

World Publics See Government as Responsible For Ensuring Basic Healthcare, Food, and Education Needs

But Big Variations on How Well Their Government is Performing

A new WorldPublicOpinion.org poll of 21 nations around the world finds that large majorities in every country say their government should be responsible for ensuring that citizens can meet their basic needs for food, healthcare, and education.

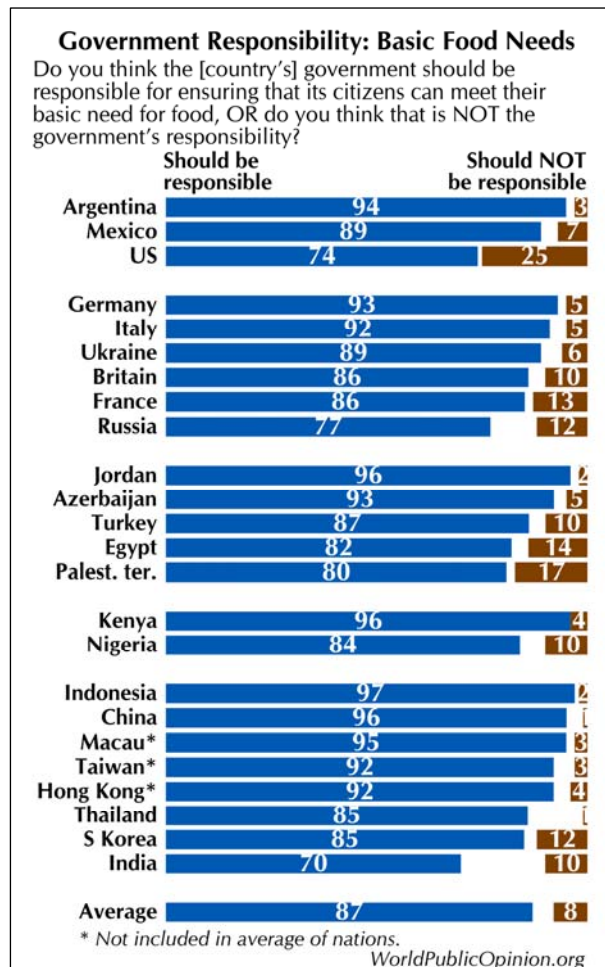
On average, across all countries polled, nine in 10 say that their government has the responsibility to ensure access to food, healthcare, and education.

“Clearly there is universal consensus that governments have a responsibility to address the social and economic needs of their citizens,” comments Steven Kull, director of WorldPublicOpinion.org.

However, the poll found major variations in how well people perceive their governments to be fulfilling these responsibilities. Overall, respondents expressing the highest levels of satisfaction with their government’s performance in meeting such needs are found in China, Great Britain, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories. The lowest levels are found in Russia, Ukraine, Argentina, and Nigeria.

These results show overwhelming public support for the principles presented in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. It states that: “Everyone has the right to...food, medical care...[and] education.” Signatories to the declaration commit

“by progressive measures, national and international, to secure” these rights.



The poll of 21,321 respondents was conducted between July 15 and September 26, 2008 by WorldPublicOpinion.org, a collaborative research project involving research centers from around the world and managed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland. Margins of error range from +/-2 to 4 percent.

Interviews were conducted in 21 nations, including most of the largest nations—China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Russia—as well as Argentina, Azerbaijan, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, the Palestinian Territories, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and Ukraine. Interviews were also conducted in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau. The publics included represent 61 percent of the world population.

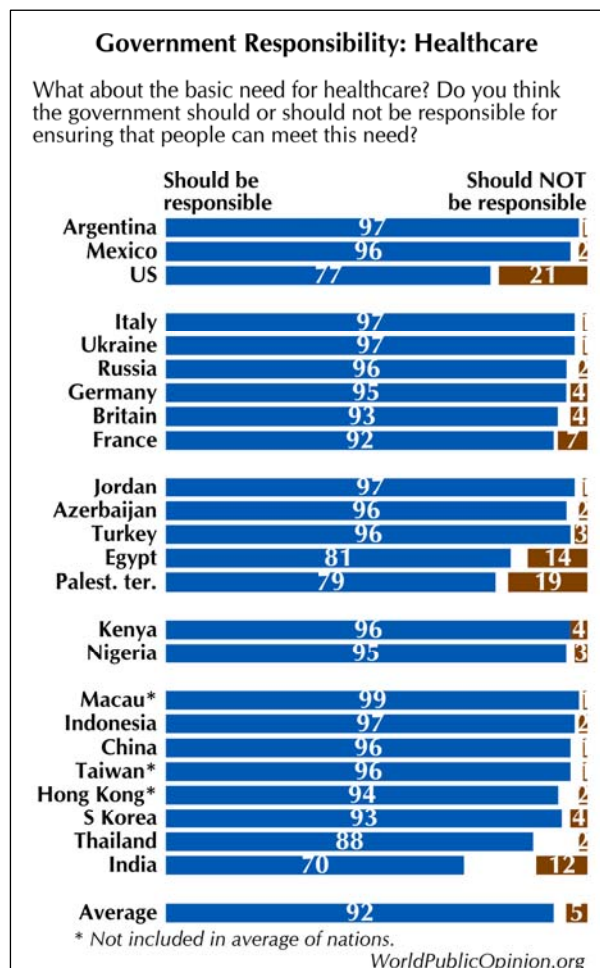
Government Responsibility for Basic Needs

