

Off-grid or 'off-on': Lack of access, unreliable electricity supply still plague majority of Africans

Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 75 | Abel Oyuke, Peter Halley Penar, and Brian Howard

Summary

Rolling blackouts may make headlines; a complete lack of electricity infrastructure usually doesn't. Both are part of Africa's electricity deficit, a major obstacle to human and socioeconomic development with pernicious effects on health (think of clinics without lifesaving equipment and refrigerated drugs and vaccines), education, security, and business growth.

They are also targets of high-profile development initiatives, from the U.S.-led Power Africa initiative and Electrify Africa Act to the African Development Bank's New Deal on Energy for Africa, the United Nations' Sustainable Energy for All partnership, and national strategies for helping meet the seventh Sustainable Development Goal. As U.S. President Barack Obama said in launching Power Africa (U.S. Agency for International Development, 2013),

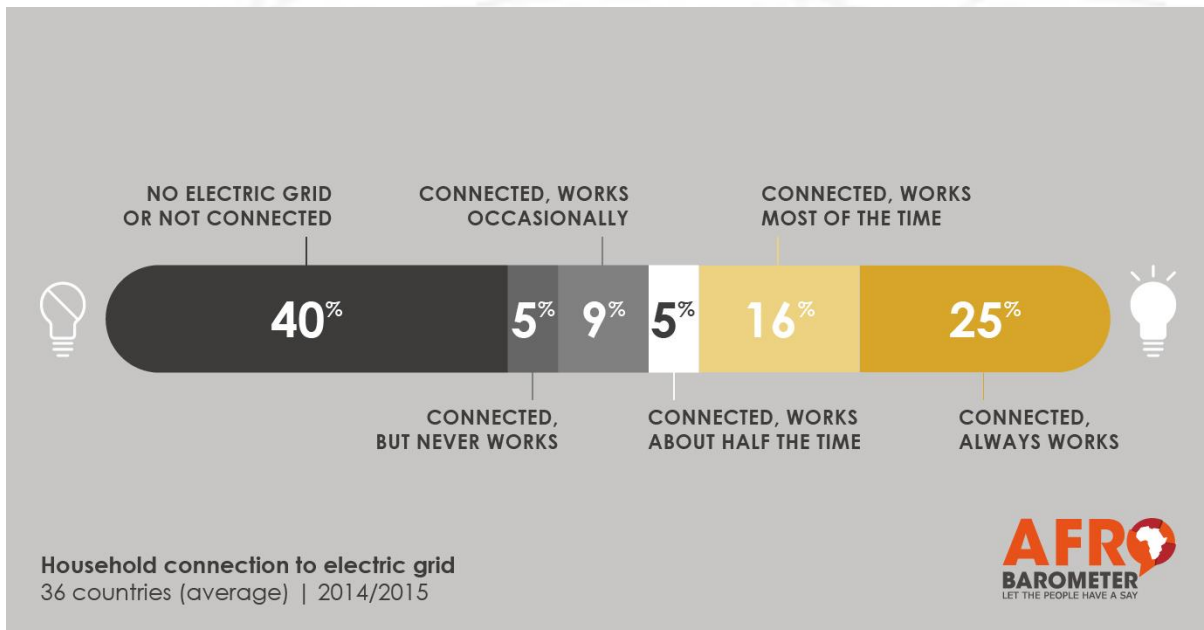
Access to electricity is fundamental to opportunity in this age. It's the light that children study by; the energy that allows an idea to be transformed into a real business. It's the lifeline for families to meet their most basic needs. And it's the connection that's needed to plug Africa into the grid of the global economy. You've got to have power.

Millions of Africans don't. Many others do, then don't, then might – all in the same day. In its 2014/2015 surveys, Afrobarometer has documented the reach and quality of electrical connections through nearly 54,000 interviews in 36 African countries as well as direct observations in thousands of communities across the continent. Providing an experiential baseline for international and national efforts to develop adequate electricity infrastructure, survey findings suggest that such initiatives will need long-term commitments and deep pockets.

On average across the 36 countries, only four in 10 Africans enjoy a reliable power supply. While about two-thirds of Africans live in areas with access to an electric grid, in some countries seven in 10 citizens – and as many as nine in 10 in rural areas – do not. Actual household connections to the grid are somewhat lower (60% on average), and equally variable across countries.

Even households connected to the grid don't necessarily have lights: On average, only 69% of connected households actually have electricity that works most or all of the time. In Nigeria, while 96% of households are connected, only 18% of these connections function more than about half the time. In Ghana, where "dumsor" (Akan for "off-on") has become a household word, 87% of households are connected, but only 42% of those connections provide reliable power. Yet that's still three times the rate of well-functioning connections in Guinea (12%).

Little wonder, then, that Nigerians, Ghanaians, and Guineans lead the pack in ranking energy supply among their highest-priority problems. No doubt the nature of the problem



(inadequate infrastructure or capacity, poor service, or a combination of the two) varies as widely by country as do the underlying causes (lack of resources, mismanagement, inadequate planning). A majority of Africans point the finger at their governments, which they say are doing a poor job of ensuring a reliable supply of electricity.

Afrobarometer surveys

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. After five rounds of surveys between 1999 and 2013, findings from Round 6 surveys (2014/2015) are currently being disseminated. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples that yield country-level results with margins of error of +/-2% (for samples of 2,400) or +/-3% (for samples of 1,200) at a 95% confidence level.

This dispatch draws mainly on Round 6 data from nearly 54,000 interviews in 36 countries, with over-time comparisons for some countries that were also surveyed in previous rounds (see Appendix Table A.1 for a list of countries and survey dates).

The contextual data on service infrastructure reported here are captured before and after interviews with survey respondents. Afrobarometer field teams make on-the-ground observations in each census enumeration area (EA) about services and facilities that are available in the area. These observations are recorded and confirmed by survey field supervisors. Since the EAs visited are selected to represent the population of the country as a whole, these data provide reliable indicators of infrastructure and service availability.

Interested readers should watch for additional Round 6 findings to be released over the coming months (see <http://afrobarometer.org/countries/results-round>).

Key findings

- Access: Defined as having an electric grid within reach, access exists for two-thirds (66%) of Africans but varies widely across the continent. Only 17% of Burundians and

25% of Burkinabé live in zones with an electric grid, compared to 100% of Mauritians and Egyptians. Access is most limited in rural areas.

- **Connection:** Six in 10 Africans (60%) are actually connected to an electric grid, ranging from less than one in seven citizens in Burundi (11%), Malawi (12%), and Burkina Faso (14%) to universal coverage in Mauritius and Tunisia.
- **Reliability:** Neither access nor connection guarantees lights, as even in some countries where most households are connected, very few have electricity that works “most of the time” or “always.” The most striking example is Nigeria, where 96% of respondents are connected, but only 18% of those connections work more than about half the time.
- **Government performance in providing reliable electricity:** On average, only four in 10 Africans (41%) say their government is performing “fairly well” or “very well” in ensuring power. Approval rates range from just 7% in Madagascar to 91% in Mauritius. In two-thirds of surveyed countries, majorities describe the government's performance as “fairly bad” or “very bad.”

Is power supply a priority?

Electricity is an important problem, according to surveyed citizens, though not their most important problem. When asked to cite “the most important problems facing this country that government should address,” 13% of respondents cite electricity as one of their top three priorities. This places electricity at No. 11 on the list of problems, far behind unemployment (38%) and health (32%) but ahead of corruption, housing, and political violence (Figure 1).

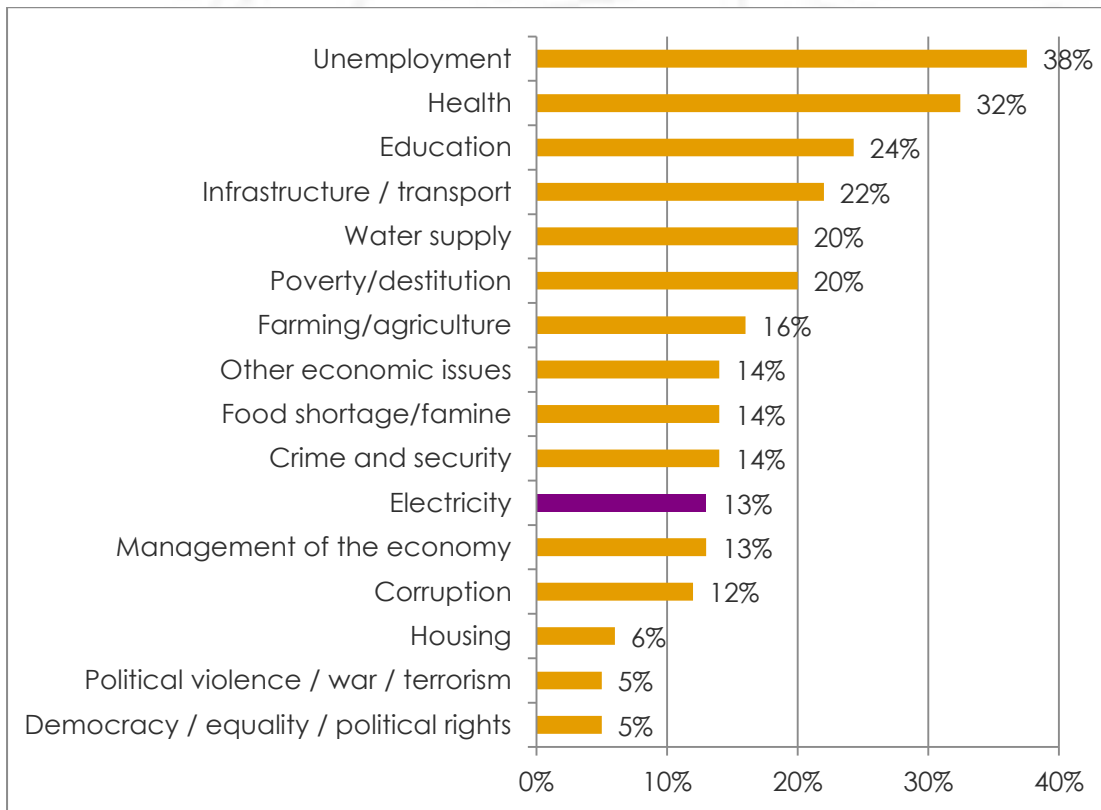


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In some countries, however, electricity stands out as a top priority, including Guinea (where 33% cite it as one of the three most important problems), Nigeria (32%), Ghana (31%), and Benin (28%) (Figure 2). Along with Lesotho (23%) and São Tomé and Príncipe (21%), these countries place electricity supply among their five most frequently cited problems.

