



# Nigerians' perceptions of security and armed extremism

Findings from the Round 6 Afrobarometer survey in Nigeria



# At a glance

- **Perceptions of insecurity**: Nigerians express high levels of insecurity and of experience of crime and violence.
- **Ineffective fight against violent extremists**: More than half of Nigerians say the government has been largely unresponsive and ineffective in fighting armed extremists.
- **Support for a united Nigeria**: Two-thirds of Nigerians oppose dividing the country as a solution to the challenges of extremism.

# 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.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to more than 30 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policy making by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organisations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National partners in each country conduct the survey. In Nigeria, the Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by Practical Sampling International (PSI) in collaboration with the CLEEN Foundation.

# Where Afrobarometer works



# Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - *All respondents are randomly selected.*
  - *Sample is distributed across regions and urban-rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.*
    - *Sample covered 33 of Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.*
    - *It was not possible to conduct interviews in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe due to unrest in the region, so substitutions of sampling units were made from neighbouring states in the same zone.*
    - *Each zone is represented in the sample in proportion to its share of the national population.*
  - *Every adult citizen has an equal chance of being selected.*
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.



# Methodology (cont.)



- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size of 2,400 yields a margin of error of  $\pm 2\%$  at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in Nigeria was conducted between 5 and 27 December 2014. (For 80 cases, supplementary interviews were conducted on 18 and 19 January 2015.)

# Key findings

- Almost four in 10 Nigerians (39%) do not feel safe in their neighbourhoods. One-third (33%) say they feared crime in their homes. Almost one-third (31%) experienced theft, and 20% were physically attacked.
- More than half of Nigerians say the government has been unresponsive and ineffective in fighting armed extremists.
- One-third or more of Nigerians believe that “most” or “all” senior officials in the federal government, members of the Nigerian military, and members of the National Assembly are involved in assisting extremist groups.
- Poverty and unemployment are seen as the main reasons people join extremist groups.
- Four in 10 Nigerians (39%) favour dividing the country as a solution to the challenges of extremism.

