

Kampala, Uganda
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News release

Ugandans approved of COVID-19 lockdown despite difficulty complying, but say relief aid was distributed unfairly, survey shows

Almost nine in 10 Ugandans say that last year's lockdown was necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19, in spite of the toll it took on the economy and people's livelihoods, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Two-thirds say they found it difficult to comply with lockdown restrictions or curfews imposed by the government.

Only about two in 10 citizens say their households received special government assistance during the pandemic, and most Ugandans believe that government assistance was not distributed fairly.

Whereas the lockdown was nationwide, relief aid was distributed only in Kampala and Wakiso, and the first phase targeted only 1 million urban poor. These survey findings suggest a need for transparent criteria for targeting of beneficiaries so as to ensure equitable benefits of the program intervention.

Key findings

- Ugandans overwhelmingly (89%) say the lockdown was necessary to prevent COVID-19 infections (Figure 1).
- However, two-thirds (67%) say they and their households found it "difficult" or "very difficult" to comply with lockdown restrictions or curfews imposed by the government to limit the spread of COVID-19 (Figure 2).
- Three-fourths (75%) of citizens say the distribution of the government relief package to support citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic was not done fairly (Figure 3).
- Only about two in 10 respondents (19%) say they or their households received government assistance during the pandemic (Figure 4), and 81% didn't.

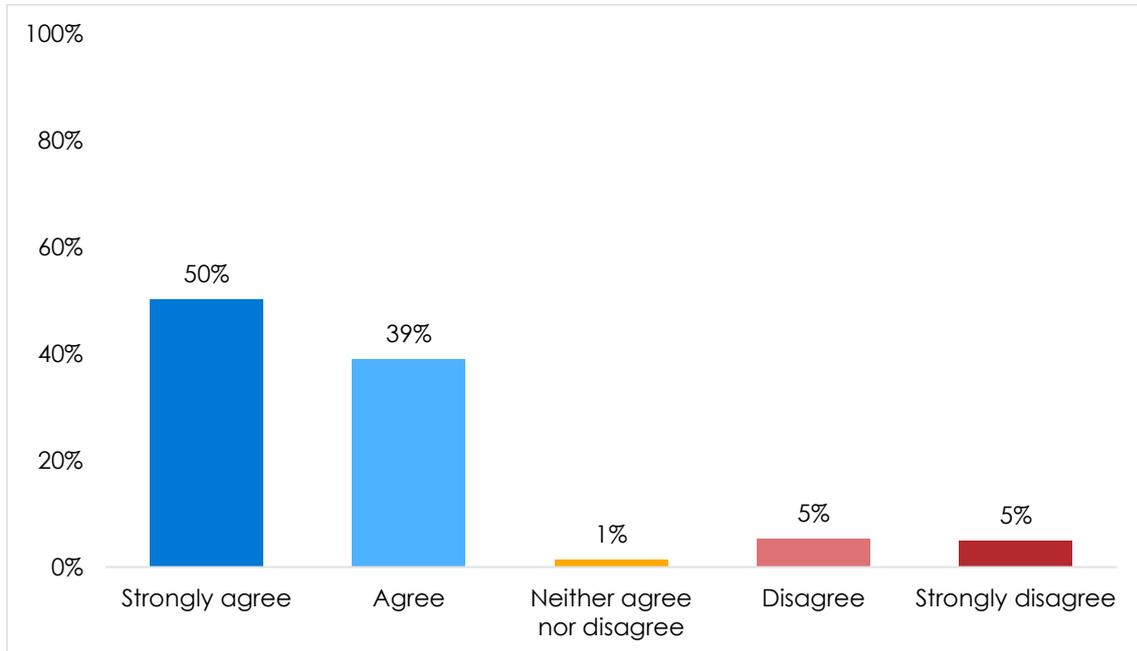
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that has provided reliable data on experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life in 38 African countries since 1999. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

With financial support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda, the Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Limited, interviewed 2,400 adult Ugandans between 22 December 2020 and 7 January 2021 in 300 enumeration areas across 110 districts. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. This was the 11th Afrobarometer survey in Uganda since 1999.

