



CountryOpinionSurveys

FY 2025 Gabon

Country Opinion Survey Report

Acknowledgements

The Gabon Country Opinion Survey is part of the Country Opinion Survey Program series of the World Bank Group. This report was prepared by the Business Intelligence (BI) team, led by José De Buerba (Senior External Affairs Officer) and Svetlana Markova (Senior External Affairs Officer). Yulia Danilina, Jessica Cameron, Sofya Gubaydullina, and Qi Xue oversaw the design, reporting, and analysis of the survey results. Noreen Wambui and Irina Popova provided data support.

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Objectives

This survey was designed to assist the World Bank Group (WBG) in gaining a better understanding of how stakeholders in Gabon perceive the WBG. The survey explored the following questions:

- 1. Overall Views of the WBG:** How familiar are stakeholders with the WBG? How much do they trust the WBG? What are stakeholders' opinions of the WBG's effectiveness and relevance to development in Gabon? Are these perceptions improving or declining? Do stakeholders feel that the WBG has changed for the better or the worse in the last three years?
- 2. The WBG's Work on Development Priorities:** What areas of development are perceived to be the most important? How helpful has the WBG been in achieving project goals across these areas? How did these projects impact the people of Gabon, and how could the WBG have been more helpful?
- 3. WBG Instruments:** What do key stakeholders value the most regarding the WBG's work in Gabon? What opinion do key stakeholders have of WBG's financial instruments and knowledge products? How are stakeholders using WBG knowledge work, and has it influenced government policy in Gabon?
- 4. The WBG's Engagement and Collaboration:** How is the WBG perceived as a development partner in Gabon? Are opinions improving or declining? How effective has the WBG been in facilitating the Government's engagement with civil society?
- 5. Communications:** What are the preferred communication channels, and do they differ between stakeholder groups? Do stakeholders recall any WBG messaging? What key topics do stakeholders recall? What information do stakeholders want from the WBG?



Methodology Overview

Fielded in June – July 2025

- 945 potential participants were asked to complete the survey
- Respondents completed the questionnaire mainly on paper
- List of names provided by the WBG country team and supplemented by a field consultant
- Data collection conducted by an independent field consultant

417 participants (44% response rate)

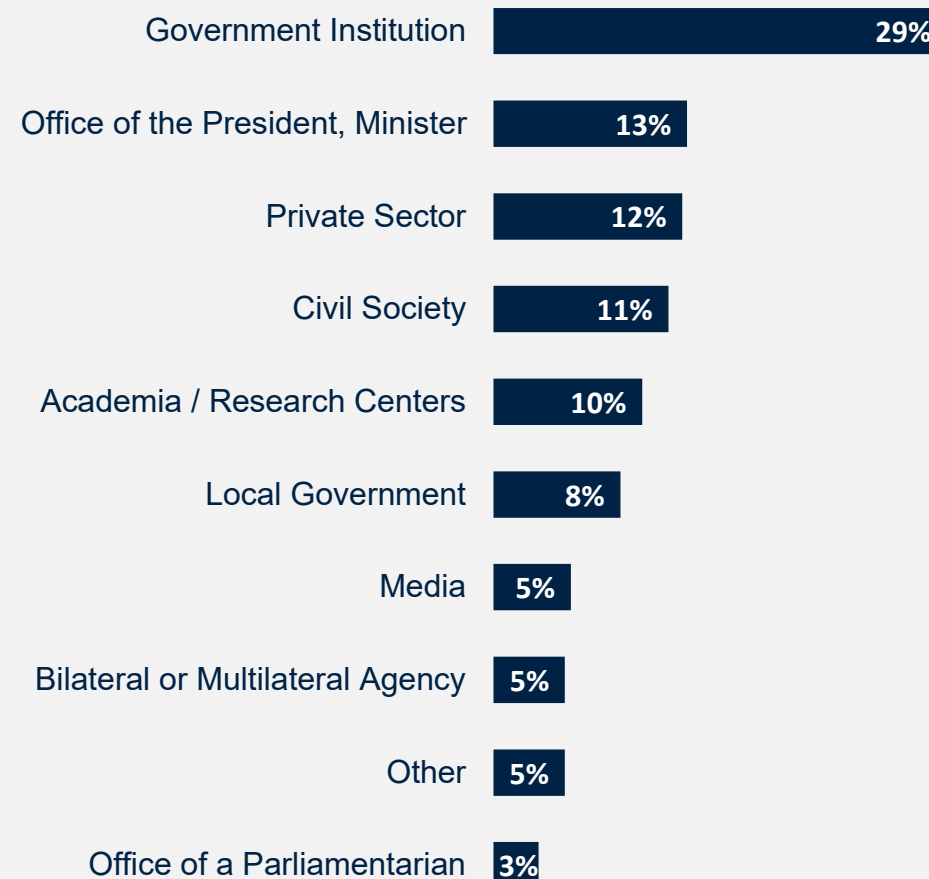
- 95% from Libreville
- 25% have collaborated with the WBG within the past 3 years

Compared to the FY20 Country Survey Results

- 153 participants (77% response rate)
- 97% from Libreville
- 23% collaborated with the WBG

Click [here](#) for details of the Respondent Sample and Methodology.

Stakeholders in FY25 COS Sample



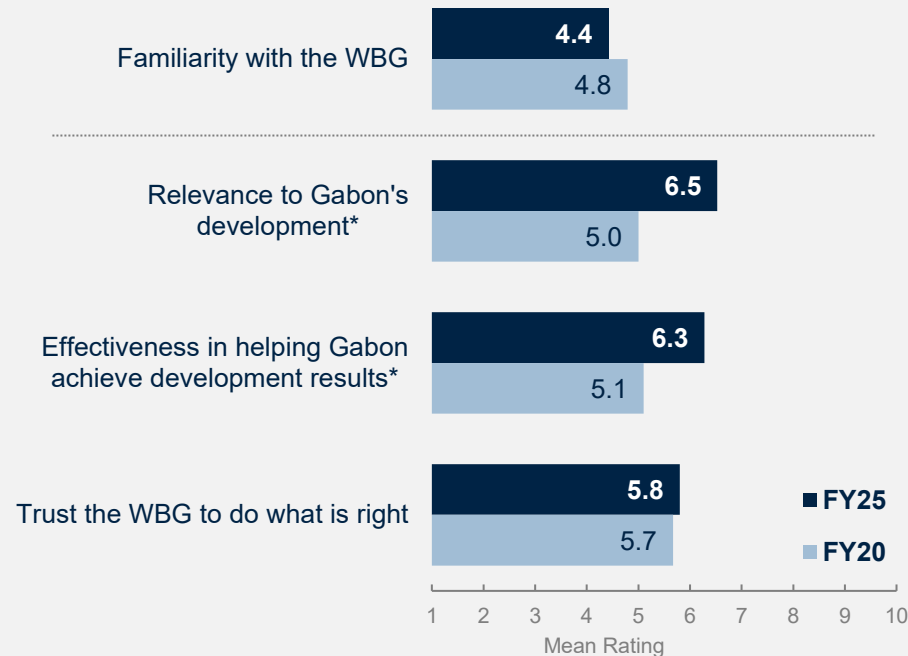
What is your primary professional affiliation? (Select only 1 response)
(Percentage of Respondents, N=417)

Executive Summary

1. Overall Views of the WBG:

This year, stakeholders reported **familiarity** levels with and **trust** in the WBG comparable to those in FY20. Ratings for the WBG's **relevance** to the country's development and its **effectiveness** in helping Gabon achieve results have improved significantly since the FY20 Country Survey. It should be noted, however, that ratings of trust, relevance, and effectiveness were lower for the WBG than for UN agencies and regional development banks (e.g., AfDB, BDEAC).

Compared to other countries, stakeholder ratings of the WBG's relevance and effectiveness in Gabon and their trust in the WBG were lower than those in other Western and Central African countries and in other IBRD countries surveyed in FY25.

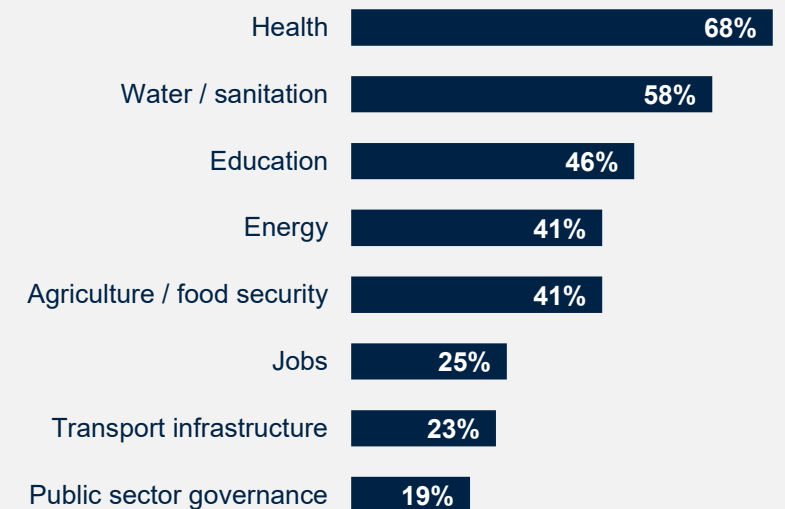


2. The WBG's Work on Development Priorities:

Health, water/sanitation, education, energy, and agriculture/food security were identified as the top priorities for WBG support in FY25. Notably, all top five priorities, especially health, emerged as much higher priorities than in FY20.

When asked how helpful the WBG was in achieving project goals, 93% of respondents rated the Bank as helpful, with **50% rating it as very helpful**.

In open-ended comments, respondents most frequently emphasized that the WBG should focus on supporting infrastructure, expanding access to healthcare services, providing more and better education/skills training opportunities, improving governance and strengthening institutions, developing Gabon's own agricultural sector, increasing jobs (especially for youth), and promoting private sector development while encouraging economic diversification.



Executive Summary (continued)

3. WBG's Operational Effectiveness:

When asked about the WBG's reform efforts over the past two years, approximately a third of stakeholders indicated that the WBG had become **somewhat or significantly better at fulfilling its core mission** of improving Gabon's overall business environment and people's lives.

WBG clients and partners identified the most notable reform-related improvement in the **technical quality** of WBG-supported projects, with 41% of respondents recognizing positive change in this area. In contrast, just 28% saw improvement in the overall **ease of working with the Bank**, while 37% reported no change.

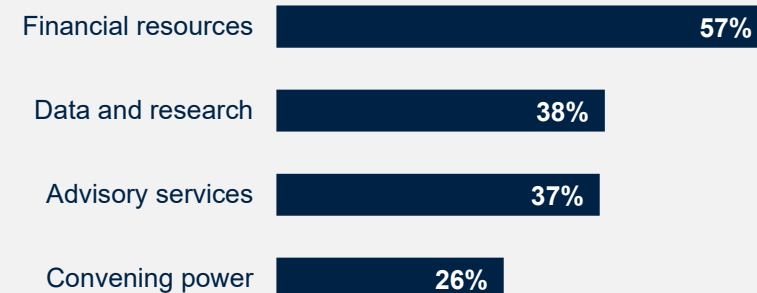
In their written responses on how to make the WBG more effective in Gabon, respondents emphasized the need to implement more robust monitoring and evaluation across all project stages. Suggestions included creating dedicated mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability, and allowing for more timely course correction. Stakeholders also wanted to track actual on-the-ground results, not just technical indicators.

In their open-ended comments, stakeholders also emphasized the need for stronger institutions and improved governance, particularly in public financial management. Strengthening local capacity and project management skills was considered necessary to ensure project sustainability. They felt that the WBG could improve coordination with the government, local experts, and other development partners in Gabon. In addition, stakeholders believed that the WBG could do better at considering local context, as one-size-fits-all approaches are unlikely to fit Gabon's context.

Finally, respondents urged the Bank to be more responsive and to engage more with stakeholders in Gabon. Prioritizing dialogue and engagement with local stakeholders can help to ensure funding and interventions are tailored, targeted, and responsive to Gabon's context and challenges. Stakeholders suggested the Bank focus more on projects aligned with their needs that would have a direct social impact on the people of Gabon. Stakeholders also suggested that the WBG increase its visibility and communication about project results and ongoing work.

4. WBG Instruments:

Financial resources were considered the WBG's greatest value to Gabon (57%) and were seen as more timely and better at meeting the country's needs than in FY20. Respondents' suggestions regarding WBG financing emphasized the need for more and better-targeted financial support, with a focus on fiscal sustainability. Many called for strengthening systems to monitor, track, and audit the use of funds from start to finish, ensuring accountability and transparency. Some felt that access to and disbursement of funding could be more flexible and faster.



Executive Summary (continued)

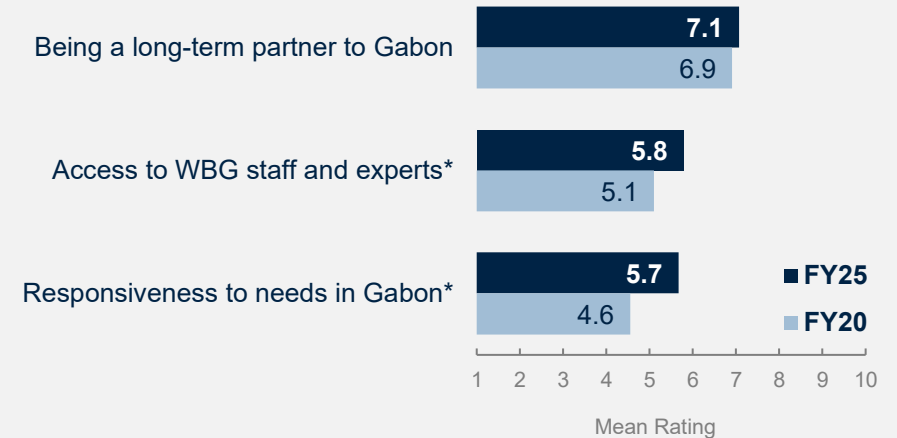
42% of respondents reported using WBG’s knowledge work, most often its data resources. Stakeholders held more positive views of the Bank’s knowledge regarding building institutional capacity in Gabon than in FY20. **59% of those who had used WBG’s knowledge reported that WBG’s policy advice helped shape government policies in Gabon.** In field comments, respondents emphasized the need for expanded training programs, particularly for public-sector staff, technical teams, and sector specialists to develop a more autonomous and qualified workforce. Respondents called for increased engagement and data collection at the local level, so that knowledge work is relevant and actionable in the context of Gabon. There were frequent requests for continuous technical assistance, from project design to implementation and evaluation.

5. The WBG’s Engagement and Collaboration:

Stakeholders perceived the WBG as a **long-term development partner**, with significantly more positive views of the Bank’s **staff accessibility** and **responsiveness** to the country’s needs compared to the FY20 COS results.

Respondents appreciated the Bank’s **collaboration with the national government**, and felt the Bank’s collaboration **with other development partners, civil society, and the private sector** in Gabon had significantly improved since FY20. In the future, stakeholders would like the Bank to collaborate more effectively with local governments to increase its development impact in the country.

