



Citizen perspectives on the state of the continent

Joseph Asunka, CEO, Afrobarometer

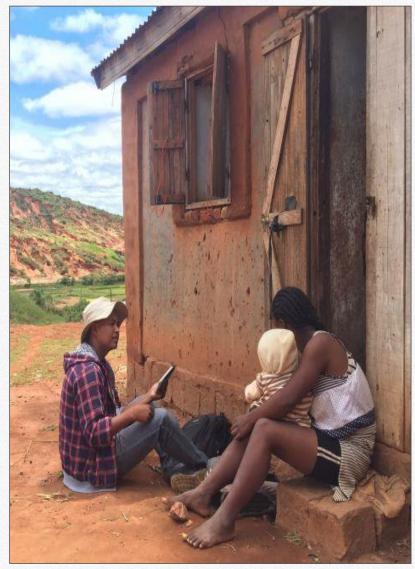
Keynote Address: 18th AFROSAI-E Technical Conference November 7, 2023

About Afrobarometer

- A pan-African survey research organization that provides reliable data on the experiences, evaluations, and aspirations of African citizens regarding democracy, governance, and quality of life.
- **Goal**: To give African publics a voice in policy and decision making

Objectives

- Gather high quality data
- Share data/findings widely with policy actors, media, citizens to impact policy
- Build capacity for data collection, analysis and communications



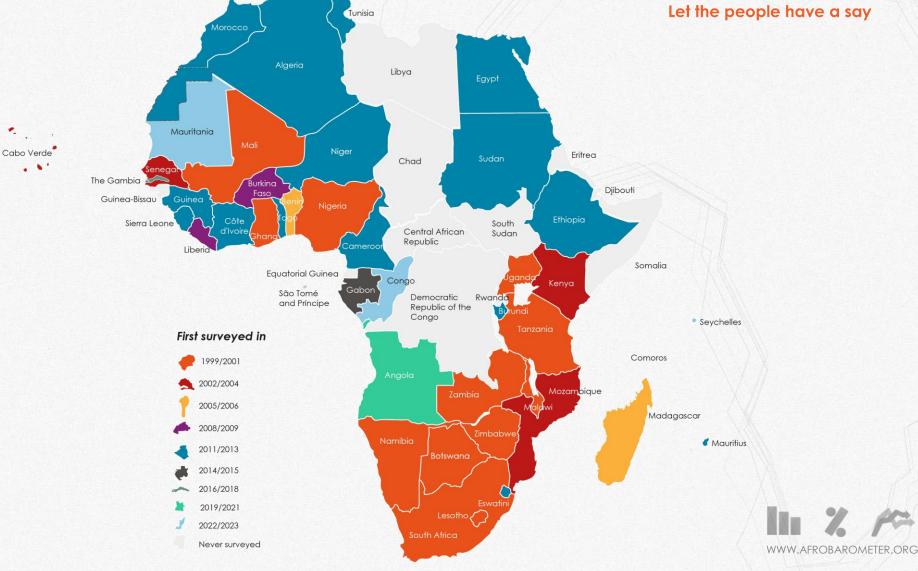
Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens (18+)
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice
- **Standard questionnaire** allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- **Sample sizes** of 1,200 to 2,400 adult citizens yield margins of sampling error of +/-3 to +/-2 percentage points.



Where Afrobarometer works





Topics tracked over time

- Economy
- Democracy
- Elections
- Government performance
- Leadership performance
- Trust
- Corruption

- Ethnicity and identity
- Poverty
- Political participation
- Infrastructure
- Tolerance/Inclusion
- Media
- Social services

Special topics in recent or upcoming surveys

- Gender equality and gender-based violence
- COVID-19
- Police professionalism
- Child welfare
- Climate change and environmental governance

- Globalism/China in Africa
- Migration, trade, and open borders
- Open, responsive, and transparent government
- Taxation
- Social cohesion

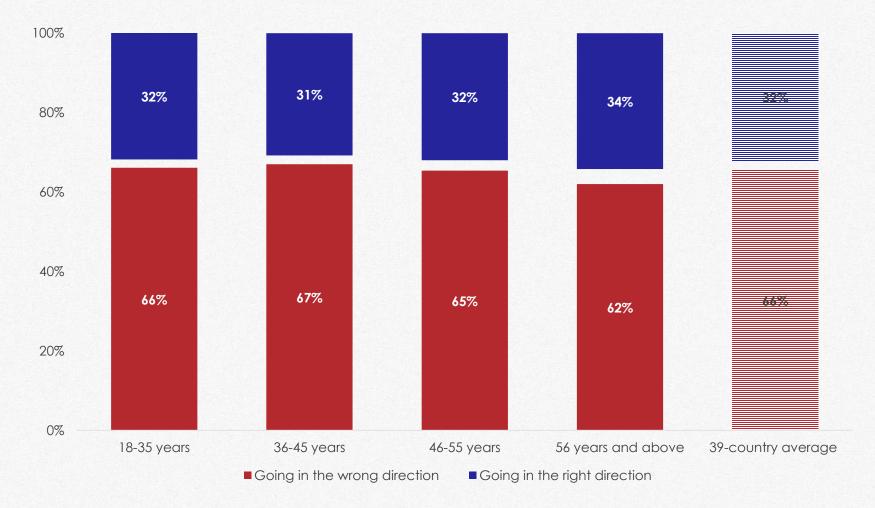
WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG





State of economic and living conditions

General direction of country | 39 countries | 2021/2023

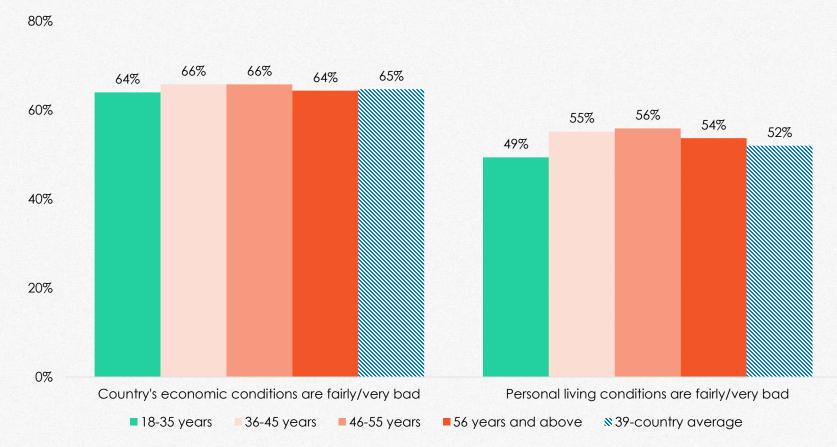


Respondents were asked:

Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?



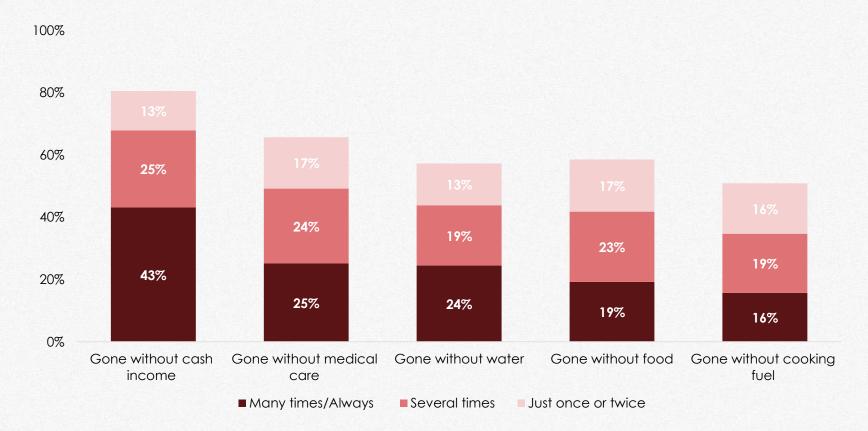
Present economic and living conditions | 39 countries | 2021/2023



Respondents were asked:

In general, how would you describe the A. The present conditions of the country? B. Your own present living conditions?

Gone without basic necessities | 39 countries | 2021/2023



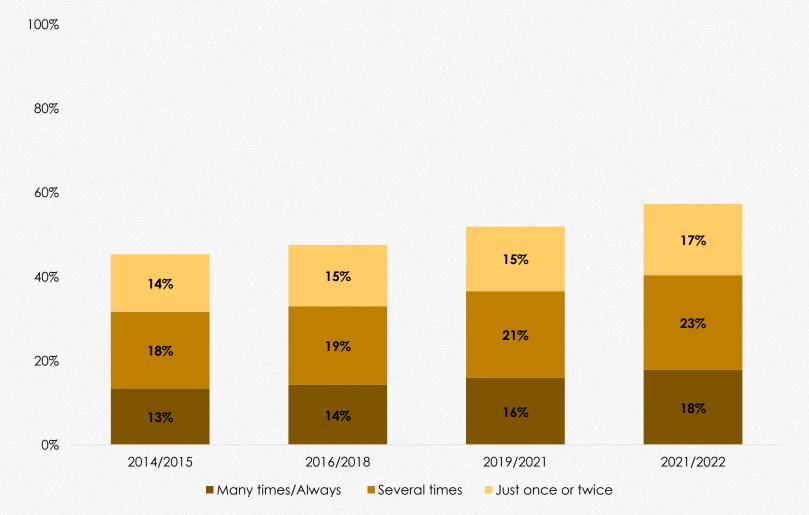
Respondents were asked:

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

without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment?

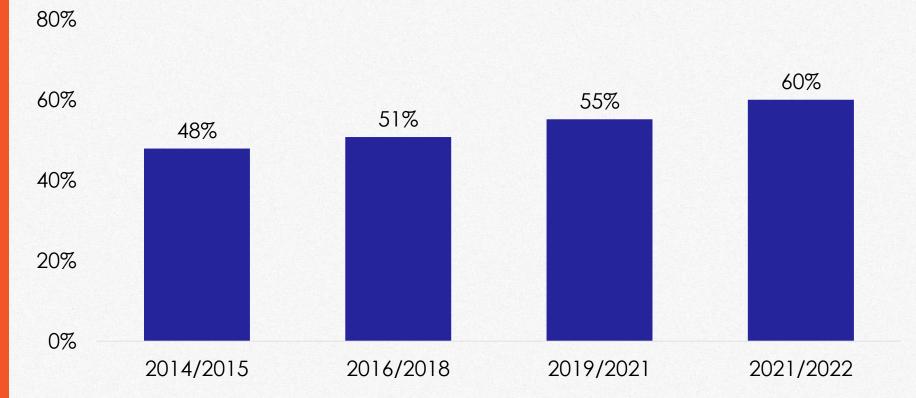
Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income? (% who say "many times" or "always" or "just once or twice")

Gone without enough food | 31 countries | 2014-2022



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without enough food to eat?

