

# AB update

March 2021 highlights



## In the field and around the network



✓ **Joe Asunka**, left, assumes his duties as Afrobarometer's **new CEO** on 1 April, taking over for the retiring **E. Gyimah-Boadi**. Asunka, who began his research career with AB in 2004, returns after academic and programmatic work at UCLA and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Gyimah-Boadi, the network's co-founder and long-time executive director, will continue to serve as chairman of the board of directors.



- ✓ National partners in **Cameroon** and **Sudan** completed Round 8 fieldwork, and eSwatini headed into the field. Coming up: Zimbabwe, Madagascar. ...
- ✓ AB strengthened its funding position with finalization of its USAID/USIP **grant**.
- ✓ AB's **Round 9** planning meeting is in the works, to be held virtually by region.

## In the news

A total of 196 media hits were recorded in March across various media outlets, including the [Economist](#), [Chicago Booth Review](#), [République Togolaise](#), [Hewlett Foundation](#), [RealClearDefense](#), [Le Mauricien](#), [Radio-Canada](#), [Daily Maverick](#), [Liberian Observer](#), [Conversation](#), [Washington Post](#), [GhanaWeb](#), [Nouvelle Tribune](#) (Benin), [Financial Times](#), [Stars and Stripes](#), [Pulse](#). ...

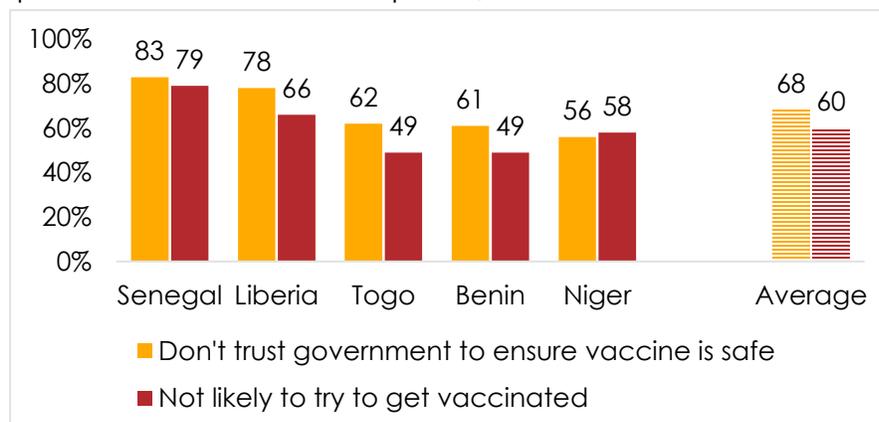


## On digital/social media

<b>Website</b>	19,866 users; 6,232 downloads
<b>Online data analysis</b>	4,559 distinct users; 40,320 pages served
<b>Twitter</b>	20,603 followers

## Chart of the month

**Don't trust government to ensure COVID-19 vaccine safety, unlikely to get vaccinated**  
| 5 West African countries | 2020/2021



**Respondents were asked:**  
How much do you trust the government to ensure that any vaccine for COVID-19 that is developed or offered citizens is safe before it is used in this country? (% "not at all" or "just a little")  
If a vaccine for COVID-19 becomes available and the government says it is safe, how likely are you to try to get vaccinated? (% "not very likely" or "not at all likely")

## Publications

- ✓ Policy Paper 72: Who gets involved? Insights on civic engagement in Africa and implications for fostering volunteerism
- ✓ Policy Paper 71: En Côte d'Ivoire, la situation politique mine le niveau sécuritaire
- ✓ Dispatch 437: Imposer le paiement des impôts: Une bonne partie des Burkinabè réticents, demandent l'équité
- ✓ Dispatch 436: COVID-19 impact? Ugandans grow more discontent with economic and living conditions
- ✓ Dispatch 435: A never-ending problem: Ugandans say corruption level has increased, rate government fight against corruption poorly
- ✓ Dispatch 434: Les Nigériens font plus confiance aux prières qu'aux vaccins pour prévenir la COVID-19
- ✓ Dispatch 433: Beyond borders? Africans prefer self-reliant development but remain skeptical of free trade and open borders
- ✓ Dispatch 432: Who wants COVID-19 vaccination? In 5 West African countries, hesitancy is high, trust low
- ✓ Dispatch 431: Zambians approve of government's COVID-19 response despite questions about aid, vaccines
- ✓ Dispatch 430: Les Sénégalais approuvent la réponse gouvernementale à la pandémie de COVID-19 mais restent sceptiques vis-à-vis des vaccins
- ✓ Dispatch 429: La COVID-19 au Togo: Les citoyens sont satisfaits de la réponse du gouvernement mais sceptiques quant aux vaccins

## Visibility

- ✓ AB continued its bi-weekly series in the Washington Post Monkey Cage with posts on economic integration and on West Africans' attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccines.
- ✓ AB will host a #VoicesAfrica **webinar on free trade, cross-border movement, and development assistance on 9 April**. Here's the link for registration: <https://bit.ly/3cKlmx3>.



## Presentations:

- ✓ On security, to the African Parliamentarians' Forum, African Center for Strategic Studies
- ✓ On active citizenship for transformational change, Star Ghana Foundation
- ✓ On AB Round 8 survey findings, to Sida
- ✓ On communicating research findings, for a CDD/Hoover Institution program on strengthening the capacity of civil society to counter propaganda and disinformation
- ✓ On climate change, for a Civil Society Organisation-Local Authorities consultation on the EU regional program for sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027

## Support for Afrobarometer



Afrobarometer surveys are continuing in 2021 thanks to financial 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, Freedom House, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda, Humanity United, the European Union Delegation to the African Union, and GIZ. Voices of support will continue to be essential, however, to ensure Afrobarometer's long-term sustainability.