



# The Education Gender Gap in Africa

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 5 Surveys in 34 Countries



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# At a glance

- **Access**: the vast majority of Africans surveyed (88%) lived within easy walking distance of a school. This varied widely by country, however, with **Namibia** as the lowest served country.
- **Support for girls' education**: two-thirds (67%) of respondents believe that ability, not gender, should be the primary factor if parents are forced to prioritise only one child's education.
- **Education gender gap**: on average, more men (16%) had post-secondary education than women (11%). Although young African women (18-35 years old) reported the highest levels of post-secondary education, the gender gap was comparable to that in older women.



# What is Afrobarometer?

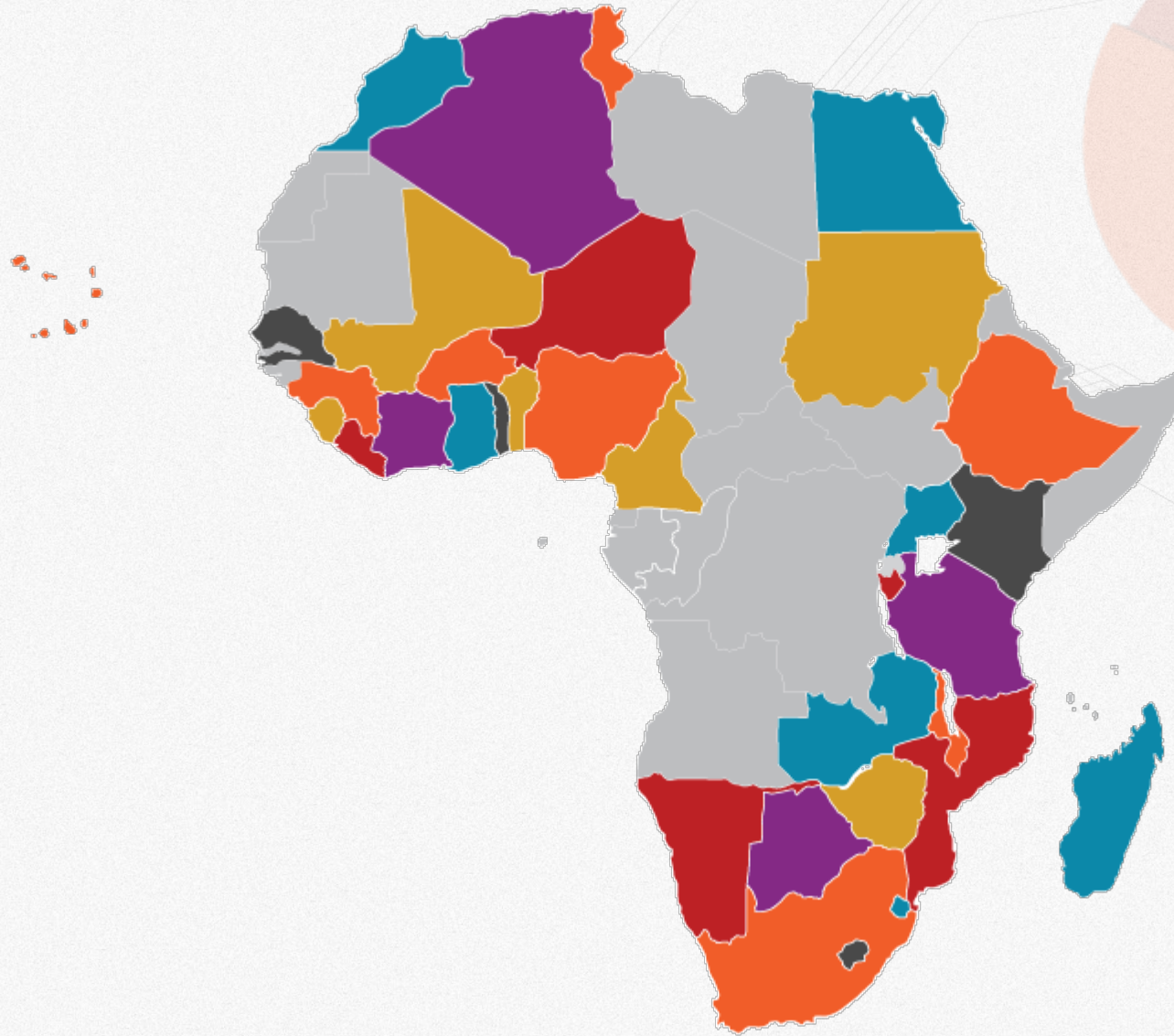


- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. Round 6 fieldwork began in March 2014 and is scheduled for completion later this year.





