

# Malawi AB R5 Survey Results



**2<sup>nd</sup> Release: 21 September, 2012**

**Malawi Sun Hotel, Jupiter Room**

**[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)**



# What is the Afrobarometer?



- The Afrobarometer (AB) is a comparative series of public opinion surveys that measure public attitudes toward democracy, governance, the economy, leadership, identity, and other related issues.
- The AB is an independent, non-partisan, African-based network of researchers.
- The first round of surveys took place in 1999-2001 in 12 countries. The Network is now conducting “Round 5” surveys in up to 35 countries during 2011-2012.
- **Purpose:** To measure popular perspectives on the social, political, and economic environments in each country where it is implemented and across Africa.
- **Goal:** To give the public a *voice* in policy making processes by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy-makers, policy advocates and civil society organizations, academics, media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.



# Country Coverage: 1999-2012



- Round 1, 1999-2001, 12 countries
  - Southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
  - West Africa: Ghana, Mali, Nigeria
  - East Africa: Tanzania, Uganda
- Round 2, 2002-2003, 16 countries
  - Cape Verde, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal
- Round 3, 2005-2006, 18 countries
  - Benin, Madagascar
- Round 4, 2008-2009, 20 countries
  - Burkina Faso, Liberia
- Round 5, 2011-2012, 26 countries
  - Burundi, Cameroon, Mauritius, Niger, Togo, and Sierra Leone



# Who is the Afrobarometer

- **National Partner (NP)** implements country survey
  - Malawi's NP is Centre for Social Research (CSR) - CC of UNIMA
- **Core Partners (4)** for network technical support and management
  - Center for Democratic Development (**CDD**), Ghana
  - Institute for Democracy in South Africa (**Idasa**), South Africa
  - Institute for Development Studies (**IDS**), University of Nairobi, Kenya
  - Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (**IREEP**), Benin
- **Support Units (2)** for capacity building and quality assurance
  - Michigan State University
  - University of Cape Town
- **Core Funders:** DFID, SIDA, USAID & the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (R5)

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# Survey Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - Random selection of TAs, EAs & households
  - Every adult citizen in household has equal chance
  - Use quota system: equal number of men and women
- Face-to-face interviews in either Chichewa or Chitumbuka
- Standard instrument across countries for comparability
- Malawi R5 survey interviewed 2400 adult Malawian citizens;
  - Yielding results with a margin of error of +/- 2% @ 95% confidence level
- Malawi R5 field work run between 4 June and 1 July 2012



# Today's release



- Performance of and trust in institutions and the media
- Economic evaluation of own and country living conditions
- Government performance in various aspects of development
- Most serious problems that needs government attention



# **Afrobarometer Round 5 Malawi Survey Results**

## **TOPIC 1: PERFORMANCE OF AND TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS & OFFICERS AND THE MEDIA**

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# Key Findings

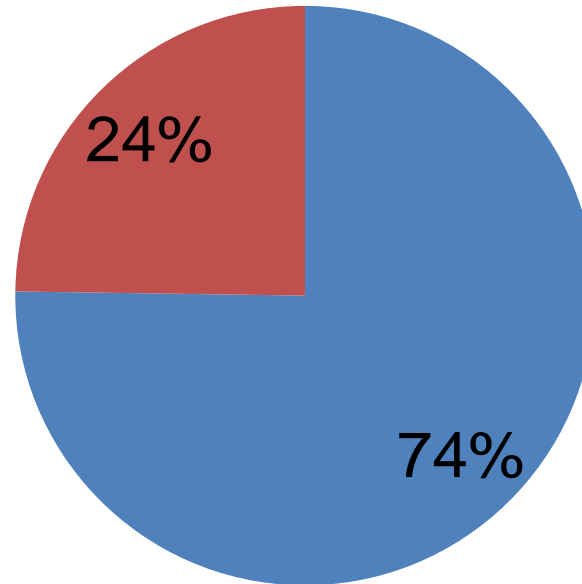


- Over 70% of Malawians expect the Media to reveal mistakes and corruption by government
- About 3 in every 4 Malawians say the Media is doing this watchdog role effectively
- Radio is the dominant source of news to Malawians
- Just half consider ACB a neutral & law guided institution
- While 43% of Malawians trust the Ombudsman, 30% (minority in rural areas) do not know the ombudsman
- About 6 in 10 Malawians disapprove of the performance of their MPs especially in the South and MCP supporters





# Public Expectation of Media as a Watchdog



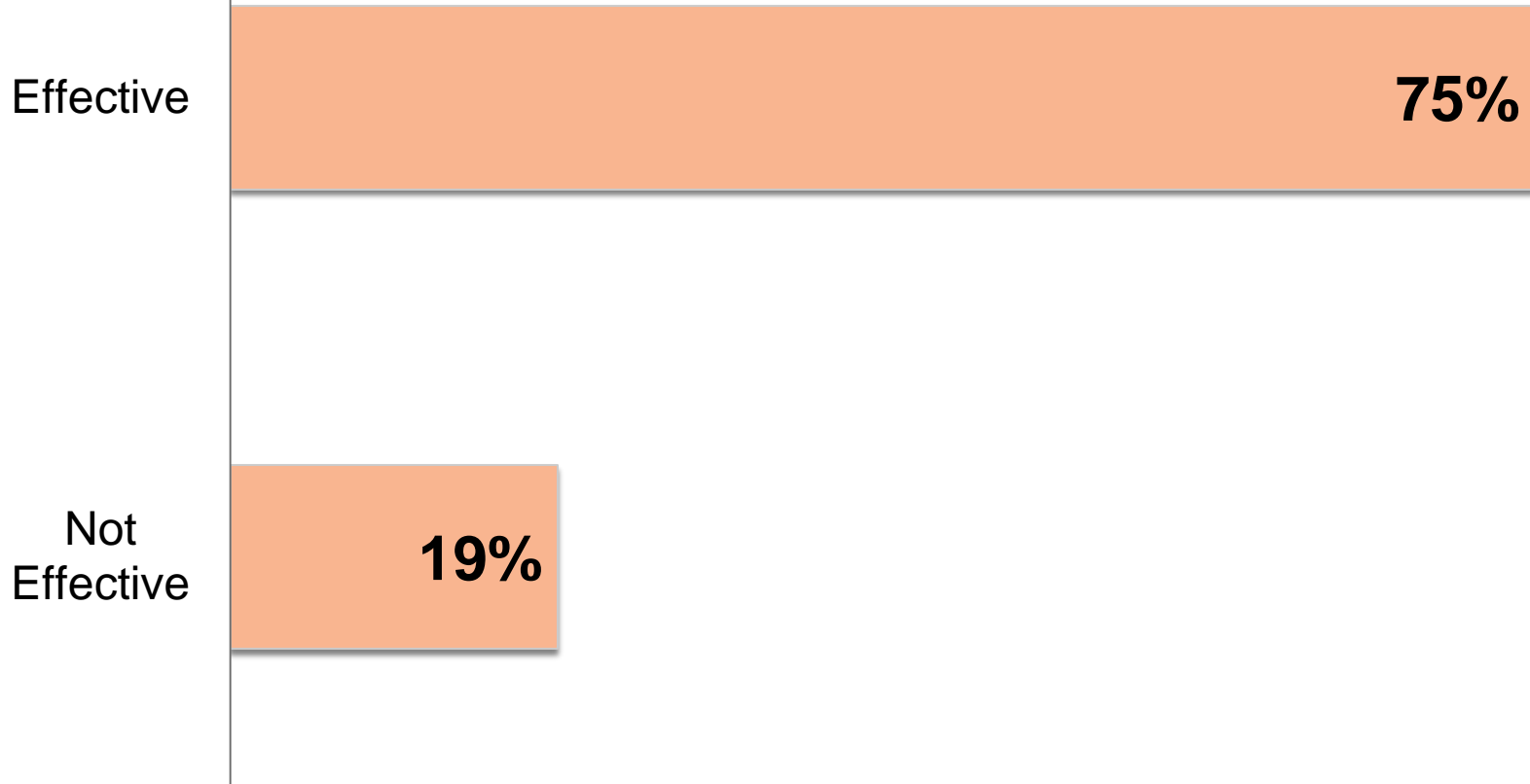
■ Agree with 1   ■ Agree with 2

**Statement 1:** *The news media should constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption.*

**Statement 2:** *Too much reporting on negative events, like government mistakes and corruption, only harms the country.*



