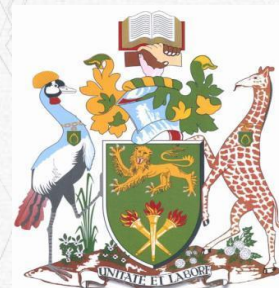




# Citizens' perceptions of the state of the economy and their livelihoods

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 8 survey in Tanzania



# At a glance



- **Direction of the country:** A majority of Tanzanians believe the country is going in the right direction and the government is handling the economy well.
- **Country's economic situation:** The share of Tanzanians who say the country's economic situation has improved has almost doubled. But only one in three describe their personal living conditions as good.
- **Optimism about future:** A growing proportion of citizens think that things will get better in the coming year.
- **Basic necessities:** Fewer Tanzanians are experiencing shortages of food, water, and other basic necessities compared to 2017.

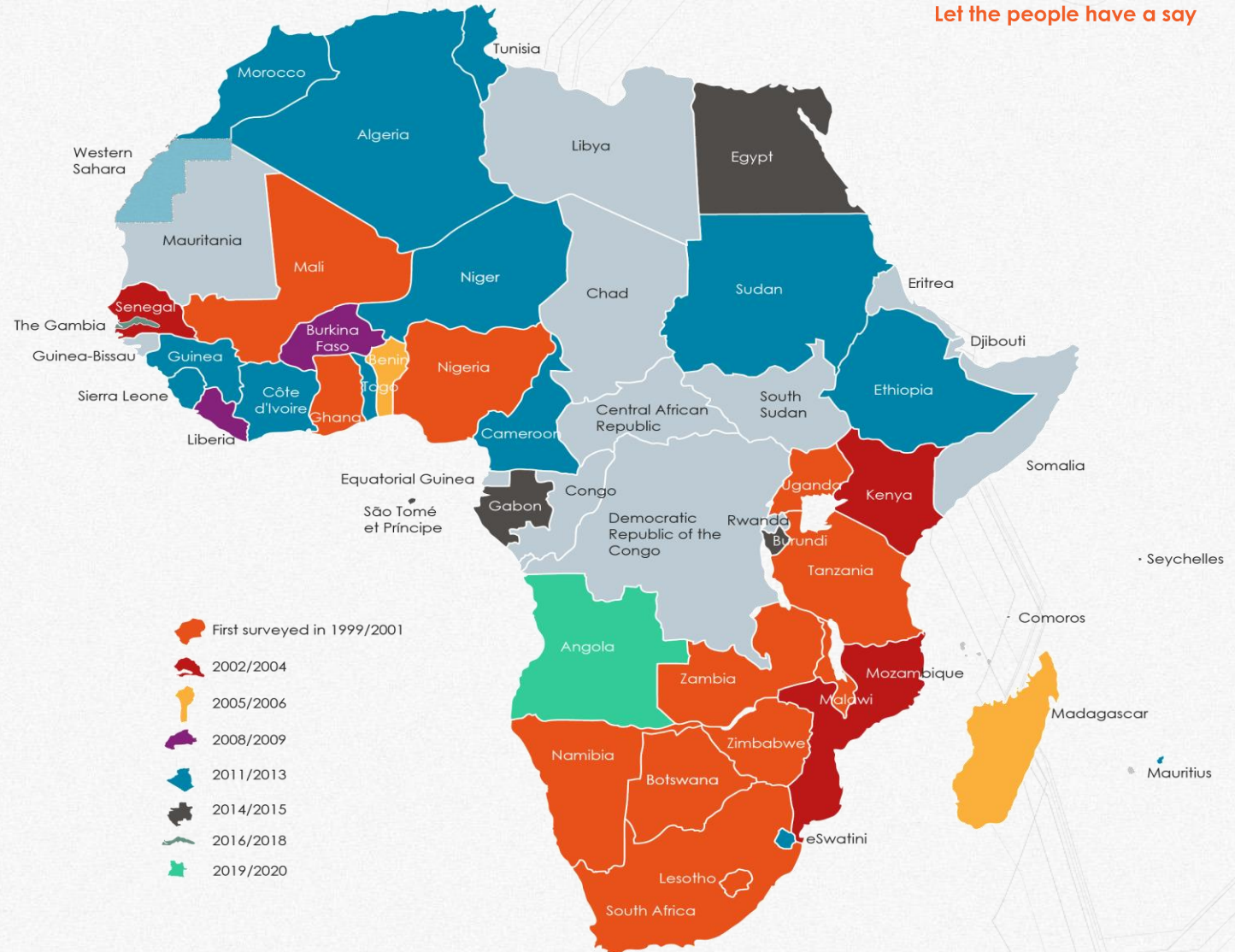


# What is Afrobarometer?



- A pan-African, non-partisan, non-profit research network that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999. Round 8 surveys were planned for 2019-2021 in at least 35 countries.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Tanzania, Afrobarometer Round 8 survey was conducted by REPOA.

# Where Afrobarometer works





# Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
  - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions/states/provinces and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
  - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Tanzania of 2,398 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 8 in Tanzania was conducted between 23 February and 26 March 2021.

# Survey demographics

Gender		%
Men		50
Women		50
Residence		
Urban		33
Rural		67
Education		
No formal education		12
Primary		64
Secondary		18
Post-secondary		6





