

Banjul, Gambia
9 March 2023

News release

Most Gambians say the government is not doing a good job of fighting corruption

A majority of Gambians say corruption in the country has increased during the past year and the government is doing a poor job of fighting it, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Public perceptions of corruption in key public institutions have increased compared to 2018, and a majority of Gambians say they risk retaliation should they speak out on corruption.

The highly anticipated anti-corruption bill is currently before the National Assembly. The Gambia has no official commission dedicated to fighting corruption.

Key findings

- More than three-fourths (77%) of Gambians say the overall level of corruption in the country has increased during the past year, more than twice the proportion recorded in 2018 (32%) (Figure 1).
- Perceptions of corruption among public officials and institutions have increased compared to 2018. Among key public institutions, the office of the Presidency, the police, and members of Parliament are most widely perceived as corrupt (Figure 2).
- Fewer than half (46%) of Gambians believe that people can report corruption without fear of retaliation, down from 58% in 2018 (Figure 3).
- Most Gambians (85%) say the government is doing “fairly badly” or “very badly” at fighting corruption, a 48-percentage-point increase compared to 2018 (Figure 4).

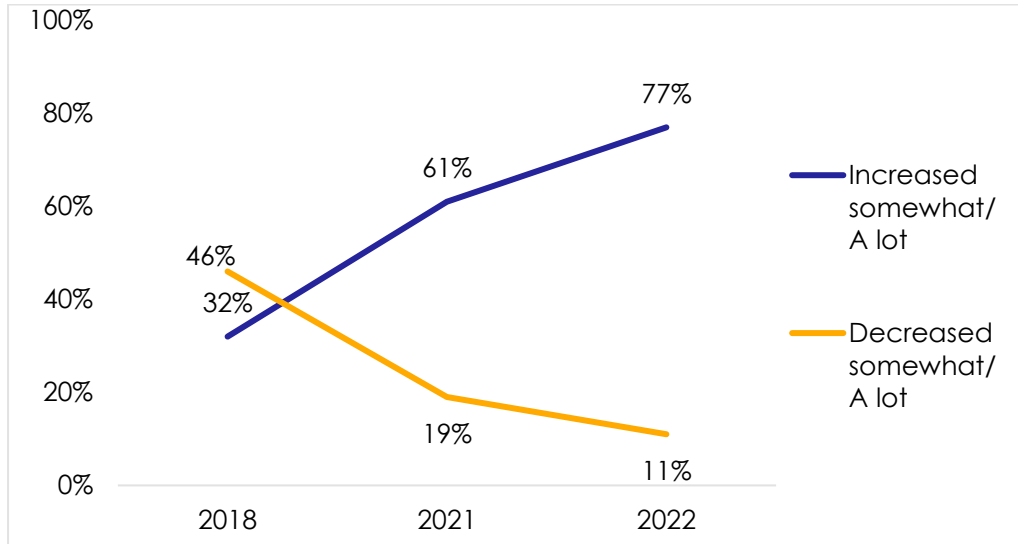
Afrobarometer surveys

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 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.

