



# Understanding the youth's perspective: Highlights of Afrobarometer R9 findings

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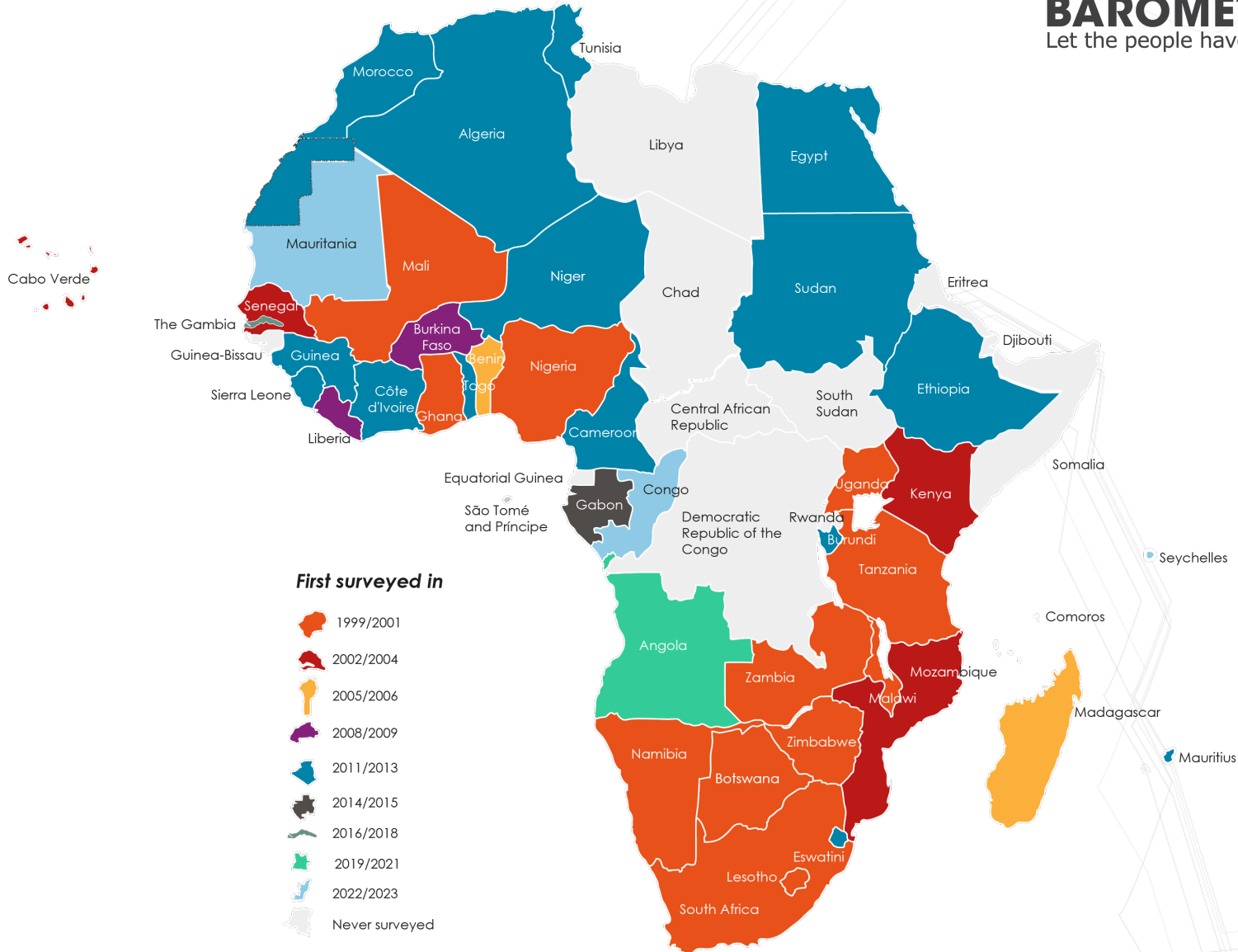
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# What is Afrobarometer?

- A pan-African survey research organisation that provides reliable data on the experiences, evaluations, and aspirations of African citizens regarding democracy, governance, and quality of life.
- **Goal:** To give African publics a voice in policy and decision making.
- Eight rounds of surveys completed since 1999 in up to 39 countries.
- Round 9 surveys are being completed in 2023.



# Where Afrobarometer works



# Methodology

- **Nationally representative** sample of adult citizens (aged 18+)
- **Face-to-face interviews** in the **language of the respondent's choice**
- **Standard questionnaire** allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- **Sample sizes** of 1,200 to 2,400 yield country-level results with margins of sampling error of +/-2 to +/-3 percentage points.



# Afrobarometer's partnership with the Mastercard Foundation

The Mastercard Foundation partnership with Afrobarometer dubbed, "Exploring youth issues and priorities; and strengthening youth capacities across Africa program" supports Afrobarometer to, among other things:

- produce high-quality data
- widely disseminate data and analysis on the priorities and aspirations of African youth to inform youth development policies and/or programs across the continent
- develop a cohort of young researchers, including women, the disadvantaged, and persons with disabilities – across the continent who are equipped to analyse data and take up employment opportunities that exist within their environment

**Note:** The analyses reflect the views of the African citizens who were interviewed, and not the Mastercard Foundation or any of Afrobarometer's funders





