

ANNUAL REPORT

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23

Vision

A world in which Africa's development is anchored in the realities and aspirations of its people

Mission

To make citizen voice a key pillar of Africa policy and decision making



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Overview

2023: A record Round 9, ready for 10

We started 2023 on a high note, having just completed more than 30 country surveys within a calendar year. By August 2023, we had conducted Round 9 surveys in 39 countries, a record for Afrobarometer (AB), including three new countries: Congo-Brazzaville, Mauritania, and Seychelles. At this point, AB data represent the views of more than three-fourths of the continent's population. Our ambition is to eventually cover all of Africa's countries if conditions permit.

Besides setting a record for surveys, we reorganised our teams and institutional structures in 2023 to ensure that we have the right capacities and setup to deliver on the objectives of our new [strategy](#). We also prioritised time and resources to disseminate the findings from Round 9 surveys and to build the capacities of young researchers on the continent, consistent with our strategic objectives.

The most significant changes strengthened our communication and capacity-building teams. We dissolved the Engagement Unit, which previously combined communications and fundraising, and established a separate Communications Unit, which enables us to give full attention to our dissemination and policy-engagement activities across the continent and beyond. This shift, which aligns with the third pillar of our new strategy, saw AB visibility and impact continue to grow rapidly in 2023. The fundraising function was moved to the Secretariat, where direct oversight by the COO and CEO has helped facilitate interaction with funding partners and cultivation of new partners.

AB senior management reviewed and revised the terms of reference of all our governance and administrative structures to ensure that they are

aligned with our new strategic objectives. We re-envisioned our Senior Advisory Team (SAT) as a Network Advisory Council (NAC), which will be led by our Core Partner institutions – the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation – and will focus on learning and sharing of ideas and experiences to improve AB operations.

On the capacity-building front, we started to roll out new initiatives based on our learning from previous efforts. The most significant change was the format of our annual summer schools. Because prior summer school attendees often came to the training with drastically different levels of analysis experience, we decided to focus the summer schools on building basic analysis skills. To ensure that participants arrive with a similar baseline, we introduced an online basic analysis course that prospective attendees are required to take. We piloted this approach for the 2023 English-language summer school at the University of Pretoria and will refine it for the 2024 French-language version and future iterations of our summer school programme.

In addition, we instituted country-level analysis and policy-engagement training programmes for journalists and civil society advocates/activists, an outreach programme to universities on the continent and beyond to introduce AB data and analysis to students and faculty, and a mentorship programme for young and/or new researchers on the continent. We also continued to run our thematic workshops (two in 2023) for researchers with advanced analysis skills.



Among many other 2023 highlights:

- AB started a process to establish a headquarters agreement with the government of Ghana, which will grant us some diplomatic benefits and recognition as a continental organisation with headquarters in Ghana. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation has been very supportive in this ongoing process.
- The AB-led Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) recorded significant progress in 2023. We completed three highly impactful regional convenings that allowed representatives of African Union organs, civil society groups, and AB partners to engage in productive conversations on continental policy and development issues and jointly develop advocacy strategies to advance those issues. The D4GA has proved to be an effective platform and mechanism for quality engagements between civil society groups and the African Union and its allied bodies.
- In collaboration with the Open Society Foundations, AB formalised plans to host the new Africa Judicial Independence Fund, which will support initiatives aimed at strengthening judicial independence in Africa.

At year's end – having celebrated achievements and solidified plans at our joyful first network-wide face-to-face meeting since before the pandemic – we stand eager and ready to launch AB's 10th round of surveys during AB's silver-anniversary year.

At a Glance



Completed
Round 9!

IN 2023:

Results dissemination

182

dispatches,
policy papers,
and working
papers

8 Pan-Africa Profiles

161

news
releases

26,017

media stories

73

outreach
presentations
and webinars

Website

195,137

visitors

158,893

downloads

343,676

sessions

Online data analysis tool

37,882

user sessions

Social media



X (ex-Twitter)

32,700
followers

82,300
engagements



LinkedIn

6,670
followers

20,900
engagements



Facebook

16,700
fans

16,600
engagements



Instagram

1,360
followers

730
engagements

Capacity building

Trained
>200

researchers, civil society activists, and journalists on skills ranging from basic to advanced data analysis and writing to use of geographic information systems

28

fellowships to build staff skills in fundraising, advanced data analysis, design thinking, and project management



Fundraising

\$6.61 million
in fundraising income for 2023

ROUND 9

(completed in 2023)



39

countries (a record)
3 first-time countries
(Congo-Brazzaville,
Mauritania, Seychelles)



54,437

face-to-face
interviews



50%
women

388,004

face-to-face
interviews over
the past 24 years

1,569

fieldworkers
trained

51%
women



23

days average
fieldwork per
country survey

74

minutes
average duration
of interview

From the Board Chair

Among the highlights of 2023 for Afrobarometer – and there were many, all over the continent and the world – the one that stands out to me is our week at Ada on Ghana’s eastern coast.

Officially it was our Round 10 planning meeting, and its intensive work sessions did indeed enable us to hammer out plans for an ambitious 40-country survey round, which is now under way.

But it was more than that. For our far-flung network, it was the first in-person gathering since before the COVID-19 pandemic upended our lives – a chance for old friends to shake hands again at last, for colleagues to become friends, for some staff and partners to finally meet the CEO who has been leading us for going on three years.

Its benefits were multiplied by the presence of AB Board members Nozipho January-Bardill, Amina Oyagbola, Lara Taylor-Pearce, Peter Lewis, and Michael Bratton and of International Advisory Council (IAC) members Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Margot Wallström, Peter Kellner, Riva Levinson, and Frank Mwititi. In addition to conducting their own business meetings, these global senior leaders had the opportunity to interact directly with our AB staff and our National and Core Partners, learning about the nuts-and-bolts challenges of our work and contributing their own experience and insight to the search for solutions and for new horizons to explore. Nothing beats this kind of bonding and building of multi-level solidarities in consolidating our commitment to Afrobarometer’s mission.

Ambassador Perpetua Dufu, representing Ghana’s minister of foreign affairs, told us about the impact of AB’s knowledge sharing in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of Ghana’s government. My Afrobarometer co-founders, Professors Bratton and Robert Mattes, joined me in sharing some of the great moments and lessons of AB’s first two decades.



Our work sessions and shared meals allowed us to debrief on Round 9 and 2023 – and to celebrate some of our achievements.



And all of us found inspiration in the keynote speech by HE President Sirleaf, who highlighted the importance of our work in informing evidence-based decision making that responds to the needs and aspirations of African citizens.

Our work sessions and shared meals allowed us to debrief on Round 9 and 2023 – and to celebrate some of our achievements: the most countries we've ever surveyed in a round (39), including three new countries (Congo-Brazzaville, Mauritania, and Seychelles); the most countries we've ever surveyed in a single calendar year, in 2022 (33); the piloting of telephone surveys; fine-tuning of our organisational structures in line with our new 10-year [strategy](#); continued and new support from generous funders; an amazing array of capacity-building activities for young researchers, journalists, legislators, African Union staff, and civil society activists; thousands of media reports using AB data; overwhelming demand for our data and analysis from policy and development actors within and outside the continent. ... The list goes on.

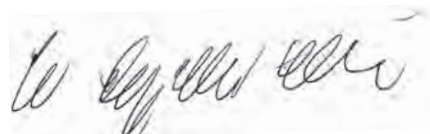
Naturally, many of us also talked late into the night about some of the dark clouds on the horizon – or even directly overhead, in some cases – that threaten our work as well as our precious democratic freedoms: the recent spate of military coups, weakening governance in general, conflict and violent extremism, the war in Ukraine, increasing poverty, climate change. ... That list, too, goes on.

Our work speaks to many of these problems, adding Africans' voices to decision making that affects their lives. As such, collecting reliable data on citizens' experiences and aspirations is more

important than ever, and we are deeply grateful to our funding partners, our staff, our Core and National Partners, our Board and IAC members, and our friends who share this task with us.

A shared sense of purpose, ultimately, is what we carried with us, at the end of that week, as we returned to our homes all across Africa and beyond. Thus armed, we stand ready for Round 10, and for many rounds to come.

May the new year bring peace, joy, good health, and success to each and all of us.



E. Gyimah-Boadi

From the CEO

I have held the role of CEO of Afrobarometer for nearly three years, and I must say that this year has been one of the most rewarding and challenging of my career.

This was the first full year of implementing our new [strategy](#), requiring us to make several institutional changes while maintaining momentum for surveys, analysis, dissemination and policy engagements, capacity building, and fundraising. Despite headwinds, we made significant progress in 2023. Credit goes to the Afrobarometer staff and our Core and National Partners, who have shown unmatched commitment to the mission and vision of AB, making sure that we continue to produce high-quality data and share the findings widely with key stakeholders at national, regional, and global levels.

Two memorable results of this commitment are AB's historic record of 39 country surveys in Round 9 and a highly successful planning meeting for the Round 10 surveys. The camaraderie displayed during the planning meeting was remarkable and refreshing. I am thankful to all our partners for making this event a great success and giving us a model to follow for future meetings.

