



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
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News release

Tanzanians find it difficult to know which taxes to pay and how the government uses their tax revenues, Afrobarometer survey shows

A majority of Tanzanians say it is difficult to find out which taxes and fees they are supposed to pay and how the government uses the tax revenues it collects, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

Almost half of citizens think that Tanzanians frequently avoid paying the taxes that they owe the state.

The government is making efforts to mobilise more domestic revenues, including the recent introduction of a tax on mobile-money transactions intended to finance improvements in the delivery of social services. Citizens are about evenly divided on the question of which is preferable – higher taxes with more government services or lower taxes with fewer services.

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 choice.

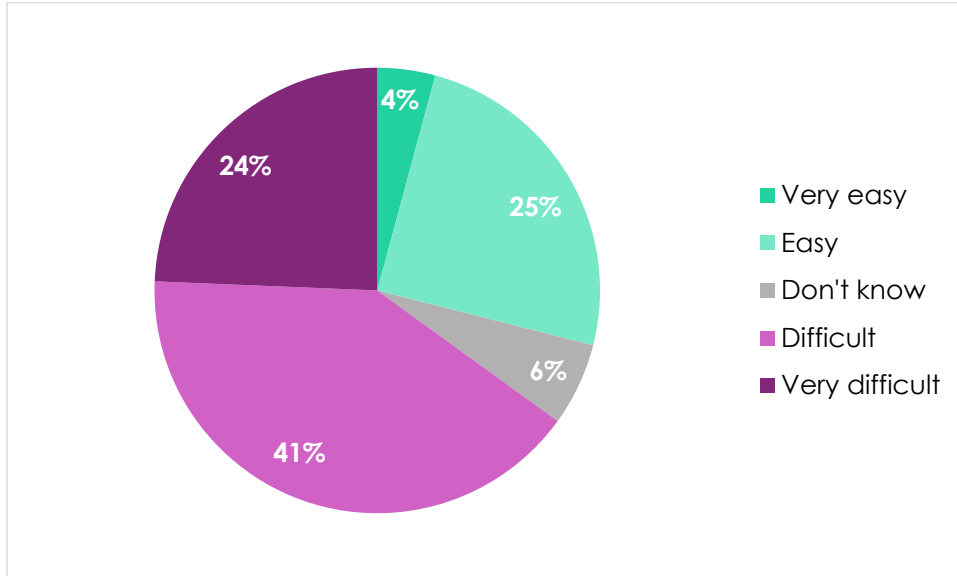
The Afrobarometer team in Tanzania, led by REPOA, interviewed 2,398 adult Tanzanians in March 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Tanzania in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012,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

Key findings

- Two-thirds (65%) of Tanzanians say it is “difficult” or “very difficult” to find out which taxes and fees they are supposed to pay to the government (Figure 1).
- Even more (70%) report it is difficult to find out how the government uses the tax revenues it collects (Figure 2).
- Tanzanians are evenly divided in their assessments of how often people avoid paying taxes they owe the government, with almost half (46%) saying “often” or “always” and the same proportion (46%) seeing it as a rare occurrence (Figure 3).
- Views are sharply divided on whether it is better to pay higher taxes if it means the government will provide more services (supported by 46% of citizens) or to pay lower taxes and get fewer government services (preferred by 49%) (Figure 4).

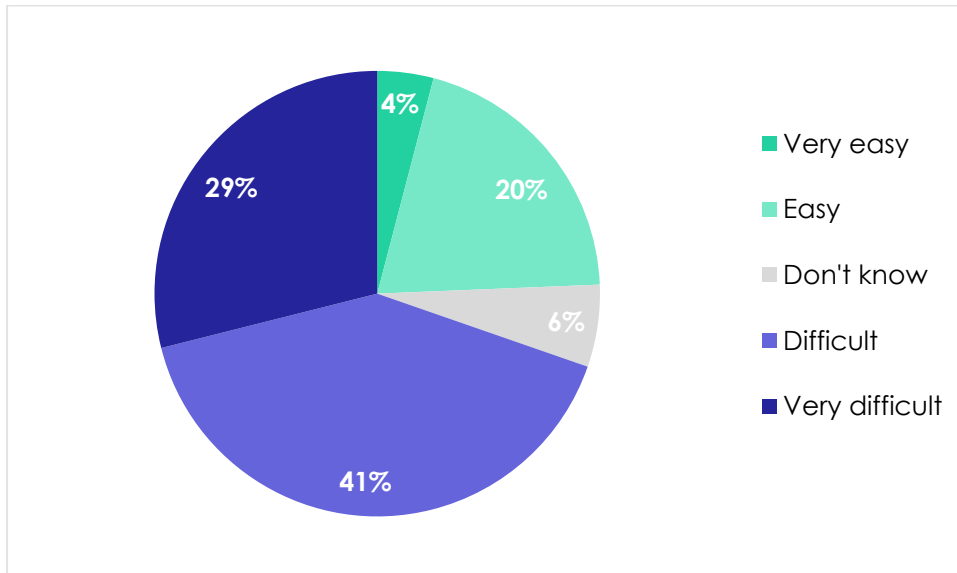
Charts

Figure 1: Difficulty of finding out which taxes and fees to pay | Tanzania | 2021



