

Khartoum, Sudan  
22 January 2024

## News release

### Majority of Sudanese believe resources intended for COVID-19 response were lost to corruption

More than half of Sudanese say that “a lot” of resources intended for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic were lost to corruption, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

About one in eight households report receiving pandemic-related assistance from the government, and only one-third of survey respondents express satisfaction with the government’s efforts to provide relief to vulnerable families.

Most citizens think that during an emergency like the pandemic, the government is justified in using the armed forces or the police to enforce public health mandates, in censoring media reporting, and in postponing elections.

The survey findings also show that a majority of citizens think that their government is not well prepared to deal with future public health emergencies and that greater investment in such preparations are needed, even if it means that fewer resources are available for other health services.

#### Key findings

- Three-fourths (75%) of Sudanese say they believe that “some” (24%) or “a lot” (51%) of the resources intended for the COVID-19 response were lost to corruption (Figure 1). Only 4% think that none of these resources were embezzled.
- About one in seven citizens (15%) say someone in their household lost a job, business, or primary source of income due to the pandemic, while 7% say a member of their household became ill or tested positive for COVID-19 (Figure 2).
- About one in eight Sudanese (13%) say their household received pandemic-related assistance from the government, while 83% did not (Figure 3).
- Only about one-third of citizens say they are “fairly satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the government’s efforts during the pandemic to minimise disruptions to children’s education (34%), to provide relief assistance to vulnerable households (32%), and to ensure that health facilities are adequately resourced (29%) (Figure 4).
- About three-fourths of citizens approve of using the police or military to enforce public health mandates (74%) and of censoring media reporting (73%) during a pandemic. A slimmer majority (59%) say it is justified to postpone elections in response to a public health emergency (Figure 5).
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of Sudanese say the government is not well prepared to deal with future public health emergencies (Figure 6).
- Six in 10 (60%) think the government needs to invest more in such preparations, even if it means fewer resources are available for other health services (Figure 7).

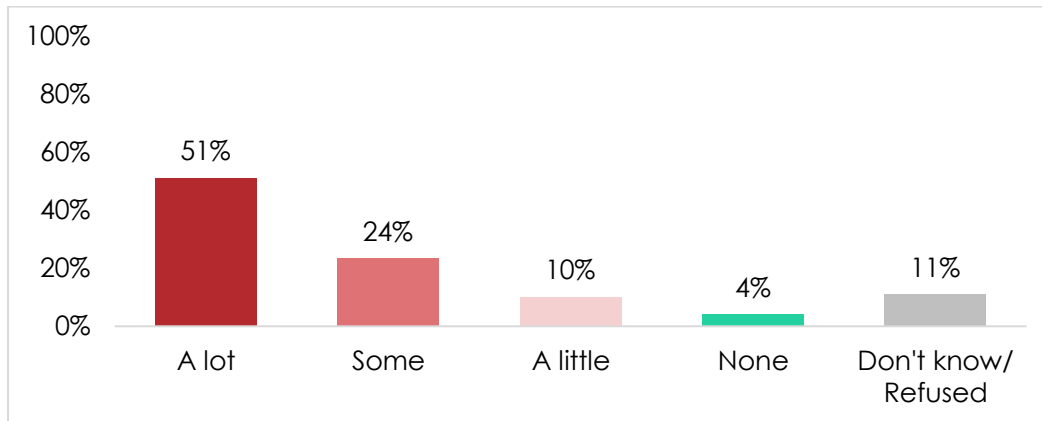
## Afrobarometer surveys

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.

