

Lobito-Benguela, Angola
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News release

Angolans trust religious and traditional leaders more than elected leaders, Afrobarometer survey shows

Angolans trust religious and traditional leaders more than elected leaders, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

In general, Angolans express little trust in leaders and institutions, including the president of the Republic, the National Assembly, and the bodies that played key roles in the general elections in August – the ruling and opposition parties and the National Electoral Commission. In most cases, trust levels have declined since the previous survey in 2019.

In the period following the electoral campaign, which was sometimes marked by a tense atmosphere among the main political actors, trusted religious and traditional leaders can play a crucial role in calming tempers and fostering a climate of reciprocal political tolerance.

Key findings

- A majority (53%) of Angolans say they trust religious leaders “somewhat” or “a lot.” No other leaders or institutions the survey asked about enjoy the trust of a majority of citizens. Only 29% express trust in the president of the Republic, an 8-percentage-point drop from 37% in 2019, and even fewer (21%) say they trust the National Electoral Commission, down from 27% in 2019 (Figure 1).
- Between 2019 and 2022, trust in religious leaders rose dramatically in rural areas (from 56% to 73%) and in Huila province (from 50% to 66%) (Figure 2). Trust in religious leaders declined in urban areas (from 51% to 43%), especially in Luanda province, the capital (from 47% to 29%).
 - Trust in religious leaders is stronger than average among poorer citizens (60%), those with primary schooling or less (61%-64%), and older respondents (65% of those aged 46 or older).
- Similarly, traditional leaders enjoy relatively high – and increasing – levels of trust in rural areas (71%) and Huila (59%), while trust in traditional leaders is fairly low – and declining – in Luanda (19%) and urban areas in general (31%) (Figure 3).
 - As with religious leaders, trust in traditional leaders tends to be higher among poor citizens (55%), less educated citizens (61%) and older people (60% of those aged 46 or older).
- In Luanda, only 15% of respondents say they trust the president of the Republic “somewhat” or “a lot,” down 13 percentage points from 2019 (28%). In Huila, trust has increased to 42%, 12 points more than in 2019 (30%) (Figure 4).
 - Trust in the president tends to be higher among rural residents (40%), the less educated (30%-37%), and older respondents (36% of those aged 46 or older).

