

Economic conditions and government performance: Highlights from Afrobarometer Round 10 survey in the Gambia

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Second public dissemination event

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At a glance



Going in the wrong direction? More than three-fourths (77%) of Gambians say the country is heading in “the wrong direction,” a 48-percentage-point increase since 2018.

Economic and living conditions: Only about two in 10 Gambians (19%) describe the country’s economic condition as “fairly good” or “very good,” a 39-point drop since 2018 (58%).

Most important problems: Health is the most frequently cited problem that Gambians want the government to address, followed by increasing cost of living and crime/security.

Assessment of leaders’ performance: A majority of Gambians disapprove of the way the president (62%), members of Parliament (65%), and local government councillors (60%) have performed their jobs over the past 12 months.

What is Afrobarometer

- Pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.
- Goal: To give African publics a voice in policy and decision making.
- Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999.
- Round 10 surveys were launched in January 2024.

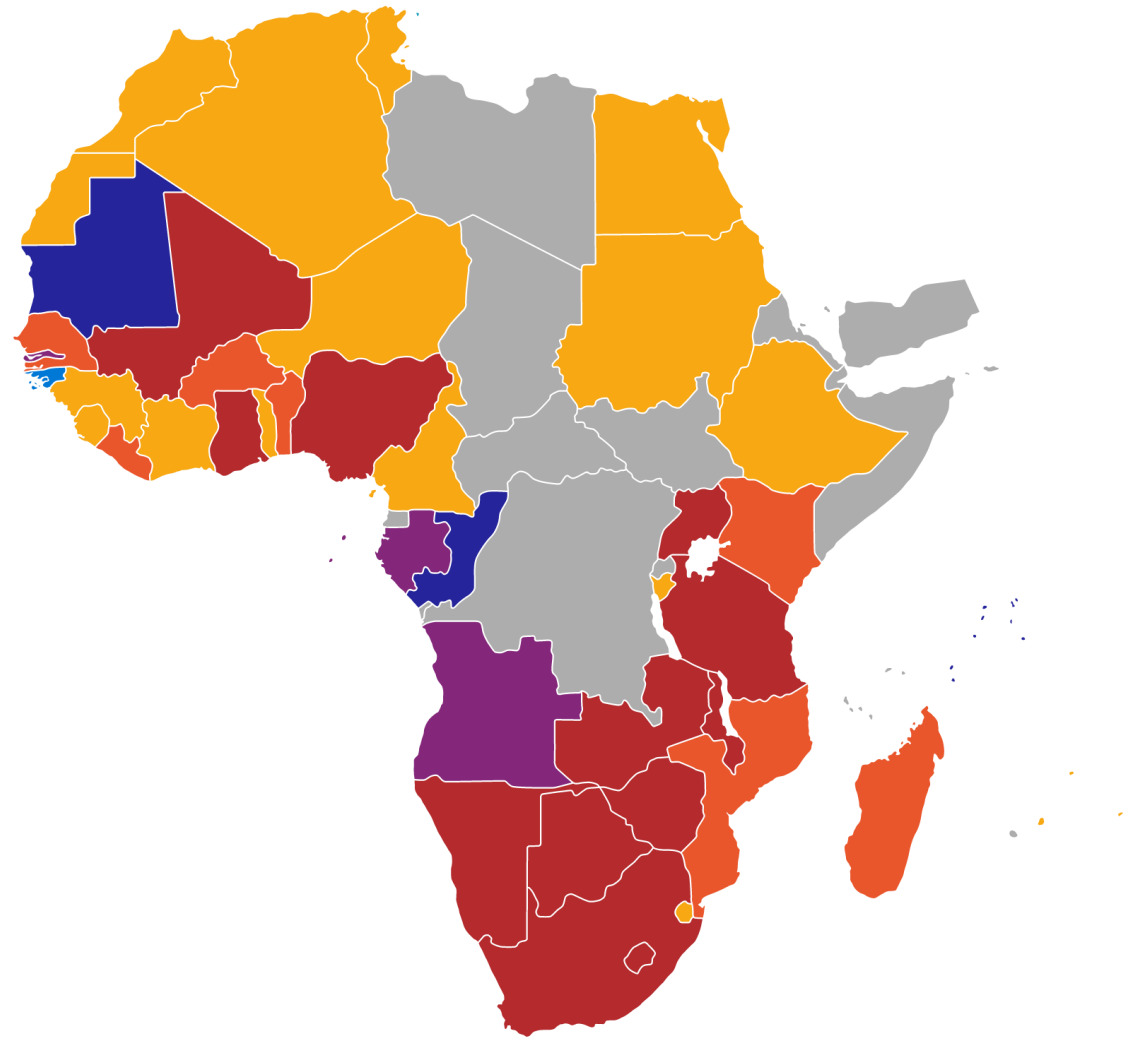


Where Afrobarometer works



First surveyed in

- 1999-2001
- 2002-2008
- 2011-2013
- 2014-2019
- 2021-2023
- To be surveyed in R10
- Never surveyed



Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens (aged 18+)
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- The Afrobarometer team in the Gambia, led by the Center for Research and Policy Development, interviewed 1,200 adult Gambians in April and May 2024.
- Sample size of 1,200 yields country-level results with margins of sampling error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.