# Findings



**Overall direction of the country and  
government performance**

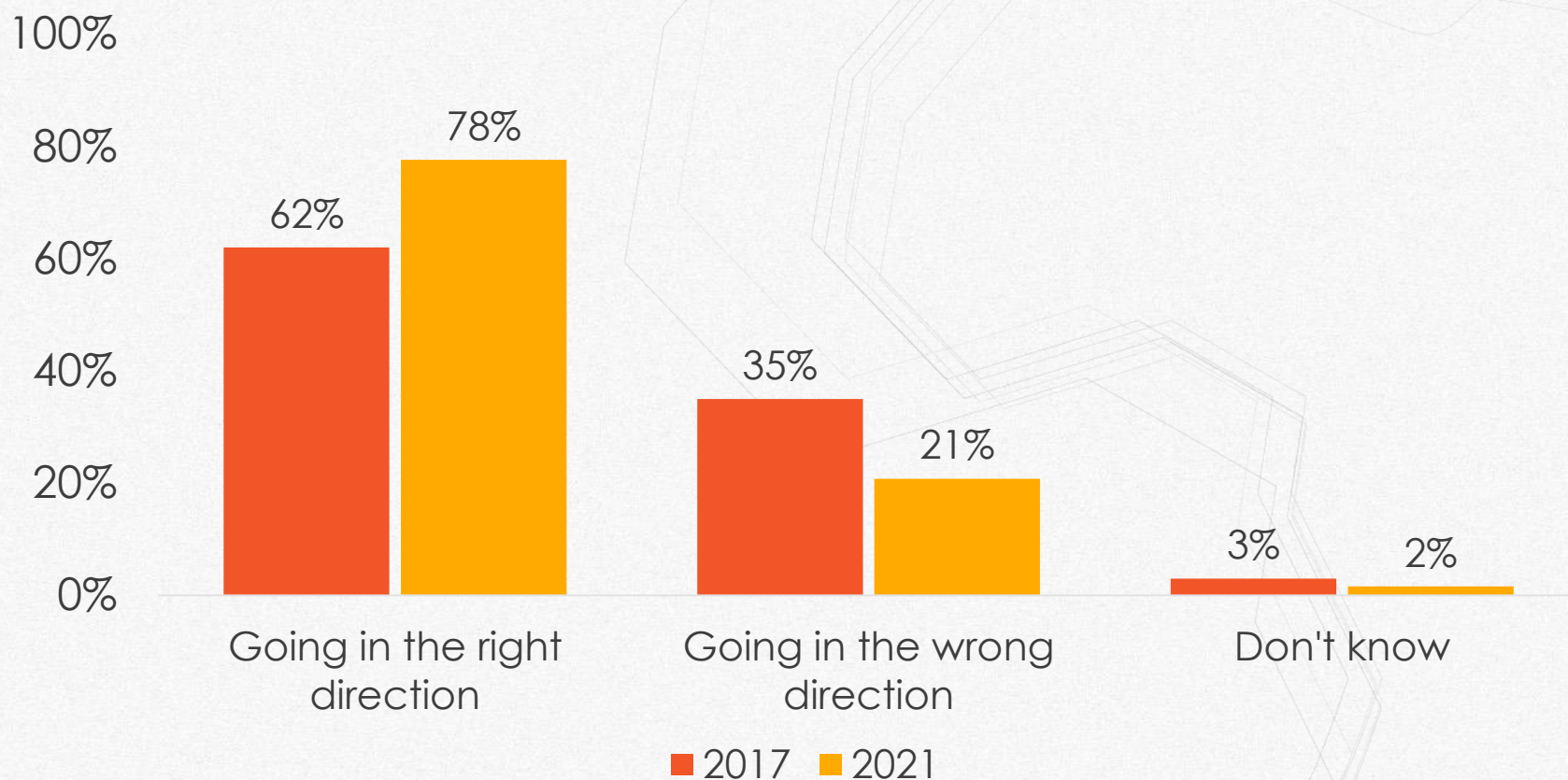


# Key findings



- More than three-fourths (78%) of Tanzanians say the country is going in the right direction.
- An even larger majority (84%) believe the government is handling the economy well.
- These are significant improvements from 2017.
- Two-thirds (65%) of citizens believe the government is doing a good job of improving the living standards of the poor.
- Almost nine out of 10 (86%) say the government is managing natural resources (e.g. gold and tanzanite) well.

## Overall direction of the country | Tanzania | 2017-2021

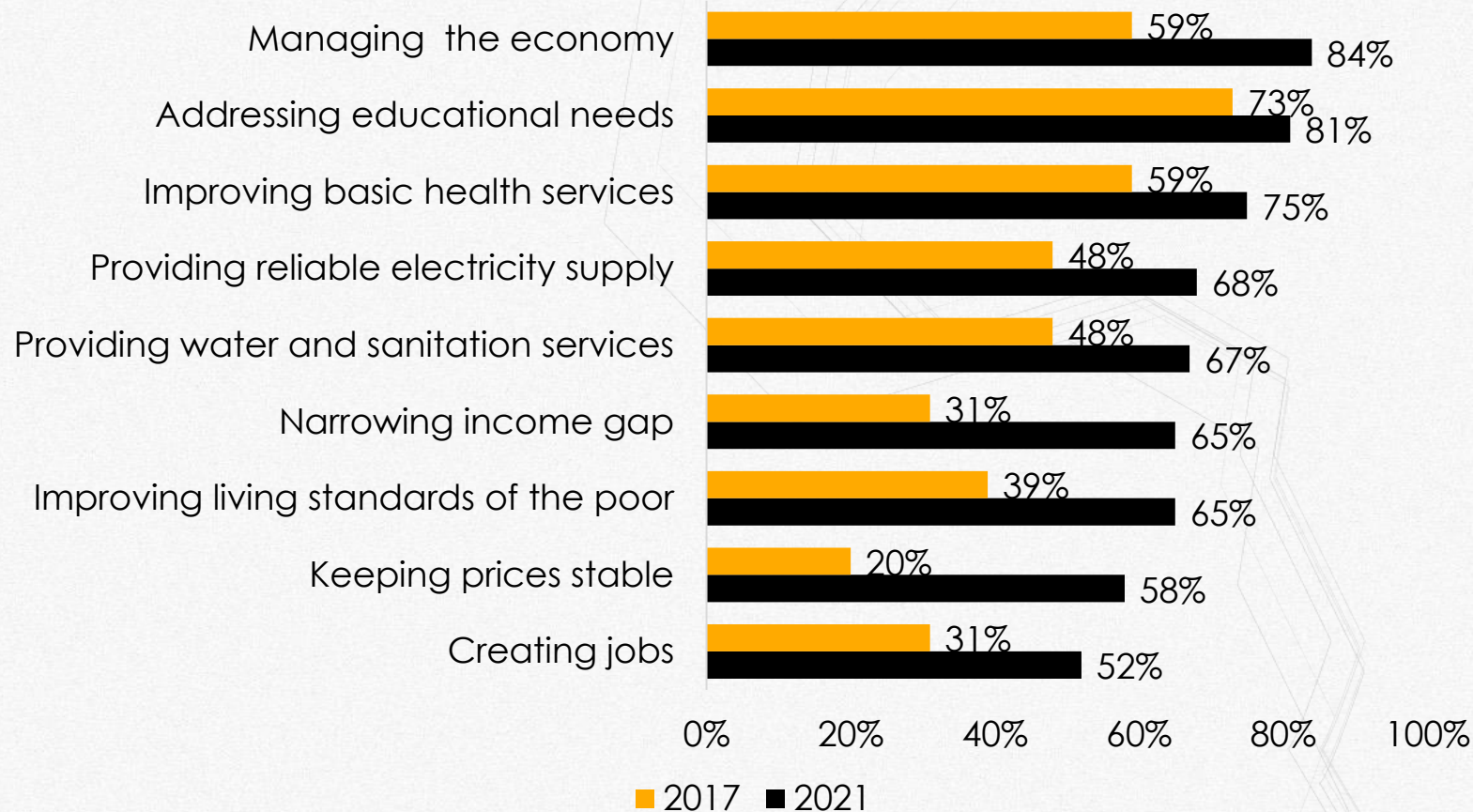


**Respondents were asked:** Some people might think the country is going in the wrong direction. Others may feel it is going in the right direction. So let me ask you about the overall direction of the country: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?



