

Greenpeace International Global Opinion Poll in Cities

The opinions and sentiments of people living in cities in the Global South, regarding the links between urban issues and the climate crisis.

As weather events hit harder and more frequently, while almost all urban growth is expected to take place in low- and middle-income countries¹ Greenpeace's Urban Justice campaign seeks to radically transform spaces, mindsets and policies so that cities become places of climate action, resilience and justice, by working side-by-side with marginalised communities, those who are more impacted but also working collectively to face and overcome the social and climate injustices.

By listening to people's opinions, sentiments and experiences, Greenpeace seeks to identify and visualise common and particular challenges and opportunities to address urban issues with a social and climate approach.

This opinion poll was commissioned by Greenpeace International and conducted by YouGov in seven major cities across the global South: Bogota (Colombia), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Nairobi (Kenya), Istanbul (Turkey), Bangalore and Delhi (India) and Jakarta (Indonesia).

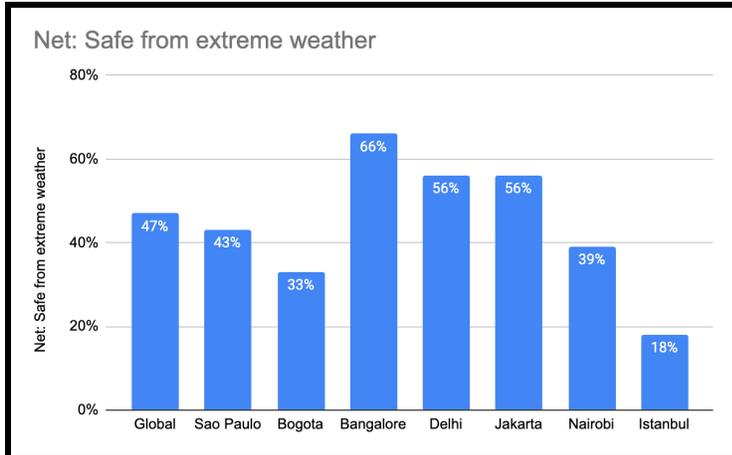
It is part of a global initiative happening throughout the month of October. With online and offline activities happening in nine cities across six different countries, Greenpeace is calling on citizens, activists and governments to recognise and learn from the lived experience and collective power of urban communities and movements as a crucial path to transform cities, promote urban justice and address the social and climate crises.

More information available on <https://greenpeace.org/urban-justice/>

KEY FINDINGS

1. Less than half (47%) of people feel safe from extreme weather events (such as floods, extreme heat or cold, or landslides) in the city they live in.

¹ Urban population in low- and middle-income countries will rise by about 75% by 2050 - Source: World Resources Institute, taken from UN DESA - World Highlights Population Prospects, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2019



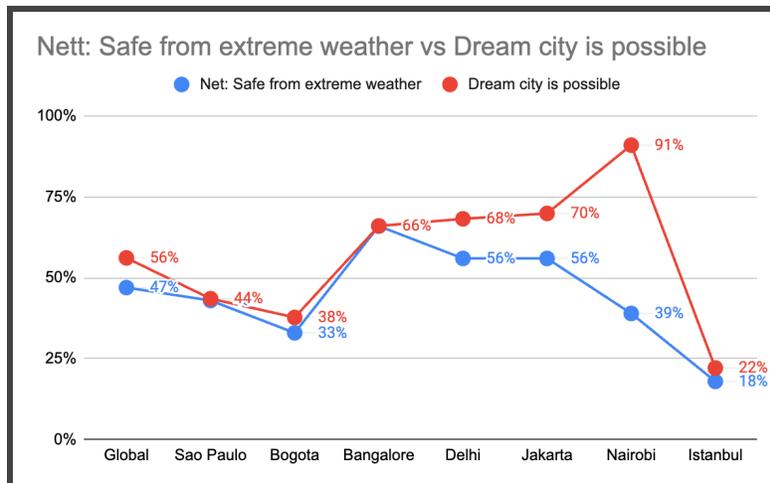
2. Over half of the urban residents consulted (56%) are optimistic about the future and believe that their city could become their “dream city”. Four of the seven cities polled were particularly optimistic:

- Nairobi 91%
- Jakarta 70%
- Delhi 68%
- Bangalore 66%

The other cities:

- São Paulo 44%
- Bogota 38%
- Istanbul 22%

A correlation can be seen within some cities between the optimism about the city becoming a dream city (and thus improve over time) and how safe residents feel from extreme weather events:



3. The top two biggest problems people see in cities are linked to climate change. While each city has its own challenges and opportunities, respondents in the seven cities indicated that many of the biggest problems faced were not unique. The top-rated problems affected their daily lives, health, and well-being directly:

- Traffic congestion 46%
- Air pollution 42%
- Crime/Lack of safety/Violence 42%
- Corruption 40%
- Unemployment/Few economic opportunities 34%
- Increasing number of people moving to the city 34%

4. Governments are not the only ones transforming cities. Urban movements and communities have the second-greatest role in improving the quality of life in cities.

