



Citizen perspectives on the state of the continent

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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

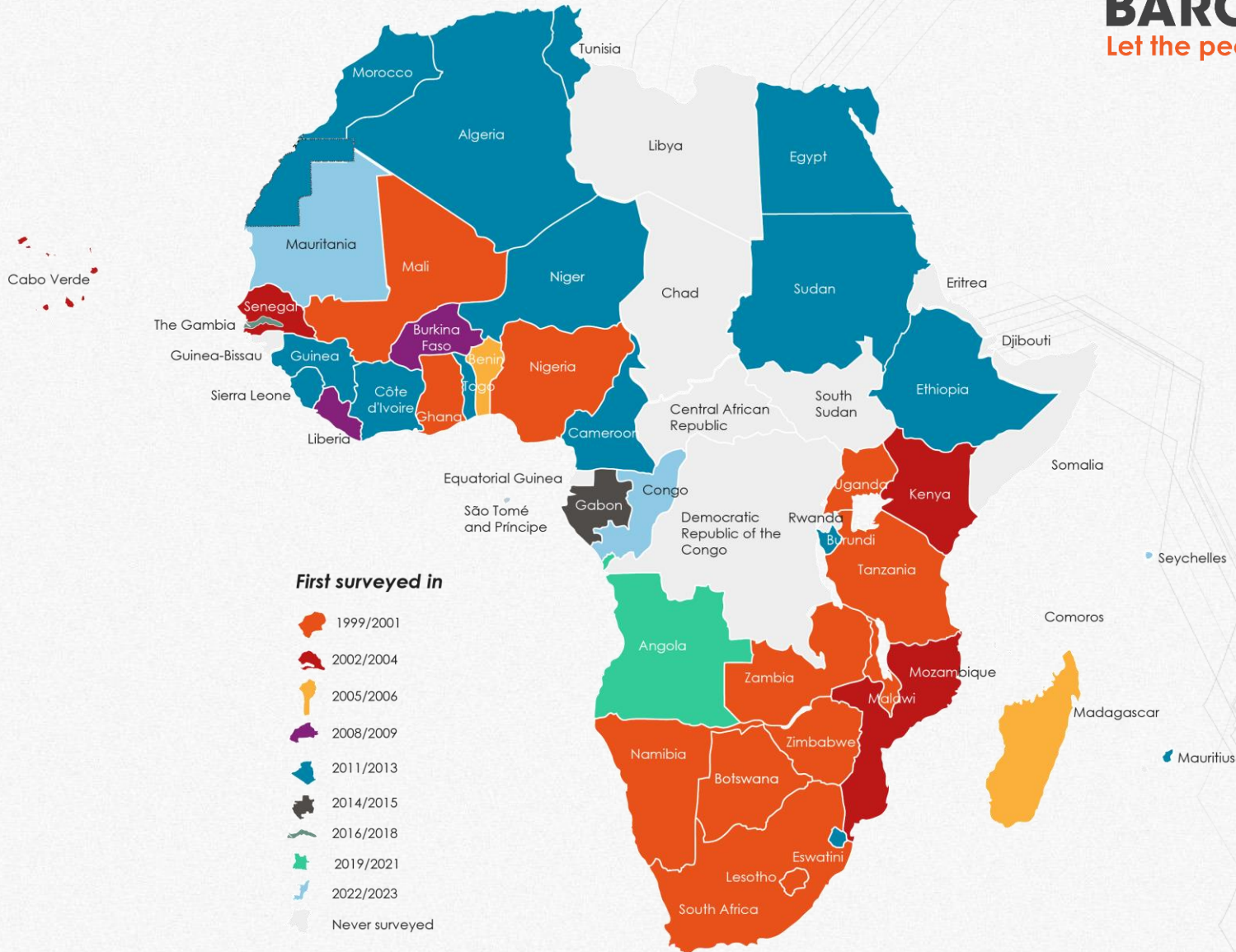


Methodology

- **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

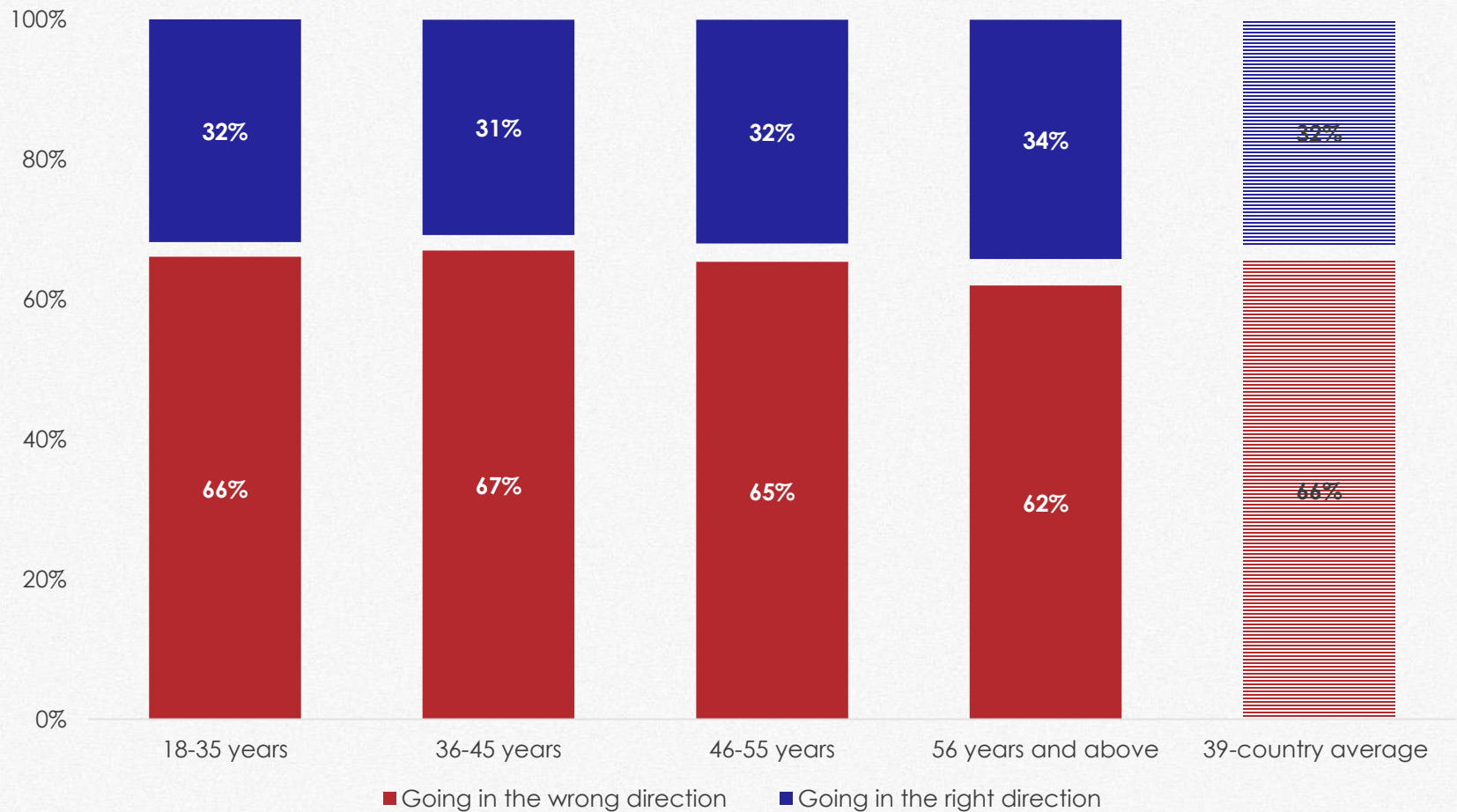
Special topics in recent or upcoming surveys

