



Revisiting human security in Africa in the post COVID-19 era

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At the Afrobarometer/Japan International Cooperation Agency side event, TICAD 8

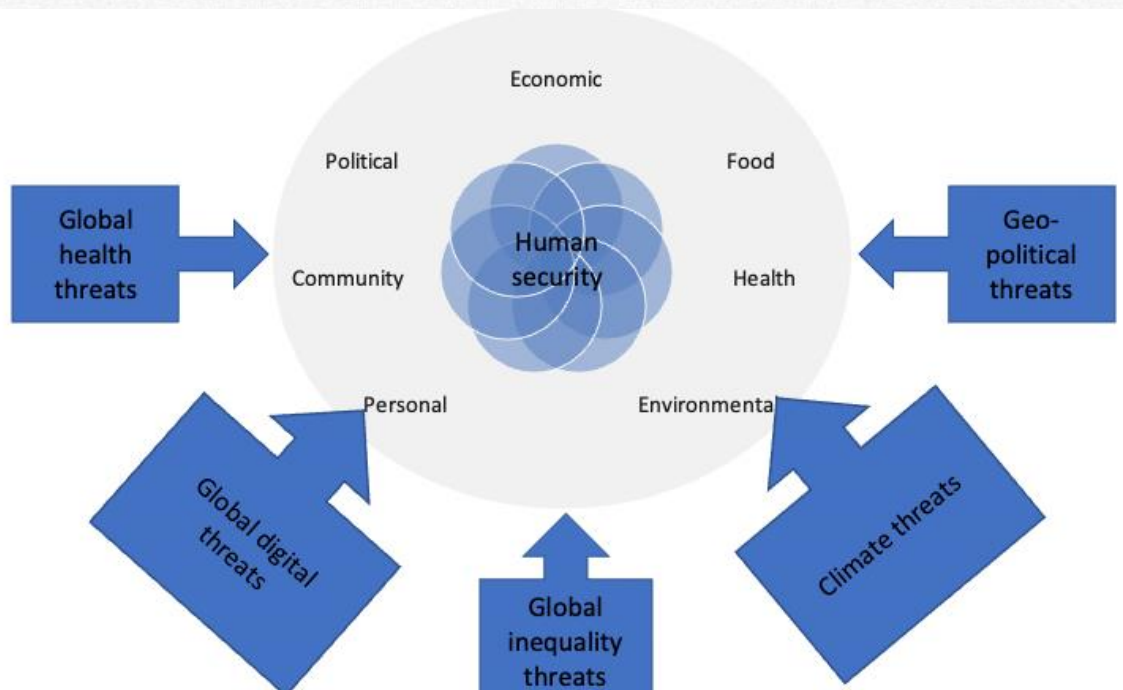
On 23 August 2022

Some of the key questions addressed in the policy brief



- What is the state of human security, and what are the key threats to it in six focal African countries (Angola, Gabon, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, and Tunisia)?
- How are people coping with threats to human security?
 - By which means are people ensuring their own security?
 - What protection mechanisms are available to them?
- How have COVID-19 and government responses to the pandemic impacted on the seven elements of human security?
- What measures are needed to further enhance human security in Africa when viewed from the perspective of ordinary people?

What do we mean by human security?



- People-centered approach to security
- Seven interconnected elements of human security
- Entails freedom from fear, want & indignity
- Importance of human agency
- Affected by external threats

Methodology

- **Nationally representative** sample of adult citizens
 - All respondents are **randomly** selected.
 - Every adult citizen has an **equal chance** of being selected.
- **Face-to-face interviews** in the **language of the respondent's choice**.
- **Sample sizes** of 1,200 to 2,400 adult citizens yield margins of sampling error of +/-2 to 3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.
- For the target countries, the sample sizes were 1200 in Namibia, Gabon, Tunisia and Angola, 1600 in Nigeria, and 2400 in Kenya.



Methodology Cont.

- Analysis of Afrobarometer Round 9 survey data (2021/22): Namibia, Kenya, Gabon, Tunisia, Angola & Nigeria.
- Supplemented with high-level indicator data and related technical publications .





Overall human security

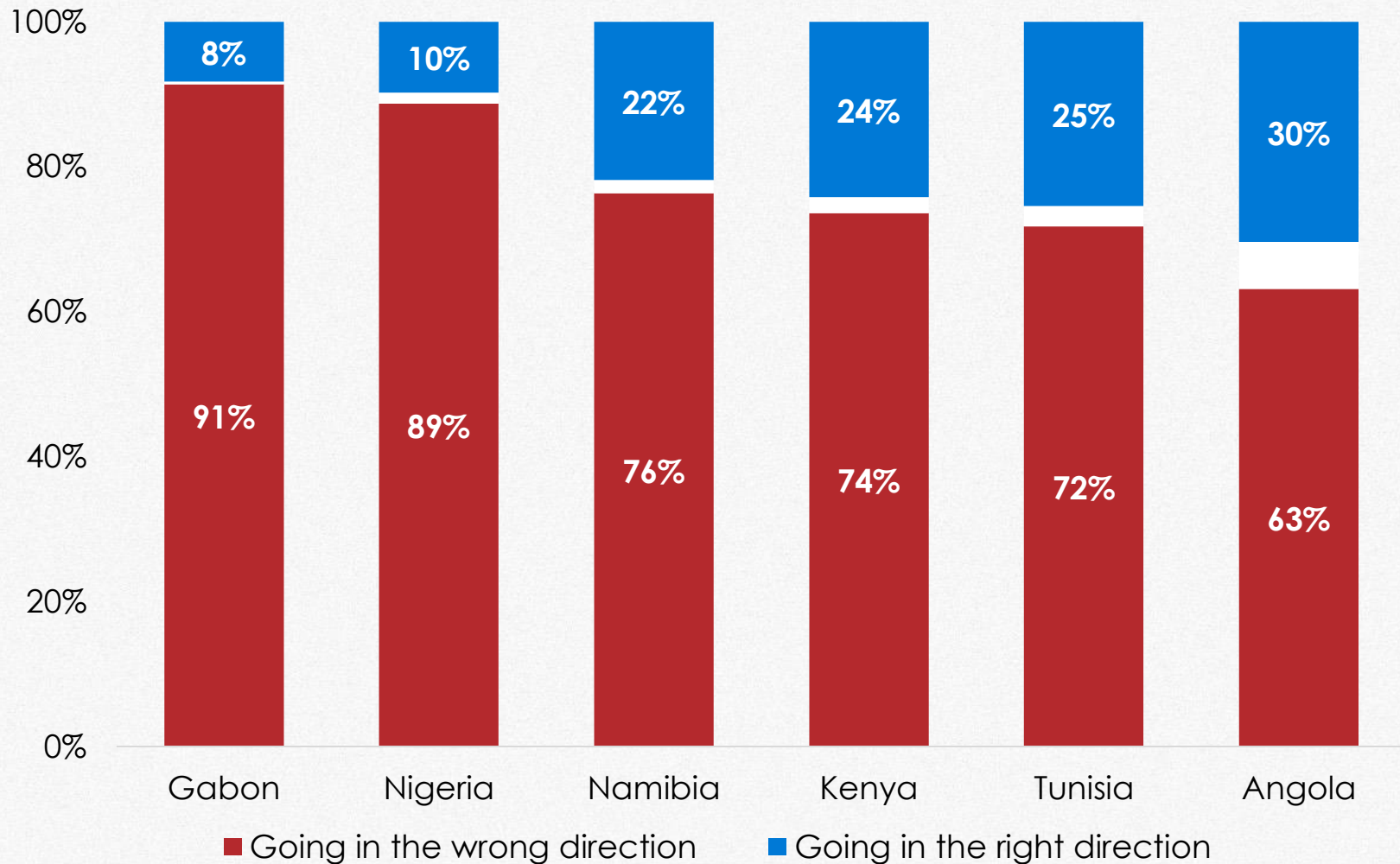
Key findings



- High human development should translate into human security gains
 - High human development: Tunisia and Gabon
 - Medium human development: Namibia, Kenya, and Angola
 - Low human development: Nigeria
- Large proportions of people in the six survey countries are feeling insecure.

Direction of country | 6 African countries

| 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: Would you say the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?