When asked whether their “government should be responsible for ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic need for food,” or whether “you think that is not the government’s responsibility,” majorities of 70 to 97 percent in all 21 countries say government should be responsible for this. The average is 87 percent.

The most universal support is found in eight publics where more than nine in 10 believe the government should be responsible for citizen’s need for food: Indonesia (97%), China (96%), Jordan (96%), Kenya (96%), Argentina (94%), Azerbaijan (93%), Germany (93%), and Italy (92%). Even the lowest majorities saying the government is responsible in this case are well above half, including Indians (70%), Americans (74%), and Russians (77%).

The publics with significant numbers saying the government does not have the responsibility to ensure access to food include the United States (25%), the Palestinian Territories (17%), Egypt (14%), and France (13%).

When asked the same question about “the basic need for healthcare,” majorities of the same magnitude (70-97%) in all countries polled see ensuring that people can meet their need for healthcare as one of government’s responsibilities. The average majority is



92 percent and in all but five countries support is greater than 90 percent.

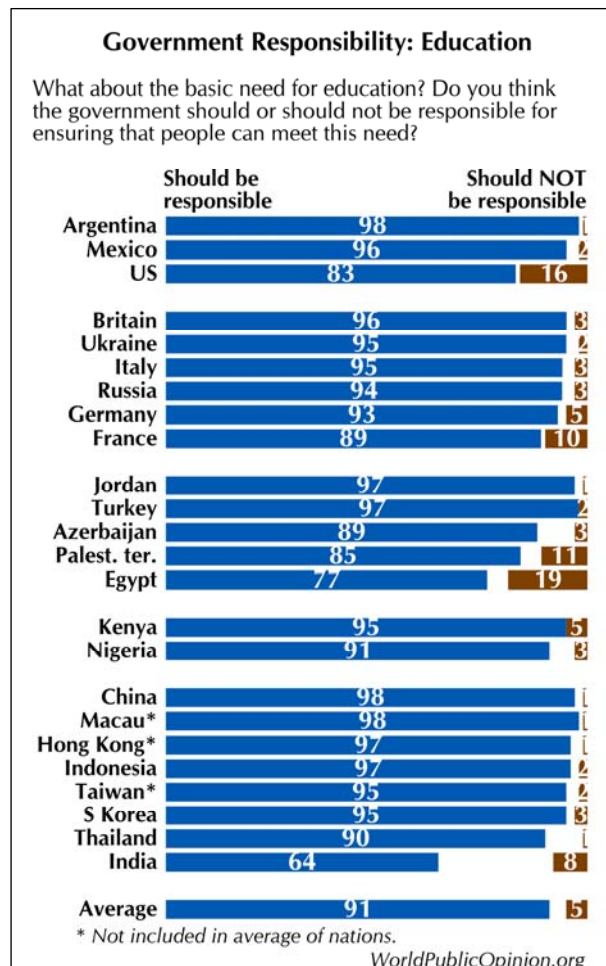
Ninety-seven percent say the government should have this responsibility in Argentina, Italy, Ukraine, Jordan, and Indonesia, and 96 percent agree in Azerbaijan, Mexico, Russia, Turkey, Kenya, and China. Ninety-five percent take this view in Germany and Nigeria, 93 percent in Britain and South Korea, and 92 percent in France. Only India (70%), the United States (77%), the Palestinian Territories (79%), Egypt (81%), and Thailand (88%) have less than 90 percent saying the government has the responsibility to provide healthcare.

In only a few publics do significant numbers reject the government having the responsibility to ensure access for healthcare; 21 percent of Americans say the government is not responsible, followed, again, by Palestinians (19%), and Egyptians (14%).

On education, majorities ranging from 64 to 98 percent also see the government as responsible for ensuring that people can meet their basic needs. The average majority is 91 percent and in only six nations do majorities of less than 90 percent take this position.

Virtually unanimous majorities in Argentina (98%) and China (98%) say the government has the responsibility to ensure its citizens' educational needs are met. In three countries, 97 percent agree (Indonesia, Turkey, and Jordan), 96 percent in two countries (Mexico and Great Britain), 95 percent in four countries (Italy, Ukraine, South Korea, and Kenya), 94 percent in Russia, 93 percent in Germany, and 91 percent in Nigeria.

