



REPOA  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
14 March 2018

## News release

---

### **Tanzanians optimistic with government's economic management, despite persistent poverty**

Most Tanzanians believe the country is going in the right direction and the government is doing well in handling the economy. This is according to the most recent Afrobarometer survey, which is quite an improvement from their perceptions in 2014.

Majority of Tanzanians also say the country's economic situation in 2017 was worse than a year ago. But the proportion of respondents who are optimistic that things will improve in a year's time has almost doubled since 2014.

These survey findings suggest that the Fifth Phase government's intensified efforts to improve the management of public resources are taking effect; popular approval of the government's performance is high mainly with regard to addressing education needs, improving basic health services and providing water and sanitation services. Still, more than half of the respondents see their personal living conditions as "fairly" or "very" bad more so in rural areas; a proportion of those going without enough food to eat, without enough clean water for home use and without a cash income several times has risen considerably. For more details, see Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 193 at [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org).

#### **Key findings**

- Six in 10 Tanzanians believe the country is going in the right direction (62%) and the government is handling the economy "fairly well" or "very well" (59%) – both striking improvements from 2014 (Figure 1, Figure 2).
- Popular assessments of the government's performance have improved on a range of issues, including management of the economy. But only one-quarter (23%) of Tanzanians say the government is doing well on food security, down from 43% in 2014 (Figure 2).
- Growing numbers of Tanzanians report going without basic necessities, including four in 10 who went without enough clean water (42%) and without medical care (40%) at least "several times" during the previous year. Three-fourths (76%) say they went without a cash income at least "several times" (Figure 3)

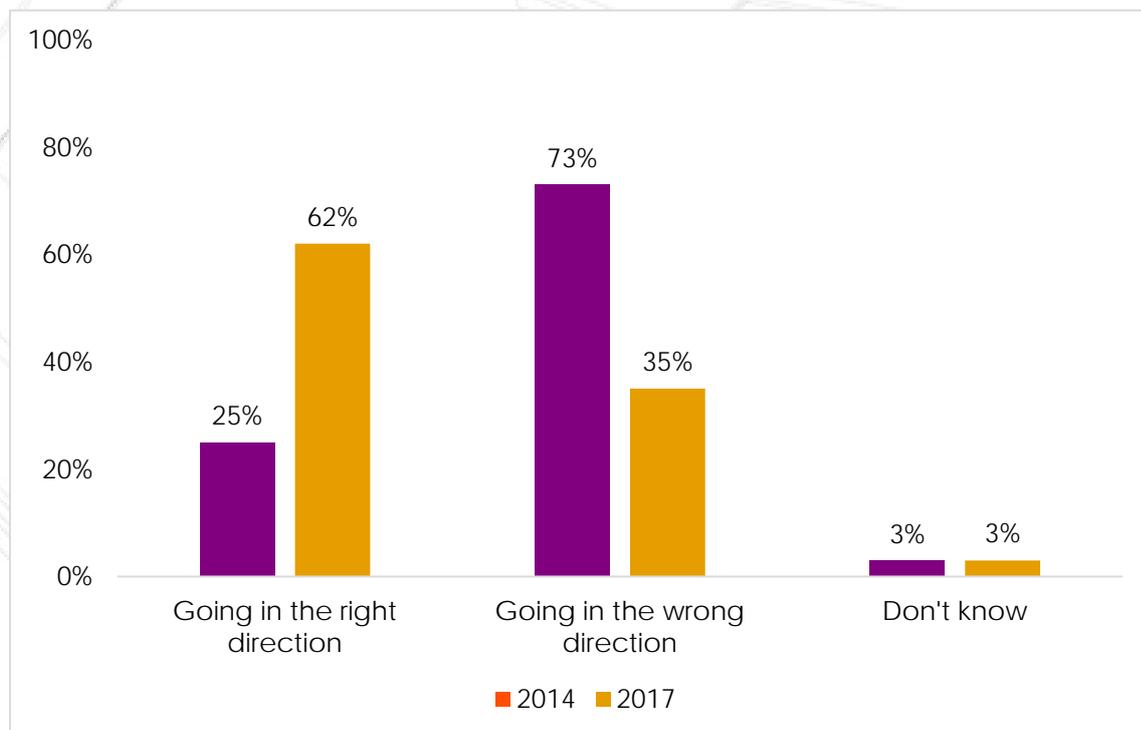
## Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 African countries between 1999 and 2016, and Round 7 surveys (2016/2017) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Tanzania, led by REPOA, interviewed 2,400 adult Tanzanians in April-June 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Tanzania in 2014, 2012, 2008, 2005, 2003, and 2001.

