



The Challenges of Covid to Cross-Continental Research in Africa

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Collecting Social Data: Adapting to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
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What is Afrobarometer?



- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures ***citizen attitudes on democracy and governance***, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- **Core objectives:**
 - To produce ***scientifically reliable data*** and analysis on public opinion in Africa;
 - To strengthen the ***capacity*** of African institutions for democratic governance survey research and analysis; and
 - To broadly ***disseminate and apply*** democratic governance survey results
- Leading source of reliable data on **what Africans think, their experiences and political behaviors**
- **Goal: To give the public a voice in policymaking** by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.

Who is Afrobarometer?

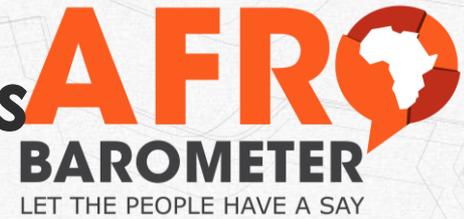


- Pan-African, non-partisan
- Network of more than 35 partners, including:
 - **National partners** in all countries that conduct the surveys and disseminate findings – universities, research institutes, research companies, research/democracy/advocacy NGOs
 - Four **core partners** that provide technical support and leadership: in Ghana (Center for Democratic Development, CDD), Benin (Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy, IREEP), South Africa (Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, IJR), and Kenya (Institute for Development Studies, IDS, Univ. of Nairobi)
 - Two **support units** that provide technical backstopping, quality control, capacity building support: Michigan State University (MSU) and University of Cape Town (UCT)
- Round 7 support from: SIDA, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, USAID/USIP, Open Society Foundation, Gates Foundation, Hewlett Foundation

What Afrobarometer Measures?

- Political, Economic and Social Values
 - Democracy, Tolerance, Clientelism, Corruption
- Political and Economic Evaluations
 - Democracy, Electoral Integrity, Political Trust, Corruption
- Cognitive Sophistication
 - Education, News Media Use, Political Discussion and Interest
- Citizenship
 - Social Trust
 - Civic Membership
 - Voting, Campaigning, Contacting, Communing, Protesting
- Quality of Life
 - Lived Poverty
 - Access to Services
 - Quality of Development Infrastructure
- Demographics
 - Religion, occupation, ethnicity, race

How Afrobarometer Does Surveys



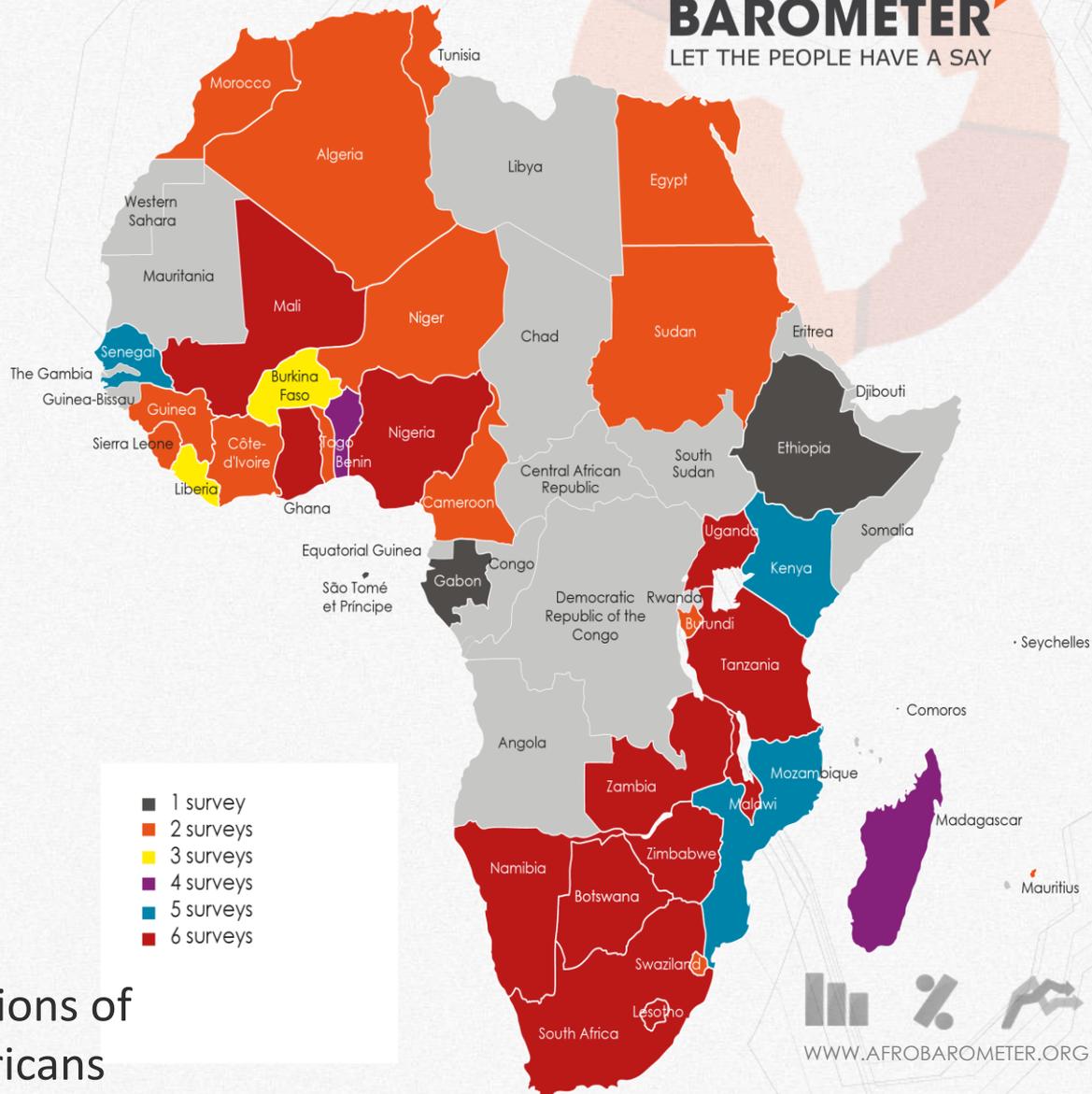
- **Nationally representative** sample of adult citizens
 - All respondents are **randomly** selected.
 - Sample is distributed across [regions/states/provinces] and urban/rural areas in **proportion** to their share in the national population.
 - Every adult citizen has an **equal chance** of being selected.
- **Face-to-face interviews** In the **language of the respondent's choice**.
- **Standard questionnaire** allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- **Sample sizes** of 1,200 or 2,400 adult citizens yields margins of sampling error of +/-2 to 3% at a 95% confidence level.

