



Lusaka, Zambia
04 April 2023

News release

Climate change making life worse in Zambia; citizens want collective action to mitigate it

A majority of Zambians who are aware of climate change say it is making life worse in their country, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

While fewer than half of citizens say they have heard of climate change, perceptions of its adverse effects have increased by 25 percentage points since 2017.

Most Zambians say both ordinary citizens and the government should take steps to limit climate change and reduce its impact.

Key findings

- Fewer than half (44%) of Zambians say they have heard of climate change.
- Among those who are aware of climate change, more than eight in 10 (82%) say it is making life in their country worse (Figure 1). Perceptions of the adverse effects of climate change have increased by 25 percentage points since 2017 (57%).
 - The assessment that climate change is making life worse is most common among older citizens (87%), those with primary education or less (91%), the poor (87%), men (85%), and rural residents (89%) (Figure 2).
- For Zambians, addressing climate change is a collective responsibility.
 - More than three-fourths of Zambians who are aware of climate change “agree” or “strongly agree” that citizens can help limit climate change (77%) and want their government to take steps now to limit climate change, even if it is expensive, causes job losses, or takes a toll on the economy (76%) (Figure 3).
 - Most Zambians assign primary responsibility for limiting climate change and reducing its impact to ordinary citizens (47% of those who have heard of climate change) and the government (32%), rather than to business and industry (6%) or developed countries (3%) (Figure 4).

Afrobarometer surveys

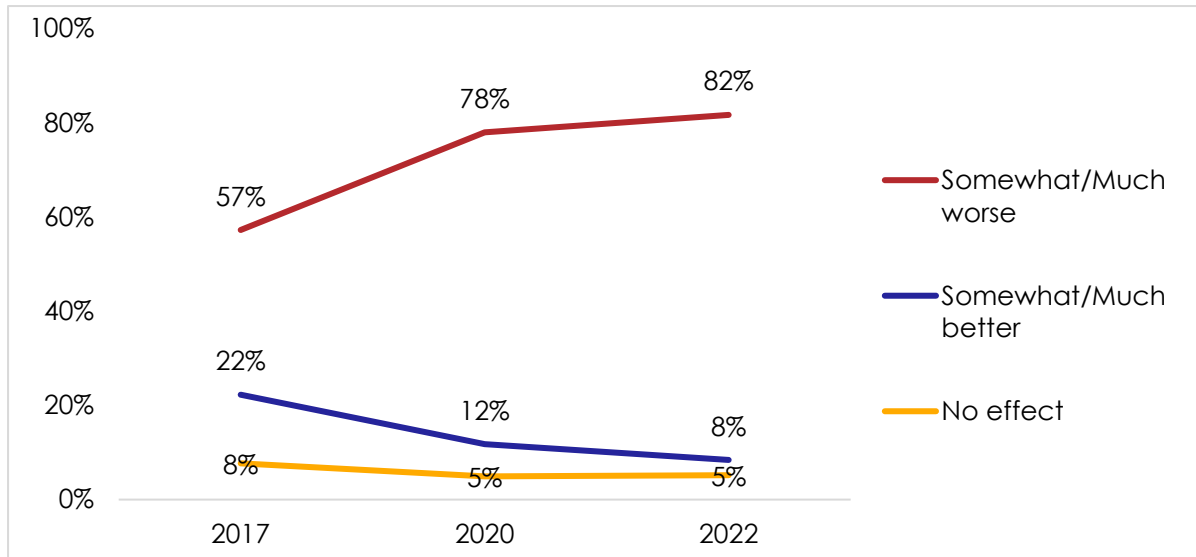
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys were being completed in 2022. 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 wing of the University of Zambia, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 Zambian adults between 3

August and 7 September 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 have been conducted in Zambia in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2020.

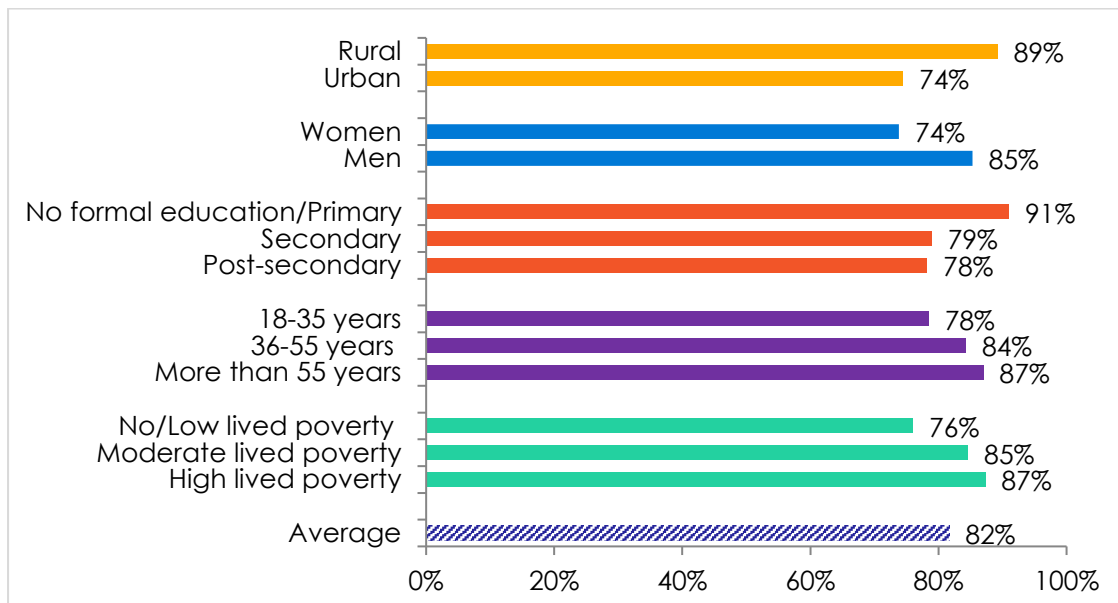
Charts

Figure 1: Effect of climate change | Zambia | 2017-2022



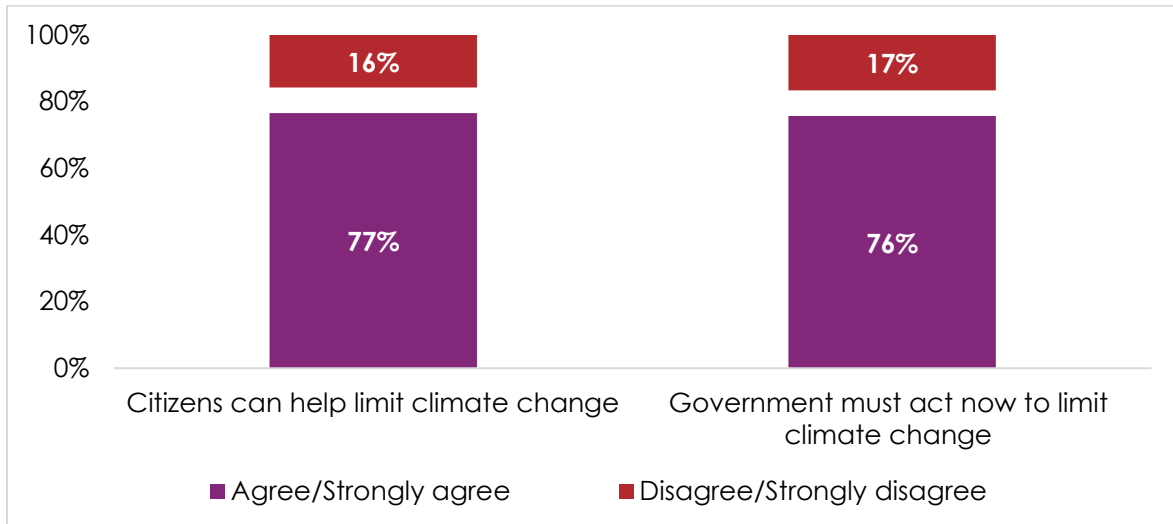
Respondents who say they have heard of climate change were asked: Do you think climate change is making life in Zambia better or worse, or haven't you heard enough to say? (Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 2: Climate change is making life worse | by demographic group | Zambia | 2022



Respondents who say they have heard of 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? (% who say "somewhat worse" or "much worse") (Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 3: Limiting climate change | Zambia | 2022



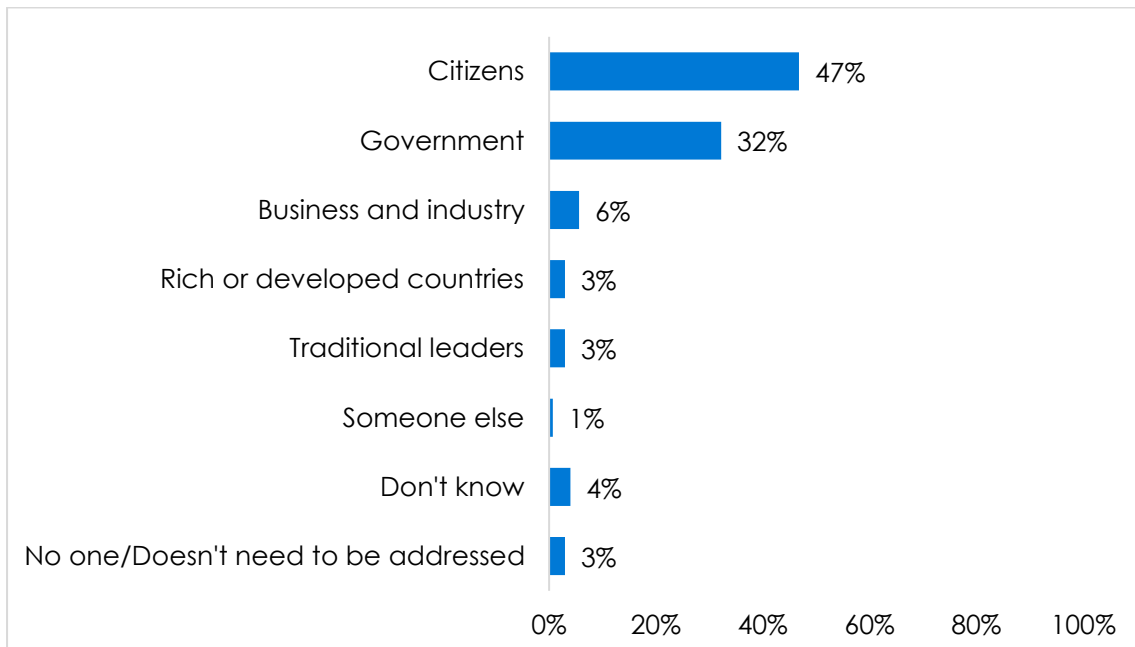
Respondents who say they have heard of climate change were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree:

Ordinary Ugandans 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? | Zambia | 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.)

For more information, please contact:

Edward Chibwili
Institute of Economic and Social Research, University of Zambia
Telephone: +260 968 104603/+260 971 754083
Email: edward.chibwili@unza.zm

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