



# Trust and perceived corruption

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in the Gambia

# At a glance

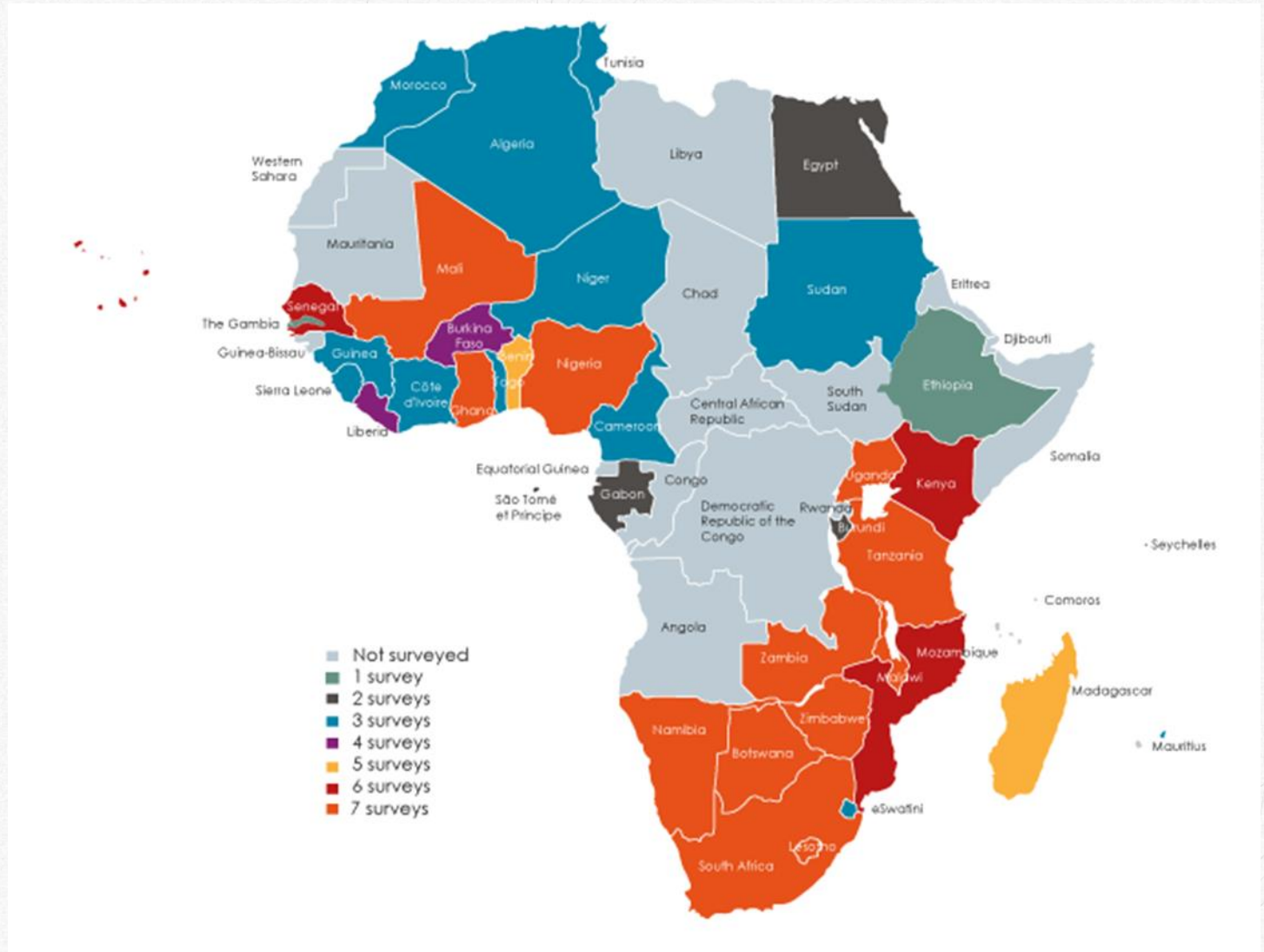
- **Extent of corruption:** Almost half of Gambians (46%) perceive a decrease in corruption over the past year.
- **Government performance at fighting corruption:** A majority (54%) of Gambians say the government is doing well in the fight against corruption.
- **Who is corrupt?:** Police and business executives are perceived to be the most corrupt officials.

# What is Afrobarometer?

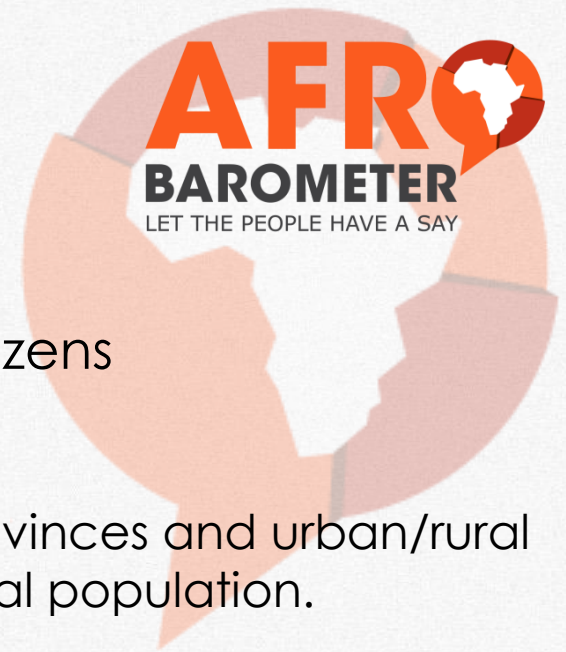


- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys have been completed in 2018.
- **Goal:** 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.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In the Gambia, Afrobarometer Round 7 survey was conducted by the Center for Policy, Research and Strategic Studies (CepRass).

# Where Afrobarometer works



# 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 size in the Gambia of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in the Gambia was conducted between 23 July and 12 August 2018.