Survey demographics

Gender		%
	Men	52
	Women	48
Residence		
	Urban	59
	Rural	41
Education		
	No formal education	43
	Primary	13
	Secondary	32
	Post-secondary	12
Religion		
	Muslim	97
	Christian	3

Economic and living conditions

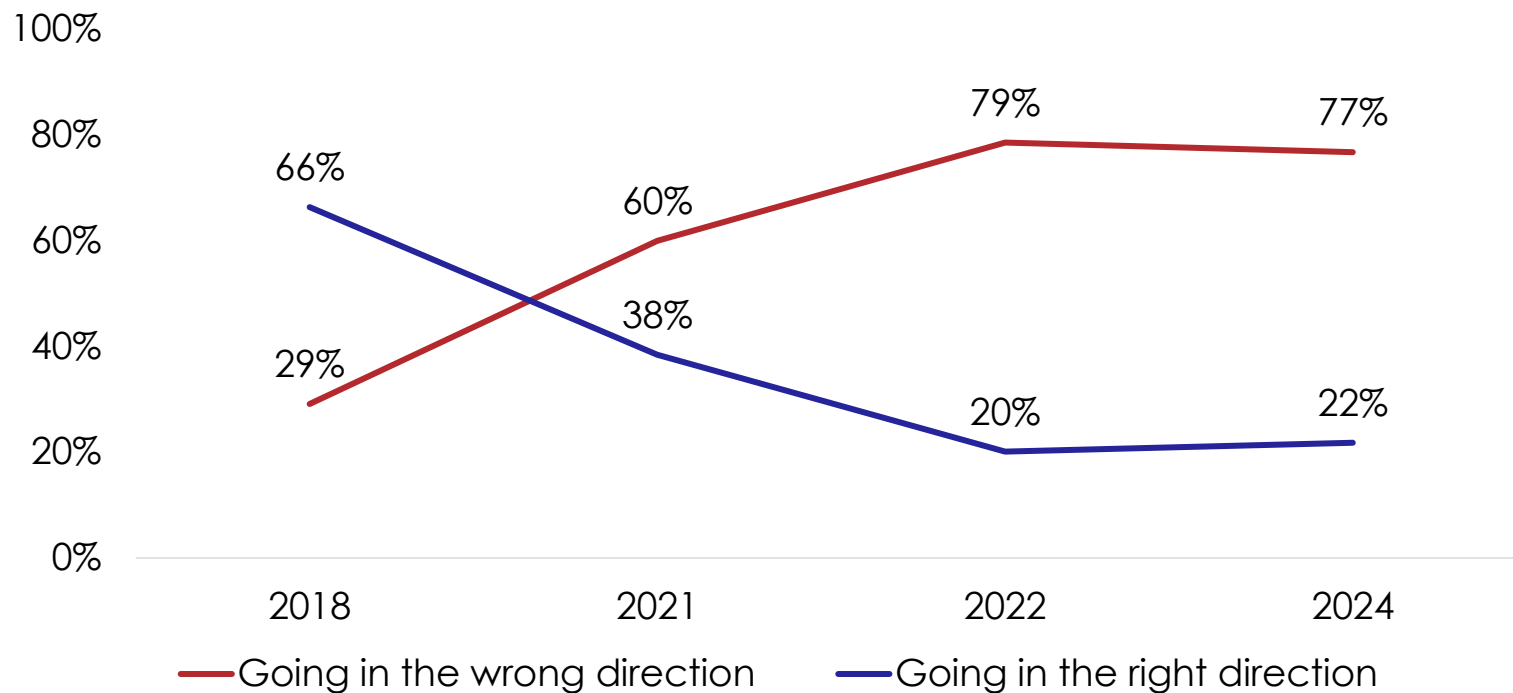


Key findings

- More than three-fourths (77%) of Gambians say the country is heading in “the wrong direction,” a 48-percentage-point increase since 2018 (29%).
- Only about two in 10 Gambians (19%) describe the country’s economic condition as “fairly good” or “very good,” a 39-point drop since 2018 (58%).
- Health is the most frequently cited problem that Gambians want the government to address, followed by increasing cost of living and crime and security.
- Approval ratings on indicators of the government’s economic performance have declined sharply compared to 2018 and 2021.

