

AFRO BAROMETER

LET THE PEOPLE HAVE A SAY



Highlights of Round 6 survey findings from 36 African countries

Tolerance in Africa | 33 countries | 2014/2015

Proportion of respondents who would like or not care if they had as neighbours:



People of different ethnicities



People of different religions



Immigrants or foreign workers



People living with HIV/AIDS



Homosexuals

People who tend to be more tolerant:



Afrobarometer Round 6

New data from
across Africa



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Coming in September-December 2016:

Democracy

Access to justice

Africa's middle class

Electronic connectedness

Afrobarometer survey

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and results from Round 6 surveys (2014/2015) are currently being released. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples, which yield country-level results with a margin of sampling error of +/-2% (for a sample of 2,400) or +/-3% (for a sample of 1,200) at a 95% confidence level. Round 6 interviews with about 54,000 citizens in 36 countries represent the views of more than three-fourths of the continent's population.

For more findings, including detailed country-level analyses, please visit www.afrobarometer.org.

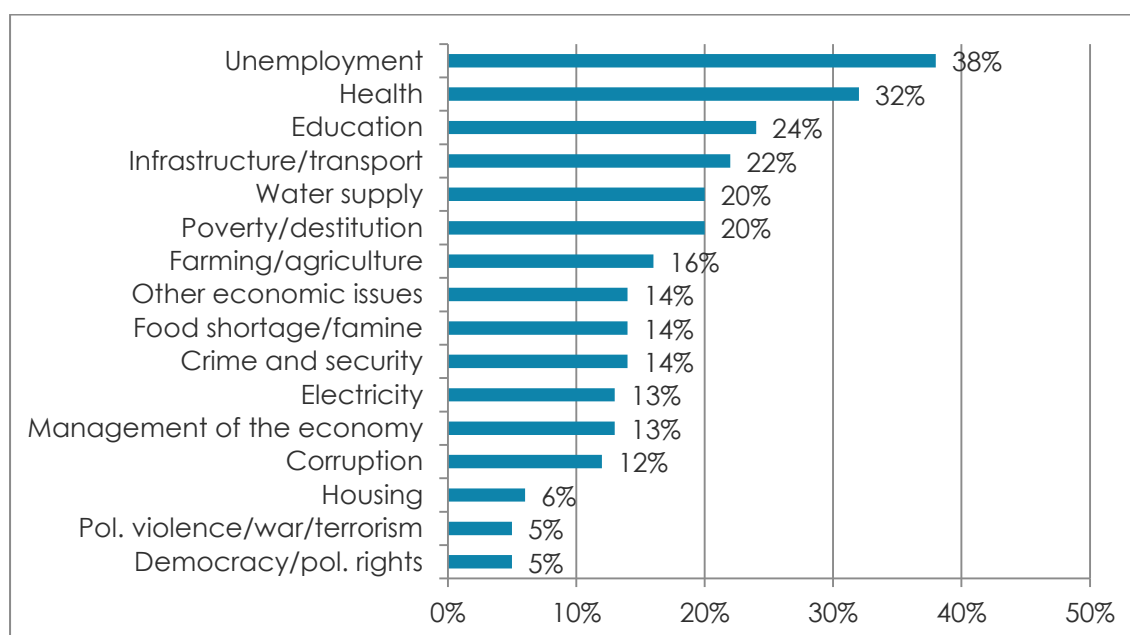
Priority problems and investments

Africans' most urgent problems are unemployment and health care, and their top priorities for greater government spending are education and health care.

Key findings

- The most frequently cited problems are unemployment, health, and education. Taken together, poverty and food shortage are also a dominant concern.
- But the most important problems vary by country: Water supply is the top problem in Guinea and Burkina Faso, while food shortage is the most frequently cited problem in Malawi, Mali, and Niger. In Kenya and Madagascar, crime and security top the list.
- Poor citizens emphasize problems of basic survival (health, water, and food) and infrastructure and place comparatively less emphasis on unemployment and security.
- On the narrower question of which of six specific sectors should be prioritized for greater investment of state resources, education and health care are citizens' top priorities. Education is the top priority in three-fourths of all countries.
- But investment priorities also vary by country. Agricultural development is the top priority in Malawi, Mali, and Burundi, while infrastructure heads the list in Lesotho. Security ranks as a higher priority in Kenya, Nigeria, and Tunisia than in other countries.

Most important problems | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (**Note:** Respondents could give up to three responses. Figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem among their top three.)

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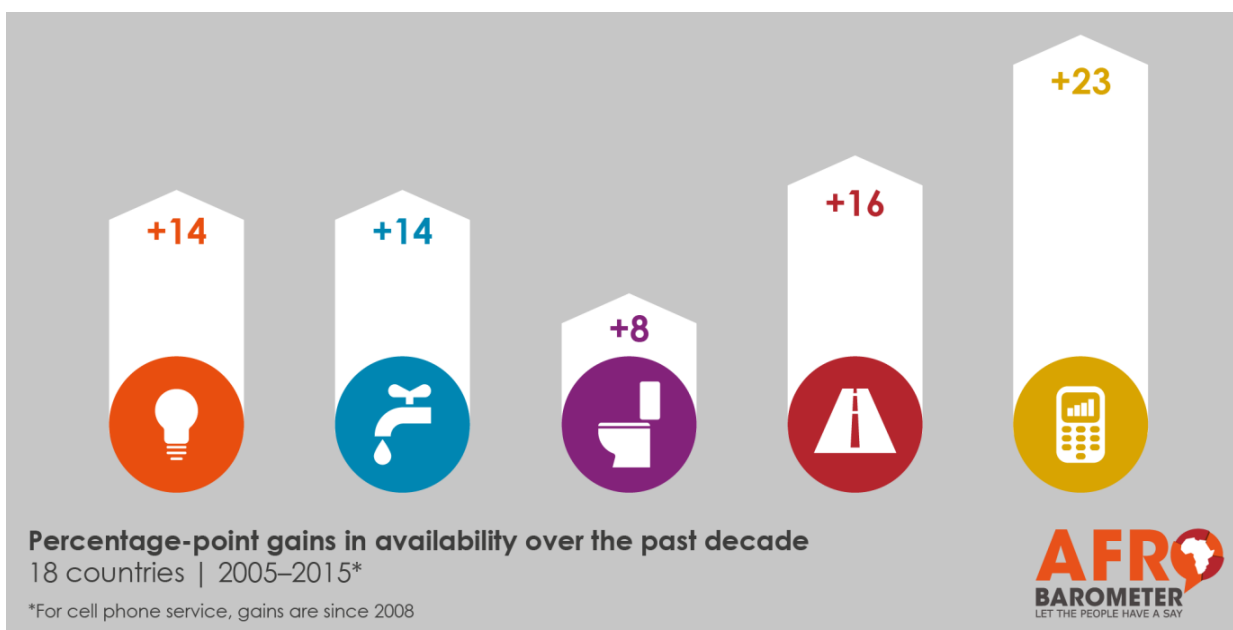
Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 67: *Where to start? Aligning Sustainable Development Goals with citizen priorities.* At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad67-where-start-aligning-sustainable-development-goals-citizen-priorities>.

