

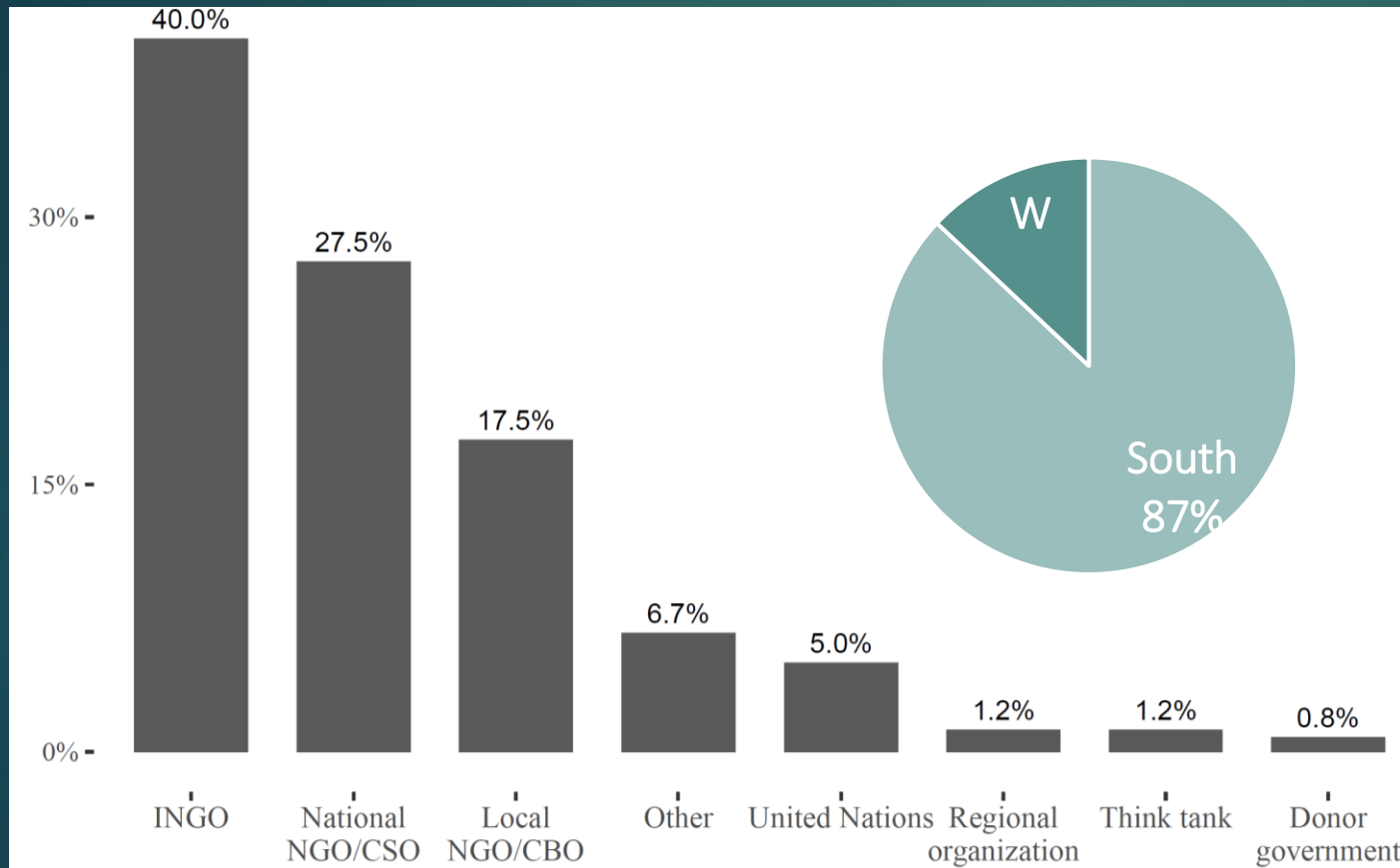
Humanitarian Futures

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Who Took the Survey?



Years worked in the Humanitarian Sector	n	%
10+ years	126	51.6%
5-10 years	51	20.9%
3-4 years	30	12.3%
1-2 years	20	8.2%
Less than 1 year	13	5.3%
I have never worked in the humanitarian sector	4	1.6%

MOST RESPONSES BY:





Two Questions

**Can You Change the
Sector and Your Place In It?**

What is the Future of Humanitarianism?



Can You Change The Sector And Your Place In It?

Can You Change the Sector?



**Respondents
Hope for Change
But Don't Think It
Will Happen And
There Is Little They
Can Do About It.**

Resignation?

Anticipated Power Balance Between Internationals and Locals in 2035?

	n	%
More power in the hands of the international	91	38.1%
More power in the hands of the local	76	31.8%
Much the same	72	30.1%

Why Will the West Continue to Dominate?

	n	%
Will continue to be the primary source of humanitarian financing	118	73.8%
Will refuse to relinquish their control over the major humanitarian institutions	42	26.2%

