



Zomba, Malawi
14 April 2022

News release

Malawians dissatisfied with government efforts on corruption, want to see swift action against corrupt officials, survey shows

Most Malawians say the government is doing a poor job of fighting corruption and should immediately fire cabinet ministers and other officials accused of graft, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

The findings show that most Malawians believe that corruption increased over the past year. The police continue to top the chart of offices and institutions perceived as corrupt.

And only small majority of Malawians believe they can report corruption to the authorities without fear of retaliation.

While immediate dismissal of cabinet ministers and government officials charged with corruption receives overwhelming popular support, a slimmer majority also say suspects who refund proceeds from corruption should be granted amnesty.

For a government that campaigned on zero tolerance for corruption, and a country badly in need of resources to improve service delivery, these findings represent a renewed call to action.

Key findings

- Two-thirds (66%) of citizens say the government is performing “fairly badly” or “very badly” at fighting corruption (Figure 1).
- More than eight in 10 Malawians (83%) agree with the idea that cabinet ministers and government officials charged with corruption should be fired immediately (Figure 2).
- However, 57% of respondents say suspects who refund proceeds from corruption should be granted amnesty (Figure 3).
- Two-thirds (66%) of Malawians say that corruption has increased over the past year, including 57% who say it has increased “a lot” (Figure 4).
- Among key institutions and leaders, the police are most widely perceived as corrupt: 42% of Malawians say “most” or “all” police are involved in corruption, followed by the Malawi Revenue Authority (39%) and business executives (38%) (Figure 5).
- Almost eight in 10 Malawians (78%) say people risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they report corruption to the authorities (Figure 6).

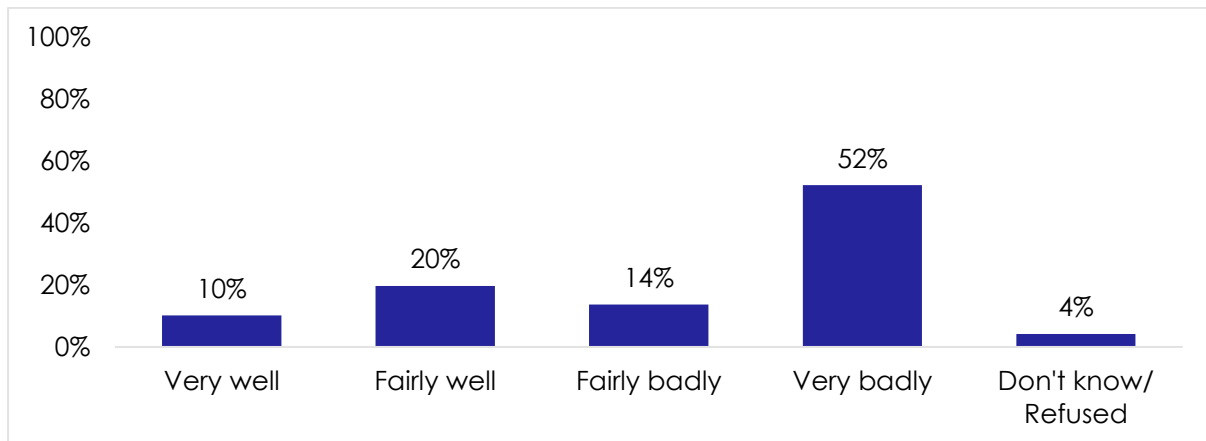
Afrobarometer surveys

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 Malawi, led by the Centre for Social Research, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Malawians in February 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Malawi in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

