



Does economic growth improve social service provision in Tanzania?

Findings from the Afrobarometer Round 6 Survey in Tanzania

Prepared by Lucas Katera (PhD)



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At a glance

- Despite economic growth, most Tanzanians are dissatisfied with the current economic condition of their country.
- Public perceptions of the country's economic condition have declined significantly over the past decade.
- Poor government performance in the delivery of public services has contributed to public dissatisfaction.
- But increased corruption and lack of financial transparency in government expenditures also contribute to dissatisfaction.

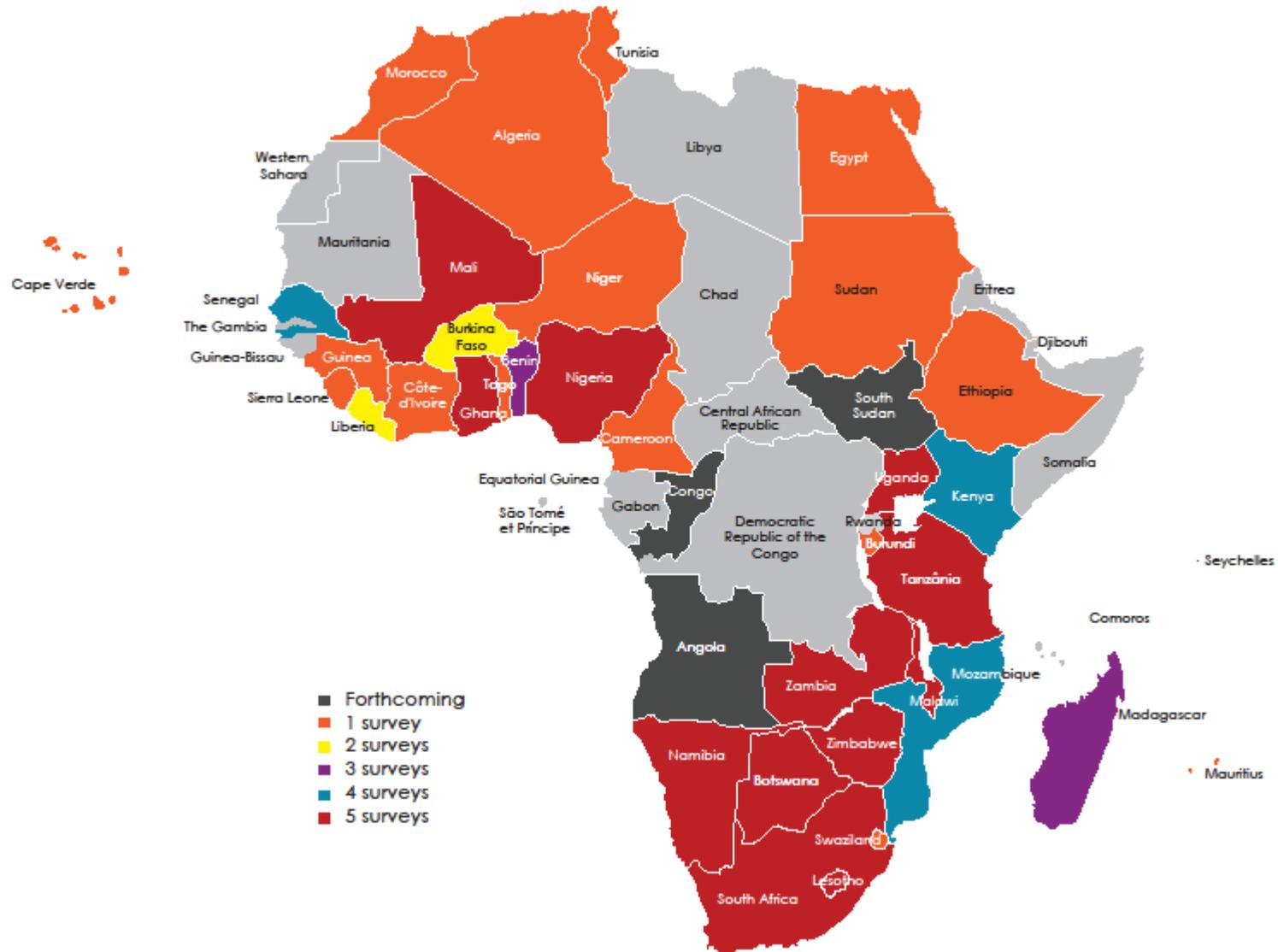
What is Afrobarometer?



- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, to cover more than 30 African countries in Round 6 (2014-2015).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policy making by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organisations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Tanzania, the Round 6 survey was conducted by REPOA.



Where Afrobarometer works



Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal and known* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Tanzania of 2,386 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in Tanzania was conducted between 26 August and 29 September 2014.



