

# TATOLI! 2023

## A Survey of the Timorese People

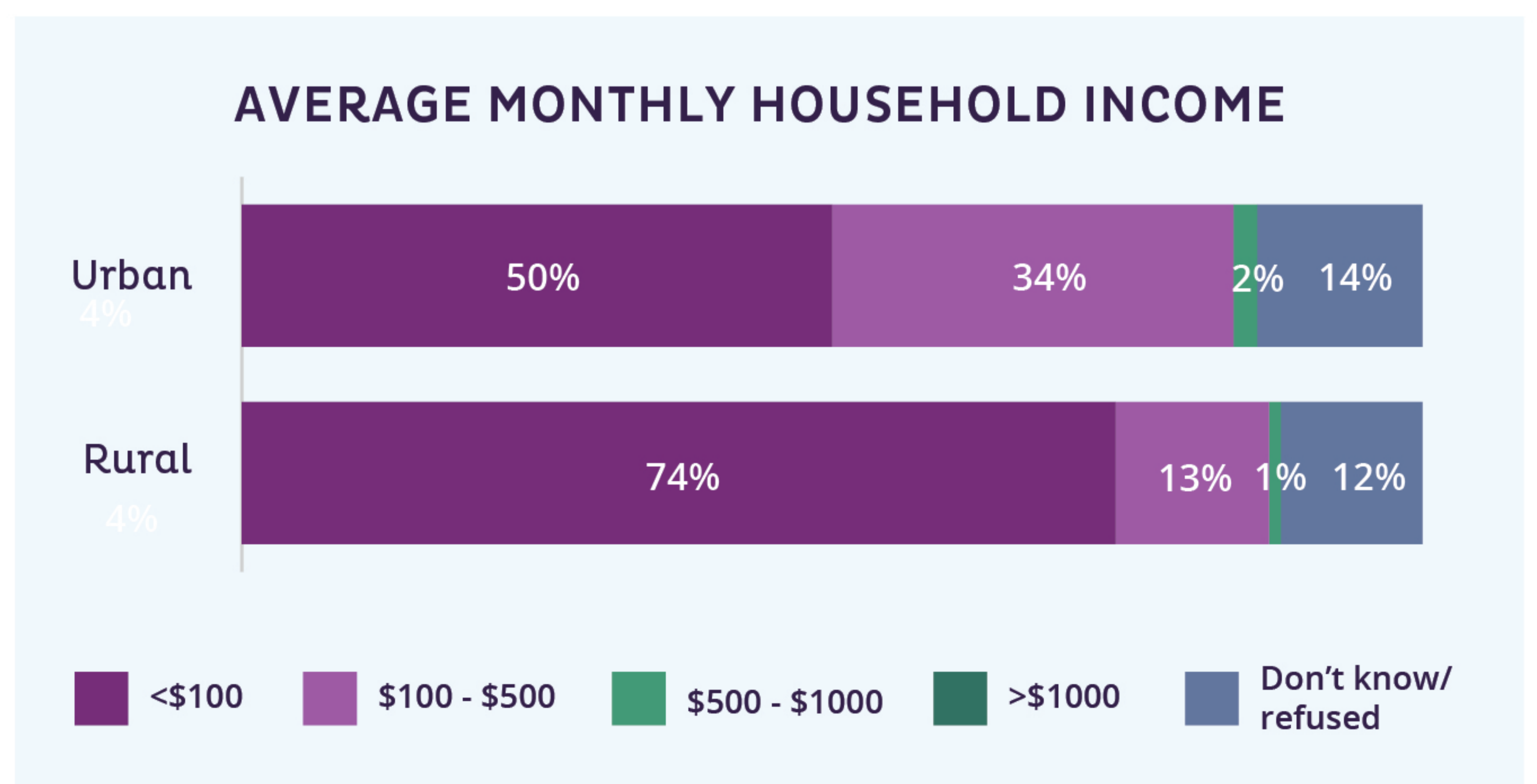
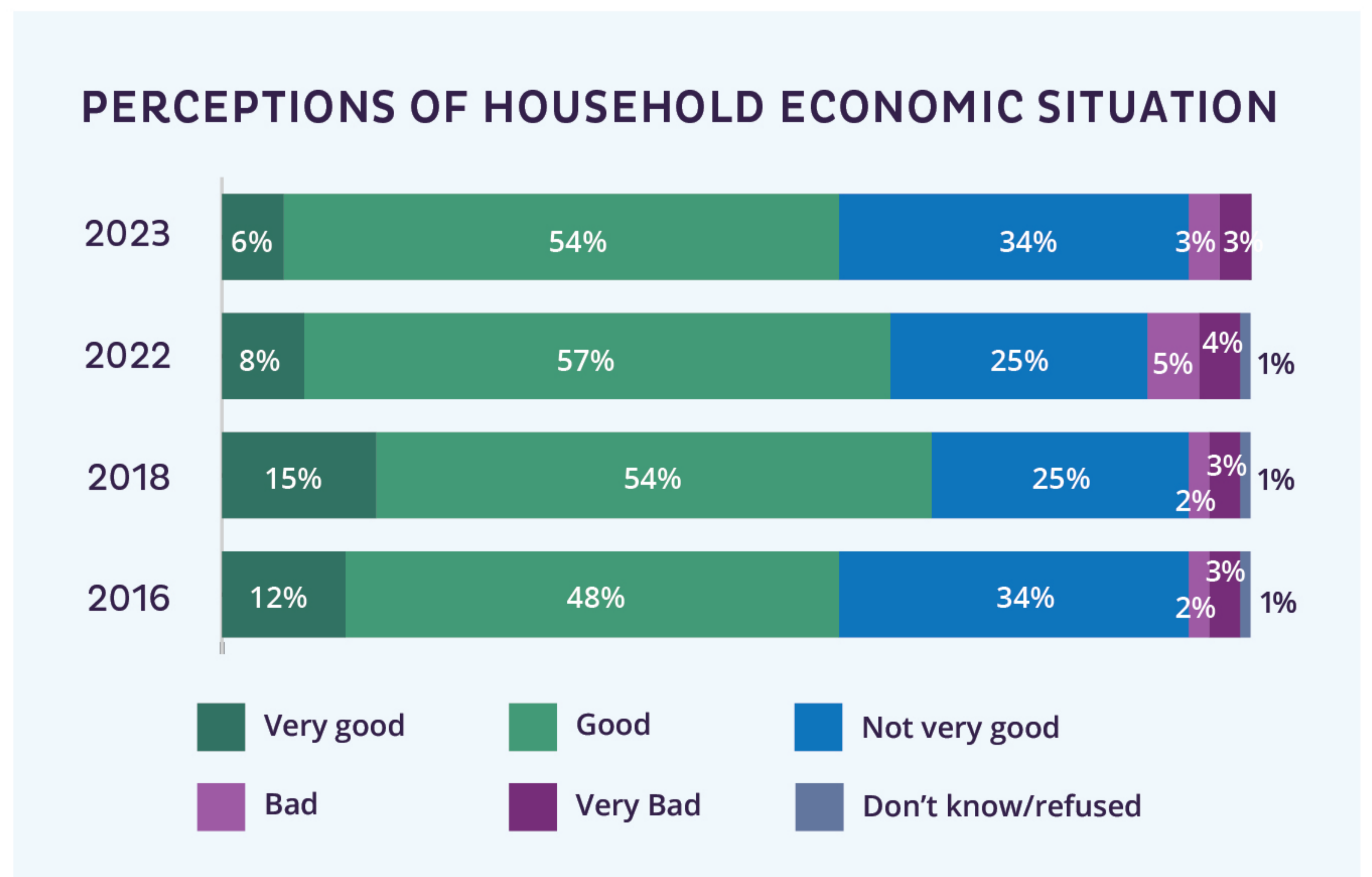
In the 10th anniversary of *Tatoli! A Survey of the Timorese People*, The Asia Foundation is pleased to present results from the national perception survey. There were 3,754 adults (17+) included in this year's survey and information was gathered at the beginning of 2023. Findings reflect the perceptions of citizens in all 14 municipalities and highlight priorities among those living throughout Timor-Leste. These key findings are supplemental to The Asia Foundation's full report on results.

