

Tunis, Tunisia
27 January 2021

News release

Tunisian youth rank unemployment and the economy as top problems, disapprove of government's performance, Afrobarometer study shows

Unemployment and management of the economy are the two most important problems that young Tunisians want their government to address, an Afrobarometer study shows.

Although most citizens disapprove of the government's performance in handling economic issues, including creating jobs, the youth are more likely than their elders to rate the government poorly on indicators of economic performance.

The study also shows that Tunisian adults of all ages cite job creation as the top priority for additional government investment in youth development and that a large majority of citizens believe more attention should be paid to "fresh ideas from young people."

A decade after the revolution that sparked democratic changes in Tunisia, the youth have hit the streets in a series of protests against poor economic conditions and unemployment, which have been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key findings

- Among Tunisian adults of all ages, management of the economy and unemployment are most frequently cited (43% each) as the most important problems that the government should address, followed by poverty (33%) (Figure 1).
- Young Tunisians (aged 18-35 years) are more likely than senior citizens (aged 56 years and above) to prioritize unemployment (46% vs. 40%) and economic management (43% vs. 38%), while senior citizens are more likely than young adults to cite poverty (40% vs. 31%) (Figure 2).
- Large majorities of Tunisians say the government is doing "fairly badly" or "very badly" at keeping prices stable (85%), creating jobs (81%), improving living standards of the poor (81%), narrowing gaps between the rich and the poor (79%), and managing the economy (67%) (Figure 3).
 - On all of these indicators, the youth hold more negative views than the elders.
- Almost six in 10 respondents (57%) say job creation would be the highest priority for additional investment if the government could increase its spending to help the youth (Figure 4).
- Seven in 10 Tunisians (70%) say that in order for the country to do well, it should listen more to "fresh ideas from young people," while only one in four (27%) would instead prioritize "the wisdom of the elders." Among 18 African countries surveyed in 2019/2020, Tunisia's interest in "fresh ideas" stands out (Figure 5).

