



Mbabane, Eswatini  
17 November 2023

## News release

---

### Emaswati look to government, one another for action on climate change

Overwhelming majorities of Emaswati who have heard of climate change say that “a lot more” action to fight this threat is needed from the government, developed countries, business and industry, and ordinary citizens, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

Among citizens who are aware of climate change, a growing majority say it is making life in the country worse. Most say that ordinary citizens can help curb climate change but also want the government to take immediate action, even if it is expensive.

However, almost half of Emaswati are still unfamiliar with the concept of climate change. Awareness of the threat is particularly low among rural residents, less educated citizens, the elderly, and the poor.

#### Key findings

- More than half (53%) of Emaswati say they have heard of climate change, while 46% say they have not heard of this phenomenon (Figure 1). Awareness of climate change is particularly low among poor citizens (42%) and those with primary education or less (35%) (Figure 2).
- Among citizens who are aware of climate change:
  - Eight in 10 (79%) say it is making life in Eswatini worse, a 16-percentage-point increase since 2018 (Figure 3).
  - Almost eight in 10 (78%) believe that ordinary citizens can help curb climate change, and almost nine in 10 (86%) say the government must take immediate action to limit climate change, even if it is expensive, causes job losses, or takes a toll on the economy (Figure 4).
  - Most assign primary responsibility for fighting climate change to ordinary citizens (39%) or to the government (34%) (Figure 5).
  - Large majorities say “a lot more” action to fight climate change is needed from the government (89%), business and industry (87%), developed countries (85%), and ordinary citizens (71%) (Figure 6).
- A majority (55%) of Emaswati say the government is performing “fairly badly” or “very badly” at addressing the problem of climate change (Figure 7).

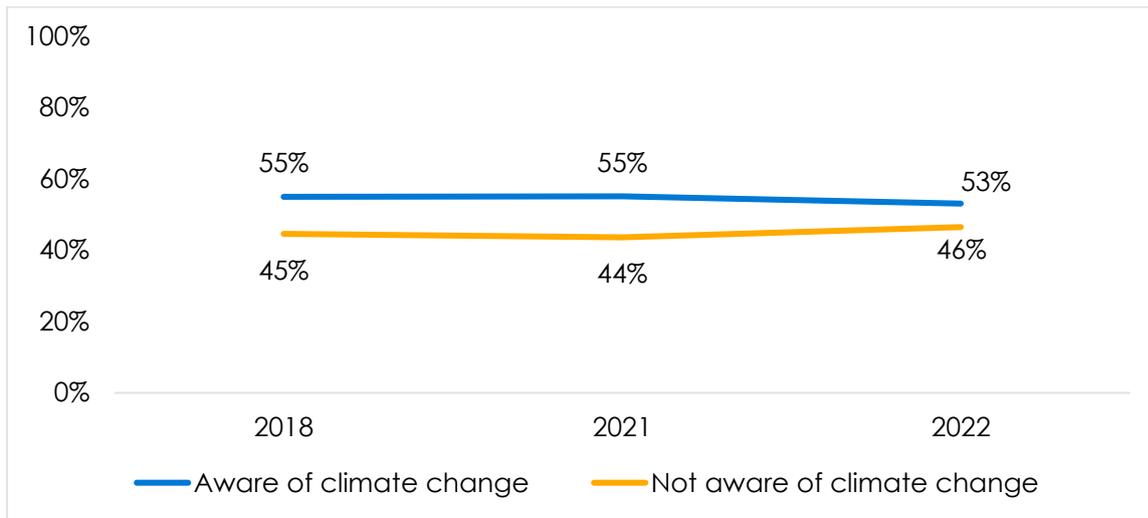
#### Afrobarometer surveys

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. Nine rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 42 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Eswatini, led by QA Strategic Information, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 adult citizens in October-November 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 Eswatini in 2013, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

