
Afrobarometer Round 6

**New data from
36 African countries**



Dispatch No. 85 | 3 May 2016

Strong public support for 'watchdog' role backs African news media under attack

Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 85 | Sibusiso Nkomo and Anthony Wafula

Summary

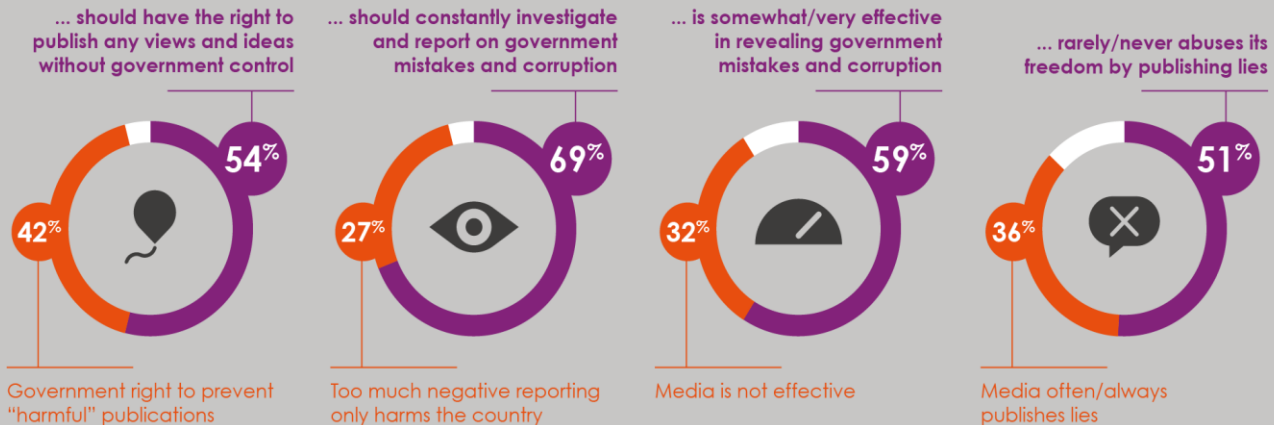
More than 100 journalists have fled tiny Burundi to escape repression and danger, according to Reporters Without Borders – a dramatic illustration of the impact of a “deep and disturbing decline in respect for media freedom at both the global and regional levels” (Reporters Without Borders, 2016).

If a free press is a pillar of a free society, Africa marks World Press Freedom Day 2016 (May 3) amid growing concerns that this pillar is under attack by governments determined to silence critics. Free-press champions report growing numbers of journalists who have been harassed, intimidated, arrested, tortured, or exiled (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2015a, 2015b; Amnesty International, 2016). Freedom House (2016) says global press freedom has “declined to its lowest point in 12 years.” Some states have enacted repressive laws to censor journalists, often citing as justification a need to fight violent extremism (Egypt, Ethiopia, and Kenya) or to stop publication of “false, deceptive, misleading, or inaccurate information” (Tanzania) (CIPESA, 2015, p. 5) that could undermine “national unity, public order and security, morality, and good conduct” (Burundi) (International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, 2015, p. 13). Beyond government repression, threats to media freedom come from violent non-state actors (such as extremist groups in Nigeria and Mali), influence-wielding officials, and even self-censoring journalists (Cheeseman, 2016). The net effect is to erode journalistic independence and muzzle the media “watchdogs” that are supposed to help ensure government accountability (Freedom House, 2015a).

These attacks on media freedom can also be seen as part of broader attempts to restrict space for civic activism. For instance, Tanzania’s and Nigeria’s cybercrime acts of 2015 have been criticized for disregarding issues of freedom of expression, granting excessive powers to the police, and affording only limited protections to ordinary citizens (Article 19, 2015; Sahara Reporters, 2015). Most recently, Uganda temporarily shut down social media and slowed the Internet during its presidential elections in February 2016, ostensibly for security reasons “to stop so many (social media users from) getting in trouble because some people use those pathways for telling lies” (BBC News, 2016). This trend of using state power to limit civic space has also been criticized in Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Egypt, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Niger, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Association for Progressive Communications, 2016).

If a media under attack needs public support at its back to safeguard its independence, Africa’s citizens offer such support – up to a point. In Afrobarometer’s latest surveys in 36 African countries, a majority (54%) of citizens say they support an independent media free from government interference. But this support varies significantly by country, and has weakened slightly since 2011/2013. And it leaves a robust four in 10 (42%) who believe that a government “should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things that it considers harmful to society.”

Africans say the news media...



Role and performance of the news media

36 African countries | 2014/2015

At the same time, public support for the media's "watchdog" role remains strong, suggesting that even if some citizens favour government restrictions on "harmful" communication, most expect their news media to help hold their government accountable. In that regard, public ratings of the news media's effectiveness in revealing government mistakes and corruption have declined slightly, and more than one in three citizens say journalists "often" or "always" abuse their freedom by publishing lies.

Despite these criticisms, the news media form a regular part of most Africans' lives as the continent's news consumption habits evolve toward less radio and newspaper, more television and Internet, and a substantial role for social media.

Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and results from Round 6 surveys (2014/2015) are currently being released.

Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples, which yield country-level results with a margin of sampling error of +/-2% (for a sample of 2,400) or +/-3% (for a sample of 1,200) at a 95% confidence level. Round 6 interviews with almost 54,000 citizens represent the views of more than three-fourths of the continent's population.

This analysis draws mainly on Round 6 data from 36 countries, with over-time comparisons on some variables. Interested readers should visit <http://globalreleases.afrobarometer.org> for previous Round 6 releases and watch for additional releases over the coming months.

Key findings

- A majority of Africans (54%) across 36 countries say the news media should have the right to publish any views and ideas without government control, while 42% say government should have the right to prevent publications that it "considers harmful to

society." Across the 34 countries where this question was asked in both Round 5 (2011/2013) and Round 6, support for media freedom is down 3 percentage points.

- More than two-thirds (69%) of Africans say the news media should “constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption.” This is the majority view in every surveyed country except Egypt (where 46% agree).
- A majority (59%) of respondents say the news media is “somewhat” or “very effective” in revealing government mistakes and corruption. Across 34 countries tracked since 2011/2013, the proportion of citizens who say the media is “not very effective” or “not at all effective” increased from 26% in 2011/2013 to 30%.
- A slim majority (51%) say the media “rarely” or “never” abuses its freedom by publishing lies, but more than one-third (36%) of Africans – and in some countries more than two-thirds – say it does so “often” or “always.”
- Radio remains the most common news source, accessed by seven in 10 Africans either daily (47%) or “a few times a week” (22%). But radio and newspapers are slowly losing ground, while TV and the Internet are gaining. One in five Africans (21%) now regularly get news from social media such as Facebook and Twitter, and among youth and citizens with post-secondary education, the Internet and social media are more popular sources of news than newspapers.
- In addition to using the media to get news, some Africans use it to express their opinions: About one in nine respondents (11%) say they contacted the media in the previous year to express their dissatisfaction with government performance.

Media freedom in African countries

According to experts who rate the media environment for Reporters Without Borders/Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) and Freedom House, media freedom has weakened significantly over the past few years in Africa and around the world (Reporters Without Borders, 2016; Freedom House, 2015b). (For country rankings by both organisations, see Figure A.1 and Table A.2 in the Appendix.)

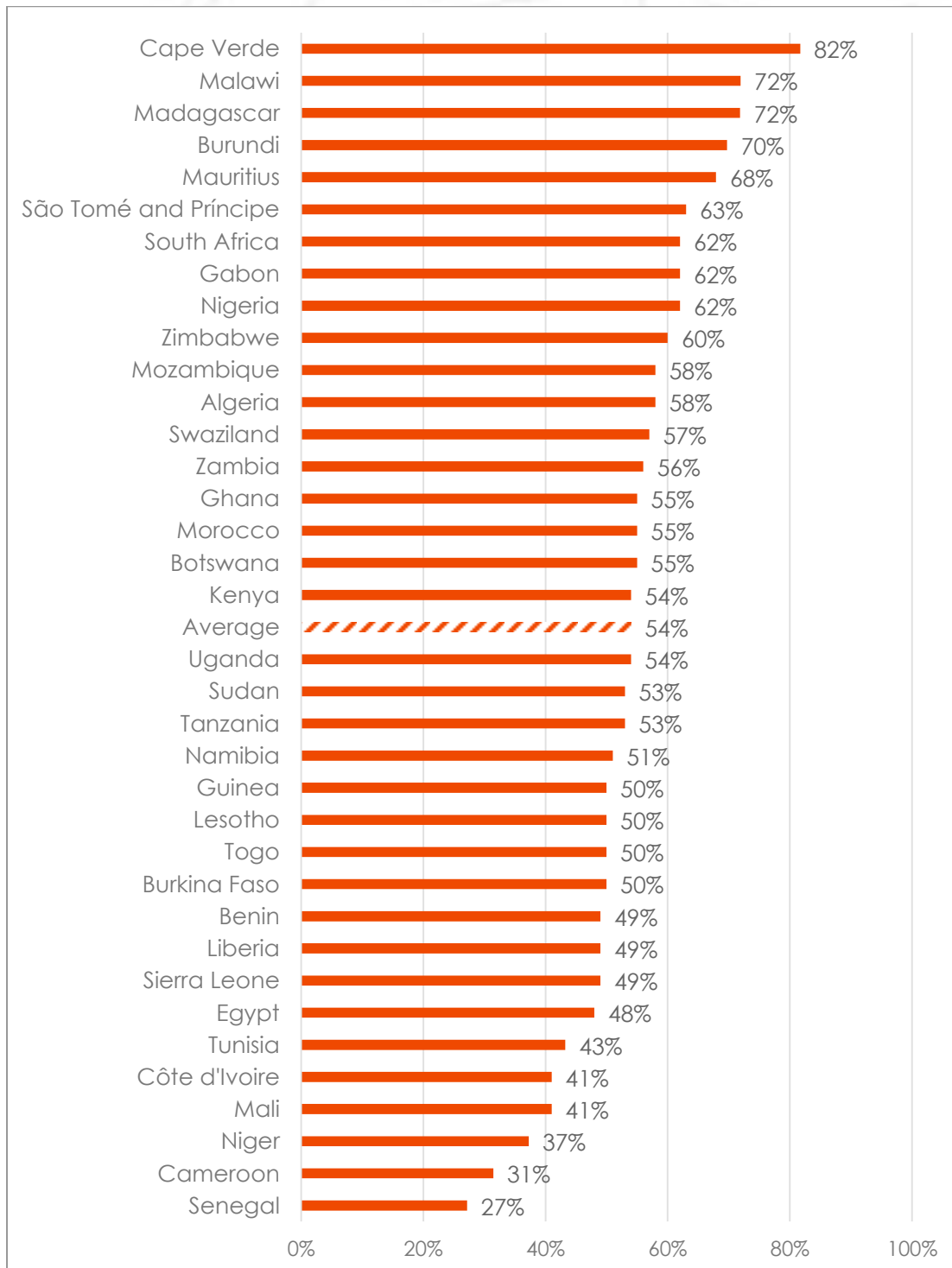
In 2016, RSF World Press Freedom Index scores worsened in a number of African countries where violence and political crises – in some cases related to challenges to presidential term limits – took a toll on journalists' freedom and safety, including South Sudan, Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Uganda, Djibouti, Nigeria, and Mali.

Countries where Freedom House (2016) scores worsened include Ghana (which dropped from “free” to “partly free”), Burundi, Egypt, and Zimbabwe.

Despite attempts to muzzle the media, a majority of Africans support an independent media free of government control. On average across 36 countries, 54% of respondents “agree” or “agree very strongly” that the media should have the right to publish any views and ideas without government interference. Support for a free and independent media is highest in Cape Verde (82%), Malawi (72%), Madagascar (72%), and Burundi (70%) (Figure 1).

