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Centre for Research  
and Training of  
the Vietnam Fatherland Front



# THE VIET NAM PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PERFORMANCE INDEX

## Measuring citizens' experiences, 2022

### Citizens' Assessment of Government Work on Anti-Corruption: Findings from the 2022 PAPI

Presentation at Swedish Embassy,  
Ha Noi, 10 May 2023





# Contents

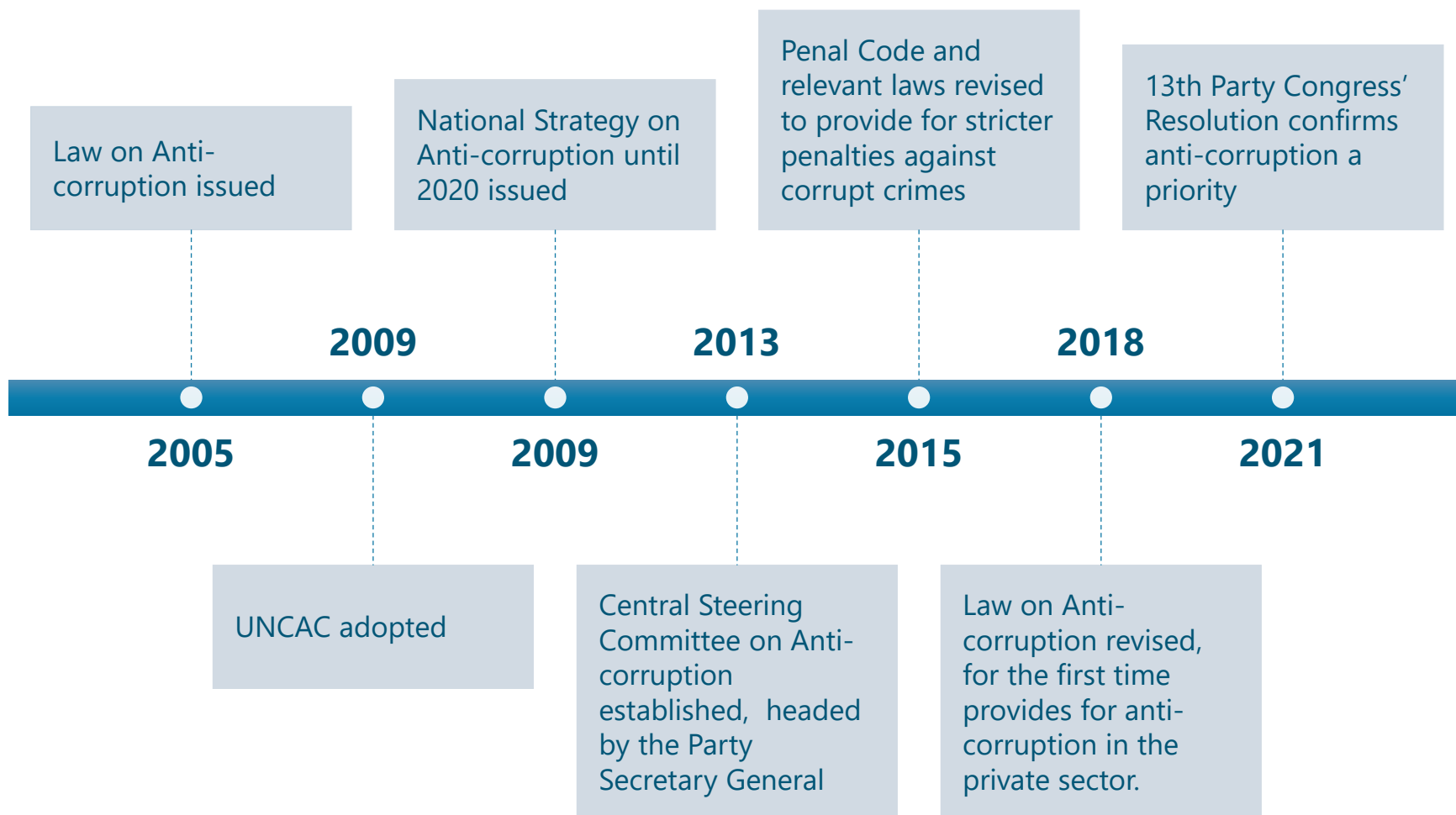
- General Overview of Anti-corruption Progress in Viet Nam
- 2022 PAPI Survey Snapshot
- Issues of Greatest Concern in 2022 and Suggested Priorities in 2023
- Overview of Control of Corruption in the Public Sector Findings from 2022 PAPI Survey
- Summary and Implications



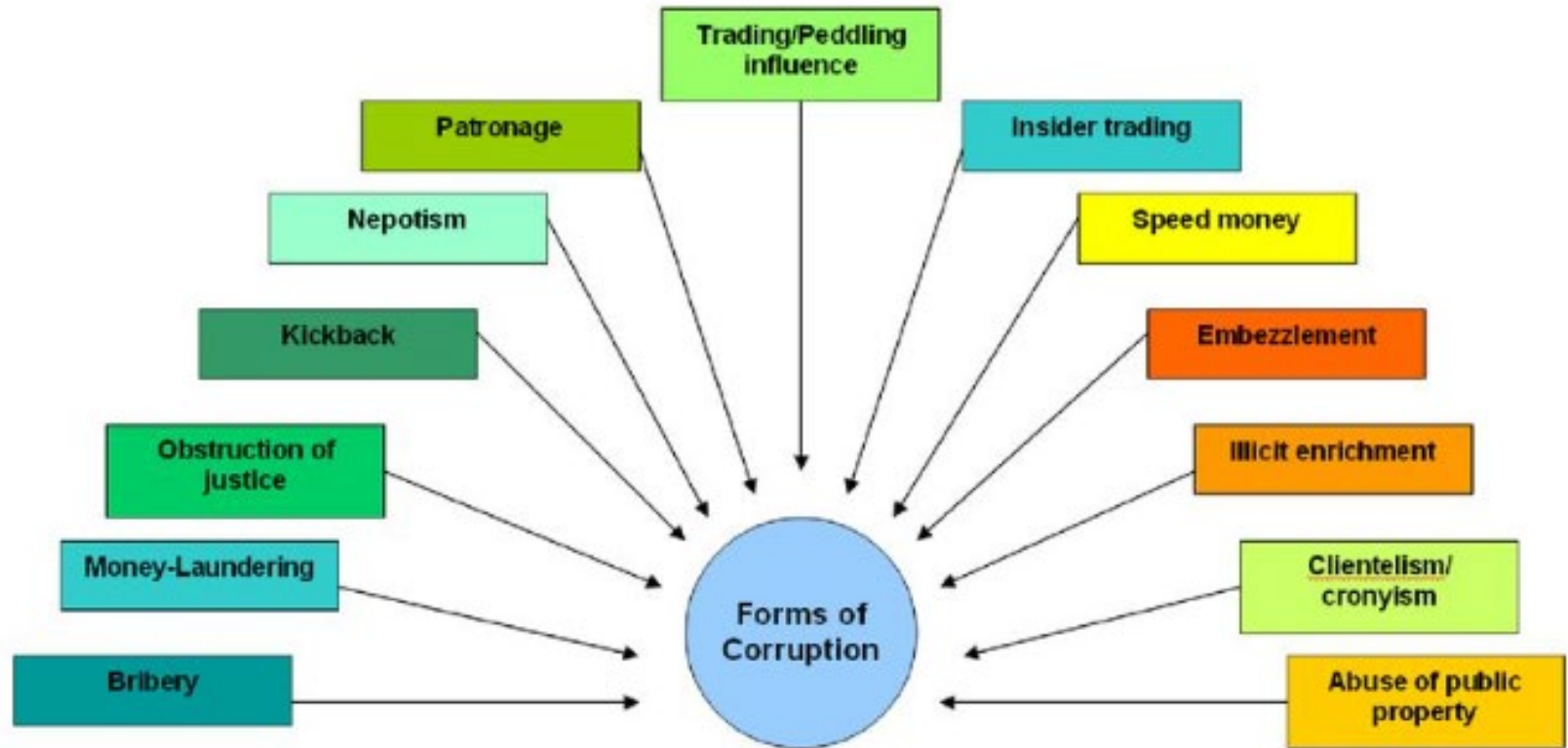
# General Overview of Anti-corruption Progress in Viet Nam

- *Ms. Diana Torres, Governance and Participation Team Lead, UNDP in Viet Nam*

# Anti-corruption in Viet Nam



# Most common forms of corruption



# SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions



On May 10<sup>th</sup> 2017, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam issued the Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg on the National Action Plan for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Target 16.5**  
Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

**Target 16.6**  
Develop effective, accountable & transparent institutions at all levels

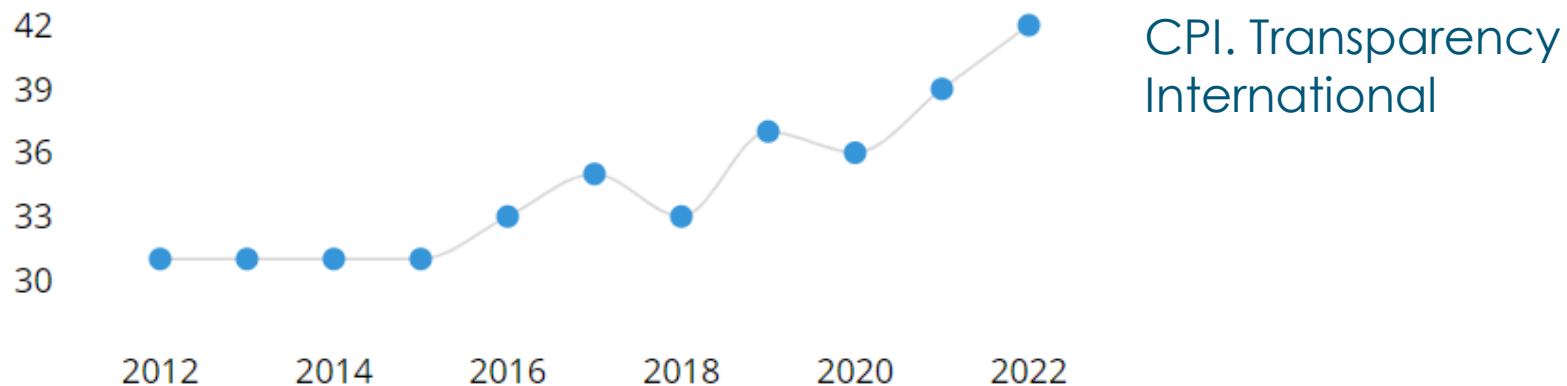
# Resolution of the Party's 13<sup>th</sup> National Congress (2021)



“To build and perfect a socialist **rule-of-law state** and a pure, strong, effective and well-structured political system for the people and for the national development; to **promote publicity, transparency and accountability**; to control state power associated with tightening discipline in the activities of the State and of cadres, civil servants and public employees; **to push ahead with the fight against corruption, wastefulness, bureaucracy, crime and social ills.**”

# VN's performance in international indexes

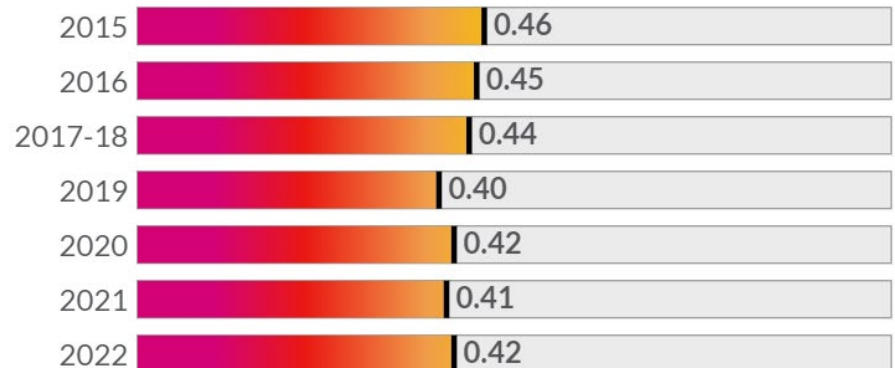
## Score changes 2012 - 2022



## FACTOR 2 | Absence of Corruption for Vietnam, 2015 - 2022

Vietnam scores for Absence of Corruption from 2015 to 2022. (Use the left menu to explore other scores.)