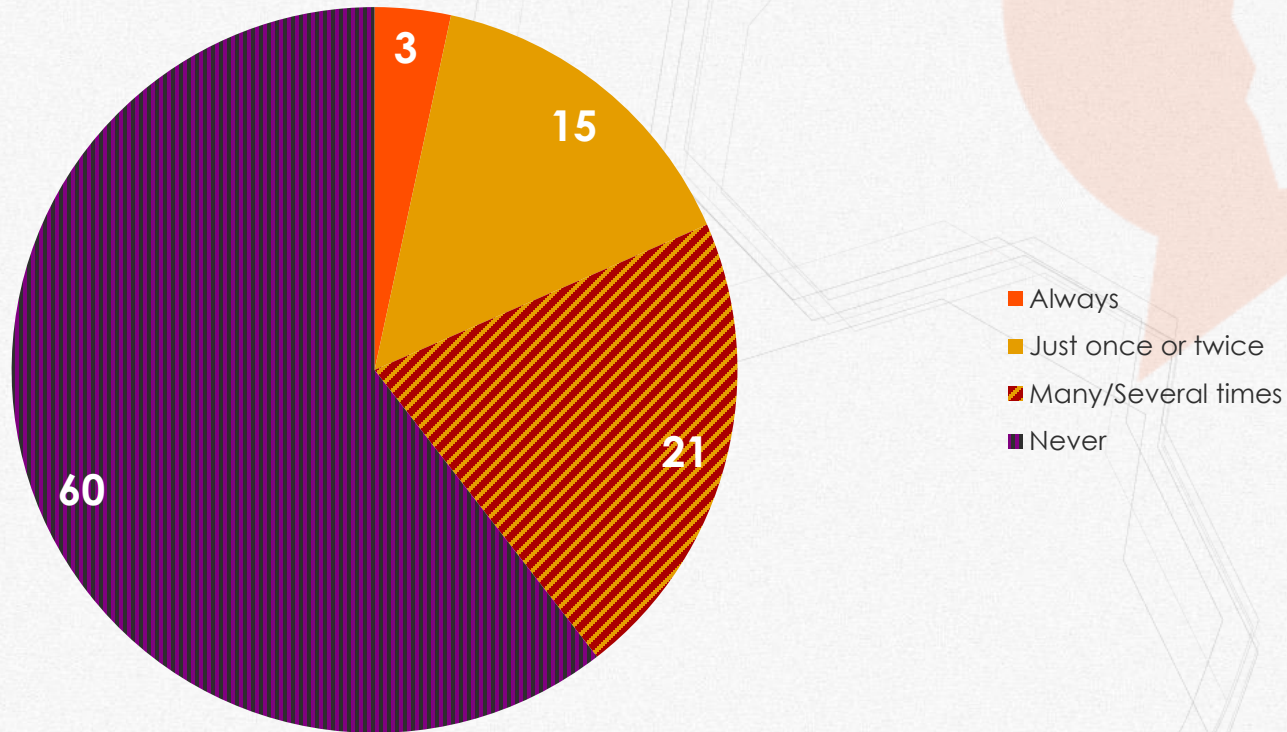




# Perceptions of insecurity

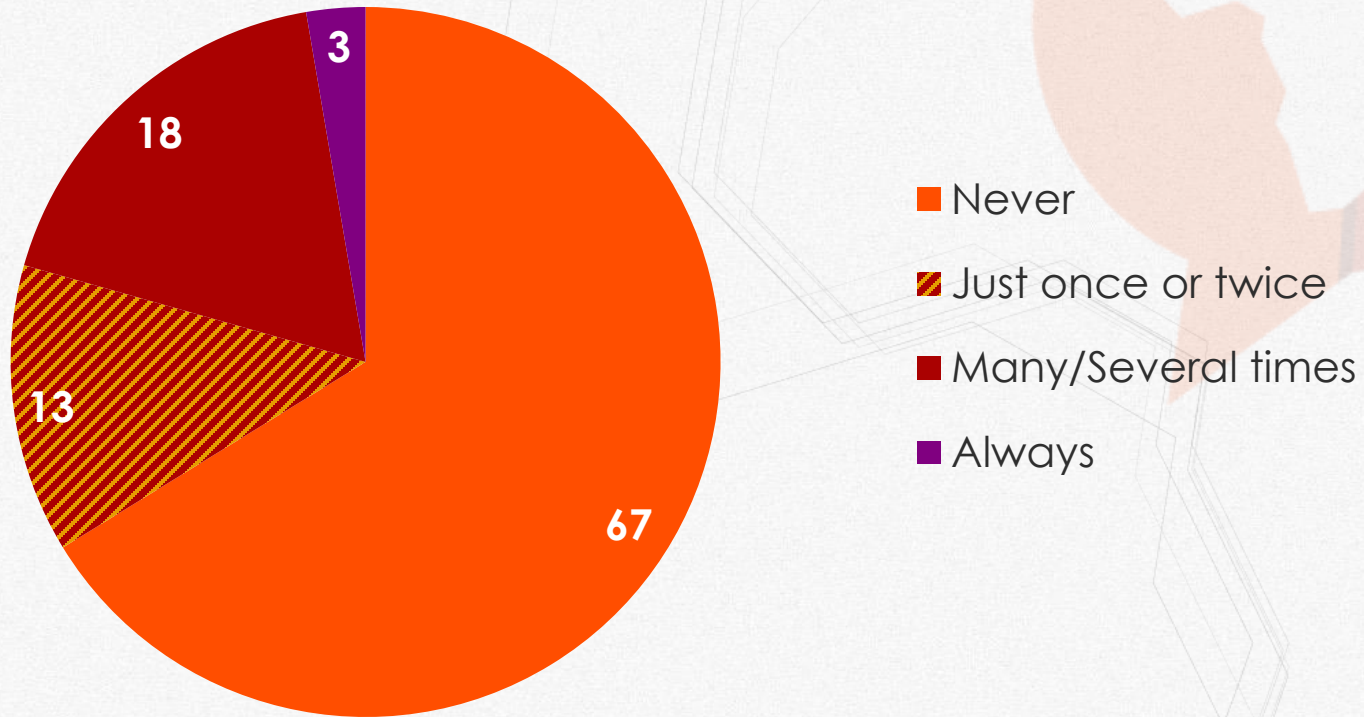


# Feeling unsafe in the neighbourhood | 2014



**Respondents were asked:** *Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family felt unsafe walking in your neighbourhood? (%)*

# Fear of crime in the home | 2014

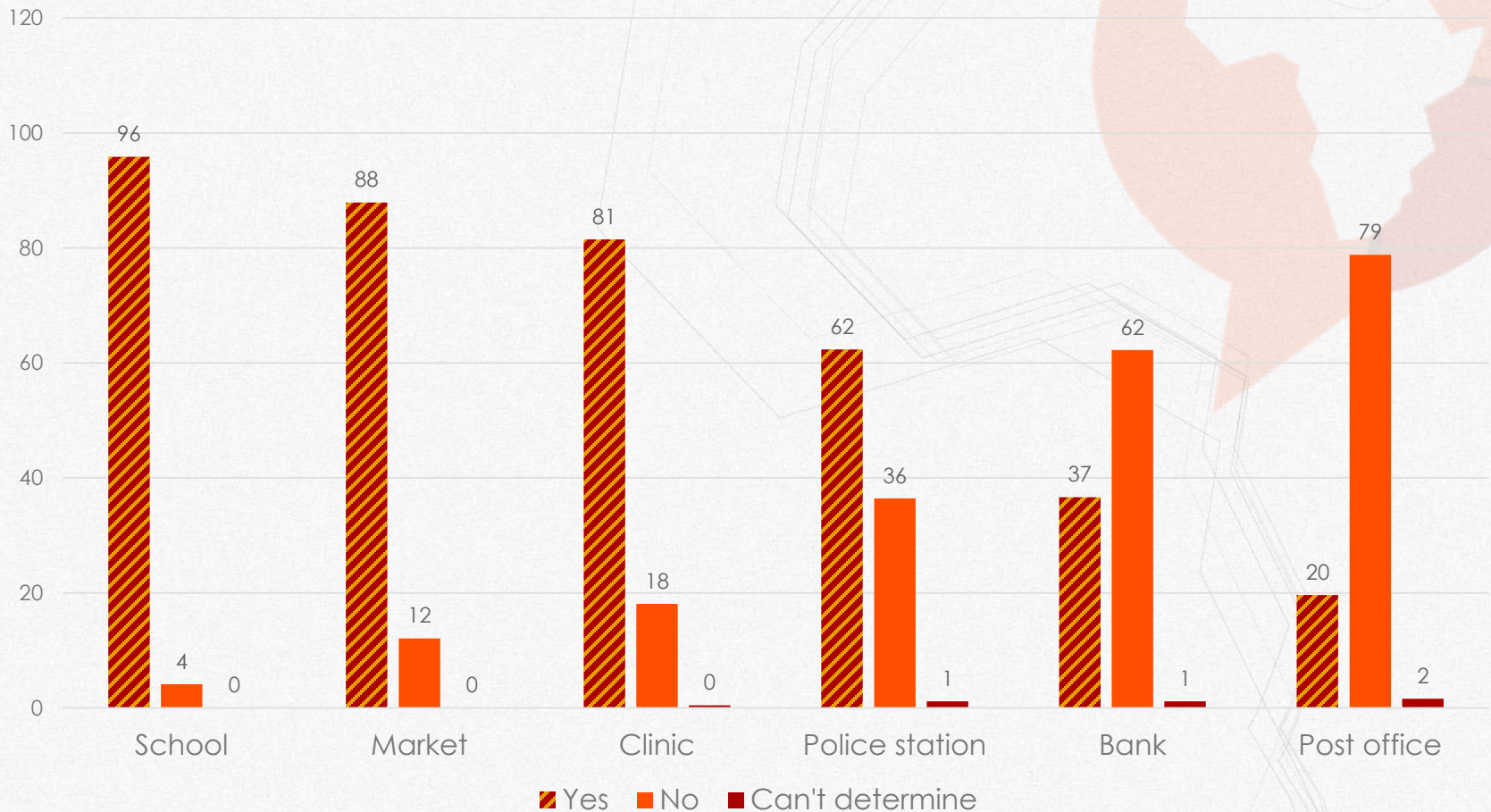


**Respondents were asked:** *Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family feared crime in your own home? (%)*