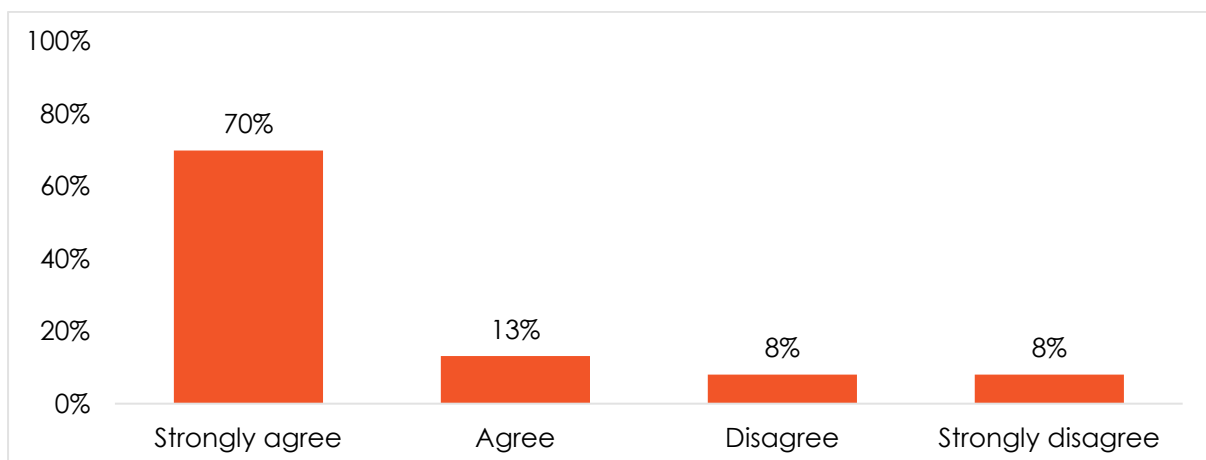
Charts

Figure 1: Government handling of the fight against corruption | Malawi | 2022



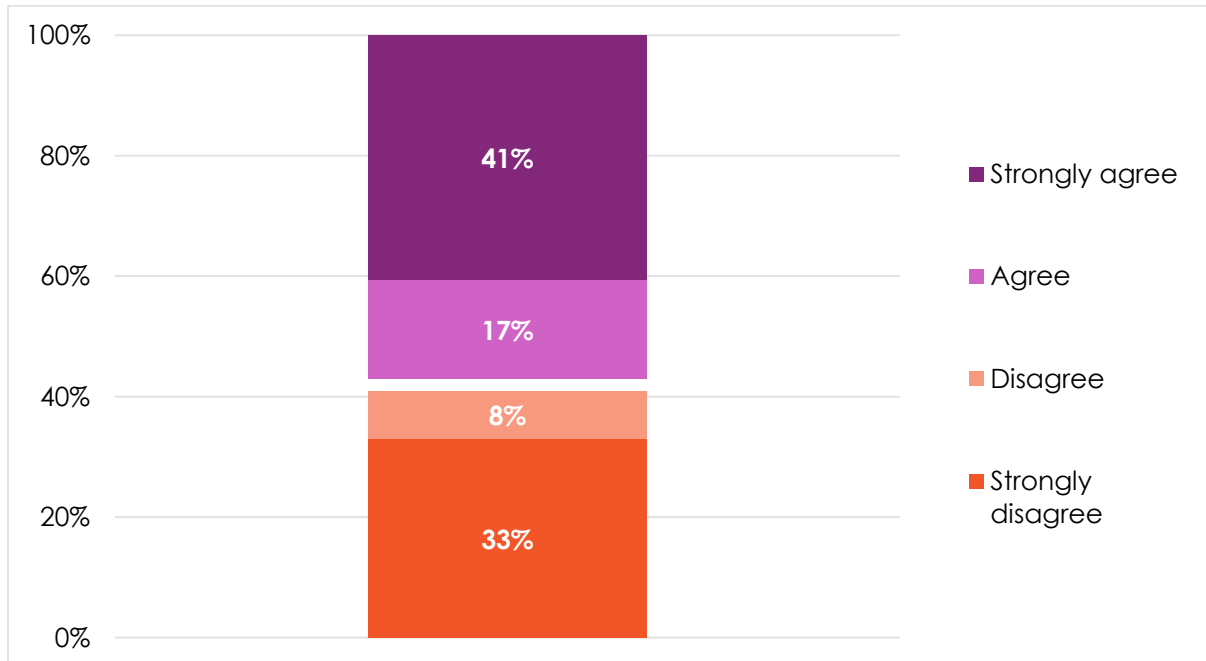
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?

Figure 2: Cabinet ministers and government officials facing corruption charges should be fired | Malawi | 2022



