



Special Eurobarometer 453

Summary

Humanitarian aid

Fieldwork
November – December 2016
Publication
May 2017

Survey requested by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
Operations
and co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.
The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

Special Eurobarometer 453 – Wave EB86.3 – TNS opinion & social

Special Eurobarometer 453

Summary

Humanitarian aid

May 2017

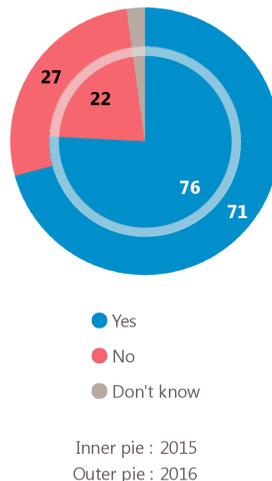
Survey conducted by TNS opinion & social at the request of the European Commission,
Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

Survey co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication
("Strategic communication" Unit)

I. AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR EU HUMANITARIAN AID

1 Awareness of EU humanitarian aid

QA1 Are you aware or not that the EU funds humanitarian aid activities?
(% - EU)



Awareness is high - over seven in ten (71%) of respondents are aware the EU funds humanitarian aid activities.

Although the majority of respondents in each Member State are aware the EU funds humanitarian aid activities, levels of awareness vary considerably: respondents in the Netherlands, Luxembourg (both 88%), Sweden and Belgium (both 85%) are the most likely to be aware, compared to 55% in Hungary and 59% in Italy.

However, as can be seen in the graph above, since the survey was last conducted in 2015 overall awareness has, however, declined by five points since 2015, and has declined in 22 countries.

The socio-demographic analysis reveals that awareness is lowest amongst those aged 15-24 (66%) and those aged 55+ (68%).

Education also seems to be a factor – the most highly educated claim awareness, e.g. those who finished education aged 20 or over (82%) cf. those who finished education aged 15 or under (57%)

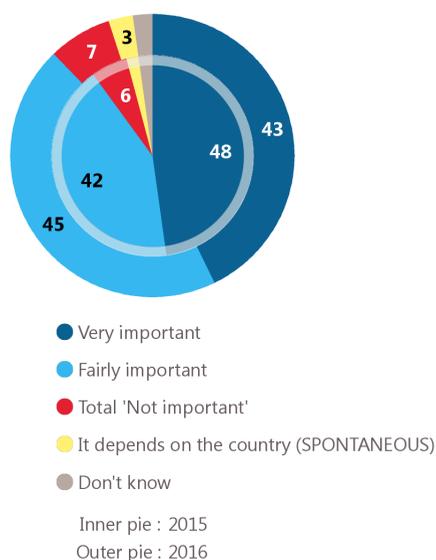
By occupation, those in managerial positions are most likely to be aware (83%) cf. for example unemployed people (66%) or house persons (63%).

Awareness is highly correlated with support – those who are aware the EU funds humanitarian aid activities are also more likely to see it as important.

2 General attitude to EU humanitarian aid

EU funding of humanitarian aid activities is seen as important by almost nine in ten respondents.

QA2 How important or not do you think it is that the EU funds humanitarian aid activities?
(% - EU)



88% think it is important the EU funds humanitarian aid activities, down 2 percentage points since 2015. Over four in ten (43%) consider it to be “very important”, although this has decreased from 48% in 2015.

At least three quarters of respondents in each country think this is important. In addition, There are nine countries where the majority of respondents think this funding is “very important”, including Cyprus (82%), Sweden (72%), Ireland (68%), Luxembourg (64%), Malta (62%), Denmark (61%), Netherlands (56%), Slovenia (54%) and UK (51%).

There are few sociodemographic differences, although awareness means people are more likely to see it as important as is the view that an EU approach is more efficient.

3 Funding humanitarian aid despite pressure on public finances

In spite of the current pressure on Europe’s public finances, **84% support the continued funding of humanitarian aid**, a similar share to that of 2015. At least seven in ten respondents in each country support continuing funding for humanitarian aid. Proportions range from 96% in Cyprus, 94% in Luxembourg and Sweden, to 73% in the Czech Republic, 75% in Slovakia and 76% in Bulgaria. Those with a higher level of education, in managerial occupations are the most likely socio-demographic groups to support continued funding.

4 Impact of humanitarian aid work on image of EU

The majority of respondents (70%) say the fact the EU is one of the world’s largest donors of humanitarian aid gives them a positive image of the EU: 22% say it gives them a “very positive” image and 48% a “fairly positive” image. The majority in each country says it has a positive impact on their view, especially in Portugal (88%), Ireland (86%) and Cyprus (84%). It has the most positive impact on young people in particular (e.g. 75% of 15–24 year olds cf. 66% of those aged 55+). Again there is a correlation

with level of education, the higher the level of education the more likely they will be to say it has a positive impact.

5 Preferred approach to the provision of humanitarian aid

While there has been a 7 point-drop in support for EU-coordinated aid, two thirds believe that humanitarian aid is more efficient provided by the EU as a whole rather than by individual Member States (66%). Only one in five (22%) think it is more efficient if provided by each Member State separately. There is majority support in all countries, notably Malta and Portugal (81%). However there has been a decrease in support across all Member States apart from Croatia (70%, +3pp). Again education is the main discriminating sociodemographic factor, with more highly educated respondents in favour of the EU approach.

II. SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC POLICY AREAS

1 Humanitarian aid to fund education

A large majority (91%) think it is important the EU provide humanitarian aid to fund education for children and young people caught up in crises so they can continue their studies. The majority (53%) think this is “very important”. At least three quarters of respondents in each country think this is important, most notably in Cyprus (99%), Luxembourg (98%) and Ireland (97%). Younger, more highly educated people were most likely to support this.

2 Volunteers from across the EU

86% support the EU sending volunteers to carry out humanitarian aid activities in other parts of the world, an increase of two percentage points since 2015. There is an even split between those who “totally support” and “tend to support” this action (both 43%). At least seven in ten respondents in each country supports the EU sending volunteers to carry out humanitarian aid, with almost universal support in Cyprus (98%), Ireland (95%) and Sweden (94%). Again younger, more highly educated people supported this initiative.

III. PREFERRED INFORMATION CHANNELS

TV (54%) and the Internet (44%) are the most widely preferred sources of information about EU humanitarian policy, followed by the written press (24%) and radio (20%). Compared to 2015, there has been no change in the proportion who prefer TV but there has been a large decrease in preference for the Internet (-13 pp). The decrease is general across all countries, although by socio-demographic groups, the decrease is most pronounced amongst those with a higher level of education and may reflect an increasing lack of trust in the internet as a reliable source of information – even though online social media was one of the items presented to respondent, its influence on the internet and the way information is accessed may be one of the reasons for the decrease.