Lived poverty index | 31 countries | 2014-2022



% who are have experienced "moderate" or "high" lived poverty

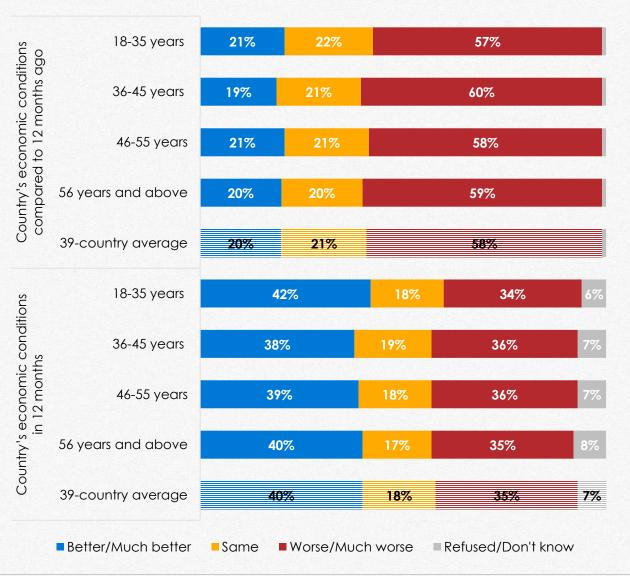
Mattes, R. (2020). Lived poverty on the rise: Decade of living-standard gains ends in Africa. Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 62

Retrospective and prospective evaluations of national economic conditions | 39 countries | 2021/2023

Respondents were asked:

Looking back, how do you rate the following compared to 12 months ago. A. Economic conditions of this country; B. Your living conditions

Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?



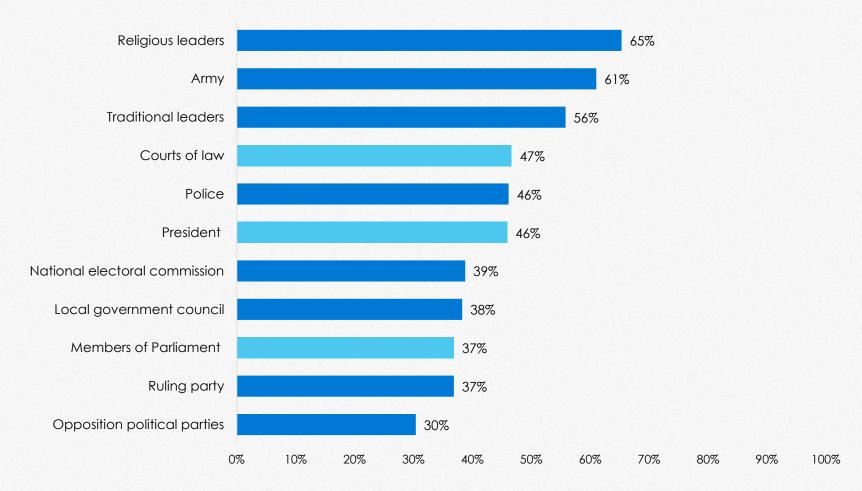
WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG





Institutional trust

Trust in leaders and institutions | 39 countries | 2021/2023

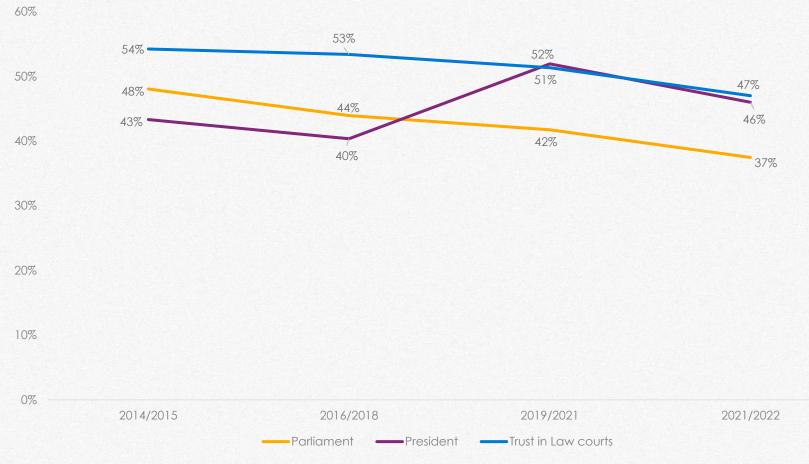


Respondents were asked:

How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

(% saying 'Somewhat' or 'A lot'.

Trust in key democratic institutions over time | 30* countries | 2014-2022



Respondents were asked:

How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

(% saying 'Somewhat' or 'A lot'.

*Question on trust in parliament not asked in Tunisia, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Guinea

WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG





Perspectives on corruption

Institutional corruption

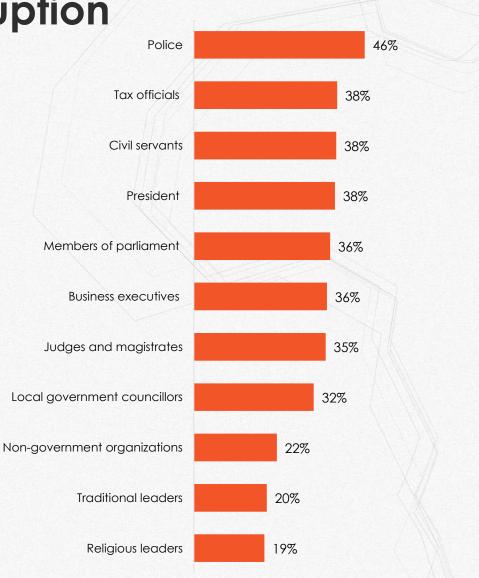
39 countries 2021/2023

Respondents were asked:

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't

you heard enough about them to say: The president and officials in his office?

