

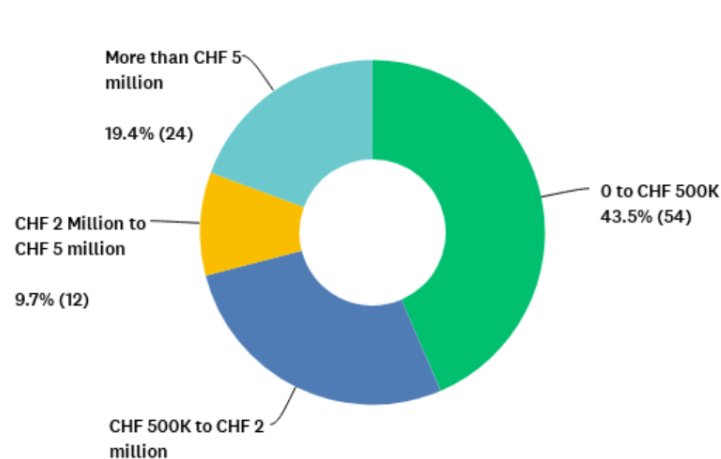
Impact of COVID-19 on Geneva based NGOs

Survey completed by Geneva based NGOs from 3rd to 19th May 2020

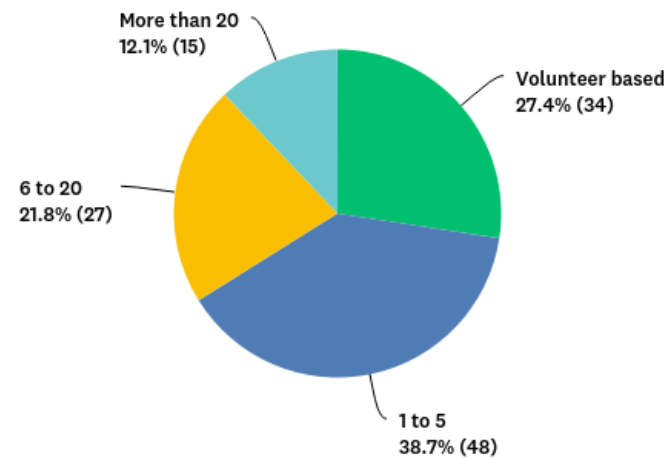
27th May 2020

124 NGO participants

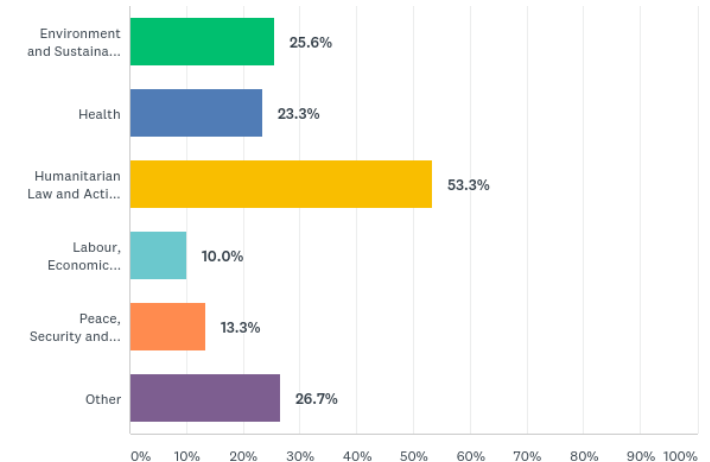
- Survey* conducted by the International Geneva Welcome Centre ([CAGI](#)) in collaboration with the United Nations Office at Geneva ([UNOG](#)) from 3rd to 19th May 2020 and sent out to 450 Geneva based NGOs.
- Survey completed by 124 NGOs of differing sizes and active in all sectors of international cooperation.



