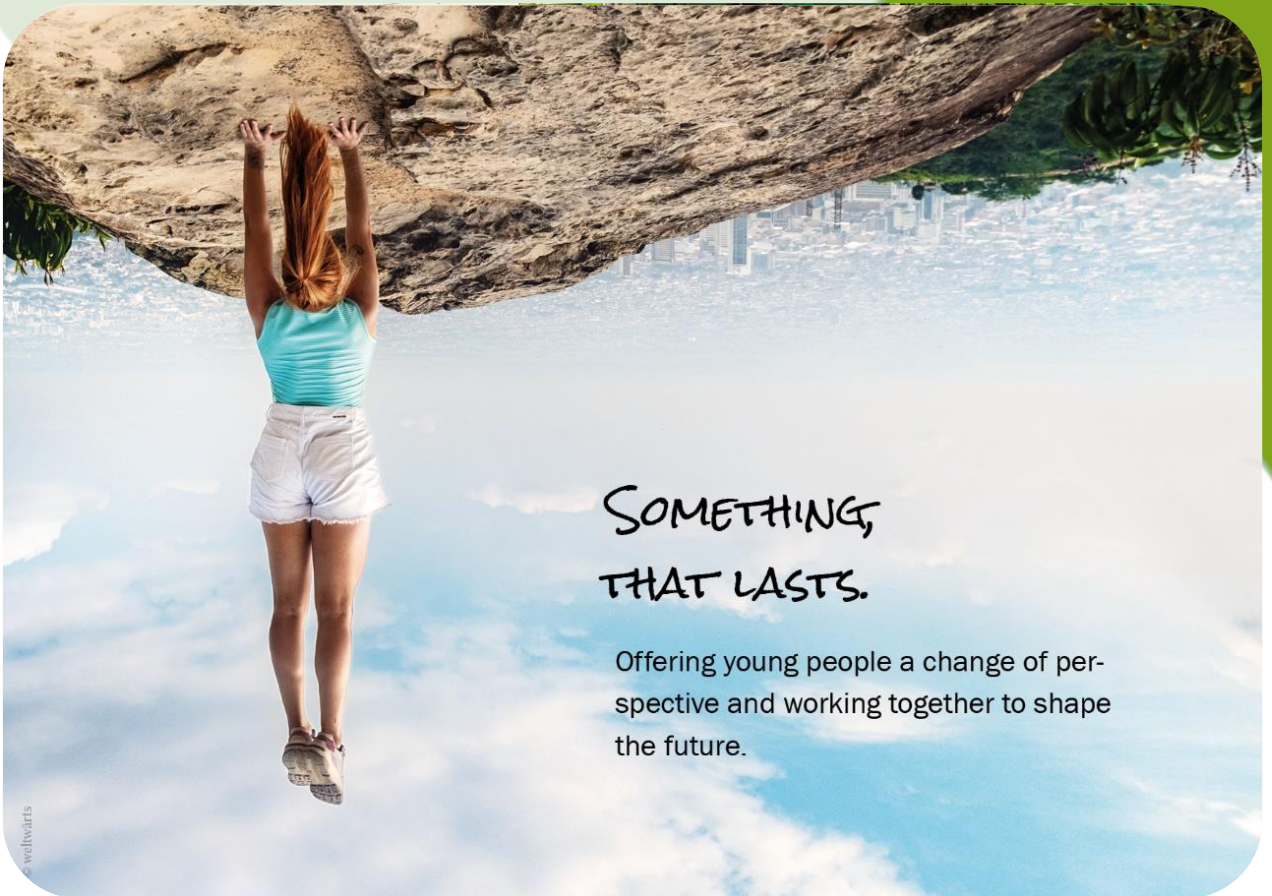


2022

South-North volunteer survey



**SOMETHING,
THAT LASTS.**

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

What is it all about?

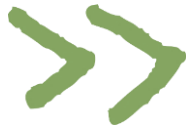


The weltwärts programme gives young people the opportunity to get involved in projects abroad and gain new perspectives.

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 Germany 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

Here, 155 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.

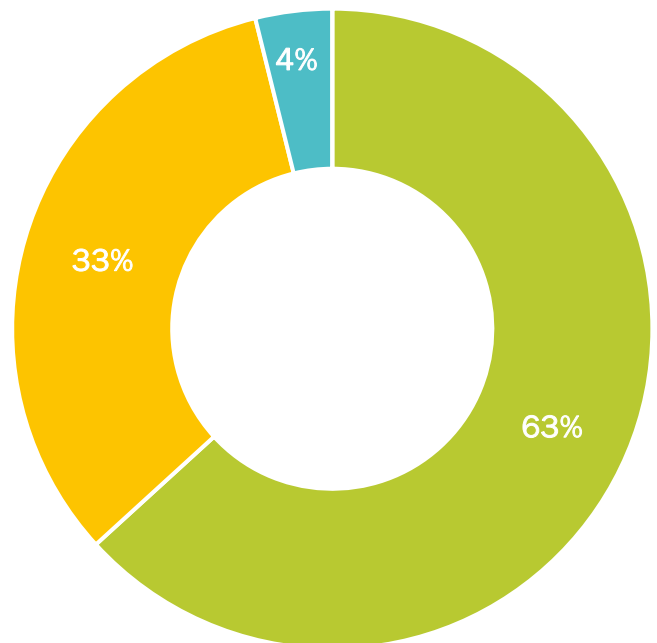
Sex:

almost 2/3 female,
1/3 male

Age: 25 years old on average

Sample size: 445 volunteers (of which 155 provided complete responses)

Which answer describes you the best?



■ Female ■ Male ■ Non-binary ■ No response



Our former volunteers

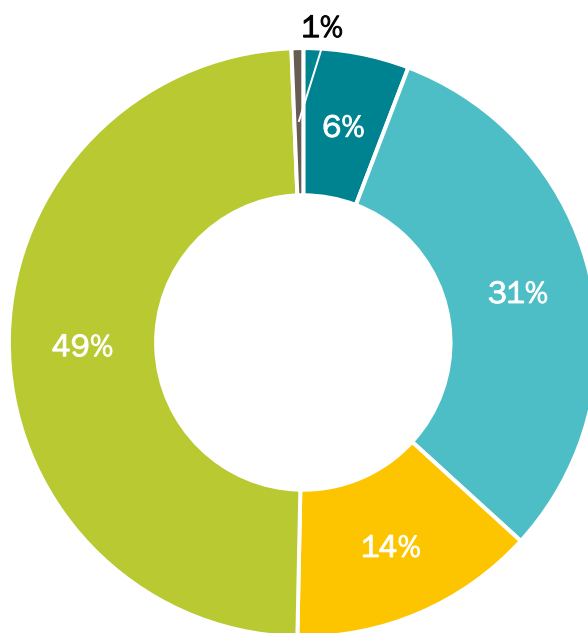
Before participating in the volunteer service:

1/3 were students. Of the just under 50% who stated another occupation, the majority were in employment.

Host organisations: The former volunteers were taken in by 65 different organisations in Germany.

Countries: The former volunteers hail from 52 countries.

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



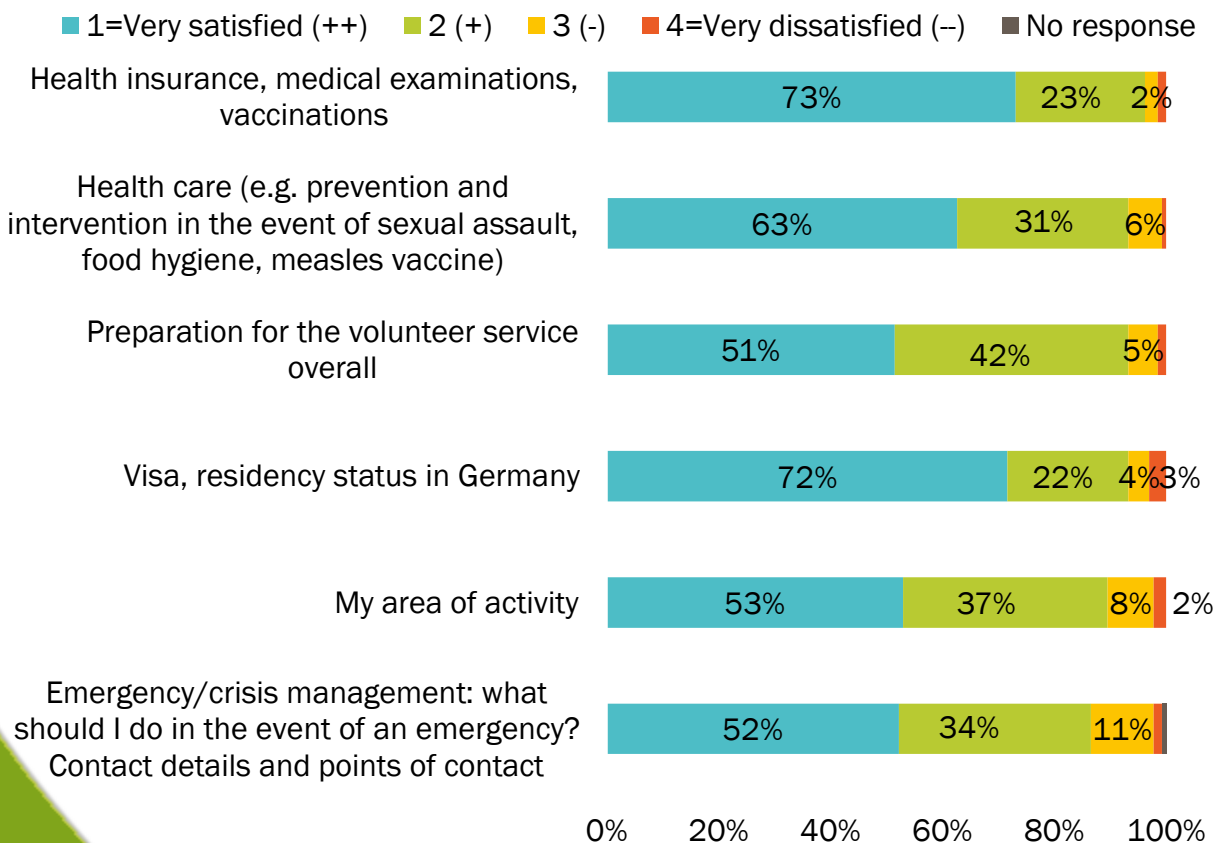
- School pupil
- Student
- Apprentice
- Another type of occupation
- No response



Preparation

Between **91** 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?

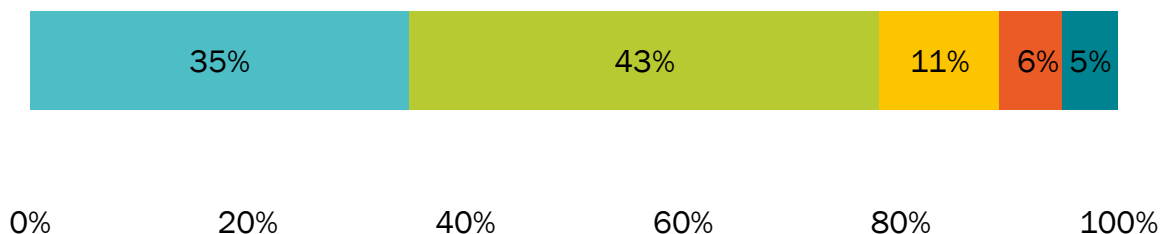


Follow-up support

The majority of former volunteers (**80%**) 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 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 4=Very dissatisfied (-) ■ I can't say ■ No response

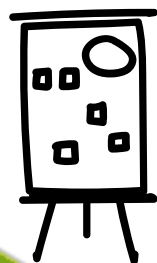


Mentoring

Between **88** and **94%** 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 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 4=Very bad (-) ■ Don't know ■ No response

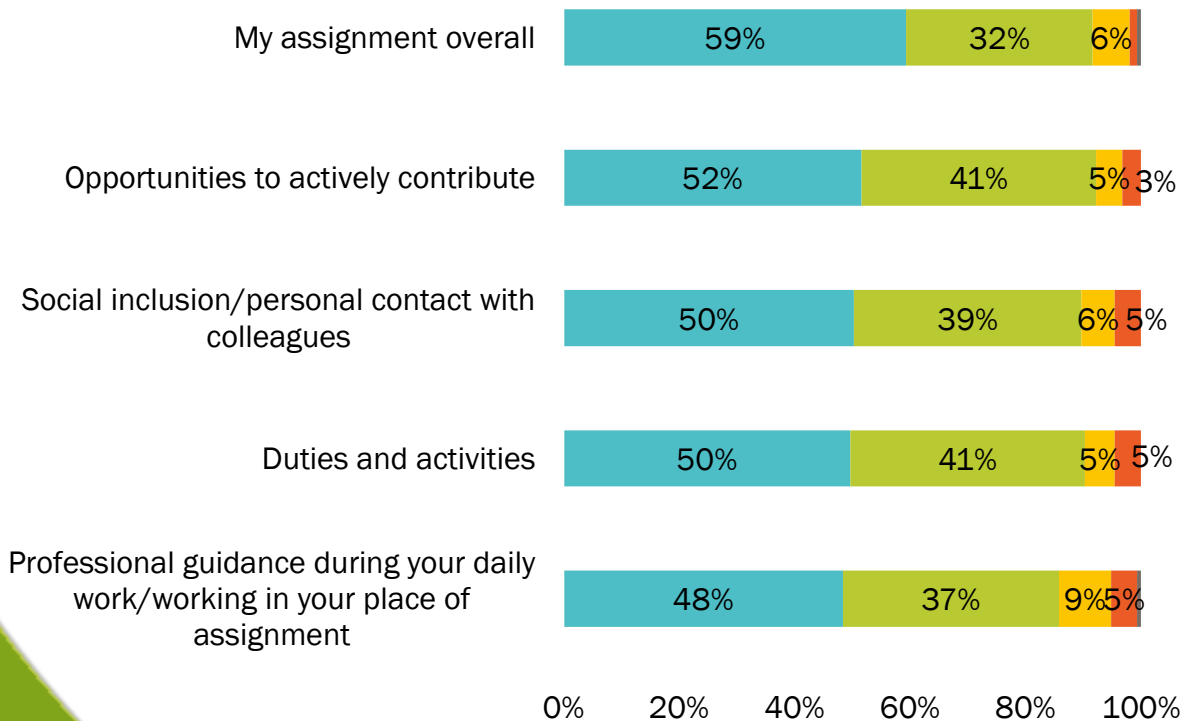


Places of assignment

Up to **93%** 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 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 3=Very dissatisfied ■ No response

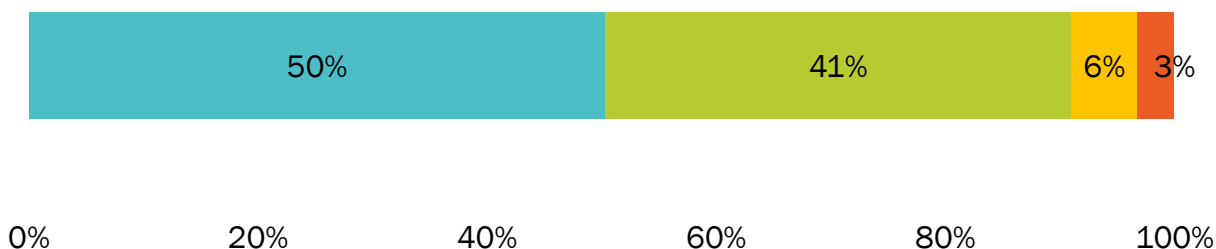


Support

A significant majority of volunteers (90%) 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 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 4=Very dissatisfied (-) ■ No response

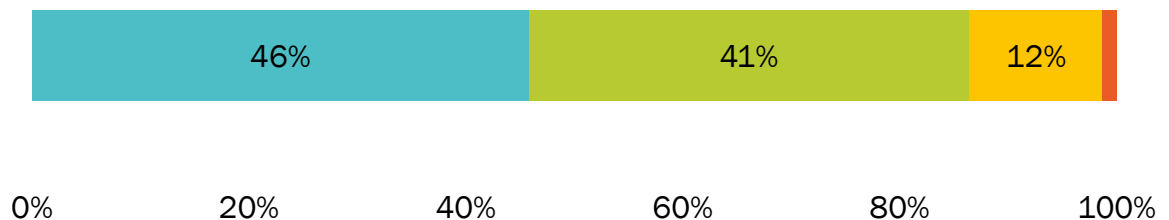


Private contacts

Most former volunteers (**87%**) 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 Germany (private contacts outside of your place of assignment)?

■ 1=Very satisfied (++) ■ 2 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 4=Very dissatisfied (-) ■ No response

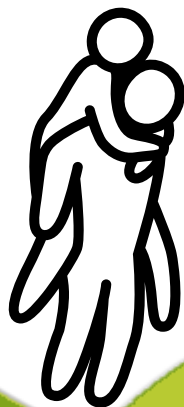
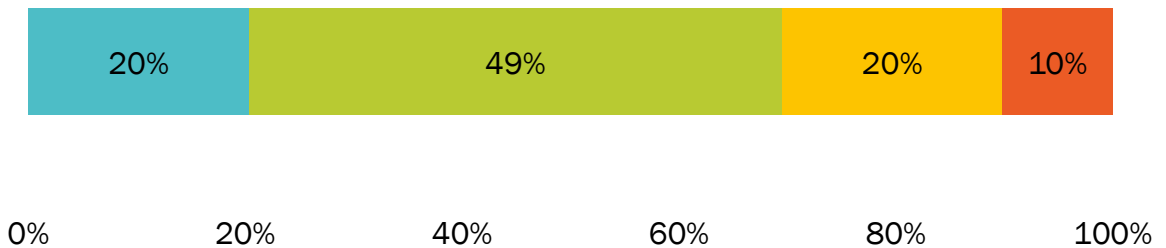


Critical situations

When critical or stressful situations arose, the majority of former volunteers impacted – **74%** 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 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 4=No, not at all (-) ■ No response

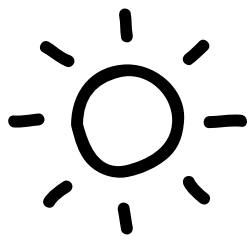
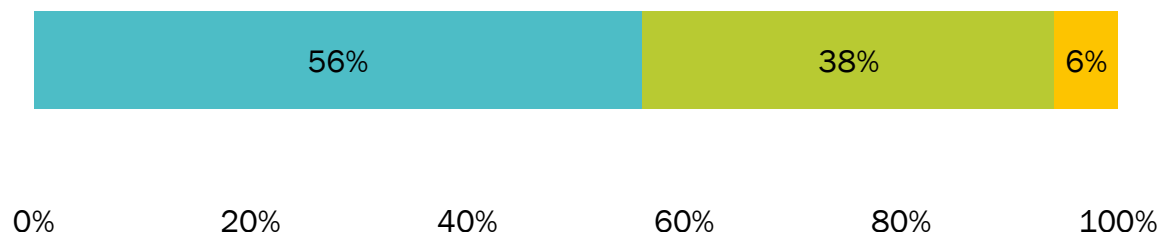


Satisfaction

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

How satisfied were you with your volunteer service overall?

■ 1=Very satisfied (++) ■ 2 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 4=Very dissatisfied (-) ■ No response



Influence of weltwärts

Between **96** and **99%** 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 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 4=Completely disagree (-) ■ No response

I am more aware of global imbalances (mutual dependencies, power relations, racism).



I have greater motivation to act in solidarity with others.



I have a better understanding of global relationships.



I am more motivated to participate in activities geared towards a common good in the sense of SDGs/global learning.



it has become more important to me that I do something that doesn't solely focus on profit as part of my (future) career.



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

Influence on personal environment

Some **84** to **98%** 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 (+) ■ 3 (-) ■ 4=Completely disagree (-) ■ No response

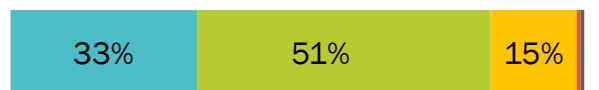
individuals in my private circle have gained an insight into the reality of life for people in my country of assignment.



