



Harare, Zimbabwe
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News release

Zimbabweans say government is performing badly on addressing youth needs, Afrobarometer survey shows

Most Zimbabweans say the government is doing a poor job of addressing the needs of young people, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

A majority of citizens also say they would support a government decision to make people pay more taxes in order to help young people.

Further, they say job creation should be the top priority for additional investment if the government were to increase its spending on programs to help young people.

Key findings

- More than three-quarters (77%) of Zimbabweans say the government is performing badly in terms of addressing young people's needs (Figure 1).
 - Negative assessments of the government's performance on youth are particularly widespread among urban residents (80%), men (81%), and supporters of the MDC-Chamisa party (95%). More than seven out of 10 of citizens across all age categories express the same sentiment (Figure 2).
- Almost six in 10 citizens (58%) say they would support a government decision to make people pay more taxes in order to support programs to help young people (Figure 3).
 - Support for more taxes for youth programs is stronger among women (61%) than men (55%), among ZANU-PF adherents (63%) than MDC-Chamisa supporters (49%), and among rural residents (63%) than their urban counterparts (49%). Citizens with post-secondary education (52%) are least likely to endorse higher taxes to support programs to help young people (Figure 4).
- If the government were to increase its spending on programs to help young people, job creation would be citizens' top priority for additional investment, followed by education (14%) and job training (14%) (Figure 5).

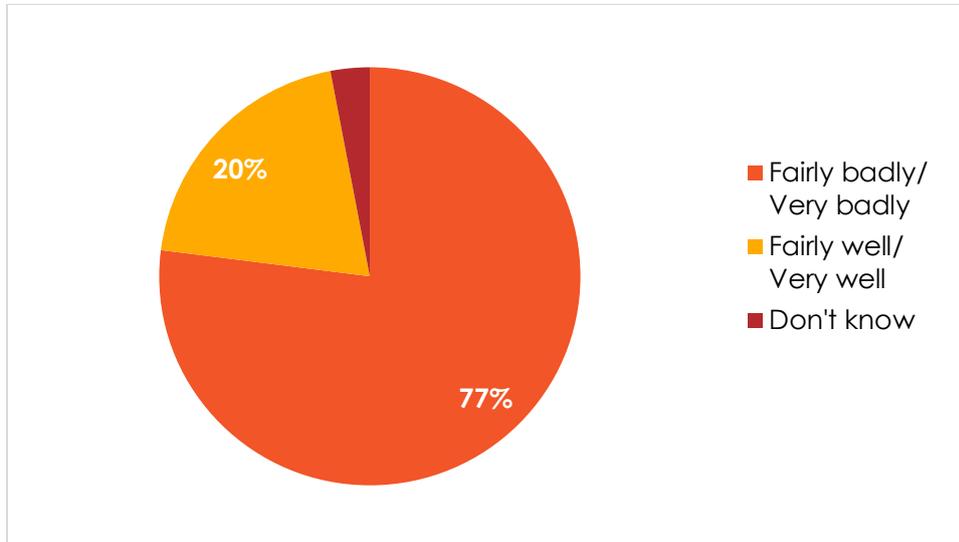
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Eight rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 39 countries since 1999. 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 Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Zimbabwe in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