Very large majorities slightly below the global average say the government has this responsibility in Thailand, (90%), Azerbaijan (89%), France (89%), the Palestinian Territories (85%), and the United States (83%). Egypt (77%) and India (64%) have the smallest majorities in support, although 19 percent in India volunteer “depends” as their answer.



Egyptians have the largest minority saying the government is not responsible for education (19%), followed by Americans (16%).

These results show overwhelming public support for the standards offered by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 25 states that: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care.” Article 26 adds that: “Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary stages.” (The Declaration does not imply that state education should be the only means to achieve universal education; in fact, the article also states that “parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”)

Assessments of Government Efforts

Respondents were asked how well they feel the government is ensuring that people can meet their basic needs for food, education, and healthcare. They were not asked to assess how well their government was fulfilling these responsibilities in absolute terms, but rather in the context of “the limits of the[ir] ...government’s resources.” Broadly, publics answered in ways that clearly distinguished between different responsibilities and took into account constraints on the government’s means. Improvements over recent decades, as measured by bodies such as the World Health Organization, seem to have been registered by publics.

The UN Development Programme rates 177 countries by their level of human development (the Human Development Index). In reporting this poll, countries that receive a ranking of 1-35 were classified as “developed,” 36-80 as “middle tier” and 81-177 as “developing.”

Among the six developed countries in the poll, the one public that gives their government positive ratings in all categories is Great Britain. The United States gets positive ratings in regard to food and education, but not healthcare. Germans give positive ratings for food and healthcare, but not for education. The French give positive ratings for education and healthcare, but not for food. South Koreans give a positive rating for education, but not for food or healthcare. Italians give poor rating for food and healthcare, and divided ratings for education.

Among the five middle tier countries, views are consistently negative. Argentines, Russians, and Ukrainians give their countries negative ratings in all areas. Mexicans are negative in regard to education and food, though positive about healthcare. Thais give negative ratings on food and healthcare, though lean positively on education.

Interestingly, views tend to be the most positive in the 10 developing nations—underscoring how governments are assessed relative to their efforts and progress rather than in absolute terms. In China, India, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories, majorities give positive ratings for all categories. In Turkey, Indonesia, and Kenya majorities are satisfied in all areas except food. Azerbaijanis are satisfied in all areas except

healthcare. Egyptians are only satisfied in the area of education, while Nigerians are dissatisfied in all areas.

Assessments of Government Efforts on Food

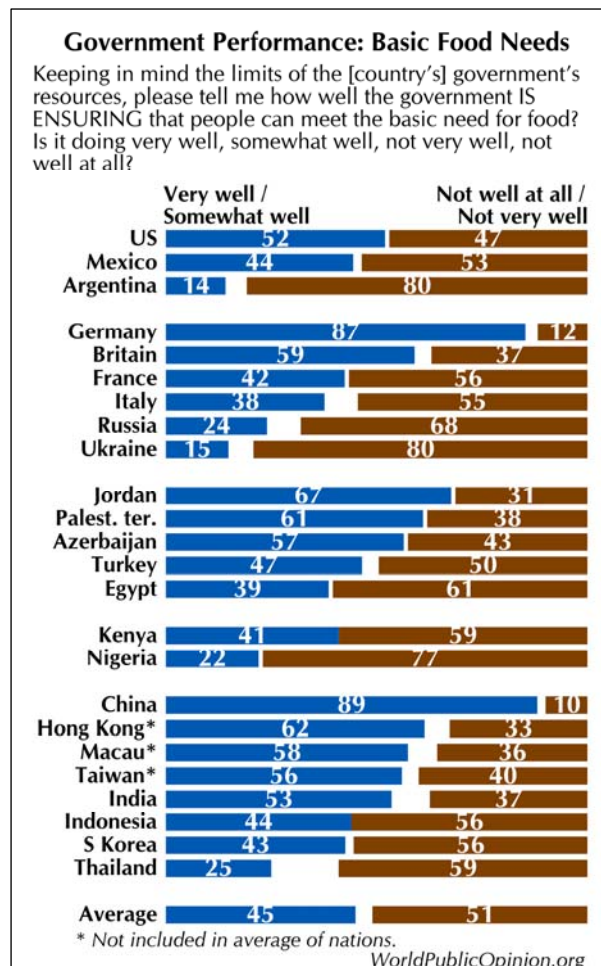
Perhaps in response to concerns about rising food costs, access to food is the need with the largest number of countries (12 out of 21) saying their government is doing a poor job. On average, 51 percent say their government is not ensuring citizens can meet this need well, while 45 percent say it is.

The most negative perceptions of government performance on meeting citizens' need for food come from the middle tier of countries, with very large majorities in Argentina (80% not well), Ukraine (80%), and Russia (68%) having this view. It is notable that two post-Soviet states give their national governments very low marks on food security—particularly Russia, whose government leadership receives high marks in general in other polls. Modest majorities of Thais (59%) and Mexicans (53%) also agree their government is doing a poor job.

