ATTITUDES ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN WEST AFRICA

HOMEF
HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH foundation

ABOUT HOMEF

As the world hurtles towards climate catastrophe, response and action have continued to be more than lacklustre. It is critical that our solutions and thinking are ecologically centred, rooted in an ideology of living in harmony with nature and the environment.

It is this ideology that has been HOMEF's driving philosophy over the past 10 years. We align with grassroots movements and do extensive work with communities to platform their concerns and link these ground swells to global movements around the world.

We are an ecological think tank advocating for socio-ecological justice and food sovereignty in Nigeria and Africa at large.

Our mission is to build ecological knowledge, propagate re-source democracy and support wholesome socio-ecologically cohesive communities where people live in solidarity and dignity.

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01 Executive summary

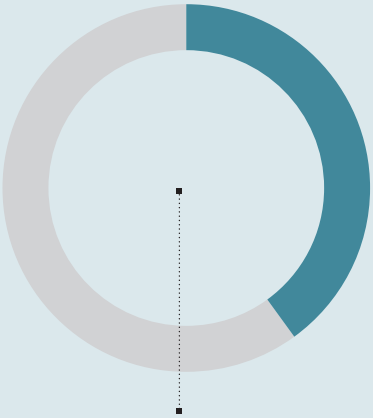
Africa has massive potential for renewables, and the uptake of clean energy is on the rise across the continent. Yet, investment has yet to reach either the scale needed to tap this massive potential, or to meet the energy transition needed to avert climate change. In light of this challenge, this report explores public opinion in three West African nations - Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal - towards renewable energy. The data and analysis presented in this report show that the populations of these three countries consider climate change among the top issues in their countries, that large majorities of the public are worried about climate change, that attitudes towards renewable energy are highly favourable, and that the publics of the three countries are willing to take civic action in support of their views on climate.

Background: Energy potential and investment

The potential for renewable energy production in Africa is substantial. The continent could produce 40% of the world's solar energy, but so far produces less than one percent of this potential. Furthermore, investment has tapped only 0.01% of the continent's potential wind capacity, which if fully exploited could satisfy the continent's energy demand 250 times over.

Despite this potential, sufficient investment has yet to reach the continent. Between 2000 and 2020, according to data from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Africa attracted an average of only 2% of global renewables investment, with only 0.8% of the USD 495 billion total of global renewable energy investment in 2022. In total, only 63.8 billion USD has been invested in renewables in Africa since 2004.

This is in a context wherein to meet the climate policies and pledges which have been announced, a total of USD 1,660 billion is required by 2050. This equates to an average investment gap of USD 21-53 billion per year if the trend of 2022 is to continue. To meet this demand for investment, African nations will need to move towards internal budgetary realignment to focus on renewable energy and to move away from external climate financing alone.



40%

The continent could produce 40% of the world's solar energy, but so far produces less than one percent

63.8 billion USD has been invested in renewables in Africa since 2004.

Background: Attitudes

The people of West Africa are aware of climate change, and that it is caused by activities of humans and corporations. Although they have not contributed significantly to the crisis, they are conscious that they have a role to play in mitigating it. It is also a fact that despite its impacts, climate ranks below other priority issues like jobs, the economy, cost of living, education and corruption.

People in Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal are willing to take steps to pressure leaders to act on climate change, through popular engagement including civil protests. Our findings suggest that for there to be meaningful efforts to tackle climate change, how the issue intersects with other challenges in the public's daily life is important. The people agree that energy is critical for meaningful developmental progress to occur in a sustainable manner.

Africa can be a leader in renewable energy but, despite the continent being endowed with More vast renewable energy resources than any other region of the world, the uptake of clean energy remains low across the continent.

This report, drawn from a survey on attitudes towards climate change conducted in Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal, highlights how people in these countries are not only increasingly becoming aware of the effects of climate change in their lives, but are also increasingly aware of what is needed to adapt and mitigate climate change. This report goes beyond looking at general climate change attitudes, discussing attitudes towards different energy sources and different energy infrastructure. This briefing, released by Home of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), also highlights a significant finding that more and more people in the three countries are more positive about the installation of renewable electricity sources. The publics of the three countries tend to have more positive attitudes towards clean and renewable energy sources like solar energy specifically, than towards dirty energy supplies from hydrocarbons.

Methodology

To understand the above issues, HOMEF conducted a study to understand the public's attitudes towards renewables in Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal. The study specifically aimed to understand:

- **General attitudes towards climate;**
- **Attitudes towards different energy sources;**
- **Attitudes towards construction of different energy infrastructure;**
- **Attitudes towards taking action on climate change.**

To understand these attitudes, nationally representative surveys were conducted in each country.[1] Each survey had over 3,000 respondents, with a random selection of respondents to ensure the representativeness of the survey. The survey took place between March 20 and April 30, 2023, and was fielded by Dalberg Research. The data analysis within this report makes use of frequencies and cross tabulations.

[1] Regions affected by ongoing conflict were excluded from data collection in Nigeria.

Key findings

The data presented in this report lead to a range of conclusions.

Attitudes towards climate change

With regard to general climate attitudes, climate change and the environment are moderately salient across the three countries. Between 16% and 29% of the public believe that it is a top priority for their country, with people in Senegal being particularly likely to name it as a top issue.

While almost everyone in the three countries believes in climate change, only one quarter to one third of the publics believe that climate change is primarily driven by human activity. Across the three countries, belief in climate change is associated with education level – the more education someone has attained, the more likely they are to believe that climate change is caused by human activities.

Worry about climate change is high across the three countries, with three quarters to nine in ten members of the public being worried or very worried about climate change, with Senegal again standing out as the country where people are most worried. Across the three countries, people working in agriculture are more likely to be very concerned about climate change than people outside the sector.

Attitudes towards different energy sources

When it comes to attitudes towards different energy sources, the publics of the three countries tend to have more positive than negative attitudes towards all energy sources asked about. The only exception to this general pattern in nuclear energy in Senegal. Otherwise, the publics of the three countries also tend to have more positive attitudes towards renewables and solar specifically than towards different hydrocarbons. One exception to this is attitudes towards wind power in Nigeria, which is substantially lower than in the other two countries under study. These attitudes tend to vary little across different social, economic, and demographic groups in the three countries.

Attitudes towards energy infrastructure

The survey shows that people tend to be more positive than negative about the installation of energy infrastructure in their communities, with the key exception being nuclear energy, again in Senegal. Although people tend to be positive about different forms of energy infrastructure, they are more positive about the installation of renewable electricity sources, and solar specifically. As with attitudes towards wind power in general, people in Nigeria are less positive about windmills being installed in their communities.

Civic action

Across the three countries of this study, a large majority of the populations are willing to take civic action in support of their views on climate change. Who was willing to take action varied by a number of social and demographic characteristics across the three different countries, but nonetheless willingness tended to be high across all social and demographic groups.

02 Introduction

With a population that may double by 2050, and with some of the fastest growing economies in the world, demand for energy in Africa will continue to rise. At a time when the world is transitioning to clean energy, Africa – a continent endowed with vast renewable energy resources – has the world's biggest potential to lead the transition and build its own energy sovereignty.

This report summarises a study that was conducted to understand a range of attitudes towards climate related issues in Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal to gain an understanding of perceptions of energy types across the populations of the three countries. It highlights attitudes on climate change and public perceptions on what needs to be done to mitigate it. It also highlights attitudes towards renewable energy and energy infrastructure.

It is believed that while Africa has a potential to produce 40 per cent of the world's solar energy, she has only tapped less than one percent of this resource. The continent has also only tapped 0.01 percent of its wind power potential, yet this resource is enough to power the continent's energy demand 250 times over.

Uncovering the perceptions of citizens of the focus countries on climate change and energy types can help us to build pathways to meeting the expectations of the people in ways that are sustainable. We believe that this report presents us with bottom up and clear ways of tackling the massive energy deficit in our countries. A people's imaginary, no doubt, is the foundation for taking satisfactory action.

To understand the above issues, Home of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) conducted a study to understand the public's attitudes towards renewables in Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal. The study specifically aimed to understand:

- **General attitudes towards climate;**
- **Attitudes towards different energy sources;**
- **Attitudes towards construction of different energy infrastructure;**
- **Attitudes towards taking action on climate change.**

To understand these attitudes, nationally representative surveys were conducted in each country.[2] Each survey had over 3000 respondents, with a random selection of respondents to ensure the representativeness of the survey. The survey took place between March 20 and April 30, 2023, and was fielded by Dalberg Research. The data analysis within this report makes use of frequencies and cross tabulations.

This report is organized as follows. In the next section, the study's methodology is provided in greater depth. In the following section, findings are presented, first looking at general climate attitudes, and then moving on to exploring attitudes towards different energy infrastructure. The report finishes with conclusions and recommendations.

[2] Regions affected by ongoing conflict were excluded from data collection in Nigeria.

03 Methodology

This section of the report provides the study's methodology, first discussing the data collection, and then providing an overview of the data analysis.

Data collection

This study was conducted to understand attitudes towards climate change as well as different energy sources more broadly. As a result, the survey's questionnaire asked respondents about their attitudes towards climate change, different energy sources, and energy infrastructure.

The survey was conducted in Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal. In Ghana and Nigeria, the study had 3020 respondents. In Senegal, the study had 3065 respondents. This leads to a margin of error of approximately 1.8% overall for each country within the study.[3] In all three countries, fieldwork started on March 20th. In Nigeria it completed on April 11. In Ghana, data collection was completed on April 20. In Senegal, fieldwork ended on April 30. The sample was stratified and clustered. Within clusters, random walk was conducted to identify households, and within households the last birthday method was used to identify respondents. This sampling approach was used in order to ensure a nationally representative sample. The data is weighted to ensure appropriate representation of different regions in each country.

Data analysis

The data analysis provided within this study makes use of frequencies and crosstabulation. Frequencies are simply the percentage of people in a population that responded in a specific way. Cross-tabulations break down data based on different respondent characteristics, such as age or sex. The data in this report are broken down by the following characteristics:

Age (18-34, 35-54, 55+)

Settlement type (rural/urban)

Wealth (Asset index, quartiles)

Sector of work (Agriculture or not)

Internet user (Likely uses monthly or more versus not)

Marital status (Never married, no longer married, Married)

Head of household gender (Male or Female)

Education level (Less than university versus university)

Party support

Extraction of fossil fuels locally or not

Employed or not

Crosstabulations generally have larger margins of error than simple frequencies, due to the smaller number of respondents within each group. As a result, greater caution should be applied when interpreting cross tabulations within this report than with simple frequencies.

[3] This is the margin of error for a simple random sample. In reality the study used a clustering with stratification, which results in a higher margin of error; however, this higher margin of error is not fully quantifiable in the current context.

