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## Afrobarometer Round 6

New data from  
across Africa

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Dakar, Senegal  
17 December 2015

## News release

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### Unemployment, education top list of Africans' problems, priorities

Africans' **most urgent problem is unemployment**, and their **top priority for more government investment is education**, according to Afrobarometer's latest round of surveys across Africa.

Survey findings published today (17 December 2015) in the report "**Where to start? Aligning Sustainable Development Goals with citizen priorities**" ([www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)), detail the views of about 48,000 citizens in 32 African countries regarding their most important problems and their priorities for additional government spending.

These insights into citizens' priorities are particularly significant as political leaders and activists debate policy agendas and development investments in light of the new 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### Key findings

- Across the 32 surveyed countries, the most frequently cited problems are unemployment, health, and education, although poverty and food shortage, taken together, are also a dominant concern (Figure 1).
- But the most important problems vary by country: Water supply is the top problem in Guinea and Burkina Faso, while food shortage is the most frequently cited problem in Malawi, Mali, and Niger. In Kenya and Madagascar, crime and security top the list.
- Poor citizens rank problems differently than their wealthier counterparts, emphasizing problems of basic survival.
- Asked which of six sectors should be prioritized for greater investment of state resources, citizens prioritize education and health care (Figure 2). Education is the top priority for additional government spending in three-fourths of all countries. But investment agricultural development is the top priority in Malawi, Mali, and Burundi, while infrastructure heads the list in Lesotho. Security ranks as a higher priority in Kenya, Nigeria, and Tunisia than in other countries.
- The rank ordering of investment priorities is fairly consistent regardless of respondent age, education, income, gender, or urban-rural location, but the groups' relative emphasis on these issues varies.

#### Afrobarometer

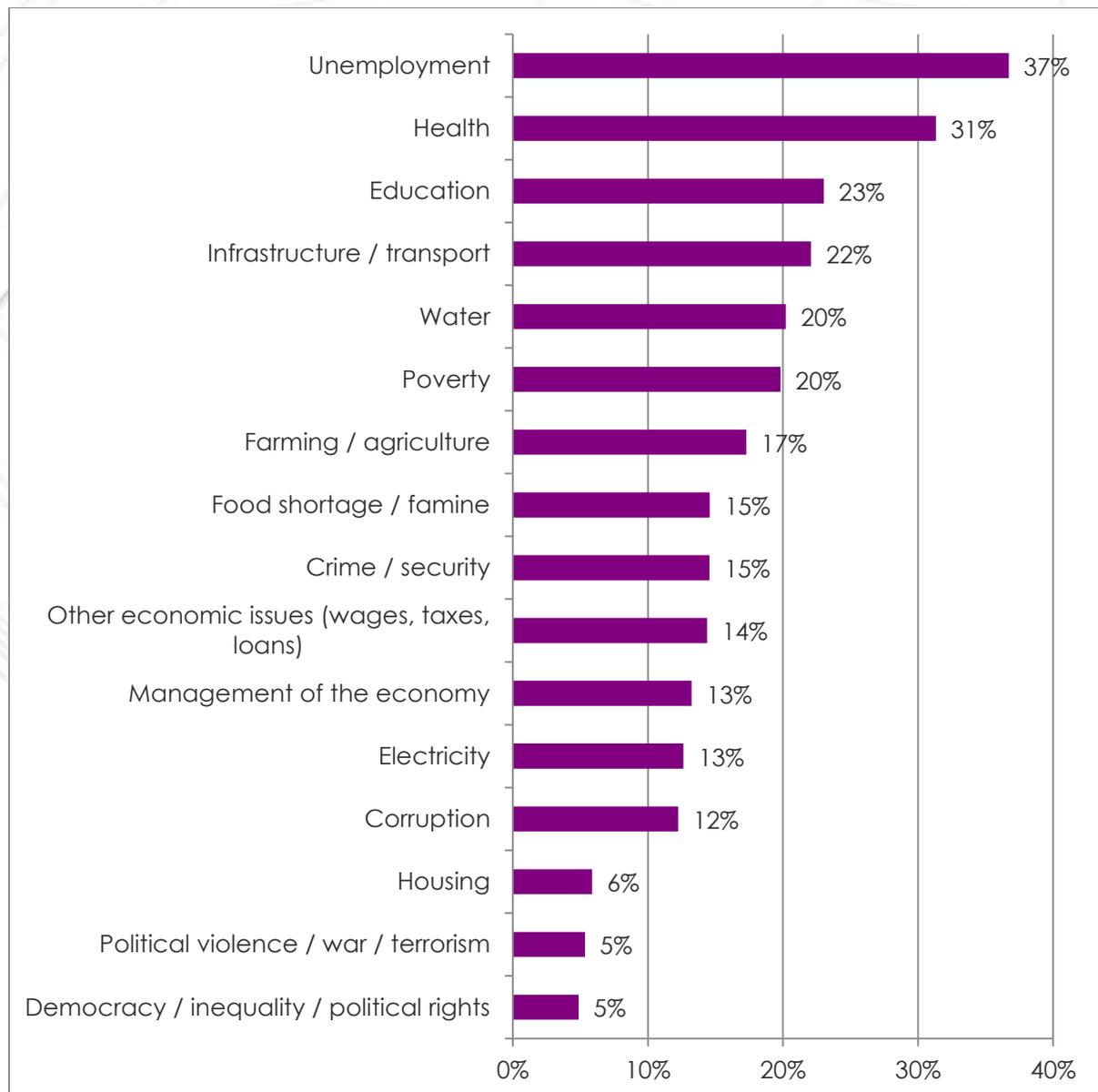
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and results from Round 6 surveys (2014/2015) are currently being released. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally

representative samples, which yield country-level results with a margin of sampling error of +/-2% (for a sample of 2,400) or +/-3% (for a sample of 1,200) at a 95% confidence level.

Round 6 interviews were conducted with more than 52,700 citizens in 36 countries, representing the views of more than three-fourths of the continent's population. This first of Afrobarometer's global releases of Round 6 data focuses on 32 countries. Additional findings on a range of key issues will be released over the coming months.

**Charts**

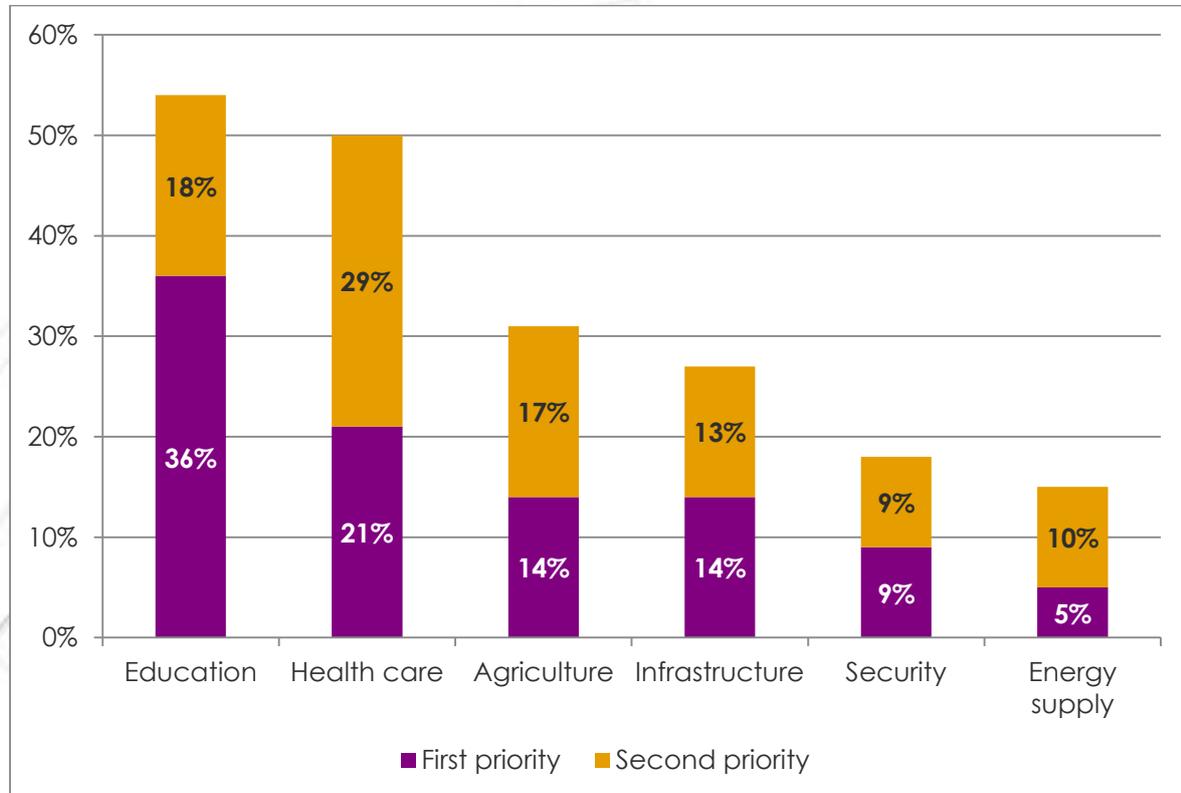
**Figure 1: Most important problems | 32 countries | 2014/2015**



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?*

**Note:** Respondents could give up to three responses. Figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem among their top three.

**Figure 2: First and second investment priorities** | 32 countries | 2014/2015



**Respondents were asked:** *If the government of this country could increase its spending, which of the following areas do you think should be the top priority for additional investment? And which would be your second priority?*

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