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Let the people have a say

Economic security

Key findings

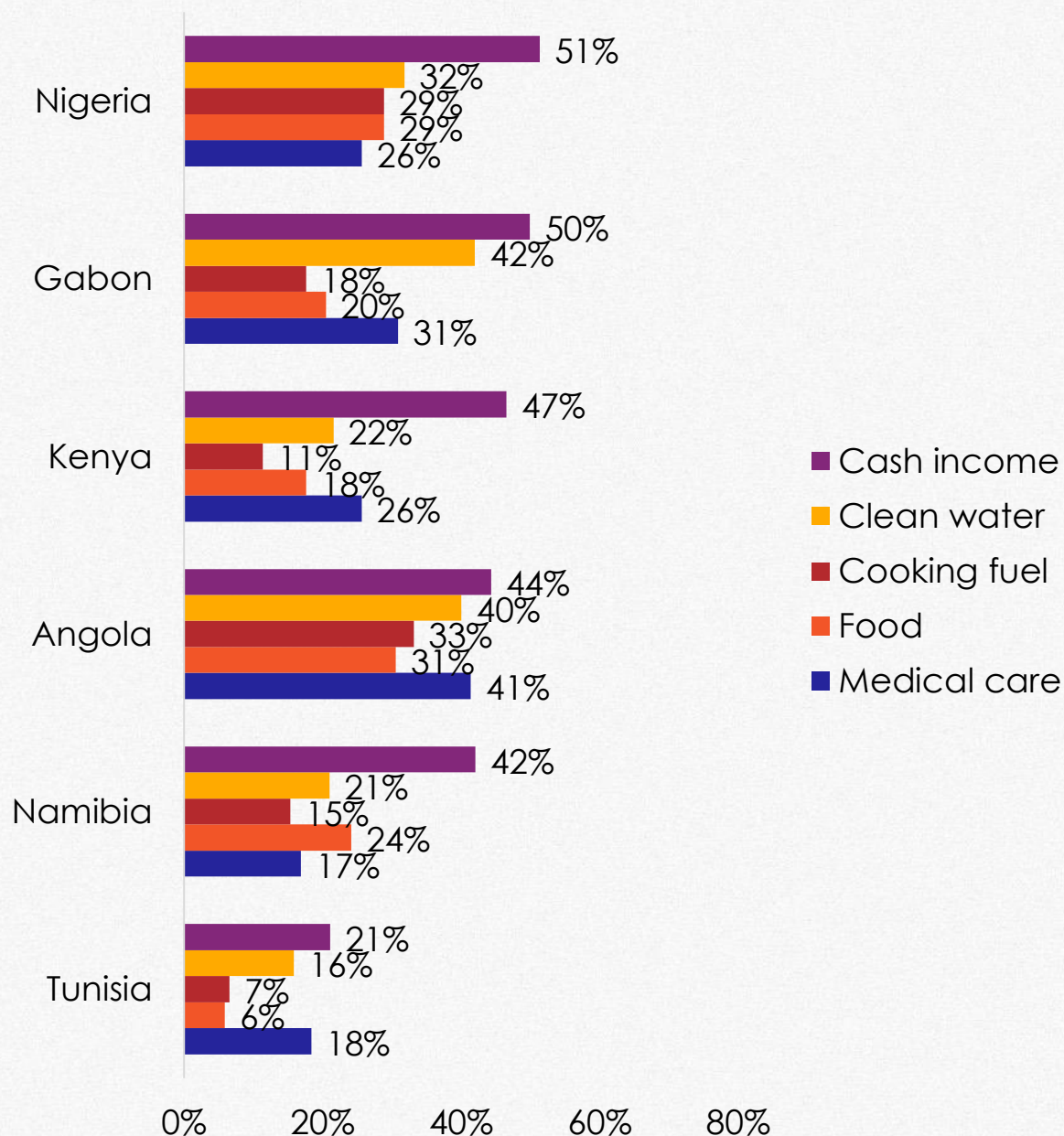


- High levels of poverty; low levels of social protection.
- Majority of populations view national economic situation in a negative light (and worse in the survey year compared to the previous year).
- Significant numbers gone without cash, food, and medical care in past year.
- Most affected:
 - those with low levels of education (58% average)
 - women (36%, 29%) vs men (31%, 28%)
 - in Angola & Nigeria
- Significant negative impact of COVID-19

Gone without basic necessities | 6 African countries | 2021/2022

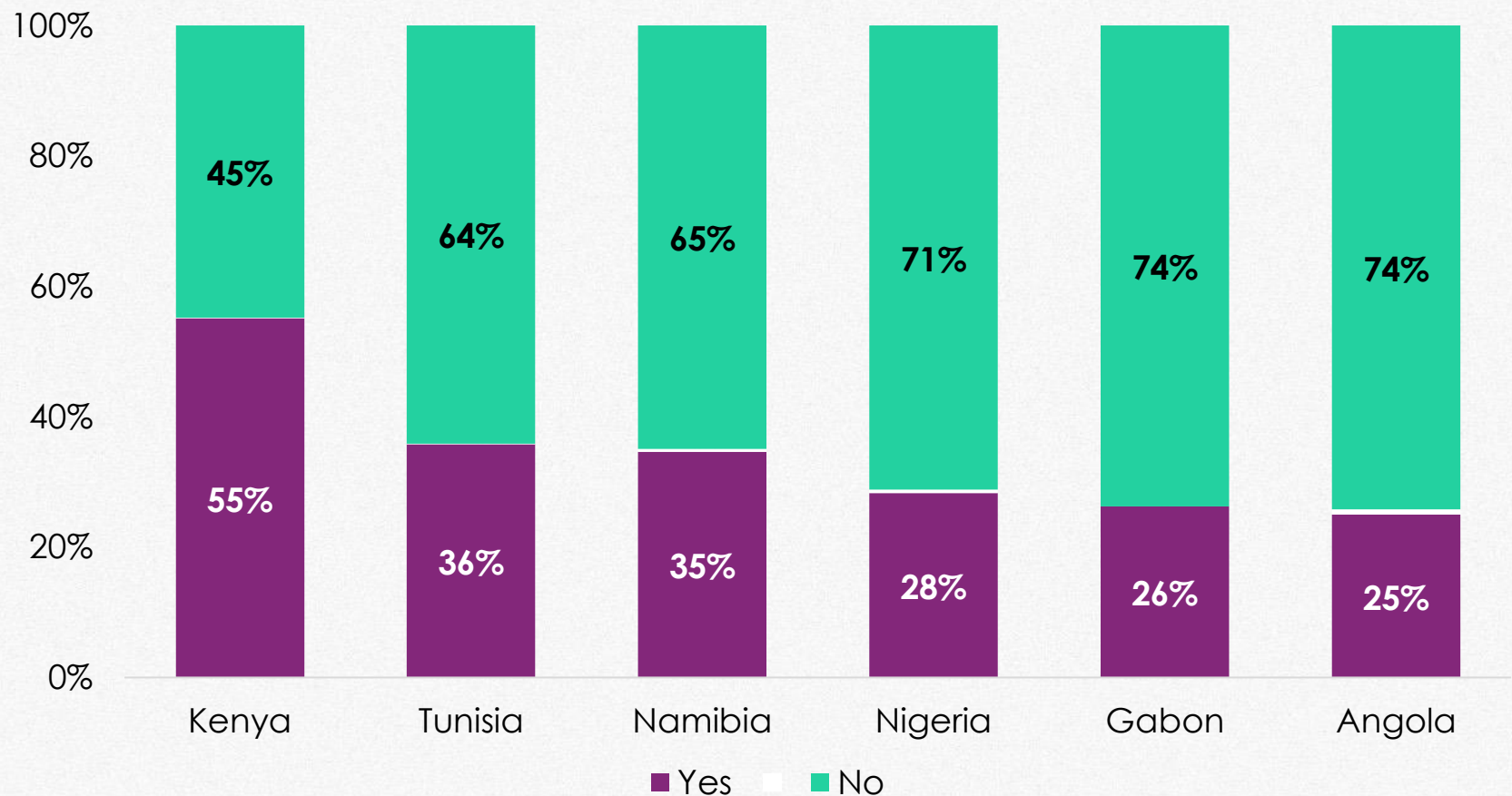
Respondents were asked:

Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat, enough clean water for home use, medicines or medical treatment, enough fuel to cook your food, a cash income? (% who say "many times" or "always")



Lost source of income due to COVID-19

| 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you personally or any other member of your household have been affected in any of the following ways by the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily or permanently lost a job, business or primary source of income?