Among the 10 developing countries, perceptions range from quite negative to very positive on the issue of food. Most in five developing countries rate their governments poorly on ensuring access to food, including Nigeria (77%), Egypt (61%), Kenya (59%), Indonesia (56%), and Turkey (50%).

However, an overwhelming 89 percent in China say their government is doing a good job ensuring citizens' access to food. China's overall increase in standard of living has been widely reported; its GNP per capita has grown fivefold since 1990.

Publics polled in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau give more tepid, but still positive evaluations. In Taiwan, a 56-percent majority says their government is doing a good job ensuring citizens' access to food, though 40 percent say "not well." In Hong Kong a 62-percent majority agrees (33% not well), and in Macau a 58-percent majority agrees (36% not well).



Also giving their governments a positive rating on ensuring its citizens' access to food are 67 percent of Jordanians, 61 percent of Palestinians, 57 percent of Azerbaijanis, and a modest majority of Indians (53%). Jordan had less than 2 percent of its people living below the world poverty line (less than \$1 a day) in 2003, and has been successful in reducing the percentage of small children who are underweight.

Opinions also range widely among the six developed countries in the poll, with three publics criticizing their governments for performing poorly in meeting this need: France (56% not well), South Korea (56%) and Italy (55%). In contrast, a very large majority in Germany (87%) says its government is meeting this need well, as do smaller majorities in Great Britain (59%) and the United States (52%).

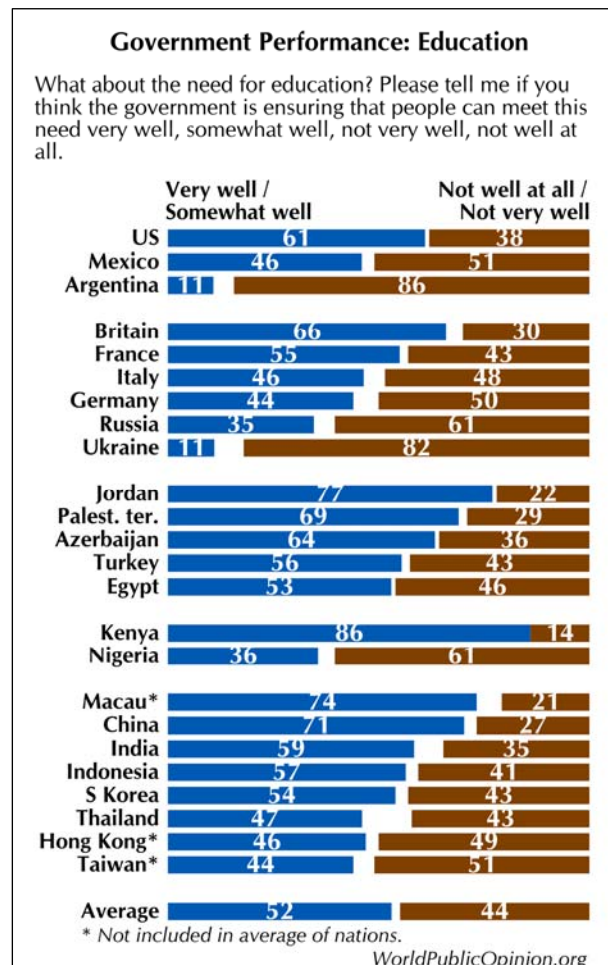
Assessments of Government Efforts on Education

On the topic of education, global publics are somewhat more positive. Fourteen out of 21 publics polled have majorities or pluralities saying the government is doing a good job ensuring citizens can meet this need. Publics in six others have majorities or pluralities saying it is not doing this very well, while one public is divided. On average, a slight majority (52%) says their government is doing a good job ensuring citizens can meet their need for education, while 44 percent say it is not doing this well.

Nine of the 10 developing countries polled say the government is doing a good job ensuring its citizens can meet their educational needs. Kenyans are the most positive (86% well), followed by Jordanians (77%), Chinese (71%), the Palestinians (69%), and Azerbaijanis (64%).

This overwhelming majority in Kenya may be responding still to the 2003 introduction of free, universal primary education, when, in one day, 1.3 million new students were brought into Kenya's classrooms. By 2005 enrollment reached almost 80 percent of children, despite the great challenges faced by the country's educational resources. High approval in Jordan and the Palestinian Territories may be associated with the expansion of education since the 1990s.

Majorities in India (59%), Indonesia (57%), Turkey (56%), and Egypt (53%) also say the government is doing this at



least somewhat well. Only Nigerians have a majority (61%) saying the government is doing a poor job ensuring educational needs among this group of countries.

