



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
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News release

Most Tanzanians oppose use of force to discipline children, Afrobarometer survey shows

A majority of Tanzanians oppose parents' use of physical force to discipline their children, a dramatic change from five years ago, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Most citizens describe the use of force to discipline children as infrequent in their community.

Majorities also report that child abuse and neglect and out-of-school children are infrequent problems, and that resources are available in their community to help abused and neglected children, children with disability, and children and adults with mental or emotional problems.

Overall, a majority of citizens say their government is doing a good job of protecting and promoting the well-being of vulnerable children.

Key findings

- More than seven in 10 Tanzanians (72%) say parents are “never” justified in using physical force to discipline their children, an increase of 31 percentage points compared to 2017 (41%) (Figure 1).
 - Approval of physical disciplining of children is fairly even across key demographic groups, though slightly stronger among poor citizens (31%) than among those with low or no lived poverty (24%-26%) (Figure 2).
- Eight in 10 citizens (81%) say physical disciplining of children is “not very frequent” or “not at all frequent” in their communities (Figure 3).
- Most Tanzanians say child abuse and neglect (83%) and out-of-school children (74%) are infrequent problems in their community (Figure 4).
- More than six in 10 citizens say resources are available in their community to help children with disability (67%), abused and neglected children (65%), and children and adults with mental or emotional problems (61%) (Figure 5).
- Seven in 10 Tanzanians (70%) say the government is doing a good job of protecting and promoting the well-being of vulnerable children, while 26% disagree (Figure 6).

Afrobarometer surveys

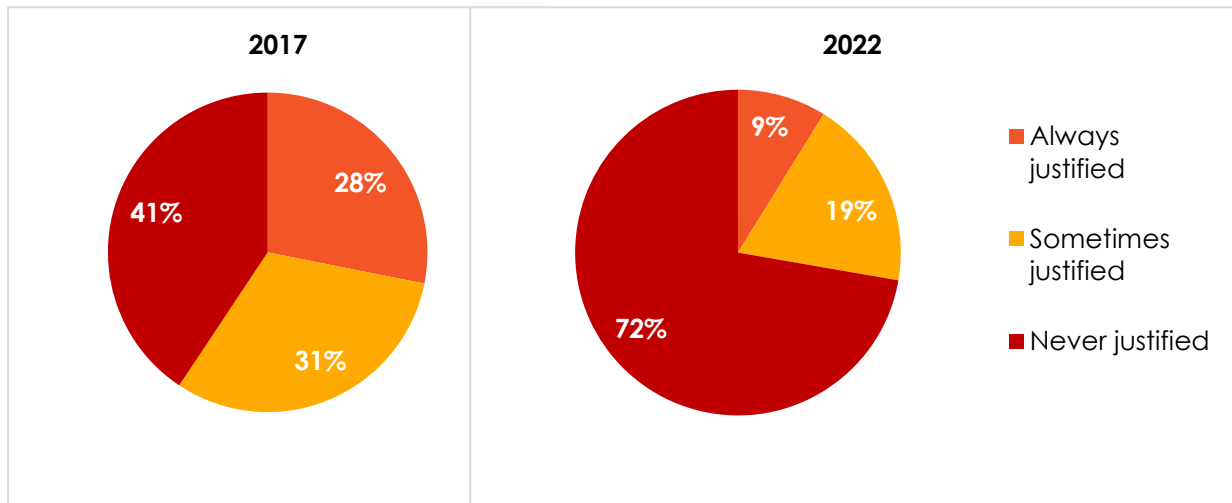
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys are being completed in early 2023. 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 2,400 Tanzanian adults in September-October 2022.

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, 2017 and 2021.

