



Perceptions of corruption in Tunisia

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in Tunisia



ONE TO ONE
for Research and Polling



At a glance

- **Extent of corruption:** Seven in 10 Tunisians say the level of corruption has increased over the past year. Among the most important problems that Tunisians want the government to address, corruption ranks third.
- **Government performance at fighting corruption:** Six in 10 Tunisians say the government is performing “fairly badly” or “very badly” in its fight against corruption.
- **Corruption and distrust in institutions:** Among key public officials, government officials and members of Parliament are perceived to be the most corrupt. Perceptions of corruption and distrust in Parliament and the Presidency have increased sharply compared to 2015.
- **Participation of citizens:** Although a majority of Tunisians (59%) think that ordinary citizens can make a difference in fighting corruption, 61% say that people risk retaliation if they report incidents of corruption.

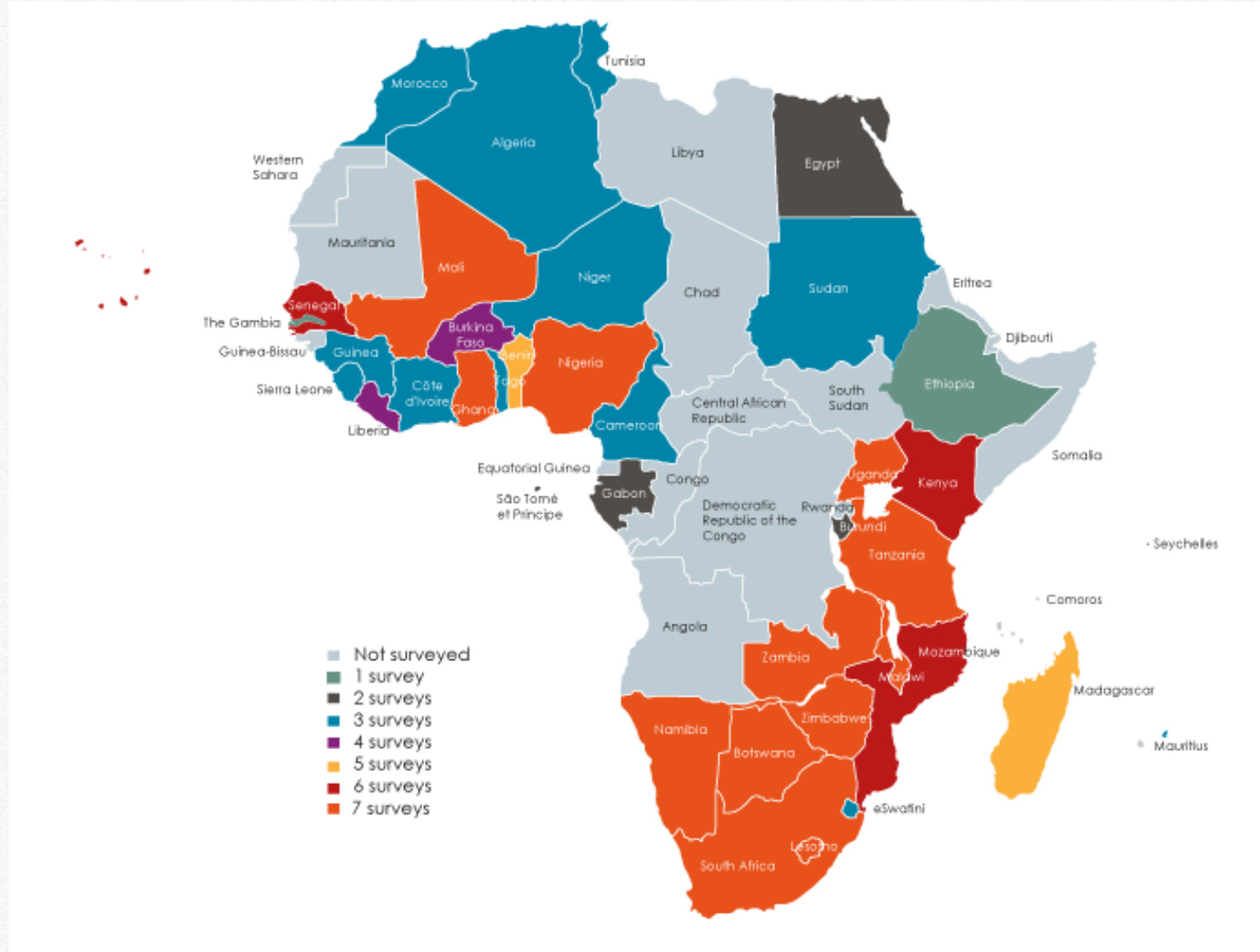


What is Afrobarometer?

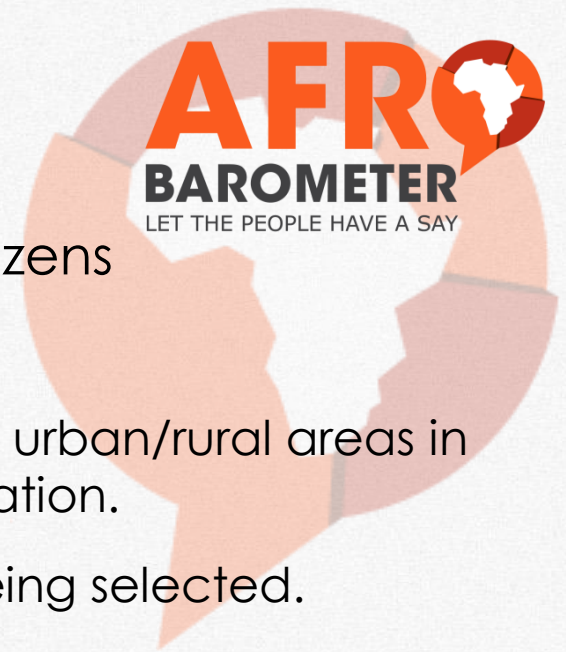


- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys are being conducted in 2016/2018.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Tunisia, Afrobarometer's Round 7 survey was conducted by One to One for Research and Polling.

Where Afrobarometer works



Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across governorates and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Tunisia of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Tunisia was conducted between 1 April and 5 May 2018.



Survey demographics

Gender	
Men	50%
Women	50%
Residence	
Urban	68%
Rural	32%
Education	
No formal education	8%
Primary	39%
Secondary	33%
Post-secondary	20%

Age groups	
18-29 years	22%
30-49 years	46%
50 years and over	32%
Average age	42 years
Median age	41 years
Regions	
Great Tunis	25%
North East	14%
North West	11%
Center East	23%
Center West	13%
South	14%

