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News release

Zambians want more government action to help young people – and are willing to foot the bill, Afrobarometer survey shows

Most Zambians say the previous government did a poor job of addressing the needs of young people, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

A strong majority of citizens also say they would be willing to pay more taxes in order to support programs to help young people.

If the government could spend more to help youth, job creation and education would be Zambians' top priorities for additional investment.

Key findings

- Three-quarters (75%) of Zambians say the previous government did a poor job of addressing the needs of young people (Figure 1).
 - The view that the government failed to address youth needs is particularly common among rural residents (79%), less educated citizens (79%), and poor respondents (83%) (Figure 2).
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of citizens say they would be “somewhat” or “strongly” supportive if the government decided to make people pay more taxes in order to support programs to help young people (Figure 3).
- Job creation (39%) and education (26%) would be Zambians' top priorities for additional government investment to help young people, followed by business loans (12%), social services (12%), and job training (10%) (Figure 4).

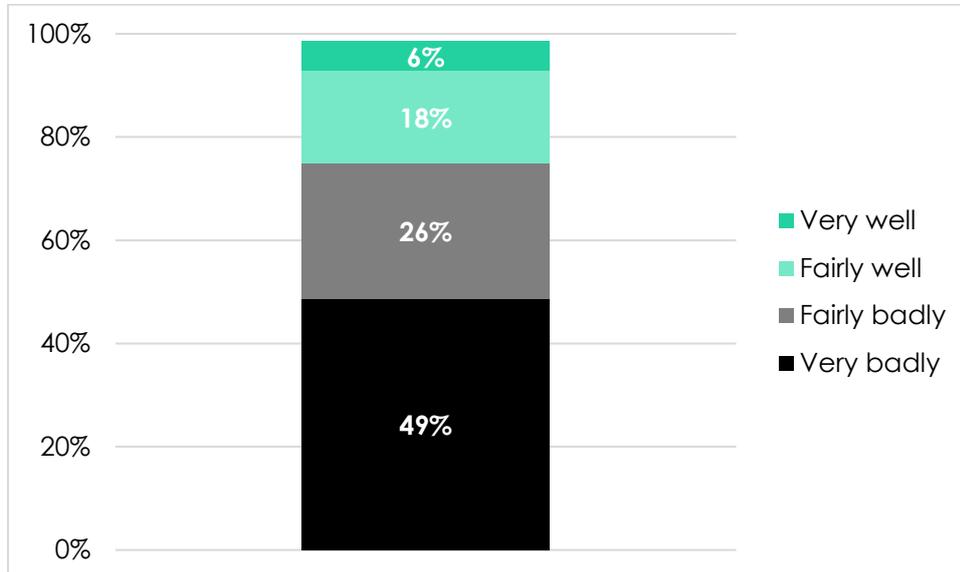
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. 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 Zambia, led by the Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR), a research unit of the University of Zambia, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 Zambian adults in November-December 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 Zambia in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2014, and 2017.

