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News release

Nigerian women face persistent disadvantages, rate government efforts to close gender gaps poorly

In Nigeria, women remain at a disadvantage compared to men, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

More women than men lack formal education, and fewer have control over how household monies are spent.

Only about half of citizens say women should have same right as men to own and inherit land. And while a majority believe that a woman who runs for political office will gain standing in the community, many also consider it likely that she will be criticized or harassed.

Most Nigerians give the government a failing grade on its efforts to promote gender equality.

Key findings

- Survey findings show significant gender imbalances in Nigerian society:
 - Women are less likely than men to have post-secondary education (17% vs. 29%) and more likely than men to have no formal schooling (20% vs. 12%) (Figure 1).
- Women are less than half as likely as men to say they have control over how household money is spent (22% vs. 56%) (Figure 2).
- Only a slim majority (51%) of Nigerians think women should have the same right as men to own and inherit land. Men are much less likely than women to believe in equality when it comes to land (39% vs. 64%) (Figure 3).
- While about eight in 10 citizens (79%) think a woman will gain standing in the community if she runs for office, almost half (47%) say it's likely she will be criticised or harassed, and 38% say she will probably face problems with her family (Figure 4).
- Only one-fourth (26%) of citizens say the Nigerian government is performing "fairly well" or "very well" in promoting equal rights and opportunities for women (Figure 5).

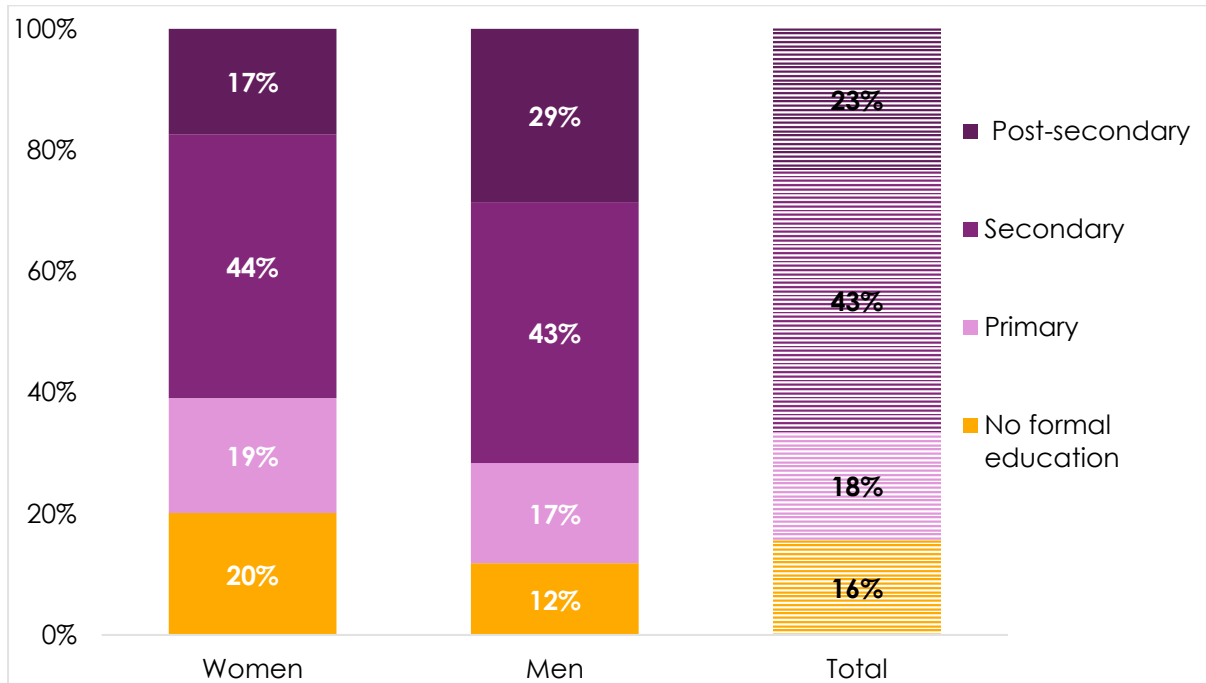
Afrobarometer surveys

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 Nigeria, led by NOIPolls, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,600 adult citizens in March 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2.5 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Nigeria in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2020.

