

Khartoum, Sudan
15 January 2024

News release

Most Sudanese rate their government poorly on promotion of gender equality

An overwhelming majority of Sudanese say the government is doing a poor job of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

Survey findings show significant gender imbalances in Sudan, including in higher education, ownership of key assets, and control over household financial decisions.

A majority of citizens believe that women who seek elective office will gain standing in the community, but many also consider it likely that they will face criticism or harassment from the community and problems within their families.

Sudanese rank education as the most important women's-rights issue that the government and society must address, followed by gender-based violence.

Key findings

- More than eight in 10 Sudanese (82%) say the government is doing a “fairly bad” or “very bad” job of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women. Women and men are equally likely to disapprove of the government's performance on this issue (Figure 1).
- Survey findings show significant gender imbalances in Sudanese society:
 - Women are significantly less likely than men to have post-secondary education (29% vs. 38%) (Figure 2). More women than men have primary schooling or less (40% vs. 33%).
 - Women trail men in ownership of key assets such as a bank account (17% vs. 32%), a motor vehicle (12% vs. 31%), and a computer (11% vs. 19%) (Figure 3).
 - Fewer women than men say they have control over how household money is spent (22% vs. 52%) (Figure 4).
- More than three-fourths (78%) of citizens say a woman who runs for elective office will probably gain standing in the community. But a majority (59%) also think she is likely to be criticised or harassed, and about half (48%) say she will probably face problems with her family (Figure 5).
- Sudanese are evenly divided on whether women should have the same right as men to own and inherit land: 47% support equality, while 47% oppose it. Men are less likely than women to believe in equality when it comes to land (42% vs. 52%) (Figure 6).
- Education ranks as the most important women's-rights issue that Sudanese say their government and society must address, followed by gender-based violence, too few women in influential positions in government, unequal opportunities and pay in the workplace, and unequal rights to ownership of property (Figure 7).

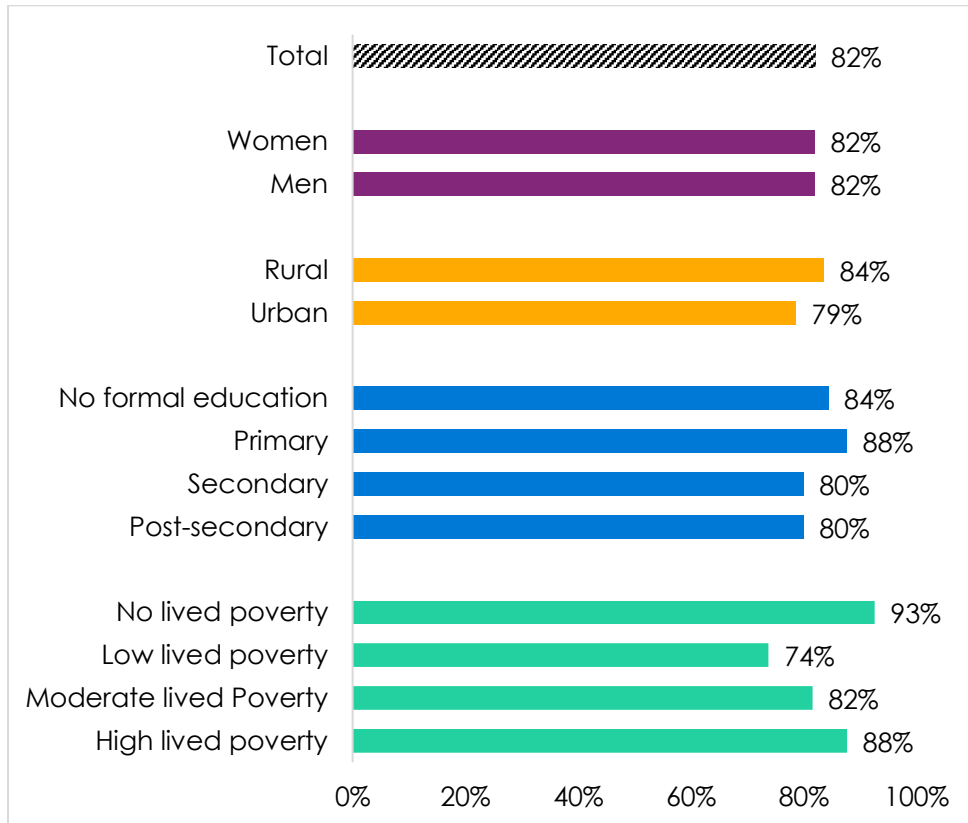
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Nine rounds of surveys have been completed 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 Sudan, led by Sudan Polling Statistics Center (SPSC), interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 adults in November-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 Sudan in 2013, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

