



Confronting the “Triple Challenge”

Findings on **poverty, inequality** and **unemployment** from Afrobarometer Surveys in **South Africa**



19 February 2015

At a glance

- **National Priorities**: South Africans consistently identified unemployment (44%), crime/security (12%), and poverty (8%) as the most important problems facing the country between 2000 and 2011.
- **Government Performance**: approval ratings have been consistently low on government measures to alleviate poverty, inequality and unemployment, and have roughly followed the national economic trajectory.
- **Regional Results**: despite national challenges, South Africa is highly regarded in the region—particularly by countries with strong historical and economic ties (namely, Lesotho and Namibia).

What is Afrobarometer?



- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **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.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. The South Africa survey has been conducted in 2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, and 2011. Round 6 is scheduled to take place in the first half of 2015.



Where the IJR team currently works



WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG



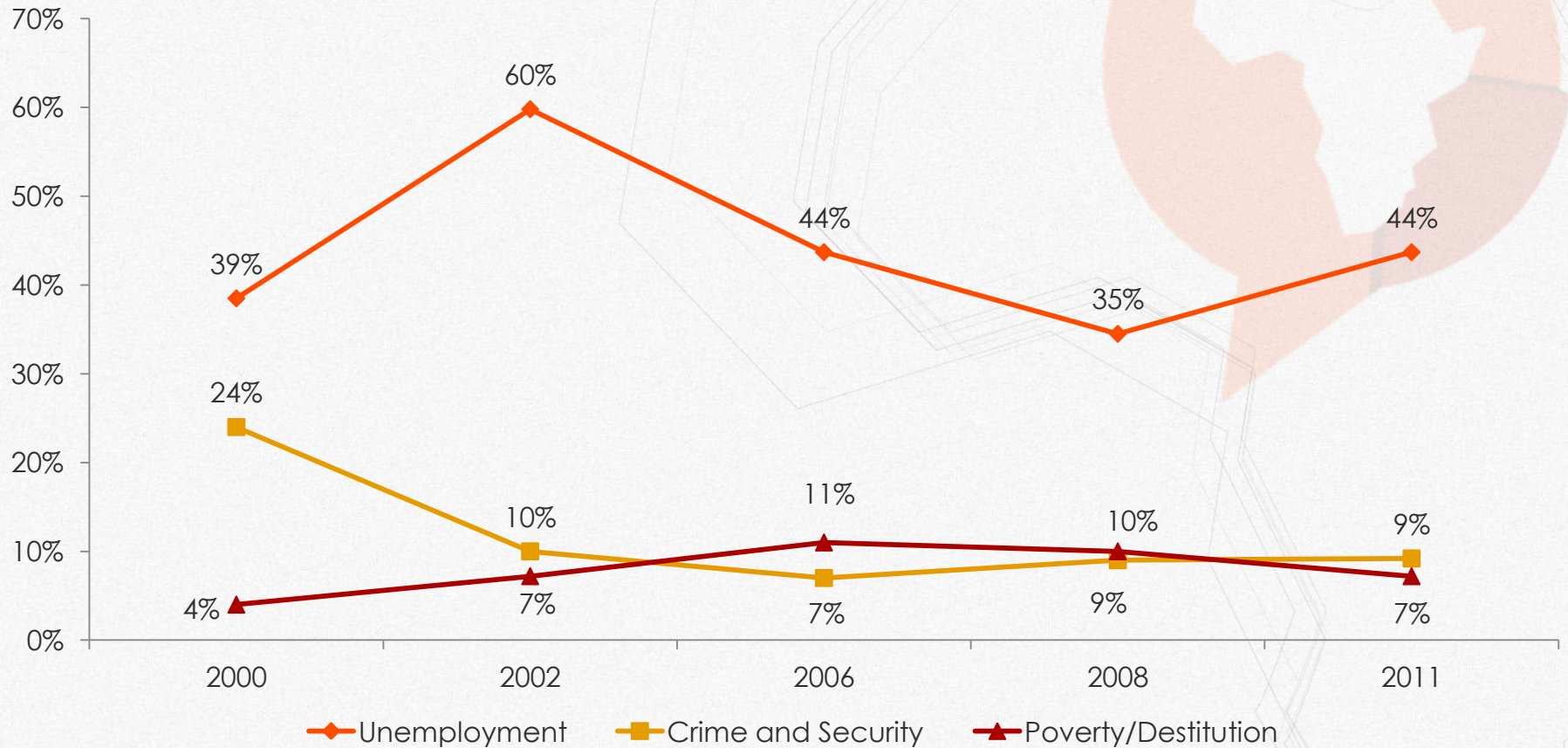
Trends in poverty, inequality & unemployment measures over time