Organisation Budget (2019)



Number of Employees in Geneva

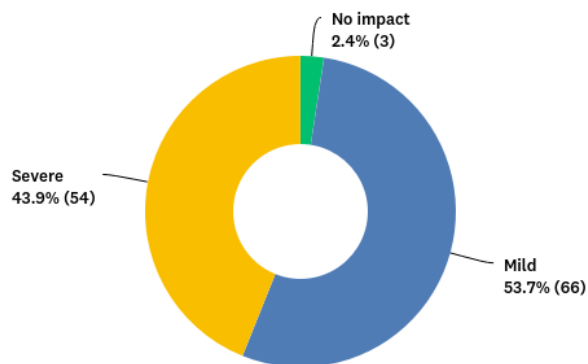


Sector

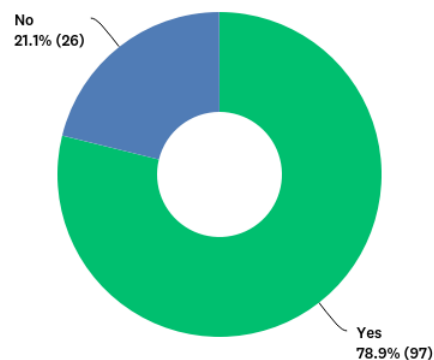
A moderate but very real impact

98% of NGOs were impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and 79% have had to reduce their activity. Nevertheless, a majority (54%) consider that the impact has been mild. In comparison with other sectors of the economy, NGOs seem to have been relatively mildly affected in the short term.

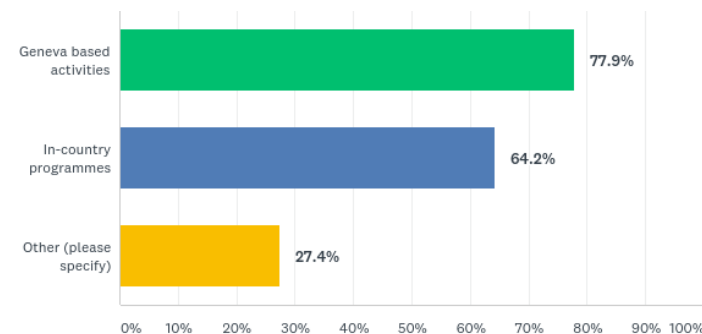
Activities carried out in Geneva registered the greatest impact. This can be explained principally by the implementation of confinement measures and restriction to travel having strongly impacted the organisation of numerous major conferences habitually held in International Geneva (e.g. the Human Rights Council, World Health Assembly, and International Labour Conference).



"How would you personally rate the impact of the COVID-19 on your organisation's operation?"



«Did you have to scale back your activities?»



"Which programmes did you have to scale back?"

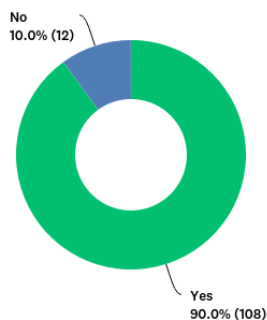
An affected ecosystem

The ecosystem of International Geneva is characterised by continuous interaction between international organisations (IO), NGOs and permanent missions.

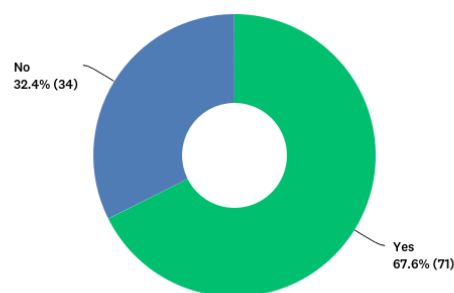
Among the 90% of NGOs that interact with the United Nations and other IOs, $\frac{2}{3}$ **confirm that the crisis has had a negative impact on these interactions.**

Advocacy activities by IOs were particularly impacted, as well as communications and joint programmes.