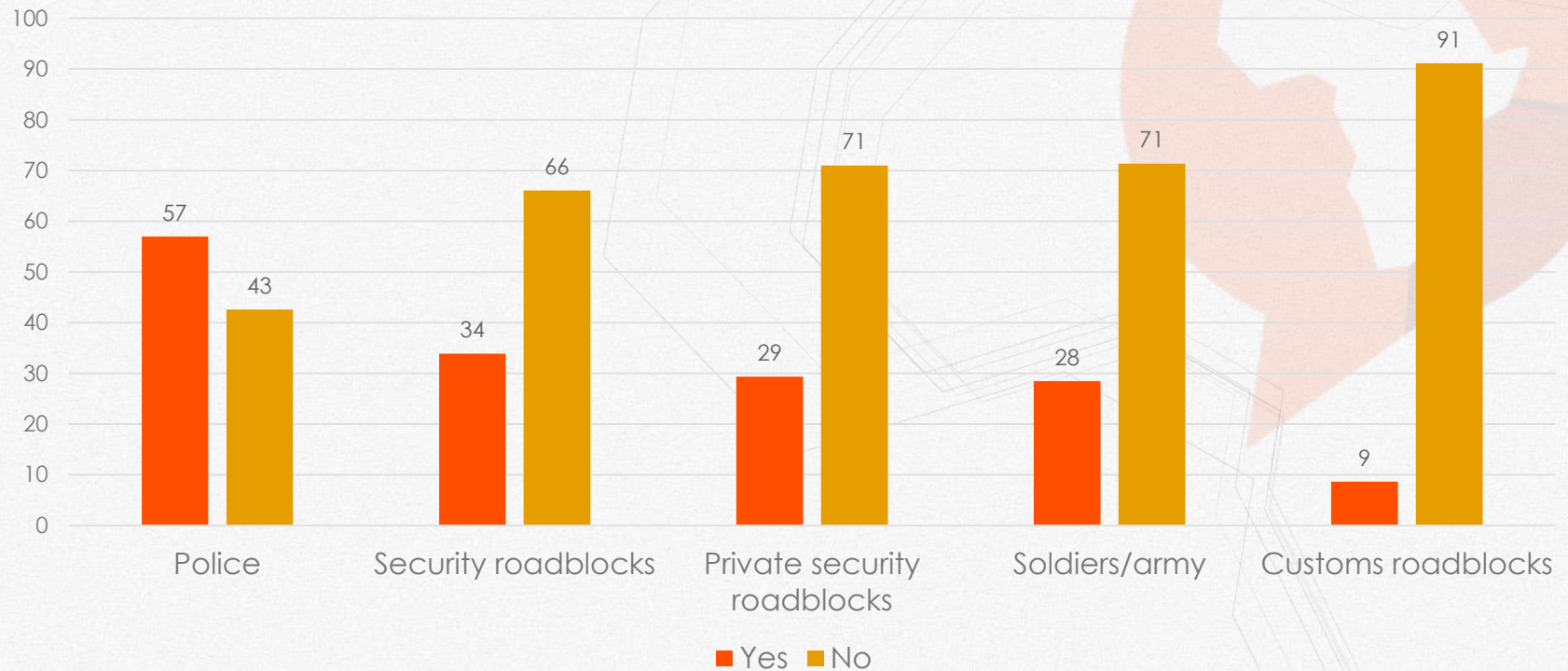
# Access to security services

# Access to social services | 2014



**Interviewers were asked to record:** *Are the following services present in the primary sampling unit / enumeration area or in easy walking distance? (%)*

# Presence of security services | 2014



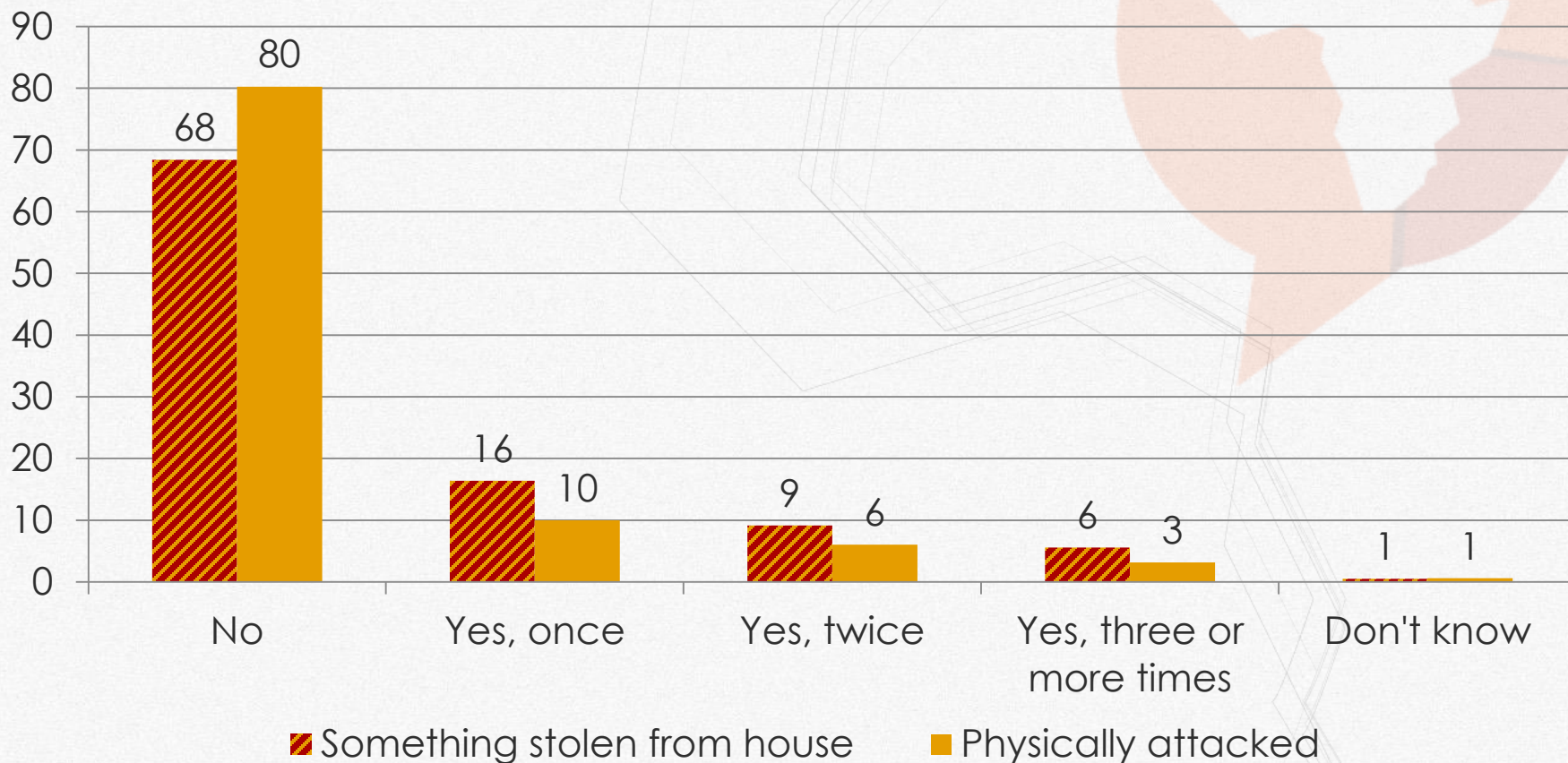
**Interviewers were asked to record:** *In the primary sampling unit/enumeration area, did you (or any of your colleagues) see:*

- Any policemen or police vehicles?*
- Any soldiers or army vehicles?*
- Any roadblocks set up by police or army?*
- Any customs checkpoints?*
- Any roadblocks or booms set up by private security providers or by the local community? (%)*