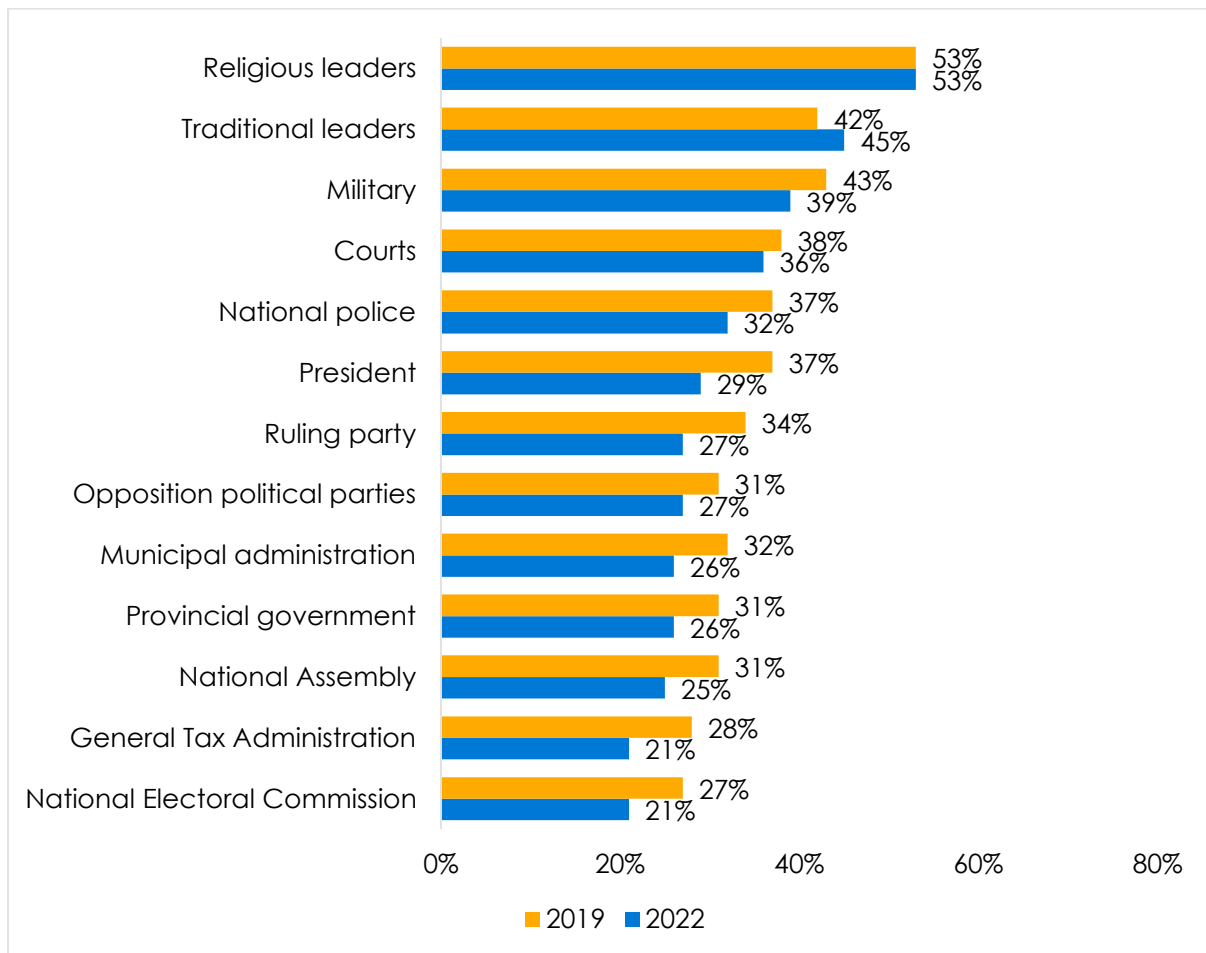
Afrobarometer

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 Angola, led by Ovilonwa – Estudos de Opinião Pública, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Angolans between 9 February and 8 March 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. A previous survey was conducted in Angola in 2019.