Is the country going in the right direction?

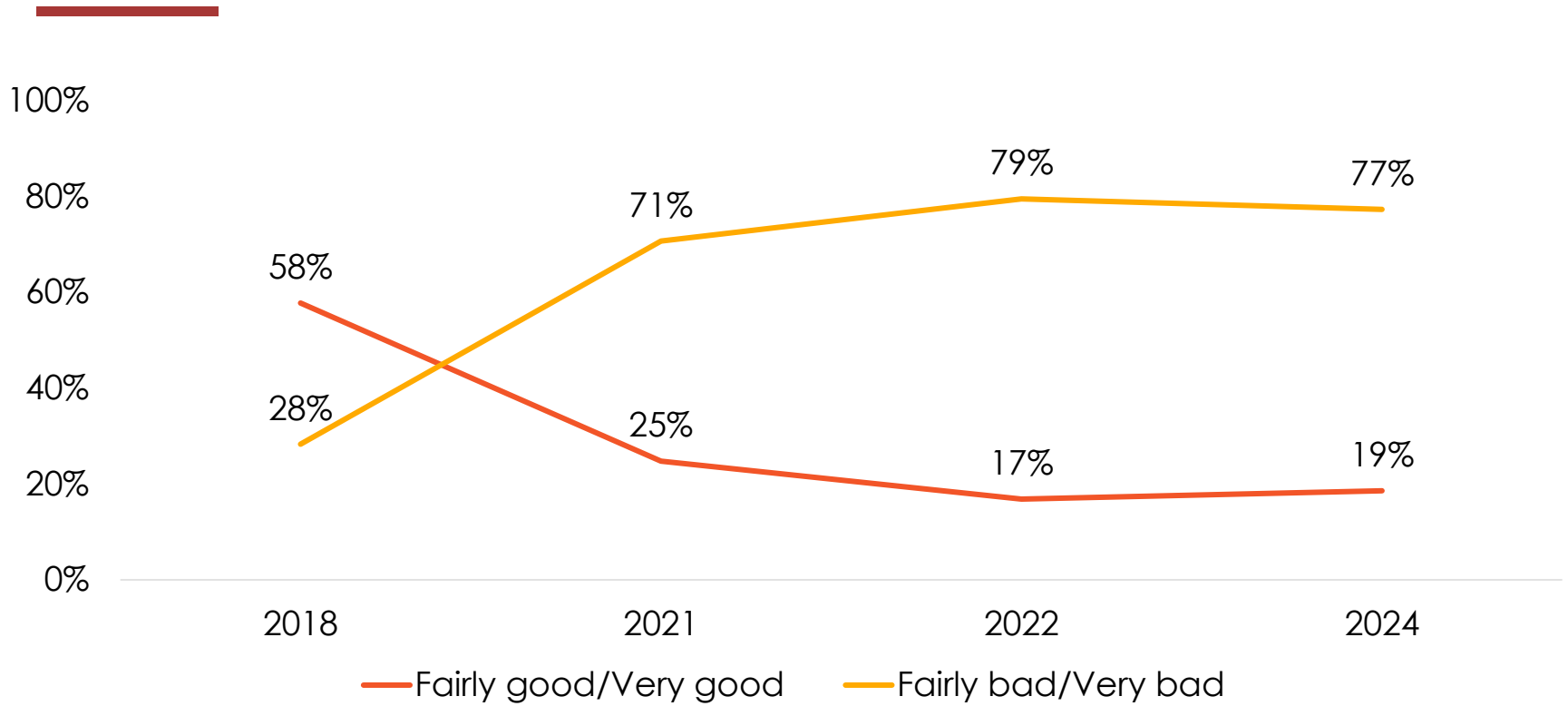
| Gambia | 2018-2024



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

Evaluation of country's economic condition

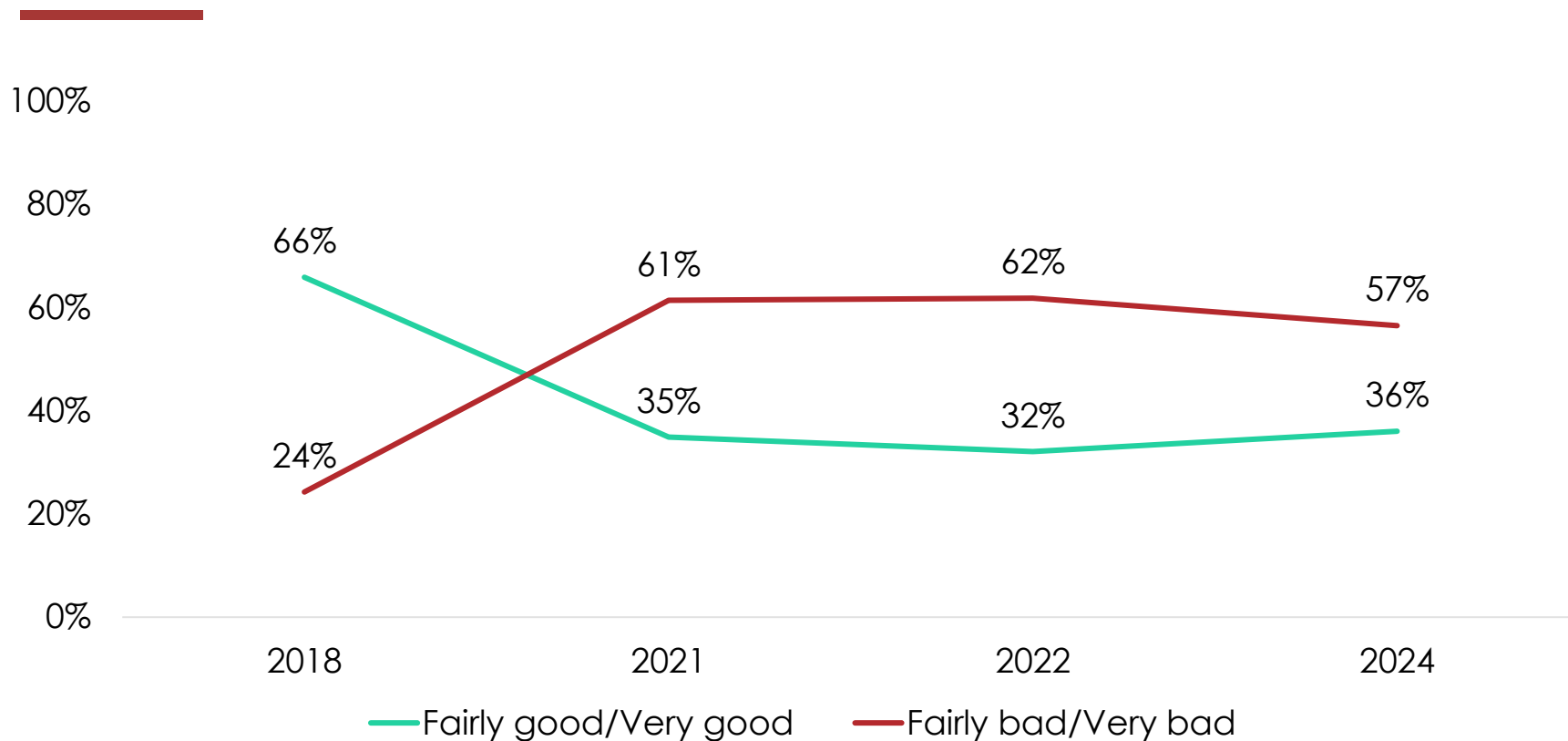