### WJP Index



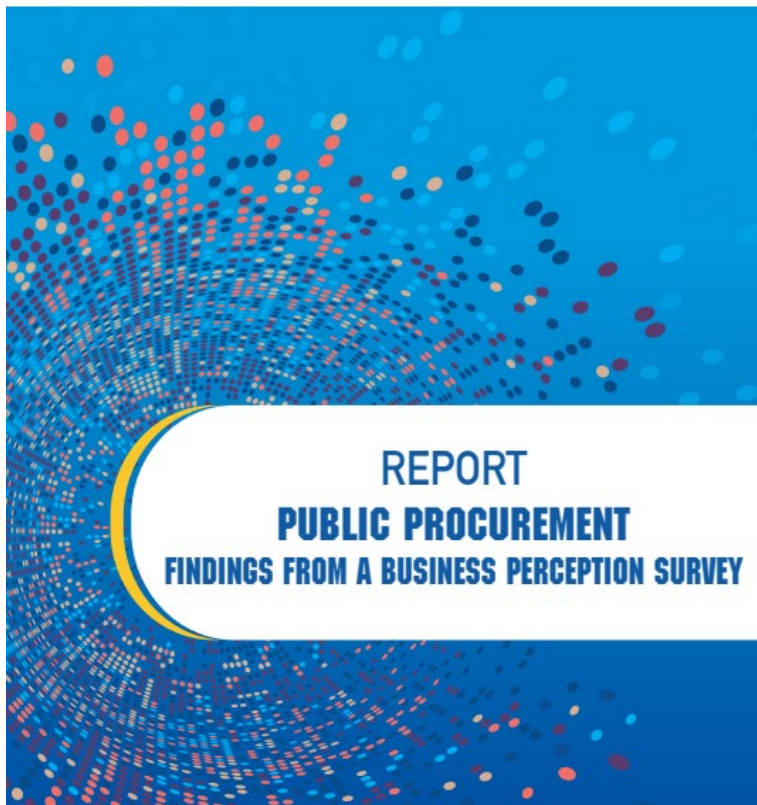


# VCCI-UNDP Report: Public Procurement – Findings from a business perception survey

VCCI



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**June 2022**

## **Respondents:**

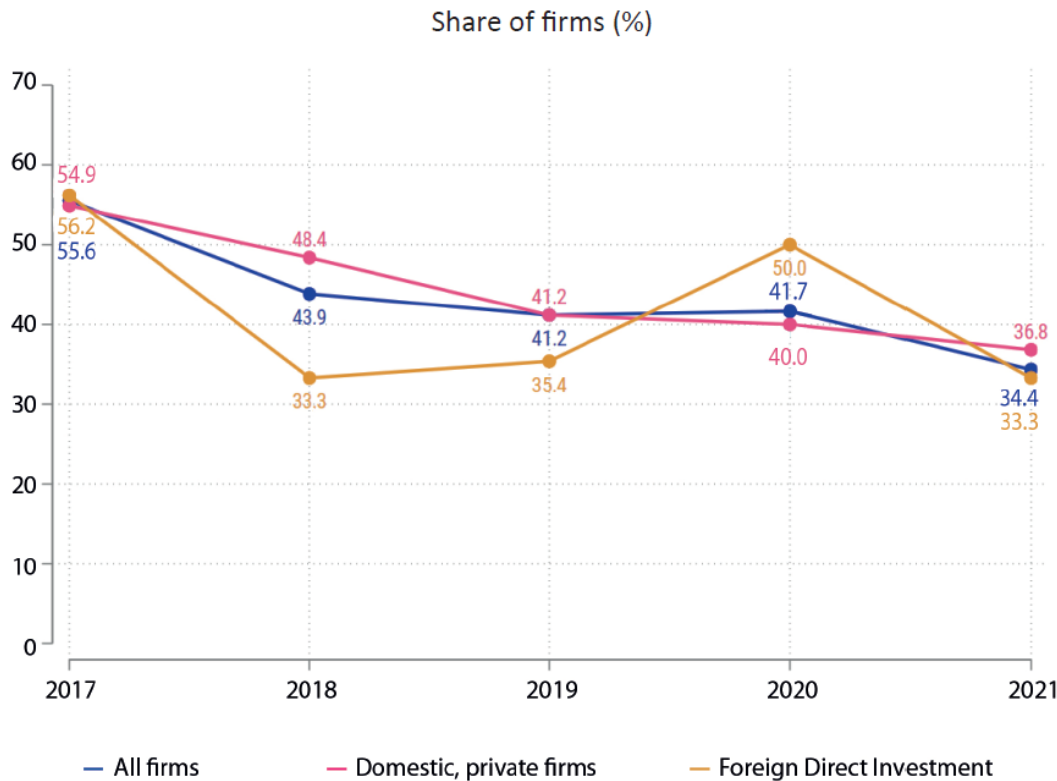
Total – 1,170

Health Procurement – 154

**VCCI-UNDP Report: Public Procurement – Findings from a business perception survey** (June 2022)

<https://papi.org.vn/eng/bao-cau-dau-thau-mua-sam-cong-tu-goc-nhin-cua-doanh-nghiep/>

# VCCI-UNDP Report: Public Procurement – Findings from a business perception survey



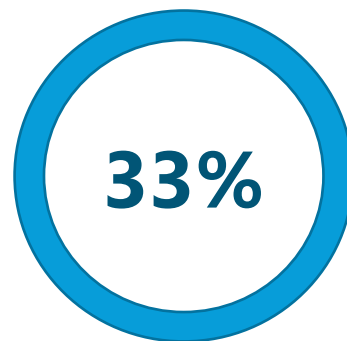
The rate of businesses agreeing with the statement “Paying a ‘commission’ is essential to improve chances of winning the contract”

**VCCI-UNDP Report: Public Procurement – Findings from a business perception survey** (June 2022)

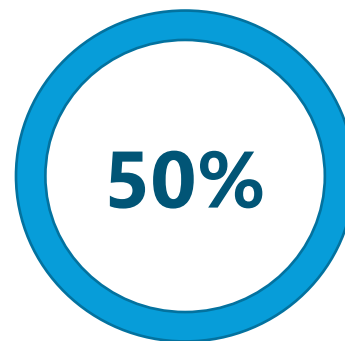
<https://papi.org.vn/eng/bao-cau-dau-thau-mua-sam-cong-tu-goc-nhin-cua-doanh-nghiep/>

# VCCI Report: Public Procurement – Findings from a business perception survey

The rates of businesses agreeing with the statement “Paying a ‘commission’ is essential to improve chances of winning the contract”, according to the type of goods & services provided to public medical service providers (%)

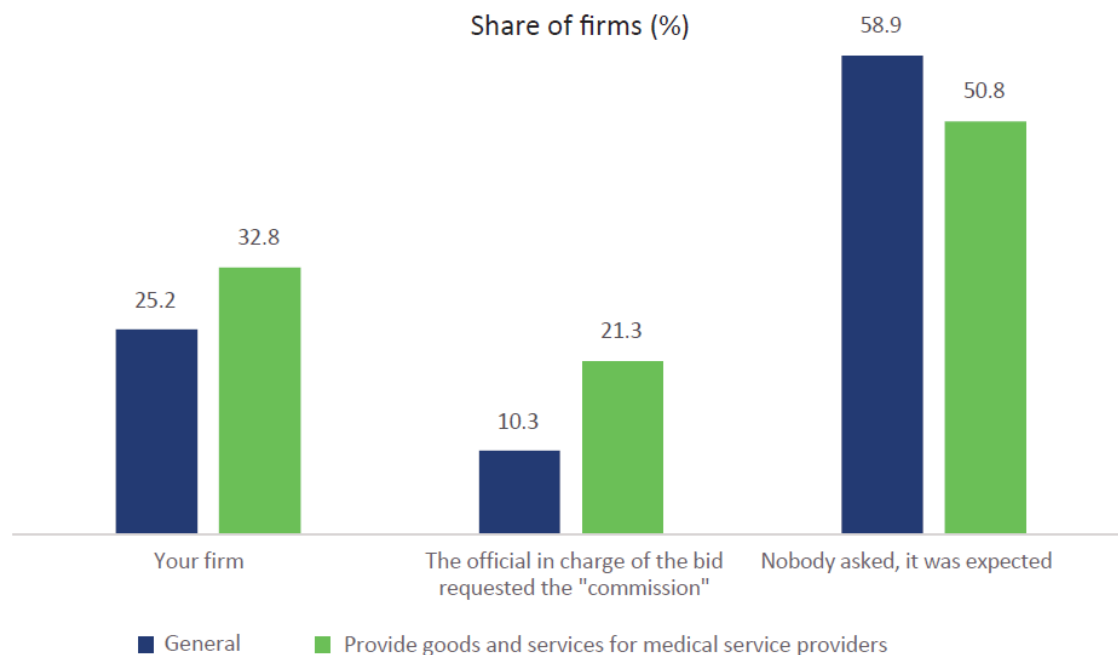


Pharmaceutical  
Products



Medical  
Equipment

# VCCI Report: Public Procurement – Findings from a business perception survey



Reasons why  
businesses pay  
'commissions' in bid

**VCCI-UNDP Report: Public Procurement – Findings from a business perception survey** (June 2022)  
<https://papi.org.vn/eng/bao-cau-dau-thau-mua-sam-cong-tu-goc-nhin-cua-doanh-nghiep/>



# Overview of Control of Corruption in the Public Sector Findings from the 2022 PAPI Survey

- *Ms. Do Thanh Huyen, Governance and Participation Policy and Programme Analyst, UNDP in Viet Nam*

# 16,117



respondents to PAPI 2022 surveys

in 178,243 respondents  
from 2009 to 2022

## CITIZENS FROM ALL DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUNDS:



52.6% Women



7.36%  
Migrants

Samples representative of all ethnicities in Viet Nam

Others 15.5%

Kinh 84.5%



# 63

Provinces

208 Districts

416 Communes

832 Villages

# 8

Dimensions:



>500 substantive questions  
about Viet Nam's policy matters  
used in compilation of >120 indicators

45-60 minutes

- Face-to-face interviews
- Computer-assisted personal interviews conducted on tablets

5 SAMPLING STEPS:

3 steps with Probability Proportional to Size (PPS)  
to select districts, communes and villages.

2 steps with randomization to select  
households and respondents using 2019  
Census Population Data.