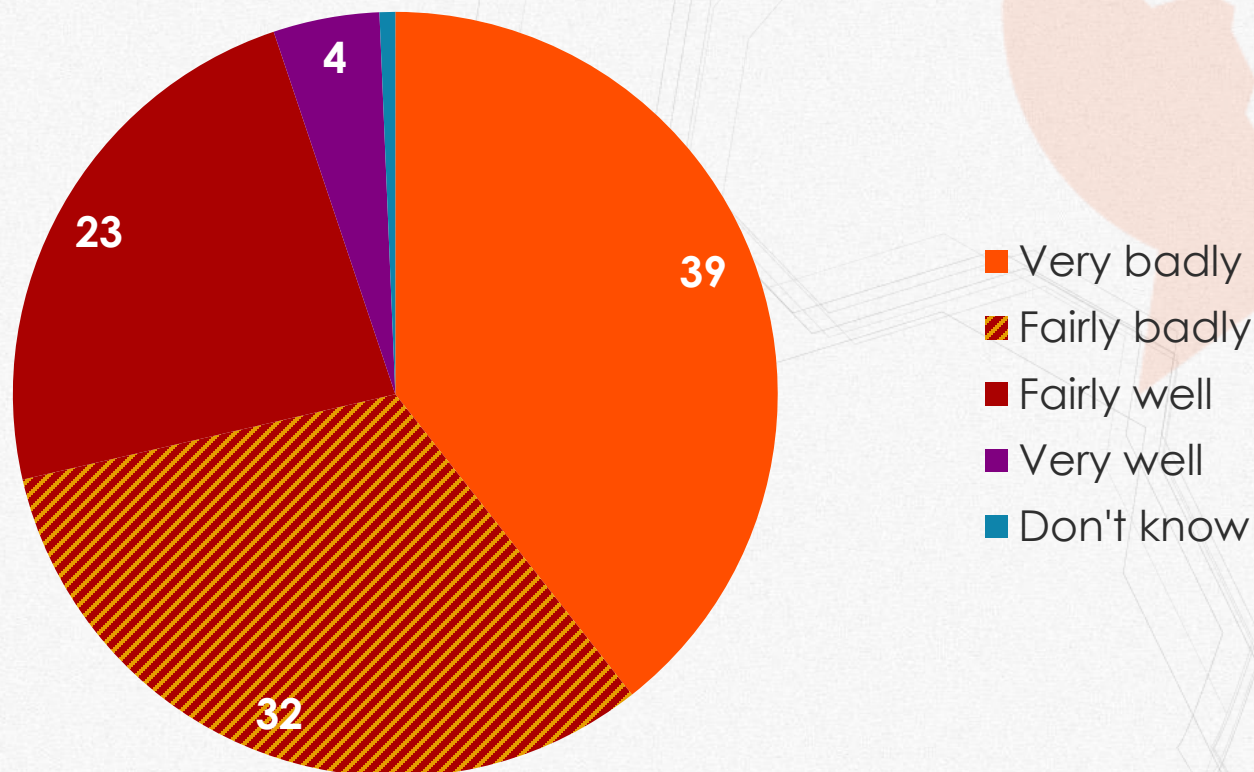
# Experience of crime

# Experience of crime | 2014



**Respondents were asked:** During the past year, have you or anyone in your family: 1) Had something stolen from your house? 2) Been physically attacked? (%)

# Rating of government's crime fighting | 2014



**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: Reducing crime? (%)

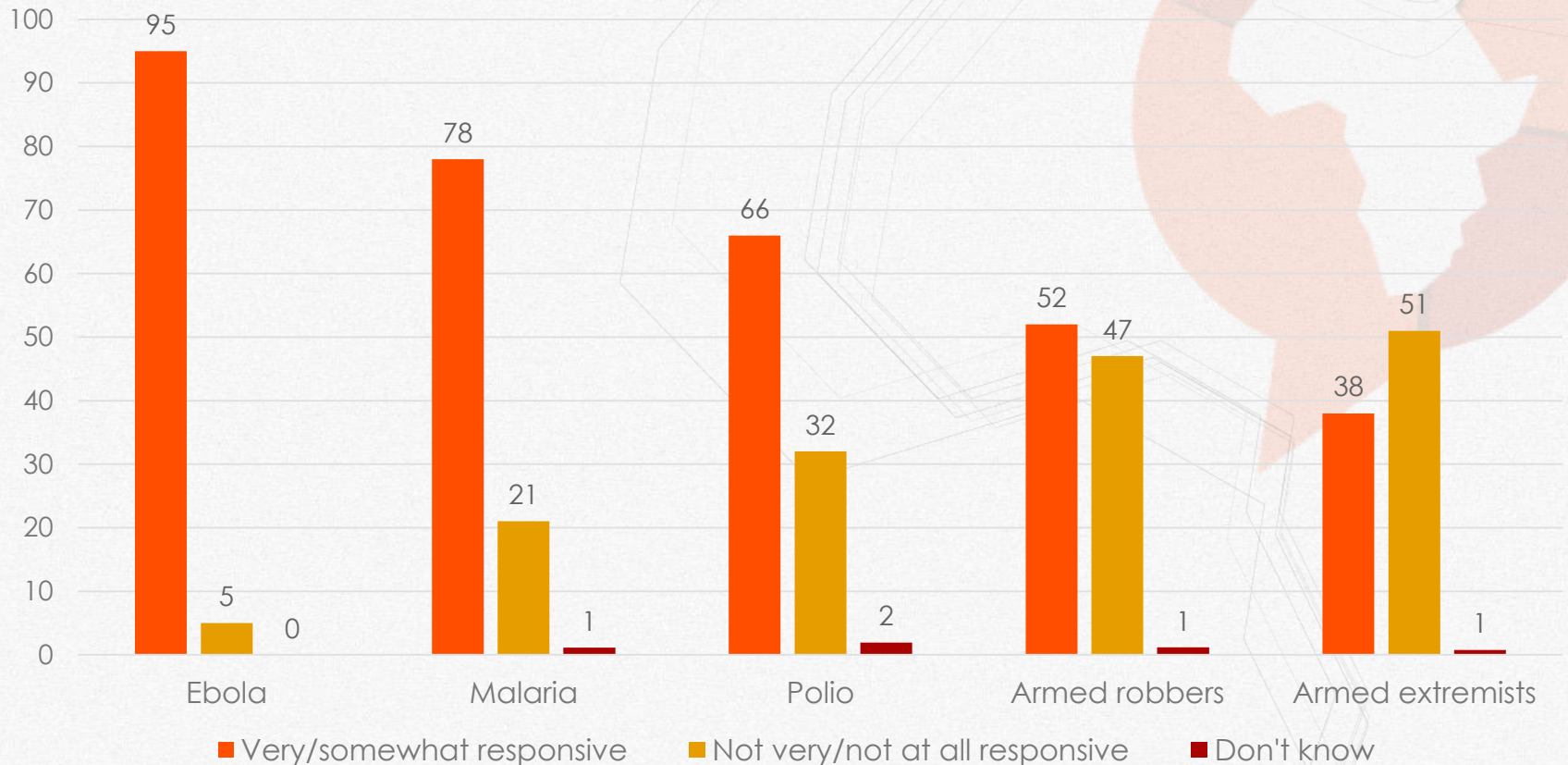




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# Armed extremism in Nigeria

