



Maseru, Lesotho
17 June 2022

News release

Climate change is a little-known reality in Lesotho, Afrobarometer survey finds

About three-quarters of Basotho say floods have become more severe over the past decade, while almost half say the same about droughts, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

However, about two-thirds of citizens are unaware of the concept of climate change.

Of those who are aware of climate change, most say it is making life in the country worse, and they expect much more action from the government to limit its effects, even if it is costly, causes job losses, or takes a toll on the economy.

Key findings

- About three-quarters (73%) of Basotho say floods have become more severe over the past 10 years, while nearly half (45%) say the same about droughts (Figure 1).
- Fewer than four in 10 Basotho (36%) say they have heard of climate change, a 22-percentage-point drop from 58% in 2020 (Figure 2).
 - Climate change awareness is highest among the younger generation (43% of those aged 18-35 years), the educated (46%-65% of those with secondary and tertiary education), the economically well-off (49% of those with no lived poverty), and urbanites (43%-45% of urban and peri-urban residents) (Figure 3).
- Among those who are aware of climate change:
 - Almost nine in 10 (88%) say it is making life in Lesotho worse (Figure 4).
 - Half (51%) believe that ordinary citizens can help curb climate change, and nearly seven in 10 (69%) want the government to take immediate action to limit climate change, even if it is expensive, causes job losses, or takes a toll on the economy (Figure 5).
 - Most citizens say the government (44%) has the primary responsibility for fighting climate change and reducing its impact, while others assign this responsibility primarily to citizens (18%), developed countries (18%), business and industry (9%), and traditional leaders (3%) (Figure 6)
 - Only small minorities are satisfied with efforts by the government (7%), developed countries (7%), business and industry (10%), and ordinary citizens (21%) to fight climate change (Figure 7).

Afrobarometer surveys

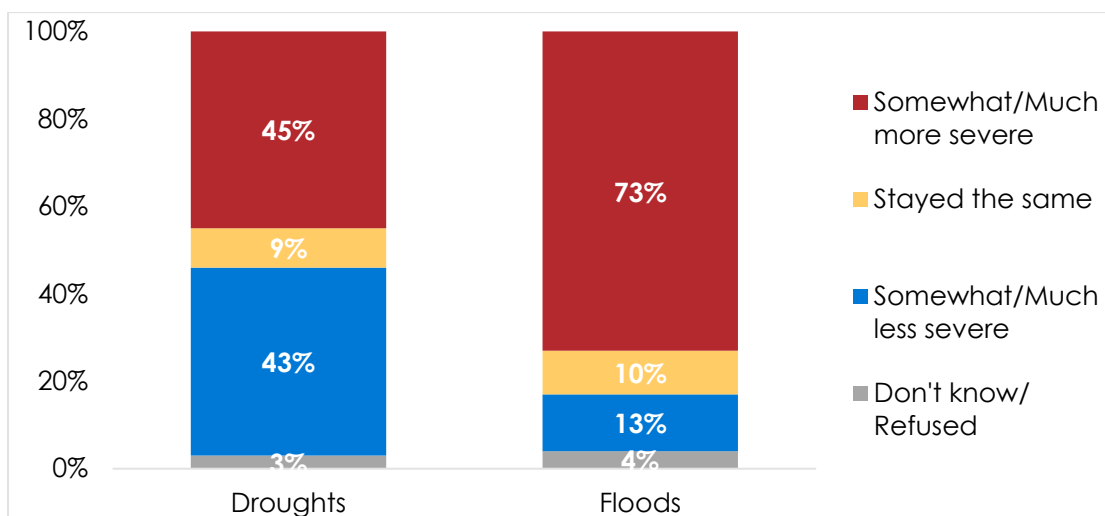
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys

(2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Lesotho, led by Advice Lesotho, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult citizens in February-March 2022. 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 Lesotho in 2000, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2020.

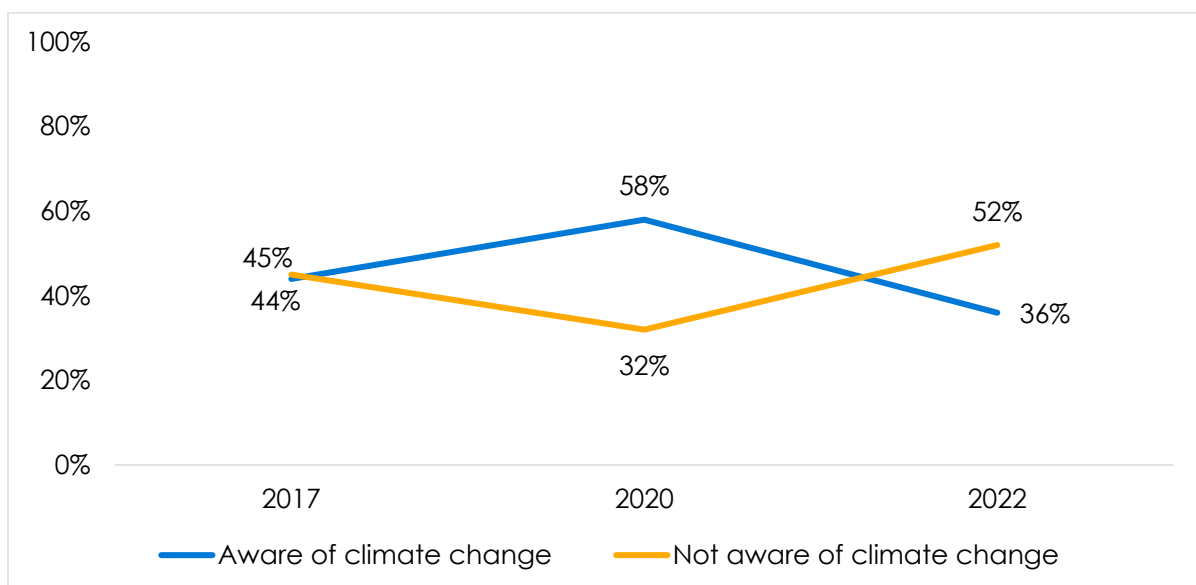
Charts

Figure 1: Severity of droughts and floods | Lesotho | 2022



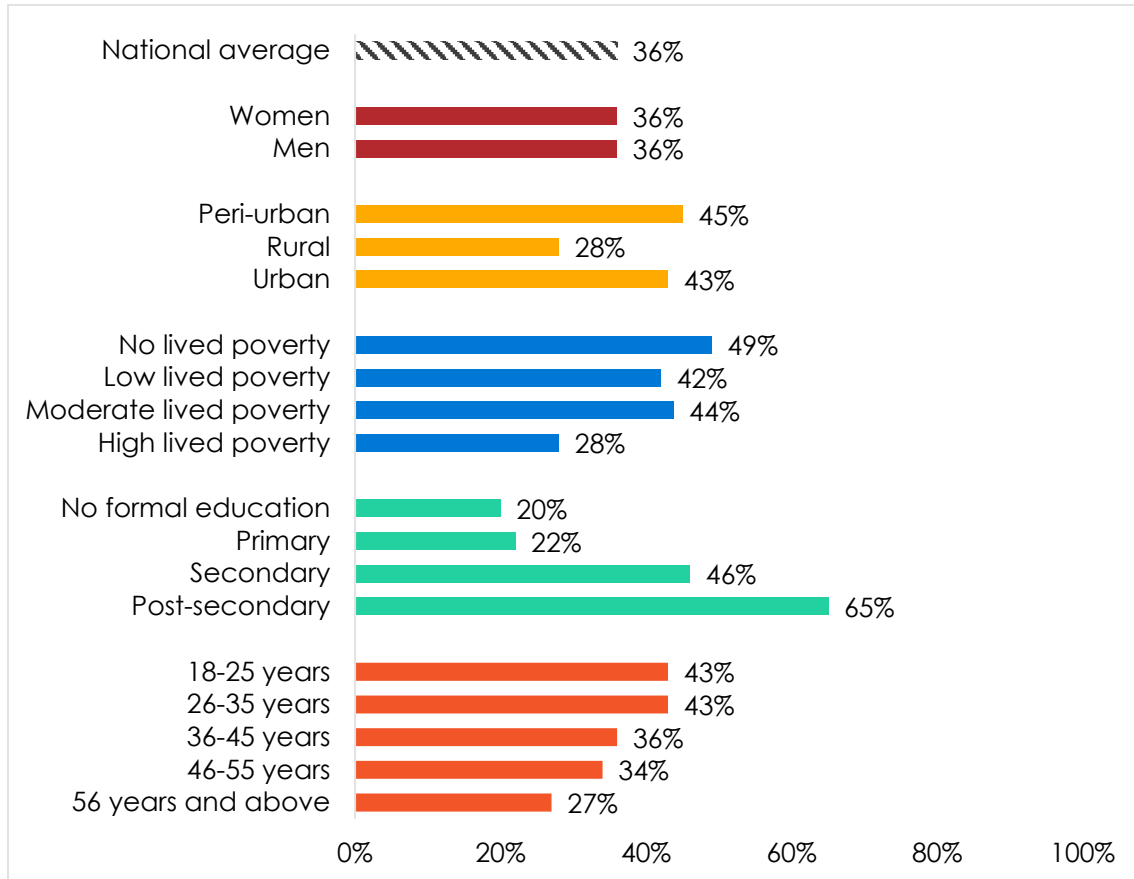
Respondents were asked: In your experience, over the past 10 years, has there been any change in the severity of the following events in the area where you live? Have they become more severe, less severe, or stayed about the same?

