

The Khana Group
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News release

Liberians approve of President George Weah but critical of government economic performance, survey shows

A majority of Liberians approve of President George Weah's performance since he assumed office in January 2018 but rate the government poorly on economic management, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

The president received the highest approval rating among political leaders in Liberia. A majority of citizens say he is doing a good job on national security, domestic policy, and foreign policy issues.

Citizens give the government a passing grade on providing infrastructure and basic services but failing marks for its economic performance and efforts to address the country's most important problems.

The survey was conducted in June, about the time that an alarming depreciation of the Liberian dollar resulted in price hikes and worsening economic conditions in the country.

Key findings

- A majority (56%) of Liberians "approve" or "strongly approve" of President Weah's job performance. His rating is the best among political leaders, followed by mayors (47%) and county superintendents (44%). Senators receive the lowest performance rating (39%) (see Figure 1).
- In specific key areas, a majority approve of the president's handling of national security issues (70%), domestic policy issues (57%), and foreign policy issues (55%) (Figure 2).
- About half or more of Liberians say government is performing "fairly well" or "very well" in addressing educational needs (59%), maintaining roads and bridges (52%), providing water and sanitation services (51%), and improving basic health services (49%) (Figure 3).
- However, only one-third (34%) of citizens say government is performing fairly or very well in managing the economy and creating jobs, and just one in 10 (12%) say it's doing a good job of keeping prices stable (Figure 4).
- The most important problems that Liberians want government to address are rates and taxes (55%), food shortage/famine (38%), and infrastructure/roads (38%) (Figure 5).
- Two-thirds (66%) of Liberians say government is addressing the most important problems "fairly badly" or "very badly" (Figure 6).

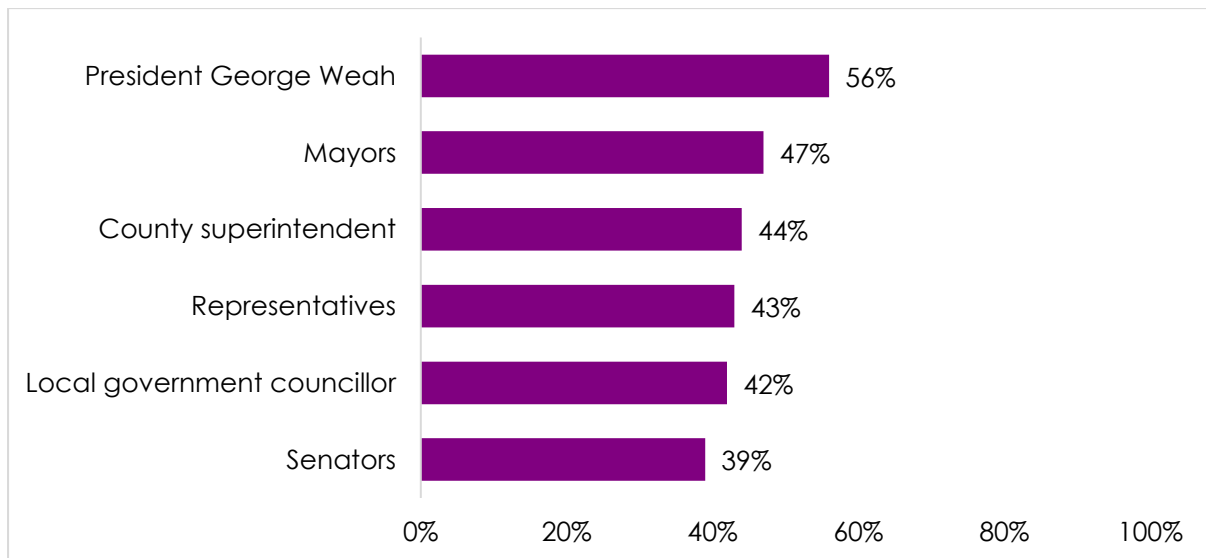
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 African countries between 1999 and 2015, and Round 7 surveys are being completed in 2018. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Liberia, led by The Khana Group, interviewed 1,200 adult Liberians in June 2018. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Liberia in 2008, 2012, and 2015.

Charts

Figure 1: Assessment of political leaders' performance | Liberia | 2018

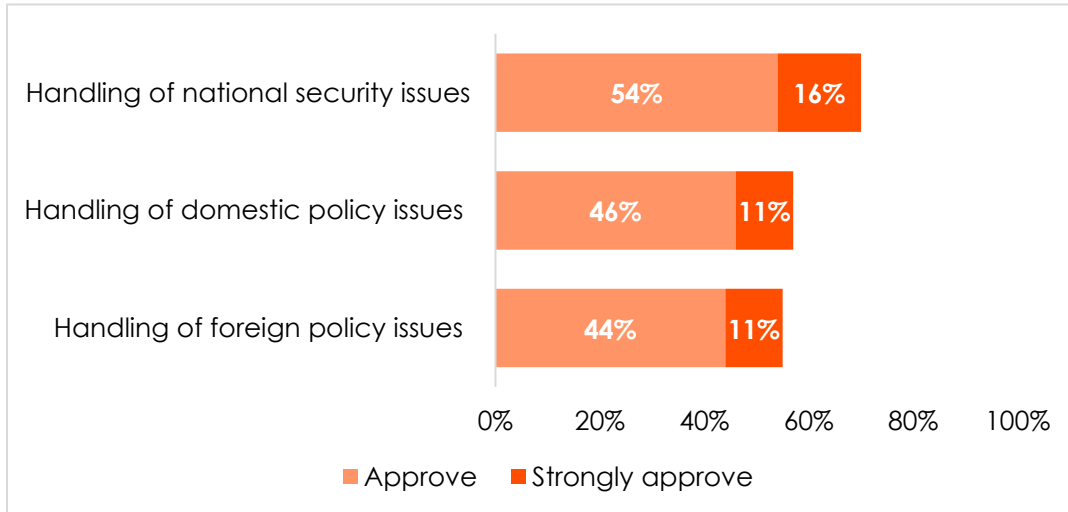


Respondents were asked:

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way that President George Weah has performed his job since he assumed office in January 2018, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or, if a new person was elected to the position in the last election in October 2017, do you approve or disapprove of the way they have performed since assuming office, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?"

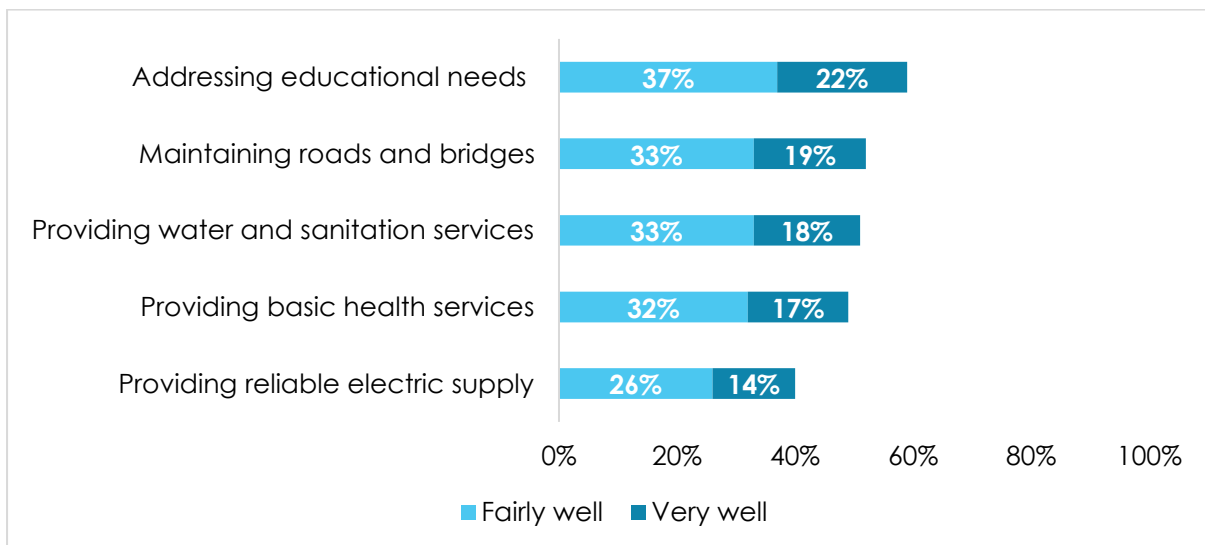
(% who "approve" or "strongly approve")

