



# Saudi Civil Society's Sustainable Development Role

during the

# COVID-19

Pandemic

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2021





# Saudi Civil Society's Sustainable Development Role during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Saudi Civil Society's Role in the Global Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

# Overview of the Saudi Civil Society

**This chapter offers an overview of the Saudi Civil Society. It serves as a baseline for interested readers, decision makers, and employees in the non-profit sector. The chapter documents a number of statistical indices related to giving, voluntarism, and social impact, in addition to the size and characteristics of non-profit organizations. It also sheds light on the nonprofit sector’s economic and developmental roles in creating job opportunities and contributing to the national economy. Notably, the chapter highlights the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the sector.**

<b>Size &amp; Activities</b>	<b>Giving</b>
<b>Workforce</b>	<b>Perceptions</b>
<b>Financials</b>	<b>Impact of Covid-19</b>
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# 1 Size & Activities



The number of registered non-profit organizations has risen in the Kingdom up to

**6,902**  
organizations

with a growth rate of

**166%**

**2,598**  
organizations

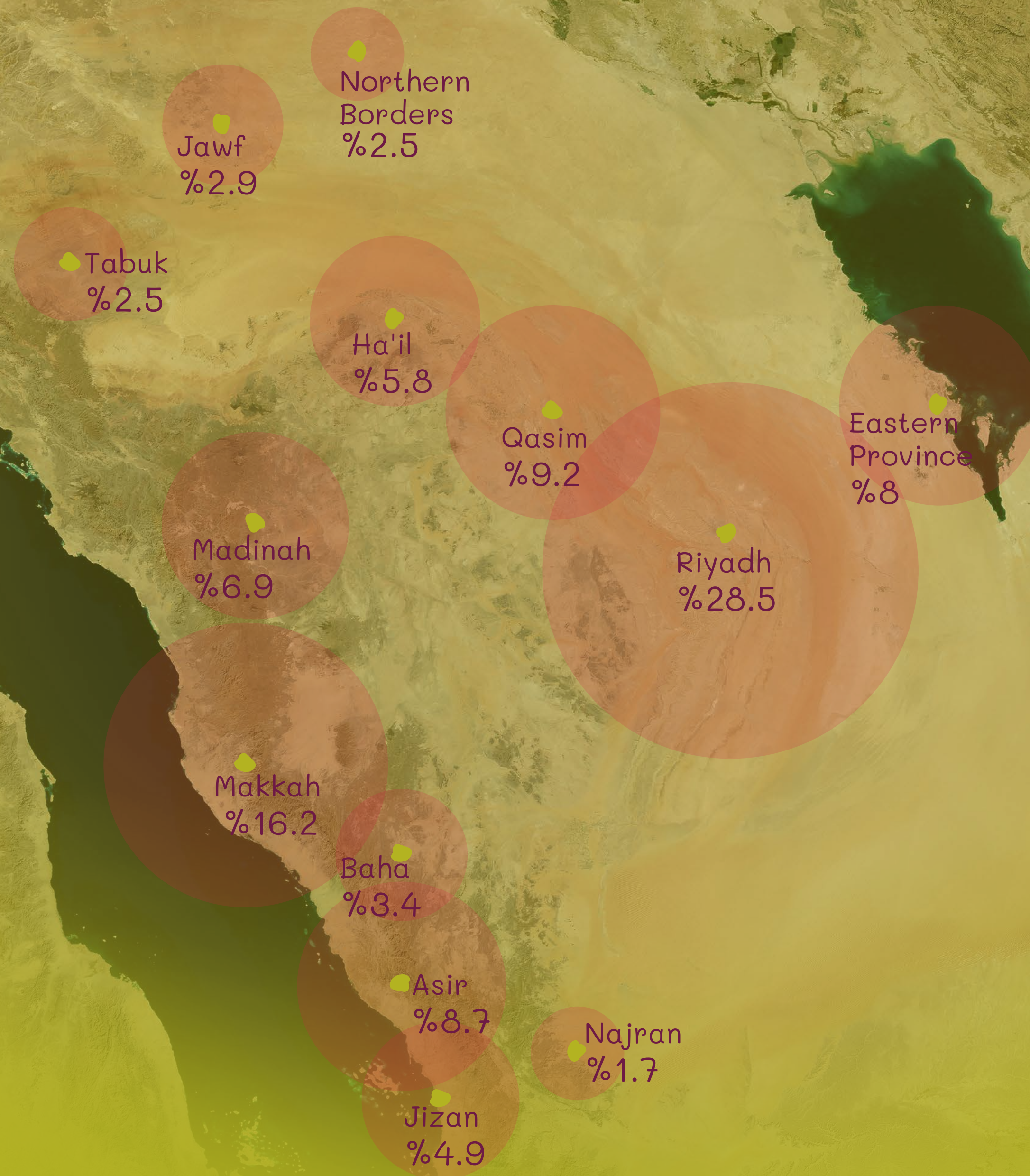


The increase in the number of organizations can be attributed -according to the research team- to the change in methodology in which the new method entails using data provided by the General Authority for Statistics-, the increase in the number of charities and foundations registered with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, and the launch of the General Authority of Endowments to service the registration of Awqaf; in addition to the improved transparency and quality of data available on NPOs from various sources of government data.



# The Sector's Size and Domains

Distribution of charities, local committees and foundations across the regions of the Kingdom 2020





# NPO Sector Size & Activities

Relative distribution of NPOs by activity



Culture & Recreation



2.69%



Education & Research



1.55%



Health



5.45%



Social Services



37.06%



Environment



0.98%



Housing & Development



18.36%



Advocacy



1.76%



Philanthropic Intermediaries & Voluntarism Promotion



6.37%



Religious Organizations



22.84%



Business & Professional Associations & Unions



2.95%

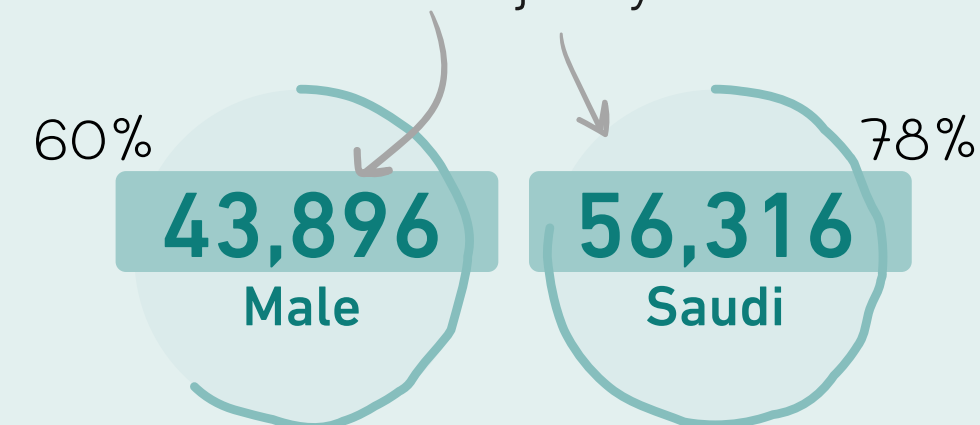
## 2 Workforce

Total number of employees in the Saudi non-profit sector at the end of 2018 reached

# 72,151

Employee

with a majority of



marking the sector's over-achievement of the 2020 National Transformation Program target of 50,000 jobs ahead of schedule.

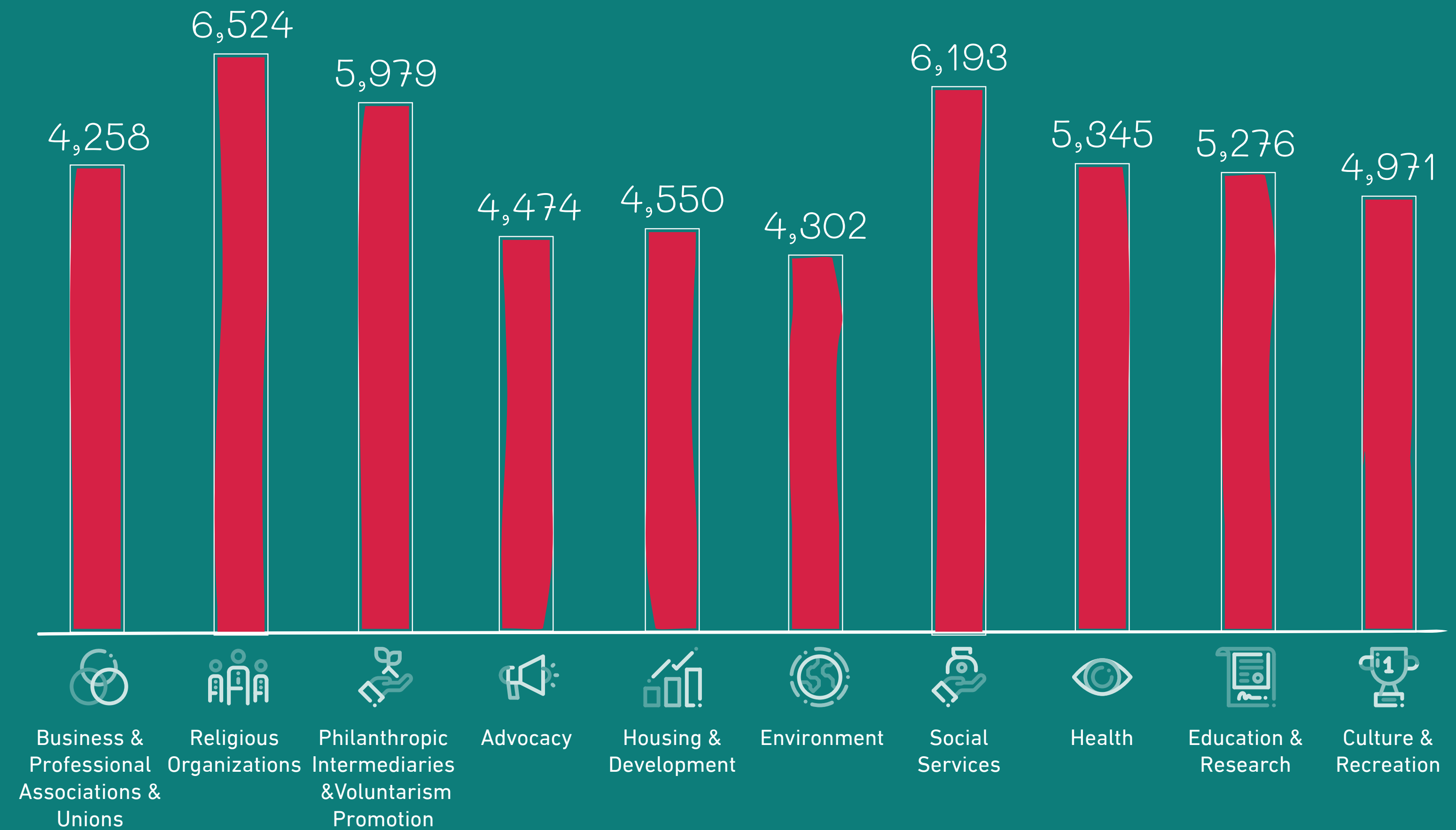
### Total workers in non-profit organizations by gender and nationality

Classification of non-profit organizations	Saudi		Non-Saudi		Combined		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Culture and Recreation	716	447	108	29	824	476	1300
Education & Research	509	338	233	55	742	393	1135
Health	1397	1206	534	174	1931	1380	3311
Social Services	13544	11840	3582	1020	17126	12861	29987
Environment	217	178	123	20	340	198	538
Housing and Development	5337	2978	2835	697	8172	36775	11847
Advocacy	537	359	56	16	593	375	968
Philanthropic Intermediaries &Voluntarism Promotion	2218	1580	955	299	3173	1879	5052
Religious Organizations	6256	5336	3080	1060	10064	6396	16460
Business & Professional Associations & Unions	748	575	183	47	931	622	1553
<b>Combined</b>	<b>31479</b>	<b>24837</b>	<b>12417</b>	<b>3418</b>	<b>43896</b>	<b>28255</b>	<b>72151</b>



## Workforce

Average monthly compensations paid  
to non-profit organizations' workers



## Financials of the Non-Profit Sector

Total estimated revenue for non-profit organizations is more than

**8B SAR**

against expenditures of more than

**7.5B SAR**

The highest revenues and expenditures were in social services with about 3 billion riyals and the lowest on the environment with about 35 million riyals.

