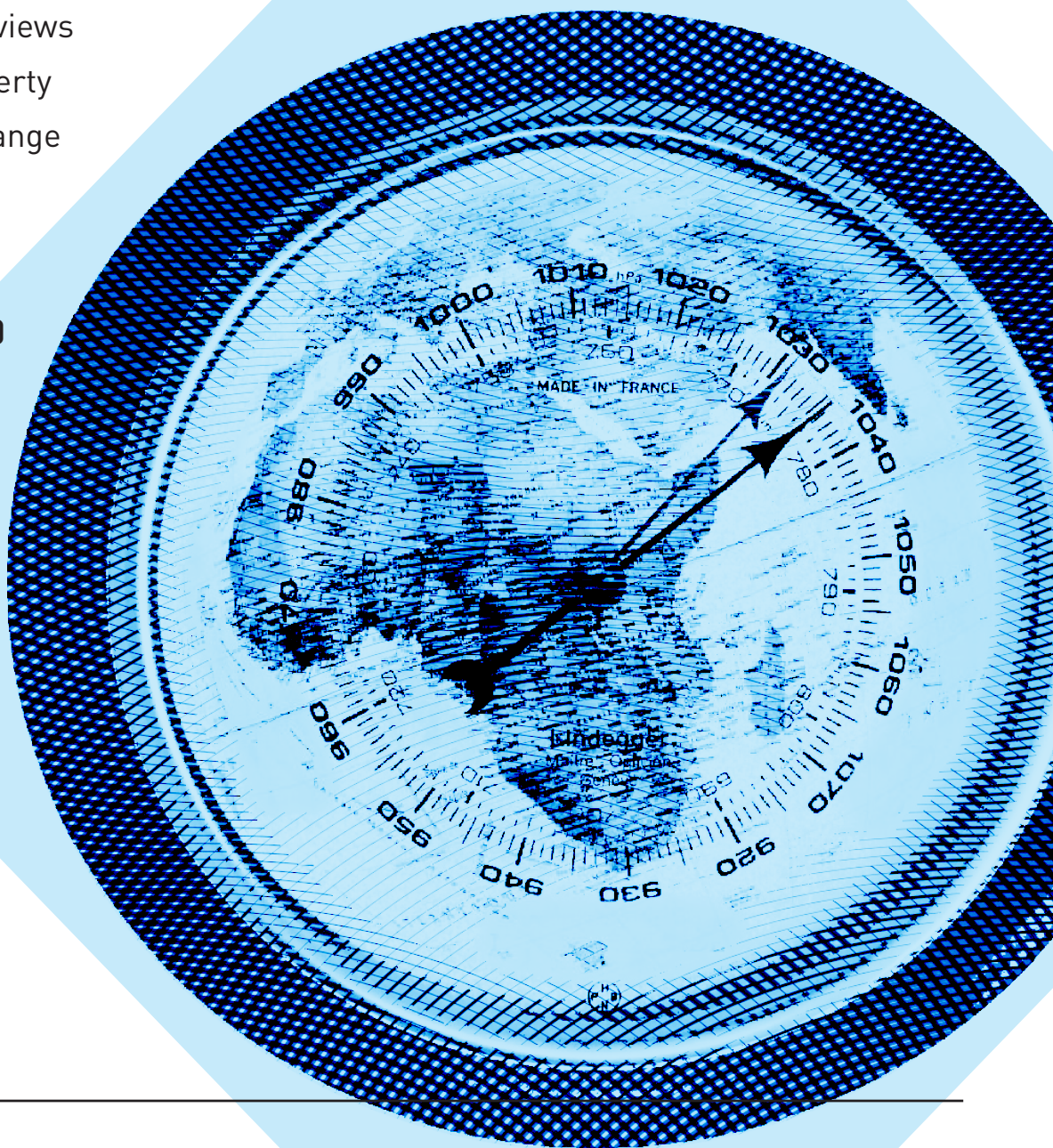


INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BAROMETER N°6

French views on climate, environment and development

Examining the
relationship in views
on tackling poverty
and climate change

NOVEMBER 2019



INTRODUCTION

Examining the relationship in views on tackling poverty and climate change

During the Green Fund replenishment conference, held in Paris on 25 October 2019, several states (including France) made commitments totalling 9.8 billion dollars, sending a strong signal on the need for rich countries to support developing countries with managing the increasing impacts of climate change. Following the Green Fund replenishment and in light of the UN Climate Conference COP 26 in Glasgow (9-20 November 2020), this sixth edition of Focus 2030's International Development Barometer aims to better understand and explain French views on, and support for, environmental protection and development.

In a world where models of growth, consumption and technological discovery have gradually turned citizens of developed countries into willing or unwilling environmental polluters, the question of ecology has long been overlooked in politics, the media, and on an everyday basis in society. This has resulted in seemingly runaway damage to every aspect of our planet and environment: climate deregulation, widescale loss in biodiversity, alarming extinction rates of animals and insects, unbreathable air, polluted water, soil bleached of nutrients, or illnesses caused by global chemical pollution. In under two centuries, human beings have turned the earth into a hostile, unpredictable environment, where the only certainty is that the worse is yet to come.

'The amount of attention we give to a particular issue determines whether it then actually becomes an issue,' says French environmental journalist Anne-Sophie Novel, pointing out how long it took for environmental issues to really gain sway in the media and in public opinion before then becoming a mainstream issue. The Development Engagement Lab research project, supported by Focus 2030, offers a tool for measuring this kind of transformation in public opinion. What do French people understand about the urgency of the situation? How do they balance or account for their lack of action, given a stated desire to change the way they live? Whom do they hold responsible for taking urgent action on climate change? And given growing environmental concerns, how aware are they of the interdependency of countries, citizens and economies all over the world, in contrast to the different priorities of rich v. developing countries?

To what extent do individuals feel like global citizens? This question in particular examines the tendency for people to look inwards, as well as their willingness to accept the fact of a globalised world. This contradiction is present throughout this edition of our International Development Barometer: a genuine awareness of, and attention to, environmental issues, but across a wide range of sometimes contradictory and paradoxical opinions.

This points to the importance of efforts in communication, education and information as key ingredients for forming public and political opinion, to ensure that the environment and climate change are not regarded as separate to other urgent issues for society. For example, helping people to see that environmental protection is not something which can be tackled in isolation. Instead, it is inherently dependent on efforts across all of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global development roadmap guiding all political, economic and development stakeholders - including civil society - in their efforts toward a better world.

CONTENTS

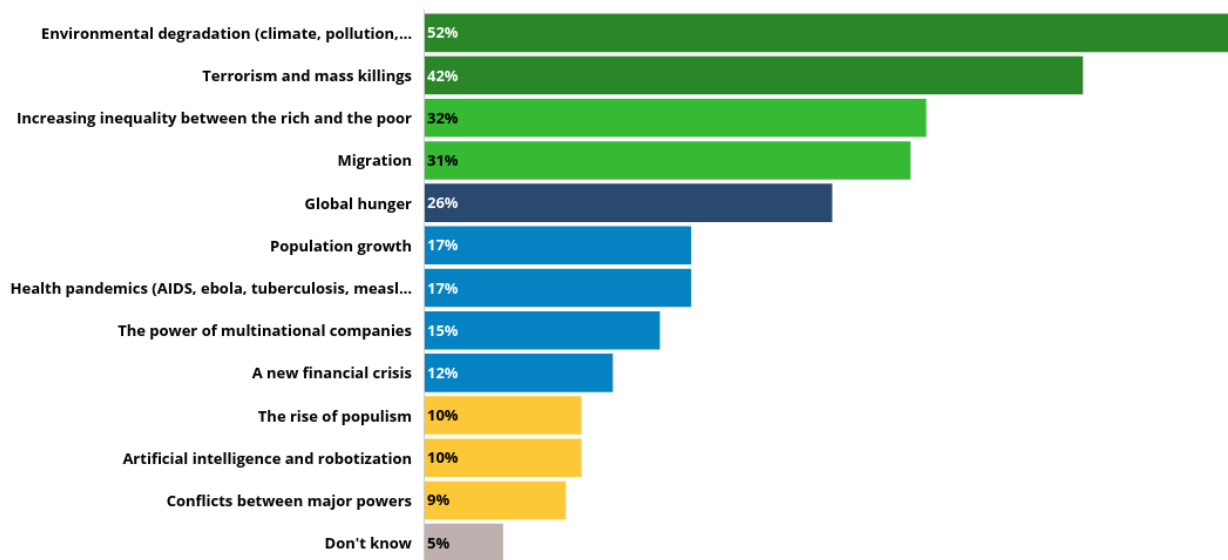
1	52% of French people see protecting the environment as the biggest challenge facing humanity today	page 4
2	Climate change: an issue of “personal concern” for French people	page 7
3	A large majority of French people feel they can relate to those who care about the environment	page 10
4	What are French people are willing to do for the environment?	page 15
5	Who does climate change affect the most?	page 20
6	What should we put first: economic growth, or the environment? The major question of our time	page 24
7	Identifying international policies as the best way to reduce the impact of climate change	page 29
8	International and individual action: how best to tackle climate change, according to French people	page 34
9	Protecting the environment should be a priority for French development aid	page 39
10	Introducing the International Development Barometer	page 41

**52% OF FRENCH PEOPLE
SEE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AS THE BIGGEST
CHALLENGE FACING THE
WORLD TODAY**

QUESTION ASKED:

'FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST, WHICH IN YOUR VIEW ARE THE THREE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING HUMANITY TODAY?'

(UP TO 3 ANSWERS)



SUMMARY

52% of French people rank environmental degradation (climate change, pollution, biodiversity) as their first choice, and therefore the biggest challenge facing humanity today. This demonstrates how successful civil society organisations and the international community have been in making environmental issues part the political debate in recent years.

The second biggest challenge was identified as terrorism and mass killings (42%), followed by the increasing inequality between the rich and the poor (32%), leaving migration in 4th position (31%) in 2019. This was followed by concern about global hunger (26%) and population growth and health pandemics (17%).

CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IS MORE CLOSELY CORRELATED TO POLITICAL PREFERENCE OR EDUCATION THAN TO AGE



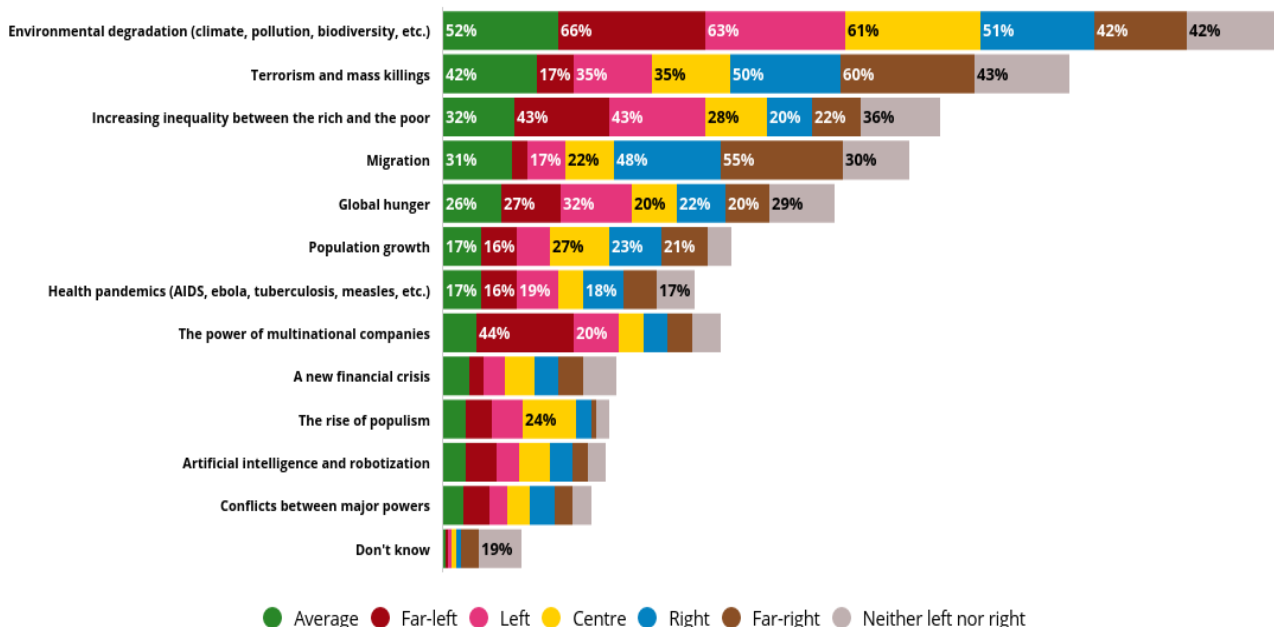
The age of respondents does not have much impact on views on environmental issues, compared to political preference, which does influence the ranking of major challenges facing humanity. In this way, left-wing and centre-voters are much more concerned about the environment as the biggest challenge, at 10% more than right-wing voters and 20% more than those identifying as 'far-right' voters.