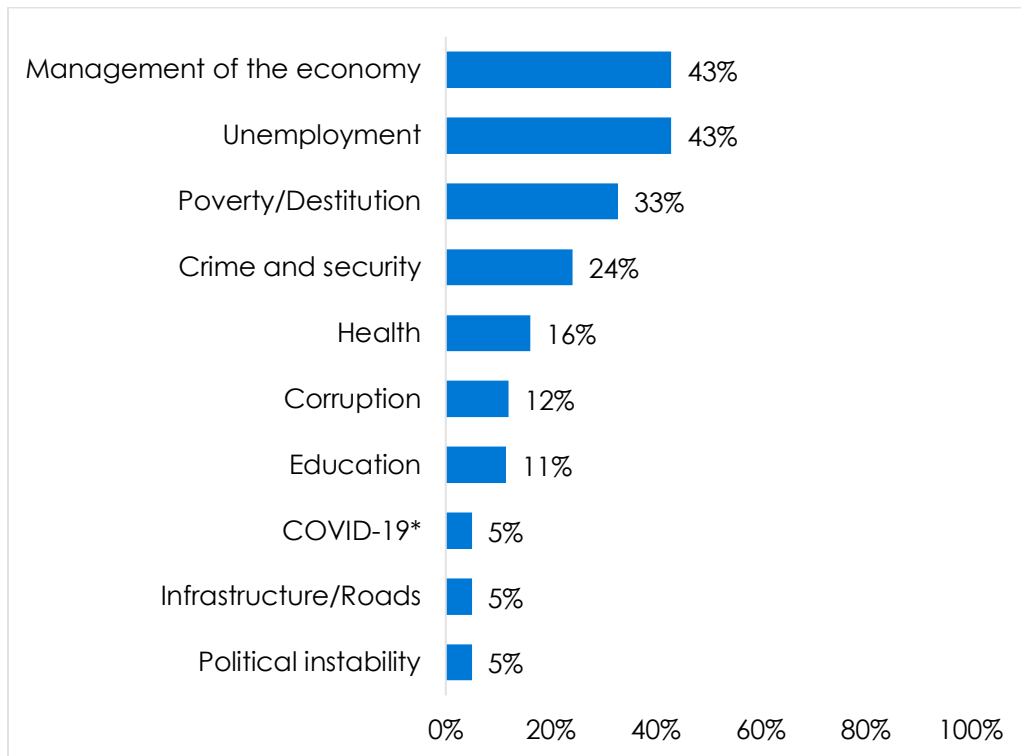
Afrobarometer surveys

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 in 2019/2021 are planned in at least 35 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Tunisia, led by One to One for Research and Polling, interviewed 1,200 adults between 24 February and 18 March 2020. 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 were conducted in Tunisia in 2013, 2015, and 2018.

Charts

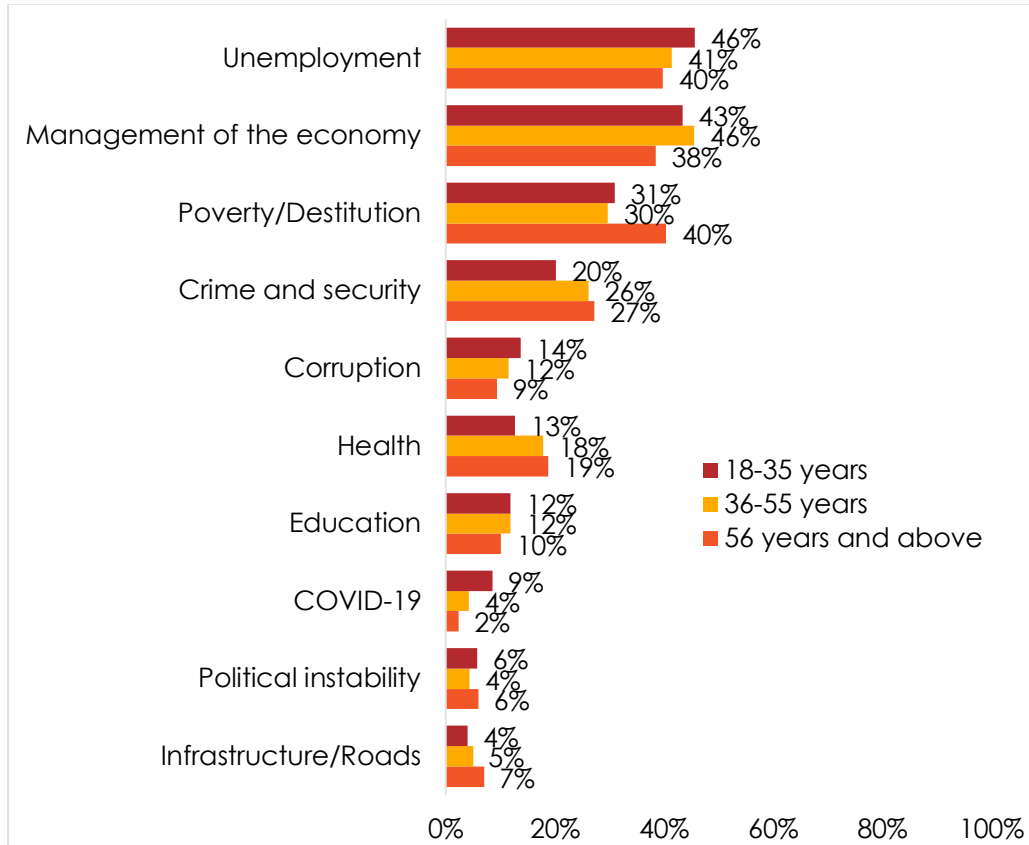
Figure 1: Top 10 most important problems | Tunisia | 2020