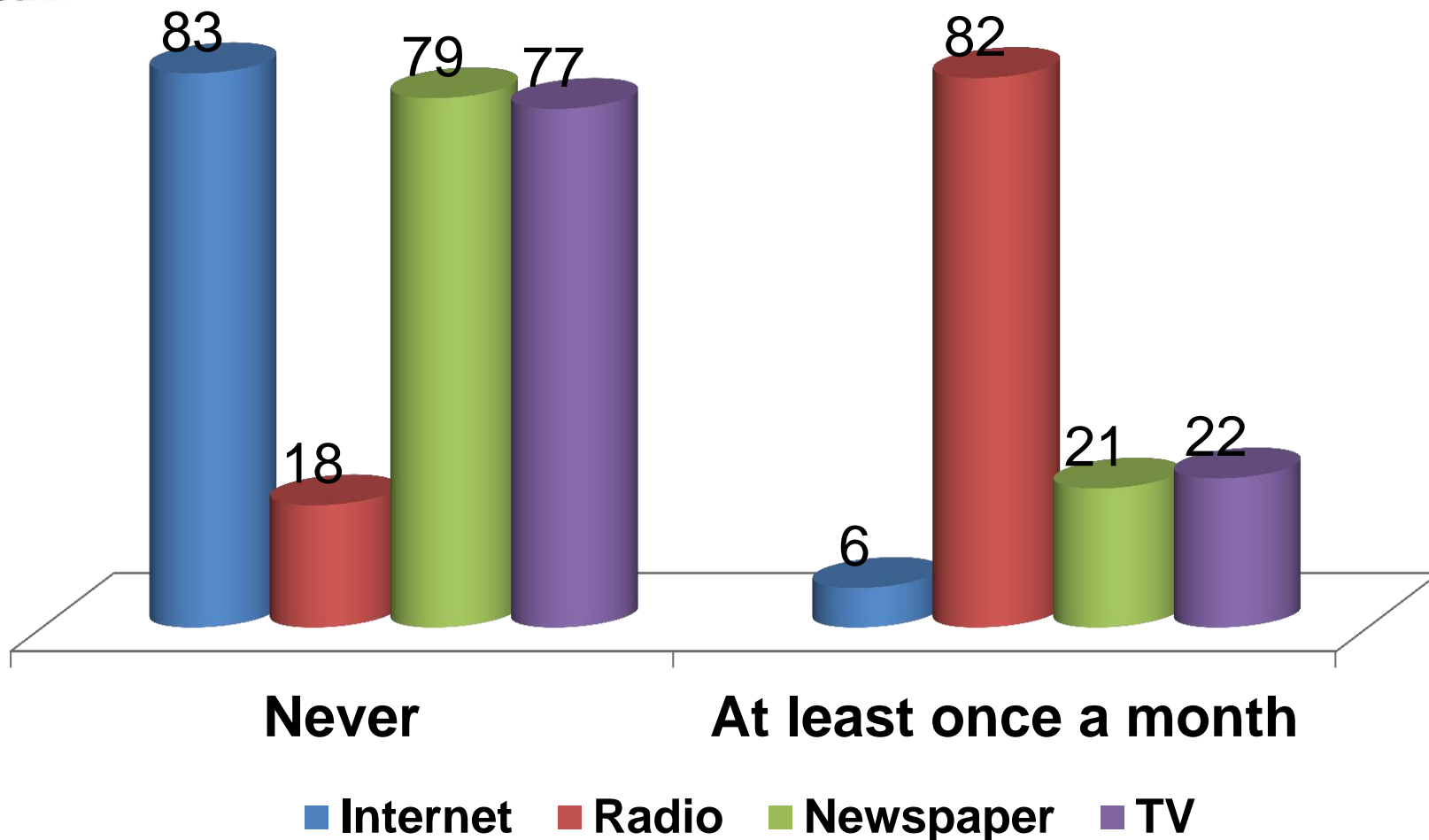
# Effectiveness of Media as a Watchdog



**How effective is news media in revealing government mistakes and corruption?**



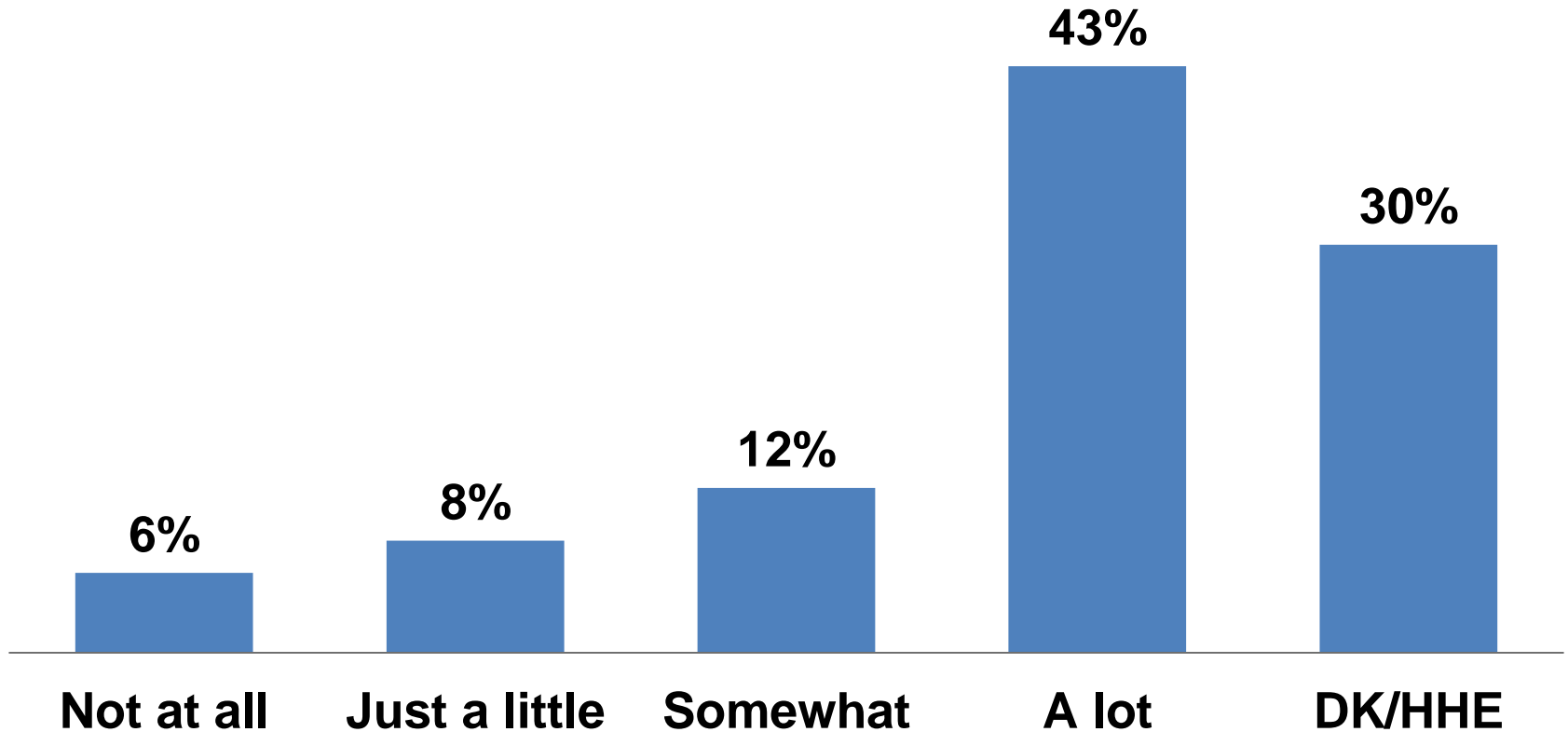
# Media Coverage



How often do you get news from the following sources?



# Trust In Office of Ombudsman

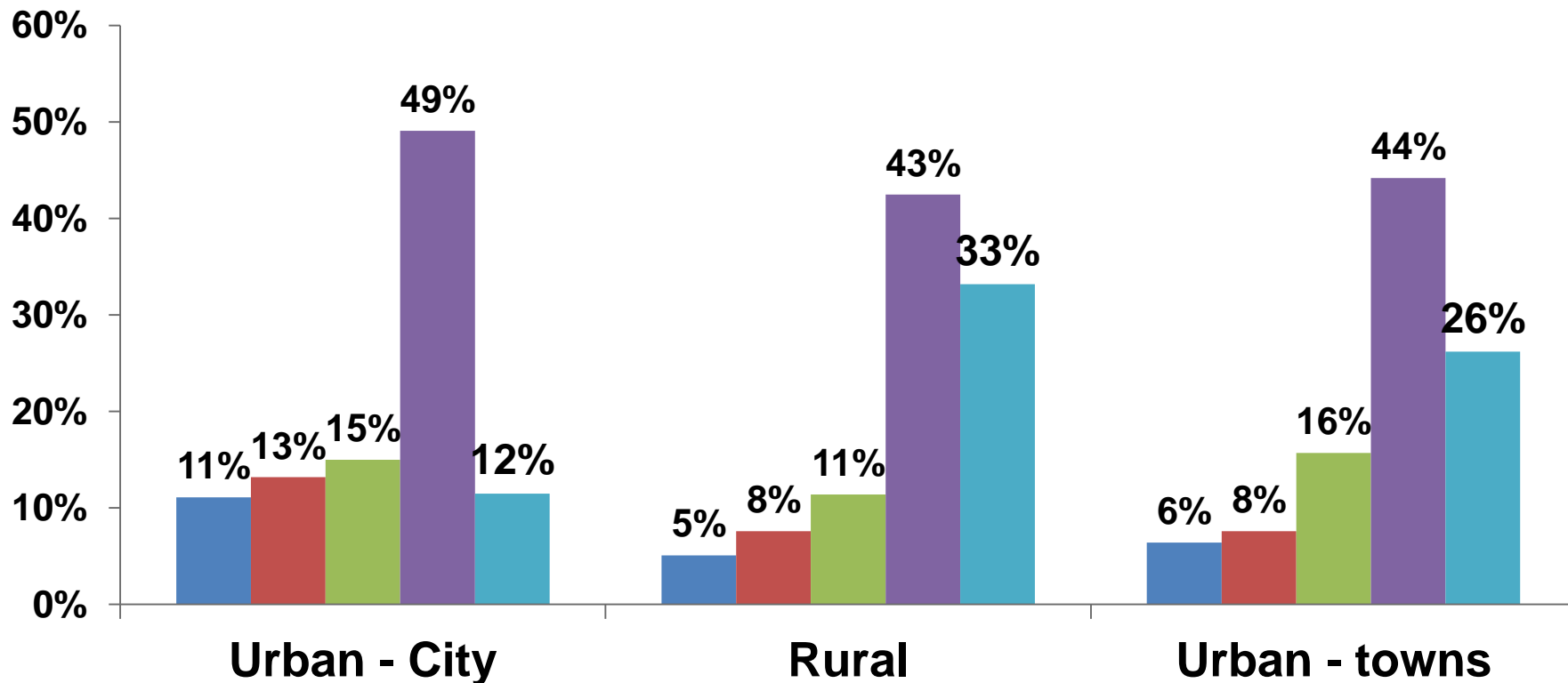


How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The Ombudsman?