### As the country evolves from the impact of COVID-19, economic hardship remains priority.

Fewer respondents are reporting that their economic situation is 'good' or 'very good' compared to survey data collected in 2022 and 2018.

Significantly fewer citizens reported a monthly income of less than \$100 per month compared to 2022; however, only 2% report earning more than \$500 per month.

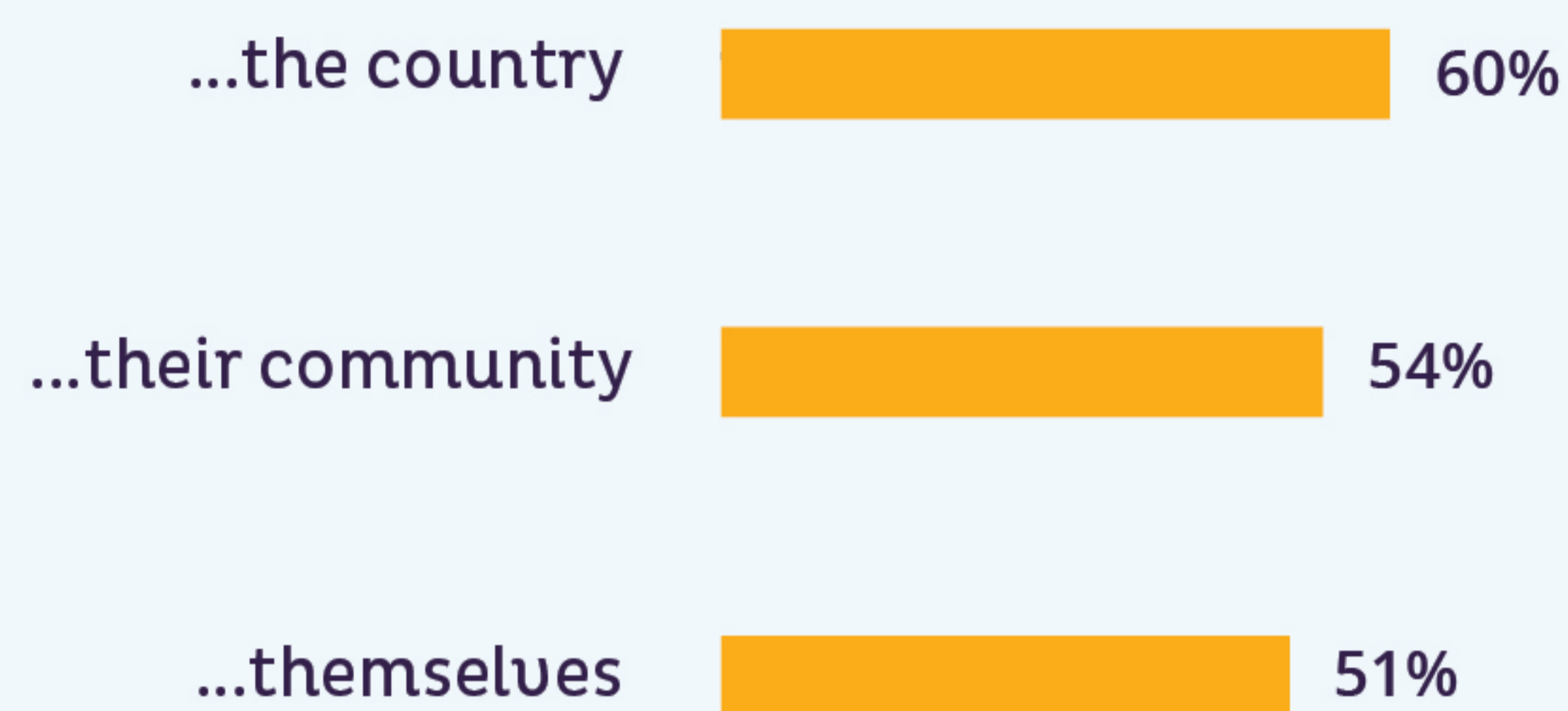
Differences in earnings are vast between people living in rural versus urban areas, with 74% of those living in rural areas earning less than \$100/month. Most (more than 50%) of Timorese earn their income from operating their own farm, while there were significant increases in employment by government and state-owned enterprises compared to 2022 results.



