



Gaborone, Botswana  
12 June 2020

## News release

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### **Pay more attention to fresh ideas from young people, majority of Batswana say, but elders have their doubts**

A majority of Batswana say the country needs to listen more to fresh ideas from young people, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows. But elders aren't so sure.

While young Batswana overwhelmingly believe their ideas need to be heard if the country is to advance, older citizens say more attention needs to be paid to the wisdom of the elders.

Batswana are divided as to whether they should pay higher taxes to support programs to help young people, but job creation is a clear priority for additional government investment, the survey shows.

Youth (ages 18-35) make up more than 60% of Botswana's population and have been particularly hard hit by unemployment. President Mokgweetsi Masisi has promised to make youth empowerment and development his regime's flagship program.

#### **Key findings**

- A majority (53%) of Batswana say that "in order for our country to do well, we should listen more to fresh ideas from young people." This view is shared by large majorities of young respondents (71% of those aged 18-25), those with post-secondary education (68%), and urban residents (62%). But a majority of respondents over age 55 say the country "should listen more to the wisdom of our elders" (Figure 1).
- More than four in 10 Batswana (43%) endorse paying more taxes to support programs to help young people, but more (49%) would oppose such a move (Figure 2).
- A majority (56%) of respondents say that if the government could increase its spending on programs to help young people, job creation should be the highest priority for additional investment (Figure 3).
- More than half (56%) of citizens say the government is addressing the needs of young people "fairly well" or "very well" (Figure 4).

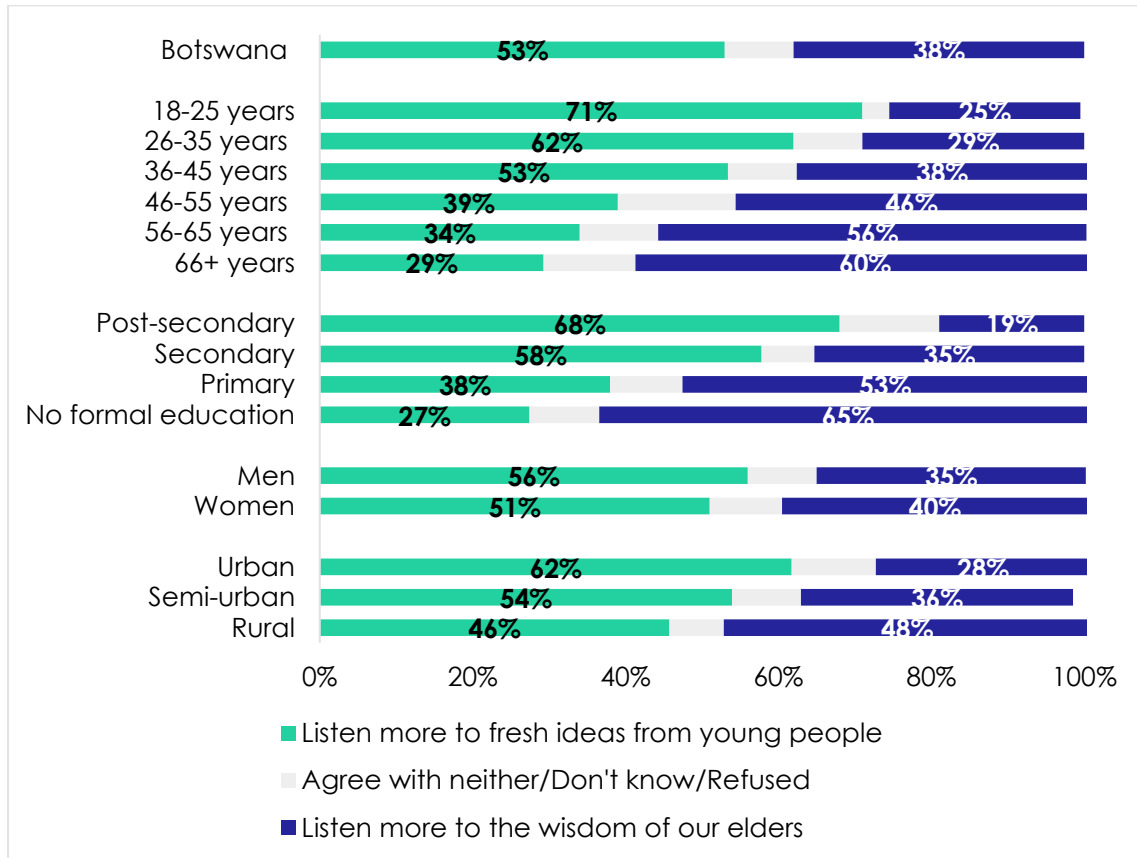
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018, and Round 8 surveys are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer national partner in Botswana, Star Awards Ltd., interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 adult Batswana in July-August 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Botswana in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

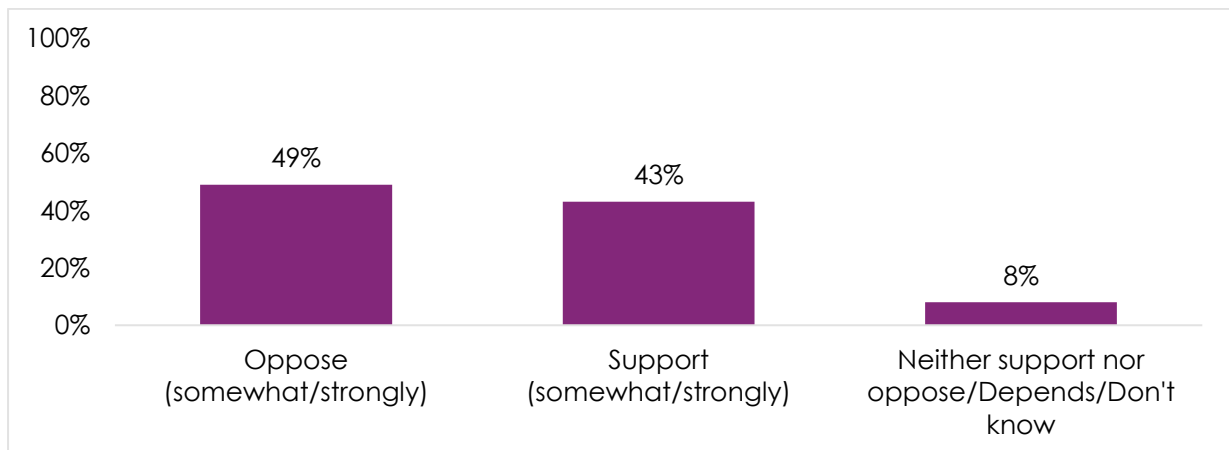
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Listen to fresh ideas from young people vs. wisdom of the elders**  
 | by socio-demographic group | Botswana | 2019



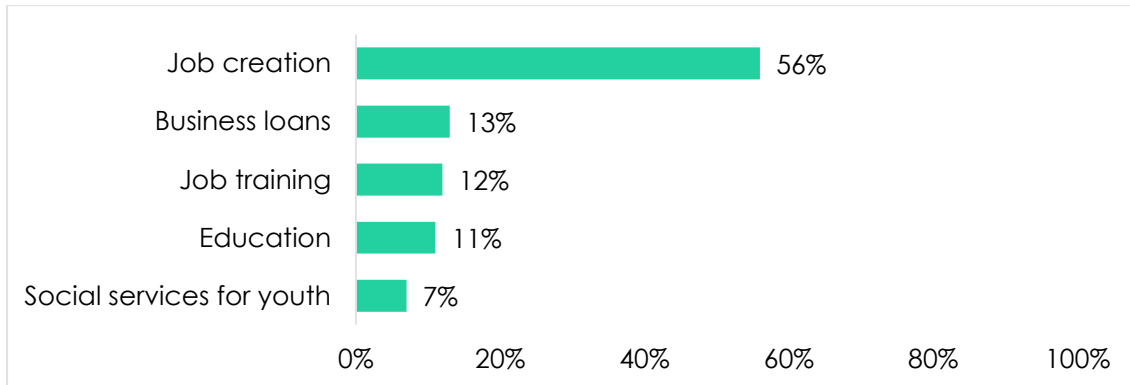
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: In order for our country to do well, we should listen more to the wisdom of our elders.  
 Statement 2: In order for our country to do well, we should listen more to fresh ideas from young people.  
 (% who “agree” or “strongly agree” with each statement)

**Figure 2: Pay more taxes to support youth programs?** | Botswana | 2019



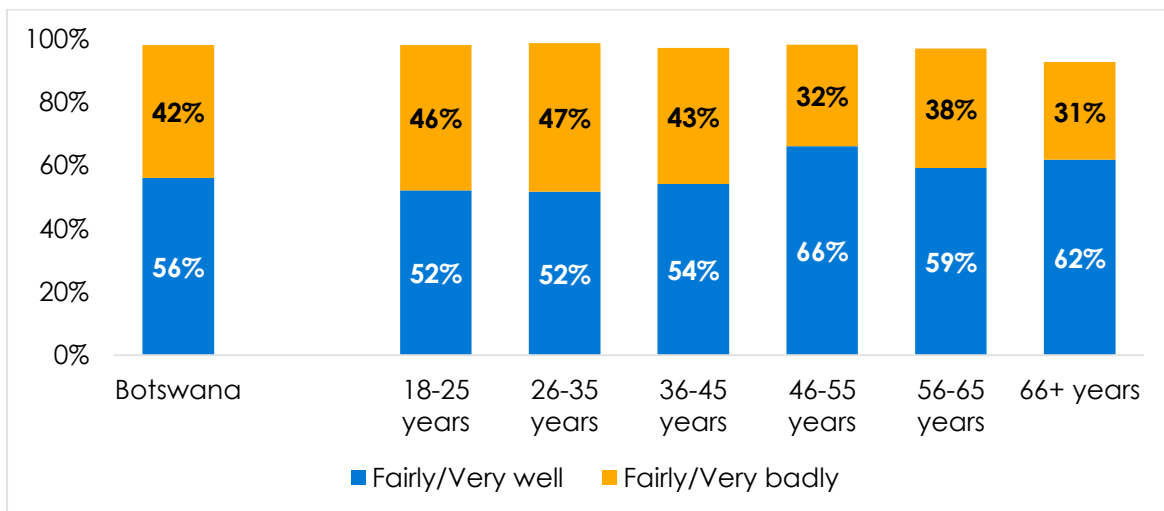
**Respondents were asked:** If the government decided to make people pay more taxes in order to support programs to help young people, would you support this decision or oppose it?

**Figure 3: Priorities for government investment in youth programs | Botswana | 2019**



**Respondents were asked:** *If the government could increase its spending on programs to help young people, which of the following areas do you think should be the highest priority for additional investment?*

**Figure 4: Government handling of needs of young people | by age group | Botswana | 2019**



**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?*

**For more information, please contact:**

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