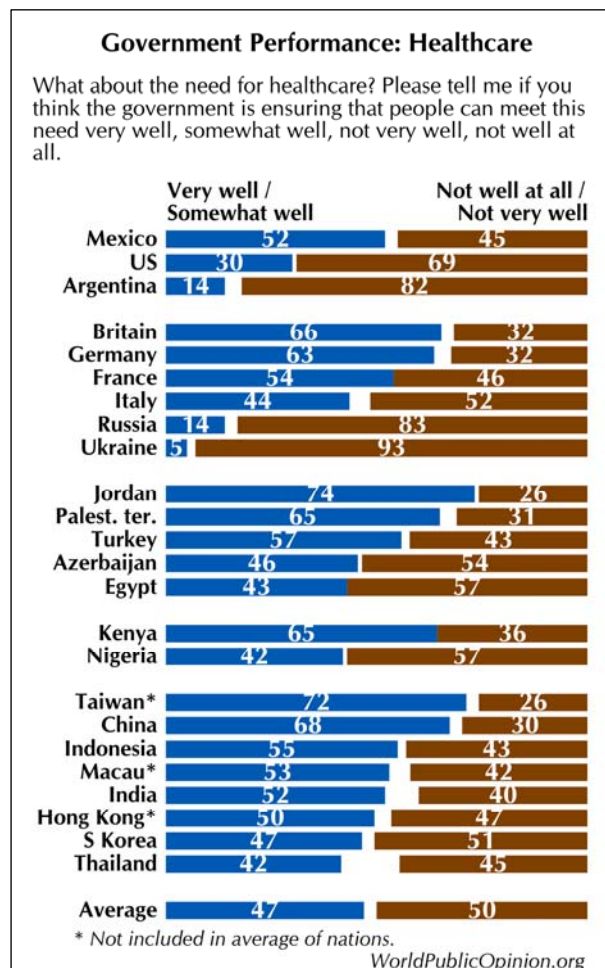
Developed countries have mixed views on their government’s performance on ensuring its citizens’ educational needs. In four countries, majorities say their government is meeting this need well: Great Britain (66%), the United States (61%), France (55%), and South Korea (54%). However, half in Germany (50%) believes their government is not doing a good job ensuring its citizens can meet their basic needs for education. Opinion in Italy is divided (46% well, 48% not well), where school dropout rates are higher than the European Union as a whole and national reform of its system is underway.

Again, the most negative perceptions of government performance come from the middle tier countries, where the worst ratings are given by Argentines (86%) and Ukrainians (82%). Majorities of Russians (61%) and Mexicans (51%) also say their governments are doing a poor job. A plurality of Thais (47%) tend to think that their government is performing well, although a high 43-percent say that is not performing well.

Assessments of Government Efforts on Healthcare

Global perceptions on government performance in ensuring healthcare are generally divided, although 11 publics have majorities saying the government is doing a good job, compared to nine that say it is doing poorly, with one country divided. On average, 50 percent say their government is not ensuring citizens can meet their healthcare needs well, while 47 percent say it is doing well.

Most developing countries say that their government is ensuring that its citizens can meet their healthcare needs at least somewhat well, with seven out of 10 having majorities with this view. Jordanians rate their government’s performance most positively (74% well), followed by the Chinese (68%), the Palestinians (65%), Kenyans (65%), Turks (57%), Indonesians (55%), and Indians (52%). Jordan’s per capita expenditure on health grew 50 percent between 2000 and 2005, and its infant mortality rate was one-third lower in 2006 than it had been 15 years earlier. Its public appears to see and applaud



these efforts.

Egyptians and Nigerians are the most negative among this group, with 57 percent of each public saying the government is not doing its job well on healthcare. Azerbaijanis are close behind with 54 percent holding this view.

Four out of the five middle tier countries say their government is doing a poor job ensuring its citizens can meet their healthcare needs, including an overwhelming 93 percent in Ukraine, 83 percent in Russia, and 82 percent in Argentina. Thais lean slightly negative: 45 percent say their government is doing a poor job, while 42 percent say it is performing well. Of this group, only Mexico has a modest majority (52%) saying the government is doing a good job meeting this need.

Developed countries are somewhat divided on how well their governments are doing on this issue, with three countries rating their governments positively and three negatively. Majorities in Great Britain (66%), Germany (63%), and France (54%) say their government is doing a good job. Conversely, nearly seven in 10 Americans (69%) say their government is not doing this well. Slight majorities in Italy (52%) and South Korea (51%) also rate their government negatively.

DETAILED RESULTS:

AMERICAS:

ARGENTINA

[Graciela Romer y Asociados](#)

While Argentines are nearly unanimous in saying the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens can meet their basic needs, they are very critical of their government's success in doing so in the areas of education, healthcare, and food. Argentines are the most negative about their government's ability to meet educational needs among countries with a similar level of economic development.

