AB update

October 2019 highlights

In the field and around the network...

✓ Amina Oyagbola (at left), a business leader and former MTN Nigeria executive, and Lara Taylor-Pearce (at right), auditor general of Sierra Leone, have joined Afrobarometer’s board of directors.
✓ Ghana and Uganda completed Round 8 data collection, while Côte d’Ivoire headed into the field. Next up: Nigeria, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Angola...
✓ Botswana and Namibia began R8 results dissemination.
✓ Afrobarometer’s Francophone Summer School got underway in Bamako, Mali. Over two weeks, 17 participants from 12 countries (see photo at right) are gaining data analysis and other research skills.
✓ What difference have we made? See the latest installment in our “AB stories” video series.

In the news

A total of 321 media hits were recorded in October across various media outlets, including the South African, Forbes, Jeune Afrique, allAfrica.com, Xinhua News, Namibian, International Business Times, Bloomberg, My Joy Online, El Confidencial...

On digital/social media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>15,476 users; 4,932 downloads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online data analysis</td>
<td>2,487 distinct users; 29,736 pages served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>198 new followers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>11,958 total followers</td>
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</tbody>
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Chart of the month

Would legalizing marijuana cultivation harm or help the country? | eSwatini | 2018

- 6% Legalization would do some harm/a lot of harm
- 31% Legalization would do some good/a lot of good
- 63% Neither harm nor good/Don’t know/Refused

Respondents were asked: In your opinion, do you think legalizing the cultivation and production of marijuana would cause harm or do good to eSwatini?
New publications

- **Dispatch 325**: Les Togolais ne sont pas satisfaits de la performance du gouvernement en éducation
- **Dispatch 324**: Despite progressive laws, barriers to full gender equality persist in South Africa
- **Dispatch 323**: In eSwatini, citizens doubt benefits of legalizing marijuana, but few would report violations
- **Dispatch 322**: Gambians with clear message to government: Focus on service delivery

Visibility

- Nigeria’s former President **Olusegun Obasanjo** (at right) highlighted AB’s work as “central to the fortunes of the African continent” in his keynote address to British parliamentarians and thought leaders at the University of Strathclyde/Afrobarometer Conference on “Public Opinion, Democratic Governance, and Inclusive Development in Africa” in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Afrobarometer and Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer – Africa 2019 was cited by:
  - Nigerian President **Muhammadu Buhari**, in a statement on Twitter to condemn the alleged coup attempt in Ghana.
  - Ghanian President **Nana Akufo-Addo**, as evidence of his government’s commitment to fighting corruption.
- South Africa’s Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries cited AB findings on “climate change literacy” in her keynote address at the 10th Oppenheimer Research Conference.
- AB and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation published their first joint research paper, “‘Updata-ing’ the narrative about African migration.”
- AB data was featured extensively at the “State of Democracy in Central and Southern Africa” conference in Cape Town, including in Graça Machel’s keynote address and in a related op-ed, “Defending democracy,” by Kofi Annan Foundation President Alan Doss and Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance Director Faizel Ismail.
- **E. Gyimah-Boadi** gave the keynote address, on linkages between democratic governance and development, at the ESID Research Centre Conference, Manchester, UK.
- AB’s **Carolyn Logan** co-authored “Improving data quality in face-to-face survey research” in PS: Political Science & Politics.

Presentations:

- On trends in lived poverty, service-delivery infrastructure, and other topics, to Sida in Stockholm, at a public seminar hosted by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki, and at the University of Strathclyde/AB Conference on “Public Opinion, Democratic Governance and Inclusive Development in Africa” in Glasgow
- On gender, to UNICEF and other UN agencies, in Pretoria, South Africa
- On conducting surveys in Africa, at a Nordic Africa Institute research seminar in Uppsala, Sweden
- On strategic governance approaches to migration, at the Joint Post-Tana Regional Multi-Stakeholder Forum in Dakar, Senegal

Support for Afrobarometer

Thanks to Sweden, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) via the U.S. Institute of Peace, Afrobarometer surveys are continuing in 2019. But voices of support will continue to be essential to ensure Afrobarometer’s long-term sustainability.