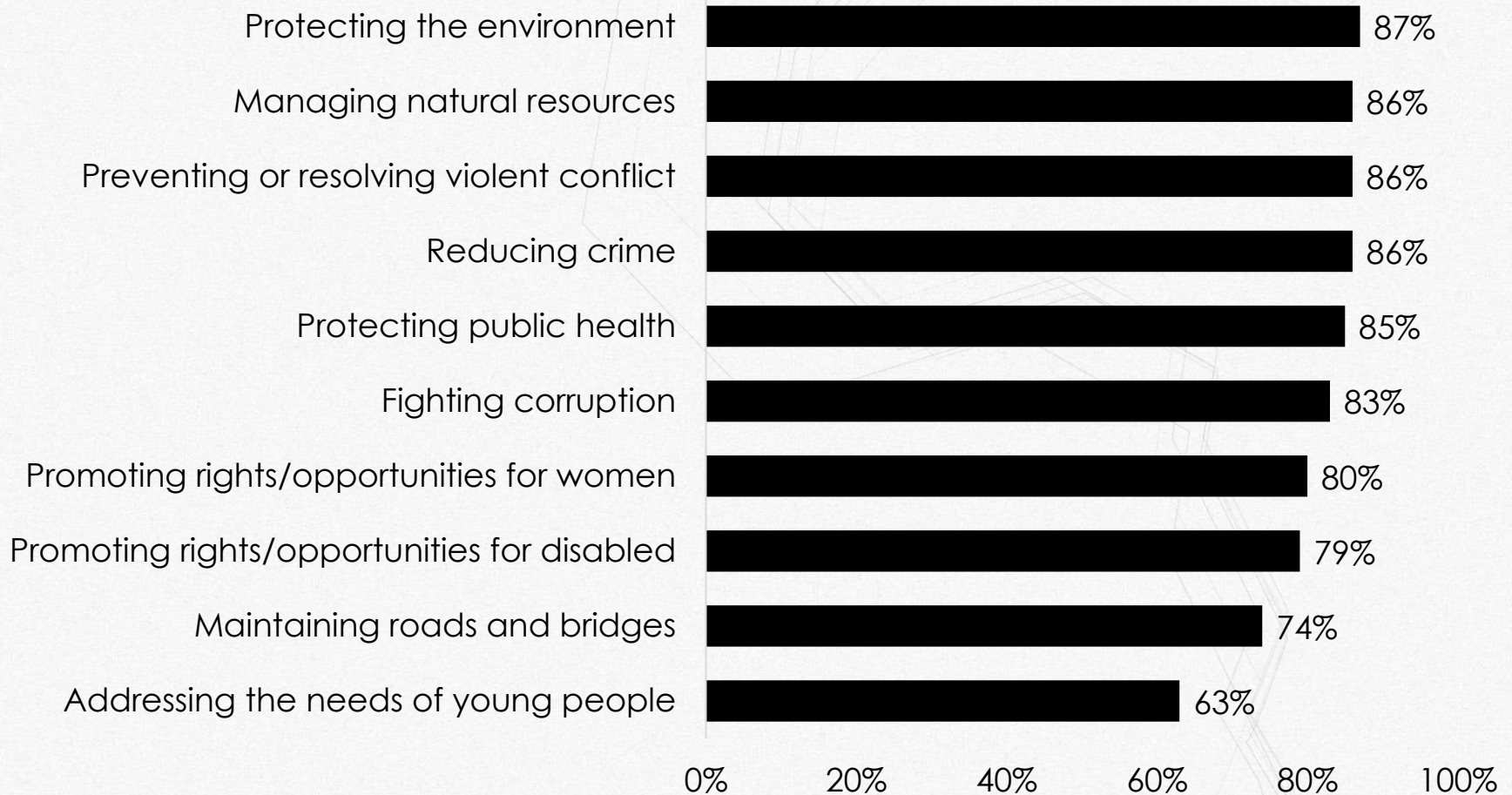
# Approval of government performance | Tanzania