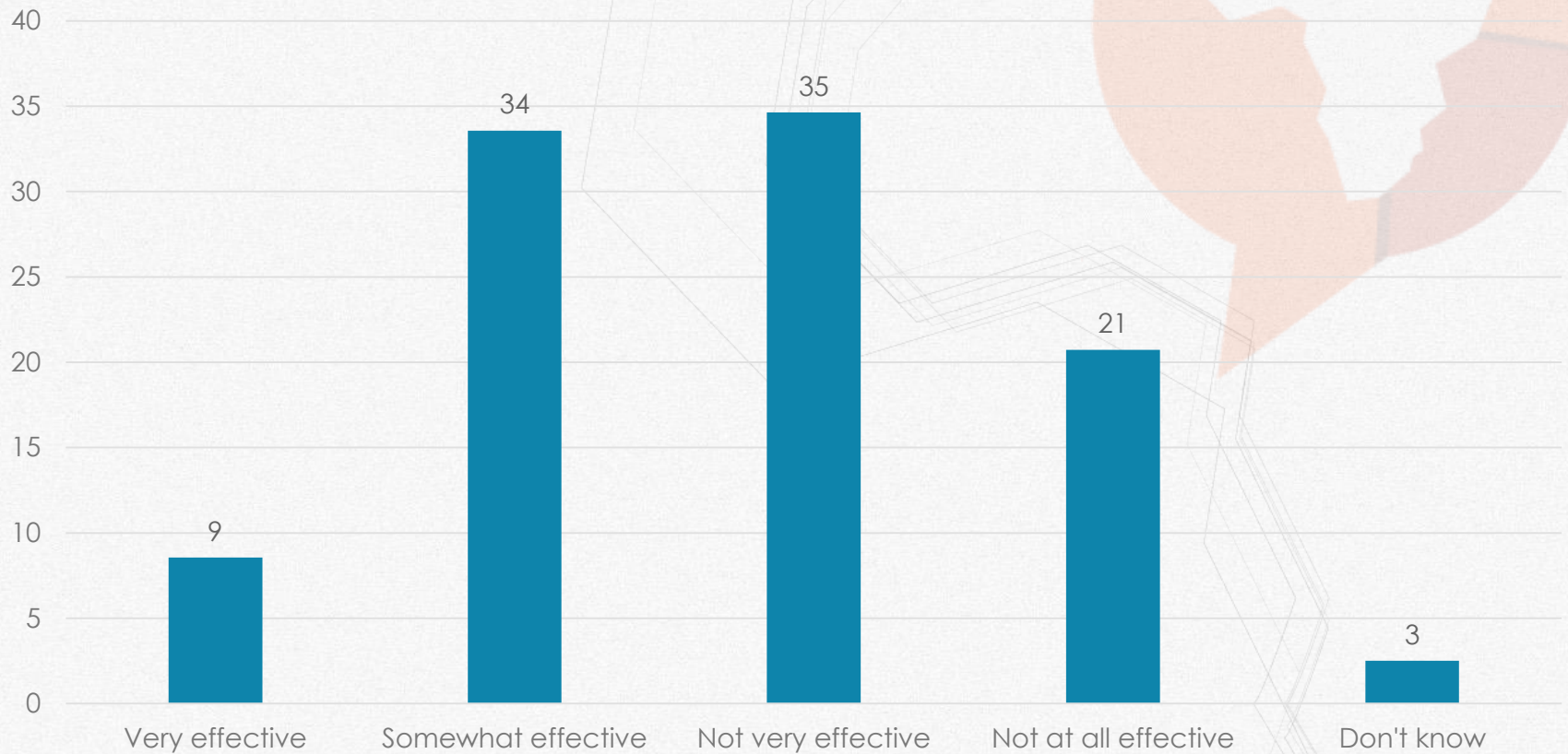
# Managing emergencies in Nigeria | 2014



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, how responsive do you think the federal government has been to the following emergencies? (%)*

- a. Ebola virus outbreak
- b. Insecurity caused by armed extremists
- c. Insecurity caused by armed robbers
- d. Malaria
- e. Polio

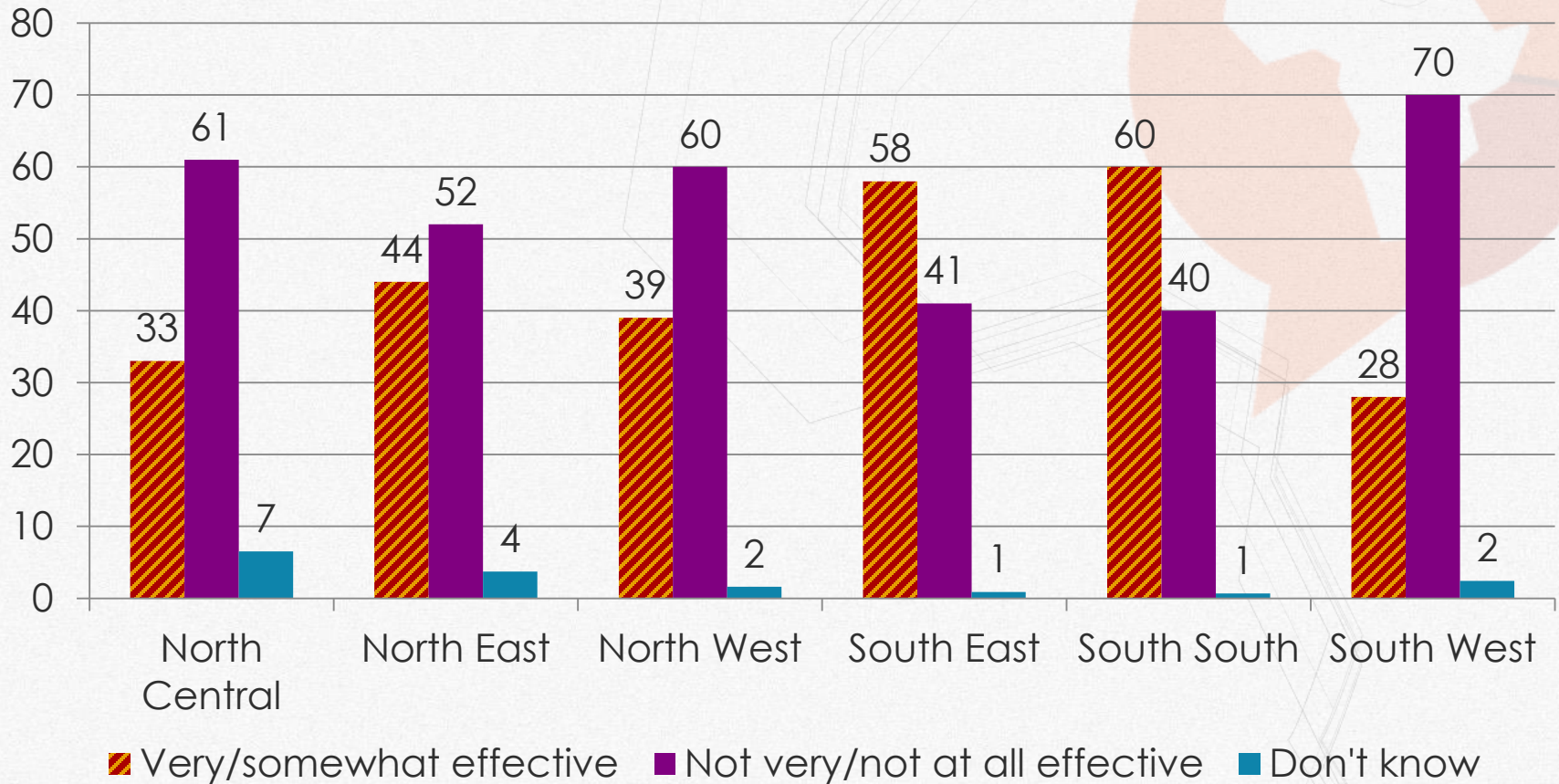
# Effectiveness of fight against extremists | 2014



