



Banjul, Gambia
15 November 2024

News release

Gambians call for immediate government action and foreign aid to address climate change

A large majority of Gambians who have heard of climate change say the government must act now to limit its effects, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows. Most climate-aware citizens also call on developed countries to contribute to efforts to fight climate change, including by providing aid to support Gambia in responding to the crisis.

Climate awareness is fairly widespread in Gambian society, with two-thirds reporting familiarity with the concept of climate change. And among those who report awareness, two-thirds say it is negatively impacting their lives.

Despite strong calls for external aid, half of those who display knowledge of climate change see the Gambian government as bearing the main responsibility for addressing climate challenges, while a further one-fifth lay responsibility at the door of business and industry.

Key findings

- Two-thirds (68%) of Gambians say they have heard of climate change, a 12-percentage-point increase compared to 2022 (56%) (Figure 1).
- Among those who have heard of climate change:
 - Two-thirds (67%) say it is making life in Gambia worse (Figure 2).
 - Eight in 10 blame climate change on human activity (61%) or a combination of human activity and natural processes (19%) (Figure 3).
 - Three-fourths (76%) say the government must take immediate action to limit climate change "even if it is expensive or causes some job losses or other harm to our economy." And large majorities call for climate action by developed countries (81%), including by providing climate aid to Gambia (83%) (Figure 4).
 - Half (50%) see the government as bearing primary responsibility for limiting climate change, while one-fifth (21%) say the private sector should bear the burden (Figure 5).

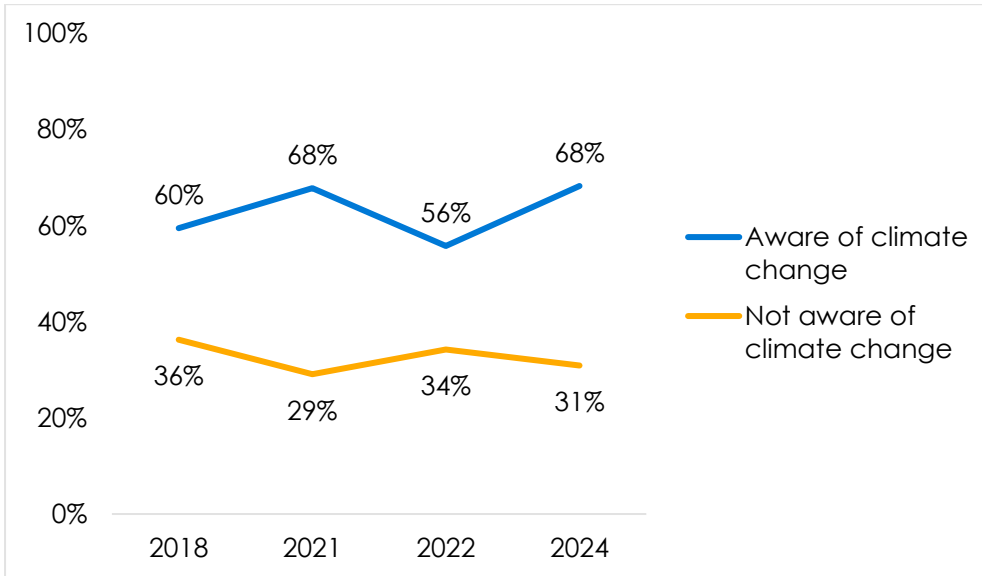
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Gambia, led by the Center for Research and Policy Development, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Gambians in April-May 2024. 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 Gambia in 2018, 2021, and 2022.

