

Public support for water, sanitation and hygiene in COVID-19 recovery

Results of priorities survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of WaterAid
Fieldwork dates: 22nd February - 10th March 2021

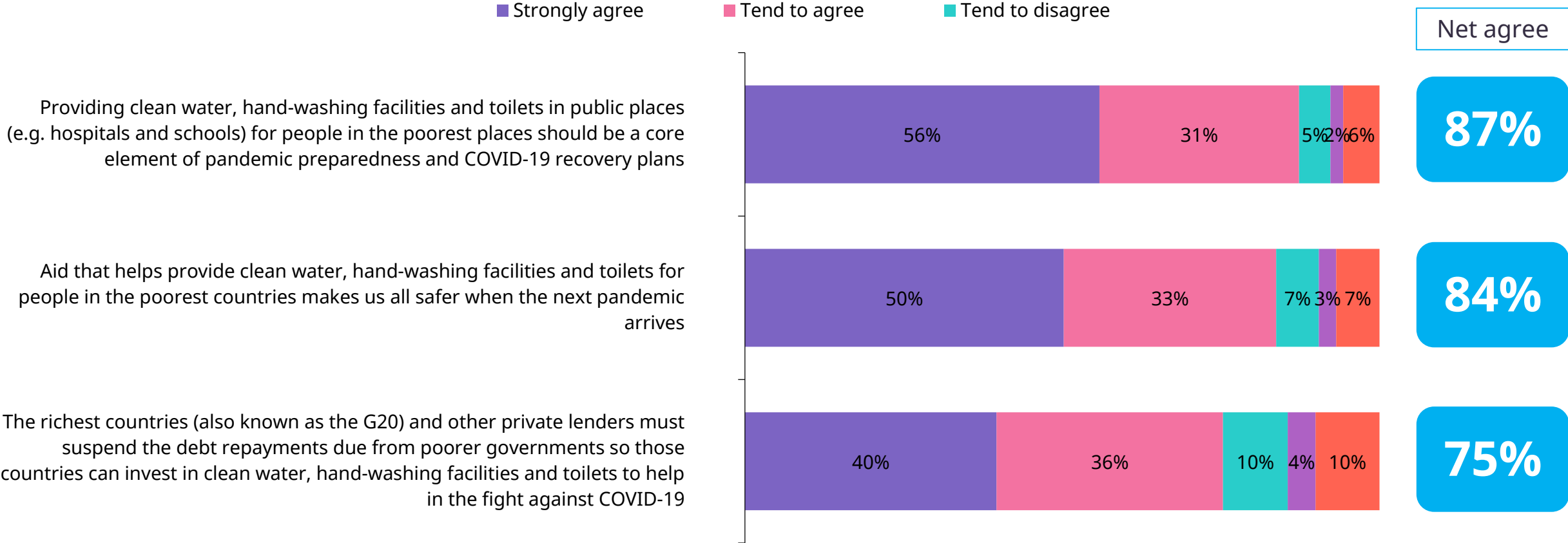
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Headlines

- **Nearly 9 in 10 people (87%) agree that water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in public spaces should be a core element of pandemic preparedness for people in the poorest places** and over 8 in 10 (84%) think that aid spent on WASH in the poorest countries makes us safer globally in the face of future pandemics.
 - Three quarters (75%) also agreed that debt repayments should be suspended to enable low-income countries to spend on essentials like WASH.
- **Investment in clean water, hand-washing facilities and toilets (WASH) in hospitals, schools and other public spaces is seen as THE most important aspect in helping poor countries to prepare for future pandemics (25%).**
 - Investment in universal health care and health systems comes a very close second (23%).
- **Ensuring everyone has access to the most basic human rights is seen as the key priority which cannot be achieved globally without investment in WASH (33%).**
 - Combatting pandemics and emerging global health threats was second most important (19%).
This question was asked only in Australia, Canada, Japan, Sweden, the UK and the US.

Nearly 9 in 10 people (87%) agree that WASH in public places for people in the poorest places should be a core element of pandemic preparedness and over 8 in 10 (84%) think that aid spent this way makes us safer globally in the face of future pandemics. There is strong agreement (75%) around suspending debt repayments.