Economic growth and service delivery in Tanzania

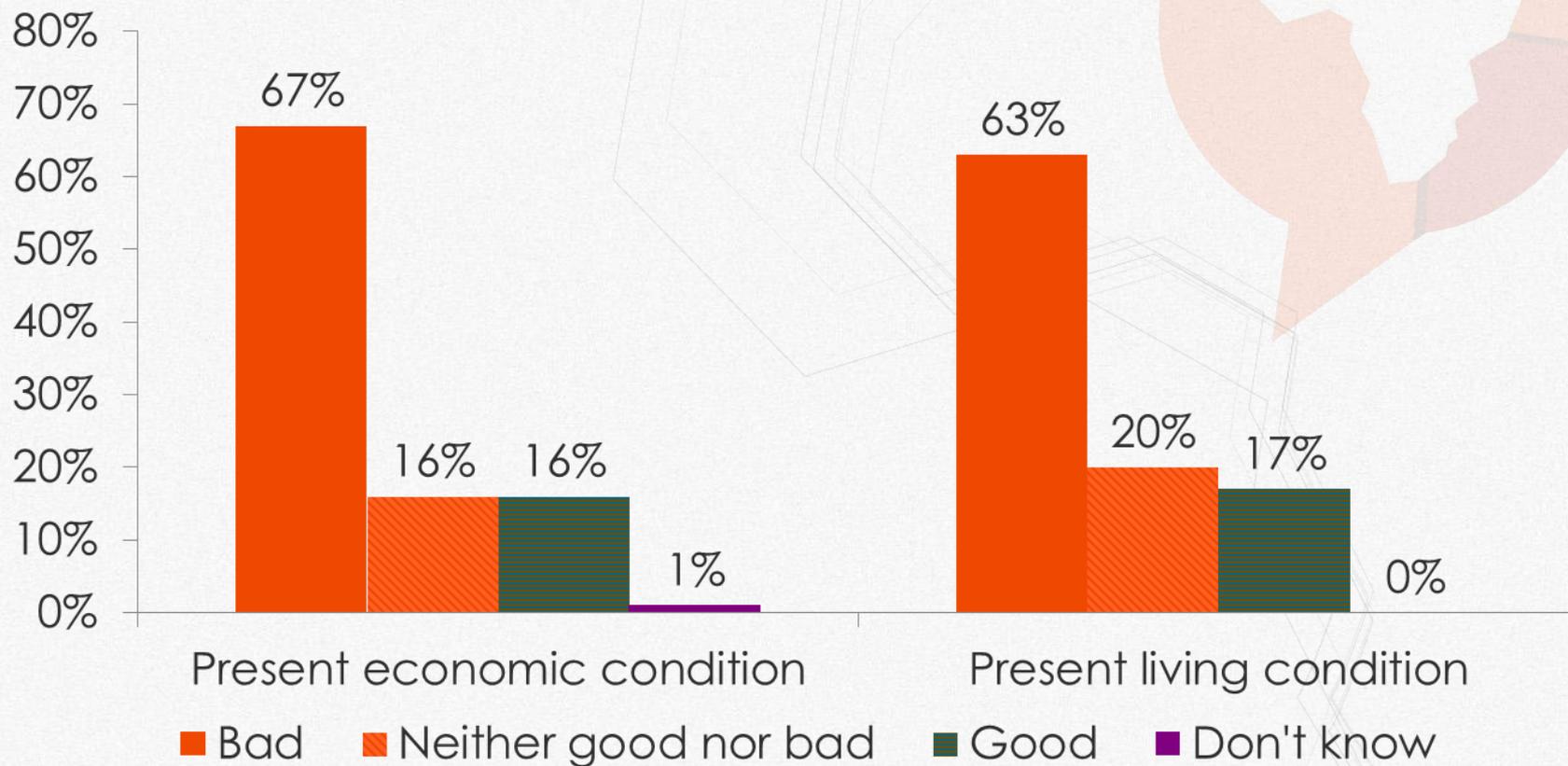
Key findings

- Despite economic growth of more than 6% for the past decade, 7 out of 10 Tanzanians are unhappy with present economic and living conditions.
- Perception on economic condition overtime shows that the situation has worsened
 - Those saying economic condition is bad increased from 42% in 2003 to 67% in 2014.

Key findings (cont)

