

Shandi- River Nile, Sudan  
22 December 2023

## News release

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### **Sudanese see pollution as a serious problem affecting their communities, Afrobarometer survey shows**

A majority of Sudanese see pollution as a serious problem in their communities, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

Citizens rank pollution of water resources, sanitation, and air pollution as the most important environmental issues in their communities and consider plastic bags a major source of pollution in their country.

A majority of Sudanese prioritise environmental protection even if such policies might threaten jobs and incomes. Most also favour tighter regulation of natural resource extraction to reduce its impact on the environment, and they assign primary responsibility for reducing pollution and keeping communities clean to local and national governments.

#### **Key findings**

- Almost nine out of 10 Sudanese (88%) consider pollution a serious problem in their communities, including 67% who say it is a “very serious problem” (Figure 1).
- More than three-fourths (79%) of respondents say plastic bags are a major source of pollution in Sudan (Figure 2).
- Citizens cite pollution of water sources (37%), human waste management (23%), and air pollution (22%) as the most important environmental issues in their community, followed by trash and plastic disposal (13%), and deforestation (3%) (Figure 3).
- More than half (56%) of Sudanese would want the government to prioritise environmental protection even if such policies were to conflict with economic objectives (Figure 4).
- Citizens assign primary responsibility for reducing pollution and keeping communities clean to local government (33%), national government (28%), and ordinary citizens (27%). Far fewer look to business and industry (8%) (Figure 5).
- Three-fourths (76%) of citizens say the government should regulate the natural resource extraction industry more tightly in order to reduce its negative impacts on the environment (Figure 6).

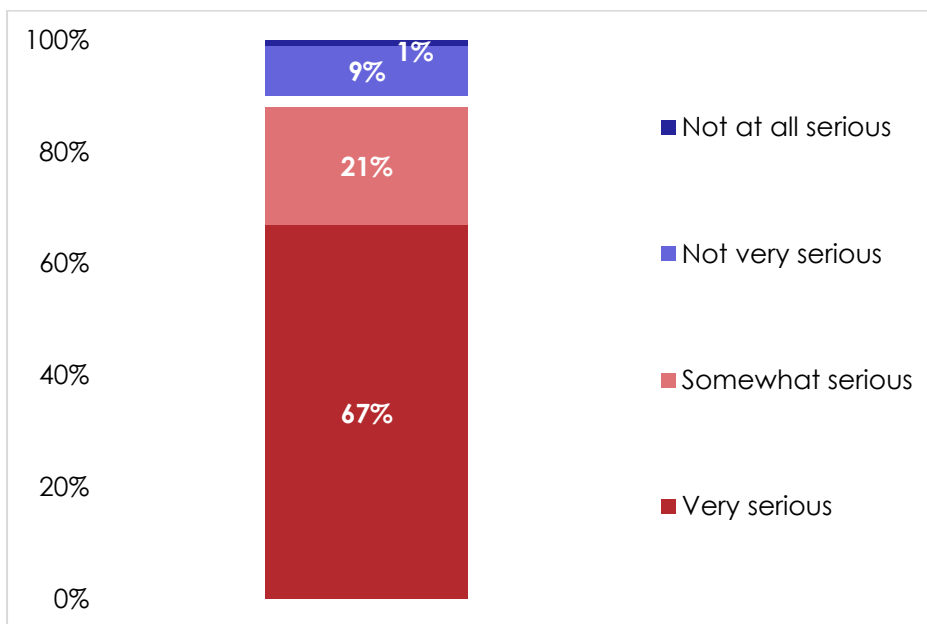
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

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 are being completed in early 2023. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