National Results | 2000-2011

Key findings

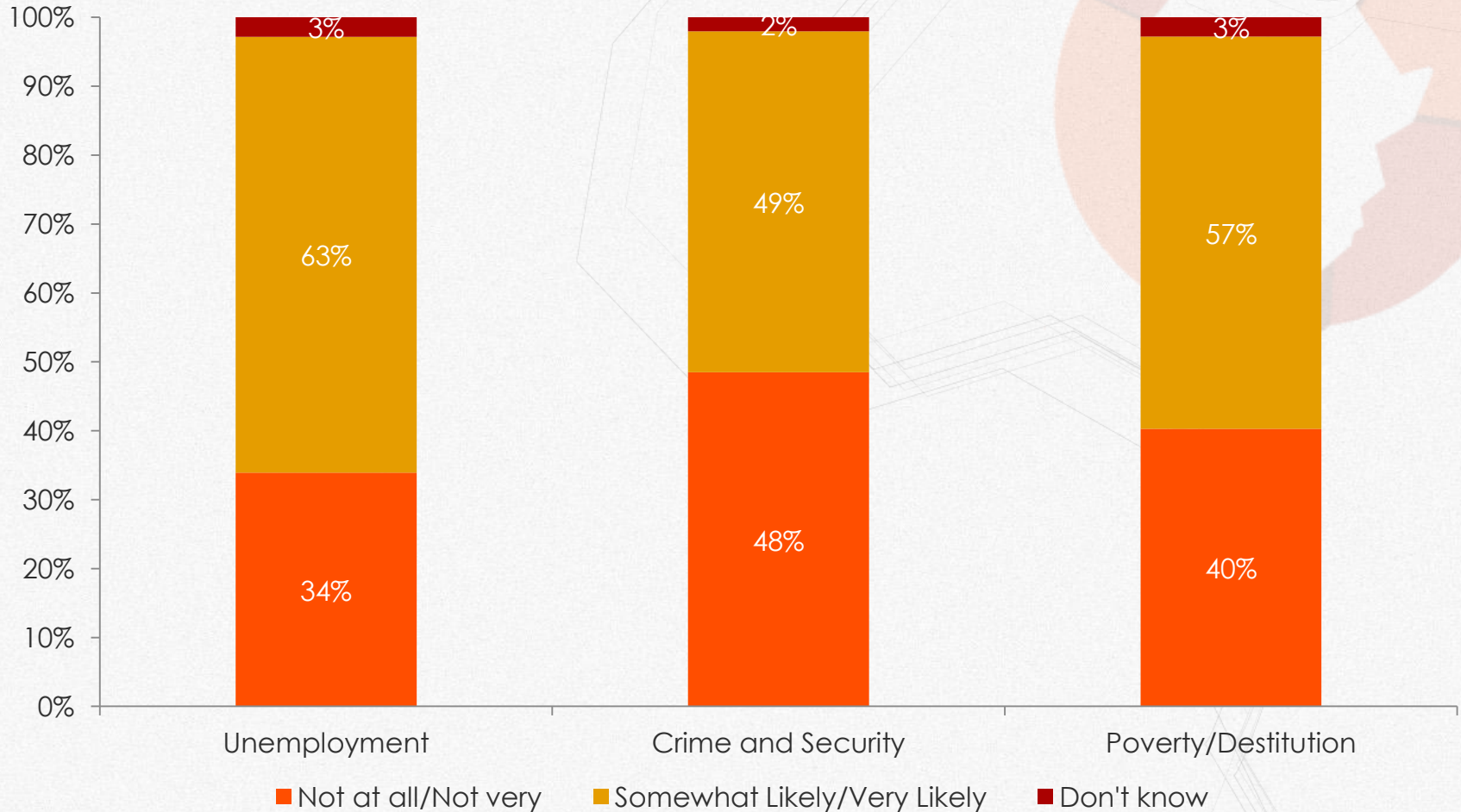
- Unemployment, crime, and poverty were consistently cited as the top three national problems that government should address between 2000 and 2011.
- In 2011, the majority of respondents were optimistic about government's ability to address unemployment (63%) and poverty (57%) by 2016. Opinion was split on the government's ability to address crime/security.
- Approval ratings of government performance on alleviating poverty, unemployment and inequality declined between 2008 and 2011.