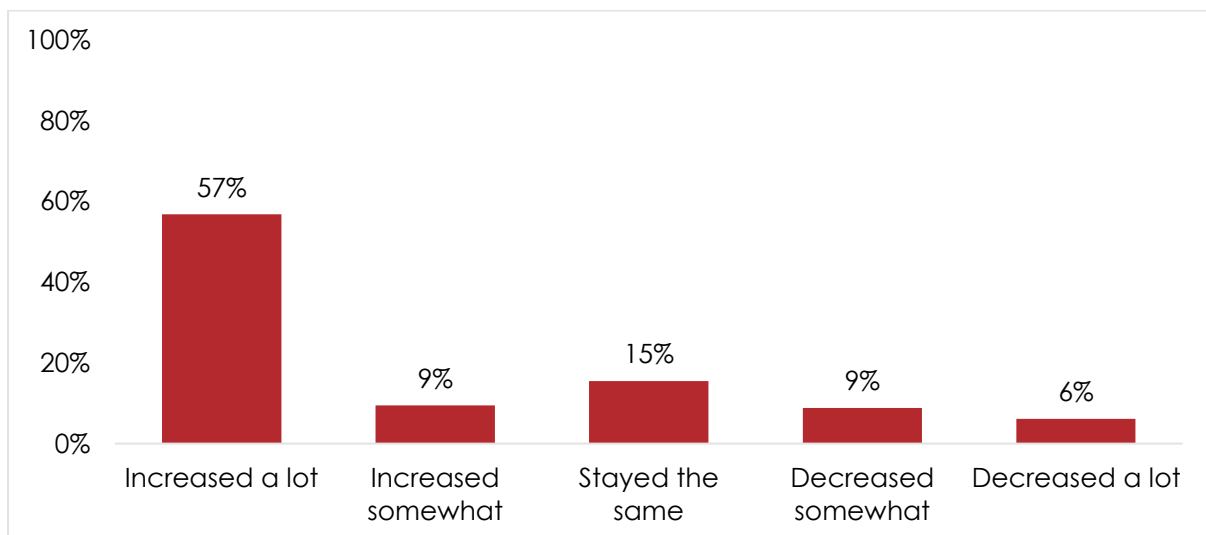
Respondents were asked: Looking at the fight against corruption in Malawi, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Cabinet ministers and government officials who have been charged with corruption crimes should be fired immediately?

Figure 3: Should suspects who return proceeds of corruption be granted amnesty?
 | Malawi | 2022



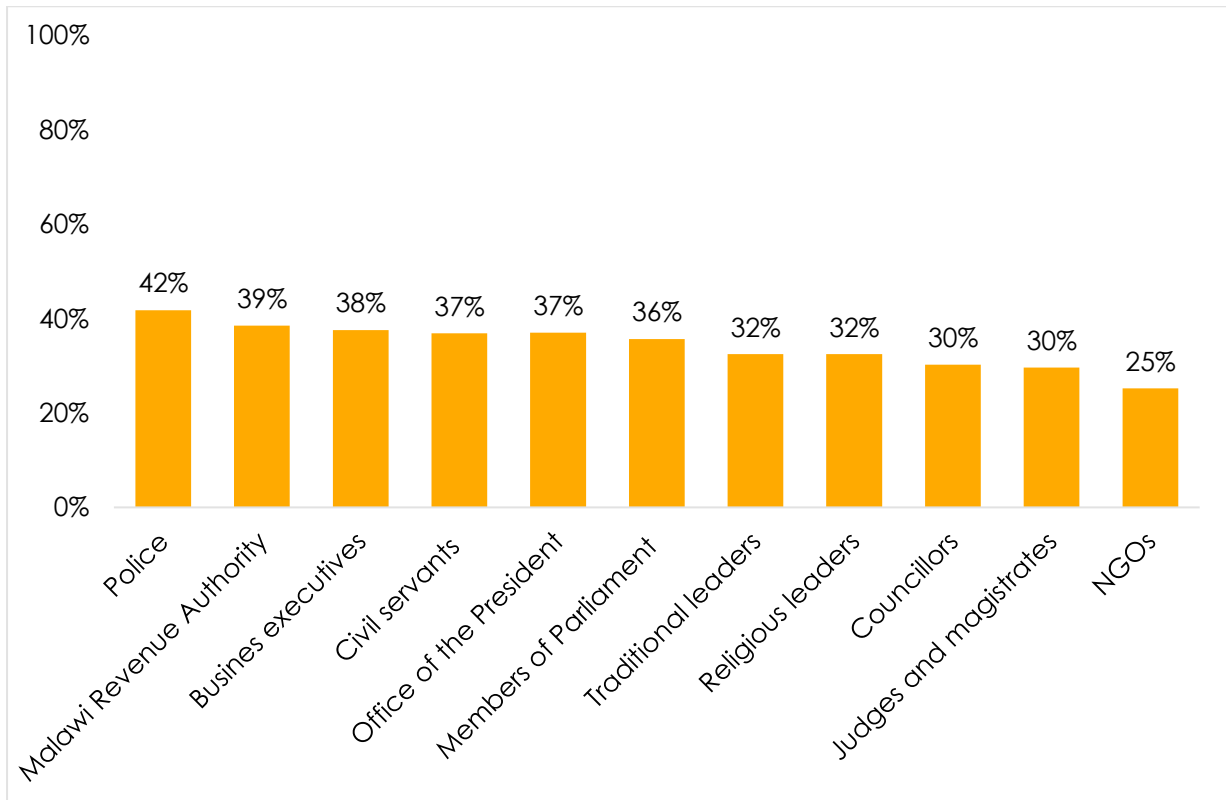
Respondents were asked: Looking at the fight against corruption in Malawi, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: All corruption suspects who have refunded the proceeds of corruption within a specified period should be granted amnesty?

