

# Libyan Municipal Council Research



A PROJECT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE



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# Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the International Republican Institute's Center for Insights in Survey Research by Altai Consulting. This research is intended to support the development and evaluation of IRI and USAID/OTI Libya Transition Initiative programming with municipal councils. The research consisted of quantitative and qualitative components, conducted by IRI and USAID/OTI Libya Transition Initiative respectively.
- Data was collected April 14 to May 24, 2016, and was conducted over the phone from Altai's call center using computer-assisted telephone technology.
- The sample was 2,671 Libyans aged 18 and over.
- Quantitative: Libyans from the 22 administrative districts were interviewed on a 45-question questionnaire on municipal councils. In addition, 13 municipalities were oversampled to provide a more focused analysis on municipalities targeted by programming. Oversampled municipalities include: Tripoli Center (224), Souq al Jumaa (229), Tajoura (232), Abu Salim (232), Misrata (157), Sabratha (153), Benghazi (150), Bayda (101), Sabha (152), Ubari (102), Weddan (101), Gharyan (100) and Shahat (103).
- The sample was post-weighted in order to ensure that each district corresponds to the latest population pyramid available on Libya (US Census Bureau Data, updated 2016) in order for the sample to be nationally representative.
- Qualitative: 18 focus groups were conducted with 5-10 people of mixed employment status and level of education in Tripoli Center (men and women), Souq al Jumaa (men and women), Tajoura (men), Abu Salim (men), Misrata (men and women), Sabratha (men and women), Benghazi (men and women), Bayda (men), Sabha (men and women), Ubari (men), and Shahat (men).
- The overall margin of error for the national survey is plus or minus 1.9 percent at the midrange of the 95 percent confidence level, while the overall margin of error for the oversampled municipalities is plus or minus 2.2 percent.
- Figures in charts and tables may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

# Overview of municipal councils in Libya

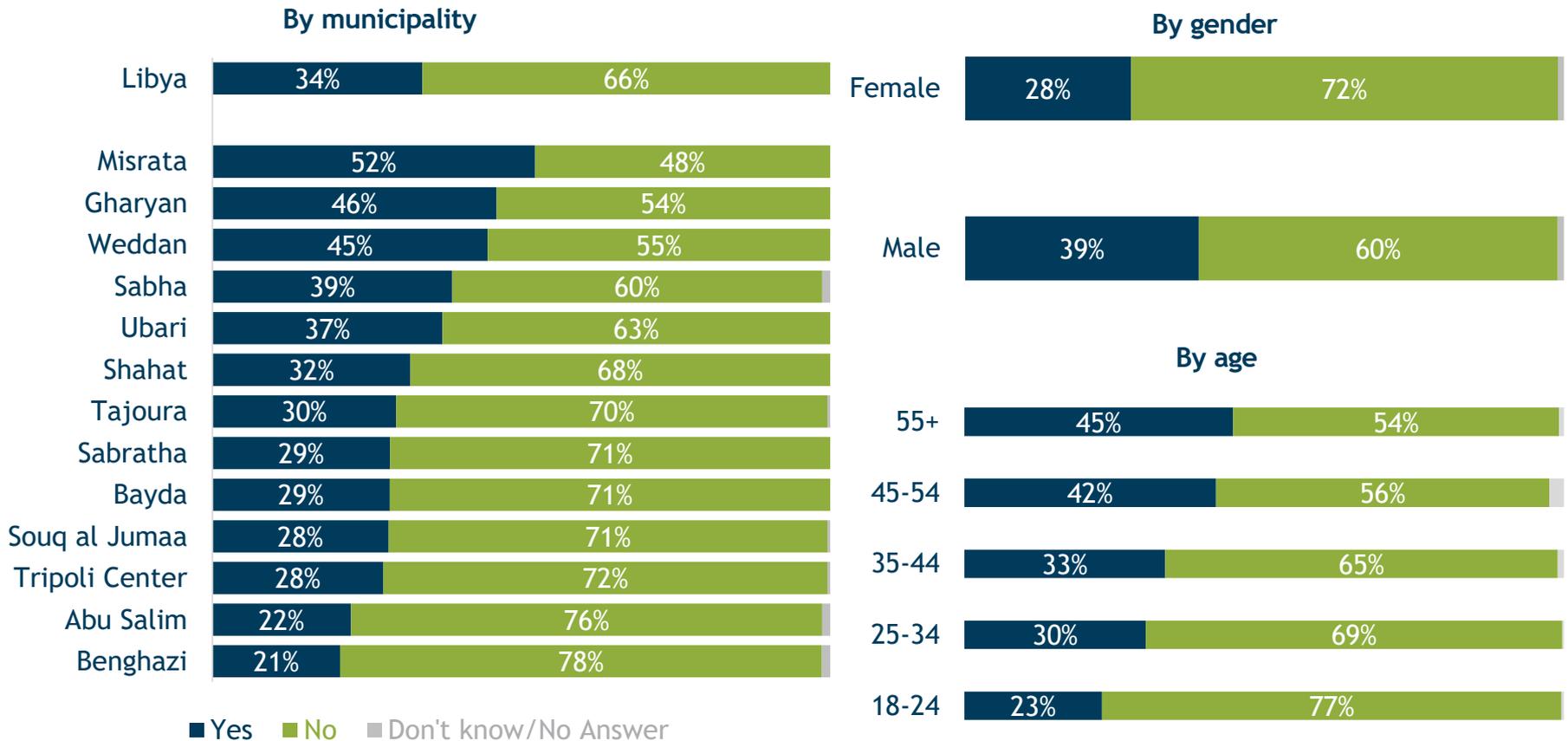
According to Libyan Law 59, Chapter 3, municipal councils are the elected bodies responsible for all service delivery at the sub-national level.

- Elections (and some official & semi-official appointments) held between 2012 and 2014.
- Compared to other formal and informal governance actors, municipal councils are perceived favorably by Libyans.
- Now that the House of Representatives' mandate has expired, and given that the Government of National Accord has yet to be fully recognized, municipal councils are the only elected bodies that are fully and clearly legal throughout Libya.
- Support is often driven by the fact that (most) municipal councils have stayed out of the national level political crisis, making them one of two government partners (along with line ministries) capable of addressing local level development and humanitarian issues.

# Municipal Council Elections Participation - Survey

While most respondents did not register and vote in the last municipal council elections (with the exception of Misrata), participation was more or less in line with local elections in other countries. *Encouragingly, 67 percent of respondents said they would vote in future elections, signaling a high level of interest in local politics.*

*Did you register and vote in the last municipal council elections? (n=2,671)*



# Municipal Council Participation - Focus groups\*

Deciding whether or not to vote may be linked to perceptions of the current political situation in Libya.



Misrata

*"I voted because we fought to make our voice heard, and this is one of the means to do it."*

- Female, 28, Misrata



Sabratha

*"I will not vote until a change happens in the country."*

- Female, 25, Sabratha



Shahat

*"I participated and the turnout in general was very low. I was the only one to participate in my family."*

- Male, 31, Shahat



Tripoli Center

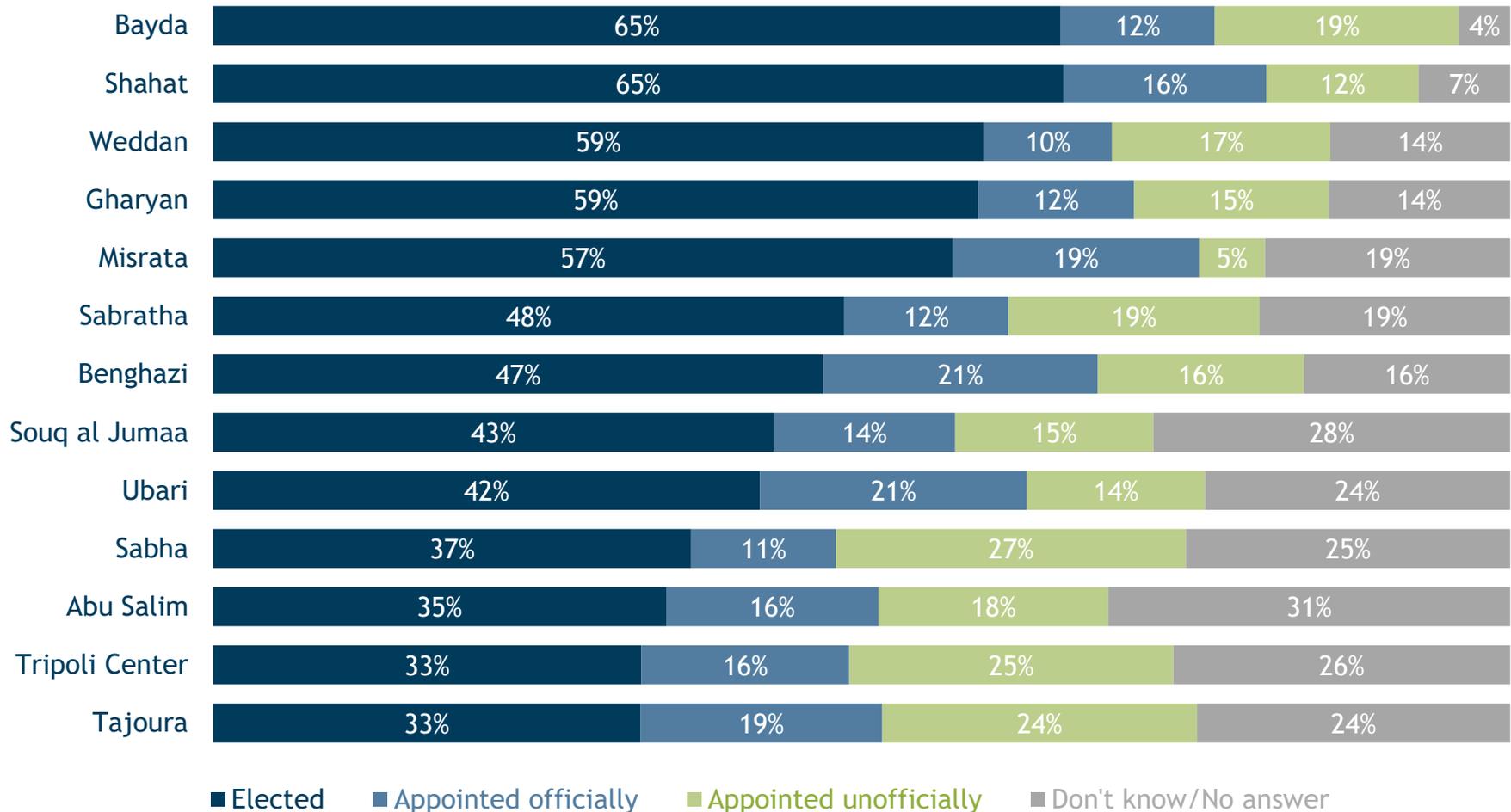
*"I didn't vote because that day was not a holiday, it was a normal day. Also, there were no ads about it."*

