



Chinese engagement in Tanzania: Is it considered positive or negative by Tanzanians?

Findings from the Afrobarometer Round 6 Survey in Tanzania



At a glance

- In general, Tanzanians have a favourable perception of China.
- Tanzanians believe that China's economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive.
- Tanzanians perceive China as having more influence on Tanzania than the USA, UK, India and South Africa or international organisations such as the UN or the World Bank.
- More Tanzanians prefer China as a model for Tanzania's development over the USA, UK, India or South Africa.

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.
- National partner in each country conducts the survey. In Tanzania, Round 6 survey was conducted by REPOA.



Where Afrobarometer works

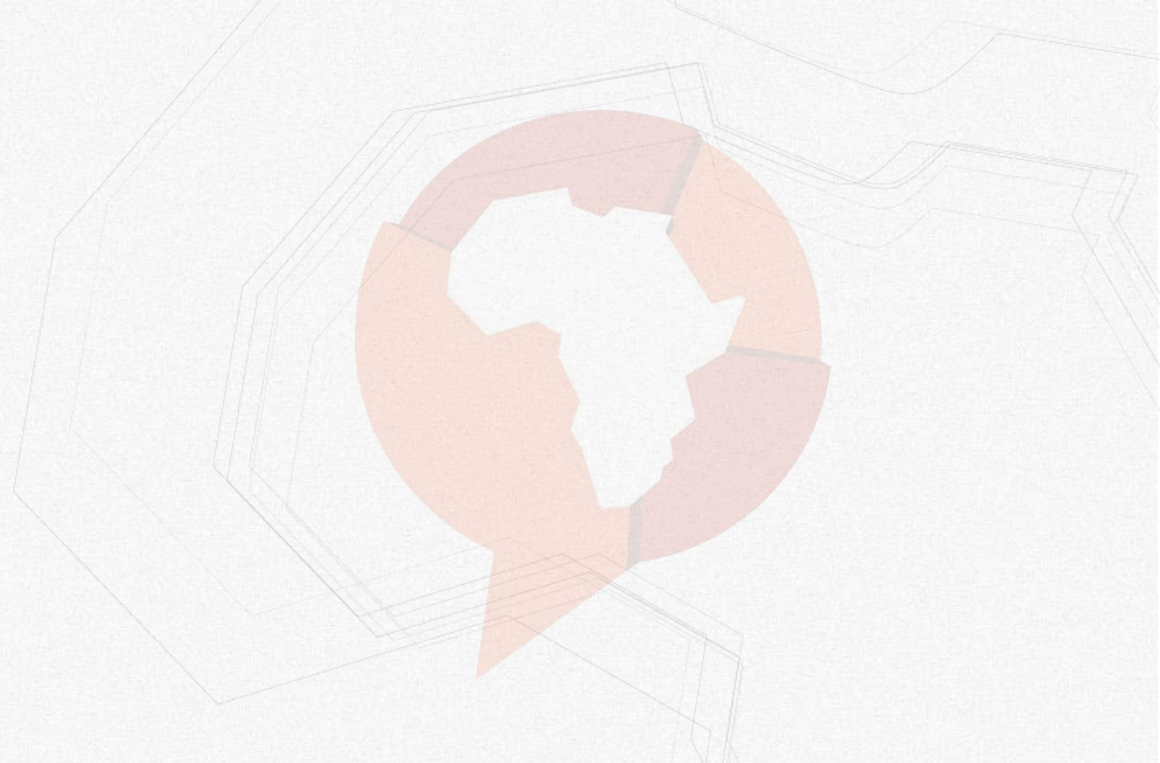


Methodology



- 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.





