

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
17 May 2024

## News release

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### **Ethiopians say corruption is on the rise, see religious and traditional leaders as least corrupt and most trustworthy, Afrobarometer survey shows**

Almost two-thirds of Ethiopians say corruption in the country increased during the past year, Afrobarometer survey findings reveal.

State institutions and elected officials are more widely seen as corrupt than religious and traditional leaders, and are less trusted.

Most citizens say people risk retaliation if they report incidents of corruption to the authorities.

#### **Key findings**

- Almost two-thirds (64%) of Ethiopians say that corruption in the country increased “somewhat” or “a lot” during the year preceding the survey (Figure 1).
- Almost four in 10 citizens (38%) say that “most” or “all” civil servants are involved in corruption. More than a third say the same with respect to business executives (36%), local councillors (35%), tax officials (34%), and judges and magistrates (34%) (Figure 2).
  - Fewer than one in 10 see widespread corruption among religious leaders (7%) and traditional leaders (8%).
- Public trust is highest in leaders who are seen as least corrupt: Overwhelming majorities say they trust religious leaders (90%) and traditional leaders (75%) “somewhat” or “a lot” (Figure 3).
  - Far fewer express trust in state institutions and elected officials such as the Prime Minister’s Office (49%) and Parliament (44%).
- Almost three-fourths (73%) of Ethiopians say people risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they report corruption to the authorities (Figure 4).

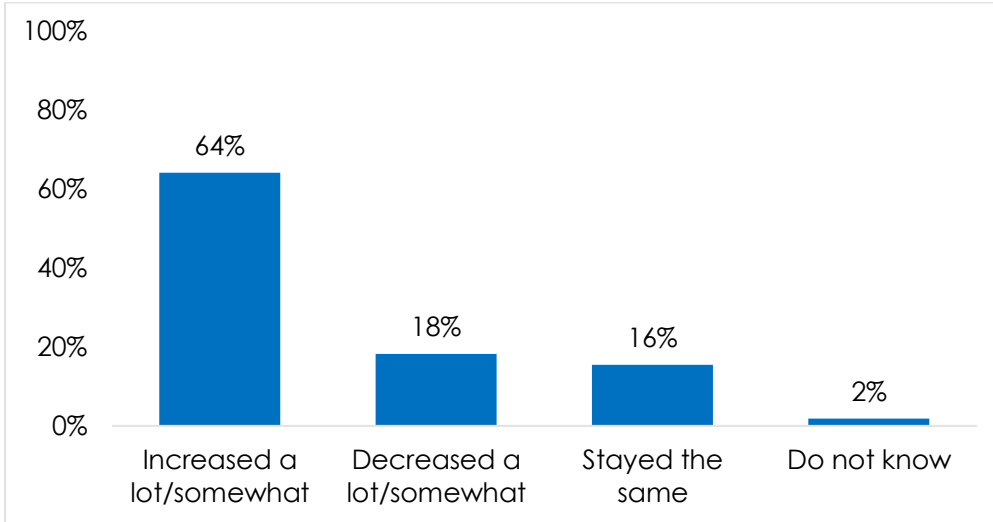
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

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. Nine rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 42 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice.

With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Afrobarometer team in Ethiopia, led by ABCON – Research & Consulting, interviewed 2,400 adult Ethiopians between 25 May and 22 June 2023. 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 Ethiopia in 2013 and 2020.

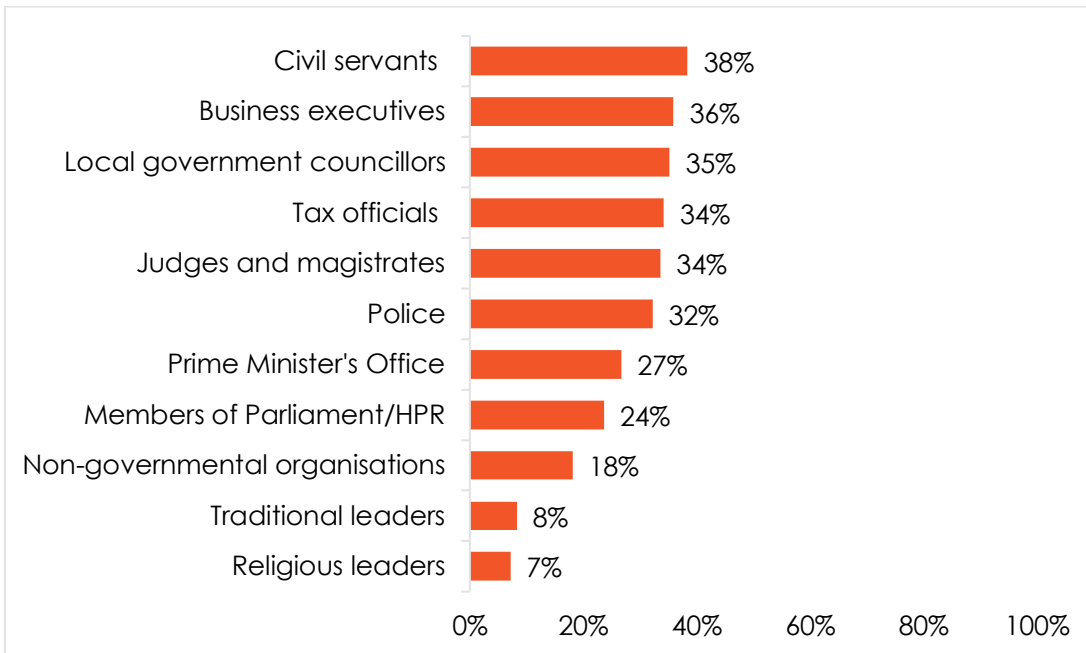
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Level of corruption** | Ethiopia | 2023