[% saying "most of them" or "all of them"]



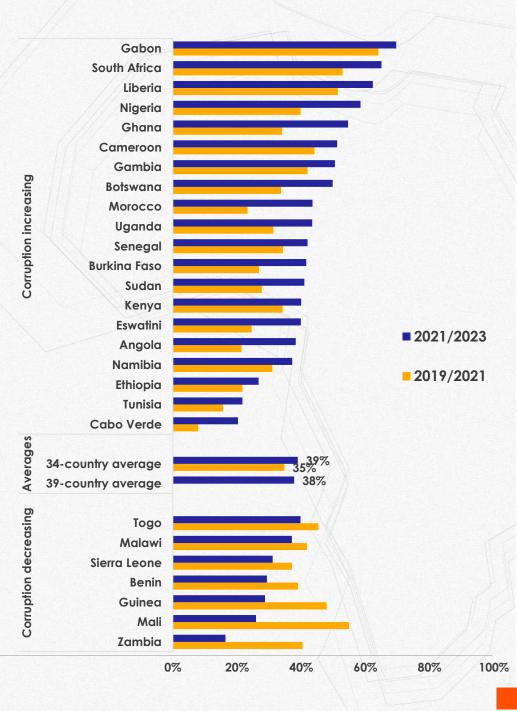
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Corruption trend, office of president

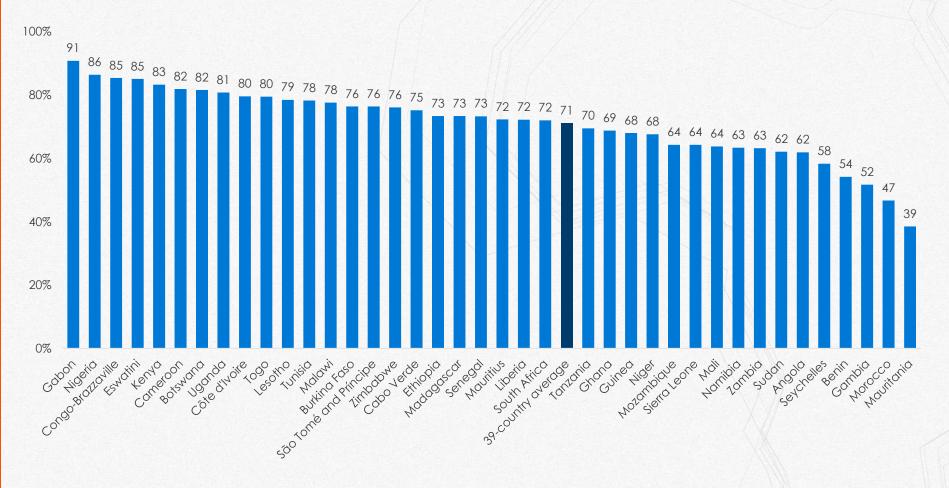
34 countries 2019 - 2023

Respondents were asked:

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The president and officials in his office? [% saying "most of them" or "all of them"]



Risk retaliation for reporting corruption 39 countries | 2021/2023



Respondents were asked:

In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?

WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG



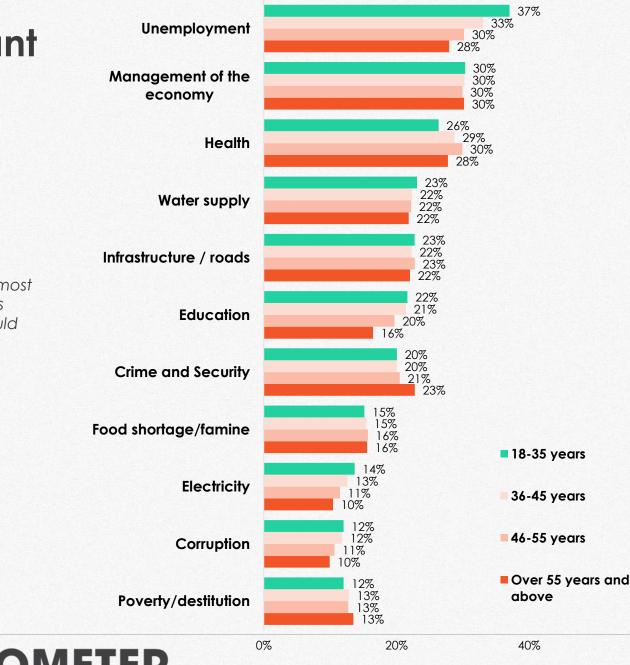


Policy priorities

Most important problems by age group 39 countries 2021/2023

Respondents were asked:

In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per respondent)



60%

WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG





Perspectives on government performance in priority policy areas

Government performance in job creation

| 36 countries| 2021/2022

Respondents were asked: How

well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Creating jobs

Zambia			72%		27%	6		
Seychelles	-		0%	53%				
Tanzania	45%				and the second s			
Mali	42%				1			
Niger	_	39%		61%				
Côte d'Ivoire	Contractions	30%		69%				
Sierra Leone	the second second	28%		71%				
São Tomé and Príncipe		5%		57%				
Togo		24%						
Senegal		24%76% 22% 7 6%						
Madagascar				76%				
Uganda	22			78%				
36 - country avg	20			78%				
Benin	20			80%				
Cameroon	19			81%				
Burkina Faso	18			81%				
Mauritius	17%			81%				
Nigeria	16%			83%				
Ghana	16%			83%				
Mauritania		15% 85%						
Namibia		15% 85%						
Malawi		83%						
Kenya		14% 85%						
Morocco		86%						
Cabo Verde	13%			86%		and the second second		
Botswana	13%			86%		a contraction of the		
Zimbabwe	12%	and the second second second		86%		the state of the state		
Gambia	12%			87%				
Guinea	10%			89%				
Angola	10%			87%				
Liberia	10%			90%				
South Africa	9%			90%				
Tunisia	8%			90%				
Sudan	8%			91%				
Eswatini	6% 93%							
Lesotho	5% . 94%							
Gabon	%			97%		-		
C)%	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%		
■ Fairly/	Very	well	■ Fair	ly/Very	badly			