Tanzanians' perceptions of China

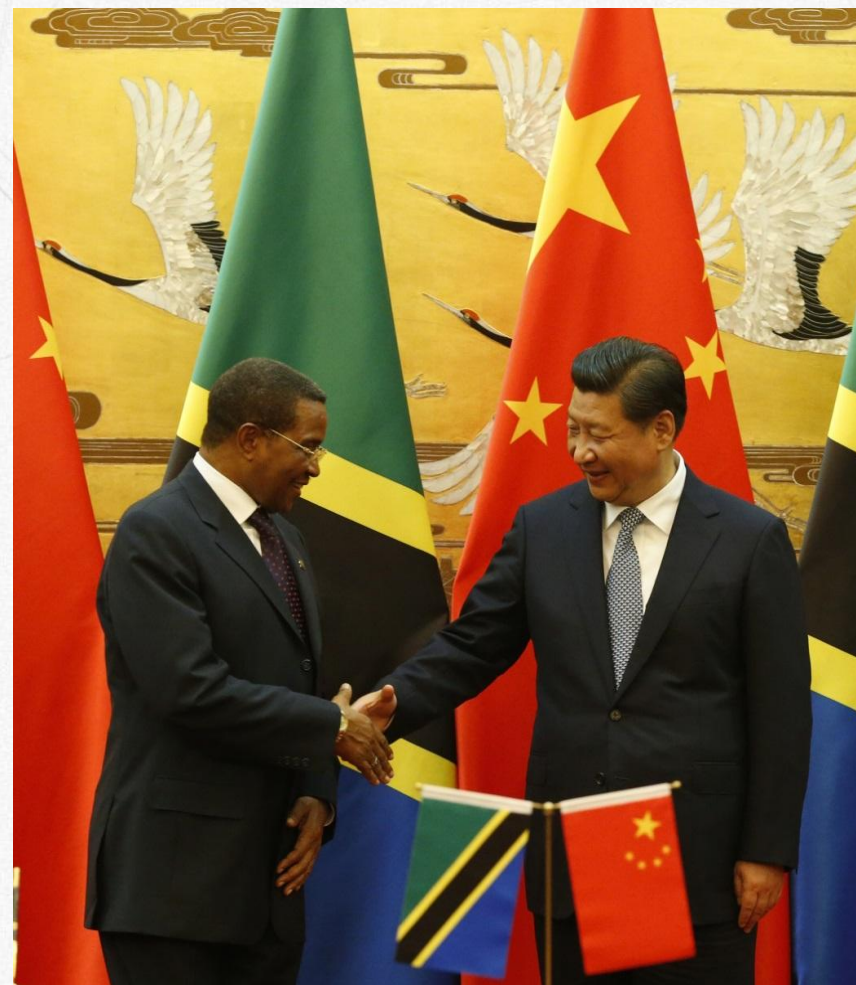
Background and context

- Good bilateral relations dating back to early years of Tanzania's independence.
- Similar ideological philosophies (socialism) promoting egalitarian societies.
- China's exponential growth and changing global role, also the changing dynamics of China-Tanzania relations.

Historical relationship



**Nyerere and Mao in 1965
(above) and Kikwete and Xi in
2013**



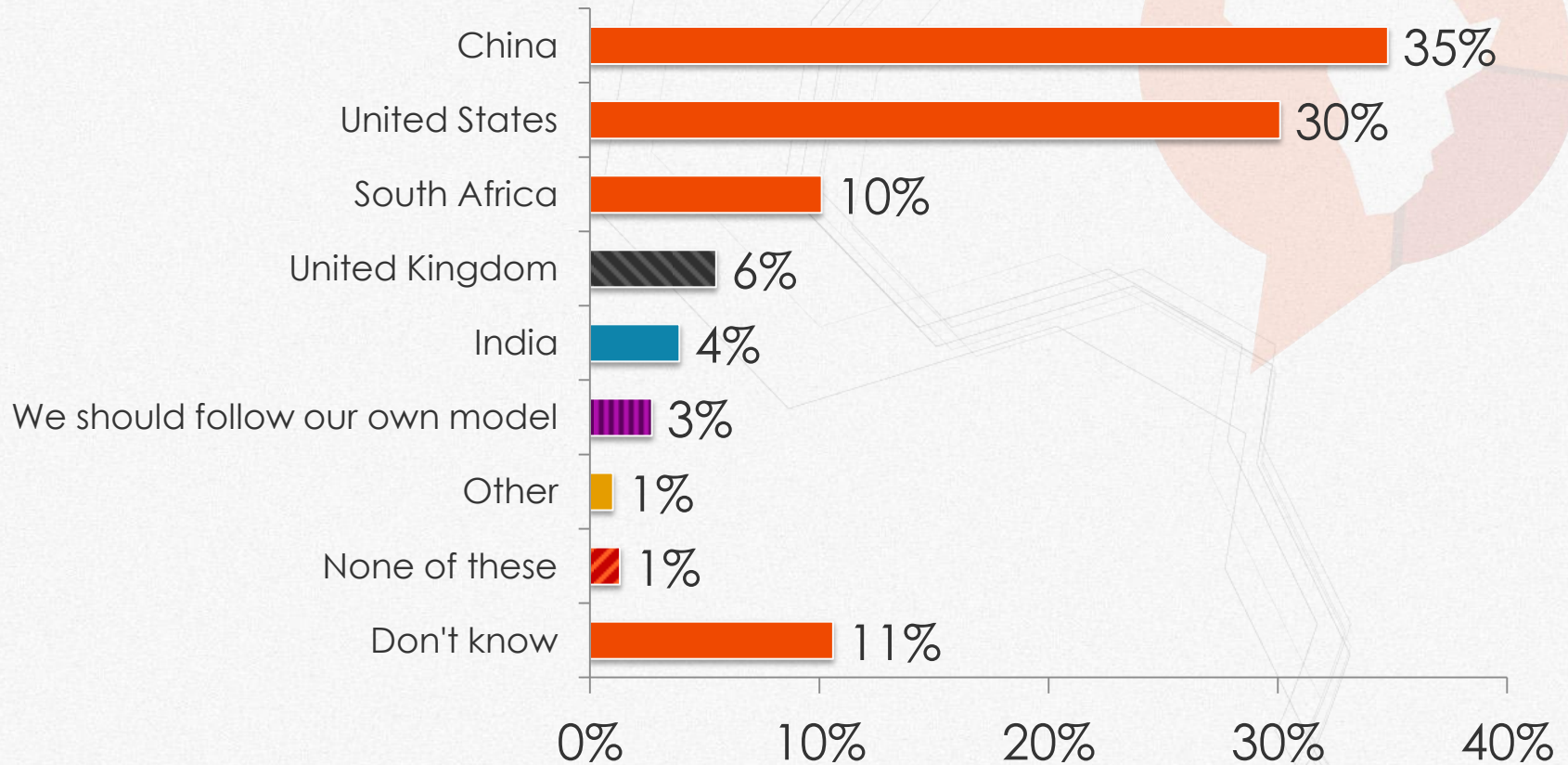
Key legacy

- **TAZARA, the Tanzania-Zambia Railway**
 - Longest railway in sub-Saharan Africa, completed in 1975
 - Costing US \$500M, it was the largest foreign-aid project undertaken by China at the time.

