

Banjul, Gambia
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News release

Gambians' give negative assessments of local government councillors' performance

A majority of Gambians give their local government councillors a negative performance rating, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Few citizens think their local councillors try to listen to what people have to say, though only about a quarter of respondents report having contacted their councillor during the previous year.

A majority of Gambians express a lack of trust in their local government council and say most councillors are corrupt.

Gambians will elect local government councillors and mayors in April.

Key findings

- One in four citizens (26%) say they contacted their local government councillor at least once during the previous year for some important problem or to give them their views. Almost three-fourths (73%) say they did not (Figure 1).
- About four in 10 Gambians (39%) say local government councillors "never" try to listen to what citizens have to say. Only 23% say they "often" or "always" listen (Figure 2).
- Only about one-third (36%) of Gambians say they trust their local government council "somewhat" or "a lot," while a majority (61%) express "just a little" or no trust at all in their council (Figure 3).
- More than half (55%) of citizens say that "most" or "all" local government councillors are corrupt (Figure 4).
- Almost six in 10 Gambians (59%) give their local government councillor a negative performance rating, up from 30% in 2018 (Figure 5).

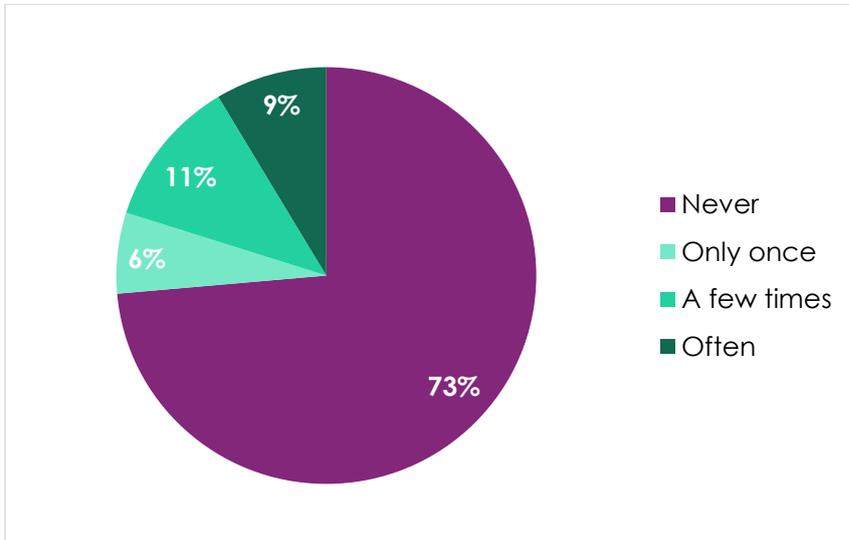
Afrobarometer surveys

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, and Round 9 surveys are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Gambia, led by the Center for Policy, Research and Strategic Studies (CepRass), interviewed 1,200 adult citizens of Gambia between 30 August and 19 September 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Gambia in 2018 and 2021.

