

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
28 May 2024

## News release

---

### Management of the economy a top priority for youth in Ethiopia, latest Afrobarometer survey shows

Handling of the economy is the biggest concern for young Ethiopians, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey in the country.

Access to clean water, better roads and infrastructure, reliable electricity, and finding jobs are also other important problems the youth in Ethiopia want the government to focus on. Despite having higher educational levels, Ethiopian youth are facing higher unemployment rates.

In contrast with older generations, majority of youth say the country is going in “the wrong direction,” while almost two-thirds describe Ethiopia's economic condition as bad and fewer than half expect things to improve over the coming year. However, even with the youth's dissatisfaction with the country's direction and the government's performance, they are less likely than their elders to engage in political and civic activities such as voting, attending community meetings, and joining others to raise an issue.

#### Afrobarometer survey

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2023/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Ethiopia, led by ABCON – Research and Consulting, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Ethiopians in May-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. Previous surveys were conducted in Ethiopia in 2013 and 2020.

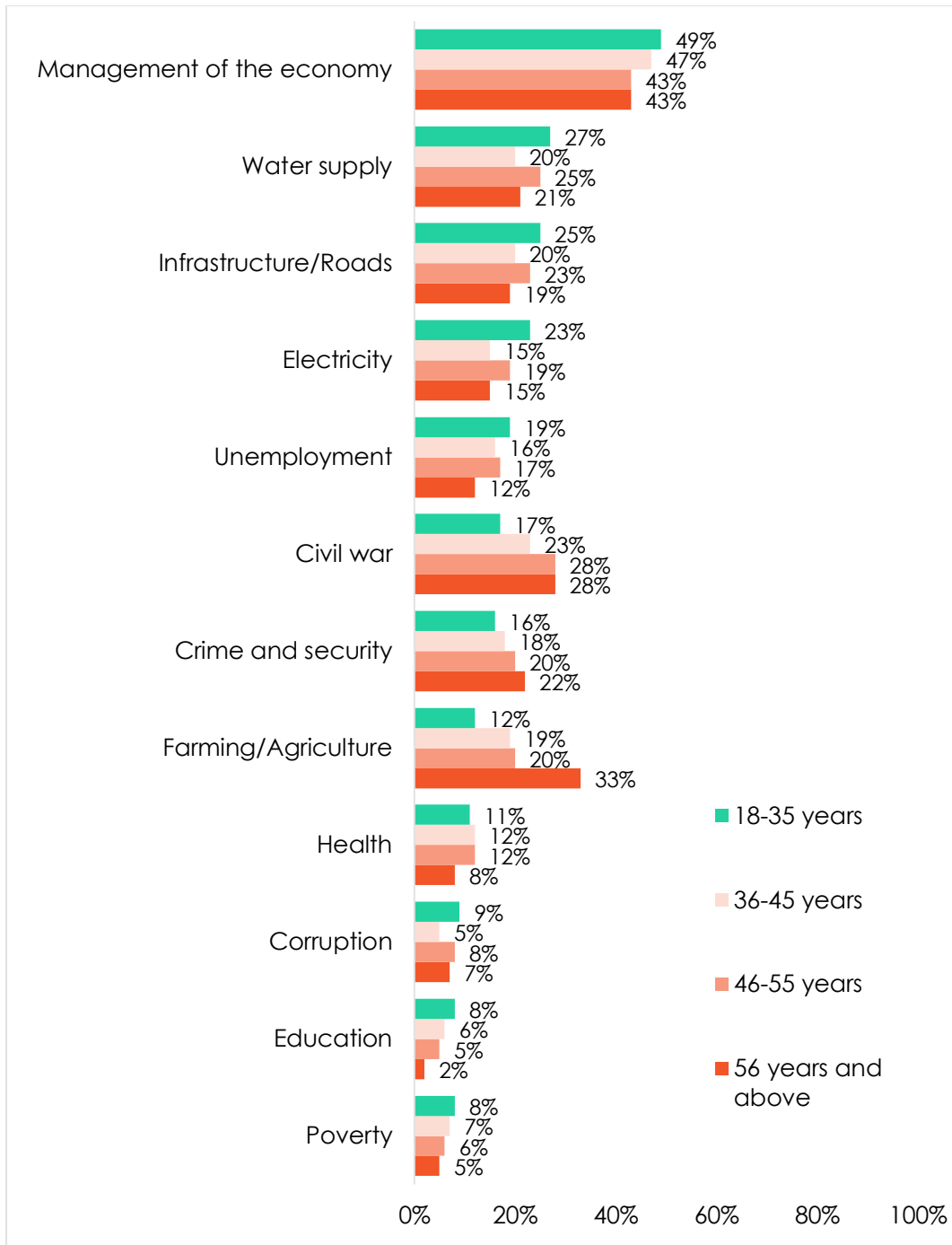
#### Key findings

- Management of the economy tops the list of the most important problems that Ethiopian youth want their government to address, followed by water supply, infrastructure/roads, electricity, and unemployment (Figure 1).
- Almost four in 10 young Ethiopians (38%) have secondary or post-secondary education, significantly surpassing older generations (Figure 2).
- But youth (aged 18-35) are also more likely than their elders to be unemployed: 21% say they are not employed and are looking for jobs, compared to 8%-15% among older cohorts (Figure 3).
- A majority (53%) of youth say the country is going in “the wrong direction,” while almost two-thirds (64%) describe the nation's economic condition as bad and fewer than half (45%) expect things to improve over the coming year. But these assessments are somewhat more optimistic than those offered by older generations (Figure 4).

- Despite their dissatisfaction with the country's direction and the government's performance, young citizens are less likely than their elders to engage in political and civic activities such as voting, attending community meetings, and joining others to raise an issue (Figure 5).

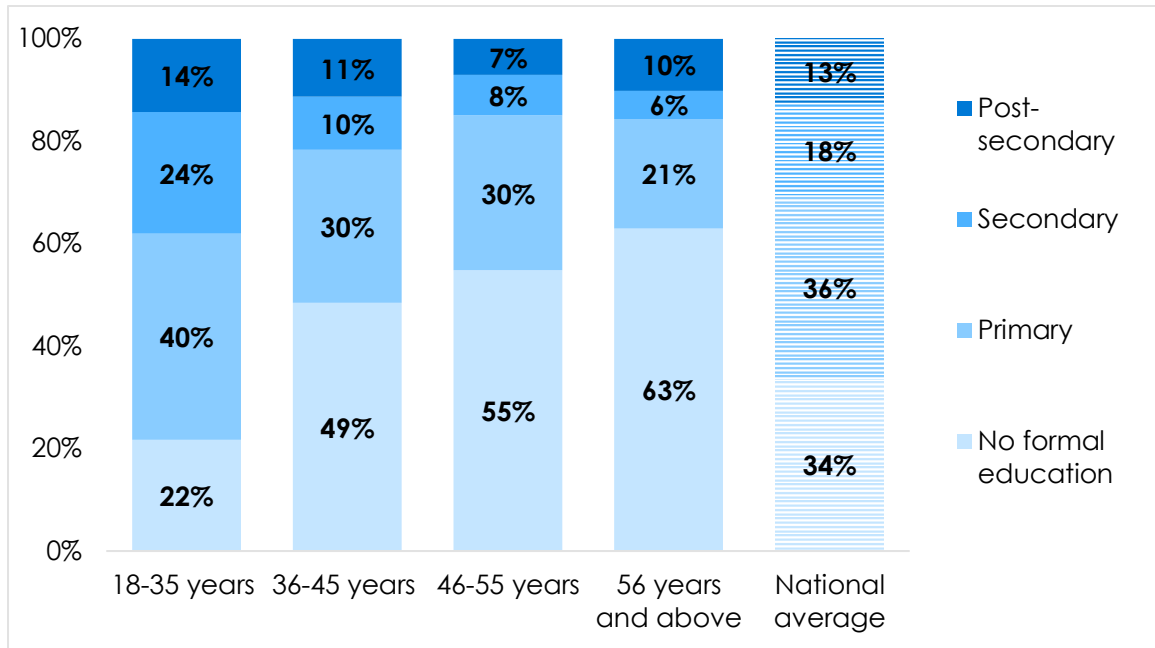
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Most important problems | by age group | Ethiopia | 2023**