**Respondents were asked:** *How effective do you think the Nigerian government has been in its efforts to address the problem of armed extremists in this country? (%)*

# Effectiveness of fight against armed extremists

## | by region | 2014

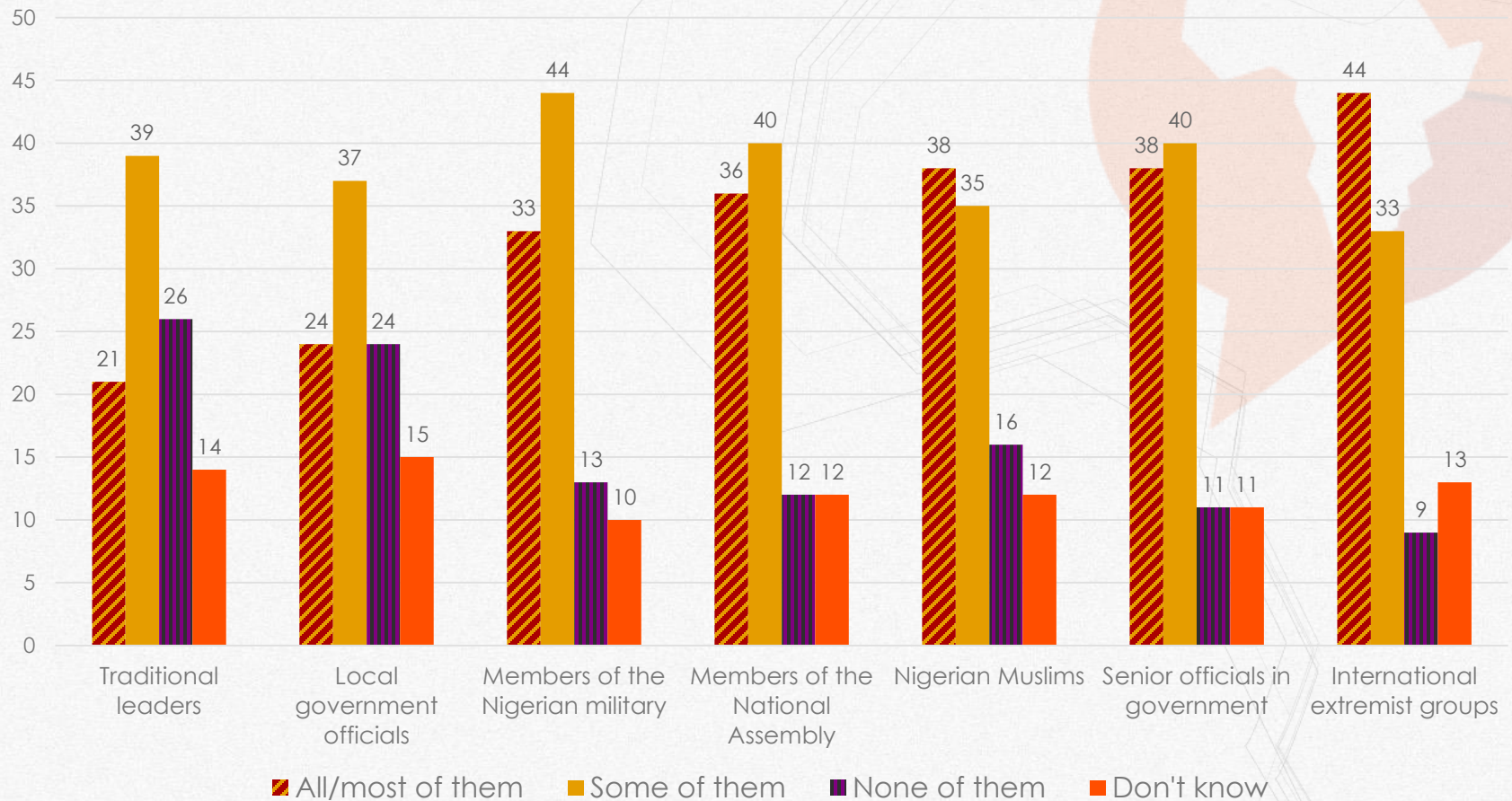


**Respondents were asked:** How effective do you think the Nigerian government has been in its efforts to address the problem of armed extremists in this country? (%)



