

Kampala, Uganda  
7 February 2023

## News release

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### Ugandans applaud government efforts to promote gender equality, but want more

Most Ugandans believe the government is doing a good job of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women, but a majority say greater efforts are needed, Afrobarometer findings show.

An overwhelming majority of citizens also 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.

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.

More than two-thirds of Ugandans say women should have the same rights as men to own and inherit land, but a far slimmer majority endorse gender equality in hiring.

Ugandans consider gender-based violence the most important women's-rights issue that the government and society must address.

#### Key findings

- More than eight in 10 citizens (84%) say women should have the same chance as men to be elected to political office (Figure 1).
- While respondents overwhelmingly believe that a woman and her family will gain standing in the community if she runs for election (90%), notable proportions also consider it likely that she will be criticised, called names, or harassed by others in the community (51%) or will face problems with her family (46%) (Figure 2).
- A slim majority (55%) of citizens endorse gender equality in hiring, but more than four in 10 (43%) instead say that when jobs are scarce, men "should have more rights to a job" than women. Among men, a majority (54%) would give priority to male applicants (Figure 3).
- Seven in 10 Ugandans (69%) say women should have the same rights as men to own and inherit land (Figure 4).
- More than eight in 10 Ugandans (83%) applaud the government's performance in promoting equal rights and opportunities for women (Figure 5).
- But a majority (56%) also say the government and elected officials should do more to advance gender equality (Figure 6).
- Ugandans consider gender-based violence the most important women's-rights issue that the government and society must address (cited by 42% of respondents),

followed by unequal property rights (16%) and unequal access to education (15%) (Figure 7).