Unweighted base: All Country Adults (18635)

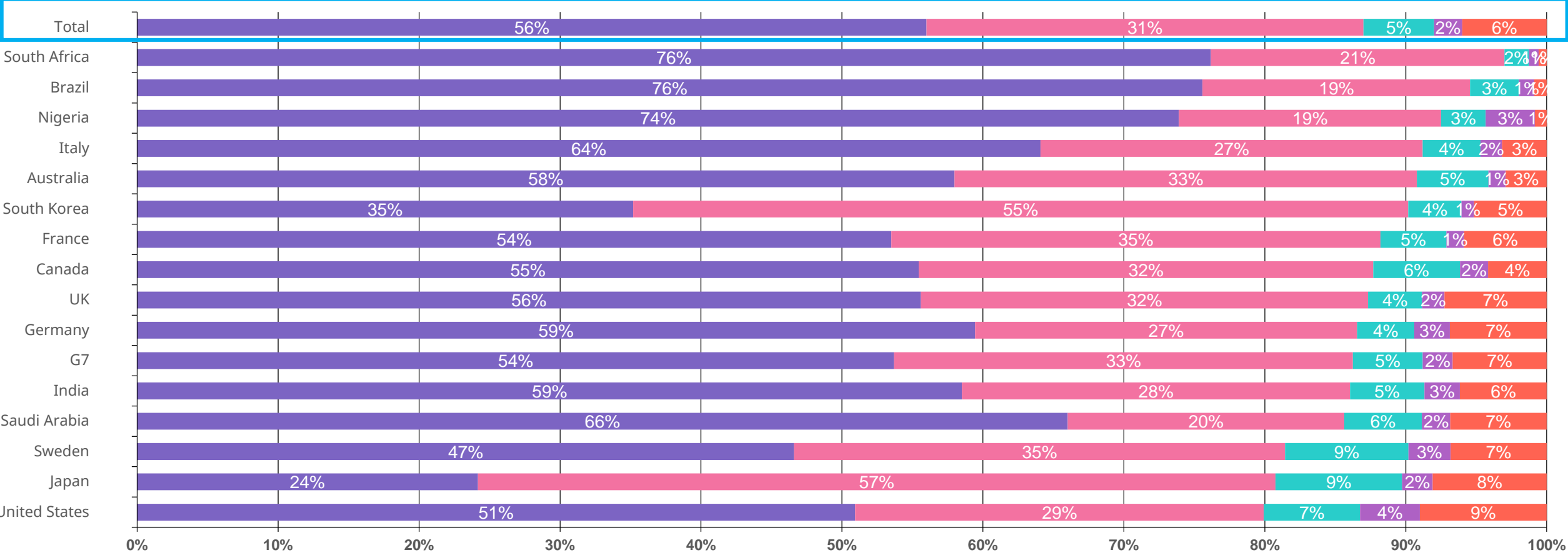


CWQ_Q4a. Thinking about the wealthiest governments (from the G20 nations) providing aid and other support to developing countries for pandemic preparedness...To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

South Africa, Brazil and Nigeria have the strongest levels of agreement that the wealthiest countries should provide WASH to developing countries as a core element of helping to prepare for the next pandemic.

Data ranked on Net agree

Strongly agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Strongly disagree Don't know