- Male, 24, Tripoli Center

# Awareness of Council Election/Appointment - Survey

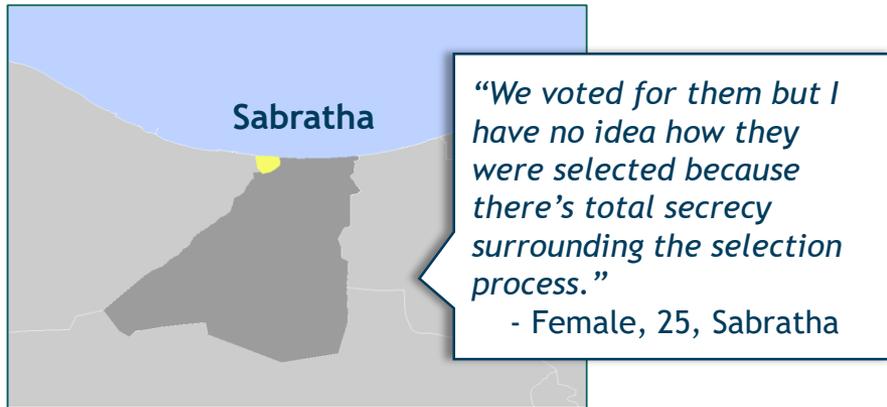
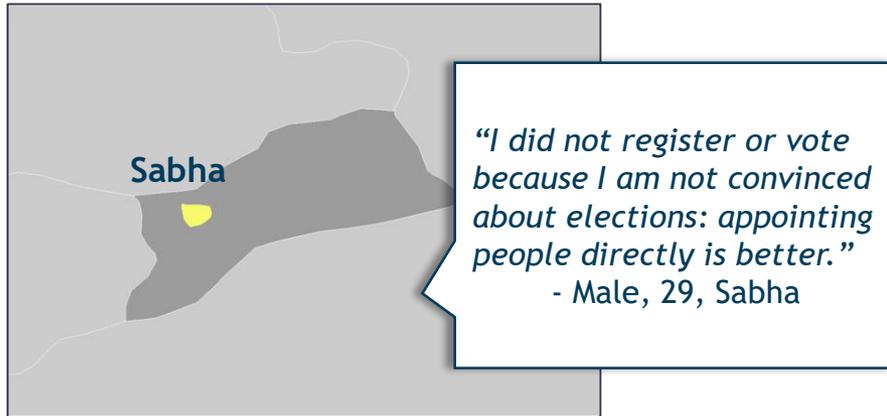
A majority of respondents in eight of the 13 oversampled municipalities, including all municipalities within Greater Tripoli, was not aware that municipal councils are elected.

*In your opinion, are municipal councils elected or appointed?* (n=2,671)



# Awareness of Council Election/Appointment - Focus groups\*

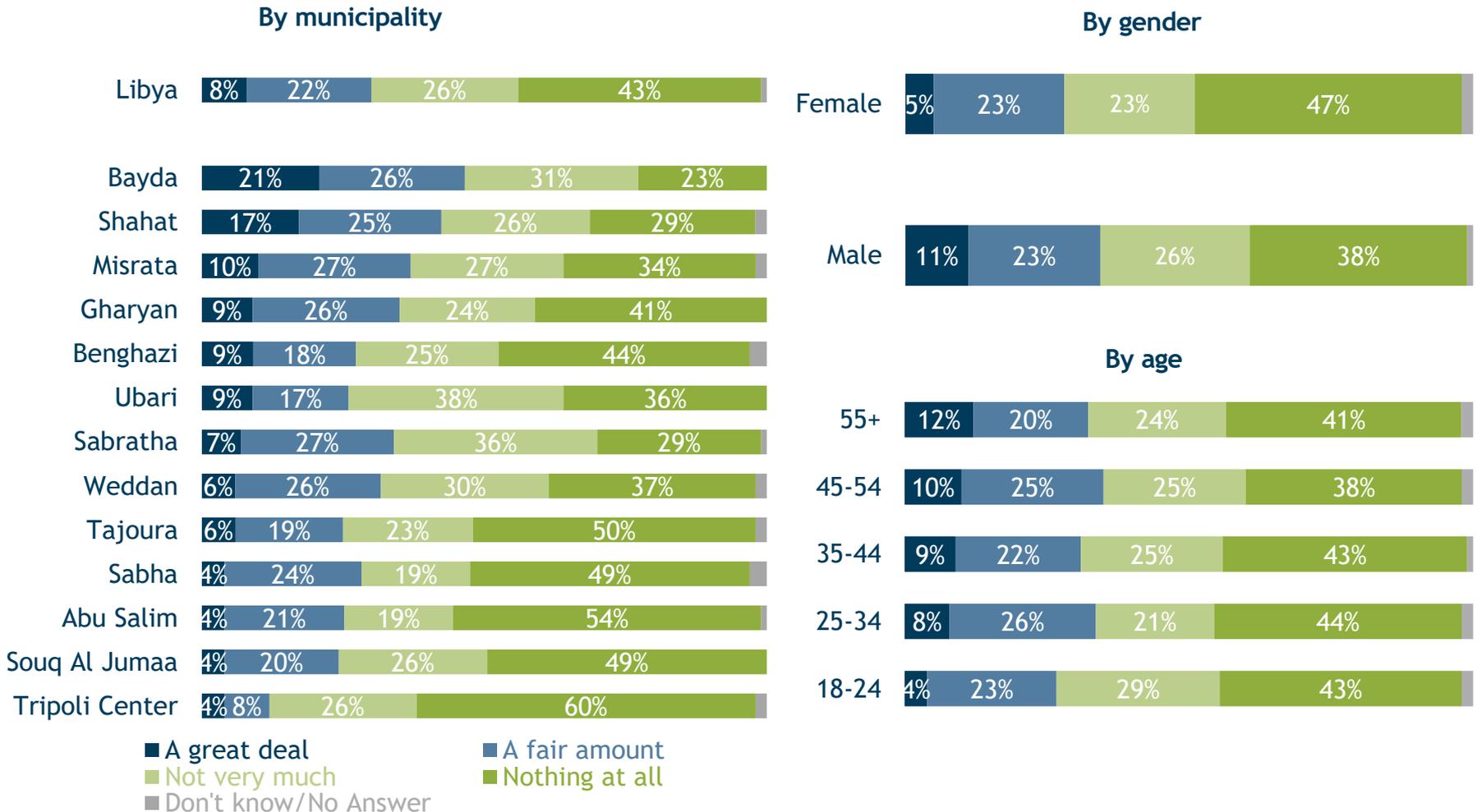
Focus group discussions revealed both skepticism and ambivalence about the democratic process for electing municipal council members.



# Knowledge of Municipal Council - Survey

A majority of respondents did not believe they knew very much, or anything at all, about their municipal council. This is especially the case in Greater Tripoli's municipalities.

*How much would you say you know about your municipal council? (n=2,671)*



# Knowledge of Municipal Council - Focus groups\*

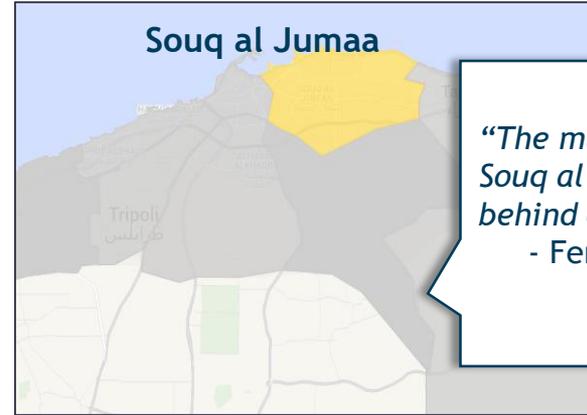
The majority of focus group participants felt that they did not know very much about their municipal council.