Findings





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Corruption in the country



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Key findings

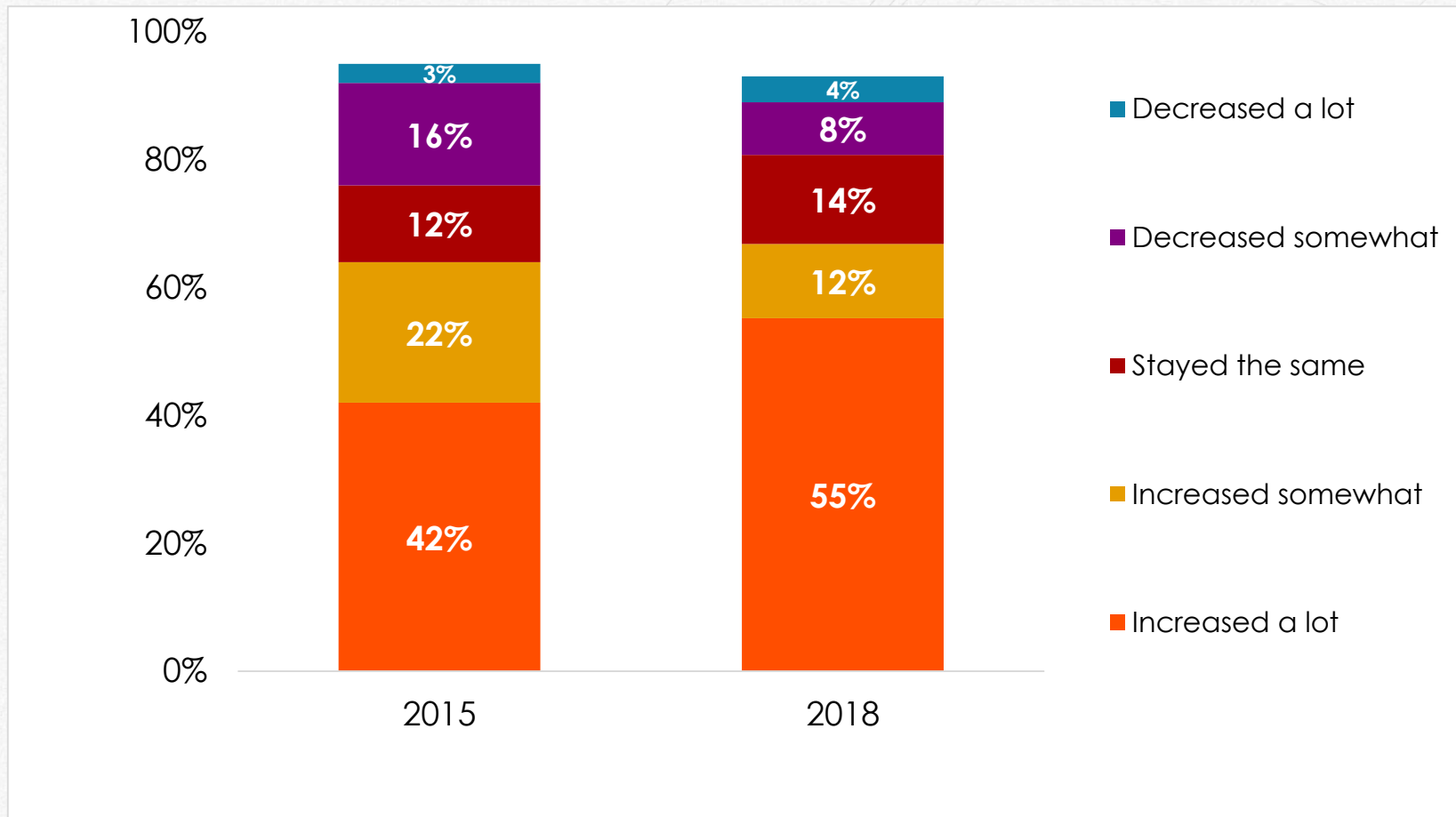


- Two-thirds (67%) of Tunisians say the level of corruption has increased over the past year.
- The proportion of citizens who say the level of corruption has “increased a lot” moved up from 42% in 2015 to 55% in 2018.
- Corruption ranks third among the most important problems that citizens want the government to address.
- The perception that corruption has increased is highest in Great Tunis, among male citizens and the educated.



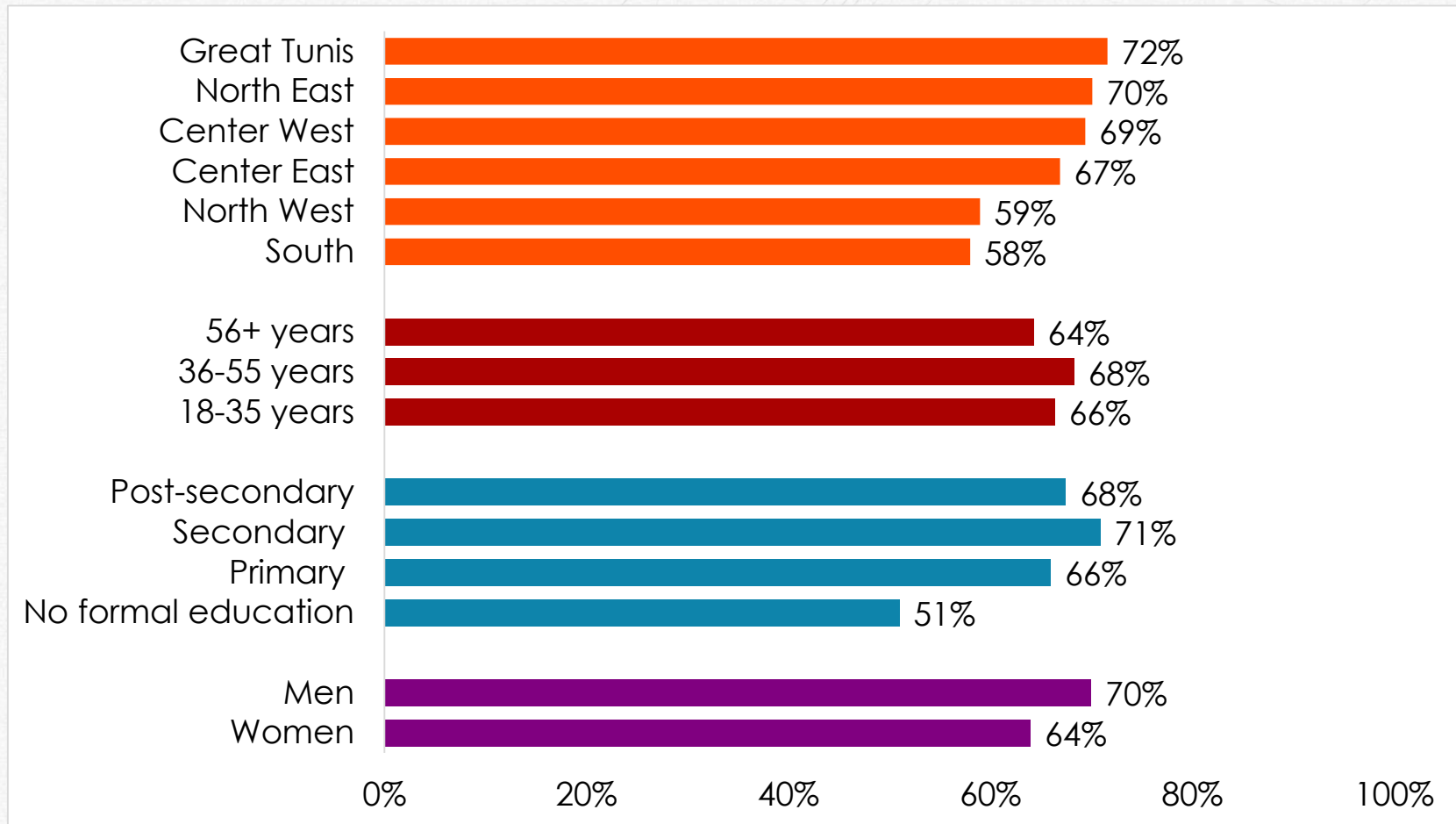
Level of corruption in the country | Tunisia