There is also a visible impact in terms of respondents' level of education. 44% of French people without secondary school qualifications see the environment as the biggest challenge for humanity: this is 8% less than the average, and 17% less than respondents with post-secondary educational qualifications.



From the following list, which in your view are the three biggest challenges facing humanity today? (3 answers possible)

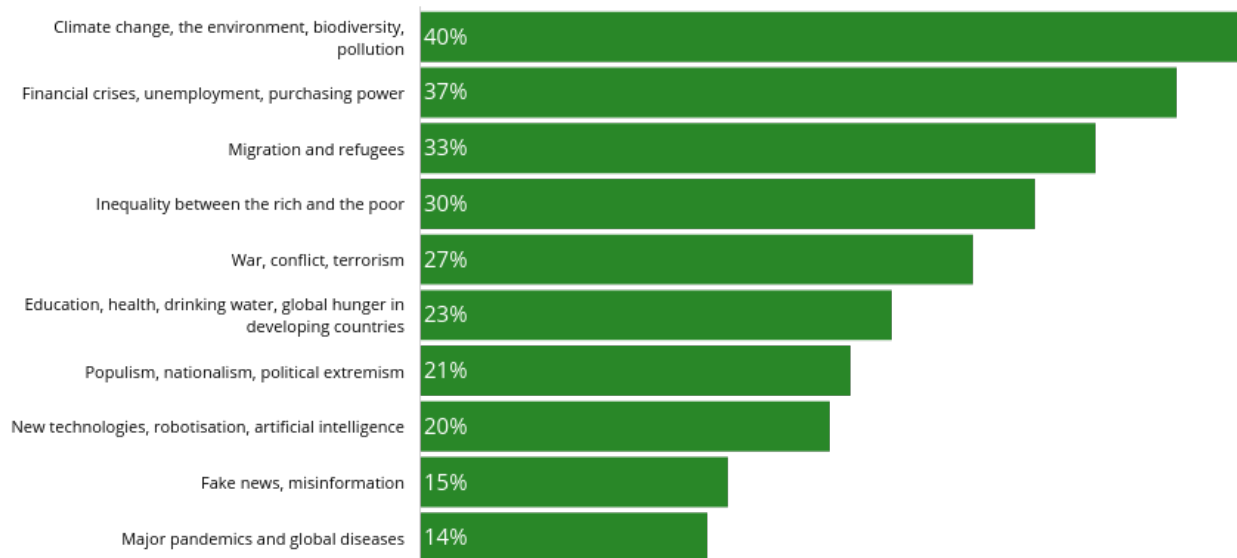
Answers broken down according to political preference



CLIMATE CHANGE: AN ISSUE OF "PERSONAL CONCERN" TO FRENCH PEOPLE

QUESTION ASKED:

'WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES ARE YOU MOST CONCERNED ABOUT? PLEASE SELECT THE THREE BIGGEST ISSUES FOR YOU!'



When asked to rank ten major issues in order of those which they are most concerned about personally, 40% of French people say that 'climate change, the environment, biodiversity and pollution' is their top concern.

They are therefore more concerned about environmental issues than about unemployment, purchasing power and the economic crisis (37%), inequality between rich and the poor (30%) or political violence and instability (conflicts, war or terrorism) (27%).

These answers were collected in a survey carried out between 27 September and 10 October 2019, and offer a snapshot of changing public opinion at that time. Unemployment, terrorism and migration seem to have given way to a bigger, more urgent issue for French people: the future of the planet, as determined by environmental degradation.

This shows us the extent to which, in only a few years, environmental issues and particularly climate change have come to the forefront in France. This sudden enthusiasm has its roots in widespread media coverage of environmental questions, as well as in public mobilisation and subsequent take-up by politicians.

Civil society has also been instrumental in highlighting the climate challenge (climate marches, March of the Century) both nationally and internationally. Their work has been boosted by speeches and calls to action from well-known figures, such as the ecologist and television presenter Nicolas Hulot in France, or the Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, now an international household name.

SUMMARY

YouGov survey carried out on line with quota method. Results analysed as part of the Development Engagement Lab research project (2019-2024) conducted by University College London and Birmingham University (United Kingdom). Survey carried out between 27 September and 10 October 2019 with a representative sample of 6073 adults in France. The error margin for data is $\pm 2\%$. For more information on methodology see www.focus2030.org. Source: www.devcommslab.org

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: A COMMON CONCERN REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PREFERENCE (THOUGH MIGRATION COMES A VERY CLOSE SECOND FOR RIGHT-WING VOTERS)



Upon closer inspection, more young people (45%) than those of older generations (37%) are concerned about the environment and climate change.

There is no real difference of opinion between women and men on this question.

However, we do see some variation in answers stemming from differences in political preference. Indeed, even if climate change and economic issues (financial crisis, unemployment) seem to be the two biggest concerns for French people on the whole, the same is not true for those people who see themselves as right- or far-right-wing voters, for whom immigration is the biggest issue.



Which of the following issues are you most concerned about? Please select the three biggest issues for you.

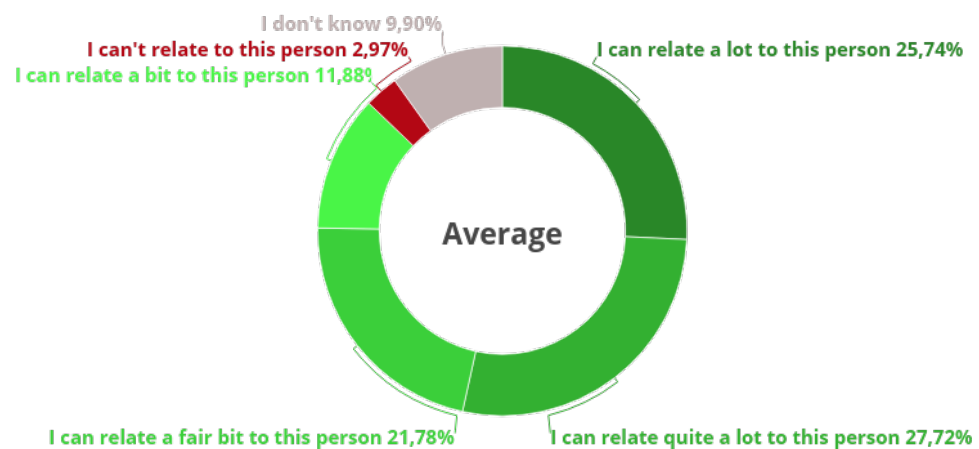
First-choice answers concerning climate change, the environment, biodiversity and pollution, broken down according to political preference



**A LARGE MAJORITY OF
FRENCH PEOPLE FEEL THEY
CAN RELATE TO THOSE
WHO CARE ABOUT THE
ENVIRONMENT**

QUESTION ASKED:

**PLEASE TELL US HOW MUCH YOU CAN RELATE TO SOMEONE WITH THE FOLLOWING VIEW:
'IT IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND RESPECT NATURE!'**



In order to analyse the attitudes of French people in our surveys, we ask how much they feel they can relate to certain people, position or values (such as generosity, fear, creativity, success, respect, etc). Here, we find that around 87% of French people claim to identify - to differing degrees - with those who care about the environment. In the space of a few years, concern for the environment has become the hallmark of a good citizen, to the extent that it would also now be seen as politically incorrect to claim to be unmoved by environmental issues. Indeed, only 3% of respondents said that they could not relate to someone who cared about the environment.

So, regardless of the different angles of environmental protection (biodiversity, climate change, greenhouse gases, excessive exploitation of resources, etc), in France, it has clearly become the litmus test for measuring public policy and individual behaviour.

However, even though such an overwhelming majority of respondents say they can relate to an environmentally-friendly position, this does not automatically translate into adapting individual behaviour, and turning good intentions into action. In 2019, it is one thing to be concerned about the environment, but it is another altogether to begin adapting our spending, habits and attitudes to fit with what is recommended by environmental experts.

In summary, although these results demonstrate a near-universality of French concern about the environment and the planet, a paradox remains in terms of the practical application of this concern in everyday life.

Reminiscent perhaps of the lamentations of Saint Paul: *'For the good that I would do, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do....'*

SUMMARY

YouGov survey carried out on line with quota method. Results analysed as part of the Development Engagement Lab research project (2019-2024) conducted by University College London and Birmingham University (United Kingdom). Survey carried out between 27 September and 10 October 2019 with a representative sample of 6073 adults in France. The error margin for data is $\pm 2\%$. For more information on methodology see www.focus2030.org. Source: www.devcommslab.org

So even if these figures seem to suggest that French people are ready to make more, and better efforts to help save the planet, it remains difficult to measure just how far they would be willing to go in terms of changing their behaviour, or indeed absorbing some of the financial cost of a transition to a more sustainable individual existence.

DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A VIRTUOUS CIRCLE OF CONCERN



Just like a virtuous circle, we can see a clear correlation between support for French aid to developing countries and a stated awareness about environmental protection. Thus, French people who relate closely to someone who cares about the environment are also those who are the most supportive of France's provision of aid to developing countries.

These results do not tell us how aware French people are about environmental issues specific to developing countries. But this strong correlation does suggest that some French people are very much aware of being human beings just like everyone else, living on one planet, and sharing similar needs and aspirations.

Which is, of course, a perfectly valid way of looking at international solidarity.

