



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
19 March 2025

News release

Tanzanians applaud government for improving basic health care, but health remains the country's top priority

A majority of Tanzanians appreciate the government's efforts to improve basic health care services, a recent Afrobarometer study shows. But citizens still cite health as the country's most pressing issue requiring government attention.

Accessibility of health care remains a key concern: Only about one-third of rural areas have a health clinic or hospital in the vicinity, while fewer than six in 10 urban centres do.

Nearly half of respondents report going without essential medicine or medical treatment at least once in the past year, including one-sixth who did so "many times" or "always."

Unsurprisingly, two-thirds of Tanzanians express concern about their ability to afford health care if needed. These worries are more prevalent among the poor than among the well-off.

Key findings

- Almost seven in 10 Tanzanians (68%) appreciate the work the government is doing to improve basic health services (Figure 1).
- However, improving health care is still citizens' top priority, cited by close to half (45%) of respondents as a problem requiring government intervention (Figure 2).
- Only about one-third (35%) of rural areas surveyed by Afrobarometer have public or private health facilities, compared to nearly six in 10 urban centres (58%) (Figure 3).
- Nearly half (47%) of Tanzanians say they went without medicine or medical treatment at least once in the past year, including one-sixth (17%) who say they lacked medical care "many times" or "always" (Figure 4).
- Two in three citizens worry "somewhat" (34%) or "a lot" (32%) that they will be unable to afford health care if they or a family member get sick (Figure 5).
 - More than three-fourths (78%) of those experiencing high lived poverty worry that they cannot afford to pay medical bills.

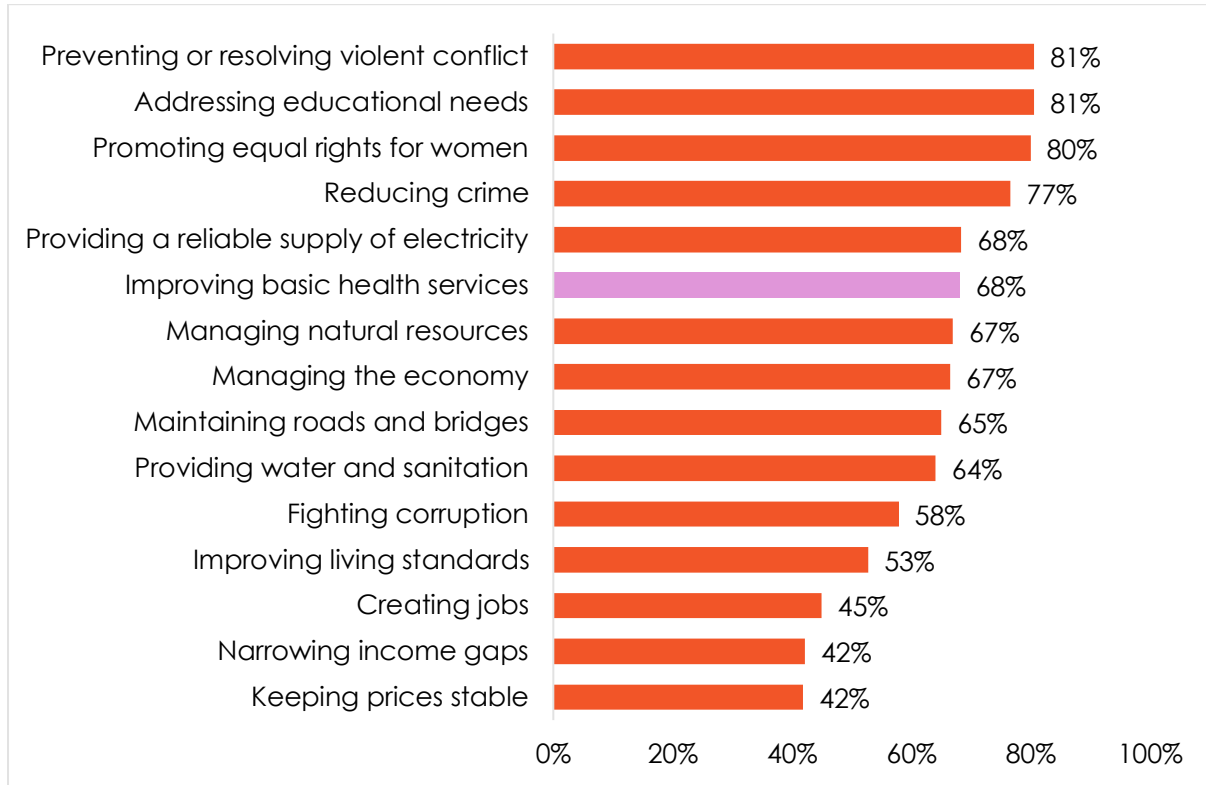
Afrobarometer surveys

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 Tanzania, led by REPOA, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult citizens of Tanzania between June and July 2024. 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, 2021, and 2022.

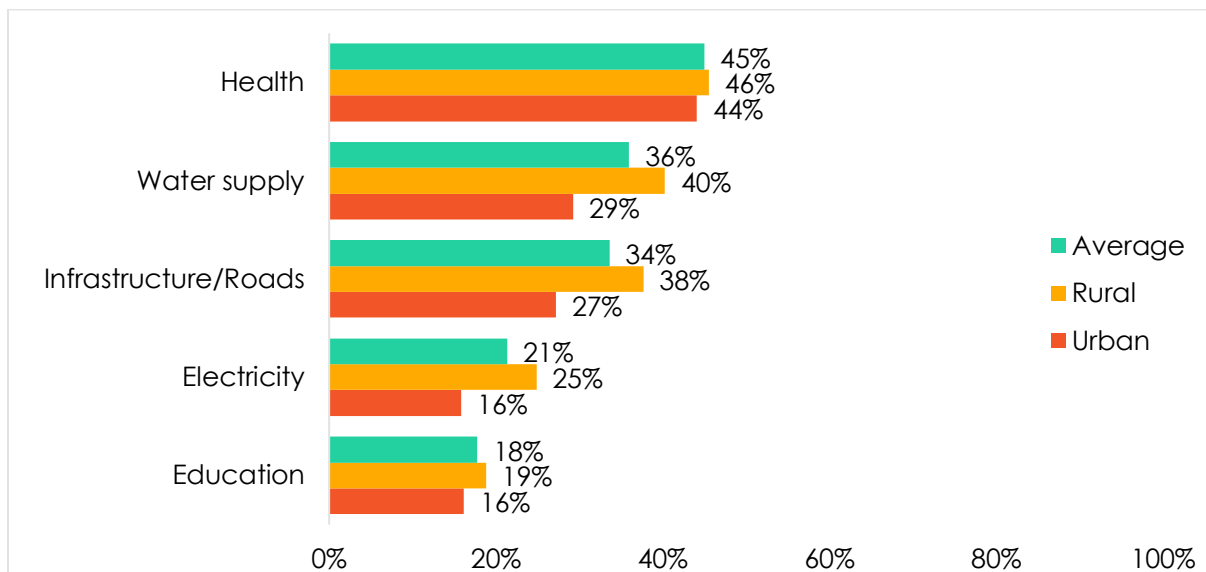
Charts

Figure 1. Approval of government performance on key issues | Tanzania | 2024



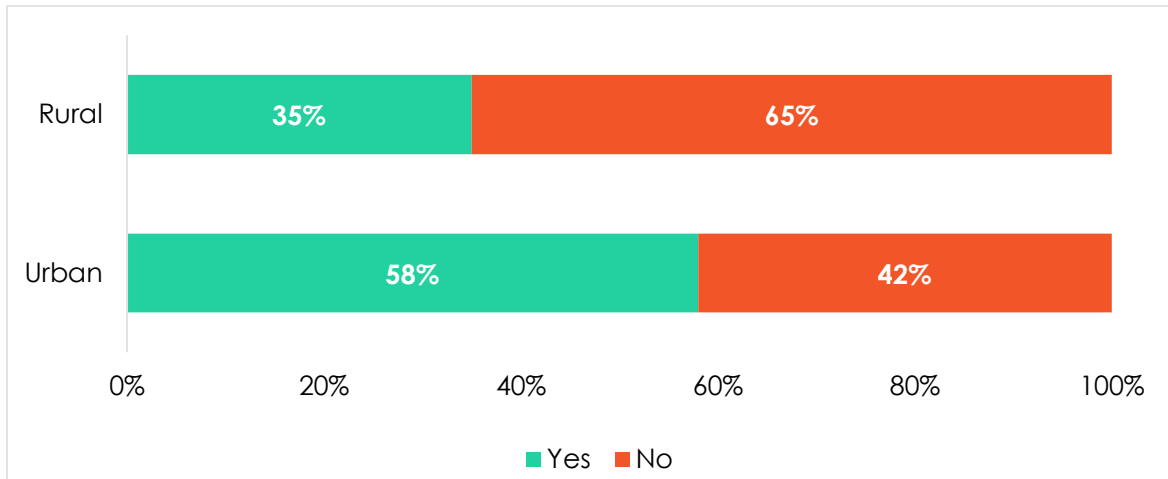
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% of those who say "fairly well" or "very well")

Figure 2. Most important problems | by location | Tanzania | 2024



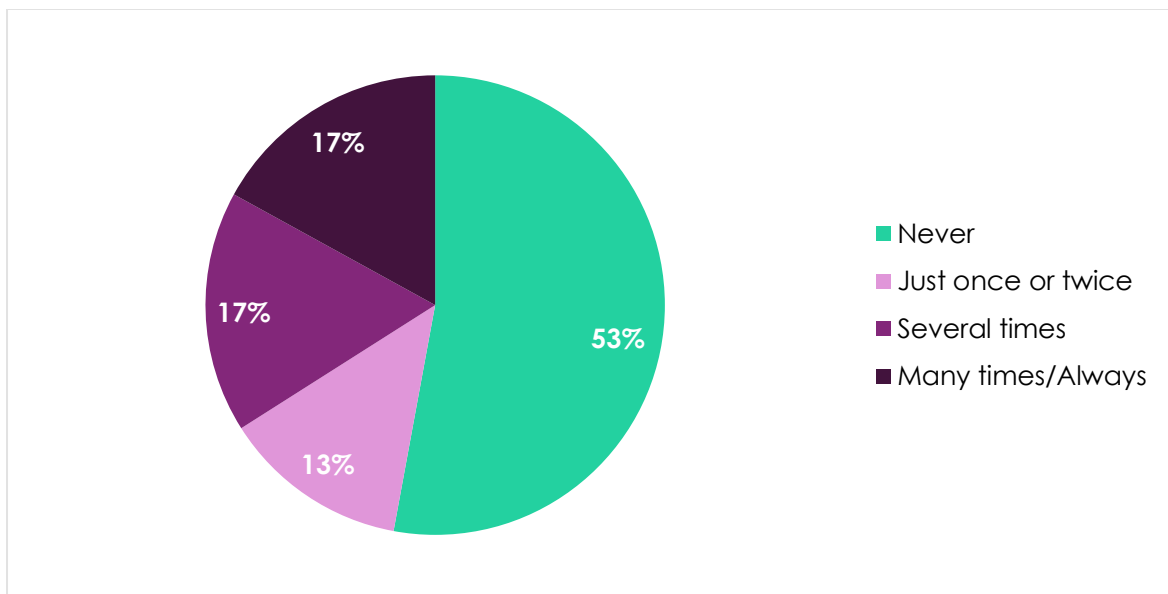
Respondents were asked: In your opinion what are the most important problems facing this country that the government should address? (Up to three responses were recorded per respondent. The figure shows the % of respondents who cite each problem among their three priorities.)

Figure 3: Presence of health facilities | by location | Tanzania | 2024



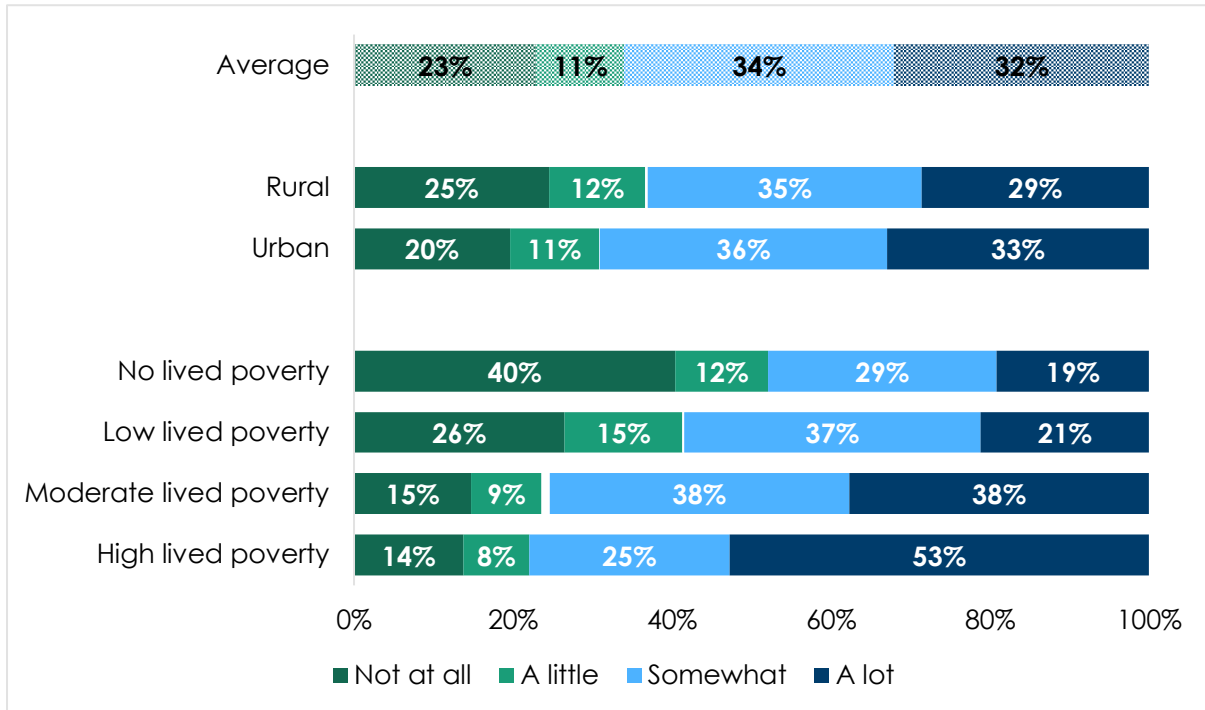
Enumerators were asked: Are the following facilities [health clinic (public or private or both)] present in the primary sampling unit/enumeration area or within easy walking distance?

Figure 4: Gone without medicines or medical treatment | Tanzania | 2024



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: medicine or medical treatment?

Figure 5. Worry about failing to pay a medical bill when sick?
 | by demographic group | Tanzania | 2024



Respondents were asked: How much do you personally worry that you or someone in your family will get sick and will be unable to obtain or afford needed medical care?

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