

# Priorities and poverty

## Ugandan citizens' priorities, and their experiences and opinions on poverty

This data packet presents citizens' priorities and their experiences and opinions on poverty. The data come from Twaweza's *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens' experiences. Further details are available from [www.twaweza.org/sauti](http://www.twaweza.org/sauti).

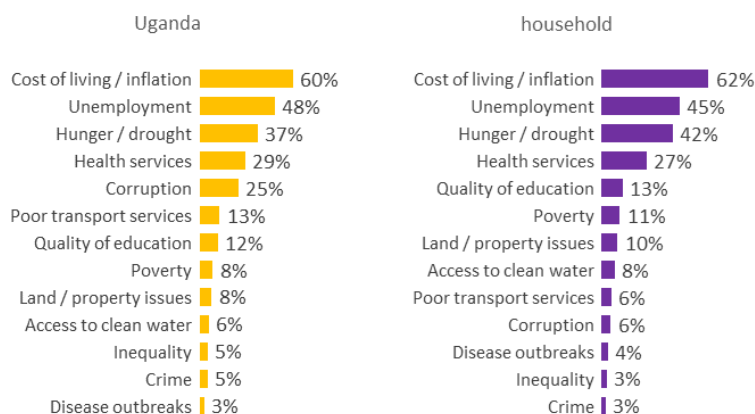
### Insight 1. Citizens point to the cost of living and unemployment as the most pressing challenges facing both the country and their own households

Six out of ten citizens (60%) point to the cost of living / inflation as being among the top three challenges facing the country at present, more than any other issue. A similar number (62%) say this is among the top three problems currently facing their household.

Close to half say unemployment is one of the top three problems facing the country (48%) and their household (45%), and almost as many point to hunger / drought (37%) for the country, 42% for their household).

Other problems facing Uganda that were cited by significant numbers include health services (29%), corruption (25%), transport services (13%) and the quality of education

What are the three most serious problems facing Uganda / your household today?



Source: *Sauti za Wananchi*, panel 2 round 4 (Jan-Feb 2023)

### Insight 2. Citizens' concerns around economic matters have risen considerably over the past few years, while concern for health services was high but has fallen

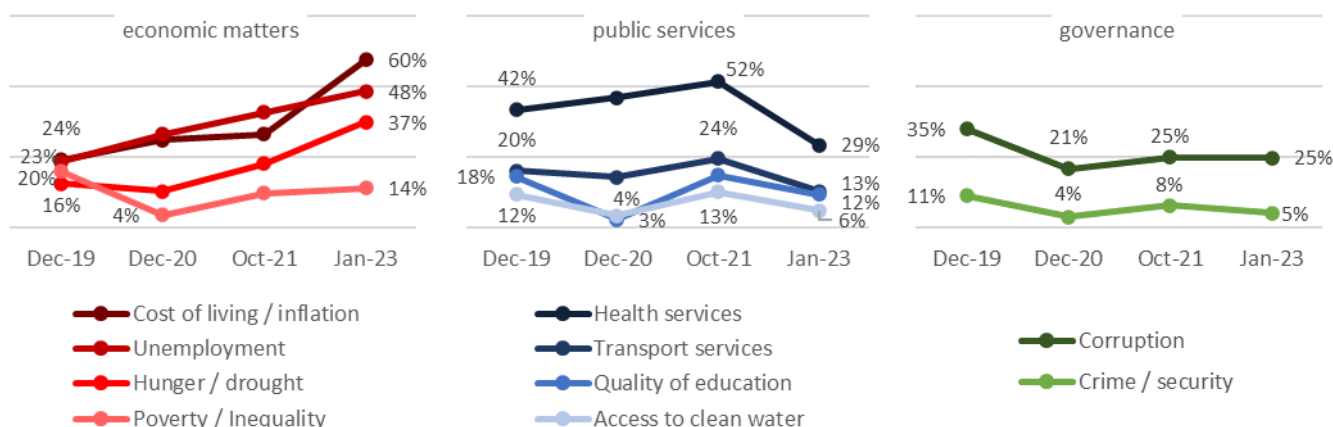
The dominant trend in citizens' priorities over recent years has been a rise in concern around economic issues. The number of citizens citing the cost of living as one of the three most pressing problems facing the country more than doubled between late 2019 and early 2023, from 24% to 60%. Over the same period there have been sharp increases in the number who point to unemployment (23% to 48%) and hunger /

drought (20% to 37%) as the main challenges.

In previous years, and even before the Covid-19 pandemic, citizens' most pressing concern was health services. This remained high between 2019 and late 2021, but has fallen considerably in the most recent figures (from 52% to 29%).

Concerns around corruption (25%) are consistently high, and are currently substantially higher than in either Tanzania (4%) or Kenya (5%) (not shown in charts).

What do you think are the three most serious problems facing Uganda?