# Where Afrobarometer works





# Access to Education | 2011-2013

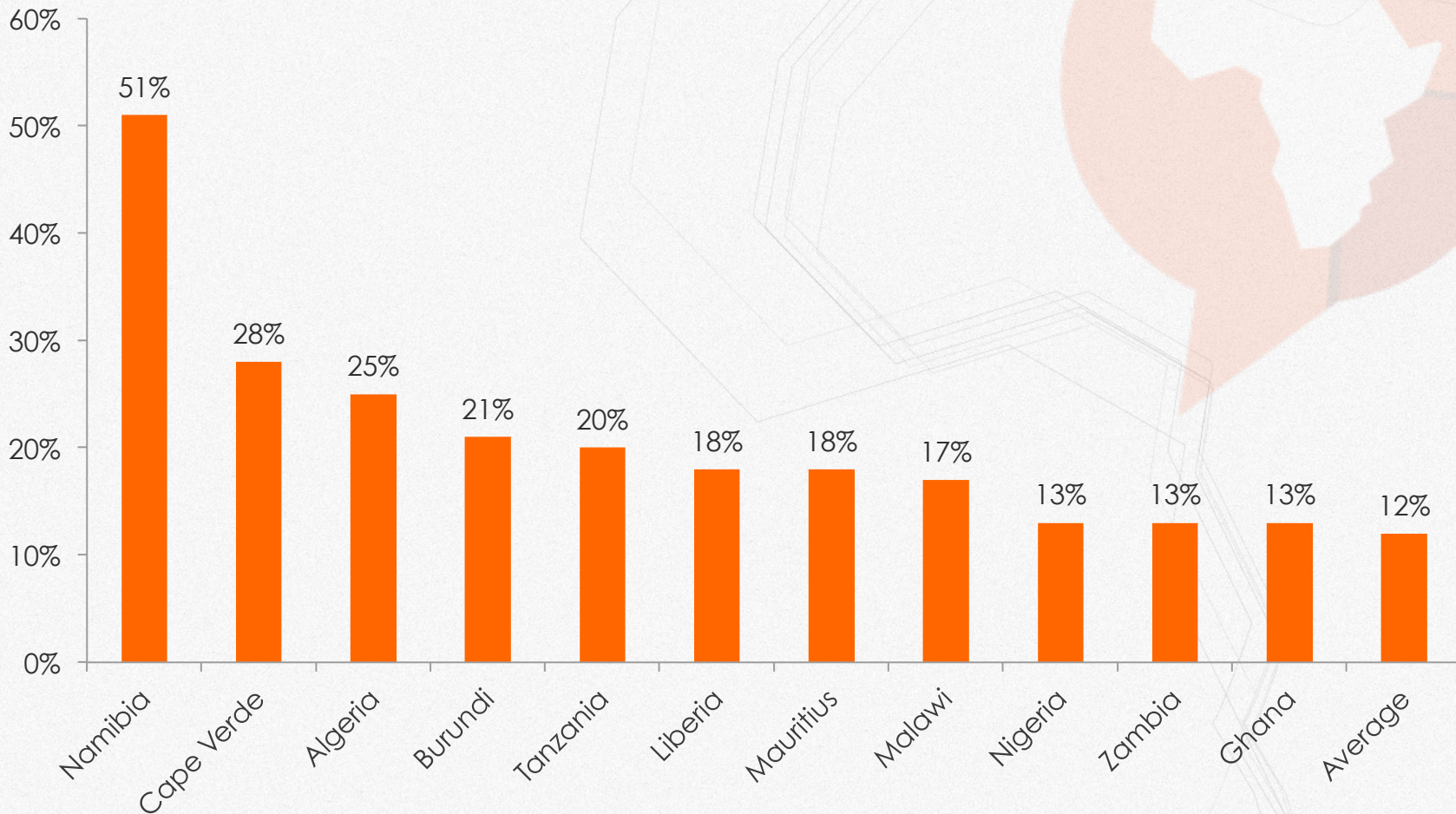


# Key findings

- On average, only **12%** of respondents lived in areas that were not within easy walking distance of a school.
- While most Africans support gender parity in education, attitudes vary widely by region – East Africans reported the highest levels of support (**79%**) and North Africans the lowest (**55%**).
- Here in Southern Africa, **two-thirds** (67%) of citizens believed that access to education should prioritise ability over gender.