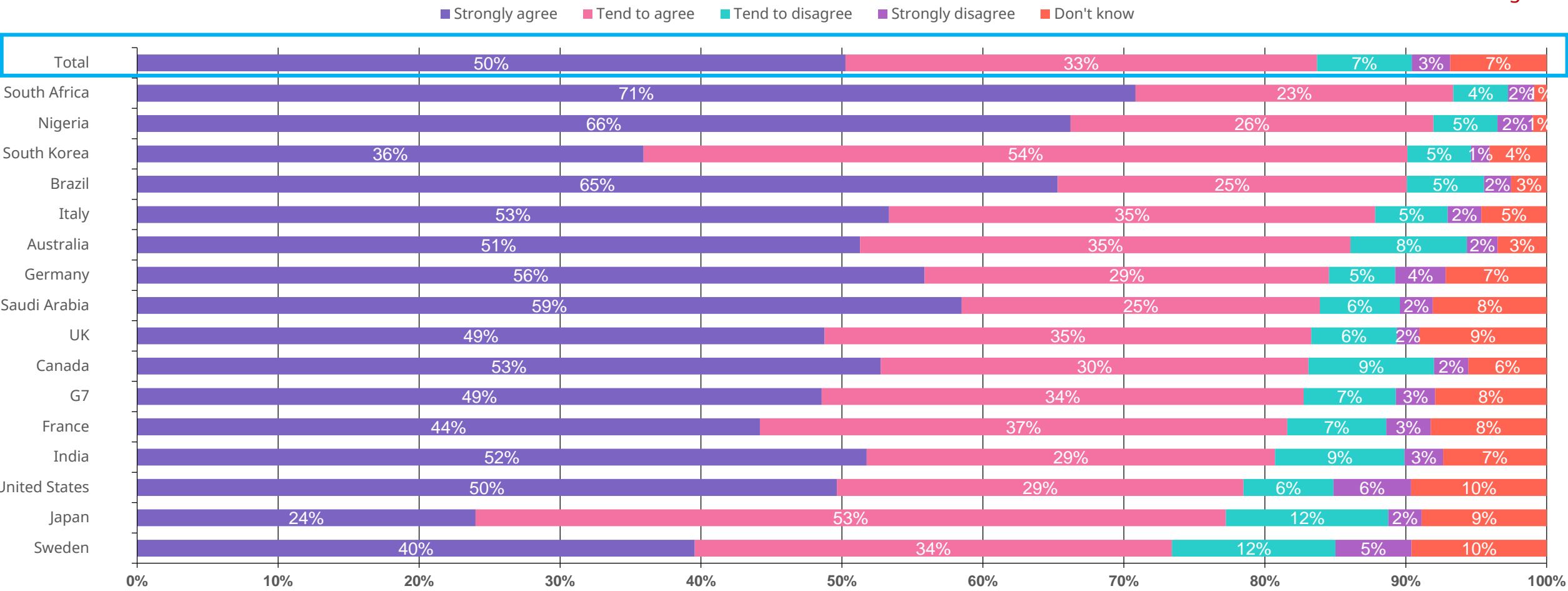
Unweighted base: All Country Adults (18635)



CWQ_Q4a. Thinking about the wealthiest governments (from the G20 nations) providing aid and other support to developing countries for pandemic preparedness... To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Providing clean water, hand-washing facilities and toilets in public places (e.g. hospitals and schools) for people in the poorest places should be a core element of pandemic preparedness and COVID-19 recovery plans*

The sense of us all being safer by providing WASH in the poorest countries is most keenly felt in South Africa, Nigeria, and Brazil, along with Australia, Italy and South Korea.

