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News release

Africans demand immediate climate action from rich nations and stronger measures from their own governments, new Afrobarometer Pan-Africa Profile reveals

Climate-change-literate Africans overwhelmingly want rich, developed countries to take immediate action and assist poorer nations to mitigate the impacts of climate change, a new [Afrobarometer Pan-Africa Profile report](#) shows.

They also want their own governments to take proactive measures – such as investing in infrastructure and adopting mitigation policies – despite their potential costs.

The report, based on findings from Afrobarometer's Round 10 surveys across 38 African countries in 2024/2025, shows that more than four in 10 African adults are climate-change literate (meaning they are both aware of climate change and understand that it is driven by human activity), though climate-change literacy varies greatly by country and demographic group.

The impacts of climate change are widely felt across the continent, with drought and crop failure representing the most commonly reported effects. Most climate-change-literate citizens say climate change is making life in their countries worse. And a majority of Africans say their family has had to adapt to climate changes by changing their water or food consumption, their outdoor work patterns, their crop planting, their livestock rearing, and/or where they live.

While Africans most commonly assign primary responsibility for climate action to their national government, there has been a notable shift in recent years toward holding wealthy nations accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis.

Afrobarometer survey

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. Ten survey rounds in up to 45 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys (2024/2025) cover 38 countries.

Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice. National samples of 1,200-2,400 yield country-level results with margins of error of +/-2 to +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

Key findings

Awareness and understanding of climate change:

- On average across 38 countries, more than four in 10 Africans (43%) are "climate-change literate," meaning they have both heard of climate change and recognise it as being at least partly caused by human activity.
 - Climate-change literacy varies widely by country, from 19% in Nigeria to 73% in Seychelles (Figure 1).

- It is higher among men and urban residents and increases with wealth, education, and news consumption.

Experiencing climate change:

- Drought and crop failure are the most widely experienced climate threat, with half of respondents reporting that these events have become “somewhat more” or “much more” severe in their local area over the past decade (Figure 2).
 - Reported increases in flooding severity are lower, at 35%.
- Eight in 10 climate-change-literate respondents (80%) say that climate change is making life “somewhat” or “much” worse in their country (Figure 3).

Support for climate mitigation and action:

- Climate-change-literate Africans assign primary responsibility for addressing climate change to their own governments (37%), wealthy or developed nations (26%), ordinary citizens (20%), and business/industry (11%) (Figure 4).
- Among climate-change-literate respondents, there is overwhelming demand for developed countries to take immediate action on climate change (83%) and to assist poorer nations (85%), alongside strong backing for their own governments to take proactive measures (73%) (Figure 5).
- Africans strongly support government climate action through infrastructure investment (81%) and pressure on wealthy nations for climate aid (78%), with moderate support for banning tree cutting for fuel (51%) and mandating the use of cleaner cookstoves (47%) (Figure 6).

