



# Africans' perceptions about China: A sneak peek from 18 countries

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3 September 2020

# Background

- Africa's engagement with China has been growing over the past decades and has extended to a large array of sectors.
- At the 2018 China-Africa Cooperation Forum, China announced it would be providing \$60 billion in financial support to Africa.
- Perceptions of African citizens on their governments' engagement with China have been the subject of scrutiny and debate among analysts.
- China's growing role in Africa has drawn criticism. This has included claims that:
  - China is in Africa only to access natural resources.
  - It wants to buy up Africa's land.
  - It mainly employs Chinese rather than local labor.
  - Chinese companies provide sub-standard services and products, under-sell and weaken local competitors.
- China has also been severely criticized for its willingness to work with autocratic or less-than-transparent regimes.

# What is Afrobarometer?



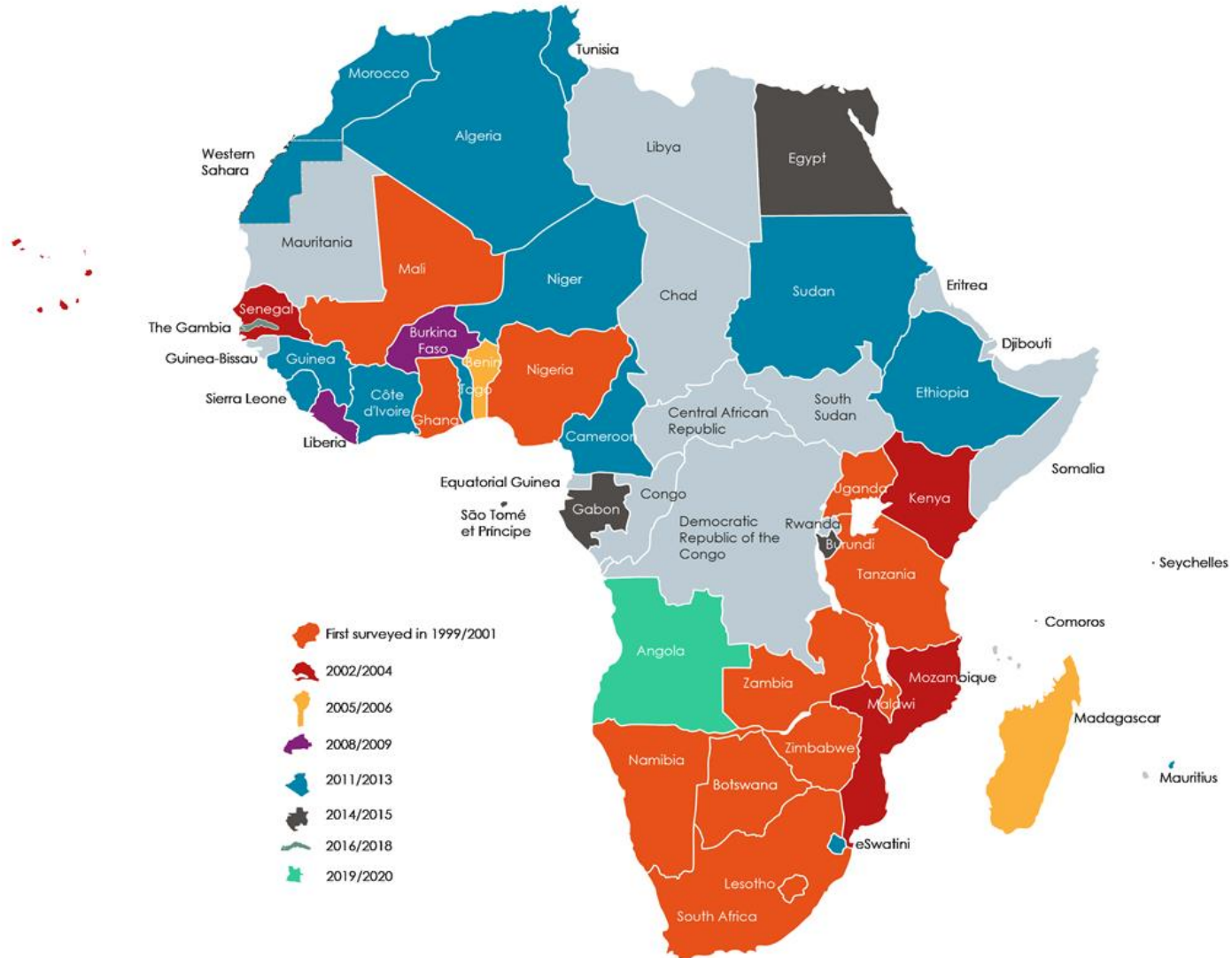
- Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on Africans' experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2020 are planned in at least 35 countries.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- All AB data and analysis are available free of charge to anyone who wants to use them.

# Methodology

- **Nationally representative** sample of adult citizens
  - All respondents are **randomly** selected.
  - Sample is distributed across [regions/states/provinces] and urban/rural areas in **proportion** to their share in the national population.
  - Every adult citizen has an **equal chance** of being selected.
- **Face-to-face interviews** In the **language of the respondent's choice**.
- **Standard questionnaire** allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- **Sample sizes** of 1,200 or 2,400 adult citizens yield margins of sampling error of +/-2 to 3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

*“Afrobarometer ... is the gold standard for independent opinion polls in Africa.”* – Linda Thomas-Greenfield, former U.S. Asst. Sec. of State for African Affairs

# Where Afrobarometer works



# Recap of Afrobarometer 2014/2015 findings

# China ranks 2nd

- as a development model (after the U.S.)
- as greatest external influence (after the former colonial powers)

Top factors contributing to:

