



# Issues Facing Kenyans and Uhuru's Legacy

June Omnibus Survey | 2<sup>nd</sup> Release | 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Introduction and Summary Findings**

**Most Serious Problem: National and Local Levels**

**Kenya's Direction: Right or Wrong and Main Reasons**

**President Uhuru's Legacy: Positive and Negative Aspects**

**Methodology and Demographics**



# Introduction and Summary Findings

# Introductory Comments



- ❑ All the findings included in this 2<sup>nd</sup> Release are taken from the national survey TIFA Research conducted between July 24<sup>th</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup> 2021. The survey covered a variety of important economic, political, and social welfare public issues.
- ❑ In designing the survey, TIFA has taken note of the fact that since our last such survey in December, 2020, a number of important and indeed dramatic events have occurred relating to several of these issues. They include considerable political activity, notwithstanding the public health guidelines (and legal restrictions) put in place to control the still virulent Covid-19 pandemic. Such events include a number of by-elections, public rallies, the commissioning of major government projects, and funerals of prominent leaders (and of their family members), all of which have served to focus attention on next year's general election (in August).
- ❑ More specifically, as indicated in the Contents, this 2<sup>nd</sup> Release of TIFA's June, 2021 survey concentrates on the main issue that most Kenyans are concerned with: the state of the economy, and it does so at both the macro (national) and micro (local) levels. A number of economic issues also arise in exploring Kenyans' views about the country's direction (i.e., whether "right" or "wrong", and the main reasons for holding either view. In addition, it presents views on President Uhuru's likely legacy, based on negative as well as on positive aspects (as respondents were invited to express their views on both).
- ❑ In this regard, TIFA invites queries about the data presented in this Release as well as suggestions as to how future surveys on these and related issues can make an even more positive contribution to the consideration of this highly important undertaking.



# Summary: Challenges and Direction Country/Locality is Heading



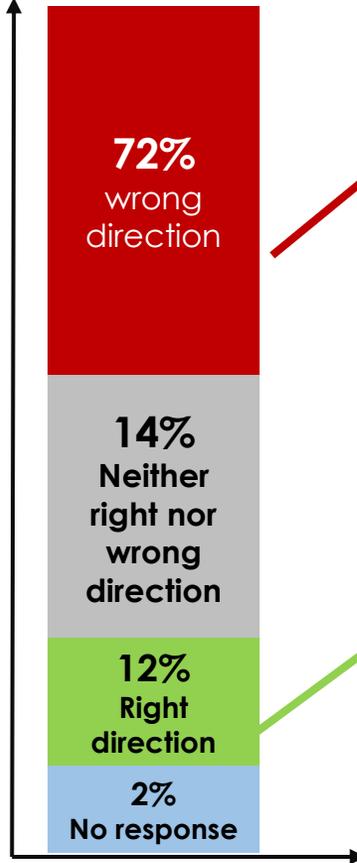
### Issues facing Kenyans

#### Challenges Facing Kenya

- 27% high cost of living
- 27% unemployment
- 16% Covid-19 virus
- 12% corruption

#### Challenges Facing Kenyans Locally

- 26% unemployment
- 19% high cost of living
- 10% hunger/famine
- 9% poverty
- 5% Covid-19



### Reasons for Wrong Direction

- 38% high cost of living
- 16% unemployment
- 13% political issues
- 10% corruption
- 10% Covid-19 pandemic effects
- 5% Debt

### Reasons for Right Direction

- 18% Covid-19 management
- 14% infrastructure
- 9% education
- 8% cost of living
- 9% political issues
- 6% employment

n=All respondents

# President Uhuru's Legacy: Positive and Negative Aspects



## Uhuru's Legacy: Perceived Main Positive Aspects



- ❑ **47%** completing/launching infrastructure projects (SGR/roads)
- ❑ **10%** enhancing national unity/cohesion/handshake
- ❑ **4%** extending electricity grid
- ❑ **4%** providing jobs /financial support for need
- ❑ **2%** reducing the cost of education



## Uhuru's Legacy: Perceived Main Negative Aspects



- ❑ **18%** Increased public debt
- ❑ **17%** economic hardships for many Kenyans
- ❑ **11%** increased corruption
- ❑ **5%** violation of his oath/disobedience of court orders/the Constitution
- ❑ **4%** betrayal of this DP

