Perceptions on gender equality, gender-based violence, lived poverty and basic freedoms
12 February 2015

Institute for Public Policy Research
At a Glance

• Perceptions of gender equality
  – Namibians’ support of women in political leadership vs. women’s interest in politics

• Perceptions on gender-based violence (GBV) in Namibia
  – Insights on Namibians’ experience of GBV, and their perceived reasons for these crimes

• Perceptions of Lived Poverty trace official statics on poverty decline.

• Perceptions of Basic Freedoms – Namibians feel that they have high levels of personal freedom.
What is Afrobarometer?

• An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.


• **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.

• National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In Namibia, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by Survey Warehouse supervised by IPPR.

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Where Afrobarometer works

Face-to-Face Interviews | 35 Countries
Surveys by state, region
Methodology

• Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  □ All respondents are randomly selected.
  □ Sample is distributed across all 14 regions and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
  □ Every adult citizen has an equal chance of being selected.

• Face-to-face interviews In the language of the respondent’s choice.
• Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
• Sample size in Namibia of 1200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
• Fieldwork for Round 6 in Namibia was conducted between 27 August and 19 September 2014.
## Survey Demographics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Un-weighted</th>
<th>Weighted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
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<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<td>Primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post secondary</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province/Region</th>
<th>Un-weighted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zambezi</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erongo</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardap</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>!Karas</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kavango West</td>
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<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kavango East</td>
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<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Khomas</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kunene</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohangwena</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omaheke</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omusati</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oshana</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshikoto</td>
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<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otjozondjupa</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</table>
Gender equality
Key Findings

- The majority of Namibians (80%) believe women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.

- The number of Namibians who support women in political leadership grew from 70% in 2012, to 80% in 2014.

- Although women express higher levels of support for women in politics than men do, they continue to show lower levels of interest in politics.
Namibians’ support for women in political leadership in 2014

Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view. Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women, and should be elected rather than women. Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.
Changing support for women in political leadership

Respondents were asked: whether women should have the same chance of being elected to political office (vs. beliefs that men make better leaders)
Regional Support for women in political leadership

Respondents were asked: whether women should have the same chance of being elected to political office (vs. beliefs that men make better leaders)
Are women interested in politics?

Respondents were asked: how interested they would say they were in public affairs.
Respondents were asked: How interested would you say you are in public affairs?
Do women discuss politics?

Respondents were asked: When you get together with your friends or family, would you say you discuss political matters?
Respondents were asked: When you get together with your friends or family, would you say you discuss political matters?
Gender-based violence

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Key Findings

• 13% of Namibian women, and 7% of men reported that they, or a member of their family had been a victim of gender based violence.

• Namibians felt that in 2014, alcohol abuse contributed most significantly to GBV, followed by unemployment and poverty.

• Culture and tradition were not perceived to be major contributors to GBV in Namibia.
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Been a victim of gender-based violence?
Fear and/or experience of crime, including GBV

Respondents were asked whether they, or someone in their family feared, or had experienced the above.
Perceptions on the factors that contribute to GBV

Respondents were asked how much they thought the above factors contributed to GBV in Namibia in 2014.
Lived poverty
Key findings

- Urban and male respondents were around 9% more likely to never face food shortage in Round 6.

- Namibian respondents were only likely to experience food shortage several times, many times, or always with 21% agreement.

- Kunene, Kavango West, and Ohangwena were the only regions to experience less than half of respondents “never” going without food.

- Only three regions (Zambezi, Erongo, and Hardap) featured more than half of the respondents who “never” experienced a shortage of cash income.

- Over time since 1999, there is evidence of a decline in those reporting shortages in food and cash income. Simultaneously, those reporting “never” have increased over time.
Respondents were asked: How often have you gone without food?
Gone without cash income 2014?

Respondents were asked: How often have you gone without a cash income?
Respondents were asked: How often have you gone without food? Cash income?
Going without a cash income?

Never/ cash income

- Otjiwarongo: 42%
- Oshikoto: 26%
- Oshana: 35%
- Omusati: 24%
- Omaheke: 21%
- Ohangwena: 16%
- Kunene: 18%
- Khomas: 39%
- Kavango East: 37%
- Kavango West: 20%
- IKaras: 41%
- Hardap: 52%
- Erongo: 54%
- Zambezi: 51%

How often have you gone without food?
Regional distribution going without food

Respondents were asked: How often have you gone without food?

- Otjiwarongo: 58%
- Oshikoto: 61%
- Oshana: 64%
- Omusati: 53%
- Omaheke: 56%
- Ohangwena: 48%
- Kunene: 20%
- Komas: 56%
- Kavango East: 61%
- Kavango West: 48%
- !Karas: 64%
- Hardap: 70%
- Erongo: 58%
- Zambezi: 75%
Basic freedoms
Key findings

- 91% of respondents expressed that they were somewhat or completely free to say what they wanted.

- 98% of respondents expressed freedom to vote for whom they wanted.

- 95% say they are free to join any political organisation they wanted.
Respondents were asked: How free are you to say what you think?
Respondents were asked: How free are you to choose who to vote for?

- Somewhat free: 13%
- Completely free: 85%
Respondents were asked: Freedom to join any political organisation?

- Somewhat free: 15%
- Completely free: 80%

Respondents were asked: Freedom to join any political organisation?
Conclusions
Conclusions

• Both male and female respondents felt that Namibia was ready for the 50-50 gender empowerment.
• Alcohol was seen as the most important contributor to gender based violence.
• The “lived poverty” experience tracked the official poverty results downward.
• Namibian respondents continued to feel that the country experiences high levels of personal freedom.