

Kampala, Uganda
26 August 2021

News release

Ugandans see increasing levels of corruption, report having to pay pay bribes to get public services, Afrobarometer survey shows

A majority of Ugandans say the level of corruption in the country increased last year, according to a recent Afrobarometer survey.

While somewhat fewer citizens see increasing corruption than in previous survey rounds, many Ugandans still report having to pay bribes to obtain public services.

Government anti-corruption efforts, including the establishment of the Inspector General of Government's office and a statehouse anti-corruption unit, have not persuaded the public that the level of corruption in the country is decreasing. A corruption-free Uganda is one of five targets that President Yoweri Museveni has tasked his new cabinet with focusing on over the next five years.

Key findings

- Six in 10 Ugandans (62%) say corruption in the country increased "somewhat" or "a lot" during the year preceding the survey. This reflects a 7-percentage-point decrease compared to 2017 (Figure 1). Similarly, the proportion of Ugandans who mention corruption as the most important problem government should address has dropped from 20% in 2017 to 13%.
- Compared to other East African countries, the proportions of Ugandans who see corruption as increasing is similar to perceptions in Kenya but far less promising than in Tanzania, where this proportion dropped from 67% in 2014 to 8% in 2021 (Figure 2)
- Among Ugandans who had contact with key public services during the previous year, three-quarters (75%) say they had to pay a bribe to obtain police assistance. Four in 10 say they had to pay a bribe to obtain medical care (42%) or to get a government document (40%) (Figure 3).

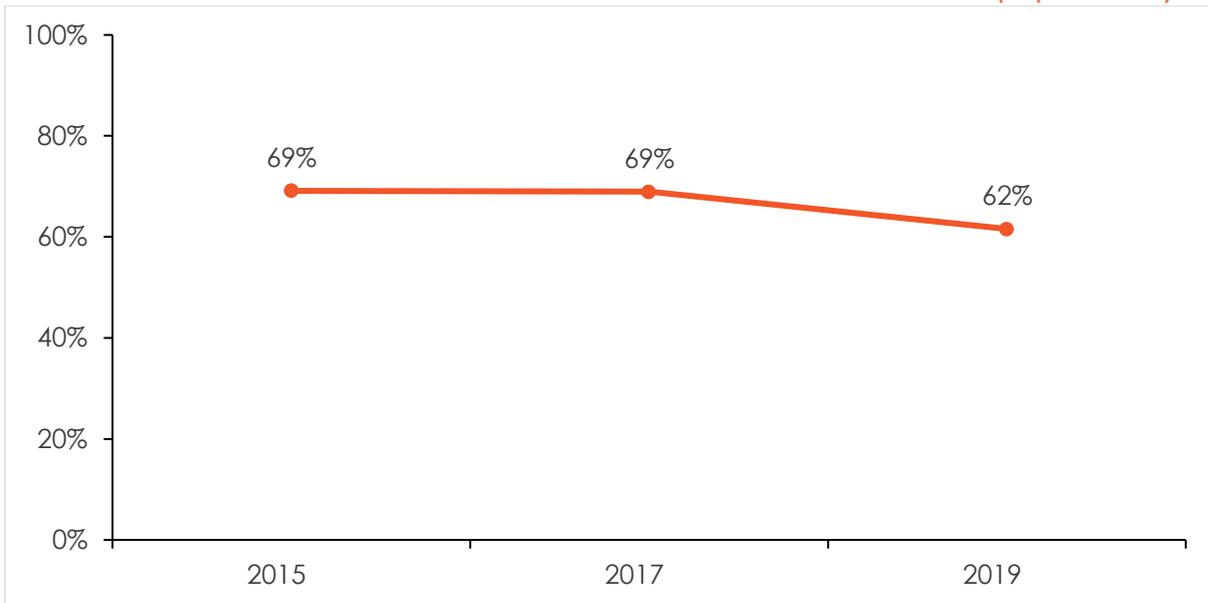
Afrobarometer surveys

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 1,200 adults Ugandans between 30 September and 31 October 2019 and 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.