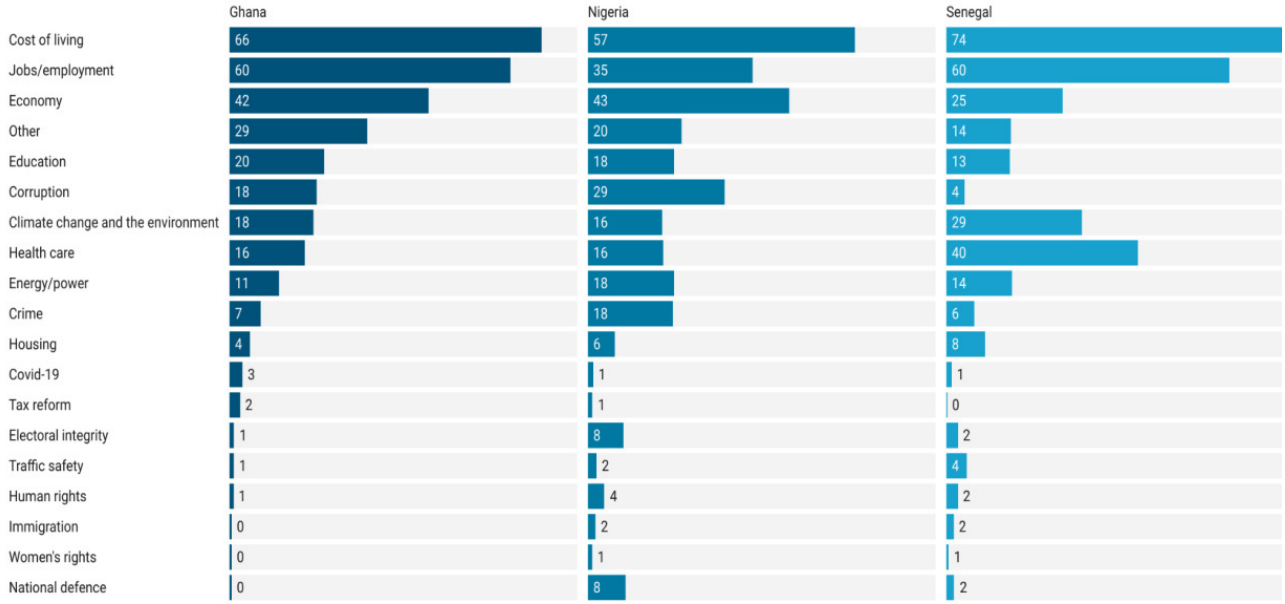
04 Findings

This section of the report provides a breakdown of the findings of the study, first looking at general climate attitudes, then moving on to discuss attitudes towards different energy sources and infrastructure, and finishing with attitudes towards taking civic action on climate change.

General climate attitudes

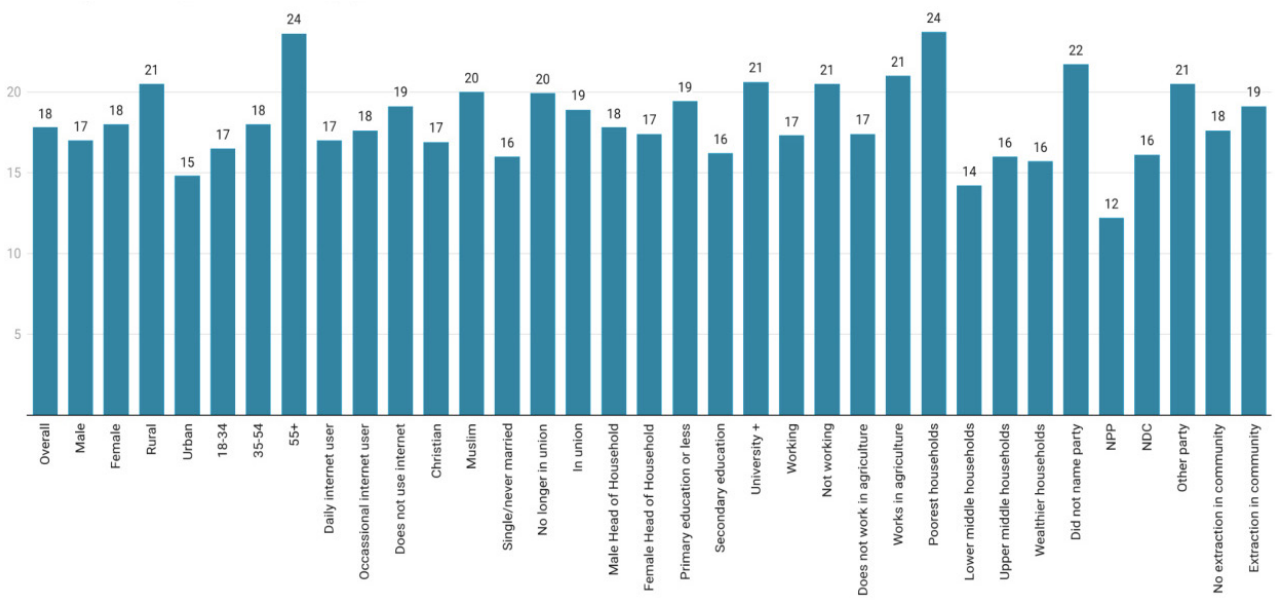
The first question which the survey asked about to understand how the publics of each country thought about climate change was what issues were most important to the country at the time of the survey. In this regard, the data suggests that climate change is most salient in Senegal, with 29% of the public naming climate change and the environment as among the country's top three national issues. By comparison, 18% reported the same in Ghana and 16% reported that climate change and the environment was a top issue in Nigeria.

Figure 1 **Which of the following do you think are the most important issues facing the country at this time? You may name up to three issues. (%)**



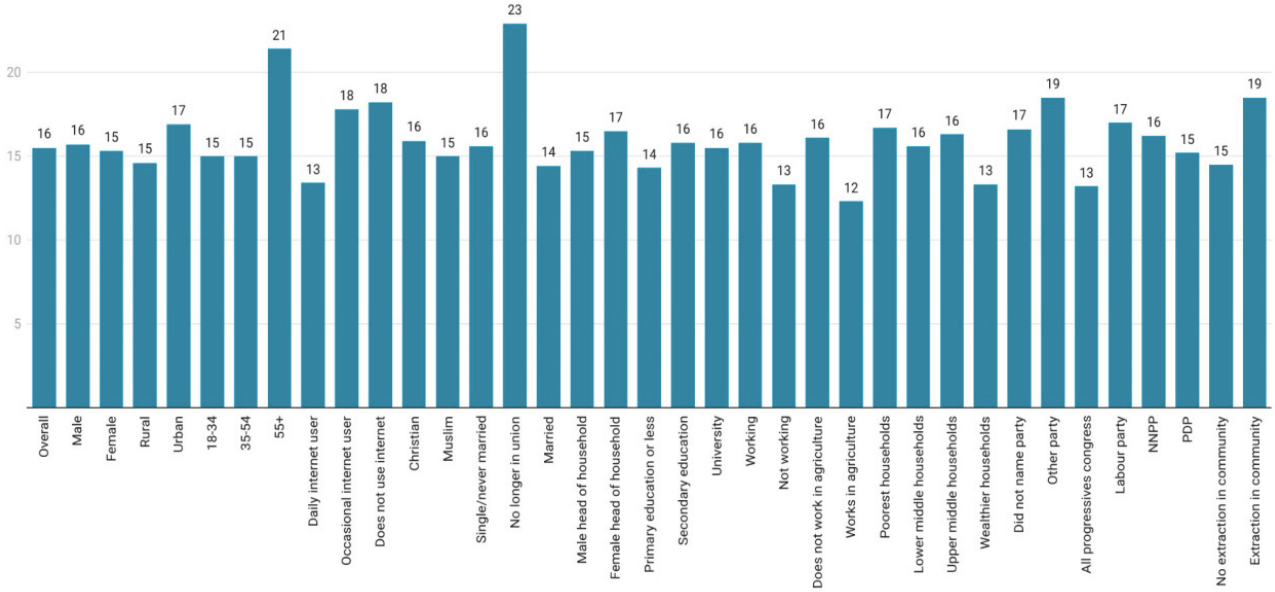
When the data is broken down by social and demographic variables, it suggests that climate is a more salient issue for people aged 55 or over and people living in relatively poor households. By comparison, younger people and people in relatively well off households are more likely to report other issues as top national priorities.

Figure 2 **Which of the following do you think are the most important issues facing the country at this time? You may name up to three issues. (% naming climate change)**



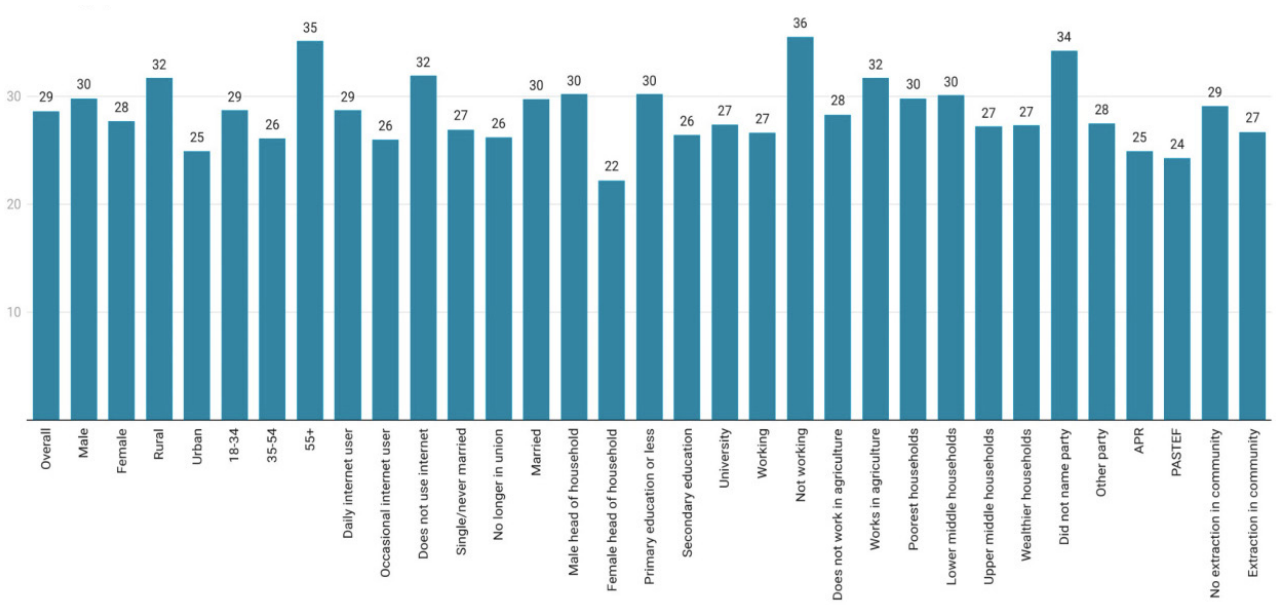
In Nigeria, the data suggest that older people, and those who are no longer married (widowers and divorced people) are more likely to name climate and environment as top issues, compared to people in younger age brackets as well as those currently married and those never married. Importantly, these groups share significant overlap.

Figure 3 **Which of the following do you think are the most important issues facing the country at this time? You may name up to three issues. (% naming climate change)**



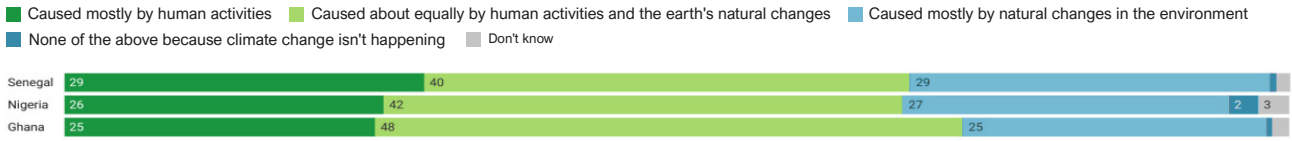
In Senegal, older people are more likely to believe that climate change and the environment are top national issues. Those who are not working are also more likely to report that climate change is a top issue. People living in female headed households are significantly less likely to report that climate change and the environment are a top national issue.

