

Survey: Religious Leaders' Perspectives on Corona

Preliminary Findings

Dr Ekkardt Sonntag
Philipp Öhlmann
Marie-Luise Frost

Research Programme on Religious Communities
and Sustainable Development

www.rcsd.hu-berlin.de

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



Photo by Muhammad Adil on Unsplash



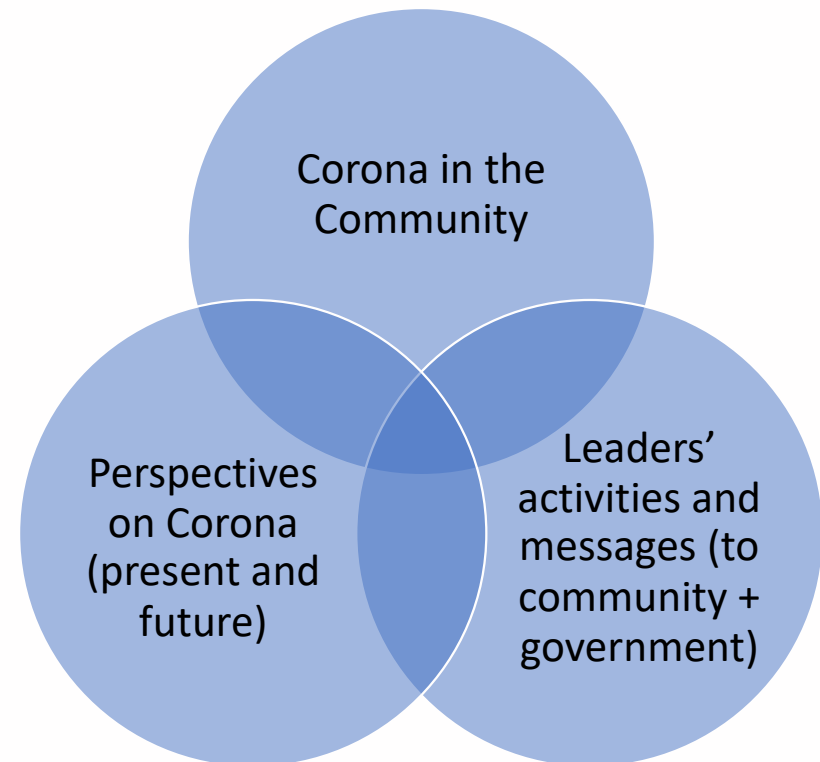
Format

- Online Survey
 - English, German, French, Arabic, Spanish
- Target group:
 1. Leaders of Religious Communities
 2. Leaders of Religious Organisations
(Humanitarian & Development FBOs, Interfaith Organisations, Ecumenical Bodies)

hu.berlin/Corona-survey

Research Questions & Design

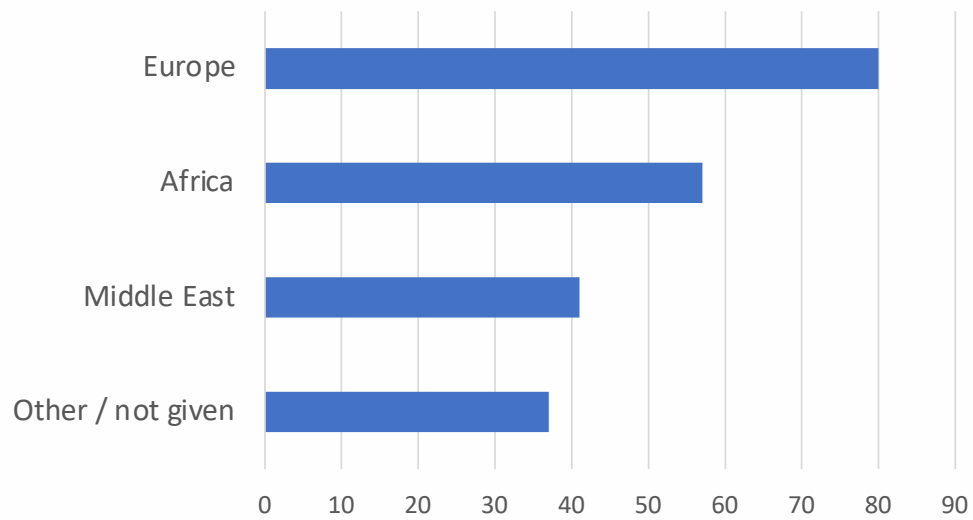
1. **How are religious communities affected?**
2. **How do religious leaders act in response?**
3. **What are leaders' broader views on the pandemic and post-pandemic time?**



