

Accra, Ghana
14 November 2022

News release

Ghanaians say climate change is making life worse, needs urgent action by government and citizens

Ghanaians say the government and ordinary citizens share responsibility for fighting climate change, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

While fewer than half of citizens have heard of climate change, a majority of those who are aware of the phenomenon say it is making life in the country worse and requires urgent government action.

Citizens also call on other key stakeholders – including business and industry, developed countries, and ordinary citizens – to do a lot more to limit climate change.

Key findings

- In Ghana, 44% of adults say they have heard of climate change (Figure 1).
- Among Ghanaians who are aware of climate change:
 - Six out of 10 (60%) say it is making life worse, a 12-percentage-point increase since 2020 (Figure 2).
 - More than three-fourths say that ordinary citizens can help curb climate change (77%) and believe that the government needs to take immediate action to limit climate change, even if it causes some job losses or other harm to the economy (87%) (Figure 3).
 - Views are divided as to whether the government (43%) or ordinary citizens (42%) have the primary responsibility for fighting climate change and limiting its impact. Far fewer place this responsibility mainly on business and industry (9%), rich or developed countries (3%), and traditional leaders (2%) (Figure 4).
 - But a slim majority (53%) say the government is performing “fairly badly” or “very badly” in handling climate change (Figure 5).
 - Strong majorities say the government (81%), business and industry (74%), developed countries (69%), and citizens (67%) “need to do a lot more” to limit climate change (Figure 6).

Afrobarometer surveys

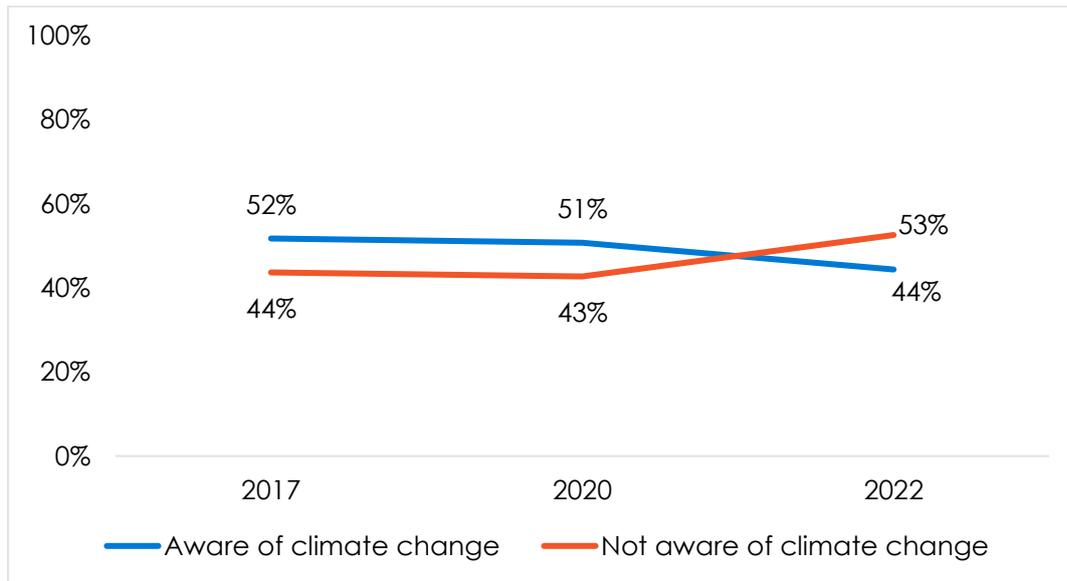
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer’s national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Ghana, led by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,369 adult Ghanaians in April 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points

at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Ghana in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

