

The people's priorities, across the regions

Ugandan citizens' experiences and opinions

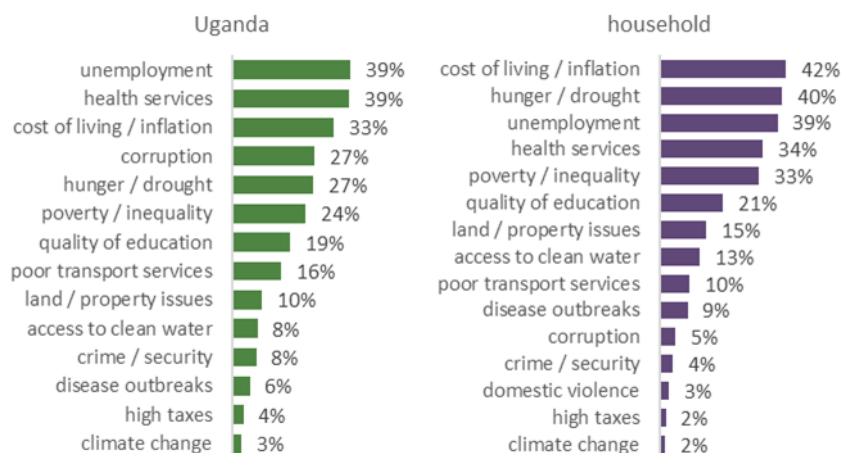
This brief explores Ugandan citizens' opinions on national priorities and challenges, with a particular focus on differences in views between regions. The data comes from Twaweza's *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens' experiences. Further details are available from www.twaweza.org/sauti.

Insight 1. Citizens point to a wide range of problems facing the country and their own households

Citizens identify a number of pressing issues facing the country at the present time, with no single issue dominating. The leading concerns are unemployment (39%), health services (39%), the cost of living (33%), corruption (27%), hunger (27%) and poverty/inequality (24%).

Similarly, citizens identify several different issues facing their household, including the cost of living (42%), hunger (40%), unemployment (39%), health services (34%), poverty/inequality (33%) and the quality of education services (21%).

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



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 9, Feb-Mar 2025

Insight 2. Previously, economic concerns were dominant, but this has fallen since 2023

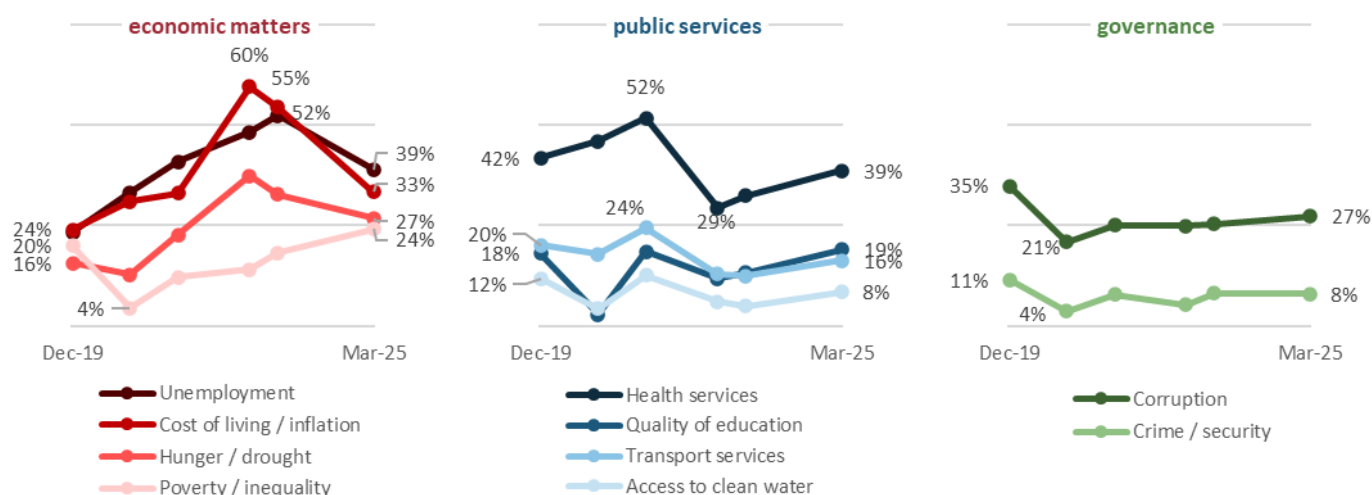
In 2023, citizens pointed largely to economic concerns – unemployment and the cost of living in particular – as the most serious problems facing the country. While still among the leading concerns, these issues no longer dominate.

