

# Charity begins at home

In the past month, have you donated money to an organisation? Have you volunteered time to a charitable organisation? Have you helped a stranger, or someone you don't know who needed help?

These are the three questions that were asked in a survey of charitable behaviour around the world, organised by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). The results of the survey were published at the beginning of September. They revealed that 20% of the world's population had volunteered time in the previous month, 30% had given money to charity, and 45% had helped a stranger.

The survey was based on data collected from 153 countries representing around 95% of the world's population. In most of the countries, 1,000 questionnaires were completed by a representative sample of the population aged 16 or over. CAF created a 'World Giving Index' to find out which countries were the most charitable. Australia and New Zealand turned out to be the most 'giving' countries in the world, followed by Canada, Ireland, Switzerland and the USA.

Although rich countries were at the top of the list, around half of the top 20 places were occupied by developing nations including Guinea and Turkmenistan.

The data also showed that as we get older, we are more likely to give. In most countries, people over 50 are least likely to help a stranger. Men are more likely to help a stranger than women and more likely to volunteer. Women, however, are slightly more likely than men to give money (30% versus 29%).

The interviewees were also asked to imagine a ladder with steps numbered from 0 at the bottom to 10 at the top, with 0 representing the worst possible life and 10 the best. They were then asked to place themselves on the step of the ladder that reflected the way they felt about their life at the moment.

The results showed that the link between the giving of money and happiness is stronger than the link between giving and wealth. This means that a person is more likely to give to charity if they live in a country where people are generally happy, than if they live in an affluent country. And, of course, giving can make us even happier.

## 1 Before you read, complete the sentences with the words in the box.

aid charitable charity donate volunteer affluent wealth

- 1 '\_\_\_\_\_ begins at home' is a saying that means you should look after yourself and your own family before helping other people.
- 2 When you give money to a charity, you \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 3 If you \_\_\_\_\_ to do some work then you don't expect to get paid.
- 4 If you do \_\_\_\_\_ work then you are helping other people.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ is money, food, or other help that an organization gives to a country or area where people need it.
- 6 An \_\_\_\_\_ person has a lot of money but \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't always bring happiness.

## 2 Read the article and answer the questions.

- 1 Which charitable organisation produced the survey?
- 2 What is the 'World Giving Index'?
- 3 What did the interviewees have to imagine?

**3** Read the article and decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F). Circle the correct answer and correct the false statements.

- 1 The survey's findings give a near-accurate picture of global attitudes. T/F
- 2 According to the survey, more people had given money to charity than had helped a stranger. T/F
- 3 The most generous countries in the world are Australia and New Zealand. T/F
- 4 The older we are, the more likely we are to help a stranger. T/F
- 5 Women are less likely to help a stranger than men. T/F
- 6 People with more money are more likely to give to charity. T/F

**4** Choose the correct verb to complete the sentences and write them in the passive form. Then check your answers by reading the article.

ask base complete follow occupy publish

- 1 The interviewees \_\_\_\_\_ three questions.
- 2 The results of the survey \_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning of September.
- 3 The survey \_\_\_\_\_ on data collected from 153 countries.
- 4 1,000 questionnaires \_\_\_\_\_ in most countries.
- 5 In the list of charitable countries, Australia and New Zealand \_\_\_\_\_ by Ireland.
- 6 Around half of the top 20 places \_\_\_\_\_ by developing nations.

**5** Match the sentence halves.

- 1 Definitions of charity ... \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Something that people consider charitable in one country ... \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Helping members of the family ... \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Supporting an established charity ... \_\_\_\_\_

- a is a more common view of charitable behaviour in others.
- b is considered to be a charitable act in a number of places.
- c can be viewed as a normal part of everyday life in another.
- d vary around the world.

**6** Answer these questions in your own words.

- 1 Is helping the family considered charitable in your country?
- 2 How do you think people in your country would answer the questions in the survey?
- 3 Where do you think your country is positioned in the World Giving Index of 153 countries?
- 4 How would you answer if you were being asked the questions today?

## Glossary

**affluent** (*adjective*) – rich enough to buy things for pleasure

**behaviour** (*noun*) – the way that someone behaves

**ladder** (*noun*) – a piece of equipment for reaching high places

**representative** (*adjective*) – typical of people or things in a particular group

**sample** (*noun*) – a group of people who are used for getting information about a larger group or about the whole population

**tend** (*verb*) – to usually do a particular thing

**turn out** (*verb*) – to develop in a particular way, or to have a particular result