Food security

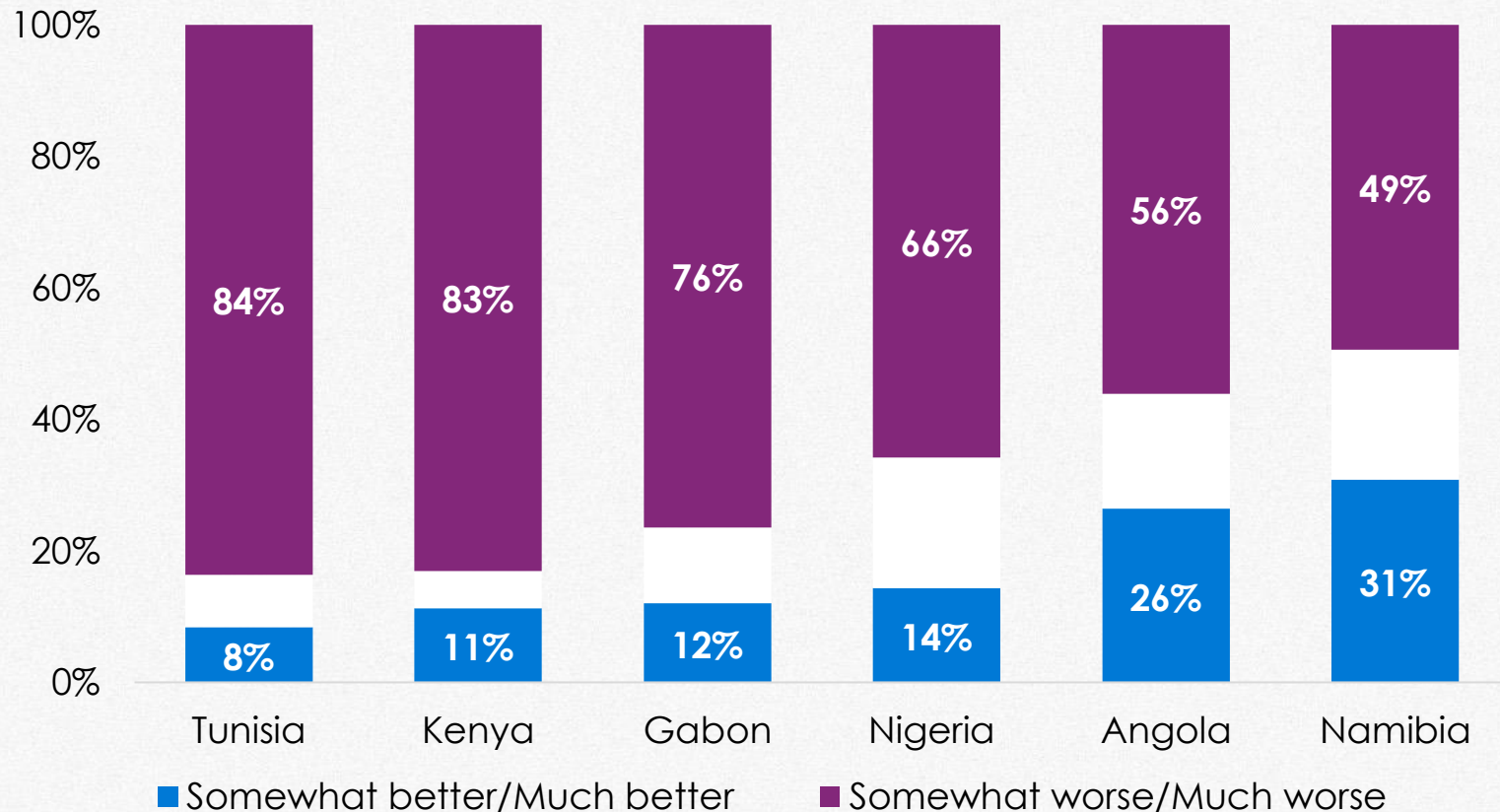
Key findings



- 29% of Nigerians, 24% of Namibians, 31% of Angolans, and 18% of Kenyans had gone without enough food to eat “many times” or “always.”
- Most affected: poorest (47%); least educated 31%; rural populations (22% vs 17% urban) .
- Generally low levels of COVID-19 relief provided by governments.
- Climate change has increased food insecurity.

Effects of climate change

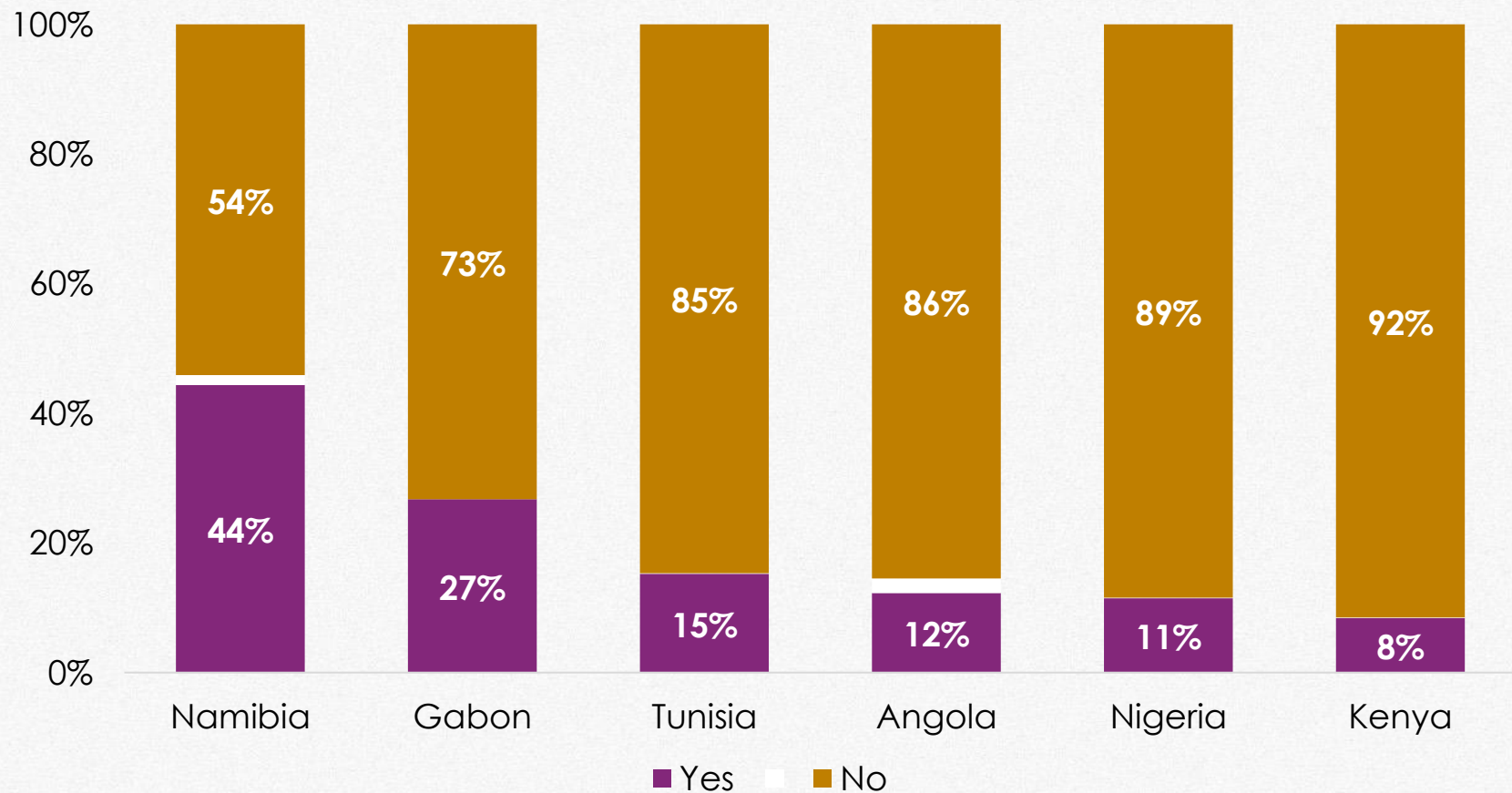
| 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: Do you think climate change is making life in [country] better or worse, or haven't you heard enough to say?

COVID-19 relief assistance received

| 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, have you or your household received any assistance from government, like food, cash payments, relief from bill payments, or other assistance that you were not normally receiving before the pandemic?

