weltwärts

Volunteer survey 2024

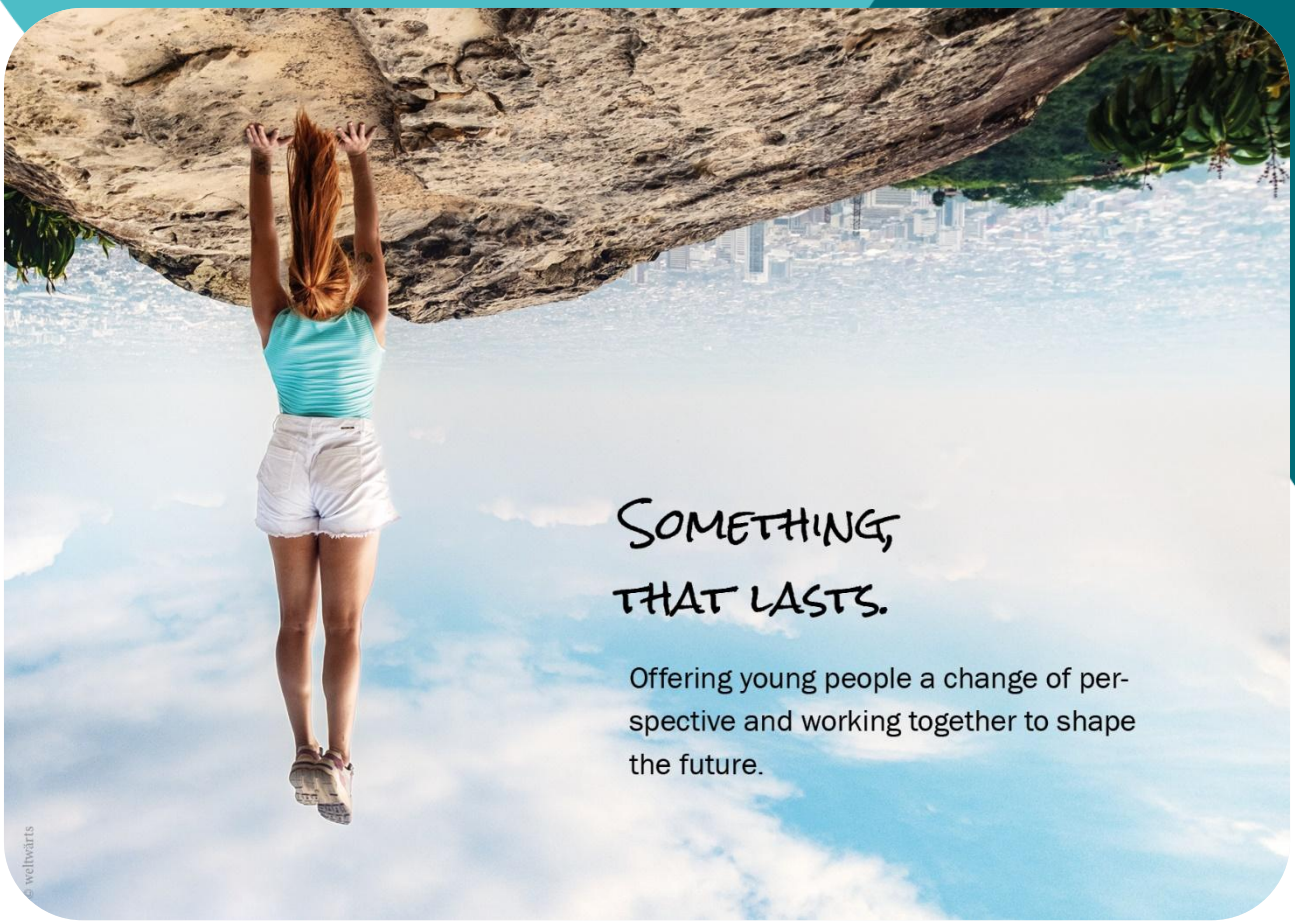

Table of contents

What is it all about?

Introduction

Results from the North-South component

Results from the South-North component

Imprint

weltwärts

What is it all about?

The weltwärts programme gives young people the opportunity to get involved in projects abroad and gain new perspectives.

When they return home, we ask all volunteers who took part in the weltwärts programme about their experiences in great depth. This allows us to determine whether the programme is meeting requirements and where we can make improvements.

Here, we present the results collected from all volunteers who completed their service between November 2023 and November 2024.

The Umfragezentrum Bonn (Bonn Survey Centre) carried out the survey on our behalf.

weltwärts proves its impact

More than 57,000 young people have taken part in the weltwärts programme since 2008. Staying abroad in the Global South or in Germany has enabled them to develop new perspectives of our global community. weltwärts is one of the biggest international volunteer services worldwide.

Three months after the end of their volunteer service, all volunteers are asked to give a full and honest evaluation of their experiences in a volunteer survey. With this publication, we are delighted to be presenting to you the results of our large-scale volunteer survey **for the eleventh time**. We have been tracking trends in the survey results over the years in order to help manage and develop the programme. The volunteer survey is therefore a **central pillar of quality assurance** within the weltwärts programme.

The overall satisfaction with the volunteer service is once again encouragingly high this year, totalling 92% for North-South and 94% for South-North. As in previous years, the results indicate weltwärts' invaluable benefit for the development of young volunteers. For example, 99% of volunteers report that their **awareness of global inequalities has been enhanced by the weltwärts programme**. The **evaluation of the education and mentoring provided** further demonstrates the high quality of the programme. The current longitudinal survey, which analyses three survey time points over seven years, attests to the long-term effects of the programme.

At the same time, the survey results **point us towards areas that require our attention**, for example in terms of diversity among the young people reached by our programme or challenges faced by the volunteers during their assignments.

All stakeholders within the weltwärts joint operation are committed to high standards of quality and safety. weltwärts' quality benchmarks are set by the guidelines, the intended impacts at the level of volunteers and the level of partnerships between organisations, and the weltwärts quality requirements for implementing individual volunteer services. **The positive feedback provided by respondents in 2024, which aligns with the consistently good results from previous years, serves as motivation for all those in charge of the weltwärts programme to continue ensuring the quality and appeal of the programme in the future.**

The coordinators on the weltwärts Programme Steering Committee

Berthold Hoffmann

weltwärts Volunteer Service Advisor
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Benedikt Pees

International Volunteer Service Advisor at the Federal Office for the Association of German Catholic Youth (BDKJ)

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North-South volunteer survey results

Our former volunteers

1484 returnees

share their thoughts and experiences here

Sex:

68% female

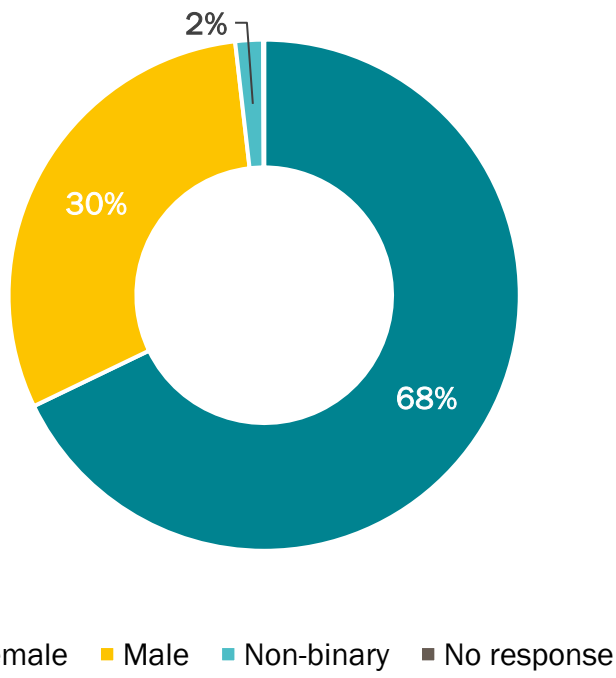
30% male

Age:

20 years old on average

Sample size:
2288 volunteers (of which 1484 provided complete responses)

Which answer describes you the best?



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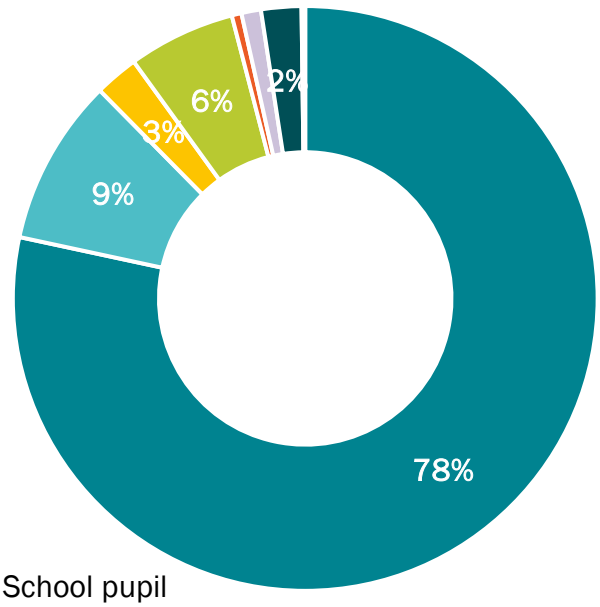
Our former volunteers

Before participating in the volunteer service:
78% were school pupils

Sending organisations:
The former volunteers travelled abroad with 108 different sending organisations

Countries:
Volunteers travelled to 48 different countries.

What was your main occupation in the 12 months prior to your participation in the weltwärts programme?



