



Harare, Zimbabwe
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News release

Most Zimbabweans want a coalition government as a way of solving the country's political and economic problems

A majority of Zimbabwean citizens say that the main opposition political parties should be brought into government to form a coalition with the ruling party in order to solve the country's political and economic problems, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Support for a coalition government is the majority position among adherents of both the ruling ZANU-PF and the opposition MDC-Chamisa parties, as well as among residents of all provinces.

Key findings

- Two-thirds (66%) of Zimbabweans "agree" or "strongly agree" that the main opposition political parties should be brought into government to form a coalition with the ruling party in order to solve the country's political and economic problems (Figure 1).
- Support for a coalition government is somewhat stronger among men (68%) than women (63%) and among young (65%) and middle-aged citizens (68%) than among older respondents (60%). But majorities in all key demographic groups favour the idea (Figure 2).
- A coalition government wins majority support in all provinces, ranging from 58% in Bulawayo/Matabeleland North/Matabeleland South to 76% in Manicaland (Figure 3).
- Even among respondents who say they "feel close" to the ruling ZANU-PF, a majority (52%) endorse the idea of a coalition government, which wins two-thirds support (66%) among those close to the MDC-Chamisa (Figure 4).

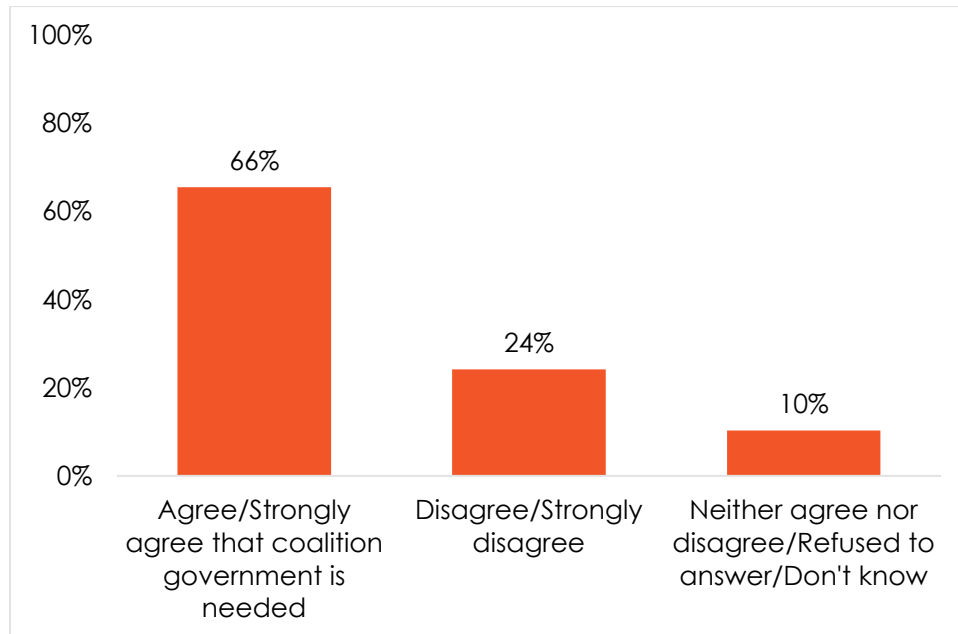
Afrobarometer surveys

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. 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 standard Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Zimbabwe in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