Key findings

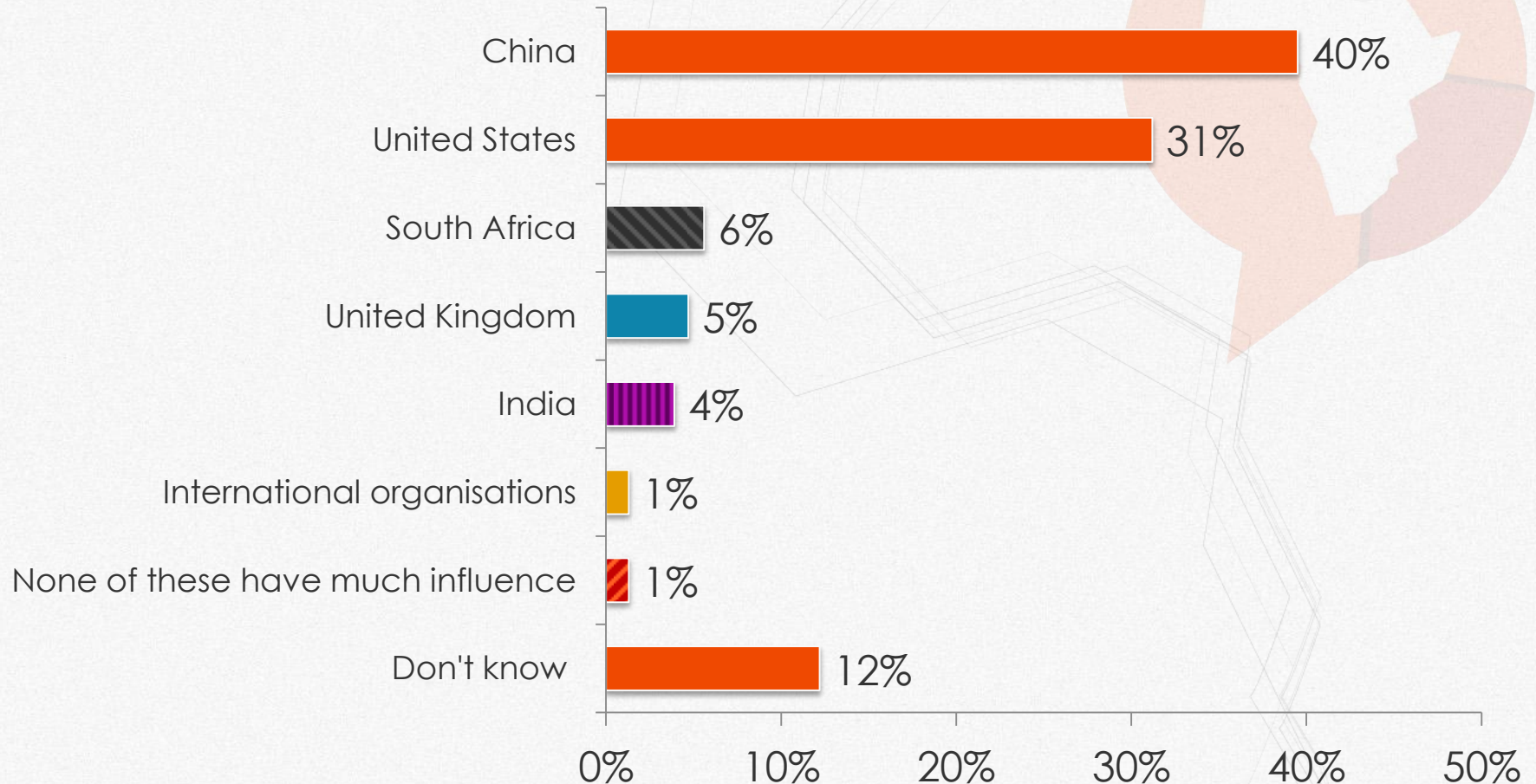
- More Tanzanians choose China over the USA, UK, India or South Africa as the best model for future development of their country.
- Tanzanians say China has more influence on Tanzania than the USA, UK, India and South Africa, or international organisations such as the UN or the World Bank.
- A majority of Tanzanians say China's economic activities in Tanzania have "some" or "a lot" of influence on the Tanzanian economy.
- About half of all respondents say China's economic development assistance does "somewhat of a good job" or "a very good job" of meeting Tanzania's needs.