Data ranked on Net agree



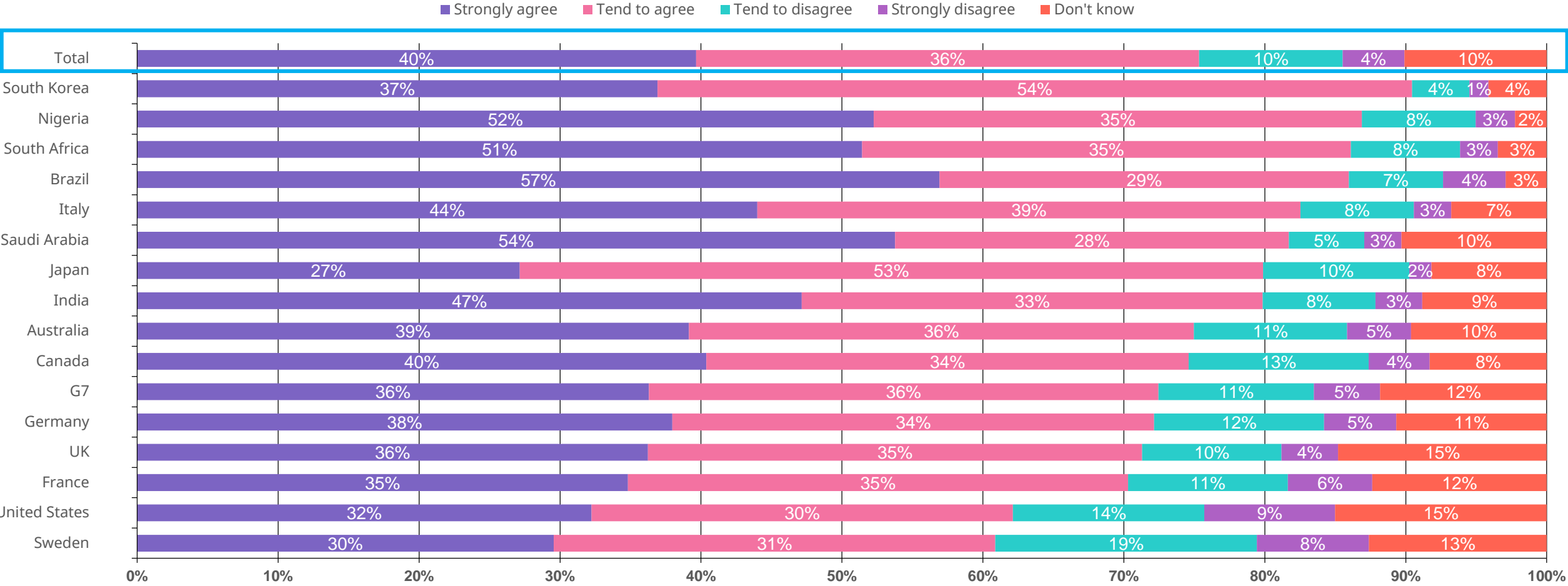
Unweighted base: All Country Adults (18635)



CWQ_Q4a. Thinking about the wealthiest governments (from the G20 nations) providing aid and other support to developing countries for pandemic preparedness... To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Aid that helps provide clean water, hand-washing