



Lusaka, Zambia
18 May 2022

News release

Awareness of the negative impact of climate change on the rise in Zambia, Afrobarometer survey shows

Only a slim majority of Zambians have heard of climate change, but awareness of its destructive impact has increased rapidly in recent years, Afrobarometer survey findings show.

While about four in 10 Zambians have not heard of climate change, those who are familiar with the concept overwhelmingly say climate change is making life worse.

Zambia has been experiencing adverse impacts of climate change. Over the past two months, the country has seen unprecedented rains, flooding, and strong winds that have caused widespread damage to fields, roads, and buildings.

Key findings

- A slim majority (55%) of Zambians say they have heard of climate change, about the same level of awareness recorded in 2017 (Figure 1).
- Men, urban residents, and highly educated, economically well off, and older citizens are more likely to be aware of climate change than women, rural residents, and less educated, poorer, and younger respondents (Figure 2).
- Among those who have heard of climate change, more than three-fourths (78%) say it is making life in Zambia "somewhat worse" or "much worse," a 21-percentage-point increase from 2017 (57%) (Figure 3).

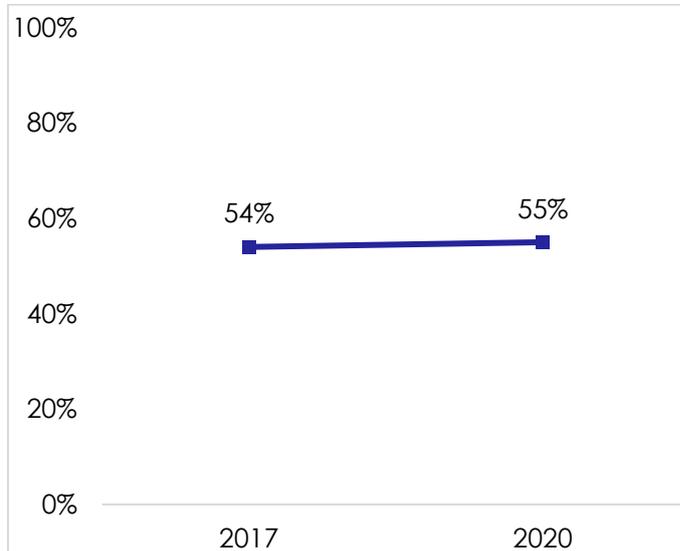
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 8 surveys (2019/2021) cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Zambia, led by the Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR), a research unit of the University of Zambia, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 Zambian adults in November-December 2020. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Zambia in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2014, and 2017.