Charts

Figure 1: Climate-change literacy (%) | 38 countries | 2024/2025

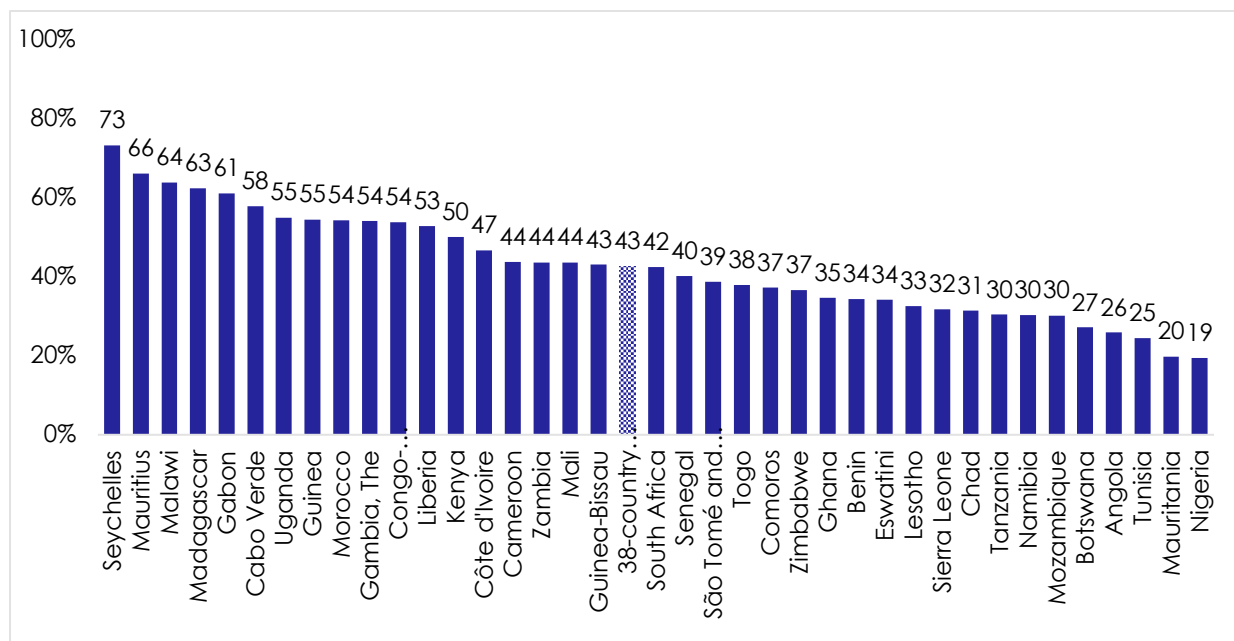
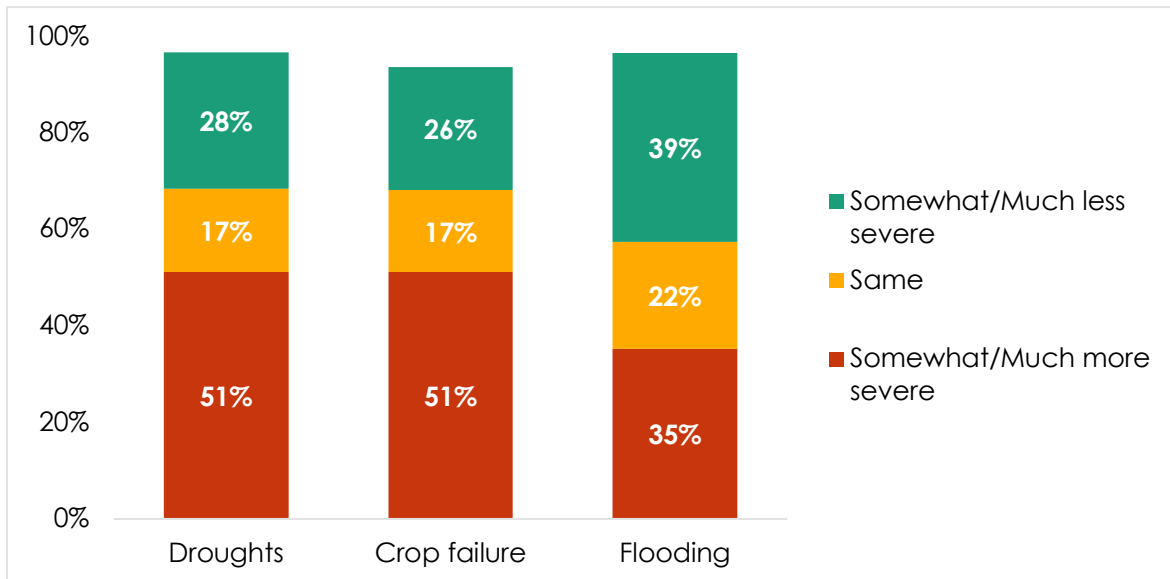


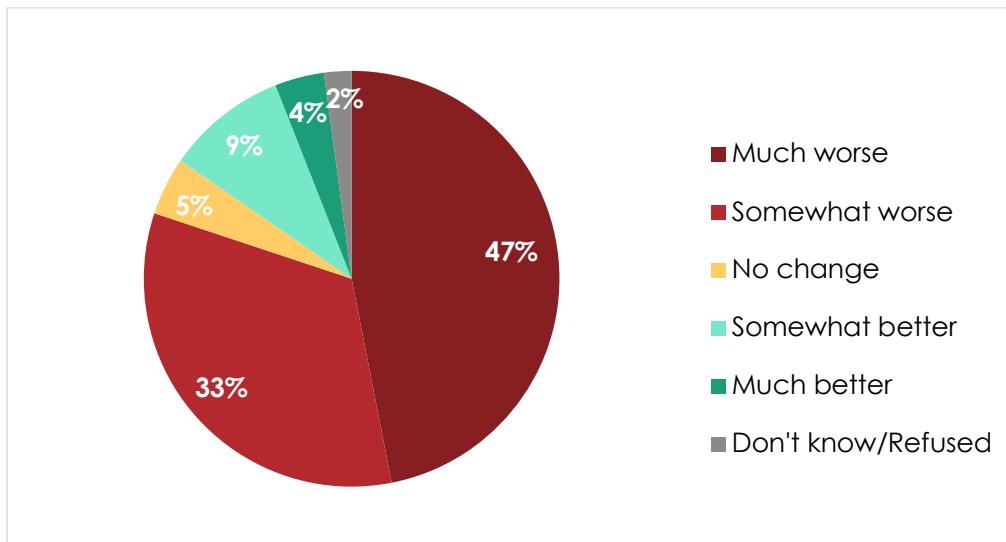
Figure shows % of all respondents in each country who are “climate-change literate,” meaning they not only have heard of climate change but also know that human activity plays a part in causing it.

