

Kampala, Uganda
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News release

Ugandans approve of government pandemic response but voice concerns about corruption, Afrobarometer survey shows

A new Afrobarometer survey in Uganda shows that a majority of citizens approve of the government's management of the response to COVID-19, although many raise concerns about corruption.

More than three-quarters of Ugandans believe that at least some of the resources available for responding to the pandemic were lost due to corruption among government officials.

Only about half of citizens say they trust government statistics on COVID-19 cases and deaths.

A report by the Auditor General in March revealed significant mismanagement of COVID-19 funds. As of 3rd June 2021, Uganda has so far tested 1,125,306 samples for COVID-19, with 49,759 confirmed cases, 47,760 recoveries and 365 deaths.

Key findings

- More than eight in 10 Ugandans (82%) say the government has managed its response to the COVID-19 pandemic "fairly well" or "very well" (Figure 1).
- But about the same proportion (81%) believe that "some" or "a lot" of the resources available for responding to the pandemic were lost to corruption among government officials (Figure 2).
- Nearly eight in 10 Ugandans (77%) worry about public servants and politicians using the pandemic to enrich themselves economically, or increase their power and authority (71%) (Figure 3).
- Only about half (49%) of citizens say they trust government statistics on COVID-19 "somewhat" or "a lot" (Figure 4).

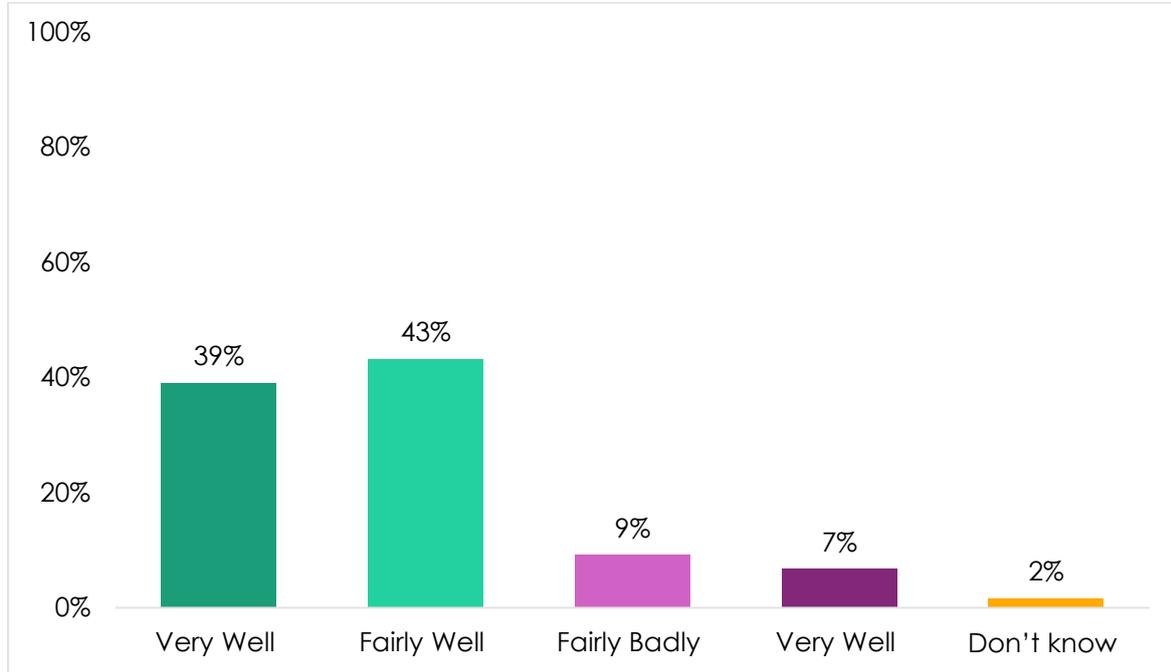
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that has provided reliable data on experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life in 38 African countries since 1999. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

With financial support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda, the Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Limited, interviewed 2,400 adult Ugandans between 22 December 2020 and 7 January 2021 in 300 enumeration areas across 110 districts. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. This was the 11th Afrobarometer survey in Uganda since 1999.