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

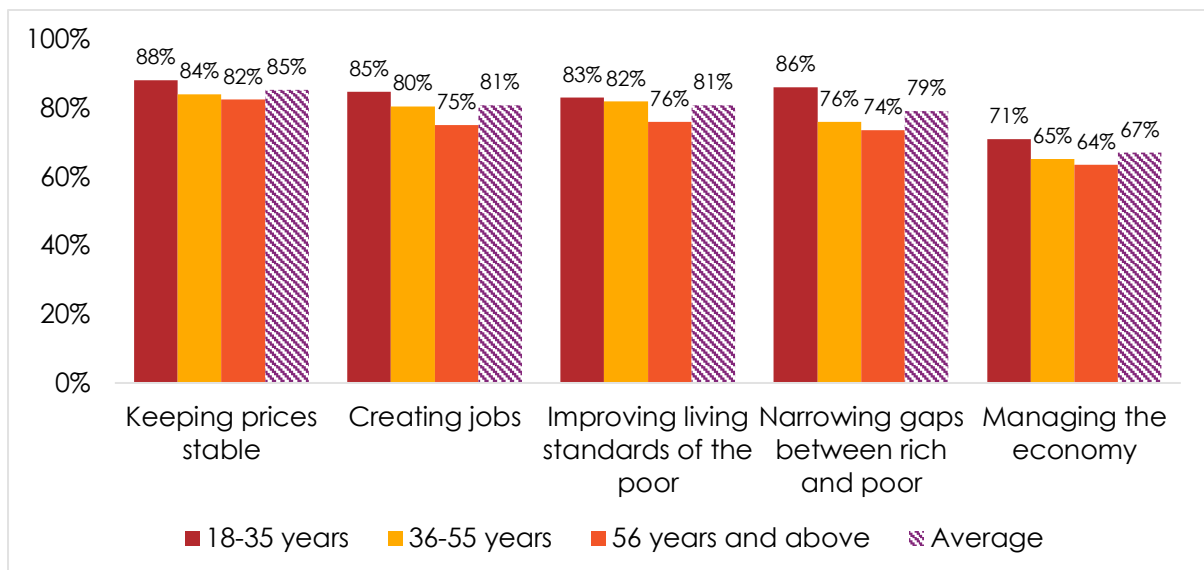
**Note: Responses were collected in February-March 2020, early in the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Figure 2: Most important problems | by age | Tunisia | 2020



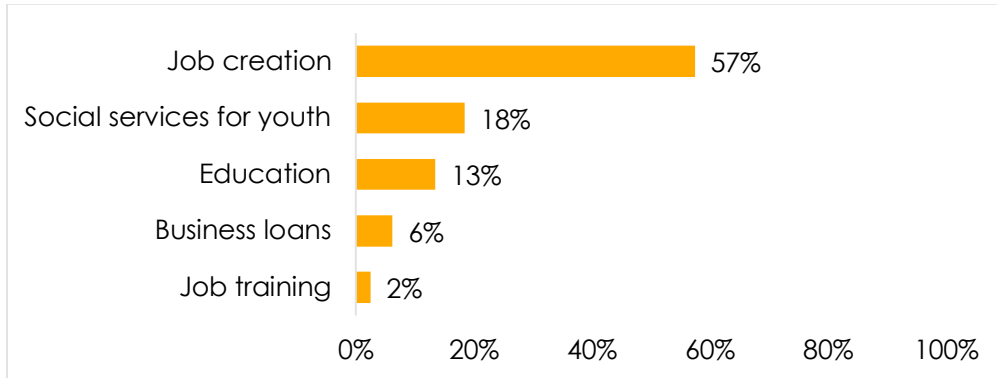
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per respondent were recorded.)