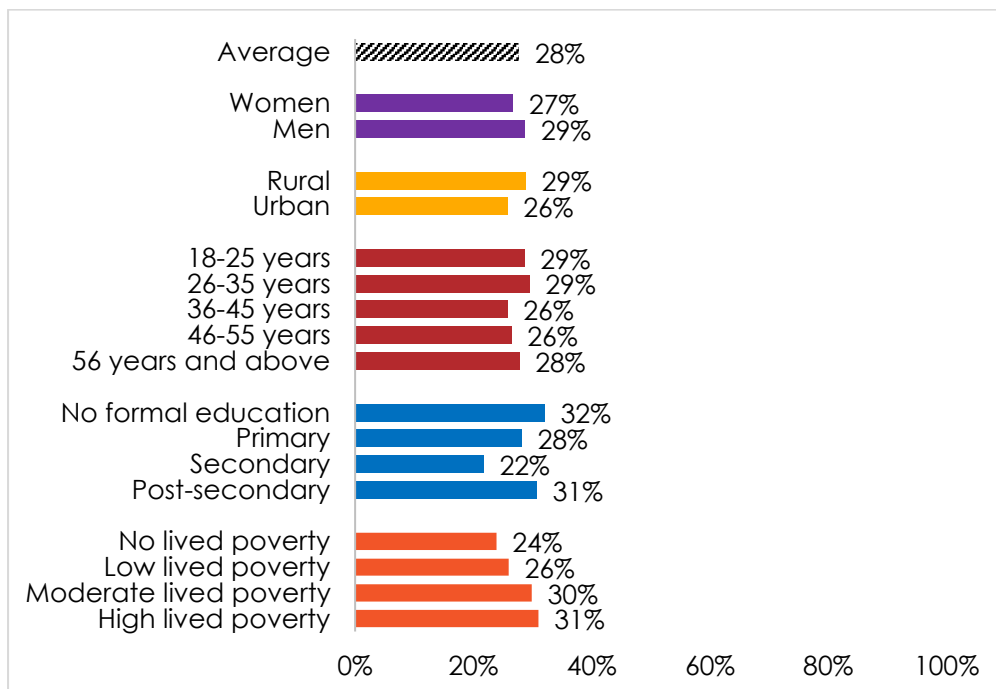
Charts

Figure 1: Should parents physically discipline children? | Tanzania | 2017-2022



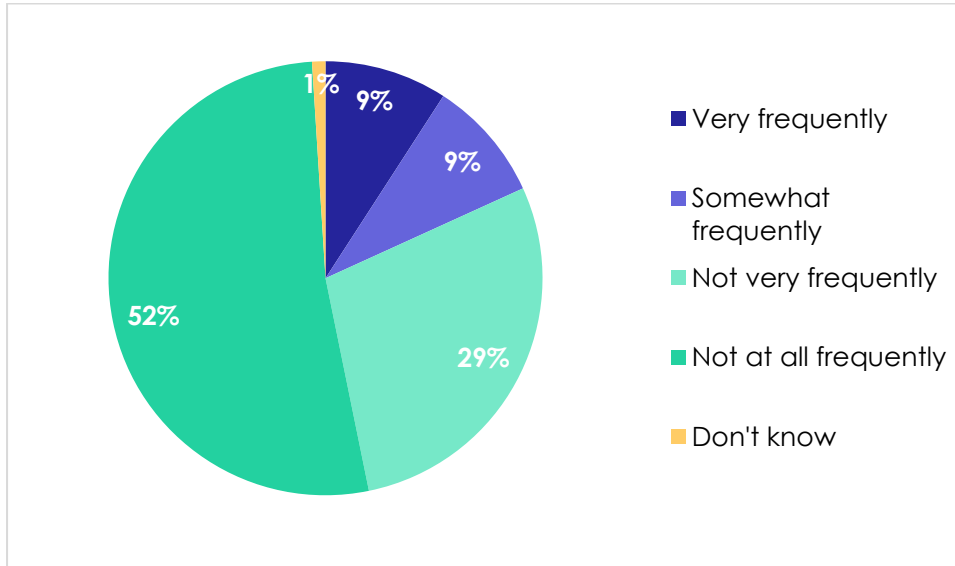
Respondents were asked: For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified: For parents to use physical force to discipline their children?

