



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
24 May 2023

News release

Tanzanians express trust in the police but cite shortcomings in professional conduct, Afrobarometer survey shows

More than three-quarters of Tanzanians say they trust the police, but fewer than half think the police usually act in a professional manner and respect all citizens' rights, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

Sizeable minorities say the police frequently stop drivers without good reason and use excessive force in dealing with criminal suspects and managing protests.

Most Tanzanians say they feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods and give the government good marks on reducing crime.

Key findings

- Three-fourths of Tanzanians say they “never” felt unsafe while walking in their neighborhood (75%) or feared crime in their home (74%) during the previous year, while 25% and 26%, respectively, report experiencing these forms of insecurity at least once during the previous year (Figure 1).
- Almost three in 10 Tanzanians (28%) say that “most” or “all” police are corrupt – one of the best ratings across 34 African countries surveyed in 2021/2022, but still the worst among 11 Tanzanian institutions and leaders the survey asked about (Figure 2).
- But eight in 10 respondents (79%) say they trust the police, including 46% who trust them “a lot” (Figure 3).
- Over the past decade, the share of citizens who say they don't trust the police “at all” has dropped by about half, from 16% in 2012 to 9% (Figure 4).
- Even so, significant proportions of the population say the police “often” or “always” use excessive force with suspected criminals (42%) and protesters (28%), stop drivers without good reason (37%), and engage in criminal activities (11%) (Figure 5).
- Overall, 45% of Tanzanians say the police “often” or “always” operate in a professional manner and respect all citizens' rights, while about half as many (24%) say they “rarely” or “never” do (Figure 6)
- Public approval of the government's performance on crime reduction remains strong (74%), though it has declined by 12 percentage points since 2019 (Figure 7).

Afrobarometer surveys

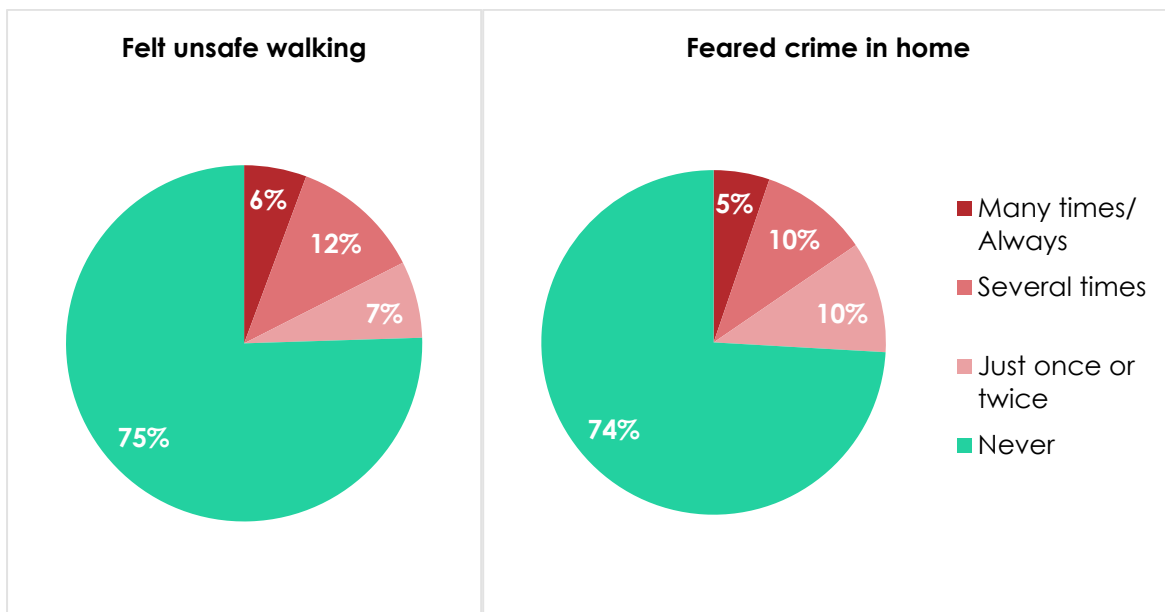
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9

surveys are being completed in early 2023. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Tanzania, led by REPOA, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 2,400 Tanzanian adults in September-October 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 Tanzania in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2021.

