



Mbabane, Eswatini  
26 October 2023

## News release

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### **Emaswati approve of government's COVID-19 response, favour more investment to prepare for health crises**

A majority of Emaswati say the government has performed well in managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

However, on specific aspects of the response, majorities say they are not satisfied with the government's efforts in providing relief assistance to vulnerable households, ensuring that disruptions to children's education were kept to a minimum, and making sure that health facilities were adequately resourced to deal with the pandemic.

Many citizens believe their government will not be prepared to deal with future public health emergencies and recommend that the government invest more in preparing for such crises, even if it means that fewer resources are available for other health services.

#### **Key findings**

- Six in 10 Emaswati (59%) describe the government's overall performance in managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic as "fairly" or "very" good, while 38% say it has done a poor job (Figure 1).
- On specific aspects of the COVID-19 response, however, majorities say they are "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" with the government's efforts in providing relief assistance to vulnerable households (65%), ensuring that disruptions to children's education were kept to a minimum (61%), and making sure that health facilities were adequately resourced to deal with the pandemic (57%) (Figure 2).
- More than two-thirds (68%) of citizens think their government will not be prepared to deal with future public health emergencies, including 50% who think it will be "very unprepared" (Figure 3).
- About six in 10 Emaswati (58%) say the government needs to invest more in preparing for future public health emergencies, even if it means that fewer resources are available for other health services (Figure 4).

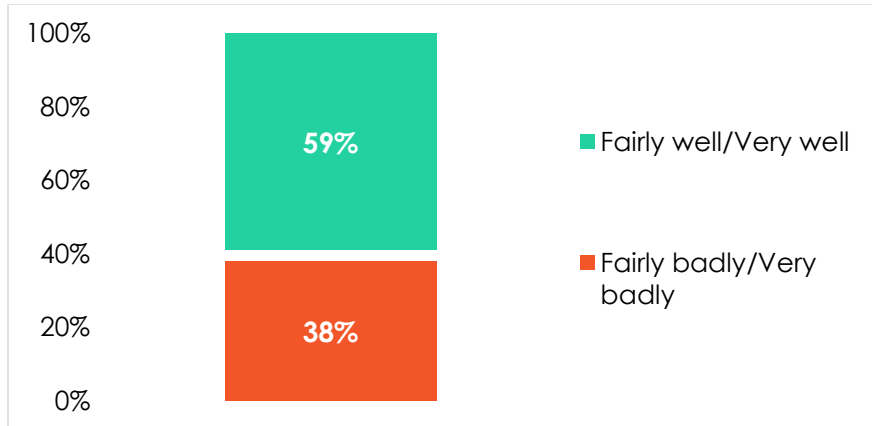
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

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. Nine rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys are being completed in 2023. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Eswatini, led by QA Strategic Information, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 adult citizens in October-November 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 Eswatini in 2013, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

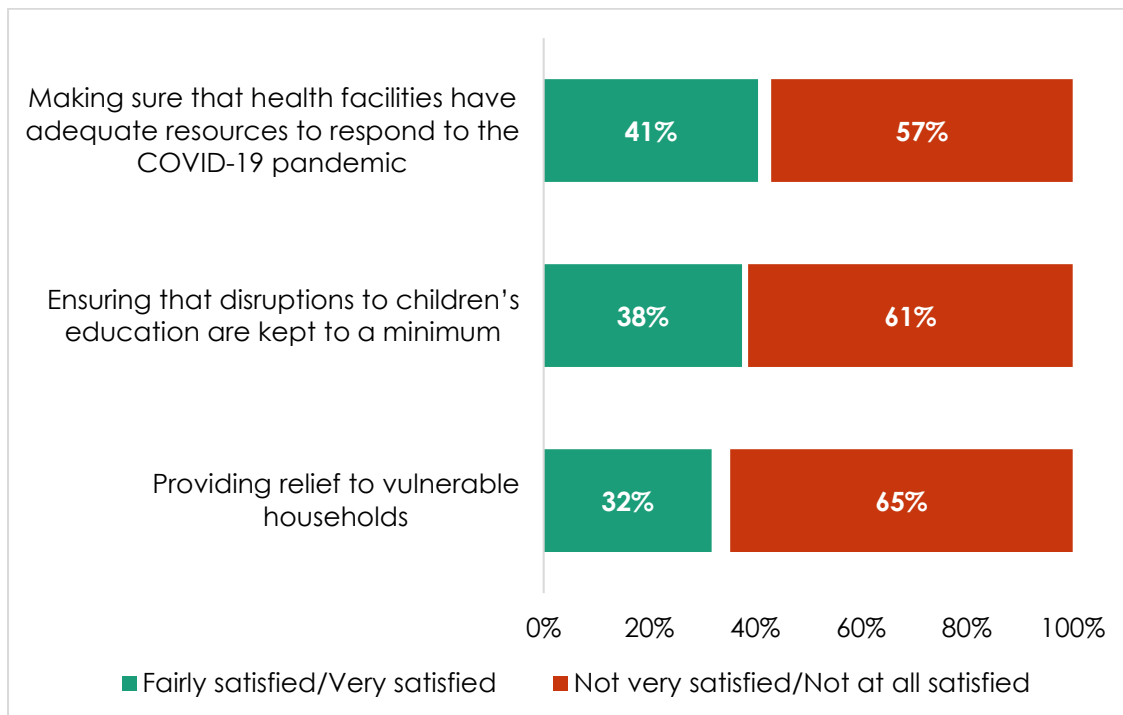
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Government response to COVID-19 | Eswatini | 2022**