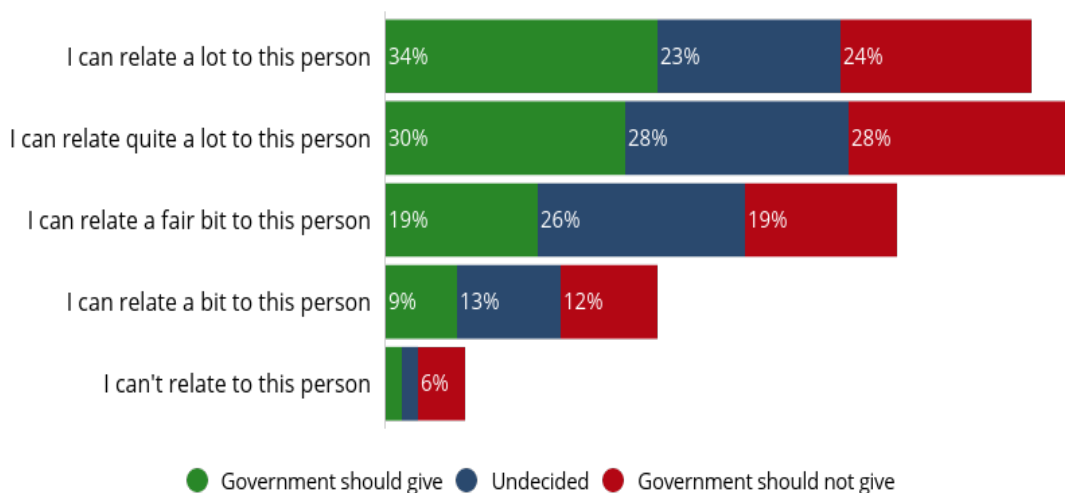


Here are some other people with different viewpoints. Please tell us how much you feel you can relate to each of them.

Someone with the following view: it is important to protect the environment and respect nature.

Vs.

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 = France 'should not give anything' and 10 = France 'should give generously', please tell us to what extent you think that the French government should contribute international aid to developing countries.





Similarly, albeit to a slightly less extent, we can point to another correlation between concern about environmental issues and making a personal donation to an international NGO. Amongst those who have recently given money to an international development NGO or charity, 72% could relate to someone who thought it was important to take care of the environment, compared to only 58% of those who had not.

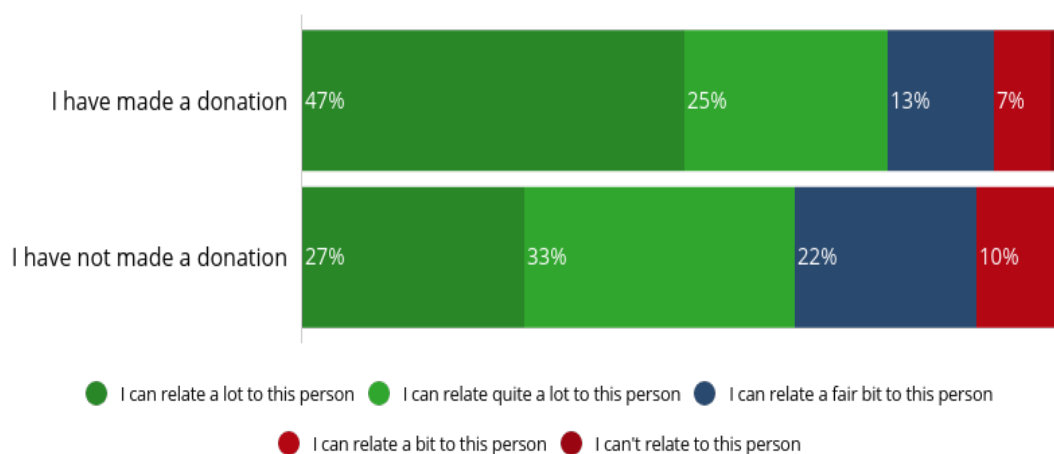
66

Here are some other people with different viewpoints. Please tell us how much you feel you can relate to each of them.

Someone with the following view: it is important to protect the environment and respect nature.

Vs.

In the last twelve months, have you made a donation to a charitable organisation or an international NGO working on global poverty and development?





Concern about poverty in developing countries is also correlated to concern about environmental protection. Both dimensions overlap, as if worrying about the planet, and worrying about global poverty, jointly reinforced a common awareness and appreciation of a collective existence on a shared planet. In this way, 74% of those who say they can 'greatly relate' to someone who cares about protecting the environment are also very concerned or quite concerned about poverty in developing countries. This is compared to an average of only 26% of those women and men who only relate 'a fair bit', or 'a little' to someone who is motivated by environmental issues.

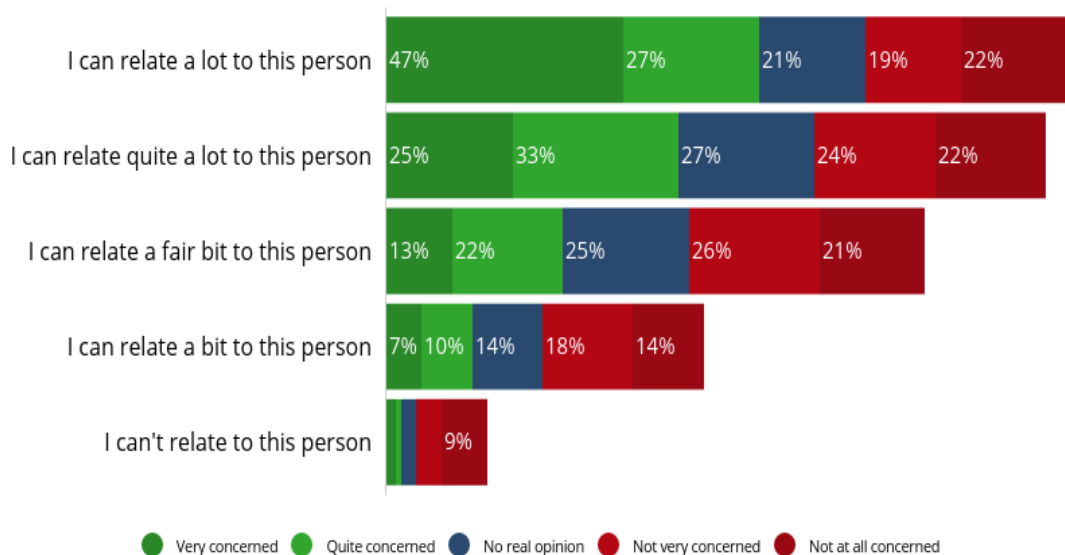
66

Here are some other people with different viewpoints. Please tell us how much you feel you can relate to each of them.

Someone with the following view: it is important to protect the environment and respect nature.

Vs.

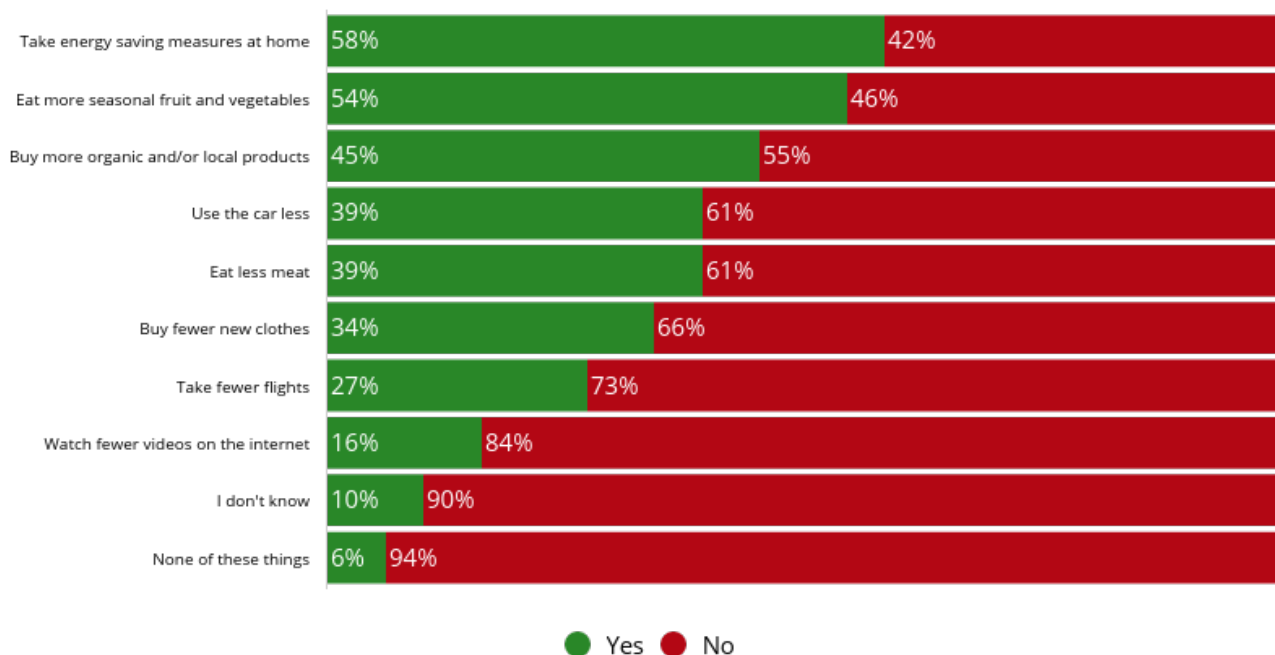
Which of the following statements best represents your view on poverty in developing countries?



WHAT ARE FRENCH PEOPLE WILLING TO DO FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

QUESTION ASKED:

'WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO TO HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?' (PLEASE SELECT ALL ANSWERS WHICH APPLY)



SUMMARY

From the answers to this question we are able to analyse not only what French people would be willing to do for the environment, but also what they would not be willing to do - a measure of their reluctance to change their habits, consumption or way of living. In this way, the answers (which are, after all, only opinions rather than concrete commitments) inspire both optimism for the future, as well as some cause for concern.

58% of French people say they are willing to put in place energy-saving measures in their homes. But this 'effort', though evidently beneficial for the environment, has an immediate benefit for the individual, too, in money saved on energy bills. Charity does indeed begin at home. As it happens, the highest support for this particular effort (65%) comes from respondents 55 and over, compared to 53% for those aged between 18-54.

Eating more seasonal fruit and vegetables is the second most popular measure which French people would be willing to do to help protect the environment. 54% of people say they are ready to make this change. Again, this particular solution is boosted in France through providing a double benefit. Firstly, there is the benefit to the environment. Climate experts all agree that if all of the earth's 7.5 billion people started to eat as much meat and fish as is consumed by rich countries today, the world's ecosystems would be in serious danger, and greenhouse gas emissions would escalate even more quickly than currently projected. But happily, health experts are also unanimous in their verdict that a diet which is too rich in animal products is

dangerous for our health at an individual level. A win-win all round.

Buying local or organic products comes in third place, with 45% of French people saying they were ready to 'go local' or 'go organic' when shopping, to help save the planet.

