

Angola-Gabon Paradox?

Comments on

Revisiting Human Security in Africa in the Post-COVID-19 Era

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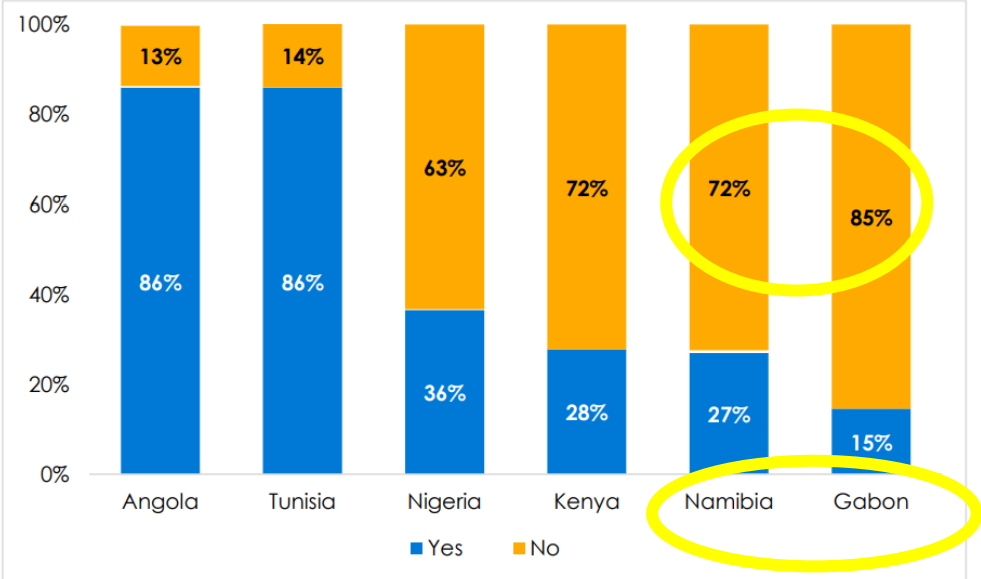
Let me supplement/reinforce the findings of the report, while asking several questions

- Mainstreaming (seven elements of) human security
- Necessity of making them integrated: One threat such as COVID-19 (health) / Ukrainian War (political) having multiple ripple effects on other security areas (economic, food, environment, cultural.....)
- Human security lens brings deeper understanding of human development: An insightful observation!
- How can we make human development translate into human security? Concerns about the future

Subjectivity/objectivity nexus

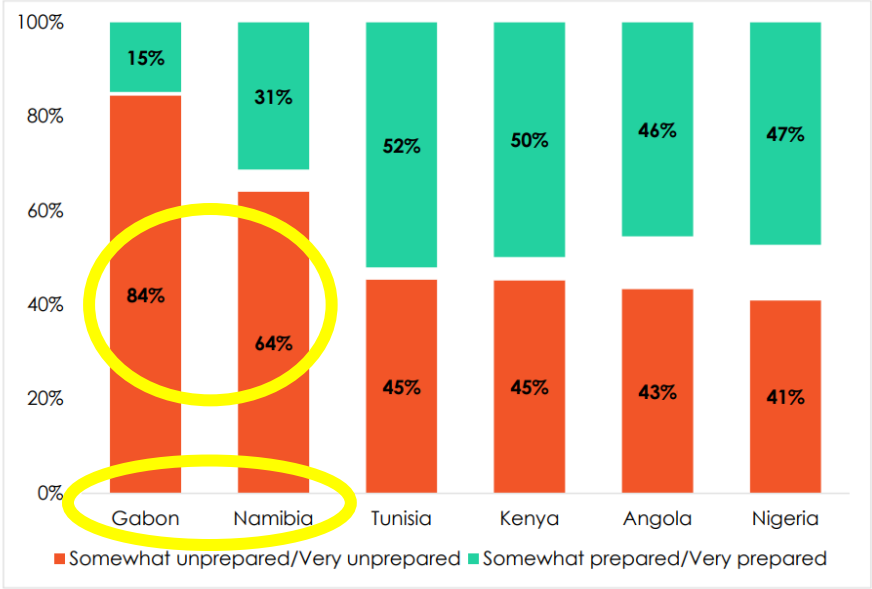
Objective problems giving rise to subjective apprehension (e.g., Figure 8 and Figure 9): Intuitively obvious

Figure 8: Received at least one COVID-19 vaccination | 6 African countries
| 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: Have you received a vaccination against COVID-19, either one or two do

Figure 9: Country preparedness for future health emergencies | 6 African countries
| 2021/2022



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

Subjectivity/objectivity nexus

- But, people with lower (higher) levels of human development can be optimistic (pessimistic) about the future (see human development ranking and Figure 2)
- This is counter-intuitive (Angola/Gabon Paradox)