| Gambia | 2018-2024



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

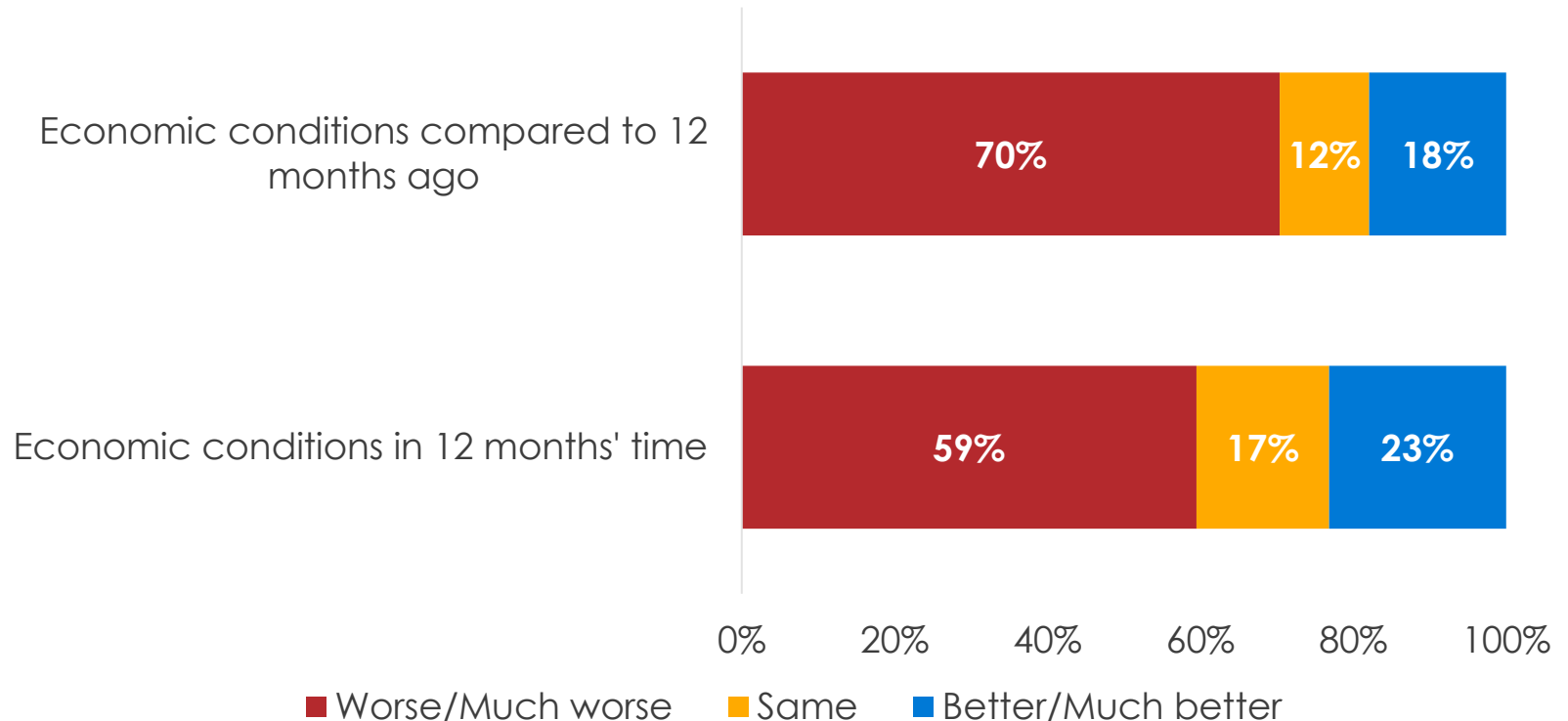
Evaluation of personal living conditions

| Gambia | 2018-2024



Respondents were asked: *In general, how would you describe your own present living conditions?*