facilities and toilets for people in the poorest countries makes us all safer when the next pandemic arrives

Suspending debt repayments has majority support in all nations, with the strongest levels of support in South Korea, Nigeria, South Africa and Brazil.

Data ranked on Net agree



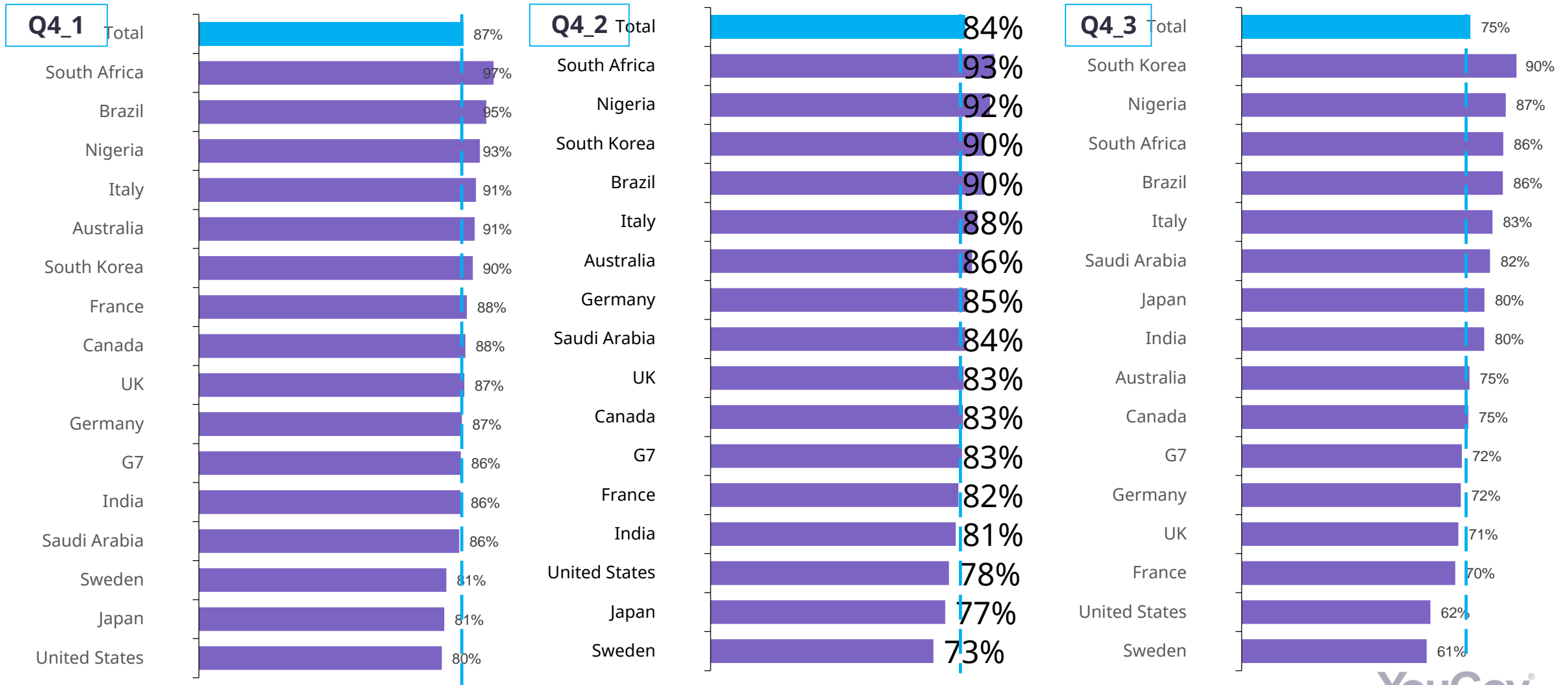
Unweighted base: All Country Adults (18635)