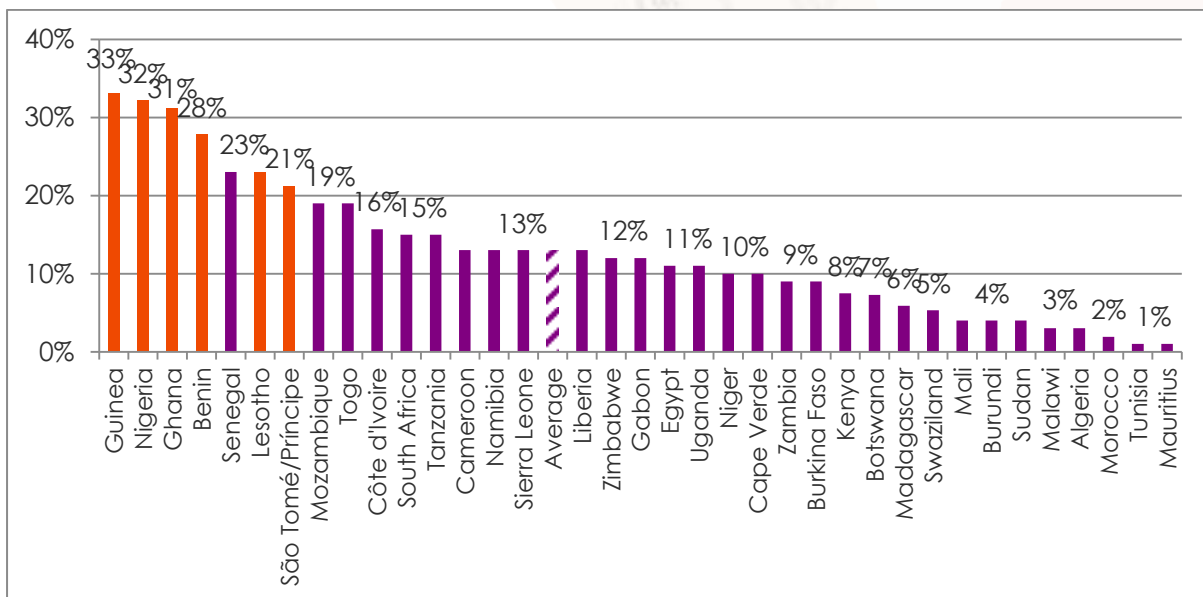
Similarly, on a question about priorities for increased government spending, citizens in Lesotho (36%), Nigeria (28%), Benin (25%), Ghana (25%), South Africa (24%), and Guinea (23%) are most likely to rate electricity as their first or second choice (not shown). (For details on top problems and investment priorities, please see Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 67, “Where to start? Aligning Sustainable Development Goals with citizen priorities,” available at www.afrobarometer.org.)

Figure 1: Most important problems | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Note: Respondents could give up to three responses. Reported numbers are % of respondents naming the problem as one of their three responses.)*

Figure 2: Most important problem: electricity | 36 countries | 2014/2015

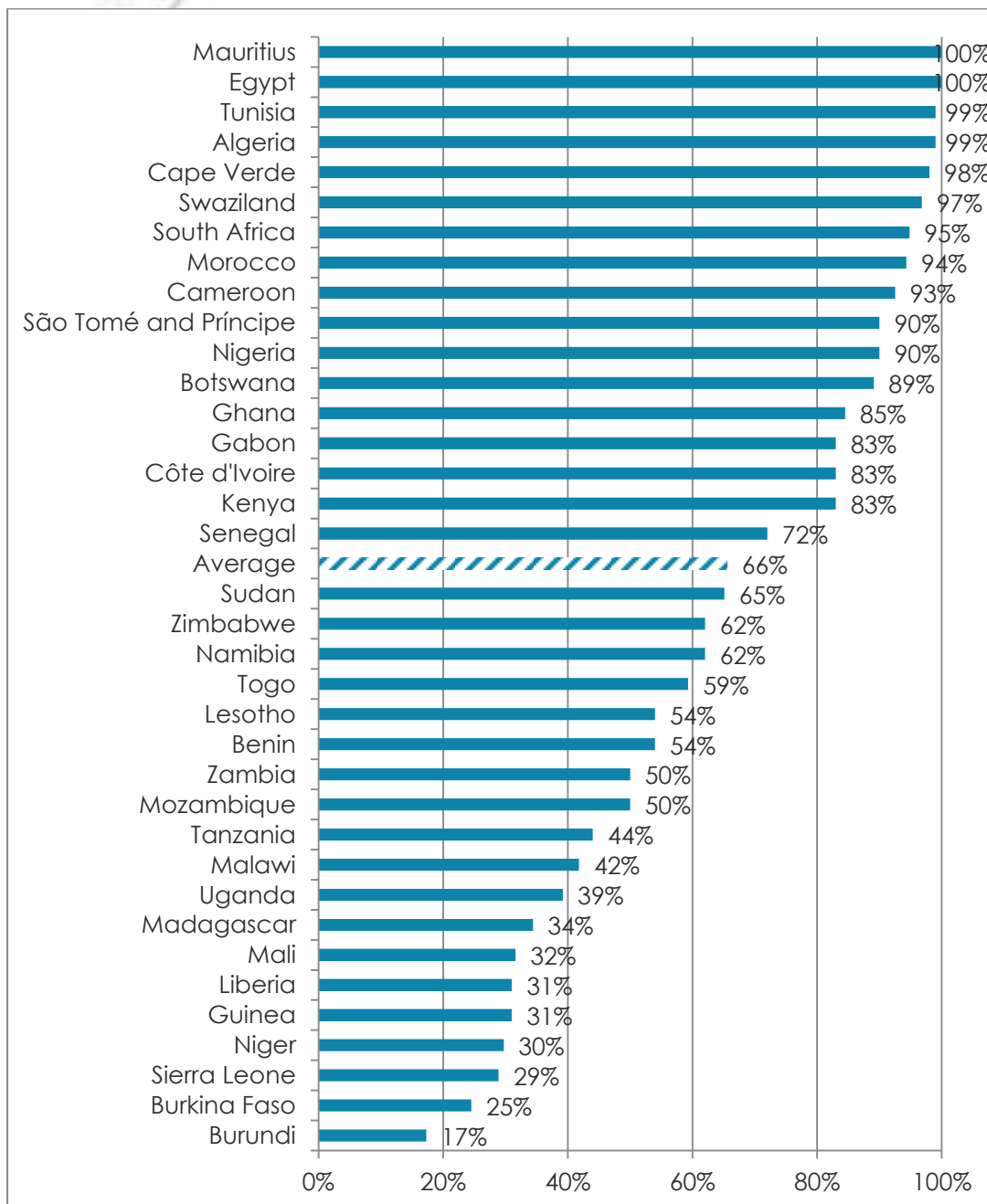


Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Note: Respondents could give up to three responses. Reported numbers are % of respondents naming the problem as one of their three responses. Orange colour indicates power supply is among the top five problems for that country.)*

Access to electricity improving, but far from universal

Until the use of alternative energy sources expands, obtaining a connection to (and ultimately a reliable supply of) electricity typically requires access to an electric grid, i.e. living in an area where electricity services are available. Based on Afrobarometer observations in 36 countries, on average two-thirds (66%) of citizens have access to an electric grid. Differences by country are stark: While virtually all Mauritians, Egyptians, Algerians, and Tunisians live in zones served by an electric grid, the same is true of less than one-third of citizens in Burundi (17%), Burkina Faso (25%), Sierra Leone (29%), and Niger (30%) (Figure 3).