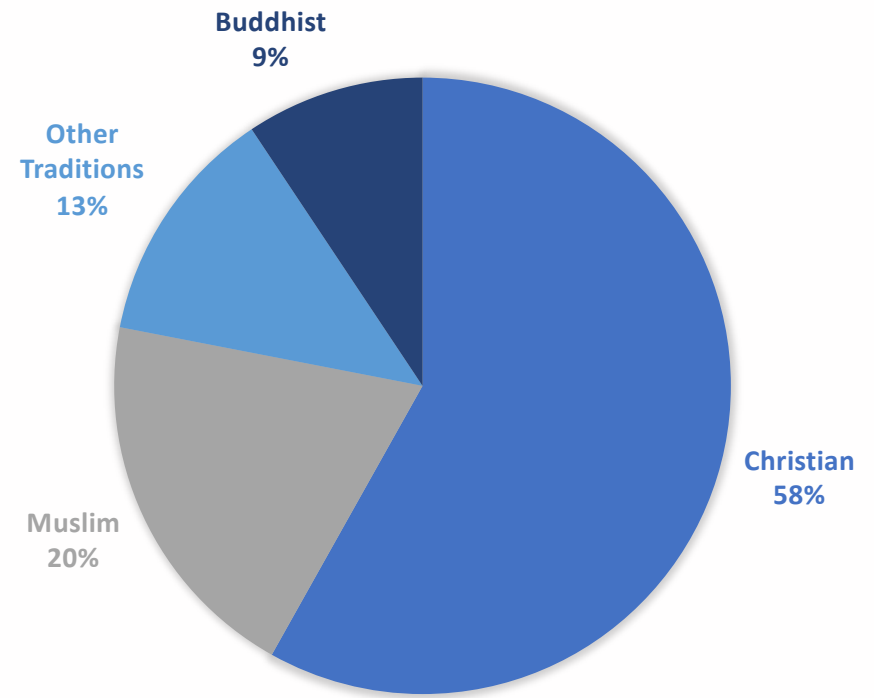


Responses

REGION



RELIGIOUS TRADITION

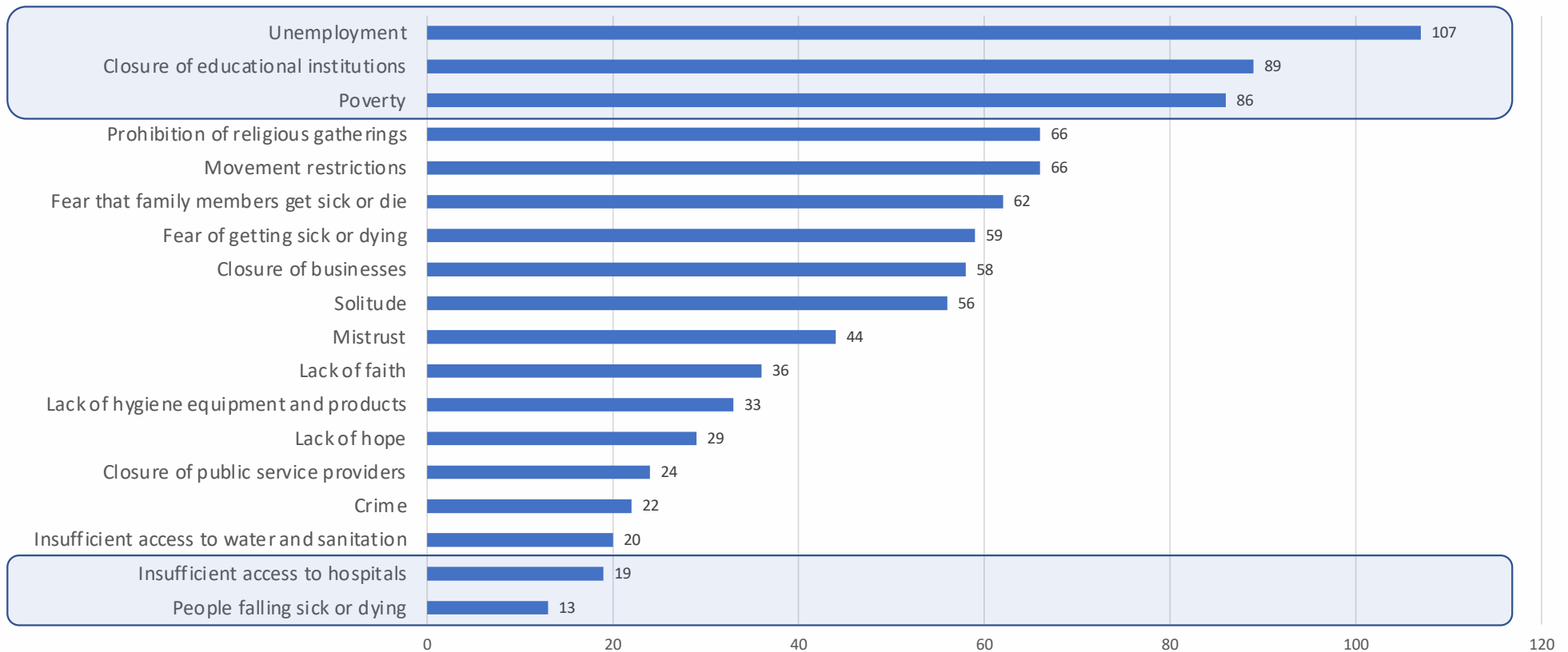


215 responses – 27 countries



What are the biggest problems in your community?