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# Trust Ombudsman by location



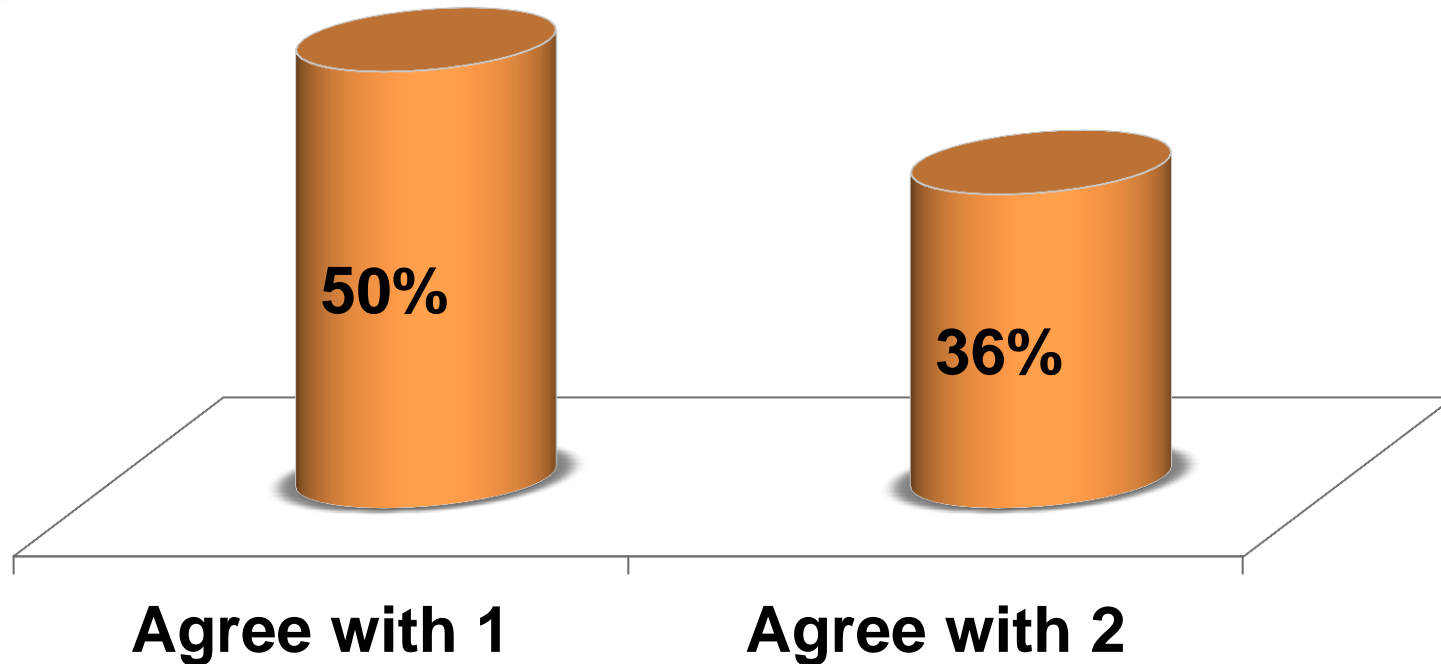
■ Not at all ■ Just a little ■ Somewhat ■ A lot ■ DK/HHE

How much do you trust ... The Ombudsman? or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

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# Performance of ACB

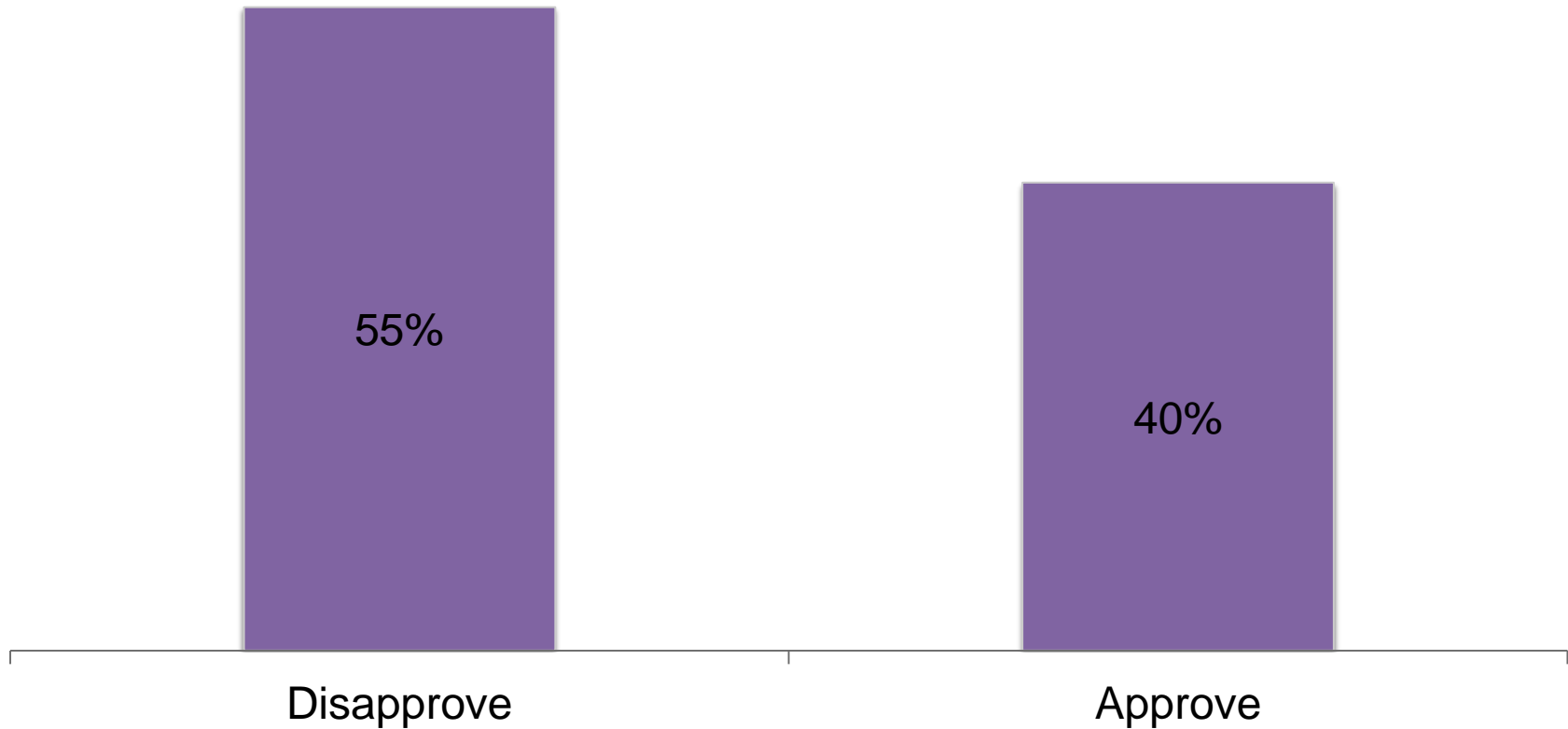


**Statement 1:** *The Anti Corruption Bureau performs its duties as a neutral body as guided only by the law.*

**Statement 2:** *The Anti Corruption Bureau makes decisions that favor particular people or political parties.*



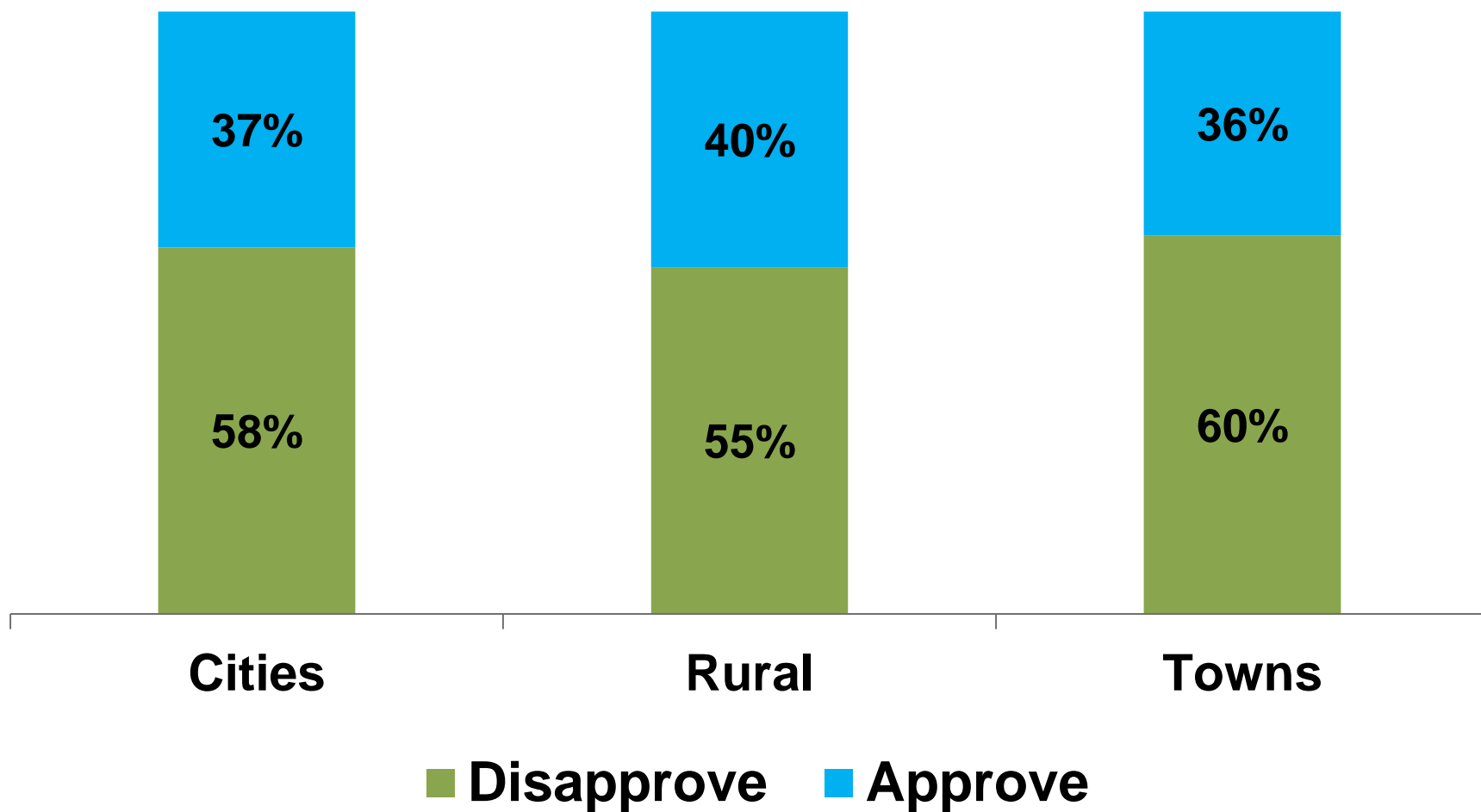
# Performance of MPs



Do you approve or disapprove of the way that ... Your Member of Parliament ... has performed her/his job over the past twelve months ...?



