



What do Africans think about the continent's future? New findings from 18 Round 8 countries (2019-2020)

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**UNITED STATES
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Making Peace Possible

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What is Afrobarometer?



- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures *citizen attitudes on democracy and governance*, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- **Core objectives:**
 - To produce scientifically reliable data and analysis on public opinion in Africa;
 - To strengthen the capacity of African institutions for democratic governance survey research and analysis; and
 - To broadly disseminate and apply democratic governance survey results
- Leading source of reliable data on **what Africans think, their experiences and political behaviors**; all data is made publicly available
- **Goal: To give the public a voice in policymaking** by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.

Methodology



- **Nationally representative** sample of adult citizens
 - All respondents are **randomly** selected.
 - Sample is distributed across [regions/states/provinces] and urban/rural areas in **proportion** to their share in 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**.
- **Standard questionnaire** allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- **Sample sizes** of 1,200 or 2,400 adult citizens yields margins of sampling error of +/-2 to 3% at a 95% confidence level.

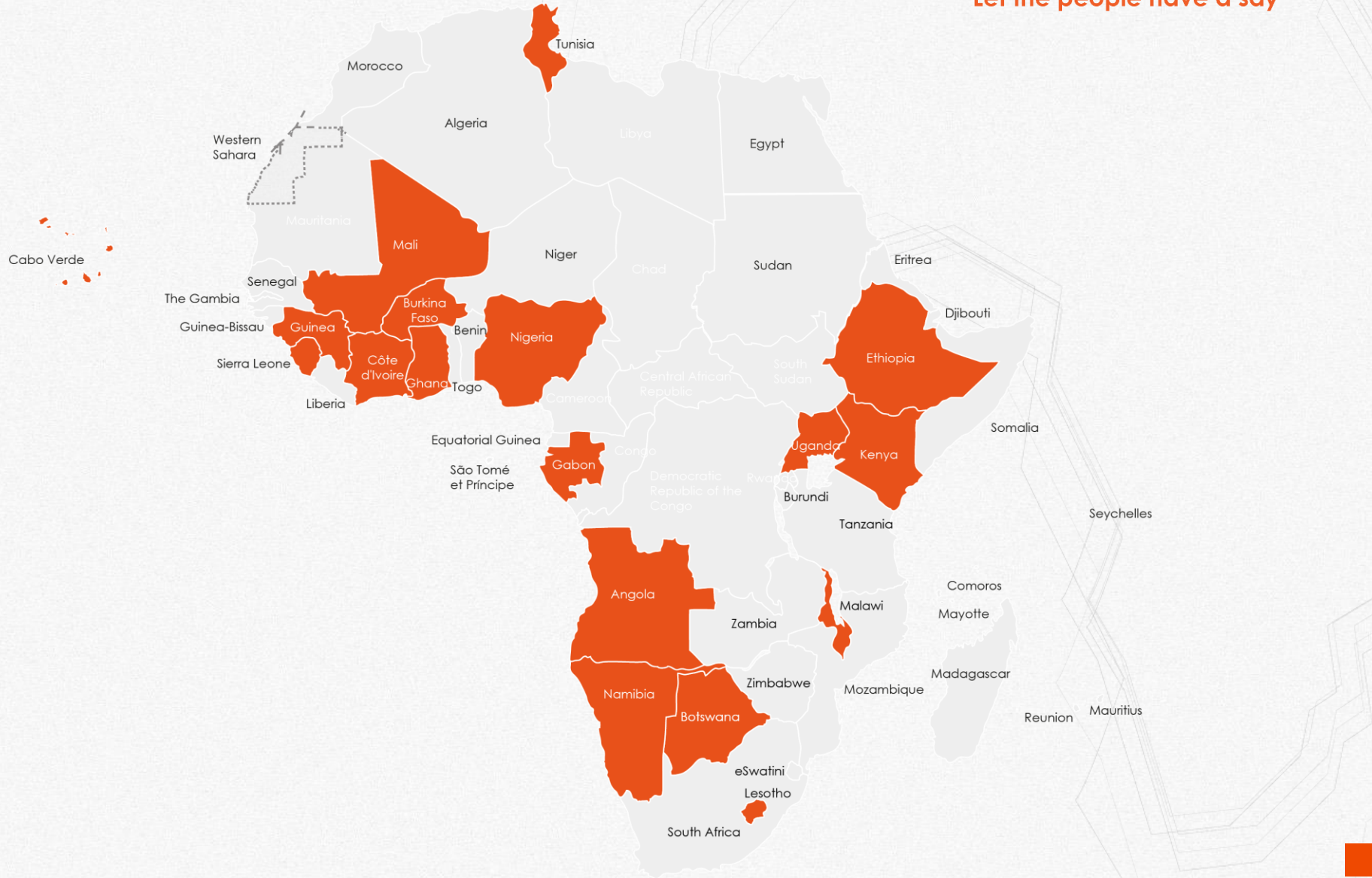
“Afrobarometer ... is the gold standard for independent opinion polls in Africa” Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Asst. Sec. of State for African Affairs

Afrobarometer Round 8



- **Goal:** 36 countries
- **Completed:** 18 countries, August 2019 – March 2020 (fieldwork to resume October 2020)
- **New countries:** Ethiopia (return) and Angola (new)
- Standard **tracking items** on support for and satisfaction with democracy, institutional trust, governance and corruption, freedoms, many others
- **Special topics in R8** included:
 - Social cohesion
 - Globalism, China/US
 - Media
 - Populism
 - Youth
 - Taxation
 - Elections
 - Traditional leaders

Afrobarometer coverage 2019/2020 – 18 countries



Overview for today:

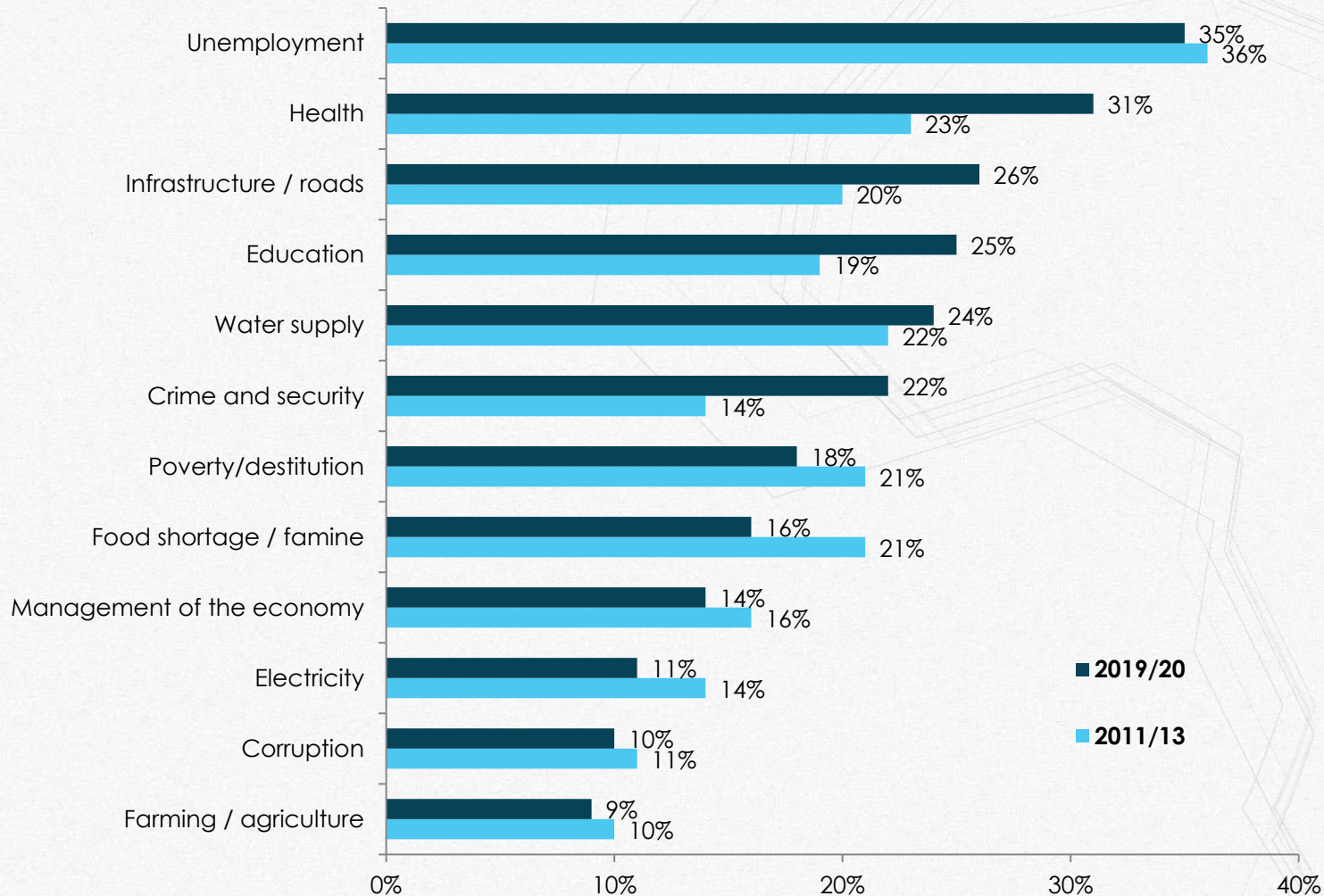


- 1) Citizen priorities and general outlook
- 2) Popular attitudes to democratic governance
- 3) Views on development cooperation
- 4) China and the U.S. in the eyes of Africans



Citizen priorities and general outlook

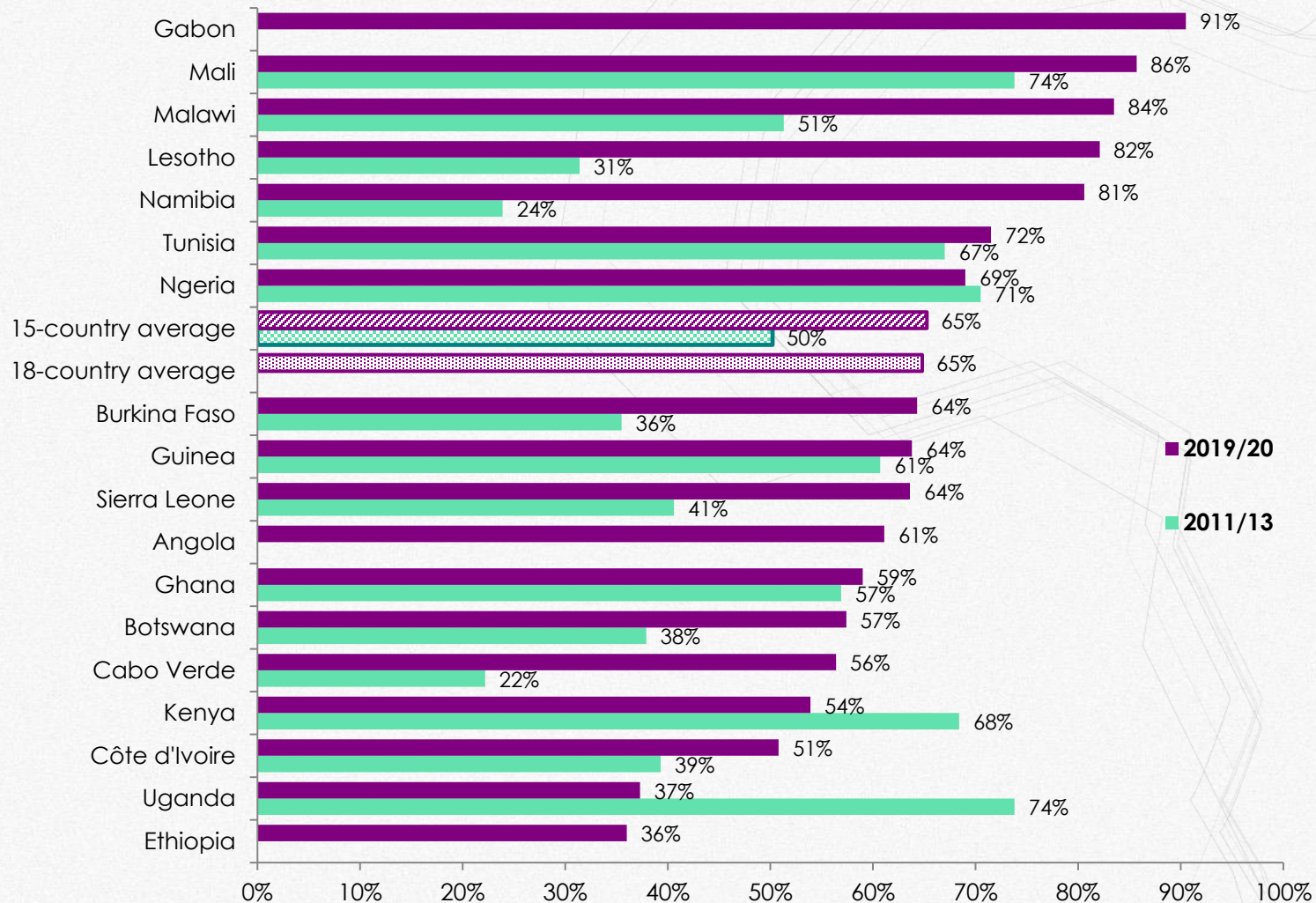
Most important problems | 15 countries | 2011-2020