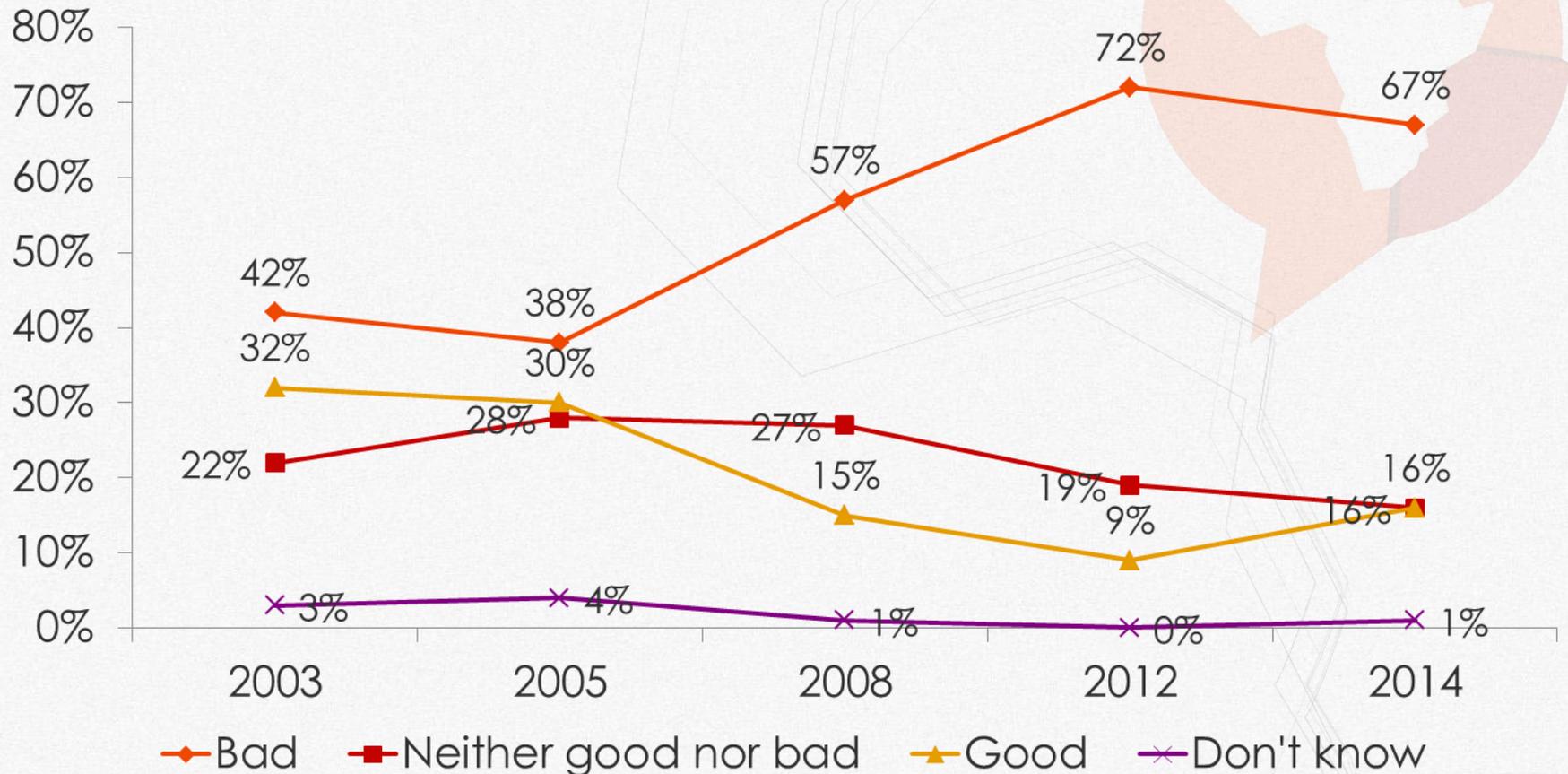
- Low level of satisfaction with government performance in social services by Tanzanians
 - Only 4 in 10 satisfied with delivering of water
 - Only 5 in 10 satisfied with education and health services
- Satisfaction deteriorated overtime
 - Those with positive perception decreased from 46% in 2003 to 41% in 2014 for health
 - For education decreased from 76% in 2003 to 51% in 2014
 - For Health decreased from 70% in 2003 to 46% in 2014