## | 2017-2021



**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? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

# Approval of government performance | Tanzania | 2021

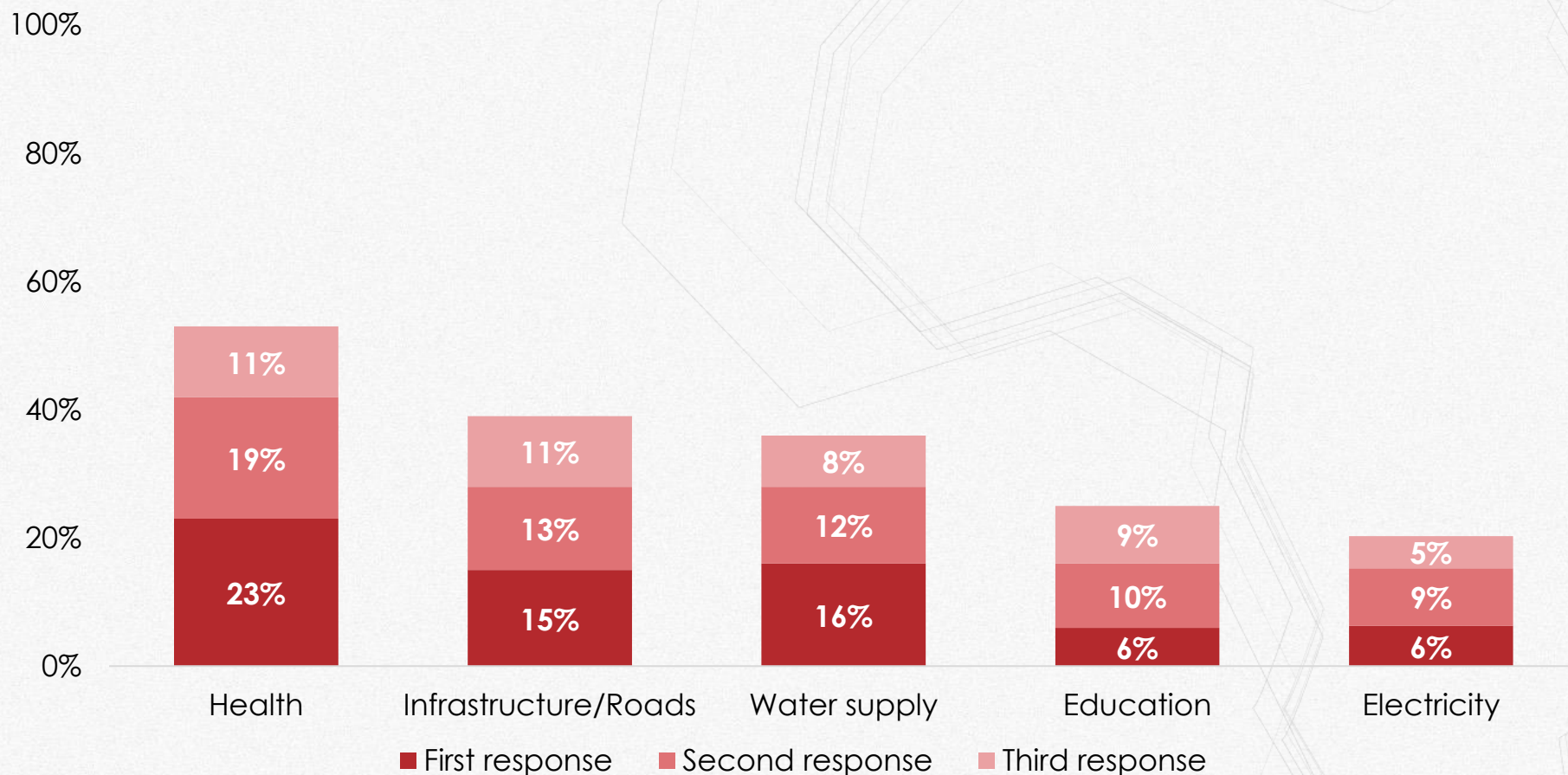


**Respondents were asked:** How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")



# Most important problems government should address

## | Tanzania | 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)



## Economic situation and personal living conditions

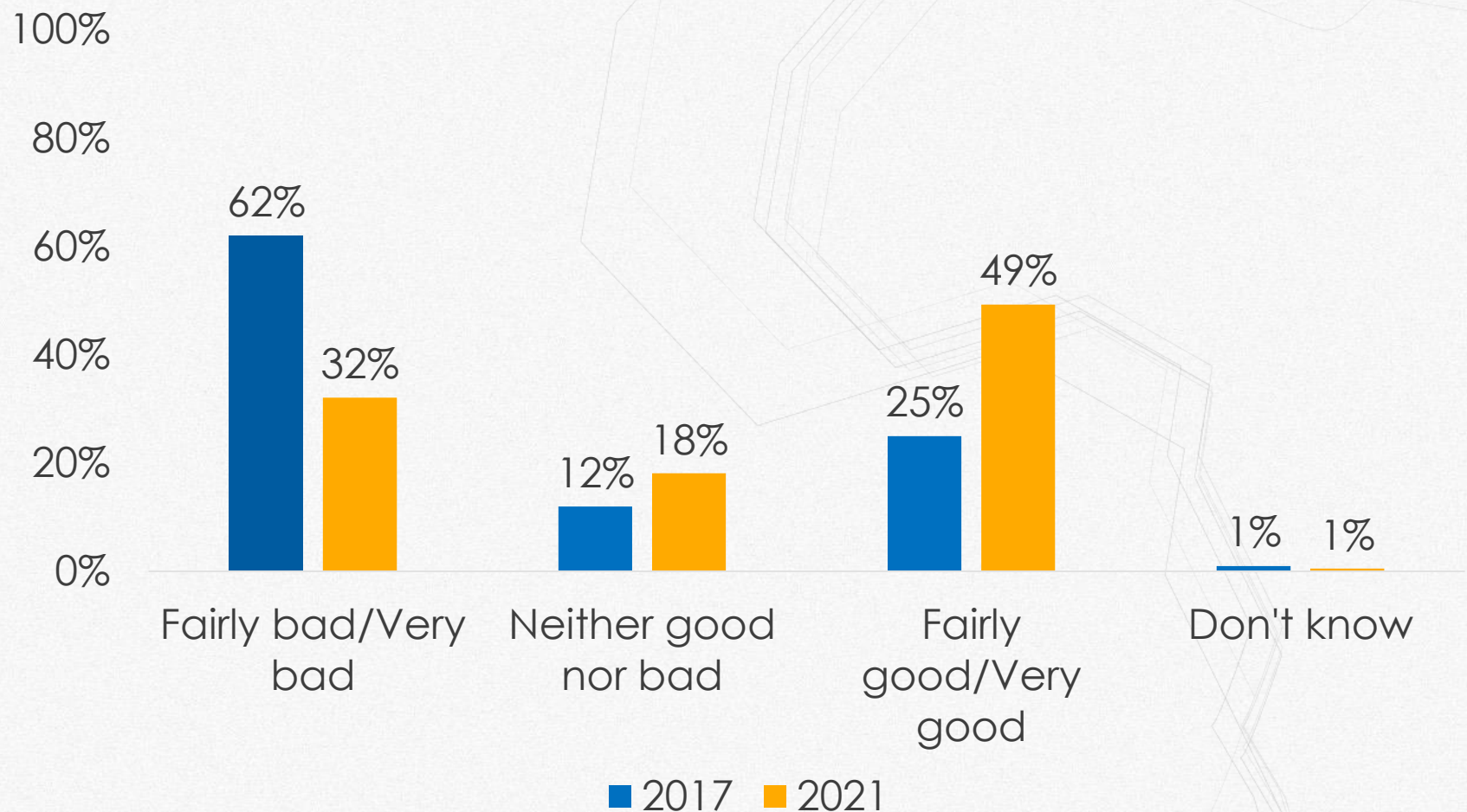


# Key findings



- About half (49%) of Tanzanians say the country's current economic condition is “fairly good” or “very good.”
- Despite an improvement, only one in three Tanzanians describe their personal living conditions as “fairly good” or “very good.”
- Urban residents offer somewhat more positive assessments of the country's economic condition and their personal living conditions than their rural counterparts.
- The proportion of respondents who are optimistic that things will improve in a year's time has increased from 38% in 2017 to 53% in 2021.