However, in 10 countries, less than half the population believes in an independent media, with support at its lowest in Senegal (27%), Cameroon (31%), and Niger (37%). Seven of these 10 countries are in West Africa, where support averages only 49%. North (51%) and Central (52%) Africa are only slightly higher, while support for a free media is far more solid in Southern (60%) and East Africa (58%) (Figure 2). More educated citizens are more likely to support a free media than those without formal education. Support for media freedom is slightly stronger among urban residents, younger citizens, and men.

Figure 1: Support for a free media | 36 countries | 2014/2015



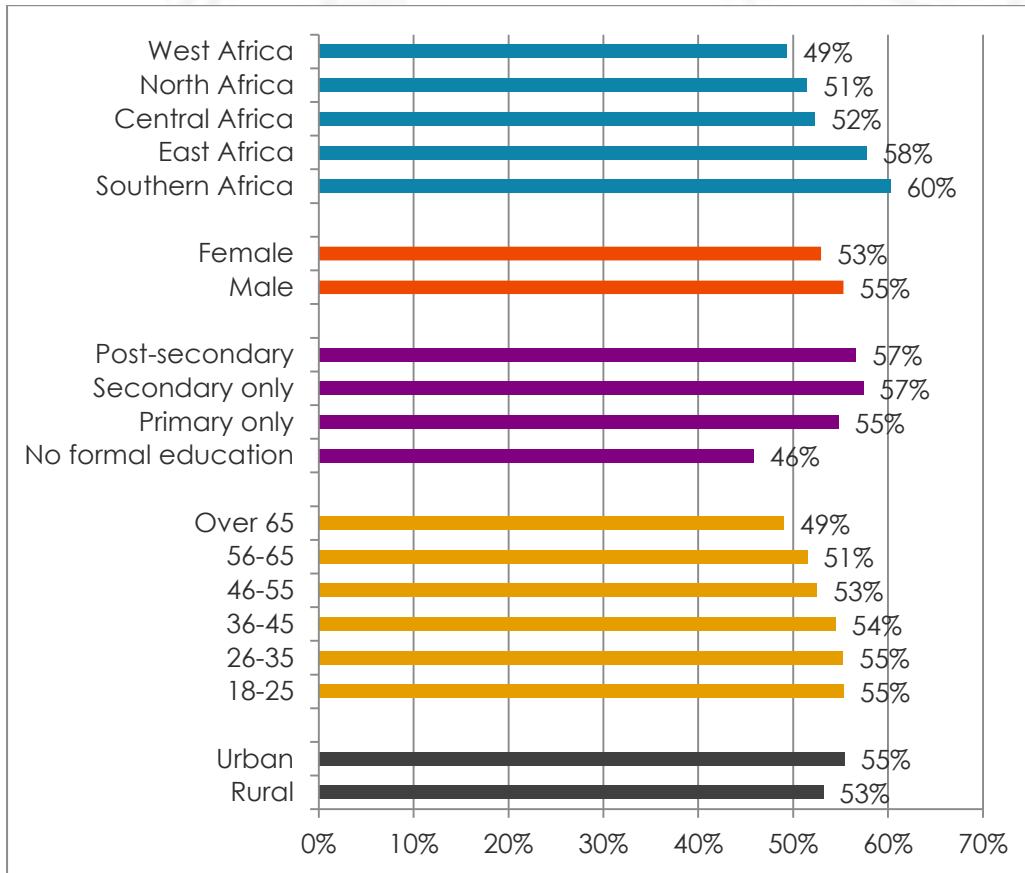
Respondents were asked: Let's talk for a moment about the kind of society you would like to have in this country. Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: The media should have the right to publish any views and ideas without government control.

Statement 2: The government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things that it considers harmful to society.

(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with Statement 1)

Figure 2: Support for free media | by region, gender, education, age, and urban-rural location | 36 countries | 2014/2015



(% who “agree” or “agree very strongly” that media should have the right to publish any views and ideas without government control)

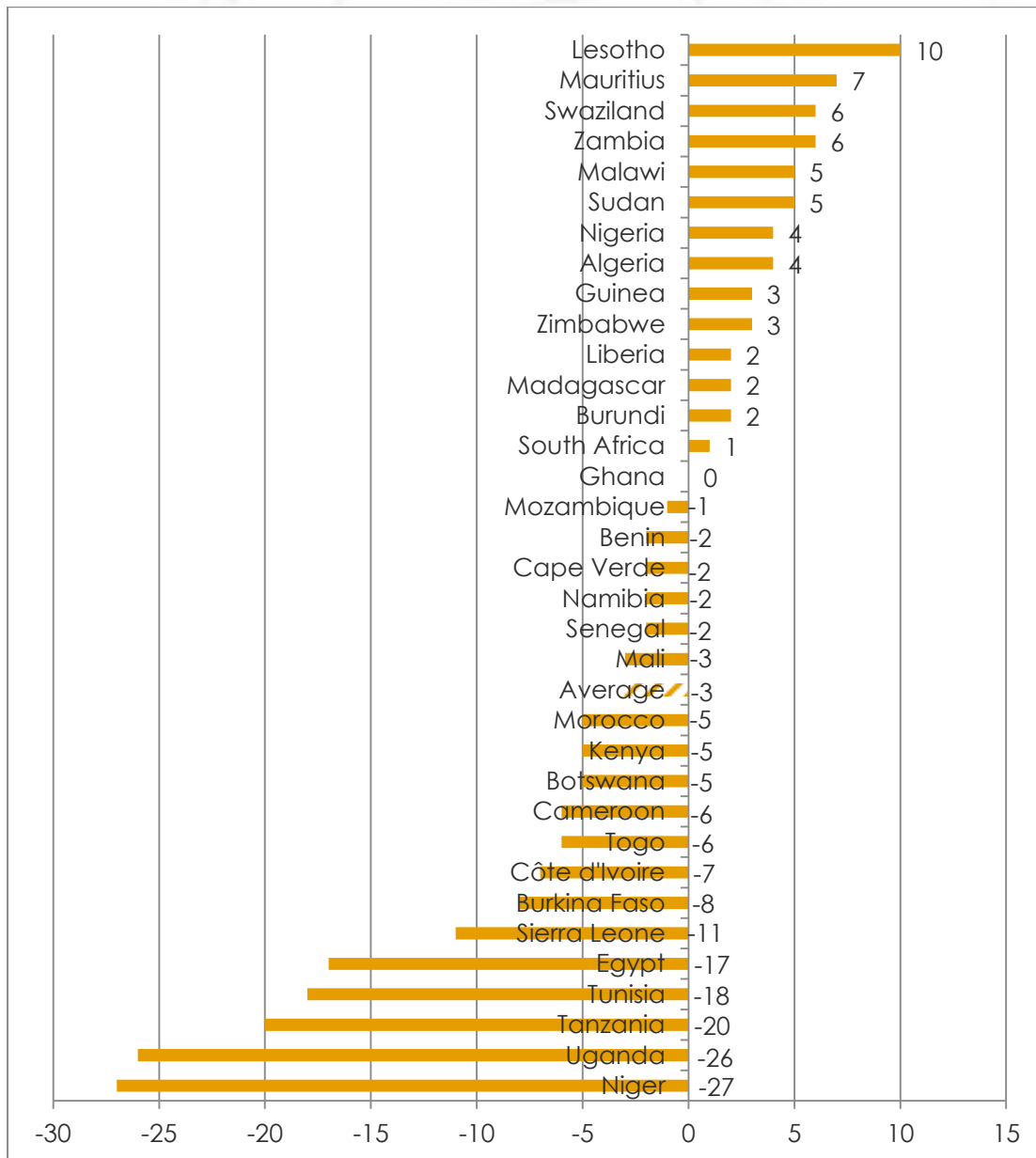
Across 34 countries surveyed in both 2011/2013 (Round 5) and 2014/2015 (Round 6), support for independent media has declined slightly, from 57% to 54%. The biggest declines have been in Niger and Uganda, which dropped by 27 and 26 percentage points, respectively, followed by Tanzania (20 points), Tunisia (18 points), and Egypt (17 points) (Figure 3). Support increased most significantly in Lesotho (by 10 points) and Mauritius (6 point).

While there is no consistent relationship between Afrobarometer findings and RSF/Freedom House ratings of media freedom, countries whose citizens most highly value media freedom (Cape Verde, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa) tend to rank fairly high in the assessments of actual media freedom by RSF (all five countries are in the top 12) and Freedom House (all are either “free” or “partly free”).

A glaring – and understandable – exception is Burundi, where 70% of citizens favour a free media but whose RSF/Freedom House ratings reflect greatly reduced media freedom during the ongoing political crisis.

At the other extreme, Senegal's media scores fairly high in actual freedom (among the top 15 African countries in both RSF and Freedom House rankings), but only 27% of citizens support a free media, suggesting possible vulnerability to a retreat on media freedom without a major public backlash. Cameroon ranks low in support for media freedom as well as actual media freedom, while Niger and Côte d'Ivoire are weak on support for a free media but place in the upper half in the RSF ranking.

Figure 3: Changes in support for free media | 34 countries* | 2011-2015



The figure shows percentage-point increase (positive number) or decrease (negative number) between 2011/2013 and 2014/2015 averages in % who “agree” or “agree very strongly” that the media should be free to publish any views and ideas.

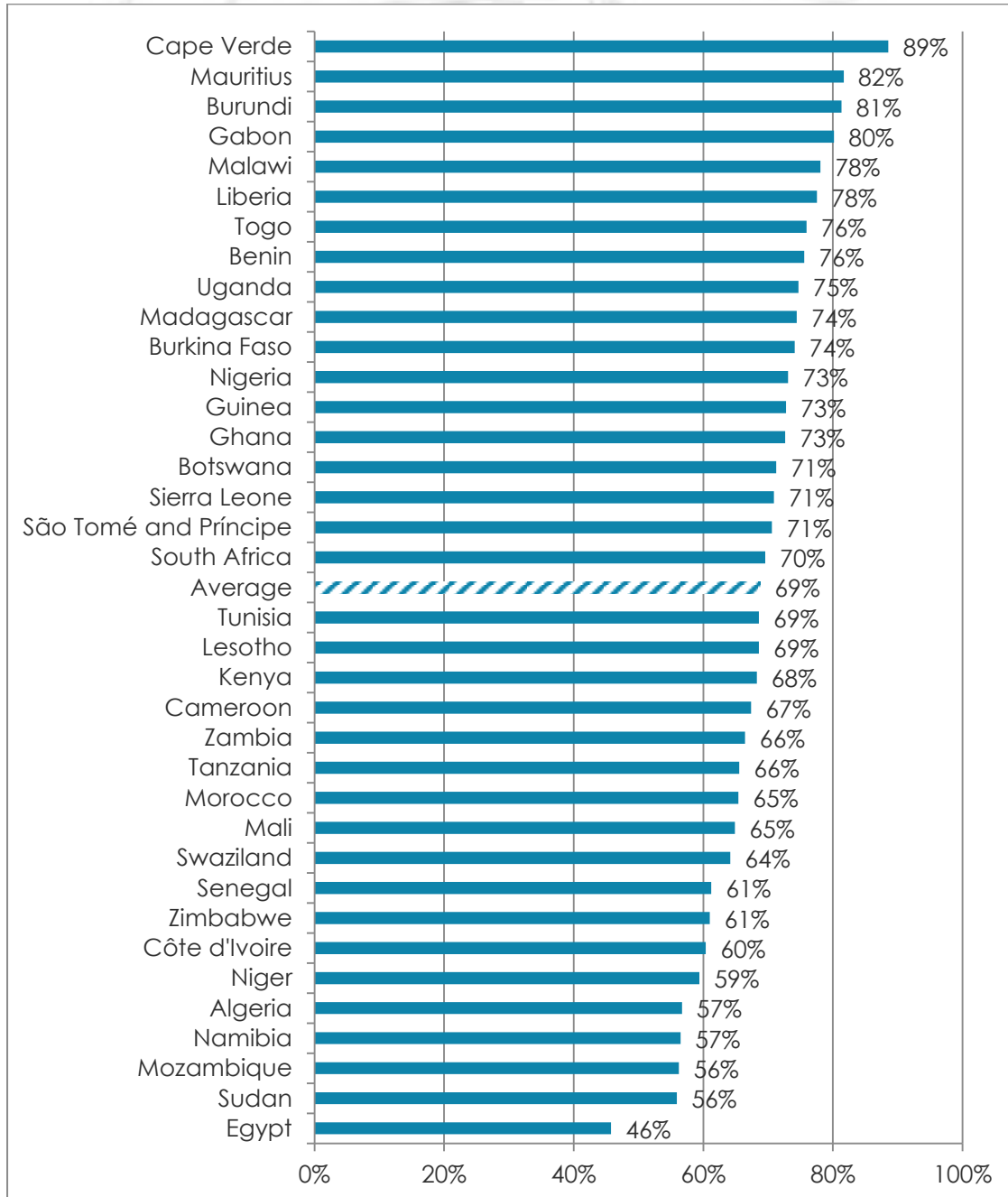
* Note: Excludes São Tomé and Príncipe and Gabon, which were surveyed for the first time in 2015.

Support for media’s watchdog role

While we have seen that there is some degree of tolerance for government control of media that is seen as “harmful to society,” Africans are much clearer about the specific mandate of the media vis-à-vis government: Support for the media’s “watchdog” role is strong and widespread. More than two-thirds (69%) “agree” or “agree very strongly” that the news media should “constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption.” Only about one in four (27%) disagree, insisting instead that “too much reporting on negative events, like government mistakes and corruption, only harms the country.”

Support for the media's role in holding government accountable is highest in Cape Verde (89%), Mauritius (82%), Burundi (81%), and Gabon (80%). It is the majority view in every country except Egypt (46%) (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Support for media's watchdog role | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: The news media should constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption.

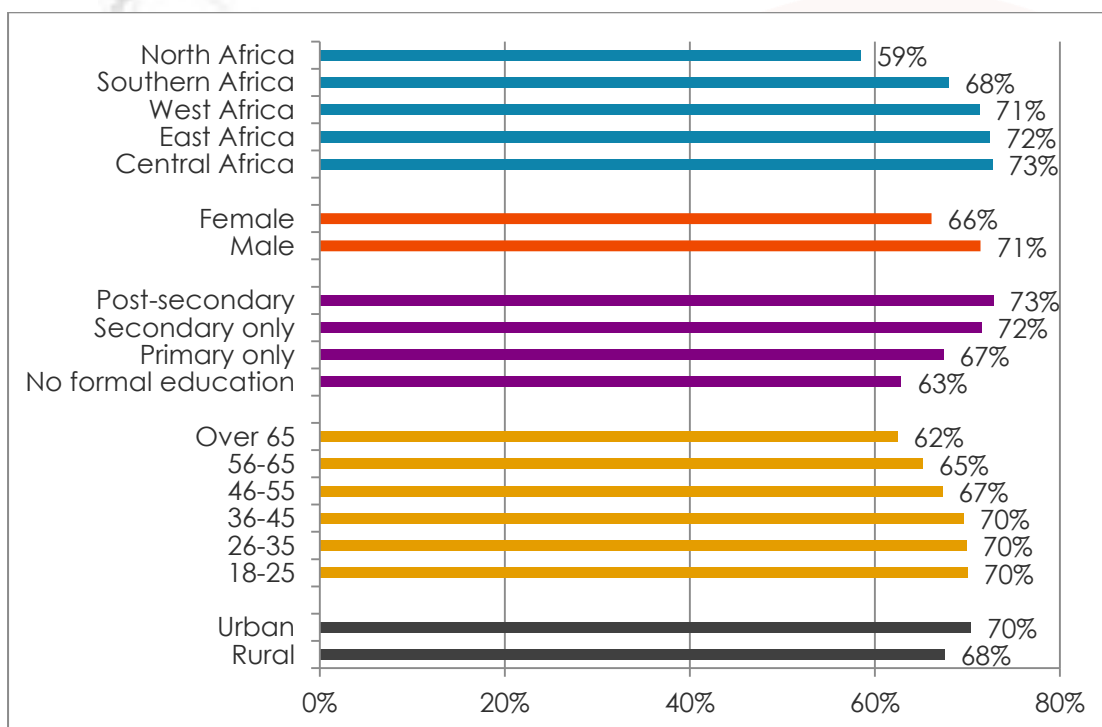
Statement 2: Too much reporting on negative events, like government mistakes and corruption, only harms the country.

(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" that the media should constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption)

Support for the media as watchdog is significantly weaker in North Africa (59%) than in the other regions (68%-73%). It is stronger among better-educated citizens (73% for those with post-secondary education, vs. 63% for those without formal education), among men (71%, compared to 66% among women), and among younger citizens (70% for ages 18-45, compared to 62% for ages 66 and older) (Figure 5).

Across the 20 countries tracked since 2008/2009 (Round 4), there has been no appreciable change in support for the media's watchdog role, although individual countries have seen some gains and losses. Support is down 10 percentage points in Senegal and 9 points in Zimbabwe, but South Africa and Cape Verde have gained 6 points each, and Uganda and Madagascar have seen 5-point increases.

Figure 5: Support for media's watchdog role | by region, gender, education, age, and urban-rural location | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: The news media should constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption.

Statement 2: Too much reporting on negative events, like government mistakes and corruption, only harms the country.

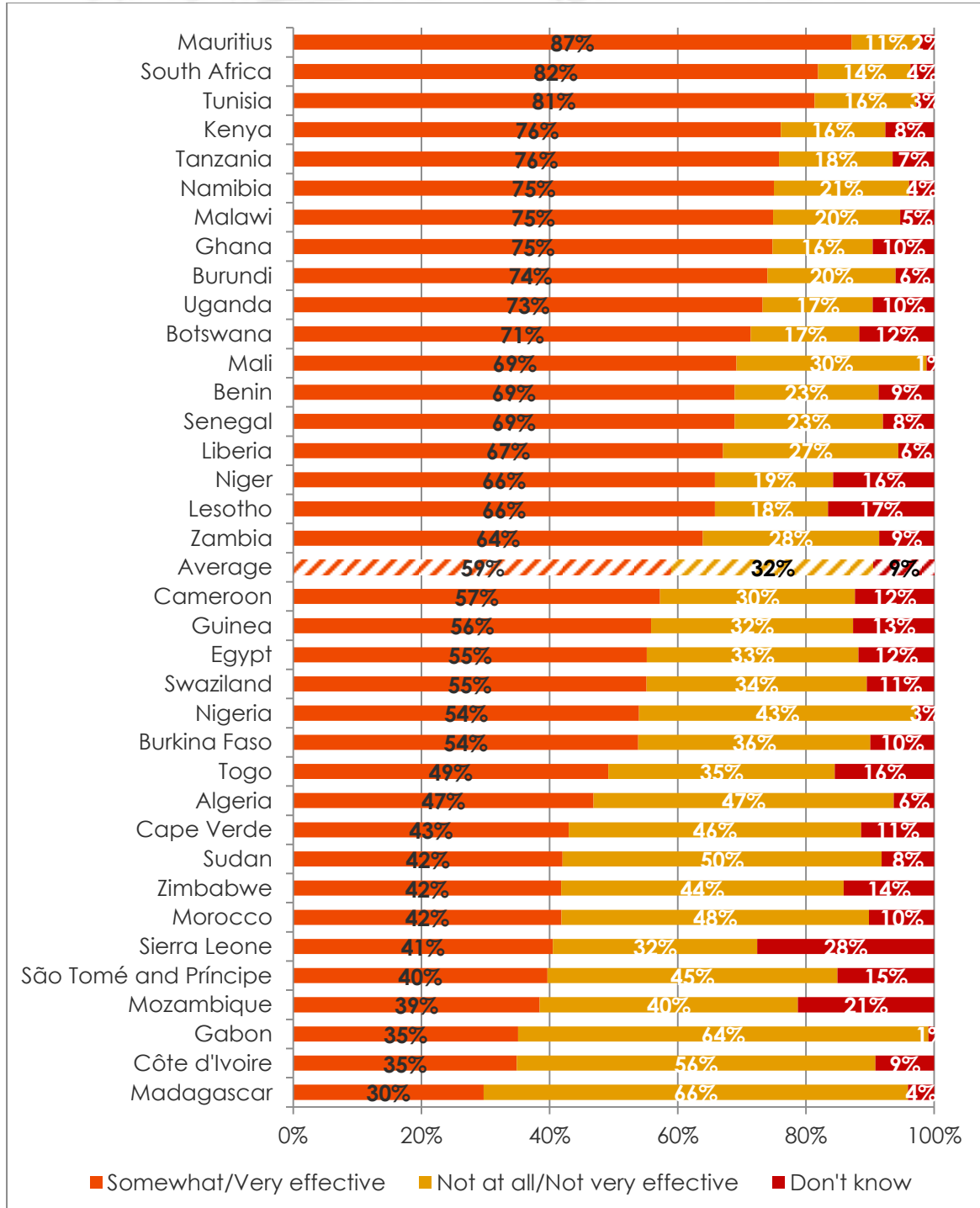
(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" that the media should constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption)

How effectively is the media doing its job?

Investigating government mistakes and corruption is seen as a critical role for the media. How well does the public think the media is fulfilling this responsibility? A majority (59%) in 36 countries say the media is "somewhat effective" or "very effective" in "revealing government mistakes and corruption" (Figure 6). More than eight in 10 citizens say the media is effective in Mauritius (87%), South African (82%), and Tunisia (81%), while only about one-third agree in Madagascar (30%), Côte d'Ivoire (35%), and Gabon (35%).

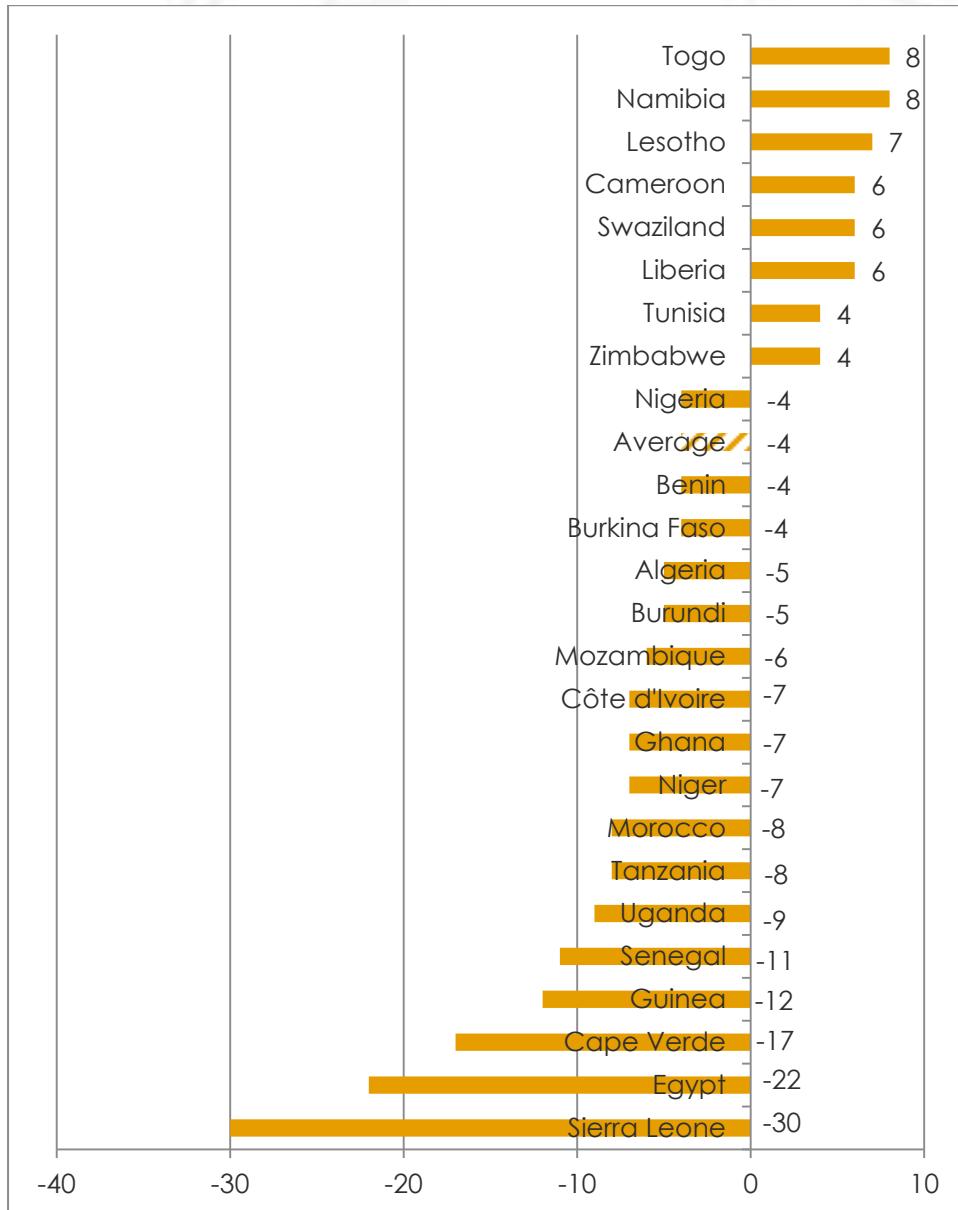
Across 34 countries tracked since 2011/2013, ratings of effectiveness are down slightly, from 64% in 2011/2013 to 60% in 2014/2015. Sierra Leone recorded the largest decrease (30 percentage points), followed by Egypt (22 points) and Cape Verde (17 points), while effectiveness ratings improved by 8 percentage points in Togo and Namibia (Figure 7).

Figure 6: Ratings of media effectiveness | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: *In this country, how effective is the news media in revealing government mistakes and corruption?*

Figure 7: Changes in perceptions of media effectiveness | countries with significant increase or decrease | 2011-2015

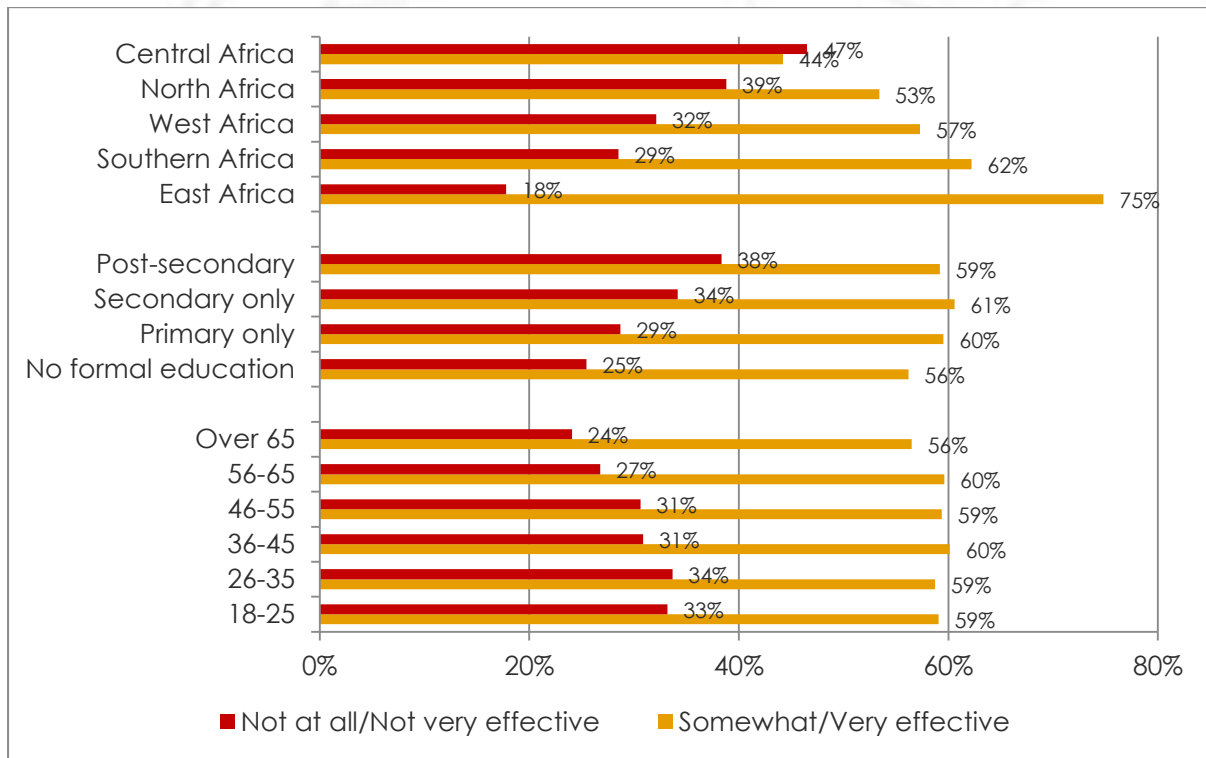


The figure shows percentage-point increase (positive number) or decrease (negative number) between 2011/2013 and 2014/2015 averages in % who say the media is “somewhat effective” or “very effective” in revealing government mistakes and corruption.

Perceptions of media effectiveness are highest in East Africa (75%) and Southern Africa (62%). Central Africa is the only region where citizens who perceive the media as effective are in the minority (Figure 8).

The effects of age and education are somewhat more nuanced. The proportion rating media positively does not vary significantly across age groups or education levels. However, younger people and those who are better educated are more likely to give negative ratings, whereas older and/or less educated respondents are more inclined to defer to “don't know” responses.

Figure 8: News media effectiveness | by region, education, and age | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: *In this country, how effective is the news media in revealing government mistakes and corruption?*

Does the media abuse its freedom?

When harassing or obstructing journalists, governments often accuse them of publishing lies and advancing propaganda. While the governments' political agendas are usually obvious, how responsible and impartial do citizens think their news media is?

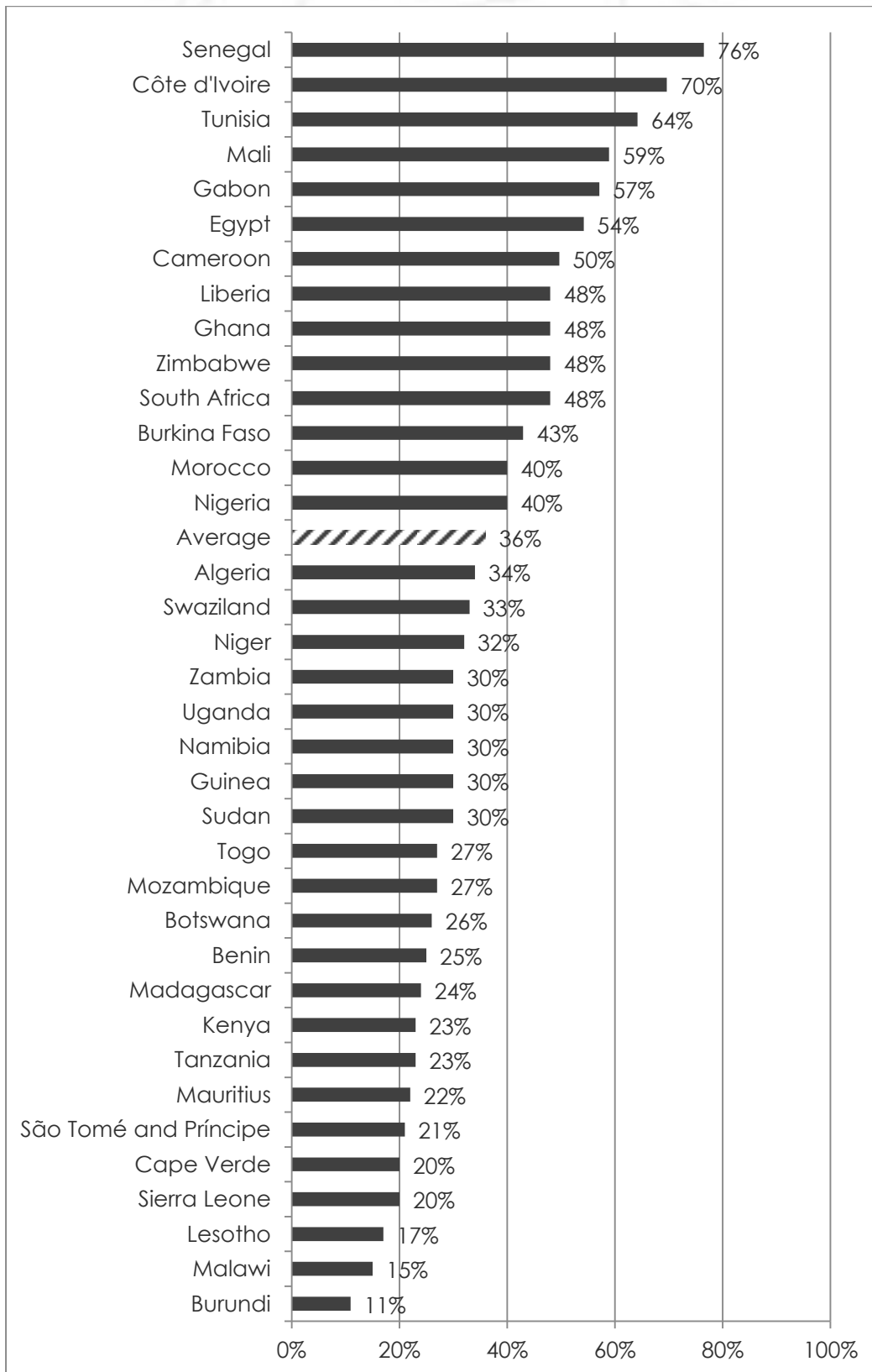
On average across 36 countries, a slim majority (51%) of Africans say the media "never" or "rarely" abuses its freedom by publishing lies. But more than one in three respondents (36%) say this happens "often" or "always," and in Senegal, that proportion reaches three-fourths of all respondents (76%) (Figure 9). At the other extreme, overwhelming majorities of Burundians (81%), Malawians (77%), Basotho (74%), and Malagasy (72%) say their news media "rarely" or "never" knowingly publishes falsehoods.

While on average perceptions across the 34 countries surveyed in both Round 5 and Round 6 remained stable, several countries experienced substantial changes. The most dramatic improvement was in Sierra Leone, where the proportion criticizing frequent media abuses dropped by 41 percentage points; in Burkina Faso, this negative perception grew by 20 percentage points (Figure 10).

North, Central, and West Africans (44%, 43%, and 41%, respectively) are about twice as likely as East Africans (22%) to say the media often/always publishes lies (Figure 11).

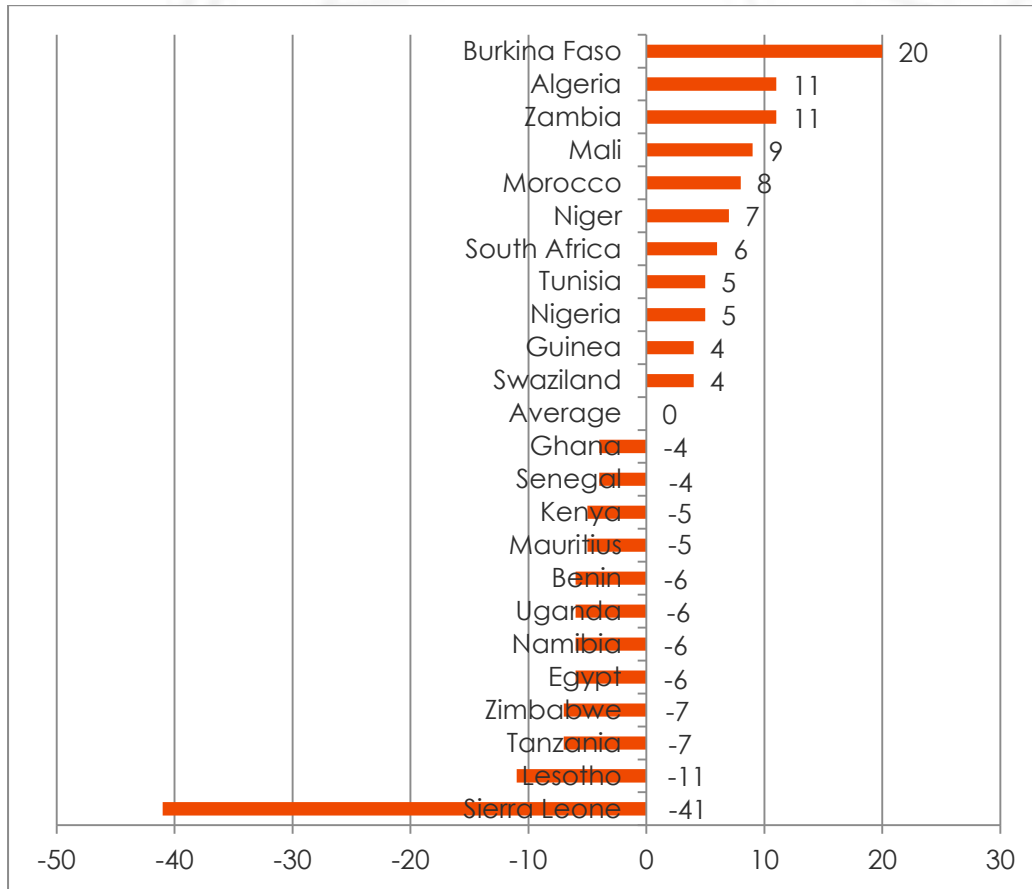
Men are more likely than women to say the media often or always abuses its freedom (38% vs. 34%) (Figure 12). Younger and better-educated citizens are again more critical than their less-educated counterparts; those with post-secondary education are the most critical of any group, with 45% saying the media is unreliable. This perception is also more common among urbanites (41%) than among rural residents (32%).

Figure 9: Media abuses its freedom | 36 countries | 2014/2015



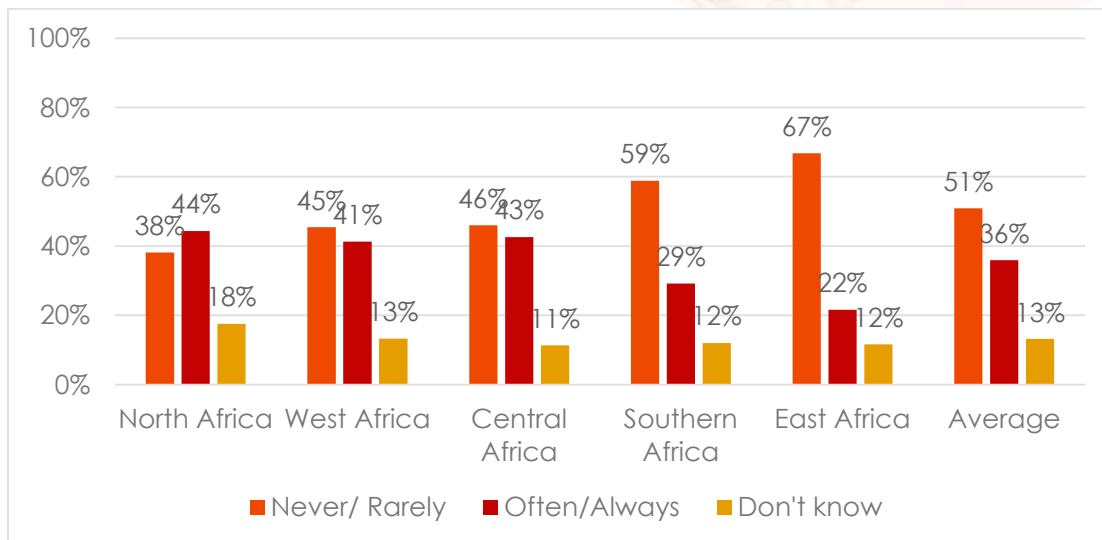
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often, in this country, does the news media abuse its freedoms by printing or saying things it knows are not true? (% who say "often" or "always")*

Figure 10: Changes in perceptions of media abuse of its freedom | countries with significant increase or decrease | 2011-2015



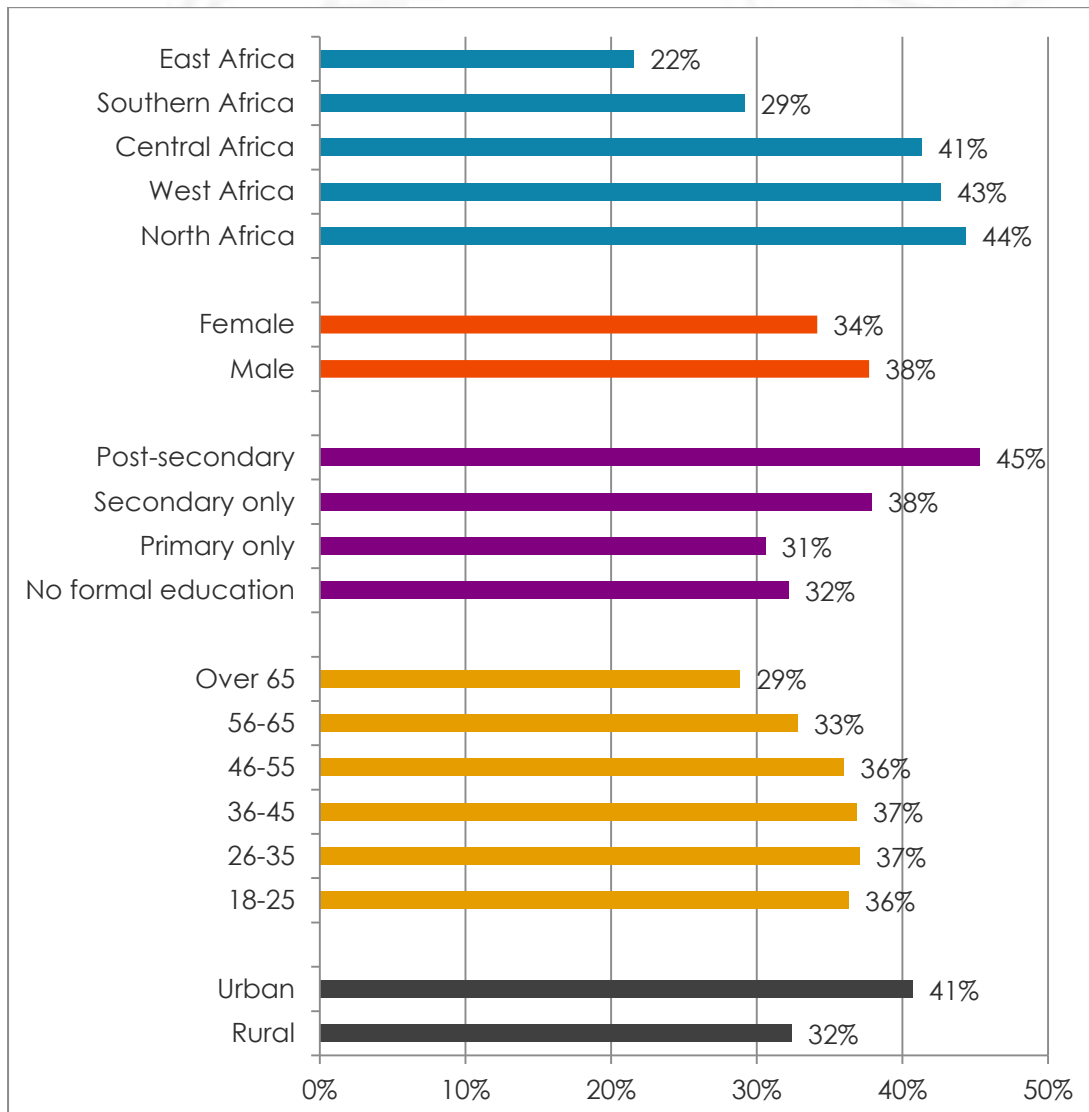
The figure shows percentage-point increase (positive number) or decrease (negative number) between 2011/2013 and 2014/2015 averages in % who say the media “often” or “always” abuses its freedom by publishing lies.

Figure 11: Media abuses its freedom | by region | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often, in this country, does the news media abuse its freedoms by printing or saying things it knows are not true?

Figure 12: Media abuses its freedom | by gender, education, age, and location
 | 36 countries | 2014/2015



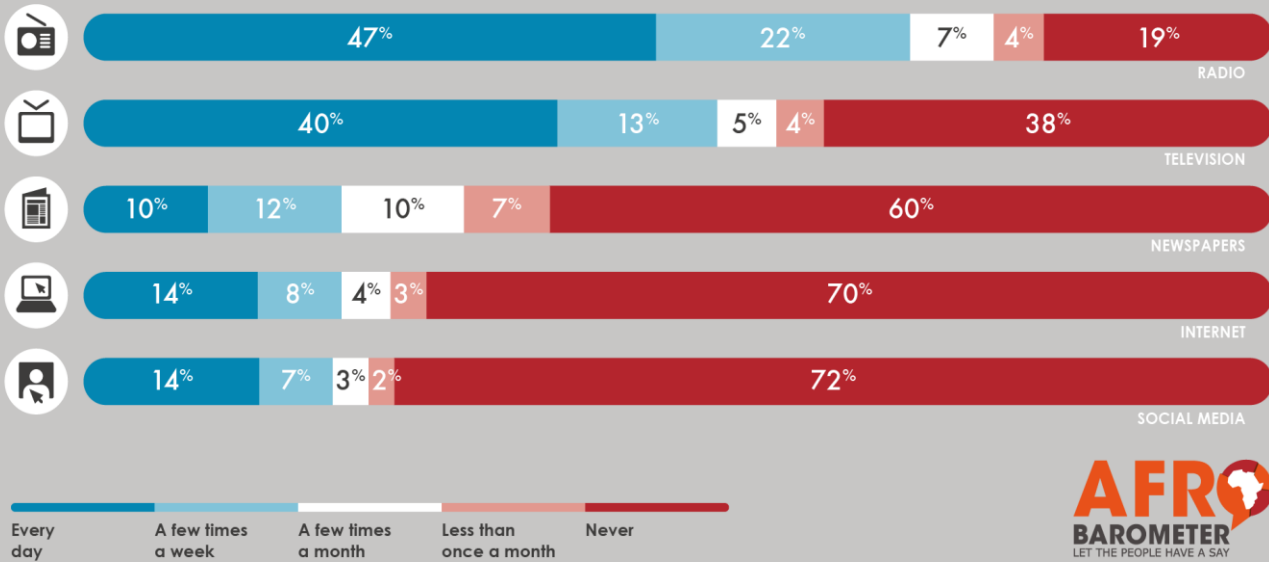
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News sources

While Africans' perceptions of the media's effectiveness and integrity have held fairly stable, their news consumption habits continue to evolve away from radio and newspaper and toward television and the Internet. A substantial proportion of the population now also gets news from social media such as Facebook and Twitter, a source that was hardly available just a few years ago (Figure 13).

According to Afrobarometer respondents, radio remains the most widely used source of regular news, though the proportion of Africans tuning in has declined. On average across 36 countries, seven in 10 citizens get news via radio "every day" (47%) or "a few times a week" (22%). Regular radio use is highest in Mauritius (97% a few times a week/every day), Namibia (88%), Nigeria (86%), and Kenya (85%) and lowest in the five North African countries (Tunisia, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, and Egypt) and Gabon.

News sources | 36 African countries | 2014/2015



Across 16 countries tracked since 2002/2003,¹ daily use of radio as a source of news has declined, from 61% to 52%, while the proportion of citizens who “never” get news from the radio has increased from 11% to 16% (Figure 14).

In contrast, television is growing as a source of news, although it still lags significantly behind radio. Across 36 countries, more than half (53%) of citizens say they get news regularly from TV, either every day (40%) or a few times a week (13%).

Regular TV news consumption is again highest in Mauritius (98% a few times a week/every day), followed by Egypt (97%) and South Africa (90%). In 10 countries, more than three-quarters of the population have daily access to TV news. In sharp contrast, access is lowest in Burundi (7%), Malawi (11%), and Sierra Leone (14%). North and Central Africans (84% and 83%, respectively) are three times as likely to get regular news from TV as East Africans (27%). Across 16 countries tracked since 2002, daily TV news consumption has increased from 26% to 36%.

With regard to newspapers, on average across 36 countries, about one-fifth of Africans (22%) say they get news regularly from the printed page, either “every day” (10%) or “a few times a week” (12%). Regular newspaper readership is highest in Mauritius (77% a few times a week/every day), Namibia (53%), and South Africa (51%). In contrast, access to newspapers is almost non-existent in Burundi (1%) and Niger (2%) and is limited to a select few in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea (all 5%).

West Africans (12%) and East Africans (16%) are about half as likely to report regular newspaper consumption as Southern (32%), Central (28%), and North (27%) Africans. But like radio, newspapers appear to be in decline. Across 16 countries tracked since 2002, daily readership has decreased only slightly, from 13% to 10%, but the proportion who “never” get news from newspapers has increased significantly, from 49% to 59%.

¹ Botswana, Cape Verde, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Africans are also reaching for newer tools such as the Internet and social media (e.g. Facebook and Twitter) for news. On average across 36 countries, about two in 10 Africans receive news “a few times a week” or “every day” via the Internet (22%). Across the 34 countries covered in both surveys, daily access has increased from 7% in 2011/2013 to 13%.

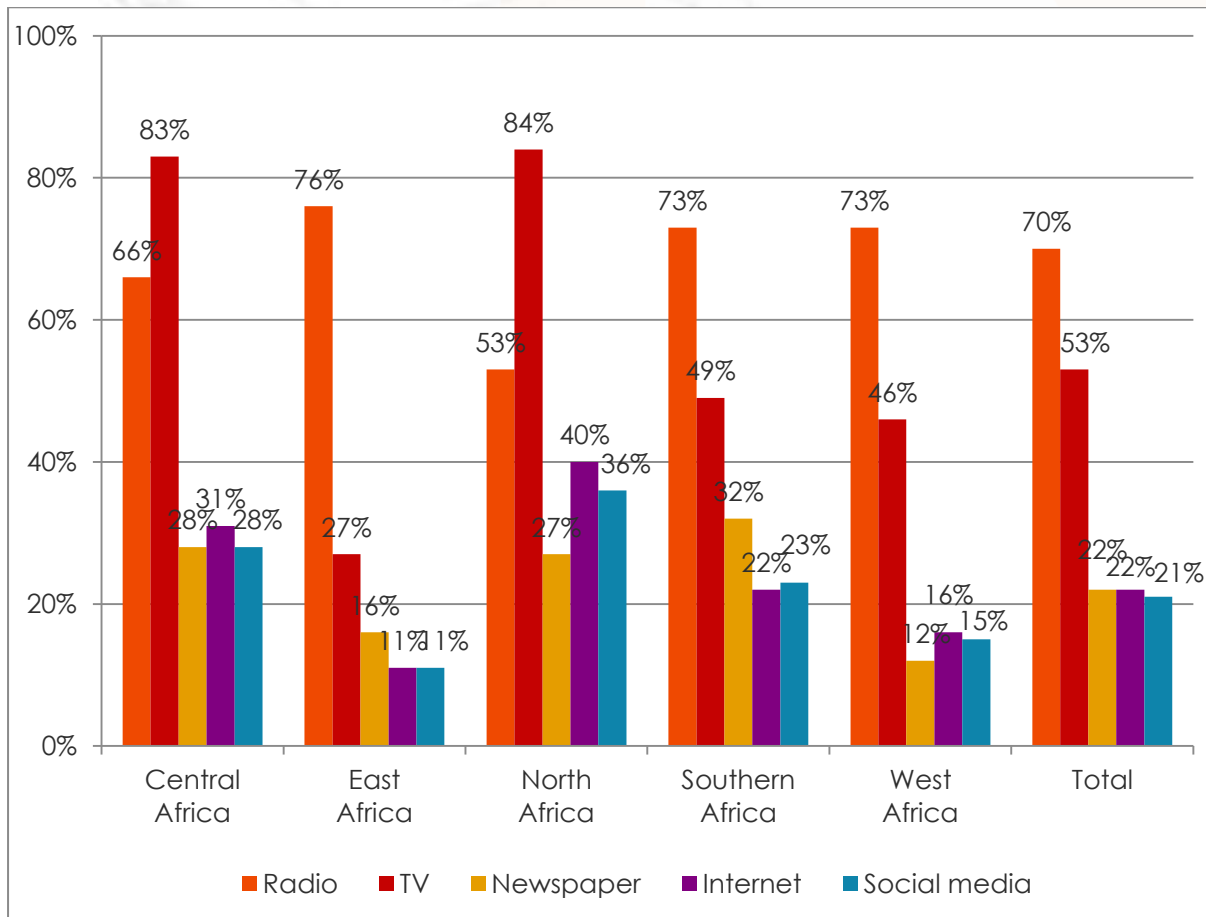
Regular Internet use for news ranges from a low of 3% in Madagascar, Burundi, and Niger to 52% in Mauritius, 49% in Morocco, 47% in Egypt, 44% in Cape Verde, and 42% in Algeria (Figure 15).

To further explore this data, please visit Afrobarometer's online data analysis facility at www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis.

North Africans are almost four times as likely (40% a few times a week/every day) as East Africans (11%) and more than twice as likely as West Africans (16%) to use the Internet regularly to get news.

Use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter, which was tracked for the first time in 2014/2015, is about as popular for regular news updates as the Internet: 21% of Africans say they get news there “a few times a week” or “every day.” Social media is particularly popular in Morocco (48% a few times a week/every day), Egypt (46%), and South Africa (43%) but is used by very few Burundians (2%), Nigeriens (2%), and Malagasy (3%) (Figure 16).

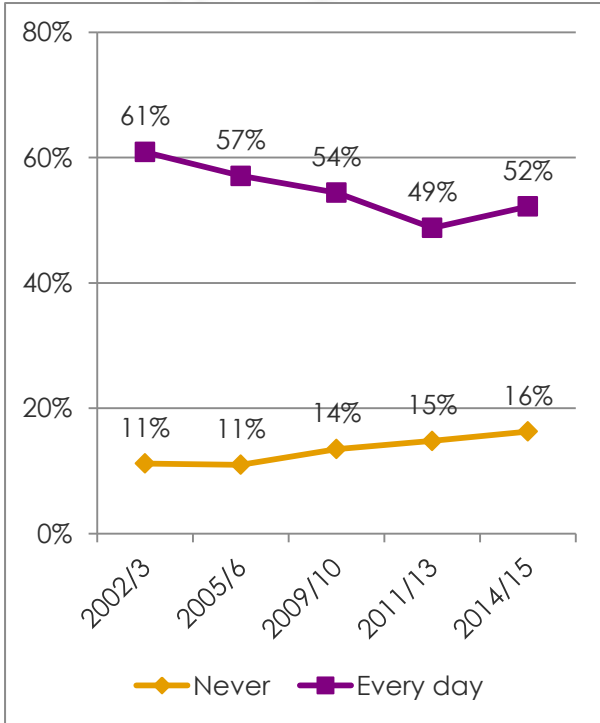
Figure 13: Media use “a few times a week” or “every day” | by region | 36 countries | 2014/2015



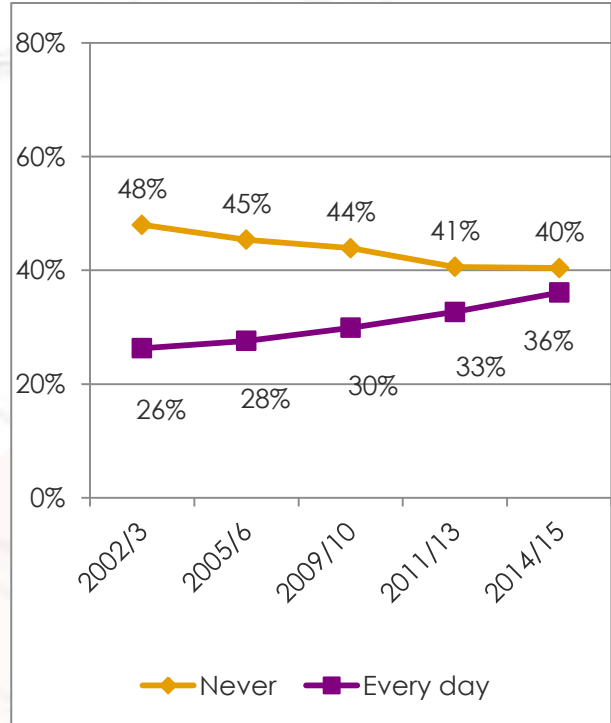
Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Radio? TV? Newspapers? The Internet? Social media such as Facebook and Twitter? (% who say “a few times a week” or “every day”)

