Regional Inequality in Kenya: Findings from Afrobarometer Survey

By
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Presentation during the Equity Week Academy, University of Nairobi, ED 2013 on 22nd September 2016
What is Afrobarometer?

- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Kenya, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by the University of Nairobi’s Institute for Development Studies (IDS).
Where Afrobarometer works
Methodology

• Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  □ All respondents are randomly selected.
  □ Sample is distributed across all 47 counties and along urban/rural divide in proportion to their share in the national adult population.
  □ Every adult citizen thus has a known and equal chance of being selected/included in the survey.

• Face-to-face interviews in language of respondent’s choice.

• Standard questionnaire which allows comparisons across countries and over time.

• Sample size in Kenya of 2,397 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.

• Fieldwork for Round 6 survey in Kenya was conducted between 12th November and 5th December 2014.
## Survey Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No formal education</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-secondary</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-65</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 65</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christians</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Results Touching on Regional Inequality in Kenya
Respondents were asked: So let me ask YOU about the overall direction of the country: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?
Respondents were asked: So let me ask YOU about the overall direction of the country: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?
Respondents were asked: In general, how do you rate your living conditions compared to those of other Kenyans?
Your living conditions compared to others

Respondents were asked: In general, how do you rate your living conditions compared to those of other Kenyans?

Respondents were asked: In general, how do you rate your living conditions compared to those of other Kenyans?
How often have you gone without:

Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family:

- **Cash Income**
  - Never Gone without: 26%
  - Gone without once, twice or several times: 44%
  - Gone without many times or always: 29%

- **Cooking Fuel**
  - Never Gone without: 70%
  - Gone without once, twice or several times: 26%
  - Gone without many times or always: 3%

- **Medical care**
  - Never Gone without: 52%
  - Gone without once, twice or several times: 40%
  - Gone without many times or always: 8%

- **Water**
  - Never Gone without: 58%
  - Gone without once, twice or several times: 30%
  - Gone without many times or always: 12%

- **Food**
  - Never Gone without: 54%
  - Gone without once, twice or several times: 39%
  - Gone without many times or always: 7%
### How often NEVER gone without:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Medical care</th>
<th>Cooking fuel</th>
<th>Cash income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rift Valley</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyanza</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Respondents were asked:** Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: percentage that said ‘never’
Is ‘difficulty to obtain a service’ a driving factor to payment of bribes?

**Public school services**

- **Difficulty to obtain public school services**
  - Easy / very easy: 3%
  - Difficult / very difficult: 25%

**Assistance from the courts**

- **Difficulty to obtain assistance from courts**
  - Easy / very easy: 13%
  - Difficult / very difficult: 60%

**Respondents were asked:** How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour to access the following services?
‘Difficulty to obtain services’ and payment of bribes cont’d

Respondents were asked: How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour to access the following services?

**Obtain identity document**

- **Difficulty to obtain identity document**
  - Easy / very easy: 13%
  - Difficult / very difficult: 53%

**Obtain help from police**

- **Difficulty to obtain help from the police**
  - Easy / very easy: 19%
  - Difficult / very difficult: 63%
Respondents were asked: How often in the past year, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour to access the following services?

- Get public school services: 9%
- Get medical care: 11%
- Get household services: 20%
- Get an identity document: 39%
- Get assistance from courts: 42%
- Obtain help from the police: 49%

Percent

Paid a bribe
Never paid a bribe

0 20 40 60 80 100

100 80 61 58 51 51 58 61 80 89 91
Respondents were asked: How often in the past year, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour to access the following services? Percentage who said ‘never’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Clinic</th>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Police</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rift Valley</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyanza</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support for the International Criminal Court

Prosecution of Kenyan leaders by the ICC is an important effort in fighting impunity
- Disagree / Strongly disagree: 28%
- Agree / Strongly agree: 61%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 5%
- Don't know / Haven't heard enough to say: 6%

President Uhuru Kenyatta made right decision to honor ICC summons
- Disagree / Strongly disagree: 7%
- Agree / Strongly agree: 86%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3%
- Don't know / Haven't heard enough to say: 4%

Parliament should pass legislation to withdraw Kenya from the ICC
- Disagree / Strongly disagree: 55%
- Agree / Strongly agree: 33%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 5%
- Don't know / Haven't heard enough to say: 6%

Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree.
Support for the International Criminal Court

Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree. – Percentage who agree.

President Uhuru Kenyatta made right decision to honor ICC summons

- North Eastern
- Western
- Nairobi
- Eastern
- Rift Valley
- Coast
- Central
- Nyanza

- 66%
- 77%
- 84%
- 84%
- 87%
- 89%
- 92%
- 95%

Parliament should pass legislation to withdraw Kenya from the ICC

- Nyanza
- North Eastern
- Coast
- Eastern
- Western
- Nairobi
- Rift Valley
- Central

- 15%
- 16%
- 19%
- 21%
- 23%
- 30%
- 53%
- 57%
Perceived impartiality of the ICC

Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: The ICC is an impartial international institution for justice.
Statement 2: The ICC is biased against Kenya and other African countries.

- Agree / agree very strongly that the ICC is impartial: 55%
- Agree / agree very strongly that the ICC is biased against African countries: 35%
- Don’t know: 7%
- Agree with neither: 2%

Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: The ICC is an impartial international institution for justice.
Statement 2: The ICC is biased against Kenya and other African countries.
Conclusions
Conclusions

• There is evidence of regional inequality in Kenya
• General economic improvements seems to be skewed towards some regions

• Variations in the following indicators:
  1. Perception of general direction of the economy
  2. Living conditions – Income and welfare perceptions
  3. Access to basic needs including cash income
  4. Access to services and payment of bribes
  5. Political issues take a regional angle

• There is need to create and enhance institutions that promote equity and inclusive growth as the country develops.
Thank you