A3. Which, if any, of the following do you think have the greatest role to play in making improvements to the quality of life in your city? (e.g. better transport, providing services or greenspaces etc.) Please select up to 3 options.

		Sao Paulo	Bogota	Bangalore	Delhi	Jakarta	Nairobi	Istanbul
	Total	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Local government (municipality)	54%	60%	38%	57%	52%	62%	54%	55%
National government	49%	43%	32%	49%	55%	57%	62%	41%
Charities/Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)	13%	14%	12%	14%	11%	15%	24%	10%
Religious groups	10%	9%	5%	10%	13%	11%	11%	7%
Private companies	21%	25%	15%	33%	21%	26%	21%	8%
My community	25%	26%	50%	23%	30%	9%	13%	16%
Academics and experts	18%	9%	23%	20%	18%	13%	36%	20%
Urban and social movements	31%	29%	24%	27%	29%	41%	25%	39%
Unions	5%	4%	2%	6%	7%	4%	5%	3%
Mainstream news media	9%	3%	11%	10%	10%	8%	14%	6%
None of the above	4%	4%	9%	2%	2%	3%	0%	8%
Don't know	5%	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%	0%	8%

Automated colour code added for direct comparison.

When asking “which, if any, of the following do you think have the greatest role to play in making improvements to the quality of life in your city?”, the most commonly selected was Local government/municipality (54%). This was followed by the National government at 49%, and Urban and social movements at 31% (rated number three by three of the seven cities). The heatmap below shows a fairly broad consensus amongst respondents. This is surprising given the national, political, developmental, and cultural differences. However, it perhaps points to a common lived reality in the Global South:

5. People with low-income have low expectations about their government’s role in improving their quality of life.

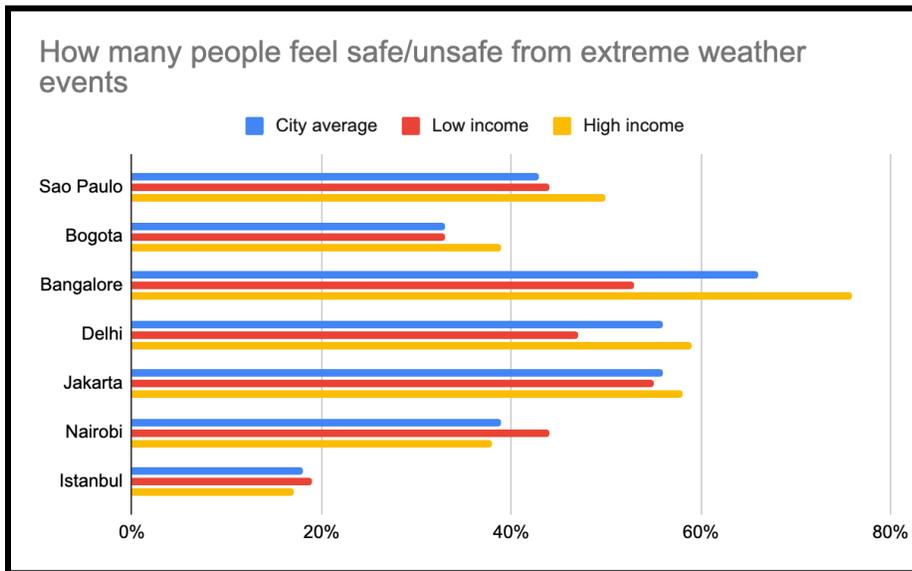
For example, while 70% of people in the lower income bracket in Delhi were as optimistic that the city could become their dream city (city average was 68%), they seem unsure who has the greatest role to play in making improvements in their quality of life. When asked to choose the most important decision-makers, they consistently scored below the city averages.

For example, while the city as a whole (55%) believed the National government was most important, 38% of low-income earners chose this option.

The trend observed above was similar in Bangalore: 71% of low earners believe it could become their dream city (city average was 66%).

6. People with high incomes feel safer from extreme weather events in cities.

In Sao Paulo, Delhi and Bangalore, high-income earners feel particularly safer from extreme weather events, compared to low-income people.



Notes to Editors

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 6266 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 24th August - 1st September 2023. The survey was carried out online. The combined figures have been weighted based on population size while the figures for each city are representative of their country (aged 18+). [Link to report.](#)



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