



# DESA

## Preparations for the 2012 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the General Assembly

**Surveys of Governments,  
UN country teams, and  
civil society organisations (CSOs) in  
programme countries**

Results Overview  
2 May 2012



## Mandate

**General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence mandated the Secretary-General, under the auspices of ECOSOC and in cooperation with UN Resident Coordinators, to put in place a periodic survey, directed to governments, on the **relevance, effectiveness and efficiency** of the support of the UN system in order to provide feedback on the strengths and main challenges encountered in their interaction with the UN development system.**



## Overview of the surveys

- **Objective to obtain feedback from Governments and other partners on UN operational activities for development**
- **111 programme countries completed the Government survey, corresponding to a response rate of 74 per cent**
- **518 UNCT members (heads of agency) completed the country team survey, including 78 UN Resident Coordinators**
- **291 CSOs completed the CSO survey**

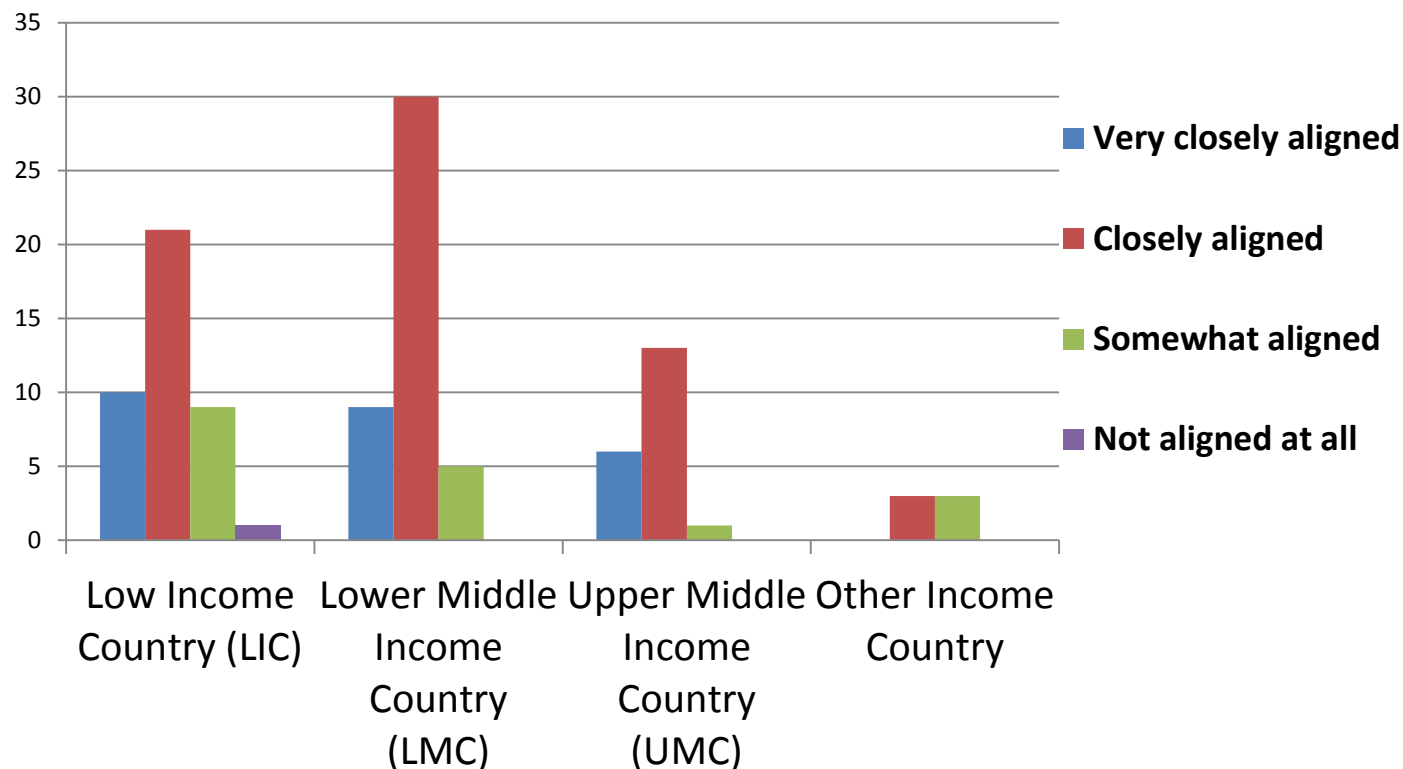


# Relevance



# The majority of programme countries reported the UN's activities are closely aligned with national priorities

*"The activities of the UN and your country's development needs and priorities are:*

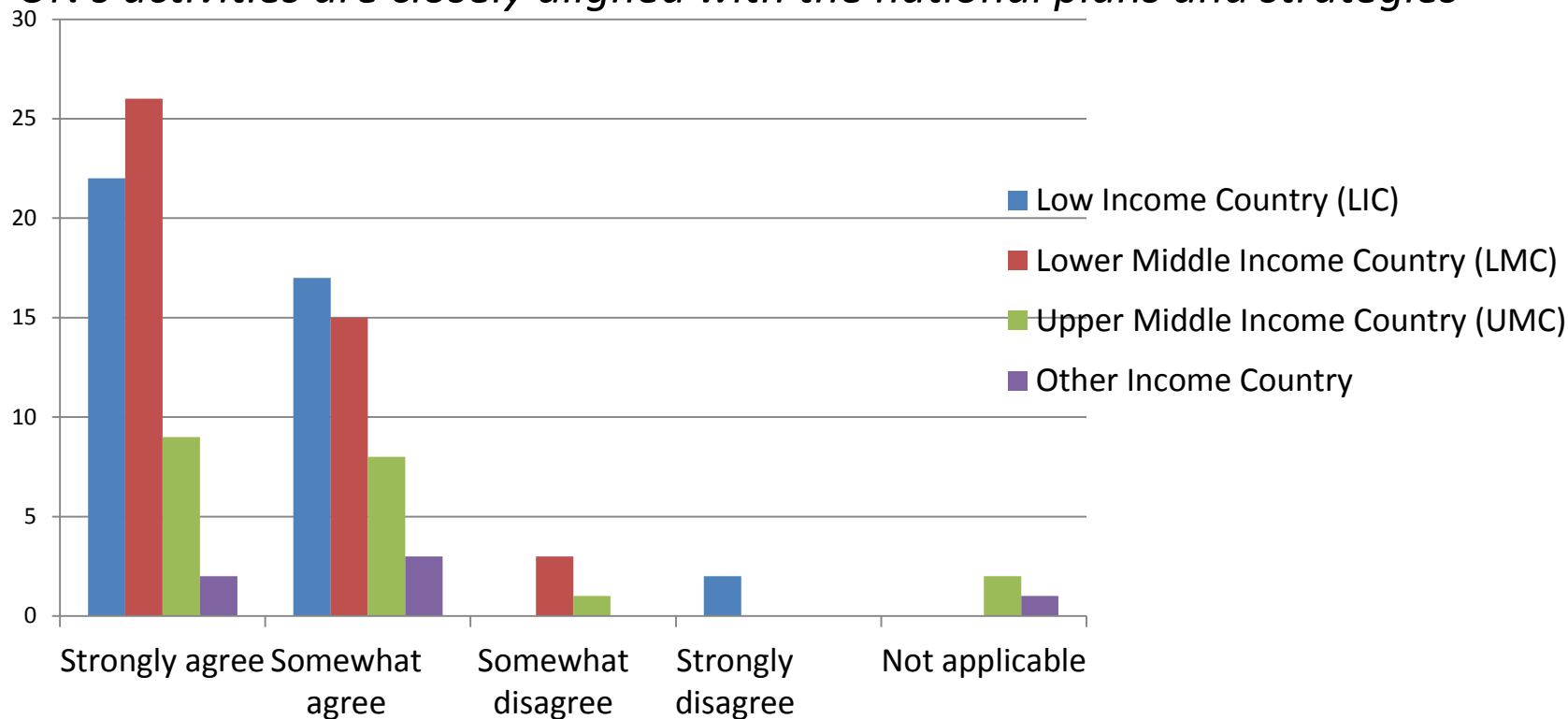


Question answered: 111 programme countries



# The UNDAF has helped to ensure alignment

*“The introduction of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), or an alternative UN planning framework, has enabled the Government to ensure that the UN’s activities are closely aligned with the national plans and strategies*

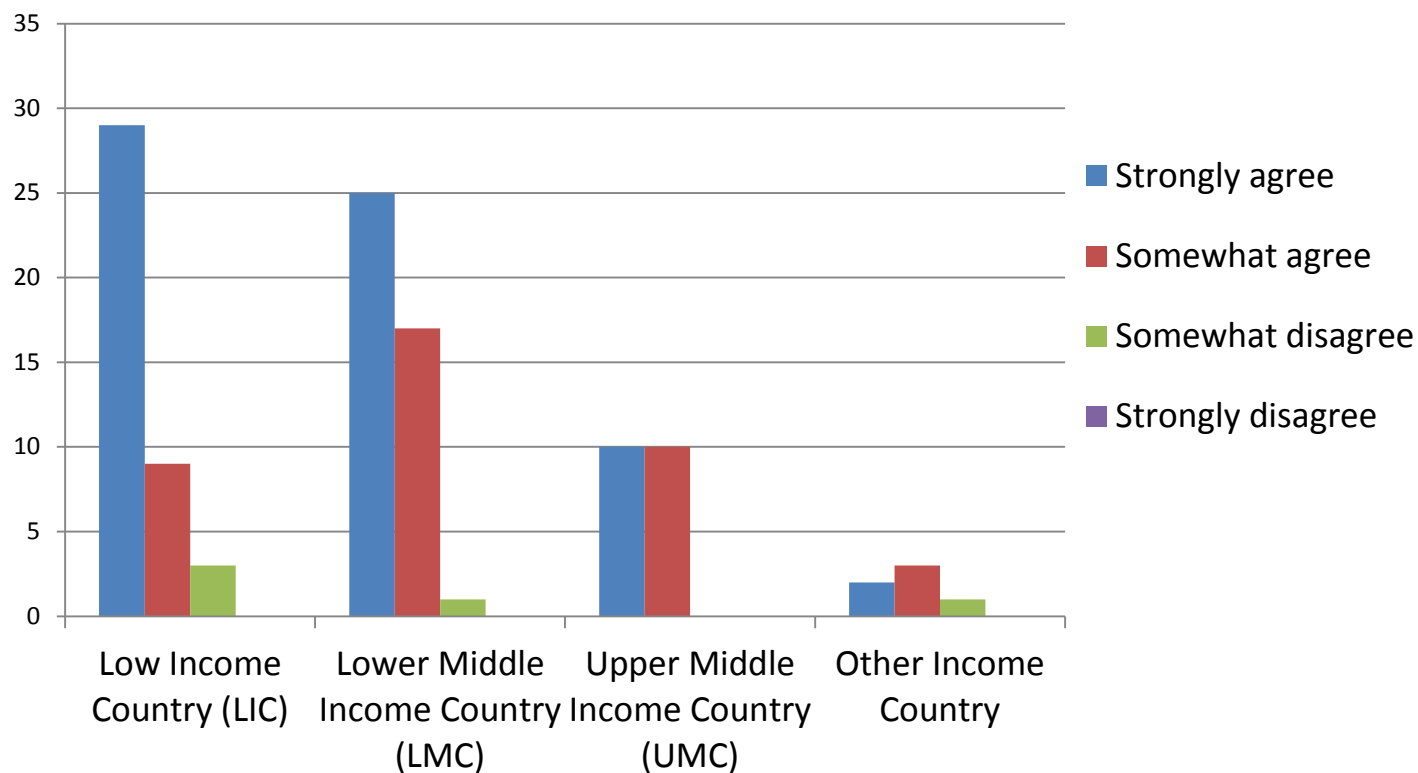


Question answered: 111 programme countries



# UN efforts focus on the MDGs.

*“The efforts of the UN are focused on assisting your country in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”*