Figure 2: How well is the president handling security, domestic, foreign policy issues?
 | Liberia | 2018



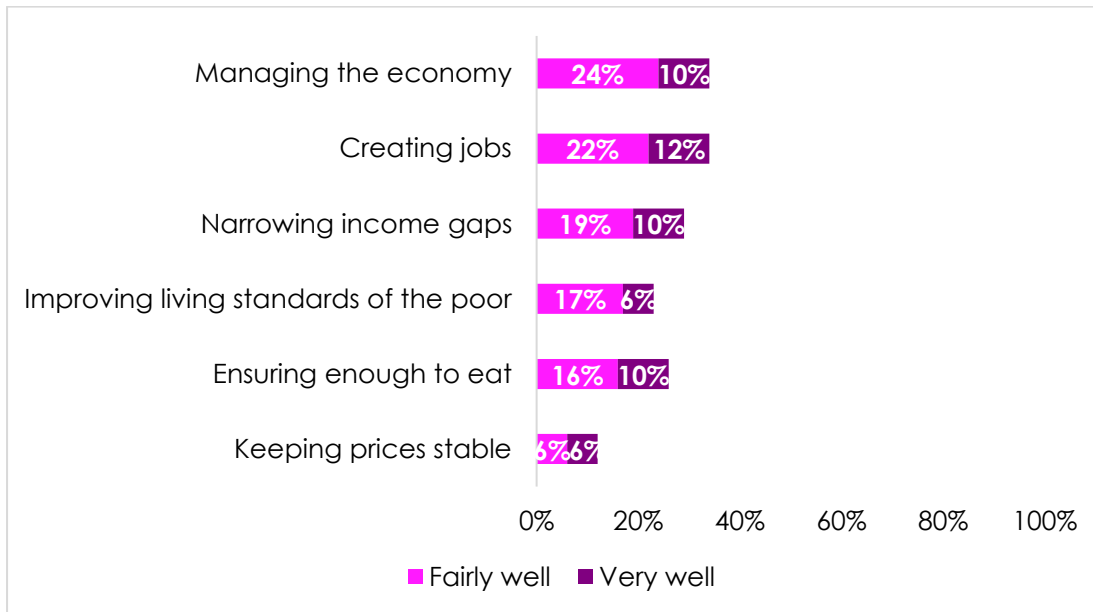
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way President George Weah is handling the following?