Retrospective and prospective assessments of economic conditions | Gambia | 2024



Respondents were asked:

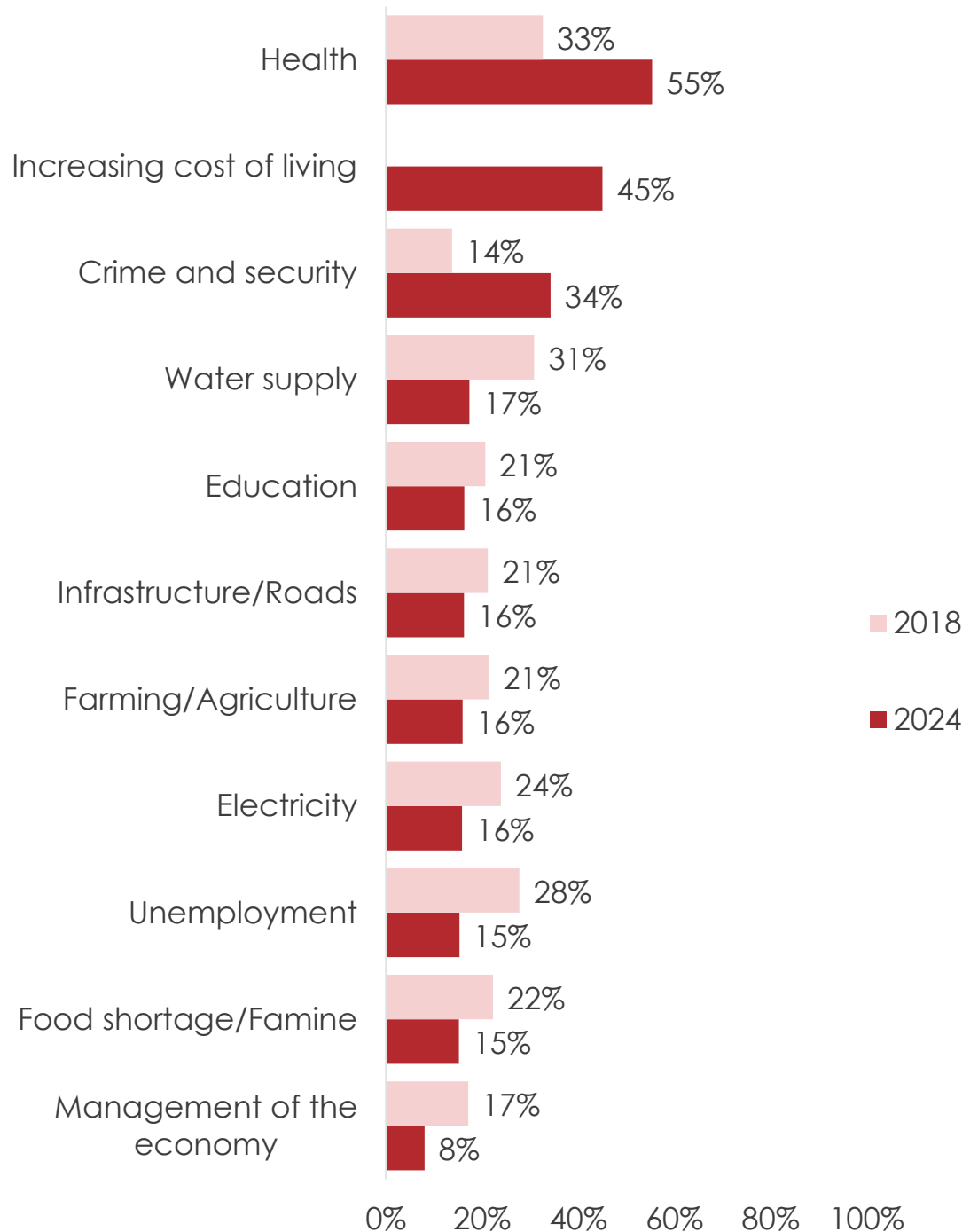
Looking back, how do you rate economic conditions in this country compared to 12 months ago?

Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?

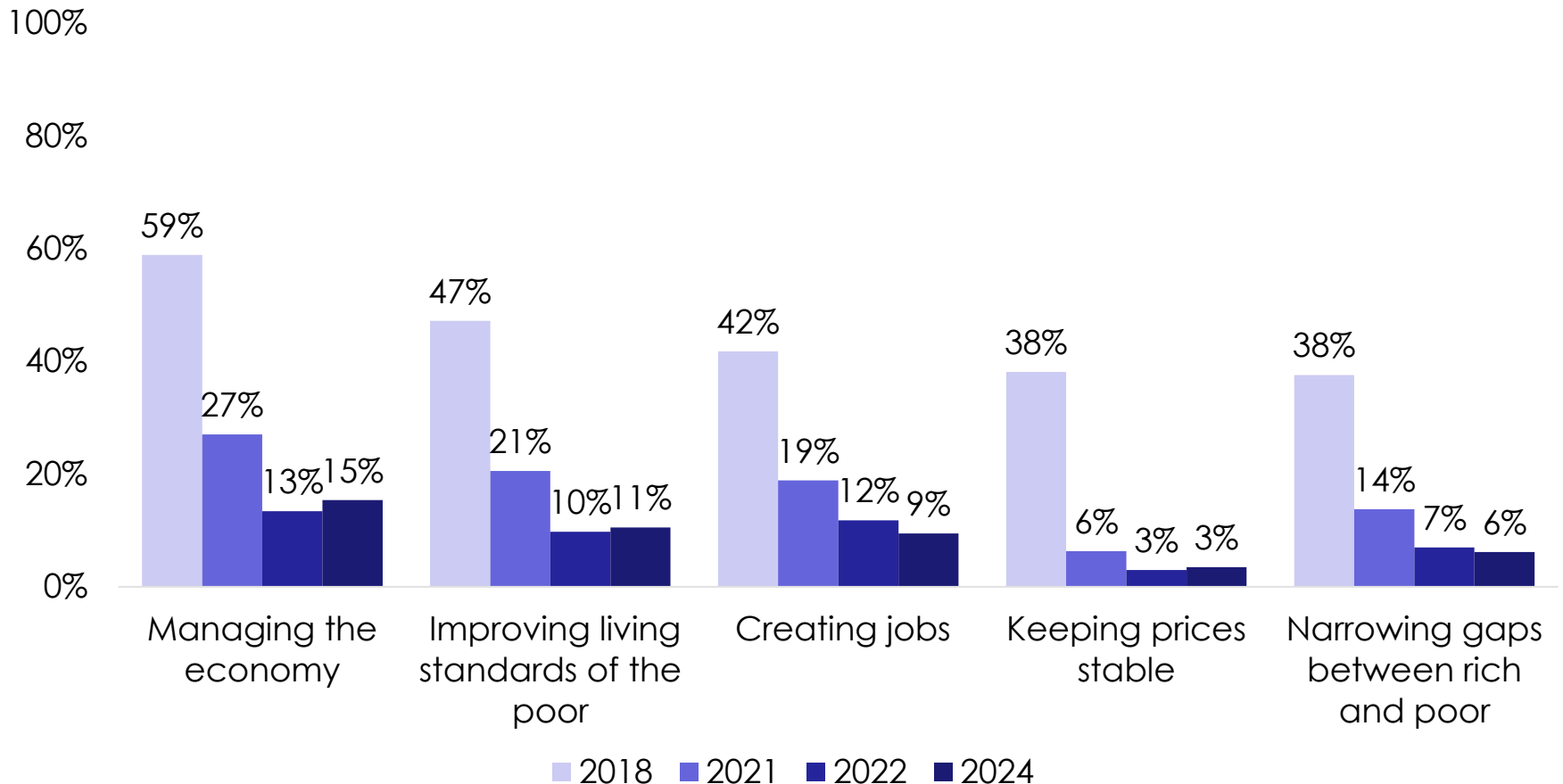
Most important problems

| Gambia
| 2018-2024

Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Respondents could give up to three answers.)*