## Respondents identify poverty as the most important issue.

More than half of Timorese view poverty and the most pressing issue facing the country, which was a significant increase from 2022 results. It should be noted that citizens no longer find the broader impact of COVID-19 an important issue, though the economic impact of the pandemic remains.

### RESPONDENTS WHO FIND POVERTY THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING...



## Improved infrastructure continues to be a pressing issue among those living in rural areas.

Most Timorese live in rural areas of the country (74% of those surveyed), yet access to quality infrastructure, including roads, water, electricity, and health clinics, remains lower than those who live in urban areas.

### INFRASTRUCTURE PERCEPTIONS: URBAN VS. RURAL CITIZENS

URBAN			RURAL
84%		There is a health clinic in my community, and I can access it whenever I need to	73%
85%		Children in my household have access to water while at school	67%
53%		I have access to a water pump and/or well and it is well maintained	26%
52%		In my area, bridges are accessible and well-maintained	26%
14%		Not having electricity is a main reason why I cannot access information	34%
45%		Roads should be a top priority for the government	73%
36%		Water should be a top priority for the government	45%
23%		Improving infrastructure is the most important issue for Timor-Leste	46%
11%		Electricity should be a top priority for the government	34%







## Access to information is trending away from television to other sources for citizens in both rural and urban areas.

Television remains the number one resource for getting information in both urban and rural areas (74% urban; 60% rural), but other channels are gaining an increasing amount of attention.

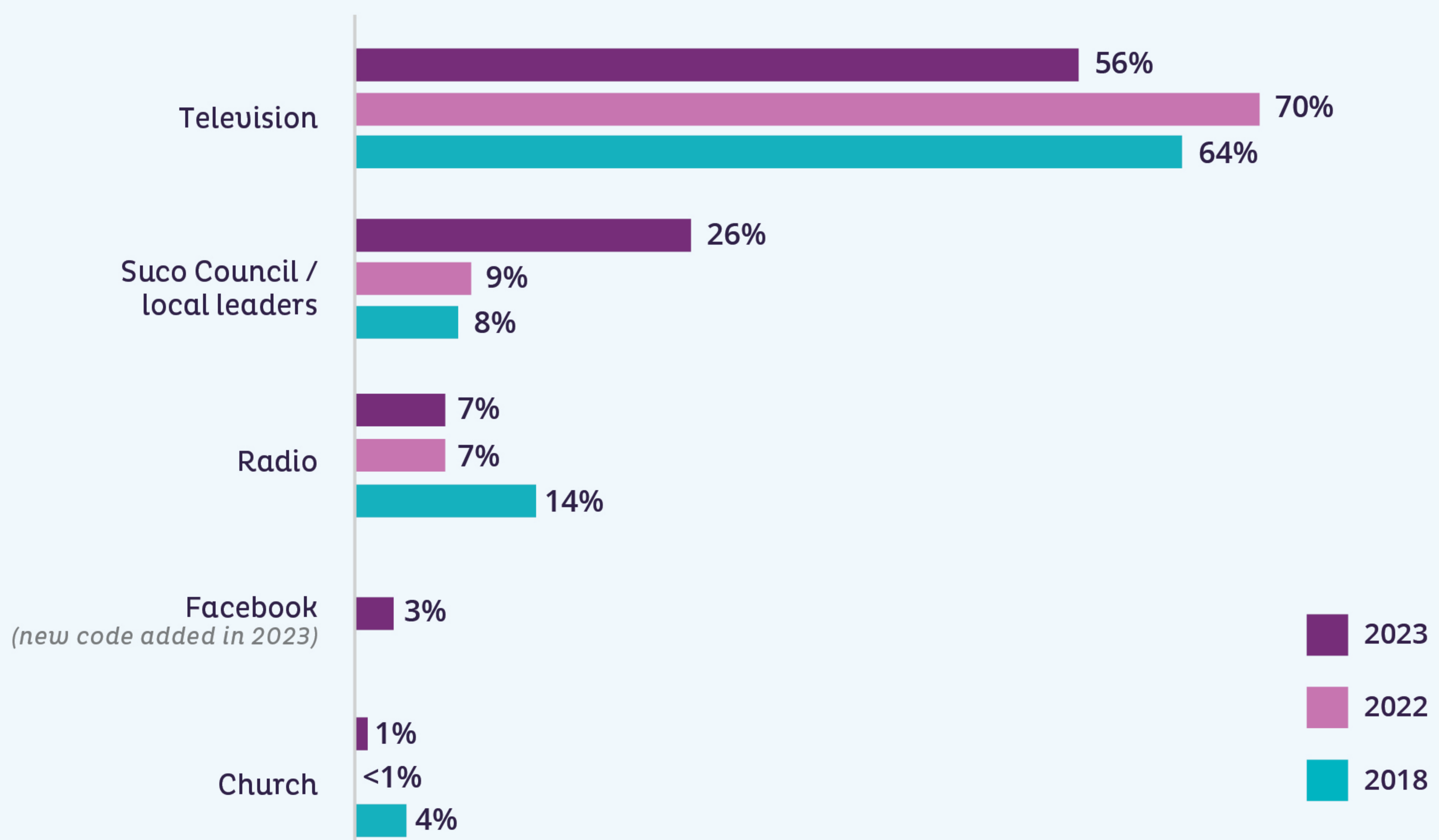
The variety of information sources is growing throughout the country and this year's *Tatoli!* asked participants about the use of social media for the first time in ten years of data collection.