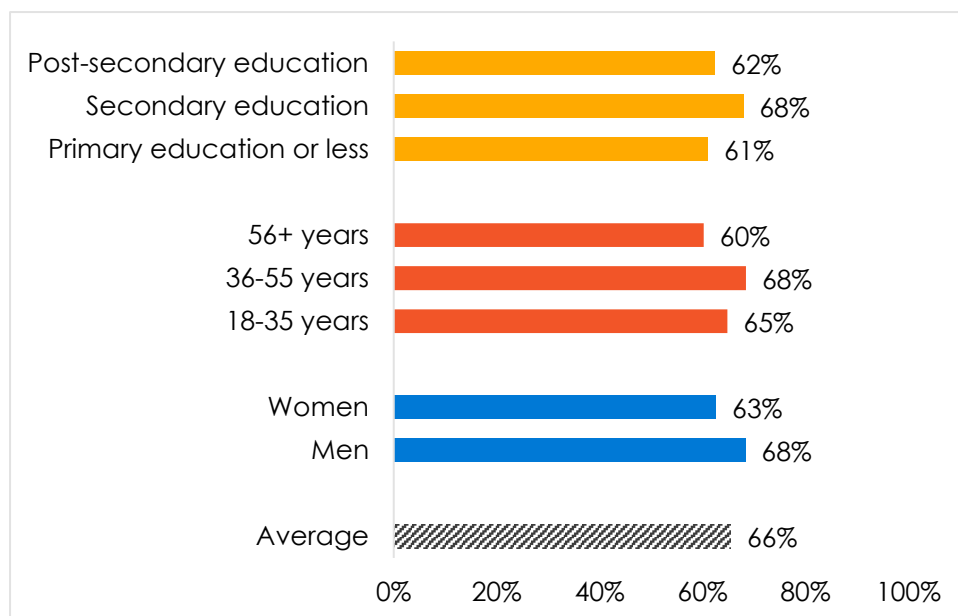
Charts

Figure 1 : Support for coalition government | Zimbabwe | 2021



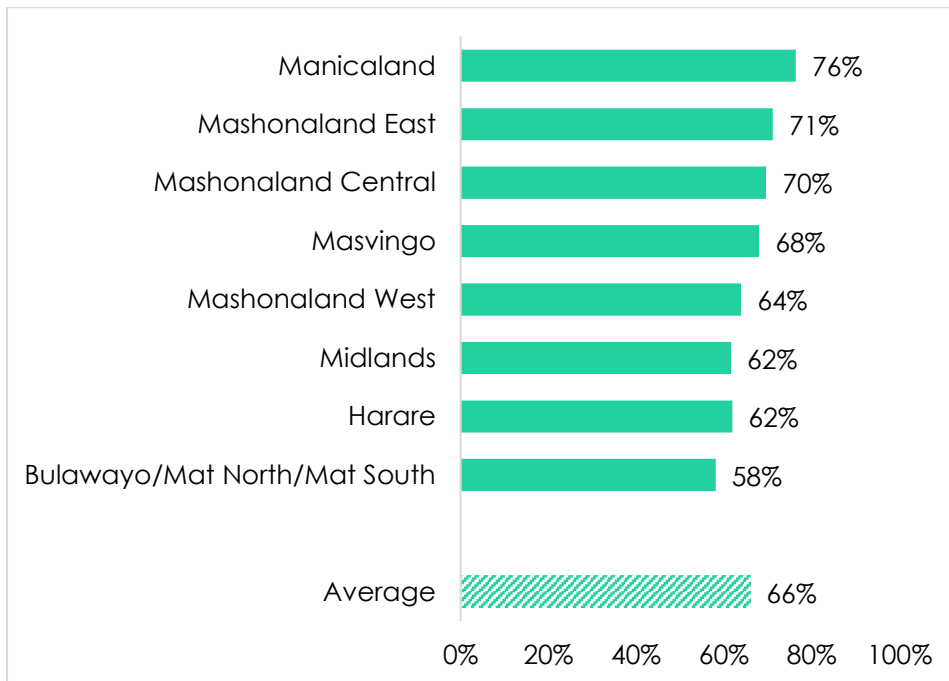
Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say; In order to solve the country's political and economic problems, the main opposition political parties should be brought into government to form a coalition with the ruling party?

Figure 2: Support for coalition government | by education, age, and gender | Zimbabwe | 2021



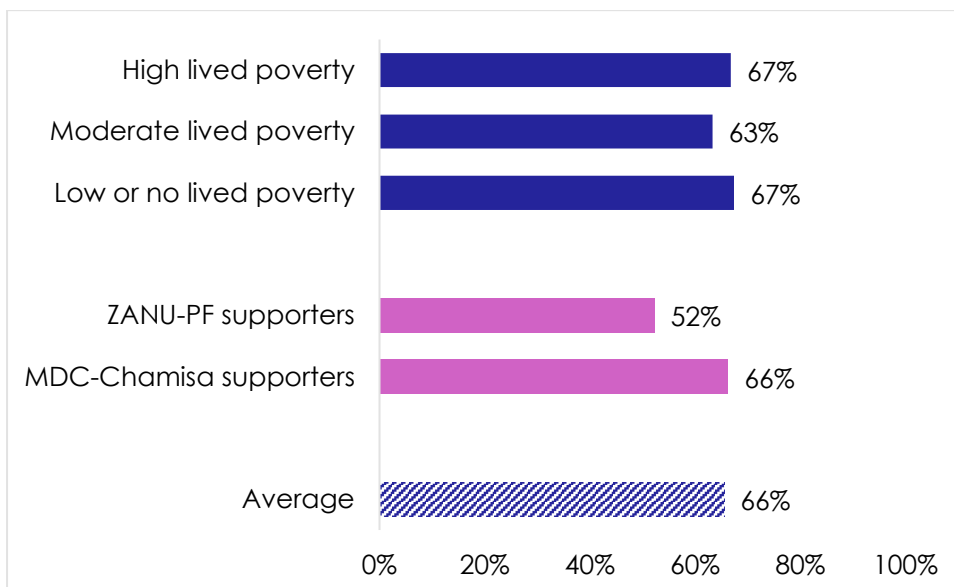
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Figure 3: Support for coalition government | by province | Zimbabwe | 2021



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Figure 4: Support for coalition government | by lived poverty and political party affiliation | Zimbabwe | 2021



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