- a **positive**

image of China:  
Investments in infrastructure and business development



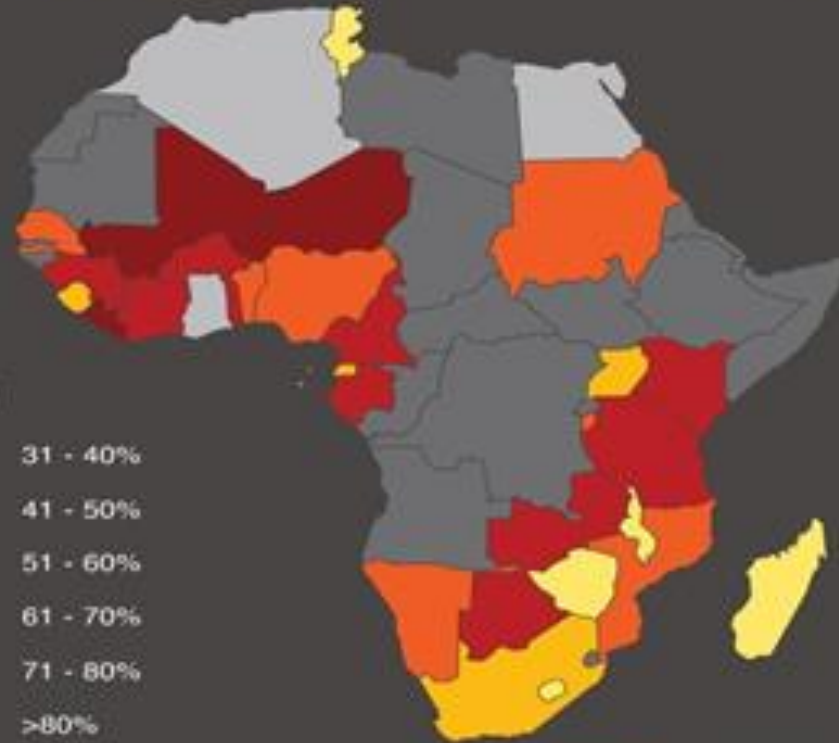
- a **negative**

image of China:  
Poor quality of products

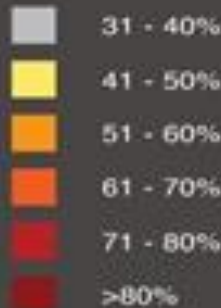
China is a "somewhat" or "very" positive influence in their country:

# 63%

(average all countries)