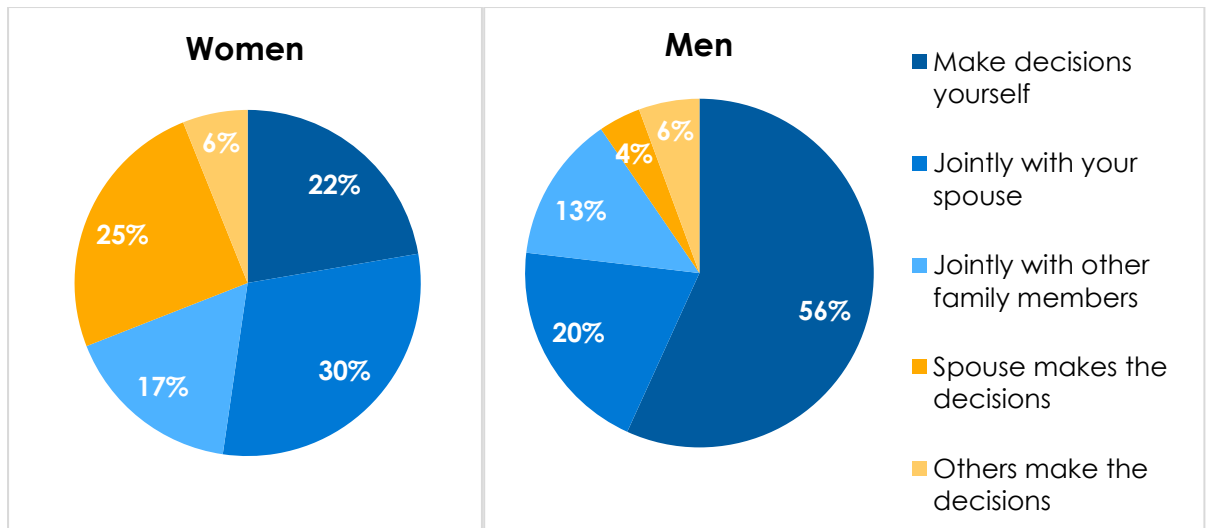
Charts

Figure 1: Educational attainment | by gender | Nigeria | 2022



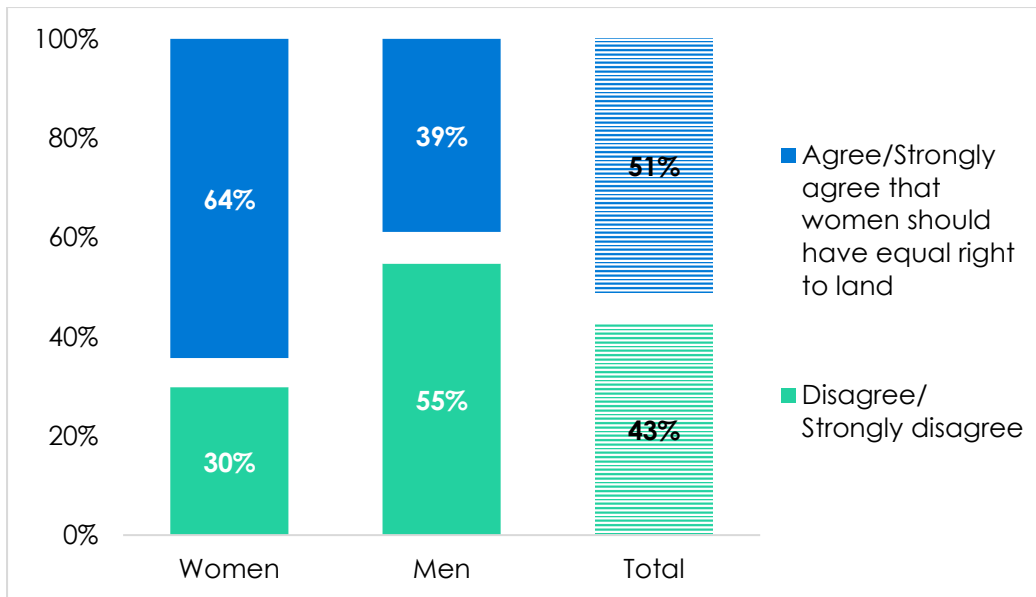
Respondents were asked: What is your highest level of education?