In open-ended comments, stakeholders emphasized that the WBG needed to deepen its engagement with local stakeholders to increase transparency and visibility of its work and promote local ownership of sustainable development.



6. Communications:

45% of respondents recalled seeing or hearing something about the WBG recently, e.g., the Gabon Economic Update, WBG economic forecasts, and Digital Gabon, and most often recalled this information from the media. In contrast, respondents identified WBG events, e-newsletters, website, social media channels, and direct contact with staff as their preferred channels of receiving information.

A majority of stakeholders listed **information on how to partner with the WBG** as the most helpful, helping them better understand the Bank’s role in Gabon, followed by overviews of the WBG’s financial products/services, regular updates on its activities, and case studies of WBG projects.



Overall Views of the World Bank Group



WORLD BANK GROUP

WBG Familiarity Unchanged Since FY20, Highest Among Government Institutions

Comparison of FY20 and FY25

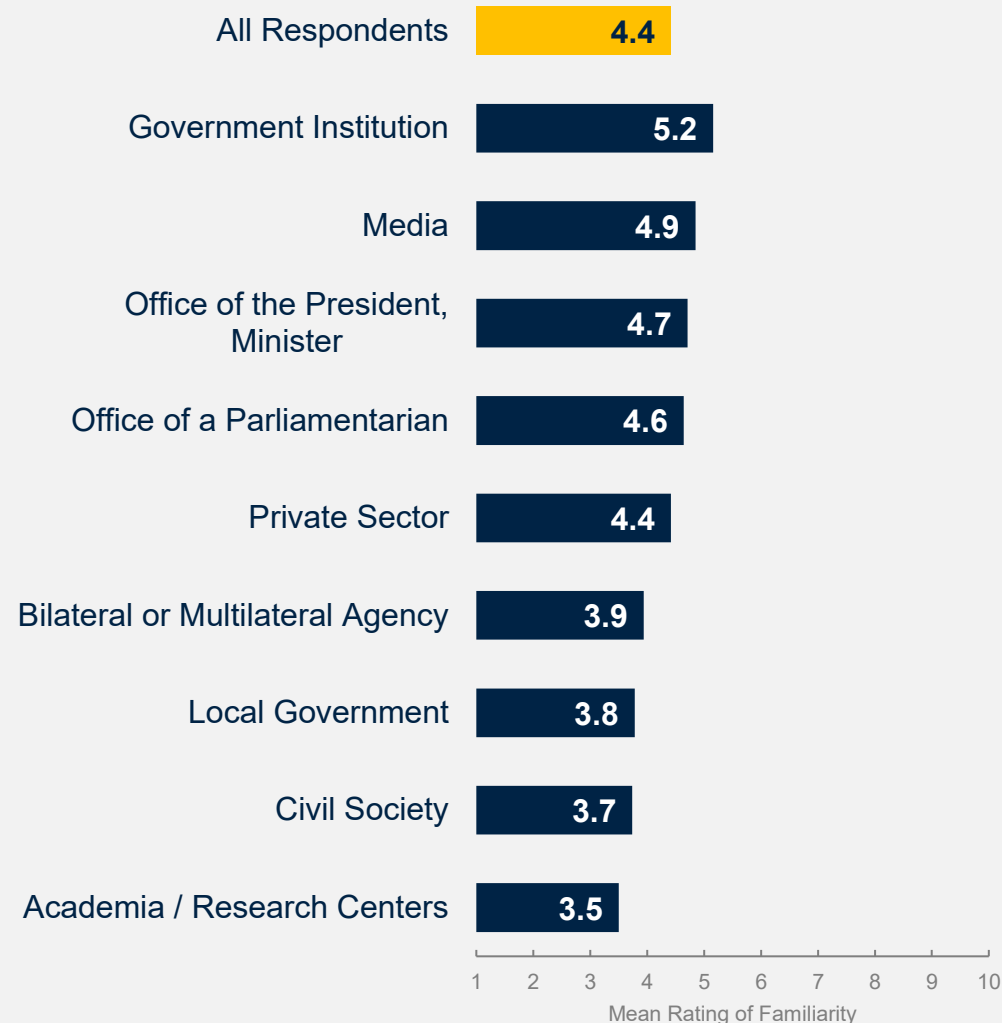
Mean familiarity: **FY25 = 4.4**
 FY20 = 4.8

Collaboration with the WBG

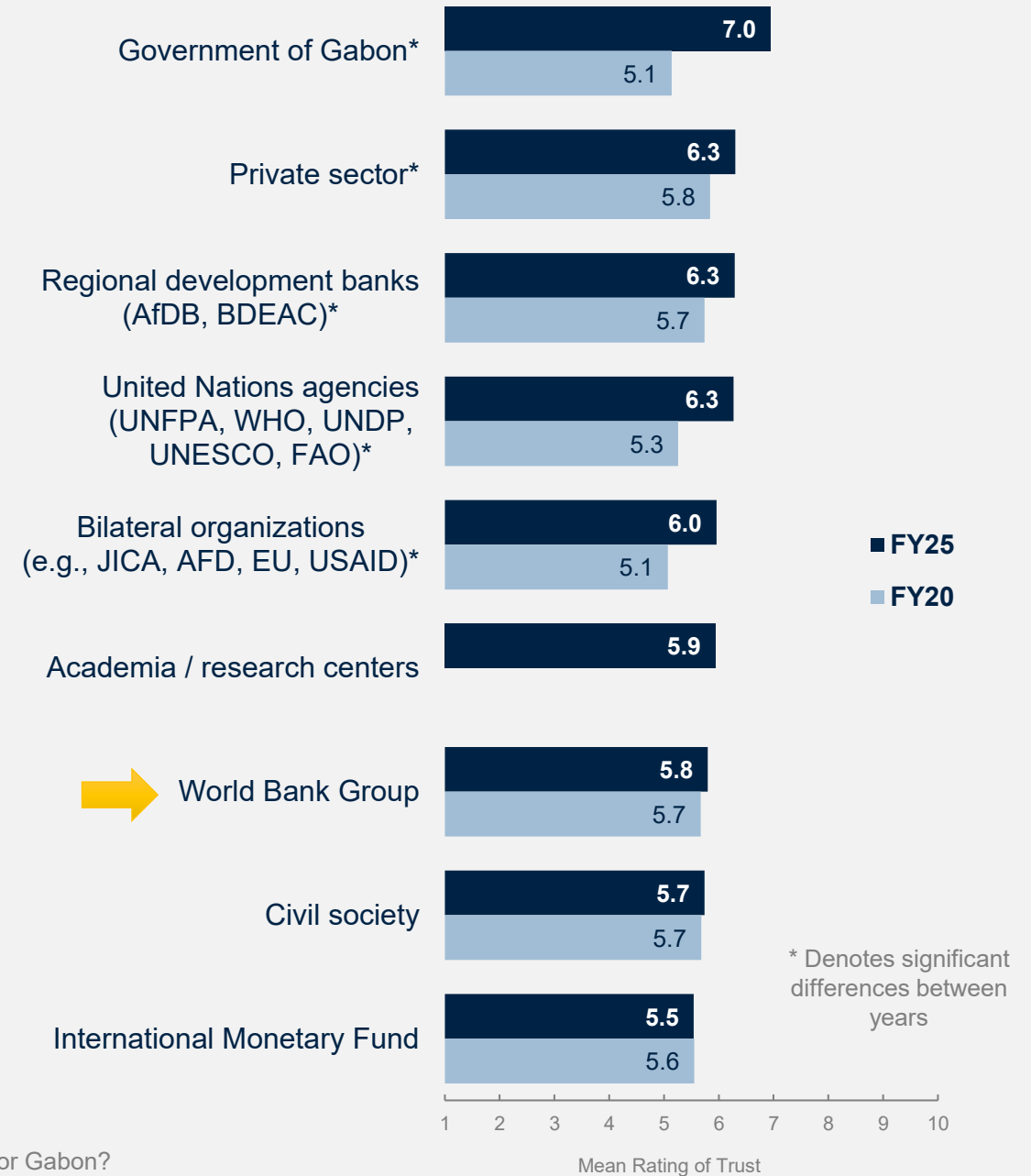
Mean familiarity: **Collaborate with WBG = 6.4***
 Do not collaborate = 3.8

Stakeholder groups*

Respondents from government institutions were most familiar with the WBG, whereas those from bilateral/multilateral agencies, local government, civil society, and academia were less familiar.



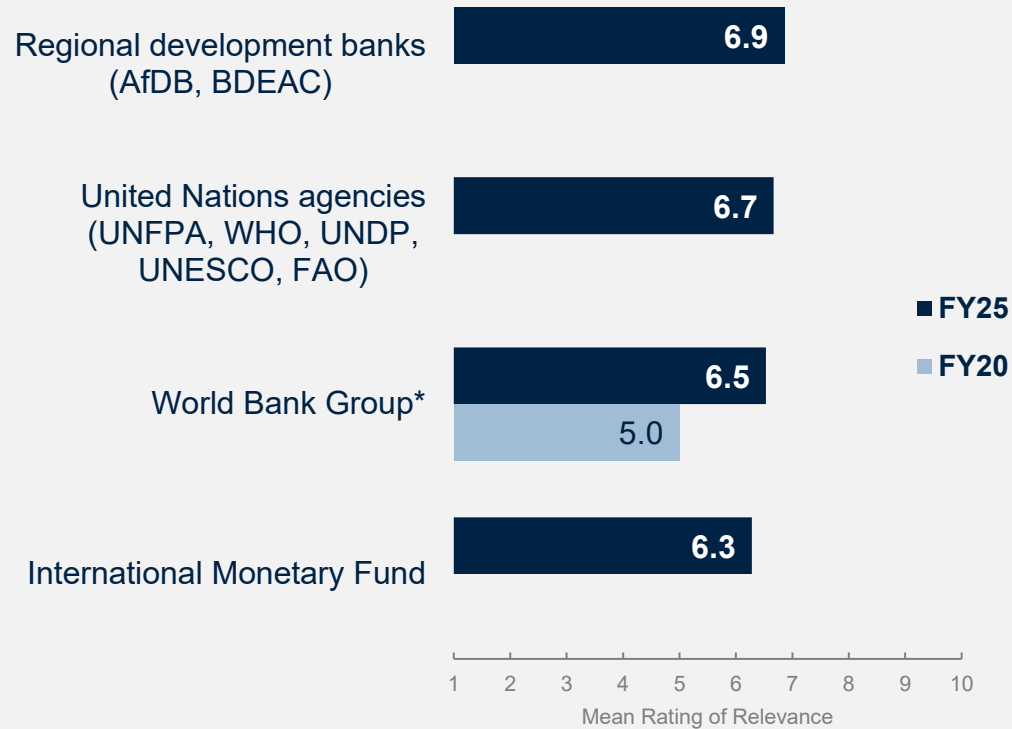
Trust in Most Institutions Has Significantly Increased, Except the WBG, Civil Society, and the IMF



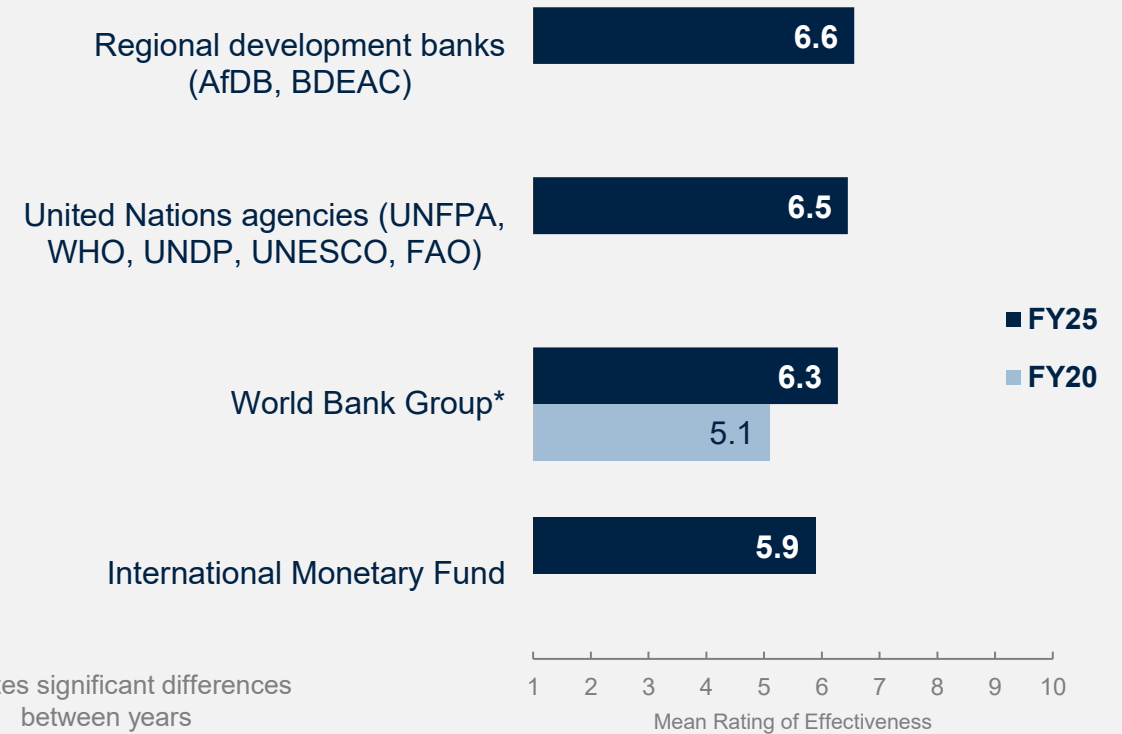
Ratings of WBG Relevance and Effectiveness Have Increased

Compared to the FY20 COS, respondents this year rated the WBG significantly more positively in terms of its relevance and effectiveness.