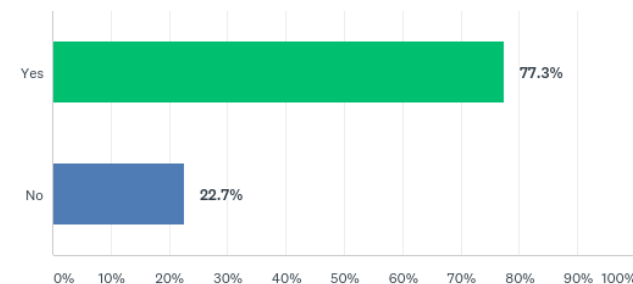
77% of NGOs had to cancel conferences planned to take place in Geneva.



«Does your organisation regularly engage with the UN and other international organisations?»



"Did COVID-19 situation have a negative impact on your engagement with the UN?"

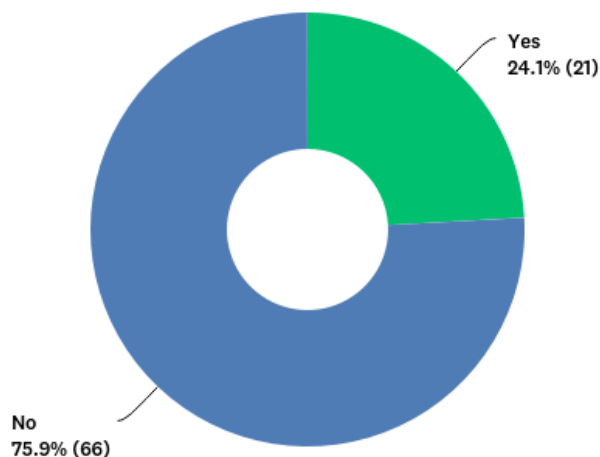


"Have you had to cancel meetings and conferences that you were planning to hold in Geneva (excluding internal meetings)?"

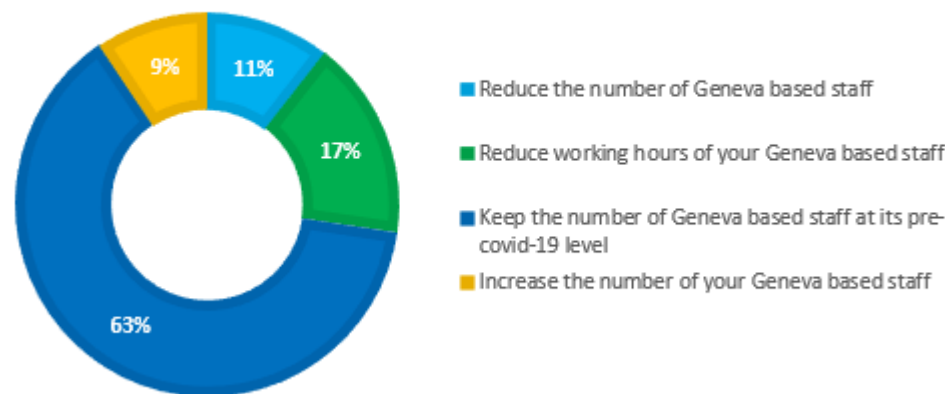
Impact on employment

¼ of NGOs with employees in Geneva have reduced their personnel since the beginning of the pandemic.

However, over the coming 6 months, 72% of NGOs foresee maintaining or increasing their personnel in relation to pre-crisis levels.



"Did your organisation have to reduce the number of staff since the outbreak started?"



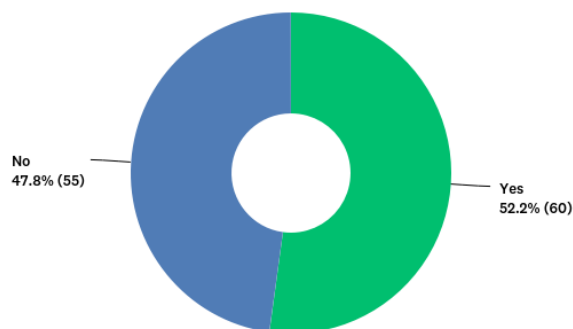
«What are your plans for the coming 6 months?»