National Priorities | 2000-2011



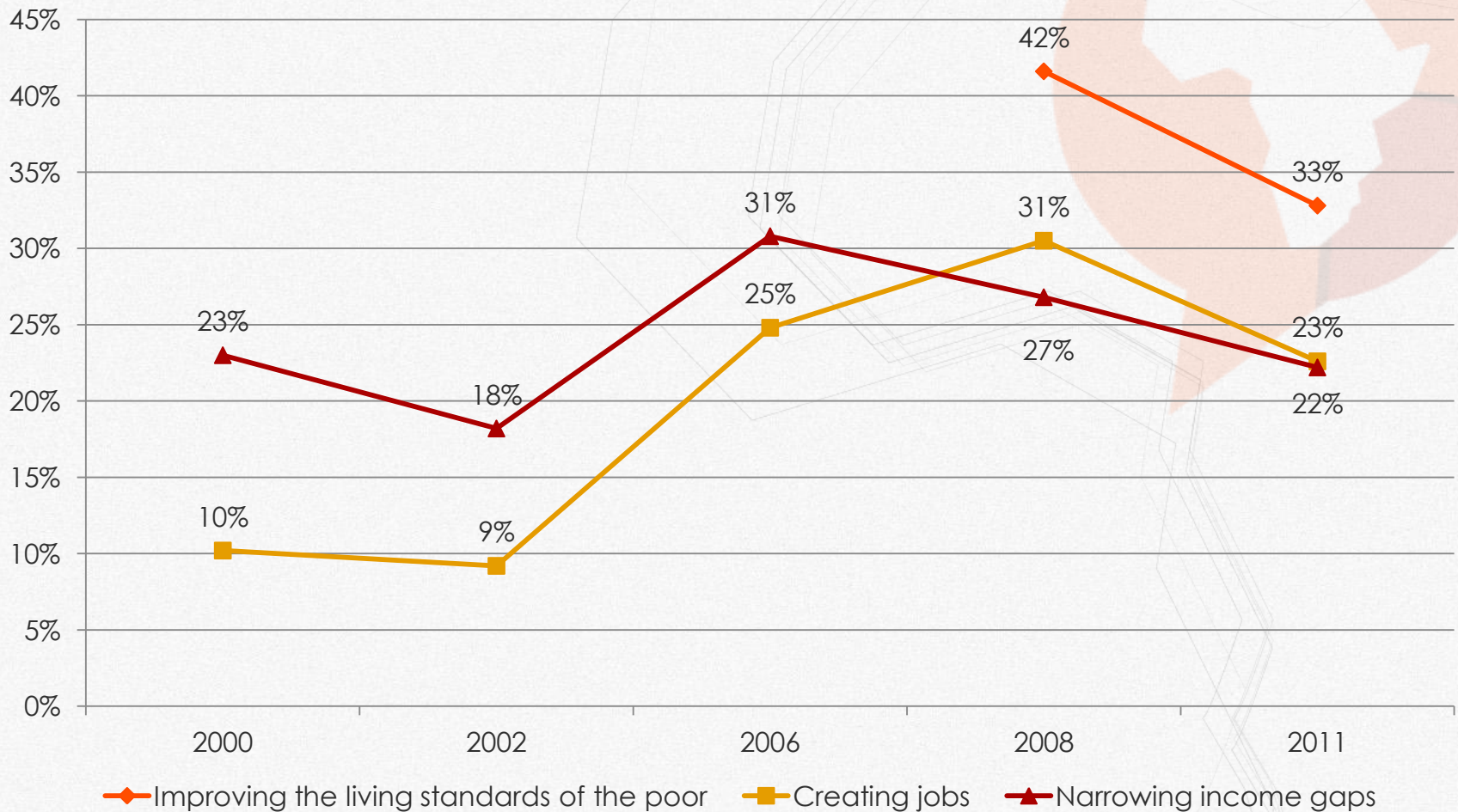
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?

