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News release

Half of Africans went without enough food during the past year, Afrobarometer survey shows

About half of Africans say they experienced food shortages at least once during the previous year, Afrobarometer survey data show. For about one in six, hunger was a frequent occurrence.

As foreign affairs and development ministers at the [Group of 20 \(G-20\) meeting](#) in Italy this week pledged to fight hunger worldwide, a new Afrobarometer analysis shows that reductions in food deprivation in some surveyed countries are matched by worsening hunger in others.

The level of food deprivation varies widely across countries, affecting almost eight in 10 citizens in Malawi, Niger, and Zambia. Citizens without formal education are more likely to report going without enough food than those with at least a primary education.

Key findings

- On average across 32 countries surveyed in 2019/2021, more than half (53%) of respondents say they went without food at least once during the previous year. About one in six (17%) say this happened “many times” or “always,” while 21% say they went hungry “several times” (Figure 1).
 - Food deprivation was most prevalent in Malawi (79%), Niger (76%), and Zambia (75%), while Mauritians (10%) and Moroccans (15%) are least likely to report going hungry (Figure 2).
- Citizens with no formal education are 23 percentage points more likely than those with post-secondary education to say they went without sufficient food (61% vs. 38%) (Figure 3).
- On average across 28 countries surveyed consistently over the past decade, the proportion of citizens who went without enough food remains unchanged (Figure 4).
- But deprivation of food has almost tripled in Cabo Verde (from 25% to 72%) and increased drastically in Malawi (by 31 percentage points), Zambia (27 points), and Benin (15 points).
 - On the other hand, there have been sharp declines in food shortages in Cameroon (-29 percentage points), Tanzania (-23 points), Côte d'Ivoire (-14 points), Mali (-13 points), and Burkina Faso (-12 points).

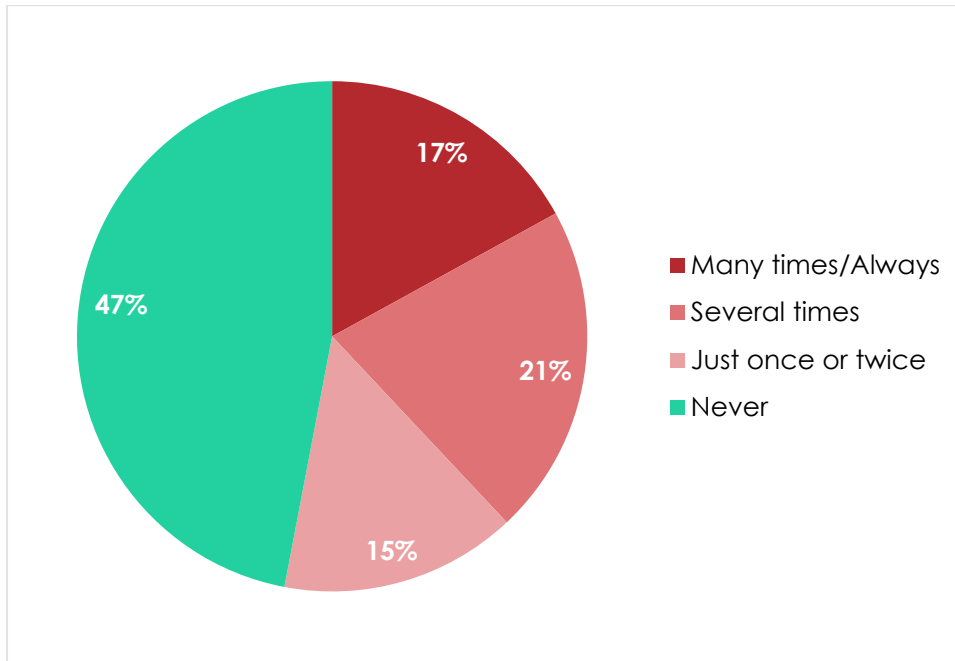
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a continent-wide non-partisan 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 (2019/2021) will cover 34 countries.