Figure 4: Has corruption increased or decreased? | Malawi | 2022



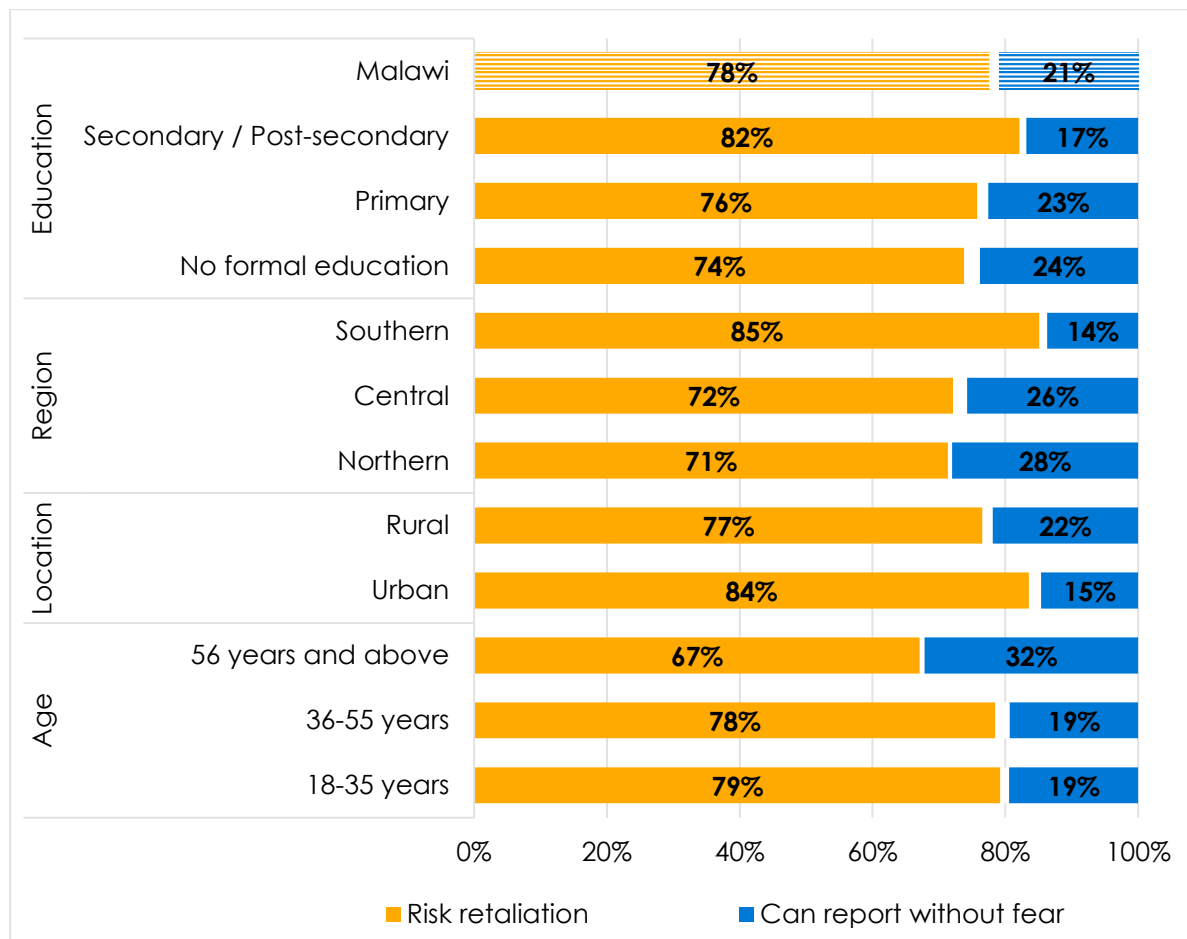
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Figure 5: Most/All perceived as corrupt | Malawi | 2022



Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% of respondents who say "most of them" or "all of them")

Figure 6: Can people report corruption without fear of retaliation? | by demographic group | Malawi | 2022



Respondents were asked: *In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?*

For more information, please contact:

Centre for Social Research
 Joseph J. Chunga
 Telephone: +265995623818
 Email: jchung@unima.ac.mw

Visit us online at:
www.crsunima.mw
www.afrobarometer.org
 Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

