

# AB update

December 2020 highlights



## In the field and around the network

- ✓ **Benin, Mauritius, and Zambia** completed Round 8 data collection, and Senegal and Togo headed into the field. Coming up: Sudan, the Gambia. ...
- ✓ Data collection started for AB's first telephone survey, on **COVID-19 in Namibia**, and for an annual survey in **Uganda**.
- ✓ The [2020 Ibrahim Index of Africa Governance](#) highlights Afrobarometer data in a new "**Citizens' Voices**" section.
- ✓ AB and four African partner organizations won a major four-year **grant from the European Union** Delegation to the African Union to strengthen implementation of the democracy, governance, and human rights agenda on the continent.
- ✓ A three-week "**Afrobarometer analytic seminar: News media, social media, and fake news**" trained researchers from throughout Africa. The next seminar, in early 2021, will focus on COVID-19, public health, and social security.
- ✓ The network mourns the loss of **Stan Henkeman**, executive director of AB core partner Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, who died Dec. 18 following complications from COVID-19.

## In the spotlight

- ✓ **AB in the media:** 264 media hits were recorded in December across various local and international outlets, including [Modern Diplomacy](#), [Libreville.com](#), [LeFaso.net](#), [Les Echos](#), [Financial Times](#), [Guinée7.com](#), [ASemana](#) (Cabo Verde), [Newsbeezer](#). ...



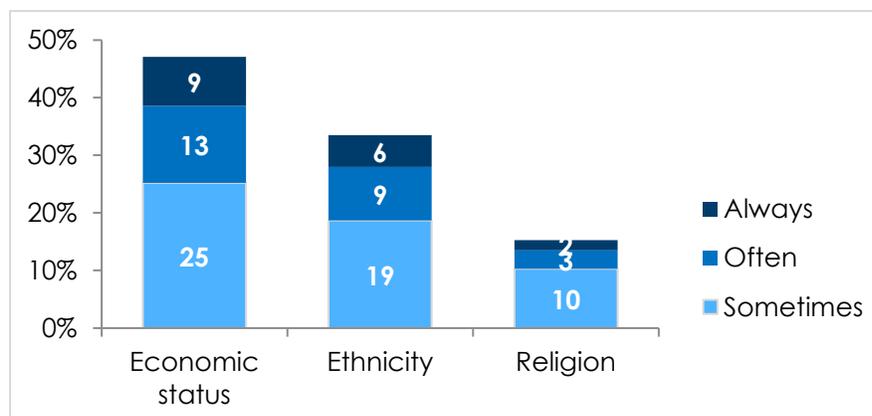
## Happy new year!

We wish all of our supporters and friends a **new year filled with joy, good health, and success**. Our heartfelt **thanks** for making 2020, despite its many challenges, a fruitful year for AB as we:

- Completed Round 8 surveys in 11 more countries, before and after a seven-month COVID-19 pause, for a total of 22 countries so far.
- Released more than 120 publications, including 37 on [COVID-19-related topics](#).
- Recruited a CEO, established a Board of Directors and an International Advisory Council, and operationalized new Engagement, Analysis, and Capacity Building teams.
- Trained researchers in questionnaire design, data analysis, and other topics.
- Secured high visibility and strong partnerships that will keep our work going!

## Chart of the month

Unfair treatment based on economic status, ethnicity, religion | 18 countries | 2019/2020



**Respondents were asked:**  
 How often, if ever, are people like you treated unfairly by the government based on your economic status, that is, how rich or poor you are?  
 How often, if ever, are [members of respondent's ethnic group/religious group] treated unfairly by the government?

## On digital/social media

Website	12,294 users; 3,663 downloads
Twitter	79 new followers, for a total of 20,603
Facebook	14,457 total followers
Online data analysis	3,776 distinct users, for a 2020 total of 38,375

## Publications

- ✓ Dispatch 417: Elections in Uganda: A better mechanism for accountability than for representation?
- ✓ Dispatch 416: En Côte d'Ivoire, la fourniture des services d'eau et d'assainissement demeure insuffisante
- ✓ Dispatch 415: Double standard? Ugandans see vote buying as 'wrong and punishable,' vote selling less so
- ✓ Dispatch 414: Au Mali, le chômage est un phénomène urbain, à visage jeune et éduqué
- ✓ Dispatch 413: Citizens endorse traditional leaders, see greater role in contemporary Lesotho
- ✓ Dispatch 412: Ties that bind? Evidence of both unity and division in 18 African countries
- ✓ Dispatch 411: Citizens of Southern African Customs Union hold mixed views on free trade and open borders
- ✓ Dispatch 410: Promise and peril: In changing media landscape, Africans are concerned about social media but opposed to restricting access

## Visibility

- ✓ AB continued its **biweekly series** in the Washington Post Monkey Cage with articles on digital media and social cohesion.
- ✓ AB data featured in "African attitudes toward same-sex relationships, 1982-2018" by Kim Yi Dionne and Boniface Dulani, in the **Oxford Research Encyclopedias: Politics**.
- ✓ AB's national partner in Guinea, Stat View International, marked **International Anti-Corruption Day** with programs on national TV and radio.



## Presentations:

- ✓ "Looking in, looking out: New findings on democracy, trade, and global relations from Afrobarometer Round 8," to staff of USAID, the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, hosted by the United States Institute of Peace
- ✓ On citizen priorities, perceived direction of country, economic conditions, and public trust, as part of a Center for Strategic & International Studies webinar

## Support for Afrobarometer



Round 8 surveys are continuing in 2021 thanks to support from Sweden via the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) via the U.S. Institute of Peace, the National Endowment for Democracy, the European Union Delegation to the African Union, Freedom House, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda, GIZ, and Humanity United. Voices of support will continue to be essential to ensure Afrobarometer's long-term sustainability.



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