| 2015-2018



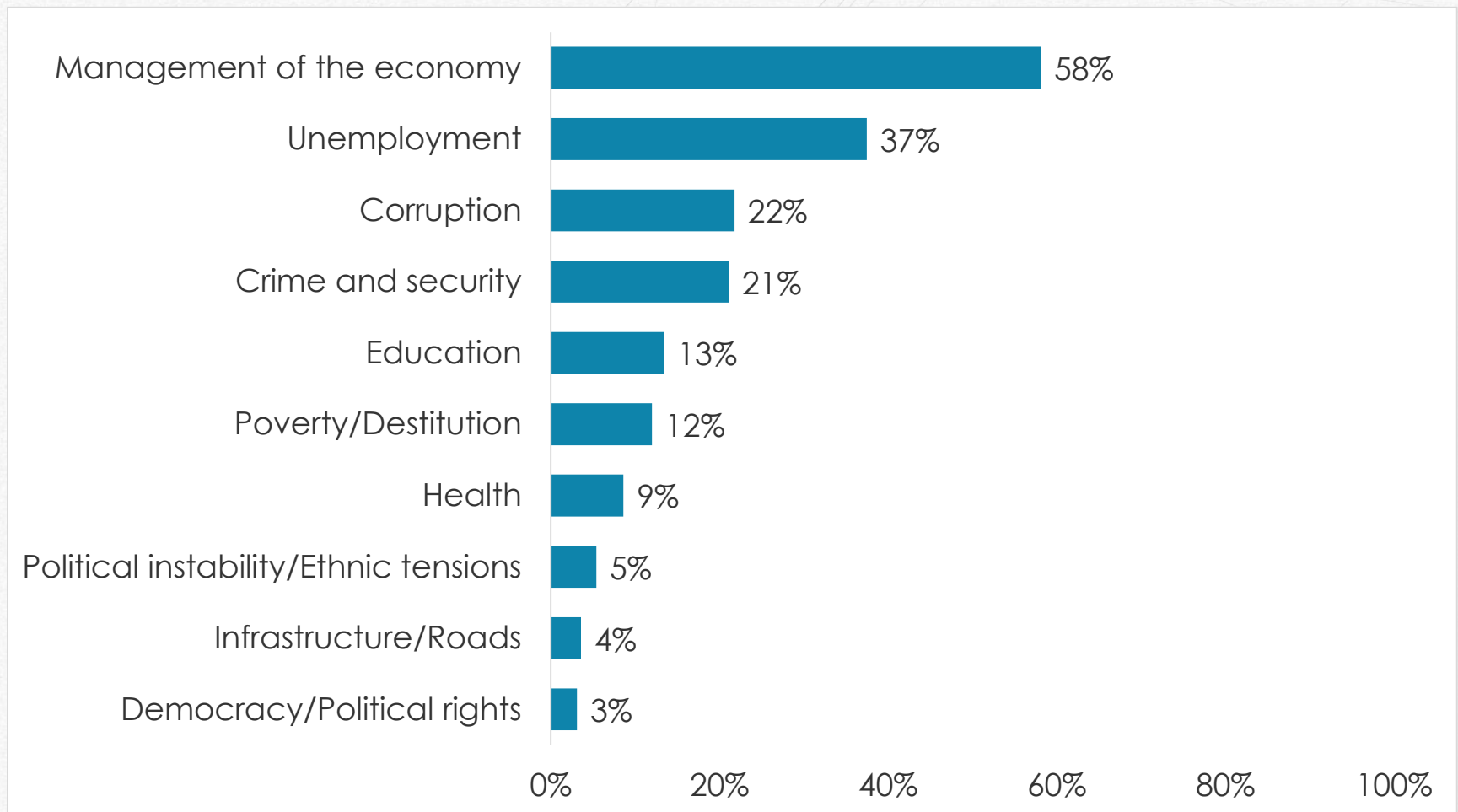
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?*

Level of corruption over the past year | by socio-demographic group | Tunisia | 2018



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same? (% who say “increased somewhat” or “increased a lot”)

Most important problems | Tunisia | 2018



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person)*



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Government performance in fighting corruption



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Key findings

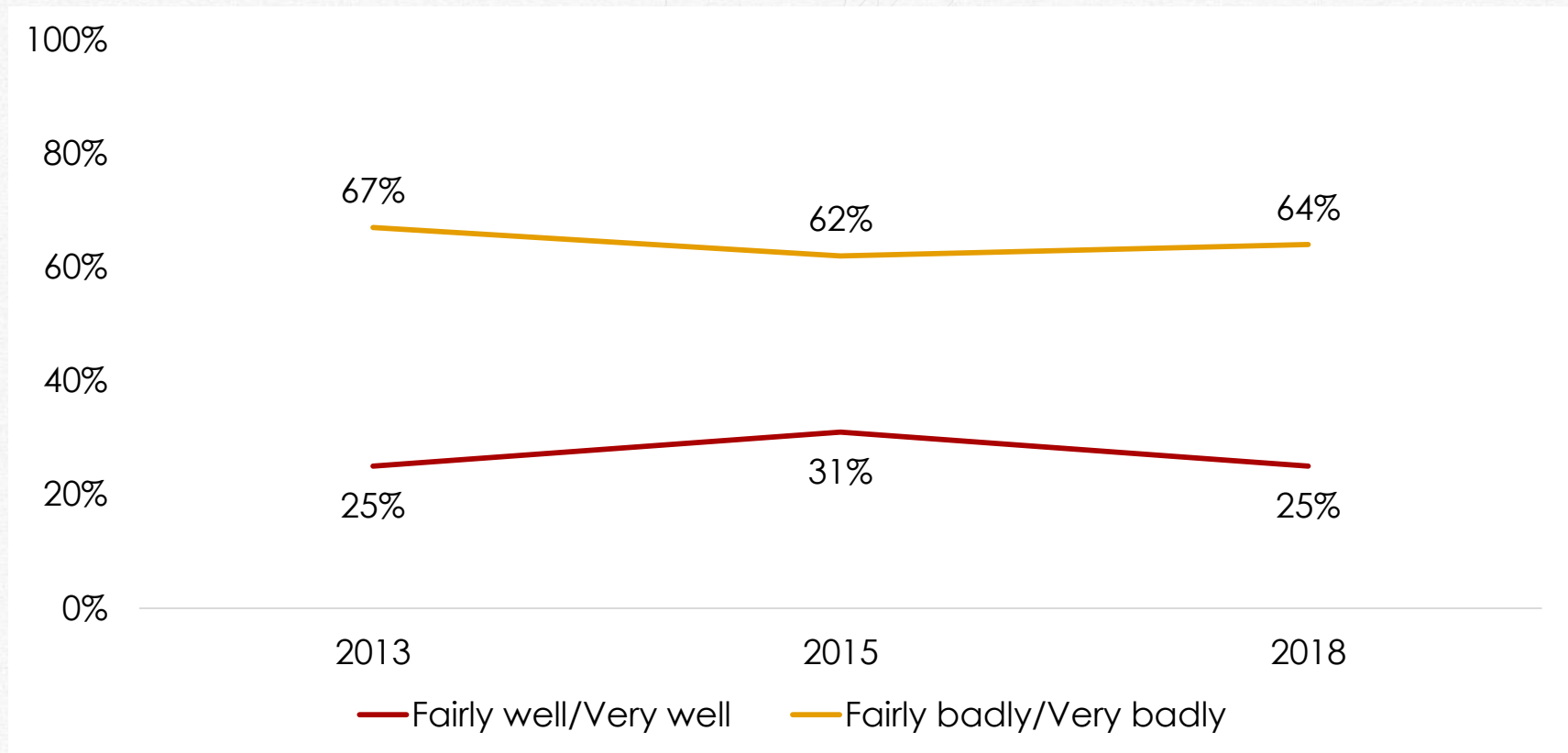


- Two-thirds of Tunisians (64%) say the government is handling the fight against corruption “very badly” or “fairly badly.”
- Citizens’ assessments of government efforts in fighting corruption have remained critical since 2013 (67%).
- The perception that the government is performing poorly in fighting corruption is highest among citizens with post-secondary education and in the Center East region.



