

Praia, Cabo Verde  
 24 June 2020

## News release

### Many Cabo Verdeans have access to e-learning devices, but rural-urban and poverty gaps persist, Afrobarometer survey shows

Many Cabo Verdeans own or have household access to tools for e-learning during the COVID-19 pandemic – televisions, radios, mobile phones, and computers – but rural and poor households are at a significant disadvantage, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

Most of the country's mobile phones have access to the Internet, and a majority of citizens go online every day, the survey shows. But substantial rural-urban and poverty gaps persist in device ownership, Internet access, and Internet use.

Following the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cabo Verdean government is leveraging technologies such as television, radio, and the Internet to provide remote-learning opportunities for students. Although Cabo Verde is rated the fourth-most-literate country in Africa, these findings suggest that poor and rural citizens may have challenges accessing the government's e-learning platforms.

#### Key findings

- Large majorities of Cabo Verdeans own or have household access to mobile phones (96%), televisions (92%), and radios (72%). Almost half (48%) own or have household access to computers (Figure 1).
- Rural residents trail urban residents in household ownership of devices needed to access e-learning programs (Figure 2).
- Likewise, economically better-off households are considerably more likely than their poorer counterparts to own these devices. Those experiencing no lived poverty are five times as likely to have computers as those with high lived poverty (69% vs. 14%) (Figure 3).
- Among respondents who own mobile phones, more than three-fourths (78%) say their phones have access to the Internet. Smartphone ownership is considerably higher among better-off and urban respondents (Figure 4).
- More than half (55%) of Cabo Verdeans say they use the Internet “every day.” Only one in four (26%) say they “never” go online. Daily Internet use is more than twice as common among the wealthiest than the poorest (68% vs. 31%) (Figure 5).

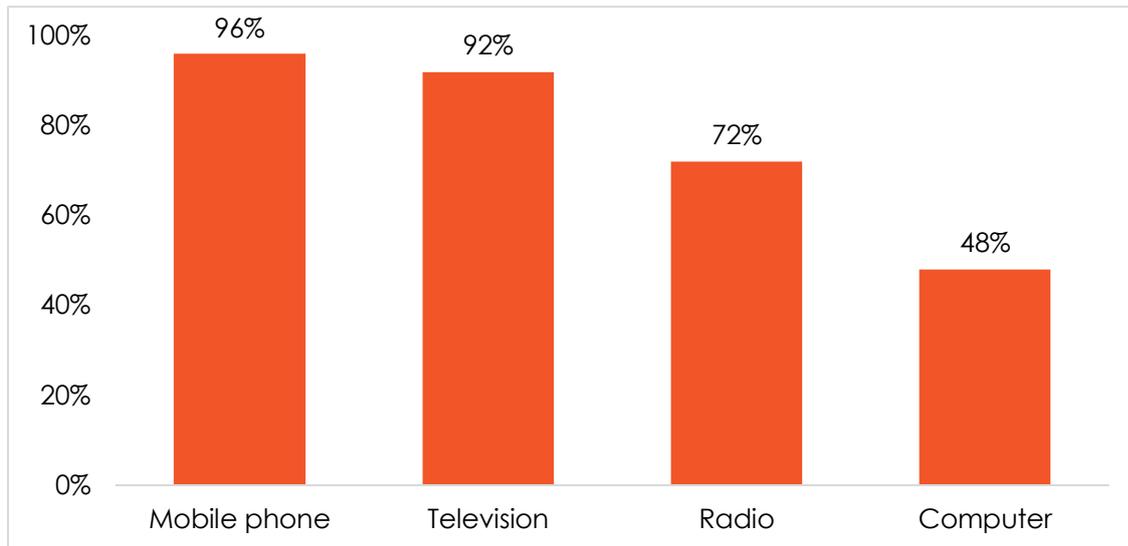
#### Afrobarometer surveys

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. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2020 are planned in at least 35 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Cabo Verde, led by Afrosondagem, interviewed 1,200 adult Cabo Verdeans between 8 and 22 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 Cabo Verde in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2017.