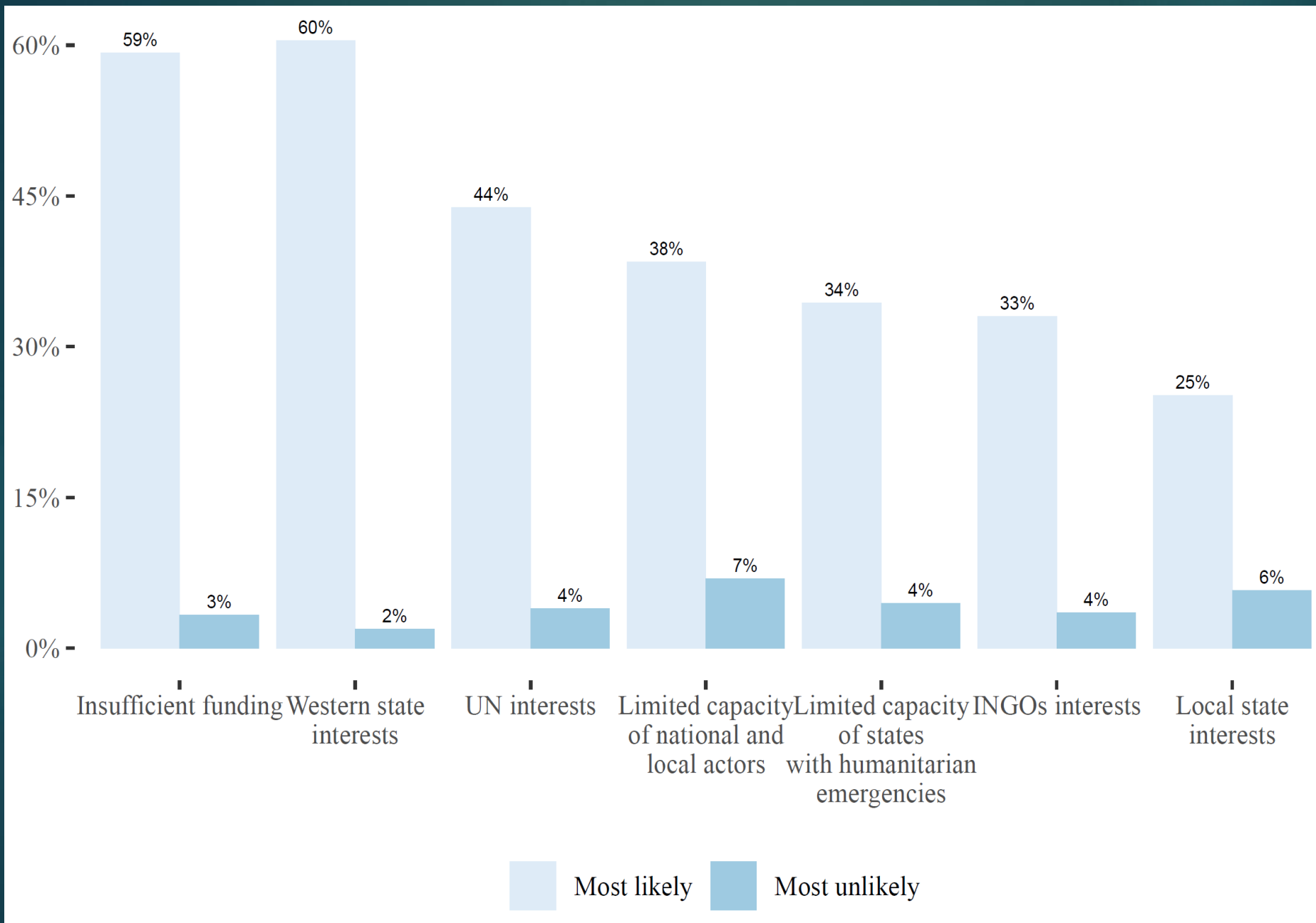
Why Will the Global South Become More Powerful?

	n	%
Local and national agencies will find more ways to wrest control of decision making power from the internationals	28	39.4%
States in the global South will take on a greater role in humanitarian action	23	32.4%
There will be more South-South cooperation	11	15.5%
Because a growing presence of nontraditional actors such as China, India, Brazil, and Turkey working through multilateral institutions will be more sympathetic to supportive of local and national agencies	9	12.7%

What Is Stopping a Shift in Power?