I have also been lucky to work with the Afrobarometer Board and International Advisory Council (IAC), whose members have been very supportive of difficult changes we had to make and have helped facilitate strategic engagements with governments, high-level policy actors, funders, and other stakeholders. The value and impact of Afrobarometer data and analytic insights are realised through these high-level strategic engagements, and I am thrilled and thankful for the unflinching support of the Board and IAC.

The Central Management Team (CMT) and our three Core Partner (CP) institutions have been generous in offering their skills and expertise to ensure that we deliver effectively on our shared objectives. Among the many success stories, I



At the top [of the list of challenges] are the growing insecurity and weakening democratic governance across the continent, as documented in our data.



want to highlight the rebidding of the CP role for East Africa, which was a major undertaking. The CMT and the CP directors stepped up and contributed to the process, which resulted in the retention of the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi as CP for East Africa.

These accomplishments and many others would not be possible without the continued support of our funders. We have been lucky to partner with some of the most committed and generous funders on the continent and globally, and we are grateful for these partnerships.

While it's fun to highlight the success stories of the year, I also want to acknowledge some of the significant challenges we face. At the top of this list are the growing insecurity and weakening democratic governance across the continent, as documented in our data. These trends pose real threats to AB's operations, and I continually worry that we may not be able to conduct surveys in some countries in future rounds.

Closer to home, the evolving institutional architecture of Afrobarometer presents ongoing complexities as well as opportunities. After operating for almost two decades as a network, transitioning AB to an independent entity with its own governance and management structures, and harmonising new approaches and systems with the old network approaches and systems, has been a significant undertaking.

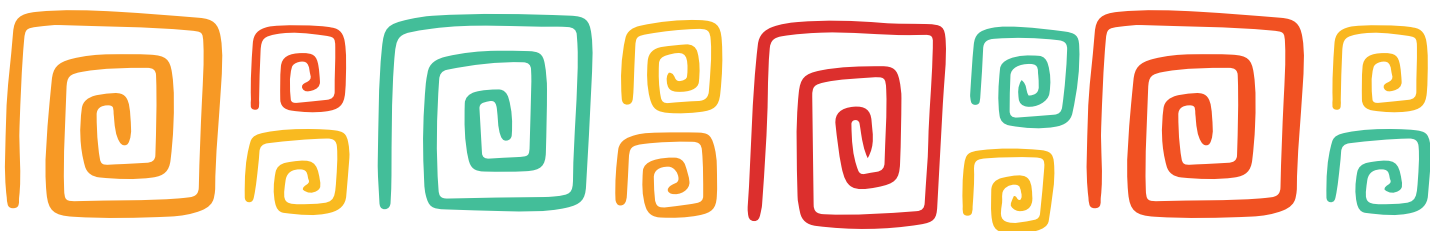
While we continue to iterate and learn from what works best for our institution, I am grateful that our network partners have remained patient and supportive. I think we are getting there, and I am confident that these changes will pay off in the medium to long term, allowing all of us to achieve our shared goal of building a continental research

organisation that enables ordinary Africans to inform public policies and related development decisions that affect their lives.

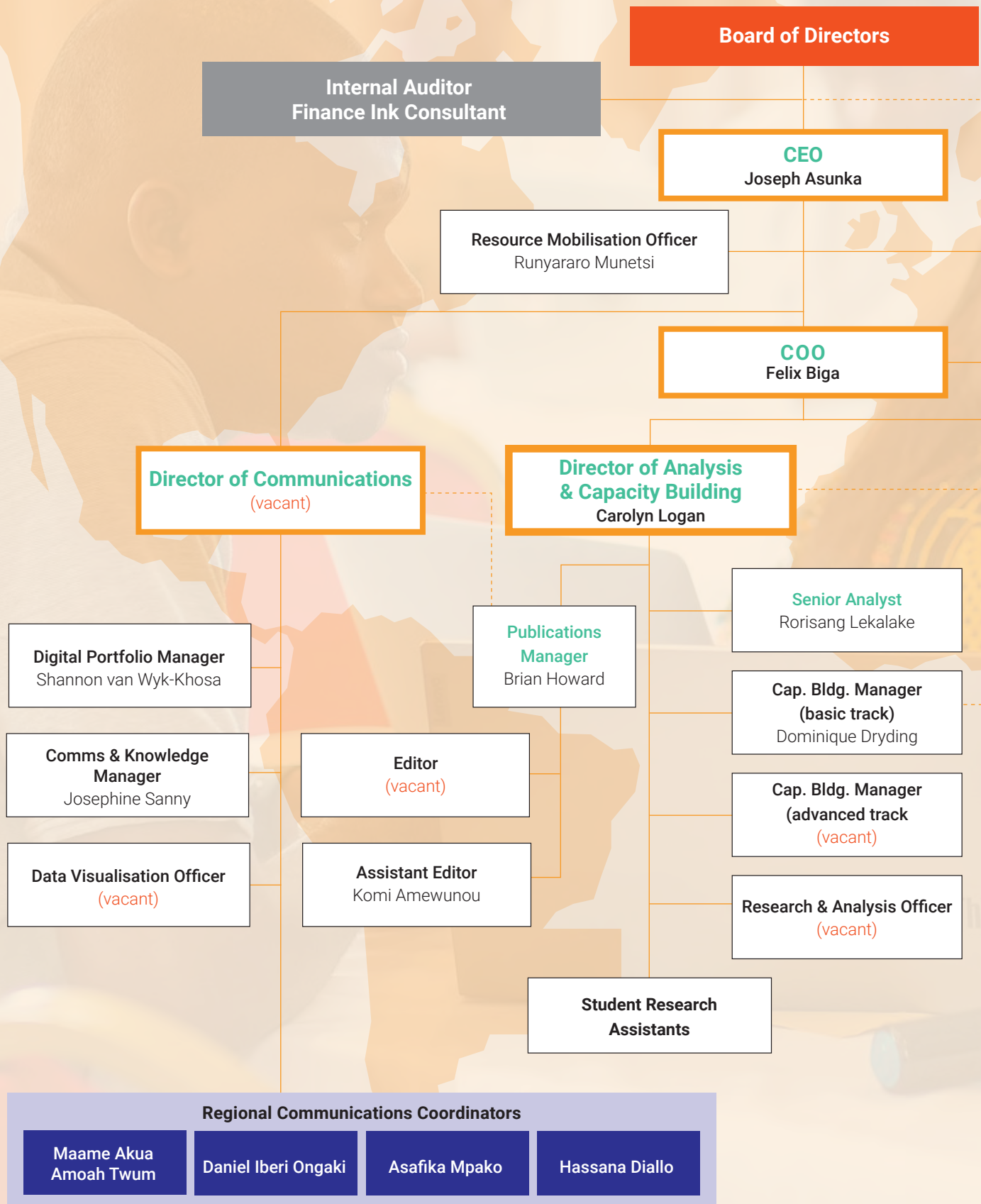
As we look back with pride at what we were able to achieve in 2023, new milestones and challenges beckon in Round 10. I am confident that with the continued support of our funders and friends, our team is equal to the task.



Joseph Asunka



The Organisation



KEY



CMT (Central Management Team)

GREEN

NAC (Network Advisory Council)

International Advisory Council

Executive Assistant
Linda Theresa Abbey

Core Partner Directors
H. Kwasi Prempeh, Jan Hofmeyr,
Karuti Kanyinga

National Partner Reps.
Libuseng Malephane,
Youssef Meddeb

Director of Surveys
Boniface Dulani

IT Project Manager
Lawrence Kotey Djanie

HR & Admin. Manager
Kwaku Owusu-
Yeboah

Network Data Manager
Jamy Felton

Dep. Director of Surveys
Anyway Chingwete

MEL Manager
Newton Norviewu

Procurement & Logistics Officer
Dorothy Anum-Larsey

Senior Project Manager
(vacant)

Senior Finance Manager
Saeed Salahudeen

Admin. Assistant
Priscilla Amoasi

Finance Manager
Grace Ukala-John

Data Team
Adu Kakra Duayeden,
Mohamed Najib Ben Saad

Finance Officer
(vacant)

Regional Project Managers

Daniel Armah-Attoh

Richard Houessou

Samuel Balongo

Preston Govindasamy

Assistant Project Managers

Lionel Ossé

Anne Okello

Stephen Ndoma

Board of Directors



E. Gyimah-Boadi Chair

Professor E. Gyimah-Boadi is a co-founder of Afrobarometer and served as its chief executive from 2008 to 2021. He is also founder and former executive director of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana). A former professor at the University of Ghana, Legon, he has held faculty positions and fellowships at the School of International Service of the American University; the Center for Democracy, Rule of Law and Development; the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; the U.S. Institute of Peace; and the International Forum for Democratic Development. His myriad awards include the 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Peace and Social Justice. In 2021, *New African* named him one of its "100 Most Influential Africans."



Michael Bratton

Michael Bratton, who retired as University Distinguished Professor of Political Science and African Studies at Michigan State University in 2018, has worked with Afrobarometer since 1999 as a co-founder, former executive director, and then senior adviser. He previously served on the programme staffs of the Rockefeller and Ford foundations and as a visiting scholar at Oxford University, Uppsala University, and the U.S. Institute of Peace. He is the co-author of the widely cited *Democratic Experiments in Africa* and the author of five other books, including *Voting and Democratic Citizenship in Africa* and *Power Politics in Zimbabwe*.