Key



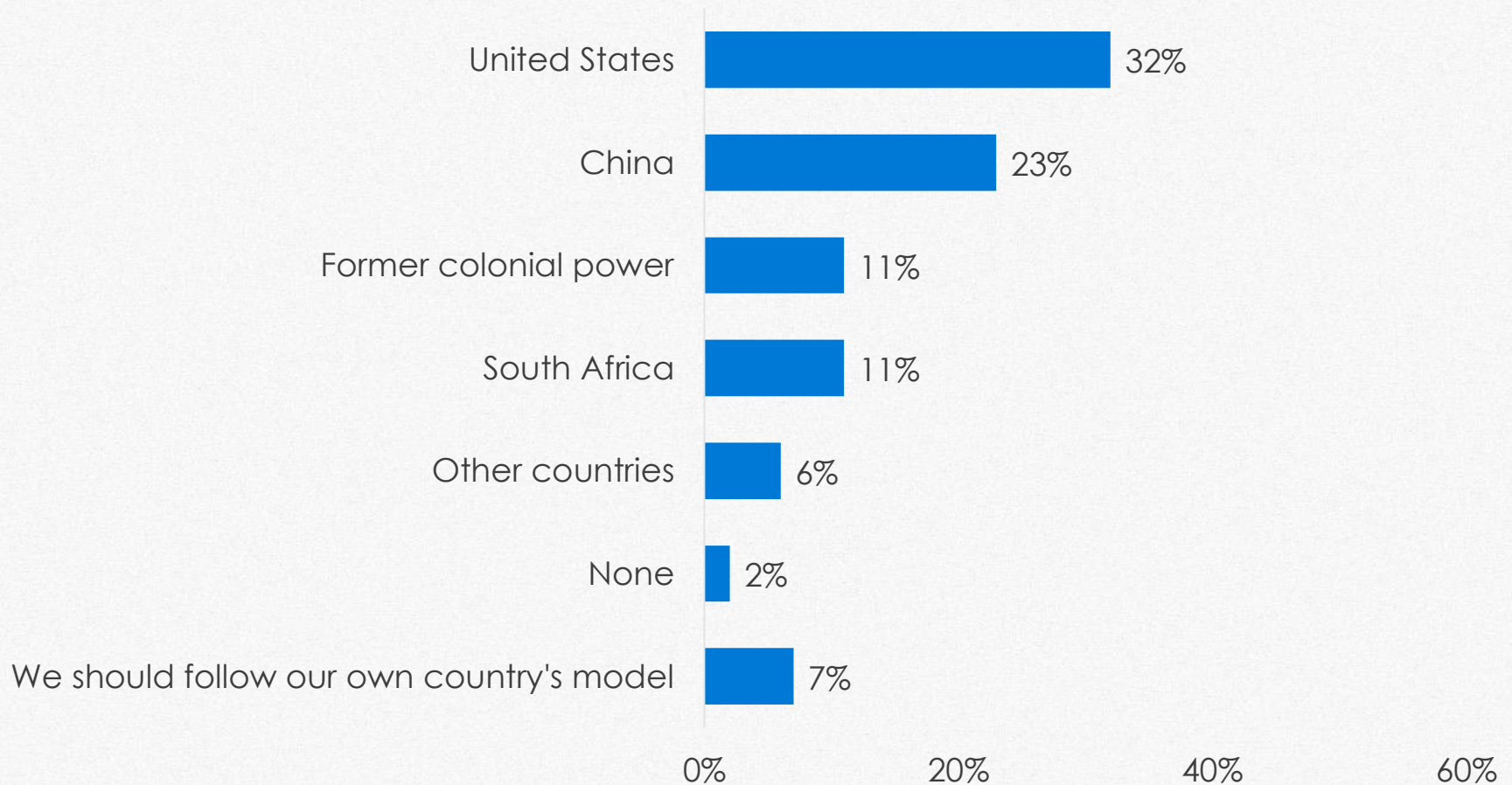
AFROBAROMETER

# Latest Round 8 (2019/2020) findings: Sneak peek from 18 countries



# Best model for development | 18 countries

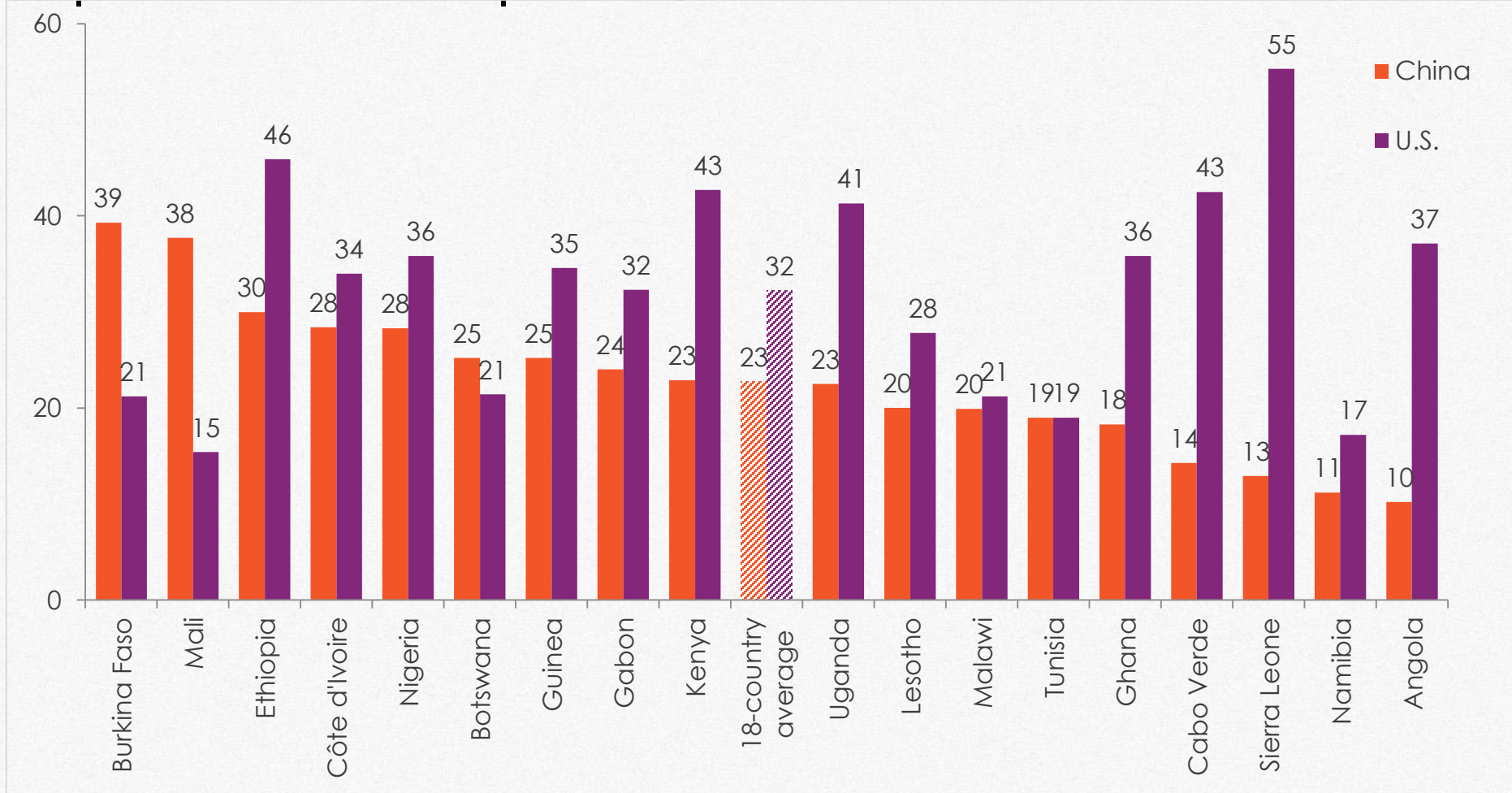
## | 2019/2020



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country, or is there some other country in Africa or elsewhere that should be our model?*

# Best model for development: China vs. USA (%)

| 18 countries | 2019/2020



**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country, or is there some other country in Africa or elsewhere that should be our model?