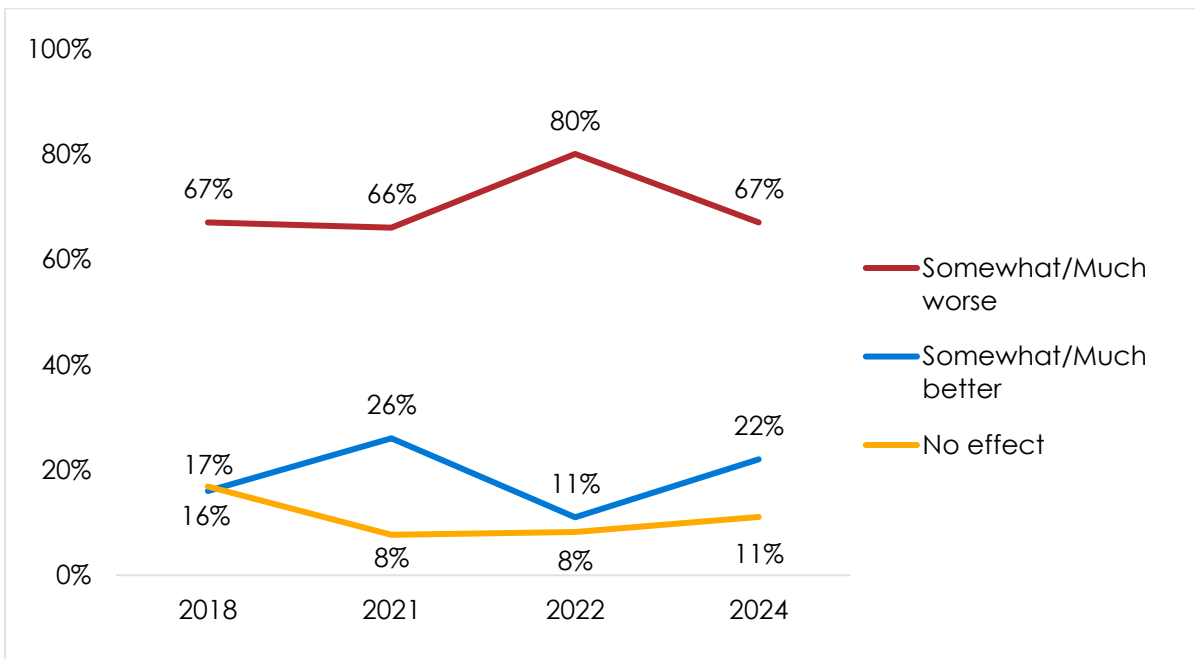
Charts

Figure 1: Awareness of climate change | Gambia | 2018-2024



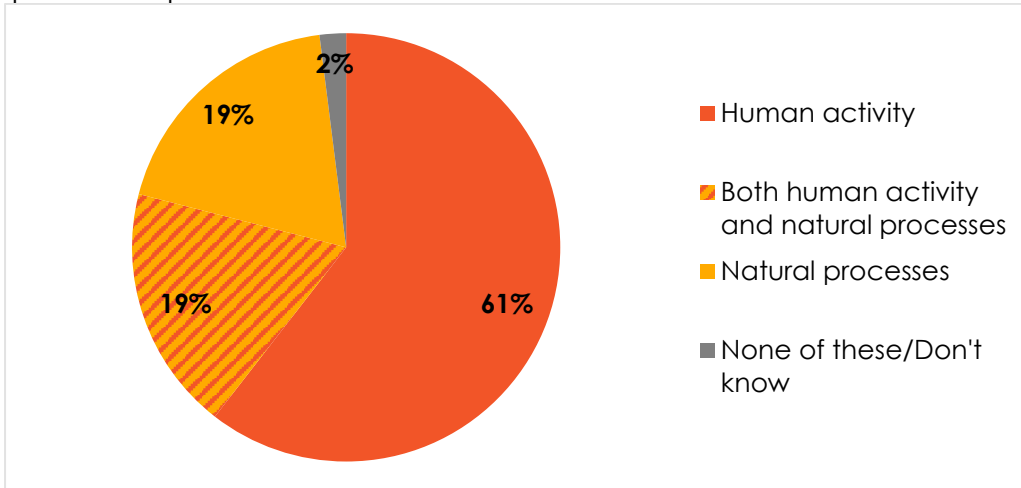
Respondents were asked: Have you heard about climate change, or haven't you had the chance to hear about this yet?

Figure 2: Is climate change making life worse or better? | among climate-aware respondents | Gambia | 2018-2024



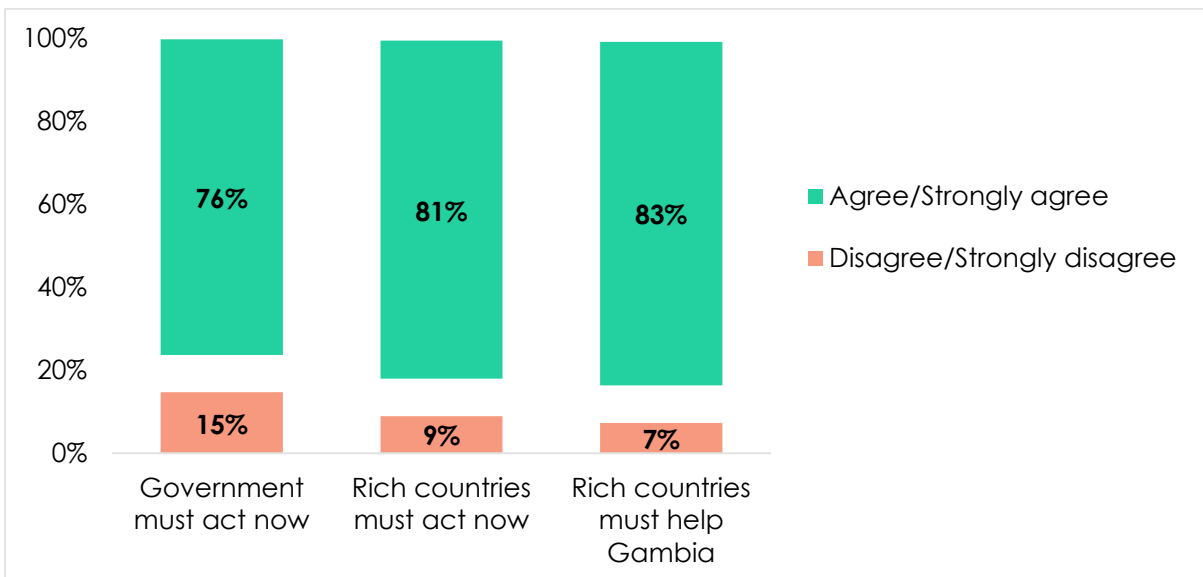
Respondents who are aware of climate change were asked: Do you think climate change is making life in Gambia better or worse, or haven't you heard enough to say? (Respondents who are not aware of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 3: Main causes of climate change | among climate-aware respondents
 | Gambia | 2024