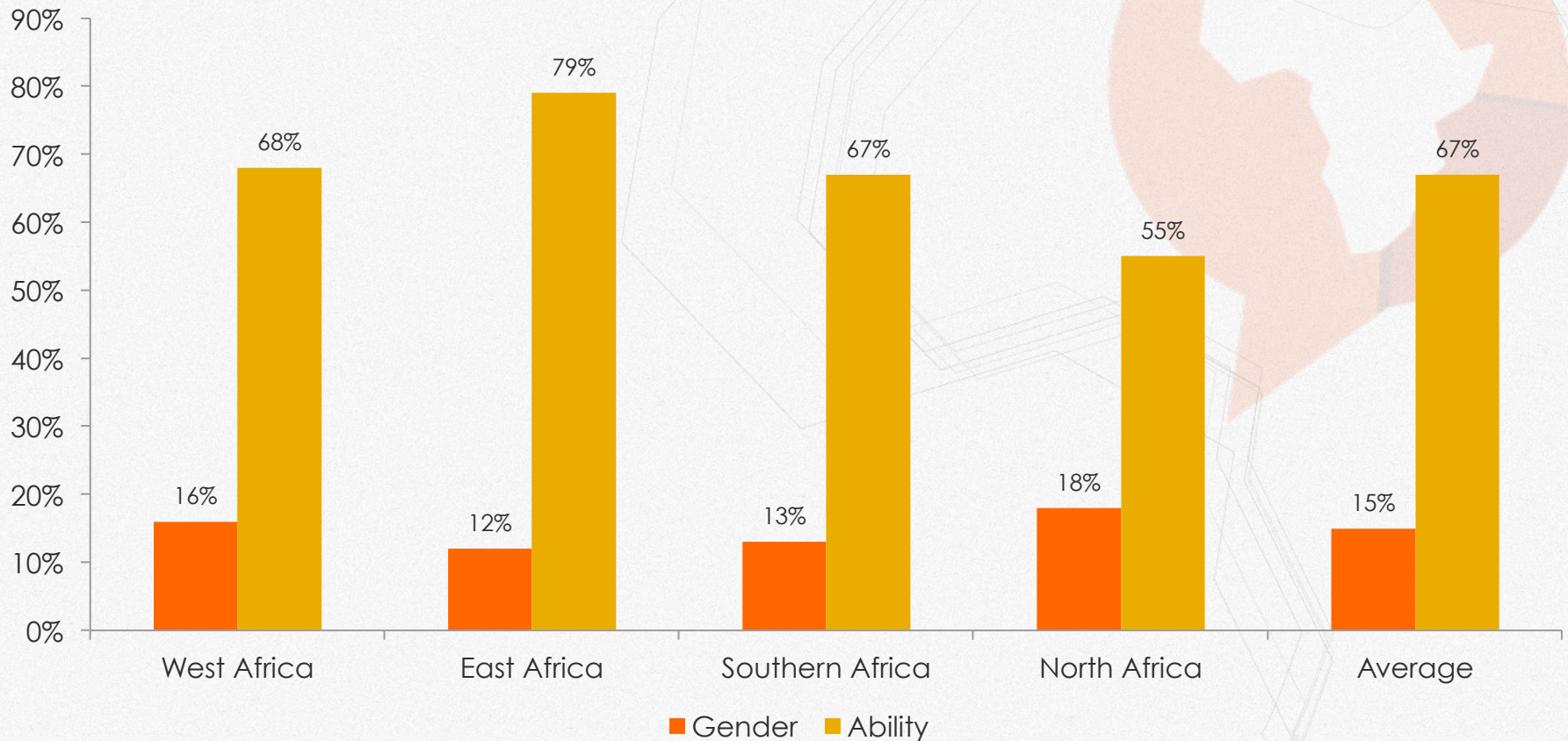
# Proportion of Enumeration Areas with No School in Easy Walking Distance | Lowest Served Countries



Interviewers were asked to record whether a school was present in the EA or within easy walking distance.