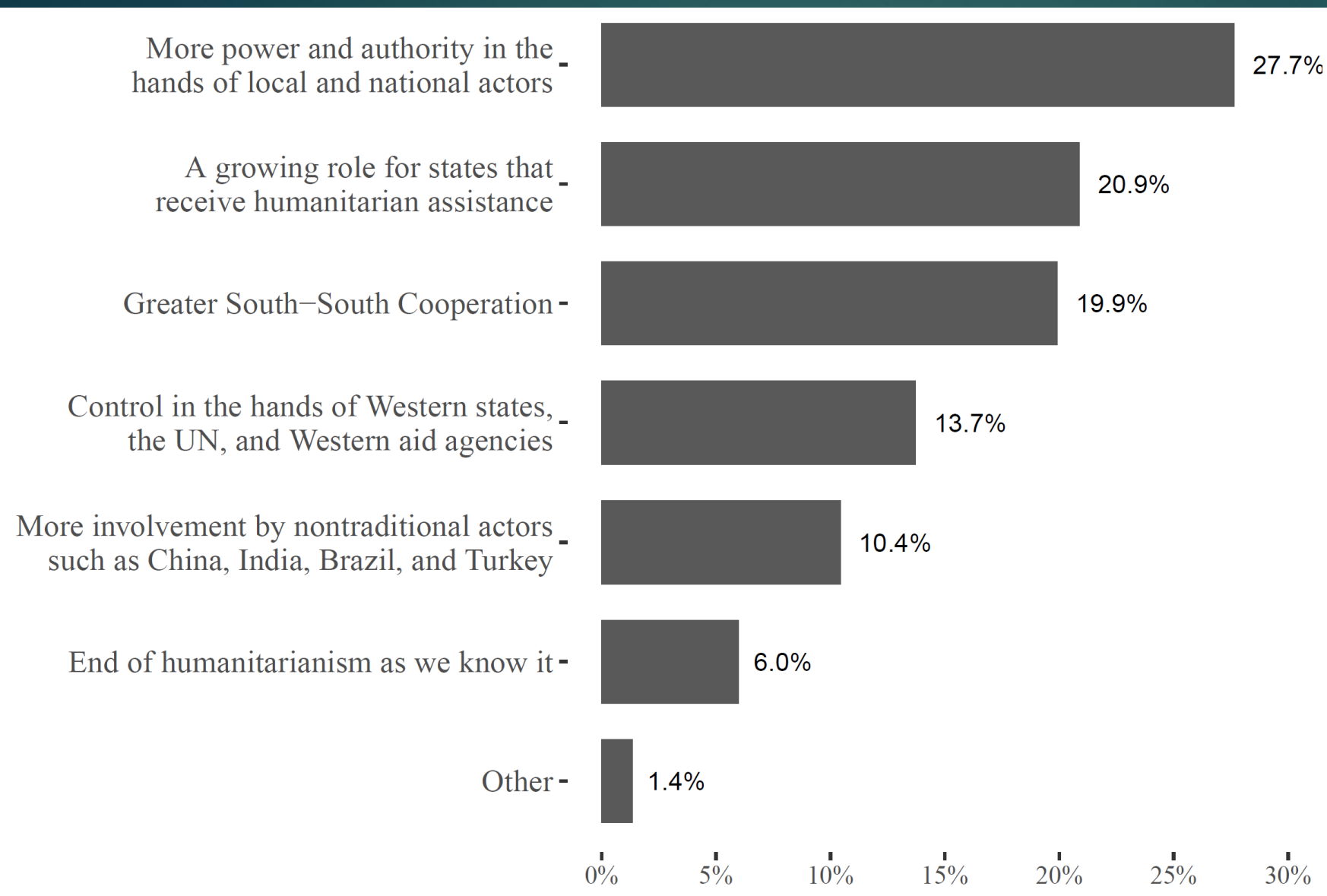
	Major obstacle	Minor obstacle	Not an obstacle
Western donors and agencies are reluctant to provide more direct funding because of fear of fraud, corruption or possible ties to criminal or terrorist organizations	74.6% (167)	21.9% (49)	3.6% (8)
International agencies set unrealistic capacity requirements for local agencies	58.1% (126)	36.4% (79)	5.5% (12)
Local agencies are not part of the key informal networks in the humanitarian sector	47.5% (104)	42.5% (93)	10.0% (22)
International agencies do not believe that southern agencies will uphold the humanitarian principles of impartiality, independence, and neutrality	47.5% (103)	43.8% (95)	8.8% (19)
Many local agencies are not a part of important sector-wide networks such as the CHS Alliance, Sphere, and START	47.5% (103)	45.2% (98)	7.4% (16)
Racism	45.6% (98)	32.1% (69)	22.3% (48)
Local agencies do not have the administrative capacity to effectively provide aid and protection	43.8% (95)	39.2% (85)	17.1% (37)
Western donors claim that their publics want the funds to go to organizations from their countries	40.7% (90)	45.7% (101)	13.6% (30)
Local agencies do not have the necessary credentials and training valued by Western agencies	36.9% (80)	52.5% (114)	10.6% (23)
Language barriers	32.9% (71)	40.3% (87)	26.9% (58)

Why Lack of Change in the Sector?



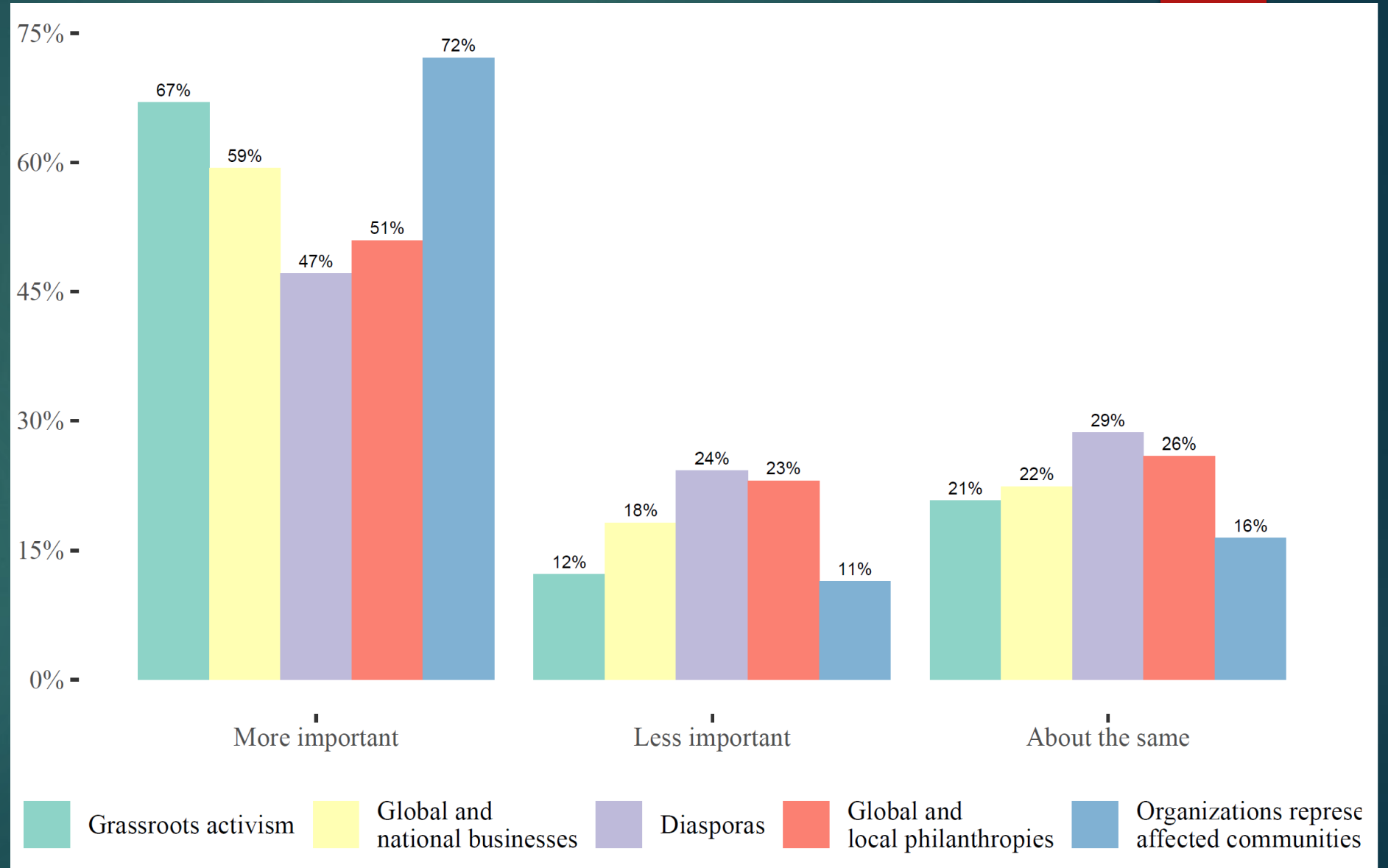
Where Might Change Come From?

	Most likely	Likely	Neutral	Unlikely	Most unlikely
greater demands from the global South	44.1% (94)	38.5% (82)	11.7% (25)	5.2% (11)	0.5% (1)
mobilization of affected communities	42.6% (92)	32.4% (70)	11.6% (25)	10.2% (22)	3.2% (7)
coalition of Western reformers	38.9% (84)	34.3% (74)	14.8% (32)	10.2% (22)	1.9% (4)



**What *Should*
the sector
look like in
2035?**

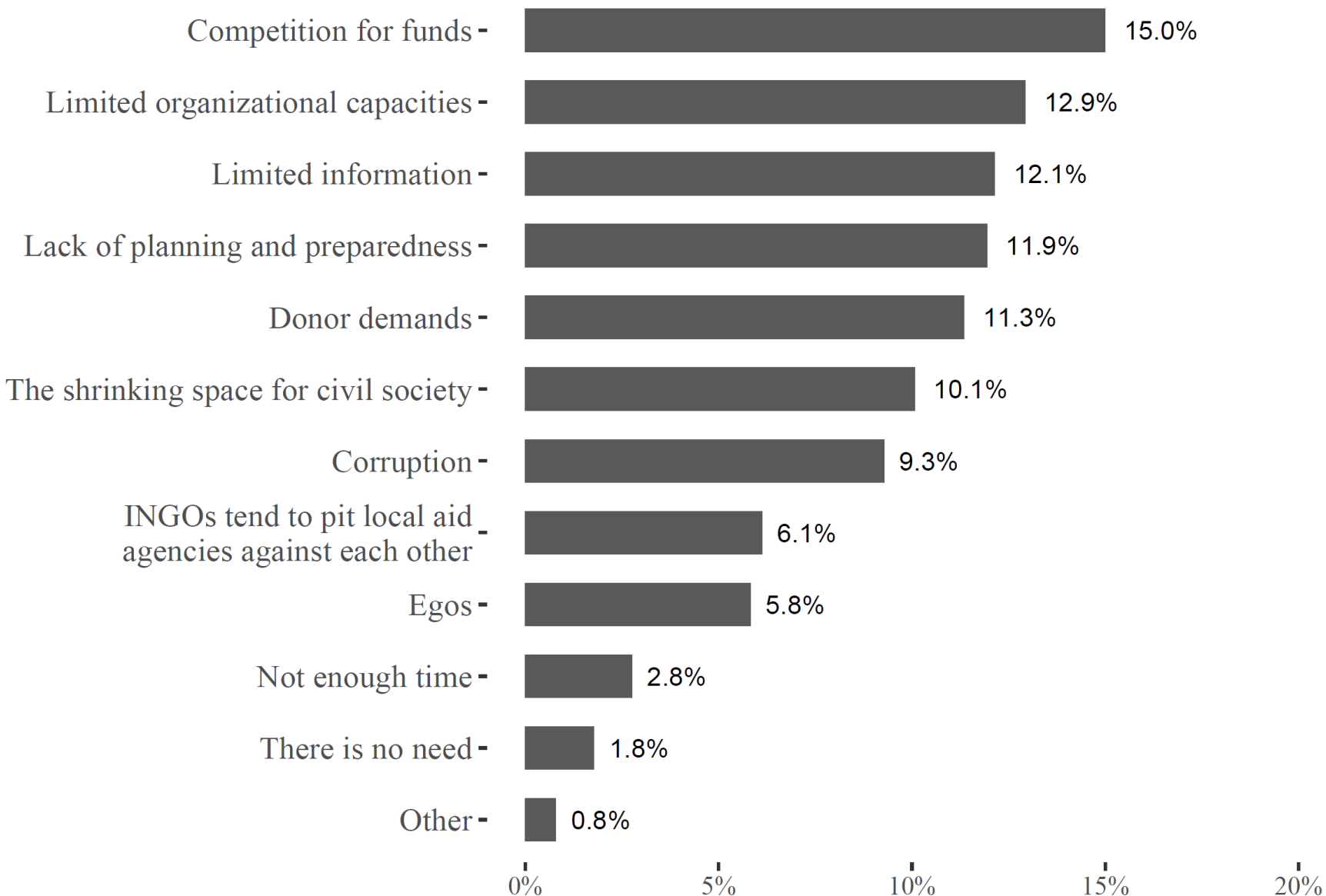
Which Actors Will Play a Greater or Lesser Role in the Next Decade?



If the Sector Remains Controlled by the West, What Should Local and National Agencies Do?

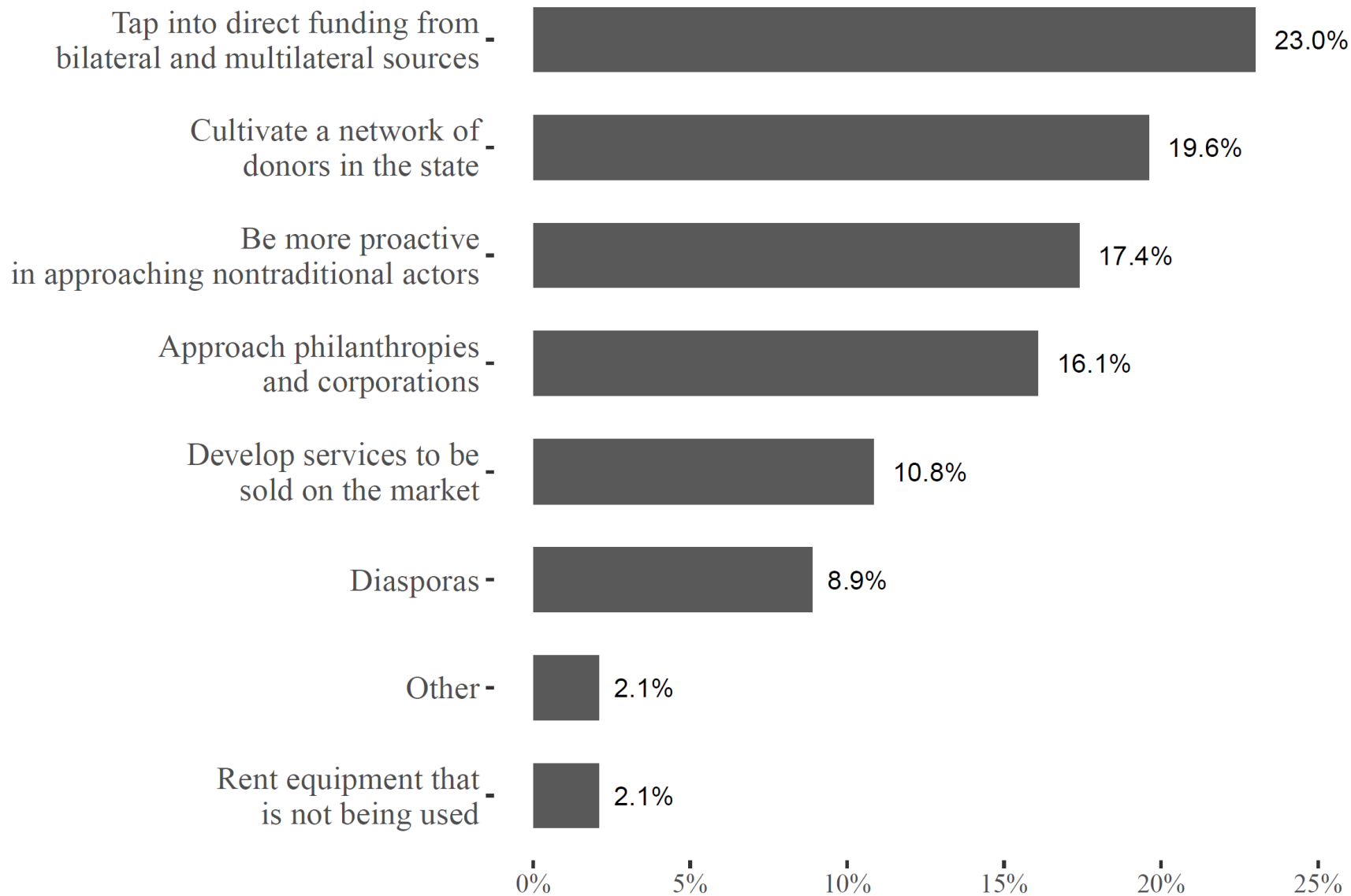
	n	%
Continue to suffer the inequalities	119	50.6%
Detach themselves from the humanitarian sector in favor of more regional and local collaboration	69	29.4%
Ask their states to impose more limits on international actors	38	16.2%
Other	9	3.8%

What Is Stopping Cooperation Among Local and National Agencies?



How Critical is More Independent Funding To Local and National Agencies?

	n	%
Extremely important	123	53.7%
Very important	85	37.1%
Moderately important	19	8.3%
Not at all important	2	0.9%



**How Can
Local and
National
Agencies
Cultivate An
Independent
Source of
Funding?**

Resurrect Longstanding Traditions Weakened or Dismantled by International Actors?

	n	%
Yes	154	72.6%
No	58	27.4%

QUESTIONS FOR BREAKOUT SESSION

GROUP ONE

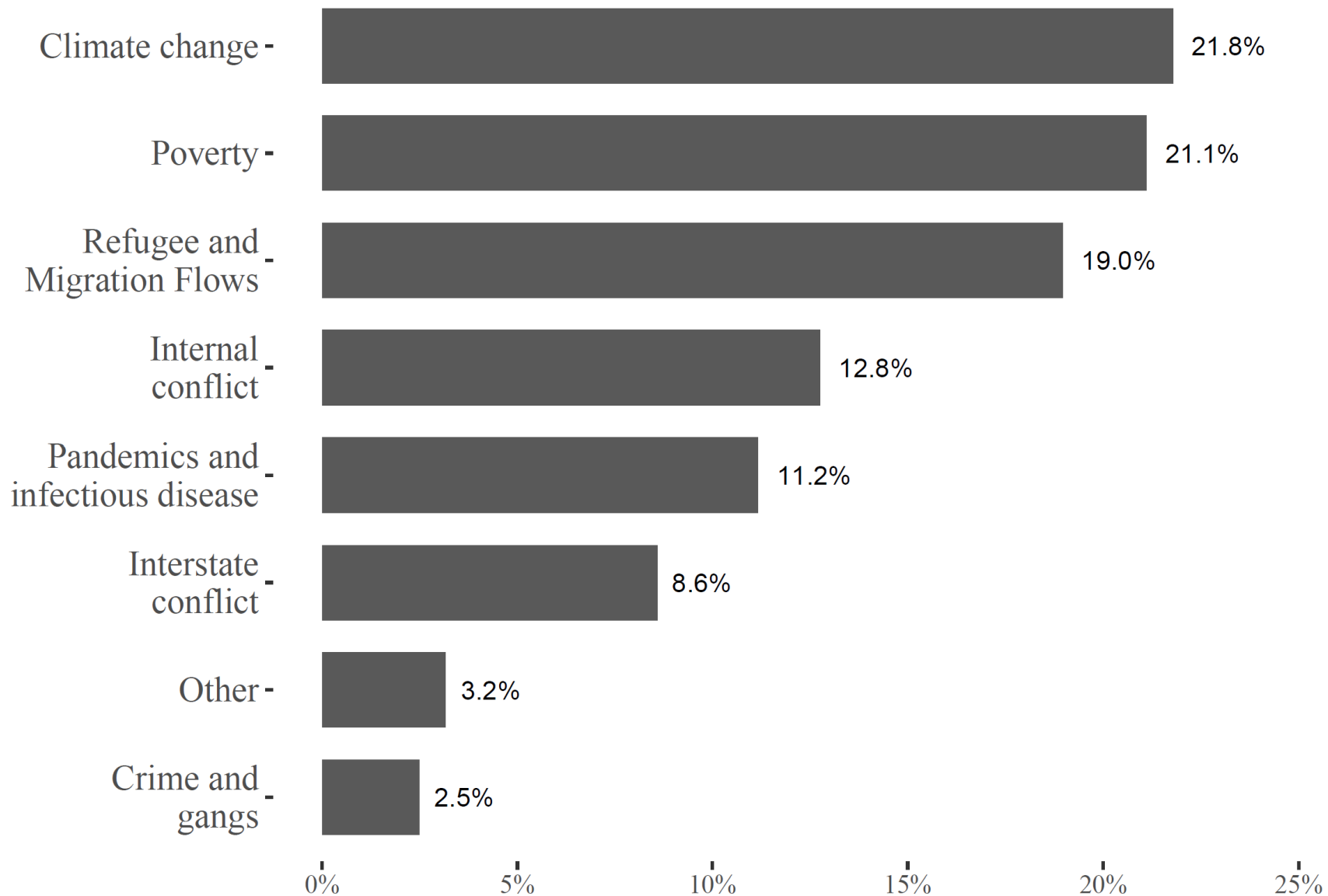
- ▶ Do You Think Change Is Possible? Why or Why Not?
- ▶ Is a Bigger State Presence Good or Bad?

GROUP TWO

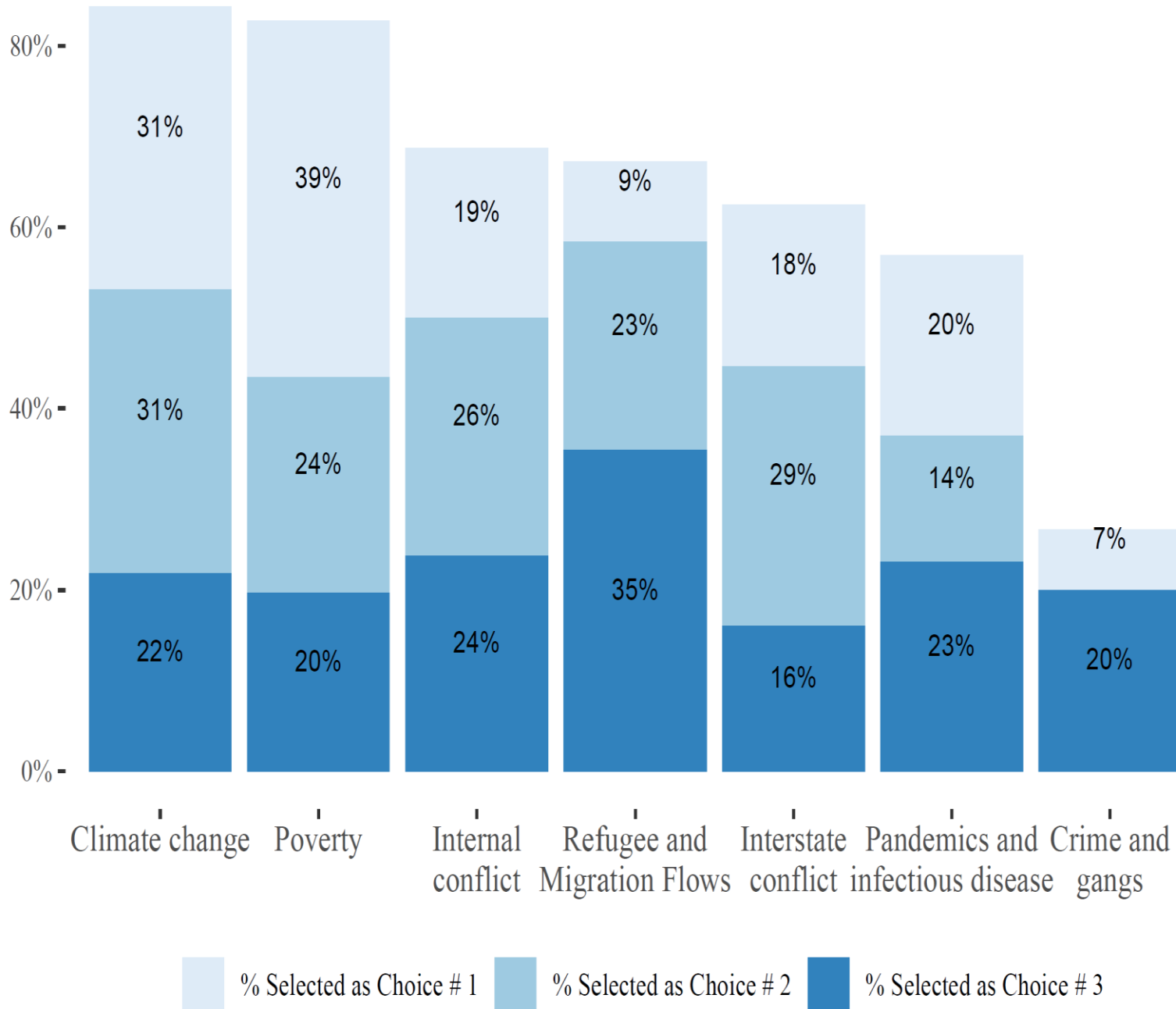
- ▶ What Can **YOU** Do To Empower Your Future?
- ▶ How Can Your Organization Develop an Independent Source of Funding?



WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE FUTURES?



**Primary Trends
Driving a
Greater Need for
Humanitarian
Action**



Most Important Trends

What is Humanitarianism?

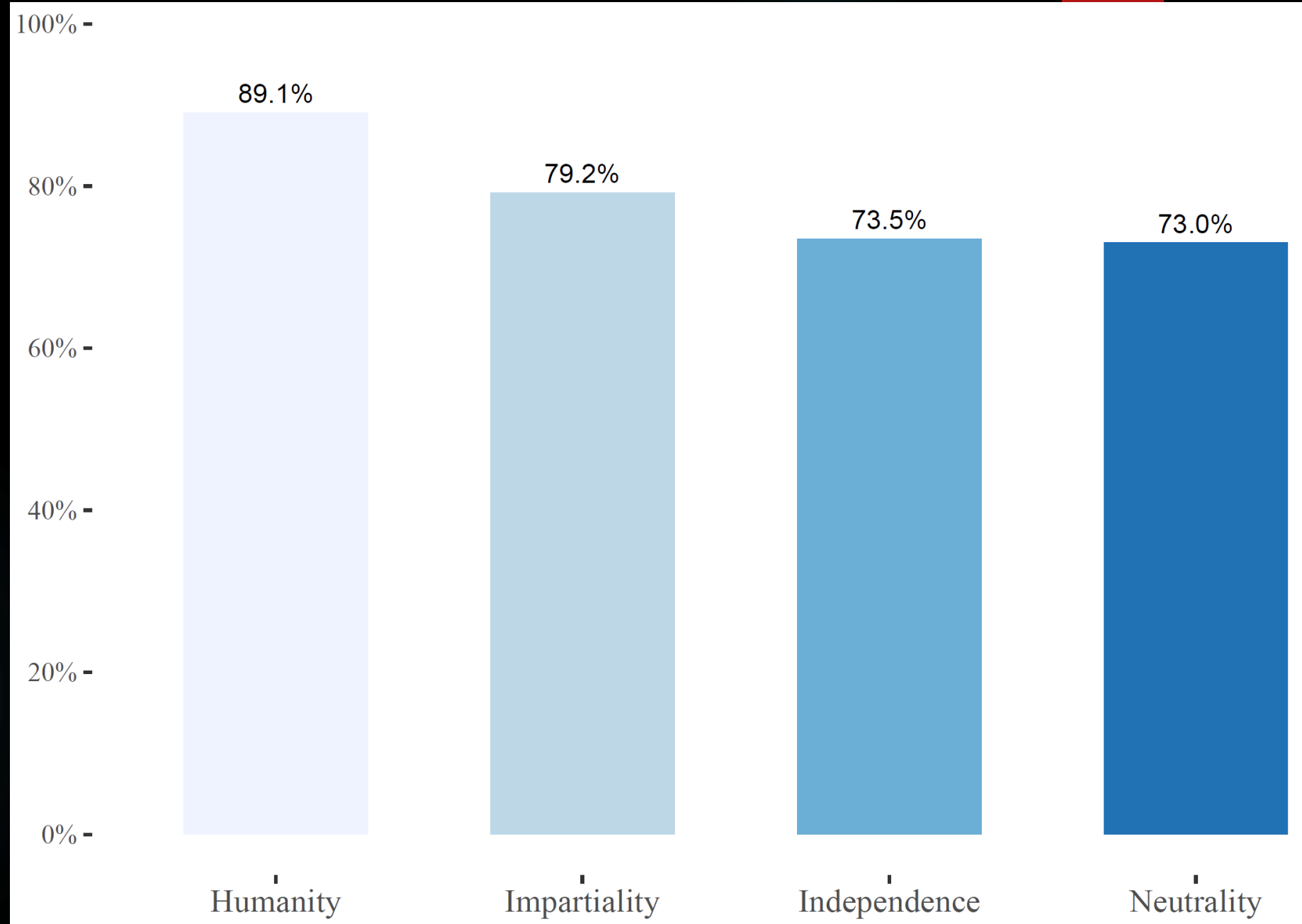
► Should Humanitarianism Go Beyond Emergency Relief?

	n	%
Yes	152	62.8%
No	64	26.4%
I don't know	26	10.7%

► Should Humanitarianism Include:

	n	%
Climate change	193	18.3%
Poverty relief	188	17.8%
Human rights	184	17.4%
Peacebuilding	173	16.4%
Anticipating crises	160	15.1%
Preventing deadly conflict	159	15.0%

**Are the
principles of
humanity,
impartiality,
independence,
and neutrality
still relevant?**



Principles of Humanitarianism

► Which principle most important?

	n	%
Humanity	190	80.2%
Impartiality	22	9.3%
Independence	16	6.8%
Neutrality	9	3.8%

► Which principle least important?

	n	%
Neutrality	87	41.2%
Independence	77	36.5%
Impartiality	35	16.6%
Humanity	12	5.7%

Responses

Humanity

Humanity is a fundamental principle...