Impact on finances and reactions from donors

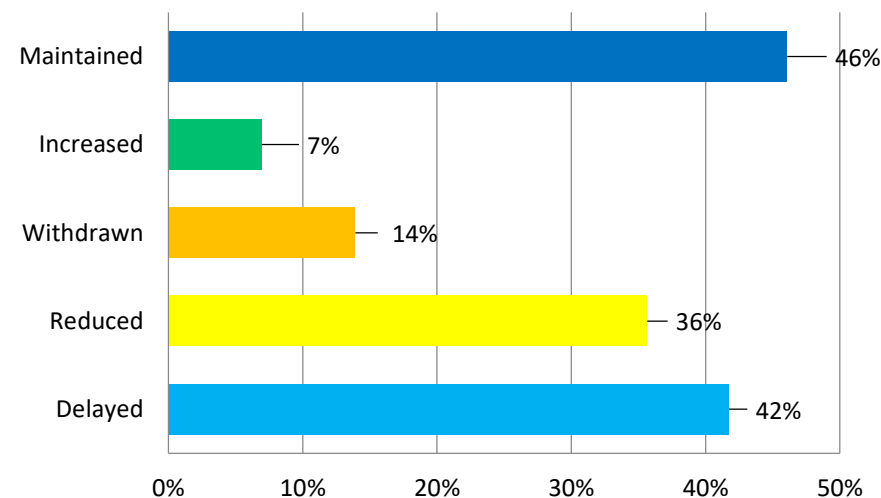
More than half the NGOs questioned have already seen a reduction in their revenue due to the crisis.

Almost half the NGOs received a guarantee that their funding would be maintained from some donors...

however, many NGOs were also informed of a delay (42%), a reduction (36%), or even a withdrawal (14%) of the funding pledged by some of their donors.



"Did your organisation face a loss of income since the outbreak started?"



«Have you been informed by donors that expected funding would be...?»

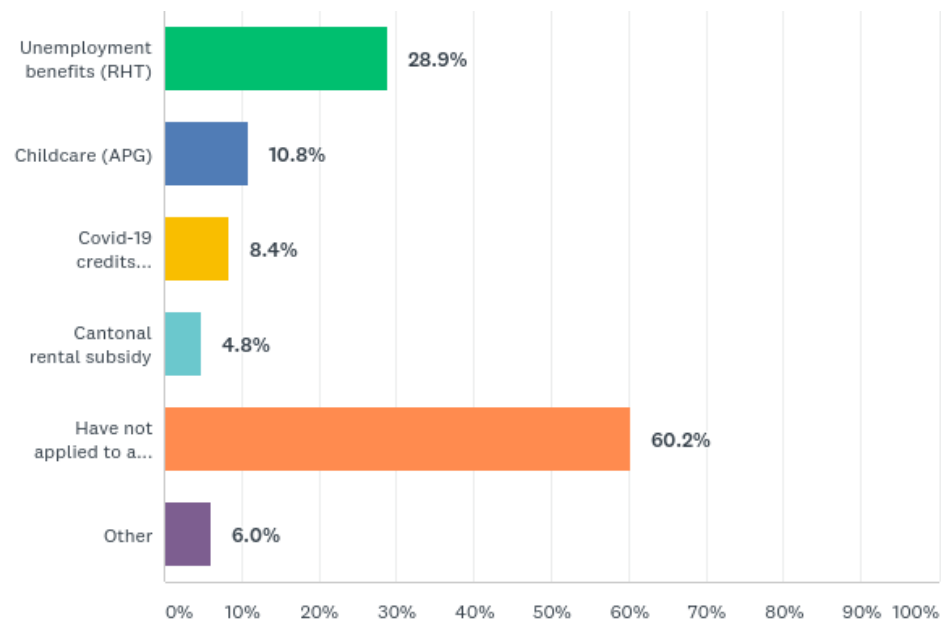
Partially utilised government measures

60% of NGOs did not request any of the governmental measures put in place to support the economy during the COVID-19 crisis.

Unemployment benefit (RHT) was a measure utilised by 29% of NGOs employing personnel in Geneva (no refusal was noted in the results of this survey). Other measures were hardly called upon.