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



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

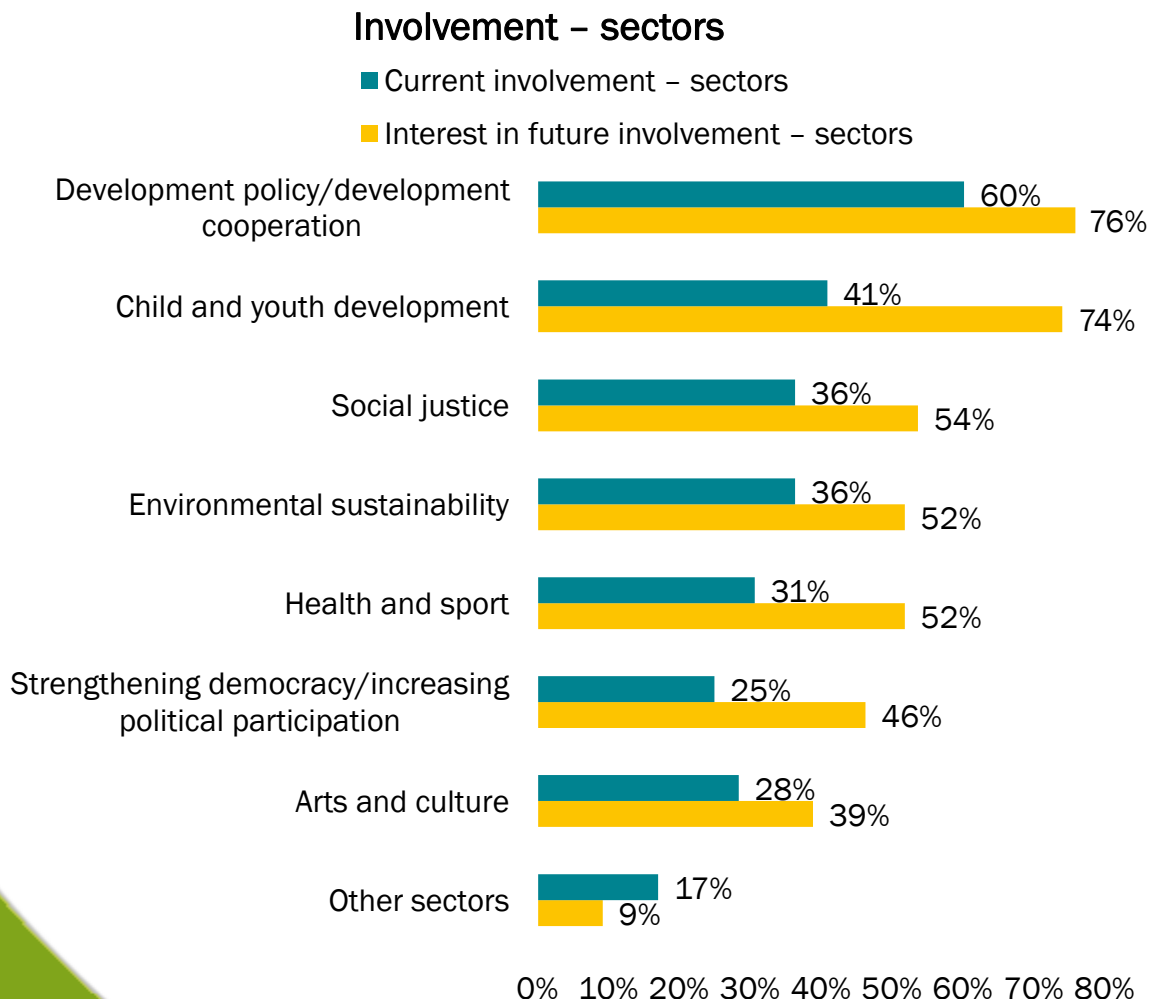


0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Influence on involvement

At the time of the survey, **57%** of former volunteers were already engaged in voluntary work.

Amongst those volunteers who at the time of the survey were not involved in volunteering, **82%** expressed a significant interest in volunteering in the near future.



Imprint

Publisher

Engagement Global gGmbH

Koordinierungsstelle weltwärts

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40

53113 Bonn, Germany

www.engagement-global.de; www.weltwaerts.de

Editorial team

Isabella Schulz (Umfragezentrum Bonn)

Tülin Engin-Stock (Umfragezentrum Bonn)

Christian Wochele (Engagement Global)

Sophie Schindlbeck (Engagement Global)

Magdalena Gress (Engagement Global)

Layout

DMKZWO – design, branding, communication; www.dmkzwo.de

Daria Petrovic – Engagement Global

Karina Heinz – Engagement Global

Images

Copyright for title page image: Engagement Global/Thomas de Cian

Copyright for reverse page image: Engagement Global/Robert Grischek

Version

August 2023

Im Auftrag des



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung



Changing the world together

OUR PLANET DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT

© weltwärts



weltwärts 