**Sabha**

*“We heard that the job of the municipal council is to provide services to citizens, but we have not seen anything on the ground.”*

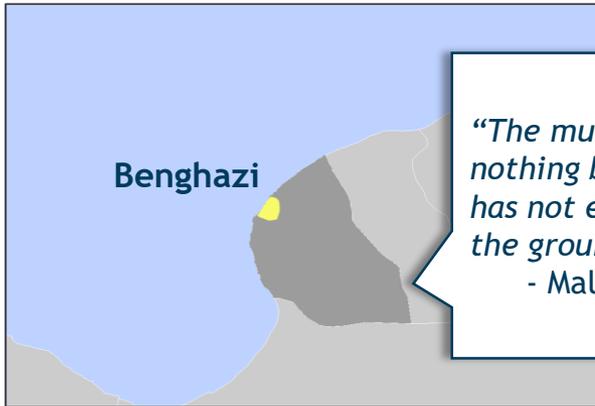
- Male, 26, Sabha



**Souq al Jumaa**

*“The municipal council of Souq al Jumaa works behind closed doors.”*

- Female, 20, Souq Al Jumaa



**Benghazi**

*“The municipal council is nothing but an entity that has not efficient role on the ground.”*

- Male, 27, Benghazi



**Bayda**

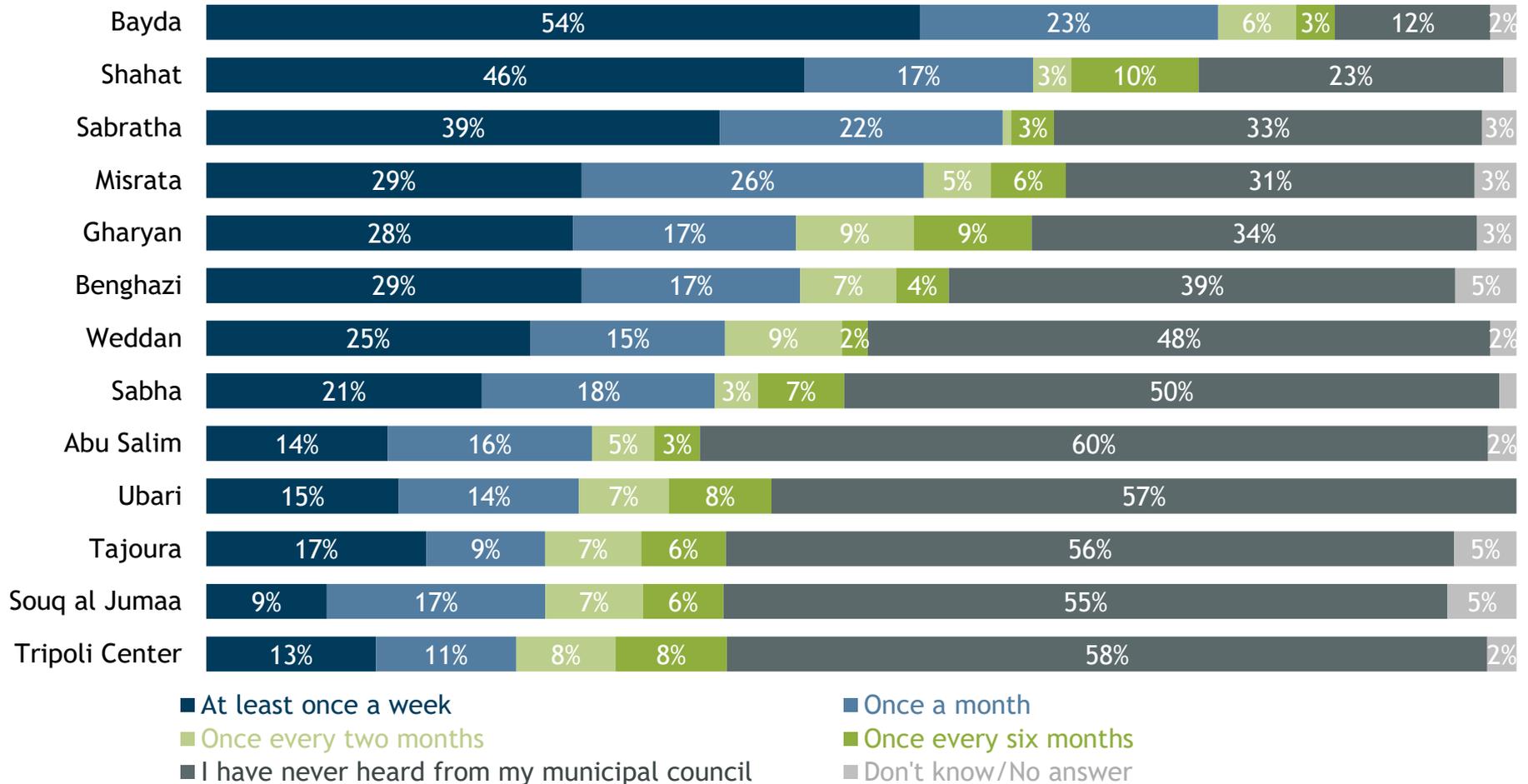
*“I don’t know much about the municipal council, but I would like to know more.”*

- Male, 35, Bayda

# Communication & Outreach - Survey

In seven of the 13 oversampled municipalities, half of respondents hear from their municipal council at least once every six months.

*How often do you hear from your municipal council? (n=2,671)*



# Communication & Outreach - Survey

Only 22 percent of Libyans had heard of public meetings organized by their municipal council. However, only one in five of those who had heard of the public meetings had participated. Additionally, a strong majority of all Libyans would be open to participating in such meetings in the future.

*Have you heard of public meetings in your municipality?* (n=2,671)

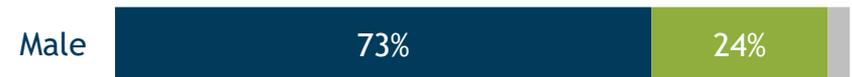


*Have you ever participated in a public meeting?* (n=707)



■ Yes ■ No

*Would you like to participate in a public meeting?* (n=2,671)

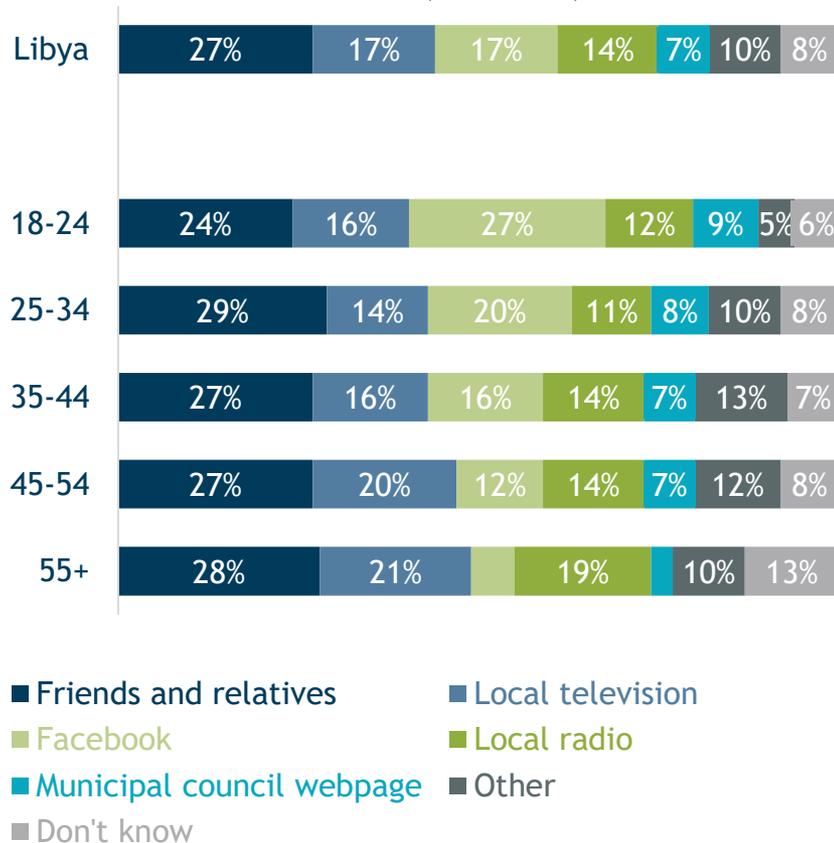


■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

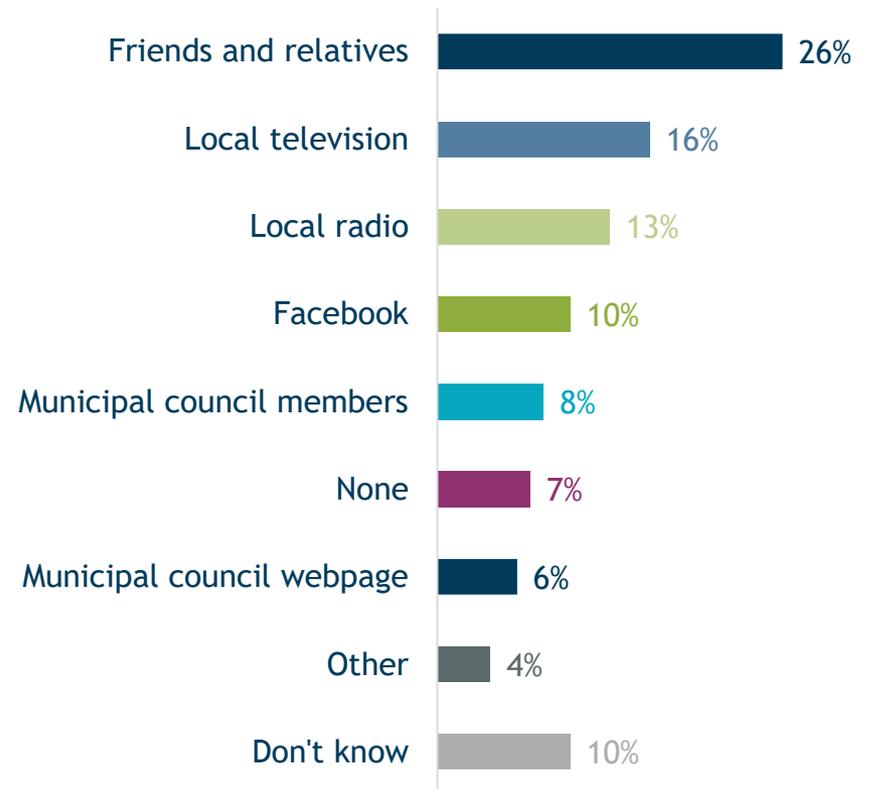
# Communication & Outreach - Survey

Libyans turn to friends and relatives, Facebook or local television to gain information about their municipal council, largely dependent on their age group.