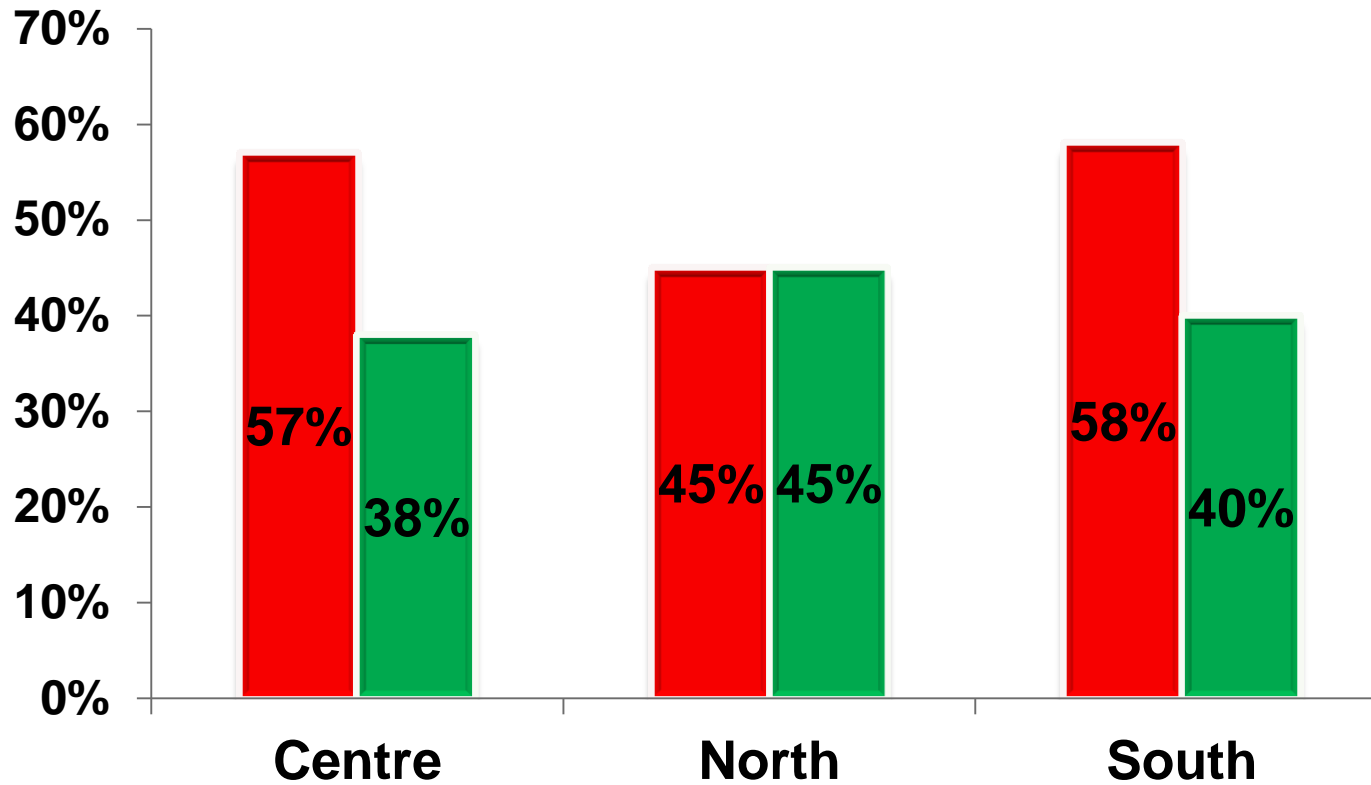
# MPs Performance by location







# MPs Performance by Region

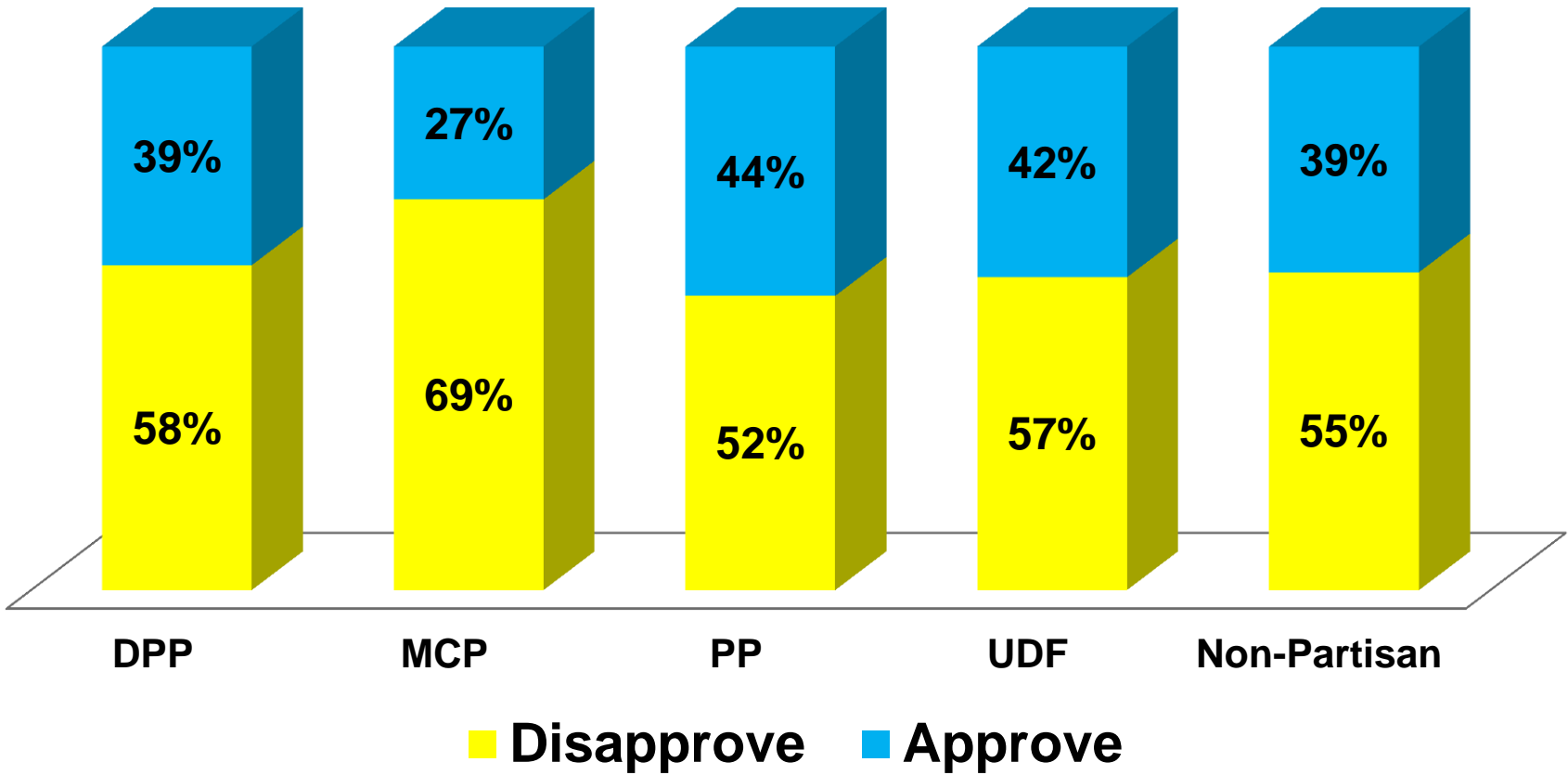


■ Disapprove ■ Approve

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# MPs Performance by Party Support



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# **Afrobarometer Round 5 Malawi Survey Results, September 2012**

## **Topic 2: Economic evaluation**

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# Economic evaluation



- One in two think the country is going in the wrong direction
- Over 7/10 feel country's economic conditions are bad
  - The feeling is strongest in cities (80%)
- Generally people are optimistic about the country's economic conditions
  - The present is considered bad but better than previous and women and the young (36% each) are the most optimistic
  - The future is considered better than the present and the North and Centre (52%) and the educated (51%) are the most optimistic
- Own economic conditions are consistently considered better than country's and other Malawians conditions



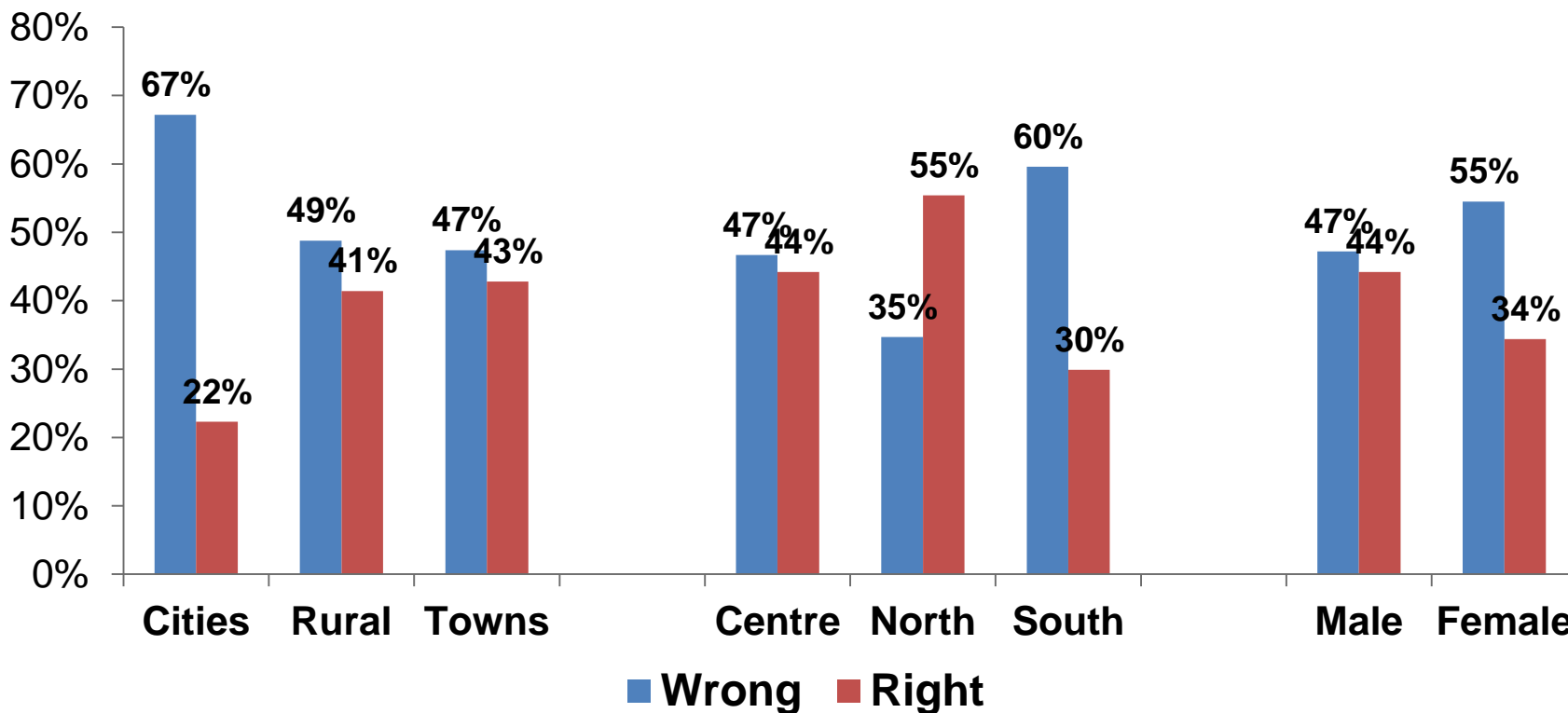
## Economic evaluation (contd.)