Positive assessments of government economic performance | Gambia | 2018-2024



Assessment of leaders' performance



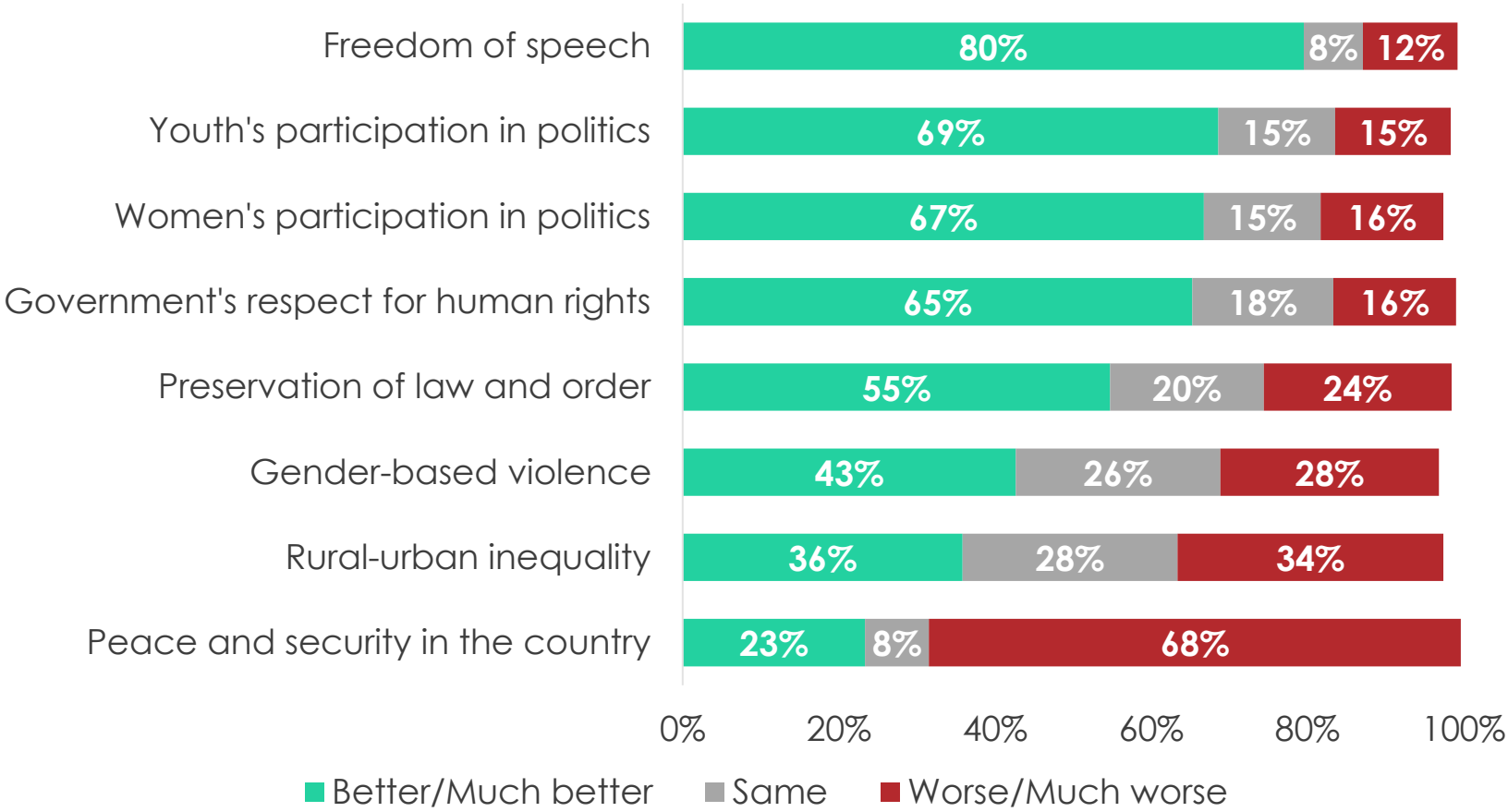
Key findings



- Majorities report improvements during President Barrow's tenure with regard to freedom of speech (80%), youth participation in politics (69%), women's participation in politics (67%), respect for human rights (65%), and preservation of law and order (55%).
- However, more than two-thirds (68%) believe peace and security in the country have deteriorated.
- A majority of Gambians disapprove of the way the president (62%), members of Parliament (65%), and local government councillors (60%) have performed their jobs over the past 12 months.

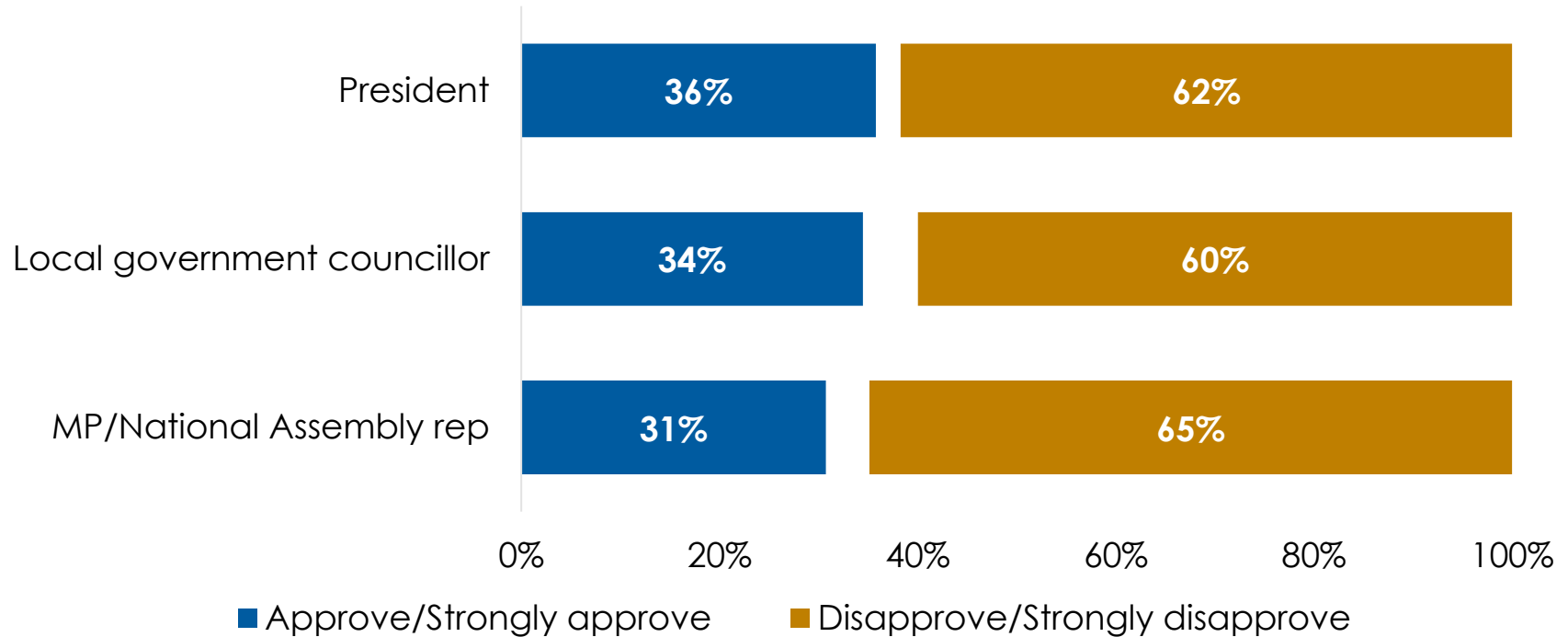
Better or worse under President Barrow? | Gambia

| 2024



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, would you say the following conditions have become better or worse since President Adama Barrow assumed office in 2017?*

Views on leaders' performance | Gambia | 2024



Conclusion



- Health, increasing cost of living, and crime/security are the top three most important problems that citizens want the government to address.
- Citizens express that the economic situation of the country has worsen compared to 2018 which definitely calls for swift intervention by government.
- Majorities report improvements during President Barrow's tenure with regard to freedom of speech, youth participation in politics, women's participation in politics, respect for human rights, and preservation of law and order.



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