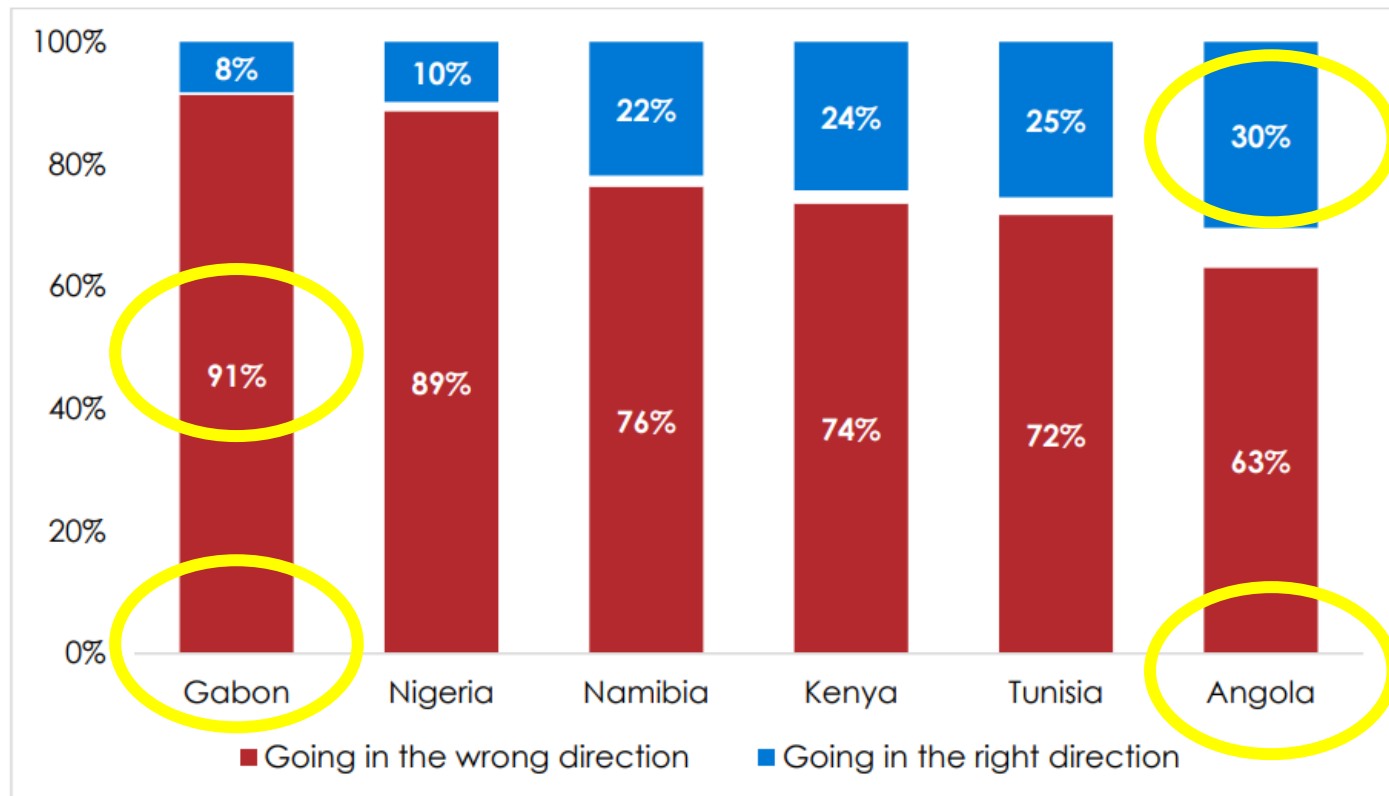
Gabonese are better-off and Angolans are worse-off, but...

	Human Development Index (2020): Ranking	Optimism about the Future: Ranking
Tunisia	1	2
Gabon	2	6
Namibia	3	4
Kenya	4	3
Angola	5	1
Nigeria	6	5

Table 3 (p. 7) and Figure 2

Gloomy Gabonese and upbeat Angolans

Figure 2: Country going in the right or wrong direction? | 6 African countries
| 2021/2022

