

News release

Amid persistent gender inequalities, Ghanaians give negative ratings on government efforts to close gaps

Gender inequalities persist in Ghana, and citizens expect greater government efforts to erase them, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Women still trail men when it comes to educational attainment and control over how household monies are spent, survey findings show.

Ghanaians voice strong support for women to have the same rights as men in land ownership and inheritance.

In the political sphere, a majority believe that a woman who runs for political office will gain standing in the community, but many also say it is likely that she will be criticised or harassed.

Overall, a majority of citizens give the government a failing grade for its efforts to promote equal rights and opportunities for women.

Key findings

- Women are less likely than men to have secondary education (37% vs. 45%) or post-secondary education (13% vs. 24%) and more likely than men to have no formal schooling (20% vs. 11%) or only primary education (30% vs. 20%) (Figure 1).
- Half (51%) of Ghanaian women say they make household financial decisions independently, compared to 60% of men (Figure 2).
- Most Ghanaians (85%) say women should have the same right as men to own and inherit land. Men are less inclined than women to believe in equality when it comes to land (82% vs. 89%) (Figure 3).
- More than eight in 10 citizens (86%) think a woman will gain standing in the community if she runs for elective office. But 42% also say it's likely she will be criticised or harassed, and 35% think she will probably face problems with her family (Figure 4).
- A majority (55%) of Ghanaians say the government is doing "fairly badly" or "very badly" at promoting equal rights and opportunities for women (Figure 5).

Afrobarometer surveys

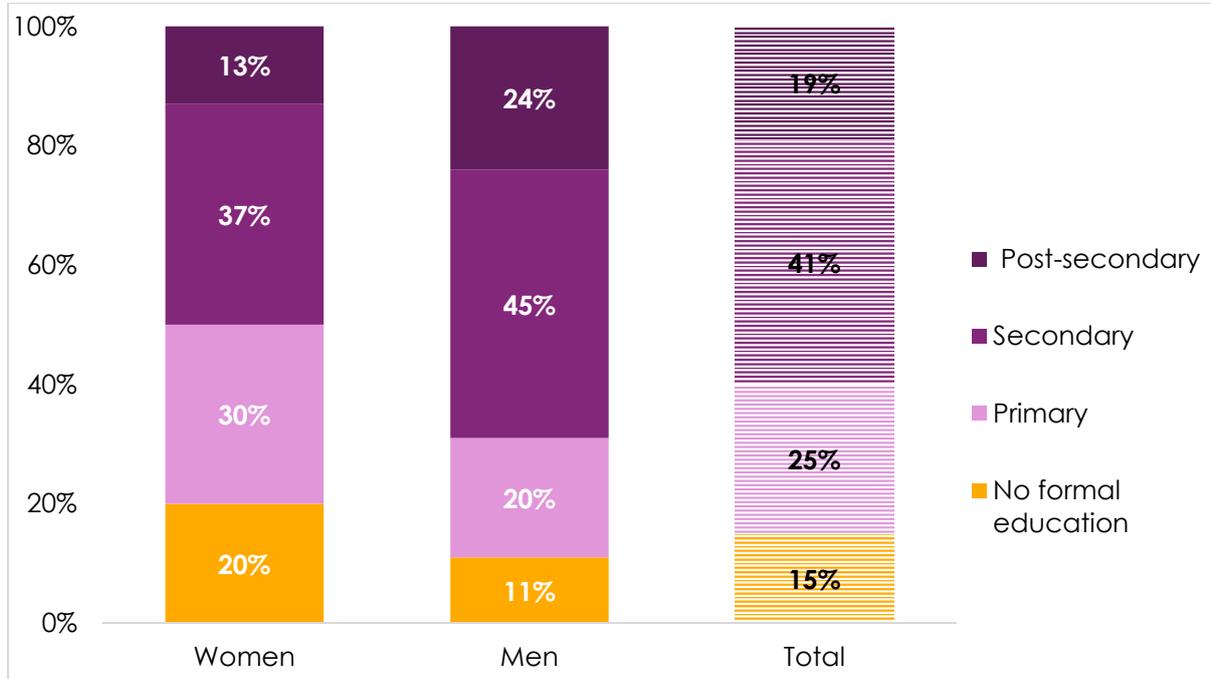
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway.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

The Afrobarometer team in Ghana, led by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Ghanaians in April 2022. 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 Ghana in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

