



Conakry, Guinea
6 September 2021

News release

Guineans strongly prefer democracy to any other regime but want the president limited to two terms

Despite widespread dissatisfaction with the government's performance, Guineans strongly prefer democracy to any alternative form of governance, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

Barely a year after claiming a third term in office amidst widespread opposition, President Alpha Condé has been detained since a coup d'état last Sunday. Coup leader Lt. Col. Mamady Doumbouya has cited pervasive poverty and corruption as reasons for the takeover.

Afrobarometer findings from late 2019 show majorities of Guineans believe that the country is heading in the wrong direction, that the level of corruption has increased, and that the government is doing a poor job of fighting corruption. Dissatisfaction with the country's economic conditions and citizens' personal living conditions has increased, as have negative ratings of the government's economic performance and provision of essential public services. Only three in 10 citizens are satisfied with the way their democracy is working.

But the study also shows that most Guineans endorse elections as the best way to choose leaders and that citizens' preference for democracy has remained consistently high over the years.

Key findings

- More than three-fourths (77%) of Guineans prefer democracy to any other form of government. Support for democracy has remained high since Afrobarometer began its surveys in Guinea in 2013 (Figure 1).
- Eight in 10 Guineans (82%) endorse free, fair, and honest elections as the best way to choose leaders, including 57% who "strongly agree" with this view (Figure 2).
 - A similar majority (76%) want the president to serve a maximum of two terms in office.
- Only four in 10 Guineans (40%) describe the country as "a full democracy" or "a democracy with minor problems" (Figure 3).
 - Only three in 10 (29%) say they are "fairly satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the way democracy works, a sharp decline from 2017 (56%) after consistent improvement from 2013 (39%).
- Almost two-thirds of Guineans (64%) say the country is heading in "the wrong direction."
- The perception that "most" or "all" officials at the Presidency are corrupt has increased from 26% in 2013 to 47% (Figure 4).

- Almost two-thirds (63%) of citizens say the level of corruption in the country increased during the year preceding the survey, a 25-percentage-point increase compared to 2015 (38%).
- Eight in 10 citizens (81%) say the government is performing “fairly badly” or “very badly” in fighting corruption, a 27-percentage-point increase compared to 2013 (54%).
- Almost seven in 10 citizens (68%) describe the country's economic conditions as “fairly bad” or “very bad,” a significant increase compared to 2013 (59%) (Figure 5).
 - The proportion who say their personal living conditions are “fairly bad” or “very bad” has also increased, to 64%.
- About nine in 10 Guineans say the government is doing “fairly badly” or “very badly” at narrowing income gaps (90%), creating jobs (89%), and improving living standards of the poor (85%) (Figure 6).
 - Seven in 10 (72%) rate the government poorly on its performance in managing the economy.
- Overwhelming majorities also say the government is doing a poor job of maintaining roads and bridges (92%), providing water and sanitation services (85%), providing a reliable supply of electricity (83%), addressing educational needs (73%), and improving basic health services (72%) (Figure 7).

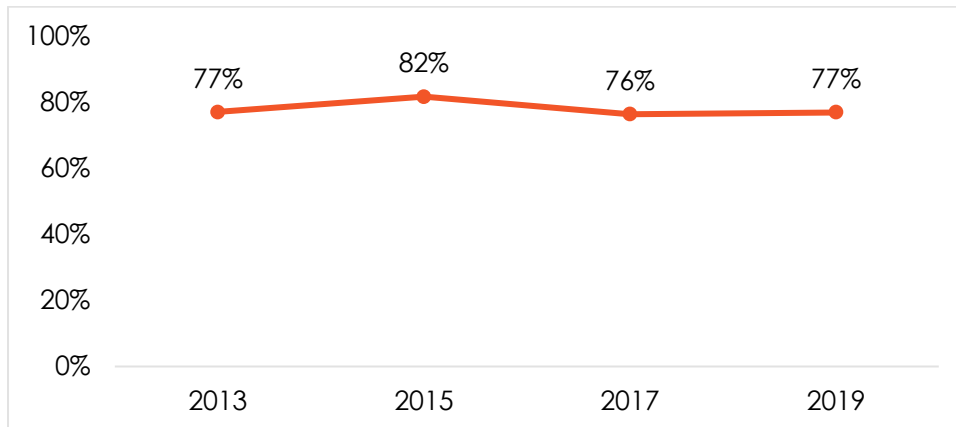
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a non-partisan African survey research network that provides reliable data on citizens' experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 8 surveys (2019/2021) cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer's national partners in all regions of Africa conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

In the most recent survey in Guinea, Stat View International interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 adult Guineans in November-December 2019. 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 Guinea in 2013, 2015, and 2017.

