

Afrobarometer
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News release

Most Africans say climate change is hurting agricultural production and quality of life, requires action

More than two-thirds of Africans say climate change is making their lives worse and must be stopped, Afrobarometer analyses show.

The largest-ever survey of Africans' perceptions of climate change, conducted in 34 countries in 2016/2018, found widespread reports of worsening quality of life and deteriorating conditions for agricultural production, as well as limited "climate change literacy" among average citizens.

In all but four countries, pluralities said climate conditions for agricultural production have worsened over the past decade, most often due to drought.

And among Africans who had heard of climate change, large majorities said it is making life in their country worse and needs to be stopped.

Afrobarometer's [Pan-Africa Profile](#) report explores experiences and perceptions of climate change by country and region. As leaders from around the world gather virtually for a climate summit ahead of the next United Nations talks, these citizens' voices suggest there is substantial public backing in Africa for global and national action to address climate-related threats.

Detailed country-level reports for many countries are available at www.afrobarometer.org.

Key findings

- By more than 2-to-1, ordinary Africans said climate conditions for agricultural production have become worse in their region over the past decade. Overwhelming majorities saw worse weather for growing crops in Uganda (85%), Malawi (81%), and Lesotho (79%) (Figure 1).
- In most countries, the main culprit is more severe drought. But in Malawi, Madagascar, and eSwatini, most citizens say both droughts and flooding have gotten worse.
- About six in 10 Africans (58%) said they had heard of climate change. South Africa (41%) was one of five countries where fewer than half were familiar with the term.
- Among Africans who had heard of climate change, more than two-thirds (67%) said it is making life in their countries worse, reaching a high of 89% in East Africa, almost twice as many as in North Africa (46%) (Figure 2).
- Seven in 10 (71%) said climate change needs to be stopped (Figure 3). Proponents of action against climate-related threats outnumbered those opposed or indifferent to climate action in all countries except Liberia.
- About one in four Africans (28%) were fully "climate change literate," that is, they had heard of climate change, they understood it to have negative consequences, and they recognized it as being caused at least in part by human activity. Mauritians (57%) was the only country where a majority was climate change literate, while fewer

than one in five citizens were climate change literate in Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, South Africa, and Tunisia (Graphic 1).

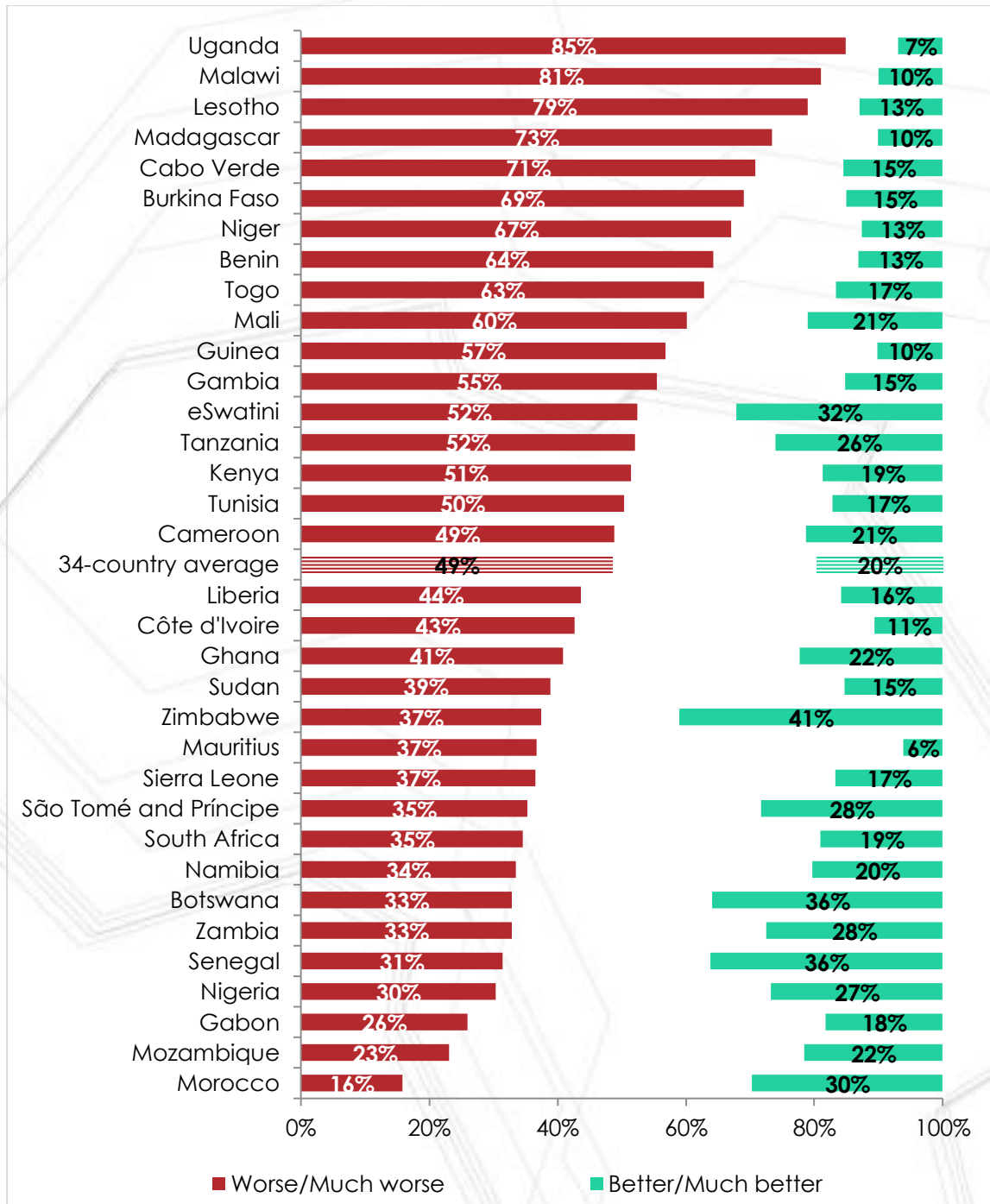
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2021 are currently being completed. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples that yield country-level results with margins of error of +/-2 to +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