### Expenditure and revenue By Classification of Non-Profit Enterprises

Expenditures  
Revenue

Share of activity in the number of non-profit organizations

Classification of Non-Profit Enterprises



Culture & Recreation

108,386

114,508

2.69%



Education & Research

85,576

89,705

1.55%



Health

340,973

362,184

5.45%



Social Services

2,910,032

3,155,099

37.06%



Environment

34,462

36,307

0.98%



Housing & Development

773,382

810,350

18.36%



Advocacy

64,439

86,274

1.76%



Philanthropic Intermediaries & Voluntarism Promotion

993,930

1,067,571

6.37%



Religious Organizations

2,099,829

2,240,626

22.84%



Business & Professional Associations & Unions

108,644

114,201

2.95%

Total expenditures **7,519,654**

Total Revenue **8,058,825**



## Economic Contribution

# 3,900,000,000 SAR

In 2018

Data from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development indicate that the economic contribution of the sector has reached

## 8 Billion SAR

of the Kingdom's GDP in 2018

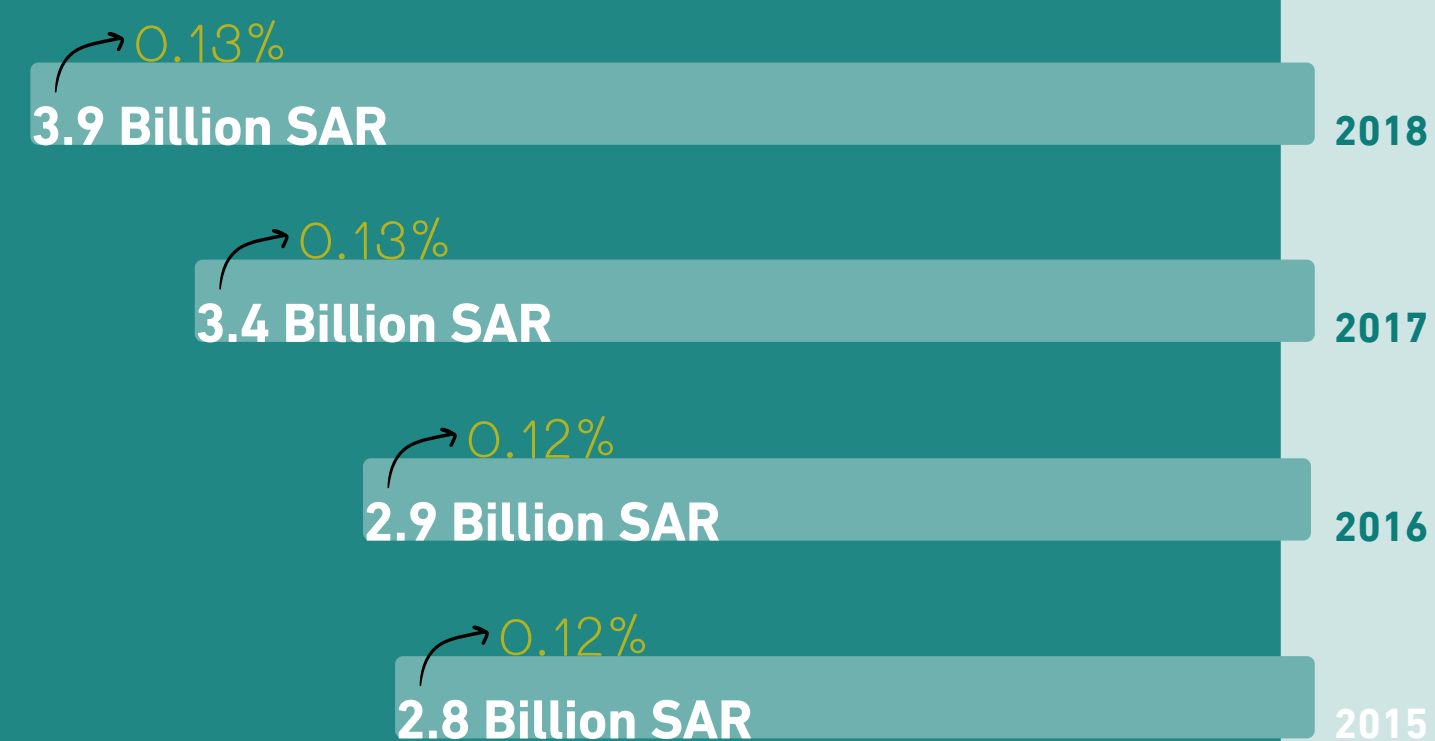
With a growth of 14.4% over the previous year

Which makes up

# 0.13%

of the Kingdom's GDP

Contribution of non-profit organizations to GDP using the (NPISHs) methodology for 2015 - 2018





# Volunteering

The average volunteer working hours for Saudis during 2018 was about

## 53

Annual volunteering hours

Higher by a slight margin in males compared to females over the previous 12 months



## 55

Volunteer hours



## 47

Volunteer hours

## 3,706,100

11.1%  
of the population

**Volunteers from the total population during 2018**



## 2,770,700

Male volunteers

14.4%  
of the male population



## 935,400

Female volunteers

6.6%  
of the female population

While the number of volunteers in Saudi Arabia has exceeded the Vision 2030 goal of reaching 1 million volunteers overall; the largest share of volunteers remains **outside the non-profit sector through individual acts**. Saudis prefer to do voluntary work independently instead of volunteering through a non-profit organization.



Which means we still need to promote volunteering within non-profit organizations to raise it threefold to achieve the goal of Vision 2030.



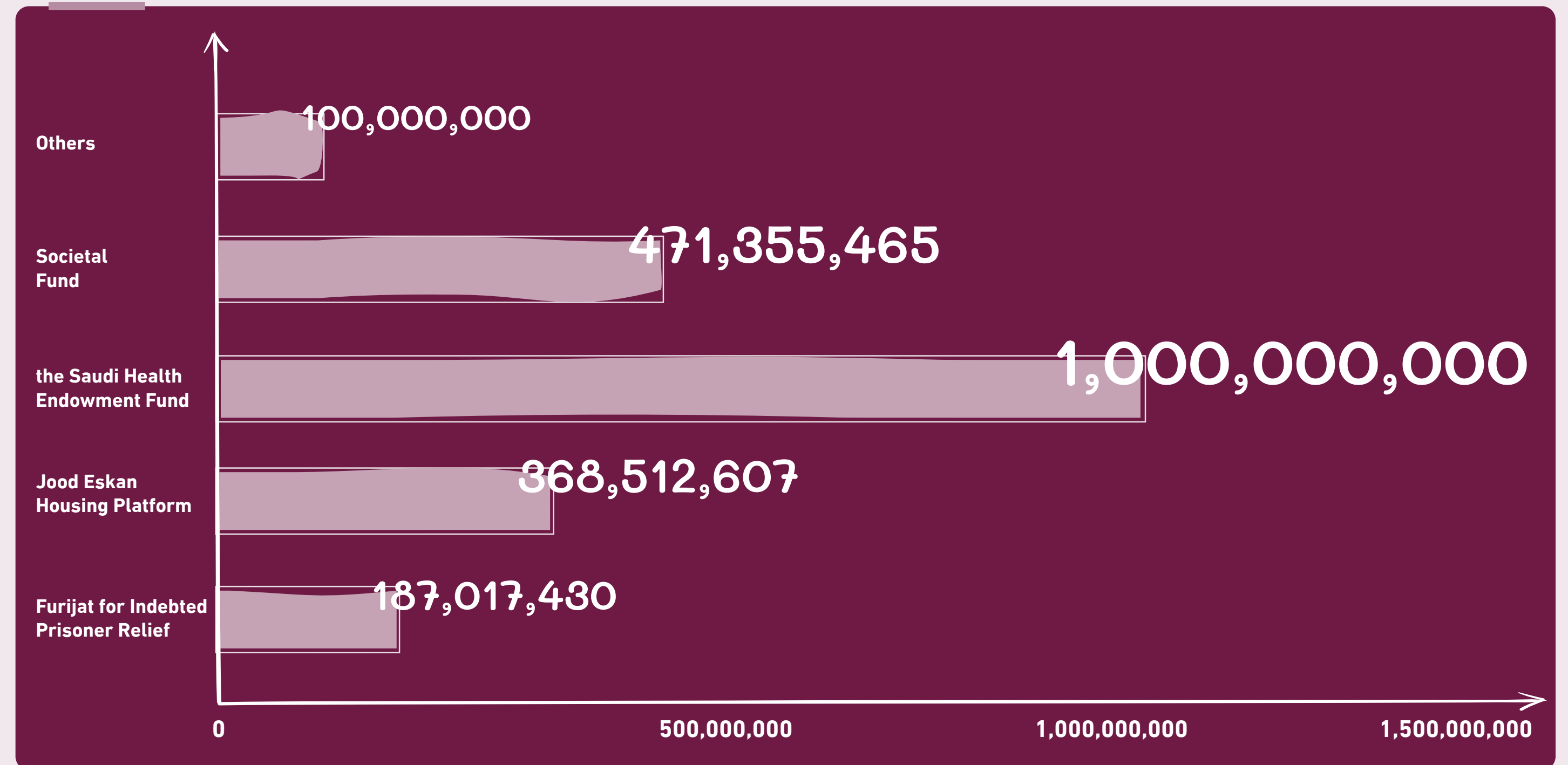
## 6 Giving

Charitable giving is growing amongst married Saudis and those with a university degree and within the age group

**39-30**  
years old

Additionally, the vast majority of Saudis prefer to direct their donations locally (98%) compared to a very small percentage who donate abroad (0.6%)

Donations made in Saudi Riyal to endowment funds and official platforms



## 7 Perceptions

**42%**  
of Saudis

Believe that non-profit organizations are founded for social prestige, while

**53%**  
of Saudis

believe that non-profit entities are better able to reach the right beneficiaries than government agencies.

**72%**  
of Saudis

perceive nonprofits as fully trusted, while

**50%**  
of Saudis

prefer that the work of non-profit actors should be limited to acts of charitable and humanitarian welfare while leaving developmental work to the government.

## Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on NPOs

**A limited number of non-profit organizations have seen their budgets and recruitment increase.**

Most had to pursue plans to reduce their activities, shrink budgets, and furlough staff while adopting telework.

**The following are the main implications:**

31% Budget cuts

30% Reduction in the scope of activities and services (including a reduction in the number of volunteers)

14% Discharge of paid staff (temporary or permanent)

The most shocking results of the questionnaire were that an estimated

**71%**

**of non-profit organizations' believe that their business continuity is at risk and won't be able to operate for more than a year, if the crisis persisted.**

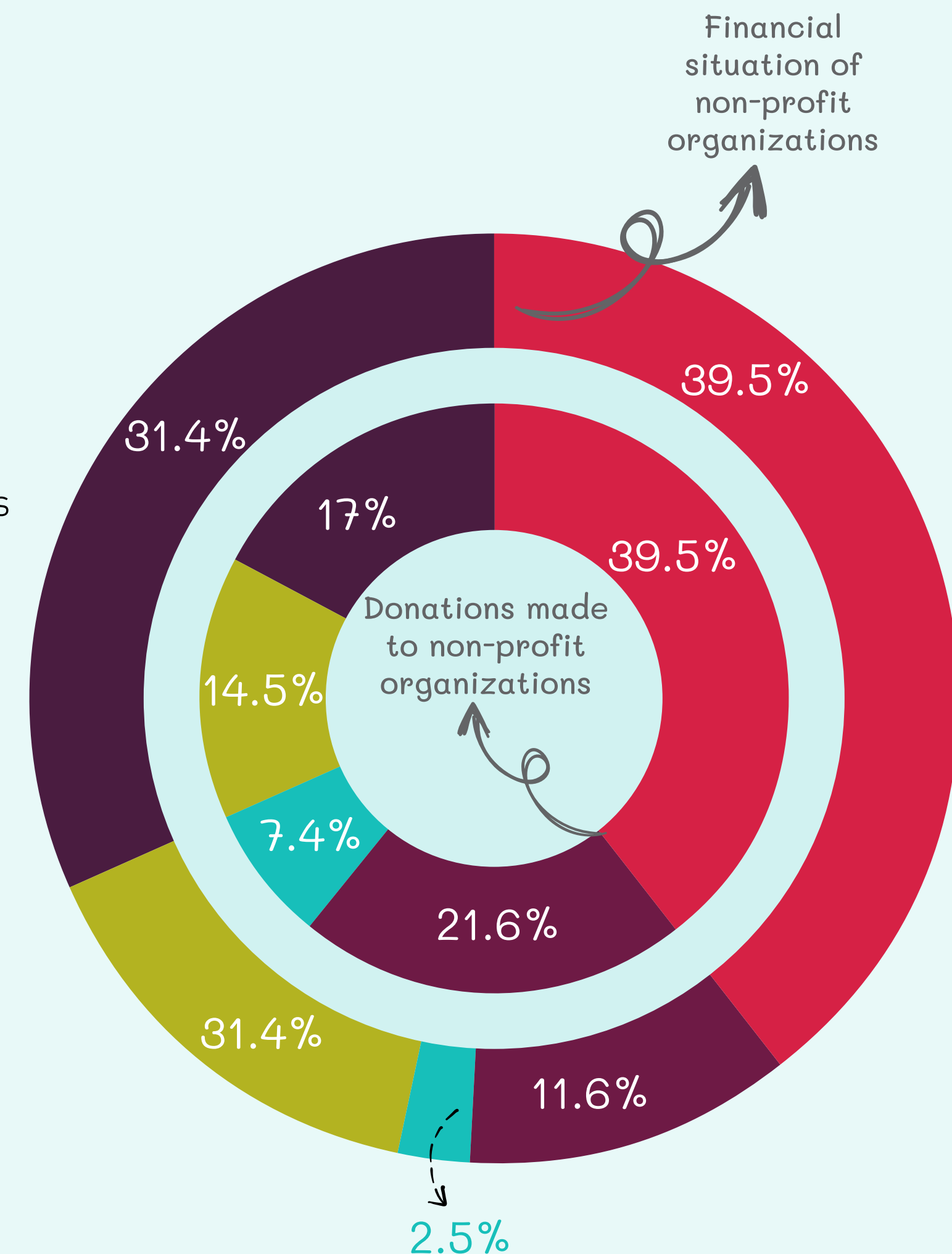
In addition, 62% of organizations disclosed challenges to maintaining operations.

More than

**50%**

of non-governmental organizations saw a decline in their financial situation and contributions.

- Slight increase in donations/financial situation
- Significant increase in donations/financial situation
- No change
- Slight decrease in donations/financial situation
- Significant decrease in donations/financial situation





## Methodology and References

The data we based extensively on the official household and establishment surveys done by the the General Authority for Statistics. The surveys included a sample of:

**6902** & **19,800**  
Non-Profit Organizations Families



In addition, KKF worked on a COVID-19 impact online survey for non-profit organization, that included

**560**  
Civil society charities  
from all over Saudi



The Foundation also based its analysis on some updated documents and data from relevant government agencies:



# Saudi Civil Society's Local Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic & Impact:



Guided by its voluntary spirit, and similar to what civil societies around the world were leading on in every country, the Saudi civil society was instrumental in the local response to the COVID-19 crisis in Saudi Arabia. Just like during numerous past emergencies, local civil society, powered by volunteers, donors, and dedicated staff, rose to the occasion and stood up for its sustainable development role.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

In a true embodiment of the SDG target 17.17 “encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.”, the **Saudi NPO sector worked in tandem with other sectors to help those in need, mobilize resources, and organize community-led acts of solidarity.**

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During the pandemic, NGO workers were not only essential workers, they were frontline responders. A national multi-stakeholder social responsibility taskforce was assembled at the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (with government, private, and nonprofit membership) to connect resources to NGO-led initiatives and projects at the local level across the country. Civil society members of the taskforce were connecting funders to local community-led efforts.

In response to the early signs of economic and social hardship during the lockdown period, local NGOs rushed to adjust their services to meet the urgent needs of their beneficiaries. Health NGOs started home delivery of medical services to patients, remote clinics, and assisting their beneficiaries to access telehealth services. Education NGOs started supplying free laptops for children from vulnerable families to access online learning platforms. Food banks and social service NGOs increased their cash transfers and in-kind aid. Faith-based organizations switched their Ramadan Iftar gatherings to food vouchers for families and immigrant workers in need.

While NGOs were leading local efforts, grant-making foundations were reallocating their resources to meet rising demands. Many foundations eased the requirements of their grants and expedited dispersing those amounts to NGOs. Other foundations increased their grant making capacity to fund operating NGOs. At the King Khalid Foundation, we eased grant requirements, increased grant making, and directed additional finances to national response funds.



Online giving skyrocketed during the pandemic via national donation platforms, with community giving and private sector CSR spending increasing. NGOs were also fundamental in fundraising and executing.

### **A 'Societal Fund'**

was introduced by the government in the early days of the pandemic, which received shortly after **23.9 Million SAR**

of funds from philanthropic foundations. NGOs were essential to the setting up of such a fund. In parallel, the National Health Endowment Fund reached

# **1 Billion SAR**

in funding, with a considerable amount from foundations as well.

Other national funds were also receiving wide community giving, including the Jood Eskin housing aid platform; which finances local NGOs housing projects for beneficiaries across the country. The platform, which later was turned into a philanthropic foundation itself, received a total of

**368.5 Million SAR** of giving.



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Volunteering was another act of solidarity that flourished during, before, and after the pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers signed up to assist NGOs and governmental projects in responding to local needs. Volunteers have been essential in raising public health awareness across cities and online platforms. They continue to serve within communities; reminding people to keep physical distance, wear masks, and maintain hygiene to keep communities safe from the virus. Volunteers also signed up to help at national vaccination centers during the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.



# Saudi Civil Society's Role in the Global Response to the COVID-19 Crisis





Download C20  
Policy Pack

Through hosting the G20 last year, Saudi civil society played an important leading role in bringing global civil society together, through chairing the Civil 20 engagement group.

Speaking at G20 official meetings to represent the demands of civil society and the communities we serve

Influencing G20 outcome documents including the G20 Leaders' Communiqué

Producing the C20 Policy Pack which details C20 positions in response to the G20 agenda of the year

Issuing policy statements and open letters to G20 Ministers around G20 policy discussions

Releasing the C20 Communiqué, which is Civil Society's political declaration to G20 Leaders

# About the Civil 20

C20 activities throughout the G20 presidency year, include:



# Introduction

In a year of global crisis, mistrust, misinformation, and institutional failure, civil society proved yet again its ability to overcome challenges and differences focus on the problems on the ground, to put forth the demands of communities at risk to the G20. Unaware of what this year was going to unravel, the Civil 20 Engagement Group stood ready to face the challenges to arise by organizing itself around the [C20 Principles](#). With a strong and committed membership base and structure, the C20 was able to respond and engage with almost all G20 streams of work, whether on an official or unofficial capacity. In total, the C20 produced this year more than 389 recommendations to the G20 through 13 statements, 11 policy papers, and the C20 Communiqué. As a result of C20 active engagement with G20 working groups and officials (totaling 37 meetings), the C20 was able to influence 3 G20 Ministerial Declarations.

Most notably, 2020's virtual setting along with the intensification of outreach efforts to CSOs globally, the C20 was able to grow its membership to 1500 members and host the largest C20 Summit in the history of the G20 with over 40,000 attendees. Our biggest pride and achievement this year was not the record-setting numbers achieved but in being joined by CSO members from more than 114 countries, including for the first time ever in the C20; the Pacific Islands nations.





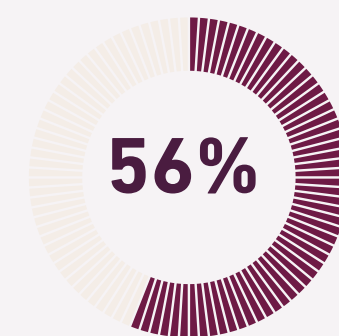
# The Impact of COVID-19 on Civil Society Organizations

The C20 surveyed 100 CSOs from across the world in the month of April, to investigate the impact of the crisis on CSOs operations. The results of the survey helped the C20 develop recommendations to G20 Leaders on improving the conditions for Civil Society Organizations locally and globally. For a full list of our recommendations please check our Local2Global policy brief [here](#).

**This knowledge brief summarizes the major global trends for CSOs during the pandemic:**

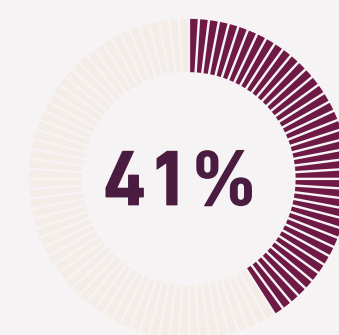
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## Increase in Demand for CSO services



of respondents expressed that they have witnessed an increase in demand for their services.