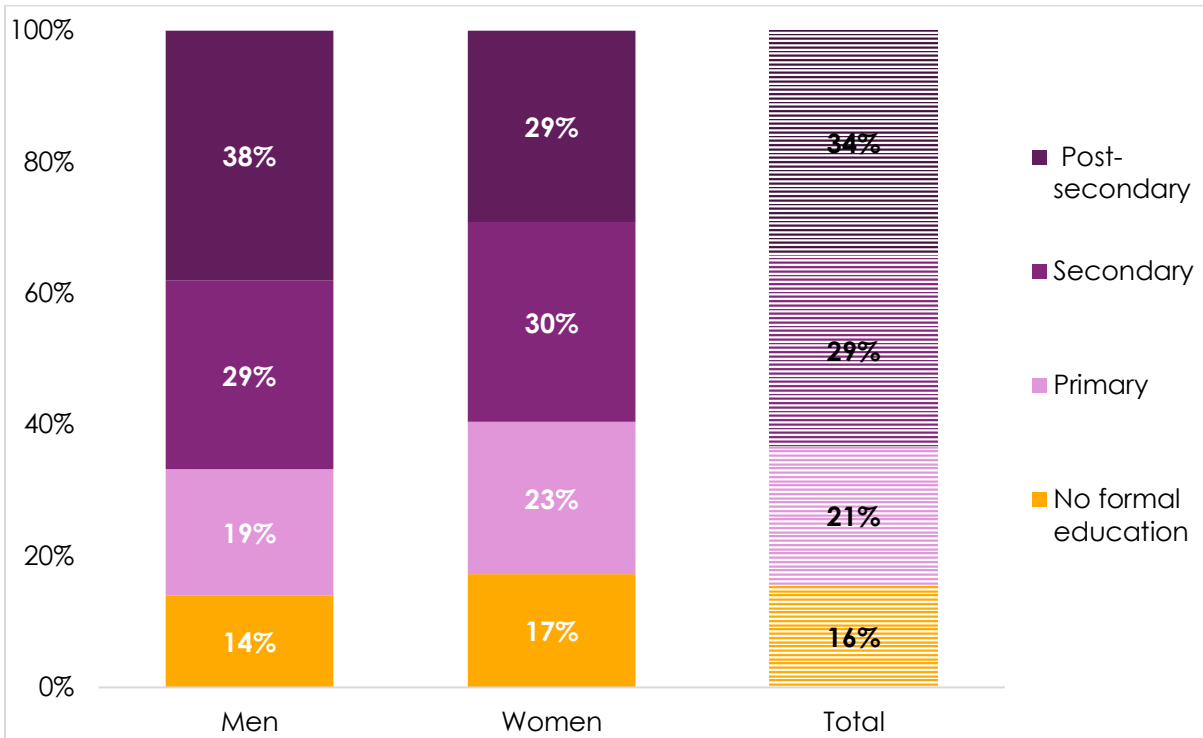
Charts

Figure 1: Government performing poorly on promoting equal rights and opportunities for women | by demographic group | Sudan | 2022