China as a model for development



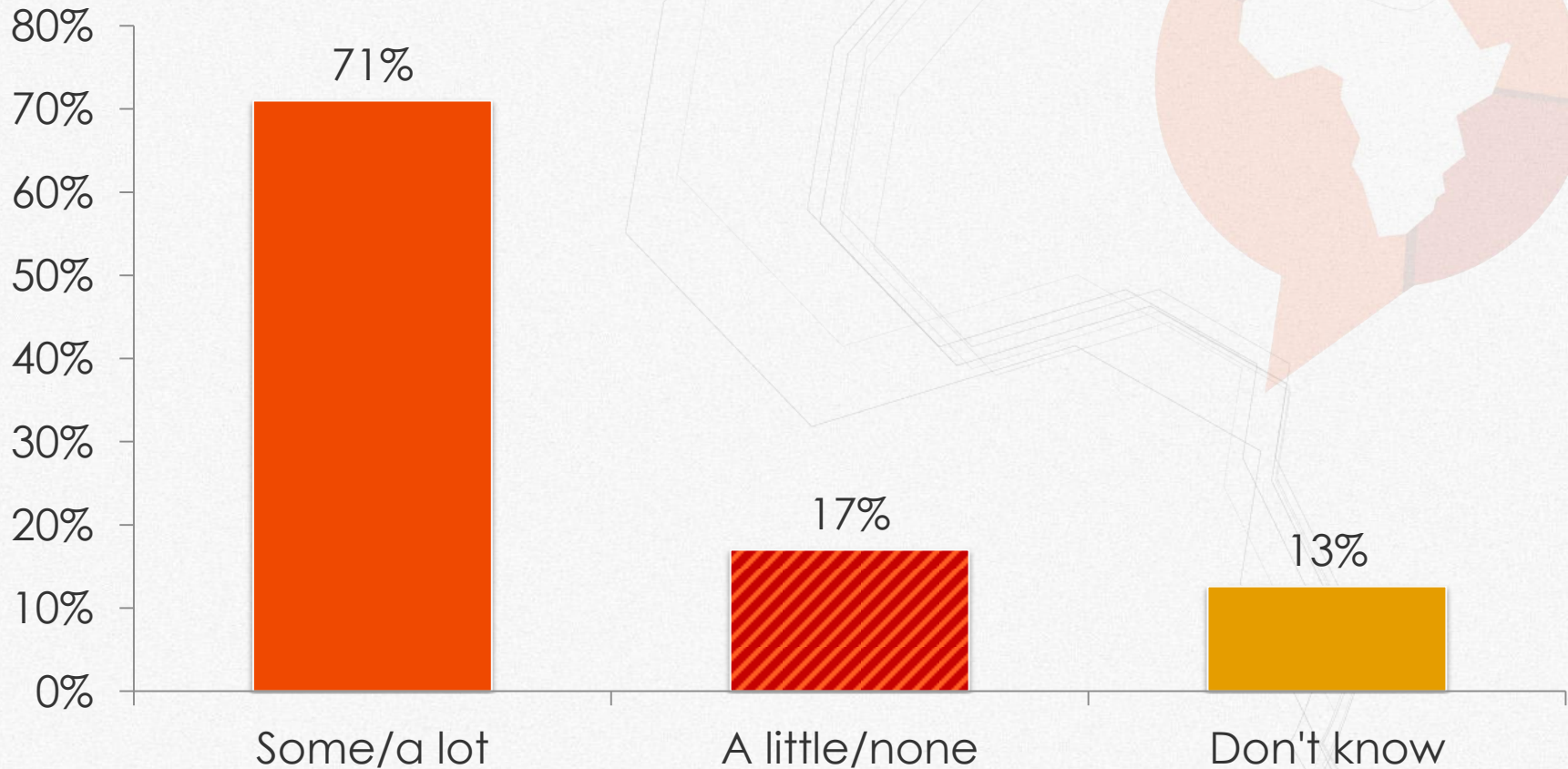
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for future development of our country?*

Most influential country or entity



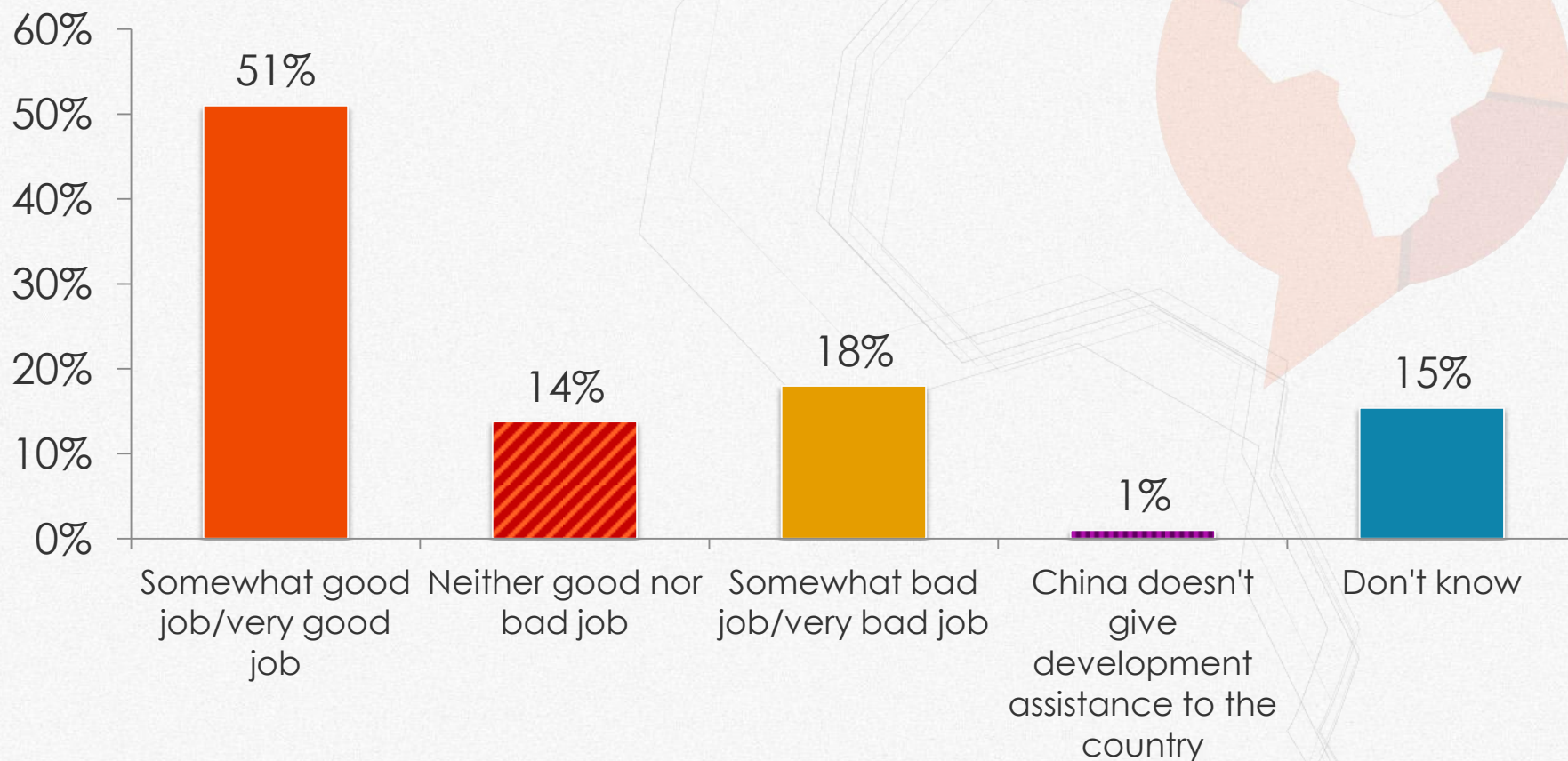
Respondents were asked: Which of the following do you think has the most influence on Tanzania, or haven't you heard enough to say?