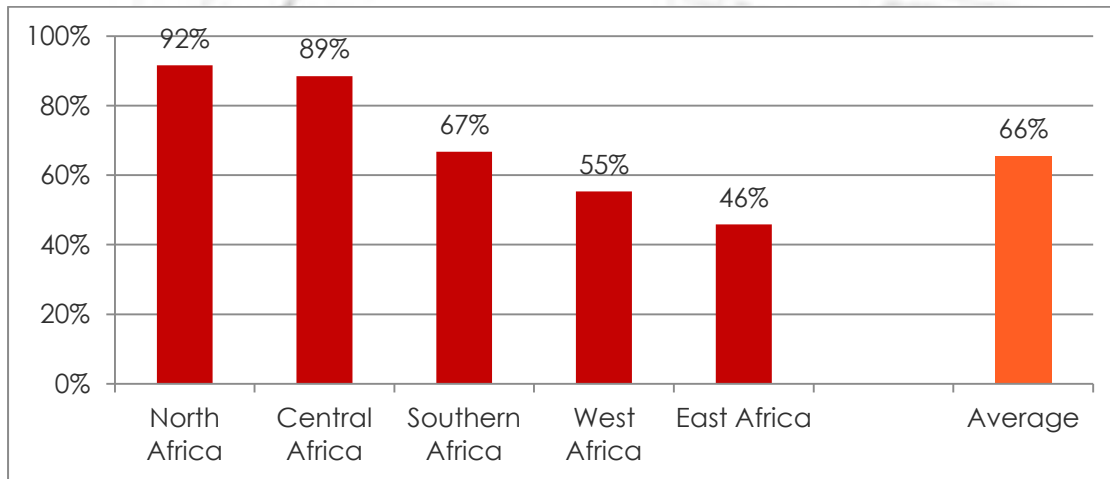
Figure 3: Access to the electric grid | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Surveyors recorded whether the enumeration area had an electricity grid that most houses could access.

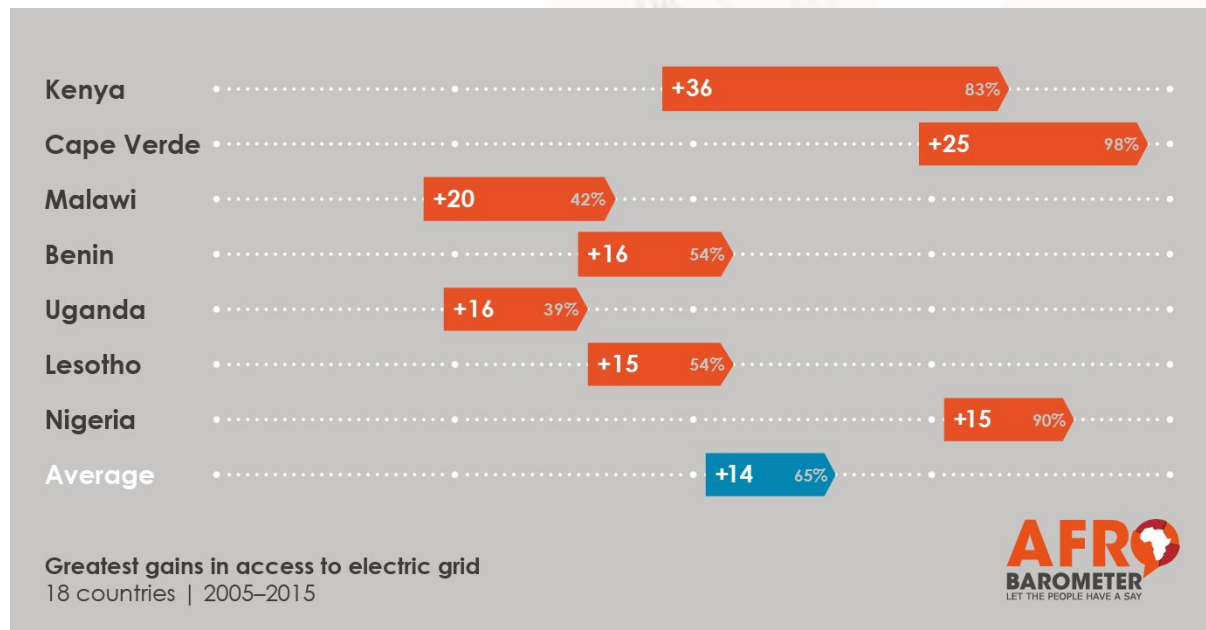
Regions also show clear differences in coverage of the electric grid: North Africa (92%) and Central Africa (represented by Cameroon, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe) (89%) have the highest coverage, while East Africa trails at 46% (Figure 4). (For details on access to electricity and other basic services, see Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 69, "Building on progress: Infrastructure development still a major challenge in Africa" at www.afrobarometer.org.)

Figure 4: Regional differences* in electricity access | 36 countries | 2014/2015



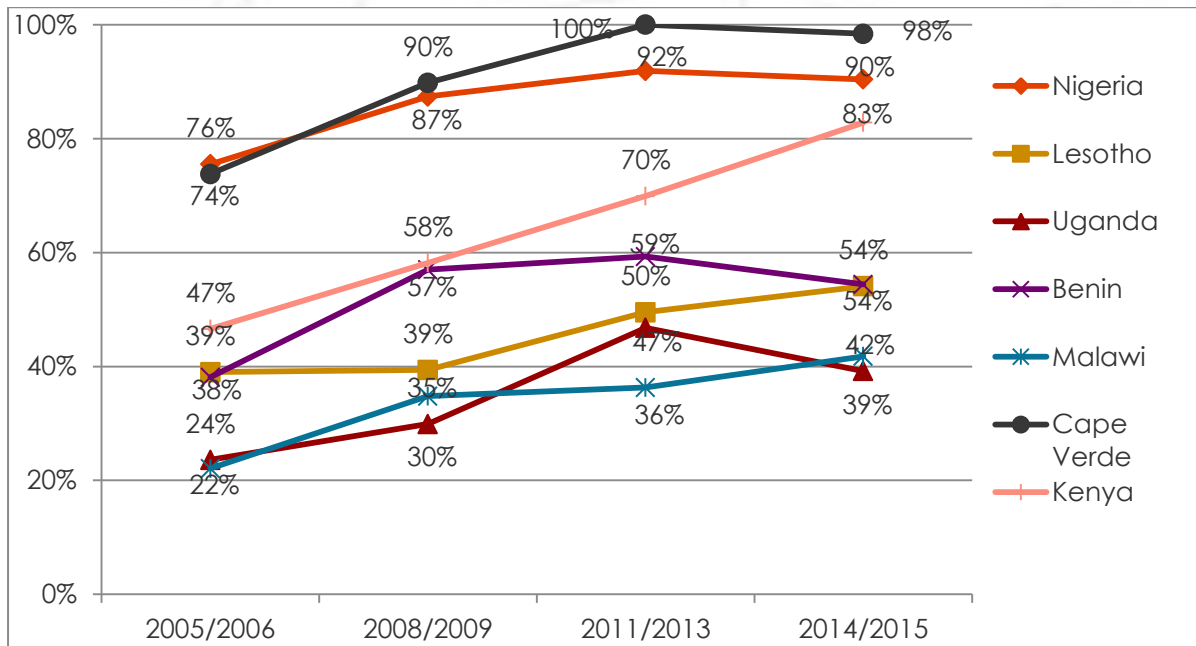
Surveyors recorded whether the enumeration area had an electricity grid that most houses could access.

Across 18 countries tracked by Afrobarometer since 2005/2006,¹ the availability of electricity services at the enumeration-area level has increased by 14 percentage points over the past decade, from 51% to 65%. Large and consistent gains in availability have been recorded in Kenya (a 36-percentage-point increase), Cape Verde, Malawi, Benin, Uganda, Lesotho, and Nigeria (see infographic below and Figure 5). Madagascar, Senegal, and Zambia recorded slight losses over the past decade.



¹ The 18 countries are Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Figure 5: Biggest gains in extending the electricity grid | 18 countries | 2005-2015



Surveyors recorded whether the survey enumeration area had an electricity grid that most houses could access.

As might be expected, rural residents continue to be far less likely than their urban counterparts to have access to an electric grid; across the 36 countries, the average gap is 49 percentage points.

While Tunisia, Egypt, and Mauritius have achieved 100% coverage in rural areas, and Swaziland, Algeria, Cape Verde, and South Africa show urban-rural gaps of less than 10 percentage points, the countryside trails cities by more than 80 percentage points in Guinea (88 points), Mali (87), and Niger (84) (Figure 6). Given such limited rural access in many countries, increased electricity supply would not benefit most rural residents unless the electricity grid were extended.