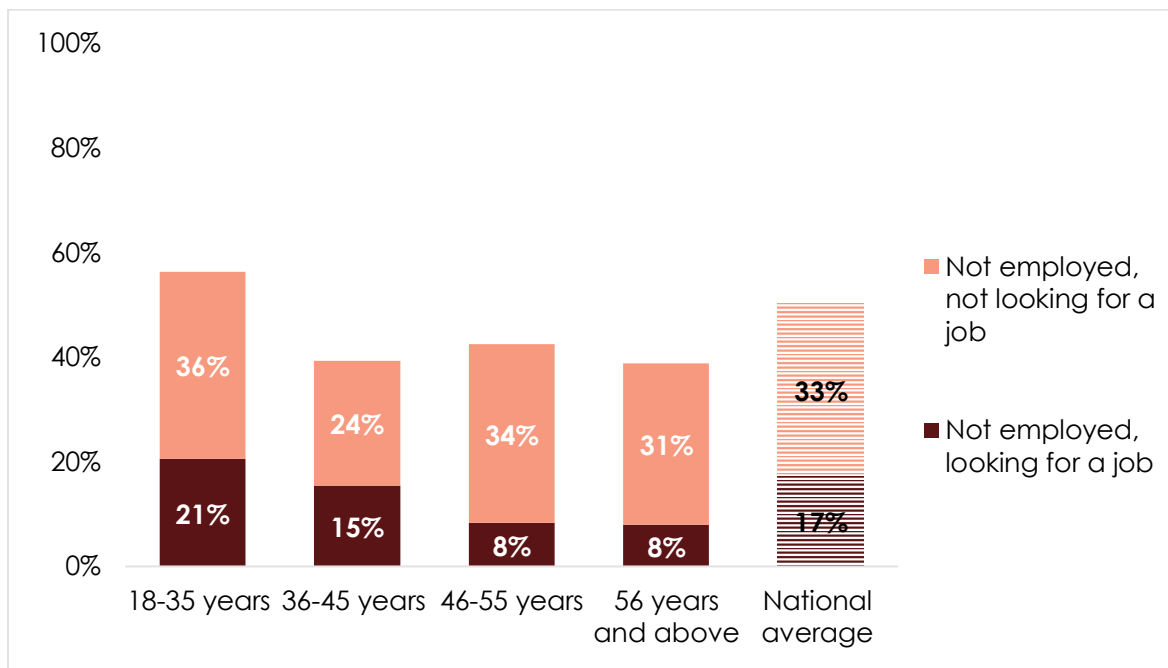
**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person; figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem among their three priorities.)

**Figure 2: Level of education | by age group | Ethiopia | 2023**



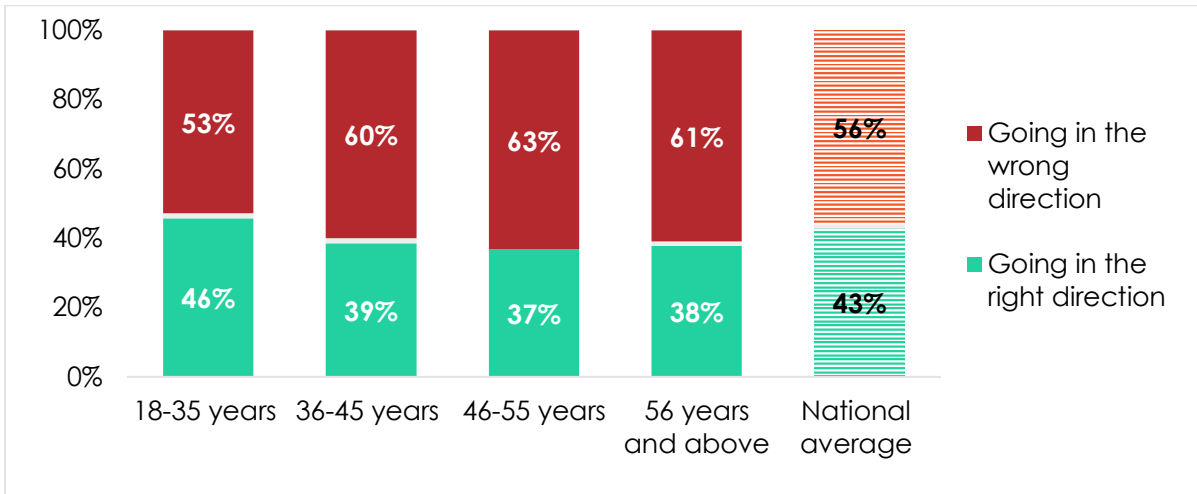
**Respondents were asked:** What is your highest level of education?

