

Lobito-Benguela, Angola
22 April 2022

News release

Angolans' trust in the National Electoral Commission (CNE) reaches a new low, Afrobarometer survey indicates

As Angolans approach general elections in August, only one in five citizens say they trust the National Electoral Commission, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

While about half of Angolans say the commission does its job in a neutral fashion, trust in the election management body has declined from already low levels recorded three years ago.

Angola will conduct its fourth peacetime general election in August. The first three elections, which the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) won by significant majorities, were marred by suspicions of electoral fraud involving the National Electoral Commission.

Key findings

- Only one in five Angolans (21%) say they trust the National Electoral Commission (CNE) "somewhat" or "a lot," a 6-percentage-point decline compared to 2019 (Figure 1).
 - Levels of trust are higher among men (25% vs. 17% of women) and among older respondents (34% of those aged 46 and over vs. 17%-19% of 18- to 35-year-olds) (Figure 2). Citizens in rural areas (27%) also express greater trust than those in urban areas (18%), as do citizens with primary or no formal education (26%-27%) compared to those with secondary or post-secondary qualifications (17%-19%). Only 14% of residents in the Luanda Province say they trust the commission.
- About half (48%) of Angolans say the electoral commission exercises its function in a neutral manner, while close to one-third (32%) think it favours particular groups (Figure 3).
 - The perception of the electoral commission as a neutral body increases with respondents' education level, ranging from just 37% of those with no formal schooling to 56% of those with post-secondary qualifications (Figure 4).

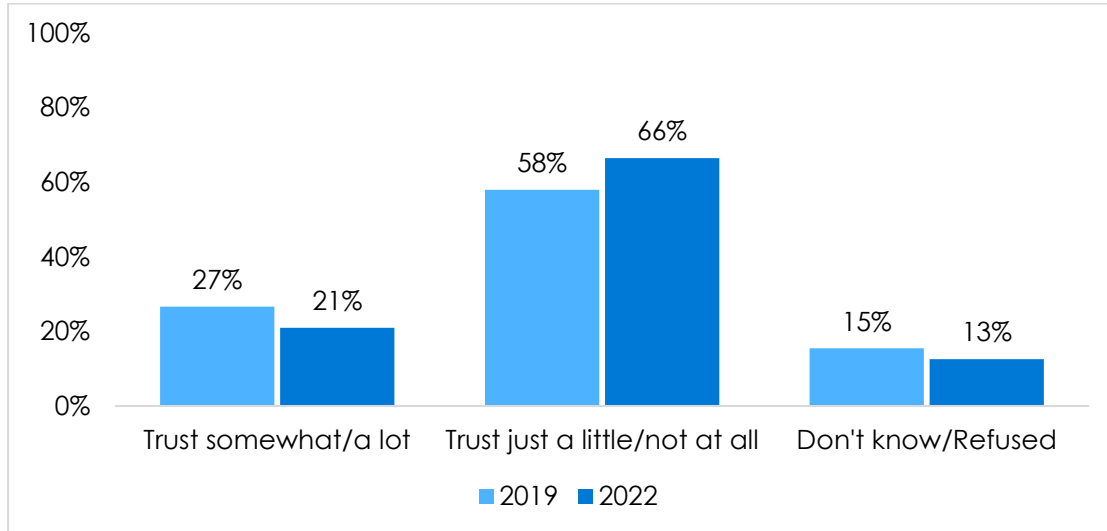
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Angola, led by Ovilonwa – Estudos de Opinião Pública, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Angolans between 9 February and 8 March 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. A previous survey was conducted in Angola in 2019.

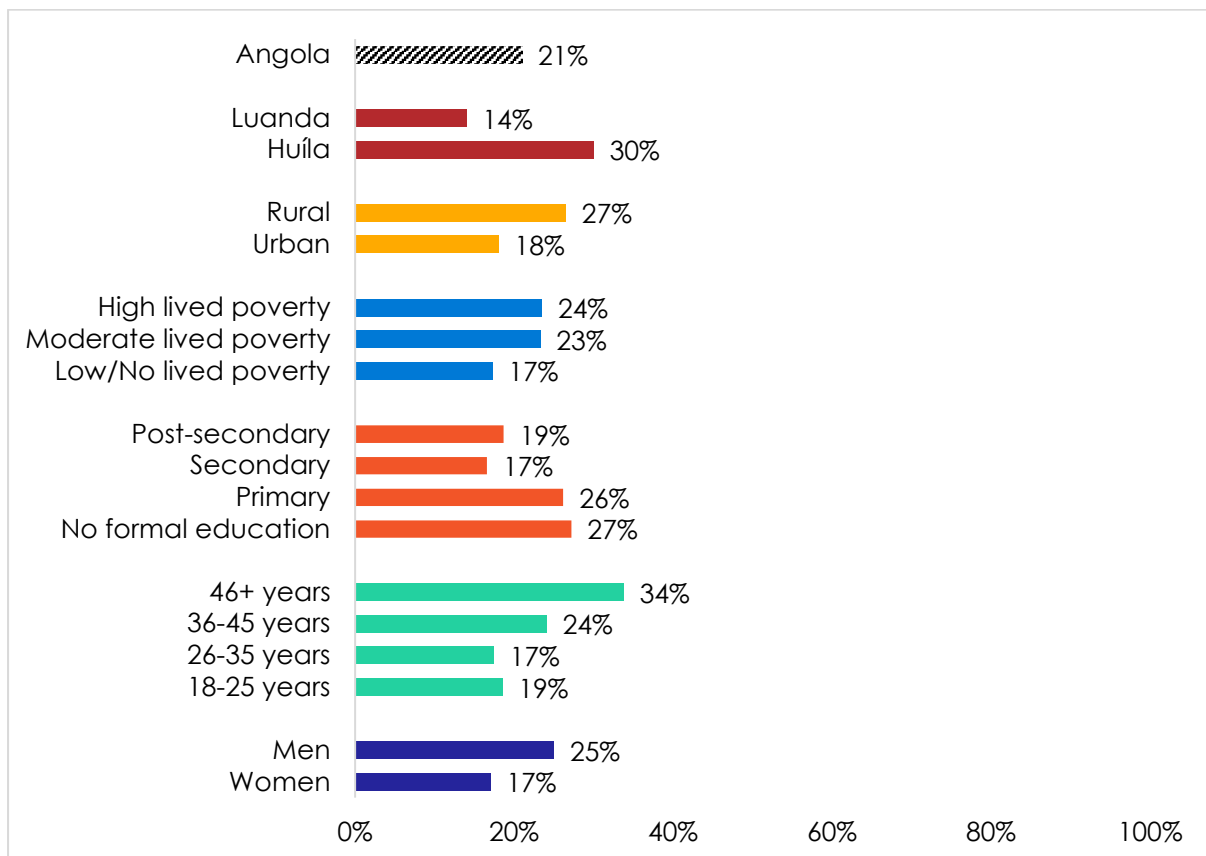
Charts

Figure 1: Trust in the electoral commission | Angola | 2019-2022



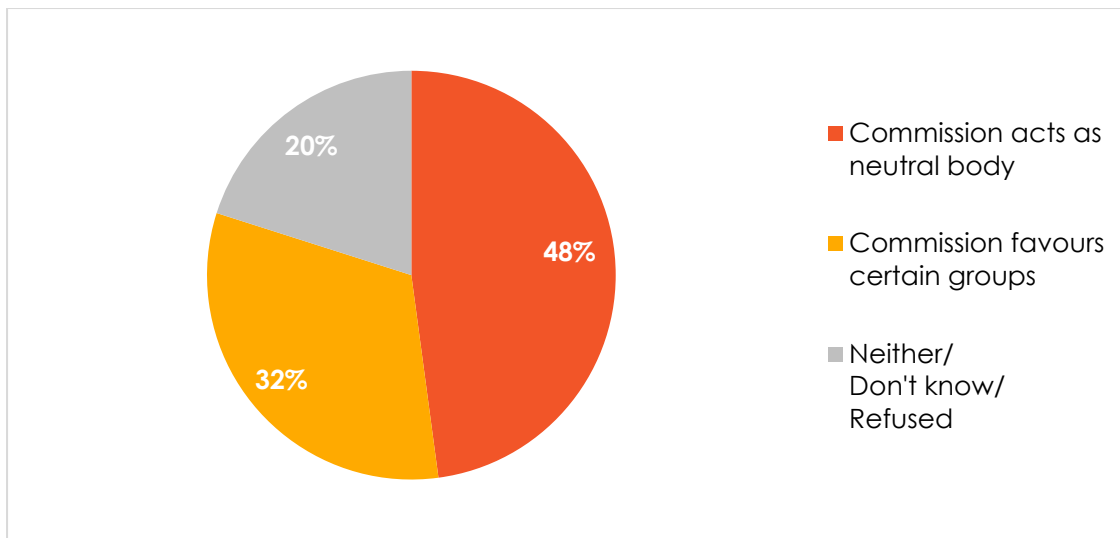
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The National Electoral Commission?

Figure 2: Trust the electoral commission somewhat/a lot | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2022



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The National Electoral Commission? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 3: Does the electoral commission act as a neutral body? | Angola | 2022



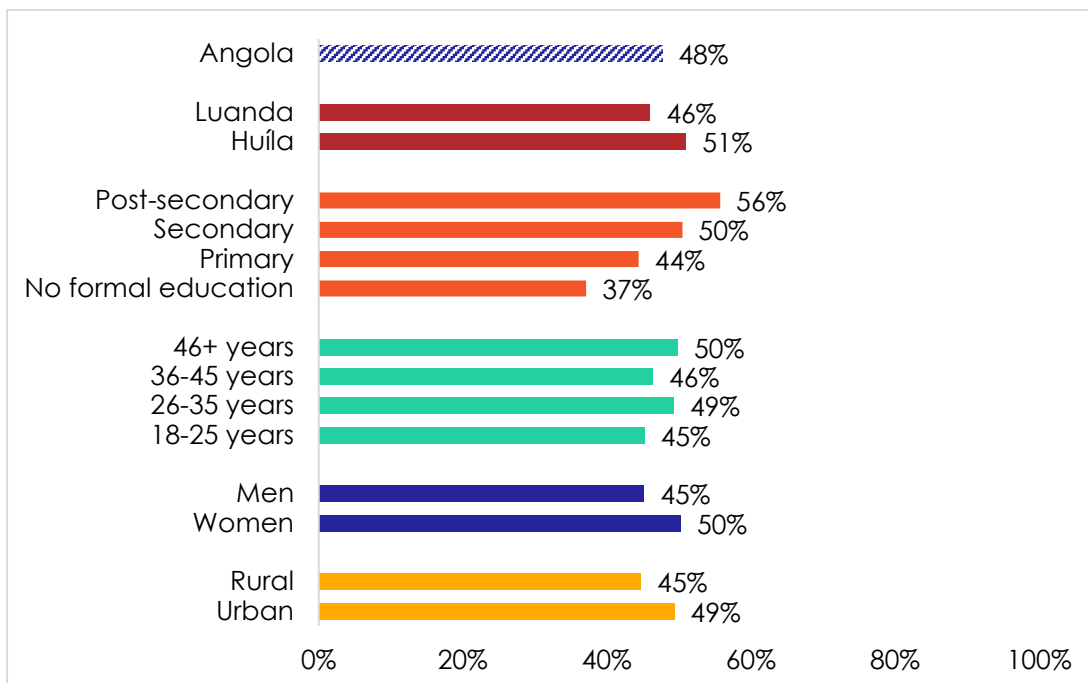
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: The National Electoral Commission (CNE) performs its functions as a neutral body, guided only by the law.

Statement 2: The National Electoral Commission (CNE) makes decisions that favour particular groups, parties, or interest groups.

(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 4: Electoral commission acts as a neutral body | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2022



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(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with Statement 1)

For more information, please contact:

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