Amal Mustafa Medani

As a development practitioner with more than 25 years' experience, Amal Mustafa Medani has led technical and socio-economic development programmes spanning southern and eastern Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Eastern Europe, as well as intra-regional and global-level initiatives for UNDP and the UN. Her previous positions have included oversight of a US\$4 billion programme as director for the Southern Africa Division of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM); associate director of the Governance Department at the UN Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR); and senior strategic policy adviser to the CEO of the Global RBM Partnership to End Malaria. She also has extensive experience with partnership-building collaborations and resource mobilisation with UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral donor organisations, and international financial institutions.



Nozipho January-Bardill

Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill is chairperson of the Council of the Nelson Mandela University and a trustee of the United Nations (UN) Voluntary Fund for Technical Assistance and the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Report in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She recently completed seven years as the lead independent non-executive director of Mercedes-Benz South Africa and serves as a board member of the MTN Foundation South Africa and two NGOs, Tshwaranang Legal Services and Phenduka Literacy. Her company, Bardill and Associates, advises businesses on integrating race, gender, and sustainable development into their strategies. She served as South Africa's ambassador to Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and the Holy See as well as deputy director general in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and chief of staff and special adviser to UN Women in New York and South Africa. Her numerous senior management and board positions also include corporate affairs executive at MTN Group and chairperson of the UN Global Compact South Africa.



Amina Oyagbola

Amina Oyagbola is an independent director and business management consultant with more than 35 years of experience in legal practice and business management in corporate Nigeria, including as a former human resources and corporate services executive at MTN Nigeria. Her career spans human resources strategy and transformation, legal consulting, women's empowerment, banking and finance, oil and gas, and telecommunications. She is the managing consultant of AKMS Consulting Ltd., senior partner of Oyagbola Chambers, and a Chevening Scholar.

Among her many affiliations, she is a fellow and chair of the Africa Leadership Initiative – West Africa, a fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, and founder and chairperson of WISCAR (Women in Successful Careers), a not-for-profit gender empowerment and strategic mentoring and leadership initiative for professional career women. In 2023, she was appointed to Nigeria's Presidential Council on Support to Women and Girls, one of several honours recognising her contributions to gender equality and women's empowerment.



Lara Taylor-Pearce

Lara Taylor-Pearce is auditor general of Sierra Leone and a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of the UK with more than 30 years of experience in public- and private-sector financial and administrative management and oversight. As the government's chief external auditor since 2011, she has won praise for helping change Sierra Leone's public-sector accountability landscape, including her work in developing its 2016 Public Financial Management Act and other public-sector oversight acts. In addition to winning the National Integrity Award, she has been recognised as a Grand Officer of the Order of the Rokel and as one of the 50 most influential women in Sierra Leone for four consecutive years.



Peter M. Lewis

Peter M. Lewis is the Warren Weinstein Associate Professor of African Studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Lewis, who served as SAIS associate dean for academic and faculty affairs from 2015 to 2018, has directed the school's Africa Studies programme since joining Johns Hopkins SAIS in 2006. Lewis' research and teaching focus on economic reform and political transition in developing countries, with particular emphasis on governance and development in sub-Saharan Africa. He has written extensively on economic adjustment, democratisation, and civil society in Africa. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the editorial board of the *Journal of Democracy*.

International Advisory Council

The International Advisory Council consists of global high-level political and thought leaders committed to providing strategic intelligence, foresight, and advocacy to support and promote Afrobarometer internationally. The council's role is to inspire and energise policy makers, funders, other key audiences, as well as network staff, by advocating for our shared mission to make citizen voice a key pillar of Africa policy and decision making.



Johnnie Carson Chair

Former U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs and former ambassador to Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Uganda

"The calibre of experience, leadership, and engagement represented on this council, from all across Africa and beyond, speaks volumes about the seriousness with which the global community takes Afrobarometer's contribution to data-driven development. We're excited to help build the future of this pan-African institution".



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Former president of Liberia (2006-2018) and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate

"Afrobarometer empowers those who want to see more transparency, more accountability, and more free, open, and inclusive societies. ... In this age of fake news, Afrobarometer is a credible, reliable, and authentic purveyor of the ordinary African voice. This is where Afrobarometer plays a very important role in enriching democracy."



Larry Diamond

Senior fellow, Hoover Institution and Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University

"Afrobarometer is one of the greatest success stories of social science research and analytical capacity building on the African continent."



Zeinab Badawi

International broadcaster and education leader

"Afrobarometer provides a unique service on behalf of the African people: It takes the pulse of African opinion on key issues and delivers it to leaders, policy makers, and opinion formers. It is the voice of the African citizen."



Margot Wallström

Former minister of foreign affairs of Sweden, EU commissioner

"Afrobarometer checks the pulse of Africans on issues that determine their future. Afrobarometer lets the world know how Africa is doing on sustainable development – economically, socially, and environmentally."



Lord Browne of Ladyton

Member of the UK House of Lords



Nic Cheeseman

Professor of democracy at the University of Birmingham, author and newspaper columnist



Peter Kellner

Political analyst, scholar, and former president of the YouGov polling organisation in the UK



Gerard Salole

Social anthropologist and independent consultant



Attahiru Muhammadu Jega

Former chairman of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission



Larabi Jaïdi

Senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South



K. Riva Levinson

President and CEO of KRL International, author and columnist



Thomas P. Sheehy

Distinguished fellow, Africa Center of the United States Institute of Peace



Abdoulie Janneh

Former UN under-secretary general



Willy Mutunga

Former chief justice and president of the Supreme Court of Kenya



Bhekinkosi Moyo

Adjunct professor and director of the Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment, Wits Business School, University of the Witwatersrand



Vera Songwe

Founder and chair of Liquidity and Sustainability Facility; co-chair of the Independent High-Level Expert Panel on Climate Finance



Frank Mwiti

Eastern Africa Markets Leader at Ernst & Young and managing partner for EY-Parthenon in Eastern Africa



The Network

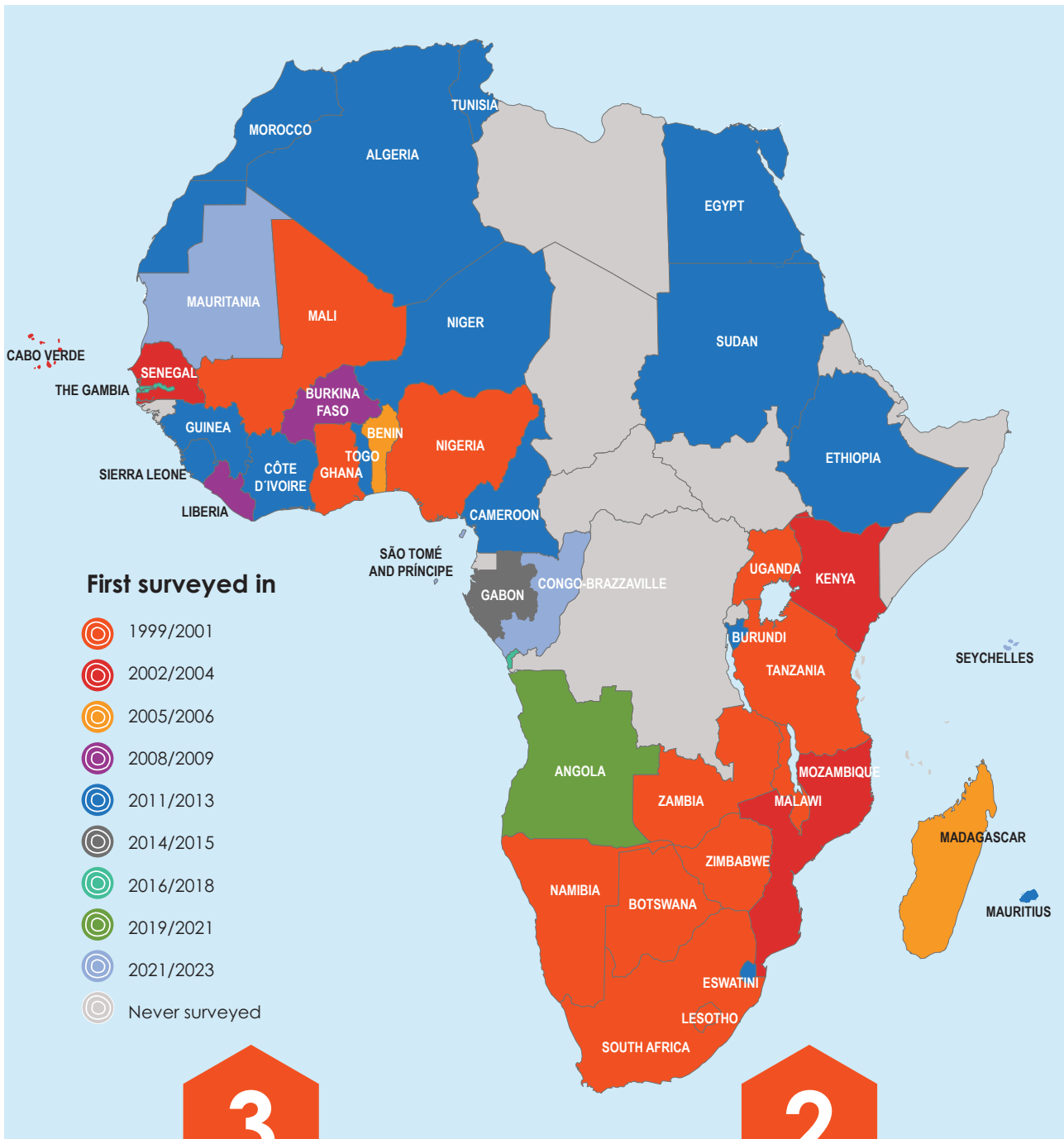
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National Partners

These organisations are responsible for conducting all in-country survey activities.

