



Africa's lockdown dilemma: high poverty and low trust

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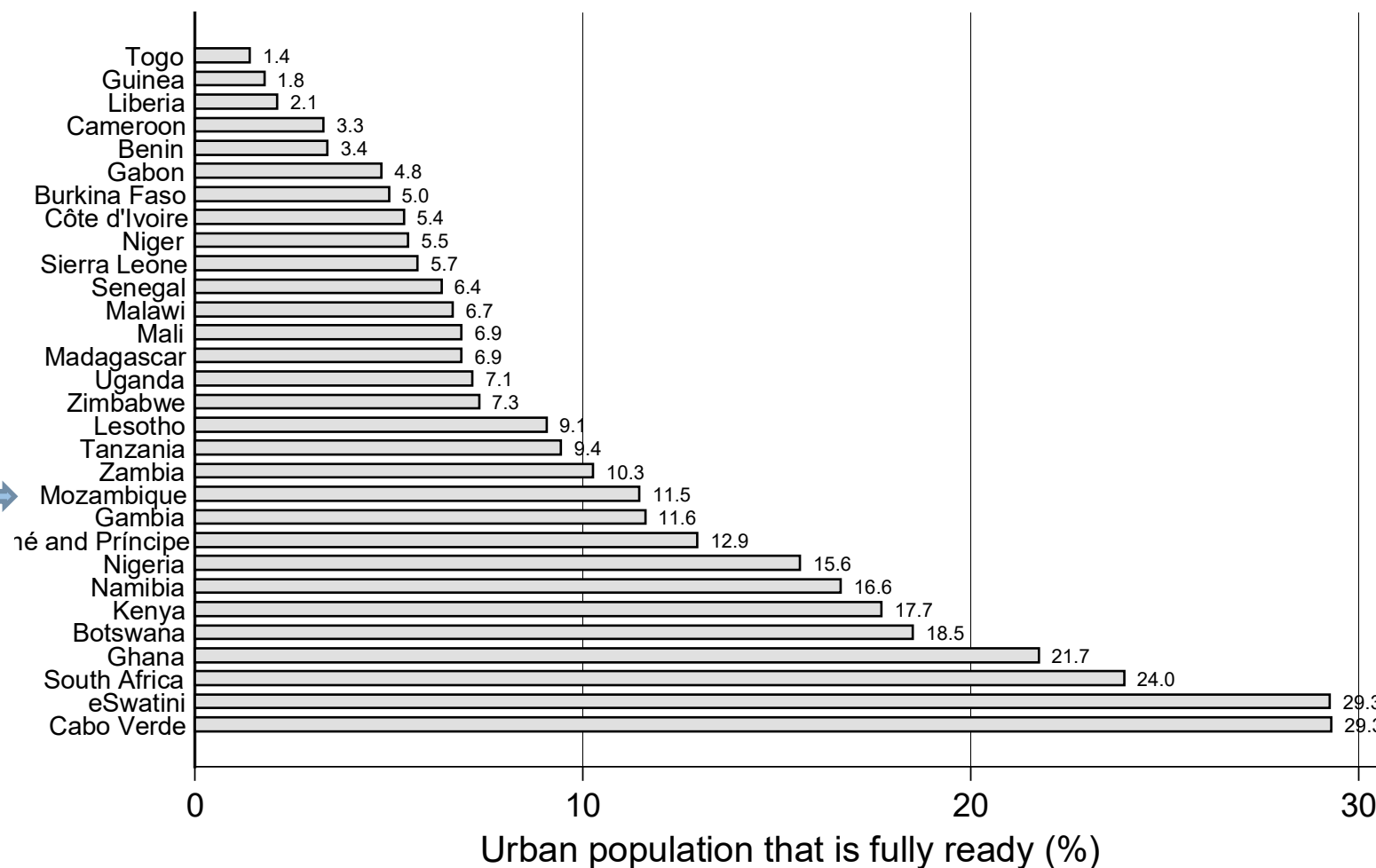
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A measure of lockdown readiness