Likelihood of Solving Most Important Problem | 2011



Respondents were asked: Taking the problem that you mentioned first, how likely do you think it is that government will solve this problem within the next five years?

Government Performance | 2000-2011



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? (Fairly well/Very well)



Poverty, inequality and unemployment measures in perspective

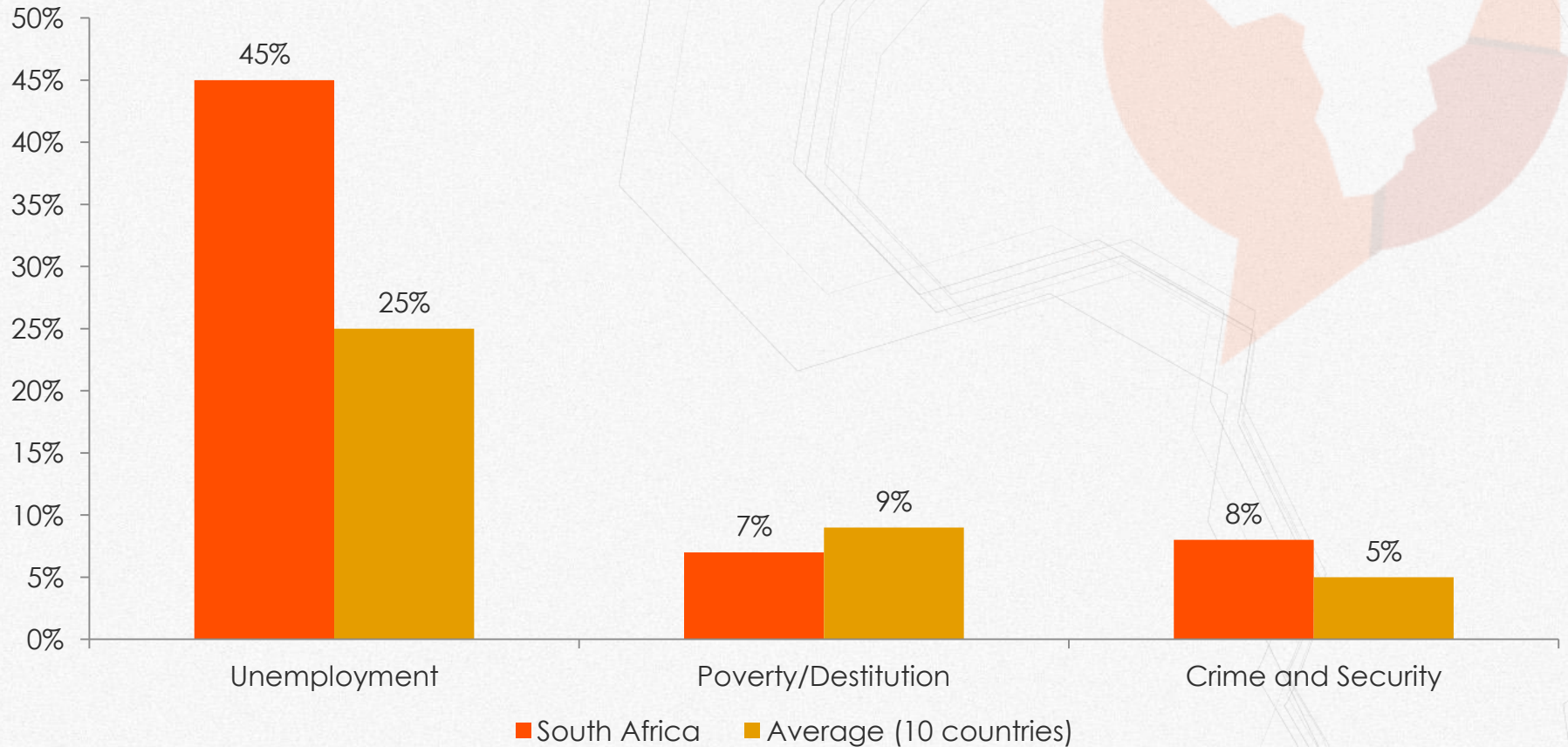
Regional Results | 2014



Key findings