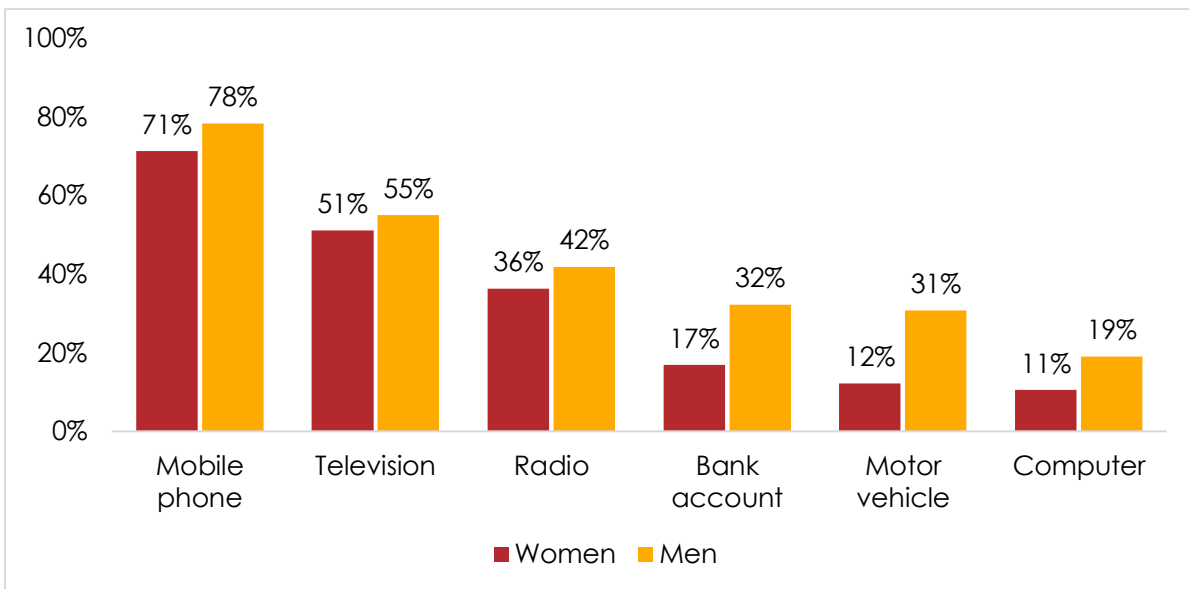
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Promoting equal rights and opportunities for women? (% who say "fairly badly" or "very badly")

Figure 2: Educational attainment | by gender | Sudan | 2022



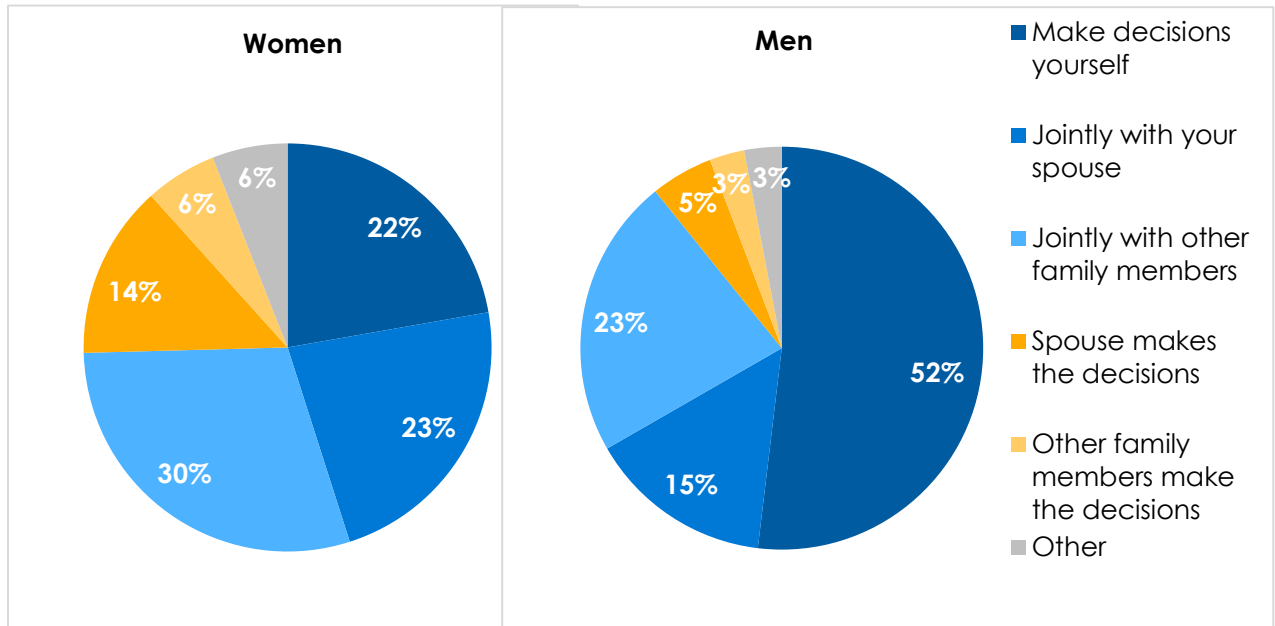
Respondents were asked: What is your highest level of education?