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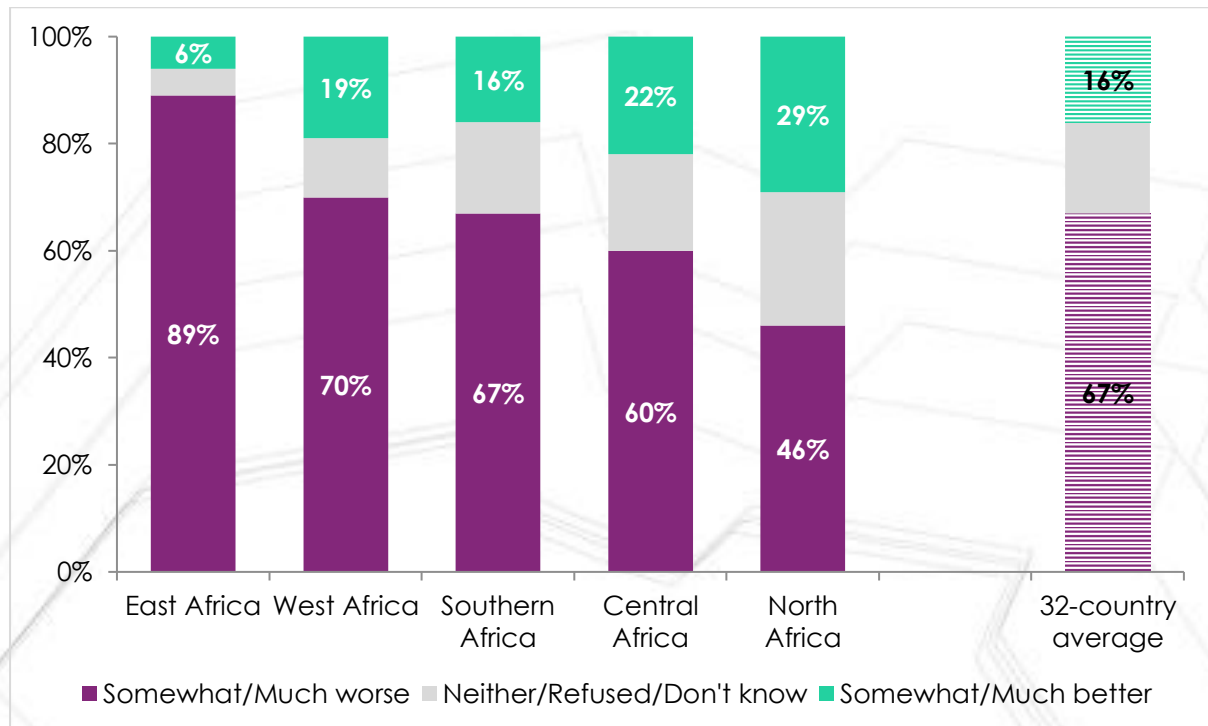
Charts

