



Maputo, Mozambique  
27 December 2023

## News release

---

### **Mozambicans endorse gender equality in political leadership, new Afrobarometer study shows**

Most Mozambicans say women should have the same chance as men to run for public office, a new Afrobarometer study shows.

But while many say a woman and her family will probably gain standing in the community if she runs for elective office, majorities think women are likely to face criticism and problems with their families if they run.

A significant proportion of citizens say more needs to be done to advance the rights and opportunities of women, including on gender-based violence, which respondents highlight as the most important women's-rights issue that the government and society must address.

#### **Key findings**

- Seven in 10 Mozambicans (70%) say women should have the same chance as men to vie for political office, rejecting the idea that men make better political leaders and should thus be given priority as candidates (Figure 1).
- Two-thirds of citizens (66%) say it is "somewhat likely" or "very likely" that a woman and her family will gain standing in the community if she runs for elective office (Figure 2).
  - But majorities consider it likely that others in the community will criticise her, call her names, or harass her for seeking public office (57%), and think she might face problems with her family (51%).
- More than four in 10 citizens (42%) think the state and elected officials should do "somewhat more" (19%) or "much more" (23%) to promote equal rights and opportunities for women. One-third (32%) say they are doing about the right amount, while 23% think they should reduce their gender-equality efforts (Figure 3).
- Gender-based violence ranks as the most important issue related to women's rights and equality that Mozambicans say their government and society must address, followed by a scarcity of women in influential positions in government, unequal opportunities or pay in the workplace, unequal access to education, and unequal rights of property ownership and inheritance (Figure 4).

#### **Afrobarometer survey**

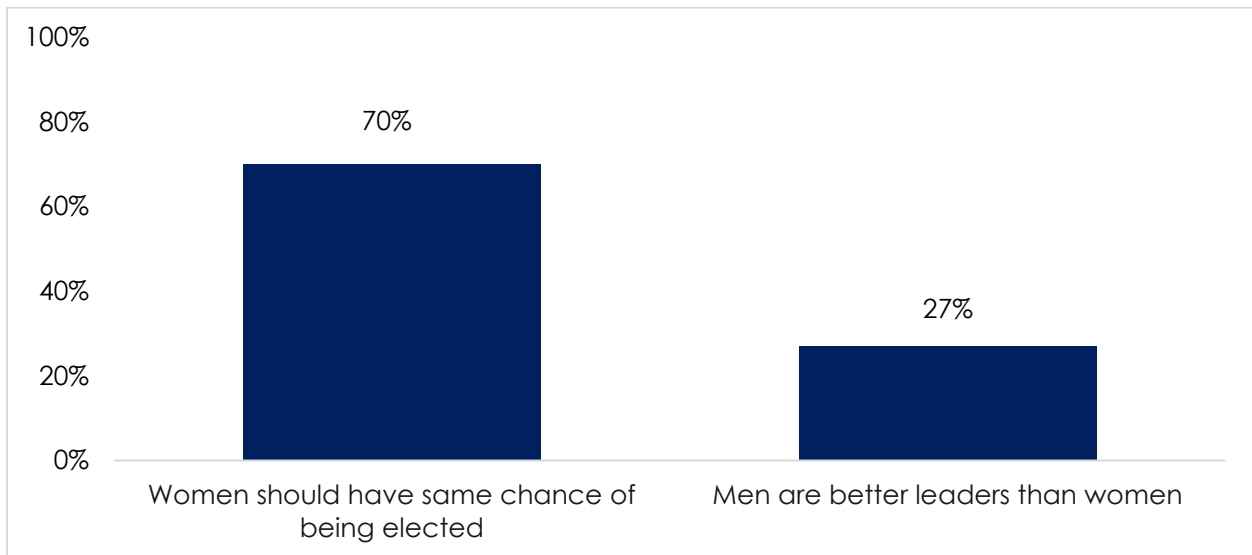
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.

Nine rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 42 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Mozambique, led by Ipsos, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,120 adult Mozambicans in October, November, and December, 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 Mozambique in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

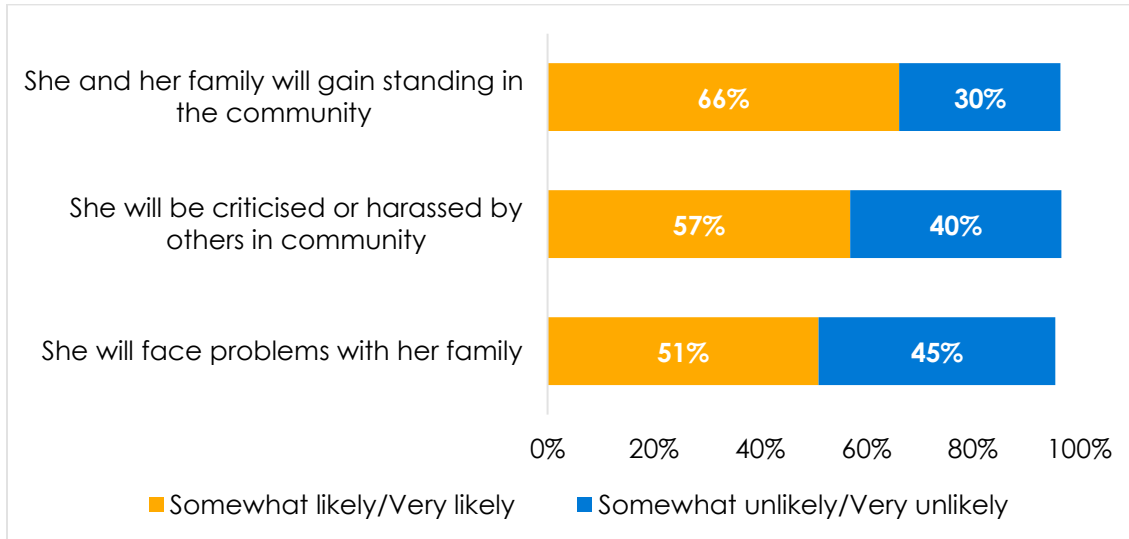
## Charts

**Figure 1: Gender equality in political participation | Mozambique | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women and should be elected rather than women.  
 Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.  
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

