Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
14 July 2021

News release

Tanzanians confident in country's direction and government's performance, Afrobarometer survey shows

Despite a pandemic that has slowed economic growth, most Tanzanians say the government is managing the economy well and the country is moving in the right direction, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

Citizens' assessments of the government's performance on a wide range of issues have improved compared to 2017. And although only one-third describe their personal living conditions as good, a majority are optimistic that economic conditions will improve over the coming year.

Tanzania formally graduated to lower-middle-income country status in July 2020, but the pandemic-induced global economic shock slowed real GDP growth.

Key findings

- More than three-fourths (78%) of Tanzanians believe the country is going in the right direction (Figure 1).
- A majority of Tanzanians approve of the government's performance on a wide range of issues, including 84% who say the government is handling the economy "fairly well" or "very well." These assessments have improved across the board compared to 2017 (Figure 2).
- About half (49%) of citizens – twice as many as in 2017 – say present economic conditions in the country are "fairly good" or "very good." Assessments of citizens' personal living conditions have also improved, but still only one in three describe them as "fairly" or "very" good (Figure 3).
- A growing share of Tanzanians are optimistic about the future: More than half (53%) now believe that the country's economic situation will be "better" or "much better" in 12 months' time (Figure 4).

Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys (2019/2021) cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Tanzania, led by REPOA interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 2,398 adults in March-April 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Tanzania in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

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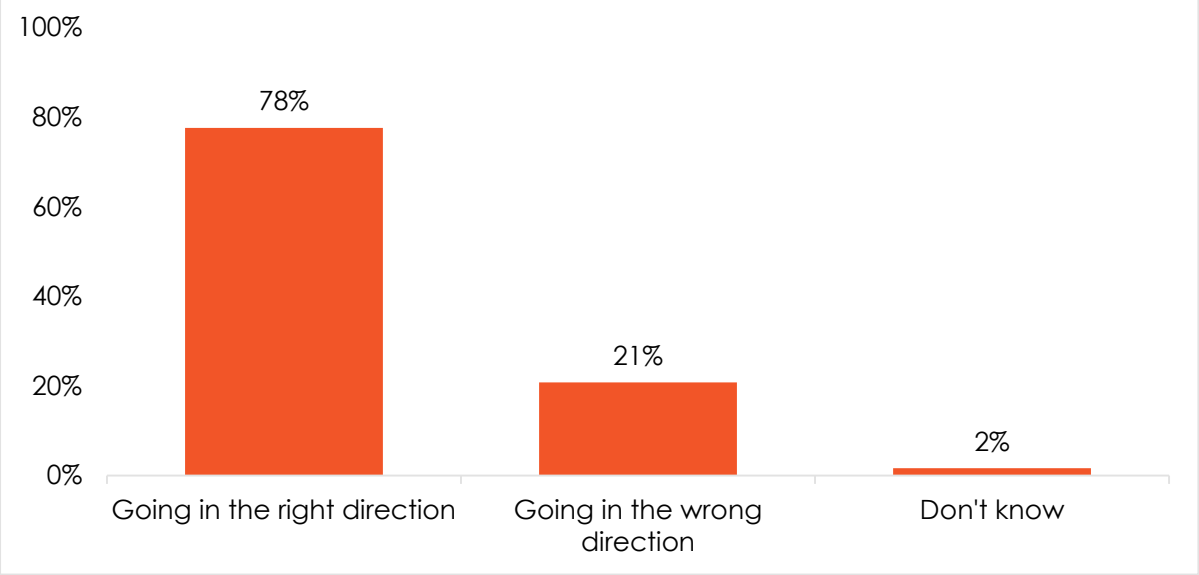
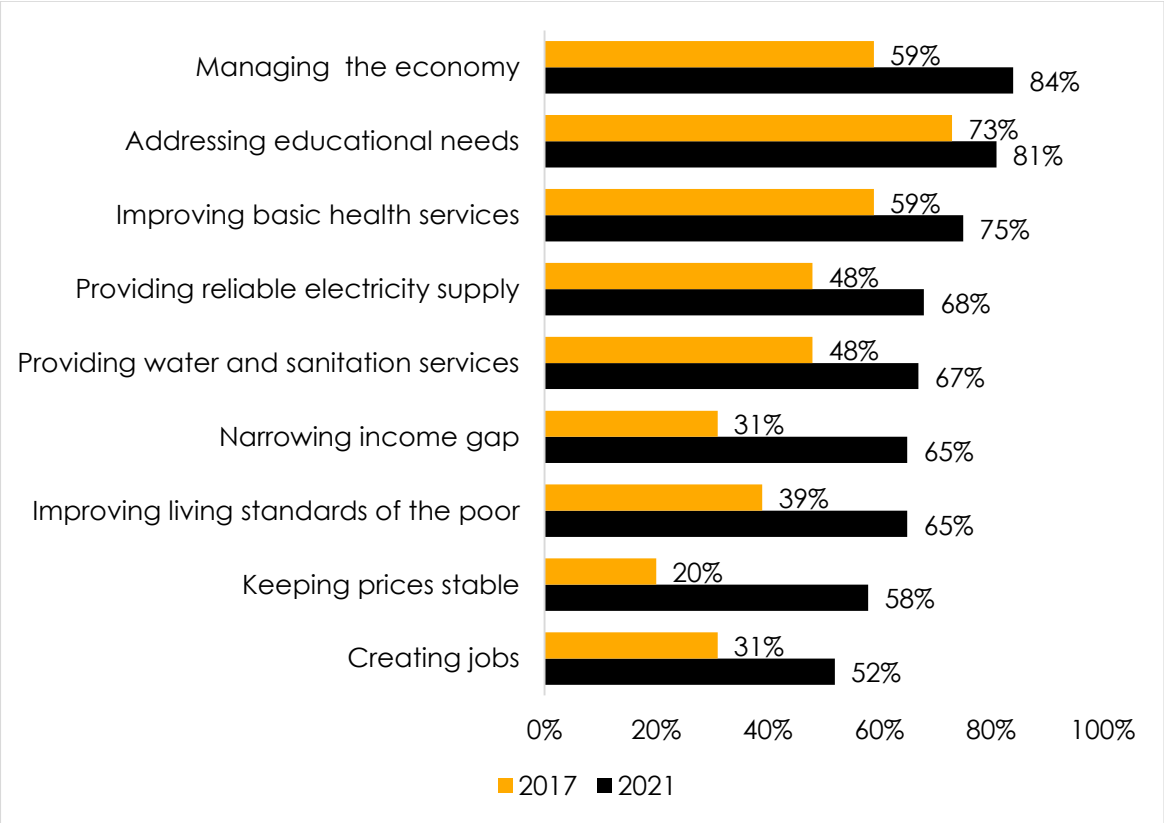
Charts

Figure 1: Overall direction of the country | Tanzania | 2021



Respondents were asked: *Some people might think the country is going in the wrong direction. Others may feel it is going in the right direction. So let me ask you about the overall direction of the country: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?*

Figure 2: Approval of government performance | Tanzania | 2017-2021



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? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")*