Concern around health services peaked in 2020-2021,

around the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Though it has fallen a little since then, it remains very high on the list of citizens' concerns.

Corruption has consistently ranked as one of citizens' biggest areas of concern.

What are the three most serious problems facing Uganda today?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 9, Feb-Mar 2025

Insight 3. There are substantial differences between different regions’ lists of priority national concerns

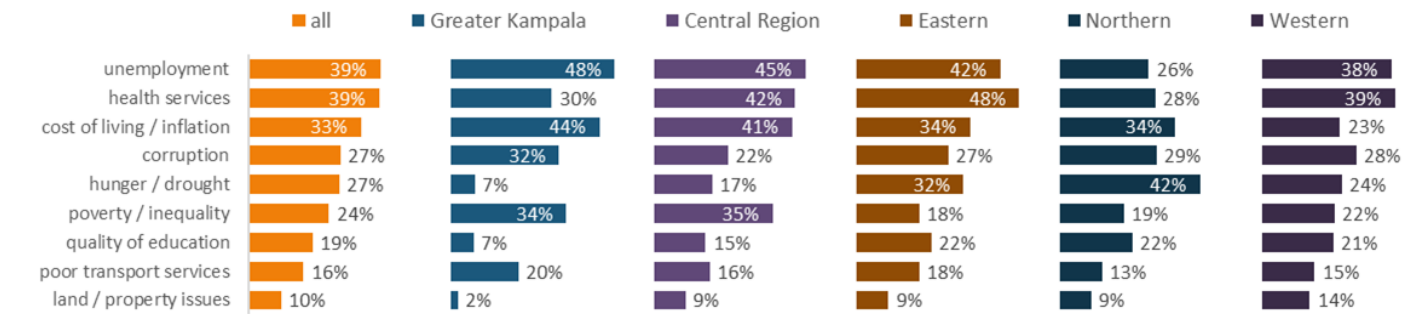
While the overall list of national concerns is broadly similar across different regions of the country, there are some substantial differences.

In particular, residents of Greater Kampala and Central Region are more likely than others to cite poverty / inequality and the cost of living as priority concerns, and less likely to point to hunger / drought.

Unemployment is lower on the list of concerns in Northern Uganda, where hunger is clearly the biggest worry.

Eastern and Western Uganda match the national average fairly closely, though health services and hunger are slightly bigger concern in the East than elsewhere. In Western areas, the cost of living is listed slightly lower than in other parts of the country, and concerns around land issues are a little higher.

What are the three most serious problems facing Uganda today?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 9, Feb-Mar 2025

Insight 4. Similarly, there are substantial differences between different demographic groups’ lists of priority national concerns

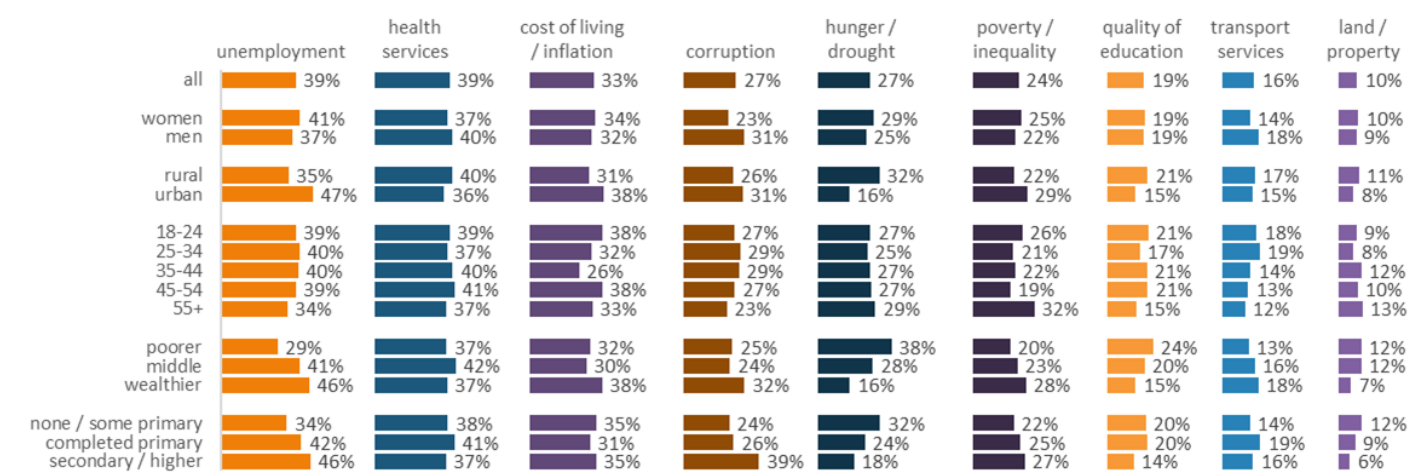
There are some differing views on the most serious problems facing Uganda according to demographics. In particular, residents of rural areas, poorer households and those with lower levels of education are less likely to point to unemployment as a top issue, but more likely to point to corruption.

