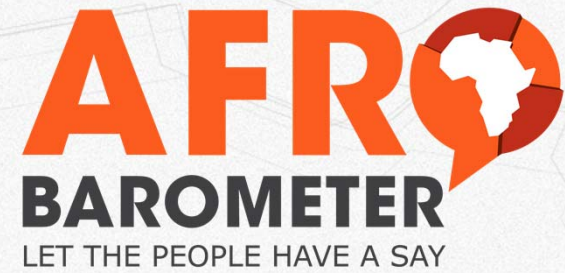


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Lived poverty and citizens' views on the economy in South Africa

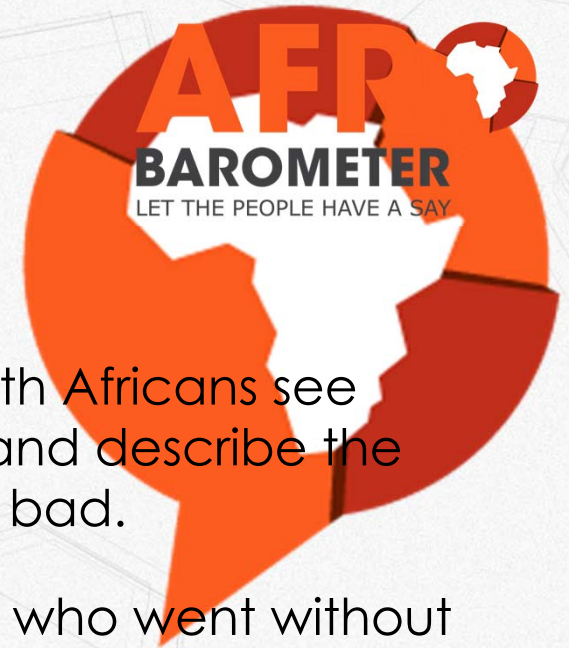
Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in South Africa



5 March 2019, Durban, South Africa



At a glance



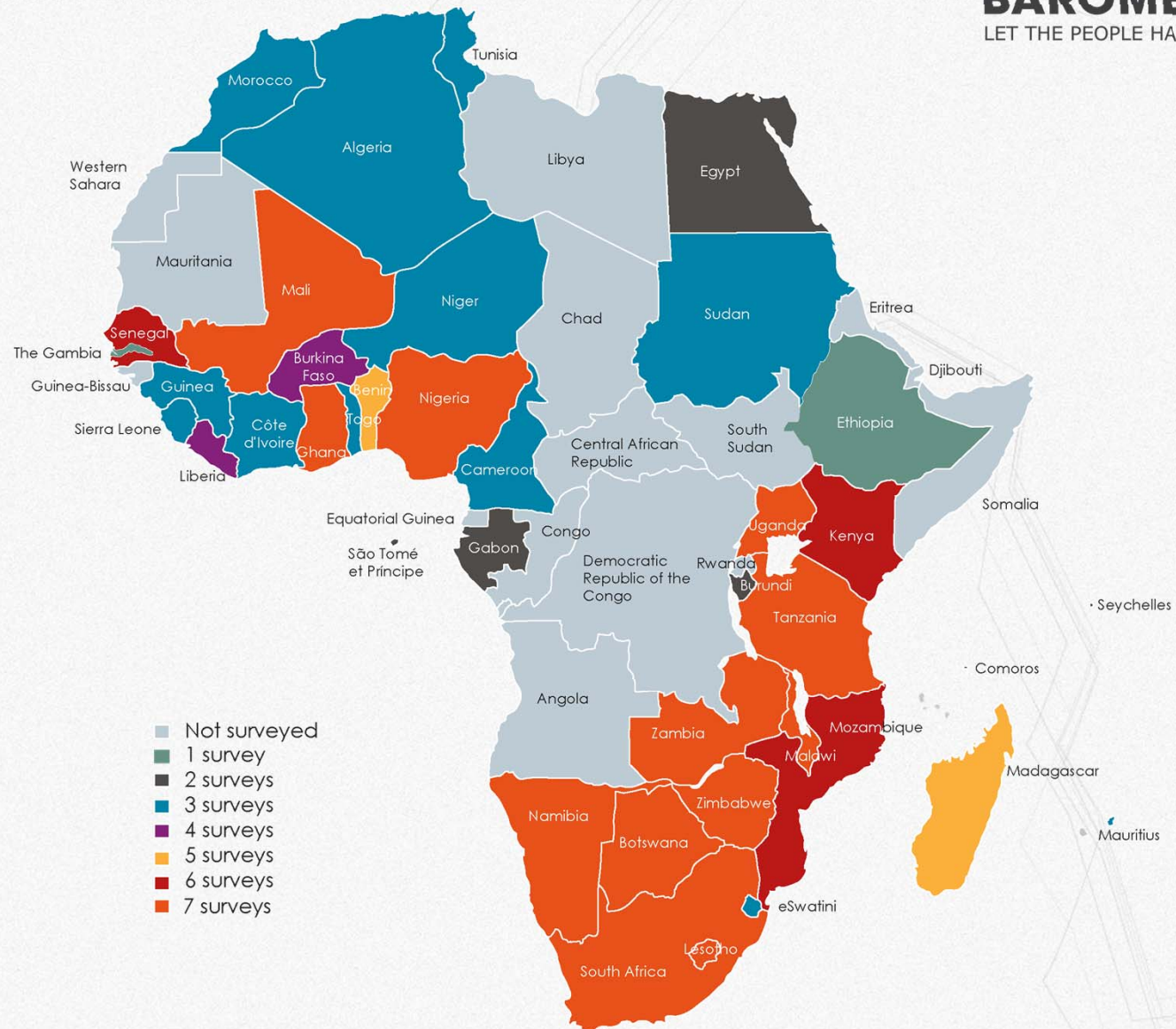
- **Country's economic condition:** A majority of South Africans see their country as heading in the wrong direction and describe the country's economic condition as fairly bad/very bad.
- **Lived poverty:** The percentage of South Africans who went without enough food, clean water, and other basic necessities increased by double digits compared to 2015.
- **Government economic management:** Six in 10 respondents say the government is performing "fairly badly" or "very badly" on management of the economy.

What is Afrobarometer?

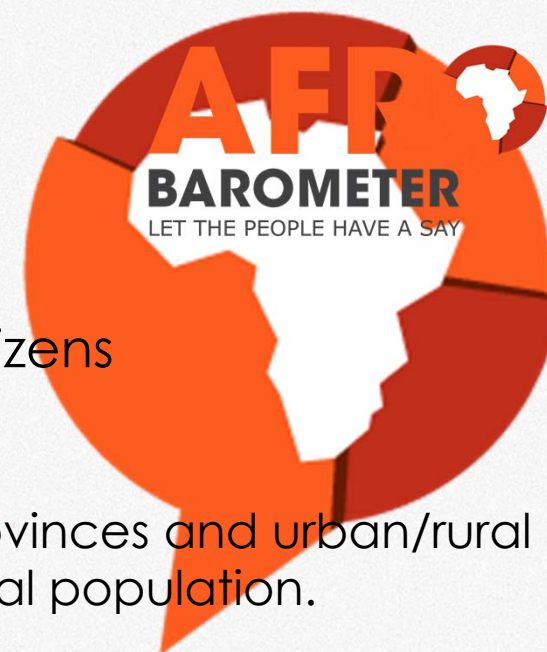


- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys were conducted in 2017/18.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In South Africa, the Afrobarometer Round 7 survey was conducted by Plus94 Research.

