



Monrovia, Liberia  
9 June 2023

## News release

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### **Liberians say corruption is on the rise, government failing in its anti-corruption measures**

Large majorities of Liberians say corruption in the country increased during the past year and the government is doing a poor job of fighting it, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Among key public institutions, the police, the House of Representatives, the Presidency, and the Senate are most widely seen as corrupt, while fewer citizens perceive corruption as widespread among non-governmental organisations and religious and traditional leaders.

Survey findings also show higher levels of popular trust in religious leaders, the Armed Forces of Liberia, and traditional leaders than in government officials, the courts, the police, and the National Elections Commission (NEC).

As the country prepares for general elections in October, popular trust in the NEC and the government can bolster citizens' confidence in the electoral process.

#### **Key findings**

- Among key public officials, the police, the House of Representatives, the Presidency, the Senate, judges and magistrates, and tax officials are most widely perceived as corrupt (Figure 1).
- Three-fourths (76%) of Liberians say the level of corruption in the country increased "somewhat" or "a lot" over the past year, a 29-percentage-point jump compared to 2018 (Figure 2).
- Almost nine out of 10 Liberians (88%) say the government is doing a poor job of fighting corruption, a 30-point increase since 2018 (Figure 3).
- Majorities of Liberians say they trust religious leaders (63%) and the army (62%) "somewhat" or "a lot." Fewer than four in 10 citizens express trust in the president (37%), the National Elections Commission (34%), the courts (30%), and other key institutions and leaders (Figure 4).

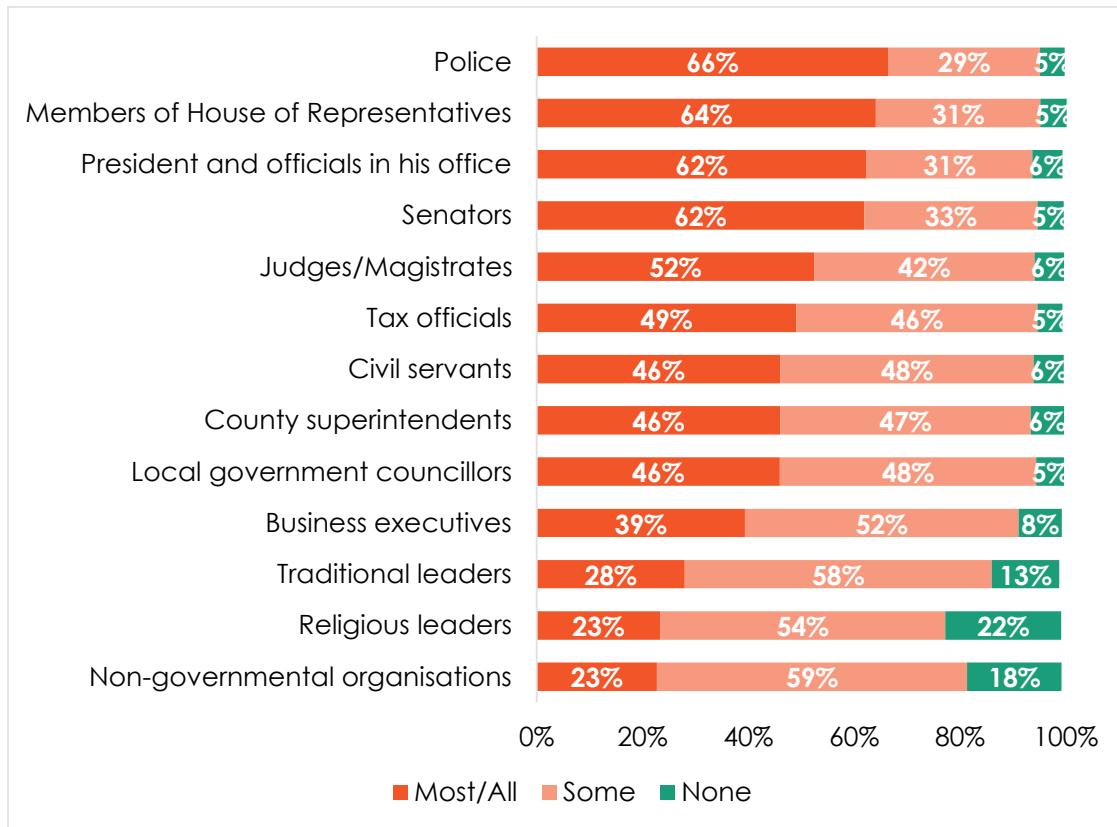
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) are currently under way. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Liberia, led by the Center for Democratic Governance (CDG), interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult citizens between 25 August and 2 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 Liberia in 2008, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2020.