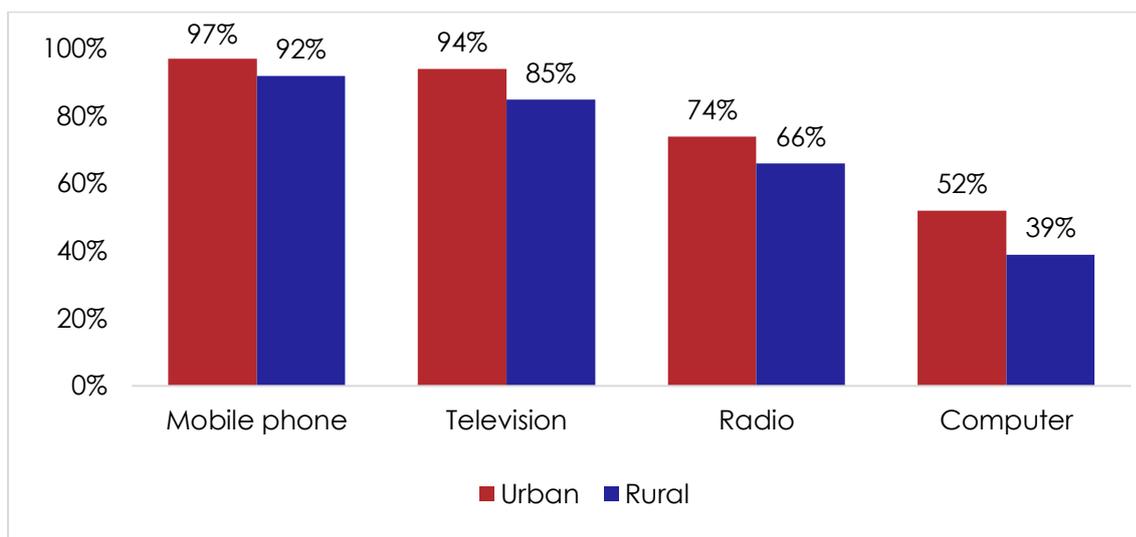
## Charts

**Figure 1: Household ownership of communications devices | Cabo Verde | 2019**



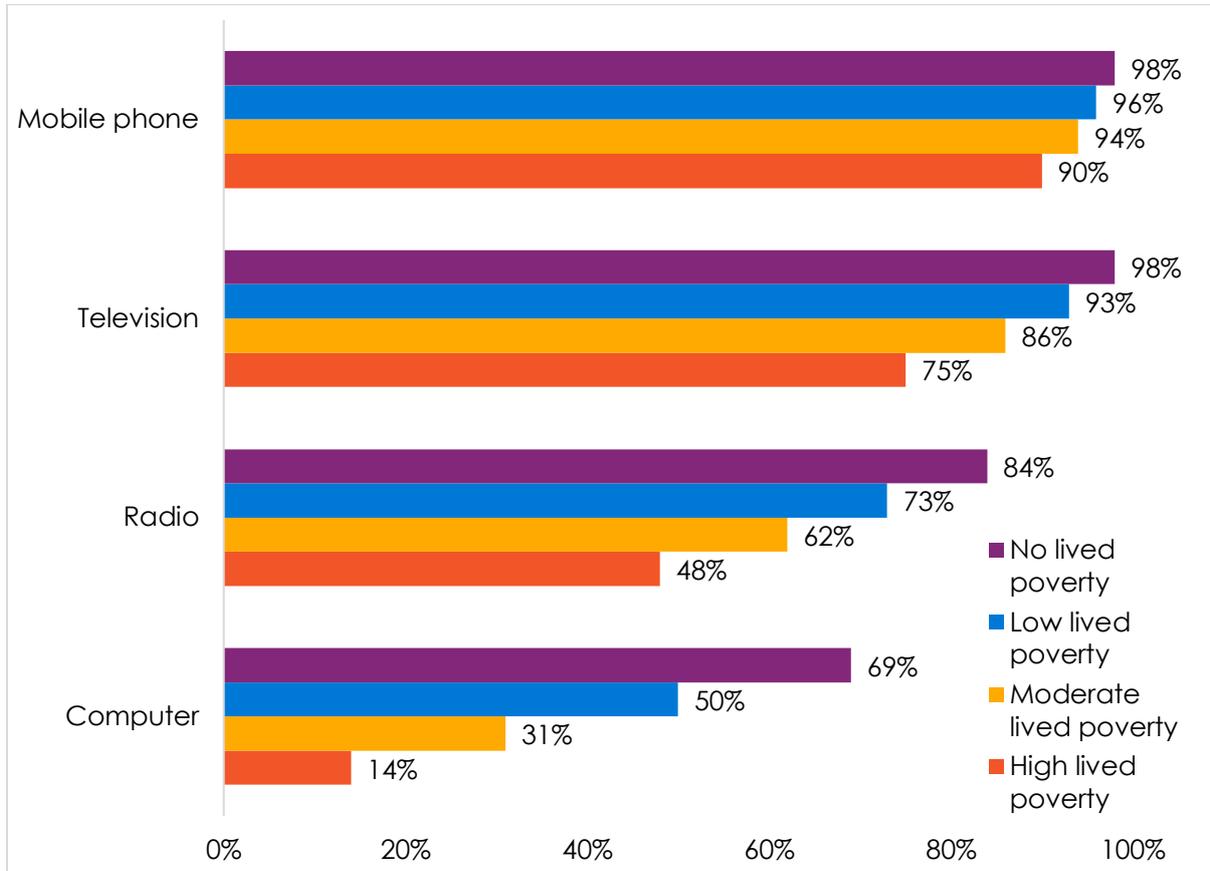
**Respondents were asked:** Which of these things do you personally own? [If no:] Does anyone else in your household own one? (% combines personal and household ownership)

**Figure 2: Household ownership of devices | by rural-urban location | Cabo Verde | 2019**



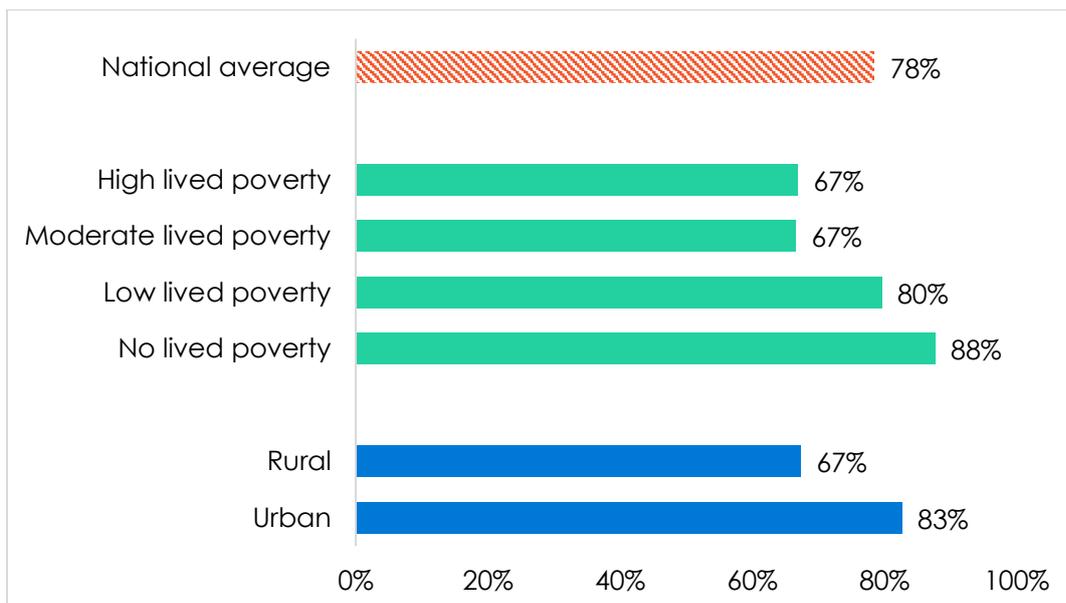
**Respondents were asked:** Which of these things do you personally own? [If no:] Does anyone else in your household own one? (% combines personal and household ownership)

**Figure 3: Household ownership of devices | by lived poverty | Cabo Verde | 2019**



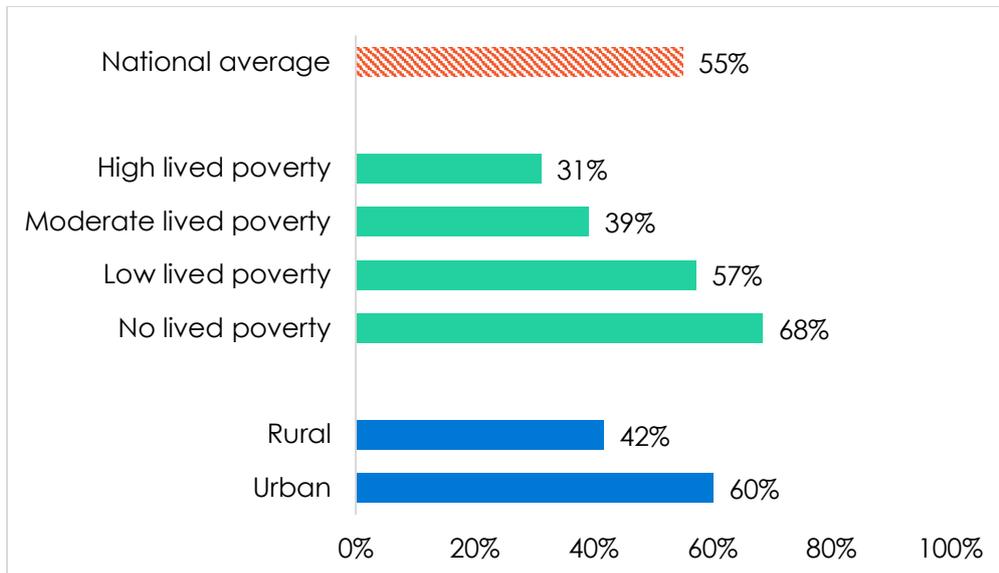
**Respondents were asked:** Which of these things do you personally own? [If no]: Does anyone else in your household own one? (% combines personal and household ownership)

**Figure 4: Ownership of mobile phone with Internet access | by lived poverty and rural-urban location | Cabo Verde | 2019**



**Respondents who said they personally own a mobile phone were asked:** Does your phone have access to the Internet? (% "yes")

**Figure 5: Daily use of the Internet** | by lived poverty and rural-urban location | Cabo Verde | 2019



**Respondents were asked:** How often do you use the Internet? (% who say "every day")

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