Health security

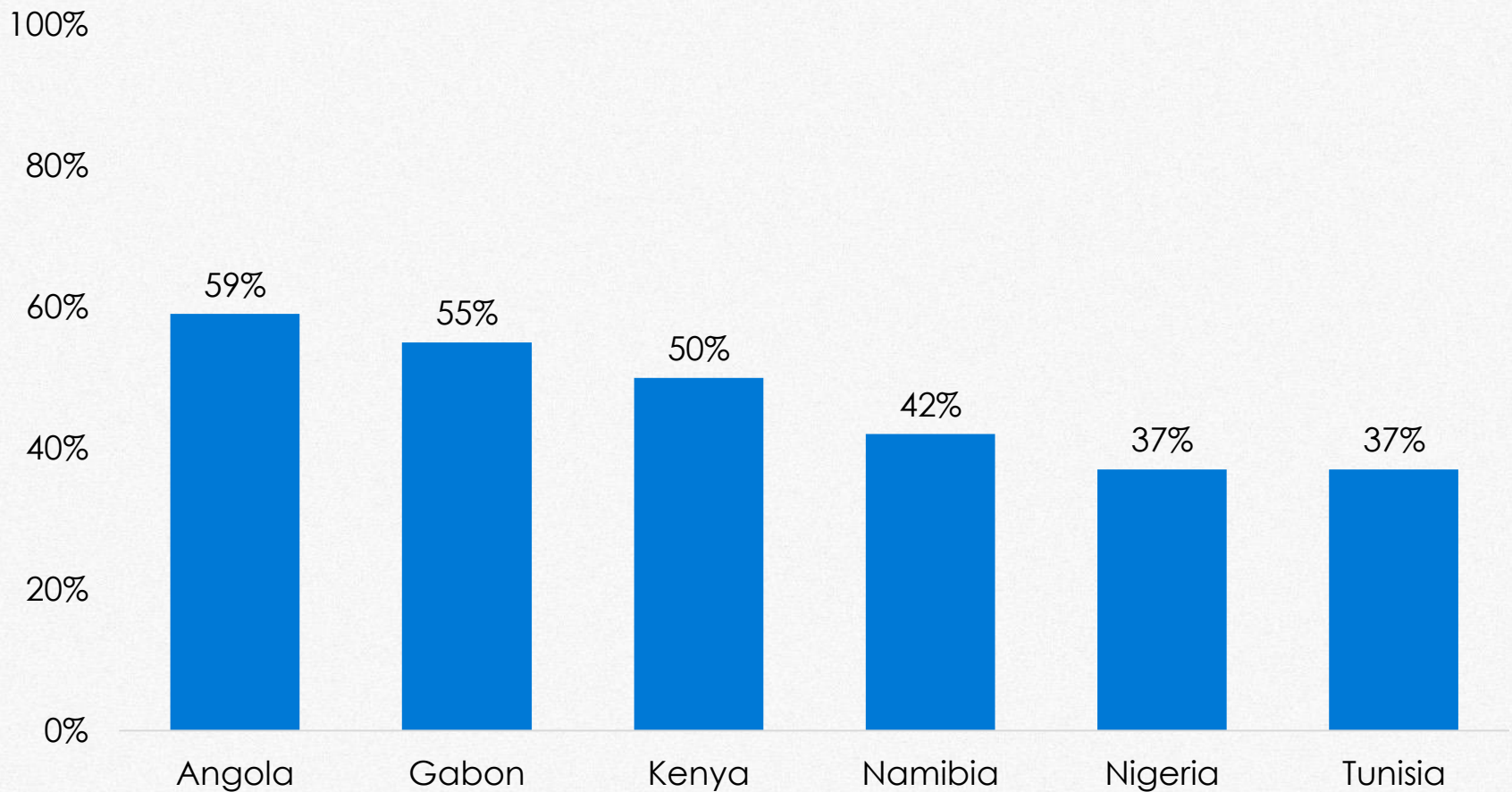
Key findings



- Access to healthcare in all six countries is difficult.
- Inadequate access more pronounced for rural populations (40% vs. 21% in urban areas); those living in poverty (43%); and those with no formal schooling (68%).
- Vaccination levels were lower: rural areas (33% vs. 43% in urban areas), the poor (31%); no formal education (30%), and women (36% vs. 41% of men).
- Significant perception that countries are under-prepared for future health emergencies.

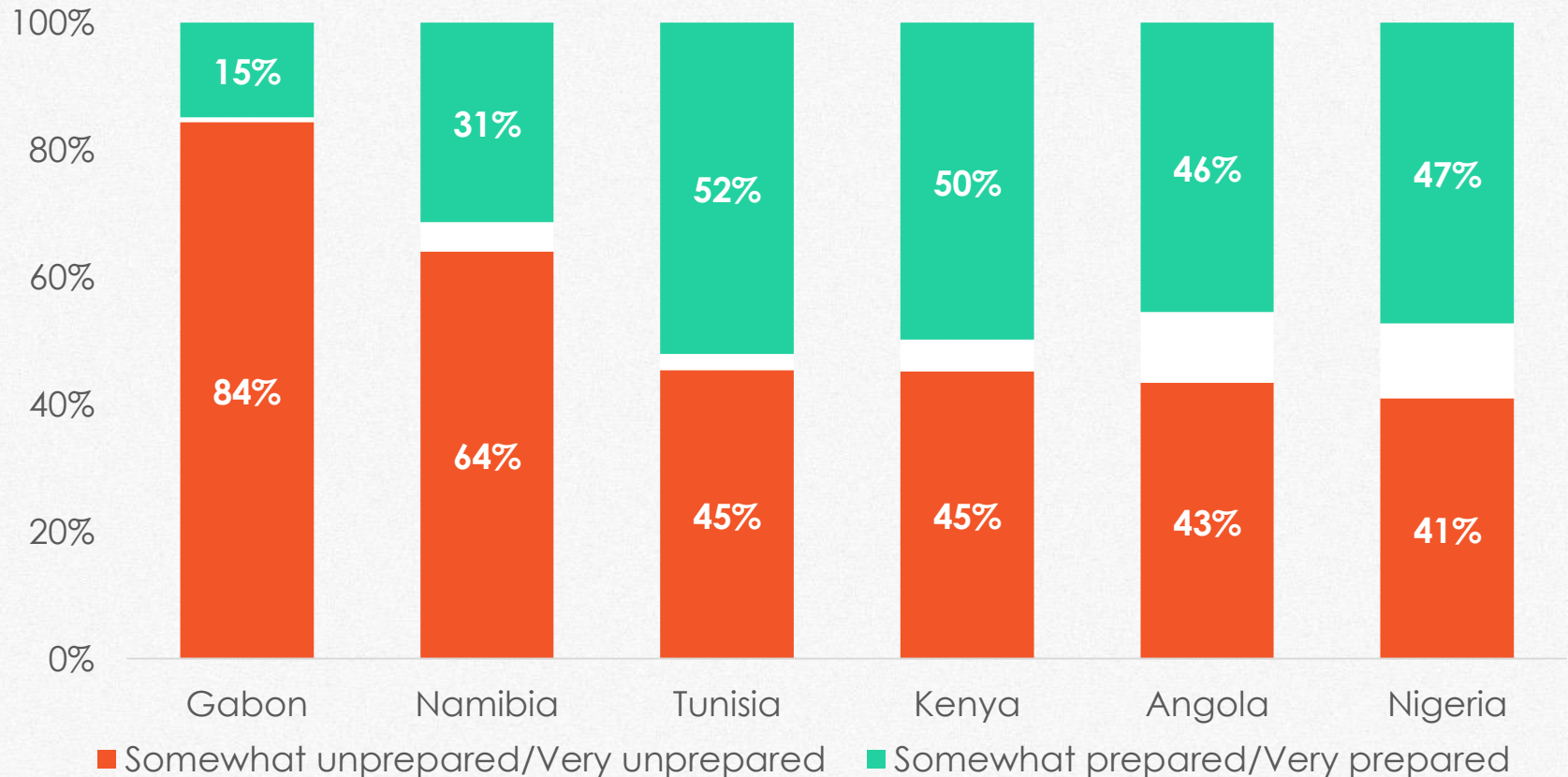
Difficulty in accessing medical care

| 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents who had had contact with a public clinic or hospital in the past 12 months were asked: How easy or difficult was it to obtain the medical care you needed? (% who say "difficult" or "very difficult")

Country preparedness for future health emergencies | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: After experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic in [country], how prepared or unprepared do you think the government will be to deal with future public health emergencies?