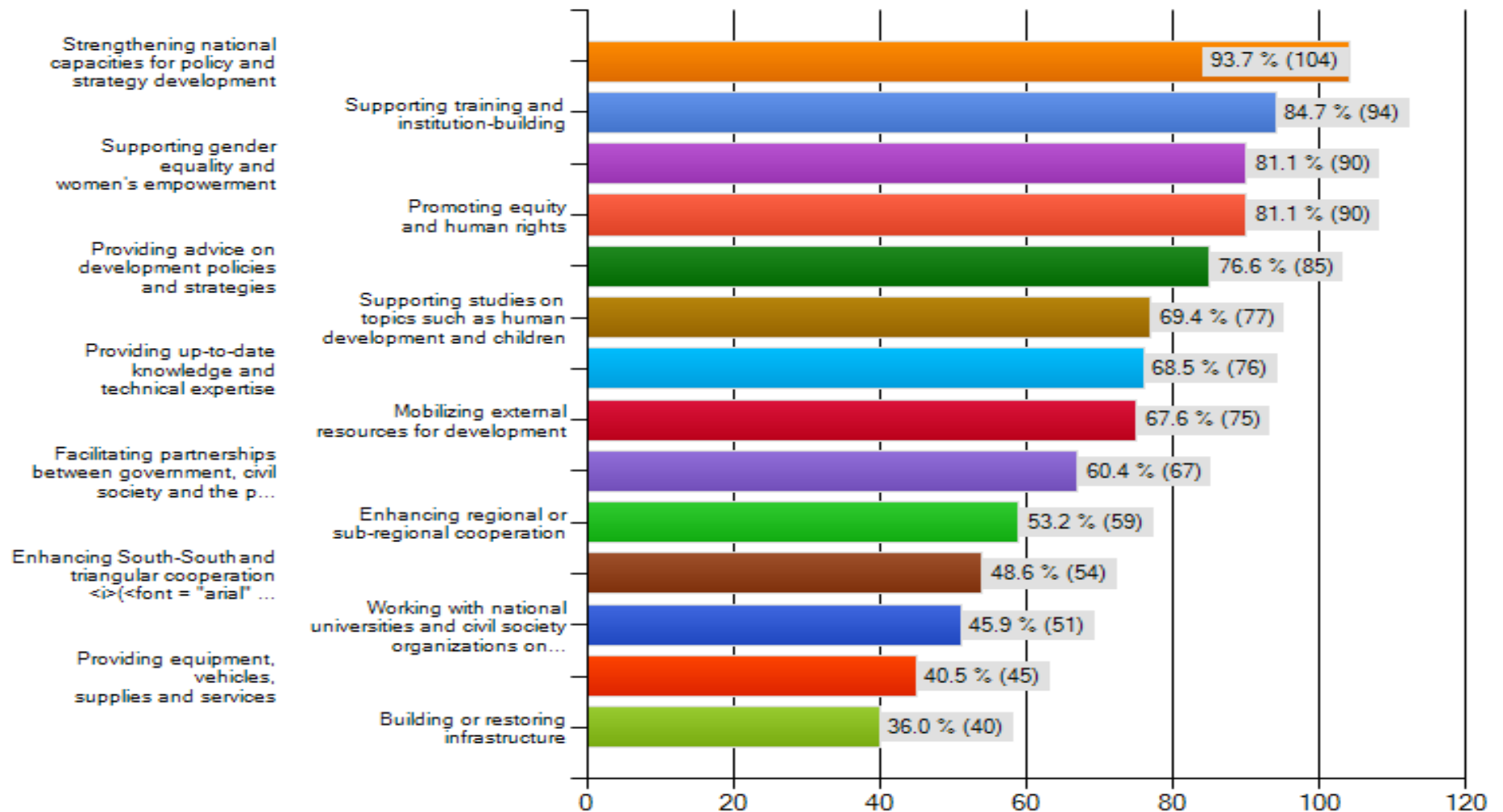


Question answered: 110 Programme Countries



# The functional areas of UN cooperation

7. The following is a list of different types of support the UN may provide. Please check the types of support that are most relevant to your country:

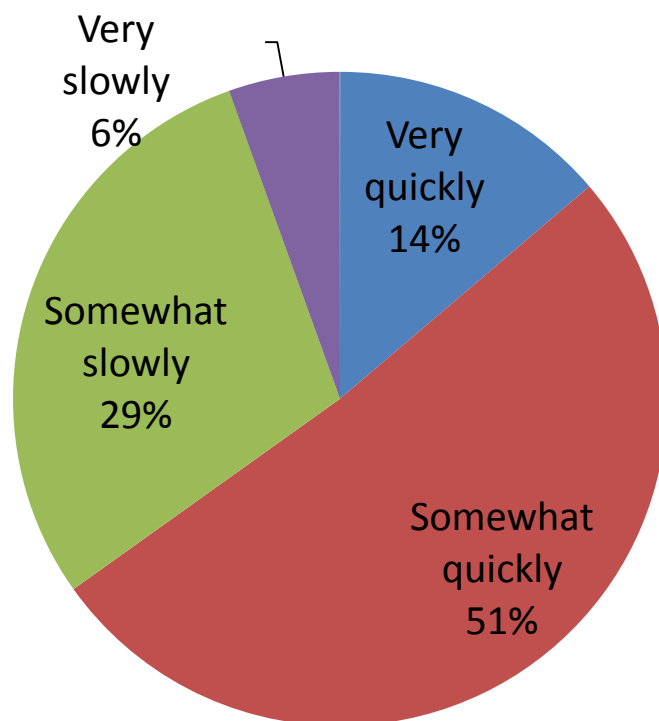






## Responsiveness to changed priorities - could be improved?

*“How quickly does the UN respond when your Government wants to make changes in the areas supported by the UN?”*

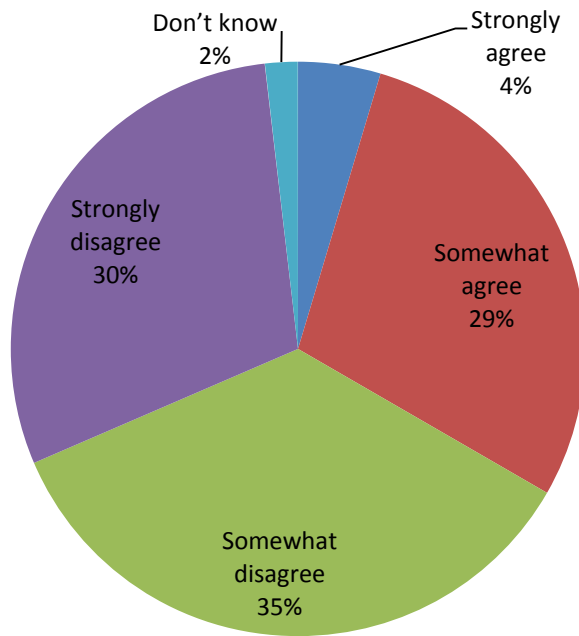




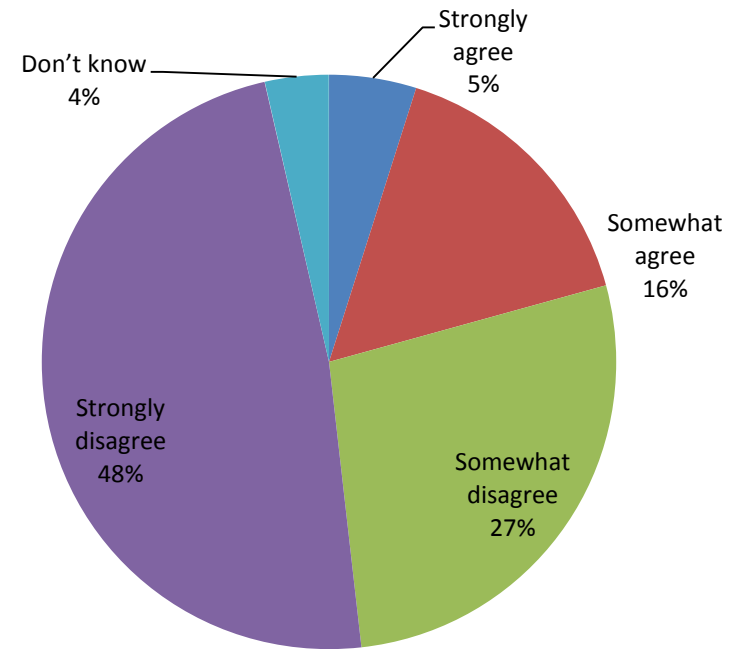
# Non-core activities are mostly as relevant as core activities

*“Many UN agencies receive contributions from donors for specific programmes or projects in addition to their regular (core) funds. In general, such additional donor-funded activities are less relevant to your country’s needs and priorities”*

