

Lobito-Benguela, Angola
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News release

Majority of Angolans see risk of retaliation if they report corruption, Afrobarometer survey shows

Despite appeals by the president and attorney general to join the national crusade against corruption, a majority of Angolans believe that reporting corruption cases carries risks of retaliation or other negative consequences, according to Afrobarometer's first survey in the country.

Survey findings show that Angolans are divided in their views on other aspects of the fight against corruption, including whether corruption levels have increased or decreased, whether President João Lourenço is using the issue to get rid of political opponents, and whether corruption charges stemming from before 2017 should be dropped to promote the country's political stability. But a majority agree that the government should recover all assets acquired by corrupt means.

Overall, a majority of Angolans say the government is doing a poor job of fighting corruption. Among key state institutions, the police are most widely seen as corrupt.

Key findings

- Angolans hold mixed perceptions of the trend in corruption levels in their country: 44% say it decreased "somewhat" or "a lot" over the past year, while 33% say it increased and 14% say it stayed the same (Figure 1).
- More than half of Angolans (55%) say people risk retaliation or other adverse consequences if they report corruption incidents to the authorities (Figure 2).
 - Respondents with higher education (72%) and urban residents (60%) are more likely to see a risk of retaliation, as are residents of Luanda province (66%), Eastern region (66%), and Cabinda (65%).
- Angolans are divided in their views on the fight against corruption (Figure 3):
 - Four in 10 respondents (39%) "agree" or "strongly agree" that the president is using the fight against corruption as an instrument to remove political opponents. But almost as many disagree (31%), and 30% choose neither side of the issue.
 - Only three out of 10 citizens (30%) agree that to guarantee political stability, the government must forgive all Angolans involved in corruption cases before 2017.
 - A majority (58%) "agree" or "strongly agree" that the government should recover all assets acquired through corrupt means, though more than four in 10 either disagree (20%) or don't take sides.
- Four in 10 respondents (39%) say "most" or "all" police officials are corrupt, in addition to 30% who say "some" of them are. Provincial and municipal government officials and civil servants fare only slightly better, while the Presidency ranks as least corrupt among key state institutions (Figure 4).

- Only one-third (32%) of Angolans say the government is doing a “fairly” or “very” good job of fighting corruption. A majority (54%) rate its performance as “fairly” or “very” bad (Figure 5).

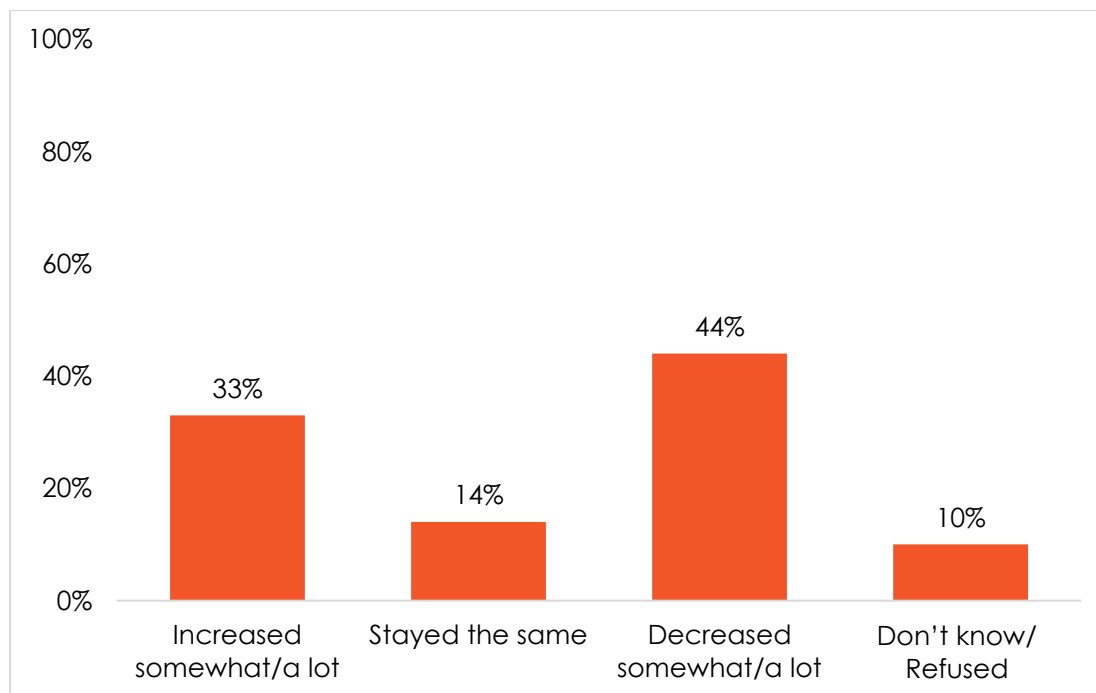
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys are planned in at least 35 countries in 2019/2020. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

In Afrobarometer's first survey in Angola, Ovilingwa – Estudos de Opinião Pública interviewed 2,400 adult Angolans between 27 November and 27 December 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

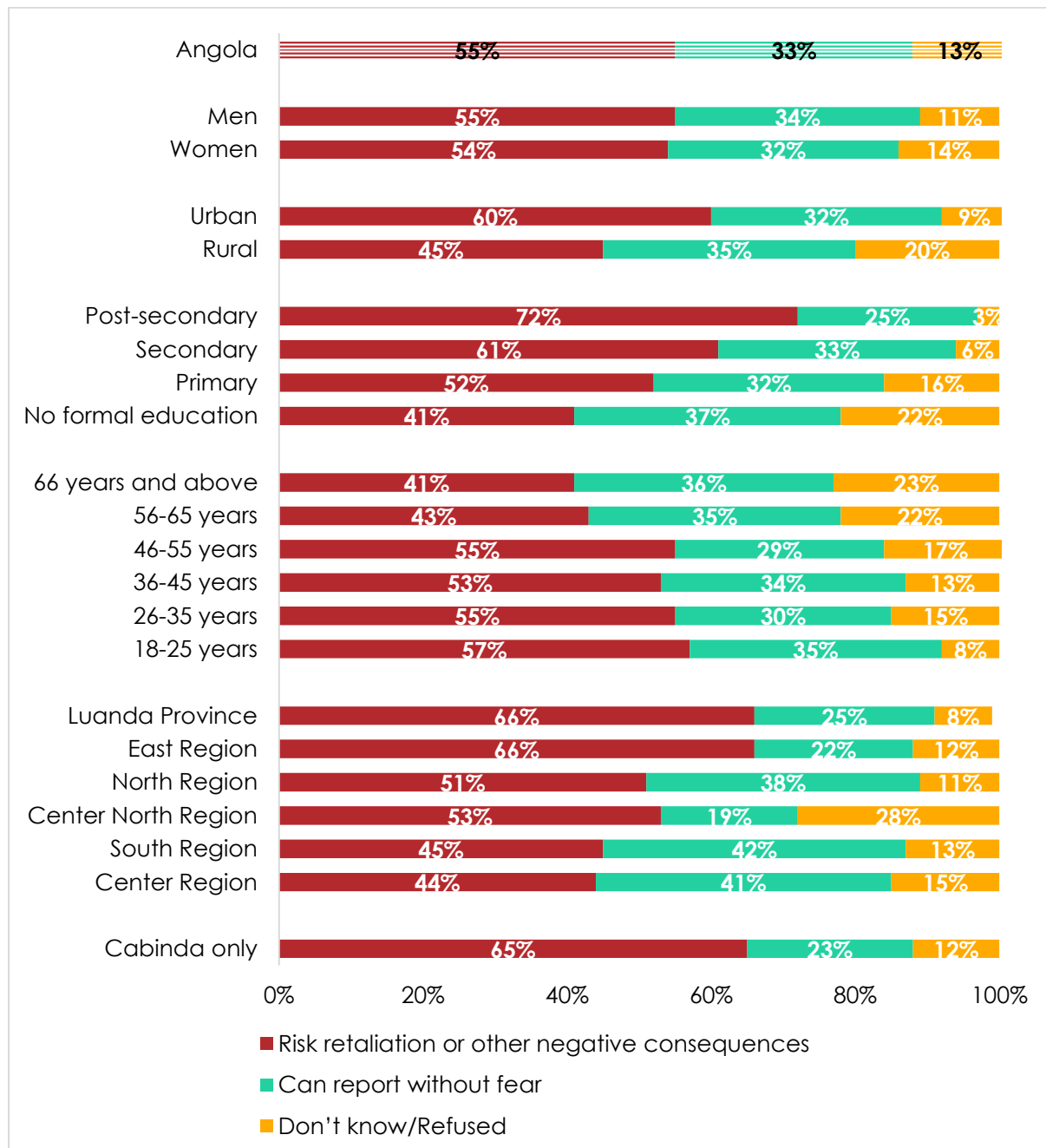
Charts

Figure 1: Level of corruption in the country | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?*

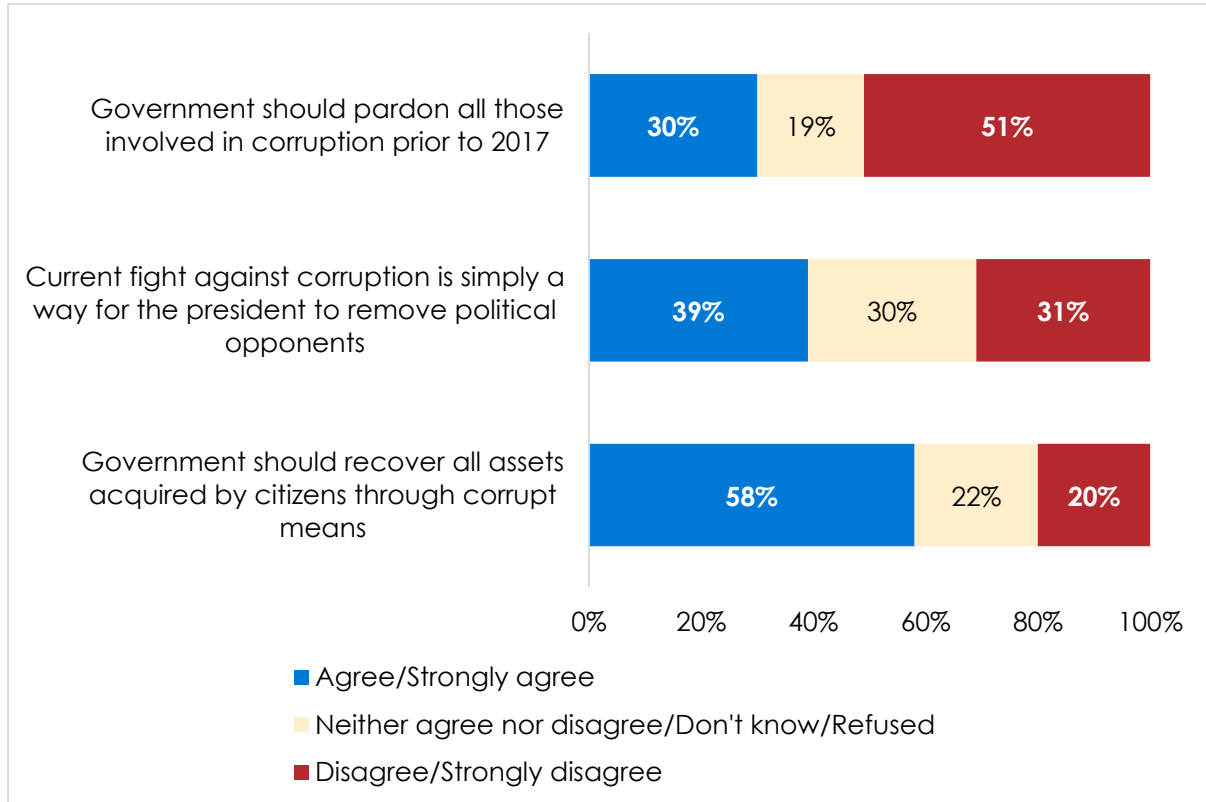
Figure 2: Can people report incidents of corruption without fear? | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2019¹



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?*

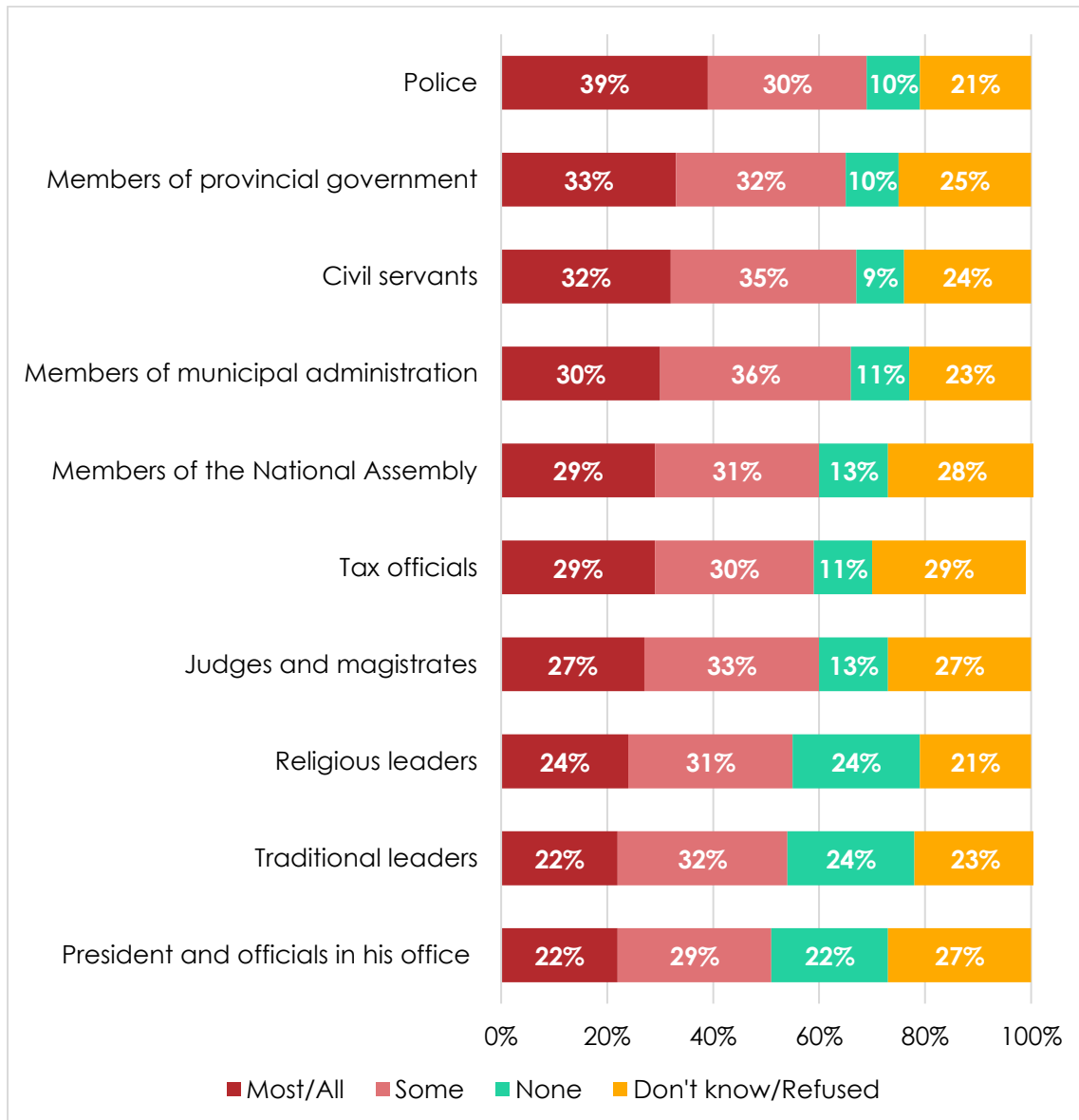
¹ In accordance with National Statistics Institute classifications, regions include the following provinces: North (Cabinda, Uíge, Zaire), Center North (Bengo, Cuanza Norte, Malange), Luanda, Center (Benguela, Bié, Cuanza Sul, Huambo), East (Cuando Cubango, Lunda Sul, Lunda Norte, Moxico), and South (Cunene, Huíla, Namibe). Results for Cabinda province, which are included in the North region average, are also shown separately.

