



Khartoum, Sudan
11 August 2021

News release

Sudanese approve of COVID-19 lockdown despite difficulty complying, concerned about government handling of pandemic, Afrobarometer survey shows

A majority of Sudanese say that last year's lockdown imposed by the government was necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19, in spite of the toll it took on the economy and people's livelihoods, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Two in three Sudanese say they found it difficult to comply with lockdown restrictions.

A similar majority say the government is doing "fairly badly" or "very badly" in managing the response to the pandemic.

The study also shows a less-than-encouraging attitude toward vaccines: Few Sudanese trust their government to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe, and only half say they are likely to try to get vaccinated. Most believe that prayer is more effective than a vaccine in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Key findings

- More than three-fourths (78%) of Sudanese "agree" or "strongly agree" that the lockdown was necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19 (Figure 1).
- However, two-thirds (66%) say they and their households found it "difficult" or "very difficult" to comply with lockdown restrictions (Figure 2).
- A majority (65%) of citizens say government is doing "fairly badly" or "very badly" in managing the response to the pandemic (Figure 3).
- Six in 10 Sudanese (59%) say they trust the government "just a little" or "not at all" to ensure that any COVID-19 vaccine is safe before it is used in this country (Figure 4). Only half (51%) say they are "somewhat likely" or "very likely" to try to get vaccinated.
- Almost nine in 10 citizens (86%) say prayer is more effective than a vaccine would be in preventing COVID-19 infection (Figure 5).

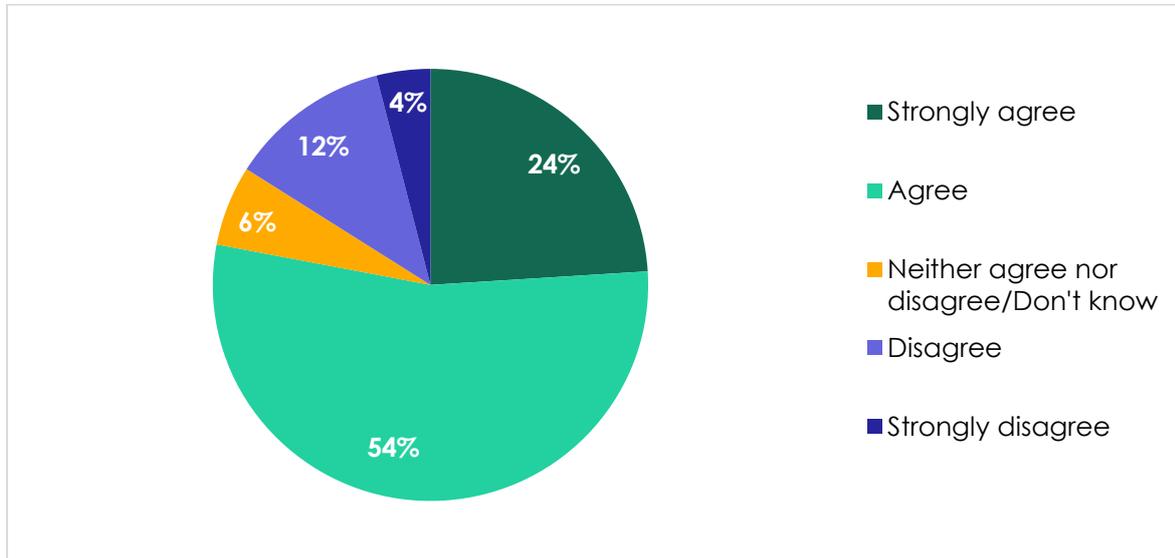
Afrobarometer surveys

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 (2019/2021) cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Sudan, led by Sudan Polling Statistics Centre (SPSC), interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,800 adults in February-April 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2.3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Sudan in 2013, 2015, and 2018.

