

Estudos de Opinião Pública
Lobito-Benguela, Angola
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News release

For majority of Angolans, lived poverty highlights vulnerabilities during COVID-19 state of emergency

More than half of Angolans went without enough food, enough clean water, and needed medical care last year, Afrobarometer's first survey in the country found, highlighting vulnerabilities that would make compliance with a COVID-19 lockdown extremely difficult.

Based on data collected in November-December 2019, more than one-third of Angolans suffered severe lived poverty during the previous 12 months, reflecting the experience of "many times" or "always" going without selected basic life necessities.

The country has been under a state of emergency with social isolation since late March in order to fight the spread of the coronavirus. While there appears to be widespread agreement among political actors and citizens that the measures are needed, these findings challenge the government and development partners to implement strategies that make it possible for ordinary citizens to comply.

Key findings

- More than one-third (35%) of Angolans experienced "high lived poverty" during the year preceding the survey, meaning they endured frequent shortages of food, clean water, medical care, cooking fuel, and a cash income (Figure 1 and Figure 2). About the same proportion (34%) experienced "moderate lived poverty." Only 7% reported no shortages of basic necessities.
 - High lived poverty was especially common in rural areas (46%, vs. 30% in urban areas) and in East (51%) and South (41%) regions (Figure 3).
- More than one-third (36%) of Angolans went without a cash income "many times" or "always" during the preceding year, in addition to 32% who did so "just once or twice" or "several times." Only one in four (26%) had a consistent cash income. (Figure 4). The frequent lack of an income is more common in rural areas (44%) than in cities (38%), and is most striking in the Center region (44%).
- Two-thirds (67%) of Angolans went without enough food at least once during the period, including one in five (21%) who did so "many times" or "always" (Figure 5). Lack of sufficient food was most common in East (77%) and Center North (70%) regions.
- Three-fourths (75%) of Angolans went without needed medical care at least once during the previous year, including one-third (32%) who lacked care "many times" or "always" (Figure 6). The East region stands out, with almost half (45%) of residents frequently lacking health care.

Afrobarometer surveys

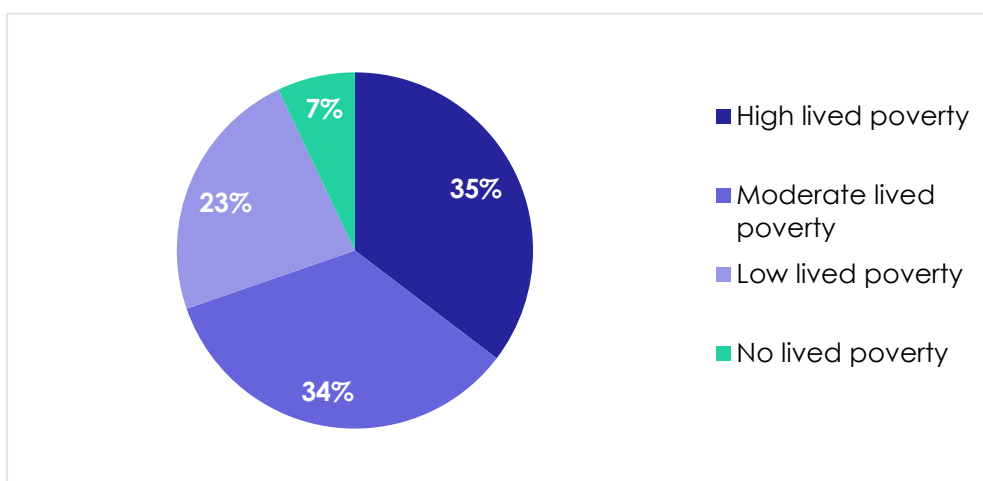
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018.

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 its first survey in Angola, the Afrobarometer team, led by Ovilongwa – 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.