Infrastructure

Despite progress over the past decade, the development of infrastructure for electricity, water, sewerage, and roads remains an enormous challenge across Africa, especially in rural areas.

Key findings

- Provision of basic service infrastructure remains a challenge. On average across 35 African countries, only about two-thirds of citizens live in communities with an electric grid (65%) and/or piped water infrastructure (63%), and less than one in three have access to sewerage (30%). More than three times as many have access to cell phone service (93%), while about half (54%) live in zones with tarred or paved roads.
- Across 18 countries tracked since 2005/2006, the availability of all five services has increased modestly. Sewerage shows the least progress, with access increasing by just 8 percentage points over the past decade.
- Countries vary enormously in their provision of basic service infrastructure. For example, while availability of electricity and piped water is universal in Mauritius and Egypt, only 17% of Burundians live in zones with an electric grid, and only 17% of Liberians have access to piped water.
- Regional comparisons show North Africa with the best availability of all five services, followed closely by Central Africa. East Africa ranks last in the availability of electricity, piped water, sewerage, and cell phone service.
- Rural residents continue to be severely disadvantaged in most countries, with urban-rural gaps of more than 40 percentage points in the average availability of an electric grid, sewerage, and piped water infrastructure.



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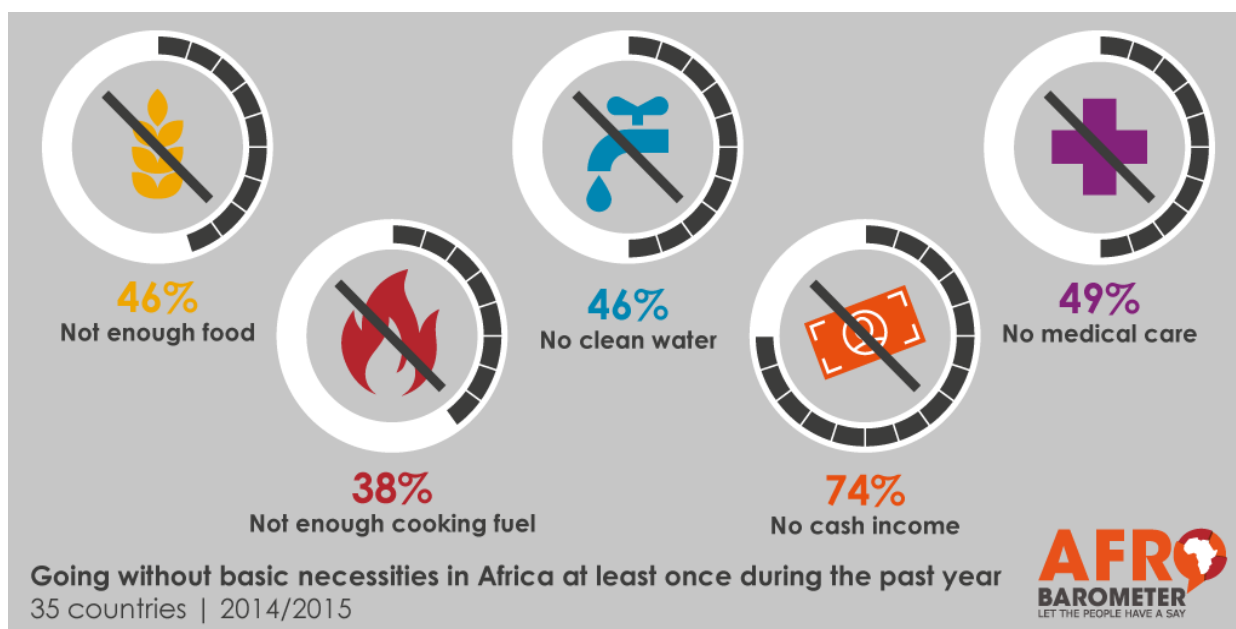
Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 69: *Building on progress: Infrastructure development still a major challenge in Africa*. At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad69-building-progress-infrastructure-development-still-major-challenge-africa>.

Lived poverty

While adequate food and clean water remain daily challenges for millions of Africans, “lived poverty” – going without life’s basic necessities – has declined in two-thirds of countries surveyed by Afrobarometer. Lived poverty tended to decrease in countries that had made progress in developing basic infrastructure.

Key findings

- Lived poverty remains extensive in Africa: 74% of survey respondents say they went without a cash income at least once in the previous 12 months, and substantial proportions say the same thing about necessary medical care (49%), enough clean water (46%), enough food (46%), and enough cooking fuel (38%).
- Yet Africa can no longer be characterized as uniformly poor, as levels of lived poverty vary widely across the continent. Lived poverty is highest in Gabon, Togo, and Liberia and lowest in Mauritius, Cape Verde, and Algeria.
- Respondents in full-time employment, with higher levels of education, who live in urban areas, and whose communities have infrastructure such as tarred or paved roads, piped water, sewerage, electricity, and health clinics are far less likely to report experiencing shortages of basic necessities.
- Respondents in Central and West Africa encounter the most frequent shortages, while North Africans experience the lowest levels of deprivation.
- Compared to the previous round of Afrobarometer surveys, levels of lived poverty *declined* in 22 of the 33 countries included in both surveys, with very substantial reductions in Cape Verde and Egypt. However, lived poverty *increased* in five countries, most steeply in Mozambique, Benin, and Liberia.

