



Freetown, Sierra Leone
16 December 2015

News release

Sierra Leoneans see increased corruption, trust their president less, and disapprove of MP performance

A large majority of Sierra Leoneans say the level of corruption in the country increased over the past year, findings from the latest Afrobarometer survey show.

Public trust in several institutions has declined over the past three years, most dramatically trust in the president. Moreover, seven of 10 Sierra Leoneans disapprove of the performance of their Members of Parliament (MPs).

With less than three years until the next general election, these findings indicate potential challenges ahead for the country's political leaders.

Key findings

- Seven of 10 Sierra Leoneans (70%) say that the level of corruption in the country increased during the year preceding the survey (Figure 1).
- While the perception of corruption among the police decreased from 2012, a majority (59%) of respondents still say "most" or "all" police officials are corrupt – the highest level of perceived corruption among public institutions the survey asked about (Figure 2).
- Sierra Leoneans express lower levels of trust in the president, local government councillors, the National Revenue Authority, the ruling party, and the army than they did in 2012. The proportion who say they trust the president "somewhat" or "a lot" declined from 70% to 52% (Figure 2).
- Barely half of Sierra Leoneans (51%) approve of the president's performance, and seven of 10 (71%) disapprove of the performance of their MP.

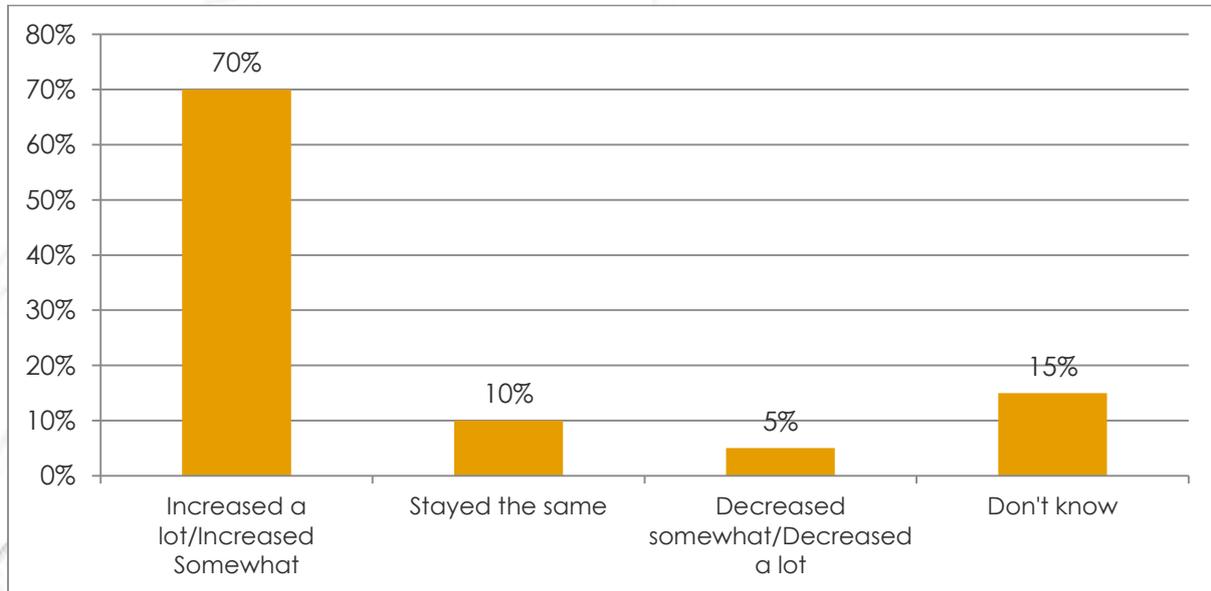
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently being completed (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 2,400 or 1,200 adult citizens.

Fieldwork for Afrobarometer Round 6 in Sierra Leone was conducted by ITASCAP, in collaboration with Campaign for Good Governance (CGG) and Lena Thompson. ITASCAP interviewed 1,200 adult Sierra Leoneans between 22 May and 10 June 2015. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of sampling error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. A previous Afrobarometer survey was conducted in Sierra Leone in 2012.

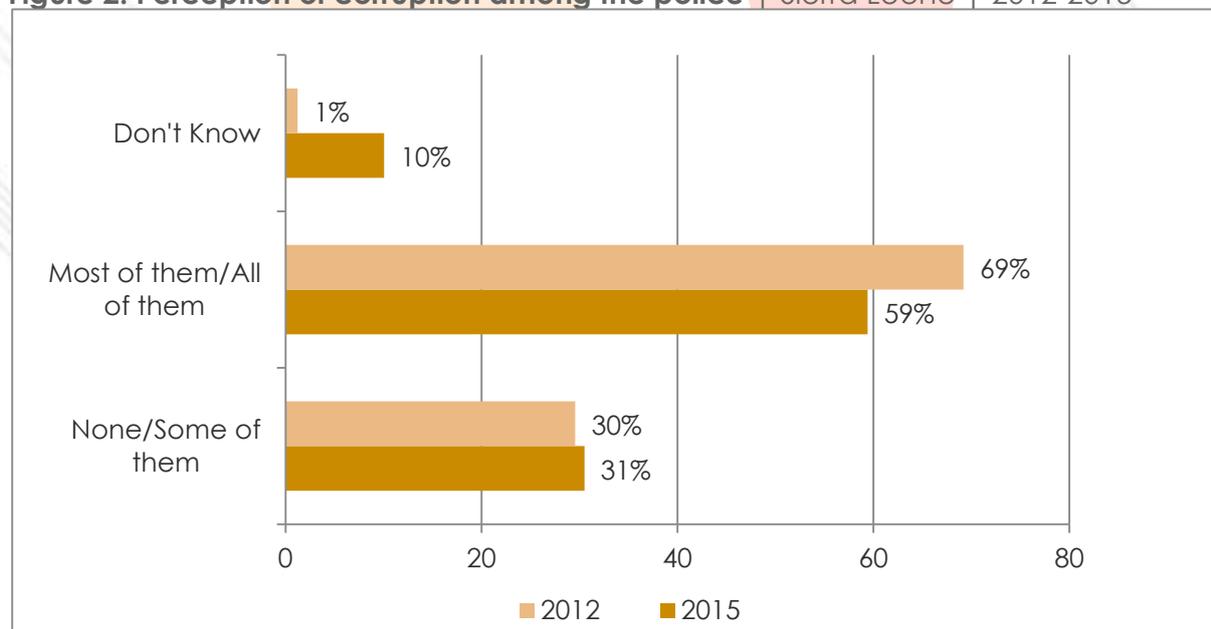
Charts

Figure 1: Change in corruption level over the past year | Sierra Leone | 2015



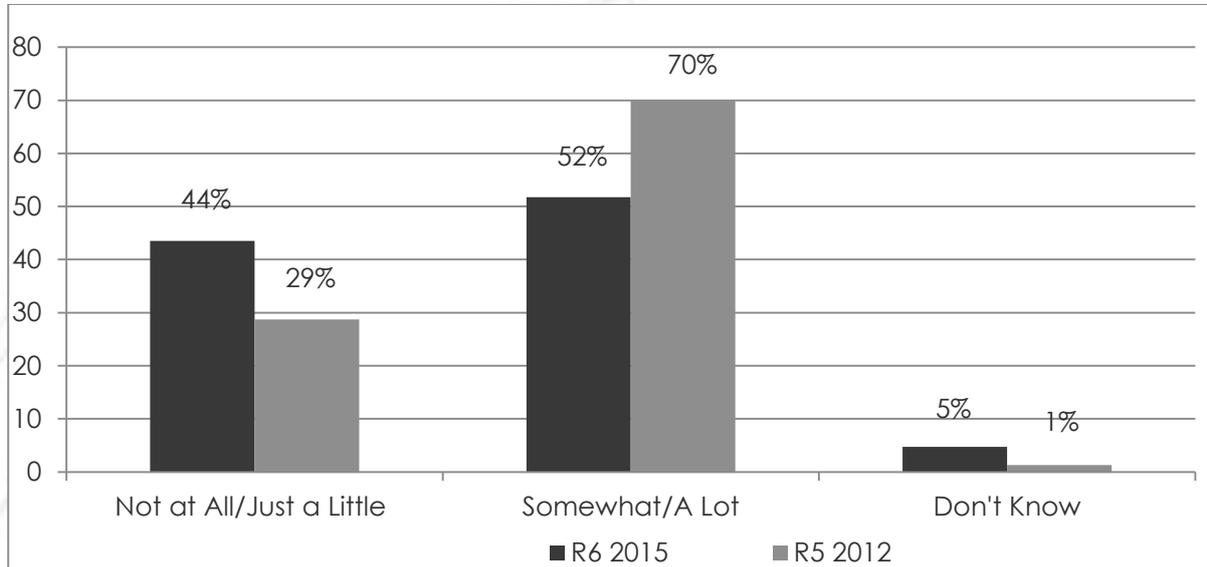
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Figure 2: Perception of corruption among the police | Sierra Leone | 2012-2015



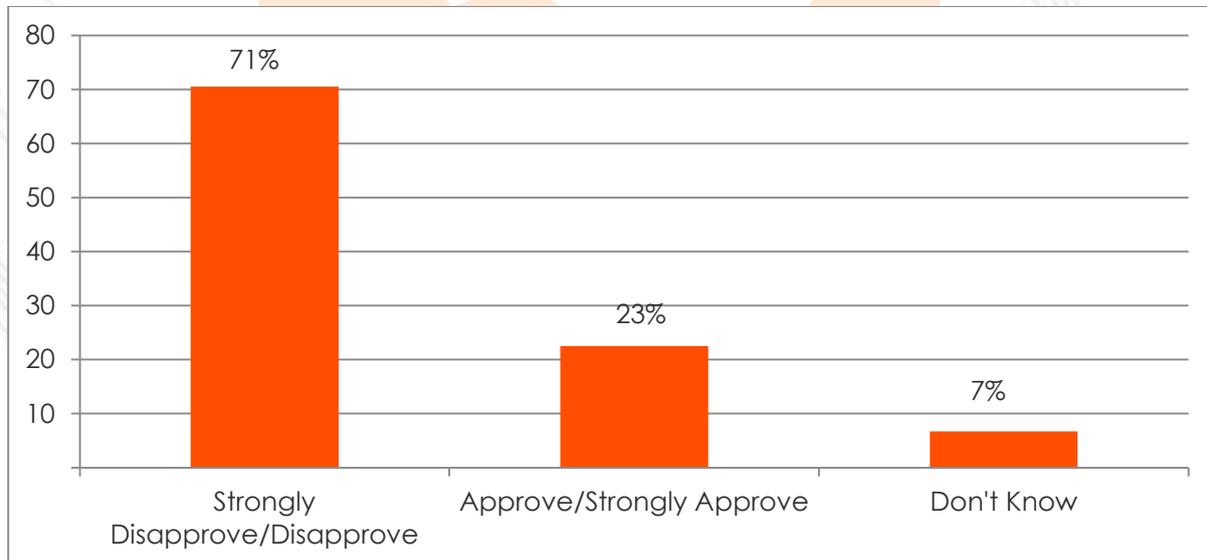
Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Police?

Figure 3: Trust in the president | Sierra Leone | 2012-2015



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The president?

Figure 4: Performance of MPs | Sierra Leone | 2015



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your Member of Parliament?

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