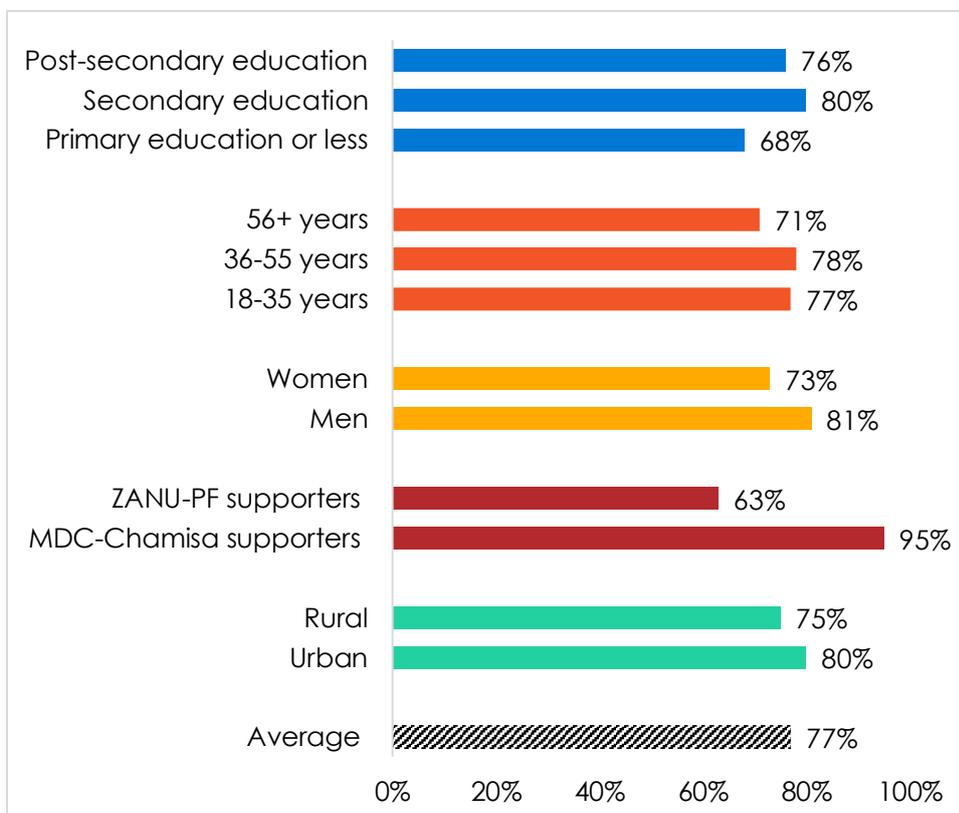
Charts

Figure 1 : Government performance on addressing youth needs | Zimbabwe | 2021



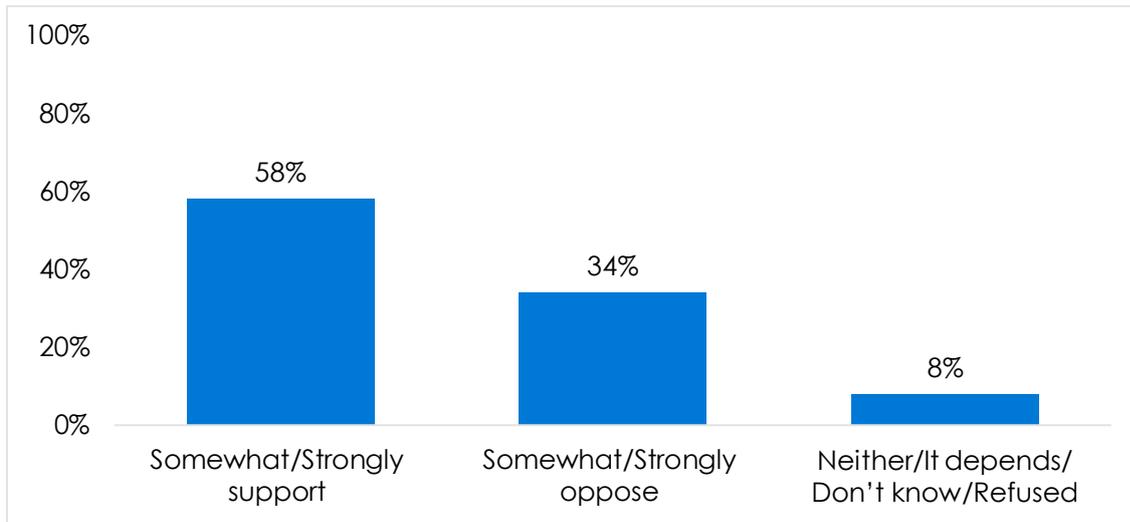
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Addressing the needs of young people?

Figure 2 : Government performing badly on addressing youth needs | by socio-demographic group | Zimbabwe | 2021