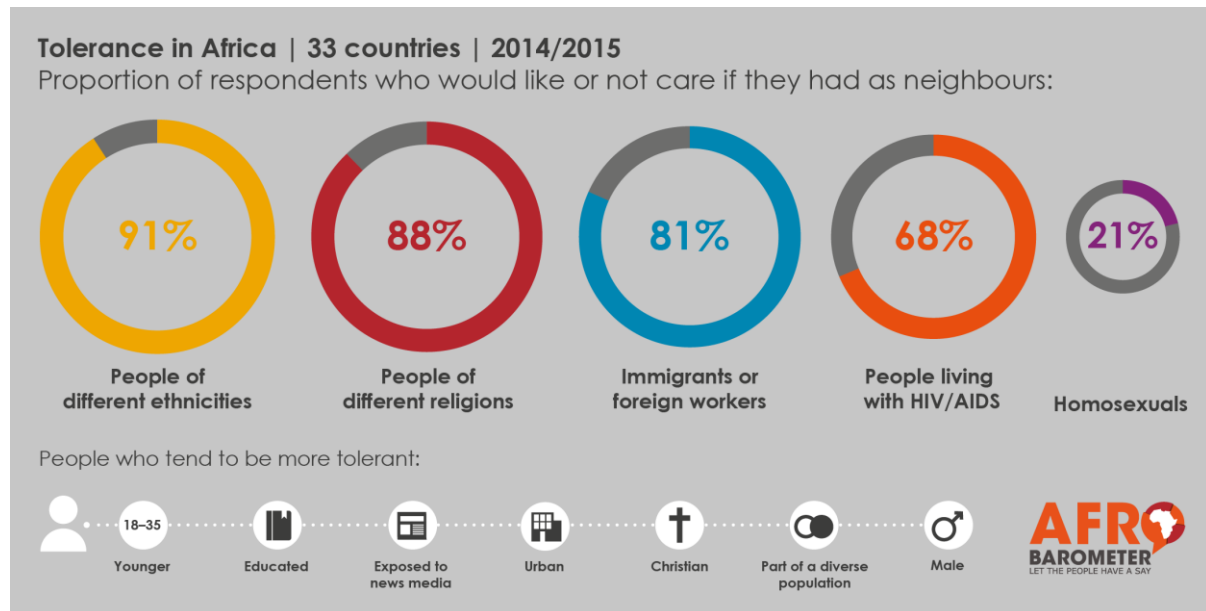


More:

Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 29: *Africa's growth dividend? Lived poverty drops across much of the continent.* At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/pp29-africas-growth-dividend-lived-poverty-drops-across-the-continent>.

Tolerance

Contrary to common portrayals, Africans express high degrees of tolerance for people from different ethnic groups, people of different religions, immigrants, and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Homophobia is widespread but not universal: At least half of all citizens in four African countries say they would not mind or would welcome having homosexual neighbours.



Key findings

- Across 33 countries, large majorities of African citizens exhibit high tolerance for people from different ethnic groups (91%), people of different religions (87%), immigrants (81%), and people living with HIV/AIDS (68%).
- Tolerance levels are particularly high in regions and countries that are ethnically and religiously diverse, suggesting that experience is an important factor in inculcating an attitude of tolerance among African citizens.
- Similarly, tolerance for people living with HIV/AIDS is highest in countries with high HIV/AIDS prevalence, providing further evidence that intolerance and stigmatization can be unlearned through personal encounters.
- A large majority of Africans, however, are intolerant of homosexual citizens. Across the 33 countries, an average of 78% of respondents say they would “somewhat dislike” or “strongly dislike” having a homosexual neighbour.
- But not all of Africa is homophobic. Majorities in four countries (Cape Verde, South Africa, Mozambique, and Namibia), and more than four in 10 citizens in three other countries, would like or not mind having homosexual neighbours.
- Christians, urban residents, and younger citizens tend to be more tolerant than, respectively, Muslims, rural residents, and older people.

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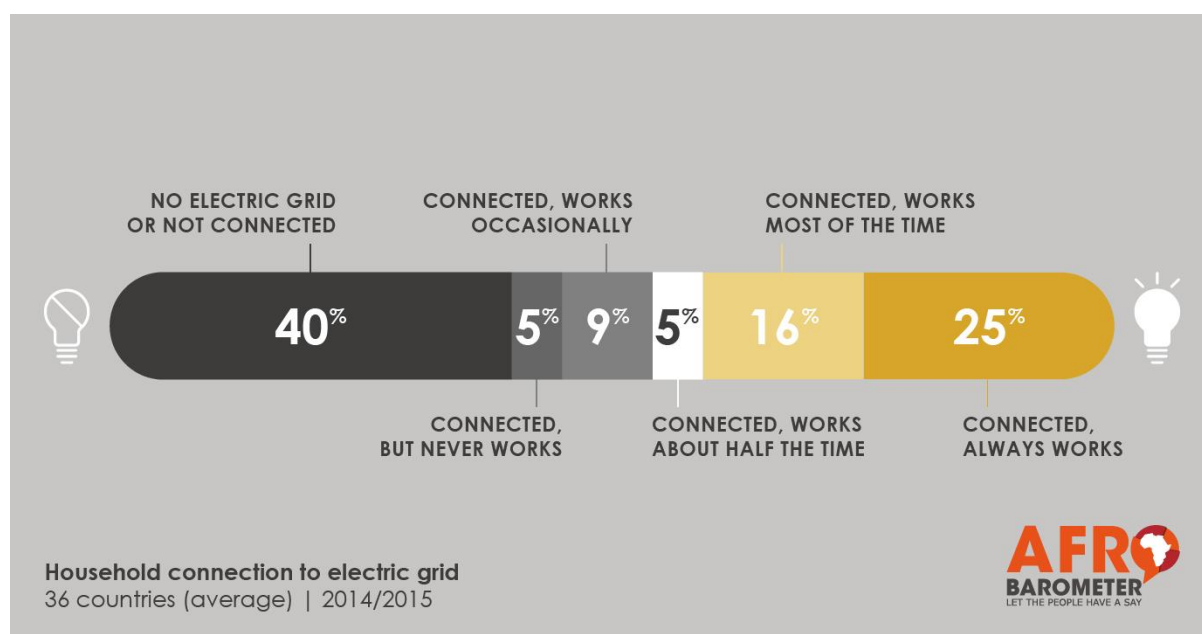
Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 74: *Good neighbours? Africans express high levels of tolerance for many, but not for all.* At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/tolerance-in-africa>.

Electrification

While more Africans live within reach of an electric grid than a decade ago, only four in 10 enjoy a reliable power supply. In some countries, the electric grid reaches only a fraction of the population; in others, an extensive grid is undermined by inadequate supply and poor service.

