

Windhoek, Namibia
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News release

Namibians offer mixed appraisal of COVID-19 response, are skeptical of vaccines and critical of corruption

While a majority of Namibians approve of the government's overall response to COVID-19, they are critical of inadequate relief and corruption and are skeptical of vaccine safety, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

A majority of citizens say they are satisfied that disruptions to children's education were kept to a minimum and that hospitals were adequately stocked to respond to the demands of COVID-19.

But majorities also criticize the support offered to vulnerable families, and most believe that resources intended for combating the pandemic have been lost to government corruption.

Most citizens are skeptical of the government's ability to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and doubt its preparedness for a future public health emergency.

Key findings

- Only 16% of Namibians express full confidence in the government's ability to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe. Six in 10 say they trust the government "just a little" (29%) or "not at all" (30%) and another 22% say they trust the government "somewhat" to ensure vaccine safety (Figure 1).
- More than six in 10 respondents (62%) think the government has handled the pandemic response "fairly well" (43%) or "very well" (19%) (Figure 2).
- But assessments of specific aspects of the pandemic response are mixed:
 - Six in 10 citizens (61%) say they are "fairly satisfied" (39%) or "very satisfied" (22%) that disruptions to children's education were kept to a minimum (Figure 3).
 - And a majority (57%) believe that hospitals were adequately stocked to meet the demands of the pandemic.
 - But a majority (57%) say they are "not at all satisfied" (28%) or "not very satisfied" (29%) with the support offered to vulnerable households during the pandemic.
 - And more than two-thirds (68%) of Namibians believe that "some" or "a lot" of the resources intended for the pandemic response were lost or stolen due to government corruption (Figure 4).
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of Namibians believe the government is not prepared to deal with future health emergencies, including 51% who say it is "very unprepared" (Figure 5).

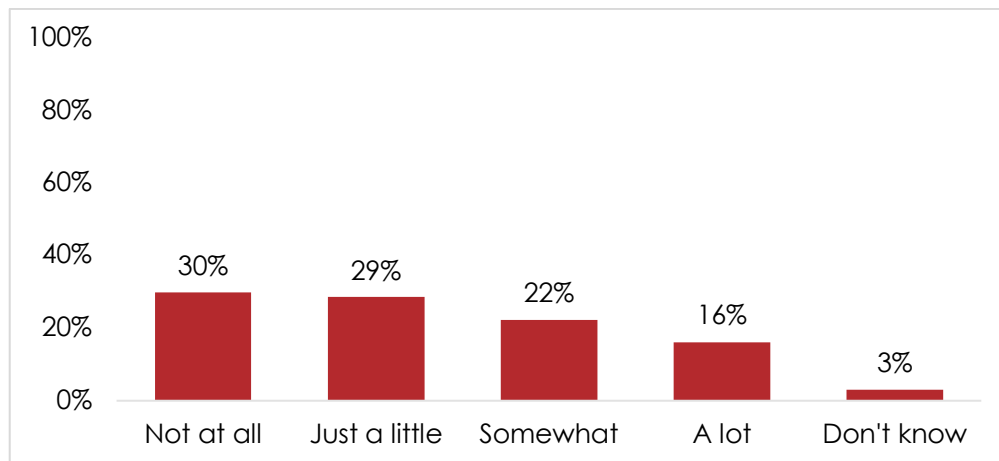
Afrobarometer surveys

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 Namibia, led by national partner Survey Warehouse, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Namibians in October and November 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Namibia in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

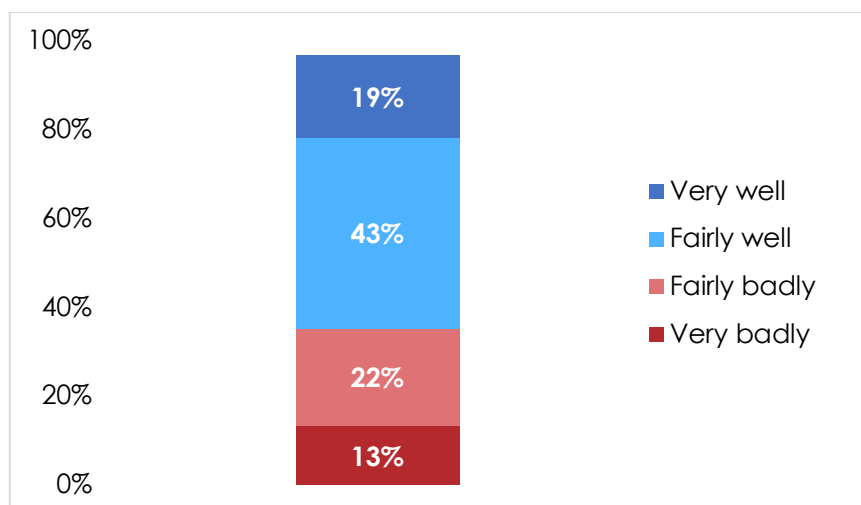
Charts

Figure 1: Trust government to provide safe vaccines | Namibia | 2021



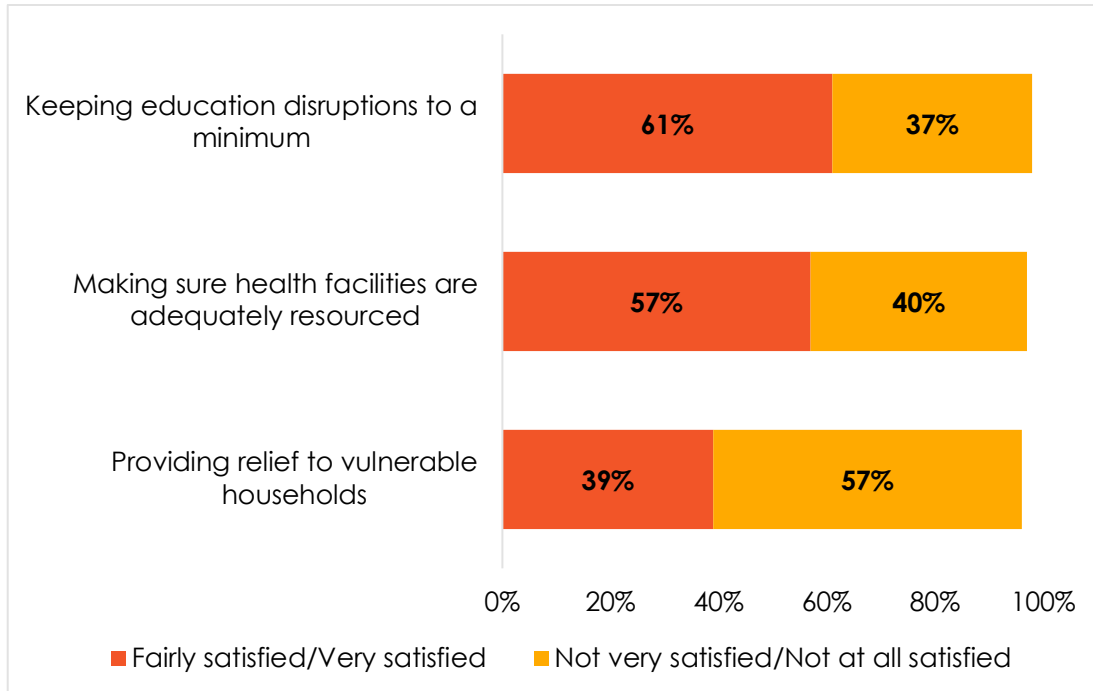
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the government to ensure that any vaccine for COVID-19 that is developed or offered to Namibian citizens is safe before it is used in this country?

Figure 2: Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic | Namibia | 2021



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government has managed the response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Figure 3: Satisfaction with COVID-19 management | Namibia | 2021



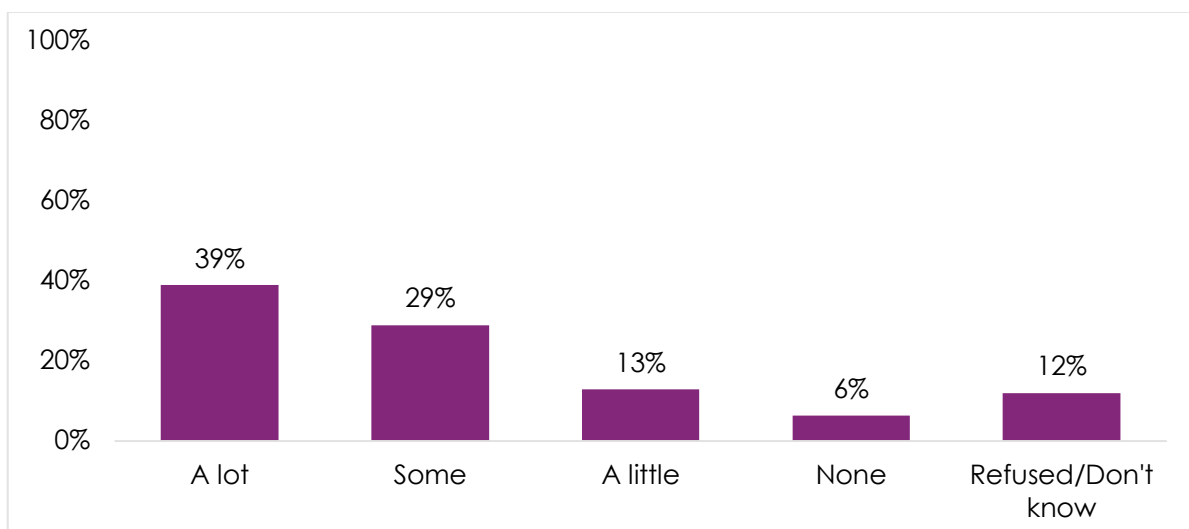
Respondents were asked: How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the government's response to COVID-19 in the following areas:

Providing relief to vulnerable households?

Ensuring that disruptions to children's education are kept to a minimum?

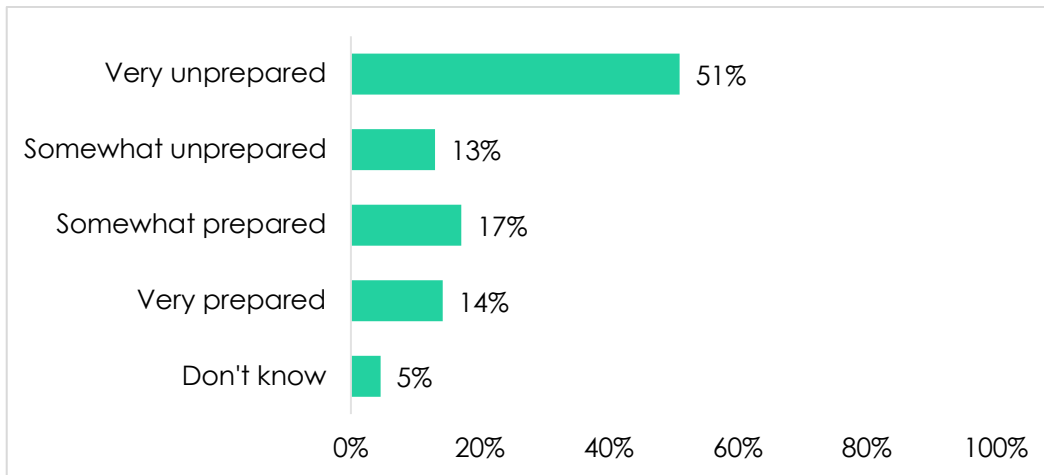
Making sure that health facilities have adequate resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Figure 4: Corruption during the COVID-19 pandemic | Namibia | 2021



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?

Figure 5: Government preparedness to deal with future public health emergencies
 | Namibia | 2021



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

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