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?*

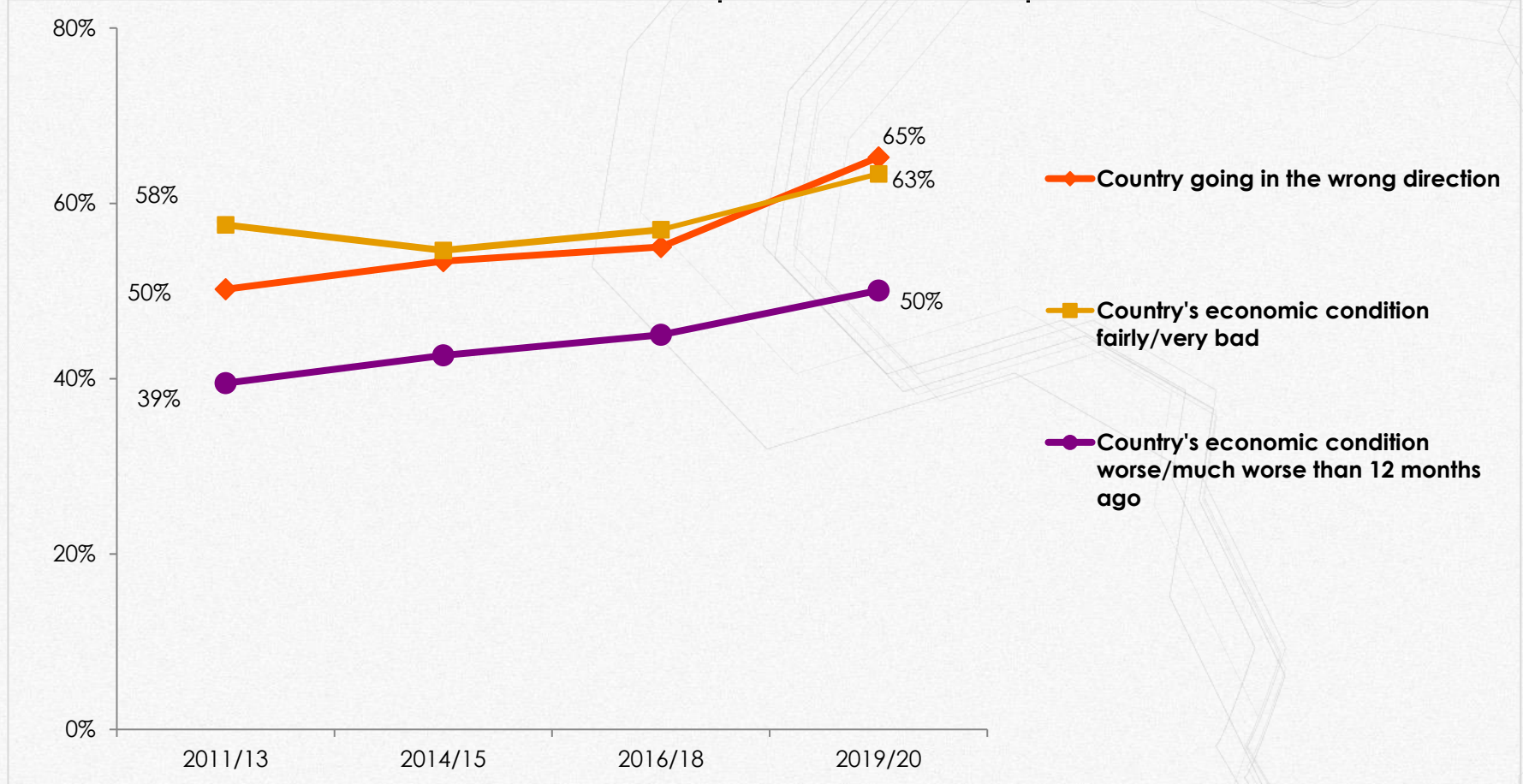
(Respondents could give up to three responses; % of respondents who mention the issue)

Going in the wrong direction | 18 countries | 2011-2020



Respondents were asked: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction? (% saying "wrong direction")

Increasingly negative perceptions of country direction and economic conditions | 15 countries | 2011-2020



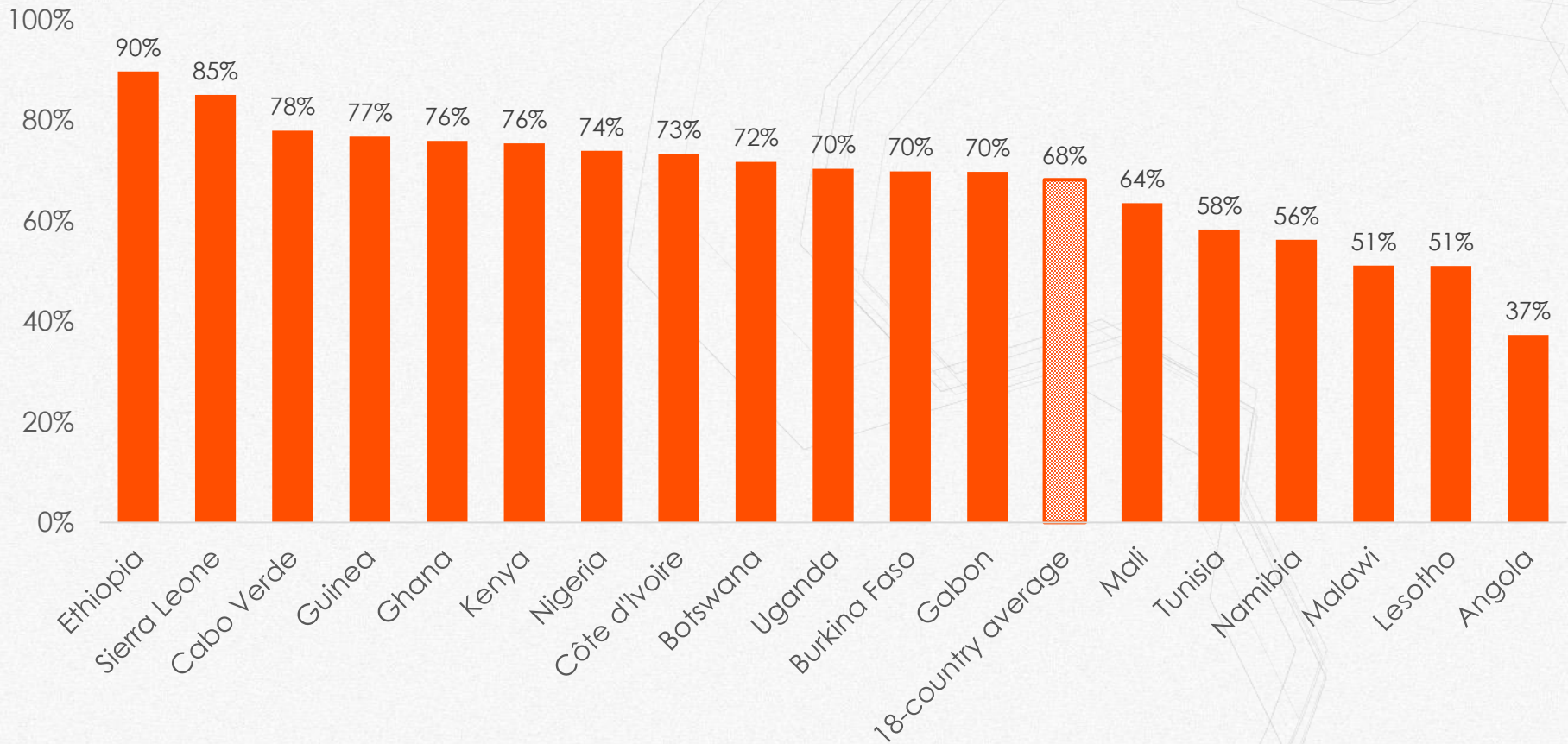
Respondents were asked:

- Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?
- In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country?
- Looking back, how do you rate economic conditions in this country compared to 12 months ago?



Popular attitudes to democratic governance

Support for democracy | 18 countries | 2019/2020



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.

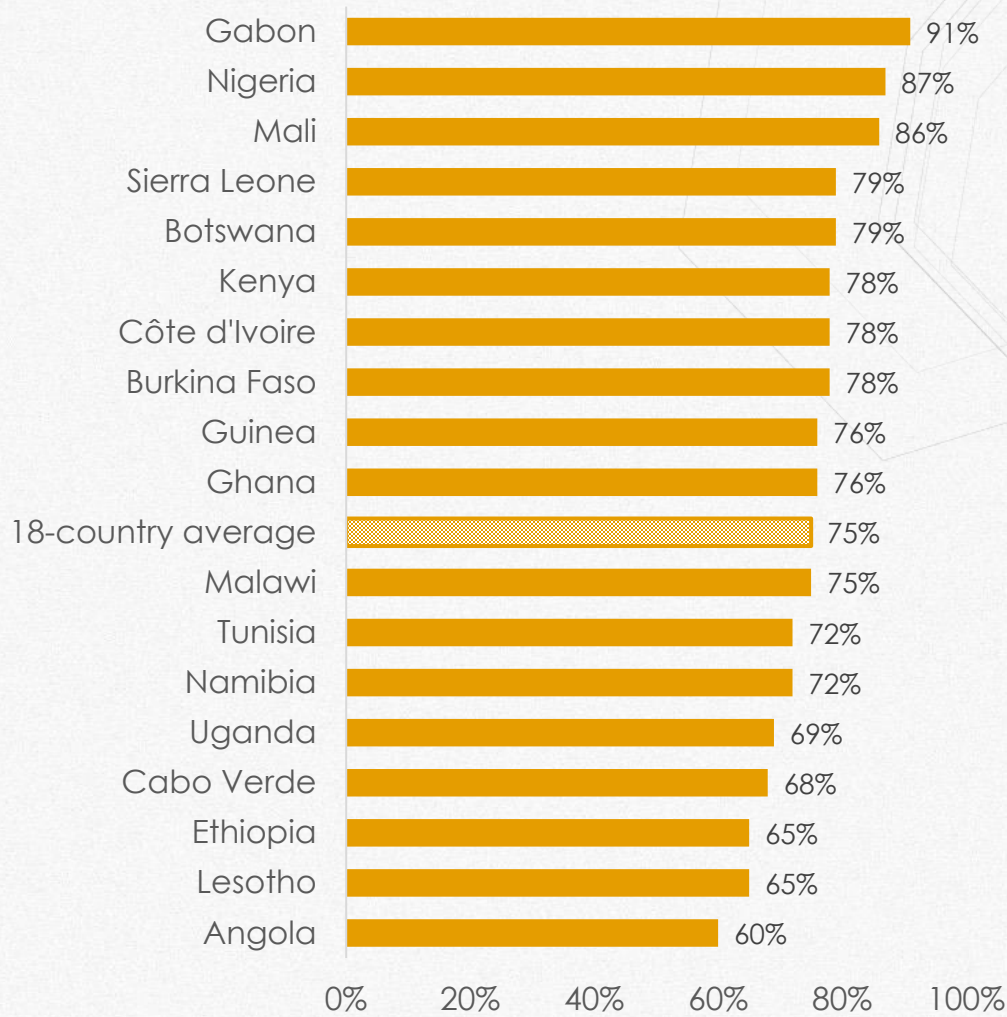
Statement 2: In some circumstances a non-democratic government can be preferable.

Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

(% supporting democracy, Statement 1)

Support for two-term limit for president

18 countries | 2019/2020



Respondents were asked:

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

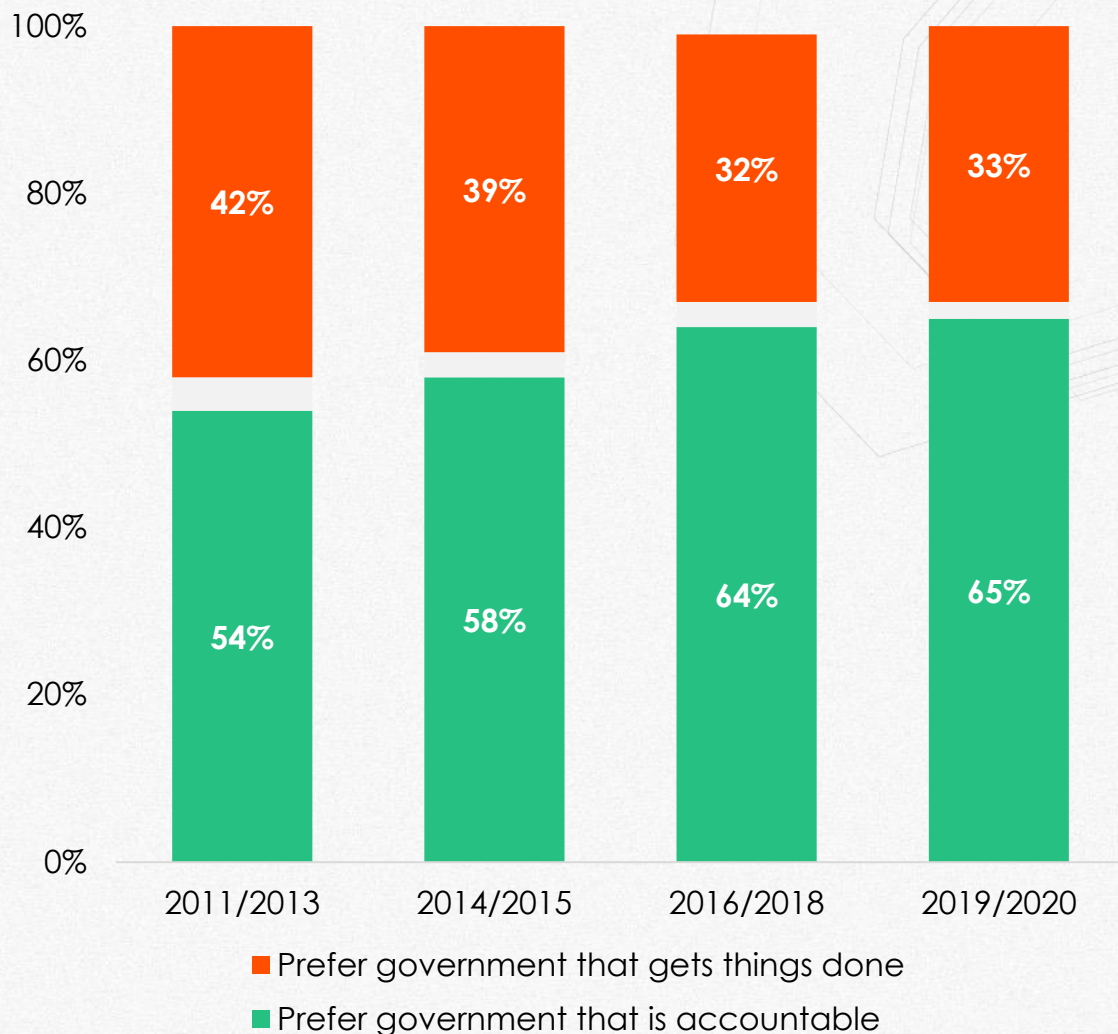
Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.

Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

(% supporting term limits, Statement 1)

Preference for accountability vs. effectiveness

15 countries, 2011-2020



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

Statement 1: It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if we have no influence over what it does.

Statement 2: It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

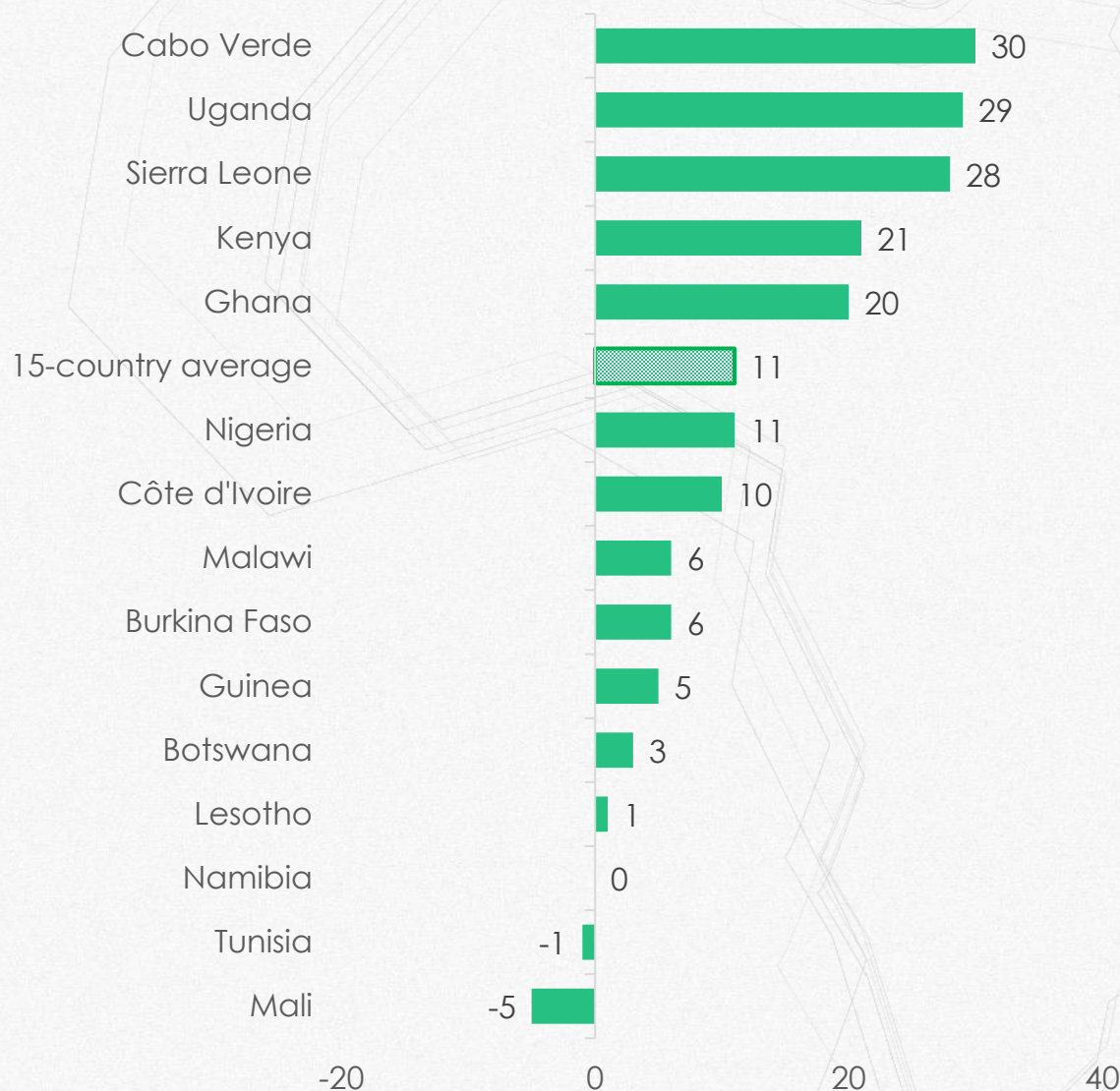
Change in demand for accountable governance

15 countries, 2011-2020

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

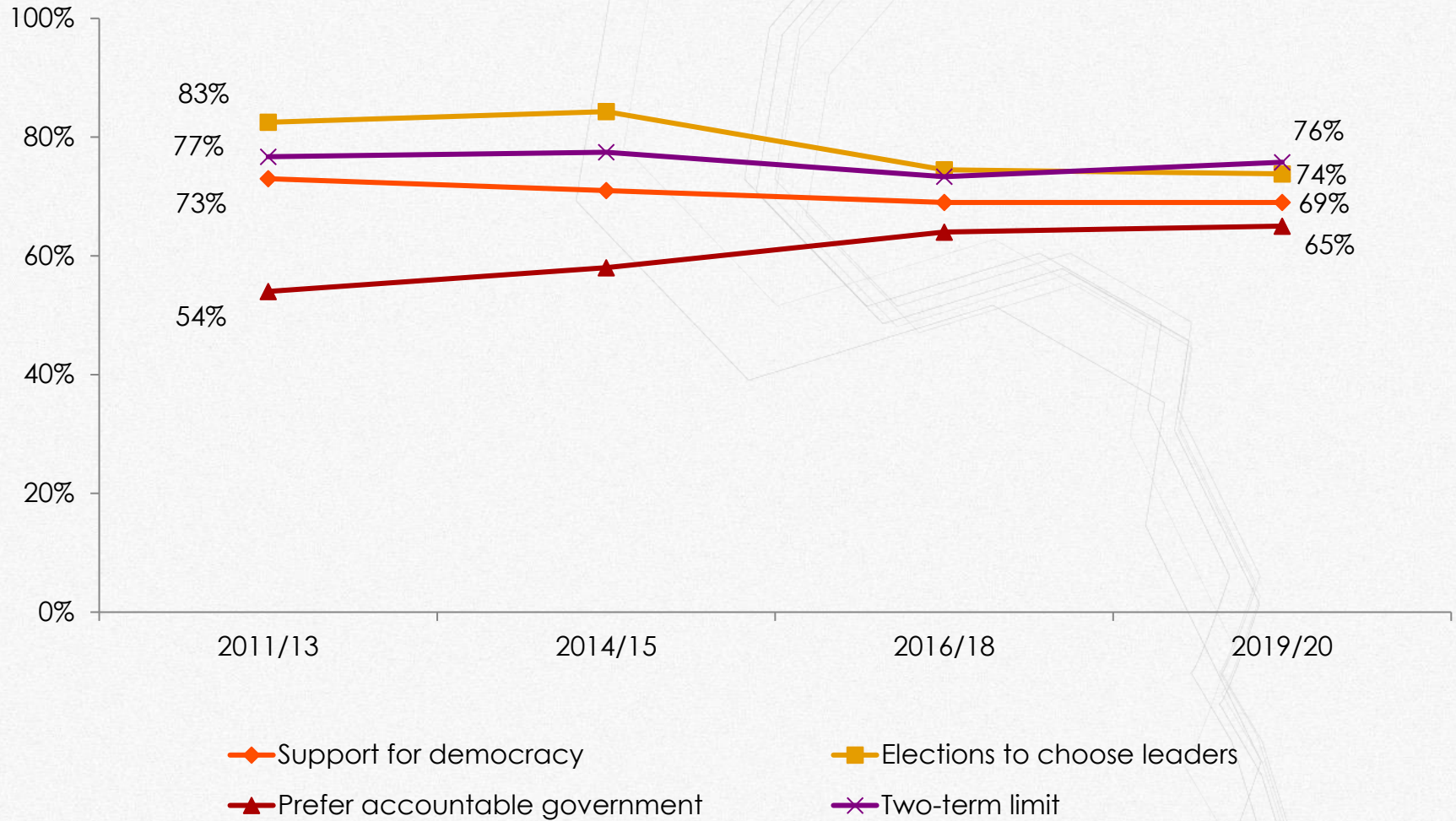
Statement 1: *It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if we have no influence over what it does.*