# 2022 Context



- Viet Nam's Governance Situation
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 2021-2026 government term
  - Anti-corruption campaign in health and public investment sectors
  - Discussions and issuance of the 2022 Law on Grassroots Democracy Implementation
  - On-going discussions of the amendment to the 2013 Land Law
- Viet Nam's Economic Situation
  - COVID-19 restrictions eased May 2022
  - Overall national growth reaching 8.02% by the year-end against the 2021's low growth rate of 2.56%
  - Inflation at 3.15%; higher prices of oil and food



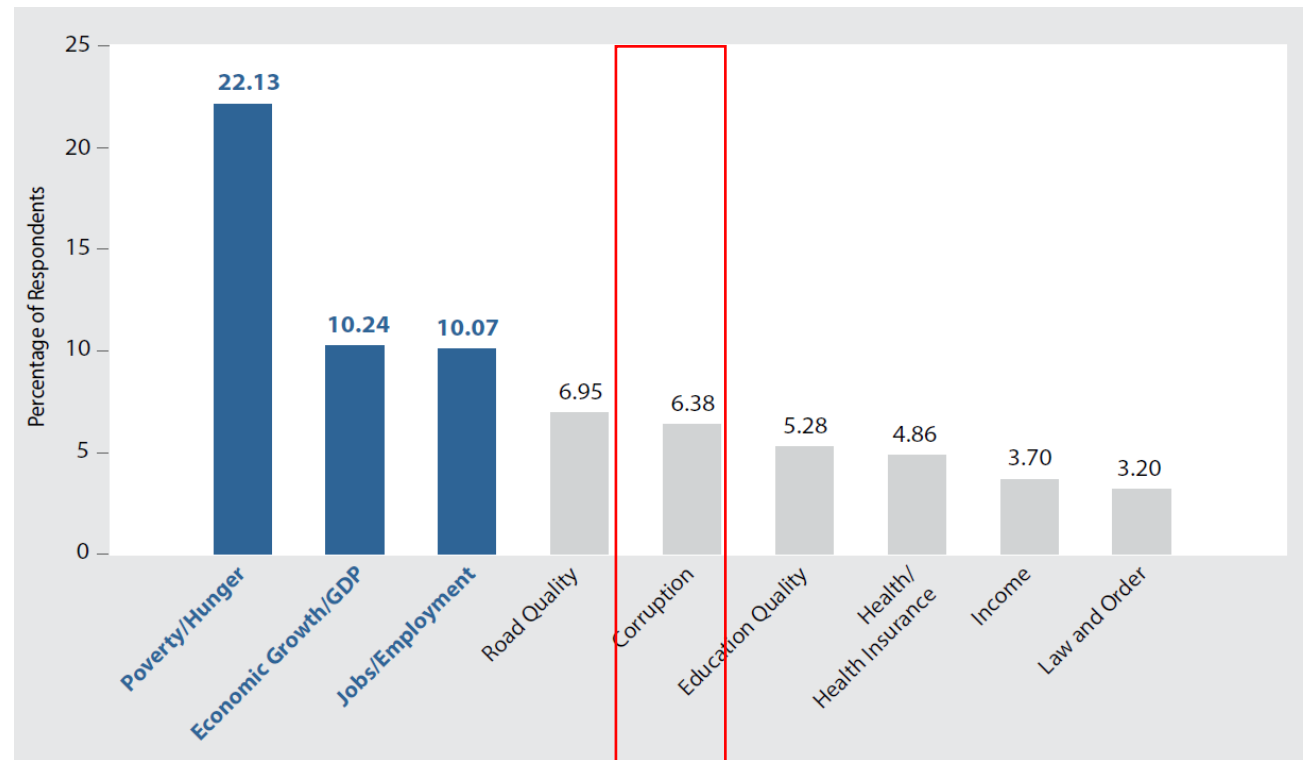
# Issues of Greatest Concern in 2022



# Top five issues of greatest concern for citizens in 2022

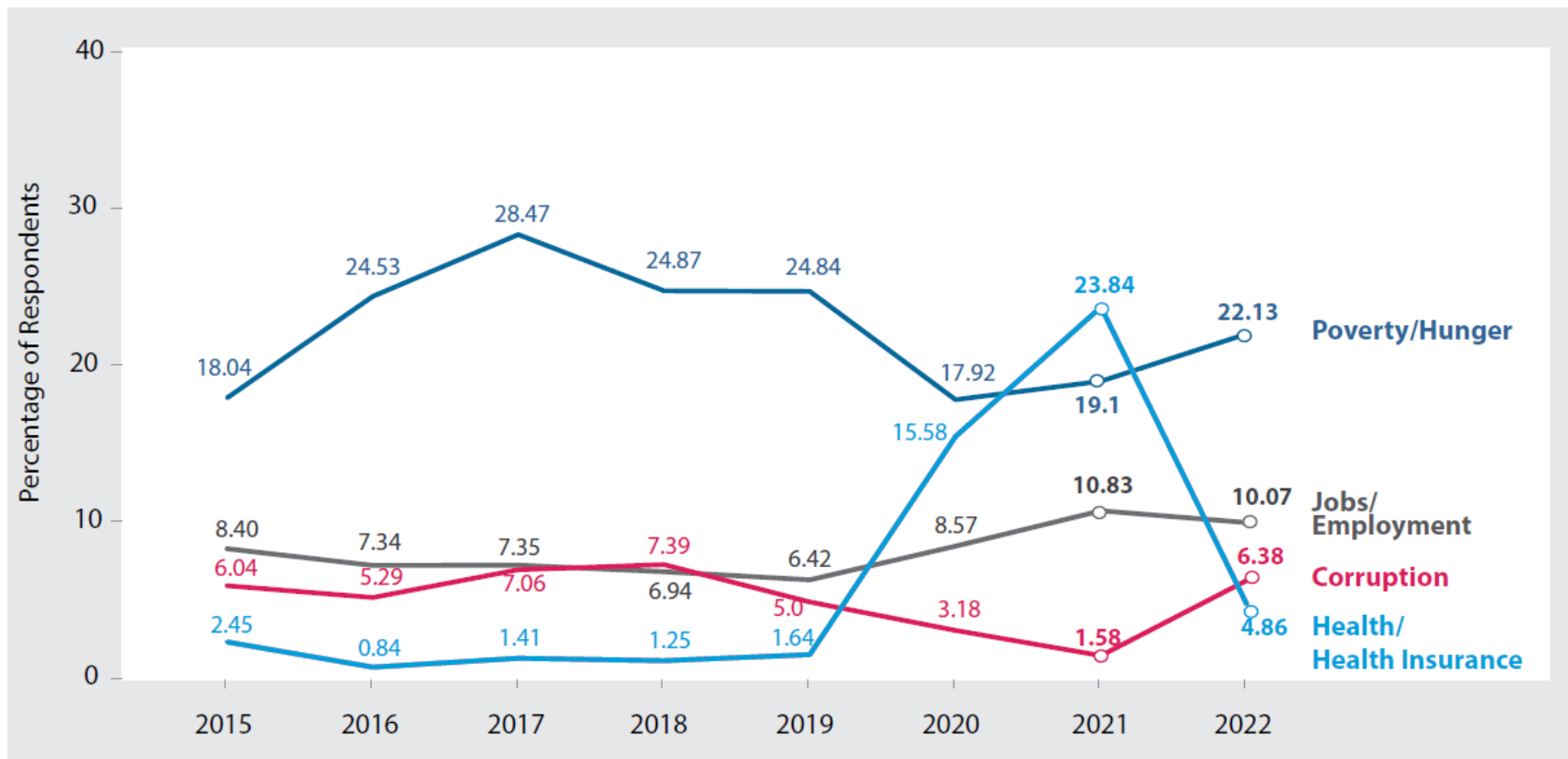
- Open-ended question: *"In your opinion, what are the three most important problems facing Viet Nam that the State should address?"*
- Poverty/hunger returned to become the issue of greatest concern in 2022 after health/health insurance took over in 2021.

1. Poverty/hunger
2. Economic growth
3. Jobs/Employment
4. Road quality
5. Corruption



# Notable changes in issues of greatest concern from 2015 to 2022

- Poverty/hunger reduction as a priority for the State to address relatively constant at about 20-25 percent over time, aside from pandemic-hit 2021.
- Concern about health/health insurance eased dramatically in 2022 from the two year of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021.
- Concern about corruption increased in 2022.

