



Harare, Zimbabwe  
7 July 2021



## News release

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### **Most Zimbabweans see government mismanagement, rather than sanctions, as main cause of country's economic meltdown**

By a 2-to1 margin, Zimbabweans blame the country's economic meltdown mainly on the government's mismanagement of the economy rather than on sanctions imposed by the West, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

This is the predominant view across all key socio-demographic groups except among citizens who identify as feeling "close to" the ruling ZANU-PF party.

#### **Key findings**

- Two-thirds (65%) of Zimbabweans say the main cause of the country's economic meltdown is government mismanagement – more than twice as many as attribute economic troubles to sanctions imposed by the West (29%) (Figure 1).
- Urban residents (82%) and citizens with post-secondary education (89%) are more likely to attribute the country's economy troubles to government mismanagement than rural and less-educated citizens. Women (61%) are less likely than men (68%) to blame the government, as are older respondents (51% of those aged 56 or above) compared to their younger counterparts (66%-68%) (Figure 2).
- The view that the meltdown is primarily due to government mismanagement is particularly strong in Harare (84%). But even in Mashonaland Central, only a minority (44%) blame Western sanctions (Figure 3).
- While more than nine out of 10 MDC-Chamisa supporters (92%) see government mismanagement as the main cause of the country's economic meltdown, a majority (57%) of ZANU-PF adherents instead blame sanctions imposed by the West (Figure 4).

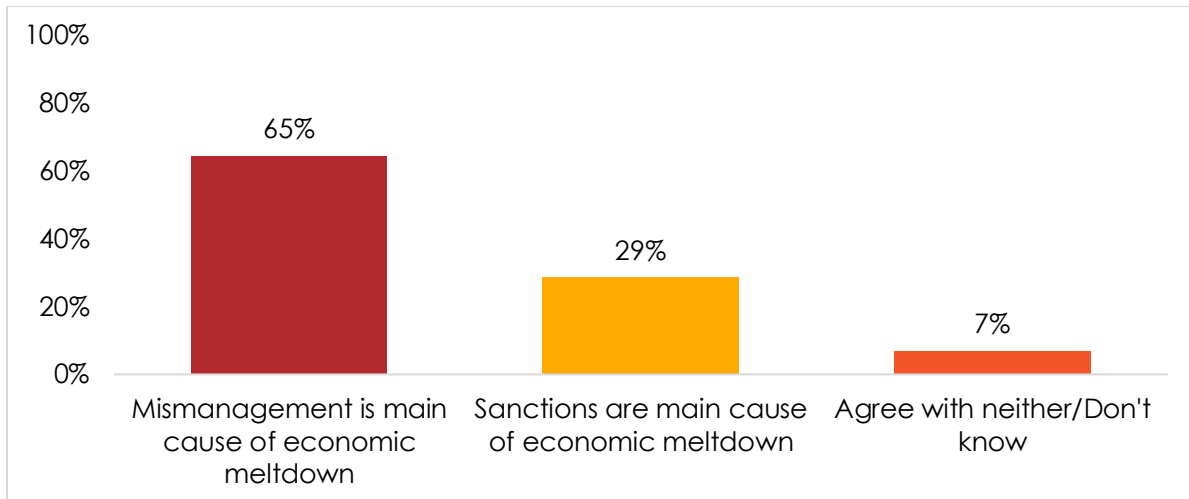
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

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. Seven rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys (2019/2021) cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Zimbabwe, led by the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), interviewed 1,200 adult citizens of Zimbabwe in April 2021. A statistically representative sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous standard Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Zimbabwe in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

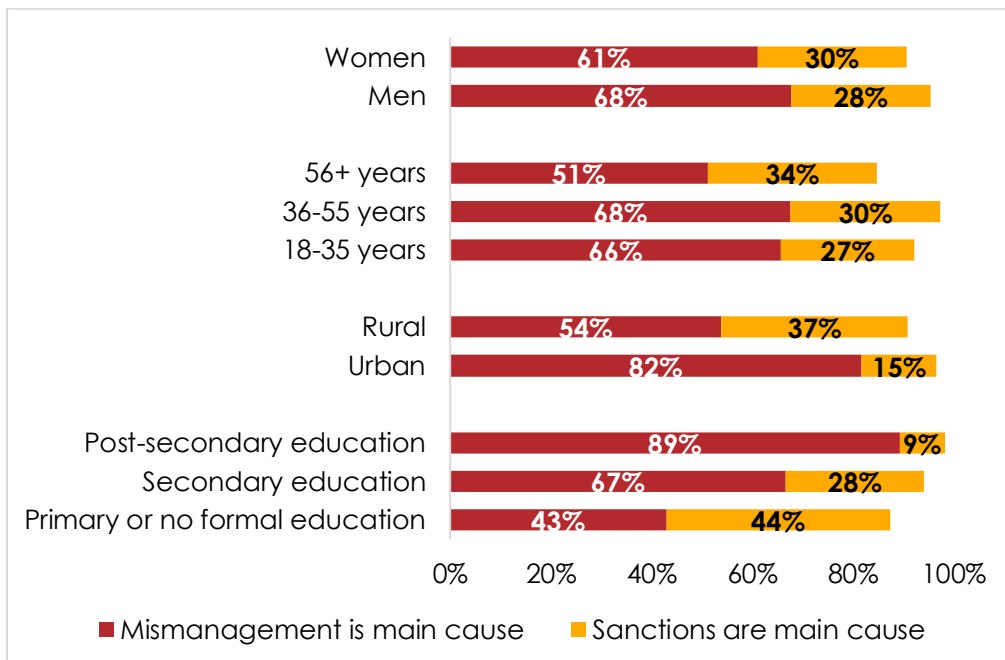
**Charts**

**Figure 1 : Main cause of country's economic meltdown | Zimbabwe | 2021**



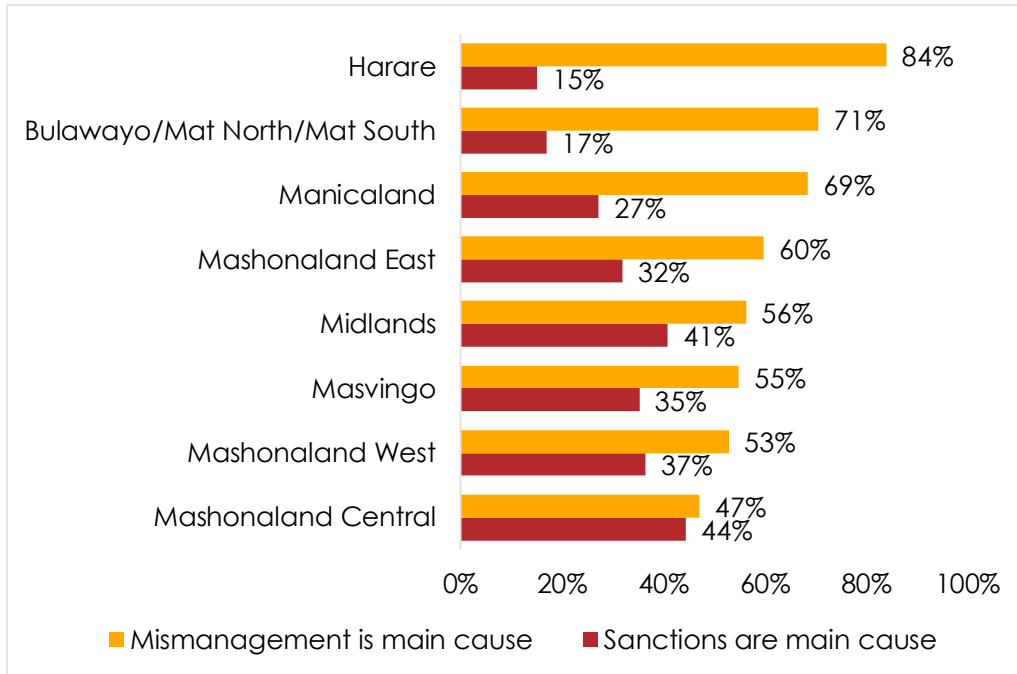
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: Sanctions imposed by the West on Zimbabwe are the main cause for the country's economic meltdown.  
 Statement 2: Government's mismanagement of the economy is the main cause for Zimbabwe's economic meltdown.  
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

**Figure 2 : Main cause of country's economic meltdown | by demographic group | Zimbabwe | 2021**



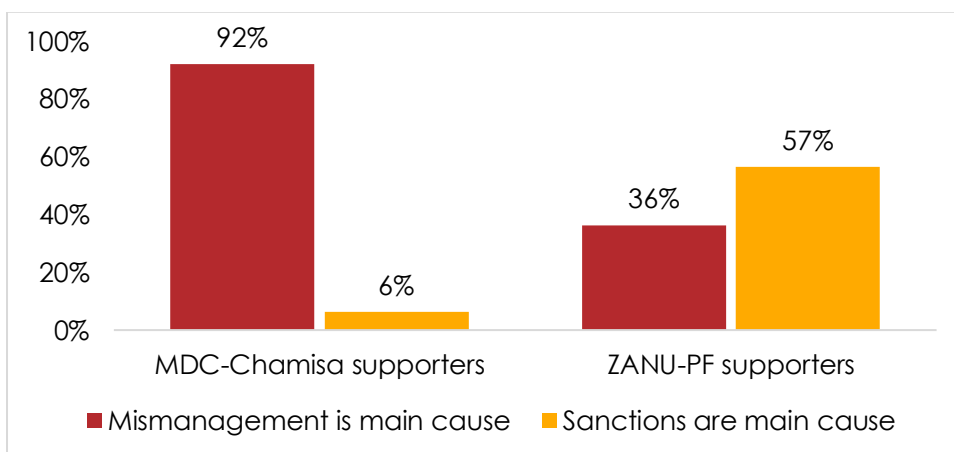
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**Figure 3 : Main cause of country's economic meltdown | by province | Zimbabwe | 2021**



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: Sanctions imposed by the West on Zimbabwe are the main cause for the country's economic meltdown.  
 Statement 2: Government's mismanagement of the economy is the main cause for Zimbabwe's economic meltdown.  
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

**Figure 4 : Main cause of country's economic meltdown | by political party affiliation | Zimbabwe | 2021**



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 Statement 2: Government's mismanagement of the economy is the main cause for Zimbabwe's economic meltdown.  
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)



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