
Afrobarometer Round 6

New data from
36 African countries



Accra, Ghana
7 April 2016

News release

World Health Day: Despite gains, barriers keep health care high on Africans' priority list (Afrobarometer survey)

Almost half of Africans go without needed health care, and one in seven have to pay bribes to obtain needed care, according to new findings from Afrobarometer.

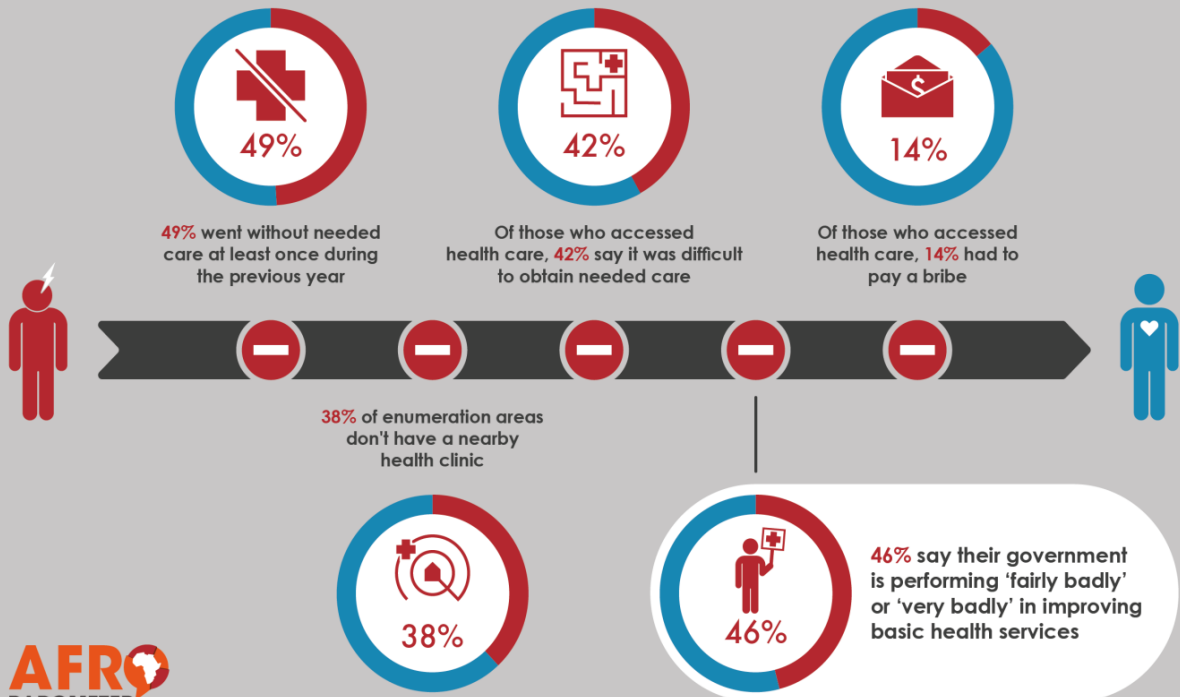
Released on World Health Day (April 7), the survey findings show that citizens across 36 African countries rank health care as their second-most-important national problem and priority for additional government investment. Public ratings of government performance in improving basic health services have worsened over the past decade: Almost half of Africans say their government is doing "fairly" or "very" badly.

The new report, titled "**Despite gains, barriers keep health care high on Africa's priority list,**" is based on nearly 54,000 interviews in 36 African countries in 2014/2015. It is available in English and French at www.afrobarometer.org.

Key findings

- On average across 36 countries, Afrobarometer fieldworkers found health clinics in 62% of all survey enumeration areas (EAs) (Figure 1). Urban EAs (74%) are more likely to have clinics than rural zones (53%).
- Almost half (49%) of all Africans say they or a family member had to go without medicine or medical care "once or twice," "several times," "many times," or "always" in the year preceding the survey (Figure 2).
- Among those who accessed health care during the previous year, four in 10 (42%) found it "difficult" or "very difficult" to get the care they needed.
- One in seven (14%) of those who accessed health services paid a bribe or did a favour to obtain the needed service.
- Across 36 countries, close to half (46%) of citizens say their government is performing "fairly badly" or "very badly" in improving basic health services. Across 18 countries tracked since 2005, negative evaluations have increased by 13 percentage points over the past decade (Figure 3).
- On average across 36 countries, Africans rank health care as their second-most-important problem. In 31 of 36 countries, health care ranks either first or second on the list of citizens' priority sectors for additional government spending (Figure 4).
- On average, nearly half (45%) of Africans are opposed to paying more taxes or user fees in exchange for increased government spending on health care.
- By itself, higher presence of health clinics does not appear to improve citizens' experiences and perceptions of health-care service delivery.