Where Afrobarometer works

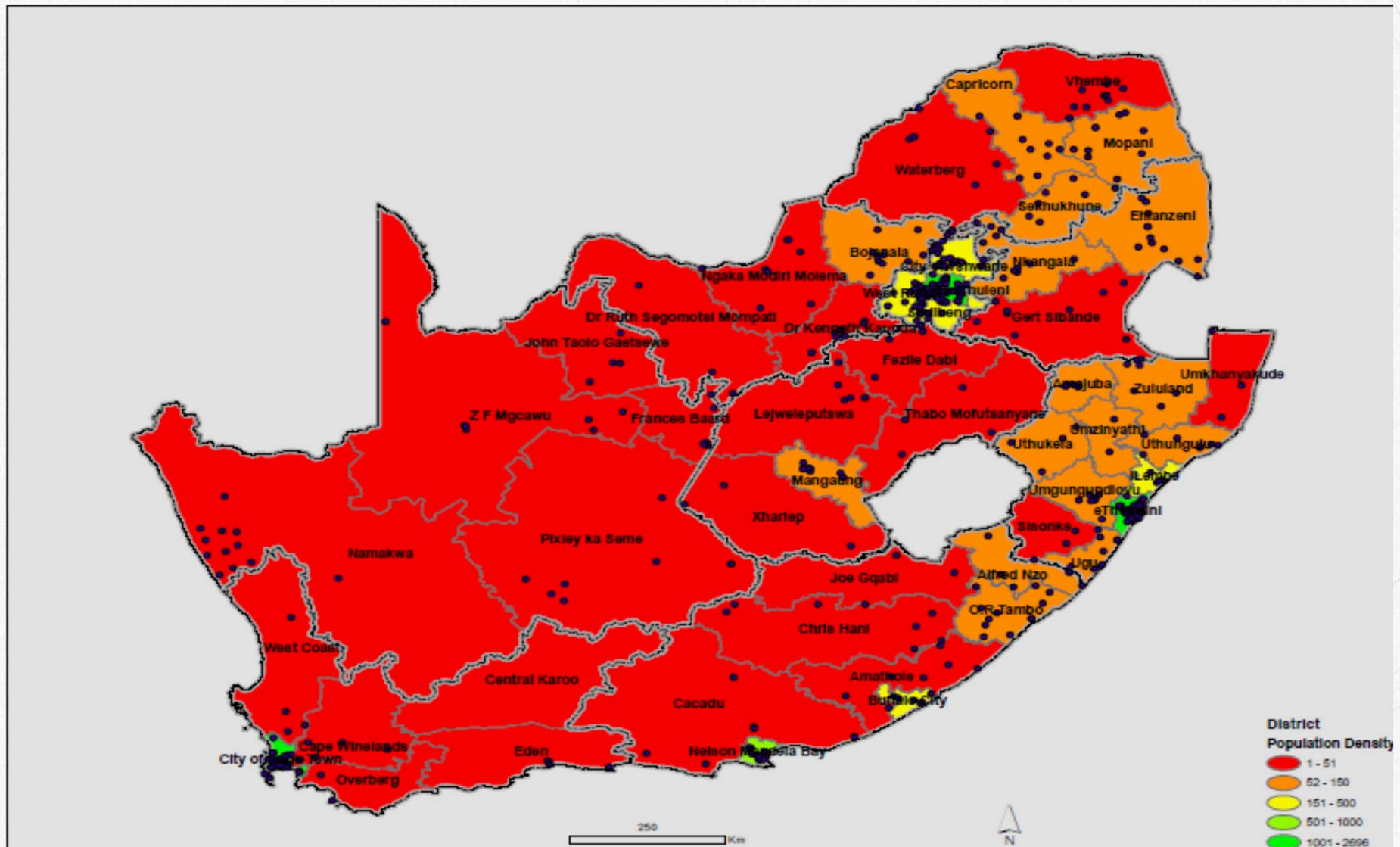


Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions/states/provinces and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in South Africa of 1,800 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-2.3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in South Africa was conducted in August and September 2018.

Enumerator map



Survey demographics

Gender	%
Men	50
Women	50
Residence	
Urban	69
Rural	31
Education	
No formal education	6
Primary	10
Secondary	63
Post-secondary	21
Religion	
Christian	76
Muslim	3
Other	19