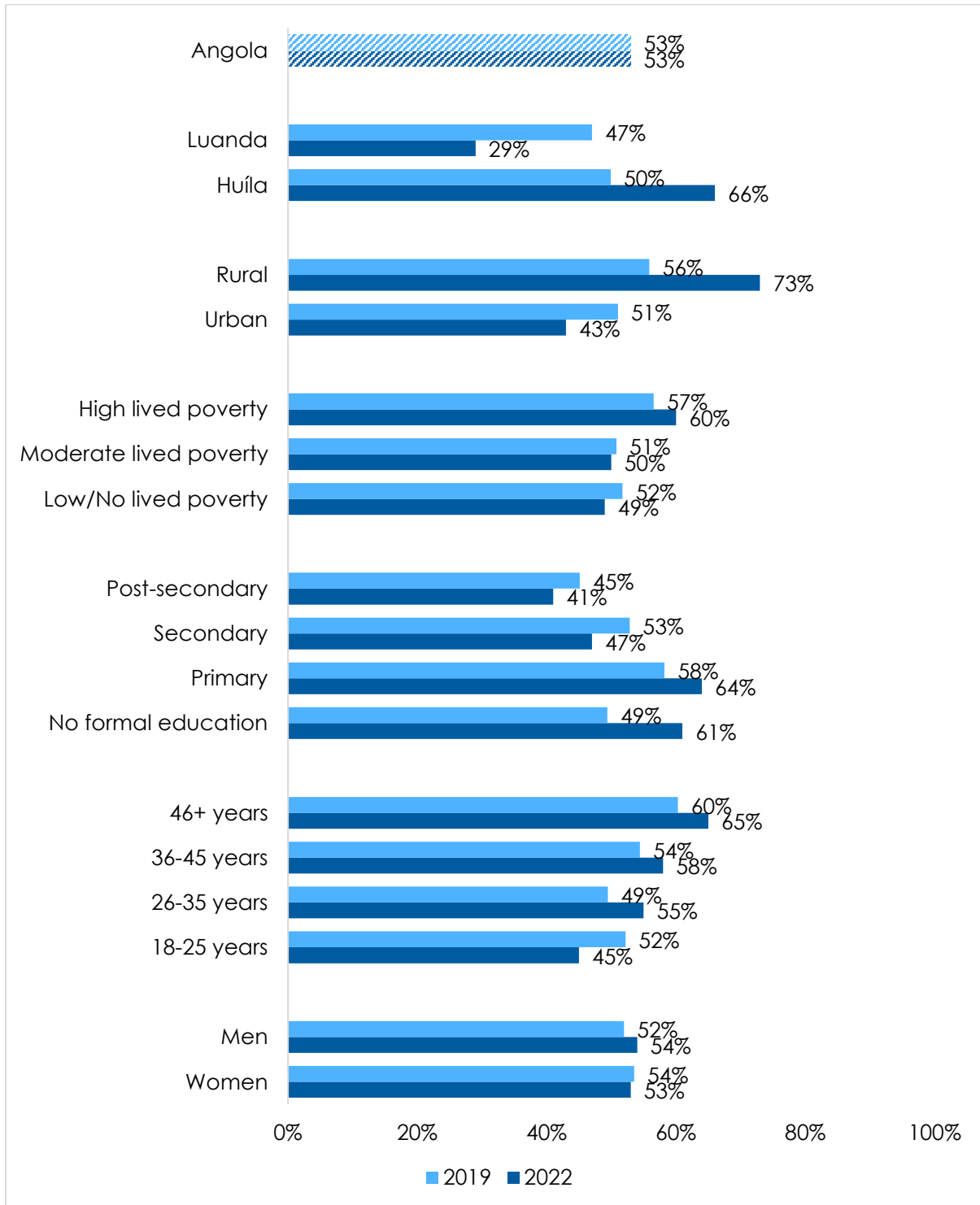
Charts

Figure 1: Trust in institutions and leaders | Angola | 2019-2022



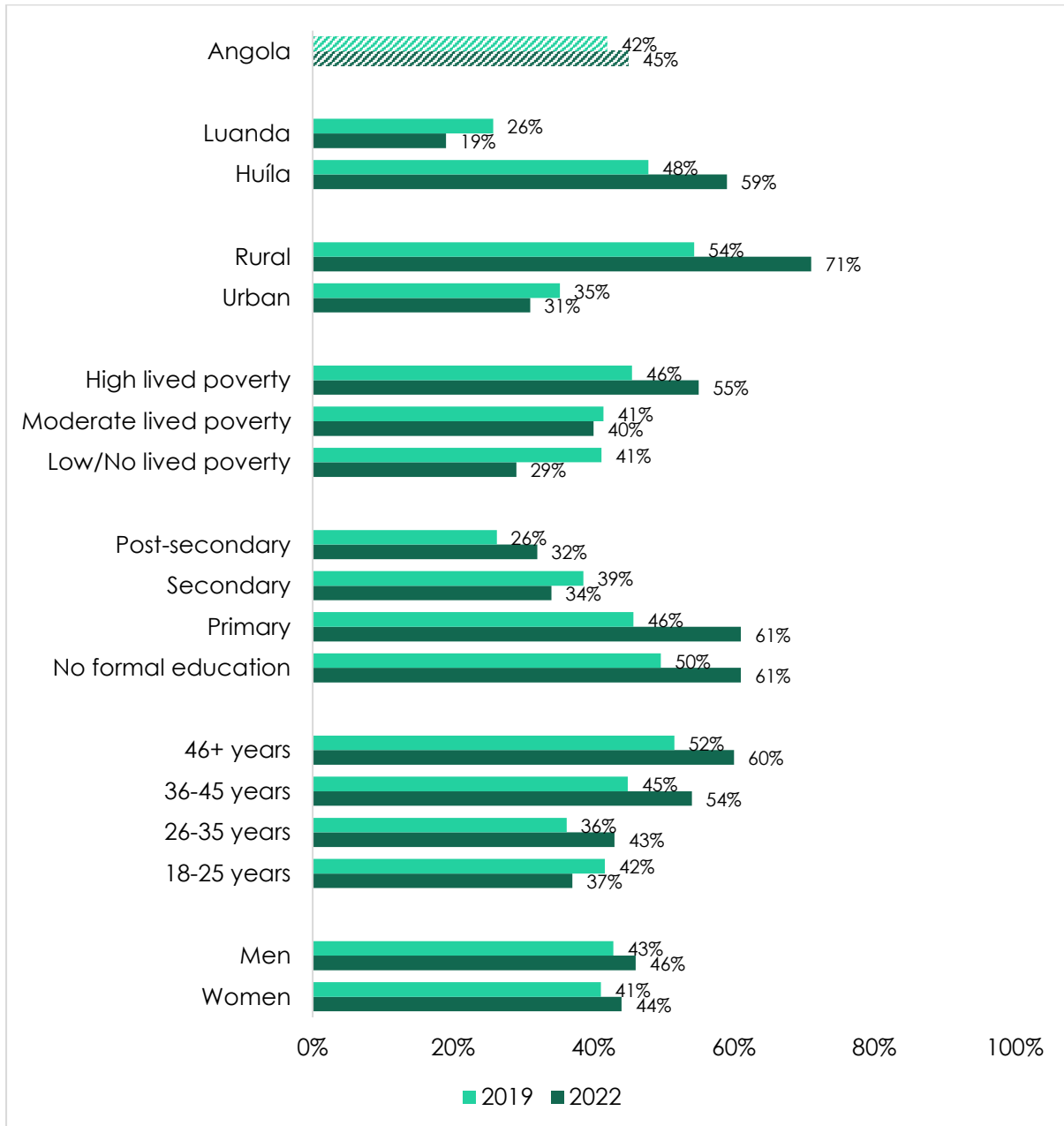
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 2: Trust in religious leaders | by demographic group | Angola | 2019-2022