CWQ_Q4a. Thinking about the wealthiest governments (from the G20 nations) providing aid and other support to developing countries for pandemic preparedness...To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The richest countries (also known as the G20) and other private lenders must suspend the debt repayments due from poorer governments so those countries can invest in clean water, hand-washing facilities and toilets to help in the fight against COVID-19

The strongest levels of agreement across all countries are for WASH being a core part of pandemic preparedness. Suspending debt repayment is less popular in general, but still supported by the majority in all countries.

Charts show Net agree



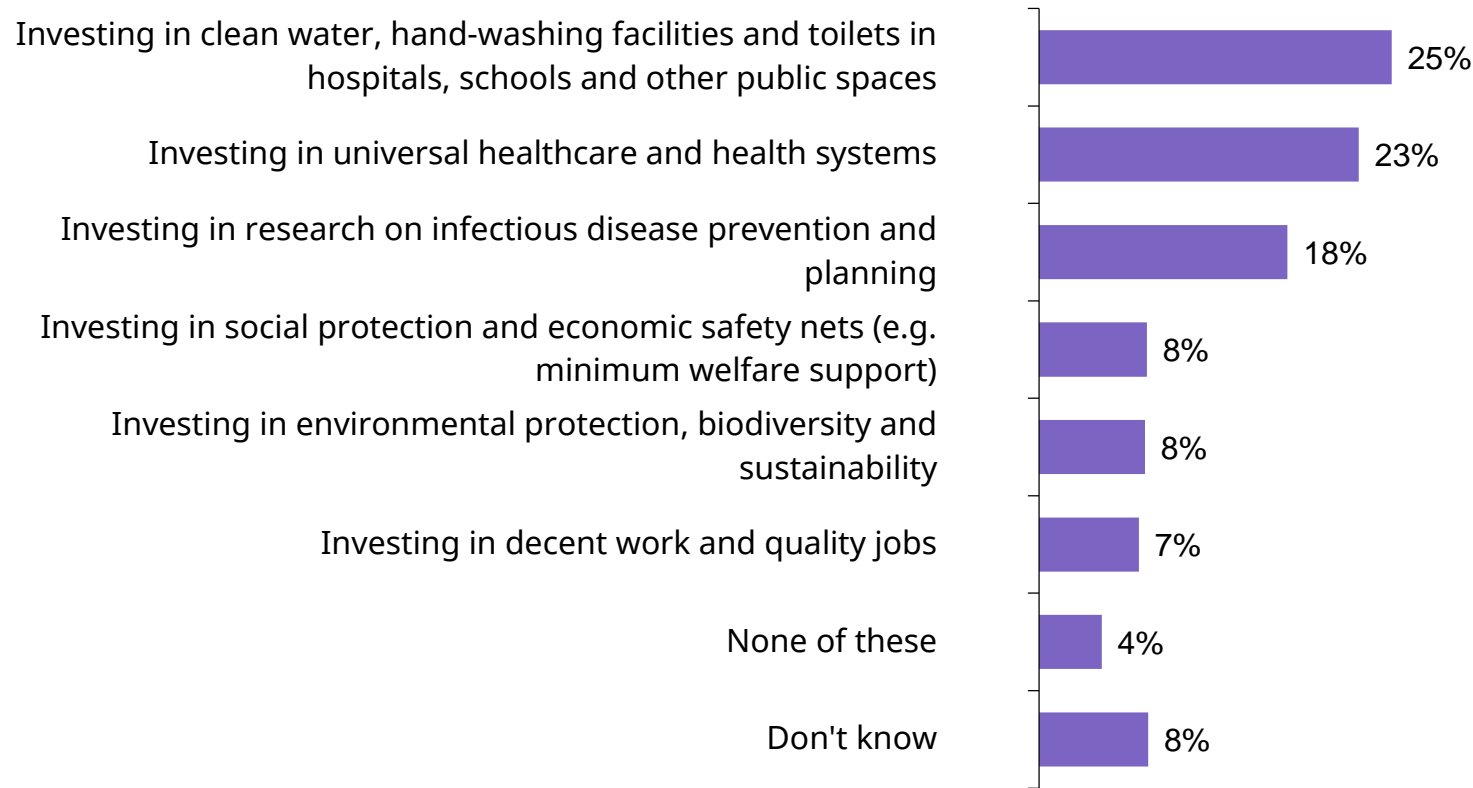
Unweighted base: All Country Adults (18635)