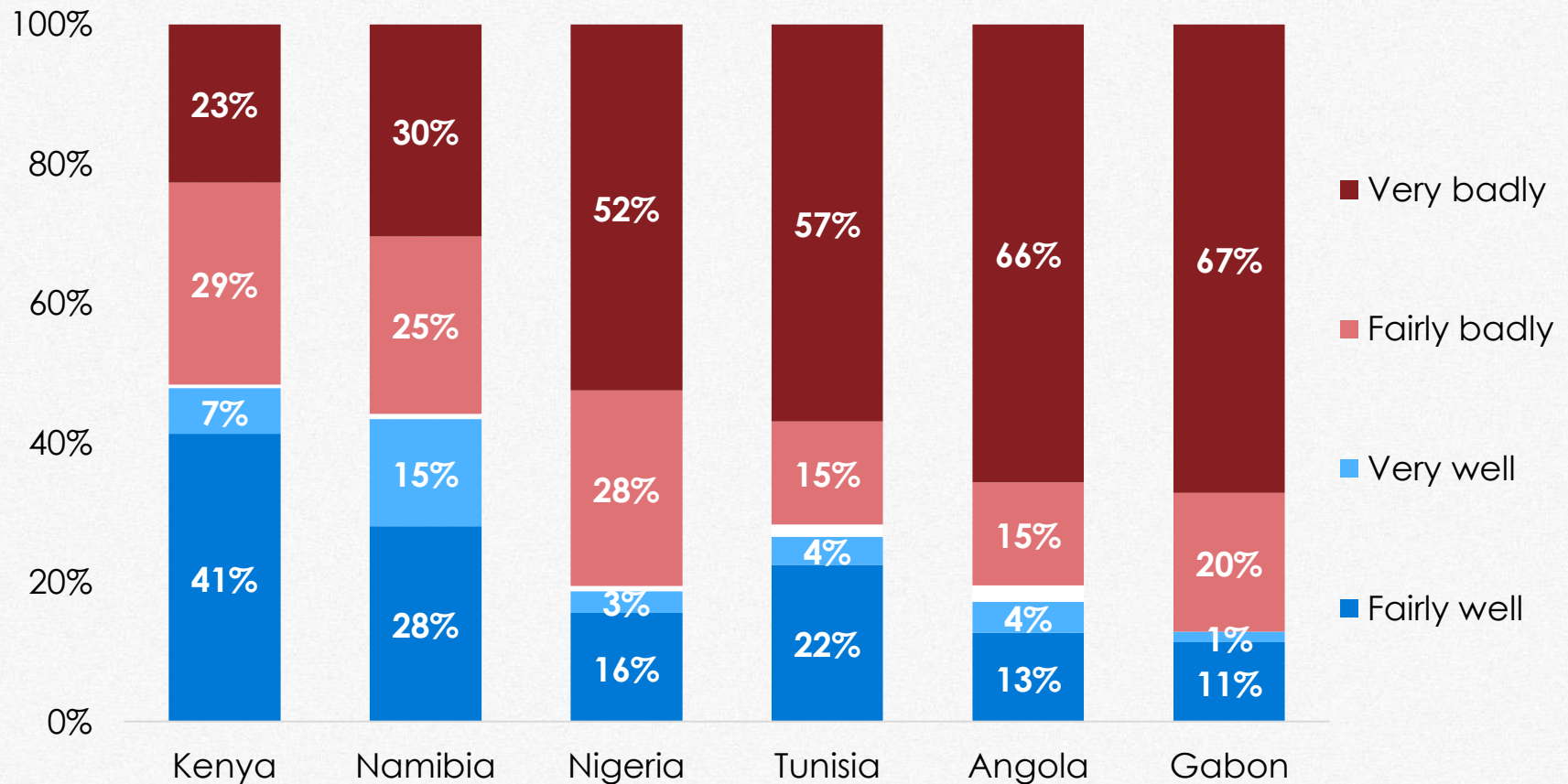
Environmental security

Key findings



- Access to safe, reliable, and affordable water is limited.
- Gone without clean water in the past year (“always”, or “many times”): Gabon (42%), Angola (40%), Nigeria (32%), and Namibia (31%).
- Dissatisfaction with government provision of water/sanitation consistent across age, gender, and education level, but was more observable in rural populations (22%) compared to urban populations (34%).
- Climate change is making people feel more insecure.

Government performance in providing water and sanitation services | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Providing water and sanitation services?

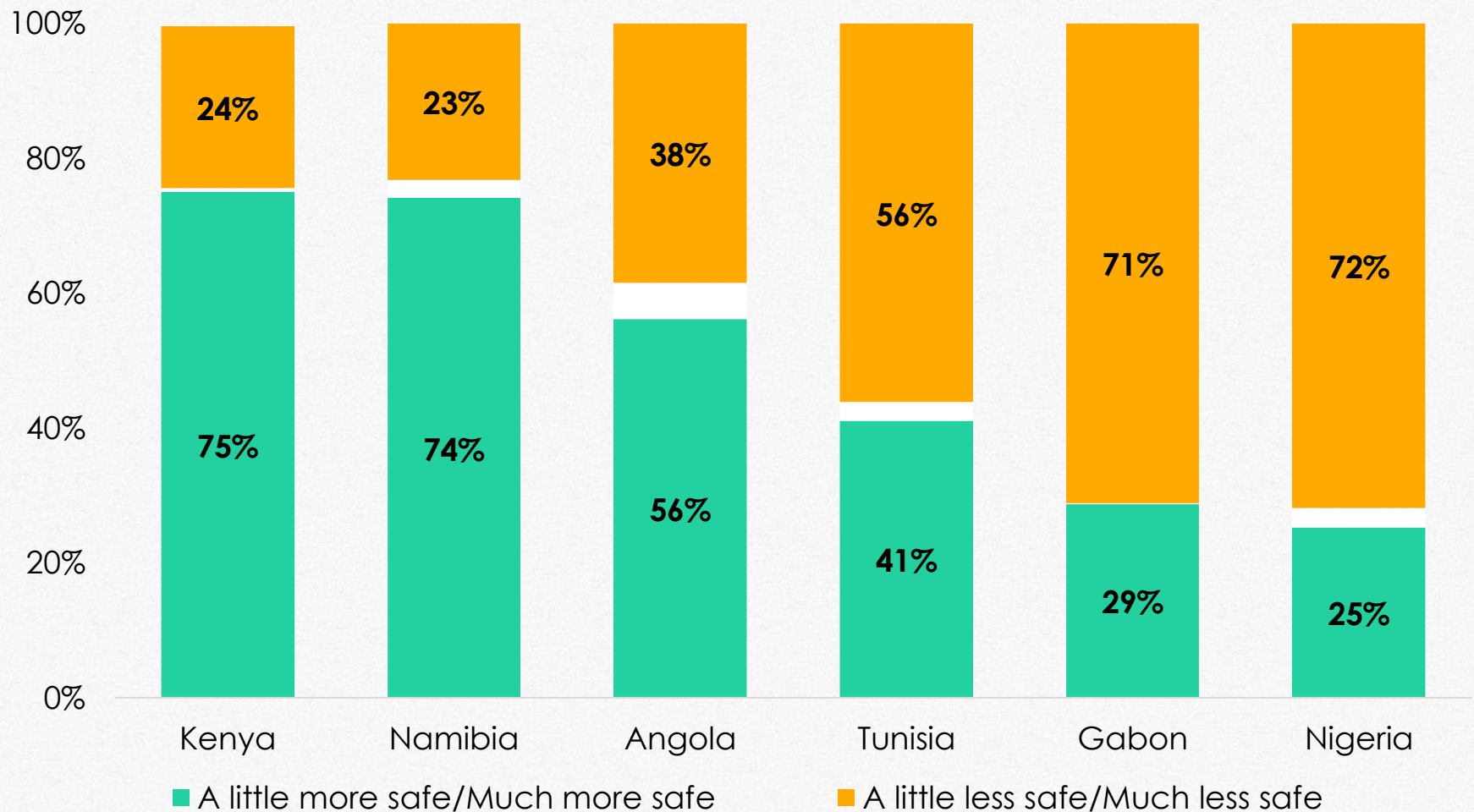
Personal security

Key findings



- Just over three quarters (77%) of Nigerians indicated that their country is “very unsafe” or “somewhat unsafe.”
- Close to 40% of populations from Angola, Gabon, and Tunisia felt that their country was “very unsafe” or “somewhat unsafe.”
- More than 50% of populations in four countries feel their countries have become less safe (over the past 5 years).
- No significant differences by gender, age, education, and poverty.

Safe or not safe? | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: Looking back over the last five years, do you feel that the country has become safe or less safe?

