

WORLD GIVING REPORT

GIVING IN FRANCE

2025

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An aerial photograph of a large crowd of people participating in a marathon or triathlon. The participants are spread across a wide asphalt road and a grassy area. Many are wearing colorful athletic gear. A red banner with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

01 INTRODUCTION

Welcome

This insightful new report sheds light on the public's attitudes and behaviours towards giving and charity in France. This report, thanks to a partnership between the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and Fondation de France forms part of the broader World Giving Report 2025 — a global collaboration that surveyed over 55,000 individuals across 101 countries.

The international comparison reveals a fascinating connection between a country's social model and the nature of its generosity. In France, where the Welfare State remains particularly robust, people tend to donate less money than their global counterparts. However, the French are slightly more likely than European counterparts to volunteer for charities — a reflection of the importance placed on freedom of association within the country's social framework, anchored by the landmark 1901 Law.

The report also confirms a sensitivity to the public interest among French youth, manifested in various ways. They donate a larger share of their income compared to older age groups, they are strongly engaged in volunteer work, and they are also more inclined to help people they do not know. This underscores the importance they attach to the common good and their willingness to contribute to it through different avenues of civic engagement and altruistic behaviour, contrary to popular beliefs about youth.

Furthermore, the public's clear preference for local charities emerges as a key insight. The closer an organisation is to the communities it serves, the greater the level of public trust. This suggests that hyper-local, community-based initiatives may be particularly well-received in the French context.

Ultimately, this report provides invaluable guidance that can help better understand and support the French public's philanthropic inclinations. By shedding light on the nuances of giving in France, it offers a roadmap for fostering a thriving culture of generosity.



Axelle Davezac
CEO, Fondation de France

“In France, where the Welfare State remains particularly robust, people tend to donate less money than their global counterparts.”

About us

Fondation de France, France's leading philanthropy network

Each and every one of us has the power to act in the name of public interest. For 55 years, this conviction has been the driving force behind the Fondation de France's action. Independent and private, Fondation de France acts thanks to the generosity of their donors.

Every day, it encourages, supports and transforms the desire to act into useful and effective action to build a more peaceful, united and sustainable world. Fondation de France has developed unique expertise, drawing on the best experts, hundreds of volunteers and thousands of people in the field, in all areas of public interest: aid for vulnerable people, medical research, the environment, culture, education, etc.

Fondation de France supports more than 12,000 promising and innovative initiatives every year, in France and abroad — as a result of the work of the 982 foundations under our auspices.

CAF

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) exists to accelerate progress in society towards a fair and sustainable future for all. Over the last 100 years, we have led the way in developing innovative approaches to giving. Annually, we distribute over £1 billion to social purpose organisations around the globe.

As a leading charity operating in the UK, US and Canada, CAF works at the centre of the giving world. We partner with corporate and individual donors to enable them to give more effectively, strategically and impactfully. This includes connecting them to charities globally and providing access to our in-depth sector knowledge, governance expertise and innovative giving solutions.

We help social purpose organisations to strengthen their resilience and do more of their life changing work, through strategic advisory services from our Impact Accelerator, tools to support charities' fundraising activities, and charity financial services from CAF Bank Limited and CAF Financial Solutions Limited. Using our research, policy and campaigns work, we understand and influence the wider environment for charities and donors.

Together, we give more.

The World Giving Report (WGR) is a survey that captures the public's attitudes and behaviours around giving in 101 countries around the world.

- Access our global insights hub at: www.worldgivingreport.org
- This report is one of over 20 country-specific giving reports that uses the WGR data and is produced by CAF in partnership with leading social purpose organisations around the world.

Later this year, we are also publishing:

- Insights on the world charity landscape from partner-led surveys of social purpose organisations in over 20 countries (September).
- Country-specific charity insights reports (winter).

Our Methodology

The results described in this report were collected as part of the World Giving Report survey in January 2025.

All fieldwork was conducted online by our partners, Focaldata. The data was weighted, post-hoc to be representative of the population. All sample sizes are specified throughout the report, where relevant. Overall, 1,012 respondents participated in the French survey.

A note on 'Charity'

Across the report, we use the words 'charity' and 'charities' to represent any organisation that works to try and improve issues that are affecting individuals, communities, animals or the natural environment, and society as a whole.

In doing so, we recognise that these terms and their definitions differ around the world, with this type of organisation also described as: non-governmental organisations (NGOs), non-profit organisations (NPOs), community organisations, social purpose organisations, associations, foundations and other names.

You can find further details about our methodology at www.worldgivingreport.org



An aerial photograph of a crowded beach. The sand is a light tan color, and the water is a murky greenish-brown. Numerous people are scattered across the beach, many of whom are holding or standing next to colorful surfboards. The surfboards are in various colors, including blue, yellow, red, and white. The waves are breaking in the distance, creating white foam. A red banner with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

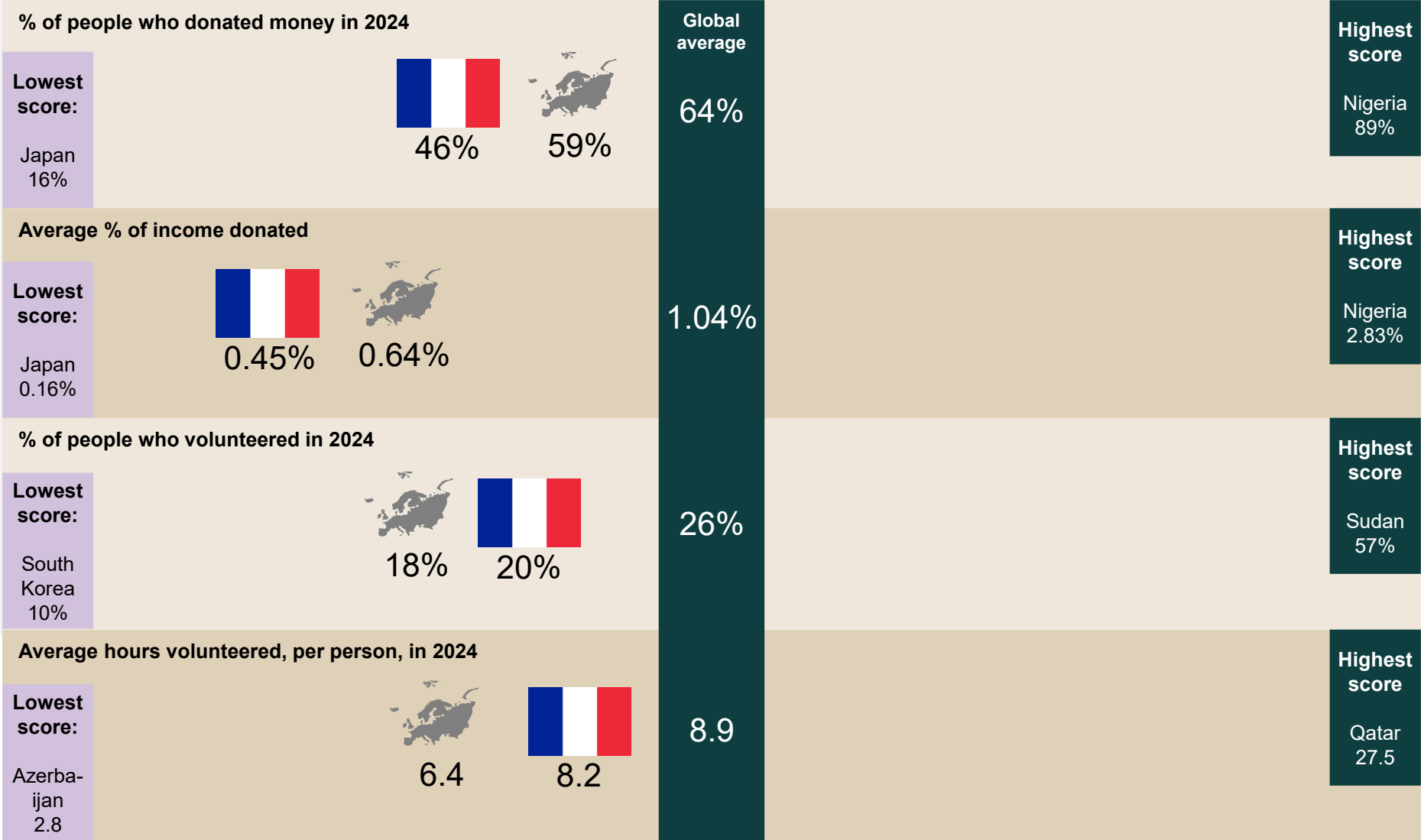
02 THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Giving money and giving time: Worldwide and within the continent.

In France, nearly one respondent in two gave money away in 2024, a lower proportion than the European (59%) and global (64%) averages.

This trend reflects the central place of the Welfare state in France in the provision of public services.

While the proportion of donors in France is lower than in Europe, volunteer involvement is slightly higher (explained by the French 1901 Law on freedom of association), with 20% of people in France having carried out a voluntary activity in 2024, for a number of hours of volunteering (8.2 hours per person per year) close to the world average.