Key findings

- **Access:** Defined as having an electric grid within reach, access exists for two-thirds (66%) of Africans but varies widely across the continent. Only 17% of Burundians and 25% of Burkinabé live in zones with an electric grid, compared to 100% of Mauritians and Egyptians. Access is most limited in rural areas.
- **Connection:** Six in 10 Africans (60%) are actually connected to an electric grid, ranging from less than one in seven citizens in Burundi (11%), Malawi (12%), and Burkina Faso (14%) to universal coverage in Mauritius and Tunisia.
- **Reliability:** Neither access nor connection guarantees lights, as even in some countries where most households are connected, very few have electricity that works “most of the time” or “always.” The most striking example is Nigeria, where 96% of respondents are connected but only 18% of those connections work more than about half the time.
- **Government performance in providing reliable electricity:** On average, only four in 10 Africans (41%) say their government is performing “fairly well” or “very well” in ensuring power. Approval rates range from just 7% in Madagascar to 91% in Mauritius. In two-thirds of surveyed countries, majorities describe the government’s performance as “fairly bad” or “very bad.”

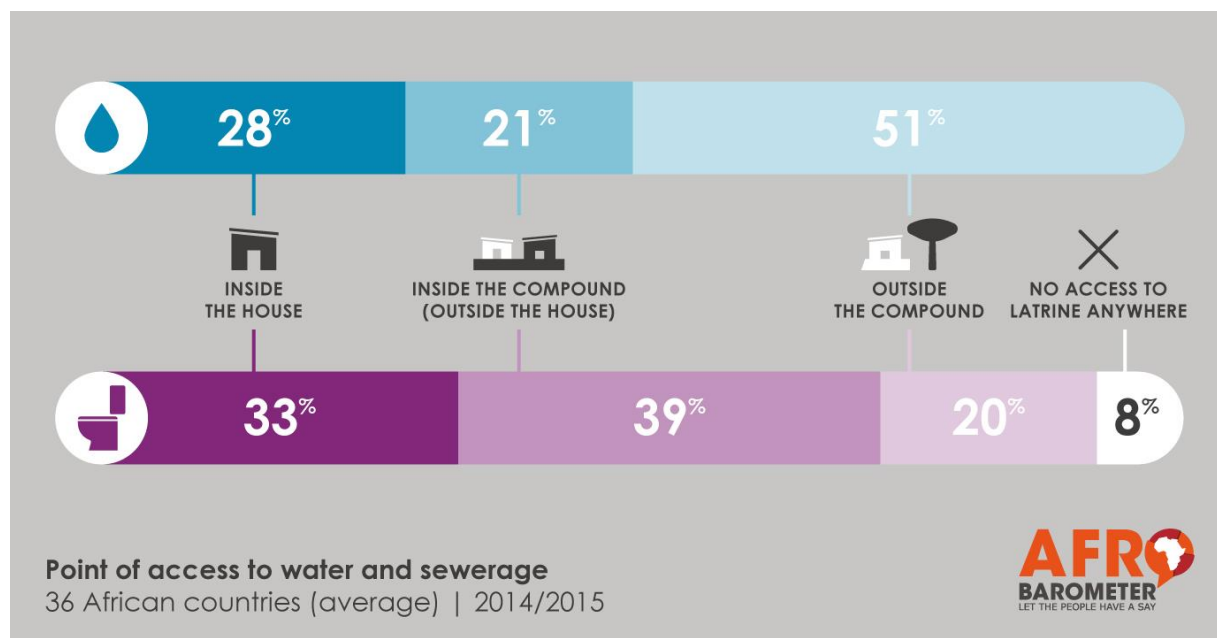


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Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 75: *Off-grid or 'off-on': Lack of access, unreliable electricity supply still plague majority of Africans.* At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad75-unreliable-electricity-supply-still-plague-majority-of-africans>.

Water and sanitation

Almost half of Africans go without enough clean water for home use, and a majority have to leave their compounds in order to access water.



Key findings

- Across 36 countries, almost half (45%) of respondents say they went without enough clean water at least once during the previous year. One in five (19%) did so “many times” or “always.”
- A majority of Africans (51%) can only access water outside of their compound.
- More than one-third (36%) of surveyed communities have no infrastructure for piped water. More than two-thirds (68%) lack sewerage infrastructure.
- One in five citizens (20%) have to leave their compound to use a latrine, and almost one in 10 (8%) have no access at all to a latrine or toilet, even outside their compound.
- Rural residents have far less access to water and sanitation than their urban counterparts. North Africa outperforms other regions, while East Africa lags behind.
- Water supply ranks fifth among important problems that citizens say their governments must address. In Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Niger, it’s problem No. 1.
- A majority (55%) of African citizens rate their government’s handling of water supply as “fairly bad” or “very bad.” Across 18 countries tracked since 2005/2006, negative ratings have increased by 14 percentage points.