It helps us forget our selfish interests...

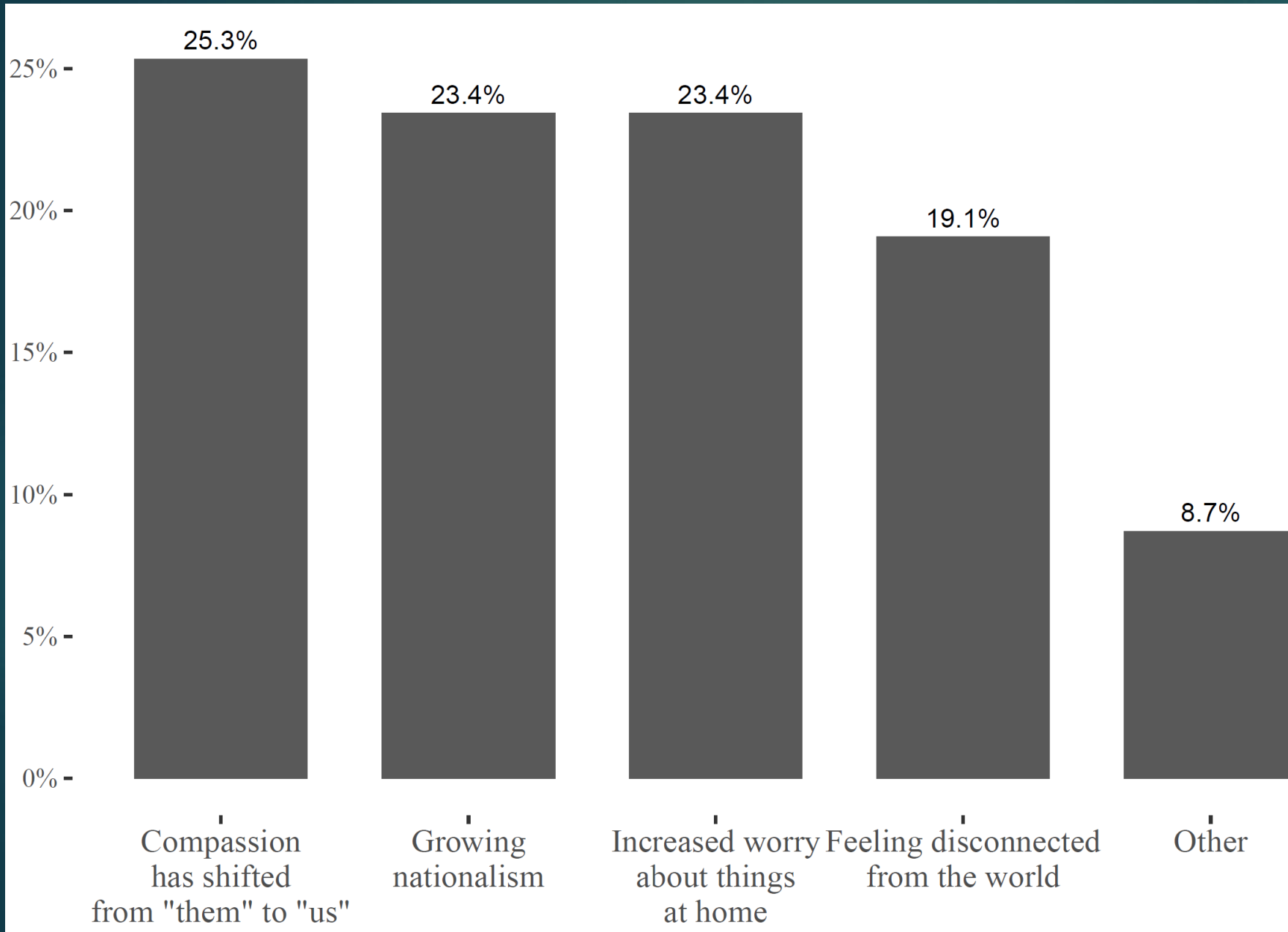
Humanity produces dignity...

Without humanity nothing else happens...

Other Principles

- ▶ Impartiality, independence, and neutrality are an absolute lie. We are paid by governments.
- ▶ It is difficult to be neutral ...
- ▶ Where there are significant inequalities or injustices in society, prioritizing neutrality... may perpetuate or exacerbate those inequalities.
- ▶ When you choose to be neutral... you become complicit.
- ▶ Neutrality is a hoax.





Why Is Compassion in Decline?

Solidarity – African Perspectives



- ▶ 'A sympathetic and imaginative enactment of collaborative measures (deliberate efforts to support) to enhance our given or acquired relatedness so that together we fare well enough.'

Atuire & Hassoun, 2023; Jecker & Atuire, 2021

- ▶ 'Individual and collective commitments to the wellbeing of others who are not members of one's social group, but who are morally deserving of a sense of belonging, recognition and empathy.'

Fayemi, 2021



Principles of Solidarity *

- ▶ Collaboration and cooperation
 - ▶ Inclusiveness
 - ▶ Responsiveness
 - ▶ Moral equality (worth, respect, dignity, ...)
 - ▶ Minimizing harm
 - ▶ Respect for agency (i.e., shared ownership)
 - ▶ Equitable burden-sharing
- ▶ * SOLIDARITY IN GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECT - AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP. University of Ghana: 20–21 November 2023

Concentric Circles of Compassion



QUESTIONS FOR BREAKOUT SESSION

► What Are the Alternatives to a Western-led Humanitarianism?

GROUP ONE

- Should humanitarianism be redefined with a change in purpose and principles?
- What purpose and principles should guide a more 'regional' or 'local' humanitarianism?

GROUP TWO

- What does Solidarity mean to you?
- Does solidarity operate differently in the different circles of compassion?

LET'S TALK!!!

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