China's influence on Tanzania's economy



Respondents were asked: *How much influence do you think China's economic activities in Tanzania have on our economy, or haven't you heard enough to say?*

Does China's assistance meet Tanzania's needs?



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, does China's economic development assistance to Tanzania do a good job or a bad job of meeting the country's needs, or haven't you heard enough to say?*

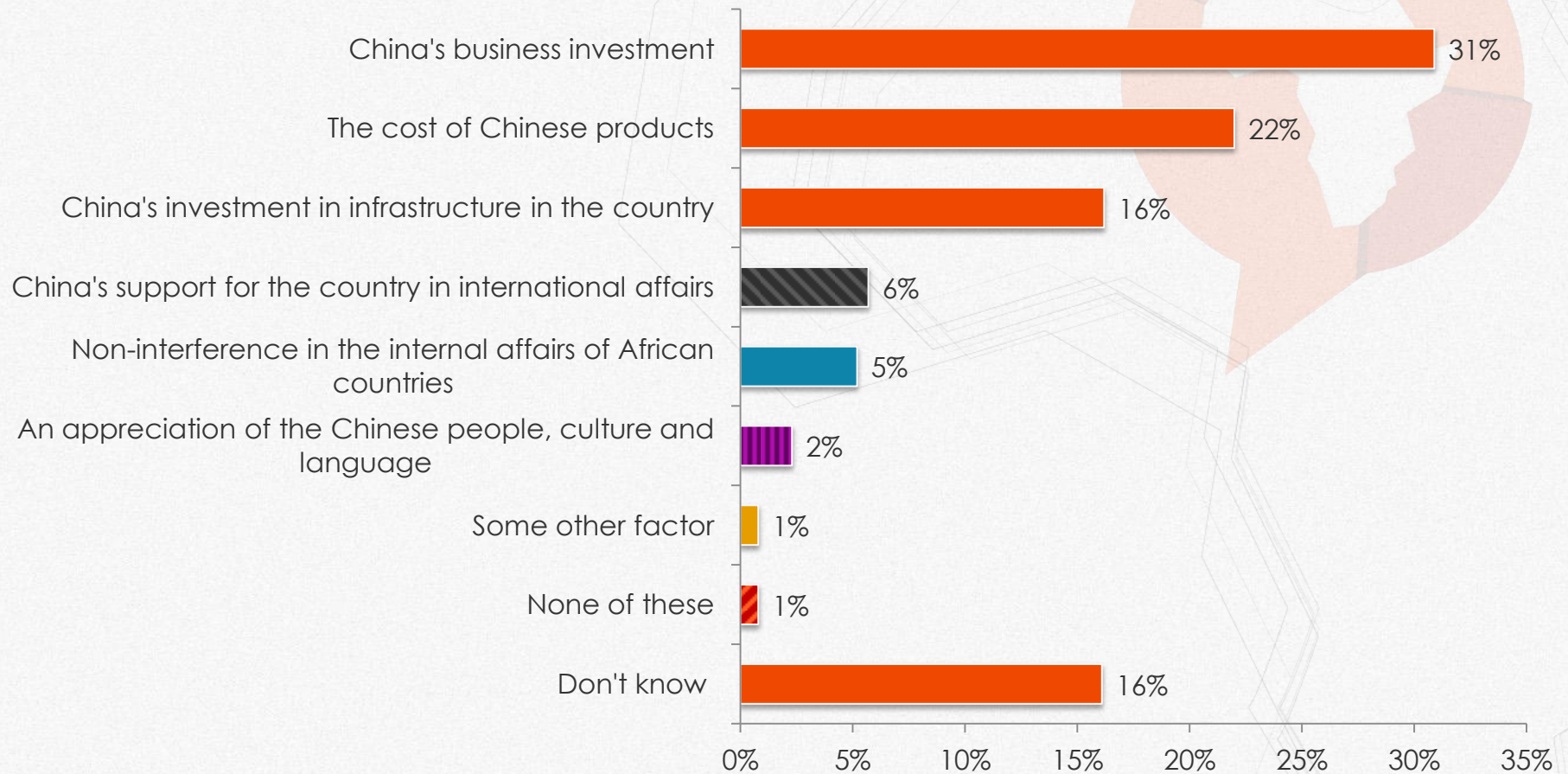


What shapes Tanzanians' image of China?