- Angola**
Ovilongwa Consulting
- Benin**
Innovante Recherche en Economie et Gouvernance (IREG)
- Botswana**
Star Awards
- Burkina Faso**
Institut pour la Gouvernance et le Développement (IGD)
- Cabo Verde**
Afrosondagem
- Cameroon**
Cible Etudes & Conseil
- Congo-Brazzaville**
Association Avenir NEPAD Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire**
Zechlab in Round 10; Centre de Recherche et de Formation sur le Développement Intégré (CREFDI) in rounds 5-9
- Eswatini**
QA Strategic Information
- Ethiopia**
ABCON – Research & Consulting
- Gabon**
Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche en Géosciences Politiques et Prospective (CERGEP)
- Gambia**
Center for Research and Policy Development (CRPD) in Round 10; Center for Policy, Research and Strategic Studies (CepRass) in rounds 7-9
- Ghana**
Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)
- Guinea**
Stat View International
- Kenya**
Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi
- Lesotho**
Advison Lesotho
- Liberia**
Center for Democratic Governance (CDG)
- Madagascar**
COEF-Ressources
- Malawi**
Centre for Social Research (CSR), University of Malawi
- Mali**
Groupe de Recherche en Économie Appliquée et Théorique (GREAT)
- Mauritania**
SISTA Consult Mauritanie
- Mauritius**
StraConsult
- Morocco**
Global for Survey and Consulting (GSC)
- Mozambique**
Ipsos, Mozambique
- Namibia**
Survey Warehouse
- Niger**
Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL)
- Nigeria**
NOIPolls
- Senegal**
Consortium pour la Recherche en Économie Sociale (CRES)
- Seychelles**
Department of Business and Finance, University of Seychelles
- Sierra Leone**
Institute for Governance Reform (IGR)
- South Africa**
Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR)
- Sudan**
Sudan Polling Statistics Center
- Tanzania**
REPOA
- Togo**
Center for Research and Opinion Polls (CROP)
- Tunisia**
One to One for Research and Polling (121)
- Uganda**
Hatchile Consult Ltd.
- Zambia**
Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR), University of Zambia
- Zimbabwe**
Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI)





Core Partners

In addition to serving as National Partners, these institutions manage and provide support to the other National Partners in their region.

- Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) – West, Central, and North Africa
- Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi – East Africa
- Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) – Southern Africa

Support Units

These university-based teams provide technical support to our Core Partners.

- University of Cape Town – Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa (IDCPPA)
- Michigan State University – Department of Political Science

National and Core Partner

CDD celebrates 25 years of championing democracy

A quarter-century ago, just as Ghana was making its transition from military rule to democracy, professors E. Gyimah-Boadi and Baffour Agyeman-Duah and businessman William Yeboah had a meeting of the minds: What the country needed was a professionally managed civil society organisation whose advocacy for democracy and good governance was grounded solidly in research.

The Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) was born. Soon after, Gyimah-Boadi went continental by co-founding Afrobarometer (AB), and the two organisations grew up together.

CDD's silver jubilee celebration last year highlighted some of its greatest successes, according to Executive Director Henry Kwasi Prempeh:

- Building CDD into Ghana's go-to source for evidence-driven analysis and critical and independent opinion on a wide range of public policy and public interest issues related to politics, democracy, constitutionalism, and governance.
- Being acknowledged among peer organisations in Ghana as the leader in civil society advocacy, representation, and voice.
- Being among the first of a new generation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Ghana, following the end of military rule in 1992, to

manage a transition and succession in its leadership and governance from its founders and founding board to the present.

- Successfully extending its CSO leadership and advocacy footprint and influence beyond Ghana to the West Africa region through initiatives such as the West Africa Election Observers Network (WAEON) as well as incubating and leading the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), a regional network with a start-up membership of more than 30 pro-democracy CSOs covering all 15 member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Prempeh, who now oversees a staff of more than 50 in two locations in Ghana, said the secret to CDD's success boils down to its investment in its people; building and maintaining trust with funders and other principal stakeholders; and consistently and fearlessly defending democracy and good governance principles in a highly polarised political environment.



Prempeh

"CDD-Ghana prides itself on its demonstrated commitment to its employees' academic,



CDD staff members celebrate in their silver-anniversary best.

intellectual, and career development and progress," Prempeh said, "as shown in the number of young programme and research staff it has nurtured and supported to pursue PhDs in the social sciences.

"We are especially proud that most of them have, upon acquiring their PhDs, remained associated with CDD/Afrobarometer – as employees, fellows, consultants, et cetera."

CDD's impressive list of alumni include Joseph Asunka (CEO of Afrobarometer), Edem Selormey (CDD-Ghana's director of research), Kojo Asante (director of programmes and policy engagement), Franklin Oduro (with the National Democratic Institute/Ethiopia), George Ofori (assistant professor at the London School of Economics and a CDD Democracy & Development Fellow), and Edward Ampratwum (United Nations Development Programme, Ghana).

Prempeh said a standout moment of the past 25 years was the seamless leadership succession in 2018, when a new executive management team took over from CDD's founding leadership.

Other highlights include the successful spinning off of Afrobarometer's administrative management from CDD in 2019 and CDD's acquisition of its office building and premises in Accra in 2004.

Central to these successes has been CDD's relationship with Afrobarometer. Throughout AB's existence, CDD-Ghana has served three roles: National Partner for Ghana, host of the AB Project Management Unit from 2005 to 2019, and Core Partner, currently covering West Africa and North Africa, the largest portfolio of National Partners in the AB network.

"CDD-Ghana has benefited immensely from its 'special relationship' with Afrobarometer and membership in the Afrobarometer family," Prempeh said. "First, Afrobarometer's main product – scientifically gathered public opinion on various topics and issues affecting citizens in Ghana and across Africa – provides valuable insights into public sentiment, which inform evidence-based policy making and democratic reforms, an essential basis for most of CDD's advocacy policy engagement in Ghana.

"Second, integrating Afrobarometer into CDD-Ghana's organisational structure and programming opened new capacity-building opportunities in research for the centre, mainly in public opinion surveys and quantitative data collection, analysis, and writing.

"The partnership with Afrobarometer has also contributed to developing a vibrant and independent research community in the country as CDD-Ghana has trained various individual researchers across the country on data collection and survey administration from one round of surveys to the other.

"Third, communicating Afrobarometer biannual surveys placed CDD-Ghana firmly in the public discourse, given that Afrobarometer findings, controversial as they sometimes were, engendered exciting discussion in the media and among political pundits, and policy discussions and debates among policy makers and civil society organisations on citizens' needs and aspirations."

As for the next 25 years, Prempeh hopes that CDD will "deepen and continue to extend our Africa footprints – particularly, strengthen our regional peer networks and engagement and partnership with African Union institutions and ECOWAS" and "become a leading regional democracy and governance think tank and advocacy CSO in West Africa."

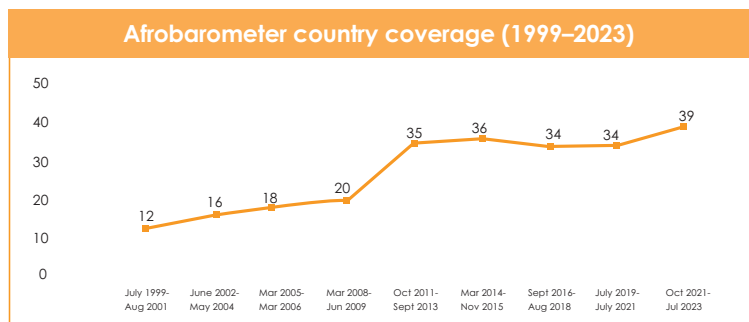


Presidential attention: Former Botswana President Festus Gontebanye Mogae paid a visit in 2012 (top), and then-Vice President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana joined Prof. E. Gyimah-Boadi at CDD-Ghana's international conference on electoral-violence prevention in 2021.

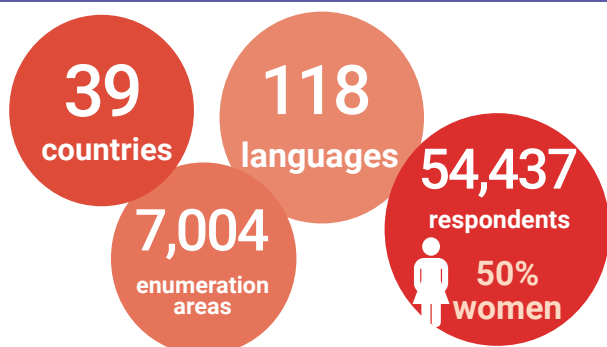
Surveys

For Afrobarometer (AB) surveys, 2023 spanned from the completion of a record-setting Round 9 (in 39 countries) to the launch of a record-breaking Round 10 (targeting 40-42 countries) – with pre-election and user surveys, rebidding of National Partners, scouting of new countries, and special projects thrown in for good measure.