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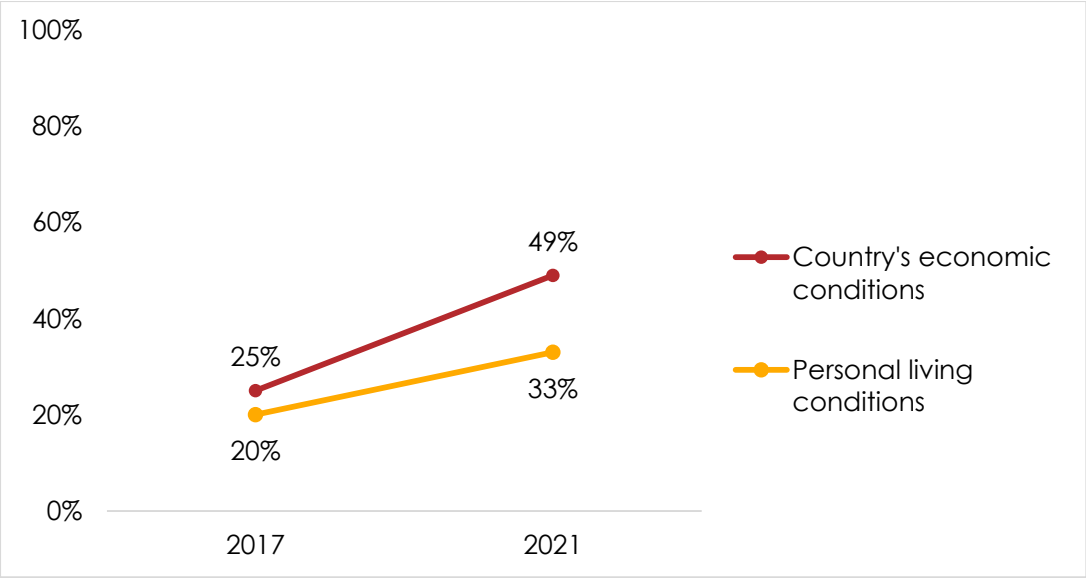
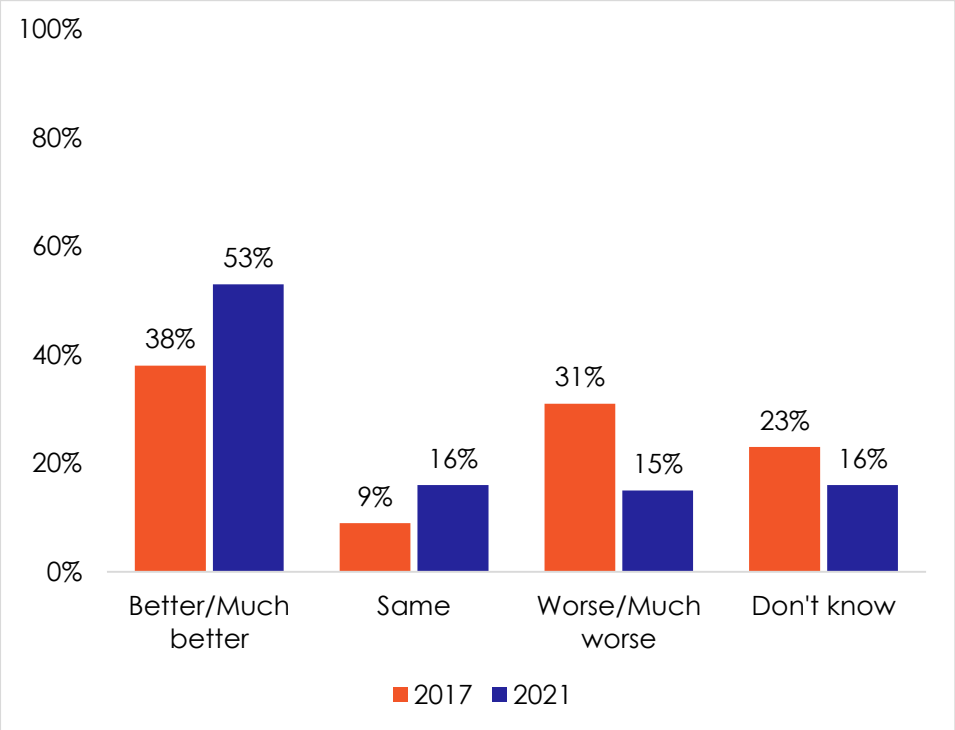
Figure 3: Country's economic conditions and personal living conditions | Tanzania | 2017-2021



Respondents were asked: *In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country?*

Figure 4: Country's economic conditions in 12 months' time | Tanzania | 2017-2021



Respondents were asked: *Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?*

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For more information, please contact:

REPOA
Stephen Mwombela
Telephone: +255 22 270 0083
Email: smwombela@repoa.or.tz

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