Government performance in managing the economy | 36 countries

2021/2022

Respondents were asked: How

well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Managing the economy

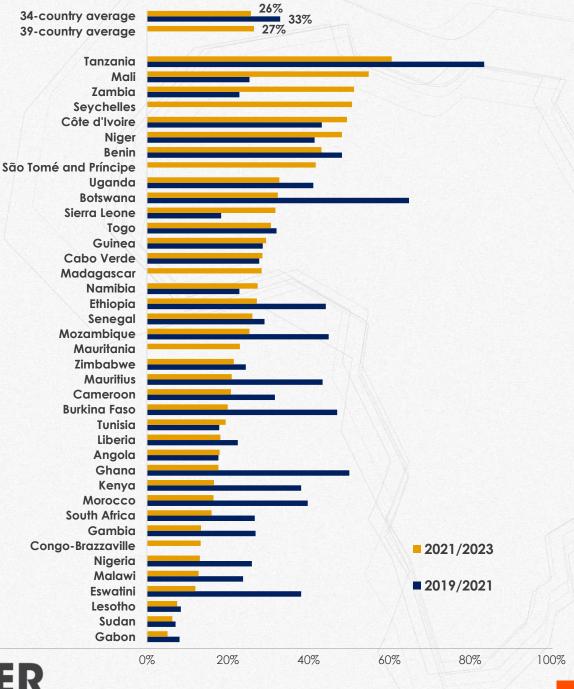
Tanzania	6	1%		38%			
Mali	55	%		41%			
Zambia	51%	6		46%			
Seychelles	51%	6		37%			
Côte d'Ivoire	50%			50%			
Niger	48%			51%			
Benin	43%		5	57%			
São Tomé and Príncipe	42%			39%			
Uganda	33%		66%				
Botswana	32%		66%				
Sierra Leone	32%		68%				
Togo	31%		69%				
Guinea	30%		69%				
Cabo Verde	29%		68%				
Madagascar	28%		70%				
Namibia	27%		72%				
36 - country avg	27%		71%				
Senegal	26%		73%				
Mauritania	23%		76%				
Zimbabwe	22%		76%				
Mauritius	21%		77%		and the second se		
Cameroon	21%		78%				
Burkina Faso	20%		79%				
Tunisia	20%		75%				
Liberia	18% 82%						
Angola	18% 74%						
Ghana	18%		82%				
Kenya	17%		83%				
Morocco	17%		83%				
South Africa	16%		81%				
Gambia	13%		85%				
Nigeria	13%		87%				
Malawi	13%		85%				
Eswatini	85%						
Lesotho	8%		88%				
Sudan	6%		93%				
Gabon	5%		95%				
0	% 20%	40%	60%	80%	100%		
Ū	/0 20/0	1070	00/0	0070	10070		
E Fair	ly/Very well		Fairly/V	ery bad	У		

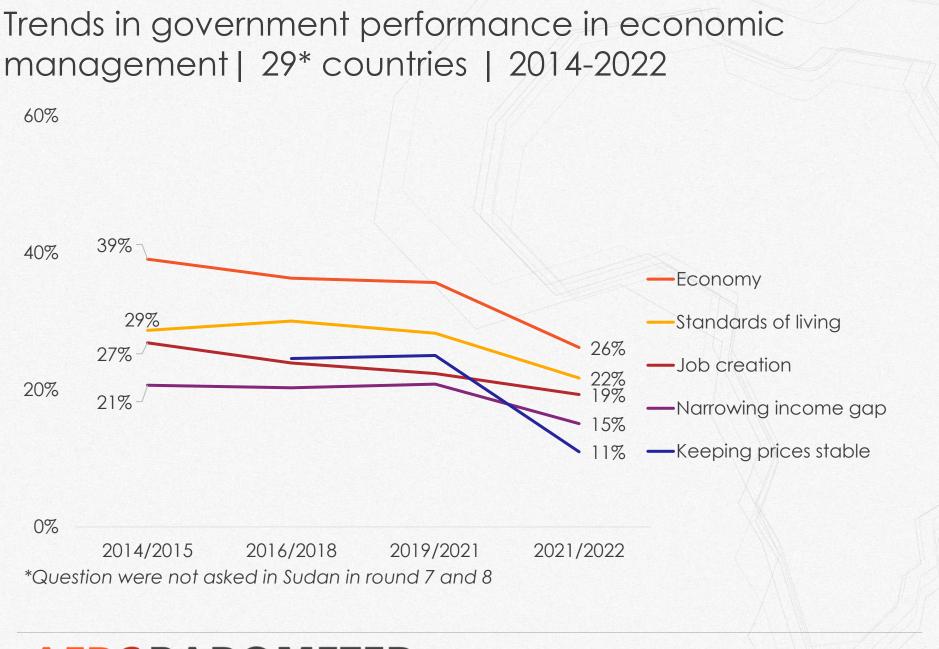
Declining economic performance 39 countries 2019-2023

Respondents were asked:

How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: managing the economy?

