



# COMPARATIVE FINDINGS ON VOLUNTEERISM: Insights from Eight Countries





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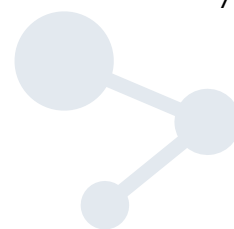
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents findings from a comparative cross-national survey of volunteerism in eight countries across the Global South: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, China, India, Jordan, Iraq and Bolivia. Commissioned by United Nations Volunteers (UNV) to fill critical data gaps on short-term and informal sector volunteering, the study was implemented by GeoPoll using a harmonized, culturally adapted questionnaire developed in collaboration with UNV and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Data was collected through Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) among nationally representative samples of 1,000 respondents per country. In collaboration with UNV and ILO, GeoPoll managed the entire research cycle – from instrument design and translation to enumerator training, pilot testing and quality-controlled fieldwork – resulting in one of the most robust and comparable data sets on volunteer action across low- and middle-income countries to date.

## Key findings:

- **Volunteerism<sup>1</sup> is widespread across the Global South.**  
In all eight countries surveyed, a significant share of adults had engaged in volunteering in the past 30 days. Participation was especially high in Nigeria (77%), Uganda (72%) and China (58%), where caregiving and community-based support were most common. Even in lower-engagement contexts such as Jordan (28%) and India (31%), nearly one in three adults reported volunteering.
- **The predominance of informal sector volunteering.**  
Over 88% of volunteers organized their activities independently or through community-based groups, rather than through formal institutions. Formal sector volunteering – through organizations or public institutions – was most common in Bolivia (20.8%) and Jordan (17.6%) but remains a minority pathway overall.
- **Young people are the primary drivers of volunteerism.**  
Individuals aged 15–24 account for nearly one-third of all volunteers, with youth participation being particularly high in Ethiopia (39%), Uganda (36%) and Nigeria (33%). China is a notable outlier, with over 34% of volunteers there being aged 55 and older. This is the highest senior engagement rate in the study.
- **Volunteerism is gender-balanced.**  
Participation in volunteering was nearly equal across men and women overall (50.5% male, 49.5% female). India (56.2%), Iraq (55.5%) and Bolivia (55.3%) showed slightly higher male participation, while China had the highest proportion of female volunteers (54.8%).
- **Caregiving is the most common activity.**  
The majority of volunteers – especially in Uganda (79.5%), Ethiopia (75.8%) and Iraq (73%) – provided care to individuals outside their households or family. Other major areas included religious service, environmental work and advocacy.

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<sup>1</sup> In this report, the term “volunteering” refers to “volunteer work” defined as any voluntary production of goods or provision of services for others, in which people engage without asking expecting to receive remuneration. This concept does not include other voluntary activities such as civic engagement or blood or financial donations, which are not work activities. This definition aligns with the international standards on work statistics applied in the UN system. More details are provided in Annex I.

- **Volunteering intensity differs by type of activity.**

Nearly half (48%) of respondents volunteered 1–5 hours in the past month and 17% gave 6–10 hours. However, in Ethiopia, Uganda and Jordan more than one in ten contributed over 40 hours. Caregiving and healthcare volunteering were typically short-term, while civic, legal and arts activities required longer commitments. Only 11% received compensation – mostly food or transport – although demand for financial support was higher.

- **Motivation is largely altruistic.**

Nearly 95.3% of volunteers said they were motivated by a desire to help others. While altruism was the most often mentioned motivating factor in all countries, a slightly higher proportion of volunteers cited career-related motivation, such as gaining work experience or meeting school obligations in Bolivia (6.4%), India (2.8%) and Uganda (2.4%).

- **Barriers to volunteering are persistent.**

A lack of time (30.5%) and financial constraints (30.4%) were the most frequently cited barriers to participation in all countries, with Uganda, Ethiopia and Bolivia reporting the highest levels. Other common barriers included transport, lack of information and negative social perceptions – particularly in Uganda (15.4%) and Nigeria (11.8%).

- **Compensation<sup>2</sup> is limited.**

Only 10.9% of volunteers reported receiving compensation – mostly in the form of food, transport or small gifts – and there was a demand for financial support.<sup>3</sup> Compensation was most common in Bolivia (21%), Uganda (13%), China (12%) and Jordan (11%).

- **Education levels among volunteers vary markedly by country.**

Post-secondary education was most common among volunteers in China (67%), Jordan (48%) and Bolivia (45%), suggesting that higher educational attainment may be a key driver of volunteering in these contexts. In contrast, many volunteers in Uganda (42%), Ethiopia (39%) and Iraq (48%) had only primary education or none at all. These differences suggest that in some countries, volunteering is associated with higher education, while in others, it is driven by broader community participation regardless of schooling level.

- **Future intentions to volunteer are high but conditional.**

Many respondents expressed a willingness to continue volunteering, particularly if structural barriers are reduced. The most frequently cited enablers included financial support (35.4%), flexible scheduling (22%) and opportunities which are aligned with personal interests (20.2%).

<sup>2</sup> “Compensation” refers to cash and goods or services offered to volunteers to enable their participation in volunteering activities. It does not represent remuneration for the work they do. For example, volunteers can receive money to cover costs related to travel, meals and accommodation or they could cover these using their own money then be reimbursed. Volunteers could also be provided goods or services directly – such as transportation to and from the place where they work, meals, accommodation, souvenirs or small gifts.

<sup>3</sup> Demand for compensation (as explained above) to make it easier for people to engage in volunteering activities and provide unpaid work. While some people would like to provide free services to others, they are not able to do so because they cannot afford to cover the costs mentioned in the preceding footnote.

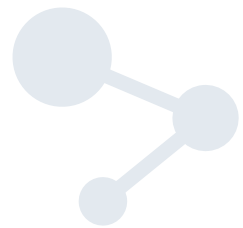
# 1. INTRODUCTION

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Volunteering is a dynamic and often underrecognized dimension of civic life, particularly in settings where formal services are limited and community-based support systems play a critical role. Across the Global South, individuals engage in a wide range of voluntary activities that contribute to social cohesion, service delivery and local resilience. Despite its importance, however, much of this volunteerism remains statistically invisible, particularly in its informal, short-term or unstructured forms.

To address this data gap, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) commissioned a cross-national study in eight low- and middle-income countries: Bolivia, China, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria and Uganda. This study contributes to ongoing efforts to improve global estimates of volunteer work, particularly by capturing forms of participation typically excluded from official national statistics, such as informal and episodic volunteering. By expanding the evidence base, it also supports the modelling techniques used by ILO to estimate volunteer rates in countries where data remain scarce.

The results provided a timely contribution towards the 2026 State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR) and built a more complete picture of how people engage in volunteer work across diverse contexts. However, these findings should not be interpreted as definitive national statistics or direct policy recommendations. The data should be interpreted as indicative – highlighting trends, gaps and emerging patterns that warrant further investigation. Member States are therefore encouraged to use the findings as complementary to broader research, while recognizing that differences in methodology, definitions and sampling may lead to discrepancies with national data sources.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

To strengthen global data on volunteerism – particularly in countries where evidence is limited – UNV commissioned a standardized survey in eight low- and middle-income countries: Bolivia, China, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria and Uganda. Implemented by GeoPoll between March and May 2025, the study aimed to generate nationally representative data on short-term, informal and direct forms of volunteering, which are often excluded from official statistics. While the samples are designed to be nationally representative by gender, age and geography, the findings are not intended as official national statistics. Differences in methodology and definitions may lead to variations compared to national data sources. Instead, the results provide comparable cross-country insights that complement and enrich existing national evidence on volunteerism.

Data collection was conducted through Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) with Random Digit Dialling (RDD) to reach adults aged 15 and older. National samples were stratified by gender, age and subnational geography, with interviews administered in more than 20 local languages. A minimum of 1,000 interviews were completed in each country, resulting in a margin of error of  $\pm 3.10$  at the 95% confidence level. In selected countries, targeted sample supplementation was applied to improve representation of rural women.

The survey instrument was based on the official volunteer work module<sup>4</sup> developed by ILO and UNV. It included 17 core questions capturing the prevalence, characteristics and organization of volunteer activities over a 30-day reference period. Two additional questions explored common barriers to and motivators for volunteering. These were refined through cognitive testing and open-ended piloting to ensure clarity and cultural relevance. Barriers included time constraints, financial limitations, transportation access and social perceptions. Motivators included incentives, flexible scheduling, alignment with personal interests and support from organizing bodies.

The survey applied the international definition of “volunteer work” established by the [19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians](#) (2013), namely “any unpaid, non-compulsory activity to produce goods or provide services for others.” All persons of working age who performed volunteer work for at least one hour during the past 30 days were classified as volunteers.<sup>5</sup>

GeoPoll managed the entire implementation cycle, including questionnaire adaptation, enumerator training, fieldwork supervision, quality control and data processing. Quality assurance measures included real-time monitoring, audio audits and independent data review. Final data sets were post-stratified using national census data to align with population distributions by gender, age and region. Individual-level weights were capped to prevent distortion, with nearly all values falling between 0.8 and 1.2.

This survey provides a robust cross-national data set to inform the methodology for calculating global estimates of volunteer work – featured in the [2026 State of the World’s Volunteerism Report \(SWVR\)](#) – and to support evidence-based policymaking to strengthen volunteerism globally.

For a detailed breakdown of sampling, instrument design, translation, training and quality control procedures, see Annex I.

<sup>4</sup> [Volunteer work measurement guide, ILO, 2021.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Note: The United Nations General Assembly also recognizes a broader definition of volunteering in resolution 56/38 (2002), referring to “a wide range of activities, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help, formal service delivery and other forms of civic participation, undertaken of free will, for the general public good and where monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor.” While the ILO definition is used for measurement purposes, both definitions are relevant in interpreting the results of this study.

### 3. KEY TERMINOLOGY

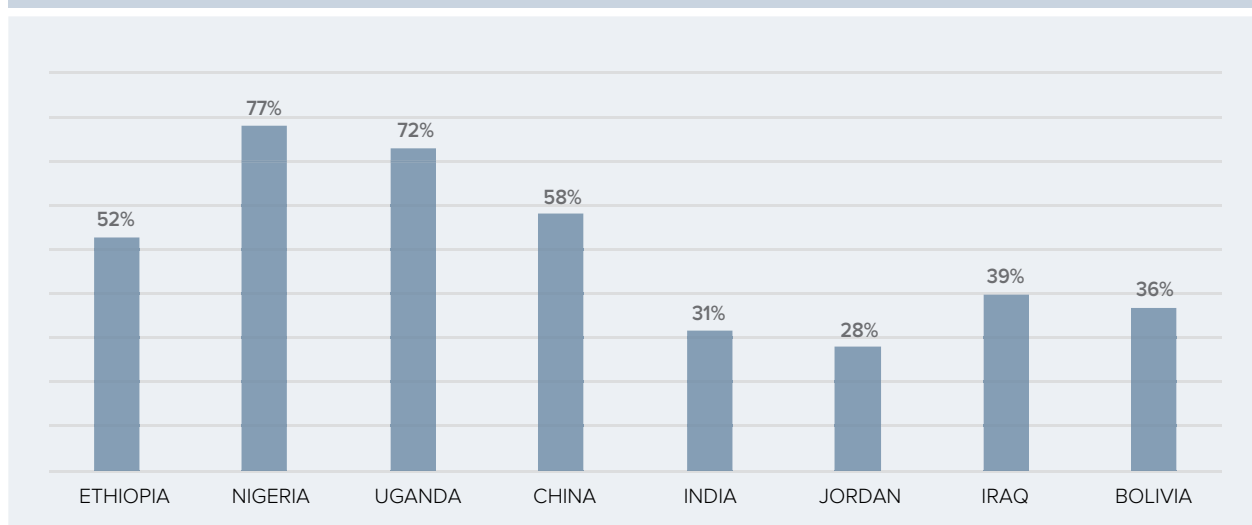
Terminology	Definitions
<b>Altruistic motivation</b>	Volunteering driven by a desire to help others, contribute to the community or respond to requests – without expectation of financial or material reward.
<b>Caregiving</b>	Providing unpaid assistance to individuals outside the household or family. This can include childcare, elder care or emotional support for neighbours or community members.
<b>Civic engagement volunteering</b>	Volunteering activities linked to democratic participation or governance, such as attending local meetings, contacting public officials or engaging in advocacy efforts.
<b>Compensation (in volunteer contexts)</b>	Non-wage rewards provided in exchange for volunteering, such as food, transport reimbursement, small gifts or other forms of in-kind or financial support.
<b>Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI)</b>	A survey method whereby interviews are conducted over the phone using a computerized system, allowing for structured questions, real-time monitoring and efficient data entry.
<b>Direct volunteer work</b>	Volunteering undertaken directly – without involvement of any organization – for people outside the volunteer’s household or family (e.g. neighbours, friends, acquaintances or strangers).
<b>Enumerator</b>	A trained interviewer who conducts survey calls and collects responses using a standardized approach to ensure both data quality and respondent comfort.
<b>Formal sector volunteering</b>	Volunteer activities organized through formally recognized or registered organizations such as NGOs, schools, religious institutions and government programmes.
<b>Informal sector volunteering</b>	Volunteer activities that are self-organized or coordinated through informal groups or networks without legal or institutional recognition.
<b>Instrumental motivation</b>	Volunteering motivated by personal benefit, such as gaining work experience, fulfilling educational requirements or receiving material compensation.
<b>Organization-based volunteer work</b>	Volunteering through or for organizations of all kinds – formal or informal, market or non-market – including self-help, mutual aid or community-based groups of which the volunteer is a member.
<b>Post-stratification weighting</b>	A statistical technique used following data collection to adjust the sample so it matches national population distributions for key demographics such as age, gender and geography.
<b>Random Digit Dialling (RDD)</b>	A sampling method that generates random phone numbers to reach respondents, improving the likelihood of a representative sample.
<b>Volunteer</b>	A person who engaged in at least one qualifying volunteer activity for one hour or more within the past 30 days.
<b>Volunteer work</b>	Unpaid, non-compulsory work undertaken to benefit others or the environment. This includes both goods and services and must have been performed for at least one hour in the past 30 days.

## 4. VOLUNTEERISM IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: CURRENT INSIGHTS

### 4.1 Who volunteers?

Volunteer participation rates vary significantly across the Global South. For this study, volunteer work is defined as unpaid, non-compulsory work performed to benefit others or the environment. It includes both organization-based volunteering conducted through groups, associations or institutions and direct volunteering, which involves helping people or the environment outside of formal structures. The highest rates were found in Nigeria (77%), Uganda (72%), China (58%) and Ethiopia (52%), reflecting strong community-based and informal volunteer traditions. In contrast, lower rates in India (31%) and Jordan (28%) may point to different cultural perceptions or structural factors. Meanwhile, Iraq (39%) and Bolivia (36%) represent the mid-range, each with its own unique context. These differences underscore the need for context-sensitive approaches to supporting volunteerism.

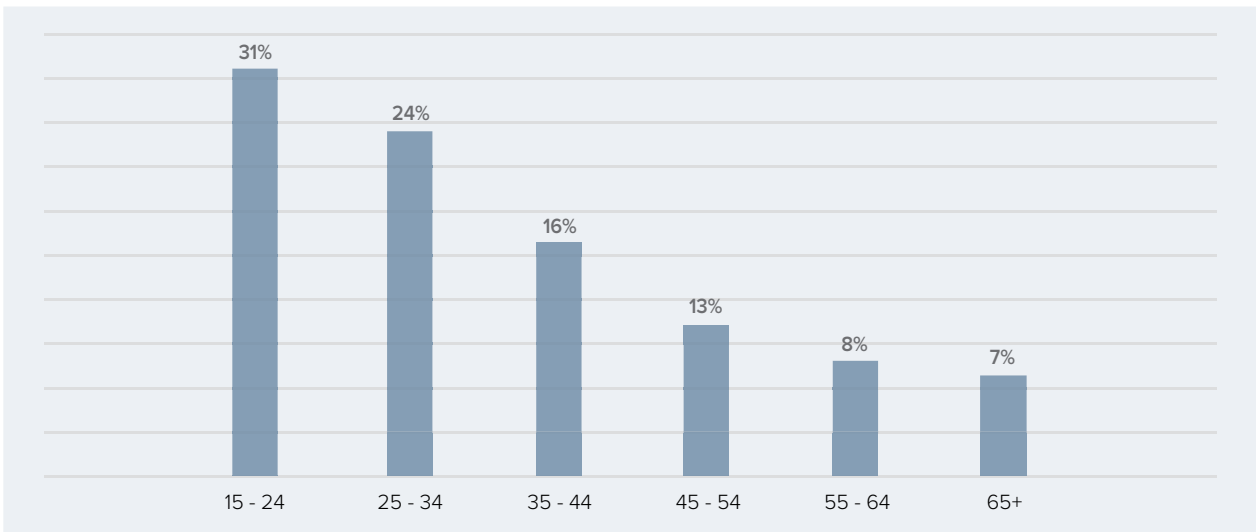
**Figure 1:** Current volunteer rate by country<sup>6</sup>



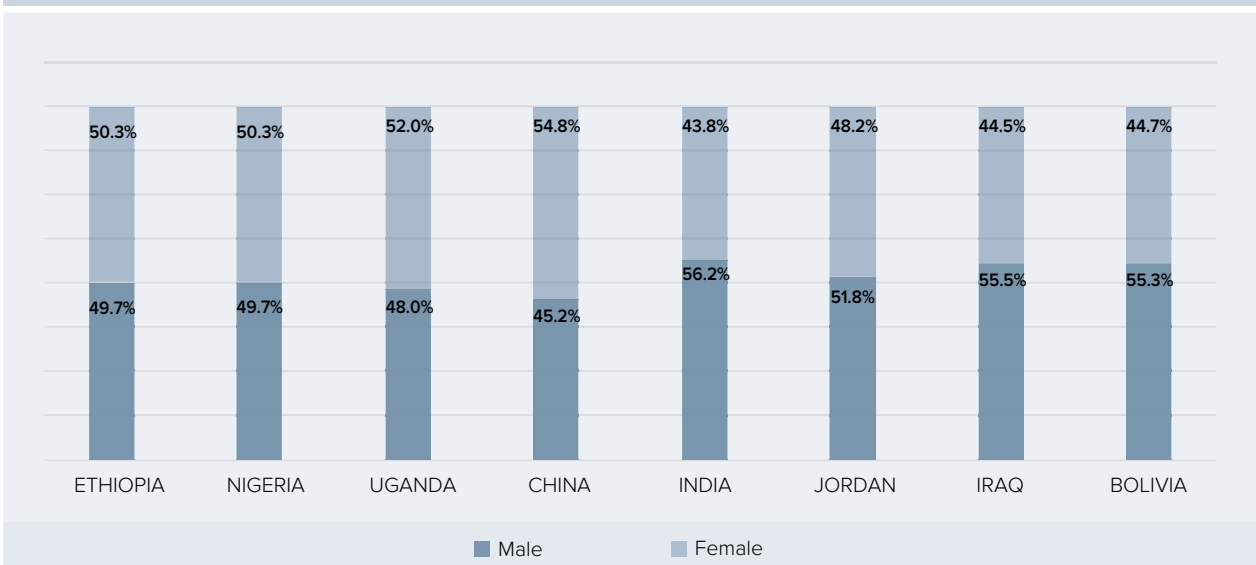
See Annex II for detailed data tables corresponding to each figure in this section.