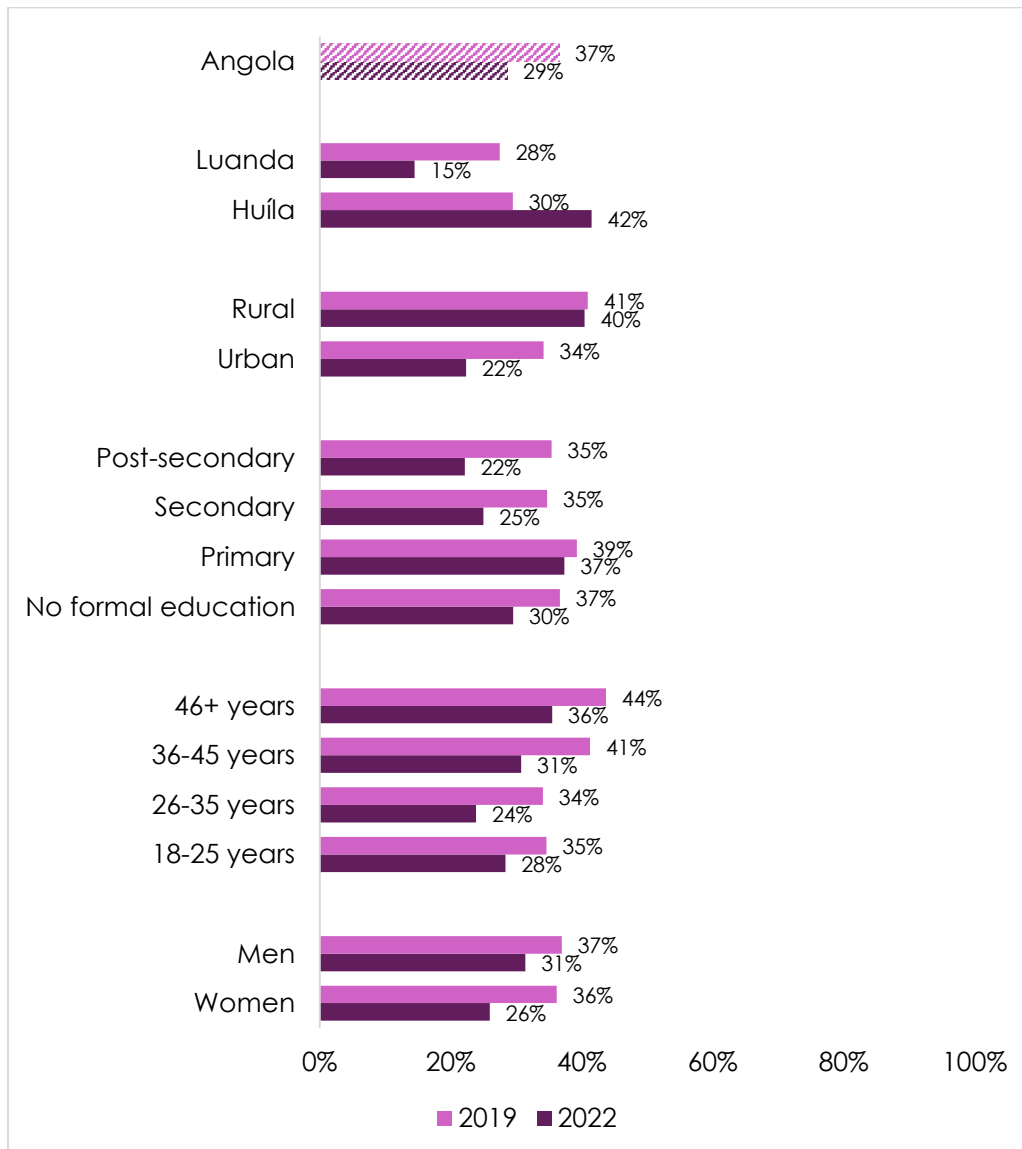
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Religious leaders? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 3: Trust in traditional leaders | by demographic group | Angola | 2019-2022



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

Figure 4: Trust in the president | by demographic group | Angola | 2019-2022



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

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