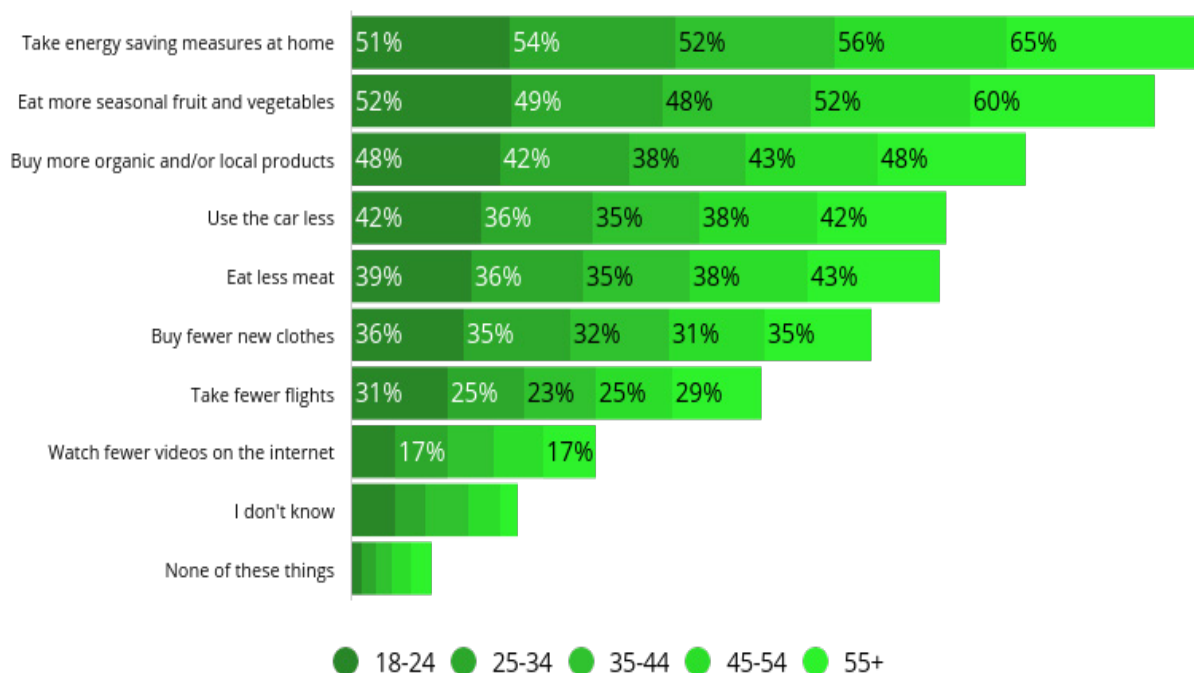
Once again, however, and in parallel to any worldly ecological motivation, this willingness to buy local/organic produce is also spurred by an increasingly present narrative about supporting local producers, to insure profits go to them (rather than others taking cuts in the supply chain) and also to promote regional or national businesses in a competitive global market.

Finally, coming in joint 4th place (39%) is the claim that French people would use their car less, and to eat less meat, to help protect the environment.



Which of the following would you be willing to do to help protect the environment? Please select all answers that apply.

Positive answers broken down by age



SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES CREATE A FRACTURED PICTURE OF FRENCH SOCIETY IN TERMS OF INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS TO HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

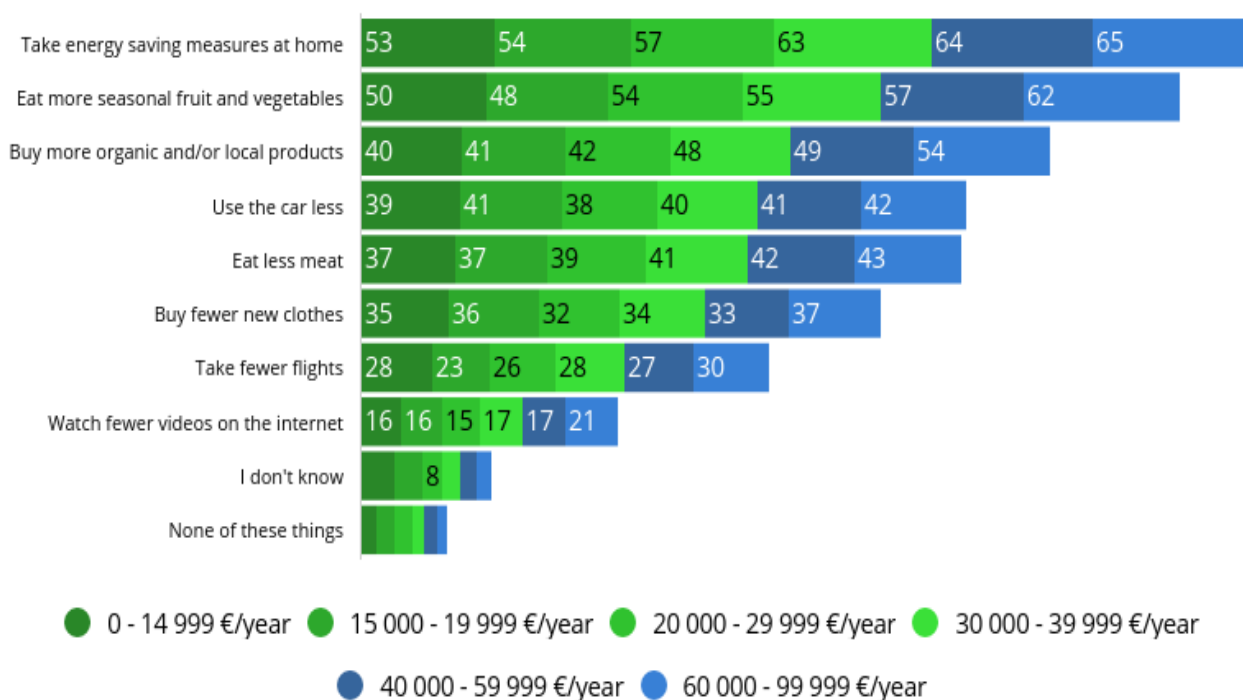


Given differences across socioeconomic groups in consumer trends, income, and awareness about environmental issues, it is hardly surprising that French people are not uniformly willing to make changes - or not uniformly willing to make the same changes - to protect the environment.



Which of the following would you be willing to do to help protect the environment? Please select all answers that apply.

Positive answers broken down by level of income



39% of French people say that they are willing both to eat less meat and use their cars less, which means that 61% are not. But saying that they are willing to 'eat more fruit and vegetables' is not a proxy for 'eating less meat'. As it happens, those with the lowest incomes are less inclined to eat less meat, whereas a willingness to switch to seasonal produce increases with age. Lastly the richer the respondent, the more likely they are to eat local and organic foods, which is an opinion which may also be linked to the level of education: 54% of French people with Masters level qualification would be willing to eat local and organic produce, compared to only 22% of those who did not have any educational qualifications or 41% of those who only had secondary school qualifications.

When it comes to being willing to leave the car in the garage, we must remember that only 80% of French people actually have a vehicle. That said, however, this item does seem surprisingly highly-scoring given the continued strong attachment of French people to their automobile, evident in the budget they allocate to their cars every year (+/- 6000€/year in 2016).

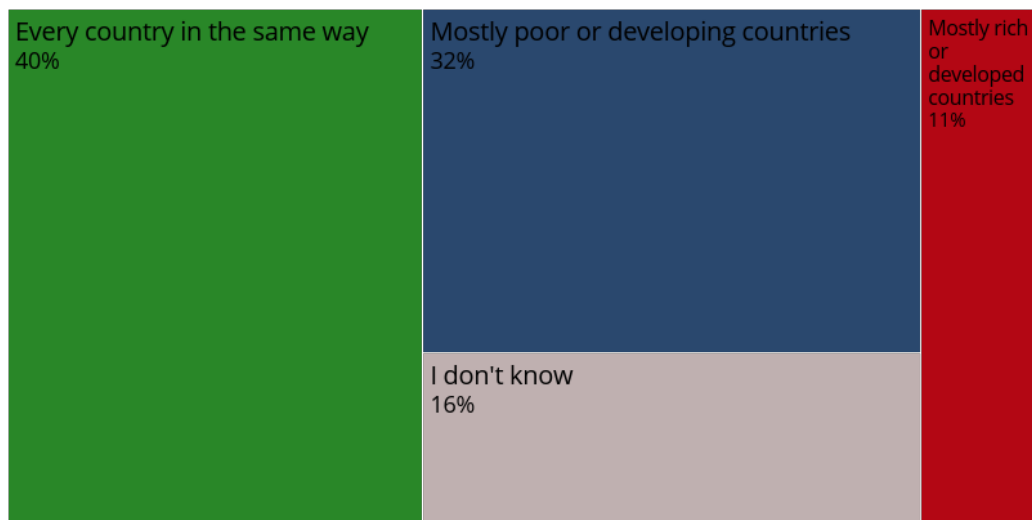
34% of French people would also agree to buying fewer new clothes. Only 16% however say they would watch fewer videos on the internet. The link between the textile industry and the environment is a fairly recent - and minor - debate in the public space, as is the discussion about the environmental footprint of digital data (internet use, data storing, downloading, or streaming).

Finally, only 27% of French people would be willing to make fewer journeys by plane; in other words, 73% refuse to consider a change of behaviour in air travel. Those under 25, and those 55 and over, are slightly more willing than the others to make this sacrifice. Interestingly, there is no real influence of different levels of income on answers to this question, perhaps because air travel has become so much more affordable in recent decades with the arrival of new low-cost short- and medium-haul companies.

WHO DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT THE MOST?

QUESTION ASKED:

'IN YOUR VIEW, WHO DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT THE MOST?'



SUMMARY

Scientists agree that climate change will have the greatest impact on people in developing countries (particularly given the burden of adaptation to the risks of climate change). Despite this, the French public seems to have mixed views on who might suffer the most from climate change, especially since the impacts of global warming are difficult to both measure and predict, with many surprises possibly still to come in terms of the impacts or the possible solutions which might be put in place on a global scale.

For example, 40% of French people think that climate change will affect every country equally, while 32% say that developing countries will be hardest hit. However, very few people (11%) say that developed or 'rich' countries will be the biggest victims. 16% have no opinion.

The question may also be interpreted as the extent to which respondents understand the geographical consequences of climate change, which vary. Answers can also be interpreted as an assessment of the results of those consequences, and the fact that richer countries, through better-developed infrastructure or more stable and solid systems, will naturally be able to cope better with the effects of climate change than developing countries.

AN UNDERSTANDING OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY PROBLEM INFLUENCES AWARENESS ON WHERE MIGHT BE MOST AFFECTED



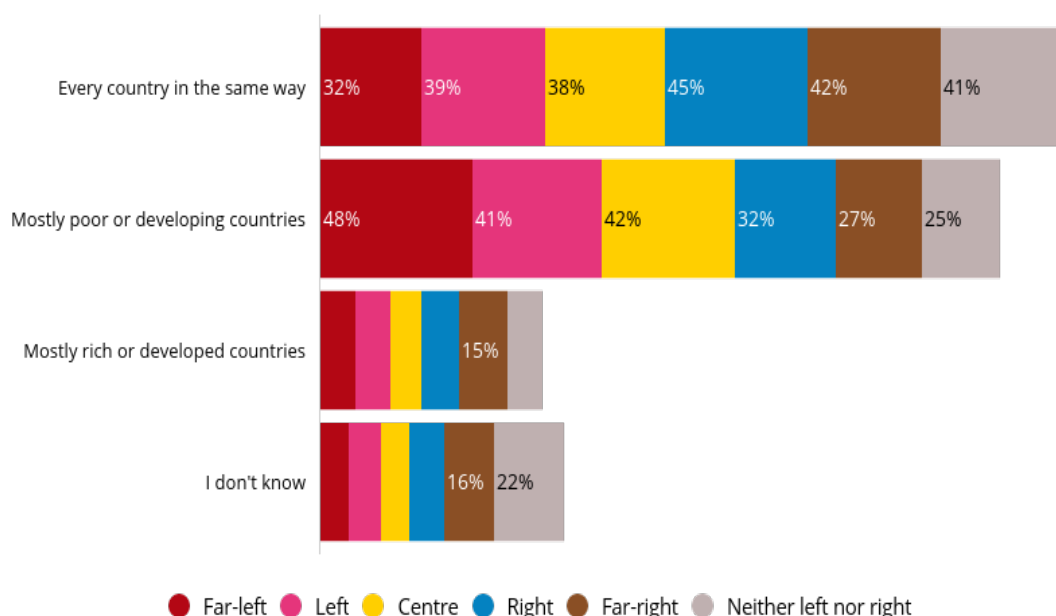
Political preference impacts the way in which people understand the consequences of climate change. The further left-wing the respondent, the higher the perception that poor countries will be the biggest victims of climate change. Centre-voters have similar views.