Key findings

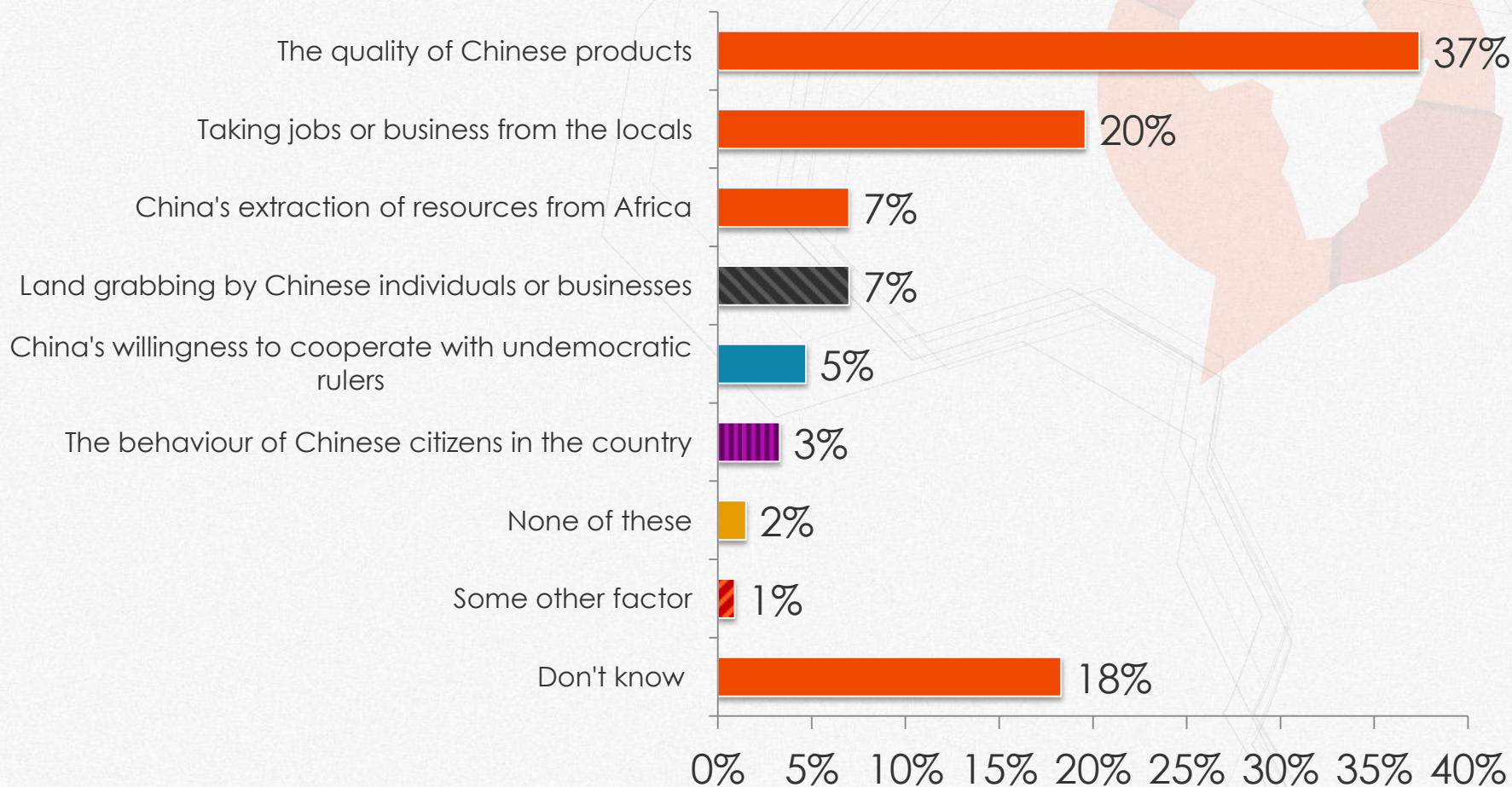
- Factors that contribute most to a positive image of China in Tanzania:
 - Chinese business investments in Tanzania
 - The cost of Chinese products
 - China's investment in infrastructure in Tanzania
- Factors that contribute most to a negative image of China in Tanzania:
 - The quality of Chinese products
 - Chinese economic activities taking jobs or business from the locals

Factors that contribute to a positive image of China



Respondents were asked: Which of the following factors contributes most to a positive image of China in Tanzania, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Factors that contribute most to a negative image of China



Respondents were asked: Which of the following factors contributes most to a negative image of China in Tanzania, or haven't you heard enough to say?