Figure 2: Severity of droughts, crop failure, and flooding | 38 countries | 2024/2025



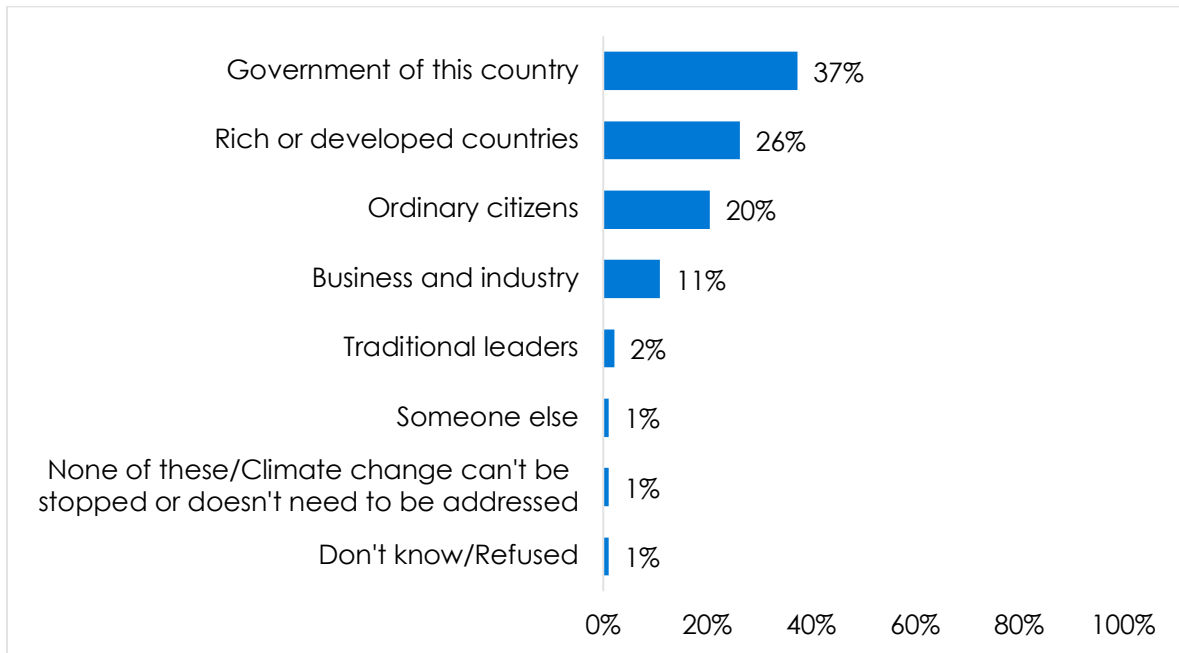
Respondents were asked: In your experience, over the past 10 years, has there been any change in the severity of the following events in the area where you live? Have they become more severe, less severe, or stayed about the same?

Figure 3: Perceived impact of climate change | climate-change-literate respondents | 38 countries | 2024/2025



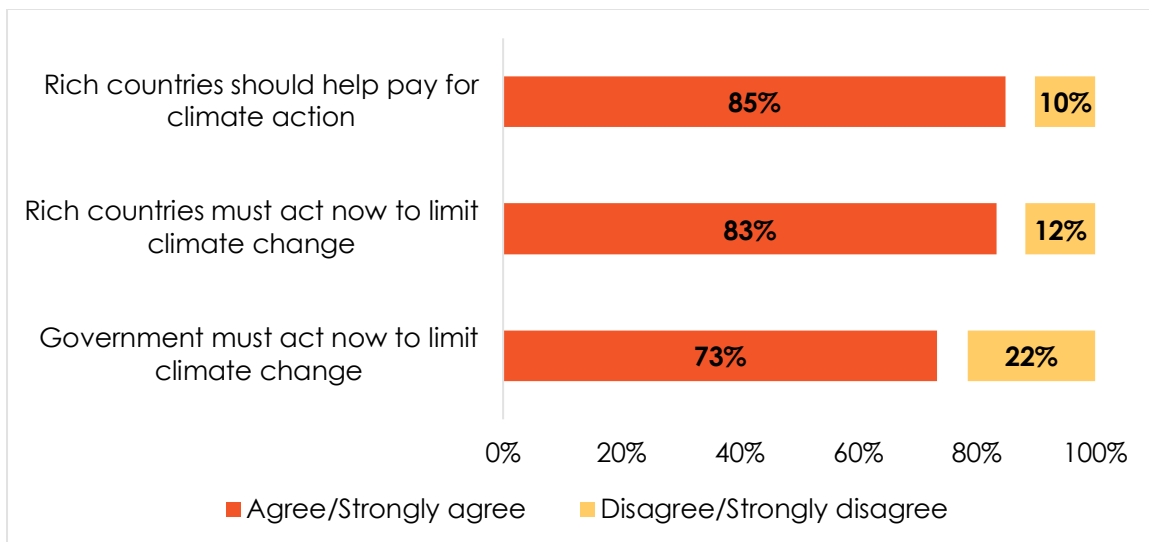
Respondents who are climate-change literate were asked: Do you think climate change is making life in [your country] better or worse, or haven't you heard enough to say? (Respondents who are not climate-change literate are excluded).