# Attitudes towards Gender Parity in Education



Respondents were asked: "Which of the following statements is closest to your view?"

- Statement 1: "If funds for schooling are limited, a boy should always receive and education in school before a girl."
- Statement 2: "If funds for schooling are limited, a family should send the child with the greatest ability to learn."



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# The Education Gender Gap | 2011-2013

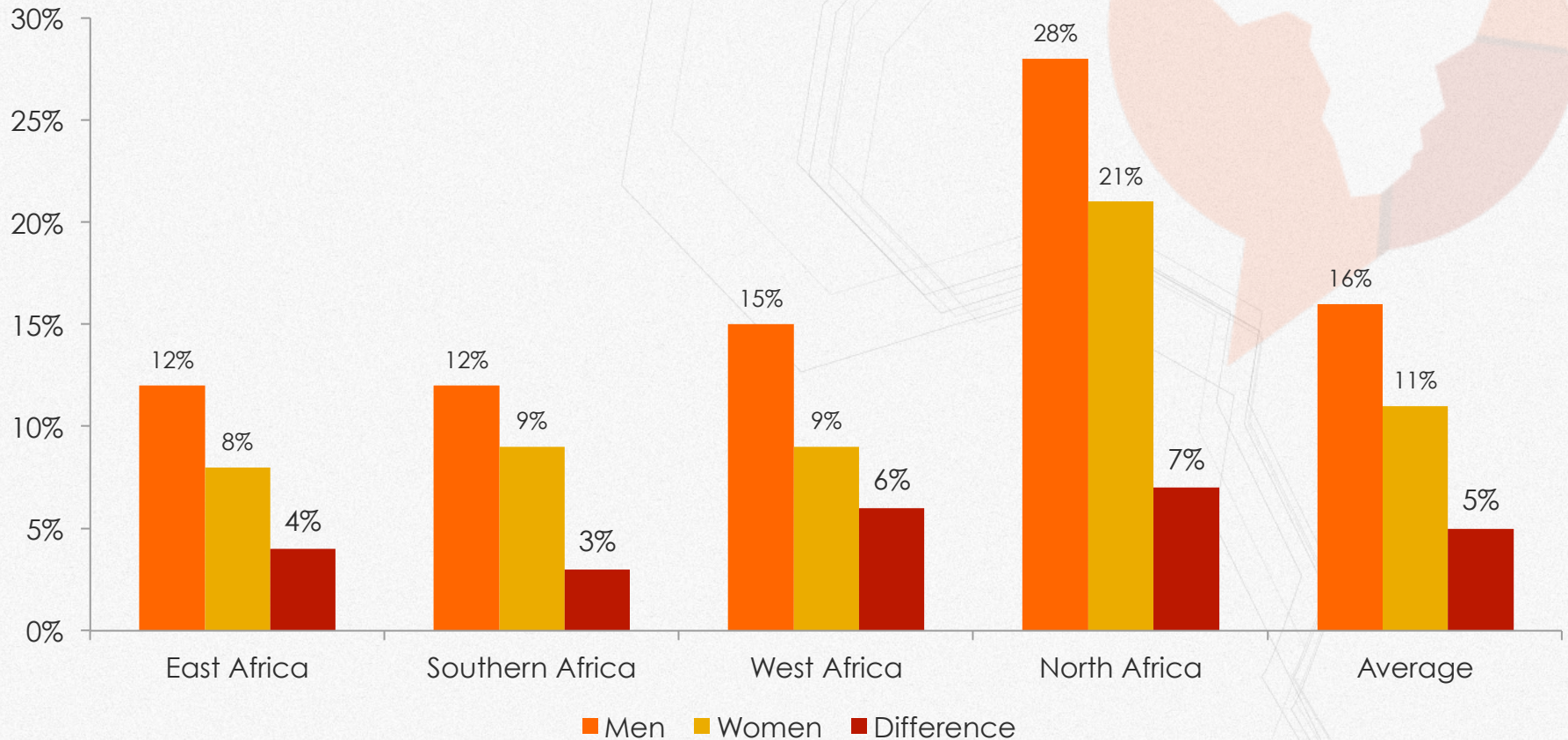


# Key findings

- Southern Africa has the smallest average gender gap in post-secondary education (3%), while North Africa has the highest (7%).
- The countries with the largest gender gaps are Egypt, Ghana, Liberia, Togo and Nigeria.
- Although young women have the highest levels of post-secondary education (13%), this is the result of higher educational attainment in general and the gender gap has not closed over time.