Findings



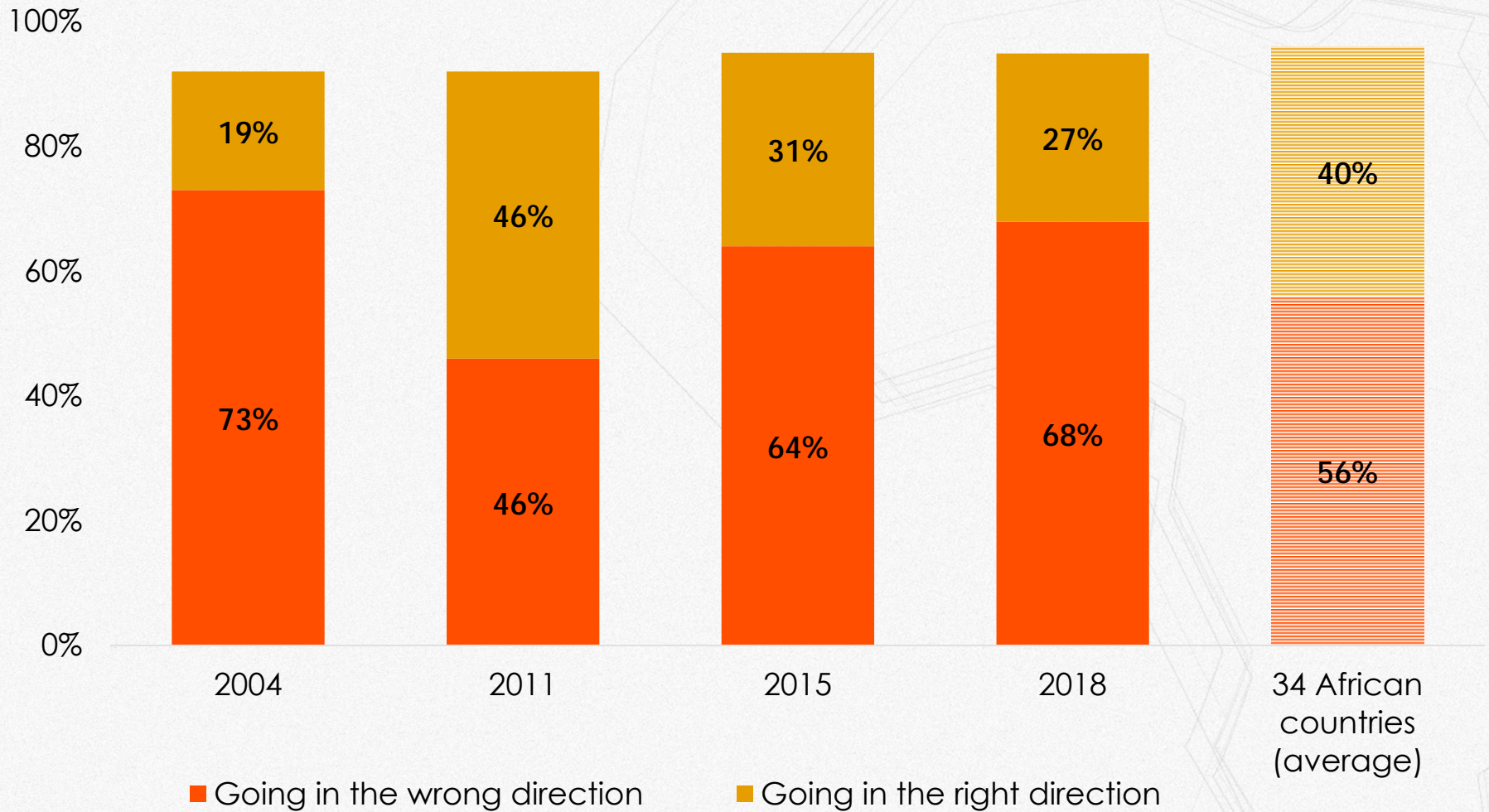
Perceptions of the economy

Key findings



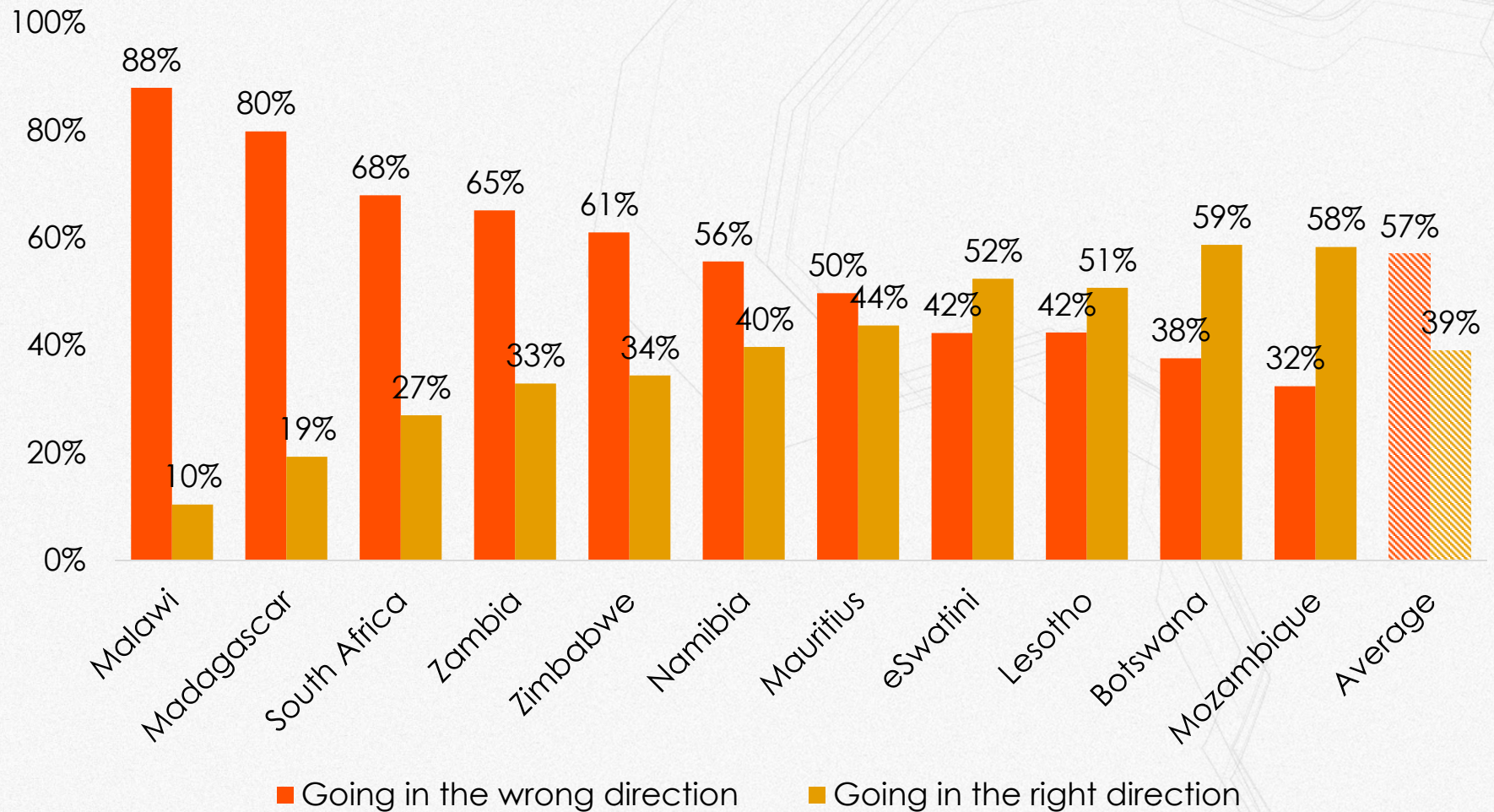
- More than two-thirds (68%) of South Africans see their country as heading in the wrong direction.
- A majority (66%) assess their country's economic condition as “fairly bad” or “very bad,” an increase from 54% recorded in 2015.
- The proportion of citizens who say their personal living conditions are “fairly bad” or “very bad” has increased to almost half (49%).
- South Africans are optimistic about future prospects of their country. More than half (53%) believe the economy will be “better” or “much better” in 12 months' time.

Country direction | South Africa | 2004-2018



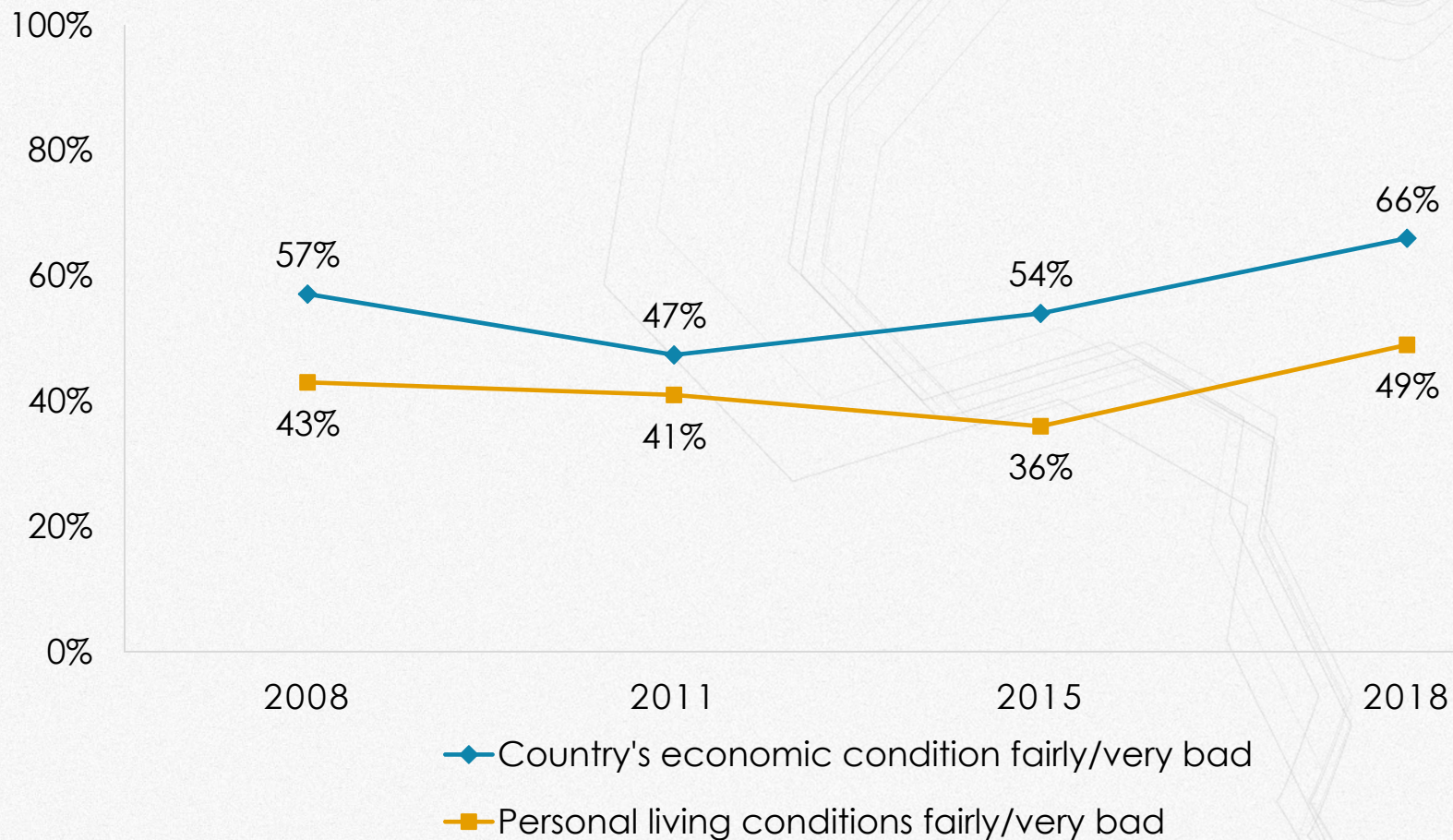
Respondents were asked: Some people might think the country is going in the wrong direction. Others may feel it is going in the right direction. So let me ask you about the overall direction of the county: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or in the right direction?