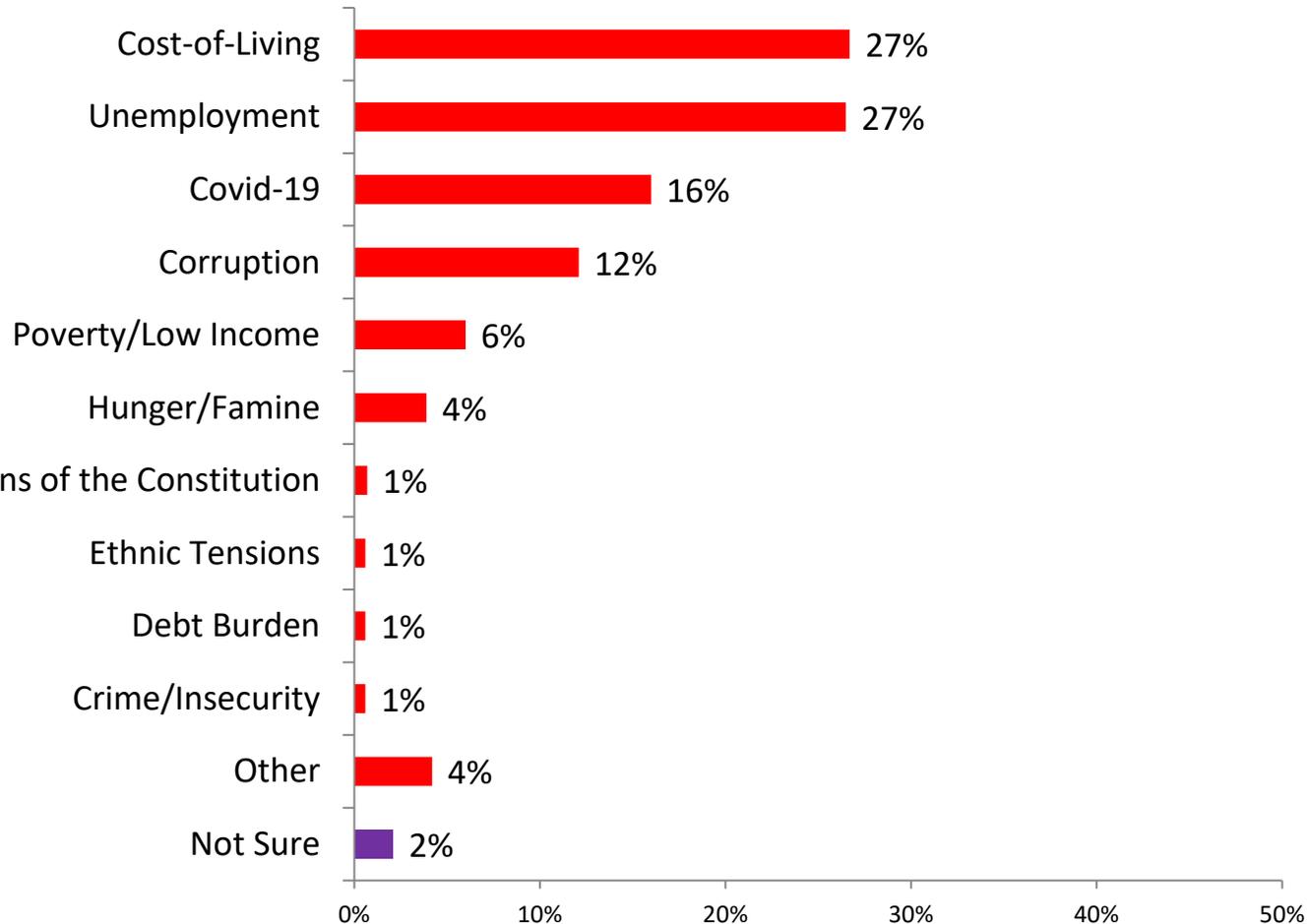




## Section One: Socio-Economic Issues

- Main Problems/Challenges Facing Kenya as a Whole/Most People in the Locality
- Kenya's Direction and Main Reasons (for Right/Wrong Direction) + Covid-19 Regional Variations
- Household Economics: Type of Cooking Fuel Usage by Total, Monthly Earnings
- Monthly Earnings Currently/Before Covid-19

