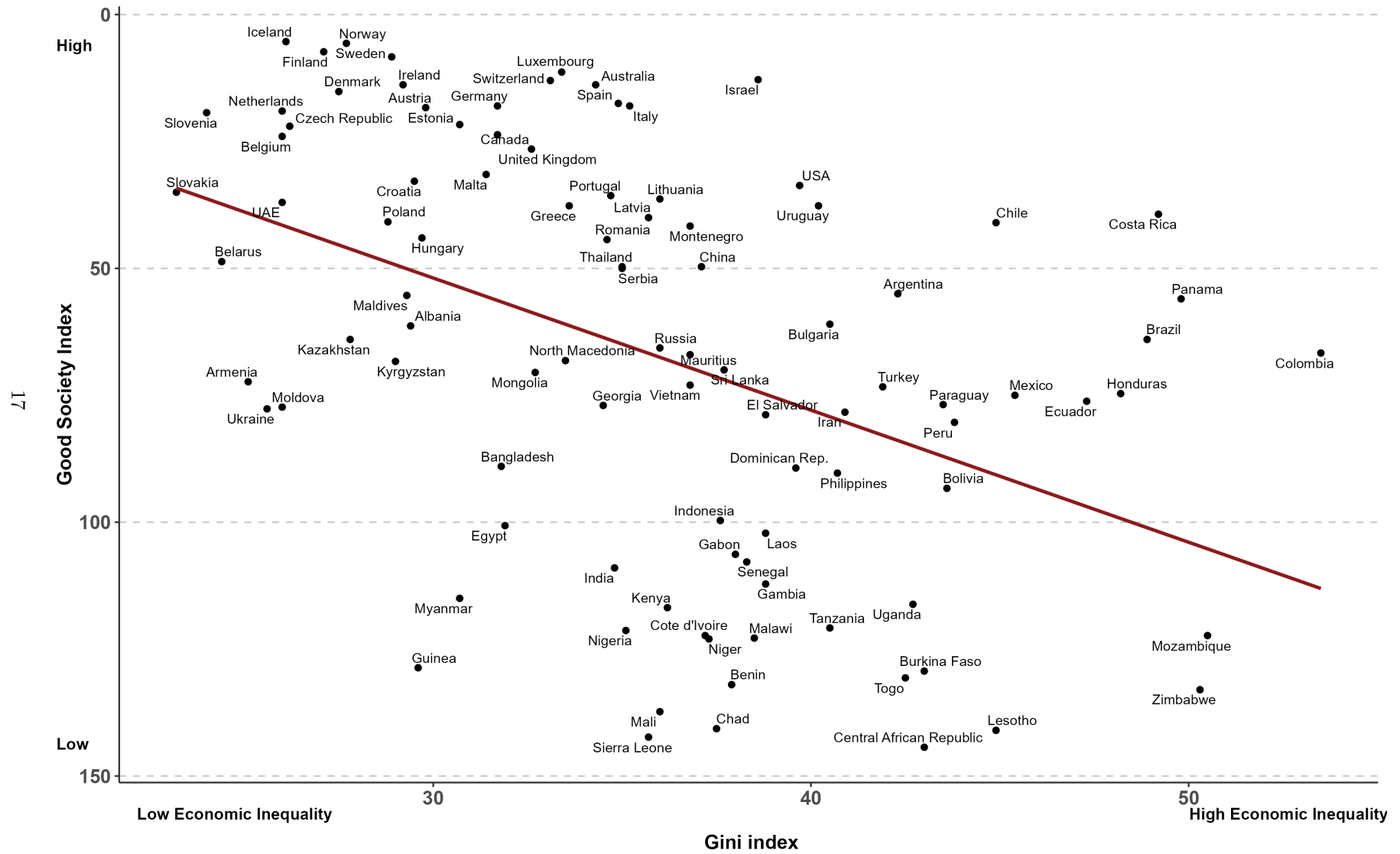
Number of observations: 98
R-squared: 0.20
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2017 - 2022)

Good Society Index vs. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP)

18

Good Society Index

High
Low

Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP)

Low
High
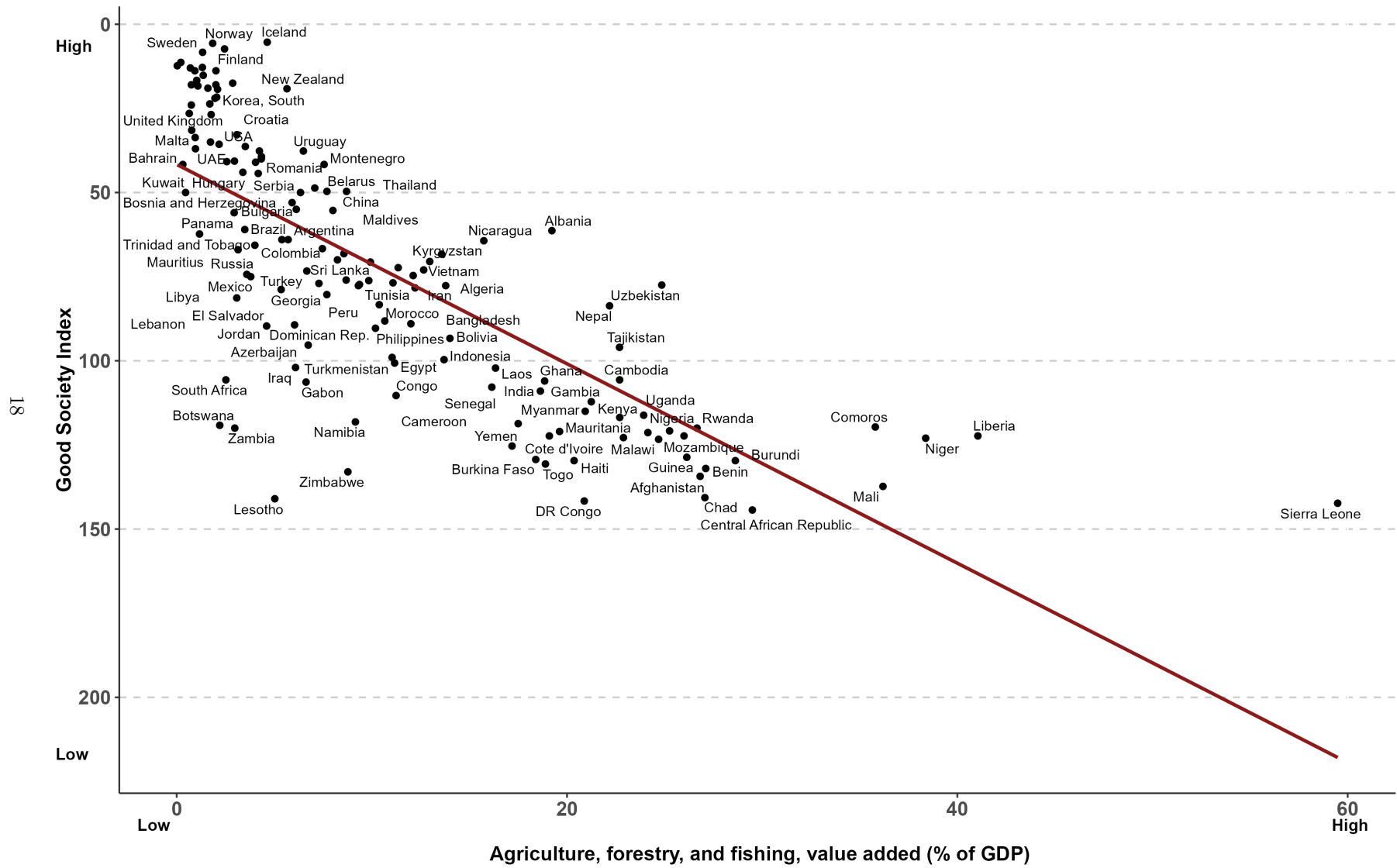
Number of observations: 140
R-squared: 0.58
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2018 - 2020)

Good Society Index vs. Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)

Number of observations: 135
R-squared: 0.21
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2017 - 2020)
The observations for Malta, Singapore, Luxembourg were dropped.

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Good Society Index vs. Standard & Poor's credit rating
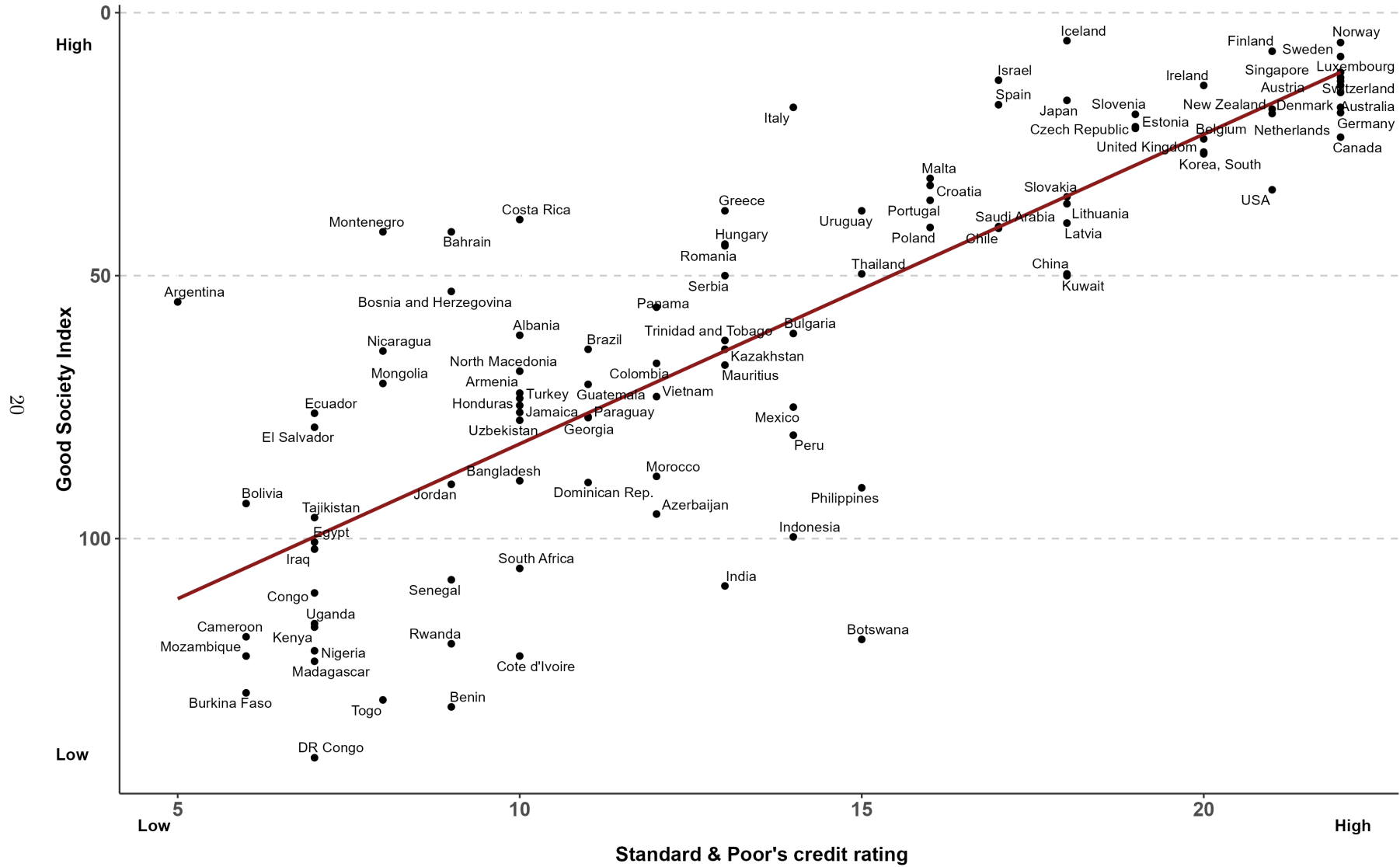
Number of observations: 100
R-squared: 0.66
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Good Society Index (2007) & Standard & Poor's (2024)

Good Society Index vs. Population Sex Ratio (males per 100 females)
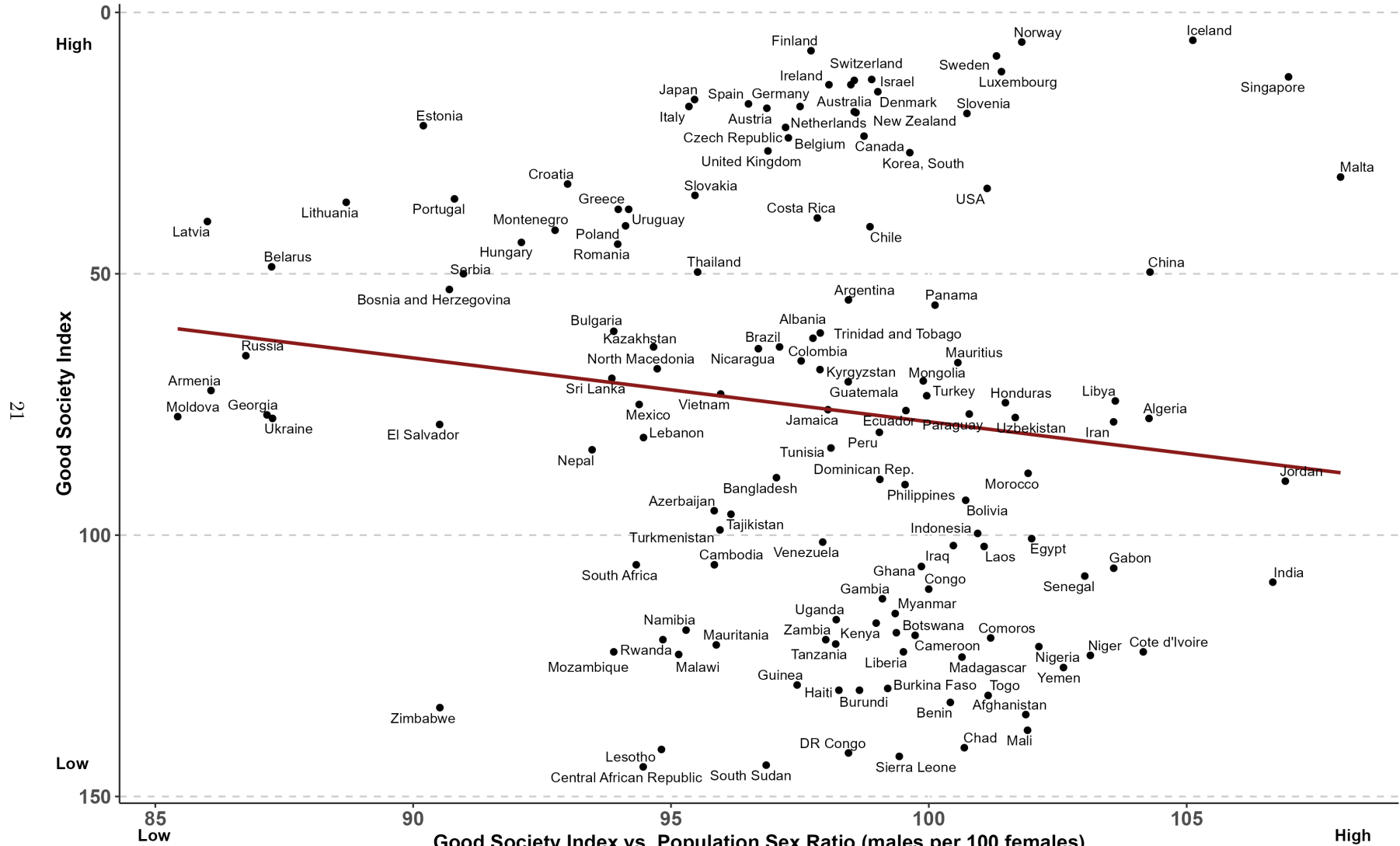
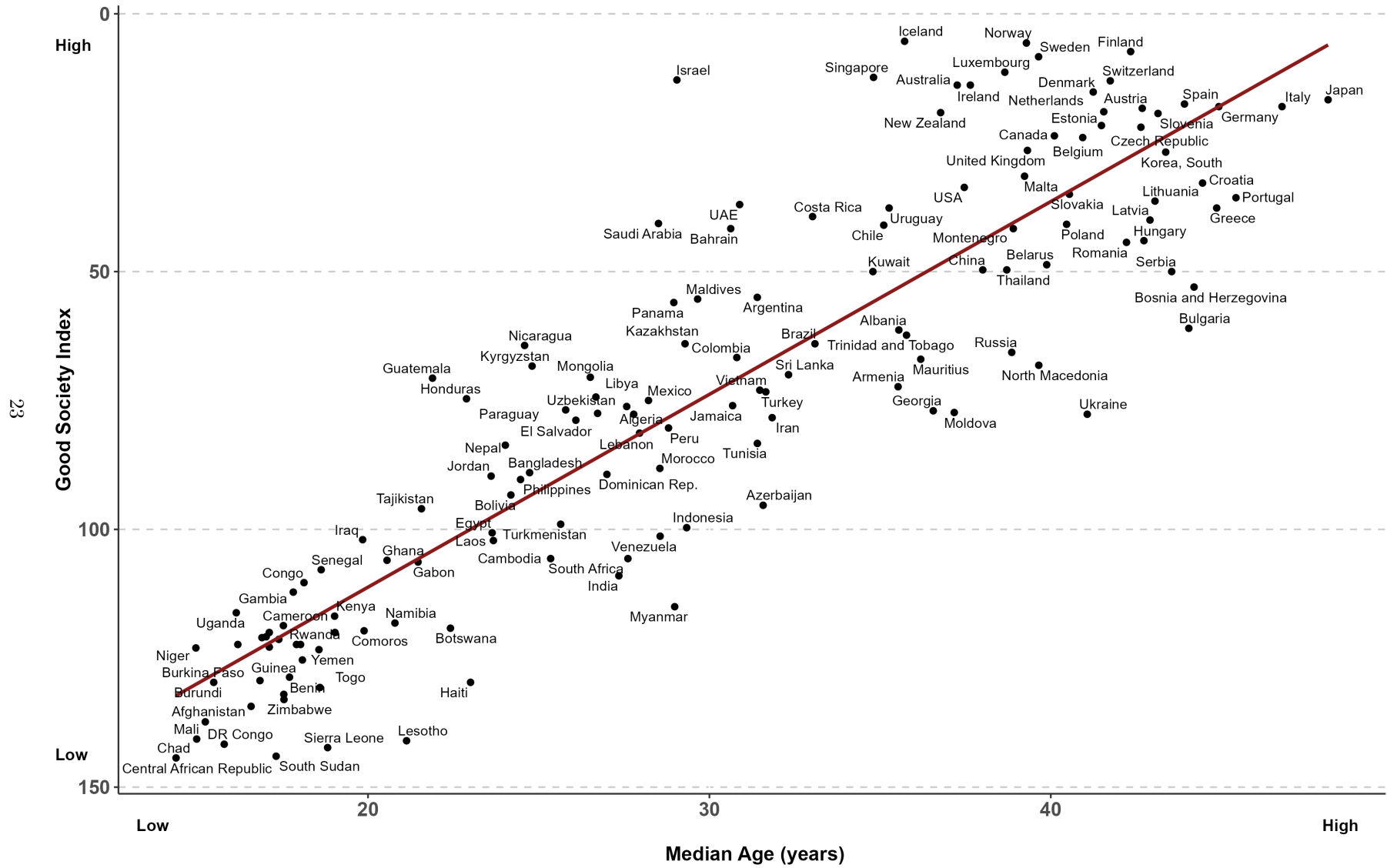**Number of observations:** 142
R-squared: 0.01
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & UN: World Population Prospects (2021)
The observations for Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Maldives and United Arab Emirates were dropped.

# Good Society Index vs. Net Migration Rate (per 1,000 population)

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.11
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & UN: World Population Prospects (2021).
The observation for the UAE was dropped from the plot given its high value.
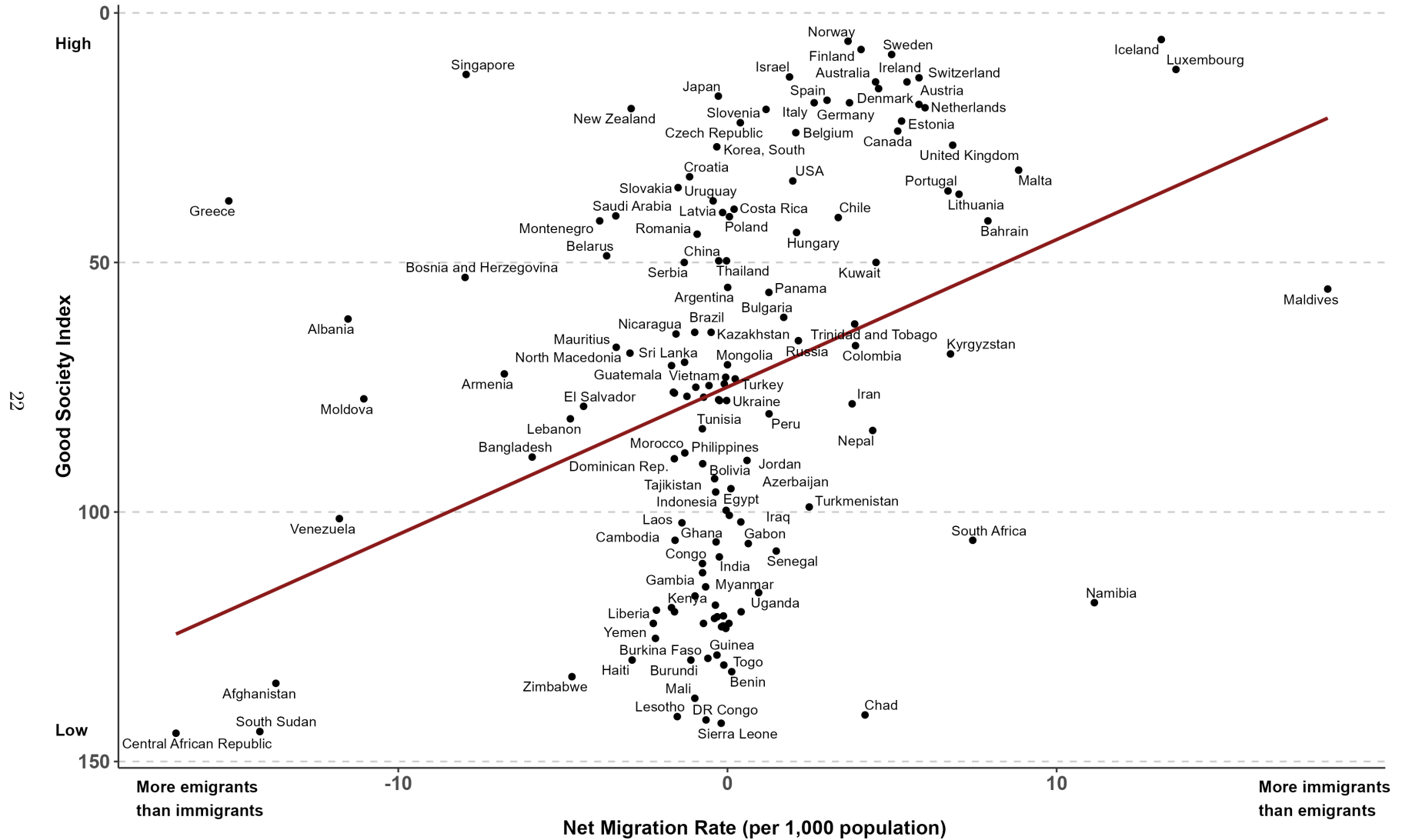
Median Age (in years)

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.79
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & UN: World Population Prospects (2021)