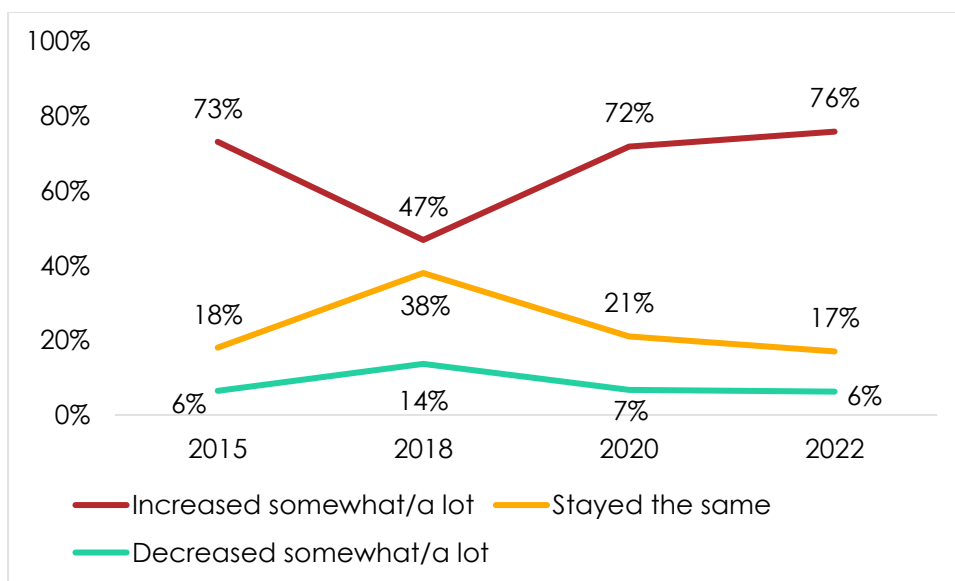
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Who is corrupt? | Liberia | 2022**



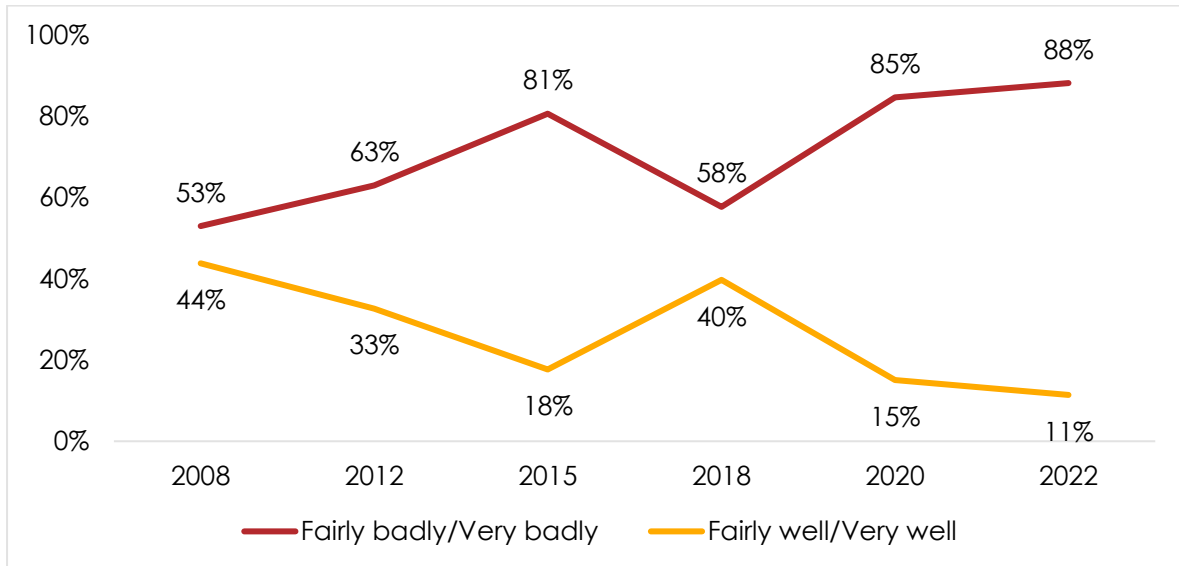
**Respondents were asked:** How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