Figure 4 **Which of the following do you think are the most important issues facing the country at this time? You may name up to three issues. (%)**



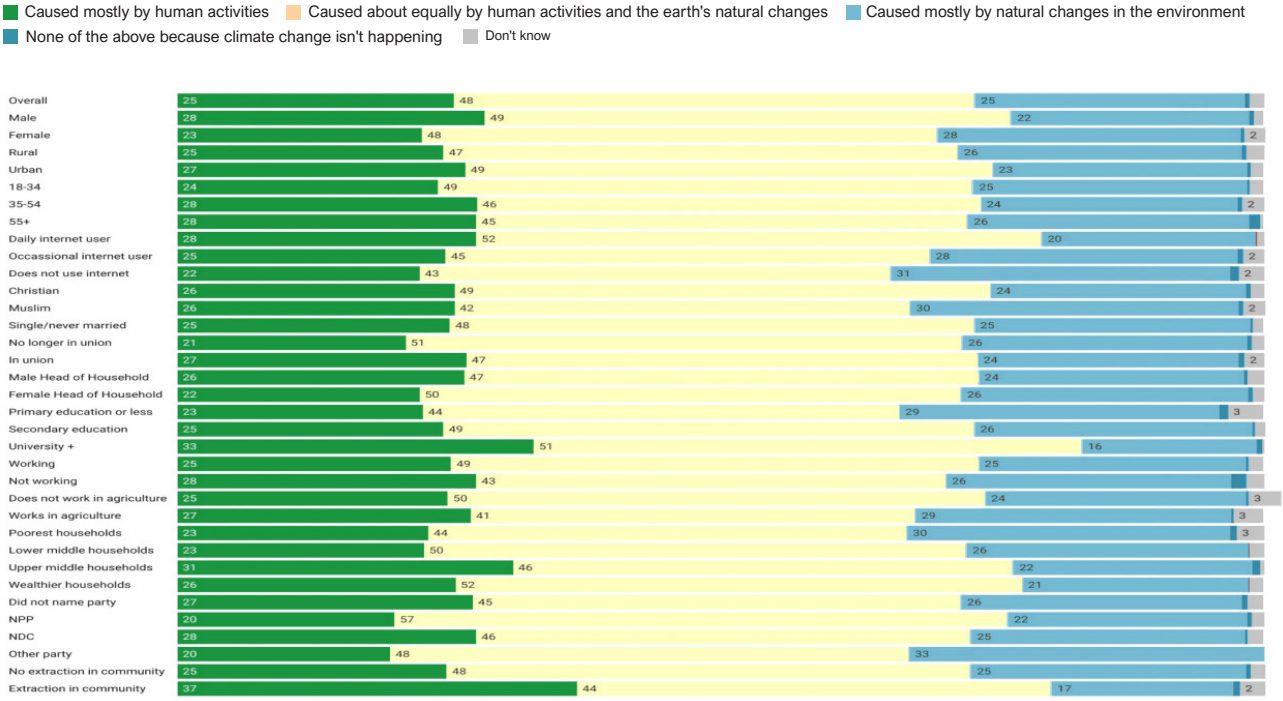
The next question the survey asked to understand attitudes towards climate change was whether people believed that it was a) happening, and b) caused primarily by humans or natural causes. The data suggest that between ¼ and ⅓ of the public's of each country believe that climate change is primarily anthropogenic.

Climate change refers to the idea that the world's average temperature had been increasing over 150 years, will increase more in the future, and that the world's climate will change as a result. Assuming climate change is happening, do you think it is...(%)



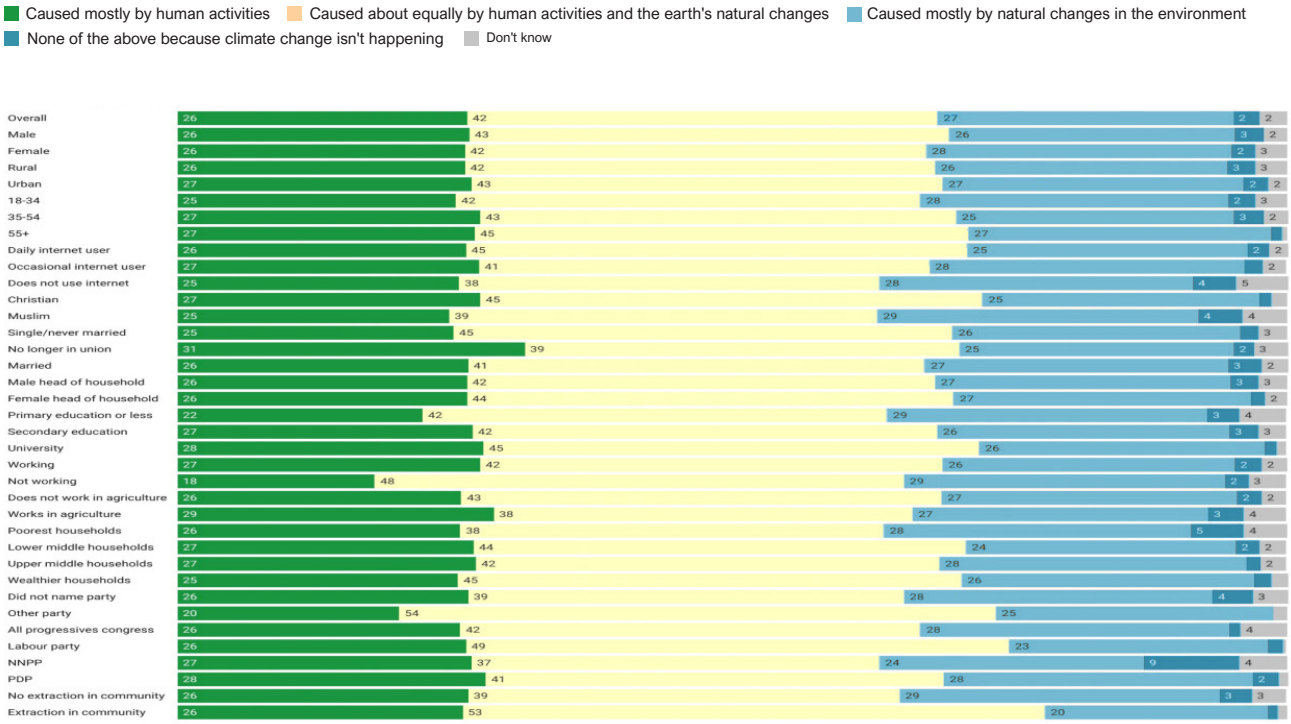
In Ghana, the data shows that 25% of the population believes that climate change is primarily caused by humans. People with university education or higher are more likely than people with lower levels of education to report they believe in anthropogenic climate change. Similarly, people with fossil fuel extraction in their communities are significantly more likely to report that climate change is caused by humans than those without fossil fuel extraction in their communities.

Figure 5 **Climate change refers to the idea that the world's average temperature has been increasing over 150 years, will increase more in the future, and that the world's climate will change as a result. Assuming climate change is happening, do you think it is...(%)**



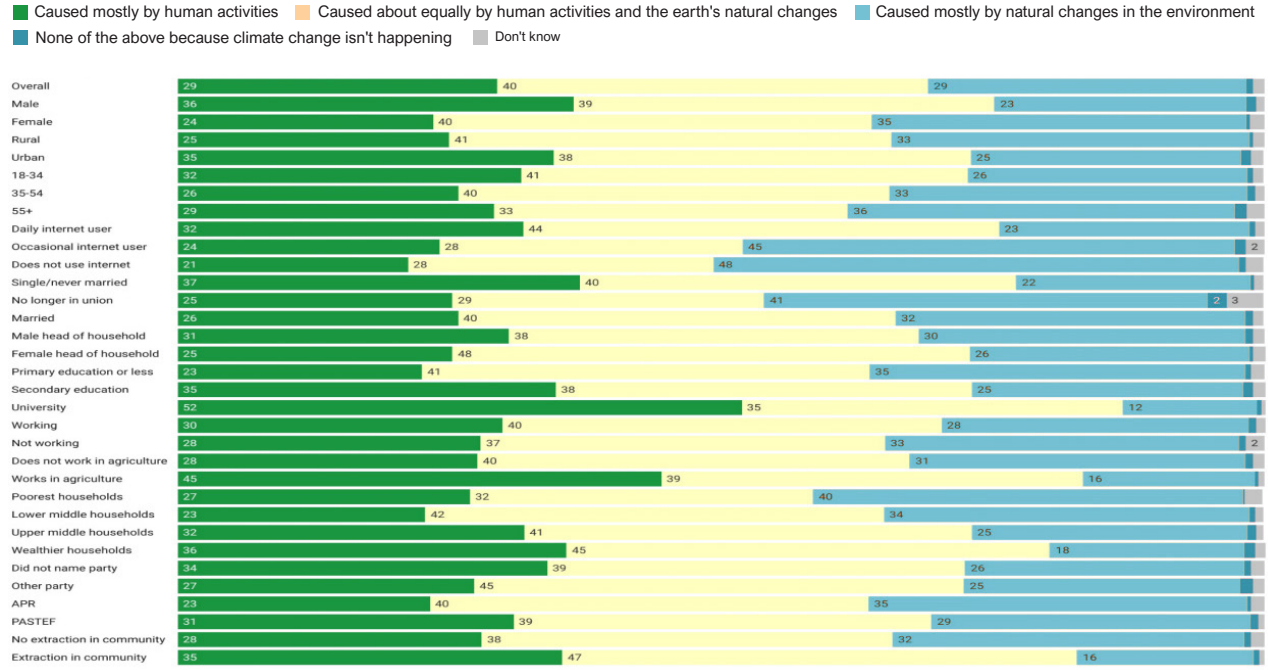
In Nigeria, 26% of the public believes that climate change is primarily caused by human activity. There are relatively few social or demographic characteristics which predict whether or not someone is more or less likely to hold this belief. Specifically, people who are no longer married are six percentage points more likely to believe that climate change is primarily caused by humans than people who are married. People who are working are nine percentage points more likely to believe that climate change is driven by human activities than people who are not working. People with secondary or university education are also slightly more likely to believe in anthropogenic climate change than people with primary education alone.

Figure 6 **Climate change refers to the idea that the world's average temperature has been increasing over 150 years, will increase more in the future, and that the world's climate will change as a result. Assuming climate change is happening, do you think it is...(%)**



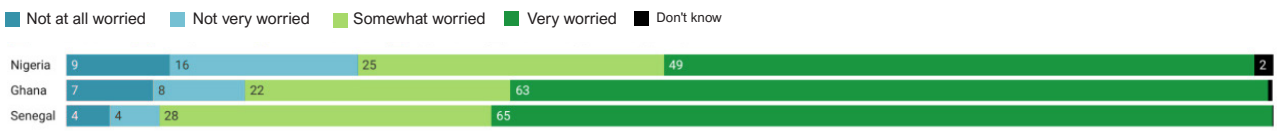
In Senegal, nearly a third of the population (29%) believe that climate change is driven by human activities. In contrast to Ghana and Nigeria, attitudes vary substantially between different social and demographic groups on this attitude. Men are 12 percentage points more likely than women to report that climate change is primarily driven by human activity. People in urban areas are ten percentage points more likely to report that climate change is caused by humans than people in rural areas. People aged 18-34 are six points more likely to believe that climate change is caused by humans than people 35-54. People over the age of 55 are somewhere in between. Daily internet users are 11 points more likely to believe in human driven climate change than people who do not use the internet. People who are single/never married are 11-12 percentage points more likely to believe in human caused climate change than people in other relationship statuses. People living in male headed households are 6 points more likely to report a belief in human caused climate change. Belief in human caused climate change varies substantially with education - while 23% of people with primary education or less believe that climate change is caused primarily by humans, 52% of university graduates believe the same. People working in agriculture are 17 percentage points more likely to believe that climate change is caused by humans than people working outside it or not working at all. People with extraction in their communities are seven percentage points more likely to believe that climate change is caused by humans than those who do not have extraction in their communities.