Responses indicate that citizens are losing trust in the information shared via television and seeking information shared by their community leaders. This is especially evident for older citizens living in rural areas, whereas younger citizens living in urban areas continue to place more trust in information shared on television.

### WHICH MEDIA DO YOU USE OFTEN FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION?

URBAN		RURAL
44%	 Facebook	26%
25%	 YouTube	11%
16%	 Chat apps <i>(e.g., WhatsApp)</i>	9%
8%	 Instagram	2%
23%	 Suco Council/ Local Leaders	56%
16%	 Family, friends and neighbors	36%
8%	 Church	13%

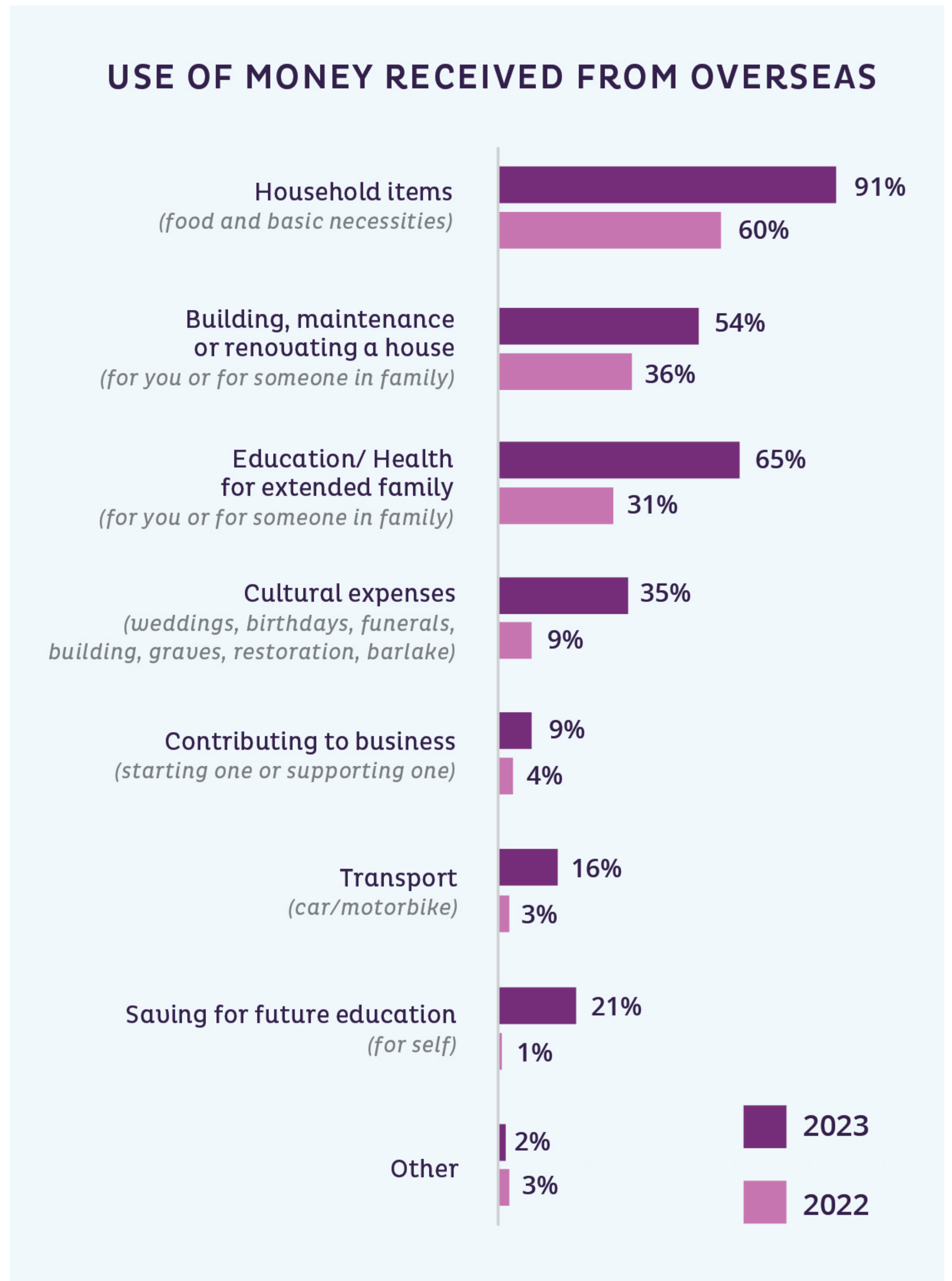
### WHAT SOURCE OF NEWS AND INFORMATION DO YOU TRUST THE MOST?