(% saying "fairly well" or "very well")





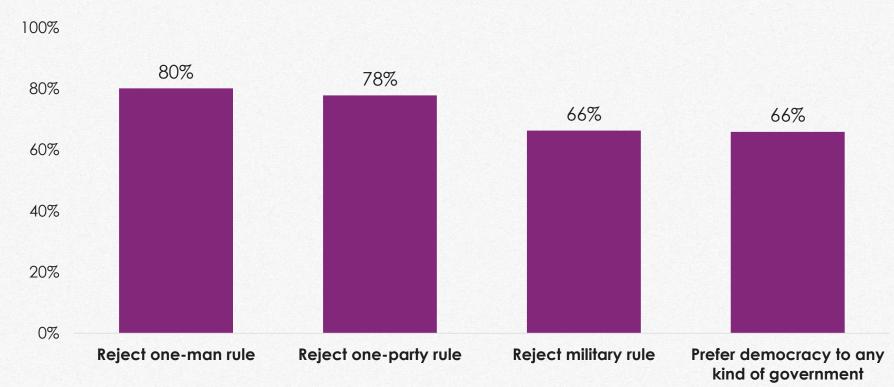
WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG





Perspectives on democratic norms and institutions

Support for democracy and rejection of authoritarian rule | 39 countries | 2021/2022



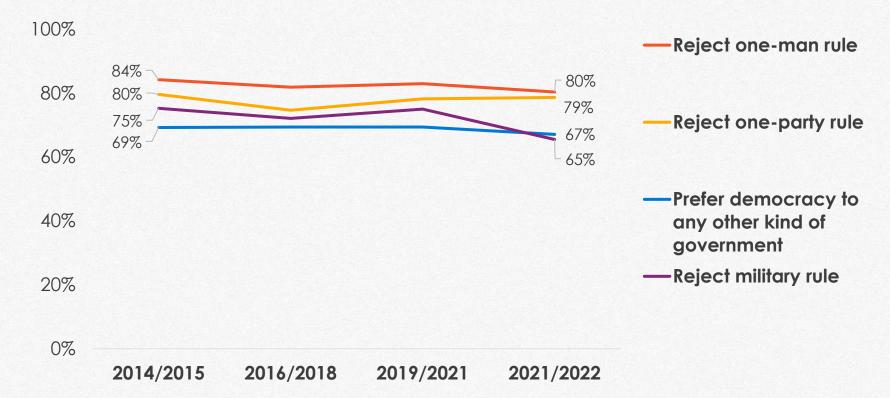
Respondents were asked:

Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion? Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable. Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind government we have. (% who say democracy is preferable)

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office? The army comes in to govern the country? Elections and Parliament are abolished so that the president can decide everything? (% who "disagree" or "strongly disagree")

Support for democracy and rejection of authoritarian rule | 30* countries | 2014-2022

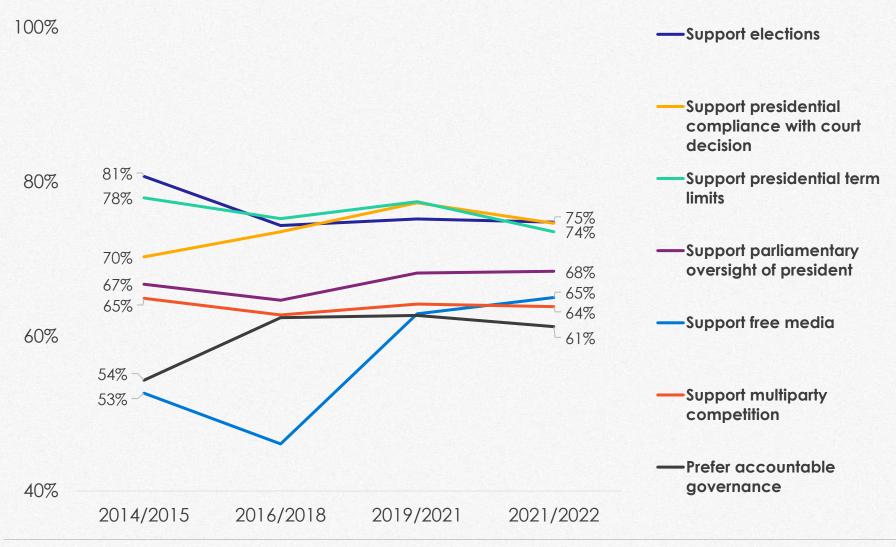


Respondents were asked:

Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion? Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government. Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable. Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind government we have. (% who say democracy is preferable)

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office? The army comes in to govern the country? Elections and Parliament are abolished so that the president can decide everything? (% who "disagree" or "strongly disagree") *Question on one-man rule was not asked in Eswatini in Rounds 6 and 7

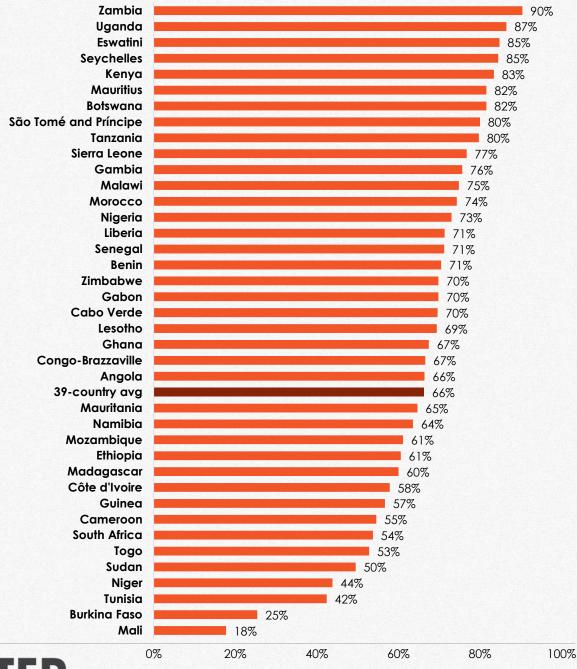
Support for democratic norms and institutions 30 countries | 2014-2022



Rejection of military rule 39 countries 2021/2022

Respondents were asked: There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: The army comes in to govern the country?