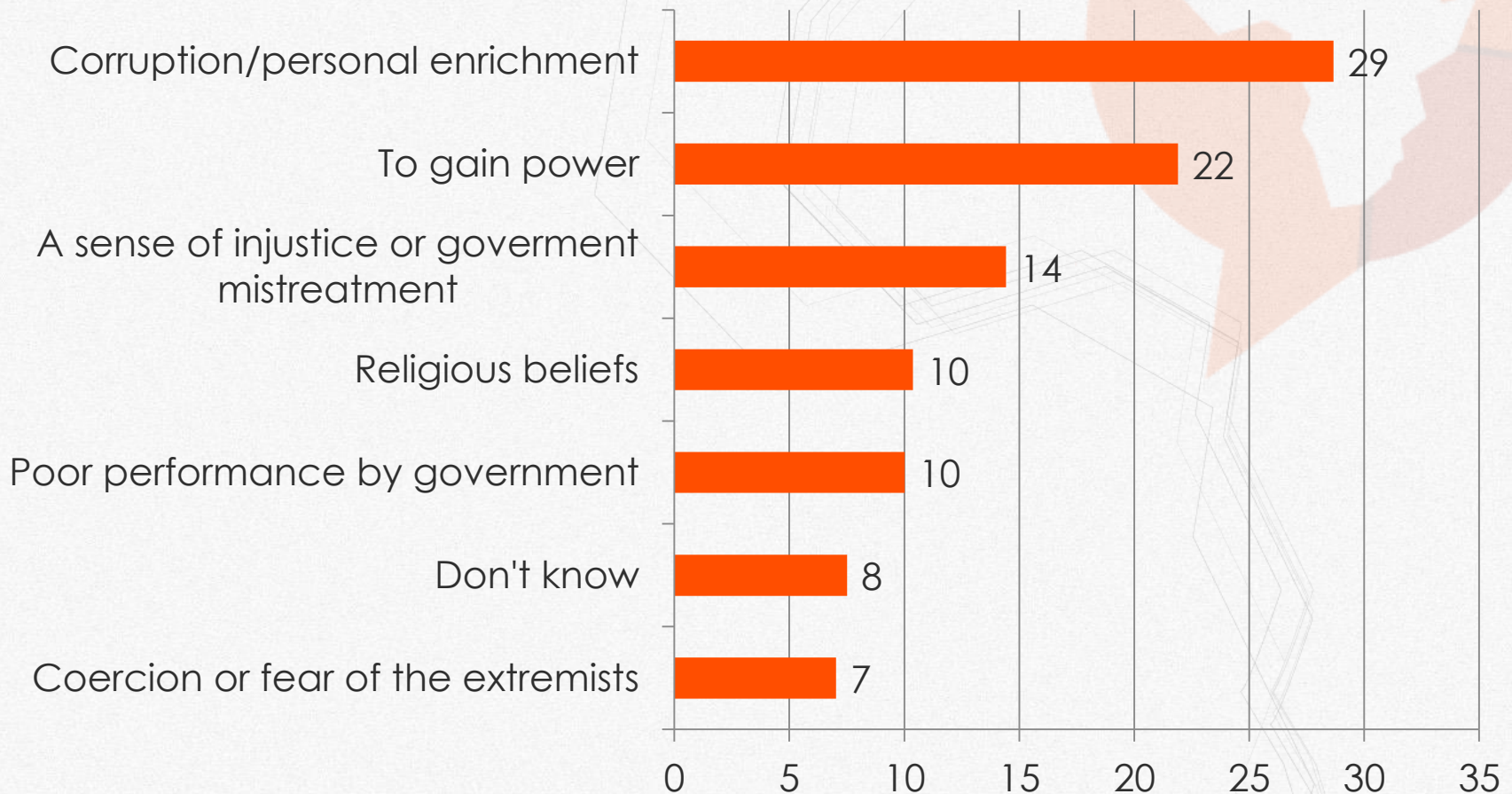
# Support for extremist groups

# Support for extremist groups | 2014



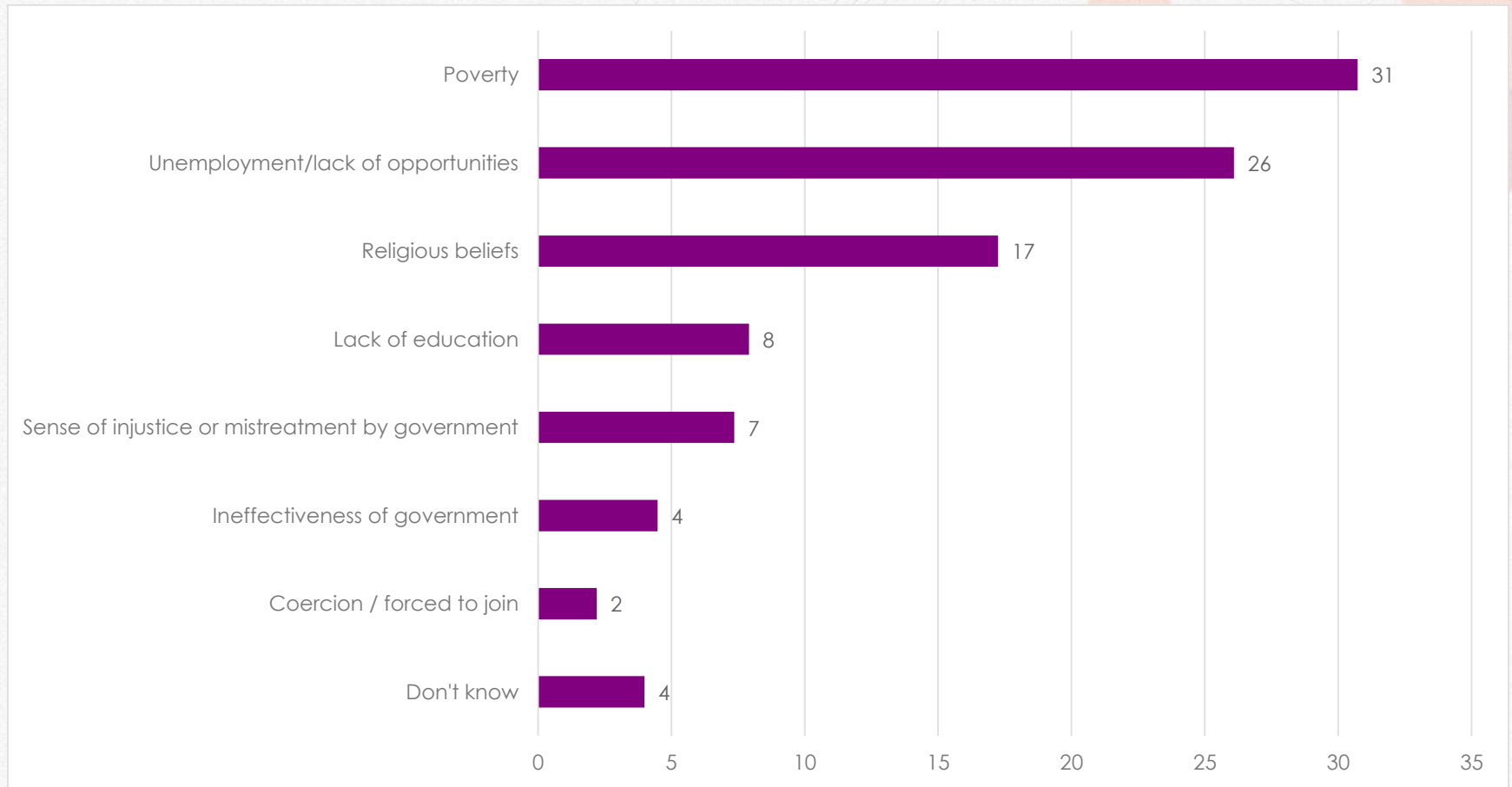
**Respondents were asked:** *How many of the following people do you think are involved in supporting and assisting the extremist groups that have launched attacks and kidnappings in Nigeria, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (%)*

# Reasons people support extremists | 2014



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, what is the main reason why some people in Nigeria support and assist these armed extremist groups? (%)*

# Reasons people join extremist groups | 2014



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, what is the main reason why some Nigerians join extremist groups?*  
(%)