# Key findings

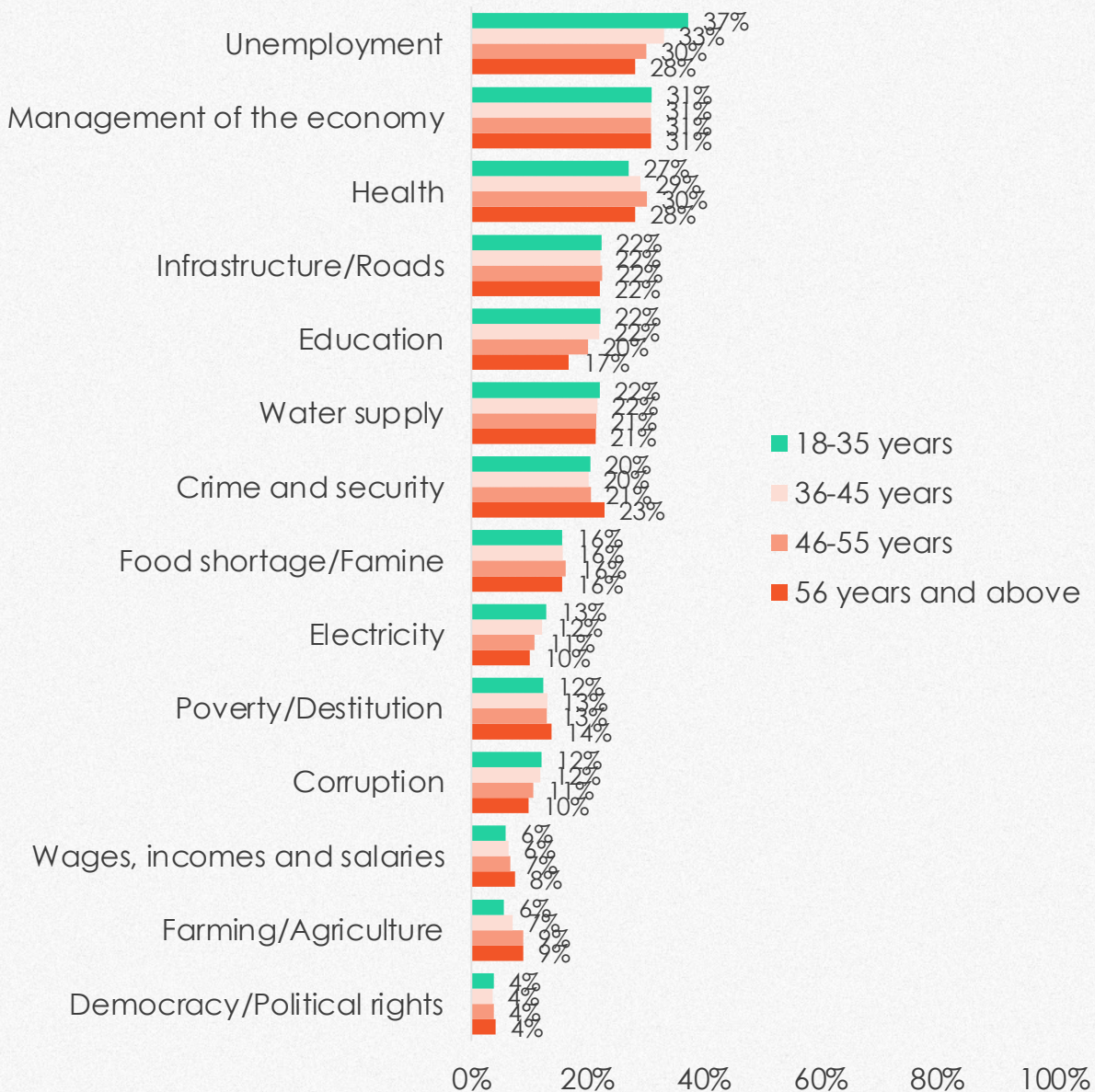


# Unemployment is the youth's biggest problem

# Most important problems

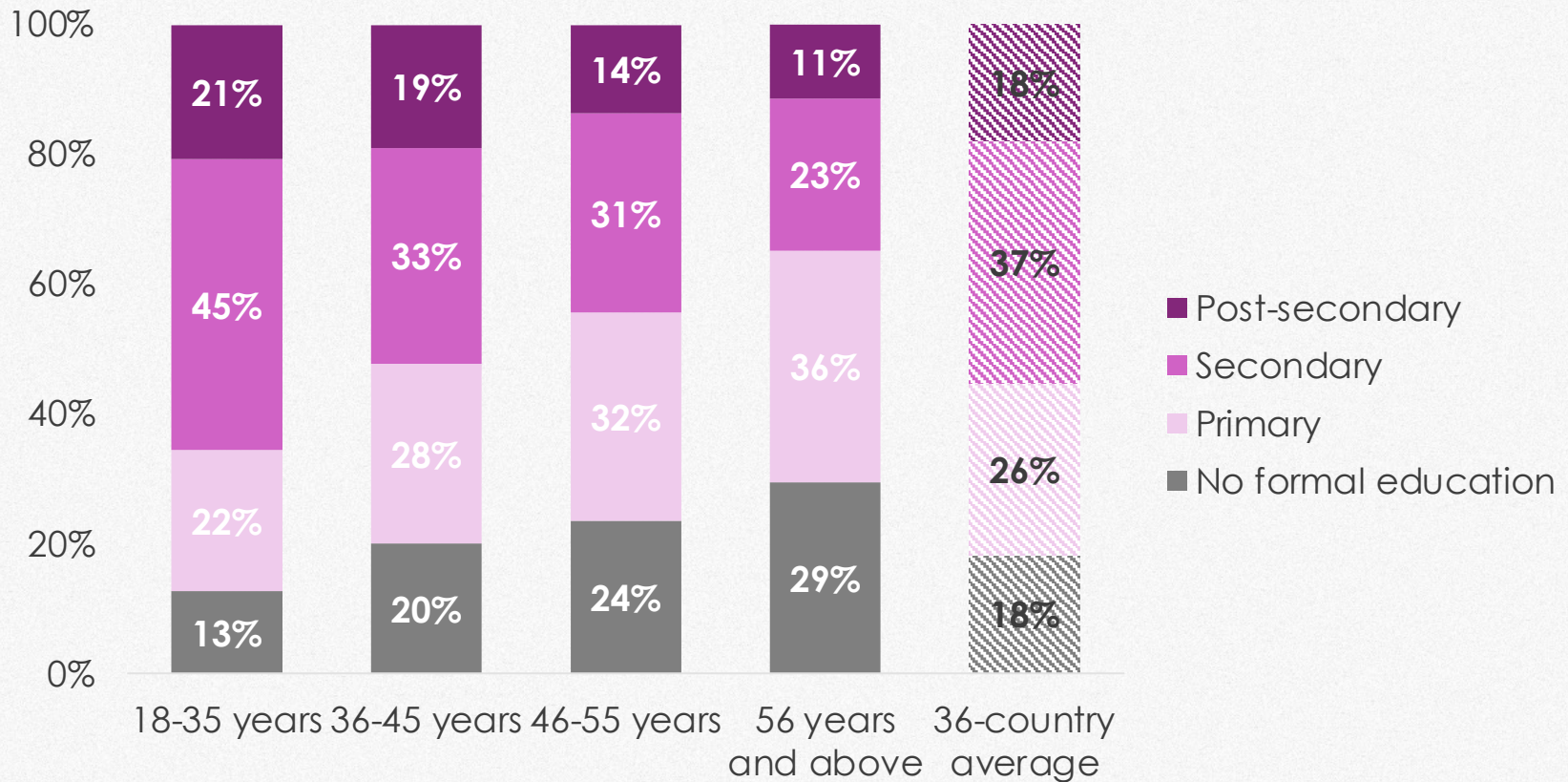
| by age group  
| 36 countries  
| 2021/2022

**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?  
(Up to three responses per respondent)





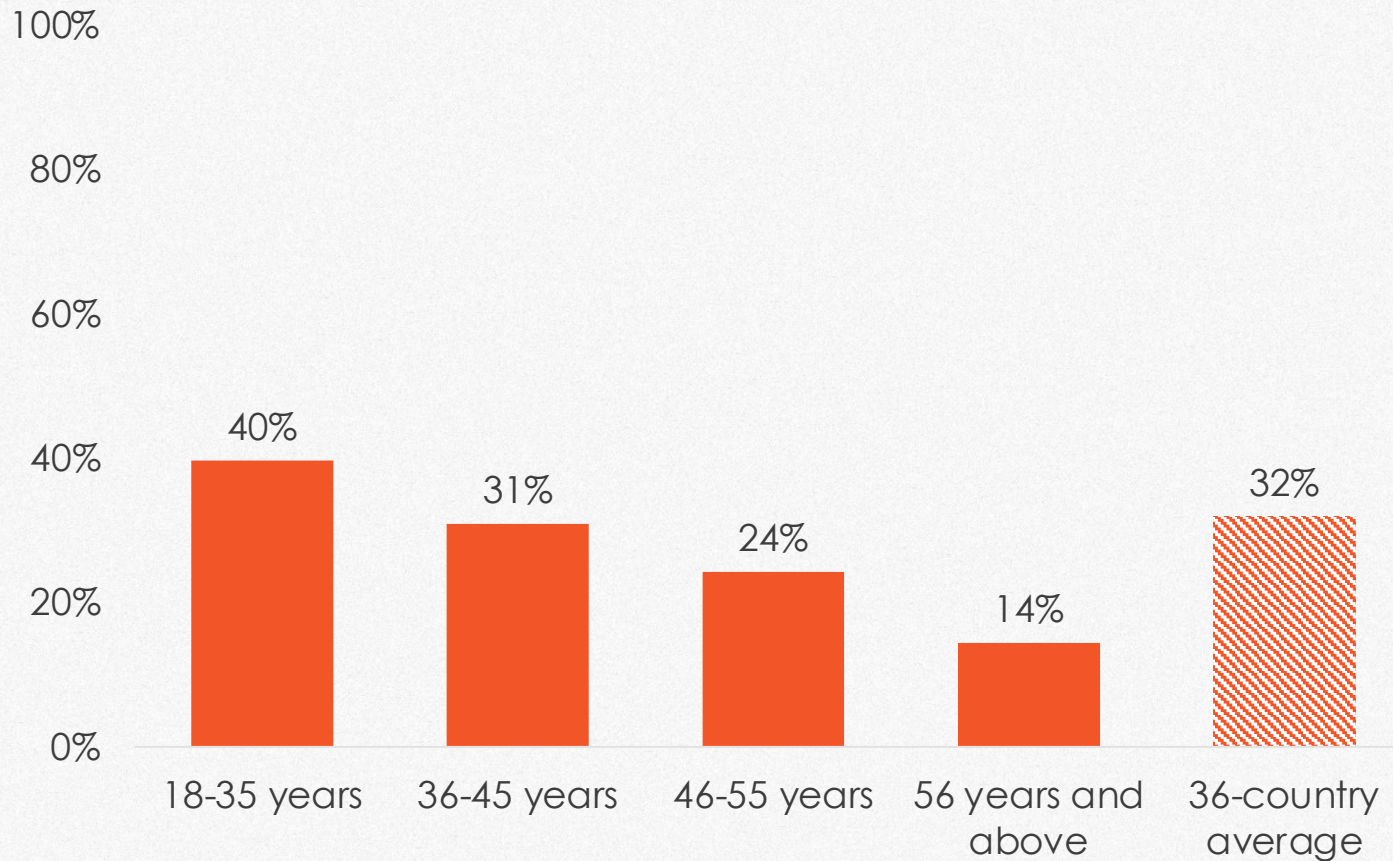
# Educational level | by age group | 36 countries | 2021/2022