Government performance in fighting corruption

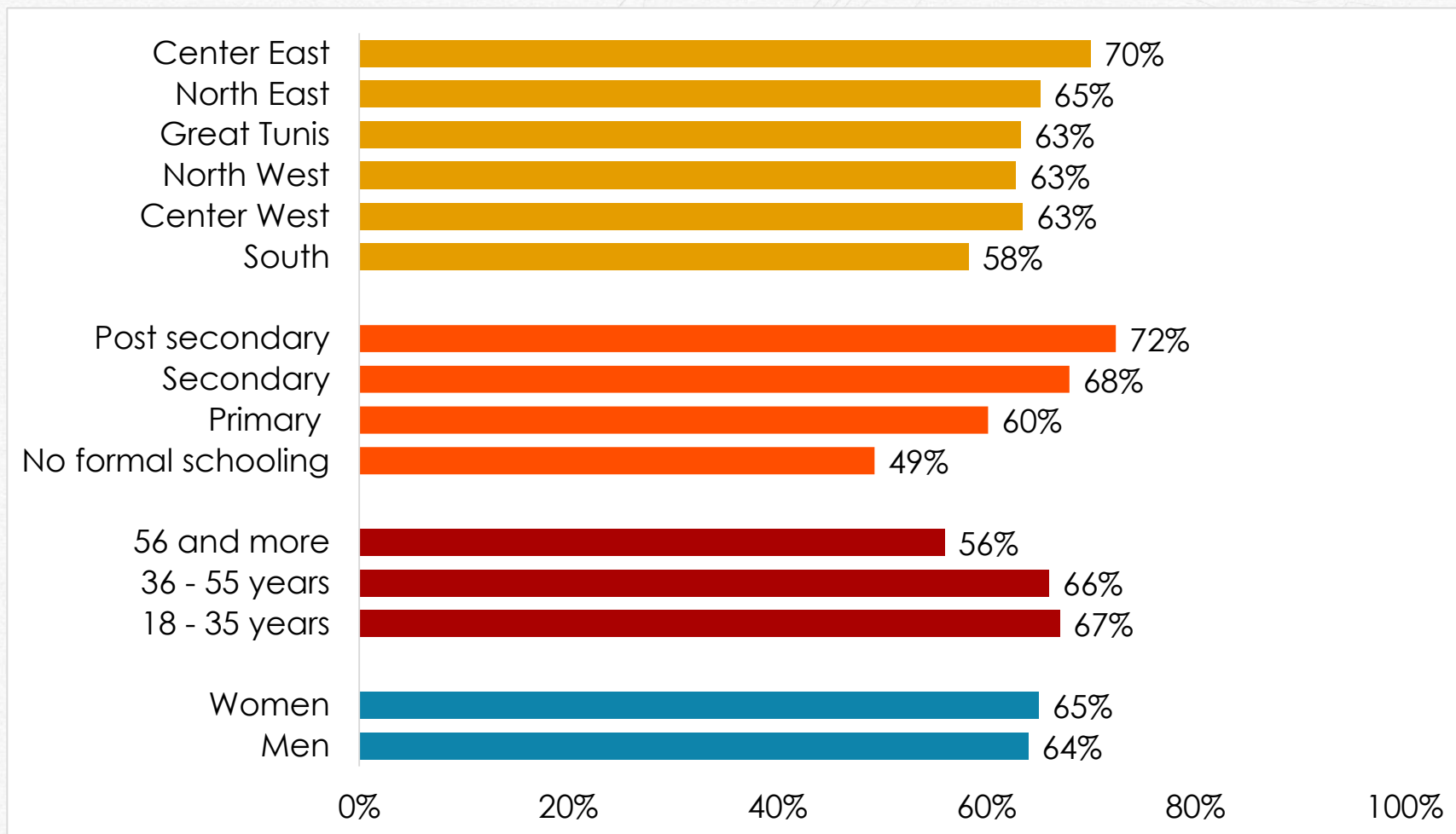
| Tunisia | 2013-2018



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: Handling fighting corruption?

Government performance in fighting corruption

| by socio-demographic group | Tunisia | 2018



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: Handling fighting corruption?
(% who say "fairly badly" or "very badly")



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Who is corrupt?



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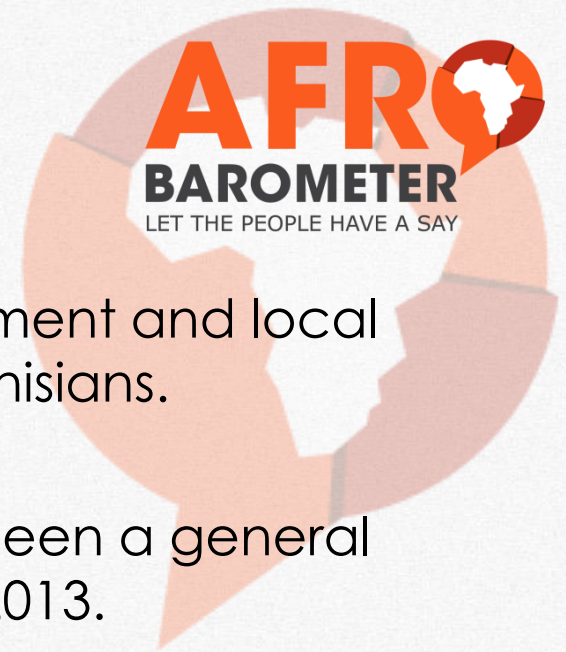
Key findings



- Among key public officials, government officials and members of Parliament are perceived to be the most corrupt.
 - Three in 10 Tunisians say “all” or “most” government officials (31%) and members of Parliament (30%) are corrupt.
- Perceived corruption in Parliament and the Presidency has increased by 13 and 7 percentage points, respectively, compared to 2015.
- Perceived corruption among business executives (28%) has declined by 19 percentage points, compared to 2015 (47%).
- Judges and magistrates are rated the least corrupt; 16% of respondents say “all” or “most” are corrupt.



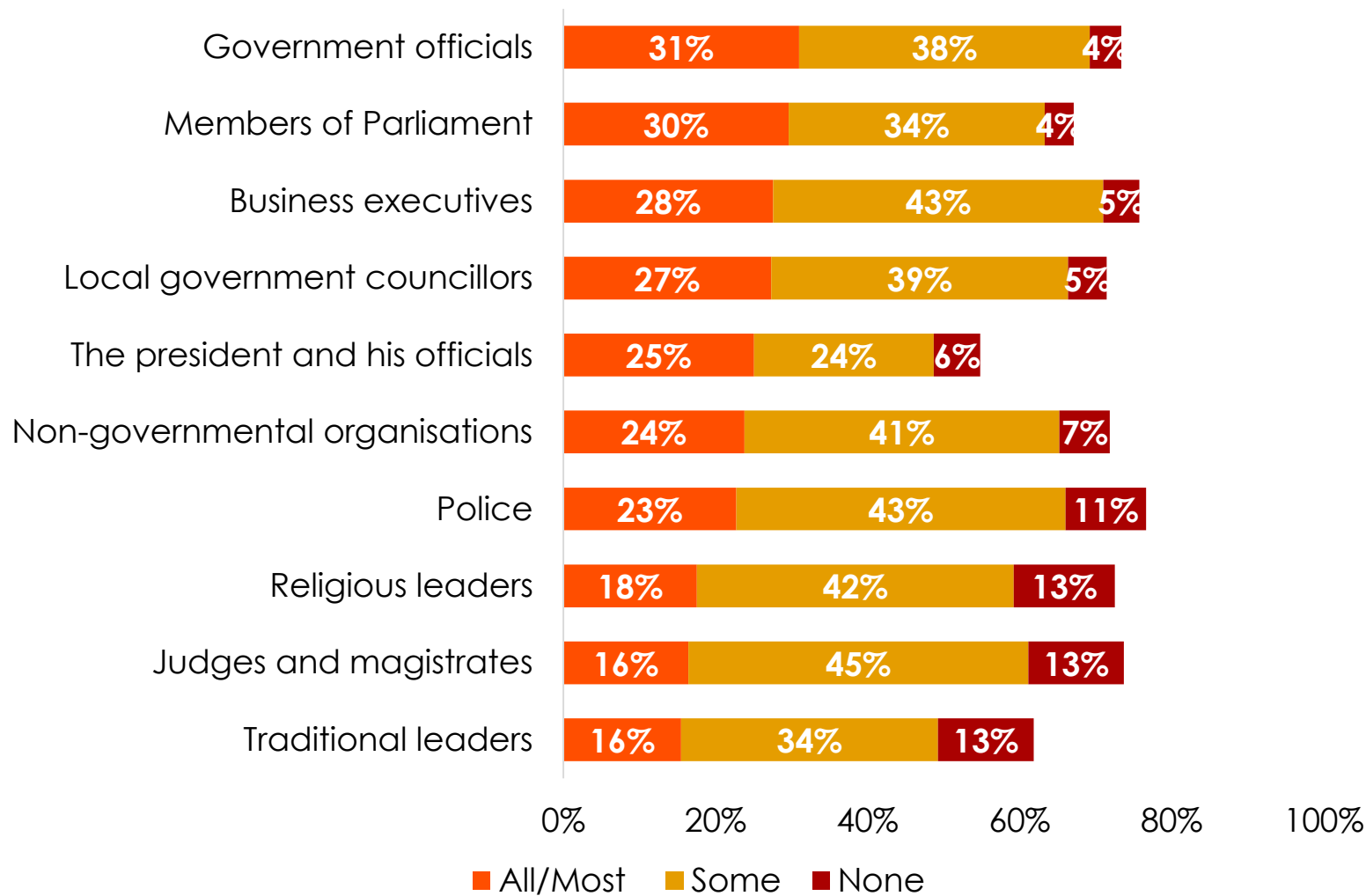
Key findings



- Among key public officials, members of Parliament and local government councillors are least trusted by Tunisians.
- Except for members of Parliament, there has been a general decline in the level of distrust in leaders since 2013.
 - Distrust in judges/magistrates has declined by 18 percentage points.
 - Distrust in local government councillors has declined by 9 percentage points.
 - Distrust in the police has decreased by 8 percentage points.
 - Distrust in the president and his officials has declined by 7 percentage points.