Figure 3: Views on the fight against corruption | Angola | 2019



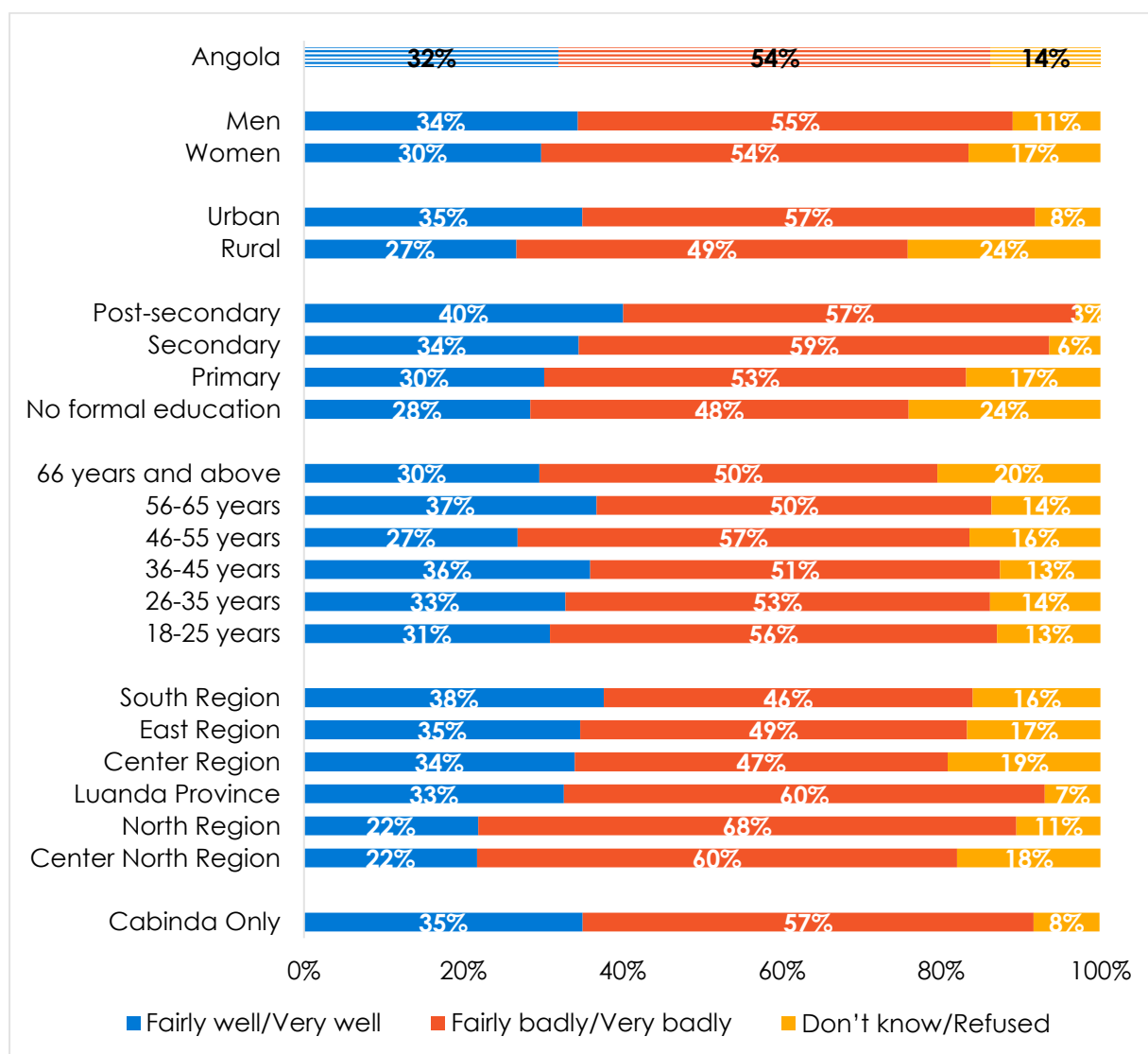
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you disagree or agree with the following statements:
 To ensure political stability, the government should pardon all those involved in corruption prior to 2017.
 The government should recover all assets acquired by citizens through corrupt means.
 The present fight against corruption is simply a way for the country's president to remove political opponents.

Figure 4: Who is involved in corruption | Angola | 2019



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?

Figure 5: Government performance in fighting corruption | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2019



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: Fighting corruption in government?

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