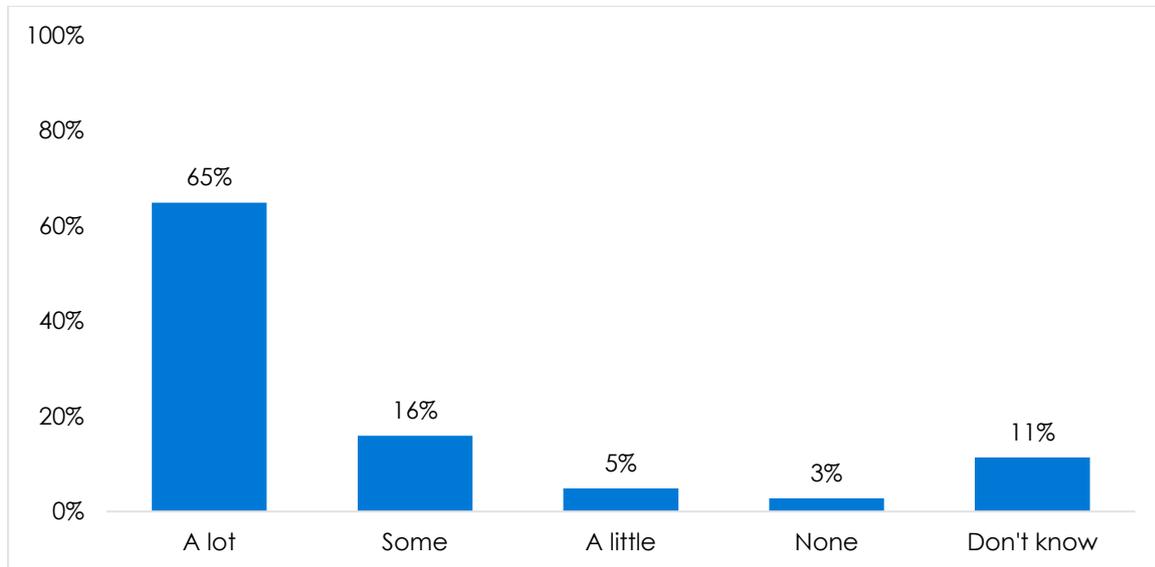
Charts

Figure 1: Views on how government managed the pandemic | Uganda | 2021



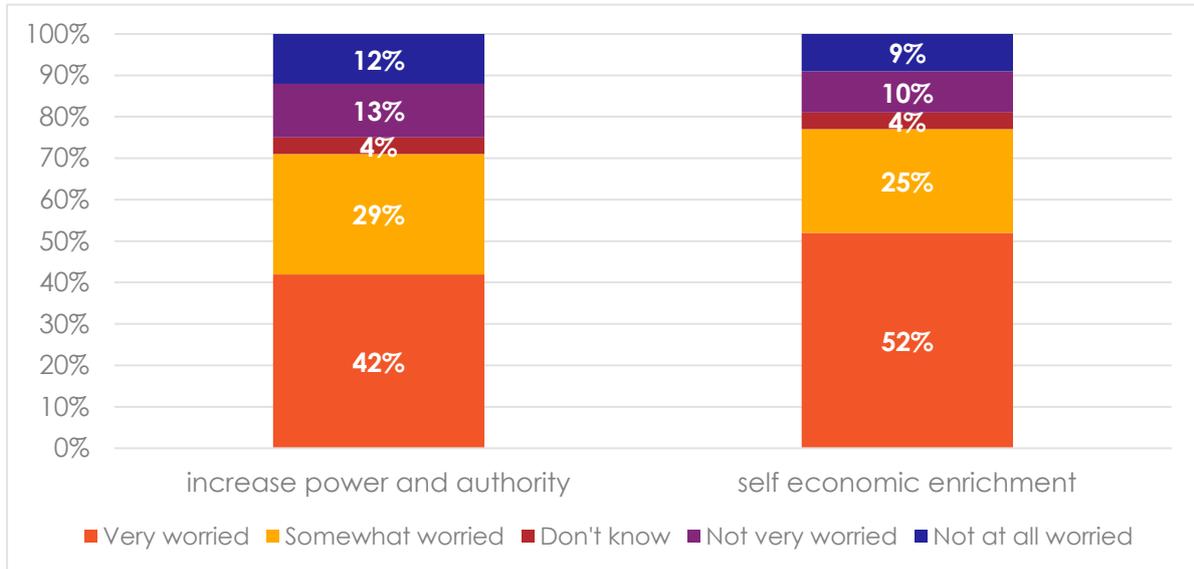
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government has handled the following matters since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, or haven't you heard enough to say: Managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Figure 2: COVID-19 resources lost to corruption | Uganda | 2021



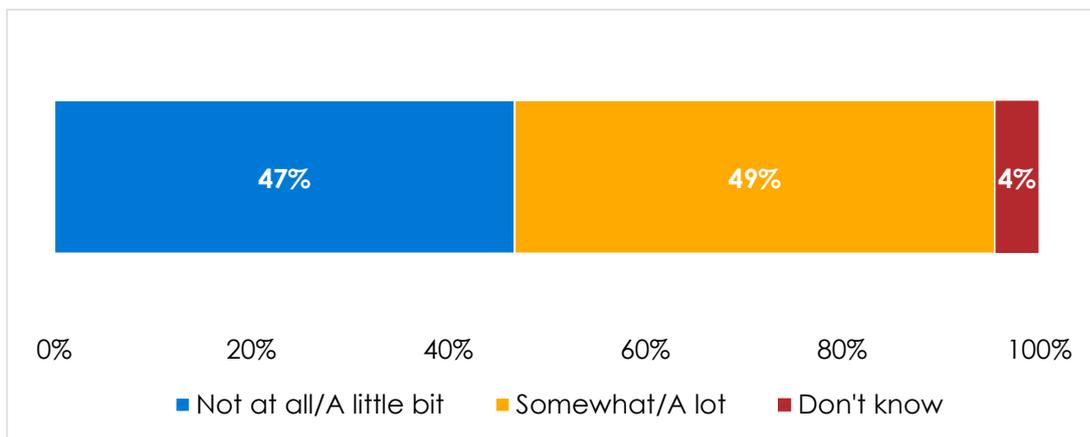
Respondents were asked: Considering all of the funds and resources that were available to the government for combating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, how much do you think was lost or stolen due to corruption among government officials?

Figure 3: Citizens worry public servants and politicians may use the pandemic to increase their authority or enrich themselves economically | Uganda | 2021



Respondents were asked: In some countries, people have been worried that governments and politicians are trying to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to increase their wealth or power, or to permanently restrict freedoms or political competition. What about you? How worried are you, if at all, that the following things are taking place or might take place in Uganda: Politicians are using the pandemic as an opportunity to increase their power and authority?

Figure 4: Trust in government COVID-19 statistics | Uganda | 2021



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the official statistics provided by government on the number of infections and deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

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