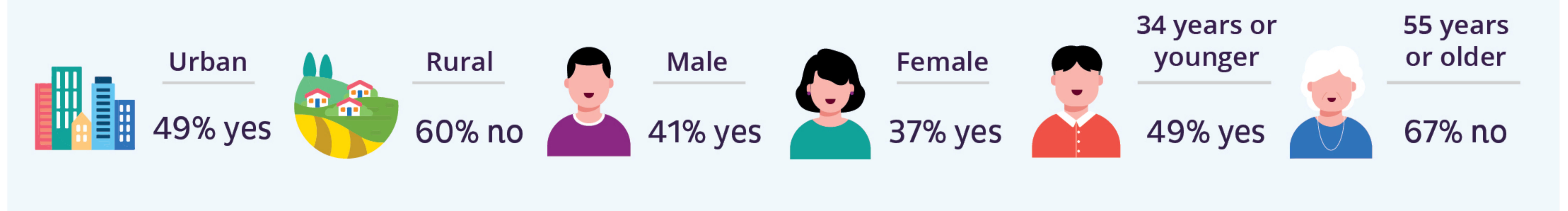
## More Timorese are receiving financial support from friends and family living abroad.

The number of citizens receiving money from abroad doubled (20%, up from 10%) compared to responses from the 2022 survey. Citizens living in urban areas and earning more than \$500/month are more likely to receive this kind of support. Use of these funds increased in all categories compared to 2022, which could be explained by the general increase of funds transferred from abroad.

There is a significant interest in working overseas among young (less than 34 years old) male Timorese living in urban areas. These individuals cite learning about opportunities abroad from government programs (e.g., SEFOPE) and friends or family that are already living overseas. However, the majority of respondents, most likely to be older (35+ years of age) and living in rural areas, are not interested in working overseas.



### IN 2023, WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK OVERSEAS, OR DO YOU ALREADY HAVE A PLAN TO WORK OVERSEAS?



#### ABOUT THE TATOLI! A SURVEY OF THE TIMORESE PEOPLE

Since 2013, The Asia Foundation has gathered the views and opinions of Timor-Leste's population through *Tatoli! A Survey of the Timorese People (Tatoli!)*. This report presents findings of the Foundation's eighth *Tatoli!*, conducted between January and February 2023. Through its partner organizations, the Timor-Leste Research and Advocacy Network (TRAIN), The Asia Foundation interviewed a national representative sample of 3,754 adults (with a ±1.6% margin of error). These key findings are supplementary to the full *Tatoli! 2023* report.

#### ABOUT THE ASIA FOUNDATION

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives and expanding opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Informed by decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region is focused on good governance, women's empowerment and gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international relations.