- People consider own present economic conditions to be bad and worse than last year but expect them to improve
- Education, sex & age matter less in the assessment of own current economic conditions
- The majority had enough food, clean water and cooking fuel BUT not health care and cash over the previous 12 months
- Cash income poverty is the most endemic as over 3/4 regardless of age group, location, education and sex experienced it – 62% reported having no cash-bringing job
- Food poverty was more prevalent among the least educated (59%)
- Access to health care problem cuts across education levels, age groups and sex but varies by region - North (71%), Centre (66%) and South (54%)



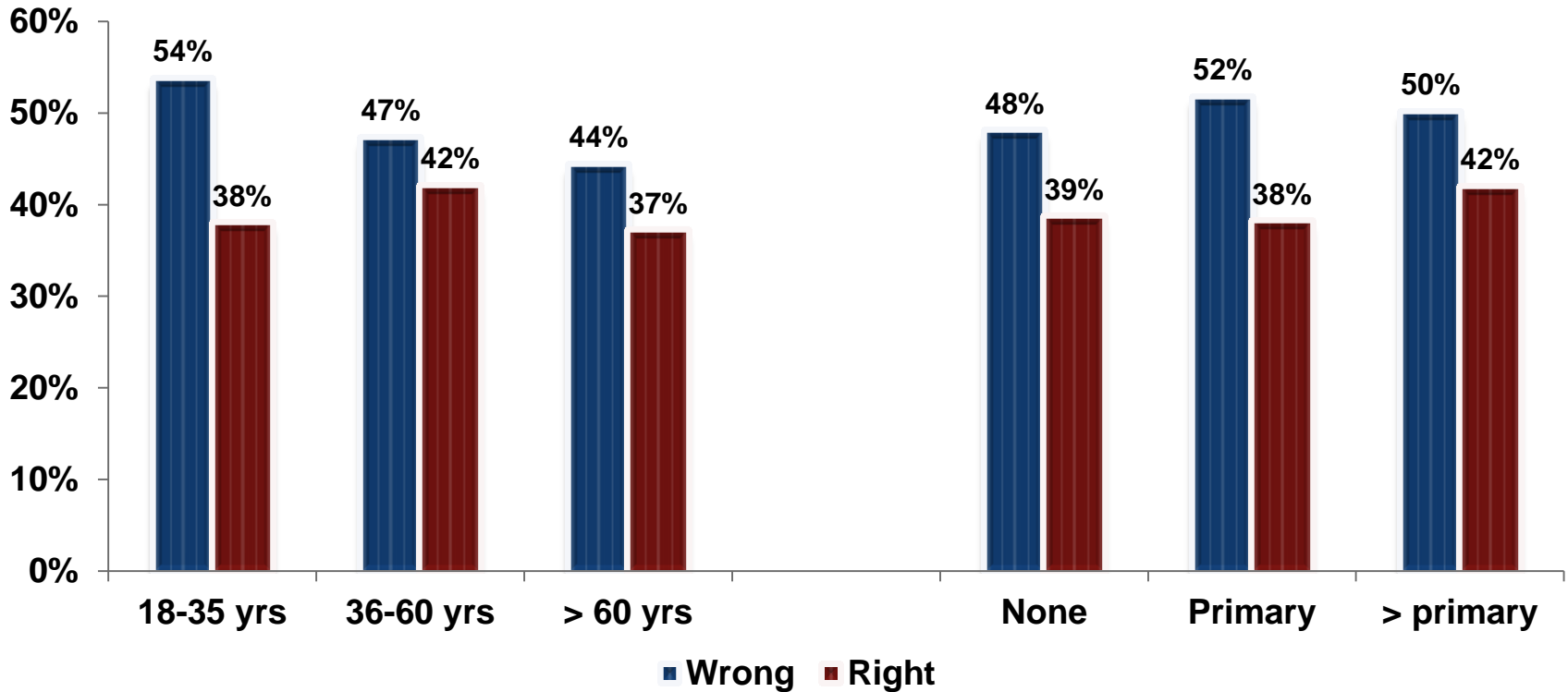
# Country going in the wrong direction by demographics



What 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?



# Proportion that said the country is headed the wrong direction



What 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?



# Current economic conditions compared to previous and future

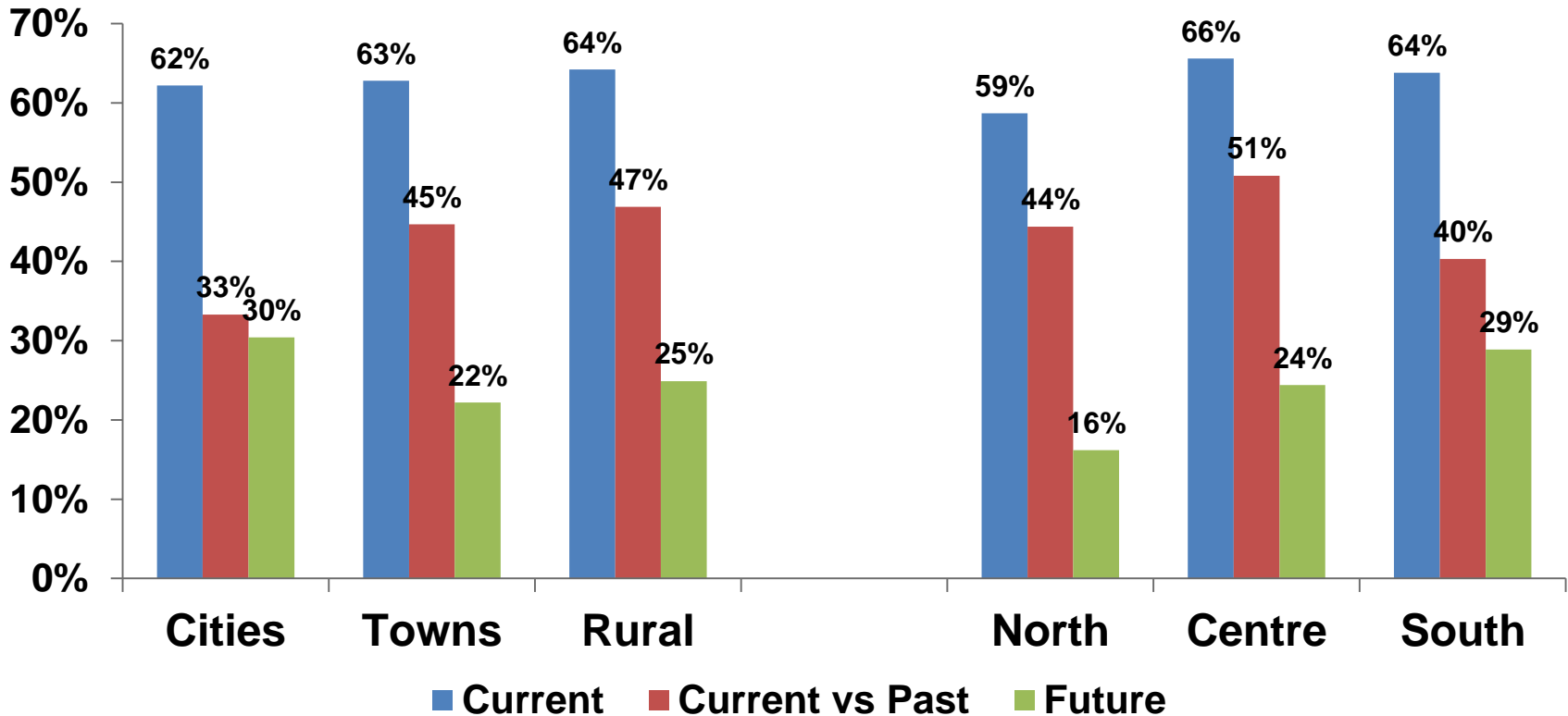


Group	Current		Current vs Past		Current vs future	
	Bad	Good	Worse	Better	Worse	Better
Cities	80%	12%	51%	35%	41%	39%
Towns	73%	21%	57%	32%	31%	42%
Rural	71%	23%	56%	32%	28%	46%
North	67%	27%	59%	27%	22%	52%
Centre	71%	22%	62%	31%	27%	52%
South	74%	20%	49%	35%	35%	36%
18-35 yrs	74%	21%	54%	36%	32%	44%
36-60 yrs	71%	21%	59%	27%	27%	47%
> 60 yrs	65%	26%	56%	31%	21%	39%
None	64%	27%	55%	31%	24%	35%
Primary	73%	22%	54%	35%	31%	44%
> primary	74%	19%	61%	27%	30%	51%
Male	70%	23%	61%	29%	29%	50%
Female	74%	20%	51%	36%	31%	40%





