

Khartoum, Sudan
11 March 2024

News release

Sudanese say their government is doing a poor job of promoting the well-being of vulnerable children

An overwhelming majority of Sudanese say their government is performing “fairly badly” or “very badly” when it comes to protecting and promoting the well-being of vulnerable children, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

A slim majority report that child abuse and neglect are infrequent in their community, but far more see out-of-school children as a widespread problem. Most say that resources are available in their community to help abused and neglected children, children with disability, and children and adults with mental or emotional problems.

Most citizens endorse the use of physical force to discipline children. Views are sharply divided as to whether adults frequently resort to corporal punishment.

Key findings

- A majority (63%) of Sudanese say parents are “sometimes” or “always” justified in using physical force to discipline their children (Figure 1).
 - The use of physical discipline receives the strongest support from respondents without formal education (76%) and those experiencing high lived poverty (73%) (Figure 2).
- Half (49%) of citizens say the use of physical force to discipline children is not very common in their community, but 51% disagree (Figure 3).
- A slim majority (54%) of Sudanese say child abuse and neglect are infrequent in their community. Only 42% say the same about out-of-school children (Figure 4).
- Two-thirds of Sudanese say resources are available in their community to help abused and neglected children (66%), children with disability (66%), and children and adults with mental or emotional problems (67%) (Figure 5).
- More than eight in 10 citizens (82%) say the government is doing “very badly” or “fairly badly” on protecting and promoting the well-being of vulnerable children (Figure 6).

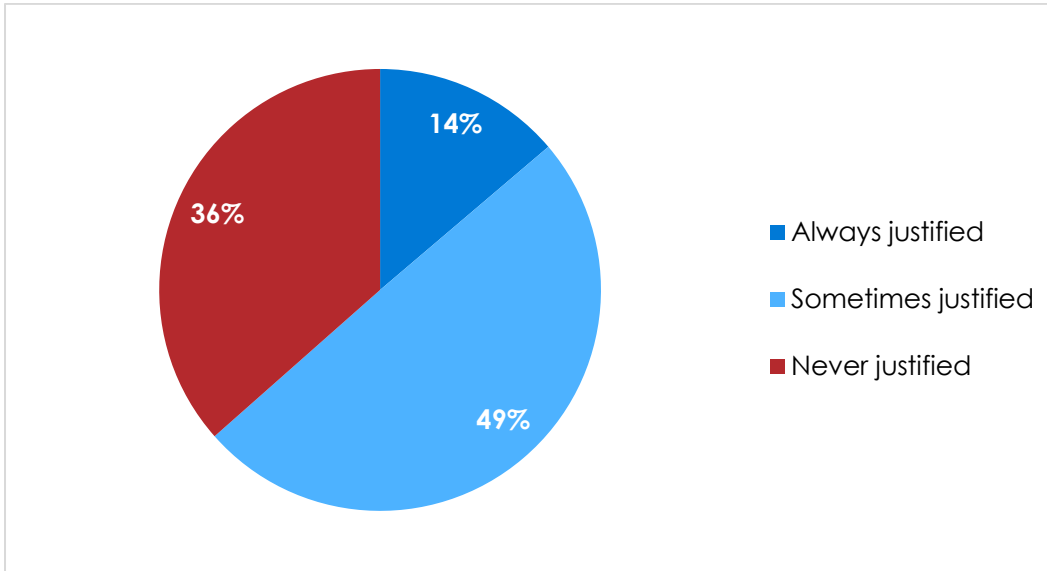
Afrobarometer surveys

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 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 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.