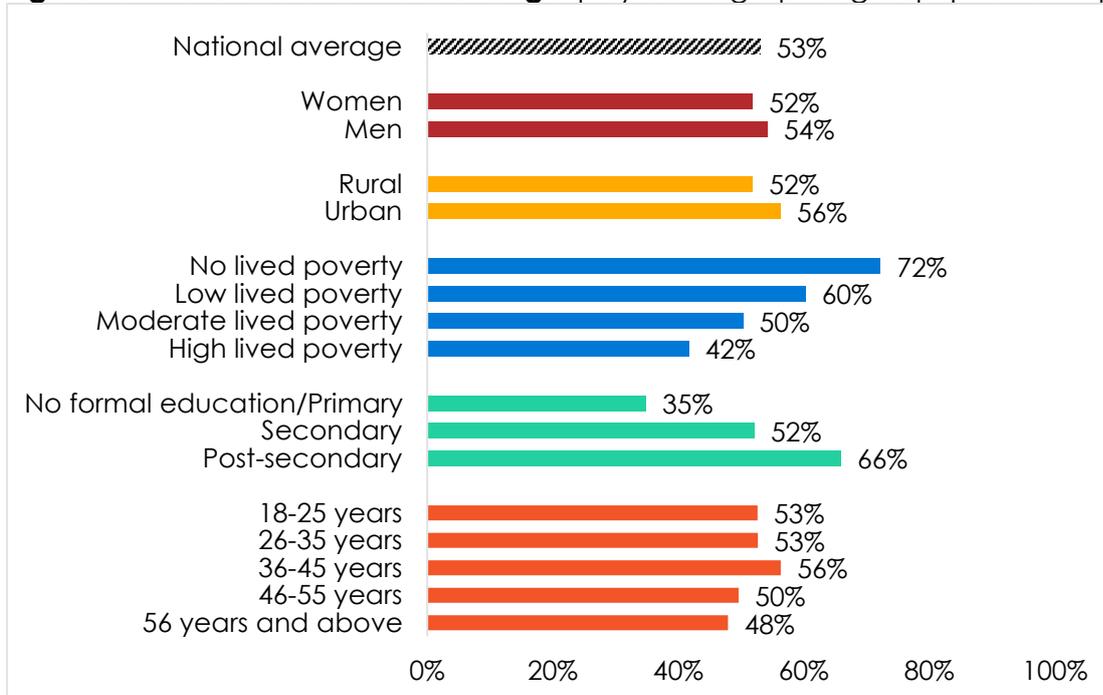
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Awareness of climate change | Eswatini | 2018-2022**



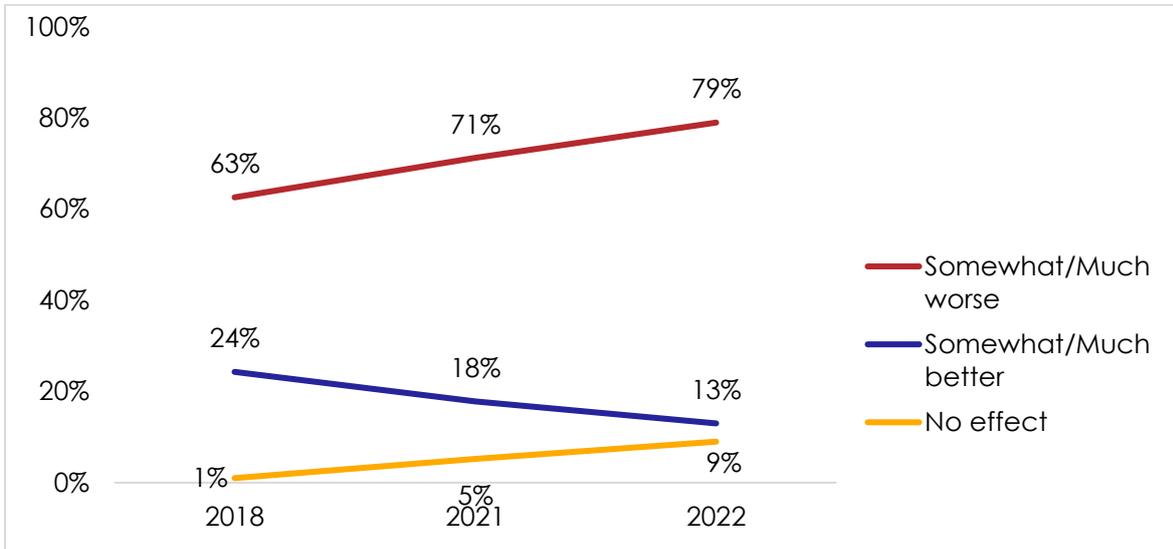
**Respondents were asked:** Have you heard about climate change, or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet?