Country direction | 11 countries in Southern Africa | 2016/2018



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 county: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or in the right direction?

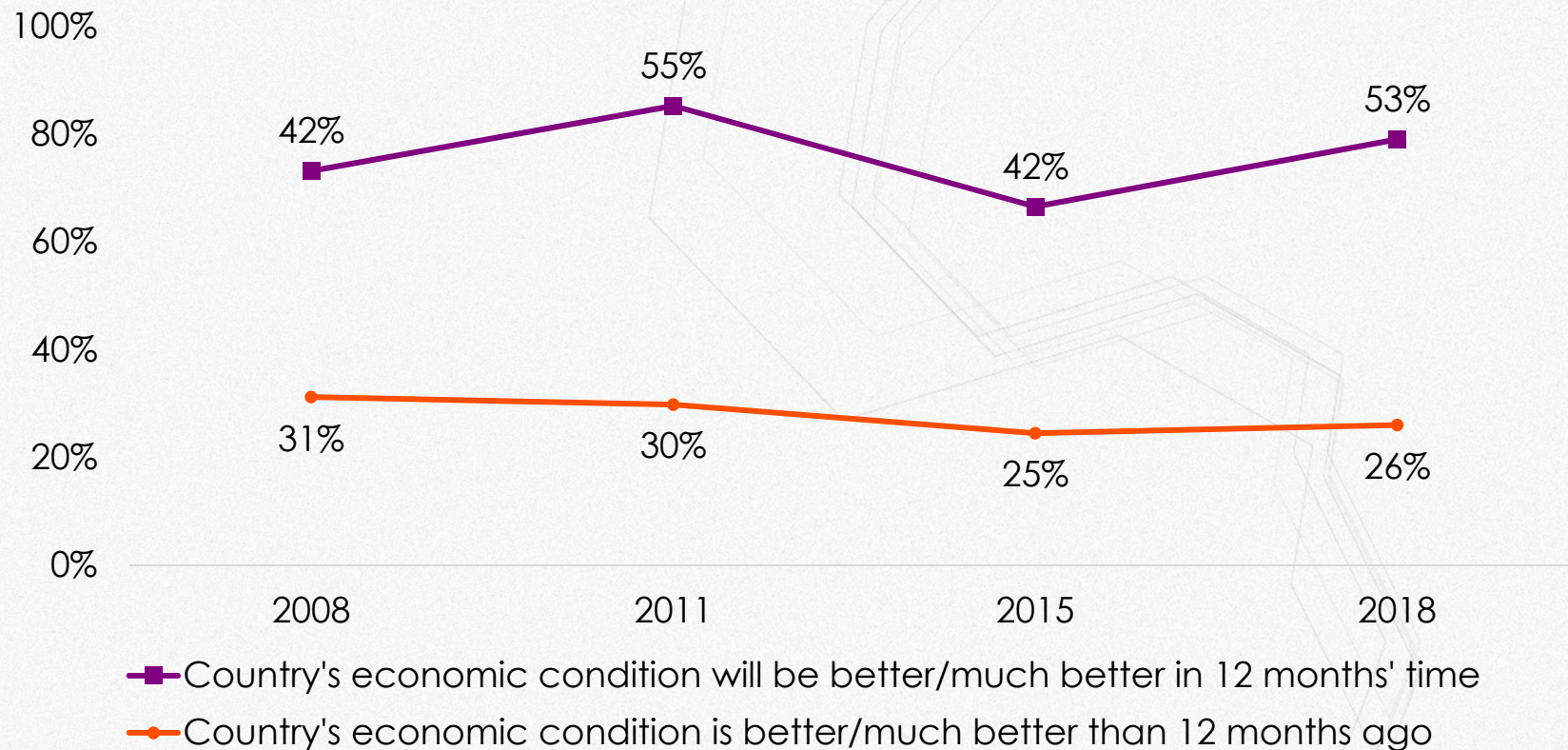
Perceptions of country's economic and personal living conditions | South Africa | 2008-2018



Respondents were asked: In general, how would you describe:

- The present economic condition of this country?
- Your own present living conditions?

Economic conditions compared to 12 months ago and in 12 months' time | South Africa | 2018



Respondents were asked:

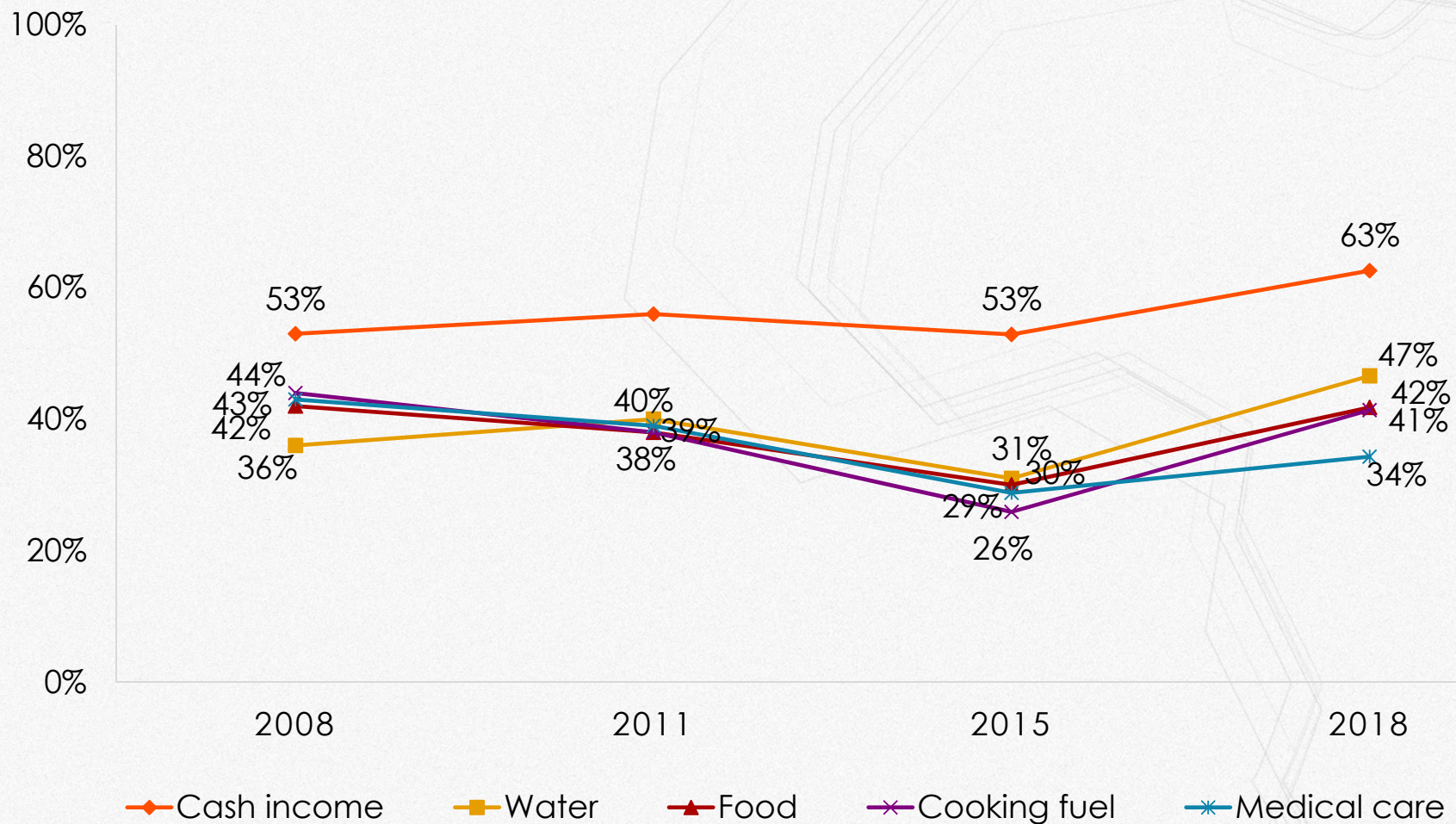
- Looking back, how do you rate economic conditions in this country compared to 12 months ago?
Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?

Lived poverty

Key findings

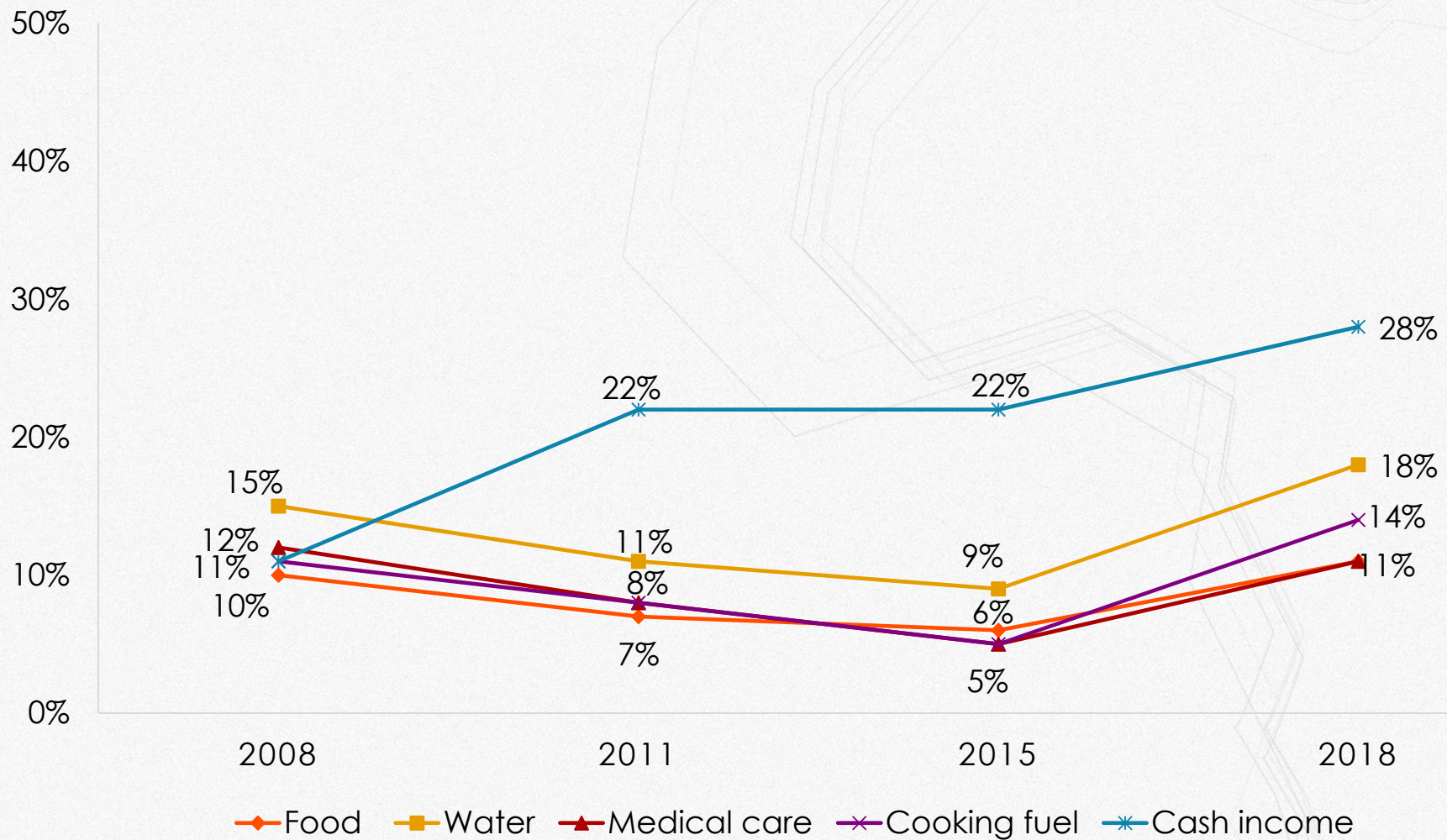
- Almost half (47%) of all respondents say they went without enough clean water at least once during the previous year, up from 31% in 2015, including 18% who report experiencing shortages of clean water “many times” or “always.”
- Close to four in 10 South Africans (38%) experienced moderate or high levels of lived poverty in the year preceding the 2018 survey, up from 25% in 2015 and 32% in 2011.
- Levels of lived poverty vary significantly by race, province, level of education, and place of residence.
- Whilst lived poverty has increased in South Africa since 2015, its citizens still compare favourably with most of their peers in the region.

Going without basic necessities | South Africa | 2008-2018



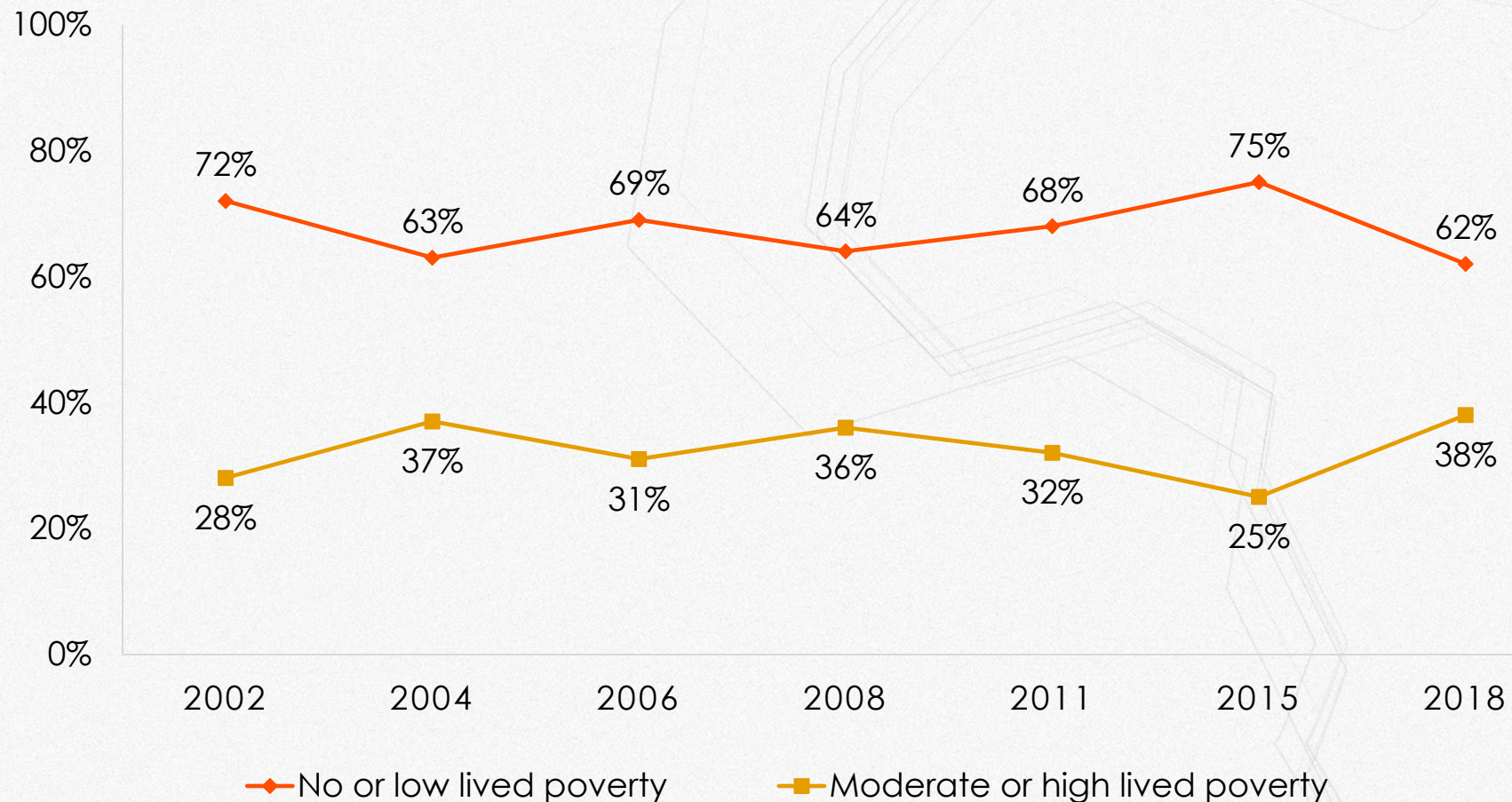
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income? (% who say "just once or twice," "several times," "many times," or "always")