Figure 14: Media usage “every day” and “never” | 16 countries | 2002-2015

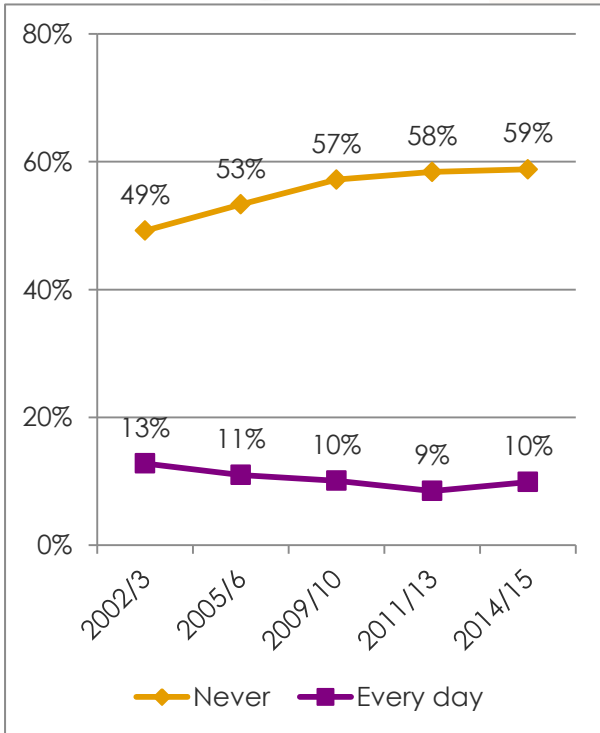
Radio



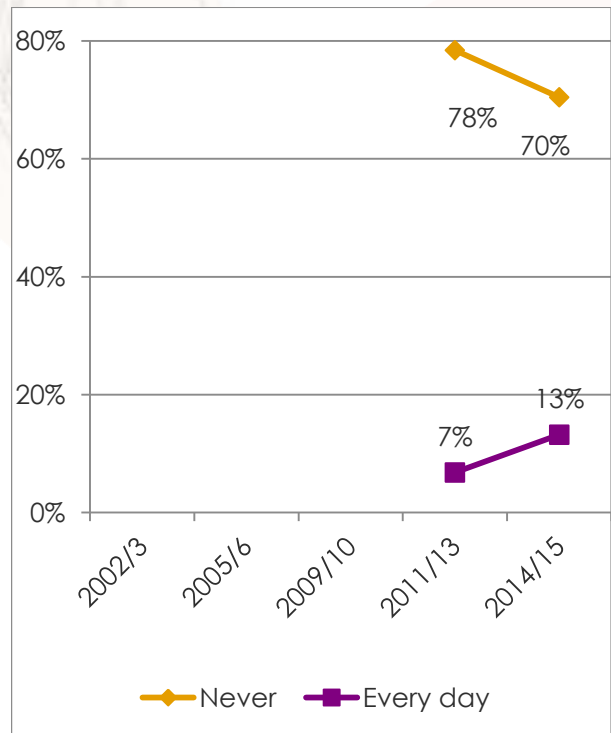
Television



Newspaper

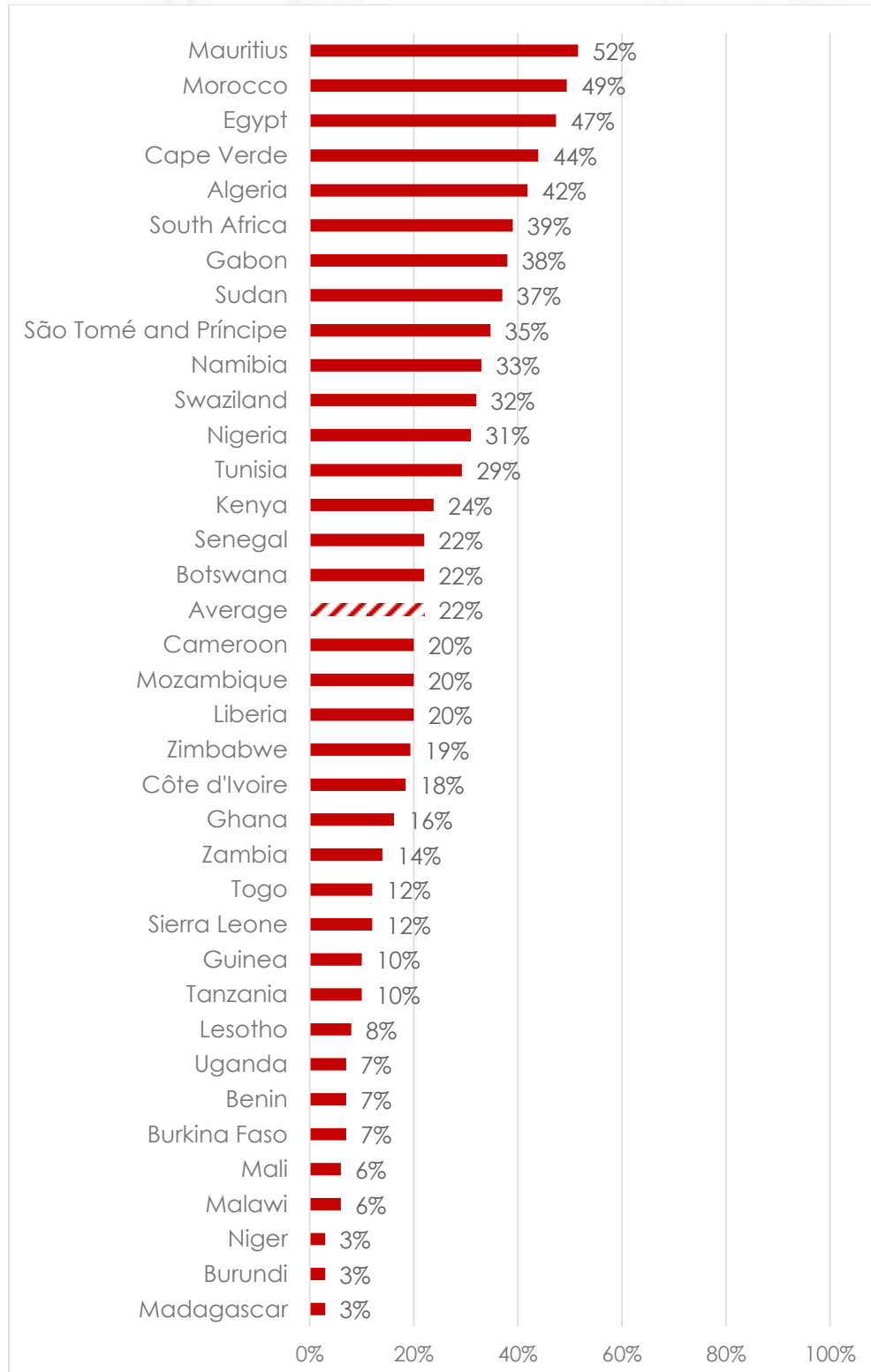


Internet



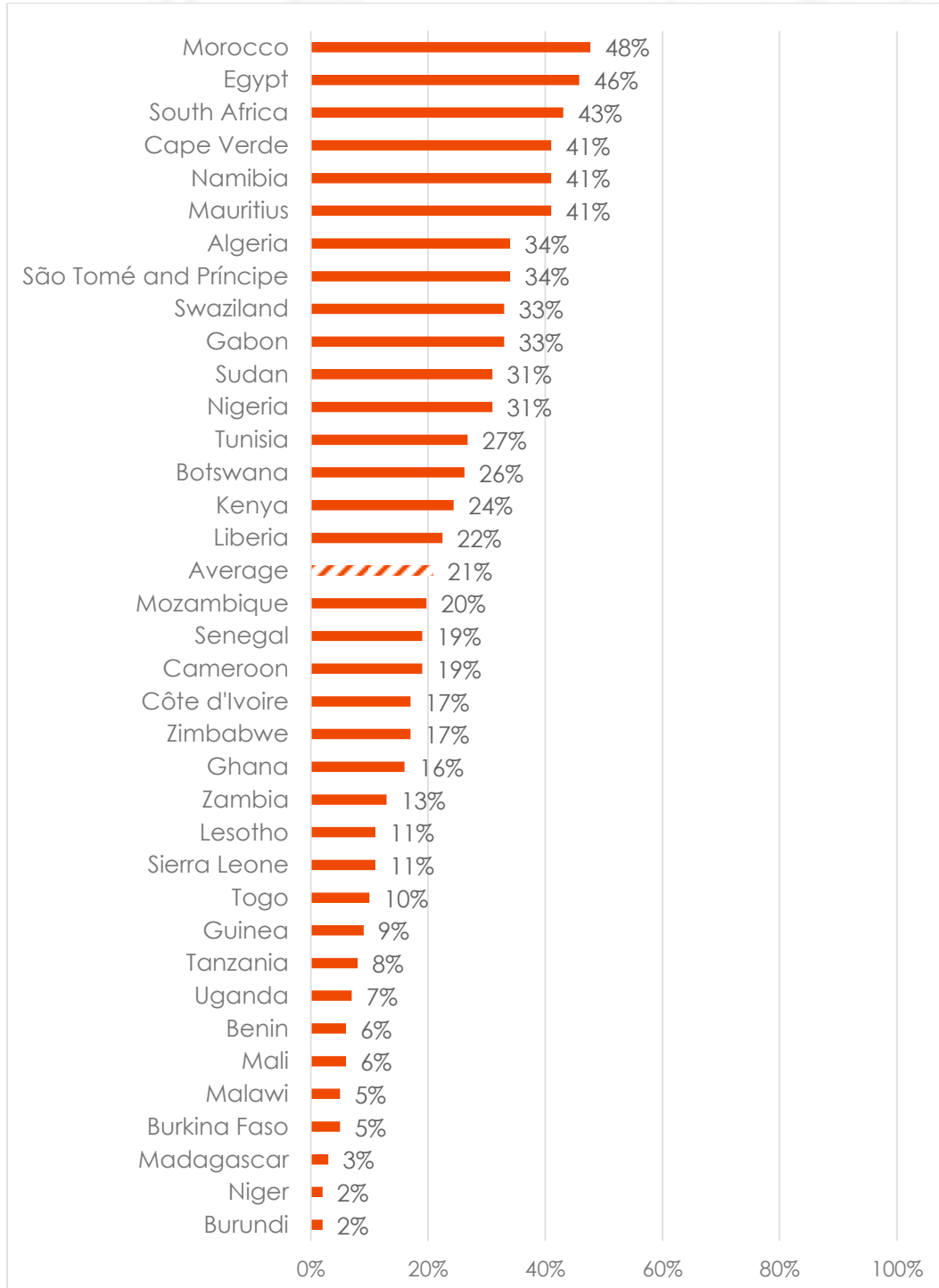
Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Radio? TV? Newspapers? The Internet?

Figure 15: Use of the Internet for news “a few times a week” or “every day”
 | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: The Internet? (% who say “a few times a week” or “every day”)

Figure 16: Use of social media for news “a few times a week” or “every day”
 | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Social media such Facebook and Twitter? (% who say “a few times a week” or “every day”)

Distinct demographic patterns are evident in media use by different groups (Table 1). In general, men, urbanites, youth, and the better educated obtain news from all sources more than women, rural dwellers, older people, and the less educated. The gaps are generally

narrow with respect to radio, and in fact there is no pattern for accessing radio by age group – the youngest and oldest respondents are the lowest users. The gaps between men and women are also generally modest.

The gaps for other types of media, and other demographic groups, are much wider. For example, those with post-secondary education are 56 percentage points more likely to regularly access news via social media than those with no formal education, and 48 points more likely to be regular newspaper readers. Urban residents are 41 points more likely to access news via television than those in rural areas. Youth consume more news than their elders in all categories except radio. Among youth and citizens with post-secondary education, the Internet and social media are more popular sources of regular news than newspapers.

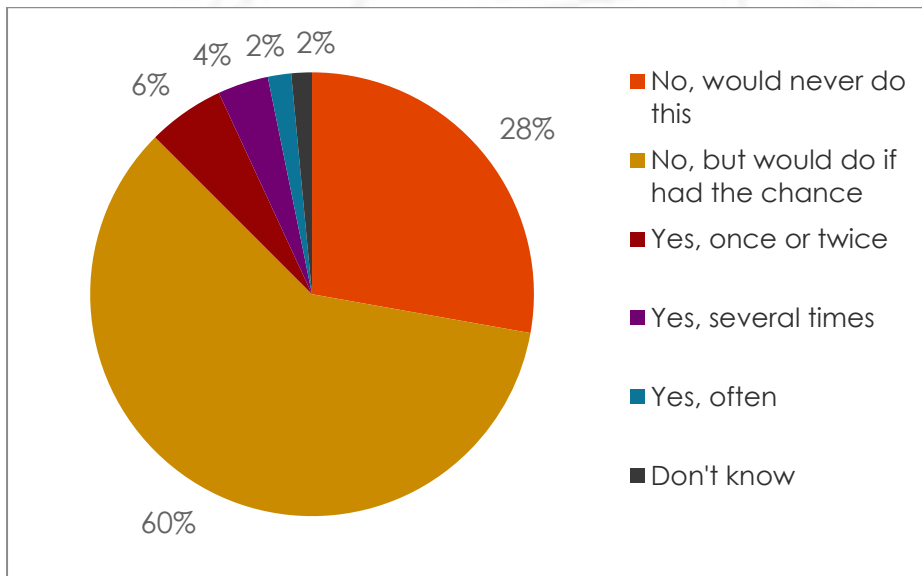
Table 1: Media use “a few times a week” or “every day” | by urban-rural residence, sex, age, and education level | 36 countries | 2014/2015

		Radio	TV	Newspapers	Internet	Social media
Residence	Urban	72%	77%	34%	35%	33%
	Rural	68%	36%	13%	12%	12%
Sex	Men	75%	55%	26%	25%	24%
	Women	65%	52%	18%	18%	18%
Age	18-25 yrs	66%	58%	24%	35%	35%
	26-35 yrs	72%	55%	25%	26%	26%
	36-45 yrs	72%	52%	22%	18%	16%
	46-55 yrs	71%	52%	20%	13%	10%
	56-65 yrs	70%	48%	17%	7%	4%
	66+ yrs	66%	39%	11%	3%	2%
Education	No formal	61%	28%	3%	2%	2%
	Primary	67%	39%	10%	6%	5%
	Secondary	75%	65%	30%	27%	27%
	Post-secondary	75%	83%	51%	63%	59%
Total		70%	53%	22%	22%	21%

Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Radio? TV? Newspapers? The Internet? Social media such as Facebook and Twitter? (% who say “a few times a week” or “every day”)

While most Africans use the news media to obtain information, a few of them also use the media as an outlet to express their views on public affairs. When presented a list of actions that citizens can take when they are dissatisfied with government performance, about one in eight respondents say they took action by contacting the media during the previous year, calling a radio program or writing a letter to a newspaper to voice their opinions. About one in 20 (6%) say they did so “once or twice,” 4% “several times,” and 2% “often.” Six in 10 (60%) say they did not contact the media but would do so if they “had the chance,” while 28% say they “would never do this” (Figure 17). Liberians are the most likely to share their views this way, with 48% reporting they contacted media, followed by Nigerians (21%) and residents of São Tomé and Príncipe (19%).