# Survey demographics

Gender	%
Men	51
Women	49
Residence	
Urban	62
Rural	38
Education	
No formal education	40
Primary	9
Secondary	33
Post-secondary	17
Religion	
Christian	3
Muslim	96
Other	<1



# Findings



# Corruption and trust

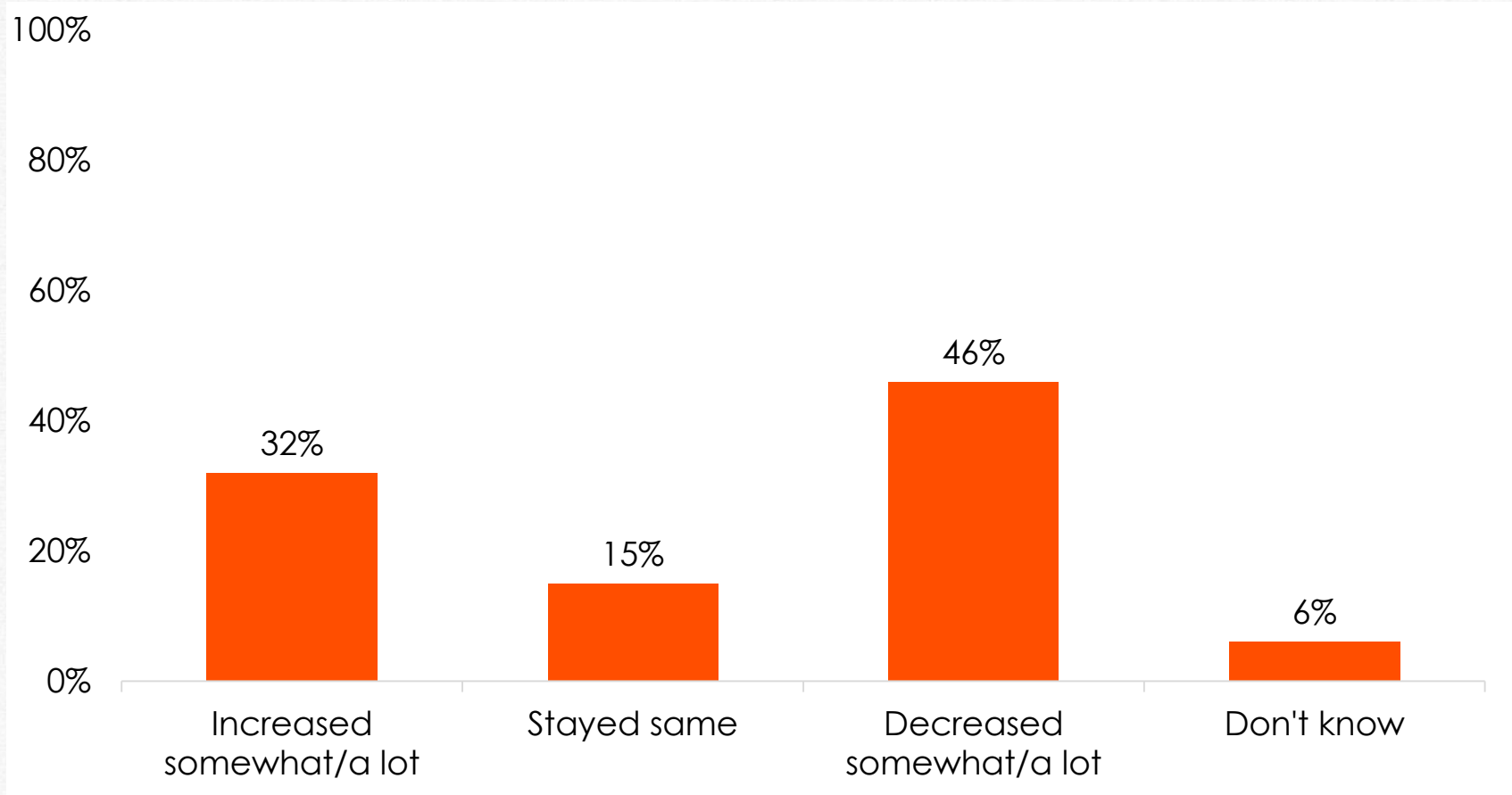


# Key findings



- Almost half of Gambians (46%) perceive a decrease in corruption over the past year, but one-third (32%) say the level of corruption in the country has increased.
- Police and business executives are perceived to be the most corrupt officials.
- Religious leaders and members of Parliament are perceived to be the least corrupt.
- Religious leaders (85%), traditional leaders (71%), and the president (67%) are the most trusted leaders in the Gambia.

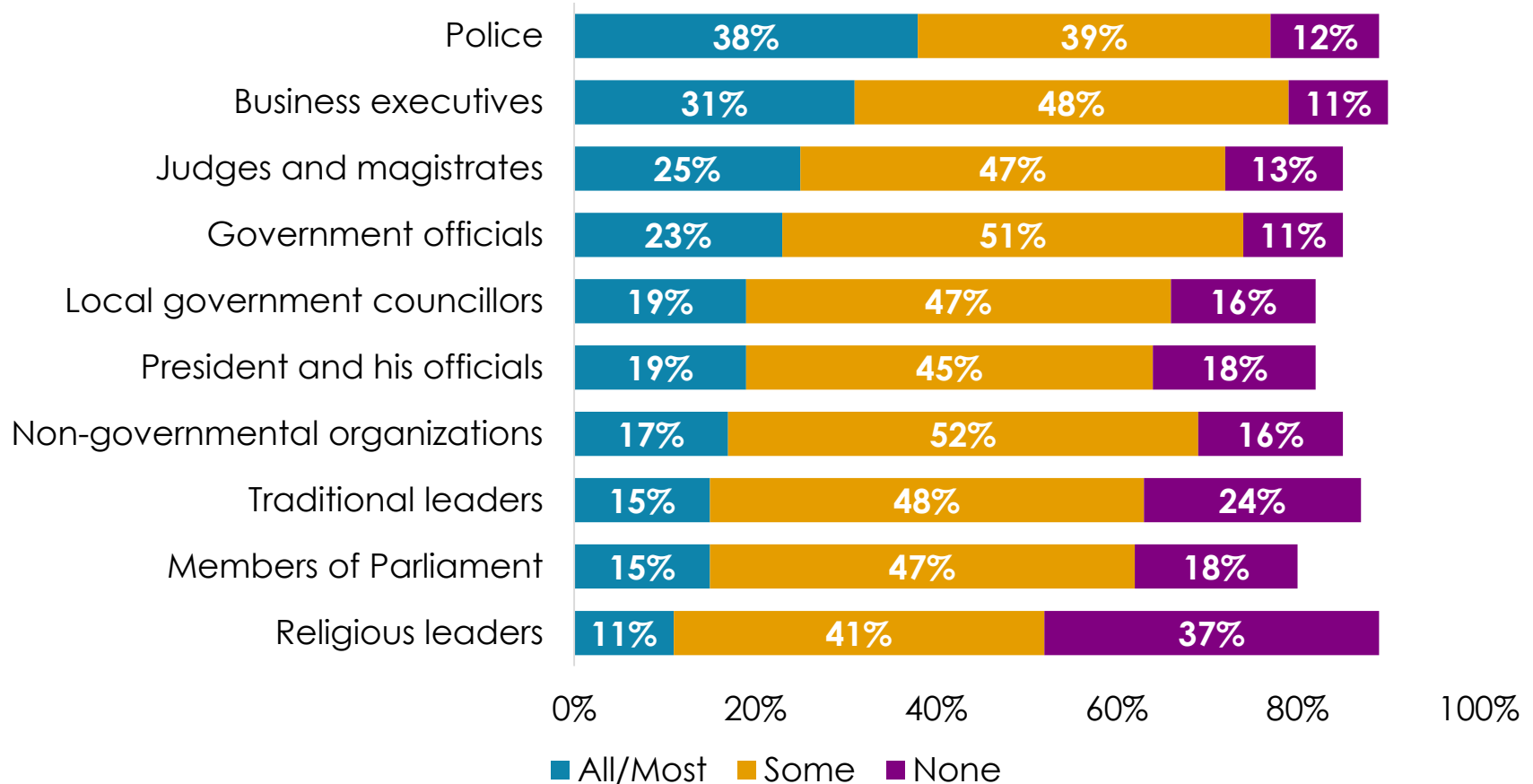
# Level of perceived corruption | The Gambia | 2018



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?*

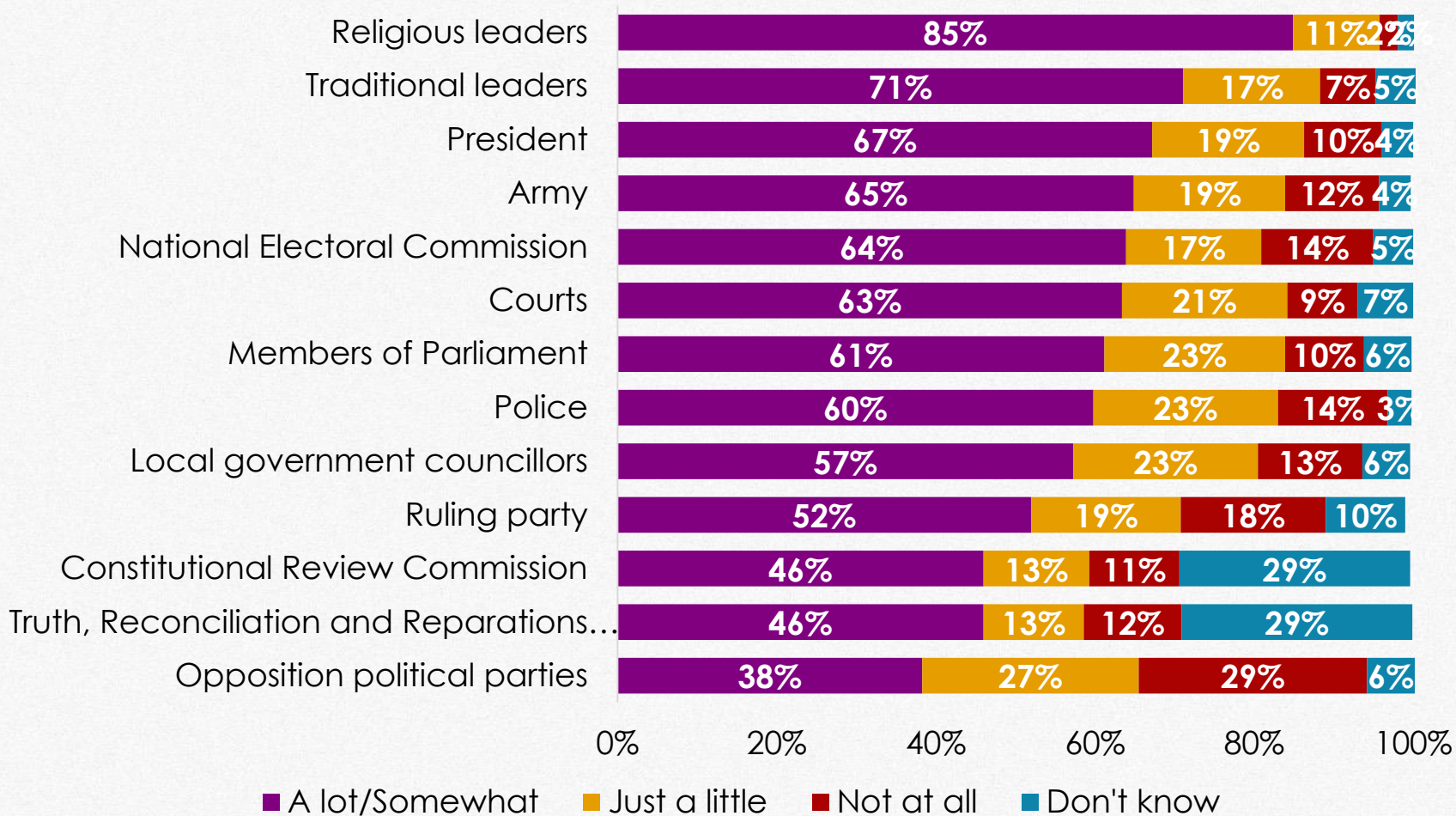
# Perceived corruption among leaders

## | The Gambia | 2018



**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?

# Trust in institutions | The Gambia | 2018



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

# Government performance in fighting corruption

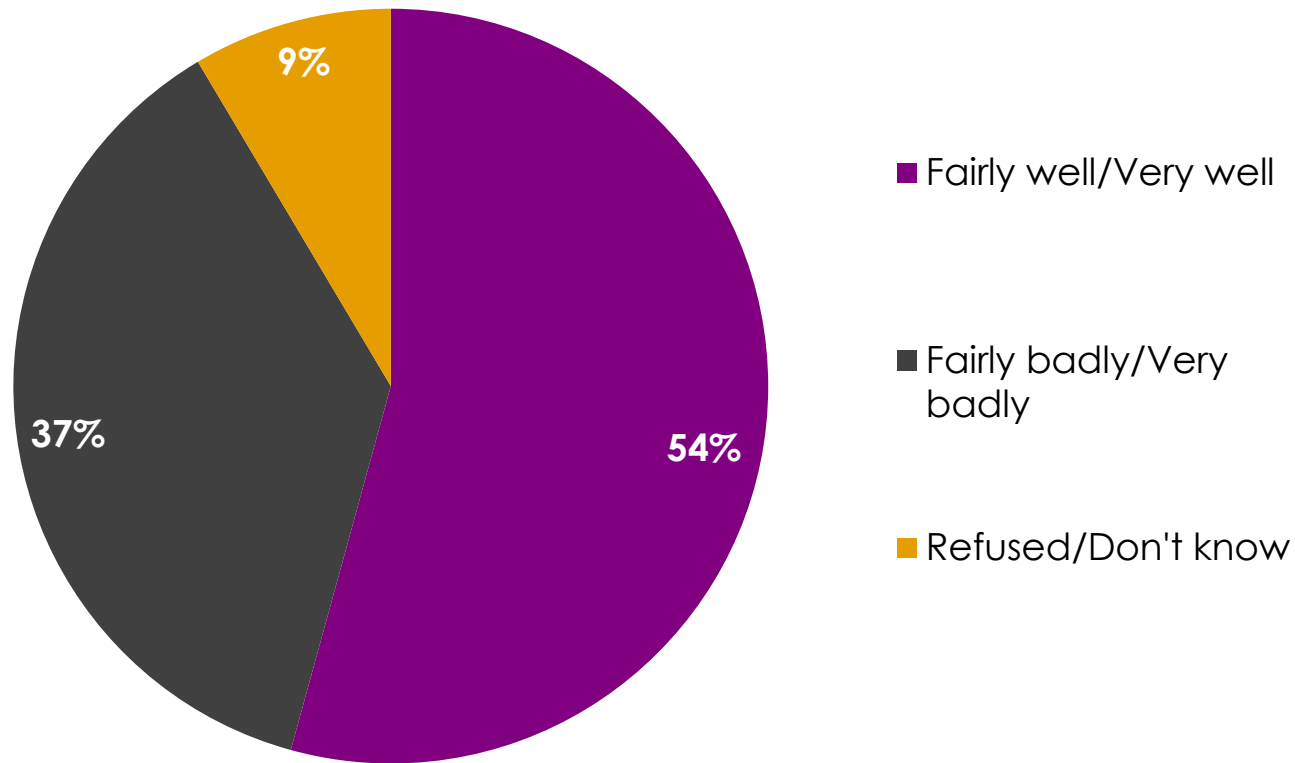
# Key findings



- Half (54%) of Gambians say the government is doing “fairly well” or “very well” in fighting corruption.
- Citizens with no formal education or only primary schooling are more likely than the highly educated to say the government is doing well in fighting corruption
- The government’s performance in fighting corruption is most favourably rated in Central River South (60%) and Lower River (58%).

# Government performance in fighting corruption

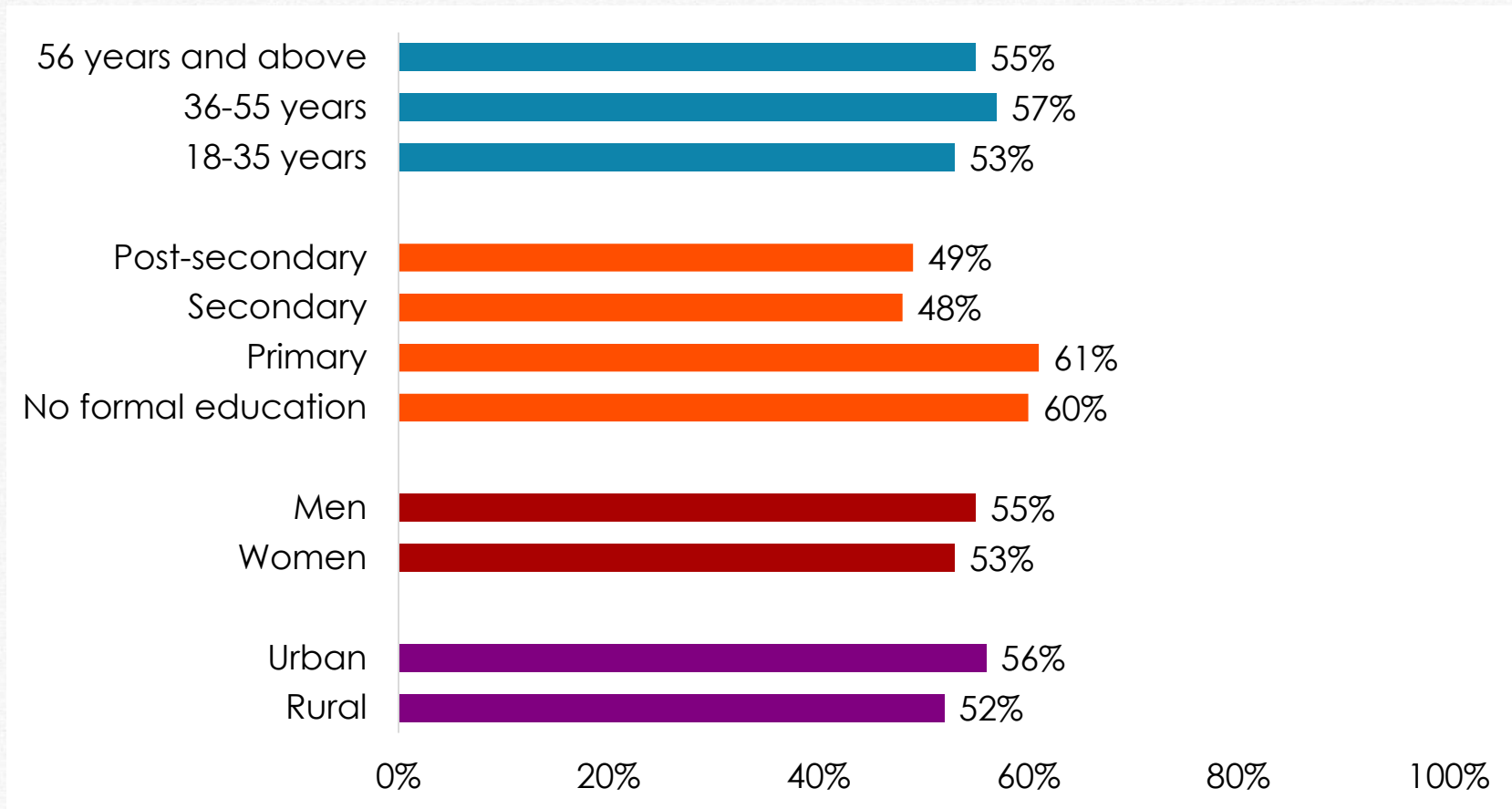
## | The Gambia | 2018



**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 government?

# Government performance in fighting corruption

| by socio-demographic group | The Gambia | 2018

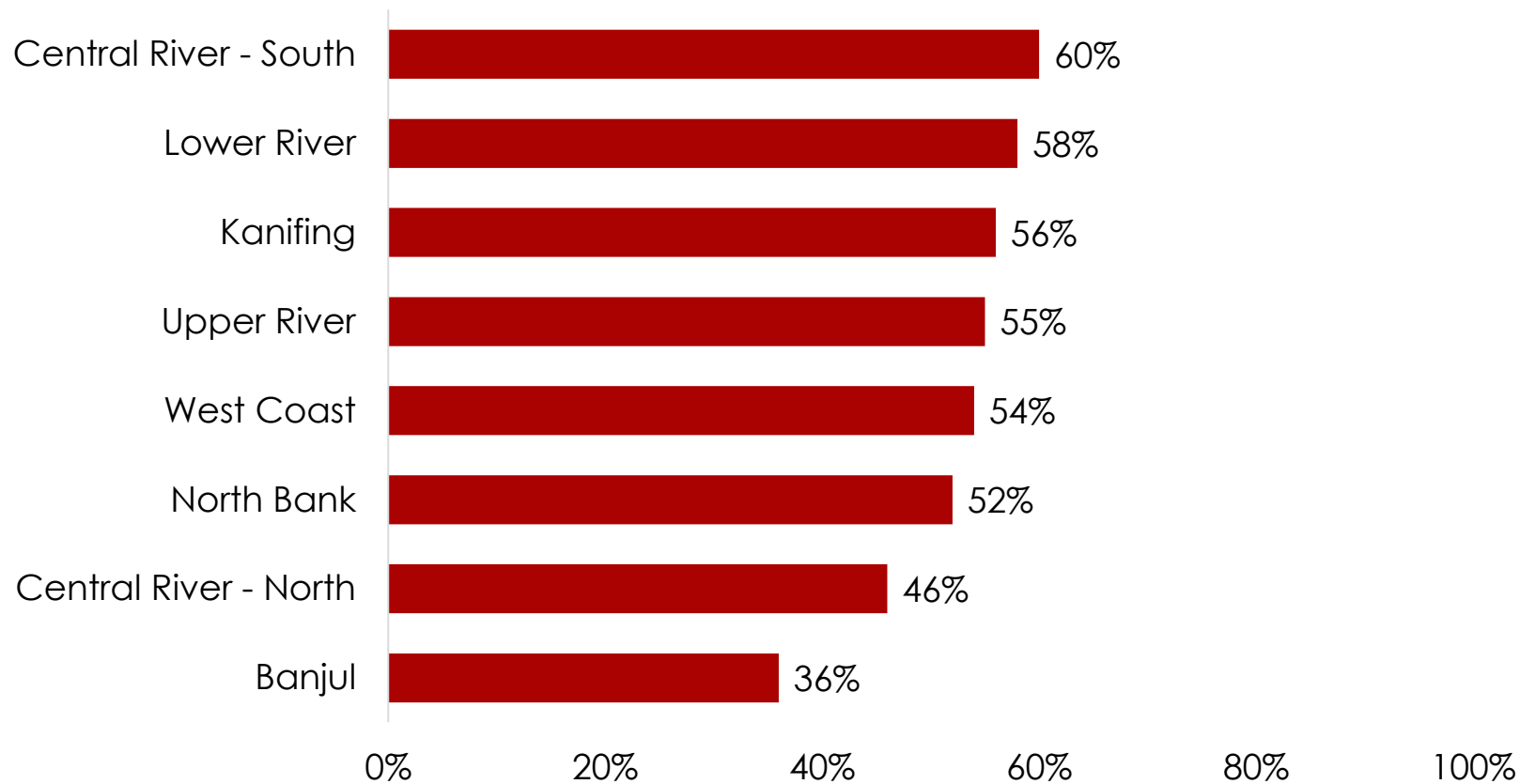


**Respondents were asked:** How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?  
(% who say "fairly well" or "very well")



# Government performance in fighting corruption

| by region | The Gambia | 2018



**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 government?  
(% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

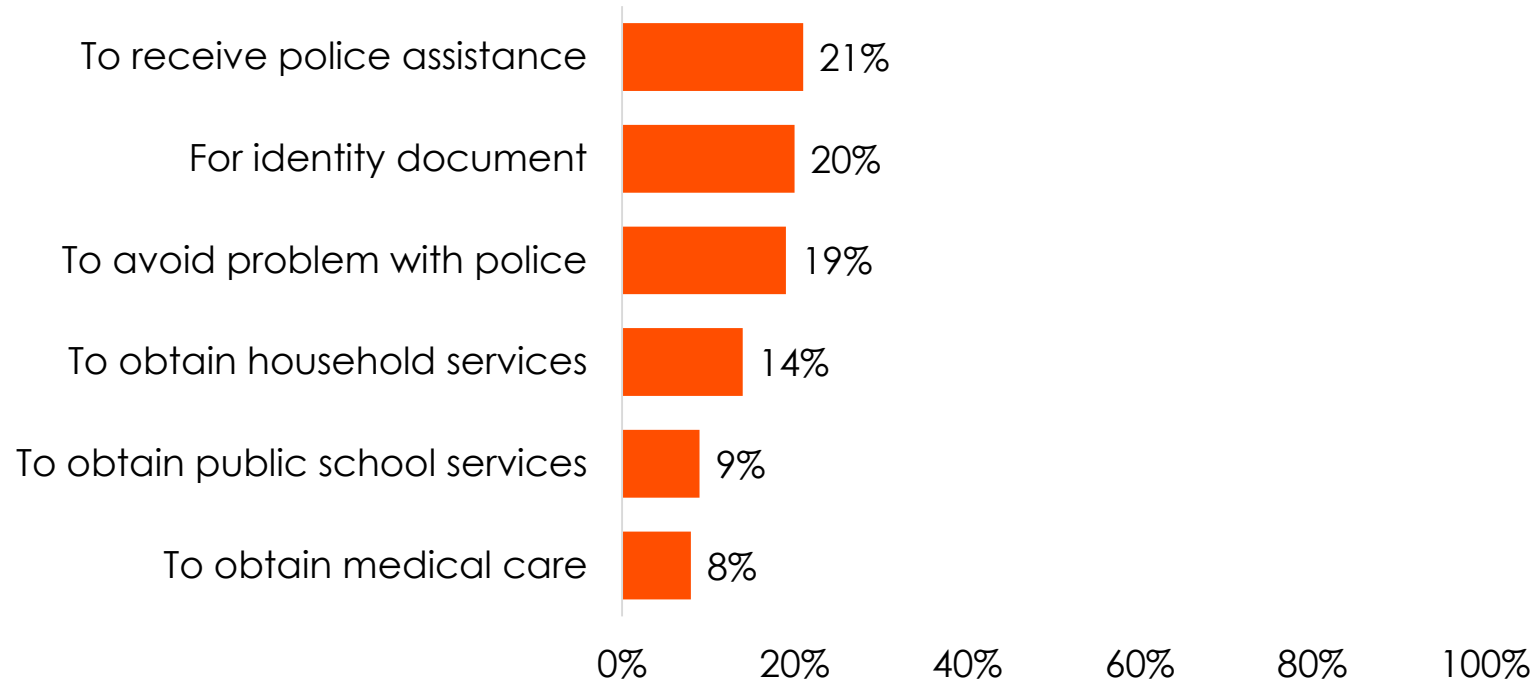
# Citizens' experience and role in fighting corruption