Figure 3: Asset ownership | by gender | Sudan | 2022



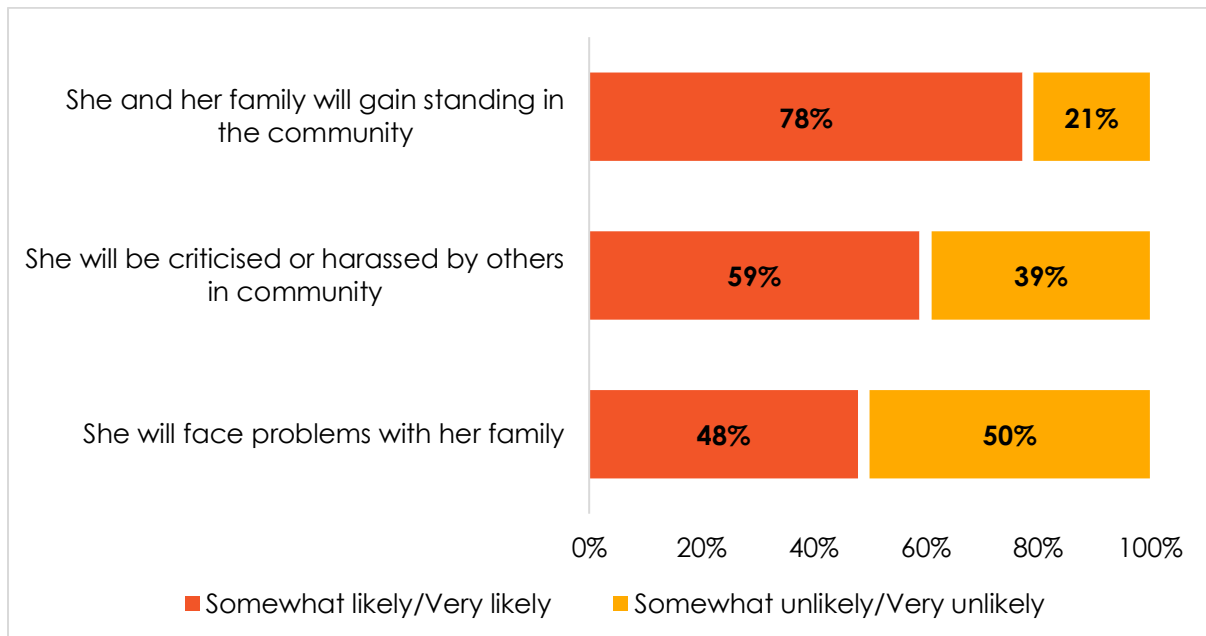
Respondents were asked: Which of these things do you personally own?

Figure 4: Who decides how money is used? | by gender | Sudan | 2022



Respondents were asked: What is the main way that decisions are made about how to use any money that you have or earn, for example from a job, a business, selling things, or other activities?

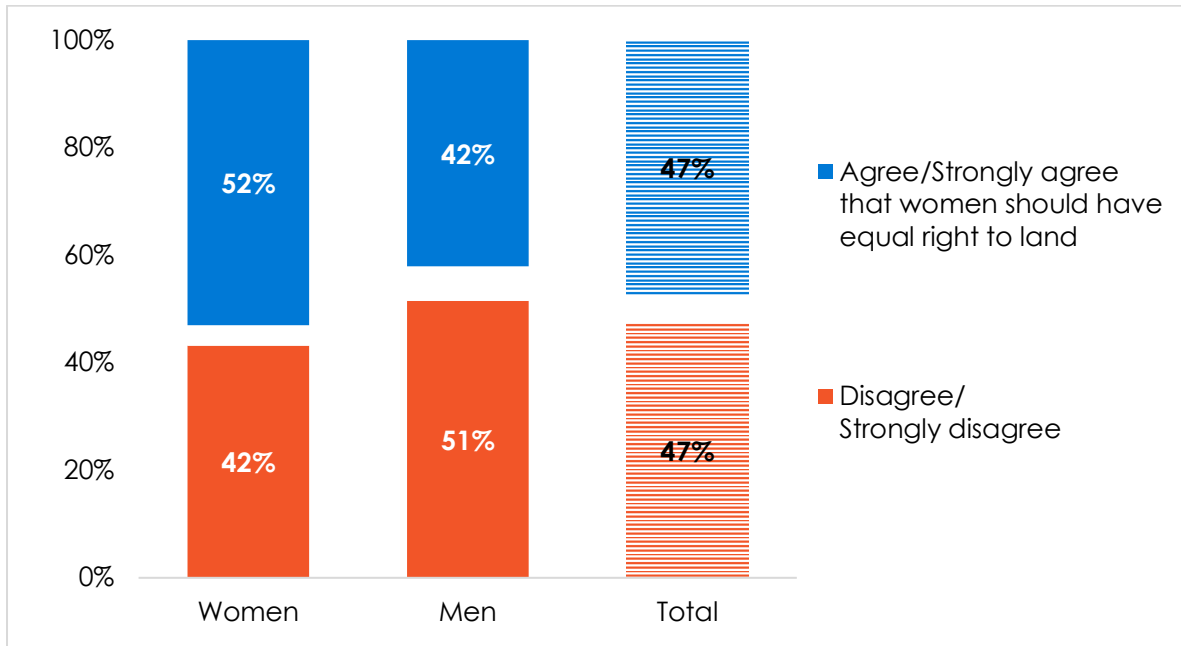
Figure 5: For better or for worse: How running for elected office might affect women's lives | Sudan | 2022