- 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



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

100%

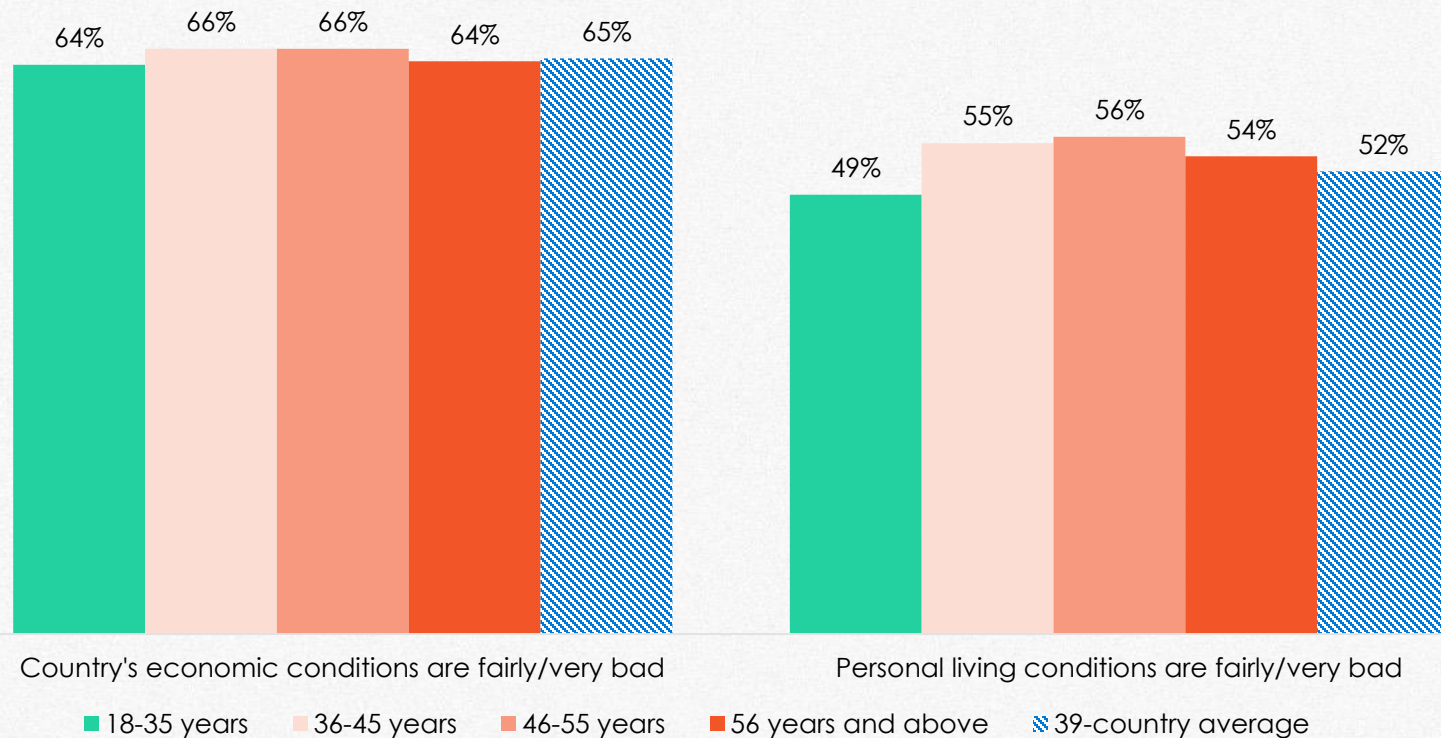
80%

60%

40%

20%

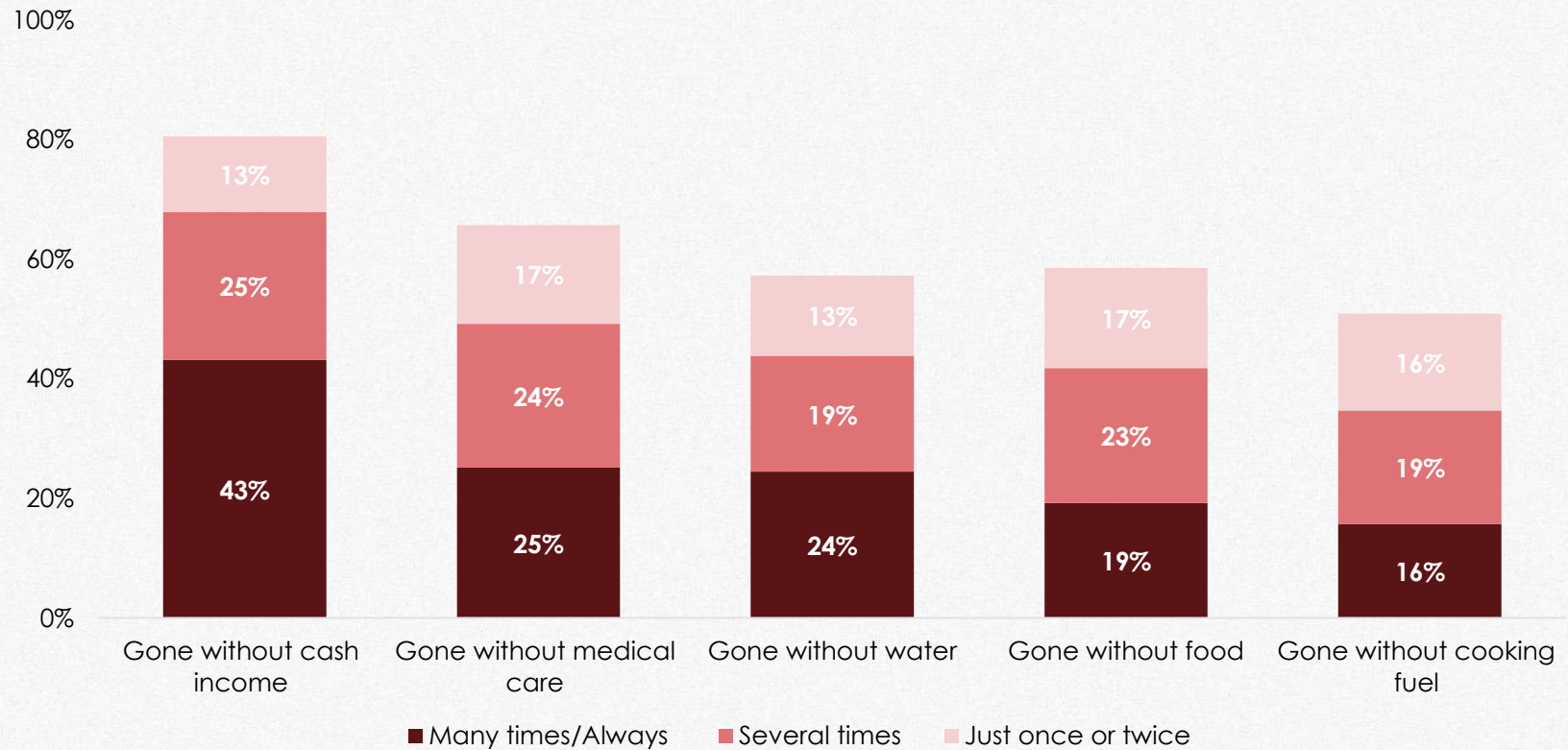
0%



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



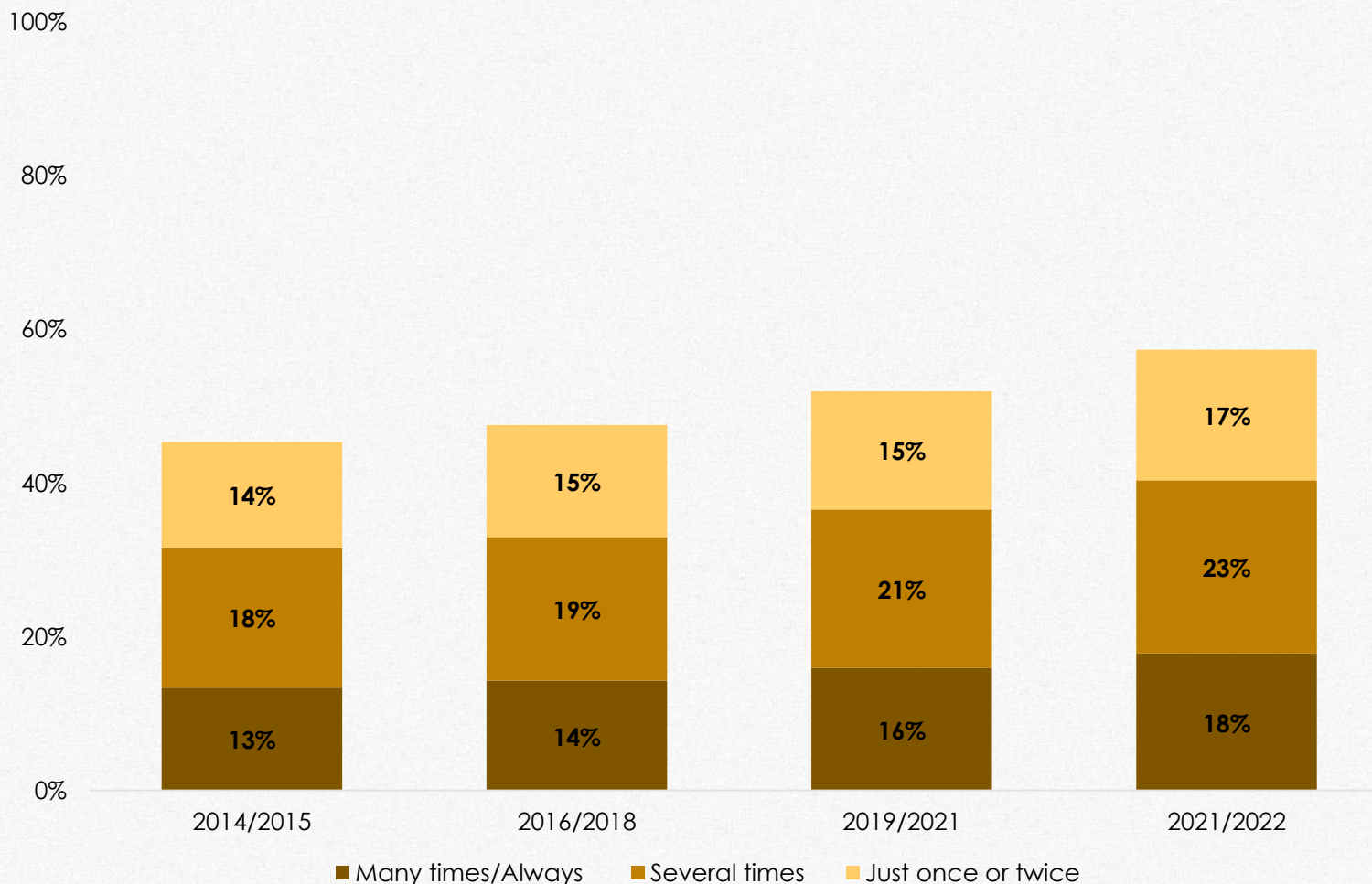
Respondents were asked:

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?

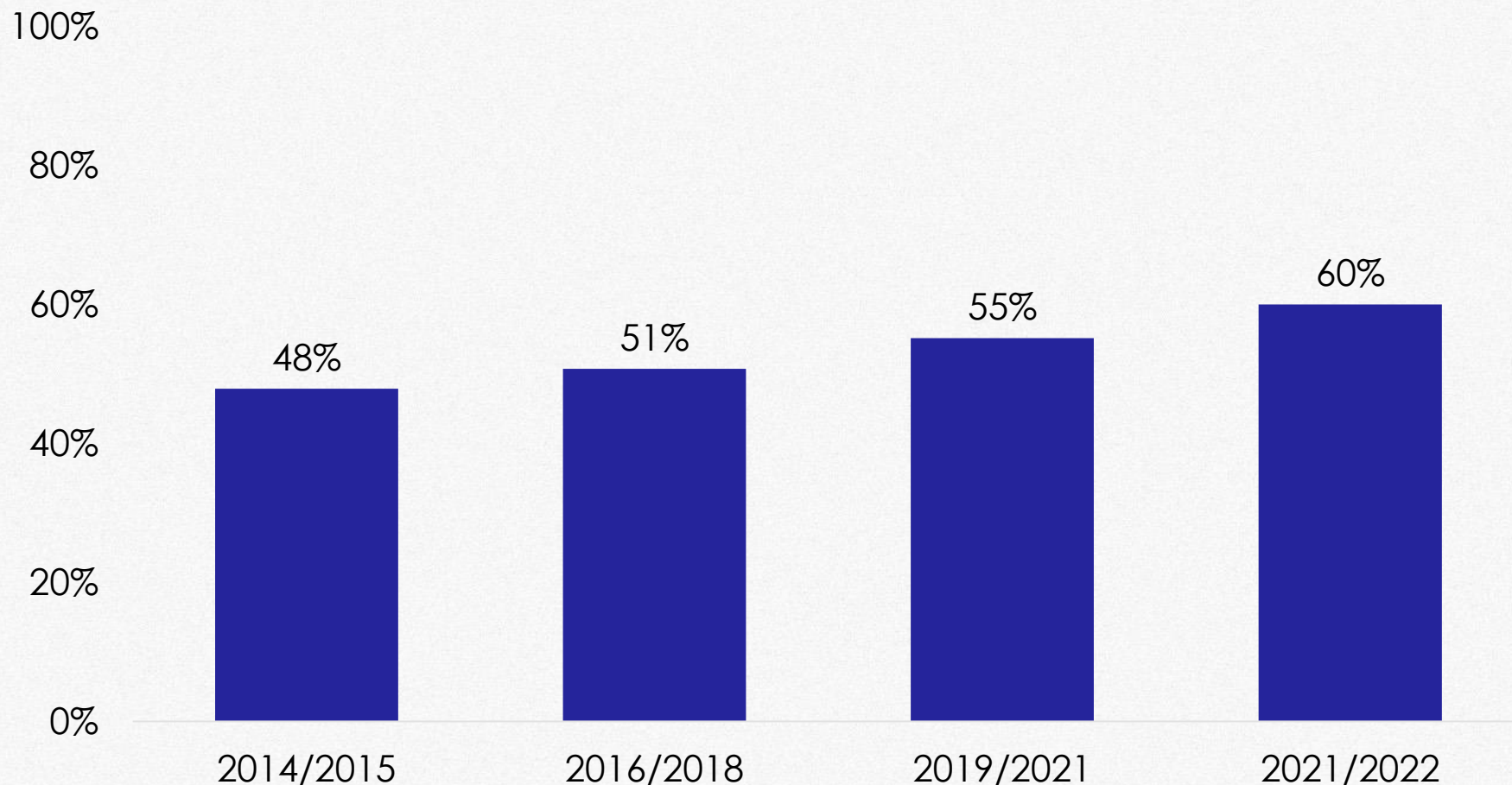
Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income? (% who say "many times" or "always" or "just once or twice")

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



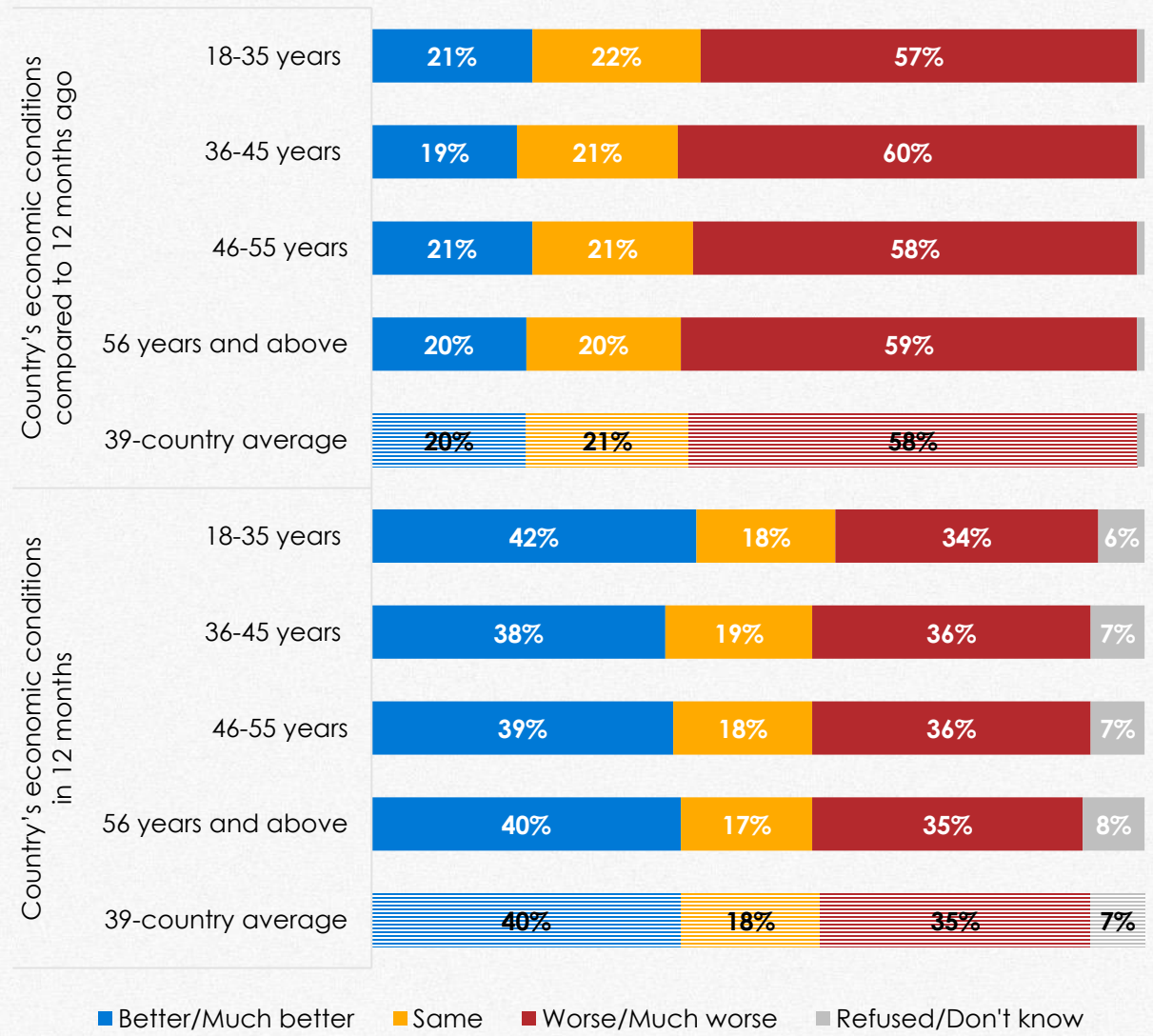
% who are have experienced “moderate” or “high” lived poverty

