

GALLUP®

The World's Most Generous Countries



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From Gallup's Global Managing Partner

The World's Most Generous Countries

The United States is often considered the most generous country in the world. The reason? Americans donate a lot of money. Its people, its foundations and its companies donated roughly \$410 billion in 2017 — or about 2.1% of its own GDP. In fact, the amount Americans donated was more than the entire GDP of all but about 40 countries in the world.

Some might argue that America's generosity is made easy because of its wealth. And that if people in other countries could give more, they would.

So what if we had a metric for that? And instead of looking at how much people give, we look at how many people in a country give? And what if we looked at more than money — such as the number of people who volunteer their time or help a stranger?

Gallup does just that. Each year, Gallup conducts surveys in more than 140 countries to answer those questions. In our latest survey, we find that the most generous countries by this metric are Indonesia and Australia — followed closely by the United States and New Zealand.

Regardless of who you think are the most generous countries in the world, this report suggests one important thing: You don't need to be rich to give back. Some countries where people have far less to give are among the most generous. Indonesia, Kenya and Myanmar all rank among the highest in the world on Gallup's Civic Engagement Index.

The report also sheds light on how generous the whole world is. With all the reports about crime, war and terrorism served up daily in the media, it may surprise you to find out how many people are actively working to make the world a better place. Almost 1 billion people reported volunteering their time to an organization in the past month, nearly 1.4 billion said they donated money to a charity and more than 2 billion reported helping a stranger in need.

While it's not their primary motivation, the 2 billion people working to make the world a better place will also be helping themselves in the process. Recent research demonstrates that being charitable with your time and money boosts your own wellbeing.

As people in a number of countries look forward to their own holiday season this year, many will celebrate by giving. The World's Most Generous Countries Report shows that they won't be alone in their endeavor to make the world a better place.

Global Civic Engagement

Every year, Gallup asks three questions to assess people's inclination to give their money, time or assistance to others in need:



Asked adults in
146 countries

Have you done any of the following in the past month? How about:

- donated money to a charity?
- volunteered your time to an organization?
- helped a stranger or someone you didn't know who needed help?

These questions are designed to measure residents' commitment to the communities they live in and to help governments, businesses and organizations better understand the population of potential volunteers.

Gallup sees strong relationships between people's answers to these questions and external measures related to the economic environment, such as per capita GDP (PPP) and long-term unemployment, as well as measures that are indicative of wealthier communities, such as healthcare expenditures.

This report, based on more than 153,000 interviews with adults in 146 countries in 2017, presents the results from Gallup's latest analysis of people's responses to these three questions.

IN 2017 WORLDWIDE, NEARLY:

1.4 billion donated money to a charity

1 billion volunteered their time to an organization

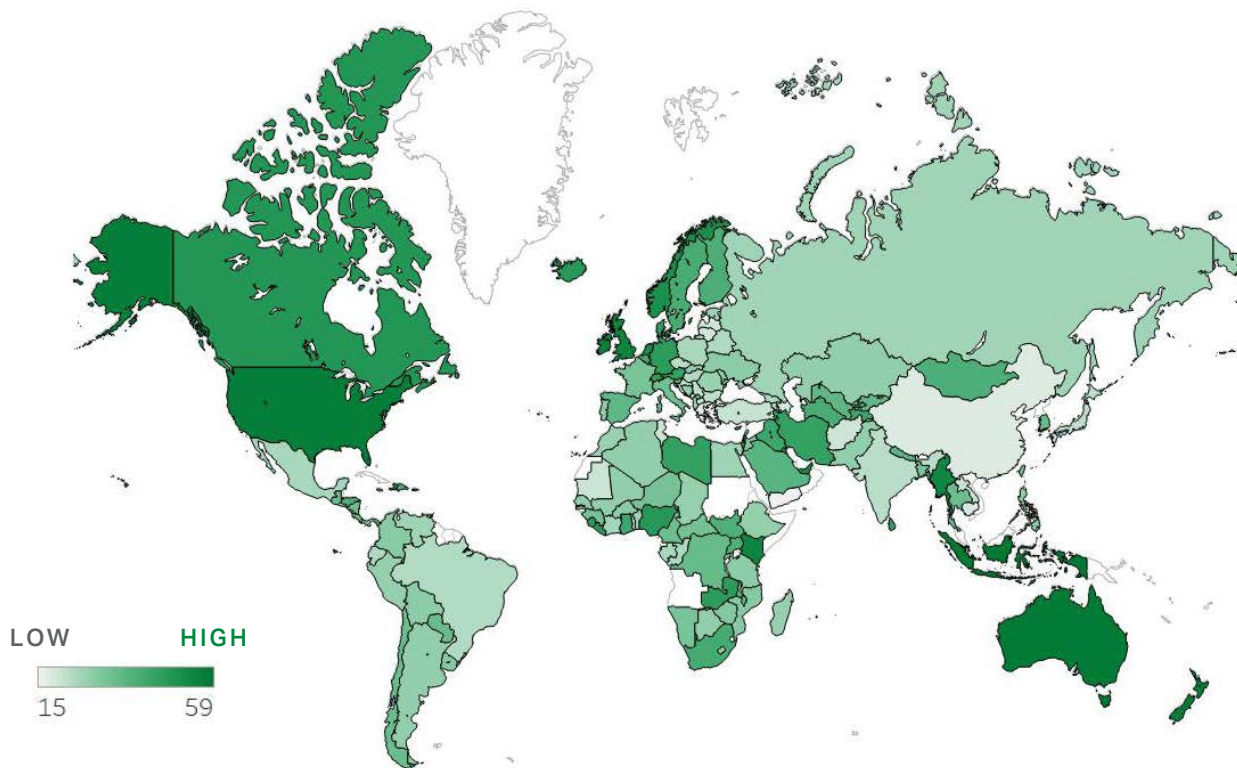
2.2 billion helped a stranger in need in the past month

Billions Worldwide Are Helping Others

In 2017, Gallup asked adults in 146 countries whether they had donated money to a charity, volunteered time to an organization or helped a stranger in need within the past month. On average, more than four in 10 people worldwide said they had helped a stranger or someone they didn't know who was in need (43%), while far fewer said they had donated money (27%) or had volunteered their time (18%). These figures have been stable for the past decade.

Projected to the entire adult population of the world, this means that *billions* of people are helping others: **In 2017, nearly 1.4 billion had donated money to a charity, almost 1 billion had volunteered their time to an organization and 2.2 billion had helped a stranger in need in the past month.**

Civic Engagement Worldwide in 2017



Gallup compiles the “positive” responses to these three questions into a Civic Engagement Index score for each country. The higher the score, the higher the proportion of the population that is civically engaged. The index score for the world overall in 2017 is 30 out of a possible 100.

Country scores ranged widely, from a high of 59 in Indonesia and Australia to a low of 15 in Yemen. Indonesia and Australia have consistently appeared in the top 10 countries with the highest civic engagement scores in the past several years, and their scores in 2017 were not much different from 2016.

Although Gallup finds a strong connection between the Civic Engagement Index and per capita GDP, the countries with the most civically engaged populations in the world are not always the wealthiest. Lower middle-income Indonesia topped the list in 2017, and lower middle-income countries Kenya and Myanmar also made an appearance among the countries with the highest scores on the index.

Myanmar, in fact, has been at the top of this list for years. The country's strong Buddhist traditions, which stress donating to and volunteering at temples, are usually reflected in the majorities who typically respond positively to each question. In 2017, this was only true for monetary donations to charity — 88% of Myanmar residents said that they had donated money to a charity — the highest percentage in the world last year.

The percentage of Myanmar residents who reported helping strangers and volunteering their time, on the other hand, dropped to new lows in 2017, as their country struggled with the Rohingya refugee crisis. Four in 10 Myanmar residents said they had helped a stranger (40%) and one in three (34%) said they had volunteered their time.

The top of the list in 2017 also included a number of wealthy Western countries where residents may be better positioned to give — such as the U.S., United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

Some of the countries and territories where populations were the least civically engaged were those that continue to suffer from economic and political upheaval, such as Yemen, the Palestinian Territories and Greece. However, with a score of 17 in 2017, civic engagement levels continued to be among the lowest in the world in China.

On the other side of a new law that eased restrictions on charitable organizations' fundraising in China in 2016, China's score on the index improved from 11 in 2015 to 17 in 2017. The 14% of Chinese who donated money to charity in 2017 is nearly double the 8% who said they did the previous year.

Highest Civic Engagement Index

Means (0 = lowest score, 100 = highest score)

	Index Score
Indonesia	59
Australia	59
New Zealand	58
United States	58
Ireland	56
United Kingdom	55
Singapore	54
Kenya	54
Myanmar	54
Bahrain	53

Gallup World Poll, 2017

Lowest Civic Engagement Index Score

Means (0 = lowest score, 100 = highest score)

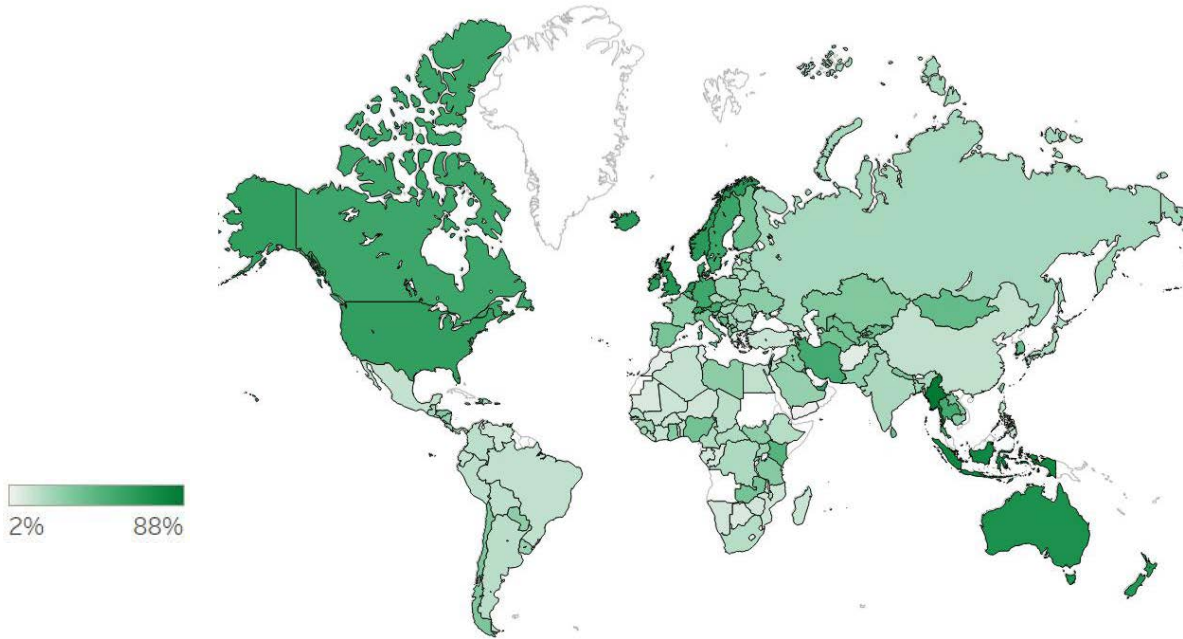
	Index Score
Macedonia	20
Turkey	20
Croatia	20
Mauritania	20
Laos	20
Tunisia	20
Afghanistan	19
Latvia	19
Lithuania	19
Azerbaijan	18
Cambodia	18
Palestinian Territories	17
China	17
Greece	17
Yemen	15

Gallup World Poll, 2017

Myanmar Residents Continue to Be Most Likely to Donate Money to Charity

Myanmar's consistently high scores on the Civic Engagement Index over the past few years have been bolstered by its nearly universal percentages of adults who reported donating money to charity. This percentage has been in the low 90% range since 2013 and was 88% in 2017. This is lower than in previous years, but still by far the highest percentage in the world that year.