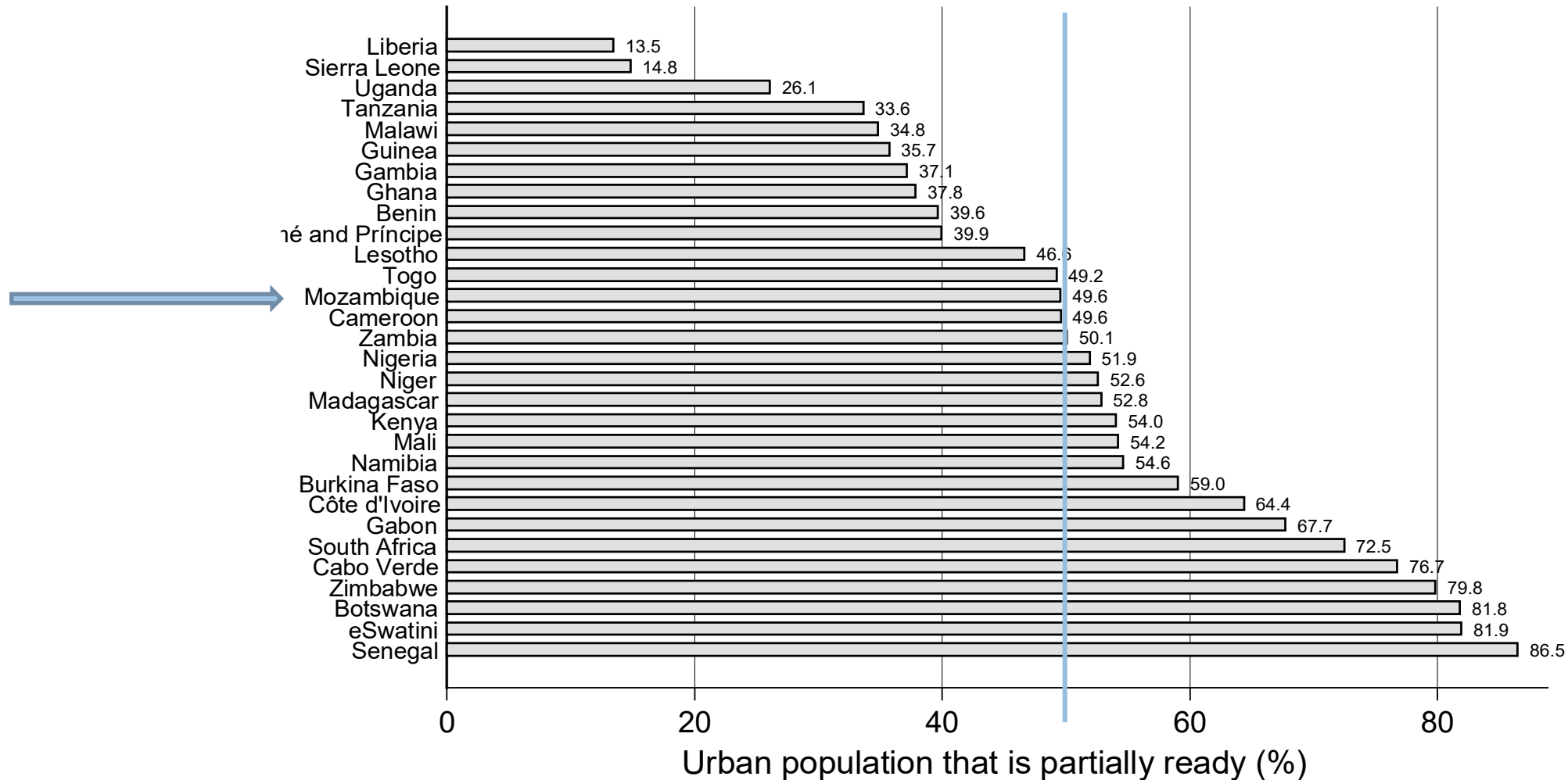
- Definition: “Lockdown readiness” is the ability of households to stay at home and avoid public spaces without irreversible damage to their health and welfare.
- Five components:
 1. safe drinking water
 2. basic sanitation
 3. a source of reliable energy
 4. a means of information or communication (e.g., a mobile phone)
 5. a form of employment that provides sufficient income not to go without cash on a frequent basis.
- Components 1-3: “Partially ready”
- Components 1-5: “Fully ready”

Data: Afrobarometer wave 7, 2019; 37,696 people in 30 countries; GDP (source:WDI)

Less than 30% of urban households are fully ready



... relatively more are partially ready.



Trust, lockdown and risk of social unrest

- We first consider relationship between trust and readiness, then assess the risk of social unrest.
- Two dimensions of trust:
 - Institutional (vertical) trust: Latent variable constructed from answers to questions about trust in the president, the parliament, the police and traditional leaders.
 - Community (horizontal) trust: Based on the answer to the question: ‘when a vendor sells you grains, how sure are you that you get the correct amount in change?’
- Associativism: capacity of communities for collective action (proxied with latent variable of membership in groups, participation in meetings)

Trust & Readiness

log-linear model, akin to a multi-way contingency table

Positive and significant correlation between:

- full readiness and institutional trust
- full readiness and community trust (mostly driven by the 'low income' group)