Statement 2: *It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.*



Support for democracy / democratic institutions

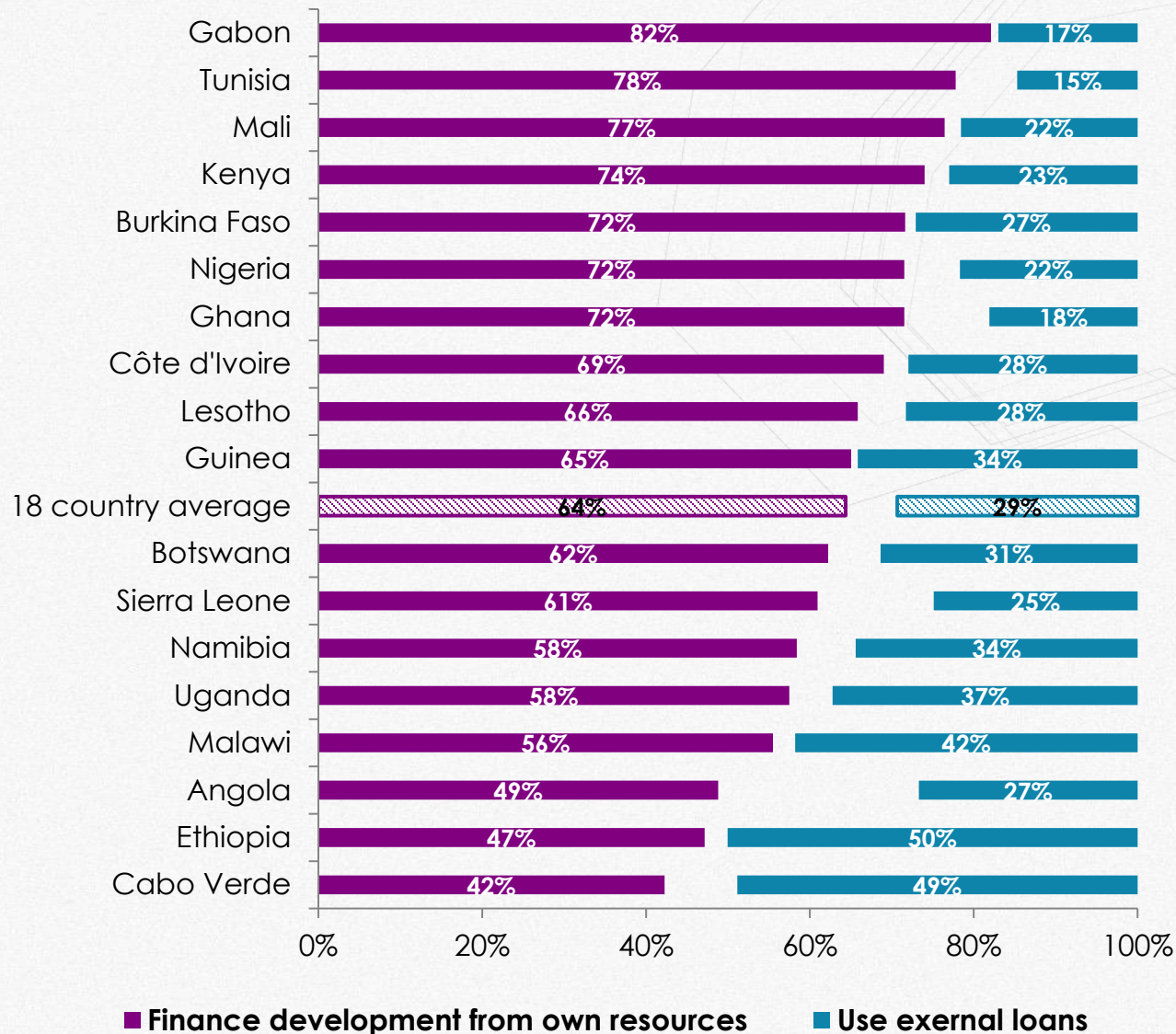
15 countries, 2011-2020





Views on development cooperation

Funding national development | 18 countries | 2019/2020



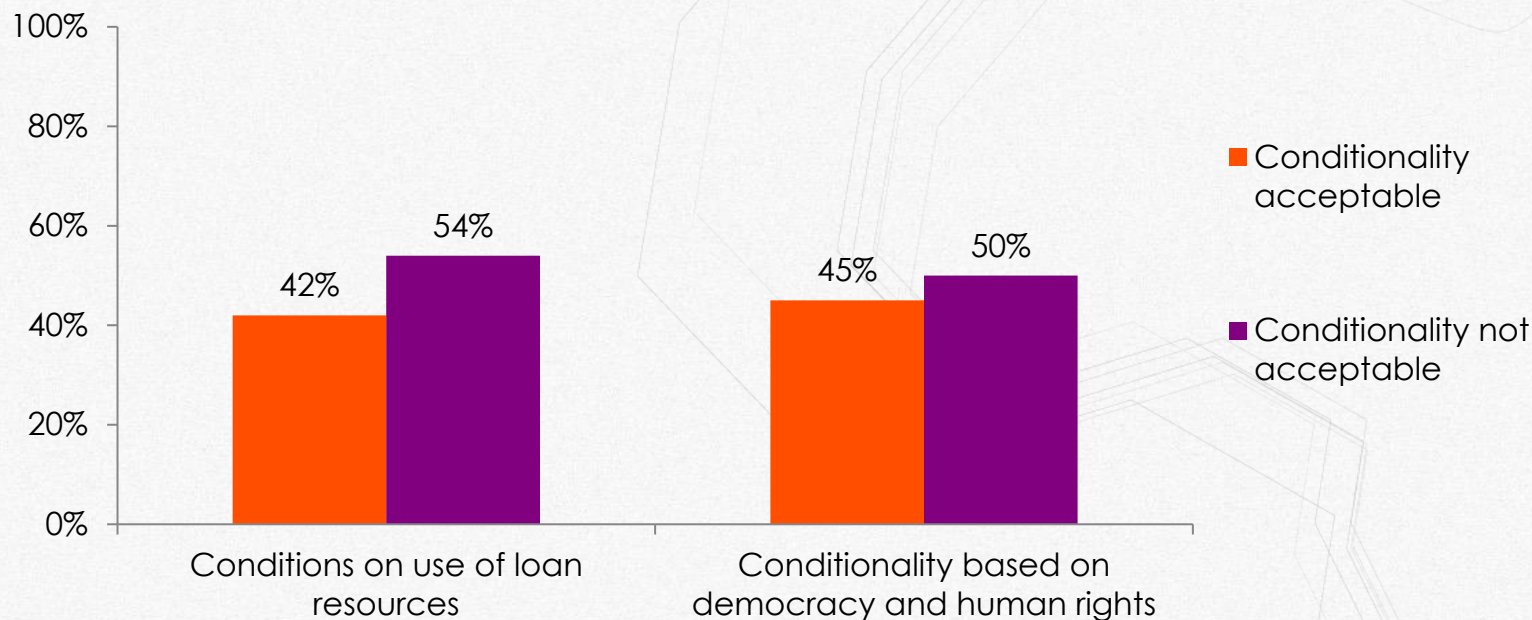
Respondents were asked:
Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: It is important that as an independent nation, we finance development from our own resources, even if it means paying more taxes.

Statement 2: We should use external loans for the development of the country, even if it increases our indebtedness to foreign countries and institutions.

Economic and political loan conditionality

18 countries | 2019/2020



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

Statement 1: When other countries give loans or development assistance to Ghana, they should enforce strict requirements on how the funds are spent.

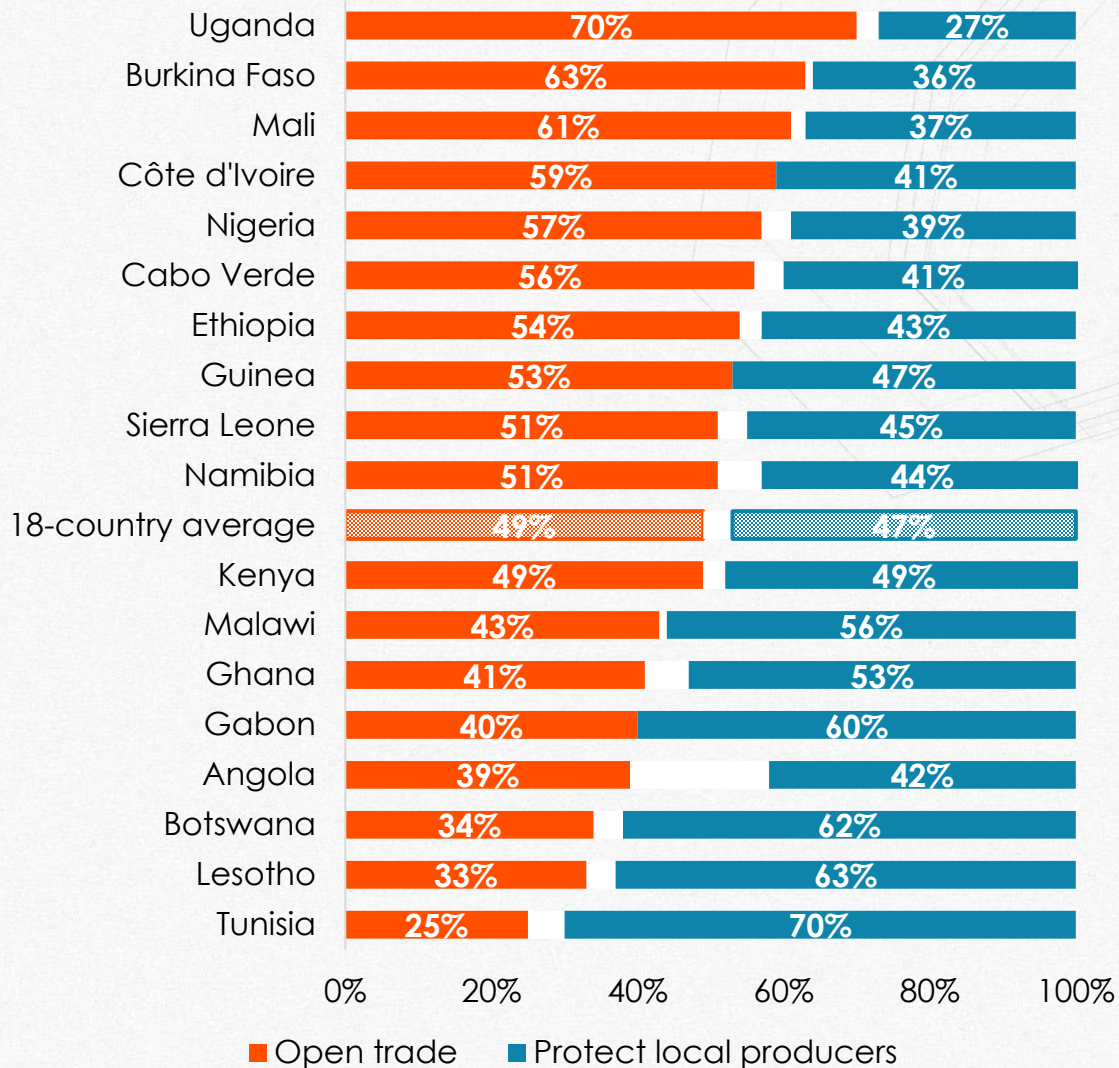
Statement 2: When other countries give Ghana loans or development assistance, they should allow our government to make its own decisions about how to use the resources.