# China as best model for development

## | 16 countries | 2014-2020

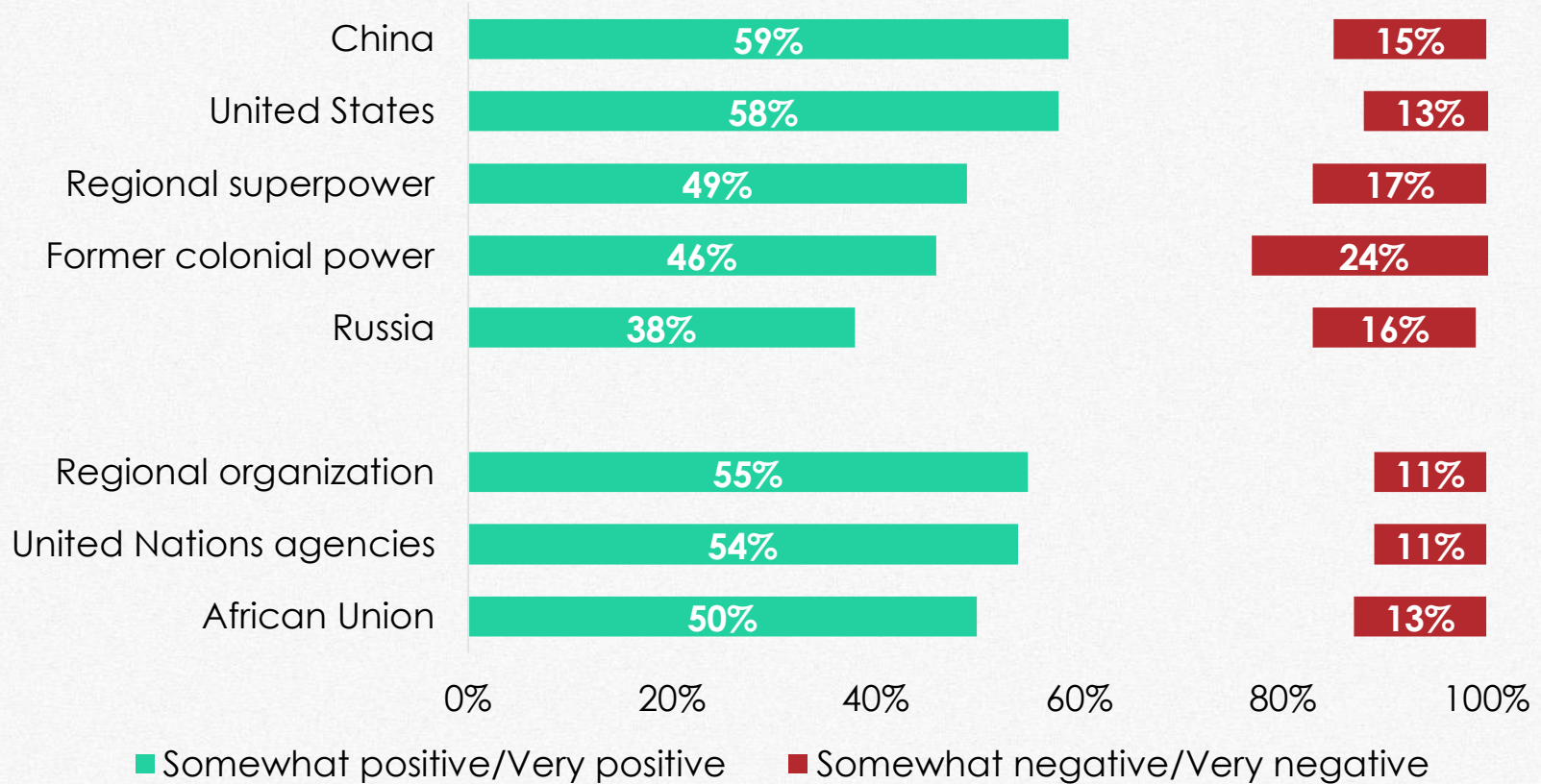
	2014/2015	2019/2020
Burkina Faso	20%	39%
Mali	36%	38%
Côte d'Ivoire	26%	28%
Nigeria	25%	28%
Botswana	24%	25%
Guinea	22%	25%
Gabon	29%	24%
16-country average	22%	23%
Kenya	24%	23%
Uganda	19%	23%
Lesotho	18%	20%
Malawi	17%	20%
Tunisia	24%	19%
Ghana	15%	18%
Cabo Verde	21%	14%
Sierra Leone	18%	13%
Namibia	22%	11%

**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country, or is there some other country in Africa or elsewhere that should be our model?

# External influencers

# Rating external influencers | 18 countries

## | 2019/2020



**Respondents were asked:** In general, do you think that the economic and political influence of each of the following organizations/countries on [your country] is mostly positive, mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say?