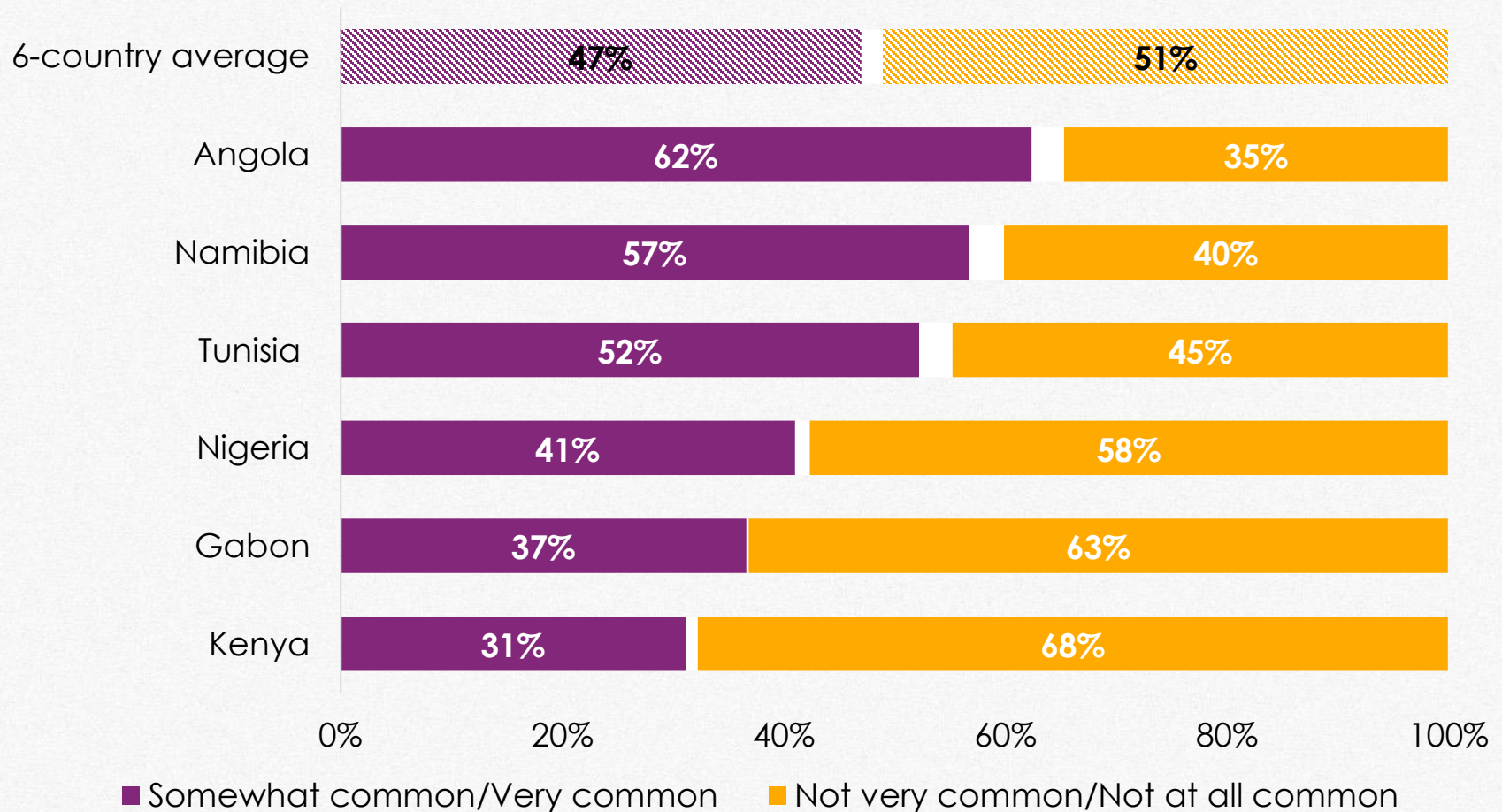
Personal security: Violence against women and children

Key findings



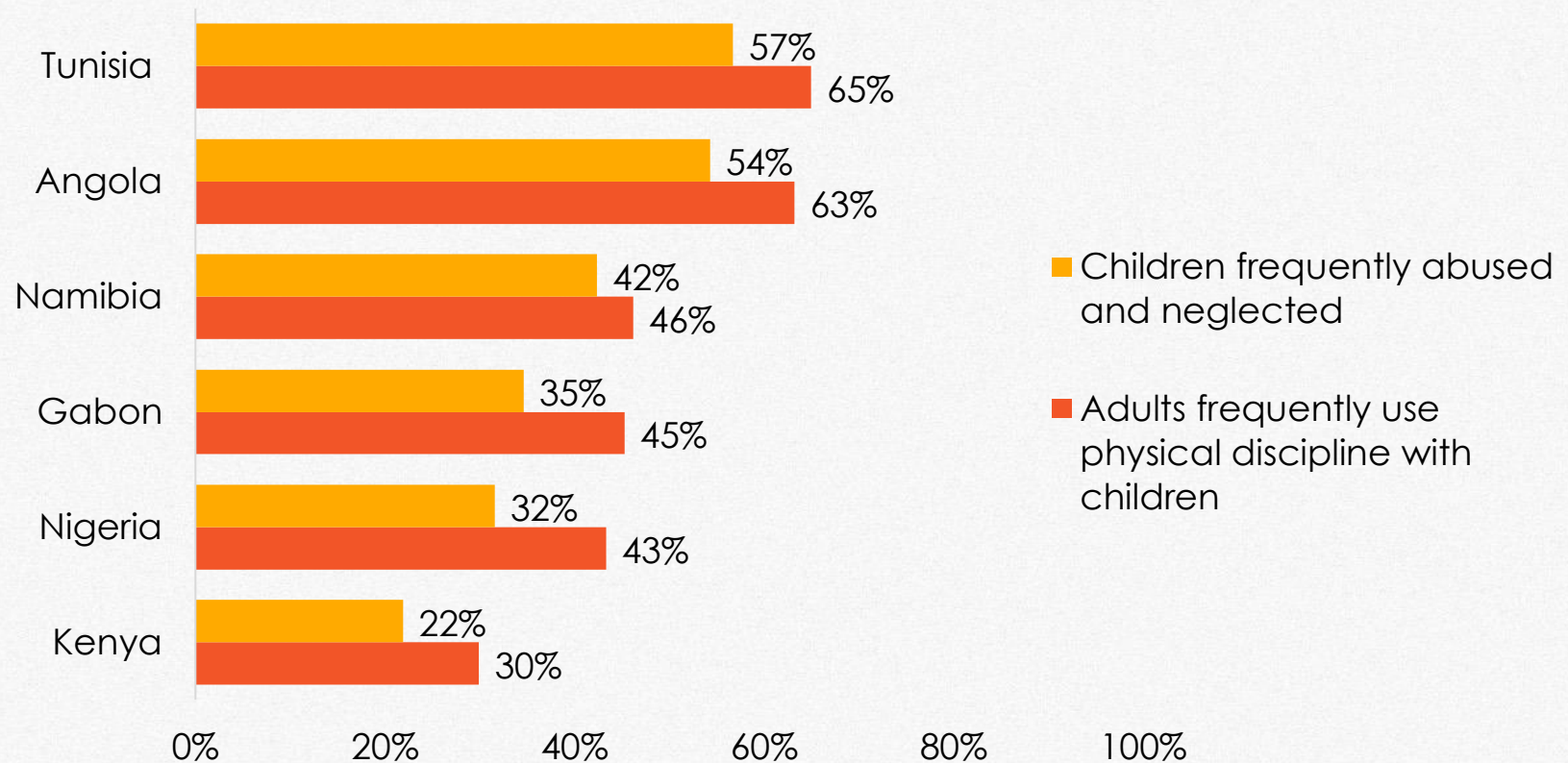
- Violence against women (VAW) is regarded as key problem in all countries (+/-50% see VAW as common).
- More women (48%) vs men (43%) reported VAW as “very” or “somewhat” common.
- One-third of populations say it can “sometimes” or “always” be justified for men to use physical punishment on their wives.
 - This view is more common among those with no formal education (41%), and poor citizens.
- An average of 56% of populations reported that it was “always” or “sometimes” justified to use physical force to discipline their children.
 - Rural (36%) vs urban (28%).

It is common for men to use violence against women or girls | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: In this area, how common do you think it is for men to use violence against women and girls in the home or in the community?

Frequency of child abuse and neglect | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: How frequently do you think the following things occur in your community or neighbourhood:

Children are abused, mistreated, or neglected?

Adults use physical force to discipline children?