Figure 1: Changes in climate conditions for agricultural production | 34 countries
 | 2016/2018



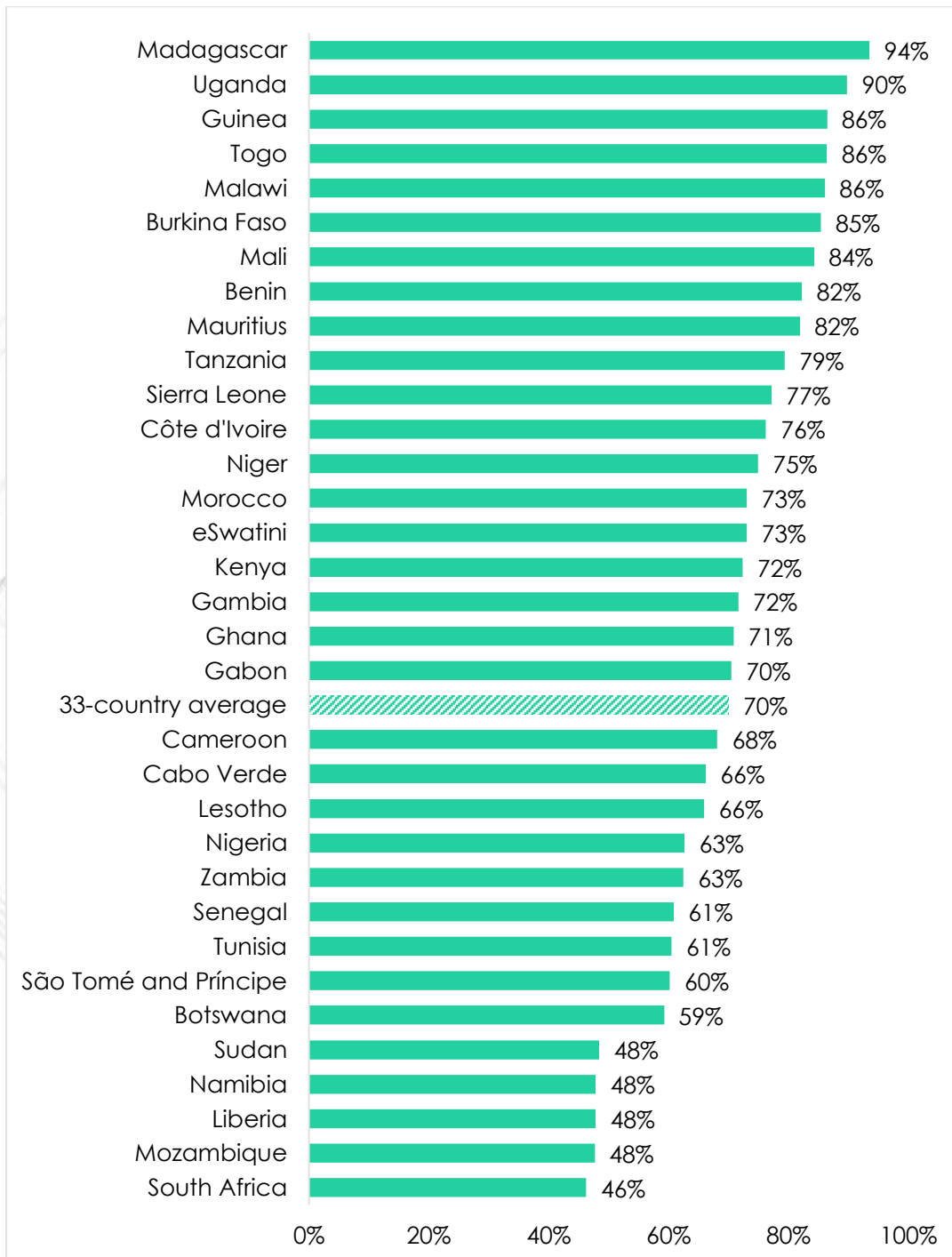
Respondents were asked: In your experience, would you say climate conditions for agricultural production in your area have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same over the last 10 years, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Figure 2: Effect of climate change on quality of life | by region | 32 countries*
 | 2016/2018



Respondents who had heard of climate change were asked: Do you think climate change is making life in [your country] better or worse, or haven't you heard enough to say? (Respondents who had not heard of climate change are excluded.) (* This question was not asked in Kenya and Zimbabwe.)