# Main Problem/Challenge Facing Kenya (by total)

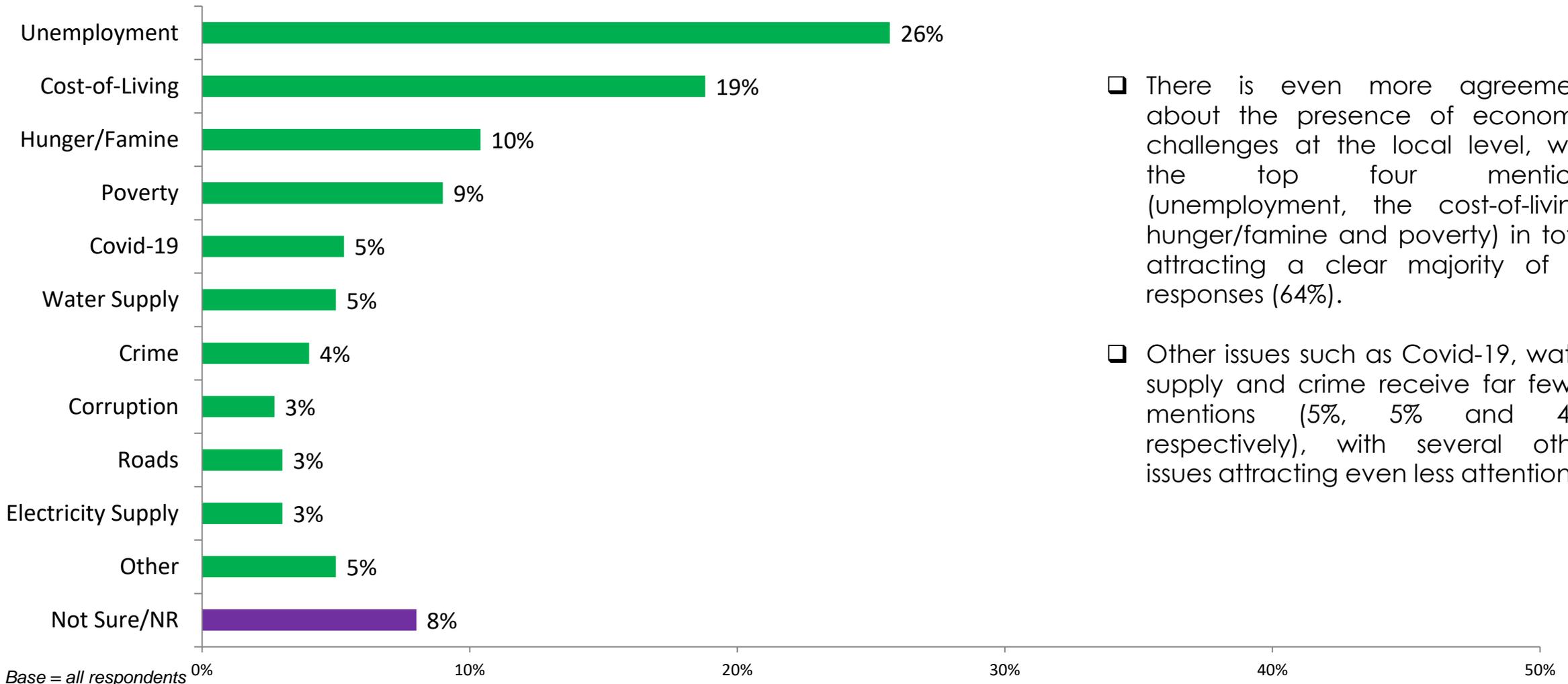


Base = all respondents

- ❑ The overwhelming perception of Kenyans as to the country's current challenges are economic, specifically, the cost-of-living and unemployment (both at 27%).
- ❑ However, Covid-19, which has both health and economic aspects, also receives considerable mentions (16%).
- ❑ But other economic issues (poverty, hunger/famine) are also identified (6% and 4%, respectively).
- ❑ Among governance issues, most frequently mentioned is corruption (12%).

# Main Problem/Challenge Facing People in the Locality

(by Total)

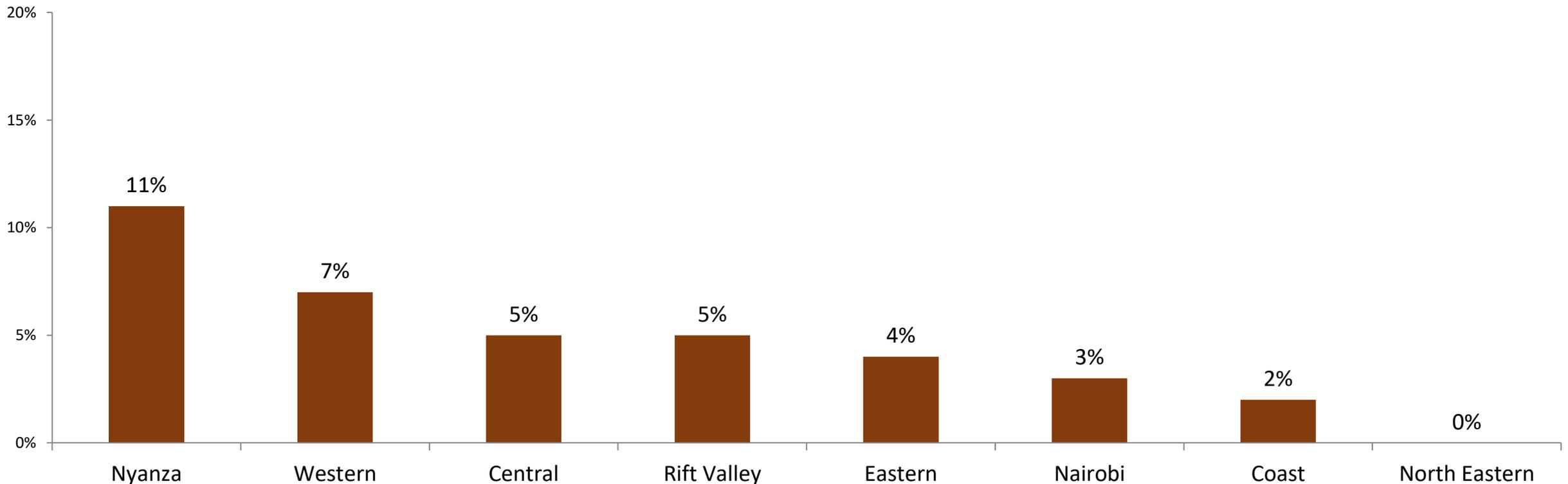


- ❑ There is even more agreement about the presence of economic challenges at the local level, with the top four mentions (unemployment, the cost-of-living, hunger/famine and poverty) in total attracting a clear majority of all responses (64%).
- ❑ Other issues such as Covid-19, water supply and crime receive far fewer mentions (5%, 5% and 4%, respectively), with several other issues attracting even less attention.

