

AB update

September 2020 highlights



In the field and around the network

- ✓ AB announced that Dr. **Joseph Asunka**, currently with the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, will succeed Professor E. Gyimah-Boadi as Afrobarometer chief executive officer in early 2021.
- ✓ After a seven-month pause in fieldwork due to COVID-19, AB is preparing to **resume Round 8 data collection** in selected countries meeting safety and data-quality criteria. Protocols will include remote technical assistance and personal protective equipment for field teams. A new battery of questions will focus on the pandemic.
- ✓ AB is set to conduct its **first-ever telephone survey**, a pilot study in Namibia on the COVID-19 pandemic. Adapting AB's rigorous face-to-face methodology, the survey may serve as a model for future polls on special topics.
- ✓ Humanity United has provided AB a **grant** to support increasing the sample size for its Round 8 survey in Sudan.
- ✓ An online **team effectiveness workshop** brought together AB staff currently working from home because of COVID-19.
- ✓ Country teams released **Round 8 findings** in Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Kenya, Malawi, Guinea, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Gabon, and Lesotho.



Asunka

In the news

A total of 152 media hits were recorded in September across various media outlets, including [Business Daily](#) (Kenya), [Quartz](#), [EU Science Hub](#), [Maliactu.info](#), [South China Morning Post](#), [RFI](#), [Kapitalis](#) (Tunisia), [Angola 24 Horas](#), [African Arguments](#), [aLibreville.com](#). ...



On digital/social media

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|----------------------|--|
| Website | 15,620 users; 3,766 downloads |
| Online data analysis | 4,534 distinct users |
| Twitter | 432 new followers, for a total of 20,181 |
| Facebook | 13,881 total followers |

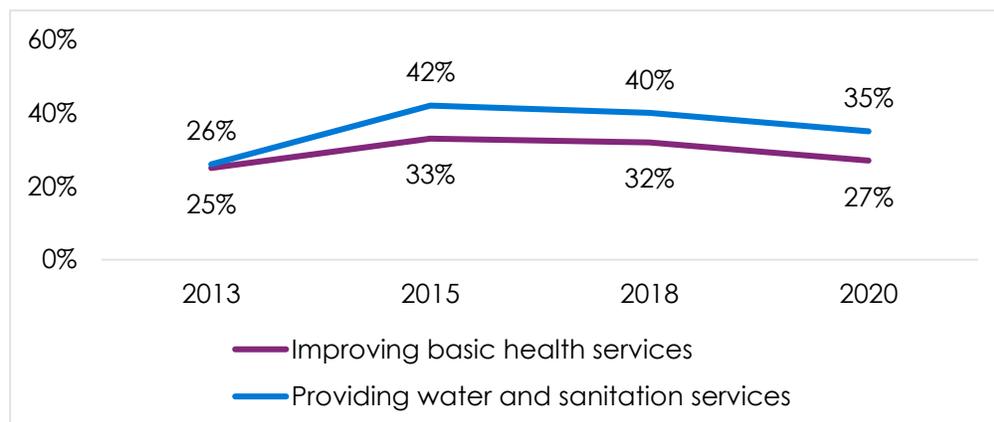


Publications

- ✓ Dispatch 394: Amid lucrative exports of natural resources, Basotho overwhelmingly feel left out
- ✓ Dispatch 393: Many Tunisians lack adequate access to health care and water, rate government poorly
- ✓ Dispatch 392: La démocratie guinéenne est-elle piégée?
- ✓ Dispatch 391: Les Gabonais demandent plus de liberté d'expression, mais pas pour critiquer le président
- ✓ Dispatch 390: Les institutions démocratiques ont-elles failli? Ivoiriens, Guinéens, et Sénégalais à l'épreuve des troisièmes mandats qu'ils rejettent
- ✓ Dispatch 389: Nigerian government doing a poor job on water/sanitation and health care, citizens say
- ✓ Dispatch 388: Pour le meilleur comme le pire, plus de Guinéens font recours aux médias digitaux

Chart of the month

Approval of government performance on health care and water | Tunisia | 2013-2020



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

Visibility

- ✓ The **Africa Report** published an AB blog post titled "[US/Africa policy must have voices of ordinary people from across the continent.](#)"
- ✓ The European Commission's Joint Research Centre published a report on "[Youth perspectives in Africa](#)" based on AB data.
- ✓ In observance of **International Day of Democracy** (15 September), AB led a Twitter chat on democracy and published democracy-related findings from Guinea, Gabon, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal.
- ✓ The **African Development Bank** has invited AB interim CEO E. Gyimah-Boadi to join its Civil Society Committee as a representative of the governance and accountability thematic area.
- ✓ AB launched its **#VoicesAfrica webinar series** with a discussion of survey findings on perceptions of China in Africa.
- ✓ AB participated in a stakeholder review for the **AUDA-NEPAD** think tank initiative.
- ✓ The **Konrad Adenauer Foundation** released its "[Guide économique](#)" for elected officials and the general public in West Africa, based on Round 7 AB data.



Presentations:

- ✓ On democracy-related findings in West Africa, to the Virtual Experts Meeting on Democracy and Governance Trends in West Africa, organized by the West Africa Civil Society Institute and Open Society Initiative for West Africa.
- ✓ On "COVID-19 In Africa: Vulnerabilities and assets," as part of the International Webinar on Emerging Trends in Democracy in a Pandemic Impacted World by the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education, Jain University.
- ✓ On "Africans' unfinished journeys: Partisan detachment without partisan switching," at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

Support for Afrobarometer



Afrobarometer surveys are continuing in 2020 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, and Humanity United. But voices of support will continue to be essential to ensure Afrobarometer's long-term sustainability.