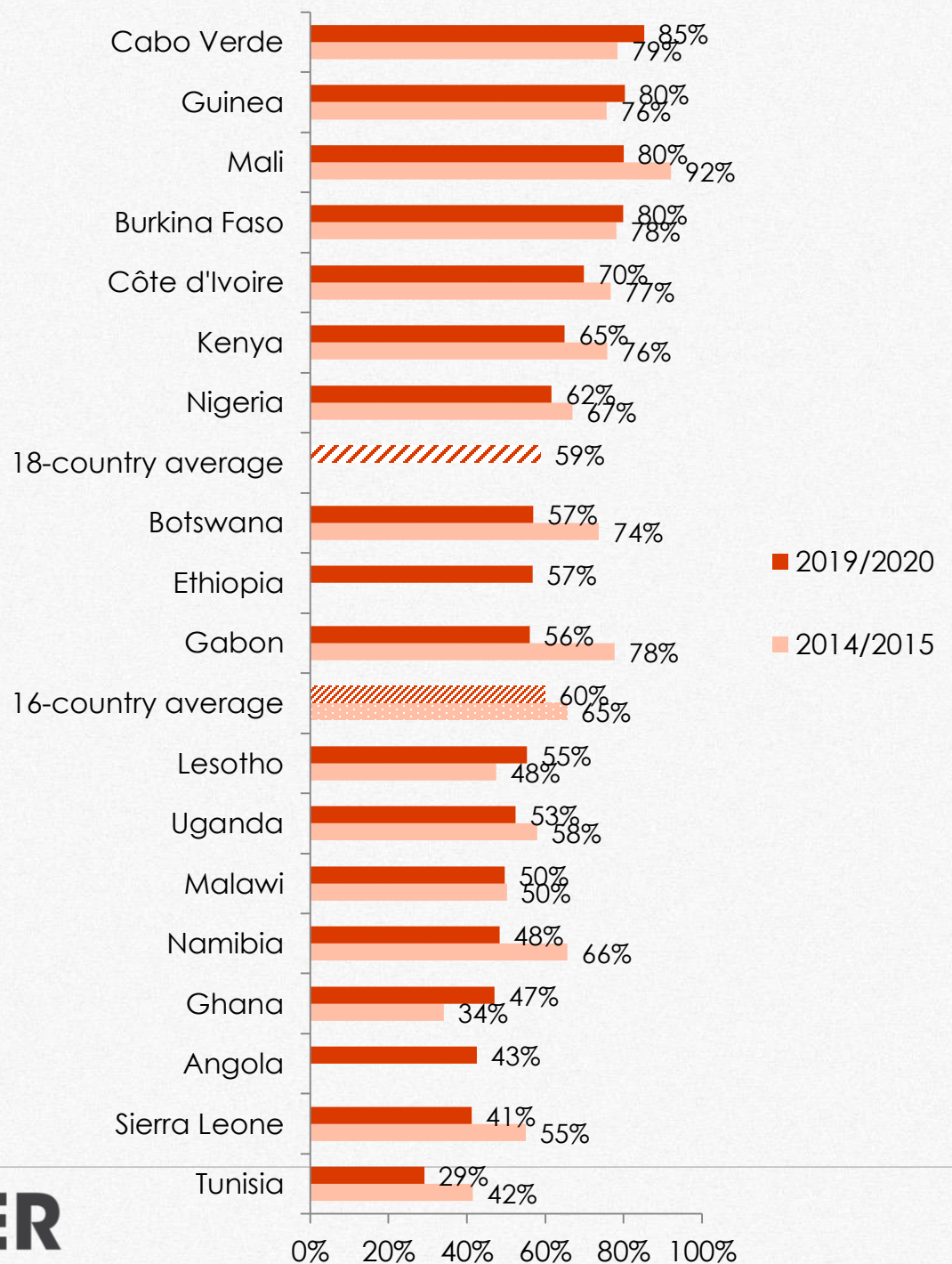
# Perceived positive influence of China

| 18 countries

| 2014-2020

**Respondents were asked:** Do you think that the economic and political influence of each of the following countries on [your country] is mostly positive, mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say: China?

(% who say "somewhat positive" or "very positive")

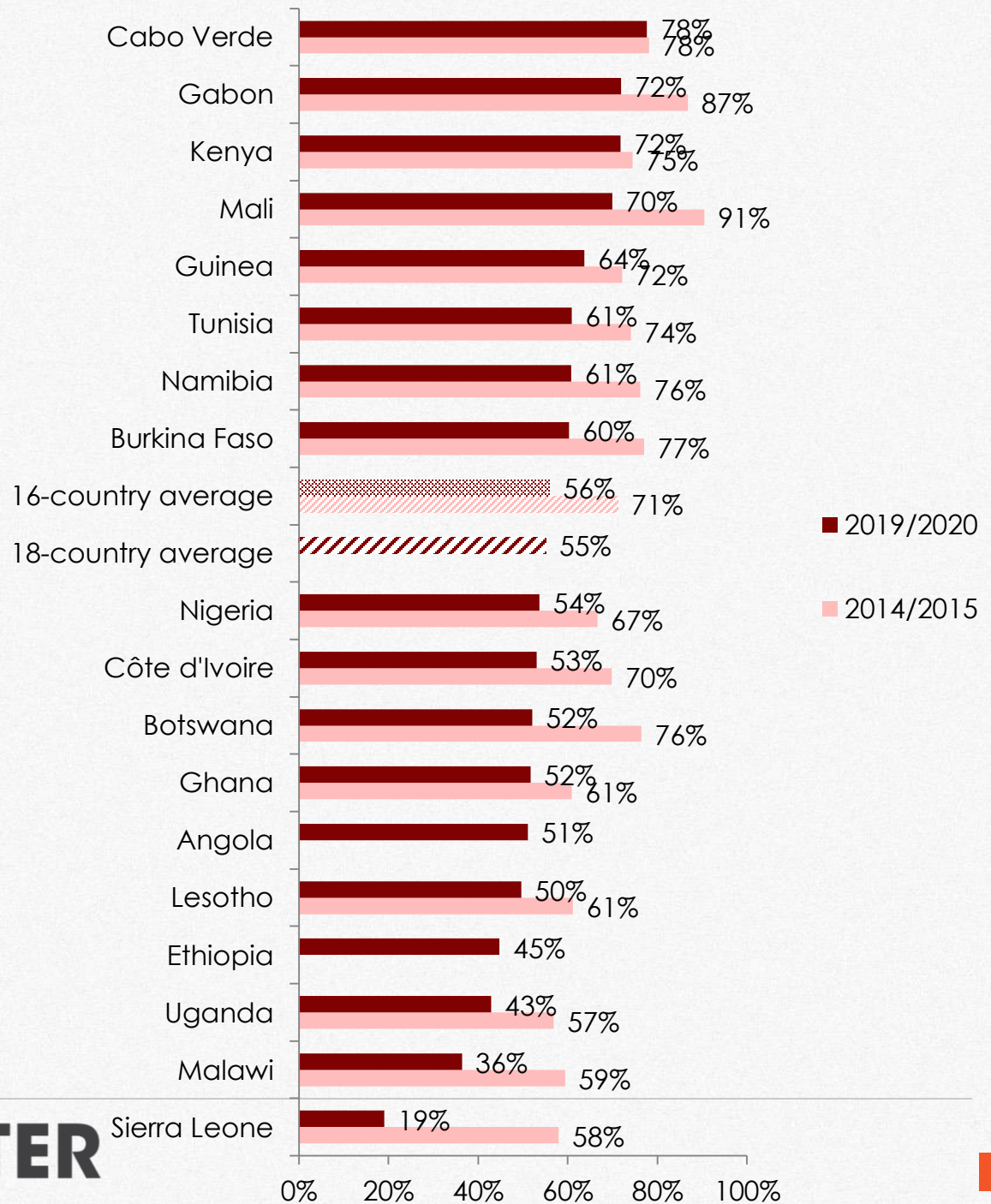


# Influence of China

| 18 countries

| 2014-2020

**Respondents were asked:** How much influence do you think China's economic activities in [our country] have on our economy, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "a lot" or "some")