There are only small differences, however, between the views of women and men on this. The only substantial exception is

that men are more likely than women to point to corruption as being one of the biggest challenges facing the country.

Residents of rural areas are twice as likely as their urban counterparts to cite hunger as a major concern. Poorer and less well-educated citizens share this concern. However, an opposite trend applied to poverty and inequality: in this case, wealthier and better-educated citizens are more likely to cite this as a problem.

What are the three most serious problems facing Uganda today?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 9, Feb-Mar 2025

Insight 5. There are substantial differences between different regions' lists of household concerns

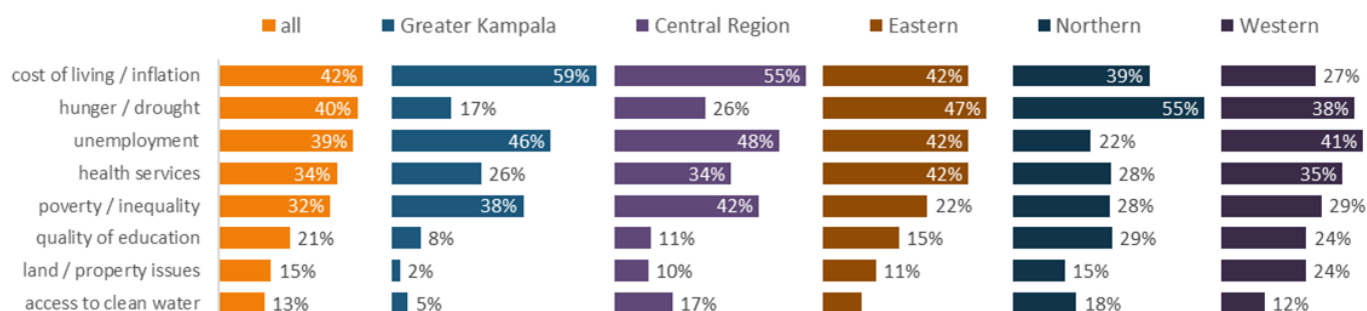
While the overall list of household concerns is broadly similar across different regions of the country, there are some substantial differences.

In particular, residents of Greater Kampala and Central Region are more likely than others to cite the cost of living, unemployment and poverty / inequality as priority concerns, and less likely to point to hunger / drought.

Unemployment is lower on the list of concerns in Northern Uganda, where hunger is clearly the biggest worry.

Eastern and Western Uganda match the national average fairly closely, though health services and hunger are slightly bigger concern in the East than elsewhere. In Western areas, the cost of living is listed slightly lower than in other parts of the country, and concerns around land issues are a little higher.