## Country's economic condition | Tanzania | 2017-2021

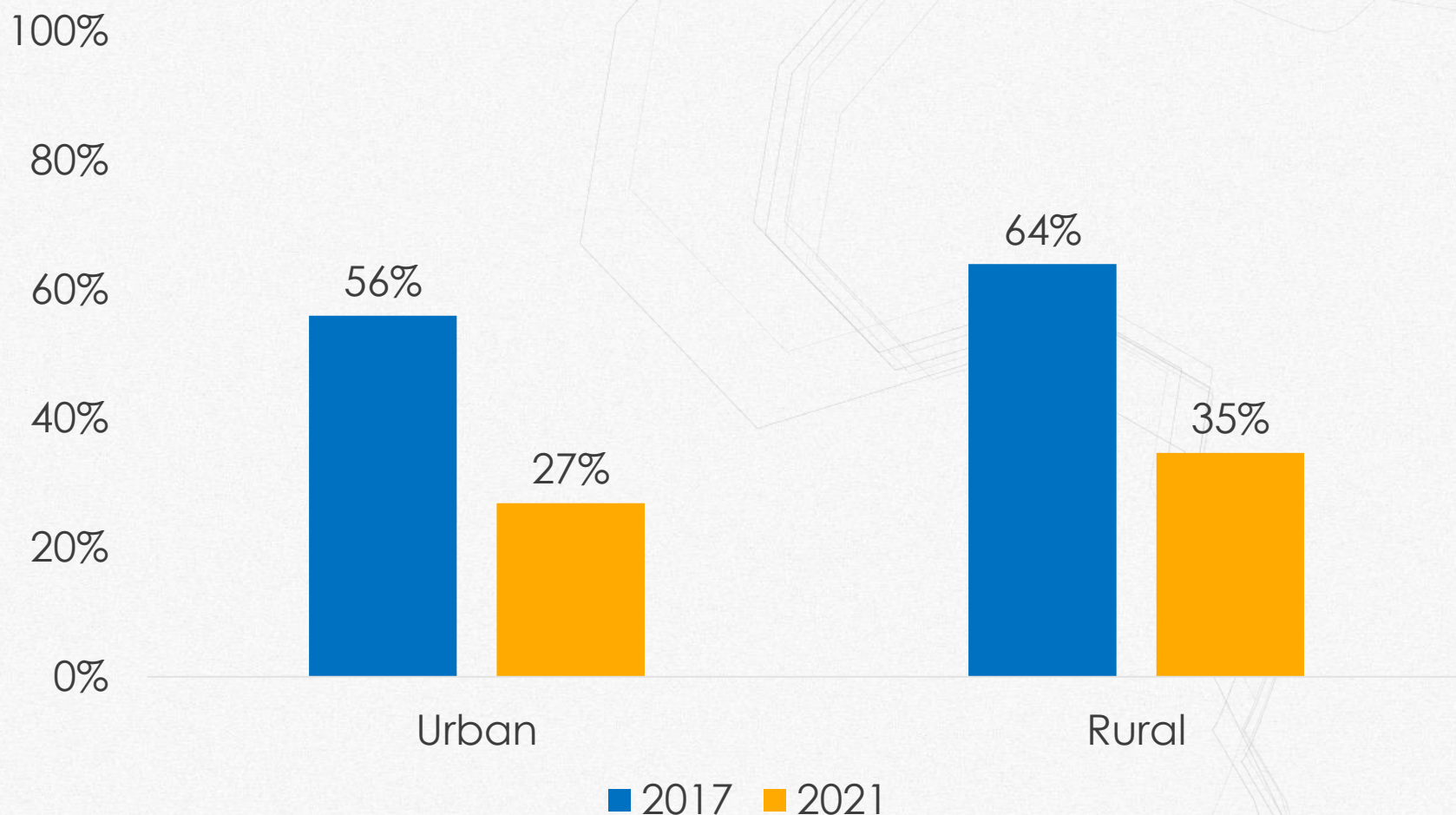


**Respondents were asked:** In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country?



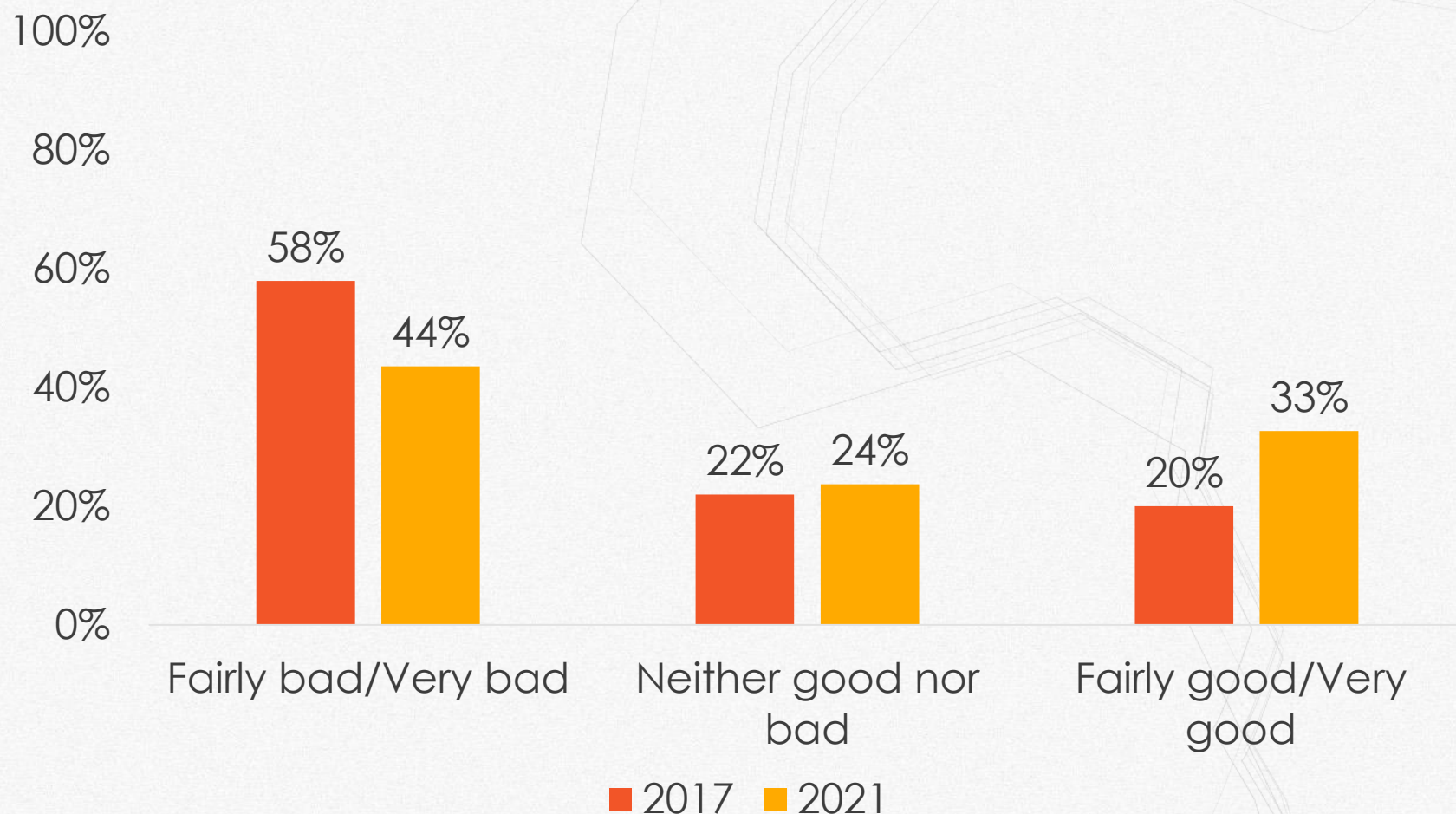
# Negative assessments of country's economic situation

| urban vs. rural | Tanzania | 2017-2021



**Respondents were asked:** In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country? (% who say "fairly bad" or "very bad")