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

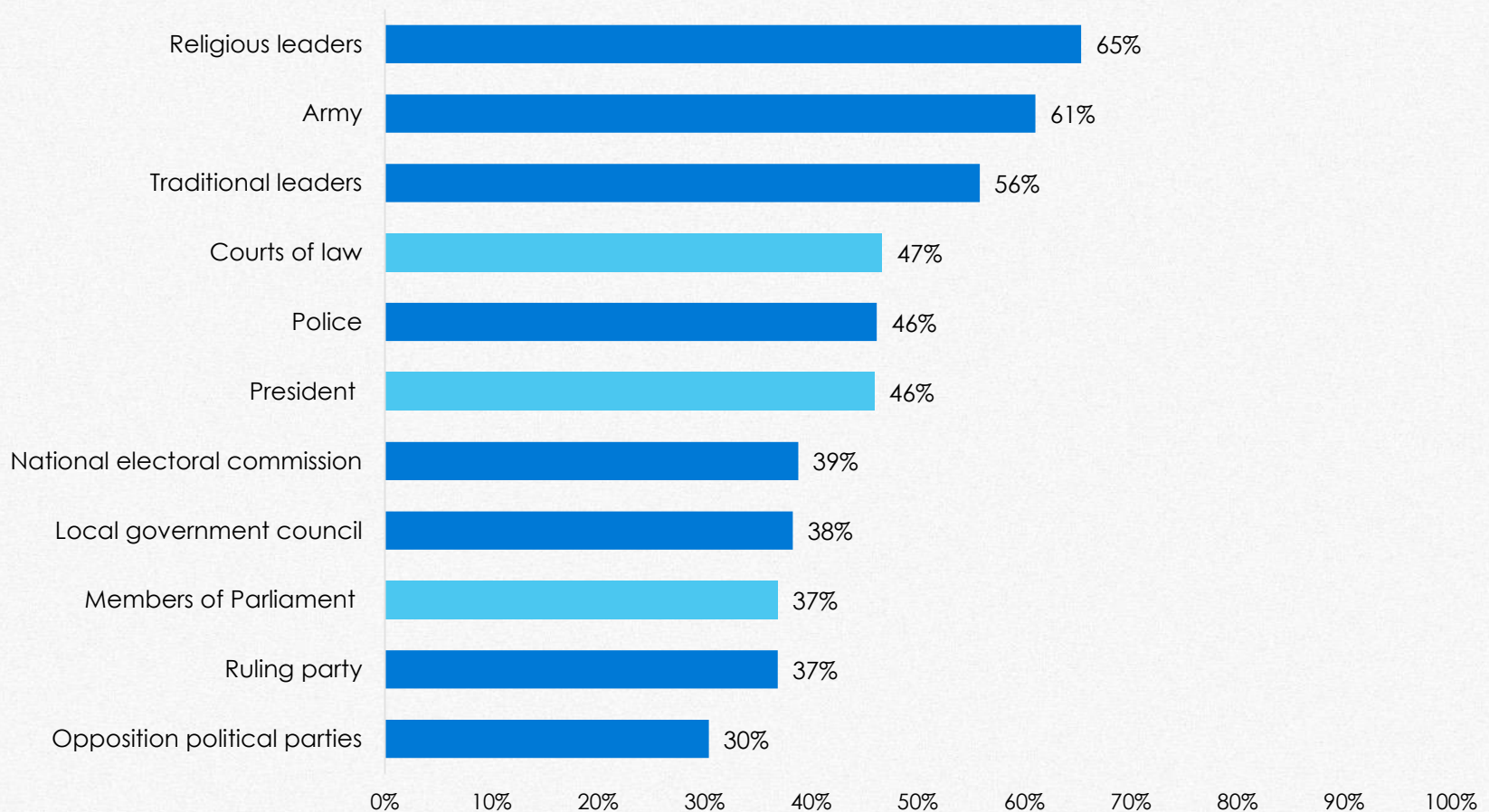
Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?





Institutional trust

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

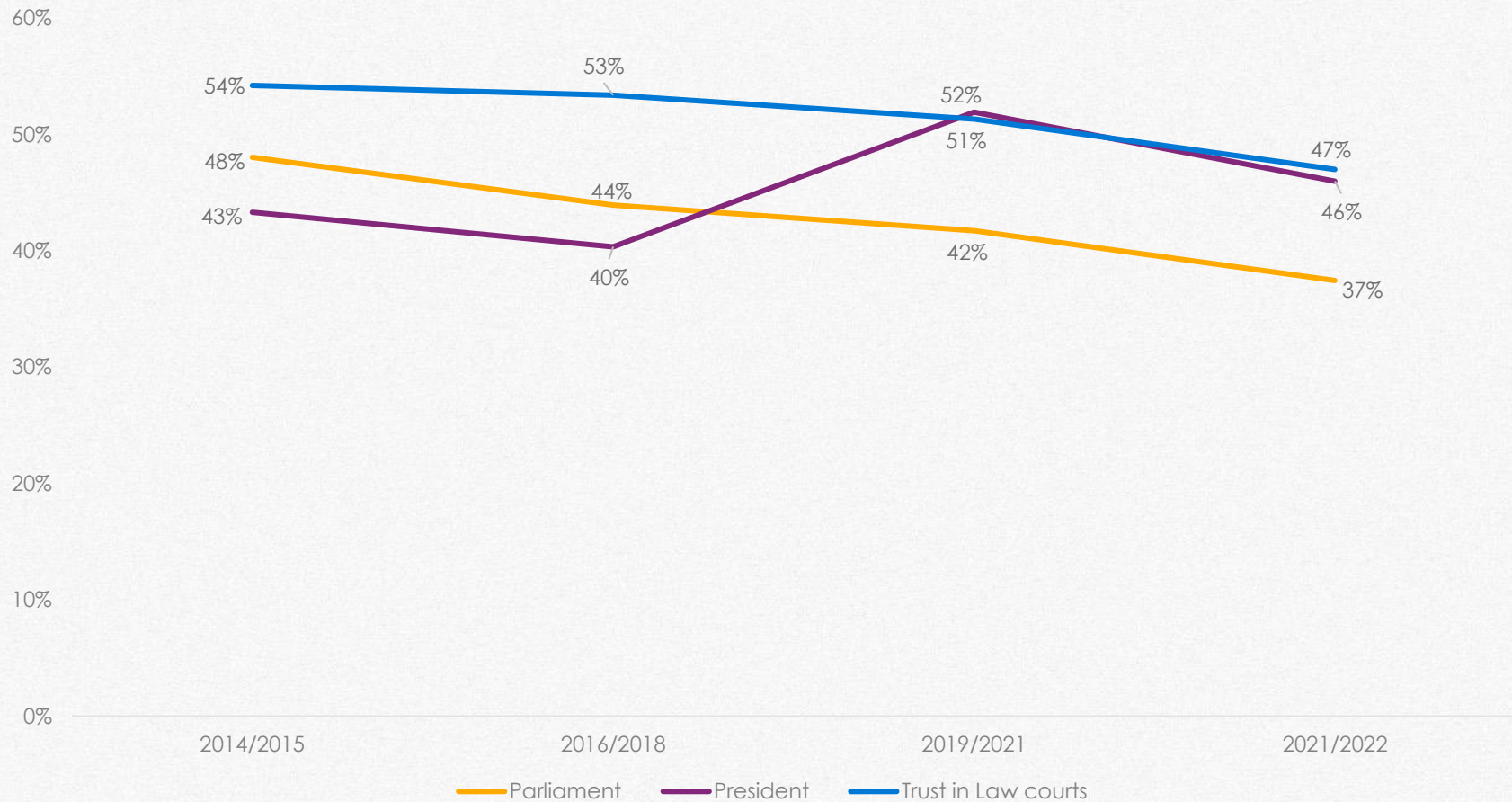


Respondents were asked:

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



Perspectives on corruption

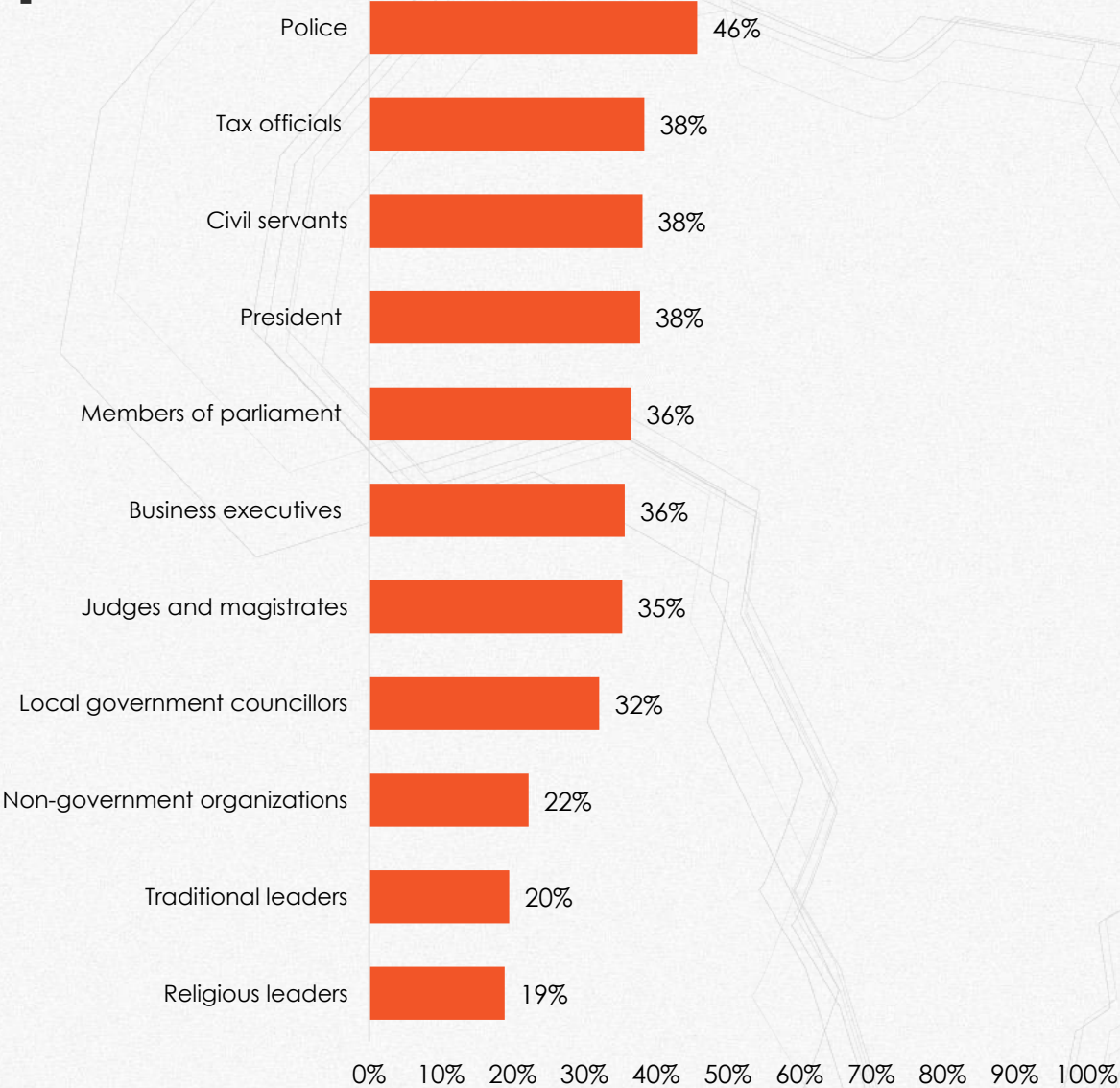
Institutional corruption

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"]*

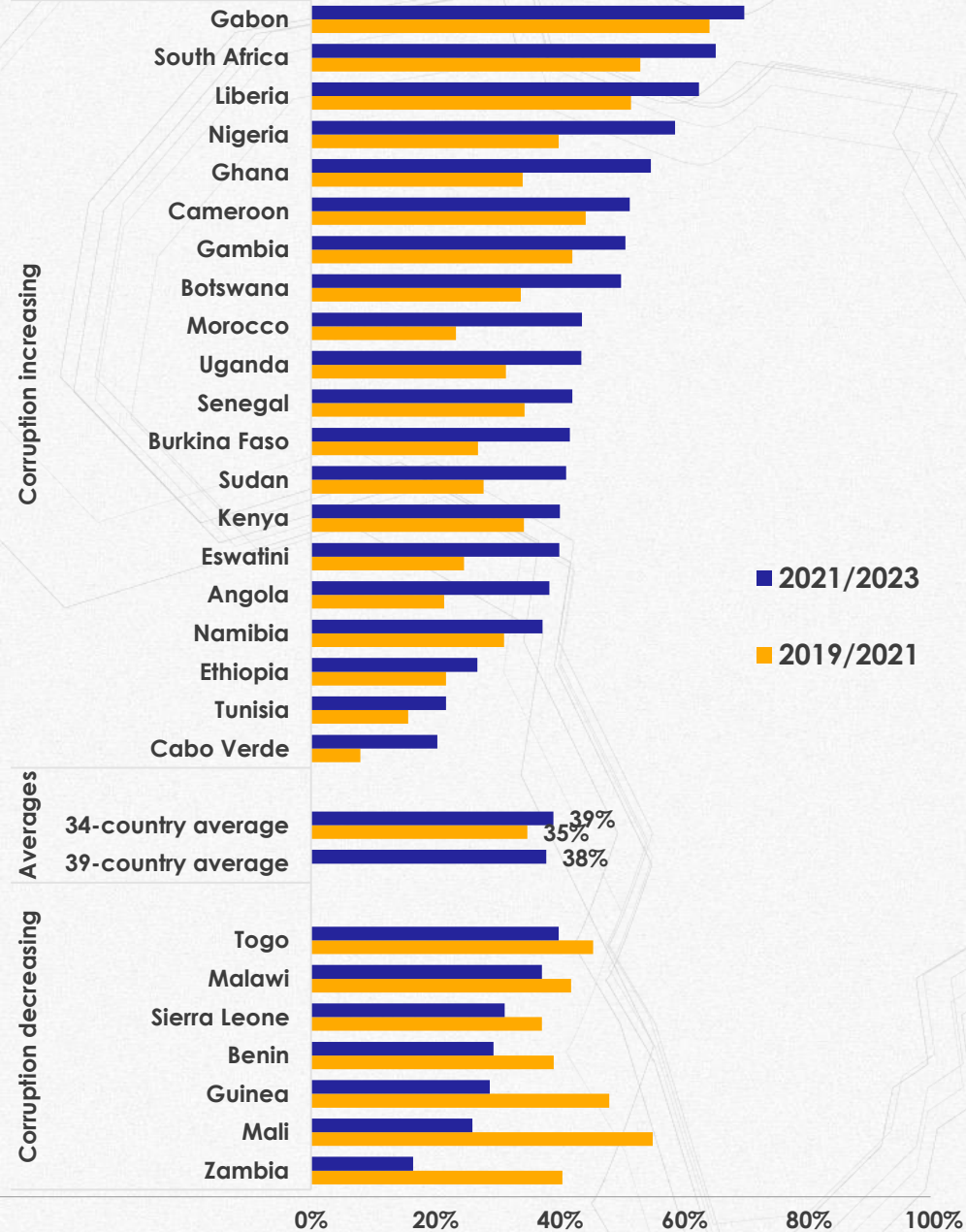


Corruption trend, office of president

34 countries
2019 - 2023

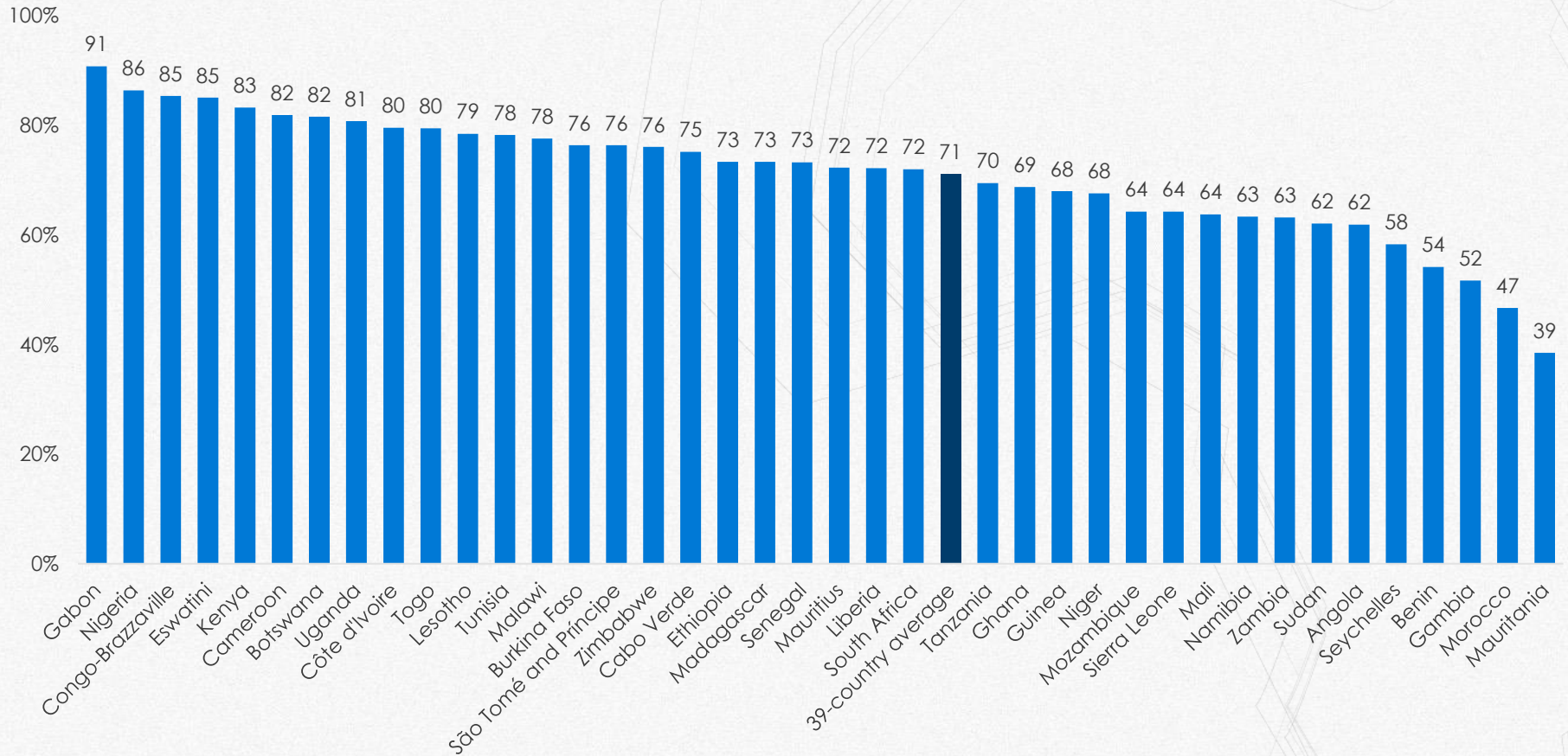
Respondents were asked:

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?



Policy priorities

Most important problems

by age group

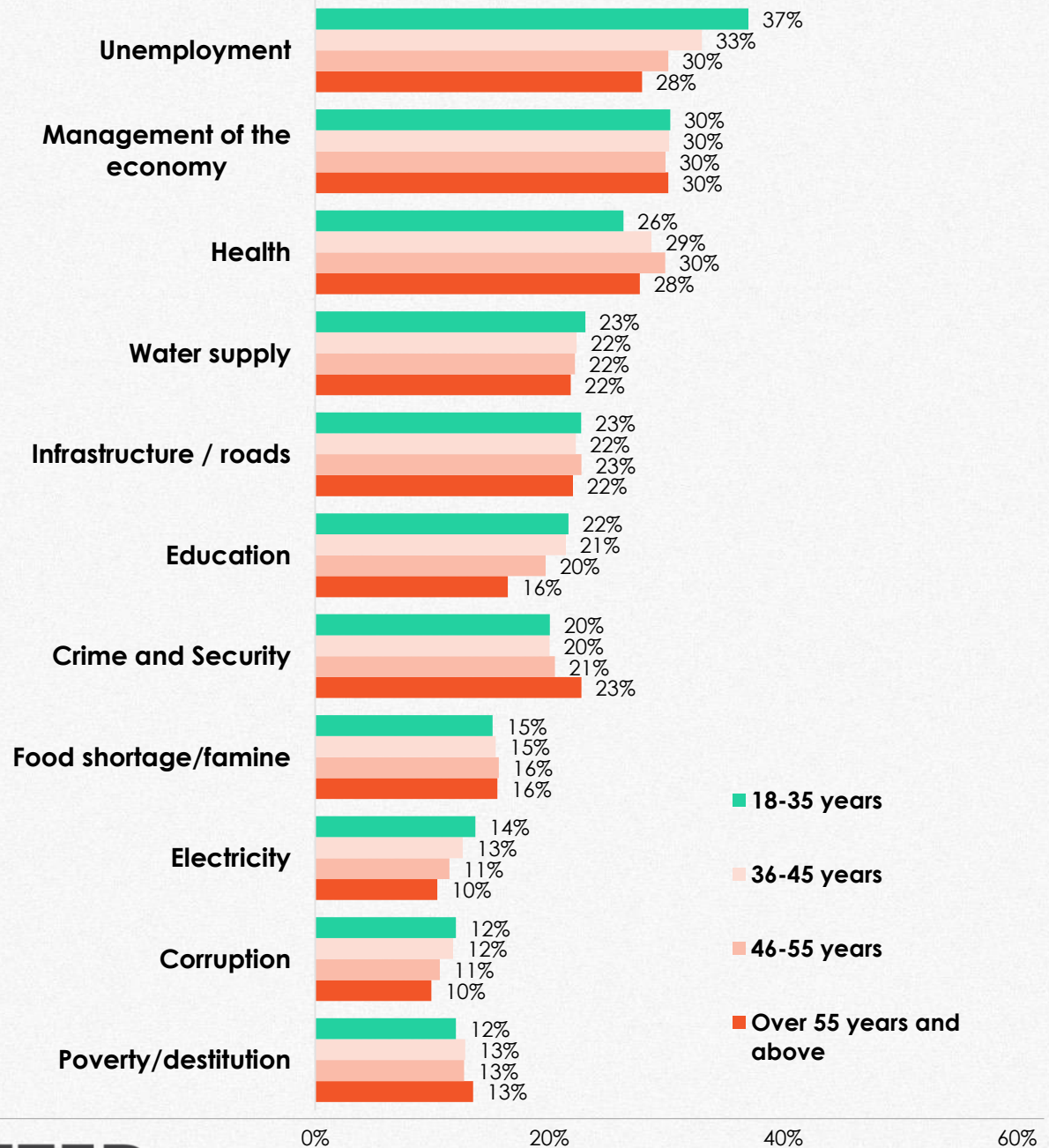
39 countries

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)



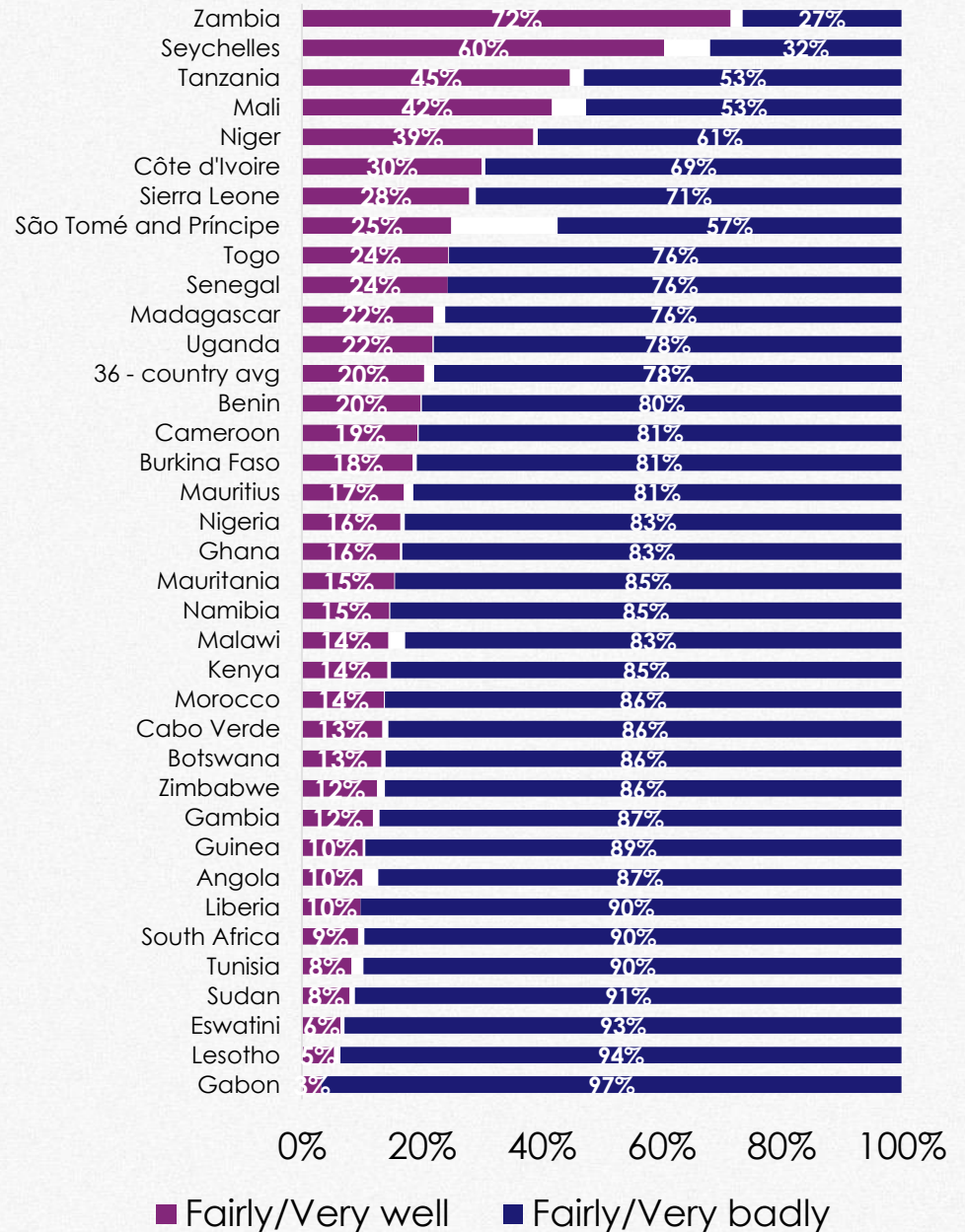


Perspectives on government performance in priority policy areas

Government performance in job creation

| 36 countries
| 2021/2022

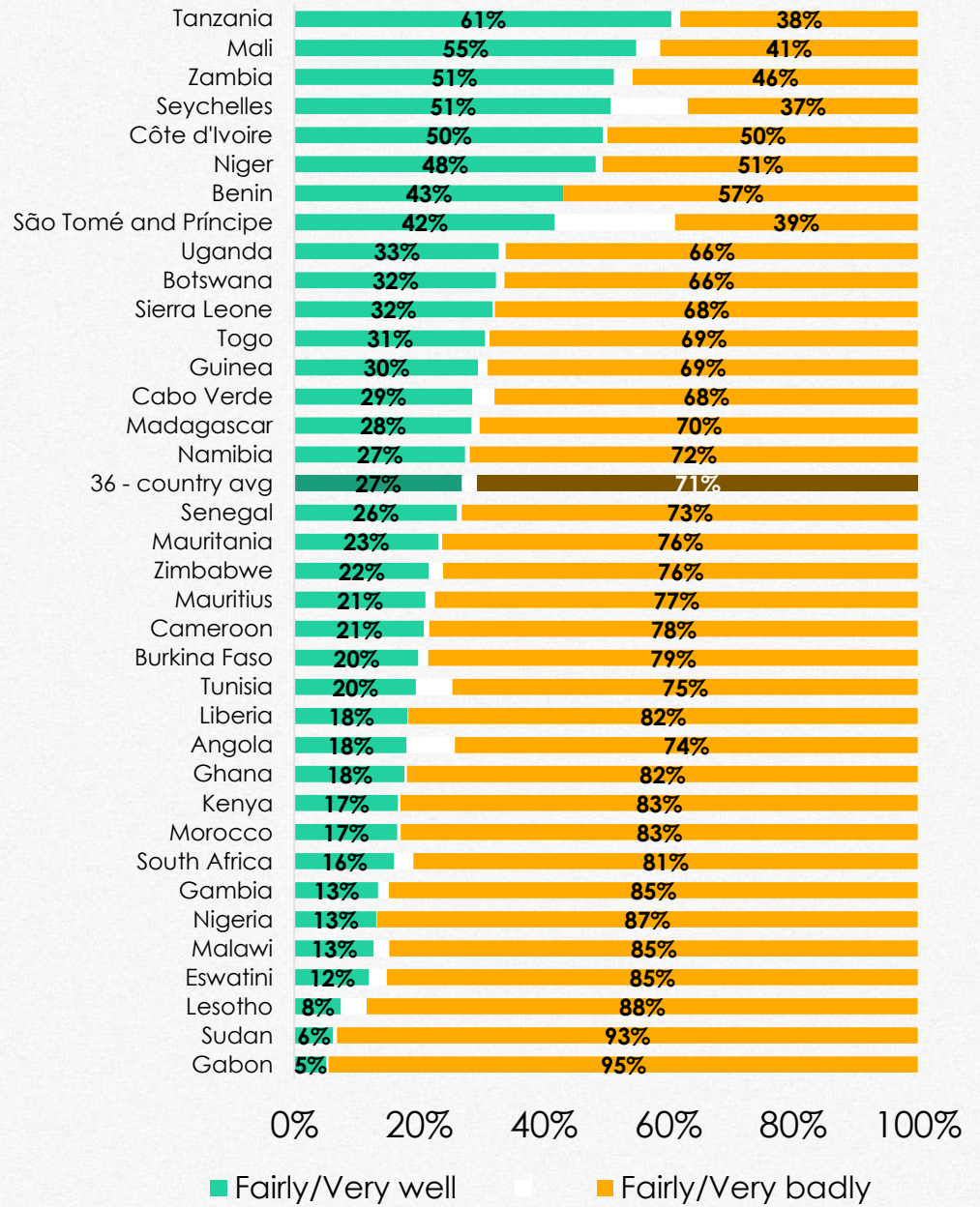
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say:
Creating jobs