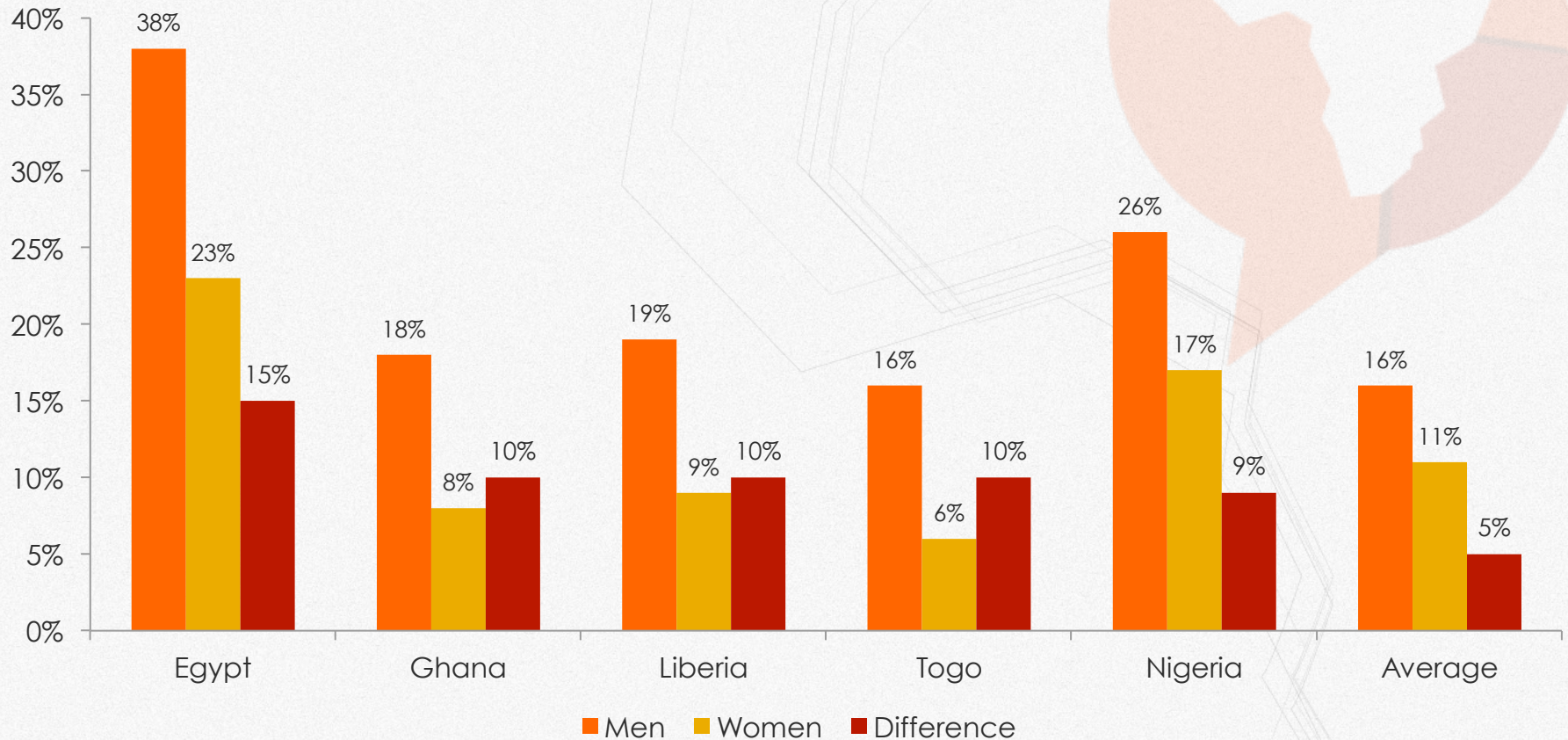
# Gender Gap in Post-Secondary Education | By Region



Respondents were asked: What is the highest level of education you have completed? (% with at least post-secondary education.)



