



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



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News release

Tanzanians applaud government efforts to address gender inequalities, but want more

Most Tanzanians say the government is doing a good job of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women – but could do more, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Survey findings show only small gender gaps in educational attainment and financial decision-making power in the household, but significant disparities remain in control over household assets.

Large majorities of citizens endorse equal rights in employment and political leadership. But while most Tanzanians think that a woman who runs for office will gain standing in the community, many also consider it likely that she will be criticised or harassed.

Key findings

- In Tanzania, women are about as likely as men to have primary, secondary, and post-secondary education. Women are slightly more likely than men to lack formal schooling (13% vs. 9%) (Figure 1).
- When it comes to control over assets, women are considerably less likely than men to claim personal ownership of key household assets, including a mobile phone (70% vs. 83%), a bank account (15% vs. 23%), a motor vehicle (9% vs. 16%), and a computer (3% vs. 7%) (Figure 2).
- When it comes to who makes decisions about how household money is spent, women and men are about equally likely to say they make the decisions themselves or jointly with their spouse (78% vs. 79%). More women than men say that others make the decisions without consulting them (7% vs. 2%) (Figure 3).
- Almost four in 10 Tanzanians (38%) say that men should be given priority over women in hiring when jobs are scarce, while 60% reject this form of gender discrimination (Figure 4).
- Seven in 10 citizens (70%) say women should have the same chance as men to be elected to public office (Figure 5).
 - Support for gender equality in politics is weaker than average among men (67%), less educated citizens (66%-67%), and those experiencing high lived poverty (62%).
- Nine in 10 Tanzanians (92%) think a woman and her family will gain standing in the community if she runs for elected office. But 38% consider it likely that others in the community will criticise or harass her for seeking public office, while 35% think she might face problems with her family (Figure 6).

- More than eight in 10 Tanzanians (83%) say their government is doing a “fairly good” or “very good” job of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women (Figure 7).
- But three-quarters (75%) of citizens think the government could do “somewhat more” or “much more” to promote gender equality (Figure 8).

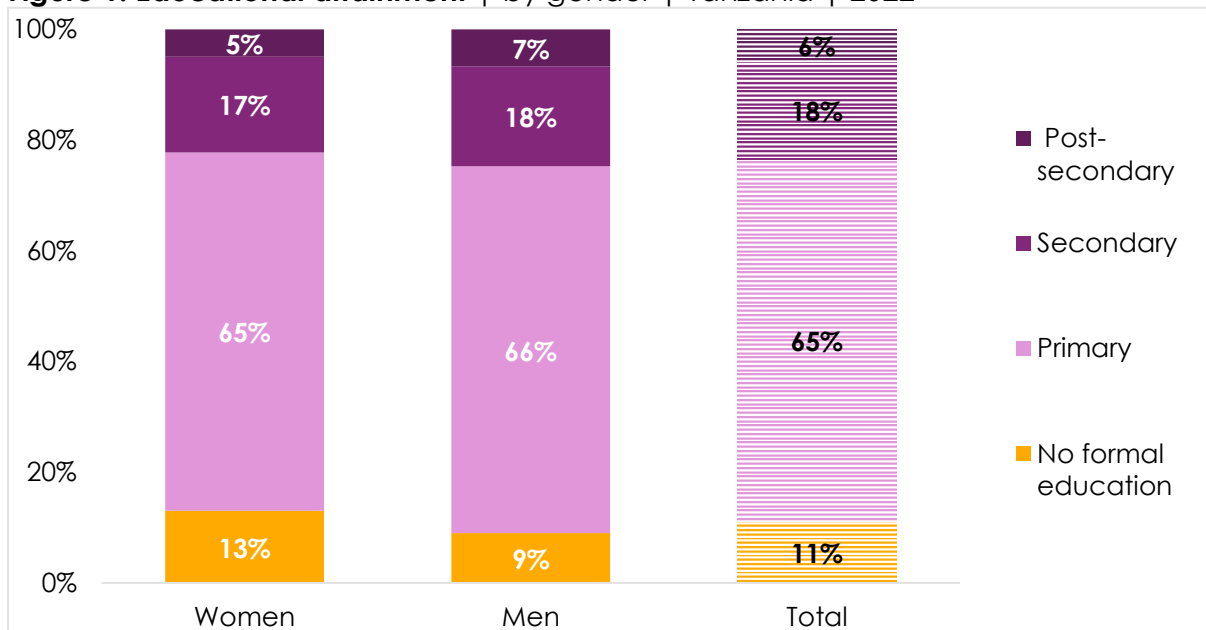
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Nine rounds of surveys have been completed 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 2,398 adults in February-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, 2017, and 2021.