Good Society Index vs. Urban population (% of total population)
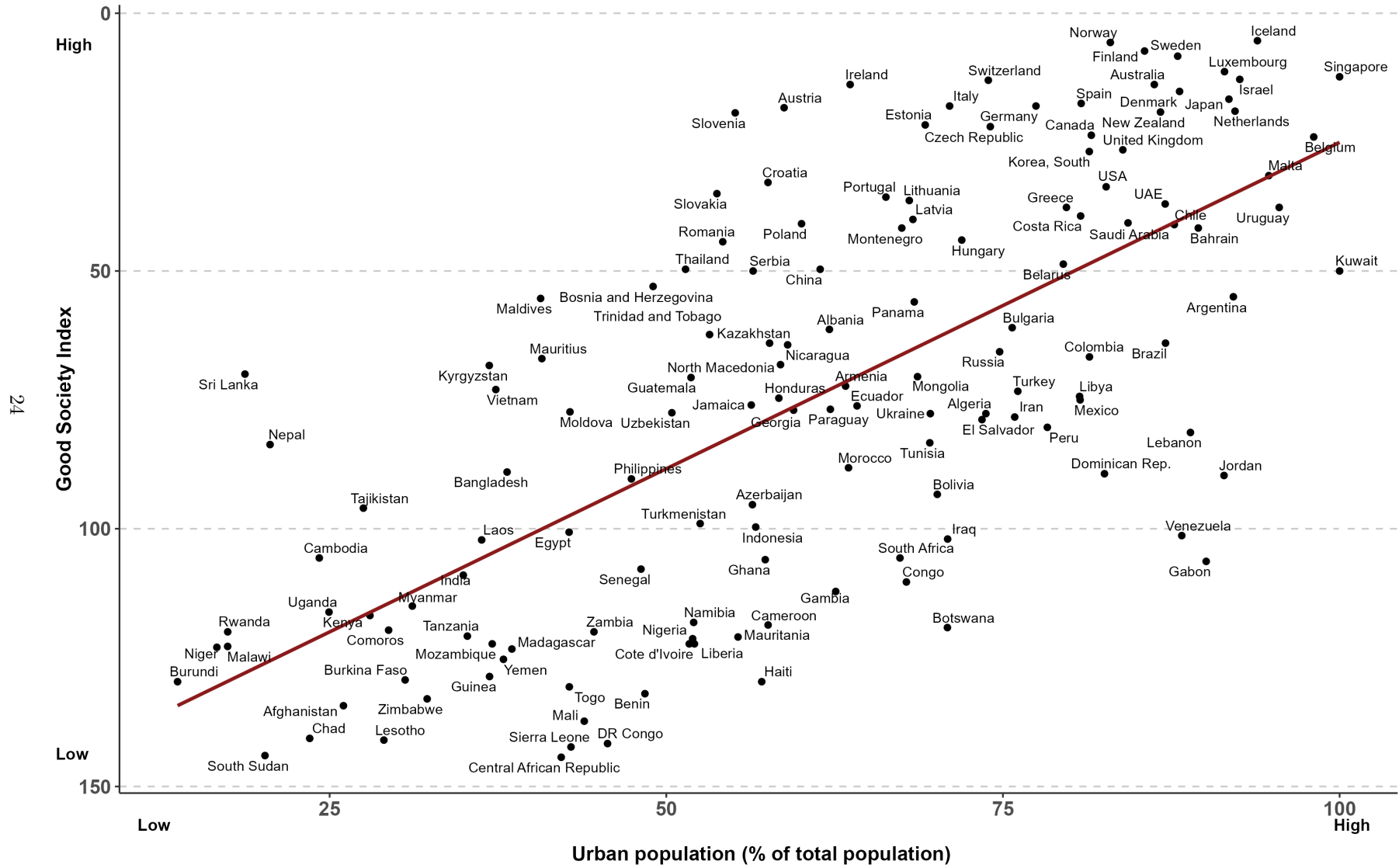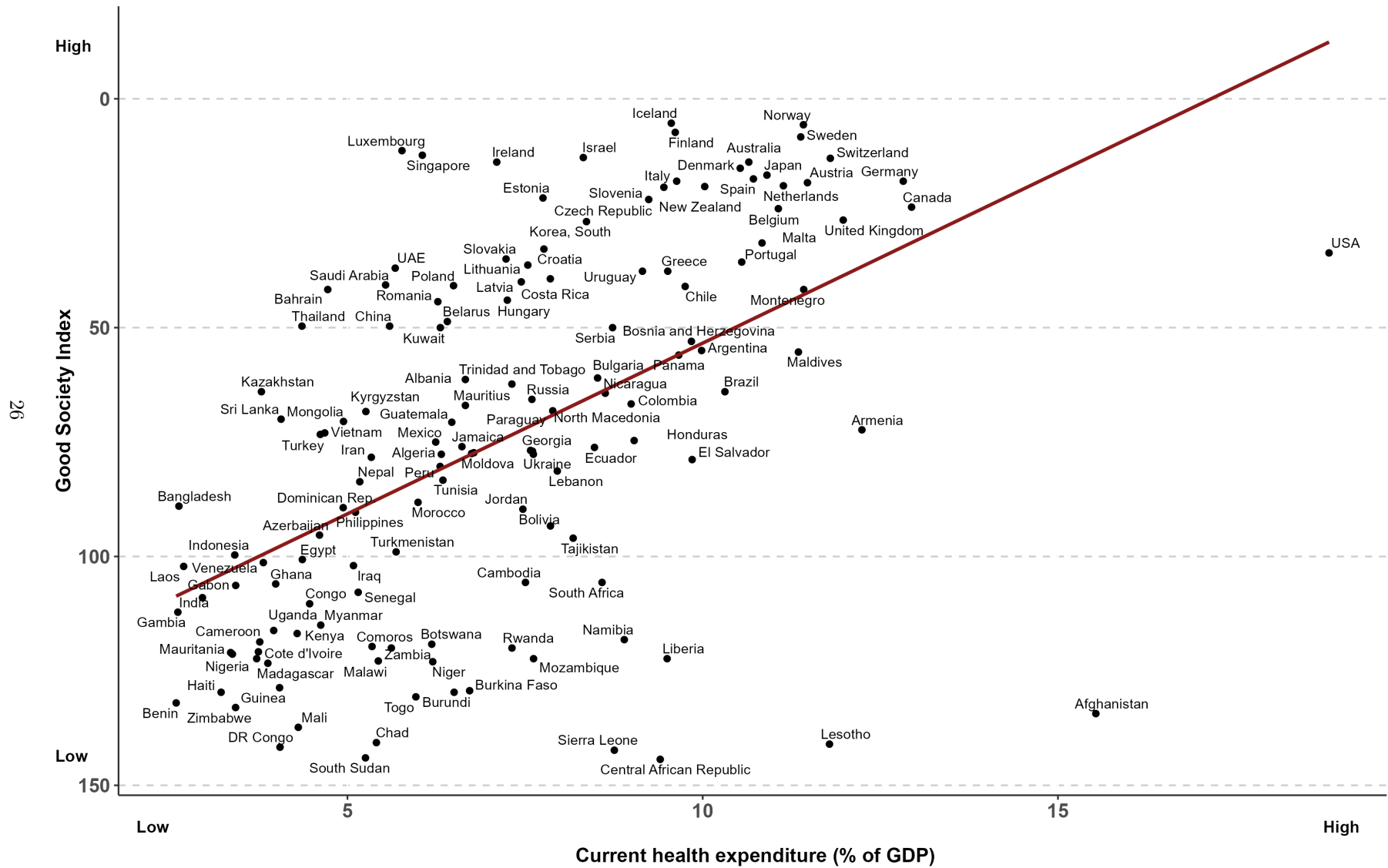

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.47
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Human Development Index
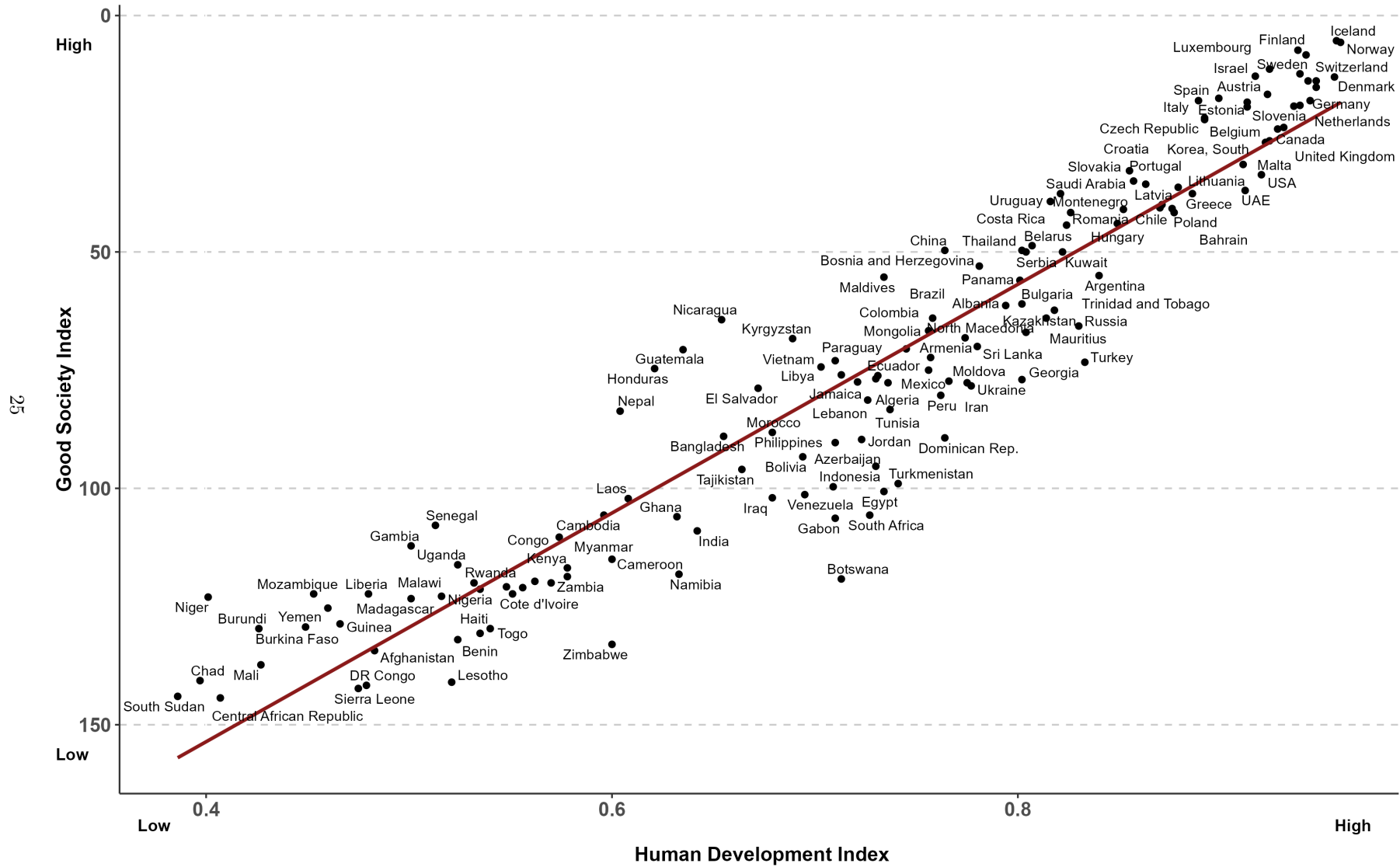
Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.90
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Human Development Report (2020)
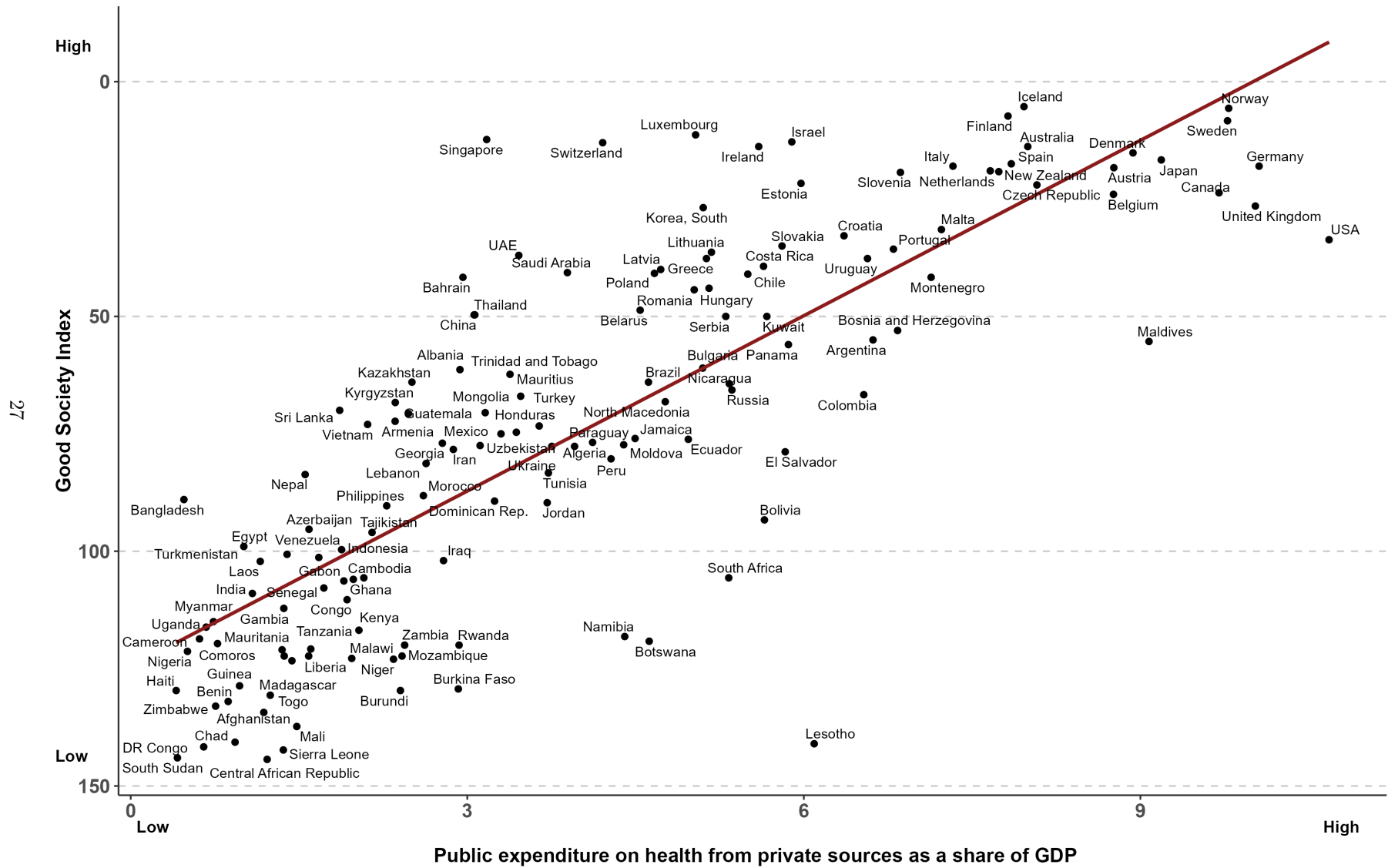
Good Society Index vs. Health Expenditure (% of GDP)

Number of observations: 140
R-squared: 0.28
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2018 - 2020)

Good Society Index vs. Public expenditure on health as share of GDP
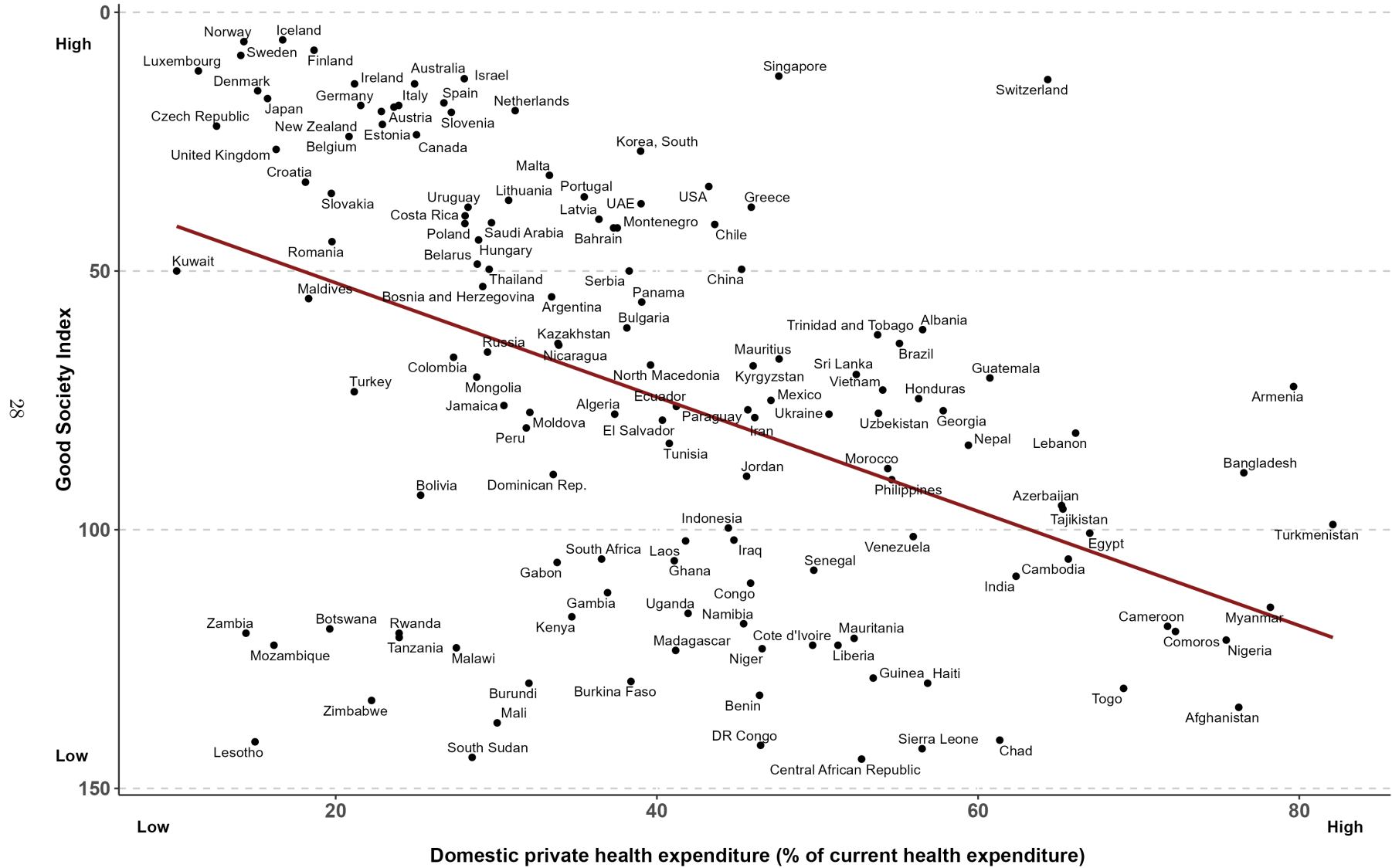

Number of observations: 140
R-squared: 0.64
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2018 - 2020)

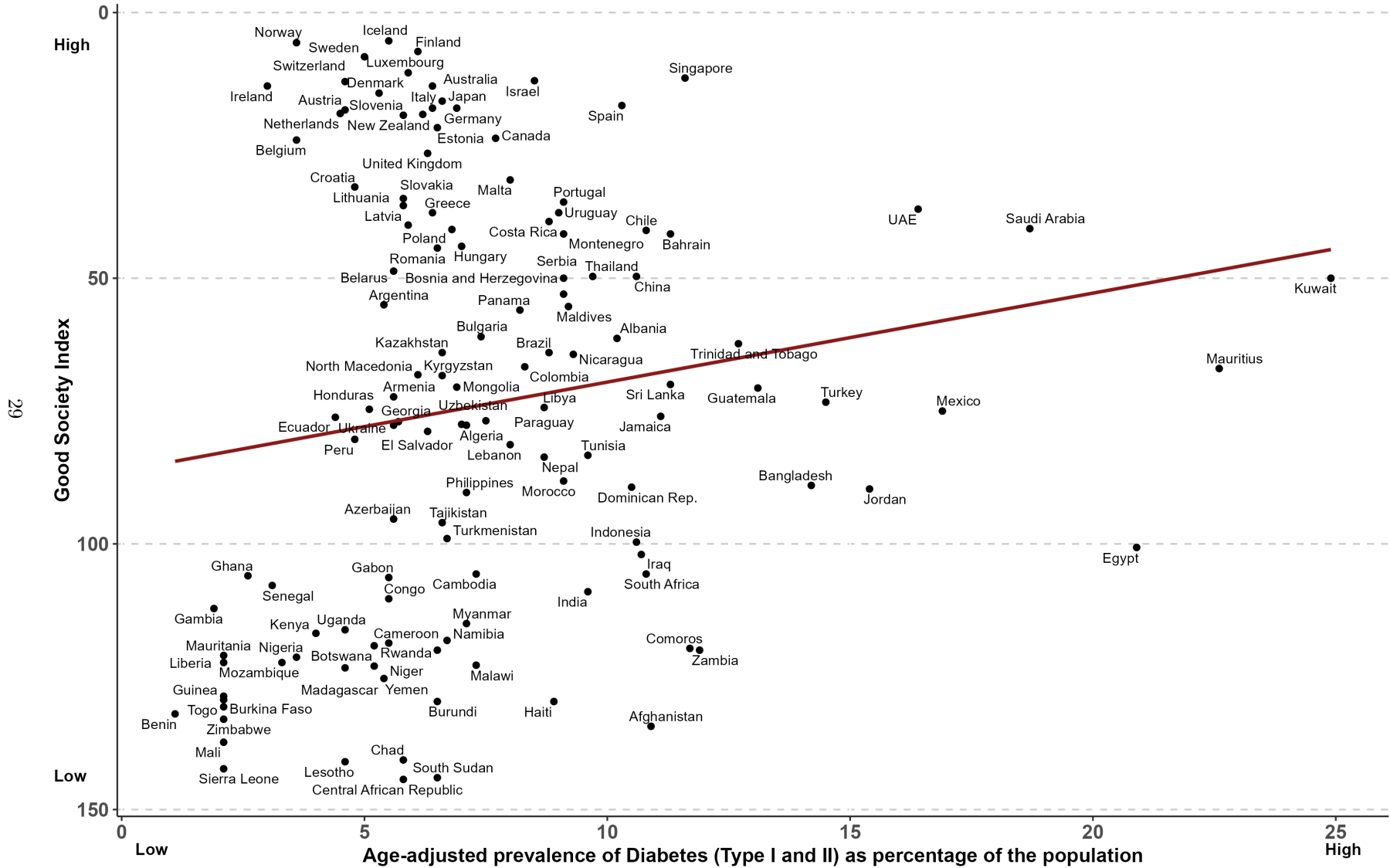# Good Society Index vs. Private Expenditure on health as a share of GDP

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Number of observations: 140
R-squared: 0.21
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2018 - 2020)

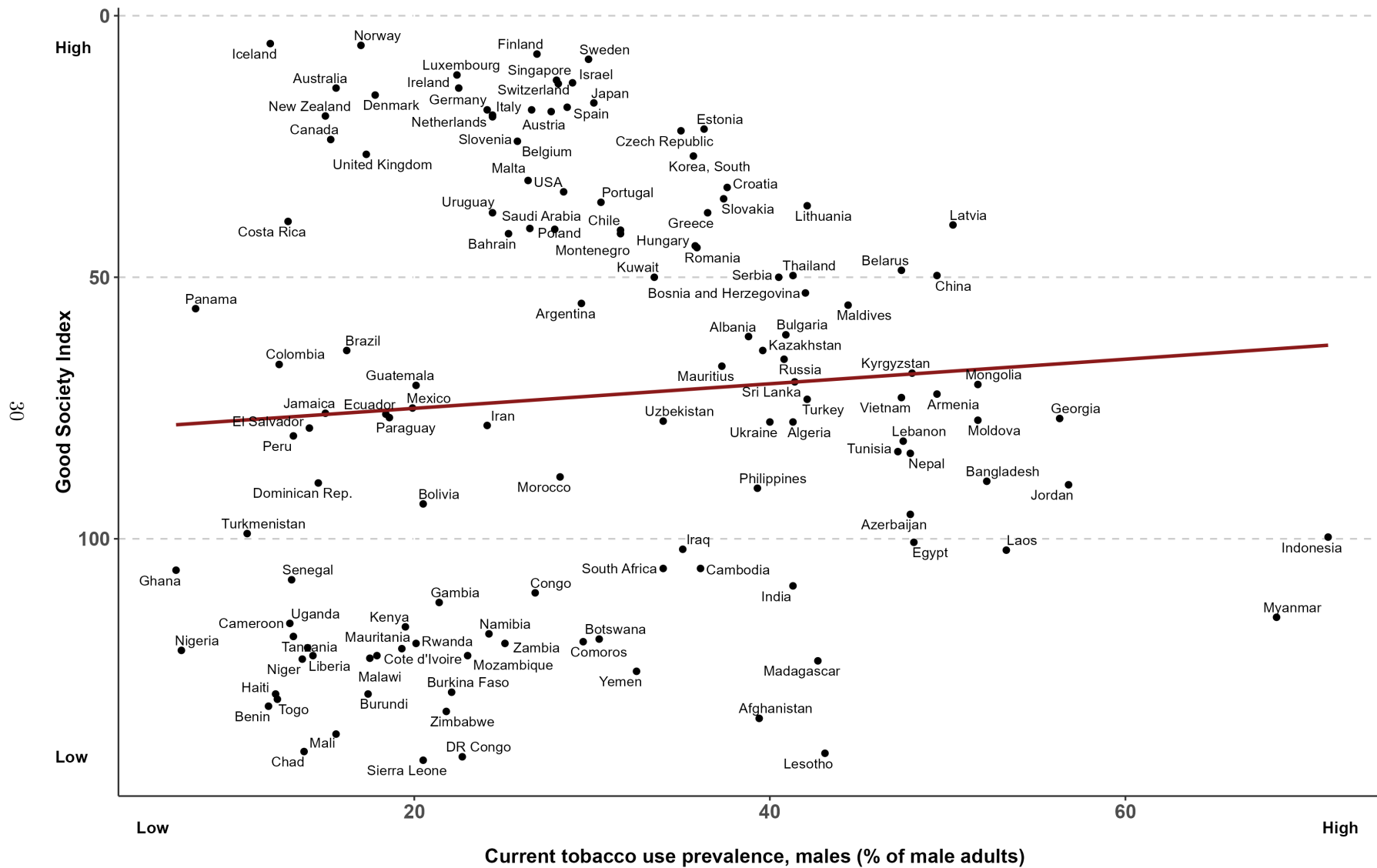# Good Society Index vs. Age-adjusted prevalence of Diabetes (Type I and II)