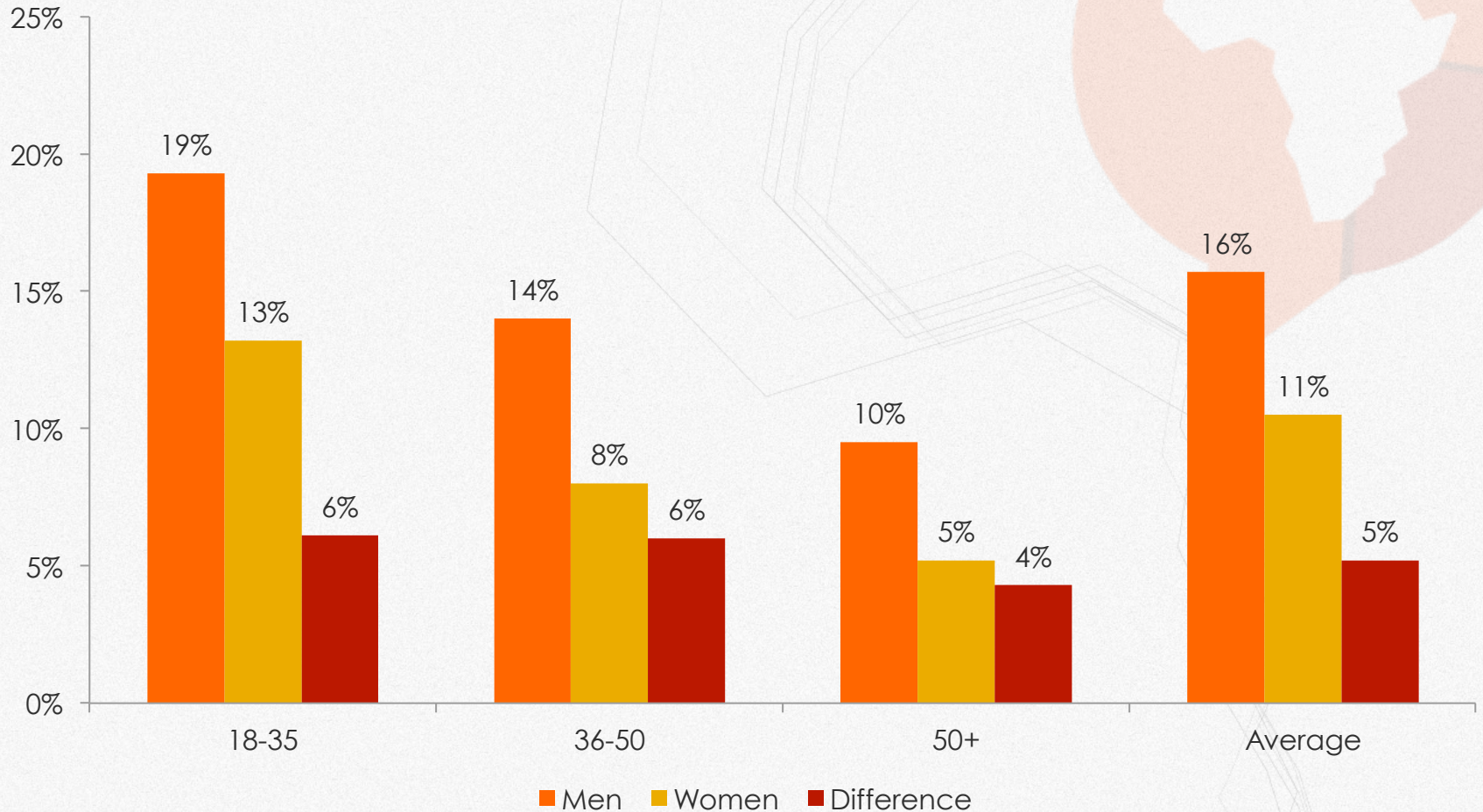
# Countries with the Largest Gender Gaps in Post-Secondary Education



Respondents were asked: What is the highest level of education you have completed? (% with at least post-secondary education.)



# Gender Gap in Post-Secondary Education | By Age Group



Respondents were asked: What is the highest level of education you have completed? (% with at least post-secondary education.)