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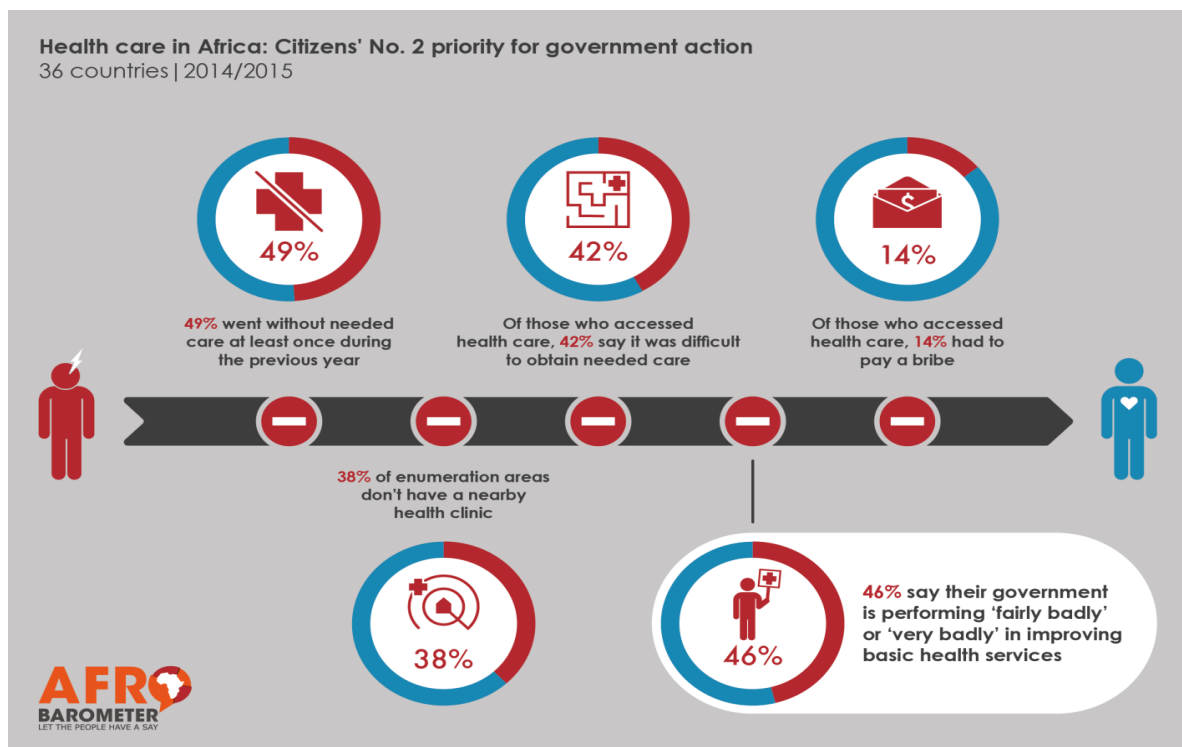
Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 76: *Lack of safe water, sanitation spurs growing dissatisfaction with government performance*. At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad76-lack-of-safe-water-and-sanitation-spurs-growing-dissatisfaction>.

Health care

Almost half of Africans go without needed health care, and one in seven have to pay bribes to obtain needed care.

Key findings

- Afrobarometer fieldworkers found health clinics in 62% of all survey enumeration areas (EAs). Urban EAs (74%) are more likely to have clinics than rural zones (53%).
- Almost half (49%) of all Africans say they or a family member had to go without medicine or medical care at least once during the year preceding the survey.
- Among those who accessed health care during the previous year, four in 10 (42%) found it "difficult" or "very difficult" to get the care they needed. One in seven (14%) of those who accessed health services paid a bribe to obtain services.
- Close to half (46%) of citizens say their government is performing badly in improving basic health services.
- Africans rank health care as their second-most-important problem. In 31 of 36 countries, health care ranks either first or second on the list of citizens' priority sectors for additional government spending.
- On average, nearly half (45%) of Africans are opposed to paying more taxes or user fees in exchange for increased government spending on health care.



More:

Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 31: *Despite gains, barriers keep health care high on Africa's priority list.* At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/pp31-despite-gains-barriers-keep-health-care-high-on-africas-priority-list>.

Africans say the news media...



Role and performance of the news media
36 African countries | 2014/2015



Media freedom

Amid growing concerns about government restrictions on media freedom, Africans overwhelmingly support an independent media that holds government accountable

Key findings

- A majority of Africans (54%) say the news media should have the right to publish any views and ideas without government control, while 42% say government should have the right to prevent publications that it "considers harmful to society."
- More than two-thirds (69%) of Africans say the news media should "constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption." This is the majority view in every surveyed country except Egypt (where 46% agree).
- A majority (59%) of respondents say the news media is "somewhat" or "very effective" in revealing government mistakes and corruption.
- A slim majority (51%) say the media "rarely" or "never" abuses its freedom by publishing lies, but more than one-third (36%) of Africans – and in some countries more than two-thirds – say it does so "often" or "always."
- Radio remains the most common news source, accessed by seven in 10 Africans either daily (47%) or "a few times a week" (22%). But radio and newspapers are slowly losing ground, while TV and the Internet are gaining. One in five Africans (21%) now regularly get their news from social media, and among youth and citizens with post-secondary education, the Internet and social media are more popular sources of news than newspapers.

More:

Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 85: *Strong public support for 'watchdog' role backs African news media under attack*. At http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad85-media_in_africa_world_press_freedom_day_2016.

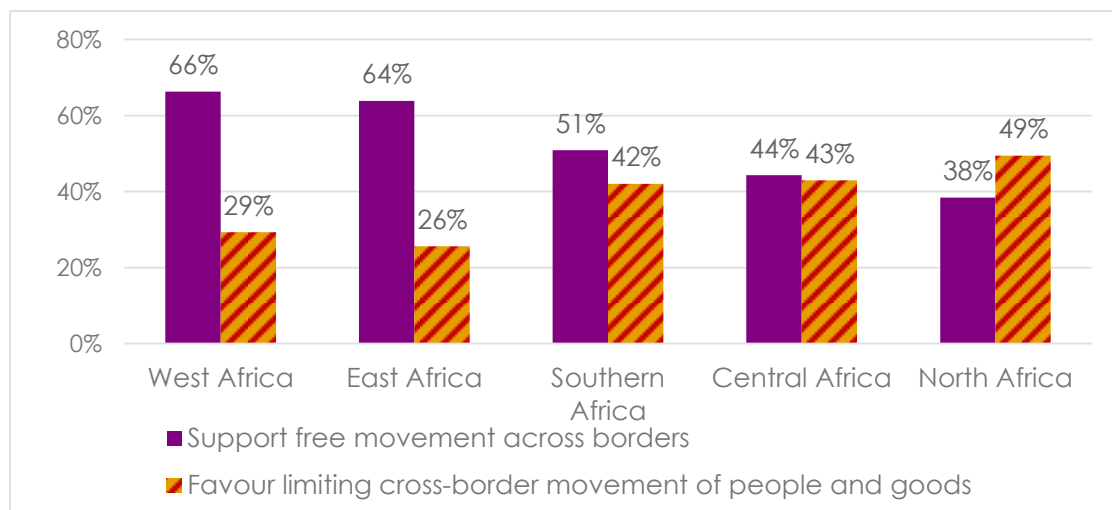
Regional integration

For advocates of regional integration as a path toward economic and political power for Africa, Afrobarometer’s survey findings suggest that many citizens still need to be convinced of the benefits of integration.