**Figure 3: Unemployment rate | by age group | Ethiopia | 2023**



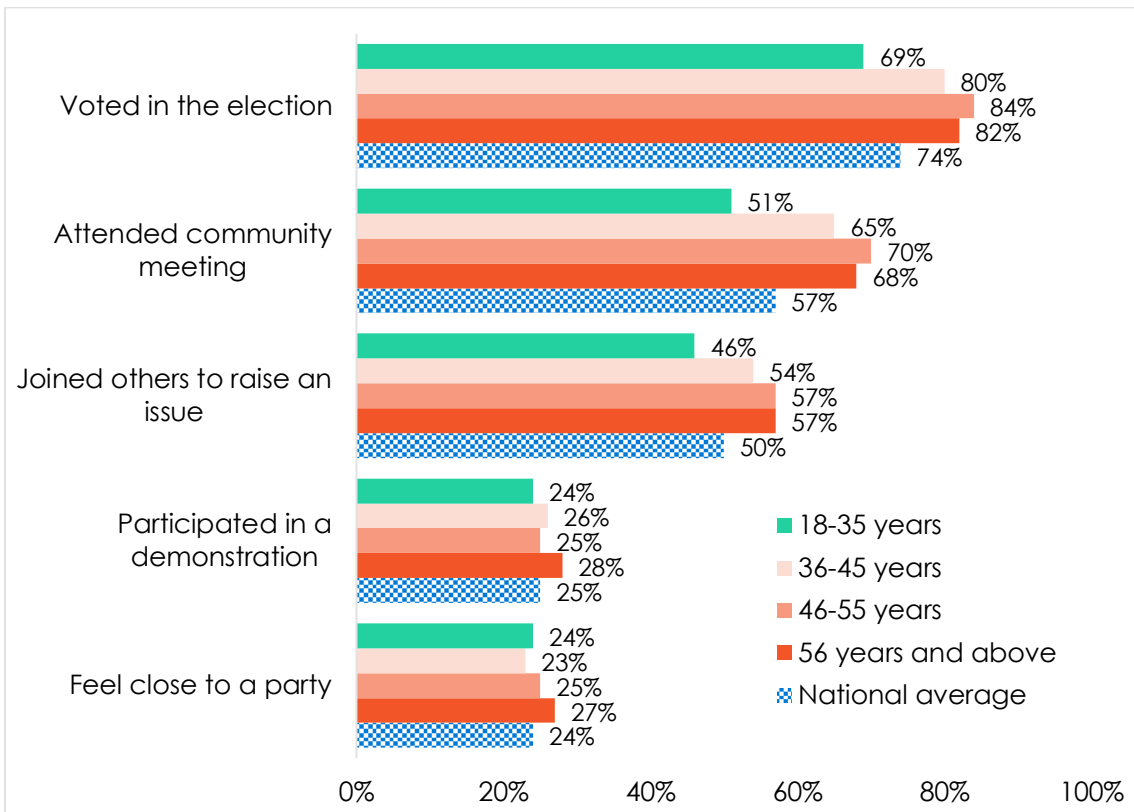
**Respondents were asked:** Do you have a job that pays a cash income? [If yes:] Is it full time or part time? [If no:] Are you currently looking for a job?

**Figure 4: Country's direction** | by age group | Ethiopia | 2023



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

**Figure 5: Political participation** | by age group | Ethiopia | 2023



**Respondents were asked:**

*In the last national election, held in 2021, did you vote, or not, or were you too young to vote? Or can't you remember whether you voted? (Respondents who were too young to vote in 2021 are excluded.)*

*Do you feel close to any particular political party?*

*Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Attended a community meeting? Got together with others to raise an issue? Participated in a demonstration or protest march? (% who say "once or twice," "several times," or "often")*

**For more information, please contact:**

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

Visit us online at:  
[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)  
[www.abconltd.et](http://www.abconltd.et)

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