Figure 2: Justified for parents to physically discipline children | by demographic group | Tanzania | 2022



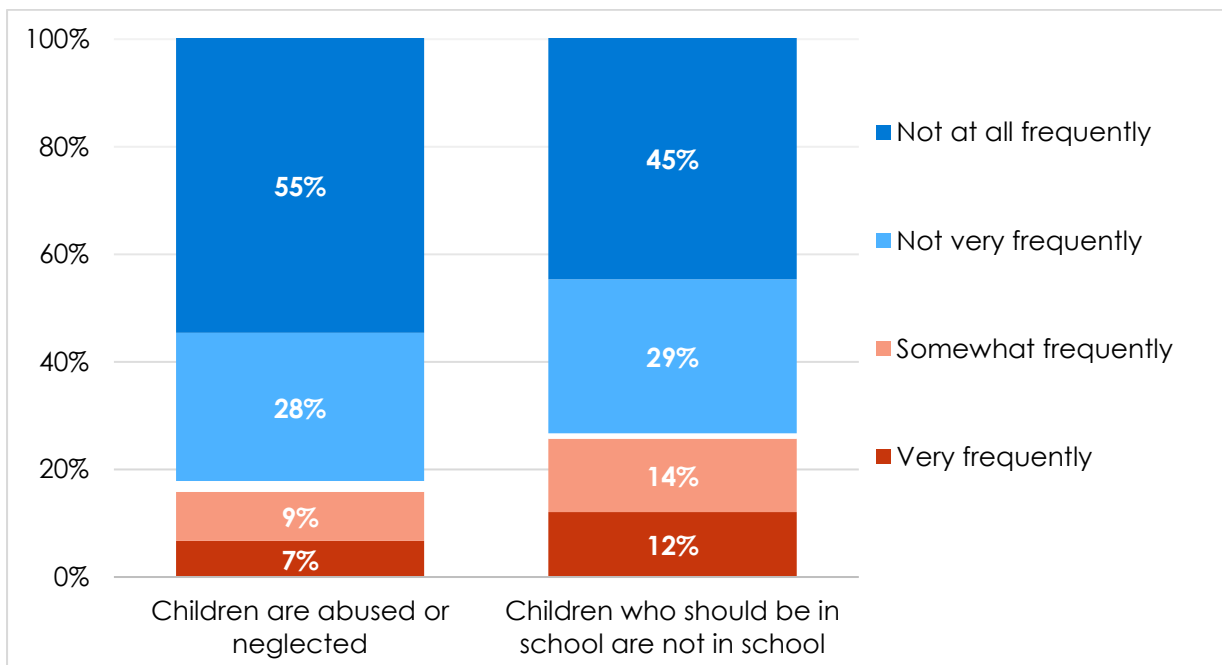
Respondents were asked: For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified: For parents to use physical force to discipline their children? (% who say "sometimes justified" or "always justified")

Figure 3: How frequently do adults use physical force to discipline children?
 | Tanzania | 2022



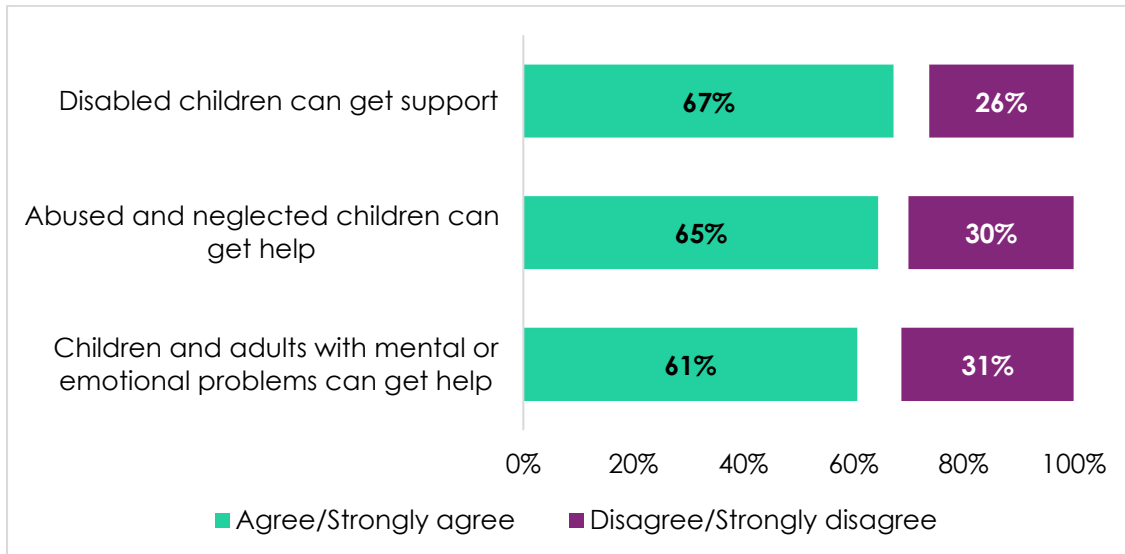
Respondents were asked: How frequently do you think the following things occur in your community or neighbourhood: Adults use physical force to discipline children?

Figure 4: How often are children abused, mistreated, or neglected? | Tanzania
 | 2022



Respondents were asked: How frequently do you think the following things occur in your community or neighbourhood: Children are abused, mistreated, or neglected? Children who should be in school are not in school?

Figure 5: Is help available for vulnerable children? | Tanzania | 2022



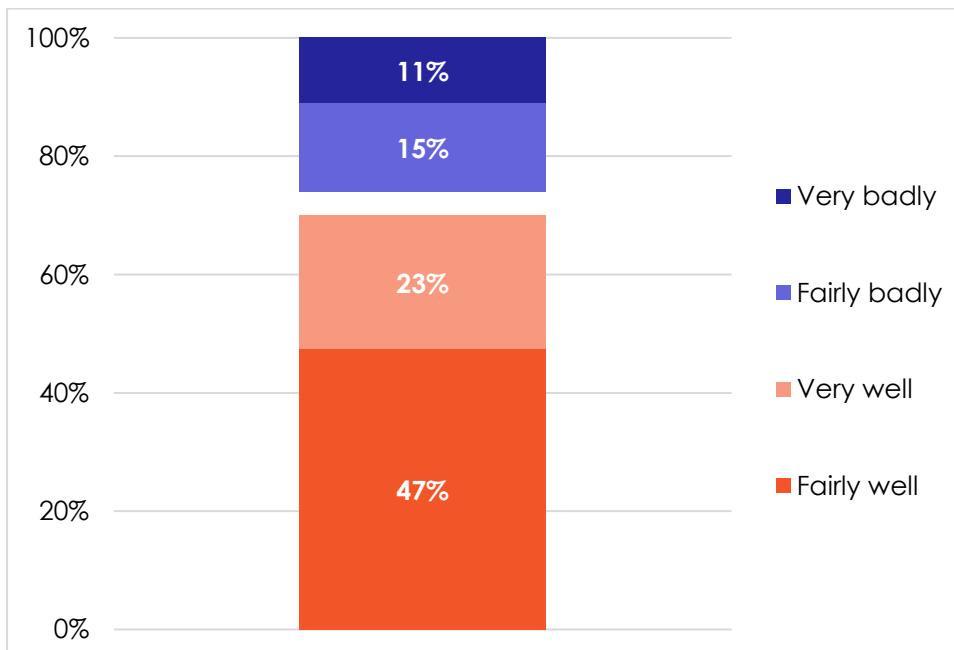
Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree.

In general, people in this community are able to get help for children who are abused, mistreated, or neglected.

In my community, children who have a physical disability are generally able to get the support they need to succeed in life.

In my community, children and adults who have mental or emotional problems are generally able to get the help they need to have a good life.

Figure 6: Government performance on child welfare | Tanzania | 2022



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: Protecting and promoting the well-being of vulnerable children?

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