Statement 1: When other countries give loans or development assistance to [country], they should enforce strict requirements to make sure our government promotes democracy and respects human rights.

Statement 2: Even if other countries give [country] loans or development assistance, our government should make its own decisions about democracy and human rights

Open trade vs. protection of local producers

18 countries | 2019/2020



Respondents were asked:

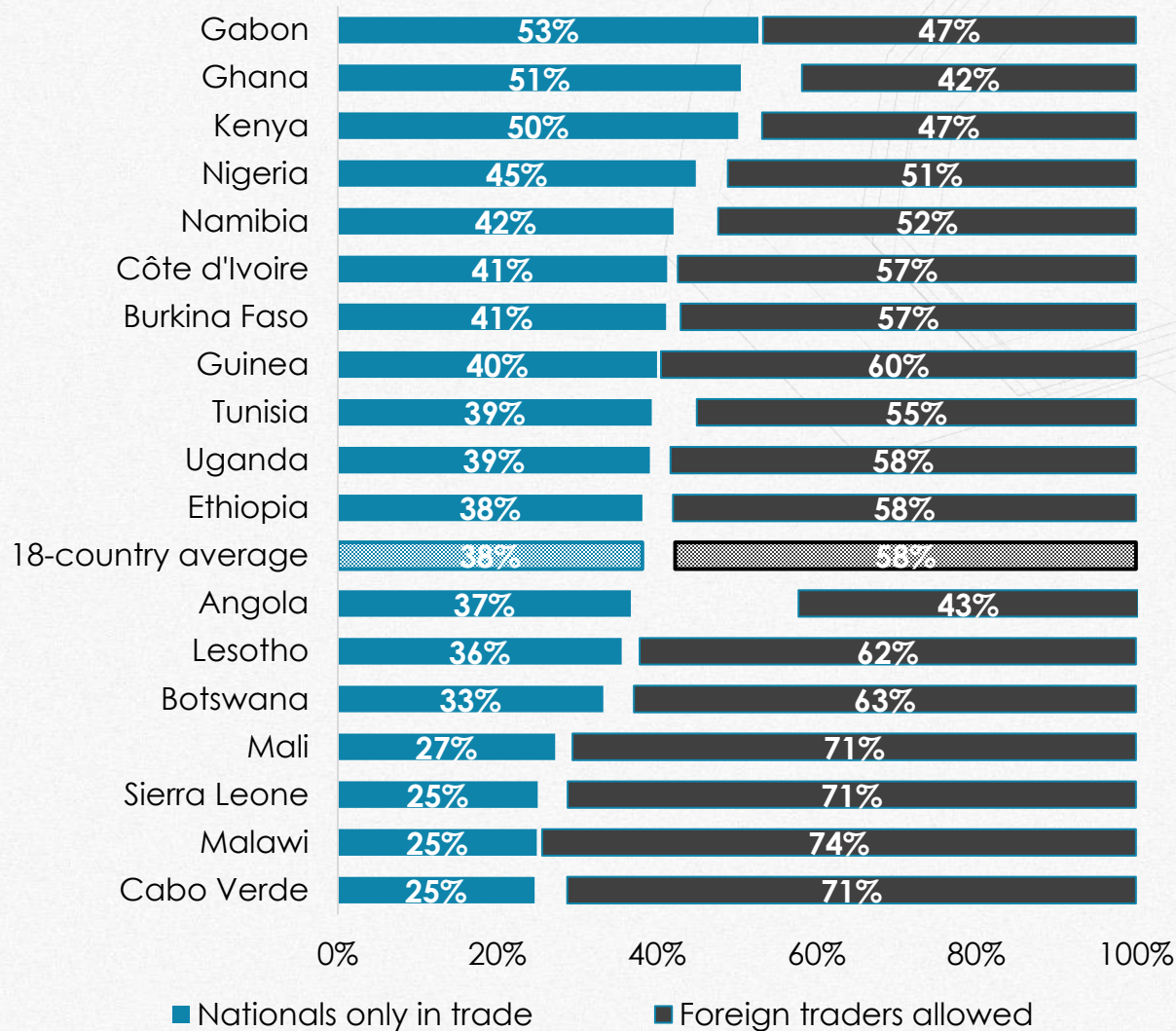
Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: In order to develop, our country must rely on trade with the rest of the world, including by opening our borders to foreign imports.

Statement 2: In order to develop, our country must rely on local production and protect local producers from foreign competition..

Open trade vs. protection of local producers

18 countries | 2019/2020



Respondents were asked:

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

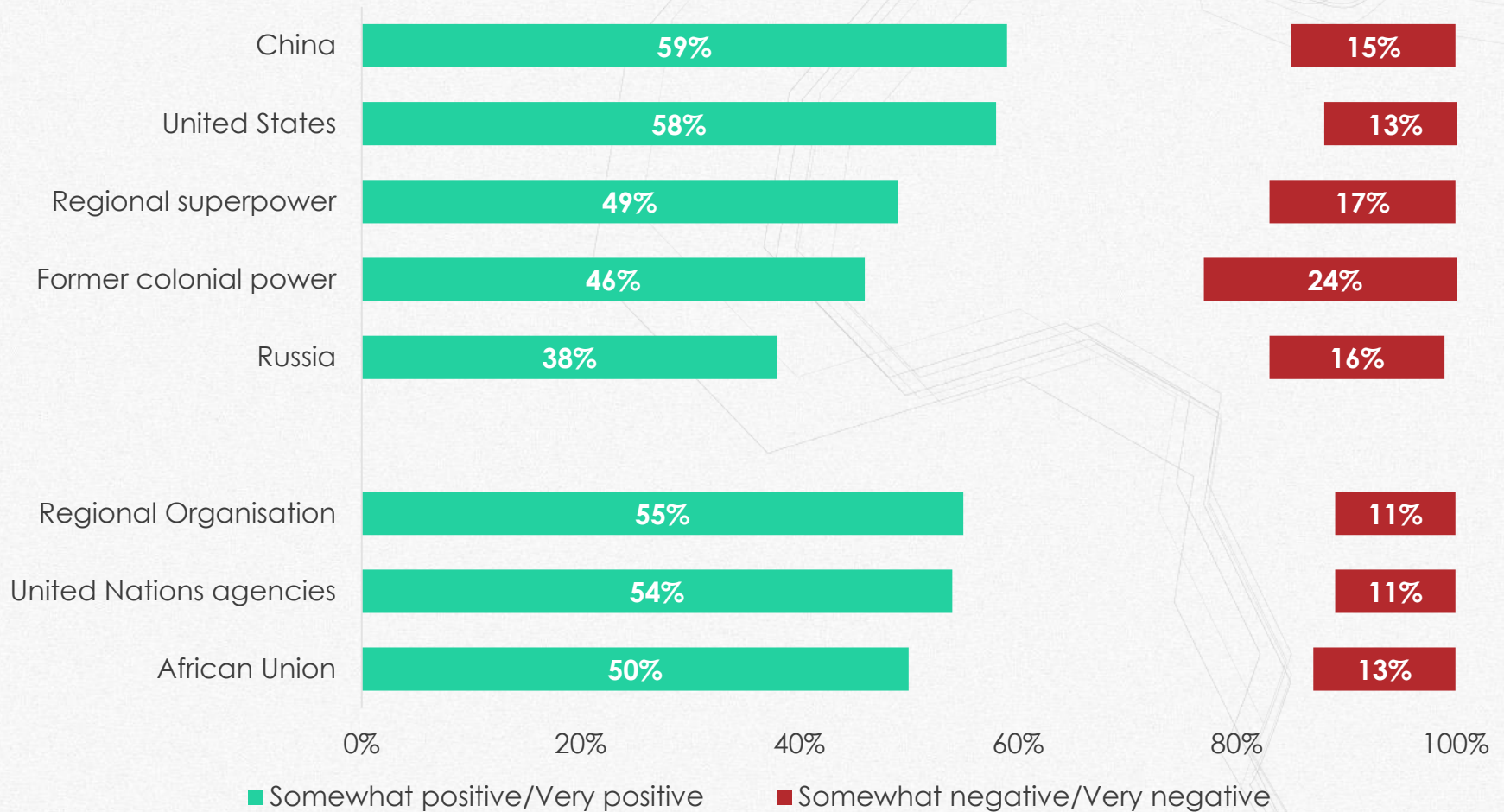
Statement 1: The government should only allow citizens and companies of our own country to trade in consumer goods, even if this means we will have fewer goods or higher prices.

Statement 2: The government should continue to permit foreigners and foreign corporations to set up retail shops in this country to ensure we have a wide choice of low-cost consumer goods.