Afrobarometer's national partners in all regions of Africa conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 1,200-2,400, which yield country-level results with margins of error of +/-2 to +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

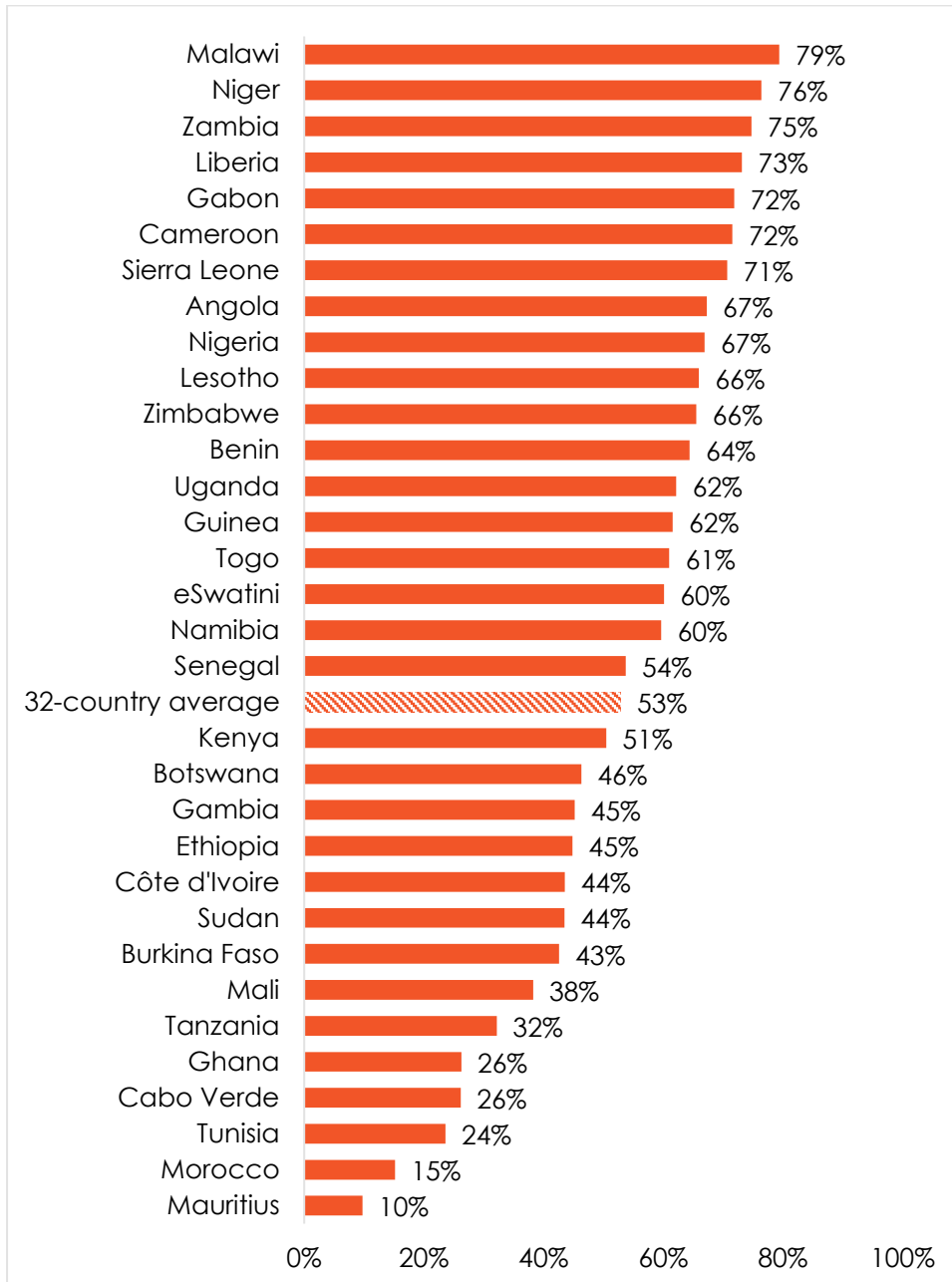
Charts

Figure 1: Went without food during the previous year | 32 countries | 2019/2021



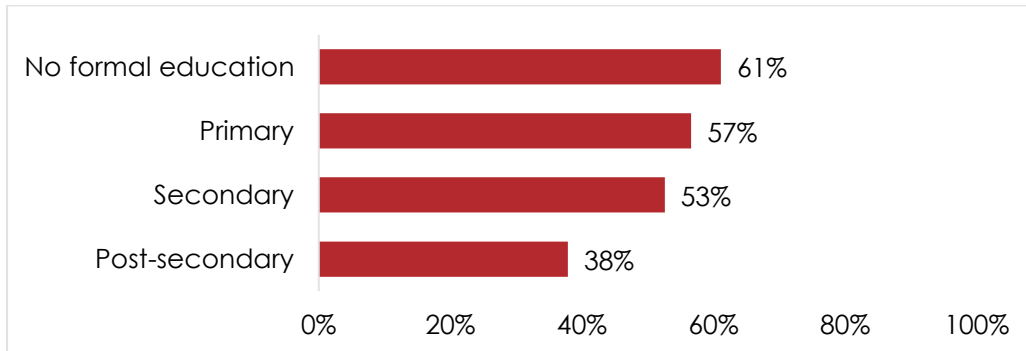
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without enough food to eat?