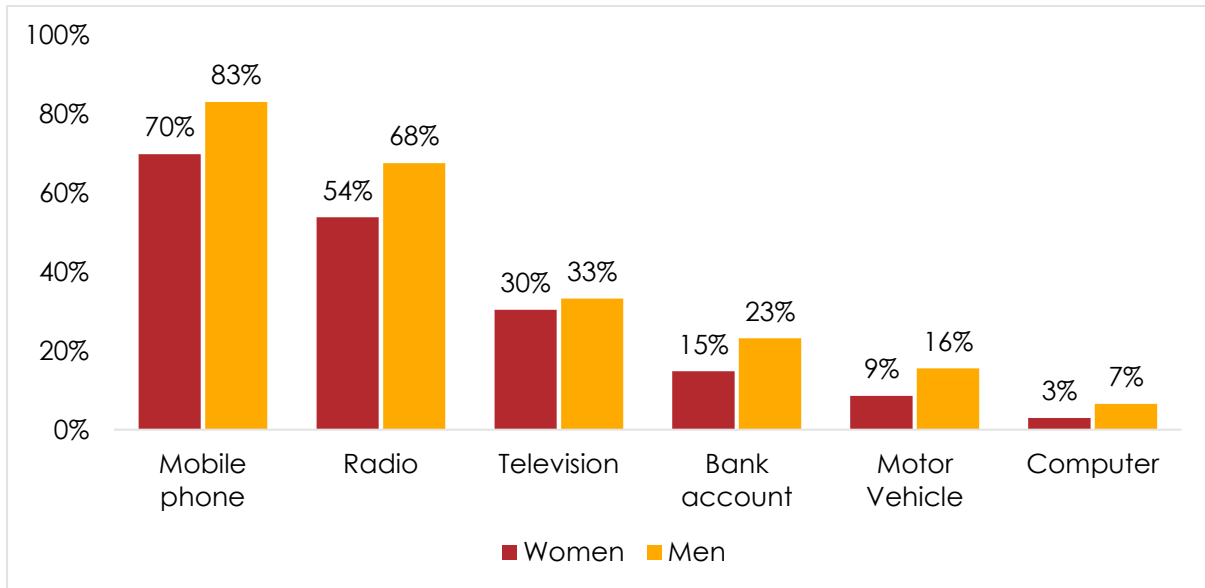
Charts

Figure 1: Educational attainment | by gender | Tanzania | 2022



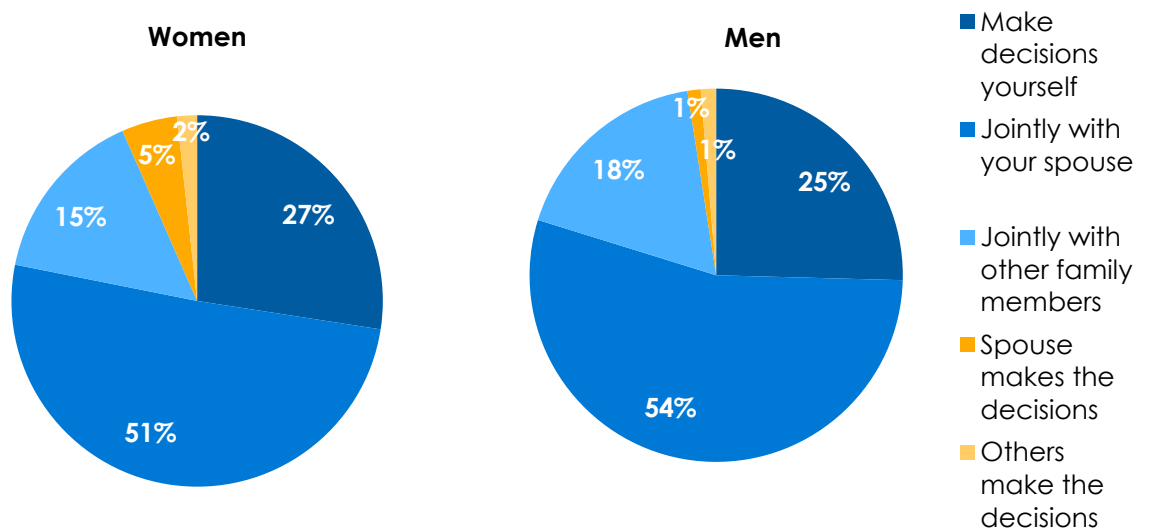
Respondents were asked: What is your highest level of education?