RELEVANCE to Gabon's development



EFFECTIVENESS in achieving development results



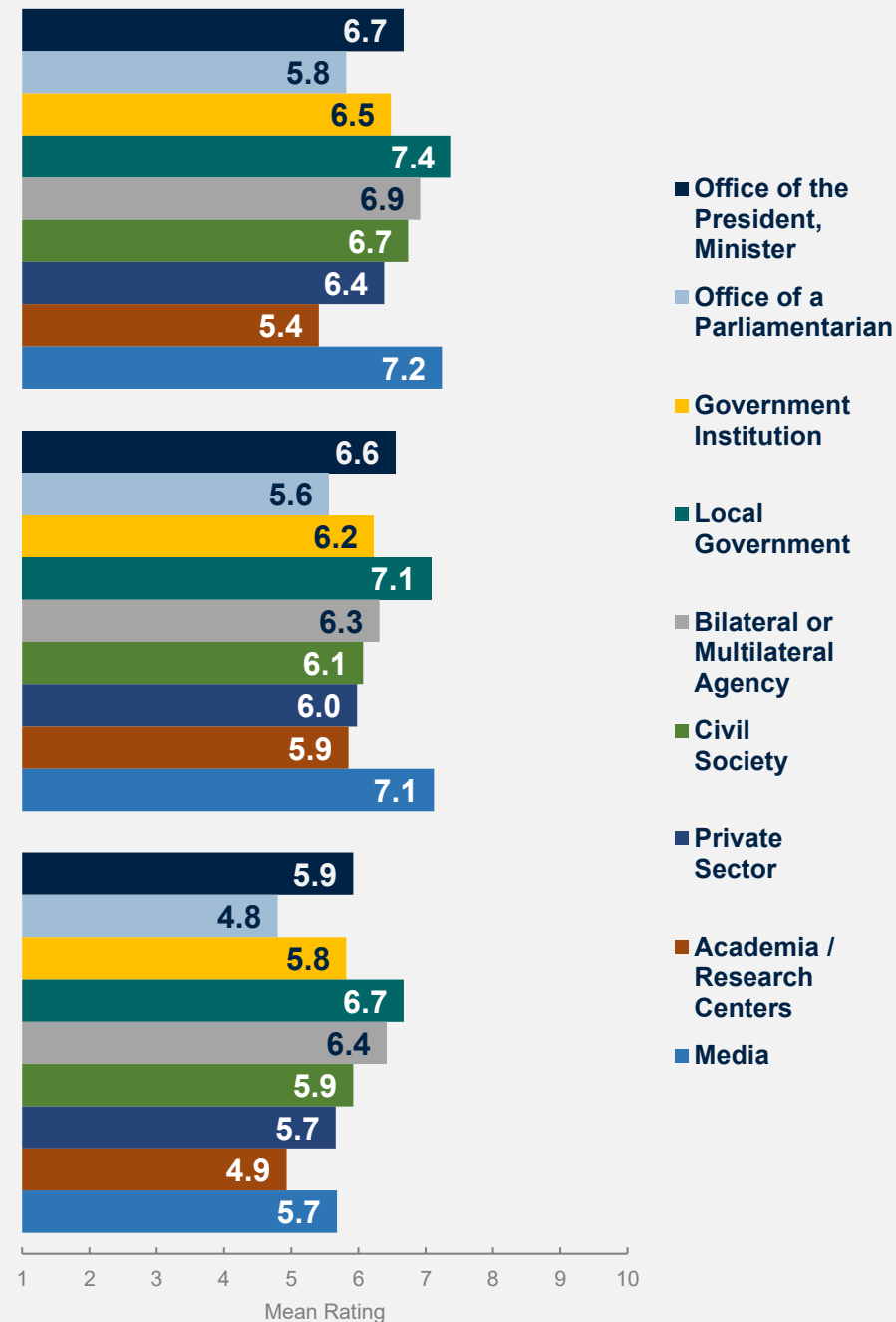
*Denotes significant differences between years

Respondents From the Office of the President, Minister, Local Government, and Media Conveyed the Most Positive Perceptions of the WBG

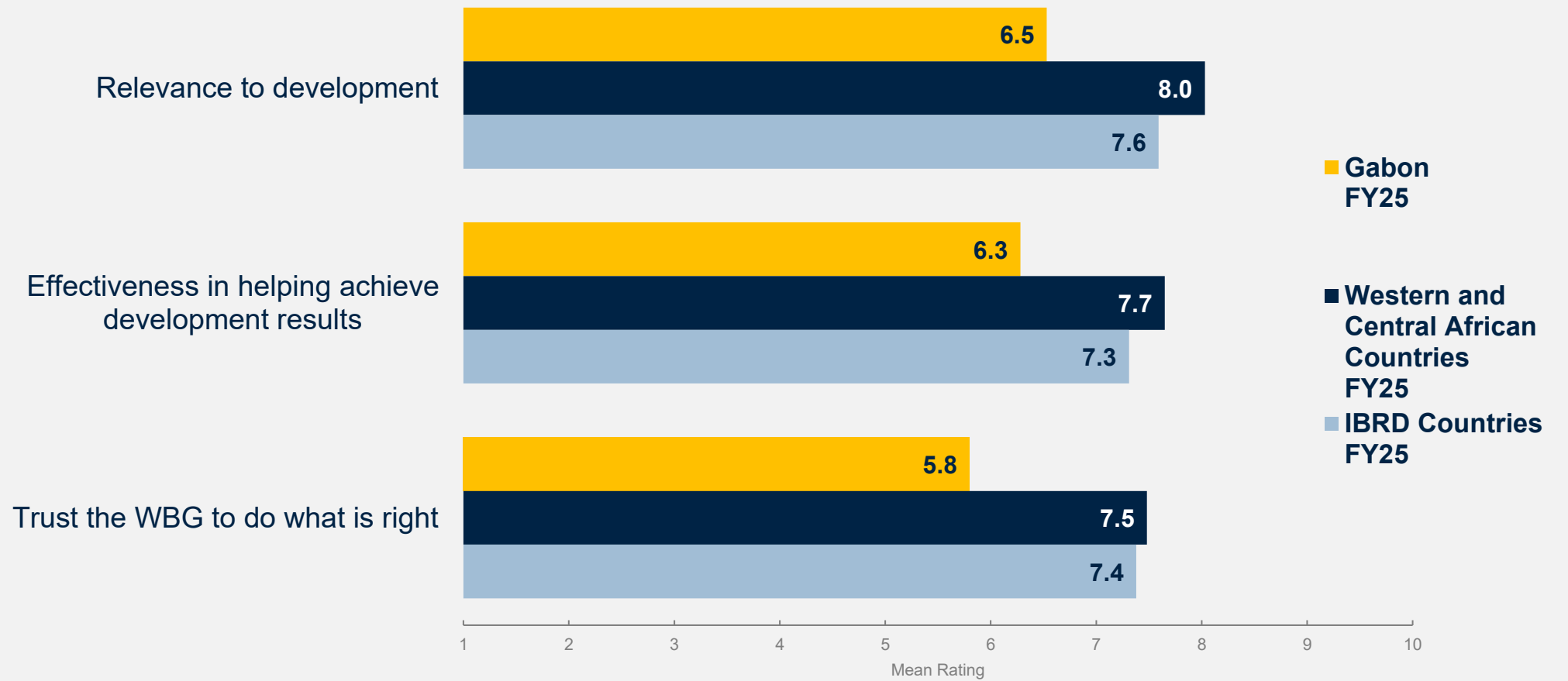
Relevance to Gabon's development*

Effectiveness in helping Gabon achieve development results*

Trust the WBG to do what is right for Gabon



Ratings for Trust in the WBG and the WBG's Relevance and Effectiveness are Lower in Gabon than in Other West and Central African Countries and IBRD Countries Surveyed in FY25

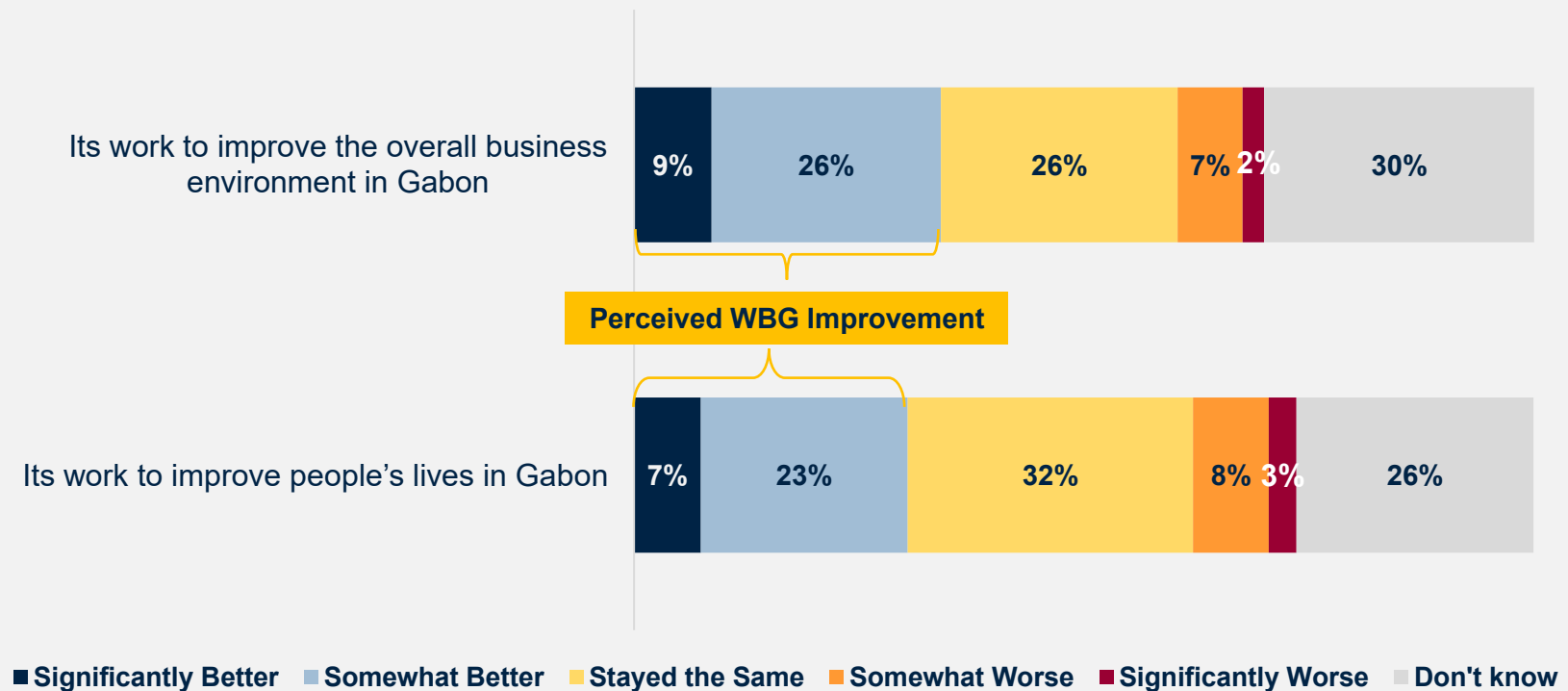


Other Western and Central African countries surveyed in FY25 included Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Other IBRD FY25 countries included: Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Philippines, and Thailand.

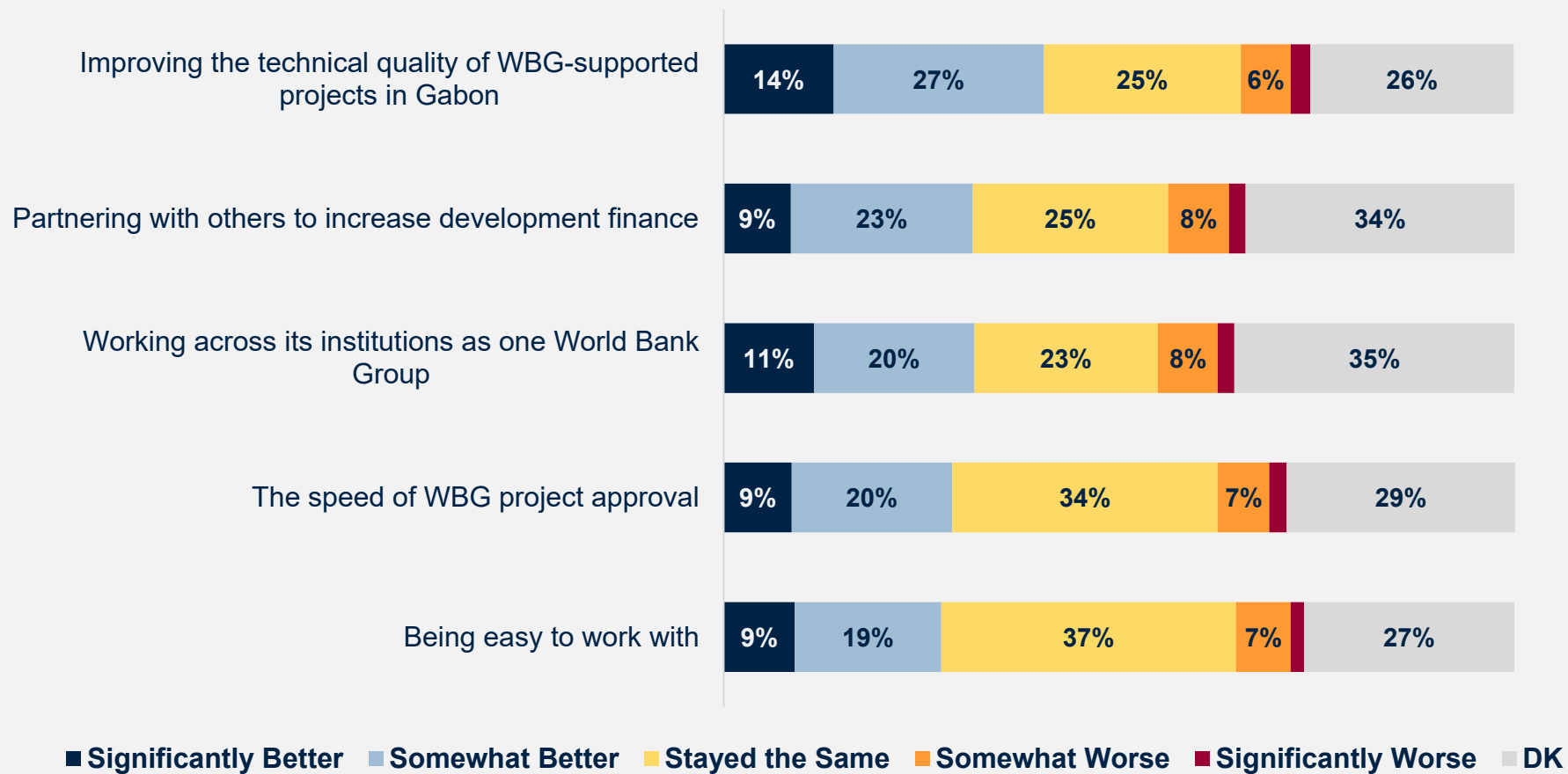
A Third of Stakeholders See Positive Change in WBG's Work on Improving the Business Environment and People's Lives in Gabon

Based on your experience, *in the past two years*, how has the WBG changed in terms of...



Around 3 in 10 of WBG Clients/Partners Saw Improvement Across Most Aspects of WBG Work

Based on your experience, *in the past two years*, how has the WBG changed in terms of...