# Covid-19 Mentioned as the Main Problem Facing People in the Locality (by Region)



While nationally only a few mentioned Covid-19 as the main problem or challenge facing most people in their locality (5%), there is considerable regional variation, with residents of Nyanza over five times more concerned with this issue as those of Coast or North Eastern (2% and 0%, respectively). Evidently, such heightened concern in western regions reflects the recent spike in cases there, reportedly as a result of the arrival and spread of the more aggressive Delta variant (said to have originated in India).

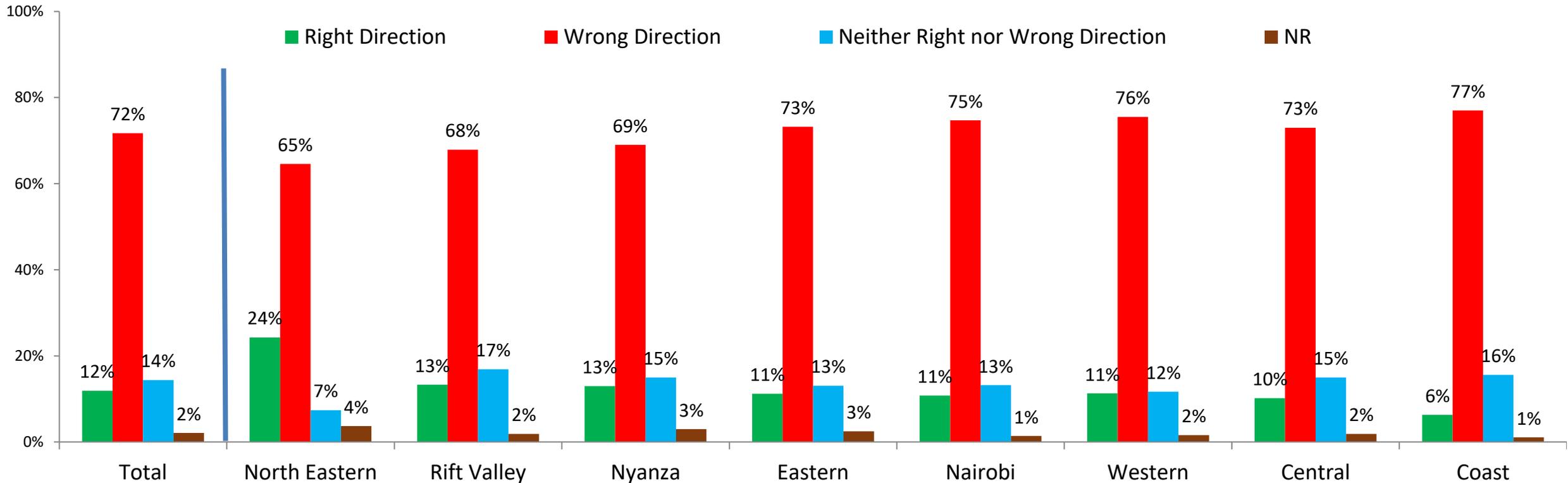


# Kenya's Perceived Direction

(by Total, Region)