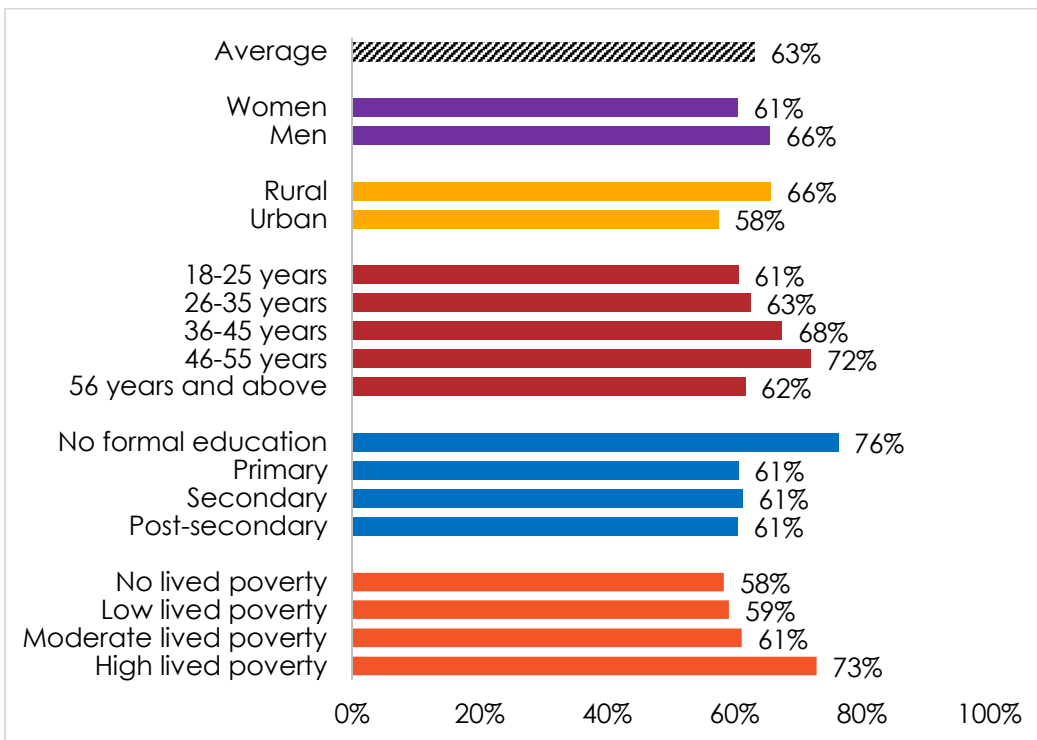
Charts

Figure 1: Should parents physically discipline children? | Sudan | 2022



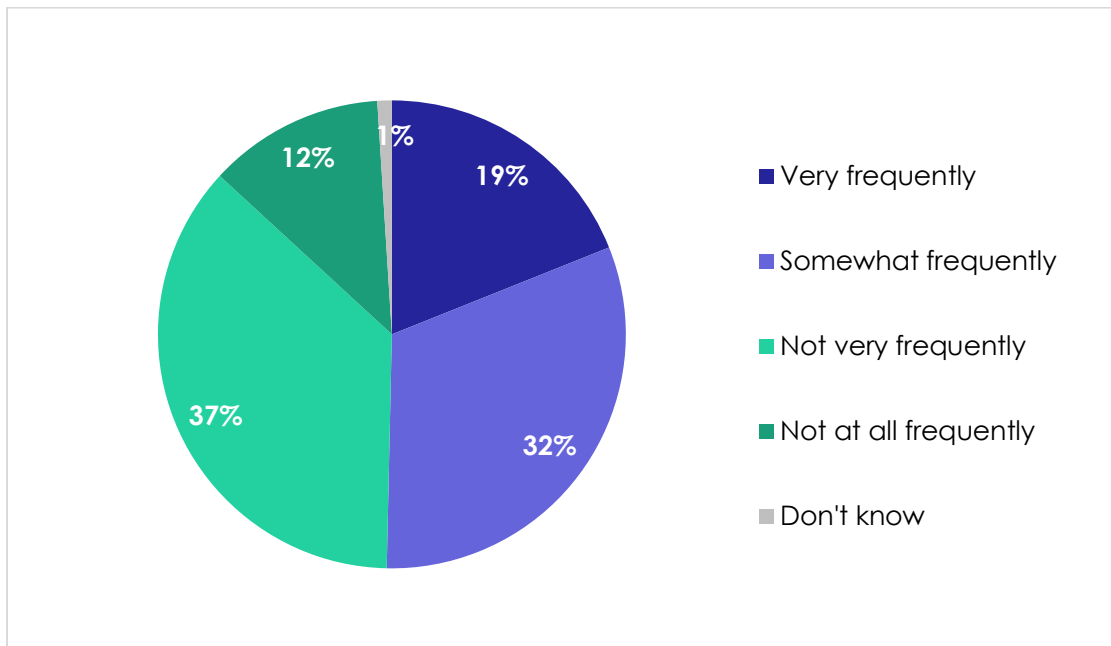
Respondents were asked: For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified: For parents to use physical force to discipline their children?