The WBG's Work on Development Priorities

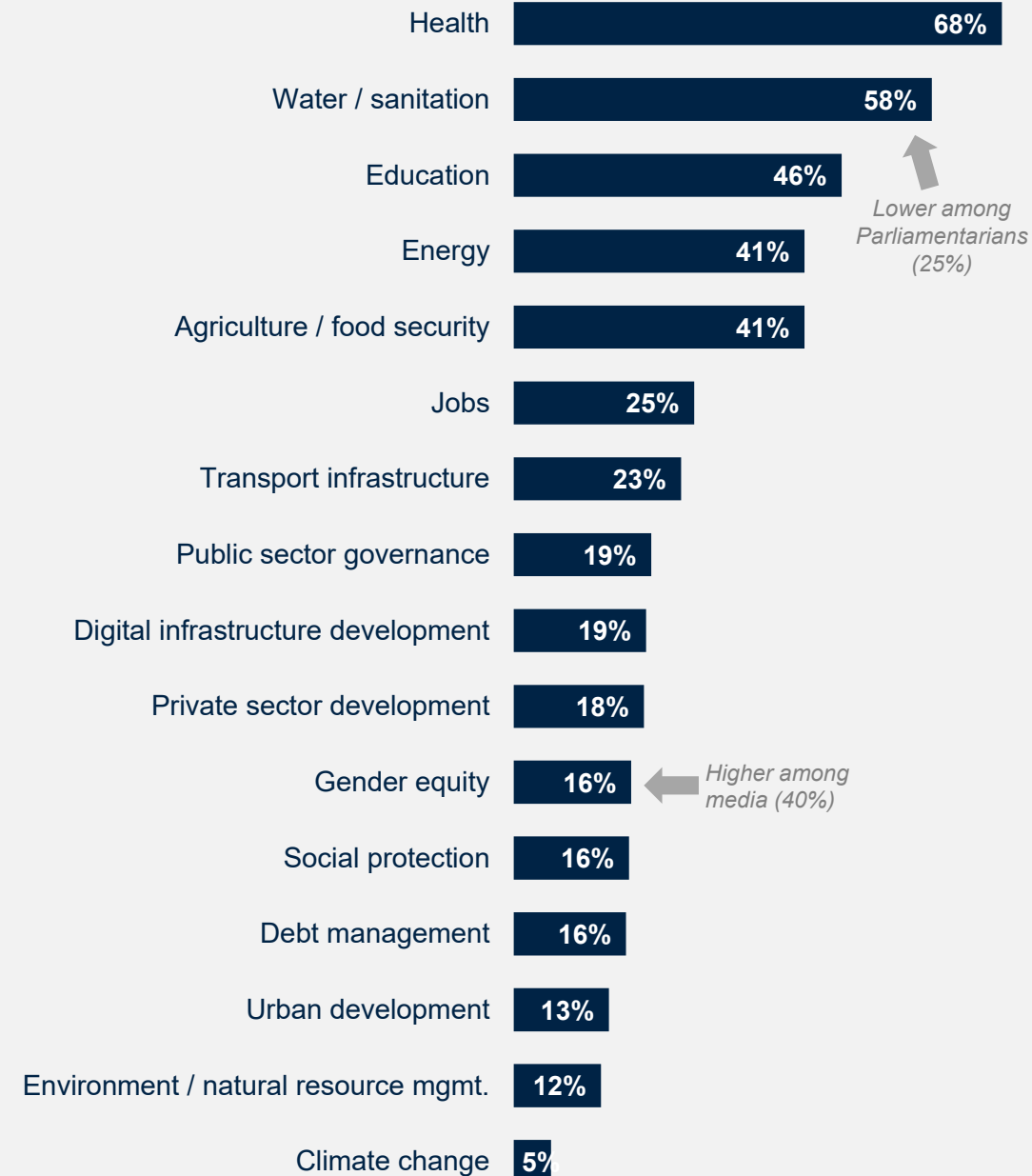


WBG: Focal Development Areas

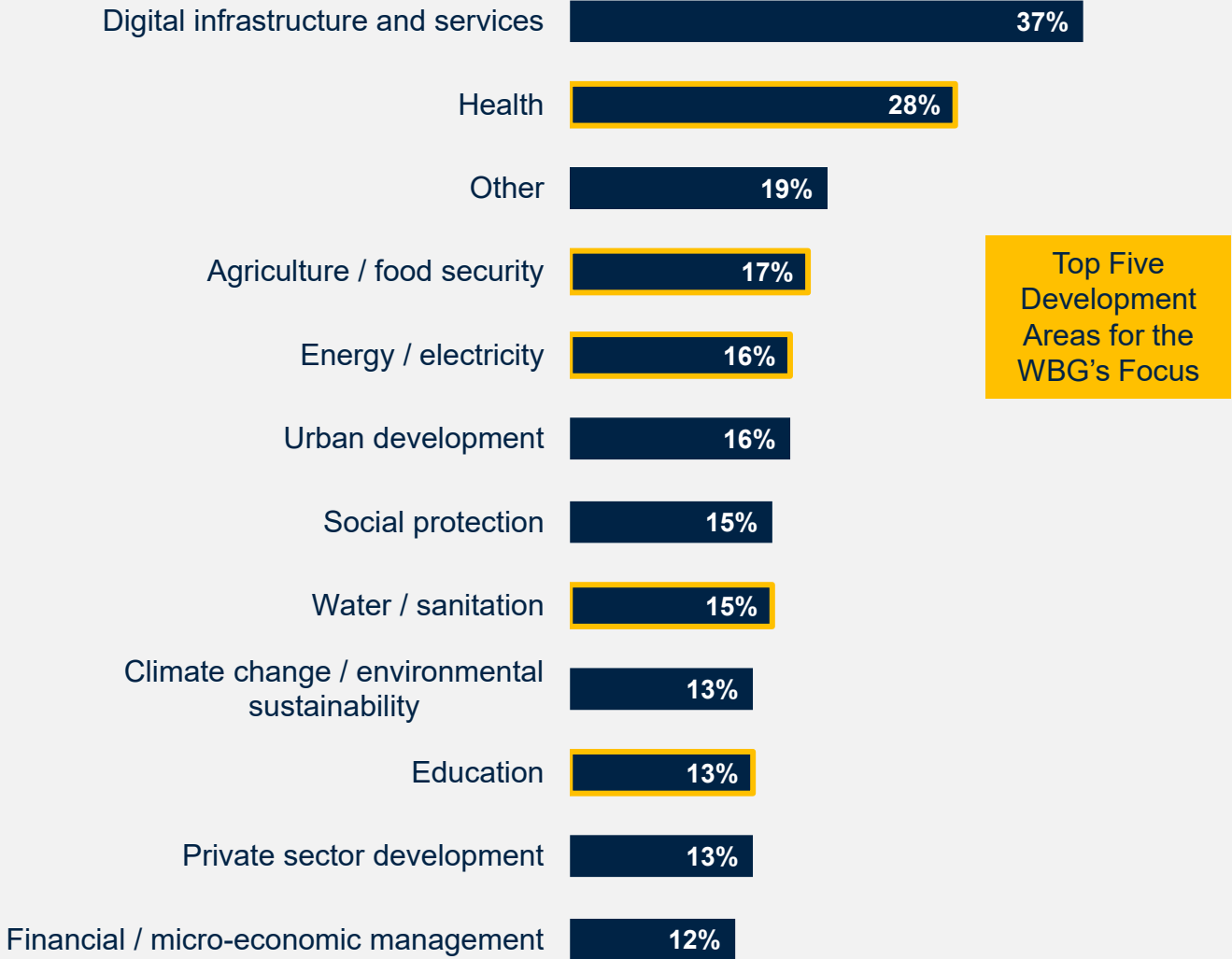
Between FY20 and FY25, stakeholder priorities shifted notably. **Health** rose from **28%** to **68%**, becoming the WBG's top focus area. **Water / sanitation, education, energy, and agriculture / food security** also gained importance, all ranking in the top 5 in FY25.

In open-ended comments, respondents discussed the following focus areas for the WBG[^]:

- **Infrastructure:** Transport, energy/electricity, water supply, and urban development, as well as financing hydroelectric dams, improving access to drinking water, and maintaining existing infrastructure.
- **Health:** Improving access to services, community health systems, training of health workers, and expanding care for vulnerable and rural populations.
- **Education, Skills, and Capacity Building:** More and better training programs, teacher training, technical and vocational education, and capacity building for both institutions and individuals.
- **Governance and Institutional Strengthening:** Improved governance, transparency, public policy management, and stronger institutions to ensure sustainable implementation of reforms and projects.
- **Agriculture, Jobs, and Economic Diversification:** Agricultural development, support for farmers, boost job creation (especially for youth), foster private sector development, and diversify economic activities.



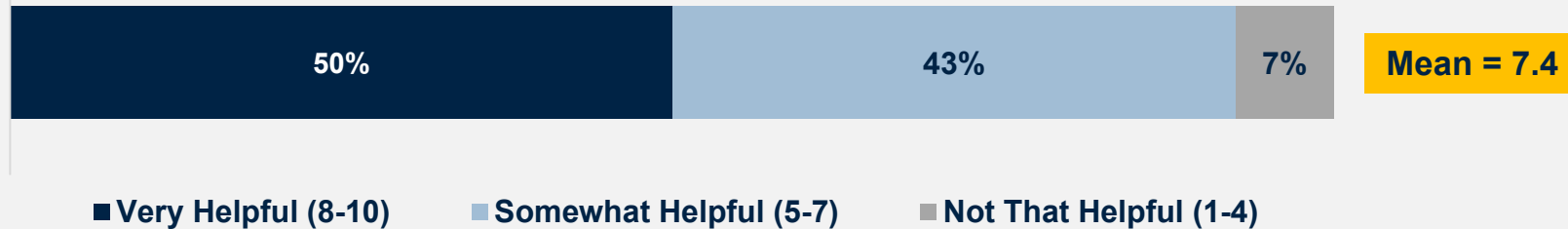
Four in Ten WBG Clients Were Most Familiar With a Project Involving Digital Infrastructure and Services



Please think about a specific WBG-supported project or initiative that you are most familiar with. Please select the development area that this WBG-supported project or initiative supported. (Select all that apply) (Asked only those who said that they collaborate with the WBG, Percentage of Respondents, N=75) If you recall, what was the name of this WBG-supported project or initiative? (N=75)

Nearly All WBG Clients Said the WBG Was Helpful in Achieving Project Goals, With a Majority Rating is “Very Helpful”

How helpful was the WBG in achieving the goals of this project or initiative?



In Open-Ended Comments, Clients Discussed the Impact of the WBG-Supported Project on the People of Gabon

“The project greatly helped some cooperatives to acquire equipment and operate. Women and indigenous populations gained autonomy and secure sources of income.”
 (Office of the President, Minister respondent discussing **GEF6** and **PAZH** projects)

“The allocation of funds for the production of a comprehensive statistical yearbook for the education sector, along with the availability of recent and reliable data, enabled a credible diagnosis of the education system (all sub-sectors).”
 (Bilateral/Multilateral Agency respondent discussing the development of the **Education Sector Plan**)

“The Project has improved youth employability and combated unemployment, but also strengthened the capacities of Gabonese institutions involved in vocational training and employment, such as the National Employment Office (ONE) and the National Investment Promotion Agency (ANPI) in business creation.”
 (Private Sector respondent discussing **PRODECE**)

“These initiatives demonstrate structured support around digitalization, statistical strengthening, basic rural infrastructure, and the management of health emergencies.”
 (Office of the President, Minister respondent discussing **PDS**, **PASBMIR**, and **DIGITAL GABON** projects)

“The Single Social Register will allow Gabon to have a single national register (or file) for vulnerable people, which will improve the care of this target group.”
 (Government Institution respondent discussing **RSU** project)

“Creation and strengthening of anti-corruption institutions; Engaging citizens in entrepreneurship; Supporting the education of vulnerable people; Combating non-biodegradable plastics.”
 (Civil Society respondent)



How helpful was the WBG in achieving the goals of this project or initiative? Scale: 1 Not helpful at all – 10 Very helpful. Asked only those who said that they collaborate with the WBG, Percentage of Respondents, N=68
 [If helpful rating > 4] How did this WBG-supported project or initiative impact the people of Gabon? (Please be specific) (N=52)

Key Actions to Enhance the WBG's Operational Effectiveness in Gabon: Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation, Enhance Governance, and Capacity Building and Improving Responsiveness to Gabon's Needs

What is the most important thing the WBG could do to increase its effectiveness in these priority areas in Gabon?

Strengthen Monitoring, Evaluation, and Oversight

- Implement more robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems across all project stages.
- Ensure regular audits, verification of fund use, and strict follow-up on project implementation.
- Improve tracking of actual on-the-ground results, not just technical indicators.
- Create dedicated units/mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely course correction.

Enhance Governance, Coordination, and Management Capacity

- Support stronger institutions and governance, including public financial management.
- Simplify and improve coordination with government, local expertise, and other development partners.
- More consideration of local context and avoiding one-size-fits-all approaches that may not fit Gabon's context.
- Strengthen local capacity and project management skills to ensure sustainability.

Improve Responsiveness, Engagement, and Align with Local Needs

- Prioritize dialogue and engagement with stakeholders, including local experts.
- Increase visibility and communication around results and ongoing work.
- Focus more on projects with direct social impact and alignment with the needs of Gabon.
- Ensure funding and interventions are tailored, targeted, and responsive to Gabon's context and challenges.



What is the most important thing the WBG could do to increase its effectiveness in these priority areas in Gabon? (Please be specific) (N=253)

The WBG's Instruments



WORLD BANK GROUP

Financial Resources Considered the WBG's Greatest Value to Gabon

Financial resources were significantly more valuable to respondents from bilateral/**multilateral agencies** (79%), the **private sector** (74%), and the **media** (77%).

The importance of financial resources has increased since FY20, when only 42% of respondents selected this option.