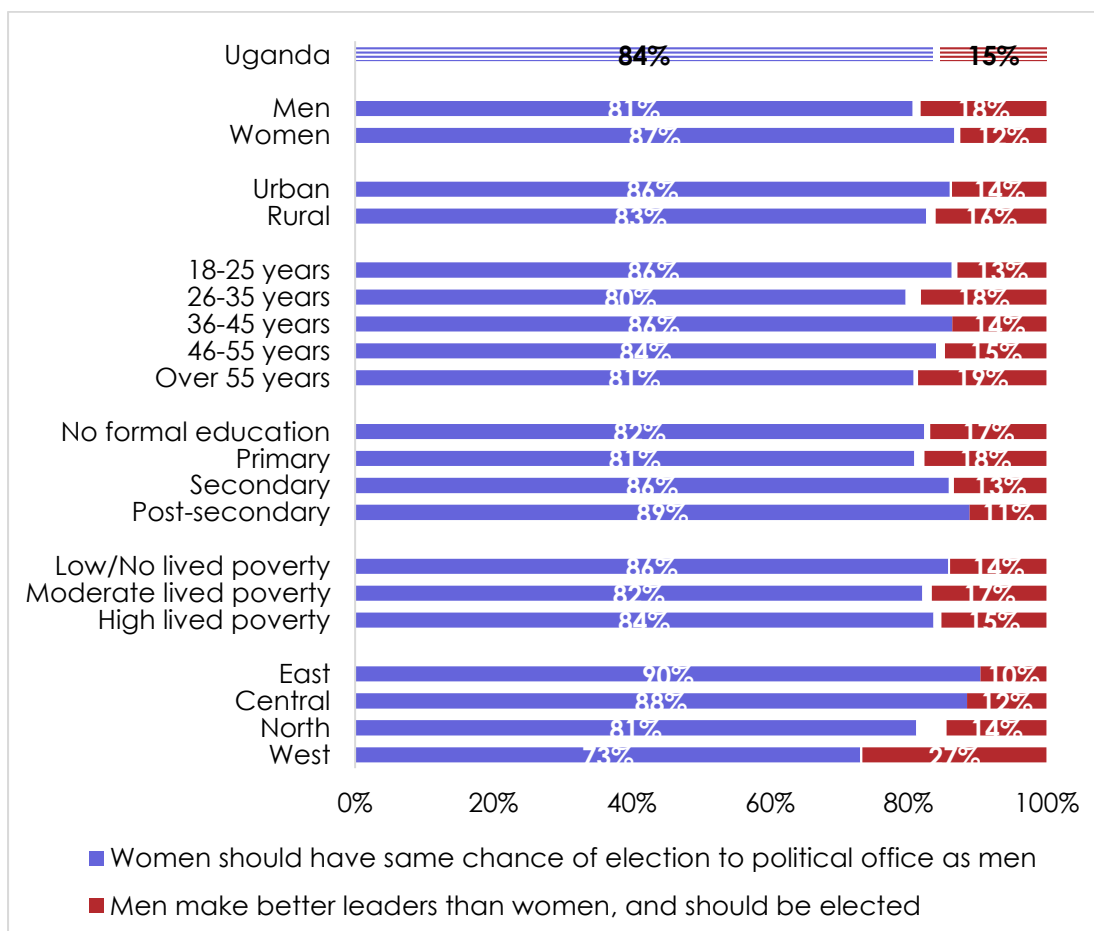
### Afrobarometer surveys

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 Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Ltd., interviewed 2,400 adult Ugandans between 7 and 25 January 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. This was the 12th Afrobarometer survey in Uganda since 1999.

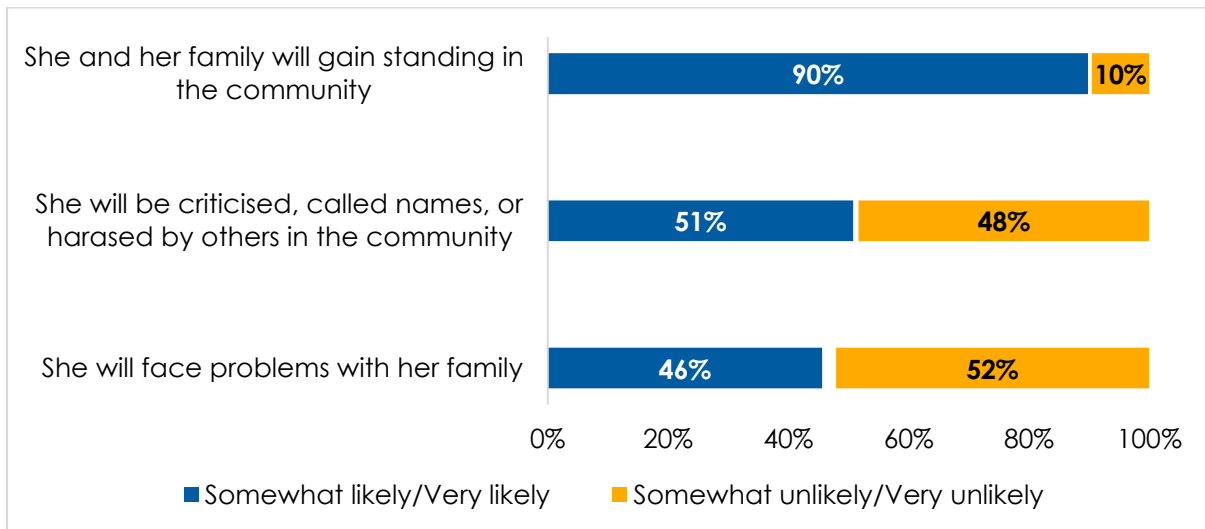
### Charts

**Figure 1: Should women have an equal chance to be elected?** | by demographic group | Uganda | 2022



**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 | Uganda | 2022**



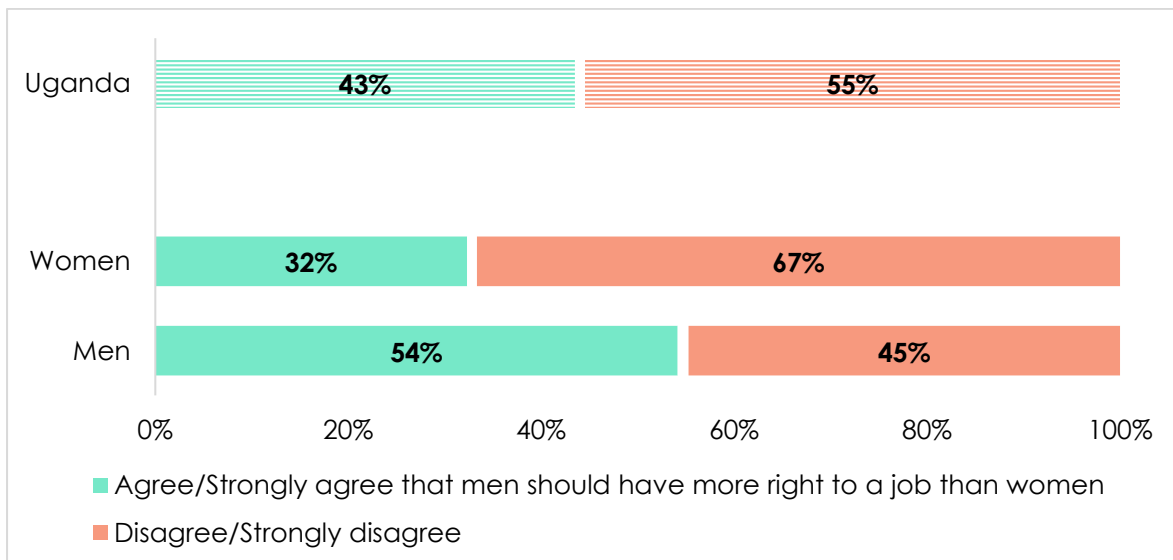
**Respondents were asked:** *If a woman in your community runs for elected office, how likely or unlikely is it that the following things might occur?*