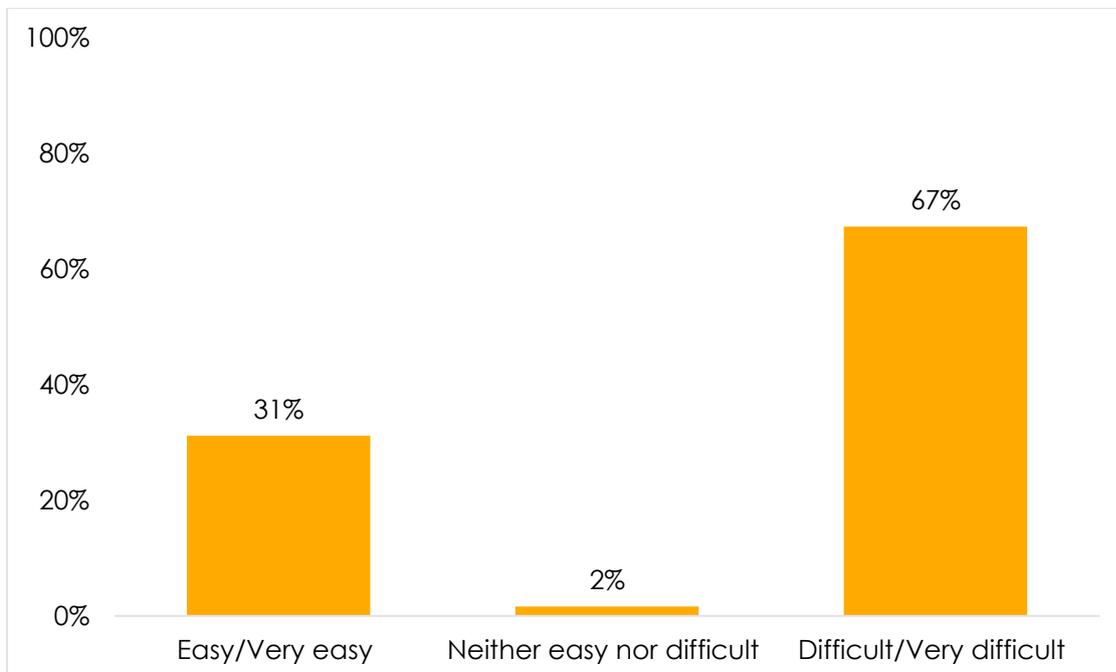
Charts

Figure 1: Support for lockdowns | Uganda | 2021



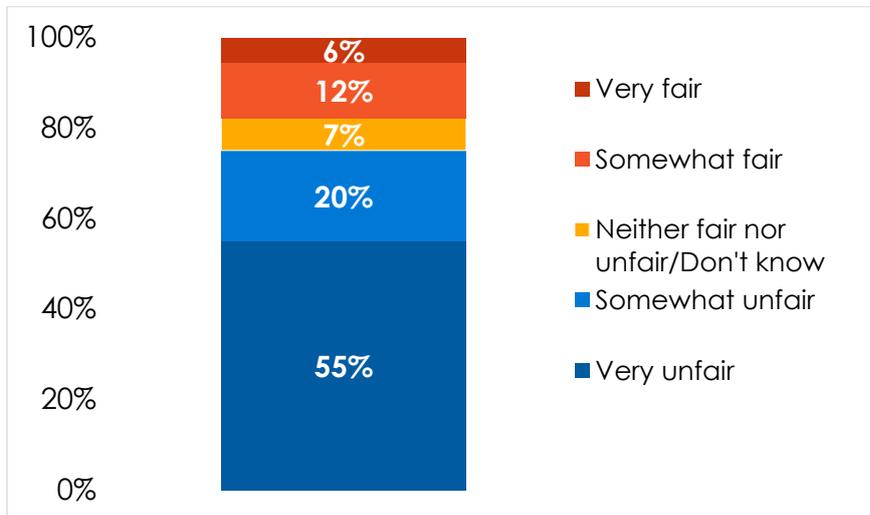
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Even if the lockdown or curfew had negative impacts on the economy and people's livelihoods, it was necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19?