Number of observations: 129
R-squared: 0.03
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & IDF Diabetes Atlas, 10th Edition (2021)

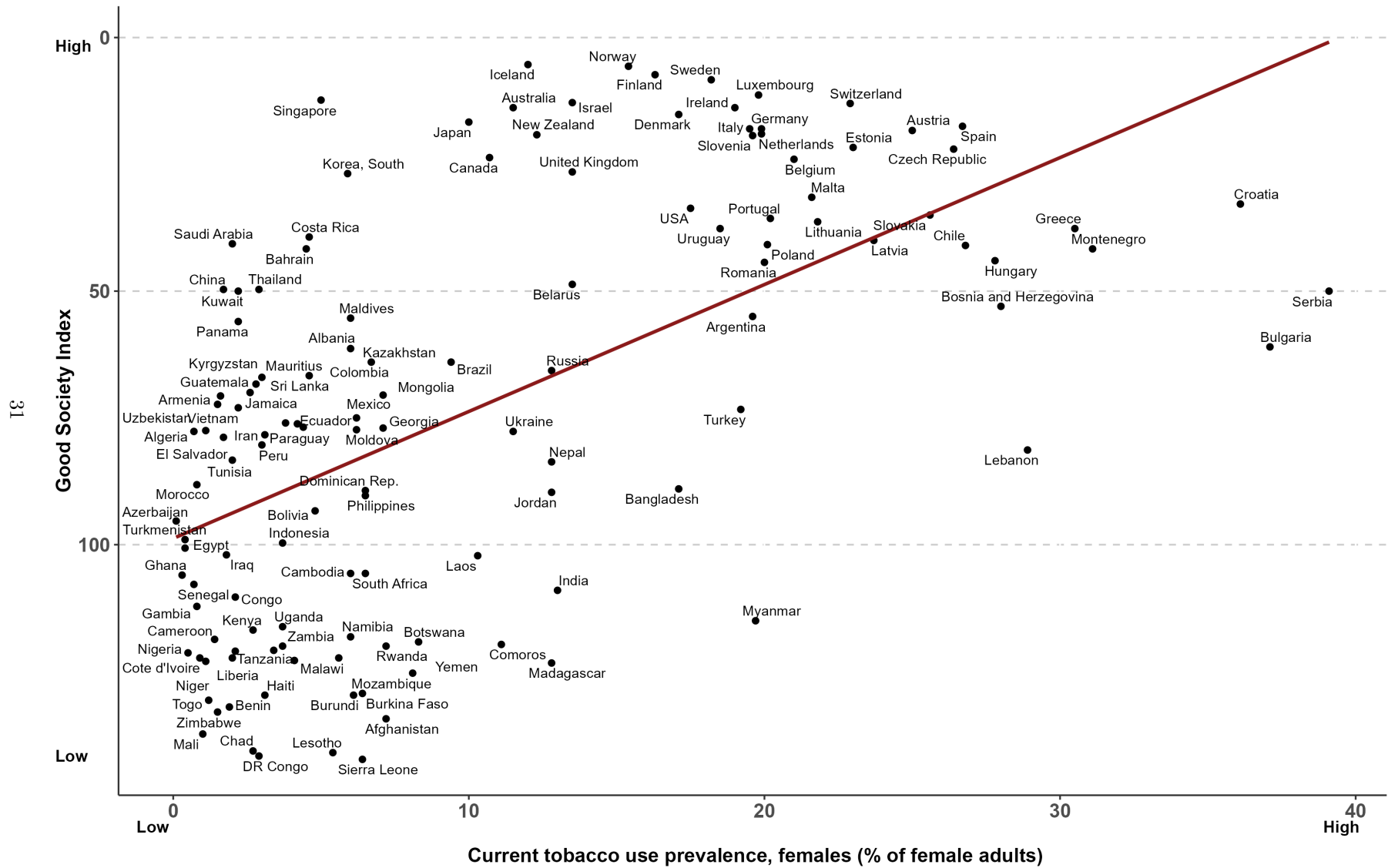# Good Society Index vs. Tobacco use prevalence, males (% of male adults)

Number of observations: 130
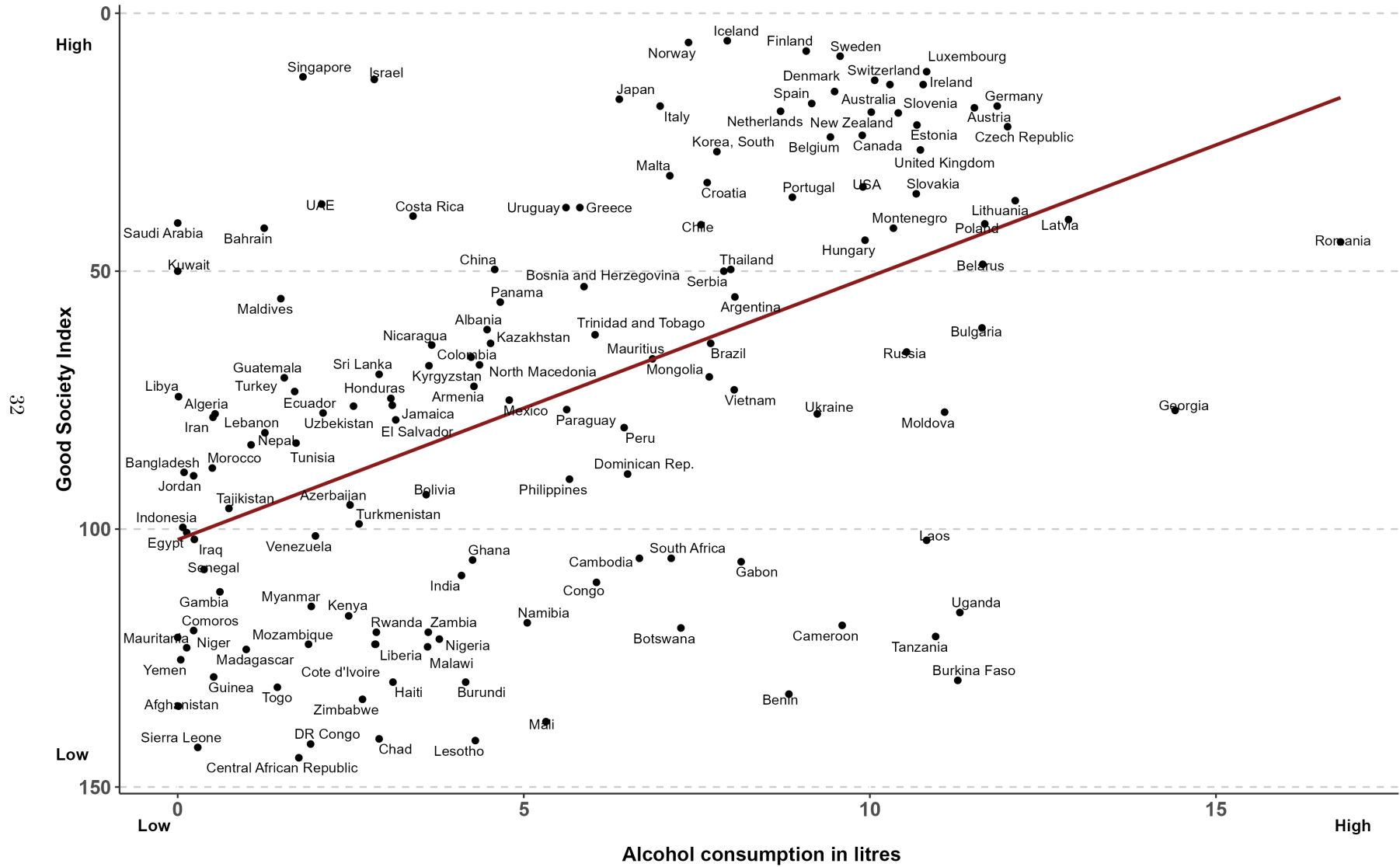**R-squared:** 0.01
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Tobacco use prevalence, females (% of female adults)

31

Good Society Index

Current tobacco use prevalence, females (% of female adults)

Number of observations: 130
R-squared: 0.34
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Alcohol consumption in litres

Number of observations: 141
R-squared: 0.26
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & WHO - SDG indicators (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Access to Sanitation and Drinking water

Number of observations: 139
R-squared: 0.90
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & EnvironmentalPerformance Index Data 2022 (2021)

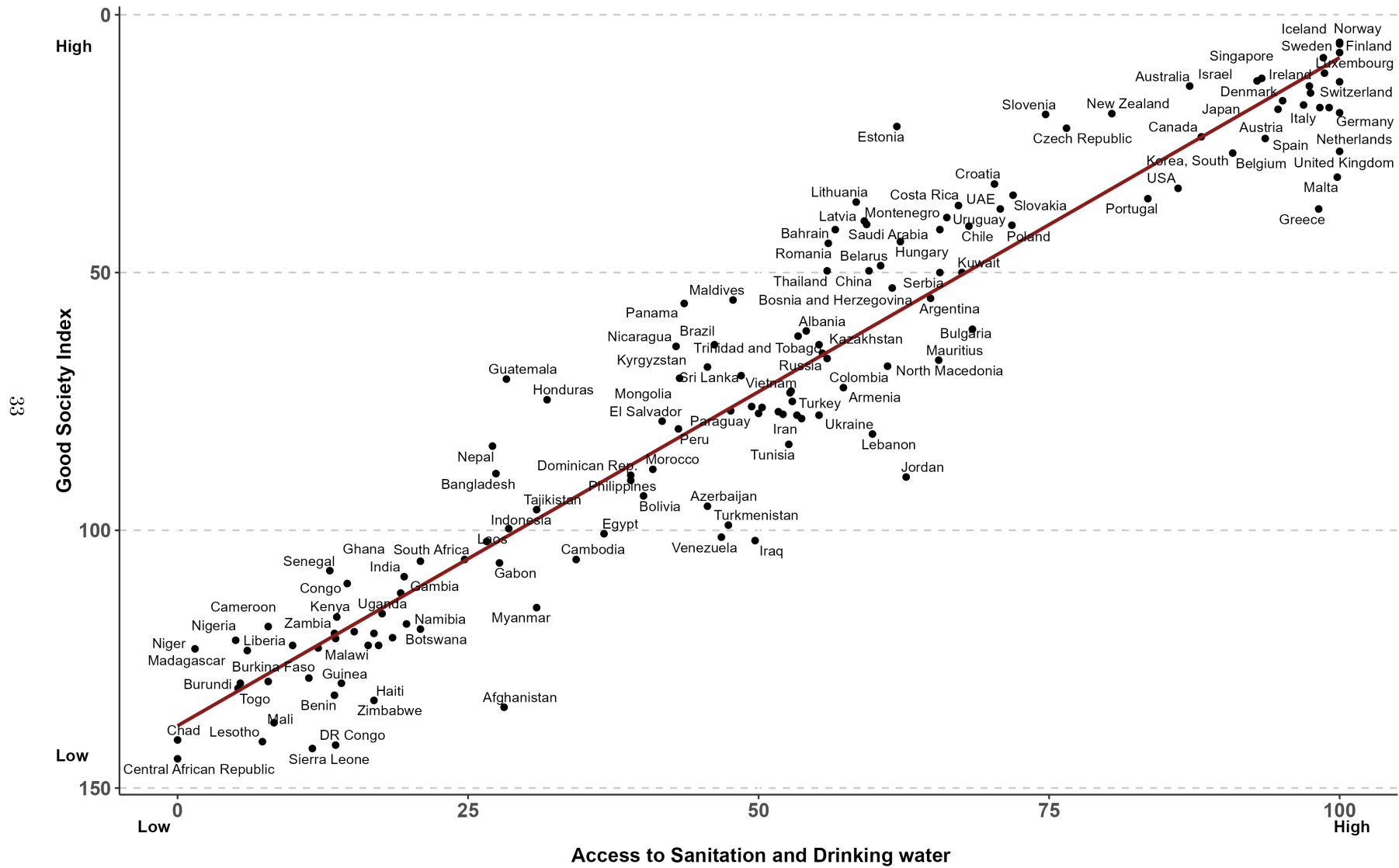# Good Society Index vs. CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)
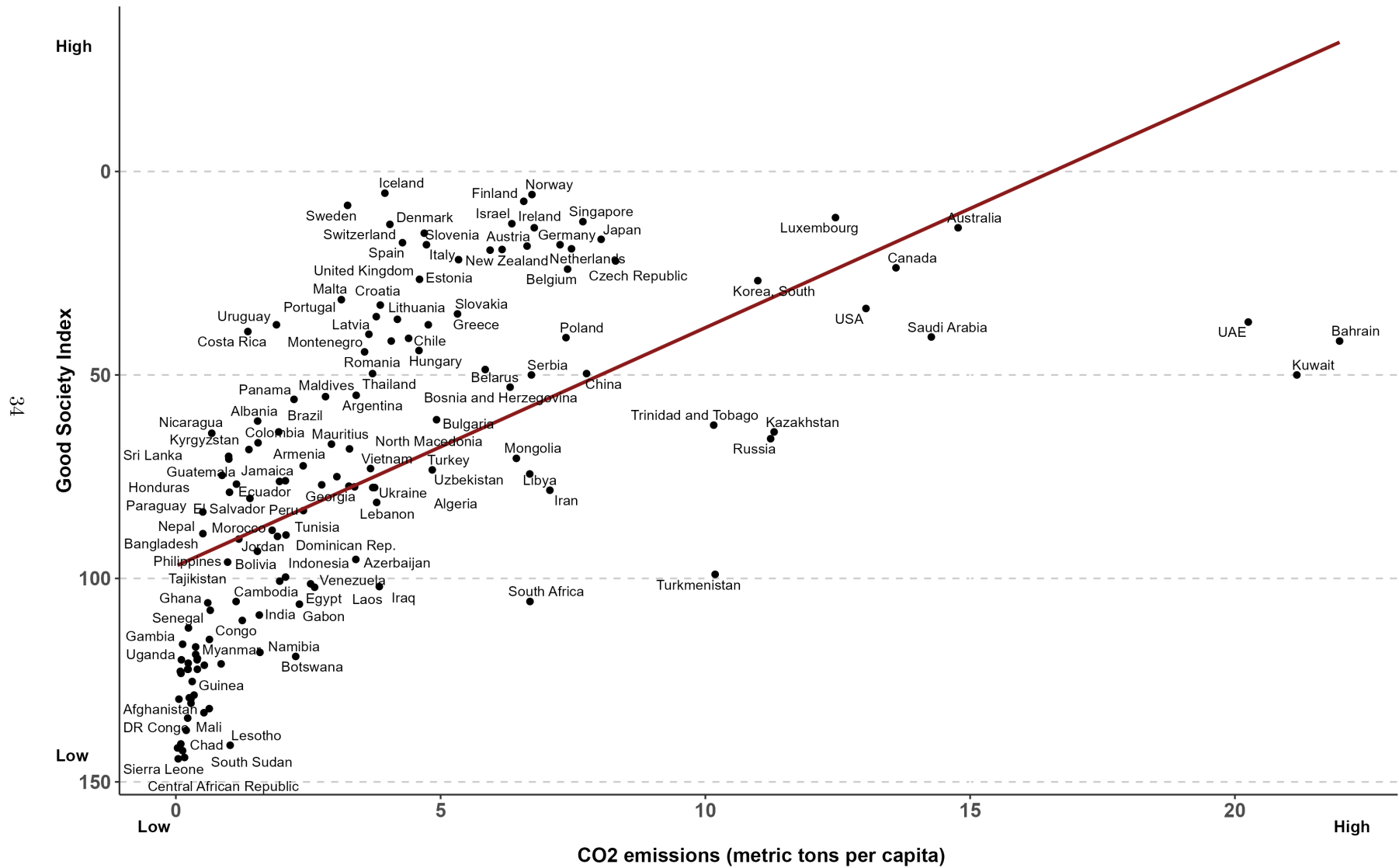
Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.37
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Environmental Performance Index

35

Number of observations: 139
R-squared: 0.54
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & EnvironmentalPerformance Index Data 2022 (2021)

Good Society Index vs. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.11
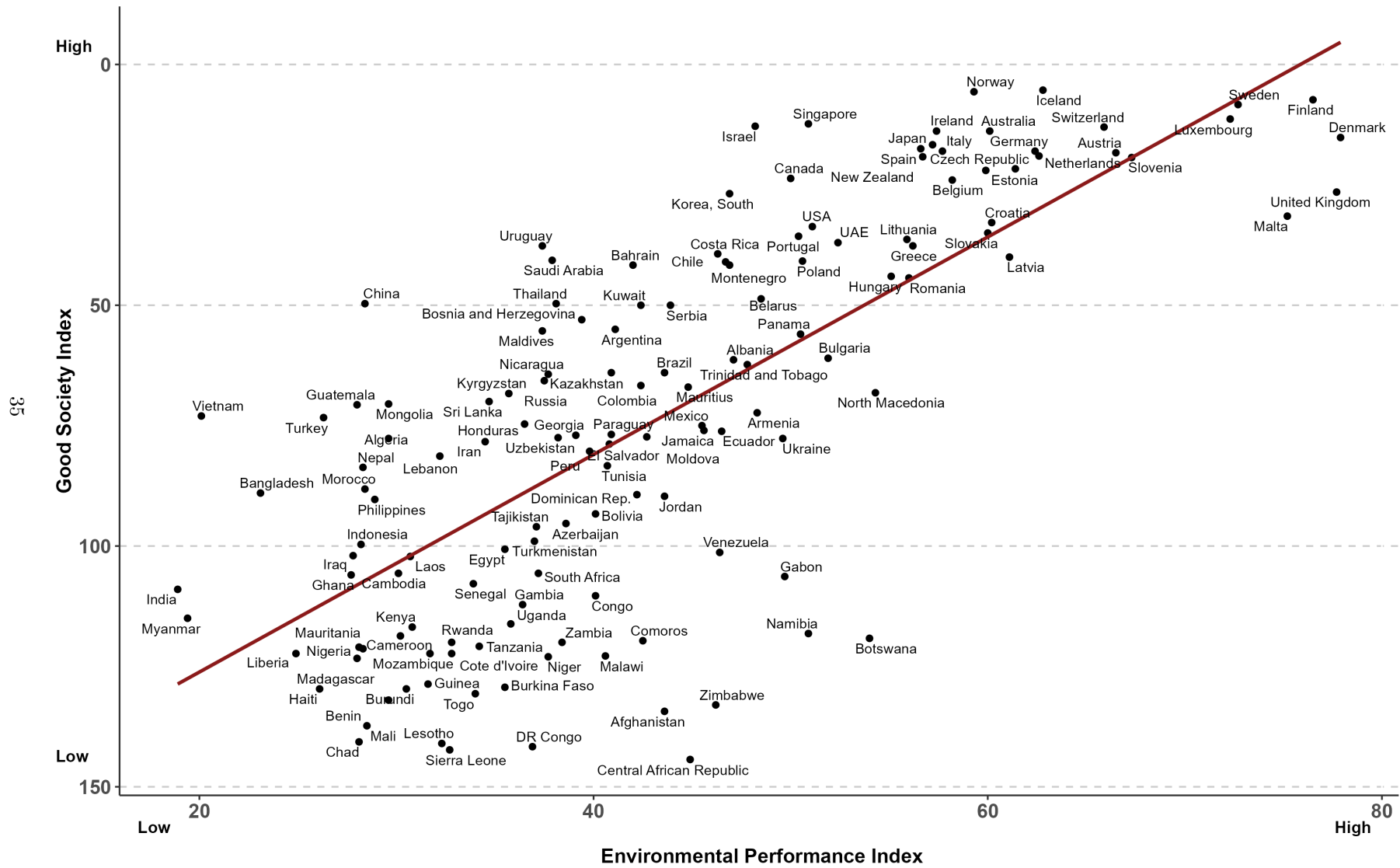**Sources:** Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2018 - 2020)

Good Society Index vs. Gender Inequality Index

37

Number of observations: 141
R-squared: 0.86
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & The Gender Inequality Index (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Fertility rate, total (births per woman)
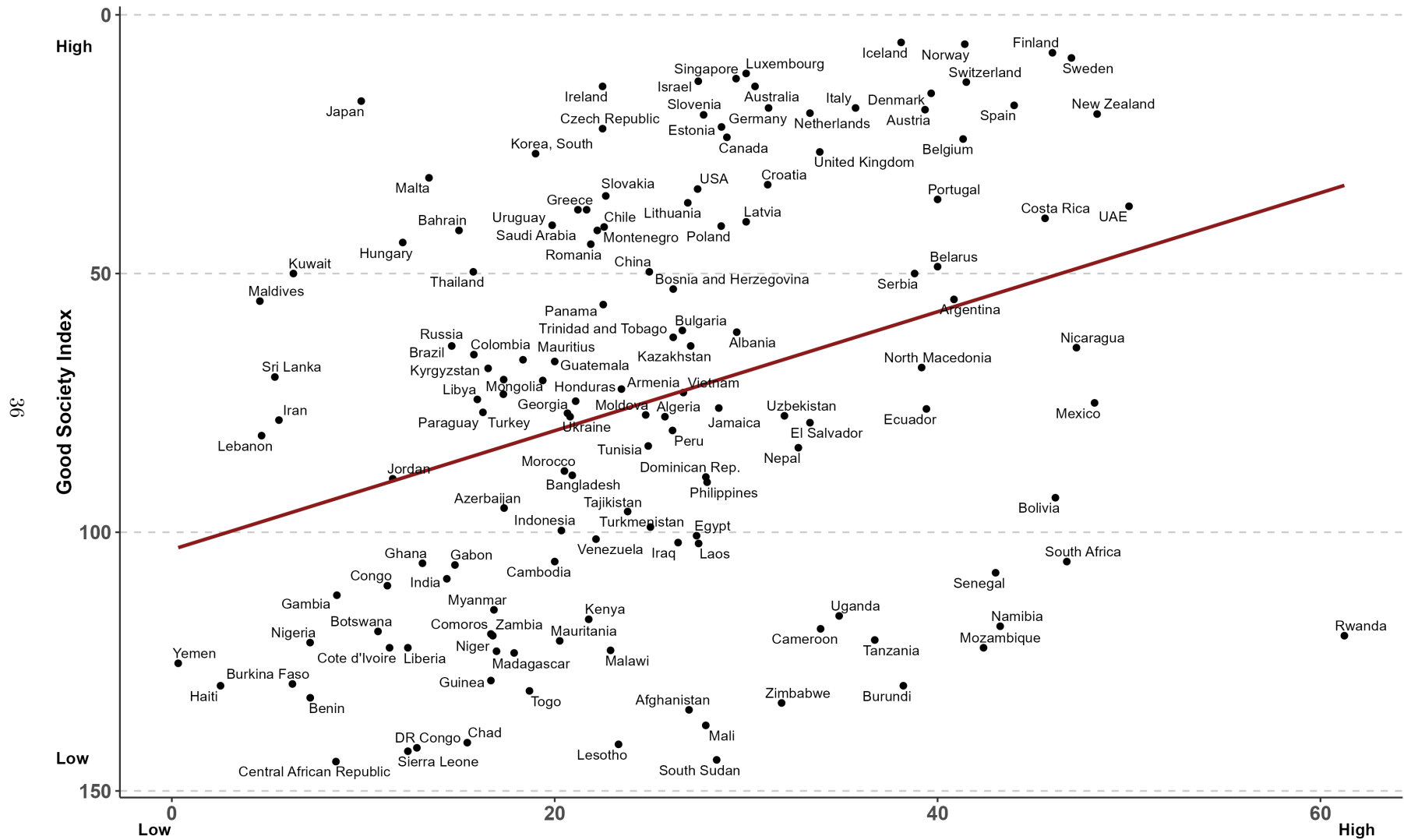

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.66
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2020)