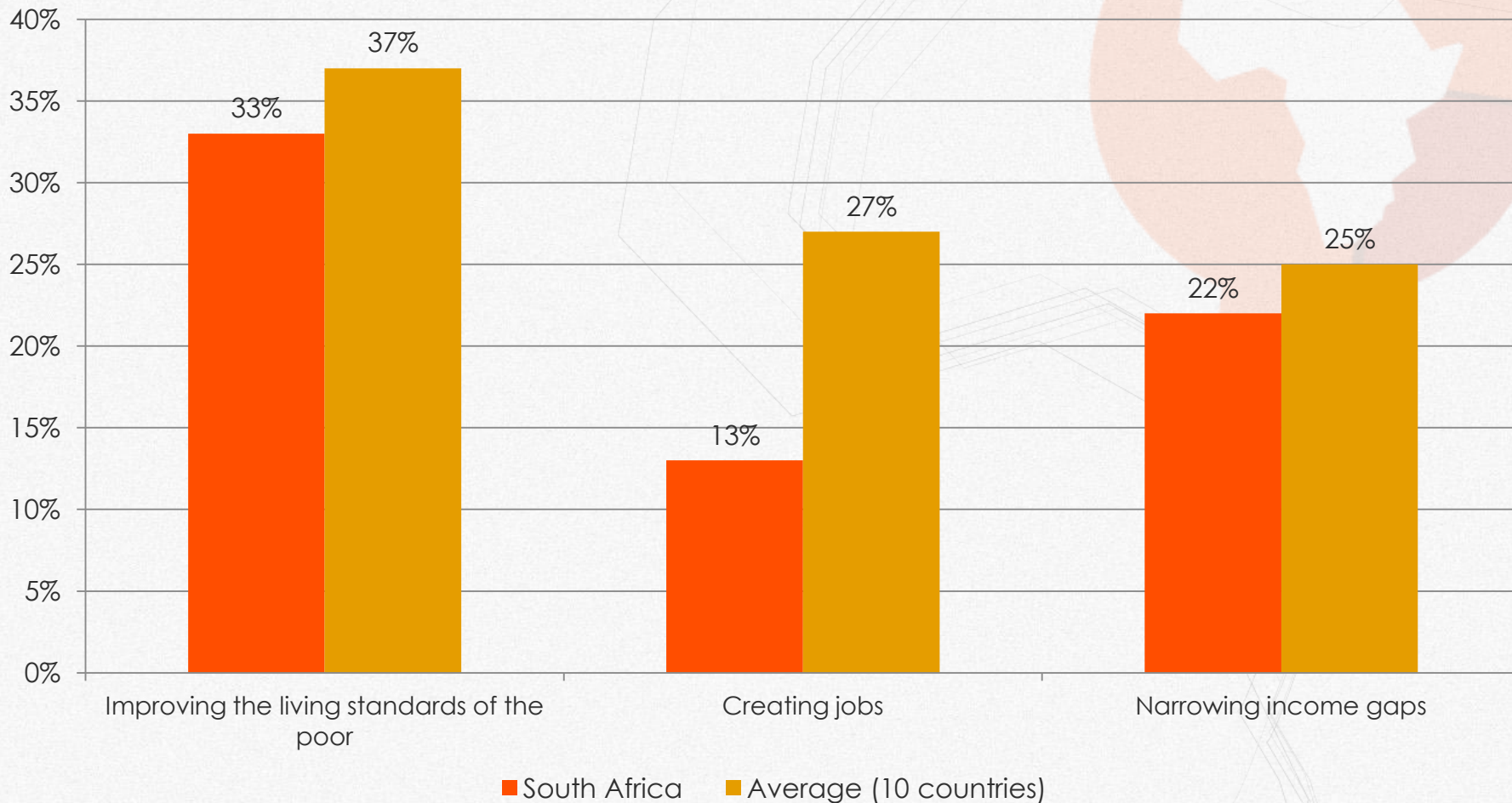
- In 2011, higher proportions of South Africans chose unemployment and crime/security as national priorities than the regional average.
- South Africans gave the government lower ratings on addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality than the regional average.
- Despite its challenges, South Africa is highly regarded as a developmental role model in the region – particularly in countries with which it has strong economic ties.