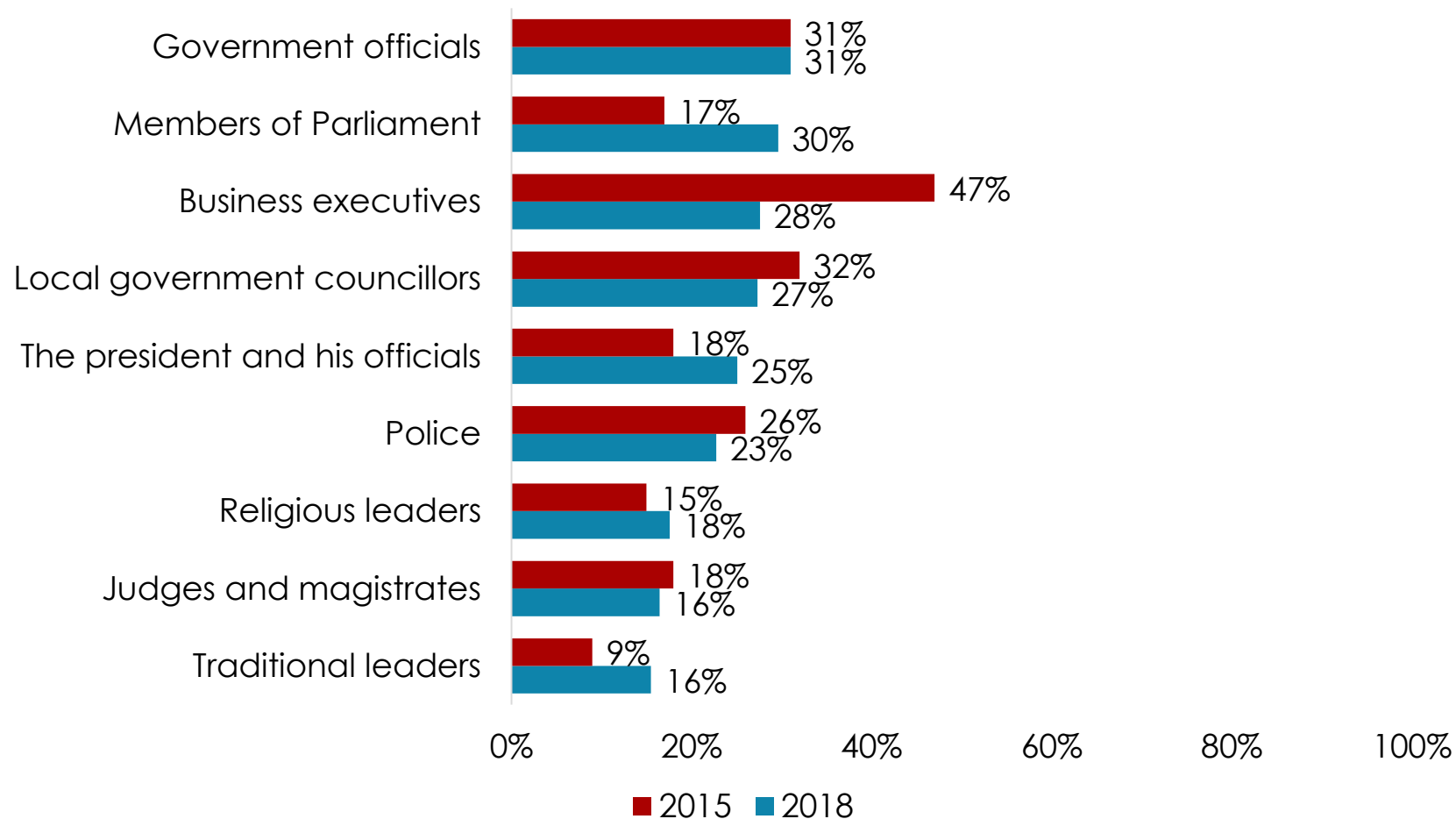


Who is corrupt? | Tunisia | 2018



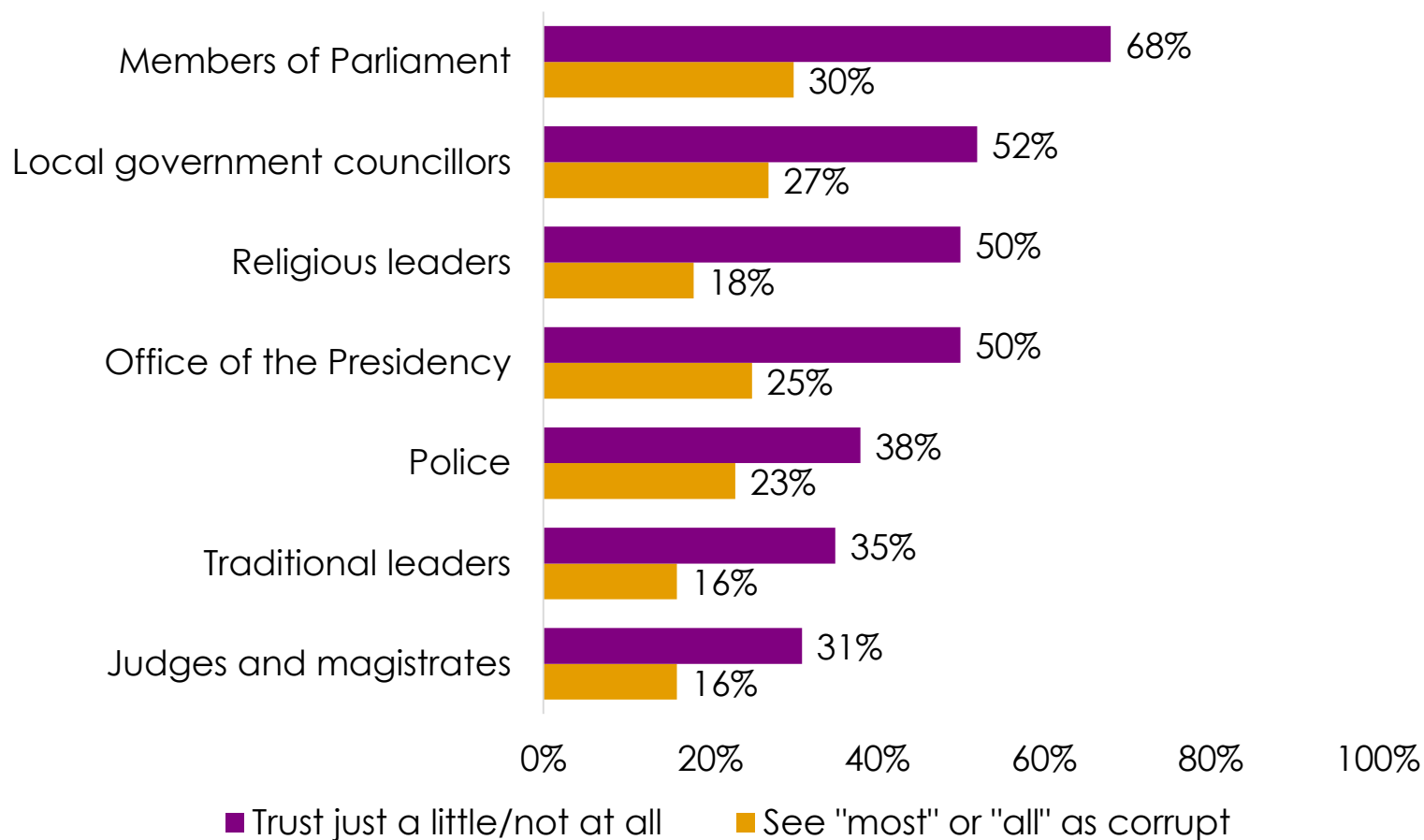
Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Who is corrupt? | Tunisia | 2015-2018



Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who see "all" or "most" as corrupt)