Round 9 covered more countries than any survey round in AB's 25-year history, including our first-ever surveys in Mauritania, Congo-Brazzaville, and Seychelles. Challenges abounded, including delays in accessing census data and survey maps; closing political space in Eswatini, Tunisia, and Mozambique; increasing survey costs due to the Russia-Ukraine war and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and extreme weather in Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique.



Round 9 surveys in summary



Yet National Partners completed 54,437 face-to-face interviews, representing the views of more than three-quarters of Africa's population, allowing AB to project their voices to policy makers, civil society actors, and development partners across the continent and the globe.

A consistent flow of new country data sets fed the dissemination of findings throughout the year, culminating in a merged 39-country data set to inform AB's Pan-Africa Profiles series of cross-country analyses on high-impact topics.

On to Round 10

In parallel, the Surveys Unit oversaw the development of a Round 10 questionnaire featuring nine special-focus topics, ranging from climate change to sexual/reproductive health, and organised a Round 10 planning meeting in Ghana, the first network-wide face-to-face meeting since before the pandemic.

Training of fieldworkers started in December 2023, with data collection scheduled to begin in Côte d'Ivoire in January 2024.

The Surveys Unit also conducted desk research and three in-country assessments to evaluate the feasibility of conducting Round 10 surveys in Djibouti, Chad, the Comoros, Egypt, and Equatorial Guinea. An assessment of Rwanda and decisions on next steps are expected in January 2024.

Special focus survey modules in Round 10

Youth	Gender	Climate change and energy transition
Poverty/Cost of living	Public health systems and vaccines	Access to justice
Migration/Borders/Trade	Globalism/Africa's voice	Sexual and reproductive health rights

Meanwhile, AB continued to monitor the security situation and its possible impact on planned surveys, especially in countries that have recently experienced coups or other insecurity, such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Eswatini, Mozambique, and Sudan.

Data management

After cleaning and finalising 39 country data sets, the data team developed a merged Round 9 data set with all 39 countries, ready for cross-country analysis.

Pre-election survey in Zimbabwe

In addition to fielding its standard surveys, AB conducted a special survey in Zimbabwe ahead of the country's August 2023 elections.

Policy user surveys

Working with the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning team, the Surveys Unit launched the network's third wave of policy user surveys in 10

countries to assess key stakeholders' awareness of AB's work, their perceptions of its quality and reliability, and the level of visibility and use of AB data and publications.

National Partner (re)bidding

In accordance with the requirement that National Partnerships be rebid after three survey rounds, the Surveys Unit led rebidding in 13 countries as well as bidding for new partners in two first-time countries (Congo-Brazzaville and Seychelles). Among the 13 Round 9 partners, 11 received the highest scores and were retained, while two lost out to challengers.

Special projects

The Surveys Unit also continued to manage the successful AB-led Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) (see Page 29) and a series of annual surveys in Uganda funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



Ethiopian fieldworkers are trained, then head out to every corner of the country.

Analysis

The Afrobarometer (AB) Analysis Unit is where data are put to work, and 2023 was a full shift.

The unit's primary goals include increasing the scope of the network's analytical outputs to reach new audiences while expanding the pool of published authors through training, mentoring, editing, and production support for AB staff, partners, students, and others. Our busy and productive year included these major successes:

- 🎯 **Completion of the Round 8 Pan-Africa Profile (PAP) series** – The final two entries presented popular perspectives on [age limits](#) for presidents and our latest findings on demand for and supply of [democracy](#), particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and China's growing influence on the continent.
- 🎯 **Launch of Round 9 PAPs** – R9 data collection was completed mid-year, so in October we were able to release our first R9 PAP sharing new findings on [climate change](#) in advance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). Five more R9 PAPs were published by year's end, reporting AB's first-ever findings on [child well-being](#) and [gender-based violence](#) as well as updated findings on [youth](#), [gender equality](#), and [corruption](#). The series, in both English and French, will continue throughout much of 2024, covering topics ranging from electricity and water supply to environmental governance, open government, and access to information.
- 🎯 **Analysis for AB presentations** – Immediately after completion of the full R9 merged data set in September, the Analysis Unit launched a programme of extensive analysis and production of slides to respond to the many requests we receive for presentations of our latest findings, which have already been shared with students and researchers, government officials, funders, and other international audiences. The team is building a databank of slides that will soon number in the hundreds, covering many of AB's signature and special topics, that we can draw on to build presentations for every audience.
- 🎯 In addition to completing production of [climate change country scorecards](#) launched in 2022, the Analysis Unit collaborated with the Communications Unit to plan, design, and

produce [child well-being country scorecards](#) for all R9 countries. The cards graphically highlight Africans' views on physical discipline of children, frequency of neglect and abuse of children, and the availability of help for vulnerable children at the community level. Published in collaboration with Laws.Africa and the Data for Governance Alliance, the scorecards were unveiled at the 42nd Ordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in Addis Ababa.

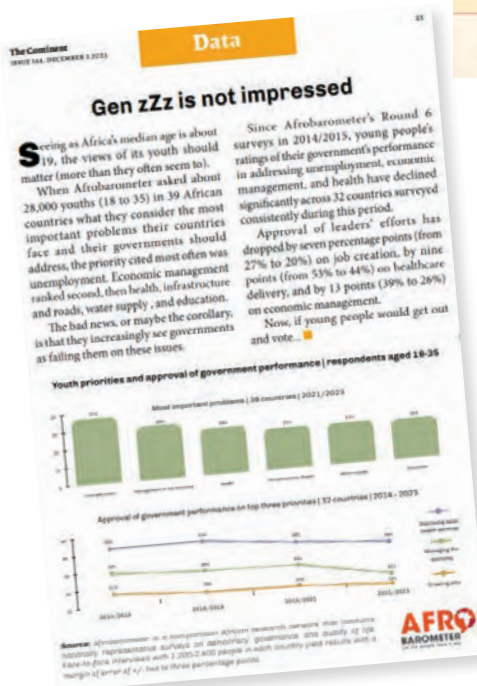
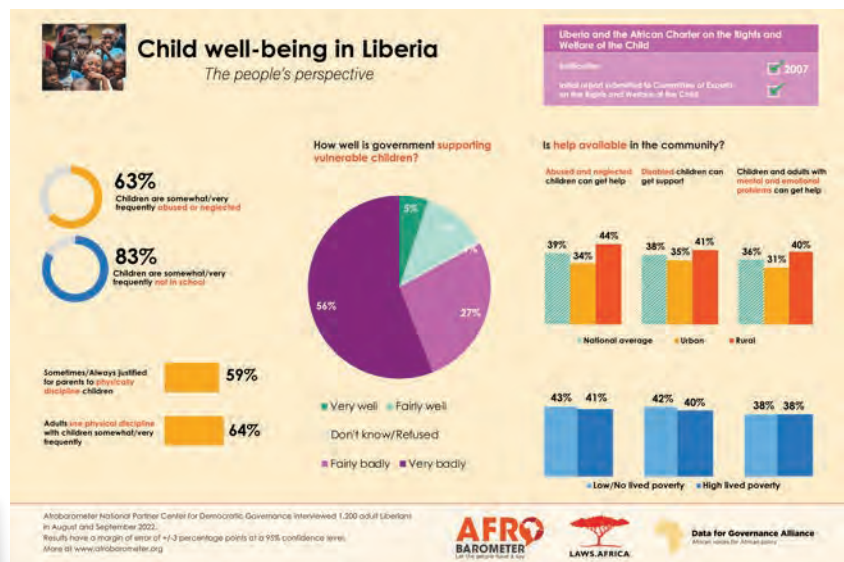
- 🎯 To facilitate the publication of country-level AB **dispatches on priority R9 topics**, the Analysis Unit produced country dispatch templates for eight topics: gender equality, gender-based violence, climate change, environmental governance, child welfare, police professionalism, youth, and COVID-19. The templates have been widely used by National Partners to produce more than 100 dispatches on these priority topics just during 2023 (153 in total since 2022). This includes 20 dispatches produced through a special arrangement with the University of Florida Department of Political Science to train and support five African graduate students to produce AB dispatches on a wide range of topics.
- 🎯 The Analysis Unit collaborates closely with the Communications Unit to generate regular **rapid-response outputs**. These include news releases, infographics, and posts in the Continent that bring AB findings to bear on current issues and debates. They are either released in response to current events in partner countries (e.g. elections in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe; protests in Senegal) or timed to link to international days recognising specific issues (e.g. International Women's Day, Day of the African Child, World Water Day).
- 🎯 Afrobarometer's collaboration with the Continent, an award-winning online publication, continued throughout the year. The Analysis Unit produced 31 **weekly "Data" pages for the Continent** on topics ranging from police brutality to military intervention in politics.
- 🎯 Overall in 2023, the Analysis Unit supported **publication** of 169 Afrobarometer dispatches, five policy papers, and eight working papers, contributing as authors, designers, reviewers,

editors, quality controllers, and production managers. The publications team also works closely with other teams to produce monthly **AB Updates** and quarterly **AB Currents** newsletters.