CHOOSE TOP 5 PRIORITIES, GLOBAL ANSWERS

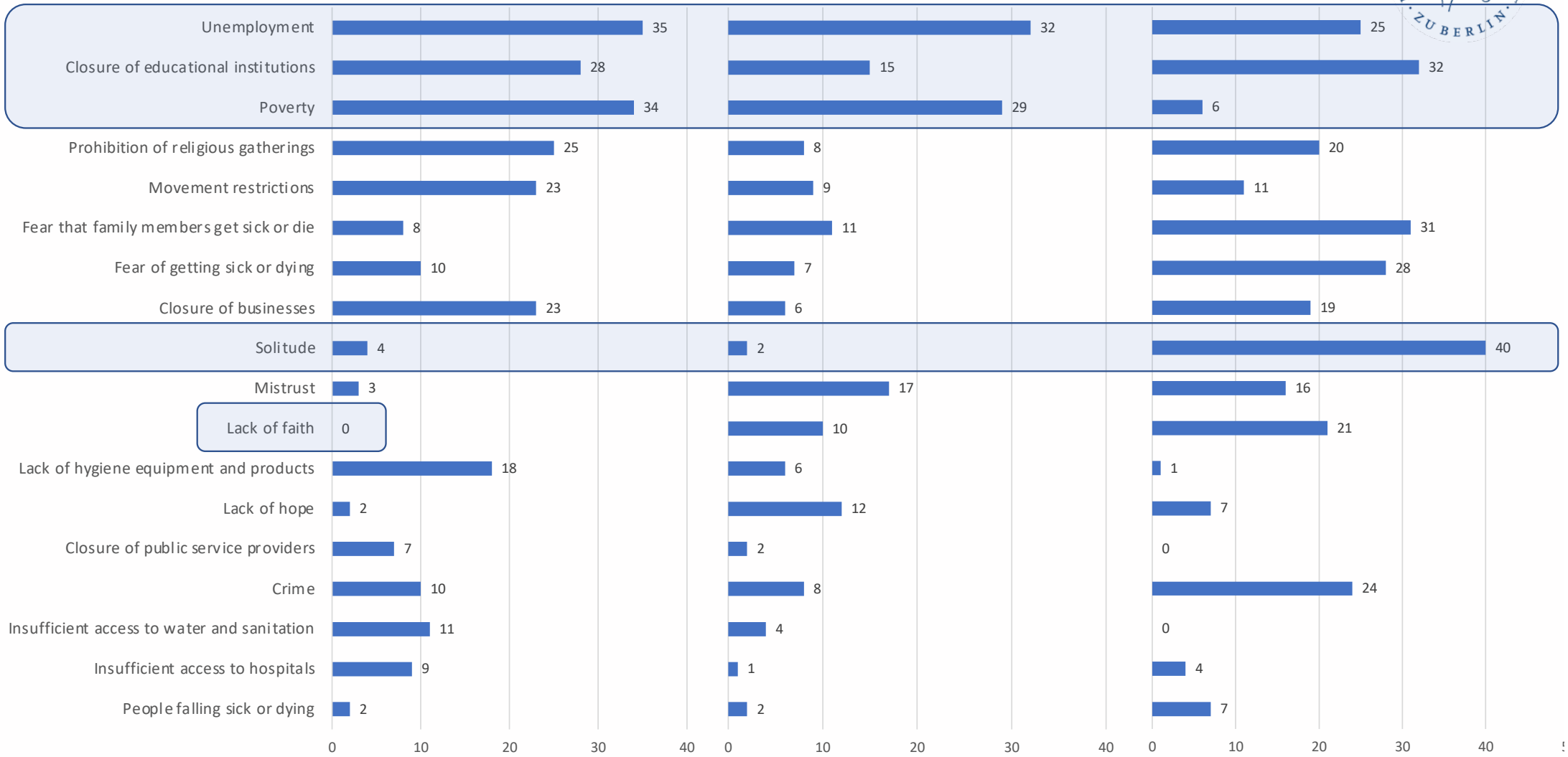




Africa