Figure 7 **Climate change refers to the idea that the world's average temperature has been increasing over 150 years, will increase more in the future, and that the world's climate will change as a result. Assuming climate change is happening, do you think it is...(%)**



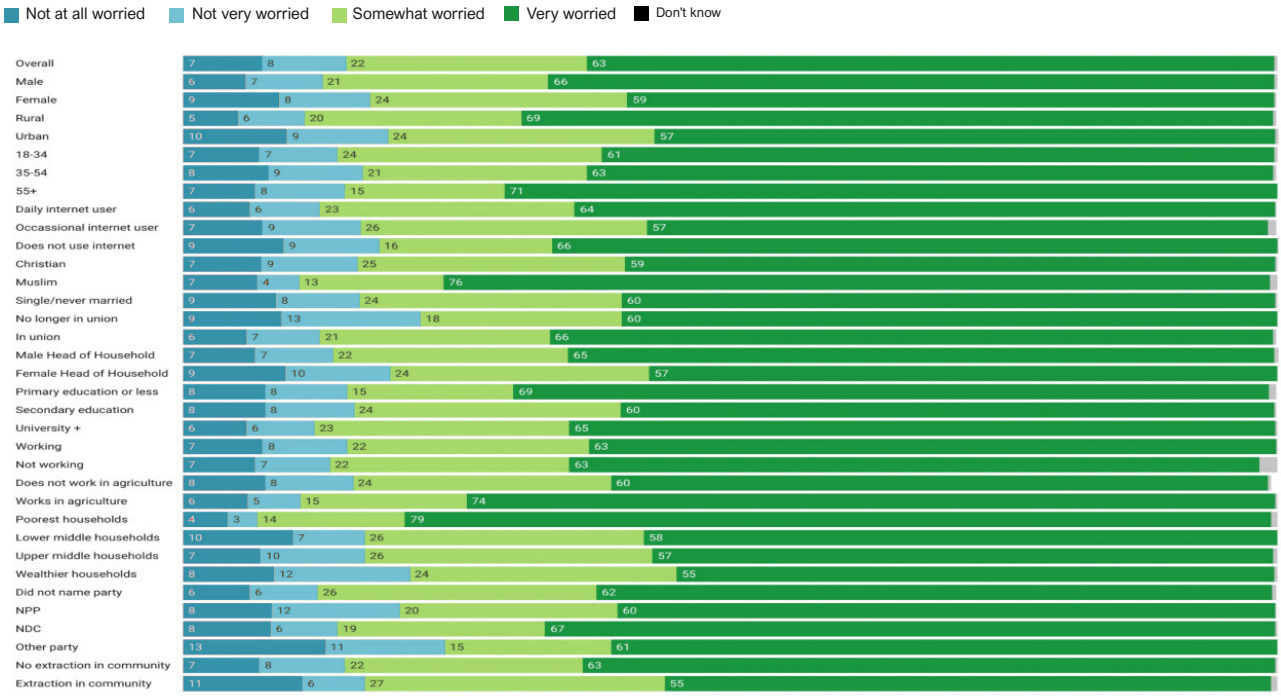
The publics of each country in the survey were asked about how worried they were about climate change. Across the three countries, clear majorities reported that they were either somewhat or very worried about climate change. In Nigeria, 74% reported being worried or very worried, the lowest level of worry of the three countries. In Ghana, 85% reported being worried or very worried, and in Senegal 92% of the public reported being worried or very worried about climate change.

How worried are you about climate change?(%)



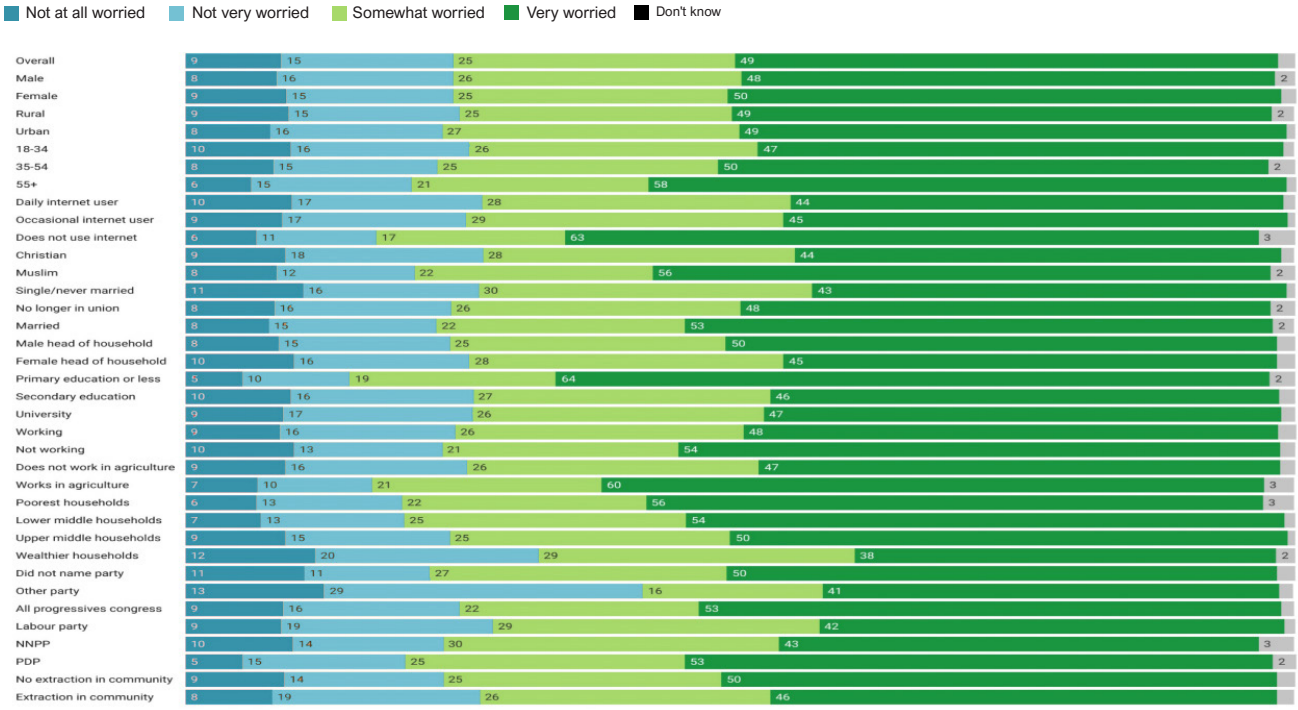
In Ghana, the data suggest that people in the poorest households are most worried about climate change - while 79% of people in the poorest quartile of households reported being very worried about climate change, 55% of people in the richest quartile of households reported the same. Otherwise, the data show that men are more likely to be very worried than women. Similarly, older people are more likely than younger people, Muslims more than Christians, and those outside of extractive communities compared to those within them to report they are very worried about climate change.

Figure 8 **How worried are you about climate change?(%)**



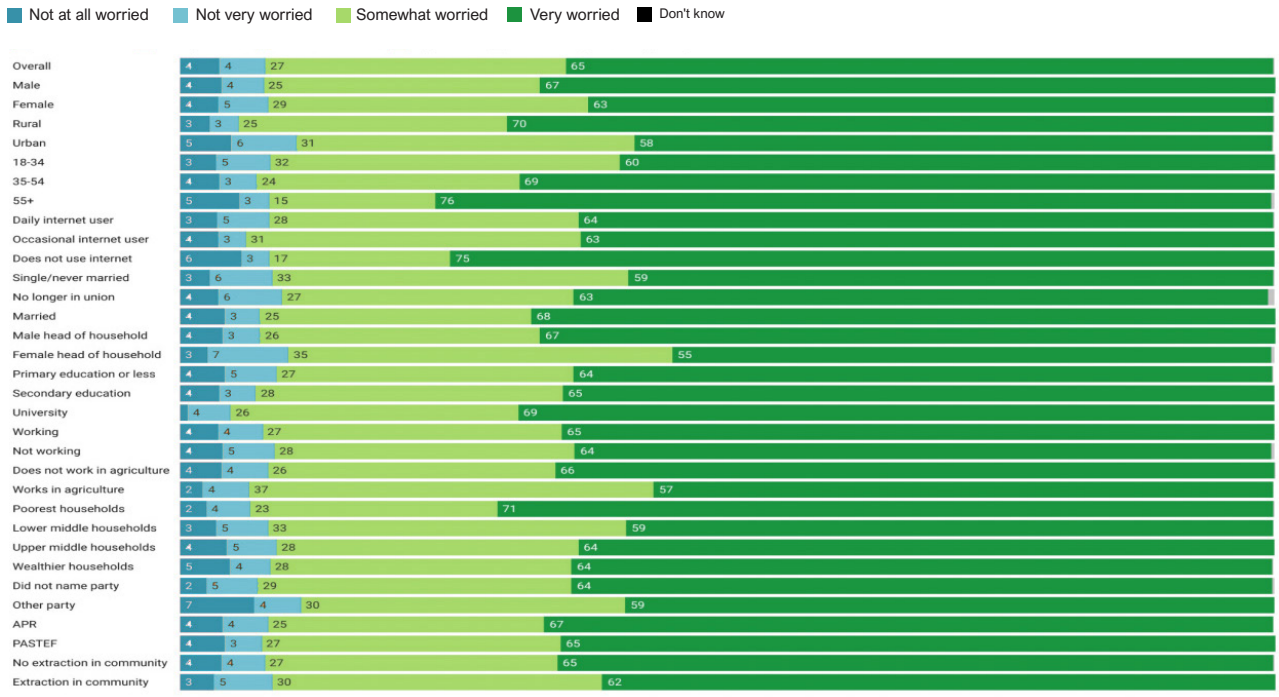
In Nigeria, older people are more likely to be very worried about climate change than younger people. Similarly, those who do not use the internet are significantly more concerned about climate change than those who use the internet. Muslims report being very worried significantly more often than Christians. Those with primary education alone are significantly more likely than those with higher levels of education to report that they were very worried about climate change. People working in agriculture are substantially more likely to report that they are very worried about climate change than those not working in agriculture. The wealthier a household someone lives in, the less likely it is that they report being very worried about climate change.

Figure 9 **How worried are you about climate change?(%)**



In Senegal, the data also show a number of variations between different social and demographic groups on this question. People in rural areas are 22 percentage points more likely to report that they are very worried about climate change than people in urban areas. The older someone is, the more likely they are to report that they are very worried about climate change. Non-internet users report being very worried about climate change more than internet users. People working outside of agriculture are substantially less likely to report being very concerned about climate change. People living the poorest quartile of households are substantially more likely than those in wealthier households to report they are very worried about climate change.