Respondents who had heard of climate change were asked: Which of the following do you think is the main cause of climate, or haven't you heard enough to say: Human activity, like cutting down forests, or burning fuel and other activities that pollute the atmosphere? Natural weather patterns or natural processes? (Respondents who had not heard of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 4: Who must act to limit climate change? | among climate-aware respondents | Gambia | 2024



Respondents who had heard of climate change were asked:

For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree:

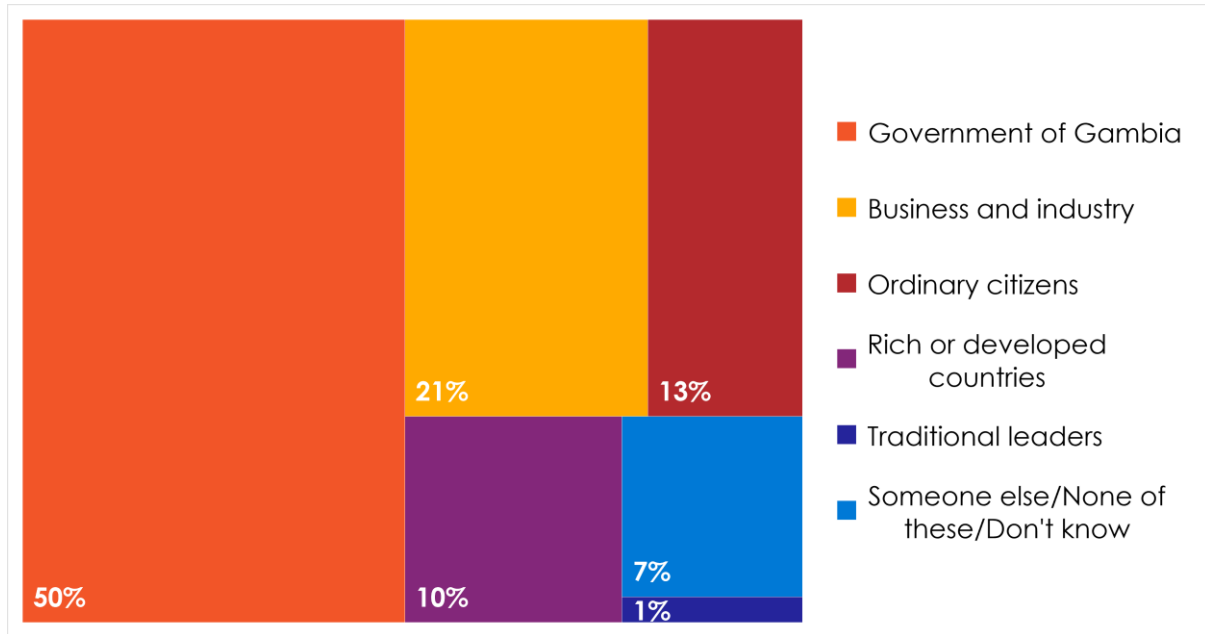
It is important for our government to take steps now to limit climate change in the future, even if it is expensive or causes some job losses or other harm to our economy.

It is important for rich or developed countries that have done the most to cause climate change to take steps now to limit climate change in the future, even if it is costly for those countries.

Rich or developed countries that have done the most to cause climate change have an obligation to help Gambia cover the costs of adapting and responding to the negative impacts of climate change.

(Respondents who had not heard of climate change are excluded.)

Figure 5: Who has primary responsibility for limiting climate change? | among climate-aware respondents | Gambia | 2024



Respondents who had 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 had not heard of climate change are excluded.)

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