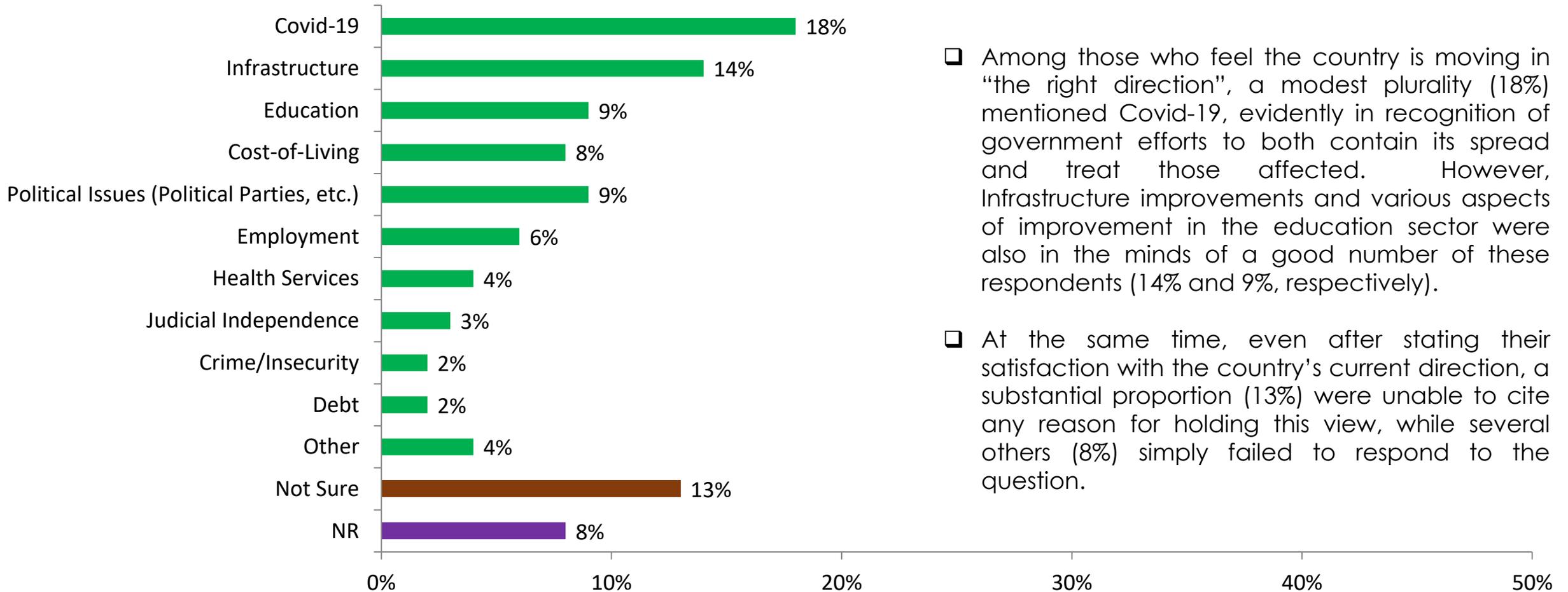


- ❑ For Kenya as a whole, just over one-in-ten (12%) consider Kenya's current direction as the "right" one, while nearly three-quarters (72%) say the country is moving in "the wrong direction."
- ❑ In regional terms, more residents of North Eastern give a positive assessment on this matter (24%) whereas the fewest residents of Central and Coast do so (10% and 6%, respectively).



# Main Reasons for Right Direction Sentiments

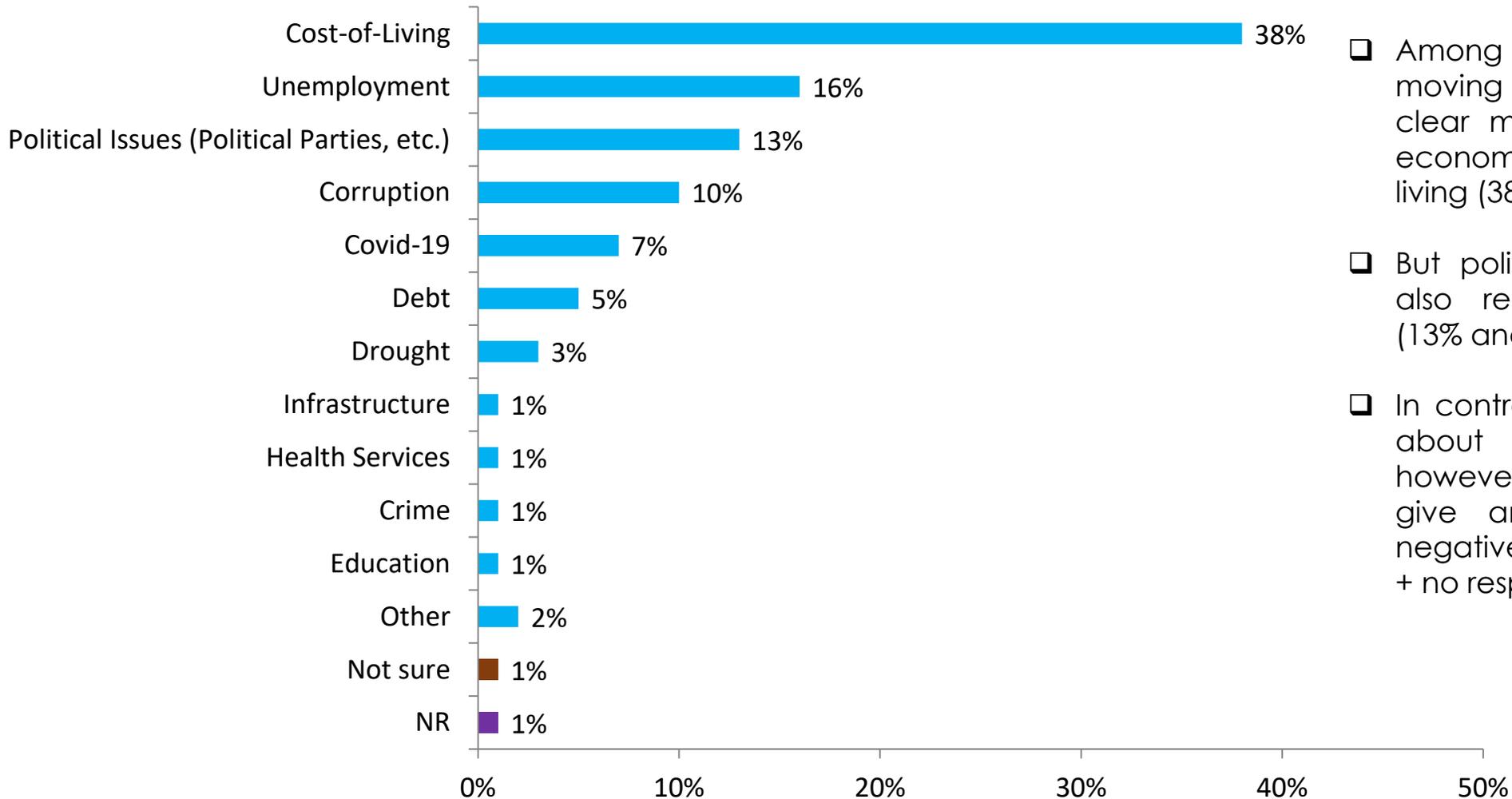
(by Those Who Said Kenya is Headed in the Right Direction)



- Among those who feel the country is moving in “the right direction”, a modest plurality (18%) mentioned Covid-19, evidently in recognition of government efforts to both contain its spread and treat those affected. However, Infrastructure improvements and various aspects of improvement in the education sector were also in the minds of a good number of these respondents (14% and 9%, respectively).
- At the same time, even after stating their satisfaction with the country’s current direction, a substantial proportion (13%) were unable to cite any reason for holding this view, while several others (8%) simply failed to respond to the question.

