

AB Currents

July 2018

Quarterly newsletter of the Afrobarometer Network

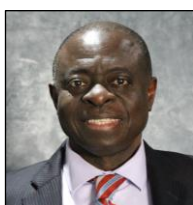
From the Executive Director's desk

Hello everyone!

Your tireless efforts in the first half of the year have yielded great results, some of which I would like to recognize.

We completed R7 fieldwork in seven countries – bringing the total number of countries fielded so far to 27. And we have released a merged data set for 22 countries.

We also had new National Partners for the Gambia, Liberia, Morocco, and Mozambique joining the AB family. Media response to the dissemination of R7 results as well as website use and social-media activity have continued to grow – with 1,387 media hits and 23,820 downloads of data sets and publications from our website.



We did encounter a few challenges. These include country-level political developments that disrupted surveys, breakdown of partnership in some countries, and hitches in the transition to electronic data capture. I note with deep satisfaction, however, that we were able to overcome these challenges by dint of determination and abundant resourcefulness. We plan to hold a R7 Debrief Meeting and R8 Planning Workshop in the third quarter of the year at which these experiences will be distilled into recommendations for improving the Network's approach to work in R8.

We hope to have the full 34-country Afrobarometer R7 survey results ready by the third quarter of the year, followed by the roll-out of the R7 cross-country results – newly dubbed the Pan-Africa Profiles.

I would like to welcome to the Network the new Afrobarometer Operations Manager (OM) for PMU/Finance – Mr. Felix Biga – who is concurrently CDD-Ghana's Director of Finance and Administration. His assumption of office as AB-OM (PMU/Finance) took effect 1 July 2018 following the departure of Aba Kittoe.

On behalf of the Afrobarometer Executive Committee and on my own behalf, I wish to express our profound gratitude to Aba for her immense contribution to the Network over the past seven and a half years, and to wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

I wish you all a fruitful quarter!

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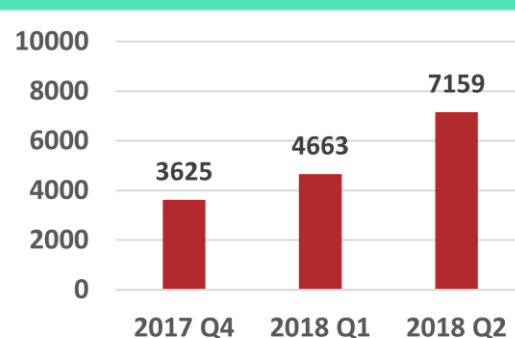
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Indicator of the quarter

**AB's social media presence:
Number of mentions on Twitter,
Facebook, and blogs**





Michael Bratton retires – but stays on

A festschrift conference titled “From Power Politics to Popular Power” celebrated the influential scholarship of **Michael Bratton**, who retired from his position as University Distinguished Professor of Political Science and African Studies at Michigan State University (MSU) in May. Mike, co-founder and former director of Afrobarometer, will continue as senior adviser to the Network but has handed off the editorship of the Afrobarometer Working Papers series to Jeff Conroy-Krutz (see below).



Enjoying the fellowship, above from right, are Bratton; his wife, Anne Schneller; Northwestern University political scientist Richard Joseph; and Afrobarometer’s Boniface Dulani. Below, AB Executive Director E. Gyimah-Boadi, left, confers with Cornell University’s Nicolas van de Walle, the keynote speaker.



The festschrift, on May 11 at MSU, brought together leading scholars to discuss “Power Politics and Authoritarian Resilience,” “Accountability Rising? Evidence of Growing Demands for Popular Power,” and “Uncertain Trajectories: Recent Transitions from Gambia to Zambia.”

New editor for Working Papers series

Jeff Conroy-Krutz, associate professor of political science at Michigan State University, took over as editor of the Afrobarometer Working Papers series in May.



Jeff studies media and information, ethnicity, clientelism, and polarization in Africa, with a focus on experimental methods. He has conducted fieldwork for projects in

Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, and Uganda. His work has appeared in *African Affairs*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Electoral*

Studies, and *World Development*, among others, and has been funded by the National Science Foundation, USAID, BBC Media Action, the Embassy of the Netherlands, and the U.S. State Department. He has a PhD in political science from Columbia University.