Financial resources

57%

Data and research

38%

Advisory services

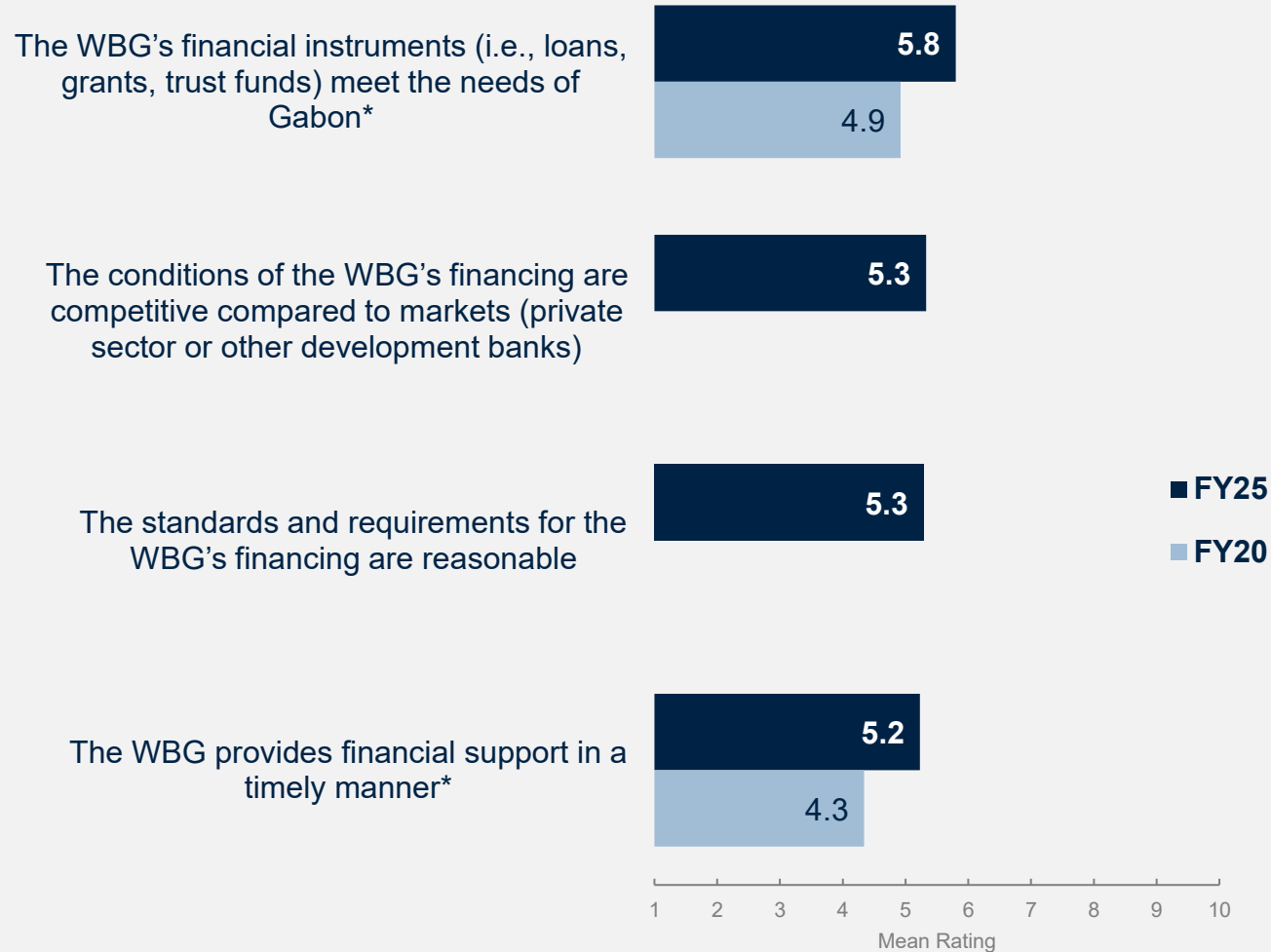
37%

Convening power

26%



Perceptions of WBG Financial Instruments Meeting Gabon's Needs and Being Timely Have Improved Significantly



*Denotes significant differences between years

Key Themes Regarding the WBG's Financial Support in Gabon: Increase Targeted Funding, Improve Oversight, and Simplify Access to Financing

What is the most important thing the WBG could do to increase its effectiveness in these priority areas in Gabon?

Increase and Better Target Funding

- Provide more financing, especially for priority areas such as infrastructure, water/sanitation, and energy.
- Offer low-interest loans and review or ease debt repayment terms to support fiscal sustainability.
- Expand financing to infrastructure projects, R&D, and the private sector, including measures to mobilize domestic and foreign investment.
- Ensure financial resources are adequate, timely, and aligned with Gabon's development needs.

Improve Financial Management, Oversight, and Transparency

- Strengthen systems to monitor, track, and audit the use of funds from start to finish to ensure resources are used for their intended purposes, with more transparency.
- Apply funding conditionalities as necessary to improve governance and ensure effective, sustainable implementation.
- Establish dedicated financial project monitoring units to oversee expenditures and outcomes.

Simplify, Accelerate, and Facilitate Access to Financing

- Make disbursement procedures more flexible and faster, reducing administrative bottlenecks.
- Simplify access to funding for both the government and private sector.
- Support capacity-building in governance to better manage and absorb WBG financing.
- Ensure that financial support mechanisms incorporate local realities, including displaced and vulnerable groups.

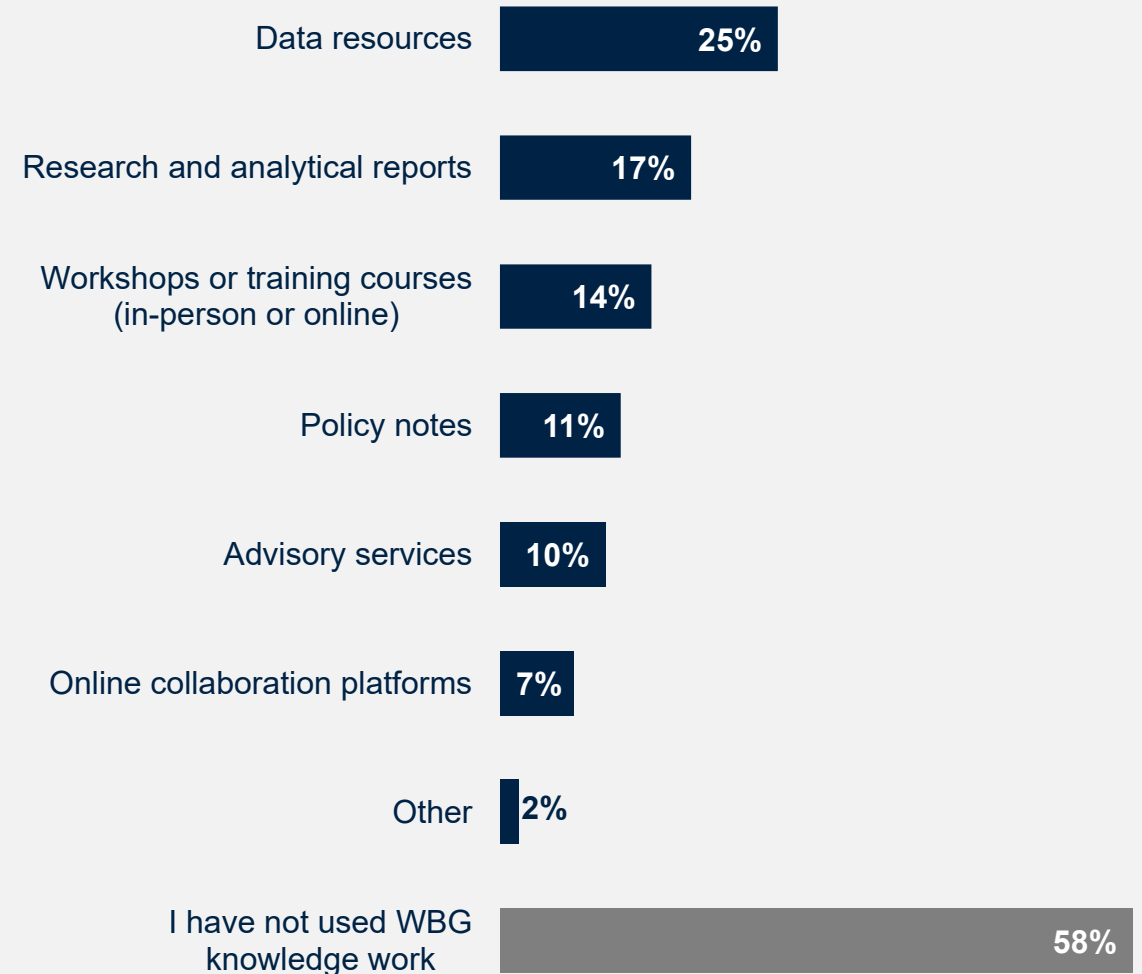


What is the most important thing the WBG could do to increase its effectiveness in these priority areas in Gabon? (Please be specific) (N=253)

A Majority of Respondents Had Not Used WBG Knowledge Work in the Past 3 Years; Those That Did, Most Commonly Used WBG Data Resources

Different stakeholder groups used different types of WBG knowledge work:

- **Research and analytic reports** were most likely to be utilized by civil society (33%), bilateral/multilateral agencies (31%), Parliamentarians (29%), and the office of the President/Minister (25%).
- **Policy notes** were most likely to be utilized by Parliamentarians (29%), civil society (26%), and bilateral/multilateral agencies (25%).
- Stakeholders from local government were the most likely to report that they **have not used WBG knowledge** (87%).



Stakeholders Used WBG Knowledge Work for a Variety of Purposes

For what purpose did you use this WBG knowledge work?

- **Support for Research, Analysis, and Academic Work**
Respondents used WBG knowledge to conduct research, produce academic and analytical work, and deepen their understanding of macroeconomic and sectoral issues.
- **Strengthening Policy Design, Planning, and Performance Management**
WBG knowledge informed the preparation of government performance plans and reports, improved planning methods, and guided the design of sector policies and strategies.
- **Project Preparation, Funding Applications, and Evaluation**
Respondents used the knowledge work to prepare funding proposals, strengthen project design, and support monitoring and evaluation activities.
- **Professional Decision-Making, Advisory, and Operational Work**
Knowledge products were applied to support decision-making, internal reporting, negotiations, and operational work across public- and private-sector institutions.

Key Themes Regarding Improving WBG Knowledge Work in Gabon

What is the most important thing the WBG could do to increase its effectiveness in Gabon?

- **Strengthen Capacity Building and Training**
Respondents emphasized the need for expanded training programs, particularly for public-sector staff, technical teams, and sector specialists, to develop broad training initiatives and professional development that foster a more autonomous and qualified workforce.
- **Improve Local Data, Diagnostics, and Contextual Understanding**
Respondents called for more local data collection, engagement at the local level, and studies grounded in Gabon's specific realities – more context-driven sectoral analyses and evaluations would help ensure knowledge work is relevant and actionable.
- **Provide Stronger Technical Assistance Throughout Project**
There were frequent requests for continuous technical assistance, from project design to implementation and evaluation. Respondents expect the WBG's knowledge work to provide practical guidance, support monitoring and evaluation, and help local institutions adopt modern, effective methods.



For what purpose did you use this WBG knowledge activity/analytical work? (Please be specific) (N=30)

What is the most important thing the WBG could do to increase its effectiveness in these priority areas in Gabon? (Please be specific) (N=253)

59% of Respondents Report WBG Policy Advice Shaped Government Policy and Influenced Important Development Areas

In your opinion, has the WBG's policy advice influenced a new or previous government policy in Gabon?

Health

- *"Public policy on the digitization and digitalization of the healthcare system."*
(Parliamentarian Respondent)
- *"The advice of the World Bank Group has strongly influenced the development of hospital road infrastructure and environmental protections."*
(Office of the President, Minister Respondent)

Education

- *"The WBG's advice has promoted the expansion of access to training for vulnerable groups, particularly out-of-school youth and women, through short training programs and support for integration (internships, employment subsidies)."*
(Private Sector Respondent)

Environment/Natural Resource Management

- *"The strategic advice of the WBG has influenced the governance policy of extractive resources in Gabon, notably by supporting the country's return to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2021."* (Local Government Respondent)
- *"The Forest and Environment Project in Gabon was a major World Bank project in Gabon. It involved WWF participation, sustainable forest management, a new certification program, etc."* (Répondant d'une institution gouvernementale)

Governance and Economic Policies

- *"Budgetary transparency policy and governance reform. Reform of the forestry sector and environmental governance (GEF, PAGOS, CAFI-FOREST projects, etc.). Industrial and economic policies (diagnostic studies, support for SEZs)."*
(Government Institution Respondent)
- *"The establishment of a One-Stop Shop for Business Creation (ANPI), and the creation of the commercial court, have strengthened government policy aimed at improving the business climate and promoting investment."*
(Government Institution Respondent)
- *"For the government, this has helped to guide national policies and identify strategic development priorities such as economic diversification and social inclusion: Supporting national planning within the framework of the Emerging Gabon strategic plan."*
(Office of the President, Minister Respondent)
- *"The reform of the social protection system: this policy was supported by the WBG in order to create the Single Social Register (RSU) to allow the Government to better target social assistance."*
(Media Respondent)

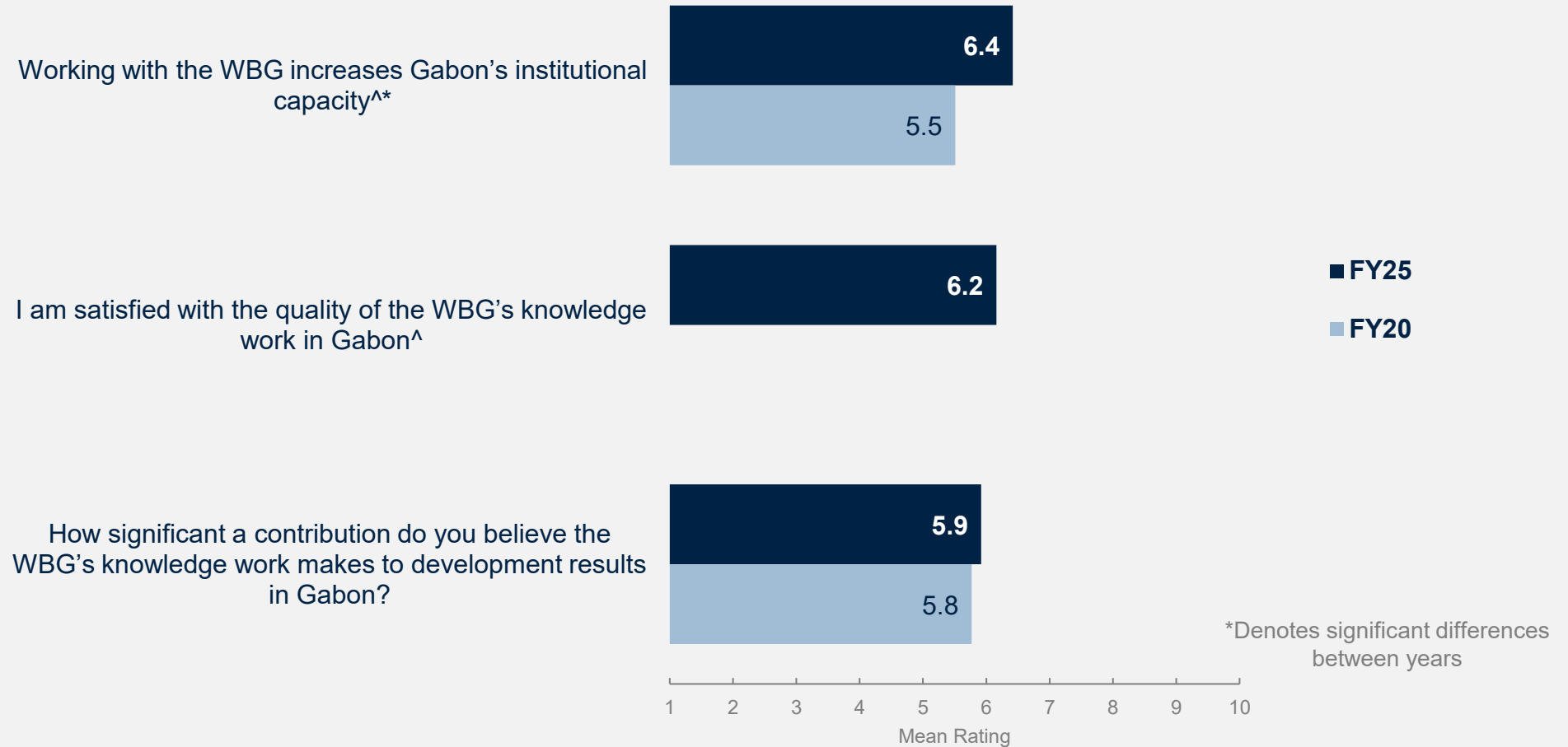
Water and Sanitation

- *"Access to water and education."* (Parliamentarian Respondent)



In your opinion, has the WBG's policy advice influenced a new or previous government policy in Gabon? (Percentage of Respondents, N=115)
What government policy or action did the WBG's advice influence and in what way? (N=68) Select comments corresponding to key development priorities for the WBG's focus, as identified by respondents, are shown here.