**Non-core activities are not as relevant as core activities (Government view)**



**Non-core activities are not as relevant as core activities (UN entities' view)**



Question answered: 108 Programme Countries

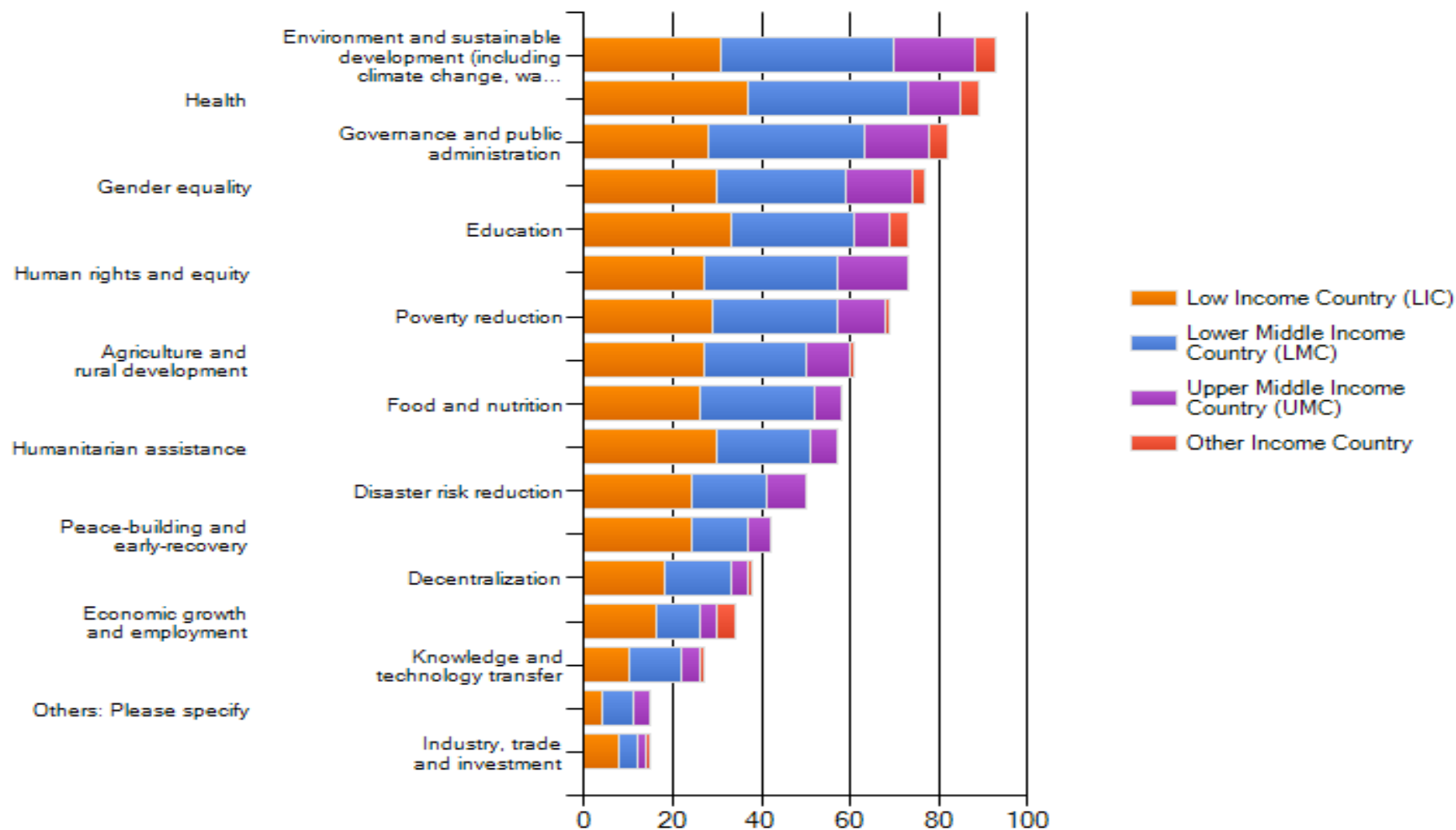


# Effectiveness



# UN contribution to environment sector most significant

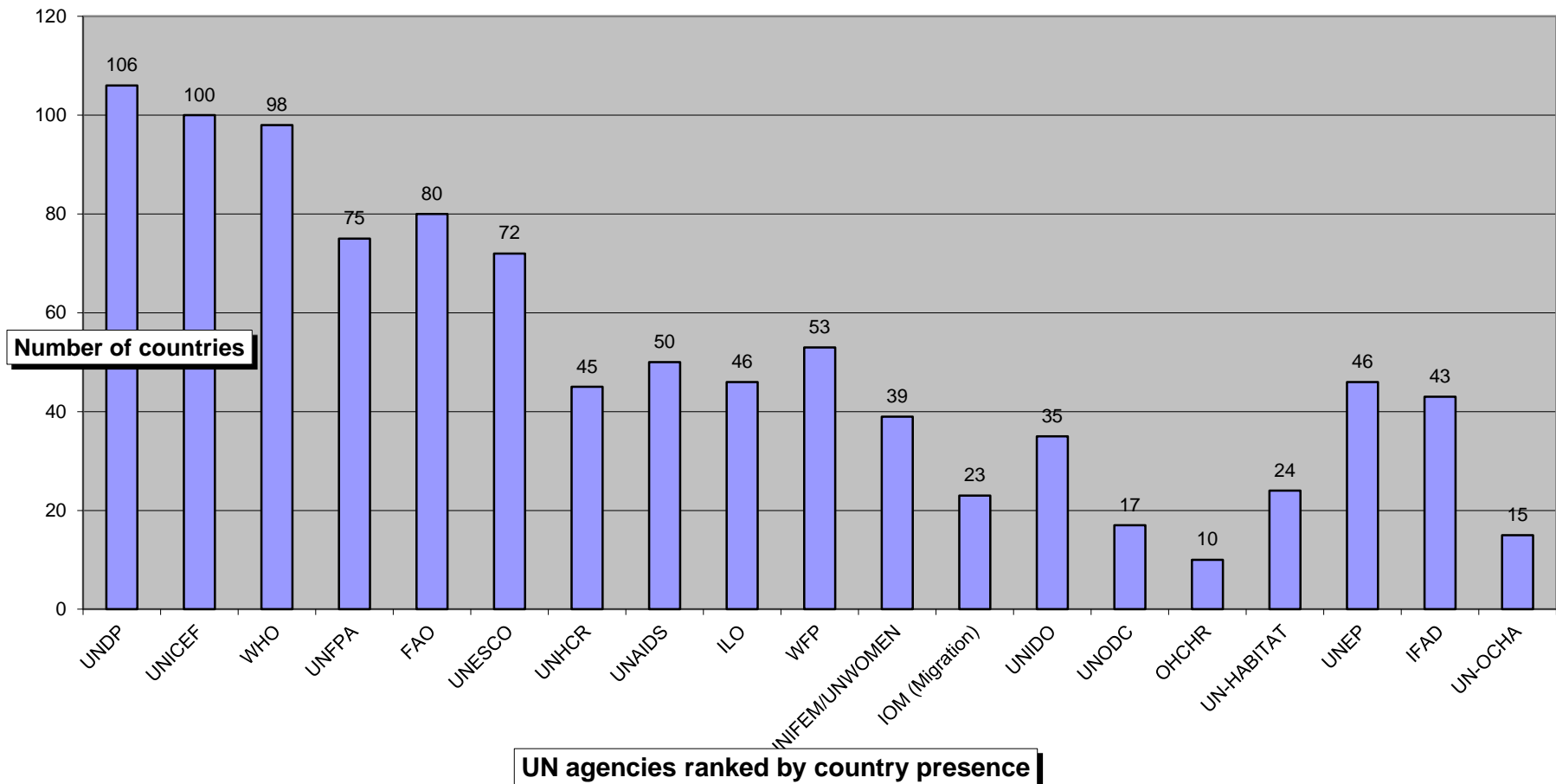
11. From the following list please select the areas where the UN contribution has been especially significant:





# 'Very significant contribution' is related to country presence

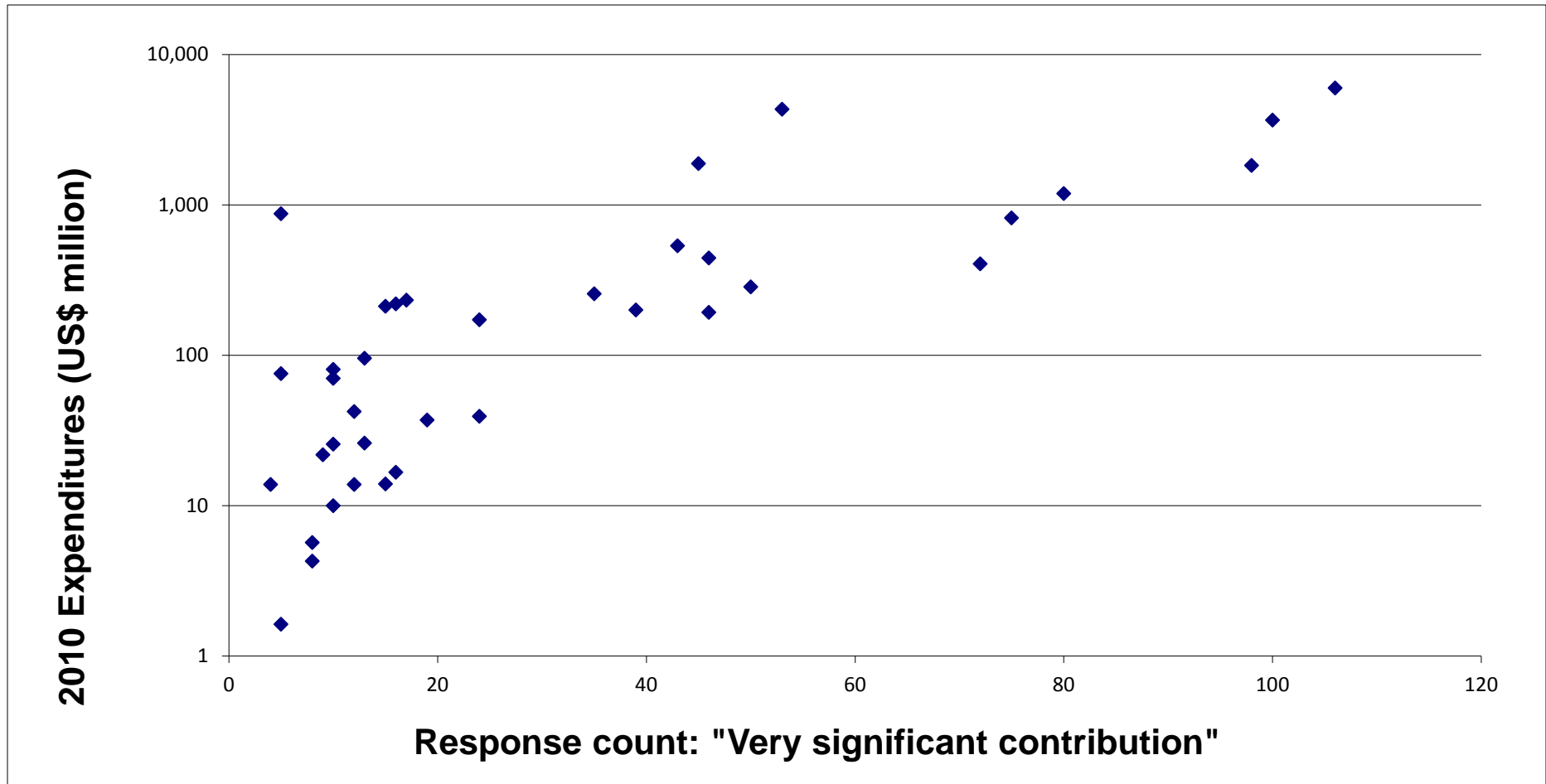
*“From the following list please select the UN agencies that have made a very significant contribution to your country’s development” (The chart shows the number of times an agency was mentioned as having made a very significant contribution to the country’s development)*





