



Nairobi, Kenya
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News release

Majority of Kenyans say competency-based curriculum will improve quality of education, Afrobarometer survey shows

Two-thirds of Kenyans believe that the new competency-based curriculum or CBC system will improve education in the country at least “a little bit,” a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

A large majority of citizens also say that the country's education services have improved in the past five years.

But the latest survey findings also show a massive rise in the number of citizens who say they find it difficult to obtain services they need from teachers or school officials.

Key findings

- More than half (52%) of Kenyans believe that the new competency-based curriculum or CBC system will improve education in the country “somewhat” or “a lot,” in addition to 13% who think it will help “a little bit.” Only one in four (26%) say the CBC system will do nothing to improve education (Figure 1).
- Education ranks sixth among the most important problems that Kenyans want their government to address, down from fourth place in 2019 (Figure 2).
- Seven in 10 Kenyans (69%) say that education services have improved over the past five years (Figure 3).
 - Urban residents are likely to report improved services than their rural counterparts, 74% vs. 66%.
- Among the 50% of Kenyans who say they had contact with a public school during the year preceding the survey, almost three-fourths (73%) say it was “difficult” or “very difficult” to obtain the services they needed (Figure 4).
 - The proportion reporting problems obtaining school services more than doubled from 2019 (32%).

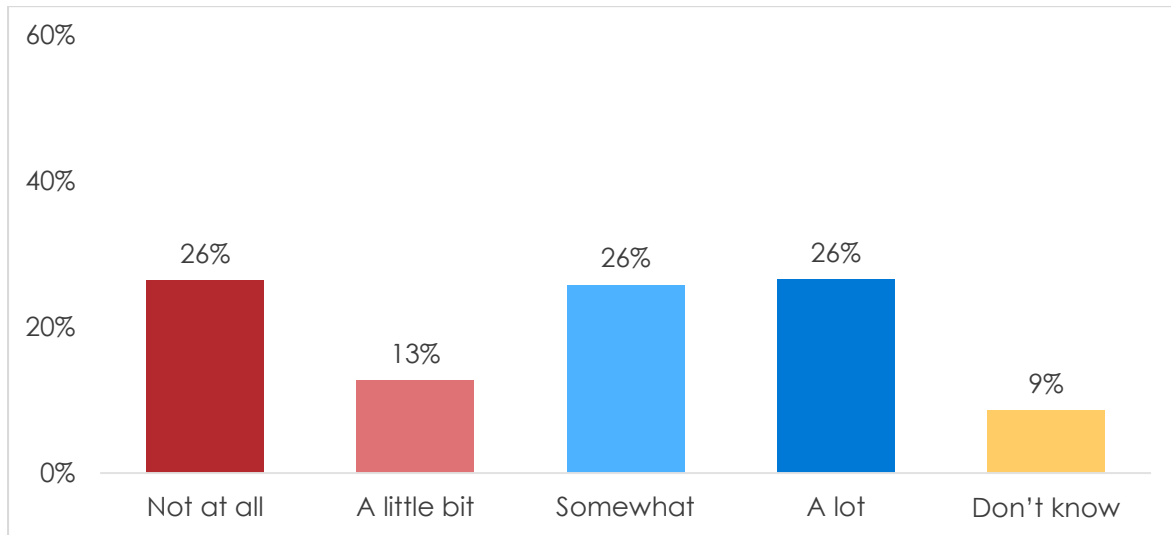
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Kenya, based at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, interviewed 2,400 adult Kenyans in November-December 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Kenya in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, and 2019.

