

Lobito-Benguela, Angola
25 June 2020

News release

Religious leaders enjoy greater popular trust than other institutions in Angola, Afrobarometer survey shows

Religious leaders enjoy greater popular trust in Angola than other key institutions and leaders, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows, suggesting they could be valuable conduits for public information during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Angolan Armed Forces and traditional leaders follow religious leaders in trustworthiness, ahead of elected leaders and state institutions, according to survey respondents.

Religious and traditional leaders enjoy above-average trust among rural, poor, and older citizens – groups that may find it particularly difficult to keep abreast of information about COVID-19. Half of Angolans also see traditional leaders as influential in governing local communities. Influential and trusted leaders could play an important role in raising community awareness, as has been done in polio vaccination campaigns in the past.

Overall, however, large proportions of Angolans express distrust of all of these institutions and leaders, highlighting challenges in ensuring widespread awareness of, and compliance with, pandemic-related measures.

Key findings

- More than half (53%) of Angolans say they trust religious leaders “somewhat” or “a lot,” followed by 43% who express trust in the Angolan Armed Forces and 42% in traditional leaders (Figure 1).
 - Fewer than four in 10 respondents say they trust the courts (38%), police (37%), the president (37%), and other elected and state officials.
- Trust in religious leaders is higher than average among rural residents (56%), poor citizens (57%), and older respondents (66% of those above age 65), as well as among residents in the East and Center regions¹ (57%). But fewer than half (47%) of Luanda Province residents express trust in religious leaders (Figure 2).
- Trust in the military is higher among women (46%) than men (40%) and among older citizens (54% of those above age 65) compared to their younger counterparts. The military also enjoys higher popular trust in the South and East regions (48% each, compared to just 40% in Luanda Province) (Figure 3).
- Half (50%) of Angolans say that traditional leaders have “some” or “a lot” of influence in governing local community affairs. Rural residents are more likely than urbanites to perceive such influence (57% vs. 46%), as are poor citizens (54%) and those lacking formal education (54%) compared to their better-off and more-educated counterparts. Residents of the North (60%) and South (59%) regions are most likely to

¹ In accordance with National Statistics Institute classifications, regions include the following provinces: North (Cabinda, Uíge, Zaire), Center North (Bengo, Cuanza Norte, Malange), Luanda, Center (Benguela, Bié, Cuanza Sul, Huambo), East (Cuando Cubango, Lunda Sul, Lunda Norte, Moxico), and South (Cunene, Huíla, Namibe).

say traditional leaders are influential in governing local communities; in Luanda Province, only 40% of respondents agree (Figure 4).