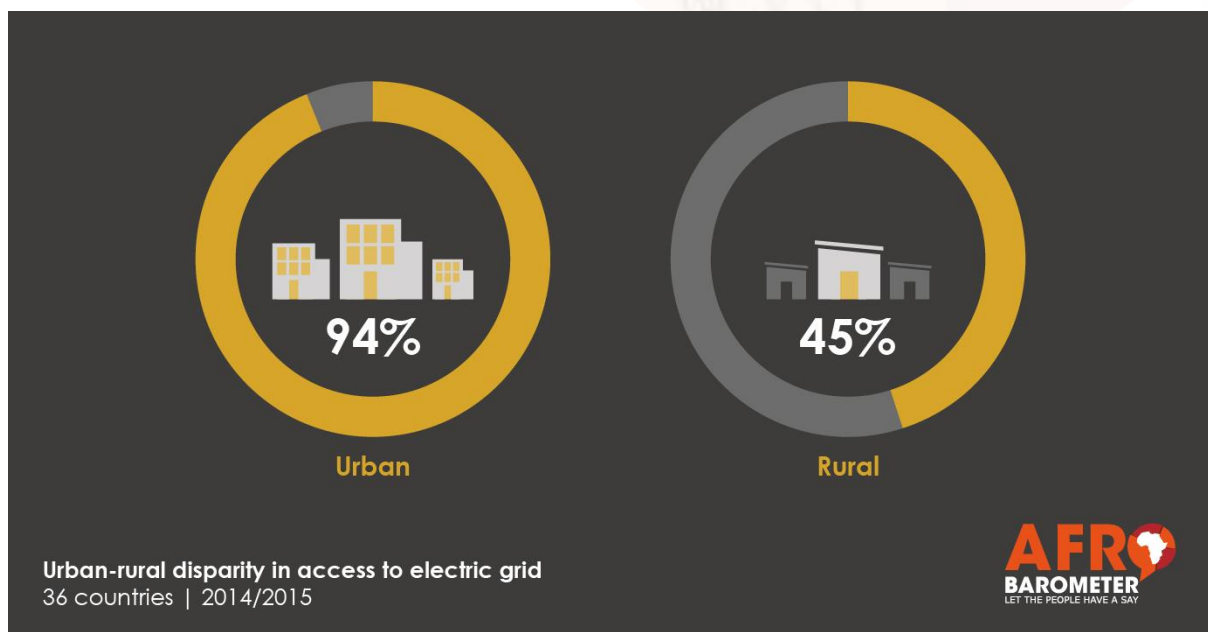
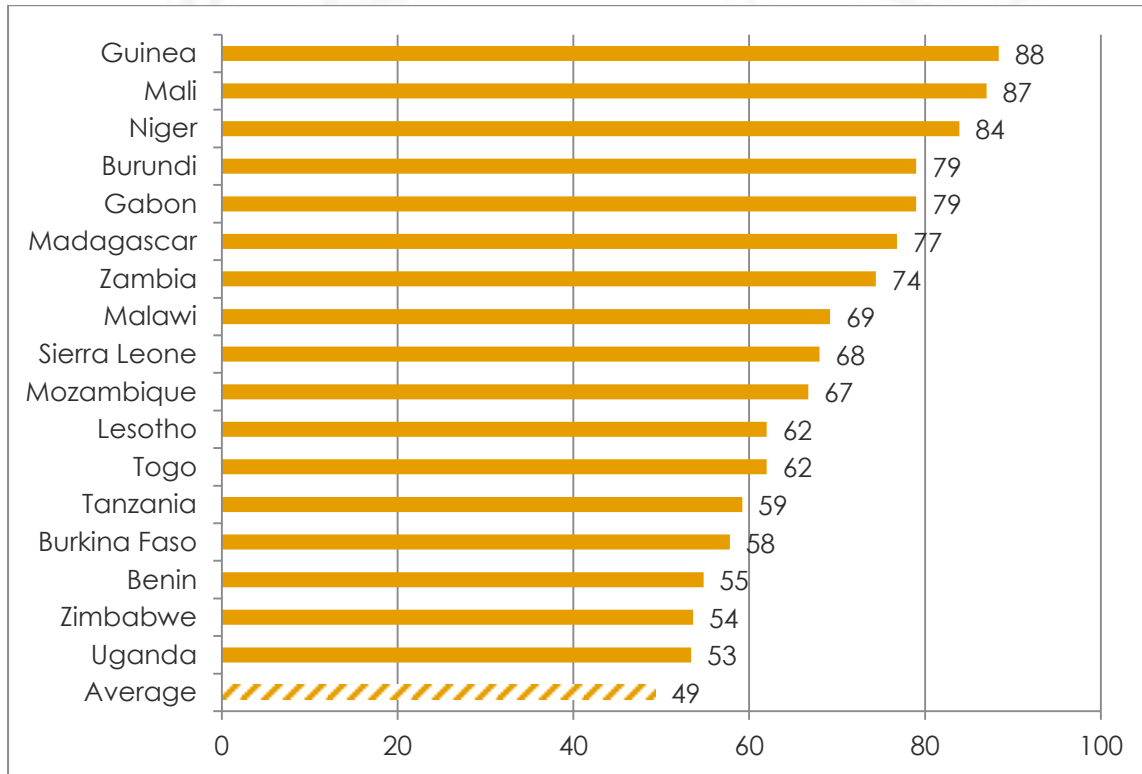


Figure 6: Rural-urban disparities in electricity access | countries with largest gaps
 | 2014/2015



(Figure shows difference in percentage points between proportions of urban households and rural households with access to an electric grid.)

Access does not guarantee supply of electricity

Even if slightly more citizens are living in zones with electricity service than in the past, improved access is a far cry from regular and adequate electricity supply. First, not all citizens with access to an electric grid are actually connected (66% with access vs. 60% actually connected).² Second, not all households connected to an electric grid enjoy a reliable supply of electricity from that connection.

Looking at all households of surveyed respondents, on average 40% either have no electric grid within reach or are not connected, while about the same proportion have a connection that works “most of the time” (16%) or “always” (25%) (see infographic on Page 9, top figure). The rest have a connection that works “never” (5%), “occasionally” (9%), or “about half the time” (5%).³

As Figure 7 shows, countries vary enormously in their ability to provide electricity to their citizens. The lack of an electric grid or a household connection is most severe in Burundi (89% of respondents), Malawi (88%), and Burkina Faso (86%); it is not an issue in North African countries with the exception of Sudan.

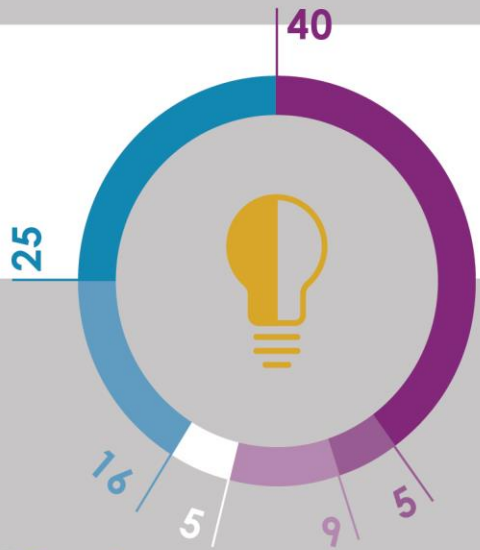
² Afrobarometer is reviewing a small number of cases in which respondents report a functioning electricity connection in enumeration areas where interviewers recorded no electric grid, most likely either because the interviewer missed the presence of a poorly functioning grid or the household has a connection to a generator or other local source.

³ Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may differ by 1 percentage point from the actual total.

Household connection to electric grid

36 African countries (average %) | 2014/2015

- NO ELECTRIC GRID OR NOT CONNECTED
- CONNECTED, WORKS OCCASIONALLY
- CONNECTED, WORKS MOST OF THE TIME
- CONNECTED, BUT NEVER WORKS
- CONNECTED, WORKS ABOUT HALF THE TIME
- CONNECTED, ALWAYS WORKS