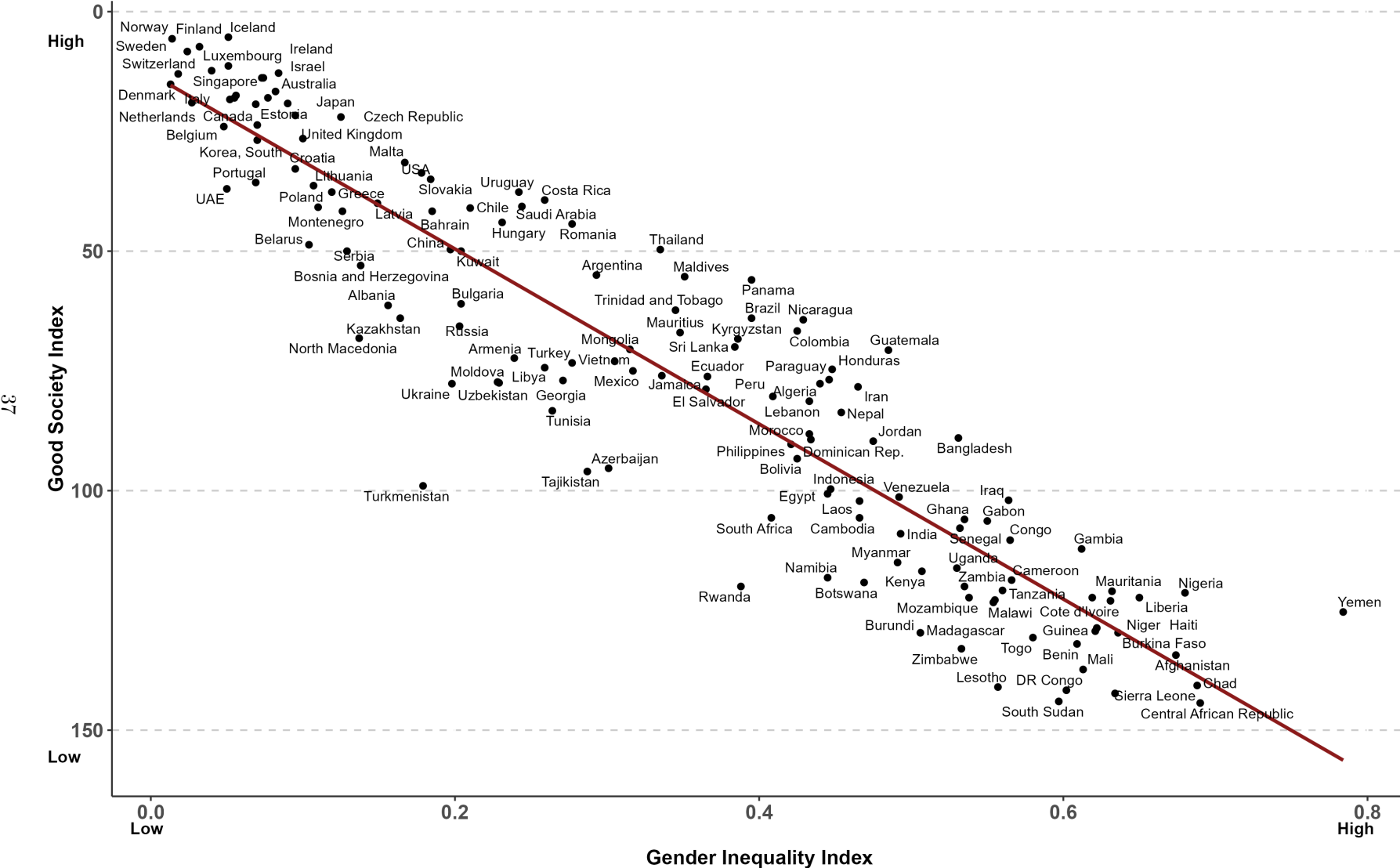# Good Society Index vs. Intentional homicides (per 100,000 people)

Good Society Index
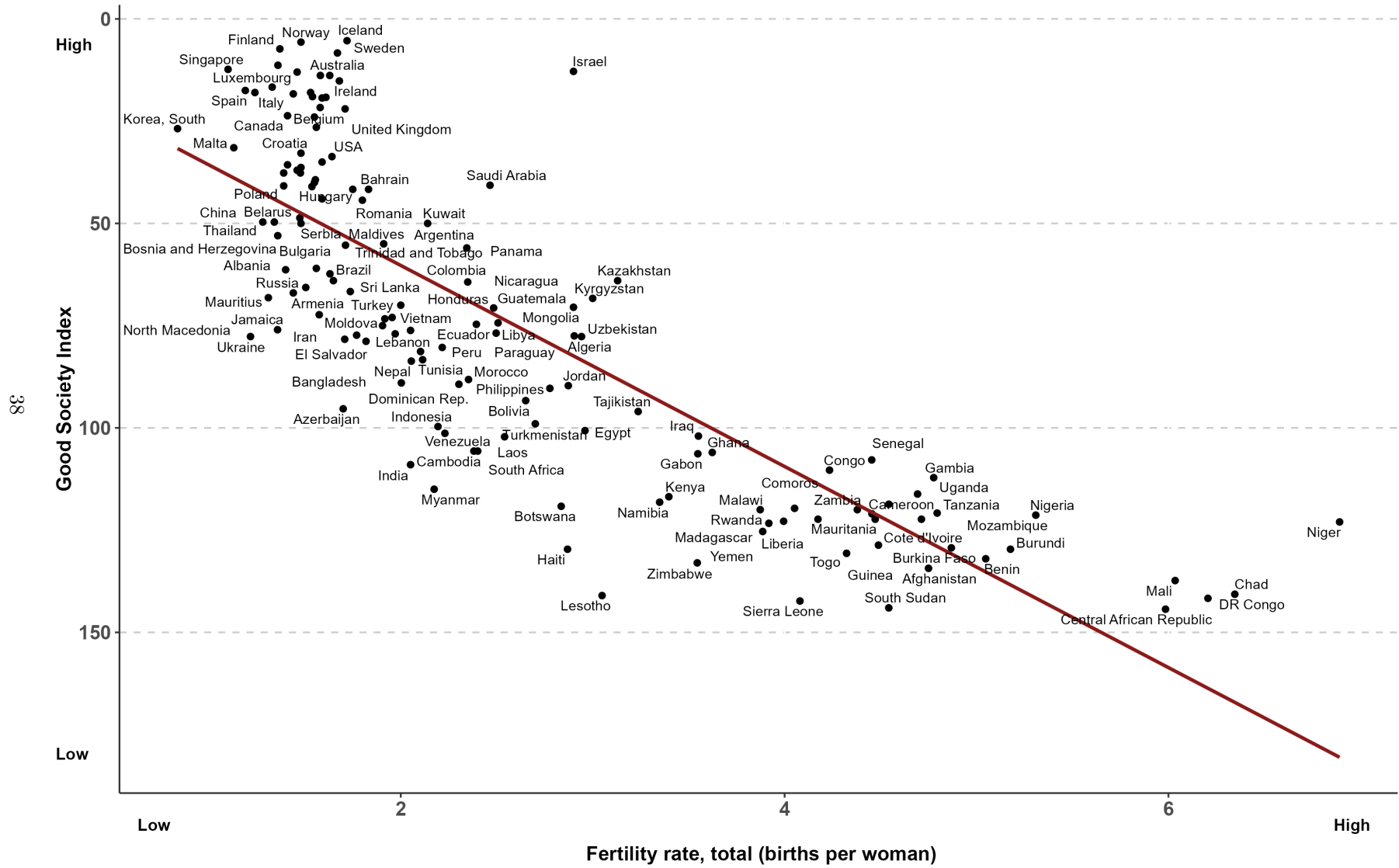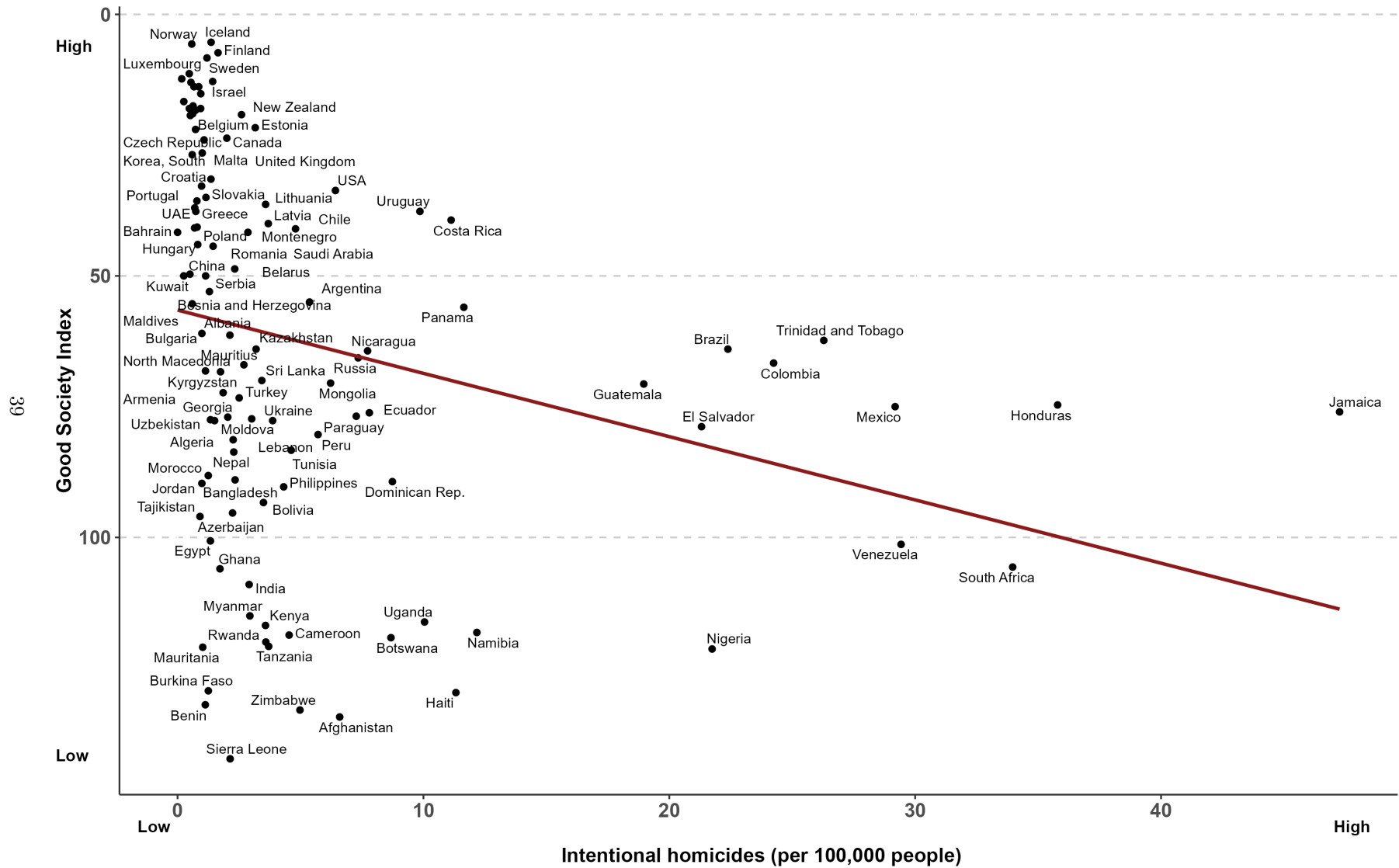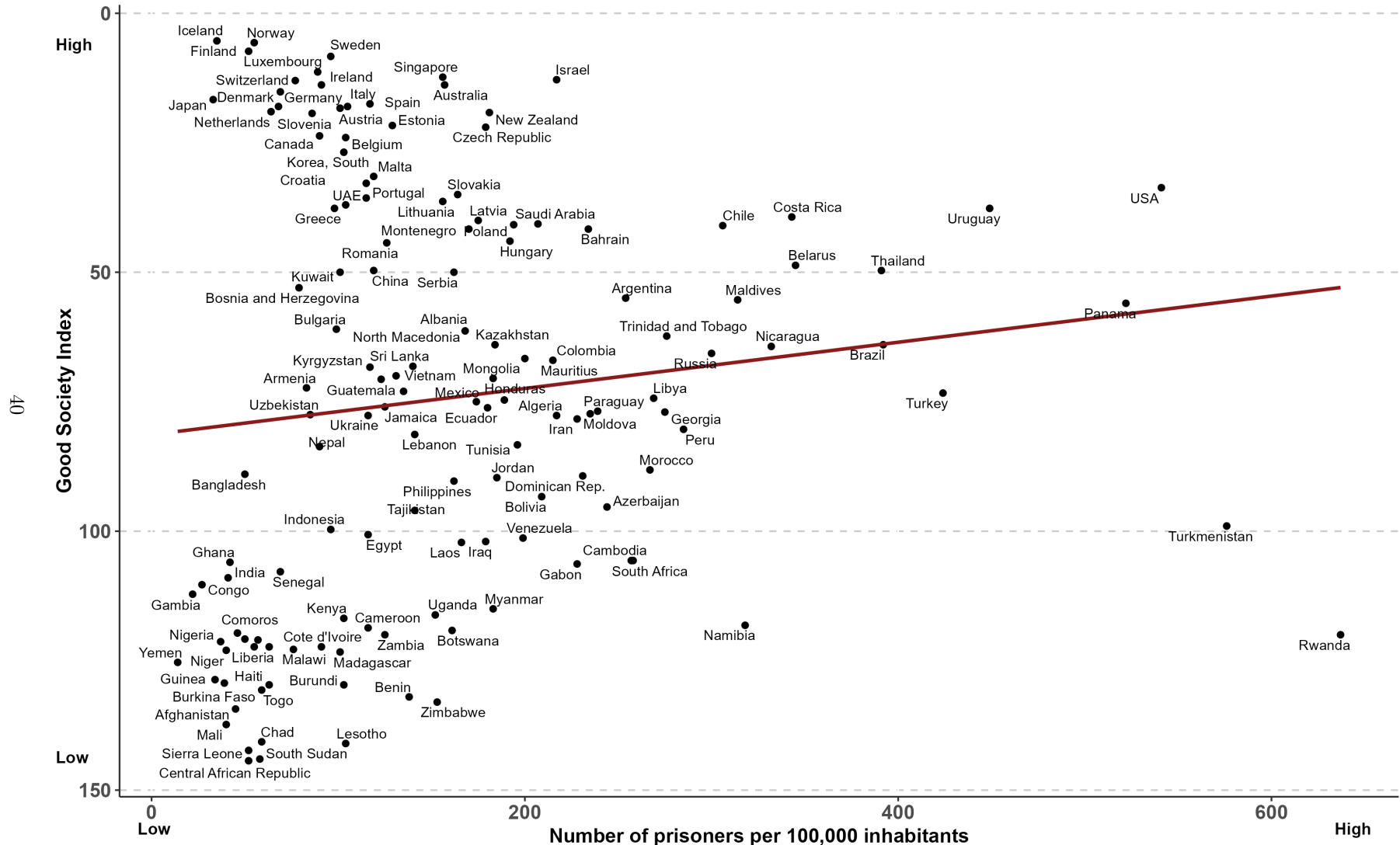
Intentional homicides (per 100,000 people)

Number of observations: 111
R-squared: 0.08
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World DevelopmentIndicators (2017 - 2021)

Good Society Index vs. Prison Population Rate

Good Society Index

0 — High
50
100
150 — Low

Number of prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants

Low — 0 — 200 — 400 — 600 — High

Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Luxembourg, Ireland, Singapore, Israel, Switzerland, Italy, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Japan, Austria, New Zealand, Netherlands, Slovenia, Estonia, Czech Republic, Canada, Belgium, Korea, South, Malta, USA, Croatia, Slovakia, UAE, Portugal, Costa Rica, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Uruguay, Montenegro, Poland, Bahrain, Belarus, Thailand, Romania, Hungary, Kuwait, China, Serbia, Argentina, Maldives, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Trinidad and Tobago, Bulgaria, Panama, North Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Nicaragua, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Mauritius, Russia, Brazil, Armenia, Vietnam, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Libya, Uzbekistan, Algeria, Paraguay, Turkey, Ukraine, Jamaica, Ecuador, Iran, Moldova, Georgia, Nepal, Lebanon, Tunisia, Peru, Jordan, Morocco, Bangladesh, Philippines, Dominican Rep., Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Bolivia, Venezuela, Turkmenistan, Ghana, Egypt, Laos, Iraq, Cambodia, India, Senegal, Gabon, South Africa, Congo, Gambia, Kenya, Cameroon, Uganda, Myanmar, Nigeria, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Yemen, Niger, Liberia, Malawi, Madagascar, Rwanda, Guinea, Haiti, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Mali, Chad, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Central African Republic

Number of observations: 140
R-squared: 0.01
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & The World Prison Brief (2023).
The observation for El Salvador was dropped from the plot given its high value.

Good Society Index vs. Military expenditure (% of GDP)

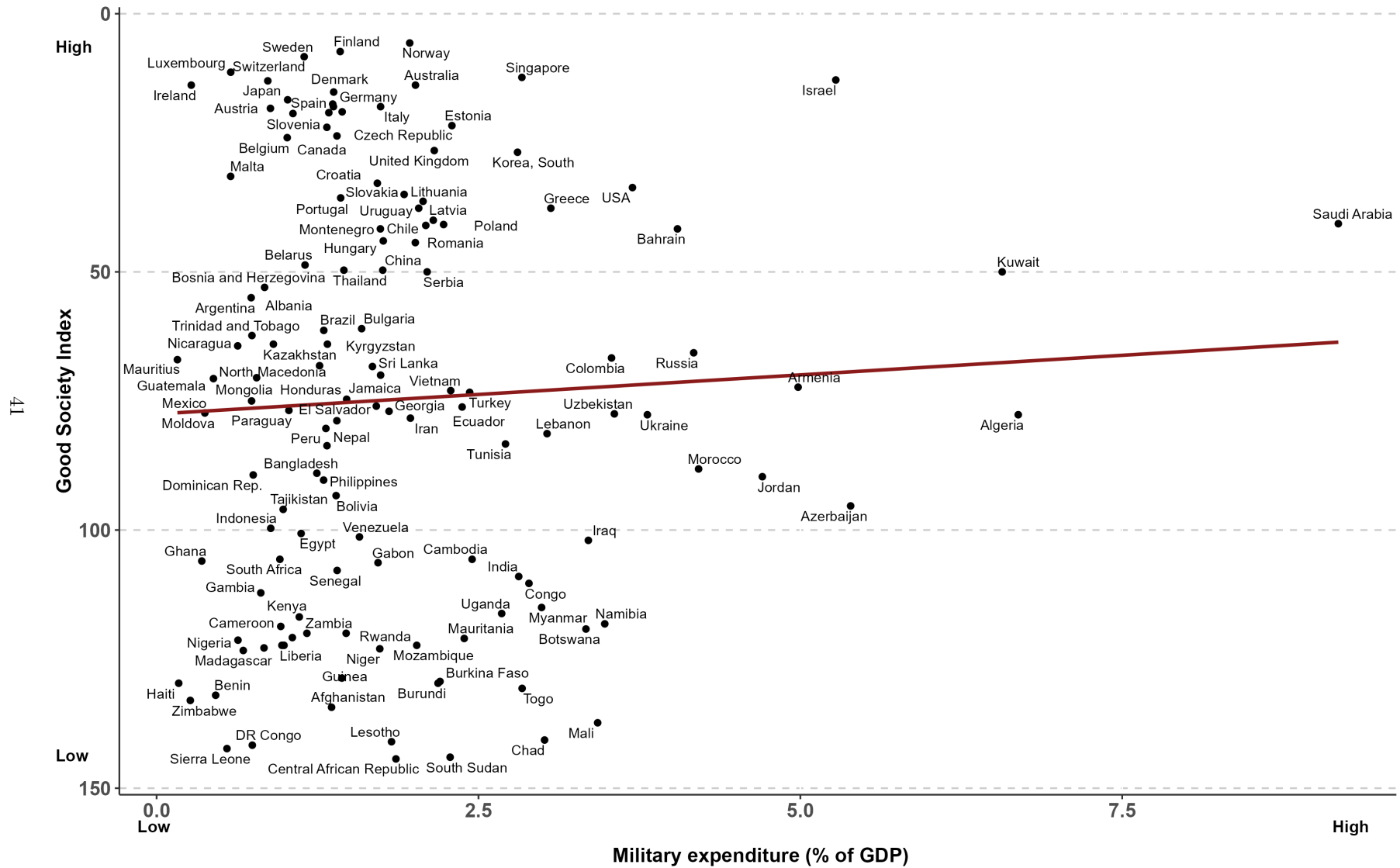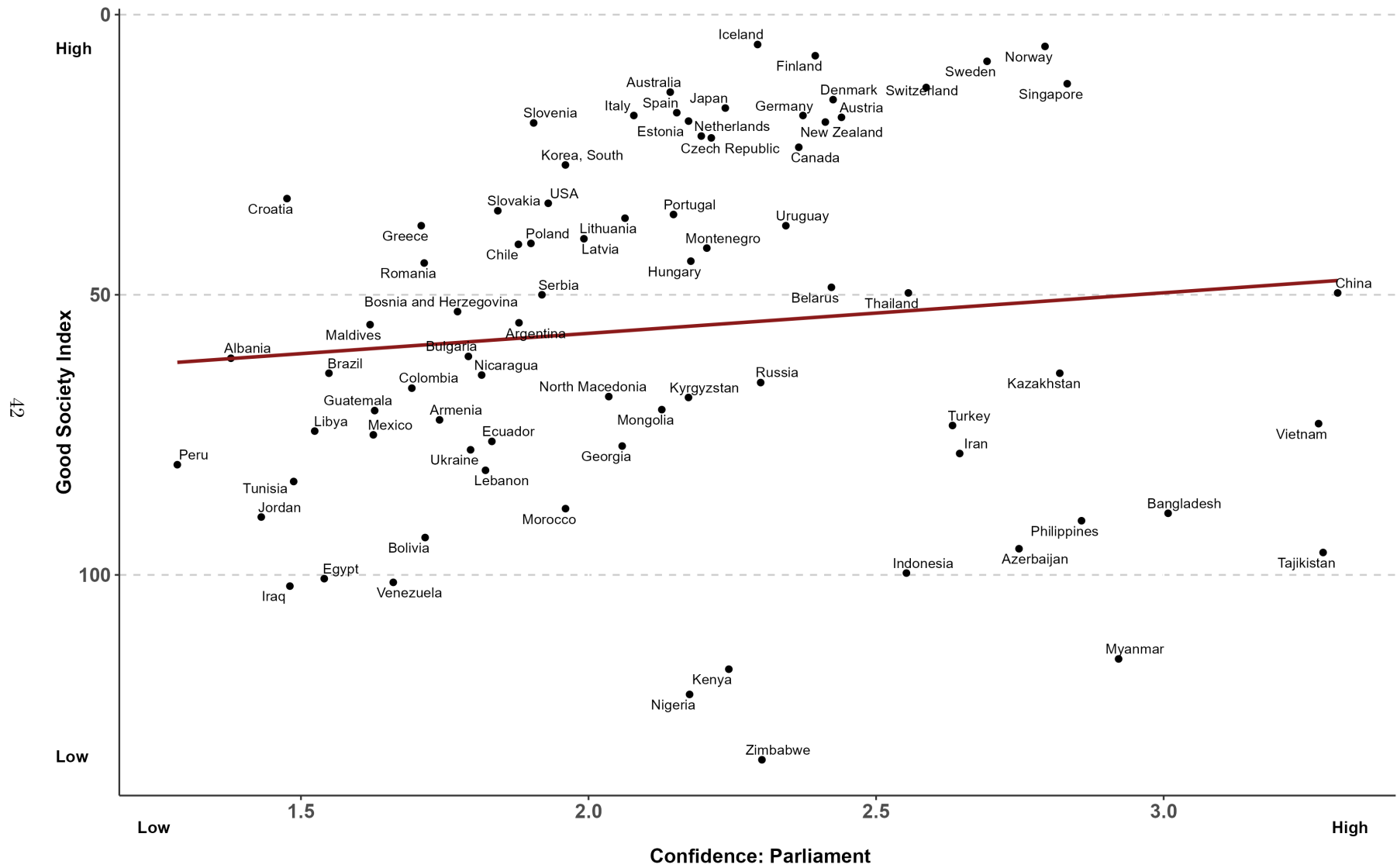**Number of observations:** 132
R-squared: 0.00
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2018 - 2021)
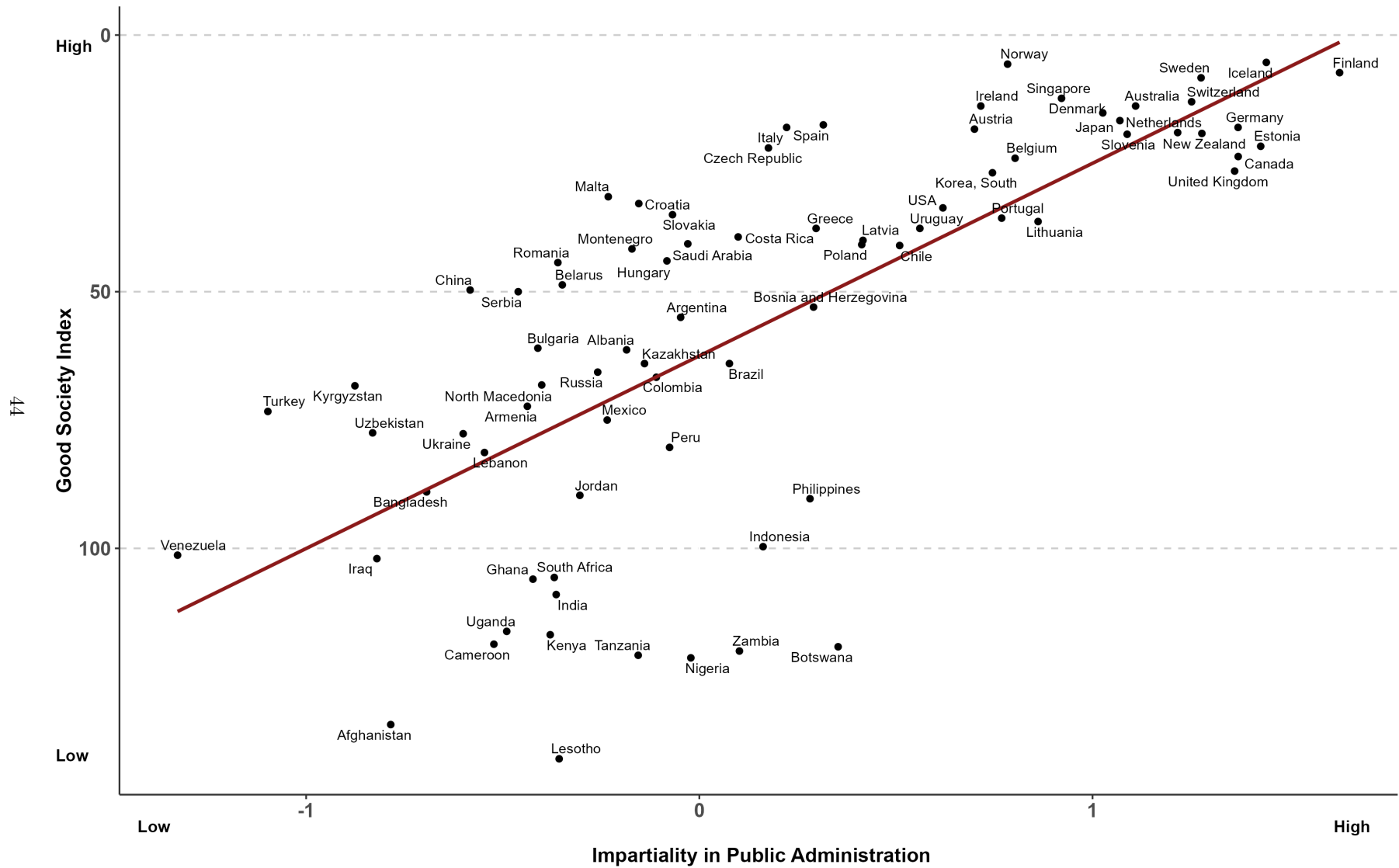
Good Society Index vs. Confidence: Parliament