*What is your main source of information about the activities of your municipal council? (n=2,617)*

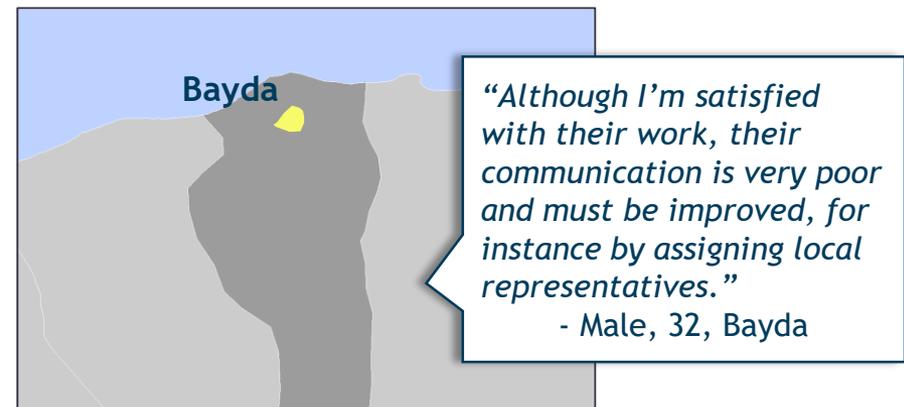
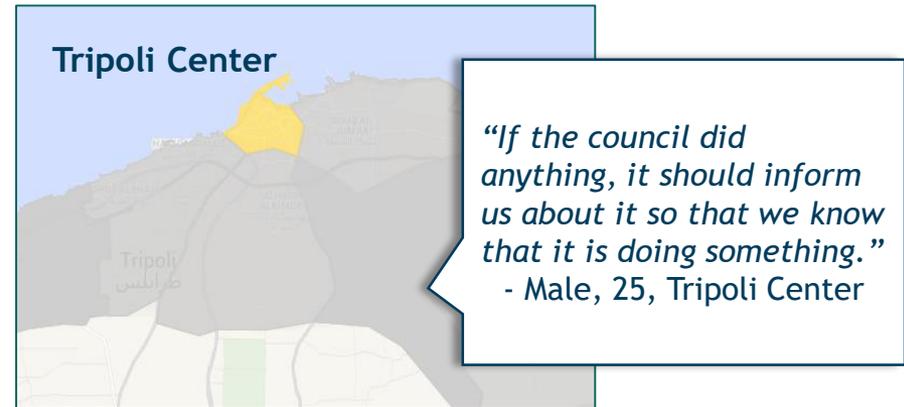


*What is the most reliable source of information for local news? (n=2,671)*



# Communication & Outreach - Focus groups

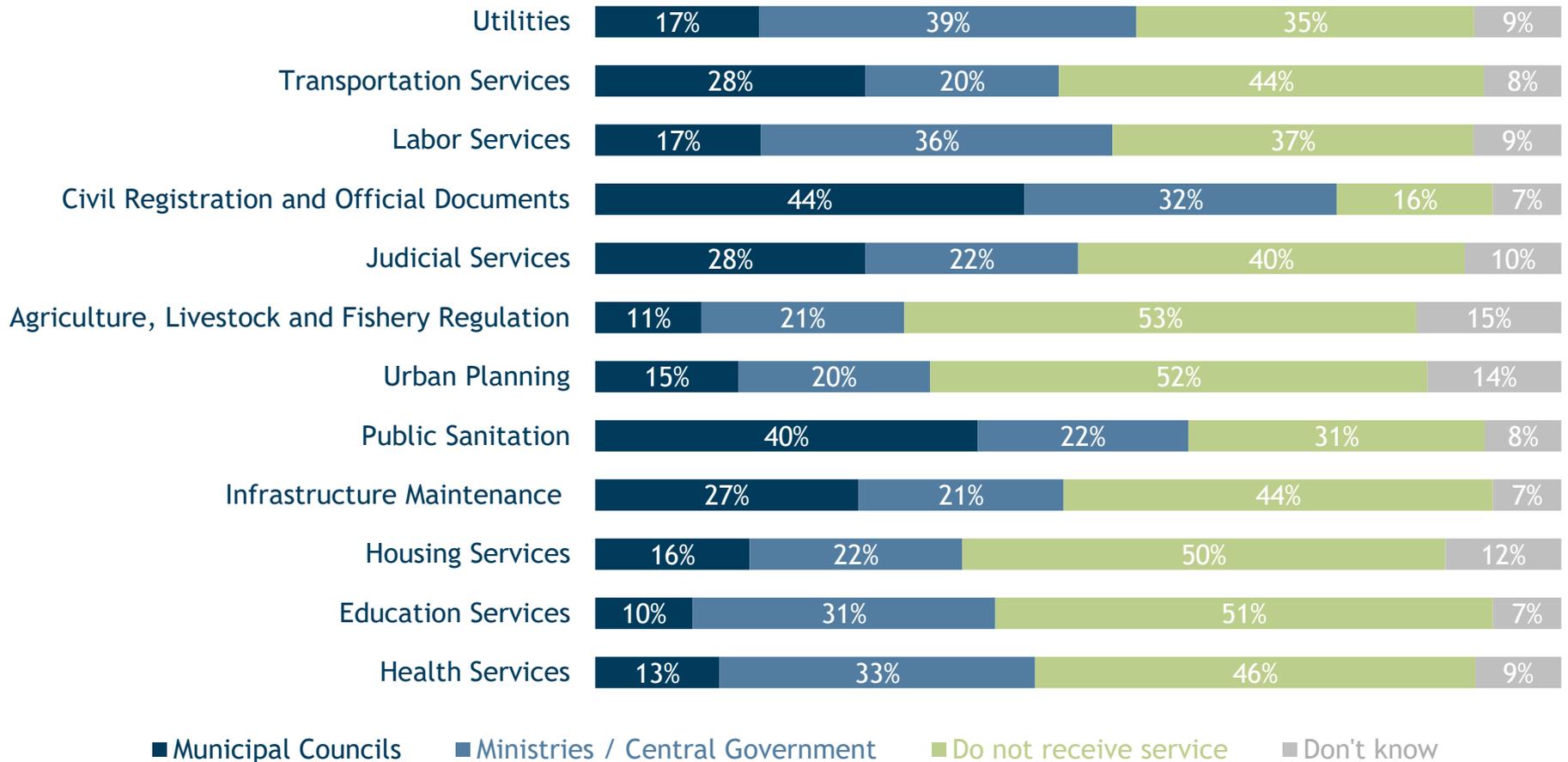
Most focus group participants felt that their municipal council does a very poor job of communicating with constituents.



# Service Delivery - Survey

As reported by constituents, the main services provided by municipal councils are civil registration services and public sanitation services.

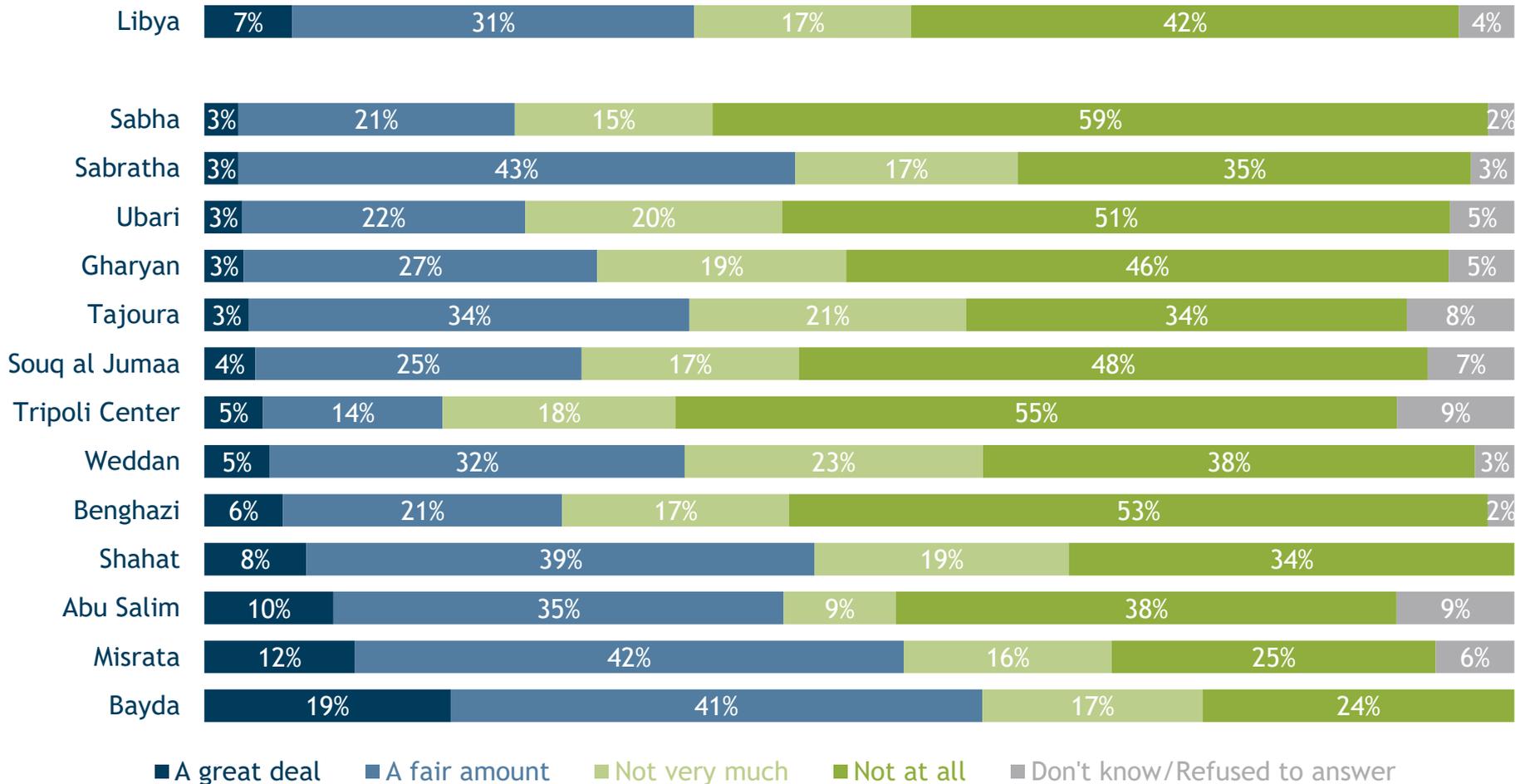
*Do you currently receive any of these services, and if yes, are they provided by the municipal council or ministries/the central government? (n=2,671)*