**Figure 2: Awareness of climate change | by demographic group | Eswatini | 2022**



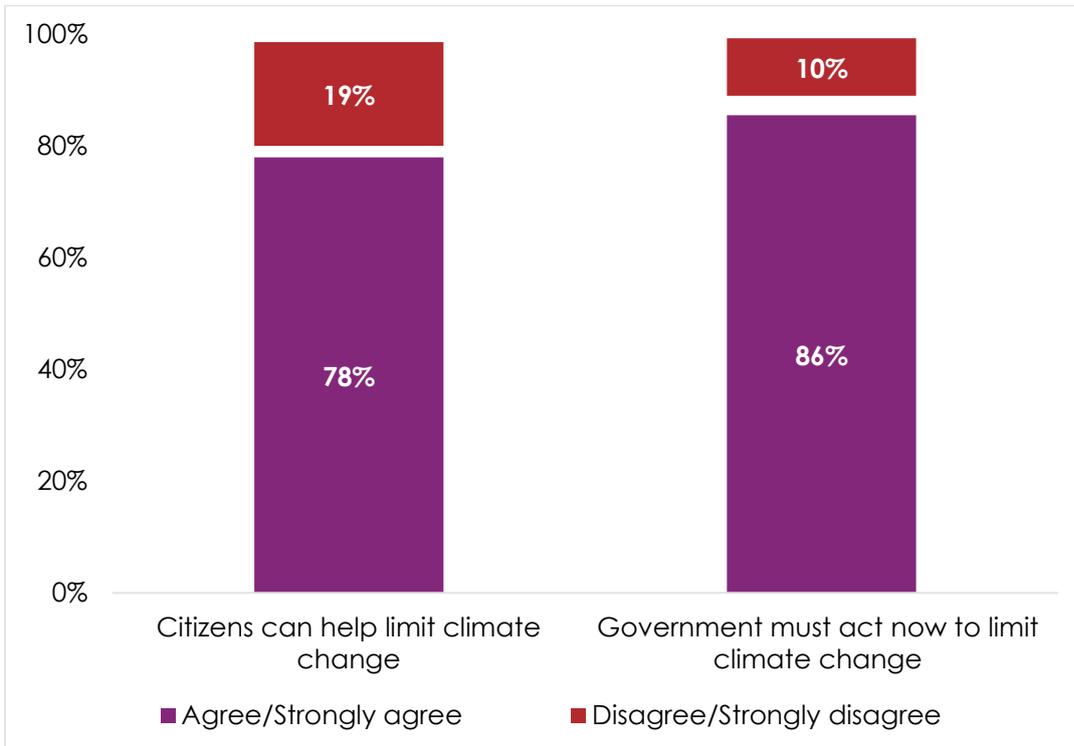
**Respondents were asked:** Have you heard about climate change, or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet? (% who say "yes")

**Figure 3: Effects of climate change | Eswatini | 2022**



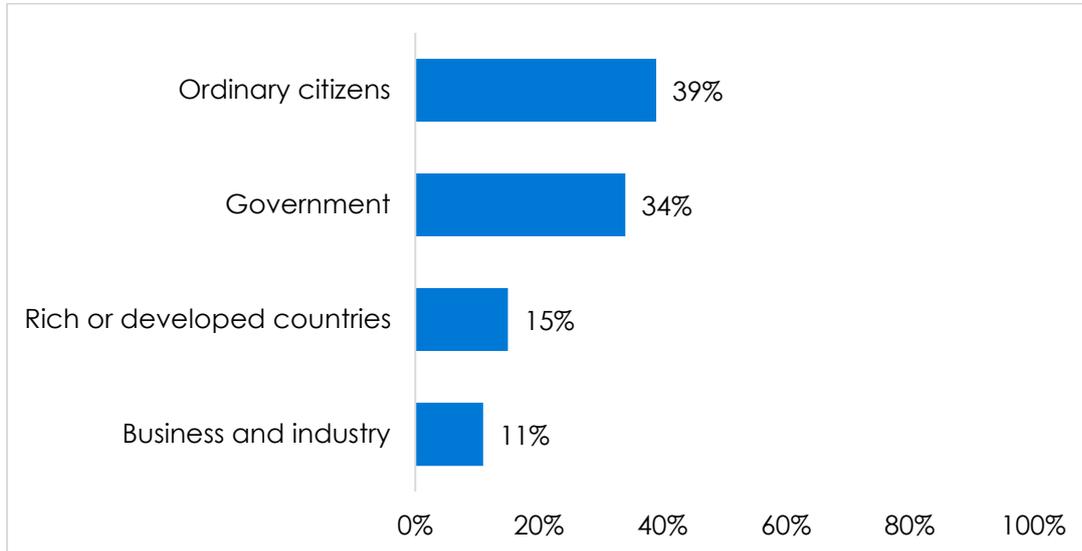
**Respondents who are aware of climate change were asked:** Do you think climate change is making life in Eswatini better or worse, or haven't you heard enough to say? (Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