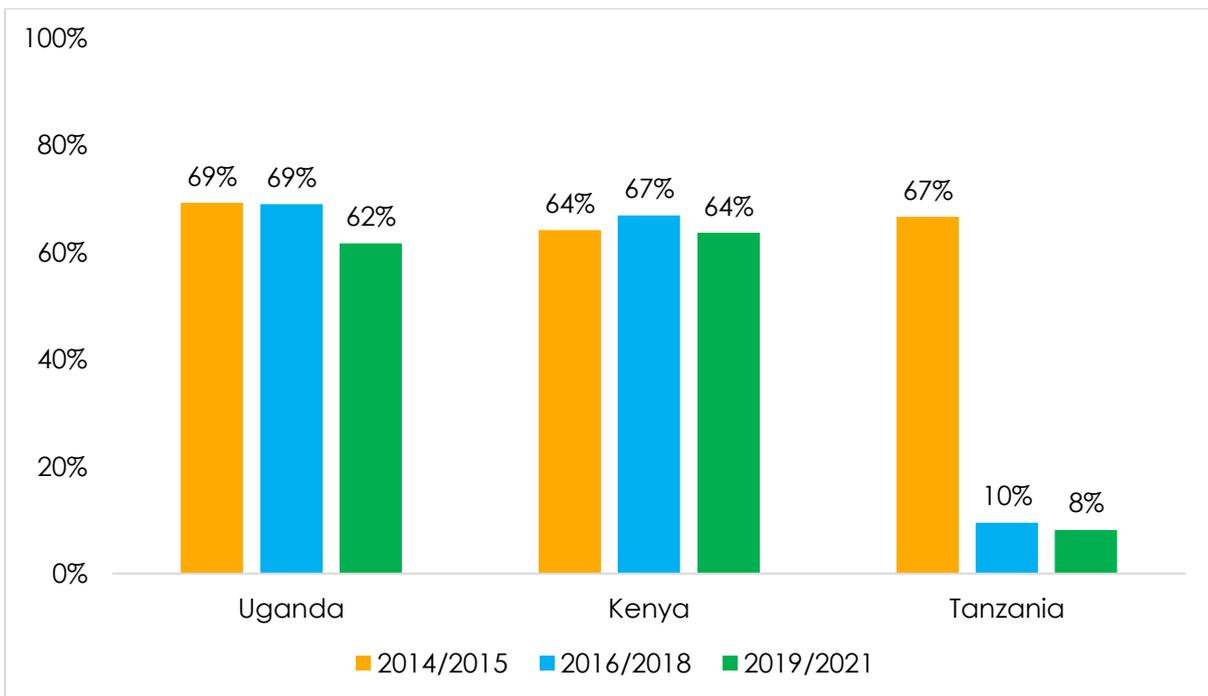
Charts

Figure 1: Perceived level of corruption | Uganda | 2015-2019



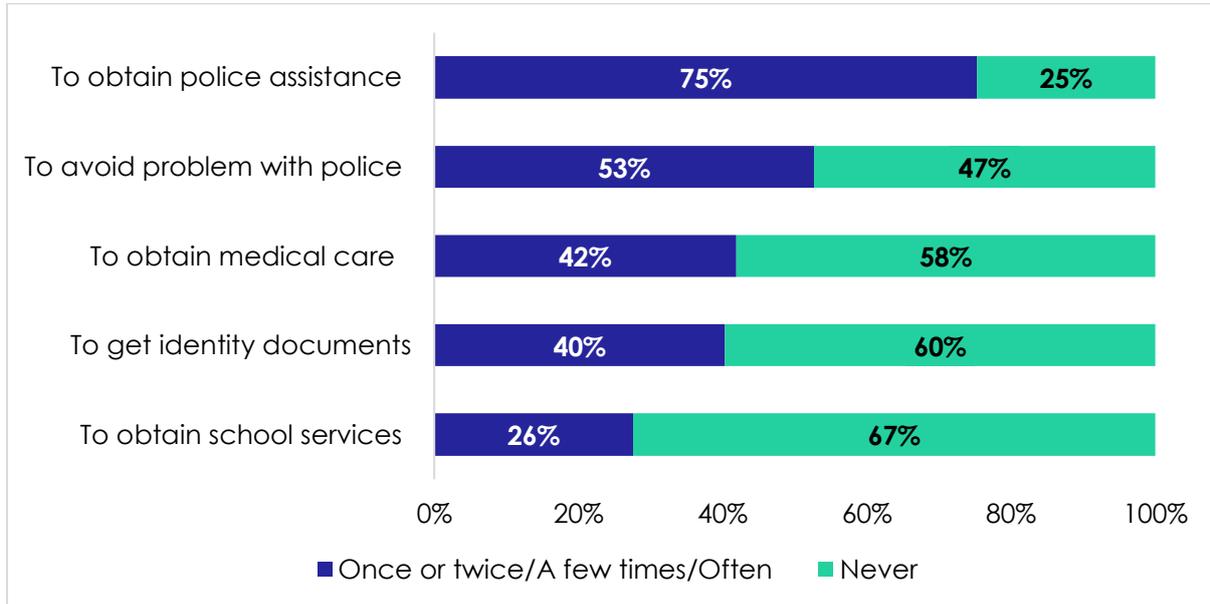
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same? (% who say "Increased somewhat" or "Increased a lot")

Figure 2: Perceived level of corruption | East Africa | 2014-2021



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same? (% who say "increased somewhat" or "increased a lot")

Figure 3: Paid a bribe to obtain public services | Uganda | 2019



Respondents were asked: How often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour [to obtain the needed services]? (Note: Respondents who said they had no contact with these services during the previous year are excluded.)

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