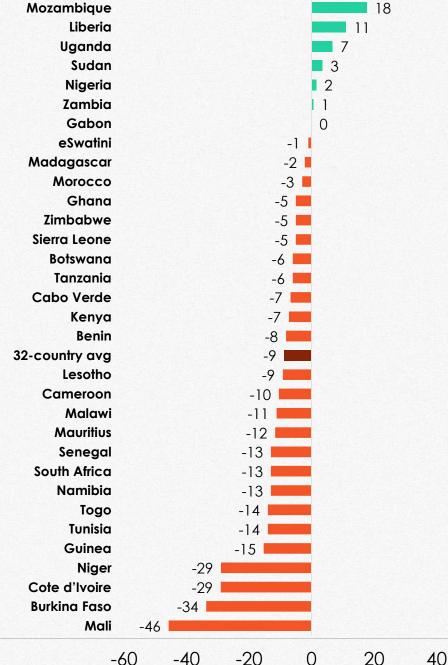
(% who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove")



Changes in rejection of military rule

(percentage points) 32 countries 2014-2022

Figure shows changes (in percentage points) of the proportion between 2014/2015 and 2021/2022 who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" of military rule



60

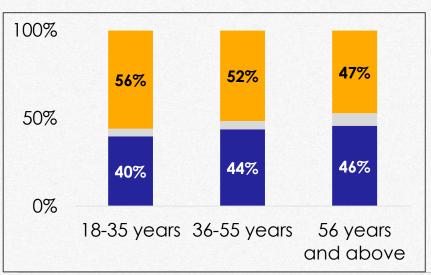
Tolerance for military intervention in politics 39 countries 2021/2022

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

Statement 1: [Country']s armed forces should never intervene in the country's political process.

Statement 2: It is legitimate for the armed forces to take control of government when elected leaders abuse power for their own ends.

(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)



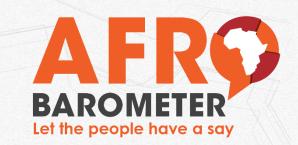
Mali 🗾		82%		15%		
Tunisia 🗾		72%	26%			
Côte d'Ivoire 📒		69%	31%			
Guinea 📒		68%	32%			
Tanzania 📒		68%	31%			
Niger <mark>–</mark>	/	67%	30%			
Congo-Brazzaville		67%	33%			
Burkina Faso 📒		66%	31%			
Gabon <mark>—</mark>		56%	34%			
Cameroon		56%	31%			
Madagascar 🗾	6	4%	34%			
Togo 🗾	6	4%	34%			
ão Tomé and Príncipe 📒	6	3%		28%		
Cabo Verde	6	2%		29%		
Namibia 🗾	60	%	34%			
Malawi 🗾	59	%	38%			
Lesotho 📒	585	76	40%			
Sudan 🗾	583	76	39%			
Mozambique 🗾	55%	6	34%			
39 - country average	53%		42%			
Senegal 🗾	53%			44%		
Zambia 🗾	53%			44%		
South Africa	53%			35%		
Angola 🗾	51%		34%			
Benin 🗾	50%		48%			
Ethiopia 🗾	50%			48%		
Kenya 🗾	47%			51%		
Liberia 🗾	46%		53%			
Sierra Leone 📃	46%		53%			
Mauritania	44%		54%			
Gambia 📒	41%		56%			
Botswana 🗾	41%		54%			
Nigeria	41%		55%			
Ghana 🗾	40%		55%			
Zimbabwe 🗾	36%		59%			
Eswatini 🗾	35%		56%			
Uganda 🗾	33%		64%	5		
Mauritius	27%			49%		
Morocco	27%		65%			
Seychelles	22%			54%		
0%	20%	40%	60%	80%	100	

Armed forces can intervene when leaders abuse power

Armed forces never intervene

WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG





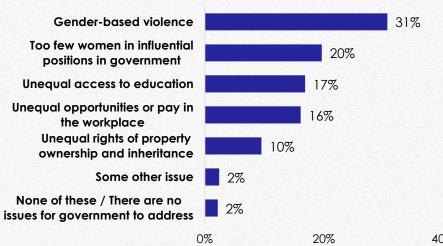
Women and youth issues

Gender-based violence as most important women's rights issue 39 countries 2021/2023

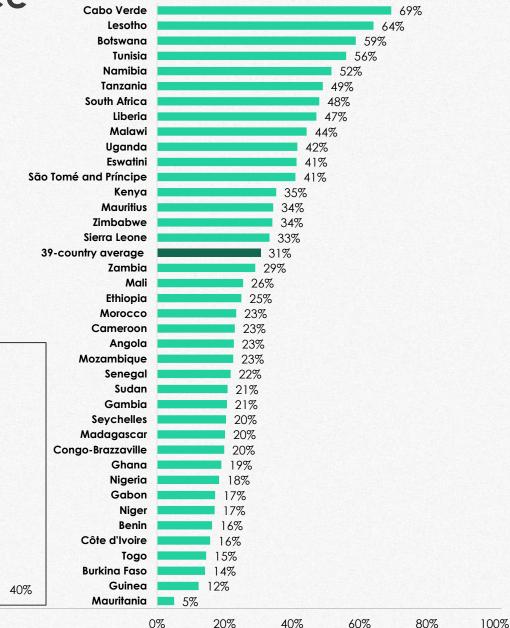
Respondents were asked:

In your opinion, which of the following issues related to women's rights and equality do you think is the most important for our government and society to address?