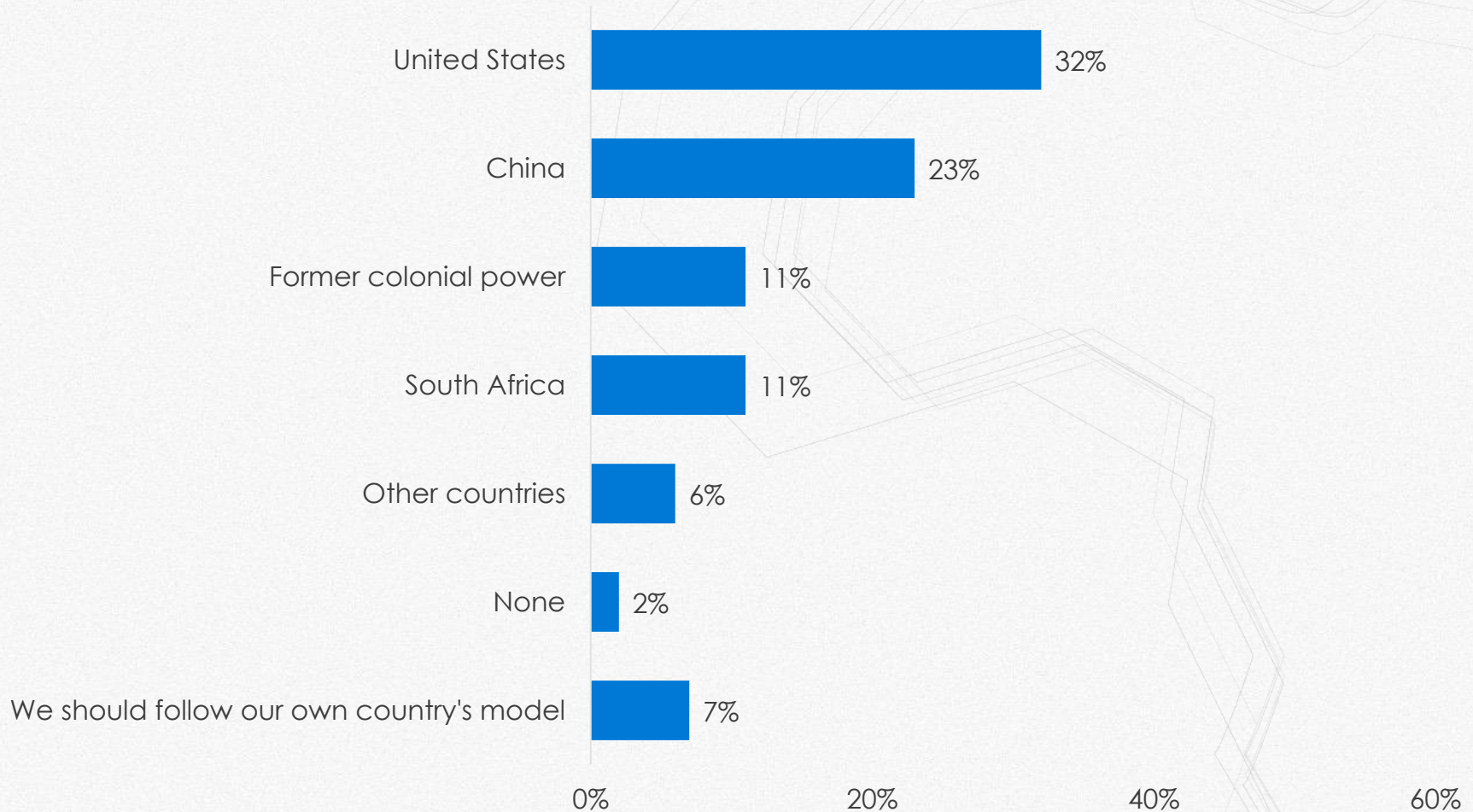
China and the U.S. in the eyes of Africans

Rating external influencers | 18 countries | 2019/2020



Respondents were asked: In general, do you think that the economic and political influence of each of the following organizations/countries on [this country] is mostly positive, mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say?

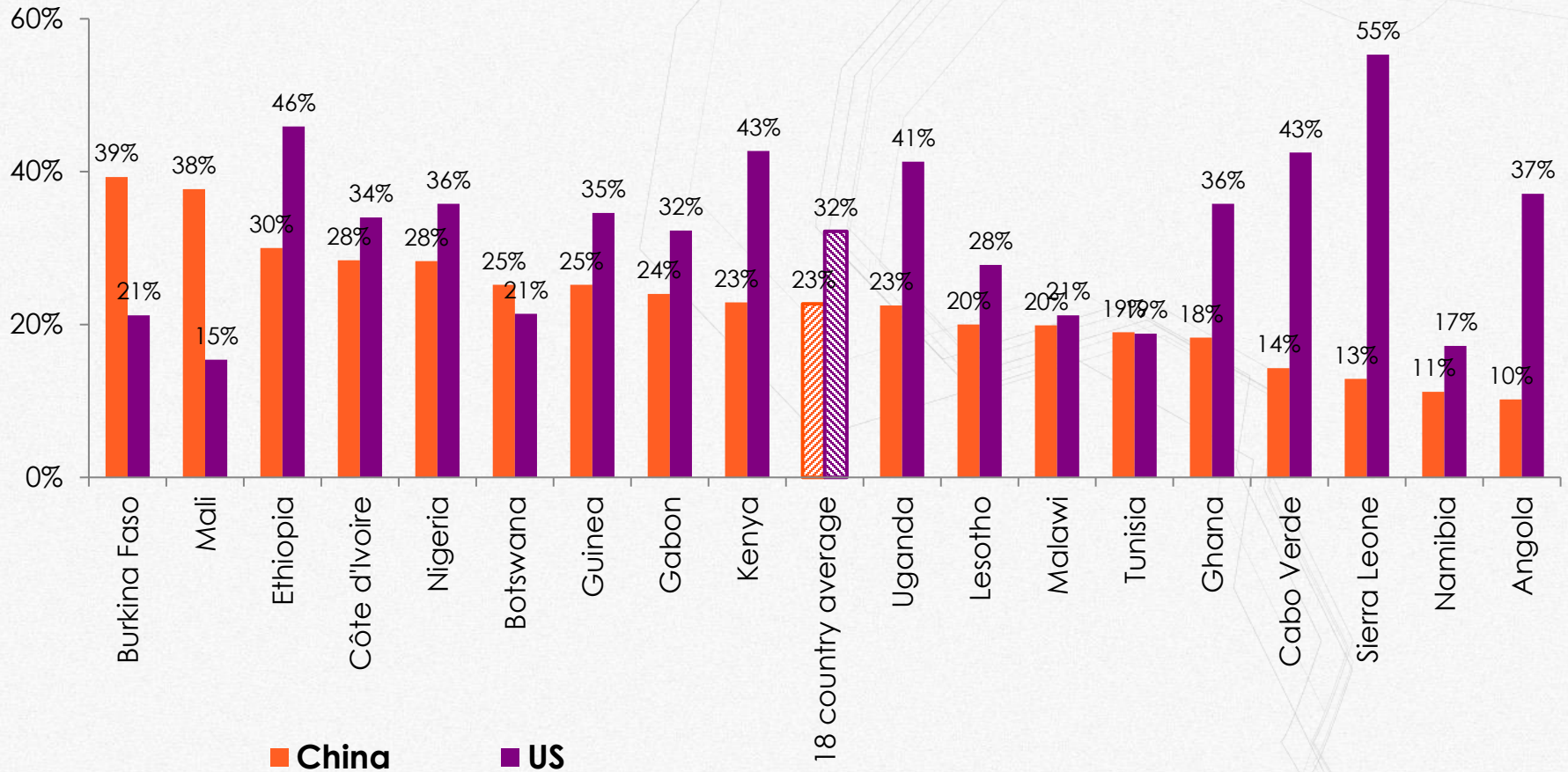
Best model for development | 18 countries | 2019/2020



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country, or is there some other country in Africa or elsewhere, that should be our model?*

Best model for development: China vs. U.S.

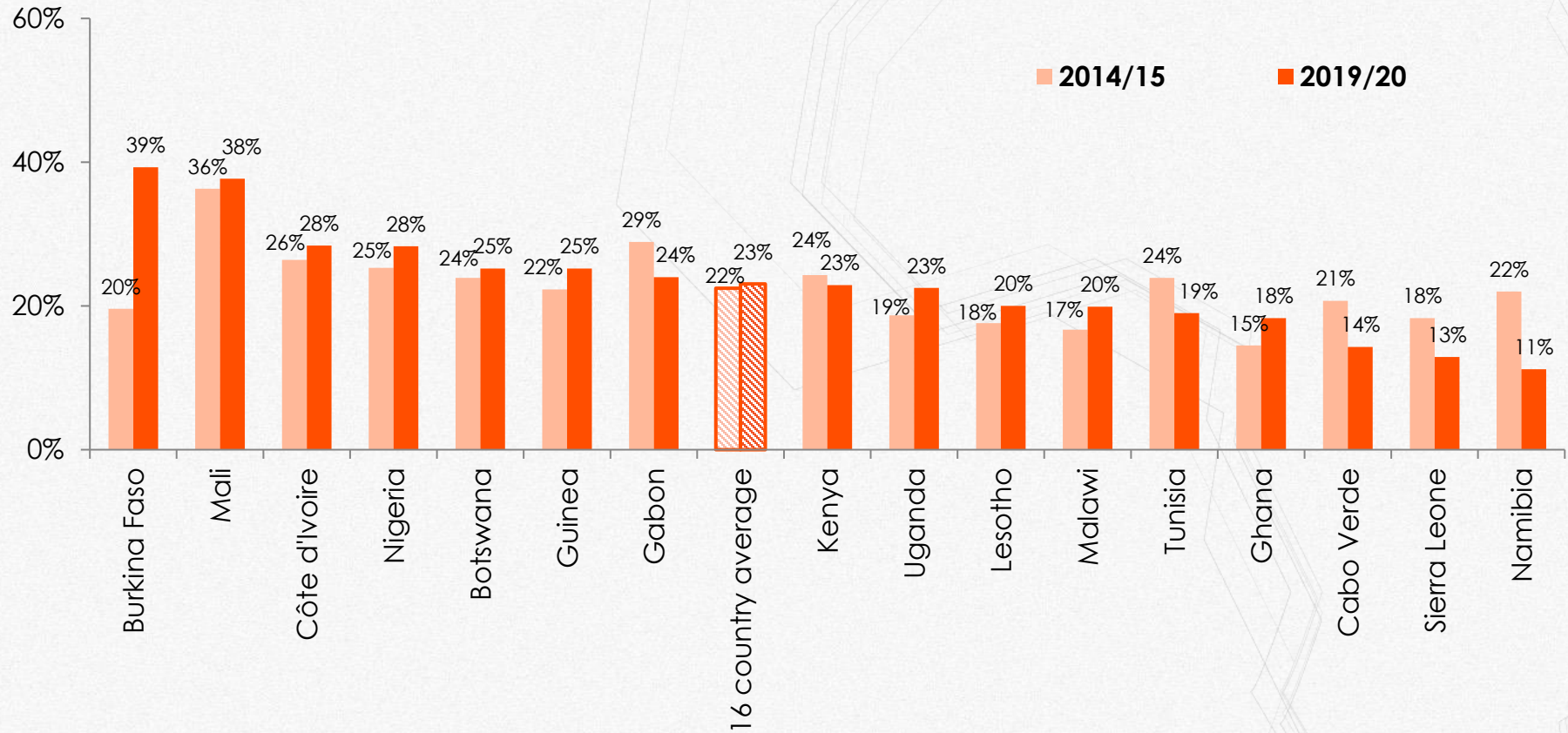
18 countries | 2019/2020



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country, or is there some other country in Africa or elsewhere, that should be our model?