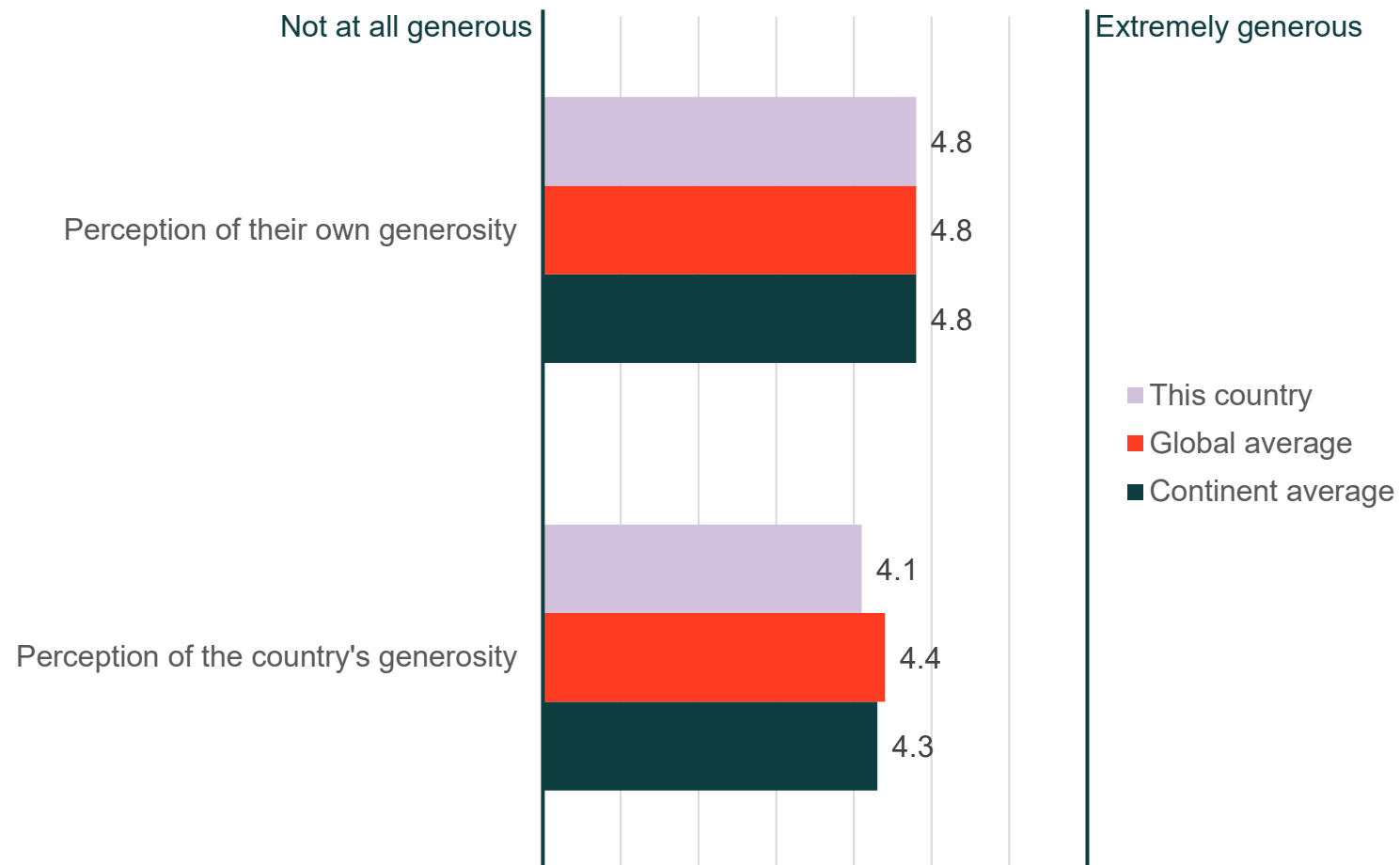


Base: All (1,012)

Perceptions of our own generosity.

The perception of individual generosity is no different in France than elsewhere.

While individually we find ourselves as generous as others, our perceptions of others in France are less positive.



France ranks 80th out of 101 countries for how generous we think we are.

We are 97th in terms of the proportion of income we donate.

An aerial photograph of a community event on a concrete basketball court. A large group of people, mostly wearing blue shirts, are arranged in a circular formation in the center of the court. To the left, there is a white canopy tent with a table and chairs underneath. To the right, another white canopy tent is set up, with a long table and chairs in front of it. Along the top edge of the court, a row of white folding chairs is set up. The court has yellow and red painted areas. The background shows a grassy field and some trees.

03 ASPECTS OF GENEROSITY

The proportion of people who give money in different ways.

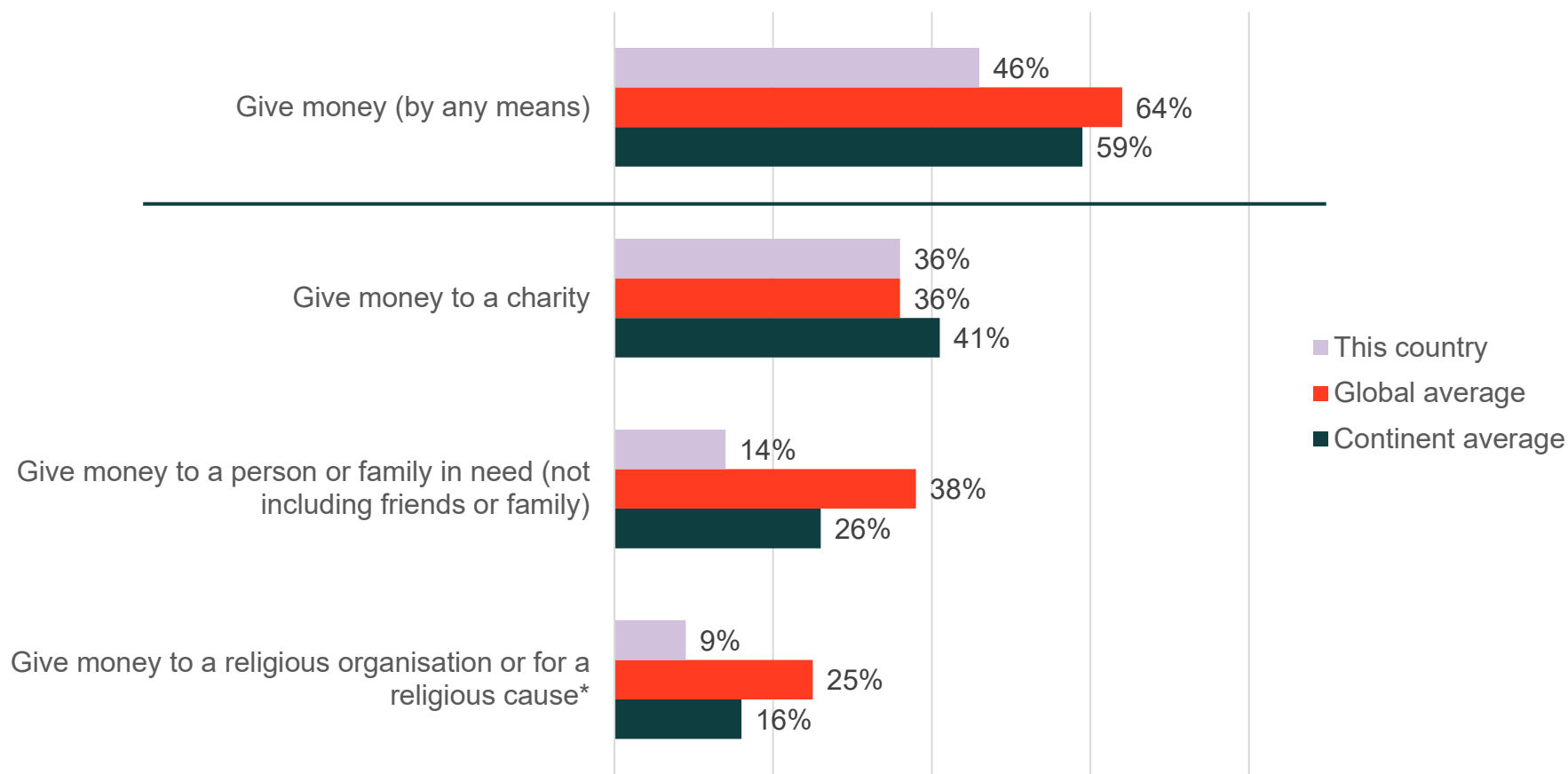
In France, the proportion of people giving money (46%) is lower than in Europe (59%) or worldwide (64%).

This situation can be explained by importance of the Welfare State in France.

However, charities are the main beneficiaries of giving in France (36%), whereas worldwide, money is given primarily directly to a person of family in need (38% not including friends or family). This underscores the strong recognition and support for charities serving the public good within the French context.

In France, there are differences according to age: a quarter of the 18–34 age group say they give directly to a person or family in need (not including friends or family), compared with just 6% of 55 and over.

Q: During 2024, did you do any of the following? (All, n = 1,012)



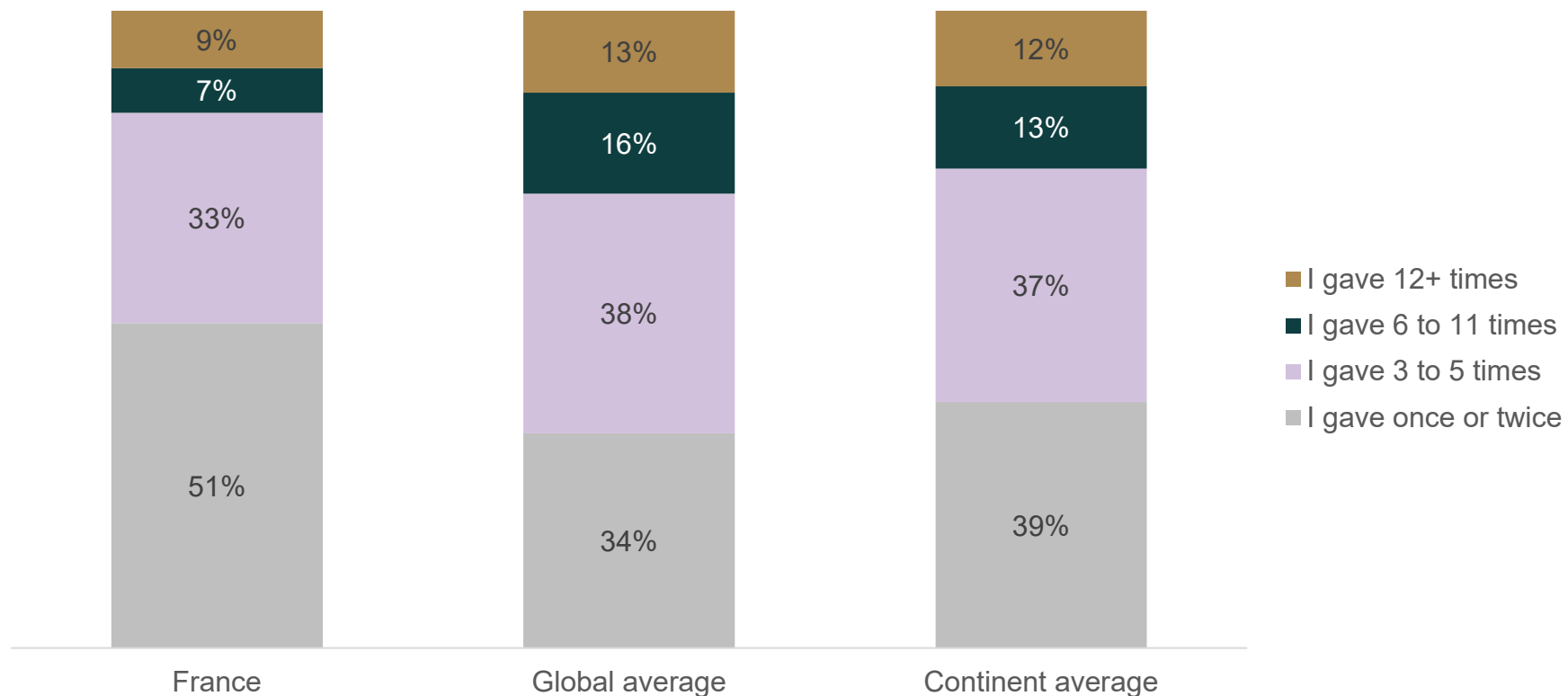
The full answer code was worded, 'Give money to a religious organisation or for a religious cause' (for example: at church, through zakat, tithing, ma'aser or daana, etc.). This includes any money you give voluntarily, even if it is collected by your government.