National Priorities | 2011-2013



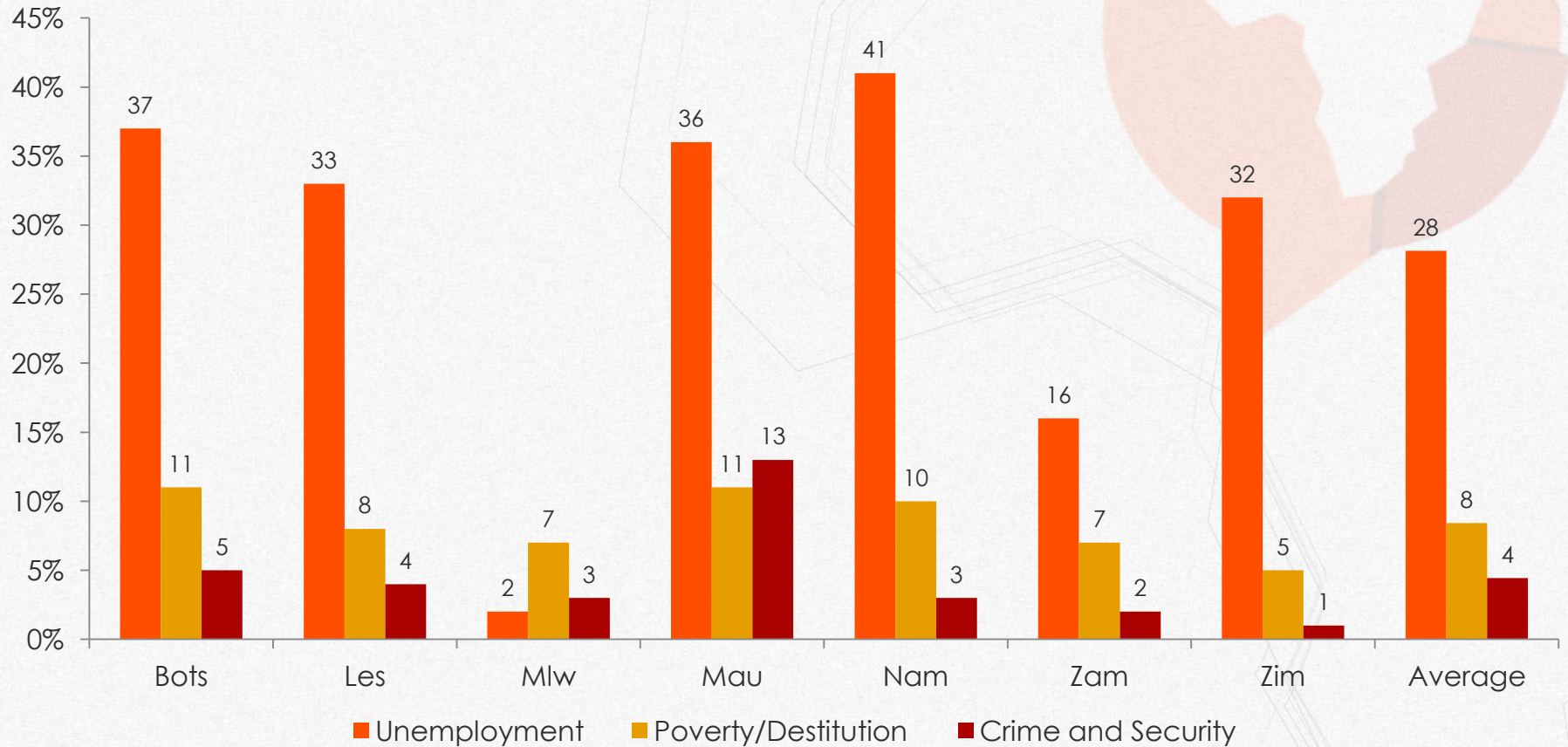
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?

Government Performance | 2011-2013



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? (Fairly well/Very well)

National Priorities | 2014



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?

Best Model for Development (%)

| 2014

	Botswana	Lesotho	Malawi	Mauritius	Namibia	Zambia	Zimbabwe
United States	29	14	24	23	21	23	25
China	24	18	17	15	22	32	19
United Kingdom	10	4	10	26	14	8	8
India	1	2	2	12	2	2	1
South Africa	21	37	30	5	31	17	8
We should follow our own country's model	1	1	2	8	8	6	8

Respondents were asked:

In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country?