Number of observations: 78
R-squared: 0.01
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Integrated Values Surveys (WVS/EVS trend 1981-2022) (2017 - 2022)

Good Society Index vs. Most people can be trusted

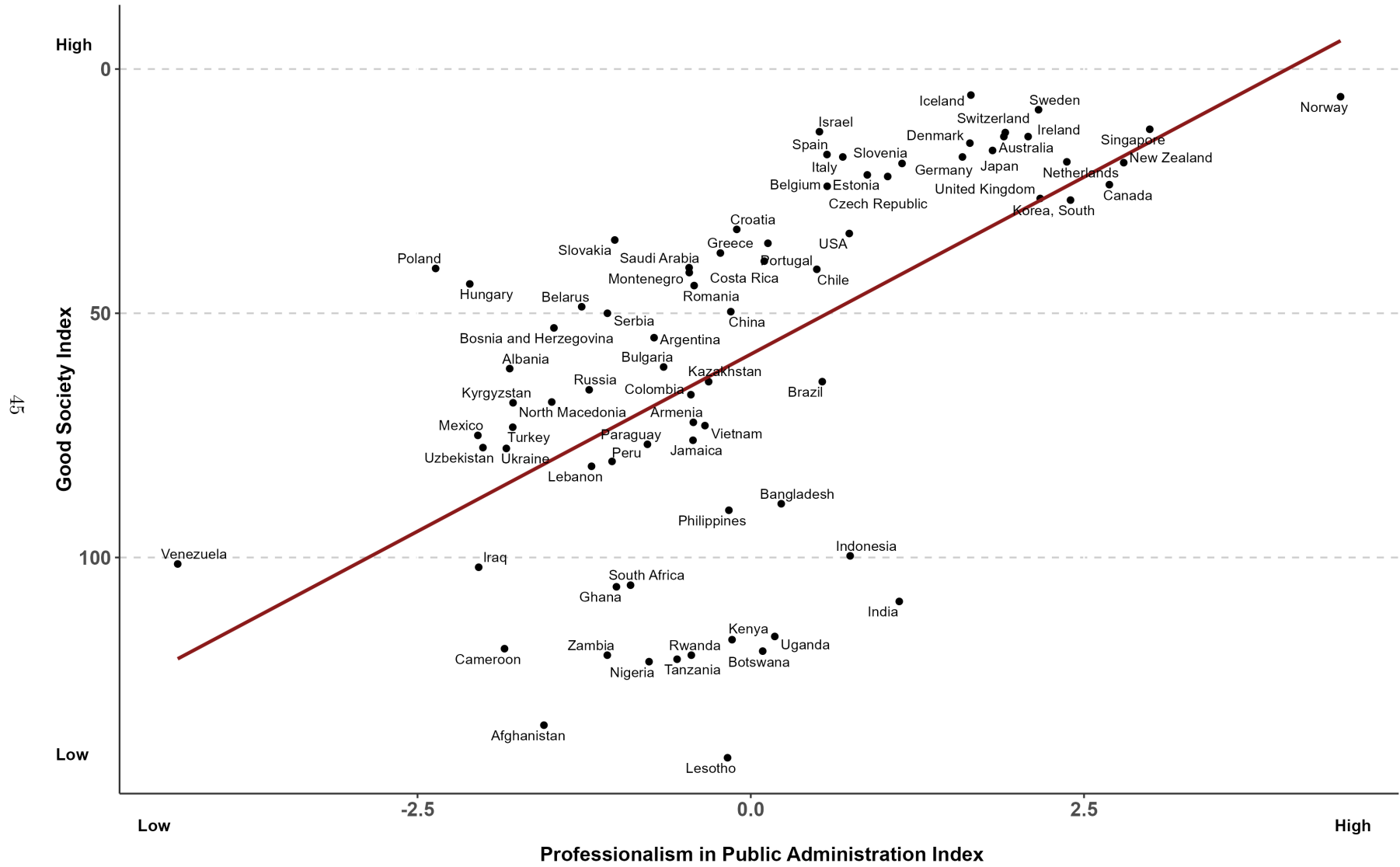**Number of observations:** 78
R-squared: 0.52
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Integrated Values Surveys (WVS/EVS trend 1981-2022) (2017 - 2022)

Good Society Index vs. Impartiality in Public Administration

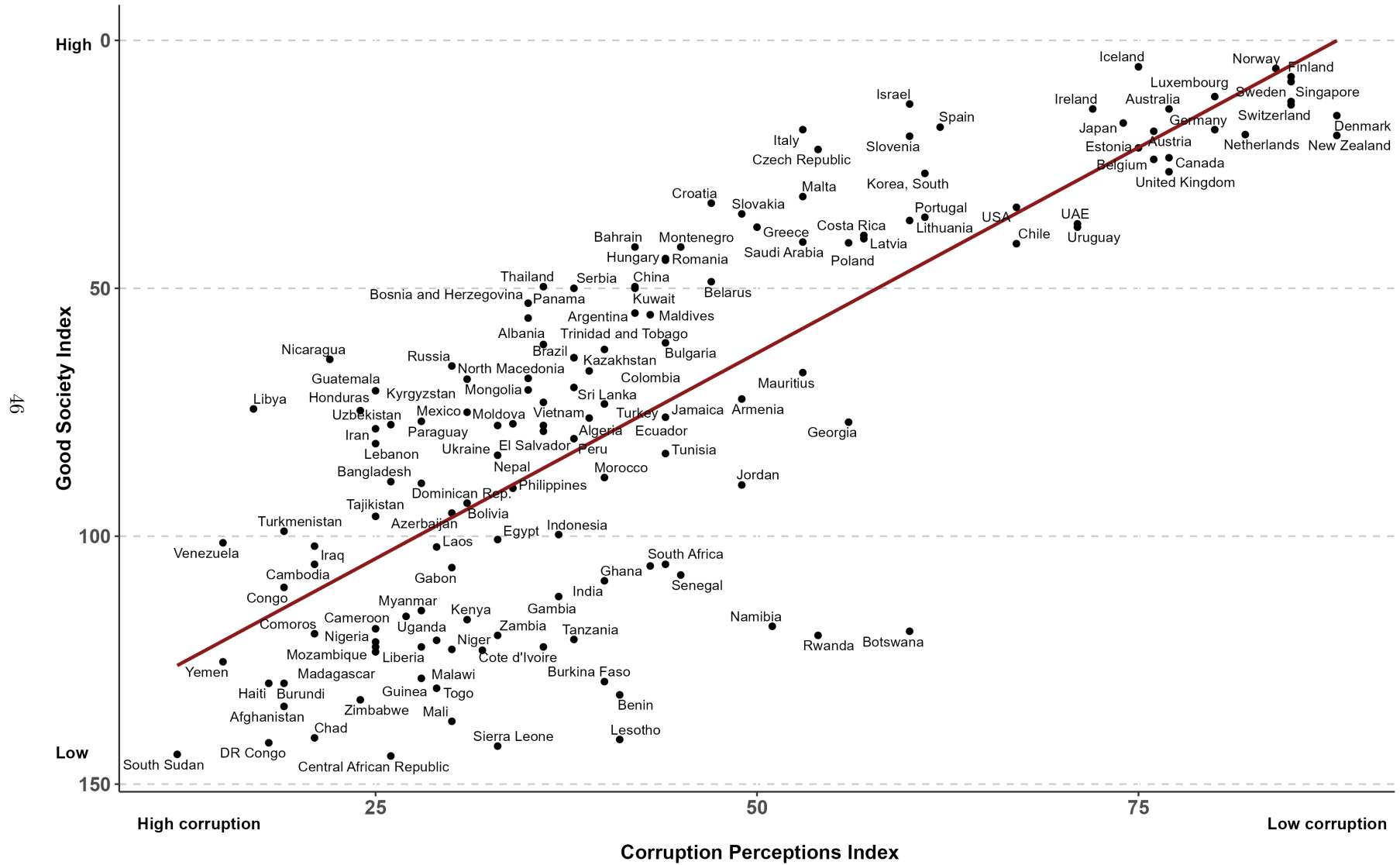
Good Society Index (y-axis)

Impartiality in Public Administration (x-axis)

Low ... -1 ... 0 ... 1 ... High

Number of observations: 77
R-squared: 0.51
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & QoG Expert Survey (2020 wave) (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Professionalism in Public Administration Index

Good Society Index

45

Professionalism in Public Administration Index

Low   High
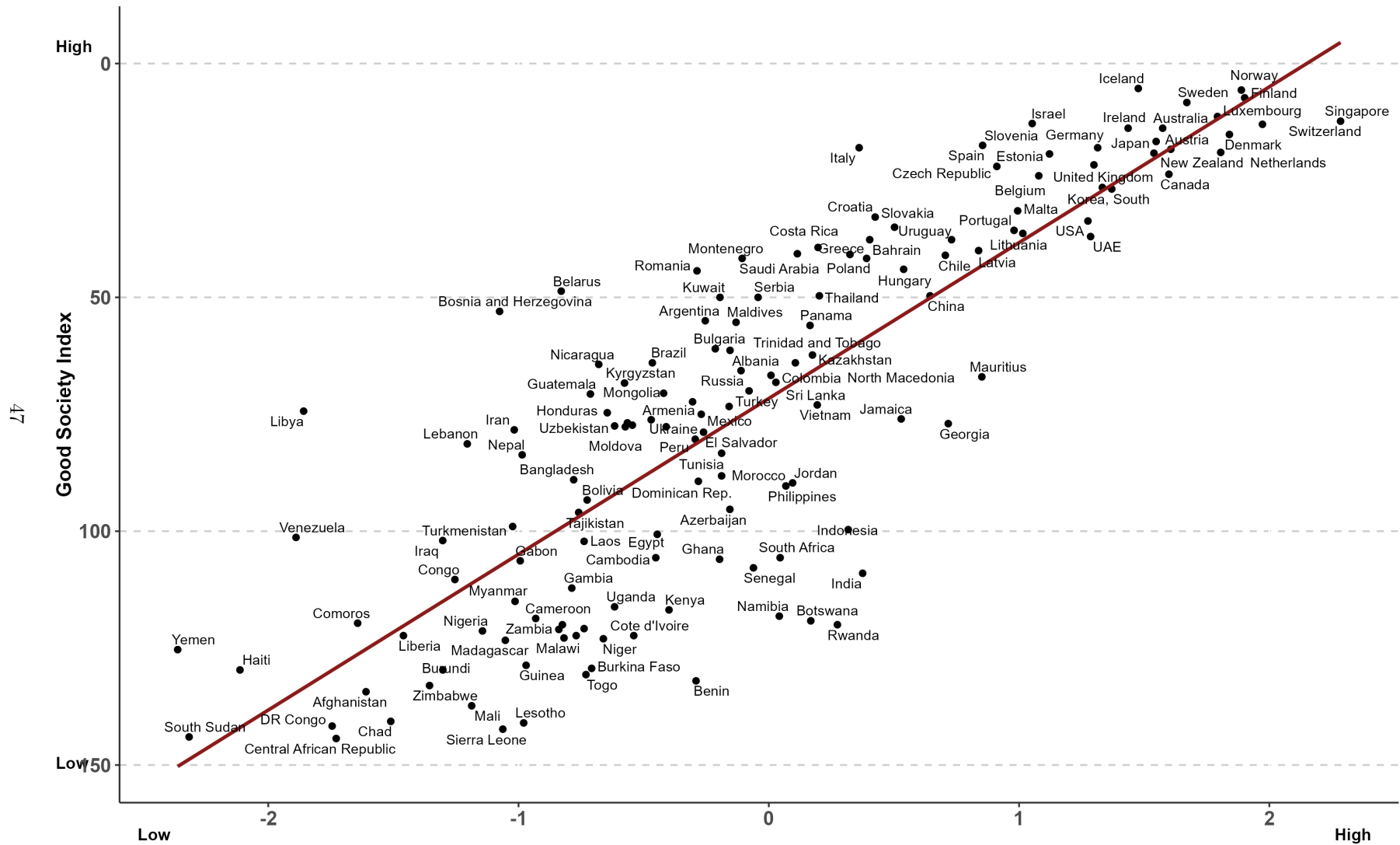
Number of observations: 75
R-squared: 0.35
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & QoG Expert Survey (2020 wave) (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Corruption Perceptions Index

Good Society Index (y-axis: High 0, 50, 100, Low 150)

Corruption Perceptions Index (x-axis: 25, 50, 75; High corruption — Low corruption)

46

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.62
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Corruption Perceptions Index (2020 - 2021)
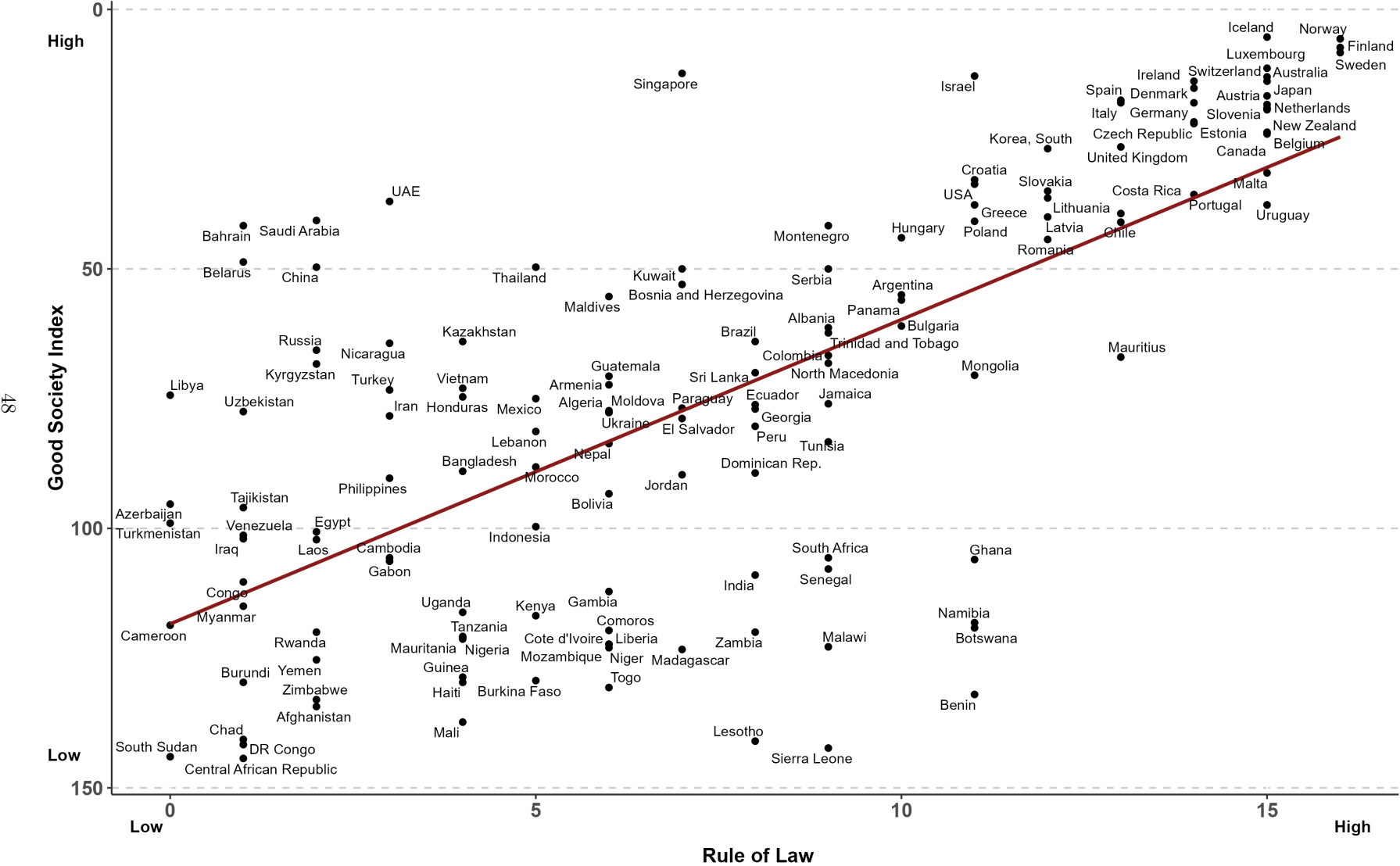
Good Society Index vs. Government Effectiveness

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.70
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & The Worldwide Governance Indicators (2020)
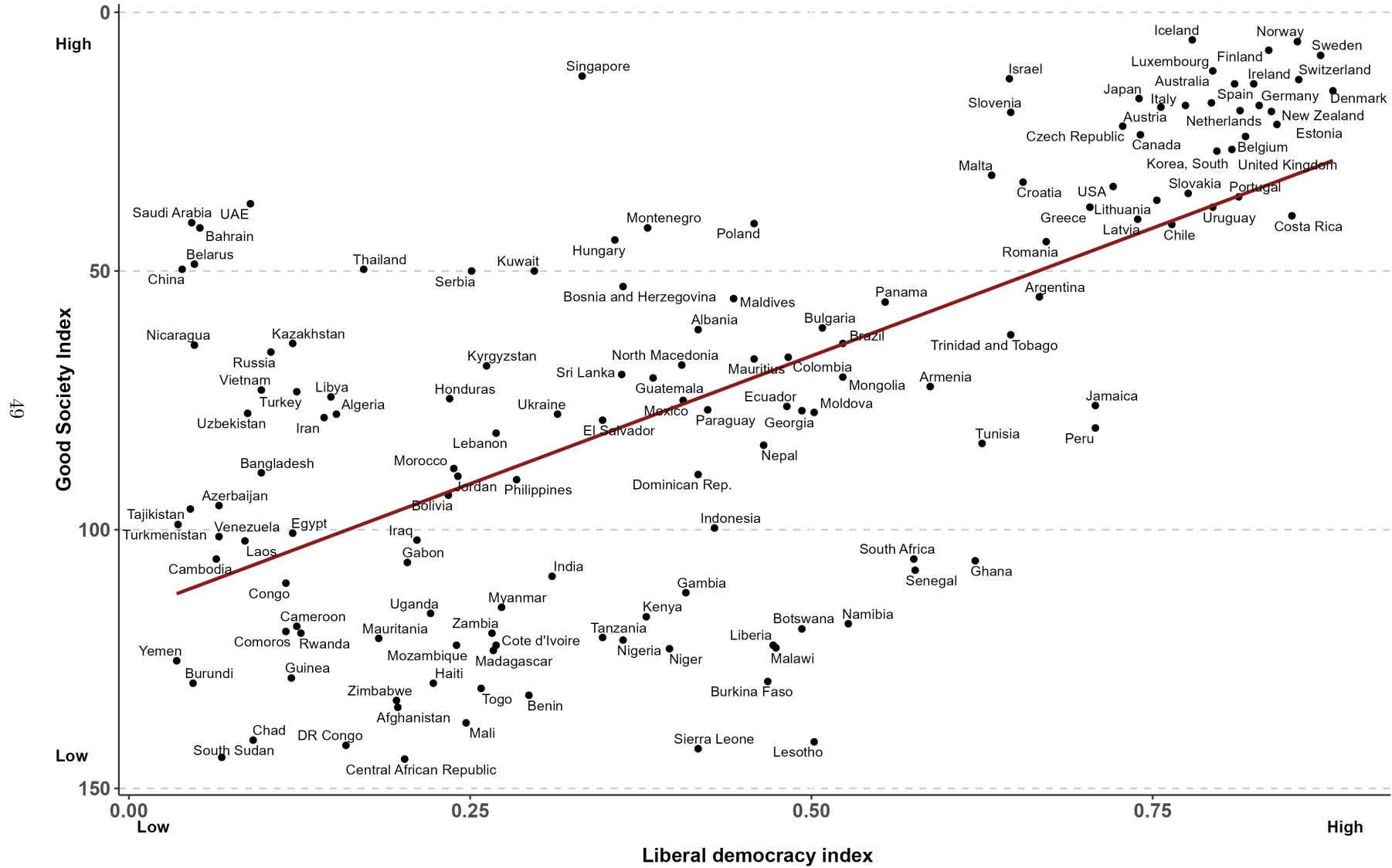
Good Society Index vs. Rule of Law

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.47
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Freedom in the World (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Liberal Democracy Index

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.42
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Varieties of Democracy Dataset version 13 (2020)

Good Society Index vs. Fragile States Index

Number of observations: 141
R-squared: 0.79
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Fund for Peace (2021)

Good Society Index vs. Effective Power to Govern

Number of observations: 116
R-squared: 0.09
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Bertelsmann Transformation Index (2019)

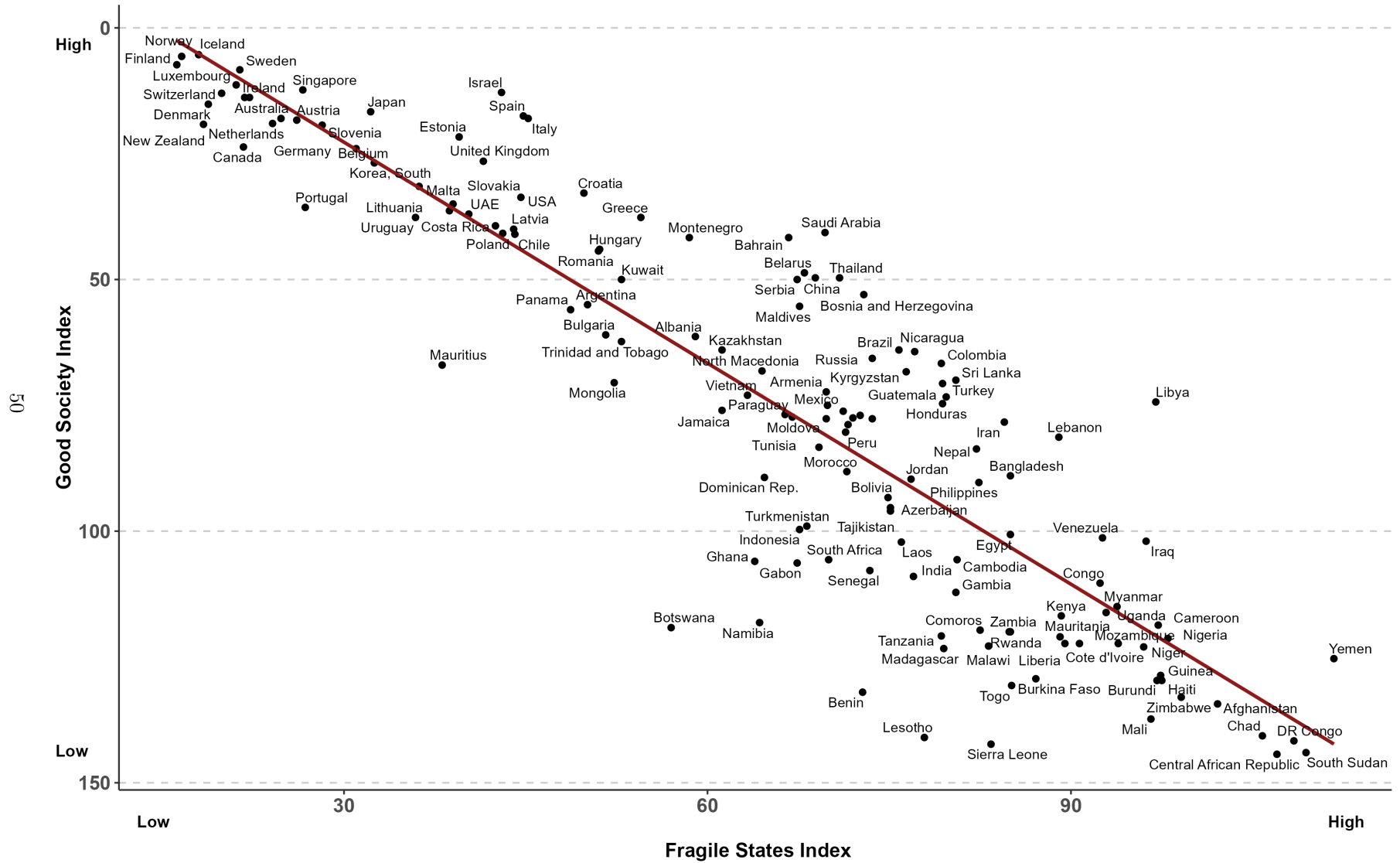**Good Society Index vs. Electoral Democracy Index**