Connection and functionality

by country | 36 countries | 2014/2015

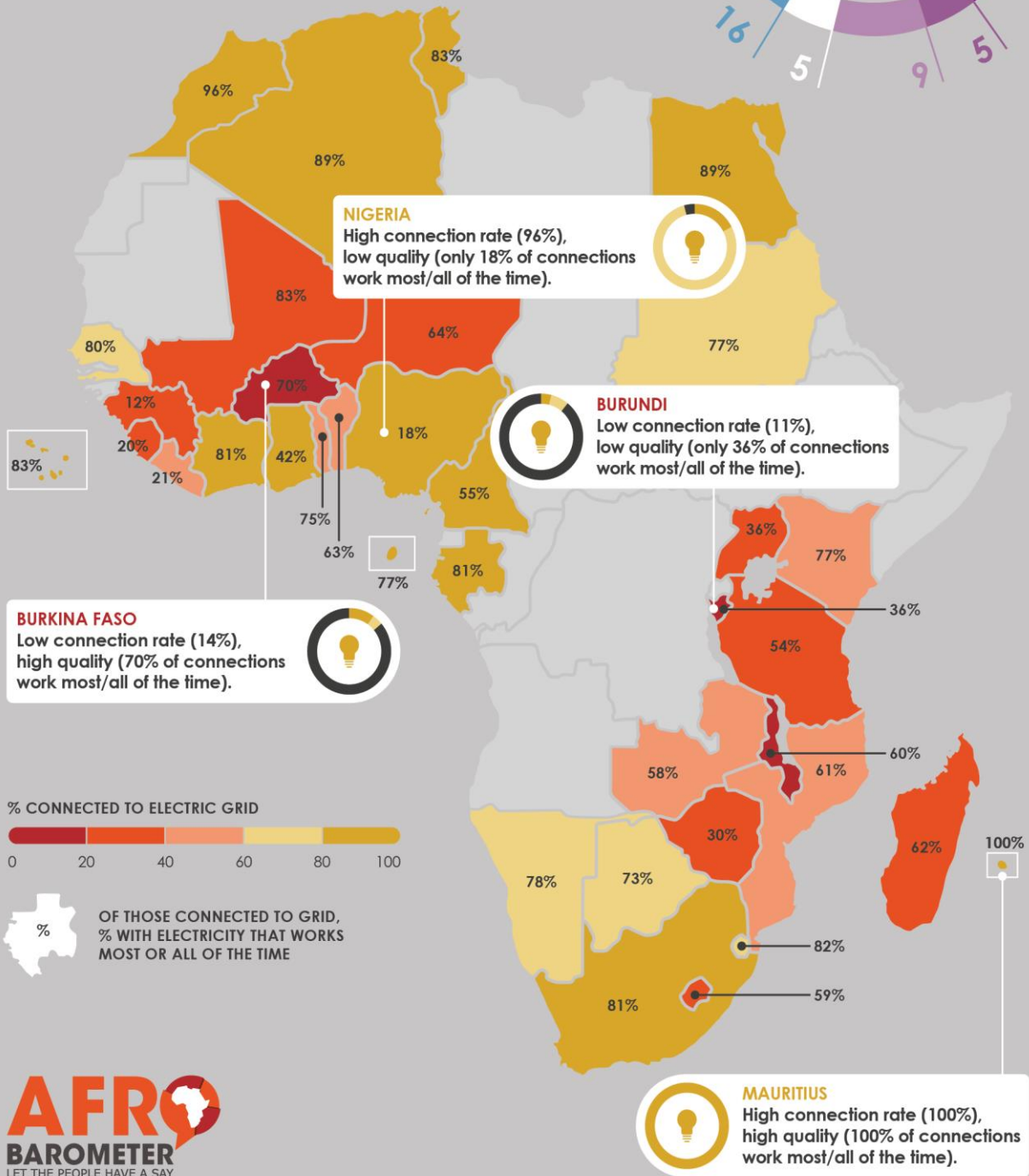
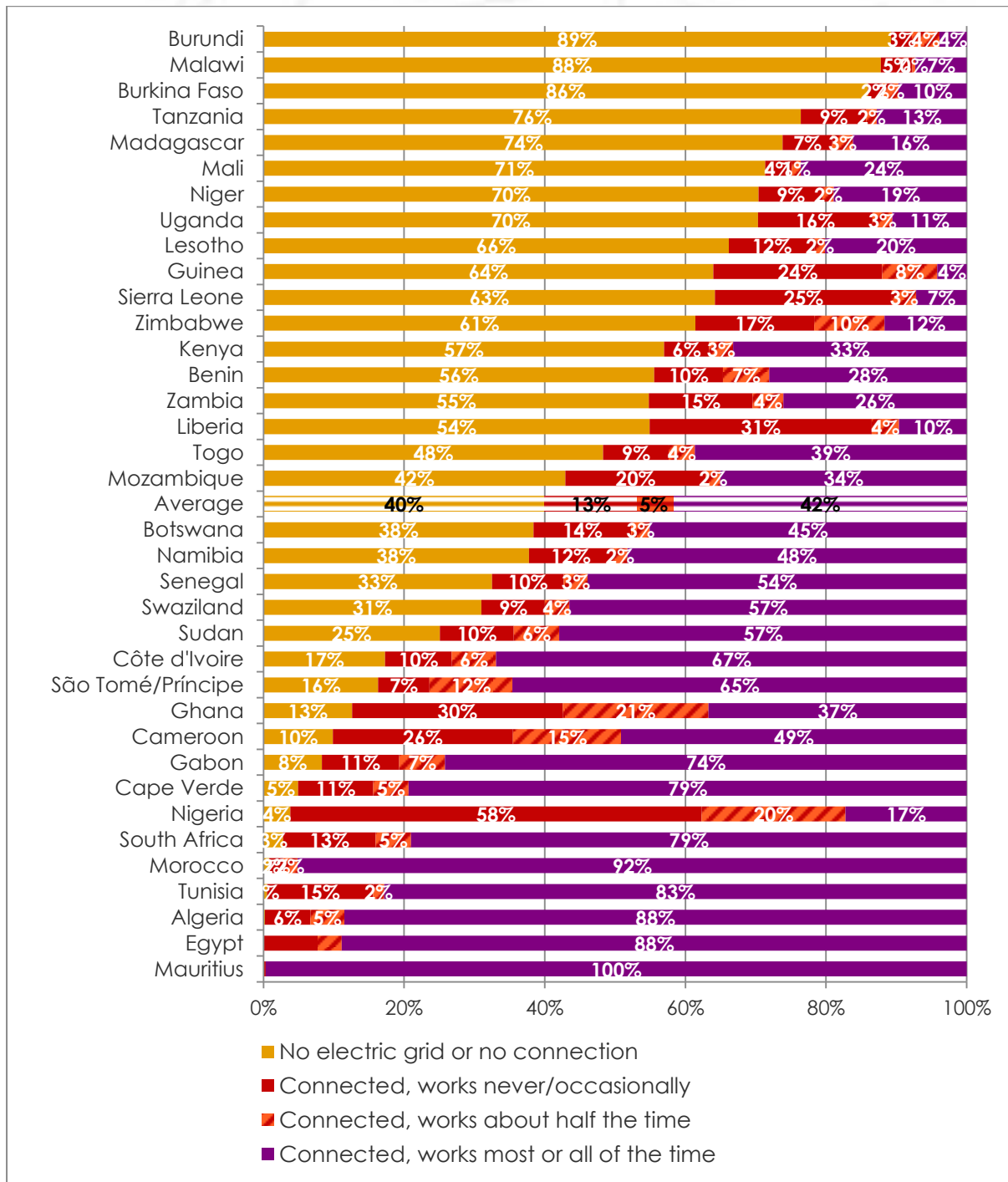


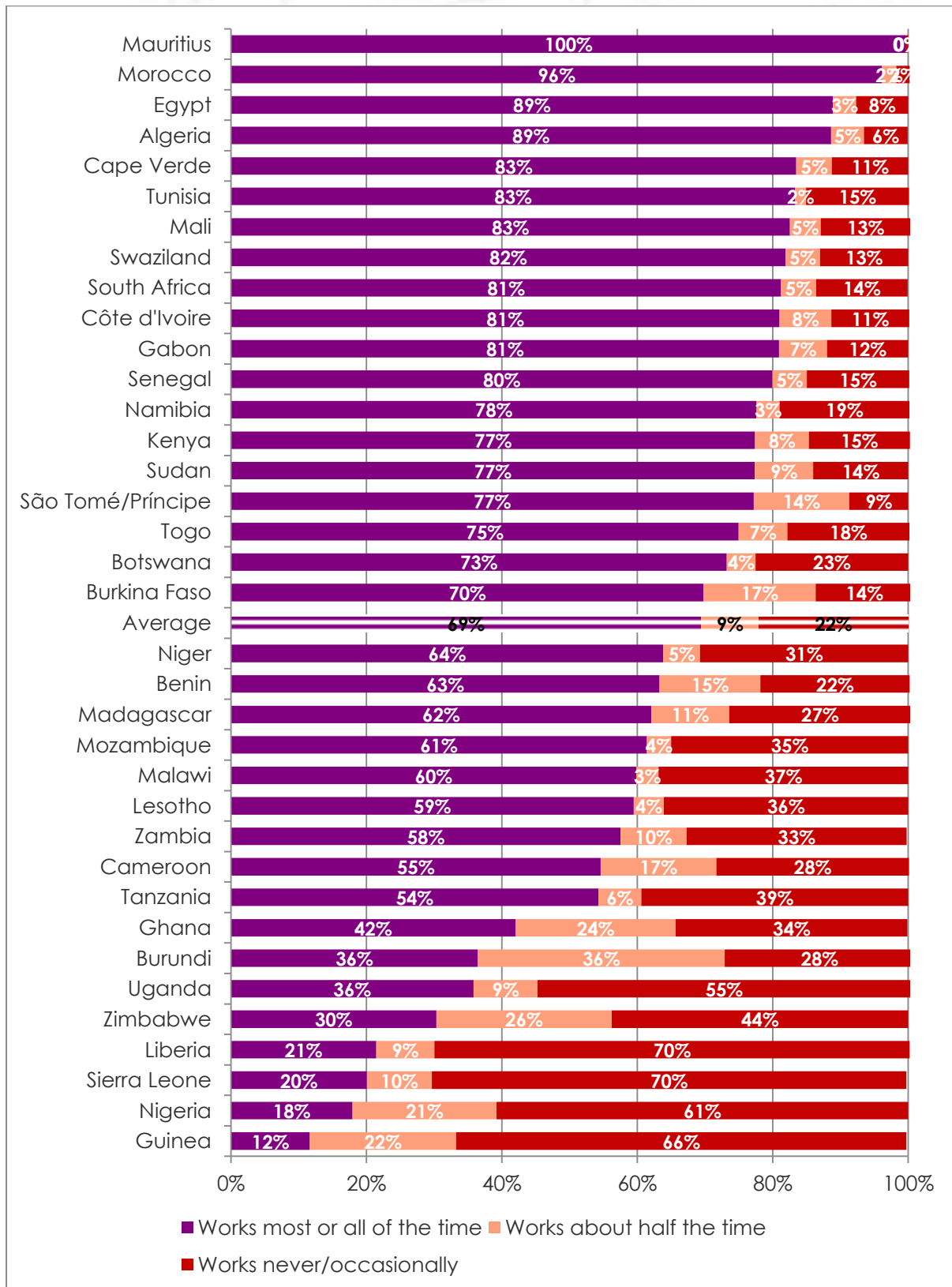
Figure 7: Connection to the grid: quantity and quality | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: Do you have an electric connection to your home from the mains? [If yes:] How often is electricity actually available? (Figure shows % of all survey respondents, including those without a connection to an electric grid.)

Combining the effects of no electric grid, no household connection, and poor connection quality means that in Burundi and Guinea, only 4% of all citizens have a reliable power supply, followed by Malawi (7%), Sierra Leone (7%), Burkina Faso (10%), and Liberia (10%). At the other extreme are Mauritius (100%), Morocco (92%), Egypt and Algeria (both 88%), and Tunisia (83%).