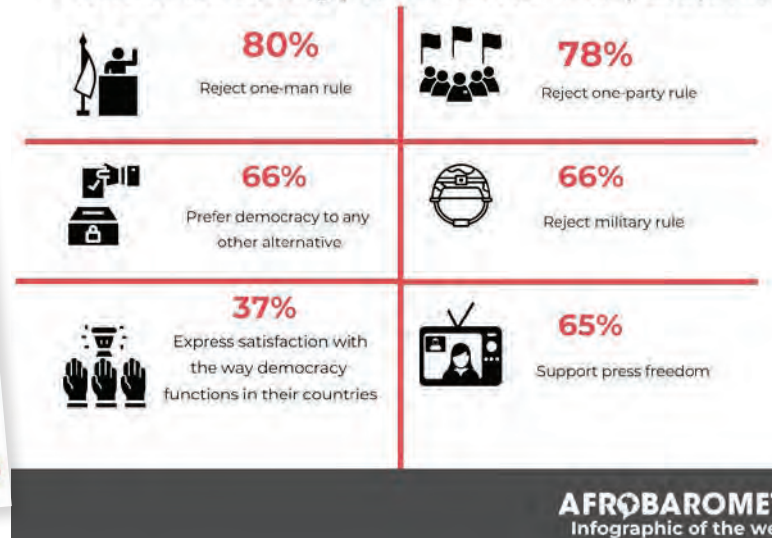
- 🎯 The **Infographic of the Week** series, launched in 2021, continued with 41 posts for the year, providing “rapid responses” to events and extending the reach of AB’s results dissemination.
- 🎯 Other special publications and outputs produced and/or released during the year include contributions to the Wilson Center’s *Africa: Year in Review*, the Brookings Institution’s *Africa Foresight 2023*, and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation’s “*The Power of data for governance: Closing data gaps to accelerate Africa’s transformation*,” along with blog posts in Good Authority and the Conversation.
- 🎯 The Analysis Unit also continued to review and upgrade AB’s methodologies, including through analysis of interview length and a sponsored analysis of AB’s infrastructure data by London School of Economics students, both of which led to modifications on the Round 10 questionnaire. The team has also been participating in analysis of data from AB’s 2022 phone surveys to help develop a phone-survey manual.

Our team

The Analysis Unit team continues to grow and change. During 2023 we said goodbye to two Michigan State University (MSU) PhD research assistants who have taken up teaching posts as well as one graduating master’s of public policy student and an intern. But we also welcomed a new MSU PhD student, a new MSU master’s student, and a new intern while recruiting a senior editor (expected to join the team in early 2024) and receiving approval to hire a research and analysis officer. There is always more that we want to do, but with this growing team we expect to produce even more innovative analyses and outputs in 2024.



Views on democracy | 39 African countries | 2021/2023



Communications

In 2023, Afrobarometer (AB) blazed a trail through the complexities of the digital communications landscape to place the priorities of African citizens front and centre for country-level, pan-African, and global audiences. Our digital-first approach went from strategic priority to working principle via a proactive stance that recognises the changing nature of how information is consumed, shared, and retained.

Innovative tools enhanced understanding, fostered support, and elevated the visibility of AB's work. Data visualisation and animated videos transformed complex data sets into compelling narratives, ensuring that the aspirations and experiences of African citizens were heard. "Did you know?" graphics showcased interesting facts about AB's goals, structure, methodology, and findings. "Faces behind the data" videos captured and shared the experiences and commitment of National Partners and core AB staff.

From strategic planning to participation in international forums, the communications groundwork laid in 2023 positions Afrobarometer to continue shaping the narrative on the African continent and making citizen voice a key pillar of Africa policy and decision making.

Laying foundations

A **Round 10 planning meeting** in Ghana was both a communications success and an institutional milestone, bringing together AB's founders, members of the Board and International Advisory Council (IAC), and National Partners from 40 African countries in the first network-wide face-to-face meeting since before COVID-19. Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a member of the IAC, gave the keynote address, and the IAC, chaired by Ambassador Johnnie Carson, offered recommendations for global exposure and signature products. Both internally and externally, the event signalled AB's grounded strength and strategic vision for the future.

Building momentum

While projecting its survey findings through traditional publications supported by engaging social media content, AB's Communications Unit ensured AB's high

visibility across the continent. Platforms included the **Africa Media Festival in Nairobi**; an **AB news conference** highlighting findings on elections, climate change, economic conditions, and other timely topics; and a **Twitter Space webinar with the African Union**.

AB's Communications Unit placed Africans' demand for urgent climate action on the world stage by hosting an Action Hub at the **Africa Climate Summit**, releasing a video highlighting AB finding on climate change, and participating in the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28)** in Dubai.

In observation of International Youth Day, AB and the Mastercard Foundation hosted a webinar to shed light on critical issues concerning **African youth**, including unemployment and political participation.

A series of briefings and discussions with **U.S. Africa policy actors** in Washington, DC, allowed AB to present the priorities and evaluations of African citizens to officials representing USAID, the U.S. State Department, the U.S House Foreign Affairs Committee, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the National Endowment for Democracy, the World Bank, the Obama Foundation, and other civil society organisations. Implications of AB findings for the operationalisation of the new U.S strategy toward sub-Saharan Africa was a topic of particular interest.

A U.S. Africa strategy **panel organised by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace** highlighted Africa's pivotal role in shaping the global future and underscored Afrobarometer's contribution to informing relevant action.



A briefing on Round 9 findings in Cabo Verde

Communicating for impact

Innovative content bridged the gap between information dissemination and audience engagement in AB's communication of its survey findings. In addition to supporting National Partners in country-level communications, the network used its **Pan-Africa Profiles (PAPs)** as opportunities for communication with impact. Data visualisation and animated videos packaged insights from these 39-country reports on [climate change](#), [gender-based violence](#) and [gender equality](#), youth, [child well-being](#), and [corruption](#) in quickly shareable content that resonated with audiences.

Our PAP on child well-being accompanied newly developed [country scorecards](#) released in collaboration with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in Addis Ababa, while our PAP on gender-based violence informed a **visual campaign** marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Other 2023 highlights included Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) **stakeholder convenings** in South Africa, Ghana, and Kenya (see Page 29) and training for African Union and civil society representatives; building network capacity through trainings in [Casablanca](#) and [Nairobi](#) for National Partner **communications focal points** (photos at right); and a communications team retreat focusing on the development of new communications strategies aligned with Afrobarometer's 10-year strategy and upcoming 25th-anniversary celebration.



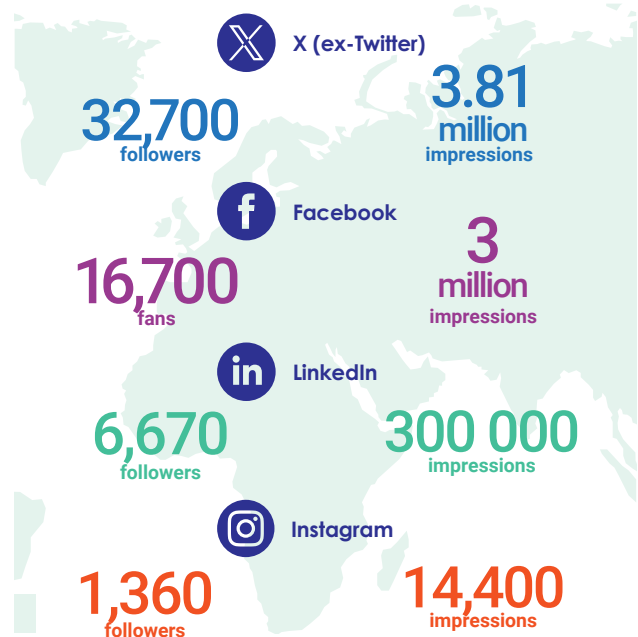
COP28: Alok Sharma, president of COP26 and climate and finance fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation, joins AB's Nafissatou Diouf, left, and Josephine Sanny at COP28.

AB in the news ...

A total of 26,017 media hits were recorded in 2023 across various media outlets, including the [New York Times](#), [Africa Report](#), [Washington Post](#), [Mail & Guardian](#), [PressAfrik](#), [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#), [Associated Press](#), [Bloomberg](#), [TV5Monde](#), [the Conversation](#), [Economist](#), [Financial Times](#), [Daily Maverick](#), [Graphic Online](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [allAfrica.com](#), [Business Tech](#), [BBC](#), [Reuters](#), [Council on Foreign Relations](#), [Deutsche Welle](#), [Le Monde](#), [Guardian](#), [RFI](#), and [World Bank blogs](#).



... and on social media



Capacity Building

2023 was a year of reassessment, re-visioning, and renewal for the Afrobarometer capacity building (CB) programme. The CB team opened the year by conducting a thorough review and update of our programmes and activities with the goal of extending our reach – especially to youth and women – and increasing the effectiveness of our skills building to empower the next generation of data researchers and analysts on the continent.

The redesigned programme incorporates a “laddered” approach that runs on two training tracks, one for data users and a second for aspiring data analysts. The analysis tier has been restructured in recognition of the need to invest more, and more effectively, in basic analysis skills while also continuing to meet the needs of those who are ready to move on to intermediate- and advanced-level courses. As we build on this new model, we expect the users track and the basic analysis track to produce a growing pipeline of participants into the intermediate and advanced training tracks.