Figure 2: Awareness of climate change | Lesotho | 2017-2022



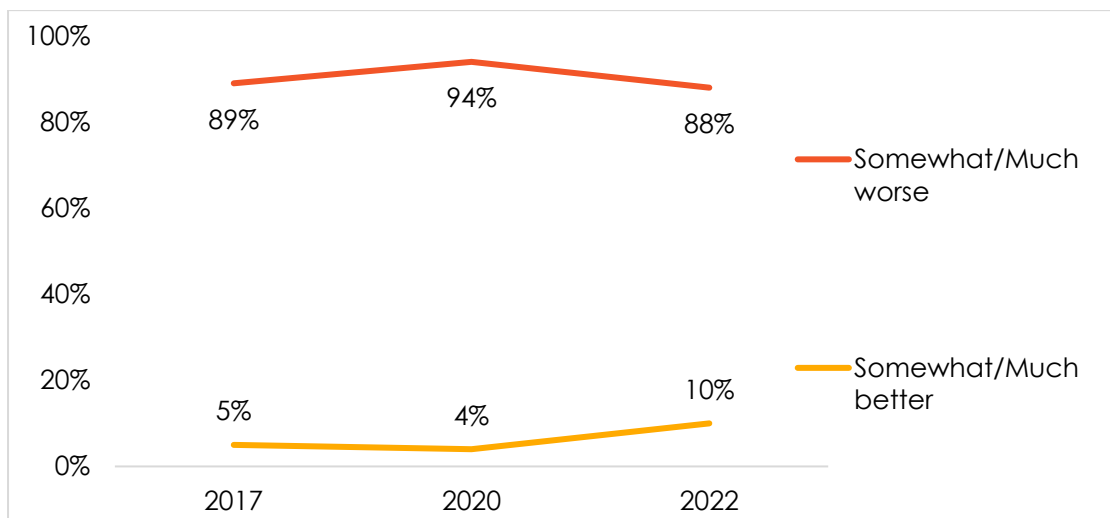
Respondents were asked: Have you heard about climate change, or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet?