Figure 2: Asset ownership | by gender | Tanzania | 2022



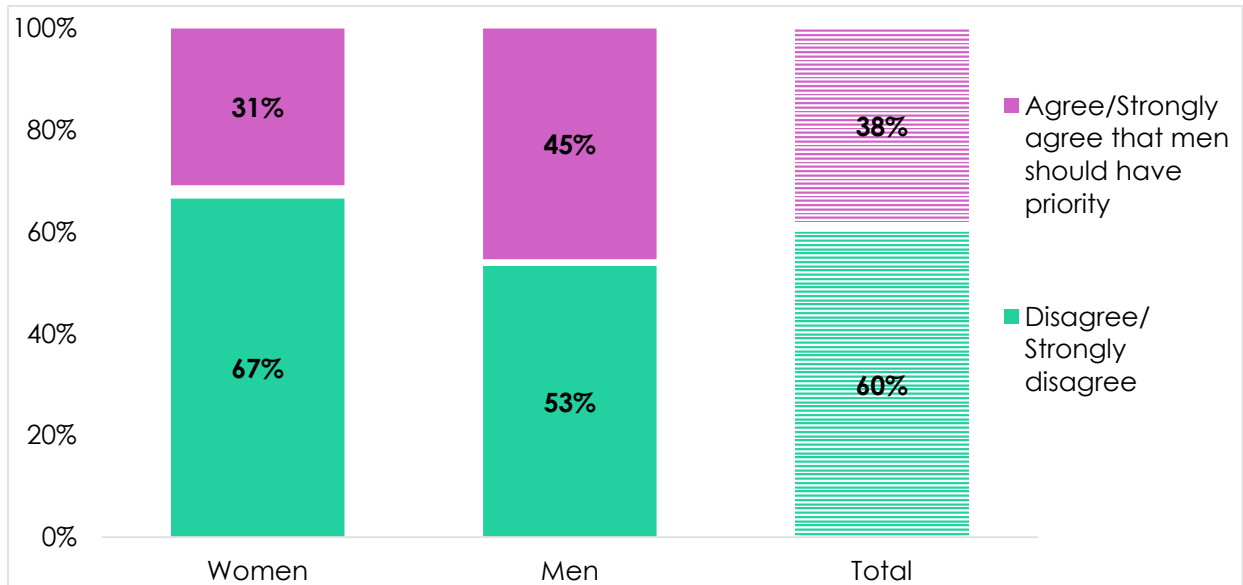
Respondents were asked: Which of these things do you personally own?

Figure 3: Who decides how money is used? | by gender | Tanzania | 2022



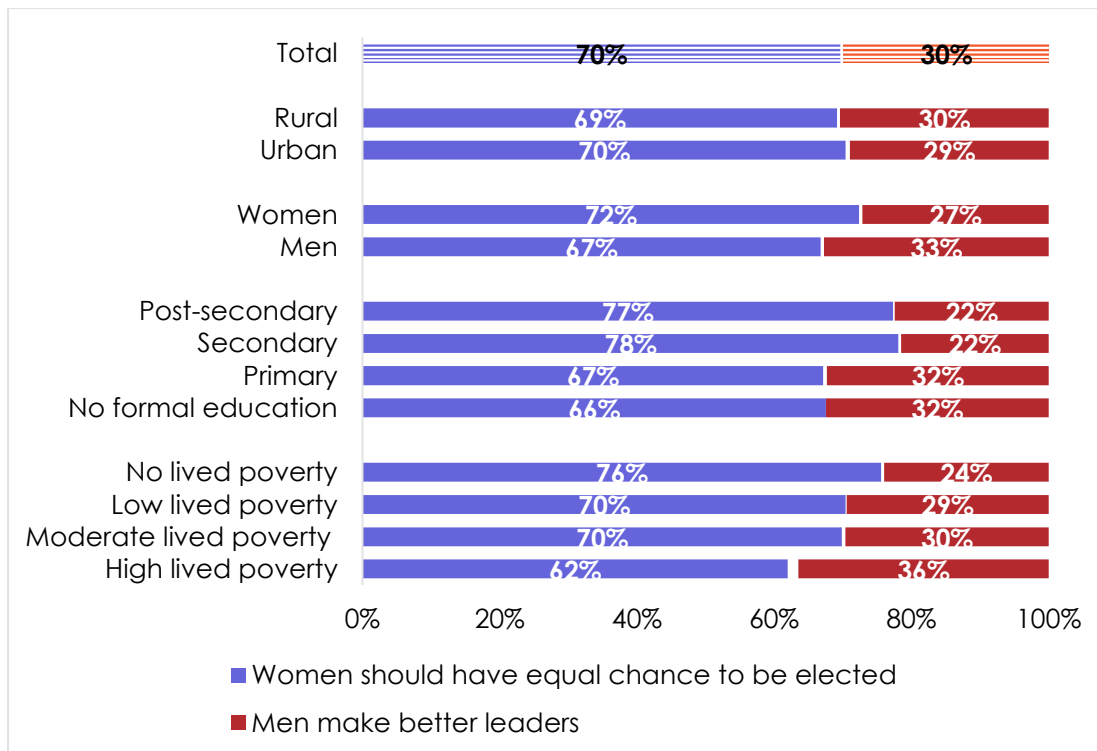
Respondents were asked: What is the main way that decisions are made about how to use any money that you have or earn, for example from a job, a business, selling things, or other activities?

Figure 4: Should men have priority for scarce jobs? | by gender | Tanzania | 2022



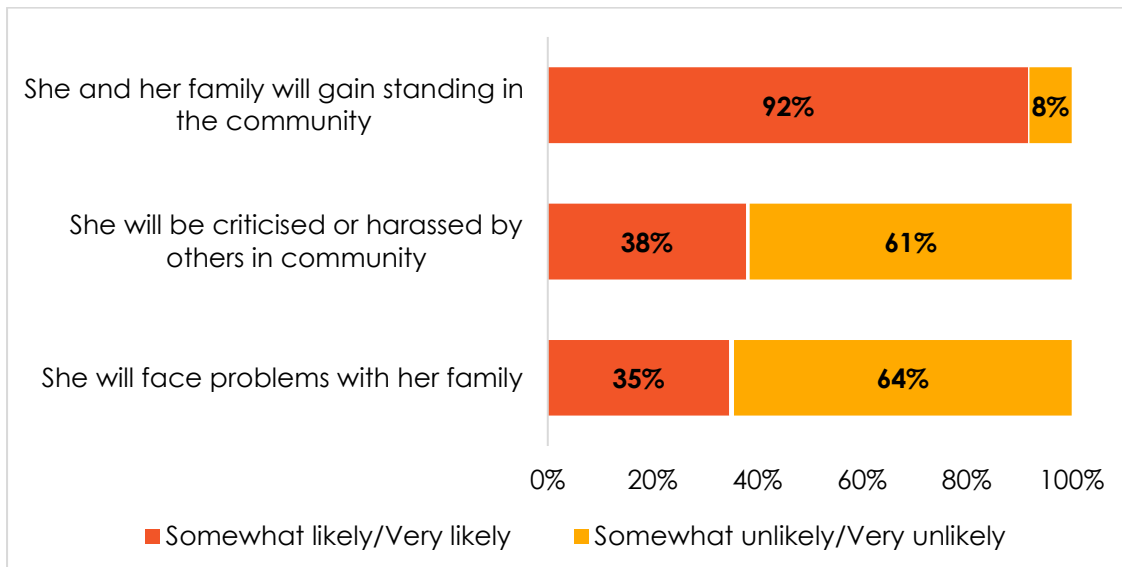
Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: When jobs are scarce, men should have more rights to a job than women.

Figure 5: Should women have an equal chance to be elected? | by demographic group | Tanzania | 2022



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women and should be elected rather than women.
 Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 6: For better or for worse: How running for elected office might affect women's lives | Tanzania | 2022