(% who say "somewhat frequently" or "very frequently")

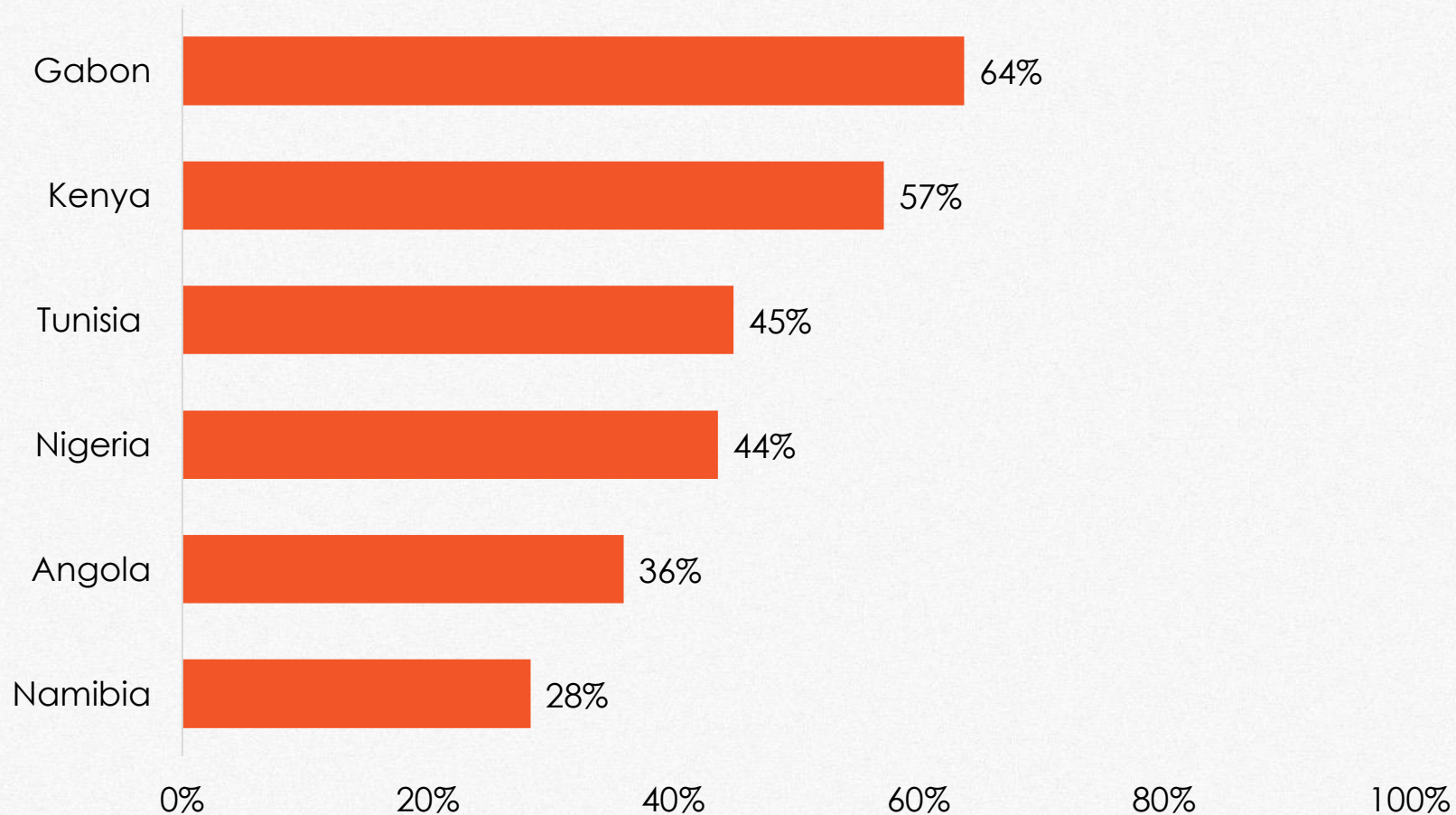
Political security

Key findings



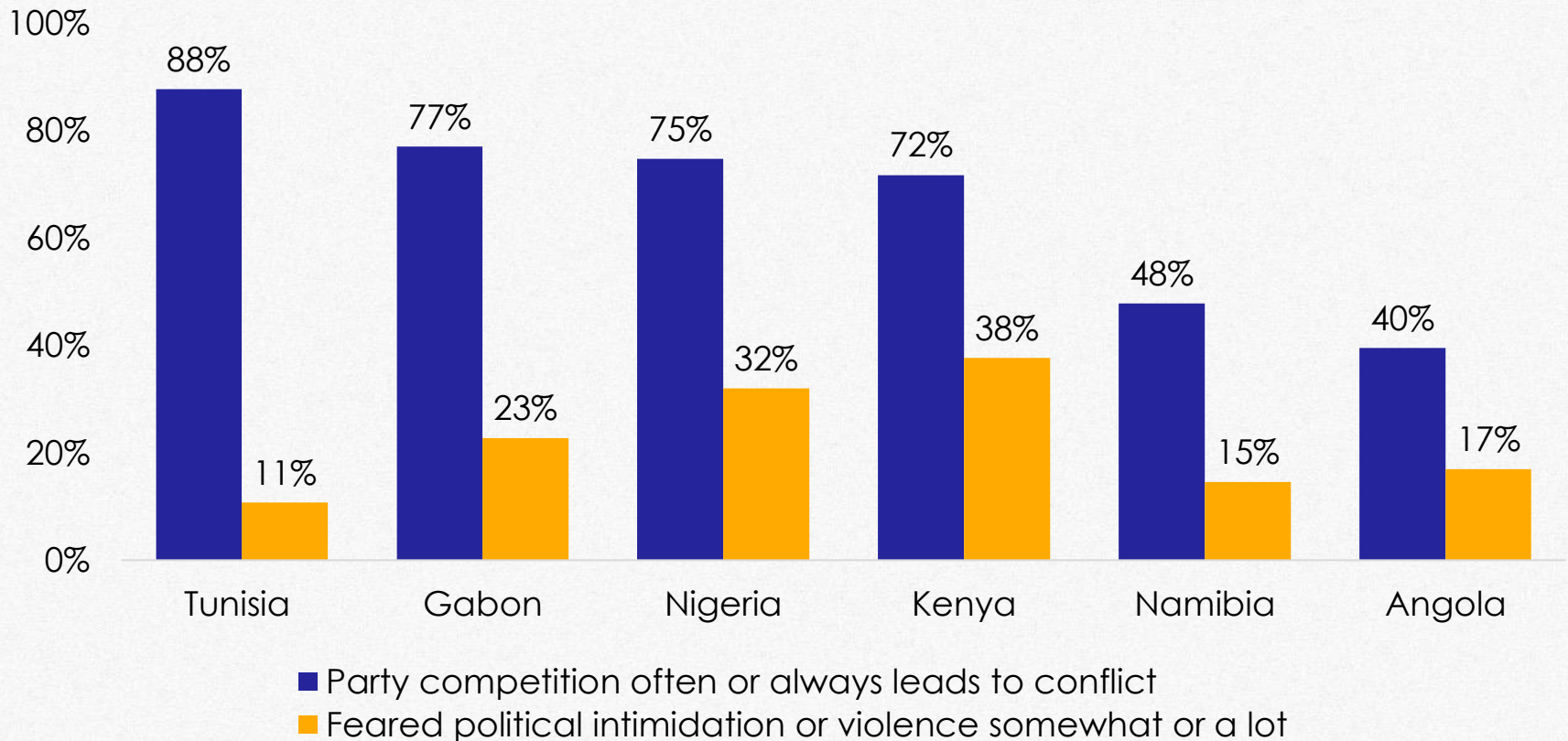
- Citizens are at risk of repression from the state security forces.
- Low levels of trust in the police & negative views of the police (low levels of police professionalism): lower in urban areas (67%) vs 54% (rural areas).
- Widespread perception that inter-party rivalries lead to conflict/violence.
- In most countries people have to be careful to say what they think.

Excessive use of force by police | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: how often do the police in [country]: Use excessive force in managing protests or demonstrations?