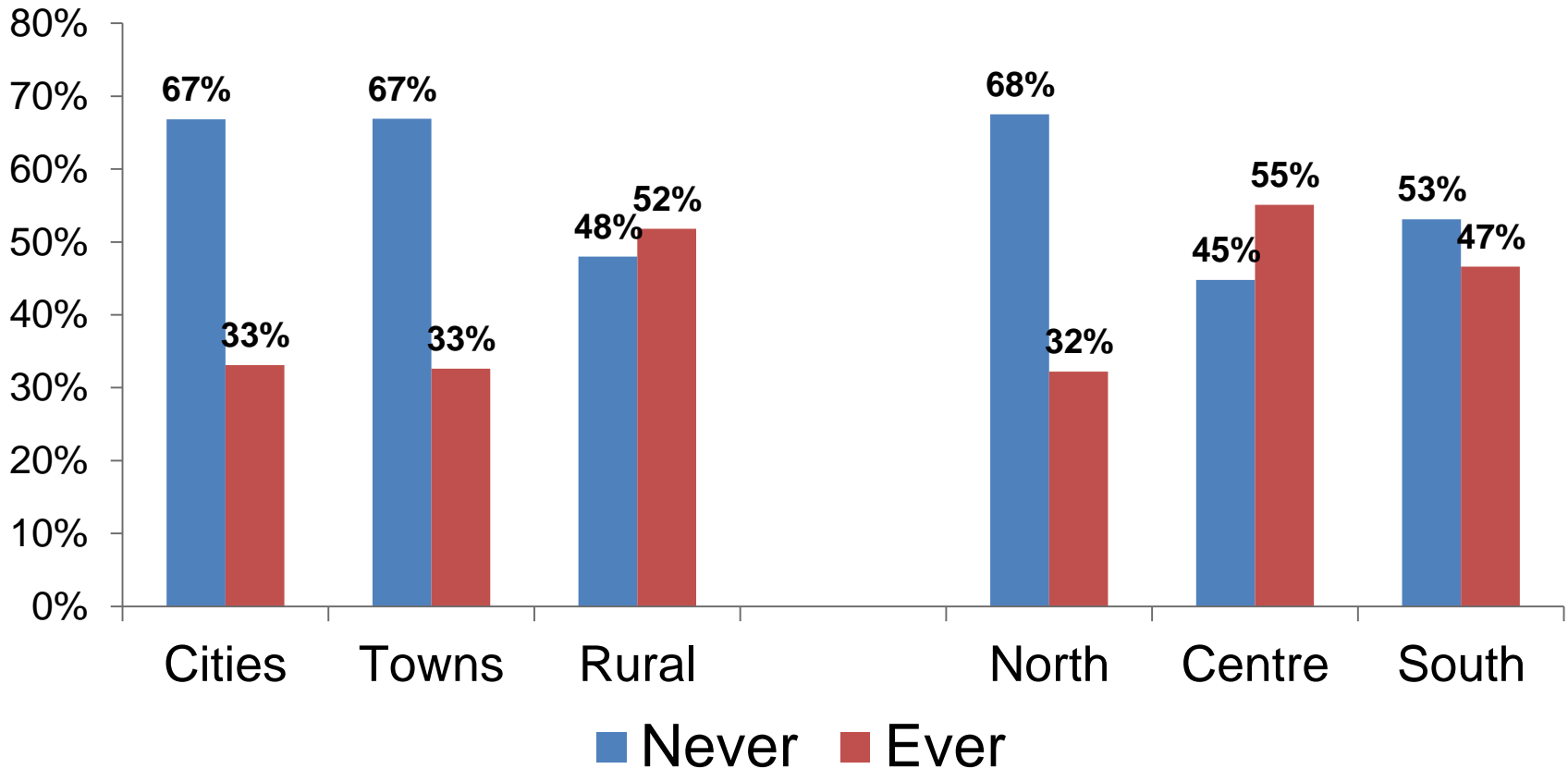
# Proportion that said economic conditions are bad/worse



In general, how would you describe ... your own present living conditions? Looking back, how do you rate ... Your living conditions compared to twelve months ago? Looking ahead, do you expect ... Your living conditions in twelve months time to be better or worse?



# Proportion that never/ever went without enough food to eat

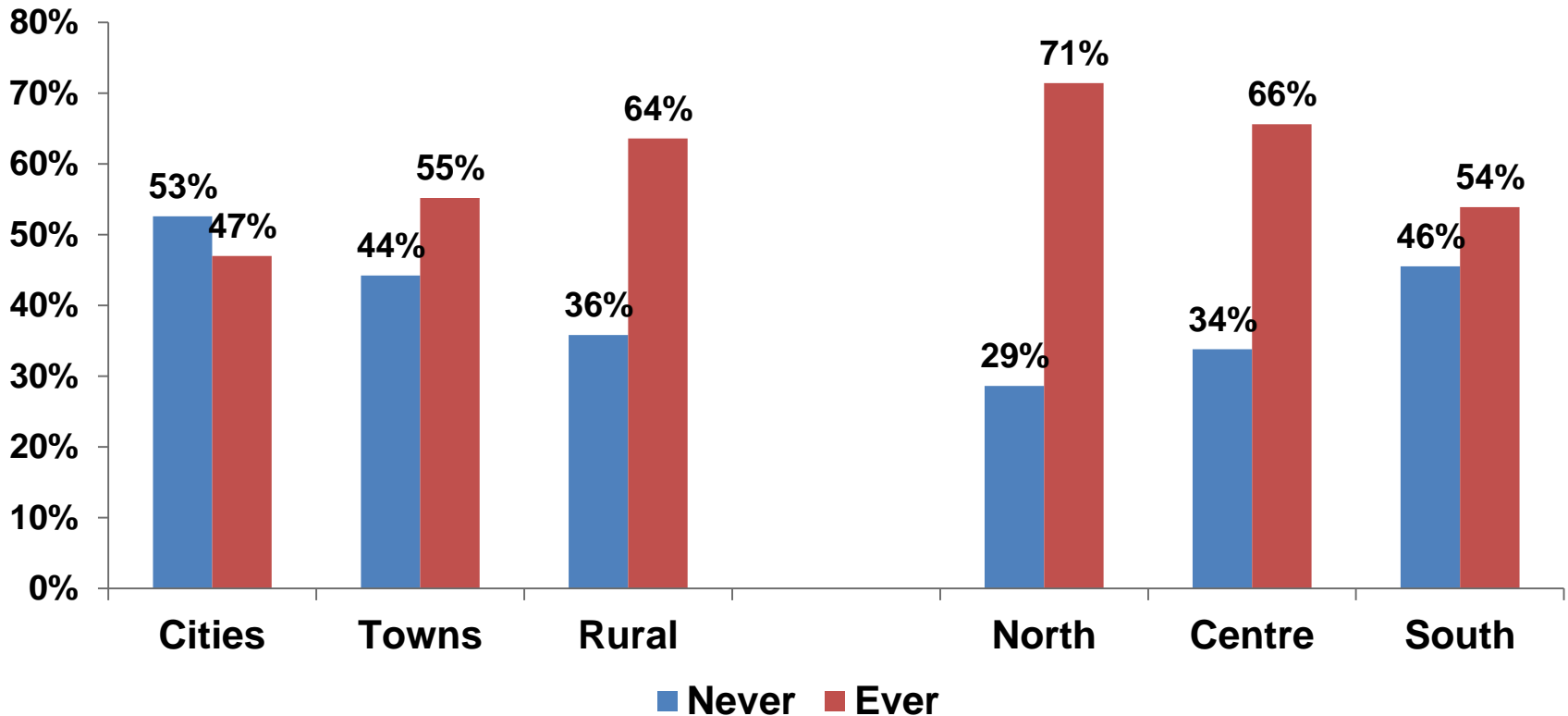


Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family ...  
Gone without enough food to eat?

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# Proportion that never/ever went without medical care



Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family ...  
Gone without medicines or medical treatment?

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# **Afrobarometer Round 5 Malawi Survey Results, September 2012**

## **Topic 3: Government Performance and Serious Problems**

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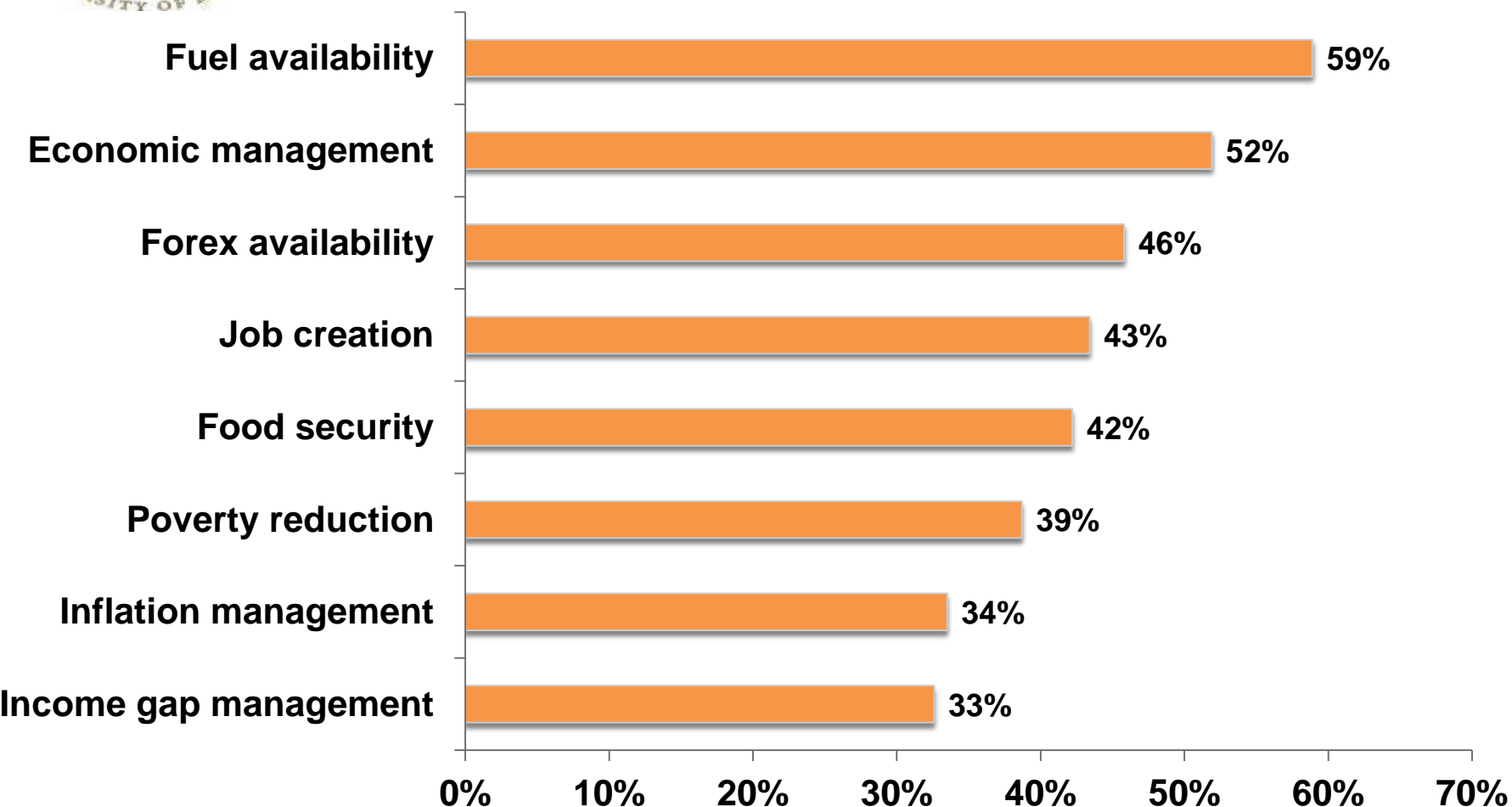
# Government Performance & Most Important Problems