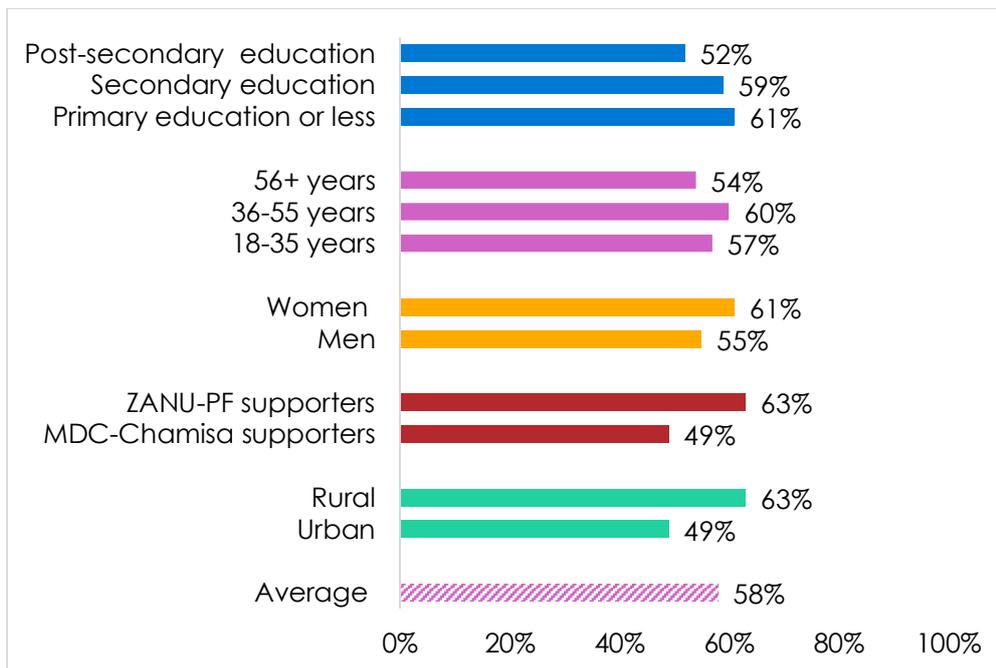
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Addressing the needs of young people? (% who say "fairly badly" or "very badly")

Figure 3: More taxes to support youth programs? | Zimbabwe | 2021



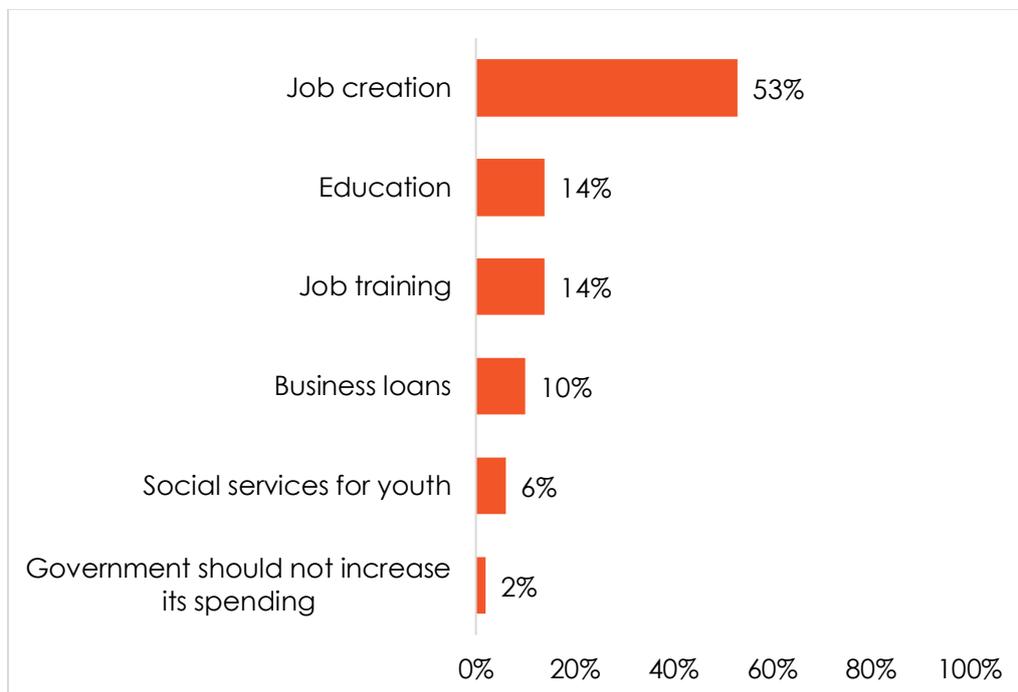
Respondents were asked: *If the government decided to make people pay more taxes in order to support programs to help young people, would you support this decision or oppose it?*

Figure 4 : Support for more taxes for youth programs | by socio-demographic group | Zimbabwe | 2021



Respondents were asked: *If the government decided to make people pay more taxes in order to support programs to help young people, would you support this decision or oppose it? (% who say "somewhat support" or "strongly support")*

Figure 5 : Priority areas for additional investment for youth | Zimbabwe | 2021



Respondents were asked: *If the government could increase its spending on programs to help young people, which of the following areas do you think should be the highest priority for additional investment?*

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