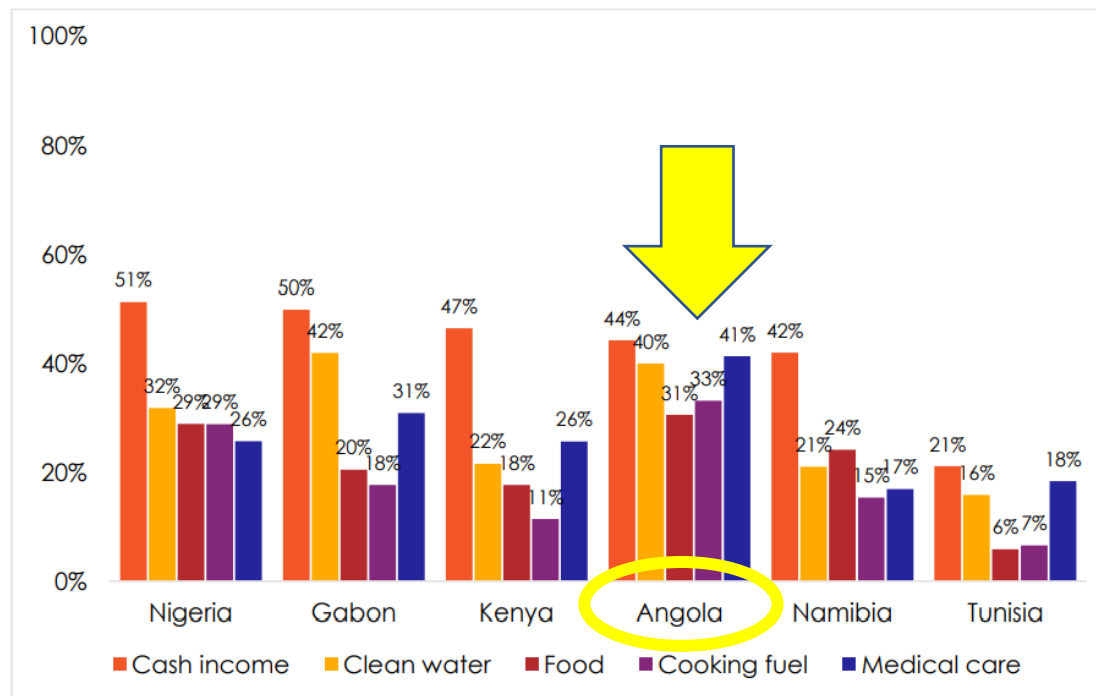


Respondents were asked: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?

Possible explanations?

Angolans lack water, food, health security

Figure 4: Frequently went without basic necessities | 6 African countries | 2021/2022

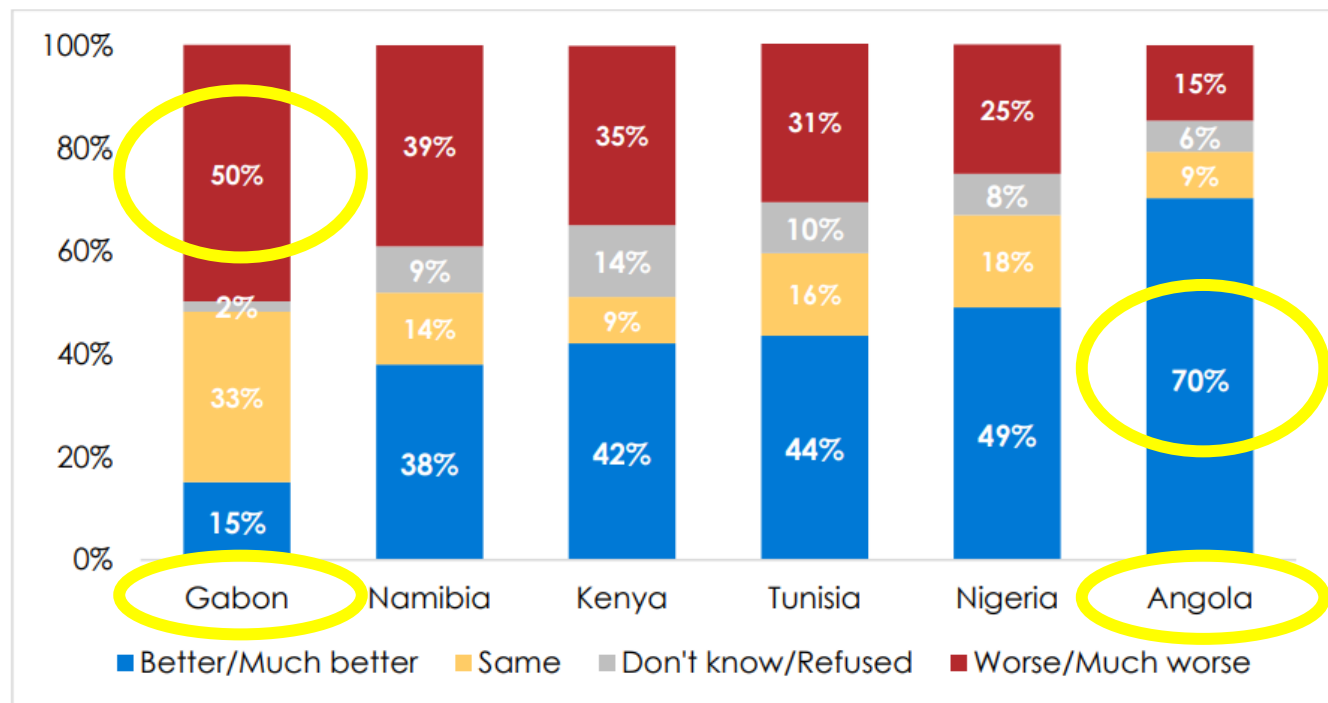


Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income? (% who say "many times" or "always")

63% of women (56% of men) in Angola having difficulty in seeking medical treatment (p. 15)