Right-wing voters, on the other hand, believe that climate change will affect all countries in the same way.



In your view, who does climate change affect the most?

Answers broken down according to political preference





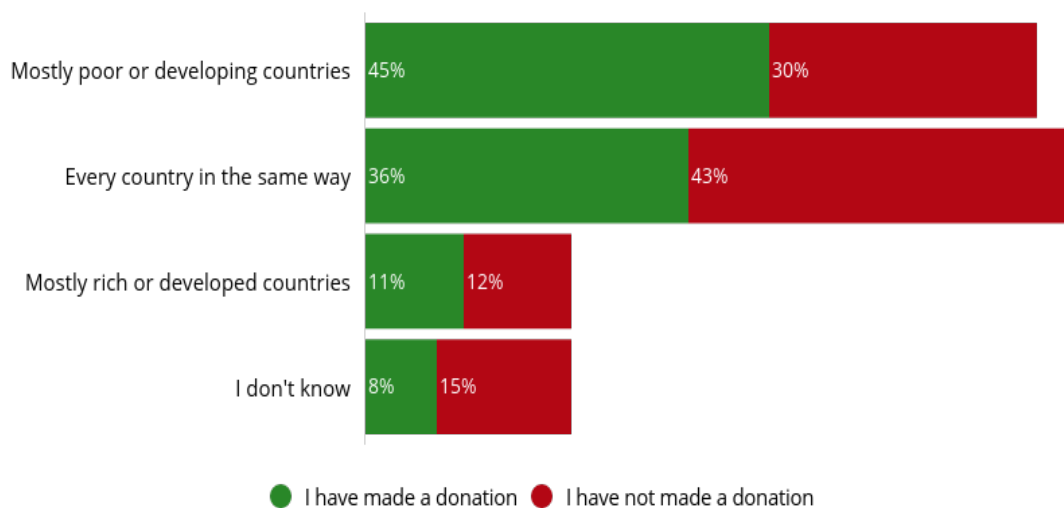
An understanding of development issues (measured in this case by whether respondents have made a donation in the last twelve months to an NGO - see below) is another factor which influences answers to this question. Regardless of the link to political preference (although left-wing voters make more donations to NGOs working on developing issues than right-wing voters), there is a strong correlation between those who say they have made a donation in the last twelve months and an assessment that developing countries will be the primary victims of climate change.

The opposite is true for those who have not made such a donation. Here again, then, we can see the positive reinforcement between awareness of climate change impact, and awareness (and support for) organisations working on international solidarity.

66

In your view, who does climate change affect the most?
vs.

In the last twelve months, have you made a donation to a charitable organisation or an international NGO working on global poverty and development?



**WHAT SHOULD WE PUT FIRST:
ECONOMIC GROWTH, OR THE
ENVIRONMENT? THE MAJOR
QUESTION OF OUR TIME**

QUESTION ASKED:

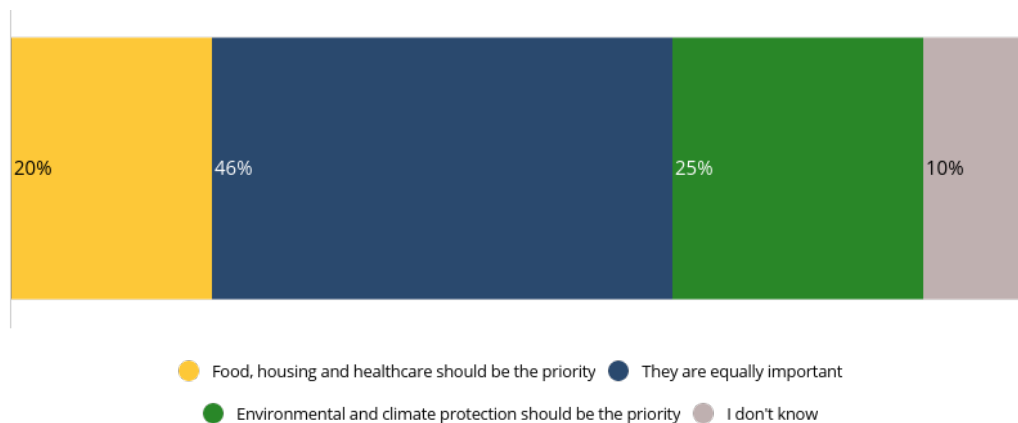
When answering the following question, please picture 'the world overall' rather than any one country, or group of countries.

Some people say that we have to choose between two priorities: supporting economic growth in order to provide people with food, housing and healthcare; or instead, protecting the environment, limiting climate change, and maintaining soil fertility.

ON THE SCALE OF 0 TO 10, WHERE

- **0 EQUALS 'FOOD, HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE SHOULD BE THE PRIORITY', AND**
- **10 EQUALS 'ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE PROTECTION SHOULD BE THE PRIORITY',**

PLEASE TELL US WHICH OF THE TWO STATEMENTS BEST MATCHES YOUR VIEW.



SUMMARY

This question compares two different priorities. The first is about fostering economic growth, in order to feed the world's population (both 'here' in France, and everywhere else) and to provide people with housing and healthcare. The second is about protecting our planet, reducing climate change, protecting soil fertility, etc. These two approaches are also different in timescale, with one about immediate needs which are common for all of humanity (health, food, education etc), and the other about taking action to protect the planet - not just for today, but for tomorrow, and the long-term.

Even though French opinions today are more influenced by climate change issues than previously, views are on the whole equally split between whether the priority is economic growth (20%) or environmental protection (25%).

What is interesting is that 46% of respondents refuse to choose between the two priorities. This suggests that French people see both of them as equally urgent and important.

Upon closer inspection, however, we discover that young people are less able than older generations to answer the question, but (when they do) they choose as economic growth as the priority.

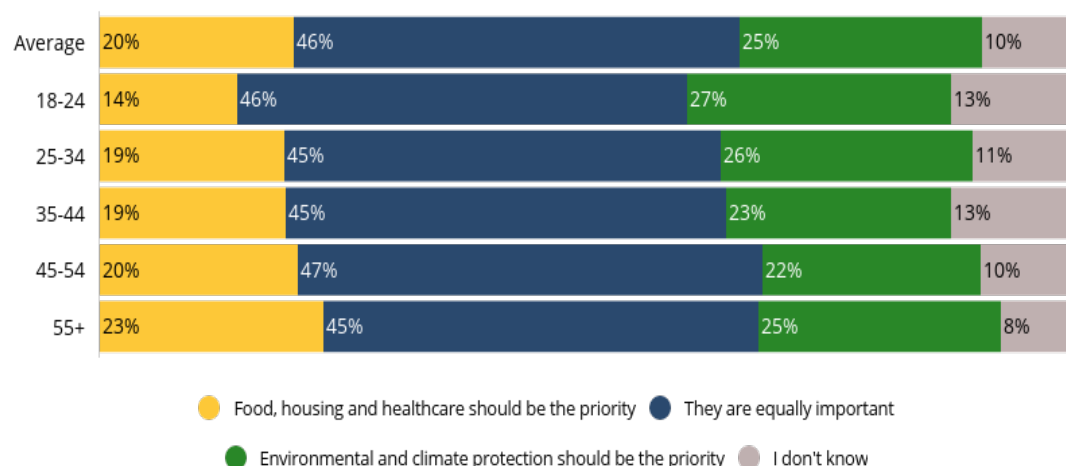
From age 35 onwards, however, a more balanced view is expressed.



When answering the following question, please think of 'the world overall' rather than any one country. or group of countries.

Some people say that we have to choose between two priorities: supporting economic growth in order to provide people with food, housing and healthcare; or instead, protecting the environment, limiting climate change, and maintaining soil fertility. On the scale of 0 to 10, where 0 equals 'food, housing and healthcare should be the priority' and 10 equals 'environmental and climate protection should be the priority', please tell us which of the two statements best matches your view.

Answers broken down according to age



AN UNEASY CHOICE BETWEEN TWO URGENT PRIORITIES



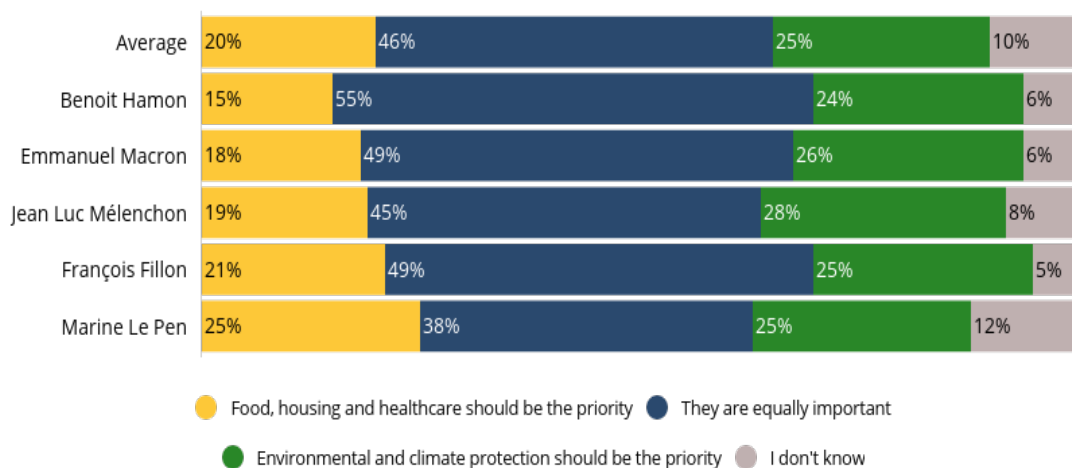
When we factor in the political preference of respondents, we can observe that those who voted for left- and centre-candidates in the first round of the 2017 French Presidential election are less likely to choose growth (and therefore the idea of growth as a vector for provision of food, health and education) over the environment. But for these respondents, it seems like an uneasy choice to have to make, leading to a higher number of 'neither' answers.

It is also worth noting that, regardless of their choice of candidate at the first round of the 2017 Presidential election, all respondents (even those voting for far-right candidate Marine Le Pen) seem to place the same value on environmental protection.

When answering the following question, please think of 'the world overall' rather than any one country, or group of countries.

Some people say that we have to choose between two priorities: supporting economic growth in order to provide people with food, housing and healthcare; or instead, protecting the environment, limiting climate change, and maintaining soil fertility. On the scale of 0 to 10, where 0 equals 'food, housing and healthcare should be the priority' and 10 equals 'environmental and climate protection should be the priority', please tell us which of the two statements best matches your view.

Answers broken down according to political preference



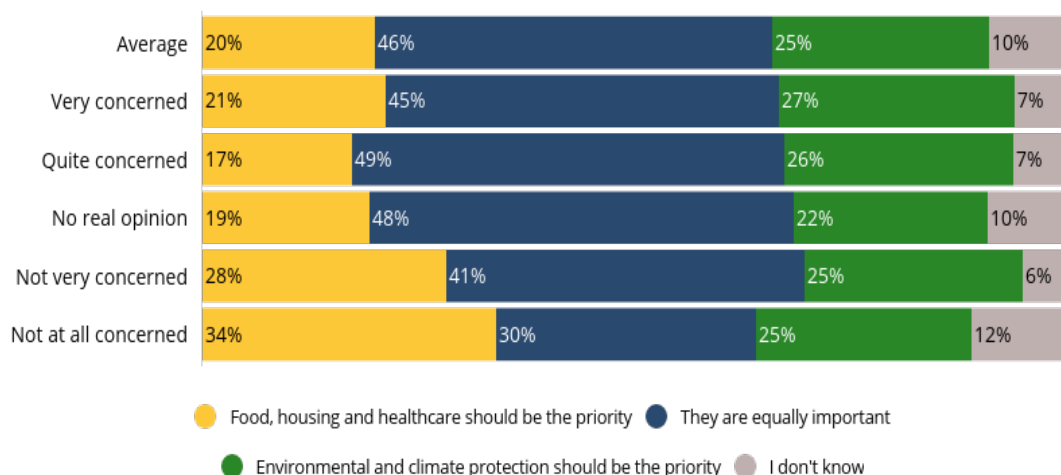


Lastly, when we compare answers to this question with respondents' level of concern for poverty in developing countries, we can also see a correlation. The higher the level of concern for poverty, the lower the prioritisation of economic growth. This is despite the fact that growth is widely seen as a necessary pre-condition for the provision of food, health and education - basic needs which are often poorly met in developing countries.

When answering the following question, please think of 'the world overall' rather than any one country, or group of countries. Some people say that we have to choose between two priorities: supporting economic growth in order to provide people with food, housing and healthcare; or instead, protecting the environment, limiting climate change, and maintaining soil fertility.

Vs.

Which of the following statements best represents your view on poverty in developing countries?



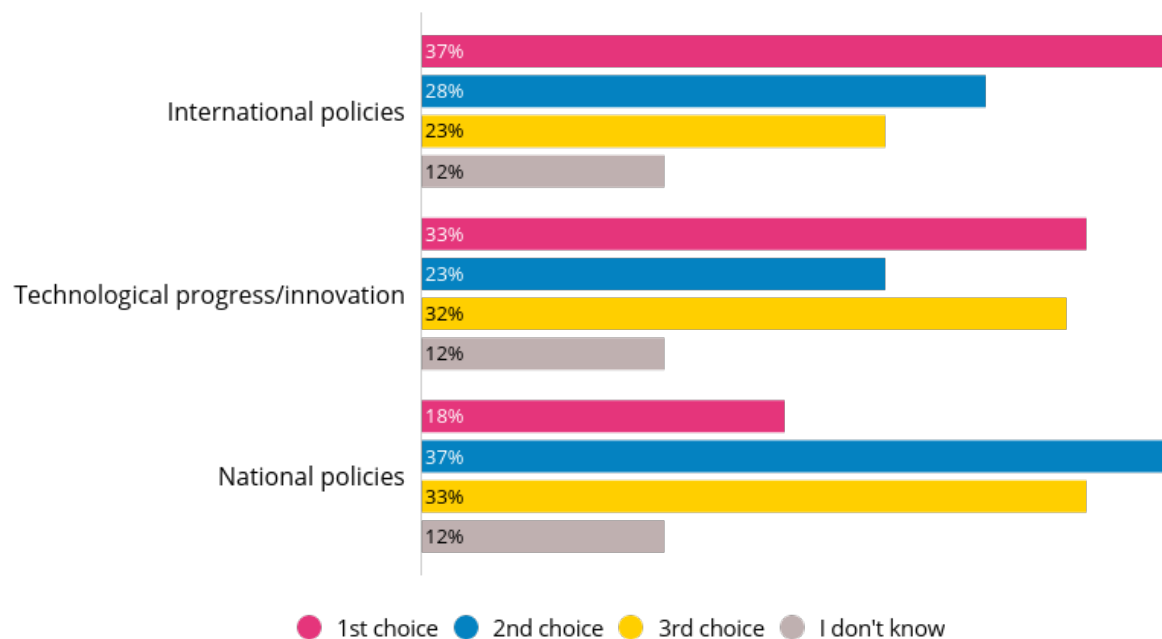
The results also suggest that some respondents may only have skimmed the question, therefore limiting their answers to a simple 'economic growth vs. the environment', without thinking about the different kinds of economic growth which are possible. Indeed, these results mirror the public debate which tends to pitch economic growth against environmental conservation, even though some respondents will also have answered with the possibility of 'green growth' in mind.

But the clear overall result, regardless of the nuances, is that French people choose not to choose. Instead, the majority opt for a 'neither-nor' answer when asked to prioritise between growth and the environment.

IDENTIFYING INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AS THE BEST WAY TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

QUESTION ASKED:

'PLEASE RANK THE FOLLOWING THREE TOOLS IN TERMS OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE!'



SUMMARY

For 37% of French people, the most effective way of reducing the impact of climate change is through international policy (their top choice). However, almost the same number of people (33%) think that the best solution is through technological progress or innovation. Only 18% think that the most effective tool for reducing climate change consequences is through national policies.

Interestingly, though, when we look at respondents' second choices, it is national policies which gain more trust than international policies or technology.

This perhaps suggests that, faced with the complexity of climate change and its impact, French people see a value in combining multiple responses, actors and approaches for maximum effectiveness.

YouGov survey carried out on line with quota method. Results analysed as part of the Development Engagement Lab research project (2019-2024) conducted by University College London and Birmingham University (United Kingdom). Survey carried out between 27 September and 10 October 2019 with a representative sample of 6073 adults in France. The error margin for data is $\pm 2\%$. For more information on methodology see www.focus2030.org. Source: www.devcommslab.org

SAME QUESTION, DIFFERENT ANSWERS: HOW OPINIONS DIVERGE DEPENDING ON RESPONDENTS' PROFILES



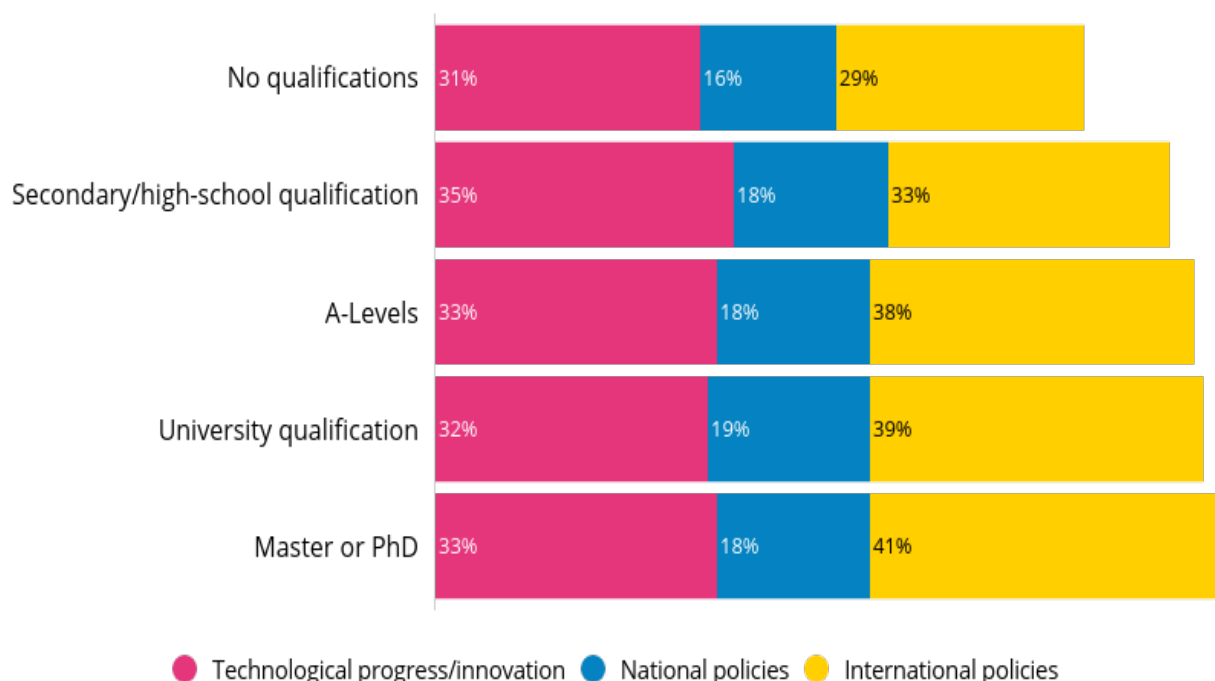
Education does not have a radical influence on answers to this question. In terms of respondents' first-choice answers, technological progress and national policies are given equal weight across all educational levels.

However, we do see a correlation between higher educational qualifications and a preference for international policies or decisions as the most effective tool for tackling climate change impacts.



Please rank the following three tools in terms of their effectiveness in reducing the impact of climate change.

1st choice answers, broken down according to level of education



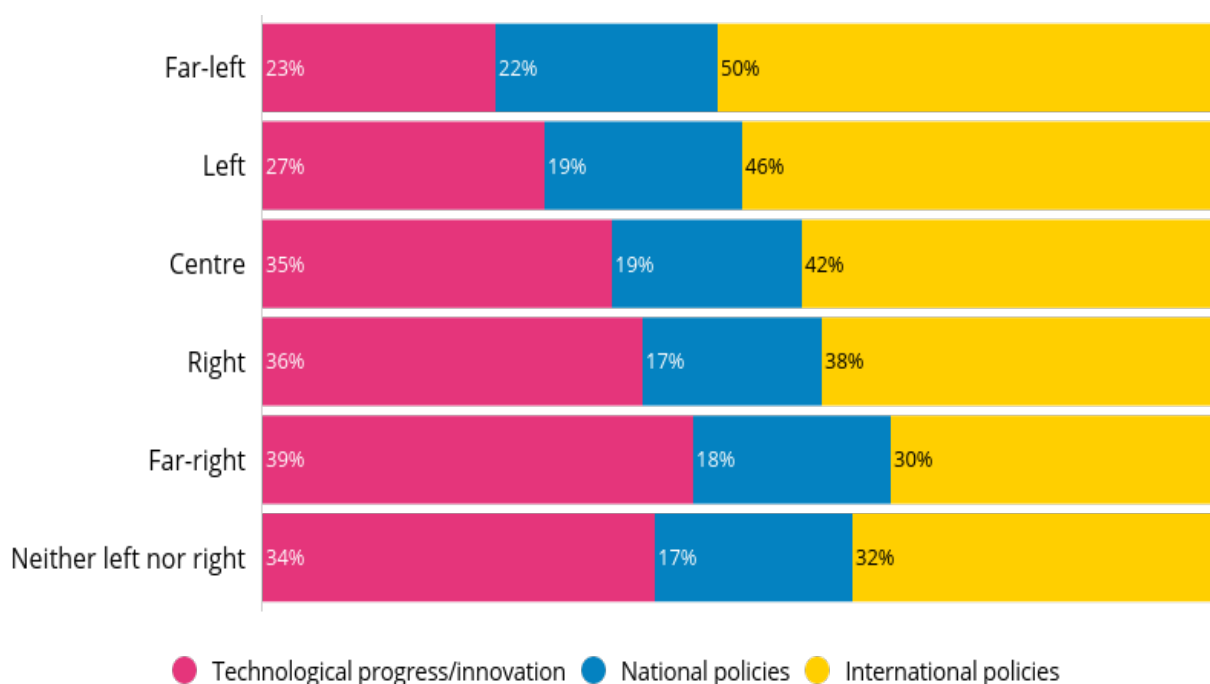


The further left-wing respondents say they are, the more they think it is through technological progress that we will lessen the impact of climate change. To the same extent, the more right-wing the respondent, the greater the weight given to international policies as the best tool. For first-choice answers, the level of support for national policies seems stable across all political preferences.



Please rank the following three tools in terms of their effectiveness in reducing the impact of climate change.