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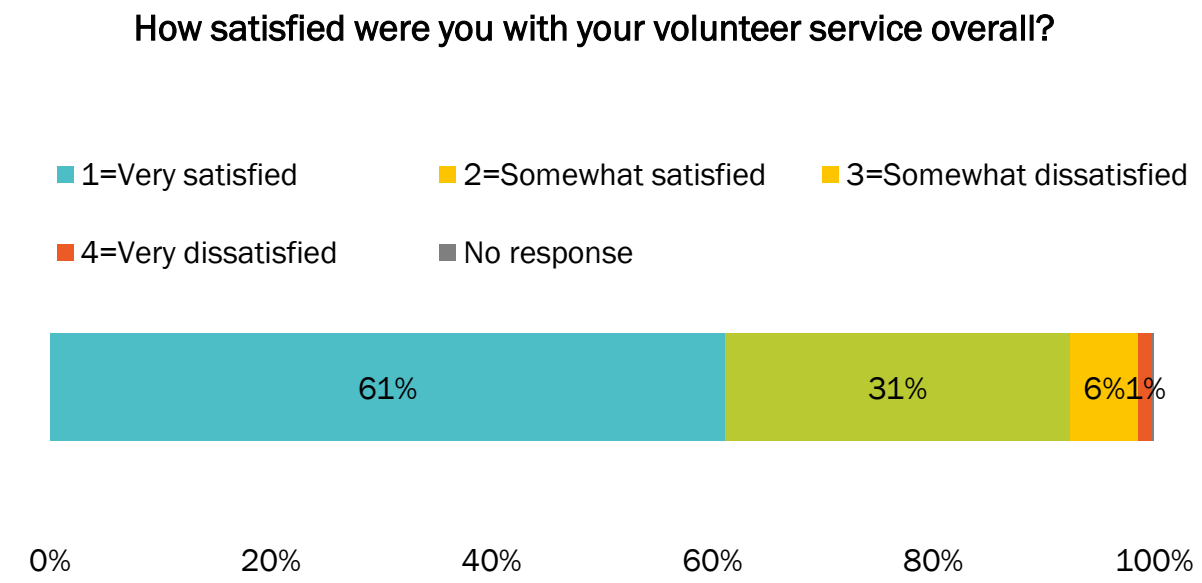
Satisfaction

The majority of former volunteers (92%) were satisfied with their volunteer service on the whole.



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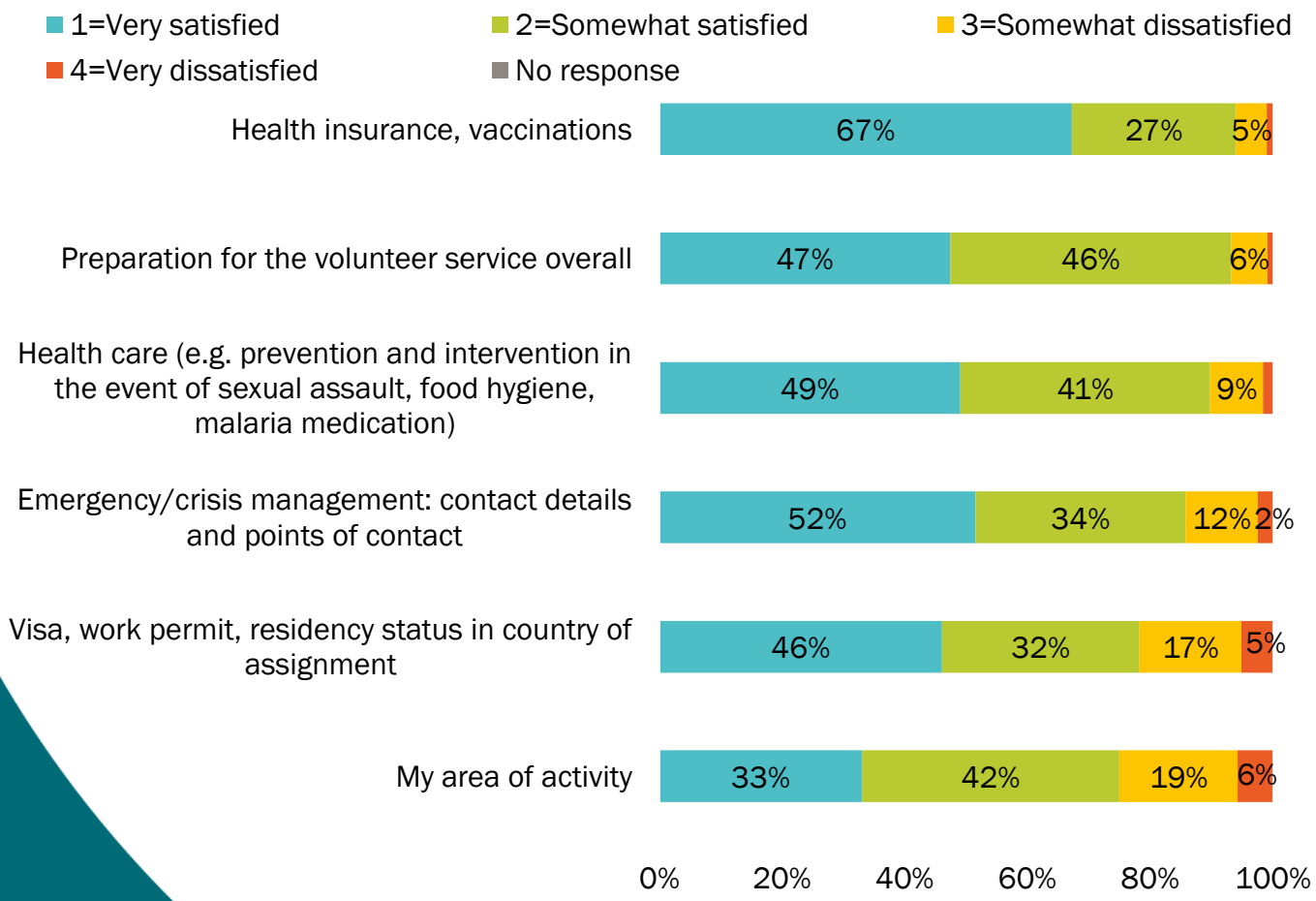
Preparation

Between **75** and **94**% of returnees were satisfied with the support and information they received as part of preparations for the volunteer service.

How satisfied were you with the information and support you received during programme preparations with regard to the following issues?



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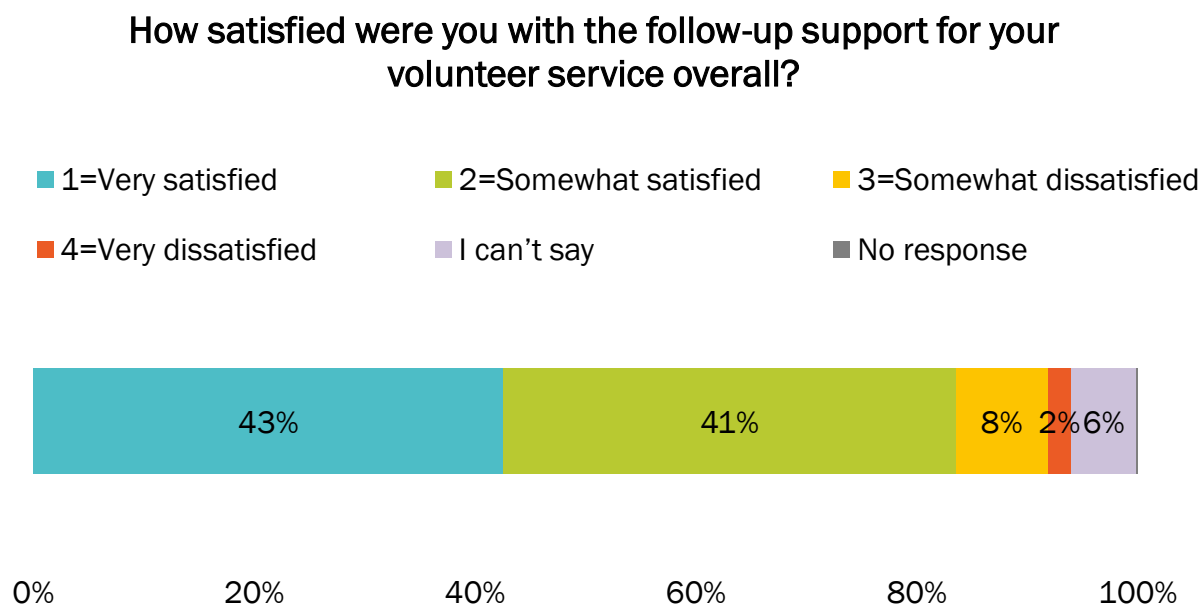
Follow-up support

The majority of former volunteers (**84**%) were also satisfied with the follow-up support for the volunteer service (e.g. events, seminars).



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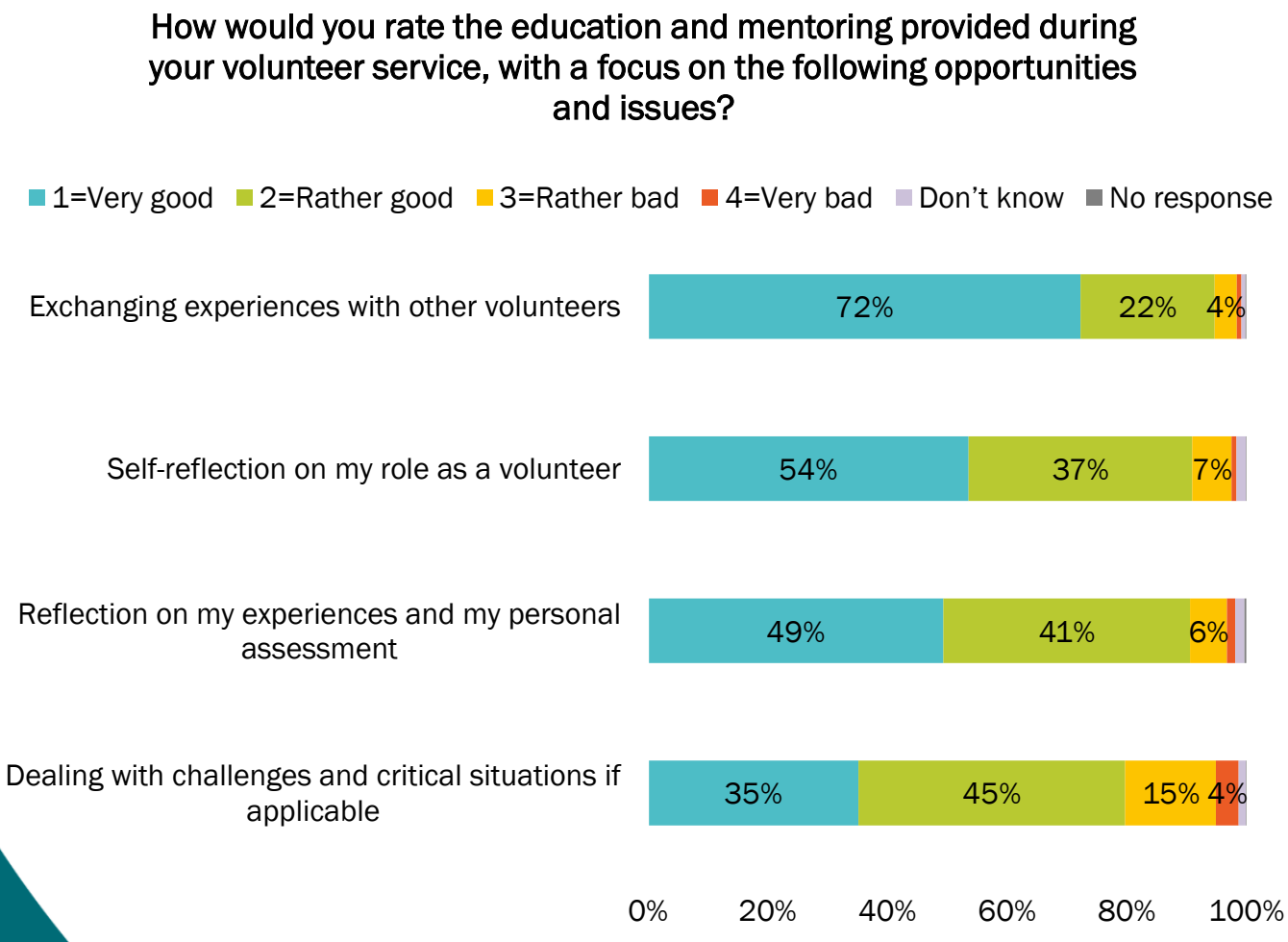
Mentoring

Between **80** and **95**% of returnees were satisfied with the education and mentoring provided during their volunteer service.