Charts

Figure 1: Support for democracy | Guinea | 2013-2019



Respondents were asked:

Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?

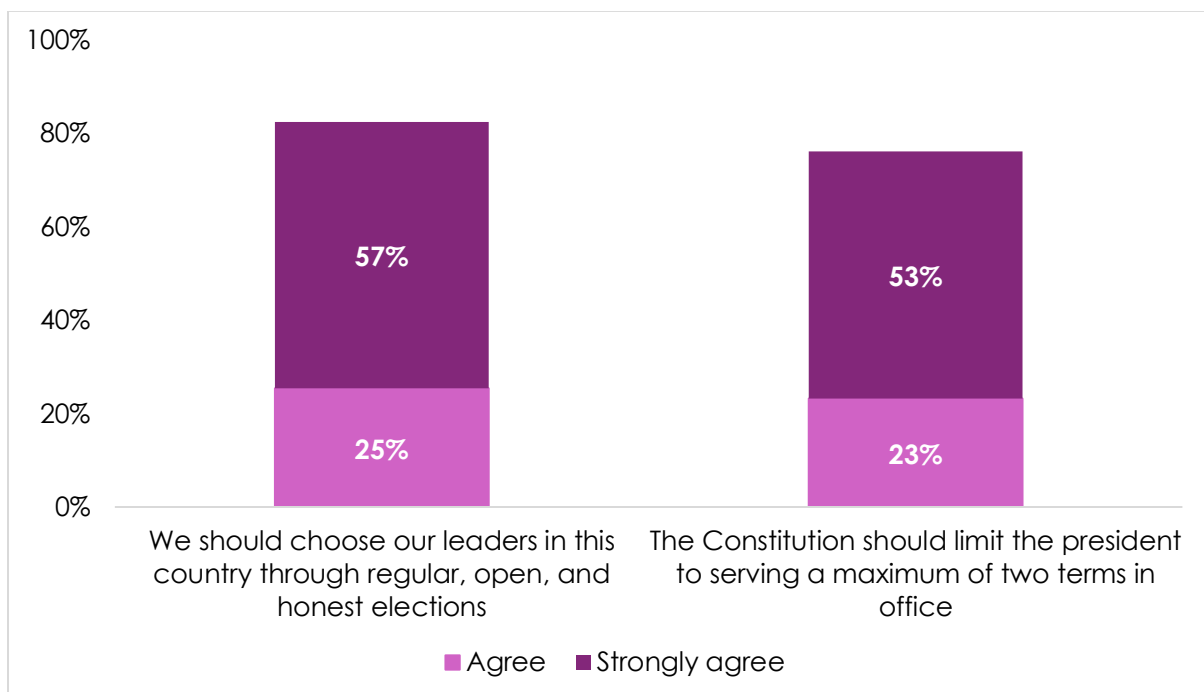
Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.

Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

(% who say "democracy is preferable")

Figure 2: Support for elections and two-term limit | Guinea | 2019

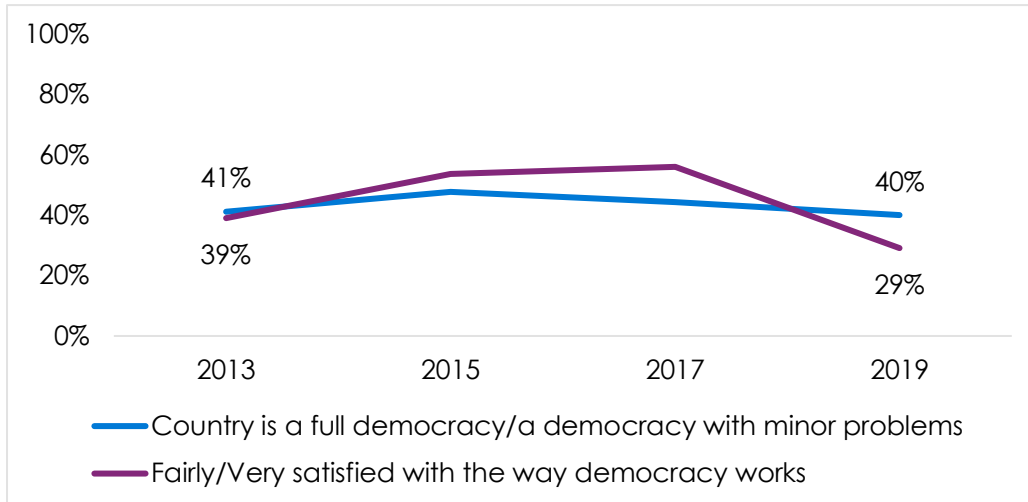


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: We should choose our leaders in this country through regular, open, and honest elections.
 Statement 2: Since elections sometimes produce bad results, we should adopt other methods for choosing this country's leaders.

Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.
 Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

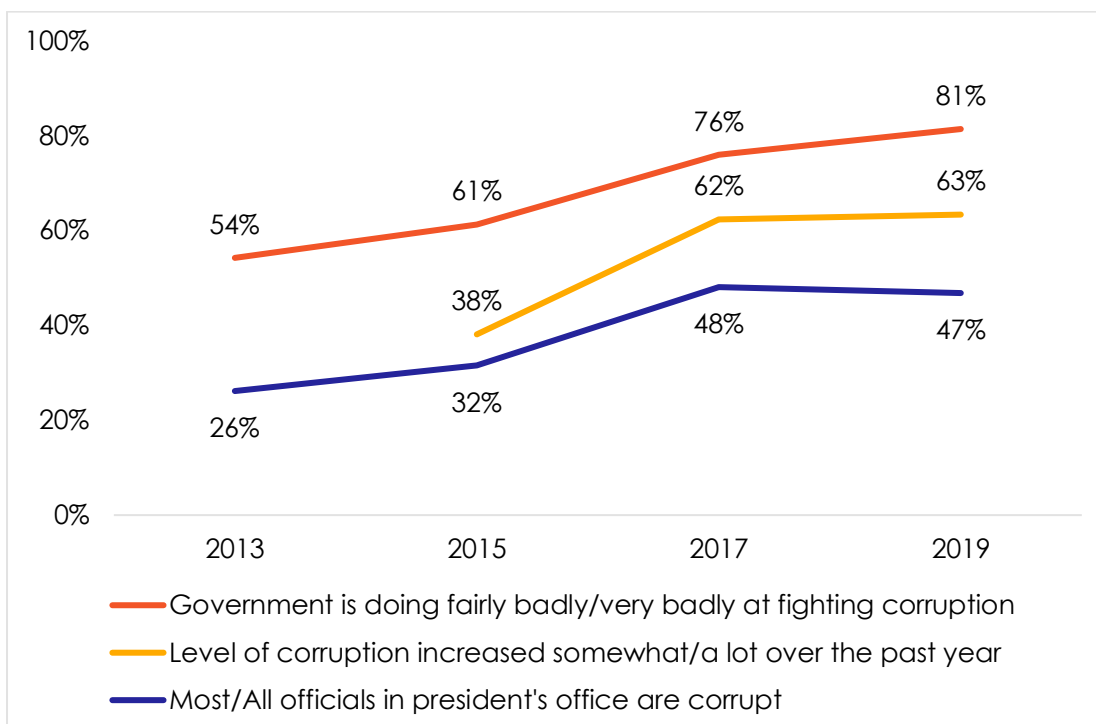
Figure 3: Extent of democracy and satisfaction with democracy | Guinea
 | 2013-2019



Respondents were asked:

*In your opinion, how much of a democracy is Guinea today?
 Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Guinea?*

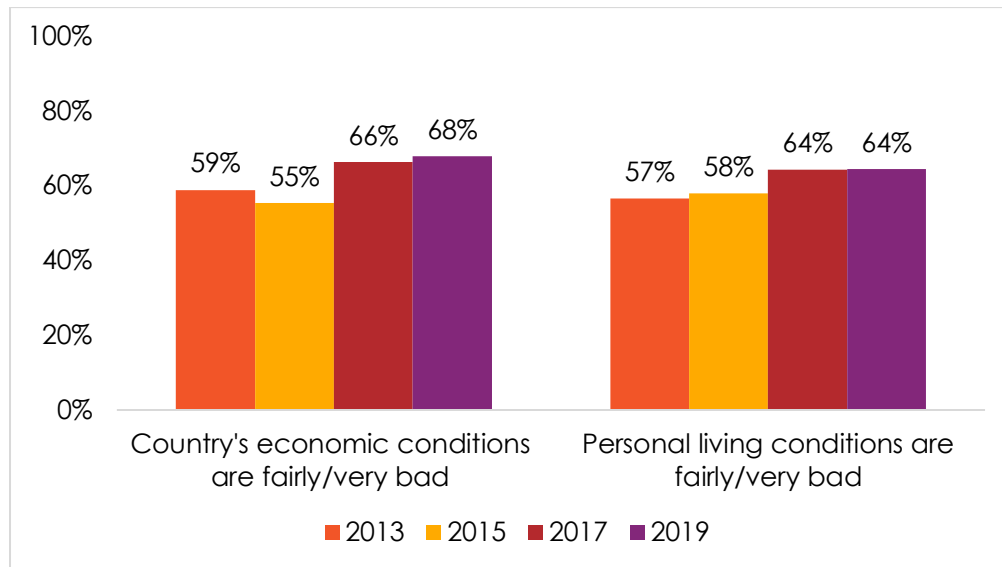
Figure 4: Citizens' views on corruption | Guinea | 2013-2019



Respondents were asked:

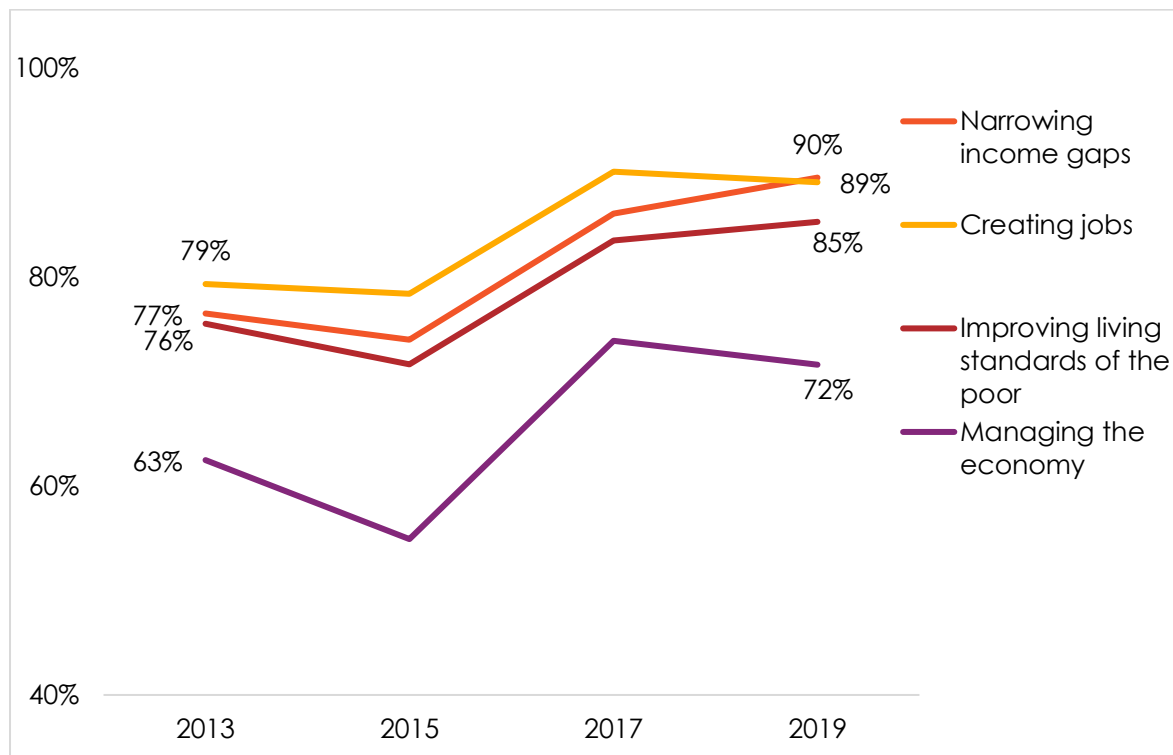
*How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption?
 In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?
 How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The president and officials in his office?*

Figure 5: Economic and personal living conditions are bad | Guinea | 2013-2019



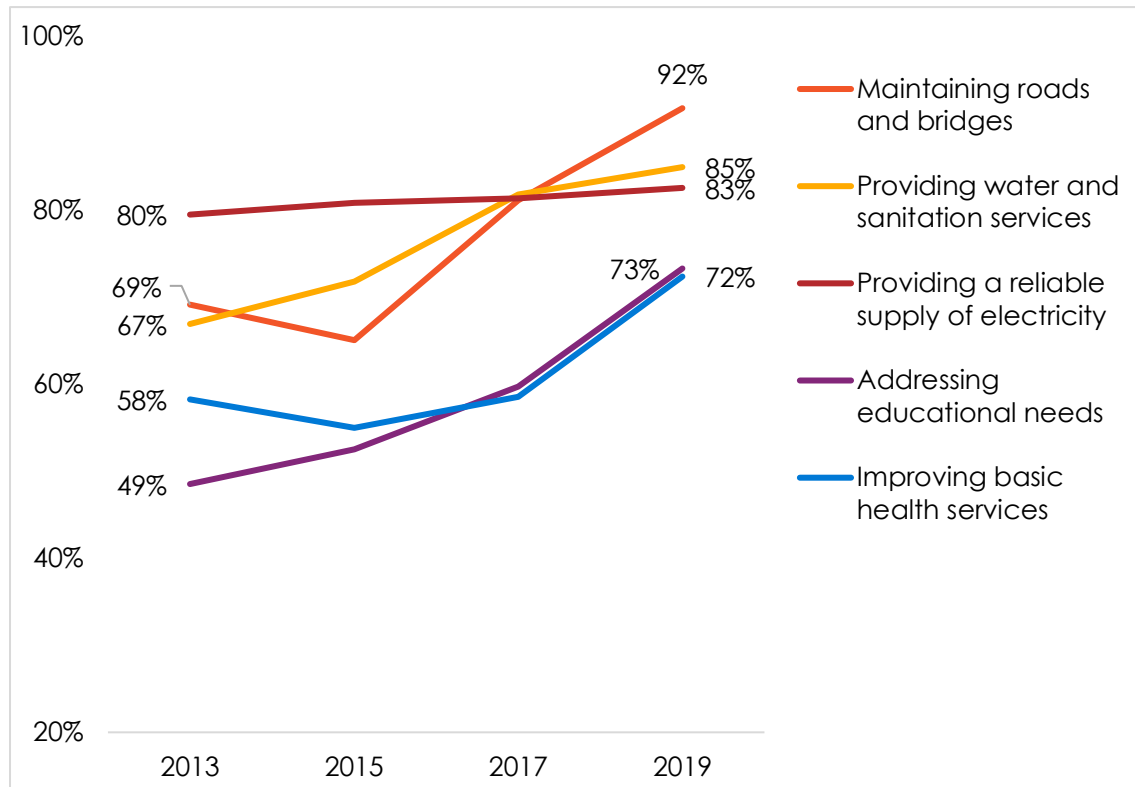
Respondents were asked: In general, how would you describe:
 The present economic condition of this country?
 Your own present living conditions?

Figure 6: Negative assessments of government's economic performance | Guinea | 2013-2019



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? (% who say "fairly badly" or "very badly")

Figure 7: Negative assessments of government's performance in public service delivery | Guinea | 2013-2019



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? (% who say "fairly badly" or "very badly")

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