Figure 3: Disapproval of government economic performance | by age | Tunisia | 2020



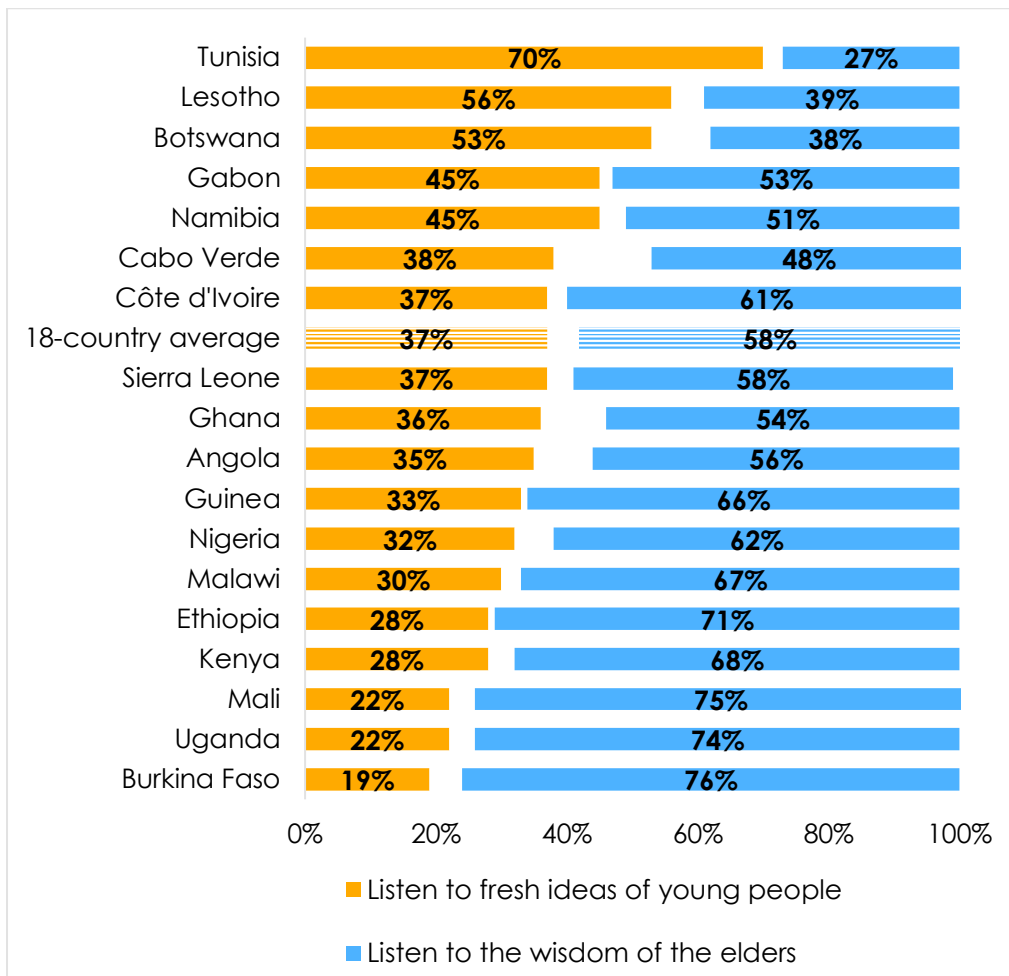
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "fairly badly" or "very badly")

Figure 4: Highest priority for additional investment to help youth | Tunisia | 2020



Respondents were asked: *If the government could increase its spending on programs to help young people, which of the following areas do you think should be the highest priority for additional investment?*

Figure 5: Should we listen more to the youth or to elders? | 18 countries | 2020



Respondents were asked: *Which of the following statements is closest to your view?*
 Statement 1: *In order for our country to do well, we should listen more to the wisdom of our elders.*
 Statement 2: *In order for our country to do well, we should listen more to fresh ideas from young people.*
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

For more information, please contact:

One to One for Research and Polling
Youssef Meddeb
Telephone: +21 658 555 055
Email: youssef.meddeb@121polling.com

Visit us online at:
www.121polling.tn
www.afrobarometer.org

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