But Angolans (Gabonese) are optimistic (pessimistic) about the economy

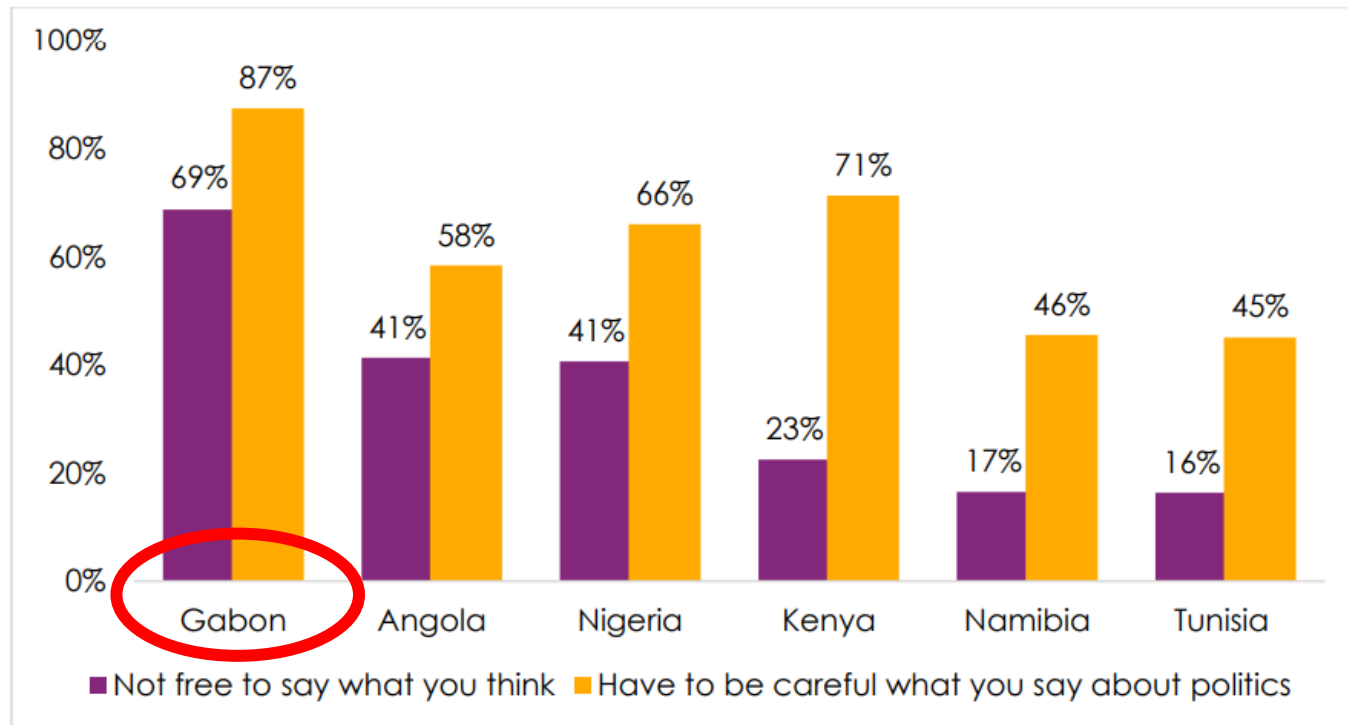
Figure 5: Economic prospects of the country in the next year | 6 African countries
| 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?

Free speech lacking in Gabon, on the other hand

Figure 21: Constraints on free speech | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked:

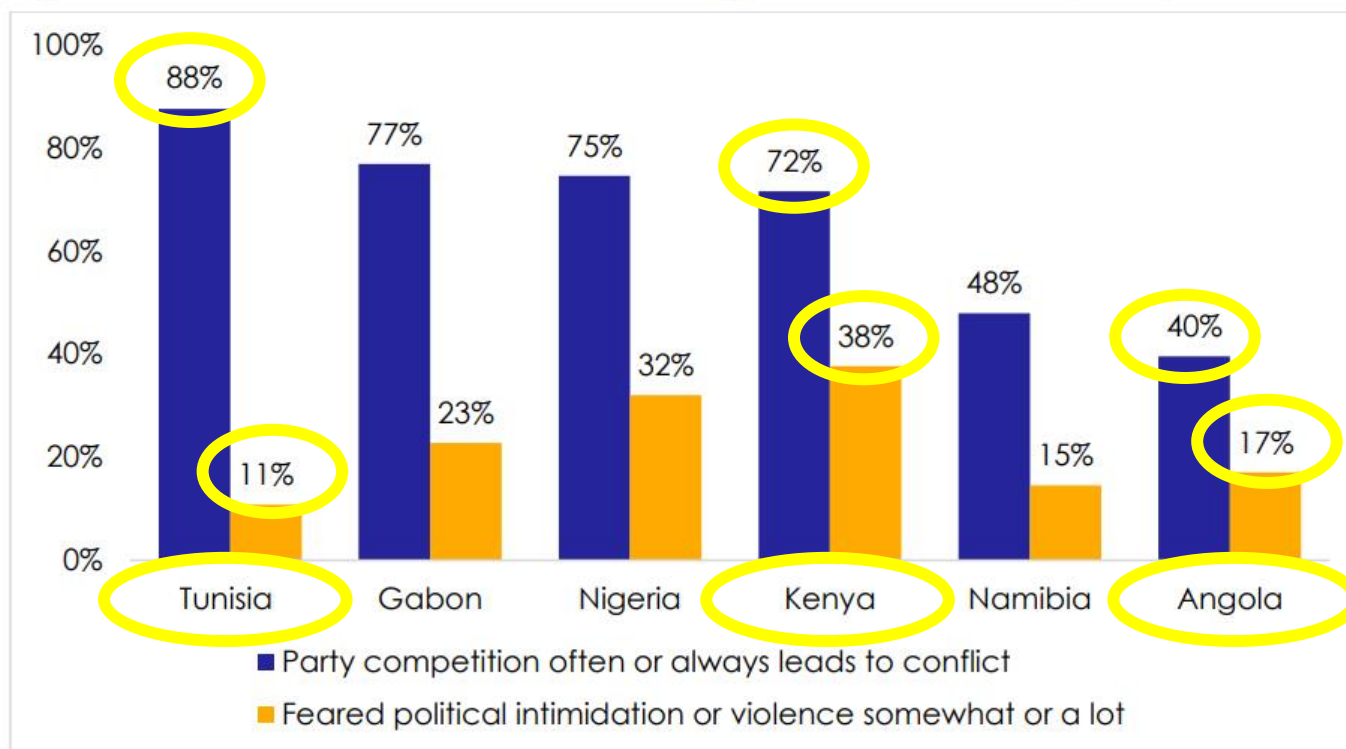
In this country, how free are you to say what you think? (% who say "not very free" or "not at all free")