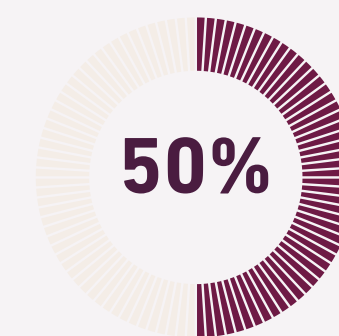
Including



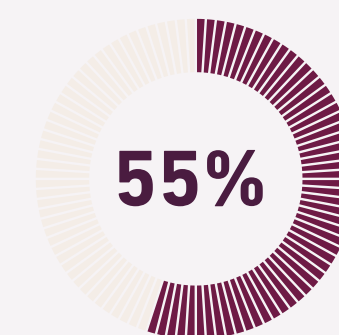
who saw a significant increase.

2

## Lack of Funding



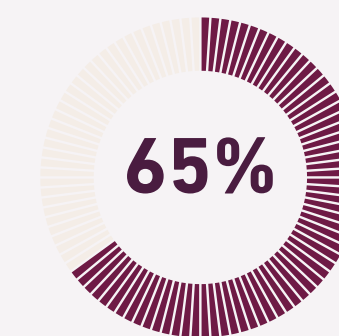
expressed a decrease in funding for their operations, services and activities.



of respondents witnessed significant decrease in charitable giving.

3

## Difficulty with adjusting to working remotely

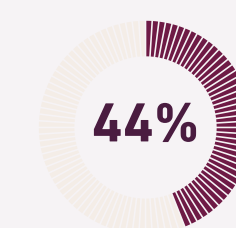


expressed going through a financial, operational or IT-related challenges impeding their work. Many CSOs are facing issues with weak internet connectivity, especially for those operating in the Global South. Many are not able to afford software and tools for teleworking

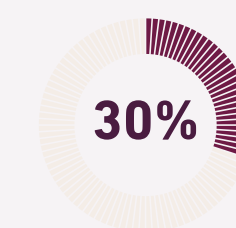
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## Adjusting to survive

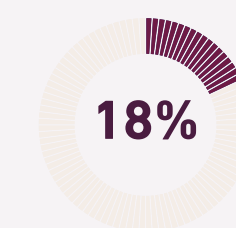
As a coping mechanism, many CSOs have resorted to the following measures for business continuity:



of respondents shared that they have canceled, scaled down or limited their activities and services.



are introducing budget cuts.



are planning on scaling up and expanding their services in response to community needs arising from the crisis.



# C20 Principles in Action





Download C20  
Principles

# C20 Principles in Action

Endorsed in 2019, the C20 Principles provide a guiding framework for C20's structure, composition and activities throughout the year of the G20 presidency. The 2020 C20 Presidency was honored to implement the C20 Principles and bring them into action. Covid-19 pandemic on the sector.

Global  
Character

Transparency

Independence

Collaboration

Human Rights, Gender  
Equality and Women's  
Empowerment

Inclusiveness

Continuity

Predictability



## 1 Global Character

# +1,500

members of civil society organizations from

# 114

countries joined the C20 this year, with strong representation of countries from the global south.

For the

# 1st

time in C20 history, civil society organizations from small island nations and the pacific have participated in the G20 through the C20.

The C20 is the global space for civil society organizations from all over the world - from international NGOs to grassroots local groups - aiming to influence the G20. Any local, regional or international organization (whether from G20 or non-G20 countries) wishing to discuss major issues in the global agenda and wanting to have an impact on the G20 is welcome to participate in the C20. Regional balance should always be ensured.



## Transparency

In 2020 the C20 endorsed at the beginning of the year a detailed action plan and advocacy strategy and published them in full disclosure on the C20 website.

C20 Co-Sherpas reported on the progress of the action plan to the C20 structure on a quarterly basis.

C20 members were consulted on a regular basis on all documents released by the C20 through the C20 online discussion forums, regular working group virtual meetings, steering & advisory committee meetings, and via regular emails.

The C20 secretariat this year did not stop at internal consultations but also sought public consultations through conducting 2 public surveys:

● **In April 2020** launched a global survey to learn about the impact of COVID-19 on CSOs, the results of which were used to feed into the Local2Global policy brief, as well as developing a knowledge brief on the issue to inform different stakeholders.

● **In August 2020** a global survey was launched to seek public input on the C20 Communique and the main messages ordinary people would like to share with G20 Leaders

All preliminary and working drafts of C20 pronouncements or decisions should be circulated widely among participating organizations and opened to comment, and all final documents should be made widely available and accessible. Information regarding C20 leadership, structure, procedures and outputs should always be timely, relevant, up-to-date and accurate. All C20 outputs must be developed through a transparent, inclusive and participatory process, to provide participating CSOs the opportunity to collaborate in drafting policy recommendations, including the cover statement of the C20 Policy Pack.



knowledge brief



## Independence

C20 remained independent and autonomous in its decision-making process, away from government or business influence. All decisions were made internally by the C20 Steering Committee and guided by the advice of the International Advisory Committee.

While welcoming input and open debate, ultimate decision-making and sign-off prerogatives on C20 positions belong to C20 member organizations. The C20 is the exclusive domain of civil society, mandated to carry out its work and develop its policy recommendations autonomously, that is, free from undue influence by any non-civil society actors



## Collaboration

C20 pioneered 3 joint statements during the G20 2020 presidency, including the 1st joint statement of the year by engagement groups on global pandemic preparedness, which was reviewed by G20 Leaders during the extraordinary G20 Virtual Summit in March.

To address issues of common interest, the C20 should cooperate with other engagement groups (such as the L20, T20, B20, W20, Y20 etc.) to enhance the impact of the C20's work.



## Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This remain a constant ask for the C20 this year, emboldened by the work of both the C20 Gender Working Group and the C20 Local2Global Working Group.

The [first statement](#) by the C20 in January was a strong call for G20 countries to respect at home the rule of law and protect human rights at all costs.

The C20 should identify existing inequalities, forms of discrimination and other human rights violations, and strongly request G20 Governments to tackle gender and other inequalities, promoting the empowerment of women and girls, men and boys both at country and global level



## Inclusiveness

Even prior to the outbreak of the pandemic forcing the world to go virtual, the C20 as indicated in the 2020 C20 Action Plan has committed to use virtual channels to allow for greater participation of civil society and to guarantee better engagement with CSOs in the global south.

As a result of holding the C20 Summit virtually, the C20 was able to host the biggest gathering of civil society in the history of the G20

with more than

**40,000** attendees  
from **118** countries

The C20 is a space for meaningful exchange and cross-country collaboration, which does not tolerate any form of discrimination, including on the basis of geographic location, gender, identity, sexual orientation, race, caste, language, age, ability, legal status (e.g., migrant, refugee and statelessness), ideology, religion or political belief.

The C20 will use innovative, cost-efficient and practical approaches, including the use of ICTs (e.g., webcasting, videoconferencing and other online tools) in order to foster greater and more diverse participation of civil society actors, particularly from the global south and marginalized groups.



## Continuity

The voices, demands and experiences of CSOs from previous C20 presidencies were important to maintain and continue during this year's C20. In pursuit of achieving this goal, the C20 Secretariat at the beginning of the year produced an analysis of C20 previous asks and recommendations to the G20 in comparison with this year's G20 priorities. Gaps were identified and further discussion by working group leads during the January Kick-off Meetings in Riyadh.

C20 Co-Sherpas worked in-tandem with Working Group Leads during the drafting of C20 recommendations in the 2020 C20 Policy Pack to make sure that previous unmet C20 recommendations are still reflected in this year's rendition.

Although the overall themes and priorities of the C20 may vary from year to year, all C20 processes should be guided by the aim of reflecting the perspective and experience of civil society across a diverse range of topics, including those which civil society wants the G20 to address but are not currently on the G20 agenda. For that to happen, each C20 process should always build on its predecessors and ensure that the voices and experience from different parts of the world are taken into account.



Download the  
C20-G20 Gap Analysis



## Predictability

2020 C20 Action Plan and timelines were all endorsed at the beginning of the year during the January Kick-off Meetings and published on the C20 website.

In order to contribute to the transparency of the C20, it is crucial to have clear schedules and processes in place that outline a step-by-step approach for every deliverable/product that will be produced for publication on behalf of the C20. These processes must be communicated in advance, as early as possible, with clear deadlines for each milestone of that process. Ideally those processes will include drafting, review, and interaction stages (conference calls, or in-person meetings).

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jan 12 C20 Kick-Off Meetings		Mar 22-24 FtF Meetings							Oct 6-9 Summit	Nov 21 -22 Saudi & Italy Handover	





# C20 Participation in G20 Meetings



# C20 Engagement with G20 Officials

During the Saudi C20 Presidency, the C20 was able to get access to, present at, and attend a record number of G20 official meetings.

The C20 presented at

**3** G20 Ministerial Meetings **& 8** Working Group Meetings,

both in-person and virtually throughout the year.

The C20 also invested more in building access and relationship with the G20 Finance Track and other historically-closed tracks to engagement groups by conducting

**26** bilateral meetings **12**

with G20 officials, while providing written feedback on

G20 draft outcome documents.





## C20 access to G20 Meetings:

### **G20 SHERPA** Meetings

### **C20 Chair** **participated**

in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sherpa Meeting

### **G20 MINISTERIAL** Meetings

### **C20 Chair** **participated**

- in the G20 Extraordinary Digital Economy Ministerial
- in the G20 Labor & Employment Ministerial
- in the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial





# C20 access to G20 Meetings: G20 WG Meetings

## C20 Participated in the following G20 official meetings

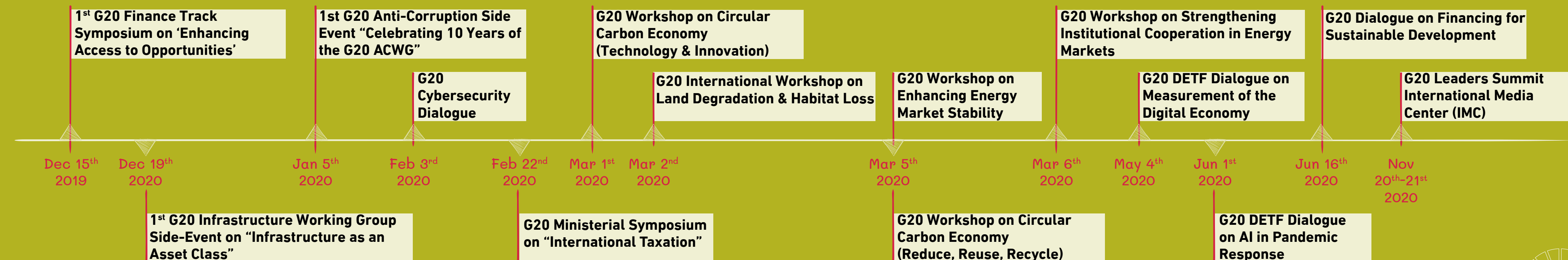
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Education** Working Group Meeting
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Development** Working Group Meeting
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Health** Working Group Meeting
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Employment** Working Group Meeting
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Anti-Corruption** Working Group Meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Digital Economy** Taskforce Meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Development** Working Group Meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Anti-Corruption** Working Group Meeting

## C20 has conducted 23 Bilateral Meetings

Bilateral meetings are held to collect more information on G20 agendas and topics under discussion. During those meetings, the C20 participants attempt to familiarize G20 officials with the C20 work and advocate for G20 reform.