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:

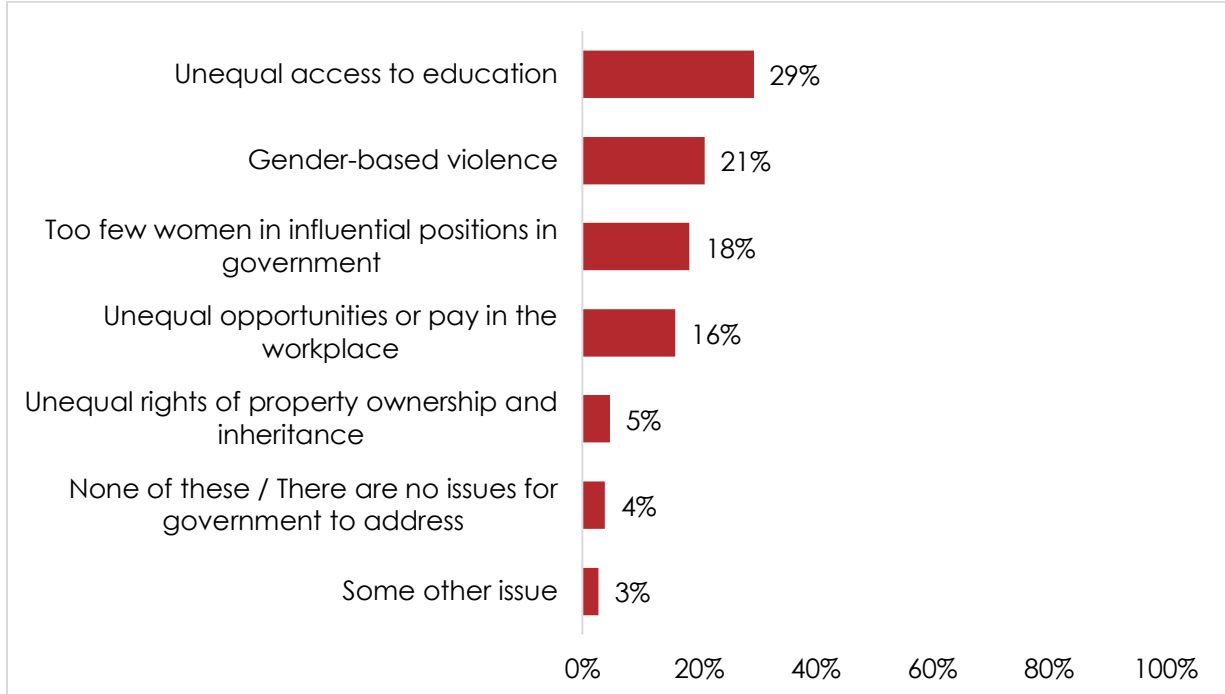
- She and her family will gain standing in the community?
- She will be criticised, called names, or harassed by others in the community?
- She will face problems with her family?

Figure 6: Should women have equal rights to land? | by gender | Sudan | 2022



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: Women should have the same rights as men to own and inherit land?

Figure 7: Most important women's-rights issue | Sudan | 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?

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