Present economic and living condition of Tanzanians



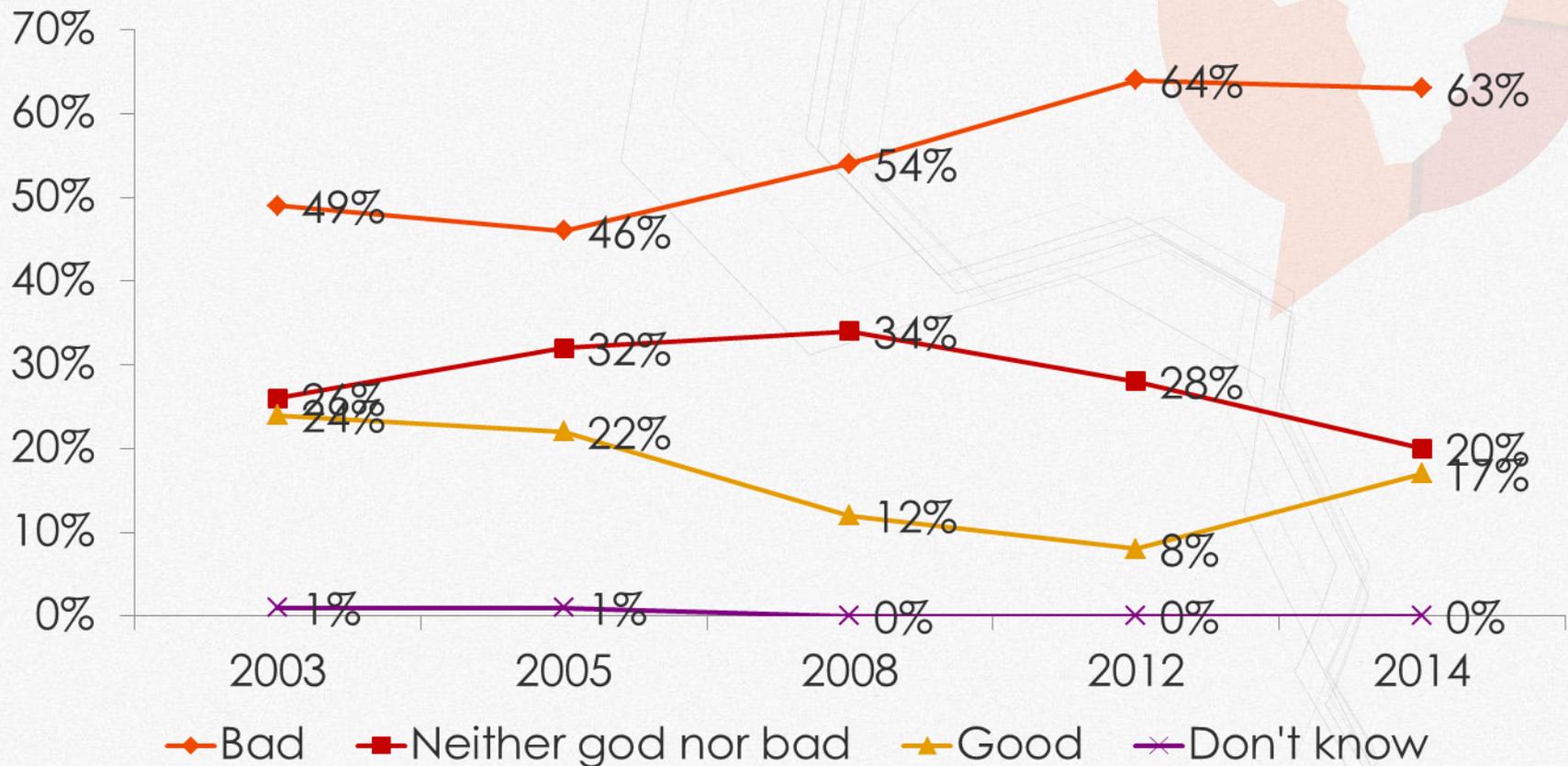
Respondents were asked: 1. In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country? 2. In general, how would you describe your own present living conditions? ("Bad"="very bad" or "fairly bad"; "good"="very good" or "fairly good")

Perceptions of economic condition over time



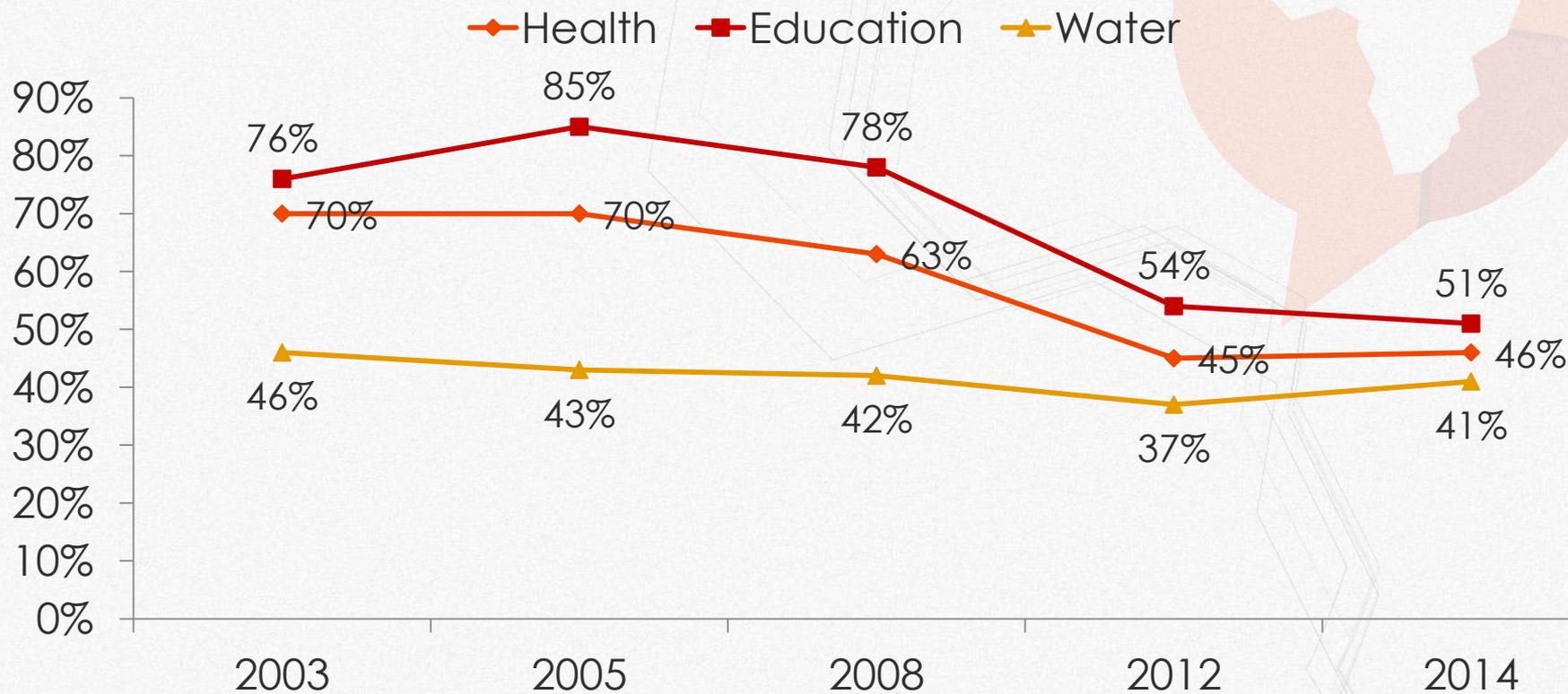
Respondents were asked: *In general, how would you describe the economic condition of this country? ("Bad"="very bad" or "fairly bad"; "good"="very good" or "fairly good")*