- Near-unanimous majorities of Argentines say the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens' needs in education (98%), healthcare (97%), and food (94%).
- Argentines give their government very poor marks on ensuring citizens can meet their needs for education (86% not well), healthcare (82%), and food (80%).

MEXICO

[Reforma](#)

Mexicans give their government a poor evaluation on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for food and education, but their views are less negative compared to those in countries with similar levels of economic development. Like most publics, Mexicans overwhelmingly agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their needs for healthcare and education, as well as food.

- Near unanimous majorities of Mexicans say their government is responsible for ensuring its citizens meet their needs for education (96%) and healthcare (96%), while nearly nine in 10 (89%) say the government also has this responsibility on the need for food.
- Modest majorities of Mexicans say the government is doing a poor job of ensuring citizens can meet their need for food (53%) and education (51%); however, a majority (52%) believes it is doing a good job ensuring citizens can meet their need for healthcare.

UNITED STATES

[Program on International Policy Attitudes](#) / [Knowledge Networks](#)

Americans broadly agree their government has the responsibility to meet the basic needs of their citizens for food, healthcare, and education, but these majorities, while large, are lower than in other countries. Americans evaluate their government the most negatively

on healthcare out of any developed country polled, although they are more positive in their evaluations of government efforts on education and food.

- Large majorities of Americans say that the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens have access to education (83%), healthcare (77%), and food (74%), although significant numbers disagree (education, 16%; healthcare, 21%; food, 25%).
- Majorities of Americans say their government is doing a good job on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for education (61%) and food (52%), however nearly seven in 10 evaluate the government negatively on healthcare (69% not well).

EUROPE:

FRANCE

[Efficiency 3](#)

Among developed countries, the French are the most critical of their government's performance in ensuring its citizens' can meet their basic need for food, but give positive evaluations of their government's performance on healthcare and education. The French broadly support the government having the responsibility to ensure citizens can meet these basic needs.

- The French widely agree the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (92%), education (89%), and food (86%).
- Majorities say their government is doing a good job ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for education (55%) and healthcare (54%), but 56% say their government is not performing well on ensuring access to food.

GERMANY

[Ri*Questa GmbH](#)

Like all other publics, Germans show widespread support for the government having the responsibility to ensure citizens' basic needs for food, healthcare, and education. Among developed countries, Germans rate their government most positively on meeting citizens' need for food, but give more negative ratings on education.

- More than nine in 10 Germans say their government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (95%), education (93%), and food (93%).
- Half of Germans negatively evaluate their government's performance on ensuring that people can meet their basic need for education (50% not well). Yet a large majority evaluates it positively on the issue of food (87% well) and more than three in five (63%) do so on healthcare.

GREAT BRITAIN

[Chatham House \(Royal Institute of International Affairs\)](#)

Britons are the only public among those developed countries polled that evaluates their government positively on ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic needs for food, healthcare, and education. They also show widespread agreement that the government has the responsibility to meet these needs.

- Britons overwhelmingly agree their government has the responsibility to meet citizens' basic needs for education (96%), healthcare (93%), and food (86%).
- Majorities positively rate the British government's performance on meeting basic needs for education (66% well), healthcare (66%), and food (59%).

ITALY

[Demoskopea](#)

Italians show near-unanimity on the government being responsible to help citizens meet their basic needs for food, education, and healthcare. Among developed countries, they are more negative on how well their government is doing meeting citizens' need for food and healthcare, and the only public among those developed countries polled that is divided regarding its government's performance in regards to education.

- More than nine in 10 Italians agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (97%), education (95%), and food (92%).
- Majorities criticize the Italian government's performance on meeting citizens' needs for food (55%) and healthcare (52%), but they are divided on how well the government has been ensuring that citizens can meet their need for education (46% well, 48% not well).

RUSSIA

[Levada Center](#)

Like other countries with similar levels of economic development, Russians negatively evaluate their government's performance on ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic needs, and give some of the most negative ratings on healthcare. Russians show widespread consensus that the government has the responsibility for healthcare and educational needs. On food, they agree that the government should ensure that its citizens can meet this need, but to a more modest degree than other publics.

- Russians near-unanimously support the government having the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (96%) and education (94%), while more than three in four (77%) say the government also has this responsibility regarding food.

- Majorities judge the Russian government poorly on meeting citizens' basic needs in all three areas, including healthcare (83% not well), food (68%), and education (61%).

UKRAINE

[Kiev International Institute of Sociology](#)

Ukrainians give the most negative evaluations of their government's performance on meeting its citizens' needs for healthcare among countries with a similar level of economic development, and are also among the most negative on food and education. Among Ukrainians there is a very broad consensus that the government should be responsible for meeting citizens' needs for healthcare and education.

- Ukrainians show widespread agreement that the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens' basic needs for healthcare (97%), education (95%), and food (89%).
- An overwhelming majority of Ukrainians (93%) rate their government negatively on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for healthcare, and very large majorities also give negative evaluations for government performance on education (82%) and food (80%).