Going without basic necessities "many times" or "always" | South Africa | 2008-2018



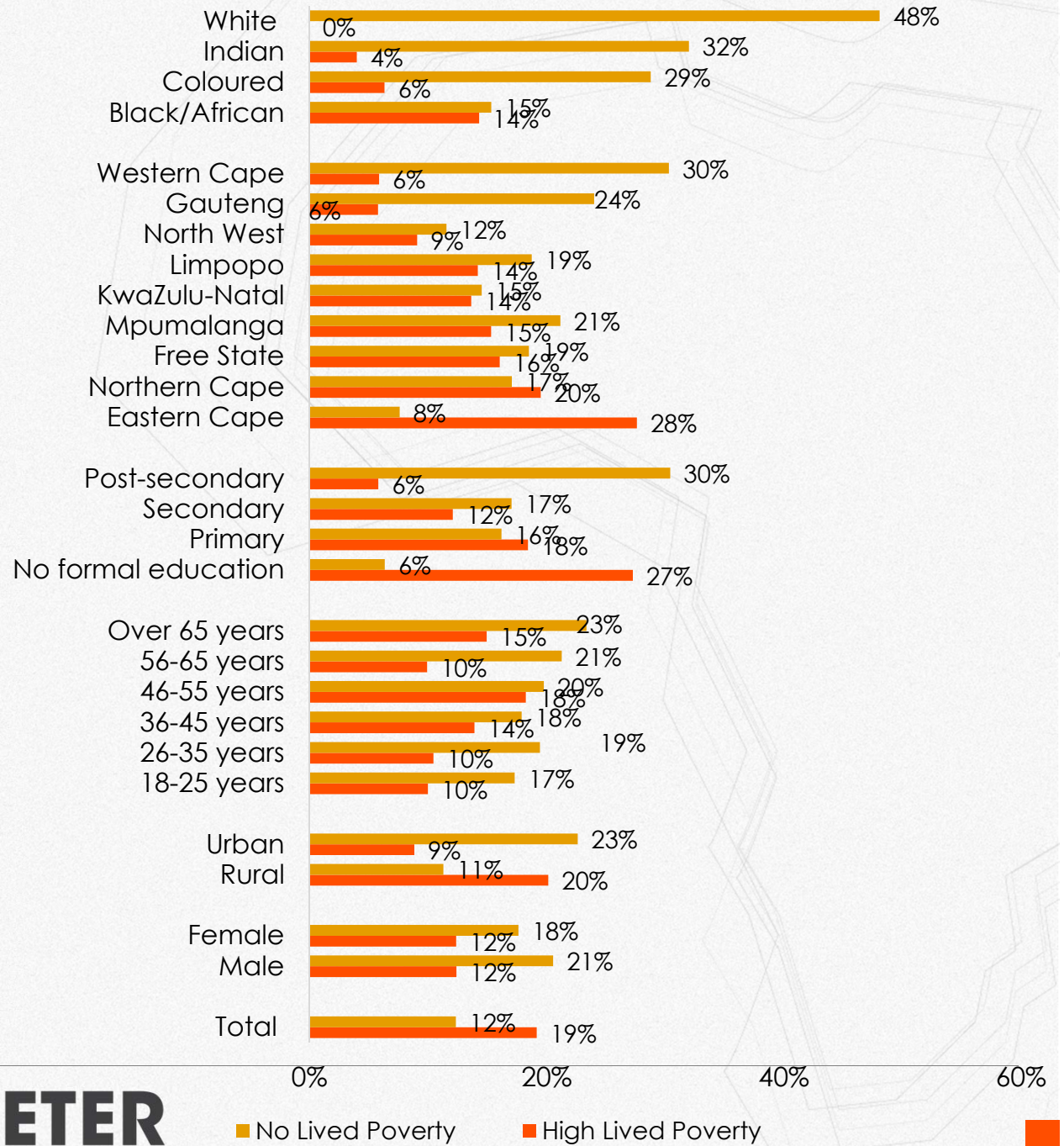
(% who say they went without these necessities "many times" or "always")

Lived poverty | South Africa | 2002-2018



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income?