**Figure 2: How running for elected office might affect women’s lives | Mozambique | 2022**



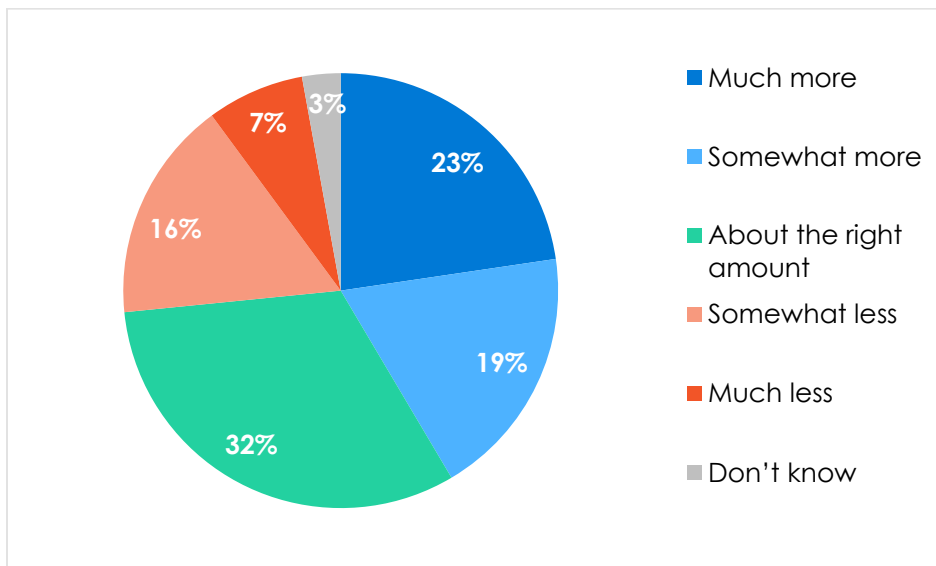
**Respondents were asked:** *If a woman in your community runs for elected office, how likely or unlikely is it that the following things might occur?*

*She and her family will gain standing in the community?*

*She will be criticised, called names, or harassed by others in the community?*

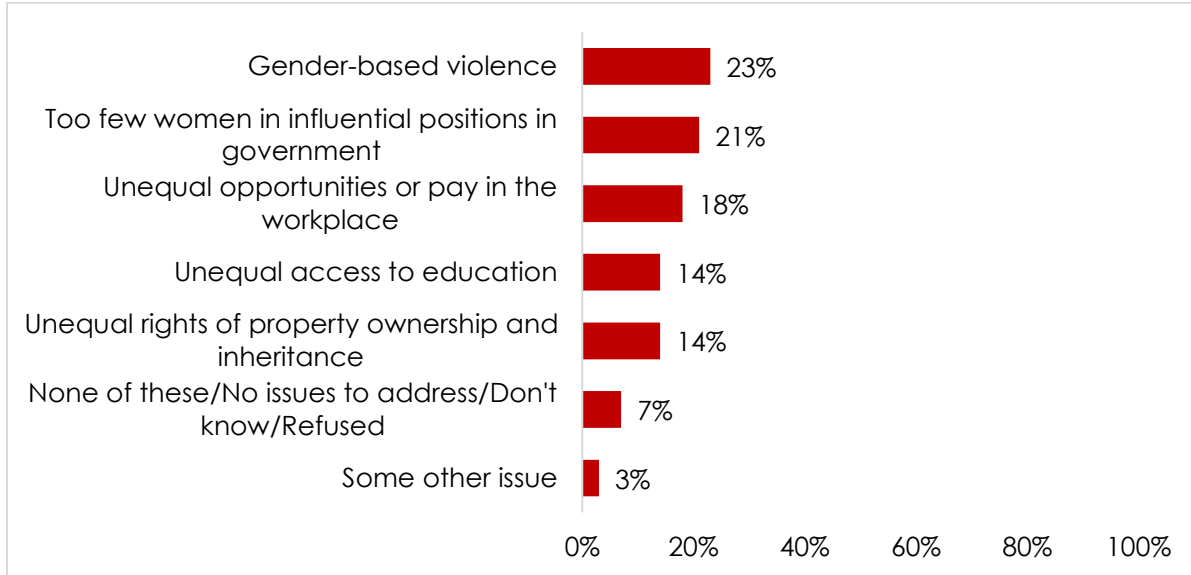
*She will face problems with her family?*

**Figure 3: Should government and elected officials do more or less to promote equal rights and opportunities for women? | Mozambique | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, should government and elected officials be doing more than they are doing now to advance the rights and equality of women, or should they be doing less, or are they doing about the right amount?*

**Figure 4: Most important women's-rights issue | Mozambique | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, which of the following issues related to women's rights and equality do you think is the most important for our government and society to address?

**For more information, please contact:**

Ipsos Mozambique  
 Rodolfo Rodrigues  
 Telephone: +258 845282810  
 Email: Rodolfo.Rodrigues@ipsos.com

Visit us online at:  
<https://www.ipsos.com/pt-mz>  
[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

