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News release

Sudanese dissatisfied with government fight against corruption, fear retaliation if they report

Most Sudanese say the level of corruption in the country has increased and the government is doing a poor job of fighting it, a new Afrobarometer analysis shows.

The findings show that among Sudanese who had contact with selected public services during the preceding year, substantial proportions say they had to pay a bribe to obtain the services they needed. The most frequent experiences of bribe paying involved the police, either to avoid a problem or to obtain assistance.

And only a small minority believe that people can report corruption to the authorities without fear of retaliation.

The findings come at a time when the Transparency International 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index ranks Sudan as one of the world's worst-performing countries (164th out of 180 countries) when it comes to public sector corruption.

Key findings

- More than two-thirds (68%) of Sudanese say the level of corruption in the country increased "somewhat" or "a lot" during the year preceding the survey (Figure 1).
- An overwhelming majority (82%) of citizens say the government is doing a "fairly bad" or "very bad" job of fighting corruption (Figure 2).
- About six in 10 Sudanese (61%) say people risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they report corruption to the authorities (Figure 3)
- Among respondents who had contact with key public services during the year preceding the survey, substantial proportions say they had to pay bribes to avoid problems with the police (51%) or to obtain police assistance (42%), identity documents (31%), medical care (19%), or public school services (16%) (Figure 4).

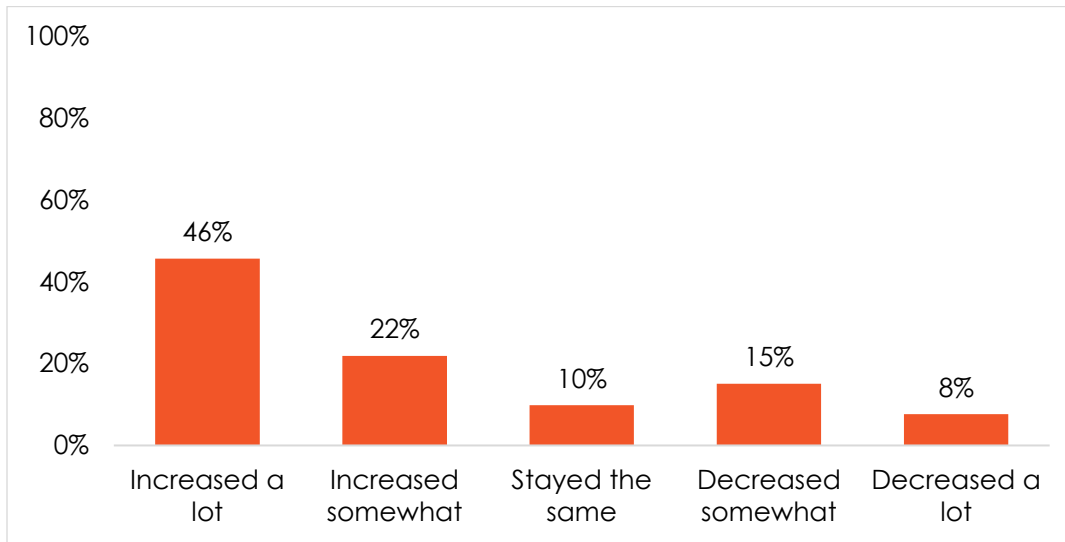
Afrobarometer survey

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. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 8 surveys (2019/2021) cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Sudan, led by Sudan Polling Statistics Center (SPSC), interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,800 adults in February-April 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2.3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Sudan in 2013, 2015, and 2018.