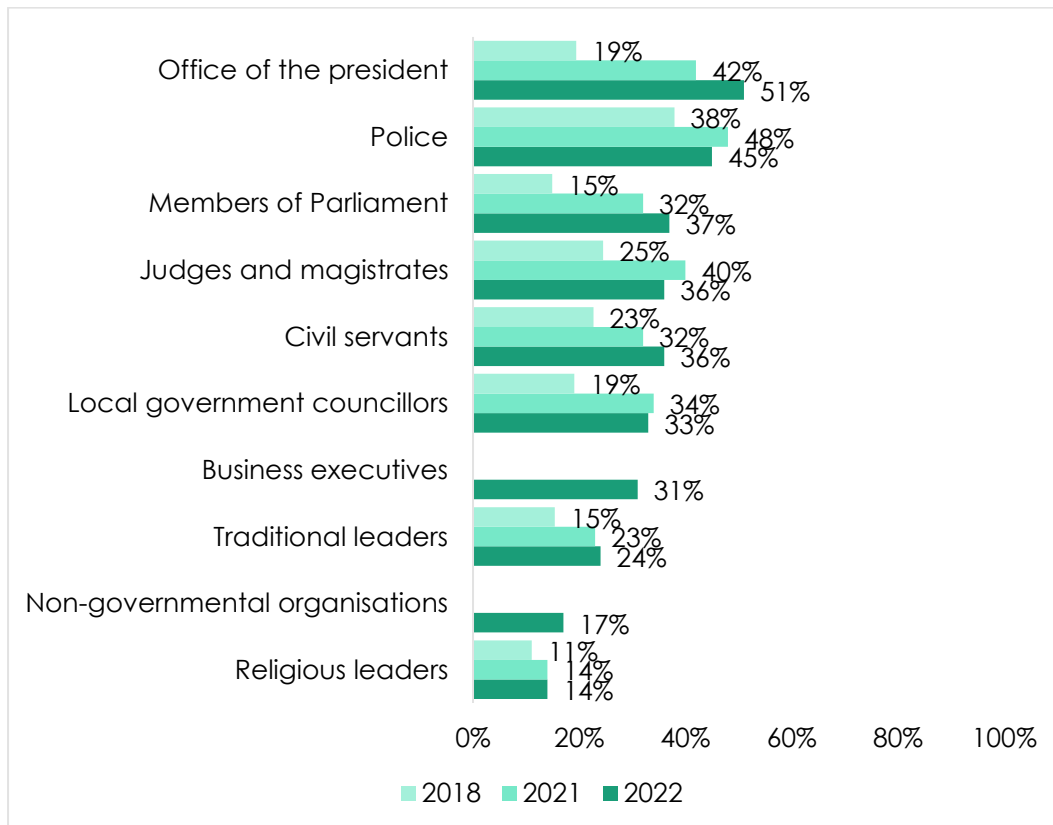
Charts

Figure 1: Level of corruption | Gambia | 2018-2022



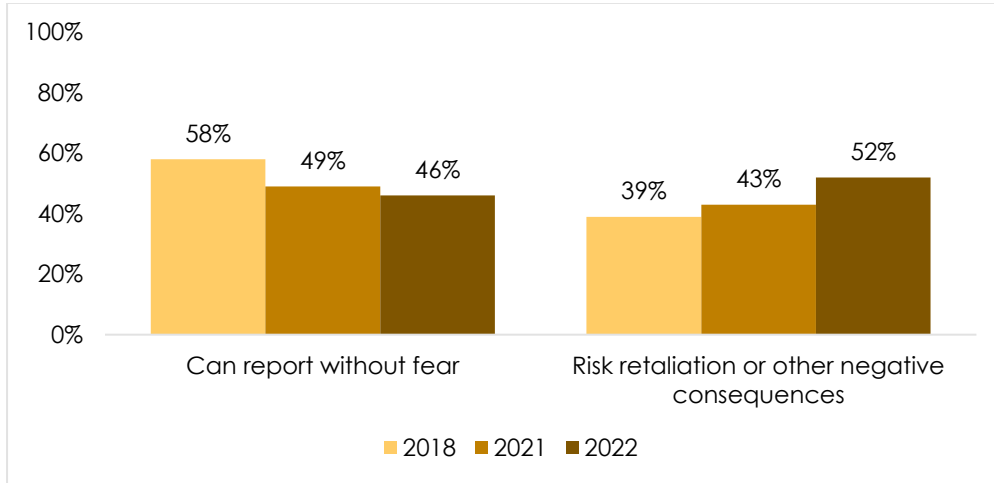
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Figure 2: Who is corrupt? | Gambia | 2018-2022



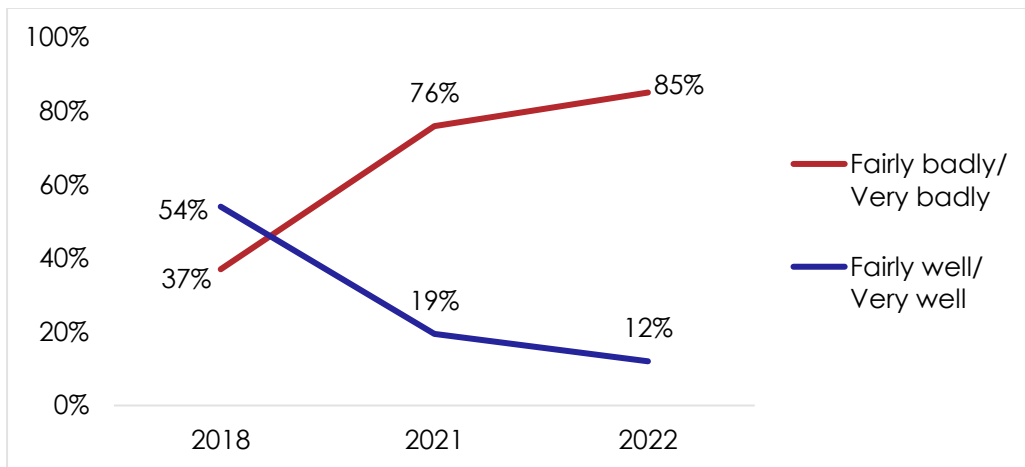
Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "most of them" or "all of them")

Figure 3: Risk of retaliation for reporting corruption | Gambia | 2018-2022



Respondents were asked: In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?

Figure 4 : Evaluation of government performance in fighting corruption | Gambia | 2018-2022



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say, the current government is handling the following matters, or you haven't heard enough to say: Fighting corruption?

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