Perceptions of present living condition over time



Respondents were asked: *In general, how would you describe your own present living conditions? ("Bad"="very bad" or "fairly bad"; "good"="very good" or "fairly good")*

Government management of social service delivery overtime



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: [Providing water and sanitation services?; Addressing educational needs?; Improving basic health services?] (% who said "very well" or "fairly well")

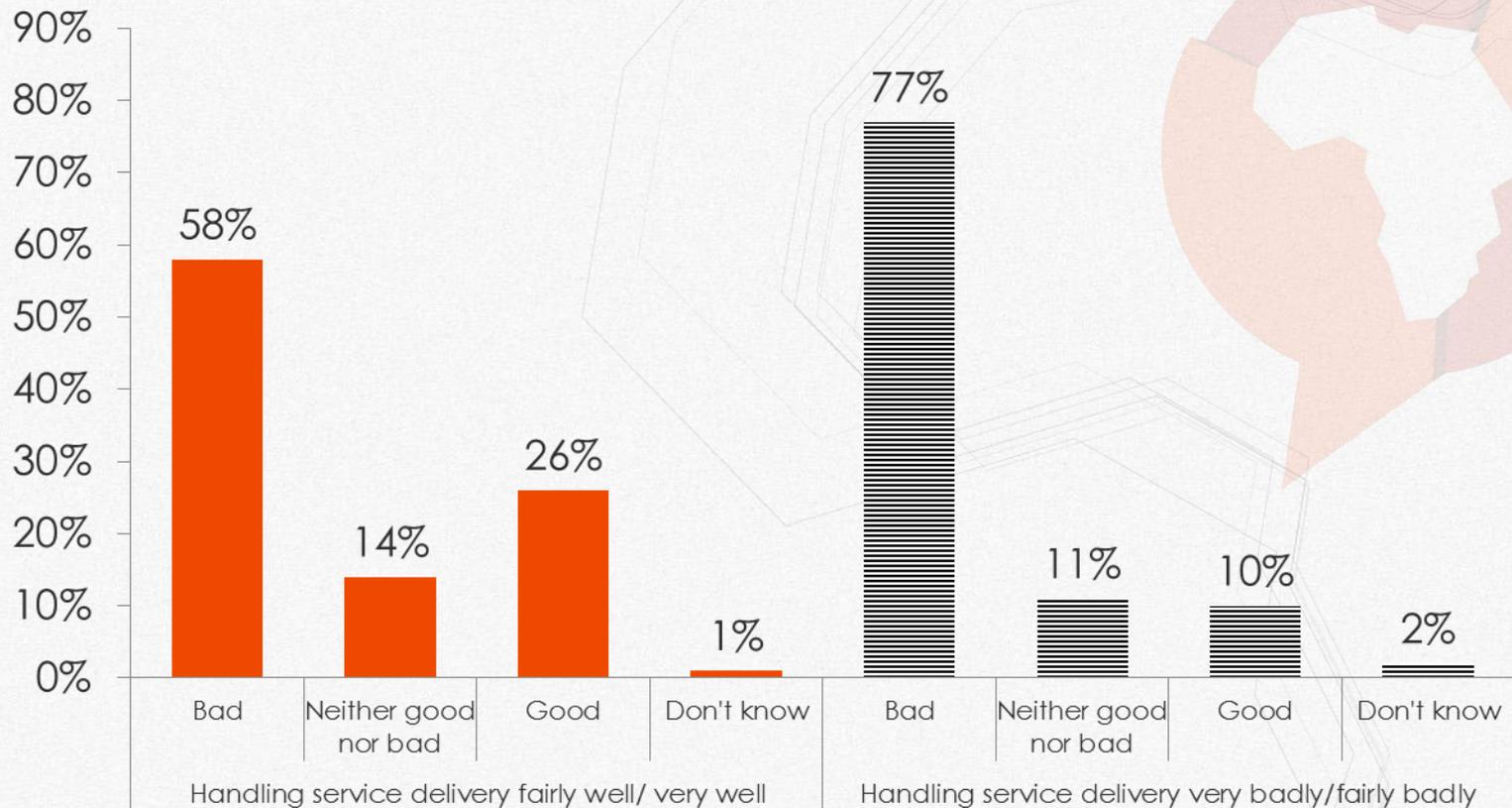


Is there a relationship between perceived poor economic condition and poor government delivery of services?