Country with the Most Influence (%)

| 2014

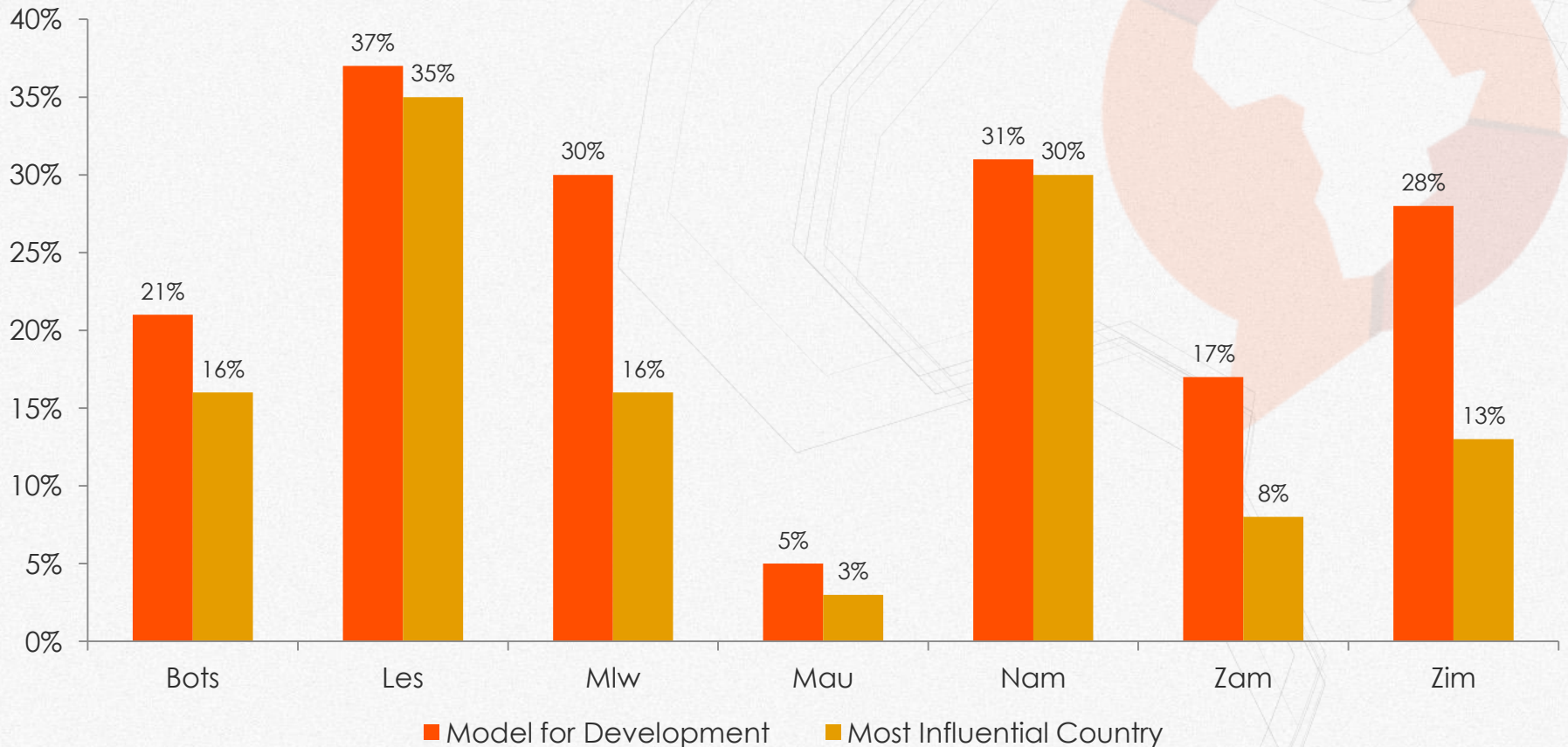


	Botswana	Lesotho	Malawi	Mauritius	Namibia	Zambia	Zimbabwe
United States	28	10	32	11	14	18	15
China	25	30	13	27	35	47	54
United Kingdom	11	2	13	13	7	5	5
India	1	1	1	30	2	3	0
South Africa	16	35	16	3	30	8	13
Intl. Orgs.	5	2	6	7	7	3	28

Respondents were asked:

Which of the following do you think has the most influence on [Country], or haven't you heard enough to say?

Regional Perceptions of South Africa | 2014



Respondents were asked:

In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country?

Which of the following do you think has the most influence on [Country], or haven't you heard enough to say?

Thank you