1st choice answers, broken down according to political preference





The greater the concern for poverty in developing countries, the higher the weight given to international politics and policies to mitigate the impact of climate change. Contrary to this, the less respondents said they were interested in poverty in developing countries, the more they saw technology as the primary solution.

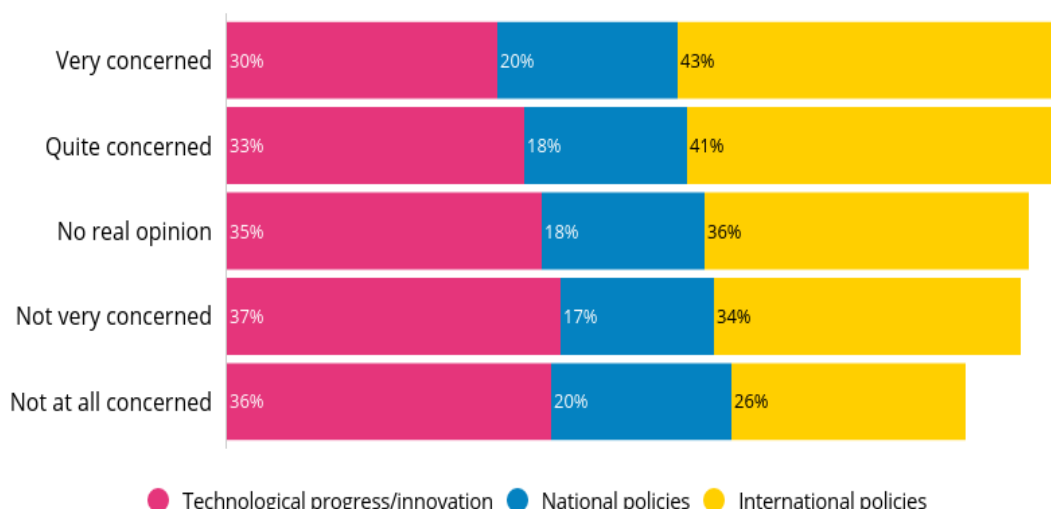
This would suggest that greater knowledge or awareness about the situation of the poorest people in developing countries results in a perception that tackling climate change is best achieved through an international and global policy response.



Please rank the following three tools in terms of their effectiveness in reducing the impact of climate change.

1st choice answers vs.

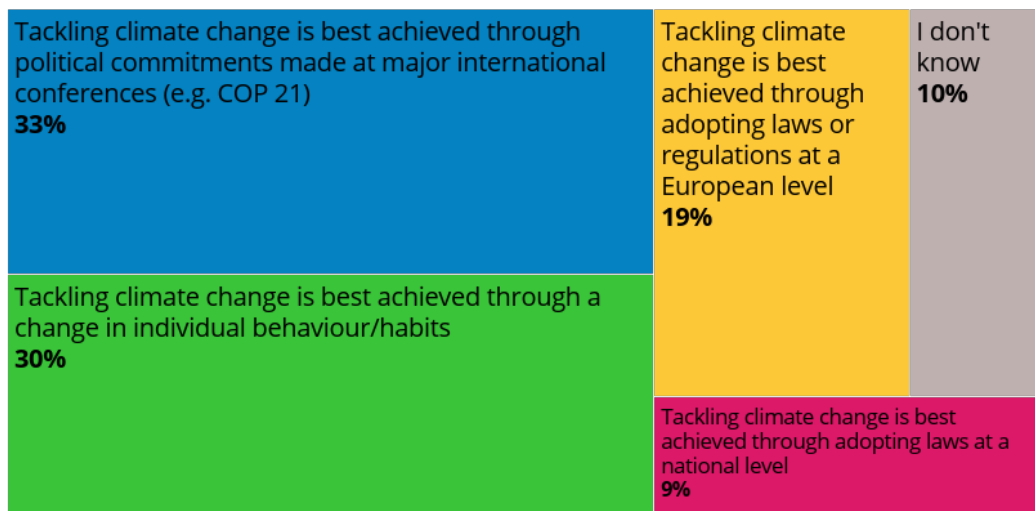
Which of the following best describes how you feel about poverty in developing countries?



INTERNATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL ACTION: HOW BEST TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, ACCORDING TO FRENCH PEOPLE

QUESTION ASKED:

'WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR STATEMENTS BEST REPRESENTS YOUR VIEW?'



SUMMARY

The paradox of this question is that French people give (almost) equal weight to international action (like the UN COP21 conference) as they do to individual action (such as changing one's lifestyle) as the best solutions to the climate change challenge.

In contrast, a European-driven solution receives little backing (19%), through still ahead of the few people (9%) who thought action taken at national level was the best solution.

Looking more closely, we see there is steady support for action taken at individual level, regardless of respondents' ages. The same is not true for international solutions, which are poorly perceived by younger generations (at 22% for those under 25) compared to older generations (37% for those over 55). It would seem that young people have more faith in - or greater expectations of - national policies, than their elders.

We can also discern an impact from respondents' level of education. The more educated respondents are, the more they seem to think that a multilateral response to climate change (i.e. at European or international level) is the best approach for tackling a problem on a global scale.

Once again, political preference also has a strong influence on respondents' answers to this question. For those on the left, the solution lies with non-national policies and actions, unlike those on the right, who seem to consider European or international action with some suspicion. European action on climate change gains particular favour with far-left voters (28%), progressively falling as political preference moves to the right (down to 15%).

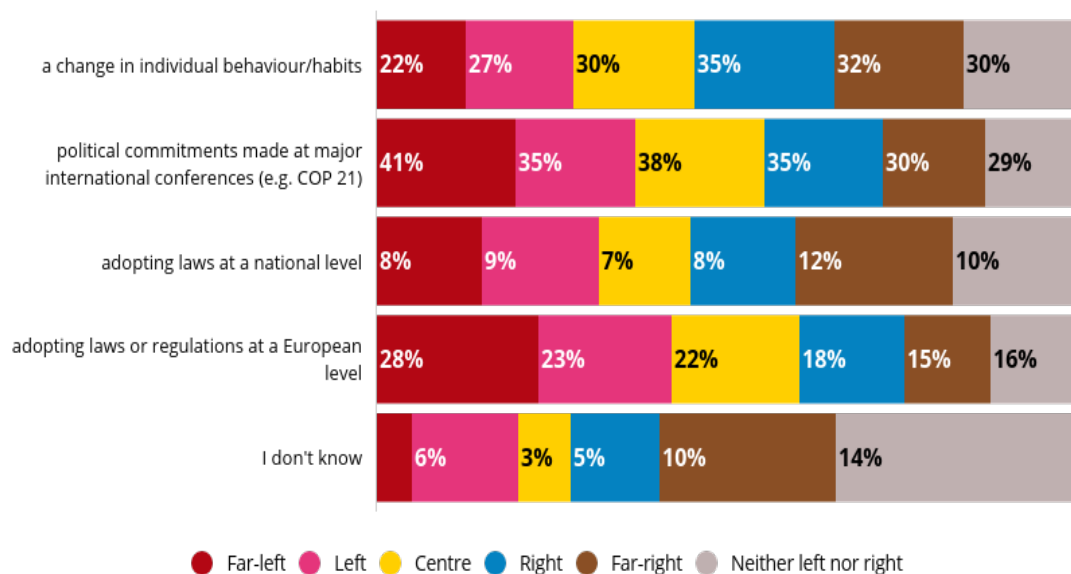
In the same way, left- and centre-voters are more supportive of an international response to climate change, through multilateral commitments, in stark opposition to those who claim to be 'far right-wing'.

Indeed, this group have a higher-than-average preference for climate change to be tackled by national actors and policies (laws, individual behaviour change, etc).



Which of the following four statements best represents your view?
Tackling climate change is best achieved through...

Answers broken down according to political preference



FACED WITH AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE, THE PAST AND PRESENT ARE A SAFER BET



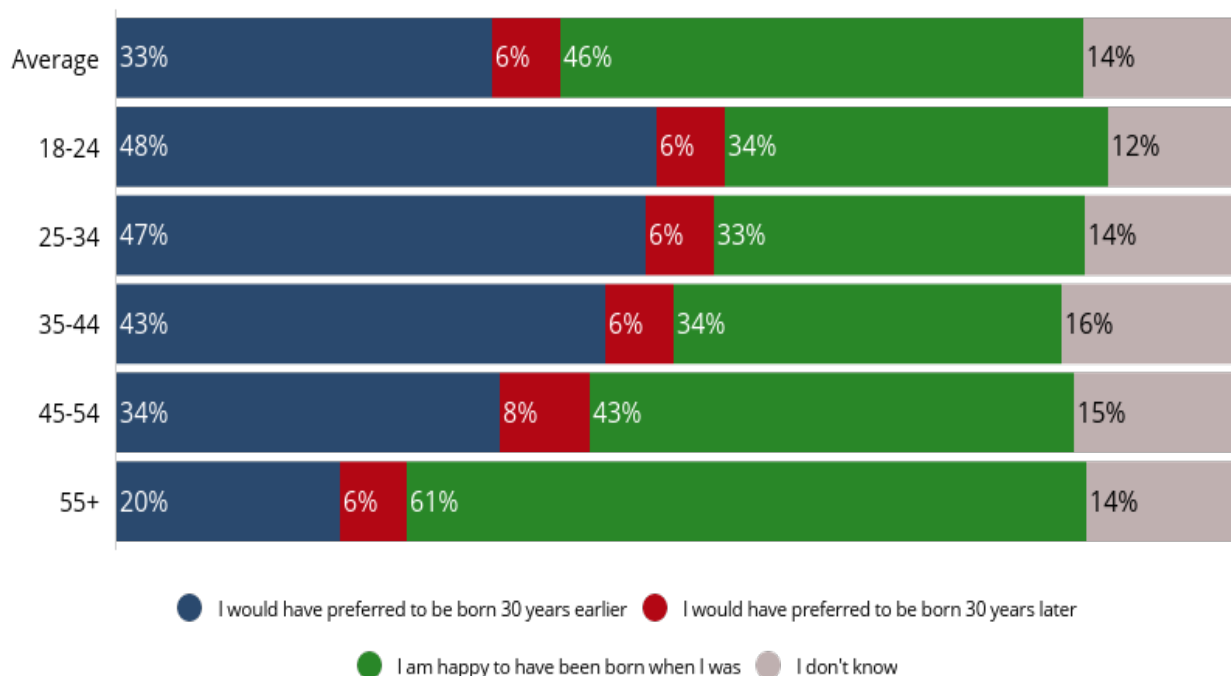
A third of French people (33%) say they would have preferred to have been born thirty years earlier than when they were. This is compared to 46% who are happy with when they were born. In parallel, however, being born in 2049 - and becoming an adult in 2069 - only entices 6% of respondents. These results seem to imply that respondents do not see the future as particularly bright.

Looking more closely at the results, we can see that it is the older generations - notably those who grew up after the Second World War - who say they are happy being born when they were. In comparison, the younger the respondent, the more they claim to wish to have been born thirty years earlier. This is the case for 48% of those aged between 18-25 (compared to an average of 33%): a revealing statement about the pessimism of this particular generation.



From the following choices, which is your preferred option?

Answers broken down according to age



It is possibly the fear of the unknown, and notably fear of the instability of the future, which lead people to prefer either the past or the present. It is not unreasonable to think that the anticipated consequences of climate change is one reason for anxiety about the future, and an unwillingness - if it were even possible - to be born at a future date, instead of being alive now.

Tellingly, the 6% of French people who say they would have preferred to be born 30 years later are also those who are less likely to see individual action as the primary way of tackling climate change, preferring instead an international or European response to the issue. In other words, they are more likely to see climate change as resolved at a non-national level.

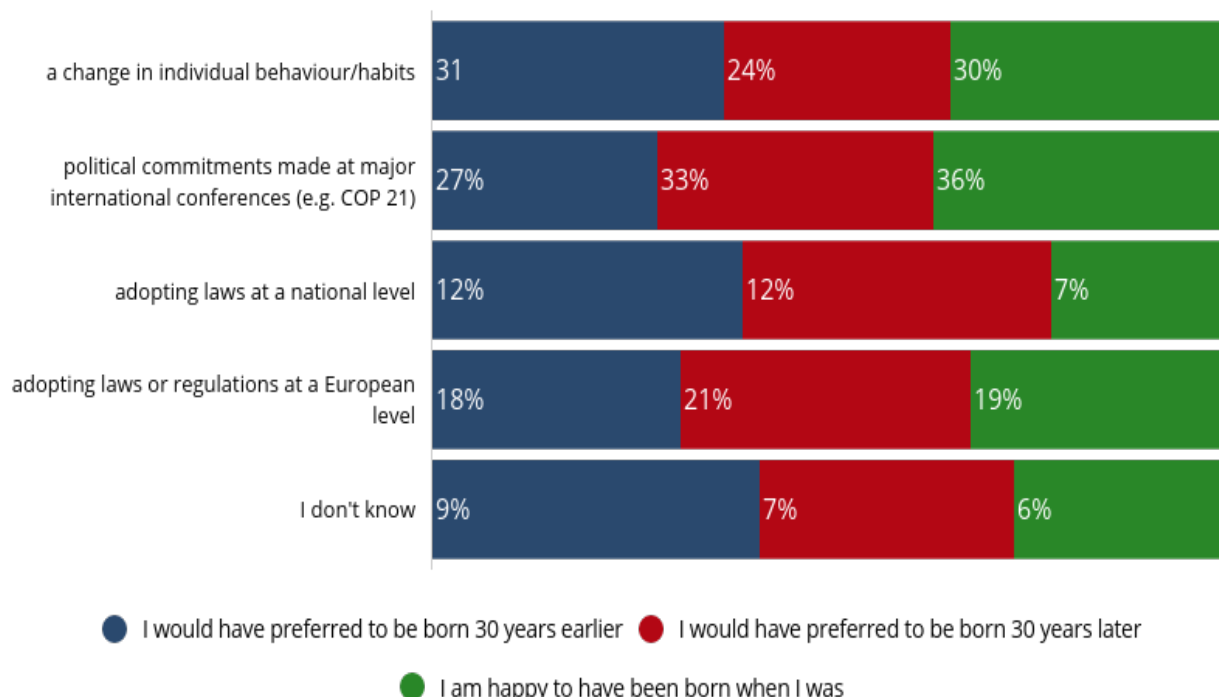


From the following choices, which is your preferred option?

Answers broken down according to age

Vs.

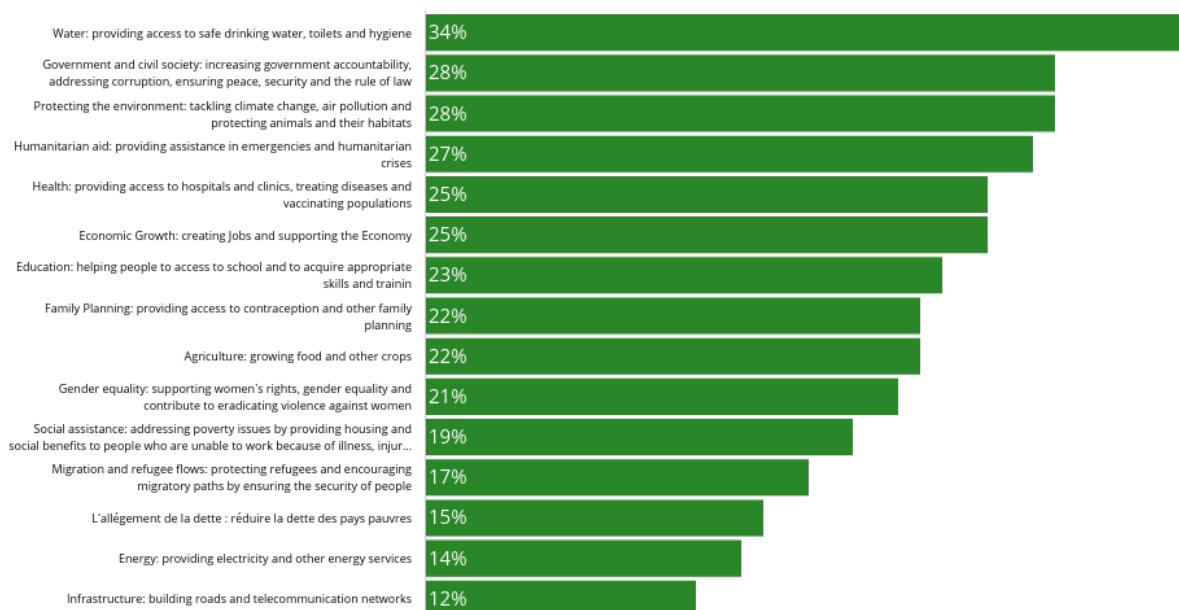
Which of the following four statements best represents your view?
Tackling climate change is best achieved through...



**PROTECTING THE
ENVIRONMENT SHOULD BE
A PRIORITY FOR FRENCH
DEVELOPMENT AID**

QUESTION:

'IN YOUR VIEW, WHICH SHOULD BE THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PRIORITIES FOR AID PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?'



SUMMARY

Questioned about the possibilities for French official development assistance (ODA) spending, drinking water is identified as the top priority (35%). Protecting the environment comes in at joint second/third place (28%) alongside the fight against corruption, good governance and peace.

For French people, environmental protection is a relatively new demand for the poverty reduction agenda. There is a growing recognition of the power of development aid to drive efforts to implement international recommendations about tackling climate change, protecting biodiversity, etc.

It would appear that French people are also beginning to recognise that poverty reduction must, and can, also be part of the solution to environmental issues; indeed, it seems obvious in 2019 that neither is achievable without the other. There is also concern and firm conviction that economic development in poor countries must not be based upon by the same model which stimulated growth in rich countries previously, but which we now know to have caused so much damage to the planet.

Finally, this result is a clear indication of how important it is to make an environmental argument when promoting development projects paid for by developed countries. It would seem that environmental protection is now a primary lever for gaining public support for development aid (more so than education, health, or economic growth).

YouGov survey carried out on line with quota method. Results analysed as part of the Development Engagement Lab research project (2019-2024) conducted by University College London and Birmingham University (United Kingdom). Survey carried out between 27 September and 10 October 2019 with a representative sample of 6073 adults in France. The error margin for data is $\pm 2\%$. For more information on methodology see www.focus2030.org. Source: www.devcommslab.org

The International Development Barometer: a Focus 2030 publication

The International Development Barometer is a Focus 2030 publication based on the findings of a series of opinion polls carried out under the 'Development Engagement Lab' research projet (2018-2024) conducted by researchers at University College London and the University of Birmingham (UK).

The questions analysed in this Barometer were written by Focus 2030 following collective consultation alongside UCL and University of Birmingham researchers with 20 partner organisations from the French development sector (NGOs, think tanks, and institutions).

At a time of great political, technological, economic and ecological change on a global scale, this projet aims to better understand French understanding and perceptions of the world, particularly of modern-day global challenges and extent to which French citizens support (or not) action undertaken by those working on development to help the world's poorest populations.

Concentrating particularly on subjects which development actors and organisations have brought to the forefront in recent years (climate change, inequality, human rights, women's rights, access to healthcare or treatment), this project intends to analyse and explain the evolution of French people's opinions, behaviour, understanding or perceptions on these questions. By making our data and analysis freely available, Focus 2030 hopes to better break down and illuminate these fascinating links between the individual and their views on key development issues.

Focus 2030 takes full responsibility for the results and analysis presented in this Barometer, which does not represent in any way the positions or views of our partner organisations.

To use any of the data from this edition, or other other of Focus 2030's International Development Barometers, please contact:

Fabrice Ferrier, Director Focus 2030: fabrice@focus2030.org

Find out more about the Development Engagement Lab

The Development Engagement Lab (DEL, 2018-2024), is a research project based on opinion polls conducted online by YouGov in France, Germany, the UK and the US. It is a comparative study, financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and run by Jennifer van Heerde-Hudson (UCL) and David Hudson (University of Birmingham).

Find out more here: <https://devcommslab.org>



METHODOLOGY

The [Development Engagement Lab](#) (DEL, 2018-2024) opinion polls are carried out by [YouGov](#) in four countries: France, Germany, the UK and the US.

YouGov is a opinion polling institute established in 2000 in the UK, with 31 offices in 21 countries (including in France, since November 2011). YouGov has a panel of 5 million people across 28 countries, representing all ages, socio-economic categories and genders. This panel enables a representative sample of national populations for different opinion polls. In France, the panel has 175,000 people.

More information is available [here](#).

Survey methods used by the Development Engagement Lab (DEL)

YouGov carries out its opinion polls on line, using a system called 'active sampling'.

With this system, restrictions are introduced to ensure that only those people contacted are authorised to participate in the survey. This means that all of the respondents to the survey have been pre-selected by YouGov, from their panel of registered respondents, and only those chosen from the panel can participate.

Which respondents take part in DEL surveys?

The panel members are recruited from several different channels, such as classic advertising, or through various different websites. Various socio-demographic information is recorded for each new panel member.

Respondents have a log-in and password, and can only reply once to each online survey.

The analysis of the data

Once the survey is complete, the final data are weighted statistically against the national profile of adults aged over 18. The weighting is carried out for age, social class, region, level of education, political votes at recent elections, and political preference. 'Active sampling' therefore ensures an accurate and proportional representation in participation in the survey. Combined with statistical weighting, the sample provides representative findings for the whole of the population of the country under study (including those who do not have access to internet).

Reimbursement for participation

Respondents earn 'YouGov points' each time they take part in a survey. Depending on the size of the survey, taking part in between 10-15 polls will earn around 400 points. 5000 points equal a monetary value of around 56 € (£50). Participants must reach a minimum of 5000 points before being able to claim any kind of reimbursement.

Margin of error

The margin of error for DEL surveys (which involve between 2000 and 6000 respondents) is $\pm 2\%$.

For more information, see www.focus2030.org

Focus 2030

Focus 2030 is a registered non-profit organisation working with international solidarity and development actors on communication, mobilisation and advocacy projects supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our aim is to promote political, media and public attention for international development issues, the fight against poverty and global inequality, in order to ensure ambitious, transparent and effective public policies in these areas.

Focus 2030 structures its work around 3 main axes:

- DATA, in the production and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data through public opinion surveys on international development and publication of facts and figures on development;
- INNOVATION, in the support and financing of innovative research and campaigns on the Sustainable Development Goals and development finance, and;
- DEVELOPMENT, in bringing together our community of development actors (NGOs, think tanks, international organisations and public institutions) to facilitate exchange and co-construction of joint work.

Focus 2030 works principally in France and Spain.

Editor:

Fabrice Ferrier

Contributors:

Fabrice Ferrier

Arnaud Gaillard

Translation:

Kate Hart

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BAROMETER N°6 FOCUS 2030

NOVEMBER 2019

www.focus2030.org