

CODING AFROBAROMETER DATA IN THE 2018 IBRAHIM INDEX OF AFRICAN GOVERNANCE (IIAG)

The 2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) includes Public Attitude Survey (PAS) data provided by Afrobarometer. Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public opinion surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions and related issues in more than 35 countries in Africa.

Due to the nature and format of the Afrobarometer data, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) has made coding decisions in order to incorporate the data into the IIAG. In the interests of full transparency, these are highlighted below.

Comparability of Afrobarometer data across survey rounds

The content and coding of questions included in the Afrobarometer survey have varied across the six rounds, as a result of the survey being refined and developed over time. However, in order to be considered for inclusion in the IIAG, data must be comparable across the time series (2008-2017).

MIF conducted a comparability assessment of questions included in each Afrobarometer survey round, using question names as a basis for comparison. The assessment highlighted a number of differences in question wording between survey rounds. As a result, some questions were deemed non-comparable.

Example: "Corruption: Members of Parliament"

Round 4 question: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Members of Parliament?

Round 5 question: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Members of Parliament?

Questions that were essentially similar across rounds, but in which the wording was very slightly different, were deemed to be comparable for the purposes of the IIAG.

Example: "How often gone without water?"

Round 5 question: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough clean water for home use?

Round 6 question: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Gone without enough clean water for home use?

For questions that were not consistently comparable across all survey rounds but had the same question wording in the most recent rounds, data for the comparable survey rounds was taken.

Furthermore, only questions that had the same response coding (e.g. never, just once or twice, several times, many times, always) across all rounds were considered to be comparable.

Assigning Afrobarometer survey rounds to IIAG data years

Afrobarometer surveys are conducted in rounds, which typically cover more than one 12-month period. Country surveys within one round may take place at different points of the survey period. In order to assign country data to a specific year, MIF used the Afrobarometer survey schedule, which defines fieldwork dates for each country

² Madagascar Round 6; Mali Round 5; Nigeria Round 5 and 6; Uganda Round 5

surveyed.¹

Round 1, which was conducted in 12 countries between 1999 and 2001, is considered as a pilot year, and therefore not included in the IIAG. For the purposes of the 2016 IIAG, Round 2 (2002-2003) is taken as the earliest data year.

In a few isolated cases², survey data has been collected between two years (e.g. December 2014 to February 2015). In these circumstances, all country data within a round is assigned to the most recent data year (2015 in the above example).

Coding survey responses for the purposes of the IIAG

Each question in the Afrobarometer survey has, on average, four or five responses.

For the purposes of the survey data used in the IIAG, data was coded as the sum of the number of positive responses as a percentage of all responses. The two most positive responses, as defined in the survey codebook, were taken.

Example:

For the question "*How well or badly would you say the current government is reducing crime or haven't you heard enough to say?*" the sum of the two most positive responses "very well" and "fairly well" were selected and calculated as a percentage of all responses.

As part of the calculation, responses classified as "missing" were excluded from the total number. However, responses classified as either "don't know", "haven't heard enough" or "refused to answer" were taken into account in the total.

² Madagascar Round 6; Mali Round 5; Nigeria Round 5 and 6; Uganda Round 5