



Casablanca, Morocco
29 July 2021

News release

Moroccans laud government's response to COVID-19 pandemic but are dissatisfied with distribution of assistance, survey shows

A majority of Moroccans applaud the government's performance in managing the response to COVID-19 pandemic, including keeping the public informed, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

While half of citizens say they received government assistance during the pandemic, a similar proportion believe the assistance was not distributed fairly.

Moreover, a majority of citizens believe that at least some relief resources were lost to corruption.

Key findings

- About one in eight citizens (13%) say they or a member of their family became ill with COVID-19, and four in 10 (40%) say someone in their household lost a primary source of income because of the pandemic (Figure 1).
- Large majorities say the government has done "fairly well" or "very well" in managing the response to the pandemic (77%) and keeping the public informed (86%) (Figure 2).
- But only about half (48%) say they trust official COVID-19 statistics provided by the government, and six out of 10 (62%) believe that "some" or "a lot" of COVID-19 relief resources have been lost to government corruption.
- Half (49%) of Moroccans say their household received special government assistance during the pandemic (Figure 3).
- But the same proportion (49%) believe that government assistance was not distributed fairly (Figure 4). And 55% say the government is not doing enough to support people who lost their jobs due to COVID-19.
- More than eight in 10 citizens (82%) say they are "somewhat likely" or "very likely" to try to get vaccinated if a vaccine is available and the government says it is safe.
- But half (53%) of citizens say prayer is more effective than a vaccine would be in preventing COVID-19 infection (Figure 5).

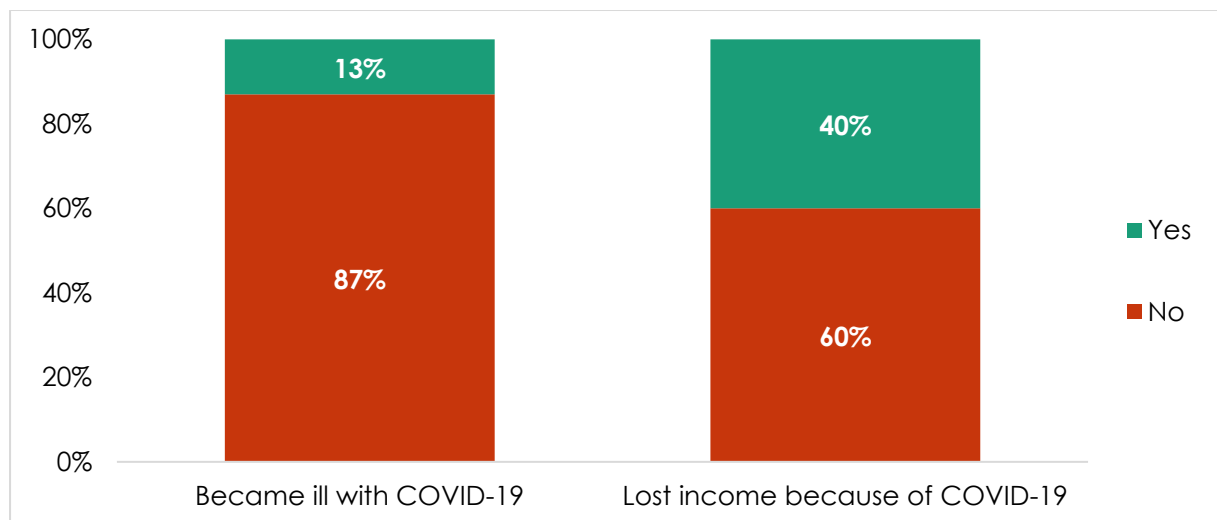
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on Africans' 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 in 2019/2021 cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Morocco, led by Global for Survey and Consulting (GSC), interviewed 1,200 adult Moroccans in February 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Morocco in 2013, 2015, and 2018.