- The majority think that government is performing well in ensuring availability of fuel (59%) and managing the economy (52%)
  - Highest approval ratings came from cities and the North
- The least approval rating was on controlling inflation (55%)
- The most serious problems mentioned included food insecurity, poor economic management, lack of potable water and poor health care
- Majority of Malawians (73%) think that government is likely to solve the problems in the next 5 years
- While there are no differences in the assessment by sex, age group and education level, differences are in terms of location and region
  - The most optimistic were citizens in the North (80% said likely as opposed to 73% for the Centre and 69% for the South)
  - The most pessimistic were city dwellers (36% said unlikely as opposed to 19% for both towns and rural areas)



# Government Performance

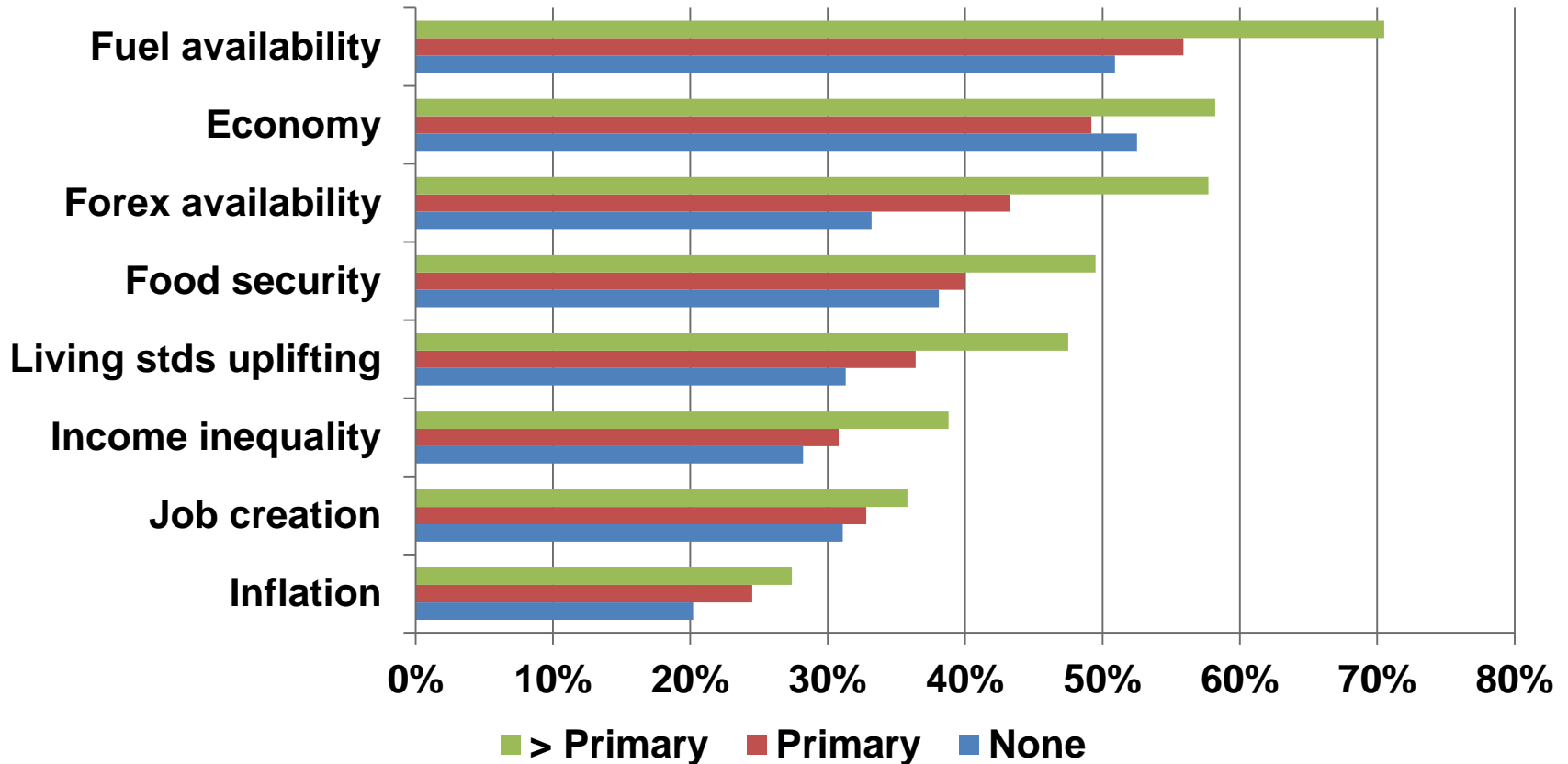


Now let's speak about the performance of the present government of this country. How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following... ?

% represents proportion that approves the government.



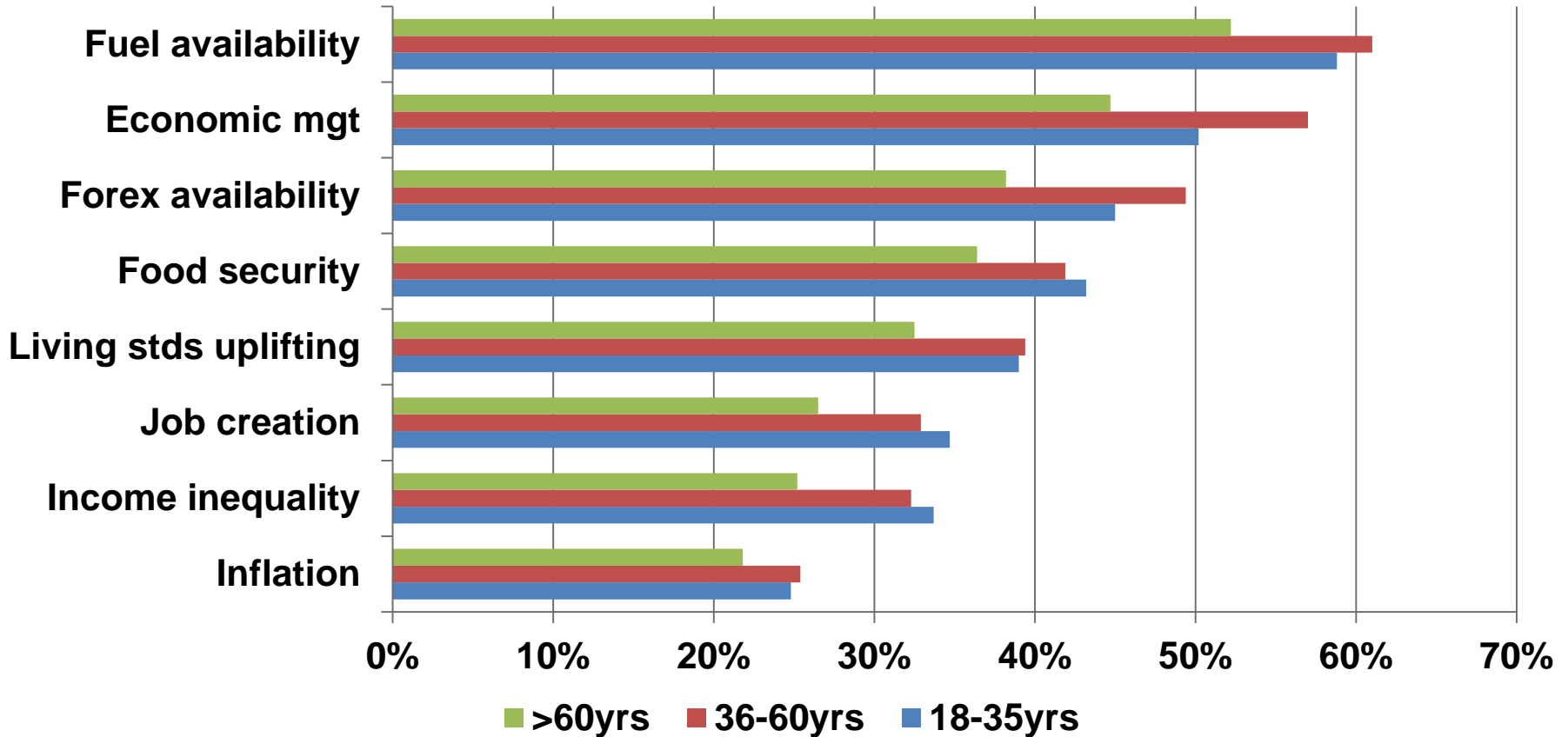
# Government Performance by Education



Now let's speak about the performance of the present government of this country. How well or badly would you say the current government is handling ... ?  
 % represents proportion that approves the government