Key findings

- A majority (56%) of Africans say they should be able to move freely across international borders in order to trade or work in other countries. But in 15 of 36 surveyed countries, less than half of citizens support free cross-border movement. Support is strongest in West and East Africa and weakest in North Africa.
- Only one in four citizens (26%) say it is easy to cross international borders to work or trade in other countries. Central and West African countries are most likely to describe crossing borders as “difficult” or “very difficult.”
- Only one-third (34%) of respondents agree that governments should help guarantee free elections and human rights in neighbouring countries, while 58% instead emphasize the need to respect national sovereignty.
- About six of 10 citizens across 36 countries say the African Union (58%) and respective regional economic organisations (61%) help their country at least “a little bit”; about four of 10 say they help “somewhat” or “a lot.” Liberians have by far the most positive perceptions of AU and regional (ECOWAS) assistance, while only one-fourth of Moroccans consider the AU and UMA even slightly helpful.
- About three in 10 citizens say they don’t know enough about the AU and regional economic organisations to assess their helpfulness. But access to information makes a difference: Citizens who often listen to radio news are more likely to consider the AU and regional organisations helpful than are those who consume radio news less frequently.

Support for free movement across borders | by region | 36 countries | 2014/2015



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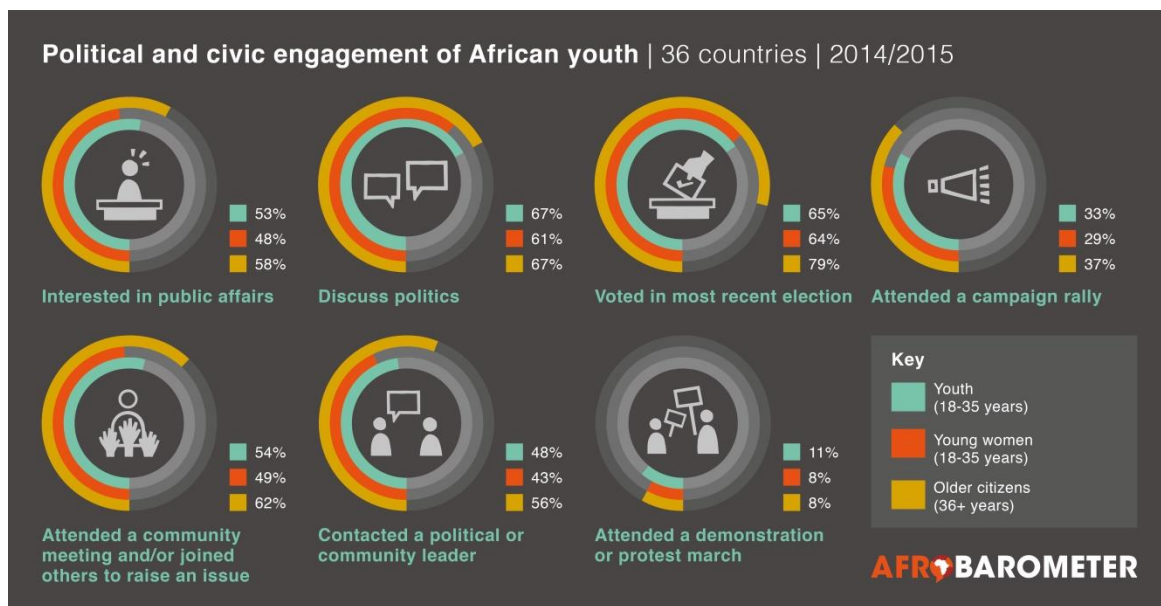
Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 91: *Regional integration for Africa: Could stronger public support turn 'rhetoric into reality'?* At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad91-regional-integration-africa-could-stronger-public-support-turn-rhetoric-reality>.

How engaged is Africa's youth?

Political and civic engagement by African youth is declining and is particularly weak among young women.

Key findings

- Political engagement is generally lower among African youth than among their elders, particularly in terms of voting. Two-thirds (65%) of 18- to 35-year-old respondents who were old enough to vote in the last national election say they did so, compared to 79% of citizens above age 35.
- Young women are less interested in public affairs than young men (48% vs. 60%) and less likely to discuss politics at least “occasionally” (61% vs. 74%).
- African youth are less likely than their elders to participate in civic activities: Less than half (47%) say they attended community meetings, while 40% joined others to raise an issue (vs. 57% and 47% for older citizens). Young women's participation lags behind that of their male peers (by 9 percentage points, on average).
- Not quite half (48%) of youth say they contacted political or community leaders during the previous year to discuss an important issue, with lower reported engagement levels among young women than men (43% vs. 53%).
- 11% of young survey respondents say they attended at least one protest in the previous year (vs. 8% older citizens). Again, women report lower participation levels than their male peers (8% vs. 13%).
- In 16 countries tracked since 2002/2003, youth engagement has declined, particularly interest in public affairs and measures of civic activism.

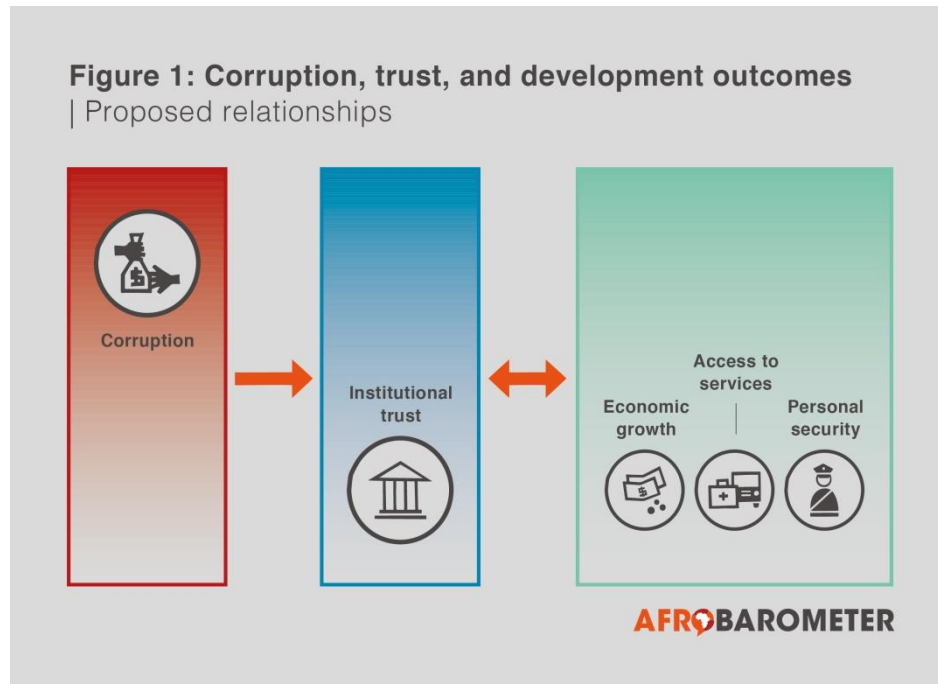


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Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 34: *Does less engaged mean less empowered? Political participation lags among African youth, especially women.* At <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/youth-day-2016>.