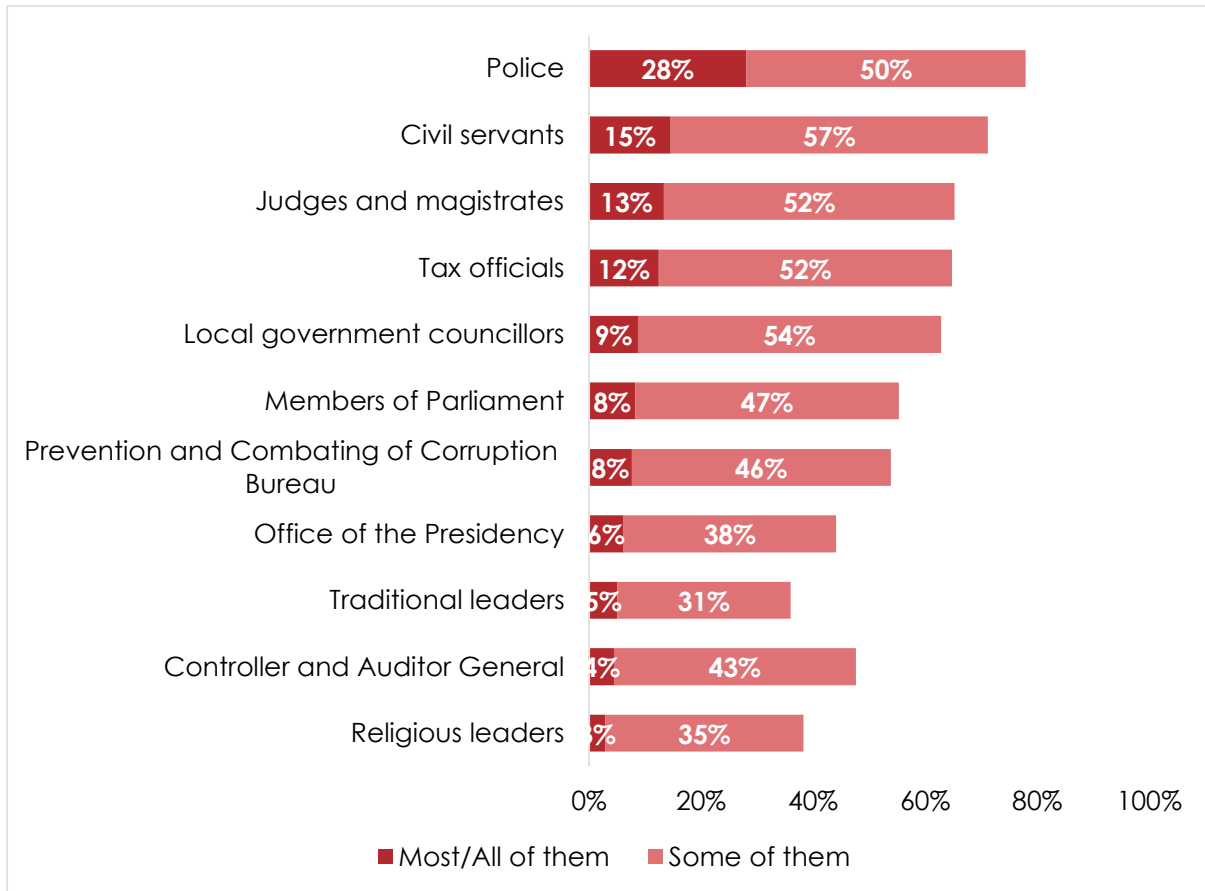
Charts

Figure 1: Insecurity and fear of crime | Tanzania | 2022



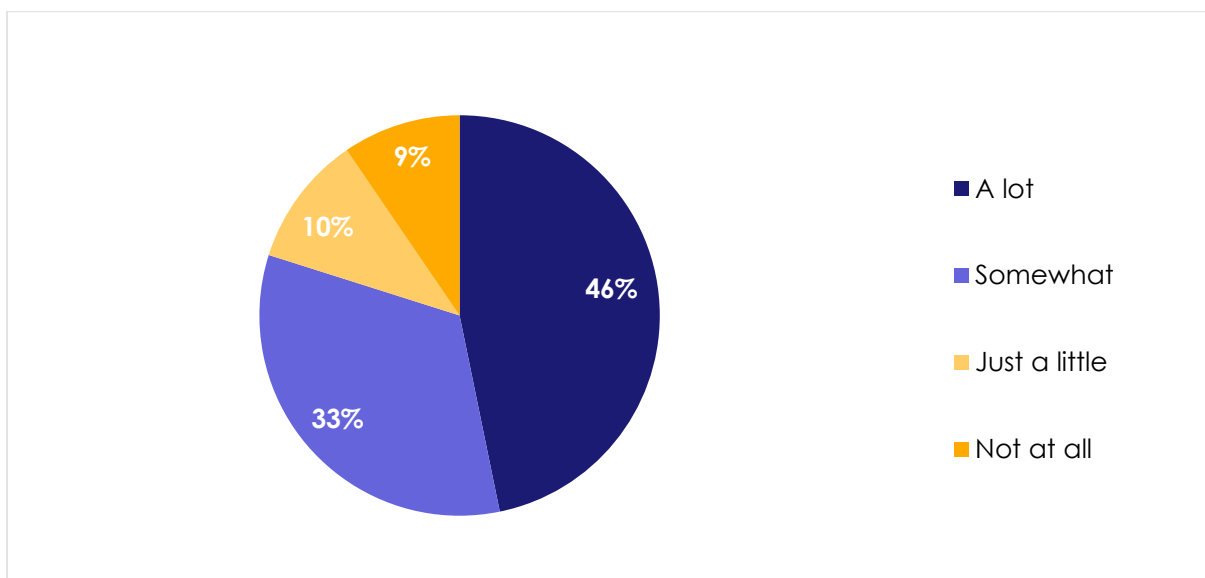
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family: Felt unsafe walking in your neighbourhood? Feared crime in your own home?