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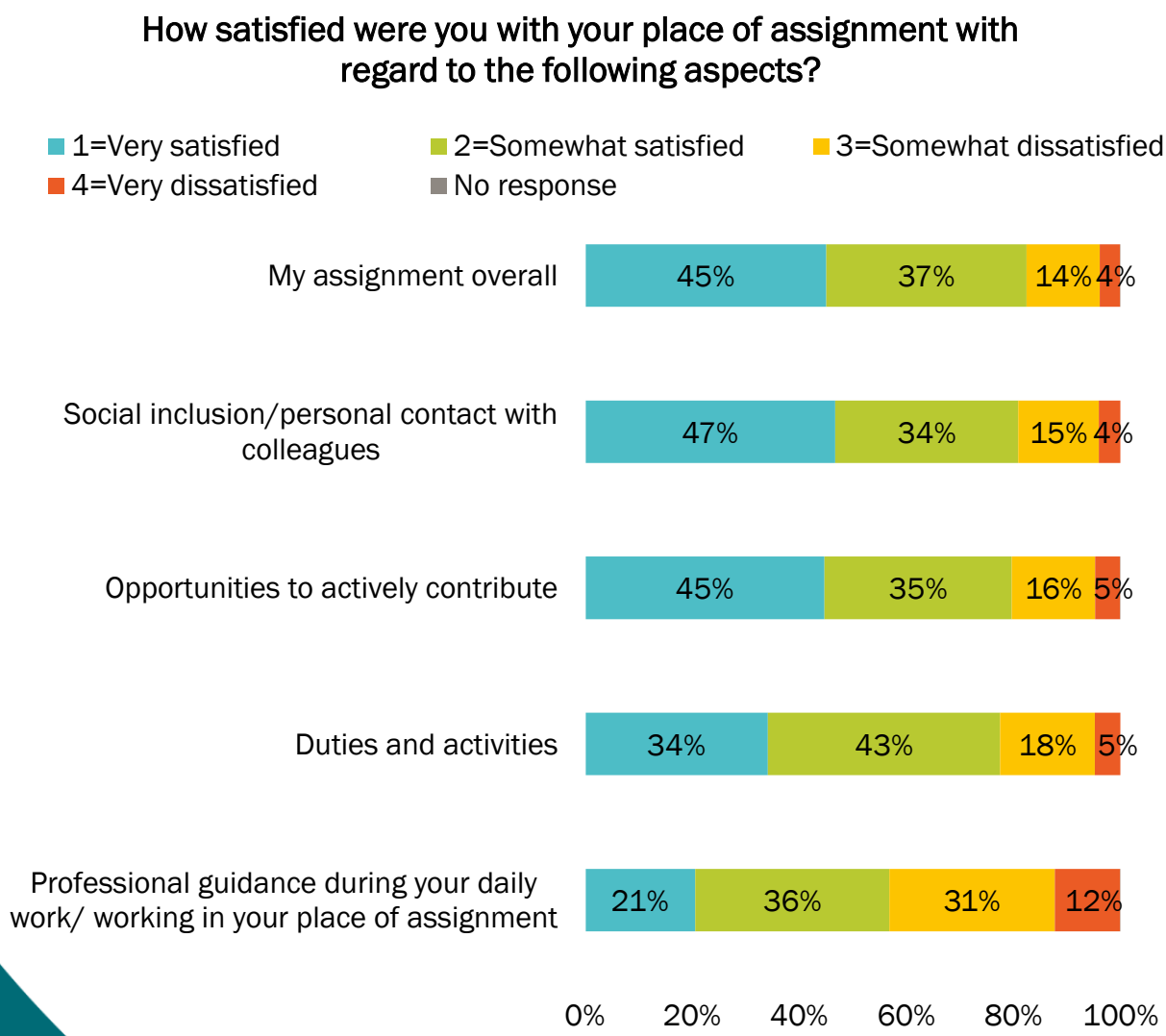
Places of assignment

Between **57** and **82**% of former volunteers were satisfied with the aspects of the places of assignments they were asked about.



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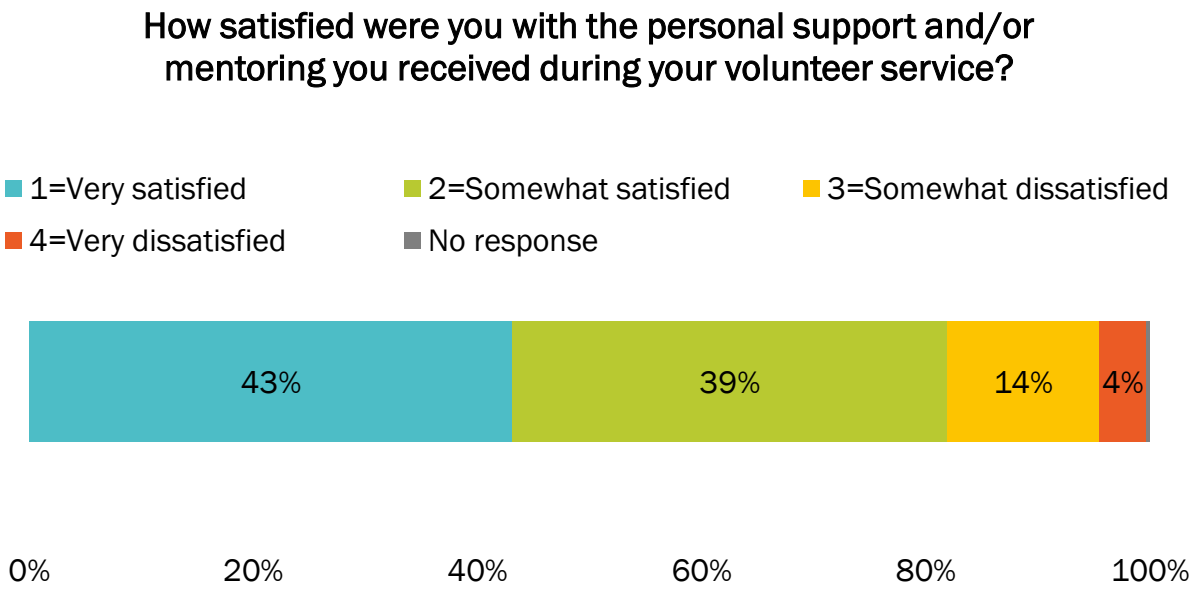
Support

A significant majority of volunteers (**82**%) were satisfied with the personal support and/or mentoring they received during their volunteer service.



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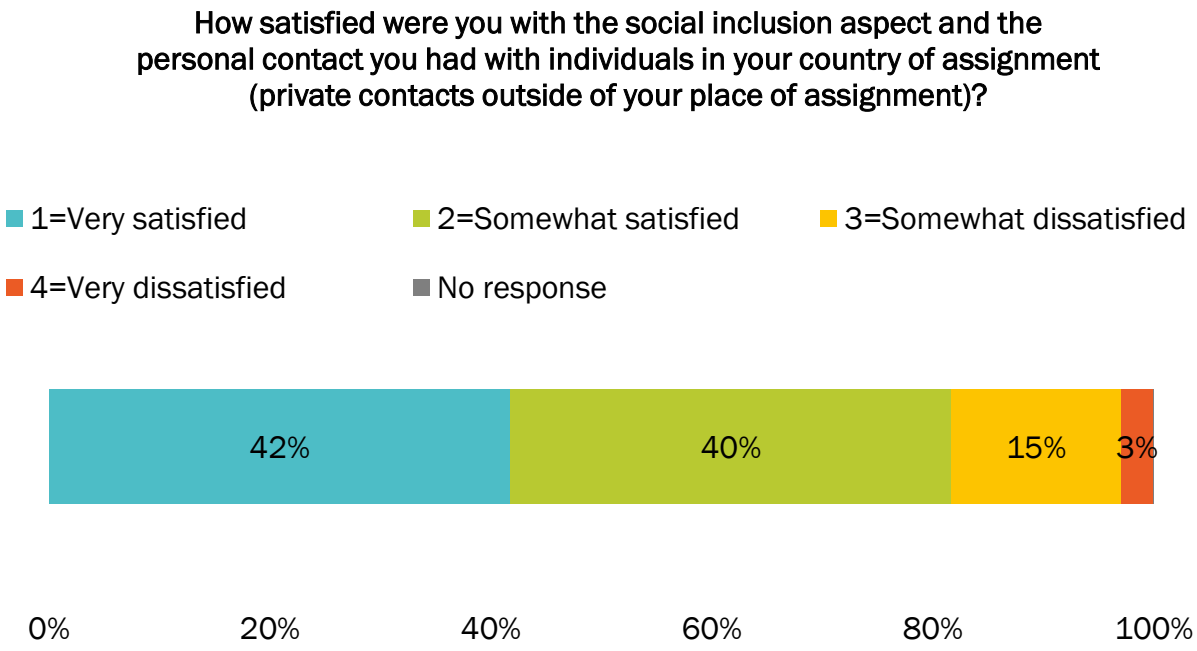
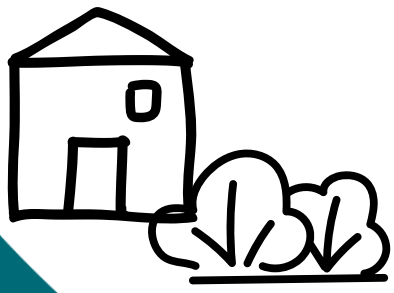
Private contacts

Most former volunteers (**82**%) were satisfied with the private social contacts they made during their volunteer service.