Middle East

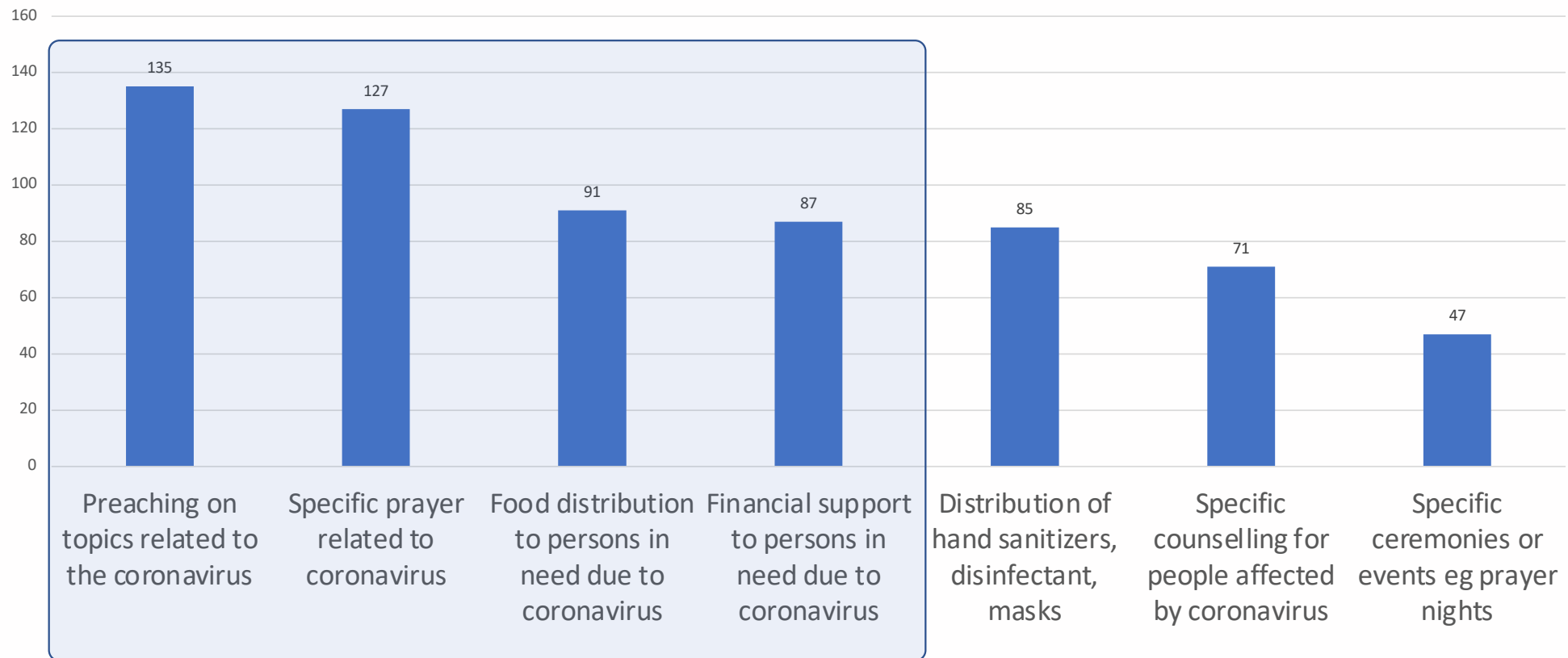
Europe





Have you done any of the following?