China as best model for development

16 countries | 2014-2020

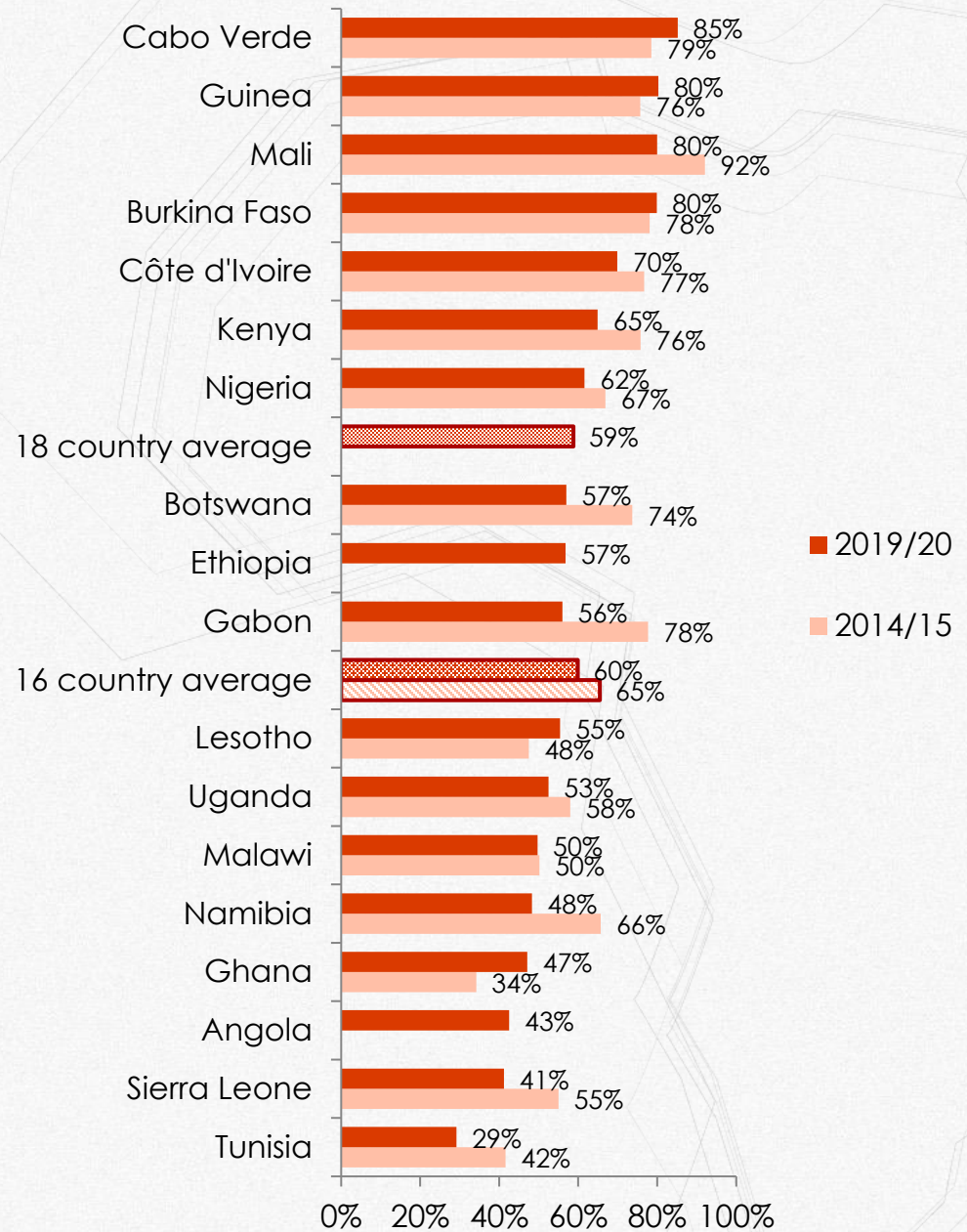


Respondents were asked: In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country, or is there some other country in Africa or elsewhere, that should be our model?

Perceived positive influence of China

18 countries | 2014-2020

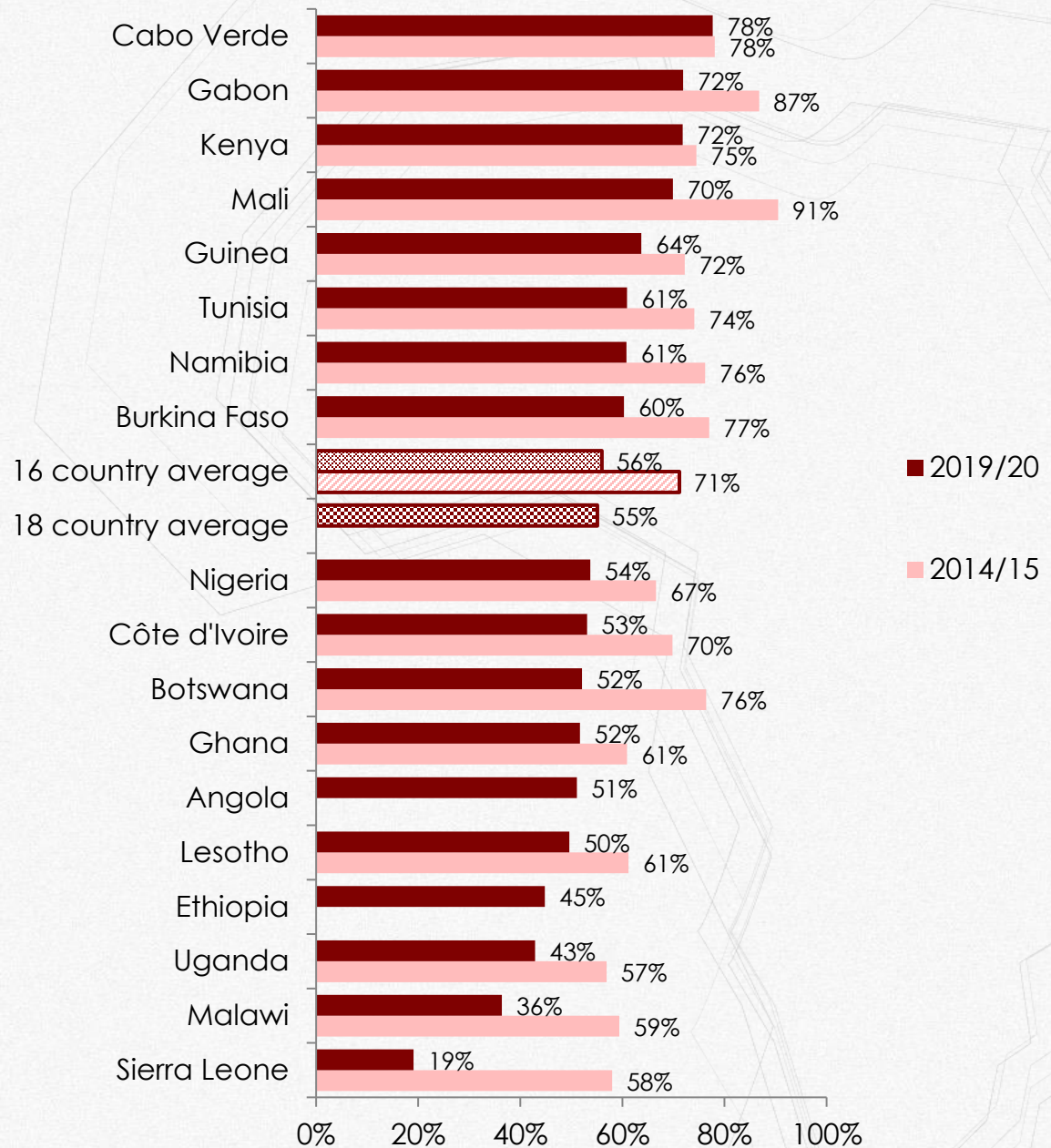
Respondents were asked: Do you think that the economic and political influence of each of the following countries on [country] is mostly positive, mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say? China (% who say "somewhat positive" or "very positive")



Extent of China's Influence

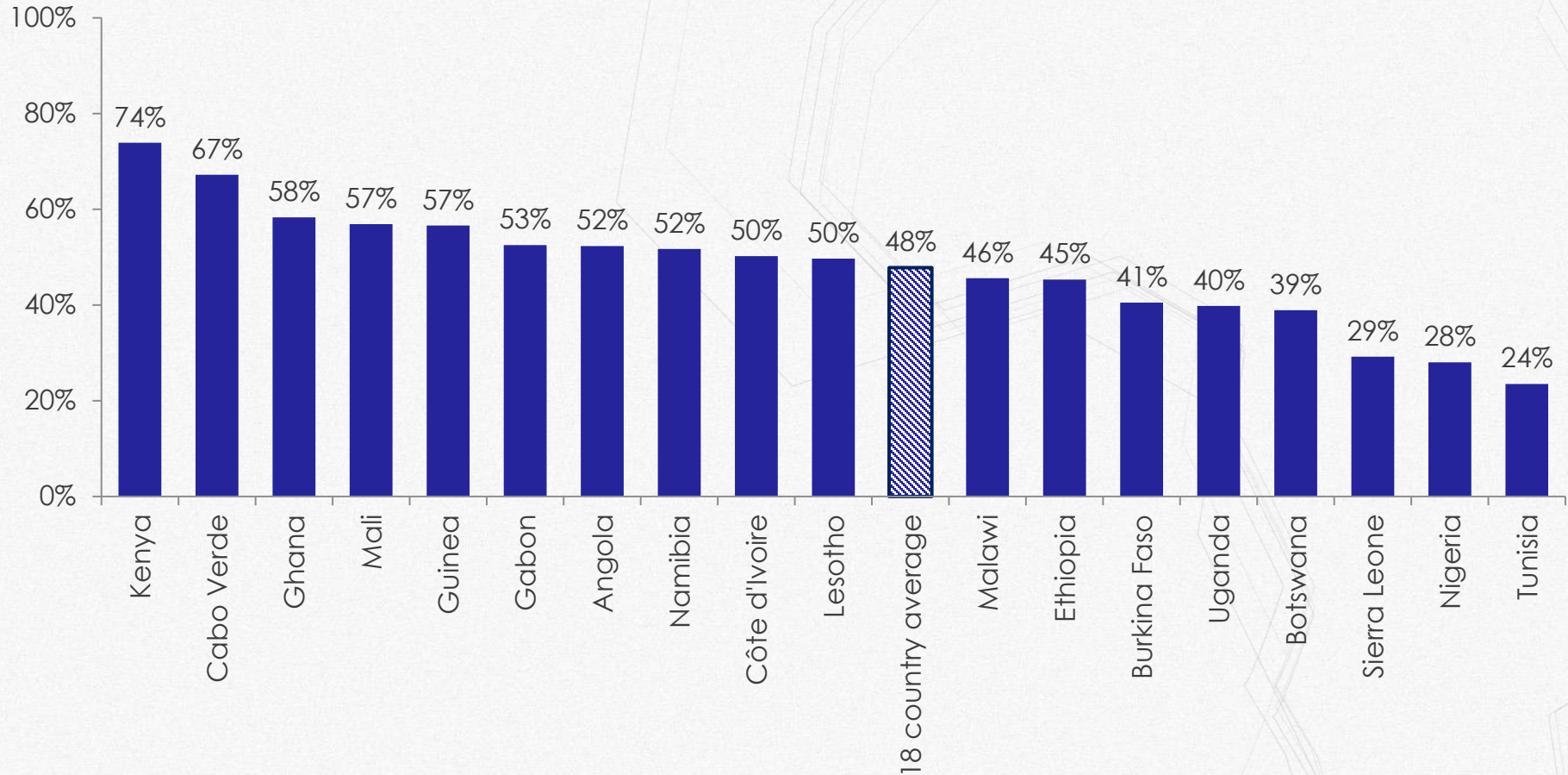
18 countries | 2014-2020

Respondents were asked: How much influence do you think China's economic activities in [country] have on our economy, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "a lot" or "some")



Heard of Chinese loans/development assistance

18 countries | 2019/2020



Respondents were asked: To your knowledge, does China give loans or development assistance to our country's government, or haven't you had a chance to hear about this?