“Afrobarometer ... is the gold standard for independent opinion polls in Africa” – Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Asst. Sec. of State for African Affairs

Where Afrobarometer works



- **Round 1, 1999-2001**
12 countries
- **Round 2, 2002-2003**
16 countries
- **Round 3, 2005-2006**
18 countries
- **Round 4, 2008-2009**
20 countries
- **Round 5, 2011-2013**
35 countries
- **Round 6, 2014-2015**
36 countries
- **Round 7, 2016-2018**
35 countries



→ AB now represents the opinions of more than three-fourths of Africans

Round 8: 37 Countries Planned 18 Completed, August 2019-March 2020



Botswana	Angola
Namibia	Burkina Faso
Kenya	Ethiopia
Ghana	Tunisia
Uganda	Nigeria
Code d'Ivoire	Gabon
Malawi	Lesotho
Guinea	Sierra Leone
Cabo Verde	Mali



Planning for Resumption

- **Exploration of potential for telephone / internet surveys**
 - (Large) gaps in access / coverage
 - People may not always take phones with them
 - Battery / Airtime issues
 - Limits on length of interview
- **One upcoming pilot telephone survey in Namibia, focussing on COVID-19. A second survey in a country yet to be determined**

Planning for Resumption

- Exploration of potential for telephone / internet surveys
- Two pilot telephone surveys (1st in Namibia)

Planning for Resumption

- **Exploration of potential for telephone / internet surveys**
- **Pilot Phone Surveys**
- **Protocols for Resumption of In Person Fieldwork**
 1. **In-country status including rate of decline and general trajectory**
 2. **WHO viewpoint on reliability of national data**
 3. **National laws and health guidance**
 4. **Local assessments of research landscape**
 5. **Enumerator and respondent safety plan from national partner**
 6. **Pilot interviews to assess impacts on fieldwork / responses (compared to recent results)**
 7. **AB must be able to provide technical assistance (even if remotely)**

Planning for Resumption

- Exploration of potential for telephone / internet surveys
- Pilot Phone Surveys
- Protocols for Resumption of In Person Fieldwork
- Addition of Special Covid-19 Module in remaining countries
- Finishing R8 Fieldwork:
 - Fieldwork beginning in Liberia and Nigeria
 - Aim to complete by March 2021

Planning for Resumption

- Exploration of potential for telephone / internet surveys
- Pilot Phone Surveys
- Protocols for Resumption of In Person Fieldwork
- Addition of Special Covid-19 Module in remaining countries
- Finishing R8 Fieldwork
- Assessing Covid 19 Impact ??
 - Ideal would be to conduct new surveys in the countries already surveyed prior to Covid 19
 - Second best solution -- Most Similar Systems Logic ?

	Completed Pre-Covid	To be Completed Post-Covid
Upper Middle Income	Botswana (SA) Namibia (SA) Gabon (WA) No North African	Mauritius (SA) South Africa (SA) No West African Algeria (NA)
Lower Middle Income	Angola (SA) Lesotho (SA) Kenya (EA) Ghana (WA) Nigeria (WA) Cote D'Ivoire (WA) Cabo Verde (WA) Tunisia (NA)	Zimbabwe (SA) Zambia (SA) eSwatini (SA) Sudan (EA) Cameroon (WA) Senegal (WA) Sao Tome & Principe (WA) Morocco (NA)
Lower Income	Malawi (SA) Uganda (EA) Ethiopia (EA) Guinea (WA) Burkina Faso (WA) Sierra Leone (WA) Mali (WA) No North African	Mozambique (SA) Tanzania (EA) Madagascar (EA) Niger (WA) Benin (WA) Liberia (WA) Togo (WA) Sierra Leone (WA) Gambia (WA) No North African

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Thank you

You can find out more at:

www.afrobarometer.org