Figure 4: Who should have primary responsibility for limiting climate change?
 | 38 countries | 2024/2025



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

Figure 5: Support for climate action | 38 countries | 2024/2025



Respondents who are climate-change literate were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree:

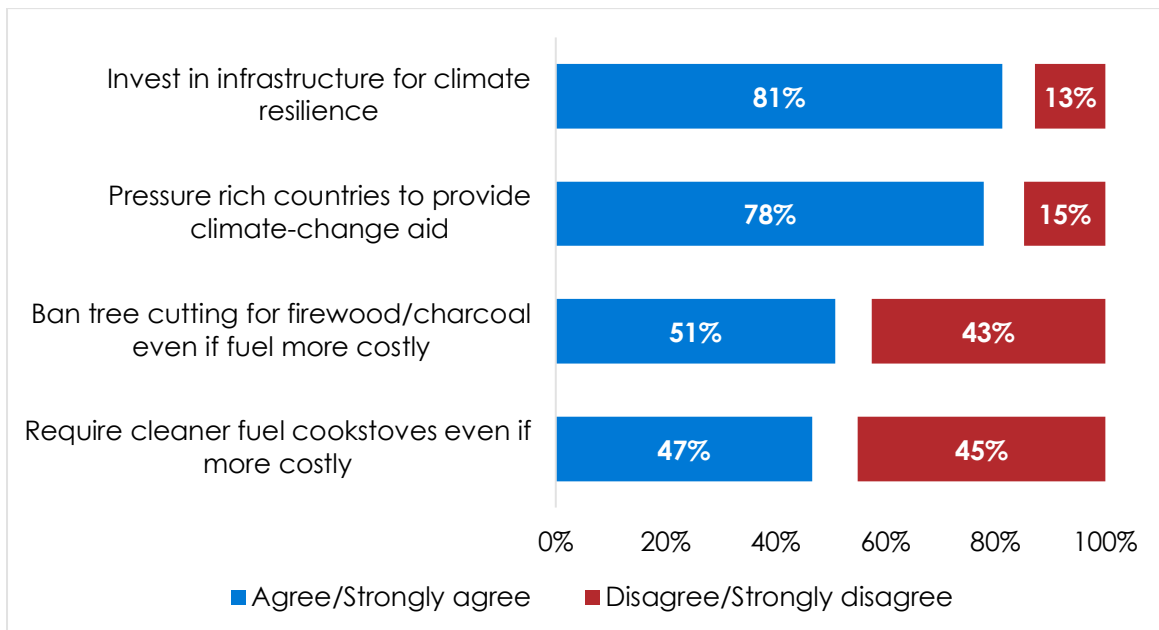
It is important for our government to take steps now to limit climate change in the future, even if it is expensive or causes some job losses or other harm to our economy.

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 [this country] cover the costs of adapting and responding to the negative impacts of climate change.

(Respondents who are not climate-change literate are excluded.)

Figure 6: Support for climate-change mitigation policies | 38 countries | 2024/2025



Respondents were asked: There are many policies that our government could adopt in order to respond to changing weather patterns and environmental degradation. Please tell me whether you disagree or agree with each of the following options:

Make it illegal for people to cut down trees for firewood or charcoal, even if it means we have to pay more for other sources of energy.

Require everyone to switch to cookstoves that use cleaner fuels like electricity, gas, or propane, even if it means we have to pay more to cook our food.

Invest in improving infrastructure so our country can withstand more extreme floods and droughts.

Put more pressure on rich and developed countries to provide resources to help [citizens of the country] who are affected by climate change or changes in weather conditions.

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