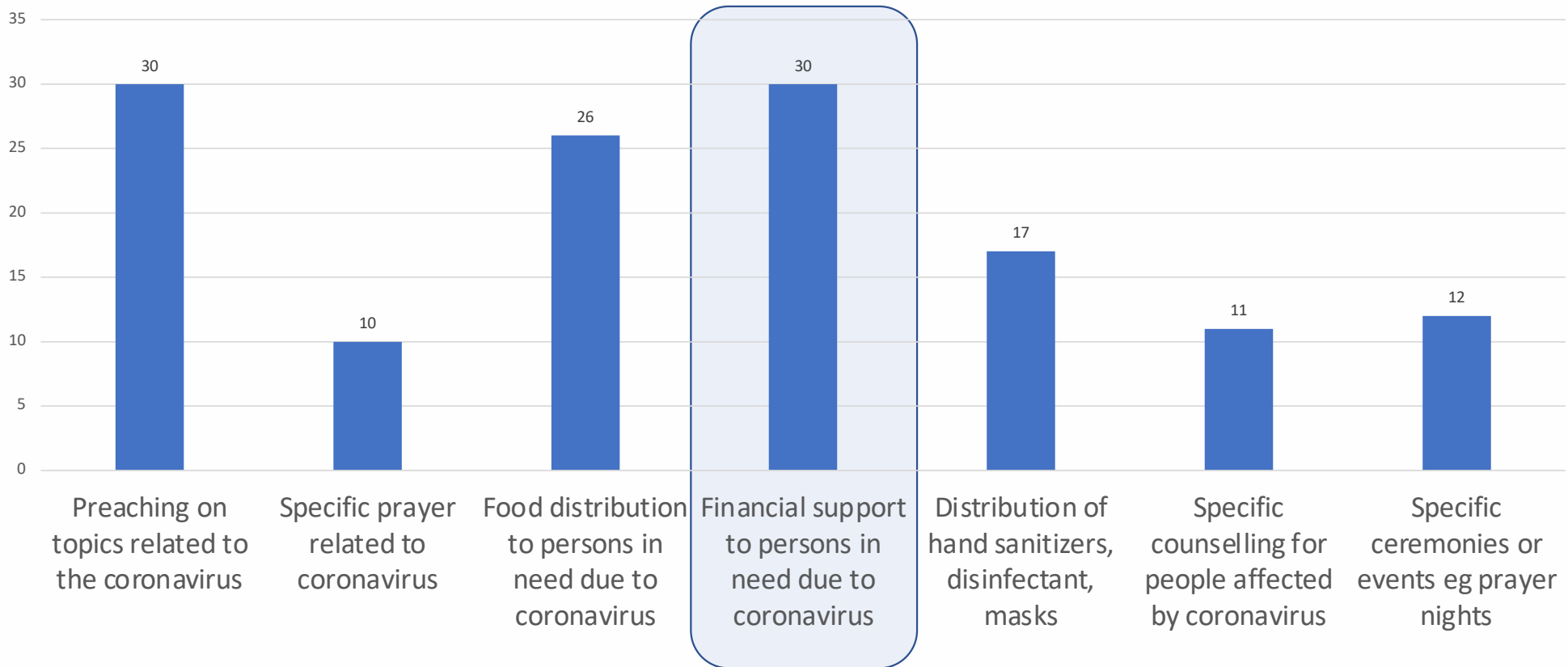
“preach, pray, feed, pay”