52

Number of observations: 142
R-squared: 0.33
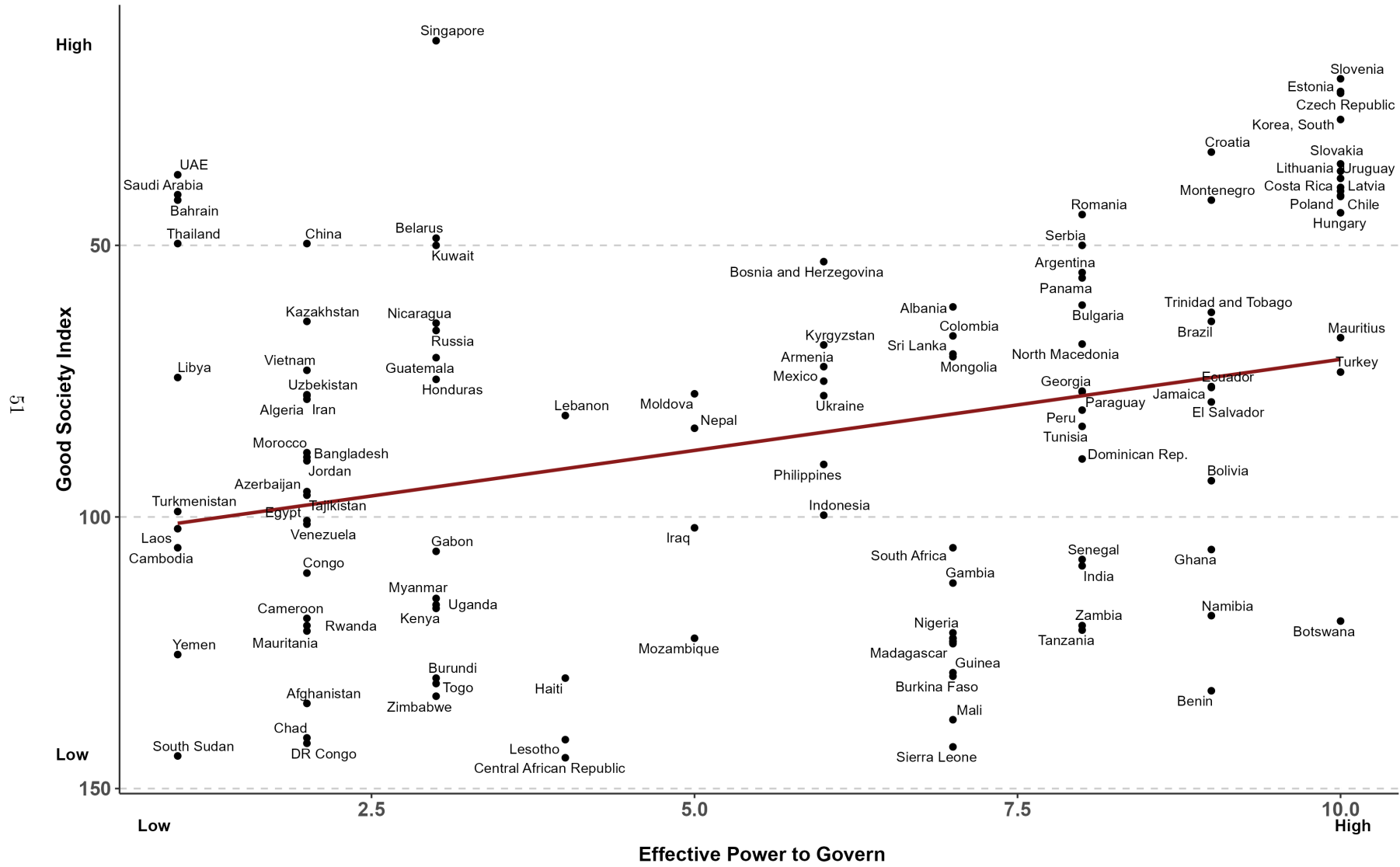**Sources:** Good Society Index (2007) & Varieties of Democracy Dataset version 13 (2020)
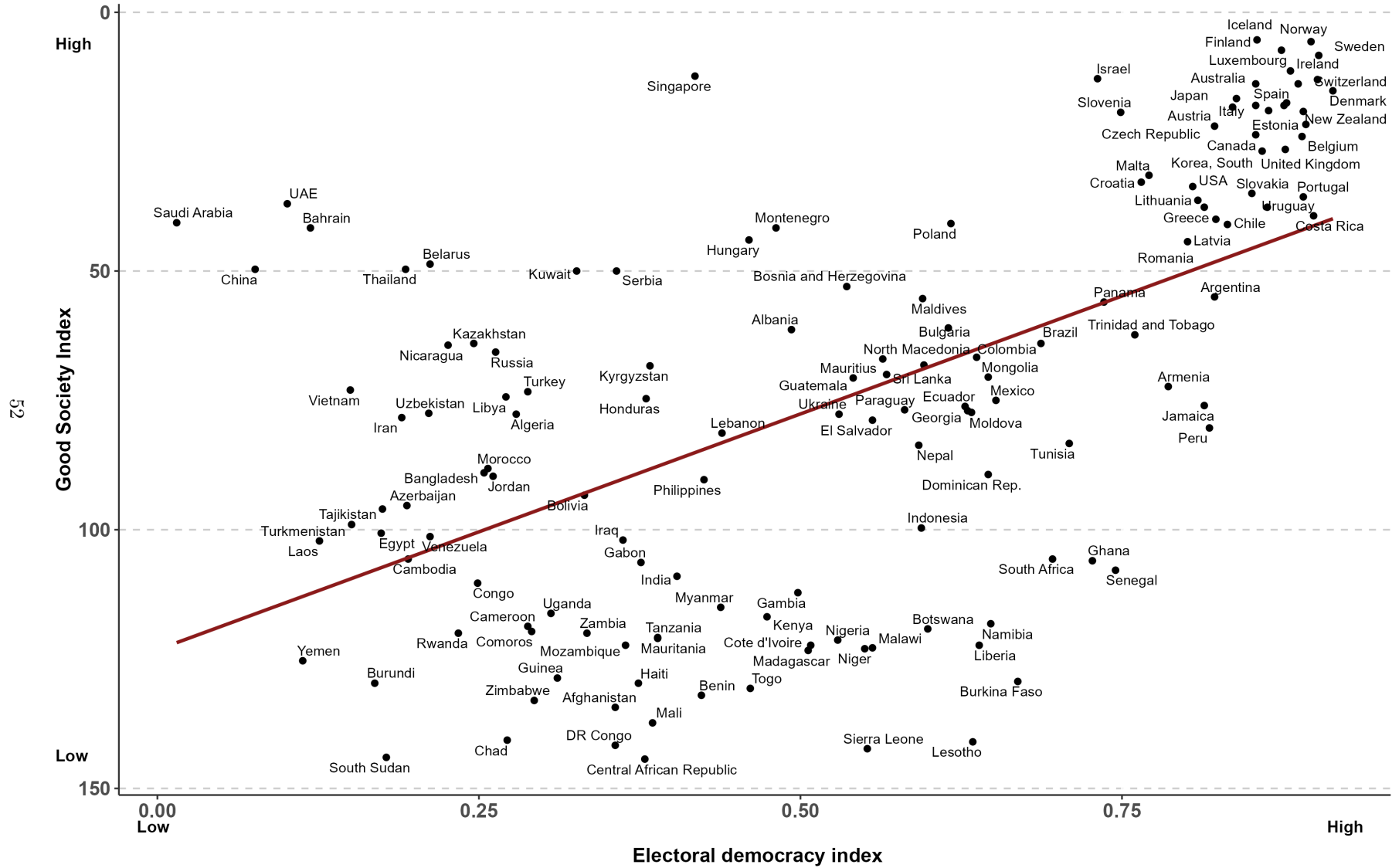
Good Society Index vs. Average years of schooling for women
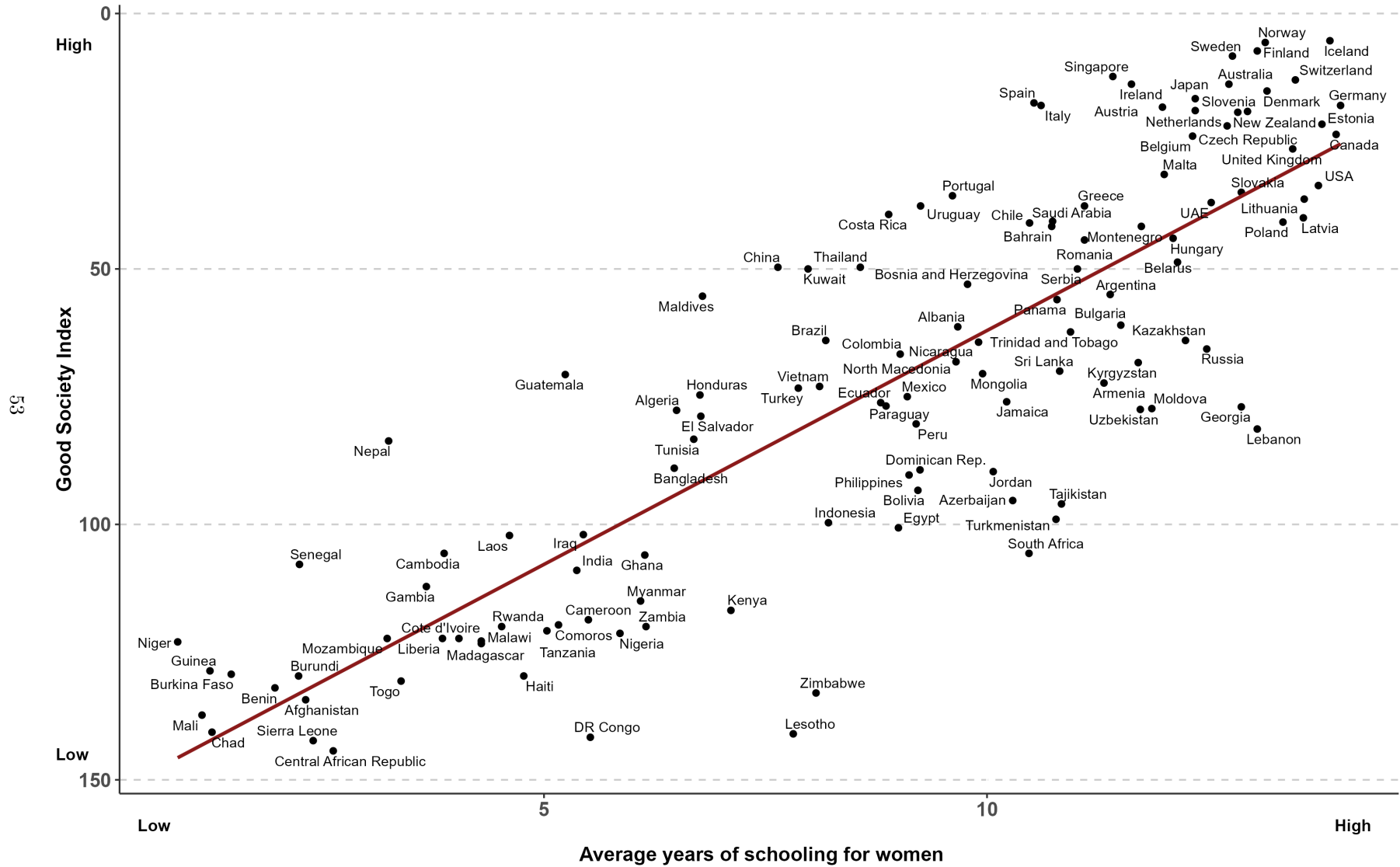
Number of observations: 124
R-squared: 0.70
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)

Good Society Index vs. Average years of schooling for men

Good Society Index

High

Low

Average years of schooling for men

Low · High
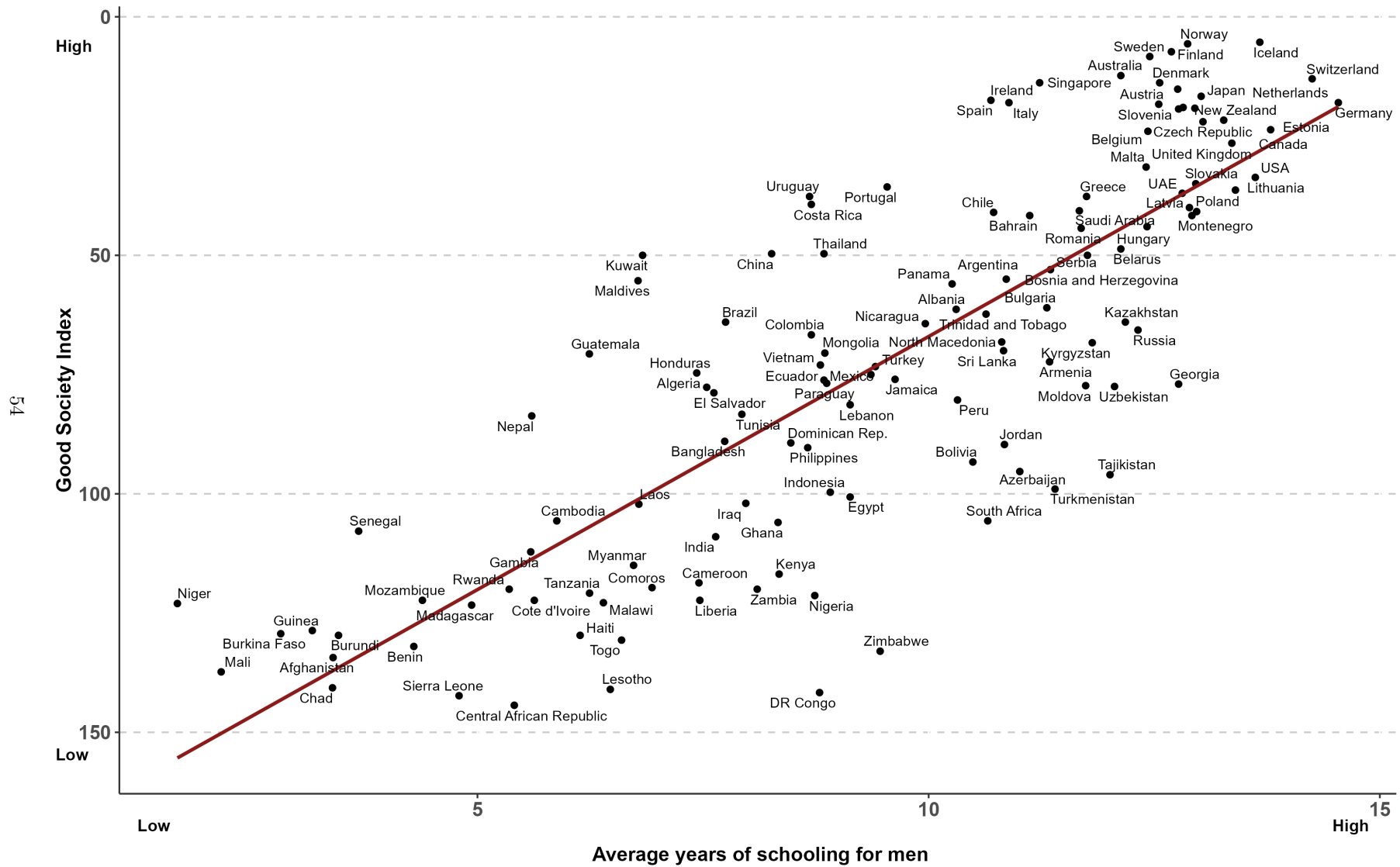
Number of observations: 124
R-squared: 0.65
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)

54

Good Society Index vs. Brain Drain

55
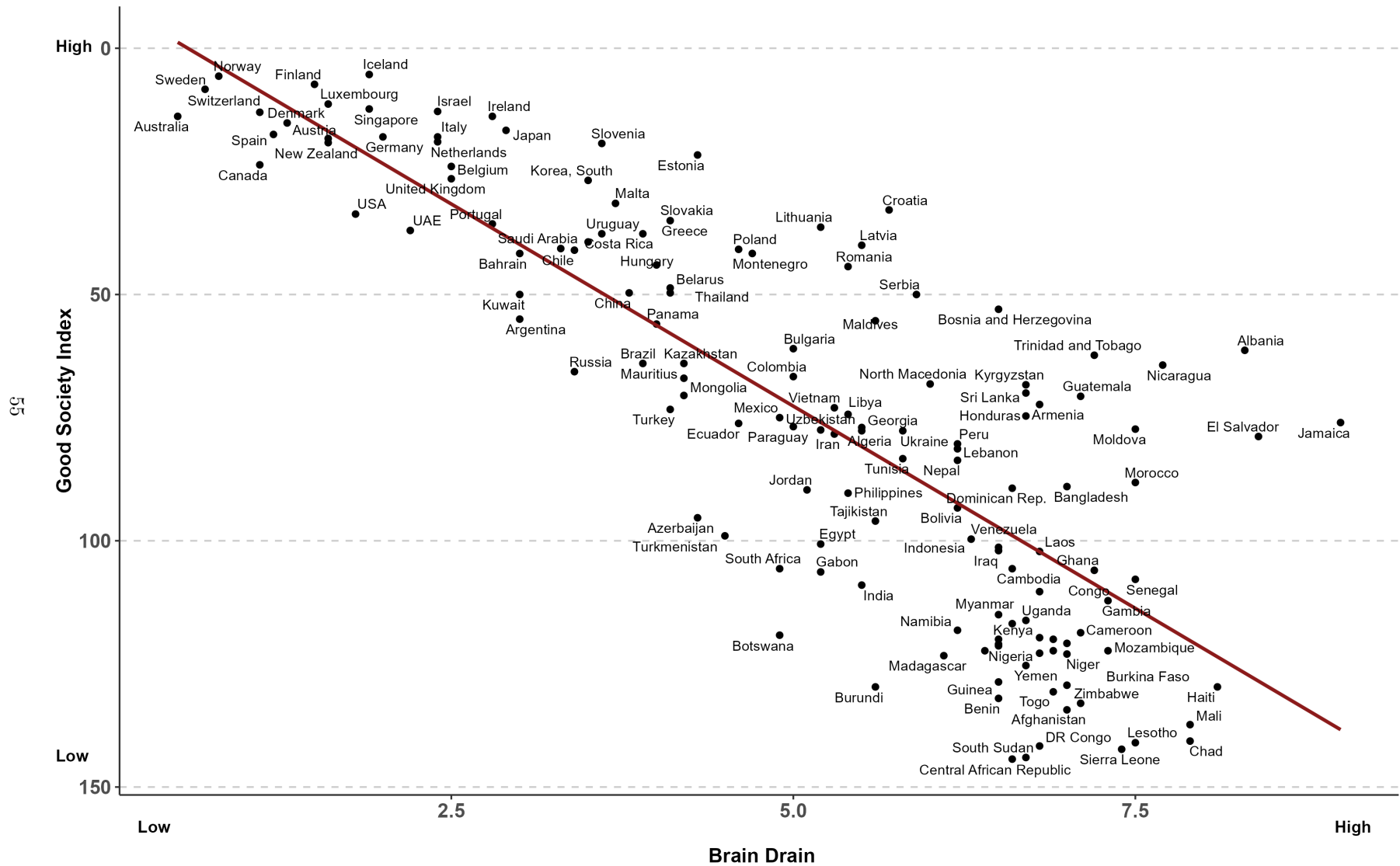
Number of observations: 141
R-squared: 0.66
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Fund for Peace (2021)

Good Society Index vs. Individuals using the Internet (% of population)
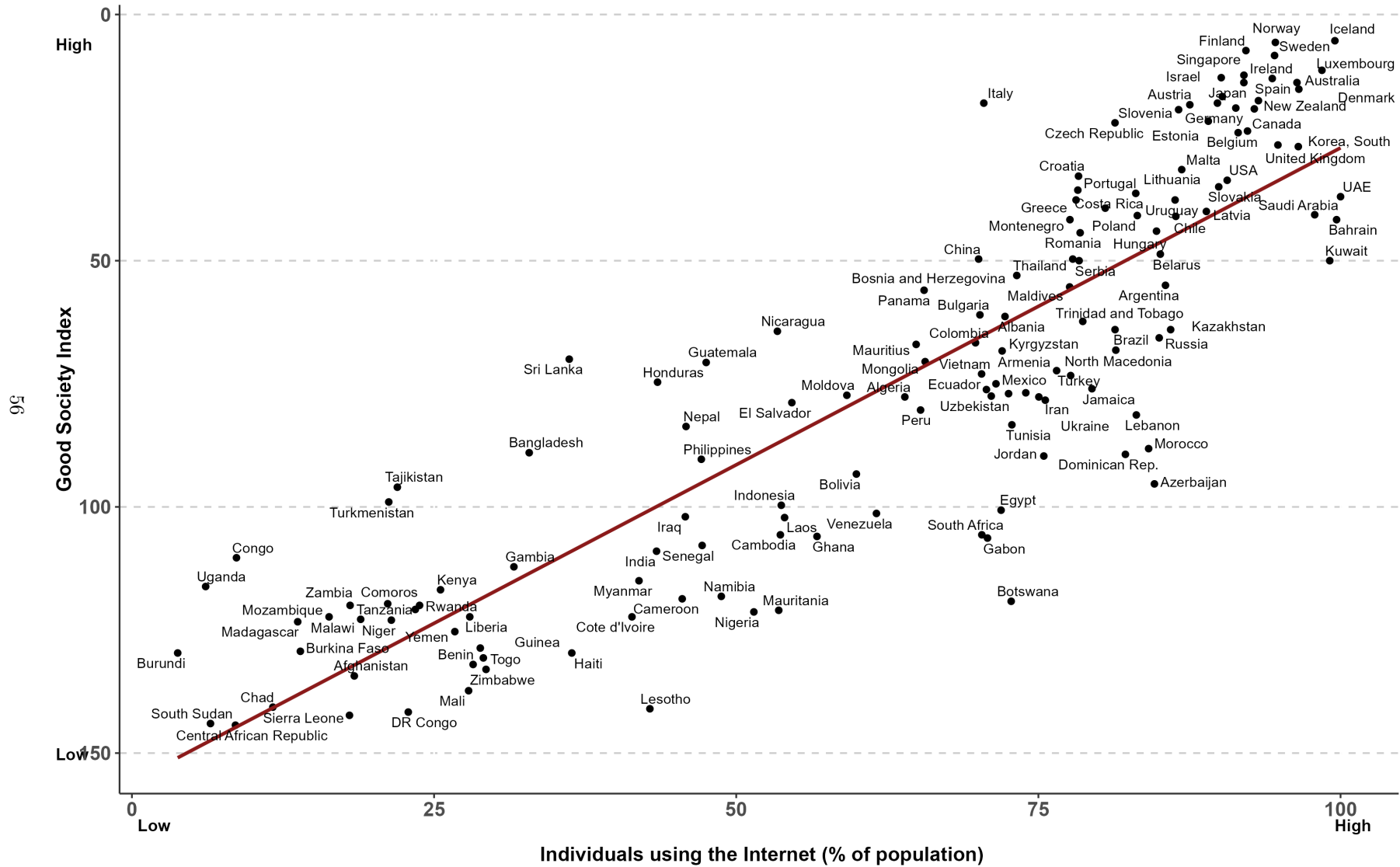
Number of observations: 141
R-squared: 0.75
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & World Development Indicators (2017 - 2021)