Volunteering was found to be most common among young people, with 31% of respondents aged 15–24 reporting recent volunteer activity – the highest rate among all age groups. Participation declined steadily with age: 24% (25–34), 16% (35–44), 13% (45–54), 8% (55–64), and 7% (65+). Youth engagement was especially pronounced in African countries, with rates of 39% in Ethiopia, 36% in Uganda and 33% in Nigeria. China was an exception with over 34% of volunteers being aged 55 and older, the highest senior participation rate among the eight countries.

<sup>6</sup> "Volunteer rate" is defined as the share of volunteers in the total population aged 15 years and over. An individual was classified as a volunteer if they reported engaging in at least one eligible volunteer activity (per VOL\_3) and spent more than one hour on that activity over the past 30 days (per CVA\_3). This excludes those who reported "less than 1 hour," "don't know" or "refused" for time spent. "Donation without work" was also excluded as a qualifying activity. More details are provided in Methodology section as well as in Annex I and Annex IV.

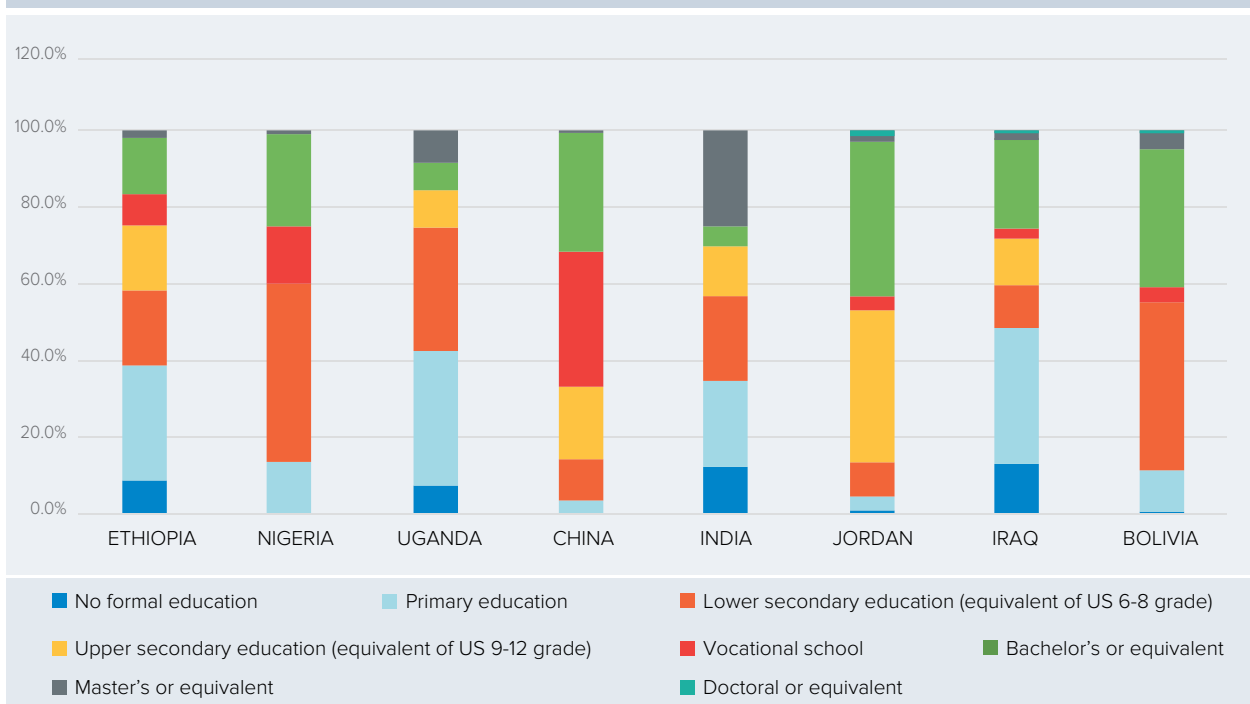
**Figure 2:** Volunteer rate by age, all countries

The gender distribution of volunteers was nearly balanced overall, with 50.5% identifying as male and 49.5% as female. However, some national differences were observed. In both India (56.2%) and Iraq (55.5%), the slightly higher rate of volunteering among men may be influenced by patterns in cellular phone access, as the survey was conducted via cellular phone. Men in these regions are more likely to own or control a cellular phone, which may have skewed the participation data. China, in contrast, stood out with the highest proportion of female engagement, with 54.8% of its volunteers identifying as women.

**Figure 3:** Volunteer rate by gender, all countries

Education levels among volunteers varied significantly across countries, reflecting differences in access to schooling and civic engagement pathways. Post-secondary education was most common among volunteers in China (67%), Jordan (48%) and Bolivia (45%). This trend is likely to be due to the strong tertiary education systems and more formalized civic structures in these countries. In contrast, the percentage of volunteers who had completed post-secondary education was significantly lower in Uganda (15.5%), Ethiopia (25%) and Iraq (28.6%). In contrast to the trend in China, primary education or no formal schooling was common among volunteers in Uganda (42%), Iraq (48%), Ethiopia (39%) and India (35%). This pattern points to strong volunteer participation from rural or underserved populations in those countries. Conversely, in China, just 3% of volunteers had only primary education or less, underscoring the country's more educated and formal volunteer base. These findings collectively suggest that while higher education may be linked to formal civic participation in some contexts, informal volunteering can thrive even among those with limited schooling. For a detailed breakdown of education levels by country, refer to Annex II.

**Figure 4:** Volunteer rate by education, all countries

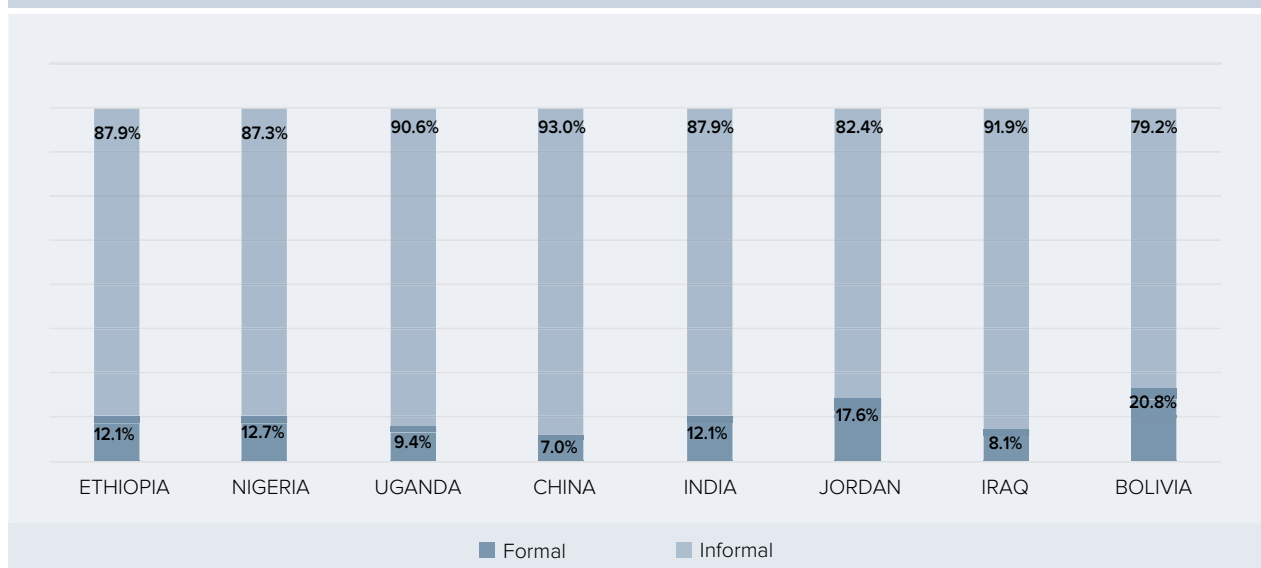


These insights underscore the diversity of volunteer profiles across the Global South. While young people form a major share of volunteer labour, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, China presents a contrasting picture of older, more educated and more female-driven volunteerism. Educational attainment and gender norms appear to influence participation in distinct ways across different contexts. The findings emphasize the importance of tailoring volunteer support mechanisms and measurement strategies to reflect the varied demographic realities of each setting.

## 4.2 How do people volunteer?

Volunteering across the Global South takes many forms, with most activity falling outside formal structures. A striking 88.3% of volunteers (n=4,176) participated in informal sector volunteering, organizing their own activities, being invited by a beneficiary or acting through a community-based or online group. Only 11.7% (n=553) of respondents engaged in formal sector volunteering, defined as an activity arranged by a place of work, nonprofit, government, religious or educational institution. Among all countries, Bolivia (20.8%, n=85) and Jordan (17.6%, n=53) recorded the highest formal sector participation. This is likely to reflect the strong presence of religious institutions and structured NGO programmes in both countries, along with higher education levels among volunteers.

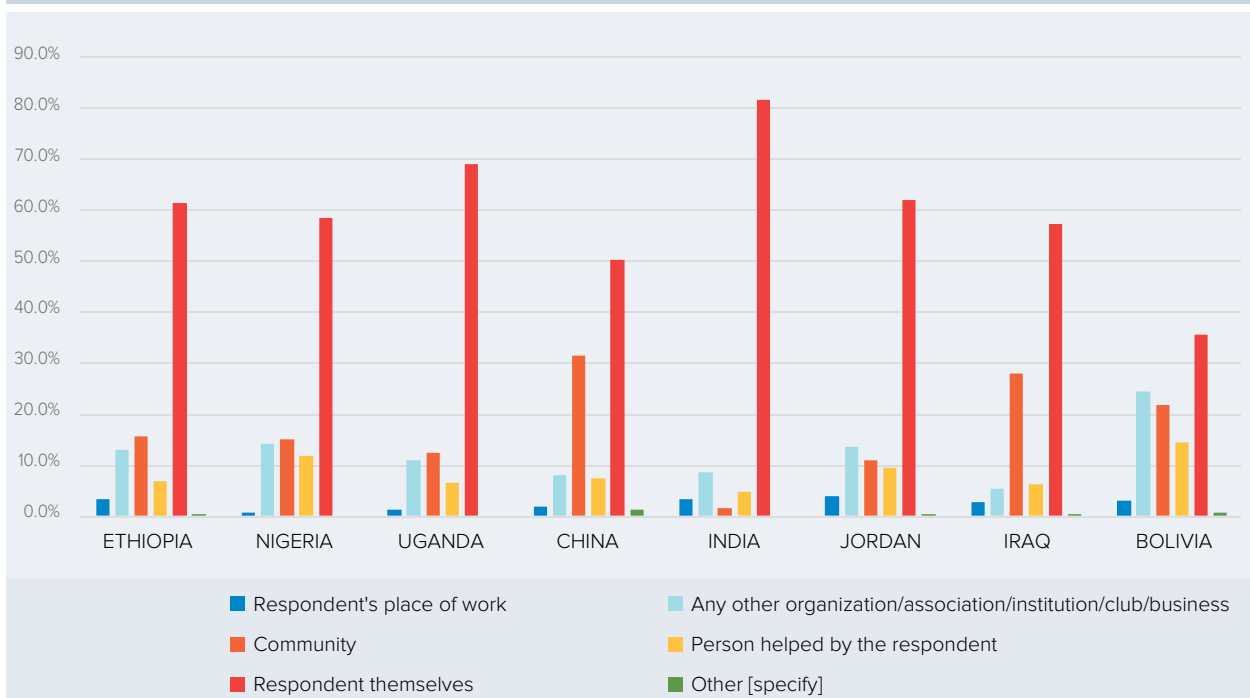
**Figure 5:** Formal sector versus informal sector volunteering, by country<sup>7</sup>



Formal sector volunteering is defined as unpaid work organized through recognized institutions or groups with some legal or structured status. In contrast, informal sector volunteering occurs independently or through community-based channels without formal affiliation. See Appendix IV for a full breakdown of the classification.

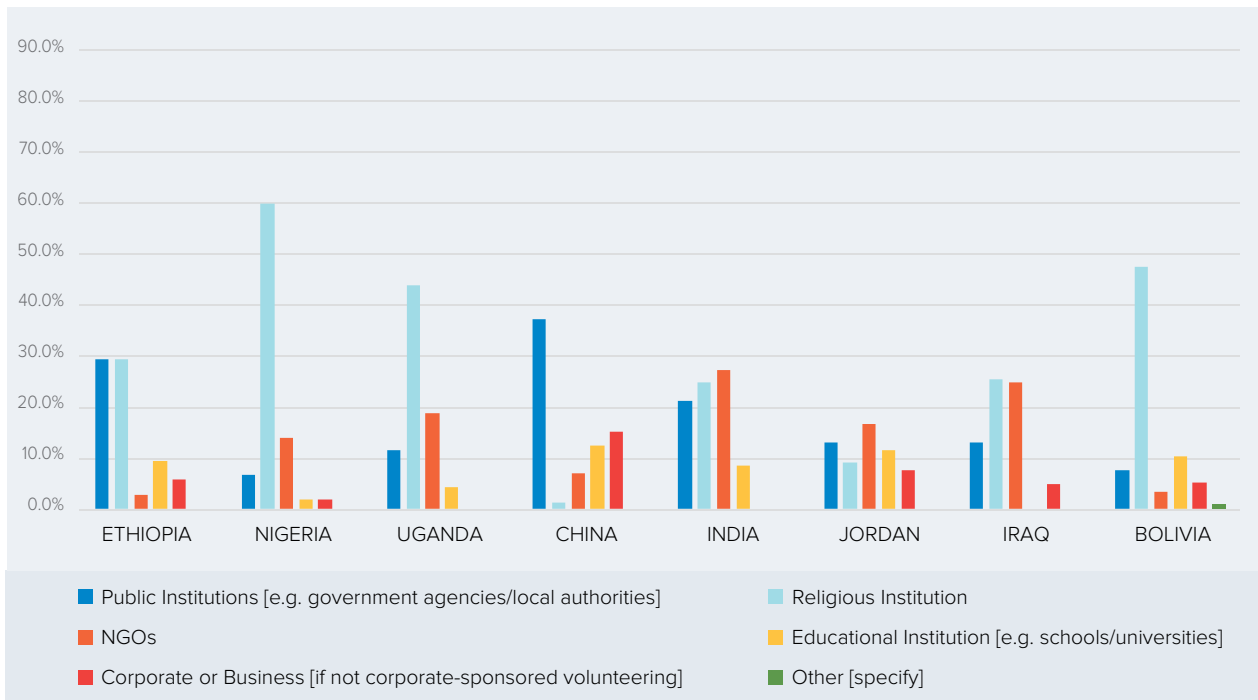
When asked who organized their activity, the largest share of volunteers (59.2%, n=2,799) reported that they were the primary organizer. This trend was particularly strong in India (81.4%, n=294) and Uganda (69.0%, n=552). Women were more likely than men to self-organize their volunteering activities (63.1%, n=1,462). Community-organized activities were the second most common form of volunteering, reported by 17.7% (n=838) of respondents.

<sup>7</sup> "Formal sector volunteering" refers to volunteer activities that are organized either through the respondent's place of work or another organization, association, institution, club or business (as captured in CVA\_6) and where the organizing body was identified as a public institution, religious institution, NGO, educational institution, corporate/business or other formal group (as specified in CVA\_8). All other volunteering activities are classified as informal sector volunteering.

**Figure 6: Activity organizer, by country<sup>8</sup>**

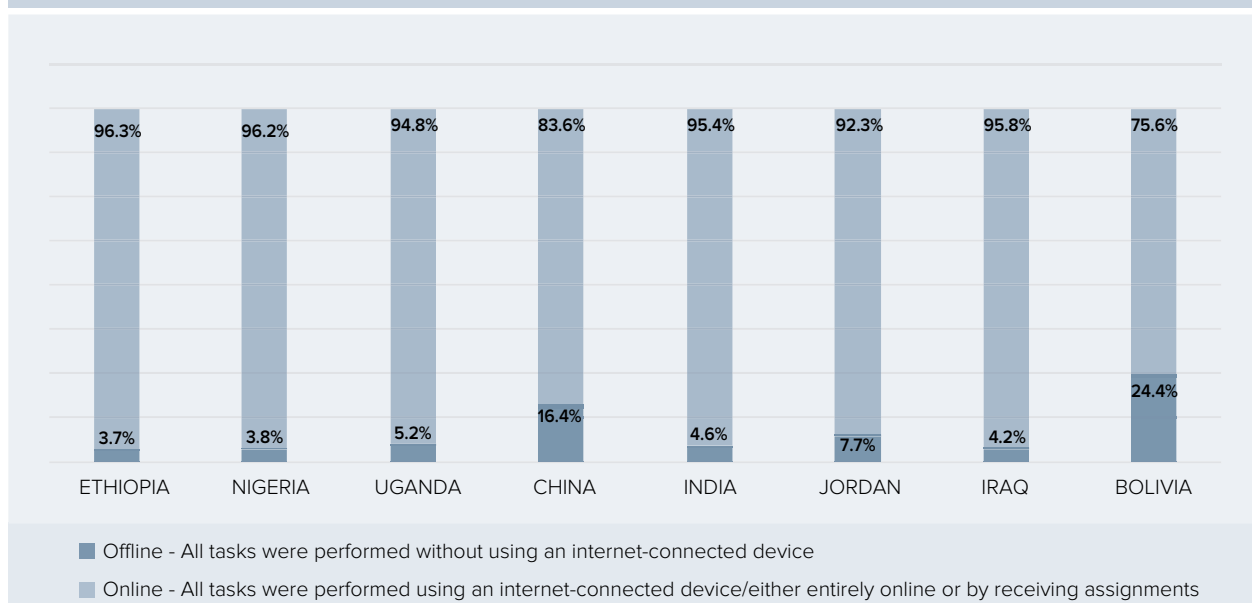
Looking at the specific organization types, religious institutions played a dominant role in several countries, particularly Nigeria (60.4%), Bolivia (47.9%) and Uganda (44.2%). Public institutions such as government agencies or local authorities were more prominent in countries such as China (37.4%) and Ethiopia (29.5%). Meanwhile, NGO-led volunteering was most common in India (27.5%) and Jordan (16.7%), while volunteering through educational institutions was modest across all countries.

<sup>8</sup> This analysis is based on responses to CVA\_6: "Who organized this activity?"

**Figure 7: Breakdown of organizations facilitating formal volunteering, by country<sup>9</sup>**

The vast majority of volunteer work (92%) took place in-person, with all tasks completed offline. While digital or remote volunteering was limited, it was most common in Bolivia (24.4%, n=102) and China (16.4%, n=125). These figures suggest a nascent, yet important shift towards virtual engagement in certain regions, particularly those that are more urbanized or digitally connected.

<sup>9</sup> This analysis is based on responses to CVA\_8: "How would you categorize the organization or group that organized the volunteer activity?". Only respondents who met the criteria for formal sector volunteering are included. Those who selected Informal Community Group in CVA\_8 were excluded, as they do not meet the definition of formal sector volunteering.

**Figure 8:** Online versus offline volunteering, by country<sup>10</sup>

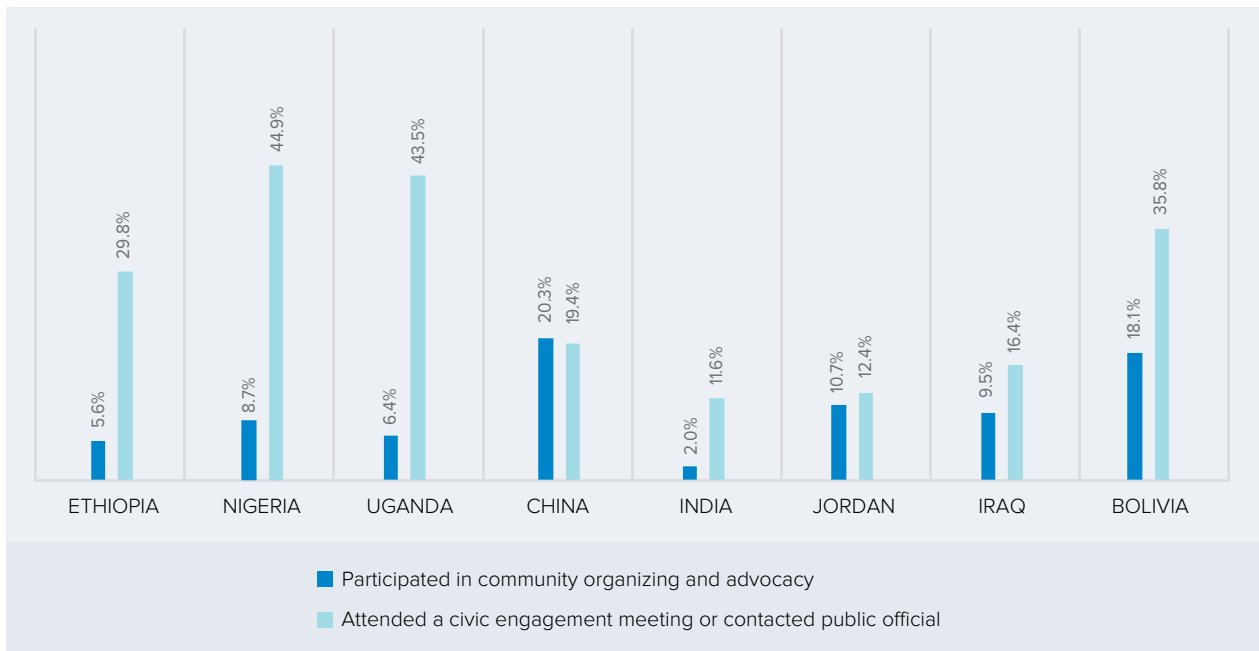
Civic engagement was a key component of volunteerism. Over a third of volunteers reported engaging in civic-related activities, which included attending community meetings, contacting public officials or participating in a wider agency role of citizens or organizations volunteering activities. These forms of volunteering were most prominent in Nigeria (n=350, 45%) and Uganda (n=317, 45%), countries where local governance structures and community forums often rely on direct citizen involvement. In contrast, civic volunteering was far less common in India (n=39, 13%) and Jordan (n=35, 12%), which is likely to be due to a lower outreach to rural populations and cultural or institutional barriers to civic participation.

Notably, participation in community organization or participating in advocacy initiatives (a separate category from attending meetings or contacting officials) was highest in China (n=114, 20%) and Bolivia (n=67, 18%). These countries also had some of the highest proportions of respondents with post-secondary education, which may help explain stronger engagement in issue-based organizing. Civic action in these settings appears to be driven less by local governance structures and more by motivated individuals mobilizing around social causes, often in urban or semi-urban environments.

<sup>10</sup> Analysis based on responses to CVA\_4: "Was your volunteer work conducted using an internet-connected device?"

Gender and age patterns reveal additional nuances in civic volunteering. In China and Bolivia, women were slightly more likely to engage in civic action than men. Meanwhile, in Nigeria and Uganda, much civic participation was driven by younger volunteers, specifically those aged 15-24. These findings highlight how civic action is shaped by both demographic factors and regional contexts.

**Figure 9: Civic engagement, by country<sup>11</sup>**

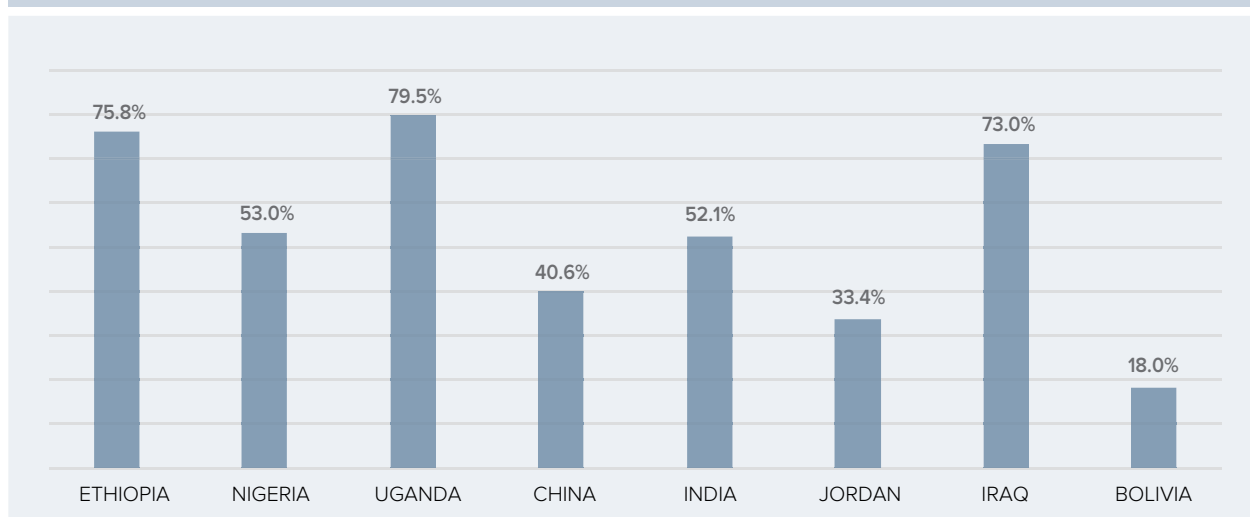


<sup>11</sup> Analysis is based on responses to VOL\_3 and VOL\_3a. Individuals were classified as having engaged in civic volunteering if they reported attending a neighbourhood meeting or contacting a public official (VOL\_3a) or selected "Community Organizing or Advocacy" as one of their volunteer activities (VOL\_3).

### 4.3 What do volunteers do?

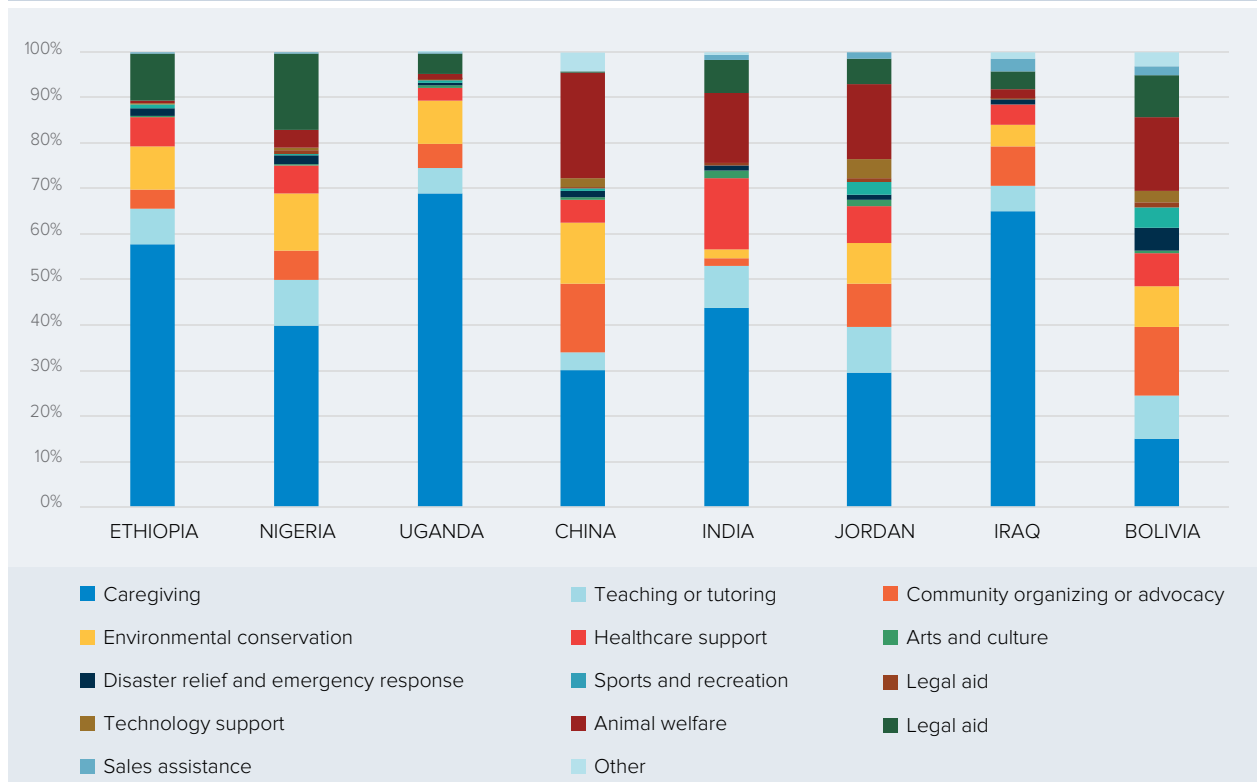
Volunteering across the eight-country study reflects a diverse mix of activity types, although caregiving clearly dominated. More than half of all volunteers (56.4%, n=2,175) reported offering caregiving support to friends, neighbours or strangers. This was especially prevalent in Uganda 79.5% (n=553), Ethiopia 75.8% (n=392) and Iraq 73% (n=283). Caregiving was more commonly reported by women than men with 61.6% (n=1,177) of female volunteers engaged in caregiving compared to 51.2% (n=998) of male volunteers. This trend, however, showed significant country-level variation; for instance, only 18% (n=63) of volunteers in Bolivia reported providing caregiving support.

**Figure 10: Caregiving, by country<sup>12</sup>**



**Other fields of volunteering.** Beyond caregiving, volunteers engaged in a range of activities including religious service, healthcare support, environmental protection, animal welfare, education support and advocacy. Religious volunteering, including activities through faith organizations or sponsored by religious groups, was particularly prevalent in Nigeria (22.2%, n=169) and Ethiopia (13.7%, n=71). This trend reflects the significant role of faith-based institutions in these societies. Healthcare support stood out in India, with nearly one in five volunteers (18.7%, n=58) assisting with medical or caregiving tasks. Community organization and advocacy was most common in China (20.3%, n=114) and Bolivia (18.1%, n=63), where higher education levels may play a role in civic participation. Similarly, animal welfare was highly reported in China (31.3%, n=176), Bolivia (19.7%, n=69) and Jordan (18.8%, n=52), while environmental protection was more prominent in China (18.1%, n=102) and Nigeria (16.8%, n=128) than in the other countries.

<sup>12</sup> Analysis by country for respondents who selected 'Caregiving' in question VOL\_3.

**Figure 11:** Distribution of volunteer activity types in the past 30 days, by country<sup>13</sup>

Less common volunteer activities such as disaster relief, technology support and sports and recreation were reported in smaller numbers but still show a broad range of engagement. For instance, in Bolivia, 6% (n=21) of volunteers participated in an emergency response – one of the highest proportions recorded. Respondents also shared unique “other” activities. In China, for example, 23 individuals reported helping direct traffic while in Jordan, nine people supported water distribution and two provided construction assistance. A few respondents in Iraq and Bolivia also reported construction-related volunteering.

These patterns underscore the multifaceted nature of volunteerism across the Global South. While caregiving remains a core form of support, the diversity of activities is shaped by cultural, social and institutional dynamics. The variation in activity types suggests that volunteerism is closely aligned with localized needs and social structures. In sub-Saharan Africa, volunteering is dominated by caregiving, reflecting strong informal safety nets – systems of mutual aid and reciprocal care. Similarly, in Latin America and Asia, environmental work and animal welfare, which may be driven by higher education levels and more structured civil society networks, are more visible. In the Middle East, religious and advocacy volunteering are central. These differences illustrate the fact that volunteering not only fills service gaps but also mirrors broader patterns of societal organization and public participation. See Annex II for a detailed breakdown of volunteer activities by country.

<sup>13</sup> Analysis based on responses to VOL\_3: “In the last 30 days, what kind of help did you provide? Please name up to two volunteer activities you engaged in.” Respondents could select up to two activities. All valid selected activities are included in the analysis.

#### 4.4 Why do people volunteer?

Across all eight countries, altruistic motives were the overwhelming reason for volunteering. Nearly 95.3% (n=4,535) of respondents reported that they volunteered because they wanted to assist or to contribute to their communities. This motivation was most prominent in China (97.9%, n=736) and India (98.3%, n=355). Bolivia was a notable exception: while still a majority, only 88.8% (n=370) of volunteers acted purely out of a desire to help. A smaller percentage of Bolivian respondents (6.4%, n=27) cited more instrumental motives, such as gaining work experience.

**Figure 12:** Main motivation for volunteering, all countries<sup>14</sup>



While motivations such as gaining work experience, learning a trade or meeting school obligations remained relatively low (typically under 3%), they were more frequently reported in Bolivia, Uganda and Iraq. Social pressure was also minimal overall but slightly higher in Iraq (4.5%, n=20) and Ethiopia (3.1%, n=21). Instances of volunteering due to legal obligations or coercion were extremely rare. See Annex II for a breakdown of volunteering reasons by country.

<sup>14</sup> Analysis based on responses to CVA\_5: "What is the main reason why you helped in this activity?". Respondents were asked to indicate the primary motivation for their volunteering.

When considering those helped by volunteers, a majority (56.6%, n=2,712) reported assisting a friend, neighbour or stranger. This was the most common type of volunteer relationship and was particularly strong in Iraq (65.7%, n=286) and Uganda (62.2%, n=499), although significantly less so in Jordan (46.6%, n=143) and Bolivia (46.0%, n=195).

**Figure 13: Primary recipients of volunteer support, by country<sup>15</sup>**



Helping the broader community was the second most common motivation for volunteering, cited by 24% of volunteers. This community-driven motive was highest in sub-Saharan Africa – Ethiopia (35.7%, n=242), Nigeria (28.1%, n=284) and Uganda (30%, n=240) – and lowest in India (3.6%, n=13) and China (12%, n=91). Gender differences were also notable: women (60.1%, n=1,411) were more likely than men to say they volunteered to help someone they knew or had encountered personally.

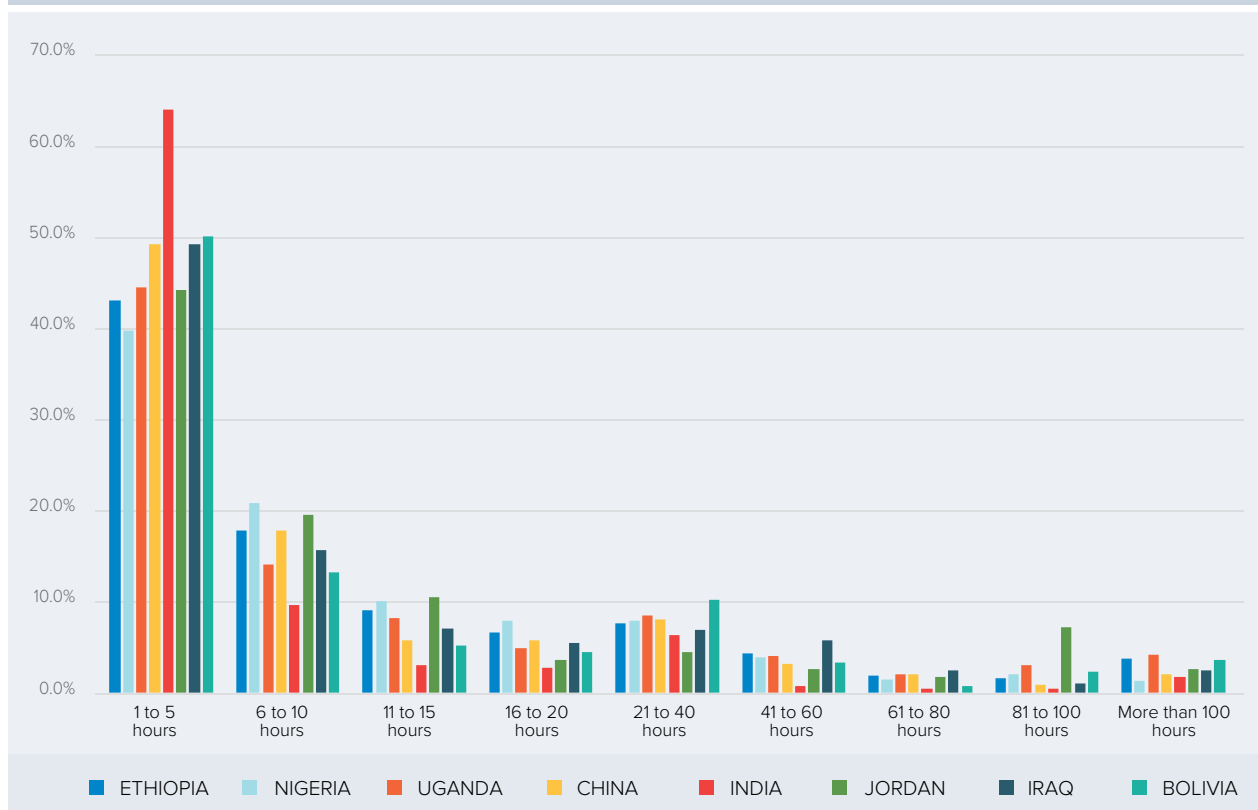
Taken as a whole, these findings underscore the fact that altruism remains the dominant driver of volunteerism across the Global South. However, contextual differences, particularly in Bolivia, highlight how motivation may also reflect education systems, job market pressures and societal expectations.

<sup>15</sup> Analysis based on responses to CVA\_1: "Whom did you help in this activity?". Respondents indicated the main beneficiary of their volunteer effort.

## 4.5 How much do people volunteer?

The intensity of volunteering varied both by type of activity and by country. Nearly half of volunteers (47.5%, n=2,262) contributed 1–5 hours of service in the past 30 days, while 17% volunteered 6-10 hours. Country-level variation was notable: India had the highest proportion of short-duration volunteering, with 65.4% (n=236) contributing fewer than five hours. China (50.3%, n=382) and Bolivia (51.2%, n=214) showed similar trends towards lower-intensity engagement. A smaller share volunteered more intensively: in Ethiopia (12%, n=80), Uganda (13%, n=108) and Jordan (14%, n=43), more than one in ten contributed over 40 hours in the same period.

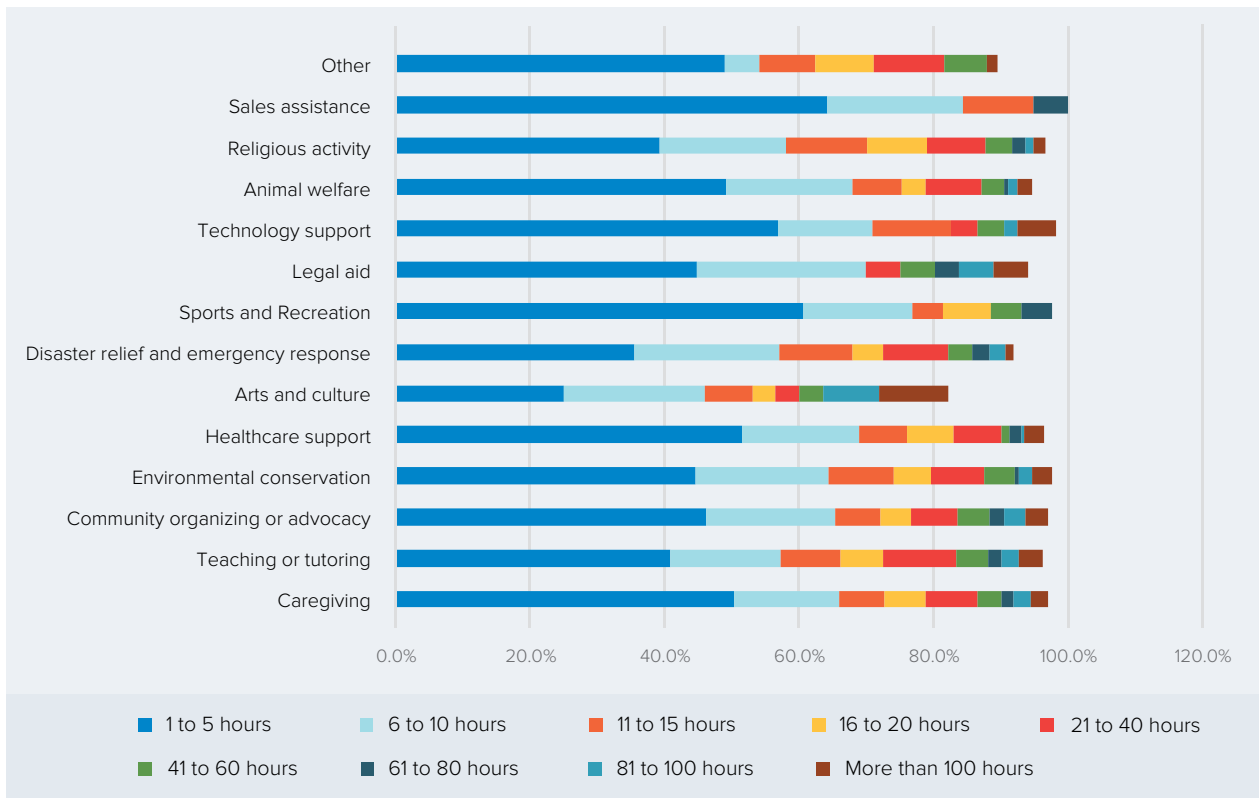
**Figure 14:** Time spent volunteering in the past 30 days, by country<sup>16</sup>



**Activity-based differences.** The time volunteers dedicate also differs significantly by activity type. Activities associated with short time commitments (1-5 hours per month) include sales assistance<sup>17</sup> (64.2%, n=22), technology support (56.9%, n=29), sports and recreation (60.5%, n=26), caregiving (50.2%, n=1,083) and healthcare support (51.5%, n=151). In contrast, volunteers involved in arts and culture (22%, n=6) or legal aid (19%, n=4) were more likely to dedicate over 40 hours per month, indicating a greater time investment, despite fewer people being involved.

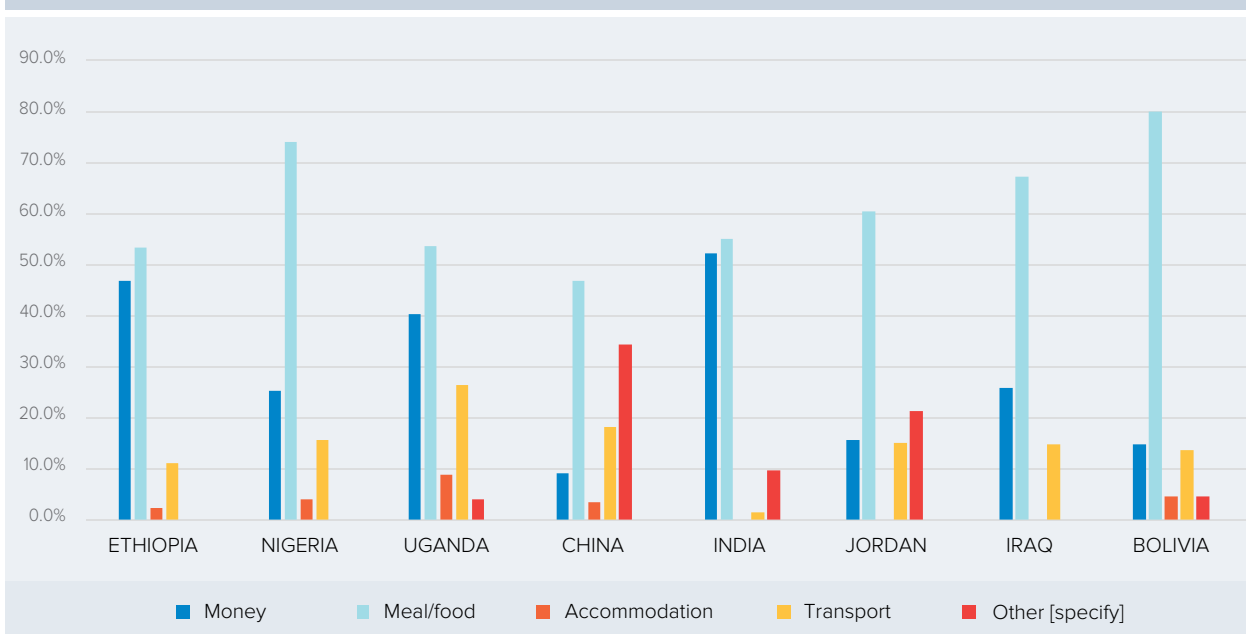
<sup>16</sup> Analysis based on responses to CVA\_3: "And how many hours did you spend on [ACTIVITY] in total, in the last 30 days?". Respondents were asked to estimate their total volunteering time. Data reflect valid responses across all countries, excluding respondents who selected the 'Less than 1 hour', 'Don't know' and 'Refused' answers.

<sup>17</sup> "Sales assistance" includes helping with shopkeeping, informal retail, market sales or supporting sales operations in small businesses or local enterprises.

**Figure 15: Time spent volunteering in the past 30 days by activity type, all countries<sup>18</sup>**

Only a small minority of volunteers (10.9%, n=513) received some form of financial or in-kind compensation. The most common forms were meals or food (61.9%, n=316), followed by monetary support (26.7%, n=137) and assistance with transport (16.4%, n=84). Compensation was most frequently reported in Bolivia (21%, n=86), Uganda (13%, n=104), China (12%, n=90) and Jordan (11%, n=34), while it was least common in Iraq (4%, n=18). Notably in China, 34.1% (n=30) of compensated volunteers received culturally specific, non-monetary gifts such as agricultural products and hygiene items, highlighting diverse traditions of rewarding community service.

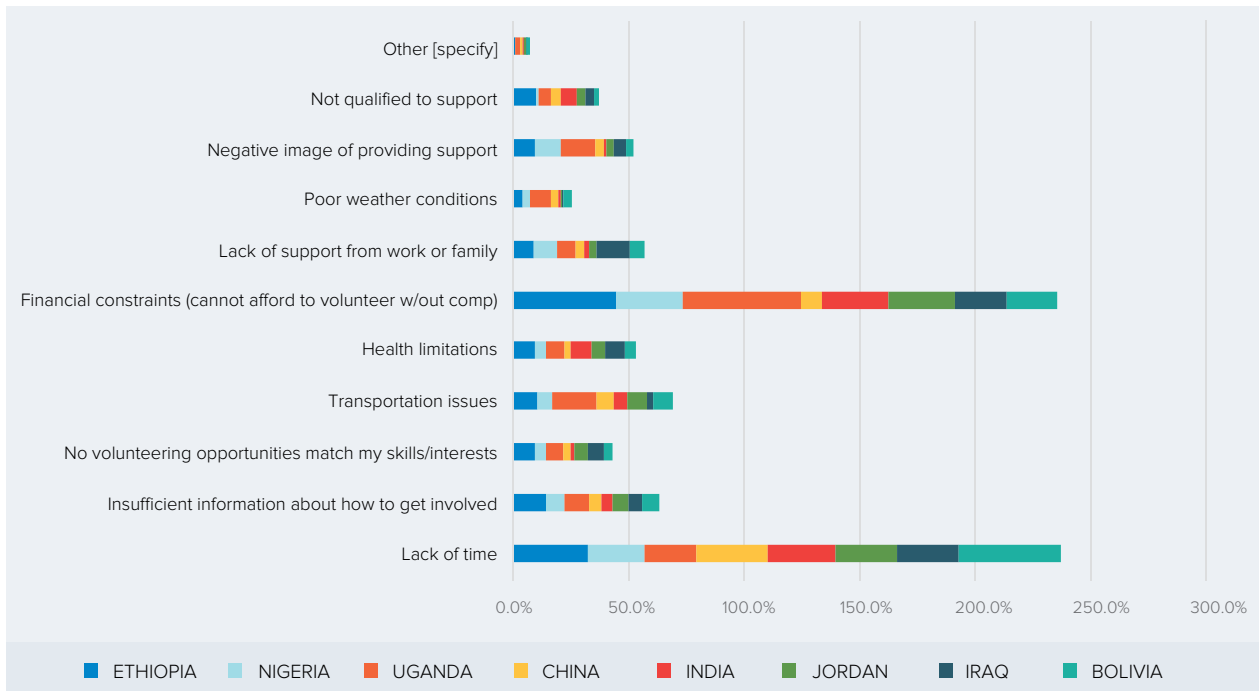
<sup>18</sup> Analysis based on responses to CVA\_3: "And how many hours did you spend on [ACTIVITY] in total, in the last 30 days?". Time estimates are categorized by the specific activity named in VOL\_3. Responses marked as 'Less than 1 hour', 'Don't know' or 'Refused' were excluded from analysis.

**Figure 16:** Types of compensation received by volunteers, by country<sup>19</sup>

#### 4.6 What prevents people from volunteering or encourages people to volunteer?

The most frequently cited barriers to volunteering were a lack of time (30.5%, n=2,442) and financial constraints<sup>20</sup> (30.4%, n=2,428). These issues were consistent across both volunteers and non-volunteers, reflecting broader economic pressures whereby unpaid work is often sidelined by employment and other demands. In Bolivia, nearly half of all respondents (45.7%) cited time as a primary barrier, while in Uganda and Ethiopia, over 45% of respondents reported that financial limitations were a major obstacle. Rural infrastructure gaps also posed a challenge, with transport being a significant issue in Uganda (19.6%) and Ethiopia (10.3%). Additionally, social perceptions played a role. A negative public image of volunteering was reported in Uganda (15.4%) and Nigeria (11.8%), while a lack of information was a problem in Ethiopia (14.1%) and Uganda (11%). Non-volunteers cited these constraints more often than those who were already volunteering – suggesting the greatest friction exists at the point of entry. For instance, in Bolivia, 49% of non-volunteers cited a lack of time compared to 40% of active volunteers. A small number of open-ended responses also highlighted language barriers and safety concerns, particularly in Uganda, China and Ethiopia.

<sup>20</sup> Limited capacity to cover costs of engagement in volunteer work (transport, meals, accommodation) using personal resources.

**Figure 17: Primary barriers to volunteering among all respondents, by country<sup>21</sup>**

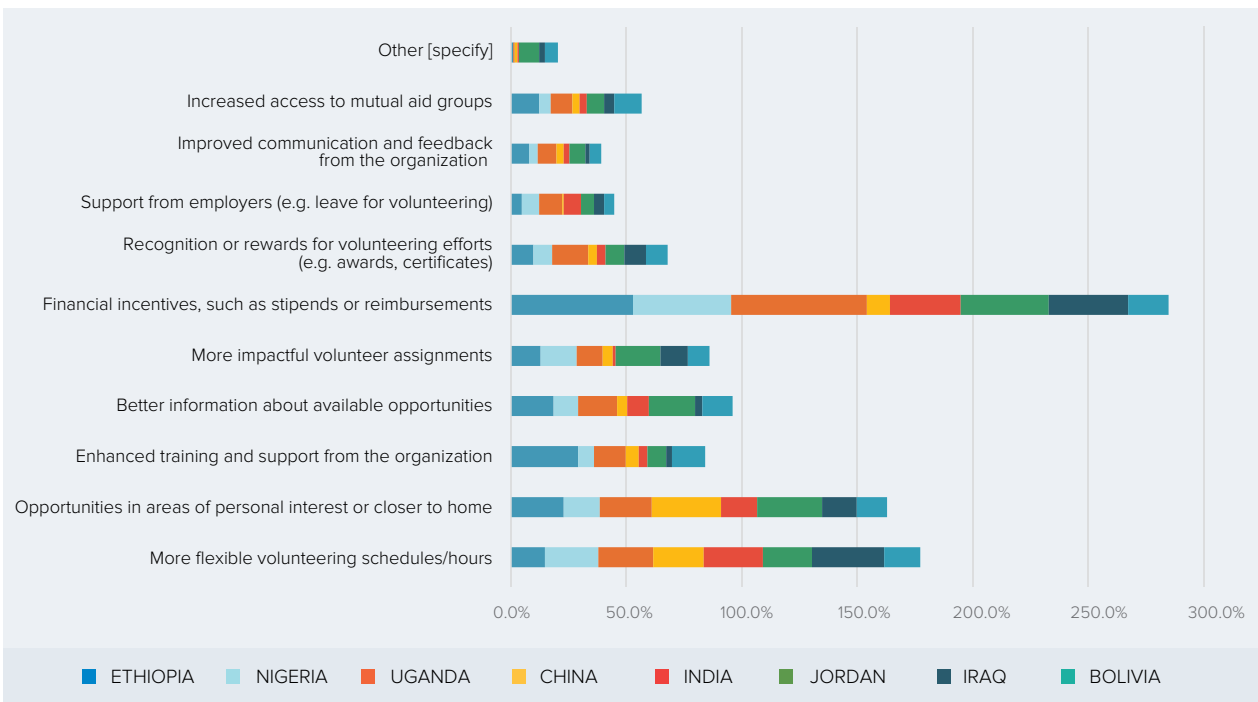
Note: As the survey was conducted and analysed on a country-by-country basis, all percentages presented in Figure 16 should be interpreted within each country, rather than cumulatively across countries. Additionally, this question allowed for multiple responses per respondent so totals may exceed 100% within any given country.

Looking ahead, financial support<sup>22</sup> was the top factor that respondents said would encourage them to volunteer, with 35.4% (n=2,835) citing it as a key motivator. This was especially true in Uganda (58.4%), Ethiopia (52.7%) and Nigeria (41.9%). Flexible schedules (22%) and opportunities aligned with personal interests (20.2%) were also important. Flexible timing was the most frequently cited factor in Iraq (30.9%), India (25.5%), China (22.6%) and Jordan (21.3%). Respondents also emphasized the importance of training and support, clearer information and recognition, particularly in Ethiopia, Uganda and Jordan. These findings collectively highlight the need to address structural barriers to volunteering, while making opportunities more appealing and accessible.

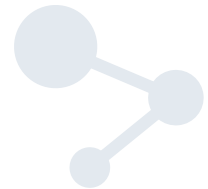
<sup>21</sup> Analysis based on responses to VATB\_3, which was asked of all respondents regardless of their volunteer status. Respondents could select one or more barriers that prevent or discourage them from volunteering.

<sup>22</sup> Compensation or reimbursement of costs related to engagement in volunteer work.

**Figure 18: Top motivators for increasing or sustaining volunteer engagement among all respondents, by country<sup>23</sup>**



Note: As the survey was conducted and analysed on a country-by-country basis, all percentages presented in Figure 17 should be interpreted within each country, rather than cumulatively across countries. Additionally, this question allowed for multiple responses per respondent so totals may exceed 100% within any given country.



<sup>23</sup> Analysis based on responses to VATB\_4, which was asked of all respondents. The question captured factors that would encourage individuals to volunteer more or continue volunteering in the next year, including financial incentives, flexible schedules, opportunities aligned with personal interests and better access to information.

## 5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

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This cross-national survey provides new evidence on the scale and nature of volunteering across eight countries in the Global South. It confirms that volunteering is widespread, predominantly altruistic and largely organized through informal and community-based channels. At the same time, the findings reveal important demographic, cultural and institutional variations that shape who volunteers, how they volunteer and the intensity of their engagement.

Three big takeaways stand out. First, there is a predominance of informal volunteering, underscoring the importance of recognizing and supporting contributions that occur outside formal institutions. Second, volunteering is overwhelmingly altruistic, but structural barriers such as time, money and information limit broader participation. Third, activity profiles differ across countries and regions, shaped by cultural traditions, social needs and institutional landscapes.

These insights underline the importance of context-sensitive approaches to supporting and recognizing volunteerism. The results also highlight the significant contributions that volunteers make to social cohesion, service delivery and resilience – particularly in contexts where formal systems are limited.

The policy implications of these findings are clear. Volunteering is not only a civic good but also a cost-effective mechanism for advancing social protection, education, employability and climate resilience. Governments and partners can enable volunteerism by reducing barriers, supporting informal engagement and leveraging institutions – religious, civic and digital – as mobilization channels. Importantly, policies must also address equity: women are disproportionately engaged in caregiving, young people often see volunteering as a pathway to skills and work and rural volunteers face greater access constraints.

While the data should be interpreted as indicative rather than definitive, they nonetheless provide valuable input for global measurement efforts, including the 2026 State of the World's Volunteerism Report. Going forward, investment in expanding measurement to additional regions and integrating volunteer modules into national labour-force surveys will be critical for building a more complete global evidence base.

By doing so, governments and partners can both recognize the contributions of current volunteers and unlock the untapped potential of millions more willing to engage – making volunteerism a central pillar of inclusive and sustainable development.

# ANNEX I: METHODOLOGY

## **Survey implementation**

GeoPoll led the entire implementation of this eight-country study, overseeing questionnaire scripting, interviewer training, pilot testing, CATI deployment and data quality control. The instrument was based on the UNV/ILO volunteer work module, comprising 17 core questions and standardized demographic items. Tools were translated into more than 25 local languages and pretested for comprehension and cultural fit.

## **Country selection and sampling**

The survey was conducted in Bolivia, China, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria and Uganda between 14 March and 5 May 2025, targeting 1,000 respondents aged 15 and over per country. Countries were selected in coordination with UNV and ILO to improve global coverage of volunteer data, especially in regions and income groups where little or no survey data currently exist. This approach prioritized geographic diversity and filled key gaps in the ILO global volunteer work estimation model. Random Digit Dialling (RDD) was used to generate representative mobile samples, with interlocking quotas for gender, age and geography. In Bolivia and India, internally validated samples were used to supplement RDD and ensure rural women were adequately represented.

## **Instrument adaptation**

While grounded in the ILO definition of volunteerism, the questionnaire was expanded to include modules on barriers to volunteering, motivators and digital forms of engagement. These additions were informed by landscape reviews and cognitive testing. Pilot feedback led to several key items being refined – such as categorized time-use responses and open-ended barrier/motivation codes – to increase consistency and analytical value.

## **Enumerator training and piloting**

In-person training was held in each country (except Iraq, where remote training was conducted), covering volunteerism definitions, sampling, interview ethics and CATI platform usage. Enumerators completed supervised pilot interviews before launch. Minor adjustments followed, including changes to logic paths and coded categories. Pilots contributed to final samples in all countries.

## **Translation process**

Professional, in-country translators prepared localized translations with attention to everyday language and cultural nuances. All versions were reviewed and field-tested during pilots. In total, the survey was delivered in more than 25 languages, from Amharic and Swahili to Mandarin and Kurdish.

## **Data collection and monitoring**

CATI was selected for its efficiency and safety in low-resource and fragile contexts. Real-time monitoring ensured adherence to protocols. Interviewers' performance was reviewed daily and audio audits were conducted by both internal teams and external reviewers. In China, where a partner system was used, data underwent separate mapping and validation to ensure consistency with the GeoPoll platform.

### Operational challenges

The study encountered fieldwork challenges, such as Ramadan-related availability constraints (Jordan, Iraq), gender-specific cellular phone access barriers (Iraq) and low phone penetration in rural areas (Bolivia, India). GeoPoll adjusted quotas, expanded call hours and introduced validated fallback samples where needed, with oversight and approval from UNV and ILO.

### Ethical considerations

The study adhered to international ethical standards for research involving human subjects. All respondents gave verbal informed consent after being informed of their rights and participation was entirely voluntary. No personally identifiable information (PII) was collected and all data were securely stored in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and relevant national regulations. In countries where 15–17-year-olds were eligible, parental or guardian consent was obtained (except in Bolivia, per national guidelines) and enumerators received age-appropriate training to ensure responsible engagement with minors.

### Weighting and representativeness

Post-stratification weighting was applied using recent census data, aligning the final samples with national distributions for gender, age and administrative region. Weights were capped at 5.0, though nearly all fell within the 0.8–1.2 range due to close adherence to original quota targets. This approach ensures national representativeness while minimizing distortion.

**Table 1:** Sample size, language and margin of error

	Field dates	Number of interviews	*Margin of error	Mode	Languages
<b>Bolivia</b>	20 March–5 May	1,000	±3.10	CATI	Spanish
<b>China</b>	24 March–19 April	1,000	±3.10	CATI	Mandarin
<b>Ethiopia</b>	24 March–8 April	1,000	±3.10	CATI	Amharic, Oromo, Somali, Tigrinya
<b>India</b>	27 March–30 April	1,000	±3.10	CATI	Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi/ Assamese
<b>Iraq</b>	25 March–22 April	1,000	±3.10	CATI	Arabic, Kurdish
<b>Jordan</b>	25 March–25 April	1,001	±3.10	CATI	Arabic
<b>Nigeria</b>	29 March–9 April	1,000	±3.10	CATI	Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo
<b>Uganda</b>	22 March–7 April	1,000	±3.10	CATI	Luganda, Runyankole, Swahili, Acholi, Langa, Lusoga

## ANNEX II: TABLES

This annex contains the tabulated results corresponding to each figure in the main report for reference and transparency.

**Table 2: Volunteer rates by country**

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	7,856	990	987	963	978	988	991	989	970
<b>Weighted N</b>	7,859	990	987	963	978	991	991	989	971
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Yes</b>	3,858	517	762	695	563	308	275	387	351
	49.1%	52.2%	77.2%	72.2%	57.6%	31.1%	27.7%	39.2%	36.2%
<b>No</b>	4,001	473	225	268	415	683	716	602	619
	50.9%	47.8%	22.8%	27.8%	42.4%	68.9%	72.3%	60.8%	63.8%

**Table 3: Volunteer rates by age**

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	3,883	517	762	695	563	321	274	396	355
<b>Weighted N</b>	3,858	517	762	695	563	308	275	387	351
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>15-24</b>	1,207	201	250	249	89	77	119	136	86
	31.3%	39.0%	32.8%	35.9%	15.8%	25.1%	43.1%	35.1%	24.5%
<b>25-34</b>	932	129	216	170	90	71	68	98	89
	24.2%	24.9%	28.4%	24.4%	16.0%	23.1%	24.9%	25.3%	25.4%
<b>35-44</b>	633	74	131	114	77	54	40	73	70
	16.4%	14.3%	17.2%	16.4%	13.8%	17.5%	14.6%	18.8%	19.9%
<b>45-54</b>	497	49	87	78	116	48	28	42	49
	12.9%	9.5%	11.4%	11.2%	20.7%	15.5%	10.0%	10.9%	14.0%
<b>55-64</b>	314	35	43	48	88	30	11	24	35
	8.1%	6.7%	5.7%	6.9%	15.7%	9.8%	3.9%	6.1%	10.0%
<b>65+</b>	275	29	35	36	102	28	10	15	22
	7.1%	5.6%	4.5%	5.1%	18.1%	9.0%	3.5%	3.8%	6.2%

**Table 4: Volunteer rates by gender**

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	3,883	517	762	695	563	321	274	396	355
<b>Weighted N</b>	3,858	517	762	695	563	308	275	387	351
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Male</b>	1,948	257	379	333	255	173	142	215	194
	50.5%	49.7%	49.7%	48.0%	45.2%	56.2%	51.8%	55.5%	55.3%
<b>Female</b>	1,910	260	383	362	309	135	133	172	157
	49.5%	50.3%	50.3%	52.0%	54.8%	43.8%	48.2%	44.5%	44.7%

**Table 5: Volunteer rates by education**

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	3,883	517	762	695	563	321	274	396	355
<b>Weighted N</b>	3,858	517	762	695	563	308	275	387	351
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Vocational school</b>	384	43	112	0	197	0	10	9	14
	10.0%	8.3%	14.7%	0	35.0%	0	3.6%	2.3%	3.9%
<b>Bachelor's or equivalent</b>	826	76	184	50	175	16	109	92	125
	21.4%	14.7%	24.2%	7.2%	31.0%	5.3%	39.6%	23.6%	35.6%
<b>Primary education</b>	773	155	102	244	19	69	10	136	37
	20.0%	30.0%	13.4%	35.2%	3.3%	22.6%	3.6%	35.1%	10.6%
<b>Lower secondary education (equivalent of US 6-8 grade)</b>	1,034	102	357	224	61	68	25	43	154
	26.8%	19.7%	46.8%	32.3%	10.9%	22.0%	8.9%	11.1%	43.9%
<b>Upper secondary education (equivalent of US 9-12 grade)</b>	458	87	0	69	107	40	108	47	0
	11.9%	16.8%	0	9.9%	19.0%	13.0%	39.1%	12.2%	0
<b>Master's or equivalent</b>	190	10	7	58	4	77	8	8	17
	4.9%	1.9%	0.9%	8.3%	0.7%	25.0%	2.9%	2.1%	5.0%
<b>No formal education</b>	185	44	0	50	0	37	2	50	2
	4.8%	8.5%	0	7.2%	0	12.1%	0.7%	12.9%	0.5%
<b>Doctorate or equivalent</b>	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2
	0.2%	0	0	0	0	0	1.5%	0.6%	0.5%

**Table 6:** Formal sector versus informal sector volunteering

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	4,761	672	1001	799	751	378	301	445	414
<b>Weighted N</b>	4,729	672	1000	799	751	361	302	434	409
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Formal Sector</b>	553	81	127	75	53	44	53	35	85
	11.7%	12.1%	12.7%	9.4%	7.0%	12.1%	17.6%	8.1%	20.8%
<b>Informal Sector</b>	4,176	591	873	724	698	317	249	399	324
	88.3%	87.9%	87.3%	90.6%	93.0%	87.9%	82.4%	91.9%	79.2%

**Table 7:** Who organized this activity

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	4,761	672	1,001	799	751	378	301	445	414
<b>Weighted N</b>	4,729	672	1,000	799	751	361	302	434	409
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Respondent's place of work</b>	104	22	8	11	14	12	12	12	13
	2.2%	3.3%	0.8%	1.4%	1.9%	3.4%	3.9%	2.8%	3.1%
<b>Any other organization /association /institution/ club/business</b>	571	87	142	86	60	31	41	23	100
	12.1%	12.9%	14.2%	10.8%	7.9%	8.7%	13.6%	5.3%	24.5%
<b>Community</b>	838	104	150	100	235	6	33	121	89
	17.7%	15.5%	15.0%	12.5%	31.3%	1.7%	10.8%	28.0%	21.8%
<b>Person helped by the respondent</b>	401	46	118	51	55	17	28	27	59
	8.5%	6.8%	11.8%	6.4%	7.3%	4.8%	9.4%	6.3%	14.4%
<b>Respondent themselves</b>	2,799	412	583	552	378	294	187	248	145
	59.2%	61.3%	58.3%	69.0%	50.3%	81.4%	61.9%	57.3%	35.4%
<b>Other [specify]</b>	16	1	0	0	9	0	1	2	3
	0.3%	0.1%	0	0	1.2%	0	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%



**Table 9:** Online versus offline volunteering

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	4,797	677	1010	803	759	378	301	447	422
<b>Weighted N</b>	4,764	677	1009	803	759	361	302	435	417
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Online: all tasks were performed using an Internet-connected device/either entirely online or by receiving assignments</b>	390	25	38	42	125	17	23	18	102
	8.2%	3.7%	3.8%	5.2%	16.4%	4.6%	7.7%	4.2%	24.4%
<b>Offline: all tasks were performed without using an Internet-connected device</b>	4,374	652	971	761	635	344	279	417	315
	91.8%	96.3%	96.2%	94.8%	83.6%	95.4%	92.3%	95.8%	75.6%

**Table 10:** Civic engagement

	Participated in community organizing and advocacy		Attended a civic engagement meeting or contacted a public official	
	n	%	n	%
<b>Ethiopia</b>	29	5.6%	154	29.8%
<b>Nigeria</b>	66	8.7%	342	44.9%
<b>Uganda</b>	45	6.4%	302	43.5%
<b>China</b>	114	20.3%	108	19.4%
<b>India</b>	6	2.0%	36	11.6%
<b>Jordan</b>	30	10.7%	34	12.4%
<b>Iraq</b>	37	9.5%	64	16.4%
<b>Bolivia</b>	63	18.1%	126	35.8%

**Table 11: Caregiving by country**

	n	%
Ethiopia	392	75.8%
Nigeria	404	53.0%
Uganda	553	79.5%
China	229	40.6%
India	161	52.1%
Jordan	92	33.4%
Iraq	283	73.0%
Bolivia	63	18.0%

**Table 12: Volunteering by activity**

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	3,883	517	762	695	563	321	274	396	355
<b>Weighted N</b>	3,858	517	762	695	563	308	275	387	351
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Caregiving</b>	2,175	392	404	553	229	161	92	283	63
	56.4%	75.8%	53.0%	79.5%	40.6%	52.1%	33.4%	73.0%	18.0%
<b>Teaching or tutoring</b>	356	52	99	44	29	34	32	25	41
	9.2%	10.1%	13.0%	6.4%	5.2%	11.1%	11.6%	6.4%	11.5%
<b>Community organizing or advocacy</b>	390	29	66	45	114	6	30	37	63
	10.1%	5.6%	8.7%	6.4%	20.3%	2.0%	10.7%	9.5%	18.1%
<b>Environmental conservation</b>	462	63	128	75	102	7	28	21	38
	12.0%	12.2%	16.8%	10.8%	18.1%	2.2%	10.3%	5.4%	10.8%
<b>Healthcare support</b>	299	44	60	23	38	58	26	20	31
	7.8%	8.5%	7.9%	3.3%	6.8%	18.7%	9.3%	5.1%	9.0%
<b>Arts and culture</b>	28	1	5	5	5	7	4	0	2
	0.7%	0.2%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	2.1%	1.5%	0	0.6%
<b>Disaster relief and emergency response</b>	82	12	20	5	11	4	4	5	21
	2.1%	2.3%	2.6%	0.7%	1.9%	1.2%	1.4%	1.3%	6.0%

	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Sports and recreation</b>	43	6	2	3	4	0	8	0	20
	1.1%	1.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0	3.0%	0	5.6%
<b>Legal aid</b>	20	0	7	2	1	2	3	1	4
	0.5%	0	0.9%	0.3%	0.2%	0.7%	1.1%	0.2%	1.2%
<b>Technology support</b>	51	3	7	1	15	0	13	1	11
	1.3%	0.6%	0.9%	0.1%	2.7%	0	4.7%	0.2%	3.1%
<b>Animal welfare</b>	414	3	40	9	176	57	52	8	69
	10.7%	0.6%	5.2%	1.3%	31.3%	18.5%	18.8%	2.1%	19.7%
<b>Religious activities</b>	376	71	169	37	1	26	18	17	38
	9.8%	13.7%	22.2%	5.3%	0.2%	8.5%	6.5%	4.3%	10.9%
<b>Sales assistance</b>	35	1	3	1	0	4	4	13	9
	0.9%	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%	0	1.2%	1.5%	3.3%	2.5%
<b>Donations without work</b>	24	0	0	0	6	8	10	0	0
	0.6%	0	0	0	1.1%	2.6%	3.5%	0	0
<b>Other</b>	56	0	0	1	34	2	0	6	13
	1.5%	0	0	0.1%	6.0%	0.8%	0	1.5%	3.7%

**Table 13:** Main reason for volunteering

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	4,790	677	1010	803	752	378	301	447	422
<b>Weighted N</b>	4,757	677	1009	803	752	361	302	435	417
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Wanted to help [was asked/offered to help]</b>	4,535	641	967	776	736	355	287	402	370
	95.3%	94.7%	95.8%	96.7%	97.9%	98.3%	94.9%	92.3%	88.8%
<b>Wanted to learn a profession/trade</b>	39	7	7	7	1	4	2	2	9
	0.8%	1.0%	0.7%	0.9%	0.1%	1.1%	0.7%	0.4%	2.2%
<b>Wanted to gain work experience</b>	85	6	18	6	7	1	9	12	27
	1.8%	0.9%	1.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.2%	3.1%	2.7%	6.4%
<b>Required to complete [school/university/college/course]</b>	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
	0.1%	0.1%	0	0	0.1%	0	0	0	0.5%
<b>Legal/contractual obligation</b>	11	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	1
	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0	0	0	0	0.2%
<b>Threatened into doing it</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Social pressure</b>	77	21	10	12	6	1	2	20	5
	1.6%	3.1%	1.0%	1.5%	0.8%	0.2%	0.7%	4.6%	1.2%
<b>Other [specify]</b>	6	0	0	0	1	*	2	0	3
	0.1%	0	0	0	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%	0	0.7%

**Table 14:** Who did volunteers help?

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	4,824	677	1010	803	759	393	306	447	429
<b>Weighted N</b>	4,789	677	1009	803	759	375	307	435	424
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Friend/neighbour/ stranger</b>	2,712	377	532	499	458	222	143	286	195
	56.6%	55.7%	52.7%	62.2%	60.3%	59.3%	46.6%	65.7%	46.0%
<b>Organizations/ association/ institution/club/ business</b>	436	55	157	57	16	31	38	22	61
	9.1%	8.1%	15.5%	7.1%	2.1%	8.1%	12.4%	5.1%	14.4%
<b>Community</b>	1,153	242	284	240	91	13	69	110	103
	24.1%	35.7%	28.1%	30.0%	12.0%	3.6%	22.5%	25.2%	24.2%
<b>Nature/street/wild animals</b>	463	3	37	6	194	95	52	17	59
	9.7%	0.4%	3.7%	0.7%	25.6%	25.3%	16.9%	4.0%	13.8%
<b>Family member or relative</b>	26	0	0	0	0	14	5	0	7
	0.5%	0	0	0	0	3.7%	1.6%	0	1.6%

**Table 15:** Hours spent volunteering by country

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	4,797	677	1,010	803	759	378	301	447	422
<b>Weighted N</b>	4,764	677	1,009	803	759	361	302	435	417
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Less than 1 hour</b>	81	11	30	4	13	7	4	7	5
	1.7%	1.6%	3.0%	0.5%	1.7%	1.9%	1.3%	1.5%	1.3%
<b>1 to 5 hours</b>	2,262	298	411	366	382	236	136	220	214
	47.5%	44.0%	40.7%	45.5%	50.3%	65.4%	45.2%	50.4%	51.2%
<b>6 to 10 hours</b>	813	123	215	116	138	35	60	69	56
	17.1%	18.2%	21.3%	14.4%	18.2%	9.8%	20.0%	16.0%	13.5%
<b>11 to 15 hours</b>	373	62	104	66	45	11	32	31	22
	7.8%	9.2%	10.3%	8.3%	5.9%	3.0%	10.7%	7.2%	5.2%
<b>16 to 20 hours</b>	276	46	81	40	45	10	11	25	19
	5.8%	6.8%	8.0%	5.0%	5.9%	2.7%	3.7%	5.6%	4.5%
<b>21 to 40 hours</b>	377	53	82	69	62	23	14	31	43
	7.9%	7.8%	8.1%	8.6%	8.2%	6.4%	4.6%	7.1%	10.4%
<b>41 to 60 hours</b>	175	30	39	33	24	2	8	25	14
	3.7%	4.4%	3.9%	4.1%	3.2%	0.7%	2.6%	5.8%	3.3%
<b>61 to 80 hours</b>	80	13	15	17	15	1	5	11	3
	1.7%	1.9%	1.5%	2.1%	2.0%	0.4%	1.7%	2.5%	0.7%
<b>81 to 100 hours</b>	99	11	20	24	6	1	22	5	10
	2.1%	1.6%	2.0%	3.0%	0.8%	0.4%	7.3%	1.0%	2.4%
<b>More than 100 hours</b>	129	26	13	34	16	6	8	11	15
	2.7%	3.8%	1.3%	4.2%	2.1%	1.7%	2.6%	2.5%	3.7%
<b>Don't know</b>	89	4	0	35	13	20	1	2	15
	1.9%	0.6%	0	4.4%	1.7%	5.5%	0.3%	0.4%	3.6%
<b>Refused</b>	9	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1
	0.2%	0	0	0	0	2.2%	0	0	0.3%

**Table 16:** Hours spent volunteering by activity

	Caregiving	Teaching or tutoring	Community org or advocacy	Environmental conservation	Healthcare support	Arts and culture
<b>1 to 5 hours</b>	1,083	145	179	205	151	7
	50.20%	40.90%	46.10%	44.50%	51.50%	25.00%
<b>6 to 10 hours</b>	338	58	75	92	51	6
	15.70%	16.40%	19.20%	19.90%	17.40%	20.90%
<b>11 to 15 hours</b>	148	31	26	45	20	2
	6.80%	8.90%	6.80%	9.70%	7.00%	7.10%
<b>16 to 20 hours</b>	130	22	17	25	21	1
	6.00%	6.30%	4.50%	5.50%	7.00%	3.50%
<b>21 to 40 hours</b>	168	39	27	36	21	1
	7.80%	10.90%	6.90%	7.90%	7.10%	3.50%
<b>41 to 60 hours</b>	75	16	18	21	4	1
	3.50%	4.60%	4.70%	4.50%	1.30%	3.50%
<b>61 to 80 hours</b>	40	7	9	3	5	0
	1.90%	2.00%	2.30%	0.60%	1.70%	0
<b>81 to 100 hours</b>	51	9	12	9	1	2
	2.40%	2.60%	3.10%	1.90%	0.30%	8.30%
<b>More than 100 hours</b>	56	12	13	14	9	3
	2.60%	3.50%	3.30%	3.00%	3.00%	10.40%

**Table 16 continued: Hours spent volunteering by activity**

	Disaster relief and emergency response	Sports and rec	Legal aid	Tech support	Animal welfare	Religious activity	Sales assistance	Other
<b>1 to 5 hours</b>	29	26	9	29	203	147	22	28
	35.50%	60.50%	44.80%	56.90%	49.10%	39.20%	64.20%	49.00%
<b>6 to 10 hours</b>	18	7	5	7	77	70	7	3
	21.60%	16.30%	25.10%	13.90%	18.70%	18.80%	20.00%	5.10%
<b>11 to 15 hours</b>	9	2	0	6	31	45	4	5
	10.80%	4.60%	0	11.70%	7.40%	12.00%	10.50%	8.30%
<b>16 to 20 hours</b>	4	3	0	0	14	33	0	5
	4.60%	7.00%	0	0	3.50%	8.90%	0	8.60%
<b>21 to 40 hours</b>	8	0	1	2	35	33	0	6
	9.70%	0	5.20%	4.00%	8.40%	8.70%	0	10.50%
<b>41 to 60 hours</b>	3	2	1	2	14	15	0	4
	3.50%	4.50%	5.10%	4.00%	3.30%	4.00%	0	6.40%
<b>61 to 80 hours</b>	2	2	1	0	3	7	2	0
	2.50%	4.60%	3.40%	0	0.60%	1.90%	5.20%	0
<b>81 to 100 hours</b>	2	0	1	1	6	5	0	0
	2.40%	0	5.20%	1.90%	1.40%	1.30%	0	0
<b>More than 100 hours</b>	1	0	1	3	9	7	0	1
	1.20%	0	5.10%	5.80%	2.20%	1.80%	0	1.50%

**Table 17: Type of compensation provided**

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	517	45	103	104	88	38	33	18	88
<b>Weighted N</b>	511	45	103	104	88	34	34	18	86
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Money</b>	137	21	26	42	8	17	5	5	13
	26.7%	46.6%	25.2%	40.2%	9.0%	52.0%	15.5%	25.8%	14.7%
<b>Meal/food</b>	316	24	76	56	41	18	20	12	69
	61.9%	53.3%	73.8%	53.5%	46.6%	54.9%	60.4%	67.2%	79.9%
<b>Accommodation</b>	21	1	4	9	3	0	0	0	4
	4.1%	2.2%	3.9%	8.7%	3.4%	0	0	0	4.5%
<b>Transport</b>	84	5	16	27	16	*	5	3	12
	16.4%	11.1%	15.5%	26.2%	18.2%	1.4%	15.1%	14.8%	13.6%
<b>Other [specify]</b>	48	0	0	4	30	3	7	0	4
	9.5%	0	0	3.9%	34.1%	9.6%	21.2%	0	4.5%

**Table 18:** Barriers to volunteering by all respondents

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	8,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Weighted N</b>	8,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Lack of time</b>	2,442	326	255	235	320	298	277	276	457
	30.5%	32.6%	25.5%	23.5%	32.0%	29.8%	27.7%	27.6%	45.7%
<b>Insufficient information about how to get involved</b>	649	141	85	110	54	49	70	63	77
	8.1%	14.1%	8.5%	11.0%	5.4%	4.9%	7.0%	6.3%	7.7%
<b>No volunteering opportunities match my skills/ interests</b>	439	89	51	80	30	18	58	73	41
	5.5%	8.9%	5.1%	8.0%	3.0%	1.8%	5.8%	7.3%	4.1%
<b>Transportation issues</b>	707	103	68	196	77	62	85	29	89
	8.8%	10.3%	6.8%	19.6%	7.7%	6.2%	8.5%	2.9%	8.9%
<b>Health limitations</b>	543	91	48	83	32	91	60	87	51
	6.8%	9.1%	4.8%	8.3%	3.2%	9.1%	6.0%	8.7%	5.1%
<b>Financial constraints (cannot afford to volunteer without compensation)</b>	2,428	455	297	529	97	296	296	234	226
	30.4%	45.5%	29.7%	52.9%	9.7%	29.6%	29.6%	23.4%	22.6%
<b>Lack of support from work or family</b>	581	86	103	87	35	22	32	149	68
	7.3%	8.6%	10.3%	8.7%	3.5%	2.2%	3.2%	14.9%	6.8%
<b>Poor weather conditions</b>	255	34	36	93	36	8	7	2	39
	3.2%	3.4%	3.6%	9.3%	3.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.2%	3.9%
<b>Negative image of providing support</b>	531	89	118	154	41	11	29	57	32
	6.6%	8.9%	11.8%	15.4%	4.1%	1.1%	2.9%	5.7%	3.2%
<b>Not qualified to support</b>	375	95	11	56	43	74	37	40	20
	4.7%	9.5%	1.1%	5.6%	4.3%	7.4%	3.7%	4.0%	2.0%
<b>Other [specify]</b>	71	4	2	22	10	3	10	1	19
	0.9%	0.4%	0.2%	2.2%	1.0%	0.3%	1.0%	0.1%	1.9%
<b>None</b>	1,831	118	232	87	340	341	290	285	137
	22.9%	11.8%	23.2%	8.7%	34.0%	34.1%	29.0%	28.5%	13.7%
<b>No answer (blank)</b>	26	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0
	0.3%	0	0	0	2.6%	0	0	0	0

**Table 19:** Main motivators for volunteering by all respondents

	Country								
	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Unweighted N</b>	8,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Weighted N</b>	8,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>More flexible volunteering schedules/hours</b>	1,760	147	231	231	220	255	213	309	154
	22.0%	14.7%	23.1%	23.1%	22.0%	25.5%	21.3%	30.9%	15.4%
<b>Opportunities in areas of personal interest or closer to home</b>	1,617	224	157	225	298	154	283	149	127
	20.2%	22.4%	15.7%	22.5%	29.8%	15.4%	28.3%	14.9%	12.7%
<b>Enhanced training and support from the organization</b>	834	291	63	141	52	39	84	24	139
	10.4%	29.1%	6.3%	14.1%	5.2%	3.9%	8.4%	2.4%	13.9%
<b>Better information about available opportunities</b>	958	183	102	170	47	94	194	31	136
	12.0%	18.3%	10.2%	17.0%	4.7%	9.4%	19.4%	3.1%	13.6%
<b>More impactful volunteer assignments</b>	854	128	151	117	44	12	190	122	90
	10.7%	12.8%	15.1%	11.7%	4.4%	1.2%	19.0%	12.2%	9.0%
<b>Financial support, such as stipends or reimbursements</b>	2,835	527	419	584	103	307	376	344	175
	35.4%	52.7%	41.9%	58.4%	10.3%	30.7%	37.6%	34.4%	17.5%
<b>Recognition or rewards for volunteering efforts (e.g., awards, certificates)</b>	673	93	82	154	37	39	83	91	94
	8.4%	9.3%	8.2%	15.4%	3.7%	3.9%	8.3%	9.1%	9.4%

	TOTAL	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Uganda	China	India	Jordan	Iraq	Bolivia
<b>Support from employers (e.g. leave for volunteering)</b>	442	44	78	100	4	75	54	42	45
	5.5%	4.4%	7.8%	10.0%	0.4%	7.5%	5.4%	4.2%	4.5%
<b>Improved communication and feedback from the organization</b>	384	78	35	82	29	25	73	13	50
	4.8%	7.8%	3.5%	8.2%	2.9%	2.5%	7.3%	1.3%	5.0%
<b>Increased access to mutual aid groups</b>	560	118	50	96	33	28	77	40	117
	7.0%	11.8%	5.0%	9.6%	3.3%	2.8%	7.7%	4.0%	11.7%
<b>Other [specify]</b>	201	5	2	8	9	10	89	23	55
	2.5%	0.5%	0.2%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	8.9%	2.3%	5.5%
<b>None</b>	1,173	41	57	50	242	329	114	198	141
	14.7%	4.1%	5.7%	5.0%	24.2%	32.9%	11.4%	19.8%	14.1%
<b>No answer (blank)</b>	26	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0
	0.3%	0	0	0	2.6%	0	0	0	0

# ANNEX III: QUESTIONNAIRE

## Final questionnaire

### Survey section: identification of volunteer workers (VOL)

#### Scripting guidance

- Regular text: indicates text to be read by the interviewer
- *Italics*: indicates interviewer instructions or aids, not to be read out loud
- CAPS: INDICATES RESPONSE CATEGORIES AND FILTERS NOT TO BE READ OUT LOUD
- (Parenthesis): indicates that a choice or a substitution must be made
- [Blue text]: indicates questions that may be included/excluded as per national circumstances
- [Red text within square brackets]: indicates text that must be adapted as per national circumstances
- **Bold text**: indicates question numbers, section headings, skips and other structural items

## Identification of volunteer work (VOL)

**Interviewer read:** Thank you for agreeing to participate. As we begin, it's important to understand that the following questions are about work that people may do without expecting to receive payment or something else in return.

**VOL\_1** In the last 30 days from [DATE] up to [DATE/yesterday],  
did you volunteer or spend any time helping ...

*Read and mark all that apply*

1. Friends, neighbours, strangers? (*excluding help given to members of own family*)

.....

2. Organizations, associations, clubs, institutions

(such as NGOs, religious organizations, sports clubs, schools, online groups, etc.)

.....

3. (The/your) community

.....

4. Nature, wild/street animals (such as dogs, cats, birds, fish, etc.)

.....

5. DID NOT PROVIDE UNPAID HELP

.....

**If VOL\_1=1,2,3,4 continue with VOL\_3, else if VOL\_1=5, continue to VOL\_2a**

**Instructions for interviewer:**

**Interviewer read:** Besides providing unpaid help, people may do something to donate food or other products to people or to organizations, such as charities, NGOs or [religious institutions].

**VOL\_2a** In the last 30 days did you spend any time buying, collecting or distributing donated products or goods?

- YES  
 NO

**VOL\_2b** In the last 30 days did you spend any time preparing products or goods to be donated? (e.g., cooking, cleaning, arranging, packaging, fixing, ironing or something else)

- YES  
 NO

**If VOL\_2a=1 OR VOL\_2b=1 continue to VOL\_3, ELSE Continue with VOL\_5**

**Interviewer read:** Read the question aloud to the respondent and then categorize their responses into the options listed below based on the volunteer activities they mention.

**VOL\_3** In the last 30 days, what kind of help did you provide?  
Please name up to two volunteer activities you engaged in.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiving                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching or tutoring       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community organizing or advocacy               | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare support                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and culture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster relief and emergency response         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports and recreation                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal aid                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technology support                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal welfare             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious activities                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales assistance           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donations without work -> 2nd Activity or VATB |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other [specify]                                |   |

**VOL\_3a** Did you volunteer by attending any meetings in the neighbourhood or area where you live or by contacting a public official to give your opinion in the last 30 days?

- YES  
 NO

## Characteristics of volunteering activities (CVA)

FOR RESPONDENTS OF WORKING AGE ( $\geq N$ ) WHO SELECTED AT LEAST ONE RESPONSE IN VOL\_3

For TOP 2 activities chosen in VOL\_3; ask all questions below. Question to be on LOOP starting with Activity 1.

### Instructions for interviewer:

**Interviewer read:** Now, I would like to ask you some questions about the help you provided in [ACTIVITY] (Interviewers: when speaking about ACTIVITY, reference actual activity respondent mentioned not only how it was categorized).

#### CVA\_1 Whom did you help in this activity?

- Friend, neighbour, stranger
- Organization, association, institution, club, business
- Community
- Nature, street/wild animals
- Family member or relative -> 2nd ACTIVITY or VATB

#### CVA\_3 And how many hours did you spend on [ACTIVITY] in total, in the last 30 days?

**Interviewer Read:** Read the question aloud to the respondent and then categorize their responses into the options listed below based on the volunteer activities they mention. If respondent has challenges estimating the number of hours, probe by asking on a given week how often do you volunteer.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 hour | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 5 hours        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 10 hours    | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 to 15 hours      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 20 hours   | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 to 40 hours      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 41 to 60 hours   | <input type="checkbox"/> 61 to 80 hours      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 81 to 100 hours  | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100 hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know       | <input type="checkbox"/> Refused             |

#### CVA\_4 Was your volunteer work conducted using an Internet-connected device?

**Interviewer Read:** If any part of the volunteer work was done online, select the first option 'online'.

- ONLINE:** all tasks were performed using an Internet-connected device, either entirely online or by receiving assignments online.
- OFFLINE:** all tasks were performed without using an Internet-connected device.

**CVA\_5 What is the main reason why you helped in this activity?**

- Wanted to help (was asked/offered to help) -> **CVA\_6**
- Wanted to learn a profession/trade -> **CVA\_5a**
- Wanted to gain work experience -> **CVA\_5a**
- Required to complete [School/University/College/Course] -> **2nd Activity OR VATB**
- Legal/contractual obligation -> **2nd Activity OR VATB**
- Threatened into doing it -> **2nd Activity OR VATB**
- Social pressure -> **CVA\_6**
- Other (please specify) -> **CVA\_6**

**CVA\_5a Did you do it because someone promised to teach you a profession or to help you gain work experience in a profession?**

- YES -> **2nd Activity or VATB**
- NO

**CVA\_6 Who organized this activity?**

- Respondent's place of work
- Any other organization, association, institution, club, business -> **CVA\_8**
- Community -> **CVA\_9**
- Person helped by the respondent -> **CVA\_9**
- Respondent themselves -> **CVA\_9**
- Other (specify) -> **CVA\_9**

**CVA\_7 Did your employer pay you for the time spent on this activity or give you a bonus [e.g. additional paid leave or paid time off]?**

- YES -> **2nd Activity or VATB**
- NO

**CVA\_8 How would you categorize the organization or group that organized the volunteer activity?**

- Public institutions** (e.g. government agencies, local authorities)
- Informal community group** (e.g. local community groups, neighbourhood initiatives, online community groups)
- Religious institution**
- NGOs**
- Educational institution** (e.g. schools, universities)
- Corporate or business** (if not corporate-sponsored volunteering)
- Other** (specify)

**CVA\_9 Sometimes people who help unpaid receive meals, small gifts or money to cover expenses such as transport, food and accommodation. Did you receive anything?**

- YES
- NO -> 2nd Activity or VATB

**CVA\_10 What did you receive?**

*MARK ALL THAT APPLY*

- Money
- Meal/food
- Accommodation
- Transport
- Other (specify)

**Either continue to CVA\_1 and ask questions about the 2nd activity OR continue to VATB**

## [NEW] Volunteer activity trends and barriers (VATB)

### Instructions for interviewer:

**Interviewer read:** *Now, I am going to ask you a few questions to identify any barriers you may have encountered to volunteering.*

#### VATB\_3 What are the primary problems you face when considering volunteering?

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Lack of time
- Insufficient information about how to get involved
- No volunteering opportunities match my skills/interests
- Transportation issues
- Health limitations
- Financial constraints (cannot afford to volunteer without compensation)
- Lack of support from work or family
- Poor weather conditions
- Negative image of providing support
- Not qualified to support
- Other (please specify)
- None

#### VATB\_4 What would encourage you to volunteer more or continue volunteering in the next year?

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- More flexible volunteering schedules/hours
- Opportunities in areas of personal interest or closer to home
- Enhanced training and support from the organization
- Better information about available opportunities
- More impactful volunteer assignments
- Financial incentives, such as stipends or reimbursements
- Recognition or rewards for volunteering efforts (e.g. awards, certificates)
- Support from employers (e.g. leave for volunteering)
- Improved communication and feedback from the organization
- Increased access to mutual aid groups
- Other (please specify)
- None

**DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**

- 1. Age:** “What is your age?”  
[Open-ended]
- 2. Gender:** “Which gender do you identify as?”
  - Male
  - Female
- 3. Education Level:** “What is the highest level of education you have completed?”
  - No formal education
  - Primary education
  - Lower secondary education (equivalent of US 6-8 grade)
  - Upper secondary education (equivalent of US 9-12 grade)
  - Vocational school
  - Bachelor’s or equivalent
  - Master’s or equivalent
  - Doctorate or equivalent
- 4. Geography (ADM2):** “In which region/state do you currently reside?”  
[Dropdown list of regions/states]
- 5. Urban/rural:** “Do you live in an urban (densely populated areas, extensive infrastructure) or rural area (low population density and small settlements)?”
  - Urban
  - Rural
- 6. Socioeconomic Status (SES):** “Approximately, what is your family’s monthly income?”  
[Appropriate options for country of the survey]
- 7. Employment:** “Which of the following best describes what you are mainly doing at present?”
  - Working for someone else for pay
  - Working in own or family – agricultural activities (farming, animal rearing or fishing)
  - Working in own or family business – non-agricultural activities
  - Taking care of the household or family
  - Studying or training
  - Looking for work
  - Doing unpaid voluntary (community, village, charity) work
  - Retired or pensioner
  - With a long-term illness, injury or disabilities
  - Other (specify)
- 8. Race/ethnicity:** “Which race/ethnicity do you most closely identify with?”  
[Appropriate options for the country of the survey]

# ANNEX IV: IDENTIFICATION OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEERS

## 1. Identification of volunteer work

- An activity is classified as volunteer work if the respondent reached question VOL\_9 (a valid answer was provided) and if more than one hour worked was reported in CVA\_3.
- A respondent may have engaged in one or two volunteer work activities. Therefore, the identification rule was applied to each activity individually.

## 2. Identification of volunteers

- When only one activity reported in VOL\_3: if the activity is classified as volunteer work, then the person is a volunteer.
- When two activities reported in VOL\_3: if at least one activity is classified as volunteer work, then the person is a volunteer.

## 3. Type of volunteer work

Each volunteer work activity (identified at step 1) was classified as:

- **organization-based:** if the answer to CVA\_6 is 1 or 2 or 3
- **direct:** if the answer to CVA\_6 is 4 or 5 or 6
- **Organization-based volunteer work:** volunteering through/for organizations of all kinds (market and non-market units), formal or informal, including self-help, mutual aid or community-based groups of which the volunteer is a member.
- **Direct volunteer work:** volunteering directly (without involving any organization/group) for people who are not members of the volunteer's household or family (such as neighbours, friends, acquaintances, strangers).

## Volunteers by type of volunteer work

Each volunteer (identified at step 2) was classified as having done:

### organization-based volunteer work:

- if they had only one volunteer work activity which was classified as organization-based
- if they had two volunteer work activities and both were classified as organization-based

### direct volunteer work:

- if they had only one volunteer work activity which was classified as direct
- if they had two volunteer work activities and both were classified as direct

### both organization-based and direct volunteer work:

- if they had two volunteer work activities of different types

**Formal/informal sector of volunteer work**

Each volunteer work activity can be classified as being performed in the:

- **formal sector:** if the answer to CVA\_6 is 1 or 2 and the answer to CVA\_8 is 1 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7
- **informal sector:** if the sector was not classified as formal

**1. Volunteers by formal/informal sector of volunteer work**

Each volunteer was classified as having done volunteer work in the:

**formal sector:**

- if they had only one volunteer work activity which was classified as performed in the formal sector
- if they had two volunteer work activities and both were classified as performed in the formal sector

**informal sector:**

- if they had only one volunteer work activity which was classified as performed in the informal sector
- if they had two volunteer work activities and both were classified as performed in the informal sector

**both formal and informal sectors:**

- if they had two volunteer work activities that were classified as performed in different sectors

## ANNEX V: COUNTRY SNAPSHOTS

### **Bolivia country snapshot: volunteering in 2025**

In Bolivia, 36% of respondents reported volunteering in the past 30 days – one of the lowest participation rates among the eight countries surveyed. Despite modest overall engagement, Bolivia stands out for its unique volunteer profile, marked by high rates of online volunteering, advocacy and animal welfare support.

Volunteering in Bolivia is driven by grass-roots efforts, with exactly half of all activities organized by individuals themselves, providing direct help to other individuals. Volunteering through institutions, organizations, community or informal groups accounted for the other half – one of the most balanced splits observed in the study.

The most common volunteer activities included animal welfare (19.7%), community organizing and advocacy (18.1%) and caregiving (18%). Bolivia had the second highest rate of animal-related volunteering after China and was among the top three for civic organizing. Smaller but notable shares also engaged in environmental protection and disaster relief (6%), one of the highest emergency response rates in the study.

Despite its lower overall rate, Bolivia had a meaningful proportion of high-intensity volunteers, with 10% dedicating over 40 hours per month and 51.2% contributing 1–5 hours. It also recorded the highest rate of online volunteering at 24.4%, highlighting the growing role of digital platforms in volunteer engagement.

Volunteers in Bolivia most often support friends, neighbours or strangers (46%) or contributed at the community level (24%), with fewer engaging through formal organizations. Compensation is highest in Bolivia with 21% of all volunteers receiving financial stipends, transportation, food or accommodation.

Barriers to volunteering were primarily a lack of time (45.7%) and financial constraints (22.6%), especially among non-volunteers. While 88.8% of respondents said they volunteered simply to help, Bolivia also had a higher-than-average share of volunteers motivated by practical factors – 6.4% cited gaining work experience and many note material recognition such as food or goods.

The Bolivia sample was demographically balanced, with equal gender representation (50% male, 50% female), strong youth inclusion (27% aged 15–24) and geographic distribution across all nine departments. Urban participation was concentrated in Santa Cruz (18.0%), La Paz (17.1%) and Cochabamba (12.0%), with rural representation highest in Santa Cruz (9.1%) and La Paz (8.4%).

Overall, volunteering in Bolivia reflects a diverse and values-driven landscape rooted in informal action, digital engagement and advocacy. Strengthening participation may depend on increasing the visibility of opportunities, supporting flexible and meaningful roles and reducing time and cost barriers to engagement.

<b>ADMI1</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>Beni</b>	Rural	1.20%	1.00%	0.98%
<b>Beni</b>	Urban	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>Chuquisaca</b>	Rural	4.30%	4.00%	4.14%
<b>Chuquisaca</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	1.98%
<b>Cochabamba</b>	Rural	6.10%	6.00%	6.00%
<b>Cochabamba</b>	Urban	12.00%	12.00%	11.93%
<b>La Paz</b>	Rural	8.40%	9.00%	9.11%
<b>La Paz</b>	Urban	17.10%	17.00%	17.08%
<b>Oruro</b>	Rural	1.80%	2.00%	2.11%
<b>Oruro</b>	Urban	3.00%	3.00%	2.98%
<b>Pando</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	0.98%
<b>Pando</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	0.97%
<b>Potosi</b>	Rural	3.20%	3.00%	2.94%
<b>Potosi</b>	Urban	4.90%	5.00%	5.12%
<b>Santa Cruz</b>	Rural	9.10%	9.00%	8.94%
<b>Santa Cruz</b>	Urban	18.00%	18.00%	17.78%
<b>Tarija</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	0.99%
<b>Tarija</b>	Urban	2.90%	3.00%	2.98%

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>15-24</b>	0.272	27.00%	26.90%
<b>25-34</b>	0.236	23.20%	23.25%
<b>35-44</b>	0.184	18.30%	18.21%
<b>45-54</b>	0.141	13.50%	13.53%
<b>55-64</b>	0.101	9.50%	9.50%
<b>65+</b>	0.066	8.50%	8.60%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>Female</b>	0.49	50.20%	50.03%
<b>Male</b>	0.51	49.80%	49.97%

## China country snapshot: volunteering in 2025

In China, 58% of respondents reported volunteering in the past 30 days – among the highest rates across the eight countries surveyed. This high level of engagement reflects a broad-based culture of civic participation, with distinct trends in caregiving, environmental work and online volunteering.

In China, volunteering was predominantly conducted within the informal sector, with 93% of respondents reporting participation outside of formal institutions – often organizing activities themselves or within their communities.

Caregiving (41%) was the most common volunteer activity, followed by animal welfare (31.3%), community organizing and advocacy (20.3%) and environmental conservation (18.1%). China also reported the highest participation in technology support (3.7%), reflecting a growing digital dimension in civic life.

Most volunteers provided help to friends, neighbours or strangers (60.5%), while 12% volunteered for their broader community and just 2% through formal organizations. The majority of volunteers (50.3%) reported spending 1–5 hours volunteering in the past month, while 8% exceeded 40 hours, demonstrating a mix of light and high-intensity engagement.

China recorded the second highest rate of online volunteering (16.4%), following Bolivia. This points to the increasing relevance of digital platforms in mobilizing civic participation – particularly in urban and tech-enabled communities.

Barriers to volunteering in China were relatively low. While 32% cited lack of time as a constraint, only 10% pointed to financial limitations – far below levels seen in most other countries. Motivations were largely intrinsic: 97.9% said they volunteered out of a desire to help, and less than 1% cited gaining work experience. Approximately 12% of volunteers were compensated financially for their volunteering. This illustrates that financial compensation for volunteering costs played a minimal role in driving participation.

Demographically, the China sample was well-balanced. A majority of volunteers were female (54.8%), and the country had the highest share of older adult volunteers, with 34% of all volunteers aged 55 and above – indicating a strong tradition of service among older citizens.

In sum, the landscape of volunteerism in China is diverse and digitally enabled. Participation spans caregiving, environmental and animal welfare and civic advocacy, with a growing emphasis on flexible, online pathways to engagement. Continued expansion of volunteerism in China could benefit from addressing time constraints and strengthening access to tech-based opportunities that connect volunteers with meaningful causes.

<b>ADMI1</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
East China	Rural	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%
East China	Urban	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%
North China	Rural	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
North China	Urban	8.00%	8.00%	8.01%
Northeast China	Rural	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Northeast China	Urban	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Northwest China	Rural	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Northwest China	Urban	5.00%	5.00%	4.99%
South Central China	Rural	10.00%	10.00%	9.99%
South Central China	Urban	19.00%	19.00%	19.01%
Southwest China	Rural	6.00%	6.00%	5.99%
Southwest China	Urban	9.00%	9.00%	9.02%

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
15-24	13.60%	13.60%	13.61%
25-34	16.80%	16.80%	16.84%
35-44	17.80%	17.80%	17.80%
45-54	18.70%	18.70%	18.69%
55-64	15.90%	15.90%	15.92%
65+	17.20%	17.20%	17.14%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
Female	51.20%	51.20%	51.22%
Male	48.80%	48.80%	48.78%

## Ethiopia country snapshot: volunteering in 2025

In Ethiopia, 52% of respondents reported volunteering in the past 30 days, placing the country in the mid-to-high range among the eight countries surveyed. Volunteering in Ethiopia is deeply embedded in community life, with strong emphasis on caregiving, religious involvement and civic participation – particularly in rural areas.

Volunteering in Ethiopia was primarily conducted in the informal sector (87.9%), with only 12.1% of respondents participating through formal institutions. Most volunteer activity was organized at the individual or community level, reflecting strong informal safety nets and localized support systems.

Caregiving (75.8%) overwhelmingly dominated volunteer activity in Ethiopia, the second highest rate across all countries after Uganda. Religious volunteering (13.7%) and environmental conservation (12.2%) also featured prominently. Participation in community organizing and advocacy was more limited (exact percentage not specified), but civic engagement appeared strong in other ways.

Ethiopian volunteers primarily supported friends, neighbours or strangers (55.7%), with 35.7% helping at the community level – the highest share of community-based volunteering in the study. This reflects the country's strong tradition of mutual aid and group mobilization.

Volunteer time commitments varied. While 44% of respondents reported contributing 1–5 hours over the past 30 days, Ethiopia also had one of the highest proportions of high-intensity volunteers, with 12% spending more than 40 hours volunteering in a month. This suggests a spectrum of involvement, from light-touch to deeply committed service.

Barriers to volunteering in Ethiopia were mostly structural. Financial limitations (over 45%) and transportation challenges (10.3%) were the most frequently cited obstacles, especially in rural areas. Lack of information (14.1%) also emerged as a key barrier, pointing to the need for improved outreach. Still, altruistic motivation was high: 94.7% volunteered because they wanted to help and few cited work-related or social pressure as drivers.

Demographically, the Ethiopia sample was broadly representative, with youth (15–24) making up a large portion of volunteers (39% reported volunteering in this age group, per section 4.1). The gender balance among volunteers was not significantly skewed, although exact percentages are not specified.

Overall, volunteerism in Ethiopia is widespread, communal and anchored in caregiving roles. Expanding participation may require targeted efforts to reduce financial and logistical barriers, particularly in rural areas, while sustaining the strong traditions of mutual aid and religiously motivated service that define the country's volunteer landscape.

<b>ADMI1</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>ADDIS ABABA</b>	Urban	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>AFFAR</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>AFFAR</b>	Urban	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>AMHARA</b>	Rural	21.00%	21.00%	21.00%
<b>AMHARA</b>	Urban	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ</b>	Urban	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>DIRE DAWA</b>	Rural	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>DIRE DAWA</b>	Urban	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>GAMBELA</b>	Rural	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>GAMBELA</b>	Urban	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>HARARI</b>	Rural	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>HARARI</b>	Urban	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>OROMIYA</b>	Rural	29.00%	29.00%	29.00%
<b>OROMIYA</b>	Urban	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
<b>SNNP</b>	Rural	17.00%	17.00%	17.00%
<b>SNNP</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>SOMALI</b>	Rural	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>SOMALI</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>TIGRAY</b>	Rural	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>TIGRAY</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>15-24</b>	37.50%	37.40%	37.40%
<b>25-34</b>	24.50%	24.40%	24.40%
<b>35-44</b>	16.40%	16.40%	16.40%
<b>45-54</b>	10.20%	10.20%	10.20%
<b>55-64</b>	5.70%	5.80%	5.80%
<b>65+</b>	5.80%	5.80%	5.80%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>Female</b>	50.90%	50.90%	50.90%
<b>Male</b>	49.10%	49.10%	49.10%

## India country snapshot: volunteering in 2025

In India, 31% of respondents reported volunteering in the past 30 days – placing the country at the lower end of the spectrum among the eight countries surveyed. Despite this modest participation rate, India showed a strong inclination towards self-organized and practical volunteering, often shaped by youth engagement and healthcare support.

The volunteering landscape in India was dominated by the informal sector (87.9%), with formal sector involvement being reported by 12.1% of respondents.

Top volunteer activities in India include caregiving (52.1%), healthcare support (18.7%) and animal welfare (18.5%). Religious volunteering, while present, is lower than in many other countries. India also had modest engagement in technology and environmental activities.

Most volunteers in India provided support directly to friends, neighbours or strangers (59.3%). Volunteers were generally “light-touch” contributors: 65.4% volunteered for 1–5 hours over the past 30 days, the highest share in that time range across the countries studied.

Online volunteering in India was limited, with only 4.6% of volunteers engaging remotely – well below the average. Most volunteering took place in-person, reinforcing the informal and direct nature of participation in the country.

Barriers to volunteering were primarily time- and access-related. A lack of time (exact percentage not stated) and flexibility were key issues, and 25.5% of respondents said that having a flexible schedule would encourage greater participation. India also had the highest rate of volunteers (2.8%) citing school or educational obligations as a reason for volunteering and a slightly elevated rate of respondents seeking work experience (2.8%).

Motivation remained predominantly altruistic, with 98.3% of Indian volunteers stating that they helped simply because they wanted to or were asked – among the highest levels recorded in the study.

The India sample was broadly representative, with strong youth participation. Some 56.1% of volunteers were male, suggesting a gender imbalance which is likely to be linked to broader disparities in cellular phone access, particularly in rural areas.

Overall, volunteering in India is shaped by youth-led, self-directed engagement, particularly in caregiving and healthcare. Expanding participation may require outreach to underrepresented groups – especially women – and improving the flexibility and visibility of opportunities across diverse communities.

<b>ADMI1</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>	Rural	1.70%	5.00%	5.10%
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>	Urban	2.30%	2.00%	1.79%
<b>ASSAM</b>	Rural	2.40%	2.00%	1.52%
<b>ASSAM</b>	Urban	0.60%	0.50%	0.41%
<b>BIHAR</b>	Rural	7.50%	7.00%	8.08%
<b>BIHAR</b>	Urban	1.60%	1.00%	0.90%
<b>CHHATTISGARH</b>	Rural	2.50%	2.00%	1.81%
<b>CHHATTISGARH</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	0.74%
<b>GUJARAT</b>	Rural	3.50%	3.00%	2.86%
<b>GUJARAT</b>	Urban	2.50%	2.00%	2.02%
<b>HARYANA</b>	Rural	0.90%	1.00%	0.94%
<b>HARYANA</b>	Urban	1.30%	1.00%	1.16%
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>	Rural	0.80%	1.00%	0.98%
<b>JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR</b>	Rural	0.30%	1.00%	1.09%
<b>JHARKHAND</b>	Rural	2.10%	2.00%	2.37%
<b>JHARKHAND</b>	Urban	1.10%	1.00%	1.17%
<b>KARNATAKA</b>	Rural	2.20%	3.00%	2.90%
<b>KARNATAKA</b>	Urban	2.20%	2.00%	2.06%
<b>KERALA</b>	Rural	0.50%	2.00%	1.62%
<b>KERALA</b>	Urban	0.20%	1.00%	0.67%
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>	Rural	4.60%	4.00%	3.76%
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>	Urban	2.50%	2.00%	1.70%
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>	Rural	4.10%	5.00%	4.87%
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>	Urban	4.90%	4.00%	4.55%
<b>NCT OF DELHI</b>	Urban	1.20%	1.00%	1.16%
<b>ODISHA</b>	Rural	3.20%	3.00%	2.58%
<b>ODISHA</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.03%
<b>PUNJAB</b>	Rural	1.40%	2.00%	3.17%
<b>PUNJAB</b>	Urban	1.50%	1.00%	0.92%

<b>ADMI1</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>	Rural	4.80%	4.00%	3.58%
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>	Urban	1.60%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>	Rural	2.30%	3.00%	2.94%
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>	Urban	3.20%	3.00%	3.07%
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>	Rural	13.30%	13.00%	13.19%
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>	Urban	4.80%	4.00%	4.28%
<b>UTTARAKHAND</b>	Rural	0.20%	1.00%	1.01%
<b>UTTARAKHAND</b>	Urban	0.20%	0.50%	0.48%
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>	Rural	5.70%	5.00%	4.79%
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>	Urban	2.30%	2.00%	1.74%

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>15-24</b>	25.00%	23.80%	23.30%
<b>25-34</b>	25.70%	22.20%	21.56%
<b>35-44</b>	22.40%	19.20%	19.24%
<b>45-54</b>	16.50%	14.70%	15.95%
<b>55-64</b>	7.90%	10.70%	12.15%
<b>65+</b>	2.50%	9.40%	7.80%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>Female</b>	35.30%	40.00%	49.49%
<b>Male</b>	64.70%	60.00%	50.51%

## Iraq country snapshot: volunteering in 2025

In Iraq, 39% of respondents reported volunteering in the past 30 days – placing the country in the mid-range of participation across the eight countries surveyed. While the volunteer rate in Iraq was lower than the average for the eight countries, the share of those who helped others only by donating money or goods (without providing services) was 29% – significantly higher than the average (16%).

Some 91.9% of volunteers in the country reported informal sector engagement, with only 8.1% participating in formal, organized structures. Activities were typically self-organized or facilitated by local community members, reflecting the reliance on informal support systems in Iraq.

Caregiving (73%) was the most frequently reported activity. Participation in environmental causes, education or health was limited, although construction-related volunteering was noted in open-ended responses.

Most volunteers in Iraq provided help to friends, neighbours or strangers (65.7%) – the highest proportion of direct individual support in the entire study. About a quarter (25.2%) volunteered at the community level and 5.1% did so through formal organizations.

Time commitment was generally low to moderate: a large share of volunteers contributed 1–5 hours per month (exact percentage not specified), though 9.5% reported volunteering for over 40 hours, indicating the presence of a small but dedicated volunteer base.

Online volunteering remained limited in Iraq, with only 4.2% of respondents engaging in remote or digital activities.

Barriers to volunteering in Iraq were mixed. A lack of time and lack of flexibility (30.9%) were common concerns, especially among younger participants. Financial constraints were not the top barrier, but social factors did play a role: 4.6% of respondents cited social pressure as a reason for volunteering, one of the highest levels recorded. Motivation remained primarily altruistic, with 92.3% saying they volunteered to help.

Demographically, the Iraq sample included strong representation of youth. Men made up 55.5% of all volunteers, reflecting gendered patterns in cellular phone ownership and civic participation. Urban and rural respondents were both represented, though specific regional breakdowns were not detailed in the report.

In summary, volunteering in Iraq is driven by the informal sector, direct service and civic organizing. While time constraints and social expectations pose challenges, a strong culture of helping others persists – especially among young men. Enhancing participation may require addressing gender gaps, expanding access to structured opportunities and increasing the visibility of civic engagement in both urban and rural settings.

<b>ADMI1</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>AL-ANBAR</b>	Rural	2.10%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>AL-ANBAR</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>BABEL</b>	Rural	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>BABEL</b>	Urban	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>BAGHDAD</b>	Rural	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>BAGHDAD</b>	Urban	18.90%	19.00%	19.00%
<b>BASRA</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>BASRA</b>	Urban	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
<b>DIYALA</b>	Rural	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>DIYALA</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>DUHOK</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>DUHOK</b>	Urban	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>ERBIL</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>ERBIL</b>	Urban	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>KARBALA</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>KARBALA</b>	Urban	2.10%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>KIRKUK</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>KIRKUK</b>	Urban	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>MAYSAN</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>MAYSAN</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>MUTHANNA</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>MUTHANNA</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>NINEVEH</b>	Rural	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>NINEVEH</b>	Urban	5.90%	6.00%	6.00%
<b>NAJAF</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>NAJAF</b>	Urban	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>AL-QADISIYYAH</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>AL-QADISIYYAH</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>SALADIN</b>	Rural	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>SALADIN</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>SULAYMANIYAH</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>SULAYMANIYAH</b>	Urban	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>DHI QAR</b>	Rural	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>DHI QAR</b>	Urban	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>WASIT</b>	Rural	0.90%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>WASIT</b>	Urban	2.10%	2.00%	2.00%

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>15-24</b>	33.50%	33.50%	33.50%
<b>25-34</b>	24.00%	24.00%	24.00%
<b>35-44</b>	18.30%	18.30%	18.30%
<b>45-54</b>	12.30%	12.30%	12.30%
<b>55-64</b>	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%
<b>65+</b>	4.90%	4.90%	4.90%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>Female</b>	40.00%	40.00%	49.97%
<b>Male</b>	60.00%	60.00%	50.03%

## Jordan country snapshot: volunteering in 2025

In Jordan, 28% of respondents reported volunteering in the past 30 days – the lowest rate among the eight countries surveyed. Despite this, Jordan showed notable engagement in formal volunteering and civic action, especially among more educated populations and urban dwellers. While the volunteer rate in Jordan was the lowest, the share of those who helped others only by donating money or goods (without providing services) was the highest at 48%, three times higher than the average (16%).

Jordan recorded one of the highest levels of formal sector volunteering, with 17.6% of respondents engaging through an institution, such as an NGO or religious body. Informal sector volunteering still dominated at 82.4%, but a significant share of activities were structured, reflecting the country's strong civil society and NGO presence.

The most common types of volunteer activities included caregiving (33.4%), animal welfare (18.8%) and community organizing and advocacy (10.7%). Jordan also saw moderate participation in environmental conservation (11.6%) and education (11.6%). Open-ended responses revealed additional efforts in water distribution and construction assistance, particularly among male respondents.

Volunteers in Jordan primarily supported friends, neighbours or strangers (46.6%), with 22.5% contributing at the community level and 12.4% through formal organizations. While most volunteers reported short time commitments – 45.2% contributed 1–5 hours – Jordan had one of the highest rates of long-duration volunteering, with 14% spending over 40 hours volunteering in the past month.

Online volunteering was relatively limited, at 7.7%, although higher than in countries such as Iraq and India. Most activities remained in-person and community-focused.

Barriers to volunteering in Jordan were primarily related to time (exact percentage not listed) and flexibility, with 21.3% of respondents saying more flexible scheduling would encourage them to participate more. Jordan also had relatively high mentions of needing training and support as well as recognition – especially among youth.

Volunteer motivations were mostly altruistic: 94.9% said they volunteered simply to help. Material compensation was not a significant driver of engagement, though 11% of respondents reported receiving some form of compensation.

The Jordan sample was diverse and representative. Women and men were equally likely to report volunteering and 48% of volunteers held post-secondary education, among the highest education levels across the sample. This is likely to have contributed to the higher rates of formal, advocacy-based and specialized volunteering observed.

Overall, volunteering in Jordan is shaped by a mix of formal engagement and informal care, with relatively high education levels and structured opportunities. Scaling participation may depend on reducing time barriers, offering flexible pathways and increasing awareness among underserved or rural populations.

<b>ADMI1</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>AJLOUN</b>	Rural	0.60%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>AJLOUN</b>	Urban	1.60%	1.50%	1.47%
<b>AMMAN</b>	Rural	2.60%	2.50%	2.49%
<b>AMMAN</b>	Urban	38.60%	39.00%	38.97%
<b>AQABA</b>	Rural	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>AQABA</b>	Urban	1.40%	1.50%	1.50%
<b>BALQA</b>	Rural	0.90%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>BALQA</b>	Urban	4.10%	4.00%	4.01%
<b>IRBID</b>	Rural	1.90%	1.50%	1.48%
<b>IRBID</b>	Urban	16.80%	17.00%	17.16%
<b>JERASH</b>	Rural	0.50%	0.50%	0.49%
<b>JERASH</b>	Urban	2.10%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>KARAK</b>	Rural	2.00%	2.00%	2.03%
<b>KARAK</b>	Urban	1.60%	1.50%	1.48%
<b>MA'AN</b>	Rural	0.90%	1.00%	1.01%
<b>MA'AN</b>	Urban	1.10%	1.00%	0.98%
<b>MADABA</b>	Rural	0.40%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>MADABA</b>	Urban	1.50%	1.50%	1.49%
<b>MAFRAQ</b>	Rural	1.50%	1.50%	1.49%
<b>MAFRAQ</b>	Urban	4.10%	4.00%	4.02%
<b>TAFIELA</b>	Urban	0.90%	1.00%	0.90%
<b>ZARQA</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>ZARQA</b>	Urban	13.50%	13.50%	13.51%

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>15-24</b>	29.90%	30.70%	30.86%
<b>25-34</b>	23.40%	22.80%	22.69%
<b>35-44</b>	19.30%	19.00%	18.92%
<b>45-54</b>	14.10%	13.90%	13.85%
<b>55-64</b>	7.20%	7.20%	7.16%
<b>65+</b>	6.20%	6.50%	6.53%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>Female</b>	49.50%	49.50%	49.58%
<b>Male</b>	50.60%	50.50%	50.42%

## Nigeria country snapshot: volunteering in 2025

In Nigeria, 77% of respondents reported volunteering in the past 30 days – the highest rate among the eight countries surveyed. This exceptionally high engagement reflects the strong community traditions, widespread informal support networks and deep-rooted religious and civic participation in the country.

Some 87.3% of volunteers in the country engaged through the informal sector, while 12.7% participated in formal sector opportunities. Most activities were self-organized or coordinated at the community level, underscoring the strength of informal and religious structures in everyday life.

The most common form of volunteer activity was caregiving (79.5%), the highest rate recorded across all countries. Nigeria also led in religious volunteering (22.2%) and showed strong participation in community-level support, environmental conservation (16.8%) and teaching/tutoring (13%). These patterns highlight how volunteering is often interwoven with faith-based service, mutual aid and social responsibility.

Volunteers in Nigeria were most likely to support friends, neighbours or strangers (52.7%), with 28.1% volunteering at the community level – the second highest after Ethiopia.

Most Nigerians volunteered for 1–5 hours per month (exact percentage not specified), but a sizeable share (10.3%) reported more than 40 hours of volunteering, indicating a strong commitment among a core segment of participants. Online volunteering was minimal, at 3.8%, reflecting infrastructural and connectivity limitations.

Barriers to volunteering in Nigeria were primarily financial: 41.9% of respondents said financial support would encourage them to volunteer and 11.8% cited negative perceptions of volunteering as a key barrier – one of the highest in the study. Recognition and visibility also emerged as important motivators.

Volunteer motivations in Nigeria were predominantly altruistic: 95.3% said they volunteered because they wanted to help or were asked. However, small shares reported volunteering for work experience (1.5%) or school obligations (2.0%). Compensation was reported by 10%, mostly in the form of food, transportation support or symbolic rewards.

Demographically, the Nigeria sample was balanced across rural and urban areas, with strong youth engagement: 33% of volunteers were aged 15–24. Gender differences were less pronounced than in India or Iraq, although the report does not specify the male-female split.

Overall, volunteering in Nigeria is deeply rooted in communal life and religious service, driven by caregiving and local engagement. While participation is already high, sustaining it may require addressing perceptions, increasing recognition and reducing financial constraints – especially for lower-income or rural volunteers.

<b>ADMI1</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	Rural	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	Urban	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	Rural	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	Urban	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>NORTH WEST</b>	Rural	17.50%	17.50%	17.50%
<b>NORTH WEST</b>	Urban	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%
<b>SOUTH - SOUTH</b>	Rural	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%
<b>SOUTH - SOUTH</b>	Urban	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	Rural	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	Urban	6.90%	7.00%	7.00%
<b>SOUTH WEST</b>	Rural	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>SOUTH WEST</b>	Urban	14.60%	14.50%	14.50%

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>15-24</b>	34.60%	34.70%	34.70%
<b>25-34</b>	26.60%	26.50%	26.50%
<b>35-44</b>	16.90%	16.90%	16.90%
<b>45-54</b>	10.80%	10.80%	10.80%
<b>55-64</b>	5.60%	5.50%	5.50%
<b>65+</b>	5.50%	5.60%	5.60%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>Female</b>	49.00%	49.00%	49.00%
<b>Male</b>	51.00%	51.00%	51.00%

## Uganda country snapshot: volunteering in 2025

In Uganda, 72% of respondents reported volunteering in the past 30 days – the second highest rate among the eight countries surveyed, just behind Nigeria. Volunteering in Uganda is widespread, community-driven and heavily focused on caregiving, reflecting strong informal support systems and active civic life.

Uganda had one of the highest levels of informal sector volunteering (90.6%), with formal sector participation limited to just 9.4%.

Caregiving (79.5%) was the dominant volunteer activity, tying the country with Nigeria for the highest caregiving rate across all countries. Uganda also showed engagement in religious volunteering (5.3%), community organizing and advocacy (6.4%) and education (6.4%), with additional participation in environmental and disaster relief efforts.

Most volunteers supported friends, neighbours or strangers (62.2%), while 30% volunteered at the community level, one of the highest shares in the study.

Volunteer time commitment varied: 45.5% contributed 1–5 hours, while 13% of respondents reported volunteering more than 40 hours in the past month – one of the highest rates of intensive engagement across the countries surveyed.

Online volunteering remained limited in Uganda, with just 5.2% reporting any form of digital engagement. The vast majority of volunteer work took place in-person.

Barriers to volunteering were significant. Financial constraints were cited by over 45% of respondents and 19.6% highlighted transportation challenges, reflecting the rural infrastructure gaps facing many would-be volunteers. Additionally, 11% noted a lack of information and 15.4% pointed to a negative perception of volunteering, one of the highest stigma levels recorded in the study.

Despite these barriers, motivations were strong: 96.7% of respondents volunteered because they wanted to help or were asked. Compensation was relatively common: 13% of respondents reported receiving food, transport support or other material goods.

Demographically, the country's volunteer population was skewed towards young people: 36% of youth aged 15–24 reported volunteering recently. Gender breakdowns were not specified, but high female participation is implied based on broader regional trends.

Overall, the volunteer landscape in Uganda is vibrant and centred on the informal sector and caregiving. High levels of engagement are supported by strong community networks but persistent barriers – especially financial and logistical – must be addressed to ensure more equitable and sustained participation. Increasing recognition, improving access to information and strengthening local infrastructure could further amplify the country's already strong culture of volunteering.

<b>ADM11</b>	<b>Urban/rural</b>	<b>Sample unweighted</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample weighted</b>
<b>ACHOLI</b>	Rural	2.80%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>ACHOLI</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>ANKOLE</b>	Rural	7.10%	7.00%	7.00%
<b>ANKOLE</b>	Urban	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>BUGANDA</b>	Rural	14.80%	15.00%	15.00%
<b>BUGANDA</b>	Urban	7.10%	7.00%	7.00%
<b>BUGISU</b>	Rural	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>BUGISU</b>	Urban	0.90%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>BUKEDI</b>	Rural	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>BUKEDI</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>BUNYORO</b>	Rural	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>BUNYORO</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>BUSOGA</b>	Rural	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
<b>BUSOGA</b>	Urban	1.90%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>KAMPALA</b>	Urban	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>KARAMOJA</b>	Rural	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>KARAMOJA</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>KIGEZI</b>	Rural	3.10%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>KIGEZI</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>LANGO</b>	Rural	5.10%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>LANGO</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>MADI</b>	Rural	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>MADI</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>RWENZORI</b>	Rural	2.20%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>RWENZORI</b>	Urban	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>SEBEI</b>	Rural	1.10%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>SEBEI</b>	Urban	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>TESO</b>	Rural	3.10%	3.00%	3.00%
<b>TESO</b>	Urban	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
<b>TOORO</b>	Rural	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
<b>TOORO</b>	Urban	1.10%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>WEST NILE</b>	Rural	4.90%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>WEST NILE</b>	Urban	0.80%	1.00%	1.00%

Age group	Sample unweighted	Target	Sample weighted
15-24	35.80%	35.70%	35.70%
25-34	24.90%	24.90%	24.90%
35-44	16.30%	16.60%	16.60%
45-54	10.60%	10.60%	10.60%
55-64	6.30%	6.30%	6.30%
65+	6.10%	5.90%	5.90%

Gender	Sample unweighted	Target	Sample weighted
Female	50.70%	51.00%	51.00%
Male	49.30%	49.00%	49.00%