'High' and 'no' lived poverty | by socio-demographic group | South Africa | 2018



Moderate or high lived poverty | 11 countries in Southern Africa | 2016/2018

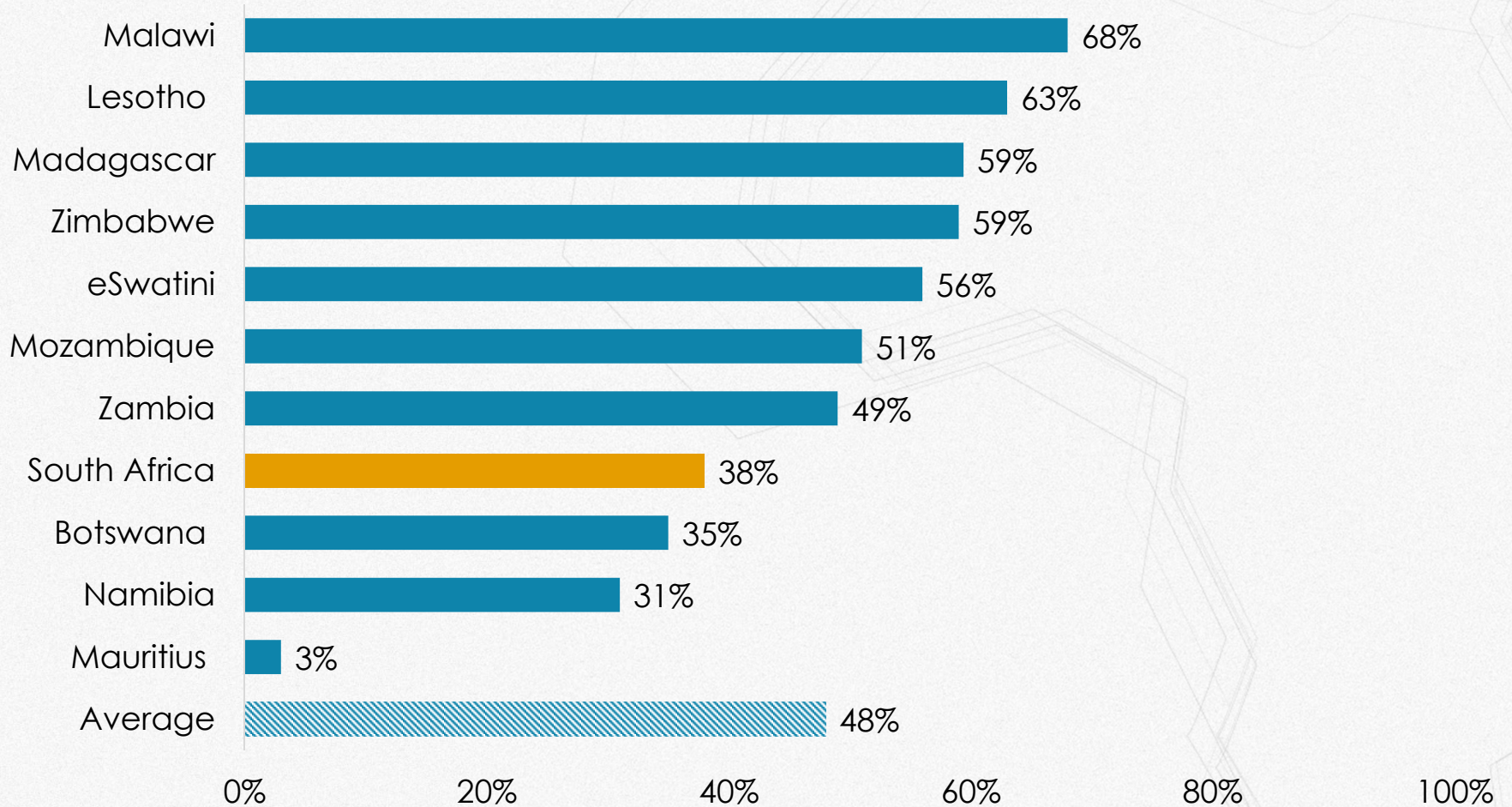


Figure shows % of respondents who experienced moderate or high lived poverty during the previous year.

Government performance on economic management

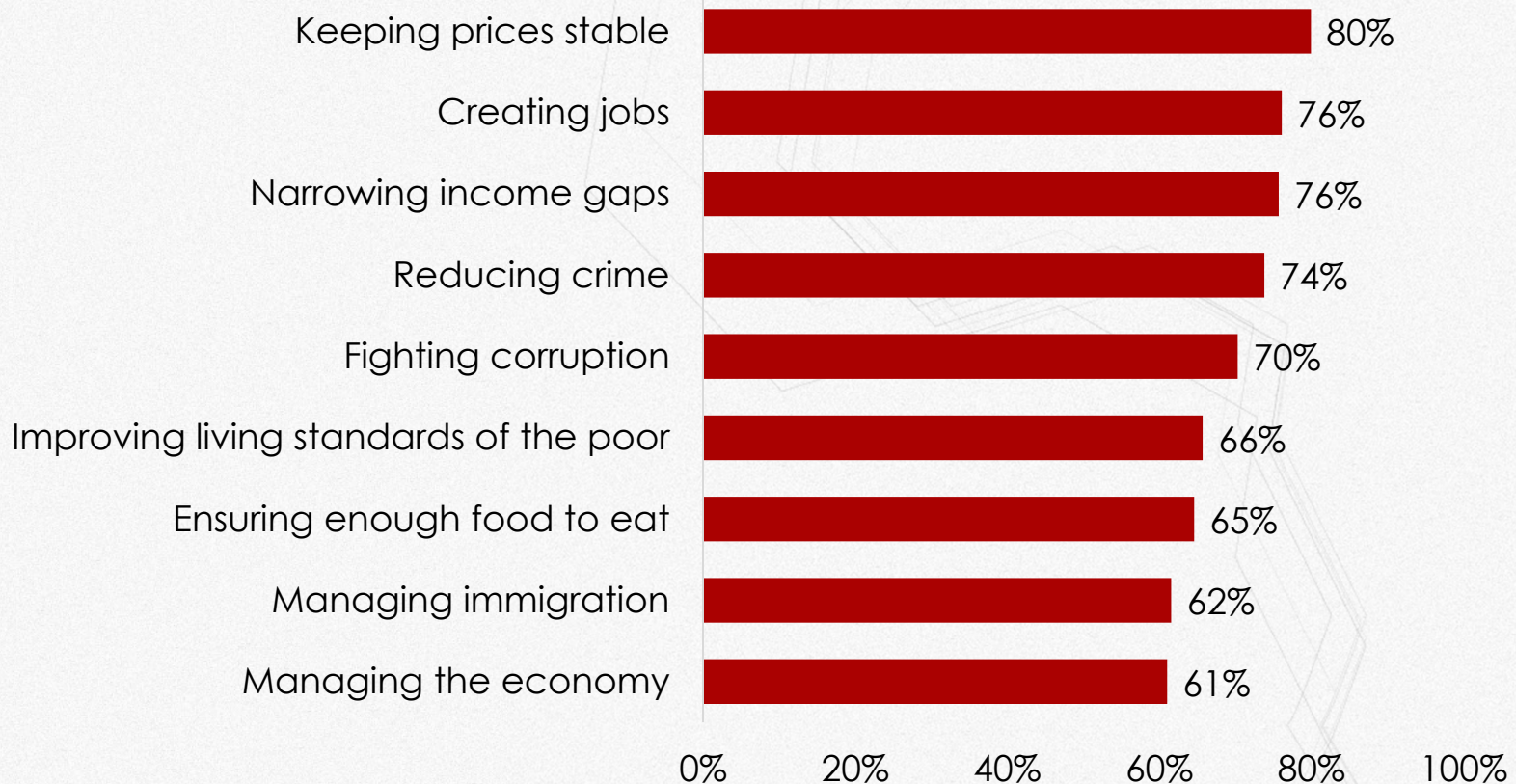
Key findings



- Six in 10 South Africans (61%) say the government is performing “fairly badly” or “very badly” on managing the economy – one of a host of negative popular assessments of the government’s efforts on economic indicators.