Notably the majority of requests for COVID Credit and reduction in rents were refused.

Comments show that the measures put in place by the authorities generally evoked a positive response. However, many NGOs highlight the complicated application processes of the schemes, the lack of clarity of the information provided as well as the lack of targeted measures taking the particularities of the NGO sector into consideration (i.e. not for profit and largely non-commercial).



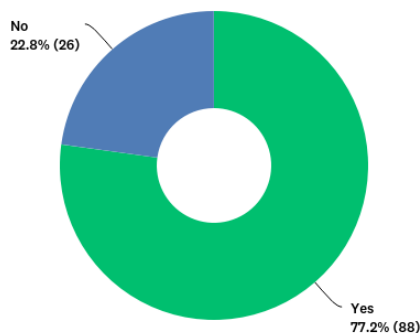
"Which of the following schemes in response to the COVID-9 has your organisation applied to?"

Perspectives

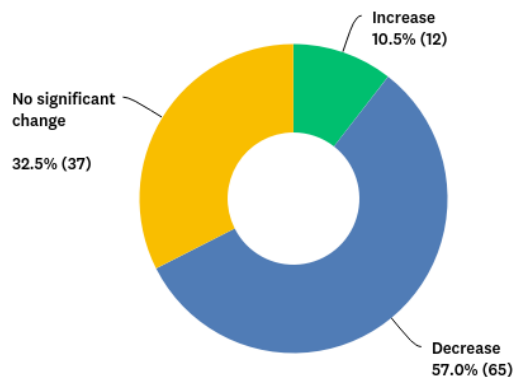
More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of organisations reviewed their budgetary and operational plans for 2020 in the light of the crisis.

Only 10% of NGOs foresee an increase in their budget in 2020, while 57% envisage a reduction (among these, $\frac{1}{3}$ envisage a reduction greater than 20% compared to 2019).

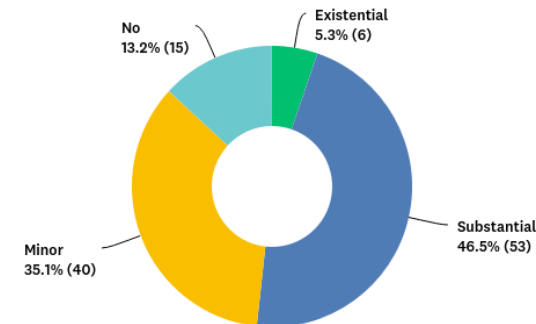
Half the organisations questioned consider the present situation as posing a significant risk.



"Have you had to review your current yearly budget and activities?"



"How do you forecast your organisation income in 2020 compared to 2019?"



"Do you believe the situation could pose a risk to your organisation?"

Perspectives

It is clear from the data that **a period of great uncertainty** awaits NGOs based in International Geneva:

- *What will the reaction of institutional and private donors be in 2021?* If the short term impact is evident but relatively contained, the comments show that fear of a heavy loss in support from donors may occur in 2021. With national governments and international organisations as the principle sources of funding for Geneva based NGOs, budgetary arbitration to come will have a definite impact.
- *What will be the impact of the present crisis on the participation of NGOs in core global governance processes? Will the voice of NGOs be diminished?*

Increased role of NGOs in Geneva: Geneva based NGOs expect to have a greater role as the interface between their partners in the field and international organisations in Geneva.

Online conferencing and inclusion: 77% of NGOs are satisfied with tools for online conferencing and 70% of NGOs think that the greater adoption of online conferencing will increasingly enable them to include partners in the field to discussions held in Geneva.

Resilience and agility: 80% of NGOs demonstrated their flexibility and agility by rapidly putting in place projects in relation to COVID-19.

CAGI



CENTRE D'ACCUEIL DE LA GENÈVE INTERNATIONALE INTERNATIONAL GENEVA WELCOME CENTRE

International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI)

106, route de Ferney, 1202 Genève

ong.cagi@etat.ge.ch

www.cagi.ch