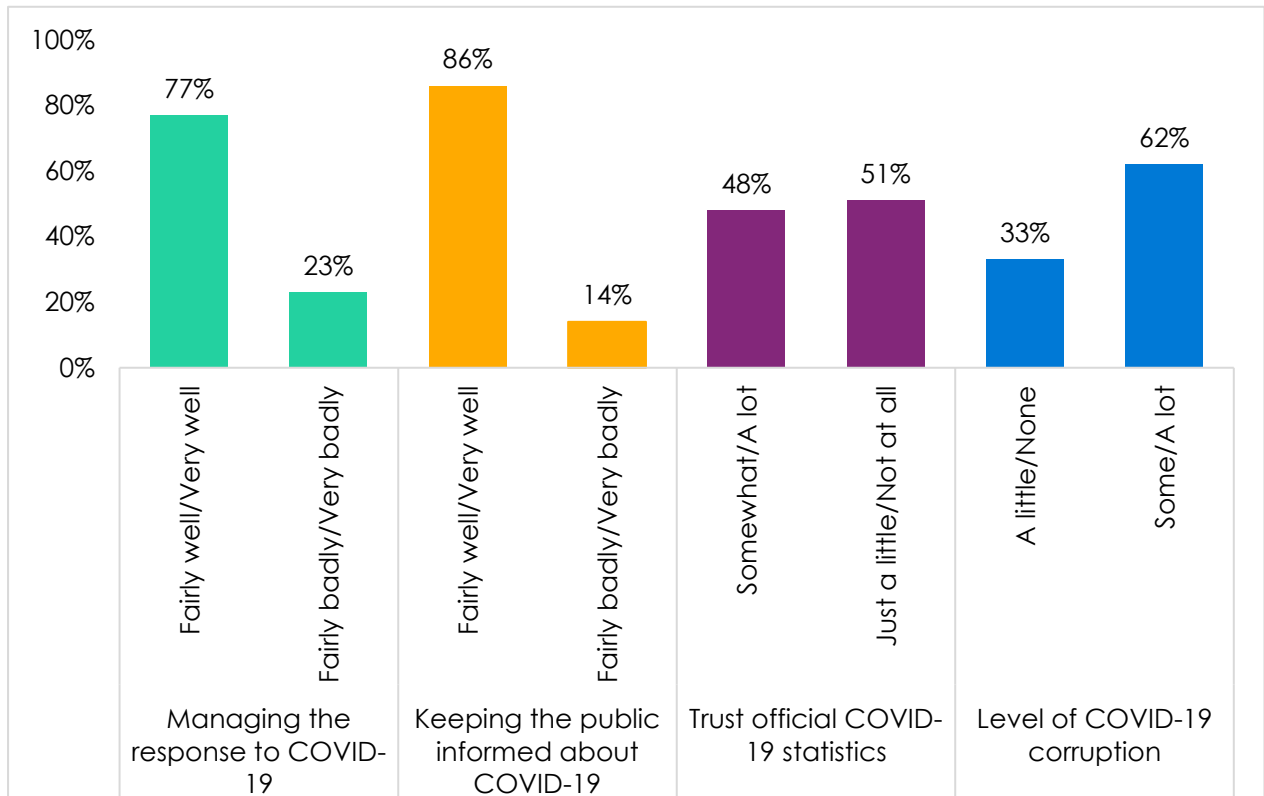
Charts

Figure 1: Impact of COVID-19 pandemic | Morocco | 2021



Respondents were asked: Please tell me if you personally or any other member of your household have been affected in any of the following ways by the COVID-19 pandemic: Became ill with COVID-19? Temporarily or permanently lost a job, business, or primary source of income?

Figure 2: Assessment of government performance during the pandemic
 | Morocco | 2021



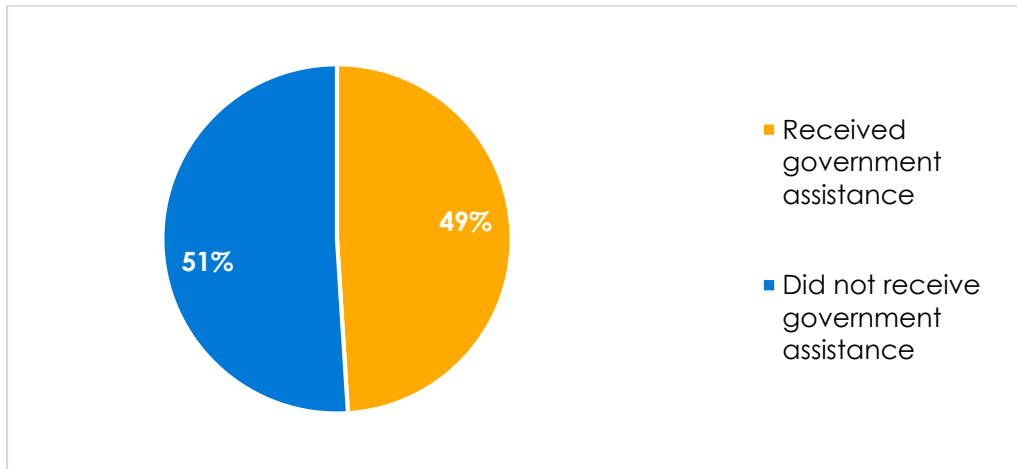
Respondents were asked:

How well or badly would you say the current government has handled the following matters since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, or haven't you heard enough to say: Managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic? Keeping the public informed about COVID-19?