## Personal living conditions | Tanzania | 2017-2021

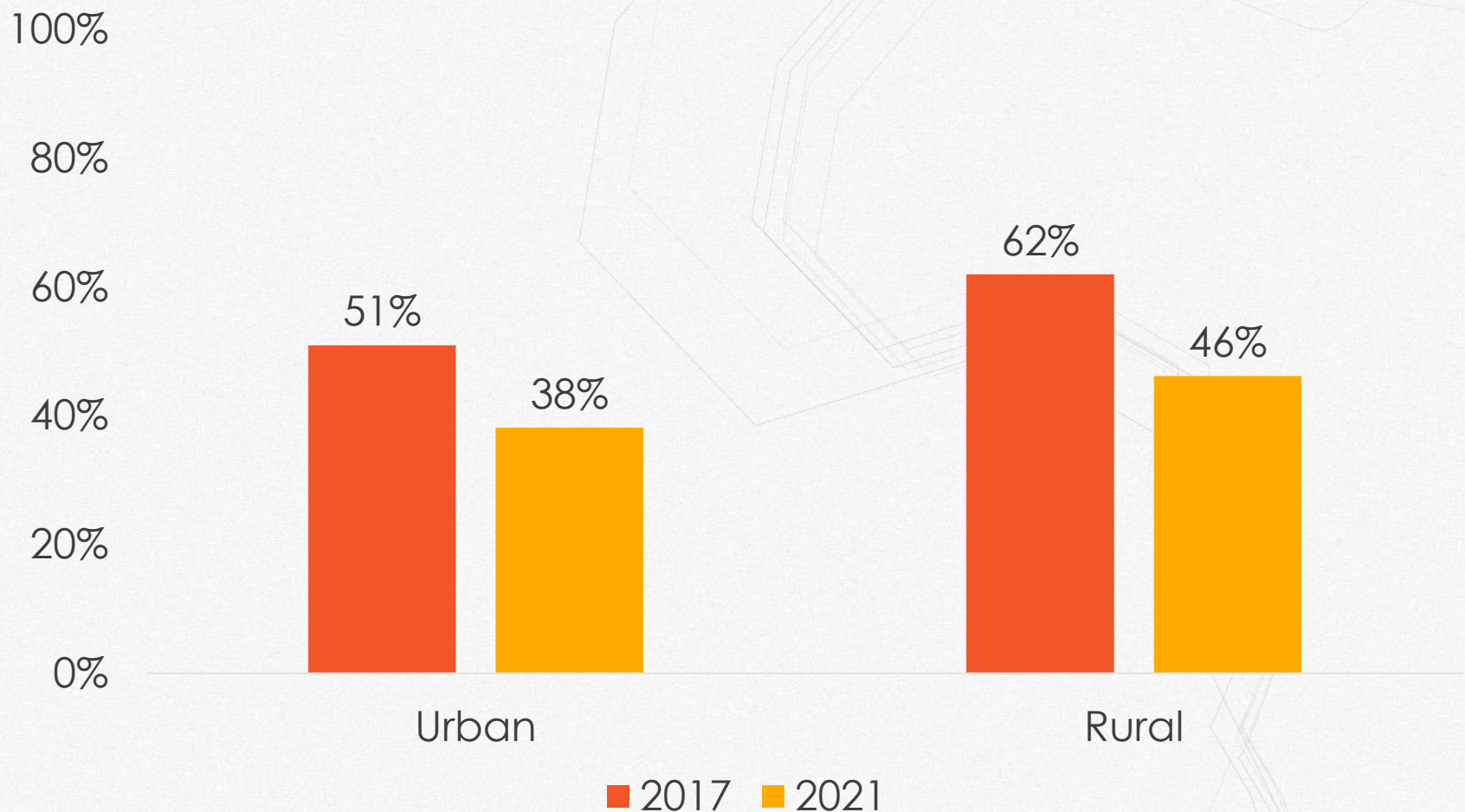


**Respondents were asked:** In general, how would you describe your own present living conditions?



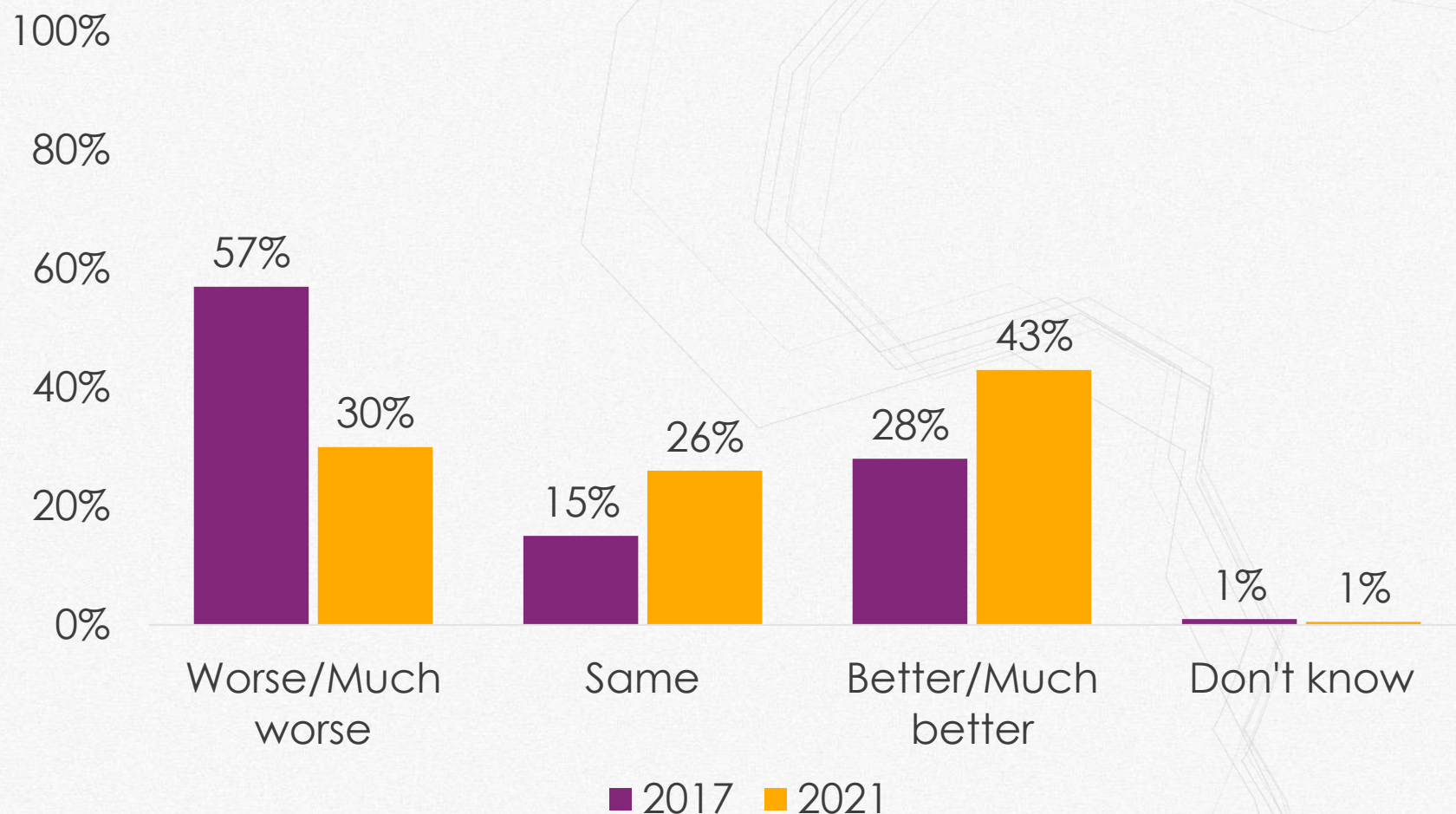
# Negative assessments of personal living conditions

| urban vs. rural | Tanzania | 2017-2021



**Respondents were asked:** In general, how would you describe your own present living conditions? (% who say “fairly bad” or “very bad”)