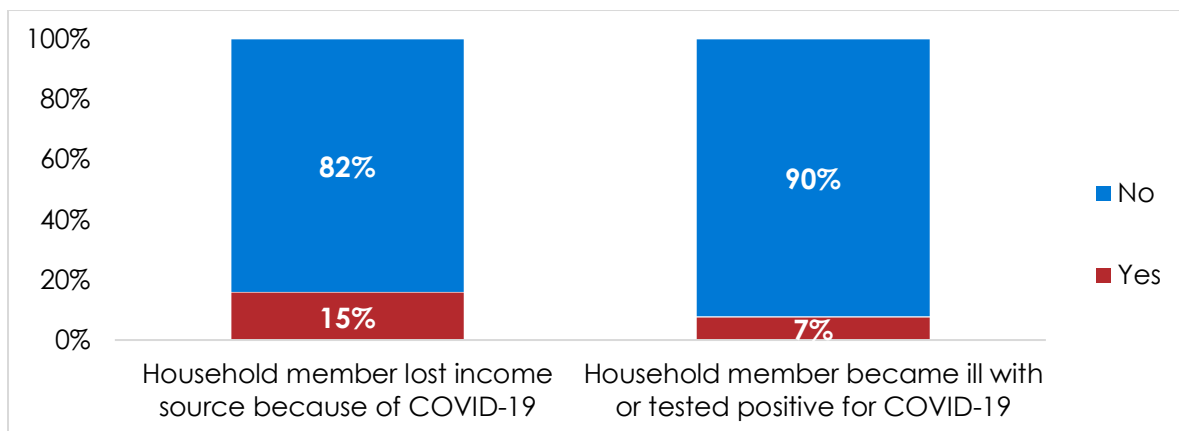
## Charts

**Figure 1: Perceived pandemic-related corruption** | Sudan | 2022



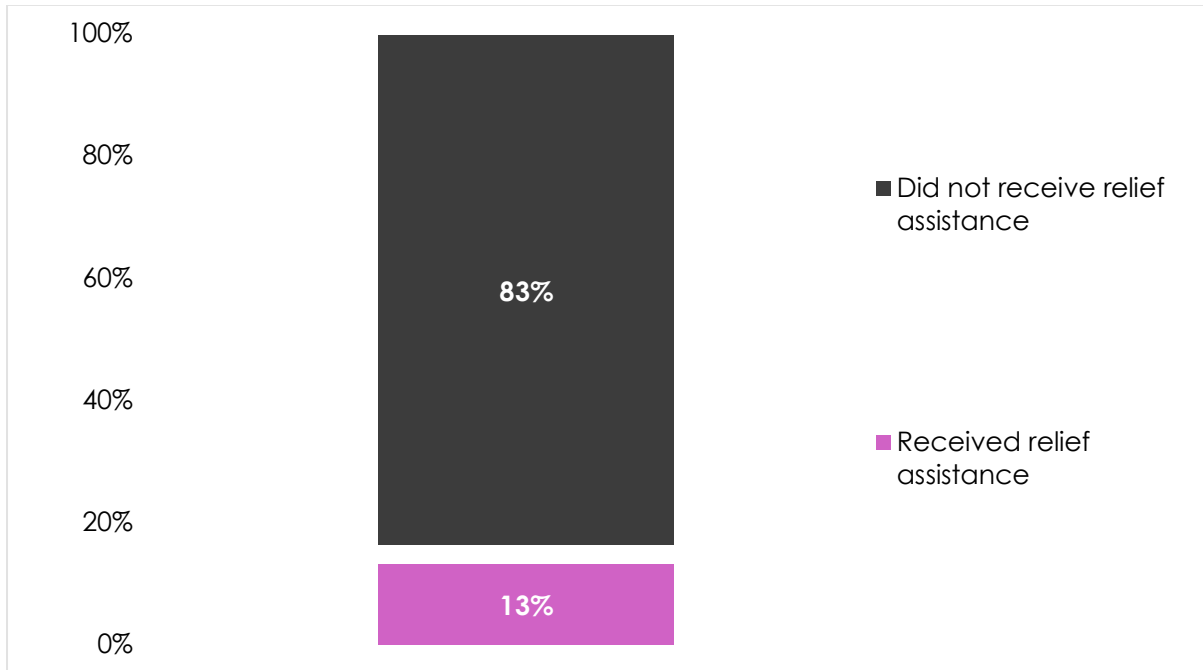
**Respondents were asked:** Considering all of the funds and resources that were available to the government for combating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, how much do you think was lost or stolen due to corruption?