	(1) Simple	(2) Full interaction	(3) By income group Low	(4) High
Fully ready	0.002*** (0.001)	0.159*** (0.015)	0.176*** (0.016)	0.303*** (0.051)
Institutional trust	0.497** (0.144)	0.908 (0.121)	0.880 (0.116)	0.691** (0.114)
Associativism	0.224*** (0.065)	0.866 (0.083)	0.830* (0.083)	0.668*** (0.082)
Community trust	0.836 (0.427)	1.007 (0.145)	1.107 (0.146)	1.132 (0.279)
Income group	0.864 (0.971)	1.177 (0.149)		
Fully ready # Institutional trust		1.234** (0.132)	1.196 (0.133)	1.217 (0.274)
Fully ready # Associativism		1.134 (0.095)	1.134 (0.095)	1.065 (0.116)
Fully ready # Community trust		1.180* (0.112)	1.190* (0.124)	0.819 (0.175)
All other interactions	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,727	2,727	1,462	1,265
Pseudo log-likelihood	-9349.7	-9631.3	-4466.1	-4957.8
AIC	18769.4	19300.7	8956.3	9937.7

Notes: Significance levels * p<.10, ** p<.05, *** p<.01; Coefficients are log odd ratios.

Lockdown readiness, trust and social unrest:

logit models (odds ratios)

Potential for social unrest seems higher in areas with lower readiness and lower trust, and in urban areas.

	Participation in protest			Government is narrowing income gap			Curfew is better than free movement		
	Pooled	Rural	Urban	Pooled	Rural	Urban	Pooled	Rural	Urban
Institutional trust	0.817*** (0.017)	0.809*** (0.024)	0.825*** (0.024)	1.671*** (0.027)	1.629*** (0.036)	1.723*** (0.042)	1.106*** (0.015)	1.072*** (0.019)	1.150*** (0.022)
Associativism	1.651*** (0.033)	1.611*** (0.047)	1.711*** (0.048)	1.062*** (0.016)	1.055*** (0.021)	1.074*** (0.025)	1.015 (0.013)	1.010 (0.018)	1.018 (0.020)
Community trust	0.922* (0.043)	0.837*** (0.055)	1.014 (0.066)	1.163*** (0.038)	1.192*** (0.052)	1.113** (0.057)	0.968 (0.028)	0.967 (0.037)	0.976 (0.043)
Number of ready dimensions	0.981 (0.019)	1.014 (0.029)	0.917*** (0.024)	1.039*** (0.015)	1.045** (0.020)	1.052** (0.023)	1.030** (0.012)	1.039** (0.017)	1.040** (0.018)
Urban area	1.363*** (0.065)			0.954 (0.032)			0.920*** (0.027)		
Individual controls (Age, sex, education)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	38,831	21,579	17,252	38,831	21,579	17,252	38,831	21,579	17,252
Pseudo R-squared	0.094	0.089	0.101	0.081	0.072	0.101	0.055	0.048	0.067

Notes: Significance levels * p<.10, ** p<.05, *** p<.01; Coefficients are log odd ratios. Weighted by country population.

Conclusion

- Findings suggest that especially in poorer countries people are not only least prepared for a lockdown, but their trust in government is low and the risk for social unrest higher, especially in urban areas.
- Social protection policies, e.g. in form of cash or food transfers, can release some of the burden poor families face, enable some measures of social distancing, and might even reduce the risk of conflict (Taydas and Peksen, 2012; De Juan and Bank, 2015; Justino and Martorano, 2018).
- Silver lining: If governments prove effective in handling the crisis, public trust in government could increase as a consequence (Flückiger, Ludwig, and Sina Önder 2019).



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Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	SD	Urban	Rural	Country min	Country max
(a) Descriptive statistics						
Age	30.7	11.8	29.9	31.3	27.6	33.4
Female (%)	50.7	50.0	50.5	50.9	49.5	52.6
Years of education	7.2	4.6	8.8	5.9	2.5	10.5
(b) Lockdown readiness "inputs"						
Access to clean water (%)	41.4	49.3	61.9	25.0	11.8	86.1
Access to sanitation (%)	68.1	46.6	81.8	57.1	41.7	92.9
Access to electricity (%)	50.8	50.0	78.3	28.8	13.5	91.3
Access to phone (%)	88.3	32.1	95.1	82.8	54.6	98
Not cash constrained (%)	14.2	35.0	19.8	9.8	1	39.7
(c) Lockdown readiness						
Fully ready (%)	6.8	25.2	12.2	2.5	0.6	24.6
Partially ready (%)	30.0	45.8	52.4	12.1	6.5	72.1
Number of dimensions	2.6	1.4	3.4	2.0	1.4	3.8
(d) Trust						
Institutional trust	0.8	99.2	-16.6	14.8	-74	57.3
Community trust (%)	24.1	42.8	22.2	25.6	12.9	33.8
Associativism	1.1	100.2	-19.0	17.2	-62	44.3
(e) Social unrest potential						
Participated in protest (%)	10.4	30.5	12.3	8.8	2.4	27.4
Government narrows income gap (%)	22.4	41.7	21.7	23.0	5.9	38.9
Agree to curfew (%)	61.2	48.7	58.9	62.9	38.9	83.4
Observations	38,838					

Lockdown readiness is related to GDP, but it is not measuring exactly the same thing.

