

Cape Town, South Africa
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News release

South Africans want housing more than land redistribution, Afrobarometer survey shows

Most South Africans say the government has a duty to provide adequate housing for people who cannot afford shelter, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Housing should take priority over land redistribution as a government priority, according to a large majority of citizens,

Housing ranks third among the most important problems that citizens want the government to address.

Frustrations over a lack of housing have found expression in recent protests in many communities across the country.

Key findings

- Housing ranks third among the most important national problems that South Africans want their government to address, trailing only unemployment and crime/security (Figure 1).
- An overwhelming majority (86%) of citizens say the government has a duty to provide adequate housing for South Africans who cannot afford shelter (Figure 2). More than half (55%) of respondents feel "strongly" about this issue.
- Three-fourths (76%) of South Africans say the government should prioritize the provision of adequate housing over land redistribution (Figure 3).
- If the government provides housing for citizens who cannot afford shelter, almost half (45%) of respondents say such housing should be built in rural areas. But even more would place such housing in or near central business districts (28%), on the outskirts of urban centers (11%), or in the suburbs (11%) (Figure 4).

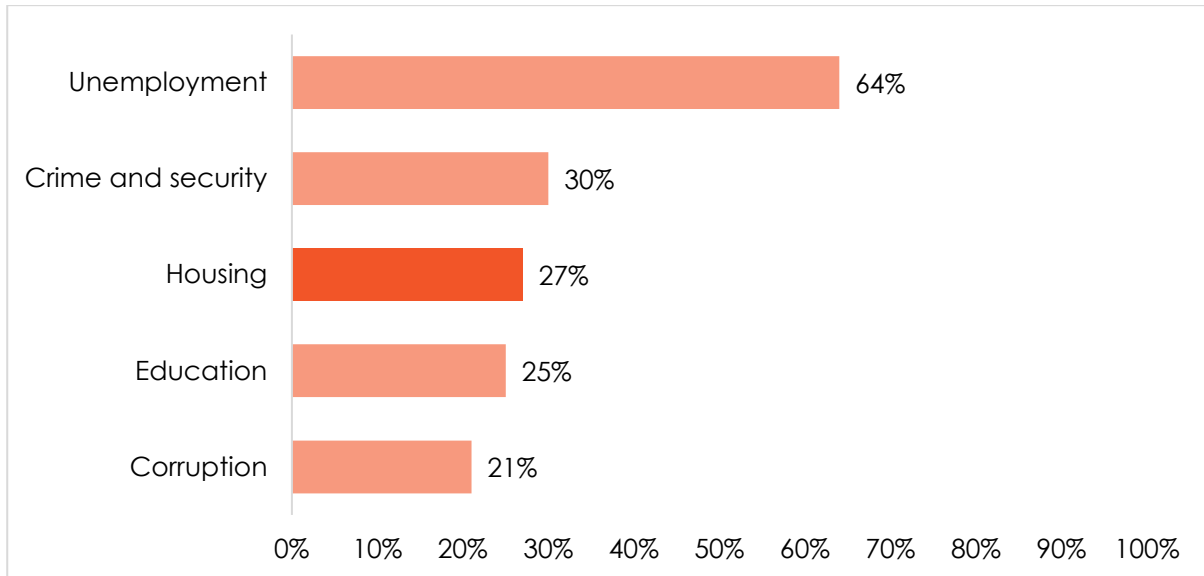
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2021 cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in South Africa, led by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and Plus 94 Research, interviewed 1,600 adult South Africans in May-June 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2.5 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in South Africa in 2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2015, and 2018.

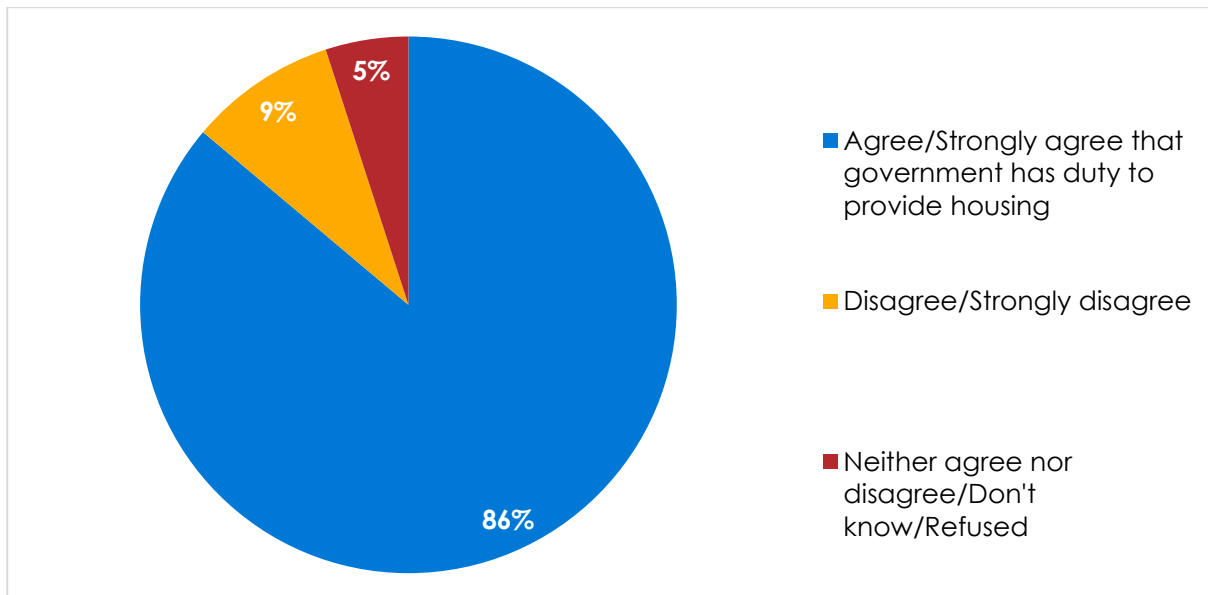
Charts

Figure 1: Most important problems | South Africa | 2021



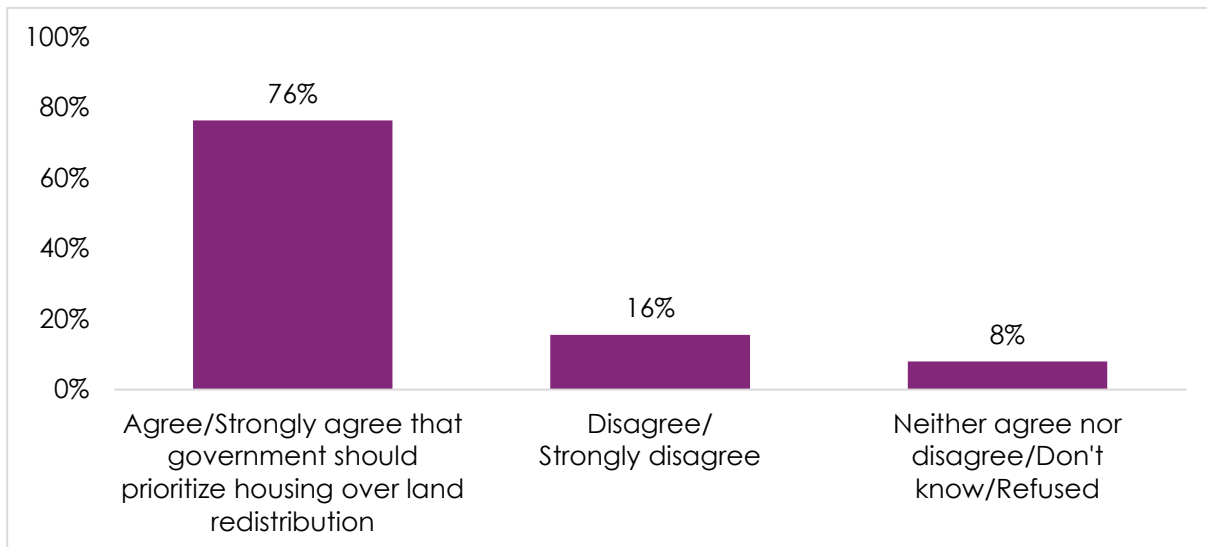
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Note: Up to three answers per respondent)*

Figure 2: Government duty to provide adequate housing | South Africa | 2021



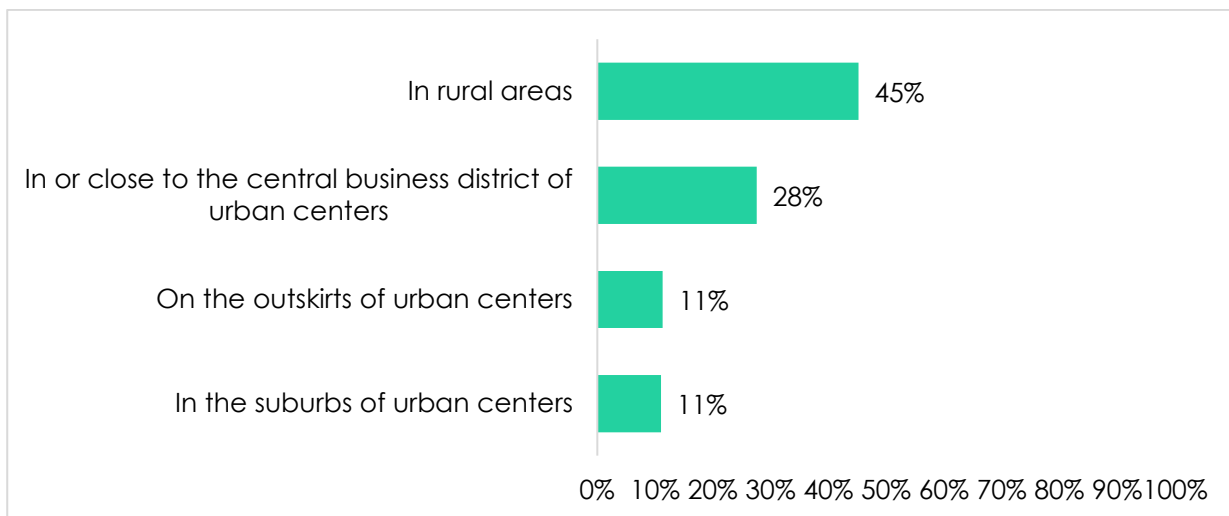
Respondents were asked: *For the following statement, please tell me whether you agree or disagree: Government has a duty to provide adequate housing to all South Africans who cannot afford shelter.*

Figure 3: Government should prioritize housing over land redistribution | South Africa | 2021



Respondents were asked: For the following statement, please tell me whether you agree or disagree: The government should prioritize the provision of housing over land redistribution.

Figure 4: Where government housing should be located | South Africa | 2021



Respondents were asked: If the government prioritizes the provision of housing to South Africans who cannot afford shelter, where, in your opinion, should such housing be located?

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