Key findings

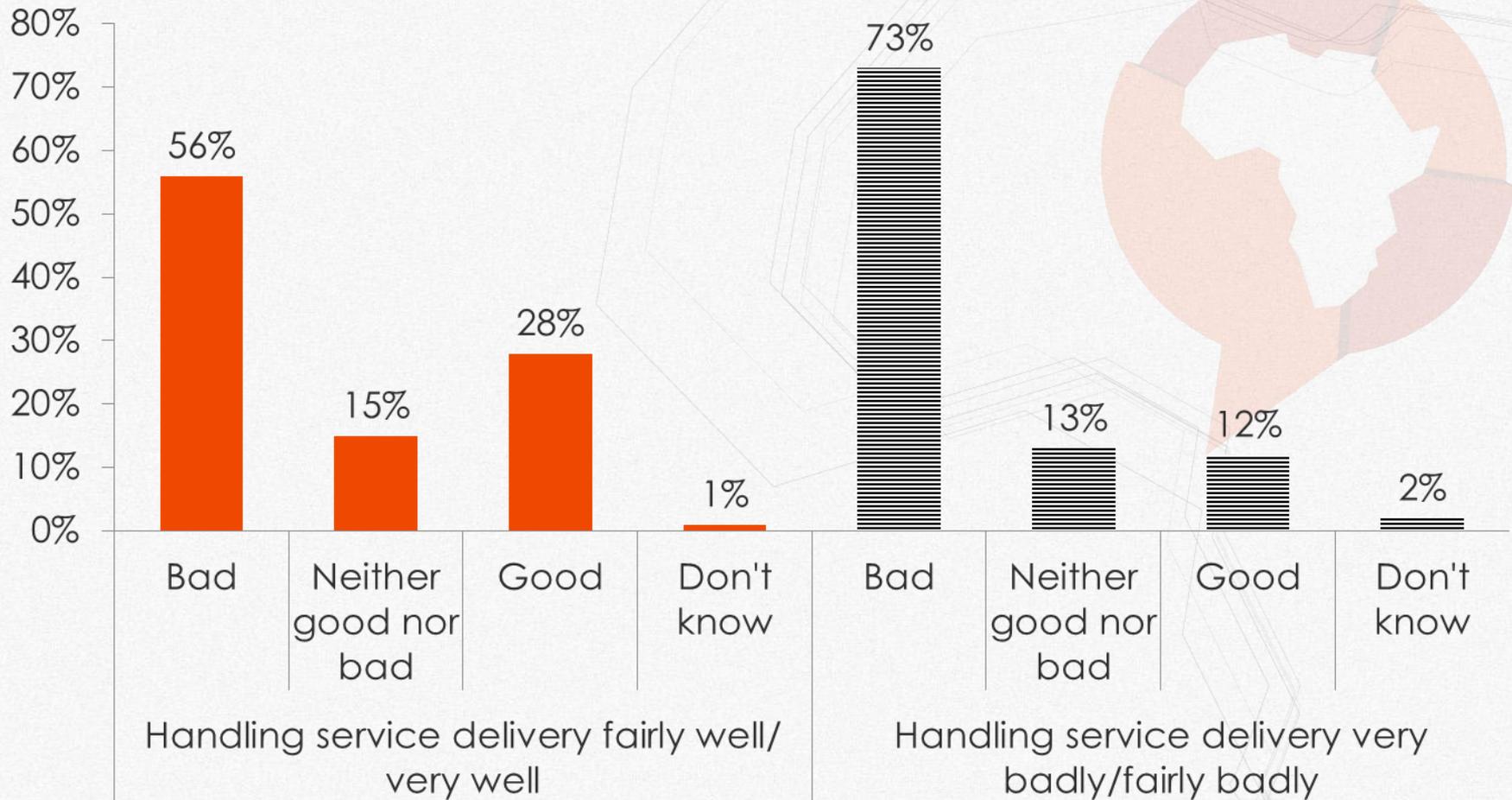
- Strong correlation between bad assessment of economic condition and poor assessment of government service delivery
- Strength of correlation cuts across all three sectors.
 - 7 in 10 Tanzanians with opinions that government performs badly in water and education perceive that current economic condition is bad.
 - Corresponding figure for health is 8 in 10 Tanzanians