Figure 8: Reliable supply for those with connections? | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: Do you have an electric connection to your home from the mains? [If yes:] How often is electricity actually available? (Excludes households with no connection to an electric grid)

Figure 7 above and the infographic on Page 9 also highlight that while broad coverage of a country's electric grid and high connection rates often go hand in hand with high rates of reliable service provision, and vice versa, this is not the case in all countries. Good examples of the former (the general rule) include Mauritius, whose 100% connection rate is matched by 100% of connections that work most or all of the time, and Burundi, where a low connection rate (11%) aligns with a small proportion of citizens enjoying a reliable power supply (4%).

But there are striking exceptions. In Nigeria, where 96% of respondents are connected, only 17% of the population receive reliable electricity service. Ghana and Cameroon have a similar problem, with relatively extensive electric grids that nonetheless fail to provide a reliable supply of electricity to large proportions of the population. On the other hand, countries such as Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mali, and Niger have small electric-grid coverage, like Burundi, but considerably higher proportions of citizens with well-functioning connections.

These differences point to the fact that while access to an electric grid is a prerequisite for service provision (except in cases where alternative sources are available), country-level analysis is required to determine the needed balance of grid extension, growth in supply, and improved service.

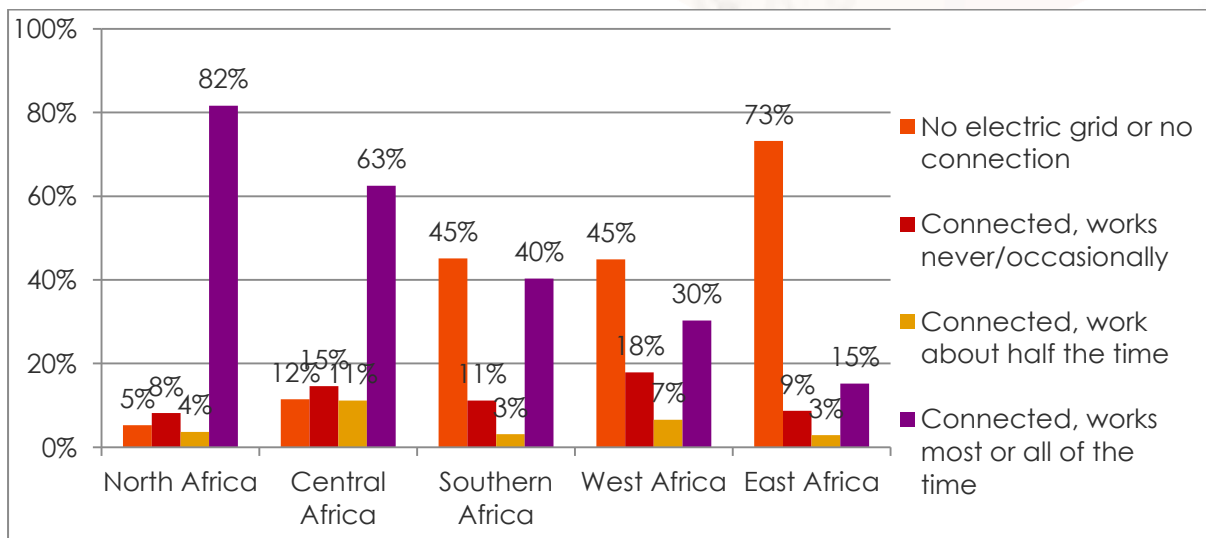
The quality of existing connections comes into sharper focus in Figure 8, which includes only households that are actually connected to an electric grid. On average across 36 countries, about two-thirds (69%) enjoy a reliable power supply (most or all of the time), while about one-third of connections work "about half the time" (9%), occasionally (14%), or "never" (8%).

The figure highlights the small proportion – less than one in five – of well-functioning connections in Guinea (12%) and Nigeria (18%). In addition, less than half of existing connections work most or all of the time in Ghana (42%), Burundi (36%), Uganda (36%), Zimbabwe (30%), Liberia (21%), and Sierra Leone (20%).

At the other end, Cape Verde, Mali, Swaziland, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, and Gabon join the five high-performing North African countries with more than 80% of connections working most or all of the time.

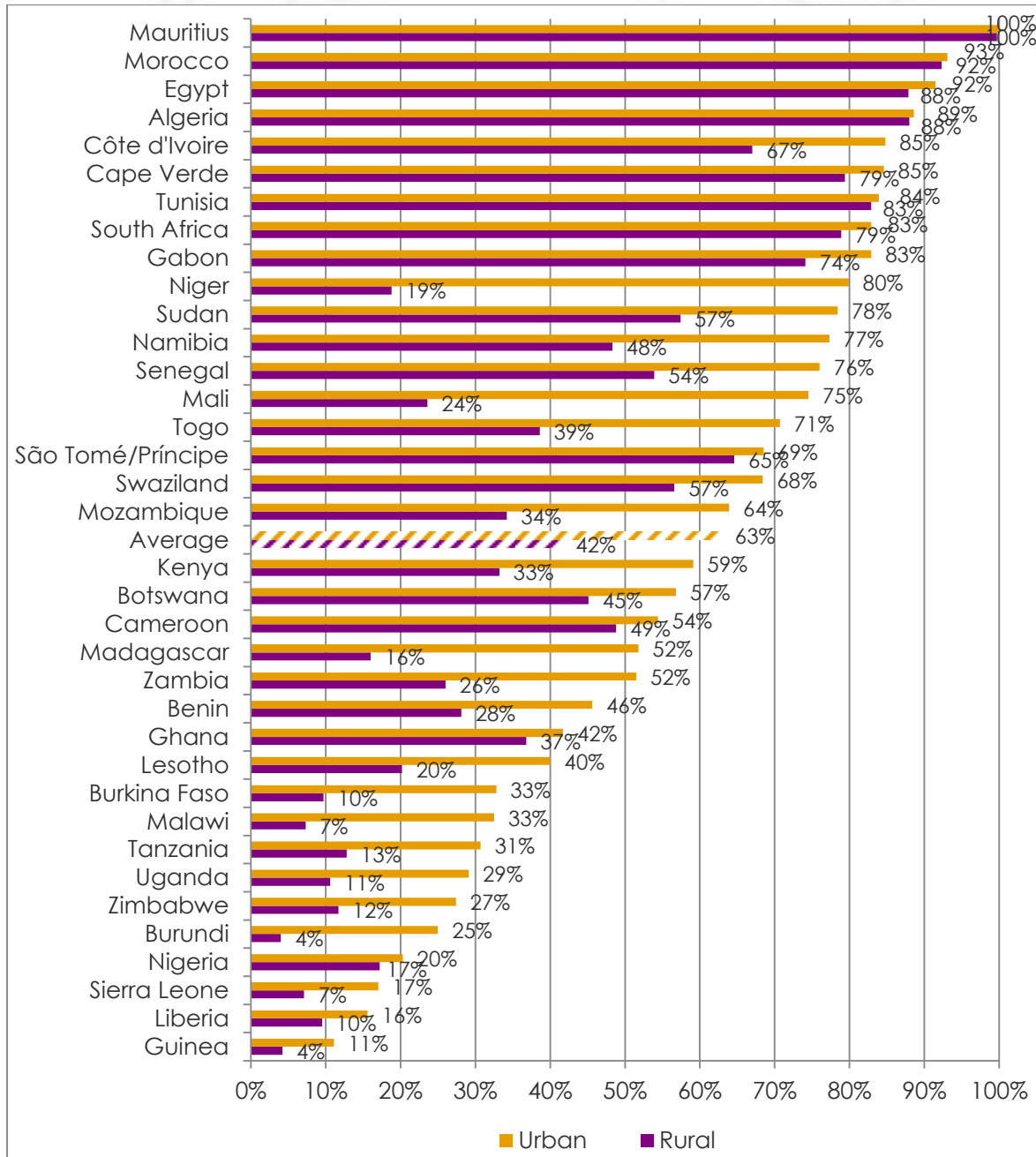
Differences in reliable supply by region (Figure 9) and urban-rural residence (Figure 10) show the same patterns as access to an electric grid.

Figure 9: Regional differences in electricity connections | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: Do you have an electric connection to your home from the mains? [If yes:] How often is electricity actually available?