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CWQ_Q4_1. Providing clean water, hand-washing facilities and toilets in public places (e.g. hospitals and schools) for people in the poorest places should be a core element of pandemic preparedness and COVID-19 recovery plans / CWQ_Q4_2. Aid that helps provide clean water, hand-washing facilities and toilets for people in the poorest countries makes us all safer when the next pandemic arrives / CWQ_Q4_3. The richest countries (also known as the G20) and other private lenders must suspend the debt repayments due from poorer governments so those countries can invest in clean water, hand-washing facilities and toilets to help in the fight against COVID-19

Investment in water, sanitation and hygiene is seen as THE most important aspect in helping poor countries to prepare for future pandemics

Those in France (33%) and Sweden (42%) are much more likely to see this as key



Most adults in several countries (Brazil, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and South Korea) agreed that investing in universal healthcare and healthcare systems should be the primary focus

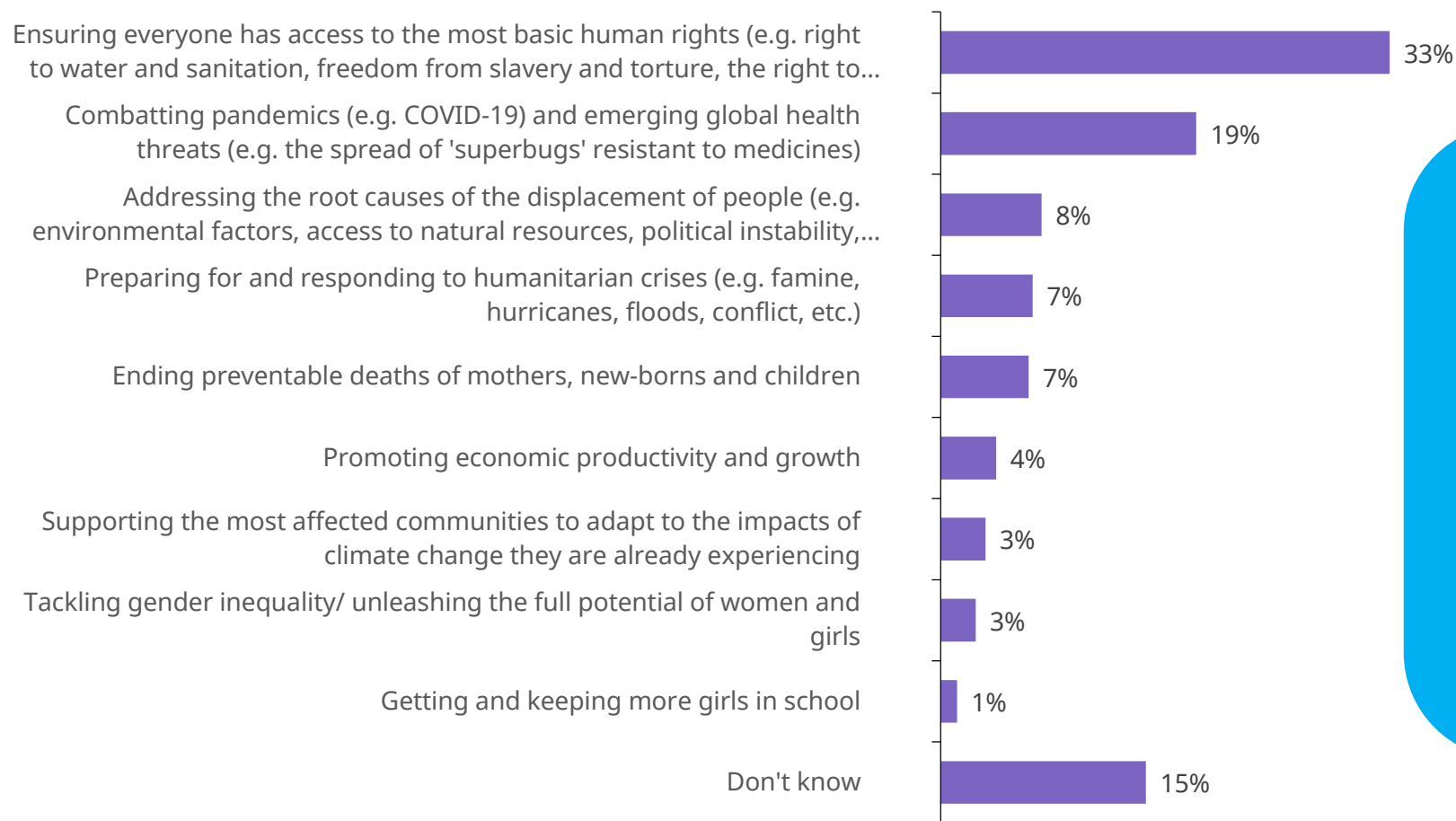
Unweighted base: All Country Adults (18635)

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CWQ_Q1. In your view, which ONE, if any, of the following areas is MOST important in helping developing countries (i.e. poorer countries) prepare and respond to future pandemics? (Please select the option that best applies)

Basic human rights are seen as the key priority which cannot be achieved without investment in WASH (33%). Higher scores were seen in Australia, Canada (both 39%) and the UK (37%).

Combatting pandemics was second most important (19%).