Figure 10 **How worried are you about climate change?(%)**

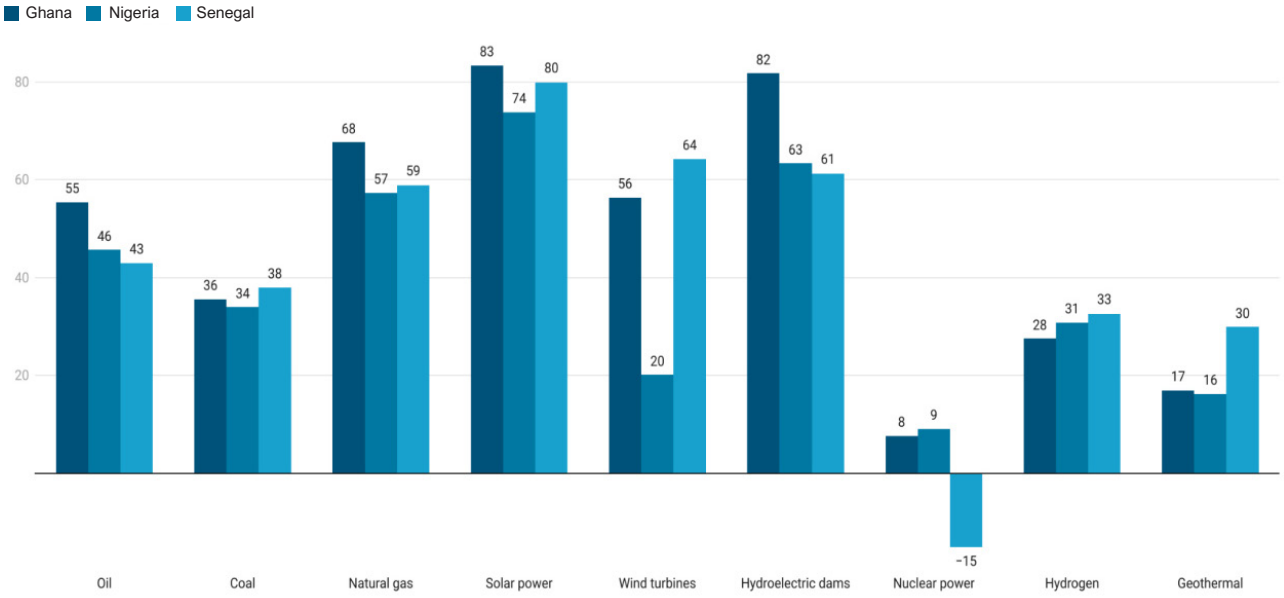


Attitudes towards different energy sources

The survey also explored people's attitudes towards different energy sources. The chart below provides the results for each energy source in each country in the form of a net favourable. A net favourable is a statistic that measures how many more people have a positive/negative attitude towards a subject than have the opposite. It is calculated by subtracting the percentage of people with negative views from the share of people with positive views about the subject.

The data show that overall, people are most positive about wind and hydro electric power across the three countries. This is followed by relatively positive attitudes towards natural gas and wind (with the exception of Nigeria). Attitudes towards oil, coal, hydrogen, and geothermal are not as positive, but still more positive

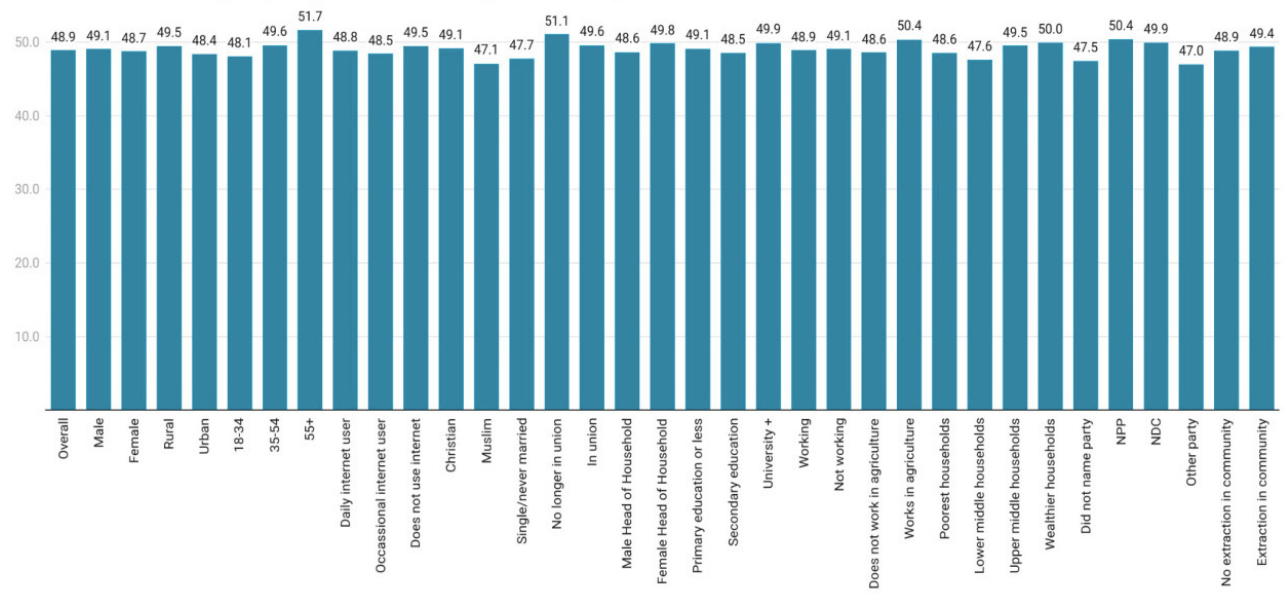
Figure 11 **Generally speaking, do you have favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following energy on a five point scale, where five means very favourable and one means very unfavourable? (Net Favourable)**



In order to explore how the above attitudes vary with different social and demographic characteristics in the three countries, a clean energy attitude index was generated. The index varies of 0 to 100, where 0 means that the respondent had entirely negative attitudes towards wind and solar, while having entirely positive attitudes towards coal, gas, and oil. In contrast, 100 would mean that the respondent had entirely positive attitudes towards wind and solar, and entirely negative attitudes towards oil, coal, and gas.

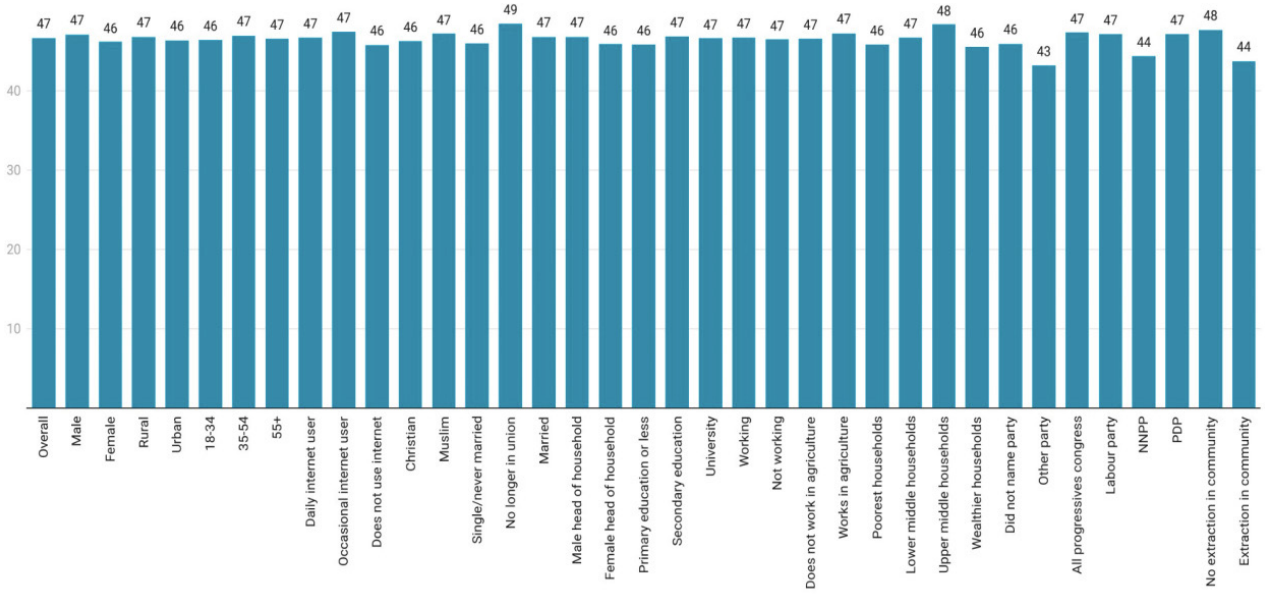
In Ghana, the average score on the clean energy index stood at 49, roughly the center of the index. The data show relatively little variation in attitudes between different social and economic groups.

Figure 12 **Clean energy index (0 = fully positive towards hydrocarbons, fully negative towards renewables, 100=fully positive towards renewables, fully negative towards hydrocarbons)**



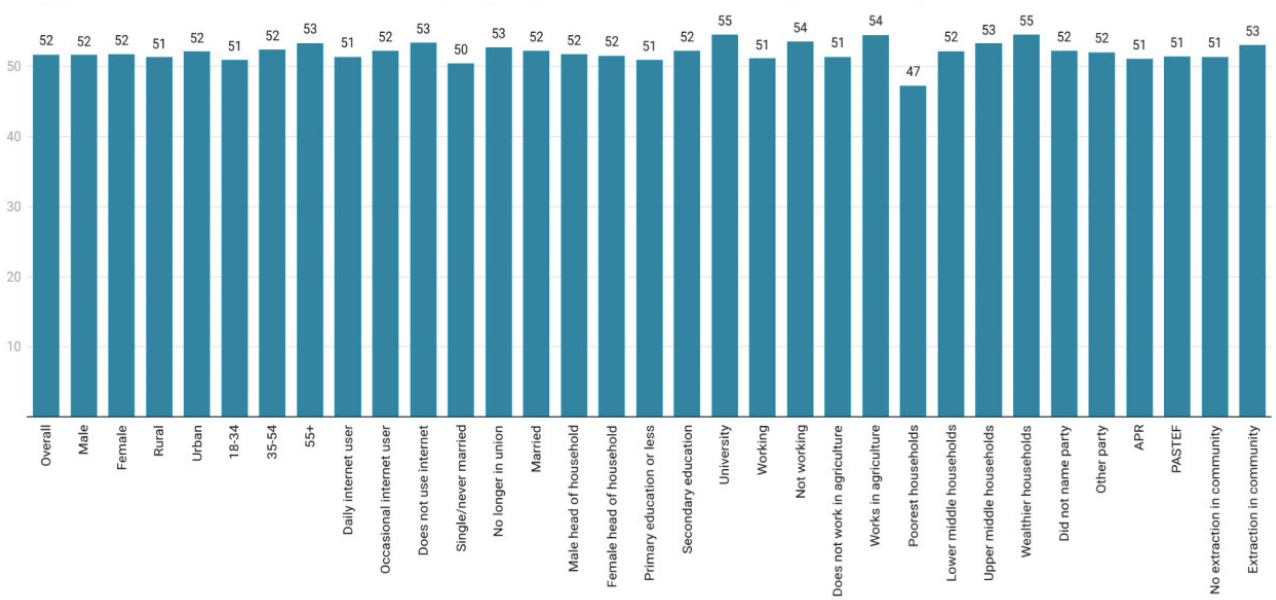
In Nigeria, the average score on the clean energy index stood at 47. The data show relatively little variation in attitudes between different social and economic groups. However, the data do show slightly slower scores in communities that have ongoing hydrocarbon extraction.