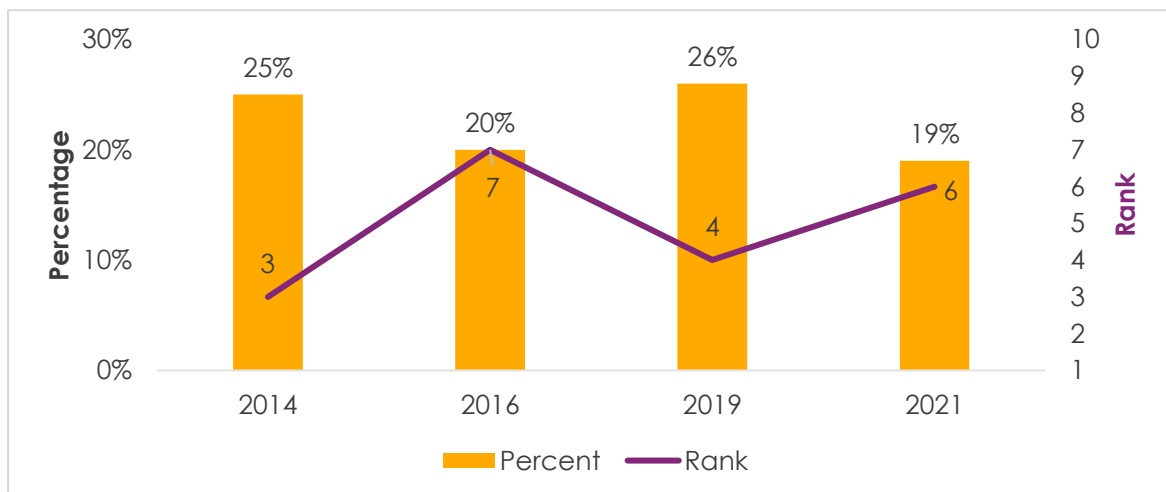
Charts

Figure 1: Potential for CBC to improve education | Kenya | 2021



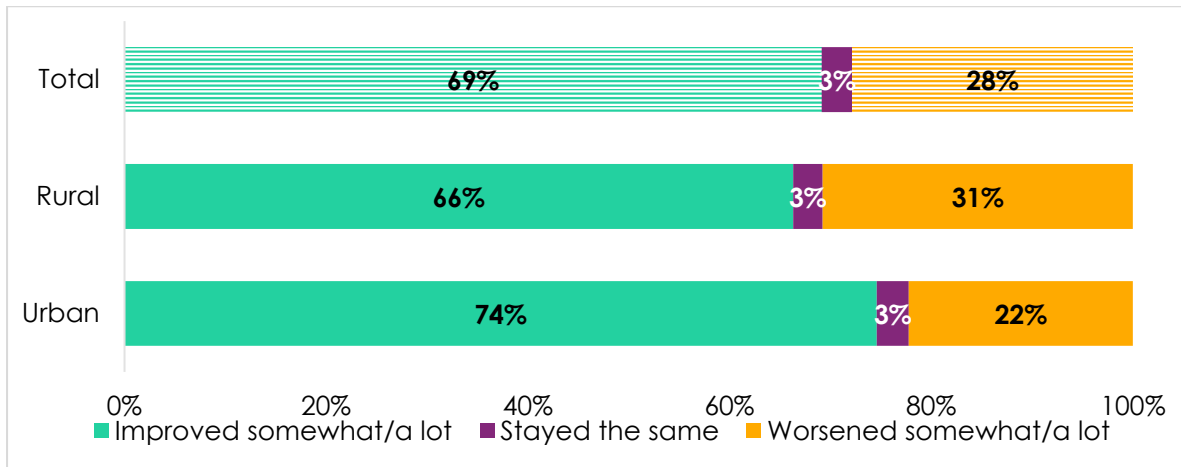
Respondents were asked: Recently Kenya changed its education curriculum to a new competency-based curriculum or CBC system, where learners spend two years of preprimary education followed by six years of primary, six years of secondary, and at least three years of tertiary education. To what extent do you think the new system will improve the country's education?

Figure 2: Education as a key problem facing the country | Kenya | 2014-2021



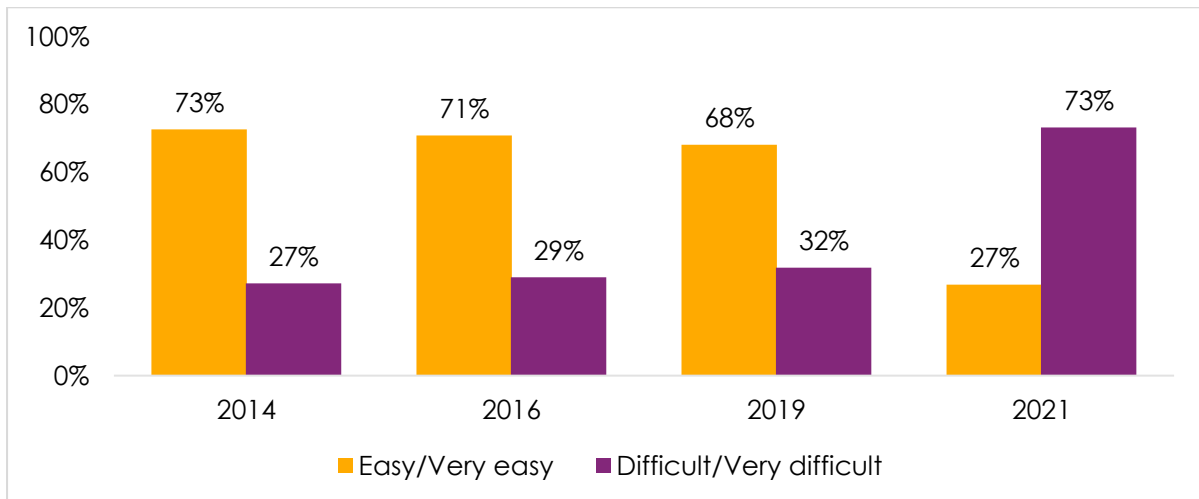
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Respondents could give up to three responses. Chart shows % of respondents who identified education as one of their three priorities.)

Figure 3: Assessing education services over the past five years | Kenya | 2021



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, have education services improved or worsened in the last five years?*

Figure 4: Ease of obtaining services from schools | Kenya | 2014-2021



Respondents who said they had contact with a public school during the previous year were asked: *How easy or difficult was it to obtain the services you needed from teachers or school officials?*

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