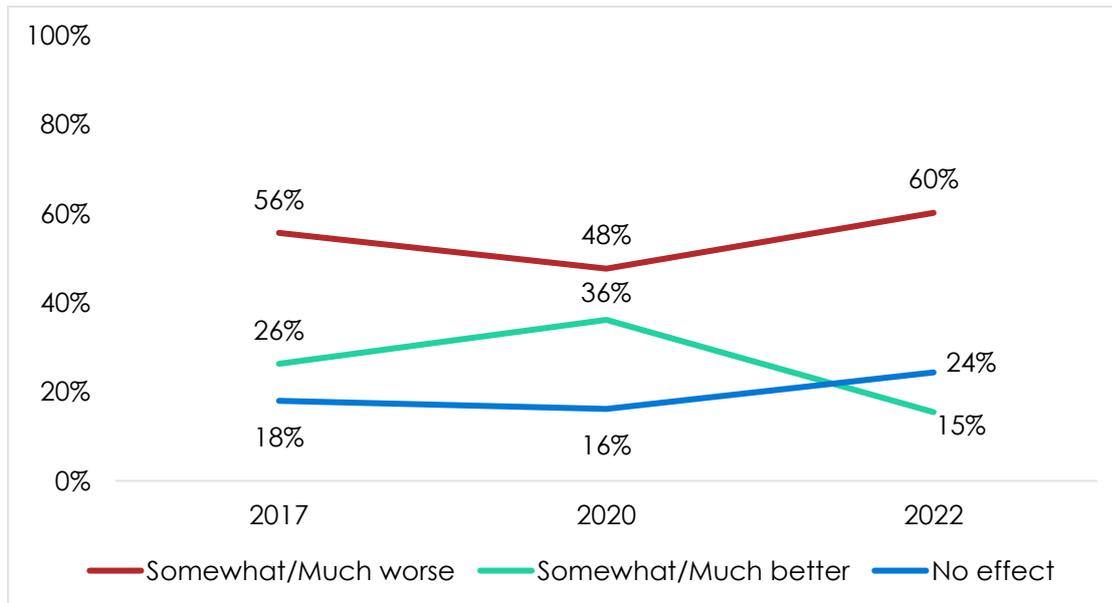
Charts

Figure 1: Awareness of climate change | Ghana | 2022



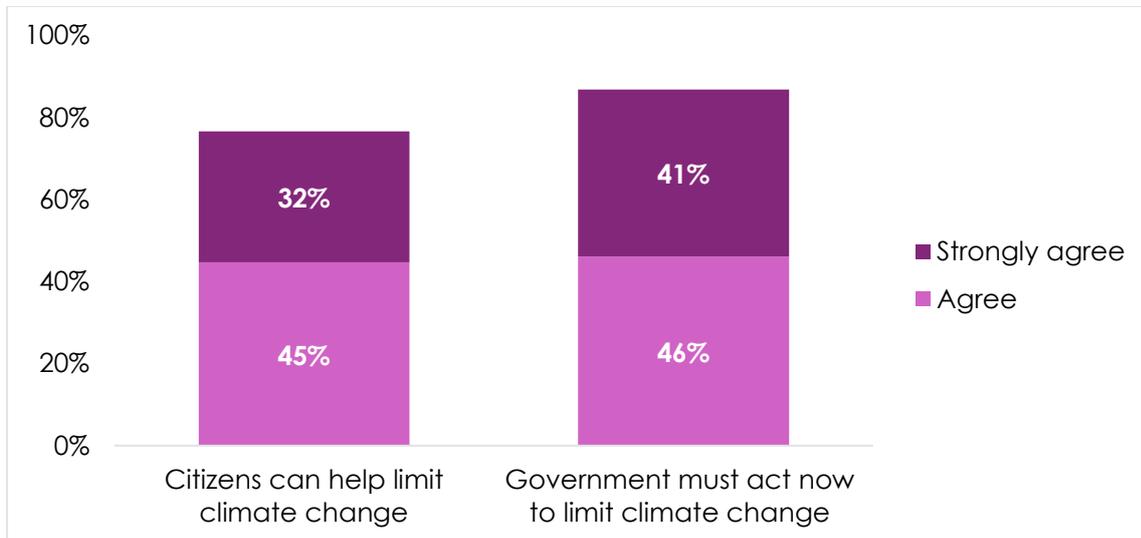
Respondents were asked: Have you heard about climate change, or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet?

Figure 2: Effects of climate change | Ghana | 2017-2022



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

Figure 3: Limiting climate change | Ghana | 2022



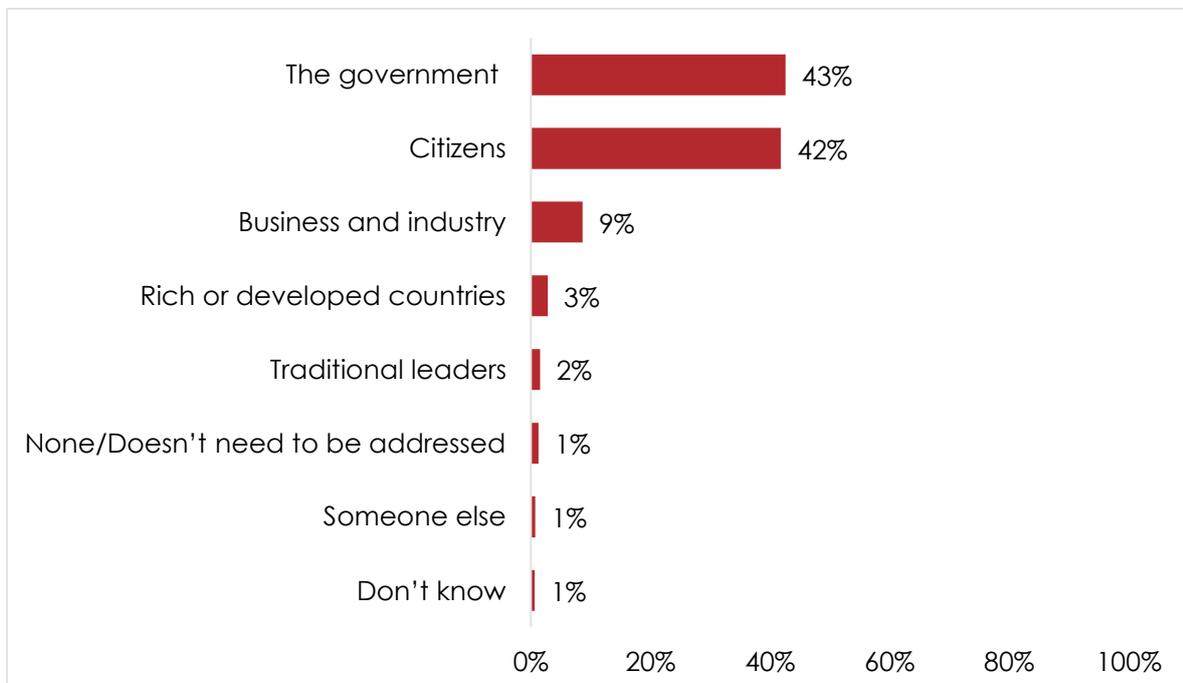
Respondents who say they have heard of climate change were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree:

Ordinary Ghanaians 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.

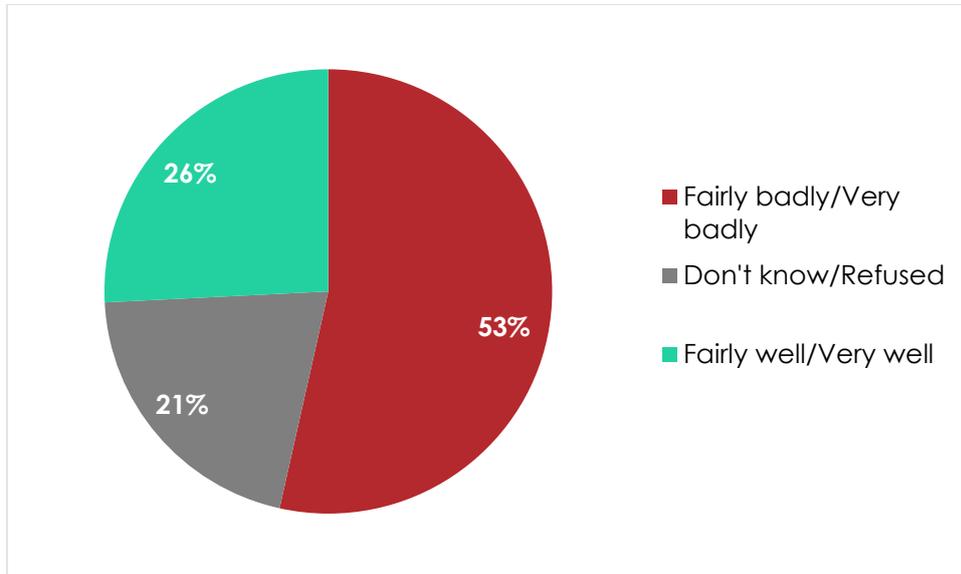
(Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 4: Who has primary responsibility for limiting climate change? | Ghana | 2022



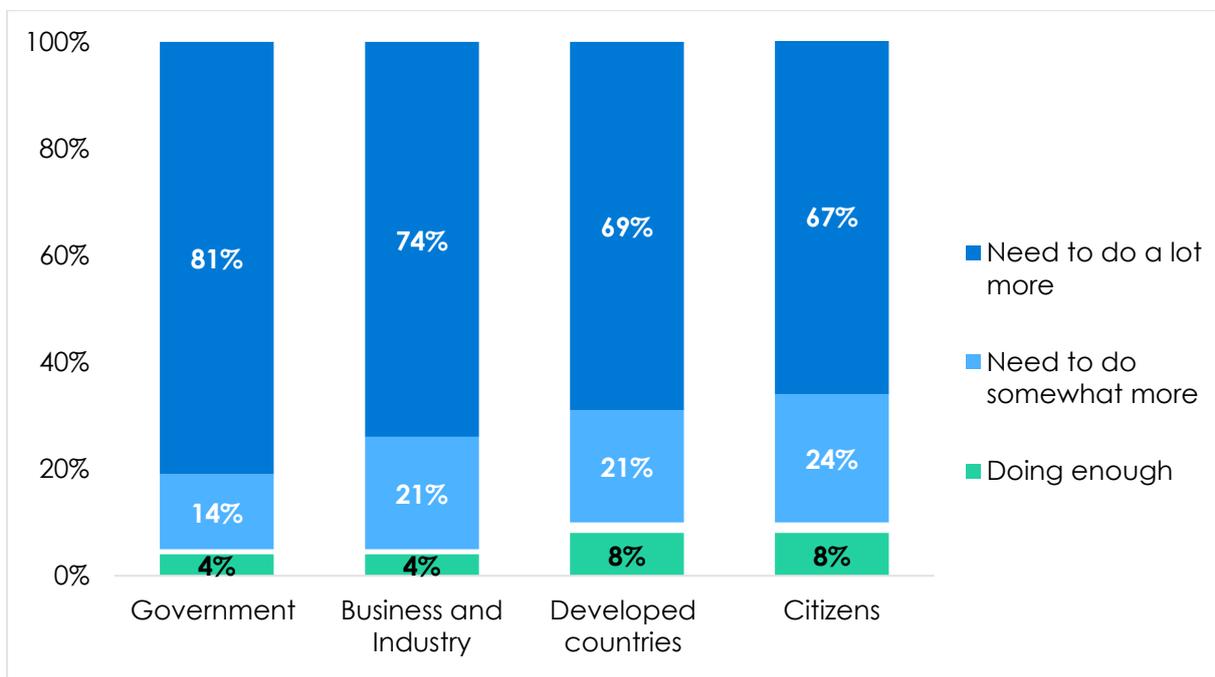
Respondents who say they have heard of climate change were asked: Who do you think should have primary responsibility for trying to limit climate change and reduce its impact? (Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 5: Government performance in handling climate change | Ghana | 2022



Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Figure 6: Are stakeholders doing enough to limit climate change? | Ghana | 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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