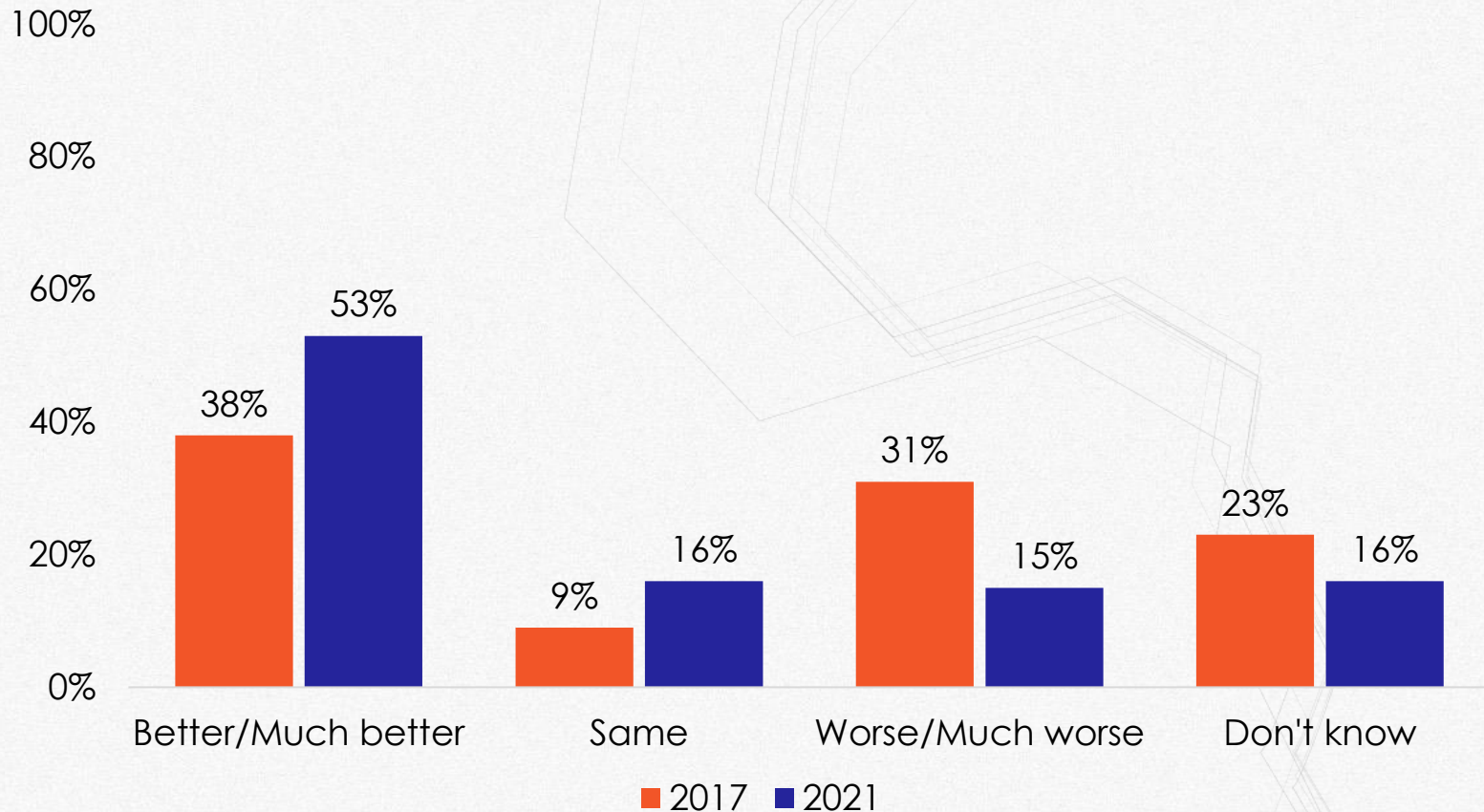
# Country's economic condition compared to 12 months ago | Tanzania | 2017-2021



**Respondents were asked:** Looking back, how do you rate economic conditions in this country compared to 12 months ago?



# Country's economic conditions in 12 months' time | Tanzania | 2017-2021



**Respondents were asked:** Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?

Lived poverty decreasing?

