

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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News release

Ethiopians see government failing on their top concern – management of the economy

A large majority of Ethiopians say their government is doing a poor job of managing the economy – their top priority for government action, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Economic management outranks water supply and the threat of civil unrest among the most important problems that citizens say their government needs to address.

More than half of citizens also think the country is heading in the wrong direction, an assessment that has worsened significantly since 2020.

Key findings

- Management of the economy ranks as the top priority that Ethiopians want their government to address, followed by water supply and the threat of civil war (Figure 1).
- But more than seven in 10 citizens (72%) say the government has done “fairly badly” or “very badly” in managing the economy (Figure 2).
- A majority (56%) of Ethiopians also say the country is heading in “the wrong direction,” up by 20 percentage points compared to 2020 (Figure 3).
- Negative assessments of the country's overall direction are particularly common among urban residents (62%), citizens with post-secondary education (66%), and older respondents (60% or higher among those over age 35) (Figure 4).

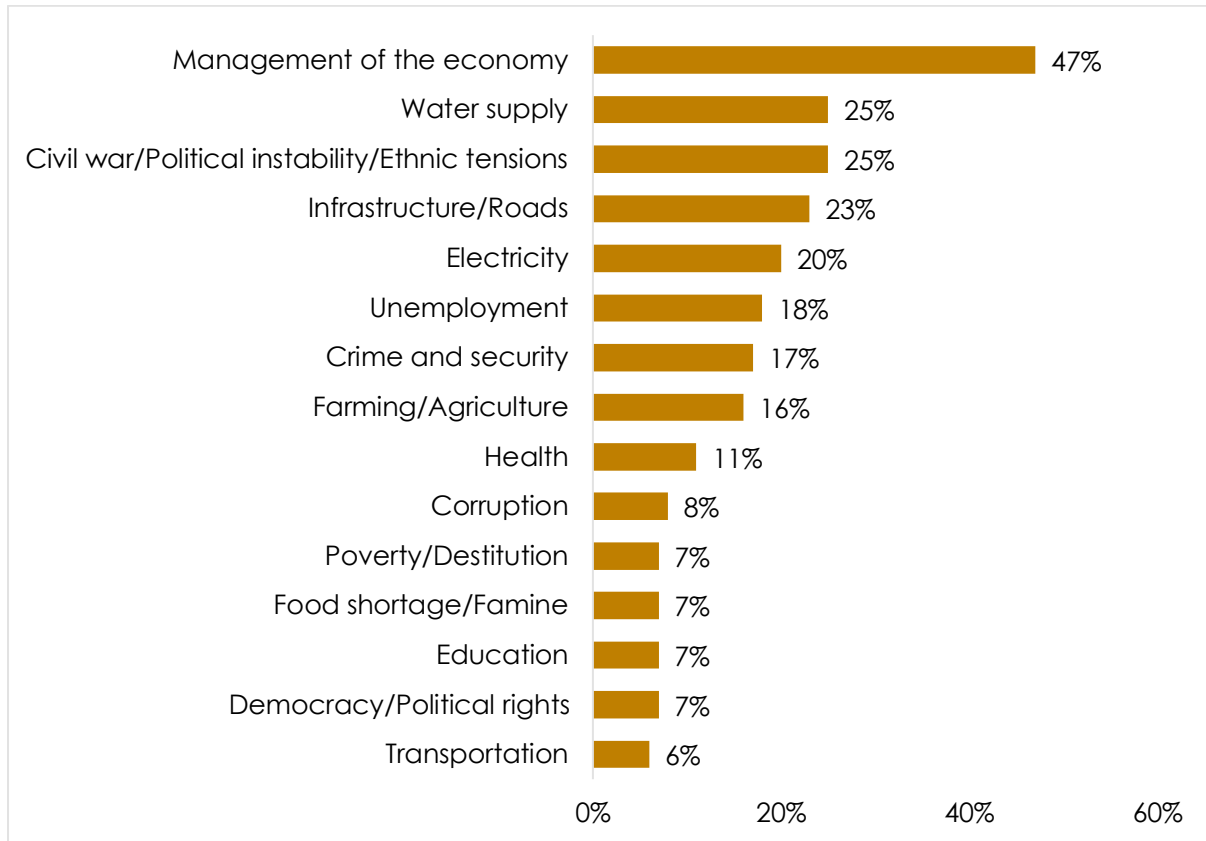
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Nine rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 42 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Afrobarometer team in Ethiopia, led by ABCON – Research & Consulting, interviewed 2,400 adult Ethiopians between 25 May and 22 June 2023. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. A previous survey was conducted in Ethiopia in 2020.