Figure 2: Perceived corruption among institutions and leaders | Tanzania | 2022



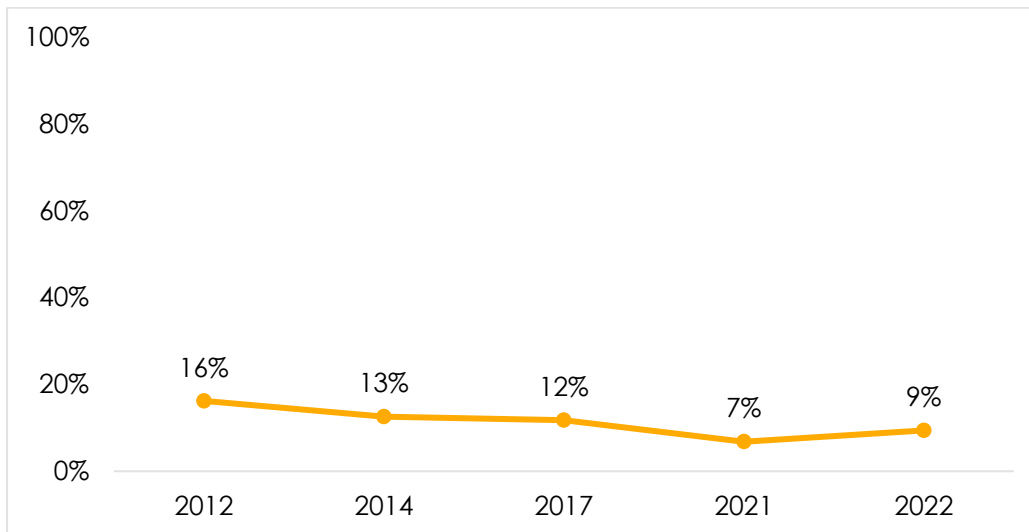
Respondents were asked: How many of the following do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Figure 3: Trust in the police | Tanzania | 2022



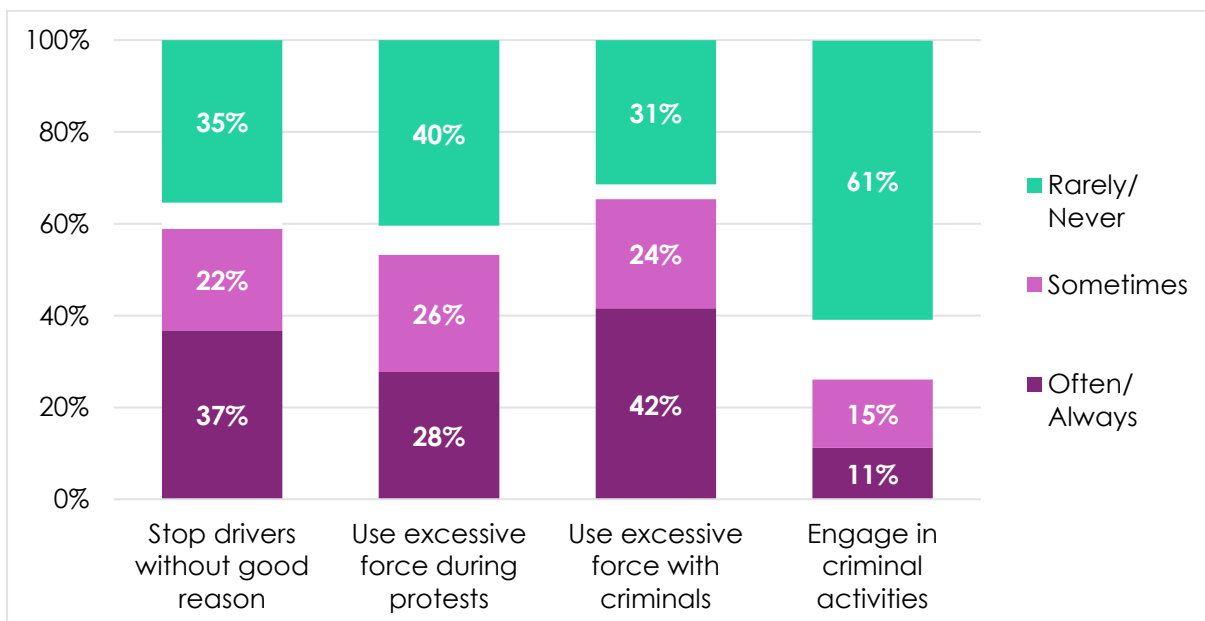
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the police, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Figure 4: Don't trust the police 'at all' | Tanzania | 2011-2021