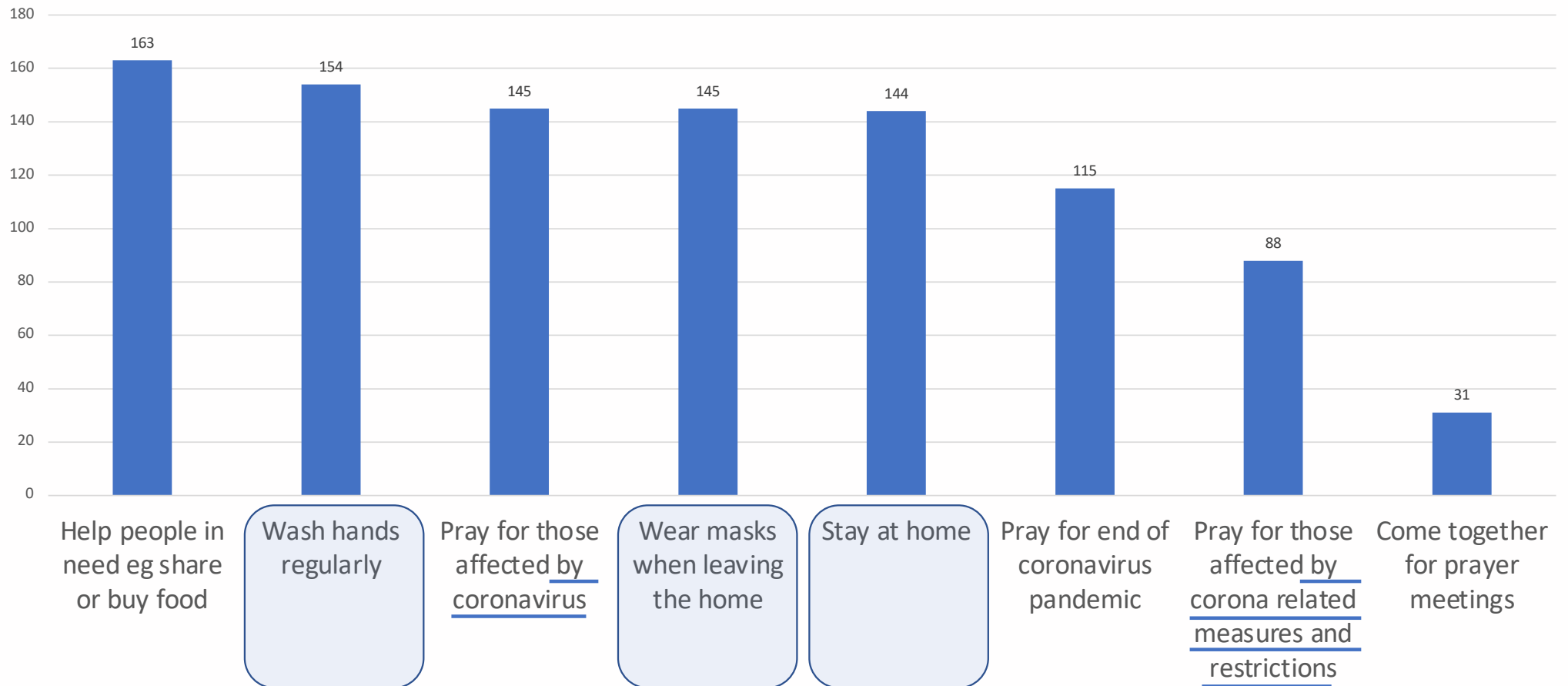


Have you done any of the following?

Middle East



Did you tell your community to do any of the following?



What is your main message to your community? (open ended)



	Africa	Europe	Middle East
77_message_community	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
GBV Comments	1.8%		
Corona as Opportunity	3.5%	13.8%	
Compliance: Hygiene	43.9%	13.8%	22.0%
Compliance: Social Distancing	45.6%	15.0%	22.0%
Compliance: Stay Home	40.4%	12.5%	26.8%
Corona is Serious	1.8%	2.5%	
Economy Comments	1.8%	1.3%	
Ecology Comments	1.8%		2.4%
Faith for Personal Health		3.8%	4.9%
Faith for Public Health / Public Order	5.3%	5.0%	4.9%
Faith for Coping		1.3%	9.8%
Fate, neutral or Tun-Ergehen	7.0%	3.8%	24.4%
Hope: Science	3.5%	1.3%	
Inner Peace, Calmness, Optimism	5.3%	3.8%	7.3%
Interfaith Relevance			
No Fear	3.5%	17.5%	2.4%
Polarisation: caveat			
Prayer, Worship, Gratitude, Adoration	5.3%	2.5%	
Unclear		3.8%	17.1%
(Self)protection	1.8%	8.8%	9.8%
Social Justice: Corona highlights it	1.8%	2.5%	2.4%
Solidarity: despite physical distance	1.8%	5.0%	
Solidarity: Receive	1.8%	16.3%	
Solidarity: Give/Practice it	8.8%	27.5%	17.1%