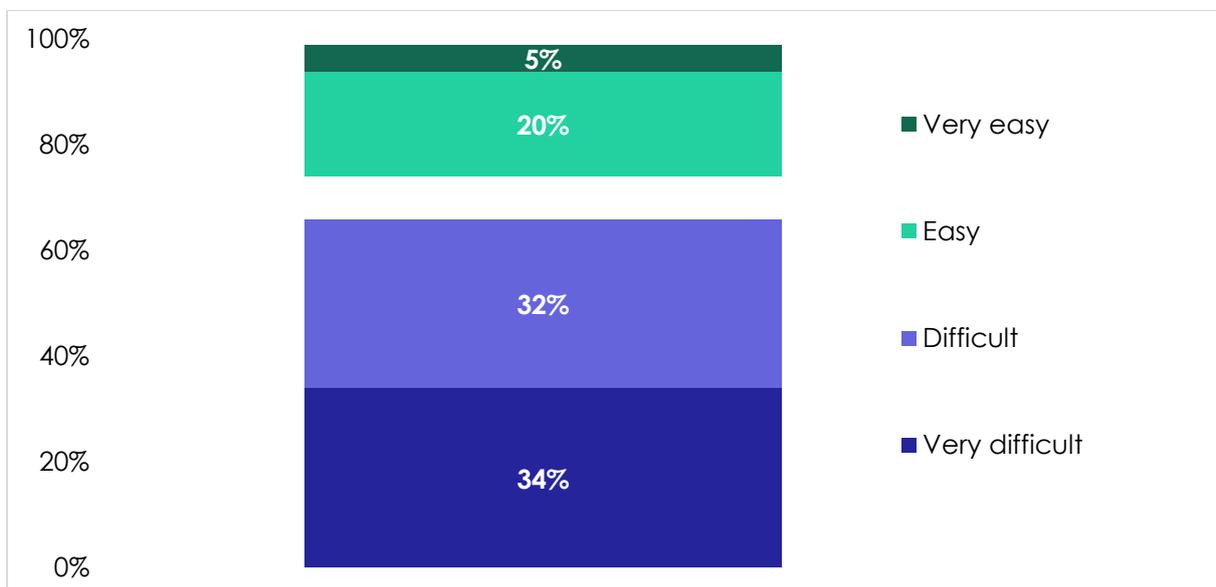
Charts

Figure 1: Support for lockdown | Sudan | 2021



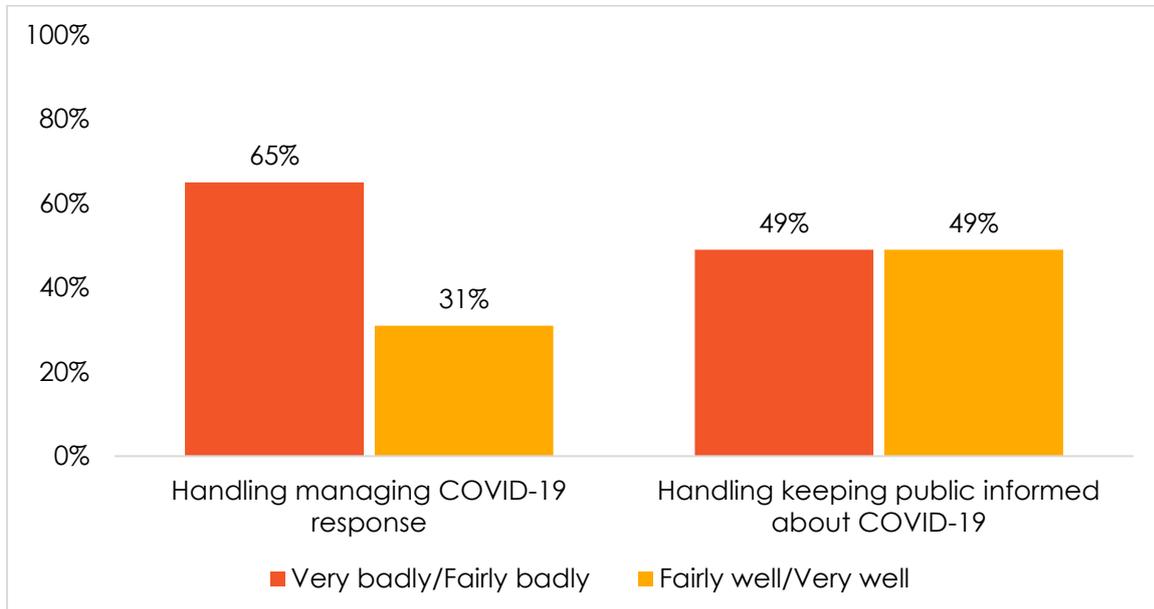
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Even if the lockdown or curfew had negative impacts on the economy and people's livelihoods, it was necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19?