Figure 17: Using the media to express dissatisfaction | 36 countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens when they are dissatisfied with government performance. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Contacted the media, like calling a radio program or writing a letter to a newspaper?

Conclusion

Africa marks World Press Freedom Day amid concerns of a shrinking civic space that constrains media freedoms and a culture of openness on- and offline. In opposition to government attacks on media freedoms in some countries, a majority of African citizens want an independent media, support the media's watchdog role to hold government accountable, see the media as effective in revealing government mistakes and corruption, and affirm that journalists "rarely" or "never" abuse their freedom.

But except for the media's watchdog role, this public support is neither overwhelming nor growing, and it is far from consistent across countries, regions, and demographic groups. In particular, substantial proportions of the population say that governments should have the right to restrict the media and that the media "often" or "always" abuses its freedom by publishing lies. These views challenge the media to use its considerable power to make its best case for freedom – through responsible journalism, civic education, what else? – to a critical public.

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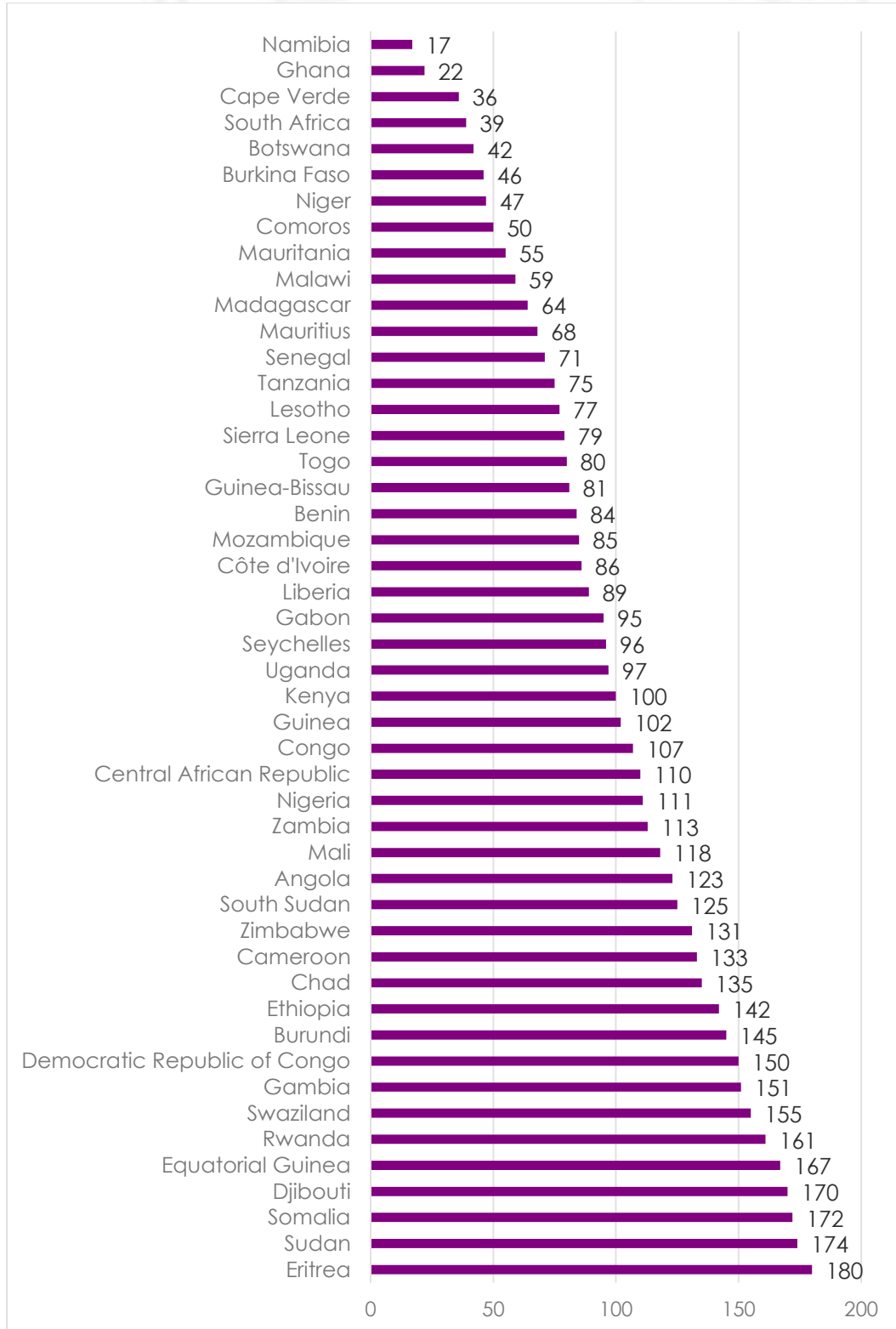
Appendix

Table A.1: Afrobarometer Round 6 fieldwork dates and previous survey rounds

Country	Months when Round 6 fieldwork was conducted	Previous survey rounds
Algeria	May-June 2015	2013
Benin	May-June 2014	2005, 2008, 2011
Botswana	June-July 2014	1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012
Burkina Faso	April-May 2015	2008, 2012
Burundi	September-October 2014	2012
Cameroon	January-February 2015	2013
Cape Verde	November-December 2014	2002, 2005, 2008, 2011
Côte d'Ivoire	August-September 2014	2013
Egypt	June-July 2015	2013
Gabon	September 2015	N/A
Ghana	May-June 2014	1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012
Guinea	March-April 2015	2013
Kenya	November-December 2014	2003, 2005, 2008, 2011
Lesotho	May 2014	2000, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012
Liberia	May 2015	2008, 2012
Madagascar	December 2015-January 2015	2005, 2008, 2013
Malawi	March-April 2014	1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012
Mali	December 2014	2001, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2013
Mauritius	June-July 2014	2012
Morocco	November 2015	2013
Mozambique	June-August 2015	2002, 2005, 2008, 2012
Namibia	August-September 2014	1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012
Niger	April 2015	2013
Nigeria	December 2014-January 2015	2000, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2013
São Tomé and Príncipe	July-August 2015	N/A
Senegal	November-December 2014	2002, 2005, 2008, 2013
Sierra Leone	May-June 2015	2012
South Africa	August-September 2015	2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2011
Sudan	June 2015	2013

Country	Months when Round 6 fieldwork was conducted	Previous survey rounds
Swaziland	April 2015	2013
Tanzania	August-November 2014	2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012
Togo	October 2014	2012
Tunisia	April-May 2015	2013
Uganda	May 2015	2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012
Zambia	October 2014	1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2013
Zimbabwe	November 2014	1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012

Figure A.1: Media freedom scores by Reporters Without Borders | 48 African countries | 2016



Experts assign country scores for pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, infrastructure, and abuses (see <https://rsf.org/en/detailed-methodology>). Each indicator is given a score between 0 (best) and 200 (worst).

Table A.2: Media freedom scores by Freedom House | 53 African countries | 2015

	Score	Status
Cape Verde	27	Free
São Tome and Príncipe	28	Free
Mauritius	29	Free
Ghana	31	Partly free
Namibia	33	Partly free
South Africa	36	Partly free
Mali	37	Partly free
Benin	38	Partly free
Burkina Faso	41	Partly free
Botswana	45	Partly free
Malawi	45	Partly free
Mozambique	46	Partly free
Comoros	49	Partly free
Lesotho	49	Partly free
Senegal	49	Partly free
Seychelles	49	Partly free
Côte d'Ivoire	51	Partly free
Mauritania	51	Partly free
Nigeria	51	Partly free
Tunisia	52	Partly free
Niger	53	Partly free
Sierra Leone	53	Partly free
Tanzania	55	Partly free
Uganda	57	Partly free
Kenya	58	Partly free
Liberia	58	Partly free
Madagascar	58	Partly free
Republic of Congo	59	Partly free
Guinea-Bissau	60	Partly free
Togo	60	Partly free
Zambia	61	Not free
Algeria	62	Not free
Cameroon	65	Not free
Guinea	65	Not free
Morocco	66	Not free
South Sudan	66	Not free
Gabon	68	Not free
Angola	71	Not free
Central African Republic	71	Not free
Libya	73	Not free
Chad	74	Not free
Zimbabwe	74	Not free
Djibouti	75	Not free
Egypt	77	Not free
Democratic Republic of Congo	78	Not free

Rwanda	79	Not free
Somalia	79	Not free
Burundi	80	Not free
Swaziland	82	Not free
Ethiopia	83	Not free
Sudan	85	Not free
The Gambia	87	Not free
Equatorial Guinea	91	Not free

Each country and territory receives a numerical score between 0 (most free) and 100 (least free), which serves as the basis for a status designation of free, partly free, or not free (see <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/freedom-press-2015#.VxnnQzB97IV>).

Other Round 6 global releases

- **Where to start? Aligning sustainable development goals with citizen priorities.** (2015). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 67. Available at http://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Dispatches/ab_r6_dispatchno67_african_priorities_en.pdf.
- **Building on progress: Infrastructure development still a major challenge in Africa.** (2016). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 69. Available at www.afrobarometer.org/publications/ad69-building-progress-infrastructure-development-still-major-challenge-africa.
- **Africa's growth dividend? Lived poverty drops across much of the continent.** (2016). Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 29. Available at <http://www.afrobarometer.org/publications/pp29-africas-growth-dividend-lived-poverty-drops-across-the-continent>.
- **Good neighbours? Africans express high levels of tolerance for many, but not for all.** (2016). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 74. Available at <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/tolerance-in-africa>.
- **Off-grid or 'off-on': Lack of access, unreliable electricity supply still plague majority of Africans.** Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 75. Available at <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad75-unreliable-electricity-supply-still-plague-majority-of-africans>.
- **Lack of safe water, sanitation spurs growing dissatisfaction with government performance.** Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 76. Available at <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad76-lack-of-safe-water-and-sanitation-spurs-growing-dissatisfaction>.
- **Despite gains, barriers keep health care high on Africa's priority list.** Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 31. Available at <http://www.afrobarometer.org/publications/pp31-despite-gains-barriers-keep-health-care-high-on-africas-priority-list>.

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