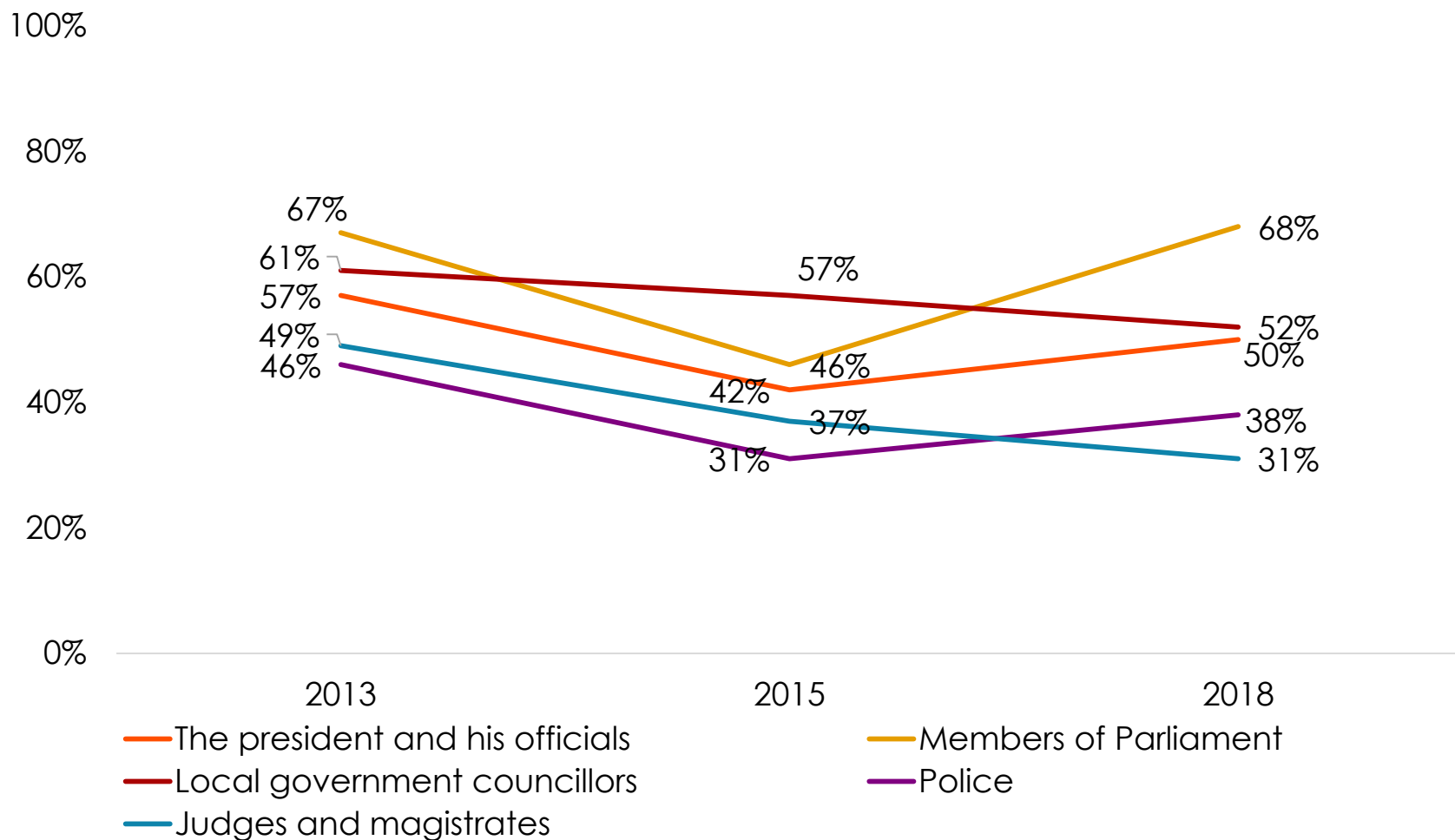
Distrust and corruption | Tunisia | 2018



Respondents were asked:

- How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?
- How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Trends: Distrust in leaders | Tunisia | 2013-2018



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



Citizens' experiences and role in fighting corruption

Key findings



- The police rank as the institution that citizens most frequently acknowledge bribing during the previous year.
- Among respondents who had contact with relevant public services during the previous year:
 - Almost two in 10 say they paid a bribe at least once to avoid problems with the police (17%) or obtain assistance from the police (15%).
 - One in 10 say they paid a bribe at least once to obtain identity documents (12%), medical care (11%), household services (10%), or public school services (8%).
- Large majorities of Tunisians say both rich and ordinary persons could pay a bribe or use personal connections to avoid taxes, to avoid going to court, and to register land that's not theirs. The rich are seen as more likely than ordinary persons to be able to do so.

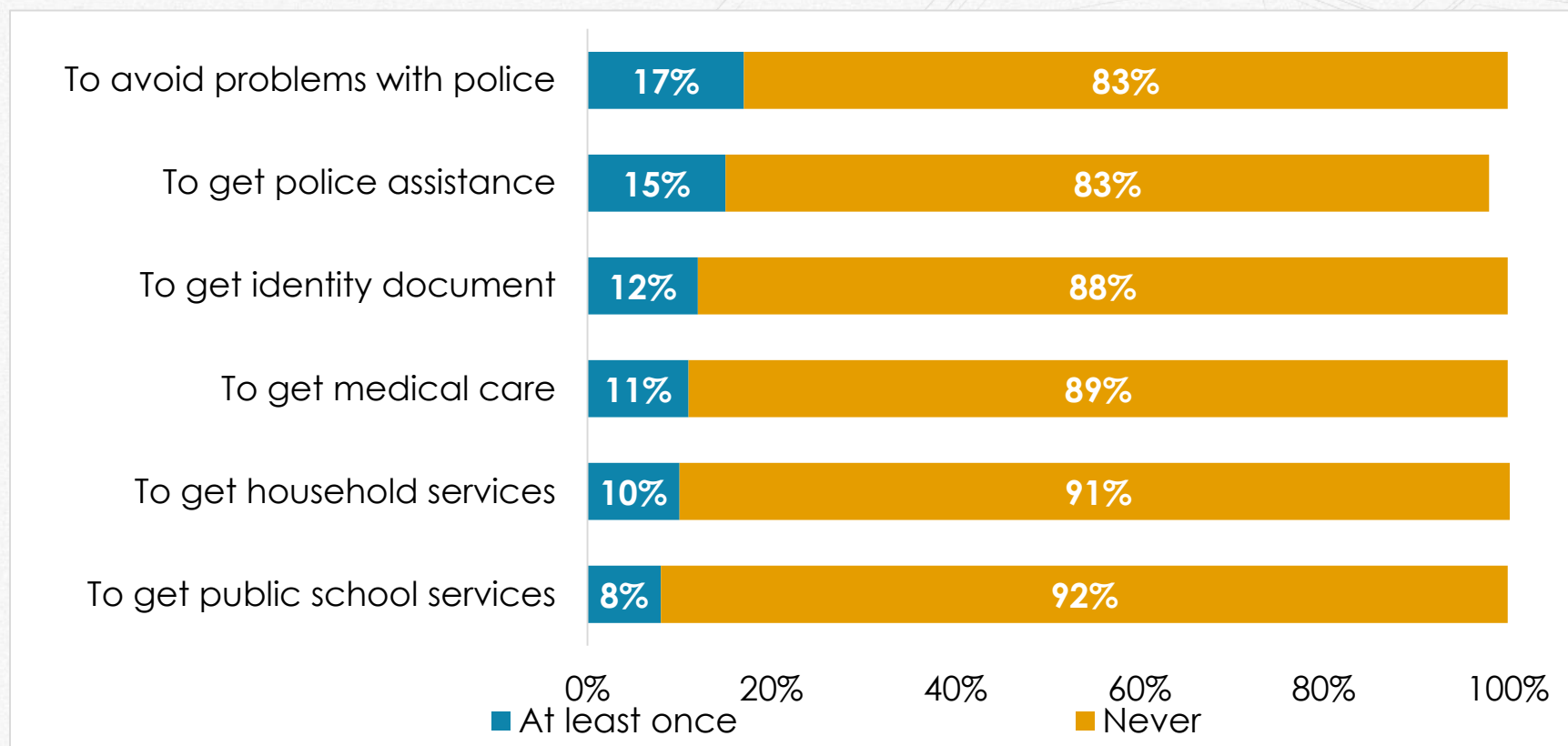


Key findings

- About six in 10 Tunisians (59%) “agree” or “strongly agree” that ordinary citizens can make a difference in fighting corruption. The proportion has, however, declined compared to 2015 (71%).
- Although a majority of Tunisians think that ordinary citizens can make a difference in fighting corruption, 61% say that people risk retaliation if they report incidents of corruption.
- Tunisians are divided as to whether authorities will take action if they report corrupt behaviour.