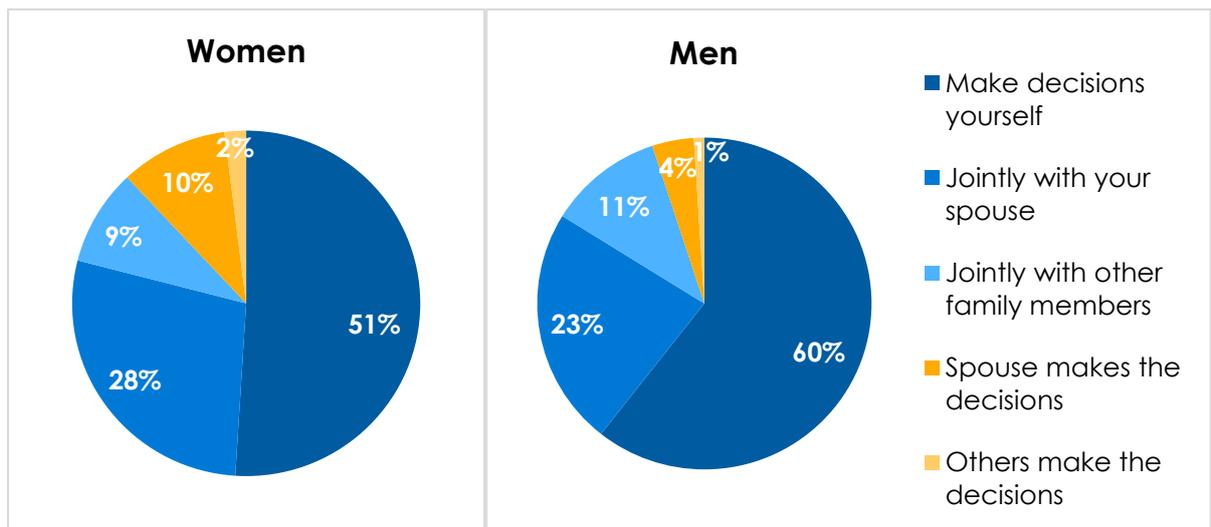
Charts

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



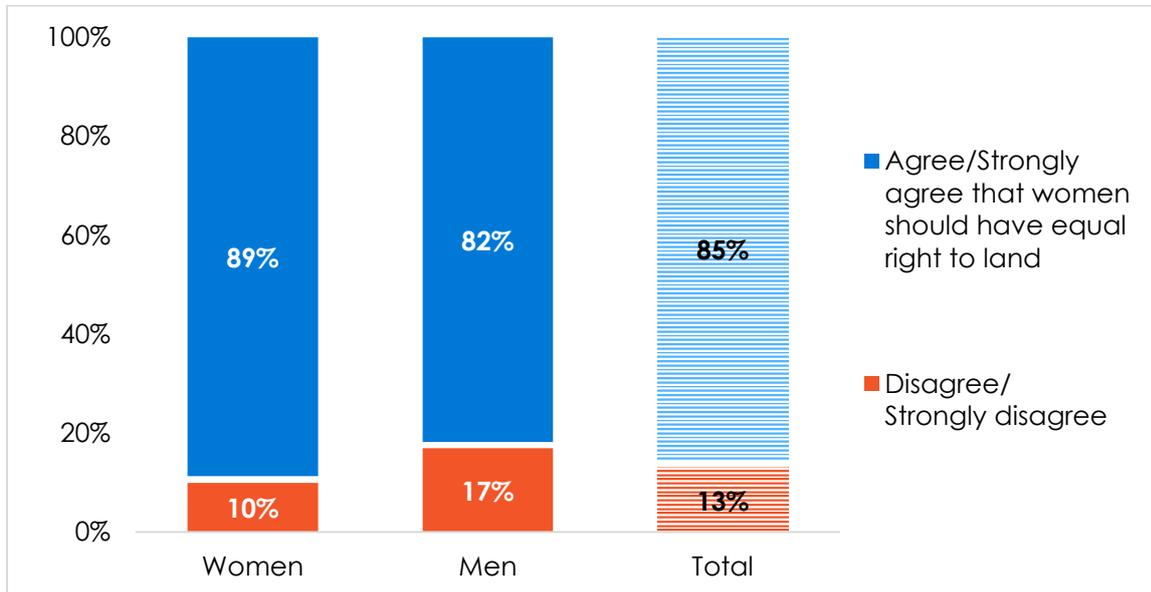
Respondents were asked: What is your highest level of education?