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# Round 6 Results | 2014-2015



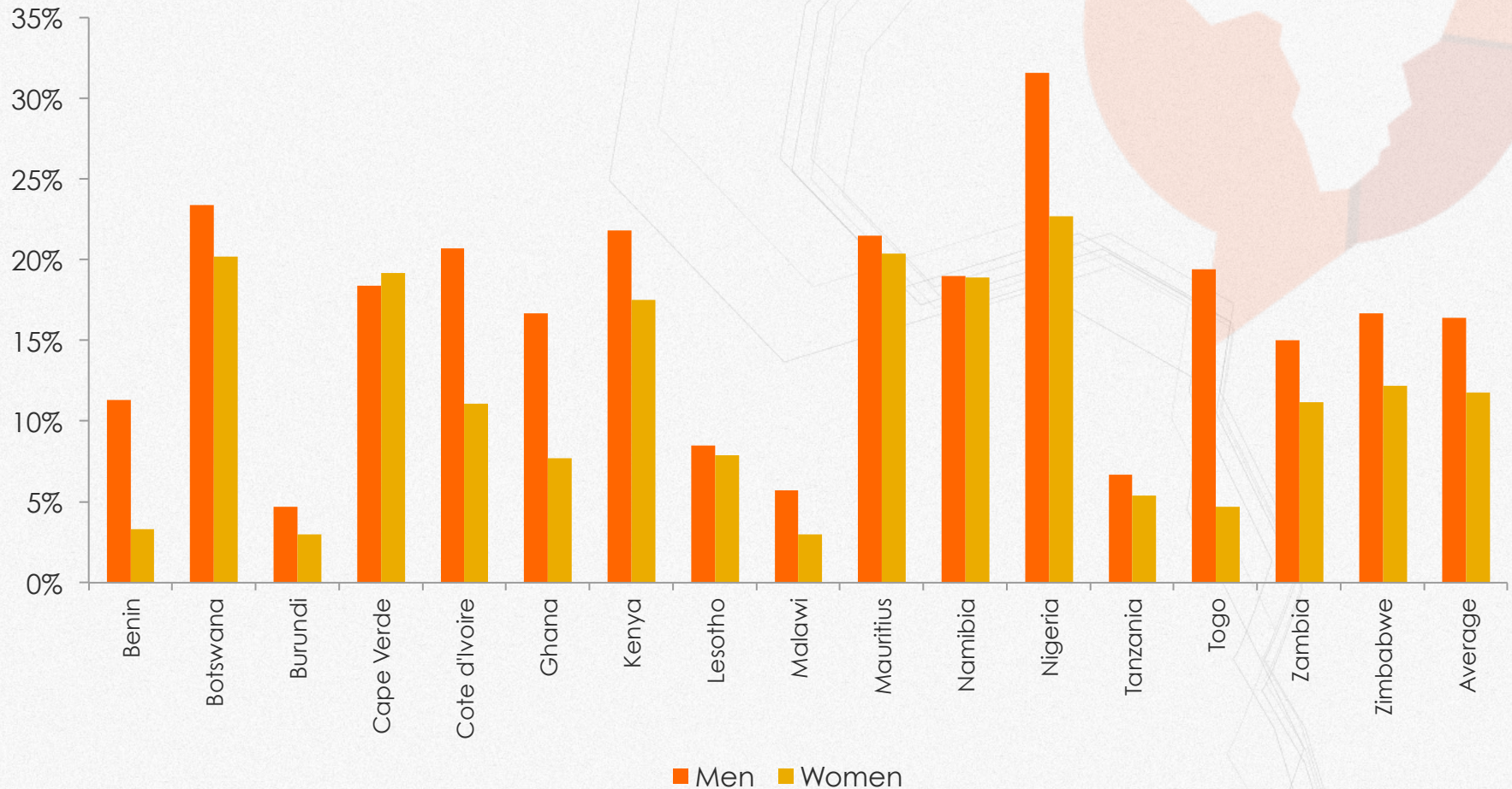


# Key findings

- Data is currently available from 16 countries.
- Largest gap: Togo (15%)
- Smallest gaps: Cape Verde (-1%) and Namibia (0%)
- The average gap: 5%



# Post-Secondary Education | By Gender | 2014-2015



Respondents were asked: What is the highest level of education you have completed? (% with at least post-secondary education.)



Thank you