Political violence | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked:

During the last national election campaign in [20XX], how much did you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

In your opinion, how often, in this country, does competition between political parties lead to violent conflict? (% who say "often" or "always")

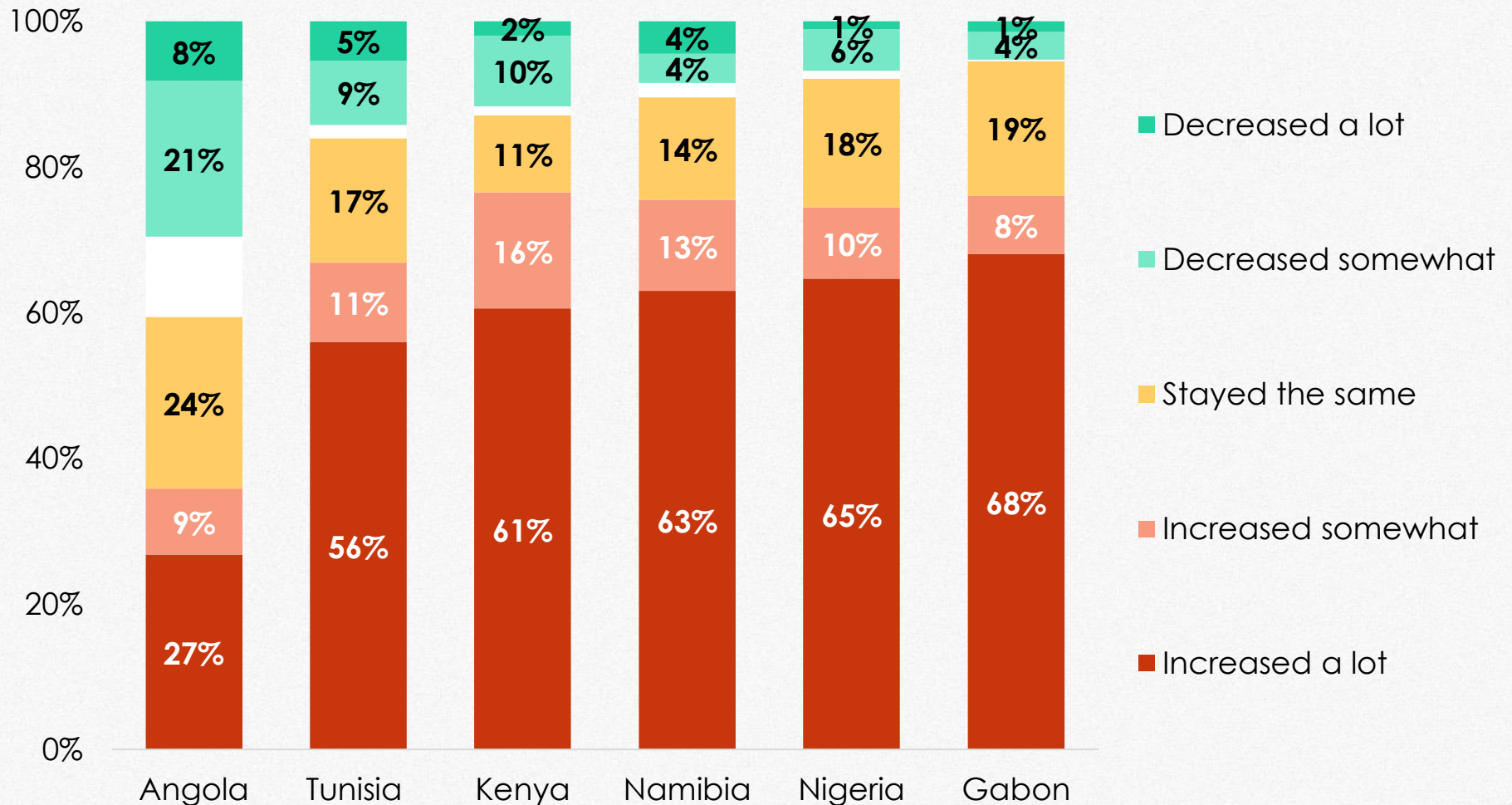
Political security: Corruption

Key findings



- TI: public perception that corruption is pervasive in Nigeria, Angola, Kenya, and Gabon.
- General perception that there was widespread corruption: COVID-19 relief.
- Most people feel that corruption has increased in the past year (except Angola).

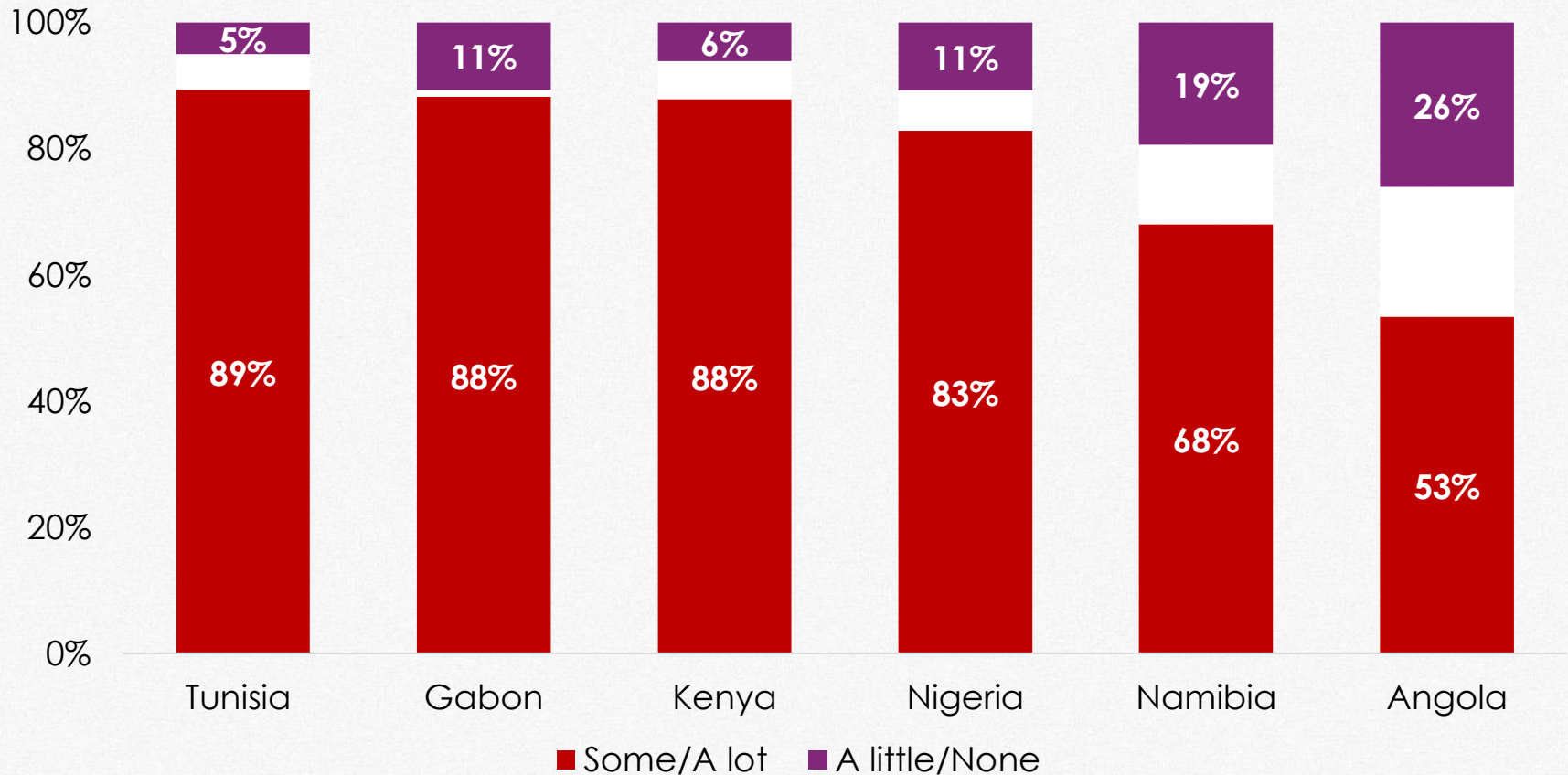
Level of corruption | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



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

COVID-19 relate corruption | 6 African countries

| 2021/2022



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?

COVID-19 and human security: Key points

Key points



- Human security has been significantly undermined by COVID-19 (especially loss of jobs & income generating activities).
- Governments failed to offer adequate relief to citizens to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
- Low levels of optimism about government ability to adequately respond to future health emergencies (correlation with low vaccination COVID-19 levels).
- A global health threat (e.g., COVID-19 has significant implications for other elements of human security).
- The most insecure populations:
 - Those living in urban areas
 - Those with lower levels of formal education
 - The poorest of the poor
- Human insecurity was consistently acute in countries with lower levels of human development e.g., Nigeria, Angola, and Kenya.
- Women are at risk of intimate partner violence.
- Children are susceptible to violence in the home.
- A human security focus provides for a more nuanced understanding of human development

Recommendations



- A 'human security' lens provides for nuanced insights into human development (especially in Africa), and hence the human security framework should be more significantly incorporated into human development analyses and calculations.
- It is important for governments and intergovernmental organisations to actively address external threats (such as pandemics and climate change) given the extent to which such threats undermine human security.
- This study has identified that governments are under-prepared to respond to future emergencies, and hence planning and resourcing in this regard should be prioritized.
- Economic & environmental security are particularly pivotal (and has significant implications for the other elements of human security) and hence should be prioritized.
- The prevention of violence against women and children is an important issue to address.



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