



Gaborone, Botswana  
17 August 2023

## News release

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### **China leads as most influential global power for Botswana, although many citizens uncertain of foreign influence**

China is more widely seen as influential in Botswana than are the United States, the European Union (EU), and Japan, although a majority of Botswana say they don't know enough to assess the economic and political influence of these foreign powers, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

Nearly half of citizens say that China's economic activities in the country have "some" or "a lot" of influence on the economy.

Men, urbanites, and educated citizens are more likely to see China's economic and political influence as positive than are women, rural residents, and less educated respondents.

Botswana has bilateral relations with these global powers, and in recent times the government has intensified efforts to attract foreign direct investment.

#### **Key findings**

- Three in 10 Botswana (30%) say the economic and political influence of China on their country is "somewhat positive" or "very positive," exceeding positive perceptions of the United States (25%), the European Union (22%), and Japan (18%). Only small minorities see their influence as negative, while majorities say they "don't know."
- Nearly half (46%) of Botswana say China's economic activities have "some" (16%) or "a lot" (30%) of influence on Botswana's economy, although an equal share (46%) say they "don't know" (Figure 2).
  - Men (52%) and urban residents (57%) are more likely than women (41%) and rural residents (43%) to see China's economic activities as influential. This view increases with respondents' education level, ranging from 25% among citizens with no formal schooling to 66% among those with post-secondary qualifications (Figure 3).
  - "Don't know" responses regarding China's economic activities are particularly common among women (51%), rural and semi-urban residents (48%-49%), the elderly (65%), and citizens with no formal education (72%) (Figure 4).

#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

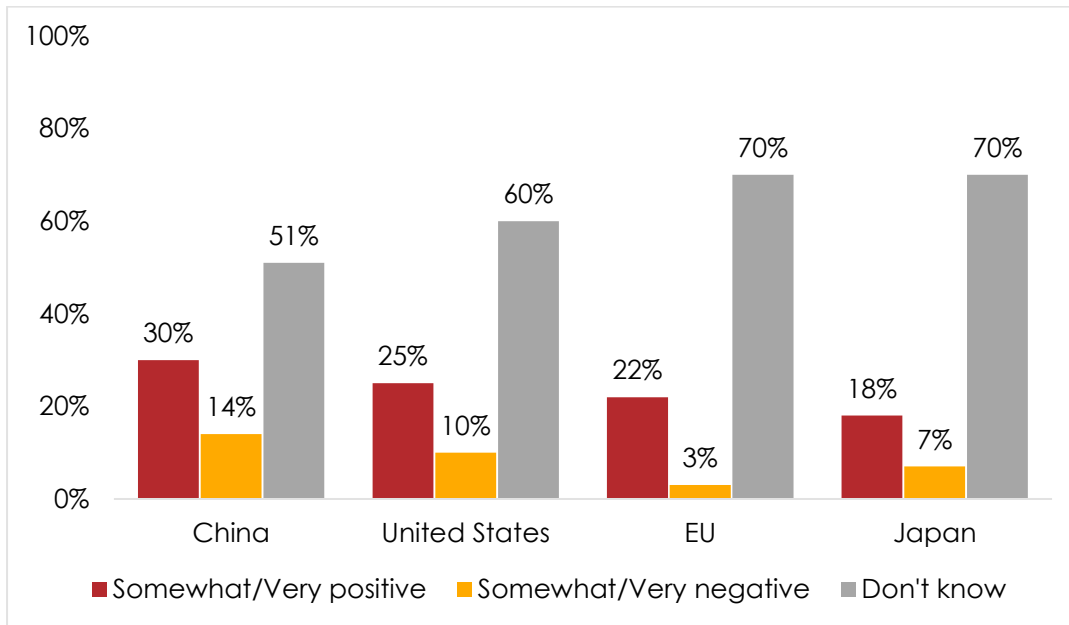
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Botswana, led by Star Awards, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Botswana in July-August 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 Botswana in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

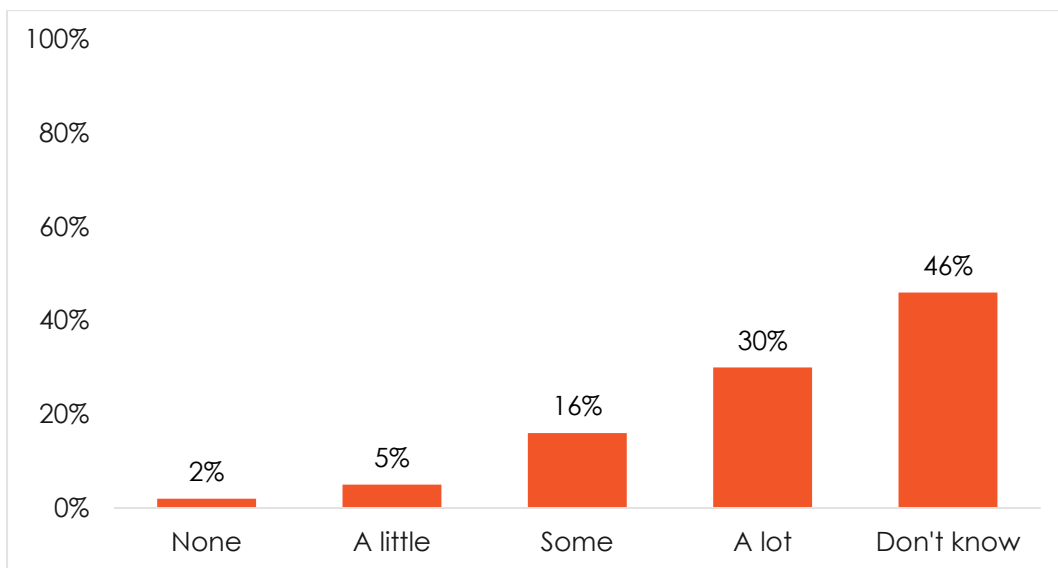
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Influence of foreign powers on Botswana | Botswana | 2022**