MIDDLE EAST/EURASIA:

AZERBAIJAN

International Center for Social Research

Azerbaijan is the only developing country polled whose public is critical of its government's performance on healthcare, but positive about its performance on food and education. They widely support the principle that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet these basic needs.

- Azerbaijanis overwhelmingly say the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (96%), food (93%), and education (89%).
- Majorities approve of their government's performance on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for education (64% well) and food (57%), but a majority criticizes its efforts to ensure that citizens can meet their healthcare needs (54% not well).

EGYPT

Attitude Market Research

While Egyptians share the belief of most publics that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet certain basic needs, agreement on the responsibility to meet education needs is less widespread than in other publics polled.

Among developing countries, Egyptians are the most negative on the government's performance on healthcare, and among the most negative on the need for food.

- Large majorities of Egyptians agree that the government should have the responsibility to meet citizens' basic needs for food (82%), healthcare (81%), and education (77%).
- A majority of Egyptians (53%) rates the government positively on its performance on handling citizens' need for education, but they are negative on how well the government is handling the need for food (61% not well) and healthcare (57%).

JORDAN

[Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan](#)

Among developing countries, Jordanians give their government some of the most positive ratings for its performance on ensuring citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare, education, and food. Jordanians also show some of the highest levels of consensus that their government has the responsibility to meet these needs.

- Jordanians are nearly unanimous in their belief that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (97%), food (96%), and education (96%).
- Majorities rate their government quite positively on handling citizens' basic needs for education (77% well), healthcare (74%), and food (67%).

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

[Palestinian Center for Public Opinion](#)

Among developing nations, Palestinians give some of the most positive evaluations for how well it is helping citizens meet their basic needs for food, healthcare, and education, considering the limits of the government's resources. Palestinians also demonstrate a widespread belief that the government has the responsibility to see that its citizens can meet these basic needs.

- Very large majorities of Palestinians agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their needs for education (85%), food (80%), and healthcare (79%).
- Asked to consider the limits of their government's resources, majorities of Palestinians positively rate their government's performance on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for education (69%), healthcare (65%), and food (61%).

TURKEY

[ARI Foundation / Infakto Research Workshop](#)

Among developing countries, Turks are one of five publics that negatively rate their government's performance on meeting its citizens' needs for food, but criticism is less widespread than in the other developing countries polled. Turks have some of the most widespread agreement that the government is responsible for ensuring that its citizens can meet their healthcare and education needs.

- Turks overwhelmingly believe that their government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for education (97%), healthcare (96%), and food (87%).
- Majorities in Turkey evaluate their government's performance positively in the areas of healthcare (57% well) and education (56%), but half (50% not well) give it a negative rating for how well it is ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic need for food.

AFRICA:

KENYA

[Research Path Associates Limited](#)

Among those developing countries polled, Kenyans show the highest approval for their government's performance on ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic need for education, but are somewhat more critical of their government's performance in ensuring that its citizens can meet their need for food. Kenyans show some of the highest levels of consensus that their government has the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet these needs.

- Kenyans near-unanimously agree that their government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for food (96%), healthcare (96%), and education (95%).
- Asked to consider the limits of government resources, a very large majority of Kenyans (86%) say their government is doing a good job ensuring people can meet their basic need for education, along with 65% that say it is doing a good job on healthcare. However, 59% say it is not doing a good job ensuring that citizens can meet their basic need for food.

NIGERIA

Market Trends Research International

Among those developing countries polled, Nigerians have the most negative views of their government's performance on ensuring that citizens can meet their need for food, and they are the only developing country that evaluates their government negatively on education. Like other publics, Nigerians do show overwhelming consensus that the government has the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet all of these needs.

- Very large majorities of Nigerians believe that the government has the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (95%), education (91%), and food (84%).
- More than three in four Nigerians (77%) rate their government negatively on how well they are ensuring that citizens can meet their need for food, while smaller majorities say the government is also doing poorly on education (61% not well) and healthcare (57%).

ASIA/PACIFIC:

CHINA - Mainland

[Fudan Media and Public Opinion Research Center \(FMORC\), Fudan University](#)

Among developing countries, mainland Chinese give their government the most positive ratings on its ability to ensure that its citizen can meet their basic need for food, and are among the most positive about healthcare and education. In addition, as compared to other regions of China, the majorities rating the government efforts positively are higher on the mainland in almost all areas, except for the slightly more positive evaluation of the local government on helping meet education needs in Macau and healthcare needs in Taiwan. Overwhelming majorities on the mainland, as in other regions, believe that the government has a responsibility to help its citizens meet these needs.