Figure 13 **Clean energy index (0 = fully positive towards hydrocarbons, negative towards renewables and 100 = fully negative towards hydrocarbons and positive towards renewables)**



In Senegal, the average score on the index was 52. Again, the data show that there is relatively little variation between different social and demographic groups. One exception is that people in the poorest households have relatively low scores on the clean energy index.

Figure 14 **Clean energy index (0 = fully positive attitude towards hydrocarbons, fully negative attitude towards renewables, 100 = fully positive attitude towards renewables, fully negative attitude towards hydrocarbons)**

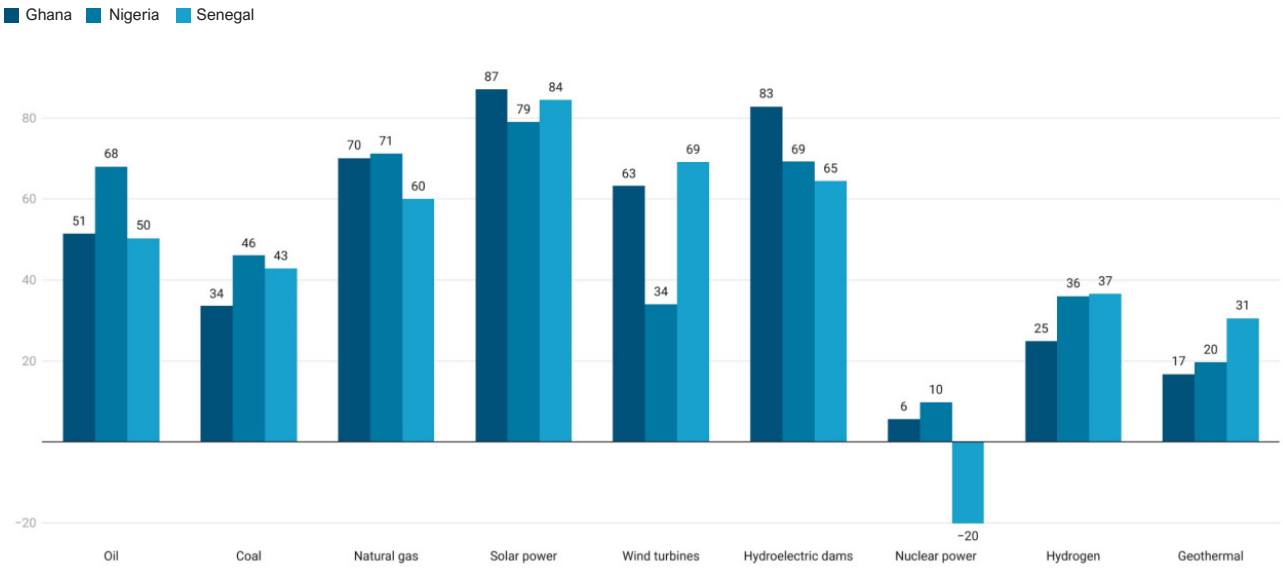


Attitudes towards energy infrastructure

The survey also asked people's views about having different types of energy infrastructure installed in their communities. As with the data presented in the previous sub-section, this section makes use of net favourable scores to explore this data.

Overall, the data suggests that people's views of energy sources are quite similar to their views about having different types of energy infrastructure in their communities. While solar is the most popular form of energy infrastructure for a community to have, nuclear is by far the least popular, across the three countries.

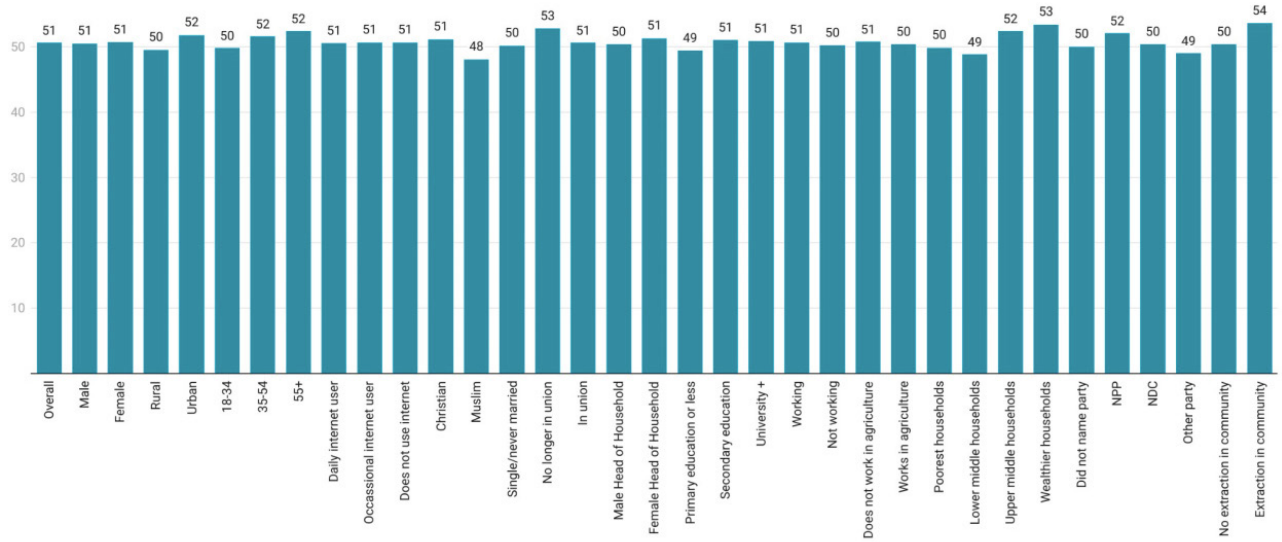
Figure 15 **How much would you support or oppose the development of new projects focused on the following types of energy sources in your comminity? (Net favourable)**



As in the previous section, 100 point indexes were created to understand how attitudes towards clean energy infrastructure breaks down among different groups. On this index, 100 equates to full support for wind and solar infrastructure, and no support for oil, gas, or coal infrastructure. A score of 0 by contrast reflects full support for oil, gas, and coal infrastructure, and no support for solar and wind infrastructure.

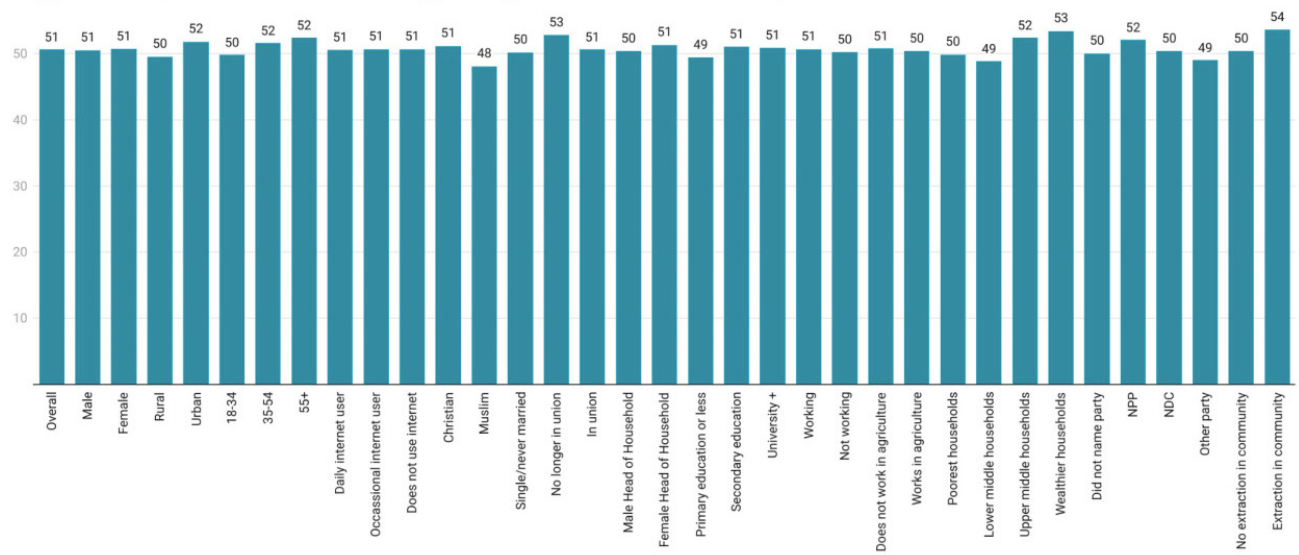
The average score on this index in Ghana was 51 out of 100. The index varied little by social and demographic characteristics overall.

Figure 16 **Infrastructure support index (0=Fully support hydrocarbon infrastucture, oppose renewable infrastructure; 100= Fully support renewable infrastucture and oppose hydrocarbon infrastucture)**



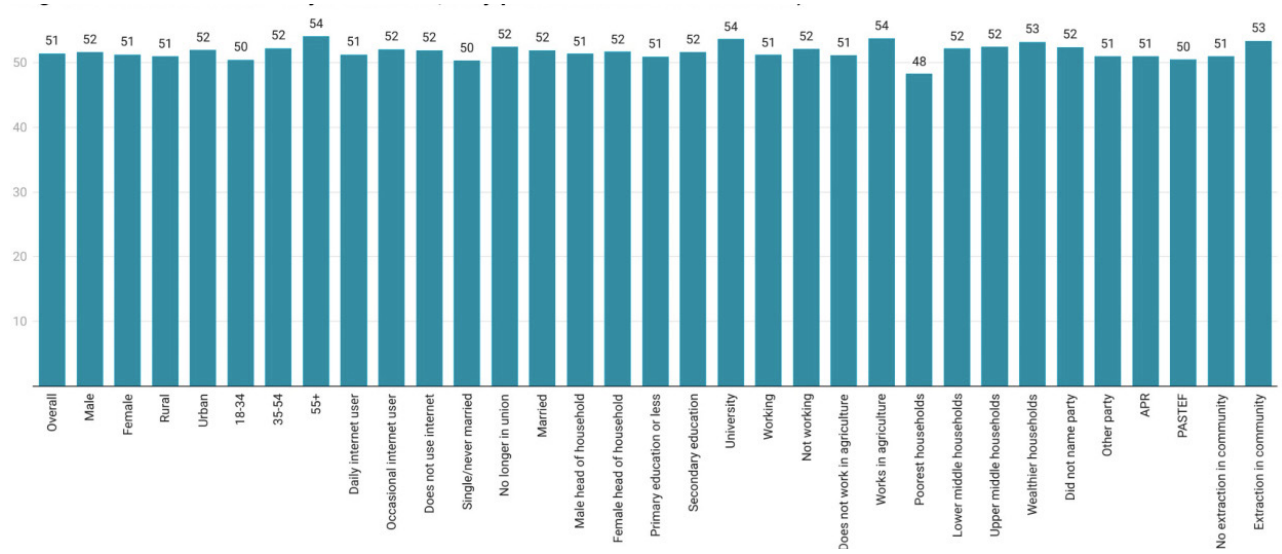
The average score on this index in Nigeria was 45 out of 100. The index varied little by social and demographic characteristics in the country.

Figure 17 **Infrastructure support index (0=Fully support hydrocarbon infrastucture, oppose renewable infrastructure; 100= Fully support renewable infrastucture and oppose hydrocarbon infrastucture)**



In Senegal, the average score was 51 out of 100. The index varied little by social and demographic characteristics.

Figure 18 **Infrastructure support index (0 = fully positive attitudes towards hydrocarbons, negative towards renewables, 100 = fully negative attitudes towards hydrocarbons, fully positive towards renewables)**

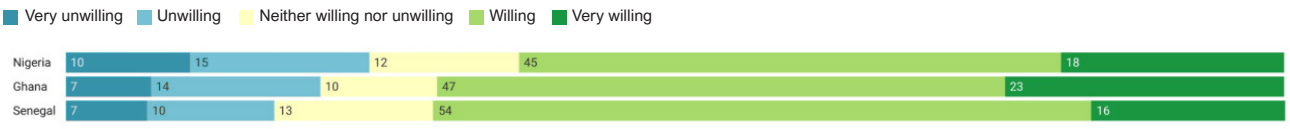


Taking civic action on climate change

The survey asked respondents how willing they would be to take civic action on climate change as well as what type of actions they would be willing to take.

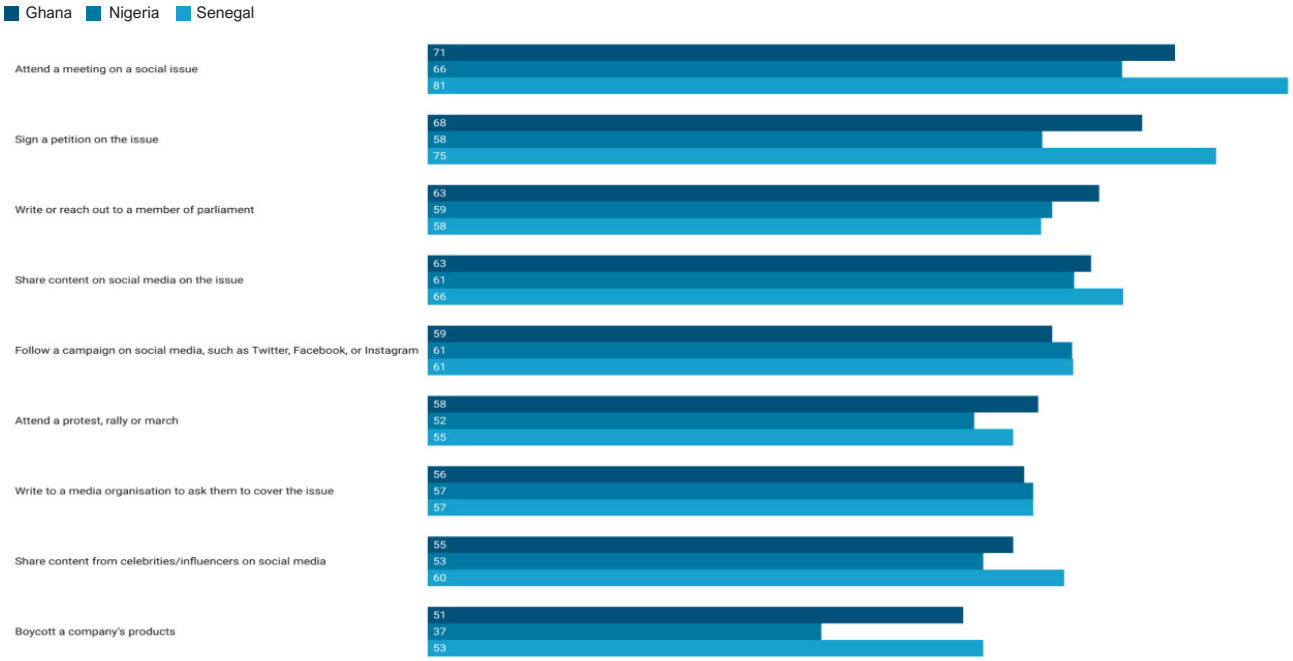
Overall, a majority of the public of Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal report be willing or very willing to take action in support of their views on climate change. In Ghana and Senegal, 70% of the public report being willing to take action. In Nigeria, fewer, though still a majority (63%) report being willing or very willing to take some kind of civic action on climate change.

To what extent, if at all, would you be willing to take some kind of civic action around climate change, regardless of whether or not you are for or against climate related policies? By this we mean, for instance, write to a member of parliament, go to a protest, or sign a petition. (%)



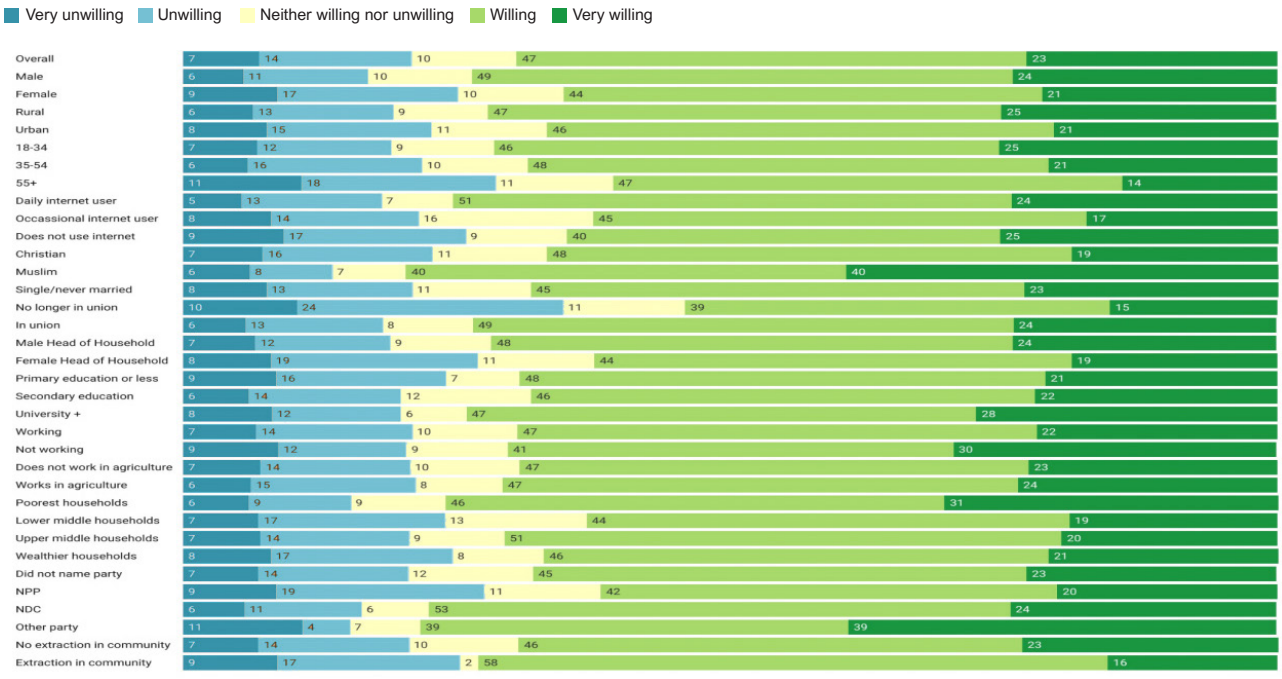
Survey participants were also asked whether they would be willing to take a number of different actions on climate change. In general, the publics were most willing to attend a meeting and sign a petition. They were least willing to boycott a company's products

Figure 19 **Which, if any, of the following civic actions would you be willing to take in support of your views around climate change, regardless of whether or not you are for or against climate related policies? (%)**



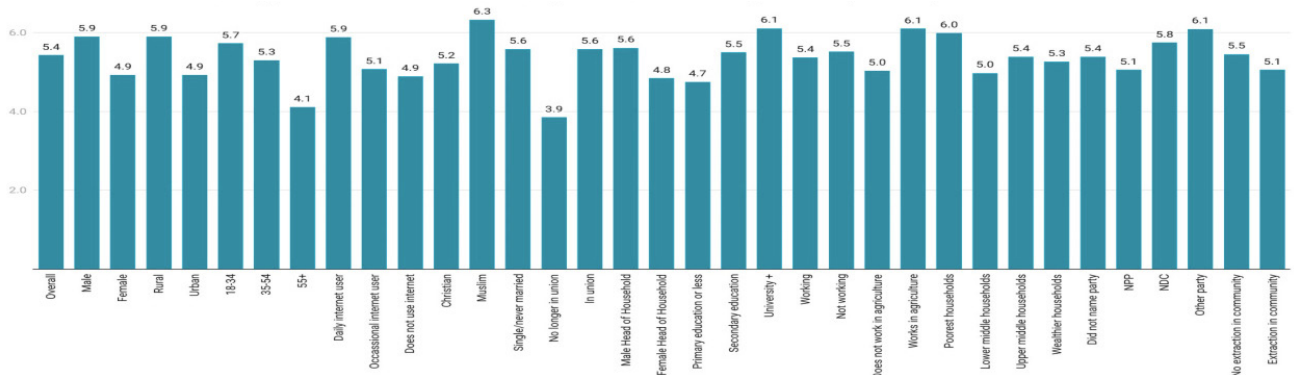
In Ghana, willingness to take action varies between different social and demographic groups. Younger people report higher willingness than older people. It is higher among daily internet users and lower among those who use the internet less often. Muslims report greater willingness than Christians. People with university education or higher report higher levels of willingness. People in poorer households are more likely to report willingness to take action.

Figure 20 **To what extent, if at all, would you be willing to take some kind of civic action around climate change, regardless of whether or not you are for or against climate related policies? (%)**



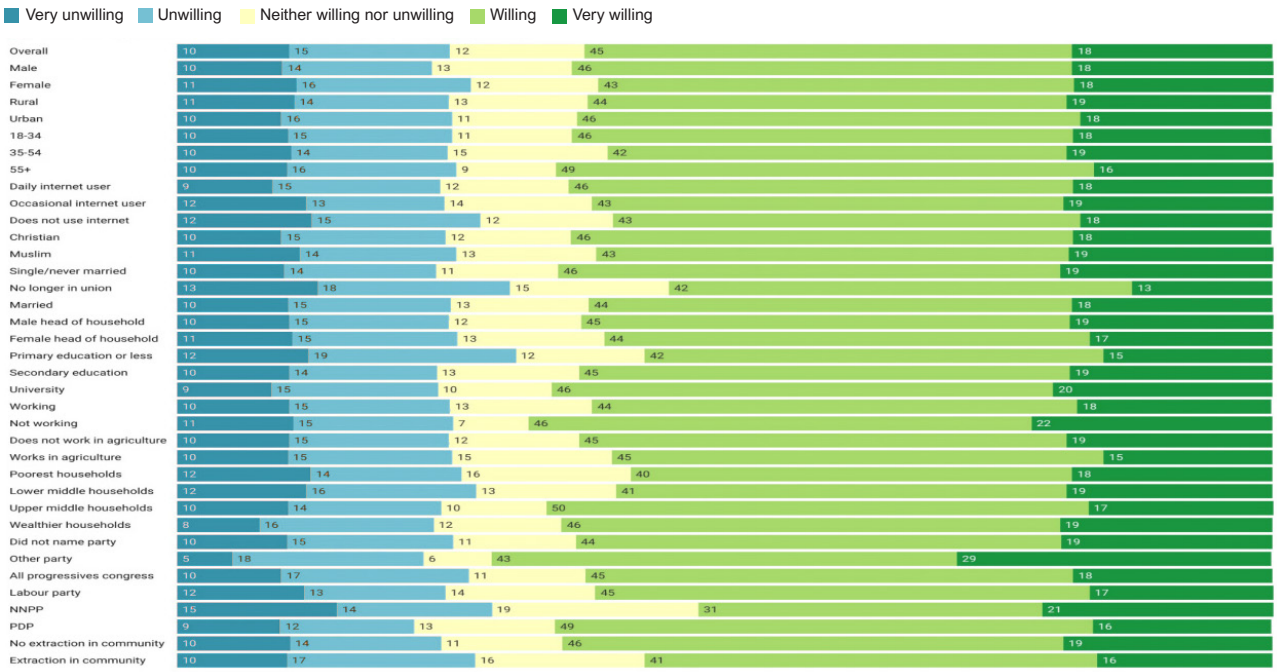
To understand the diversity of types of action which people were willing to take, the number of actions each respondent reported they were willing to take. The data suggest that men report being willing to take more types of action in Ghana than women. People in rural areas also report being interested in more types of action than people in urban areas. People in the oldest age group in the survey (55+) reported being willing to take fewer types of actions. Muslims reported being willing to take more types of actions than Christians. The higher the level of education a person reported, the higher was the number of actions that they reported being willing to take on average. People working in agriculture reported being willing to take more actions on average than people outside of the agricultural sector.