Figure 3: Government's performance in providing infrastructure and basic services
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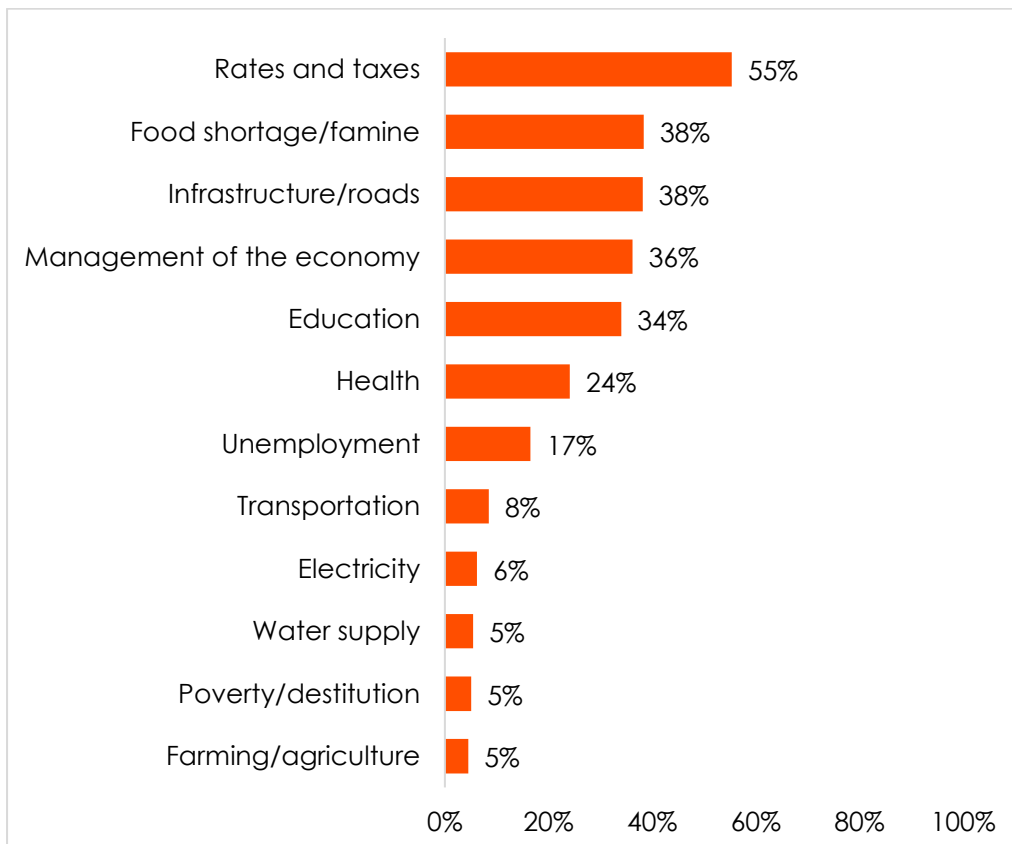
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Figure 4: Government's economic performance | Liberia | 2018



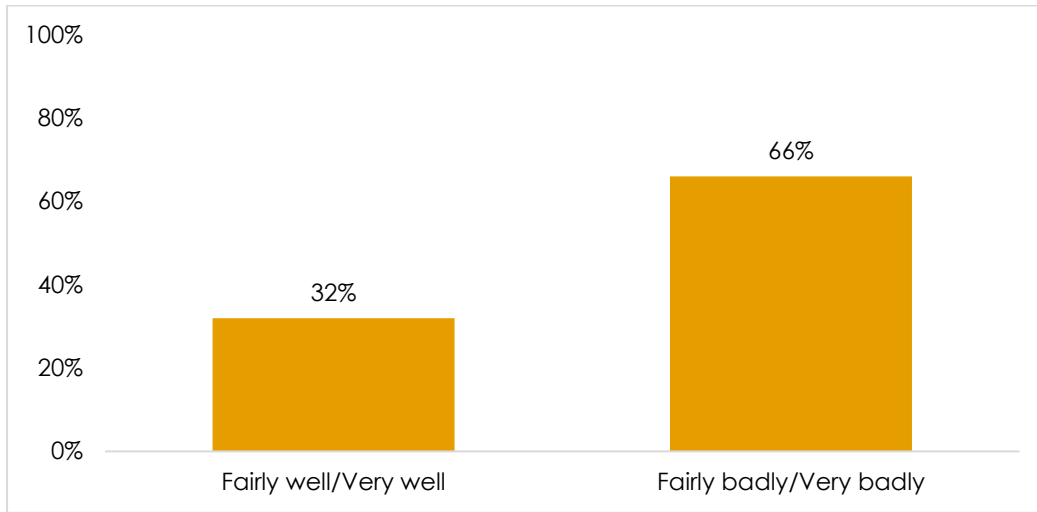
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Figure 5: Most important problem | Liberia | 2018



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Respondents were allowed up to three responses.)

Figure 6: Government's performance in handling most important problem | Liberia
| 2018



Respondents were asked: Thinking of the problem you mentioned first, in your opinion, how well or badly would you say the current government is handling this problem, or haven't you heard enough to say?

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