**Figure 2: Level of corruption | Liberia | 2015-2022**



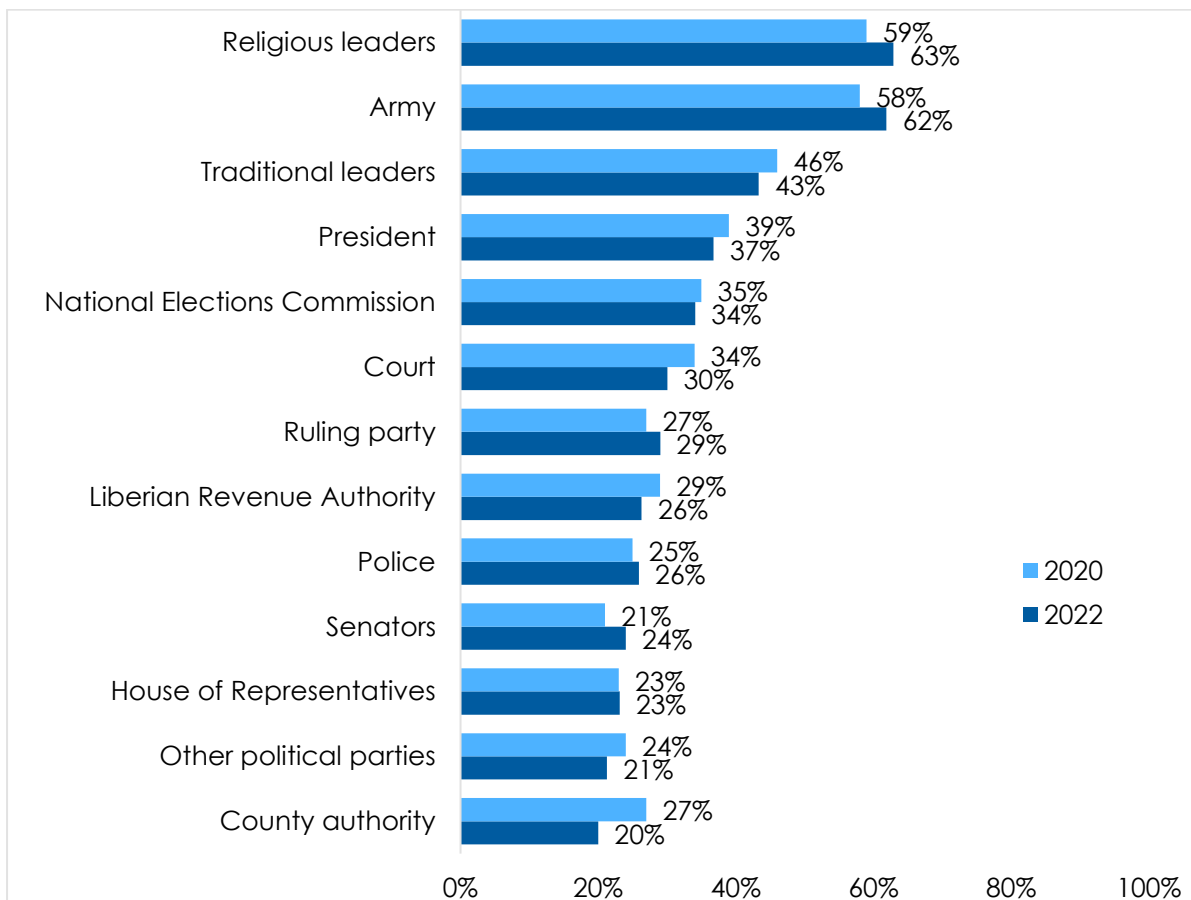
**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

**Figure 3: Government performance in fighting corruption | Liberia | 2008-2022**



**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?

**Figure 4: Trust in institutions | Liberia | 2020-2022**



**Respondents were asked:** How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

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