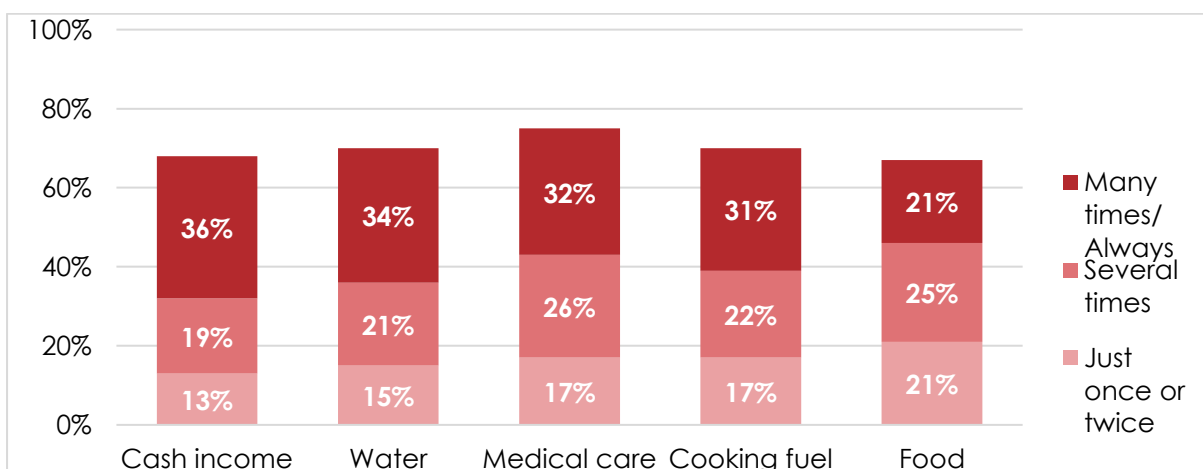
Charts

Figure 1: Lived poverty | Angola | 2019



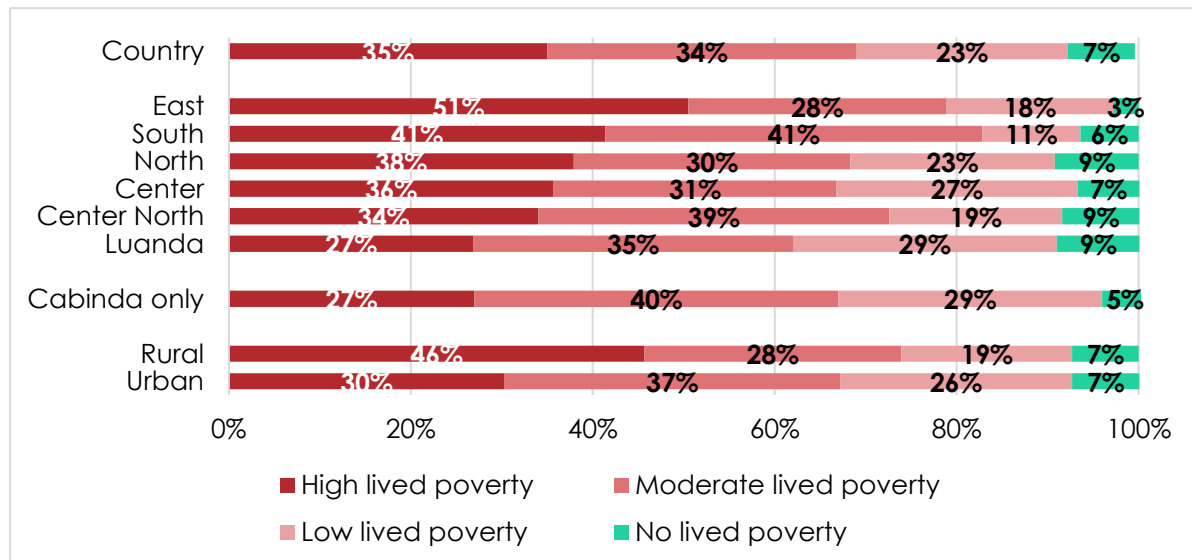
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income? (Afrobarometer's Lived Poverty Index averages responses across these questions; "high lived poverty" corresponds to a frequent lack of these basic necessities.)