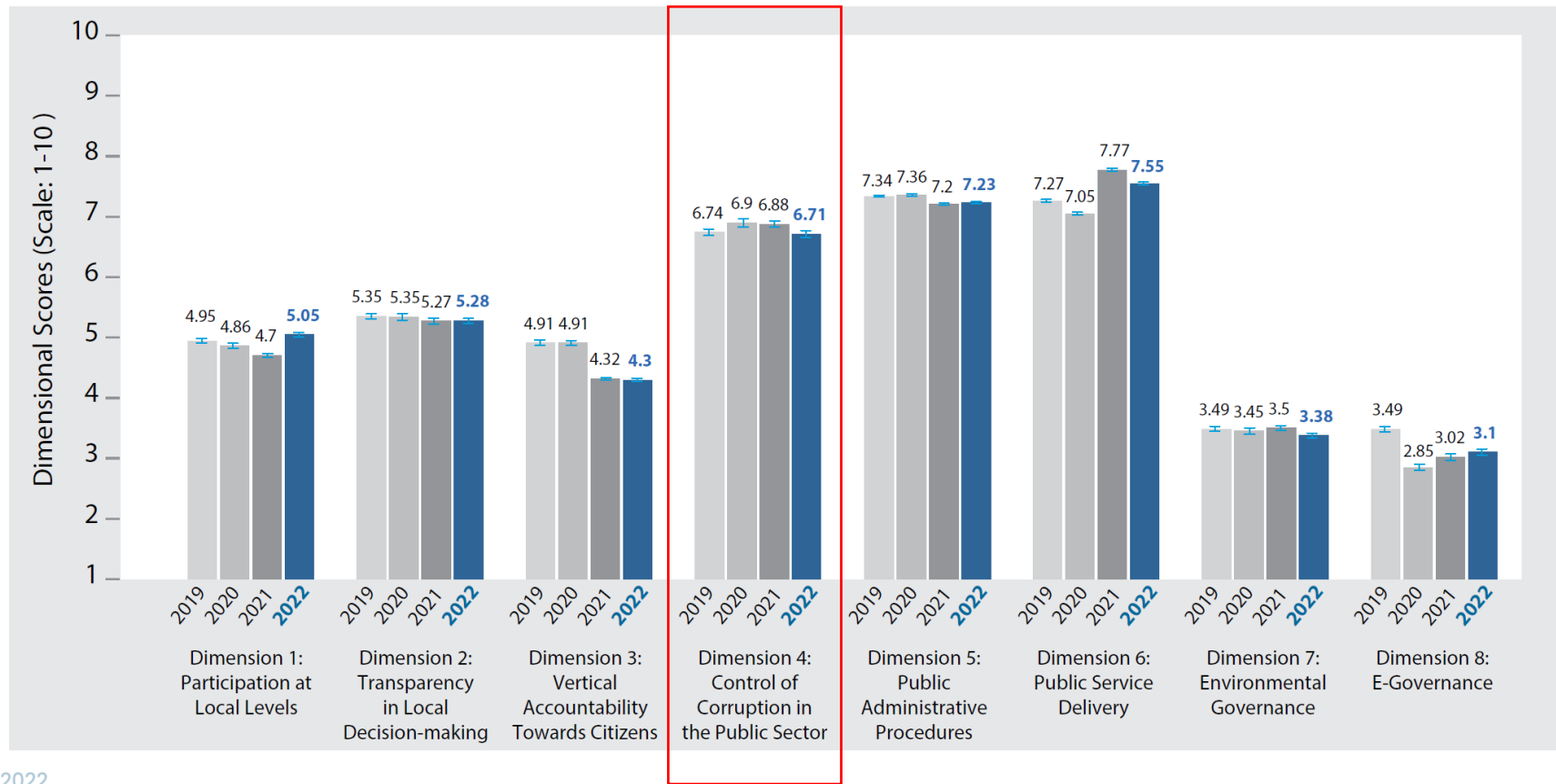




# Overview of Control of Corruption in the Public Sector Findings from 2022 PAPI Survey

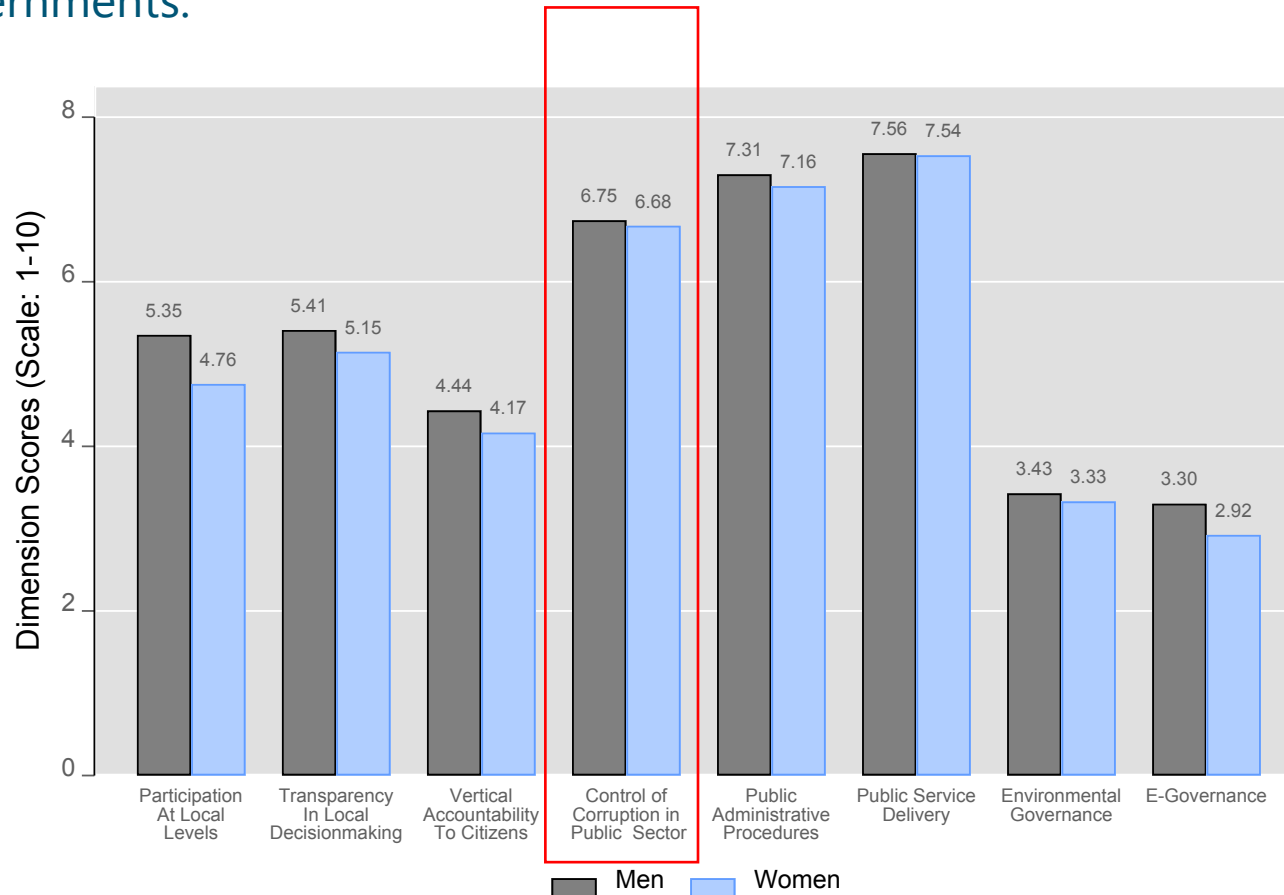
# A mixed picture of overall performance of governance and public administration in 2022

- Progress in Participation at Local Levels and E-Governance
- Stagnation in Transparency in Local Decision-making, Vertical Accountability Towards Citizens and Public Administrative Procedures
- Decline in Control of Corruption in the Public Sector; Public Service Delivery and Environmental Governance

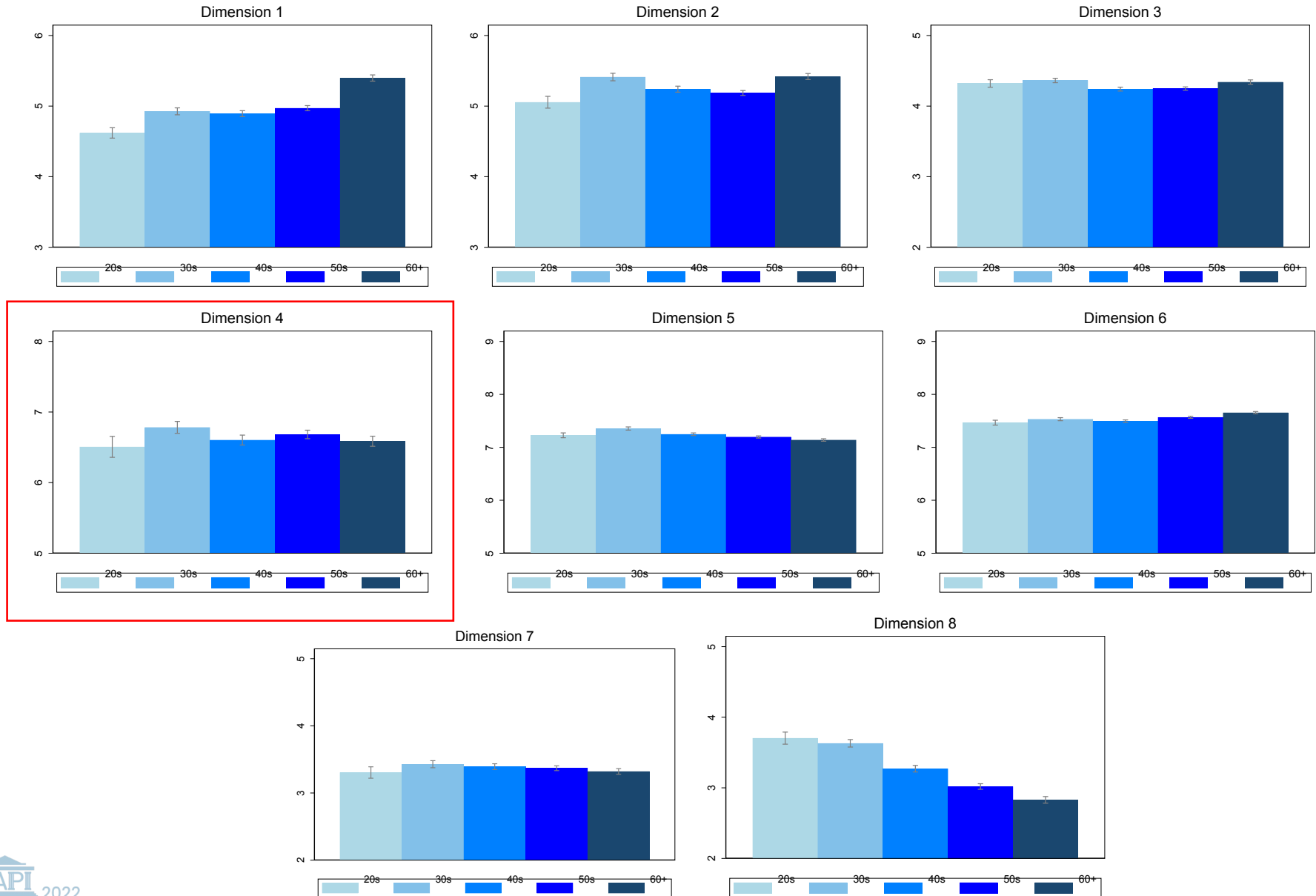


# Gender differences in overall assessment of performance of governance and public administration in 2022

- Women gave lower scores than men in all dimensions, especially in Participation at Local Levels, Transparency, Vertical Accountability, and E-Governance.
- Women were not treated as equally as men in their interactions with local governments.

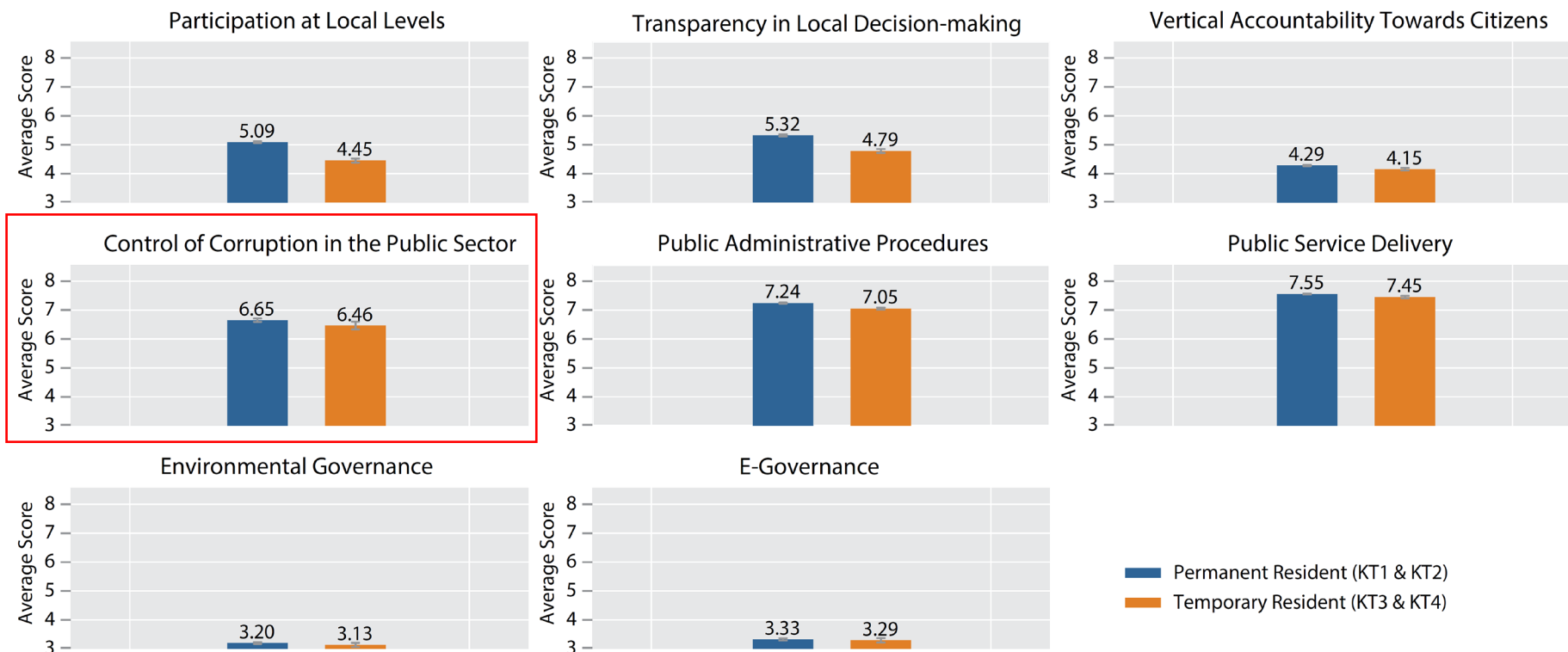


# Age differences in overall assessment of performance of governance and public administration in 2022



# Differences in governance and public administration as experienced by immigrants in migrant-receiving provinces by dimension in 2022

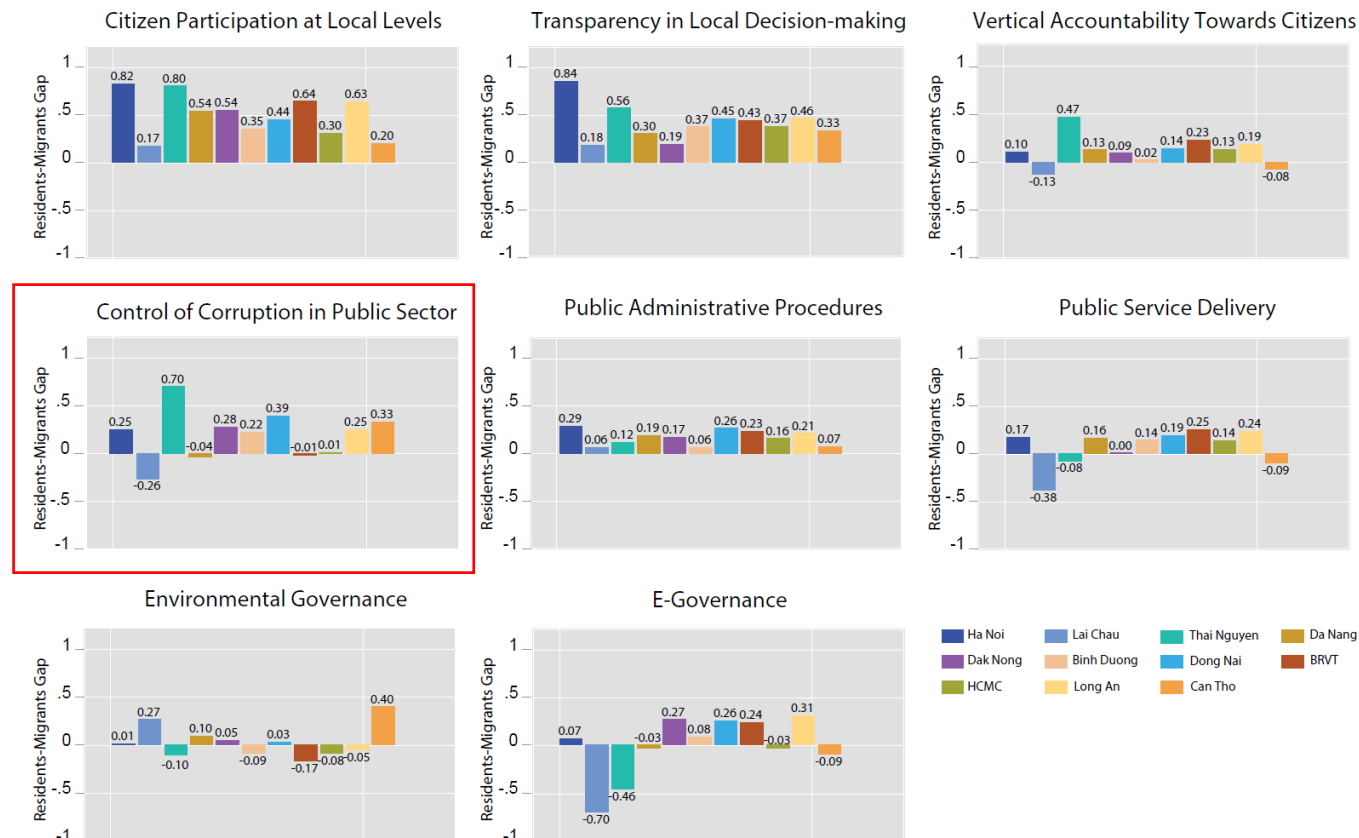
- The resident-migrant differences were the largest in two dimensions: Participation at Local Levels and Transparency in Local Decision-making, similar to 2021's findings.



■ Permanent Resident (KT1 & KT2)  
■ Temporary Resident (KT3 & KT4)

# Differences in governance and public administration as experienced by immigrants by migrant-receiving provinces in 2022

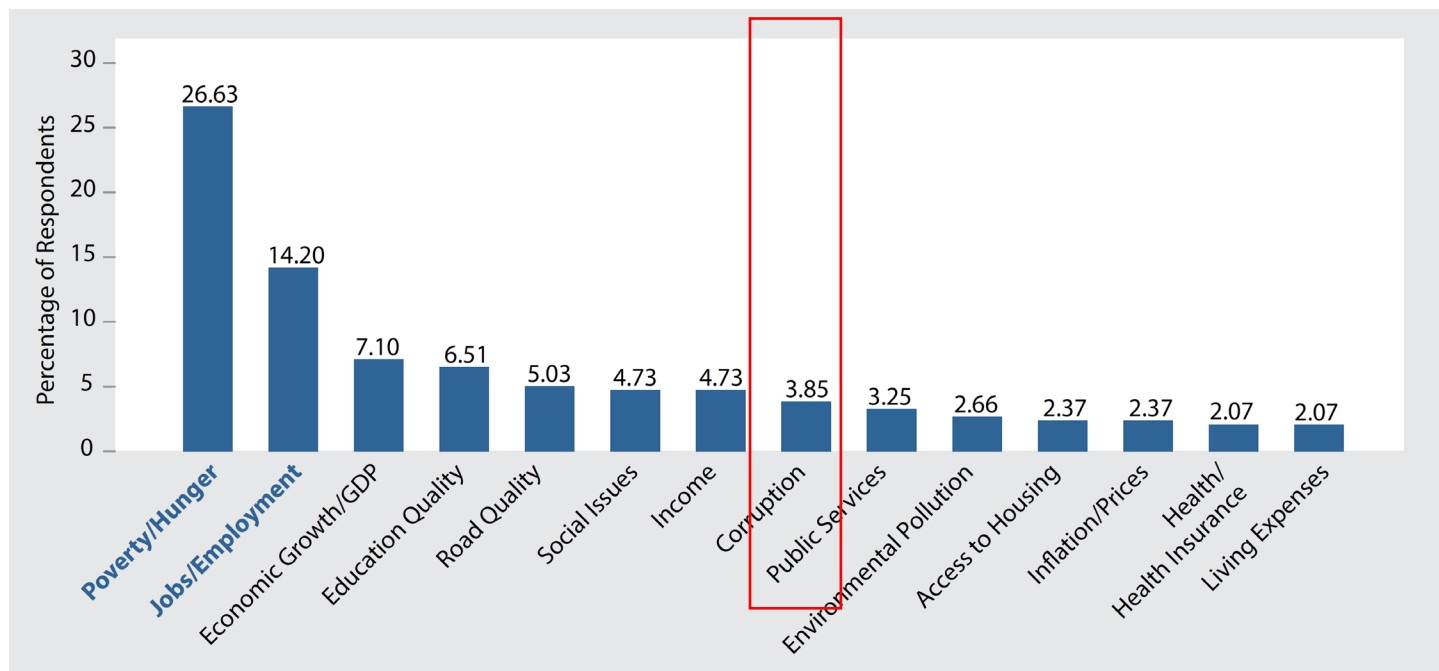
- Gaps in Ha Noi are larger with more favourable feedback from residents in Participation at Local Levels, Transparency in Local Decision-making and Public Administrative Procedures.
- Gaps are smallest in Binh Duong. In Lai Chau and Thai Nguyen, migrants had more favourable feedback on E-Governance.





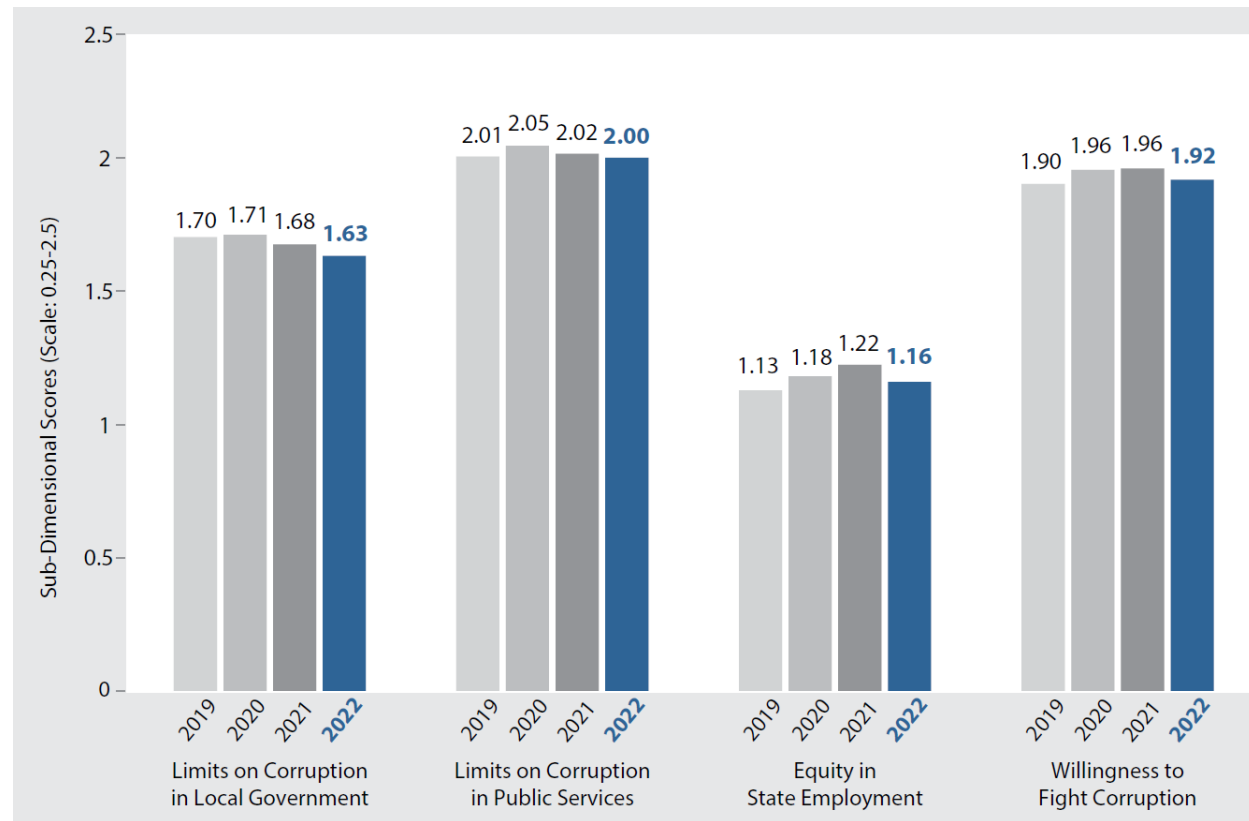
# Issues of greatest concern for migrants in 2022 centred on their livelihoods

1. Poverty and hunger
2. Jobs and employment



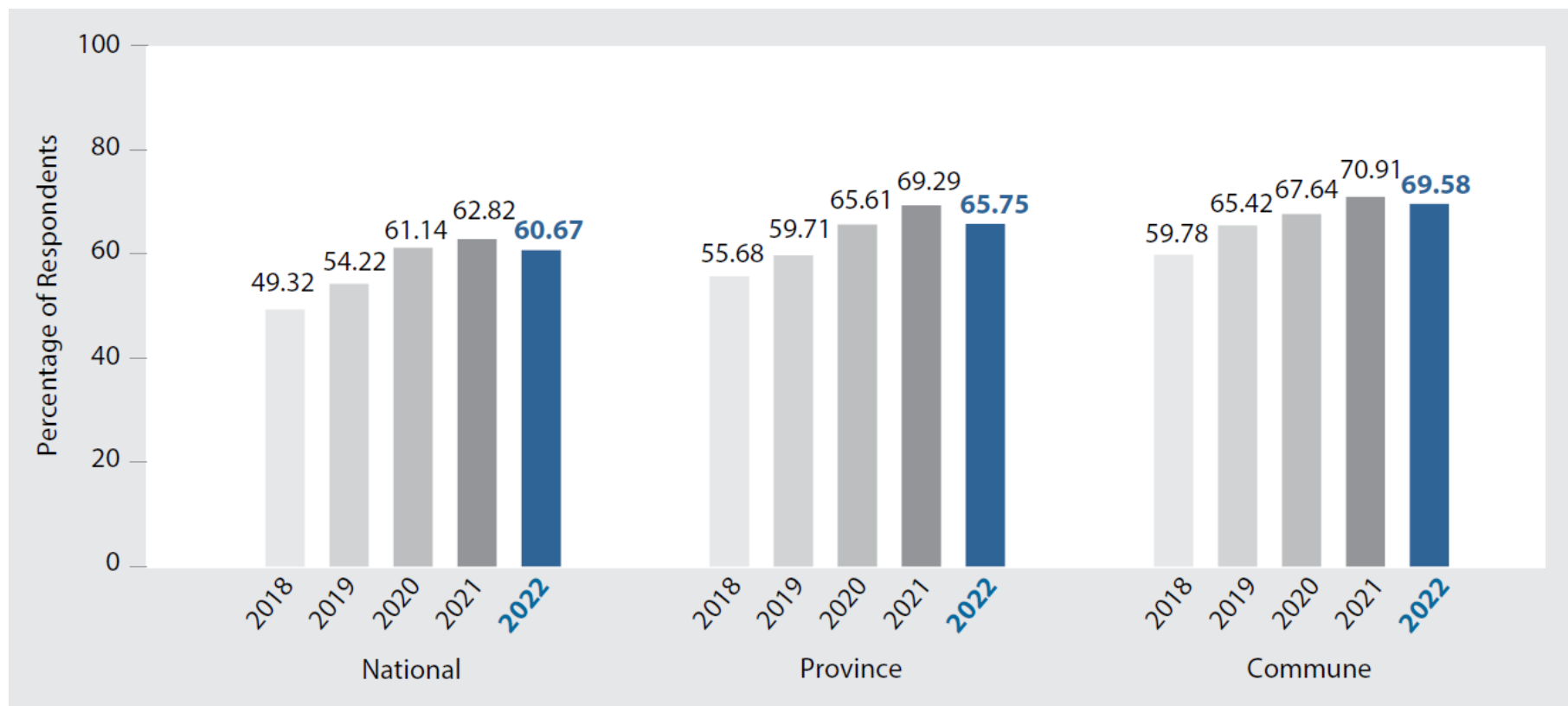
# Tackling corruption in the public sector at the local level took a step back from 2021