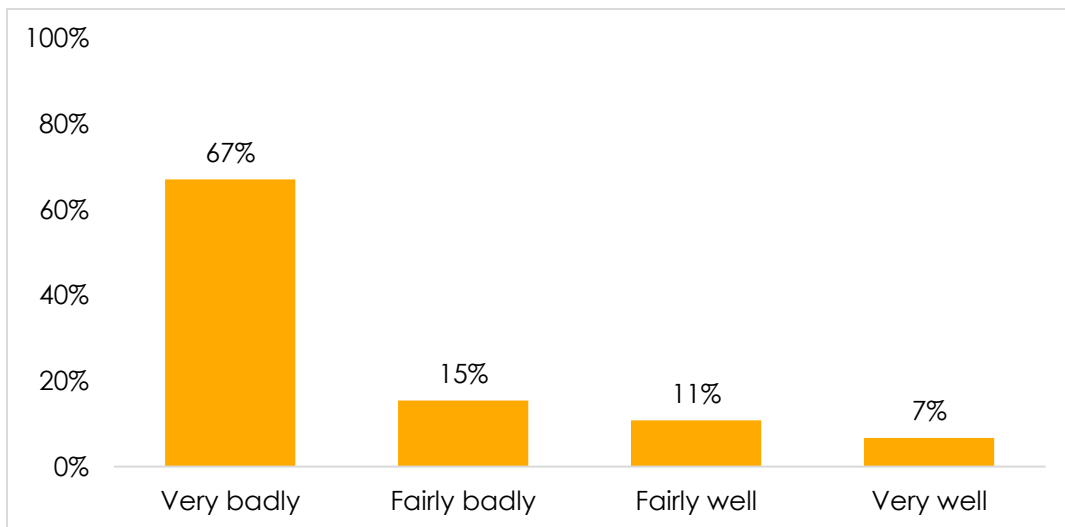
Charts

Figure 1: Level of corruption | Sudan | 2021



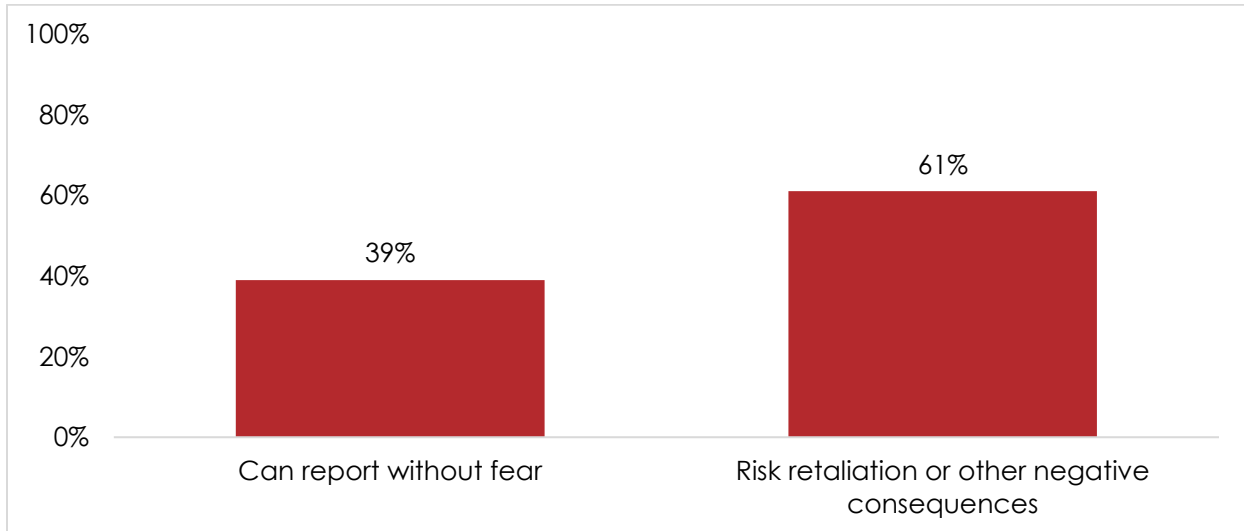
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?*

Figure 2: Government performance in fighting corruption | Sudan | 2021



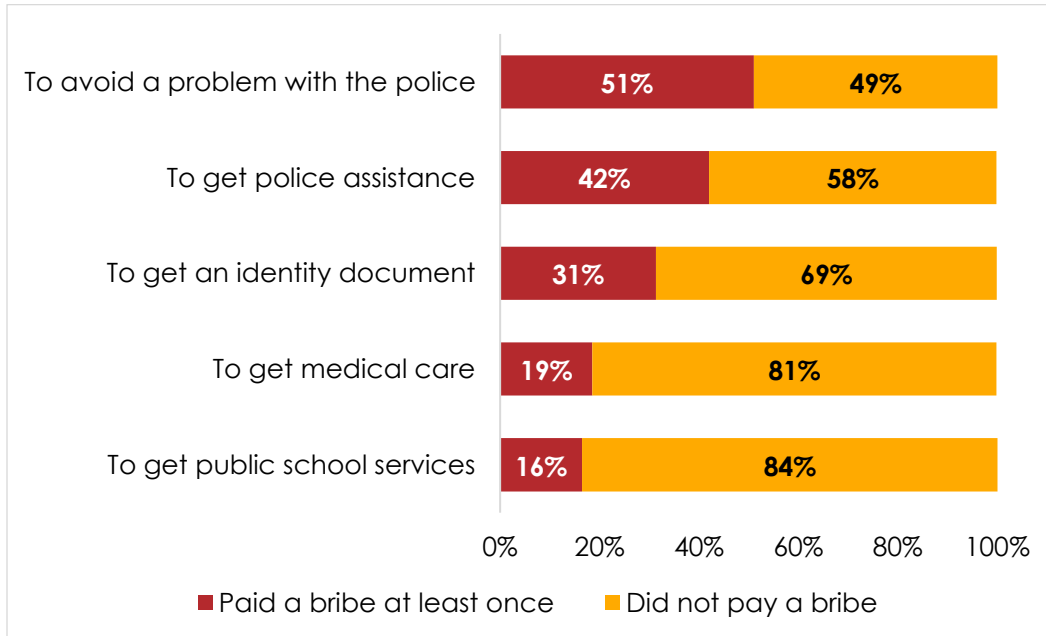
Respondents were asked: *How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?*

Figure 3: Can ordinary people report corruption without fear? | Sudan | 2021



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?

Figure 5: Paid bribes to access public services | Sudan | 2021



Respondents who had contact with key public services during the year preceding the survey were asked: And how often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour [for a public official to obtain the needed assistance or avoid problems]? (Note: Figure excludes those who had no contact with these public services.)

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