Stakeholders Are Significantly More Positive About the WBG's Knowledge Work Impact on Institutional Capacity



How significant a contribution do you believe the WBG's knowledge work makes to development results in Gabon? Scale: 1 Not significant at all – 10 Very significant

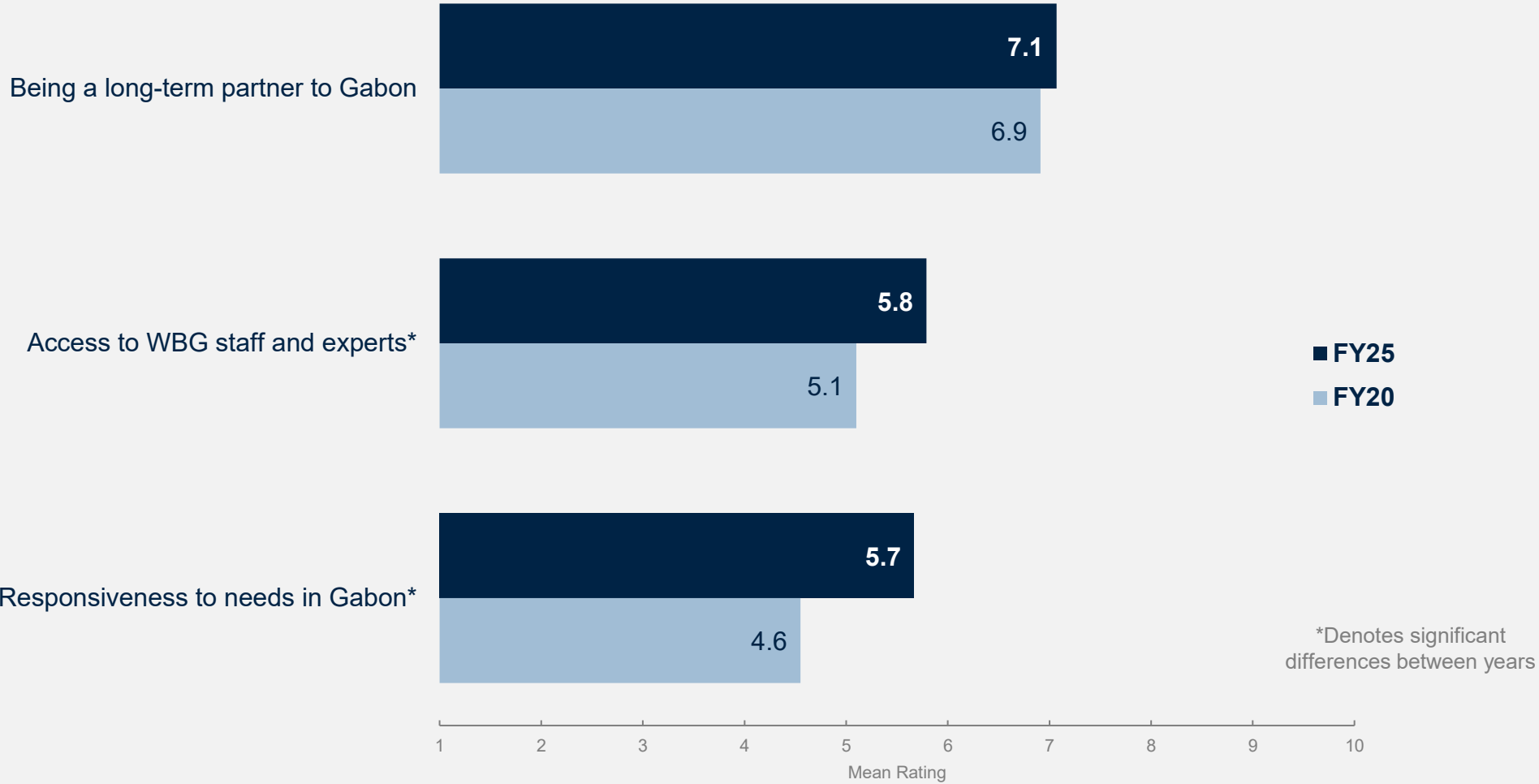
To what extent do you agree with the following statements? Scale: 1 Strongly disagree – 10 Strongly agree

[^] Only asked those who indicated that they had used WBG knowledge work in the past 3 years

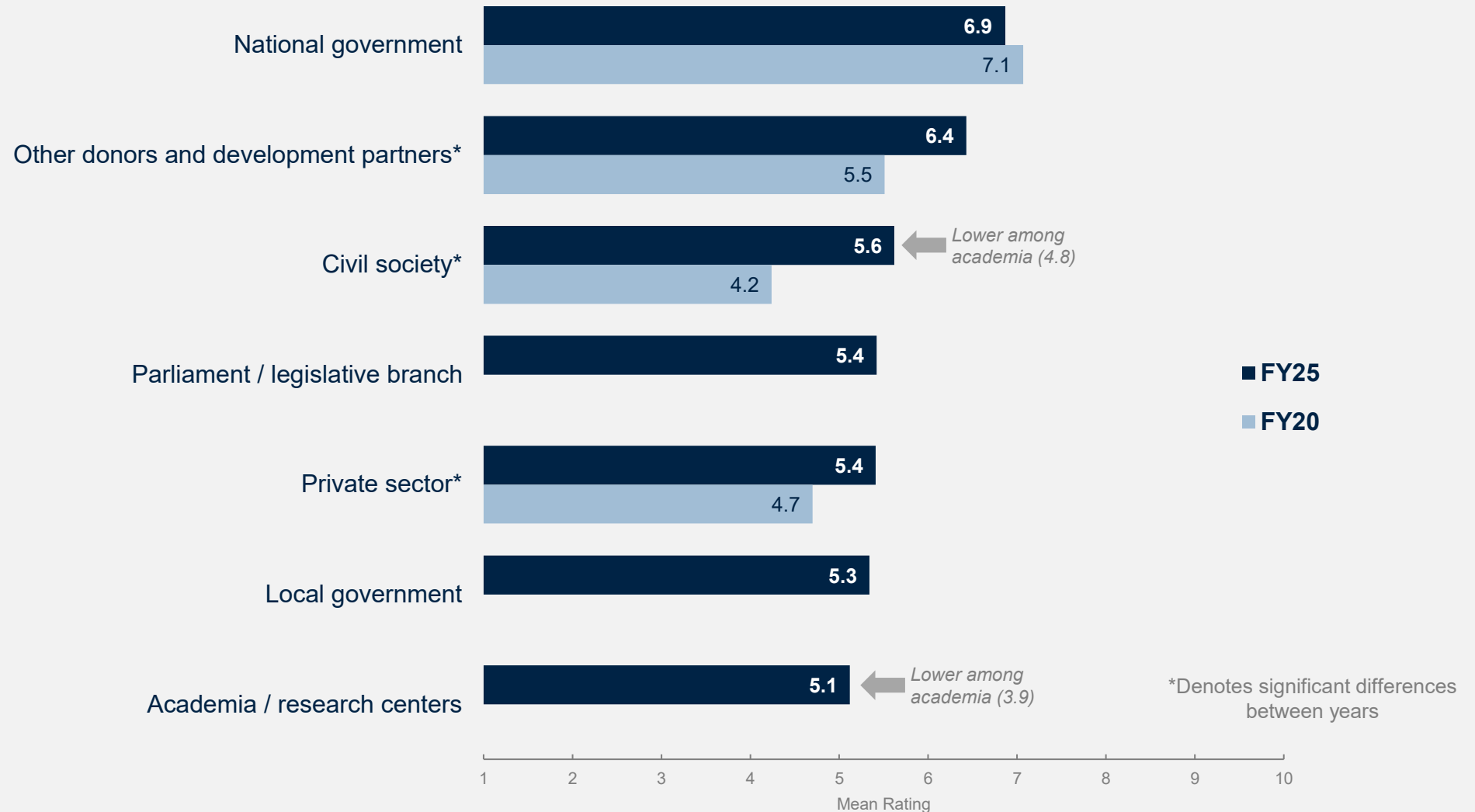
The WBG's Engagement and Collaboration



Perceptions of the WBG as a Development Partner Have Significantly Improved in Gabon



Perceptions of WBG Collaboration With Development Partners, Civil Society, and Private Sector Have Improved



Stakeholders Want the Bank to Collaborate More With Local Government in Gabon

In open-ended comments, respondents discussed the importance of the WBG enhancing its engagement and collaboration with stakeholders[^]:

Deepen Dialogue and Collaboration with Local Stakeholders

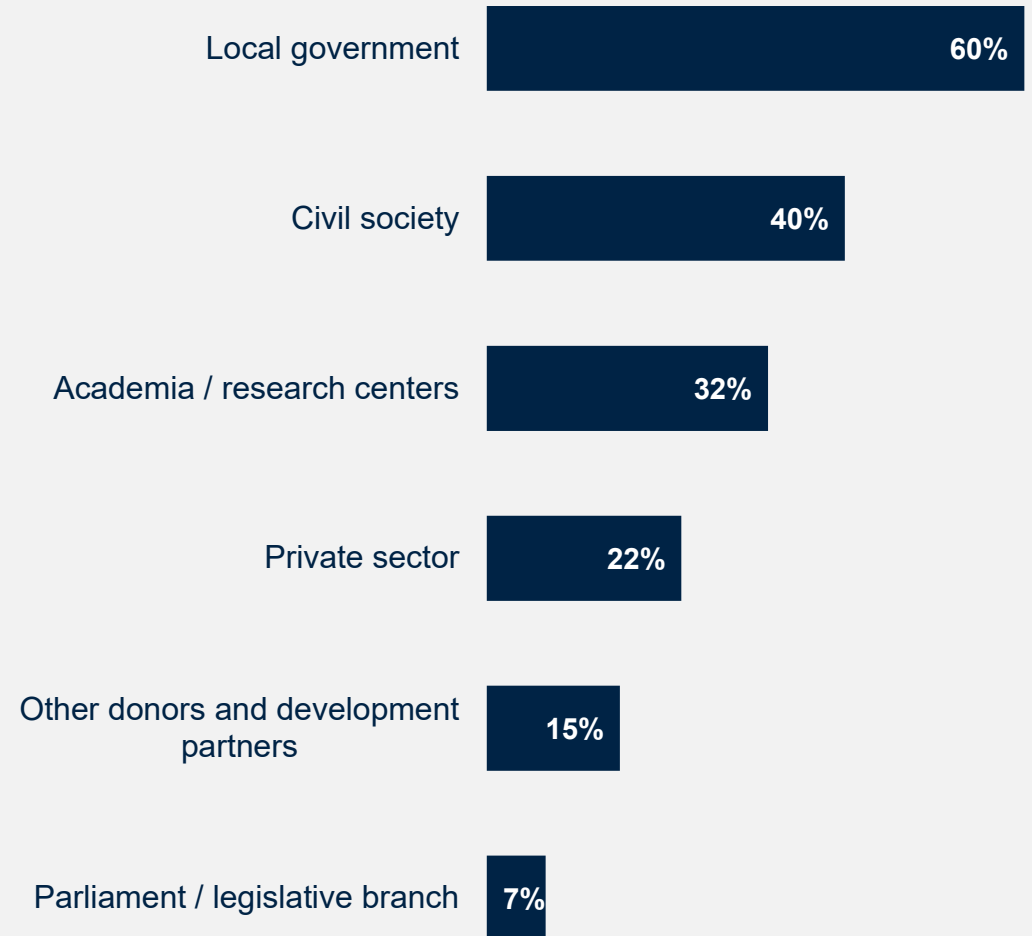
- Respondents emphasized the need for regular, direct, and inclusive dialogue with a broad range of stakeholders, including local authorities, civil society, private sector, communities, and technical experts.
- Many stressed working closely and continuously with stakeholders on the ground, without intermediaries, to ensure interventions reflect real needs and constraints.

Increase Transparency, Communication, and Visibility

- Respondents highlighted the importance of better communication about WBG projects, objectives, and results, so stakeholders understand and can engage with the work.
- They also called for greater visibility and outreach, including popularizing the WBG's mission to improve trust, ownership, and accountability.

Promote Participatory Approaches and Local Ownership

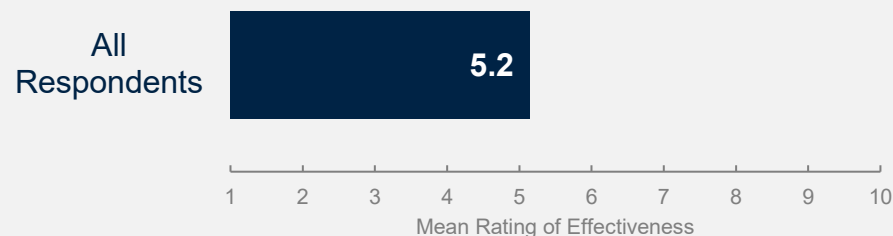
- Many called for stronger participation of communities and local actors in identifying priorities, designing solutions, and monitoring implementation.
- Suggestions included empowering local capacities, valuing local expertise, and ensuring that stakeholders—especially rural populations—are actively involved throughout the project cycle.



In addition to its partnership with the national government, which of the following should the WBG collaborate with more to have greater impact in Gabon? (Select up to 2) (Percentage of Respondents, N=289)

[^] What is the most important thing the WBG could do to increase its effectiveness in these priority areas in Gabon? (N=253)

WBG Effectiveness in Facilitating Civil Society Participation



Respondents across all stakeholder groups gave statistically similar ratings for the WBG’s effectiveness in facilitating civil society participation in development policy dialogue and implementation in Gabon.

Approximately 39% of respondents rated the WBG’s effectiveness in engaging with civil society as below average (scores 1–4). These respondents recommended several ways the WBG could enhance its engagement, including the following:

- Engage civil society more directly and consistently, including creating permanent dialogue platforms and involving them throughout the project cycle.
- Provide direct funding and support to civil society organizations, enabling them to implement initiatives and contribute meaningfully to WBG-funded projects.
- Strengthen civil society capacity and understanding of WBG processes through training, clearer communication, and tools for participation and oversight.

Some Examples of the WBG’s Effective Facilitation of Civil Society Participation

“Civil society plays a role in World Bank-supported development initiatives in Gabon through dialogue, project monitoring, and social inclusion training. Examples include participation in strategic dialogue via regional platform, dialogue with civil society and Parliamentarians (quarterly consultations), support for social inclusion, and consultation on planning tools.”

(Government Institution Respondent)

“The World Bank, in partnership with the Gabonese government, organized dialogue workshops with civil society to gather their views on public finance reform, budget transparency, and natural resource management. The recommendations of civil society were integrated into the natural resource management reform.”

(Media Respondent)

“The WBG works alongside several civil society organizations in Gabon on all political, social, cultural, and environmental levels. Indeed, it supports these organizations not only in terms of financing, but also in terms of strategic support and training.”