Figure 2: Who decides how money is used? | by gender | Nigeria | 2022



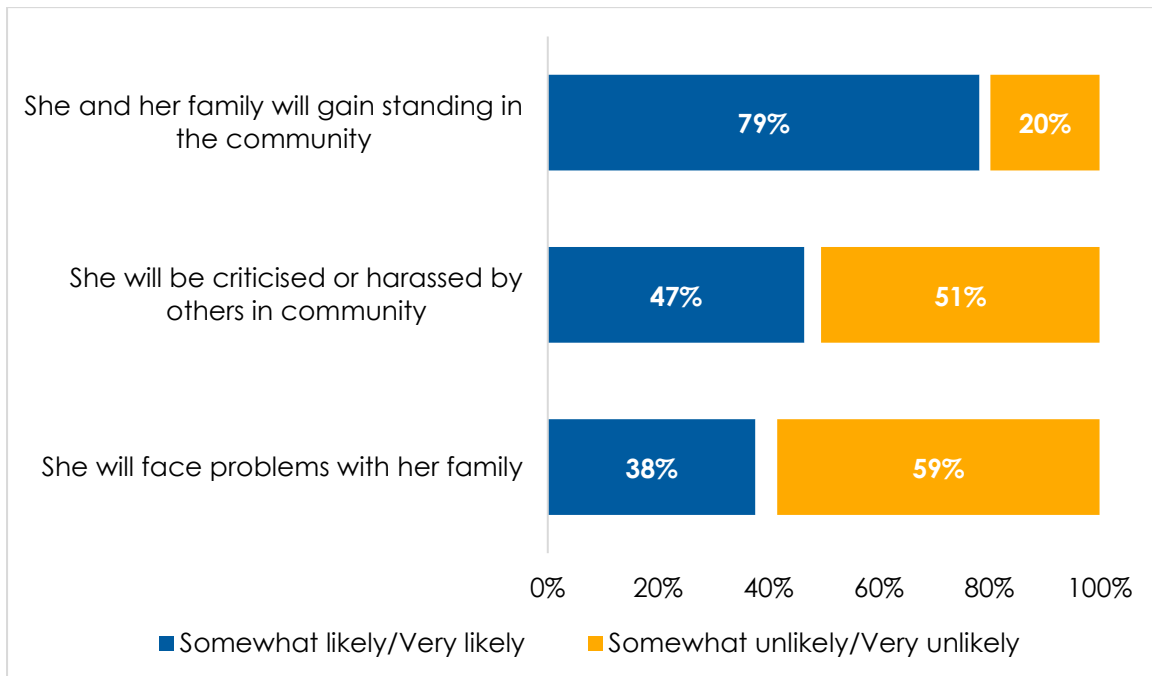
Respondents were asked: What is the main way that decisions are made about how to use any money that you have or earn, for example from a job, a business, selling things, or other activities?

Figure 3: Should women have equal right to land? | by gender | Nigeria | 2022



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: Women should have the same rights as men to own and inherit land?

Figure 4: For better or for worse: How running for elected office might affect women's lives | Nigeria | 2022



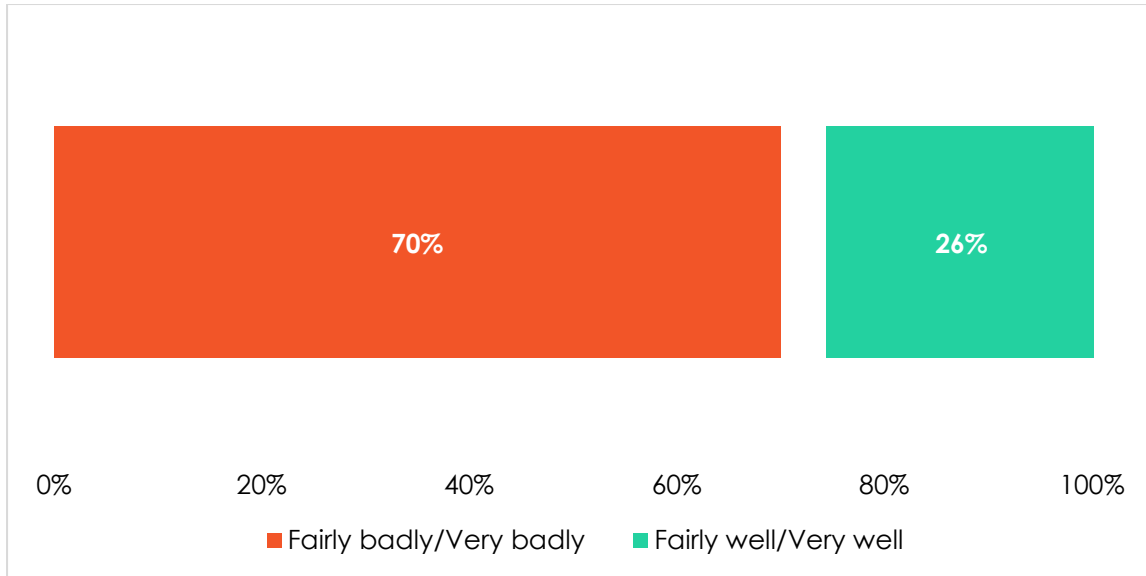
Respondents were asked: If a woman in your community runs for elected office, how likely or unlikely is it that the following things might occur:

She and her family will gain standing in the community?

She will be criticised, called names, or harassed by others in the community?

She will face problems with her family?

Figure 5: Government performance in promoting equal rights and opportunities for women | Nigeria | 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: Promoting equal rights and opportunities for women?

For more information, please contact:

NOIPolls
Raphael Mbaegbu
Telephone: +234 63292096
Email: rmbaegbu@noi-polls.com

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