



Freetown, Sierra Leone
4 February, 2016



News release

Sierra Leoneans see a drop in their economic and living conditions, and disapprove of their government performance in running the country

A large majority of Sierra Leoneans believe their present economic and living conditions have worsened over the past year, findings from the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Most Sierra Leoneans perceive their government has performed 'very badly' in narrowing income gaps between the rich and the poor. However, a small percentage of Sierra Leoneans are optimistic the government's economic measures will improve their living conditions in the next 12 months.

This is expected to have serious implications for a country that has been described as having one of the fastest growing economies in Africa.

Key findings:

- Eight in ten Sierra Leoneans (82%) consider their present economic and living condition to be "very bad" or "fairly bad". However, a sizeable majority (43%) about four in ten Sierra Leoneans are optimistic about the country's economic conditions this year.
- A large percentage of Sierra Leoneans rated government's performance in managing the economy, improving the living standards of the poor, creating jobs, keeping prices down and narrowing income gaps between the rich and the poor as "very bad" or "fairly bad".
- A large majority of Sierra Leoneans (80%) believe that the country is heading in the wrong direction.

Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently being completed (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 2,400 or 1,200 adult citizens.

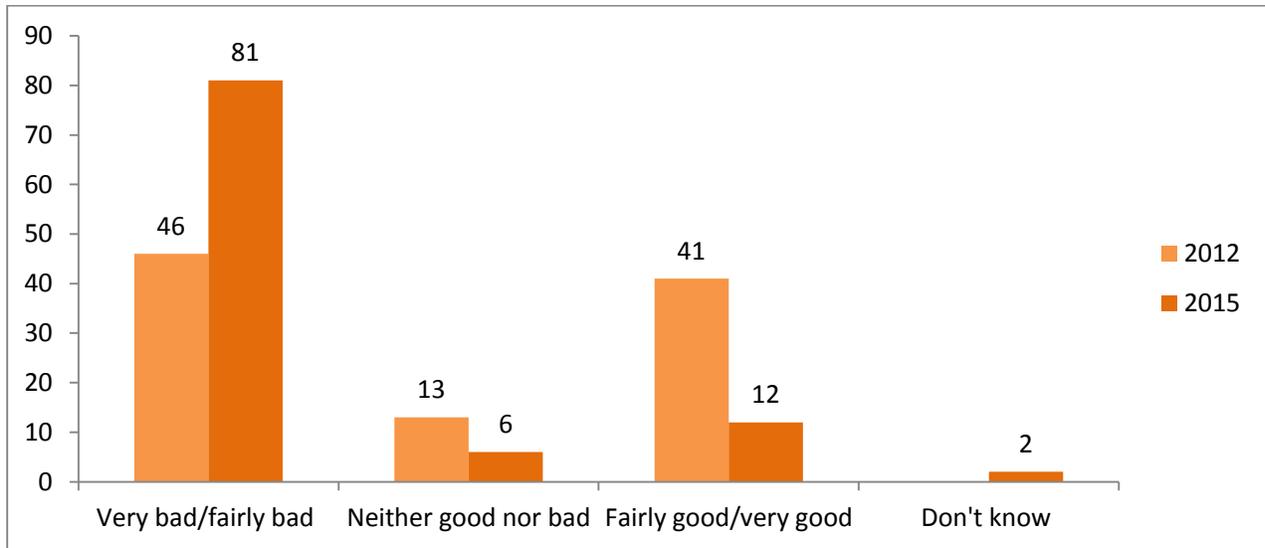
Fieldwork for Afrobarometer Round 6 in Sierra Leone was conducted by ITASCAP, in collaboration with Campaign for Good Governance (CGG) and Lena Thompson. ITASCAP



interviewed 1,200 adult Sierra Leoneans between 22 May and 10 June 2015. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of sampling error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. A previous Afrobarometer survey was conducted in Sierra Leone in 2012.