In your opinion, how often, in this country, do people have to be careful of what they say about politics? (% who say "often" or "always")

So, a good prospect for future economy and relative political freedom may enable people to think the country is moving in the good direction (if other things remain constant... not sure)

More questions

Figure 20: Political intimidation and violence | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked:

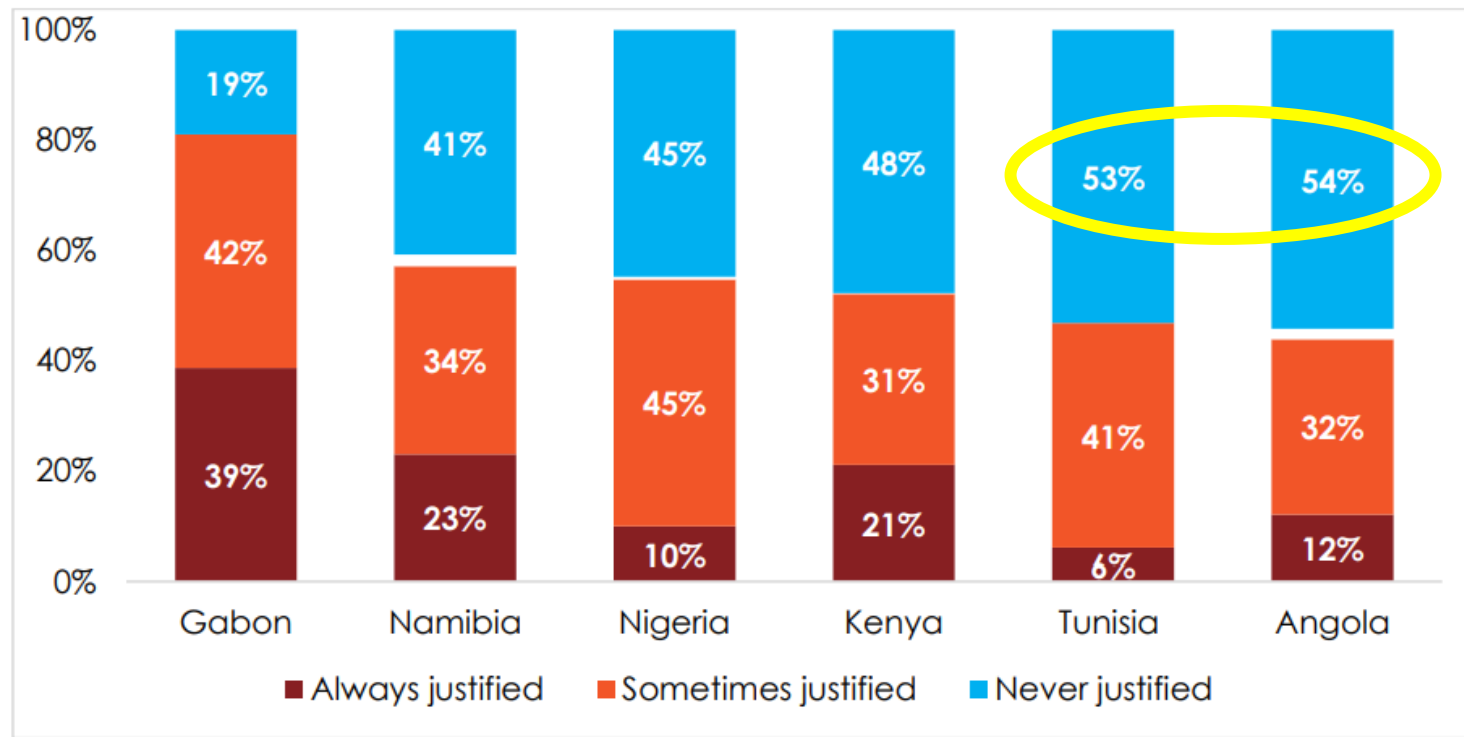
In your opinion, how often, in this country, does competition between political parties lead to violent conflict?

