AB update

September 2021 highlights

In the field and around the network
✓ Preparations are under way to launch Round 9 fieldwork, starting in October in Namibia, Ghana, Kenya, and Côte d'Ivoire.
✓ As part of global outreach, CEO Joe Asunka, Board Chair E. Gyimah-Boadi, and senior adviser Robert Mattes engaged stakeholders in Europe – including former German President Horst Köhler, BMZ, GIZ, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the European Commission, the UK House of Commons All-Party Parliamentary Group on Africa, and the Royal African Society, among others – to formally introduce Joe as CEO and discuss avenues for collaboration.
✓ The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded AB a three-year grant to enhance policy impact, expand the use of rapid-response surveys, and build capacity across the continent.
✓ A Japan International Cooperation Agency grant will support AB studies in human security.
✓ AB and the University of Pretoria signed an MOU for a collaboration to boost research and analysis skills among young African researchers.

In the news
A total of 473 media hits were recorded in September across various media outlets, including the Hill, Mail & Guardian, CNN, Washington Post, Daily Maverick, Reuters, East African, Public Radio International, Bloomberg, GhanaWeb, Le Monde, DW, Financial Times, News24 (South Africa), Jeune Afrique, …

On digital/social media

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>21,133 users; 6,244 downloads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online data analysis</td>
<td>5,036 distinct users; 42,278 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>23,007 followers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>15,076 fans</td>
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Chart of the month

Change in level of corruption | South Africa | 2021

Respondents were asked:
In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

- Increased a lot: 49%
- Increased somewhat: 15%
- Stayed the same: 18%
- Decreased somewhat: 12%
- Decreased a lot: 3%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

- Increased a lot
- Increased somewhat
- Stayed the same
- Decreased somewhat
- Decreased a lot
Publications
✓ Policy Paper 76: La liberté d’expression et la liberté de presse: Ingrédients clés de la démocratie togolaise
✓ ‘Dispatch 481: Entre sentiments d’insécurité et d’impunité, les Sénégalais accusent le chômage des jeunes comme principale cause de la délinquance
✓ Dispatch 480: Ugandans see social media as beneficial and want unrestricted access, but are wary of its use to spread fake news
✓ Dispatch 479: Plus d’unité que de division ? Au Cameroun, les avis sont partagés
✓ Dispatch 478: Economic insecurity persists for South Africans
✓ Dispatch 477: Zimbabweans’ fear of retaliation for reporting corruption compounds ‘pandemic within a pandemic’
✓ Dispatch 476: South Africans see corruption as worsening during President Ramaphosa’s tenure
✓ Dispatch 475: Zimbabweans grapple with water shortage amidst COVID-19 pandemic

Visibility
✓ In response to AB findings that a majority of South Africans perceive corruption as increasing, President Cyril Ramaphosa’s office issued a press statement in which he acknowledged citizens’ “lived experiences,” cited his anti-corruption efforts, and pledged to pursue the fight.
✓ AB continued its weekly series in The Continent with pages on Guineans’ views on democracy and authoritarianism, South Africa’s democracy, perceived risk of retaliation for reporting corruption, and popular support for presidential term limits.
✓ AB also pursued its series in the Washington Post Monkey Cage with an analysis on democracy in Guinea.
✓ Robin Harding’s Rural Democracy: Elections and Development in Africa (Oxford University Press) highlights AB data in arguing that democratization has led governments to introduce policies that favor rural areas.

Presentations:
✓ On selected findings from Afrobarometer Round 8 surveys, in roundtable discussions with stakeholders in Berlin, Bonn, and London.
✓ On perceptions and impacts of political parties, at an Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy workshop for political parties from West, Central, and North Africa, in Abidjan.

Support for Afrobarometer
Afrobarometer is grateful for 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. Consistent funding will continue to be essential, however, to ensure Afrobarometer’s long-term sustainability.