The new programme also strengthens our investment in:

- 🕒 **New audiences** by expanding our engagement with civil society organisations (CSOs) and journalists as well as our universities outreach aimed at introducing more teachers and young scholars to AB data and analysis;
- 🕒 **New tools** by building a video training library and teaching toolkits; and
- 🕒 **New skills** through staff fellowships as well as plans to make language training and management training available to AB staff.



Journalist training



“As part of civil society, our work is advocacy. To do advocacy well, you need quality data and the ability to interpret and analyse the information. ... This training came at just the right time to enable me to do this work very rigorously.”



– CSO training participant Dago Zeki,
president of the NGO Cœur d'Amour
Côte d'Ivoire

Highlights of the year include:

- 🕒 A wide array of workshops and courses:
 - **English and French writing workshops**, which helped top participants in the 2022 summer schools to bring their work through to publication, resulting in eight publications so far, many from new authors.
 - **Five CSO and journalist training workshops** launched our “users track” outreach. Participants learned to use the online data analysis tool to incorporate AB findings into their work.
 - **Online basic training** introduced more than 70 individuals from around and outside the network to the basics of data analysis and chart making. This course was a prerequisite to apply for the in-person English summer school and enabled participants to arrive with a stronger baseline of skills.
 - **AB English summer school** brought together 19 researchers from 13 countries for three weeks, focusing on introductory analysis skills and production of an AB dispatch. All 19 participants have submitted draft dispatches.

- **Intermediate/advanced analysis workshops** trained eight participants in the use of geographic information systems (GIS) as a tool to analyse AB data and introduced nine participants to regression analysis and related methods along with thematic training in "Security, safety, and policing." Five participants in the second workshop have submitted draft manuscripts as an output of the training.
- In all, AB **trained more than 200 researchers, civil society activists, and journalists** in 2023. In addition, the Surveys Unit trained **145 fieldworkers**, and the Communications Unit trained 31 National Partner **communications focal points**.

Key steps in our universities outreach programme toward ensuring that AB data and resources are used as widely in African universities as they are in Europe and North America:

- An MOU is being developed with the **Association of African Universities** to facilitate outreach and collaboration with universities on the continent.
- AB went into the classroom at the **Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD)** at the University of Ghana and at the **United States International University (USIU)** in Kenya to introduce AB as a resource for research and education and train students and faculty in the use of AB's online data analysis tool.
- AB presented a panel at the **African Association of Political Science** meeting

to introduce faculty and students from universities across the continent to our work.

- We will host a **conference** in 2024 to spotlight the research of faculty and students who are integrating AB data into their work as a result of these outreach efforts.

Fellowships and training to keep the network at the cutting edge:

- **28 staff development fellowships** built staff capacities, ranging from short online management training to a three-week residential course on survey methods.
- Plans were put in place to offer online **French-language training** and **management training** starting in early 2024.

A planned **mentoring network** is taking shape, including the identification of mentors from outside AB, to support young researchers in their work.



Summer school



Universities outreach at LECIAD, University of Ghana



Writing workshop

Partnerships and Collaboration

In 2022, Afrobarometer (AB) launched its partnership portfolio with the aim of expanding its capacity, reach, and impact. Over the following year, partnerships worked to strengthen existing collaborations and establish new ones to enhance engagement with and utilisation of AB data. After a streamlining of partnerships across all units (Analysis, Capacity Building, Surveys, Communications, and the Secretariat), the Central Management Team is currently deliberating on the partnership strategy in collaboration with relevant staff members.

Throughout this period, AB prioritised maintaining strategic relationships with funders, policy advocates, and civil society actors to ensure that African voices are heard within the continent and globally. Notable collaborations in 2023 included a joint webinar with the **Mastercard Foundation** to mark World Youth Day on 12 August (see image at right). The webinar offered a platform for young Africans to share their experiences, aspirations, and perspectives on governance and development issues.

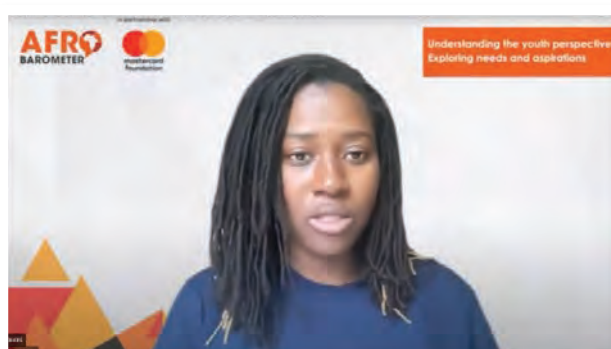
AB partnered with the **U.S. Institute of Peace** and **Amani Africa** to engage and expose technical experts of the **African Union Peace and Security Council** and civil society organisations that interface with the African Union to AB data and analysis.

AB also partnered with the **Obama Foundation** to introduce the foundation's Leaders Africa participants to our data and analysis on the theme "unlocking the power of data for social impact." We expect to continue this partnership in future iterations of the programme.

Our collaboration with the **Future Africa Institute** at the University of Pretoria continued to grow. We met with the leadership of the institute to explore areas of collaboration and conducted our 2023 English-language summer school and a thematic workshop on safety, security, and policing at the institute.

Our partnership with the **Institute for Security Studies** was extended for five more years, emphasising the promotion of accountable governance through policy research, technical assistance, capacity building, and policy engagement.

Other AB partners and collaborators included **Statista**, to make AB data available to a range of actors within the international business community; the **Global Democracy Coalition** led by the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance**; the **European Centre for Development Policy Management**; the **Global Partnership for Anticorruption in Development**; and the **Association of African Universities**, to bring AB data and analysis to its member institutions across the continent.



D4GA hits its stride in 2023

One of Afrobarometer's partnership success stories kicked into high gear in 2023, creating impact that is rippling across the continent.

The Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA), a four-year project funded by the European Union, works to foster data-driven advocacy and collaboration between pan-African civil society organisations (CSOs) and members of the African Governance Platform (AGP). It aims to bolster implementation of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the African Governance Architecture's (AGA) agenda on democracy, governance, and human rights by equipping CSOs with tools and knowledge to engage effectively with AGA and national governments.

AB leads the project, partnering with the Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, and Laws.Africa.

The consortium launched D4GA in 2021, helping build relationships between AU institutions and selected CSOs and setting up an online platform housing AU protocols, treaties, and resolutions. Stakeholder meetings brought together seven AU organs and 15 CSOs in 2022.

In 2023, D4GA hit its stride with "convenings" in East, West, and Southern Africa – three intensive five-day workshops enabling representatives of AU organs and 41 CSO representatives to network, share knowledge and ideas, and jointly explore challenges and possible solutions related to governance, democracy, and human-rights issues in Africa. Data from Afrobarometer and the online D4GA platform fuelled discussions on youth, unconstitutional changes of government, child well-being, migration, elections, and other topics, and participants agreed on projects for joint implementation and collaboration in 2024. More information on 2023 D4GA convenings can be accessed from the [project's website](#), and a dozen videos generated from the three regional convenings can be accessed on the [D4GA YouTube channel](#).

The year also saw the release of a variety of D4GA publications. In collaboration with Afrobarometer, the project published [14 policy briefs](#) and [country scorecards](#)

on child well-being for 39 countries. It also produced and released [scorecards on access to justice during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) and a [CSO advocacy training manual](#). These publications have been shared widely with CSOs and AU institutions during the regional convenings and through the D4GA newsletter, webinars, workshops, and the D4GA social media platform.

As part of a commitment to building capacity among CSOs, the project also conducted two-day workshops in Accra (Ghana) and Johannesburg (South Africa) to train 40 CSO representatives on how to access, analyse, and use Afrobarometer data.

These efforts were accompanied by significant collaboration between D4GA partners and AU institutions. Consortium members co-hosted webinars with the AU institutions, including on youth with the AU youth envoy; on corruption with the AU Advisory Board Against Corruption; and with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the AU's Economic, Social & Cultural Council to celebrate the APRM's 20th anniversary. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child hosted the launch of the AB/D4GA country scorecards on child well-being.

Consortium members also participated in various AU workshops and joint committee meetings, including with the Pan-African Parliament in Burundi, Ethiopia, and South Africa and the third annual joint retreat between the APRM and the AU Peace and Security Council.

The digital [Africanlii Platform](#) housed 10,346 AU documents by the end of 2023, more than twice the total in 2022.



**Data for
Governance Alliance**



**Ghana Center for
Democratic Development**



Visibility and Impact

Afrobarometer (AB) data and analysis are used and showcased by scores of government leaders and agencies, civil society organisations, development partners, think tanks, media outlets, and academics across Africa and around the world. In 2023, AB's work again demonstrated its global reach, drew extensive response from government and policy actors, and was featured on numerous high-impact outlets and forums.

Global reach

- AB data contribute to global indicators in the Economist Intelligence Unit's [Democracy Index](#), the World Bank [Worldwide Governance Indicators](#), and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) [country scorecards](#), among others.
- AB indicators measure progress toward 12 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are featured in our [country-level SDG scorecards](#).
- The Mo Ibrahim Foundation uses AB data in its [Ibrahim Index of African Governance \(IIAG\)](#) and highlighted AB's work in its [webinar on the state of participation, rights, and inclusion](#) in Africa.