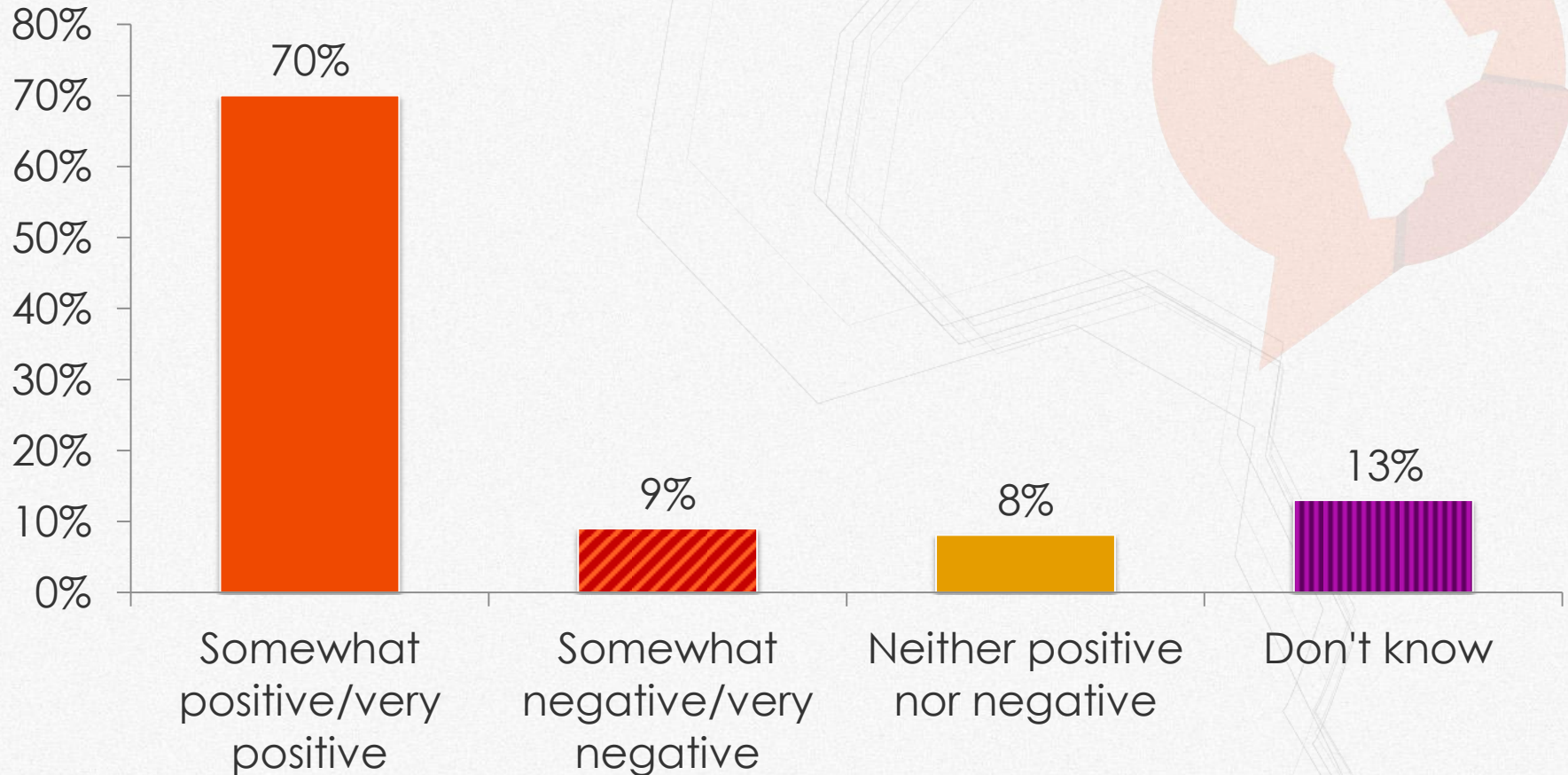


China's influence: Positive or negative?

Key findings

- Seven in 10 Tanzanians (70%) say China's economic and political influence on Tanzania is "somewhat positive" or "very positive."
- Positive perceptions of China's influence are somewhat less strong, though still in the majority, among:
 - Less educated Tanzanians
 - Older citizens (65 years and older)
 - Rural residents
 - Women

China's influence: Positive or negative?



Respondents were asked: *In general, do you think that China's economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive, or mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say?*

Perceptions of China's influence by education level

	Primary or Less	Secondary/ High School	Post-secondary and Above	Total
Somewhat positive/very positive	67%	81%	81%	70%
Somewhat negative/very negative	9%	7%	12%	9%
Neither positive nor negative	9%	7%	6%	8%
Don't know	16%	5%	1%	13%

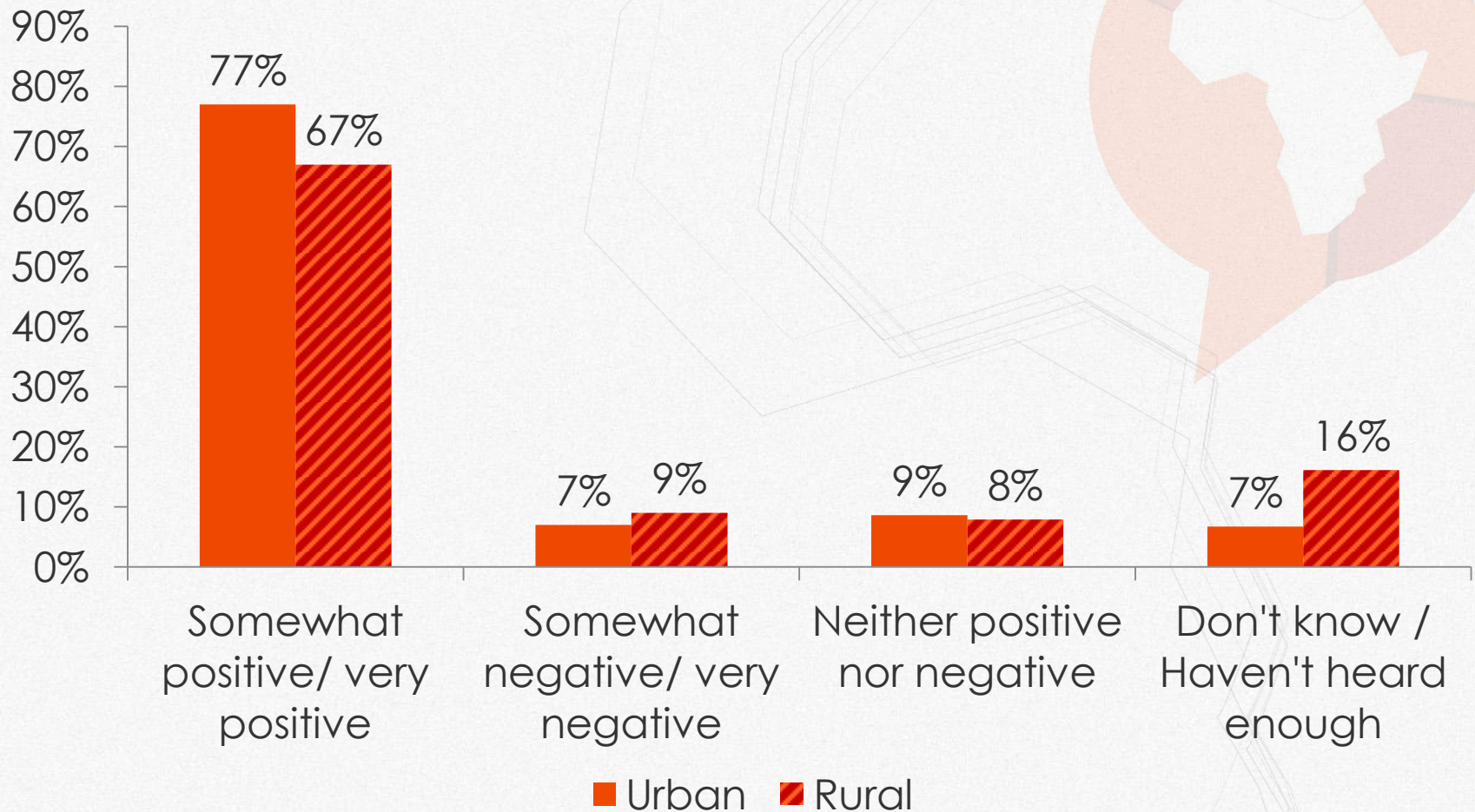
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Perceptions of China's influence by age group