Figure 3: Climate change must be stopped | by region | 33 countries*
 | 2016/2018

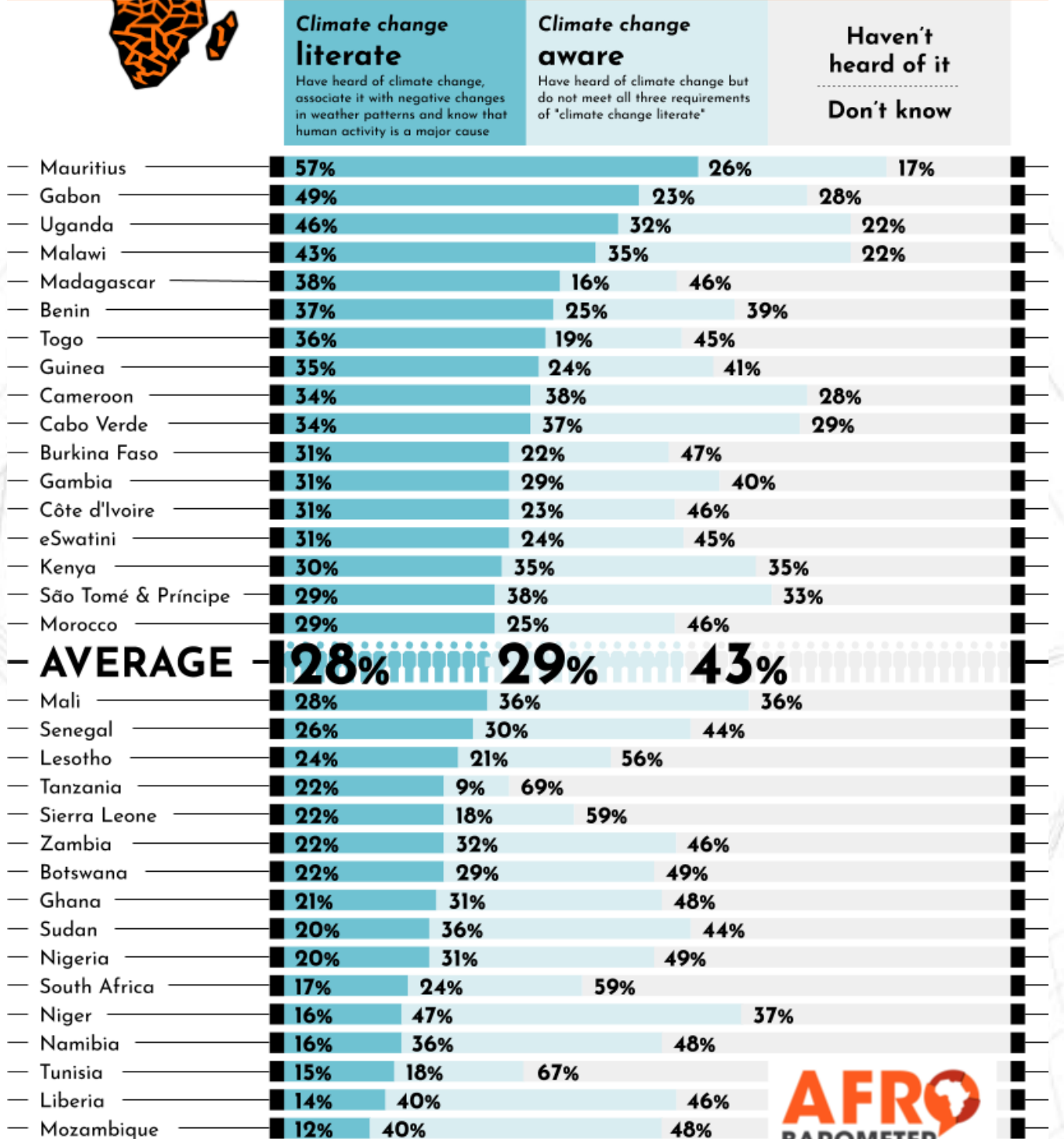


Respondents who said they had heard of climate change were asked: Do you think that climate change needs to be stopped? (*This question was not asked in Zimbabwe.)



Graphic 1: Climate change literacy

33 African countries 2016/2018



Data not available for Zimbabwe

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