Figure 21 **Number of actions in support of climate views a respondent was willing to take (actions)**



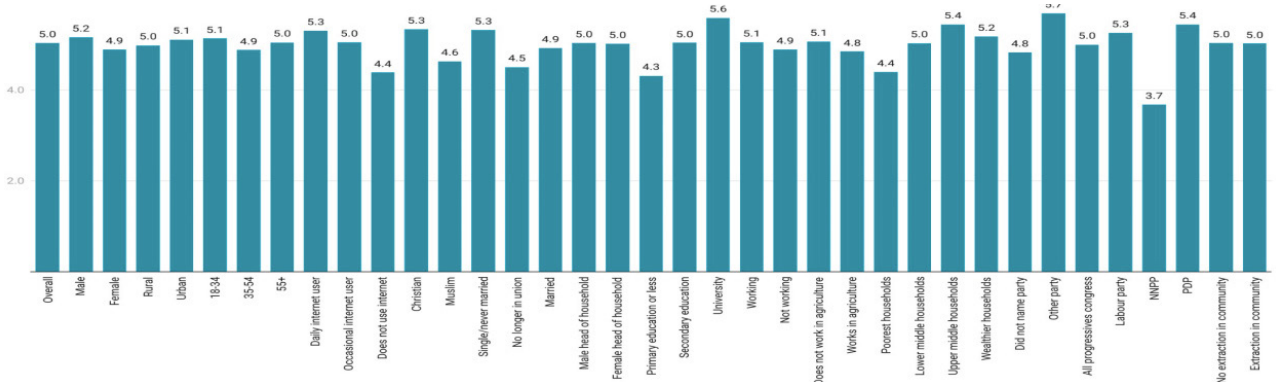
In Nigeria, the same questions were also broken down by social and demographic variables. The data suggest that people with higher levels of education report higher levels of willingness to take action. People in wealthier households also report relatively higher levels of willingness to take action.

Figure 22 **To what extent, if at all, would you be willing to take some kind of civic action around climate change, regardless of whether or not you are for or against climate related policies? (%)**



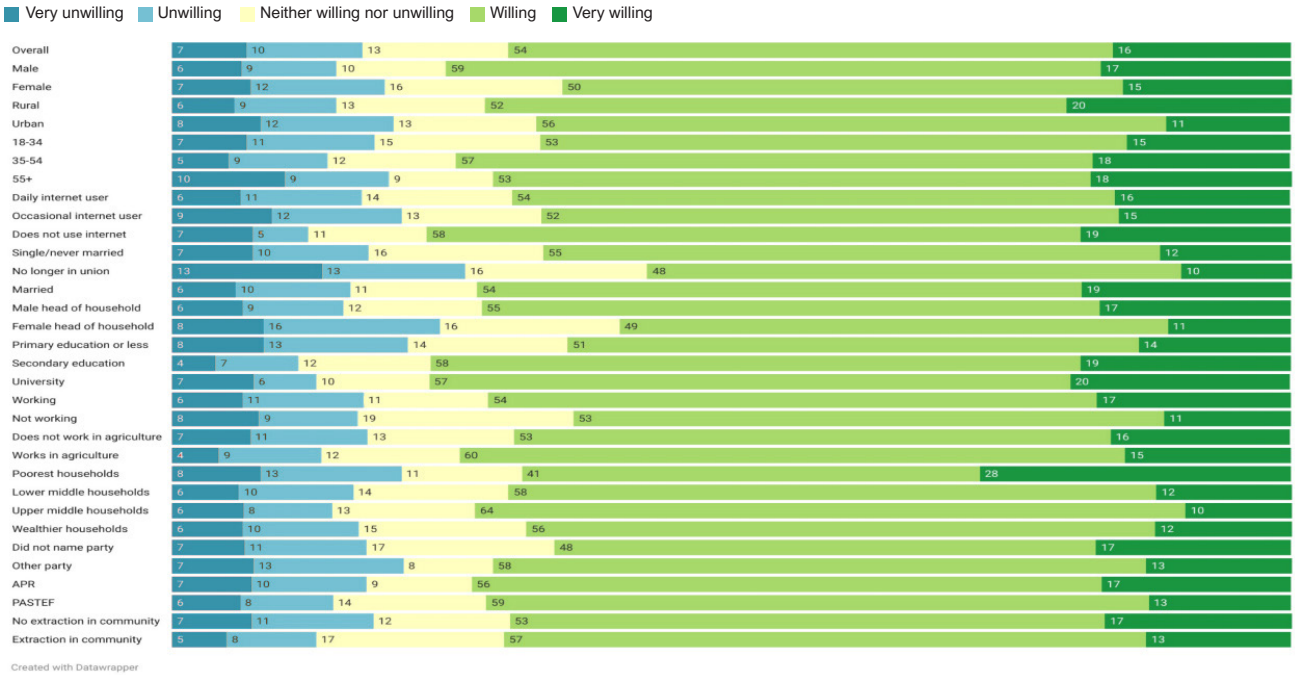
With regard to the number of actions that people are willing to take in Nigeria, the data suggest that people who use the internet report being willing to take more actions. Similarly, people with higher levels of education report being willing to take more types of actions. People in relatively less well off households report being willing to take fewer actions than those in relatively well off households.

Figure 23 **Number of actions in support of climate views a respondent was willing to take (actions)**



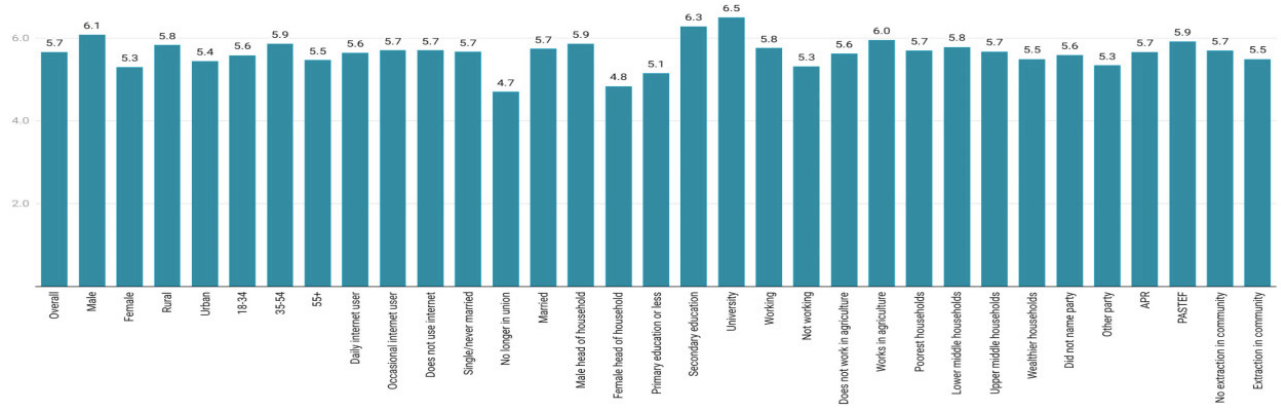
In Senegal, the data vary by a number of social and demographic characteristics. Men report greater willingness to take action than women. People in rural areas also report a greater willingness to take action than people in urban areas. Respondents with more than primary education also report a greater degree of willingness to take action than individuals with primary education or less.

Figure 24 **To what extent, if at all, would you be willing to take some kind of civic action around climate change, regardless of whether or not you are for or against climate related policies? (%) By this we mean, for instance, write to a member of parliament, go to a protest, or sign a petition (%)**



In senegal, people with primary education report a lower number of actions they are willing to take on average than those with higher levels of education.

Figure 25 **Number of actions a respondent was willing to take in support of their climate view (actions)**



05 Conclusions and recommendations

The report is concise and accessible for the policy maker as well as the community person. It is also presented in an easy to read manner. As the climate crisis unfolds in multifaceted ways, it is clear that dithering is not an option. This is the time for Africa to take needed actions by investing in distributed and socialised renewable energy supply.

The above data lead to a range of conclusions and recommendations.

Attitudes towards climate change

With regard to general climate attitudes, climate change and the environment are moderately salient across the three countries. Between 16% and 29% of the public believe that it is a top priority for their country, with people in Senegal being particularly likely to name it as a top issue.

While almost everyone in the three countries believes in climate change, only one quarter to one third of the publics believe that climate change is primarily driven by human activity. Across the three countries, belief in climate change is associated with education level – the more education someone has attained, the more likely they are to believe that climate change is caused by human activities.

Worry about climate change is high across the three countries, with three quarters to nine in ten members of the public being worried or very worried about climate change, with Senegal again standing out as the country where people are most worried. Across the three countries, people working in agriculture are more likely to be very concerned about climate change than people outside the sector.

Attitudes towards different energy sources

When it comes to attitudes towards different energy sources, the publics of the three countries tend to have more positive than negative attitudes towards all energy sources asked about. The only exception to this general pattern in nuclear energy in Senegal. Otherwise, the publics of the three countries also tend to have more positive attitudes towards renewables and solar specifically than towards different hydrocarbons. One exception to this is attitudes towards wind power in Nigeria, which is substantially lower than in the other two countries under study. These attitudes tend to vary little across different social, economic, and demographic groups in the three countries.

Attitudes towards energy infrastructure

The survey shows that people tend to be more positive than negative about the installation of energy infrastructure in their communities, with the key exception being nuclear energy, again in Senegal. Although people tend to be positive about different forms of energy infrastructure, they are more positive about the installation of renewable electricity sources, and solar specifically. As with attitudes towards wind power in general, people in Nigeria are less positive about windmills being installed in their communities.

Taking action on climate change

Across the three countries of this study, a large majority of the populations are willing to take civic action in support of their views on climate change. Who was willing to take action varied by a number of social and demographic characteristics across the three different countries, but nonetheless willingness tended to be high across all social and demographic groups.