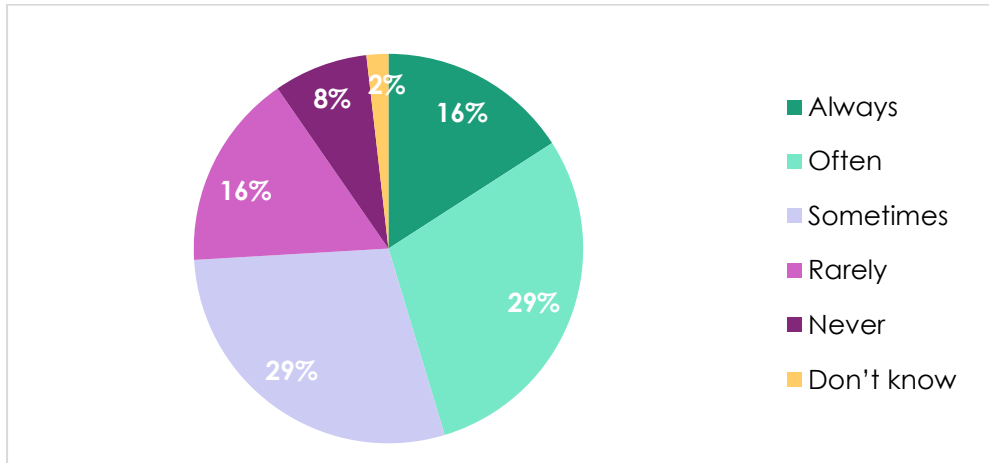
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the police, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "not at all")

Figure 5: Improper police practices | Tanzania | 2022



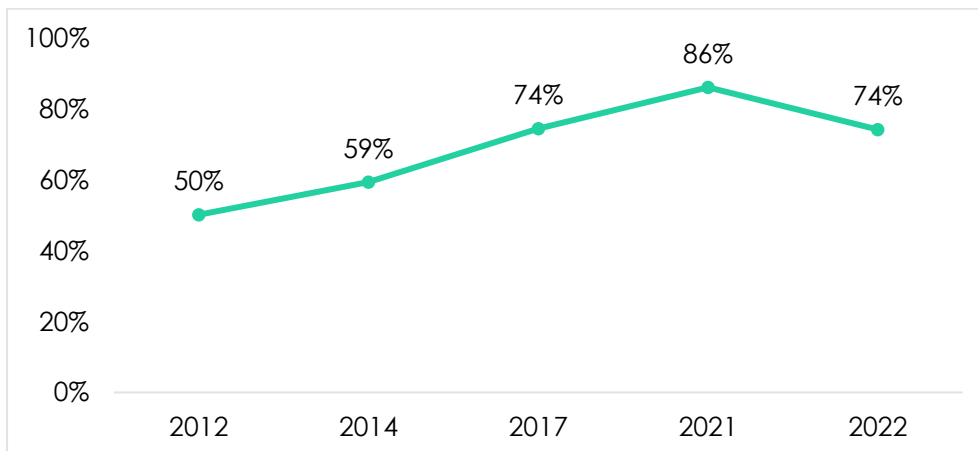
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often do the police in Tanzania:
 Stop drivers without good reason?
 Use excessive force in managing protests or demonstrations?
 Use excessive force when dealing with criminals?
 Engage in criminal activities?

Figure 6: Do the police act professionally and respect citizens' rights? | Tanzania | 2022



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often do the police in Tanzania operate in a professional manner and respect the rights of all citizens?

Figure 7: Government performance on reducing crime | Tanzania | 2022



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

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