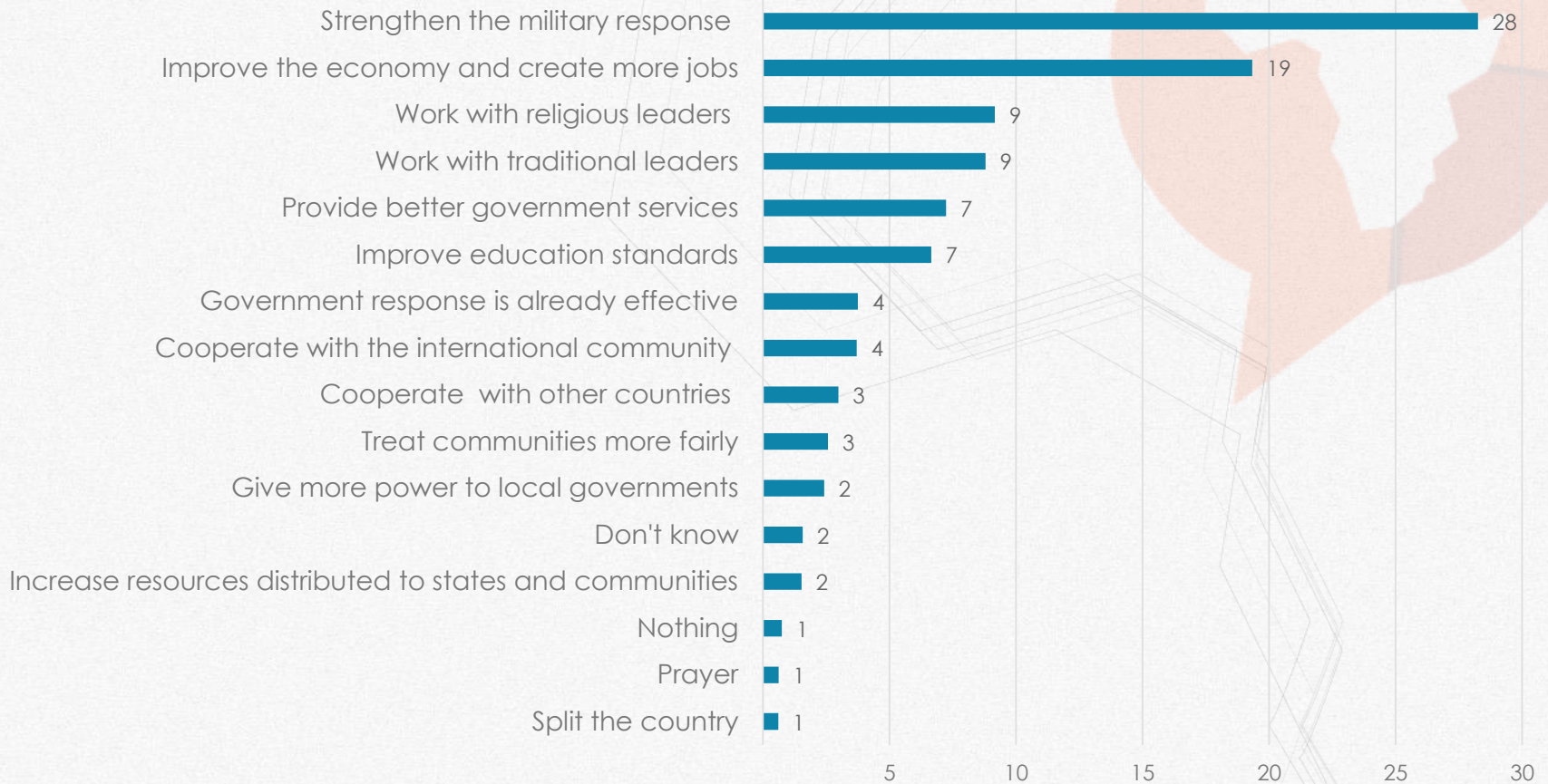




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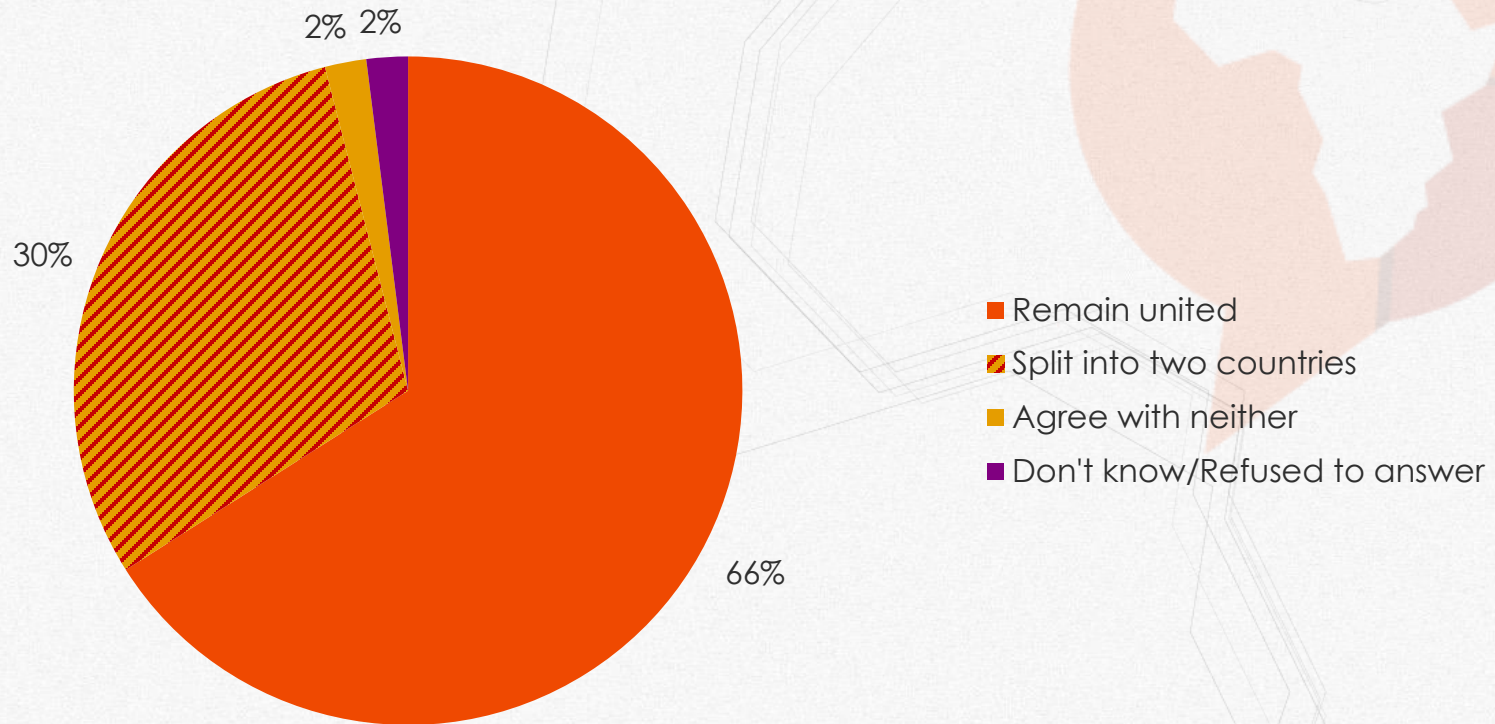
# Suggestions for fighting extremism

# Strategies to fight armed extremism | 2014



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, what do you think would be the best way for the government to be more effective in addressing the problem of armed extremists in our country? (%)*

# Future of Nigeria in the face of extremism | 2014



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2. (%)

Statement 1: Nigeria should remain united as one country even if the extremist groups continue to cause problems.

Statement 2: If the problems caused by the extremist groups cannot be resolved, Nigeria should be split into two countries.

(Note: An earlier version of this briefing reported an incorrect proportion in favour of dividing the country.)



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# Conclusion

Insecurity and violent extremism will be high priorities for Nigeria's incoming government. Although the Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted before recent successes in fighting extremist violence, the perceptions and experiences reflected in its findings provide a rich menu of citizen feedback for the government to work with in setting its new agenda.



Thank you