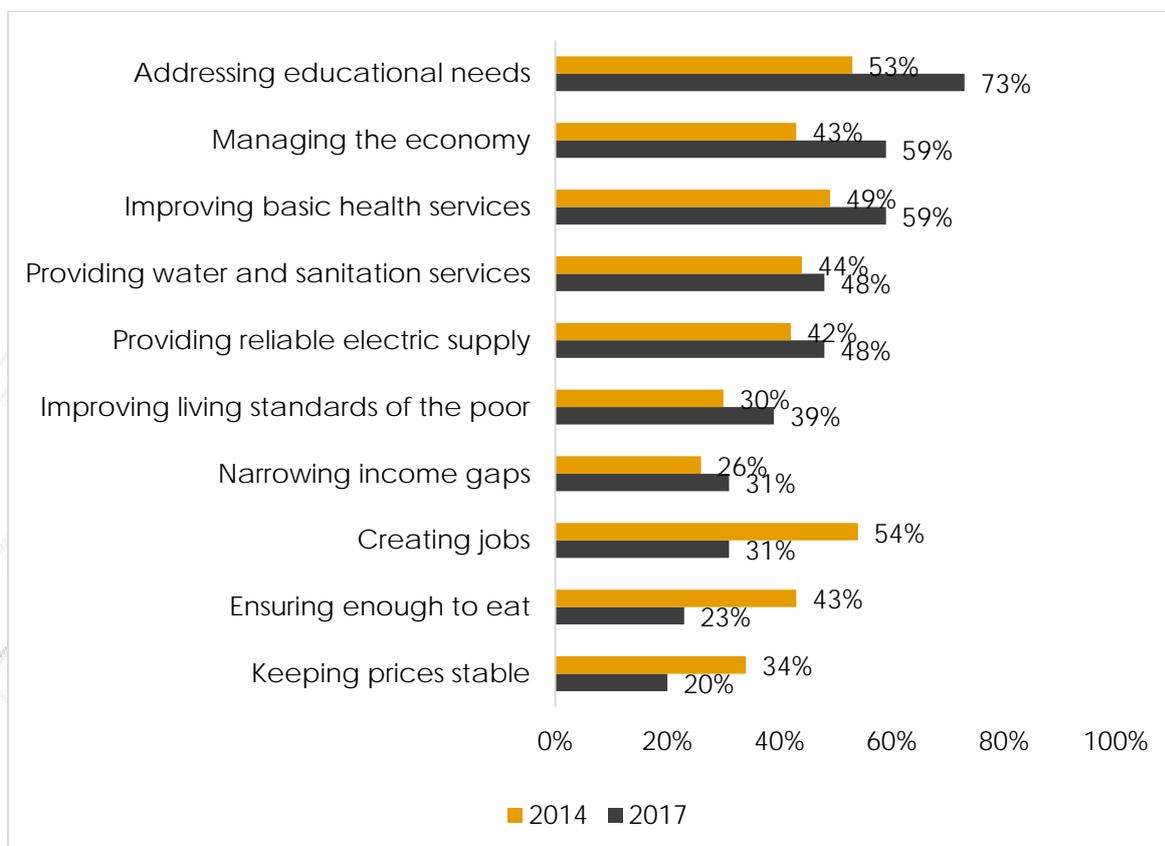
## Charts

**Figure 1: : Overall direction of the country | Tanzania | 2014 – 2017**



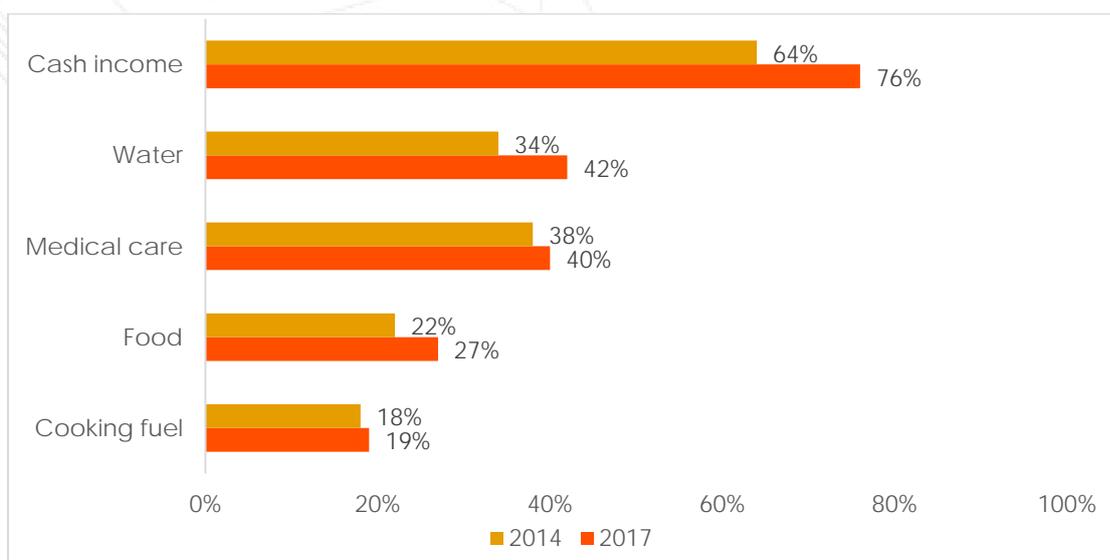
**Respondents were asked:** Some people might think the country is going in the wrong direction. Others may feel it is going in the right direction. So let me ask YOU about the overall direction of the country: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?

**Figure 2: Approval of government performance | Tanzania | 2017**



**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?

**Figure 3: Going without basic necessities at least "several times" | Tanzania | 2017**



**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")

**For more information, please contact:**

REPOA  
Lulu Olan'g  
Telephone: +255 22 270 0083  
Email: lulu@repoa.or.tz

Visit us online at:  
[www.repoa.or.tz](http://www.repoa.or.tz)  
[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