- Scores fell across all four sub-dimensions comprising the Control of Corruption in the Public Sector (Dimension 4) in 2022
- Sharpest decline since anti-corruption campaign began in 2016
- Most dramatic decrease in equity in state employment compared to 2021



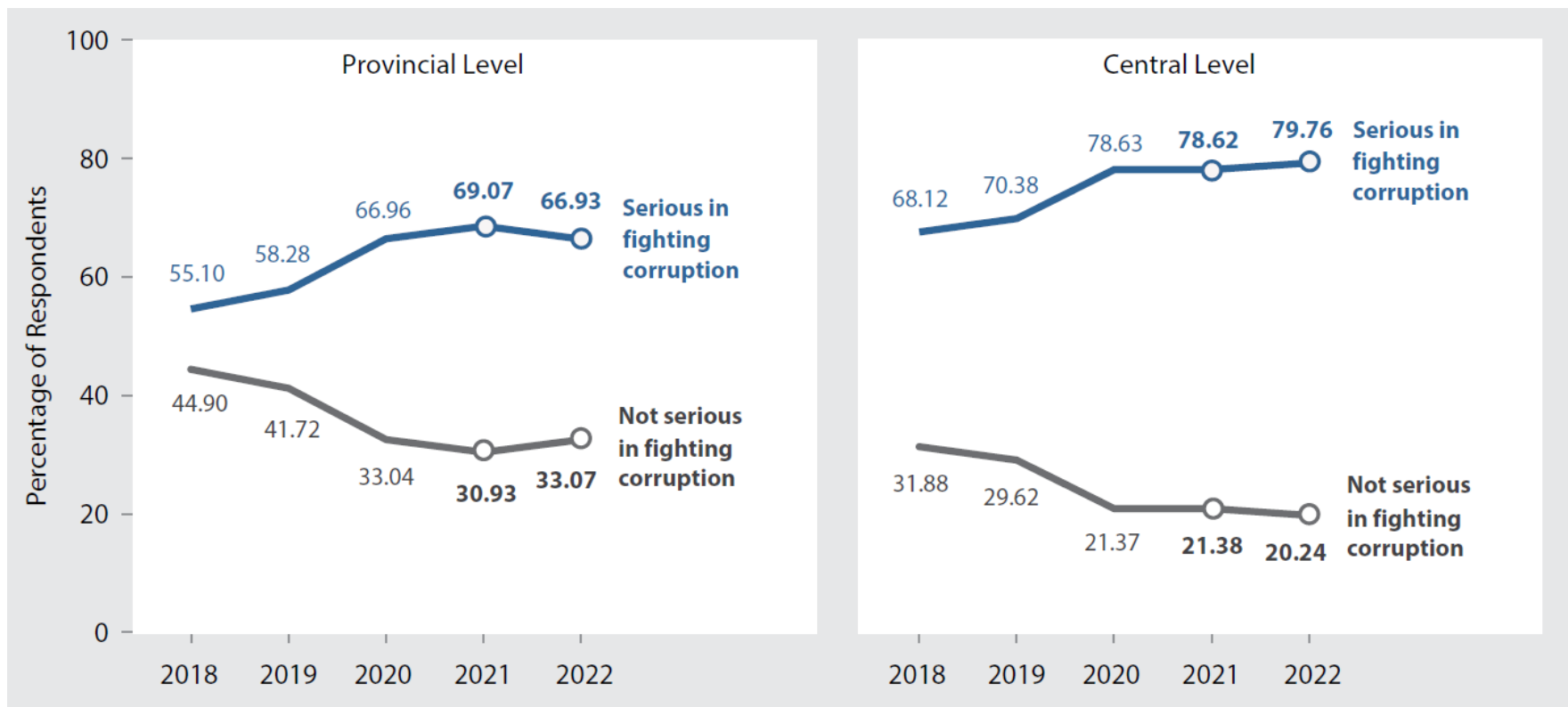
# Perceived corruption trends at different government levels, 2018-2022

- First-ever drop in the number of citizens reporting that corruption had decreased at the national, provincial and commune levels of government since this question was first asked in 2018.



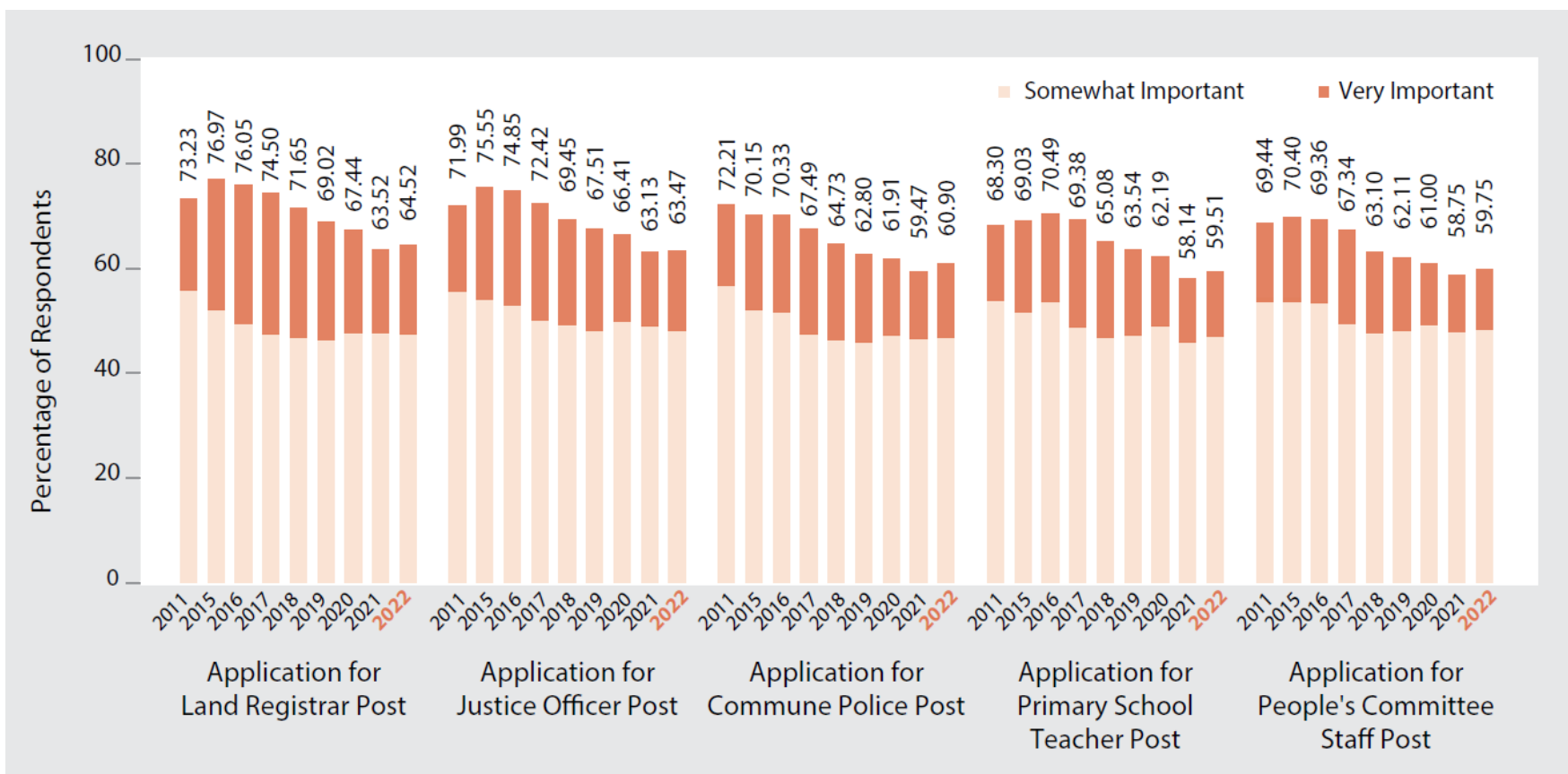
# Citizens tend to have more faith in the national level government to address corruption than at the local level

- Nearly 67% of the respondents nation-wide believed their provincial governments were serious in fighting corruption, and on a decline
- Nearly 80% of the respondents nation-wide believed the central governments were serious in fighting corruption, and on a rise



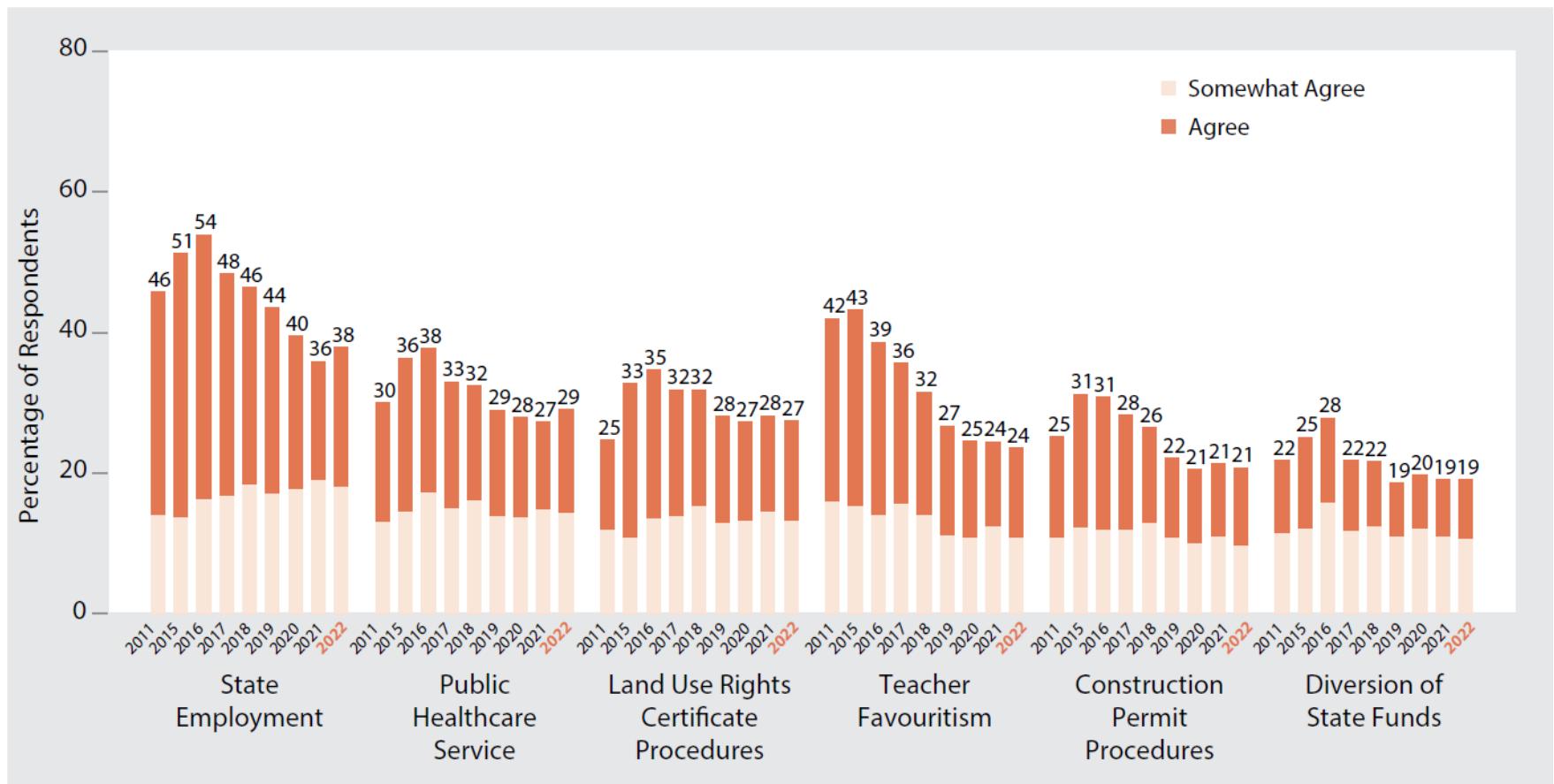
# Concern about nepotism in State employment increased in 2022