	18 - 40	41 - 64	65 - Above	Total
Somewhat positive/very positive	71%	72%	61%	71%
Somewhat negative/very negative	9%	8%	12%	9%
Neither positive nor negative	7%	9%	15%	8%
Don't know	13%	12%	13%	13%

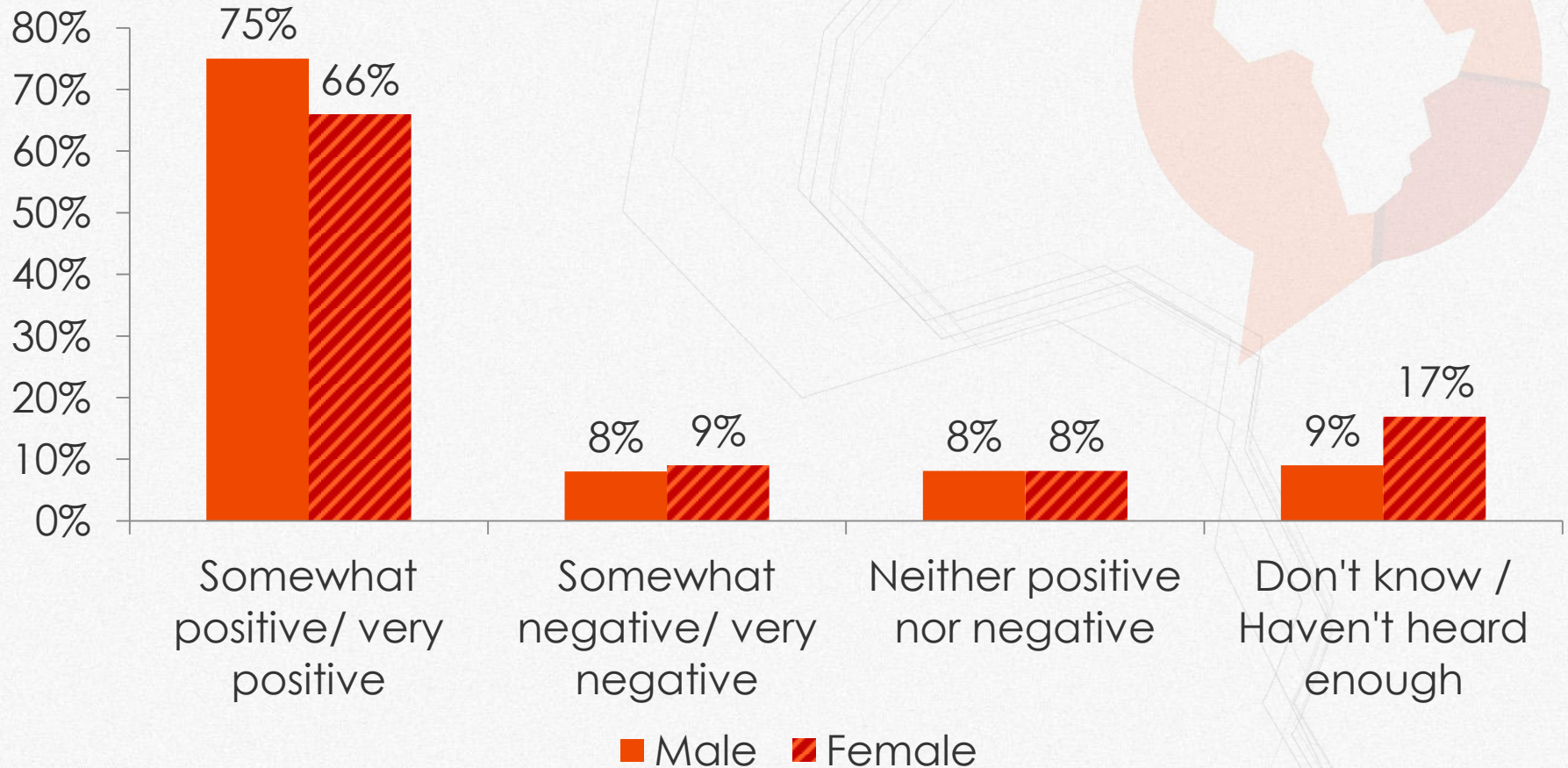
Respondents were asked: *In general, do you think that China's economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive, or mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say?*

Perceptions of China's influence by urban-rural residence



Respondents were asked: *In general, do you think that China's economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive, or mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say?*

Perceptions of China's influence by gender



Respondents were asked: *In general, do you think that China's economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive, or mostly negative, or haven't you heard enough to say?*



Conclusions

- Tanzanians have a positive attitude toward Chinese engagement in the country. China is the preferred model for Tanzania's development.
- About half of Tanzanians say that Chinese assistance does “somewhat of a good job” or “a very good” of meeting Tanzania's needs.
- Chinese business investments and investment in infrastructure are leading factors contributing to China's positive image in Tanzania.
- Chinese products contribute both positively (cost) and negatively (quality) to China's image in Tanzania.



Thank you
for your
attention.