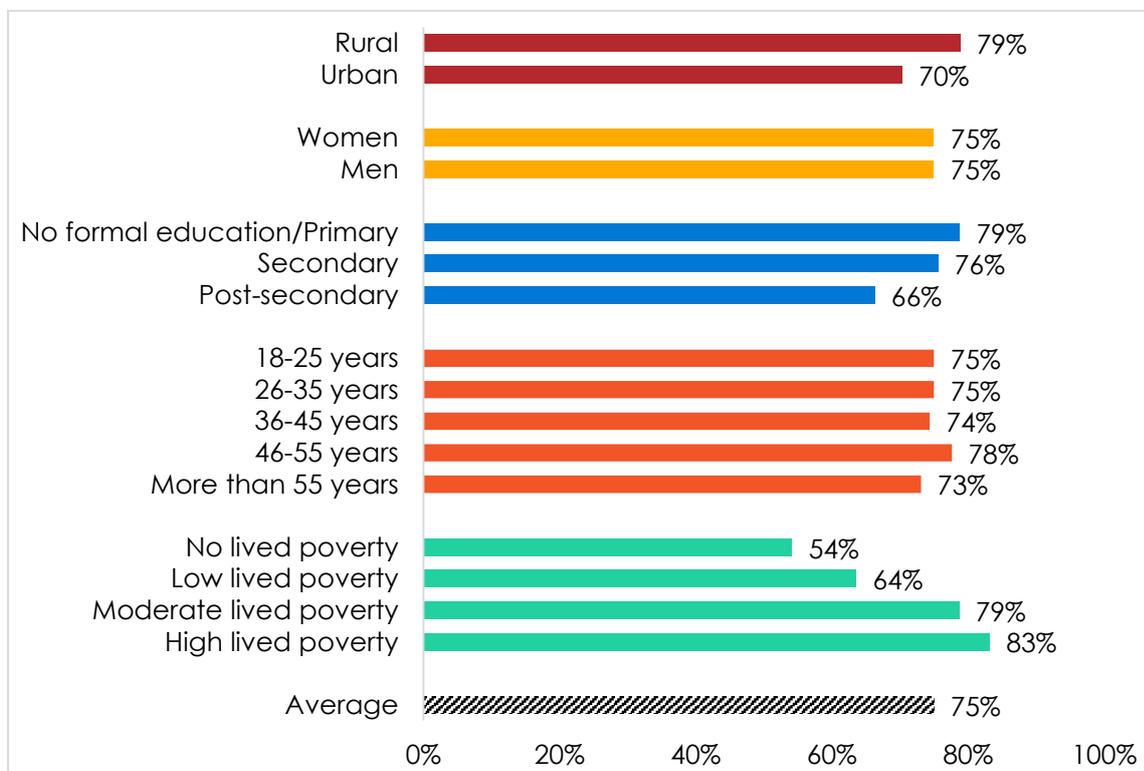
Charts

Figure 1: Past government addressing the needs of young people | Zambia | 2020



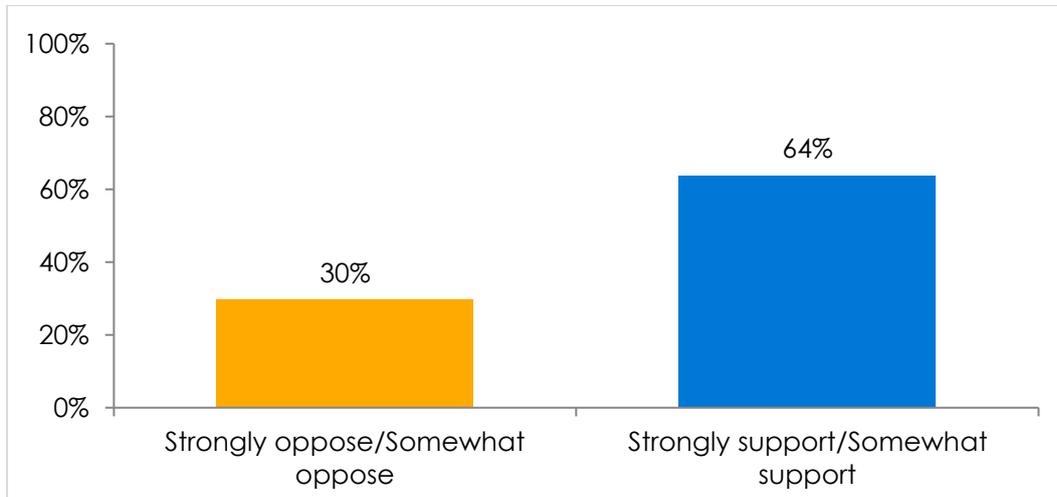
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Figure 2: Past government performed badly on addressing the needs of young people | by socio-demographic group | Zambia | 2020



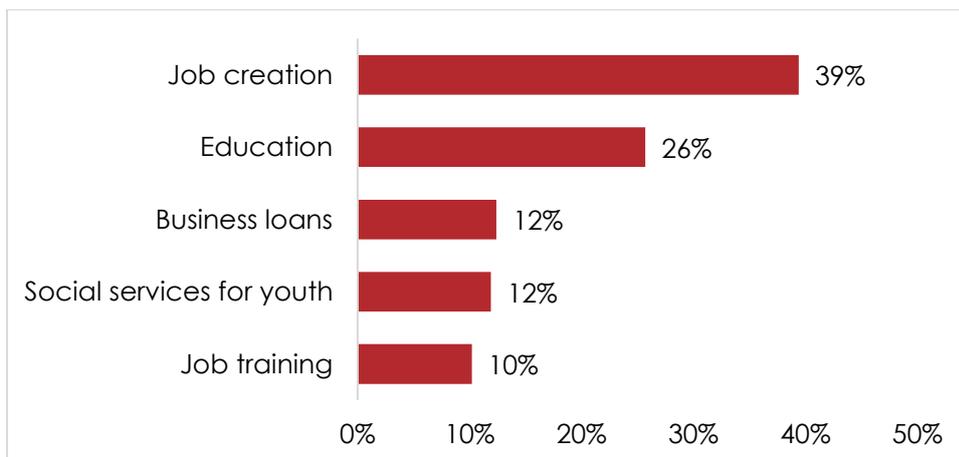
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Addressing the needs of young people? (% who said "fairly badly" or "very badly")

Figure 3: More taxes to support youth programs? | Zambia | 2020



Respondents were asked: *If the government decided to make people pay more taxes in order to support programs to help young people, would you support this decision or oppose it?*

Figure 4: Priorities for government investment in youth programs | Zambia | 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?*

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