Donated Money to Charity in 2017



For the most part, the top of the list looked the same in 2017 as it has for the past several years, with Myanmar, Indonesia and Australia clustered near the top.

Most Likely to Donate Money to Charity

	Yes, donated
Myanmar	88%
Indonesia	78%
Australia	71%
New Zealand	68%
United Kingdom	68%
Netherlands	66%
Iceland	65%
Norway	65%
Ireland	64%
Malta	64%

Least Likely to Donate Money to Charity

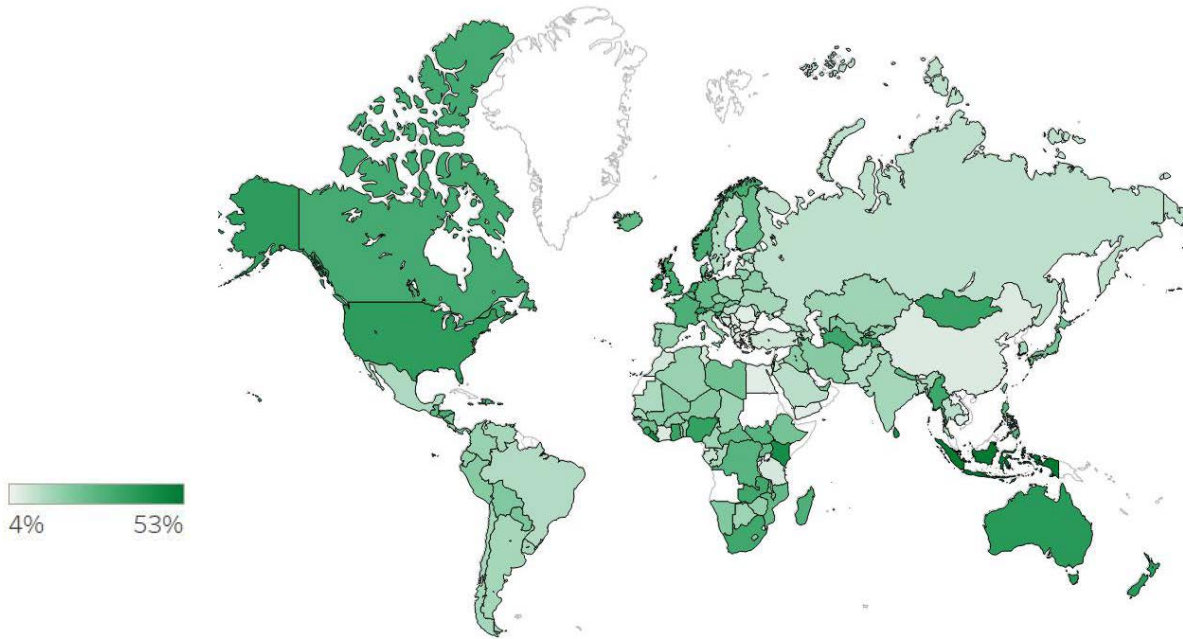
	Yes, donated
Azerbaijan	8%
Botswana	8%
Congo (Brazzaville)	8%
Mauritania	8%
Greece	7%
Palestinian Territories	7%
Tunisia	7%
Afghanistan	6%
Georgia	6%
Lesotho	5%
Morocco	5%
Yemen	2%

Gallup World Poll, 2017

Worldwide, People More Likely to Give Money Than Volunteer Their Time

Adults worldwide continued to be less likely to give their time (18%) than they were to give their money (27%) or to help a stranger in need (43%). A majority in just one country, Indonesia, said they had volunteered their time to an organization in the past month; 53% of Indonesians said they had done this.