**Figure 2: Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic** | Sudan | 2022



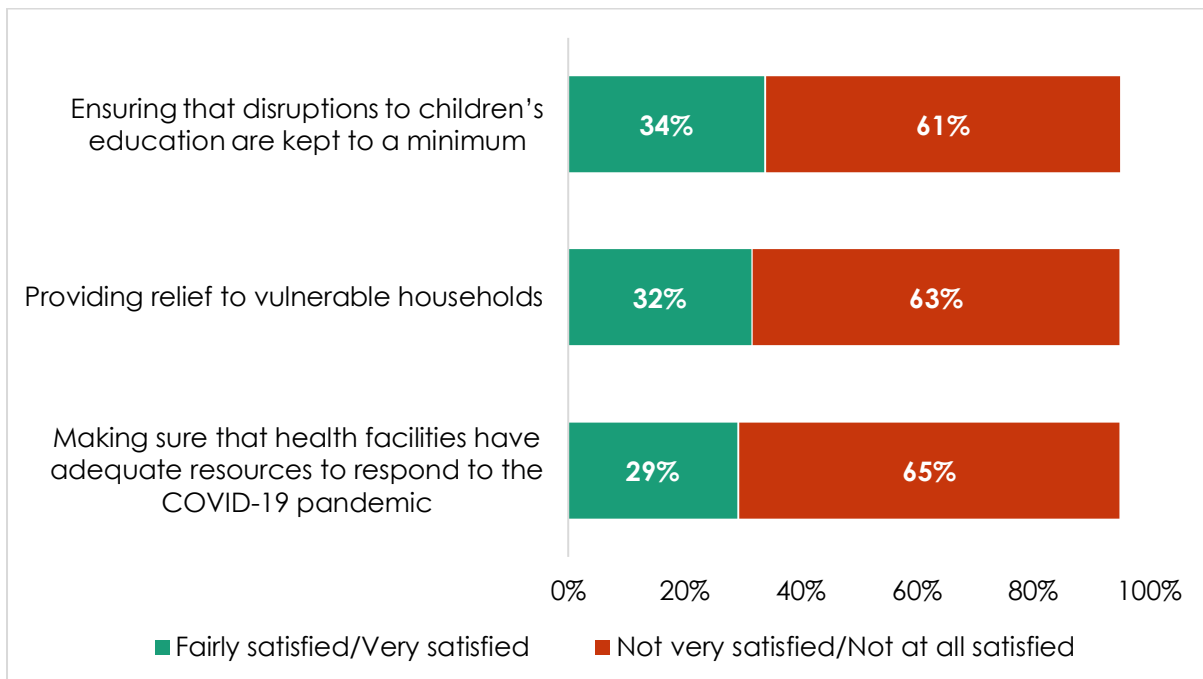
**Respondents were asked:** Please tell me whether you personally or any other member of your household have been affected in any of the following ways by the COVID-19 pandemic:  
Became ill with, or tested positive for, COVID-19?  
Temporarily or permanently lost a job, business, or primary source of income?

**Figure 3: Received pandemic-related relief assistance? | Sudan | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, have you or your household received any assistance from government, like food, cash payments, relief from bill payments, or other assistance that you were not normally receiving before the pandemic?

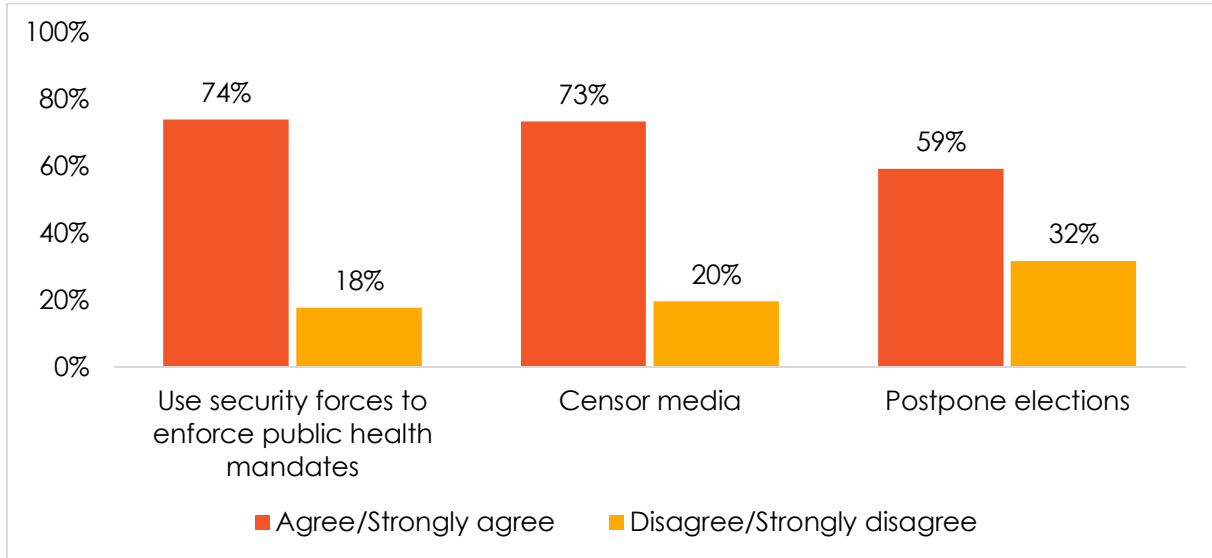
**Figure 4: Satisfaction with government's response to COVID-19 | Sudan | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the government's response to COVID-19 in the following areas?

**Figure 5: Limit democratic freedoms during a public health emergency?**

| Sudan | 2022



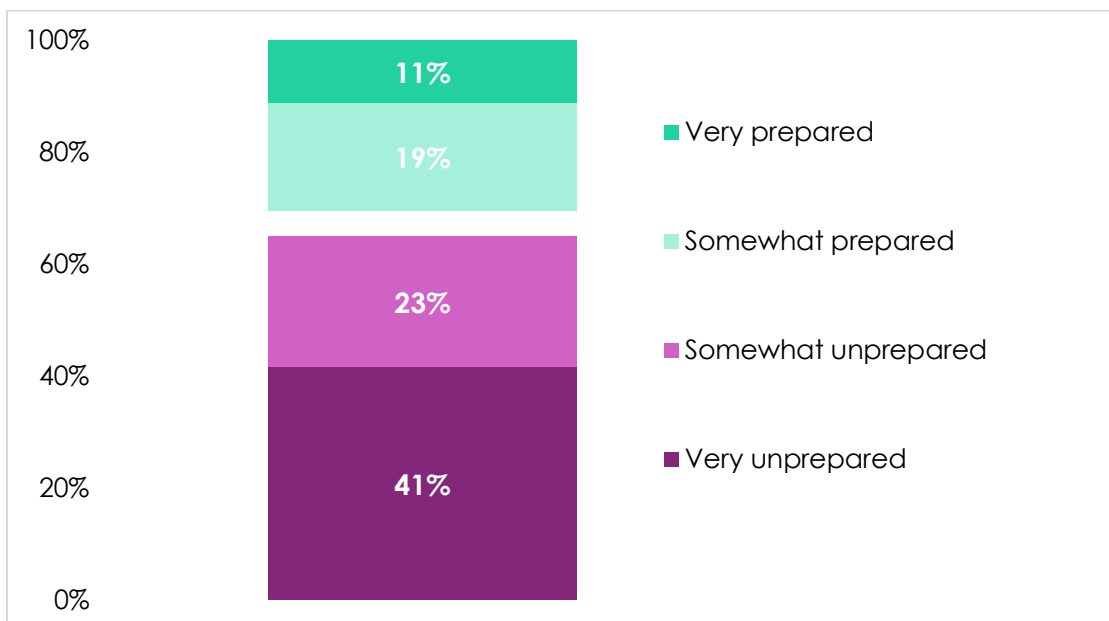
**Respondents were asked:** When the country is facing a public health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic, do you agree or disagree that it is justified for the government to temporarily limit democracy or democratic freedoms by taking the following measures:

Censoring media reporting?

Using the police and security forces to enforce public health mandates like restrictions on public gatherings or wearing face masks?

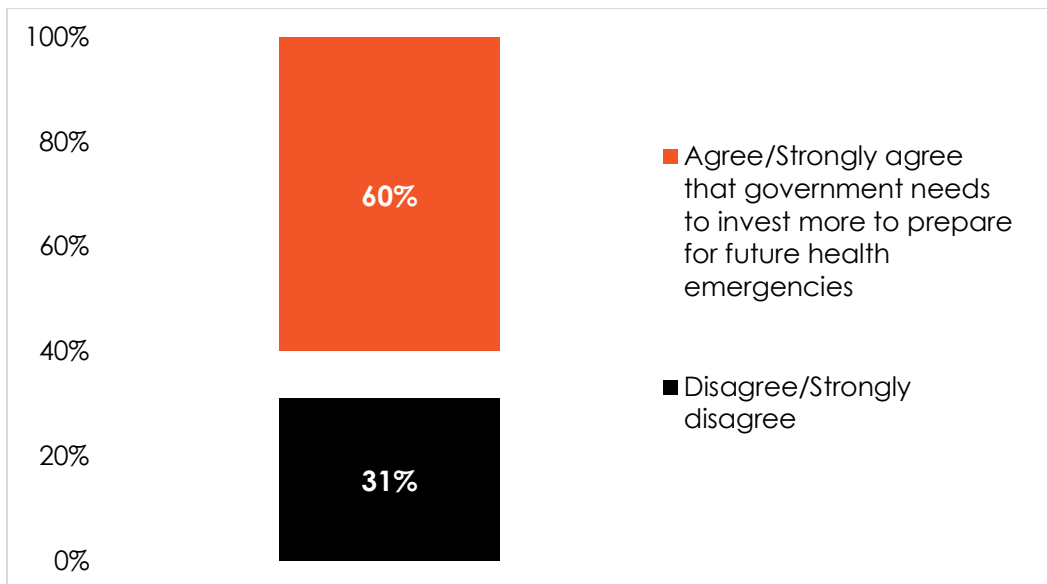
Postponing elections?

**Figure 6: Preparedness for future health emergencies** | Sudan | 2022



**Respondents were asked:** After experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic in Sudan, how prepared or unprepared do you think the government will be to deal with future public health emergencies?

**Figure 7: Invest more to prepare for future health emergencies?** | Sudan | 2022



**Respondents were asked:** Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Our government needs to invest more of our health resources in special preparations to respond to health emergencies like COVID-19, even if it means fewer resources are available for other health services?

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