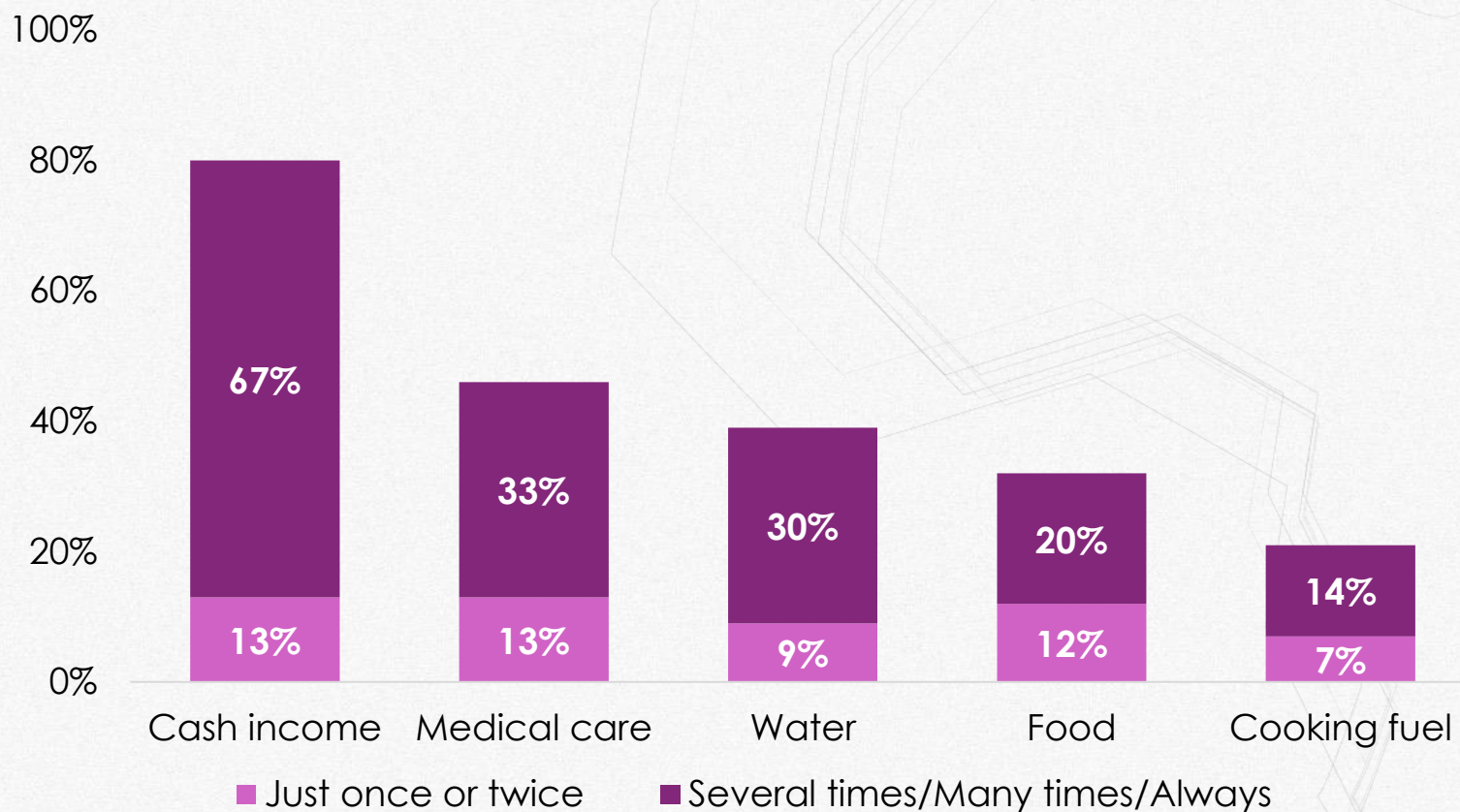


# Key findings



- The proportion of Tanzanians going without basic necessities has declined compared to 2017.
- About one in three say they went without needed medical care (33%) and without enough clean water (30%) at least “several times” during the previous year.
- One in five (20%) report going without enough food at least “several times.”
- Two-thirds (67%) say they went without a cash income at least “several times.”

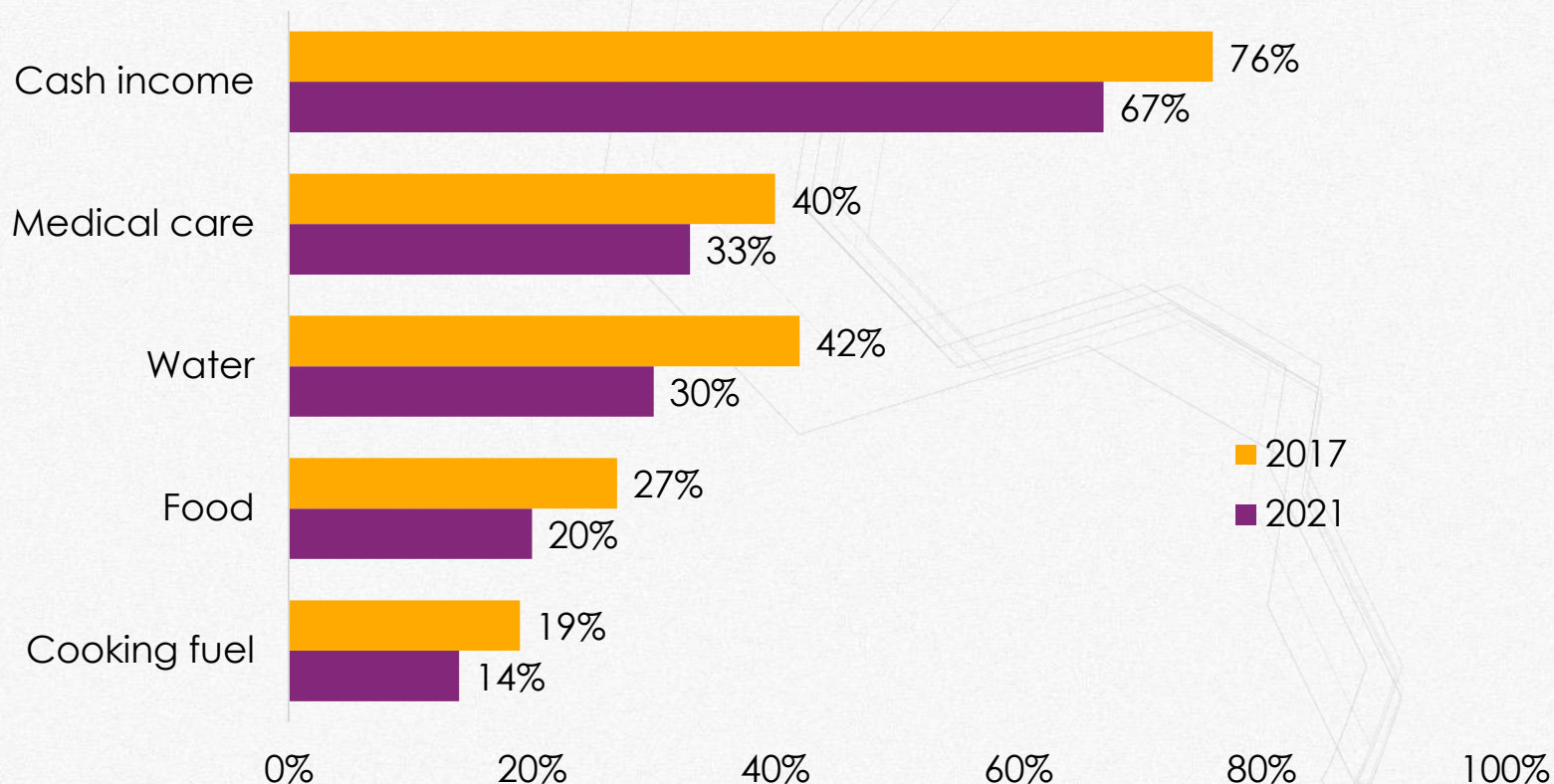
# Going without basic necessities | Tanzania | 2021



**Respondents were asked:** Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income?



# Going without basic necessities at least “several times” | Tanzania | 2017-2021



**Respondents were asked:** Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income? (% who say “several times,” “many times,” or “always”)

# Conclusions



- In general, Tanzanians believe that the country is going in the right direction and that the government is handling the economy well.
- But despite gains in citizen assessments of the country's economic situation and their personal living conditions, there is still a need to pursue poverty-reduction strategies for more inclusive growth.
- Survey results indicate gains in the government's provision of basic health care, water and sanitation, and electricity – key components of the government's goal of industrializing Tanzania.
- Health, water supply, and infrastructure/roads are the top three problems that citizens want the government to address.

**Thank you**

**Follow our releases  
on #VoicesAfrica on  
Twitter and  
Facebook.**

Do your own analysis of Afrobarometer data – on any question, for any country and survey round. It's easy and free at [www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis](http://www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis).