



Nairobi, Kenya
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News release

Kenyans want women to have equal chance of being elected, approve of government efforts to close gender gaps

An overwhelming majority of Kenyans say women should have the same chance as men of being elected to public office, rejecting the idea that men make better political leaders and should thus be given priority as candidates, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

But while most citizens believe that female candidates and their families will gain standing in the community, many also consider it likely that these women will be criticised or harassed.

The latest survey findings also highlight persistent gender gaps in Kenya, including less higher education and less financial autonomy among women compared to men.

About two-thirds of citizens say women should have the same right as men to own and inherit land.

Overall, Kenyans give the government a thumbs-up on its efforts to promote gender equality.

Key findings

- Almost nine out of 10 Kenyans (87%) say women should have the same chance as men of being elected to public office (Figure 1).
- More than three-fourths (77%) of citizens say a female candidate and her family will probably gain standing in the community. But many also say she is likely to be criticised or harassed (53%) and to face problems with her family (40%) (Figure 2).
- Other survey findings show significant gender imbalances in Kenyan society:
 - Women are less likely than men to have secondary education (39% vs. 44%) and post-secondary education (19% vs. 25%) (Figure 3).
 - Women are less likely than men to say they have control over how household money is spent (33% vs. 40%) (Figure 4).
- Seven in 10 Kenyans (72%) think women should have the same right as men to own and inherit land. But men are much less likely than women to believe in equality when it comes to land (59% vs. 84%) (Figure 5).
- More than six in 10 Kenyans (62%) say the government is performing “fairly well” or “very well” in promoting equal rights and opportunities for women. Approval of the government's performance is less widespread among women (58%), citizens with no formal education (50%), and the poorest respondents (55%) (Figure 6).

Afrobarometer surveys

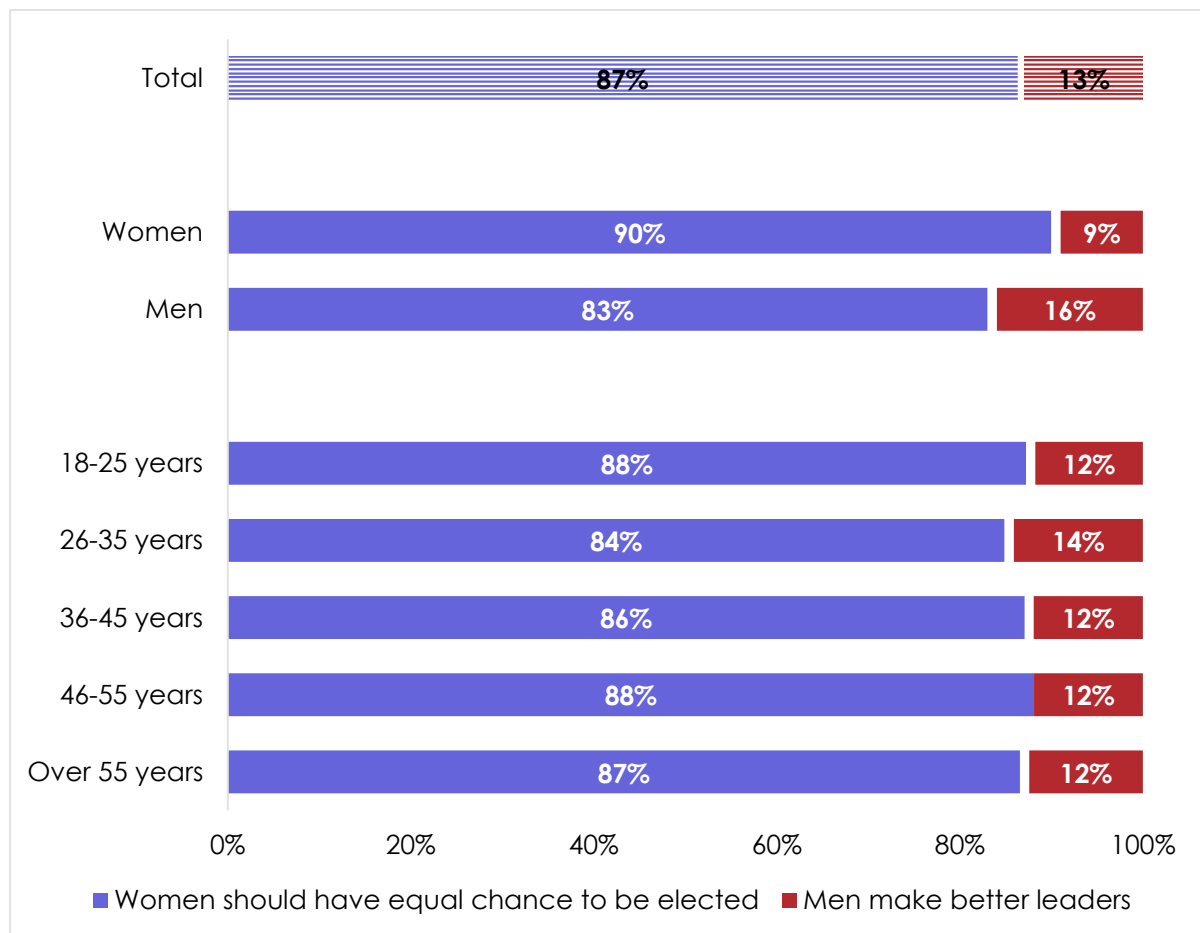
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.

Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Kenya, based at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, interviewed 2,400 adult Kenyans in November-December 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Kenya in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, and 2019.

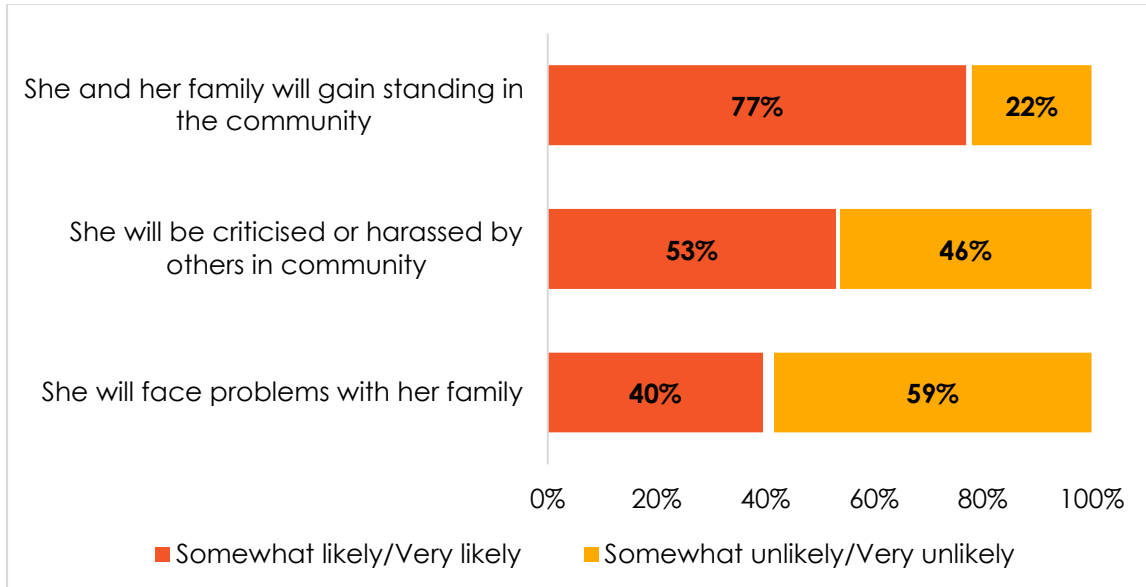
Charts

Figure 1 : Should women have an equal chance to be elected ? | by demographic group | Kenya | 2021



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women and should be elected rather than women.
 Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 2: For better or for worse: How running for elected office might affect women's lives | Kenya | 2021