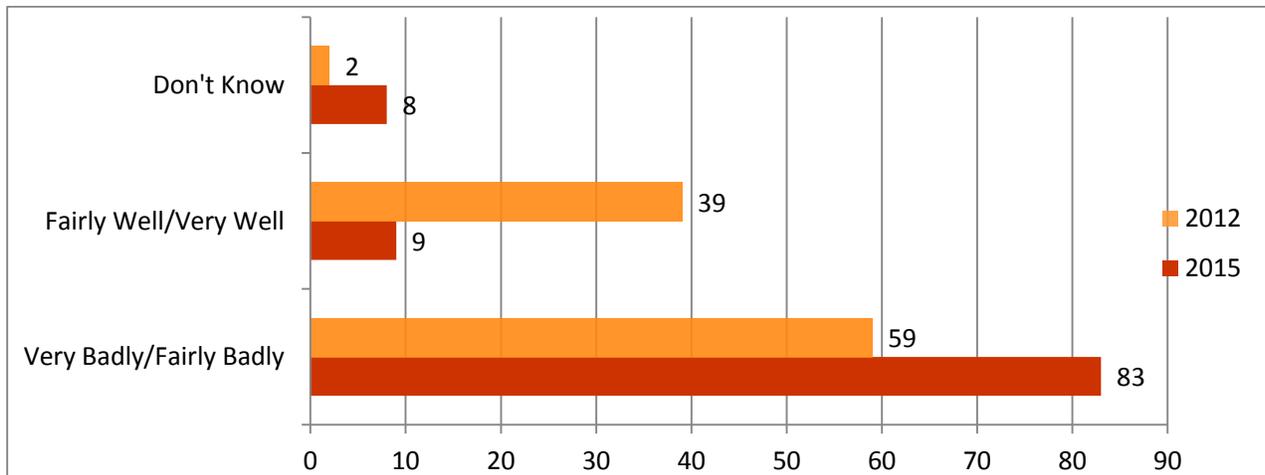
Charts

Figure 1: country's present economic condition | 2012 - 2015



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

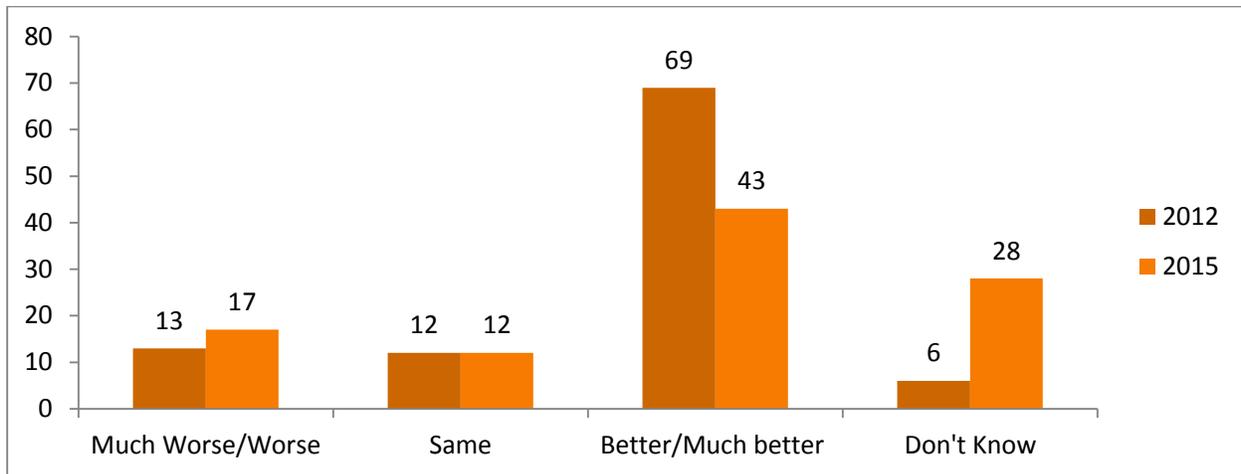
Figure 2: narrowing income gaps between the rich and the poor | 2012 - 2015



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: Narrowing gaps between rich and poor?*

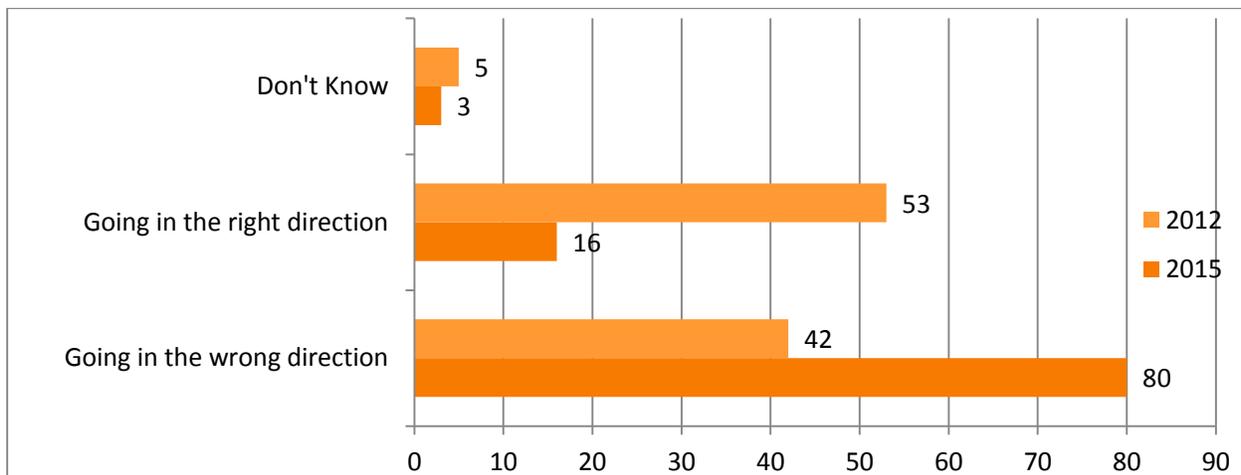


Figure 3: country's economic condition in 12 months time | 2012 - 2015



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

Figure 4: overall direction of the country | 2015-2012



Respondents were asked: would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?

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