

WAPOR-GBS Joint Webinar

Pandemic, Governance, and Comparative Public Opinion Research



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COVID-19 and doing public opinion surveys in Africa: Some reflections and experiences

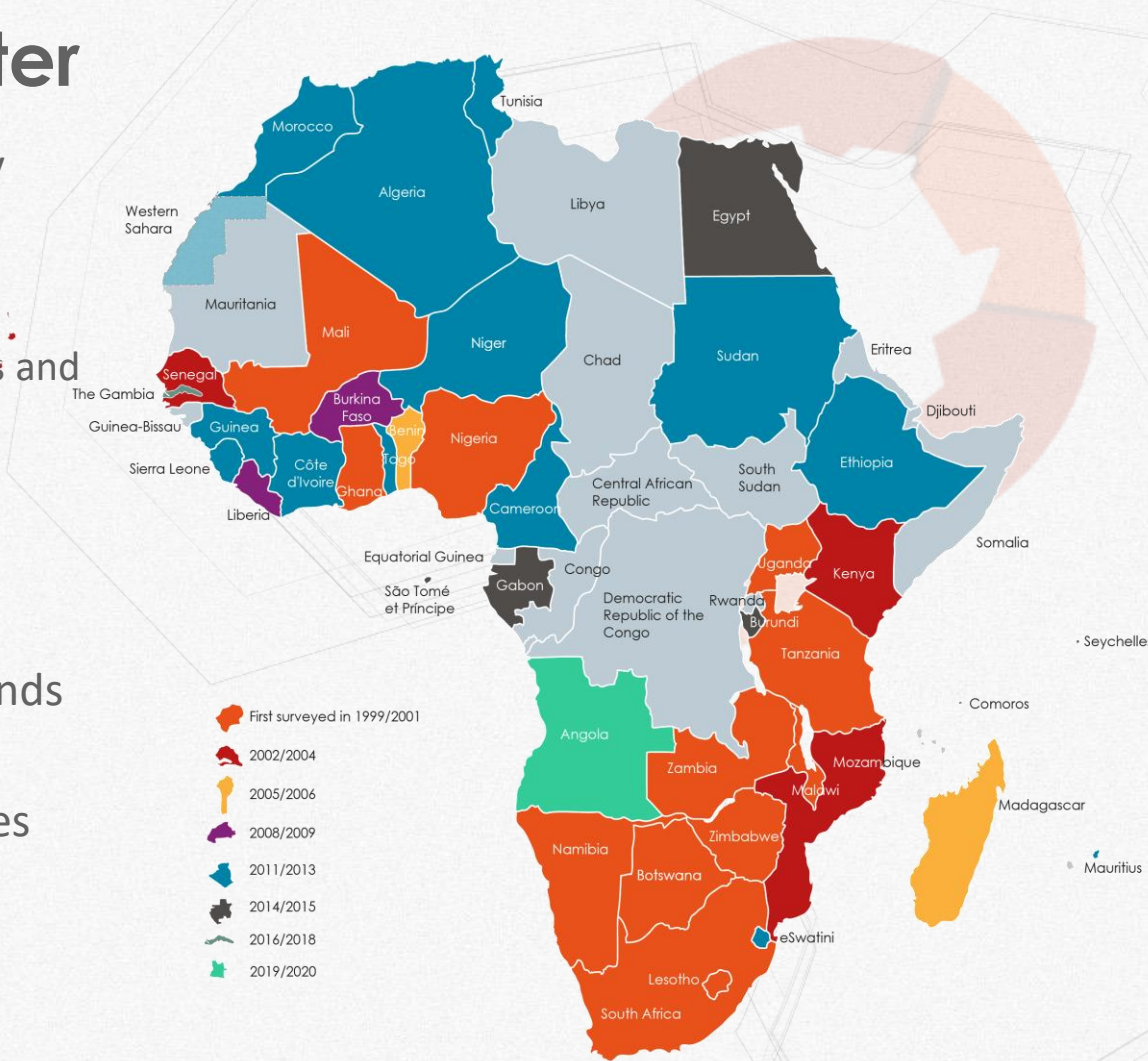
Boniface Dulani, Director of Surveys

WAPOR-GBS Webinar on: Pandemic, Governance and Comparative Public
Opinion Research

20 November 2020

About Afrobarometer

- Pan-African, non-partisan survey research network
- Core objectives:
 - Scientifically reliable data on views and experiences of ordinary Africans
 - Build capacity for survey data collection and analysis
 - Broadly disseminate/apply results
- 1999-present completed 7½ rounds of surveys in 38 countries
- Nationally representative samples
- Face-to-face, local language
- Signature topics: democracy, governance, and related issues



→ ***Give African publics a voice in policymaking*** by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans

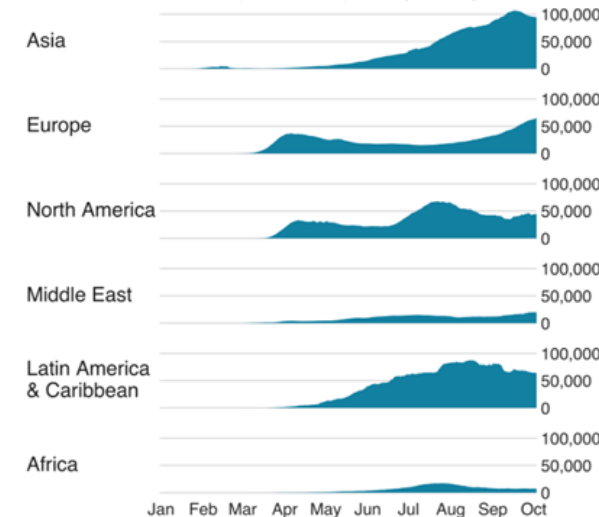
Overview of Covid-19 in Africa

- ❑ First cases recorded in Egypt (14 February, 2020)
- ❑ Since then has spread to all countries on the continent. Latest figures show:
 - ❑ 2,026,841 confirmed cases as of Nov. 19th, 2020
 - ❑ 48,681 deaths (3.6% of the global total deaths from the pandemic)
 - ❑ 1,714,395 recoveries
- ❑ Hardest hit countries (+100,000 cases):
 - South Africa (+760K cases; 20,671 deaths)
 - Egypt (+112K cases; 6508 deaths)
 - Ethiopia (+104K cases, 1607 deaths)



Covid-19 cases compared by continent

Number of cases per day, seven-day rolling average



Oceania cases excluded as too low to register on scale

Source: ECDC and national public health agencies, data to 3 Oct

BBC

Covid-19 responses across Africa

- Initial fears that the continent's health systems would be overwhelmed
- Different responses, from lockdowns, curfews, closure of schools; social distancing, hand sanitizing, face masks etc
- Responses generally have had positive results
- However, reports of a new spike in cases across the continent

Coronavirus in Africa: Five reasons why Covid-19 has been less deadly than elsewhere

By Anne Soy
Senior Africa correspondent

7 October

Coronavirus pandemic



Many African countries have been praised for waging an effective campaign



Afrobarometer responses to COVID-19

Effects of COVID-19 on Afrobarometer surveys



- Round 8 surveys began in 2019: goal=36 *countries*
- **Completed:** 18 countries, August 2019 – March 2020
- Fieldwork Suspended in March following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic across the continent.
- Face to face fieldwork has resumed October 2020



...Fieldwork activities suspended



- Afrobarometer Board recommended the suspension of fieldwork activities in March 2020
- At the time of the suspension, 16 surveys had been completed, two were in the field (Mali and Sierra Leone)
- Since both Mali and Sierra Leone had not reported any COVID-19 cases at the time, they were allowed to complete fieldwork activities.
- Afrobarometer staff were advised to work from home

Preparing for fieldwork resumption...



- Development of fieldwork resumption protocols post COVID-19
- Development of remote Technical Assistance
- Development of a module on COVID-19
- Exploration of telephone surveys (to be piloted in Namibia)

Resumption of face-to-face fieldwork activities (October 2020)



- New surveys in Liberia, Niger, Mauritius); upcoming surveys in Zambia and Senegal
- Fieldwork not resuming in Cameroon; Morocco and Mozambique due to Covid-19
- Collection of telephone numbers for future quick telephone surveys
- Challenges: uncertainty; limits of telephone surveys; challenges of remote Technical Assistance