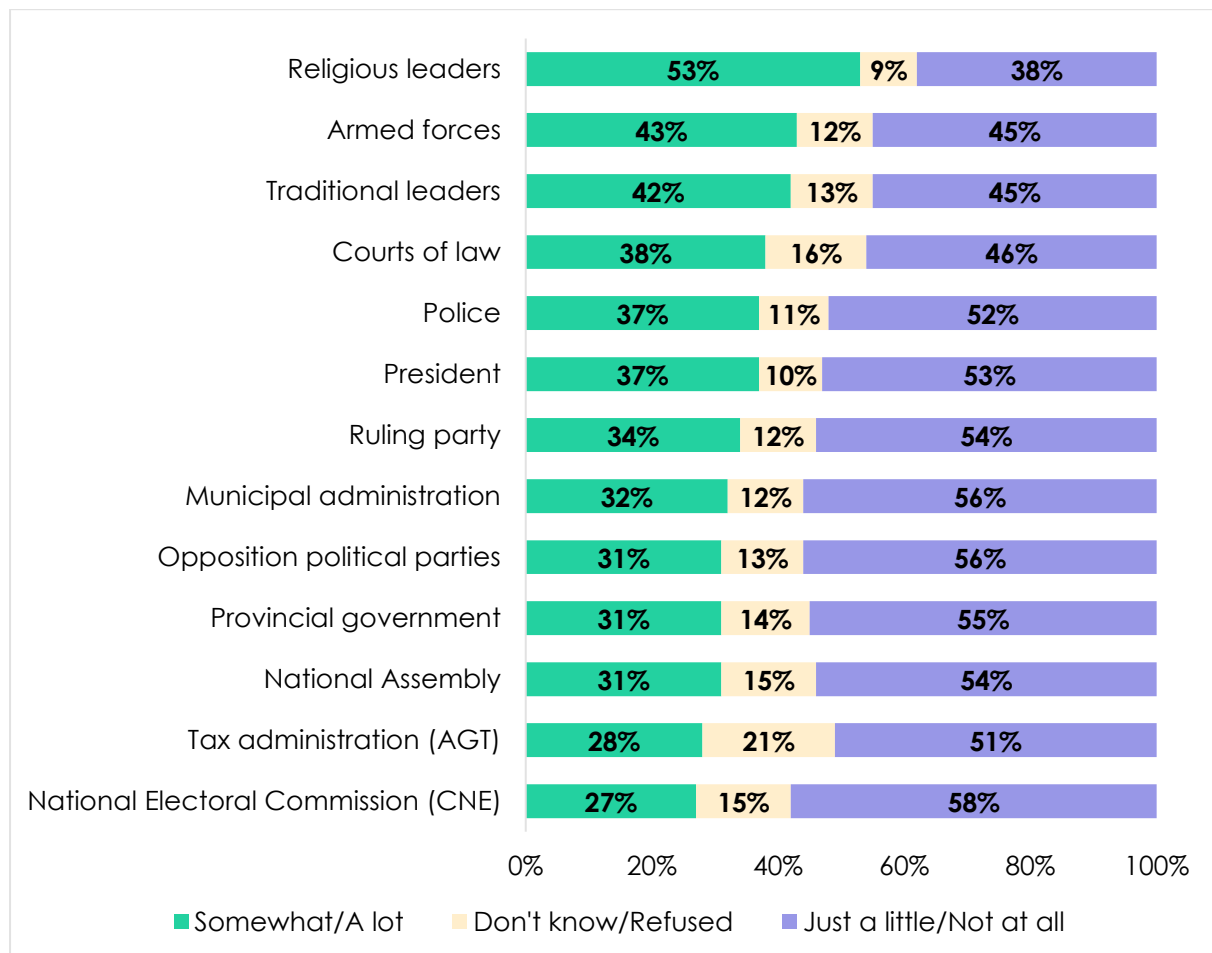
Afrobarometer surveys

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 are planned in at least 35 countries in 2019/2020. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

In its first survey in Angola, the Afrobarometer team, led by Ovilongwa – Estudos de Opinião Pública, interviewed 2,400 adult Angolans between 27 November and 27 December 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

