

# Children and Youth as agents in peacebuilding

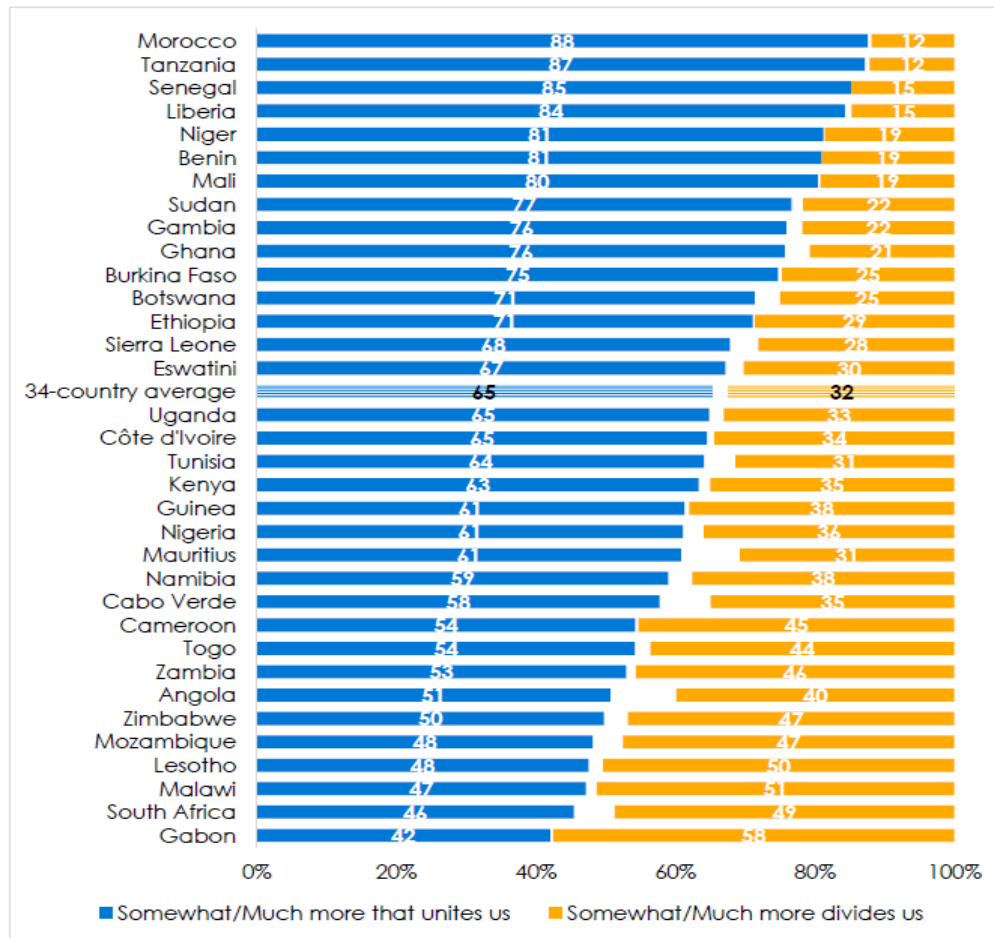
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# Context

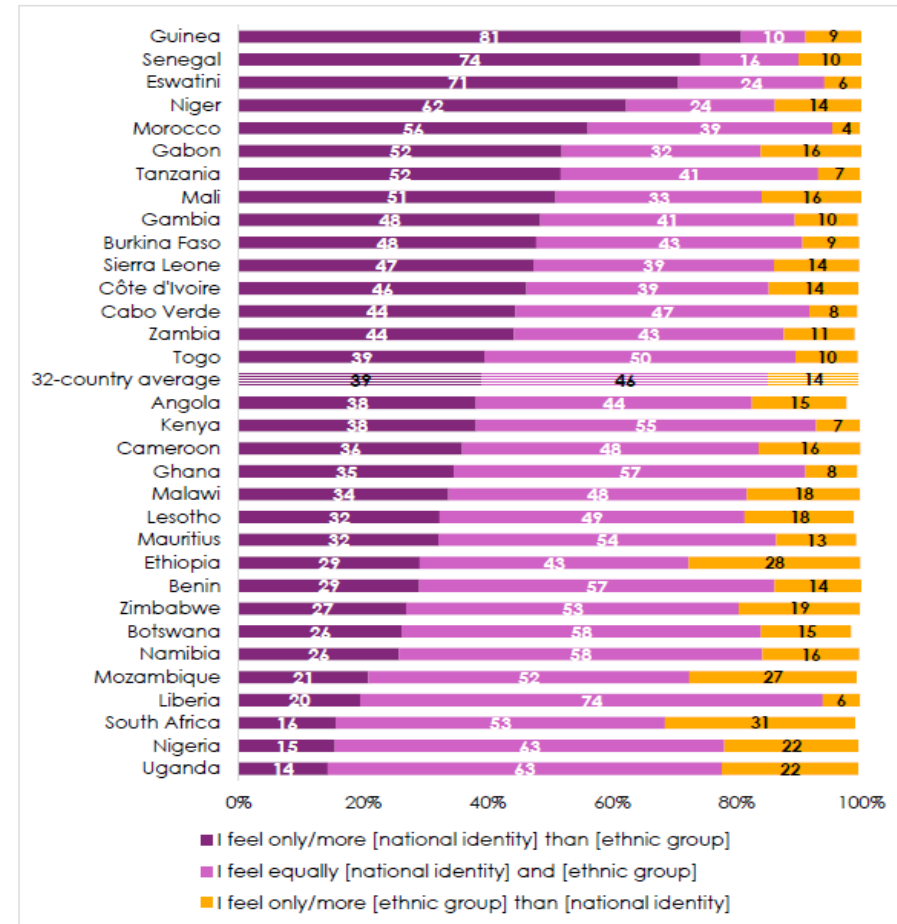
- Many **conflicts** and **fragile situations** are based on some kind of **identity** differential
- These identity differentials are correlated to inequalities of **opportunities** or **outcomes**, whether **real** or **perceived**
- Risk of conflict persists when **affinity** to these **identities** dominate affinity to national identity

# Children and the youth of today are the future of tomorrow

The most effective pathway to **diluting** and eventually **neutralizing** the destabilization/polarizing effects of these identity driven conflicts is through **re-engineering identity affinity** among children and youth



Respondents were asked: [Citizens of this country] are very diverse. They come from different religions, ethnic groups, political parties, and economic and social backgrounds. Overall, would you say that there is more that unites all [citizens of this country] as one people, or more that divides them?



Respondents were asked: Let us suppose that you had to choose between being a [citizen of this country] and being a [member of respondent's ethnic group]. Which of the following statements best expresses your feelings?  
 \*This question was not asked in Tunisia and Sudan.

Source: Afrobarometer, 2022

# Four key takeaways

# #1

Heavy handed **assimilation** does not work – recognizing diversity and promoting (rapid) **integration** and **amnesia** works better

## #2

**Create opportunities for more **engagement** and **interaction** among children and youth from different backgrounds – especially in context of fragility**

# #3

**Engage youth from diverse groups in finding solutions to **conflict risk factors** – water stress, climate change, unemployment, social mobility, exclusion**



## #4

**All children and youth should be made to understand the importance of peaceful co-existence, dialogue, and the irreparable dangers of conflict on their future**

# Thank you

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