During the last national election campaign in [year], how much did you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence?

- Tunisia: more party-based violence (perception) and less political intimidation (experienced)
- Kenya: more party-based violence (perception) and more political intimidation (experienced)
- Angola: Less party-based violence (perception) and less political intimidation (experienced)
- But, less violence in a single-party context, perhaps
- Authoritarian-liberal dichotomy or regime typology?

Angolans and Tunisians tend to think violence against children is not justified

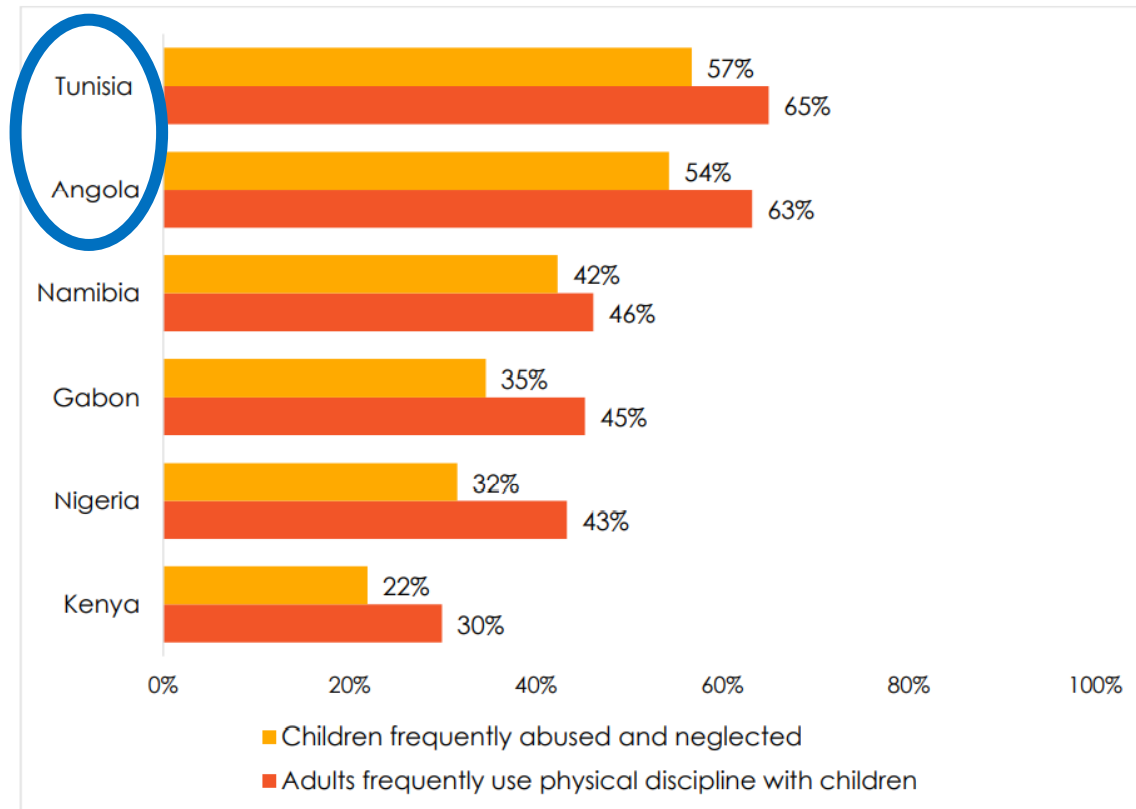
Figure 15: Justified for parents to physically discipline their children? | 6 African countries | 2021/2022



Respondents were asked: For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified: For parents to use physical force to discipline their children?

But children tend to be abused and neglected in Angola and Tunisia (so perceived)

Figure 16: Frequency of physical discipline, 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:

Adults use physical force to discipline children?

Children are abused, mistreated, or neglected?