# Main Reasons for Wrong Direction Sentiments

(by Those Who Said Kenya is Headed in the Wrong Direction)



- ❑ Among those who feel the country is moving in “the wrong direction”, a clear majority (54%) referred to the economy, whether the high cost-of-living (38%) or unemployment (16%).
- ❑ But political divisions and corruption also received substantial mentions (13% and 10%, respectively).
- ❑ In contrast to those who are positive about the country’s direction, however, hardly any were unable to give any reason for holding this negative view (just 2%, i.e., “not sure” + no response).

# Current Monthly Earnings: by Pre-Covid Monthly Earnings (Among Only Those Currently Earning)



- In examining current and pre-Covid monthly income levels (among those who are currently earning anything), it is clear that the vast majority of Kenyans have suffered a substantial loss of income since the arrival of the pandemic. However, such loss has affected poorer people disproportionately. For example, over half of those currently earning over Shs. 20,000/- per month (57%) were earning at least as much pre-Covid. By contrast, well over half of those now earning only Shs. 1,000/- or less were earning more than this amount pre-Covid (46% + 10% + 9% + 1% = 66%).

PRE-COVID MONTHLY EARNINGS	CURRENT MONTHLY EARNINGS					
	0/- to 1,000/-	1,001/ to 5,000/-	5,001/- to 10,000/-	10,001/- to 20,000/-	20,001/- to 50,000/-	Above 50,000/-
Nothing	5%	3%	9%	4%	5%	0%
Up to 1,000/-	28%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Between 1,001/- and 5,000/-	46%	27%	2%	1%	1%	12%
Between 5,001/- and 10,000/-	10%	38%	22%	5%	1%	0%
Between 10,001/- and 20,000/-	9%	21%	47%	31%	6%	0%
Between 20,001/- and 50,000/-	1%	7%	15%	52%	57%	0%
More than 50,000/-	0%	2%	4%	7%	30%	78%
Not sure	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%



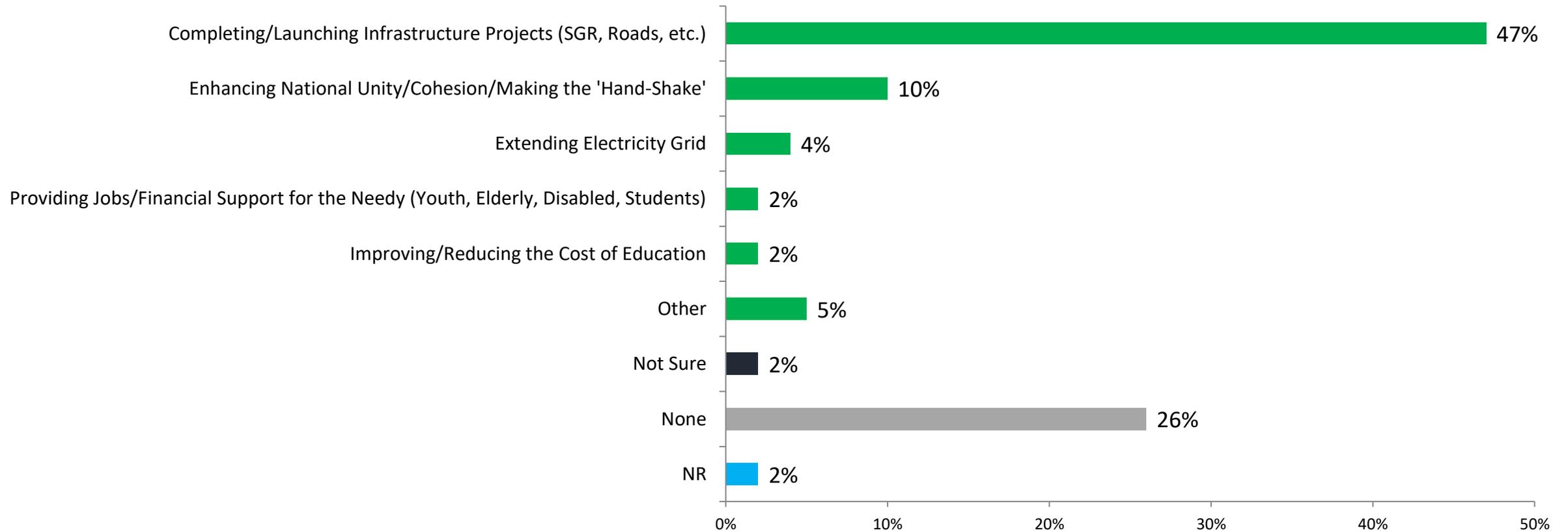
## Section Two: President Uhuru's Legacy

- President Uhuru's Main Perceived Positive Legacy
- President Uhuru's Main Perceived Negative Legacy

# Uhuru's Perceived Main Positive Legacy (by Total)



By far, most Kenyans (almost half: 47%) consider infrastructure the most positive accomplishment for which the President will be remembered, though enhancing national cohesion is also mentioned by a considerable proportion (10%). At the same time, fully one-quarter (26%) are not prepared to give him credit for any accomplishment, while a few others are either uncertain about this, or declined to answer the question (2% for both).