# 'Very significant contribution' is related to volume of funds an agency has to spend

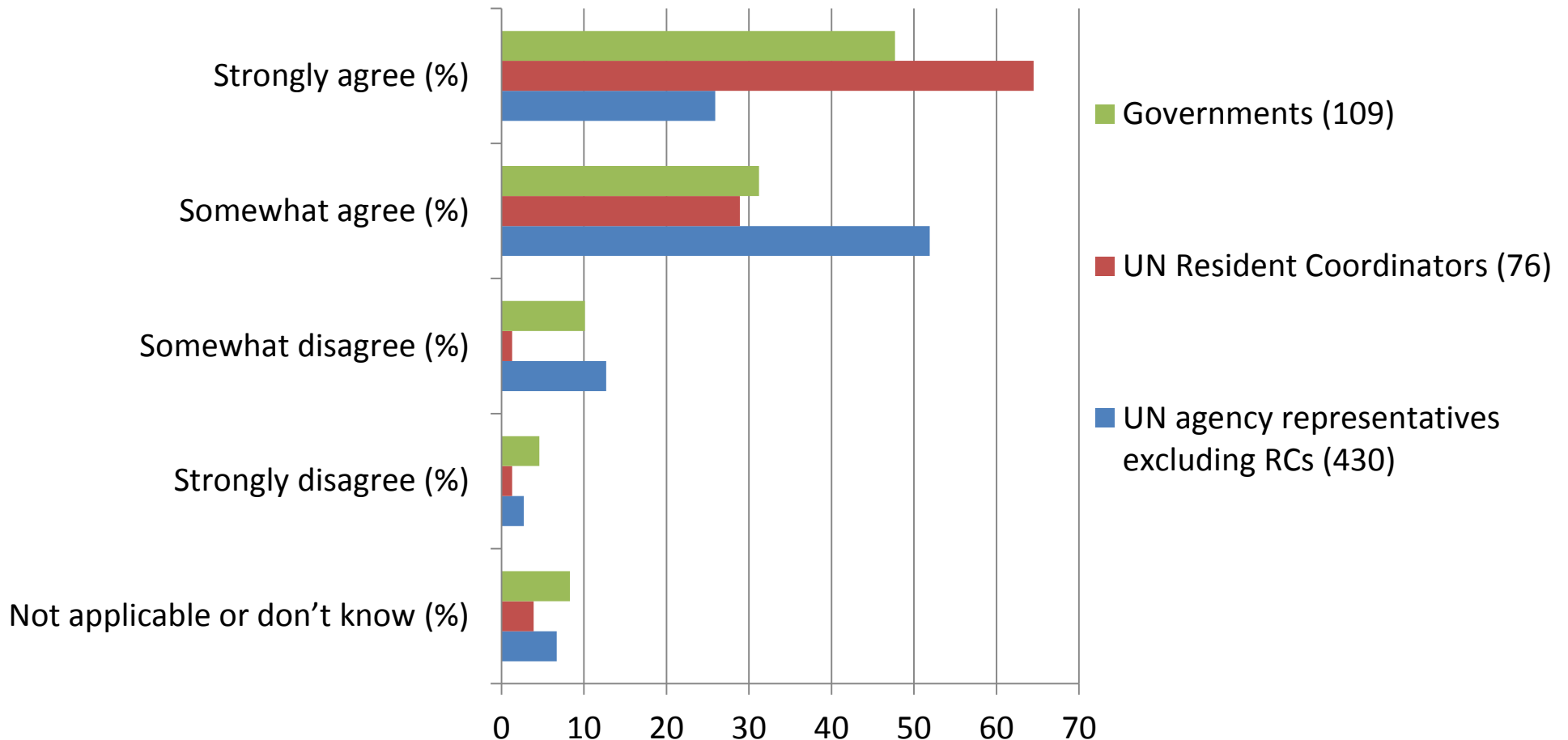
Number of times an agency was mentioned (x-axis) against worldwide expenditures in 2010 (Y-axis has a log scale)





# UNDAF helps to achieve better results

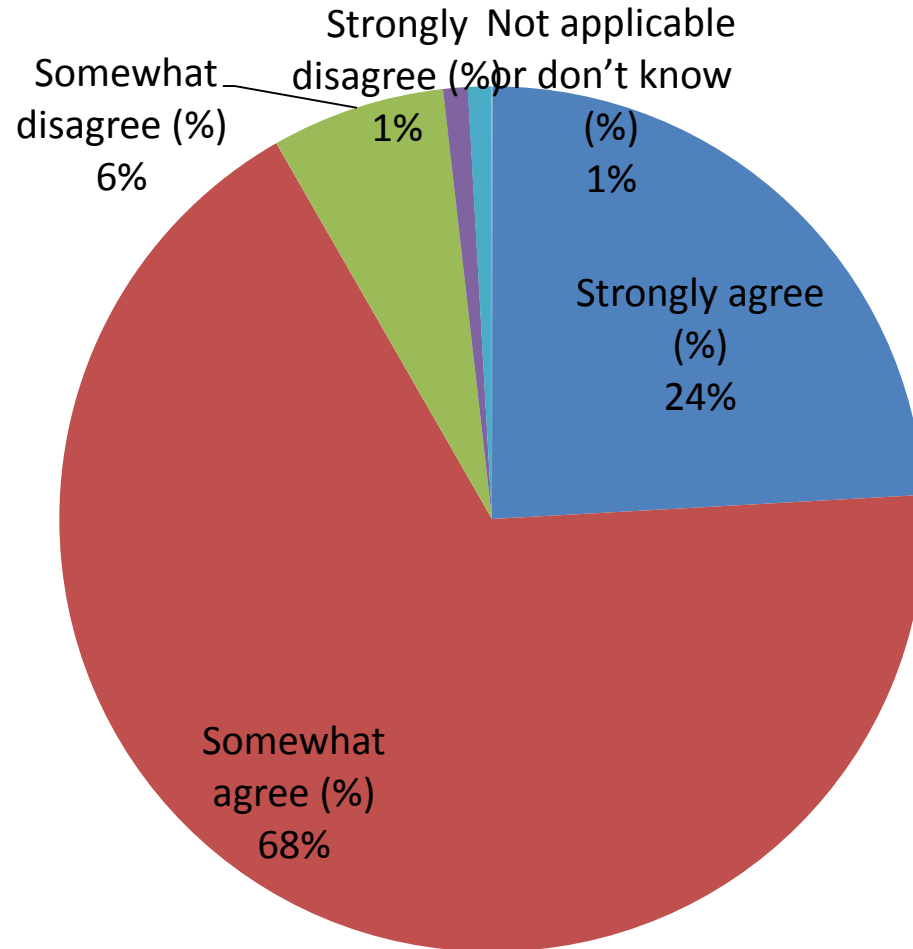
*“The UNDAF or another UN planning framework has helped the UN to achieve better results than if each UN agency had planned its support to your country separately”*





# UN effective at developing national capacities

*“UN has been effective in developing national capacities”*



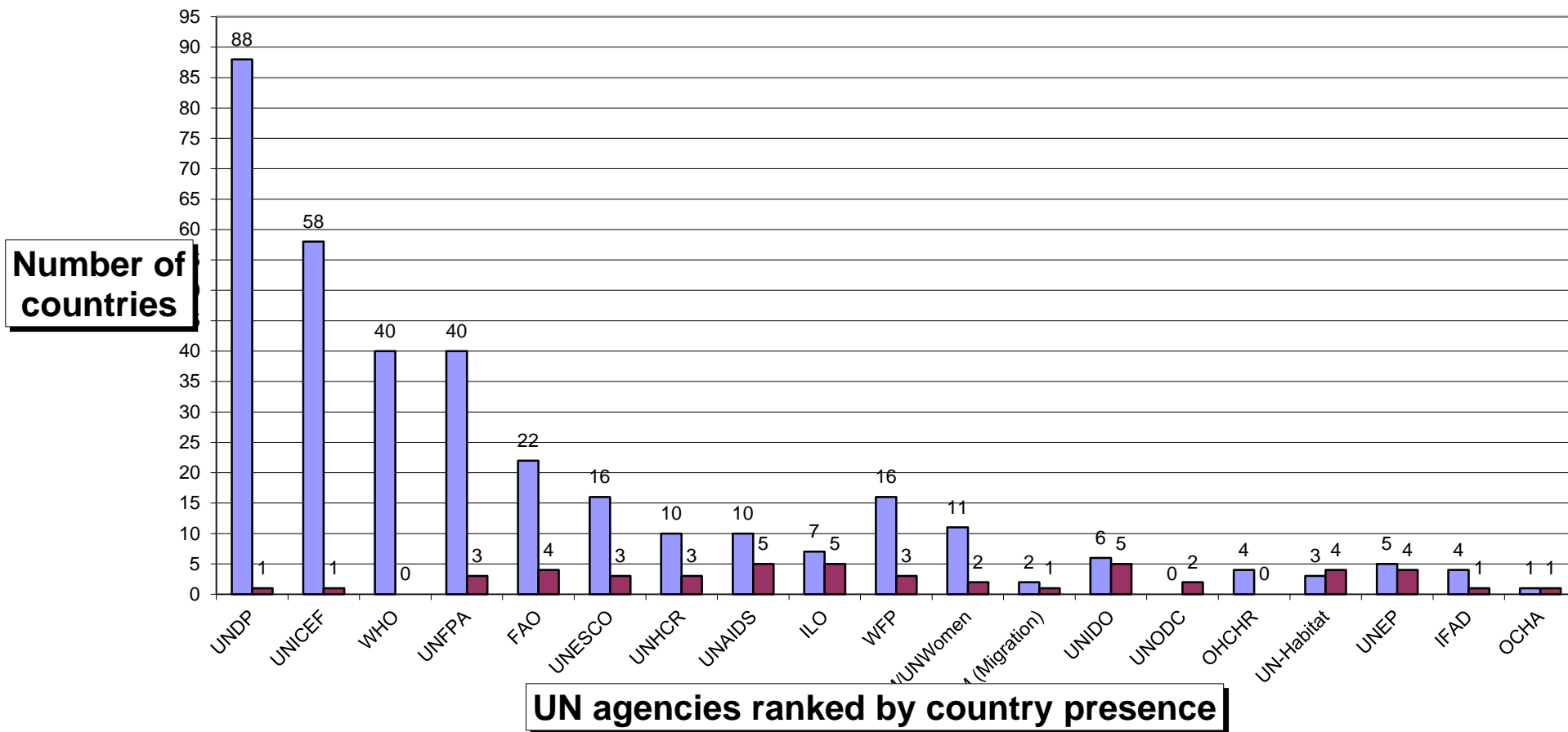




# Contribution to capacity development varies among agencies

■ UN agencies that **HAVE BEEN** highly effective in developing national capacities - 97 countries responded

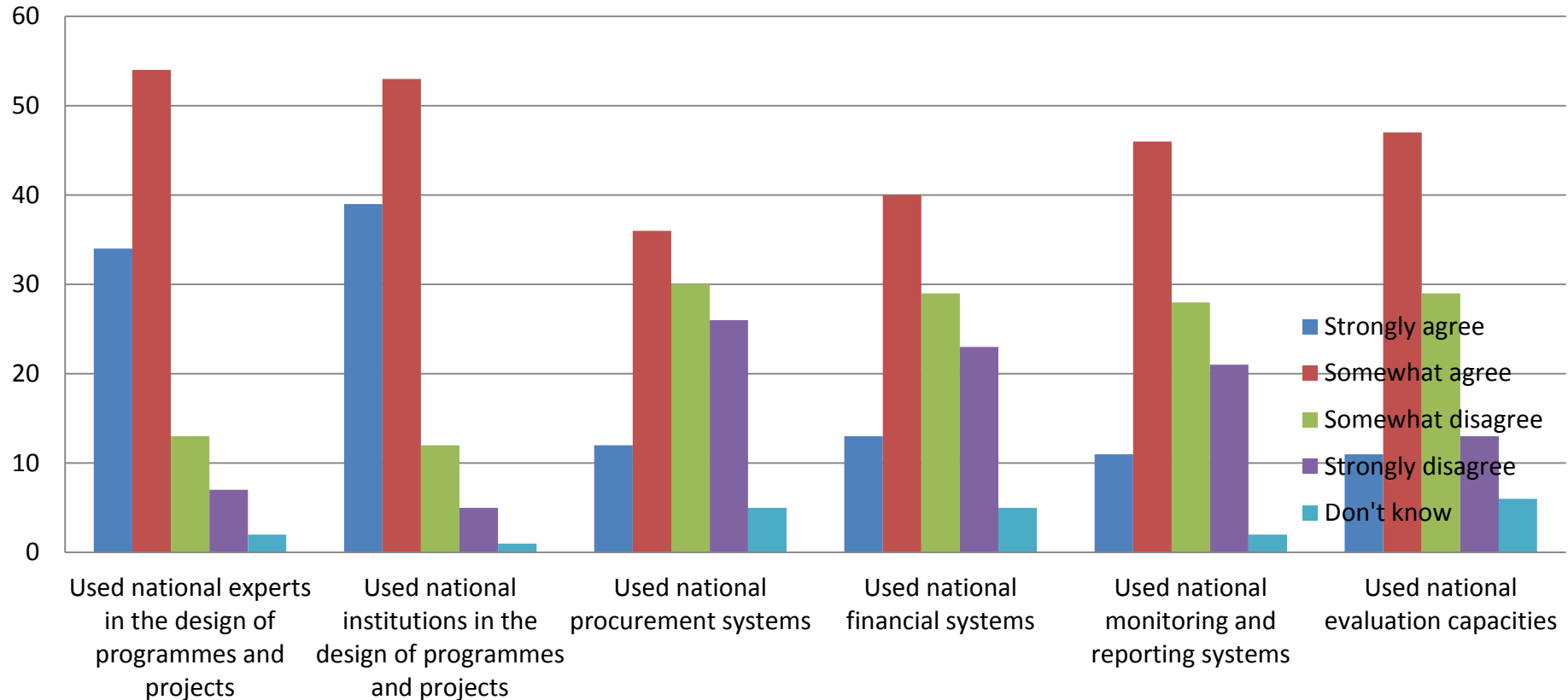
■ UN agencies that **HAVE NOT** been effective in developing national capacities - 52 countries responded