(Office of the President, Minister Respondent)

“The World Bank Group works extensively with civil society organizations, particularly in the areas of development policy, the environment, and training.”

(Civil Society Respondent)

“During the Angondjé dialogues in 2017 and 2024.”

(Academia Respondent)



How effective is the WBG in facilitating civil society participation in development policy dialogue and implementation in Gabon?

Scale: 1 Not effective at all – 10 Very effective

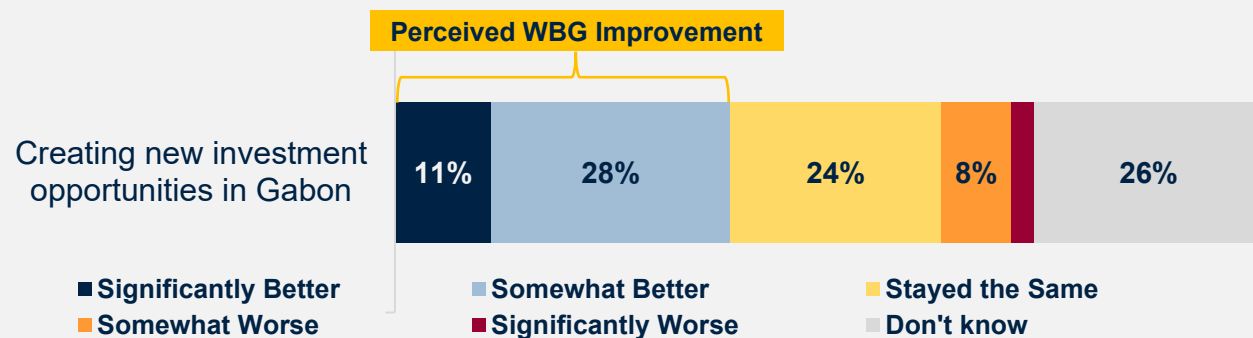
[If effectiveness rating < 5] How could the WBG be more effective in facilitating civil society participation in development policy dialogue and implementation?

(Please be specific) (N=63) [If effectiveness rating > 4] Please share examples of the WBG’s effective facilitation of civil society participation in development policy dialogue and implementation. (Please be specific) (N=67)

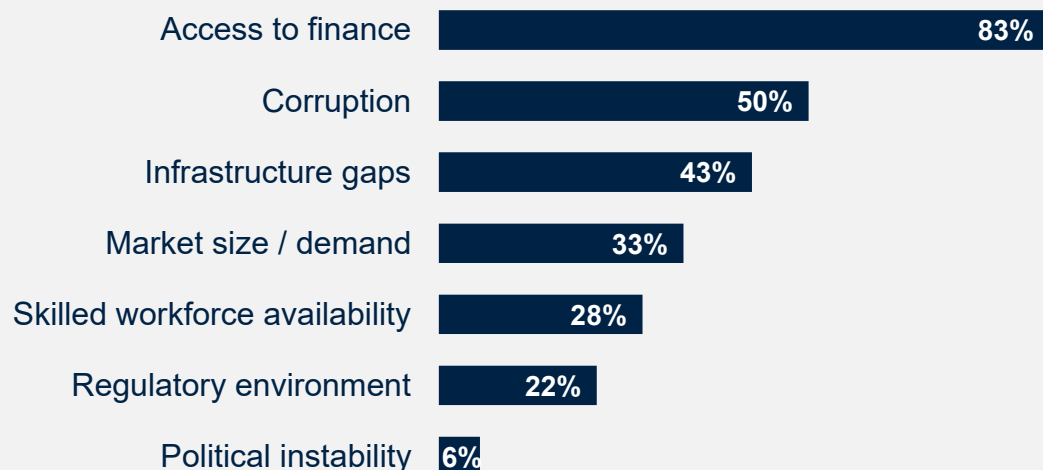


The WBG Working With the Private Sector

Based on your experience, in the past two years, how has the WBG changed in terms of...



What are the biggest challenges facing private sector development in Gabon?



In open-ended comments, respondents discussed the importance of the WBG enhancing its engagement with the private sector[^]:

Strengthen Access to Finance and Investment for Firms

- Expand funding and credit access for private enterprises, including young entrepreneurs and SMEs.
- Mobilize private financing in key sectors (e.g., energy, water, agriculture) and reduce financial barriers to doing business.

Enhance Public–Private Dialogue and Collaboration

- Improve direct engagement with private sector actors to understand constraints and co-design reforms.
- Build and support public–private partnerships (PPPs) to drive investment and sector transformation.

Improve Skills, Capacity, and the Business Environment

- Support the training and upskilling of industry experts, entrepreneurs, and workers.
- Help strengthen the broader business environment—through governance, infrastructure, and targeted support—to make private sector growth more competitive and sustainable.

Based on your experience, in the past two years, how has the WBG changed in terms of... (Percentage of Respondents, N= 262)

What are the biggest challenges facing private sector development in Gabon? (Select up to 3) (Percentage of Government & Private Sector Respondents, N=195)

[^] What is the most important thing the WBG could do to increase its effectiveness in these priority areas in Gabon? (Please be specific) (N=253)

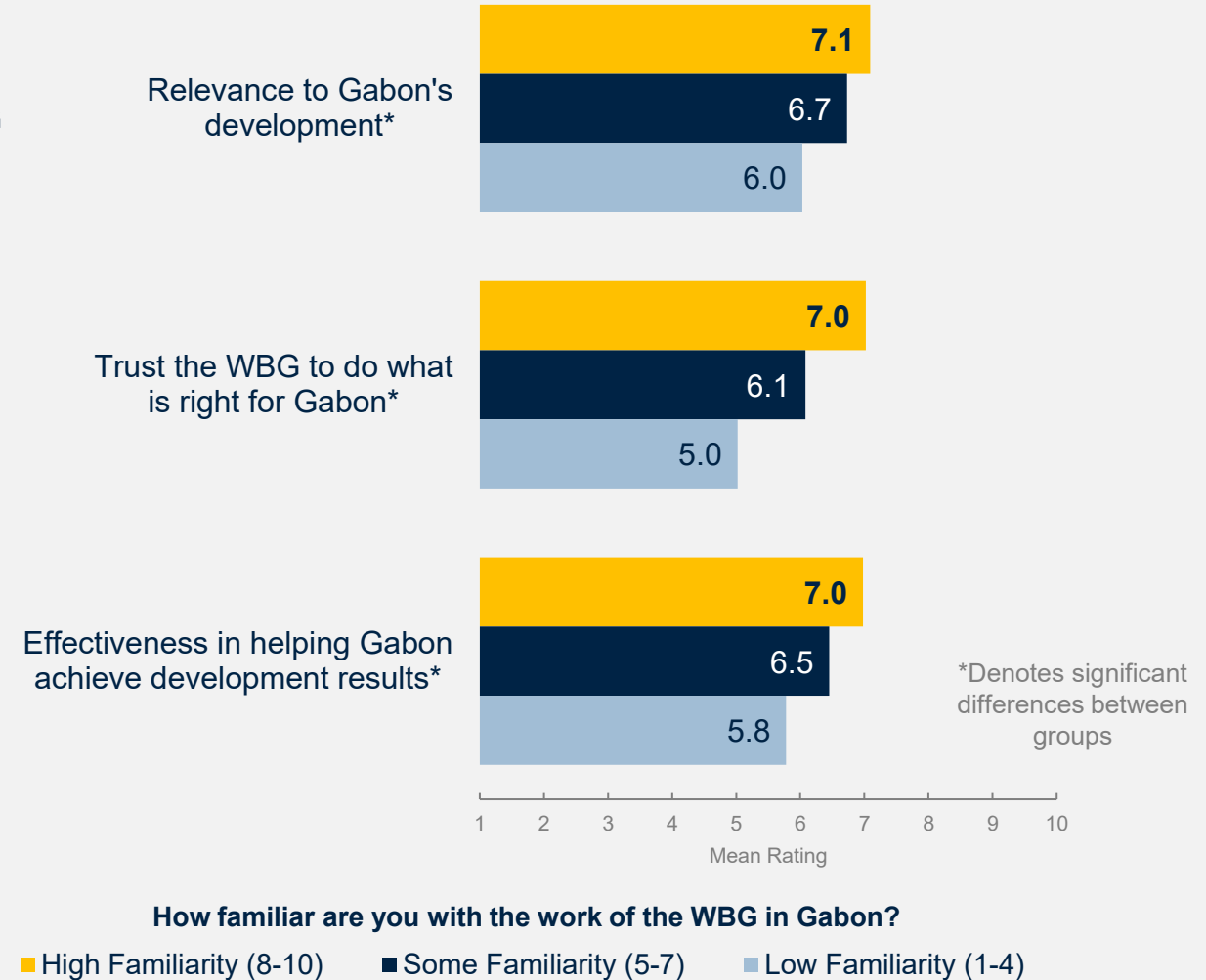


Communication and Outreach



Outreach and Engagement Is Important Because Familiarity Leads to More Positive Perceptions

Greater engagement with the WBG not only meets stakeholder demand but also fosters more positive perceptions. Stakeholders highly familiar with the WBG (ratings of 8–10) consistently rate its trust, relevance, and effectiveness higher than those with low familiarity (ratings of 1–4).



How familiar are you with the World Bank Group's work in Gabon? Scale: 1 Not familiar at all – 10 Very familiar
 How relevant is the World Bank Group to Gabon's development? Scale: 1 Not at all – 10 Very much
 How much do you trust the World Bank Group to do what is right for Gabon? Scale: 1 Not at all – 10 Very much
 How effective is the World Bank Group in helping Gabon achieve development results? Scale: 1 Not at all – 10 Very much

WBG Events/Conference/Workshops Are Stakeholders' Main Preference for Receiving Information from the Institution

Stakeholder preferences vary and should inform targeted outreach. For instance, respondents from civil society preferred direct contact with WBG staff, and respondents from the private sector preferred WBG social media channels.

Top Two Preferred WBG Channels

	All Respondents	Office of the President, Minister	Office of a Parliamentarian	Government Institutions	Local Government	Bilateral / Multilateral Agency	Civil Society	Private Sector	Academia/ Research Centers	Media
WBG event / conference / workshop (in person or online)	50%	47%	63%	51%	53%	44%	49%	45%	47%	69%
WBG e-Newsletters	41%	53%	63%	44%	31%	44%	37%	50%	35%	25%
WBG website (including blogs)	39%	42%	13%	38%	41%	50%	39%	33%	47%	31%
WBG social media channels (e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter/X)	38%	29%	13%	36%	50%	25%	46%	55%	35%	50%
Direct contact with WBG staff (e.g., in person, virtually, phone, email)	37%	26%	25%	38%	25%	31%	54%	40%	35%	19%
WBG direct messaging (e.g., WhatsApp)	30%	21%	38%	25%	38%	19%	37%	30%	32%	31%
WBG publications	19%	26%	0%	20%	28%	25%	12%	13%	21%	25%
WBG podcasts	3%	0%	13%	3%	6%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%

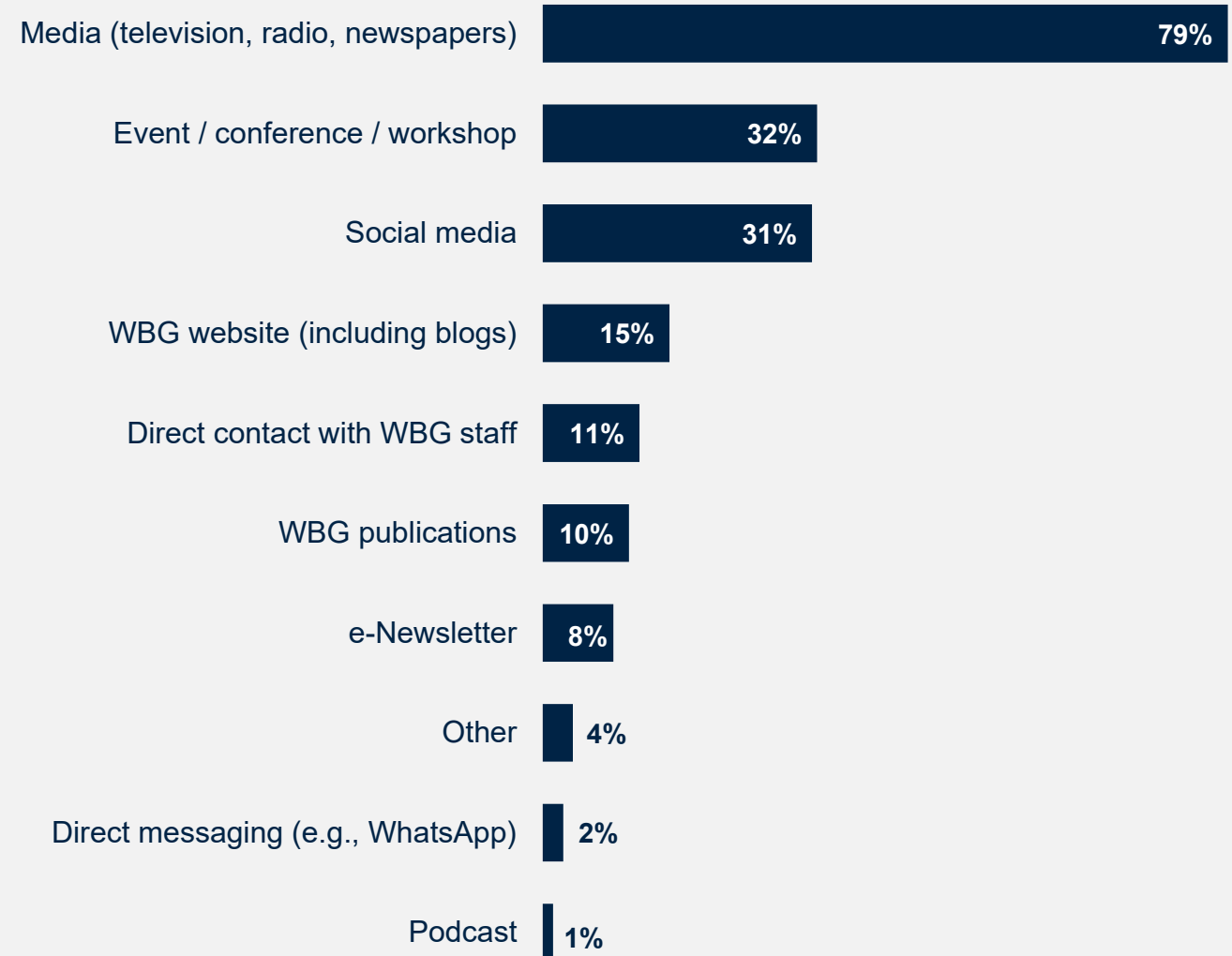


How would you prefer to obtain information from the WBG? (Select up to 3) (Percentage of Respondents, N=352)