# Government Performance Age



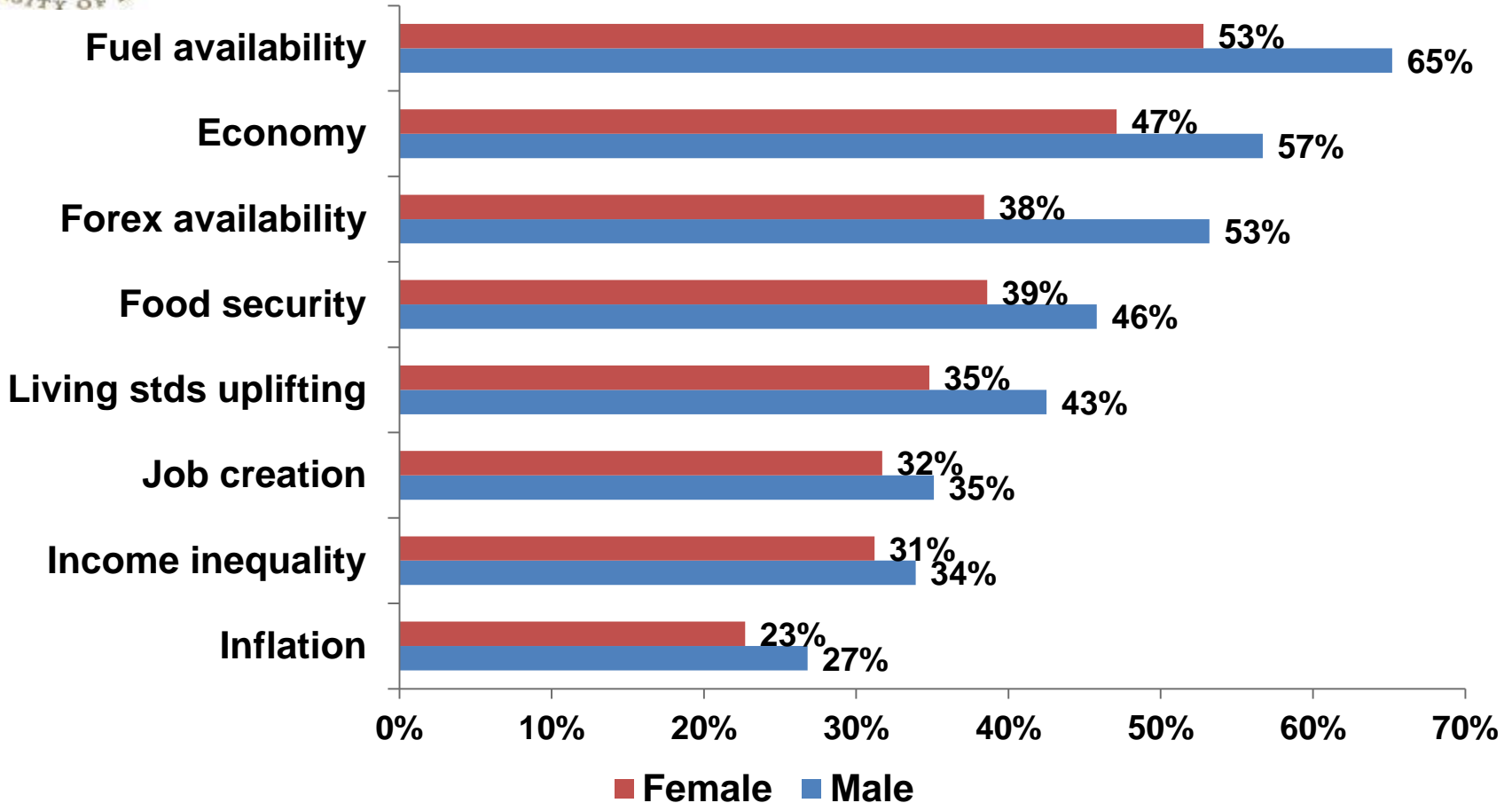
Now let's speak about the performance of the present government of this country. How well or badly would you say the current government is handling ... ?  
% represents proportion that approves government performance

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# Government Performance by Gender

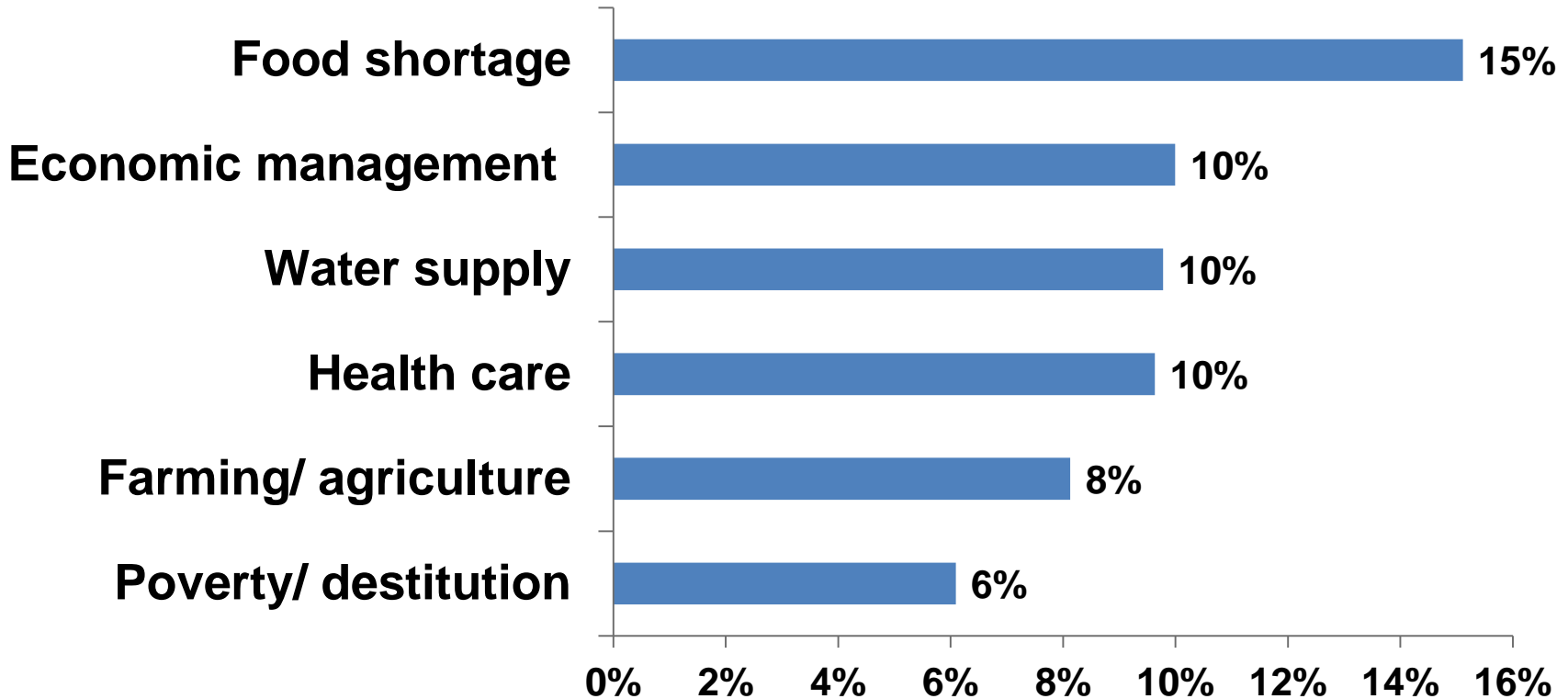


Now let's speak about the performance of the present government of this country.  
How well or badly would you say the current government is handling ... ?  
% represents proportion that approves government performance

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## Most frequently mentioned problems

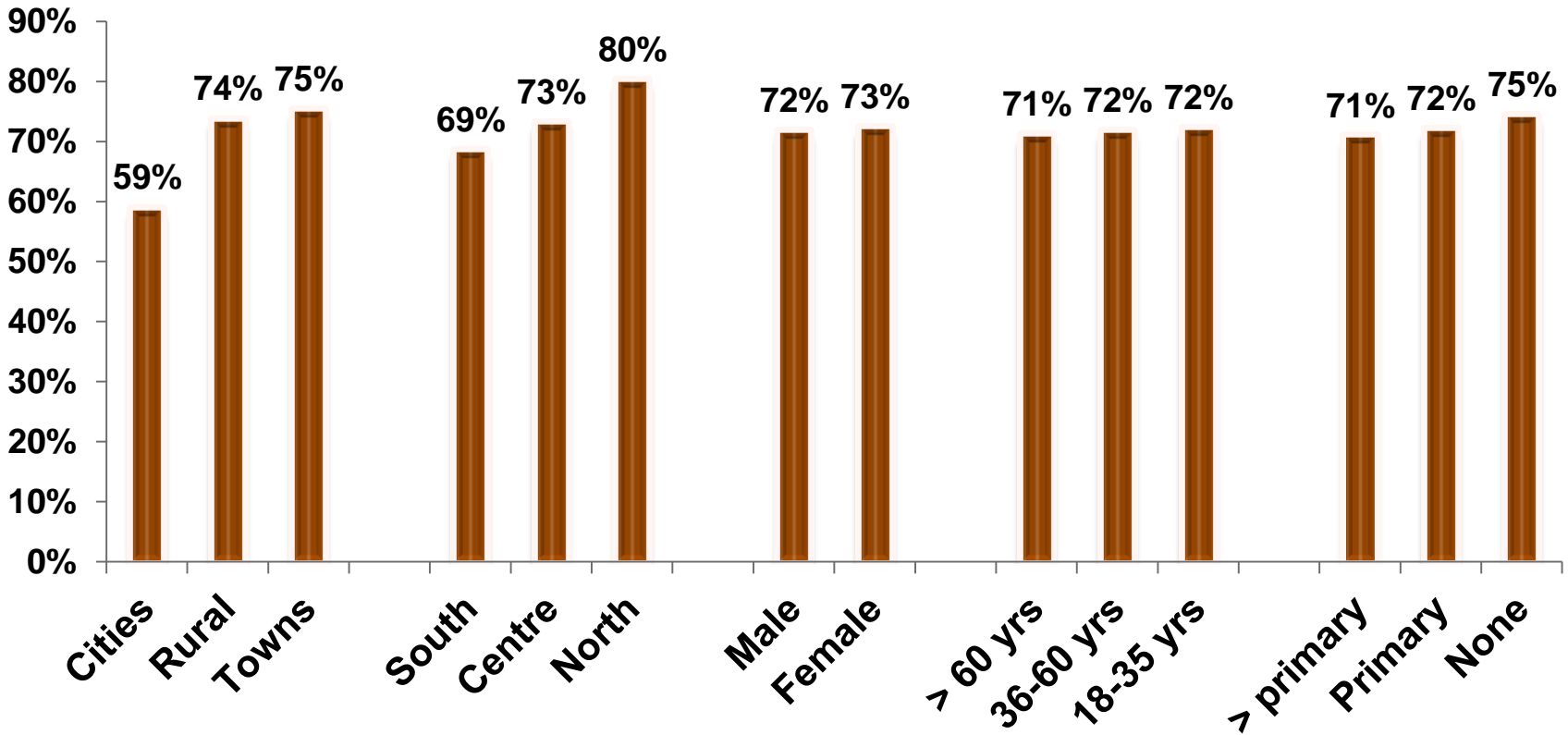


In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing this country that government should address?

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# Proportion that said government is likely to solve the problems



Taking the problem that you mentioned first, how likely do you think it is that government will solve this problem within the next five years?



# Conclusions

- The media does its watchdog job effectively and is expected to be checking on government
- Radio remains the major source of information
- Of all constitutional bodies, the Ombudsman is the least known even in cities
- ACB is generally thought to be neutral and law abiding
- While applauding the performance of government in the handling of the economy, especially the fuel and forex crises, people feel that it has failed to manage inflation
- Lack of access to cash income and health care are the most common problems experienced by Malawians



## Conclusions (contd.)



- In the current year, household food insecurity has joined the almost permanent problems of lack of potable water, limited access to health care and general poverty
- MPs have to improve their performance as many of them are thought not to perform well
- Likewise, Government has to improve its performance in improving living conditions as many people think the country is going in the wrong direction and that the country's and people's economic conditions are bad
- Our experience is that views of Malawians are generally consistent. Our free advice: please take them seriously



# AFRO BAROMETER

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[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)