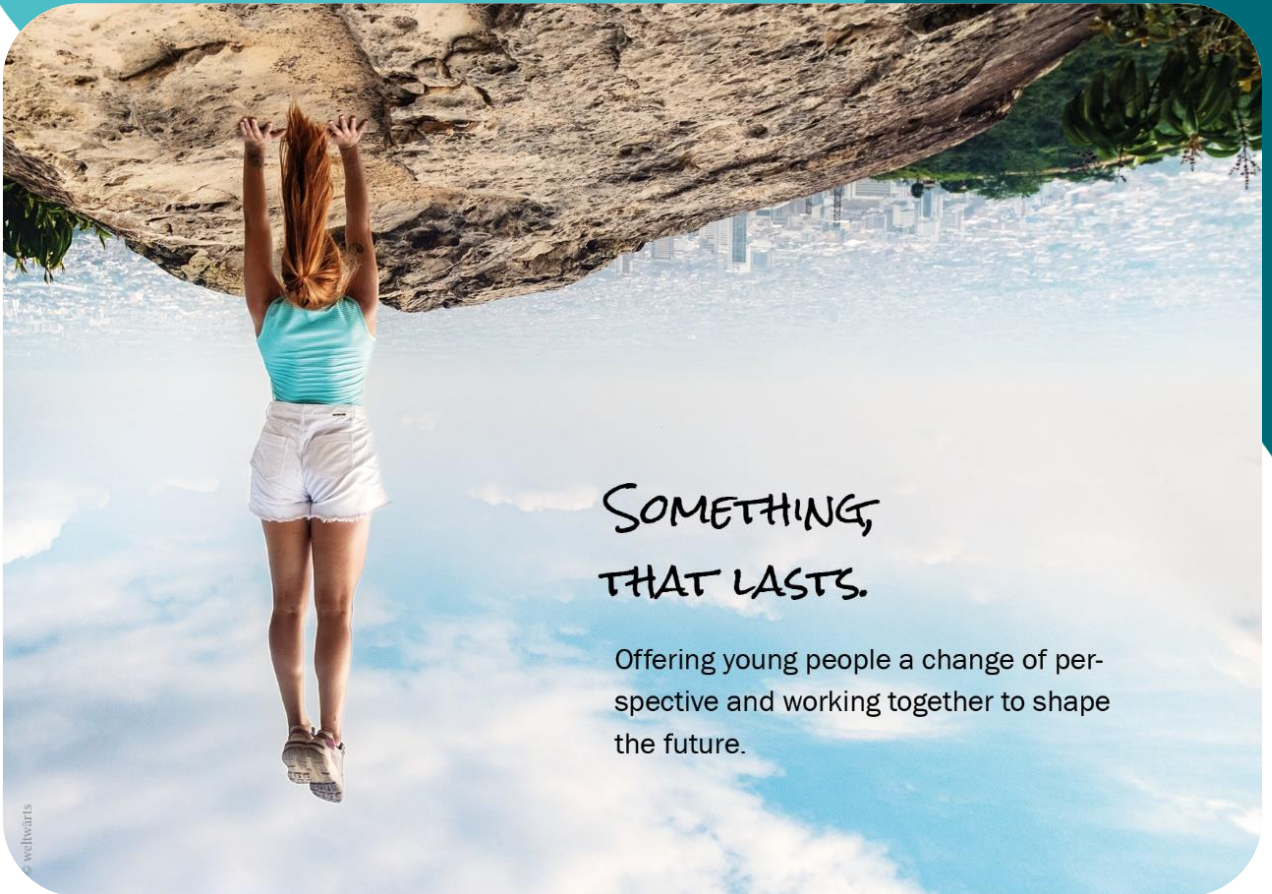


# 2022

## North-South volunteer survey



SOMETHING  
THAT LASTS.

Offering young people a change of perspective and working together to shape the future.

# 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 participants 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 those who completed their service in the Global South and returned between November 2021 and November 2022.

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



## weltwärts provides new perspectives!

Since 2008, more than 50,000 young people have taken part in the weltwärts programme, gaining new insights into our global community through a stay abroad in the Global South or in Germany. As such, weltwärts is one of the largest international volunteer services in the world.

We are publishing the results of our large-scale volunteer survey for the ninth time. Three months after they return home, we ask all former volunteers for an honest assessment of their volunteer service experience. We track developments over the years for programme management purposes.

A large portion of volunteers who have now returned are already involved in voluntary work. Some 78% are involved in areas that we might categorise under “Global Citizenship” (issues related to development policy, justice, sustainability, supporting civil society). The proportion of those who are as yet not involved in volunteering but plan to take up activities in the same field in the near future is 98%, which is very pleasing for us!

The weltwärts programme values high quality and safety standards. weltwärts quality criteria are set out by the guidelines and impact assumptions, as well as the weltwärts quality requirements. The United Nations’ sustainable development goals (SDGs) play a special role. The volunteer survey serves to ensure the programme can be developed further.

This report illustrates how well the results turned out. One of our great strengths is ensuring that all participants in the weltwärts programme work together effectively to improve its quality and impact.

### Coordination of the weltwärts Programme Steering Committee



**Sandra Groß**

Head of the Civic Engagement Department at the BMZ; volunteer and exchange programmes, Engagement Global



**Benedikt Pees**

International volunteer service advisor at the Federal Office for the Association of German Catholic youth (BDKJ)

# Our former volunteers

Some 638 returnees share their thoughts and experiences here! Due to the pandemic, fewer volunteers made the journey than in previous years.

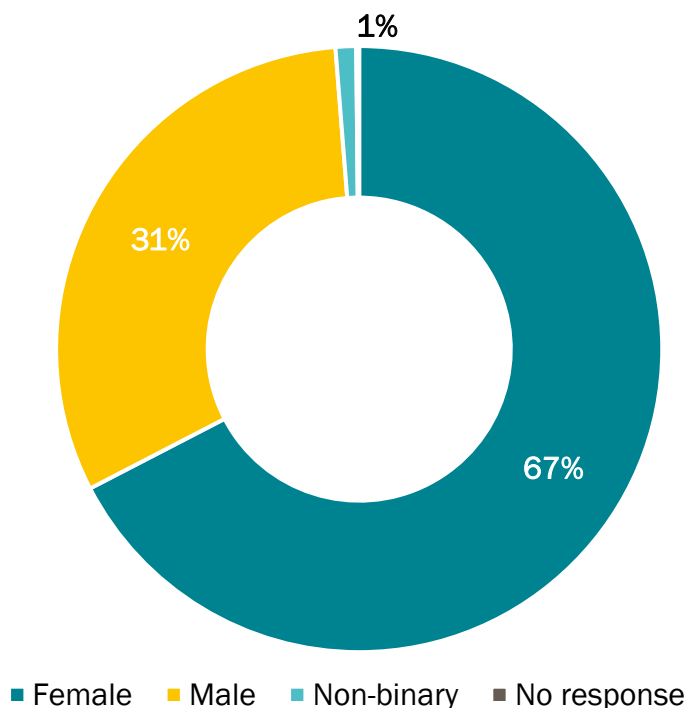
## Sex:

approx. 2/3 female  
just short of 1/3 male

**Age:** 20 years old on average

**Sample size:** 1,100 volunteers (of which 638 provided complete responses)

Which answer describes you the best?



# Our former volunteers

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**Before participating in the volunteer service: 70% were school pupils**

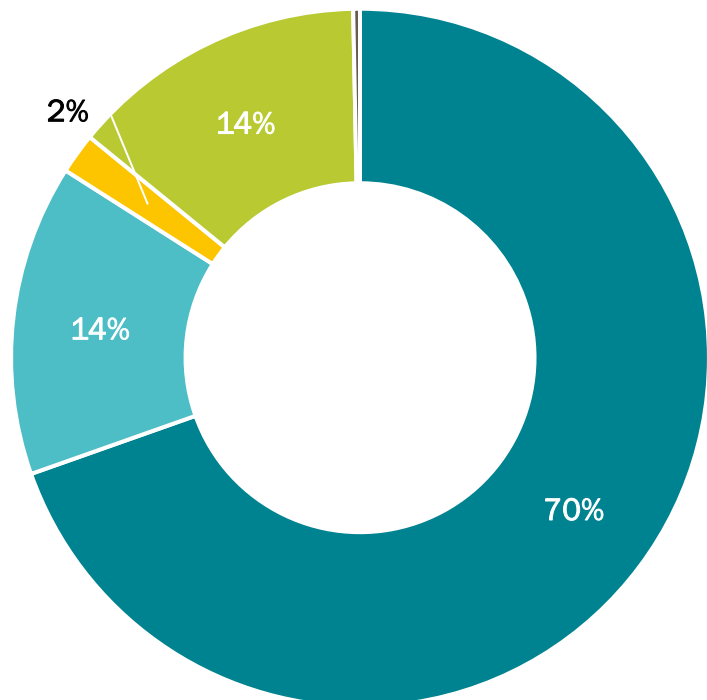
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**Sending organisations:** The former volunteers travelled abroad with 86 organisations

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**Countries:** Volunteers travelled to 45 countries.

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



- School pupil
- Student
- Apprentice
- Another type of occupation
- No response

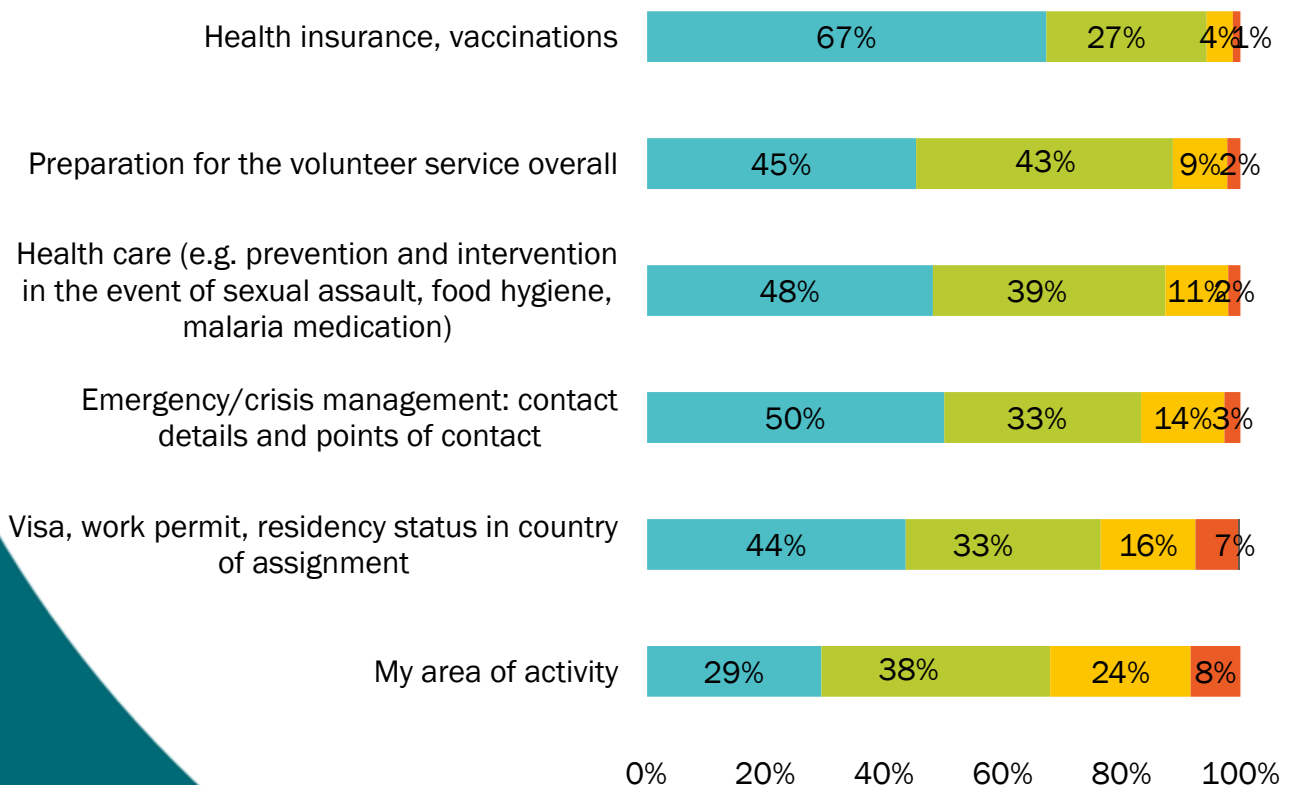


# Preparation

Between **68** 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?

- 1=Very satisfied
- 2=Somewhat satisfied
- 3=Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4=Very dissatisfied
- No response

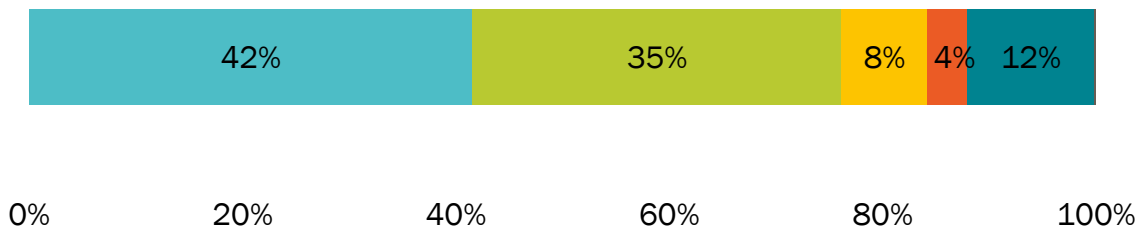


# Follow-up support

The majority of former volunteers (**76%**) were also satisfied with the follow-up support for the volunteer service (e.g. events, seminars).

How satisfied were you with the follow-up support for your volunteer service overall?

- 1=Very satisfied
- 2=Somewhat satisfied
- 3=Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4=Very dissatisfied
- I can't say
- No response

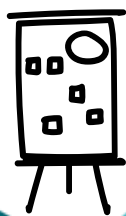
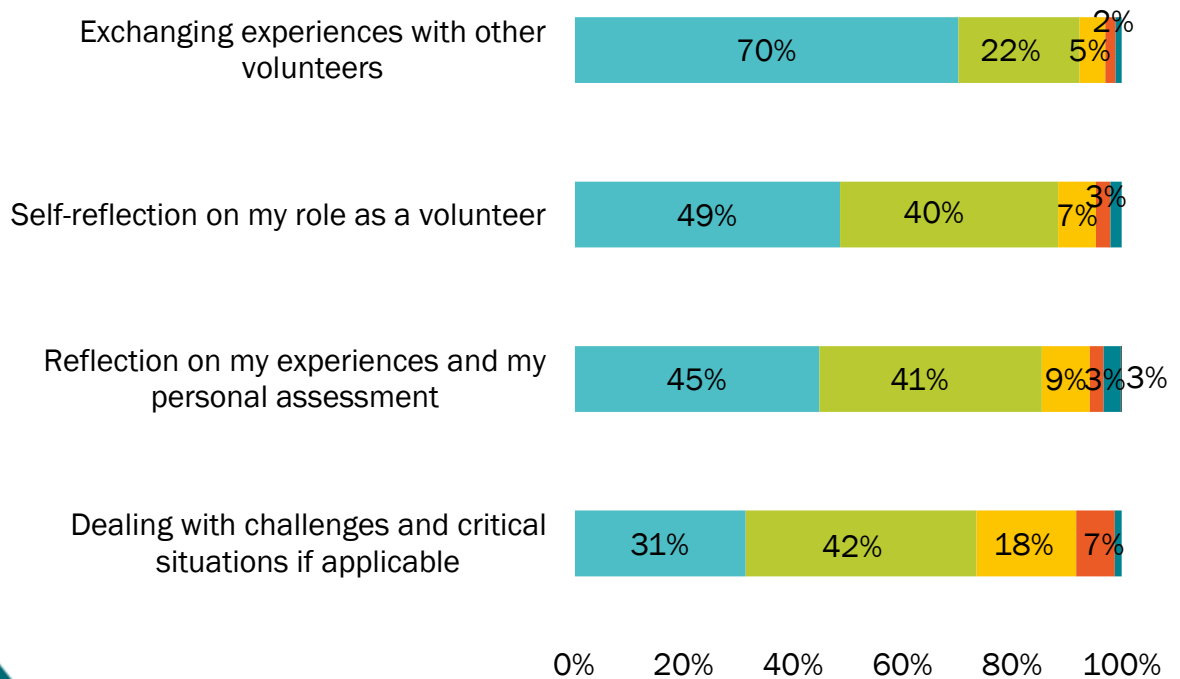


# Mentoring

Between **74** and **92%** of returnees were satisfied with the education and mentoring provided during their volunteer service.

How would you rate the education and mentoring provided during your volunteer service, with a focus on the following opportunities and issues?

- 1=Very good
- 2=Rather good
- 3=Rather bad
- 4=Very bad
- Don't know
- No response



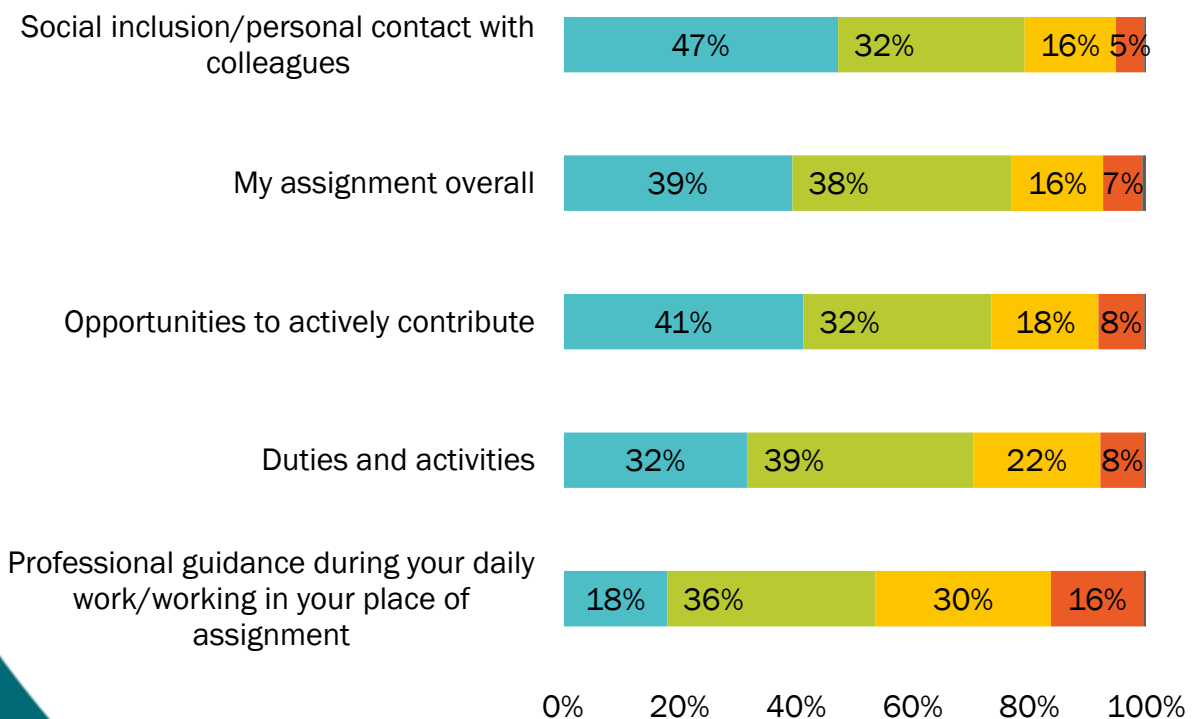


# Places of assignment

Up to **79%** of former volunteers were satisfied with the aspects of the places of assignment they were asked about.

How satisfied were you with your place of assignment with regard to the following aspects?

- 1=Very satisfied      ■ 2=Somewhat satisfied      ■ 3=Somewhat dissatisfied  
■ 4=Very dissatisfied      ■ No response



# Support

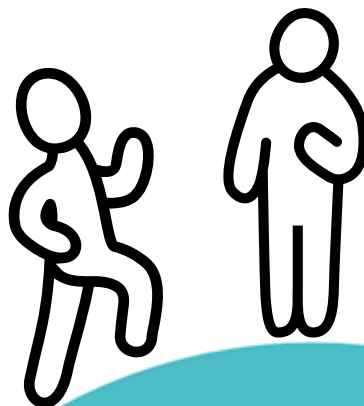
A significant majority of volunteers (77%) were satisfied with the personal support and/or mentoring they received during their volunteer service.

How satisfied were you with the personal support and/or mentoring you received during your volunteer service?

- 1=Very satisfied
- 2=Somewhat satisfied
- 3=Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4=Very dissatisfied
- No response



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

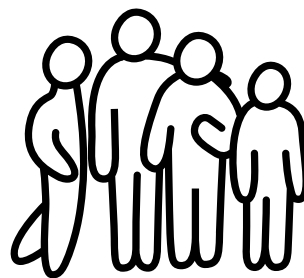
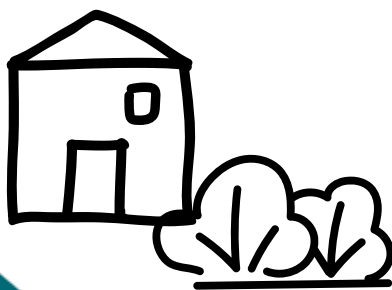
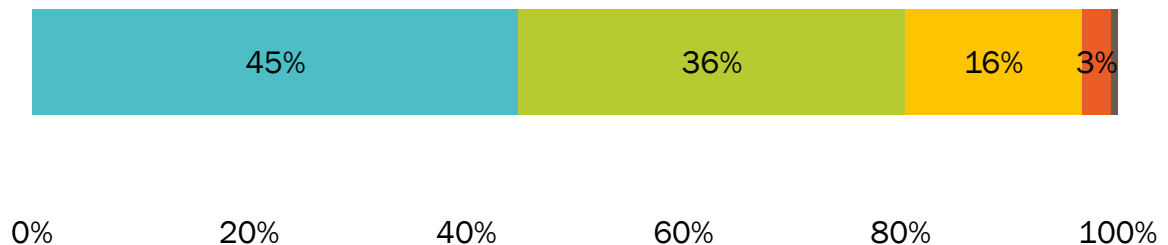


# Private contacts

Most former volunteers (**80%**) were satisfied with the private social contacts they made during their volunteer service.

How satisfied were you with the social inclusion aspect and the personal contact you had with individuals in your country of assignment (private contacts outside of your place of assignment)?

- 1=Very satisfied
- 2=Somewhat satisfied
- 3=Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4=Very dissatisfied
- No response

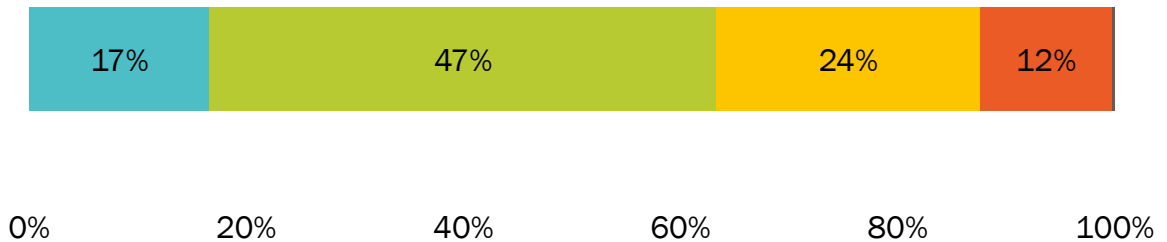


# Critical situations

When critical or stressful situations arose, the majority of former volunteers impacted – **63%** to be precise – received sufficient levels of support from the weltwärts organisations.

Did you feel sufficiently supported when dealing with critical situations?

- 1=Yes, completely
- 2=More likely yes
- 3=More likely no
- 4=No, not at all
- No response

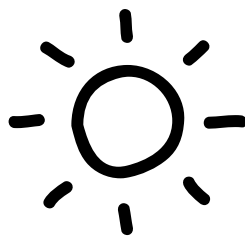
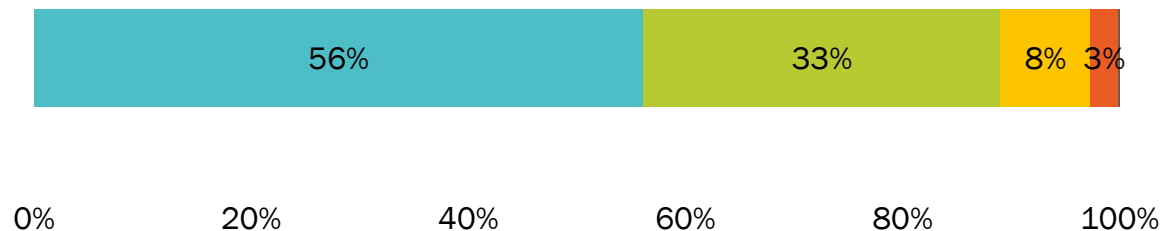


# Satisfaction

The majority of former volunteers (**89%**) were satisfied with their volunteer service on the whole.

How satisfied were you with your volunteer service overall?

- 1=Very satisfied
- 2=Somewhat satisfied
- 3=Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4=Very dissatisfied
- No response

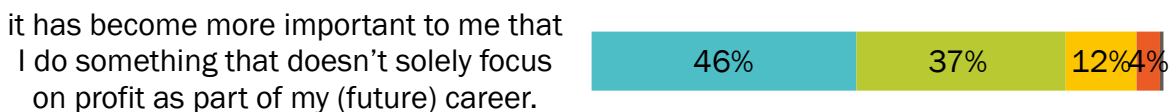


# Influence of weltwärts

Between 71 and 97% of former volunteers underwent personal development and returned with a sense of motivation.

How would you respond to the following statements?  
By participating in the weltwärts volunteer service...

■ 1=Completely agree   ■ 2=Somewhat agree   ■ 3=Somewhat disagree  
■ 4=Completely disagree   ■ No response



0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

# Influence on personal environment

Some **54** to **91%** of former volunteers have increased their awareness of issues related to development policy within their own personal sphere.

How would you respond to the following statements?  
By discussing my volunteer service...

■ 1=Completely agree    ■ 2=Somewhat agree    ■ 3=Somewhat disagree  
■ 4=Completely disagree    ■ No response

individuals in my private circle have gained an insight into the reality of life for people in my country of assignment.



individuals in my private circle have developed a greater awareness of global mutual dependencies.



individuals in my private circle are more motivated to support me in my commitments following my return.



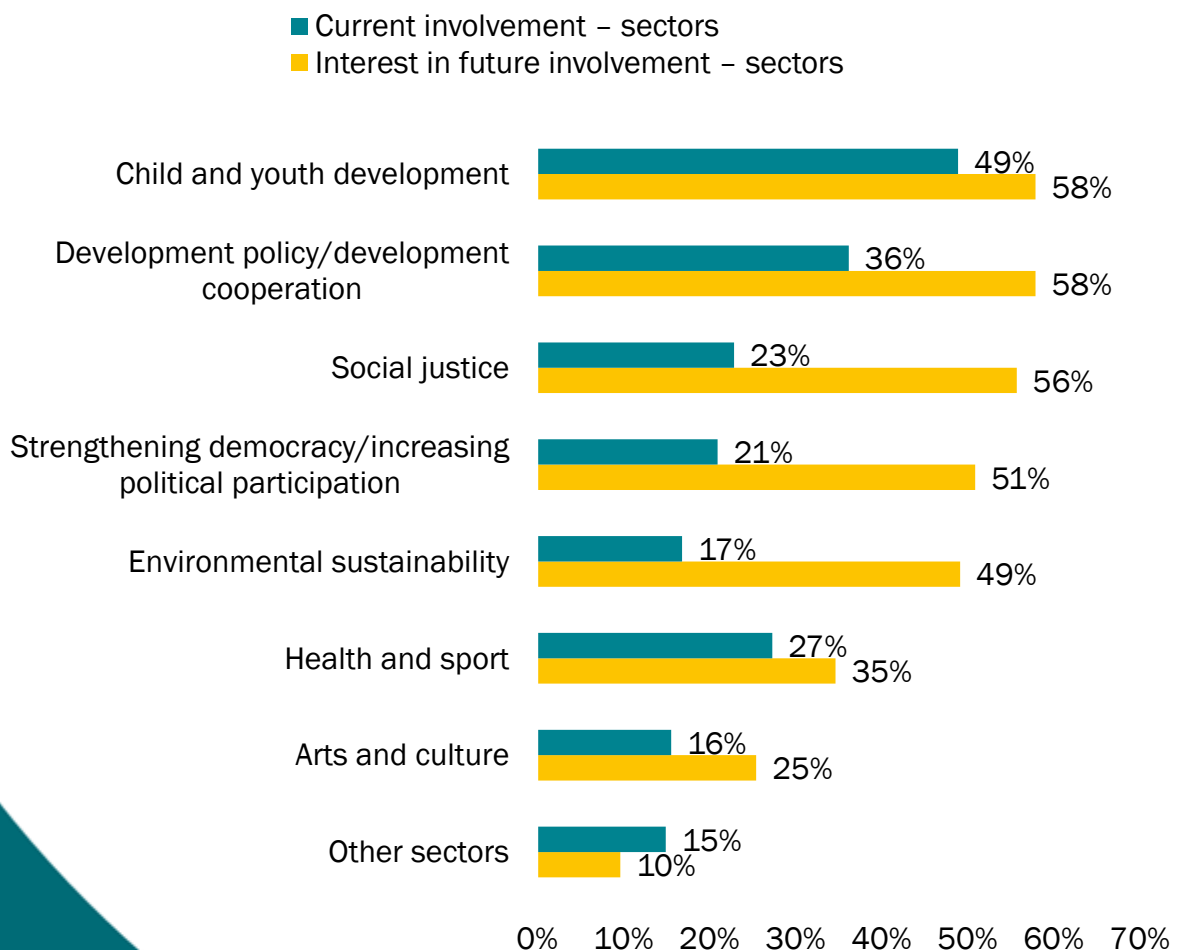
0%    20%    40%    60%    80%    100%

# Influence on involvement

At the time of the survey, **49%** of former volunteers were already engaged in voluntary work.

Amongst those volunteers who at the time of the survey were not involved in volunteering, **71%** expressed a significant interest in volunteering in the near future.

## Involvement – sectors





# Imprint

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Im Auftrag des

**ENGAGEMENT  
GLOBAL**  
Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen



Bundesministerium für  
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit  
und Entwicklung



# Changing the world together

OUR PLANET DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT

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