Good Society Index vs. Estimation of percentage of Christian affiliates
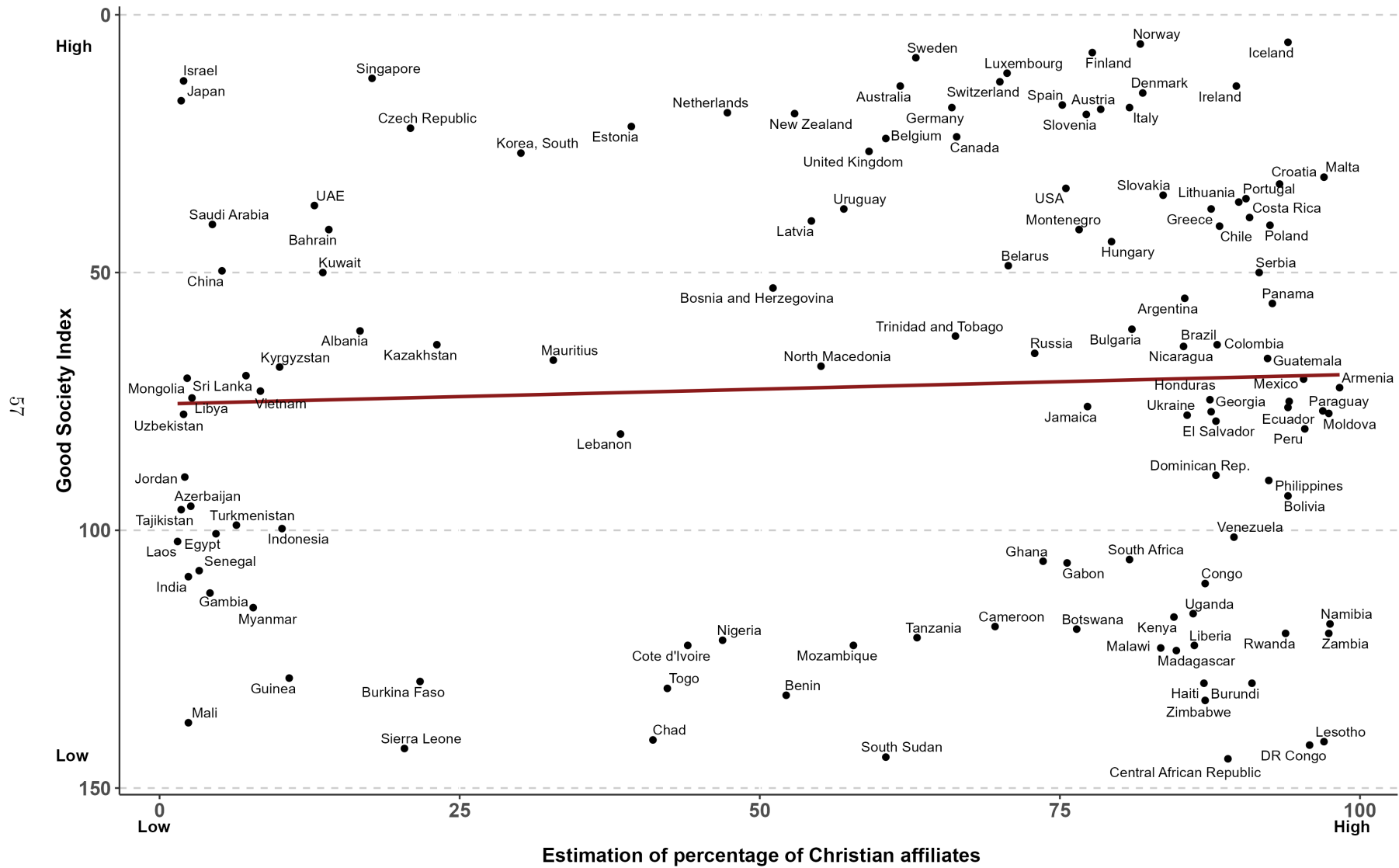
Number of observations: 125
R-squared: 0.00
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Pew Research Center (2015) (2015)

Good Society Index vs. Percentage of Muslim affiliates
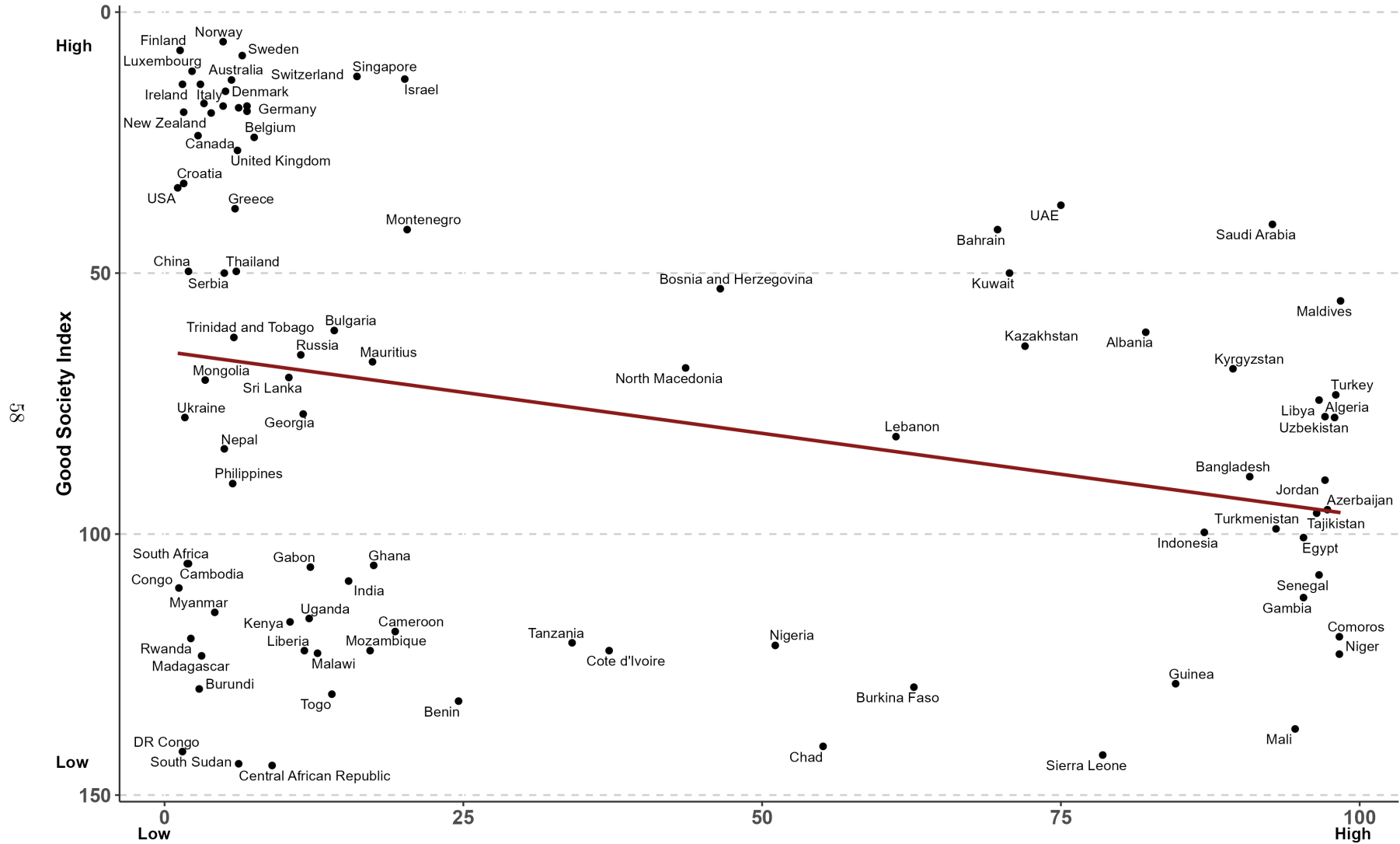
Number of observations: 92
R-squared: 0.08
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Pew Research Center (2015) (2015)

Good Society Index vs. Latitude

59
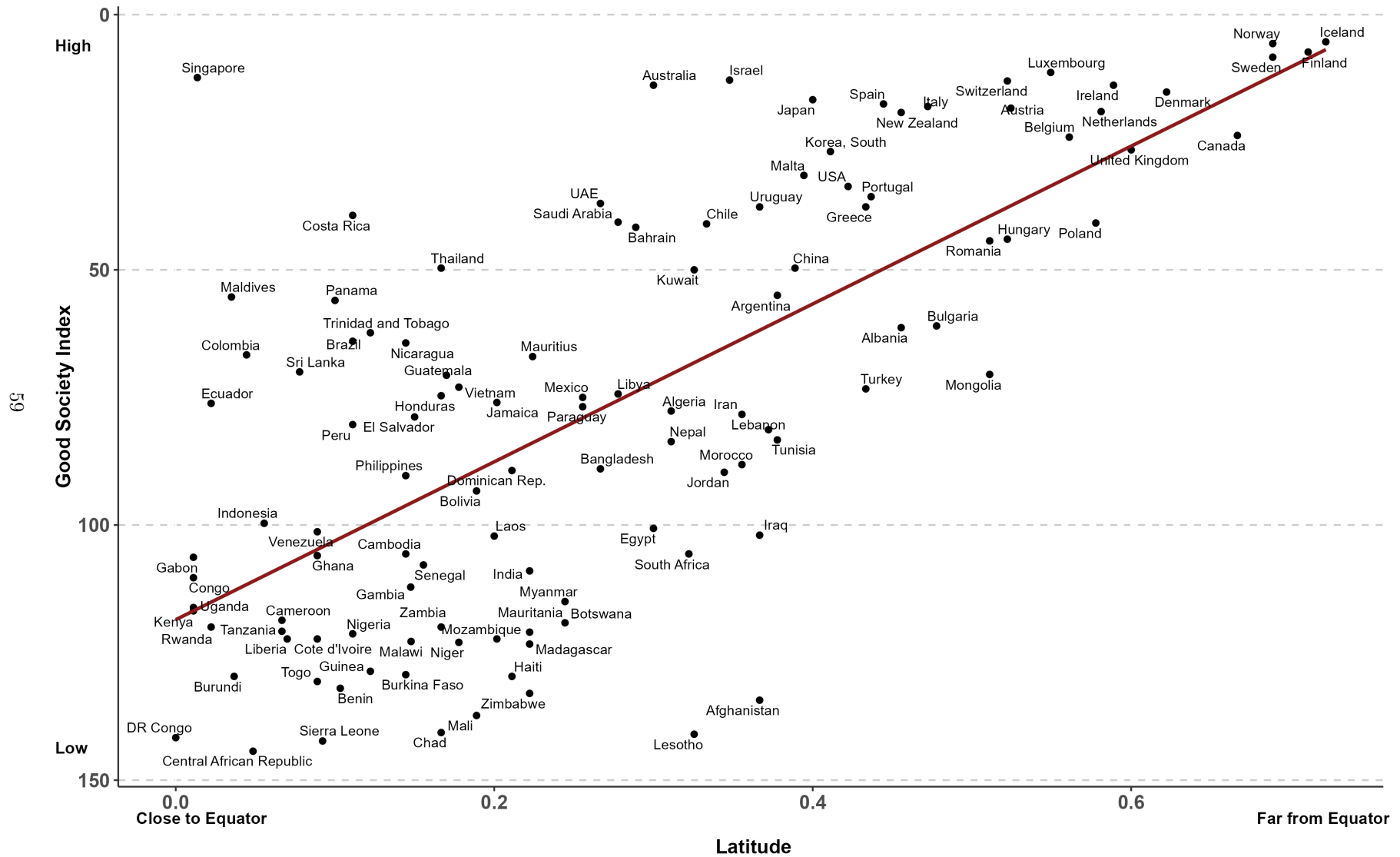
Number of observations: 114
R-squared: 0.48
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & La Porta et al., 1999 (1999)

Good Society Index in 2014 and 2021
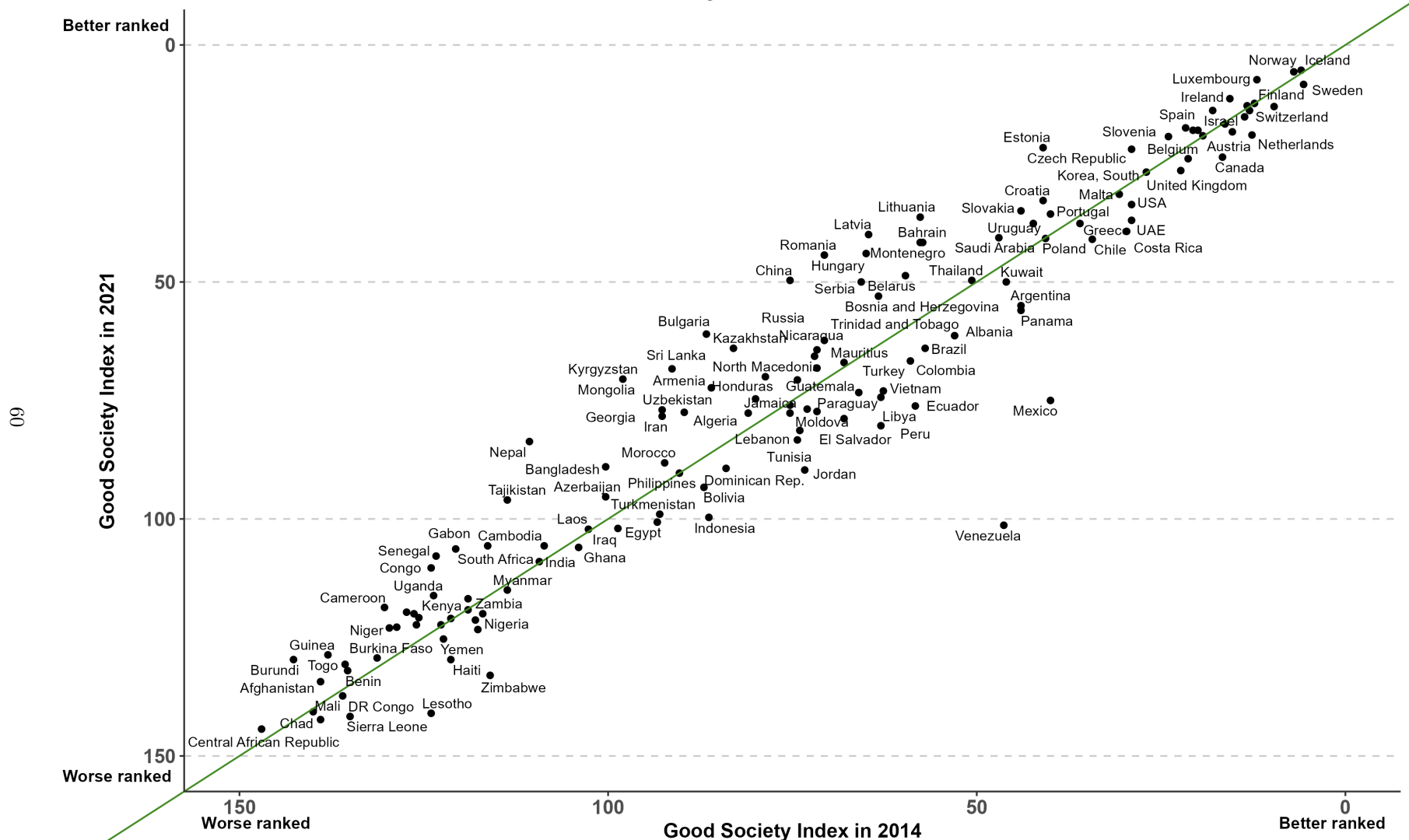
Number of observations: 137
R-squared: 0.92
Sources: Good Society Index (2007) & Holmberg, 2014 (2014) .
The line is in a 45 degree placement to indicate that the countries below it have performed worse from the previous to the newest edition, while the countries above the line have improved during that period of time.

Description of Variables

Bertelsmann Transformation Index

Dataset by: Bertelsmann Stiftung

Donner, S., Hartmann, H., & Steinkamp, S. (2024). *Transformation index bti 2024: Governance in international comparison.* Bertelsmann Stiftung. http://www.bti-project.org

The Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI) analyzes and evaluates the quality of democracy, a market economy, and political management in 137 developing and transition countries. It measures successes and setbacks on the path toward democracy based on the rule of law and a socially responsible market economy.

In-depth country reports provide the basis for assessing the state of transformation and persistent challenges and for evaluating the ability of policymakers to carry out consistent and targeted reforms. The BTI is the first cross-national comparative index that collects data to comprehensively measure the quality of governance during processes of transition.

Variables:

Effective Power to Govern

QoG Code: bti_epg

To what extent do democratically elected political representatives have the effective power to govern, or to what extent are there veto powers and political enclaves? From 1 to 10.

1. Political decision-makers are not democratically elected.

4. Democratically elected political representatives have limited power to govern. Strong veto groups are able to undermine fundamental elements of democratic procedures.

7. Democratically elected political representatives have considerable power to govern. However, individual power groups can set their own domains apart or enforce special-interest policies.

10. Democratically elected political representatives have the effective power to govern. No individual or group is holding any de facto veto power.

Corruption Perceptions Index

Dataset by: Transparency International

The CPI focuses on corruption in the public sector and defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gain. The surveys used in compiling the CPI tend to ask questions in line with the misuse of public power for private benefit, with a focus, for example, on bribe-taking by public officials in public procurement. The sources do not distinguish between administrative and political corruption. The CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people, risk analysts and the general public and ranges between 0 (highly corrupt) and 100 (highly clean).

Note: The time-series information in the CPI scores can only be used if interpreted with caution. Year-to-year shifts in a country's score can result not only from a changing perception of a country's performance but also from a changing sample and methodology. That is, with differing respondents and slightly differing methodologies, a change in a country's score may also relate to the fact that different viewpoints have been collected and different questions have been asked. Moreover, each country's CPI score is composed as a 3-year moving average, implying that if changes occur they only gradually affect a country's score. For a more detailed discussion of comparability over time in the CPI, see Lambsdorff 2005.

Note: In 2012 TI changed the methodology for which the data is not comparable and only data from 2012 and onwards can be compared.

Variables:

Corruption Perceptions Index

QoG Code: ti_cpi

Corruption Perceptions Index. Scale of 0-100 where 0 equals the highest level of perceived corruption and 100 equals the lowest level of perceived corruption.

Data used in the article "The Quality of Government"

Dataset by: La Porta, López-de-Silanes, Shleifer and Vishny

Original sources for the Religion variables: Barrett (1982), Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations (1995), Statistical Abstract of the World (1995), United Nations (1995) and CIA (1996).

Variables:

Latitude

QoG Code: lp_lat_abst

Latitude: The absolute value of the latitude of the capital city, divided by 90 (to take values between 0 and 1).

Economic Freedom of the World Dataset

Dataset by: Fraser Institute

Gwartney, J., Lawson, R., & Murphy, R. (2024). Economic Freedom Dataset, published in Economic Freedom of the World: 2024 Annual Report. *Fraser Institute.* https://www.fraserinstitute.org/economic-freedom/dataset

The index published in Economic Freedom of the World measures the degree to which countries' policies and institutions support economic freedom. The cornerstones of economic freedom are personal choice, voluntary exchange, freedom to enter markets and compete, and security of the person and privately owned property. The EFW index now ranks 165 countries and territories. Data are available for more than 100 nations and territories back to 1950. This dataset makes it possible for scholars to analyze the impact of both cross-country differences in economic freedom and changes in that freedom across a time frame of three and a half decades.

For a consistent time series for a particular country and/or longitudinal data for a panel of countries, the Fraser Institute previously developed and reported a chain-linked version of the index. The EFW Panel Dataset is now entirely based on the chain-linking method, having the base year as 2020, and they will make the most recent years data the base year in the future.

Changes in a countrys scores backward

in time are based only on changes in components that were present in adjoining

years. It should be noted that the EFW Panel Dataset contains area and summary

ratings only for those years in which the country received a regular EFW index

rating.

Variables:

Economic Freedom of the World Index (current)

QoG Code: fi_index

The index is founded upon objective components that reflect the presence (or absence) of economic freedom. The index comprises 21 components designed to identify the consistency of institutional arrangements and policies with economic freedom in five major areas: size of government (fi_sog), legal structure and security of property rights (fi_legprop), access to sound money (fi_sm), freedom to trade internationally (fi_ftradeint), regulation of credit, labor and business (fi_reg). The index ranges from 0-10 where 0 corresponds to "less economic freedom" and 10 to "more economic freedom". This is the version of the index published at the current year of measurement, without taking methodological changes over time into account.

Environmental Performance Index Data 2024

Dataset by: Environmental Performance Index

Block, S., W., E. J., C., E. D., de Sherbinin, A., & Wendling, e. a., Z. A. (2022). 2024 environmental performance index [Date accessed: 17 October 2022]. *New Haven, CT: Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy.* http://epi.yale.edu

The Environmental Performance Index provides a ranking that shines light on how each country manages environmental issues. The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranks how well countries perform on high-priority environmental issues in two broad policy areas: protection of human health from environmental harm and protection of ecosystems. Within these two policy objectives the EPI scores country performance in 11 issue areas comprised of 32 indicators. Indicators in the EPI measure how close countries are to meeting internationally established targets or, in the absence of agreed-upon targets, how they compare to the range of observed countries.

Note: In many cases the EPI variables lack actual observations and rely on imputation. Please refer to the original documentation on more information about this. Also, some values (usually the value 0) are very unlikely, please use your judgement whether to treat these as the value 0 or as "Data missing".

The values on the EPI, Policy Objectives, and Issue Categories are not comparable over time, therefore, this compilation only includes data on these variables from the latest release. The raw data on the 32 indicators, however, are comparable over time and, therefore, time-series are included.

Variables:

Environmental Performance Index

QoG Code: epi_epi

The 2020 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) scores 180 countries on 32 performance indicators across 11 issue categories related to environmental health and ecosystem vitality. The 2020 EPI is a composite index. The EPI researchers begin by gathering data on 32 individual metrics of environmental performance. These metrics are aggregated into a hierarchy beginning with 11 issue categories: Air Quality, Sanitation and Drinking Water, Heavy Metals, Waste Management, Biodiversity and Habitat, Ecosystem Services, Fisheries, Climate Change, Pollution Emissions, Water Resources, and Agriculture.

These issue categories are then combined into 2 policy objectives, Environmental Health and Ecosystem Vitality, and then finally consolidated into the overall EPI. To allow for meaningful comparisons, before aggregation the EPI researchers construct scores for each of the 32 indicators, placing them onto a common scale where 0 indicates worst performance and 100 indicates best performance. How far a country is from achieving international targets of sustainability determines its placement on this scale.

Note: The EPI scores are not comparable over time, therefore, this dataset only includes the EPI scores from the latest release.

Sanitation and Drinking Water

QoG Code: epi_h2o

Sanitation and Drinking Water Issue Category consists of two indicators:

1) Unsafe sanitation, measured as the proportion of a country's population exposed to health risks from their access to sanitation, defined by the primary toilet type used by households. It is log-transformed and given 40% weight in the aggregation.

2) Unsafe drinking water, measured as the proportion of a country's population exposed to health risks from their access to drinking water, defined by the primary water source used by households and the household water treatment, or the treatment that happens at the point of water collection. It is log-transformed and given 60% weight in the aggregation.

Both indicators are measured using the number of age-standardized disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) lost per 100,000 persons. The issue category varies from 0 to 100.

Fragile States Index

Dataset by: Fund for Peace

Haken, N., Messner, J., Hendry, K., Taft, P., Lawrence, K., Anderson, T., Jaeger, R., Manning, N., Umaña, F., & Whitehead, A. (2020). Failed states index 2006-2020. *The Fund for Peace (FFP).* http://fundforpeace.org/fsi/

The Fragile States Index (Failed States Index), produced by The Fund for Peace, is a critical tool in highlighting not only the normal pressures that all states experience, but also in identifying when those pressures are pushing a state towards the brink of failure. By highlighting pertinent issues in weak and failing states, the FSI - and the social science framework and software application upon which it is built - makes political risk assessment and early warning of conflict accessible to policy-makers and the public at large.

The strength of the FSI is its ability to distill millions of pieces of information into a form that is relevant as well as easily digestible and informative. Daily, The Fund for Peace collects thousands of reports and information from around the world, detailing the existing social, economic and political pressures faced by each of the 178 countries.

The FSI is based on The Fund for Peace's proprietary Conflict Assessment Software Tool (CAST) analytical platform. Based on comprehensive social science methodology, data from three primary sources is triangulated and subjected to critical review to obtain final scores for the FSI. Millions of documents are analyzed every year. By applying highly specialized search parameters, scores are apportioned for every country based on twelve key political, social and economic indicators (which in turn include over 100 sub-indicators) that are the result of years of painstaking expert social science research. The Fund for Peace's software performs content analysis on this collected information.

The scores produced by The Fund for Peace's software are also compared with a comprehensive set of vital statistics - as well as human analysis - to ensure that the software has not misinterpreted the raw data. Though the basic data underpinning the Failed States Index is already freely and widely available electronically, the strength of the analysis is in the methodological rigor and the systematic integration of a wide range of data sources.

Note: The principle of data timing was changed. Data from reports correspond to the situation from the previous year. The 2020 Fragile States Index, comprises data collected between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019. Therefore data from Report 2020 is recorded for 2019 and the same logic works for all other years.