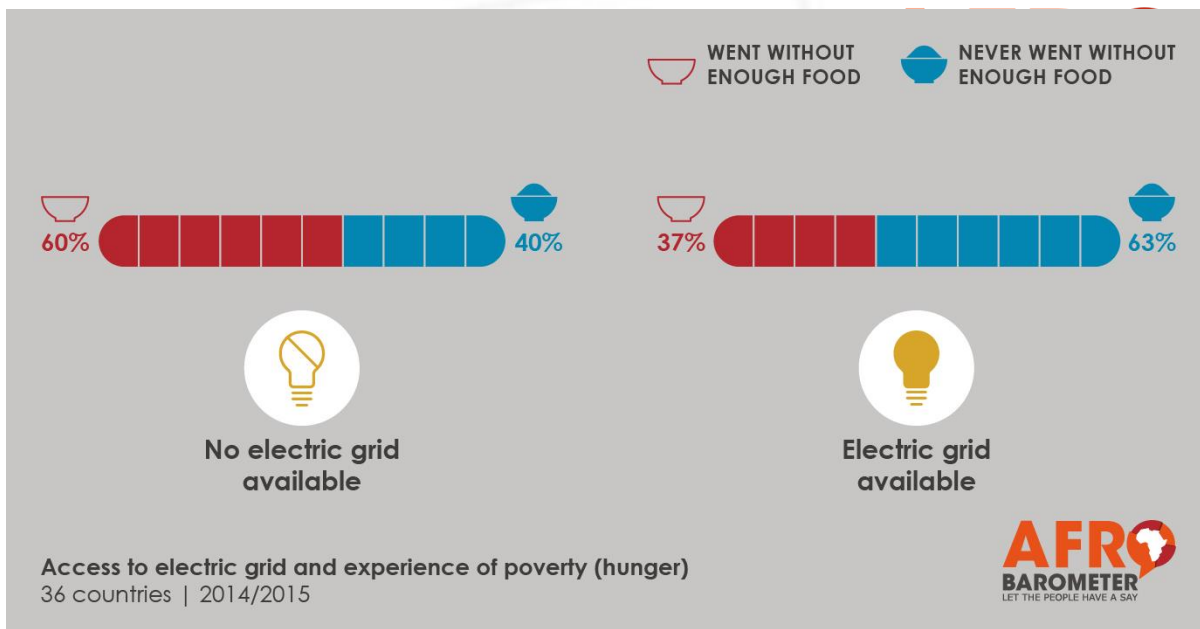
Figure 10: Urban-rural differences in well-functioning connections | 36 countries
 | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: Do you have an electric connection to your home from the mains? [If yes:] How often is electricity actually available? (% of urban and rural residents who say “most of the time” or “always”)

Power supply and poverty

Survey findings related to electricity confirm previous analysis of Afrobarometer data demonstrating a strong link between poverty and access to basic services (Mattes, Dulani, & Gyimah-Boadi, 2016; Mitullah, Samson, Wambua, & Balongo, 2016; Mattes, Dulani, & Logan, 2013; Logan, 2014).

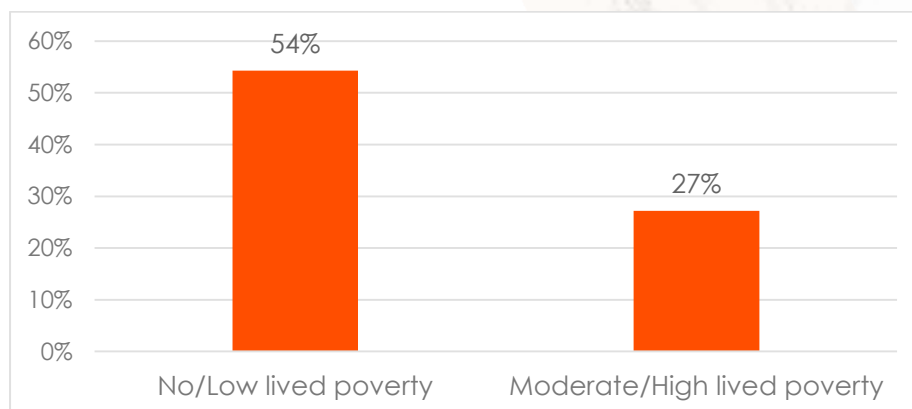


Afrobarometer data describe "lived poverty" based on how often people go without basic necessities: enough food, enough clean water, needed medicines or medical care, enough fuel for cooking, and a cash income. The frequency of going without enough to eat is a particularly good proxy for overall household experience of poverty.

In a household without electricity, members are significantly more likely to go without enough food. For example, where an electric grid is available, 37% went without enough food at least once during the previous year; where no grid is present, the proportion who experienced hunger rises to 60% (see infographic above). Comparable patterns hold for the relationship of other basic services to hunger (Mitullah, Samson, Wambua, & Balongo, 2016).

Similarly, poor citizens are half as likely as their wealthier counterparts to enjoy a reliable power supply (27% vs. 54%)⁴ (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Reliable household connection and lived poverty | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked:

1. Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Gone without enough food to eat? Gone without enough clean water for home use? Gone without medicines or medical treatment? Gone without enough fuel to cook your food? Gone without a cash income? (Responses are combined to calculate average Lived Poverty Index scores ranging from 0 (which can be thought of as no lived poverty) to 4 (which would reflect a constant absence of all basic necessities.)
2. Do you have an electric connection to your home from the mains? [If yes:] How often is electricity actually available? (% who say "most of the time" or "always")

⁴ Pearson's chi-square tests confirm that in both cases the differences are significant. For electric grid and hunger: $\chi^2=2014.02$, $p=0.000$. For poverty and power supply: $\chi^2=4291.54$, $p=0.000$.

Further research may clarify whether having electricity reduces lived poverty or poverty reduces the ability to obtain reliable electricity – or whether the two operate in a self-reinforcing vicious circle. But for infrastructure planners, the message is clear that the poor should be a priority target for provision of electricity.

Citizens are critical of their governments' handling of electricity

On average across 35 surveyed countries,⁵ only four in 10 Africans (41%) say their government is performing “fairly well” or “very well” in ensuring an adequate power supply. This assessment is in the middle range of popular assessments of government performance in a broad spectrum of areas, from narrowing income gaps (21% approval) and keeping prices down (25% approval) to addressing educational needs and improving basic health-care services (both 51% approval).

Nonetheless, it is a strongly negative evaluation: In two-thirds of surveyed countries (24 of 35), majorities describe the government's performance as “fairly bad” or “very bad.” Madagascar's government fares by far the worst, receiving approval from just 7% of its citizens, followed by Burkina Faso (17%), Sierra Leone (18%), and Guinea (18%) (Figure 12).

Mauritius is an outlier with a 91% approval rating; São Tomé and Príncipe and Morocco are distant seconds at 65% approval.

Among countries with highly publicized electricity problems, South Africa stands out with an above-average (though still minority) positive rating (45% of respondents), while Ghana (23%) and Zimbabwe (19%) receive low marks for handling electricity supply. Among East African countries, Kenya far outranks its neighbours with a 61% favourable rating.

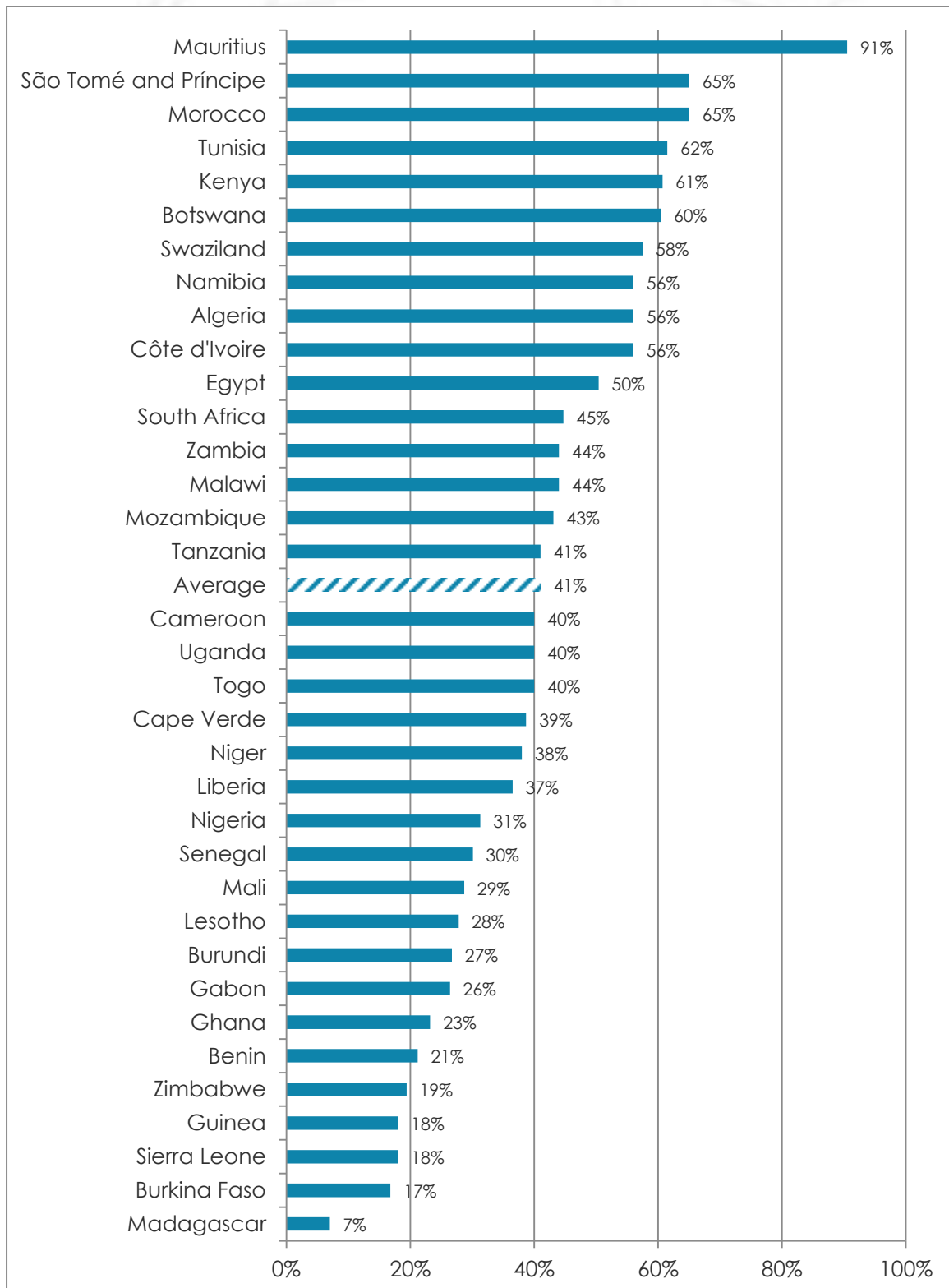
In line with their better access to electricity services, urban residents tend to provide more favourable assessments than their rural counterparts (by 10 percentage points, on average) of the government's handling of the electricity supply. More than 20 percentage points separate urban from rural average assessments in Uganda (30 points), Zambia (27), Lesotho (24), and Mozambique (23). However, in some countries with persistent supply problems (including Zimbabwe, Ghana, and South Africa), the trend is reversed as frustrated urbanites express their disapproval of the government's management (see Appendix Table A.2 for frequencies).