Paid bribe to obtain services | Tunisia | 2018

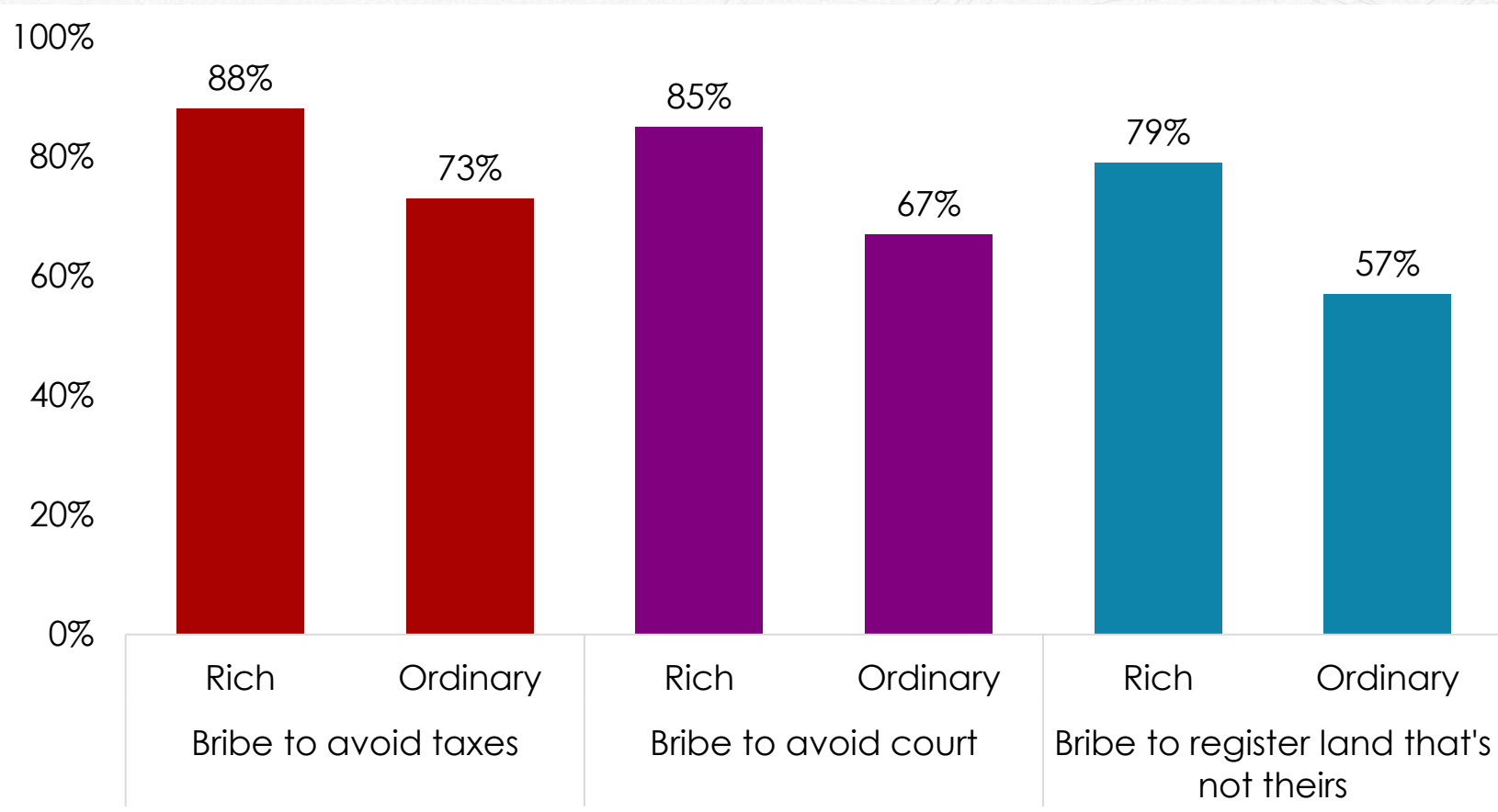


Respondents who said they had contact with selected public services during the previous year were asked: And how often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favour:

- For a teacher or school official in order to get the services you needed from the schools?
- For a health worker or clinic or hospital staff in order to get the medical care you needed?
- For a government official in order to get the document you needed?
- For a government official in order to get the services you needed?
- For a police officer in order to get the assistance you needed?
- For a police officer in order to avoid a problem during one of these encounters?

(Note: Figure excludes respondents who said they had no contact with these public services during the previous year.)

Bribery by the rich vs. ordinary people | Tunisia | 2018

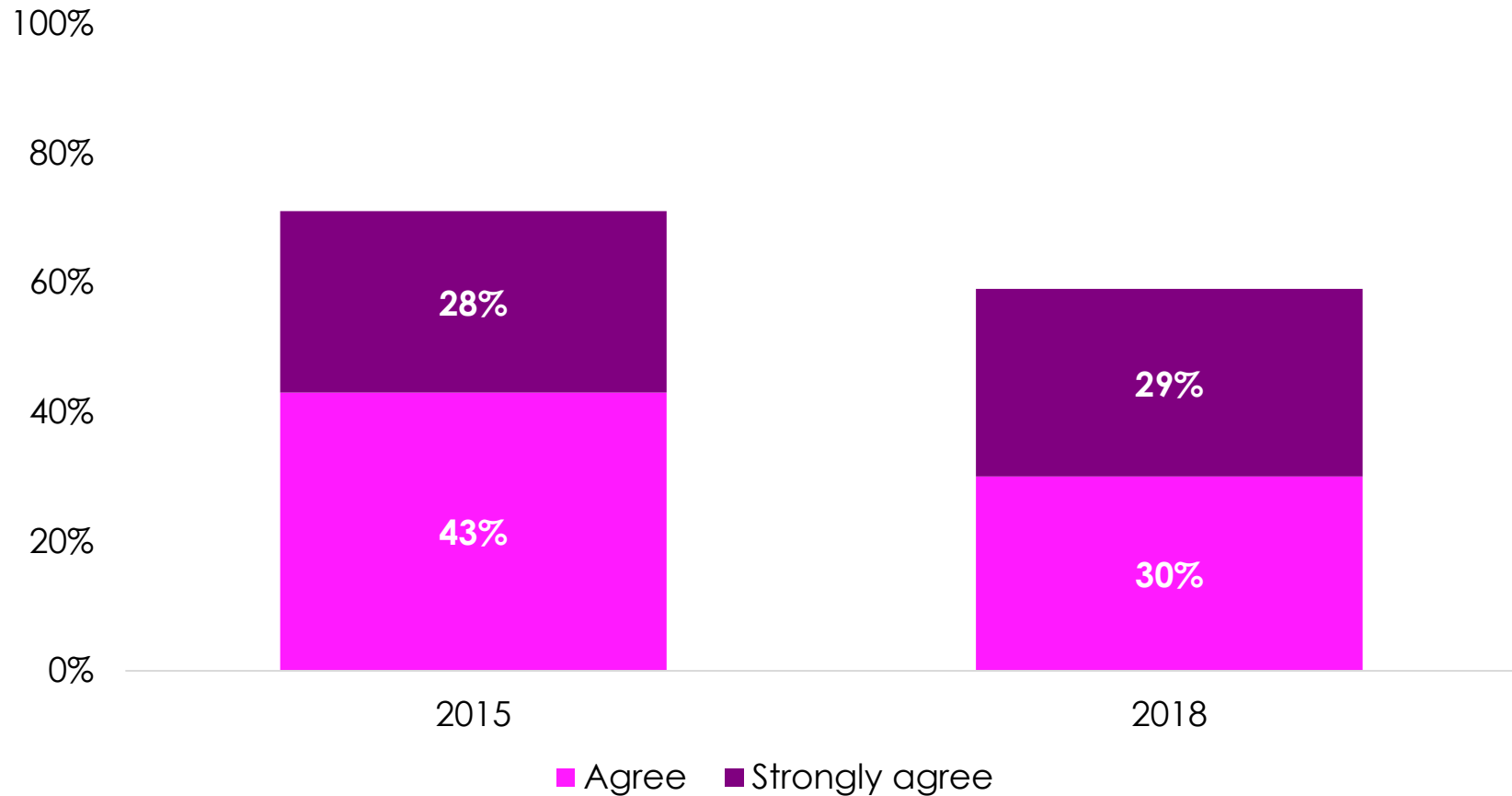


Respondents were asked: In this country, how likely do you think it is that an ordinary person/a rich person could pay a bribe or use personal connections to get away with:

- Avoiding paying taxes they owe to government?
 - Avoiding going to court?
 - Registering land that does not belong to them?
- (% who say "somewhat likely" or "very likely")

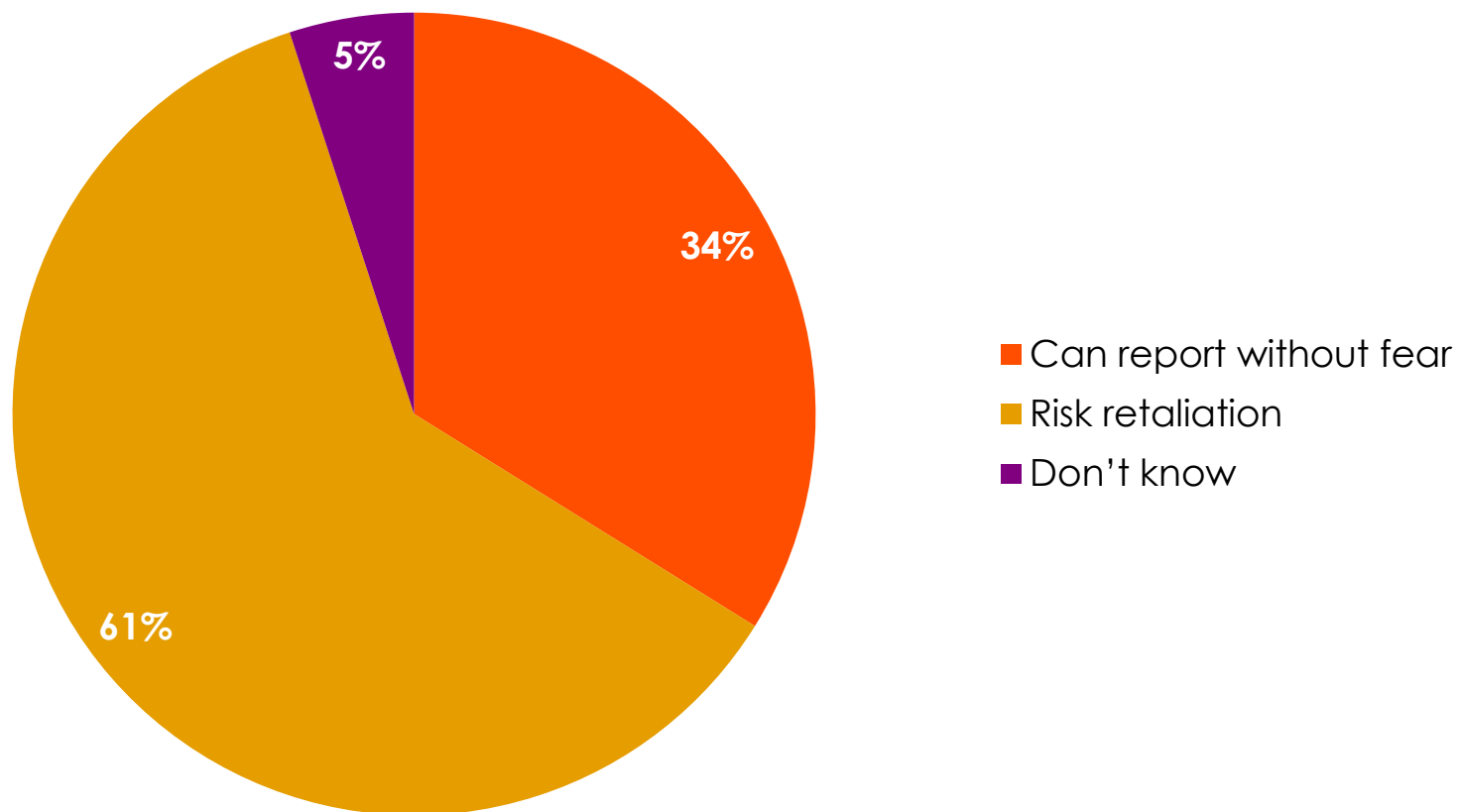
Citizens' role in fighting corruption | Tunisia

| 2015-2018



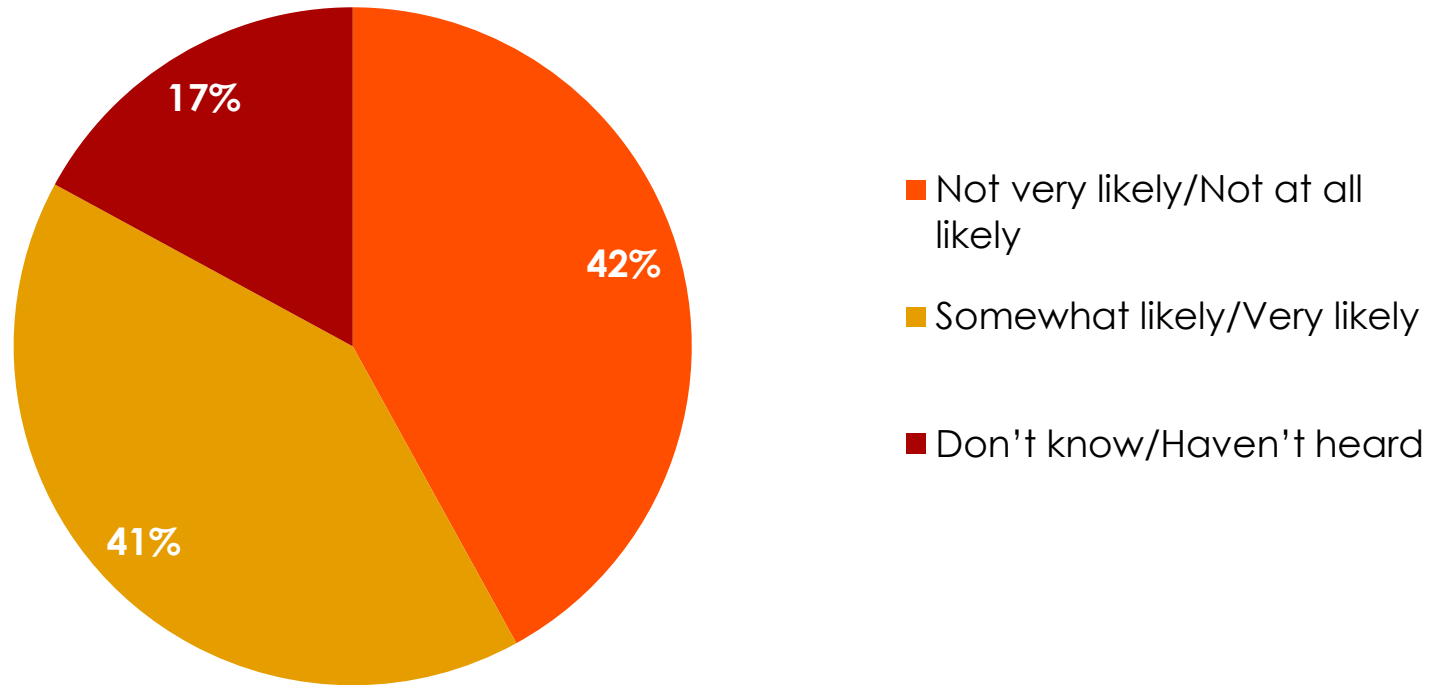
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption?

Report corruption without fear? | Tunisia | 2018



Respondents were asked: *In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?*

Will the authorities take action when corruption is reported? | Tunisia | 2018



Respondents were asked: How likely is it that you could get someone to take action if you went to your local government council to report corrupt behaviour like misuse of funds or requests for bribes by government officers, police, or school or clinic staff?



Conclusions



- A majority of Tunisians say the level of corruption has increased over the past year.
- Corruption is among the 3 most important problems facing Tunisia that citizens want government to address.
- To a large majority of Tunisians, government is performing poorly in its fight against corruption.
- Government officials and Members of Parliament are perceived to be the most corrupt leaders.
- Large majorities of Tunisians say both rich and ordinary persons could pay a bribe or use personal connections to get illegal advantages, although, it is more likely to find this behavior among the rich.
- Although a majority of Tunisians think ordinary citizens can make a difference in fighting corruption, the same proportion say they risk retaliation if they report incidents of corruption.
- Citizens are divided as to whether authorities will take action when they report corrupt incidents.





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