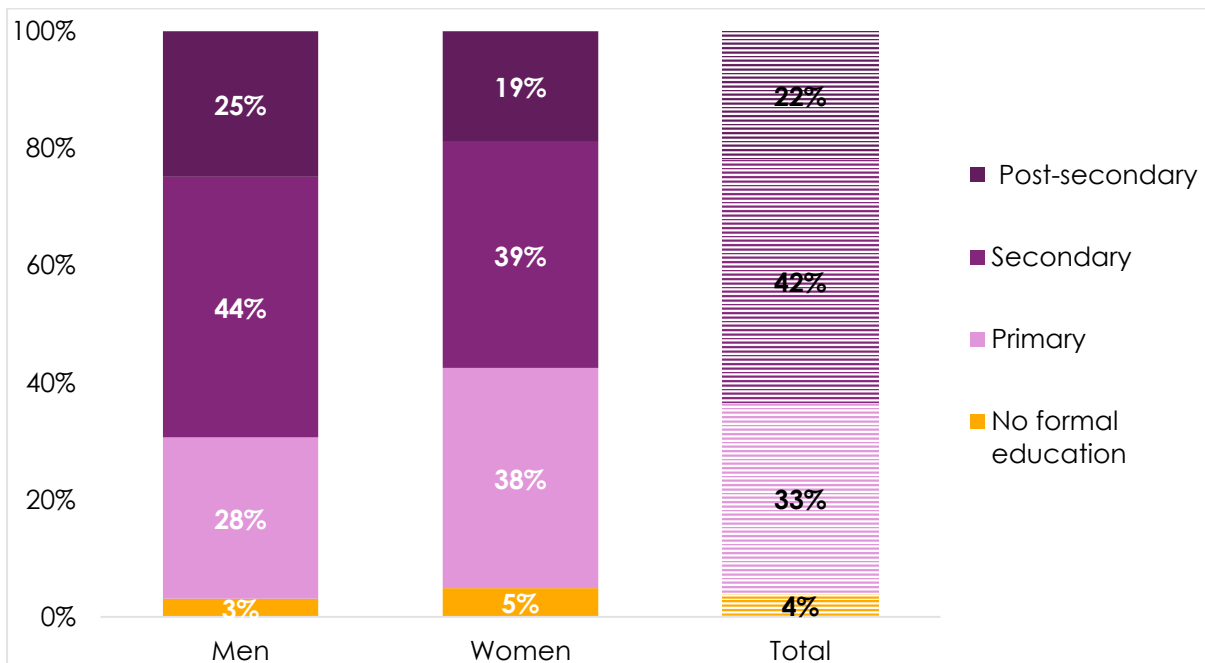
Respondents were asked: *If a woman in your community runs for elected office, how likely or unlikely is it that the following things might occur:*

She and her family will gain standing in the community?

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

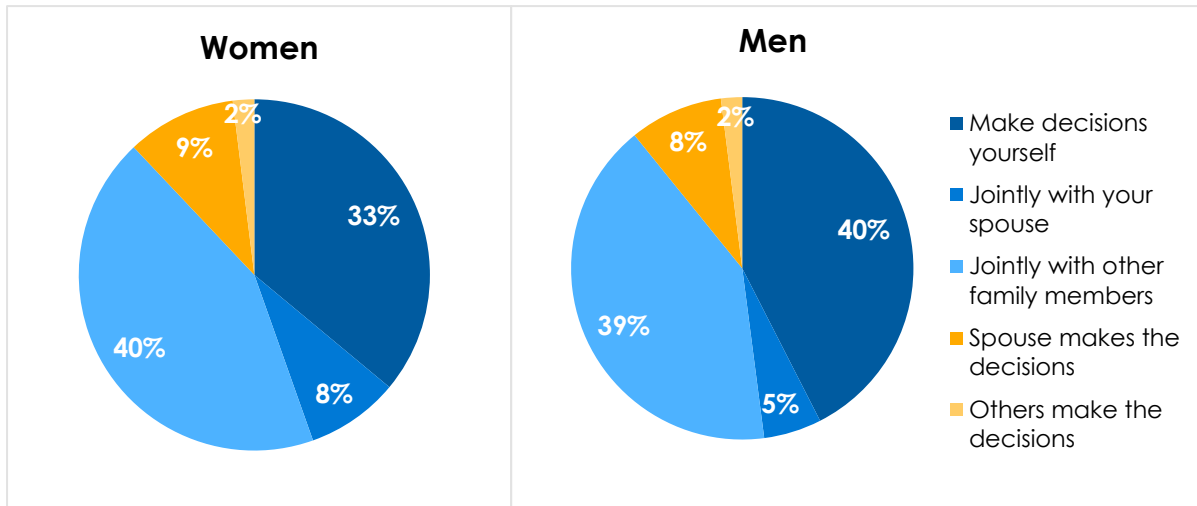
She will face problems with her family?