Figure 2: Went without food at least once during the previous year | 32 countries
 | 2019/2021



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without enough food to eat? (% who say "just once or twice," "several times," "many times," or "always")

Figure 3: Went without food at least once during the previous year | by education level | 32 countries | 2019/2021



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without enough food to eat? (% who say "just once or twice," "several times," "many times," or "always")

Figure 4: Changes in prevalence of food shortages | 28 countries | 2011-2021

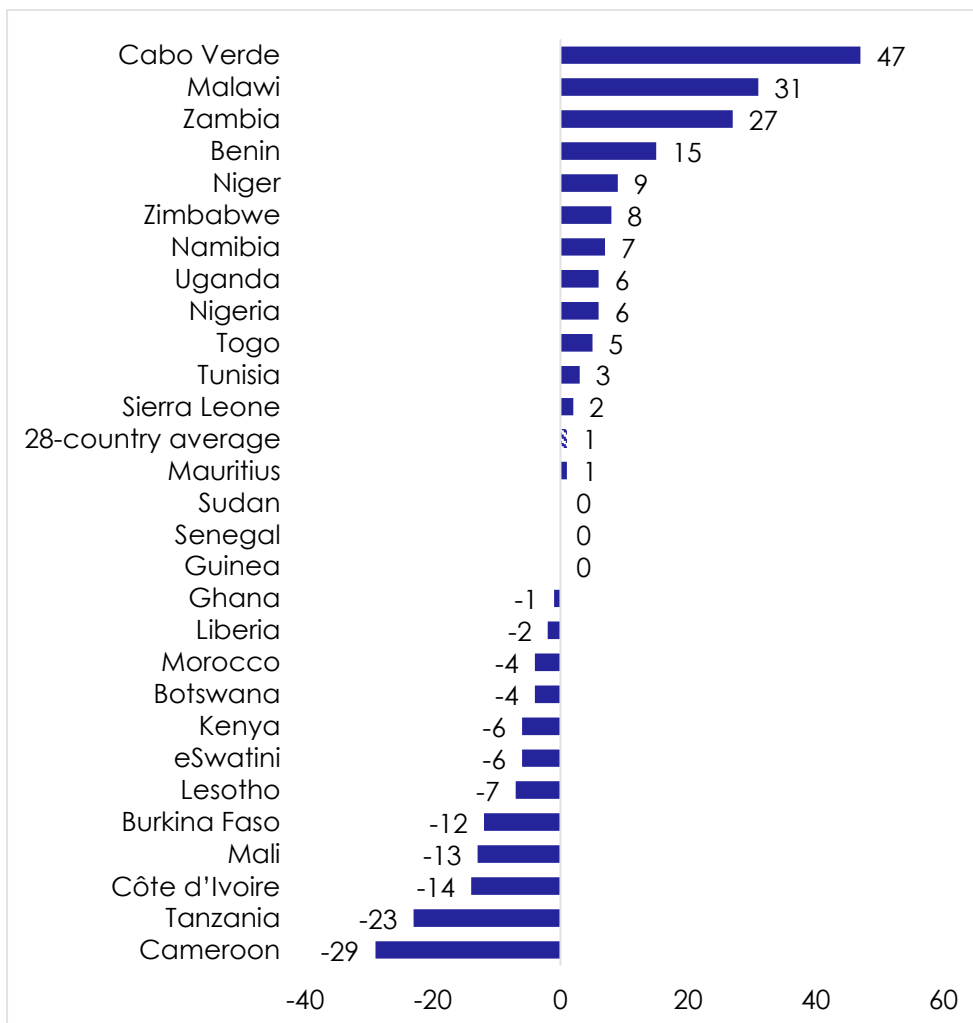


Figure shows the increase or decrease, in percentage points, in the proportion of respondents who say they went without enough food at least once in 2019/2021 compared to 2011/2013. Negative numbers indicate lower levels of food deprivation in 2019/2021.

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