Figure 3: Awareness of climate change | by demographic group | Lesotho | 2022



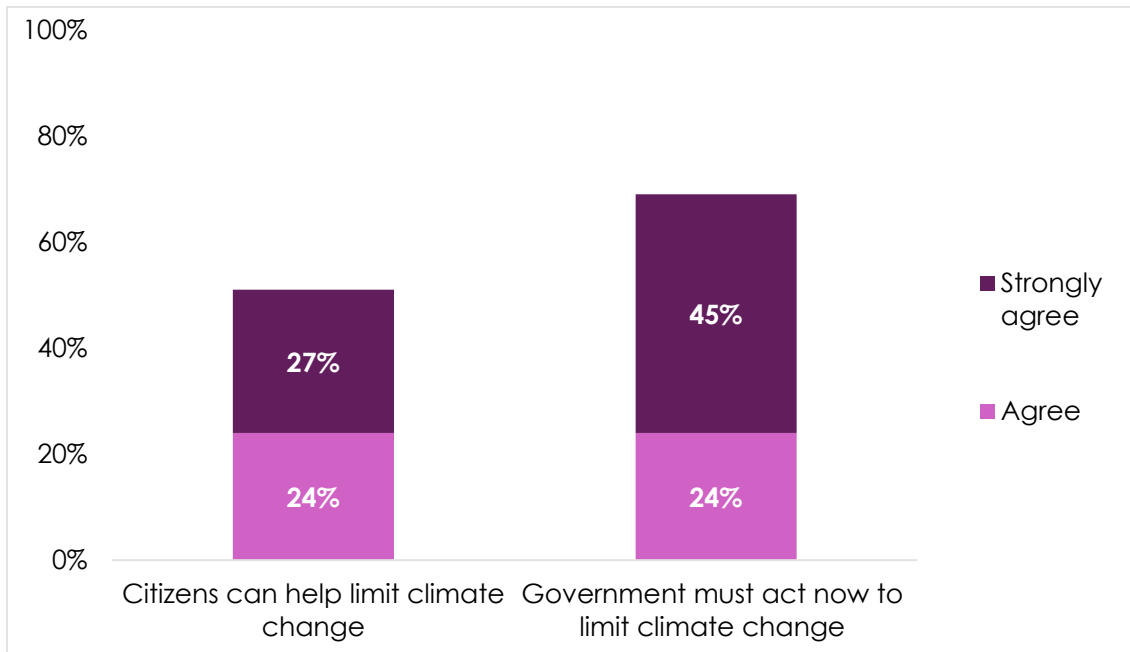
Respondents were asked: Have you heard about climate change, or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet? (% who say "yes")

Figure 4: Effect of climate change | Lesotho | 2022



Respondents who say they have heard of climate change were asked: Do you think climate change is making life in Lesotho better or worse, or haven't you heard enough to say? (Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 5: Limiting climate change | Lesotho | 2022



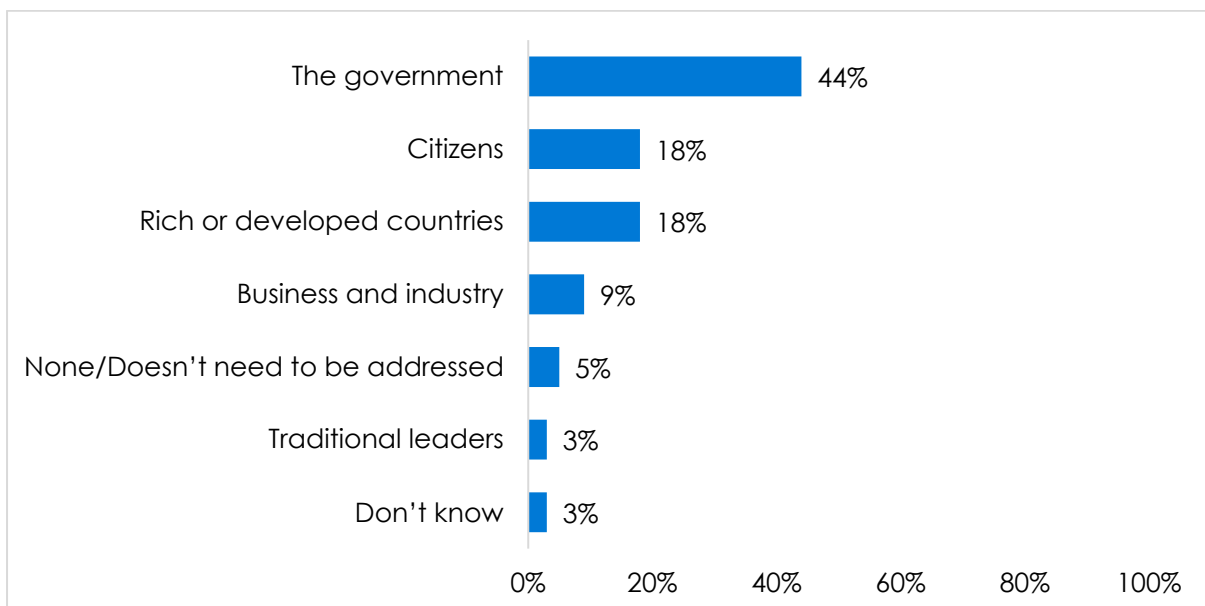
Respondents who say they have heard of climate change were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree:

Ordinary Basotho can play a role in limiting climate change.