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



Declining economic performance

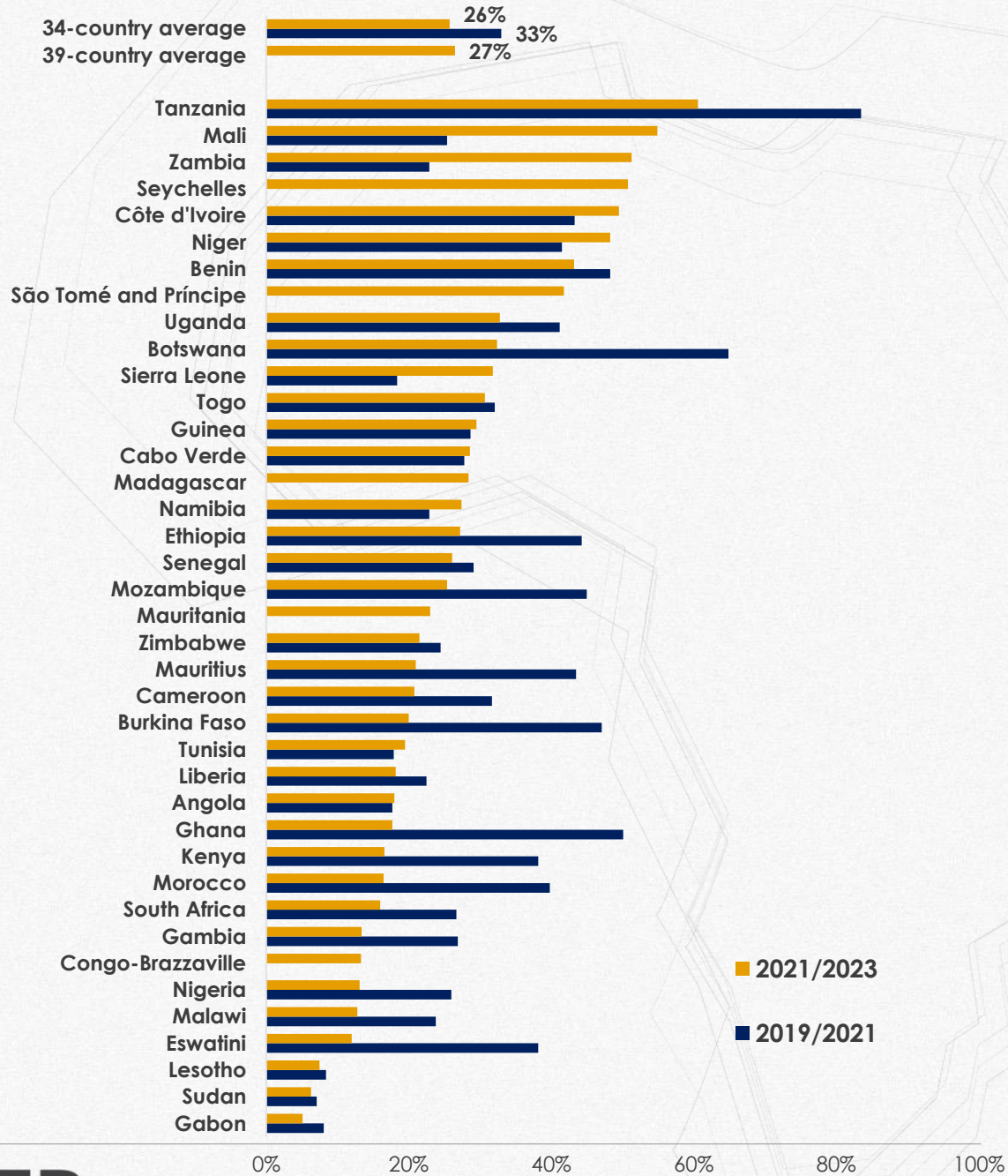
39 countries

2019-2023

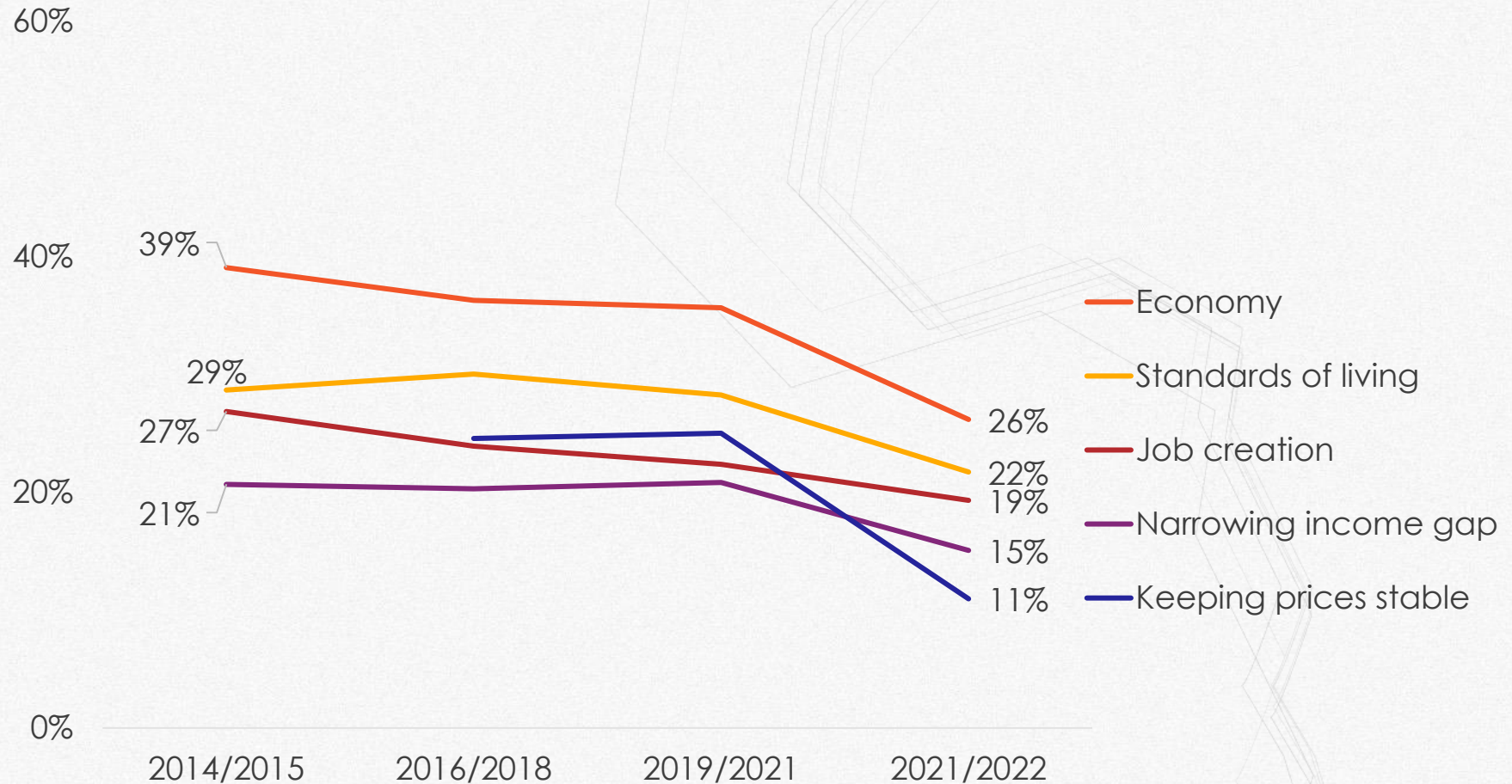
Respondents were asked:

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")



Trends in government performance in economic management | 29* countries | 2014-2022

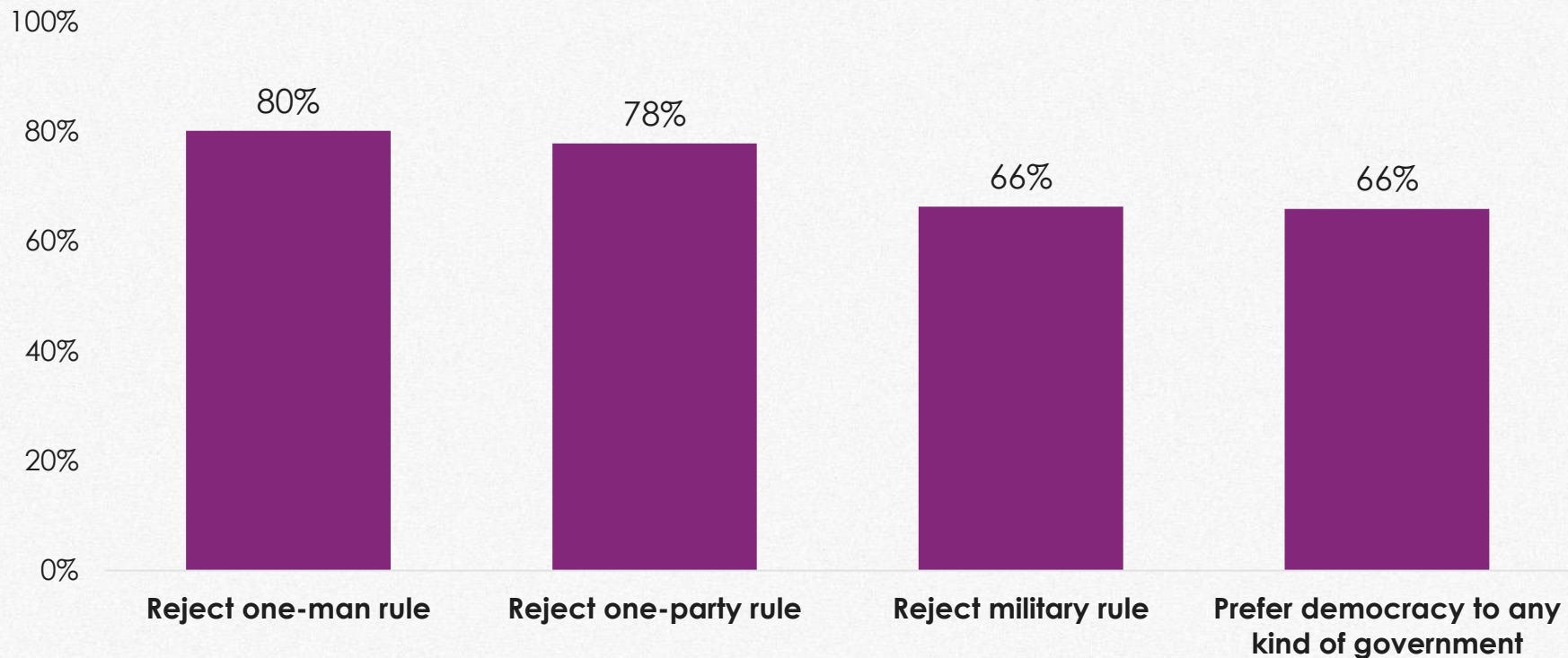


*Question were not asked in Sudan in round 7 and 8



Perspectives on democratic norms and institutions

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



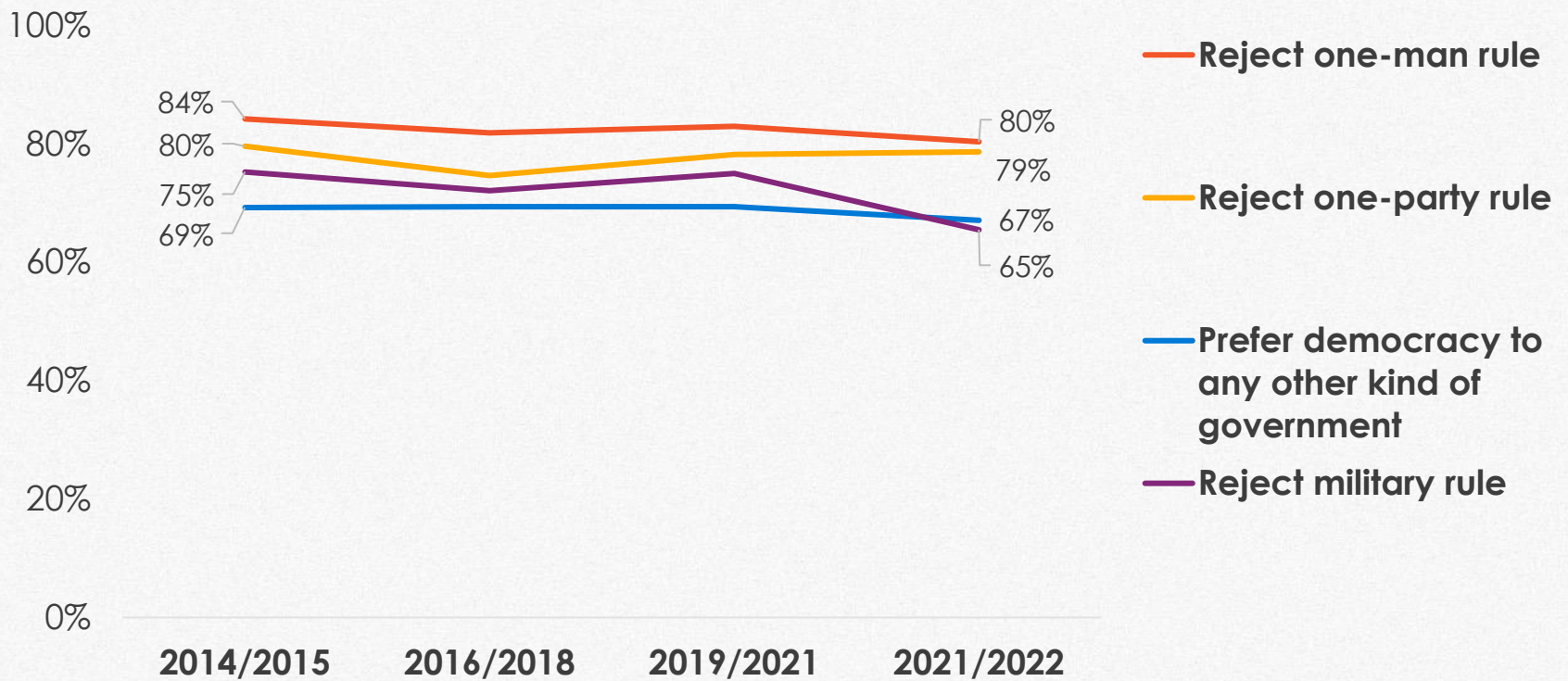
Respondents were asked:

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 of 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:

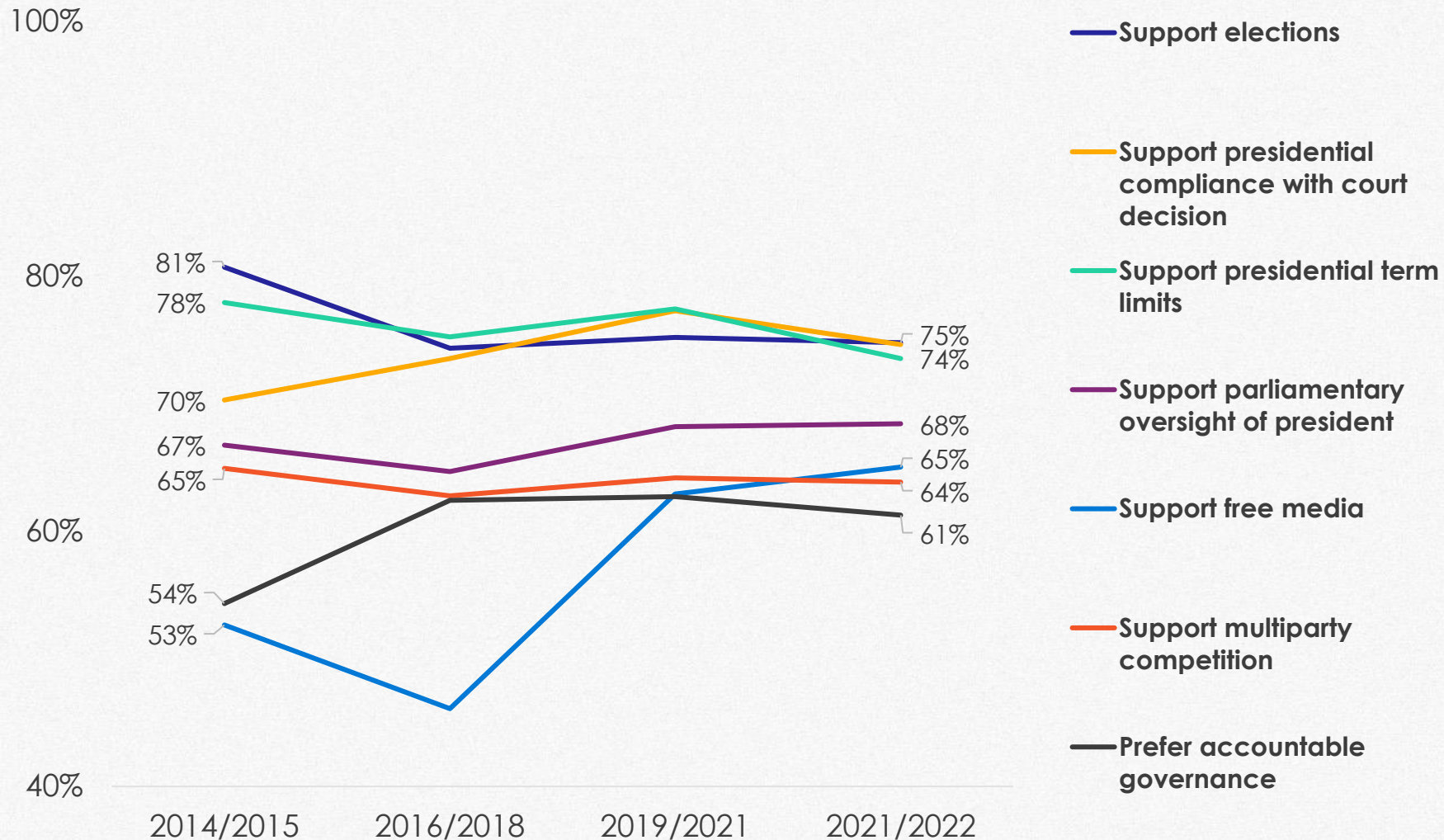
Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion? Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government. Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable. Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.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

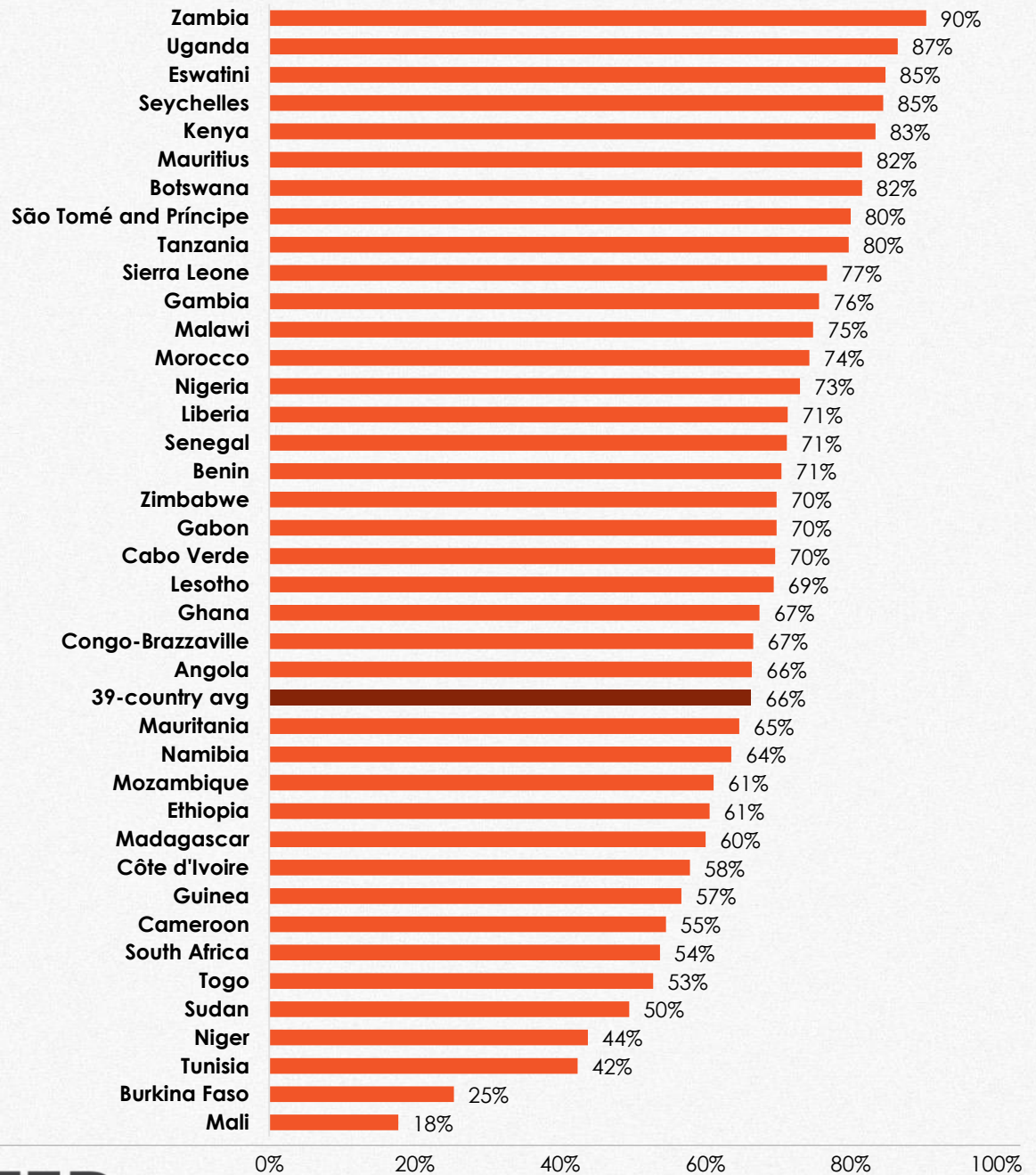
30 countries | 2014-2022



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”)