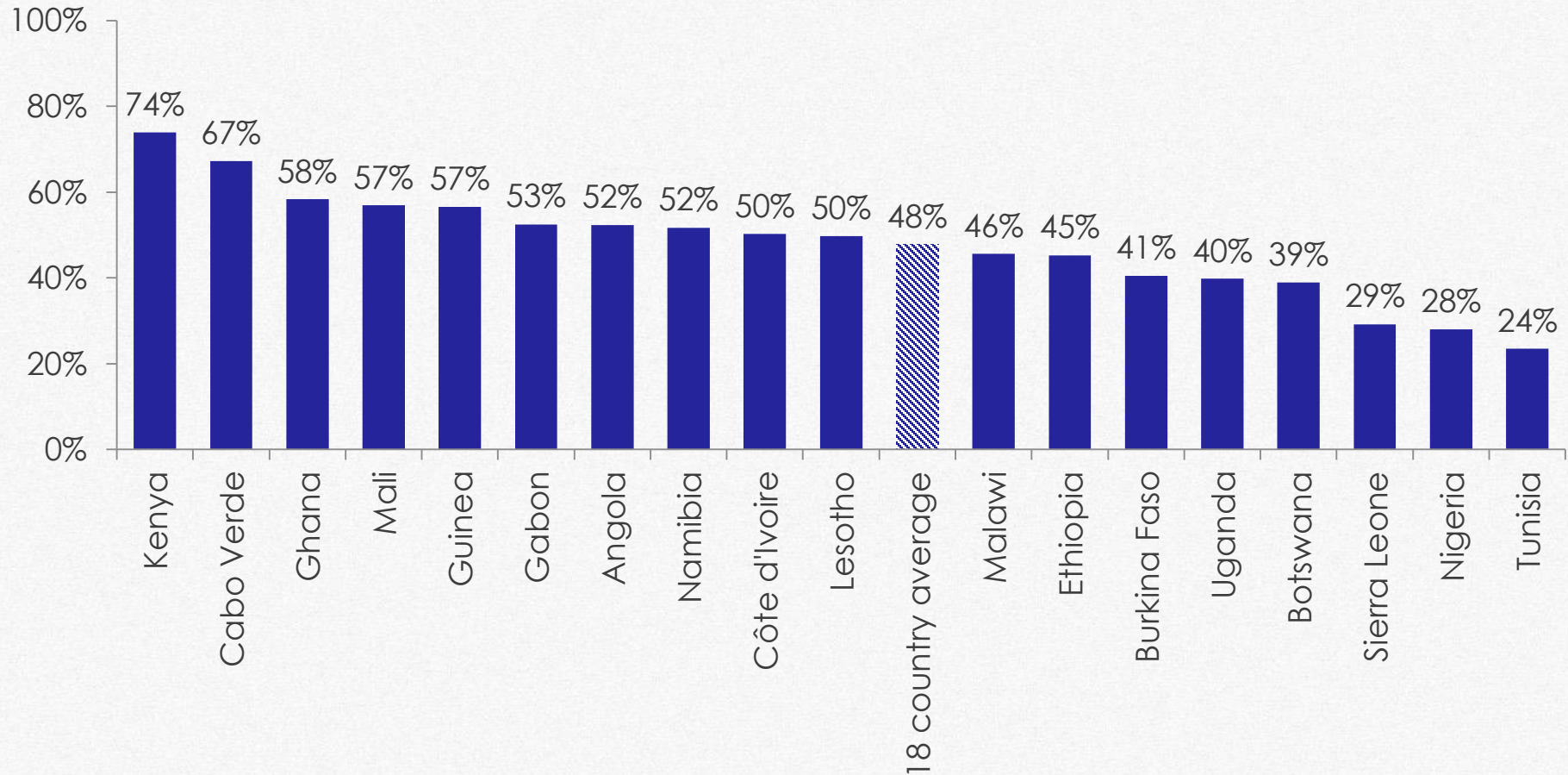


# Development assistance



# Heard of Chinese loans/development assistance

| 18 countries | 2019/2020



**Respondents were asked:** To your knowledge, does China give loans or development assistance to our country's government, or haven't you had a chance to hear about this?