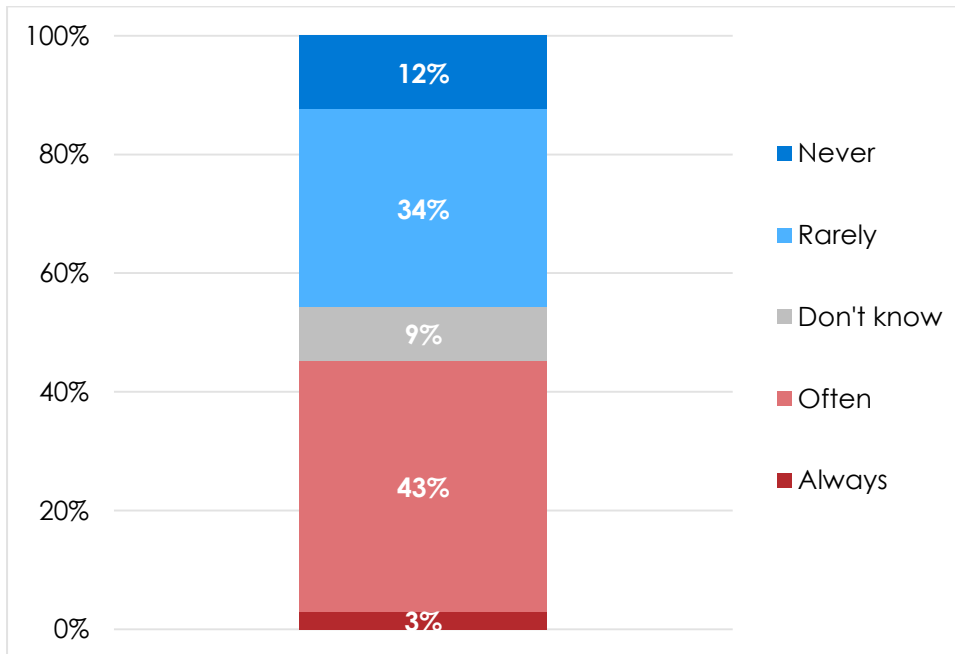
Respondents were asked: Based on your experience, how easy or difficult is it to find out what taxes and fees you are supposed to pay to the government?

Figure 2: Difficulty of finding out how government uses tax revenues | Tanzania | 2021



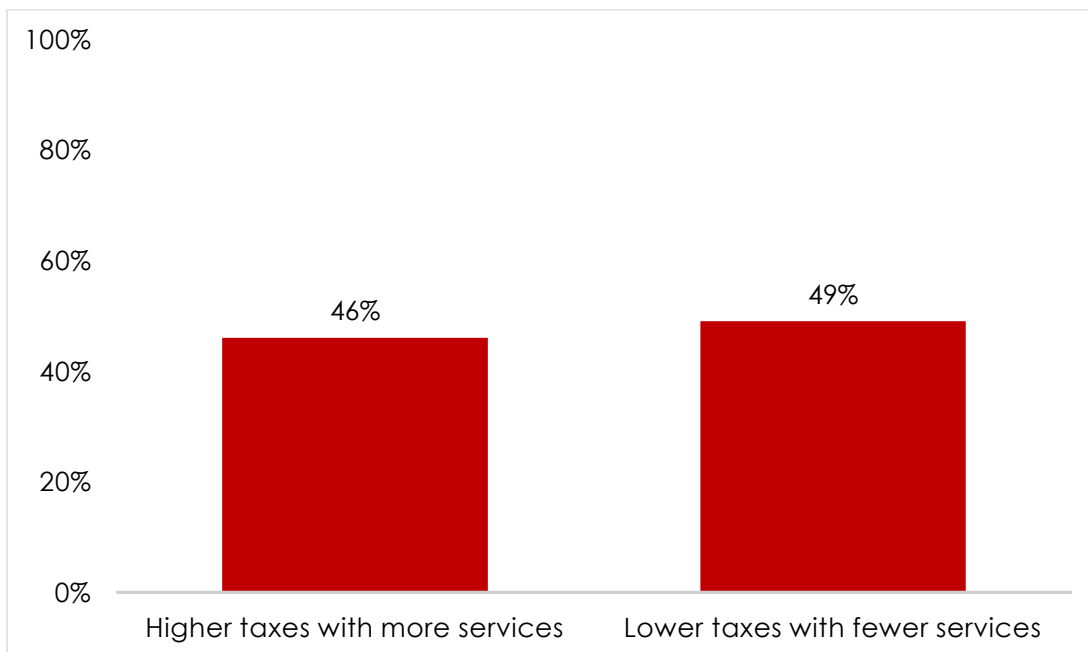
Respondents were asked: Based on your experience, how easy or difficult is it to find out how government uses the revenues from people's taxes and fees?

Figure 3: How often to people avoid paying their taxes? | Tanzania | 2021



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often, in this country, do people avoid paying the taxes that they owe the government?

Figure 4: Higher taxes with more services vs. lower taxes with fewer services | Tanzania | 2021



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: It is better to pay higher taxes if it means that there will be more services provided by government.
 Statement 2: It is better to pay lower taxes, even if it means there will be fewer services provided by government.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

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