

Kampala, Uganda
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News release

Ugandans see corruption as a growing problem, fear retaliation if they report

Most Ugandans say that corruption is increasing and that citizens risk retaliation if they report it to the authorities, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

According to the findings, corruption ranks among the five most important problems that citizens want the government to address. Only a small minority think that government anti-corruption efforts are adequate.

Among respondents who sought selected public services during the previous year, substantial proportions report having to pay a bribe.

The survey findings suggest a need to strengthen the country's anti-corruption institutions and demonstrate that witness-protection legislation can indeed protect whistle-blowers. Uganda ranks 142nd out of 180 countries in controlling corruption, according to the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International.

Key findings

- Nearly one in five Ugandans (18%) cite corruption as one of the most important problems facing the country that the government should address. The proportion of citizens who consider corruption an urgent problem has ranged from just 3% in 2000 to 20% in 2017 (Figure 1).
- Almost seven out of 10 Ugandans (68%) say corruption in the country increased "somewhat" or "a lot" during the year preceding the survey (Figure 2).
- Among citizens who accessed selected public services during the previous year, 71% say they had to pay a bribe to obtain police assistance (Figure 3).
 - About four in 10 report having to pay a bribe to get a government document (40%) or to obtain medical care (38%), while 29% say they had to pay a bribe to receive services at a public school.
- More than eight out of 10 Ugandans (81%) believe that citizens who report corruption to the responsible authorities risk retaliation or other negative consequences (Figure 4).
- Only 18% of Ugandans think the government is doing a good job of fighting corruption (Figure 5).

Afrobarometer surveys

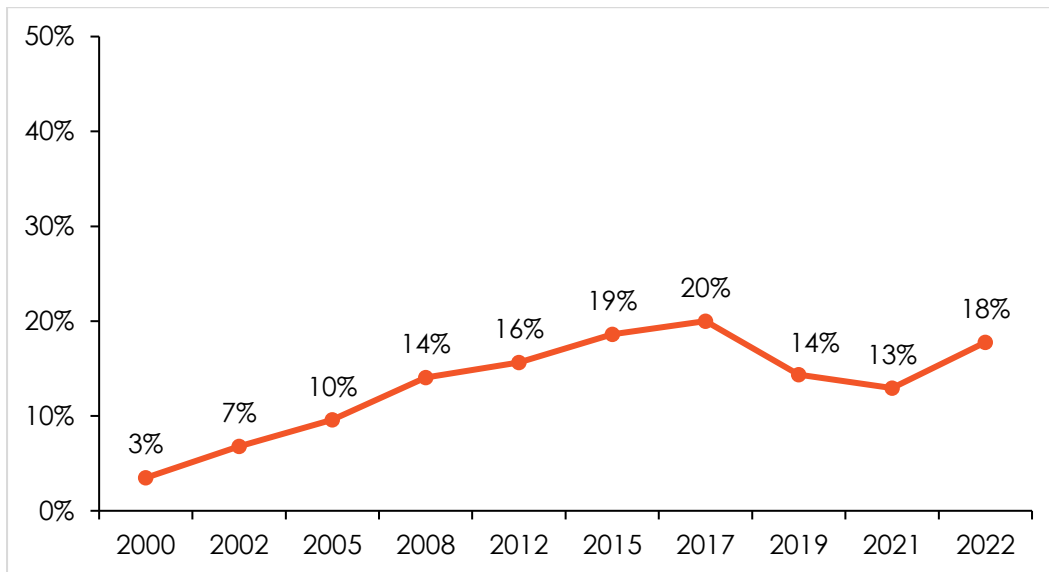
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9

surveys (2021/2023) 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.