*She and her family will gain standing in the community?*

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

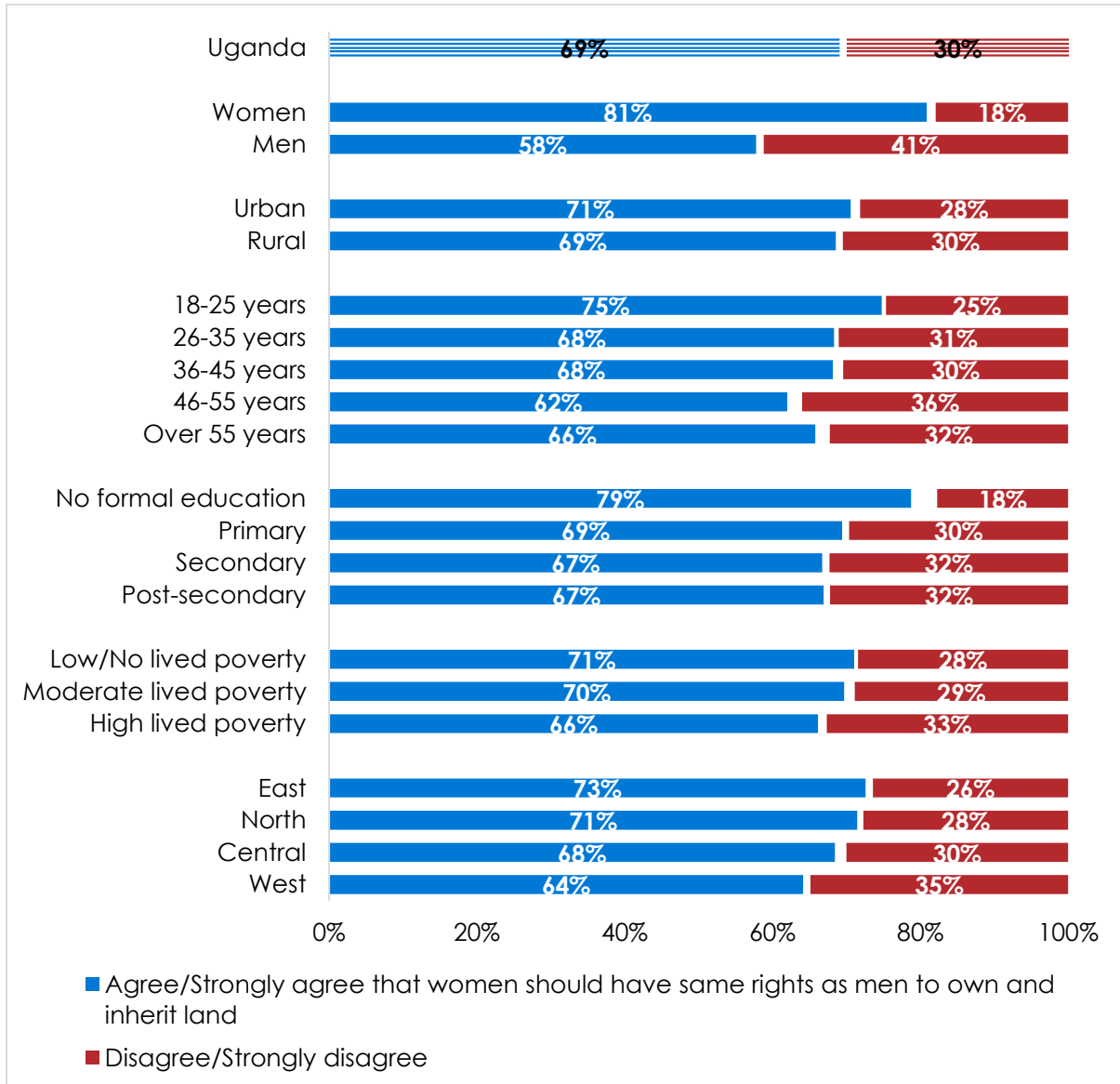
*She will face problems with her family?*