Figure 2: Deprivation of basic necessities | Angola | 2019



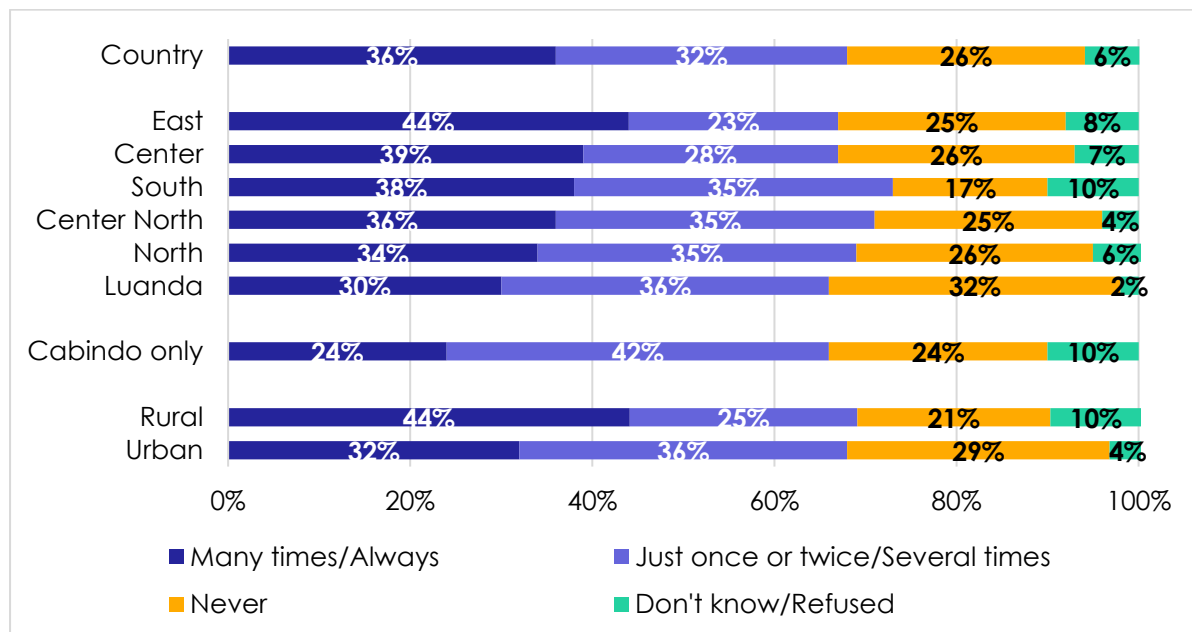
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Figure 3: Lived poverty | by region¹ and rural-urban residency | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income?

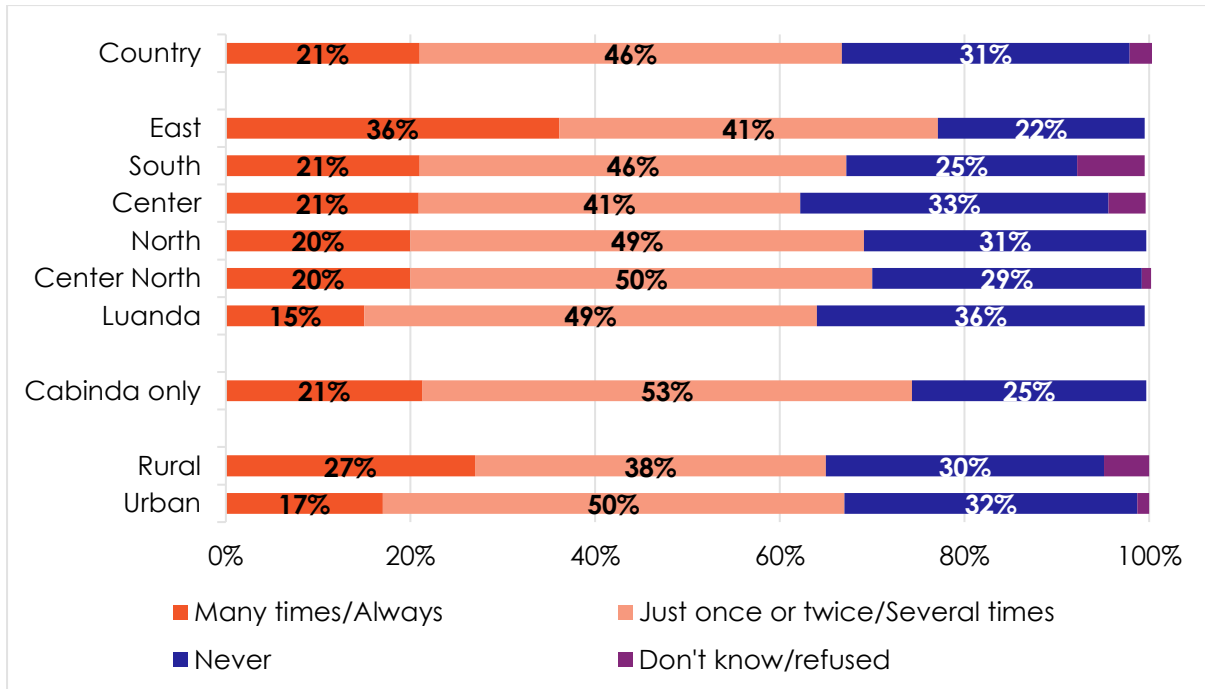
Figure 4: Went without a cash income | by region and rural-urban residency | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: A cash income?