**Respondents were asked:** What is your highest level of education?

# Unemployed youth looking for a job | by age group

| 36 countries | 2021/2022



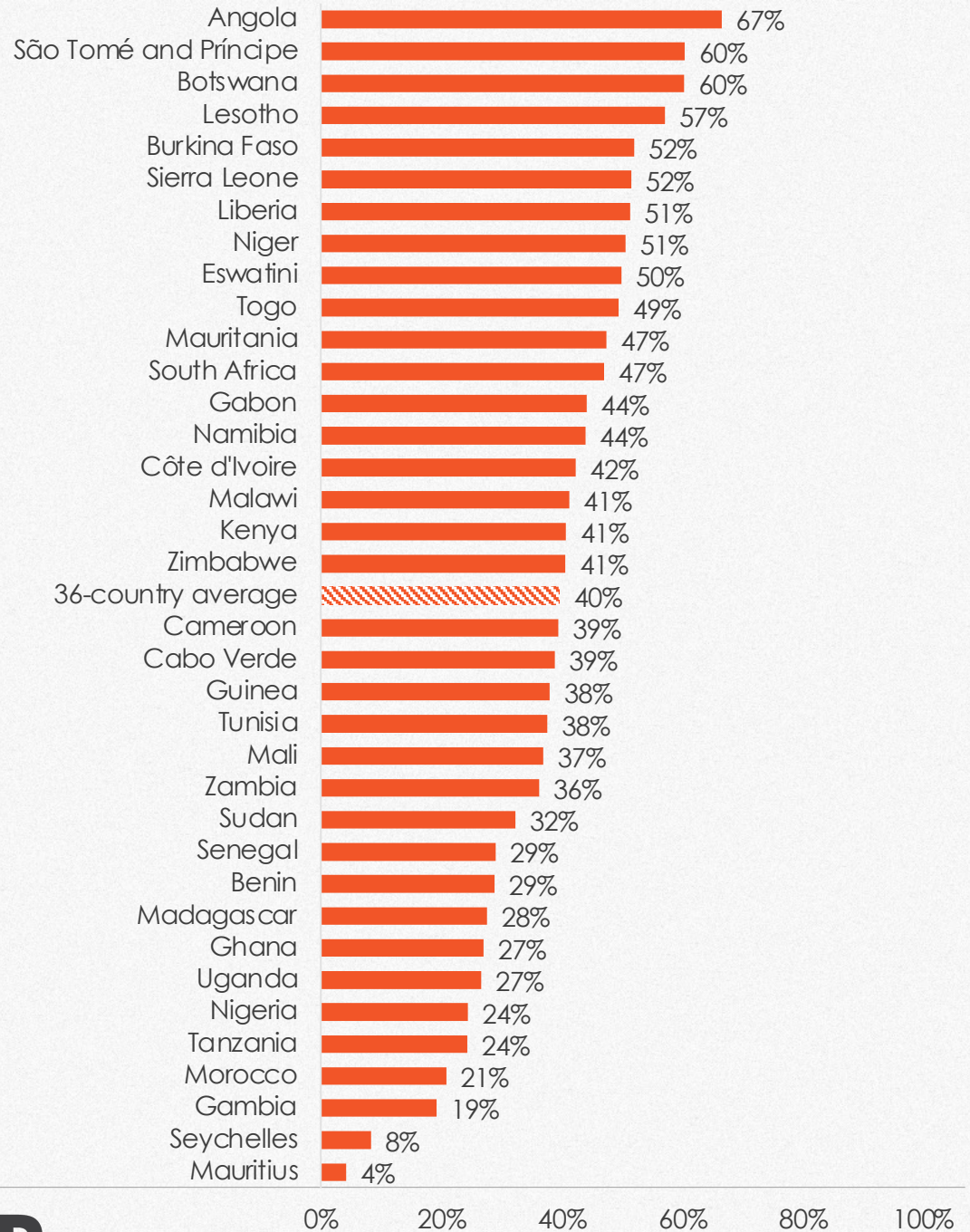
**Respondents were asked:** Do you have a job that pays a cash income? [If yes:] Is it full time or part time? [If no:] Are you currently looking for a job? (% aged 18-35 who say “no, but looking”)

# Unemployed youth looking for job

| 36 countries

| 2021/2022

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(% aged 18-35 who say "no, looking")

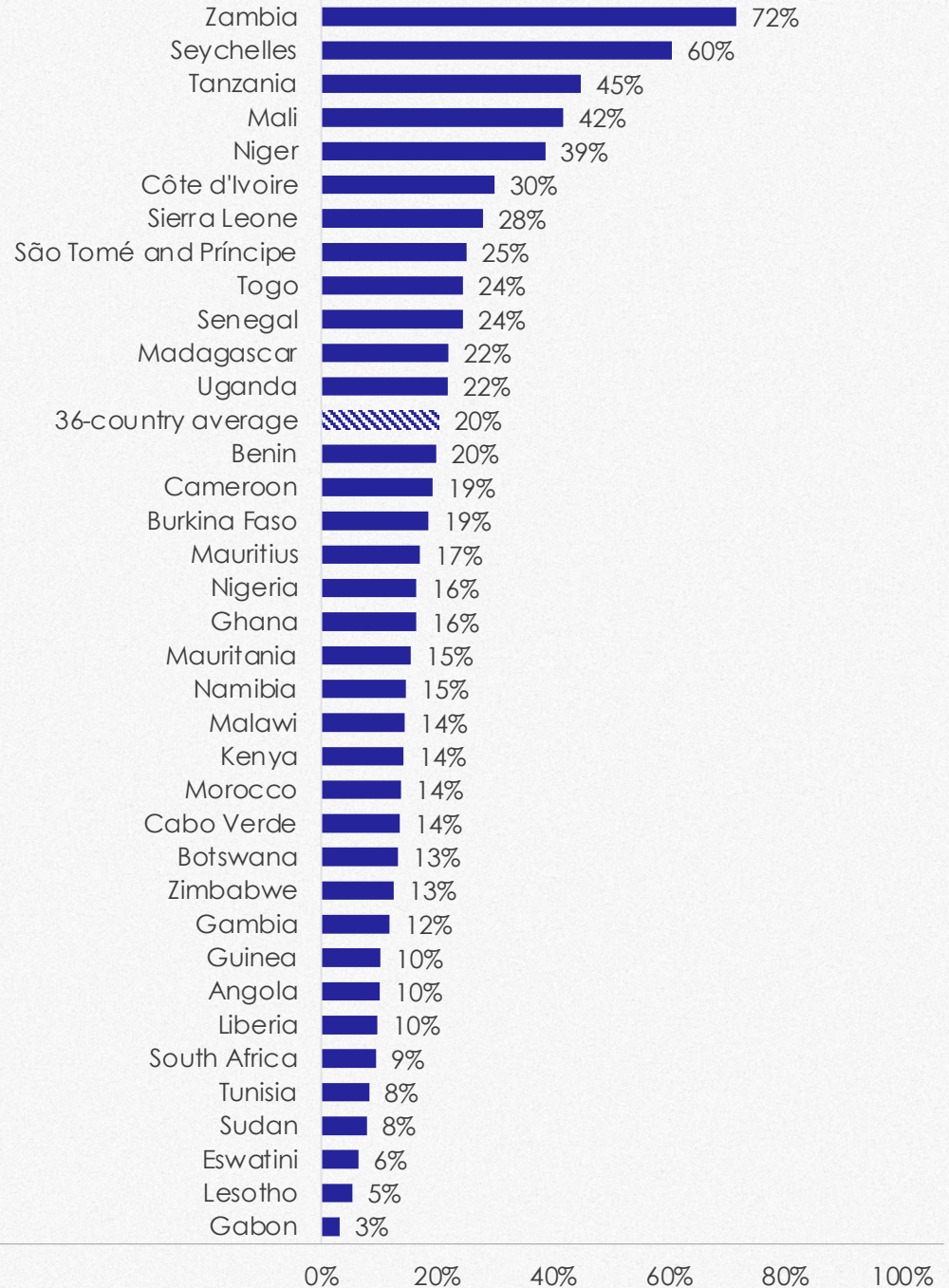


# Positive rating of government performance on job creation

| 36 countries  
| 2021/2022

**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: Handling job creation?

(% who say "fairly well" or "very well")





# Views on democracy

# Support for democracy and rejection of authoritarian rule

| 36 countries

| 2021/2022

## Respondents were asked:

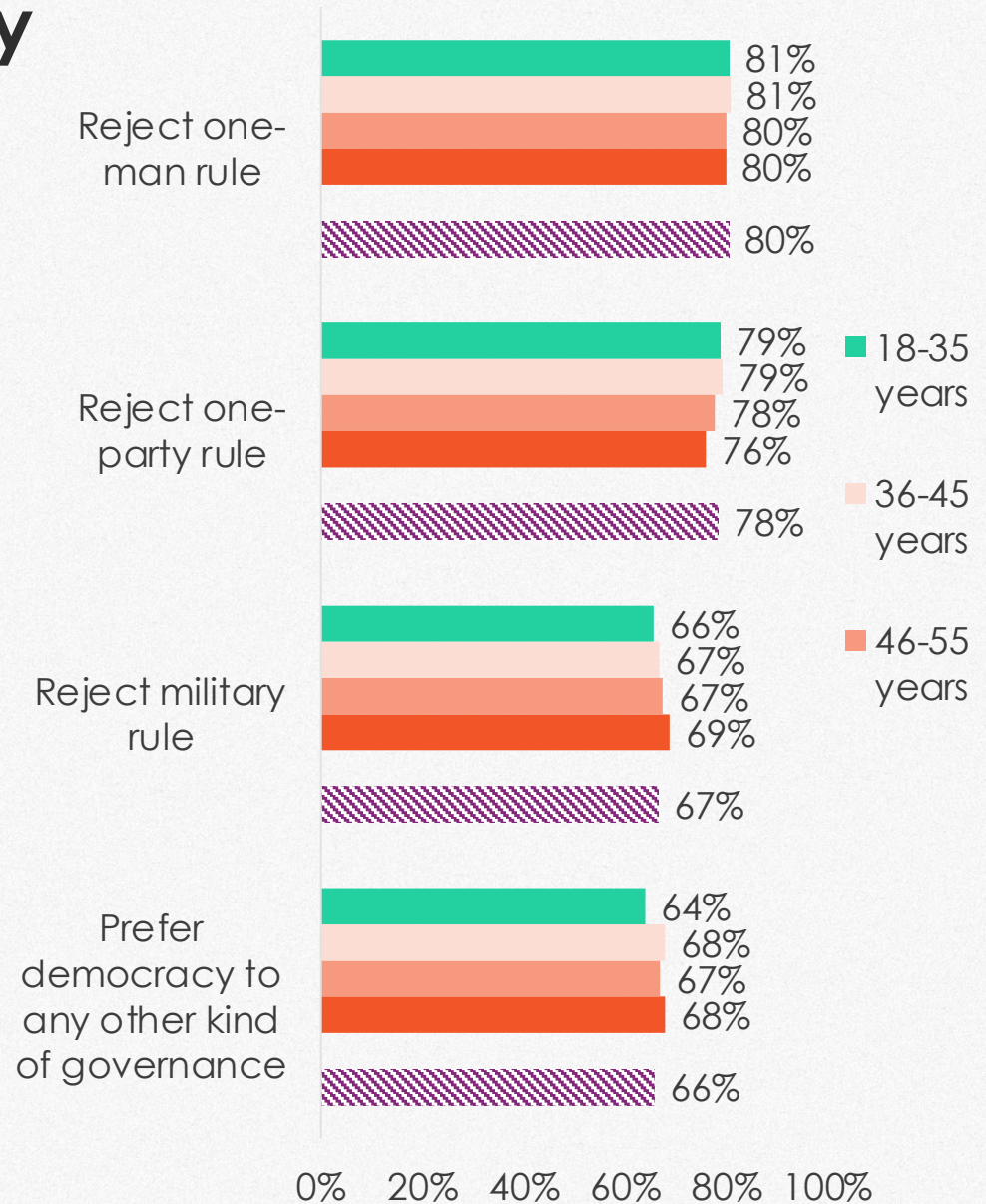
Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion? Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable. Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind government we have.

