



Lusaka, Zambia
31 October 2024

News release

Zambians dissatisfied with their economy and the country's overall direction, Afrobarometer survey shows

A majority of Zambians are dissatisfied with their country's economic condition and overall direction, the latest Afrobarometer survey reveals.

According to the survey, most Zambians also describe their personal living conditions as bad.

While fewer people report lacking some basic necessities than in 2020, concerns about essential items such as food and cooking fuel persist, and the rising cost of living is a top priority for government action, along with water supply, health, and infrastructure.

Key findings

- Two-thirds (66%) of Zambians say the country is heading in the wrong direction, a 20-percentage-point increase from 2022 (Figure 1).
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) say their country's economic condition is "fairly bad" or "very bad," while two-thirds (66%) feel the same about their personal living conditions (Figure 2).
- Compared to 2020, fewer Zambians went without enough food, medical care, and a cash income during the past year (Figure 3).
- The increasing cost of living tops the list of important problems that Zambians want the government to address, followed by water supply, health, infrastructure/roads, farming/agriculture, food shortage/famine, and electricity (Figure 4).

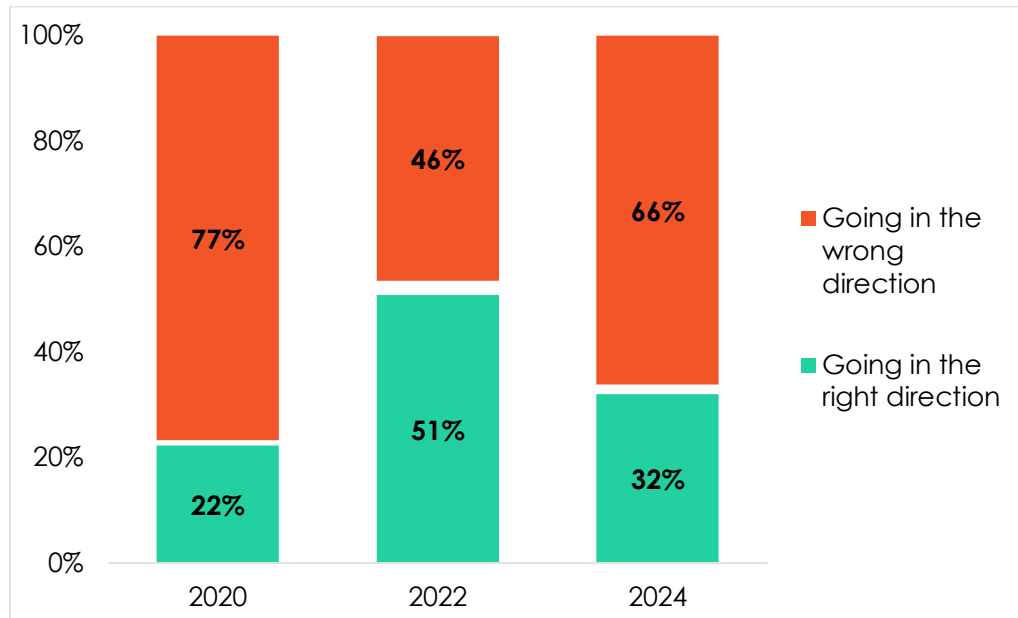
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Zambia, led by the Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR), interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult citizens of Zambia between 8 July and 28 July 2024. 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 Zambia in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2020, and 2022.

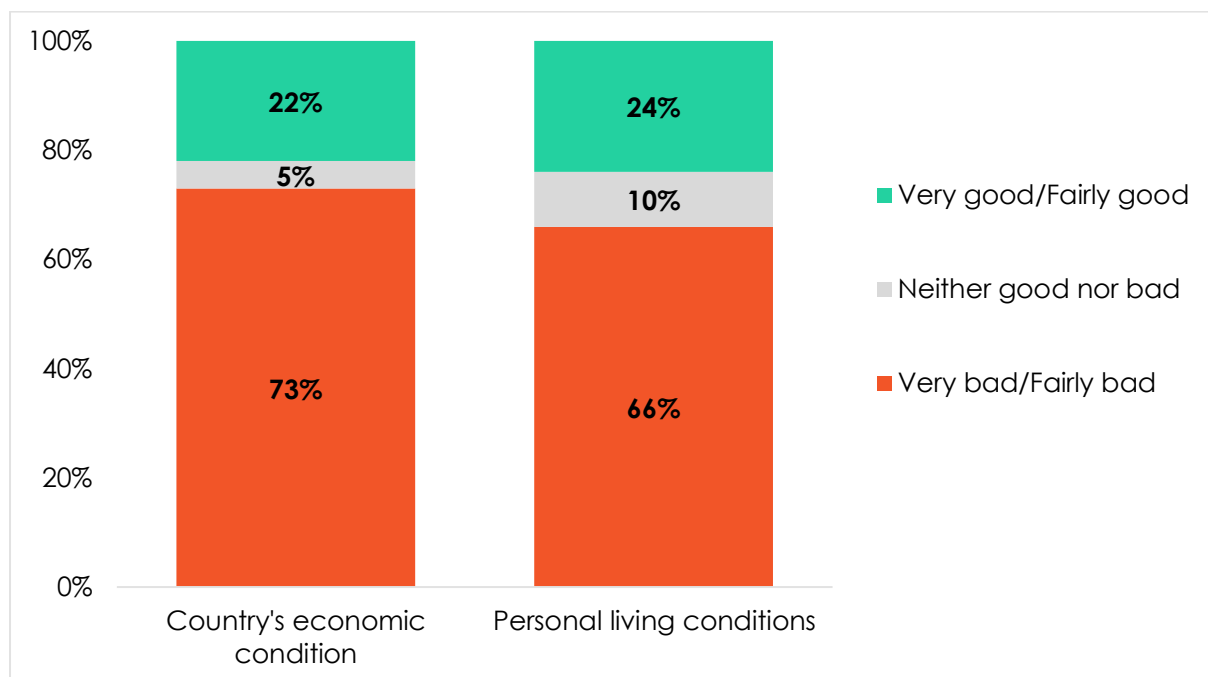
Charts

Figure 1: Country's direction | Zambia | 2024



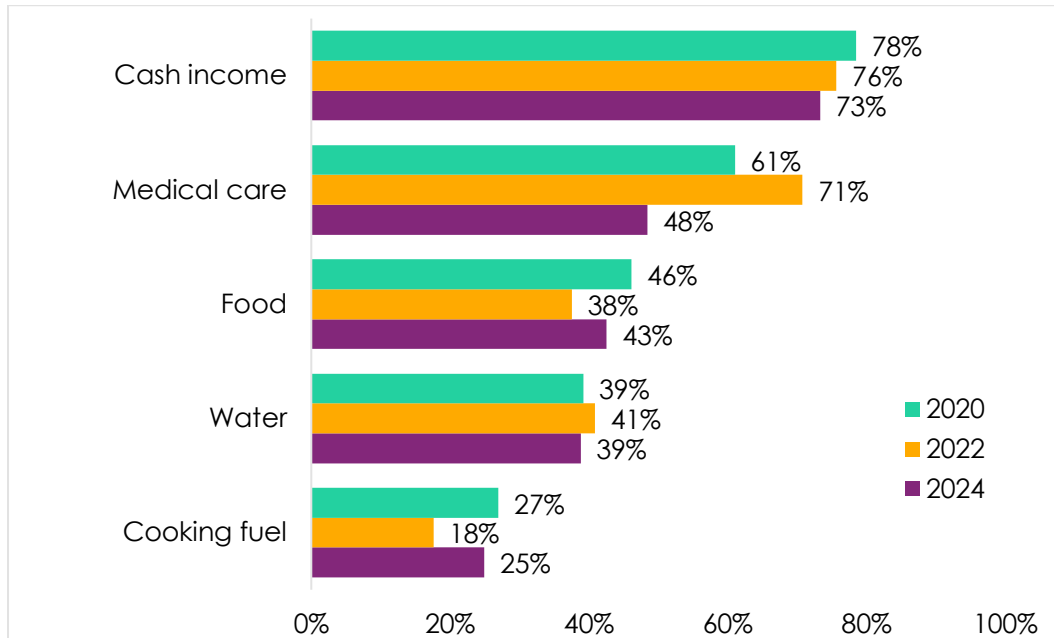
Respondents were asked: *Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?*

Figure 2: Country's economic condition and personal living conditions | Zambia | 2024



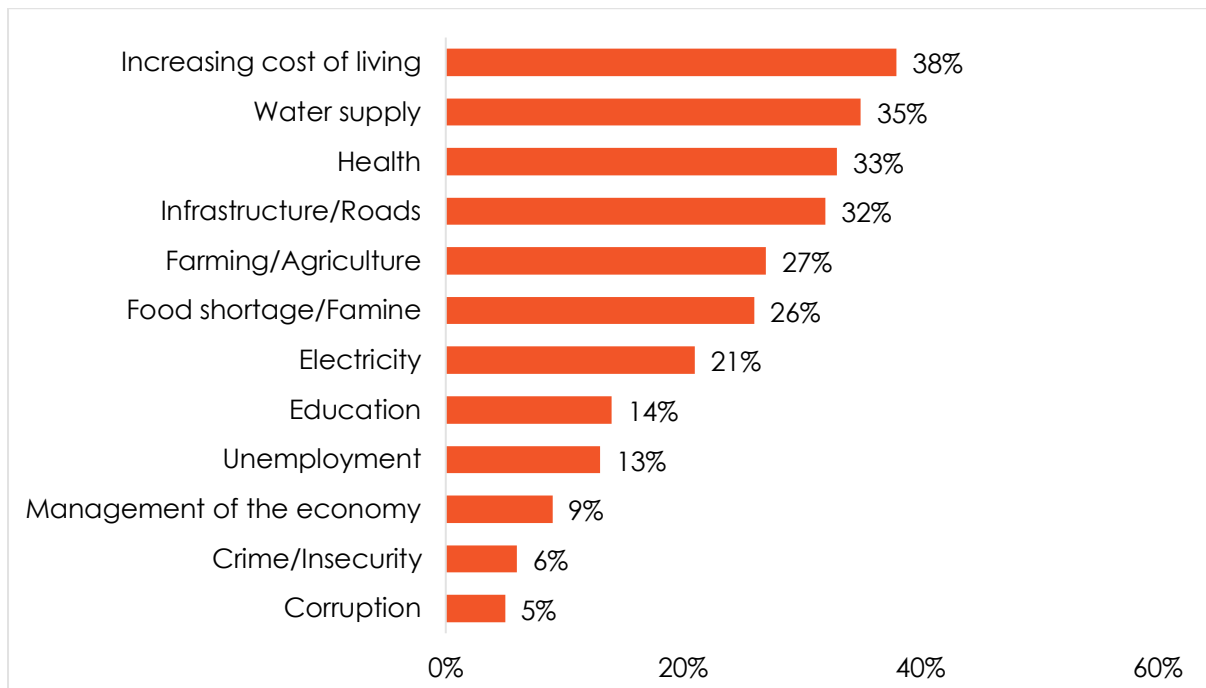
Respondents were asked: *In general, how would you describe: The present economic condition of this country? Your own present living conditions?*

Figure 3: Went without basic necessities | Zambia | 2020-2024



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income? (% who say "several times," "many times," or "always")

Figure 4: Most important problems | Zambia | 2024



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

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