**Figure 4: Government and citizen roles in limiting climate change | Eswatini | 2022**



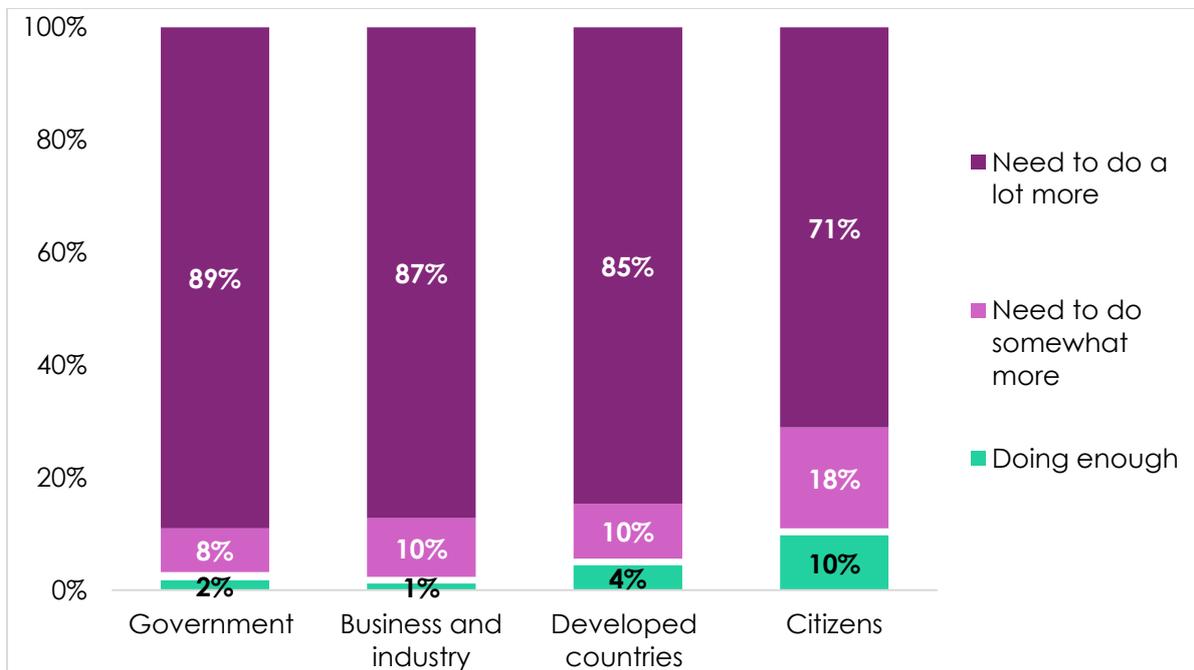
**Respondents who are aware of climate change were asked:** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree:  
 Ordinary Emaswati can play a role in limiting climate change.  
 It is important for our government to take steps now to limit climate change in the future, even if it is expensive or causes some job losses or other harm to our economy.  
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement. Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

**Figure 5: Who has primary responsibility for limiting climate change? | Eswatini | 2022**



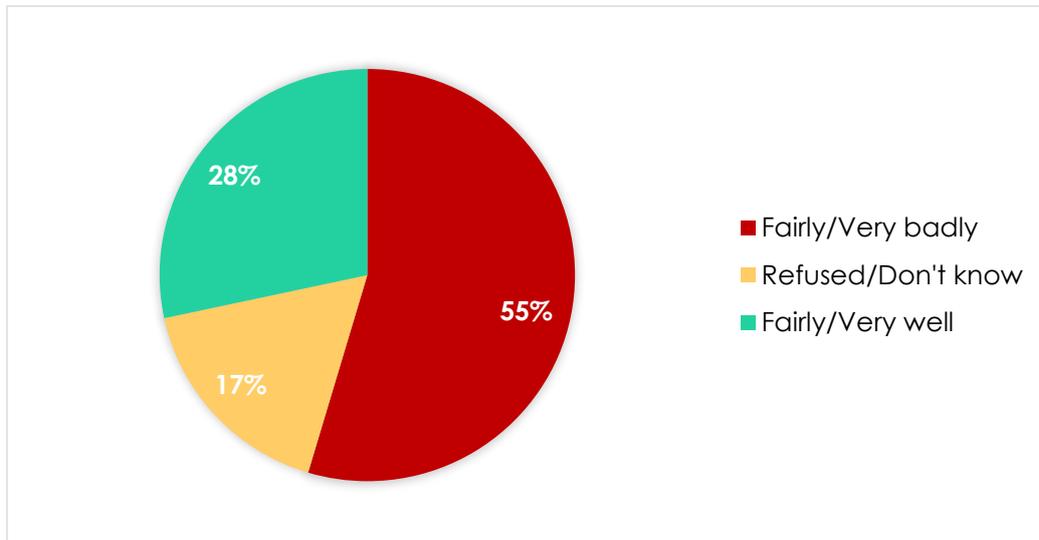
**Respondents who are aware of climate change were asked:** Who do you think should have primary responsibility for trying to limit climate change and reduce its impact? (Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

**Figure 6: Are stakeholders doing enough to limit climate change? | Eswatini | 2022**



**Respondents who are aware 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.)

**Figure 7: Government performance in handling climate change | Eswatini | 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: Addressing the problem of climate change?

**For more information, please contact:**

Mbuso Dlamini  
Managing director  
QA Strategic Information  
National Investigator, Afrobarometer, Eswatini  
[info@gastrategicinfo.com](mailto:info@gastrategicinfo.com)  
+268-2422 1934  
+2687810-3741

Visit us online at [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org).

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

