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News release

Afrobarometer's new country cards document Africans' demand for action on climate change

A new series of country cards on climate change from Afrobarometer graphically summarises Africans' perspectives on the climate crisis and their demand for urgent climate action.

Released just ahead the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), the country cards provide at-a-glance insights into Africans' awareness of climate change, their experiences with deteriorating weather conditions, and their expectations of a response to the crisis.

Country cards are available for 20 African countries surveyed in the ongoing Round 9 (2021/2022) of Afrobarometer, the go-to source for reliable data on what Africans are thinking. Cards for additional countries will be released as Round 9 is completed.

The cards show that significant proportions of citizens are experiencing worsening droughts and floods. While awareness of climate change varies widely across the continent, a majority of those who have heard of climate change say it is making their lives worse. Most want their governments to take immediate action to address the crisis, even if it comes at a high cost. Few citizens are satisfied with the efforts to date of governments, business and industry, developed countries, and ordinary citizens in fighting climate change, and most demand "a lot more" from these stakeholders.

All the climate cards can be accessed on the Afrobarometer website's [climate change country card page](#).

Highlights of Afrobarometer country cards on climate change:

- Majorities in eight of the 20 countries report that droughts have gotten more severe over the past decade. Large majorities see worsening drought in Madagascar (86%), Niger (72%), and Tunisia (69%).
 - Basotho (73%), Mauritians (68%), and Nigeriens (64%) express the greatest concern about worsening floods.
- On average across 20 countries, only half (51%) of citizens are aware of climate change. Awareness is as high as 74% in Malawi, 73% in Mauritius, and 70% in Gabon, whereas only two in 10 Tunisians (22%) are aware of climate change.
- Among those who are aware of climate change:
 - Most say it is making their lives worse. This perception is especially widespread in Madagascar (91%), Lesotho (88%), Mauritius (86%), Malawi (86%), and Benin (85%).
 - Majorities in all 20 countries want their government to take action now to limit climate change, even if it is costly, causes job losses, or takes a toll on the economy. In eight countries, 80% or more of citizens who are aware of climate change share this view.

- Most citizens are not satisfied with the efforts of various stakeholders in fighting climate change and its effects, and demand “a lot more” from their governments, business and industry, developed countries, and ordinary citizens.

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. It aims to share and amplify ordinary African citizens' views to ensure their voices inform policy- and decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 1,200-2,400 adult citizens that yield country-level results with margins of error of +/-2 to +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

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