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News release

Zimbabweans see unemployment as the most important problem that the government should address

Unemployment remains the most important problem that Zimbabweans want their government to address, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

Infrastructure/roads, education, management of the economy, and water supply follow as top priorities on citizens' agenda.

While rankings vary somewhat by respondents' location, gender, generation, and education levels, the major concerns are fairly consistent across demographic groups.

Key findings

- Unemployment is Zimbabweans' biggest concern, cited by 38% of respondents as one of their top three priorities for government action. Infrastructure/roads (33%), education (31%), management of the economy (26%), and water supply (20%) round out the top five (Figure 1).
- A lack of jobs is more widely seen as a priority in the cities (45%) than in rural areas (33%), as is management of the economy (36% vs. 19%) (Figure 2).
 - Rural residents are more likely than their urban counterparts to prioritize health (25% vs. 11%) and water supply (23% vs. 16%).
- Men are somewhat more likely than women to rank unemployment and infrastructure/roads among the most important problems that government should address. More women than men cite food shortage as a top concern (Figure 3).
- Among youth, unemployment (40%) and education (35%) top the list of priorities (Table 1).
 - Among respondents with primary schooling or less, education (33%) ranks as the No. 1 concern.

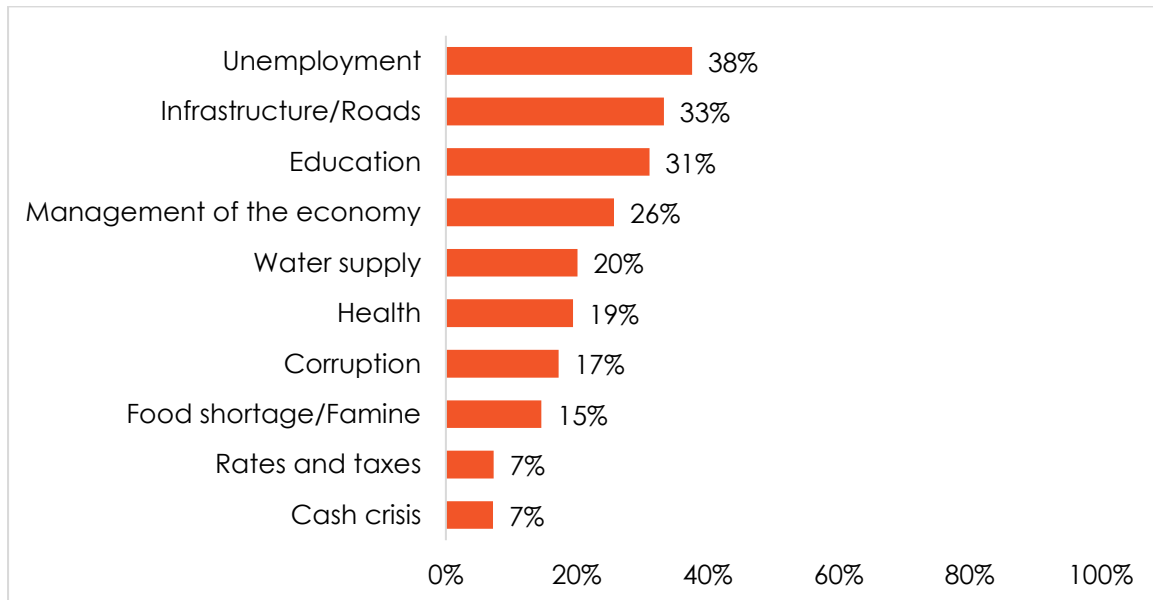
Afrobarometer surveys

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 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.