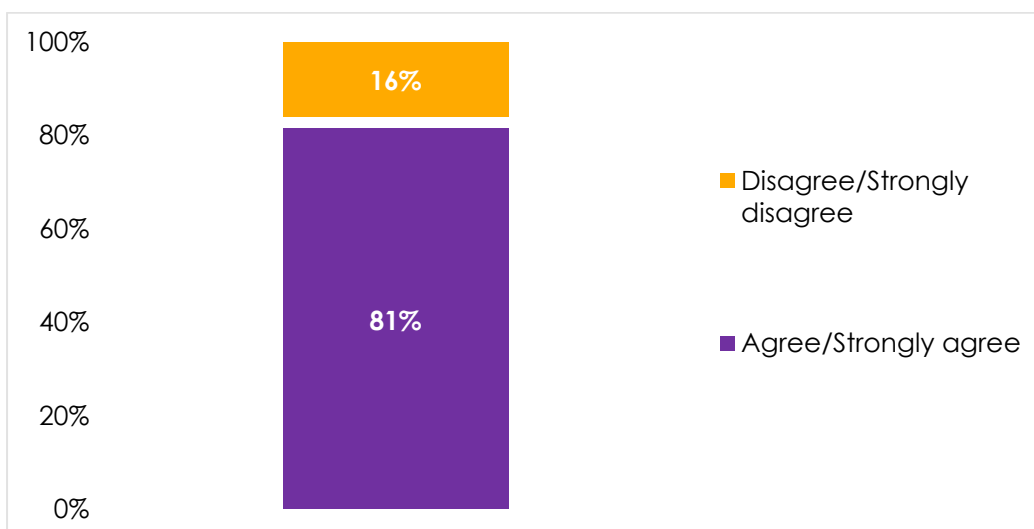
The Afrobarometer team in Sudan, led by Sudan Polling Statistics Center (SPSC), interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,200 adults in November–December 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Sudan in 2013, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

**Figure 1: Is pollution a serious problem in the community? | Sudan | 2022**



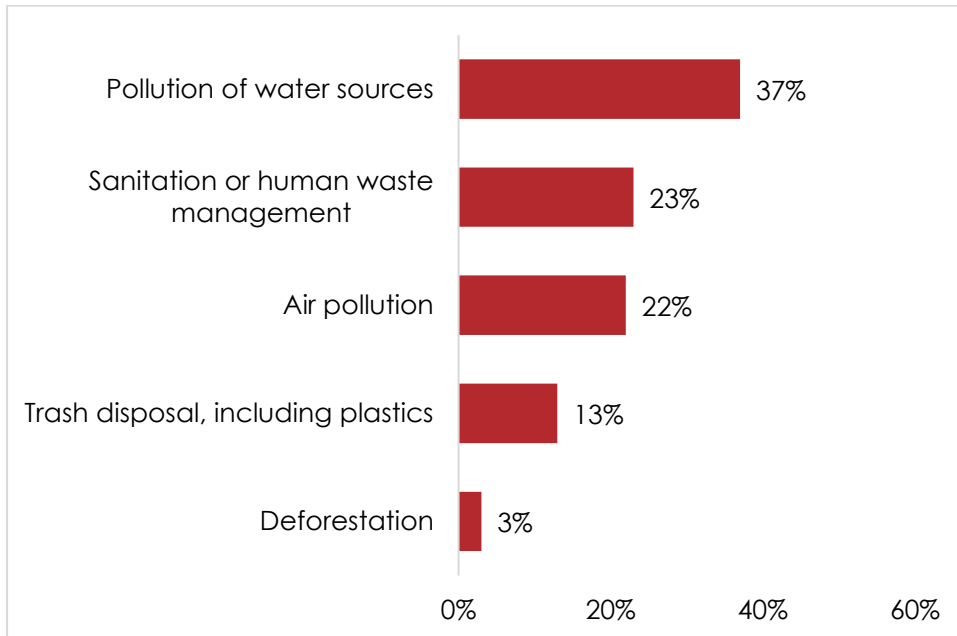
**Respondents were asked:** How serious a problem is pollution, such as the accumulation of trash or garbage, or damage to the quality of the air, the water, or the land in your community?