# Service Delivery - Survey

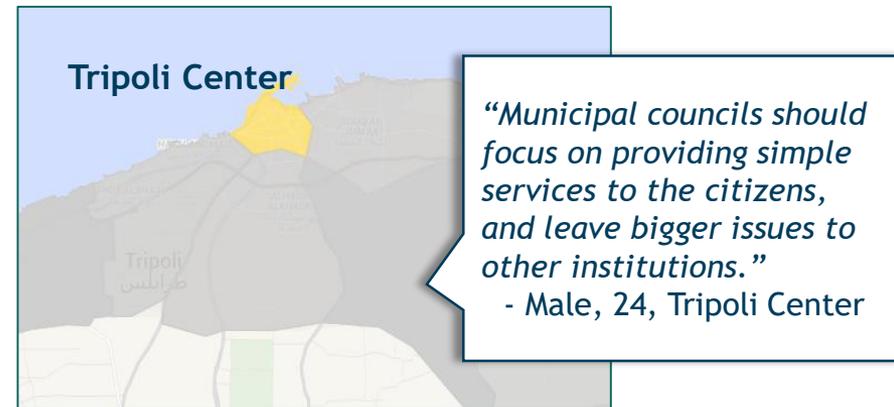
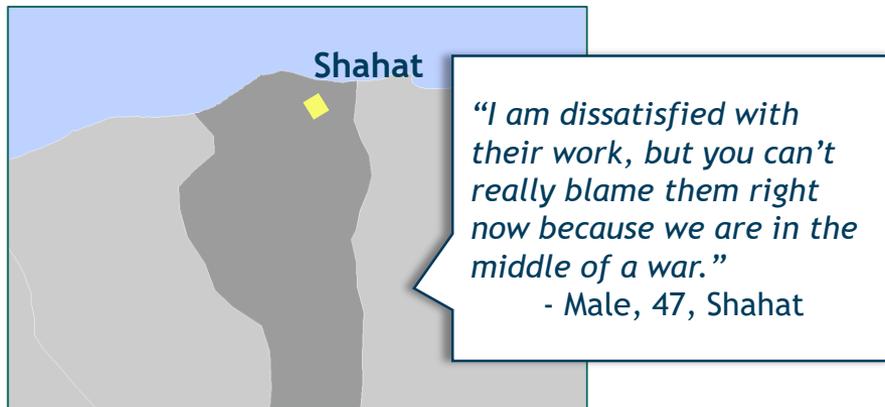
Most Libyans are not satisfied with the quality of services provided by their municipal council, with notable exceptions in Bayda and Misrata.

*How satisfied would you say you are with the quality of services provided by your municipal council? (n=2,671)*



# Service Delivery - Focus groups\*

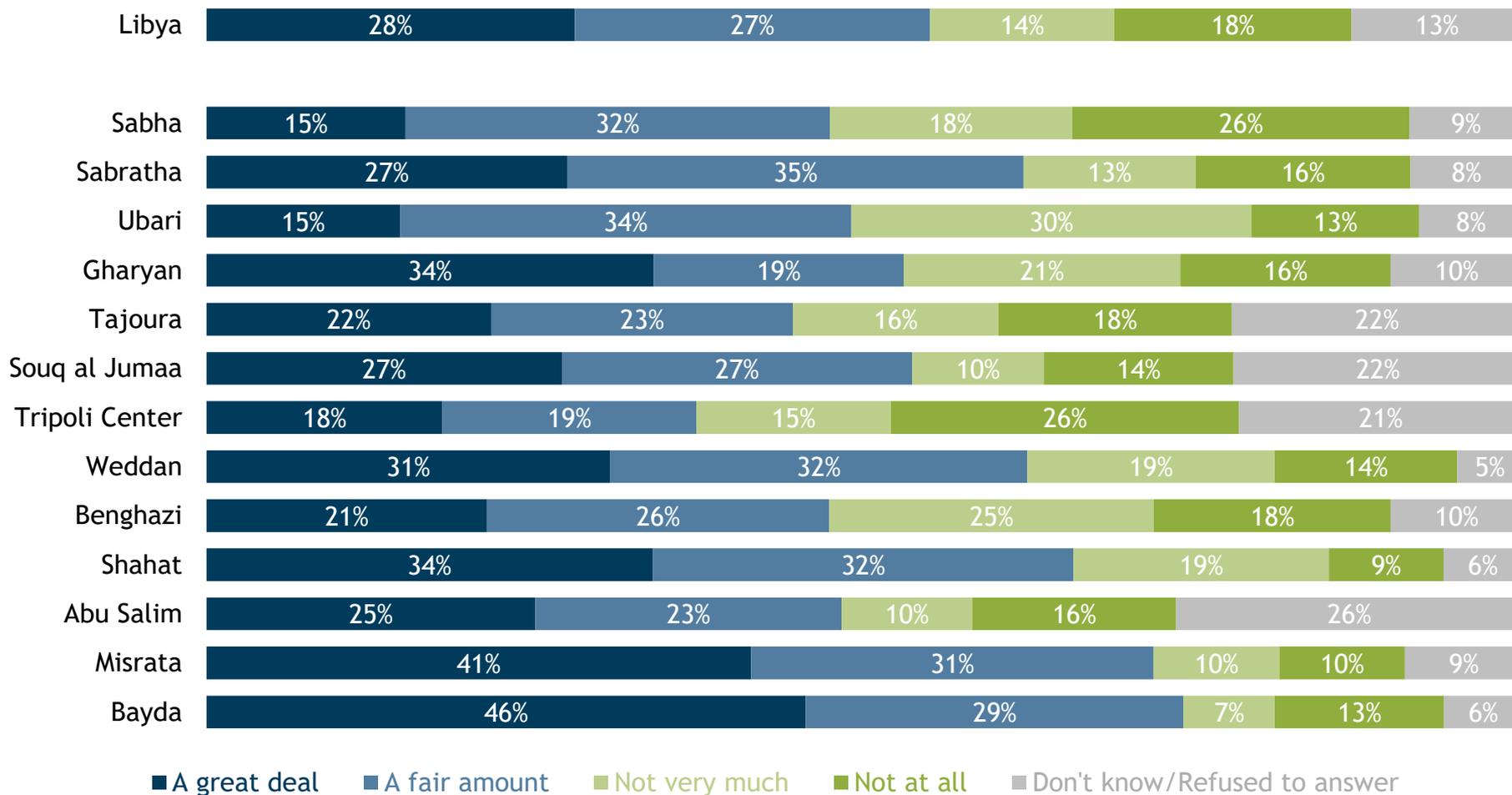
Most focus group participants were strongly critical of the services provided by their local municipal council.



# Legitimacy - Survey

Fifty-five percent of Libyans believe their municipal council is legitimate either “a great deal” or “a fair amount.” In Bayda and Misrata, more than 70 percent of respondents believe their municipal council is legitimate. This proportion falls below 50 percent in Benghazi and Tripoli Center.

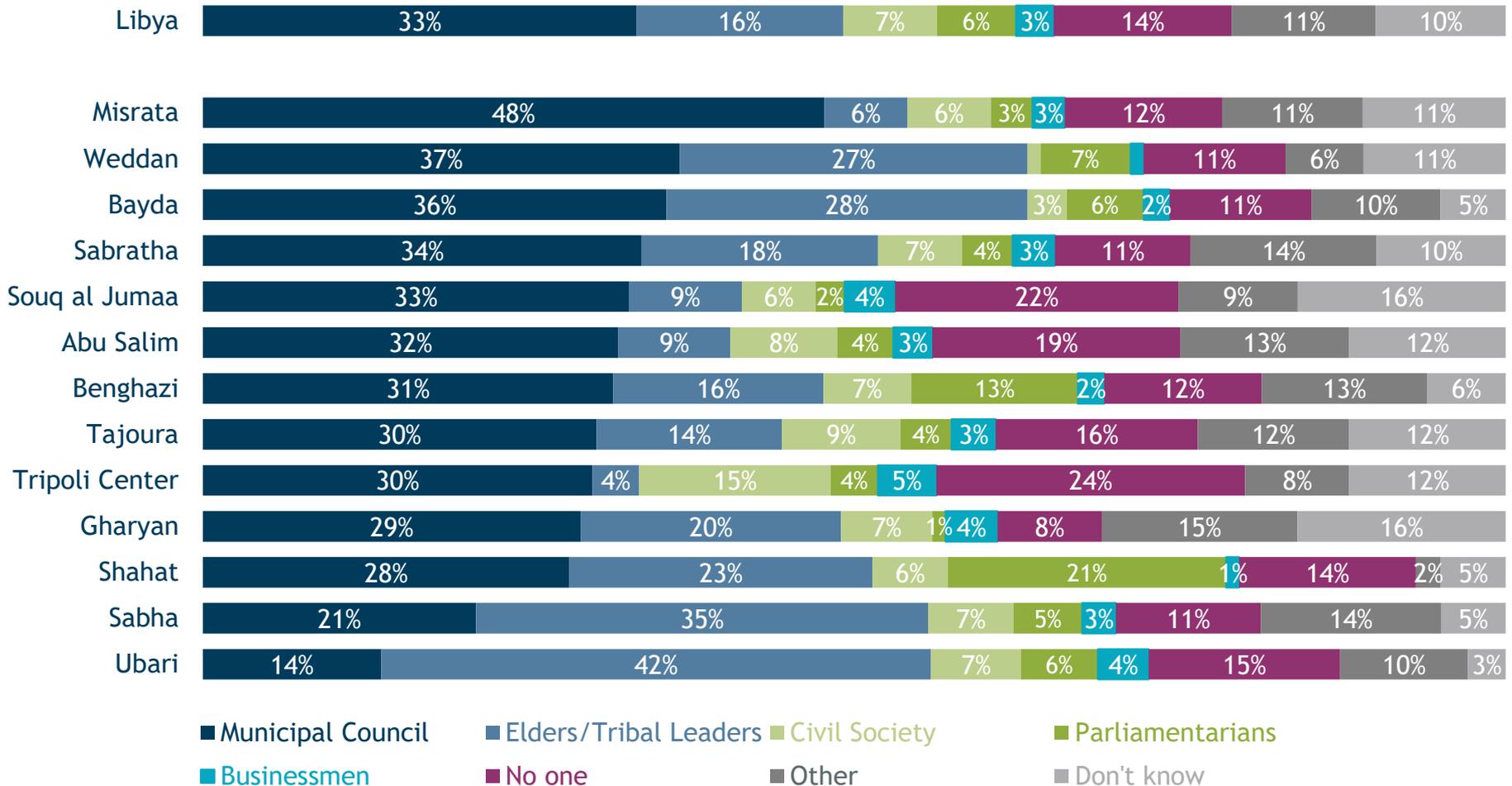
*How legitimate is your municipal council? (n=2,671)*