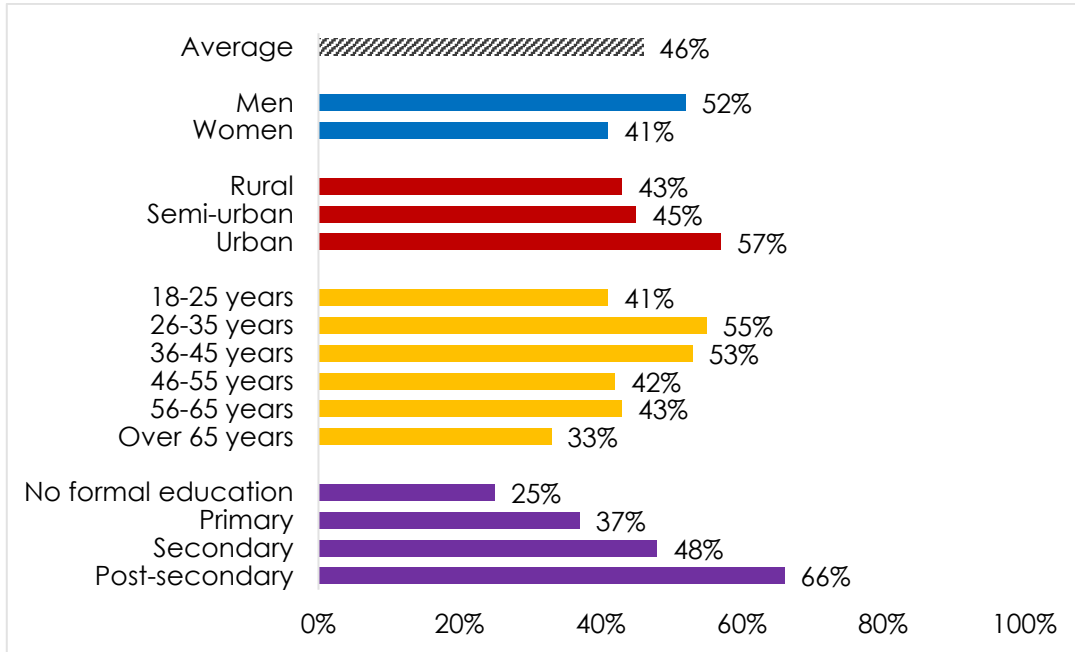
**Respondents were asked:** Do you think that the economic and political influence of each of the following countries on Botswana is mostly positive, mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say?

**Figure 2: China's influence on the economy | Botswana | 2022**



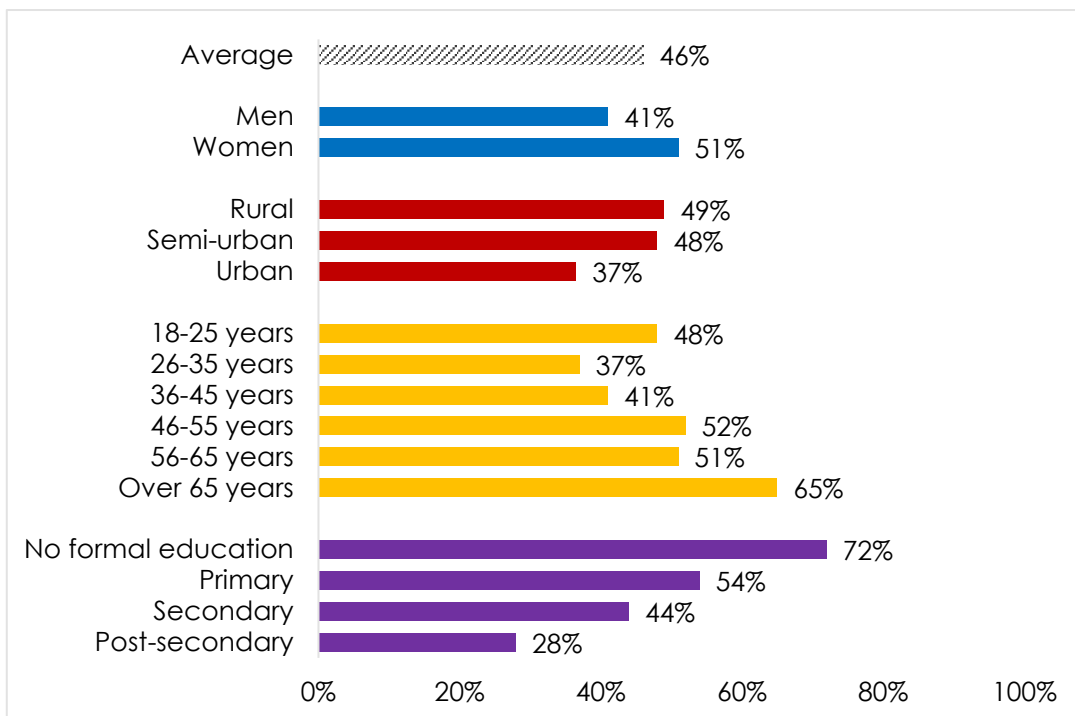
**Respondents were asked:** How much influence do you think China's economic activities in Botswana have on our economy, or haven't you heard enough to say?

**Figure 3: China has some/a lot of influence on the economy | by demographic group | Botswana | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** How much influence do you think China's economic activities in Botswana have on our economy, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "some" or "a lot")

**Figure 4: Lack of knowledge about China's influence on economy | by demographic group | Botswana | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** How much influence do you think China's economic activities in Botswana have on our economy, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "don't know")

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