# Views on loans/development assistance from China

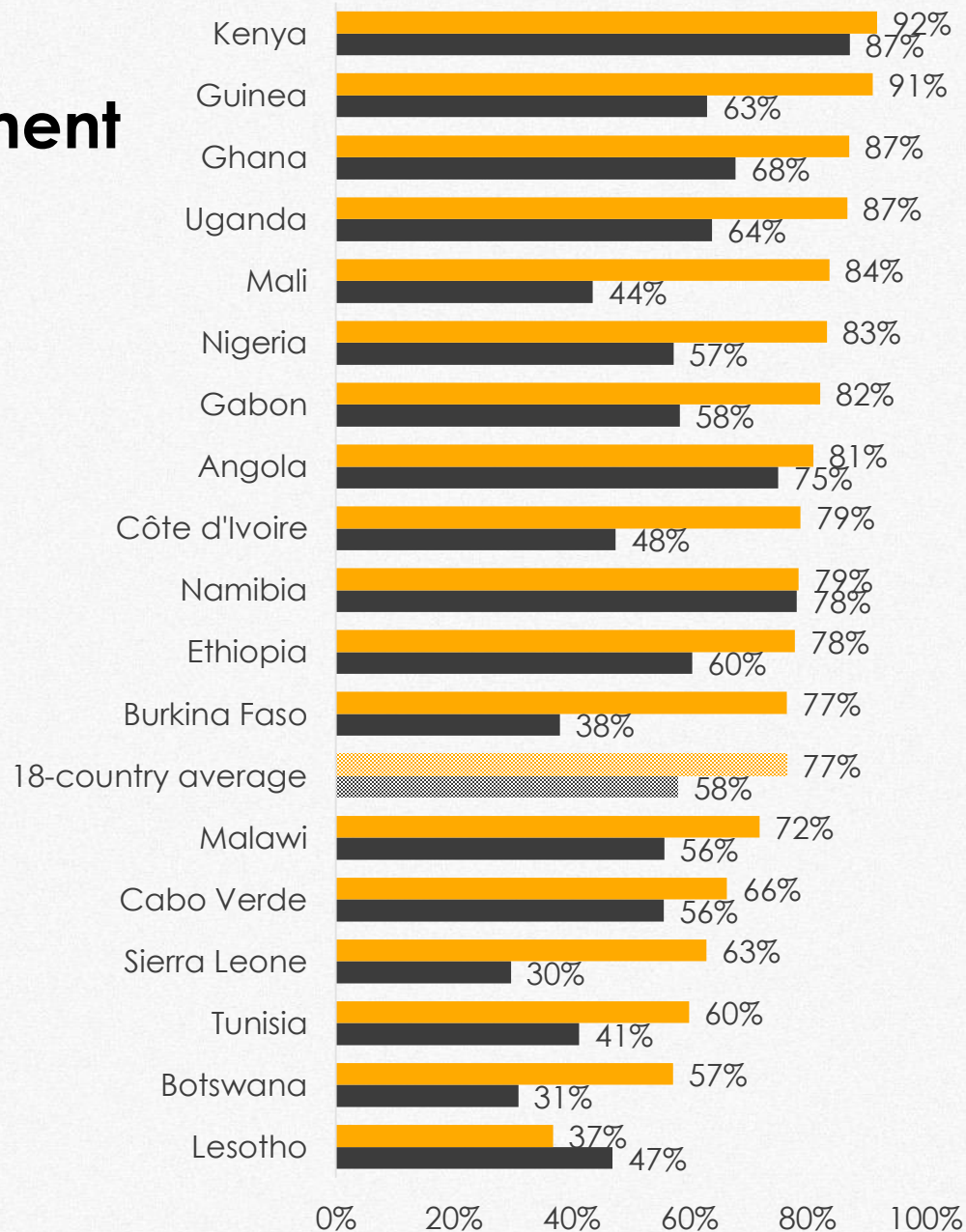
| 18 countries

| 2019/2020

**Respondents who said they are aware of Chinese loans or development assistance, were asked:**

- Do you think that our government is required to repay China for the loans and development assistance it provides to [our country]?

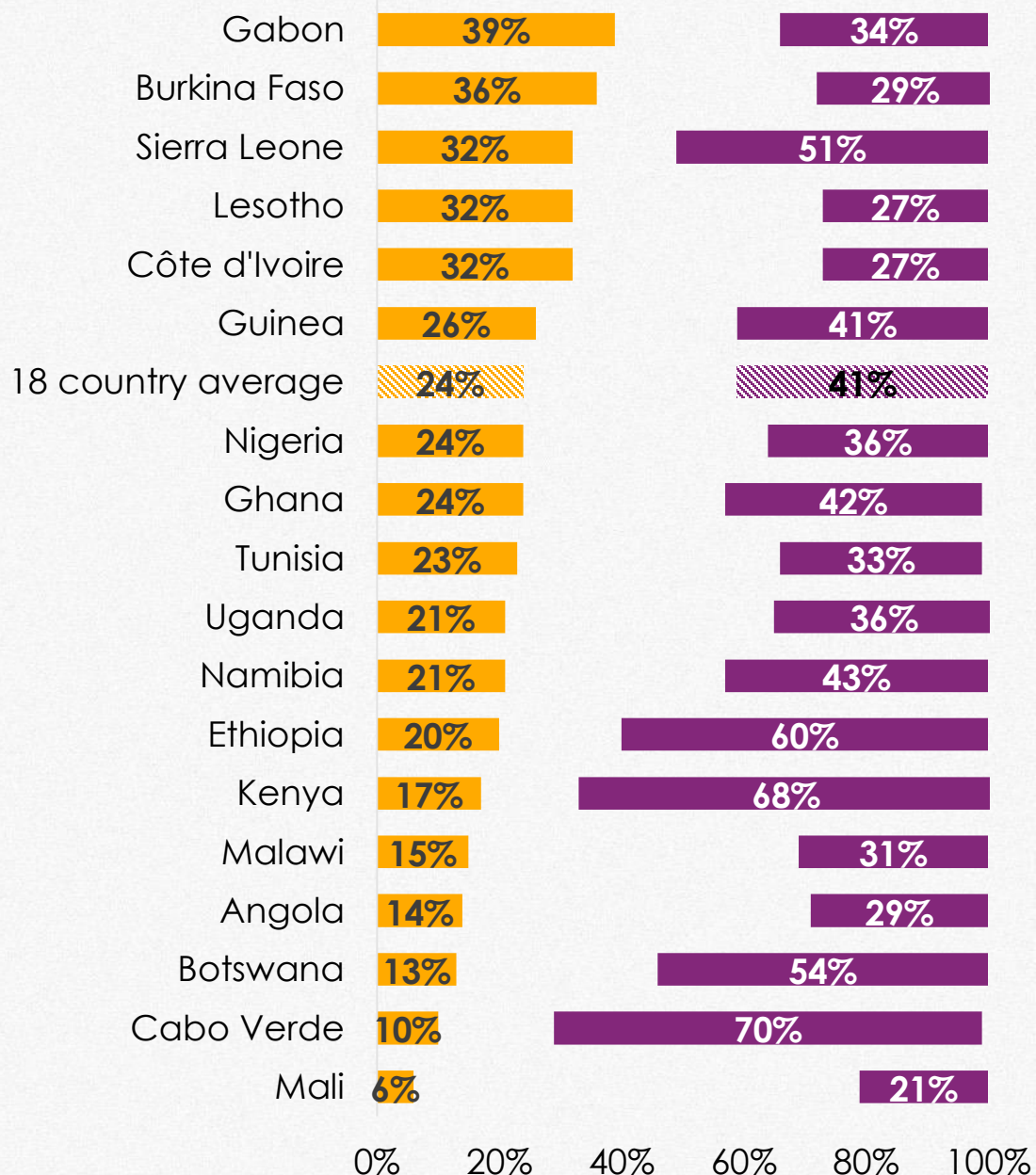
- Do you think our government has borrowed too much money from China?