- The importance of connections for state employment at the commune level steadily declined from 2015-2021 BUT increased for the first time in 2022
- Connections for the job of commune land registrar remain more important than for other four commune posts



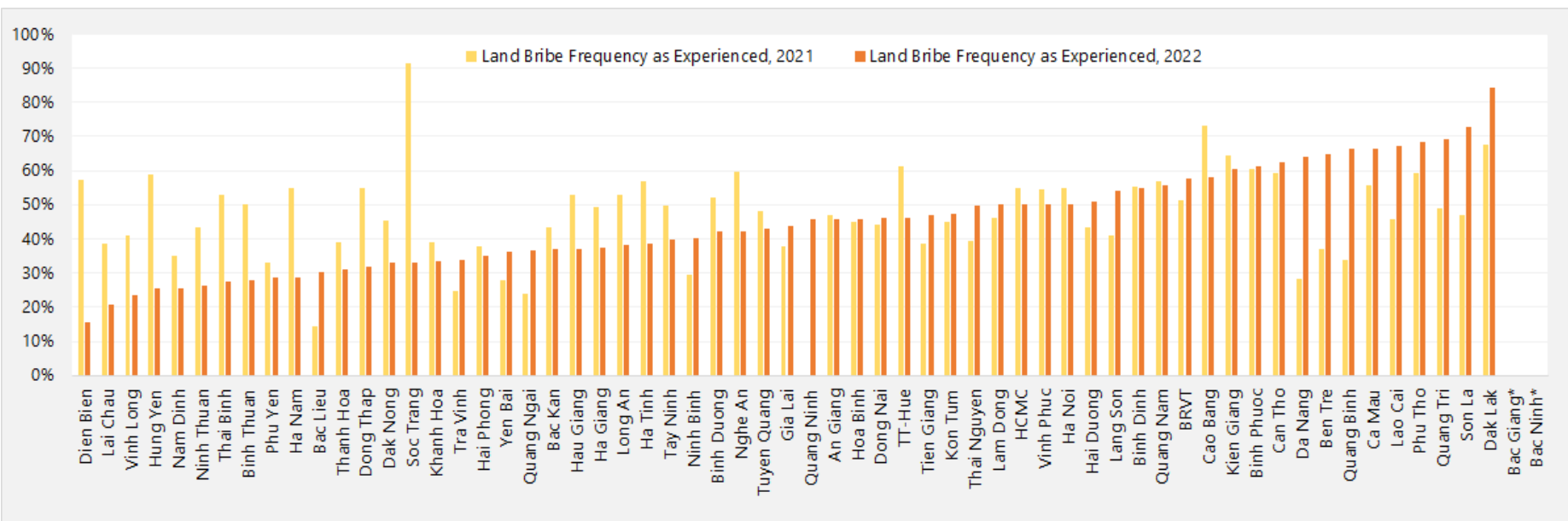
# Corruption as Perceived by Citizens, 2011-2022

- More respondents perceived that informal payments were needed to secure a job in the public sector in 2022 than in 2021.
- Another worrisome trend is that informal payments in public district hospitals were reported to have returned to pre-pandemic levels.



# Bribe-taking in handling administrative procedures for land titles remains prevalent

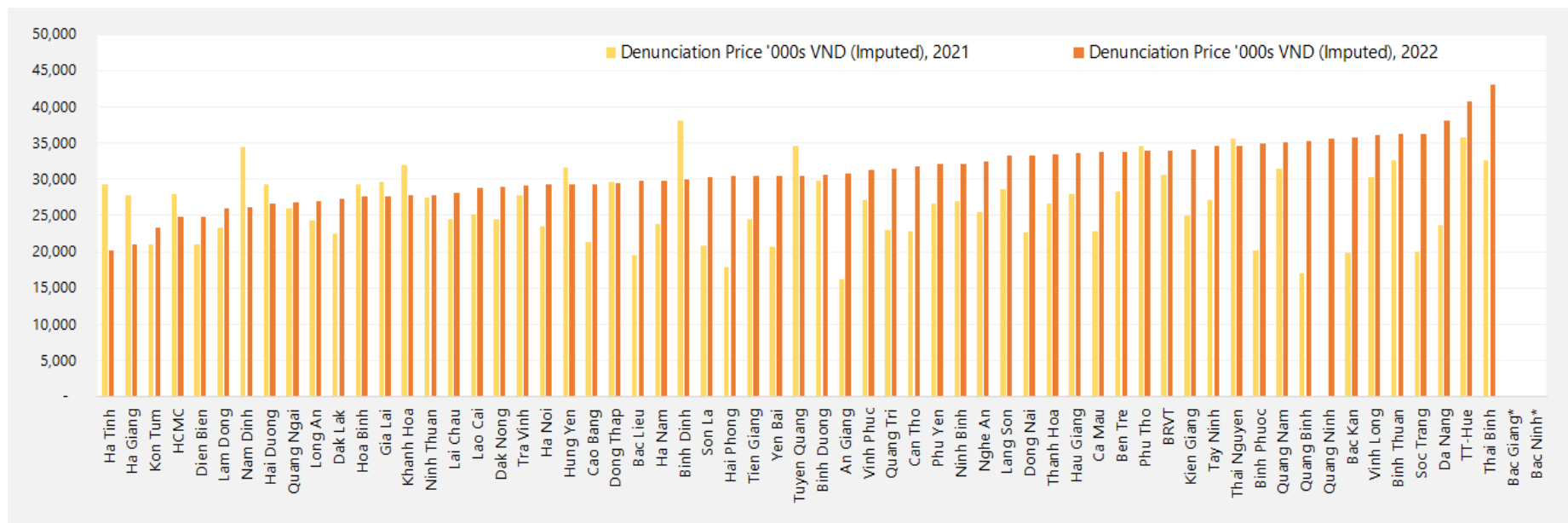
- The proportions of applicants for LURCs who paid a bribe remain higher than 15% across all provinces, with that ranging from 40% to 90% in 35 provinces.
- The problem of bribing for LURCs was more serious in poorer provinces like Dak Lak, Quang Tri and Son La.
- Seven provinces (Binh Thuan, Dien Bien, Dong Thap, Ha Nam, Hung Yen, Soc Trang and Thai Binh) saw a decline by more than 20 percent over the two years.



*Re-ordered by 2022 numbers from smallest to largest.*  
 (\*) Data from Bac Giang and Bac Ninh are not included in some dimensions for their manipulated extreme outlier values.

# Citizens' levels of tolerance of bribe-taking acts remain high

- Mean bribe-taking amounts at which citizens would start denouncing by province range between VND 20 million and VND 43 million.
- From 2021-2022, the level of tolerance decreased in only 14 provinces. Largest decline of more than VND 5 million seen in 4 provinces of Ha Tinh, Nam Dinh, Binh Dinh and Ha Giang.
- Citizens in income-poor provinces of Quang Binh, Soc Trang and Bac Kan were the most tolerant: the bribe amounts leading to possible denunciation in 2022 increased by at least VND 15 million compared to that in 2021.



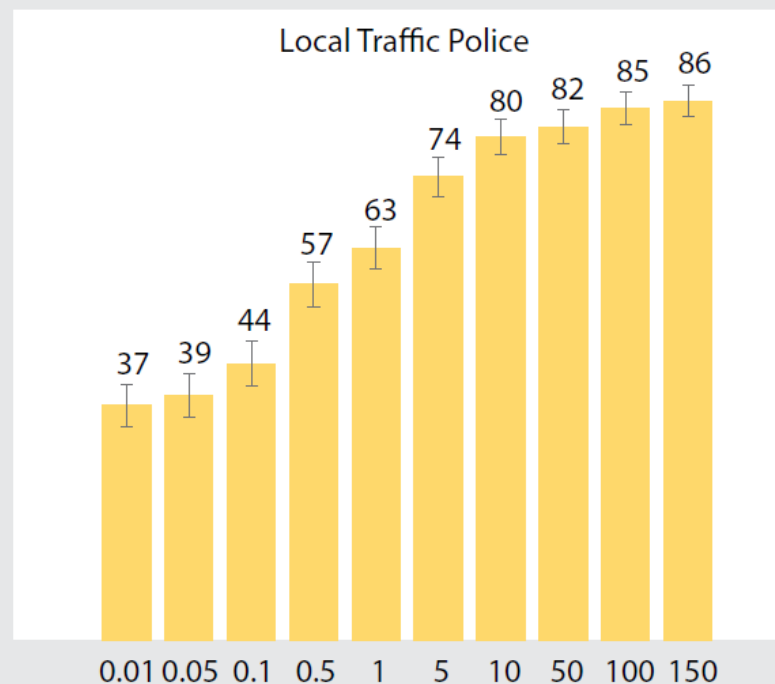
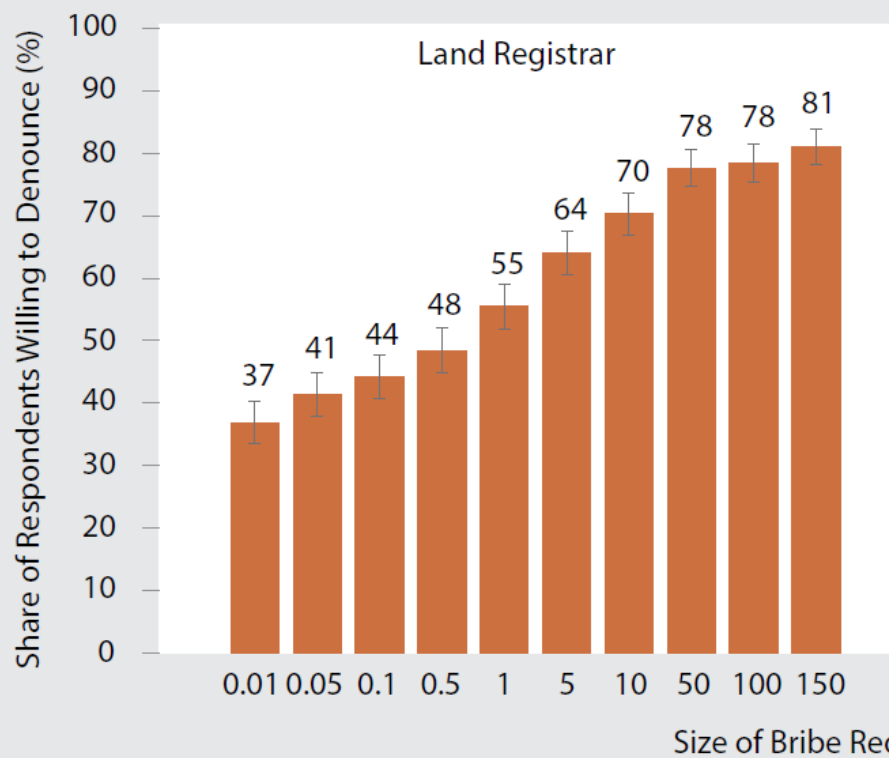
*Re-ordered by 2022 numbers from smallest to largest.*