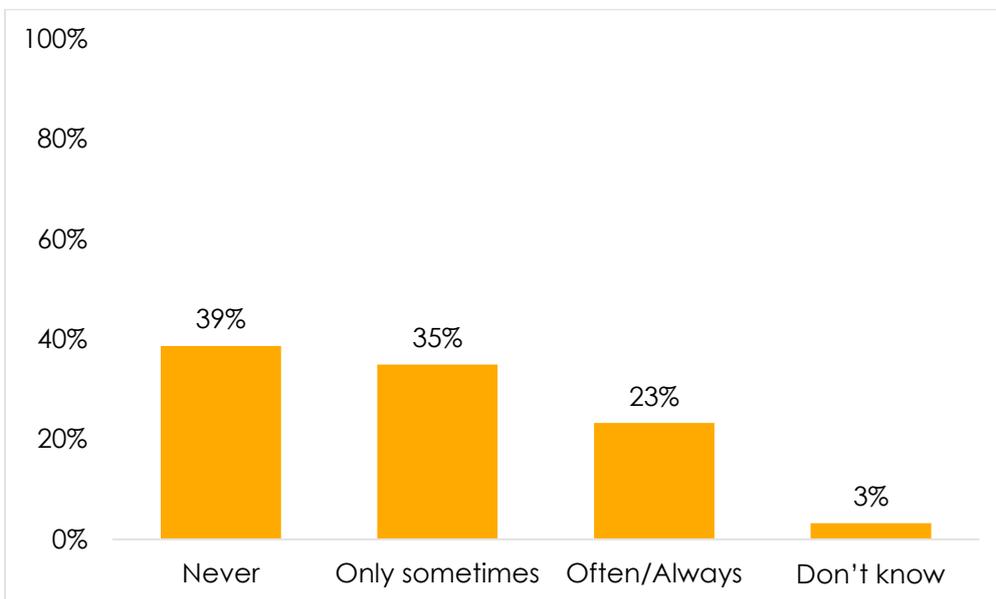
Charts

Figure 1: Contact with local government councillor | Gambia | 2022



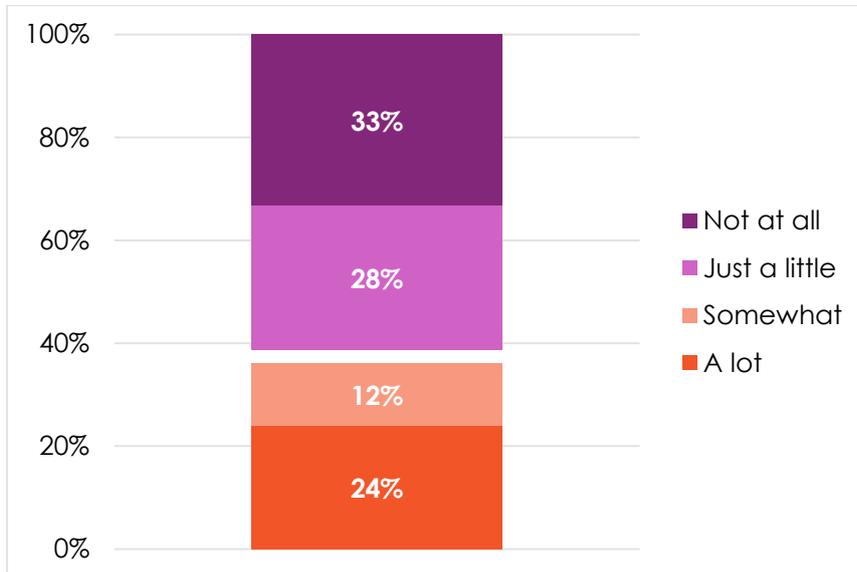
Respondents were asked: During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views: A local government councillor?

Figure 2: Do local government councillors listen? | Gambia | 2022



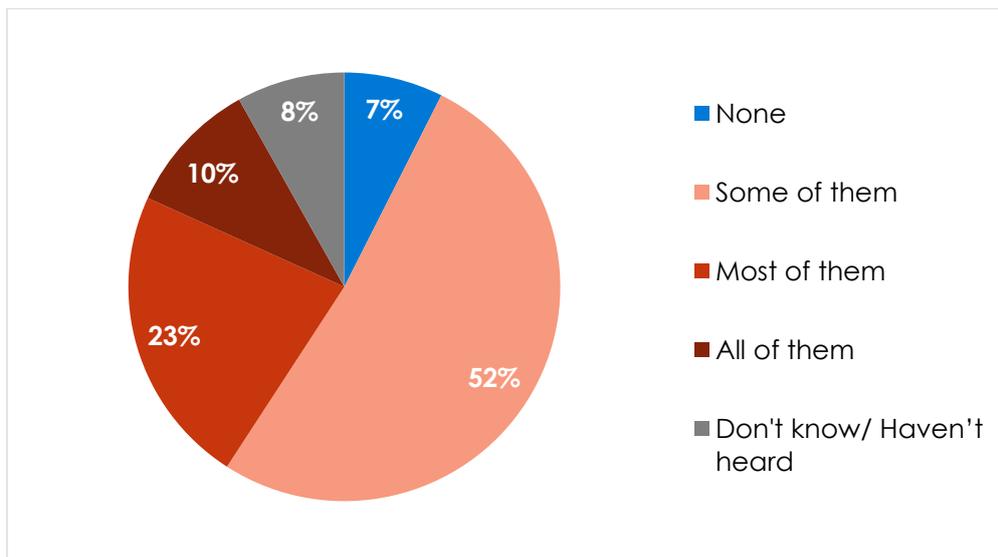
Respondents were asked: How much of the time do you think the following try their best to listen to what people like you have to say: Local government councillors?

Figure 3: Trust in local government council | Gambia | 2022



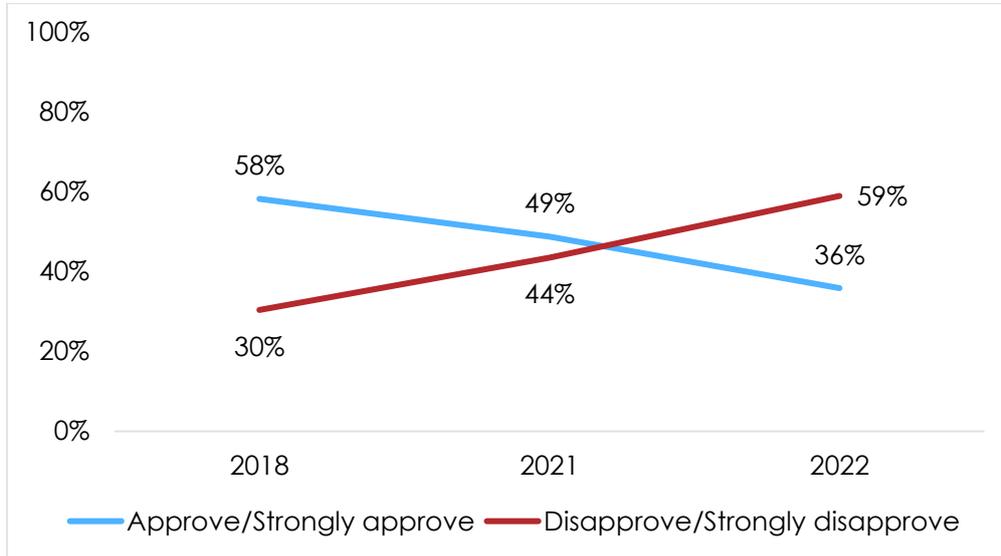
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your local government council?

Figure 4: Corruption among local government councillors | Gambia | 2022



Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Local government councillors?

Figure 5: Evaluation of local government councillor performance | Gambia
 | 2018-2022



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your elected local government councillor?

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