**Figure 2: Are plastic bags a major source of pollution? | Sudan | 2022**



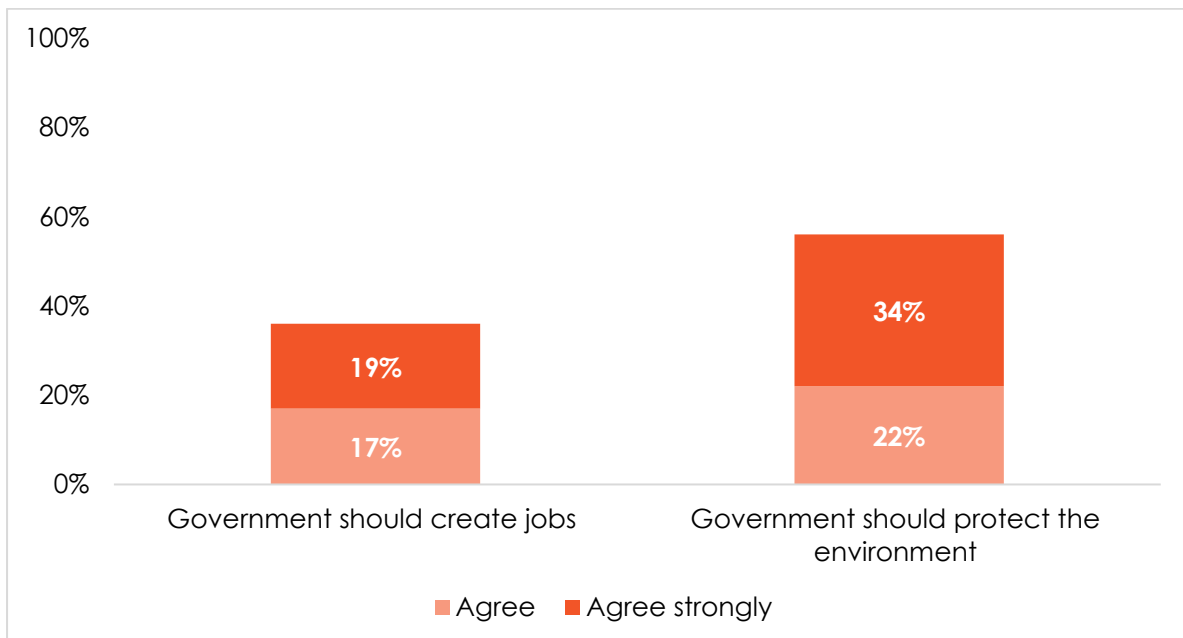
**Respondents were asked:** Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Plastic bags are a major source of pollution in this country.

**Figure 3: Most important environmental issue in the community | Sudan | 2022**



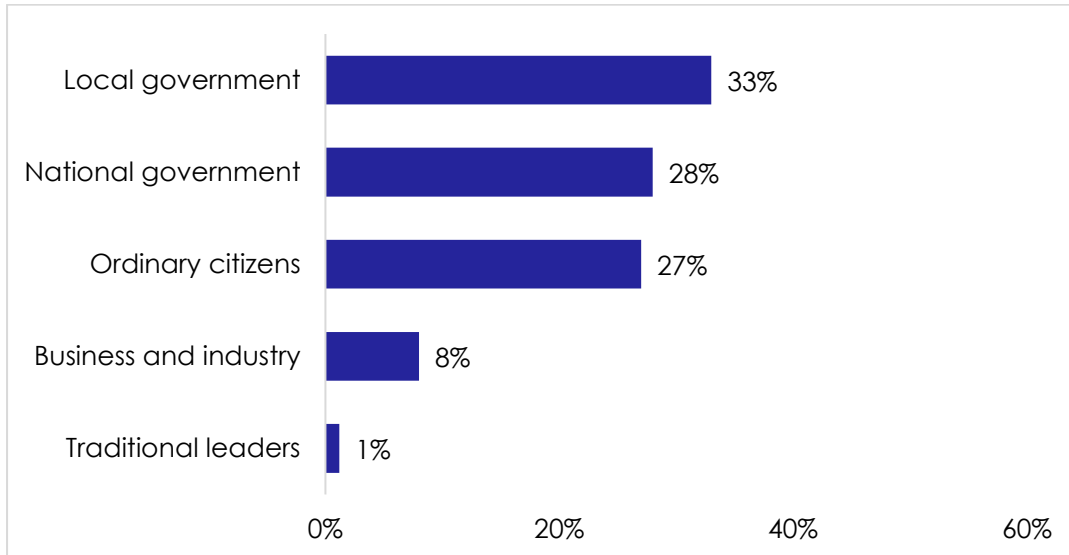
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following is the most important environmental issue in your community today?