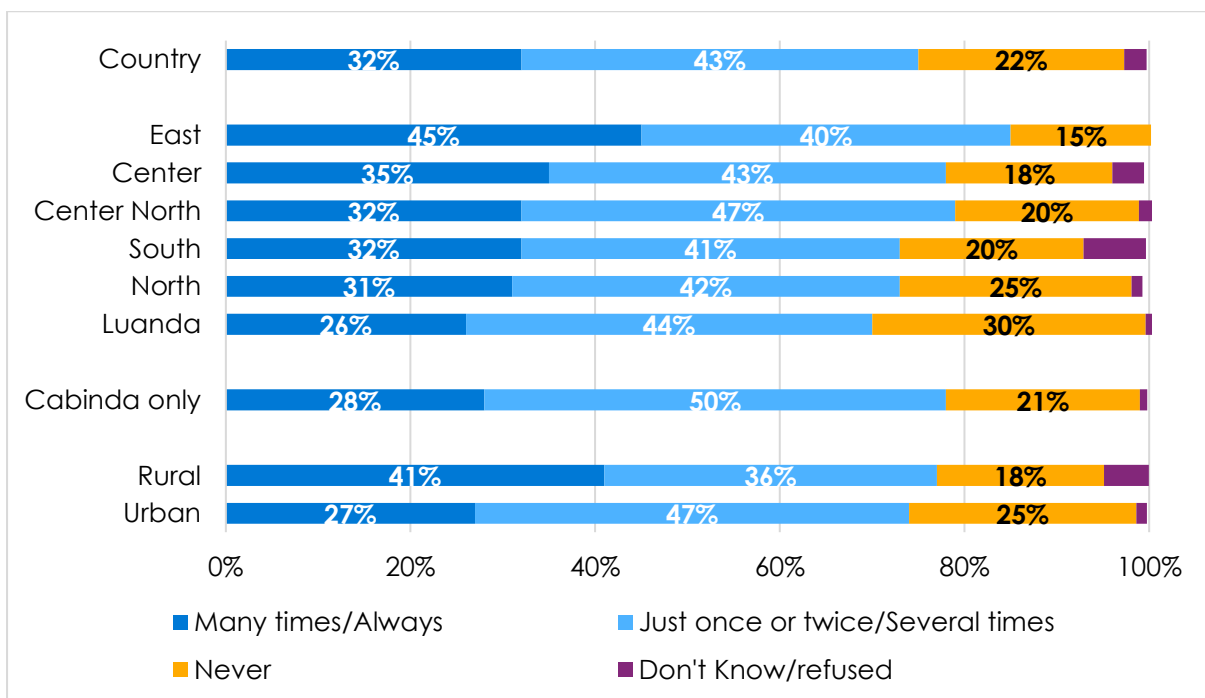
¹ In accordance with National Statistics Institute classifications, regions include the following provinces: North (Cabinda, Uíge, Zaire), Center North (Bengo, Cuanza Norte, Malange), Luanda, Center (Benguela, Bié, Cuanza Sul, Huambo), East (Cuando Cubango, Lunda Sul, Lunda Norte, Moxico), and South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

Figure 5: Went without enough food | by region and rural-urban residency
 | Angola | 2019



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 6: Went without needed medical care | by region and rural-urban residency
 | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Medicines or medical treatment?

For more information, please contact:

Ovilongwa Consulting – Estudos de Opinião Pública
Carlos Pacatolo and David Boio
Telephone: +244 924942499; +244 939733227
Email: pacatolo@yahoo.com.br; davidboio@gmail.com

Visit us online at:
www.afrobarometer.org
www.ovilongwa.org