How frequently people gave.

In France, 51% of those who donated gave at least 1 or 2 times in 2024, and 84% of donors gave between 1 and 5 times in 2024.

People demonstrate a more sporadic giving pattern compared to global trends (51% of respondents in France reported donating only once or twice, a higher proportion than the European average of 39% and the worldwide figure of 34%).

Q: How often did you give money away in 2024, either to charity, a person or family in need, or to a religious organisation? (People who had given money, n = 461)



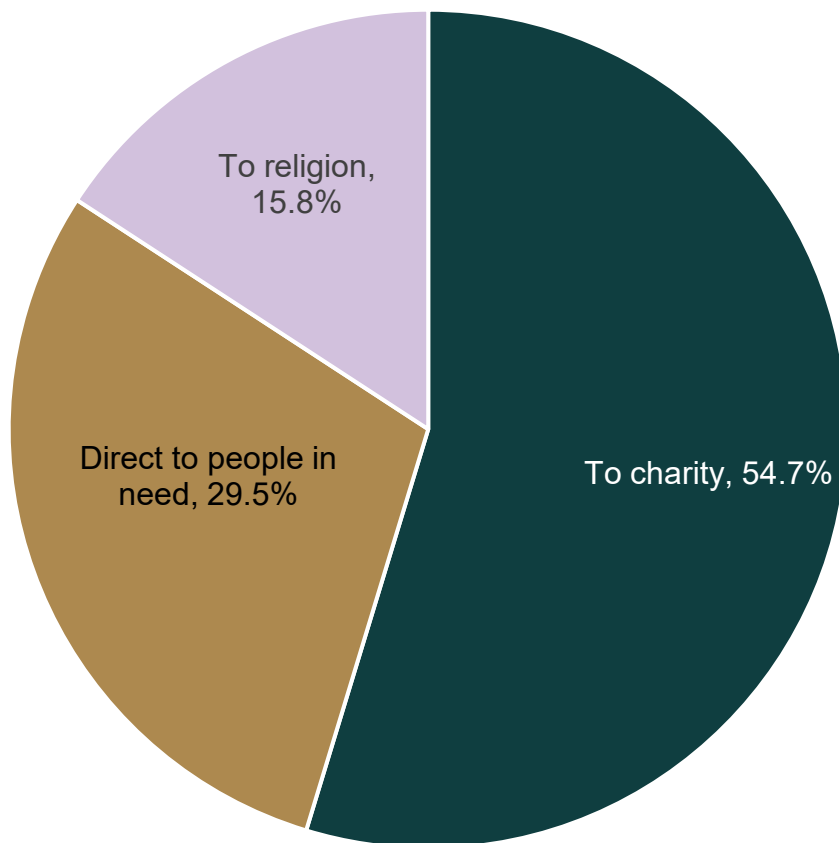
Share of donations.

France diverges from broader trends when it comes to religious donations.

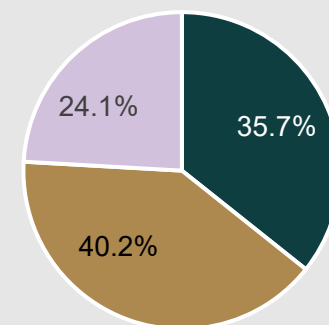
Only 15.8% of the value of donations in the country goes to religious causes, significantly lower than the European average of 19.4% and the global figure of 24.1%.

This can be attributed to the unique role of religion in France, shaped by the landmark 1905 law establishing the separation of Church and State.

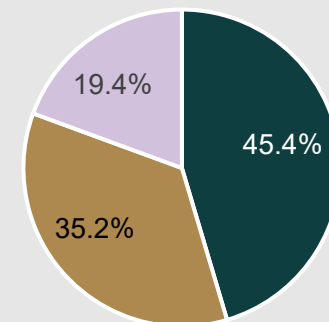
The share of the value of all donations made in 2024, across the three different routes. *(People who had given money, n = 461)*



Global average



Continent average

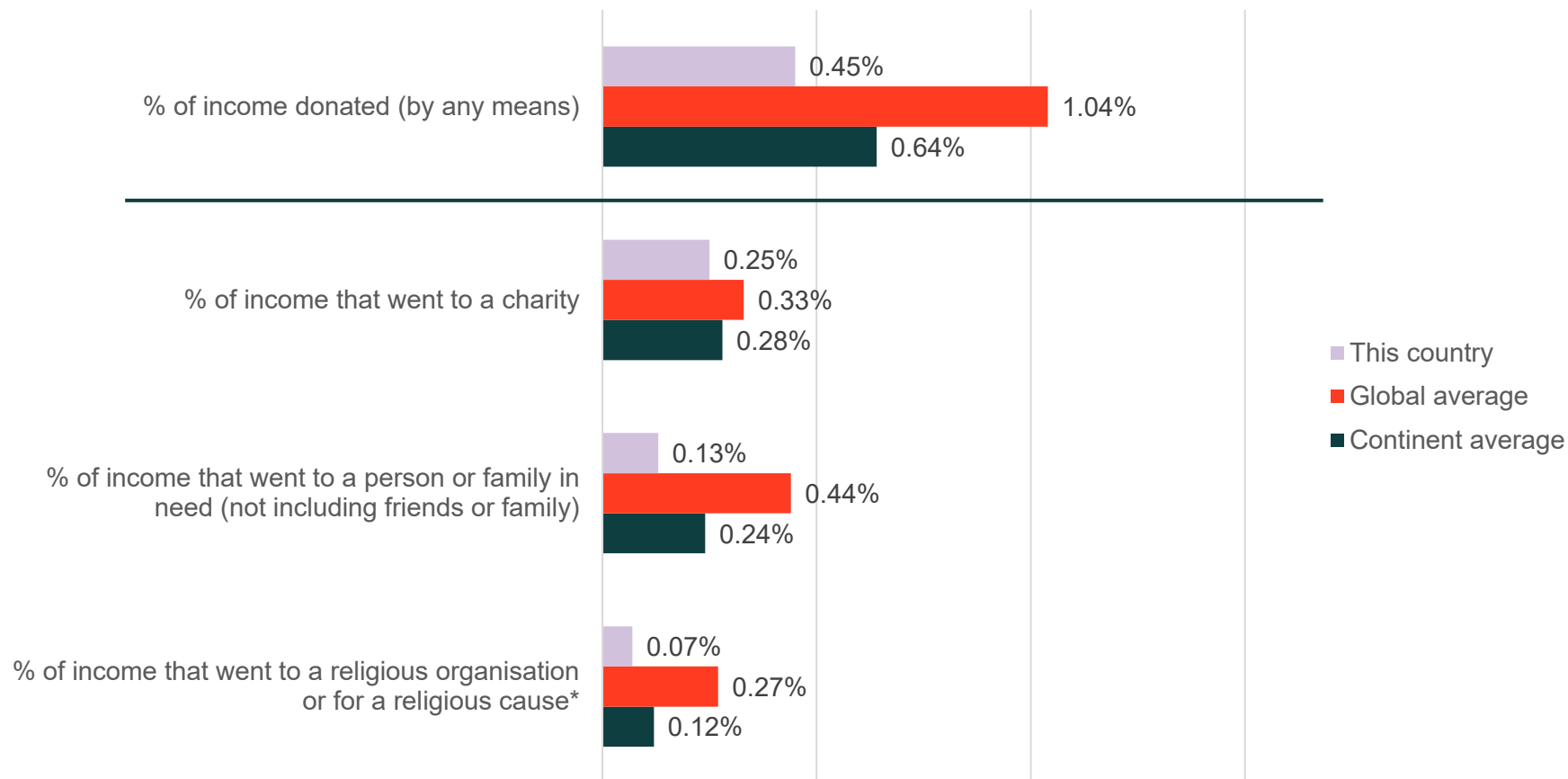


Donations as a proportion of income.

In line with the importance of donations in France, the proportion of income donated (by any means) is 0.45%. This percentage is lower than the European (0.64%) and the global (1.04%) averages.

It is interesting to note that the 18-34 age group devotes a significantly higher proportion of their income to giving (0.6%) than the 55 and over age group (0.4%).

The average proportion of income people gave to each of the three donation routes, and overall. (All, including those donating zero, $n = 1,012$).



*The full answer code was worded, 'Give money to a religious organisation or for a religious cause, (for example, at church, through zakat, tithing, ma'aser or daana, etc.). This includes any money you give voluntarily, even if it is collected by your government'.

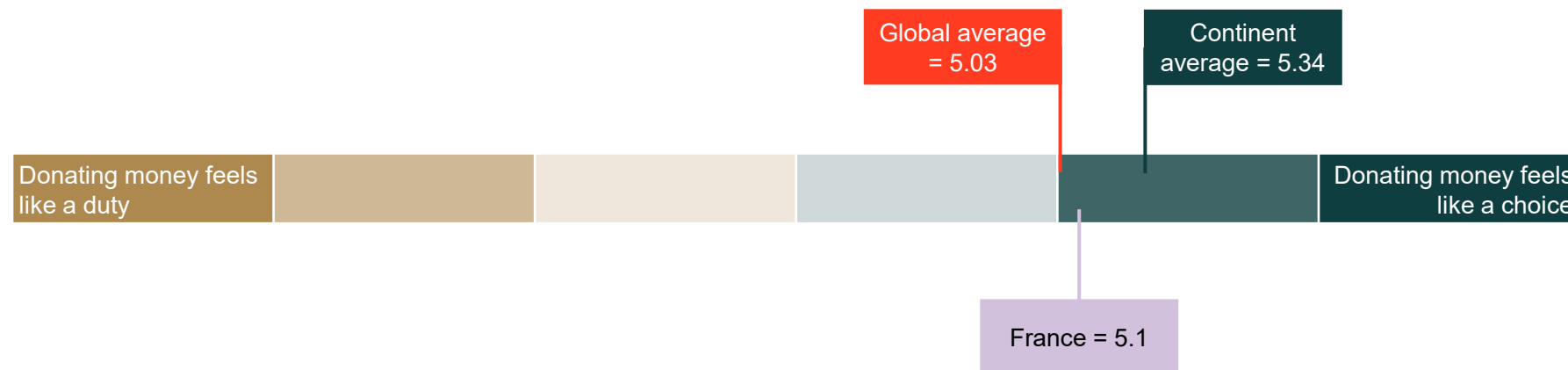
How people feel about giving money.

In France, respondents see giving as a choice rather than a duty (average score of 5.1 on the scale from 1 to 7 shown here).

This is fairly close to European perceptions and global perceptions.

We've seen in the main WGR report how strongly social norms correlate with generosity. A shift towards donating money feeling more like a duty might serve to increase donations.

The average score when people were asked how donating money feels.
(People who had given money, $n = 461$).



Reasons for giving money.

The primary motivations for giving align closely between France and global trends.

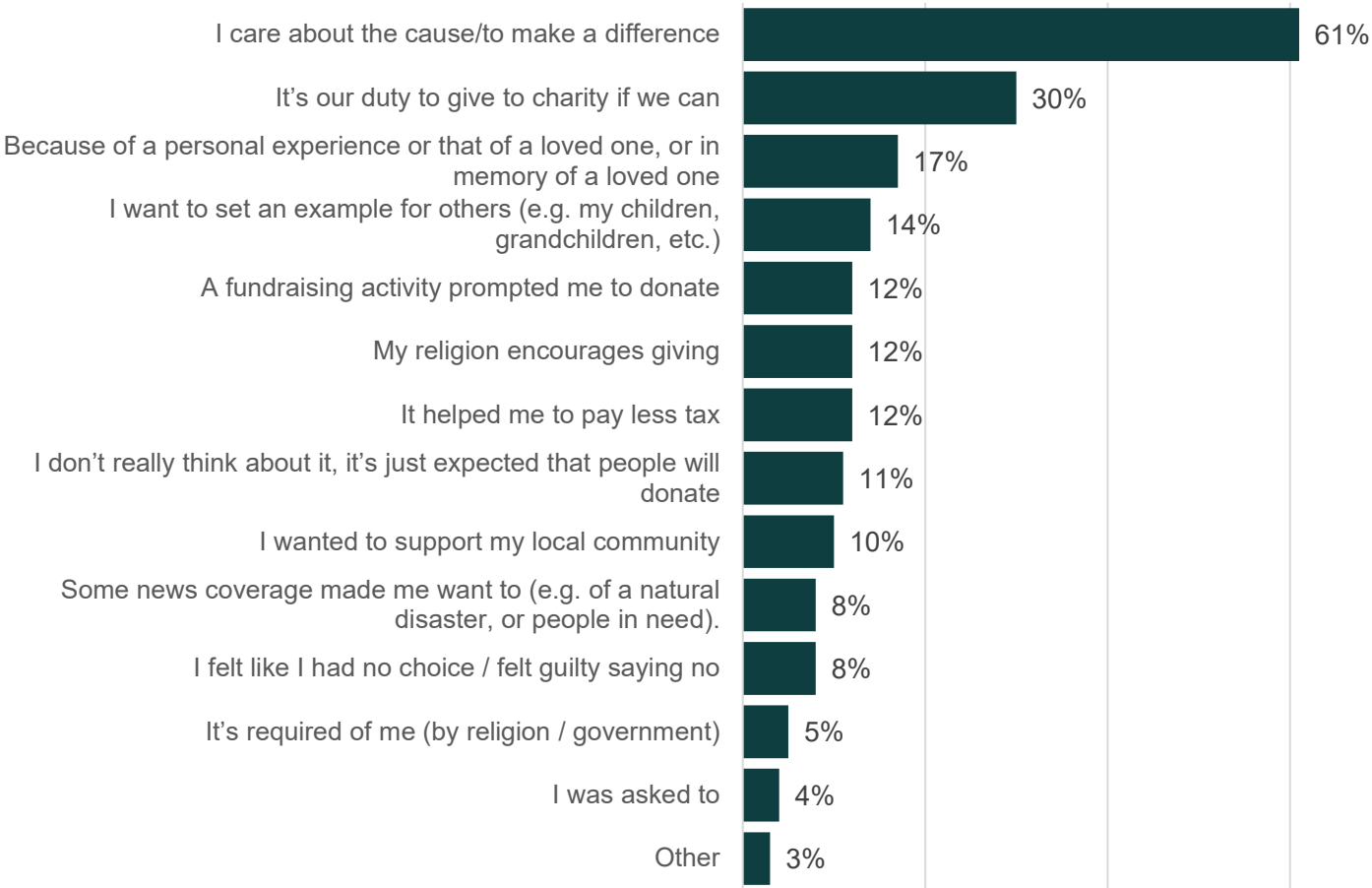
Topping the list, 61% of respondents in France said they want to make a difference or support a cause they care about. Secondly, 30% viewed charitable donations as a civic duty.

However, a notable distinction emerges in the third most common reason.

While globally and across Europe, other factors tend to predominate, 17% of French donors cited a personal experience or giving in memory of a loved one.

This suggests the emotional dimension plays a more pronounced role in shaping philanthropic behavior within the French context.

Which of the following, if any, are reasons that you gave away money in 2024?
(People who had given money, n = 461).



Global top 3

- 1. I care about the cause/to make a difference (65%)
- 2. It's our duty to give to charity if we can (31%)
- 3. My religion encourages it (29%)

Continental top 3

- 1. I care about the cause/to make a difference (64%)
- 2. It's our duty to give if we can (30%)
- 3. I want to set an example for others (23%)

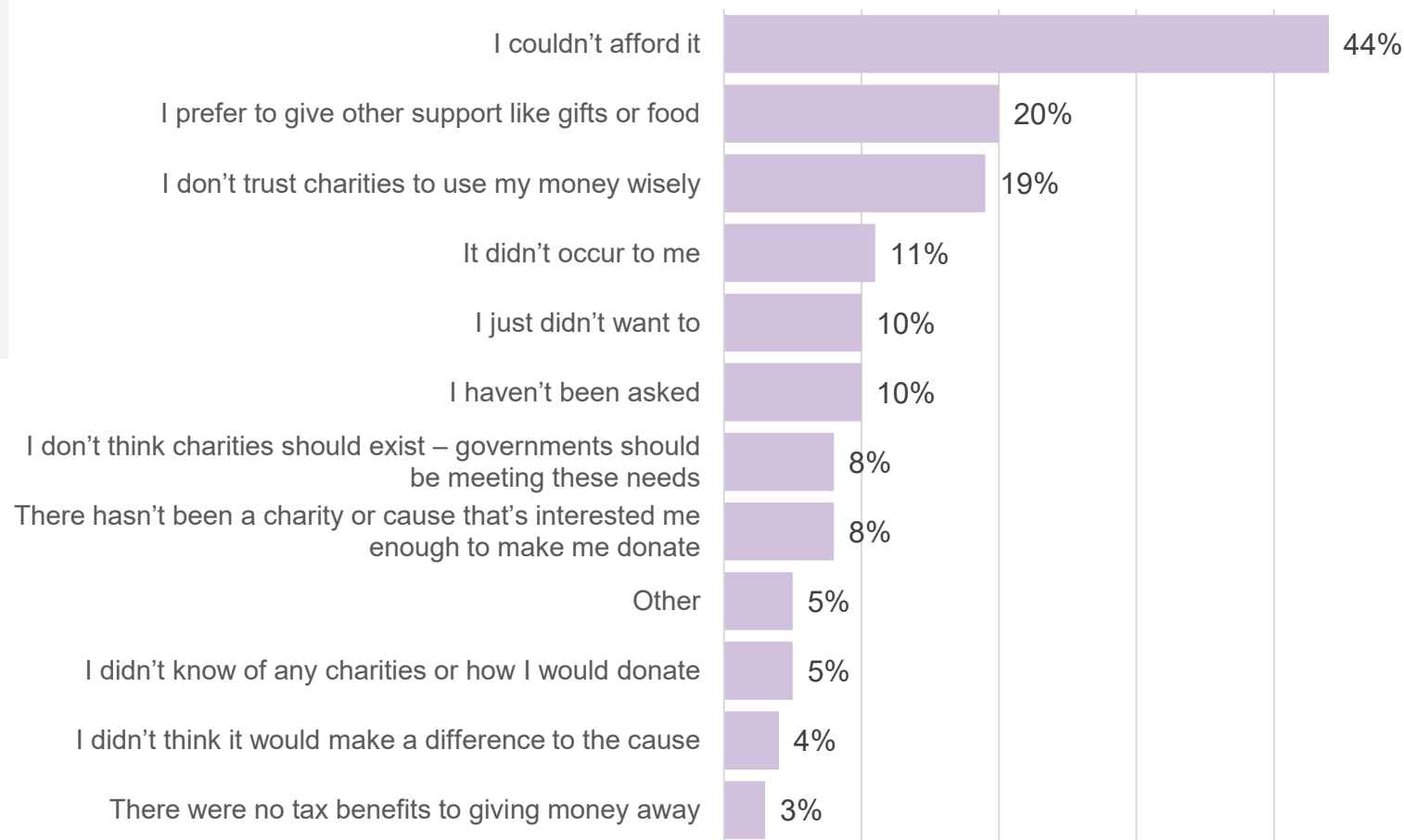
Reasons for not giving money.

The most frequently cited reason for not donating is a lack of financial resources, with 44% of non-donors citing this answer.

While this reflects a very real economic constraint for many, it also can serve as a convenient justification for not giving for others.

In particular, more women (49%) than men (38%) cite “I couldn’t afford it”. This disparity underscores the persistent income inequality between genders in France.

What would you say are the main reasons that you did not give money away in 2024? (People who had not given money, n = 551).



Global top 3

1. I couldn't afford it (40%)
2. I prefer to give other support like gifts or food (20%)
3. I don't trust charities to use my money wisely (14%)

Continental top 3

1. I couldn't afford it (43%)
2. I don't trust charities to use my money wisely (21%)
3. I prefer to give other support like gifts or food (19%)

What would increase donations?

Two of the top three reasons that would motivate respondents to give more to charities both relate to a desire for greater transparency.

Firstly, there is the need to know more about how their donations would be spent.

Secondly, people surveyed would like to have more information on the results and impact achieved by charities. This emphasizes the importance of accountability in generosity behaviours, which is a growing phenomenon in France.

By addressing these transparency concerns, charities may be able to unlock increased generosity from the public in the years ahead.

The top three reasons that would make the respondent likely to give more money, goods or time to charities in 2025. (All, $n = 1,012$)

45%

Knowing more about how my money would be spent

45%

Having more money myself

24%

Knowing more about the results and impact that a charity has

The causes people support through donating.

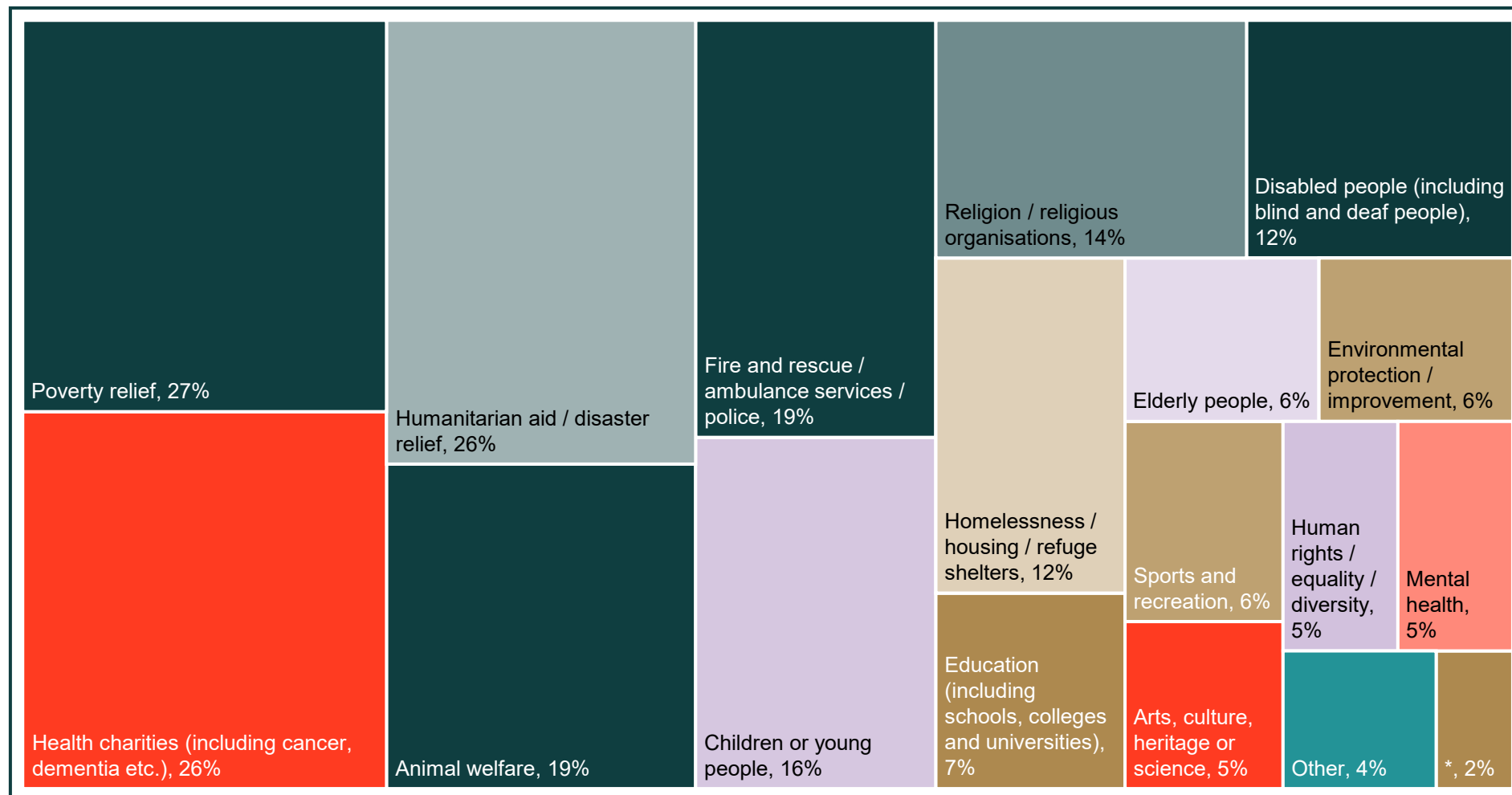
The main causes supported by respondents in France are poverty relief (27%), followed by health charities (26%) and humanitarian aid/disaster relief (26%).

There are differences according to age: the 18-34 age group are more supportive of animal welfare (25% compared with 18% of those aged 55 and over), education (21% compared with 10% of those aged 55 and over) and children or young people (12% compared with 3% of those aged 55 and over).

Those aged 55 and over are more likely to choose health charities (37%).

Finally, the 18-34 age group support a greater variety of causes, with an average of 2.5 causes supported compared with 2 for other age groups.

Which cause(s) did you give money to in 2024? (People who had given money, n = 461)



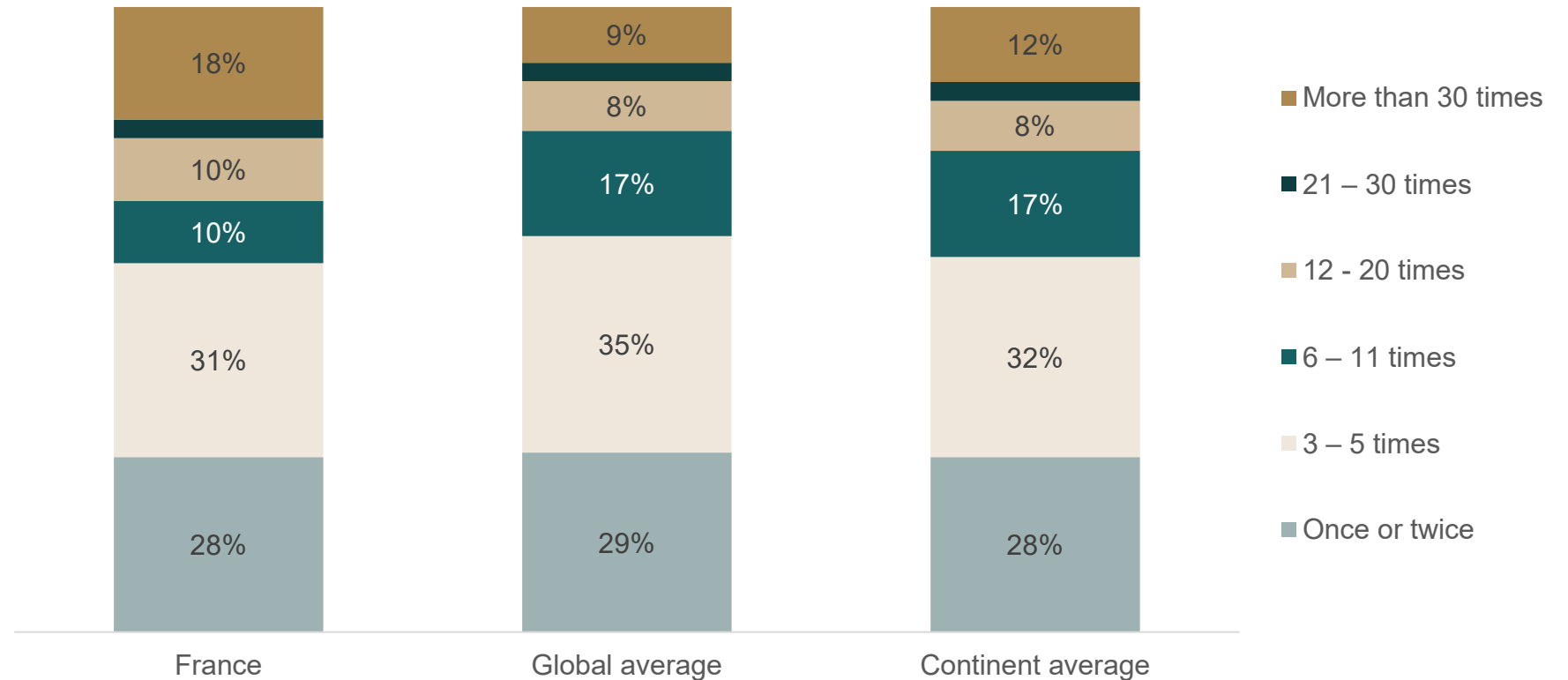
*Armed forces (including veterans)

Frequency of volunteering, per person.

In France, 18% of volunteers did voluntary work more than '30 times in 2024', which is higher than the European (12%) and global (9%) average.

This shows that whilst the volunteer base is small, the level of commitment of those volunteers is extremely high.

How often did you do unpaid, voluntary work in 2024 that benefitted people other than your family or friends? *(Those who volunteered, n = 207)*



Average time spent volunteering, per person.

In 2024, the average time spent volunteering in France (8 hours 15 minutes) was close to the global average (9 hours) and significantly higher than the European average (6.30 hours).

When looked at amongst just those who volunteer (rather than an average across the whole population), the number grows to 40 hours of volunteering per person in 2024.

8 hours **15** minutes

On average, people in France spent this time volunteering in 2024

(All, n = 1,012) [nb – this is overall, so includes all those who did nothing within the average]

9 hours

Global average

6 hours **30** minutes

Continent average

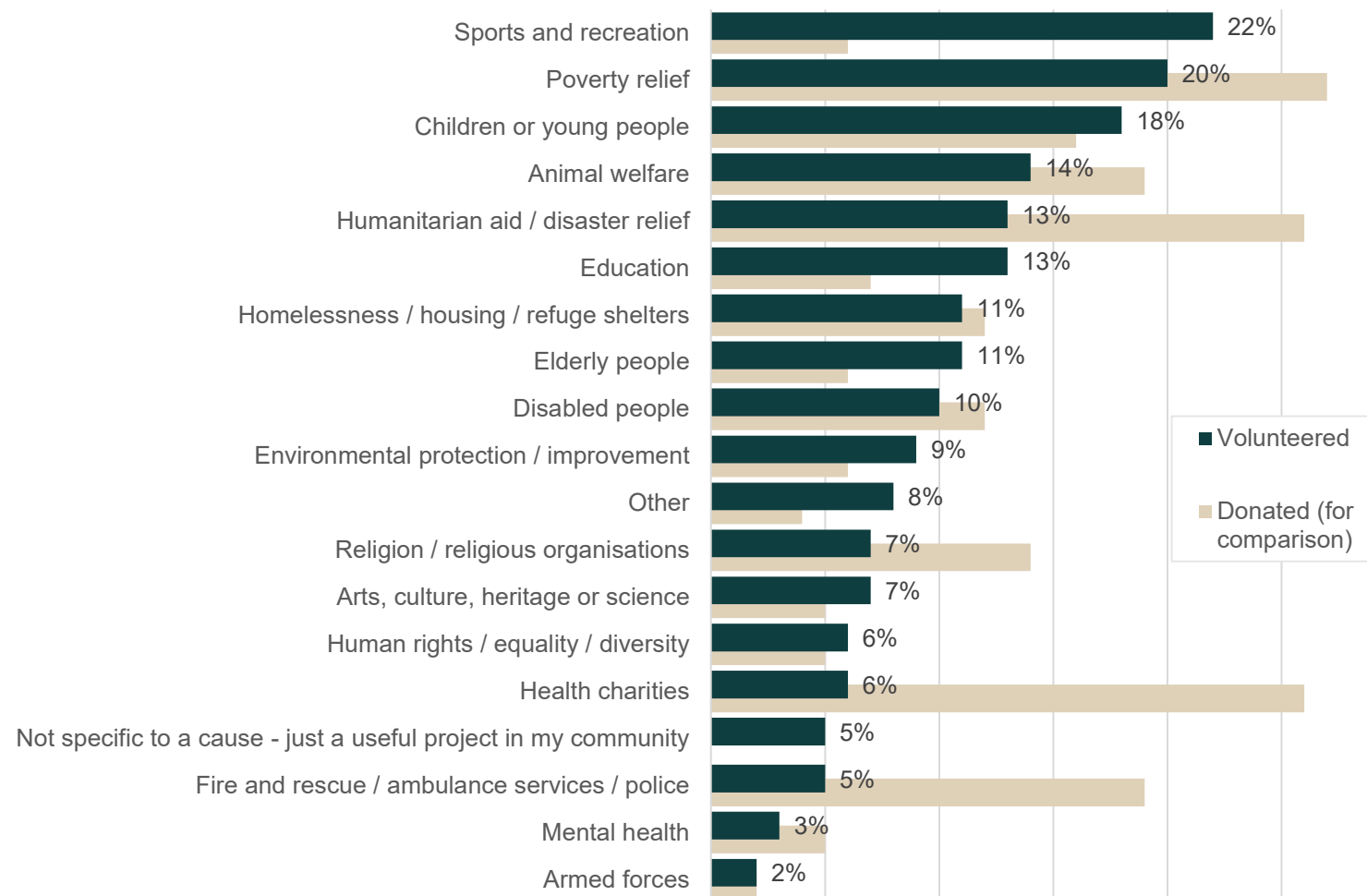
The causes people supported through volunteering.

Donations are primarily directed towards the fight against poverty relief, while sports and recreation is the leading area of voluntary work in France.

It is worth noting that sports and recreation is the leading sector of activity for associations in France (24% of associations in France, see *Paysage associatif français, Tchernonog, 2023*).

However, volunteers are also heavily involved in the fight against poverty relief (20% of volunteers).

Which cause(s) did you do unpaid voluntary work for in 2024? (People who had volunteered, n = 207)

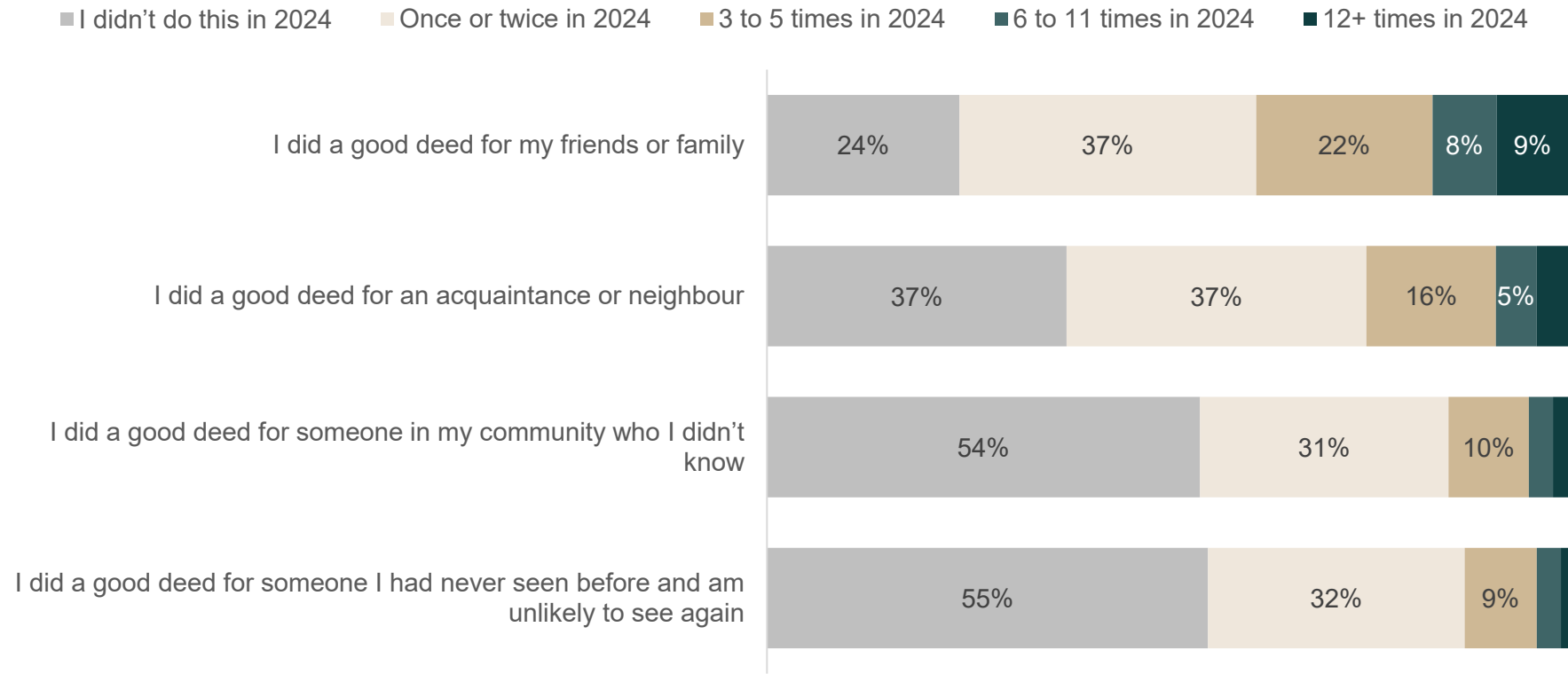


How helpful people are to others.

Logically, help starts with those closest to us (family, friends, neighbours). Indeed, 76% of respondents say they have helped their friends or family at least once, and 63% their acquaintances or neighbours.

However, it is interesting to note that the 18-34 age group are more likely to help people they don't know. In fact, 68% said they had helped 'someone they didn't know and wouldn't see again' at least once in 2024, compared with 29% of those aged 55 and over.

Beyond easy acts of kindness or simple good manners that do not require much effort, for example, holding open a door or picking up a dropped item, did you do a good deed in 2024?
(All, n = 1,012)



An aerial, top-down view of a large crowd of people gathered on a paved surface at night. The ground is covered with numerous small, glowing yellow-orange lanterns or lights, some arranged in patterns. People are seen from above, wearing various colorful clothing. The scene is festive and crowded.

04 PERCEPTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

How much the public trusts charities.

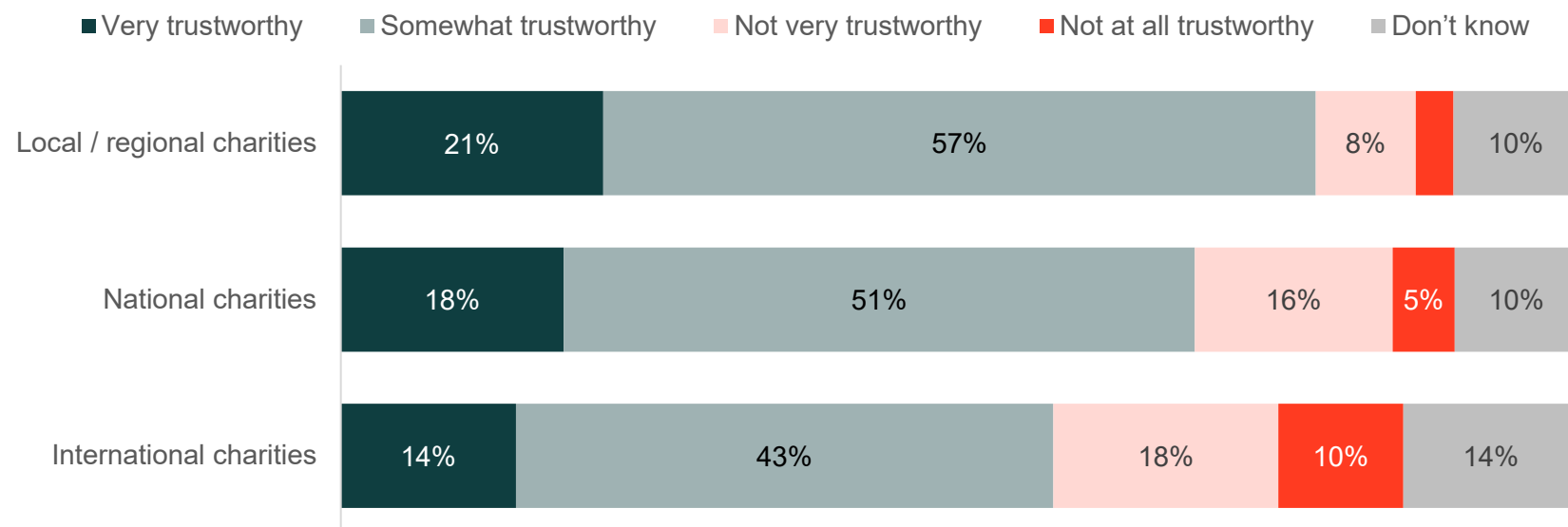
In France, the level of trust in charities is related to their proximity to people.

There is a significant gap between trust of local charities (78%), in national charities (69%) and especially in international charities (57%).

Generally speaking, the 18-34 age group is slightly more confident in charities: 82% in local charities, 72% in national charities, and 66% in international charities.

This contrasts with the 55 and over age group, 49% of whom trust international charities.

How trustworthy do you tend to find each of these types of charities? (All, n = 1,012)



Overall, the public in France gave a score of 8.2/15 for how much they trust charities. This compares to a continental average of 8.09 and a global average of 9.22.

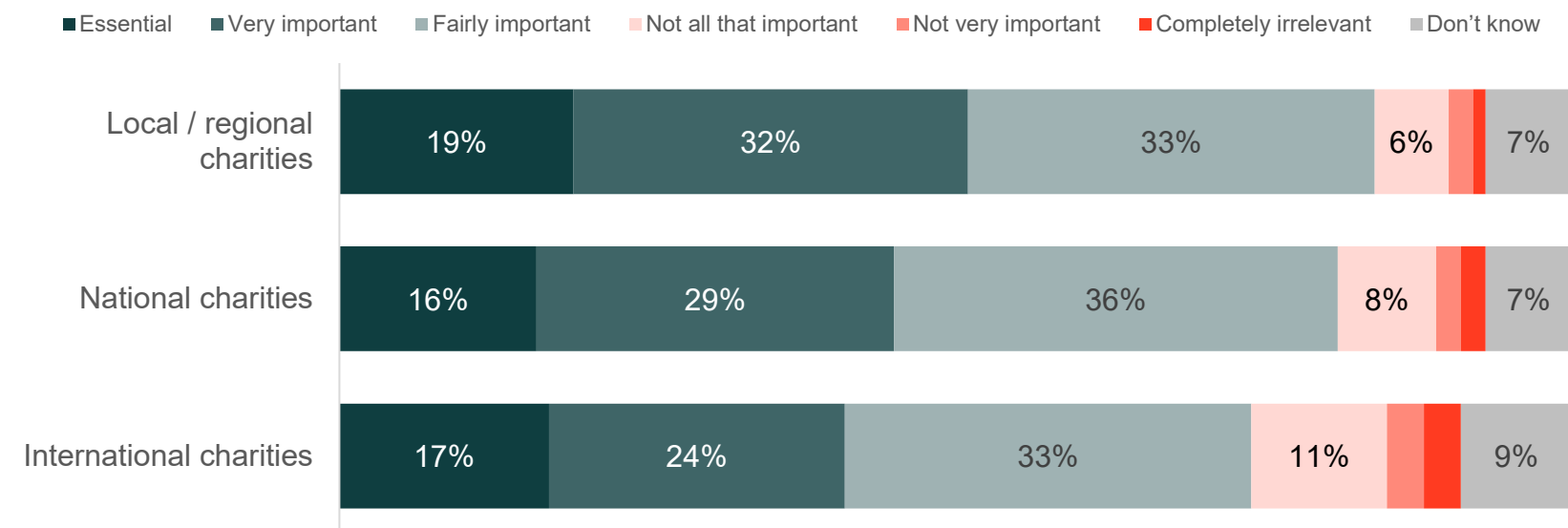
The perceived importance of charities to society.

In France, the people questioned believe that charities are important for French society, slightly more so for local/regional charities.

Overall, this is on a par with the European average and slightly below the global one.

Once again, young people are more positive than older people and see charities as more important to society.

How important, in general, do you believe these different types of charities are to your country's society? (All, n = 1,012)



Overall, the public in France gave a score of 10.2/15 for how much they value charities. This compares to a continental average of 10.16 and a global average of 10.98.

How people discover charities.

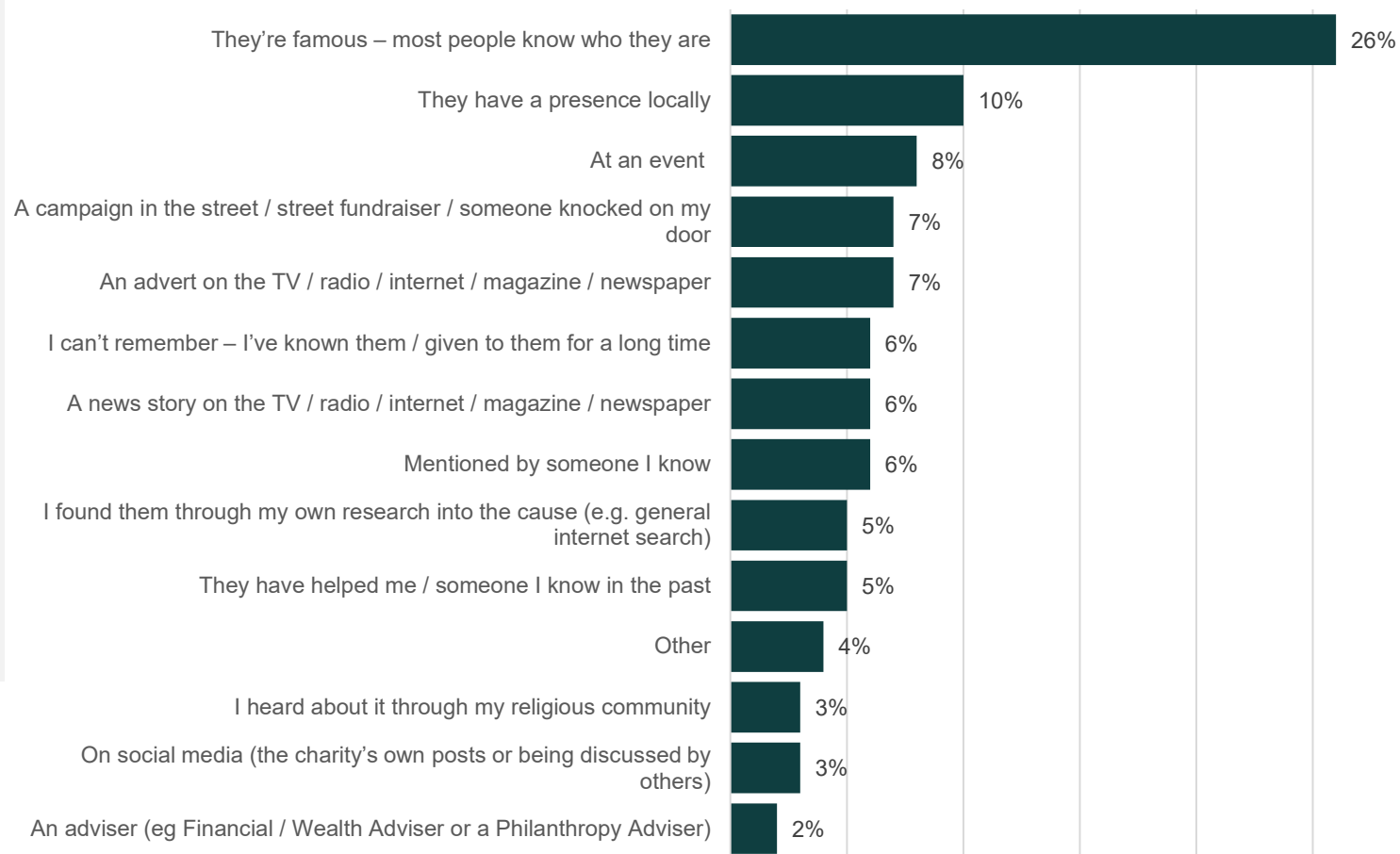
When asked how they first found out about the last charity they donated to, the most common response among French respondents was the general notoriety of the organisation – cited by 26%.

This contrasts with global and European averages, where discovery through social media channels is much more frequent.

This suggests that charities in France may be lagging in their use of social media to raise awareness and reach potential donors.

Whereas in many other countries, social platforms have become a primary means of connecting charities with new supporters, the French public appears to still rely more heavily on the general reputation and visibility of charitable organisations.

For the last charity that you gave money to, how did you first find out about them?
(People who had given money to charities, n = 366)



Global top 3

1. On social media (14%)
2. They have a presence locally (11%)
3. They were mentioned by someone I know (10%)

Continental top 3

1. They're famous – most people know who they are (14%)
2. On social media (13%)
3. A news story on the TV / radio / internet / magazine / newspaper (10%)

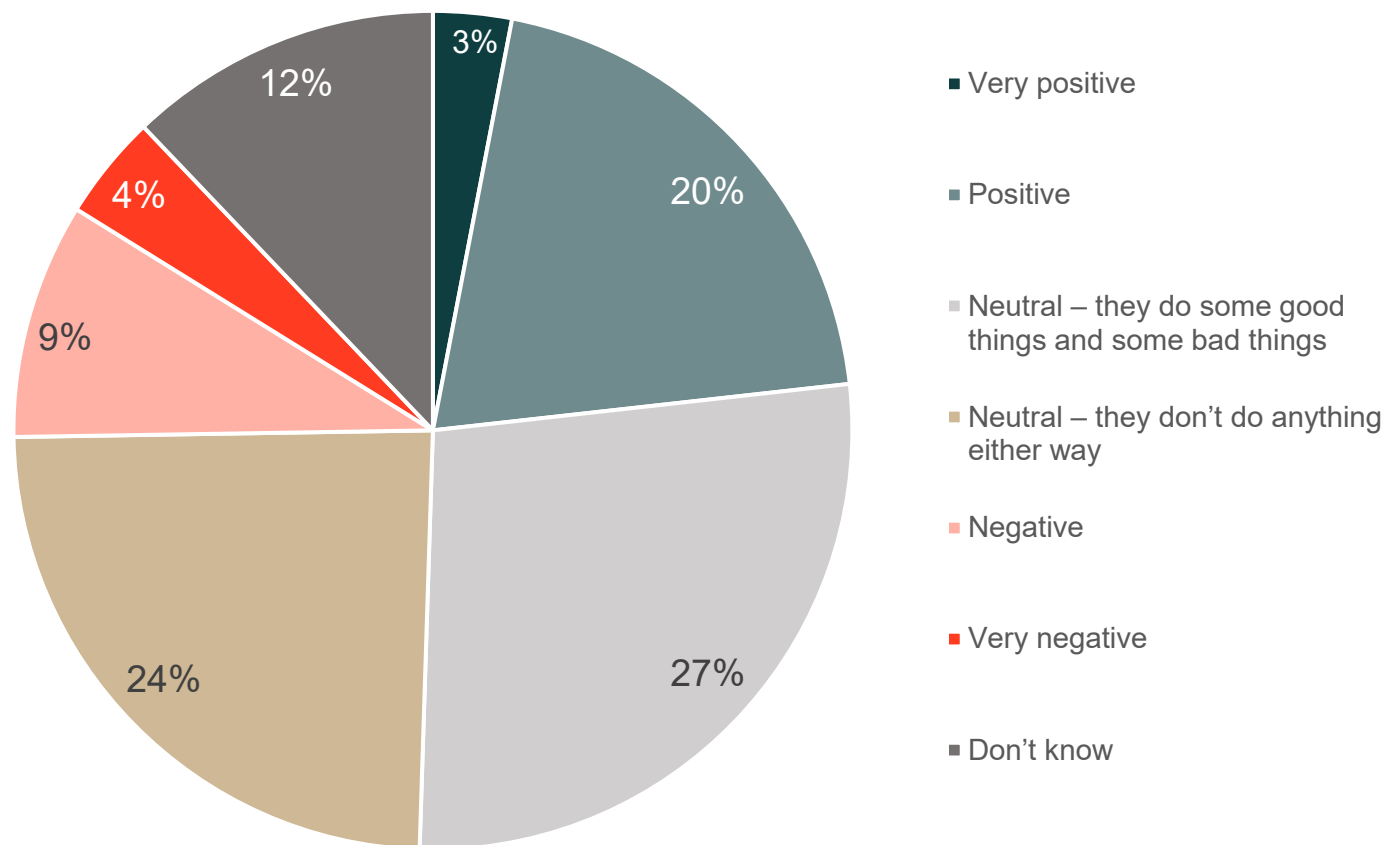
Overall influence of government on charities.

The French public's perception of the Government's influence on the charity sector closely mirrors the European average.

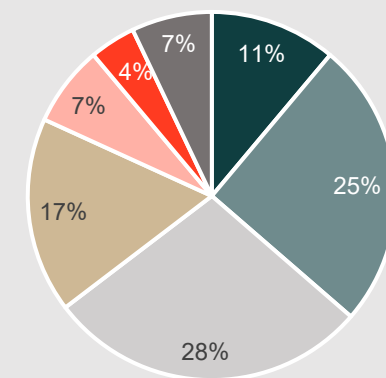
In France, a majority of respondents (51%) view the Government's role as neutral.

However, this perspective varies notably by age group. Younger people, aged 18-34, hold a more positive assessment, with 34% believing the government has a beneficial impact on charities. This contrasts sharply with just 19% of those aged 55 and over, and 22% in the 34-55 age bracket, expressing a similar sentiment.

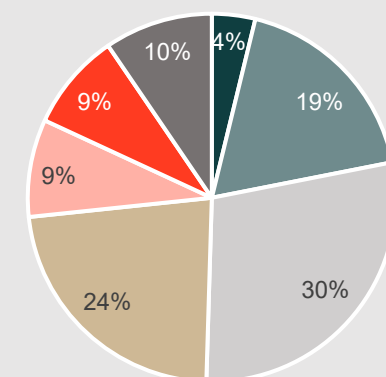
Overall, do you think the Government is a positive or negative influence on the charity sector? (All, n = 1,012)



Global average



Continent average



Specific opinions on the role of government.

A majority of respondents (65%) in France believe the government relies on charities to provide services it is unable or unwilling to support.

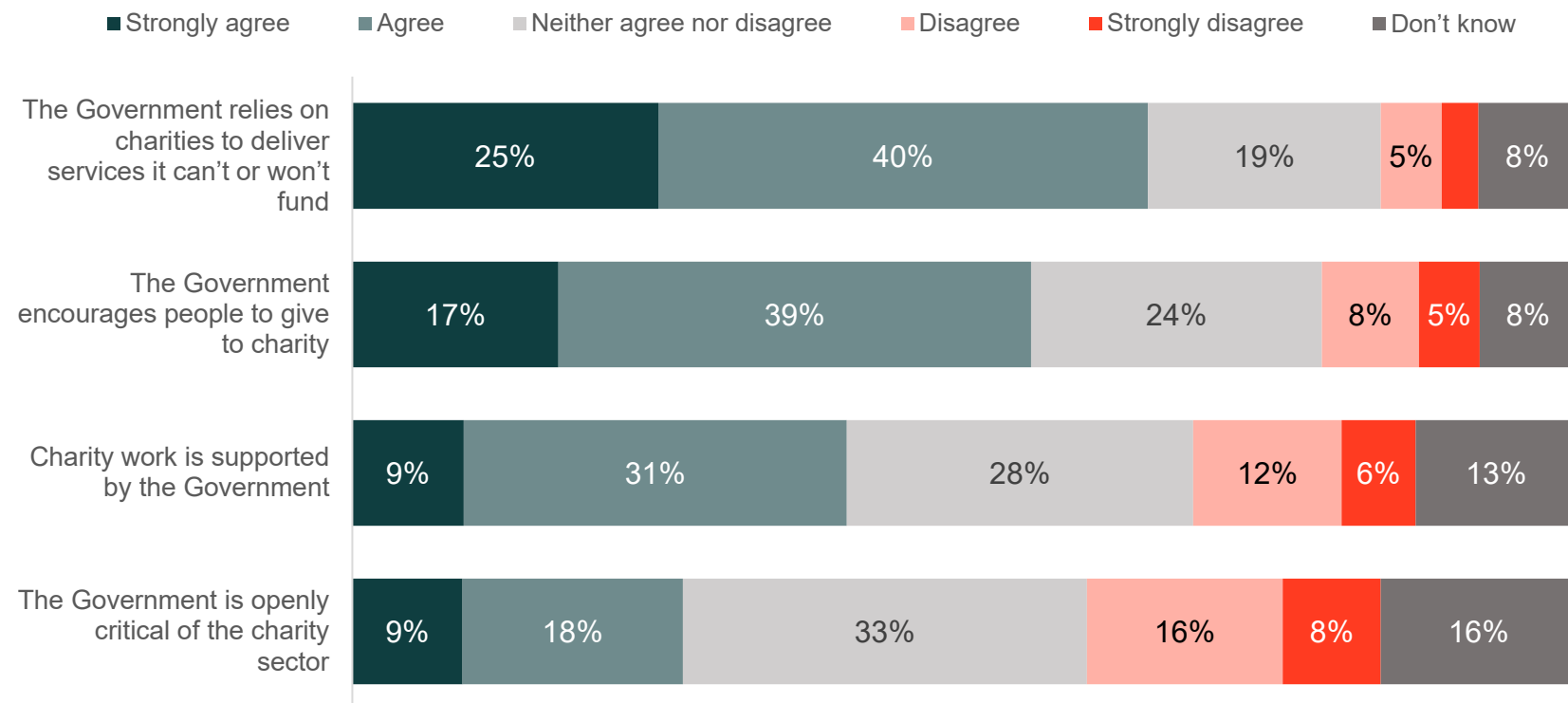
However, this view is less prevalent among the 18-34 age group, with only 55% sharing this sentiment.

Moreover, over half (56%) of those surveyed feel the government actively encourages donations to charities, while 40% believe it supports the work of the sector.

Conversely, 27% of respondents believe the government openly criticises the charity landscape.

This perspective is more common among younger adults, with 36% of 18-34 year olds agreeing, compared to just 17% of those aged 55 and over.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Government's involvement in the charity sector? (All, n = 1,012)



THANK YOU

www.worldgivingreport.org

Charities Aid Foundation registered charity number 268369