Perception of country's current economic condition



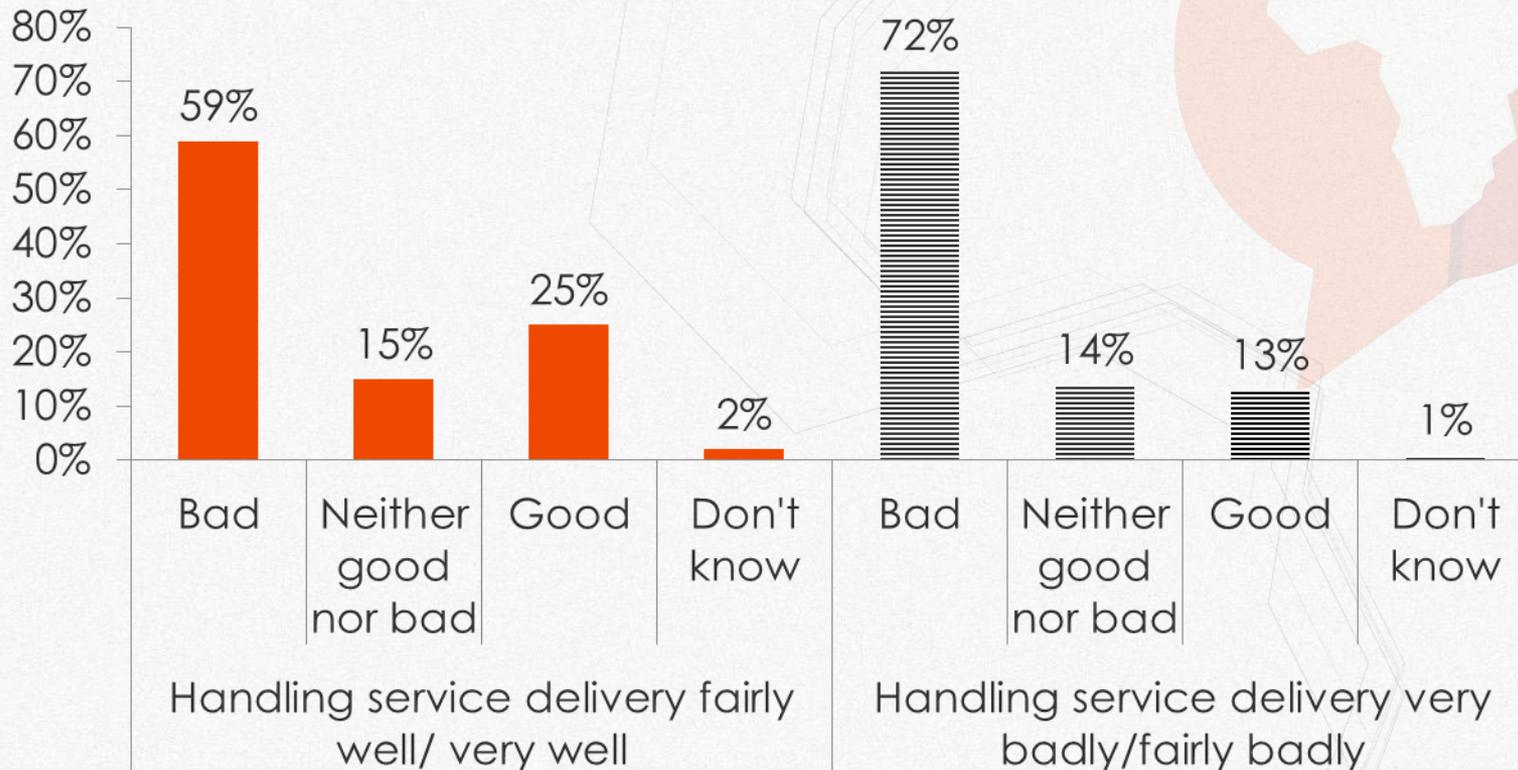
Respondents were asked: 1. How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Providing health services? 2. In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country? (% among those who said government is handling services "very badly" or "fairly badly" and "very badly" or "fairly badly")

Perception of country's current economic condition



Respondents were asked: 1. How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Providing educational needs? 2. In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country? (% among those who said government is handling services "very badly" or "fairly badly" and "very badly" or "fairly badly")

Perception of country's current economic condition



Respondents were asked: 1. How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Providing water and sanitation services 2. In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country? (% among those who said government is handling services "very badly" or "fairly badly" and "very badly" or "fairly badly")



Does poor government performance in social services delivery increase dissatisfaction in economic condition?

Approach

- We use linear regression analysis to test this relationship
- Satisfaction in economic condition is regressed against government delivery of social services.
- Governance variables that may affect perception on economic conditions are also included

Key findings

- Satisfaction with social service delivery accounts significantly on positive assessment of economic condition
 - 1% increase in satisfaction in service delivery increase positive rating of economic condition by between 6% and 10%
 - Health 10%
 - Education 8%
 - Water 6%