# Use of national capacities and systems is variable

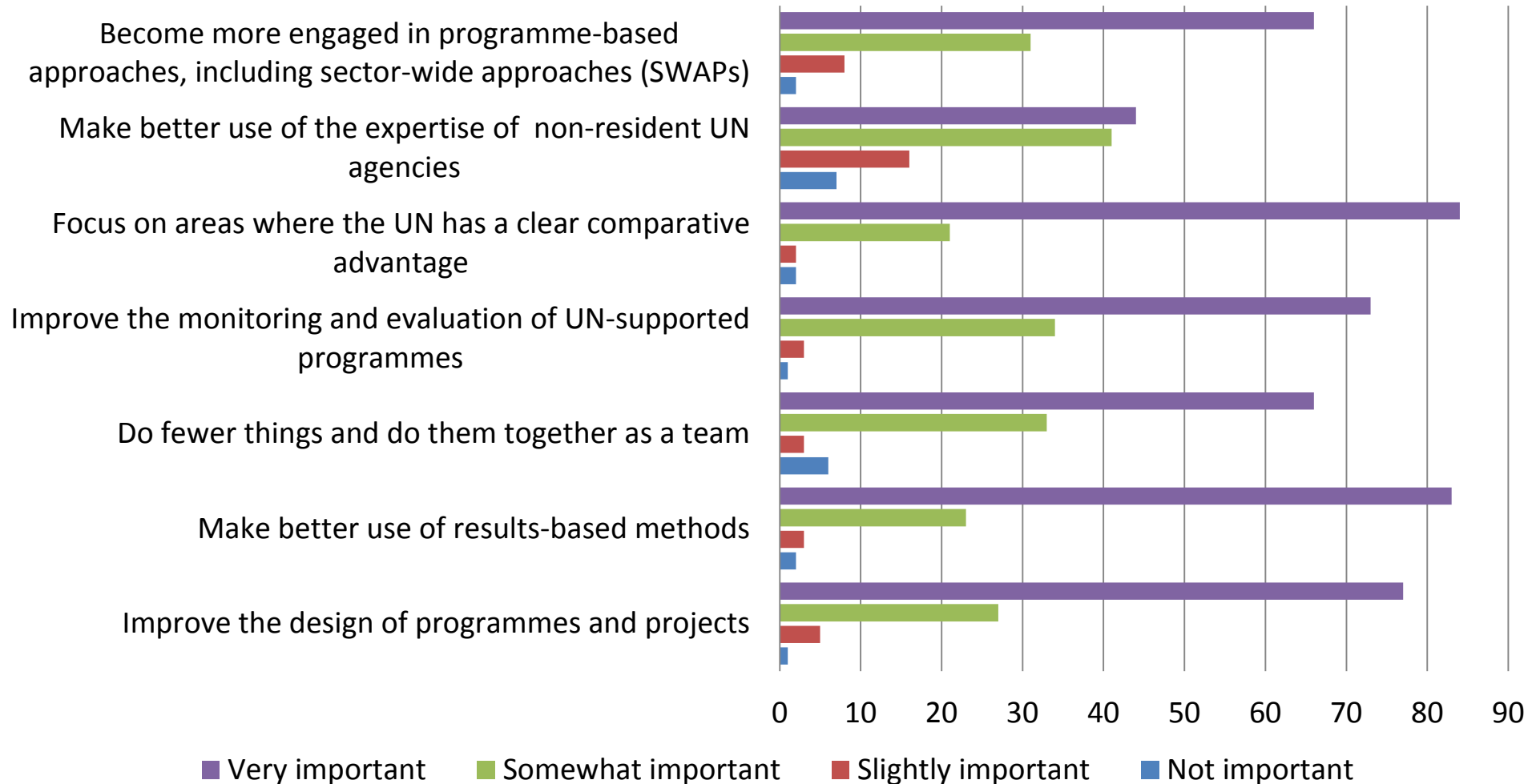
*“In order to achieve good results in your country, the UN has used following the approaches as much as possible”*





# Many ways for UN to improve its effectiveness

*“To become more effective in your country, how important is it for the UN to take the following measures?”*