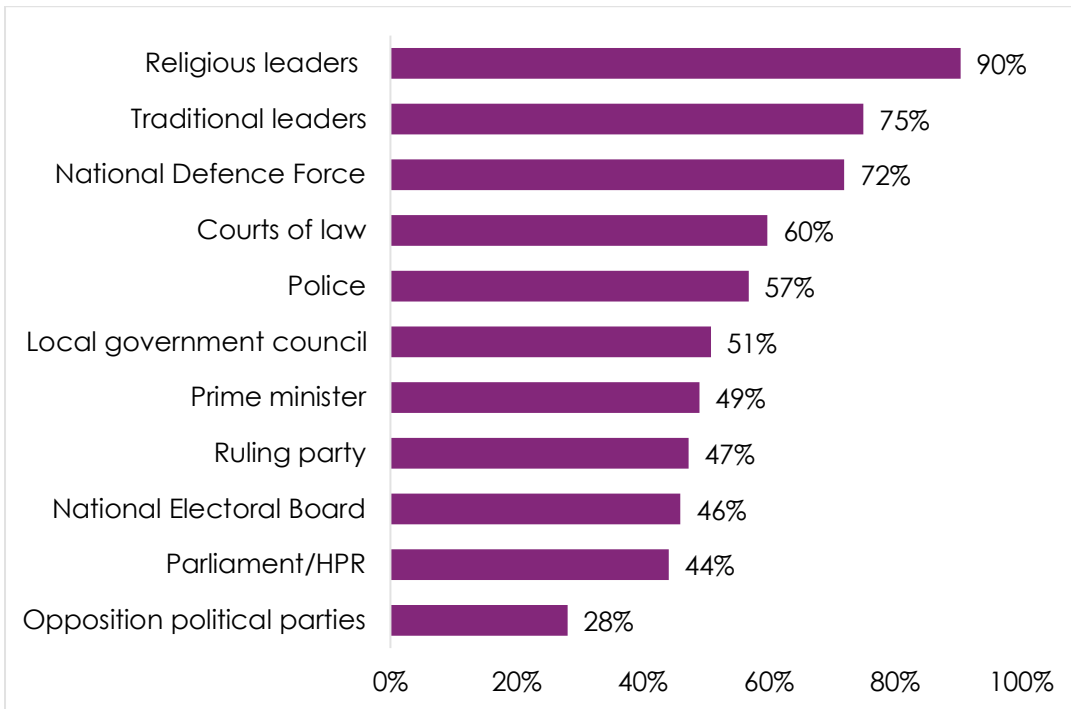
**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?*

**Figure 2: Perceived corruption among leaders** | Ethiopia | 2023



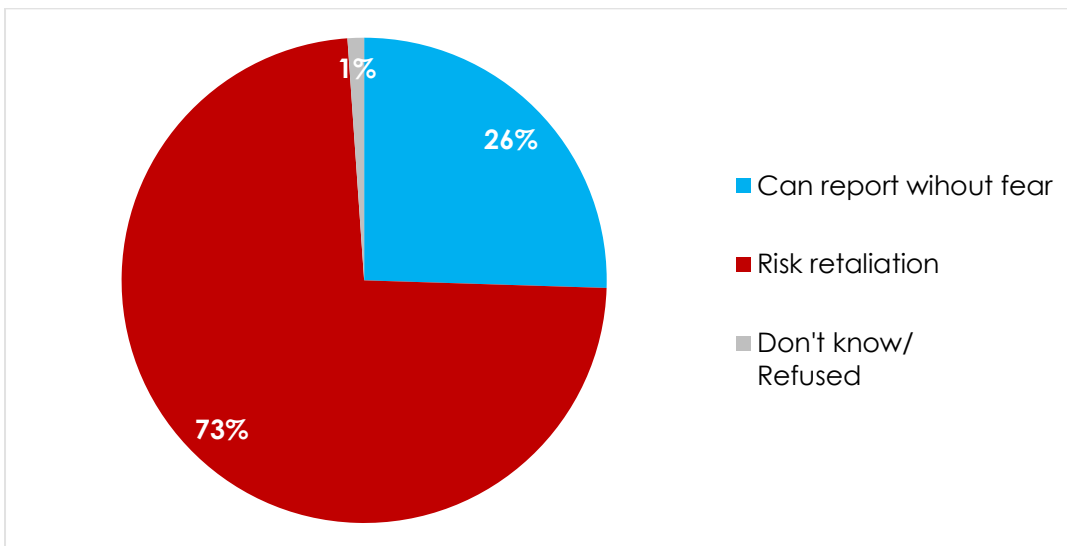
**Respondents were asked:** *How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "most" or "all")*

**Figure 3: Trust in institutions and leaders | Ethiopia | 2023**



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

**Figure 4: Risk of retaliation for reporting corruption | Ethiopia | 2023**



**Respondents were asked:** In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?

**For more information, please contact:**

Mulu Teka  
National Investigator  
ABCON – Research & Consulting  
Tel +251 973 077 414, +251 115 531 470, +251 115 521 696, +251 115 537 061  
[mulu.mtg@gmail.com](mailto:mulu.mtg@gmail.com) / [info@abconltd.et](mailto:info@abconltd.et)  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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