# Key findings



- Among respondents who had contact with key public services during the previous year, two in 10 paid a bribe at least once to get police assistance (21%), obtain identity documents (20%), or avoid problems with the police (19%).
- A majority (55%) say it is “somewhat likely” or “very likely” that authorities will take action when incidents of corruption are reported.
- Large majorities of Gambians say the rich are more likely than ordinary people to get away with paying a bribe or using personal connections to avoid taxes (71%), avoid going to court (75%), or register land that’s not theirs (74%).
- Six in 10 (58%) say they can report corrupt incidents without fear.
- Two-thirds (66%) think that ordinary citizens can make a difference in fighting corruption.

# Paid bribe to obtain services | The Gambia | 2018



**Respondents who said they had contact with selected public services during the previous year were asked:** And how often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour:

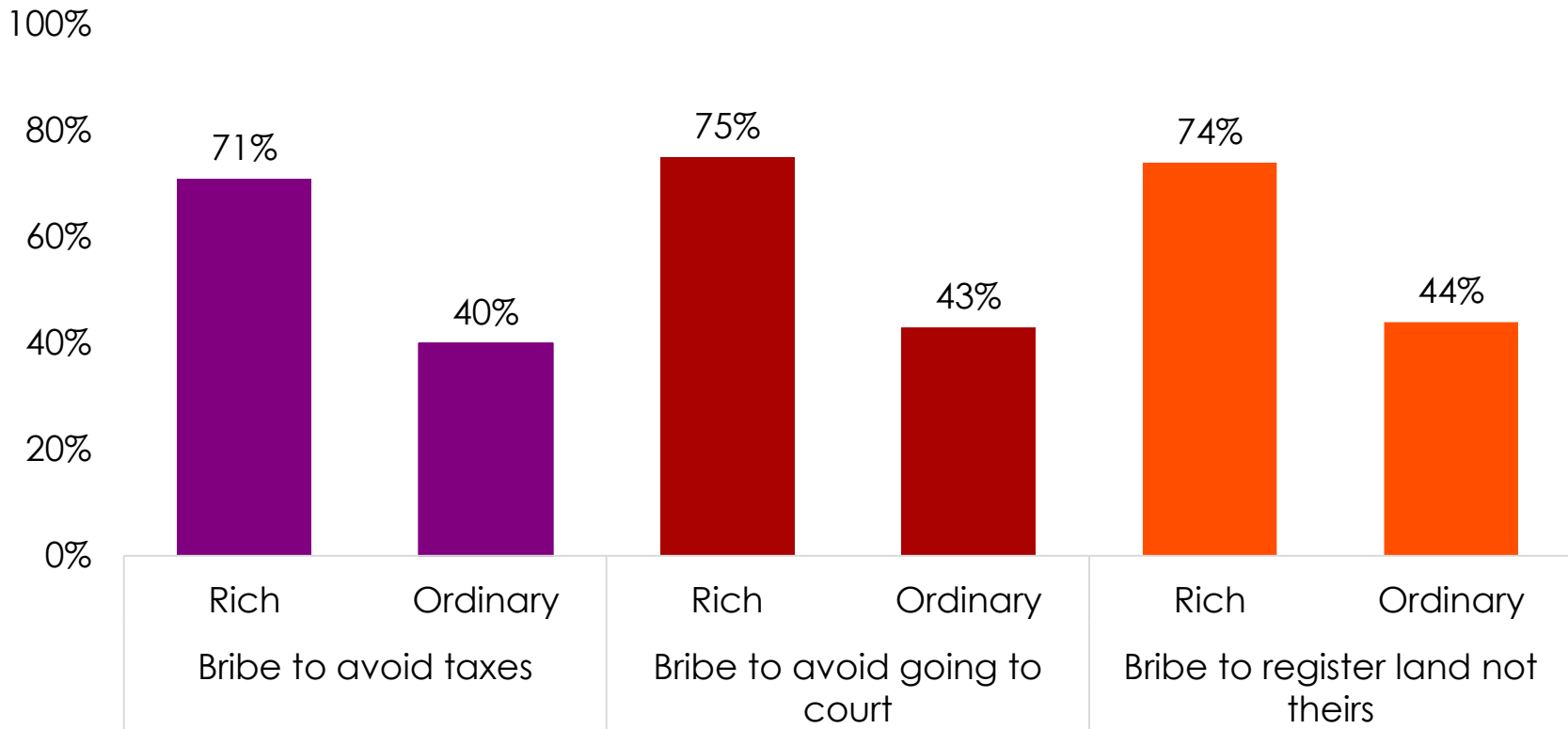
- For a teacher or school official in order to get the services you needed from the schools?
- For a health worker or clinic or hospital staff in order to get the medical care you needed?
- For a government official in order to get the document you needed?
- For a government official in order to get the services you needed?
- For a police officer in order to get the assistance you needed?
- For a police officer in order to avoid a problem during one of these encounters?