(% who say democracy is preferable)

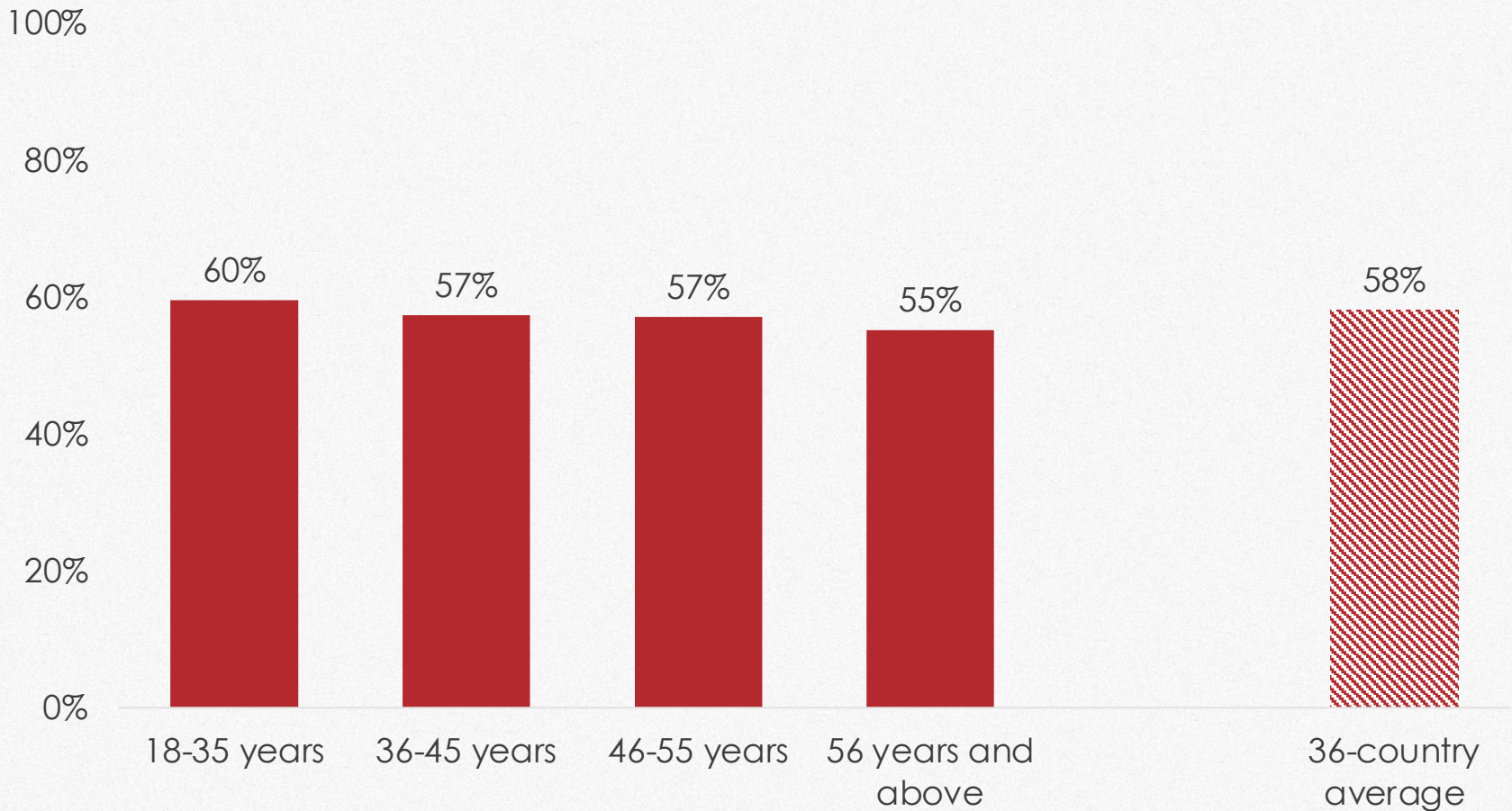
There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office? The army comes in to govern the country? Elections and Parliament are abolished so that the president can decide everything? (

% who "disagree" or "strongly disagree")



# Dissatisfaction with democracy | by age group

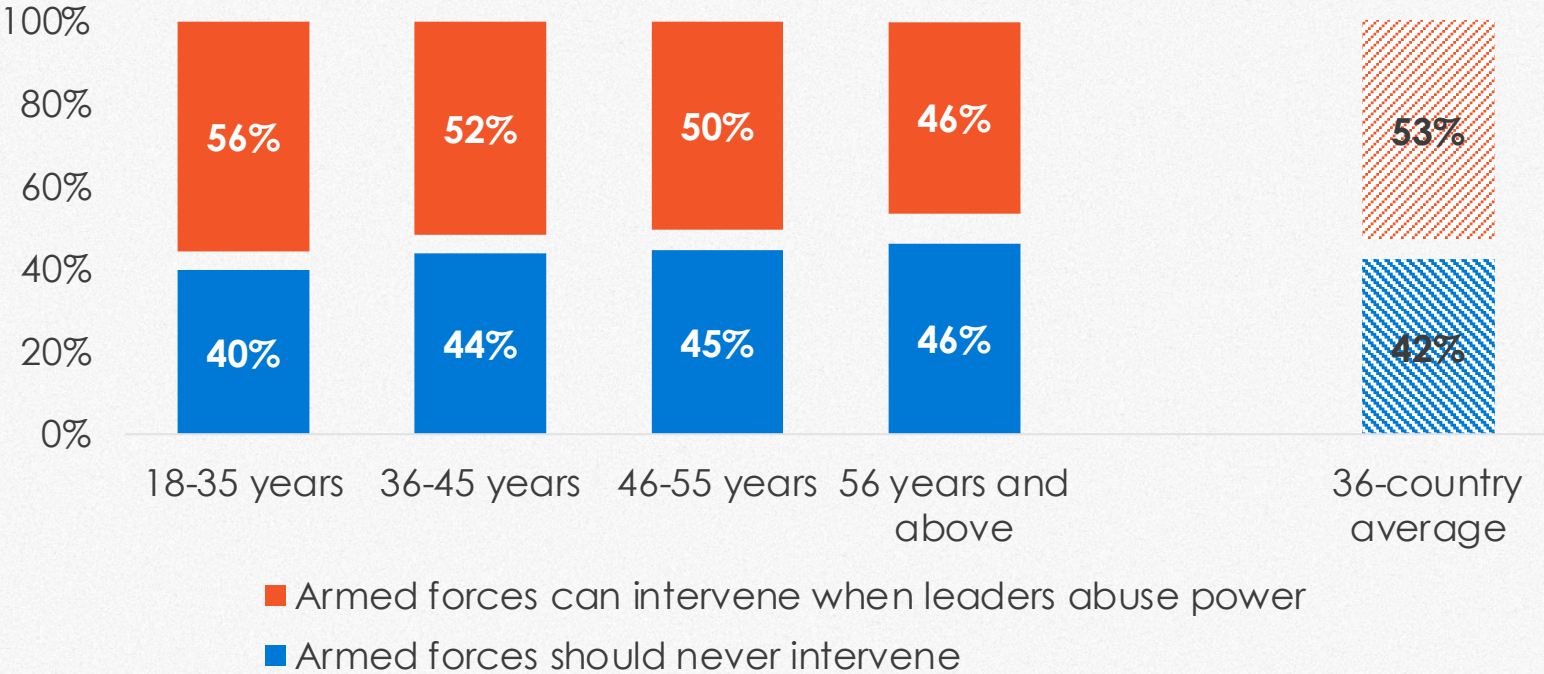
| 36 countries | 2021/2022



**Respondents were asked:** Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in [your country]?

( % who say “not very satisfied” or “not at all satisfied” )

# Should military intervene when elected leaders abuse power? | by age group | 36 countries | 2021/2022



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: [Country’s] armed forces should never intervene in the country’s political process.

Statement 2: It is legitimate for the armed forces to take control of government when elected leaders abuse power for their own ends.

