



Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
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News release

Most Zimbabweans see country going in the wrong direction, want government intervention, Afrobarometer survey shows

A growing majority of Zimbabweans say their country is going in the wrong direction, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

As the country's economy continues in deep distress, citizens cite management of the economy and unemployment as the most important problems that the government must address.

Key findings

- More than seven in 10 Zimbabweans (72%) say the country is going in the wrong direction, up from 60% in 2017 and 67% in 2021 (Figure 1).
 - The view that the country is heading in the wrong direction is particularly common among urban residents (79%), poor citizens (87%), and respondents with secondary (75%) or post-secondary (77%) education (Figure 2).
- Management of the economy (cited by 45% of respondents) and unemployment (43%) are the most important problems that Zimbabweans want their government to address (Figure 3).
 - Infrastructure/roads (29%) and water supply (26%) come next on citizens' list of priorities for government action.
 - Urban residents are more likely than their rural counterparts to prioritise management of the economy (51% vs. 41%), unemployment (48% vs. 40%), water supply (32% vs. 22%), and corruption (21% vs. 14%). Food shortage is considered a more urgent problem in rural areas (22%) than in cities (6%) (Figure 4).

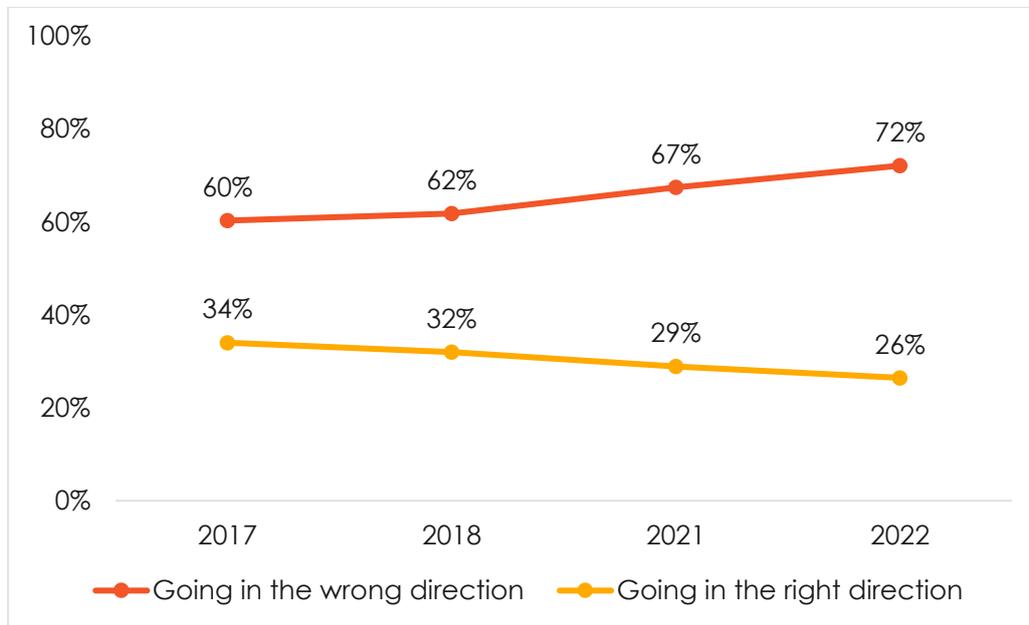
Afrobarometer surveys

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 survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Zimbabwe, led by the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), interviewed 1,200 adult citizens of Zimbabwe between 28 March and 10 April 2022. 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 Zimbabwe in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2021.