- G20 ACWG:** 5
- G20 Environment WG:** 2
- G20 Climate Stewardship WG:** 1
- G20 Digital Economy Taskforce:** 5
- G20 Education WG:** 3
- G20 Employment WG:** 2
- G20 Health WG:** 2
- G20 Infrastructure WG:** 3
- G20 International Financial Architecture:** 3
- G20 Trade & Investment WG:** 1

## C20 has attended 13 G20 Side Events:







# C20 Outcome Documents





# C20 Outcome Documents

During the Saudi C20 Presidency, the C20 produced 24 different policy papers and statements with

389

G20-relevant policy recommendations

addressed to both the G20 Finance and Sherpa Tracks.

All outcome documents were shared ahead of key G20 key meetings with the relevant ministers and chairs of the working groups from the G20 Presidency, their counterparts from other G20 and guest countries, as well as relevant international organizations.

In parallel to direct advocacy, C20 social media accounts launched wide-ranging coverage of each outcome document when released.

## C20 Document And # of Recommendations

12	C20 Kick-off Communique	4	C20 Follow-Up Statement on the Outcomes of the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit	8	C20 Eight Proposed Recommendations for Effective G20 Agenda on Finance and Health
3	C20 Statement on Defending Civic Spaces	5	Open Letter to G20 Health Ministers in April on COVID-19 Response	28	Joint Statement with EGs on G20 Global Pandemic Preparedness Attending to Access to Education & Employment
15	Joint Statement with EGs on Global Pandemic Preparedness	12	Open Letter to G20 Employment Ministers	7	C20 Statement to the G20 Joint Meeting of Ministers of Finance & Health
7	C20 Urgent Statement to the G20 Virtual Summit	12	C20 Communique	20	Joint Statement with the L20: Action Needed for Debt Sustainability in Developing Countries
256	C20 Policy Pack (inclusive of 11 Policy Papers in Two Sherpa and Finance Track Compendiums)				



# 2020 C20 Inaugural Communiqué

On  
Jan 14<sup>th</sup>

The C20 issued its [first communiqué](#), in commemoration of its Kick-Off Meetings, calling on the international community to address the threats to peace and stability. It also called on governments to resolve the many crises affecting people both internationally and locally, including the climate emergency, threats to human rights, gender inequality, limits to freedom of expression, shrinking of civic spaces, economic inequality, and financial instability. The communiqué endorsed an inclusive and transparent roadmap for 2020 to ensure civil society's voice is heard in G20 process as set forth in the C20 Advocacy Strategy and C20 Action Plan.





# C20 Joint Statements

## Joint Statement with B20, L20, T20, W20, and Y20 on Global Pandemic Preparedness

On  
Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>

The C20-initiated Joint Statement was released, as the first joint statement of the presidency year, with the widest record endorsement by the majority of official Engagement Groups. The statement called on G20 leaders to fully prioritize building resilient health systems, supporting needs-driven research & development, as well as leading with an evidence-based, gender-sensitive response that adheres to the principles of affordability, equity, and accessibility.



## Joint Statement with B20, L20, W20, and Y20 on G20 Global Pandemic Preparedness Attending to Access to Education & Employment

On  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup>

The C20-initiated Joint Statement was released to shed light on the necessity of not leaving access to education and employment services behind during the pandemic response and recovery planning phases. The statement called on G20 leaders to provide social protection for all, foster global citizens with future skills for future work, and harness technology for human need.



## Joint Statement with the L20: Action Needed for Debt Sustainability in Developing Countries

On  
Oct 9<sup>th</sup>

The C20-initiated Joint Statement was released ahead of the 4th G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting. The statement called on G20 leaders to widen participation in DSSI, shift attention to solvency risks, agree on a global arrangement for sovereign debt restructuring, provide new resources to developing countries, and increase debt transparency.



# C20 Open Letters

## Open Letter to G20 Health Ministers

On  
Apr 15<sup>th</sup>

The C20 sent a letter to G20 Health Ministers with recommendations ahead of their first ministerial meeting of the year. The letter urged G20 leaders to bridge the financing gap to adequately support the global response, especially in developing countries. It also called on the ministers to invest in research & development and manufacturing capacity, while committing to developing tools that are globally available, appropriate, and affordable. The letter also noted the urgency of preventing secondary deadly impacts of COVID-19 on access to routine health services.



## Open Letter to G20 Employment Ministers

On  
Apr 20<sup>th</sup>

The C20 sent an open letter to the G20 Employment Ministers with recommendations ahead of their first ministerial meeting of the year. The open letter affirmed the need to guide G20 policy making by principles of inclusivity, human rights, and social justice. The letter also called on G20 ministers to tailor their policy support to disadvantaged groups in the labor market, while ensuring a gradual and safe return to workplaces. It also called for stronger social protection measures and schemes, wider wage and income support, protection of jobs, and stricter monitoring of dismissal cases.





# C20 Statements

## C20 Statement on Defending Human Rights

On  
Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

The C20 issued a statement about the alarming shrinking of civic spaces and deteriorating situation of human rights globally. Through the statement, the C20 committed to ensuring that global human rights concerns are raised to G20 leaders together with the call for improving processes of peace, justice, and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.



## Joint Statement with B20, L20, W20, and Y20 on G20 Global Pandemic Preparedness Attending to Access to Education & Employment

On  
Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>

The C20 issued its urgent statement ahead of the extraordinary G20 Virtual Leaders' Summit to emphasize the need for new G20 priorities in response to global new realities as a result of the outbreak of the global pandemic. The statement asked G20 leaders to respond carefully, urgently, and collectively to the global crisis. It also urged G20 leaders to uphold principles of human rights, civic engagement, and democracy, while committing to leaving no one behind. The statement emphasized the role of accountability, quality care continuum, and investments in strong international partnerships for universal health coverage.



## Joint Statement with the L20: Action Needed for Debt Sustainability in Developing Countries

On  
Mar 27<sup>th</sup>

The C20 released its follow-up statement after the extraordinary G20 Virtual Leaders' Summit to urge world leaders to resume the SDG decade of action. The statement noted that the world is not short on frameworks for action, but requires that G20 leaders implementation on agreed frameworks like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate action.



# C20 Statements to the Joint Ministerial

## C20 Statement for Effective G20 Agenda on Finance and Health

On  
Jul 7<sup>th</sup>

the C20 issued a statement proposing eight recommendations for G20 leaders after the announcement of the Joint Finance and Health Ministerial meeting. The C20 statement took into account complimentary policy areas at the intersection of health and finance policy-making; including funding gaps, systemic, fiscal and financial priorities to put global finances at the service of global health.



## C20 Statement to the Joint Finance-Health Ministers Meeting

On  
Sep 11<sup>th</sup>

The C20 issued a statement addressed to the G20 Joint Finance & Health Ministers Meeting to invest in a collaborative global response to COVID-19: including recommendations on the costing and investments needed to strengthen the global response to the pandemic while putting the systems in place to enhance future pandemic preparedness. The statement also called for strengthening of health systems in the Global South and for vulnerable people, while upholding human rights in global health by leaving no one behind. The statement discussed the need for commitment to accountability, transparency, and public scrutiny, as well as adopting financial and systemic reforms in support of equitable recovery.







# 2020 C20 Policy Pack



# C20 Policy Pack

The 2020 C20 Policy Pack was launched on

June 1<sup>st</sup>

which includes

11

policy papers

addressing G20 priorities for this year, along with maintaining the continuity of civil society asks of G20 Leaders from previous years.

The pack was sent to G20 Sherpas, Saudi Finance Minister, and other Saudi G20 officials.

Informal meetings to introduce the pack & recommendations were held with:



Download



Social media campaign for the pack started in June till mid of July. We achieved

968,712 Downloads of the C20 Policy Pack.

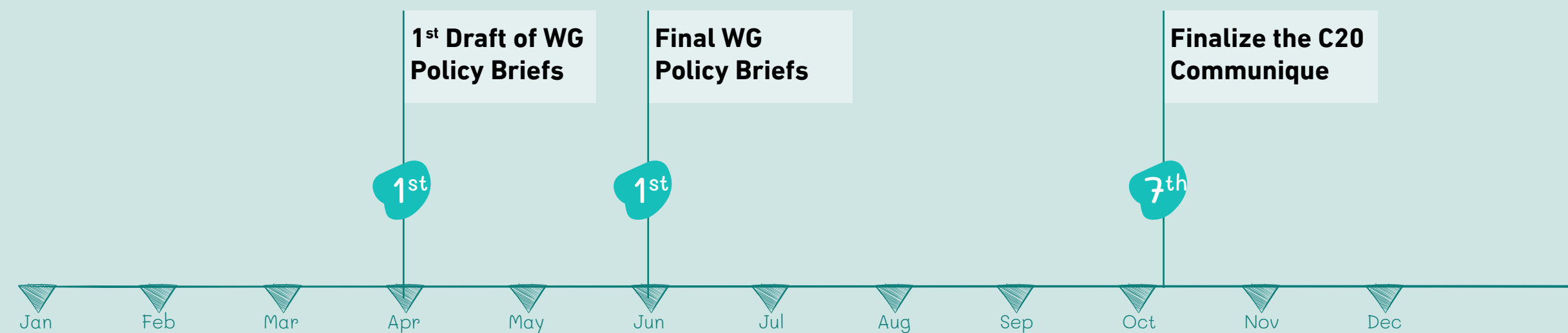


# 11

## Working Groups

Our 11 Working Groups worked tirelessly this year to create specific and actionable recommendations to deliver to the G20 leaders through the C20 Policy Pack. In addition to internal consultation within the working groups, the C20 groups met with their counterparts at the G20 side and held one-on-one discussions with G20 officials during the C20 Face-to-Face Meetings.

### Timeline for the 2020 C20 Policy Pack



Anti-Corruption



Climate, Energy & Sustainability



Digital Economy



Education



Employment & Social Protection



Gender



Global Health



Local2Global



Trade & Investment



Infrastructure



International Financial Architecture



# C20 Virtual Face2Face Meetings

C20 successfully held its Face to Face meetings after its virtual reformatting with 260 CSO participants with 27 G20 officials covering 8 different policy areas:

G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group

G20 Infrastructure Working Group

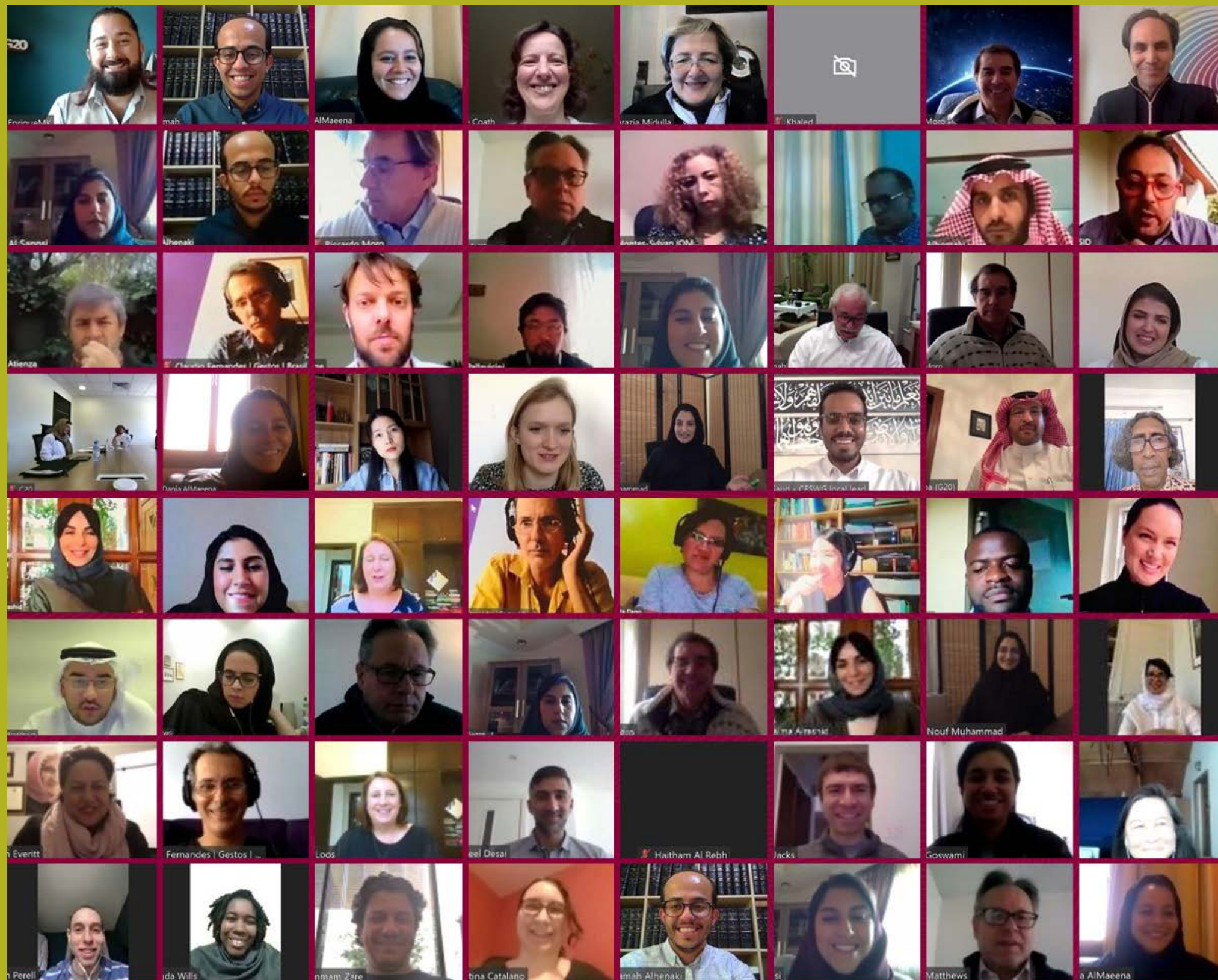
G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group

G20 Education Working Group

G20 Digital Economy Task Force

G20 Development Working Group

G20 Environment Working Group





## C20 2020 Communiqué

As mandated by the C20 Action Plan, the C20 Secretariat launched an evidence-based and consultative process in September, within the C20 network and with other external stakeholders, to develop a communicate draft that would best resemble the political concerns and demands of the global civil society to G20 leaders.

## C20 Communiqué 2020





# C20 Policy Pack Thematic Analysis

The C20 Secretariat kicked off the C20 Communique drafting process by producing a qualitative thematic analysis document, reflecting on the C20 body of work throughout the year, to objectively guide the drafting process with a neutral and methodological approach. The analysis included:

Drawing main messages & asks

Finding an overarching theme

Identifying a top-line call to action

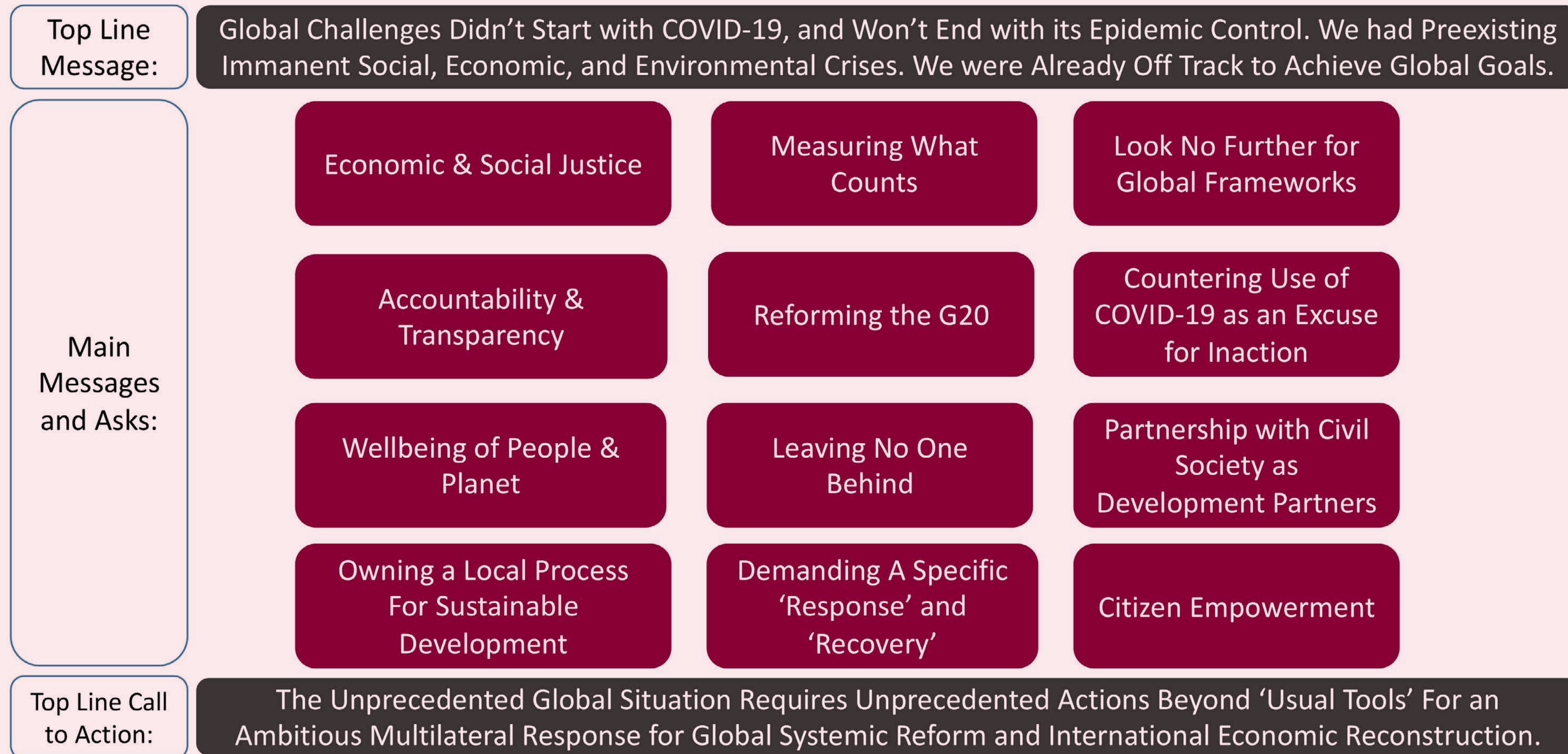
Looking at sentiment and tonality



[Click here to review the full thematic analysis document](#)



# The C20 Narrative that Emerged from the Qualitative Analysis:





# C20 2020 Communiqué

Furthermore, the outreach process included launching a the Global Survey for the 2020 C20 Communiqué, which was designed to take the perspectives of our wider community, members, and stakeholders on the state of the world, and what needs to happen at the G20.

Based on the findings of the Global Survey and the Qualitative Thematic Analysis, the C20 Secretariat developed the first draft of the communiqué, which was later discussed and endorsed by the C20 Steering & International Advisory Committees on October 5th.

On  
Oct 10<sup>th</sup>

The C20 handed over its final communiqué and political declaration of 2020 at the conclusion of the C20 Summit to the G20 Presidency. The communiqué urged G20 leaders to seize the current historical moment to reflect, correct, and take decisive global action. The communiqué warned that the future is in jeopardy, and we as global civil society are deeply concerned. The communiqué included recommendations on just recovery, multilateralism, and climate action. It also demanded that G20 leaders invite and extend support to countries that are left behind with financing and debt cancelation; especially vulnerable nations like low-income countries, fragile states, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.







# 2020 C20 Summit



# The Journey to the C20 Summit 2020

The C20 was eagerly waiting to see its members face-to-face, however, like many gatherings in 2020, the C20 Summit was faced by the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and made the decision to go virtual to ensure safety and access. Despite this challenge, the Civil 20 Summit titled "Recovery or Reconstruction? The New World We Need to Deliver on Global Commitments" marked the largest gathering of civil society in the history of the G20 process. Over the five 5 days from 6th until the 10th of October the Summit it was

Joined by

40,000 attendees

From

118 countries

With

380 speakers

In

65 sessions

The Summit program was co-created in an inclusive manner with the C20 members through session proposal submissions.

representing

187

CSOs/NGOs

54

IOs/IGOs

61

experts, influencers & activists

28

G20 & Ministerial officials

10

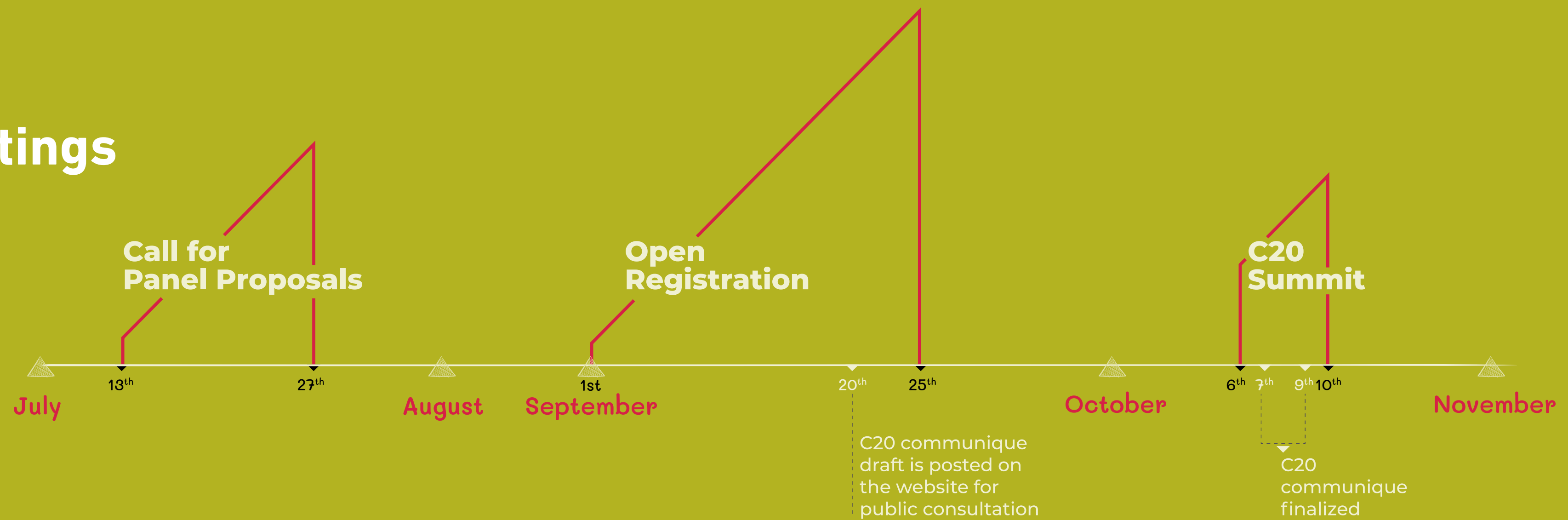
Think Tanks

38

independent contributors



# C20 Virtual Face2Face Meetings



The C20 2020 Summit aimed to provide its participants where they could:



Discover Innovative Community Solutions by Global Citizens



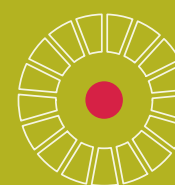
Join Global Calls to Action from Change Makers



Network with Worldwide Civil Society Leaders



Envision our 'New Normal' after COVID-19



Make the SDGs a Local & Global Reality



Engage with Grassroots Voices, Policy Experts, & Advocates



Experience Independent Thought Leadership and Debates



Contribute to the C20 Communique Endorsement & Delivery to G20 Leaders





Download the C20 Policy Pack

# The themes of the C20 Summit

The C20 Summit and its themes were shaped and informed by the C20 Policy Pack, which was developed through an extensive consultation process, and represents the views of over 750+ CSOs, whose delegates gathered together in solidarity and service of consolidating, safeguarding and mobilising the interests of the international community. These 5 key themes were:

**COVID-19  
Response  
& Recovery**

**Economic  
& Social Justice**

**Wellbeing  
of People  
& Planet**

**Citizen  
Agency  
& Empowerment**

**Accountability  
& Transparency**



# COVID-19

## Response & Recovery:

The discussions under this theme shed a light on how COVID-19 has exposed and magnified a number of critical systemic challenges, structural inequalities, vulnerabilities, and the lack of preparedness of health, education, social protection and financial systems that have been looming unaddressed for far too long. Speakers explored the important links between health, education, debt, and the digital economy in the response to COVID-19 and advocated the G20 policy makers to:

- Support the development and distribution of a peoples' vaccine which is safe, free and accessible to all.
- Provide adequate and fair universal health care to everyone and continue to drive the fight against HIV, TB, and Malaria.
- Eliminate the inequalities in health infrastructure, food, educational, and housing systems that leave the marginalized in society behind.
- Prioritize debt cancellation and debt relief for independent workers, SMEs and developing Countries.
- Commit to adapt and implement investment in early childhood care and education in the response to COVID-19 and beyond.





## Economic & Social Justice

Under this theme, Civil Society Organizations continued to advocate towards reforming the structural and systemic imbalances that have led to new forms of marginalization along with complex inequality traps. During the Summit, the panelists explored the need for enhanced transparency regarding public spending, and the solution for solving injustices linked the misallocation of financing to problems in education, social protection, and infrastructure gaps. They also proposed strong calls to action to the G20 which included:

- **Holding governments accountable for their spending allocations while keeping civil society aware of the challenges by publishing information on the states' goals and efforts.**
- **Achieving increased efficiency in debt financing through cancellation rather than suspension for low-income countries to relieve the tensions within their fiscal space which will then help them better face the challenges brought on by the pandemic.**
- **Preserving and protecting aid allocations to ensure inclusivity in building back better, with an emphasis on the need to invest in bridging the digital divide across and within countries.**
- **Investing in sustainable and resilient infrastructure while positioning society at the centre of the projects' beneficiaries, ensuring an equitable and just economic model for both public and private sectors.**

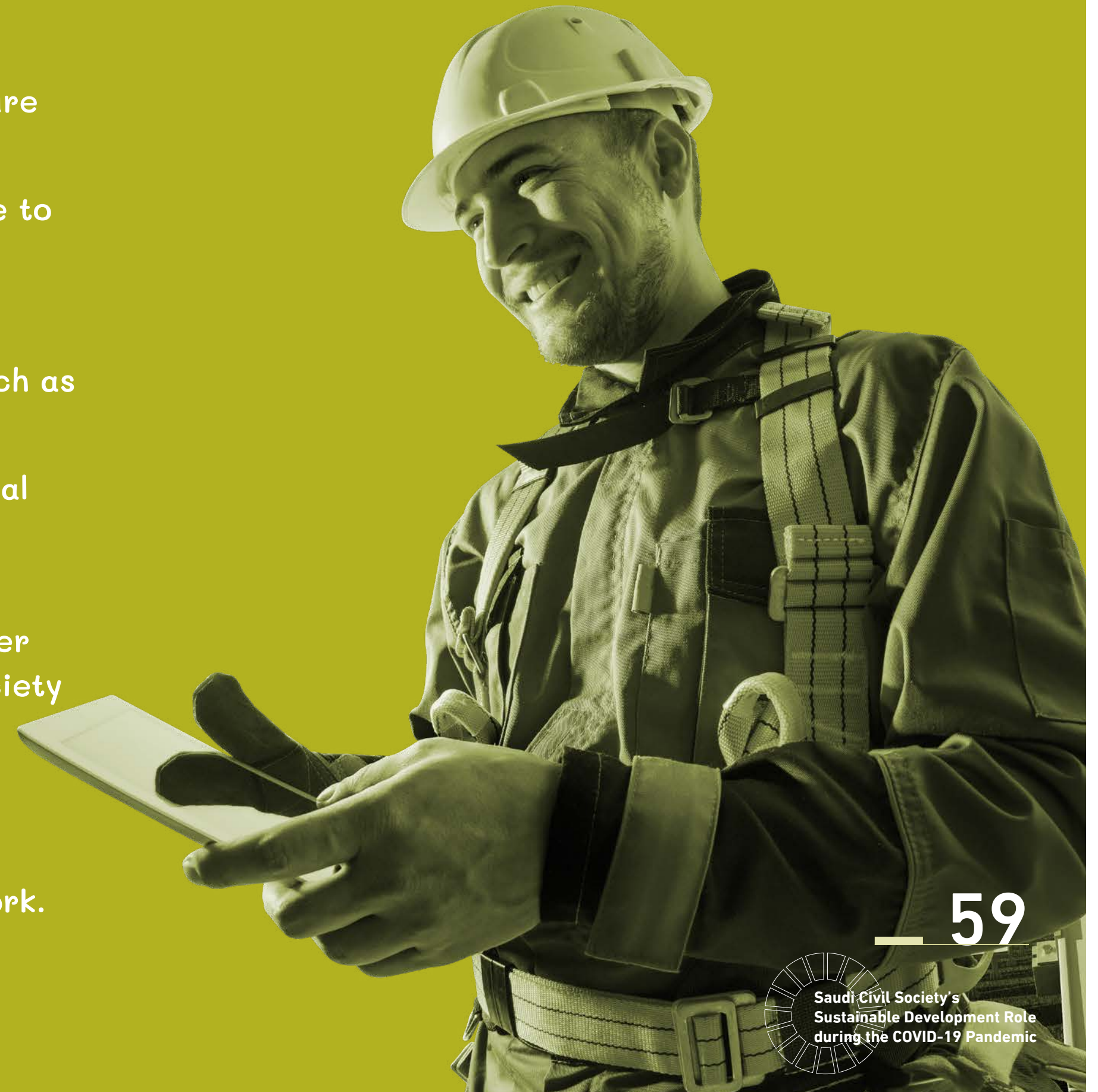




## Wellbeing of People & Planet

The speakers under this theme focused on the idea that in order to rebuild a more equitable and just world, global leaders must consider a holistic approach to the well-being of the planet; an approach that prioritizes vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, women and migrants and goes beyond simply looking at the economy as a measure for success but considering the essential elements that Impact people and planet such as the environment, healthcare, education and more. The discussions Involved several calls to action for G20 leaders that included:

- Steering financing and knowledge creation towards resilient and localized infrastructure that ensures food and water security and green growth.
- Designing trade agreements that protect local markets and subject international trade to conditionality in terms of fair labor practices, wildlife, and ecosystems' preservation.
- Working collectively to combat wildlife trade through national and international bans.
- Decentralizing and regulating the production and management of communal utilities such as water and electricity.
- Establishing a new paradigm for education that prioritizing and firmly entrenches Social and Emotional Learning, Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development.
- Building trust within and between societies to enable multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder partnerships and a feedback loop between the public and private sectors and civil society actors.
- Ensuring universal social protection and health coverage, especially to the most marginalized communities.
- Reimbursing women for subsidized formal and informal work, as well as unpaid care work.





## Citizen Agency & Empowerment

With this theme, the C20 sought to discuss the importance of empowering citizens through human-centered policies and inclusive decision-making. They also tackled the critical efforts needed to promote greater multilateral alignment, intergenerational dialogue and global citizenship. As well as, actions that must be taken to ensure that all decision-making processes are an outcome of collaboration, diverse representation, gender-responsive analysis, and ethical, inclusive and transparent practices; factors vital to empower civil society and overcome barriers to civic participation. The discussions under this theme called for the following actions:

- **G20 countries committing to a human-centered digital agenda and closing the multiple gaps in connectivity, digital skills, access and infrastructure.**
- **Ensuring multilateral alignment and international cooperation to collectively face global challenges, promote global citizenship, protect children online and help governments mobilize resources for SDGs.**
- **Holding the private sector actors accountable for unethical practices through providing the legal frameworks that necessitate child online safety, data ownership rights, affordability and due diligence in supply chains.**
- **Transforming education systems to embed digital intelligence, teacher development and global citizenship education.**
- **Developing social protection systems to be shock-responsive, offer basic income security to eliminate child labour, provide in-kind transfers that utilise technological developments and support working mothers.**
- **Committing to people-centered policy and engage civil society in policy design and decision-making processes and promoting greater transparency and information-sharing to empower an active, effective and participative civil society.**
- **Increasing permanent and institutional mechanisms for dialogue between civil society and governments.**





## COVID-19

### Response & Recovery:

This theme interrogated the effectiveness of current practices and gestures to combat corruption and stimulating accountability and transparency, highlighting the many gaps on which we have seen governments hesitate to shine a light. The speakers discussed the urgent need for an inclusive, multilateral and standardised metric to identify and track corruption and focused on digitalisation's role in closing the gap between citizens and government, a key factor solving the issue of corruption. The discussions urged G20 leader to:

- Put in place robust comprehensive and implementable anti-corruption policies, founded on multi-stakeholder engagement and implementation arrangements that have political support and resources, foregrounding inclusivity and national development.
- proactively work to fortify Public-Private partnerships (PPPs) in a way that uphold transparency and accountability.
- Ensure and maintain transparency of all COVID-19 and other health spending to bolster dwindling accountability and transparency for public resources and public trust of governments.
- Facilitate the use of and share lessons around ICTs and open data for anti-corruption.
- Support and facilitate the development and implementation of national anti- corruption strategies.





# The C20 Summit Highlights

## Diverse Participants

In 2020, the C20 was honored to have the participation of voices from the Global South for the first time since its start in 2013. This was crucial since the Global South is largely impacted by the policy decision the G20 countries take especially when it come to the environment. In addition, the Summit was a platform for child activists, refugees, educators, doctors, women and youth ambassadors exploring their views on child labour, and statelessness, marginalization in learning spaces, delivering the peoples' vaccine and the realities of female empowerment, global governance and more.

The Summit was also attended by major global actors from NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, governments, and think tanks with key names such as The United Nations and its various agencies, Oxfam, Plan International, Action Aid, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and many more.



Andreas  
**SCHLEICHER**

Director for the Directorate for  
Education and Skills  
**OECD**



Khara  
**JABOLA-CAROLUS**

Executive Director  
**Hawai'i State Commission  
on the Status of Women**



Sharan  
**BURROW**

General Secretary  
**International Trade Union  
Confederation**



Elhadj  
**AS SY**

Co-Chair  
**Global Preparedness  
Monitoring Board**



Anne-Birgitte  
**ALBRECHTSEN**

CEO  
**Plan International**



Amina J.  
**MOHAMMED**

Deputy Secretary General  
**United Nations**



Lydia  
**RUPRECHT**

Global Citizenship Education  
Specialist  
**UNESCO**



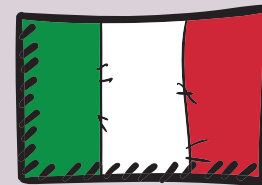
# The C20 Summit Highlights

## World Drummers Performing for Global Solidarity

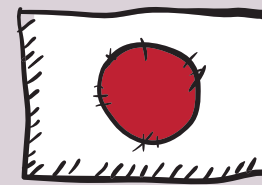
The C20 Secretariat embarked on a journey to create a message of global solidarity through sounding the out the drums. Achieving this project during a global pandemic was not an easy feat but with great collaboration, drummers from



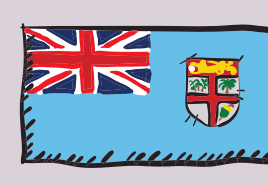
Saudi Arabia



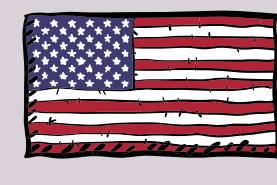
Italy



Japan



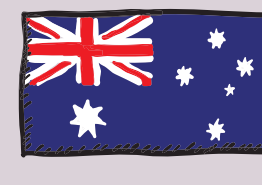
Fiji



USA



India



Australia



Egypt

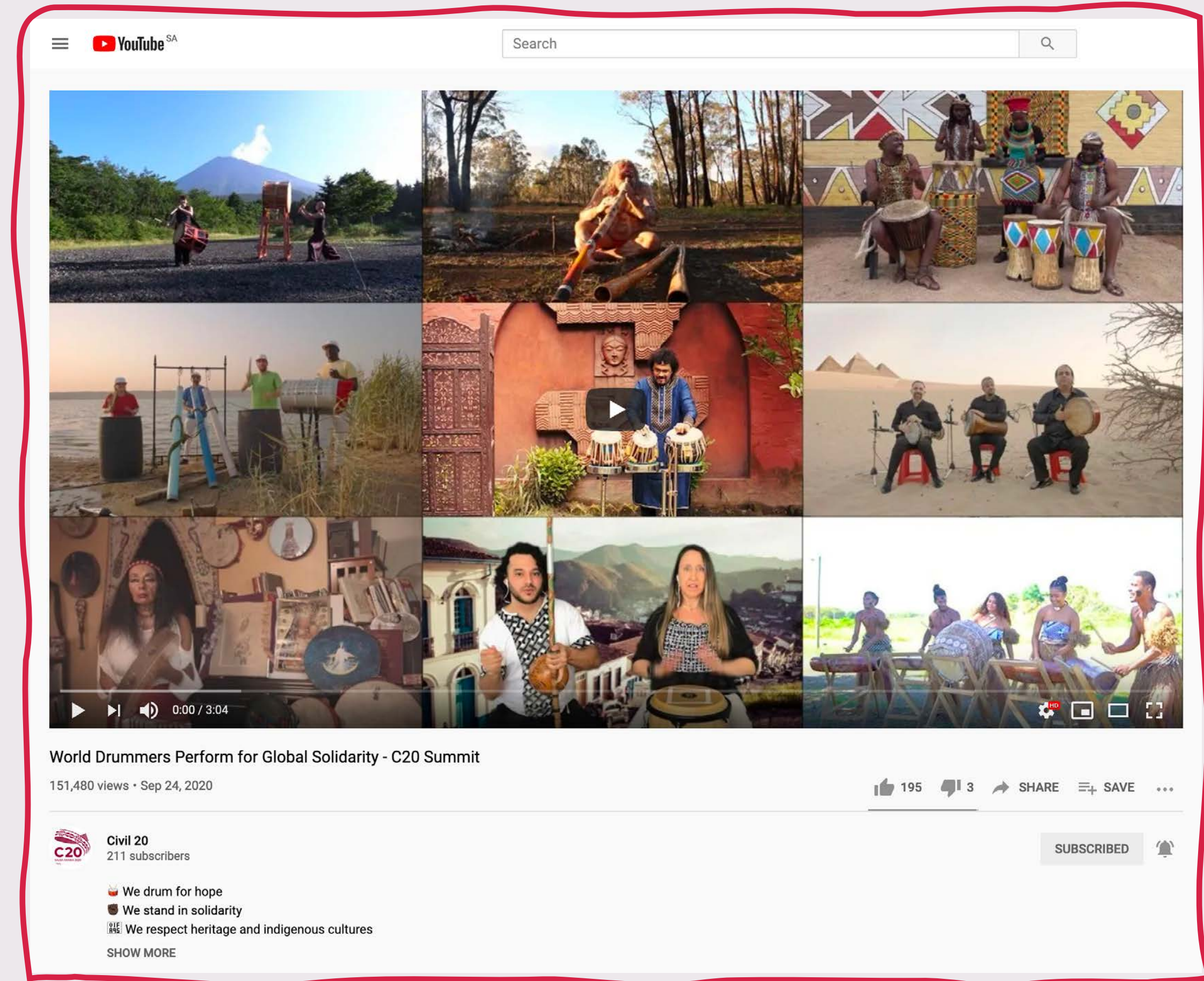


Zimbabwe



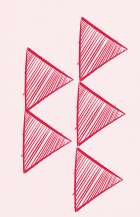
Brazil

performed in harmony for unity, hope, solidarity, respect heritage and indigenous cultures, sustainability ,global reform and change and for G20 Leaders to hear the demands of civil society.



Watch the Drummers





## The C20 Summit Highlights

### Art for Social Change: The Artist Wall

C20 Summit in 2020 included an eGallery featuring photographers who use their craft as tool to advocate for several issues related to the environment, poverty, migration, female empowerment, labour and more. The goal behind the gallery was to visually showcase how images can translate stories and experiences of communities around the world and to ensure that not only their voices but their images are included.



# The C20 Summit Highlights

## Presenting the Communique to the G20

The C20 leadership concluded the Summit by delivering Civil 20 Communiqué the G20 Presidency. The document urged G20 leaders to

|| seize the current historical moment to reflect, correct, and take decisive global action. ||

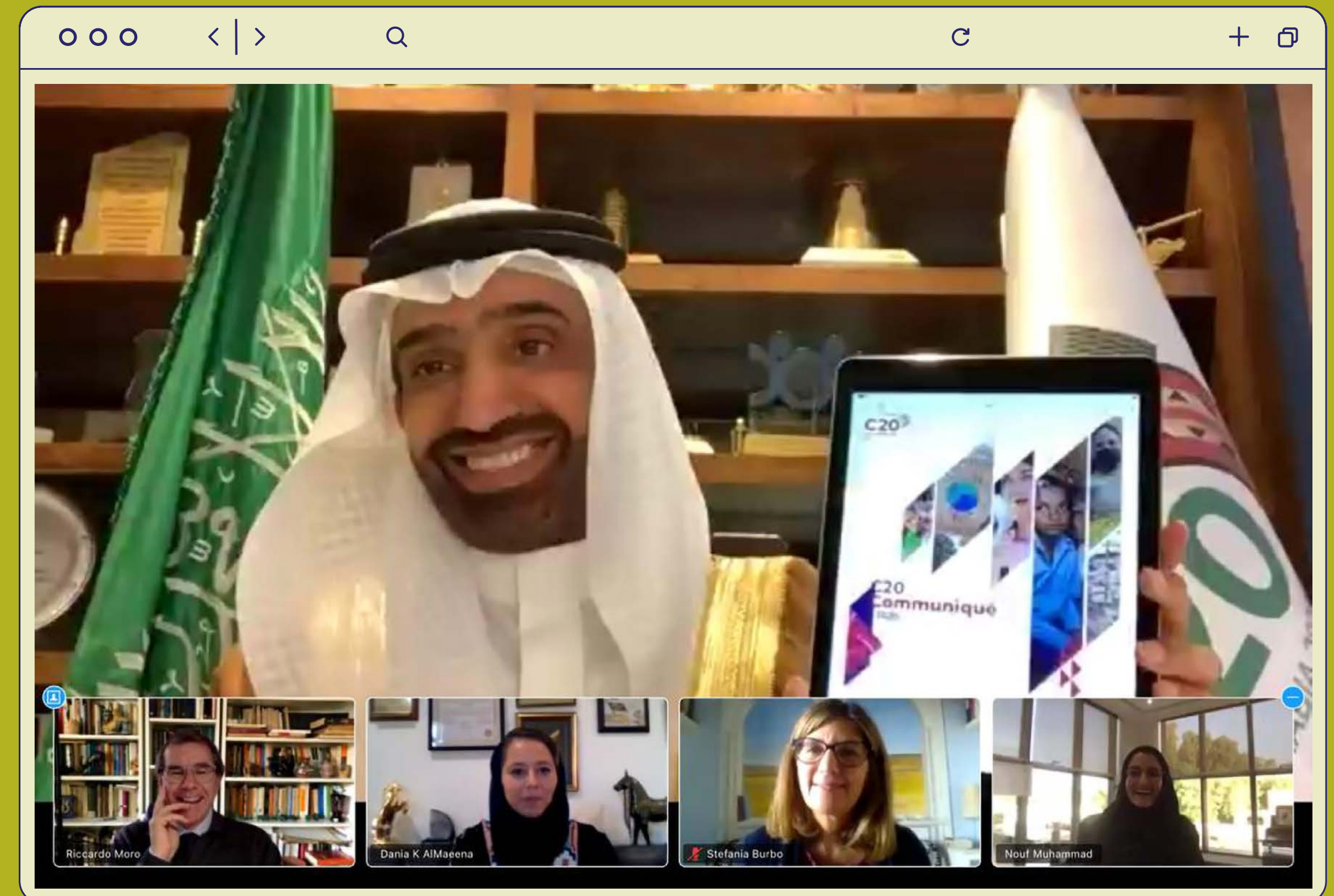
The Communiqué warned that the

|| future is in jeopardy, and we as global civil society are deeply concerned. ||

The group did not only sound the alarm, but reminded governments that the

|| world is not destined to be in turmoil ||

and that humanity has withstood numerous shared challenges before. It's time for world leaders to take bold reforms and commit to health, education and social protection investments, while taking ambitious steps towards climate action and biodiversity protection.





# The C20 Summit Highlights

## The C20 2020 Control Room

To achieve this great event, the C20 leadership gathered a team of young professionals, most of which are women to coordinate, facilitate and direct the virtual sessions. Ahead of convening in the control room, all members were ensured to test negative for COVID-19 and to follow social distancing measures during.







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