**Figure 3: Should men have more right to a job than women? | by gender | Uganda | 2022**



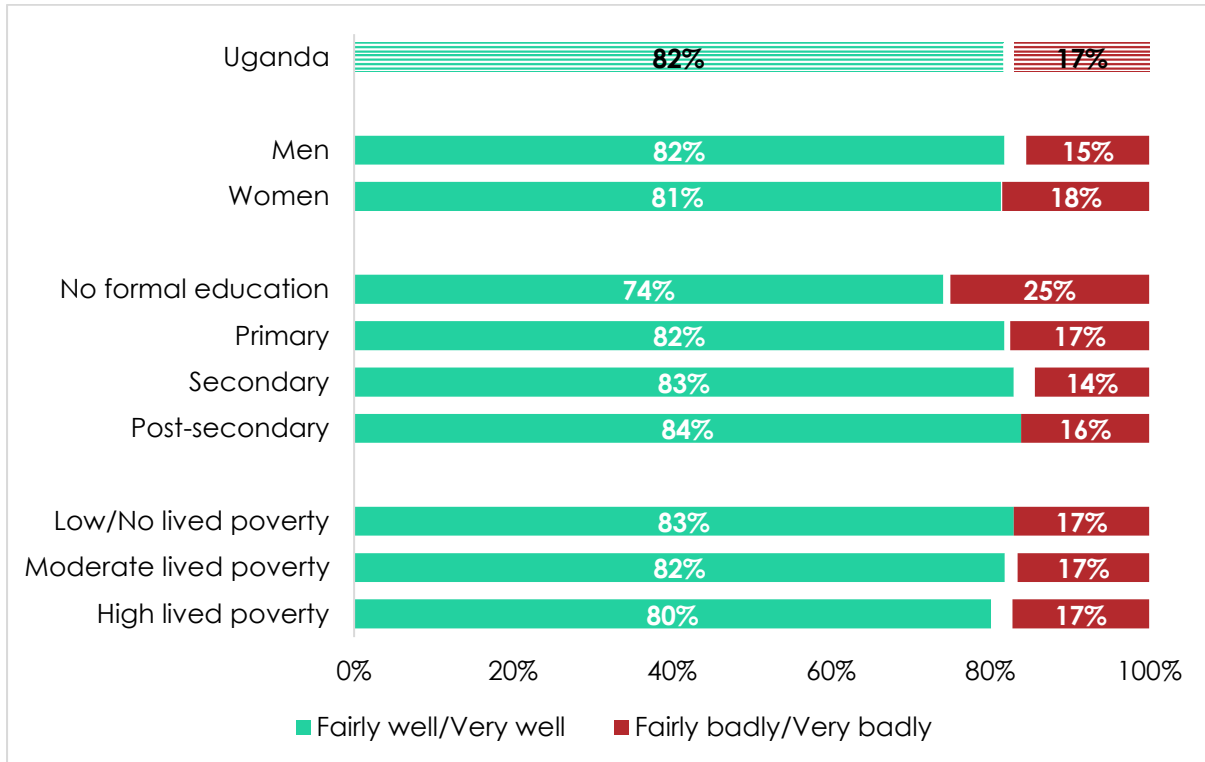
**Respondents were asked:** *For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree; When jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women.*