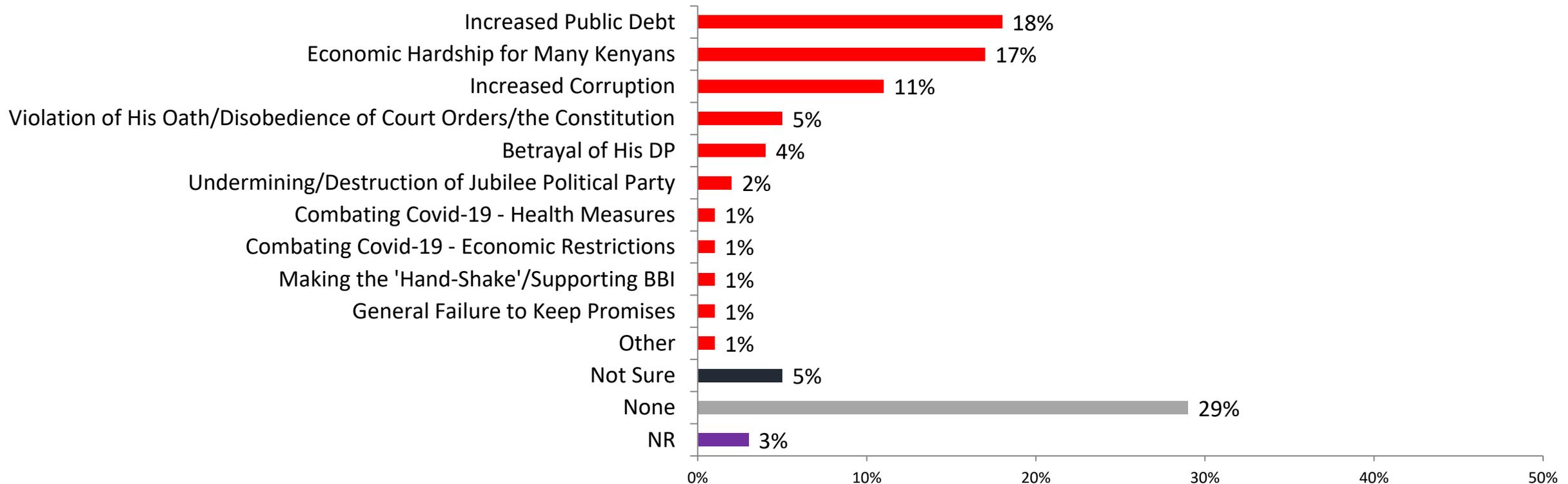


# Uhuru's Perceived Main Negative Legacy

(by Total)



On the negative side, no particular failing stands out, but the three most frequent mentions are increased public debt, general economic hardship of Kenyans, and increased corruption (18%, 17% and 11%, respectively). Rather fewer mentioned more explicitly governance and political issues, such as “constitutional violations” (5%), “betrayal of his DP” (4%) and “undermining” of his political party (2%). Yet nearly one-third (29%) are unable (or unwilling) to identify any negative aspect of his legacy, while others are either unsure about this or unwilling to answering the question (5% and 3%, respectively).



# Concluding Comments (1/2)



With reference to the findings presented above, the following points can be offered:

- ❑ As with most countries around the world, the Kenya government has faced many challenges in seeking to balance public health requirements and economic realities in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. Without being able to determine the impact of relevant policies, it must be acknowledged that many of the findings included in this survey would be considerably different (and likely far more positive) had the government not been forced to grapple with this reality.
- ❑ Further, regarding the President's legacy, two points should be made. First, with a full year remaining until the end of his second and final term, there remains considerable time for this legacy to be more precisely defined, even if not all the factors that determine such a legacy are subject to his direct control or even indirect influence.
- ❑ Second, as with such historical judgments anywhere, both historians and ordinary people inevitably reach contrasting conclusions about the performance of past leaders, reflecting a complex mixture of their level of information about the facts and their political/ideological leanings/preferences. As such, it would be unrealistic to expect there will ever be an agreed 'verdict' on the incumbency of President Uhuru Kenyatta, especially in a country such as Kenya where citizens enjoy the freedom to disagree, and to do so loudly, in public.





- ❑ Finally, the results included in this 2nd Release, especially those highlighting the current economic distress that most Kenyans are shown to be facing, may help to explain those contained in TIFA's 1st Release (of 1<sup>st</sup> July) that focused on the BBI issue. Specifically, the very moderate support for the BBI reform proposals appears to reflect the fact that BBI is seen as far less of a priority, or even a distraction, as most Kenyans grapple with such challenging economic conditions, in part a result of the impact of Covid-19 and the necessary restrictions put in place to try and contain its detrimental impact on public health.