# Legitimacy - Survey

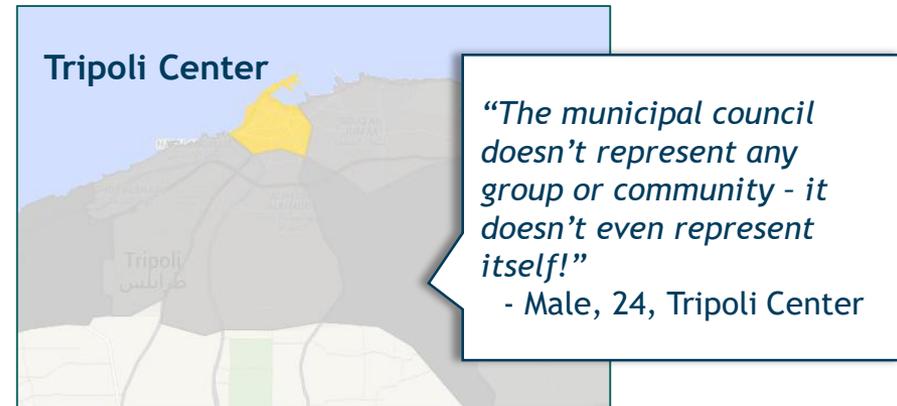
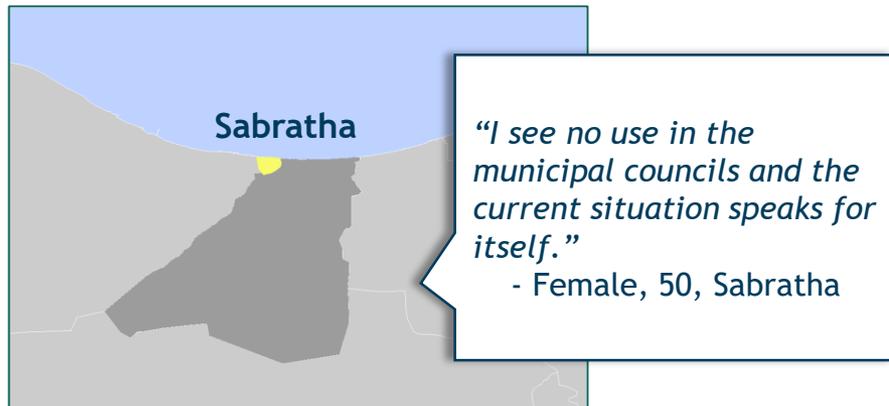
Municipal councils were seen as the most legitimate local actor representing constituents, with the exception of Sabha and Ubari.

*According to you, who is the most legitimate actor in representing constituents from your municipality? (n=2,671)*



# Legitimacy - Focus groups\*

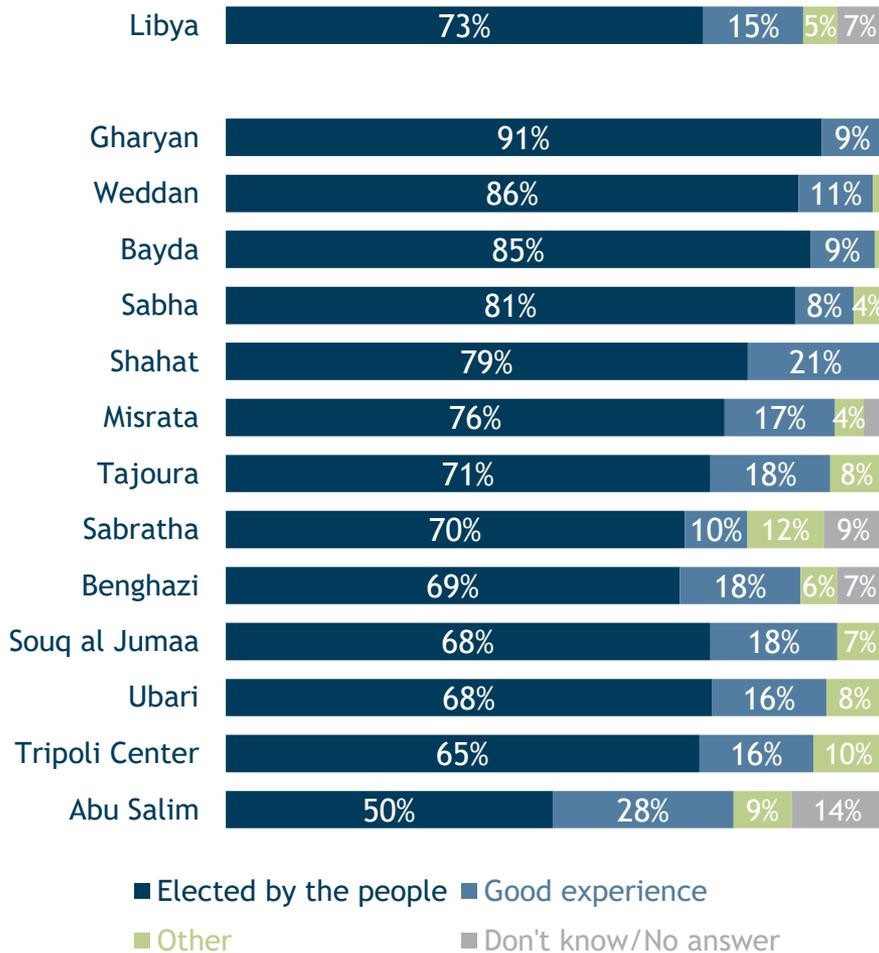
Focus group participants were strongly critical of the legitimacy of municipal councils.



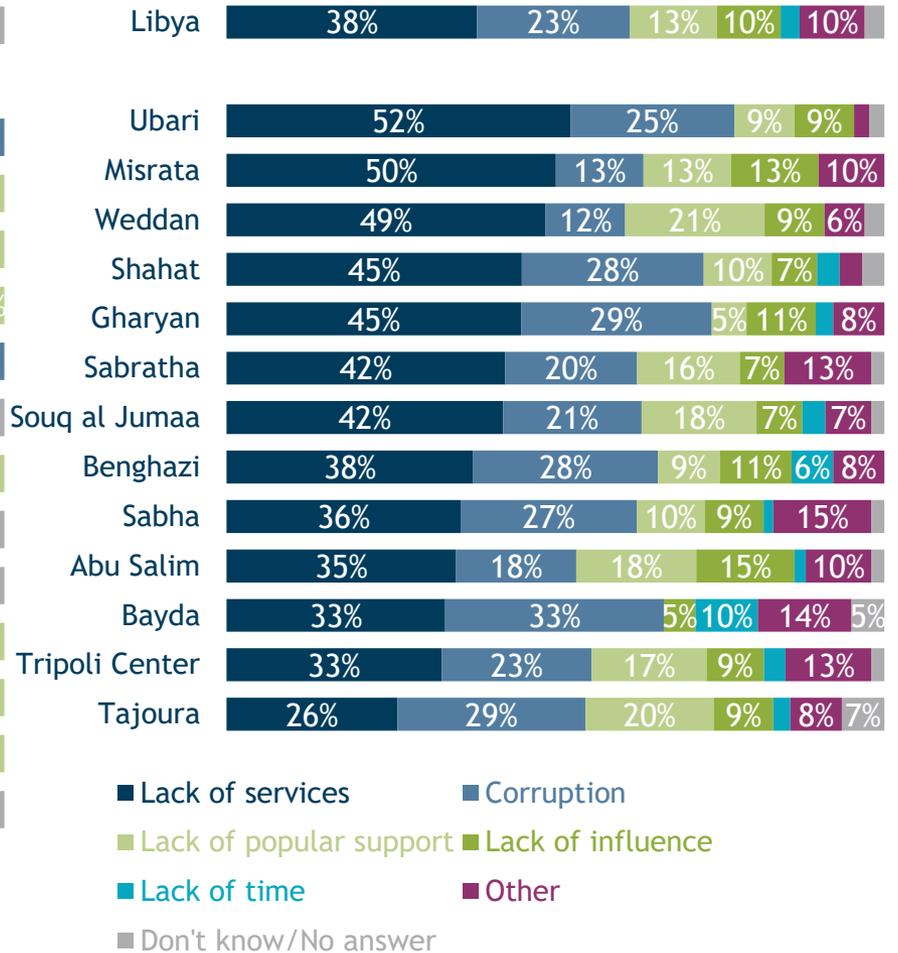
# Drivers of Legitimacy - Survey

The primary driver of legitimacy is elections, while the main drivers of illegitimacy are lack of services, corruption and lack of transparency.

**Why would you say they are legitimate?**  
(n=1,436)



**Why would you say they are illegitimate?**  
(n=868)



# Drivers of Legitimacy - Statistical Analysis

Knowledge, communication, awareness and satisfaction with service delivery all appear to contribute to perceptions of the legitimacy of municipal councils.