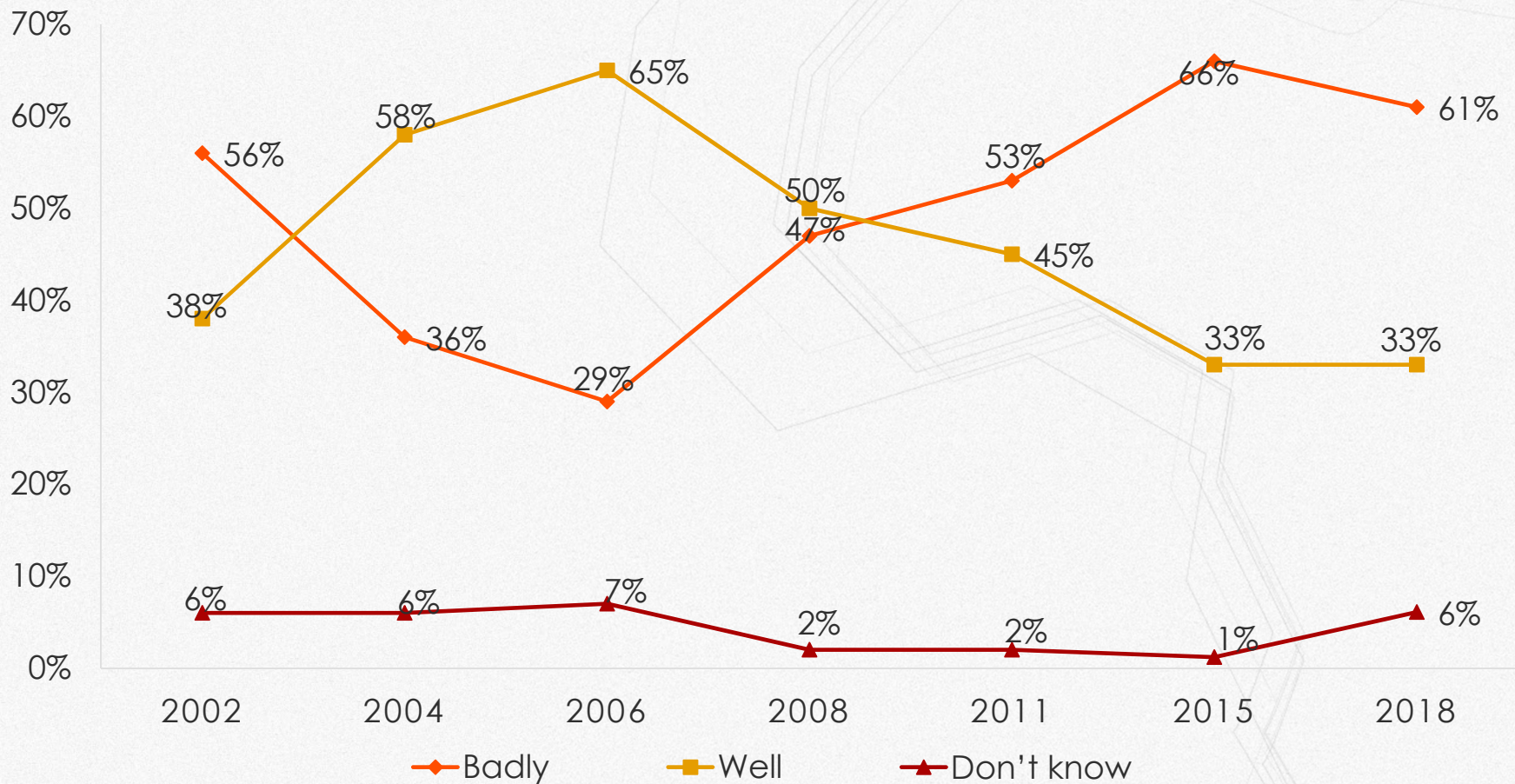
Government performing badly on economic issues

| South Africa | 2018



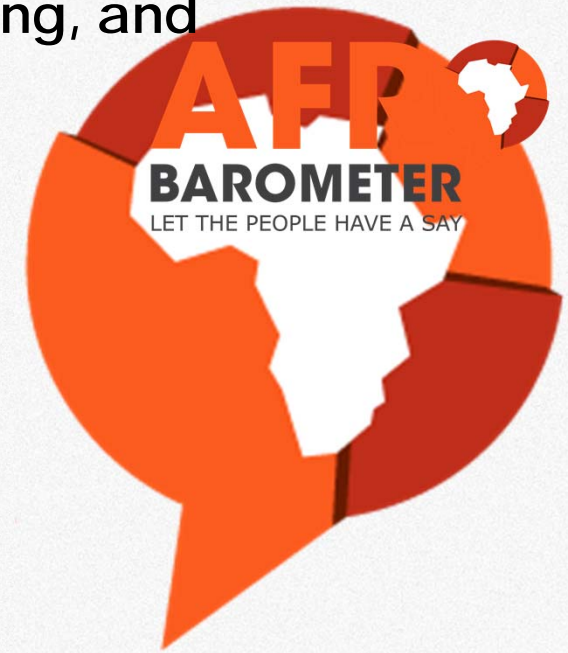
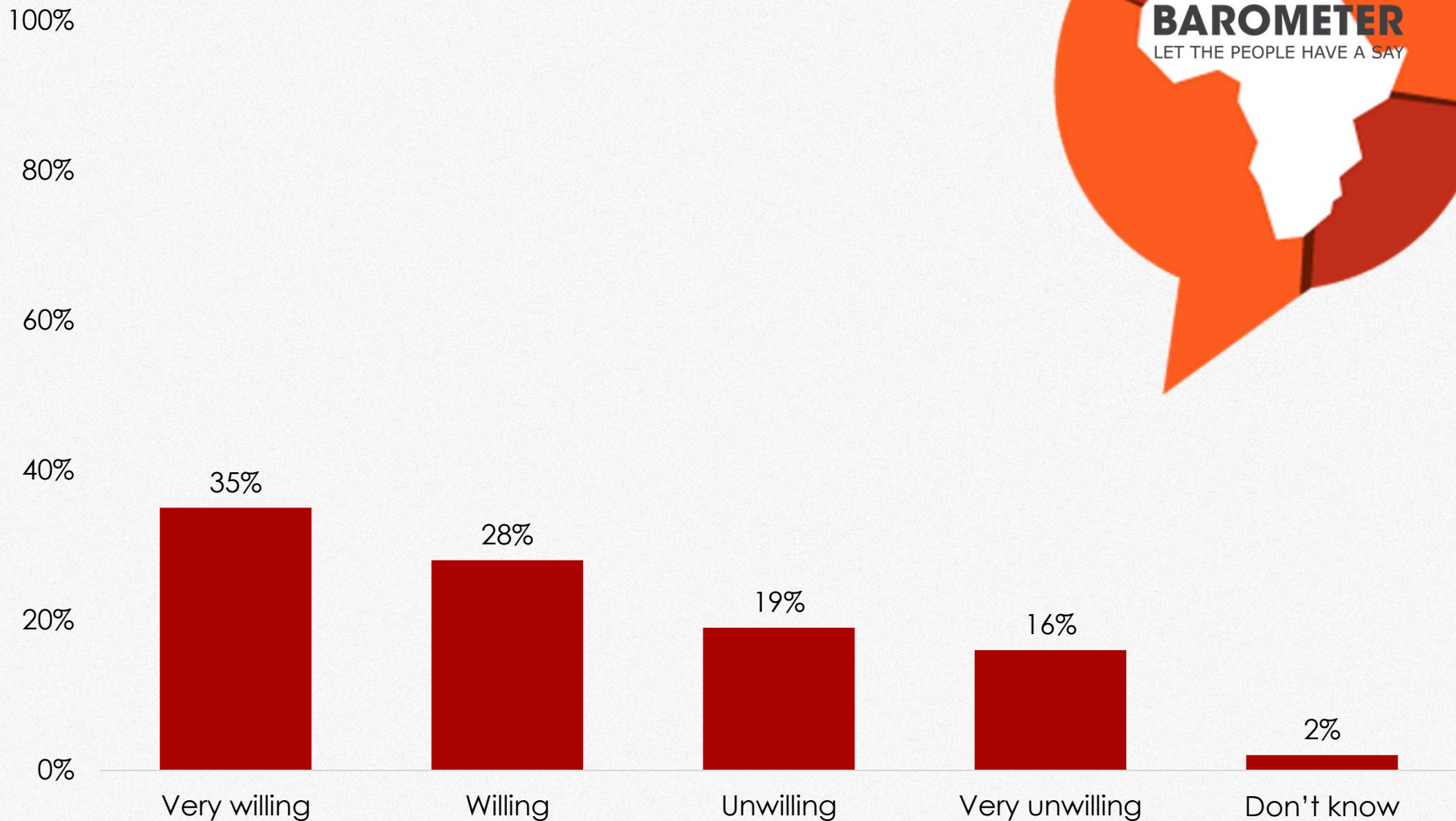
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "fairly badly" or "very badly")

Government performance on managing the economy | South Africa | 2002-2018



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

Willingness to trade in elections for security, housing, and jobs | South Africa | 2018



Respondents were asked: If a non-elected government or leader could impose law and order and deliver houses and jobs, how willing or unwilling would you be to give up regular elections and live under such a government?

Conclusion



- Rising proportions of South Africans view country direction as “wrong” and see both their personal and country economic conditions as bad.
- Greater proportion of citizens experienced moderate or high lived poverty compared to 2015.
- Citizens passed a vote of no-confidence on government’s efforts in managing the economy.
- Sense of desperation? Citizens are willing to trade elections for jobs, housing, and security.



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