(% who “agree” or “strongly agree” with each statement)

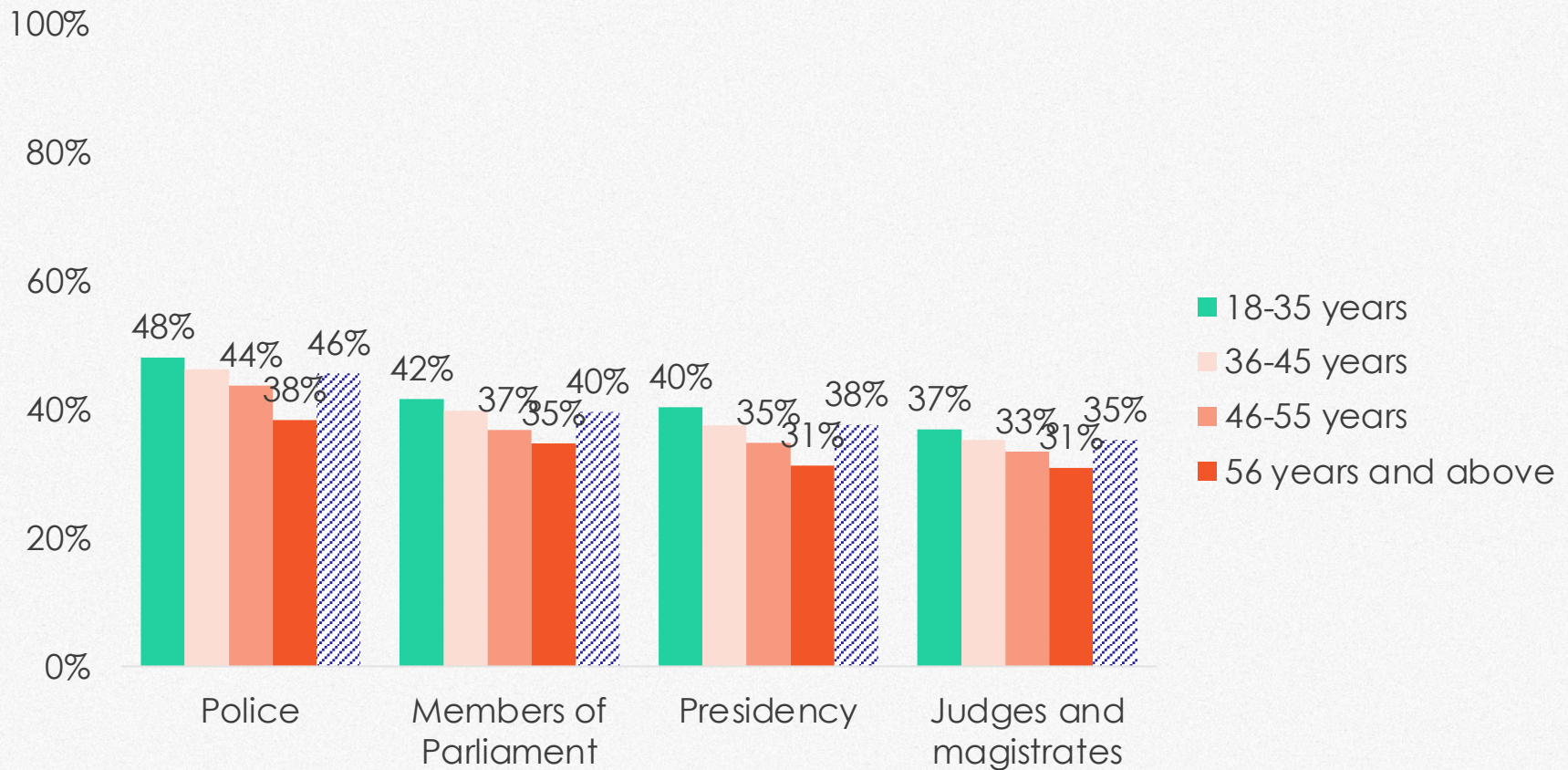




# Low trust in leaders vs. high perceived corruption among leaders

# Perceived corruption among institutions | by age group

| 36\* countries | 2021/2022



**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 they are corrupt "all/most of them" )

\*Note: Question on Parliament excludes Guinea and Tunisia.

# Trust in government and social institutions

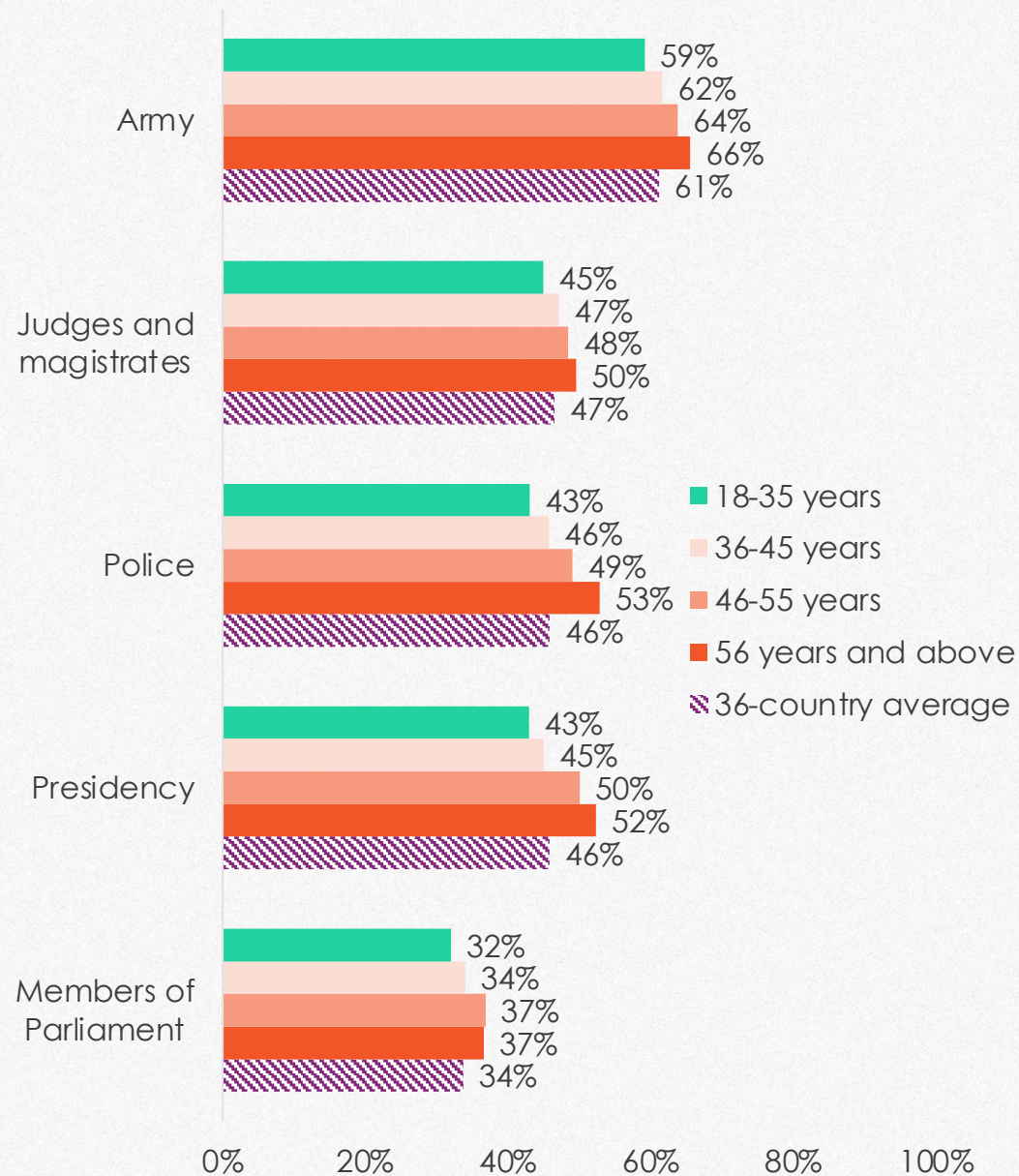
| by age group

| 36\* countries

| 2021/2022

**Respondents were asked:** How much do you trust each of the following? (% who say "all" or "most")

\*Note: Parliament excludes Guinea and Tunisia.

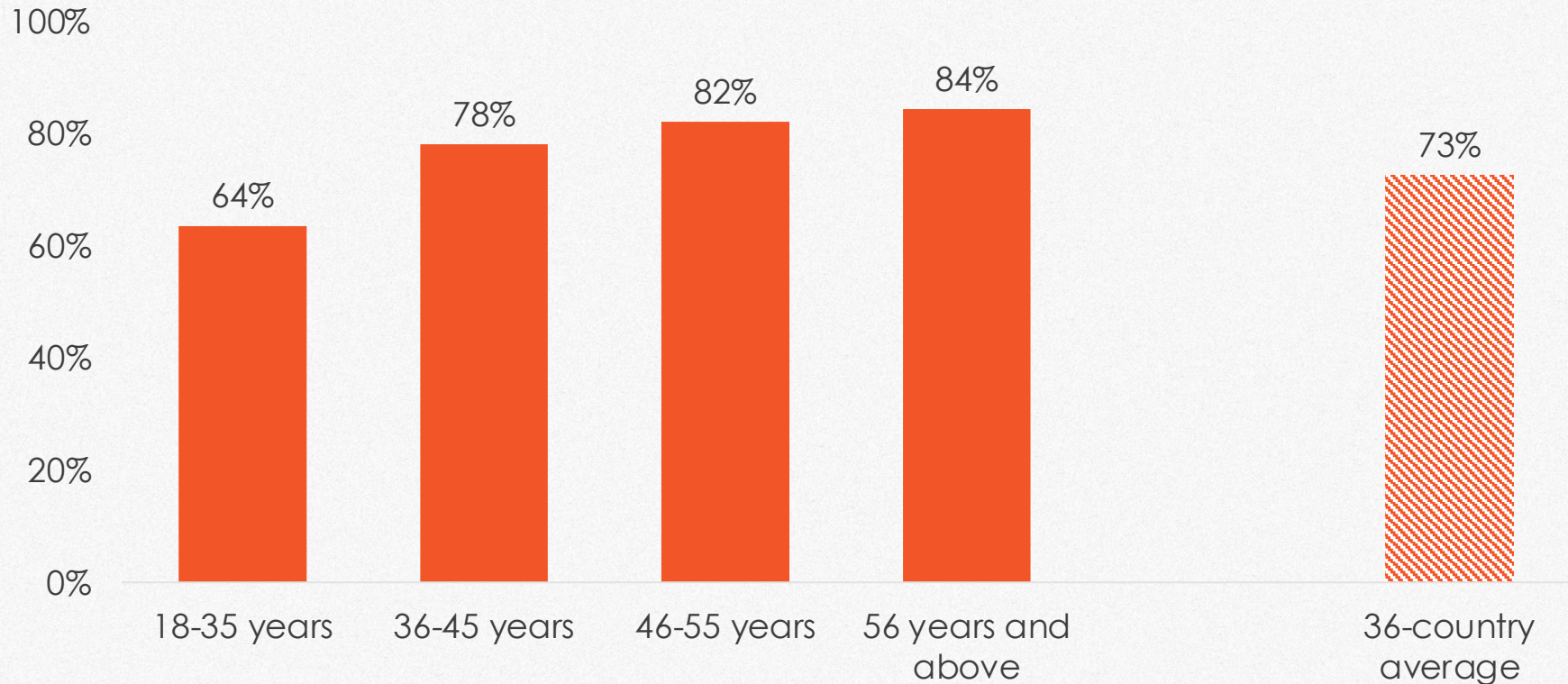




# Participation in change-making activities

# Voted in recent elections | by age group

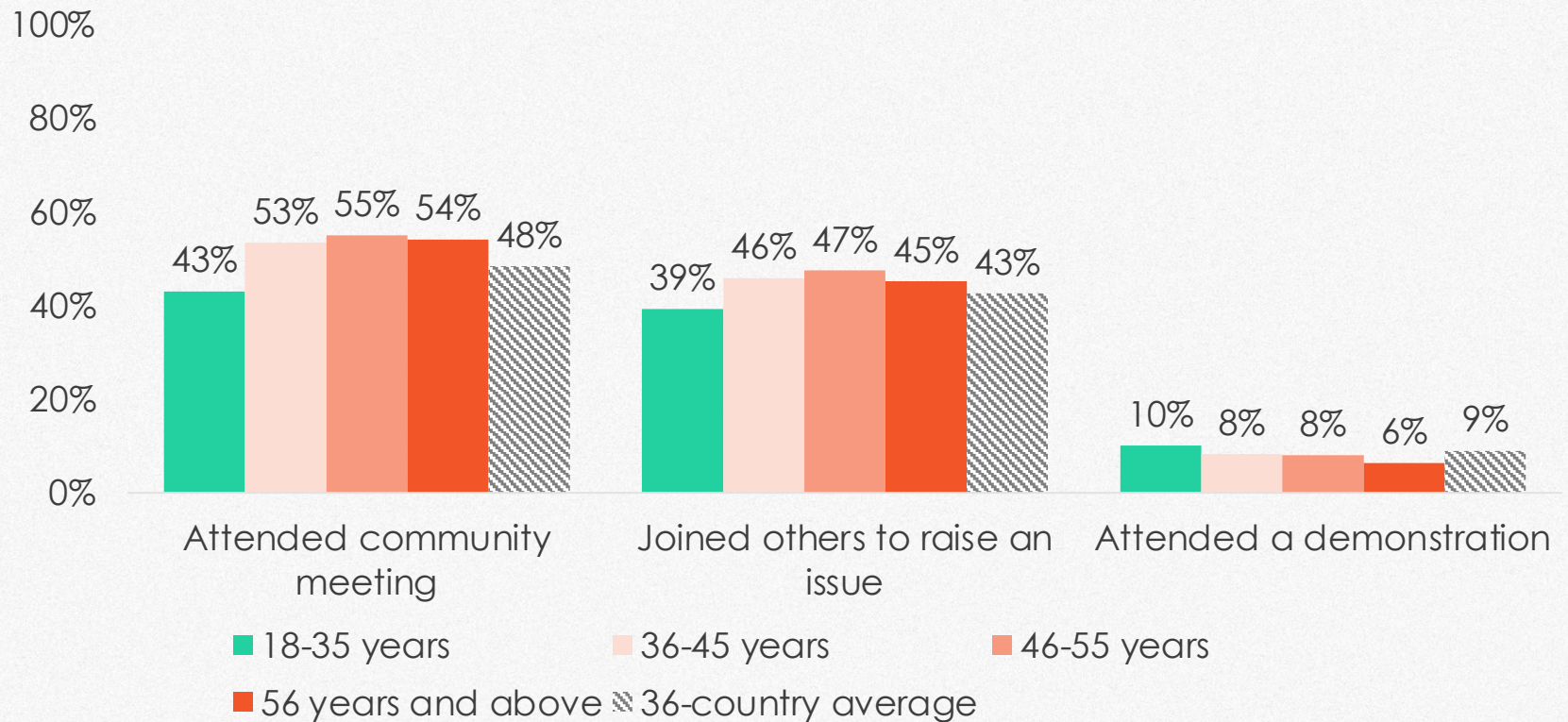
| 36 countries | 2021/2022



**Respondents who were not too young to vote in the previous elections were asked:** In the last national election, held in [year], did you vote, or not, or were you too young to vote?

# Civic engagement | by age group | 36 countries

## | 2021/2022



**Respondents were asked:** For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Attended a community meeting? Joined others to raise an issue? Participated in a demonstration or march? (% who say “once or twice,” “several times,” or “often”)

# Contact with leaders

| by age group

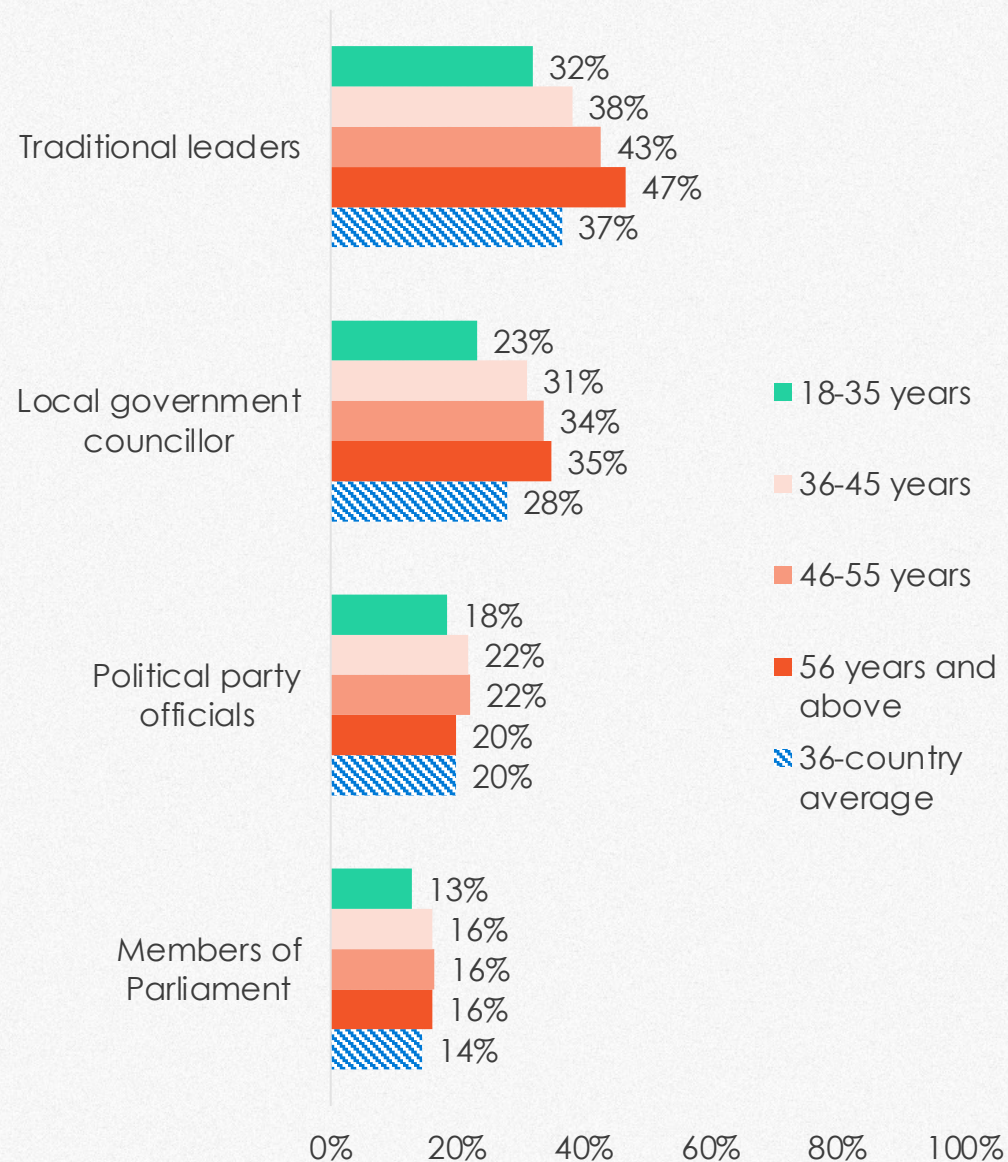
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| 2021/2022

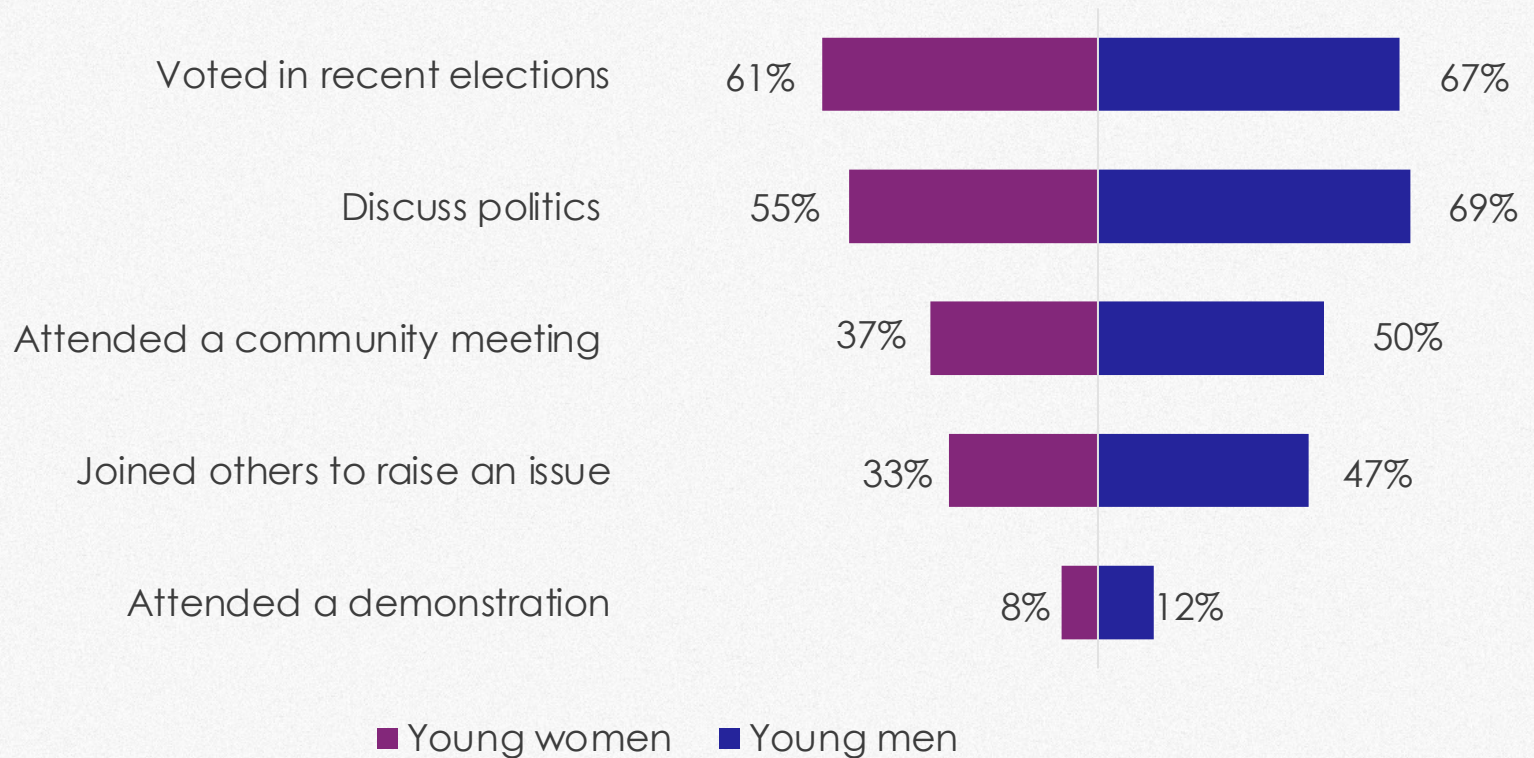
**Respondents were asked:** During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views?

(% who say “only once,” “a few times,” or “often”)

\*Question on local government councillors excludes Angola, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Liberia, and Seychelles. Members of Parliament excludes Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Sudan. Political party officials not asked in Eswatini. Traditional leaders excludes Cabo Verde, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Tunisia.



# Youth political and civic engagement | 18- to 35-year-olds | by gender | 36 countries | 2021/2022



## Respondents were asked:

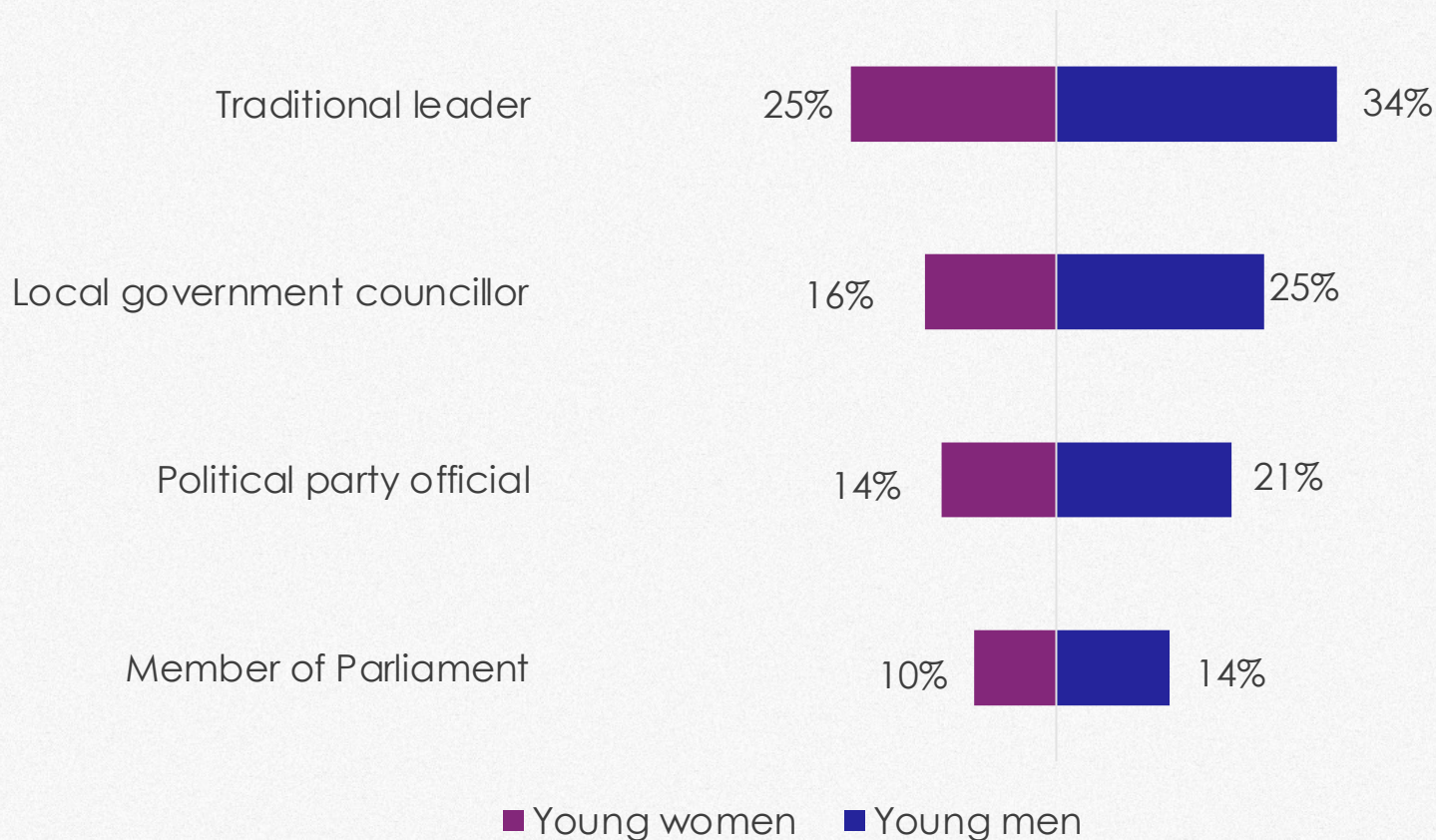
*In the last national election, held in [year], did you vote, or not, or were you too young to vote? (Respondents who were too young to vote are excluded.)*

*When you get together with your friends or family, how often would you say you discuss political matters? (% who say "occasionally" or "frequently")*

*For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Attended a community meeting? Joined others to raise an issue? Participated in a demonstration or march? (% who say "once or twice," "several times," or "often")*



# Youth's contact with leaders | 18- to 35-year-olds | by gender | 36 countries | 2021/2022

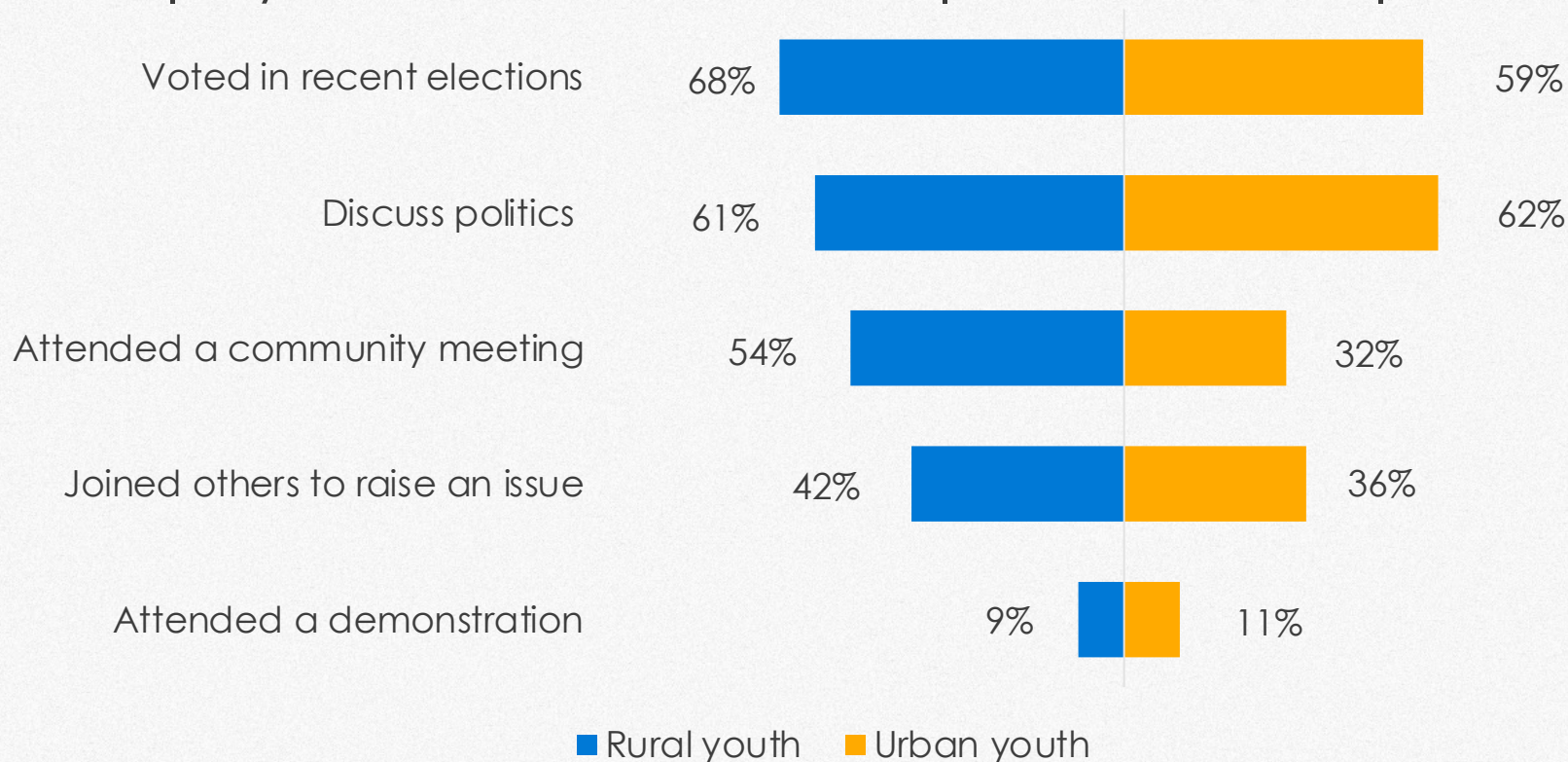


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# Youth political and civic engagement | 18- to 35-year-olds | by rural/urban location | 36 countries | 2021/2022



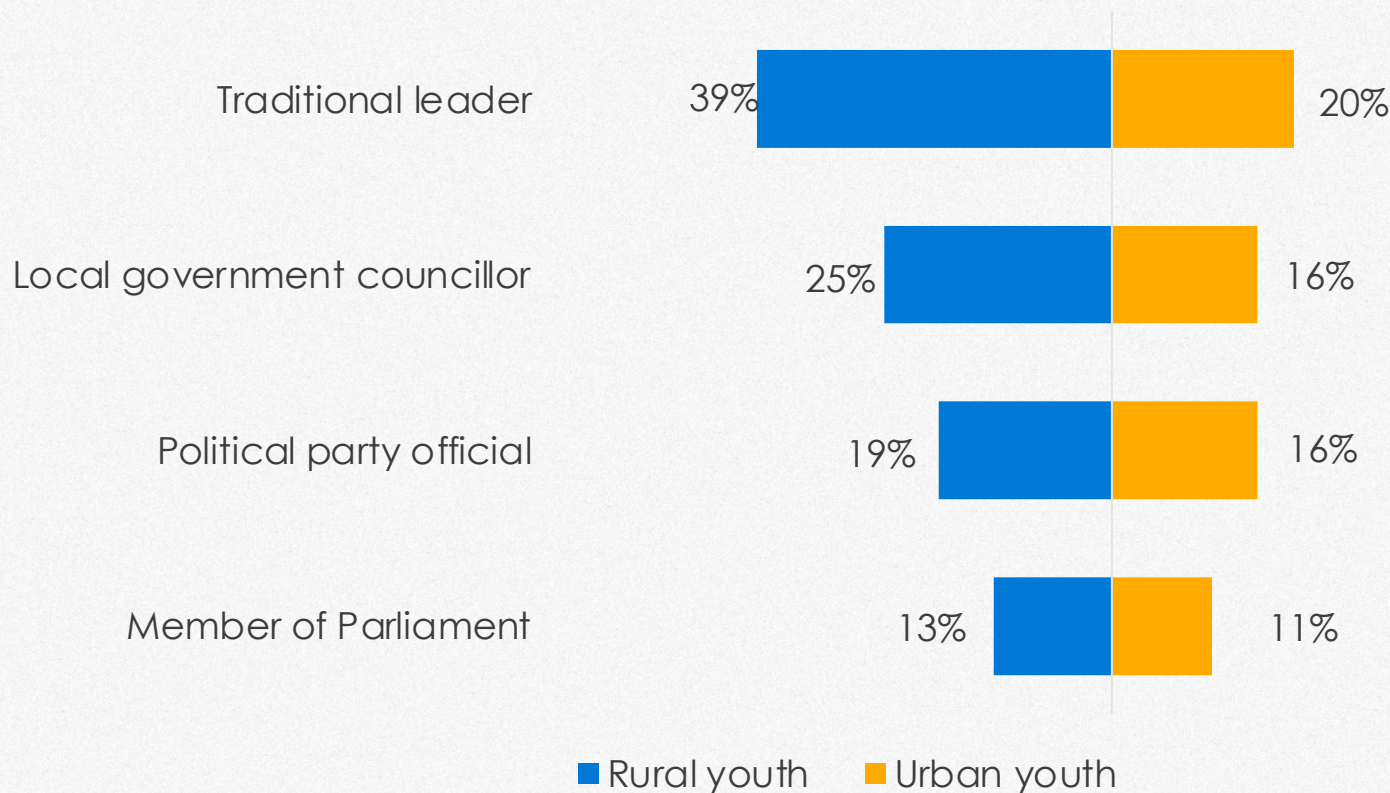
## Respondents were asked:

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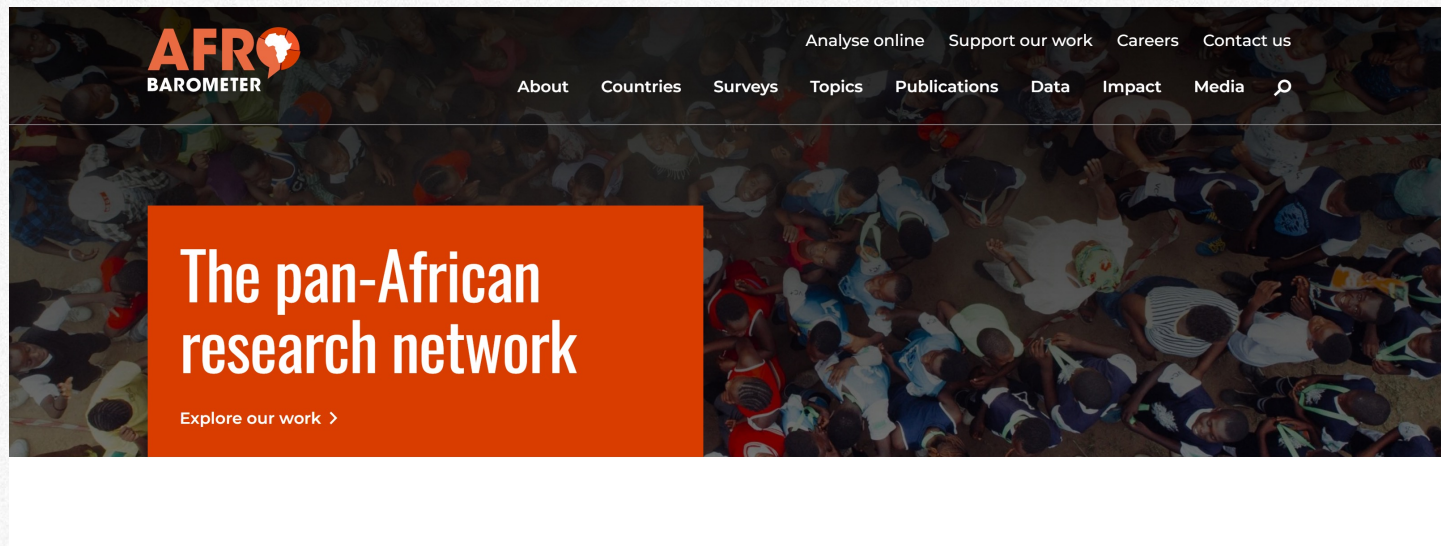
# Conclusion



The latest Afrobarometer data from 36 African countries reveal that:

- unemployment is the biggest problem that youth are facing.
- African governments are poorly rated for their efforts in creating jobs.
- the youth are more likely than elders to express dissatisfaction with democracy, mistrust in elected leaders, and willingness to accept military intervention of elected leaders who abuse power.
- the youth report lower rates of political engagement than their elders across a variety of indicators, including voting in national elections.
- young women's political engagement lags behind that of their male peers across all the indicators under consideration.

Thank you



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It's easy and free at [www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis](http://www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis).