Maputo, Mozambique
23 June 2026

News release

Mozambican youth struggle to find jobs, say they are hampered by lack of training and work experience

Nearly two-thirds of Mozambique's youth say they are not employed and are looking for work, a recent Afrobarometer survey shows. Citizens aged 18-35 are more likely than their elders to report being unemployed.

Aside from economic conditions, young Mozambicans are most likely to identify a lack of adequate training or preparation as the primary barriers to youth employment, followed by a lack of work experience.

If given a choice, nearly half of youth would prefer to start their own business, while almost one in three would rather work in the public sector. Young men and women have similar job preferences.

If the government could increase its spending to help young people, job creation would be the top priority for youth, followed by access to business loans, education, and vocational training.

Key findings

- About two-thirds (65%) of Mozambicans aged 18-35 say they are not employed and are looking for work, compared to 55% of 36- to 45-year-olds (Figure 1).
    - Another 21% of youth are not employed and not seeking work.
- Similar to their elders, Mozambican youth say the main barriers to youth employment are a lack of adequate training or preparation (30%), a lack of experience required by employers (19%), and a mismatch between educational qualifications and job requirements (Figure 2).
- Almost half (46%) of young people say that if they were given a choice, they would prefer to start their own business. Three in 10 (31%) would opt to work in the public sector, while 13% would work for a private company (Figure 3).
    - The youth's preference for entrepreneurship is similar among men and women (45% vs. 46%) (Figure 4).
- If the government could increase its spending to help youth, job creation would be the top priority for young respondents (cited by 51% of 18- to 35-year-olds), followed by access to business loans (20%), education (10%), social services for youth (9%), and jobs training (8%) (Figure 5).

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. Ten survey rounds in up to 45 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys

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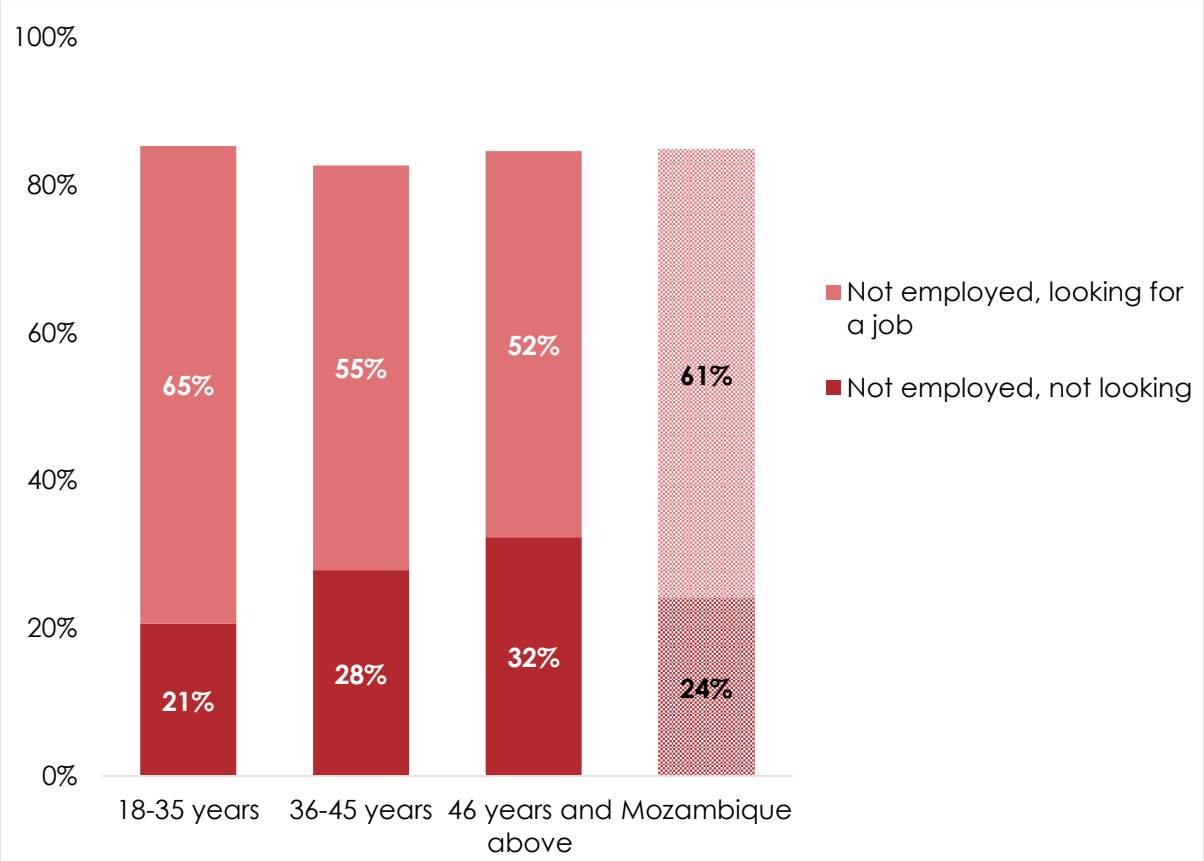
(2024/2025) cover 38 countries. Afrobarometer's National Partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Mozambique, led by CS Research, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 adult citizens between July and September 2025. 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 Mozambique in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021, and 2022.