Government and policy actors' response

Ghana: Describing AB's findings as "the judgment of the people of Ghana," Speaker of Parliament Alban S.K. Bagbin urged his colleagues to "[change our ways](#) and the ways we conduct our business" in order to regain the public's trust.

Zambia: President Hakainde Hichilema tweeted an [AB chart on popular support for democracy](#) to recognise Zambia as being "a nation that cares about governance, equality, justice & their impact on our future."

Cabo Verde: Prime Minister José Ulisses Correia e Silva cited AB data in [his address to the United Nations General Assembly](#) to highlight Africans' commitment to democracy.

Malawi: Inspector General of Police Merlyne Yolamu pledged to [fight corruption](#) in the Malawi Police Service, saying, "We all heard about the Afrobarometer report where we feature highly as a corrupt organisation. We cannot deny this reality. In 2023 we will take measures to ensure we root out all corrupt elements."

Uganda: The Office of the Prime Minister joined AB National Partner Hatchile Consult in presenting AB findings on "Service delivery challenges and opportunities in Uganda's new cities" to representatives of 13 line ministries, departments, and agencies in preparation for dissemination engagements with the new city administrations.

Ghana: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey praised

Afrobarometer's role in [deepening democratic governance](#) in Africa.

African Union: Amani Africa organised an "Engagement with African Union stakeholders to strengthen Afrobarometer data uptake."

African Peer Review Mechanism: The APRM and the African Union's Economic, Social & Cultural Council joined the AB-led Data for Governance Alliance in hosting a webinar on democracy, human rights, and good governance as part of an APRM 20th-anniversary event.

Gambia: The Ministry of Justice reaffirmed its commitment to implementing recommendations of the [Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission](#), retweeting an AB chart on Gambians' perceptions on the matter.

Kofi Annan Foundation: After the Niger coup d'état, a foundation tweet highlighted AB data on [West Africans' aspirations to democracy](#).



CEO Joseph Asunka shares AB findings at a U.S. Africa strategy panel organised by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace that also featured, from left, ambassadors Johnnie Carson and Elsie S. Kanza; Molly Phee, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs; Judd Devermont, special assistant to the U.S. president; and Zainab Usman, director of the Africa Programme at the Carnegie Endowment.



Tracking visibility and impact

Tracking the uses, visibility, and impact of Afrobarometer (AB) data across the continent and around the globe is a key focus of AB's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) team. In 2023, the team also forged ahead on a new MEL system, debriefed National Partners on Round 9 hurdles and accomplishments, and launched a 10-country user survey.

Following successful development, data migration, and integration with AB's customer relationships management and other systems, the new MEL system is facilitating coordination, tracking of agreements and deliverables, assessment of partner performance, and reporting.

In addition to quantifying AB's performance on its strategic and workplan indicators, the MEL team led a Round 9 debrief survey to inform planning for Round 10.

It also launched AB's third user survey to gather feedback from key stakeholders in government, civil society, development partner institutions, the media, and academia. The survey aims to learn how aware these stakeholders are of AB's work, how they assess its quality and reliability, and how its outputs can better serve their needs. The survey is being conducted in 10 countries (Ghana, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, Guinea, Nigeria, Kenya, Botswana, Cabo Verde, and Lesotho).

High-impact outlets and forums frequently feature AB's work

Wilson Center, D.C. Africa Program: [Africa: Year in Review](#)

Brookings: [Foresight Africa 2023](#)

Carter Center: [Advancing peace through health in Mali: Baseline study](#)

British House of Commons Library: [Coups and political stability in West Africa](#)

African Union: [Africa Governance Report 2023](#)

Washington Post Editorial Board: ["The U.S. should think of Africa as a partner, not a pawn"](#)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: ["How the U.S. can better support Africa's energy transition"](#)

World Bank: ["Voices of the vulnerable: Promoting access to justice in sub-Saharan Africa"](#)

U.S. National Library of Medicine: ["Trust and COVID precautionary measures during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from two African countries"](#)

Continent: Weekly "Data" page

Economist: ["The state of democracy in Africa and the Middle East"](#)

Financial Times: ["Gambia's "baby democracy" struggles to take root as disillusionment deepens"](#)

Reuters: ["Uganda's anti-gay bill is the latest and worst to target LGBTQ Africans"](#)

"Afrobarometer Corner" in the World Bank's Chief Economists of Government Initiative newsletter

Briefings and talks on continental and global platforms

2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) and Africa Climate Week

[Obama Foundation Leaders Africa](#) programme

Ibrahim Governance Weekend

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace U.S. Africa strategy panel

Mastercard Foundation webinar on [the perspectives of African youth](#)

UN World Data Forum on "Moving gender data up the value chain"

West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS)

Ford Foundation Democracy Futures Seminar

Harvard University's Center for International Development

Pan-African Parliament

British All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa

Broad media (26,017 articles) and social media exposure



Fundraising and Financials

Fundraising

Following AB's institutional restructuring, much of which was concluded in 2023, the fundraising function is now institutionalised in the Secretariat, under the leadership and direction of the chief executive officer and chief operating officer. In line with discussions with the Board, Central Management Team, and partners, the team has adopted a three-pronged strategy to fundraising:

- 🕒 Work toward a resource portfolio with 60% in core/institutional support and 40% project support.
- 🕒 Grow the share of funding from within Africa, including through an expanded individual donation drive.
- 🕒 Work closely with our Core and National Partners to enhance country-level fundraising to support AB surveys and related activities.

Guided by this strategy, we embarked on several trips to share data and analysis from the Round 9 surveys with key stakeholders, including policy actors and funding partners, and discuss funding prospects with some of them. During the year, we travelled to South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia, and the United States for in-person stakeholder meetings and engaged many others virtually. As part of efforts to expand funding sources on the continent, we participated in the 4th African Philanthropy Conference in Senegal, which brought together African philanthropists and private foundations, civil society groups, and researchers to discuss philanthropy in Africa. We started to build relations with the business community on the continent by meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in Kenya and participating in the global congress of Consumers International, where we shared findings on alternative energy sources based on data from our Round 9 module on climate change. We also commenced the individual donor drive by participating in GivingTuesday 2023. Our thanks go to all who heeded the call to donate and share the information with friends and partners – your contribution helps to elevate the voices of ordinary Africans on issues that affect their lives. Starting in 2024, we intend to have at least two online fundraising campaigns: one on AB Founders Day in July and the second on GivingTuesday.

Overall, 2023 was a good year for AB fundraising. We were able to renew some of our existing funding partnerships and secure additional support from existing and new funders. Our partnerships with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the World Bank Think Africa Project, and USAID through the U.S. Institute of Peace were renewed during the year. New funding came from GIZ, the William

and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Luminate. The Open Society Foundations – Africa also awarded a grant to AB as seed funding for an Africa Judicial Independence Fund, which AB will host.

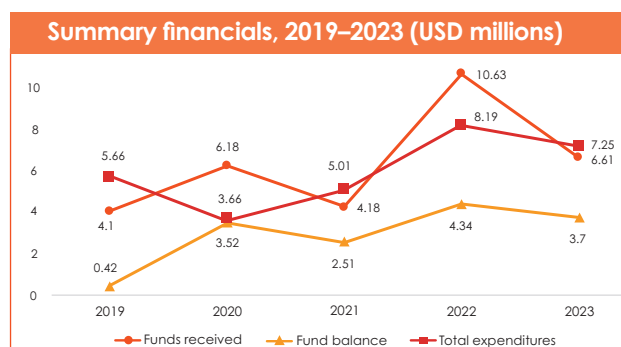
Our efforts to enhance country-level fundraising resulted in some success. In Zimbabwe, we worked with our National Partner and secured funding from the Embassy of Sweden for a pre-election survey. USAID in Ethiopia generously funded the Round 9 survey in Ethiopia. Our partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda was extended through December 2024, allowing us to continue surveys and dissemination activities in that country. We aim to replicate this in-country funding model in other countries for Round 10 and future surveys. Some funders have expressed interest in supporting specific countries, indicating growing recognition of the value of our work at the country level.

We maintained our donor coordination and engagement efforts, holding update meetings with all major funders throughout the year. In July, we adopted a new customer relationships management system that links fundraising, finance, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning, making our operations more efficient.

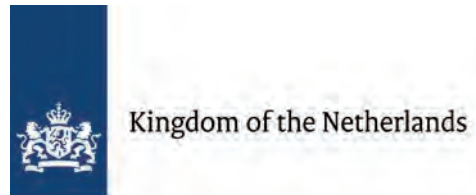
Financials

AB got off to a strong start in 2023 thanks to positive responses from our funding partners in the third and fourth quarters of 2022. By Quarter 3 of 2023, we had already received 67% of budgeted inflows for the year, which strengthened our position to carry out the strategic plans we had set.

The implementation of Round 10 surveys and other programmes encountered delays, leading to an expenditure burnout rate of 61% for the year. But in the last quarter of the year, we received unplanned funding from the Open Society Foundations – Africa and Luminate, which puts us in a good position, along with expected receipts from Sida, to fund activities for Quarter 1 of 2024. The figure below summarises the network's key financial statistics.



Funders





With thanks

Afrobarometer expresses its sincere gratitude to all of its friends, partners, benefactors, and funders for their support.

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