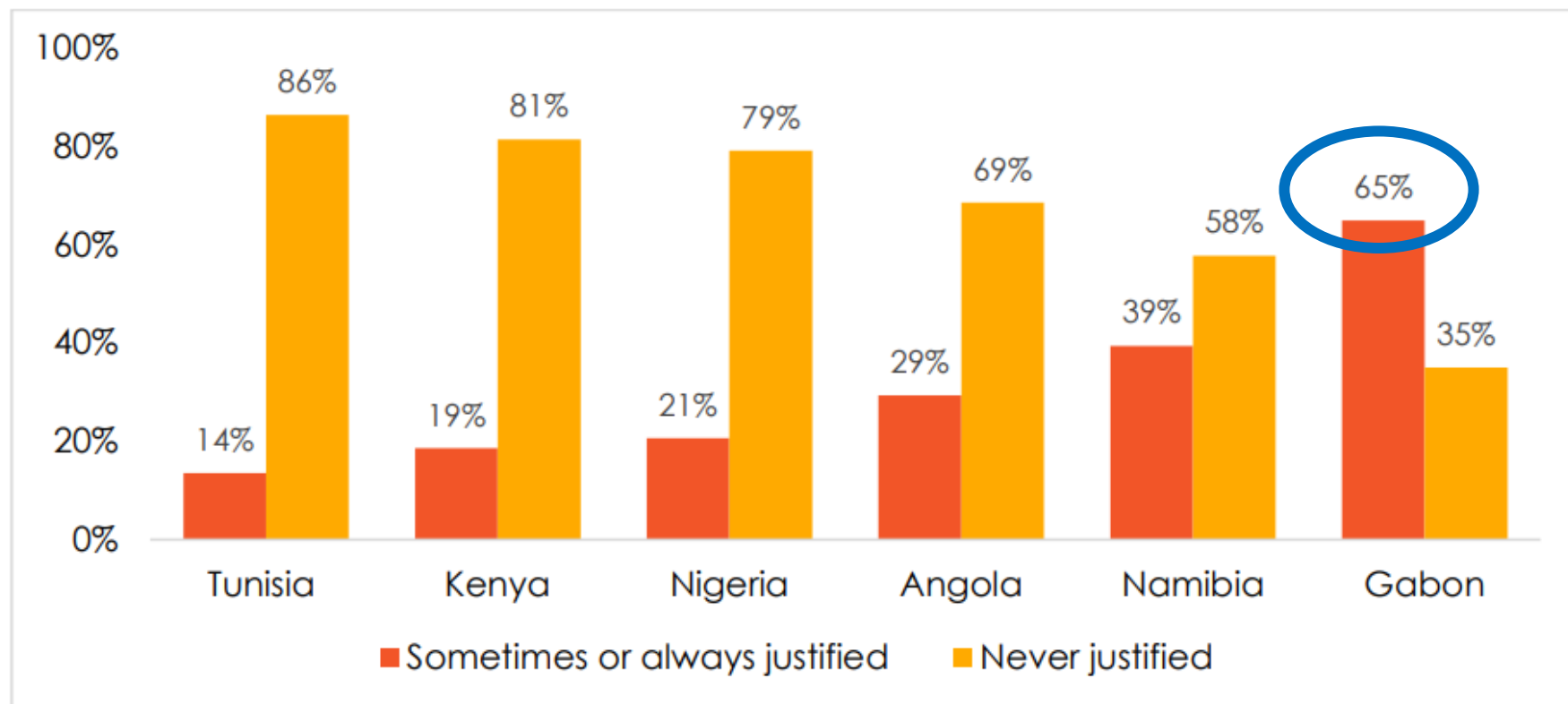
(% who say "somewhat frequently" or "very frequently")

- Discrepancy between norm and practice?
- Or people become more sensitive about injustice?

No One Left Behind (SDGs)

- Real conditions vs perceptions examined in terms of gender, age, occupation, ethnicity, rural/urban, etc.
- The report indicates a promising area of future research: thorough disaggregation of national statistics and survey data
- Violence against women (Figure 14): justified to what extent, by whom? Is this attitude persistent in cities and among young people? Do women accept it, both young and old? (p. 21)

Figure 14: Is the use of physical discipline on women justified? | 6 African countries
| 2021/2022

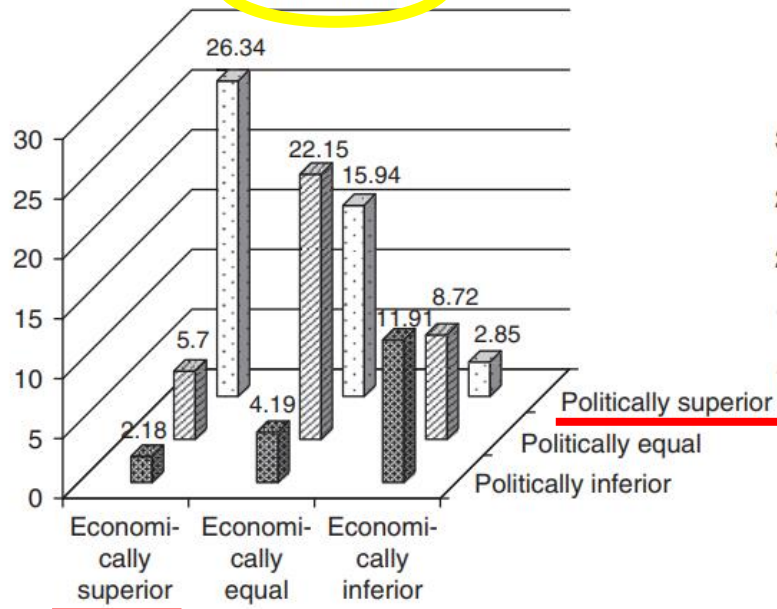


Respondents were asked: For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified: For a man to use physical discipline on his wife if she has done something he doesn't like or thinks is wrong?