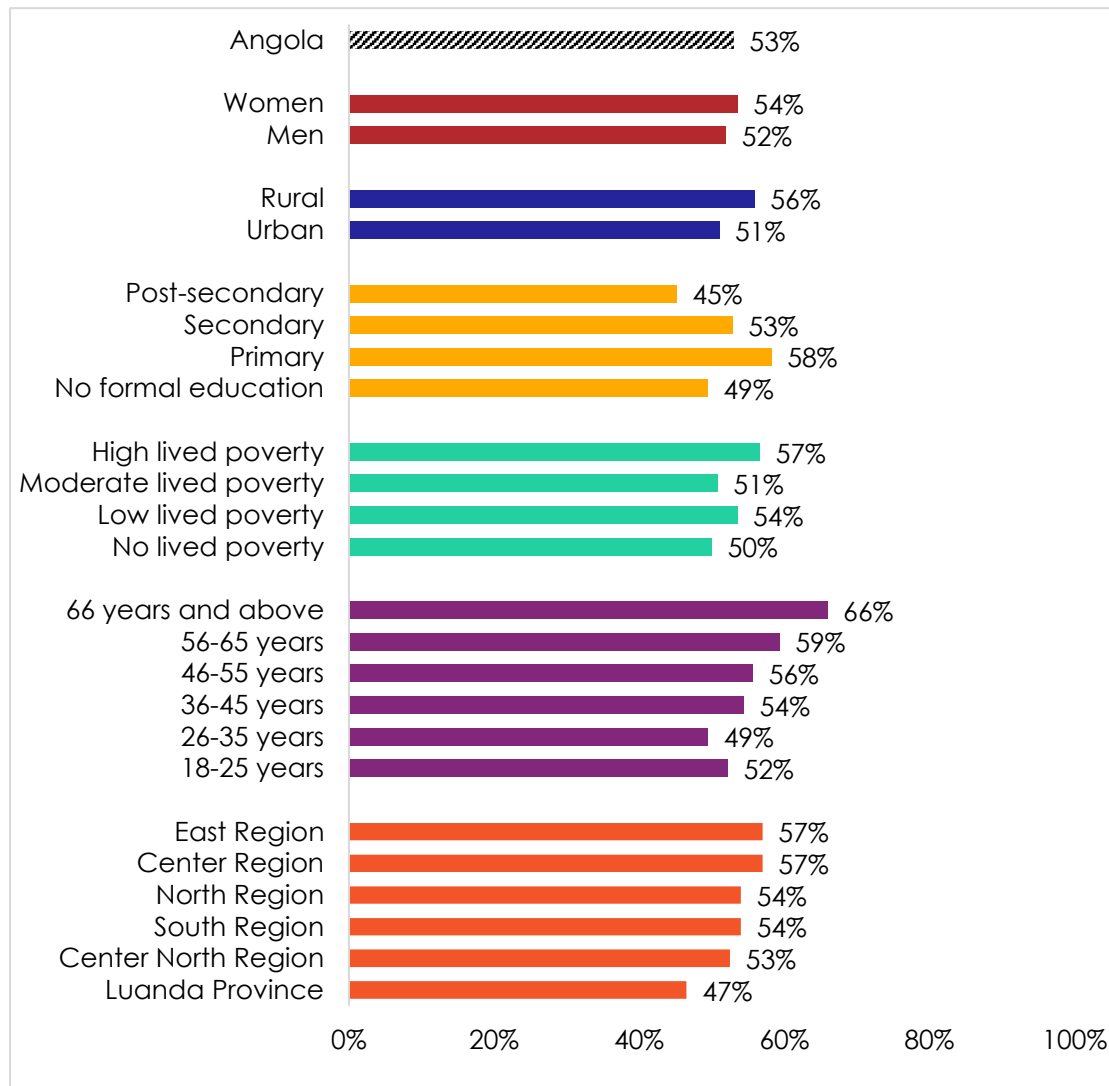
Charts

Figure 1: Trust in institutions and leaders | Angola | 2019



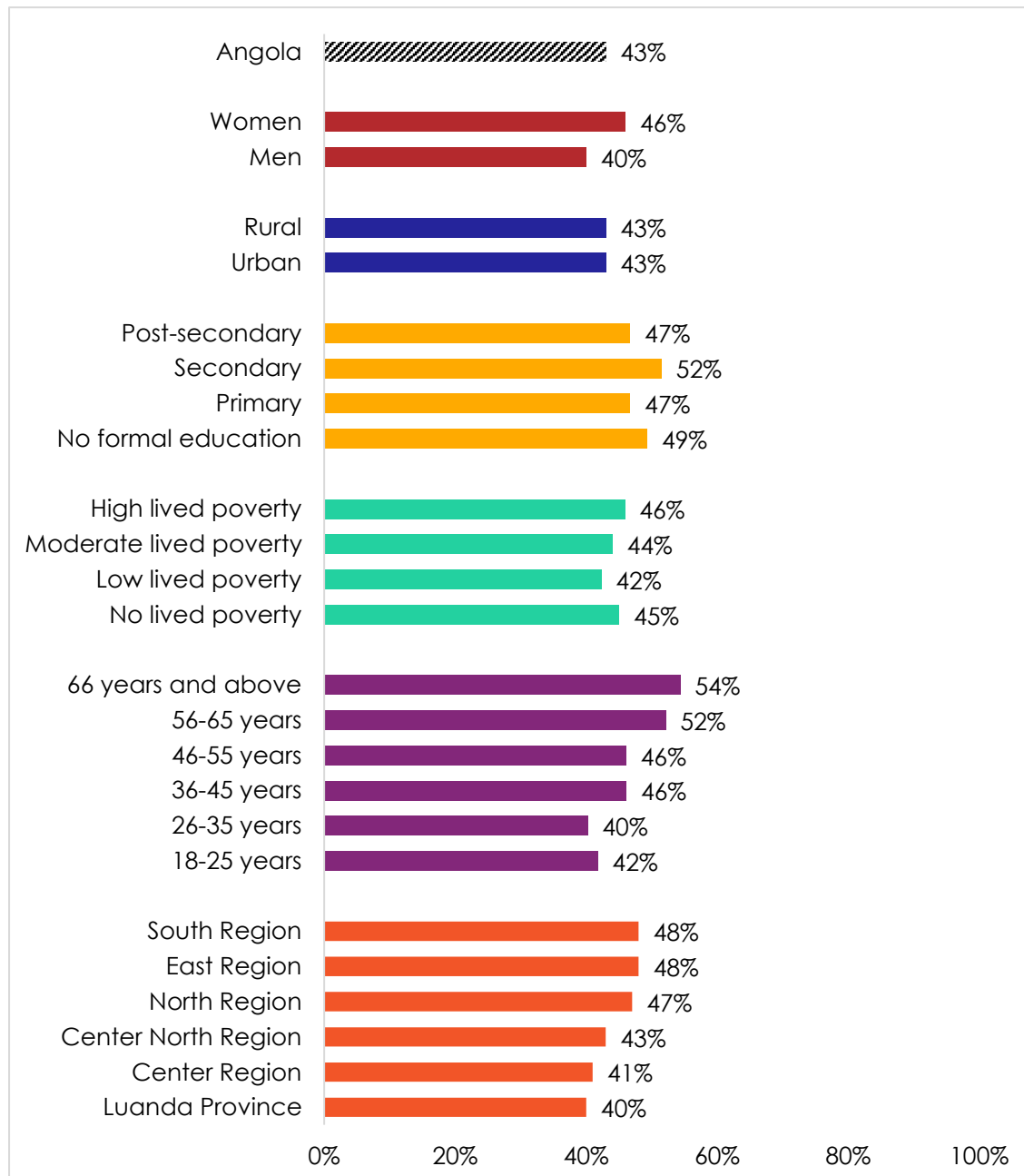
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Figure 2: Trust in religious leaders | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2019