# China conditionality on loans/assistance compared to other countries

| 18 countries  
| 2019/2020

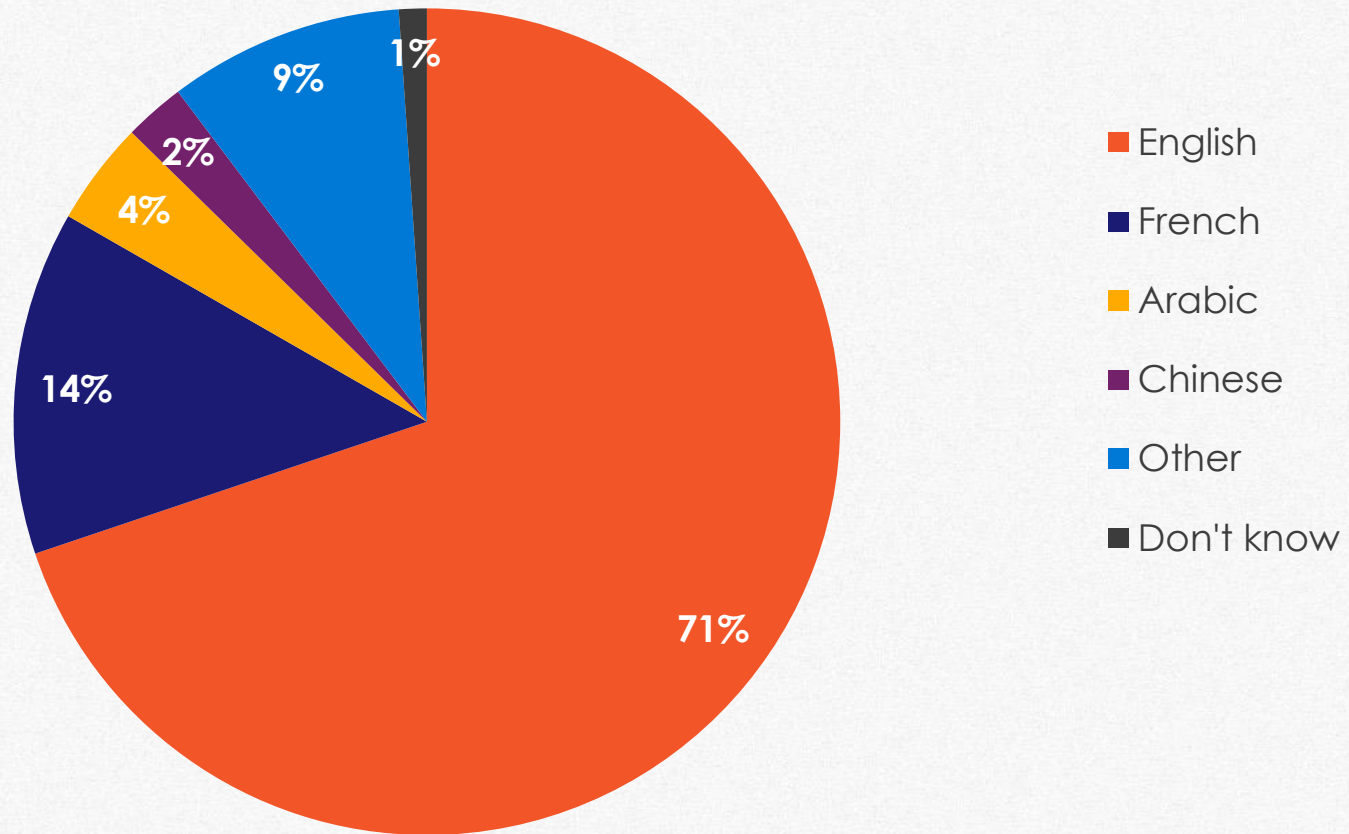
**Respondents who said they are aware of Chinese loans or development assistance, were asked:** *When the government of China gives loans or development assistance to [our country], do you think they put more requirements or fewer requirements on our government compared to other donor countries, or haven't you heard enough to say?*



# International language for children to learn

# Best international language for children to learn

| 18 countries | 2019/2020



**Respondents were asked:** In thinking about the future of the next generation in our country, which of these international languages, if any, do you think is most important for young people to learn?



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