Do trustworthy institutions matter for development?

Government institutions that earn the public's trust are essential to the successful pursuit of development in Africa.



Key findings

- Across 36 countries in 2014/2015, Africans express more trust in informal institutions such as religious and traditional leaders (72% and 61% respectively) than in the formal executive agencies of the state (on average 54%). Still, people find certain executive agencies, such as the national army and the state presidency, to be quite trustworthy (64% and 57% respectively).
- Popular trust in the executive institutions of the state varies considerably across African countries, from more than 80% in Niger and Burundi to less than 40% in Nigeria, Liberia, and São Tomé and Príncipe.
- Institutional trust is related to perceptions of corruption. If people think office-holders are honest, they are likely to deem an institution trustworthy, and vice versa.
- Trustworthy institutions help to achieve the development outcomes that Africans say they want. For every one of the public's stated development priorities, trust in the state is associated with positive popular assessments of government performance.
- Thus, socioeconomic development is not a purely technical or engineering exercise. Development outcomes also depend on good governance, which citizens assess partly in terms of whether they find political institutions trustworthy.

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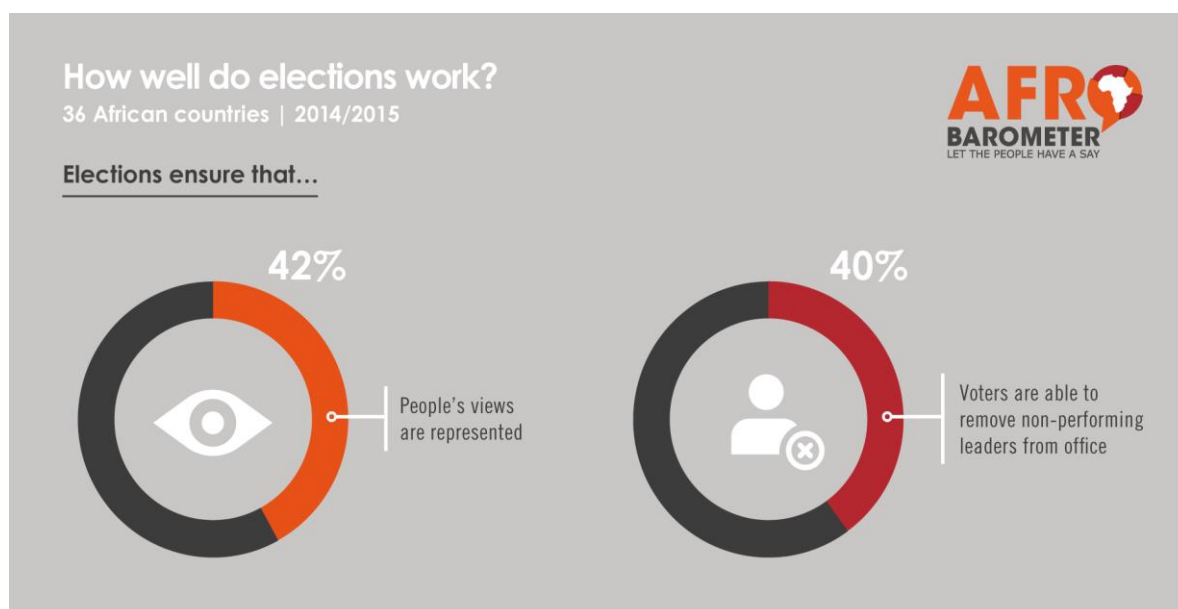
Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 112: *Do trustworthy institutions matter for development? Corruption, trust, and government performance in Africa.* At <http://bit.ly/2bdVNTu>.

Election management in Africa

With at least 25 African countries conducting national elections in 2016-2017, citizens' perceptions paint a troubling picture of election management and quality.

Key findings

- On average across 36 surveyed countries, just half (50%) of respondents say they trust their electoral commission "somewhat" (25%) or "a lot" (25%). Some of the lowest levels of trust are expressed in countries with closely contested elections in 2016, including Gabon (25%), São Tomé and Príncipe (31%), and Ghana (37%).
- Two-thirds of Africans rate their most recent election as "completely free and fair" (41%) or "free and fair, but with minor problems" (24%). Citizens' views on election quality are generally consistent with assessments by international experts.
- But substantial proportions of the population are skeptical about the quality of their elections. More than four in 10 Africans say that voters are at least "sometimes" threatened with violence at the polls (44%); that opposition candidates are at least "sometimes" prevented from running (43%); that the news media "never" or only "sometimes" provides fair coverage of all candidates (43%); and that voters are "often" or "always" bribed (43%).
- Only one-third (34%) think that votes are "always" counted fairly. Several countries with a history of election-related violence express low levels of confidence in the vote count, including Kenya (26%), Zimbabwe (22%), and Nigeria (6%).
- Fully half of Africans say that elections do not work well as mechanisms to ensure that people's views are represented (50%) or that voters are able to remove non-performing leaders from office (51%).