## *Knowledge vs Legitimacy*

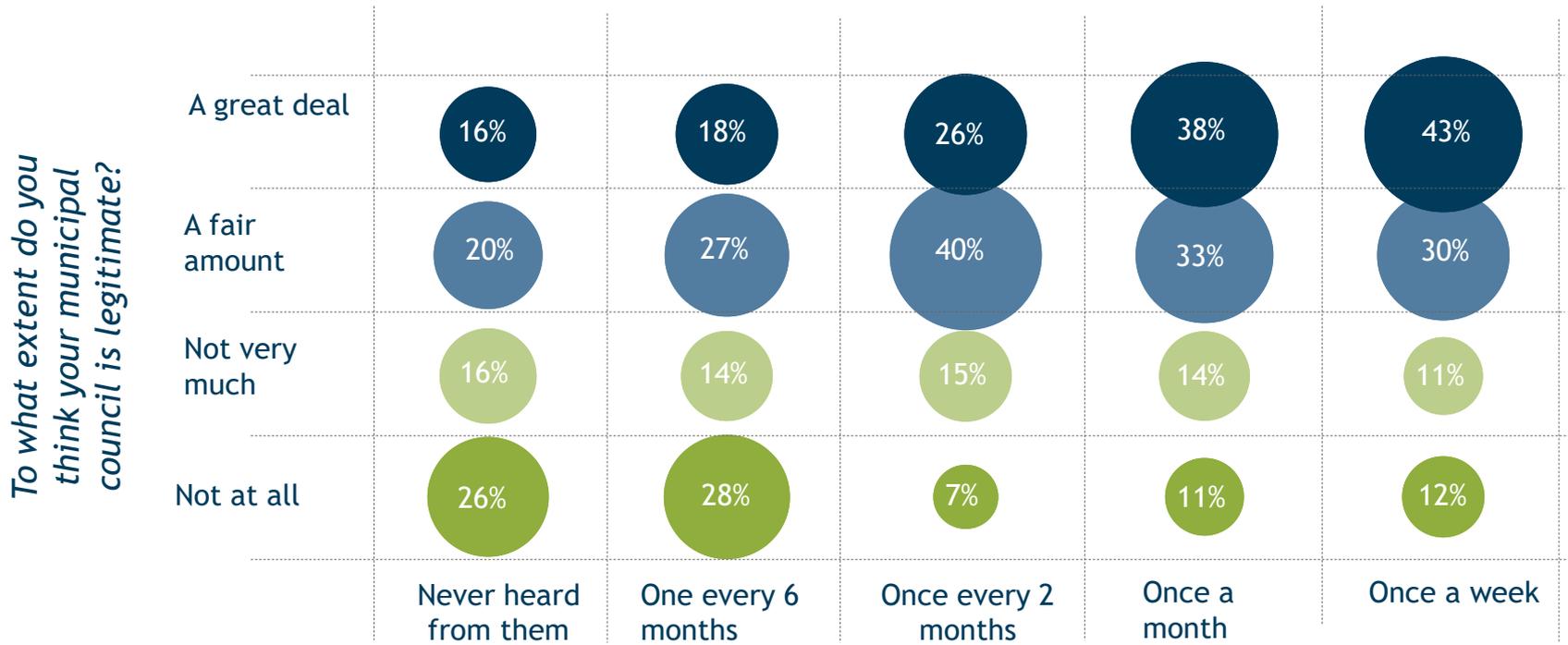


*How much do you know about your municipal council?*

# Drivers of Legitimacy - Statistical Analysis

Knowledge, communication, awareness and satisfaction with service delivery all appear to contribute to perceptions of the legitimacy of municipal councils.

## Communication vs Legitimacy

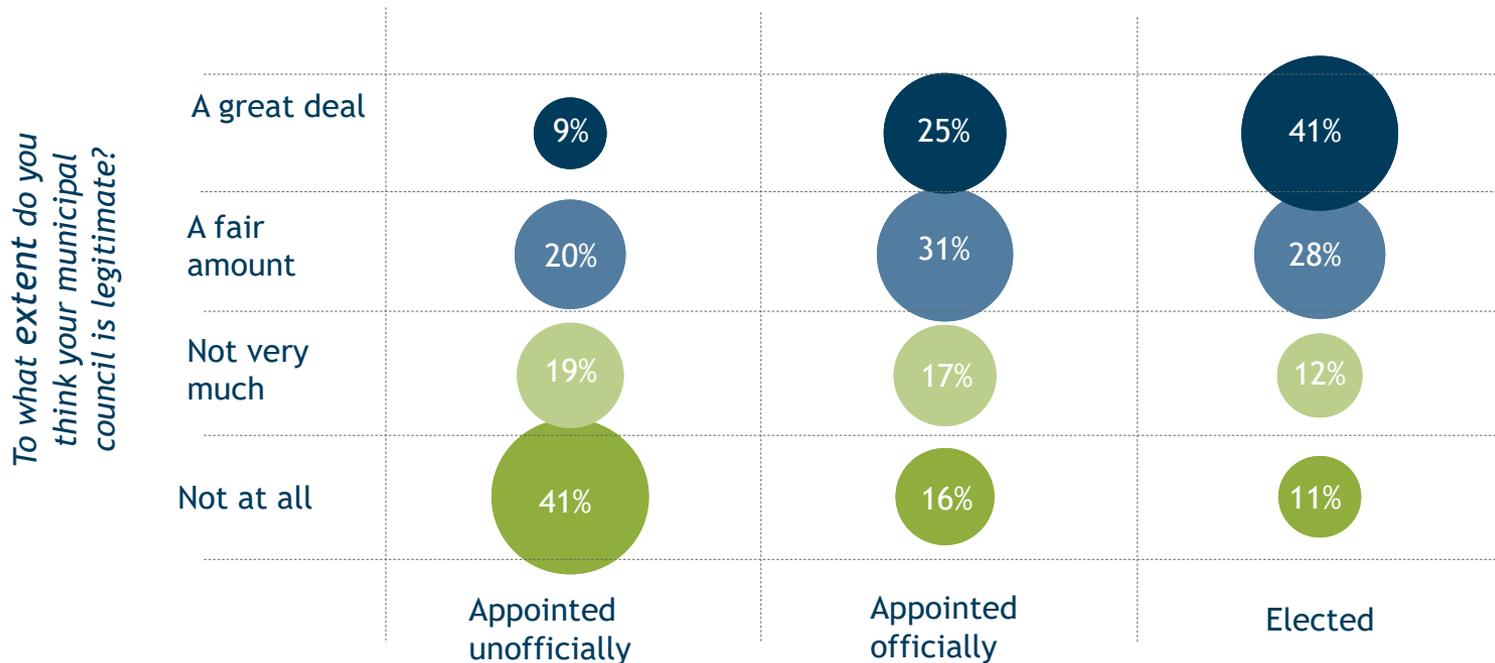


*How often do you hear from your municipal council?*

# Drivers of Legitimacy - Statistical Analysis

Knowledge, communication, awareness and satisfaction with service delivery all appear to contribute to perceptions of the legitimacy of municipal councils.

## Understanding vs Legitimacy

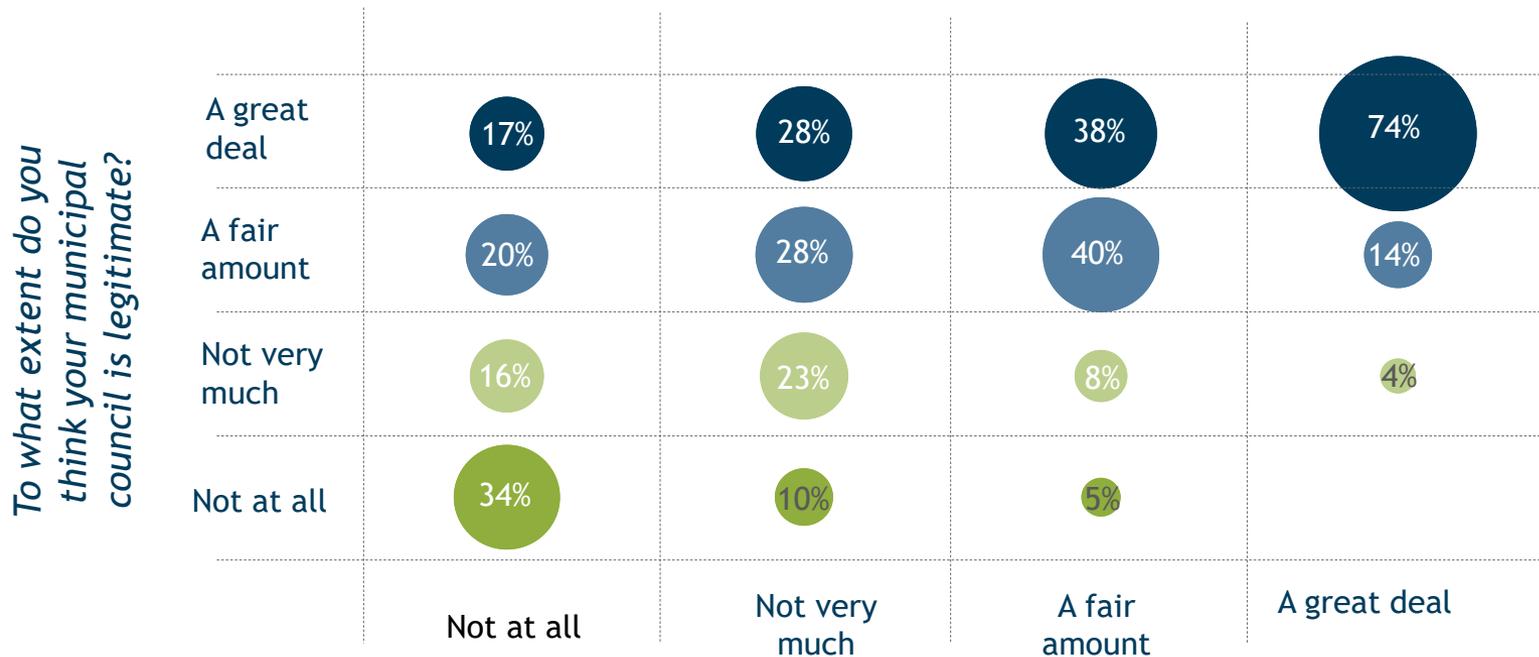


Do you think municipal councils are elected or appointed?

# Drivers of Legitimacy - Statistical Analysis

Knowledge, communication, awareness and satisfaction with service delivery all appear to contribute to perceptions of the legitimacy of municipal councils.

## Service Delivery vs Legitimacy



*How satisfied are you with the quality of services provided by your municipal council?*

# Improving Perceptions - Focus Group Recommendations\*

Focus group participants had concrete suggestions on potential projects in the areas of local planning, infrastructure, entertainment and social work...