Volunteered Time in 2017



The percentage of adults saying they had donated their time to an organization varied widely around the world, from as high as 53% in Indonesia to as low as 4% in Laos.

Most Likely to Volunteer Time to an Organization

	Yes, volunteered in past month
Indonesia	53%
Liberia	47%
Kenya	45%
Sri Lanka	45%
Australia	40%
Ireland	40%
New Zealand	40%
Singapore	39%
United States	39%
Mauritius	38%

Least Likely to Volunteer Time to an Organization

	Yes, volunteered in past month
Albania	7%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7%
China	7%
Ivory Coast	7%
Greece	7%
Cambodia	6%
Egypt	6%
Romania	6%
Serbia	6%
Yemen	6%
Bulgaria	5%
Macedonia	5%
Laos	4%

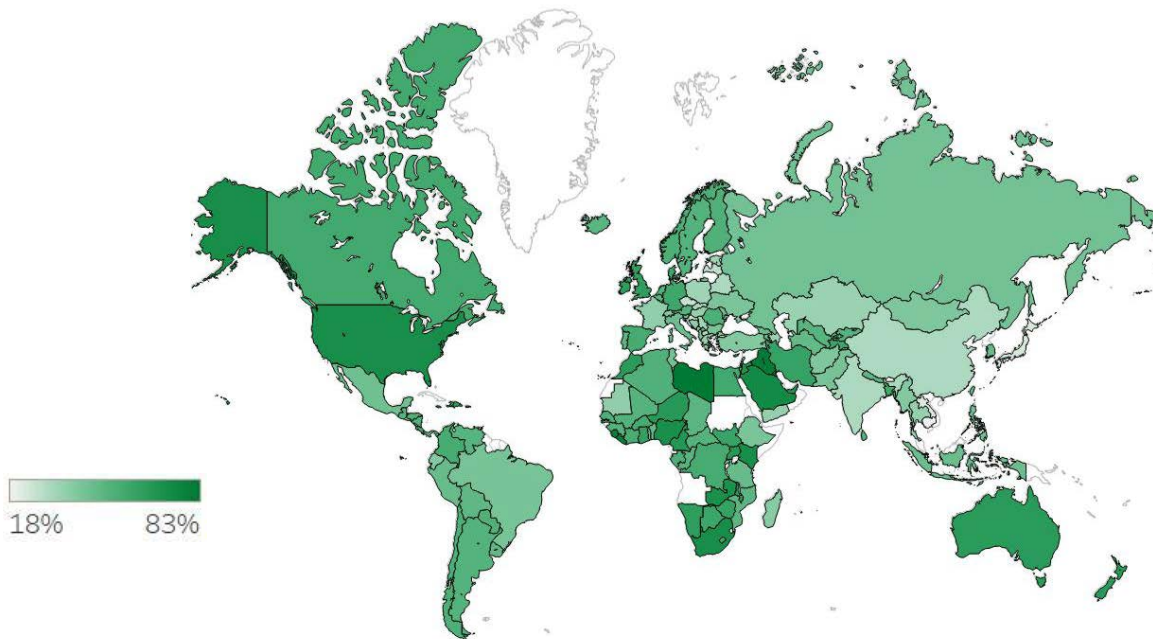
Gallup World Poll, 2017



Worldwide, People Most Likely to Help a Stranger

Of all the charitable activities that Gallup asks about, people worldwide continued to be most likely to say they had helped a stranger or someone they didn't know who was in need (43%). The percentage saying they had done so in the past month varied worldwide, from a high of 83% in Libya to a low of 18% in Cambodia.

Helped a Stranger in 2017



Except for the United States, which narrowly made the list of countries where people are most likely to have helped a stranger in the past month, the countries at the top of this list are all located in North or sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Most Likely to Help a Stranger

	Yes, helped a stranger
Libya	83%
Iraq	81%
Kuwait	80%
Liberia	80%
Sierra Leone	80%
Bahrain	74%
The Gambia	74%
Saudi Arabia	74%
Kenya	72%
South Africa	72%
United States	72%

Least Likely to Help a Stranger

	Yes, helped a stranger
Belarus	31%
China	31%
India	31%
Macedonia	30%
Latvia	28%
Czech Republic	26%
Croatia	25%
Japan	23%
Laos	22%
Cambodia	18%

Gallup World Poll, 2017

Methodology

These results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults per country, aged 15 and older, conducted throughout 2017 in 146 countries. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error ranges from ± 2.0 percentage points to ± 5.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. All reported margins of sampling error include computed design effects for weighting.

For more complete methodology and specific survey dates, please review [Gallup's Country Data Set details](#).



2017 Civic Engagement Index

	Index score		Index score		Index score
Indonesia	59	Uganda	39	Ethiopia	27
Australia	59	Saudi Arabia	37	Moldova	27
New Zealand	58	Nepal	37	Peru	27
United States	58	Uzbekistan	36	Madagascar	27
Ireland	56	Spain	36	Chad	27
United Kingdom	55	Kyrgyzstan	36	Romania	27
Singapore	54	Jamaica	36	Rwanda	26
Kenya	54	Malawi	35	Morocco	26
Myanmar	54	Congo (Kinshasa)	35	Benin	26
Bahrain	53	Paraguay	34	Egypt	26
Netherlands	51	South Korea	34	Venezuela	26
United Arab Emirates	51	Chile	34	Albania	26
Norway	50	Thailand	34	Estonia	26
Haiti	49	Costa Rica	34	Russia	25
Canada	49	Cameroon	34	Ivory Coast	25
Nigeria	48	Taiwan	34	Poland	24
Iceland	48	Guatemala	34	Gabon	24
Malta	47	Kosovo	33	Mexico	24
Liberia	47	Nicaragua	33	Congo (Brazzaville)	24
Sierra Leone	47	Italy	33	Montenegro	24
Zambia	46	Central African Republic	32	Togo	24
Germany	46	Guinea	32	Georgia	24
Trinidad & Tobago	46	Niger	32	Ecuador	24
Denmark	46	France	32	Hungary	23
Mauritius	46	Namibia	32	Belarus	23
Switzerland	45	Bangladesh	31	Brazil	23
Sri Lanka	45	Jordan	30	Armenia	23
Libya	45	Zimbabwe	30	India	22
Iran	45	Uruguay	30	Czech Republic	22
Hong Kong	44	Panama	30	Bulgaria	22
The Gambia	44	Mozambique	29	El Salvador	22
Austria	44	Colombia	29	Japan	22
Kuwait	43	Ukraine	29	Serbia	21
Iraq	43	Burkina Faso	29	Macedonia	20
Cyprus	43	Portugal	28	Turkey	20
Tajikistan	42	Tanzania	28	Croatia	20
Ghana	42	Lebanon	28	Mauritania	20
Israel	42	Bolivia	28	Laos	20
Belgium	41	Senegal	28	Tunisia	20
South Africa	41	Slovakia	28	Afghanistan	19
Luxembourg	41	Philippines	28	Latvia	19
Sweden	41	Bosnia and Herzegovina	28	Lithuania	19
Turkmenistan	40	Pakistan	28	Azerbaijan	18
Finland	40	Algeria	28	Cambodia	18
Mongolia	39	Mali	28	Palestinian Territories	17
Honduras	39	Argentina	28	China	17
Slovenia	39	Lesotho	28	Greece	17
South Sudan	39	Kazakhstan	28	Yemen	15
Dominican Republic	39	Botswana	27		

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