(% who paid bribe "once or twice," "a few times," or "often")

(Note: Figure excludes respondents who said they had no contact with these public services during the previous year.)

# Bribery by the rich vs. ordinary people

## | The Gambia | 2018

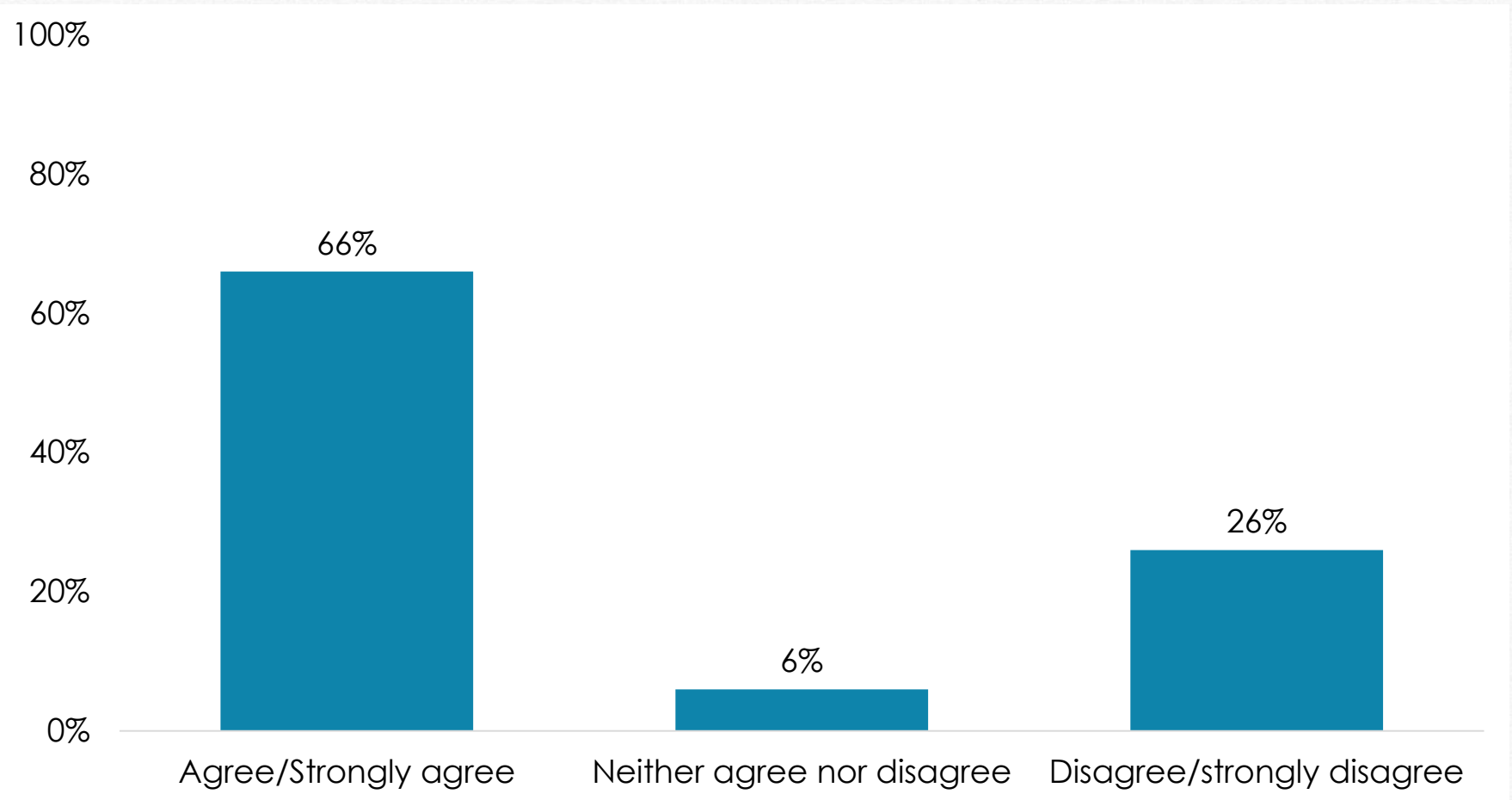


**Respondents were asked:** In this country, how likely do you think it is that an ordinary person/a rich person could pay a bribe or use personal connections to get away with:

- Avoiding paying taxes they owe to government?
- Avoiding going to court?
- Registering land that does not belong to them?