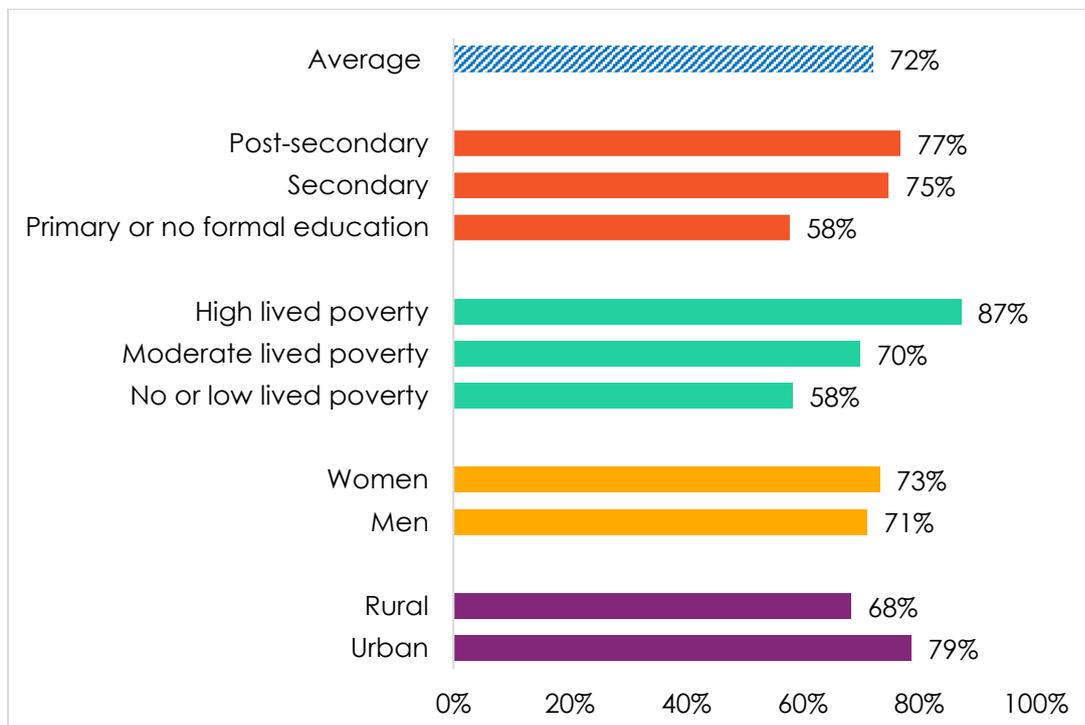
Charts

Figure 1: Country direction | Zimbabwe | 2017-2022



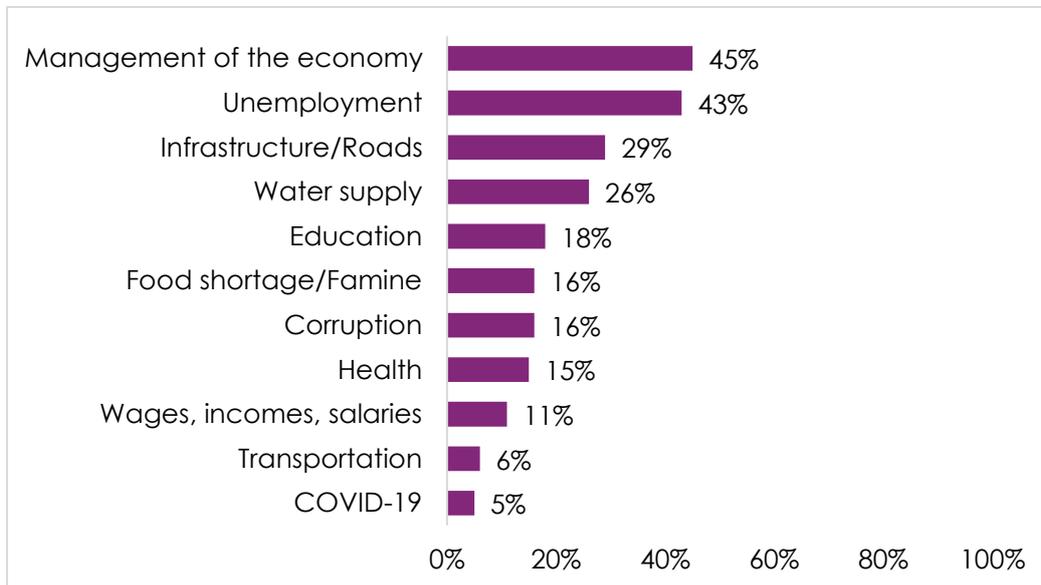
Respondents were asked: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?

Figure 2: Country going in the wrong direction | by socio-demographic group | Zimbabwe | 2022



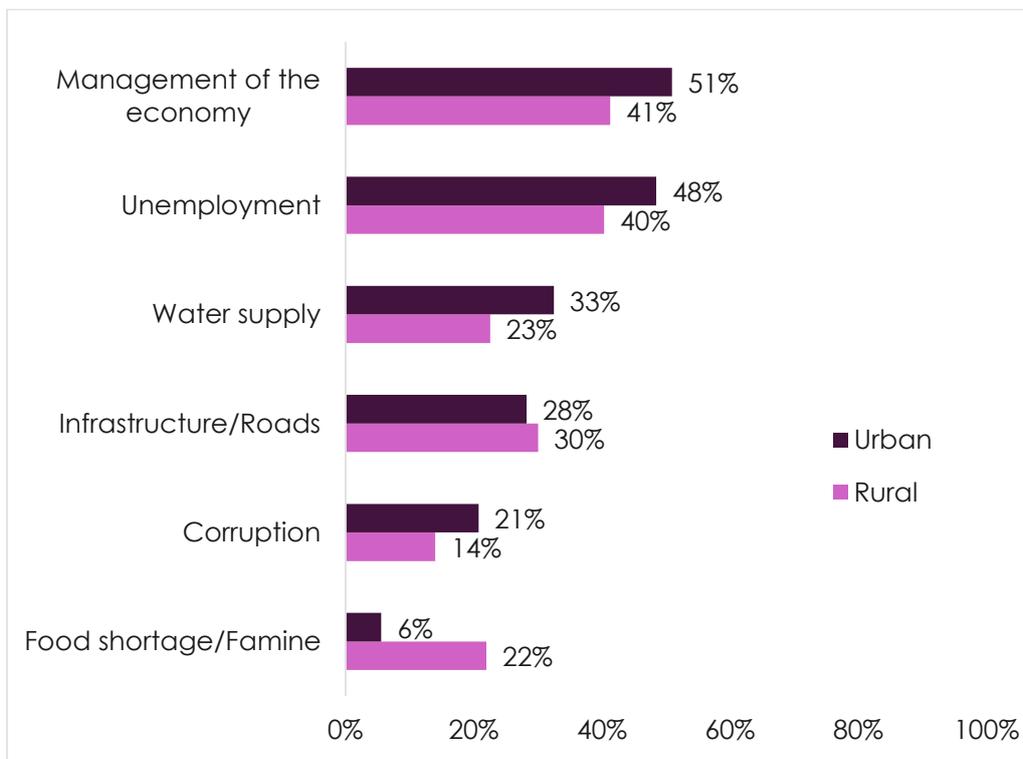
Respondents were asked: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction? (% who say "the wrong direction")

Figure 3: People’s development agenda | Zimbabwe | 2022



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person; figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem among their three priorities.)

Figure 4: People’s development agenda | by urban-rural location | Zimbabwe | 2022



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person; figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem among their three priorities.)

For more information, please contact:

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