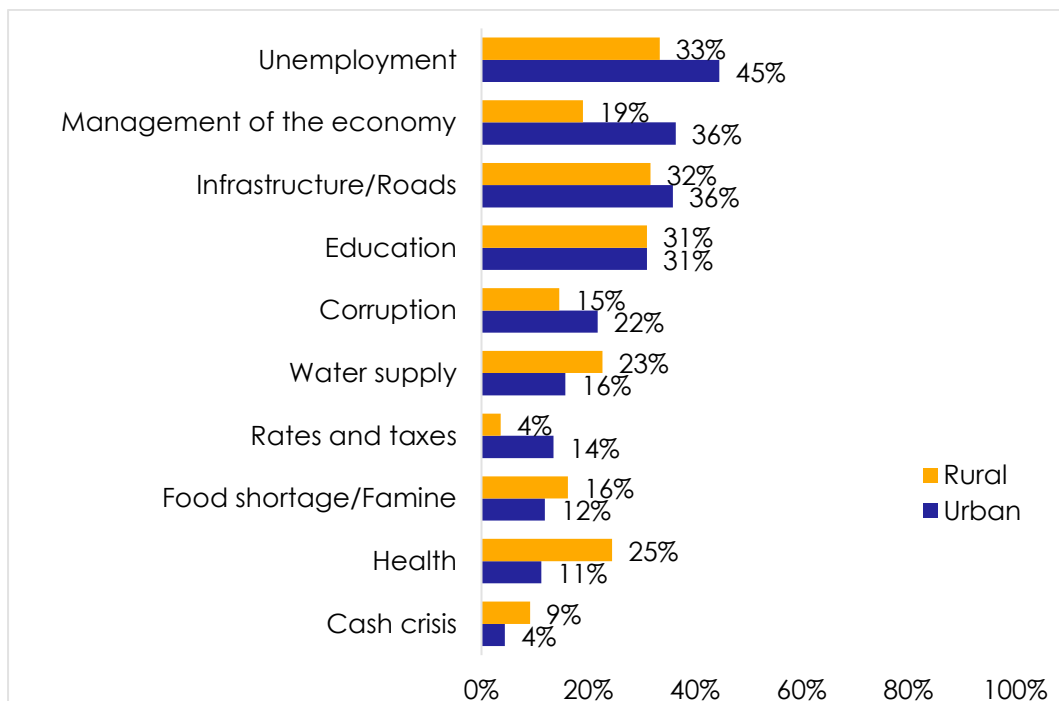
Charts

Figure 1 : Most important problems the government should address | Zimbabwe | 2021



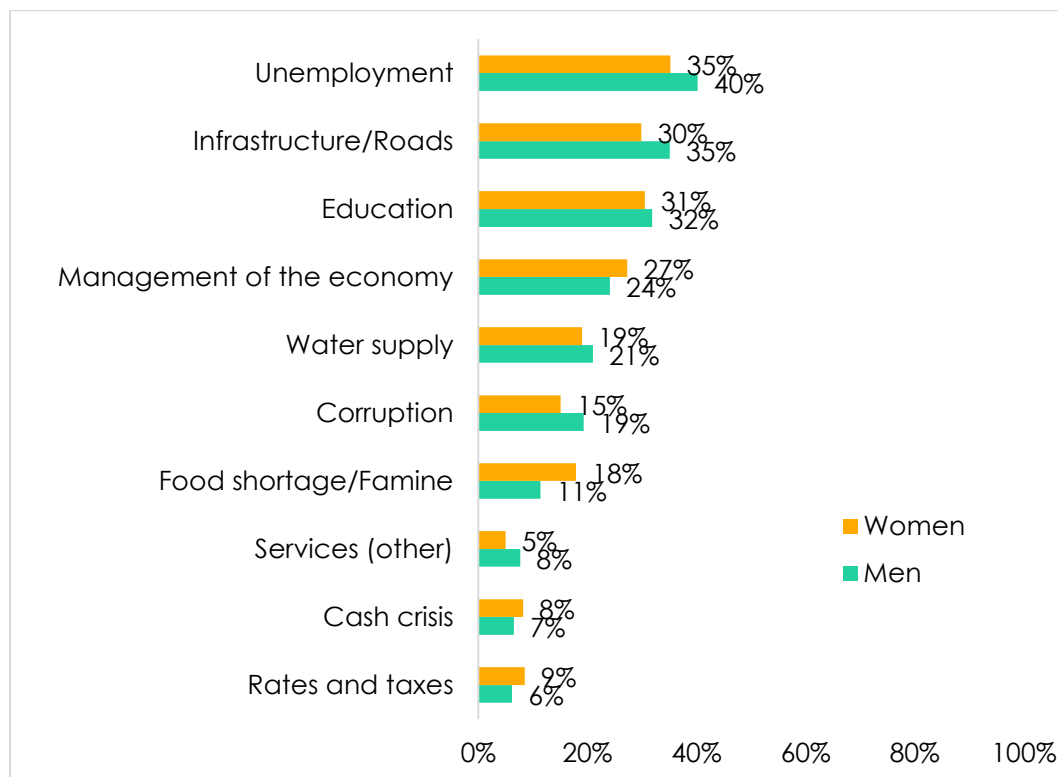
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person; figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem among their three priorities)

Figure 2: Most important problems the government should address | by rural-urban location | Zimbabwe | 2021



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

Figure 3: Most important problems the government should address | by gender
| Zimbabwe | 2021



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

Table 1: Most important problems that the government should address | by age and education | Zimbabwe | 2021

	Age			Education		
	18-35 years	36-55 years	56+ years	Primary or less	Secondary	Post-secondary
Unemployment	40%	36%	32%	31%	39%	44%
Education	35%	22%	25%	33%	34%	16%
Infrastructure/Roads	33%	28%	38%	32%	36%	26%
Management of economy	28%	37%	16%	18%	25%	40%
Corruption	23%	18%	8%	7%	17%	36%
Water supply	21%	17%	22%	24%	21%	10%
Health	17%	17%	26%	20%	20%	15%

Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person)

Key

Red = Most frequently cited problem
Green = 2nd-most-frequently cited problem
Blue = 3rd-most-frequently cited problem

For more information, please contact:

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