Charts

Figure 1: Employment status | by age group | Mozambique | 2025



Respondents were asked: *Do you have a job that provides you with a cash income? [If no:] Are you currently looking for work?*

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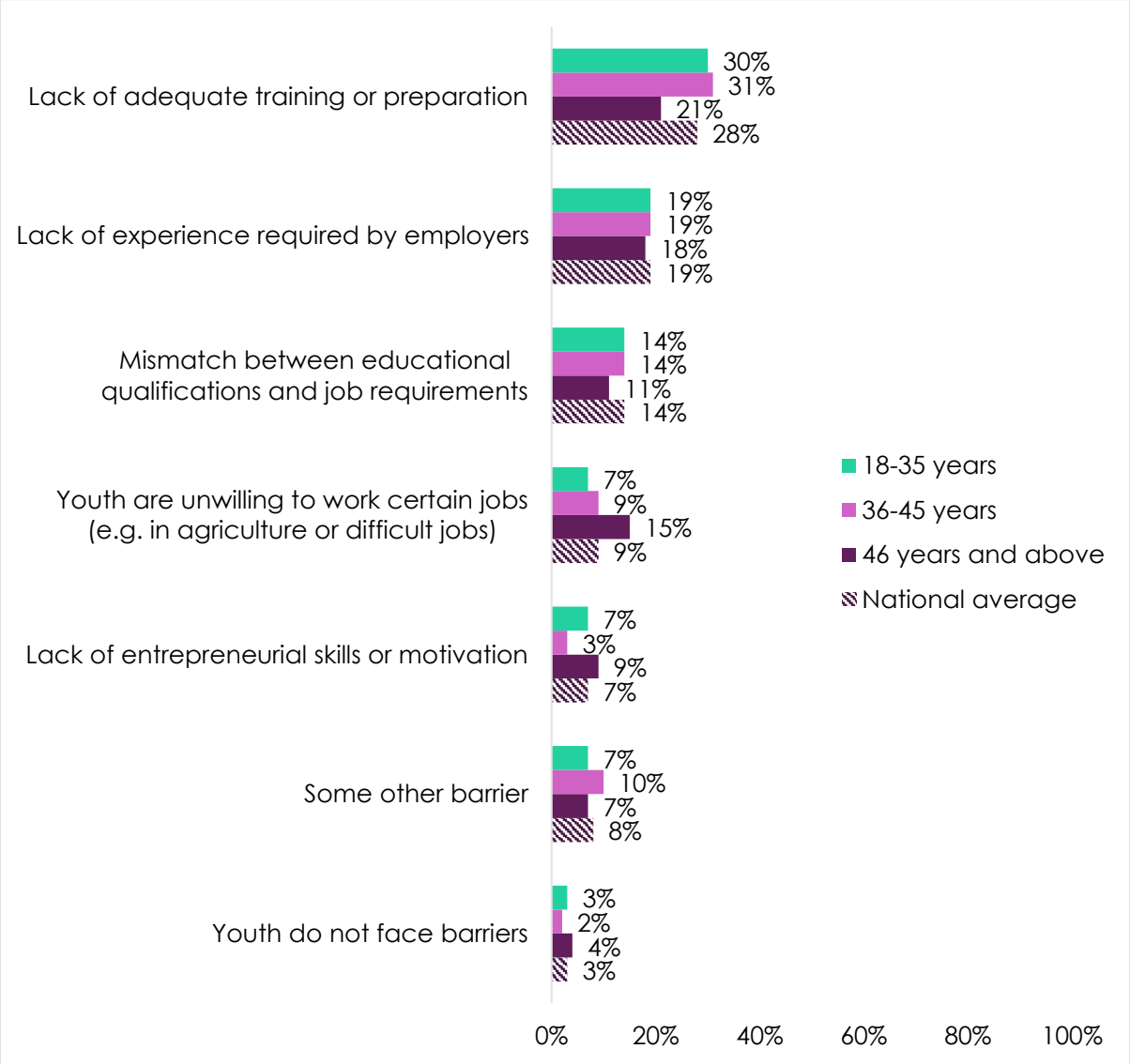
Figure 2: Main barrier to youth employment | by age group | Mozambique | 2025