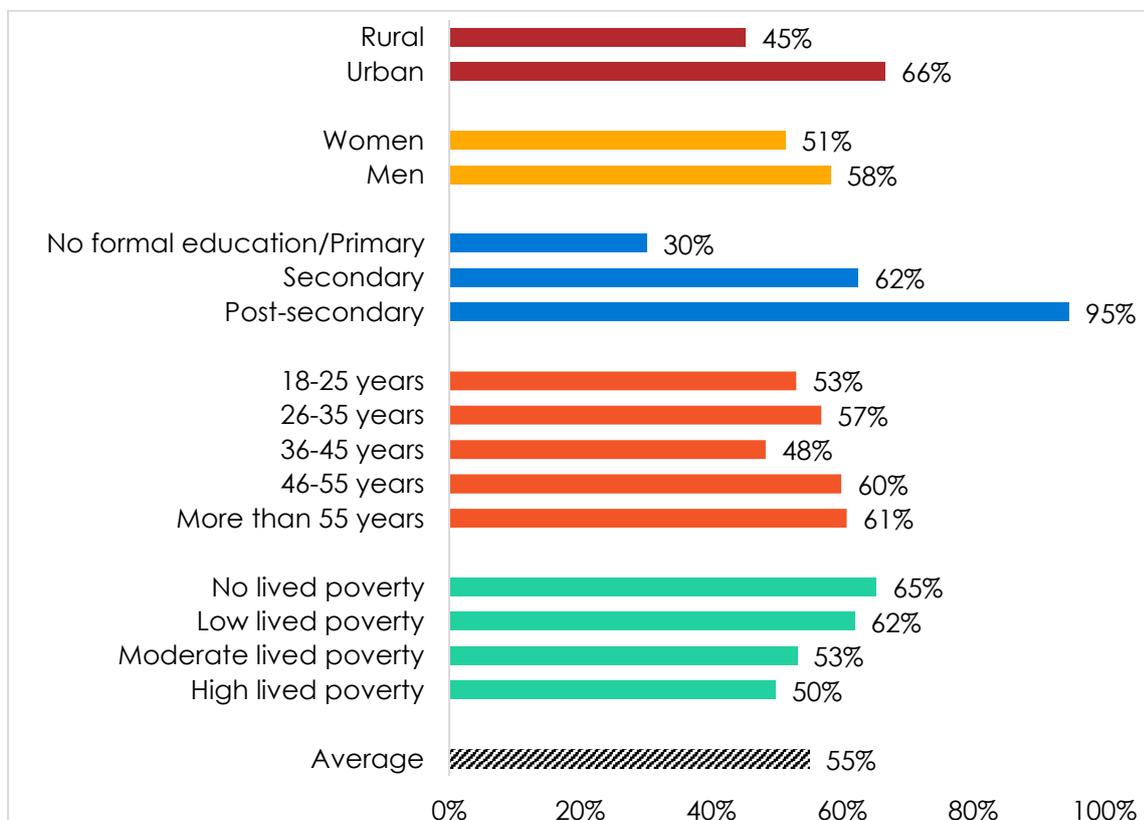
Charts

Figure 1: Awareness of climate change | Zambia | 2017-2020



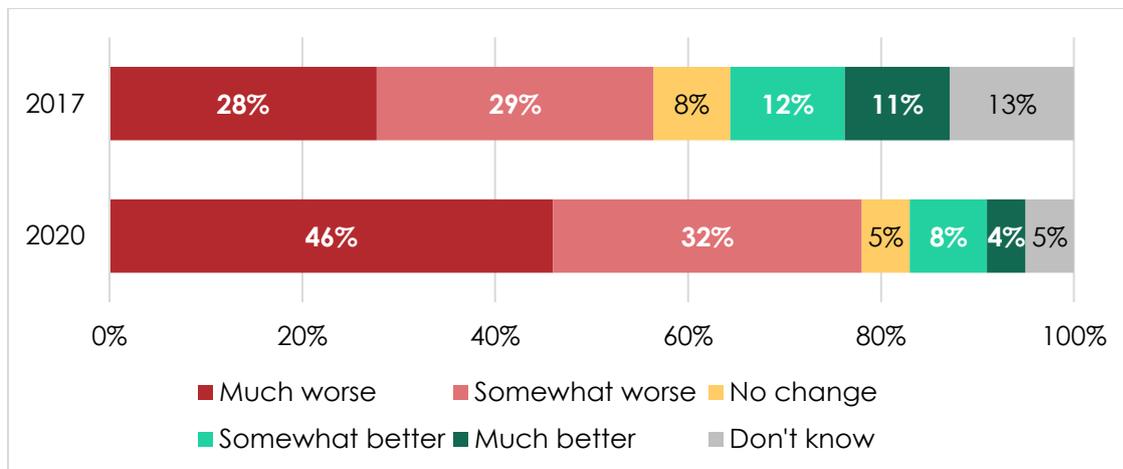
Respondents were asked: Have you heard about climate change, or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet? (% who say "yes")

Figure 2: Aware of climate change | by socio-demographic group | Zambia | 2020



Respondents were asked: Have you heard about climate change, or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet? (% who say "yes")

Figure 3: Is climate change making life worse? | Zambia | 2017 - 2020



Respondents who had heard about climate change were asked: Do you think climate change is making life in Zambia better or worse, or haven't you heard enough to say? (Figure excludes respondents who said they had not heard about climate change.)

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