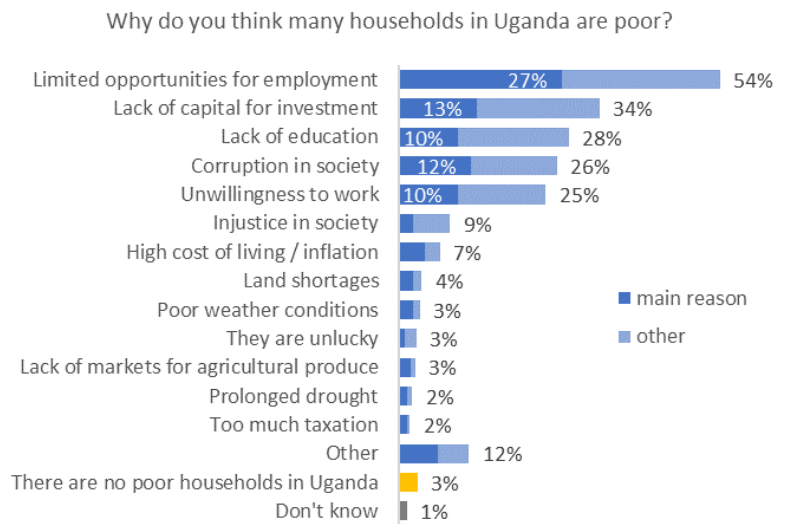


Source: *Sauti za Wananchi*, panel 2 round 4 (Jan-Feb 2023)

**Insight 3. The main reason citizens give for poverty in Uganda is a lack of opportunities for employment**

The main reason cited by citizens for the fact that many Ugandan households are poor is that there is a lack of opportunities for employment. One out of four Ugandans (27%) say this is the main reason, and half (54%) say it is one of a number of reasons.

Other reasons that are widely cited as contributing factors to poverty include lack of capital for investment (34%), lack of education (28%), widespread corruption in society (26%) and unwillingness to work hard (25%).



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, panel 2 round 4 (Jan-Feb 2023)

**Insight 4. Citizens point to a range of actions that could help address poverty**

Citizens point to various different measures that could reduce the barriers that currently keep people in poverty.

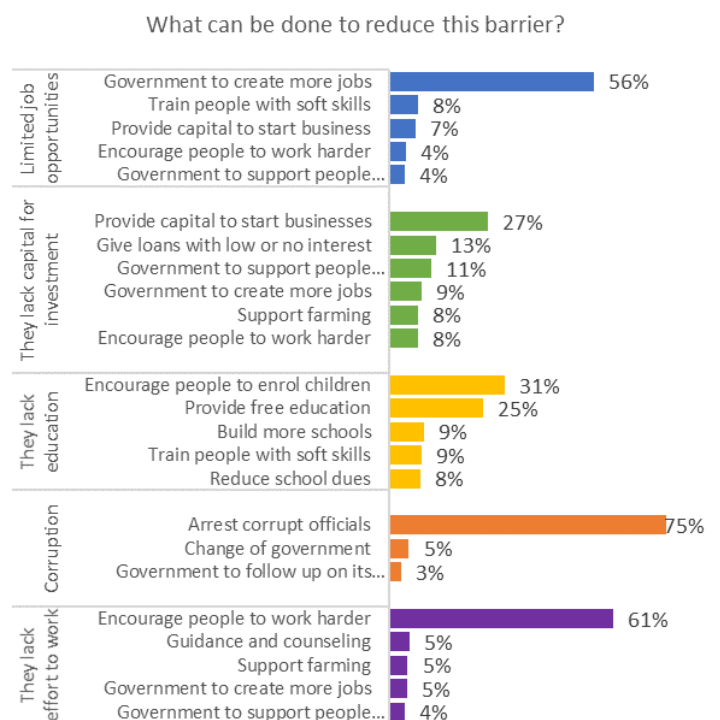
To address the lack of job opportunities, most (56%) say the government should actively create more jobs.

To address the lack of investment capital, the top three suggestions all relate to the government providing citizens with finance, either in the form of capital, loans or general financial support.

To address the lack of education, citizens suggest the government should invest in persuading parents to send their children to school, and provision of free schooling.

On corruption, citizens' main suggestion is to arrest corrupt officials (75%).

On work ethic, citizens suggest that the government should make an effort to persuade people to work harder (61%).

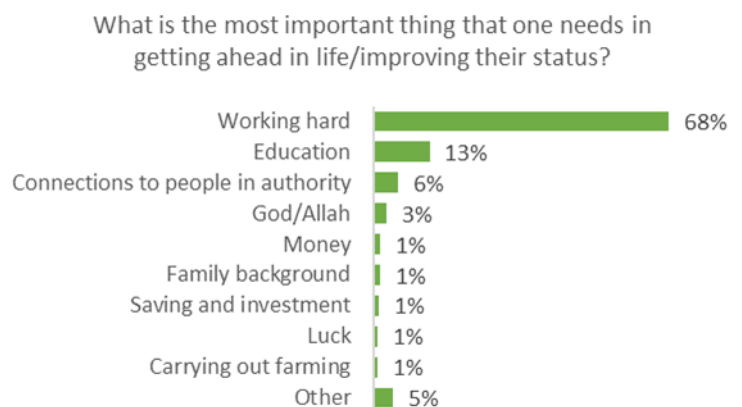


Source: Sauti za Wananchi, panel 2 round 4 (Jan-Feb 2023)

**Insight 5. Citizens say the main thing people need in order to improve their status is to work hard**

Two out of three citizens (68%) say the most important thing that people need in order to get ahead in life or improve their status is to work hard.

This is followed by education (13%) and connections to people in authority (6%).



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, panel 2 round 4 (Jan-Feb 2023)