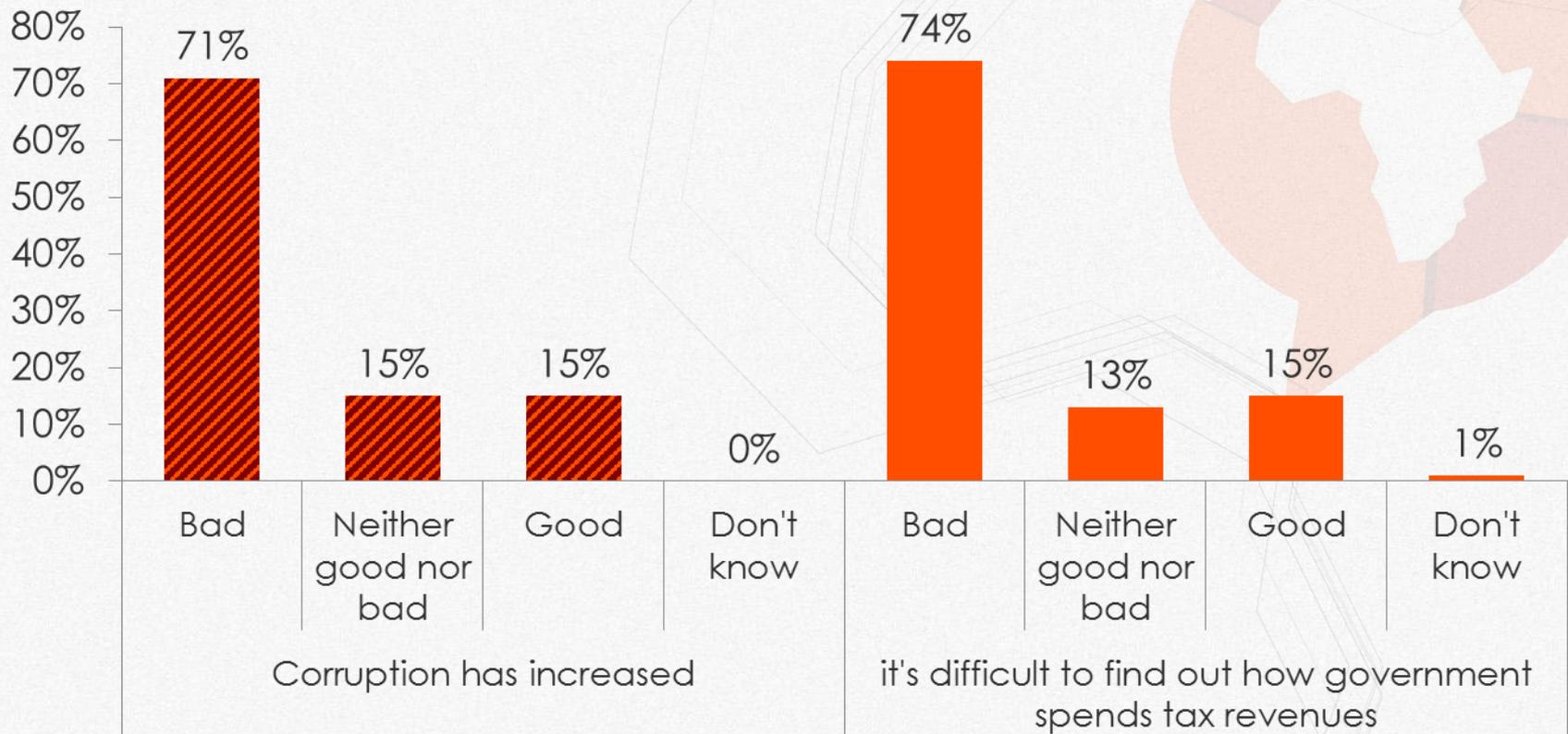
Key findings (cont)

- Also, good governance increases citizen's satisfaction with economic condition
 - Percentage decrease in perceived corruption increase satisfaction with economic condition by between 4% and 5%
 - Percentage decrease in perceived openness in the way government spends revenues from taxes decreases satisfaction with economic condition by between 7% and 8%
 - Increased interaction with political party officials increases satisfaction with economic condition by between 8% and 9%

Regression of “satisfaction with economic condition on performance in social service delivery”

Dependent variable: Current economic condition of the country	Model I	Model II	Model III
Satisfied with health services	0.10***		
Satisfied with education services		0.08***	
Satisfied with water services			0.06***
Current living condition	0.68***	0.76***	0.65***
Tax compliance	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03
Attendance in community meetings	0.02	0.01	0.02
Had contact with local councillor	-0.04	-0.04	-0.05
Had contact with local MP	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Had contact with central government official	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Had contact with political party official	0.09**	0.09***	0.08***
Request government action when dissatisfied	-0.04	-0.03	-0.04
Citizens hold government accountable	-0.01	-0.01	0.01
Level of corruption decreases	0.04*	0.05**	0.04**
Difficulty finding out how tax revenue is spent	-0.07**	-0.08***	0.08***
Level of education	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02
Constant	0.64***	0.69***	0.73***

Current economic condition and good governance



1. In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country? ("Bad"="very bad" or "fairly bad"; "good"="very good" or fairly good")
2. . In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same? (Corruption has increased = "increased a lot" or "increased somewhat")
3. Based on your experience, how easy or difficult is it to do each of the following? To find out how the Government spends revenues from people's taxes and fees (Difficult to understand = "difficult" or "very difficult")



Conclusions

- Recent economic growth does not seem to have improved the life of a common Tanzanian.
- While majority of Tanzanians have opinions that the current economic condition is bad mainly because of their living condition, poor performance in the social services also accounts for a significant part of this perception.
- In addition, increased perception of corruption and lack of openness in the government expenditure contribute significantly to dissatisfaction with economic condition.
- For government to win its citizens' confidence, it should concentrate on improving service delivery, address corruption and other governance elements in the short term.



Thank you