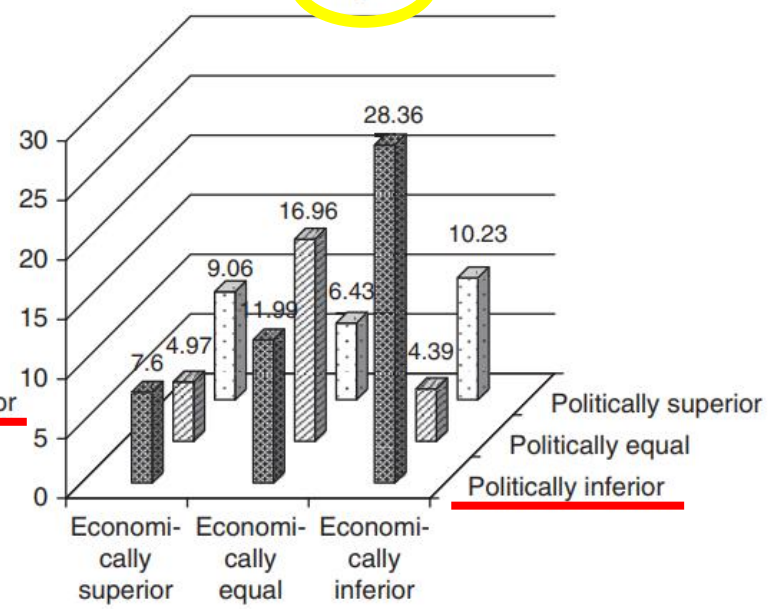
Ethnic breakdown in Nigeria (a past JICA research based on AB Round 4)

- Distortion of perceptions (potentially dangerous, politically speaking)
- A group that enjoys superior political status tends to perceive their economic status higher than its objective level
- A group that is politically disadvantaged tends to perceive their economic status lower than its objective level
- Mine, Stewart, Fukuda-Parr and Mkandawire, *Preventing Violent Conflict in Africa* (Palgrave)

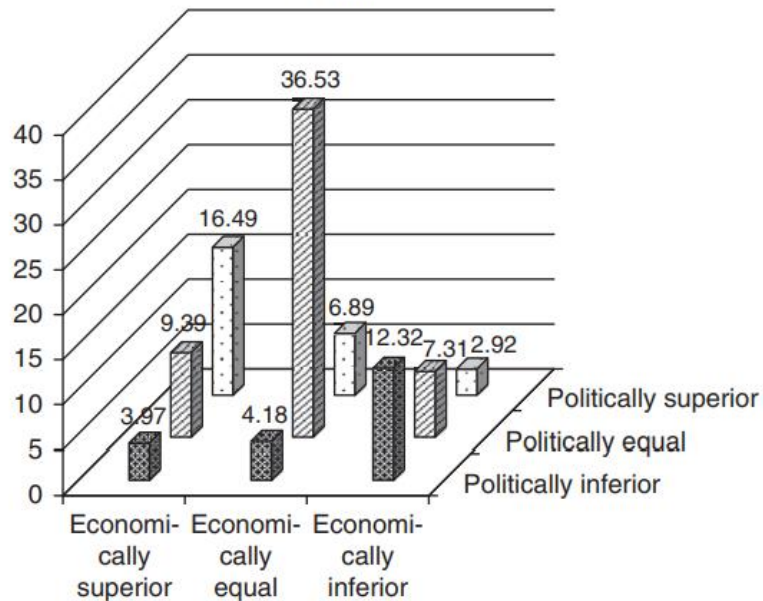
Hausa/Fulani



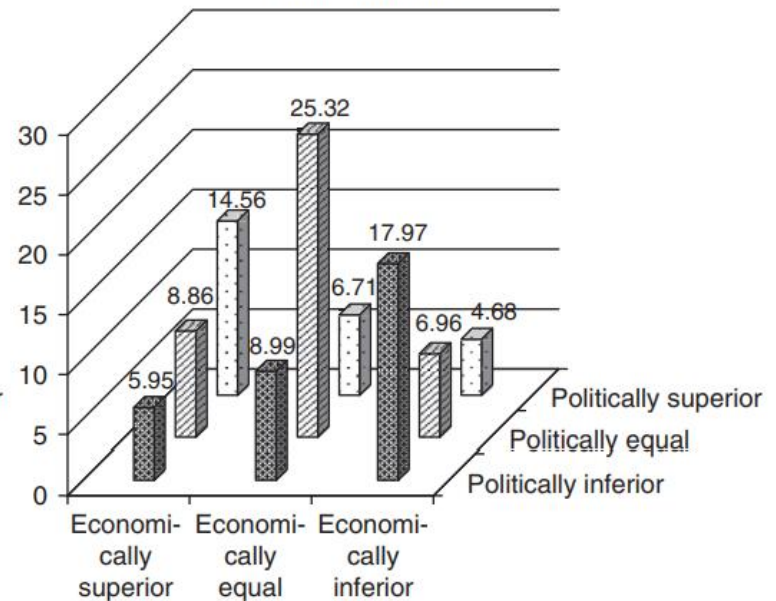
Igbo



Yoruba



Other minorities



Further disaggregation to know
coping mechanisms at family and
community levels

One may take risks
when one feels secure!