Similarly, wealthier citizens (who are more likely to enjoy a reliable power supply) give their governments higher marks on electricity management than do their poorer counterparts. On average, 20 percentage points separate approval ratings among respondents experiencing no or low-level lived poverty from those among respondents with moderate or high levels of lived poverty. This gap is largest in Egypt (31 percentage points), Liberia (29), and Cameroon (27) (see Appendix Table A.3 for frequencies).

Across 20 countries that Afrobarometer has tracked on this question since Round 4 (2008/2009), the average proportion of citizens saying their governments are performing “fairly well” or “very well” in managing electricity has remained fairly steady, at around one-third (Table 1). But several countries have seen large decreases in approval, led by Ghana's dramatic 40-percentage-point drop, including a 25-point decline since 2012. Other large decreases in approval have been recorded in Zimbabwe (-23 points), Madagascar (-18 points), and Mozambique (-15 points). Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, and Liberia have seen significant increases in popular approval since 2008/2009, while in South Africa and Benin, large decreases since 2011/2013 have wiped out earlier gains.

⁵ Questions about government performance were not asked in Sudan.

Figure 12: Approval of government performance in ensuring a reliable supply of electricity | 35 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling providing a reliable supply of electricity, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

Table 1: Approval of government handling of electricity | 20 countries | 2008-2015

	2008/2009	2011/2013	2014/2015	Change 2008-2015 (percentage points)
Zambia	26%	39%	44%	18
Kenya	44%	61%	61%	16
Uganda	27%	18%	40%	13
Liberia	25%	19%	36%	11
Nigeria	22%	21%	31%	9
Tanzania	35%	33%	41%	6
Mali	27%	31%	29%	2
Lesotho	26%	23%	28%	2
Cape Verde	38%	49%	39%	1
Namibia	55%	41%	56%	1
Malawi	44%	39%	44%	0
AVERAGE	38%	35%	36%	-2
South Africa	48%	64%	45%	-3
Benin	26%	36%	21%	-5
Senegal	36%	29%	30%	-6
Botswana	66%	65%	60%	-6
Burkina Faso	23%	21%	17%	-6
Mozambique	58%	40%	43%	-15
Madagascar	25%	13%	7%	-18
Zimbabwe	42%	14%	19%	-23
Ghana	63%	48%	23%	-40

Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling providing a reliable supply of electricity, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

Conclusion

"Africa is tired of being in the dark," African Development Bank President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina said after launching the New Deal on Energy for Africa (The Nerve Africa, 2016). Afrobarometer survey findings confirm that more than a century after the invention of the light bulb, a majority of Africans are still in the dark, either intermittently or constantly.

While North African countries and Mauritius are able to provide reliable electricity for most or all of their citizens, they are the exception, particularly when it comes to serving rural and poor populations. In some countries, the electric grid reaches only a fraction of the

population; in others, an extensive grid is undermined by inadequate supply and poor service. Most countries face a combination of these issues, and ambitious initiatives to improve electricity supply will need country-level analyses to determine the needed balance of grid extension, growth in supply, improved service, and alternative sources.

Do your own analysis of Afrobarometer data – on any question, for any country and survey round. It's easy and free at www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis.

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Appendix

Table A.1: Afrobarometer Round 6 fieldwork dates and previous survey rounds

Country	Months when Round 6 fieldwork was conducted	Previous survey rounds
Algeria	May-June 2015	2013
Benin	May-June 2014	2005, 2008, 2011
Botswana	June-July 2014	1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012
Burkina Faso	April-May 2015	2008, 2012
Burundi	September-October 2014	2012
Cameroon	January-February 2015	2013
Cape Verde	November-December 2014	2002, 2005, 2008, 2011
Côte d'Ivoire	August-September 2014	2013
Egypt	June-July 2015	2013
Gabon	September 2015	N/A
Ghana	May-June 2014	1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012
Guinea	March-April 2015	2013
Kenya	November-December 2014	2003, 2005, 2008, 2011
Lesotho	May 2014	2000, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012
Liberia	May 2015	2008, 2012
Madagascar	December 2015-January 2015	2005, 2008, 2013
Malawi	March-April 2014	1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012
Mali	December 2014	2001, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2013
Mauritius	June-July 2014	2012
Morocco	November 2015	2013
Mozambique	June-August 2015	2002, 2005, 2008, 2012
Namibia	August-September 2014	1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012
Niger	April 2015	2013
Nigeria	December 2014-January 2015	2000, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2013
São Tomé and Príncipe	July-August 2015	N/A
Senegal	November-December 2014	2002, 2005, 2008, 2013
Sierra Leone	May-June 2015	2012
South Africa	August-September 2015	2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2011
Sudan	June 2015	2013

Country	Months when Round 6 fieldwork was conducted	Previous survey rounds
Swaziland	April 2015	2013
Tanzania	August-November 2014	2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012
Togo	October 2014	2012
Tunisia	April-May 2015	2013
Uganda	May 2015	2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012
Zambia	October 2014	1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2013
Zimbabwe	November 2014	1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012

Table A.2: Urban-rural differences in assessment of government performance in handling electricity | 35 countries⁶ | 2014/2015

	Government is performing “fairly well” or “very well”		
	Urban	Rural	Urban-rural difference (percentage points)
Uganda	65%	34%	30
Zambia	60%	34%	27
Lesotho	44%	21%	24
Mozambique	58%	35%	23
Niger	54%	35%	20
Malawi	59%	40%	19
Mali	42%	24%	18
Tanzania	52%	36%	17
Kenya	71%	55%	16
Côte d'Ivoire	63%	47%	16
Togo	49%	33%	15
Morocco	71%	56%	15
Liberia	43%	30%	13
Namibia	62%	50%	12
Swaziland	66%	55%	11
Burkina Faso	25%	14%	11
Sierra Leone	25%	14%	11
AVERAGE	46%	36%	10
Senegal	35%	26%	10
Madagascar	13%	5%	8
Benin	25%	17%	8
Gabon	28%	20%	8
Guinea	21%	17%	4
Botswana	61%	59%	2
Mauritius	91%	90%	1
Algeria	56%	56%	0
Egypt	50%	50%	0

⁶ Questions about government performance were not asked in Sudan.

	Government is performing “fairly well” or “very well”		
	Urban	Rural	Urban-rural difference (percentage points)
Cameroon	39%	42%	-3
Nigeria	30%	33%	-3
Burundi	24%	27%	-3
São Tomé and Príncipe	64%	68%	-4
Tunisia	59%	65%	-6
Cape Verde	36%	43%	-7
Zimbabwe	13%	23%	-10
Ghana	19%	29%	-10
South Africa	41%	51%	-10

Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling providing a reliable supply of electricity, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say “fairly well” or “very well”)

Table A.3: Differences in assessment of government performance in handling electricity by lived poverty level | 35 countries | 2014/2015

	Government is performing “fairly well” or “very well”		
	No/Low lived poverty	Moderate/High lived poverty	Difference (percentage points)
Egypt	56%	25%	31
Liberia	57%	27%	29
Cameroon	56%	30%	27
Kenya	70%	45%	25
Algeria	59%	34%	25
Niger	51%	30%	21
AVERAGE	50%	30%	20
Togo	54%	35%	20
Senegal	41%	23%	19
Benin	33%	15%	18
Malawi	55%	38%	17
Mali	36%	20%	16
Morocco	69%	54%	15
Tanzania	48%	34%	14
Mozambique	52%	38%	14
Mauritius	91%	77%	14
Côte d'Ivoire	63%	51%	13
Zimbabwe	27%	14%	13
Zambia	49%	37%	13
Lesotho	36%	23%	13
Uganda	46%	34%	12
Namibia	58%	47%	11
Guinea	26%	15%	11
Cape Verde	40%	31%	9
Nigeria	34%	26%	8
South Africa	46%	39%	7
Madagascar	12%	5%	7
Botswana	63%	57%	7
Burundi	31%	25%	7

	Government is performing “fairly well” or “very well”		
	No/Low lived poverty	Moderate/High lived poverty	Difference (percentage points)
Gabon	31%	25%	5
Tunisia	62%	57%	5
Burkina Faso	20%	15%	5
São Tomé and Príncipe	67%	62%	5
Swaziland	59%	55%	4
Sierra Leone	19%	17%	2
Ghana	23%	23%	1

Respondents were asked:

1. Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Gone without enough food to eat? Gone without enough clean water for home use? Gone without medicines or medical treatment? Gone without enough fuel to cook your food? Gone without a cash income? (Responses are combined to calculate average Lived Poverty Index scores ranging from 0 (which can be thought of as no lived poverty) to 4 (which would reflect a constant absence of all basic necessities.)
2. How well or badly would you say the current government is handling providing a reliable supply of electricity, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say “fairly well” or “very well”)

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