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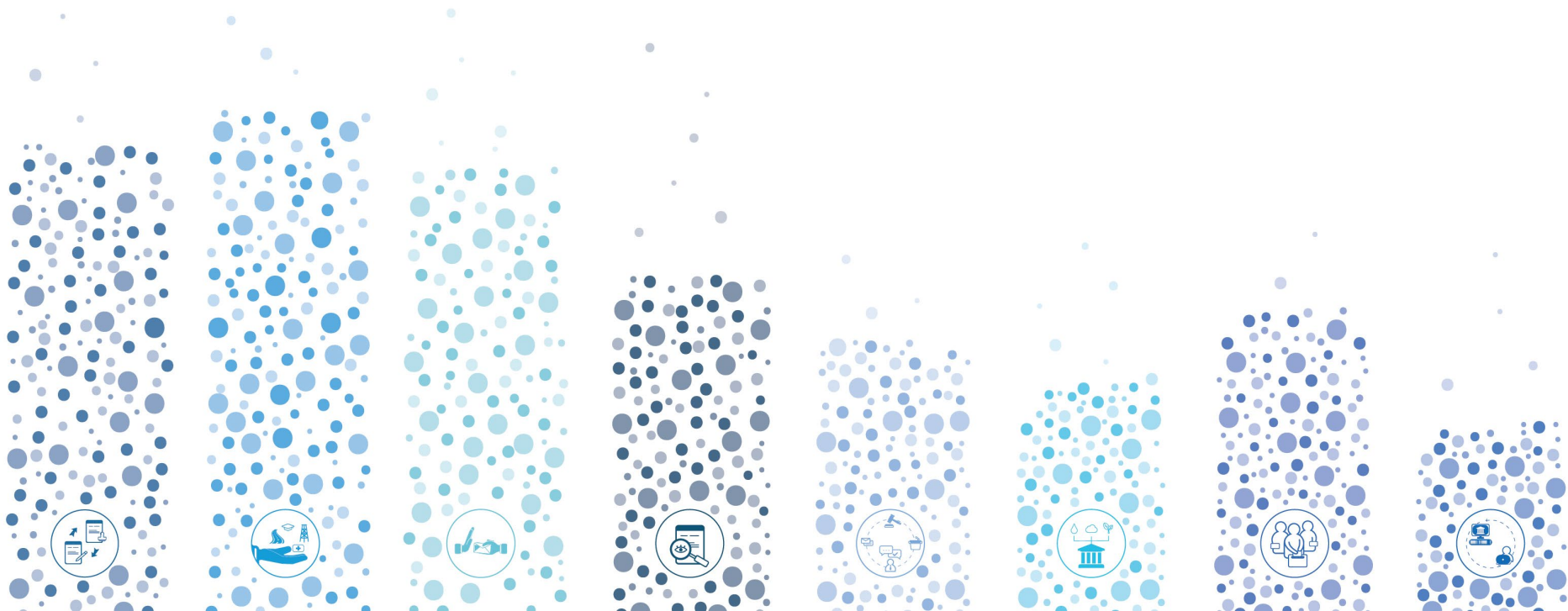


# Denunciation only happens when...

- As the size of the bribe increases, citizens are consistently more willing to denounce a police officer compared to a land registrar
- It seems citizens are more tolerant of corruption in the land sector than in interactions with the police

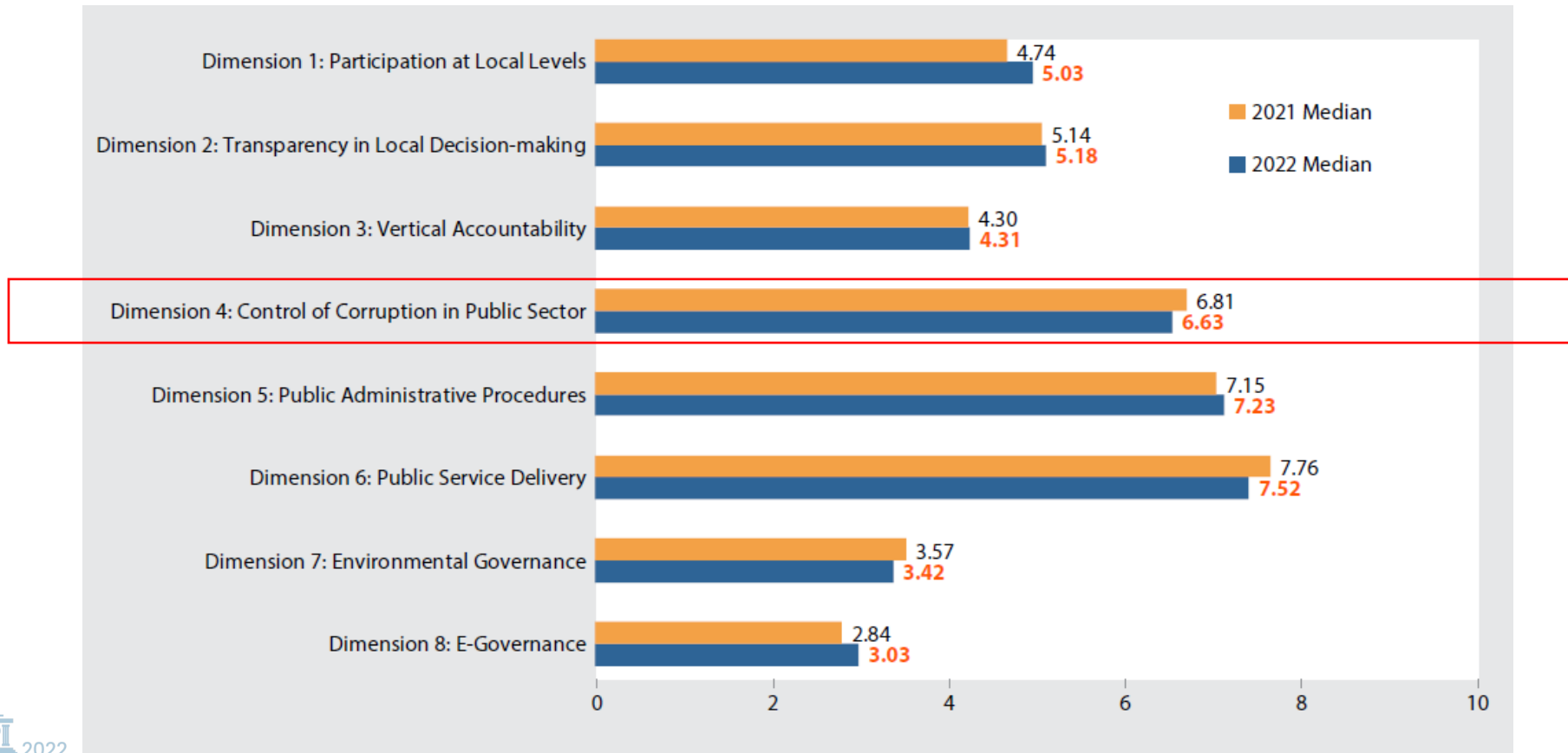


# 2022 Provincial Performance in Governance and Public Administration: Mind the Gaps



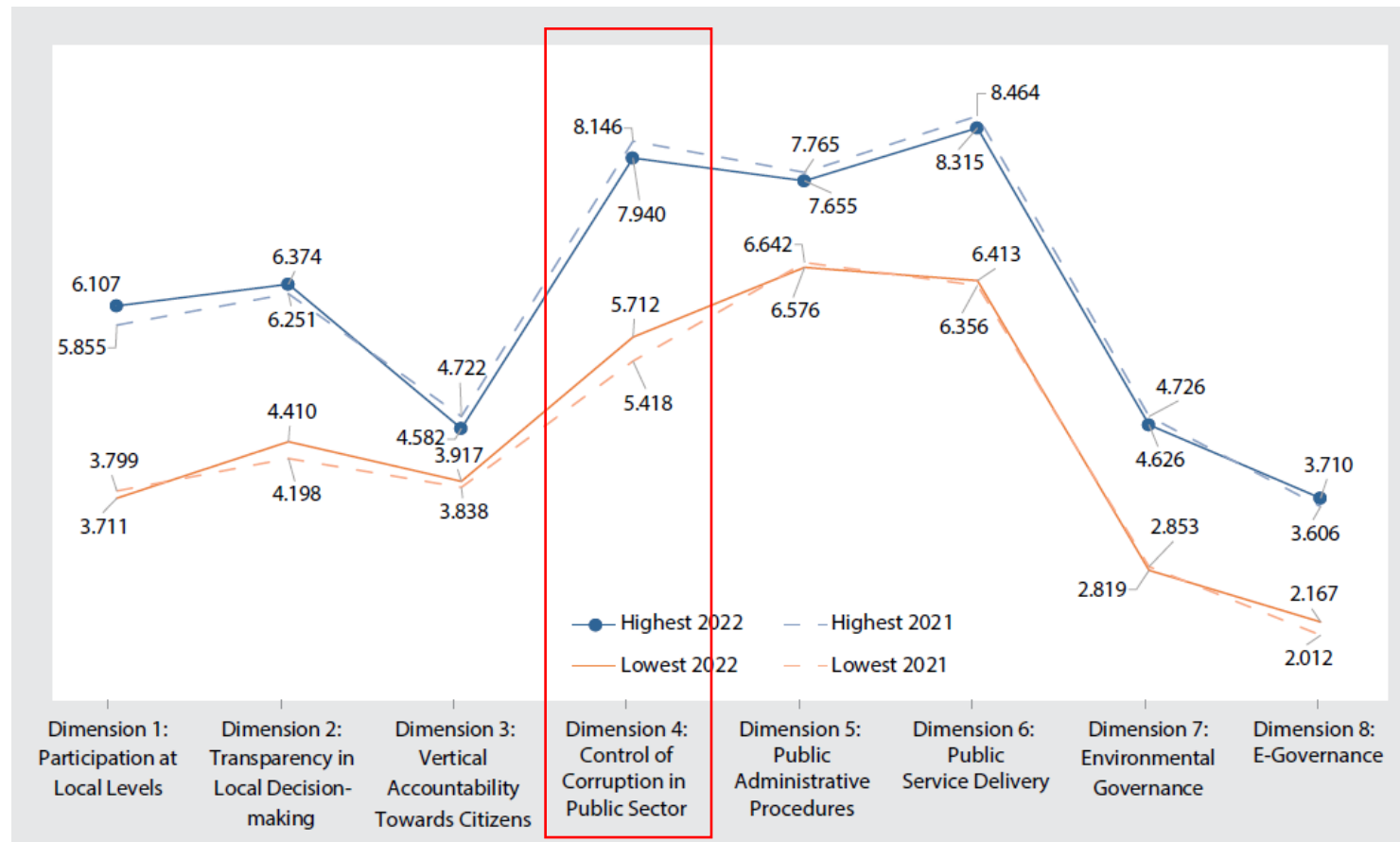
# 2021-2022 trends in median dimensional scores at provincial level

- Median scores in Participation at Local Levels, Transparency in Local Decision-making, Public Administrative Procedures and E-Governance dimensions increased, indicating improvements in half of all provinces in these dimensions compared to their 2021 scores.
- However, the reverse trends are seen in the dimensional scores of Control of Corruption in the Public Sector, Public Service Delivery and Environmental Governance.



# Comparing provincial highest and lowest dimensional scores, 2022 vs. 2021

- Wider difference in provincial performance in Participation at Local Levels (Dimension 1).
- Provincial performance in Transparency in Local Decision-making (Dimension 2) and E-Governance (Dimension 8) increased notably looking at their lowest scores.
- Declines in both the highest and lowest 2022 provincial scores in Public Administrative Procedures (Dimension 5) and Environmental Governance (Dimension 7).



# Summary and Implications

- **Control of Corruption in the Public Sector**

- Scores declined most comprehensively since anti-corruption campaign began
- Gaps between provinces in their anti-corruption efforts pertain
- Local governments rated lower in their willingness to fight corruption
- Concern about nepotism in State employment even at the commune level remains high
- Petty corruption for land use rights certificates remains rampant
- Citizens' levels of tolerance of bribe-taking acts remain high

➤ **Anti-corruption efforts should continue at the local level**

➤ **How can international partners support for control of petty corruption amidst shrinking civic space and reducing development aid?**



14 years listening to Vietnamese citizens' voices  
14 năm lắng nghe tiếng nói của người dân Việt Nam

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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# PAPI Information Gates



## The Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index

PAPI is a flagship governance program initiated by the United Nations Development Programs in Vietnam since 2009. PAPI measures and benchmarks citizens' experiences and perception on the performance and quality of policy implementation and services delivery of all 63 provincial governments in Vietnam to advocate for effective and responsive governance.

For more information about PAPI, see:

[www.papi.org.vn](http://www.papi.org.vn)



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