

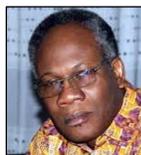
AB update

December 2018 highlights



In the field

- ✓ **Dissemination** of Round 7 findings continued with public briefings, dispatches, and summaries of results.
- ✓ In Benin, core partner IREEP's **WhatsApp conference** focused on "Elections in Africa: Do they guarantee democracy?" with Joël Atayi-Guedegbe, adviser to Benin's public sector regulatory authority and former vice president of the national electoral commission.
- ✓ The AB Executive Committee met to **review Round 7, plan for Round 8**, and move forward in its **organizational strengthening** process.
- ✓ **AB Summer School** graduated 26 African researchers with new skills in research design, statistics, and analysis of African socio-politics. [See our brief video.](#)



In the news

- ✓ **AB in the media:** 91 media hits were recorded in December across various local and international outlets, including the [World Economic Forum](#), [allAfrica.com](#), [UNU-Wider](#), [Carnegie Endowment](#), [the Hill](#), [News Gambia](#), [Modern Ghana](#), [Washington Post](#), [Pulse.ng](#), ...

On digital/social media

Website	9,710 users; 3,941 downloads
Twitter	164 new followers
Facebook	11,240 total followers
Online data analysis	3,307 distinct users

Publications

- ✓ Policy Paper 52: [Bounded autonomy: What limits Zimbabweans' trust in their courts and electoral commission?](#)
- ✓ Dispatch 268: [Climate change making life worse in Liberia, but only half of citizens have heard of it](#)
- ✓ Dispatch 267: [With elections a year away, Mauritians are increasingly critical of government performance](#)
- ✓ Dispatch 266: [Gambians see sharp decline in emigration, though interest in leaving remains high](#)

Happy new year!

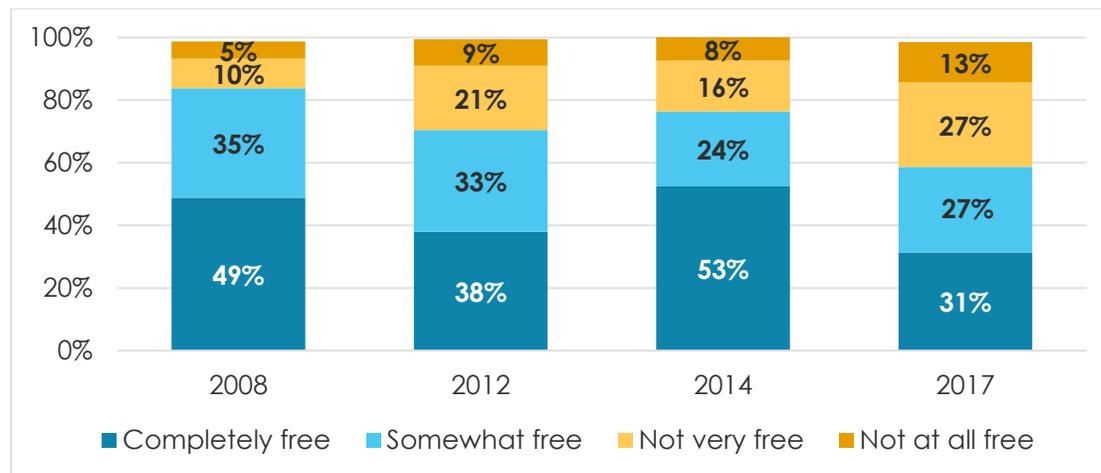
To all our supporters and friends, **happy holidays** and a **healthy, productive new year**. Our heartfelt **thanks** for making our 2018 accomplishments possible:

- Completed Round 7 surveys in 34 countries – a huge achievement in a survey round that began under a cloud of financial uncertainty.
- Switched from pen-and-paper surveys to electronic data capture in all countries.
- Signed funding agreements that provide a solid foundation for Round 8 surveys.
- Core partner Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and national partner Mass Public Opinion Institute completed two pre-election surveys in Zimbabwe.
- Completed most Round 7 required country-level releases.
- Launched Round 7 Pan-Africa Profiles.
- Earned high visibility across Africa and around the world, setting AB records for media hits and use of the website, online data analysis tool, and Twitter.
- Completed AB summer school after a two-year hiatus.
- Welcomed new national partners in the Gambia (CepRass), Liberia (The Khana Group), Morocco (Global for Survey and Consulting), and Mozambique (Ipsos).
- Toasted two of our founders – Profs. E. Gyimah-Boadi and Michael Bratton – who won "Distinguished Africanist" awards from the African Studies Association and its African Politics Conference Group.

- ✓ Dispatch 265: Les Burkinabè dans un sentiment de sécurité mais inquiets de la montée de l'extrémisme violent
- ✓ Dispatch 264: Amidst drought, only half of Batswana are aware of climate change
- ✓ Dispatch 263: In fight against corruption, Gambians say citizens can make a difference, report without fear, and get official action
- ✓ Dispatch 262: Freedoms seen as expanding, but fewer Malians back free media, feel free to speak their minds
- ✓ Dispatch 261: In eSwatini, citizens see reasons for hope despite increase in lived poverty
- ✓ Dispatch 260: Les changements climatiques affectent négativement la vie des Camerounais

Chart of the month

Freedom to say what you think | Mali | 2008-2017



Respondents were asked: *In this country, how free are you to say what you think?*

Visibility and impact

- ✓ Judd Devermont, director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, cited AB's data on perceptions of China in testimony before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee.
- ✓ Lesotho amended its Constitution to allow for dual citizenship. Supporters had cited AB findings that public opinion had swung strongly in favour of such a change.
- ✓ Sierra Leone's Anti-Corruption Commissioner described AB's findings as an exam for the government and promised greater efforts "so when the next report comes it would even be better for the country."
- ✓ Best of the Africa Portal 2018: Our Policy Paper No. 47 on pre-election attitudes in Zimbabwe was one of the research repository's 10 most popular reads of the year.

Support for Afrobarometer



Afrobarometer completed Round 7 and is planning for Round 8 surveys thanks to support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) via the U.S. Institute of Peace, the National Endowment for Democracy, and Transparency International. Voices of support will continue to be essential to ensure Afrobarometer's long-term survival.



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