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



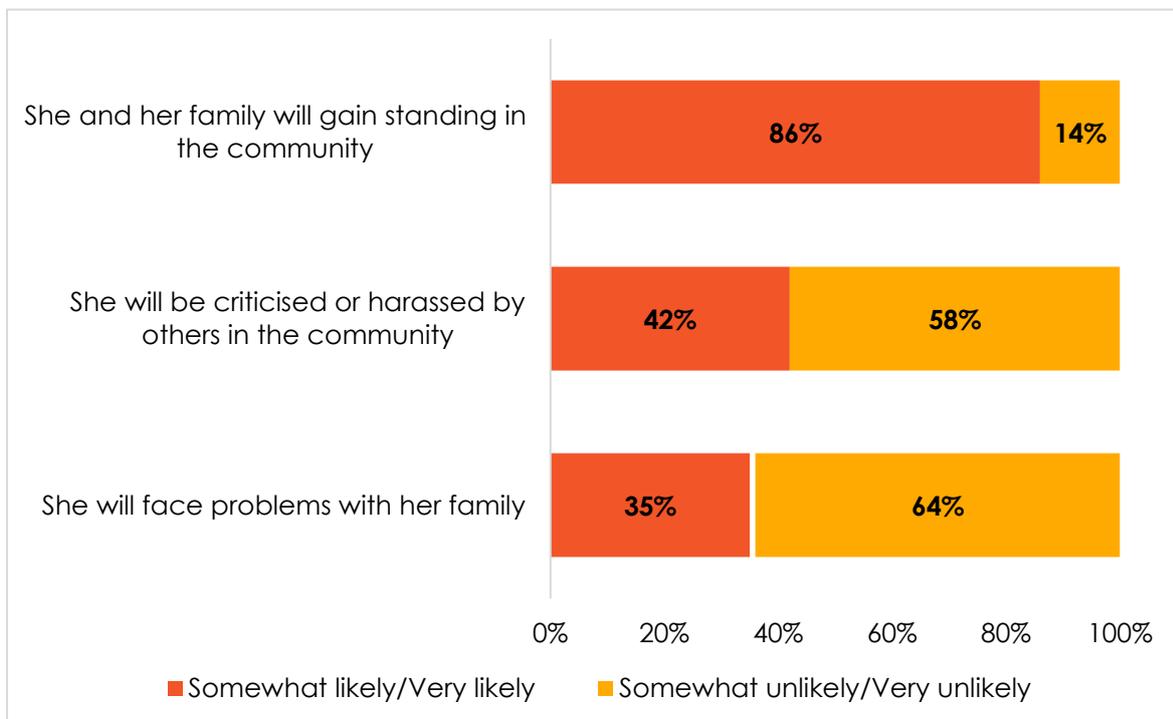
Respondents were asked: What is the main way that decisions are made about how to use any money that you have or earn, for example from a job, a business, selling things, or other activities?

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



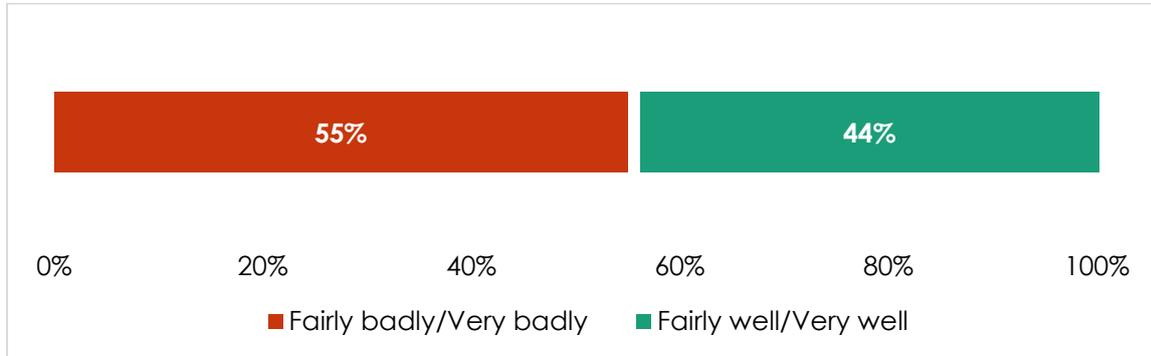
Respondents were asked: If a woman in your community runs for elected office, how likely or unlikely is it that the following things might occur:

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 | Ghana | 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?

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