

Kampala, Uganda
25 September 2015

News release

Eroded? Institutional trust suffers as perceived corruption increases

Increasing public perceptions of institutional corruption in Uganda appear to be eroding public trust in state institutions, the latest Afrobarometer survey suggests.

Most Ugandans believe corruption increased during the past year, and public trust in Parliament, the courts, and local government decreased between 2012 and 2015. Striking exceptions are trust in the president and the police; public trust in these institutions increased.

Trust in state institutions is lowest among urban dwellers, those with secondary school or higher education, the youth, and residents of Kampala and Central regions.

Ugandans who perceive high levels of corruption also show lower levels of trust in state institutions.

Key findings

- Seven in 10 Ugandans (69%) believe corruption increased over the past year,
- Perceptions of corruption in state institutions increased from 20% in 2002 to 47% in 2015,
- The proportion of ordinary Ugandans who spontaneously mention “corruption” as a major problem that government should address increased from 4% in 2002 to 19% in 2015,
- Government response to corruption continues to be perceived as inadequate, with only 26% of respondents saying the government is performing “well” or “very well” in reducing corruption,
- While trust in the president and the police has increased compared to 2012, trust in Parliament, the courts, and local government has decreased (Figure 1),
- Ugandans who perceive high levels of corruption in state institutions tend to mistrust state institutions (Figure 2).

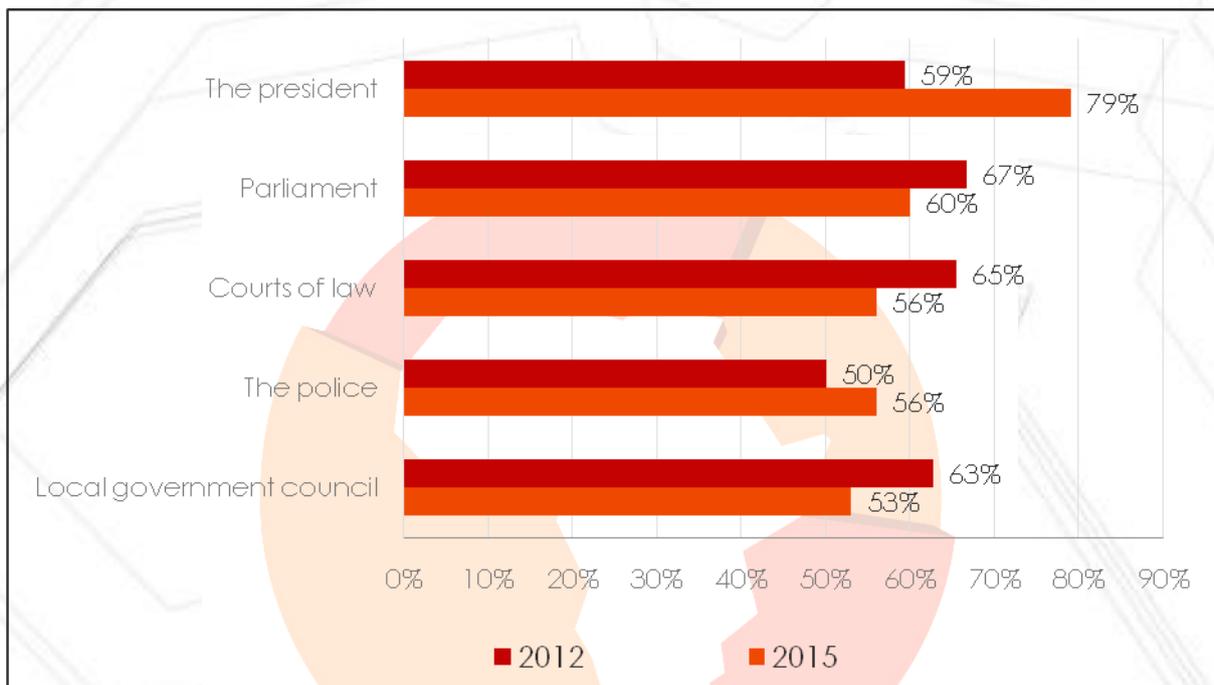
Afrobarometer survey

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language preferred by the respondent with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult, interviewed 2,400 adult Ugandans in May 2015. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Uganda in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2012.

Charts

Figure 1: Comparison of trust in selected state institutions | Uganda | 2012-2015



Respondents were asked:

How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? A) The president and officials in his Office, B) Members of Parliament, C) Courts of law, E) Police and G) local government council. (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 2: Corruption eroding trust in state institutions | Uganda | 2015

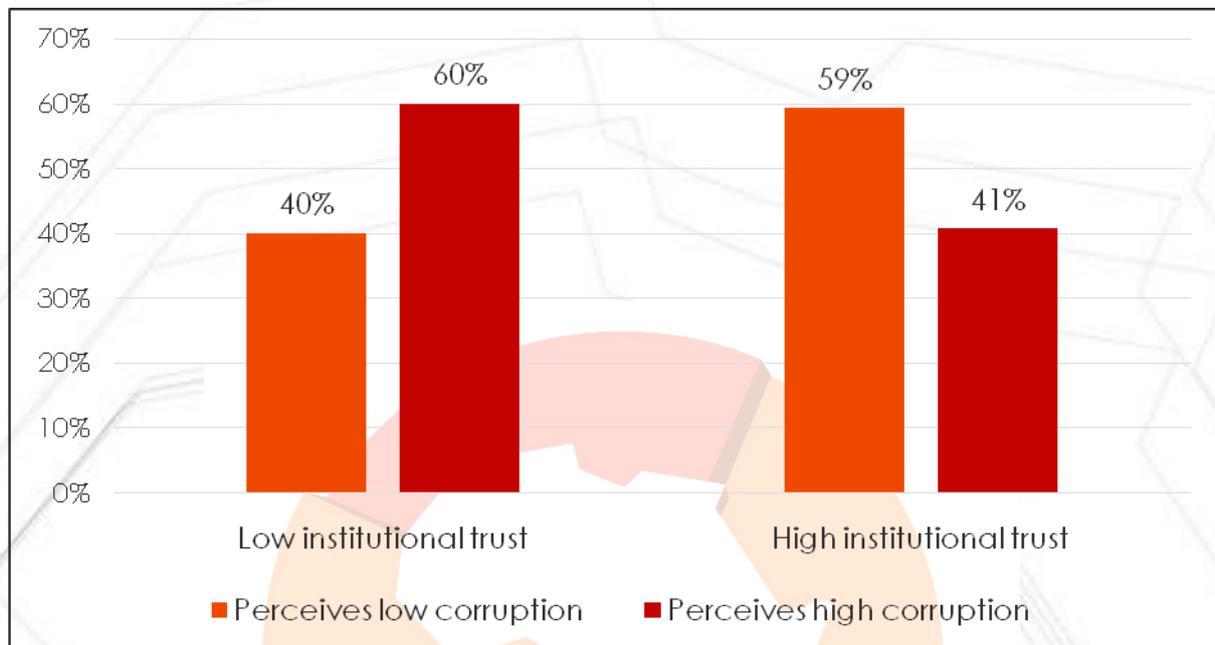


Figure shows: A cross-tabulation of those who trust state institutions (How much do you trust the following?) and perceive corruption (How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?). Results are based on trust and perceived corruption in 6 institutions, including president, parliament, government officials, district council, police, and courts of law. Trust was rescaled into two trunks, those who trust 0 to 3 institutions scaled into "Low trust" and those who trust 4 to 6 institutions scaled into "High trust". Perceived corruption was similarly scaled into "Low perceived corruption" and "high perceived corruption".

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