Figure 3: Educational attainment | by gender | Kenya | 2021



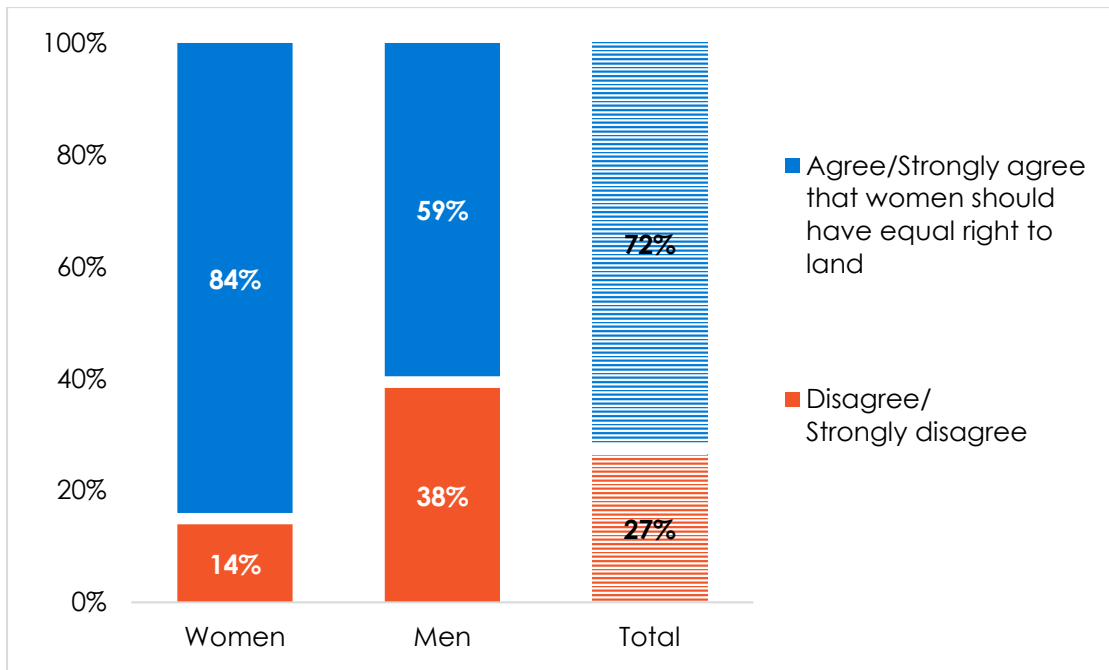
Respondents were asked: *What is your highest level of education?*

Figure 4: Who decides how money is used? | by gender | Kenya | 2021



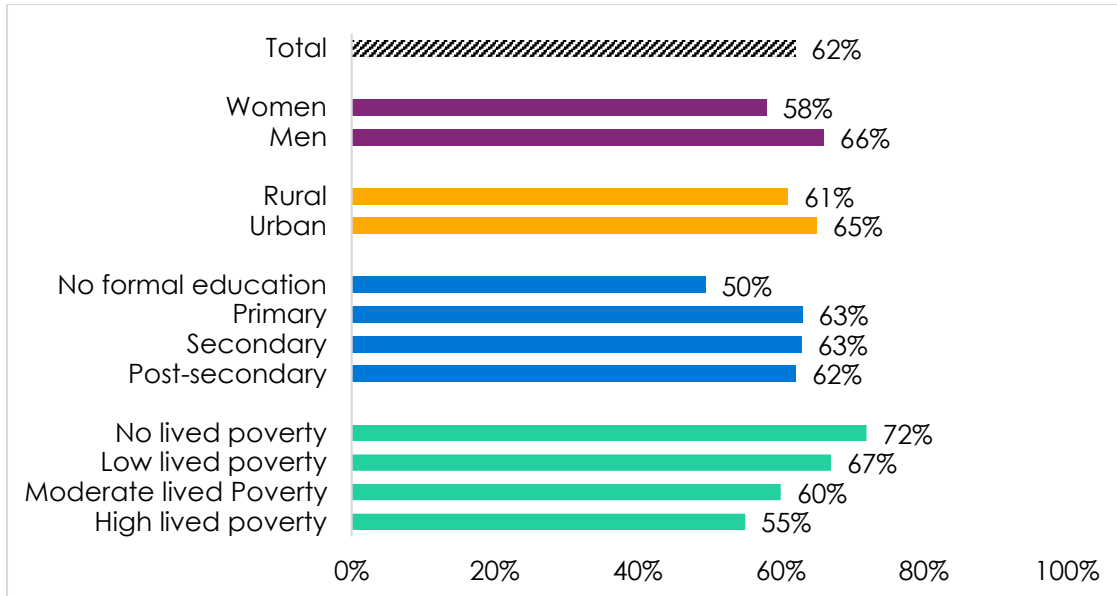
Respondents were asked: What is the main way that decisions are made about how to use any money that you have or earn, for example from a job, a business, selling things, or other activities?

Figure 5: Should women have equal right to land? | by gender | Kenya | 2021



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 6: Government performance in promoting equal rights and opportunities for women | Kenya | 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: Promoting equal rights and opportunities for women? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

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