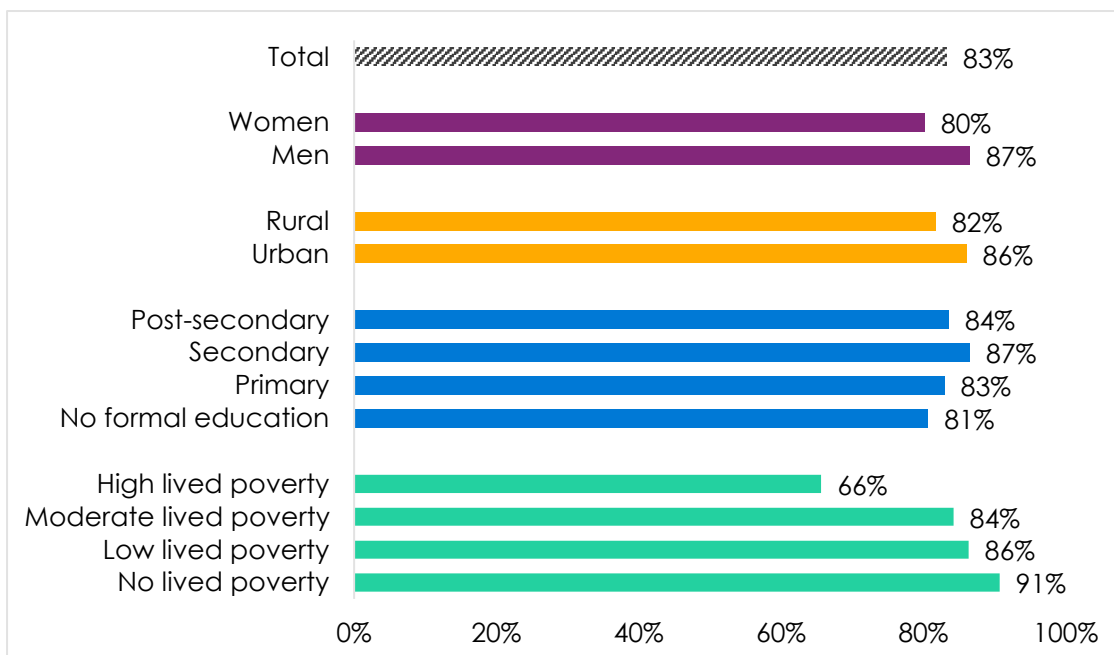
Respondents were asked: *If a woman in your community runs for elected office, how likely or unlikely is it that the following things might occur:*

She and her family will gain standing in the community?

She will be criticised, called names, or harassed by others in the community?

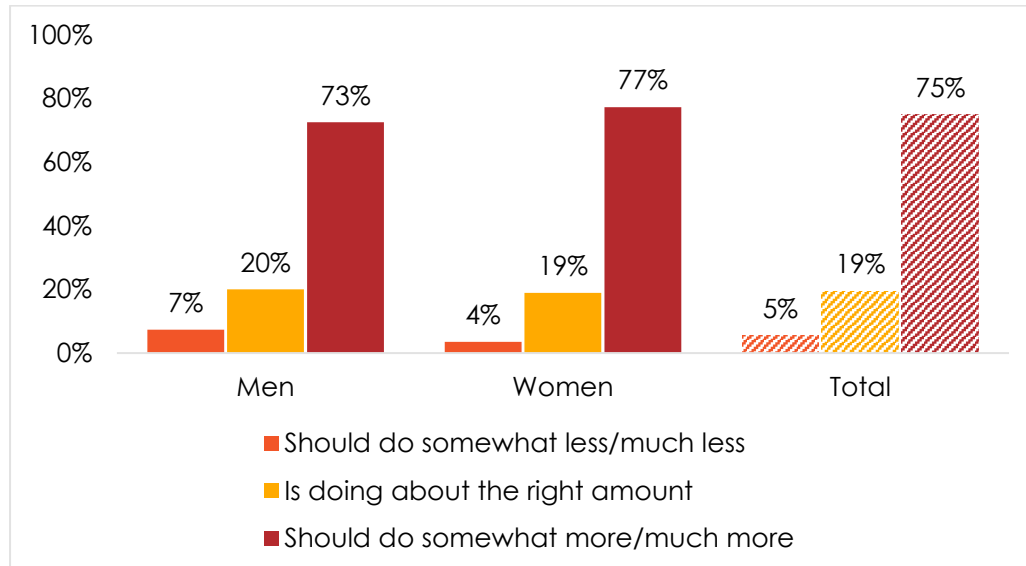
She will face problems with her family?

Figure 7: Government performance in promoting equal rights and opportunities for women | by demographic group | 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: Promoting equal rights and opportunities for women? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")*

Figure 8: Should the government do more or less to promote equal rights and opportunities for women? | by gender | Tanzania | 2022



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, should government and elected officials be doing more than they are doing now to advance the rights and equality of women, or should they be doing less, or are they doing about the right amount?*

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