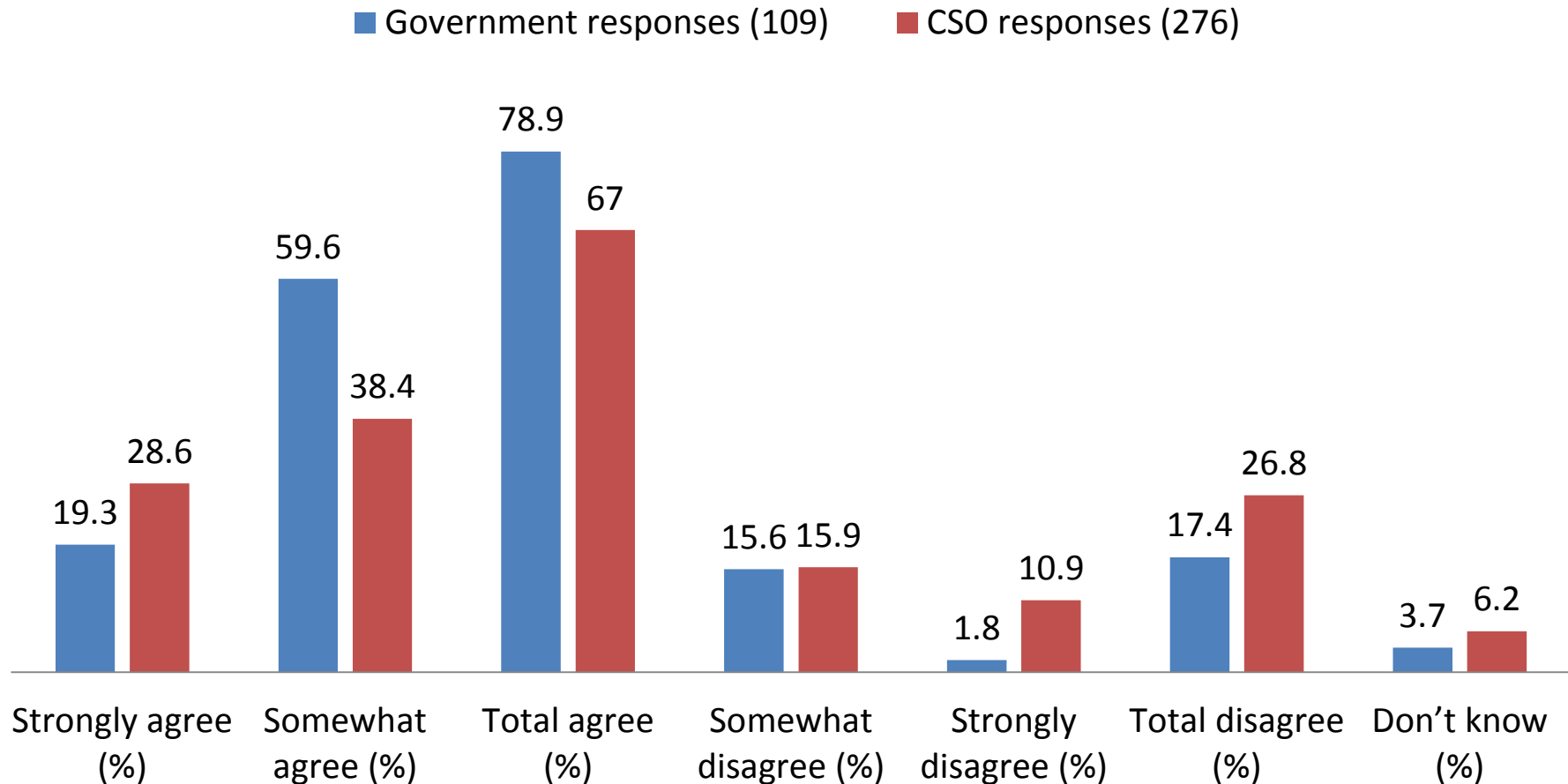


# Efficiency



# Perspectives on using funds economically - from both Governments and CSOs

*“The UN uses funds carefully and avoids waste”*

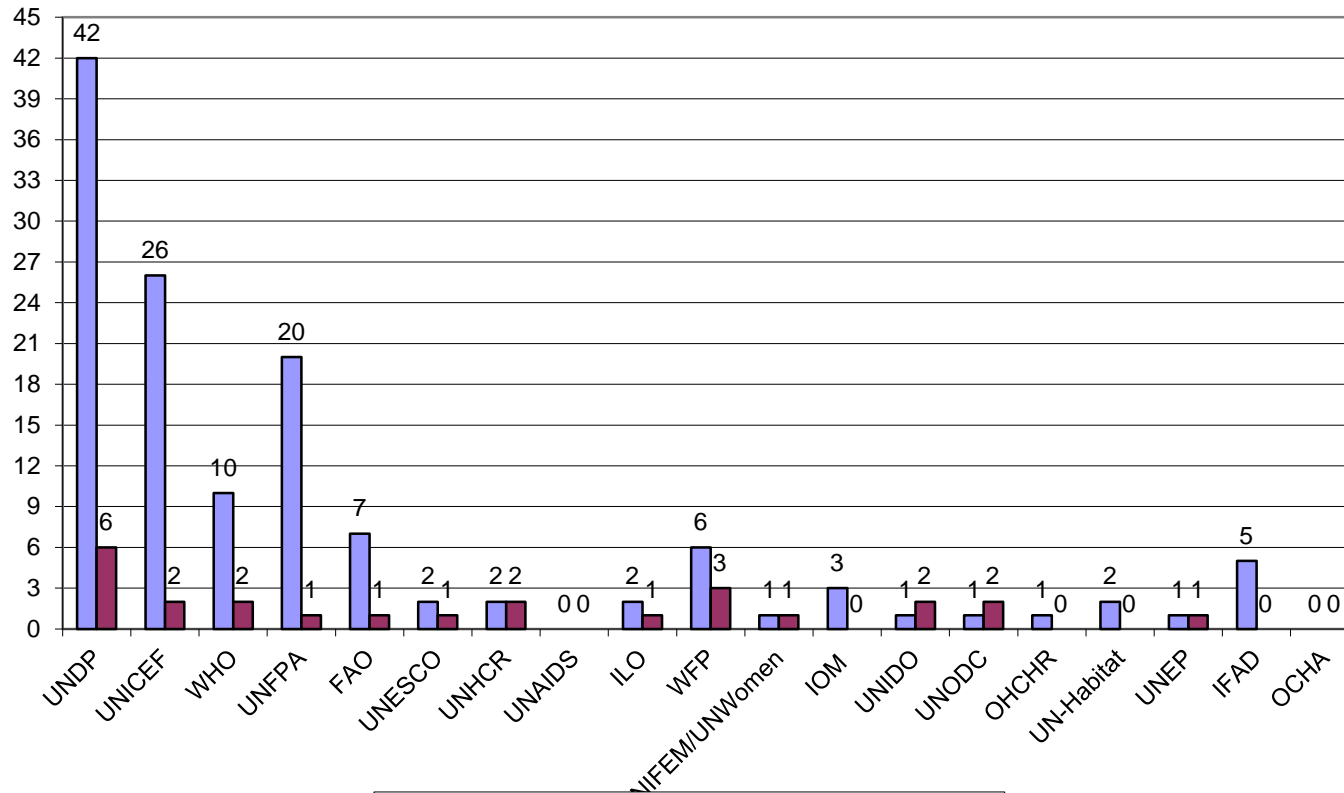




# Using funds economically – by agency

- UN agencies that DO pay noticeably close attention to using funds carefully and avoiding waste - 73 countries responded
- UN agencies that NEED to pay more attention to using funds carefully and avoiding waste - 47 countries responded

Number of countries

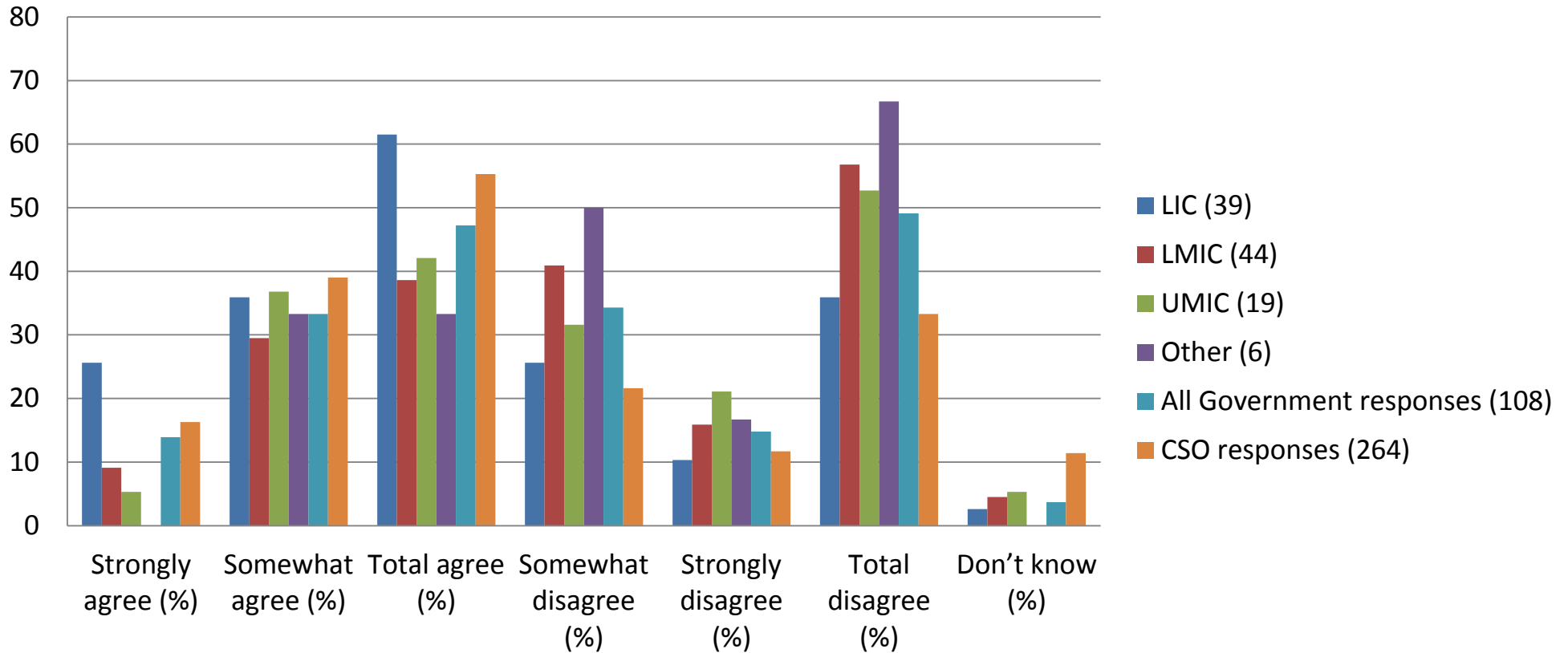


UN agencies ranked by country presence



# Duplication among UN agencies, as seen by Governments and CSOs

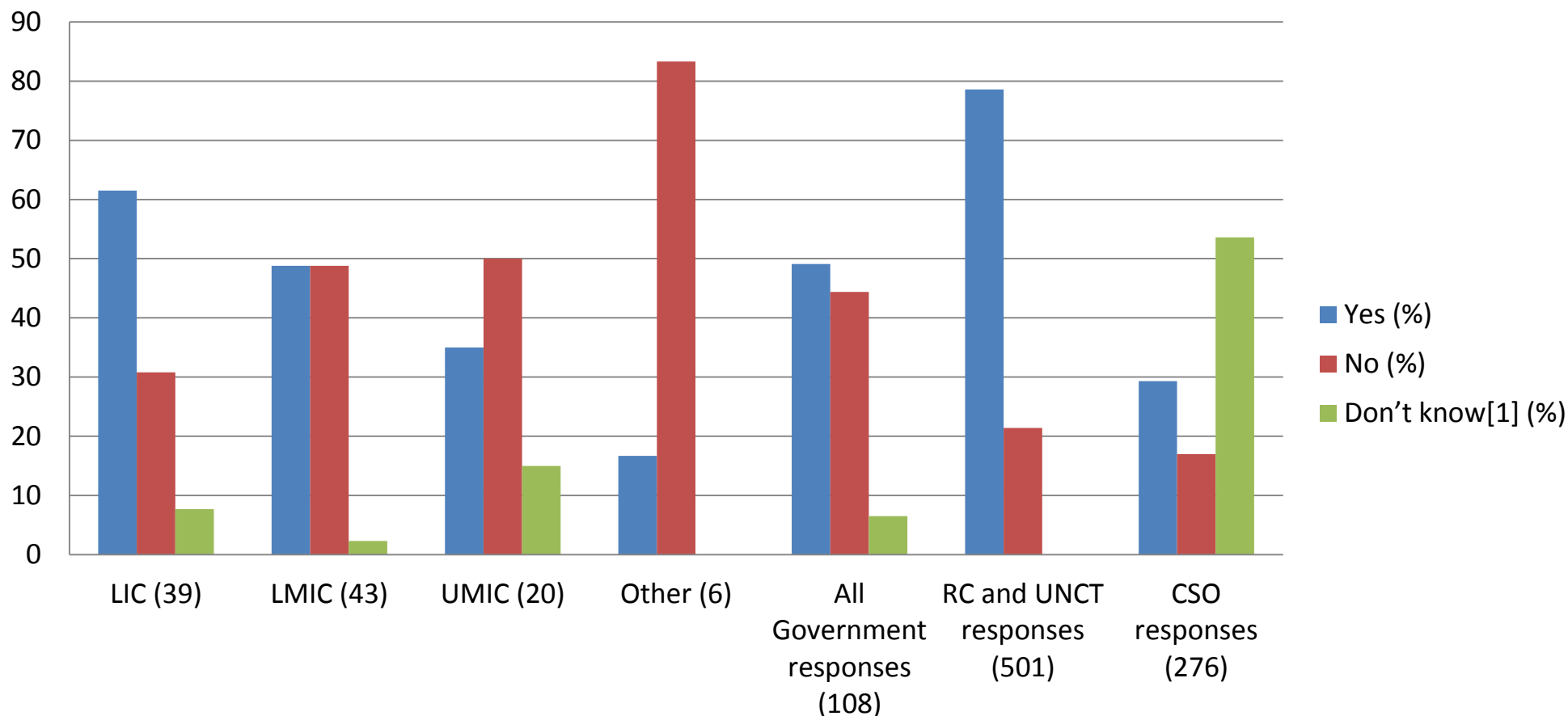
*“There is a significant amount of duplication among UN activities in the country”*





# Competition among UN agencies as seen by Governments, CSOs and UN country team members themselves

*“Do UN agencies sometimes compete with each other for donor funding?”*

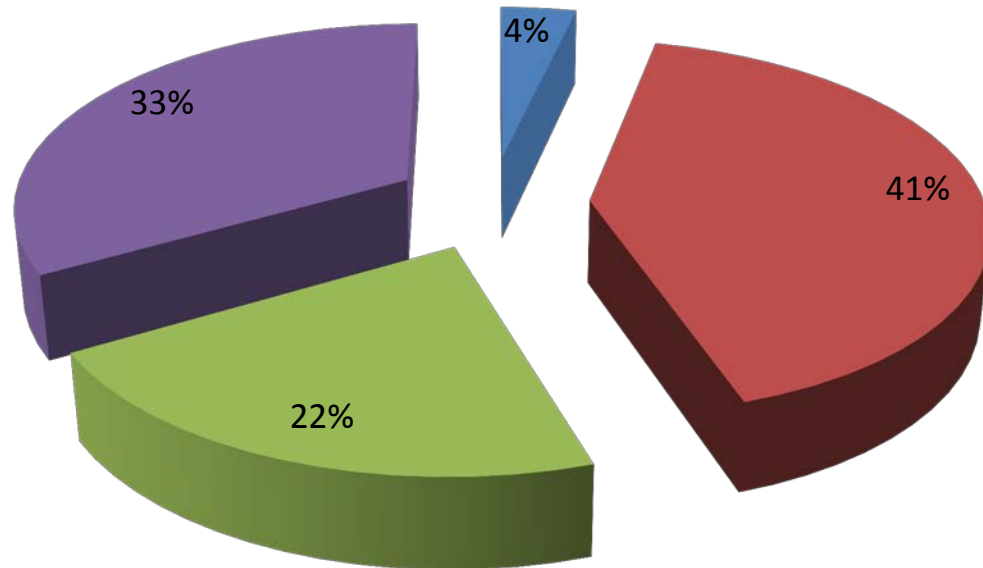






# Competition – healthy or unhealthy?

*“If the answer to question 21 [on competition] was Yes, please check any of the following statements that apply” - responses from UN staff:*