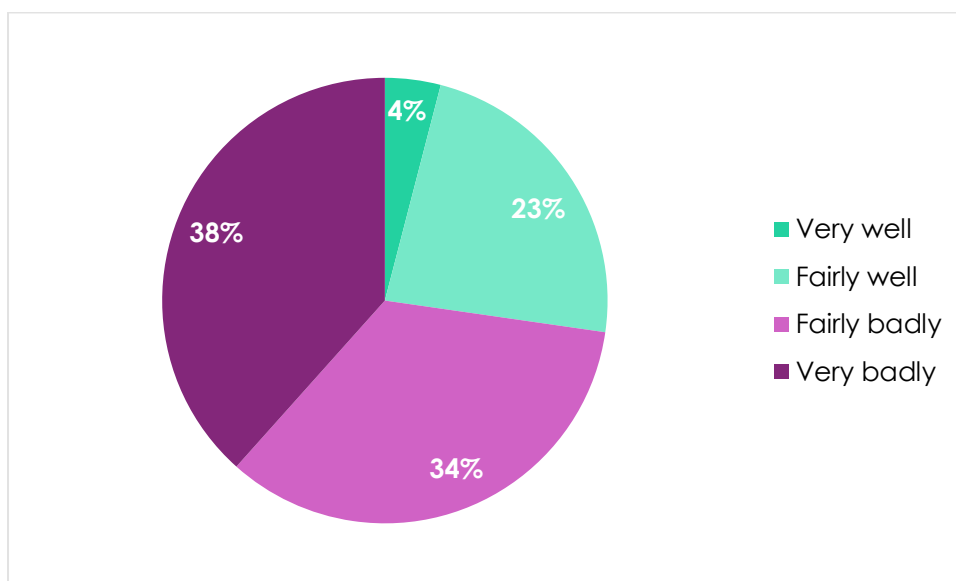
Charts

Figure 1: Most important problems the government should address | Ethiopia | 2023



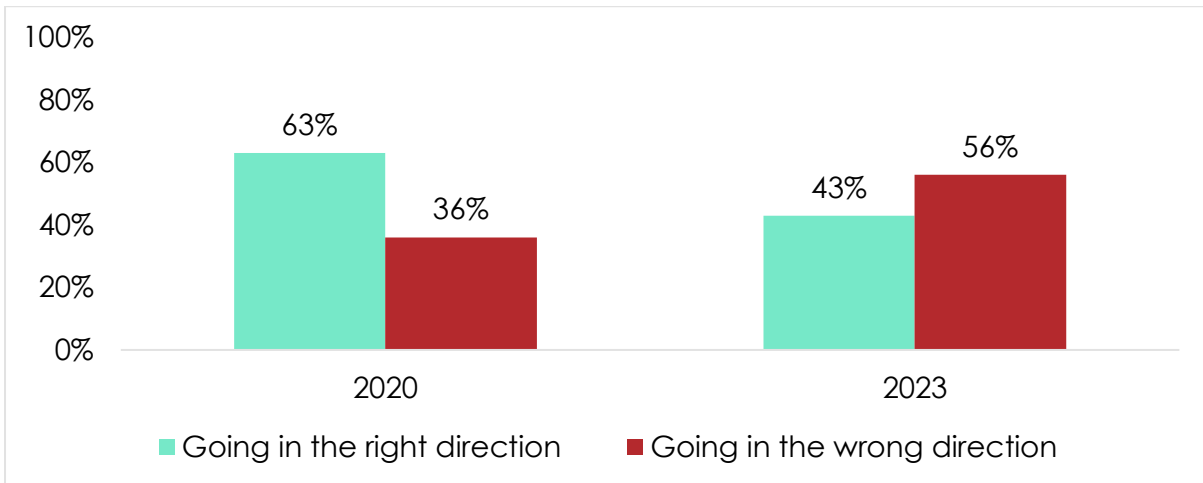
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person. Figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem as one of up to three priorities.)

Figure 2: Government performance in managing the economy | Ethiopia | 2023



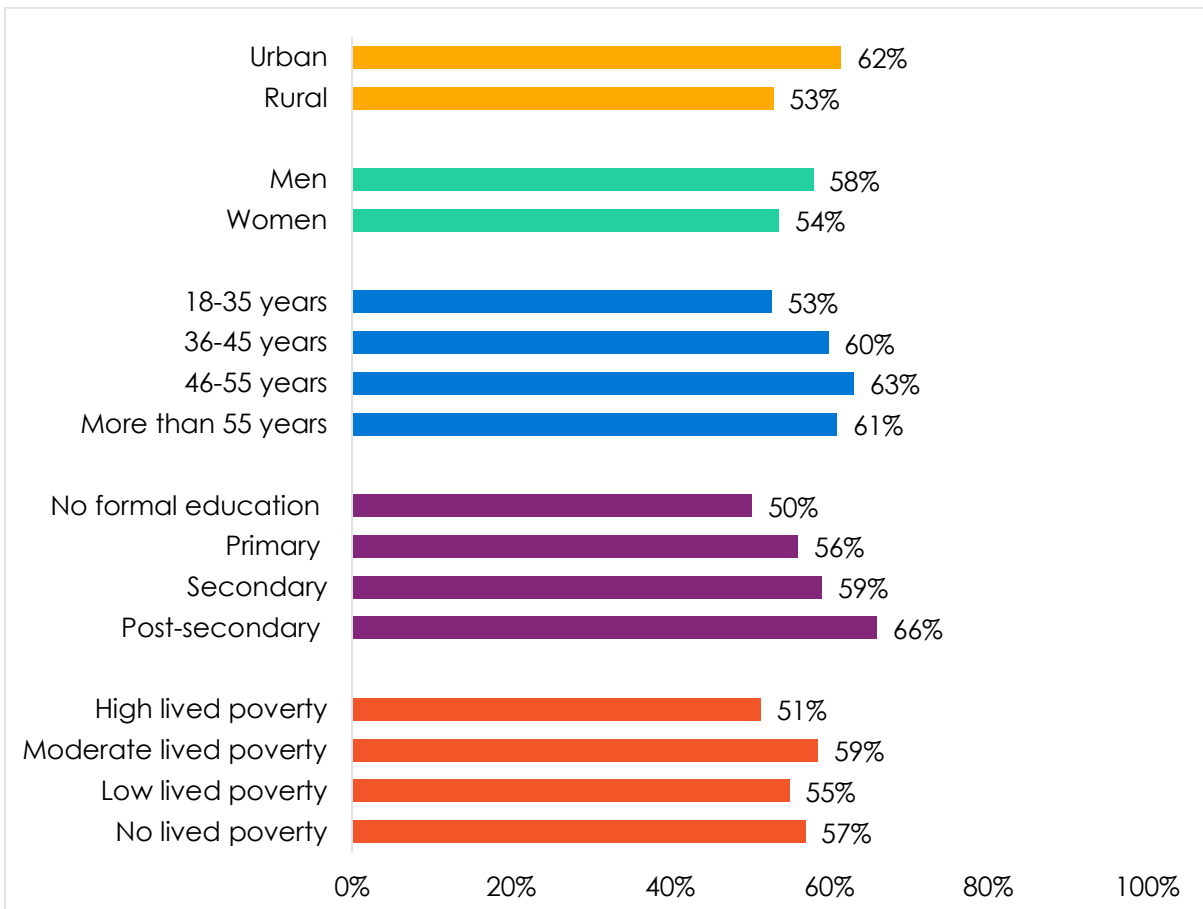
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling management of the economy, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Figure 3: Overall direction of the country | Ethiopia | 2020-2023



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 the country is going in the wrong direction or in the right direction?

Figure 4: County heading in wrong direction | by demographic groups | Ethiopia | 2023



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For more information, please contact:

Mulu Teka
National investigator
ABCON – Research & Consulting
Tel +251973077414 , +251115531470, +251115521696, +251115537061
mulu.mtg@gmail.com / info@abconltd.et
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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