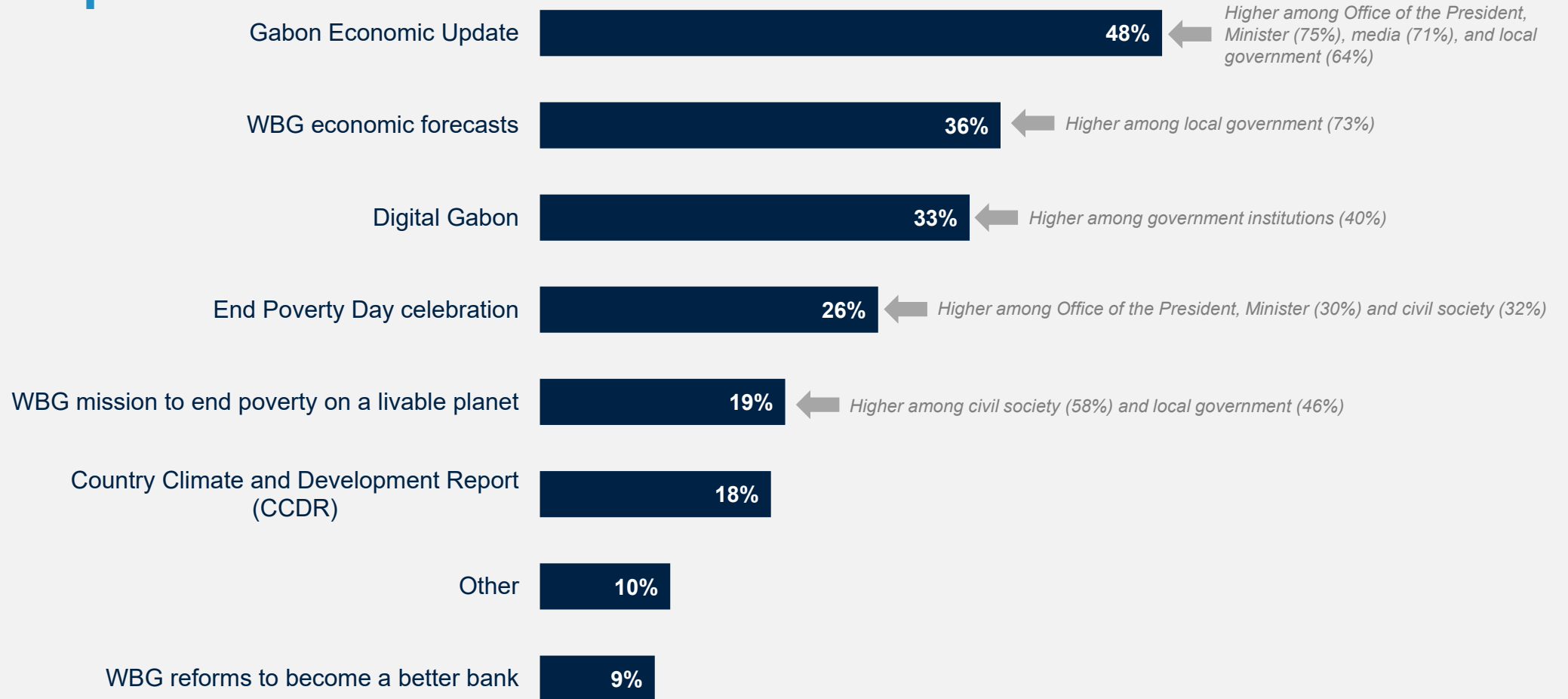
45% of Respondents Recalled Seeing or Hearing About the WBG, Recently, Most Often through the Media

Respondents from **academia**, the **private sector**, and **local government** were significantly less likely to recall seeing or hearing about the WBG recently (16%, 35%, and 36%, respectively)

Events were the most preferred channel for receiving information and the second most frequent source of recall by respondents. In contrast, WBG e-Newsletters were the second most preferred channel, but ranked near the bottom in terms of recall.



The Gabon Economic Update, WBG Economic Forecasts, and Digital Gabon Were the Most Frequently Recalled Topics



Stakeholders in Gabon Wanted Information on How to Partner With the WBG

Stakeholder preferences vary and should inform targeted outreach. For instance, respondents from the office of the President, the Minister, the private sector, and academia wanted an overview of WBG financial products and services.

Top Types of Preferred Information About the WBG

	All Respondents	Office of the President, Minister	Office of a Parliamentarian	Government Institutions	Local Government	Bilateral / Multilateral Agency	Civil Society	Private Sector	Academia/ Research Centers	Media
Information on how to work / partner with WBG	54%	43%	44%	59%	55%	60%	75%	38%	53%	50%
Overview of WBG financial products and services	48%	54%	33%	43%	48%	27%	56%	55%	57%	36%
Regular updates on WBG activities	47%	43%	0%	43%	41%	47%	58%	53%	43%	64%
Case studies of WBG projects	46%	43%	56%	52%	45%	33%	42%	53%	30%	36%
Impact assessments and evaluations	34%	35%	56%	39%	41%	27%	19%	30%	33%	29%
Sector-specific strategies	24%	16%	22%	27%	24%	40%	31%	25%	20%	21%
WBG research and knowledge*	11%	8%	33%	5%	7%	13%	8%	8%	37%	7%



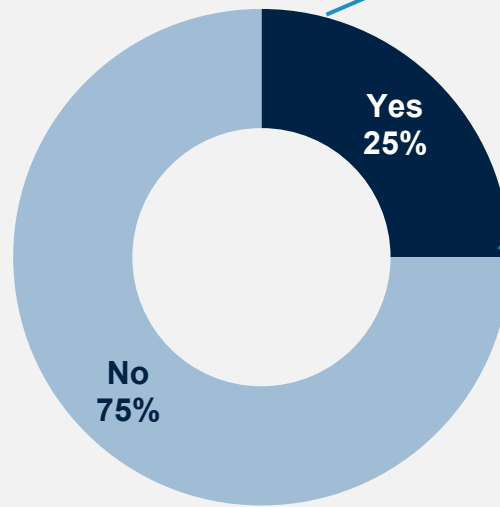
What information would be most helpful to you in understanding the WBG's role in Gabon? (Select up to 3)
(Percentage of Respondents, N=131) *Denotes significant differences between stakeholder groups

Sample Demographics and Detailed Methodology

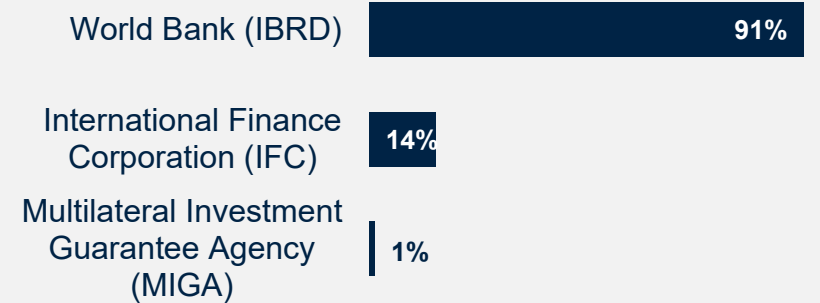


Sample Demographics

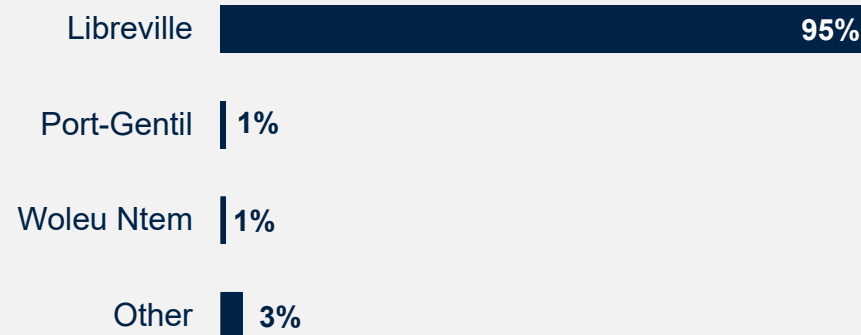
In the past 3 years, have you worked or collaborated with the WBG in Gabon?
(N=400)



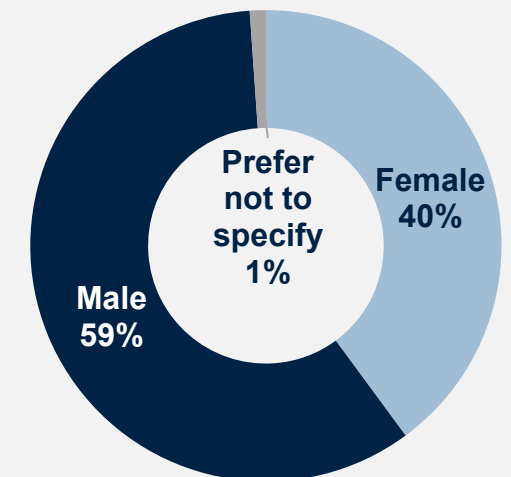
Which of the following WBG agencies have you worked or collaborated with in Gabon?
(N=93)



Which best represents your geographic location?
(N=368)

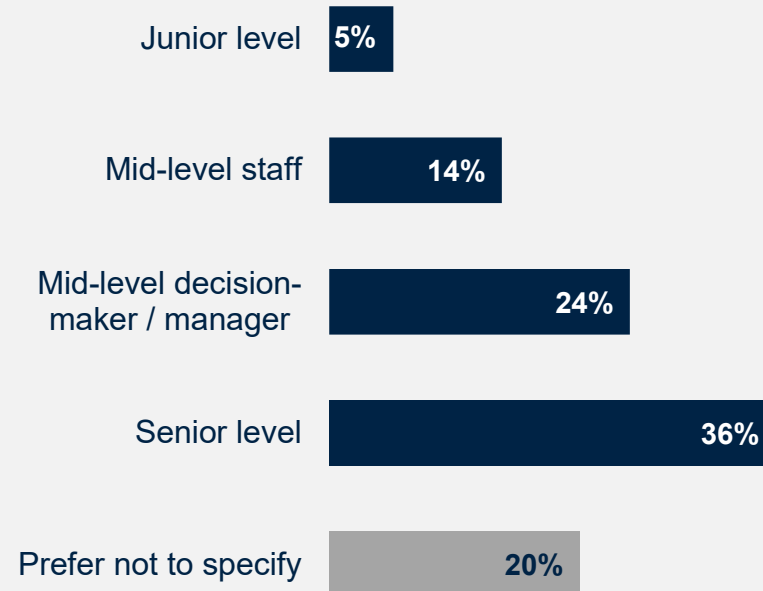


What is your gender?
(N=368)

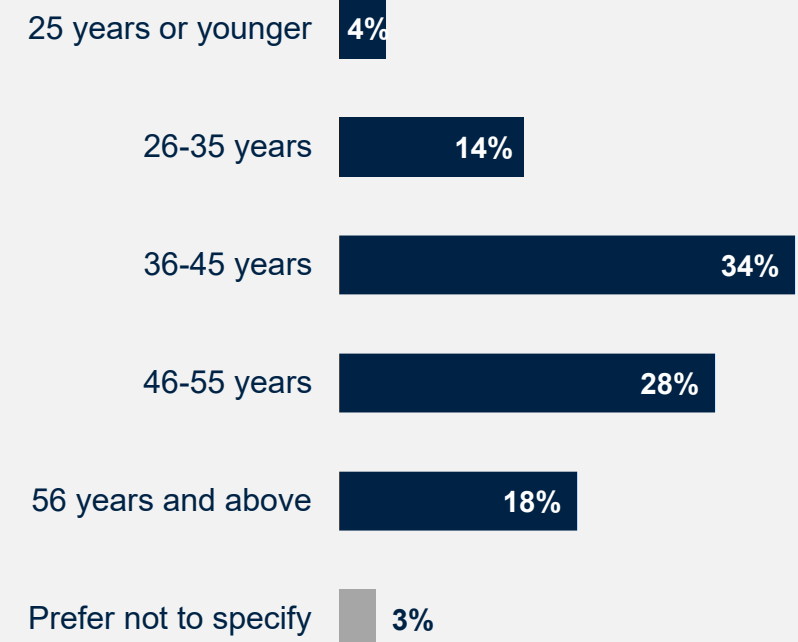


Sample Demographics (continued)

*Within your organization,
would you describe yourself as...*
(N=365)



What's your age?
(N=370)



Detailed Methodology

From **June to July 2025**, a total of 945 stakeholders in Gabon were invited to provide their opinions on the WBG’s work by participating in a Country Opinion Survey (COS). A list of potential participants was compiled by the WBG country team and the field agency. Participants were drawn from government institutions, local government, bilateral or multilateral agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and research centers, and the media.

Of these stakeholders, **417 participated in the survey (44% response rate)**. Respondents completed the questionnaire either on paper or with a field agency representative.

This year’s survey results were compared to the FY20 Country Opinion Survey, which had a response rate of 77% (N = 153).

Comparing responses across Country Opinion Surveys reflects changes in attitudes over time, as well as changes in respondent samples, methodology, and the survey instrument itself. To reduce the influence of the latter factor, only those questions with similar response scales/options were analyzed. However, stakeholder compositions across both survey years should be taken into account when interpreting these comparisons.

Key statistically significant findings (tested at the research standard of $p < .05$) are noted throughout the report with an asterisk.

Percentage of Respondents	FY 2020	FY 2025
Government Principals: Office of the President, Prime Minister, Minister, Parliamentarian	18%	16%
Government Institutions: Employee of a Ministry, Department, Project Implementation Unit, Independent Government Institution, Judiciary, State-Owned Enterprise	31%	29%
Local Government	3%	8%
Bilateral/Multilateral Agency: Embassy, Development Organization, Development Bank, UN Agency	5%	5%
Civil Society Organization: Local and regional NGO, Community-Based Organization, Private Foundation, Philanthropy, Professional/Trade Association, Faith-Based Group, Youth Group	9%	11%
Private Sector: Private Company, Financial Sector Organization, Private Bank	23%	12%
Academia / Research Center	2%	10%
Media	7%	5%
Other	2%	5%
Total Number of Respondents*	150	417



What is your primary professional affiliation? (Select only 1 response)

*Not all respondents provided information about their professional affiliation. Therefore, the total number of respondents listed in the table is lower than the N reported in the methodology.

Detailed Methodology (continued)

Breakdowns for individual questions by stakeholder group and by year can be found in the “Gabon COS FY25 Appendices.xlsx” file published in the WBG Microdata Library, along with the survey microdata and this report.

Please note that not all questions were asked of every respondent in FY25. Some questions—particularly those requiring more in-depth knowledge of WBG projects and operations—were only presented to a subset of stakeholders. Consequently, for year-over-year comparisons, some FY20 means shown in this report are based only on the subset of respondents who received the same questions in FY25, rather than the full FY20 sample. As a result, these means may differ from those published in the original FY20 report. Please refer to the questionnaire for details on question routing. The questionnaire is published in the WBG Microdata Library, along with the survey microdata, appendices, and this report.

The open-ended comments to this survey were analyzed with ChatGPT, a generative AI tool, and reviewed by the World Bank staff for accuracy.



CountryOpinionSurveys

Thank you

*For more information about this report
or the Country Opinion Survey program,
please contact:*

countrysurveys@worldbankgroup.org