Health care in Africa: Citizens' No. 2 priority for government action
 36 countries | 2014/2015



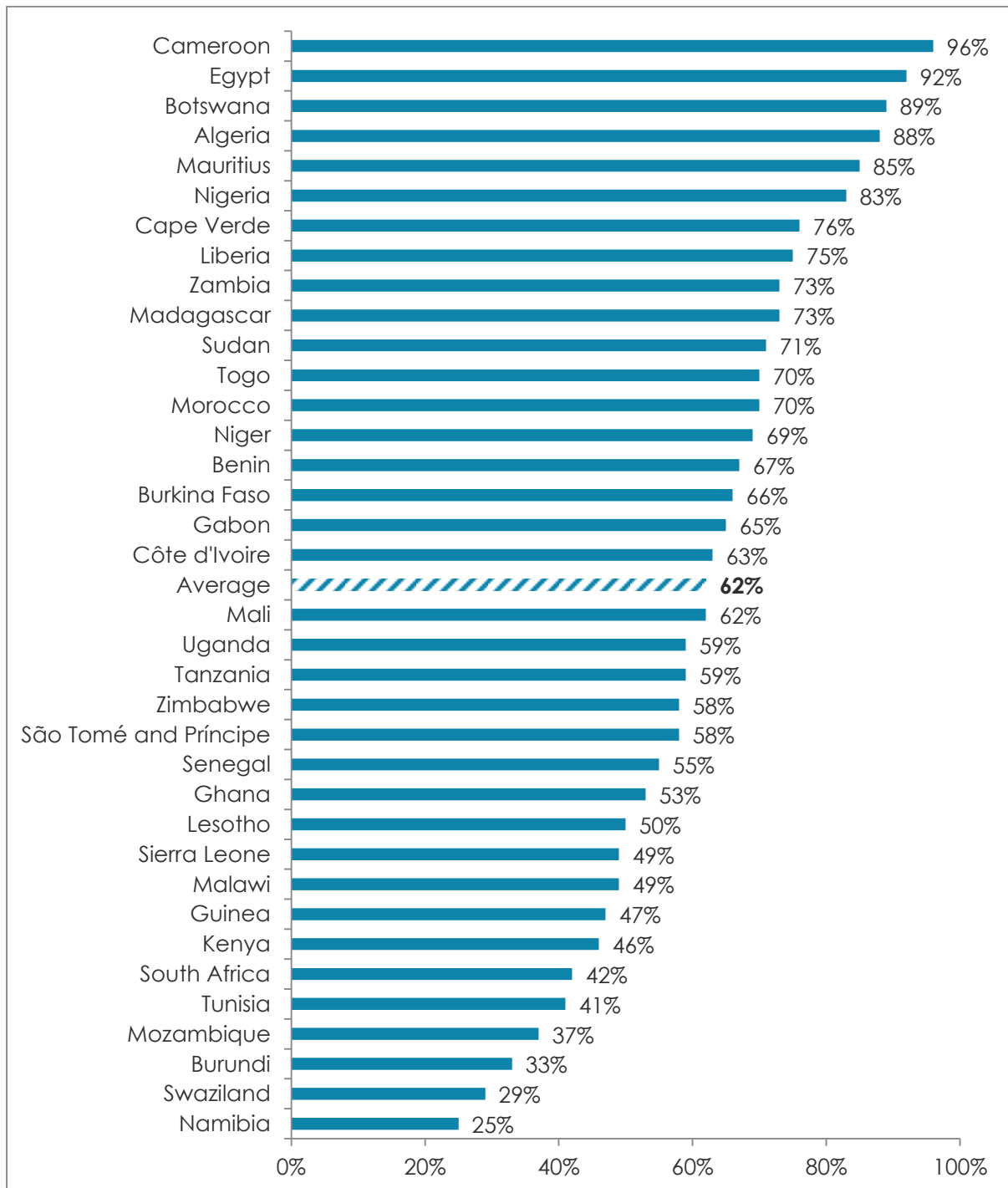
Afrobarometer

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 findings from Round 6 surveys (2014/2015) are currently being released. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples that yield country-level results with margins of error of +/-2% (for samples of 2,400) or +/-3% (for samples of 1,200) at a 95% confidence level.

Interested readers should watch for additional findings to be released over the coming months (see <http://afrobarometer.org>).

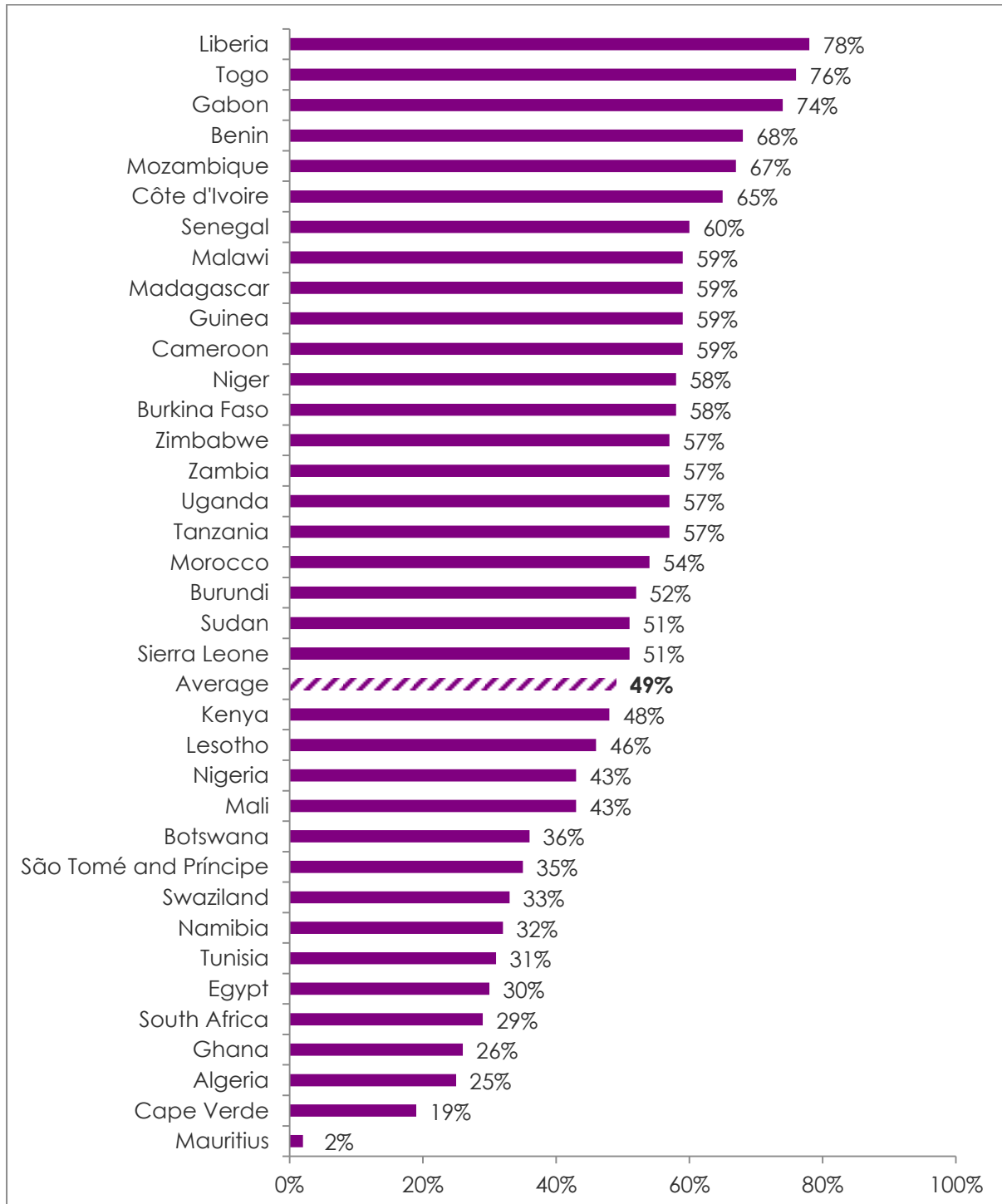
Charts

Figure 1: Presence of health clinics in enumeration areas | 36 countries | 2014/2015



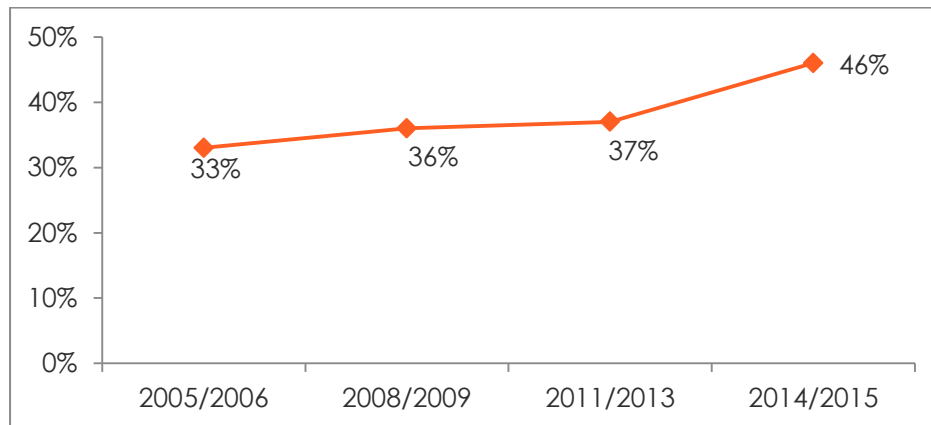
Enumerator teams recorded their observations: Are the following services present in the primary sampling unit/enumeration area or in easy walking distance: Health clinic? (% "yes")

Figure 2: Going without medicine or medical care | 36 countries | 2014/2015



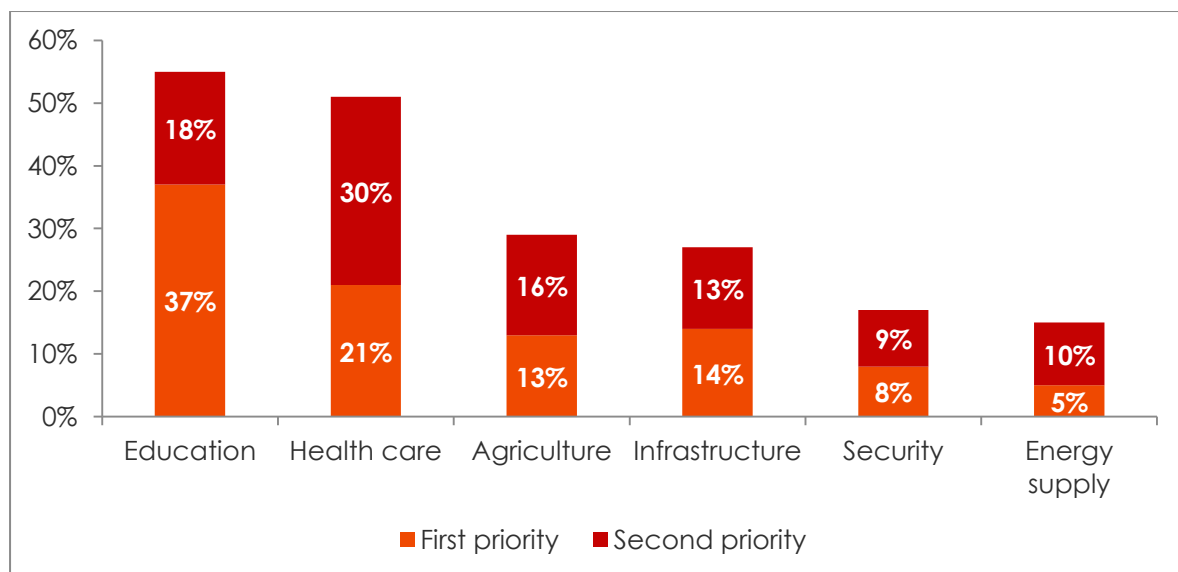
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without medicines or medical treatment? (% who say "once or twice," "several times," "many times," or "always")

Figure 3: Negative ratings of government performance in improving basic health services
 | 18 countries | 2005-2015



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: Improving basic health services? (% saying "fairly badly" or "very badly")

Figure 4: Citizen priorities for additional government investment | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: If the government of this country could increase its spending, which of the following areas do you think should be the top priority for additional investment? And which would be your second priority?

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