Figure 2: Compliance with lockdown or curfew restrictions | Sudan | 2021



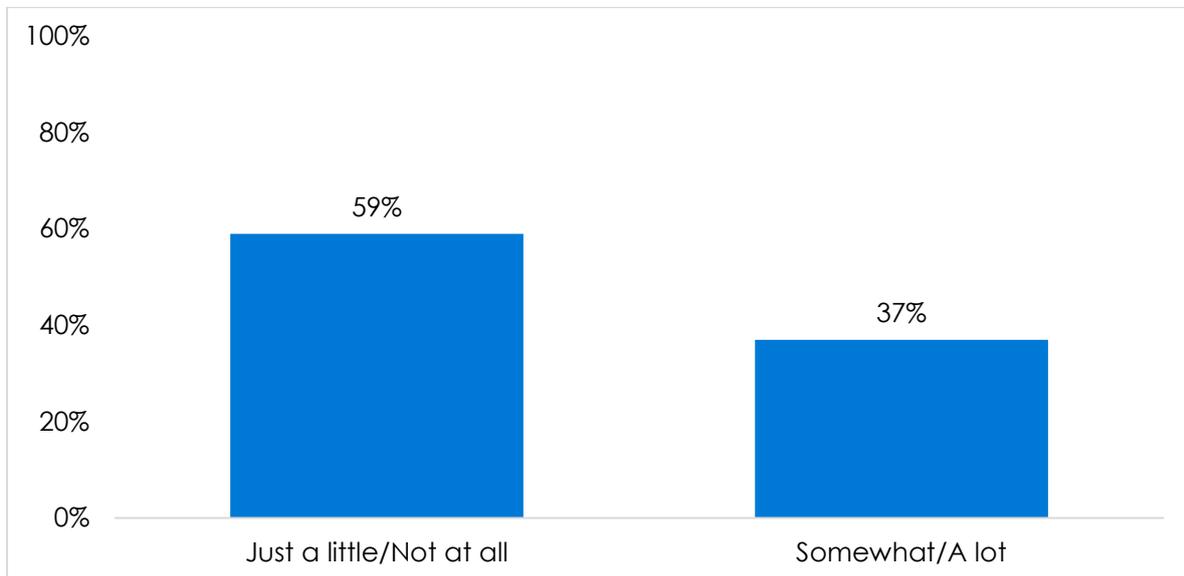
Respondents were asked: How easy or difficult was it for you and your household to comply with the lockdown or curfew restrictions imposed by the government?

Figure 3: Assessment of government performance during the pandemic | Sudan | 2021



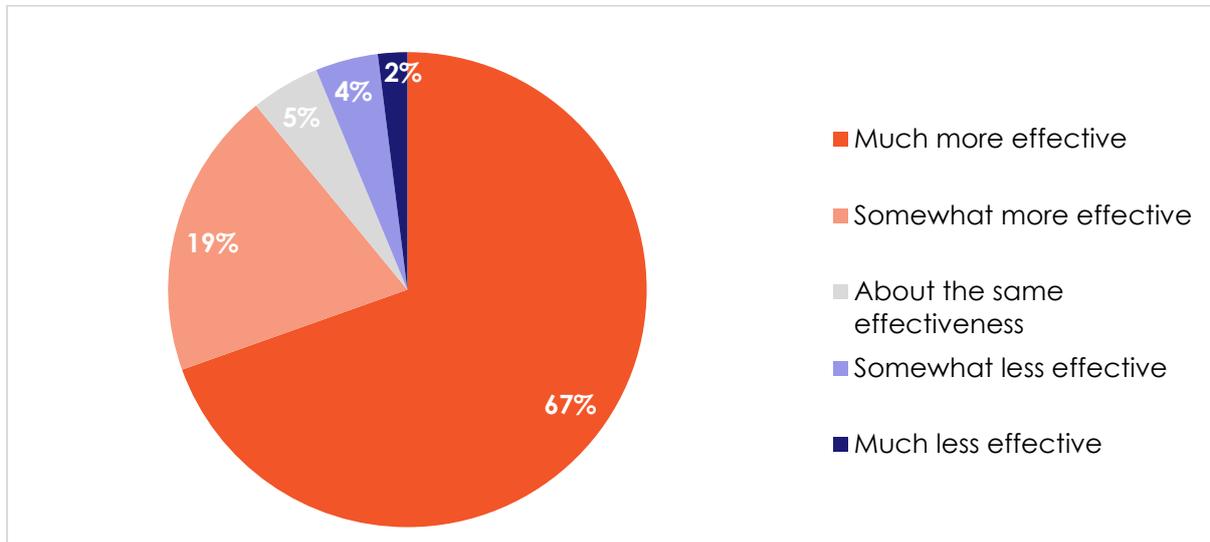
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government has handled the following matters since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, or haven't you heard enough to say: Managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic? Keeping the public informed about COVID-19?

Figure 4: Trust government to ensure vaccine safety? | Sudan | 2021



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the government to ensure that any vaccine for COVID-19 that is developed or offered to Sudanese citizens is safe before it is used in this country?

Figure 5: Prayer vs. vaccines: Which is more effective against COVID-19? | Sudan
 | 2021



Respondents were asked: Do you think that prayer is more effective or less effective than a vaccine would be in preventing COVID-19 infection?

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