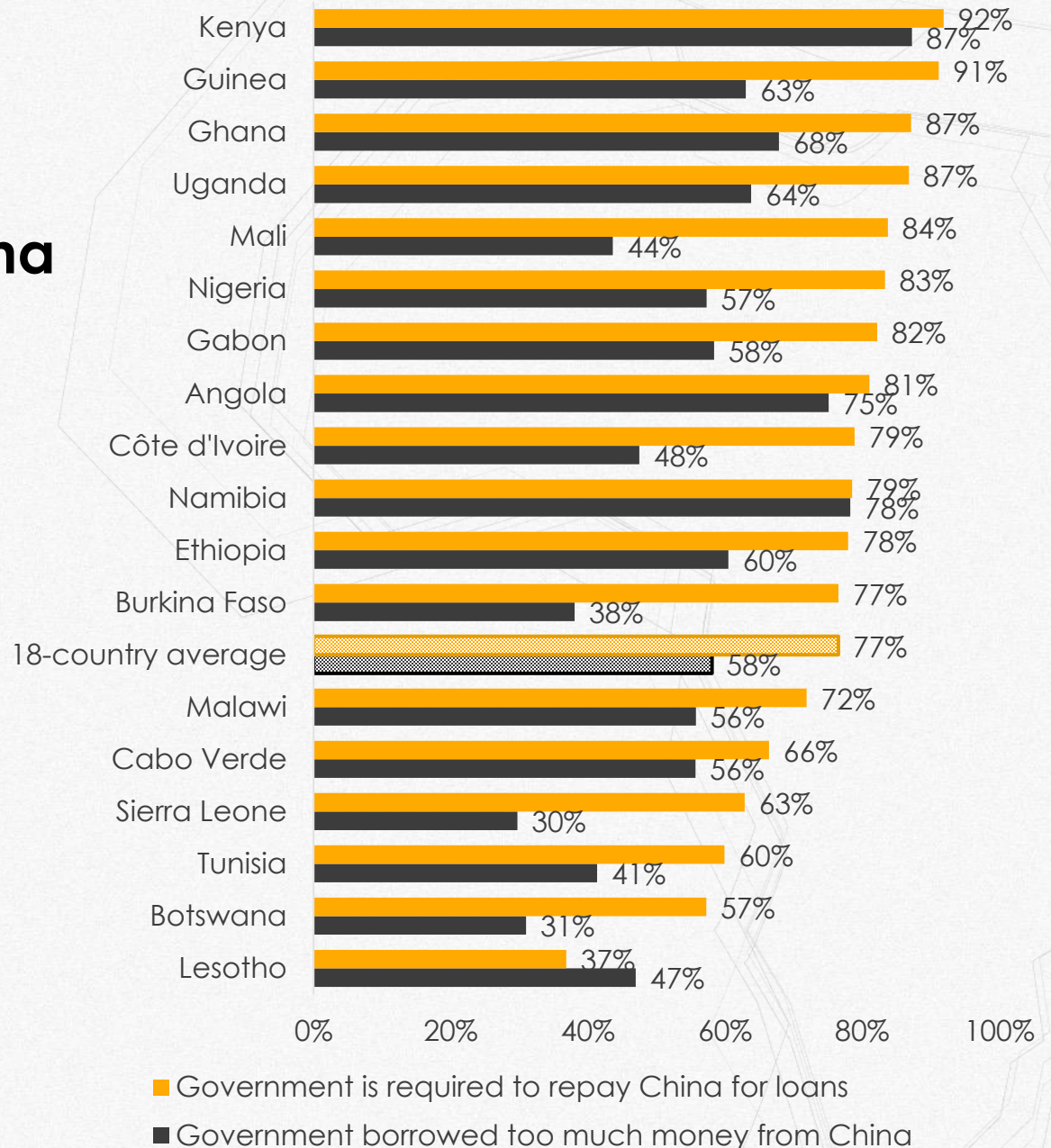
Views on loans/development assistance from China

18 countries
| 2019/2020

Respondents who said they are aware of Chinese loans or development assistance, were asked:

- Do you think that our government is required to repay China for the loans and development assistance it provides to [our country]?

- Do you think our government has borrowed too much money from China?

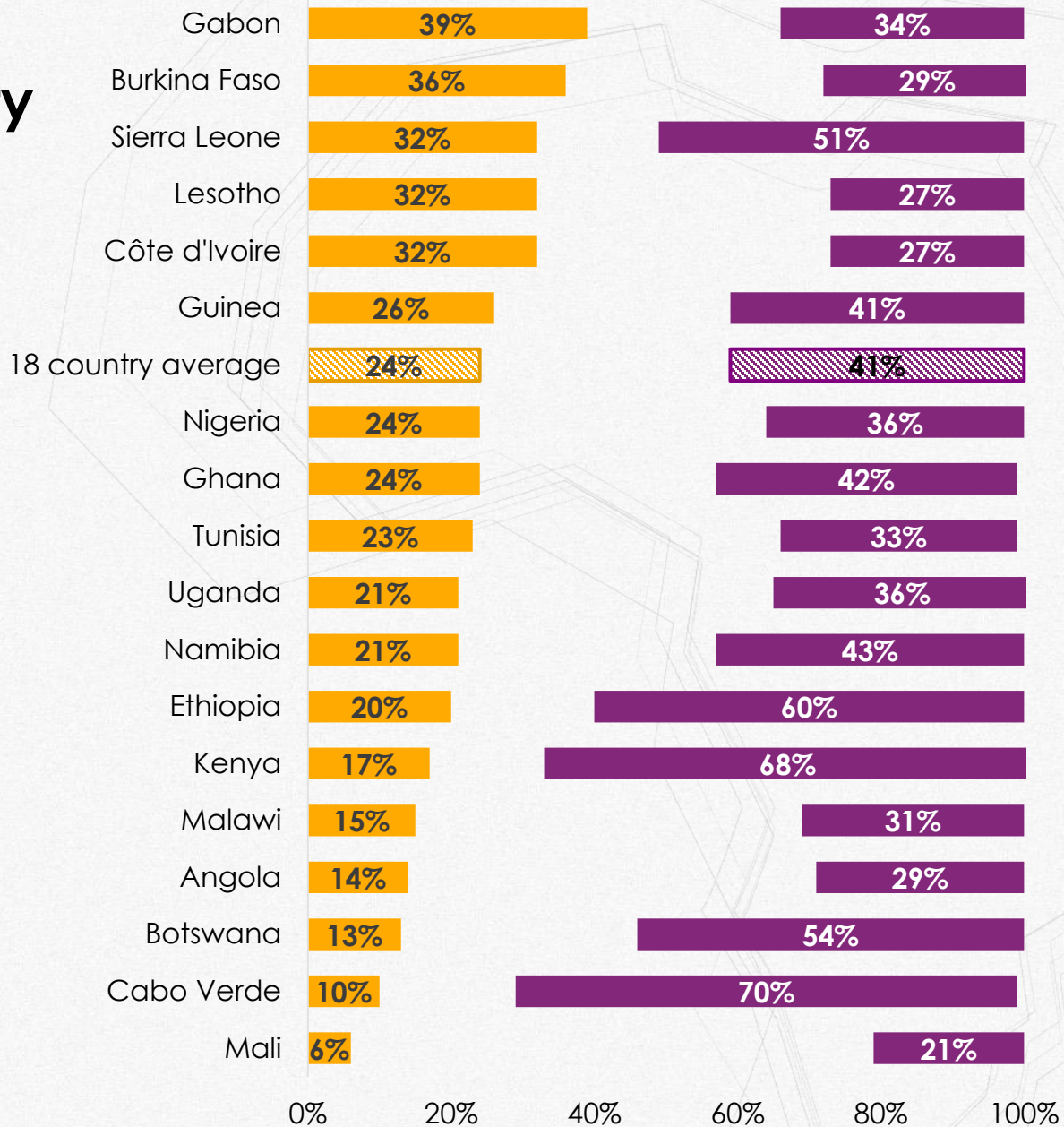


China's conditionality compared to other countries

18 countries
2019/2020

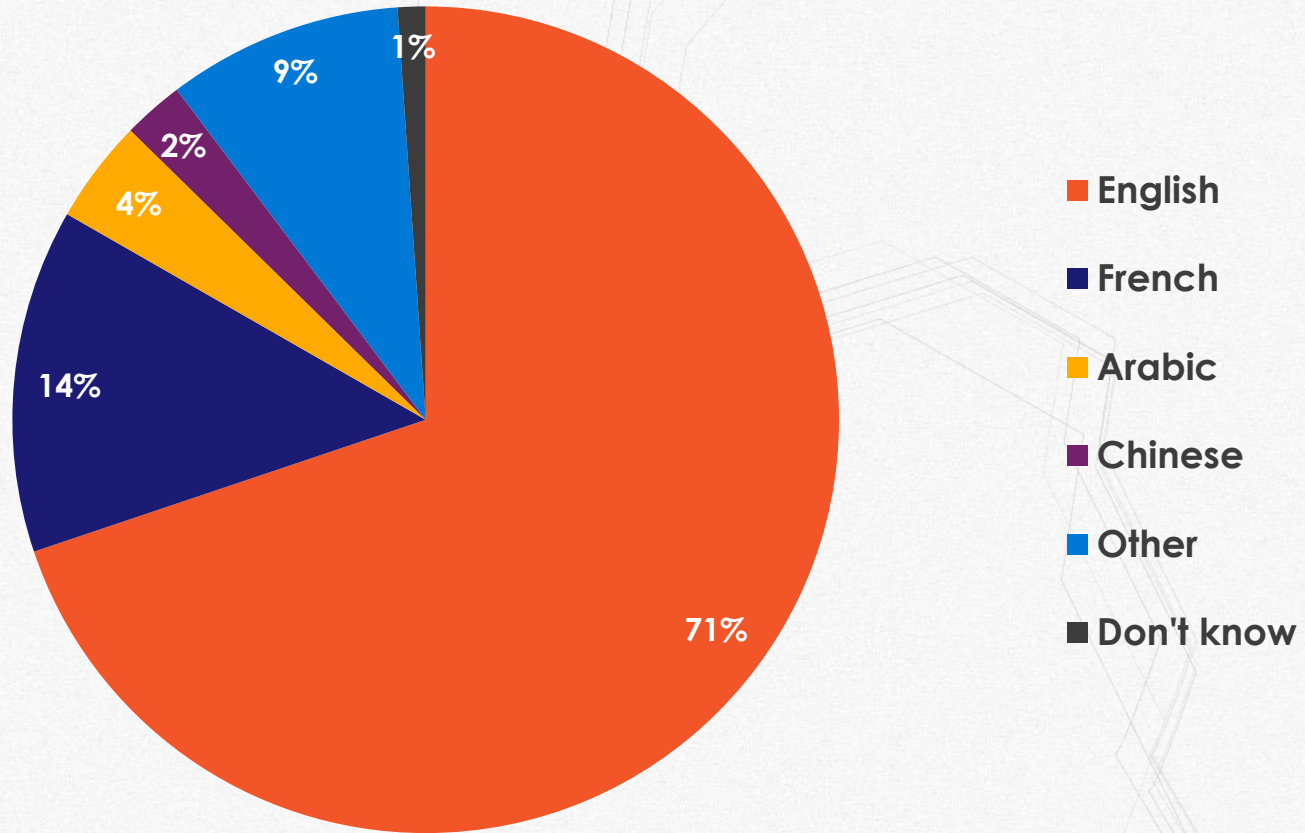
Respondents who said they are aware of Chinese loans or development assistance, were asked:

When the government of China gives loans or development assistance to [our country], do you think they put more requirements or fewer requirements on our government compared to other donor countries, or haven't you heard enough to say?



Best international language for children to learn

18 countries | 2019/2020



Respondents were asked: In thinking about the future of the next generation in our country, which of these international languages, if any, do you think is most important for young people to learn?

Thank you



If Africa had 100 citizens...

17 facts you didn't know about Africans – in 2 minutes.

[Click here to watch.](#)



About Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in more than 35 countries in Africa.



Spotlight

Save Afrobarometer

Former high-level State Dept officials urge continued funding for "a major success story of democratic and developmental institution building..."

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.