How much do you trust the official statistics provided by government on the number of infections and deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

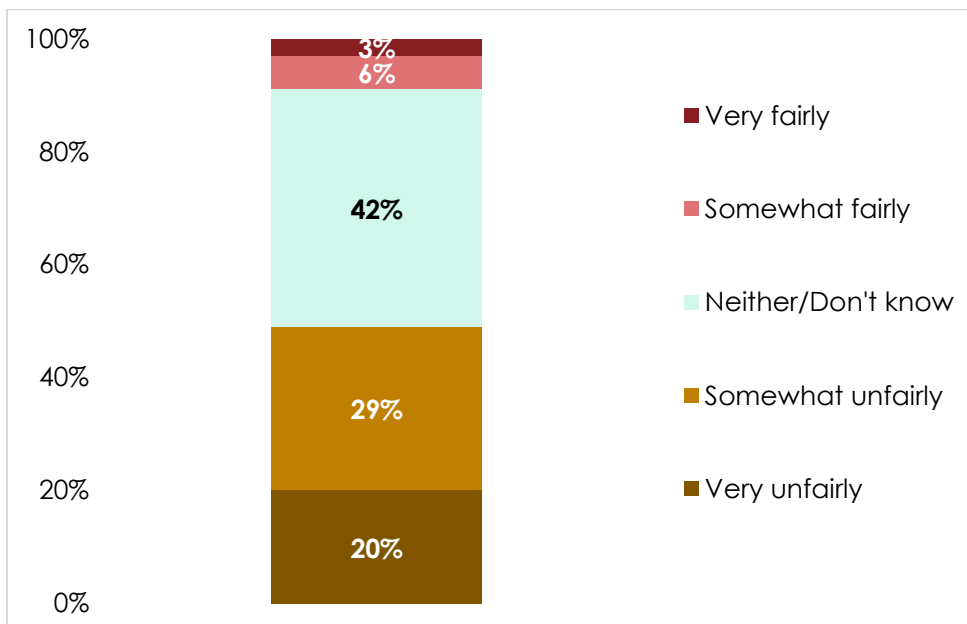
Considering all of the funds and resources that were available to the government for combating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, how much do you think was lost or stolen due to corruption among government officials?

Figure 3: Received government assistance | Morocco | 2021



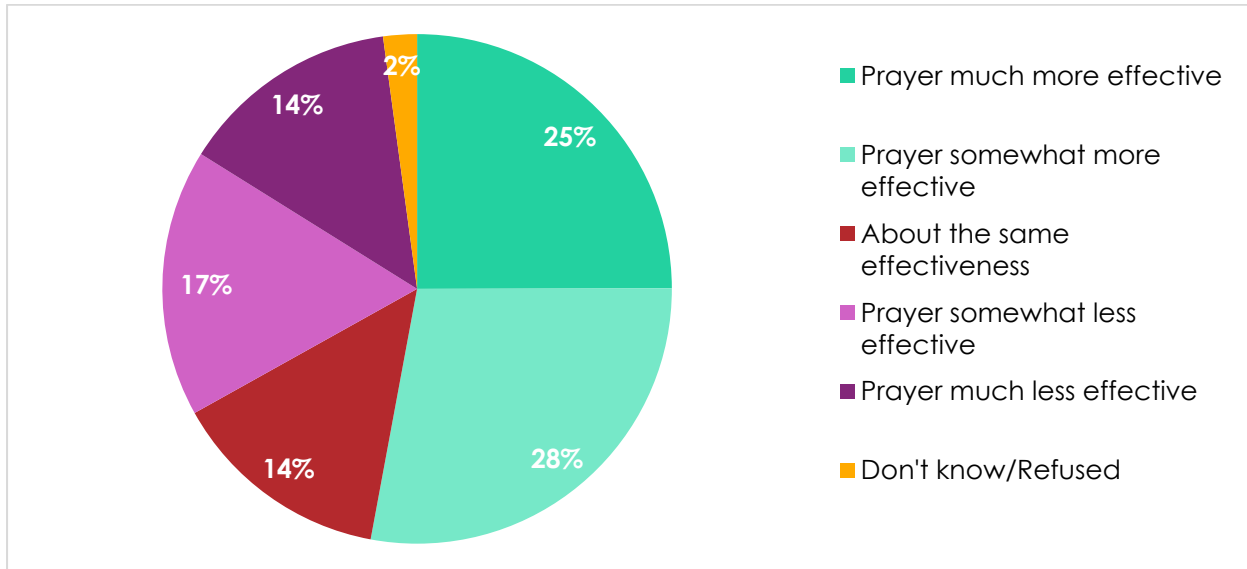
Respondents were asked: Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, have you or your household received any assistance from government, like food, cash payments, relief from bill payments, or other assistance that you were not normally receiving before the pandemic?

Figure 4: Fairness of government assistance | Morocco | 2021



Respondents were asked: Do you think that the benefits of government programs to support people during the COVID-19 pandemic, for example through food packages or cash payments, have been distributed fairly, or that the distribution was unfair, for example by favoring certain groups or regions?

Figure 5: Prayer vs. vaccine: Which is more effective against COVID-19?
 | Morocco | 2021



Respondents were asked: Some people think that prayer is an effective way to alter events in the world. Others put more faith in science to solve problems. Some people believe in both. What about you? Do you think that prayer is more effective or less effective than a vaccine would be in preventing COVID-19 infection?

For more information, please contact:

Prof. Mhammed Abderebbi
 Global for Survey and Consulting
 Telephone: 0661991774
 Email: globalconsulting.gsc@gmail.com

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