**Figure 4: Should women have equal right to own and inherit land? | by demographic group | Uganda | 2022**



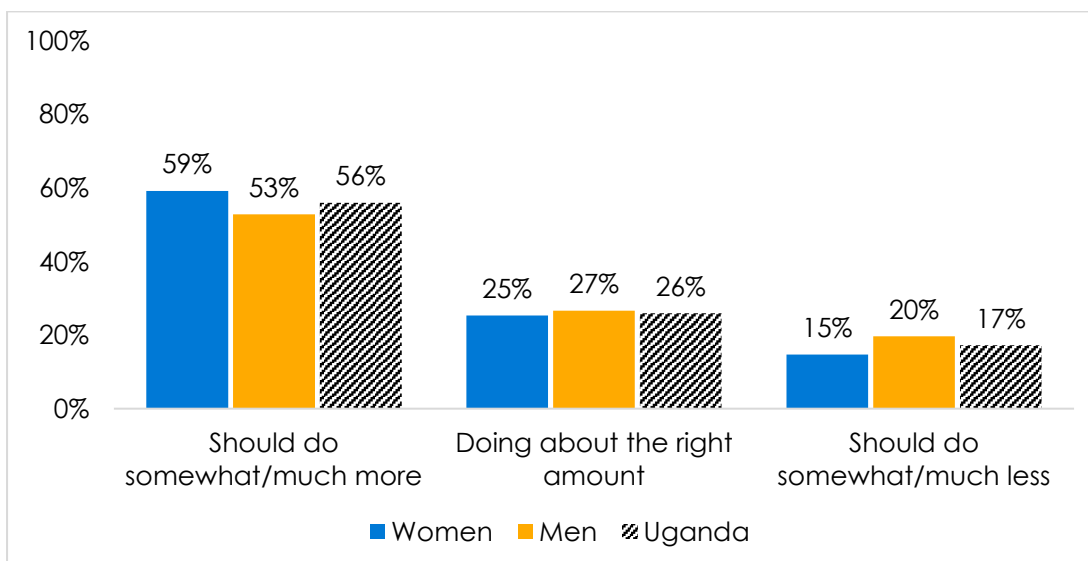
**Respondents were asked:** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: Women should have the same rights as men to own and inherit land.

**Figure 5: Government performance in promoting equal rights and opportunities for women** | by demographic group | Uganda | 2022



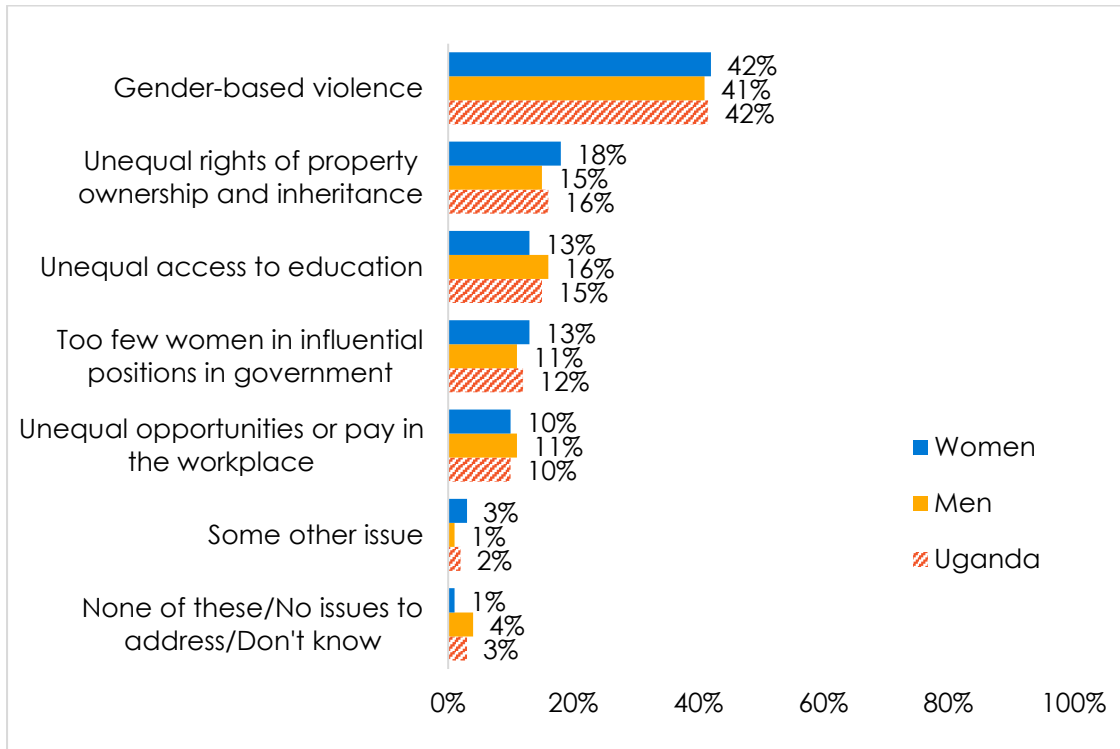
**Respondents were asked:** How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matter, or haven't you heard enough to say: Promoting equal rights and opportunities for women?

**Figure 6: Should the government do more to advance women's rights?** | by gender | Uganda | 2022



**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, should government and elected officials be doing more than they are doing now to advance the rights and equality of women, or should they be doing less, or are they doing about the right amount?

**Figure 7: Most important women's-rights issue | by gender | Uganda | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, which of the following issues related to women's rights and equality do you think is the most important for our government and society to address?*

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