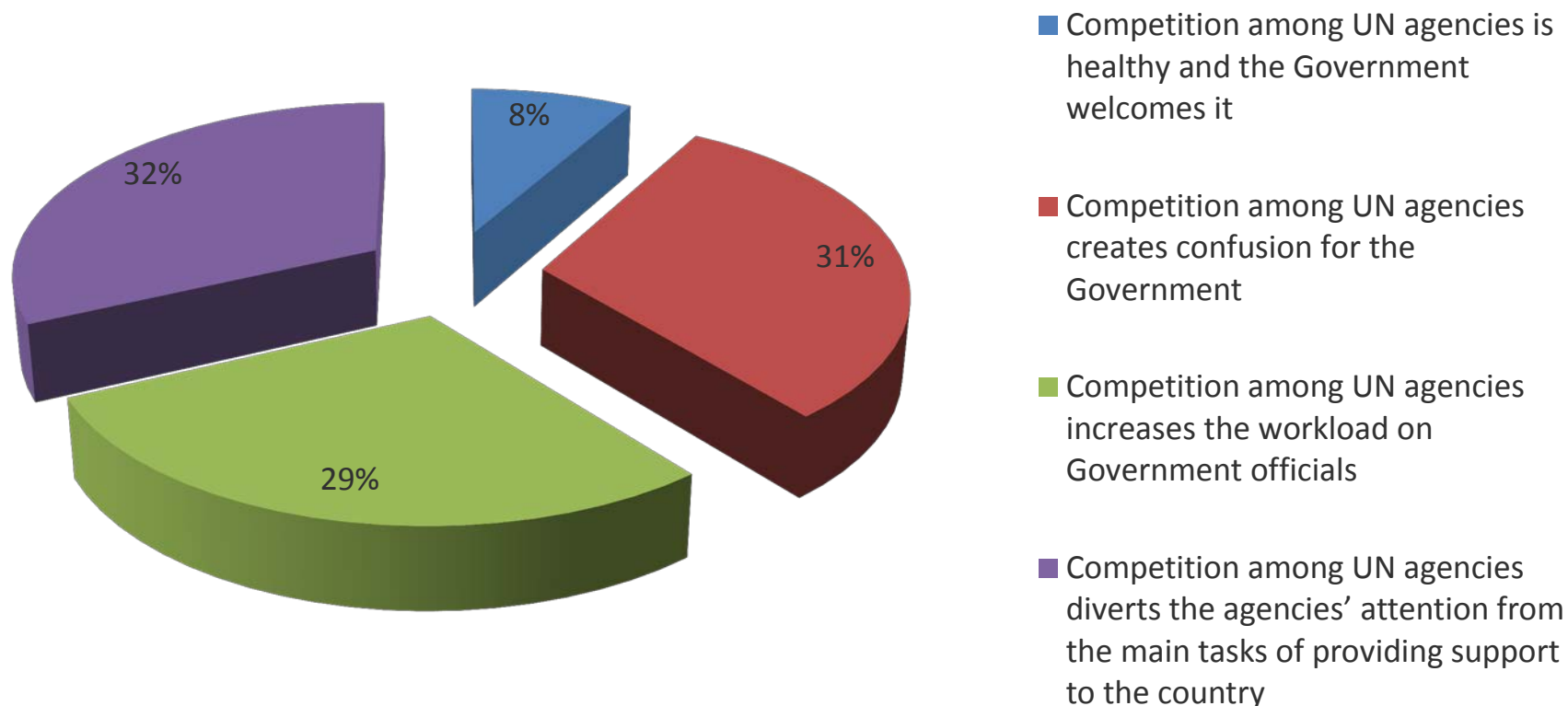


- Competition among UN agencies is healthy and the Government welcomes it
- Competition among UN agencies creates confusion for the Government
- Competition among UN agencies increases the workload on Government officials
- Competition among UN agencies diverts the agencies' attention from the main tasks of providing support to the country



## Competition – healthy or unhealthy?

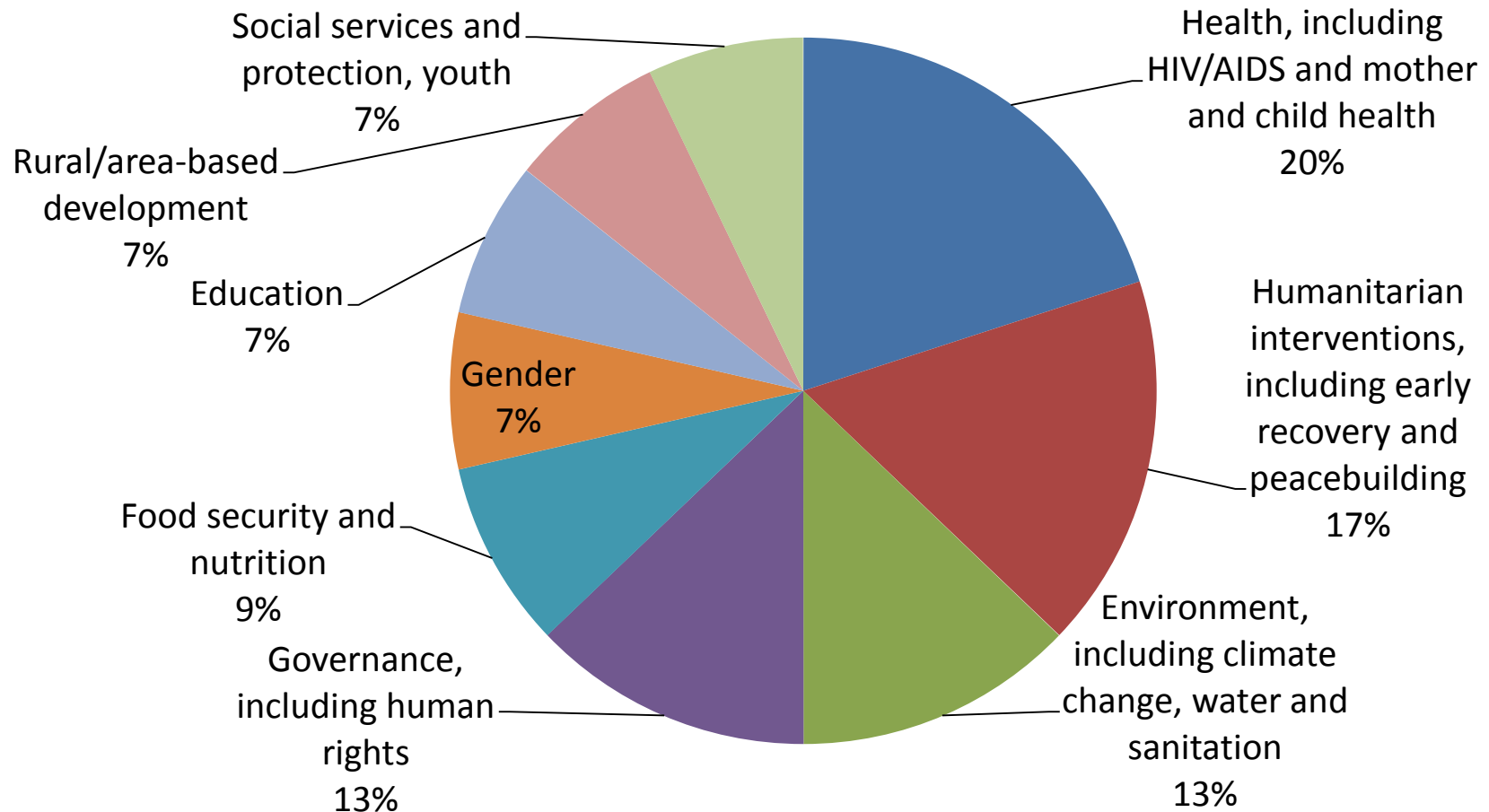
*“If the answer to question 21 [on competition] was Yes, please check any of the following statements that apply” - responses from Governments:*





# Competition noticed most in health and humanitarian affairs

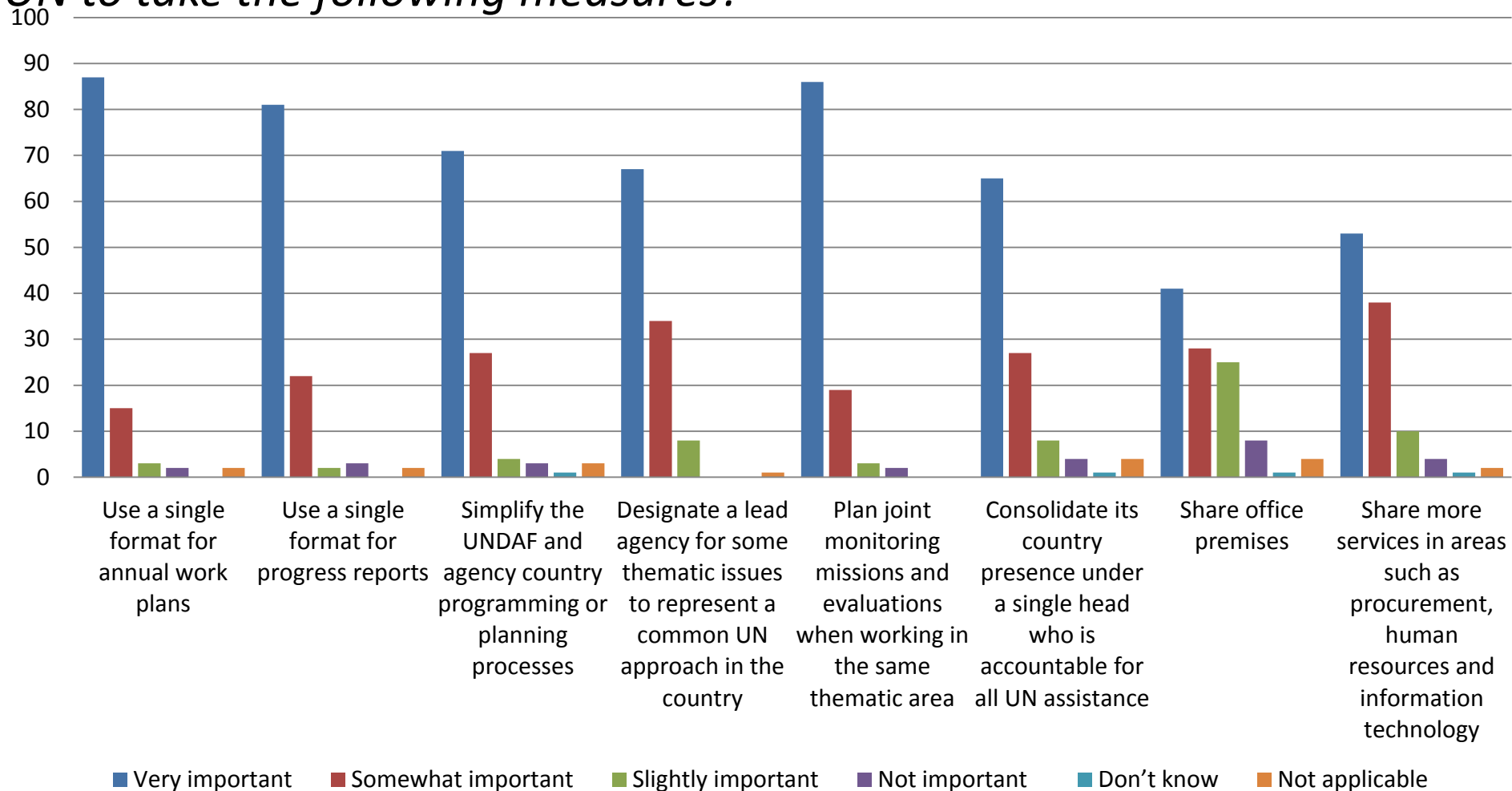
## Areas where UN agencies see competition (minimum of five instances)





# How to reduce transaction costs on Governments

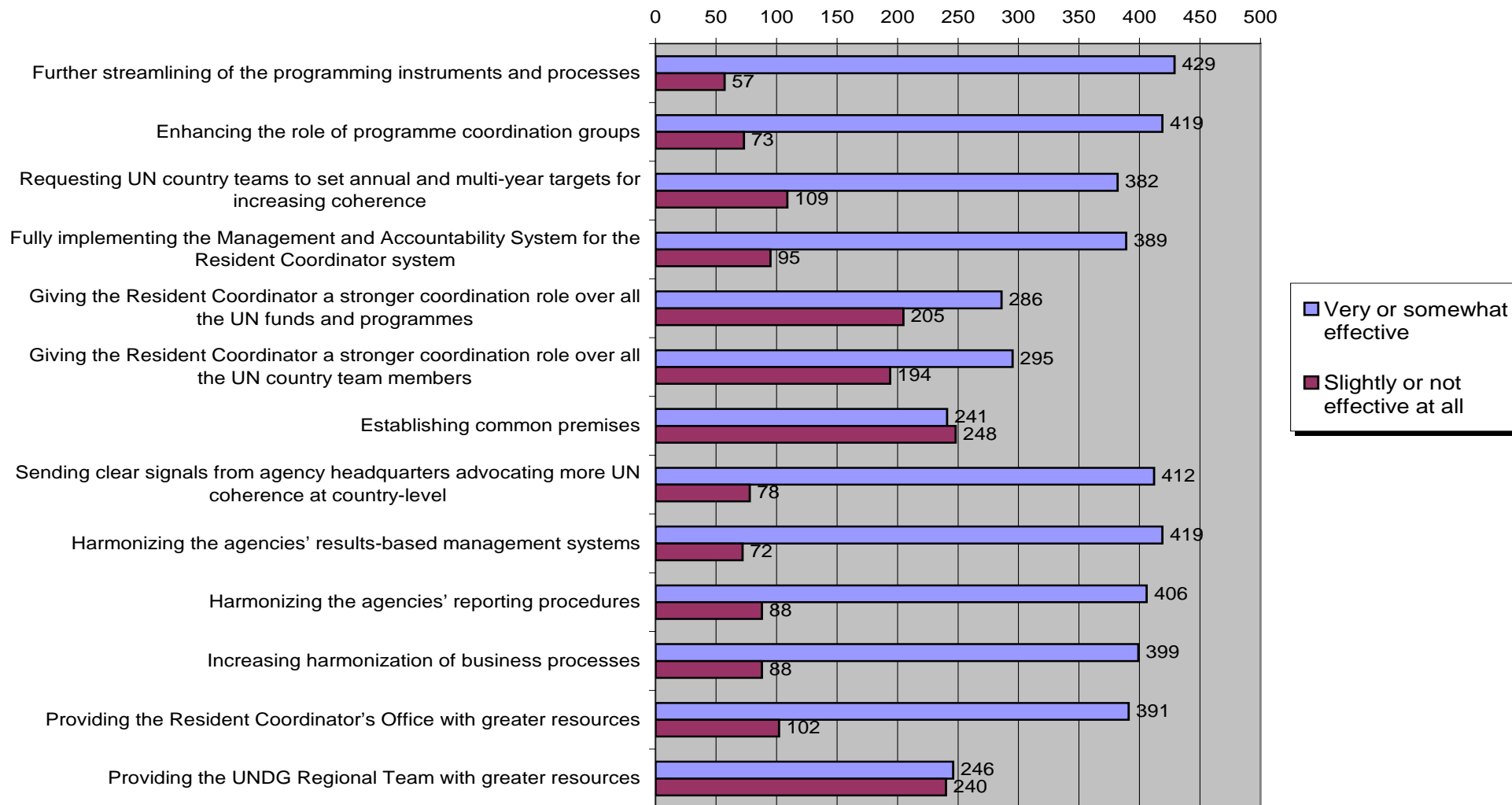
*“To reduce the workload on national partners, how important is it for the UN to take the following measures?”*





# UN perspectives on how to increase coherence

**Looking to the future, how effective would the following measures be in improving UN coherence at the country-level?  
- 497 responses**

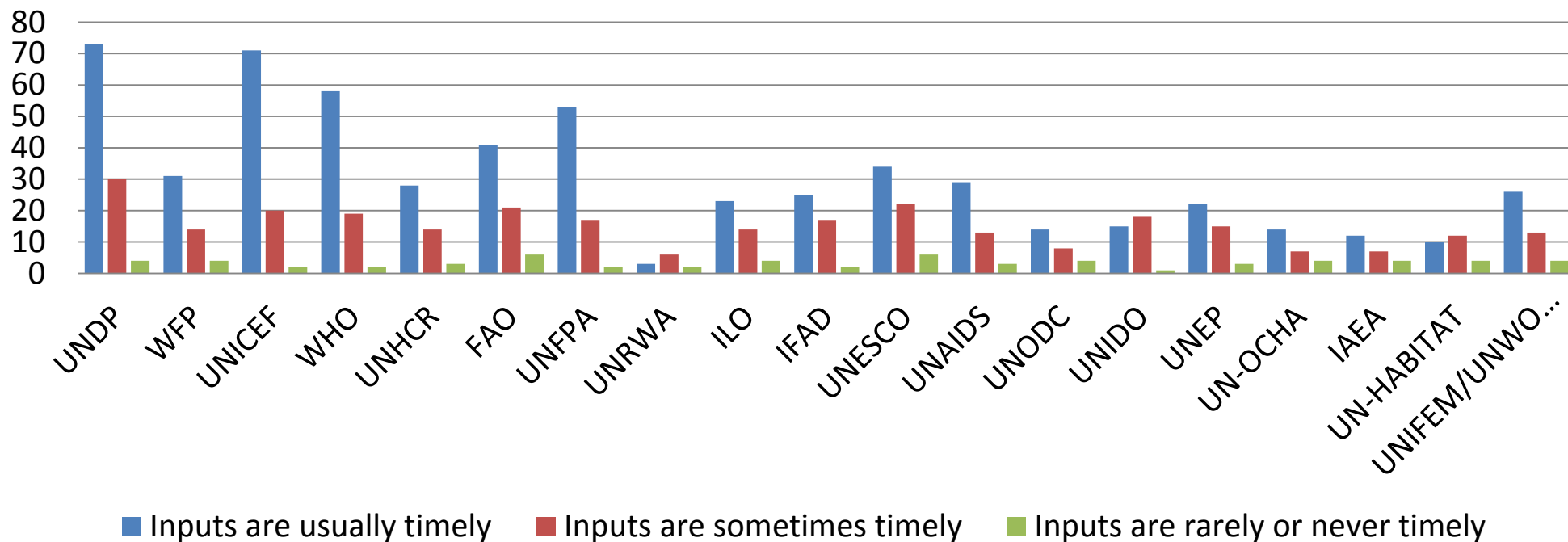




# How timely are UN agency inputs?

*From the following list please assess how timely the UN agencies are in providing inputs (such as advisers and equipment) for development activities: Please check only the agencies for which you have good information, and skip the others.*

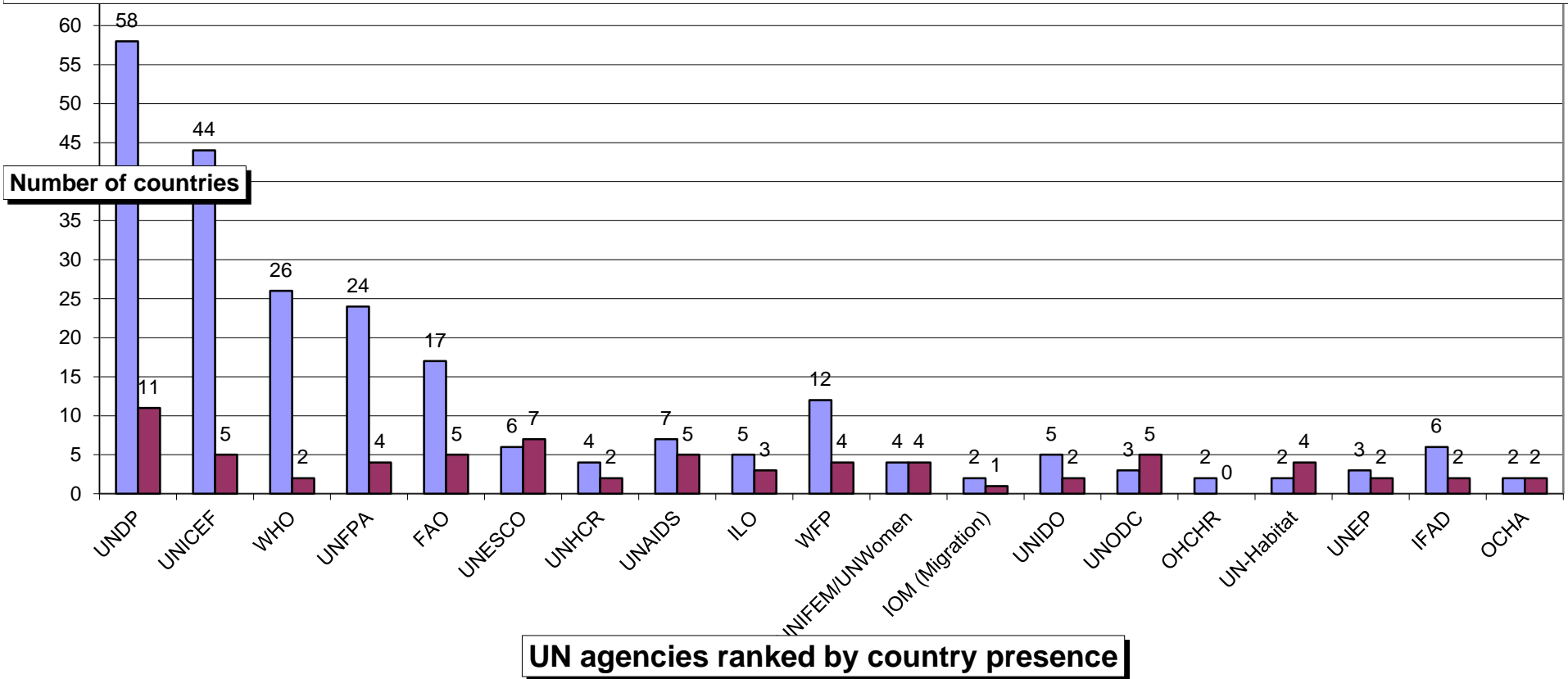
**Timeliness of inputs (Agencies are ranked according to worldwide expenditures in 2009 – minimum 20 responses)**





# Government perspectives on UN agency efficiency

- UN agencies that ARE highly efficient in the way they provide support to your country - 78 countries responded
- UN agencies that NEED to pay more attention to providing support in an efficient manner - 52 countries responded





**Thank You!**