Figure 2: Compliance with lockdown or curfew restrictions | Uganda | 2021



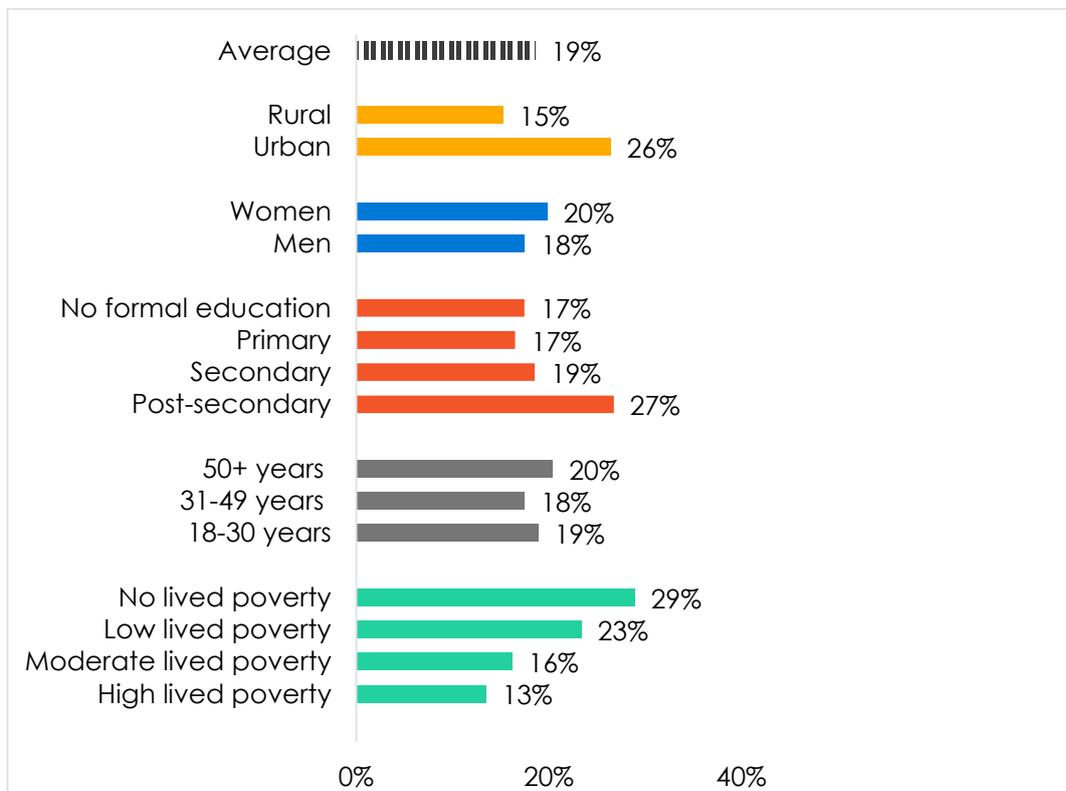
Respondents were asked: How easy or difficult was it for you and your household to comply with the lockdown or curfew restrictions imposed by the government?

Figure 3: Views on distribution of government relief assistance during lockdown | Uganda | 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 favouring certain groups or regions?

Figure 4: Received government assistance | by demographic group | Uganda | 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? (% who say "yes")

For more information, please contact:

Francis Kibirige
Co-National Investigator
Telephone: +256 414 233 847, +256 771 756 465, +256 751 932 082
fkibirige@afrobarometer.org, francis@hatchileconsult.com

Frederick Golooba-Mutebi
National investigator
Tel +256 782 673 107
golooba@hatchileconsult.com, fgmutebi@gmail.com

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