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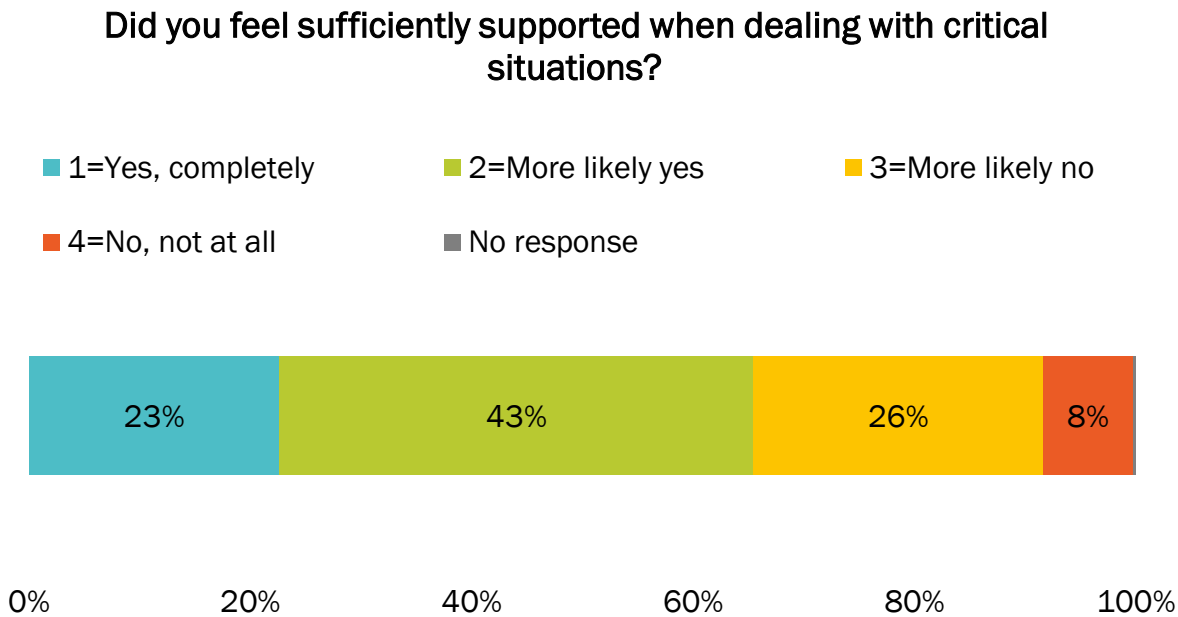
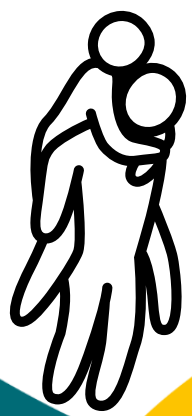
Critical situations

When critical or stressful situations arose, the majority of former volunteers impacted – **65**% to be precise – received sufficient levels of support from the weltwärts organisations.





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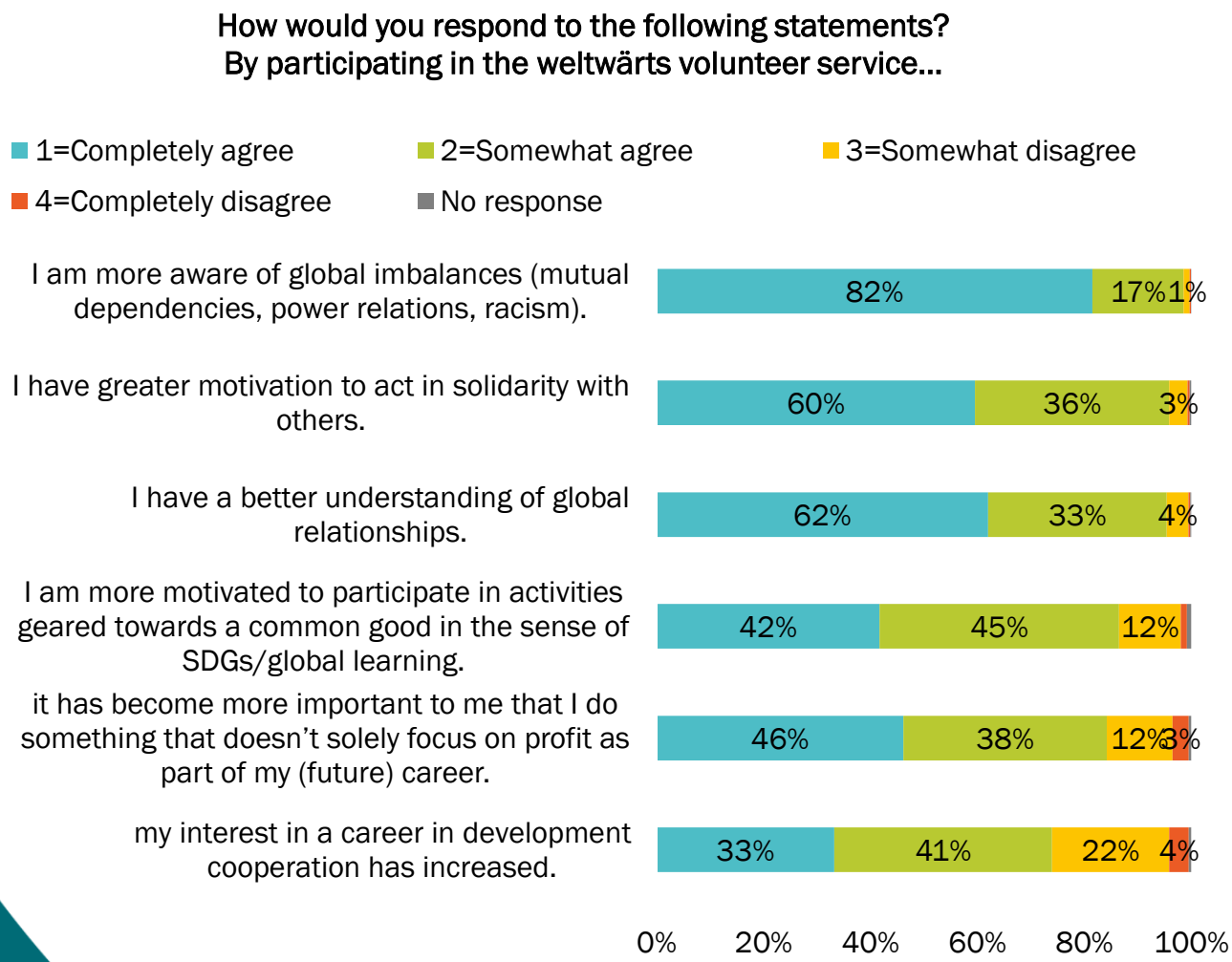
Influence of weltwärts

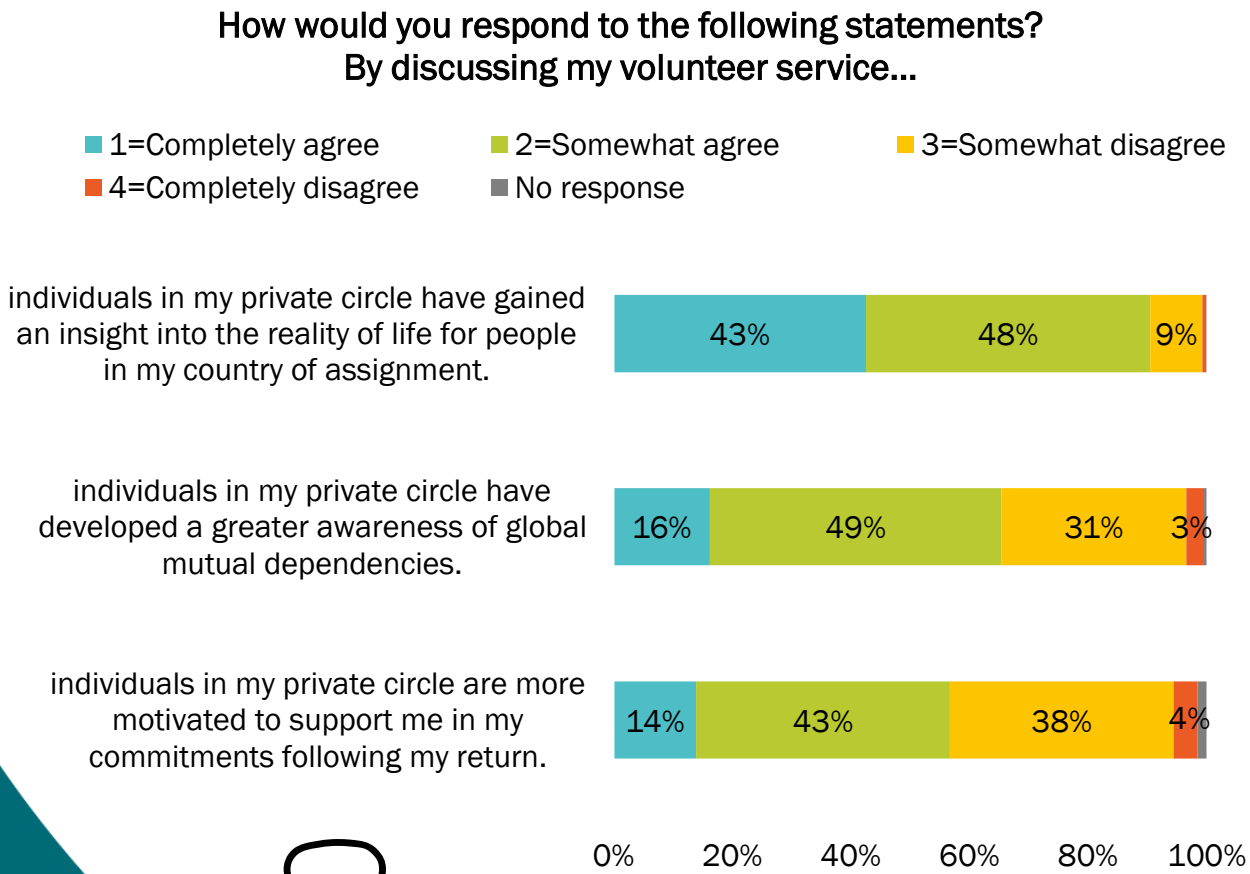
Between **74** and **99**% of former volunteers underwent personal development and returned with a sense of motivation.



weltwärts

Influence on personal environment

Some **57** to **90**% of former volunteers have increased the awareness of issues related to development policy within their own personal sphere.

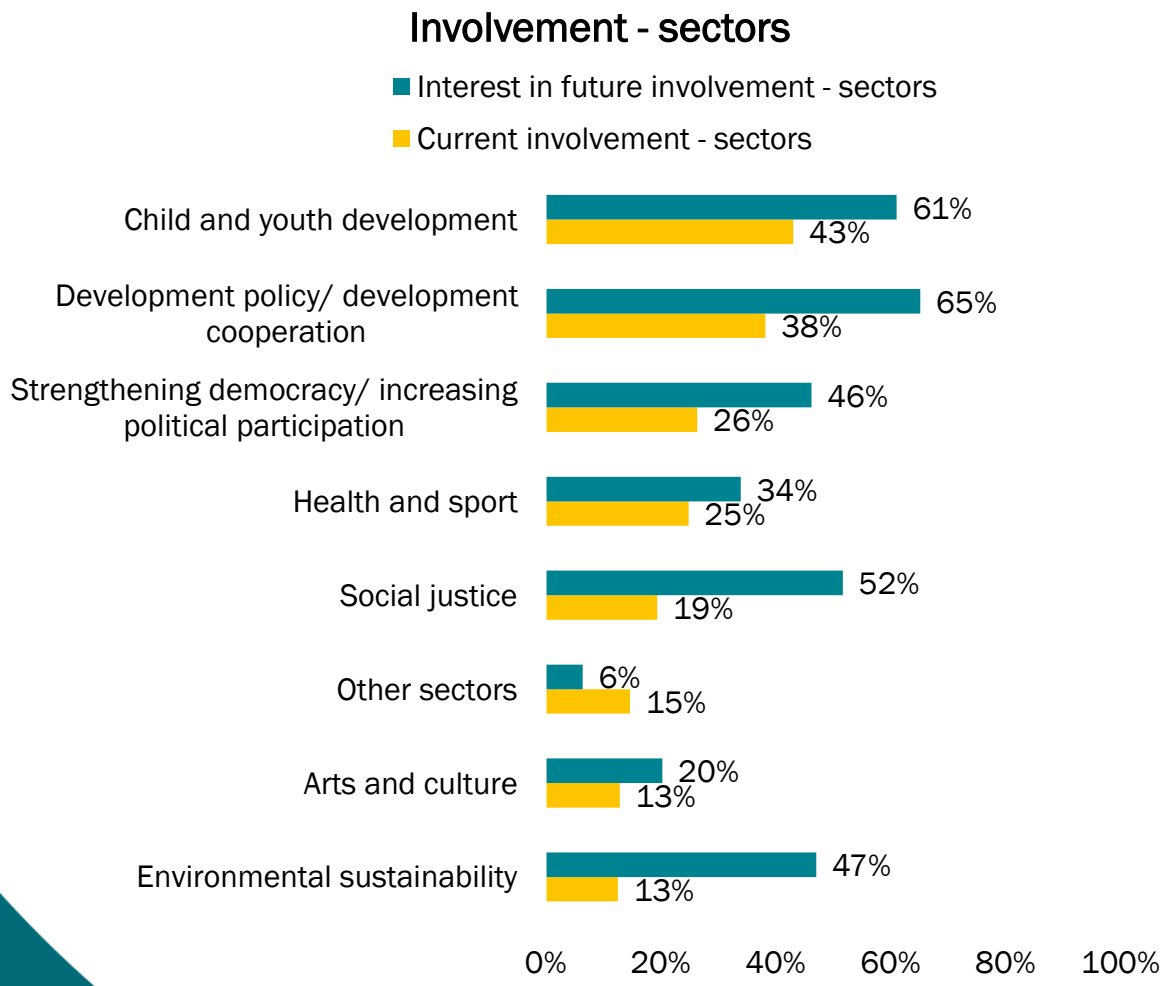


weltwärts

Impact on willingness for social engagement

At the time of the survey, many former volunteers (**44**%) were already engaged in voluntary work.

Amongst those who, at the time of the survey, were not (yet) involved in volunteering, **72**% expressed a significant interest in volunteering in the near future.



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Results of the South-North volunteer survey

Our former volunteers

Here, 275 former volunteers share their thoughts. The volunteers originate from countries of the Global South, completed their volunteer service in Germany and have since returned home.

Sex:

56% female,

39% male

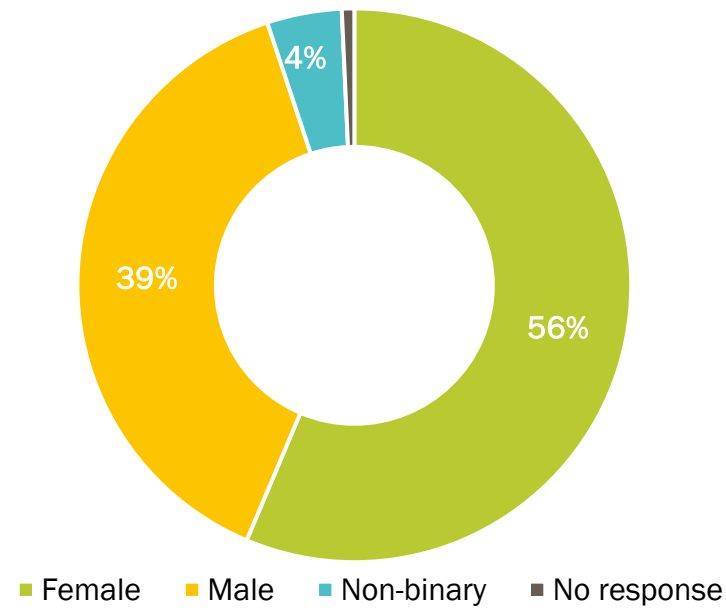
Age:

25 years old on average

Sample size:

623 volunteers (of which 275 provided complete responses)

Which answer describes you the best?



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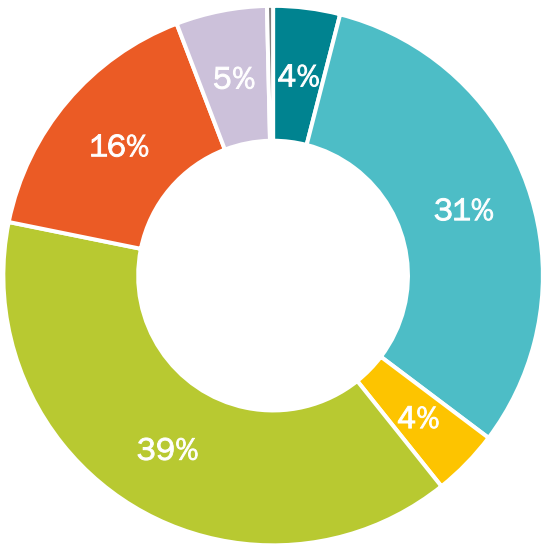
Our former volunteers

Before participating in the volunteer service:
31% were students and
39% were in work.

Host organisations:
The former volunteers were taken in by 61 different organisations in Germany.

Countries:
The former volunteers hail from 42 different countries.

What was your main occupation in the 12 months prior to your participation in the weltwärts programme?



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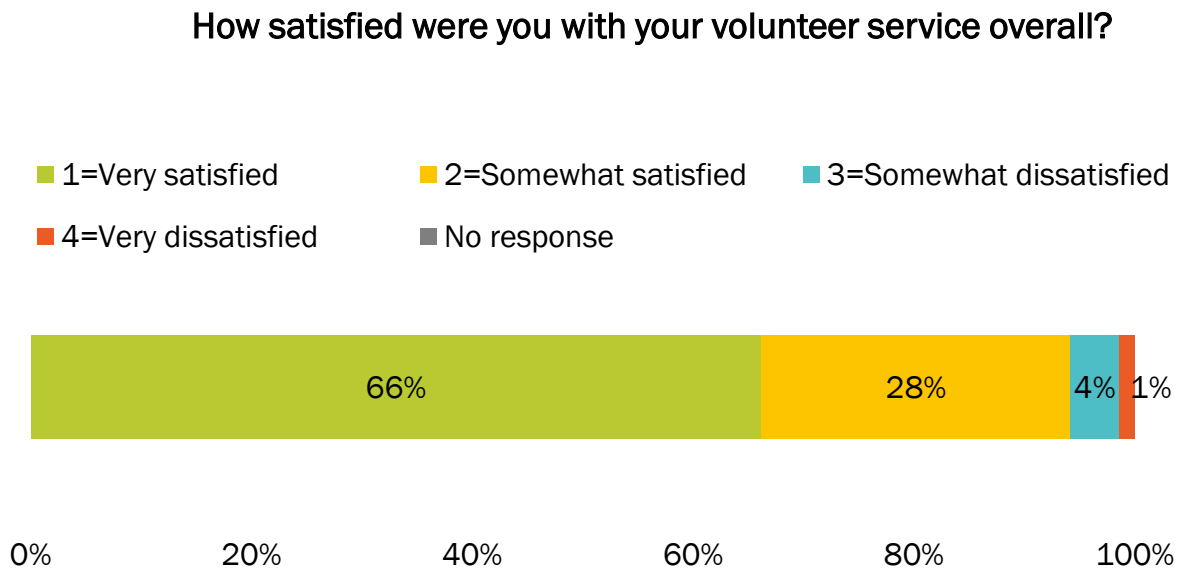
Satisfaction

The majority of former volunteers (**94**%) were satisfied with their volunteer service on the whole.



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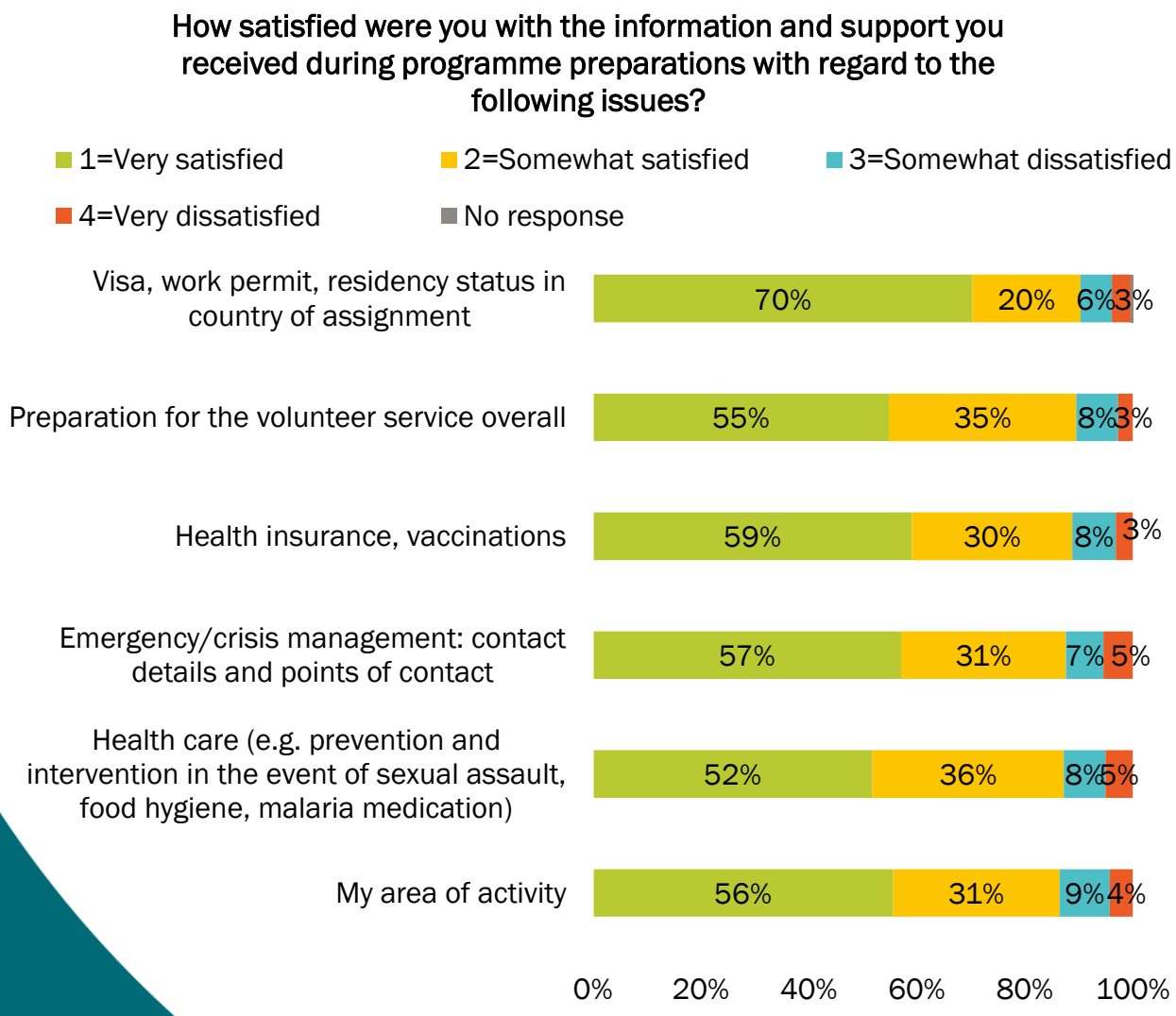
Preparation

Between **86** and **90**% of returnees were satisfied with the support and information they received as part of preparations for the volunteer service.



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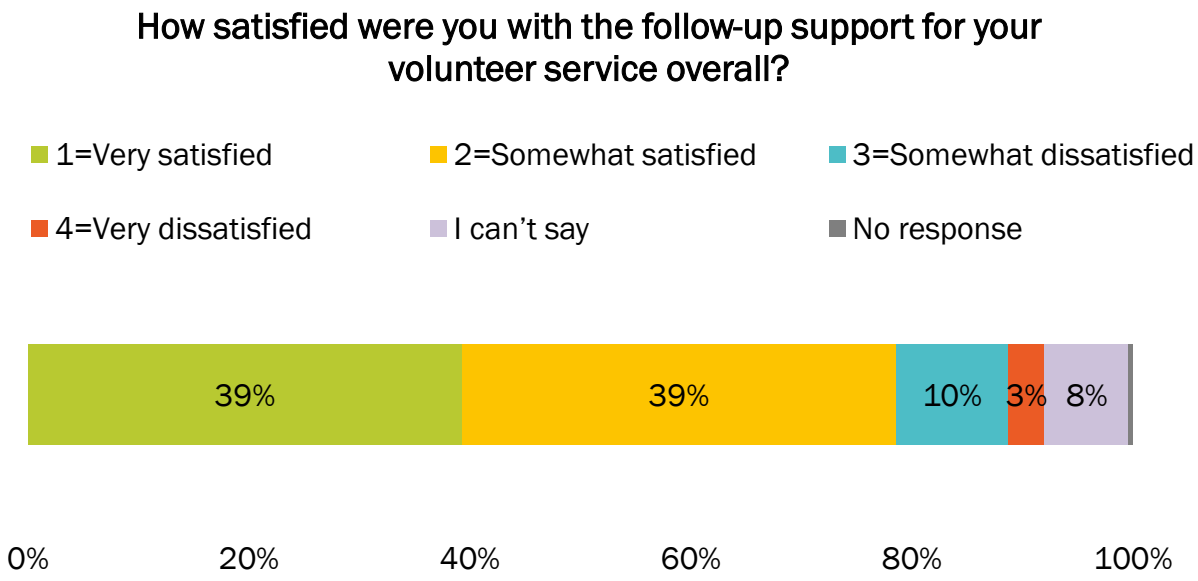
Follow-up support

The majority of former volunteers (**79**%) were also satisfied with the follow-up support for the volunteer service (e.g. events, seminars).



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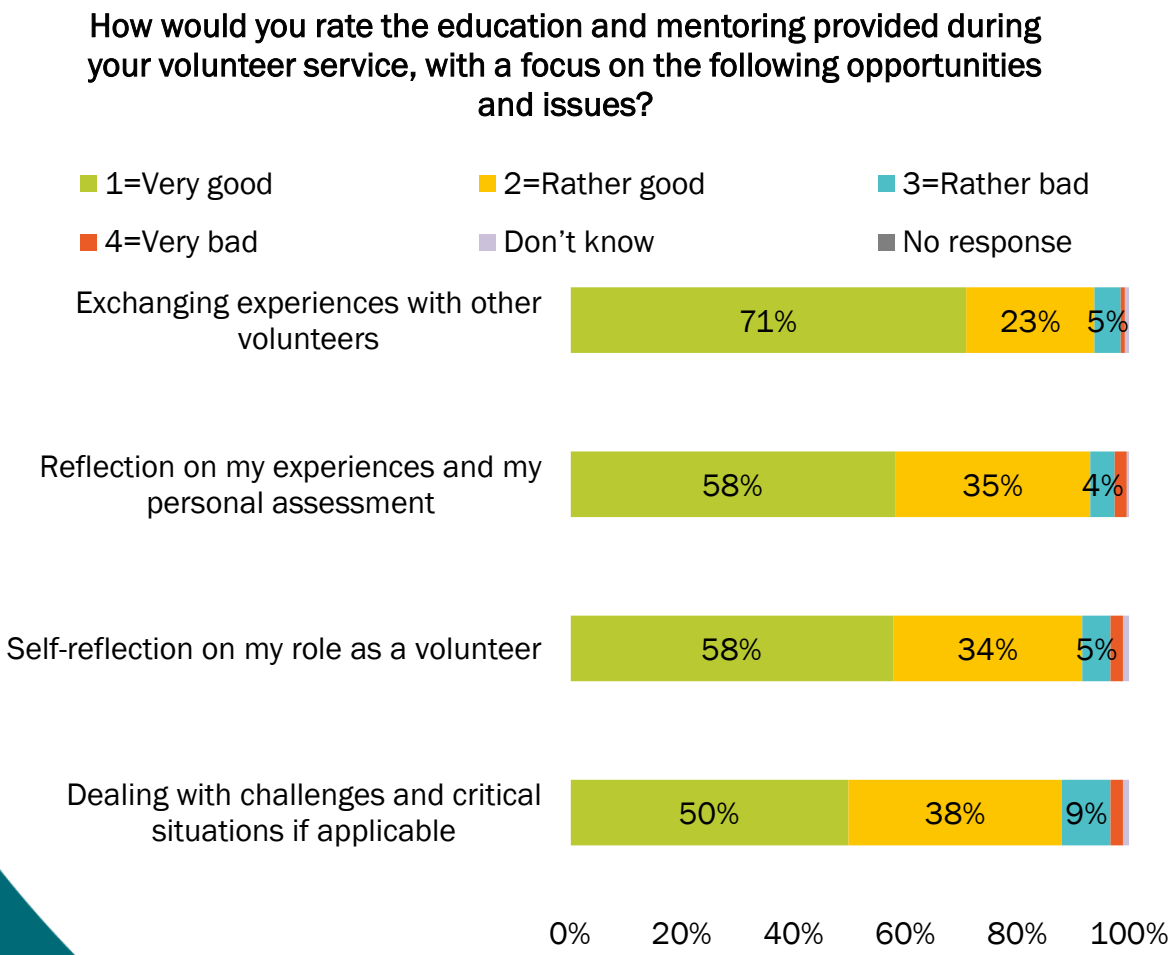
Mentoring

Between **88** and **94**% of returnees were for the most part satisfied with the education and mentoring provided.



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Place of assignment

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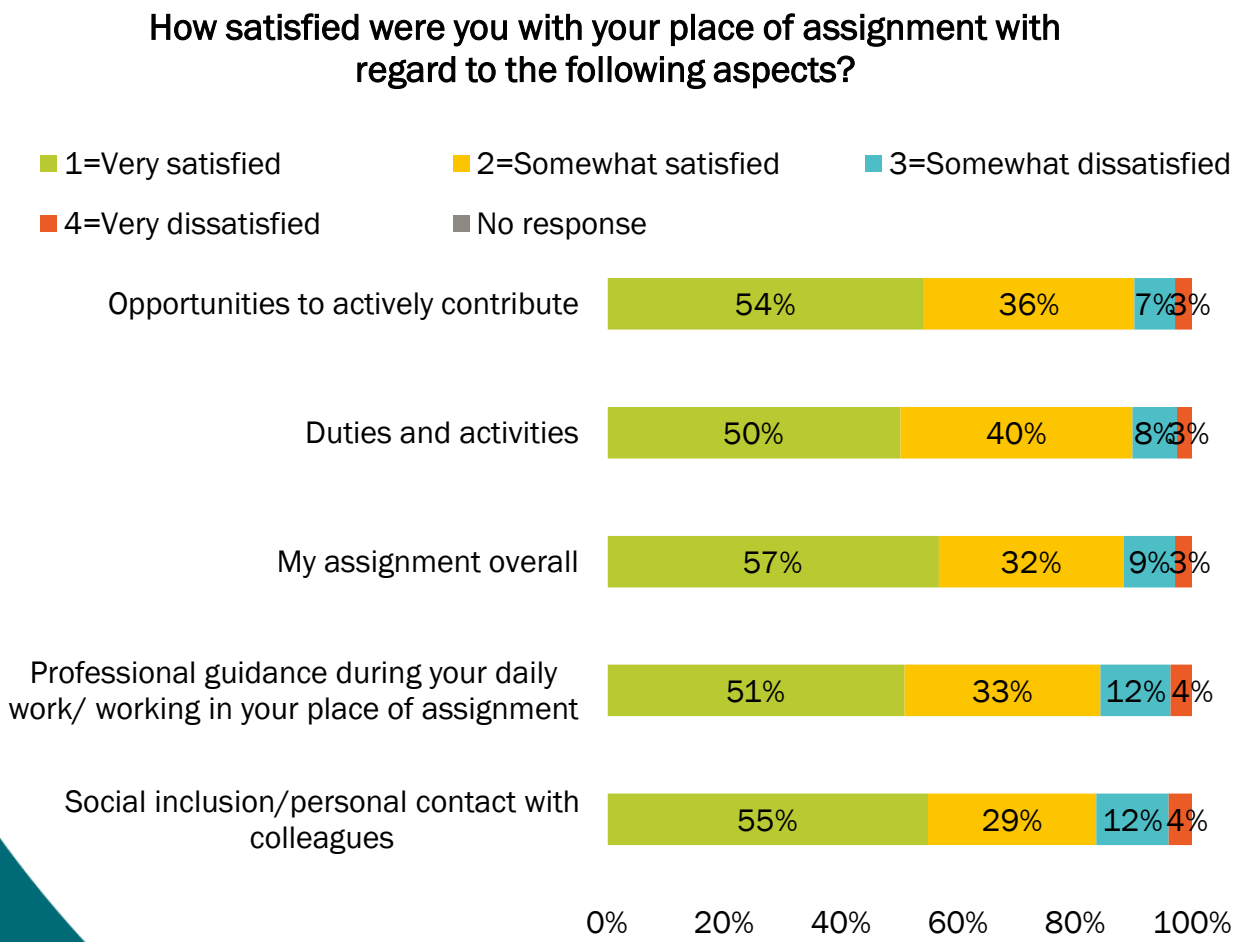

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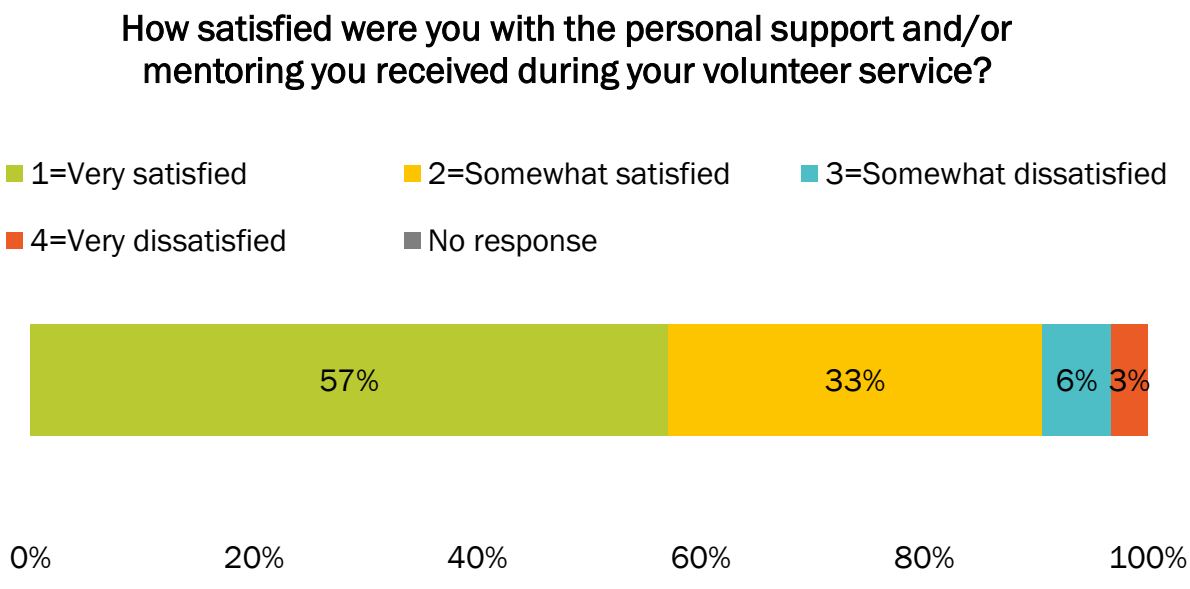

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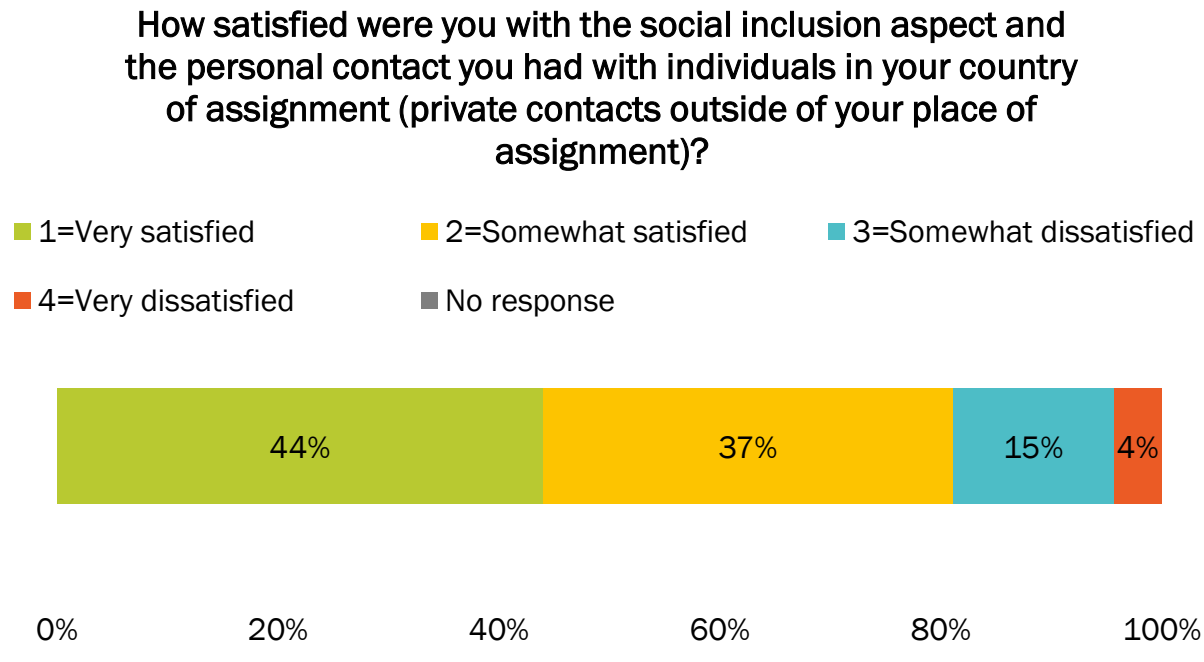

weltwärts

Critical situations

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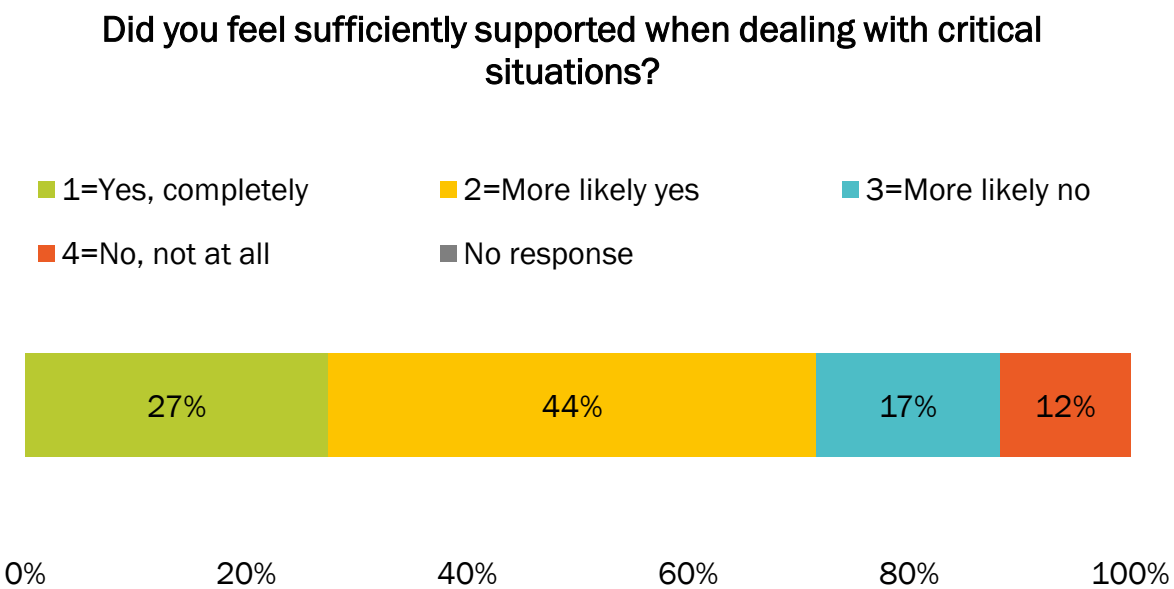

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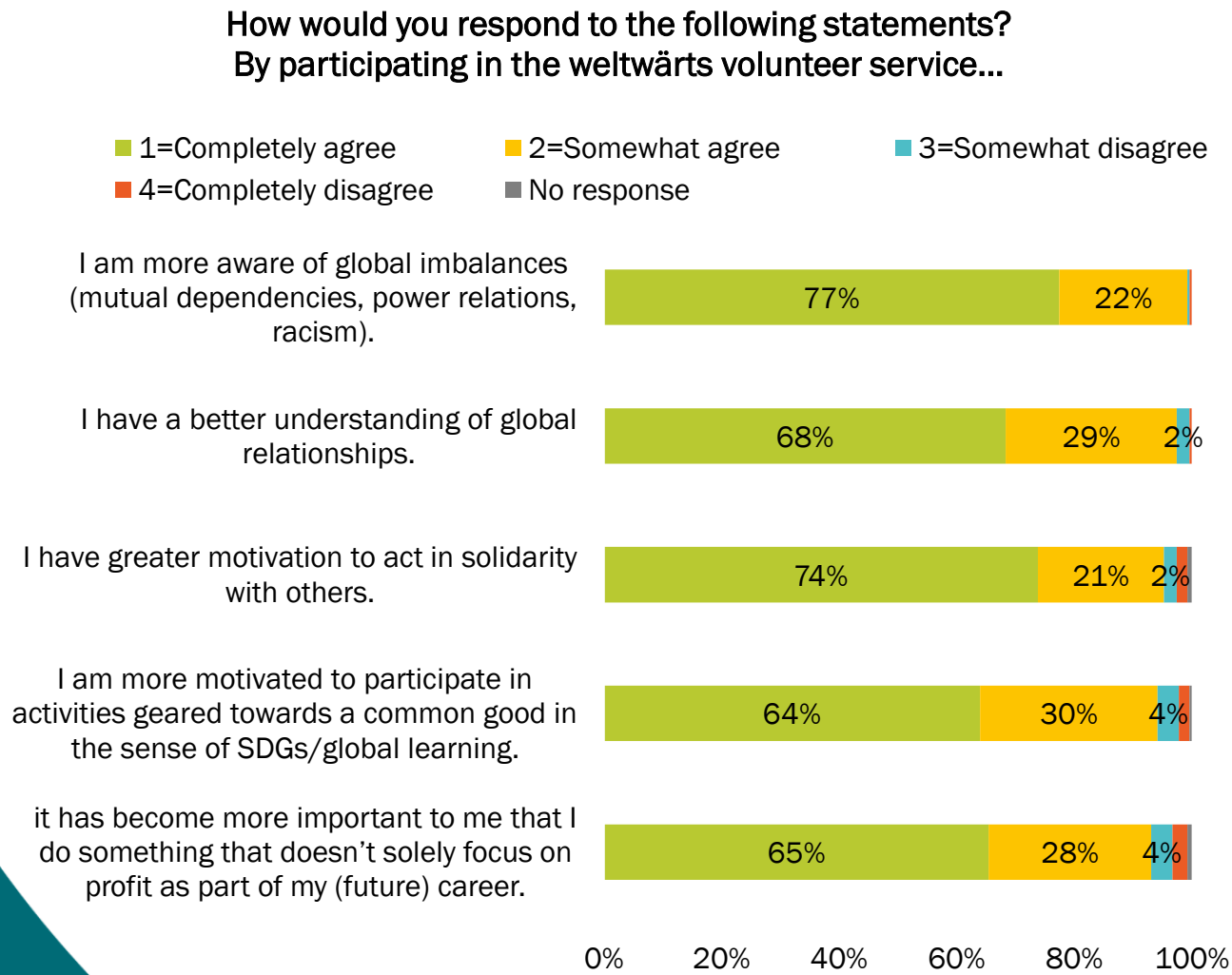

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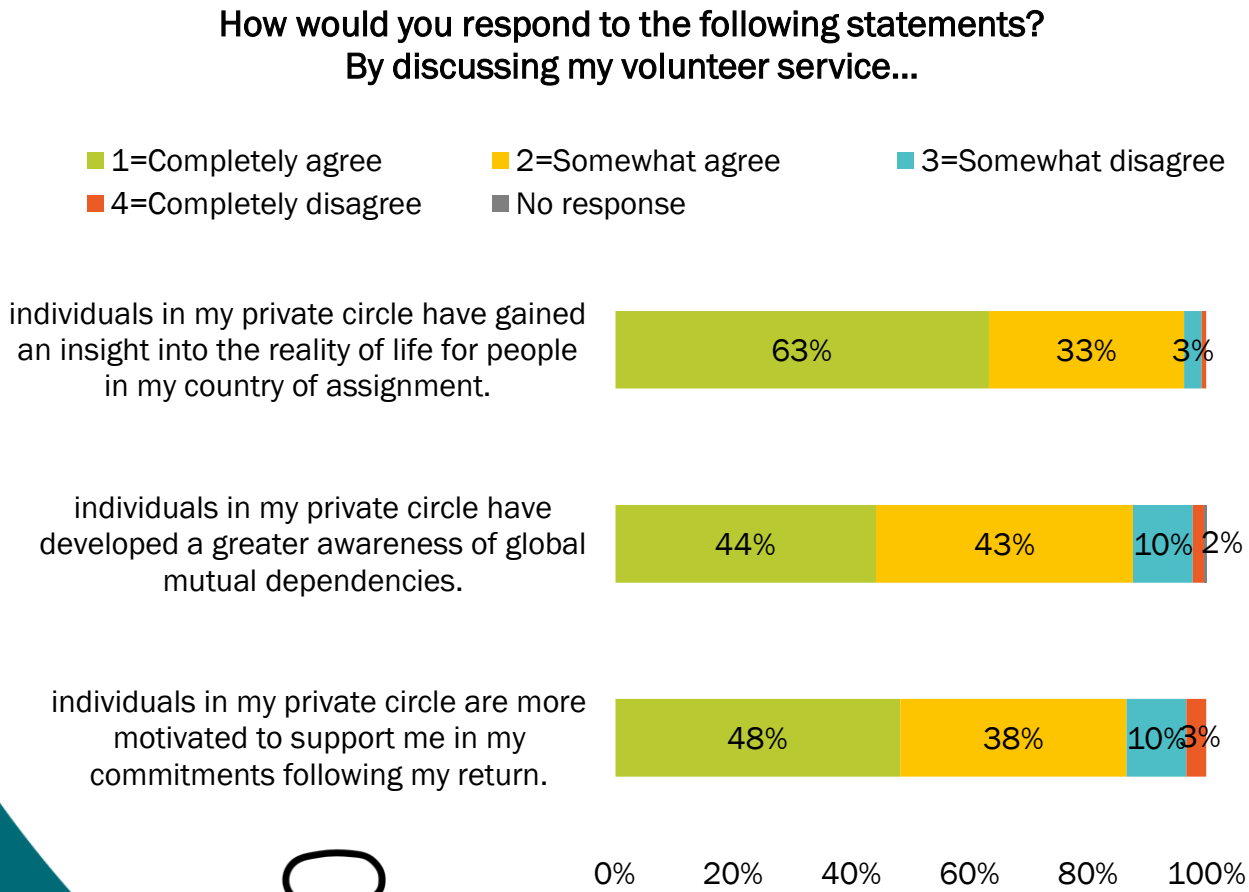

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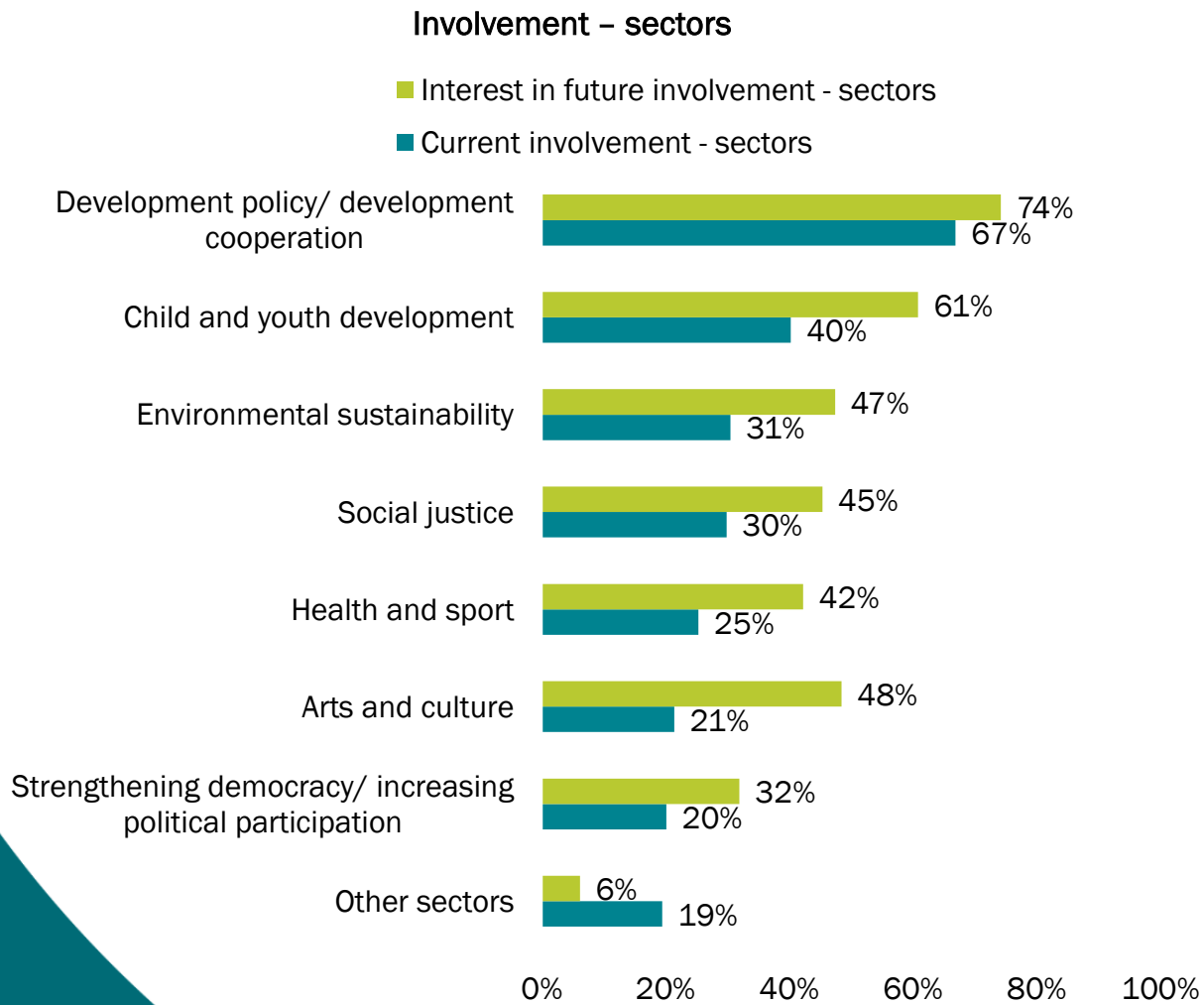
Impact on willingness for social engagement

At the time of the survey, many former volunteers (58%) were already engaged in voluntary work.

Amongst those who, at the time of the survey, were not (yet) involved in volunteering, 80% expressed a significant interest in volunteering in the near future.



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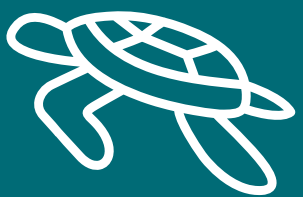
Im Auftrag des

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung



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