**Figure 4: Should government prioritise jobs or the environment? | Sudan | 2022**



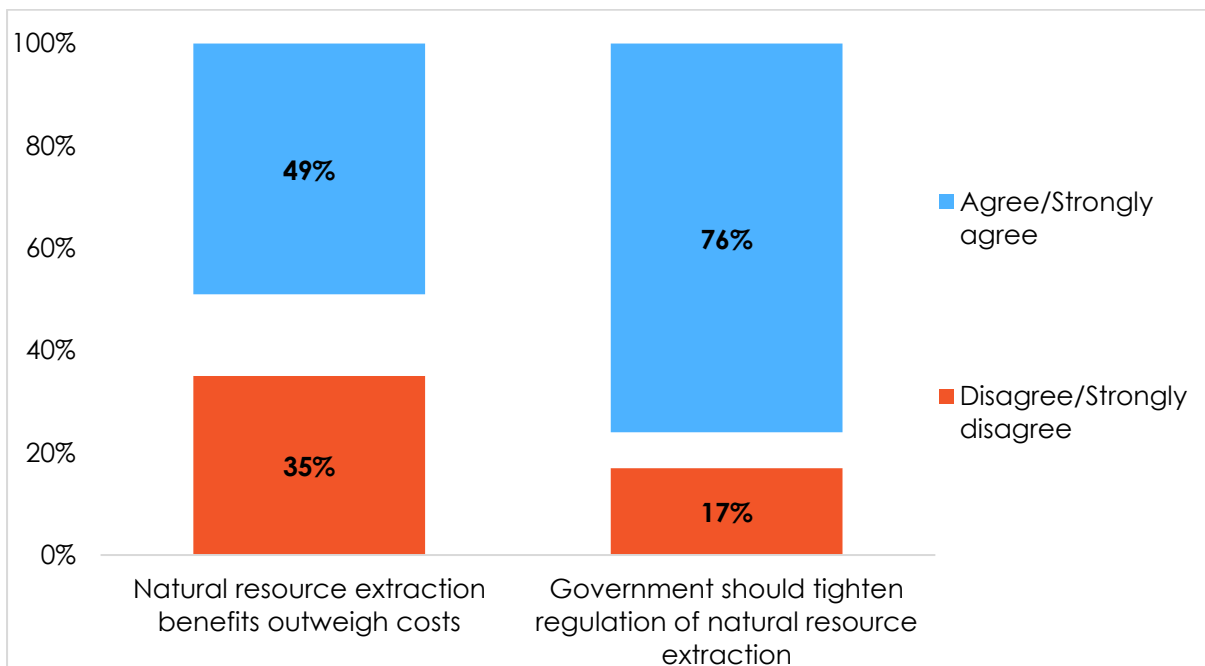
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: The government should focus on creating jobs and increasing incomes, even if that means increasing pollution or other environmental damage.  
 Statement 2: The government should focus more on preventing pollution and protecting the environment, even if this means there will be fewer jobs or there will be other disruptions to our daily lives.

**Figure 5: Who should be responsible for reducing pollution? | Sudan | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** Who do you think should have primary responsibility for reducing pollution and keeping your community clean?

**Figure 6: Natural resource extraction: Costs vs. benefits | Sudan | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** Natural resource extraction such as mining, oil drilling, or wood harvesting can have benefits, such as jobs and revenue. But it can also pose problems for nearby communities, such as pollution or deforestation. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

*In general, the benefits of resource extraction activities to local communities, such as jobs and revenue, outweigh the costs, such as pollution.*

*In this country, natural resource extraction should be more tightly regulated by government to reduce the negative impacts on the environment.*

**For more information, please contact:**

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