(% who say "gender-based violence")



Gender-based violence



Is gender-based violence a criminal or domestic matter? 36 countries 2021/2022

São

Respondents were asked:

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Domestic violence is a private matter that needs to be handled and resolved within the family.

Statement 2: Domestic violence is a criminal matter whose full resolution requires the involvement of law enforcement agencies.

(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Botswana			14%	
Seychelles			9%	
o Tomé and Príncipe			15%	
Cabo Verde	80%		15%	
South Africa	78%		18%	
Namibia	73%		25%	
Mauritius	69%		28%	
Eswatini	69%		28%	
Angola	67%		28%	
Liberia	65%		33%	
Tanzania	64%		33%	
Ghana	64%		33%	
Malawi	62%		35%	
Zimbabwe	61%		37%	
Senegal	60%		39%	
Gabon	56%		44%	
Cameroon	54%		44%	
Lesotho	53%		46%	
36-country average	50% 💓			
Côte d'Ivoire	50%		50%	70
Morocco	48%		51%	2
Benin	46%		539	76
Zambia	43%		51%	70
Sierra Leone	37%		57	7%
Uganda	36%			62%
Togo	34%			65%
Mauritania	329	7		66%
Gambia	309	%		67%
Kenya	29'	%		68%
Tunisia	29	%		69%
Nigeria	29	%		68%
Madagascar	28	%		70%
Burkina Faso	20	6%		72%
Guinea	2	3%		76%
Mali		3%		75%
Sudan		20%		78%
Niger		11%		89%

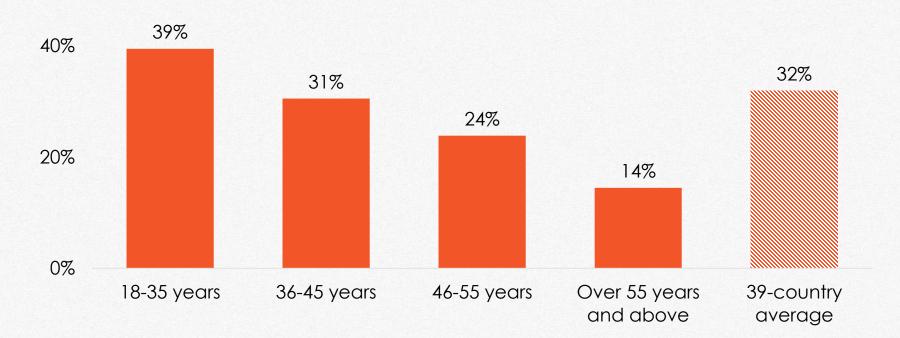
AFROBAROMETER

Criminal

Domestic

Digital divide | 39 countries | 2021/2023 100% 86% 81% 79% Men 80% 73% Women 60% 51% 48% 43% 41% 40% 20% 20% 15% 0% Own mobile phone Use mobile phone Mobile phone access to Use internet regularly **Own computer** every day internet

Unemployment | by age | 39 countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: Do you have a job that pays a cash income? [If yes:] Is it full time or part time?

[If no:] Are you currently looking for a job?

Unemployed youth looking for jobs 39 countries | 2021/2022

São

Respondents were asked:

Do you have a job that pays a cash income? [If yes:] Is it full time or part time? [If no:] Are you currently looking for a job?

[II NO.] ARE YOU CUREINIY IOOKING IOF A JOD

(% aged 18-35 who say "no, looking")

Angola				6	67%				
io Tomé and Príncipe	60%								
Botswana	60%								
Lesotho	57%								
Mozambique	55%								
Burkina Faso	52%								
Sierra Leone	51%								
Liberia	51%								
Niger	51%								
Eswatini	50%								
Togo				49%					
Mauritania				7%					
South Africa			4	7%					
Gabon			449	%					
Namibia			449						
Côte d'Ivoire			42%	5					
Congo-Brazzaville			41%						
Malawi			41%						
Kenya			41%						
Zimbabwe			41%						
39-country average	<i>''</i> ///////////////////////////////////		0,,0						
Cameroon			39%						
Cabo Verde			39%						
Guinea			38%						
Tunisia			38%						
Mali			37%						
Zambia			36%						
Sudan			32%						
Senegal			9%						
Benin			9%						
Madagascar		28							
Ghana		27							
Uganda		279							
Nigeria		24%							
Tanzania		24%							
Morocco		21%							
Ethiopia		21%							
Gambia		19%							
Seychelles	8%	6							
Mauritius	4%								
(0%	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%			

WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG





Concluding thoughts

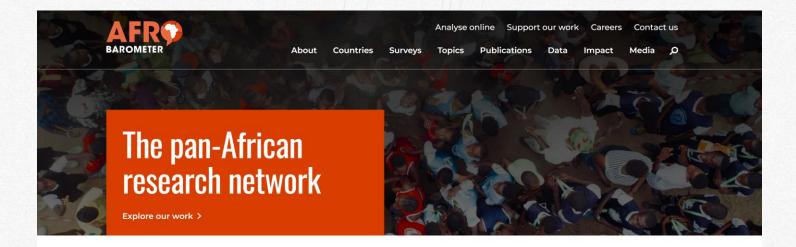


Concluding thoughts

- Afrobarometer has indicators that can track progress towards 12 of the 17 UN SDGs and several of the Africa Agenda 2063 targets
- On the economic front:
 - **unemployment** remains the top policy issue for citizens
 - poverty has increased significantly in the last few years and Africans generally rate their governments poorly on economic performance
 - unemployment is much higher among young Africans aged 18-35
- On democracy our findings continue to indicate robust popular demand (albeit slipping rejection of military rule)
- On gender, gender-based violence is the top women's rights issue that African want their governments to address

Thank you





Latest releases

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.