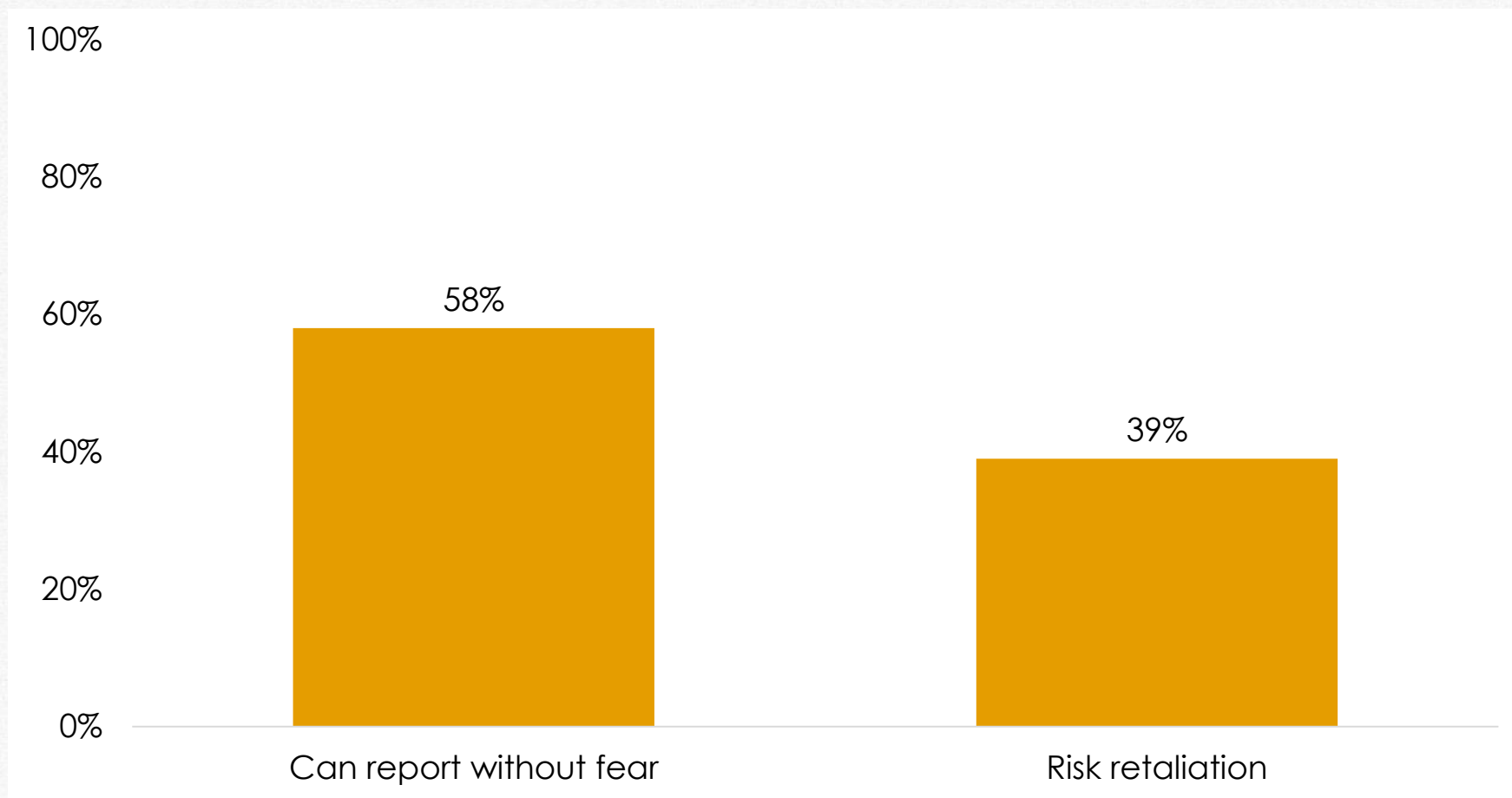
(% who say "somewhat likely" or "very likely")

# Ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption | The Gambia | 2018



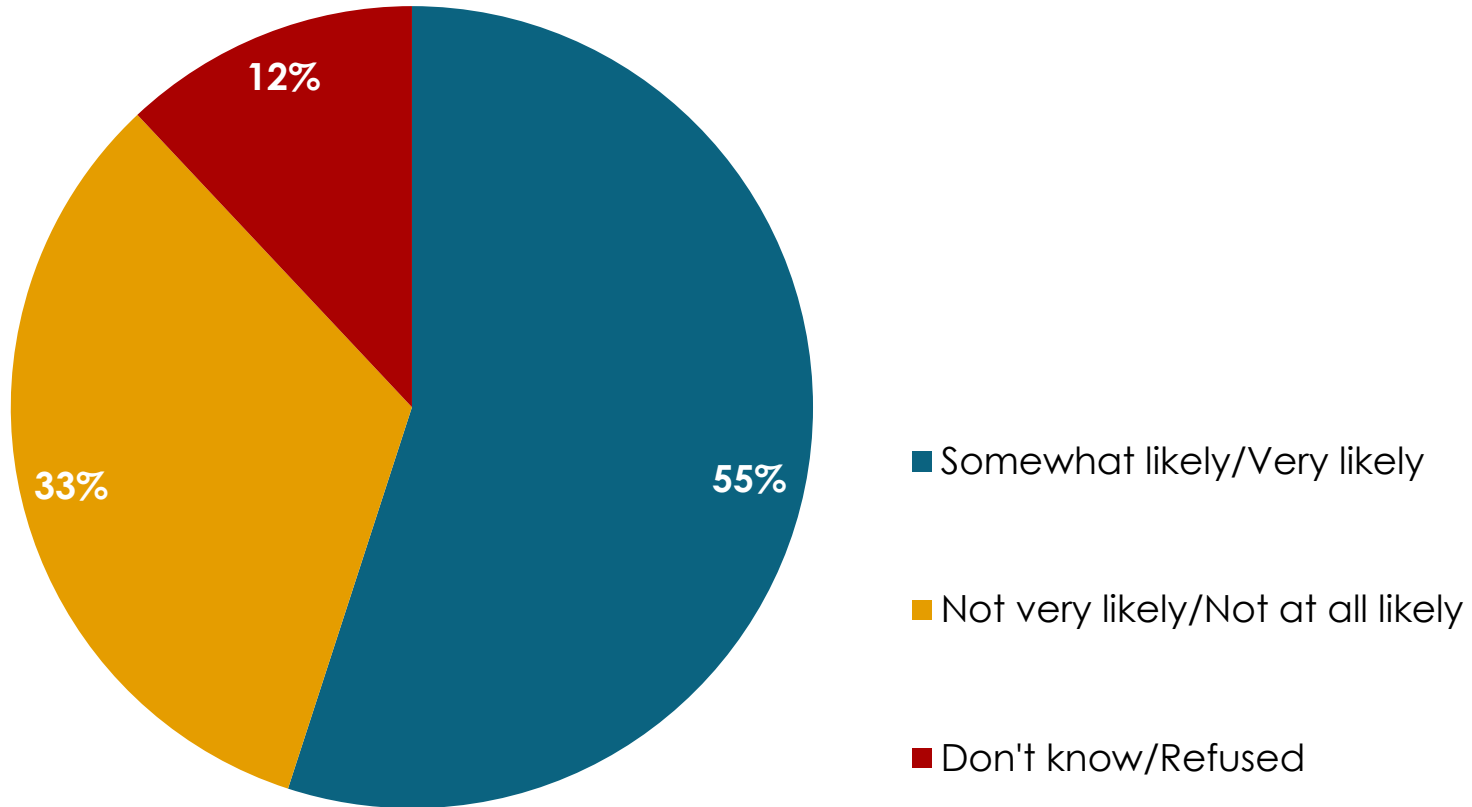
**Respondents were asked:** Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption?

# Can ordinary people report corruption without fear? | The Gambia | 2018



**Respondents were asked:** *In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?*

# Will the authorities take action when corruption is reported? | The Gambia | 2018



**Respondents were asked:** How likely is it that you could get someone to take action if you went to your local government council to report corrupt behaviour like misuse of funds or requests for bribes by government officers, police, or school or clinic staff?



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