How much do you agree to this statement? (Corona & Government)

		Africa			Middle East			Europe		
		Count	Column N %	Average	Count	Column N %	Average	Count	Column N %	Average
My government is handling the coronavirus pandemic well	+2 (strongly agree)	7	12.3%	0.2	3	7.3%	0.1	34	42.5%	1.3
	+1 (agree)	21	36.8%		17	41.5%		40	50.0%	
	0 (undecided)	12	21.1%		5	12.2%		2	2.5%	
	-1 (disagree)	7	12.3%		14	34.1%		4	5.0%	
	-2 (strongly disagree)	7	12.3%		2	4.9%		0	0.0%	
	no answer	3	5.3%		0	0.0%		0	0.0%	
My community expects support during the times of the coronavirus from religious leaders	+2 (strongly agree)	32	56.1%	1.4	18	43.9%	1.1	11	13.8%	0.5
	+1 (agree)	18	31.6%		15	36.6%		32	40.0%	
	0 (undecided)	3	5.3%		3	7.3%		24	30.0%	
	-1 (disagree)	0	0.0%		3	7.3%		10	12.5%	
	-2 (strongly disagree)	2	3.5%		1	2.4%		3	3.8%	
	no answer	2	3.5%		1	2.4%		0	0.0%	

What is your most important message to your government?

“Involve all stakeholders such as doctors, scientists, counsellors, nurses, religious leaders, relevant government agencies, NGOs etcetera in the fight against the pandemic!”

(Sheikh Abdullatif, Kenya Council of Imams and Ulamaa)

What will be important after the pandemic?



		Count	Column N %	Average
Reduce inequalities between rich and poor	+2 (extremely important)	111	51.6%	1.2
	+1 (quite important)	58	27.0%	
	0 (moderately important)	19	8.8%	
	-1 (not very important)	3	1.4%	
	-2 (not important at all)	12	5.6%	
	<i>no answer</i>	12	5.6%	
Increase international cooperation	+2 (extremely important)	96	44.7%	1.1
	+1 (quite important)	69	32.1%	
	0 (moderately important)	24	11.2%	
	-1 (not very important)	5	2.3%	
	-2 (not important at all)	10	4.7%	
	<i>no answer</i>	11	5.1%	
Substantially change the way the economy works	+2 (extremely important)	93	43.3%	1.1
	+1 (quite important)	72	33.5%	
	0 (moderately important)	21	9.8%	
	-1 (not very important)	5	2.3%	
	-2 (not important at all)	10	4.7%	
	<i>no answer</i>	14	6.5%	

What will be important after the pandemic?



Strengthen national borders	+2 (extremely important)	36	16.7%	-0.2
	+1 (quite important)	31	14.4%	
	0 (moderately important)	33	15.3%	
	-1 (not very important)	42	19.5%	
	-2 (not important at all)	57	26.5%	
	<i>no answer</i>	16	7.4%	
Strengthen environmental protection	+2 (extremely important)	148	68.8%	1.5
	+1 (quite important)	39	18.1%	
	0 (moderately important)	8	3.7%	
	-1 (not very important)	0	0.0%	
	-2 (not important at all)	10	4.7%	
	<i>no answer</i>	10	4.7%	



Summary

Leaders of religious communities...

- take a supportive but not uncritical stance towards their governments' role during the pandemic; practice and preach solidarity and social cohesion
- have a double focus on spiritual care and social welfare
- hope for increased social and economic justice, international cooperation and environmental renewal in the time after the pandemic

Please take the survey:

hu.berlin/corona-survey

Contact:

ekkardt.sonntag@hu-berlin.de

www.rcsd.hu-berlin.de

Twitter: @rcsd_hu