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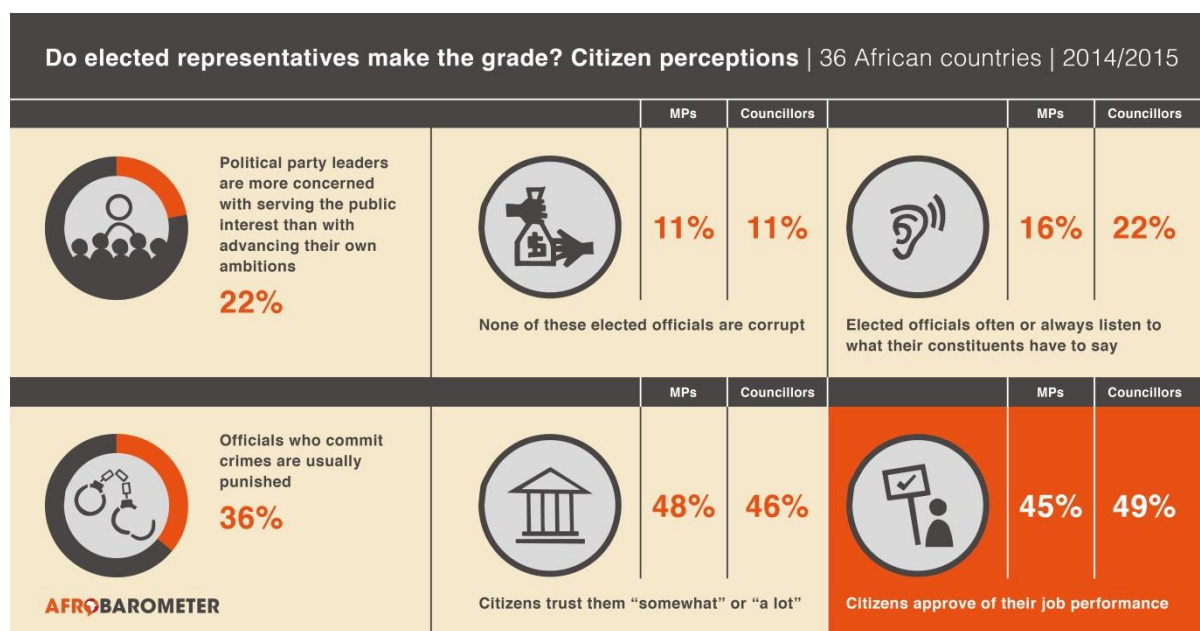
Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 35: *Election quality, public trust are central issues for Africa's upcoming contests.* At <http://bit.ly/2bZ0y5b>.

MPs and local councillors: Do they serve voters or themselves?

Members of Parliament and local government councillors across Africa have earned little trust and largely negative performance ratings from their constituents.

Key findings

- Fewer than half of Africans say they trust their MPs (48%) and local councillors (46%) “somewhat” or “a lot.”
- Large majorities say at least “some” of their MPs and local government councillors are corrupt, including one-third of citizens who see “most” or “all” of these elected representatives as corrupt.
- A majority (59%) say that officials who commit crimes “often” or “always” go unpunished.
- About three-fourths of Africans say their MPs and councillors “never” or “only sometimes” listen to what their constituents have to say.
- More than two-thirds (69%) believe that political party leaders are more concerned with pursuing their own political ambitions than with representing the people’s interests.
- Fewer than half of Africans approve of the job performance of their MPs (45%) and local government councillors (49%). Disapproval is especially high among citizens who see their leaders as driven by personal ambition rather than public service, as corrupt, or as uninterested in what their constituents have to say.

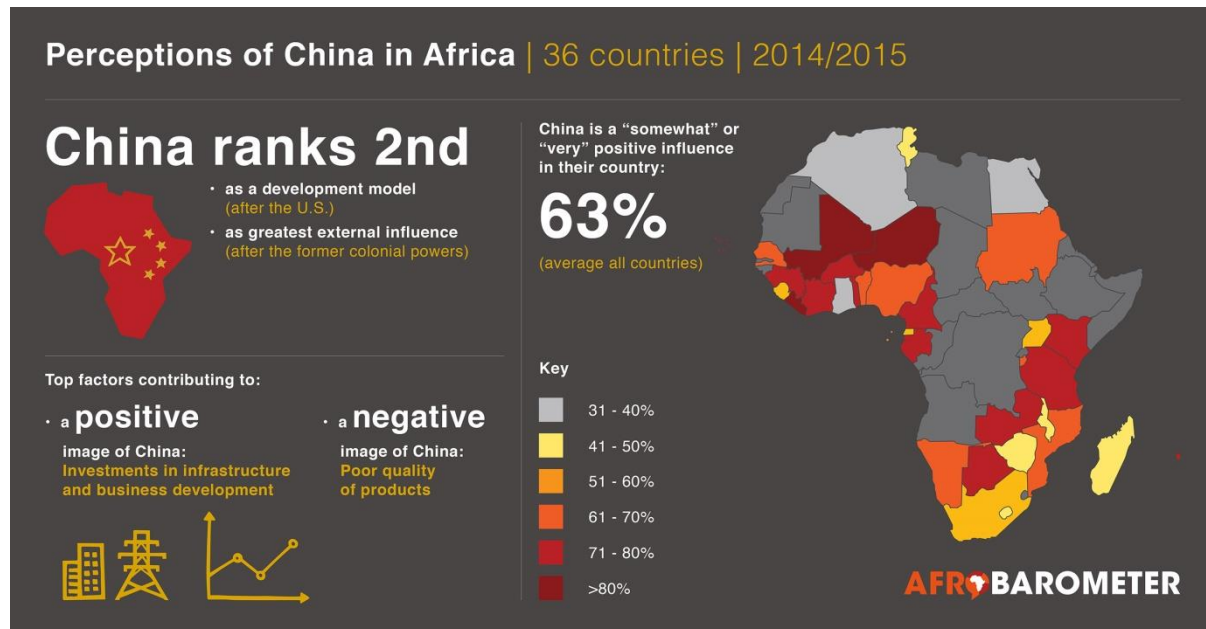


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Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 115, at <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad115-job-performance-mps-local-councillors-are-representatives-serving-voters-or-themselves>.

China's growing presence in Africa wins positive reviews

China rivals the United States in influence and popularity as a development model.



Key findings

- The United States the most popular model for national development (cited by 30% of respondents), followed by China (24%). About one in 10 respondents prefer their former colonial power (13%) or South Africa (11%) as a model.
- In Southern and North Africa, China matches the United States in popularity, and in Central Africa, China takes the lead (35% vs. 27% for the United States).
- A plurality of Africans see their former colonial power as wielding the greatest external influence in their country (28%), followed by China (23%) and the United States (22%). France is seen as particularly influential by its former colonies. China's influence is perceived to be highest in Zimbabwe (55%) and Mozambique (52%).
- Almost two-thirds (63%) of Africans say China's influence is "somewhat" or "very" positive, while only 15% see it as somewhat/very negative. Favourable views are most common in Mali (92%), Niger (84%), and Liberia (81%).
- A majority (56%) of Africans also see China's development assistance as doing a "somewhat" or "very" good job of meeting their country's needs.
- The most important factors contributing to a positive image of China in Africa are its infrastructure/development and business investments and the cost of its products, while the quality of its products gives its image a black eye. Political and social considerations rank low among factors affecting China's image.

More:

Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 122, at <http://www.afrobarometer.org/publications/ad122-chinas-growing-presence-africa-wins-largely-positive-popular-reviews>

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