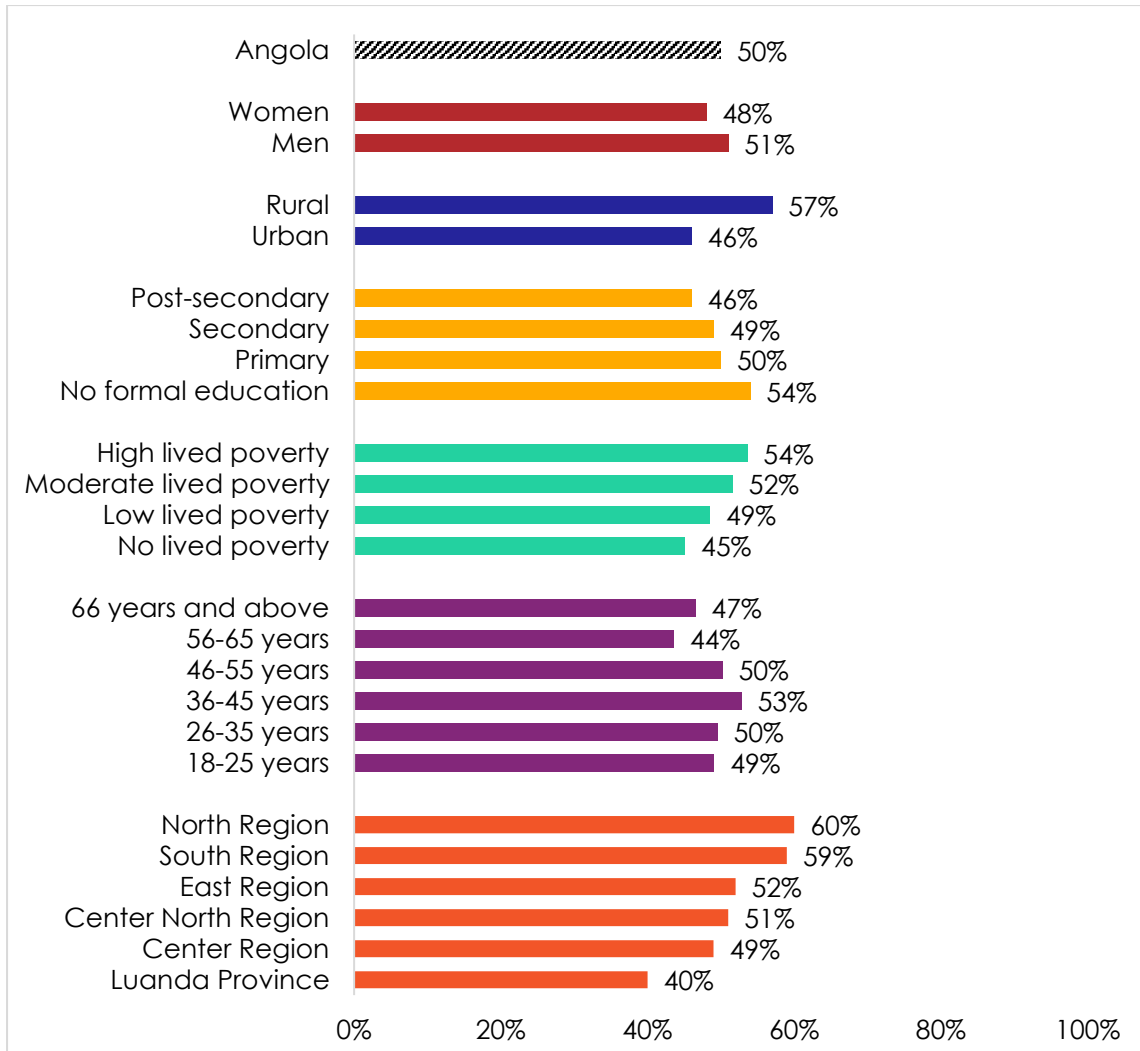
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Religious leaders? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 3: Trust in the armed forces | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The Angolan Armed Forces? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 4: Influence of traditional leaders in governing local communities | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: How much influence do traditional leaders currently have in each of the following areas: Governing your local community? (% who say "some" or "a lot")

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