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



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 9, Feb-Mar 2025

Insight 6. Social media use is dominated by young, relatively wealthy and well-educated residents of urban areas

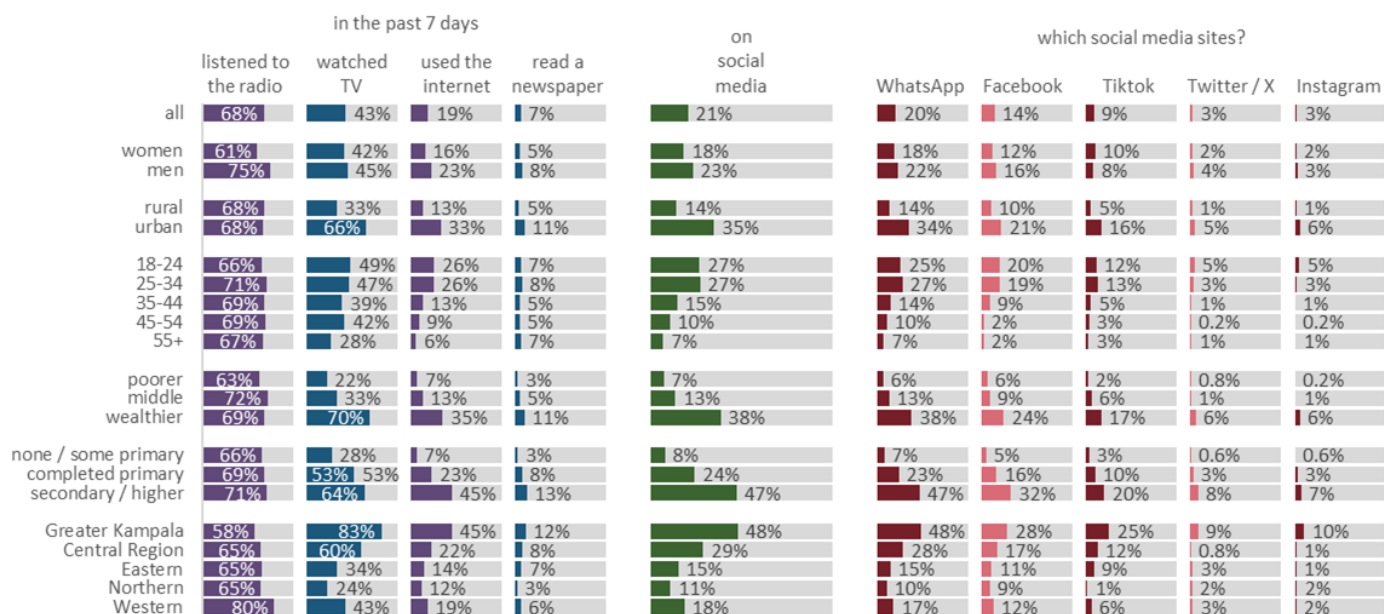
Use of the internet and social media is highly unequal. Younger citizens, those in urban areas, especially Greater Kampala, those with secondary education and above, and relatively wealthy citizens are all far more likely to use social media than other citizens. The link with levels of education is particularly strong. A similar pattern applies to TV viewing.

In contrast, radio is widely consumed across different demographic groups and regions.

Among social network services, WhatsApp leads, with two out of ten citizens (20%) using the service. This is followed by Facebook (14%) and TikTok (9%).

Twitter / X and Instagram are used by only a very small percentage of citizens, the majority of whom are well-educated residents of Greater Kampala.

% who consumed the following media in the past seven days / who are on social media / which social media sites:



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 7, Jan-Feb 2024

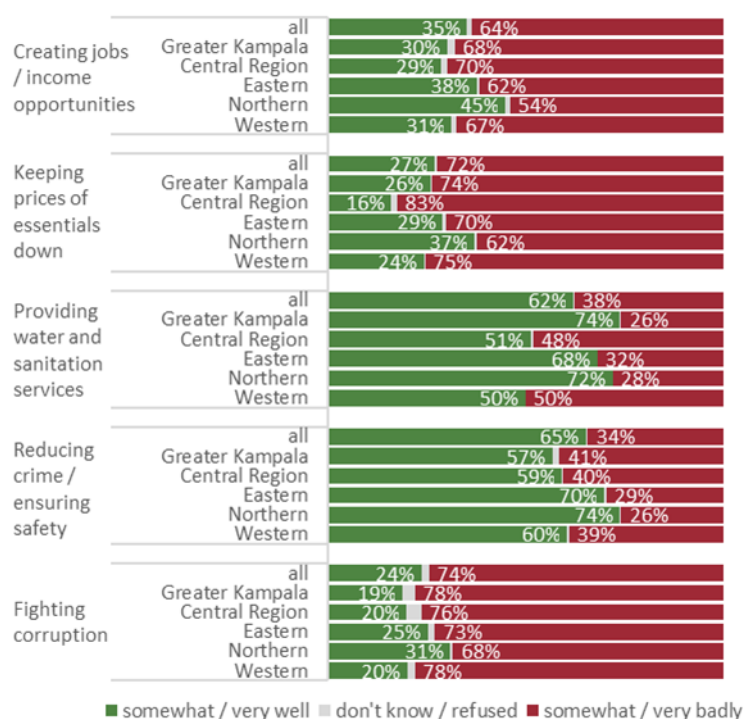
Insight 7. Across a range of different issues, residents of Northern Uganda are generally more satisfied with government performance