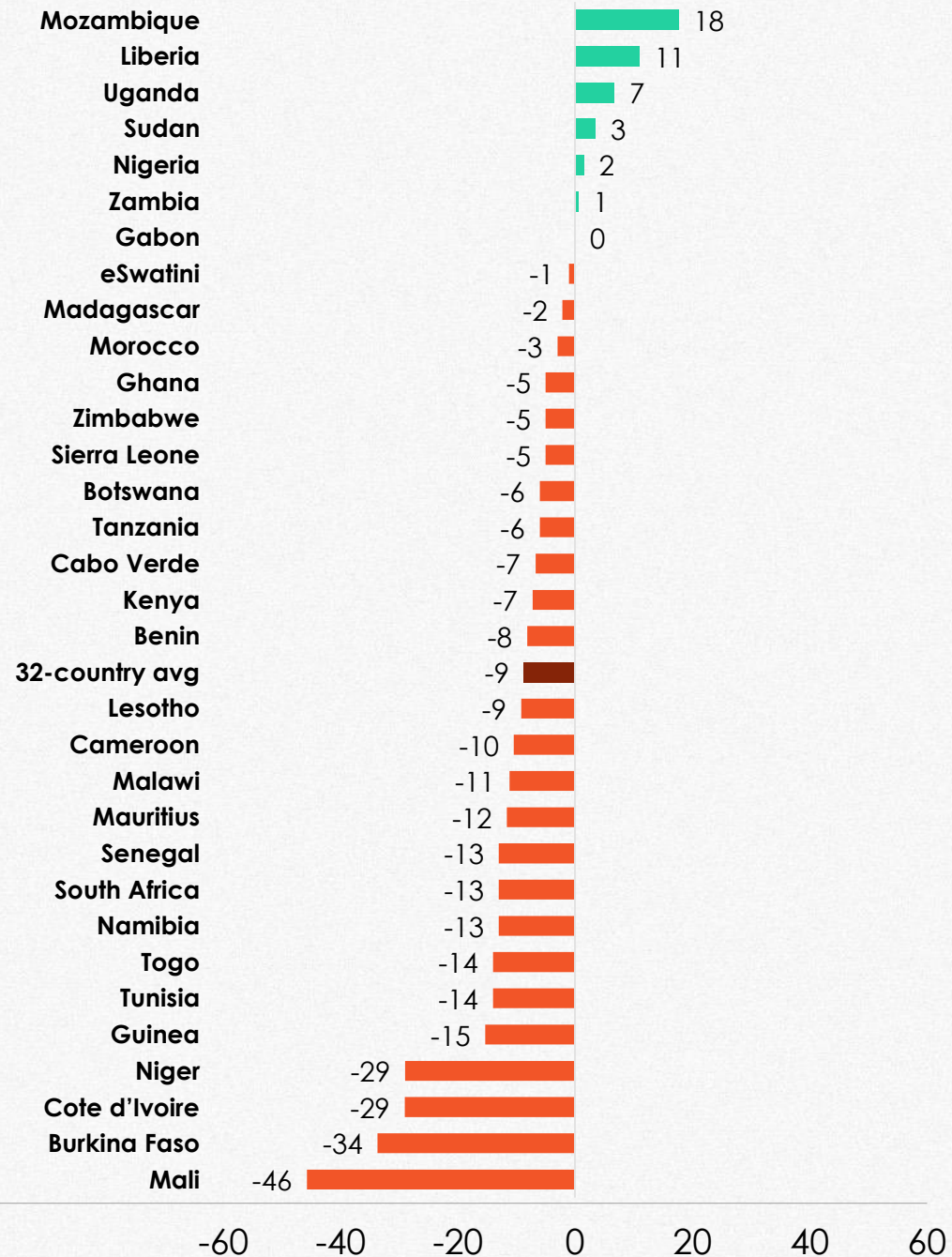
Changes in rejection of military rule

(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



Tolerance for military intervention in politics

39 countries

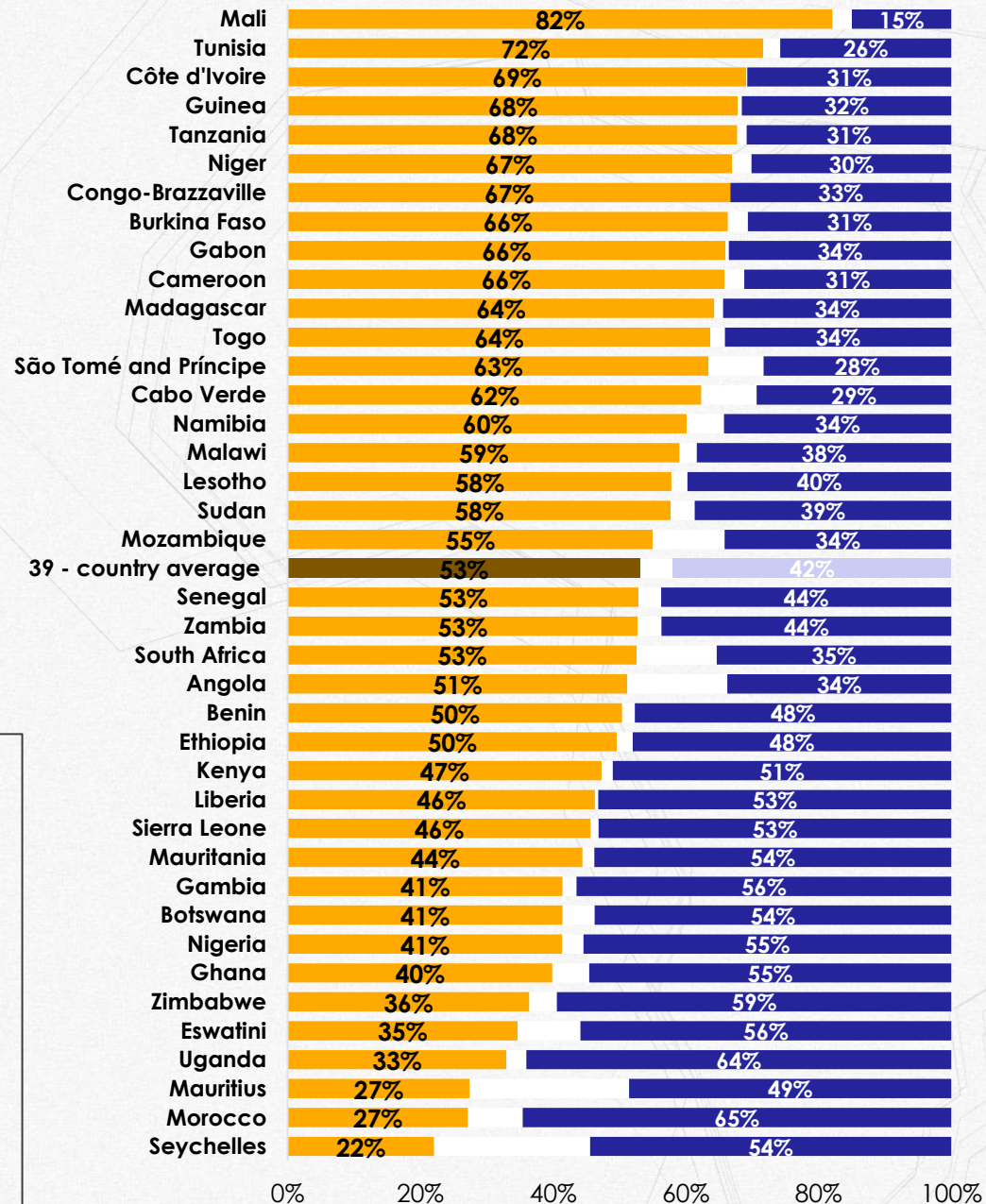
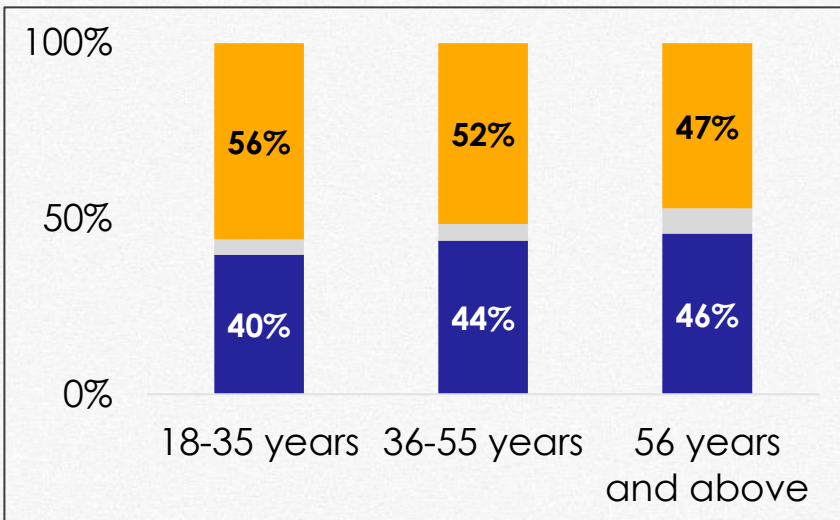
2021/2022

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)





Women and youth issues

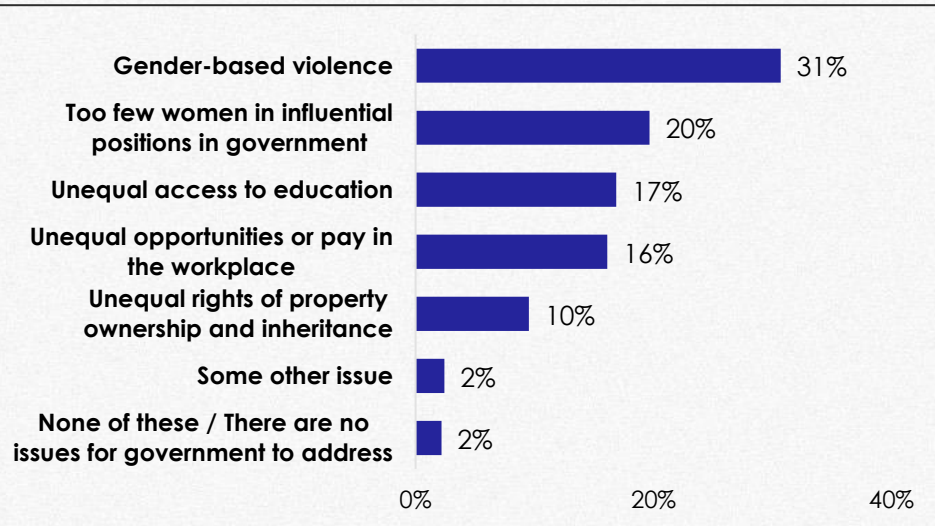
Gender-based violence as most important women's rights issue

39 countries
2021/2023

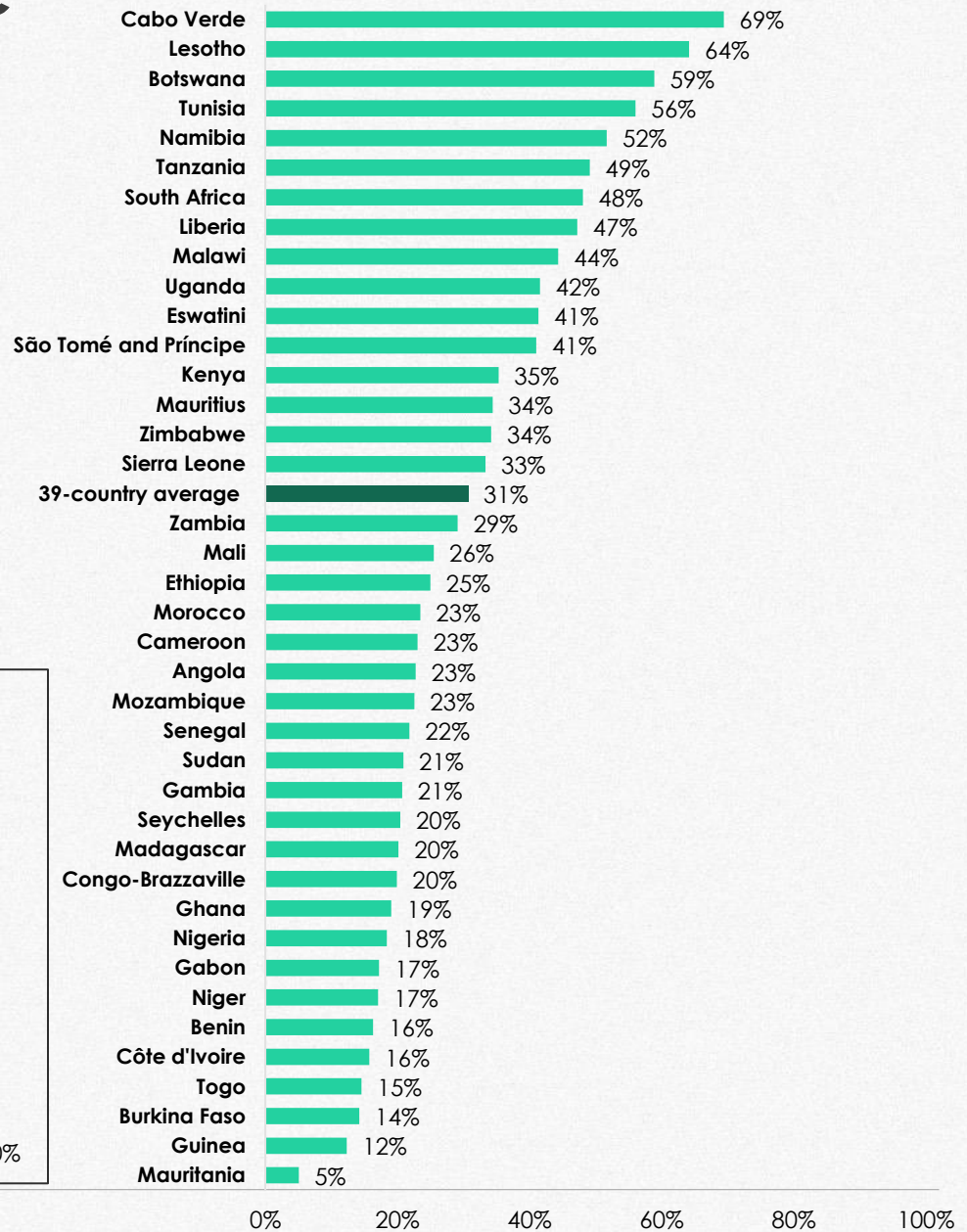
Respondents were asked:

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

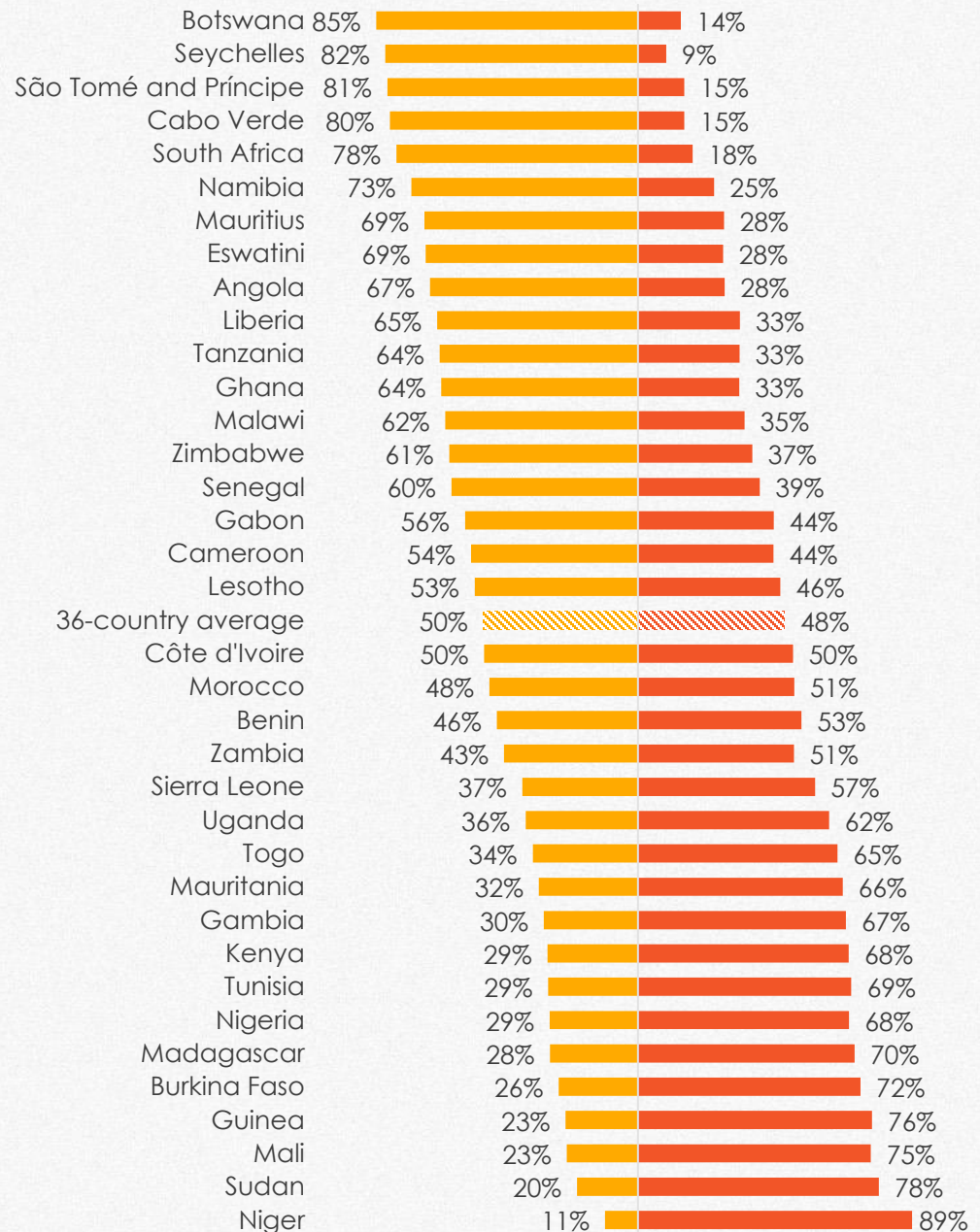
Respondents were asked:

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

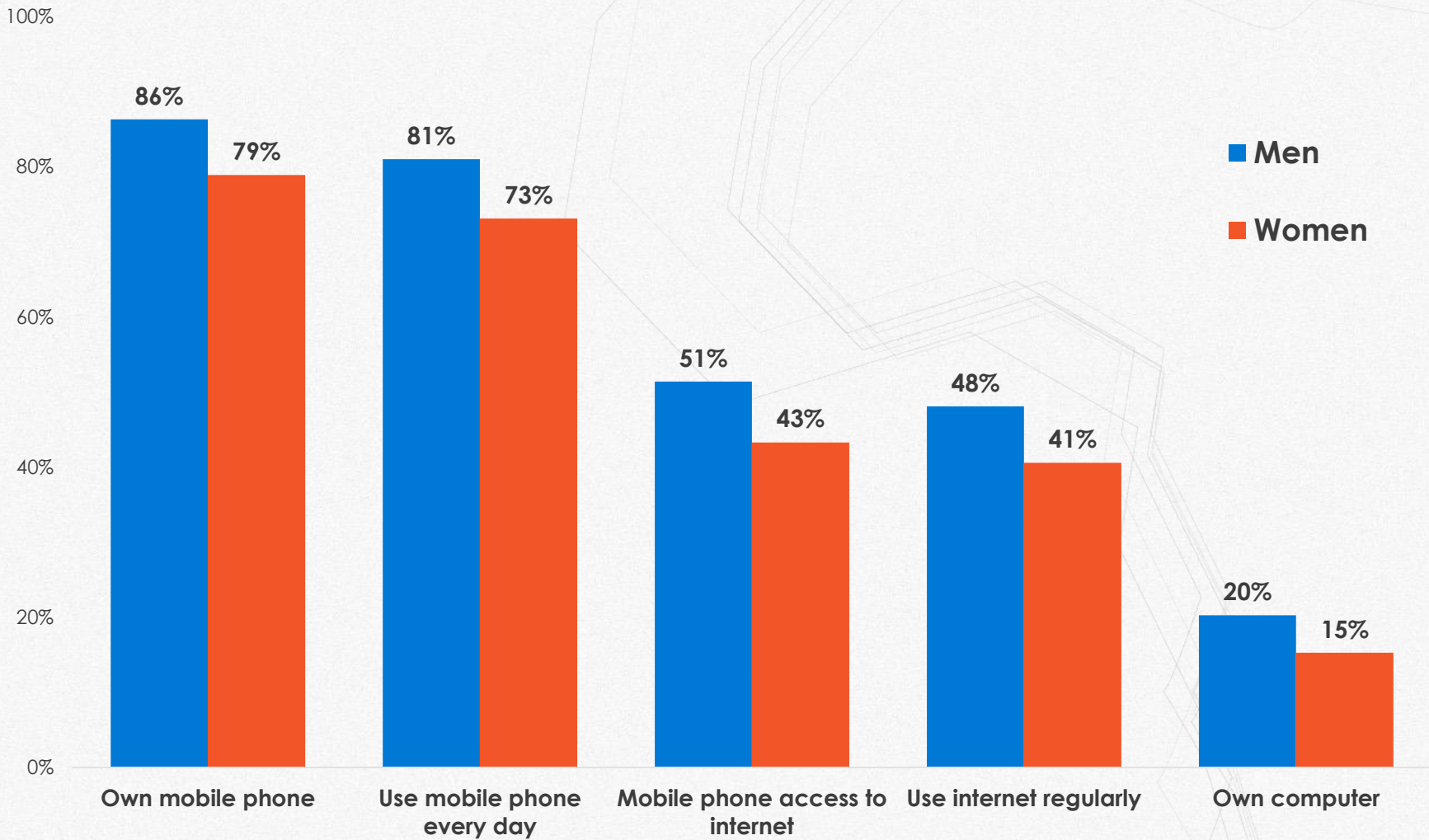
Statement 1: Domestic violence is a private matter that needs to be handled and resolved within the family.

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

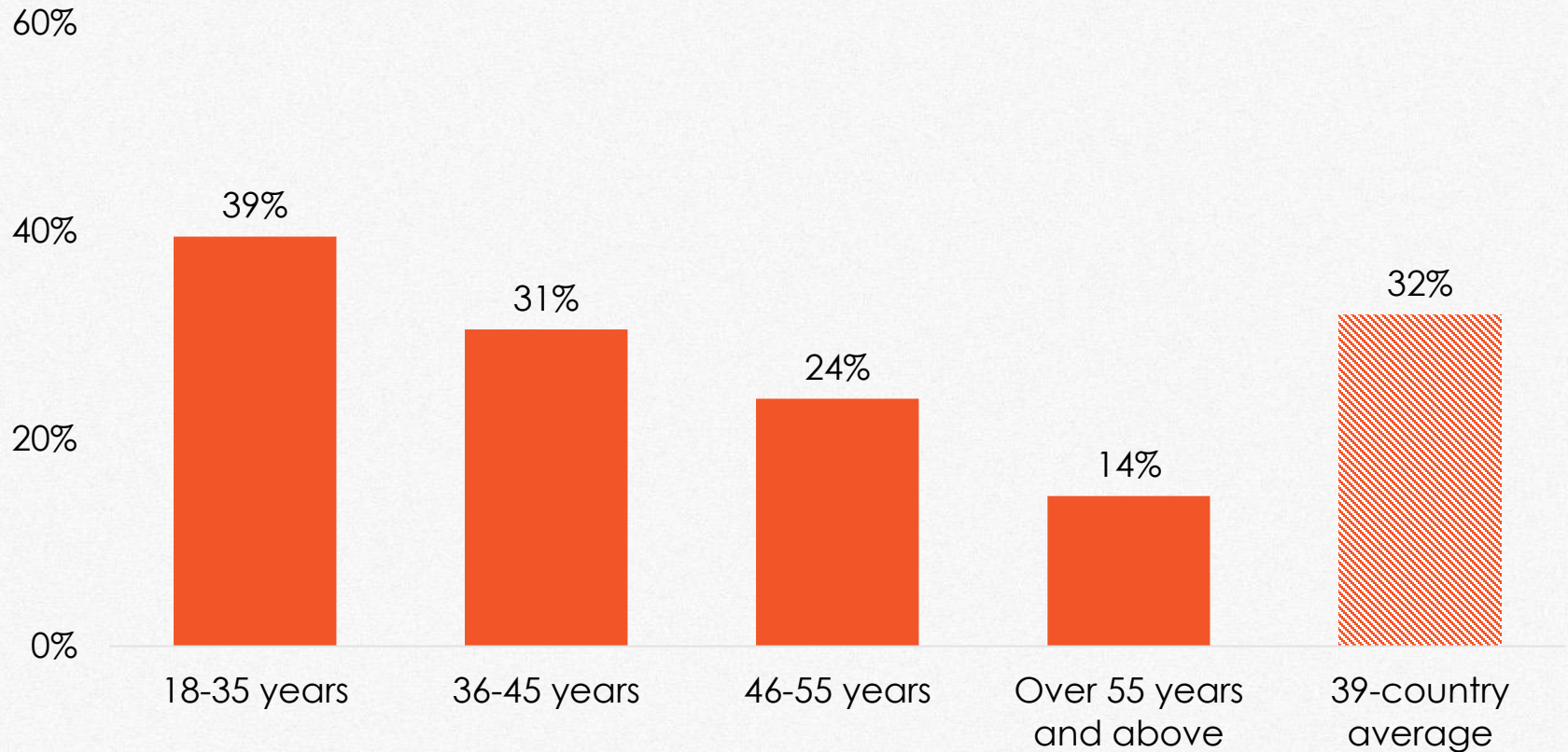
(% who “agree” or “strongly agree” with each statement)



Digital divide | 39 countries | 2021/2023



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?

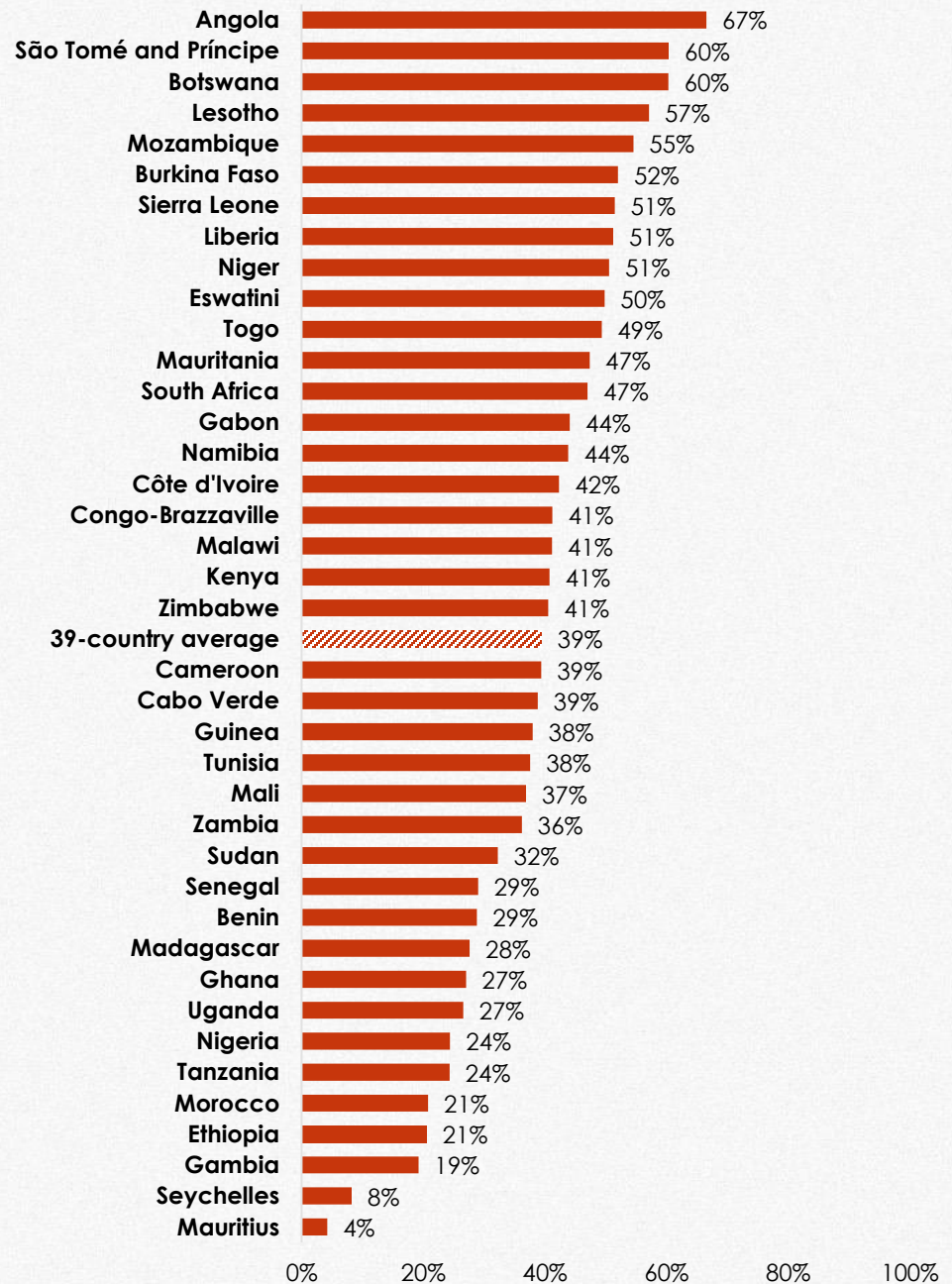
Unemployed youth looking for jobs

39 countries | 2021/2022

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





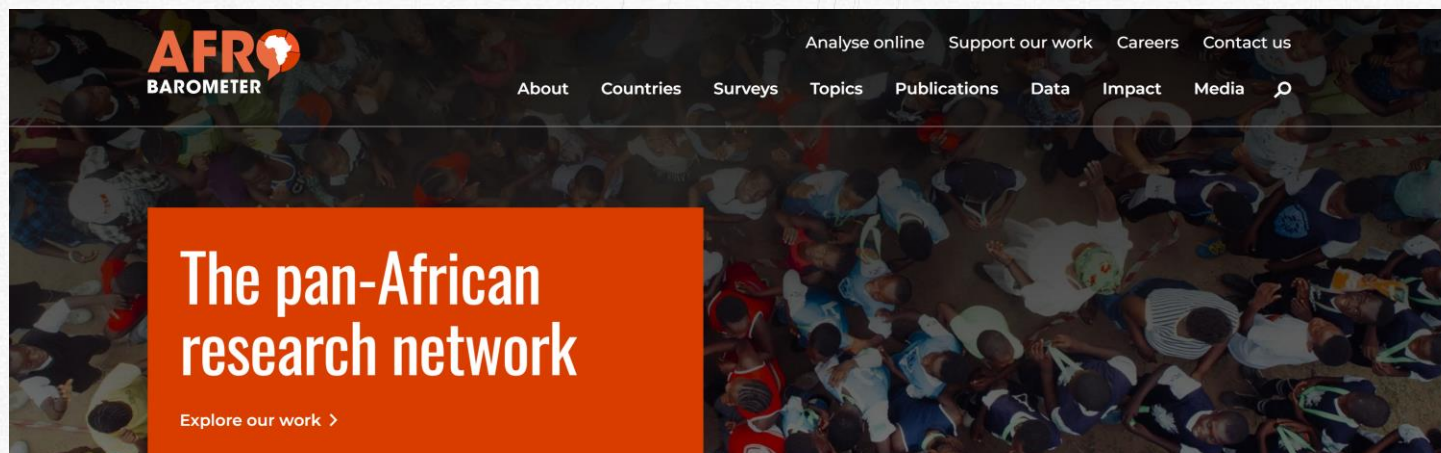
Concluding thoughts



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



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