- On mainland China, very large majorities believe their government should help its citizens meet their basic needs for food (96%), healthcare (96%), and education (98%).
- Nearly nine in 10 believe the government's efforts to ensure access to food to be successful (89%), while the Chinese government also receives positive ratings on its ability to help citizens meet their basic need for healthcare (68%) and education (71%).

HONG KONG

[Hong Kong University Public Opinion Programme](#)

Chinese in Hong Kong evaluate their local government positively on helping citizens meet their basic needs of food and healthcare, although the majorities are more modest than those on the mainland. However, as opposed to positive responses on the mainland and in Macau, Chinese living in Hong Kong are divided on the local government's ability to meet its citizens' education needs. As in all regions in China, overwhelming majorities believe that the government has a responsibility to help its citizens meet these needs.

- Chinese living in Hong Kong respond near-unanimously that their local government should ensure that its citizens have access to healthcare (94%), and education (97%), and food (92%).
- Asked to rate their government's ability to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs, Chinese in Hong Kong respond positively on food (62%), while half

(50%) rate the government positively on healthcare. Views on education are divided, however, with 46% responding favorably and 49% responding negatively.

INDIA

[Centre for Voting Opinion & Trends in Election Research \(CVoter\)](#)

Although Indians largely say the government has the responsibility to ensure that people can meet their basic needs for food, education, and healthcare, these majorities are somewhat smaller than in other publics polled. Among developing countries, Indians are one of four publics rating their government positively on ensuring access to food, though only a modest majority takes this view.

- Seven in 10 in India agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens can meet their basic need for food (70%) and healthcare (70%), while 64 percent agree that this is also true of education (19% say it “depends”).
- Asked to consider the limits of their government’s resources, modest majorities of Indians rate its performance positively on ensuring that its citizens can meet its education (59% well), food (53%) and healthcare (52%) needs.

INDONESIA

[Synovate](#)

Among all nations polled, Indonesians have some of the largest majorities in support of the government being responsible for ensuring that citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare, education, and food. Among developing countries, Indonesians rate their government relatively well on education, and are among the five developing countries polled whose respondents are critical of their government on the issue of food.

- Indonesians near-unanimously believe that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for food (97%), education (97%) and healthcare (97%).
- Majorities of Indonesians say their government is doing a good job on ensuring citizens can meet their needs for education (57% well) and healthcare (55%), but a majority rates its performance poorly on meeting basic needs for food (56% not well).

MACAU

[University of Macau](#)

Chinese in Macau rate their local government the most positively on its ability to meet its citizens’ education needs compared to other regions of China. Similar to the other regions, those living in Macau evaluate their local government’s ability to ensure access to food and healthcare positively, although the majorities are more modest than on the

mainland. Overwhelming majorities believe that the government has a responsibility to help its citizens meet these needs.

- Chinese living in Macau respond near-unanimously that their local government should ensure that its citizens have access to healthcare (99%), education (98%), and food (95%).
- Asked to consider the limits of their local government's resources, Chinese living in Macau rate their government quite positively on its ability to ensure that citizens can meet their need for education (74% well), food (58%), and healthcare (53%).

SOUTH KOREA

[East Asia Institute](#)

Among developed countries, South Koreans give their government the second-most critical scores on the issues of both healthcare and food. South Koreans widely endorse the principle that government should be responsible for ensuring that citizens can meet these basic needs.

- Overwhelming majorities in South Korea agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs for education (95%), healthcare (93%), and food (85%).
- Asked to consider the limits of their government's resources, majorities negatively rate their government on ensuring that citizens can meet their needs for food (56% not well) and healthcare (51%), but the government receives a positive evaluation on the issue of education (54% well).

TAIWAN

[TVBS](#)

Taiwanese have the most positive evaluation of the government's performance on healthcare among all regions of China polled, though they (along with Hong Kong) rate their government negatively on education. They overwhelmingly support the government having the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet these needs.

- More than nine in 10 in Taiwan endorse the principle that the government should have the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (96%), education (95%), and food (92%).
- A large majority (72%) rates their government positively on ensuring that citizens can meet their needs for healthcare, while a more modest majority says the government is also performing well on the issue of food (56%). However, a slight majority (51%) gives a negative evaluation to the government on the issue of education.

THAILAND

[ABAC Poll Research Center, Assumption University](#)

Thais tend to approve of their government's performance on education and give the only positive evaluation on this area among publics with similar levels of development. They are also critical of their government's performance on ensuring citizens can meet their need for food. They widely support the principle that the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens can meet these basic needs.

- Very large majorities in Thailand endorse the principle that the government has the responsibilities to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs for education (90%), healthcare (88%), and food (85%).
- Nearly six in 10 (59%) express disapproval about their government's efforts to ensure citizens can meet their basic needs for food, while they lean negatively on how well the government is doing on the issue of healthcare (42% well, 45% not well), though a plurality (47%) says the government is doing a good job ensuring citizens can meet their need for education.