Figure 2: Should parents physically discipline children? | Sudan | 2022



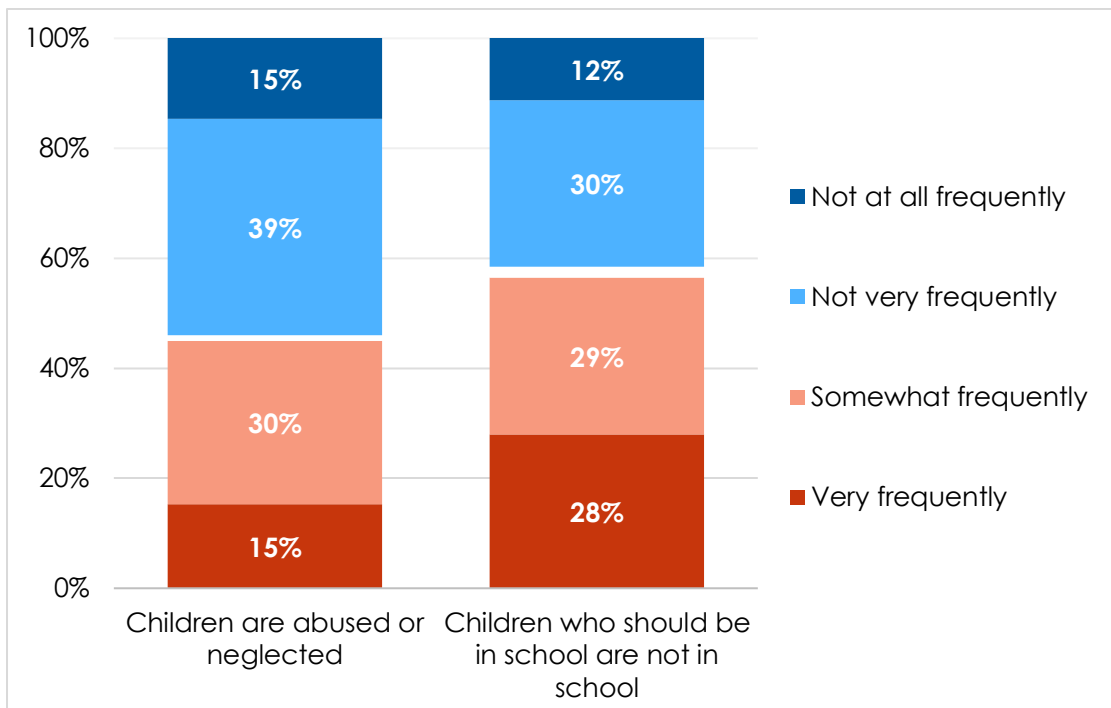
Respondents were asked: For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified: For parents to use physical force to discipline their children? (% who say "sometimes justified" or "always justified")

Figure 3: How frequently do adults use physical force to discipline children? | Sudan | 2022



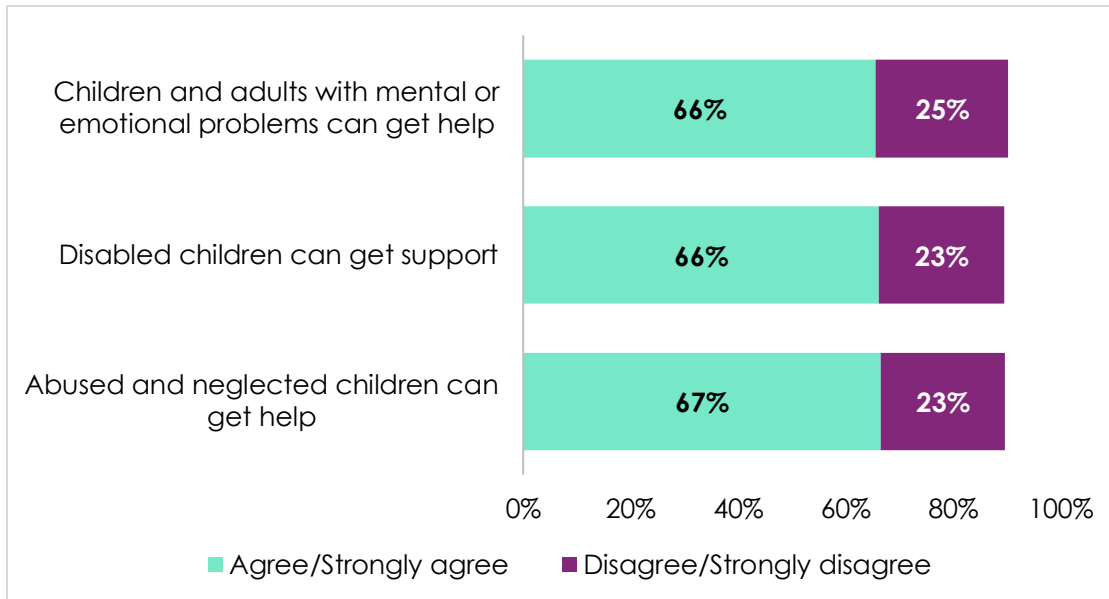
Respondents were asked: How frequently do you think the following things occur in your community or neighbourhood: Adults use physical force to discipline children?

Figure 4: How often are children abused, mistreated, or neglected? | Sudan | 2022



Respondents were asked: How frequently do you think the following things occur in your community or neighbourhood: Children are abused, mistreated, or neglected? Children who should be in school are not in school?

Figure 5: Is help available for vulnerable children? | Sudan | 2022



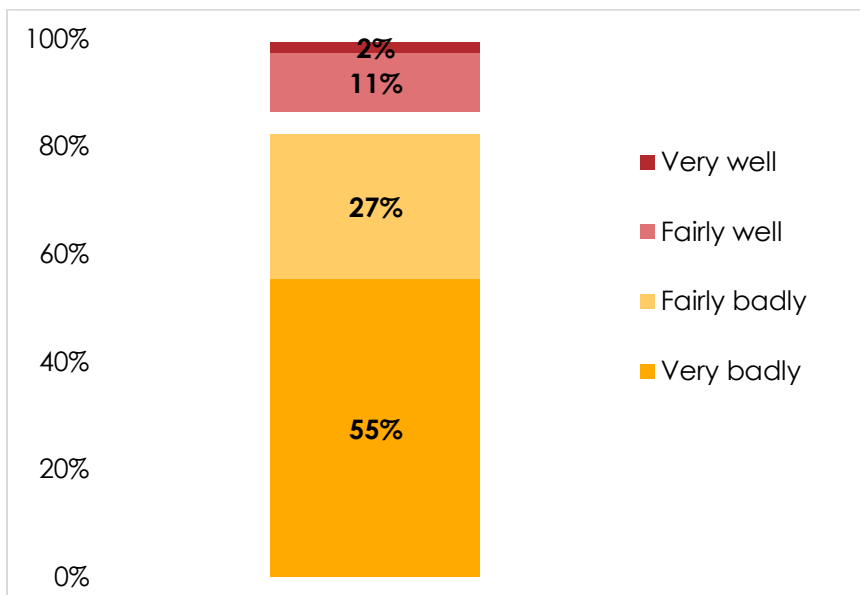
Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree.

In general, people in this community are able to get help for children who are abused, mistreated, or neglected.

In my community, children who have a physical disability are generally able to get the support they need to succeed in life.

In my community, children and adults who have mental or emotional problems are generally able to get the help they need to have a good life.

Figure 6: Government performance on child welfare | 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: Protecting and promoting the well-being of vulnerable children?

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