## Land Management & Local Planning

- *“There is a huge land next to where I live, it has a source of natural hot water that could be used for physiotherapy. This asset is not exploited.”* Female, 38, Misrata
- *“Invest in the seafront, and in other industrial and agricultural projects.”* Male, 32, Misrata
- *“Maintaining roads and buildings, do urban planning work.”* Male, 39, Sabratha
- *“The council would be more efficient if residents of the area and the council reached a mutual agreement, and put together a plan highlighting the area's top priorities.”* Male, 40, Souq Al Jumaa

# Improving Perceptions - Focus Group Recommendations\* (Continued)

## Social Work

- *“Implementing services and policies to help individuals with physical disability.”*  
Female, 20, Benghazi
- *“Taking more care of autistic people.”*  
Female, 30, Misrata

## Entertainment

- *“Planting trees and establishing entertainment venues.”* Females, 21 and 40, Benghazi
- *“Opening family clubs”*  
Female, 30, Misrata

# Improving Perceptions - Focus Group Recommendations\* (Continued)

## Infrastructure

- *“They must fix the sewage system because sewers are always flooding in my area.” Male, 25, Bayda*
- *“Since I live in a war zone and my house got burned by extremists, the municipal council should take care of the issue of granting people compensations, firstly. Secondly, it should put a plan for getting rid of war remnants. Thirdly, it should provide water services.” Male, 28, Benghazi*
- *“The trash collection problem affects the health of local citizens: it could be solved by contracting with people who own trucks, and agreeing on collecting trash from neighborhoods with the citizens’ assistance.” Female, 30, Tripoli Center*
- *“Some of the projects that should be carried out by the municipal council are reconstruction projects like the Sabha Medical Centre, finishing some schools that have been under construction for ages now, or opening new schools in new areas of Sabha.” Male, 29, Sabha*

# Improving Perceptions - Focus Group Recommendations\*

... as well as communication, economic activities, capacity building and visibility.

## Communication

- *“The council could communicate through text messages. Back in time of elections, there was a text message service. This time, messages could go the other way around, from the citizen to the council. These messages would make the complaints of the citizens heard: the mayor and other members of the municipal council could take a look at them and look for solutions to the most common problems.” Female, 32, Sabha*
- *“The council should have a channel on the radio so people can call and speak.” Female, 21, Souq Al Jumaa*
- *“The council should have a dedicated TV program.” Female, 39, Sabha*
- *“Through an official Facebook page that is run by an identified administrator.” Male, 27, Ubari*

# Improving Perceptions - Focus Group Recommendations (Continued)

## Capacity Building

- *“The only thing the council knows about my area is where is located on the map. It could be improved by giving training courses to the members of the council, and letting them know that they are there to serve the citizens, and not the other way around.”  
Female, 38, Misrata*

## Economic Activities

- *“Supporting handicraft projects, because of the lack of jobs in the country.” Shahat, 33, Male*
- *“The municipal council should provide jobs for unemployed youths, for the city and for the promotion of tourism.” Male, 50, Shahat*

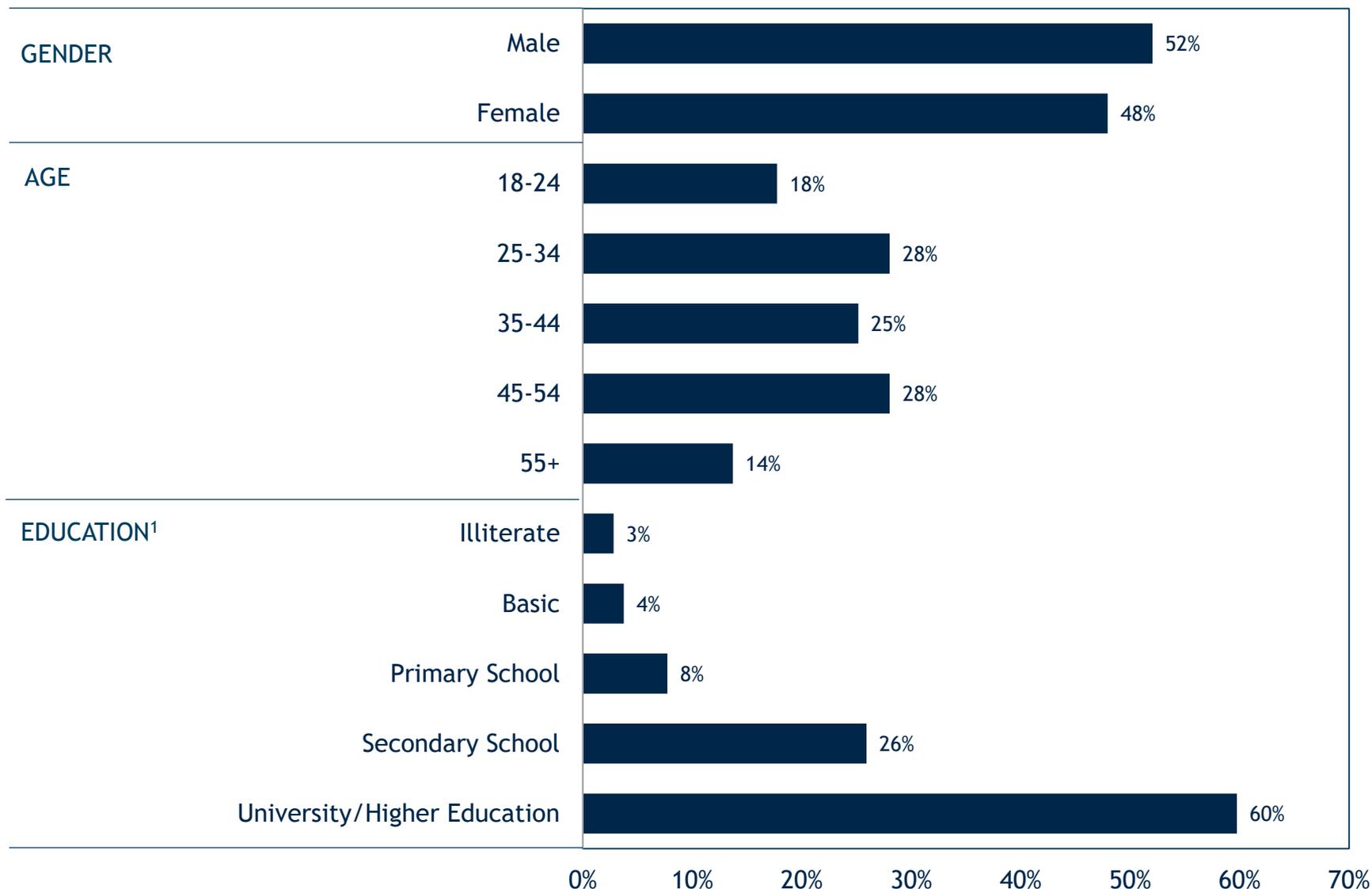
# Improving Perceptions - Focus Group Recommendations (Continued)



## Visibility

- *“Each municipal council member should visit his local council.” Male, 28, Benghazi*
- *“All means of communication must be improved. One of the easiest means is Facebook: they could communicate with us more through Facebook because it costs nothing. They should also use mosques to communicate and hold public events, meetings and ceremonies for anything they want to carry out. They could also communicate with people through questionnaires.” Female, 27, Souq Al Jumaa*
- *“The council should communicate with citizens through a group of people who work as representatives of each locality. Those representatives could relay to the municipal council the difficulties that local citizens are facing in his daily life, so that council members can identify solutions.” Female, 26, Sabha*

# Demographics



1. While no recently updated statistics on education level and gross enrollment rate (GER) are available for Libya, according to UNESCO the tertiary GER in Libya was estimated at 61.14% in 2003. No evidence points to tertiary GER levels having dropped between 2003 and 2013. Indeed, the opposite is more likely to be true due to increased public spending between 2006 and 2011 (from 31% to 58% of GDP, according to the IMF). Thus, education levels reported in this survey are very likely representative of Libya in 2016, and are in line with over 20 other random sample nationally representative surveys conducted by Altai between 2012 and 2016.

# Demographics

## Breakdown of survey sample per district, age and gender

District	Male						Female						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total Male	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total Female	
Tripoli	92	143	116	64	60	475	93	145	115	62	58	473	
Benghazi	17	27	19	12	10	85	17	25	20	11	11	84	
Misrata	21	29	24	14	12	100	20	31	26	12	14	103	
Al Jefara	8	12	11	5	5	41	8	12	10	6	6	42	
Al Magrab	8	12	10	5	5	40	8	11	10	6	5	40	
Al Jabal Algharbi	12	19	15	7	7	60	12	18	14	8	8	60	
Az Zawiyah	5	8	7	3	3	26	5	8	7	4	4	28	
Al Niquat Al Khams	18	31	23	12	11	95	19	28	22	12	12	93	
Al Jabal Alakhdar	21	32	24	13	13	103	21	33	25	16	16	111	
Al Marj	3	5	5	2	2	17	3	5	4	2	2	16	
Al Wahat	3	5	4	2	2	16	3	5	4	2	2	16	
Dernah	3	5	4	2	2	16	3	5	4	2	2	16	
Al Butnan	3	5	4	2	2	16	4	4	4	2	2	16	
Sirte	3	4	3	2	2	14	3	4	3	2	1	13	
Sabha	16	27	21	12	11	87	16	26	21	12	14	89	
Nalut	2	3	2	1	1	9	2	3	2	1	1	9	
Murzuq	1	2	2	1	1	7	1	2	2	1	1	7	
As Shati	1	2	2	1	1	7	1	2	2	1	1	7	
Wadi Al Hayaa	11	15	12	6	6	50	11	15	15	7	7	55	
Al Jufrah	11	18	13	7	7	56	11	16	14	8	8	57	
Kufrah	1	1	3	1	1	7	1	1	1	1	1	5	
Ghat	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	
Total	260	406	325	174	164	1329	262	400	326	178	176	1,342	
											Survey Total		2,671

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