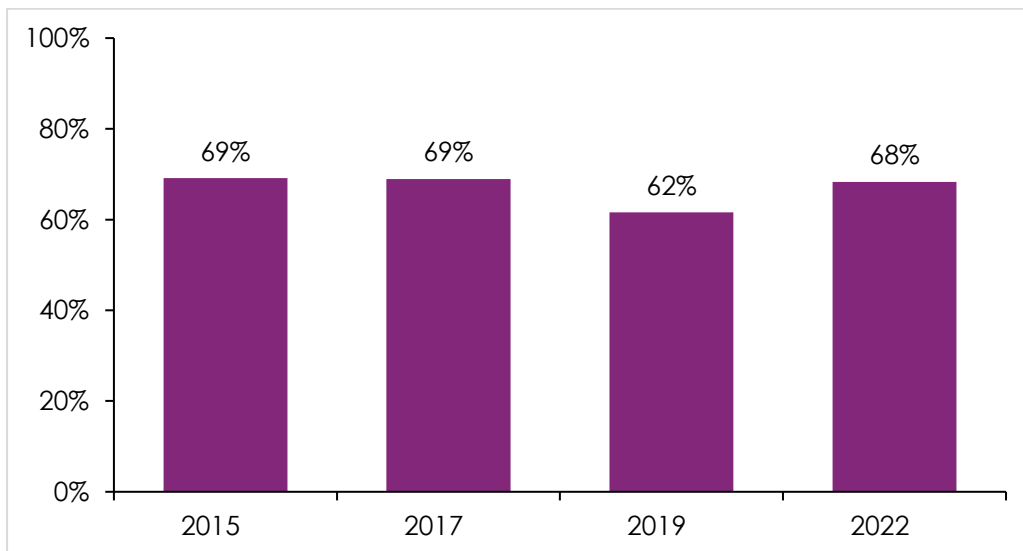
Charts

Figure 1: Corruption as the most important problem | Uganda | 2000-2022



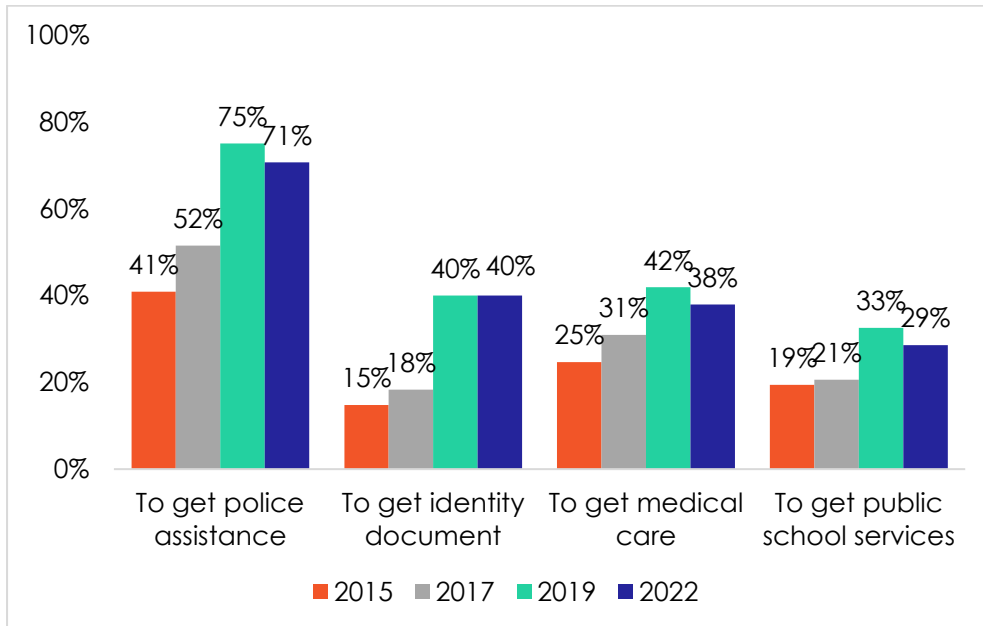
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person. The figure shows the percentage of respondents who mention corruption as one of up to three priorities.)*