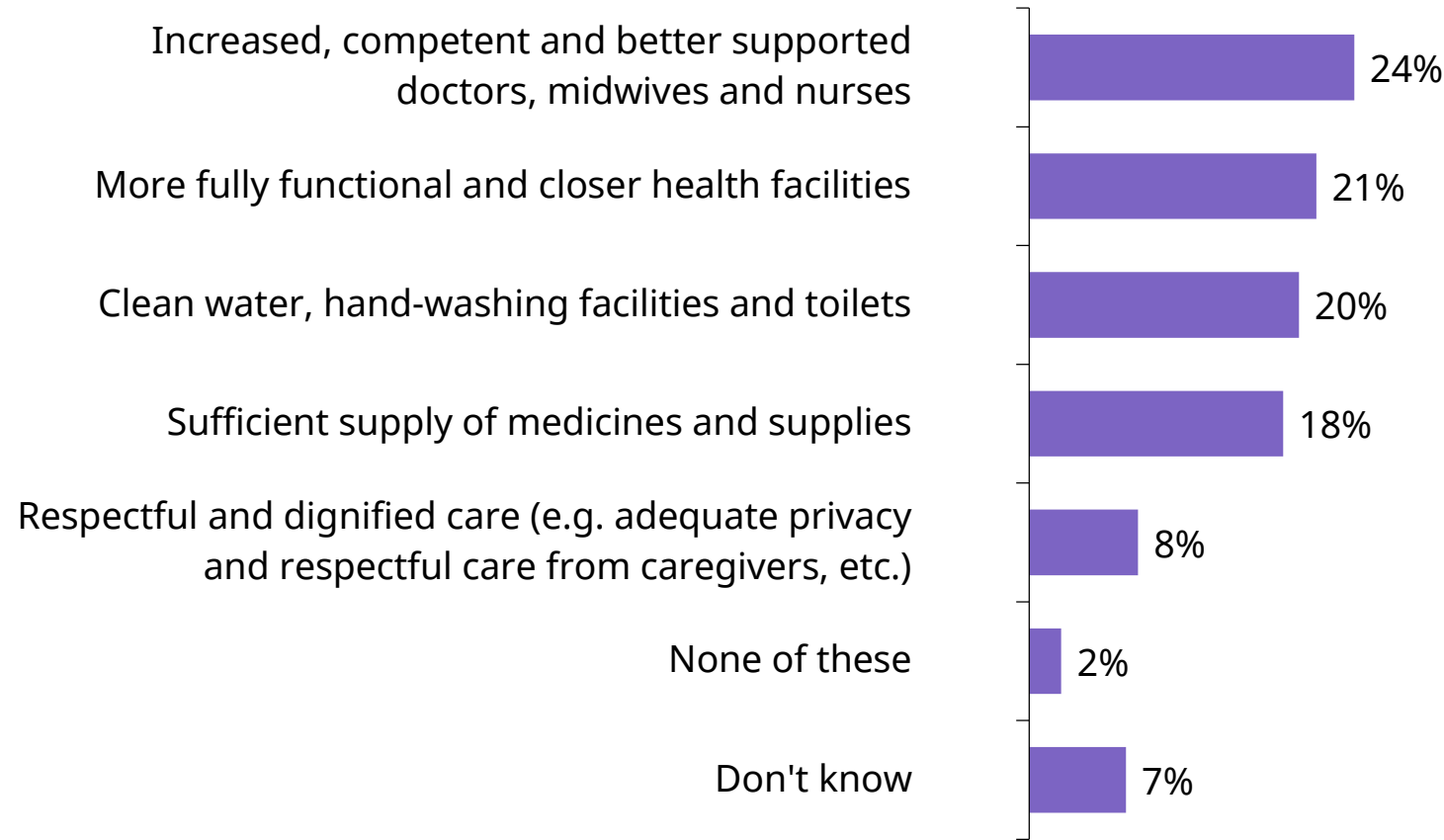


Japan was the only nation where a majority said that combatting pandemics (24%) was most important, with human rights a close second (20%). **Sweden's** concern over combatting pandemics (14%) is almost on par with their concern about addressing the root causes of displacement of people (12%) – but access to basic human rights still came out on top there (31%).

Unweighted base: All Country Adults (UK, US, Sweden, Australia, Canada, Japan) (8952)
 NB. Only asked in selected countries

CWQ_Q2. Governments around the world have committed to focusing on the below priorities. Which ONE of the following do you think will be the hardest to achieve globally without investment in providing clean water, hand-washing facilities and toilets? (Please select the option that best applies)

Perhaps largely reflecting concerns in health systems in their own countries, nearly a quarter (24%) think more, competent, supported staff are essential to health centres working effectively across the world. This is very closely followed by more and closer health facilities (21%) and WASH (20%). In G7 countries, the priority was more staff (24%), followed by WASH (21%).



WASH is seen as the top priority in **Sweden** and **Japan** and as the joint most important priority in **Canada** and **Germany**

43% of people in **Nigeria** see a need for more (and closer) health facilities as most needed globally. This was **36%** in **Italy** (perhaps in the shadow of its coronavirus crisis). And **26%** in the **US** felt a sufficient supply of medicines and supplies was the top priority

Unweighted base: All Country Adults (18635)



CWQ_Q3a. For the following question, by 'health facility', we mean all formally recognized facilities that provide health care, including primary (health posts and clinics), secondary and tertiary (district or national hospitals), public and private (including faith-run) and temporary structures designed for emergency contexts (e.g. cholera treatment centres). They may be in urban or rural areas. Which ONE, if any, of the following do you think is the MOST important thing needed globally for a health facility to run well/ effectively? (Please select the option that best applies)

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