Authors should submit their working papers to jconroy@afrobarometer.org.

New NPs for Morocco and the Gambia

We welcome **Global for Survey and Consulting (GSC)** in Morocco and the **Centre for Policy, Research and Strategic Studies (CepRass)** in the Gambia into the AB family.



GLOBAL FOR SURVEY AND CONSULTING

GSC, a Moroccan research organization, has already completed Round 7 fieldwork, and CepRass, a team of faculty members at the University of the Gambia, is getting ready to conduct Afrobarometer’s first survey in the country in Q3.



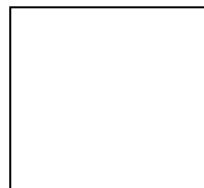
New OM for PMU/Finance

A warm welcome to **Felix Biga**, who took over as Afrobarometer operations manager (OM) for PMU/Finance on 1 July following the departure of **Aba Kittoe**. He is concurrently CDD-Ghana’s director of finance and administration.



Felix, who is Ghanaian, is an experienced finance executive with more than 17 years’ senior executive-level experience, including managing boards and external stakeholder interests.

His resume includes PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), British American Tobacco (BAT), and Allterrain Services Group (ATS), where he served as group chief financial officer and managed financial operations in 14 African countries.



Aba, whose well-known aversion to being photographed is honored here, led AB’s financial management for more than seven years. In addition to keeping the lights on and the books straight, she earned the gratitude – at times grumbling

but eternal – of Network members whom she helped to follow the rules and stay out of the auditors’ clutches.

We wish her all the best. She will be missed.

Partner in the spotlight



CREFDI in Côte d'Ivoire: From the wilderness to the public square

If it takes vision and courage – maybe audacity – to start out in the wilderness, it takes persistence and performance to arrive in the public square.

Michel Silwé and his associates created CREFDI (the Centre de Recherche et de Formation sur le Développement Intégré) in 2006, when Côte d'Ivoire was “kind of a wilderness” where questions of transparency and good governance were rarely asked and never answered. Their goal: “A prosperous Côte



Michel Silwé

d'Ivoire, with sustained and equitable development, in strict compliance with the rules and values of good governance.”

In 2010, CREFDI obtained official

government recognition – just as the country was entering a civil-war kind of wilderness.

With Silwé as executive director, the fledgling NGO initially focused its research, training, and advocacy on the different phases of the public budgetary cycle (elaboration, adoption, execution, evaluation/monitoring), “because every public action begins and ends with a budget.”

Over time, it extended its sphere of competency to other aspects of public governance and “comprehensive development” – social, political, corruption, the environment, extractive industries, finance, the economy – most of them still fairly sensitive issues in Côte d'Ivoire.

In 2013, CREFDI brought many of these interests together when it joined Afrobarometer. As national partner, Silwé, data analyst/finance manager Joseph Koné, and their team have overseen three survey

Centre de Recherche et de Formation sur le Développement Intégré (CREFDI)

HQ: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

AB partner since: Round 5 (2013)

Website: crefdi.org



The CREFDI team includes, left to right, Stéphane Placide Koffi, administration and communications manager; Arnaud Petanhangui, research associate; Michel Silwé, executive director; Boni N'Guessan; and Joseph Koné, finance manager and research associate.

rounds and distinguished themselves through their focus on performance and continuous capacity strengthening.

In Round 7, CREFDI launched its results disseminations within six weeks after receiving its final data set, which is considerably better than most other countries. Among those expressing interest in follow-up information were USAID and the national water utility. The team has published five dispatches (on corruption, employment, security, water, and climate change), with more in the pipeline, as well as a stand-alone press release on term limits (a hot topic in Côte d'Ivoire these days) that drew international media attention.

“Thanks to the Afrobarometer network, CREFDI is taking part in one of Africa's most ambitious scientific projects by providing a powerful research and decision-making instrument to all the stakeholders in the nation, and even the continent,” Silwé says.

For Koné, the rigor of Afrobarometer's work – from survey design to results dissemination – has been most beneficial. CREFDI has also benefited from partnerships with the International Budget Partnership, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, among others.

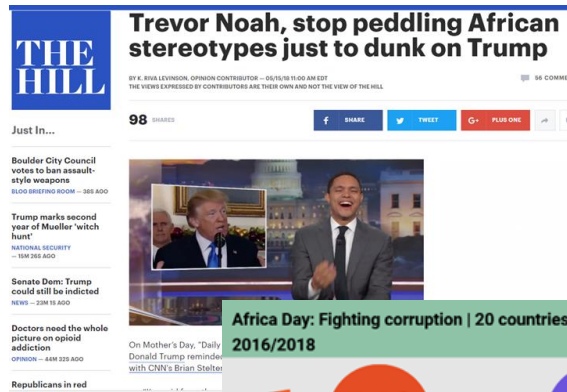
In addition to Silwé and Koné, CREFDI and its Center for Research & Capacity Building includes Administration and Communications Manager Stéphane Placide Koffi, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager Sié Hippolyte Dah, and research associate P. Arnaud Yeo.

AB in the media



Making news

771 media hits were recorded in the second quarter of 2018 across various media outlets, including [allAfrica.com](#), [Washington Post](#), [VOX](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [Radio France Internationale](#), [Daily Mail UK](#), [Business Standard \(India\)](#), [Brookings Institute](#), [The Hill](#), [News 24](#), [Guardian Nigeria](#). ...



Website users: **30,495**
Downloads: **10,342**
Online data analysis tool users: **7,202**
New Twitter followers: **856**
Facebook followers: **11,047**



Who's using AB data?



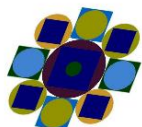
- ✓ Ghana and Nigeria AB findings were featured in the Network of Democracy Research Institutes Quarter 1 newsletter.
- ✓ Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf cited AB data on democracy in her [remarks](#) when she received the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.
- ✓ Ghana's [Minister of Local Government and Rural Development](#) and [Deputy Minister](#) cited AB findings on the election of metropolitan, municipal, and district chief executives.
- ✓ On Africa Day, 157 civil-society organizations sent an [open letter](#) to the African Union calling for an end to corruption and citing AB data to make their case.
- ✓ Afrobarometer became a full partner of the [Africa Portal](#), an online open-access knowledge resource hosting original African research.
- ✓ Africa's Voices used AB data for its "DATAstrong: Building Resiliency in Civil Society through Data Skills" workshop in Kampala.
- ✓ South Africa's Department of Justice and Constitutional Development used AB and its approach for its 2018 SEJA (Socio-Economic Justice for All) [Baseline Survey](#).
- ✓ Afrobarometer's Edem Selormey and Josephine Appiah-Nyameke published a policy note on migration on the AMMODI (research network on African Migration, Mobility, and Displacement) [blog](#).

Country updates



Country	Surveys/dissemination update
Burkina Faso	The NP conducted its first dissemination event and released a dispatch on reconciliation (18 May).
Cameroon	Fieldwork was completed in Q2, and dissemination activities are expected to commence in Q3.
Cape Verde	Two dissemination events were held in Q2: the first on visa exemption, regionalization, economy, security, and democracy (25 April) and the second on corruption, trust, and assessment of government performance (23 May). A donor briefing will be held in Q3.
Côte d'Ivoire	The NP has successfully completed its required dissemination activities and continues to publish additional dispatches. A press release on term limits drew international attention.
Gabon	The first dissemination event was held on country-specific questions (26 April), and other dissemination activities are expected in Q3.
Gambia	The new NP, CepRass, is preparing to commence Afrobarometer's first survey in the Gambia in Q3.
Ghana	CDD-Ghana completed its dissemination activities with a donor briefing 12 April.
Guinea	Dissemination has been delayed because of political tension in the country. The NP plans to release dispatches and the SOR in Q3.
Lesotho	Two dissemination events were held in Q2: the first on the powers of the King of Lesotho (17 April) and the second on reforms (6 June). The NP also released two dispatches on dual citizenship (15 May) and trust (6 June).
Liberia	Fieldwork began in June and is expected to end in mid-July, with dissemination events expected to begin in August.
Madagascar	The first dissemination event was held on support for popular courts (31 May), and other dissemination activities are scheduled for Q3.
Mali	A policy paper on citizen priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals was released on 7 May. A donor briefing and the release of a dispatch on climate change are scheduled for Q3.
Mauritius	The NP successfully completed its dissemination requirements with the release of a third dispatch, on national identity and civic engagement (12 April).
Morocco	The NP completed fieldwork on 27 May, and dissemination activities are expected to commence in Q3.
Mozambique	Fieldwork is currently underway and is expected to be completed in Q3.

Namibia	The NP held two dissemination events on country-specific questions (12 April) and government performance and trust, corruption, and information/communication (22 May). The team also released two dispatches on youth and politics (1 May) and service delivery (25 May), with a third dispatch and donor briefing scheduled for Q3.
Niger	The NP completed fieldwork in May, and dissemination activities are scheduled to begin in Q3.
Nigeria	The NP completed dissemination requirements with the release of two dispatches on violence (18 April) and economic conditions, access to public services, and government performance (18 May) and a donor briefing (23 May).
São Tomé and Príncipe	Fieldwork began in June and is expected to be completed in July.
Senegal	The NP has conducted its first dissemination on government projects and most important problems (26 June), and dissemination activities will continue in Q3.
Sierra Leone	Fieldwork is scheduled to begin in July.
Sudan	Fieldwork is scheduled to begin in July.
Swaziland	Following the completion of data collection by ActivQuest a clean data set was released on 7 June, and the first dissemination event is scheduled for July
South Africa	Fieldwork is planned for July, and dissemination is likely to begin in late September.
Tanzania	A third dispatch is expected in Q3.
Togo	The NP conducted two dissemination events on country-specific questions (19 April) and citizenship commitment in decentralization and freedom of speech (20 June), with the release of two dispatches on decentralisation and freedom of speech. A donor briefing and release of a third dispatch are scheduled for Q3.
Tunisia	Fieldwork was completed in May, and dissemination activities are expected to begin in early August.
Zambia	Dissemination continued to be on hold due to political tension in the country. A third dispatch on migration and the economy was released on 15 May.
Zimbabwe	Required dissemination activities have been completed, but the NP released another dispatch on performance ratings of MPs and local government councillors (16 May). In collaboration with core partner Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (South Africa), NP Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI) released findings from its pre-election baseline survey and went back into the field for a second pre-election survey. Expect findings in July ahead of the July 30 election.



Advison (Lesotho): *Climb every mountain. ...*

You think you know your country, but you don't really *know* your country until you've conducted an AB "nationally representative" survey. AB's strict methodology requires national partners to reach respondents in the most remote areas. For the Advison Lesotho

team, that means traversing harsh terrain, climbing mountains – and descending mountains, even in the pouring rain.

Picture 1 (right) shows team members in the Mphoko enumeration area in Mohale's Hoek Mountains – which National Investigator Libuseng Malephane describes as "an area where one will be almost on top of the world and in clouds." They walked four solid hours through rough terrain, conducted their interviews, then walked four hours back to the car.

Picture 2 (below) shows team members in Mokhotlong in Ha Liphate Mountain – a two-hour hike each way, with rains that made the return trip especially memorable.



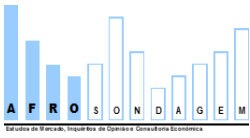
CDD-Ghana: *Morocco's 'independence'*

After Arab Barometer oversight in Round 5 and Tunisia co-management in Round 6, Morocco marked its independence in Round 7. And the provisional partner, managed directly by CDD-Ghana, immediately showed they deserved their independence.

Team members put in considerable effort to ensure that the R7 survey was launched before Ramadan and even agreed to do fieldwork during the Ramadan period. The quality of the fieldworkers was, as usual, very high – Morocco is one of the few countries where the educational level of the fieldworker is nothing less than a master's degree. An impressive lot – though that can cut both ways, as team members dissect the conceptual applicability of every survey question. Luckily we had an Arabic-to-English translator (Ishaq – a very useful addition to the team) who translated every "sigh and heave" – and opened our eyes to ways that AB may need to rethink/reimagine our survey questions within each country context.

Happy independence, Morocco!

Afrosondagem & CDD-Ghana: São Tomé and Príncipe: Partnerless but full of firsts



In Round 6, AB could not find a national partner to carry the flag in STP, so Afrosondagem from Cabo Verde ran the survey. The fieldwork made headline news – the first nationwide survey (other than a census) in STP.

For Round 7, the CDD-Ghana and Afrosondagem teams again scoured the corners of the 1,001 km² island, kept their ears to the ground, climbed the highest coconut tree for a glimpse of a potential partner waving an AB flag. Still looking.

But with or without a national partner, AB Round 7 data are being collected (under Afrosondagem and CDD-Ghana management) in STP, and it's being done using tablets – another first for the island. Fieldworkers who snoozed through theoretical parts of the training sprang to life once they got their hands on those toys. They even lost track of time and stayed beyond closing time – another first.



IJR: *Unstable political atmosphere in Mozambique*

In Mozambique, the Ipsos team had to feel their way in the country's unstable and contentious atmosphere.

Fieldworkers report that during pre-testing, many respondents seemed uncomfortable answering questions about political parties and the late opposition leader. They emphasized the importance of the survey introduction in ensuring rapport with respondents.

In some cases, respondents insisted on calling community leaders in for approval before the interview could begin, and these leaders often insisted on being interviewed themselves (claiming to know the most about that particular community) or on preventing the interview from taking place without a letter of approval from the central government.

So while community leaders might ease a team's movement in the field, getting their approval might also slow down the fieldwork process.



Fieldworkers in Mozambique ready for action



IREEP & CERADD: *The language barrier in Senegal*

For CERADD, national partner in Senegal, language was sometimes a major challenge. AB uses four languages in Senegal (French, Wolof, Diola, and Poular), but fieldworkers encountered places where none of these languages was spoken.

The only solution was to substitute those enumeration areas with areas where “authorized” languages were spoken. But CERADD wonders whether AB shouldn't move toward using a greater number of languages – while ensuring plenty of lead time to make the necessary preparations.



LASDEL: *Inaccessible EAs and insecurity*

The National partner in Niger, LASDEL, overcame a host of challenges to successfully complete its Round 7 survey. One was the difficulty in accessing many enumeration zones due to bad or non-existence of roads, adding substantial travel time. But LASDEL

found a way around it : to keep up with the schedule, supervisors reduced the time for fieldworkers' sleep – to five hours a night. Also, the lack of cooperation from local authorities who had not received the radio message from the ministry concerning the survey and the fact that some men do not allow their wives to talk to strangers, called for the magic of persuasive dialogue.

Share your lessons: *In this new section, we want to highlight some of the challenges you've encountered and the adjustments you made to overcome them. We define “the field” broadly – planning, finance, training, data collection, communications, stakeholder engagement. ... Your lessons can benefit us all! Please share them, via email to bhoward@afrobarometer.org.*



Dispatches

- ✓ AD216: La liberté d'expression au Togo serait-elle mise en quarantaine en période de crise?
- ✓ AD215: Les Togolais sont prêts à s'engager pour le contrôle citoyen suite à la décentralisation
- ✓ AD214: 'Paradise is getting rocky': Mauritians see climate change as threat to quality of life
- ✓ AD213: Zambians see corruption rising, government failing in anti-graft fight
- ✓ AD212: Basotho favour multi-sector reforms as support for elections ebbs
- ✓ AD211: Maliens split on role of Islam in country, but majority feel politicians use religion to rule
- ✓ AD210: Climate change, government management pose challenges in agriculture-dependent Malawi
- ✓ AD209: Providing basic public services remains a challenge for Namibia's government
- ✓ AD208: Les Burkinabè veulent tourner la page de l'insurrection populaire d'octobre 2014
- ✓ AD207: Nigerians optimistic about economic outlook despite persistent poverty, inadequate services
- ✓ AD206: Zimbabwe's MPs, local councillors get poor ratings on responsiveness and performance
- ✓ AD205: Basotho increasingly favour legalizing dual citizenship, unifying with South Africa
- ✓ AD204: Les forces de sécurité au Bénin: L'expérience et la confiance mitigée des citoyens
- ✓ AD203: Amid rising dissatisfaction, Zambians give government poor marks on the economy
- ✓ AD202: Views of Namibia's economy darken sharply; youth more likely to consider emigration
- ✓ AD201: Reconciliation in Kenya: Partisan differences and common ground
- ✓ AD200: Weak public trust, perceptions of corruption mark São Tomé and Príncipe institutions

- ✓ AD199: Nigerians worried about violent clashes, praise government efforts to address armed extremism
- ✓ AD198: Tolerance in Benin: Progress and challenges
- ✓ AD197: Role of citizen: Mauritians value national identity but limit civic engagement

Policy papers

- ✓ PP 47: Public attitudes toward Zimbabwe's 2018 elections: Downbeat yet hopeful?
- ✓ PP46: Food, health, poverty, water: How Malian citizens prioritize problems and the Sustainable Development Goals

Working papers

- ✓ WP181: Do electoral systems affect how citizens hold their government accountable? Evidence from Africa
- ✓ WP180: Police-citizen interaction in Africa: An exploration of factors that influence victims' reporting of crimes
- ✓ WP179: Electricity provision and tax mobilization in Africa

Submit your work

Authors – especially those from the Afrobarometer Network, African universities, and other African institutions – are encouraged to submit manuscripts for the Afrobarometer Working Papers series to Jeff Conroy-Krutz (editor) at jconroy@afrobarometer.org. Please submit dispatches, policy papers, and blog posts to bhoward@afrobarometer.org.

External publications

Scholars and policy actors throughout the world use Afrobarometer data in their publications. We are compiling examples of interesting work. **If you are aware of a publication that should be added to this list, please send the link to wmacharia@afrobarometer.org.**

Presentations



Afrobarometer staff highlighted our data and our work in a variety of presentations during the quarter, including:

- ✓ **Prospects for Zimbabwe: Reform or reconsolidation?** by Michael Bratton at Freedom House and the U.S. Department of State, in Washington, D.C.
- ✓ **Corruption** by Sibusiso Nkomo at the International Republican Institute Southern Africa Regional Political Party Conference in Johannesburg
- ✓ **Opposition political parties in Southern Africa** by Anyway Chingwete and Dominique Drying at an Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa workshop in Cape Town
- ✓ **Perceptions of courts and lawyers** by Sibusiso Nkomo to judges in Southern and East Africa at the Judicial Institute for Africa, University of Cape Town
- ✓ **Judicial integrity** by E. Gyimah-Boadi at the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in Vienna, Austria
- ✓ **Is the African public losing faith in democracy?** by E. Gyimah-Boadi at the World Movement for Democracy Ninth Global Assembly in Dakar
- ✓ **African perspectives on democracy and Afrobarometer: Public perspectives** by Carolyn Logan and Robert Mattes at the Africa Mission Center Board of Experts Spring/Annual Conference in MacLean, Va
- ✓ **AB findings** by Victor Ekwabebe III at Open Government Week at the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin) and by Gugu Nonjinge and Dominique Drying to visiting scholars from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in Cape Town
- ✓ **Youth engagement, protest, and migration** by Josephine Appiah-Nyamekye at the "Youth, Inequality and Regime Response in the Global South" conference in Bergen, Norway
- ✓ **Public attitudes toward Zimbabwe's 2018 elections** by Michael Bratton, Jan Hofmeyr, and Eldred Masunungure to the ambassadors of the EU delegation to Zimbabwe and in two public briefings, in Harare and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
- ✓ **Unfulfilled ambitions: The state of democracy in Africa** by E. Gyimah-Boadi to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London
- ✓ **African perspectives on development and governance** by E. Gyimah-Boadi and Robert Mattes at a roundtable discussion of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Africa/Royal African Society in London
- ✓ **Migration and refugees** by E. Gyimah-Boadi and Robert Mattes at the Archbishop of Canterbury's Office in London
- ✓ **Democracy in Africa** by Robert Mattes at the Annual Congress of the German African Studies Association in Leipzig, Germany
- ✓ **Citizens' perceptions of political parties** by E. Gyimah-Boadi at the Consultative Workshop of the Department of Political Affairs organized by the African Union Commission's Political Party Program
- ✓ **Data analysis and use** by Gugu Nonjinge to Independent Media in Cape Town, South Africa
- ✓ **Ghana through the eyes of ordinary Ghanaians** by Franklin Oduro at the Breaking BAD workshop in Accra
- ✓ **Data collection and security** by Wairimu Macharia at the Cyberwoman Forum in Nairobi

What's new with you?



This newsletter belongs to *our* network. We want to hear from you. Please send news, photos, upcoming events, photos, questions, comments, suggestions, and photos to bhoward@afrobarometer.org. Did we mention photos?