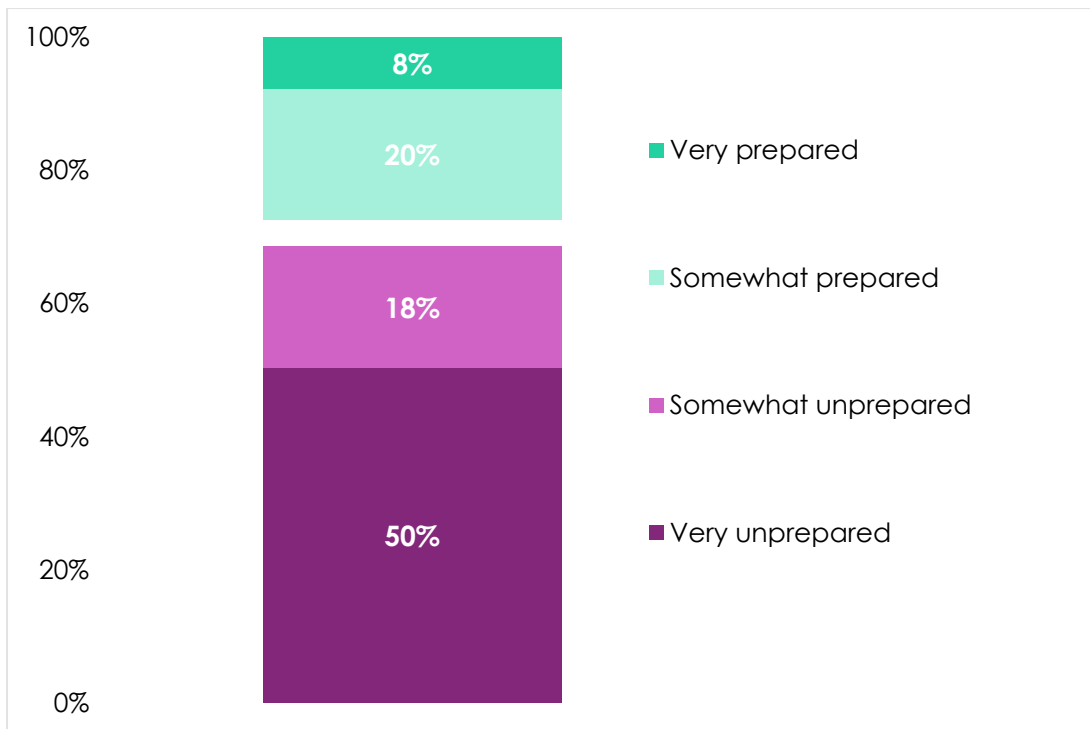
**Respondents were asked:** How well or badly would you say the current government has managed the response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Figure 2: Satisfaction with aspects of the government's response to COVID-19 | Eswatini | 2022**



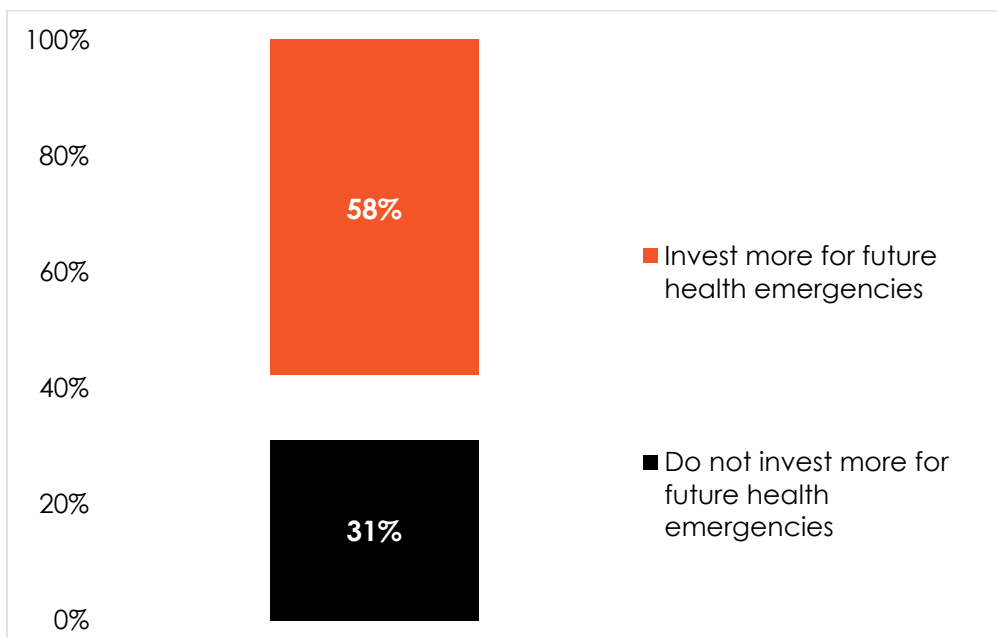
**Respondents were asked:** How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the government's response to COVID-19 in the following areas?

**Figure 3: Preparedness for future health emergencies | Eswatini | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** After experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic in Eswatini, how prepared or unprepared do you think the government will be to deal with future public health emergencies?

**Figure 4: Invest more to prepare for future health emergencies? | Eswatini | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Our government needs to invest more of our health resources in special preparations to respond to health emergencies like COVID-19, even if it means fewer resources are available for other health services?

**For more information, please contact:**

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