# Methodology and Demographics

# Methodology Overview

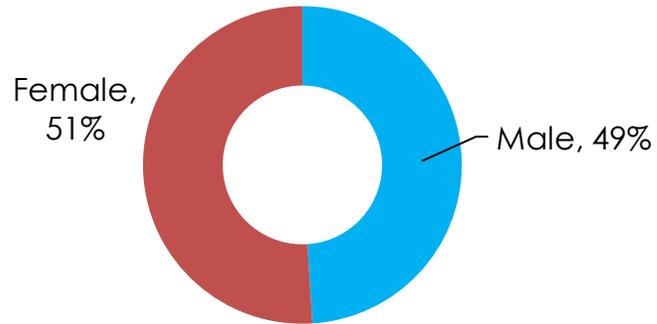


Fieldwork Dates	24 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Geographical	Nationally Representative Sample
Data collection	Telephonic Interviews conducted (with respondents whose contacts were collected through face-to-face (i.e., household-based interviews))
Sample	1,550 respondents
Margin of error	+/- 2% (Note: Larger error-margins for sub-samples)

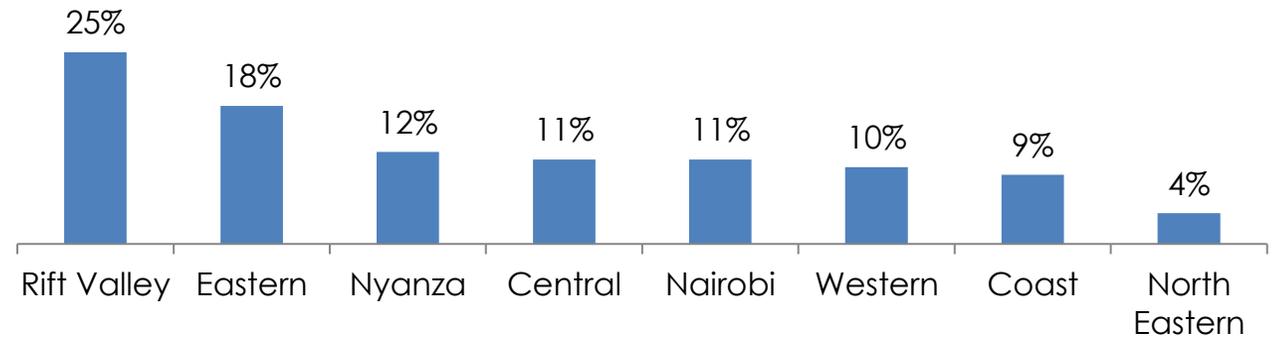
# Demographics: Region, Gender, Age & Education Level



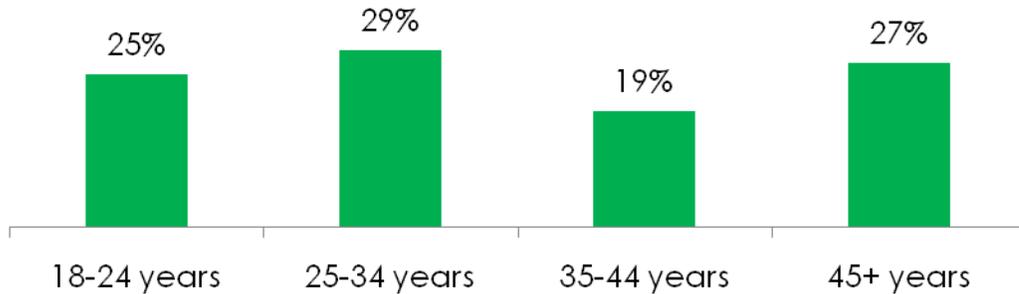
### Gender



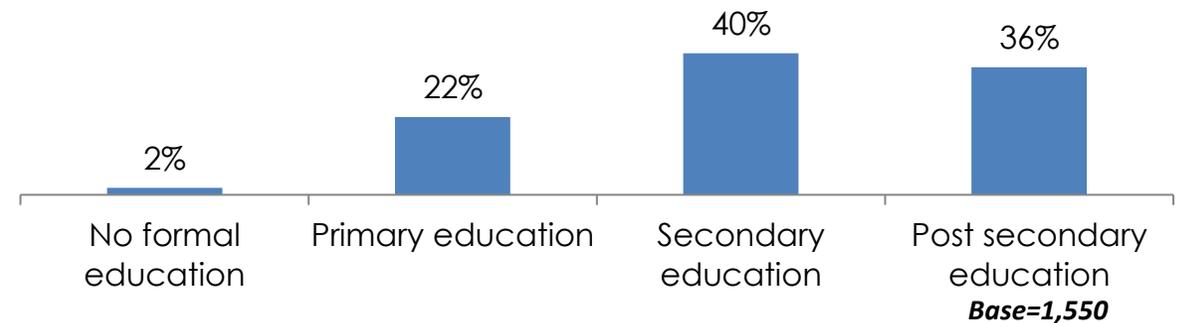
### Region



### Age



### Education Level



Base=1,550



## For Inquiries and Suggestions, Contact:

Dr Tom Wolf  
Research Analyst  
[tpwolf1944@gmail.com](mailto:tpwolf1944@gmail.com)

Maggie Ileri  
CEO  
[maggie.ileri@tifaresearch.com](mailto:maggie.ileri@tifaresearch.com)

[www.tifaresearch.com](http://www.tifaresearch.com)