Figure 2: Perceived level of corruption | Uganda | 2015-2022



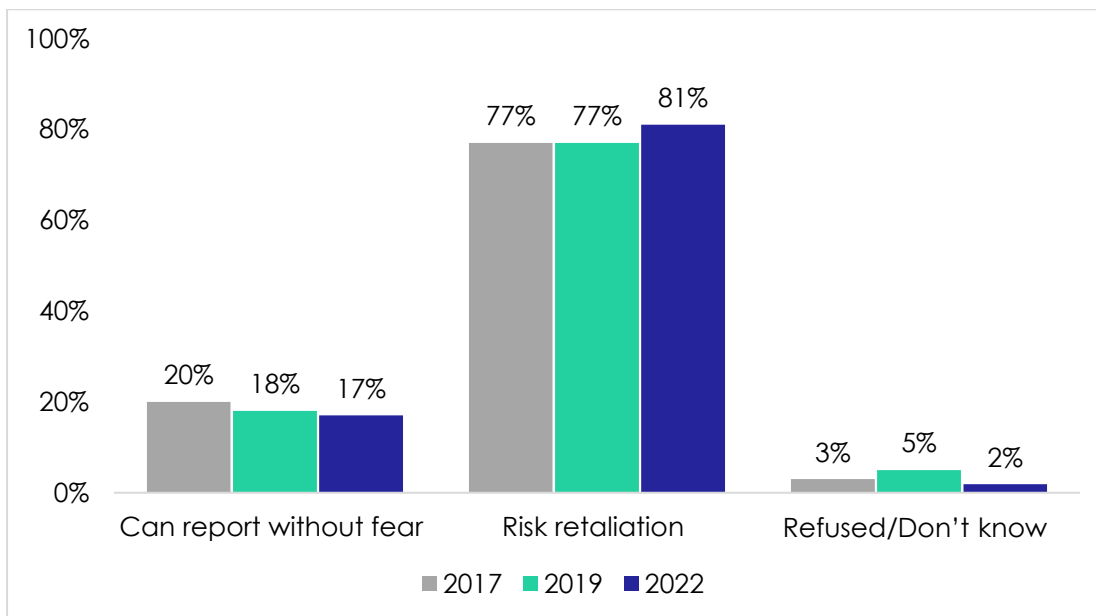
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same? (% who say "increased somewhat" or "increased a lot")*

Figure 3: Paid bribes to obtain public services | Uganda | 2015-2022



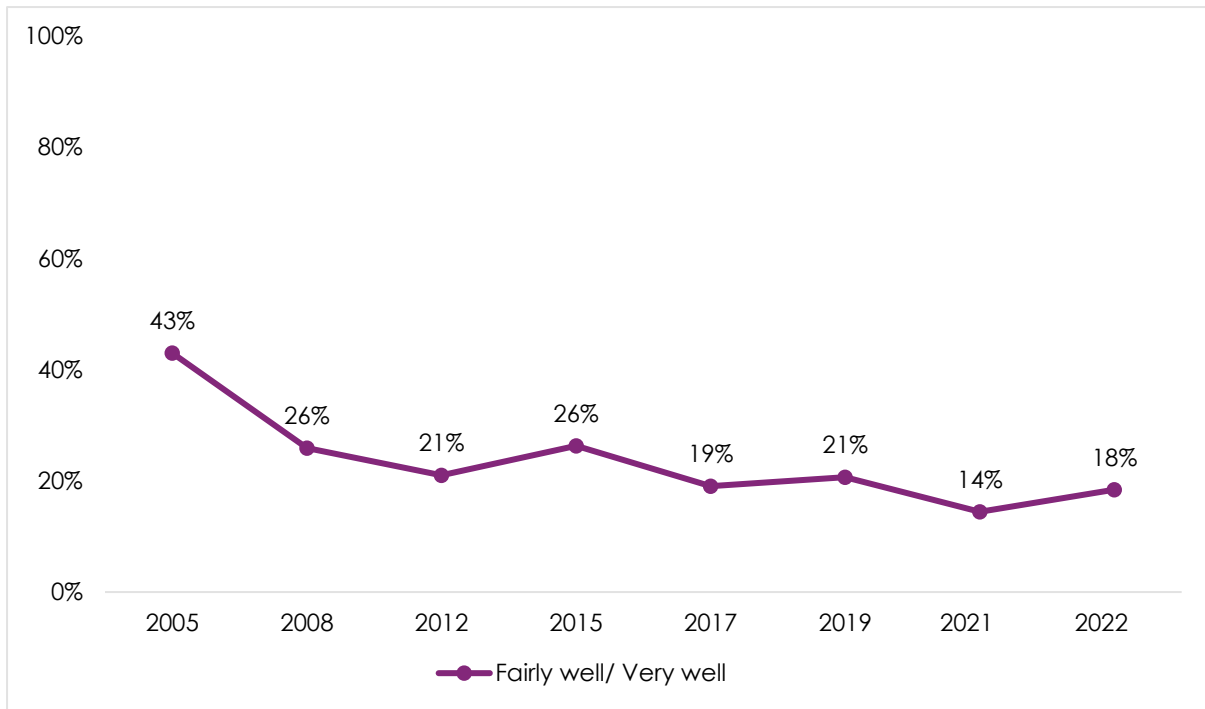
Respondents who sought selected public services during the previous year were asked: How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour [to obtain the needed services]? (% who say "once or twice," "a few times," or often)

Figure 4: Do people risk retaliation if they report corruption? | Uganda | 2017-2022



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 5 : Government performance in fighting corruption | Uganda | 2005-2022



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: Fighting corruption in government? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

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