It is important for our government to take steps now to limit climate change in the future, even if it is expensive or causes some job losses or other harm to our economy.

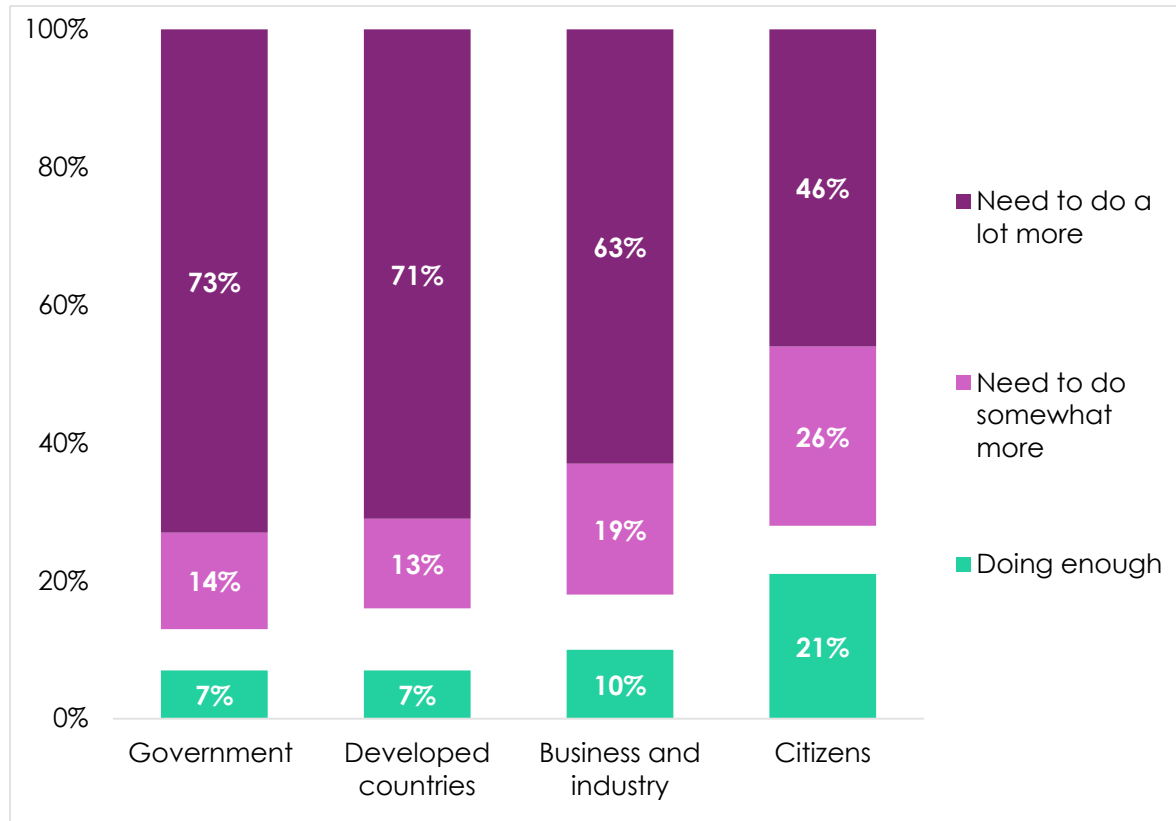
(Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 6: Who has primary responsibility for limiting climate change? | Lesotho | 2021



Respondents who say they have heard of climate change were asked: Who do you think should have primary responsibility for trying to limit climate change and reduce its impact? *(Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)*

Figure 7: Are stakeholders doing enough to limit climate change? | Lesotho | 2022



Respondents who say they have heard of climate change were asked: Do you think each of the following are doing enough to limit climate change, or do they need to do more, or haven't you heard enough to say? (Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

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