***Respondents were asked**: Beyond economic conditions and the scarcity of jobs, which of the following factors, if any, would you say is the main barrier to young people obtaining employment and entering the labor market?*

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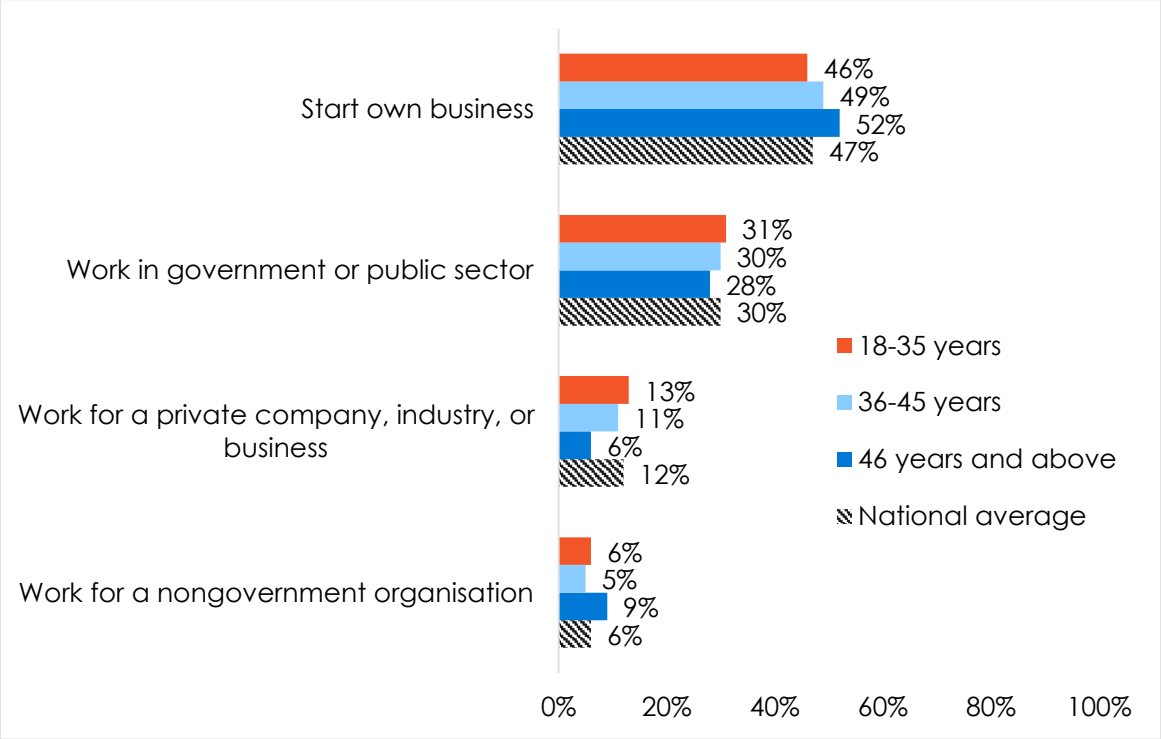
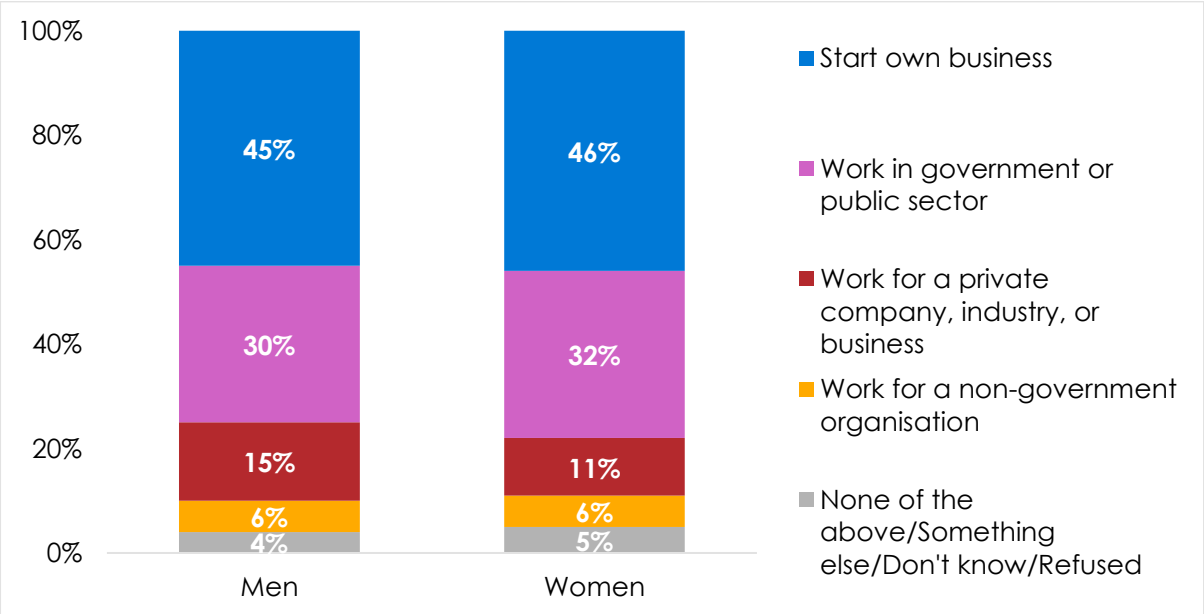
Figure 3: Preferred job sector | by age group | Mozambique | 2025



***Respondents were asked**: If you could work in any sector you wanted, which of the following would be your first choice?*

Figure 4: Preferred job sector | respondents aged 18 to 35 | by gender | Mozambique | 2025



***Respondents were asked**: If you could work in any sector you wanted, which of the following would be your first choice?*

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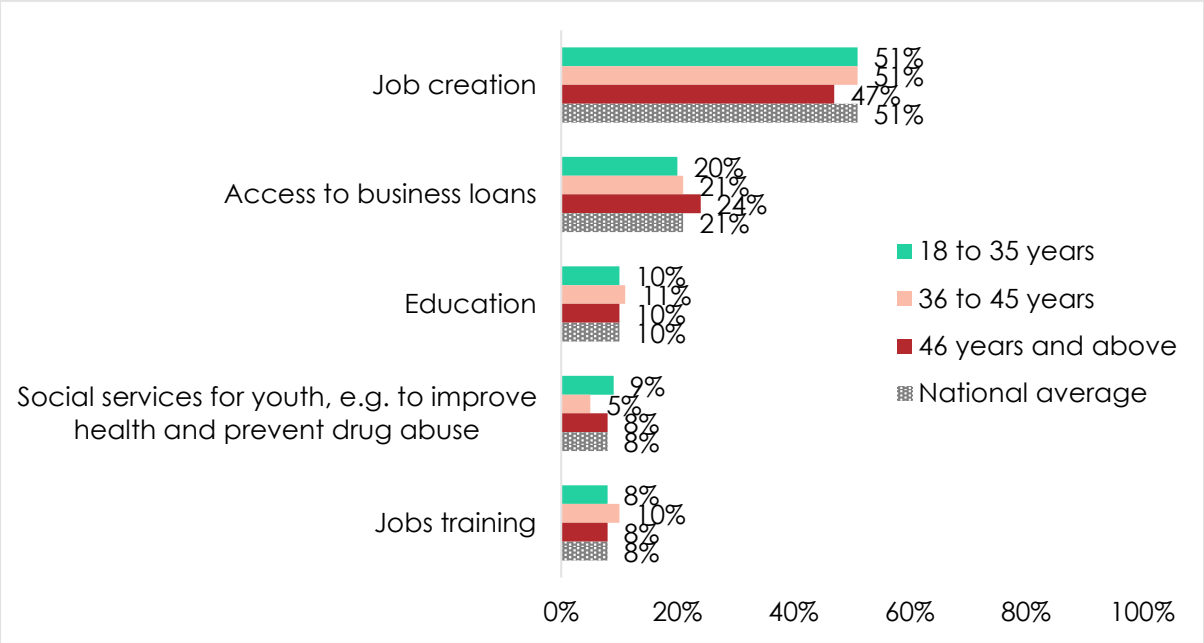
Figure 5: Government spending priorities to help youth | by age group | Mozambique | 2025



***Respondents were asked**: If the government could increase spending on programmes aimed at helping young people, which of the following areas do you think should be the main priority for additional investment?*

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