Variables:

Fragile States Index

QoG Code: ffp_fsi

Fragile States Index (The Failed States Index) includes an examination of the pressures on states, their vulnerability to internal conflict and societal deterioration. The country ratings are based on the total scores of 12 indicators:

Social Indicators

1. Mounting Demographic Pressures

2. Massive Movement of Refugees or Internally Displaced Persons creating Complex Humanitarian

Emergencies

3. Legacy of Vengeance-Seeking Group Grievance or Group Paranoia

4. Chronic and Sustained Human Flight.

Economic Indicators

5. Uneven Economic Development along Group Lines

6. Sharp and/or Severe Economic Decline.

Political Indicators

7. Criminalization and/or Delegitimization of the State

8. Progressive Deterioration of Public Services

9. Suspension or Arbitrary Application of the Rule of Law and Widespread Violation of Human Rights

10. Security Apparatus Operates as a "State Within a State"

11. Rise of Factionalized Elites

12. Intervention of Other States or External Politicl Actors.

For each indicator, the ratings are placed on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being the lowest intensity (most stable) and 10 being the highest intensity (least stable). The total score is the sum of the 12 indicators and is on a scale of 0-120.

Human Flight and Brain Drain

QoG Code: ffp_hf

The Human Flight and Brain Drain Indicator considers the economic impact of human displacement (for economic or political reasons) and the consequences this may have on a countrys development. On the one hand, this may involve the voluntary emigration of the middle class particularly economically productive segments of the population, such as entrepreneurs, or skilled workers such as physicians due to economic deterioration in their home country and the hope of better opportunities farther afield. On the other hand, it may involve the forced displacement of professionals or intellectuals who are fleeing their country due to actual or feared persecution or repression, and specifically the economic impact that displacement may wreak on an economy through the loss of productive, skilled professional labor.

Questions to consider may include:

Retention of Technical and Intellectual Capital

Professional Flight: Are professionals leaving the country? Political Drain or Return: Are politicians leaving the country? Brain Drain: Is there a relatively high proportion of higher educated people leaving the country? Return of Middle Class: Is the middle class beginning to return to the country?

Economics

Remittances: Are there a large amount of remittances coming to families from relatives overseas?

Freedom in the World

Dataset by: Freedom House

Freedom in the World is an annual global report on political rights and civil liberties, composed of numerical ratings and descriptive texts for each country and a select group of territories. The 2022 edition covers developments in 195 countries and 15 territories from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

The report's methodology is derived in large measure from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948. Freedom in the World is based on the premise that these standards apply to all countries and territories, irrespective of geographical location, ethnic or religious composition, or level of economic development. Freedom in the World operates from the assumption that freedom for all people is best achieved in liberal democratic societies.

Freedom in the World assesses the real-world rights and freedoms enjoyed by individuals, rather than governments or government performance per se. Political rights and civil liberties can be affected by both state and non-state actors, including insurgents and other armed groups.

Variables:

Rule of Law

QoG Code: fh_rol

Rule of Law - The variable measures the independence of the judiciary; the extent to which rule of law prevails in civil and criminal matters; the existence of direct civil control over the police; the protection from political terror, unjustified imprisonment, exile and torture; absence of war and insurgencies; and the extent to which laws, policies and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population. Countries are graded between 0 (worst) and 16 (best).

Global Health Observatory Data Repository - Alcohol Consumption

Dataset by: World Health Organization (WHO)

The Global Health Observatory (GHO) data repository provides detailed information on total alcohol consumption per capita, combining recorded and unrecorded consumption for individuals aged 15 years and older. This dataset is essential for understanding global patterns and trends in alcohol use and their implications for public health.

Variables:

Consumption of alcohol in liters

QoG Code: who_alcohol

The total (recorded and unrecorded) alcohol per capita consumption, measured in liters of pure alcohol for individuals aged 15 years and older.

Human Development Report

Dataset by: United Nations Development Program

The Human Development Report (HDR) is an annual report published by the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The entire series of Human Development Index (HDI) values and rankings are recalculated every year using the most recent (revised) data and functional forms. The HDI rankings and values in the 2014 Human Development Report cannot therefore be compared directly to indices published in previous Reports. Please see hdr.undp.org for more information.

The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The HDI can also be used to question national policy choices, asking how two countries with the same level of GNI per capita can end up with different human development outcomes.

Variables:

Human Development Index

QoG Code: undp_hdi

The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The HDI can also be used to question national policy choices, asking how two countries with the same level of GNI per capita can end up with different human development outcomes. These contrasts can stimulate debate about government policy priorities.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. The closer the score is to 1, the better the country is doing.

The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth, the education dimension is measured by mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income per capita. The HDI uses the logarithm of income, to reflect the diminishing importance of income with increasing GNI. The scores for the three HDI dimension indices are then aggregated into a composite index using geometric mean. Refer to Technical notes for more details.

The HDI simplifies and captures only part of what human development entails. It does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, etc. The HDRO offers the other composite indices as broader proxy on some of the key issues of human development, inequality, gender disparity and human poverty.

Integrated Values Surveys (WVS/EVS trend 1981-2022)

Dataset by: World Values Survey

The European Value Study (EVS) and the World Value Survey (WVS) are two large-scale, cross-national, and repeated cross-sectional longitudinal survey research programs. Since their emergence in the early 1980s, the EVS has conducted 5 survey waves (every 9 years), and the WVS has conducted 7 survey waves (every 5 years). Both research programs include a large number of questions, which have been replicated over time and across the EVS and the WVS surveys. Such repeated questions constitute the Integrated Values Surveys (IVS), the joint EVS-WVS time-series data, which at the moment covers a 41-years period (1981-2022).

The variables are country averages calculated using the population weight provided by WVS/EVS.

Variables:

Confidence: Parliament

QoG Code: wvs_confpar

I am going to name a number of organizations. For each one, could you tell me how much confidence you have in them: Parliament

1. None at all

2. Not very much

3. Quite a lot

4. A great deal

Most people can be trusted

QoG Code: wvs_trust

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?

0. Need to be very careful

1. Most people can be trusted

IDF Diabetes Atlas 2024

Dataset by: International Diabetes Federation (IDF)

Federation, I. D. (2023). Idf diabetes atlas reports [Accessed: 2025-01-17]. https://diabetesatlas.org/atlas-reports/?report-year=2023

Original sources for the Diabetes data: IDF Diabetes Atlas, 10th Edition (2024).

Variables:

Age-Adjusted Prevalence of Diabetes

QoG Code: idf_age_adj_prev

Age-Adjusted Prevalence of Diabetes: The percentage of adults aged 20-79 years with diabetes, adjusted for the age distribution of the population to ensure comparability across countries and regions. Data sourced from the International Diabetes Federation's global estimates and projections.

Maddison Project Database 2023

Dataset by: Maddison Historical Statistics

Bolt, J., & van Zanden, J. L. (2020). Maddison project database, version 2020 [Maddison style estimates of the evolution of the world economy: A new 2020 update]. https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/research

Bolt, J., & van Zanden, J. L. (2024). Maddison style estimates of the evolution of the world economy: A new 2023 update [MPD version 2023]. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 1–41. https://doi.org/10.1111/joes.12618

Dataset available at:
https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/releases/maddison-project-database-2023

The Maddison Project Database provides information on comparative economic growth and income levels over the very long run. The 2023 version of this database covers 169 countries and the period up to 2022.

Variables:

Real GDP per Capita

QoG Code: mad_gdppc

Real GDP per capita for the year, represented in the value of US dollars in 2011.

Migration and Remittances Data

Dataset by: The World Bank Group

Remittances Data provides a snapshot of latest statistics on remittance flows for 214 countries and territories. It is calculated by World Bank staff calculation based on data from IMF Balance of Payments Statistics database and data releases from central banks, national statistical agencies, and World Bank country desks. All numbers are in current (nominal) US $ million.

Variables:

Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)

QoG Code: rd_inw_gdp

Remittances is money that people who live and work in one country send back to their family or friends in another country. According to the World Development Indicators: 'Remittance transactions have grown in importance over the past decade. In a number of developing economies, receipts of remittances have become an important and stable source of funds that exceeds receipts from exports of goods and services or from financial inflows on foreign direct investment.

Personal remittances comprise personal transfers and compensation of employees. Personal transfers consist of all current transfers in cash or in kind made or received by resident households to or from nonresident households. Personal transfers thus include all current transfers between resident and nonresident individuals. Compensation of employees refers to the income of border, seasonal, and other short-term workers who are employed in an economy where they are not resident and of residents employed by nonresident entities. Data are the sum of two items defined in the sixth edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments Manual: personal transfers and compensation of employees.'

Pew Research Center - Religious Composition by Country, 2010-2050

Dataset by: Pew Research Center

This dataset from the Pew Research Center provides projections of religious affiliation percentages for 198 countries and territories from 2010 to 2050. It offers insights into the changing religious landscape worldwide, driven by factors such as fertility rates, youth population sizes, and patterns of religious switching.

Variables:

Estimation of Percentage of Muslim Affiliates

QoG Code: pew_muslim

The projected percentage of the population identifying as Muslim in various countries and territories for the years 2010 through 2050.

Estimation of Percentage of Christian Affiliates

QoG Code: pew_christian

The projected percentage of the population identifying as Christian in various countries and territories for the years 2010 through 2050.

QoG Expert Survey (2020 wave)

Dataset by: Nistotskaya, Dahlberg, Dahlström, Sundström, Axelsson, Dalli & Alvarado Pachon

The Quality of Government Expert Survey (QoG Expert Survey) is a research project aimed at documenting the organizational design of public bureaucracies and bureaucratic behavior in countries around the world. The third wave of the QoG Expert Survey covers 117 countries and is based on a web survey of 996 experts.

The general purpose of the QoG Expert Survey is to measure the structure and behaviour of public administration across countries. The survey covers a variety of topics which are seen as relevant to the structure and functioning of the public administration according to the literature, but on which we lack quantitative indicators for a large number of countries. The QoG Expert Survey 2020 is the third wave of the QoG Expert Survey, following the first wave in 2008-2012 and the second wave in 2014.

The QoG Expert Survey 2020 produced ten country-level indicators, pertaining to bureaucratic structure (meritocratic recruitment, security of tenure, closedness) and bureaucratic behavior (political interference into day-to-day bureaucratic decision-making and impartiality). The data is based on the assessments of experts from 117 countries, carefully selected for their contextual subject-matter knowledge. The experts took part in the research pro bono. The main innovation of the third wave is the use of anchoring vignettes and Item-Response Theory (IRT)-based aggregation techniques to produce point estimates that account and adjust for systematic differences in expert subjective assessments and variation in expert reliability. The resulting indicators are internally coherent and also correlate well with other well-established measures for the same concepts. The strength of the association between the data from 2020 and the two previous waves of the survey suggests that the data is likely to measure the same underlying phenomena, while offering enough variability over time to be used in time-series analysis.

Variables:

Impartiality

QoG Code: qs20_impar2

Country-level estimate for Impartiality, constructed with an IRT model that accounts for DIF and variation in expert reliability. Higher values stand for more impartiality.

Professionalism Index

QoG Code: qs20_proff_pca

Professionalism Index is constructed from Patronage, Merit and Tenure with the help of Principal Component Analysis (PCA). Merit, Patronage and Tenure are load on the same dimension, which predicted scores are used as Professionalism Index.

Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings

Dataset by: Standard & Poor's (S&P)

Original sources for the Credit Rating data: Standard & Poor's Global Ratings Reports.

Variables:

Standard & Poor's Credit Rating

QoG Code: sp_credit_rating

Standard & Poor's Credit Rating: A measure of the creditworthiness of a country or institution, reflecting the ability to meet financial commitments. Ratings are assigned on a scale from AAA (highest) to D (default), with intermediate levels such as AA, A, BBB, etc. based on the entity's economic stability, debt obligations, and repayment history. Data sourced from Standard & Poor's Global Ratings.

The Gender Inequality Index

Dataset by: United Nations Development Program

United Nations Development Program. (2022). Gender inequality index. http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii

United Nations Development Program. (2024). Human development report 2023/2024. https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2023-24

Dataset available at:
https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) reflects gender-based disadvantage in three dimensions - reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market - for as many countries as data of reasonable quality allow. It shows the loss in potential human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in these dimensions. It ranges from 0, where women and men fare equally, to 1, where one gender fares as poorly as possible in all measured dimensions.

Variables:

Gender Inequality Index

QoG Code: gii_gii

The GII is an inequality index (0 to 1 higher disparity). It measures gender inequalities in three important aspects of human development-reproductive health, measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates; empowerment, measured by proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least some secondary education; and economic status, expressed as labour market participation and measured by labour force participation rate of female and male populations aged 15 years and older. The GII is built on the same framework as the IHDI-to better expose differences in the distribution of achievements between women and men. It measures the human development costs of gender inequality. Thus the higher the GII value the more disparities between females and males and the more loss to human development.

Other Policy Relevant Indicators (OPRI)

Dataset by: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

UNESCO. (2024). Unesco institute for statistics: Other policy relevant indicators (opri) [Adapted from: Other Policy Relevant Indicators (OPRI)]. http://data.uis.unesco.org/

The dataset from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics provides comprehensive data on the average years of schooling, disaggregated by gender. It helps track educational attainment levels globally and regionally, offering critical insights into gender disparities in education.

Variables:

Average Years of Schooling for Women

QoG Code: opri_yearschoolf

The average number of years of education received by women aged 25 years and older, based on current data and estimates.

Average Years of Schooling for Men

QoG Code: opri_yearschoolm

The average number of years of education received by men aged 25 years and older, based on current data and estimates.

The Worldwide Governance Indicators

Dataset by: The World Bank Group

Good governance is essential for development. It helps countries improve economic growth, build human capital, and strengthen social cohesion. The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) are designed to help researchers and analysts assess broad patterns in perceptions of governance across countries and over time.

The WGI aggregate data from more than 30 think tanks, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and private firms across the world selected on the basis of three key criteria:

1) they are produced by credible organizations;

2) they provide comparable cross-country data; and

3) they are regularly updated.

The data reflect the diverse views on governance of many stakeholders worldwide, including tens of thousands of survey respondents and experts.

The WGI feature six aggregate governance indicators for over 200 countries and territories over the period 1996 - 2023:

- Voice and Accountability

- Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism

- Government Effectiveness

- Regulatory Quality

- Rule of Law

- Control of Corruption

The WGI were developed in 1999 by two World Bank researchers, Daniel Kaufmann and Aart Kraay. The data are updated annually each September. For questions about the WGI data please contact Aart Kraay.

Variables:

Government Effectiveness, Estimate

QoG Code: wbgi_gee

Government Effectiveness - Estimate: 'Government Effectiveness' combines into a single grouping responses on the quality of public service provision, the quality of the bureaucracy, the competence of civil servants, the independence of the civil service from political pressures, and the credibility of the government's commitment to policies. The main focus of this index is on 'inputs' required for the government to be able to produce and implement good policies and deliver public goods.

Varieties of Democracy Dataset version 13

Dataset by: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project

Coppedge, M., Gerring, J., Knutsen, C. H., Lindberg, S. I., Teorell, J., Altman, D., Bernhard, M., Cornell, A., Fish, M. S., Gastaldi, L., Gjerløw, H., Glynn, A., God, A. G., Grahn, S., Hicken, A., Kinzelbach, K., Krusell, J., Marquardt, K. L., McMann, K., . . . Ziblatt, D. (2023). V-dem [country-year/country-date] dataset v13. https://doi.org/10.23696/vdemds23

Pemstein, D., Marquardt, K. L., Tzelgov, E., Wang, Y.-t., Medzihorsky, J., Krusell, J., Miri, F., & von Römer, J. (2023). The v-dem measurement model: Latent variable analysis for cross-national and cross-temporal expert-coded data. *Varieties of Democracy Institute Working Paper*, *21*(8th Ed)

Coppedge, M., Gerring, J., Knutsen, C. H., Lindberg, S. I., Teorell, J., Altman, D., Bernhard, M., Cornell, A., Fish, M. S., Gastaldi, L., Gjerløw, H., Glynn, A., Grahn, S., Hicken, A., Kinzelbach, K., Marquardt, K. L., McMann, K., Mechkova, V., Neundorf, A., . . . Ziblatt, D. (2023). V-dem codebook v13

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a novel approach to conceptualizing and measuring democracy. It provides a multidimensional and disaggregated dataset that reflects the complexity of the concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections. The V-Dem project distinguishes between five high-level principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian, and collects data to measure these principles.

Please note there have been some changes introduced to the methodology; please refer to the website of the original source to read said modifications in more detail.

Variables:

Liberal Democracy Index

QoG Code: vdem_libdem

Liberal democracy index

Question: To what extent is the ideal of liberal democracy achieved?

Clarification: The liberal principle of democracy emphasizes the importance of protecting individual and minority rights against the tyranny of the state and the tyranny of the majority. The liberal model takes a "negative" view of political power insofar as it judges the quality of democracy by the limits placed on government. This is achieved by constitutionally protected civil liberties, strong rule of law, an independent judiciary, and effective checks and balances that, together, limit the exercise of executive power. To make this a measure of liberal democracy, the index also takes the level of electoral democracy into account.

Electoral Democracy Index

QoG Code: vdem_polyarchy

Electoral democracy index

Question: To what extent is the ideal of electoral democracy in its fullest sense achieved?

Clarification: The electoral principle of democracy seeks to embody the core value of making rulers responsive to citizens, achieved through electoral competition for the electorates approval under circumstances when suffrage is extensive; political and civil society organizations can operate freely; elections are clean and not marred by fraud or systematic irregularities; and elections affect the composition of the chief executive of the country. In between elections, there is freedom of expression and an independent media capable of presenting alternative views on matters of political relevance. In the V-Dem conceptual scheme, electoral democracy is understood as an essential element of any other conception of representative democracy liberal, participatory, deliberative, egalitarian, or some other.

Aggregation: The index is formed by taking the average of, on the one hand, the weighted average of the indices measuring freedom of association thick, clean elections, freedom of expression, elected officials, and suffrage and, on the other, the five-way multiplicative interaction between those indices. This is half way between a straight average and strict multiplication, meaning the average of the two. It is thus a compromise between the two most well known aggregation formulas in the literature, both allowing partial "compensation" in one sub-component for lack of polyarchy in the others, but also punishing countries not strong in one sub-component according to the "weakest link" argument. The aggregation is done at the level of Dahls subcomponents with the one exception of the non-electoral component.

World Development Indicators

Dataset by: The World Bank Group

The primary World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially-recognized international sources. It presents the most current and accurate global development data available, and includes national, regional and global estimates

This is an adaptation of an original work by The World Bank. Views and opinions expressed in the adaptation are the sole responsibility of the author or authors of the adaptation and are not endorsed by The World Bank.

Variables:

Current health expenditure (% of GDP)

QoG Code: wdi_chexppgdp

Current health expenditure (% of GDP). Level of current health expenditure expressed as a percentage of GDP. Estimates of current health expenditures include healthcare goods and services consumed during each year. This indicator does not include capital health expenditures such as buildings, machinery, IT and stocks of vaccines for emergency or outbreaks.

CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)

QoG Code: wdi_co2

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions excluding LULUCF per capita (t CO2e/capita). It stems from the burning of fossil fuels and the manufacture of cement. They include carbon dioxide produced during consumption of solid, liquid, and gas fuels and gas flaring.

Domestic general government health expenditure (% of GDP)

QoG Code: wdi_dgovhexp

Domestic general government health expenditure (% of GDP). Public expenditure on health from domestic sources as a share of the economy as measured by GDP.

Domestic private health expenditure (% of current health expenditure)

QoG Code: wdi_dprivhexp

Domestic private health expenditure (% of current health expenditure). Share of current health expenditures funded from domestic private sources. Domestic private sources include funds from households, corporations and non-profit organizations. Such expenditures can be either prepaid to voluntary health insurance or paid directly to healthcare providers.

Military expenditure (% of GDP)

QoG Code: wdi_expmil

Military expenditure (% of GDP). Military expenditures data from SIPRI are derived from the NATO definition, which includes all current and capital expenditures on the armed forces, including peacekeeping forces; defense ministries and other government agencies engaged in defense projects; paramilitary forces, if these are judged to be trained and equipped for military operations; and military space activities. Such expenditures include military and civil personnel, including retirement pensions of military personnel and social services for personnel; operation and maintenance; procurement; military research and development; and military aid (in the military expenditures of the donor country). Excluded are civil defense and current expenditures for previous military activities, such as for veterans' benefits, demobilization, conversion, and destruction of weapons. This definition cannot be applied for all countries, however, since that would require much more detailed information than is available about what is included in military budgets and off-budget military expenditure items. (For example, military budgets might or might not cover civil defense, reserves and auxiliary forces, police and paramilitary forces, dual-purpose forces such as military and civilian police, military grants in kind, pensions for military personnel, and social security contributions paid by one part of government to another).

Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)

QoG Code: wdi_export

Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services, such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude compensation of employees and investment income (formerly called factor services) and transfer payments.

Fertility rate, total (births per woman)

QoG Code: wdi_fertility

Total fertility rate represents the number of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and bear children in accordance with age-specific fertility rates of the specified year.

Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP)

QoG Code: wdi_gdpagr

Agriculture corresponds to ISIC divisions 1-5 and includes forestry, hunting, and fishing, as well

as cultivation of crops and livestock production. Value added is the net output of a sector after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or depletion and degradation of natural resources. The origin of value added is determined by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), revision 3 or 4.

Gini index

QoG Code: wdi_gini

Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Lorenz curve plots the cumulative percentages of total income received against the cumulative number of recipients, starting with the poorest individual or household. The Gini index measures the area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality, expressed as a percentage of the maximum area under the line. Thus a Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

Intentional homicides (per 100,000 people)

QoG Code: wdi_homicides

Intentional homicides are estimates of unlawful homicides purposely inflicted as a result of domestic disputes, interpersonal violence, violent conflicts over land resources, intergang violence over turf or control, and predatory violence and killing by armed groups. Intentional homicide does not include all intentional killing; the difference is usually in the organization of the killing. Individuals or small groups usually commit homicide, whereas killing in armed conflict is usually committed by fairly cohesive groups of up to several hundred members and is thus usually excluded.

Individuals using the Internet (% of population)

QoG Code: wdi_internet

Internet users are individuals who have used the Internet (from any location) in the last 3 months. The Internet can be used via a computer, mobile phone, personal digital assistant, games machine, digital TV etc.

Urban population (% of total population)

QoG Code: wdi_popurb

Urban population refers to people living in urban areas as defined by national statistical offices. The data are collected and smoothed by United Nations Population Division.

Prevalence of current tobacco use, females (% of female adults)

QoG Code: wdi_smokf

The percentage of the female population ages 15 years and over who currently use any tobacco product (smoked and/or smokeless tobacco) on a daily or non-daily basis. Tobacco products include cigarettes, pipes, cigars, cigarillos, waterpipes (hookah, shisha), bidis, kretek, heated tobacco products, and all forms of smokeless (oral and nasal) tobacco. Tobacco products exclude e-cigarettes (which do not contain tobacco), e-cigars, e-hookahs, JUUL and e-pipes. The rates are age-standardized to the WHO Standard Population.

Prevalence of current tobacco use, males (% of male adults)

QoG Code: wdi_smokm

The percentage of the male population ages 15 years and over who currently use any tobacco product (smoked and/or smokeless tobacco) on a daily or non-daily basis. Tobacco products include cigarettes, pipes, cigars, cigarillos, waterpipes (hookah, shisha), bidis, kretek, heated tobacco products, and all forms of smokeless (oral and nasal) tobacco. Tobacco products exclude e-cigarettes (which do not contain tobacco), e-cigars, e-hookahs, JUUL and e-pipes. The rates are age-standardized to the WHO Standard Population.

Tax revenue (% of GDP)

QoG Code: wdi_taxrev

Tax revenue refers to compulsory transfers to the central government for public purposes. Certain compulsory transfers such as fines, penalties, and most social security contributions are excluded. Refunds and corrections of erroneously collected tax revenue are treated as negative revenue.

Note: The value for San Marino for 1995 was extremely high (44326) and has been recoded to missing.

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)

QoG Code: wdi_wip

Women in parliaments are the percentage of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber held by women.

World Population Prospects

Dataset by: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The 2024 Revision of World Population Prospects is the twenty-eighth edition of official United Nations population estimates and projections that have been prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. It presents population estimates from 1950 to the present for 237 countries or areas, underpinned by analyses of historical demographic trends. This latest assessment considers the results of 1,910 national population censuses conducted between 1950 and 2023, as well as information from vital registration systems and from 3,189 nationally representative sample surveys. The 2024 revision also presents population projections to the year 2100 that reflect a range of plausible outcomes at the global, regional and national levels.

Variables:

Median Age, as of 1 July (years)

QoG Code: wpp_medianage

The age that divides the population into two equal groups as of July 1st, where half the population is younger and half is older.

Net Migration Rate (per 1,000 population)

QoG Code: wpp_netmig

The net number of migrants (immigrants minus emigrants) per 1,000 individuals in the population during a specified period. A positive rate indicates net immigration, while a negative rate indicates net emigration.

Population Sex Ratio, as of 1 July (males per 100 females)

QoG Code: wpp_sexratio

The ratio of males to females in the population as of July 1st of the specified year. It is expressed as the number of males per 100 females.

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