Across a range of different issues, residents of Northern Uganda are more likely than those in other regions to say that the government is doing well. This includes creating jobs, handling inflation, water and sanitation services, reducing crime and fighting corruption.

In contrast, in Greater Kampala, Western and Central Regions, residents are generally more likely than those in other areas to say the government is performing badly.

The only exception to this is water and sanitation services, where residents of Greater Kampala are overall more satisfied than residents of other parts of the country.

How well do you think our national government is performing in solving the following issues in Uganda?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 9, Feb-Mar 2025

Insight 8. There broad agreement across different demographic groups' views on government performance

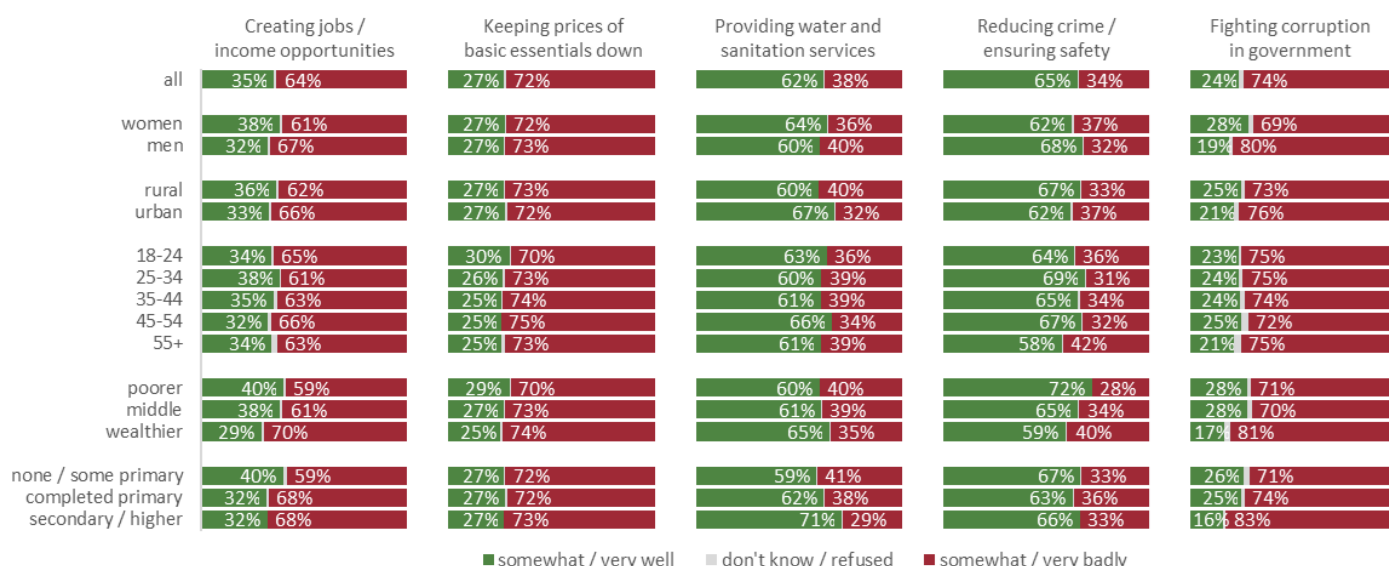
Beyond the regional breakdown, there are relatively small differences between different demographic groups' views on government performance.

Small differences can be seen between poorer and wealthier citizens, with wealthier citizens less likely say the government is performing well and job creation and fighting corruption, but

more likely to applaud government efforts on water and sanitation.

Women are a little more likely than men to say the government is doing well on job creation and in the fight against corruption. However, they are a little less likely to say the government is doing well on crime and security.

How well do you think our national government is performing in solving the following issues in Uganda?



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