COVID-19 AND HEALTH VULNERABILITIES IN AFRICA: SOME EMERGING LESSONS FROM AB DATA

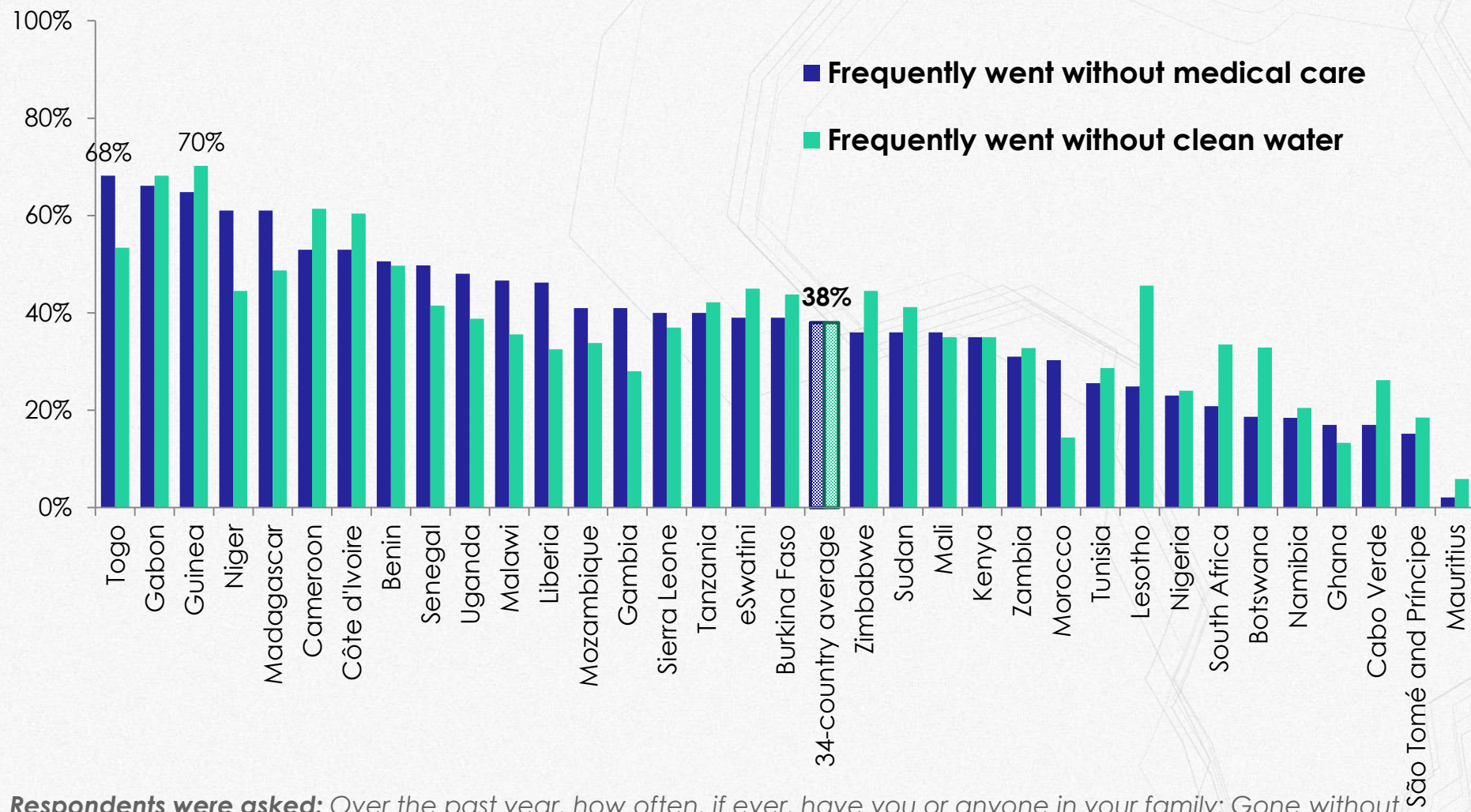
Contribution of Afrobarometer data to pandemic response:



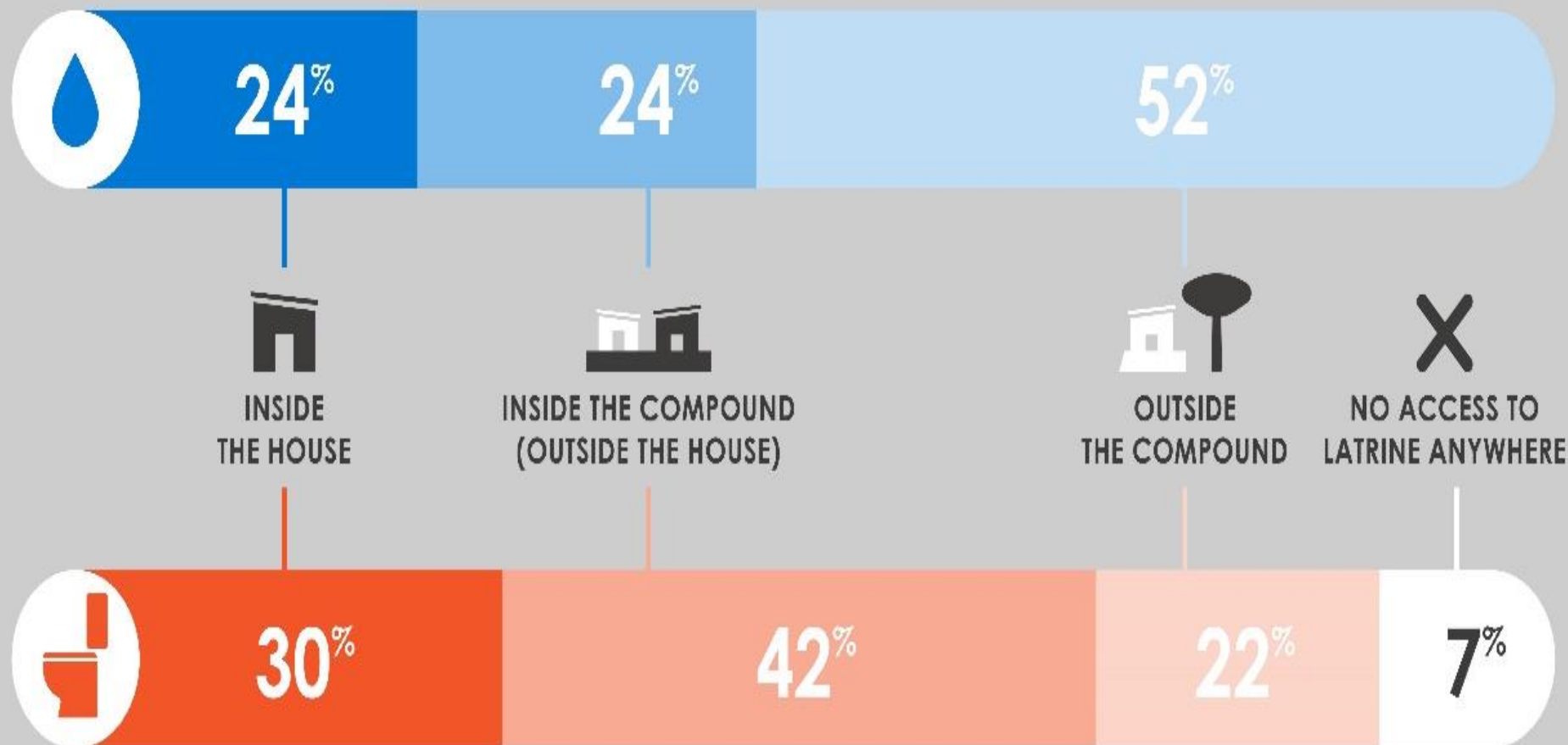
- **Highlight** popular needs and priorities
- **Measure** living conditions, gaps in meeting basic needs
- **Capture** experiences, e.g. in seeking/obtaining health care
- **Reveal** attitudes, e.g., toward leadership and institutions
- **Generate**
 - *Index of vulnerability*
 - *Index of lockdown capacity*

Lack of medical care and clean water

34 countries | 2016/2018



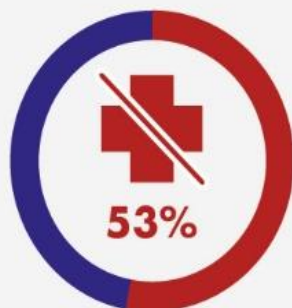
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Gone without enough clean water for home use? Gone without medicines or medical treatment? (% several times / many times / always)



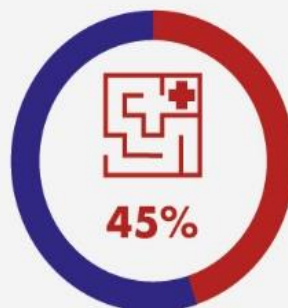
Point of access to water and sewerage
34 African countries (average) | 2016/2018

Health care in Africa: Citizens' No. 2 priority for government action

34 countries | 2016/2018



53% went without needed care at least once during the previous year



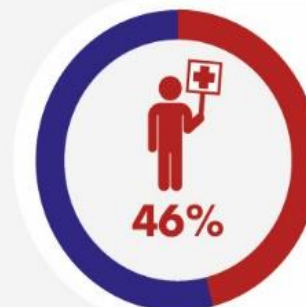
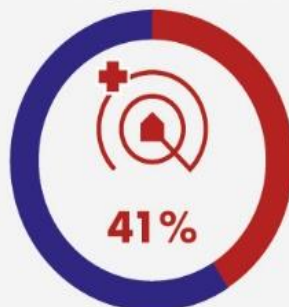
Of those who accessed health care, 45% say it was difficult to obtain needed care



Of those who accessed health care, 13% had to pay a bribe



41% of enumeration areas don't have a nearby health clinic



46% say their government is performing 'fairly badly' or 'very badly' in improving basic health services

Thank you



An African-led series of national public attitude surveys on democracy and governance in Africa

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If Africa had 100 citizens...

17 facts you didn't know about Africans – in 2 minutes.

[Click here to watch.](#)



About Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in more than 35 countries in Africa.



Spotlight

Save Afrobarometer

Former high-level State Dept officials urge continued funding for "a major success story of democratic and developmental institution building..."

www.afrobarometer.org

[#VoicesAfrica](#) on Twitter and Facebook

Do your own data analysis – on any question, for any country and survey round.
It's easy and free at www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis.