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What **IF** Youth Led the MENA Region?

Survey of Youth Perceptions

Wave II

A Product of



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MENACTION is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, established by youth from the Middle East and North Africa region, designed to advocate for the rights of MENA youth. MENACTION is for youth by youth, focusing on issues of policy, advocacy, democracy and human rights. MENACTION believes in the meaningful engagement of youth as stakeholders and active agents for change and development, with proper youth inclusion in political and public life at the top of our mission.

In the Spring of 2022, MENACTION launched a periodic survey to gauge respondents' perceptions on political, socioeconomic, and environment related factors. This survey explores how the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region would look like, politically, economically, and environmentally if youth were its leaders. In June 2023, MENACTION conducted the second wave of the survey to extrapolate changes between the two years. The second wave was implemented in partnership with [NAMA Strategic Intelligence Solutions](#), and it looked to achieve the following objectives:

- ❖ Track youth's perceptions in terms of a series of political, economic, and environmental governance matters;
- ❖ Provide a picture of how the region would look like if youth were to have a wider space to assume their roles as political, economic, and environmental decision- makers; and
- ❖ Understanding the major issues facing youth in the MENA region and their root causes to essentially provide policy recommendations that can effectively address these challenges.

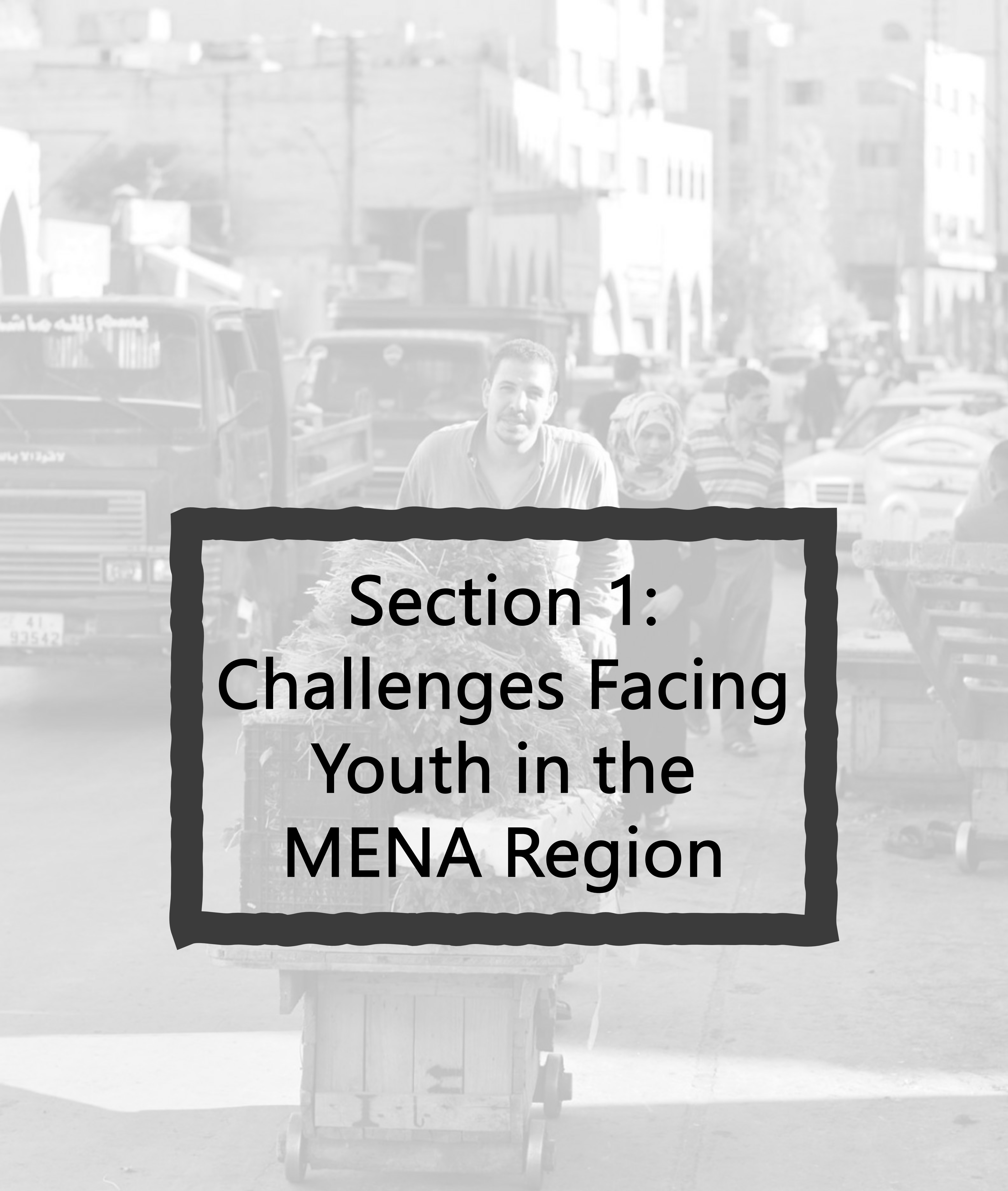
The total achieved sample is 2,237 respondents from 19 countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia from North Africa; Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria from the Mashreq; and Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Yemen from the Arab Gulf.

Looking at demographic breakdown, the sample featured a 50-50 male to female ratio. The sample also comprised of 65.3% of respondents aged 18-34 and 34.7% of individuals aged 35 and older. Additionally, 52.5% of the respondents hold a bachelor's degree, 13.2% hold a master's degree or higher, 12.7% hold a diploma or completed 2 years of college, 15.1% completed secondary education, 4.8% underwent vocational or technical training, and 1.7% completed basic or elementary education.

Moreover, 50.7% of the respondents were employed, either full time or part time, along with 11.6% who were self-employed; 19.4% were unemployed; 9.9% were current students; 7.6% housewives; 0.4% were unable to work due to a disability; and 0.3% retired.

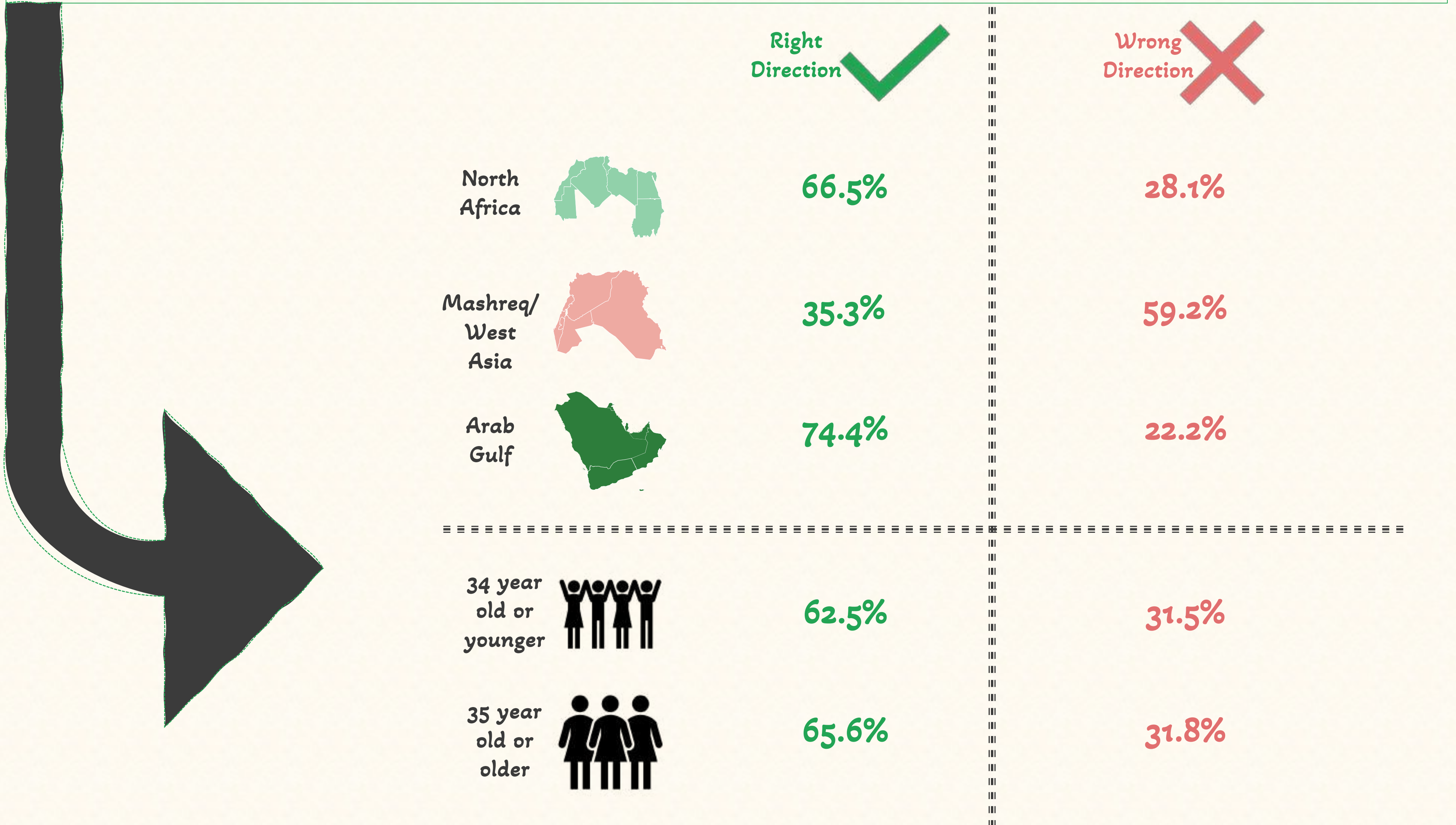
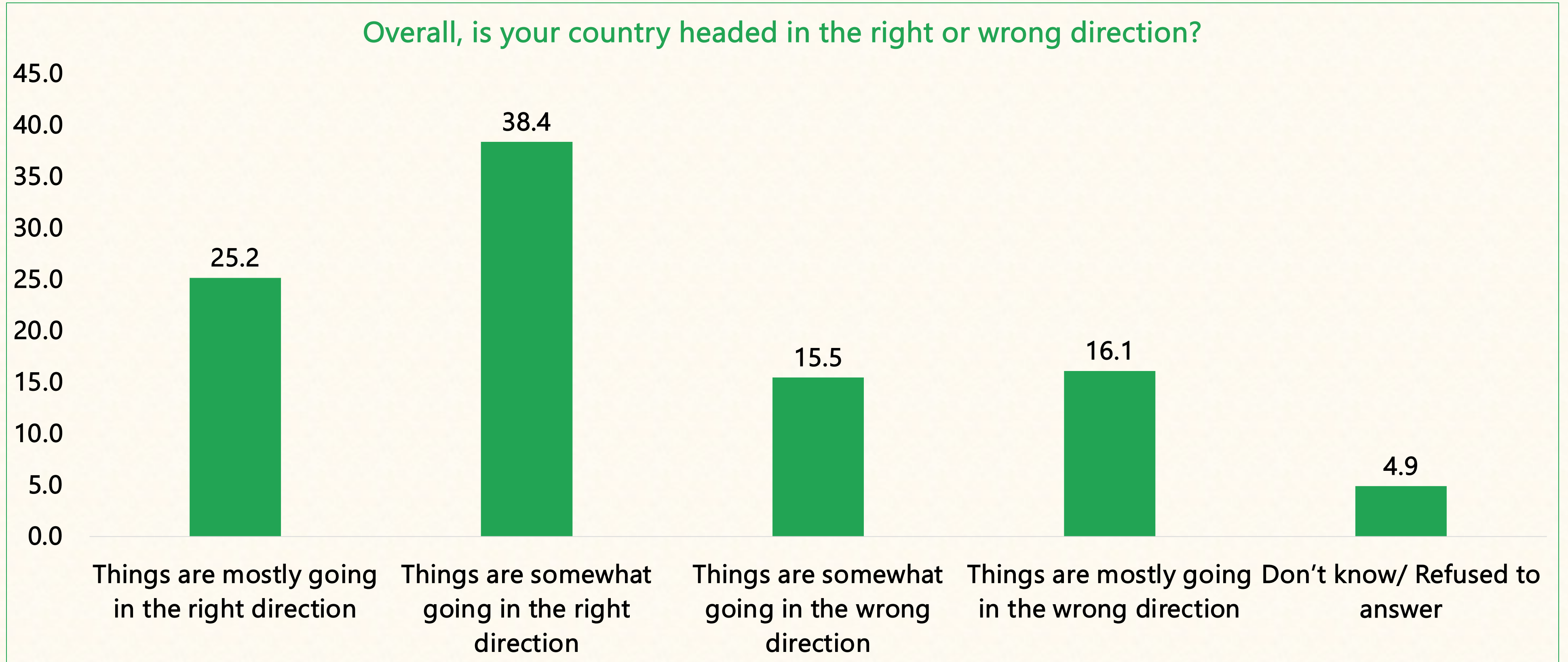
Sub-Region	Country	No. of Respondents	Total Respondents/ Sub-Region
North Africa	Algeria	264	1404
	Egypt	670	
	Libya	35	
	Mauritania	30	
	Morocco	239	
	Sudan	35	
	Tunisia	131	
Mashreq/ West Asia	Iraq	179	363
	Jordan	64	
	Lebanon	59	
	Palestine	27	
	Syria	34	
Arab Gulf	Bahrain	12	560
	Kuwait	28	
	Oman	31	
	Qatar	19	
	Saudi Arabia	274	
	UAE	78	
	Yemen	119	

The survey was conducted online, using KoBo toolbox. MENACTION ran paid promotions on its Facebook page to acquire respondents. MENACTION faced a number of challenges during the data collection phase. Initially, the survey was advertised in all countries across the MENA region; however, a number of countries did not record any responses, propelling MENACTION to approach CSOs in these countries to help with outreach. Secondly, certain countries were recording low participation rates. As such, MENACTION focused more promotions in these countries along, which resulted positively. Finally, the male to female ratio was lower than the regional average; therefore, MENACTION weighted the responses to ensure equal representation.

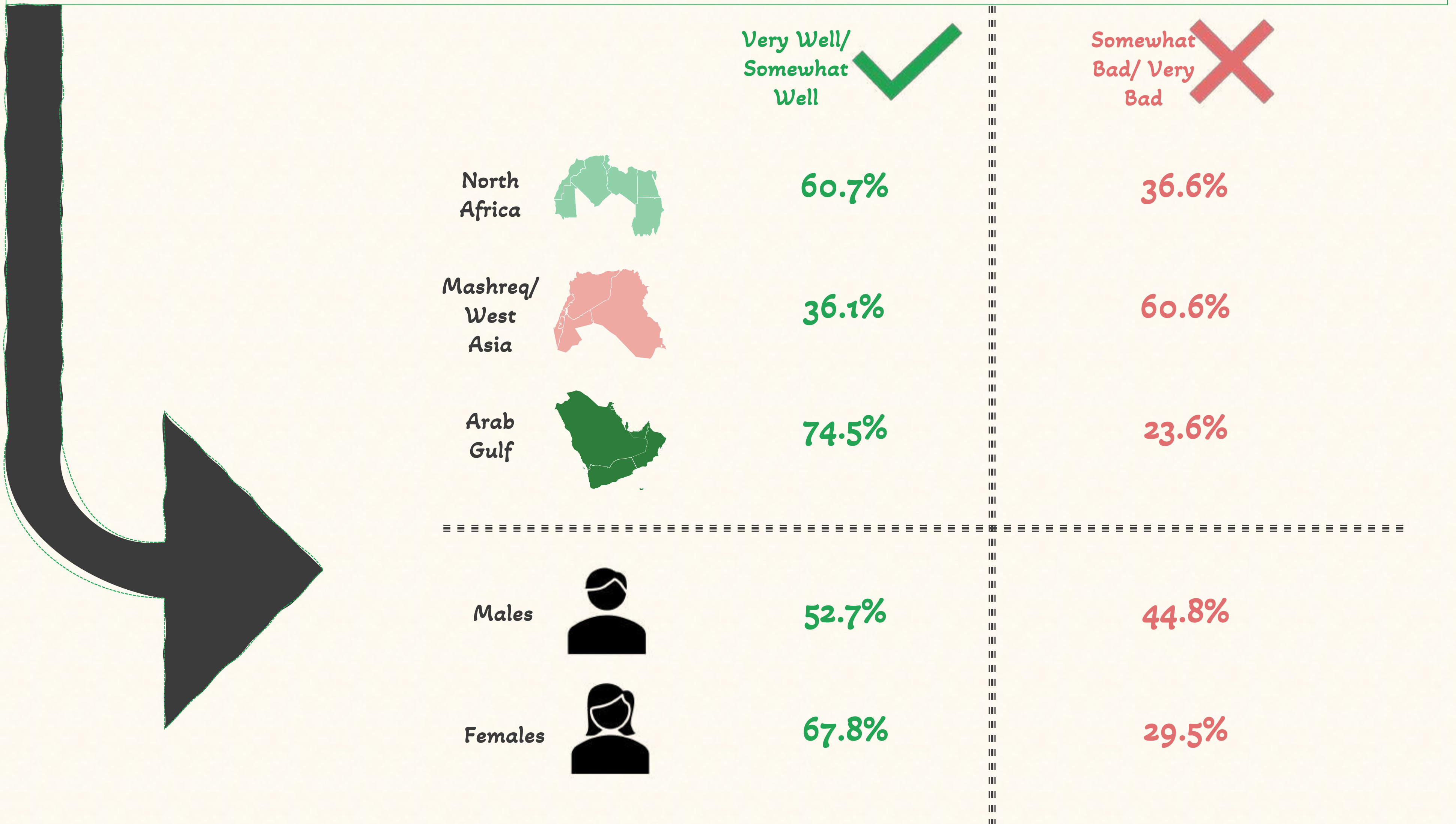


**Section 1:
Challenges Facing
Youth in the
MENA Region**

When asked to indicate their thoughts regarding their countries' general direction nowadays, 25.2% of surveyed individuals indicated things are mostly going in the right direction, coupled with 38.4% who stated their countries were somewhat headed in the right direction, compared to about 31.6% who believe their countries are headed in the wrong direction.

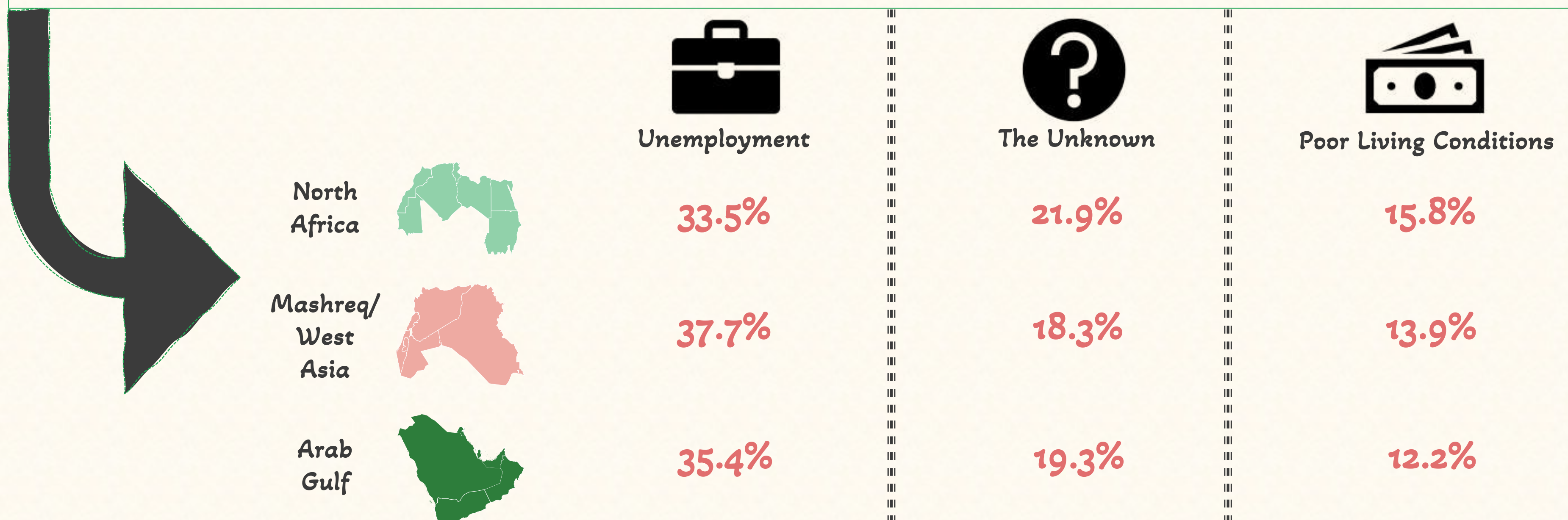
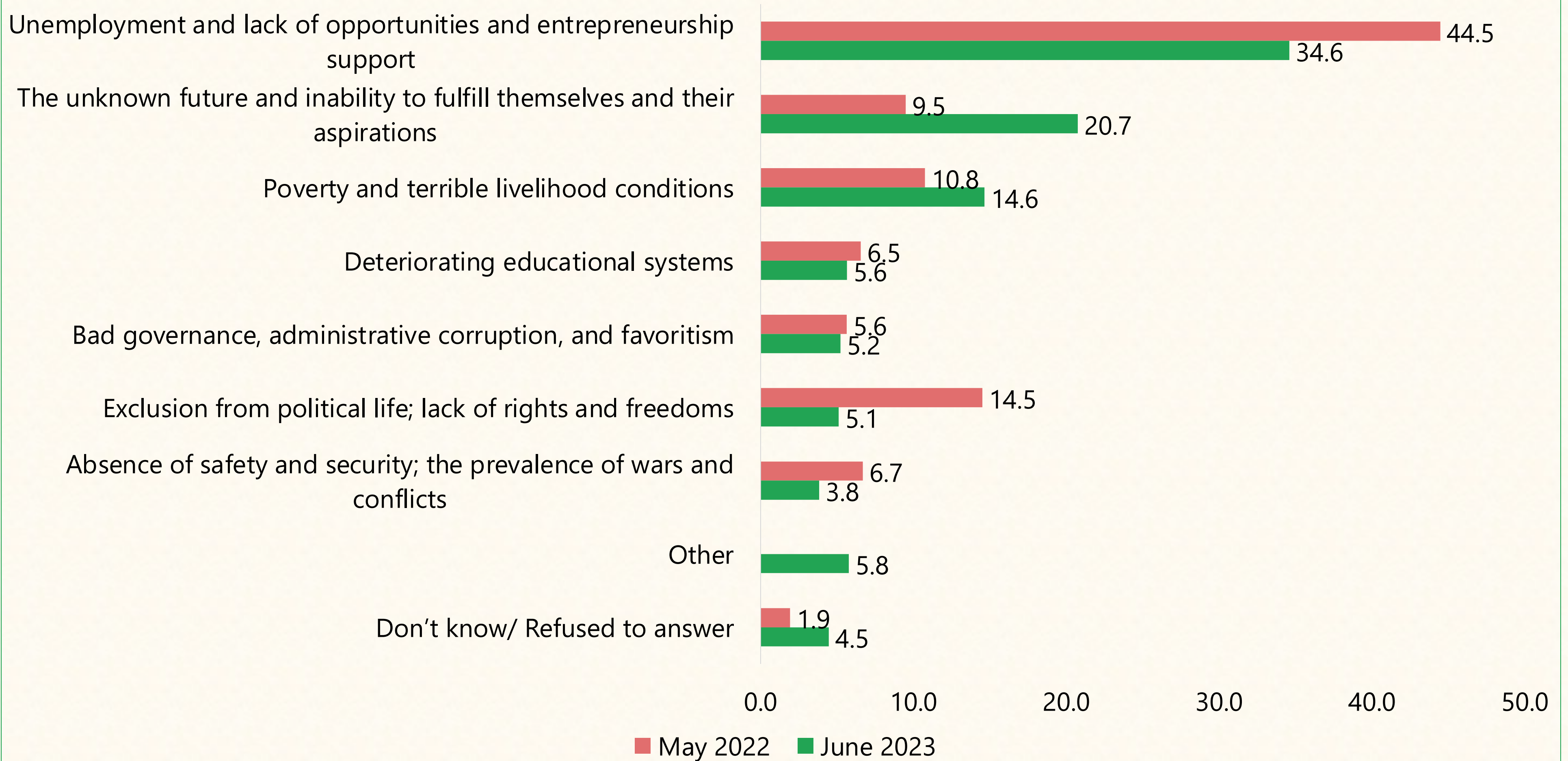



When it comes to the way youth are treated in their respective countries, the survey found that 23.9% indicated “very well” coupled with 36.3% who stated “somewhat well” whereas 21.4% indicated “somewhat bad” and 15.8% stated “very bad”.



Economic issues were reported as the most concerning challenge facing youth nowadays, as 34.6% of the respondents indicated unemployment and lack of opportunities and entrepreneurship support, coupled with 14.6% for poverty and terrible livelihood conditions. Fear for the gloomy future was also prevalent. In fact, 20.7% of the respondents indicated “the unknown future and inability to fulfill their aspirations” along with 3.8% who indicated absence of safety and security the prevalence of wars and conflicts. The level of sociopolitical engagement was another major challenge, with 5.2% pointed to bad governance, administrative corruption, and favoritism and 5.1% others referred to their exclusion from political life and the lack of rights and freedoms. These challenges appear to have been carried through from the previous wave implemented in May 2022. Though fewer respondents pointed to unemployment as their biggest challenge, the results show that those worried about the future have more than doubled.

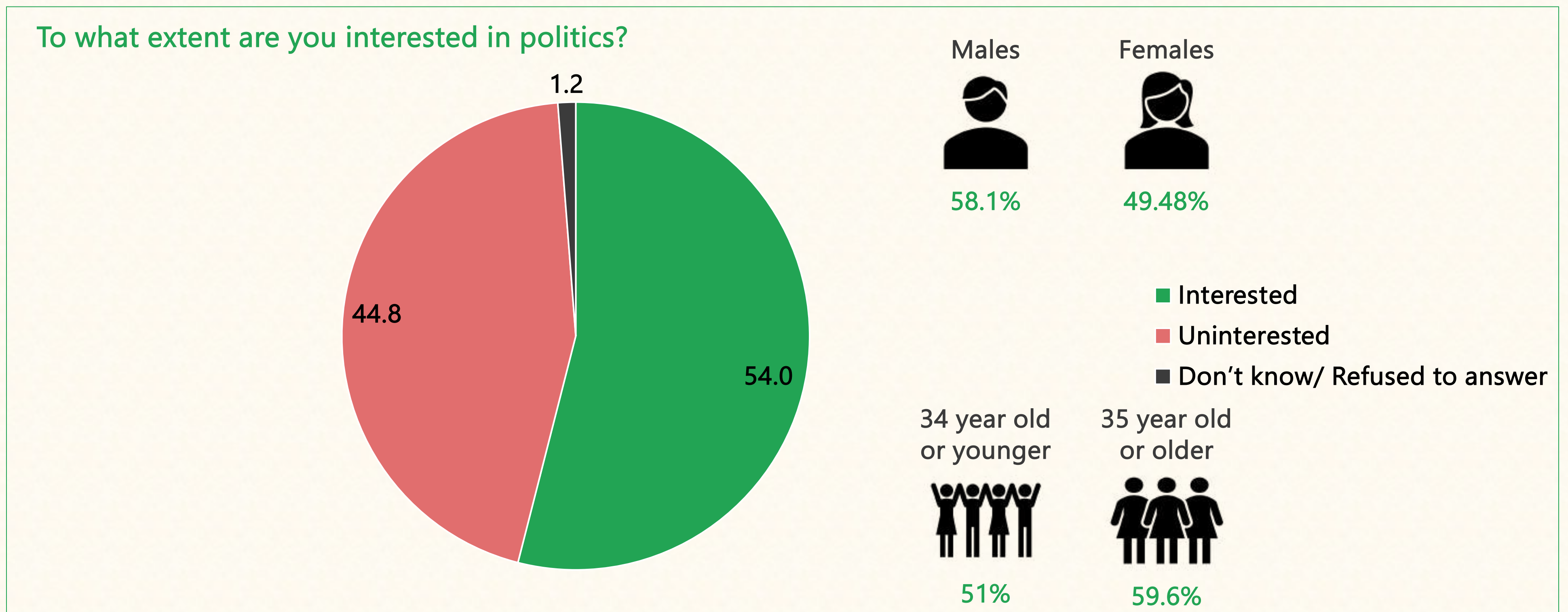
In your opinion, what is the single biggest challenge facing you as a young person today?



A grayscale photograph of a busy market scene. In the foreground, a woman with short dark hair is looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. To her left, a man is holding a large, round, textured object, possibly a coconut. In the background, other people are visible, including a man in a white shirt and a man wearing a checkered headscarf. The scene is filled with various items, likely produce, in the background. A black-bordered text box is overlaid on the center of the image.

**Section 2:
Perceptions of
Politics and
Governance**

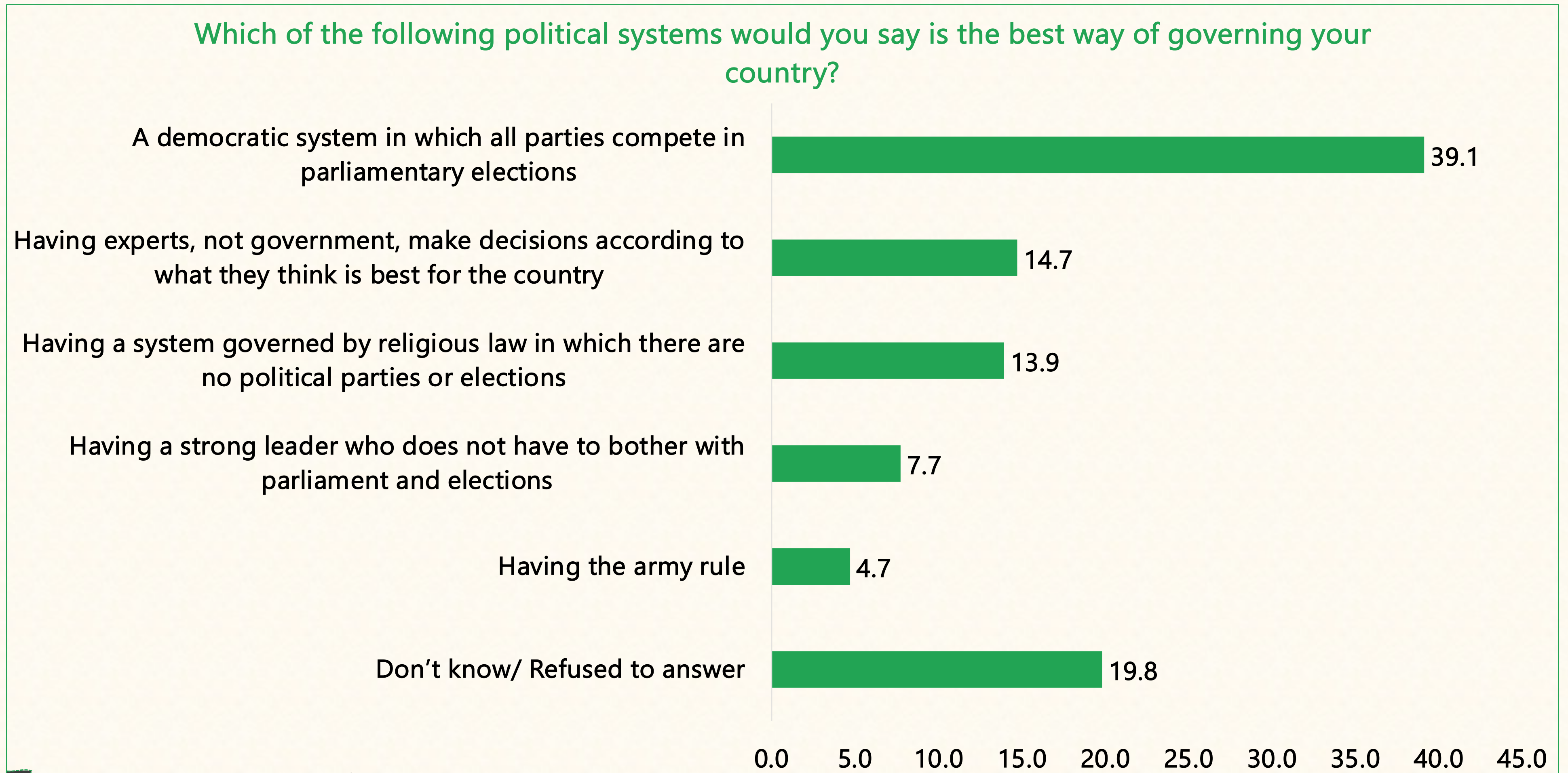
Starting off the politics and governance portion of the survey, the respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they are interested in politics. The results show that 19% reported very interested and 35% somewhat interested, compared to 21.9% who were somewhat uninterested and 22.9% were very uninterested.












	To what extent do you feel that you can freely and publicly express your opinion without fear of reprisal?		As a young citizen, to what extent do you feel that you are able to contribute to your country's decision-making process?	
	Can freely, publicly express opinions without fear of reprisal	Cannot freely, publicly express opinions without fear of reprisal	Able to contribute to country's decision-making process	Unable to contribute to country's decision-making process
Interested in Politics ✓	62.3%	35.7%	64.1%	33.8%
Uninterested in Politics ✗	53.7%	39.3%	52.8%	39.7%

Further analysis shows that the respondents' perceptions of their own freedoms to express their opinions freely and publicly without fear of reprisal was higher among those who reported they were interested in politics. The same trend can be found in terms of their perceptions of their ability to contribute to their countries' decision-making processes – about 11.3 percentage points higher, in fact. Interestingly, the results also show a correlation between the ability to express opinions freely and contribute to decision making, as over 76% of those who indicated they can freely express their opinions added they feel they can contribute to their countries' decision-making processes, while 23.3% of those who reported unable to express their opinions without fear of reprisal felt they could not contribute to their countries' decisions.

Next, the respondents were asked about the political systems that would represent the best way of governing their countries. The results showed that multi-party, parliamentary electoral democratic system ranked highest with 39.1% followed by rule of experts and religious laws with 14.7% and 13.9%, respectively; then 7.7% for strong leaders who do not bother with parliament and elections and 4.7% for military rule.

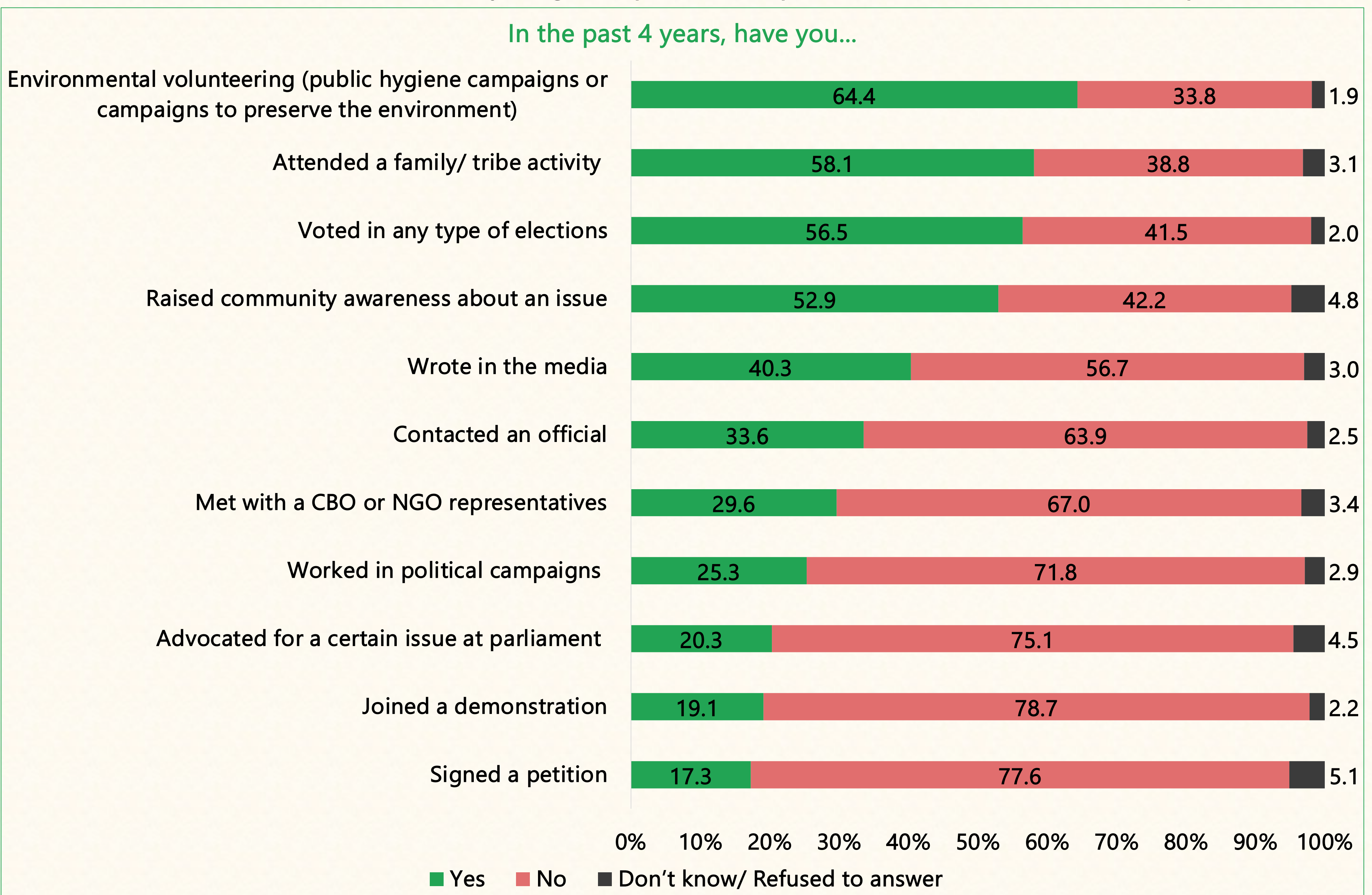
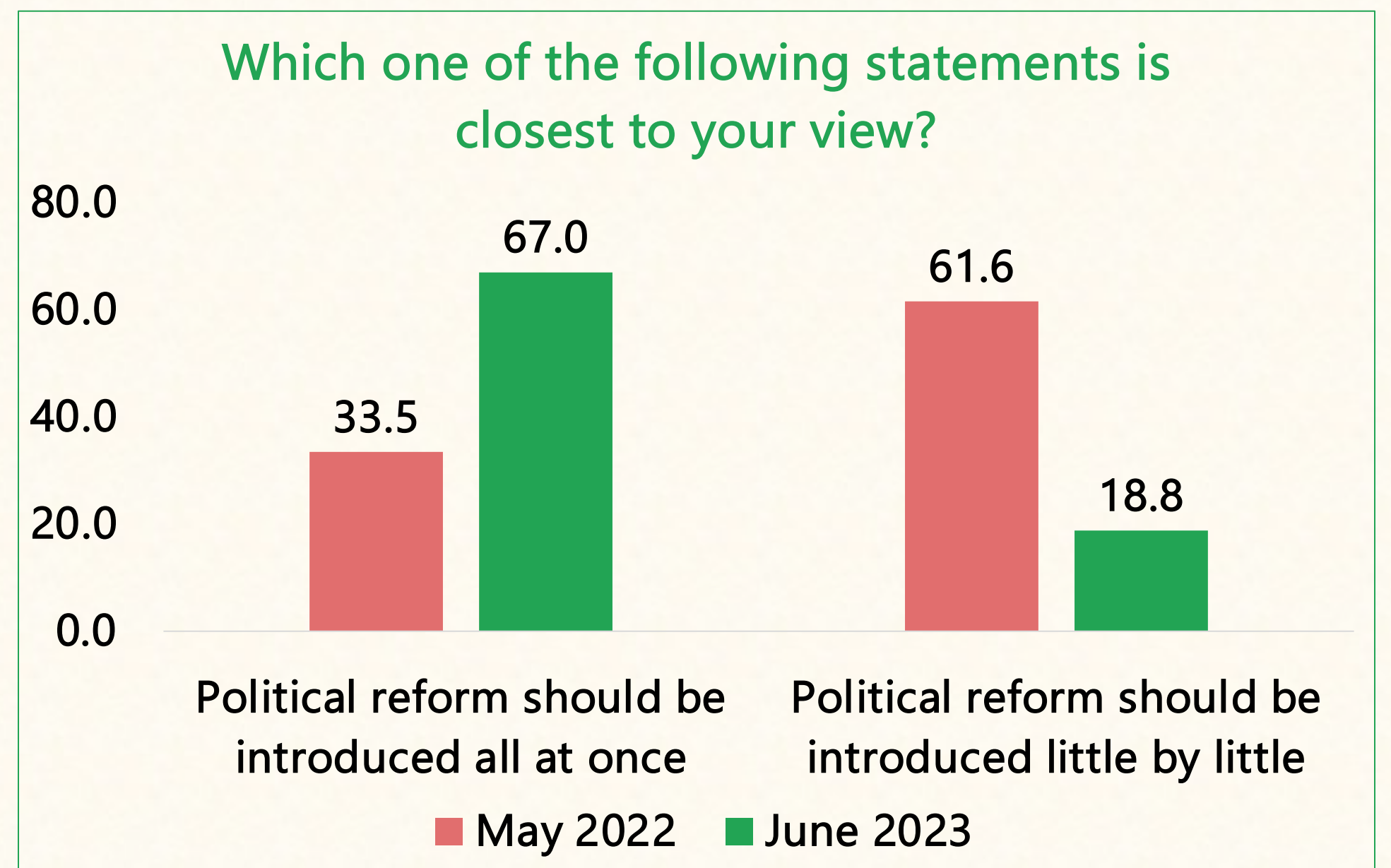


Preferred Political Systems	North Africa	Mashreq/ West Asia	Arab Gulf
First Choice System of Preference	 Democratic system 46.9%	 Democratic system 27.2%	 Democratic system 27.4%
Second Choice System of Preference	 Rule of experts system 16.9%	 Rule of experts system 19%	 Based on religious law 27.4%
Third Choice System of Preference	 Based on religious law 9.2%	 Strong leader, no elections 11.8%	 Strong leader, no elections 9.1%

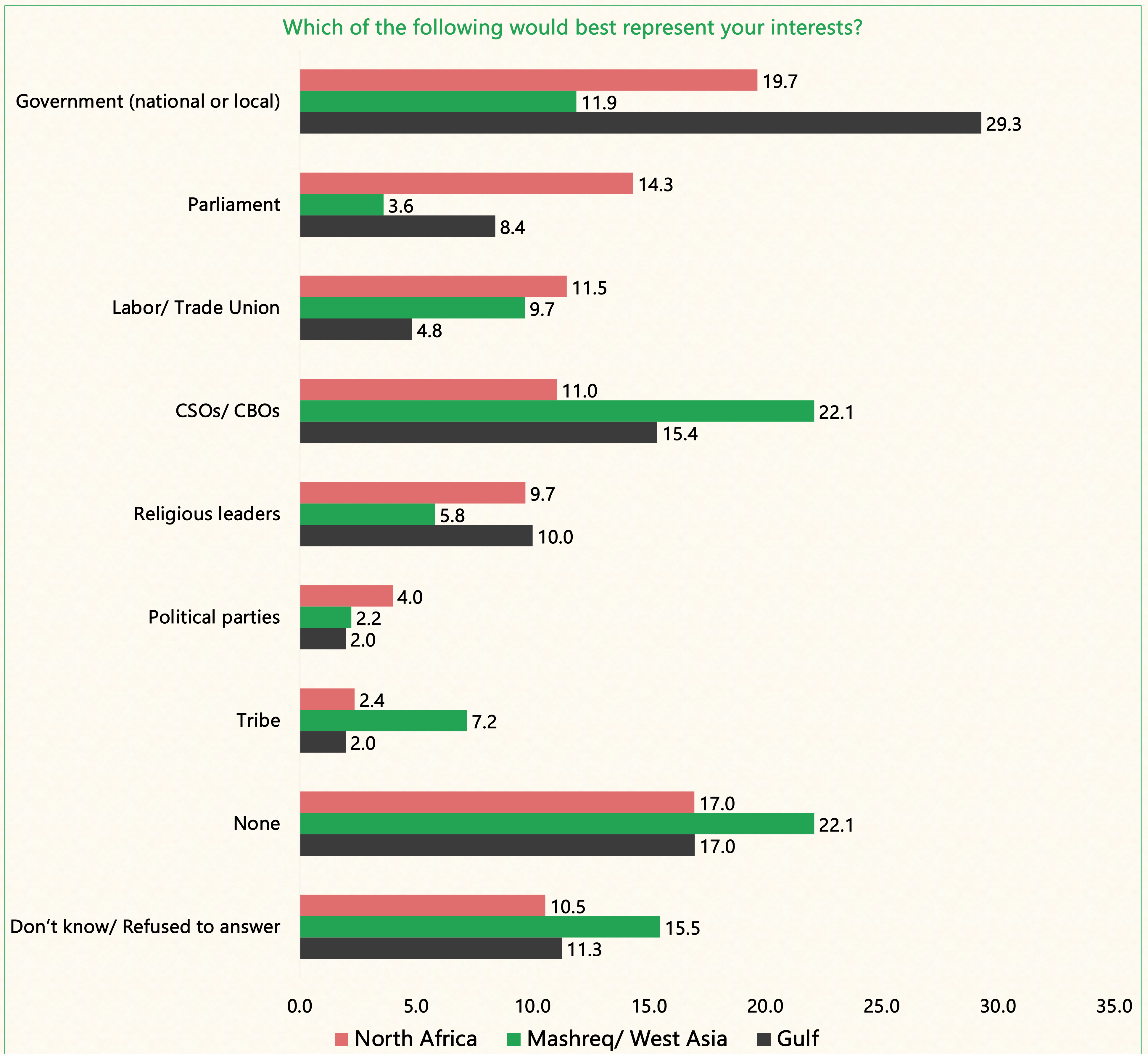
Following that, when asked about political reforms, there is a noticeable trend whereby far more respondents acknowledge the immediacy of introducing reforms, indicating that political reforms ought to be introduced all at once (67%). This is up from 33.5% from the previous wave.

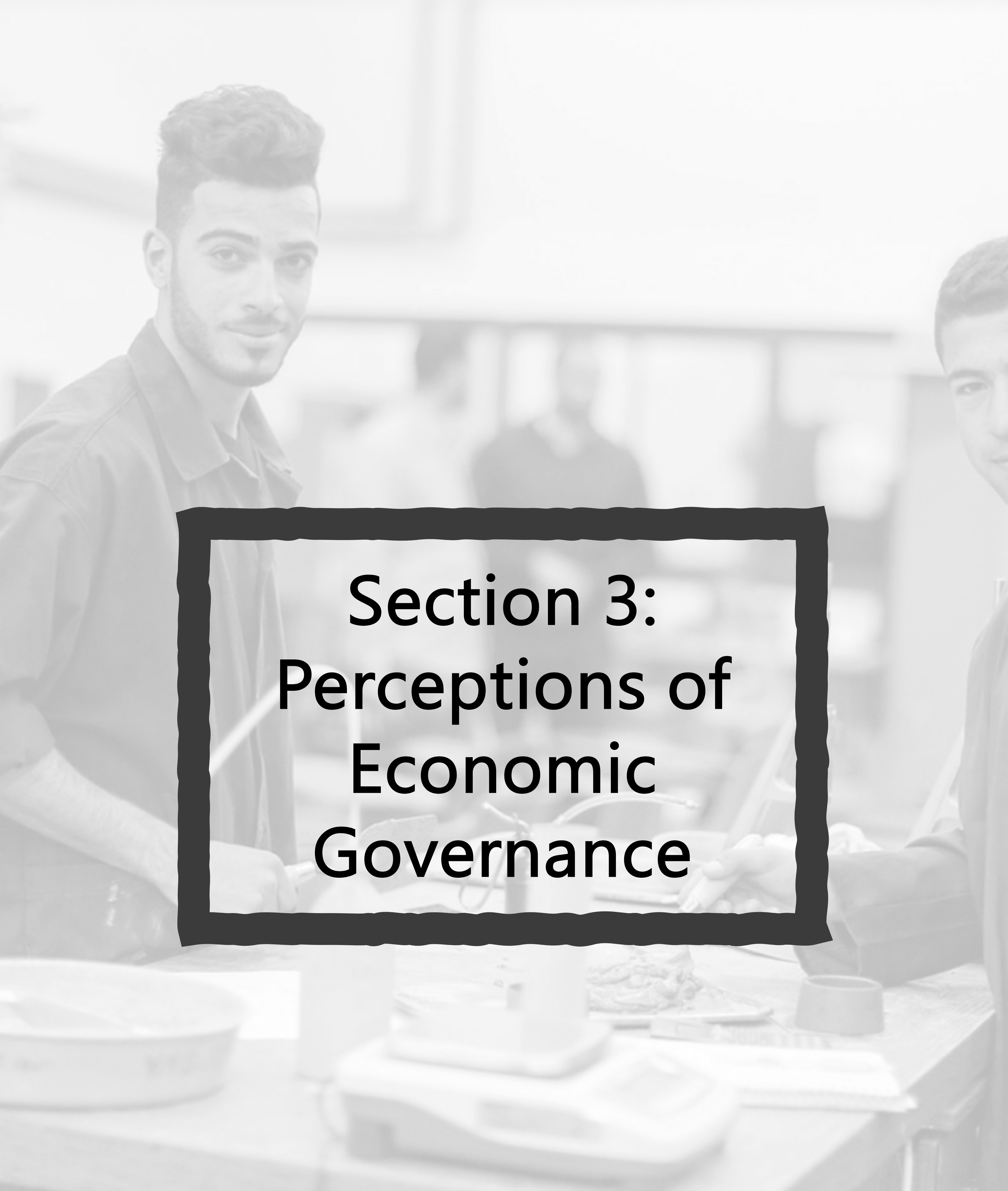
As for public participation, the survey results show that climate action ranked highest with 64.4% of respondents indicated they had engaged in environmental volunteering over the past four years. This was followed by participating in familial or tribal activities, with 58.1%, voting in elections (56.5%), and raising community awareness (52.9%).

Nonconventional participation, including contacting officials, meeting with CBO/ NGO representatives, engaging in political campaigns, advocating with parliamentarians, joining demonstrations, and signing petitions were all prevalent among less than a third of the respondents. It is worth noting that males reported more active than females; respondents from North Africa reported more active than those from the Mashreq and then those from the Arab Gulf; and younger respondents reported more active than older respondents.



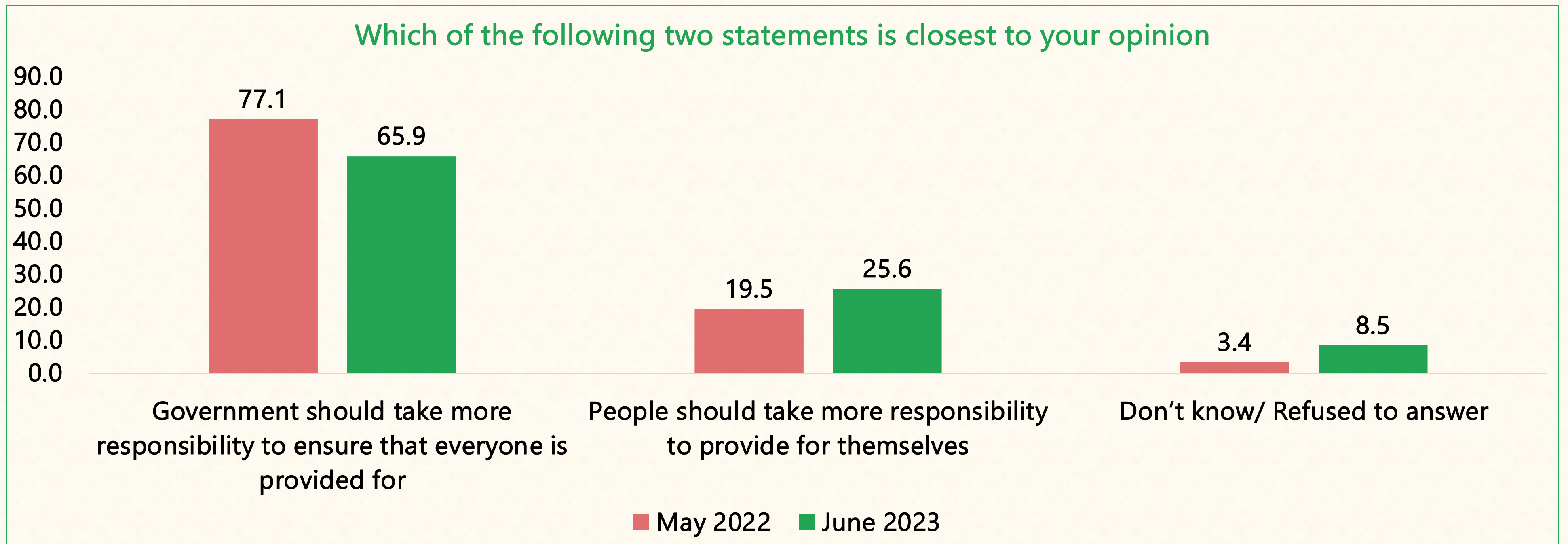
When asked about which institution would best represent their interests, the government – whether national or local ranked first among respondents from North Africa and from the Arab Gulf with 19.7% and 29.3%, respectively. As for respondents from the Mashreq/ West Asia, 22.1% of the respondents referred to CSOs/ CBOs. The same percentage, however, indicated that none of these institutions represent their interests, compared to 17% each among respondents from North Africa and from the Arab Gulf. This was also more prevalent among younger respondents, as 18.4% of whom stated they did not think any of these institutions would best represent their interests, which is over a quarter of those who indicated any institution.



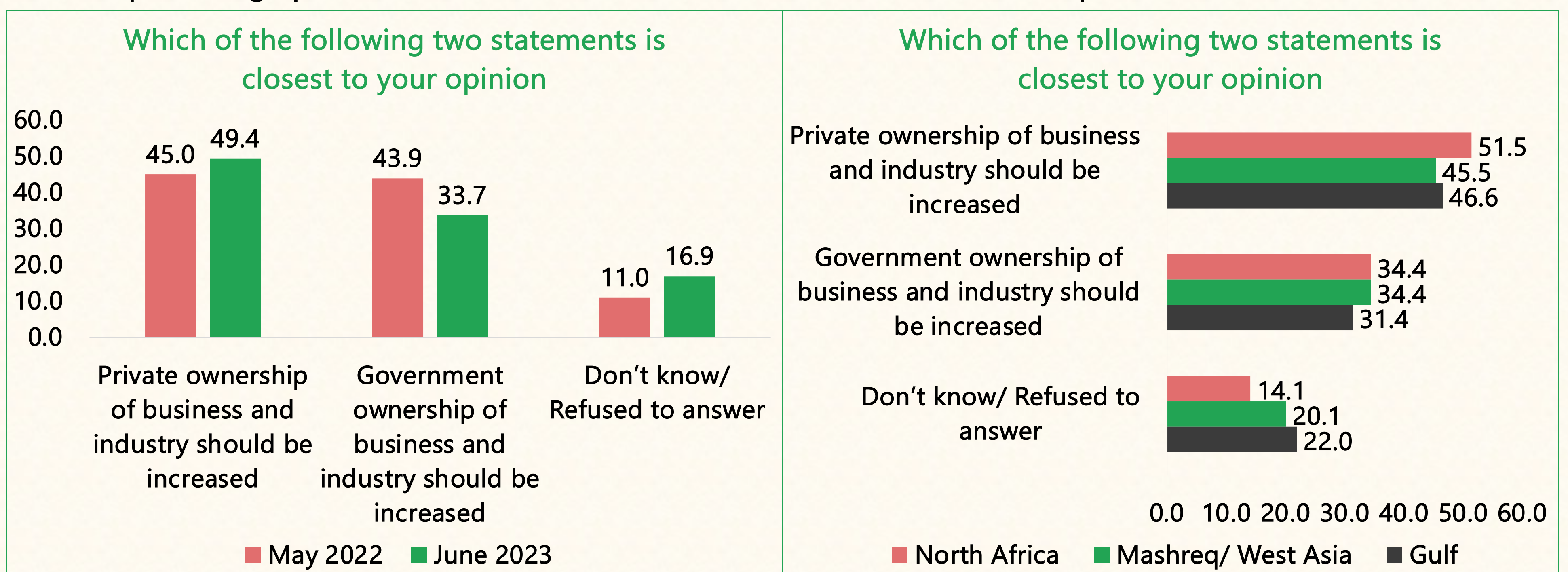


**Section 3:
Perceptions of
Economic
Governance**

The third section of the survey delved into perceptions of the role of the state in the economy. When asked about providing for individuals, 65.9% of respondents indicated that the government should take more responsibility to ensure everyone is provided for, which is down from 77.1% in the previous wave. This was countered by 25.6% who stated that people should take more responsibility to provide for themselves, up from 19.5% compared to the previous wave of May 2022. While minimal differences were observed between male and female respondents and between youth and older respondents, respondents from the Arab Gulf sub-region were more likely to opt for individual responsibility to provide for themselves than for government responsibility to provide for individuals, which demonstrates a ripe environment for the Gulf’s aspirations to diversify their economies and lean into individual productivity.



As for private and public sector ownership of business and industry, the results also show an increase among the respondents who prefer increased private sector ownership, up by 4.4 percentage points between the two years. Further, about a third of the respondents maintained their preference for government ownership, albeit marking over 10 percentage point decrease. Regionally, more than a half of the respondents from North Africa indicated their preference for more private ownership, followed by 46.6% and 45.5% for those from the Arab Gulf and the Mashreq, respectively. Conversely, 31.4% of Gulf respondents opted for government ownership, about 3 percentage points less than those from North Africa and the Mashreq.

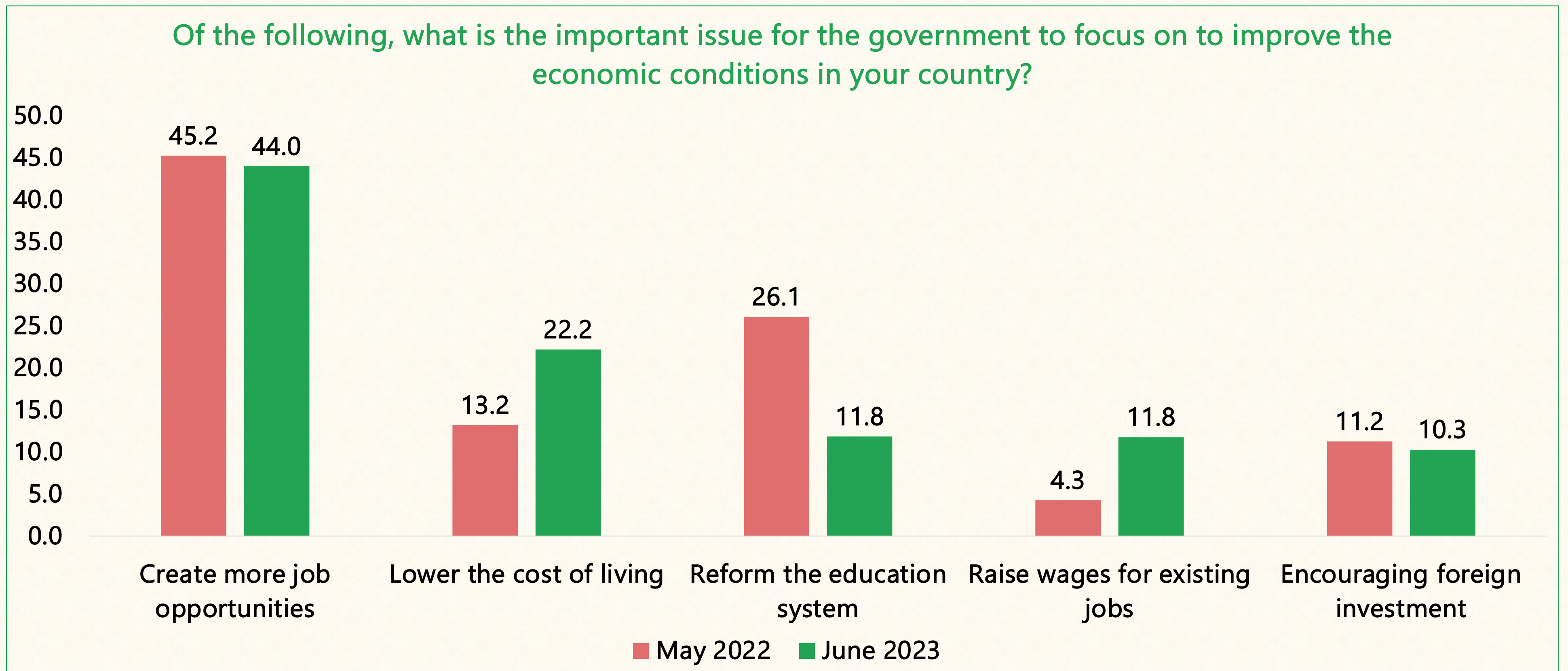


When it comes to government priorities, a high level of economic growth remained the most important priority, as indicated by 61.1% of the respondents, followed by 14.6% who referred to strengthening their countries' defense forces, 12.9% for increased individual agency, and 11.3% for beautifying areas.



Most Important Government Priorities	North Africa	Mashreq/ West Asia	Arab Gulf
First Priority	<p>High Economic Growth 63%</p>	<p>High Economic Growth 55.4%</p>	<p>High Economic Growth 60.4%</p>
Second Priority	<p>Strong defense forces 15.2%</p>	<p>Making cities more beautiful 15.7%</p>	<p>Agency in jobs and communities 11.5%</p>
Third Priority	<p>Agency in jobs and communities 11.5%</p>	<p>Agency in jobs and communities 15.2%</p>	<p>Strong defense forces 13.8%</p>

While creating more jobs remained the most important issue for the government to focus on to improve the economic conditions, as indicated by 44% of the respondents, there is a noticeable increase between the two waves in terms of lowering the cost of living and raising wages for existing jobs. With a combined 17.4% in the first wave, these two priorities were indicated by 33.9% of the respondents in this wave.



Detailed Analysis of the single most important issue for governments to focus on to improve economic conditions in the MENA region

	First Priority Create more job opportunities	Second Priority Lower the cost of living
North Africa	40.9%	23.4%
Mashreq/ West Asia	48.2%	17.4%
Arab Gulf	49.3%	22.1%
Males	44.5%	17.4%
Females	43.4%	27%

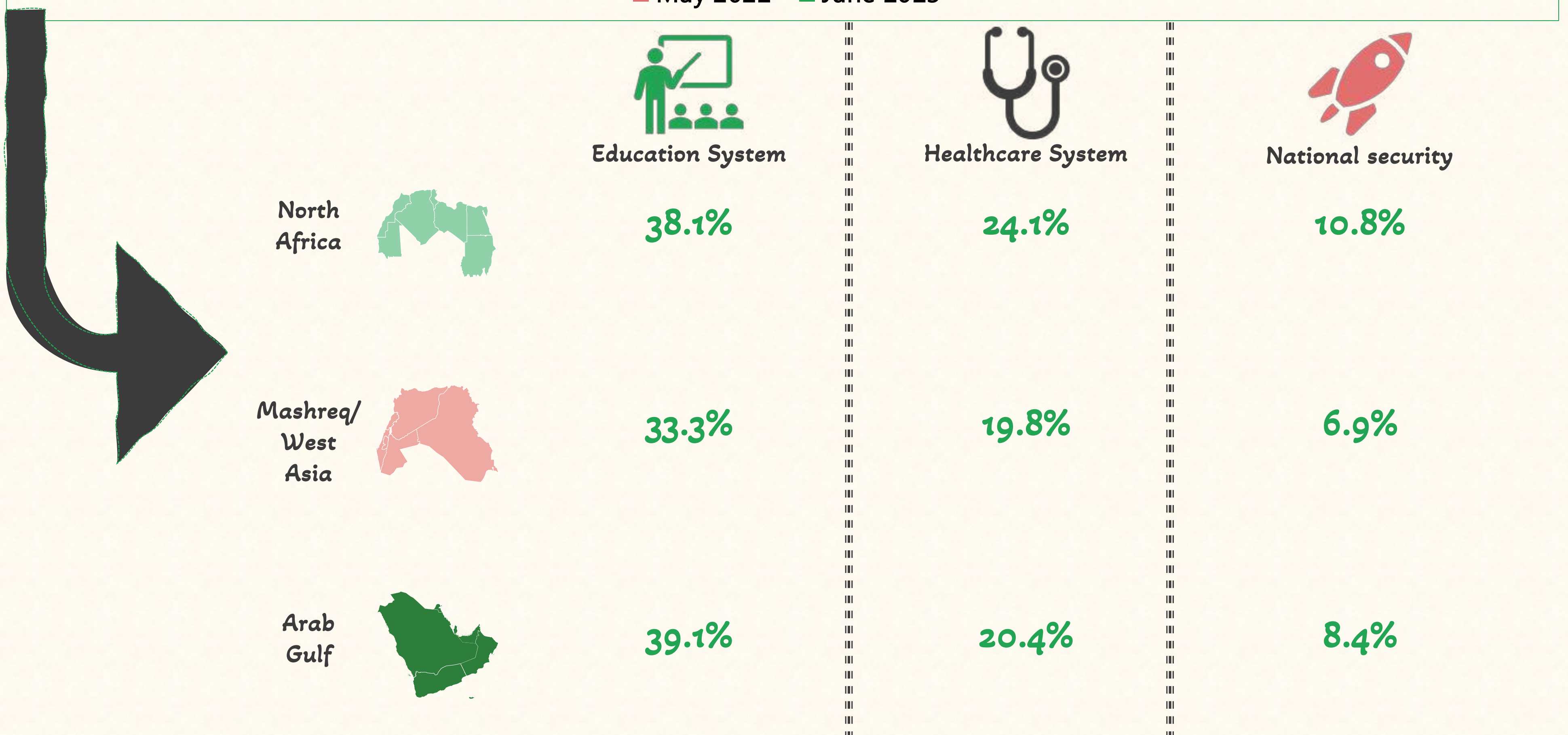
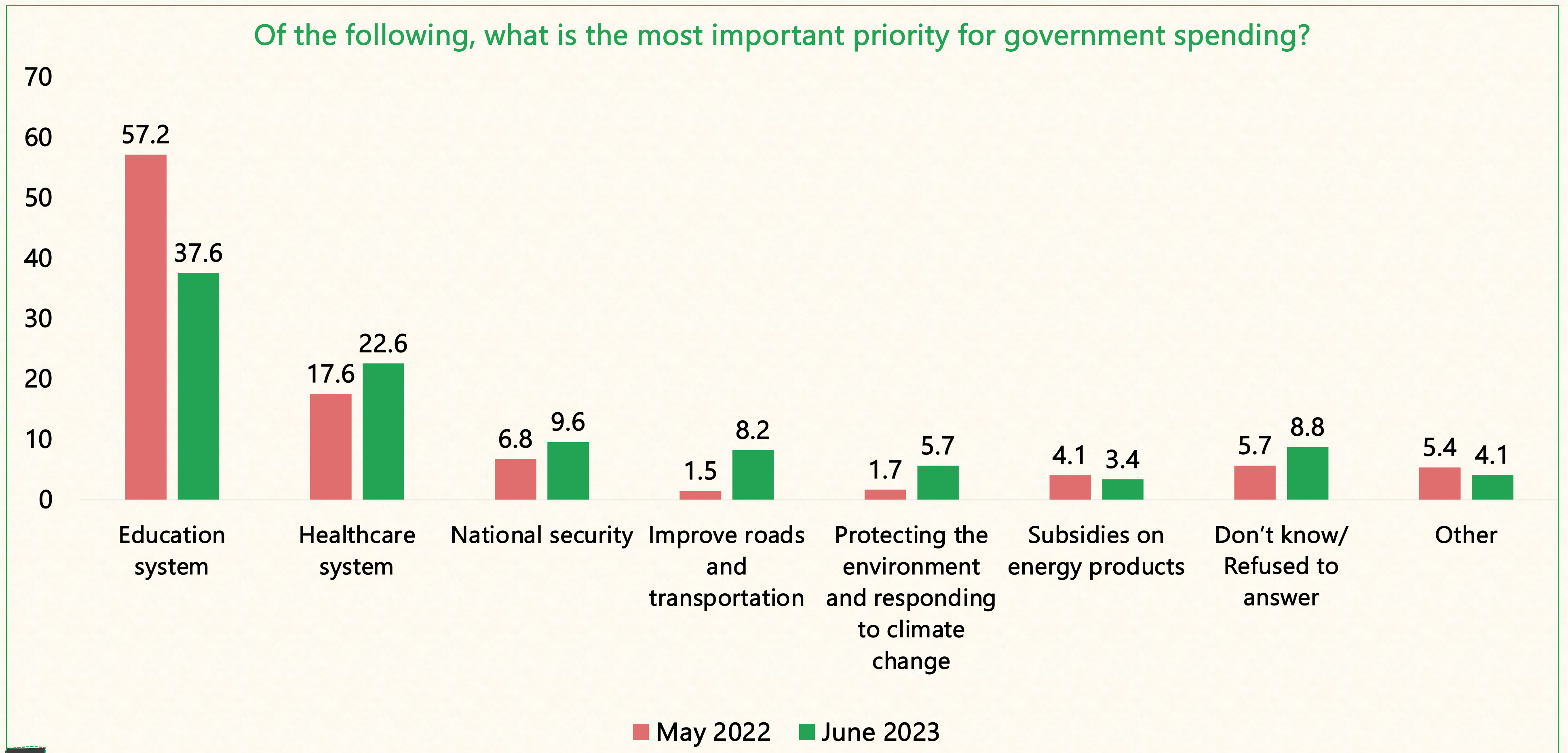
The first and second priority for the governments to focus on was the same regardless of demographic factors.

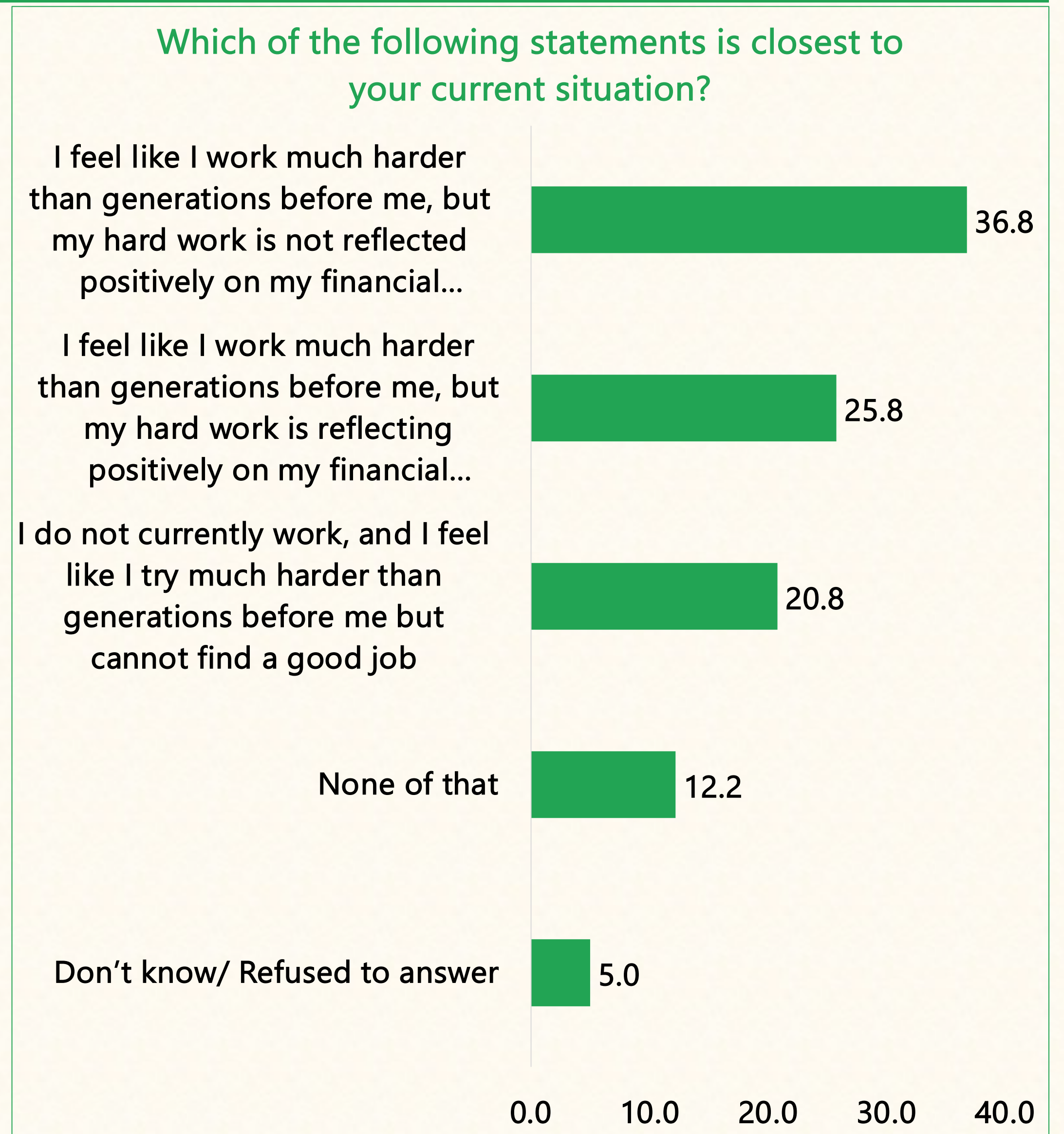
While reforming the education system was the third priority in North Africa and the Mashreq regions, raising wages for existing jobs was more prevalent for respondents from the Arab Gulf region.

The same can be seen between male and female respondents.

While more males prioritized reforming the education system followed by encouraging foreign investment as the third and fourth priorities, more female respondents prioritized raising wages for existing jobs followed by reforming the education system.

As for government spending, 37.6% of the respondents indicated that the education system should be the most important priority for government spending. This is down from 57.2% when asked in the first round, which is somewhat understandable, as the region’s schools and universities reopened for in-person instruction during the latter half of 2022. At the same time, there was nearly 5 percentage points increase when it came to prioritizing healthcare systems (22.6% from 17.6%), followed by 9.6% for national security – also up from 6.8%, and 8.2% for improving roads and transportation, up from just 1.5% in May 2022.



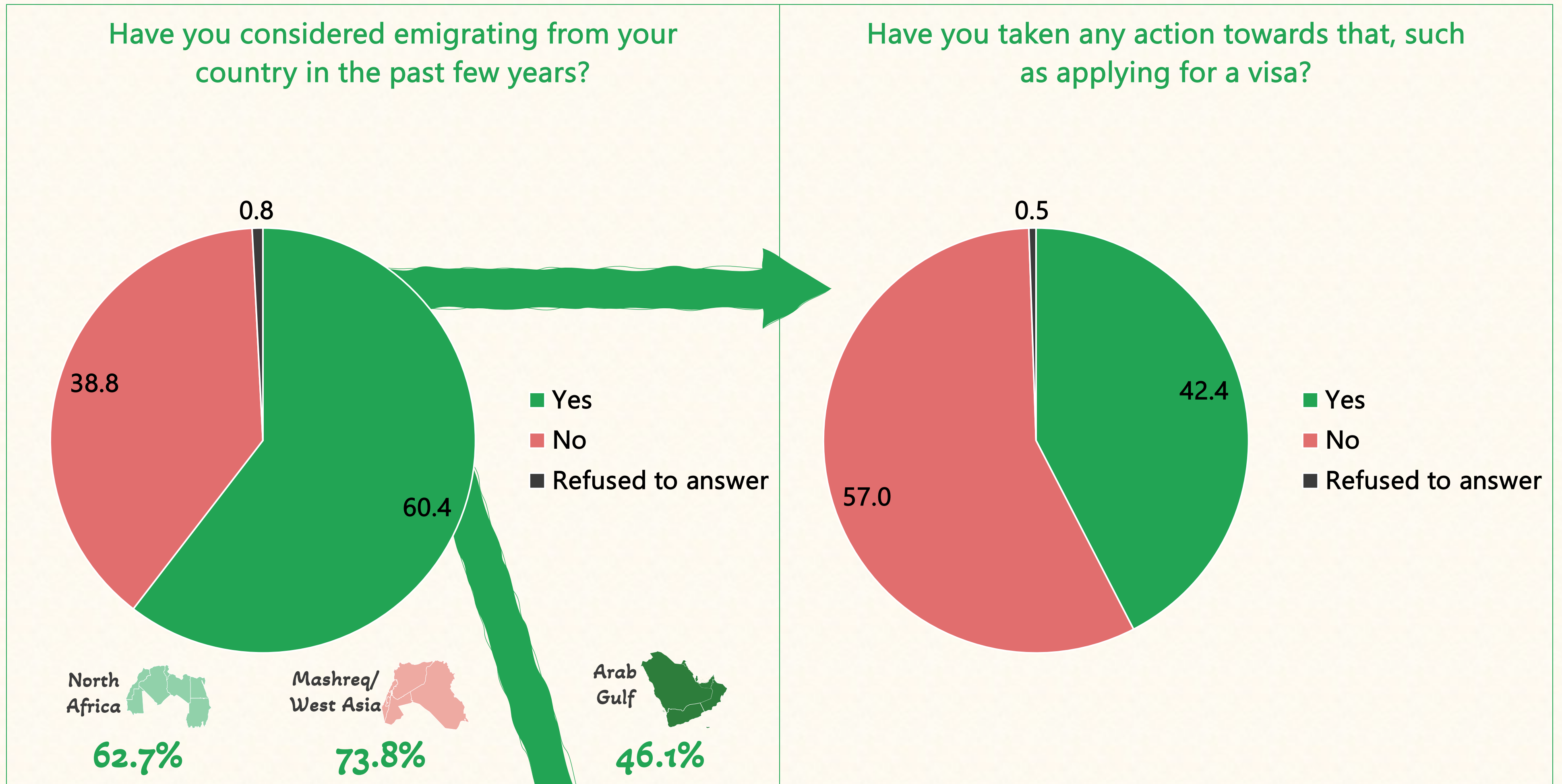


The respondents were next asked to think about their current work, or the time they were last working, to essentially indicate whether they feel they are putting more effort than the generations before them, about the same, or less. The results show that 56.1% of the respondents believe they are putting in more effort at their work compared to previous generations, while 26.8% indicated about the same level of effort, as 10.5% stated less effort.

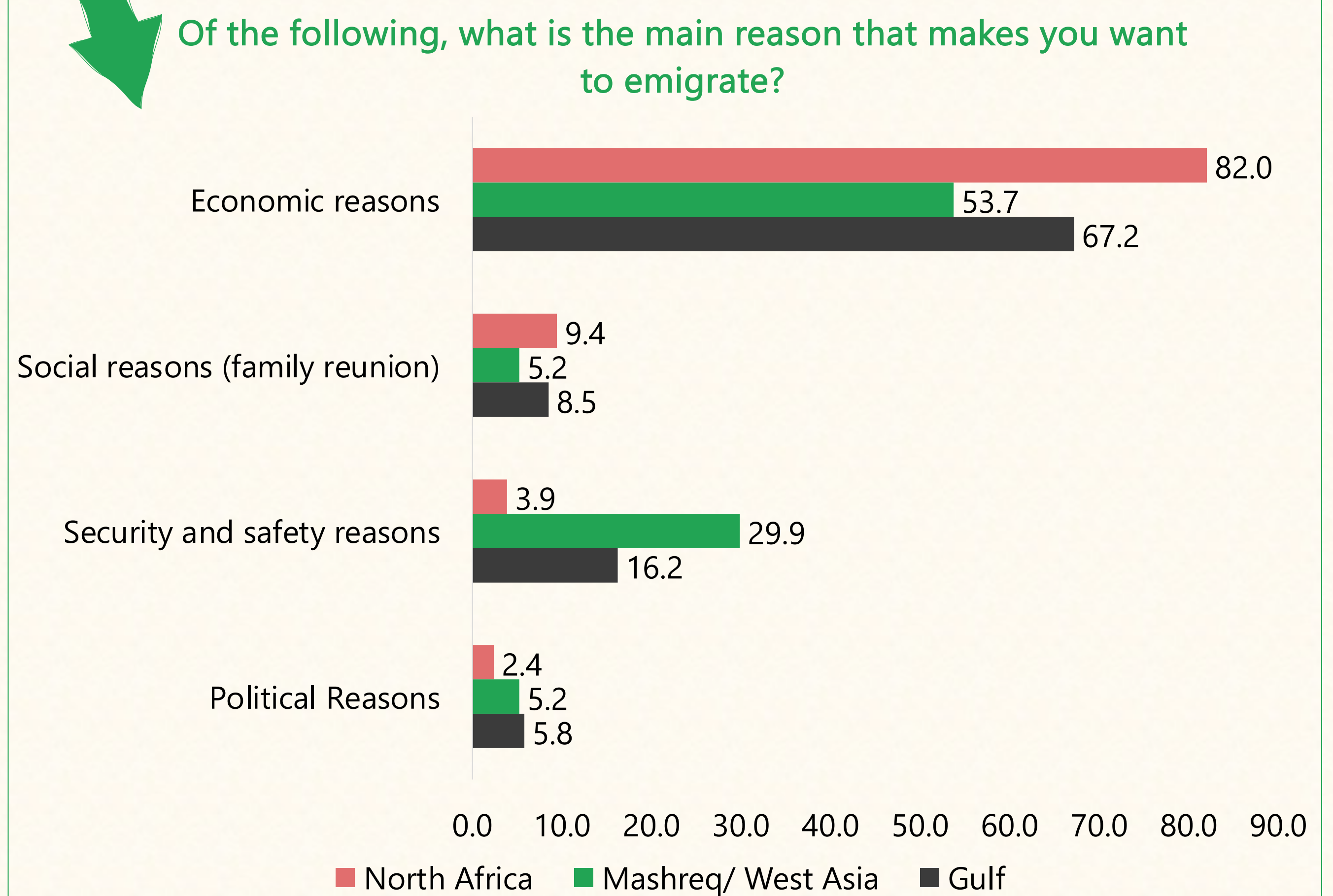
There are many factors that could inhibit the extent to which hard work is reflected on one's financial situation. To that end, the respondents were asked to reflect on the relation between their effort and financial situation. The results show that 36.8% believe they work much harder than generations before them, yet their hard work is not reflecting positively on their financial situations. About 26% indicated that with their hard work, their financial situations are reflecting positively, as 20.8% maintained that they do not currently work but despite their serious attempts to find work, they cannot find a good job.

Assessment of Individual Level of Effort and Satisfaction with Outcomes	North Africa	Mashreq/ West Asia	Arab Gulf
I work much harder than generations before me, and it is reflecting positively on my financial situation	26.9%	13.8%	30.7%
I work much harder than generations before me, but it is not reflected positively on my financial situation	40.6%	33.1%	29.6%
Not currently working; I try much harder than generations before me but cannot find a good job	16.8%	34.8%	21.8%

When asked to indicate whether they considered from their countries over the past few years, 60.4% of the respondents indicated that they indeed have, compared to 38.8% who reported they have not. Of those who indicated they had considered emigration, 42.4% stated they took action in pursue of that, such as applying for a visa, as 57% indicated they have not taken any action to that end.



As for the drivers behind why individuals reported they considered emigrating, economic reasons were heavily prevalent across the three sub-regions. In fact, a staggering 82% of respondents from North Africa attributed their desire to emigrate to economic reasons, compared to 53.7% for respondents from the Mashreq and 67.2% among those from the Arab Gulf. The unexpectedly "low" percentage among Mashreq respondents is attributed to the weight of safety and security related reasons, as 29% of those who reported they considered emigrating referred to such concerns.



Support our Work

MENAACTION is a nonprofit organization, EIN 85-3884888 all donations will be used solely for the projects that MENAACTION implements for the development of youth of the MENA region. To learn more about our mission, goals, and work, please visit our website www.menaaction.org

MENAACTION is currently working on two major programs:

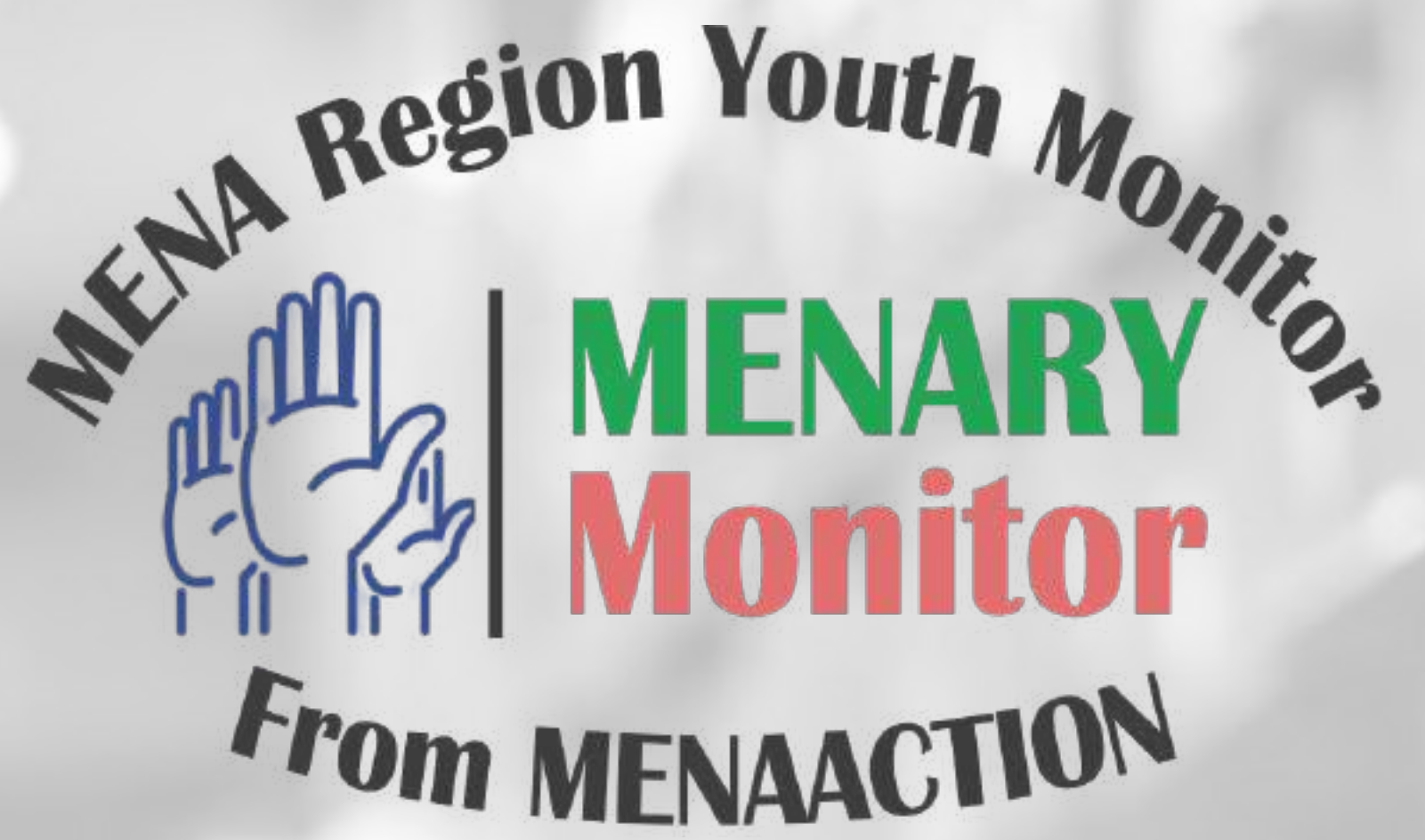
❖ MENARY Monitor

MENARY Monitor is a weekly newsletter, a compilation of English, Arabic, French, Farsi, and Turkish news items from trusted sources, distributed weekly to government institutions and policy makers, international organizations, and researchers.

The main objective is to provide stakeholders with trusted, accurate, and accessible updates on all matters concerning youth in the region, including points of concern requiring action.

❖ MENAACTION Youth Index (MYI)

The MENAACTION Youth Index (MYI) seeks to compile all youth-related data into one index. It comprises of sub-indicators, including economic inclusion, educational opportunities, freedoms, equality, political engagement, cultural engagement, health, technology, and environment.

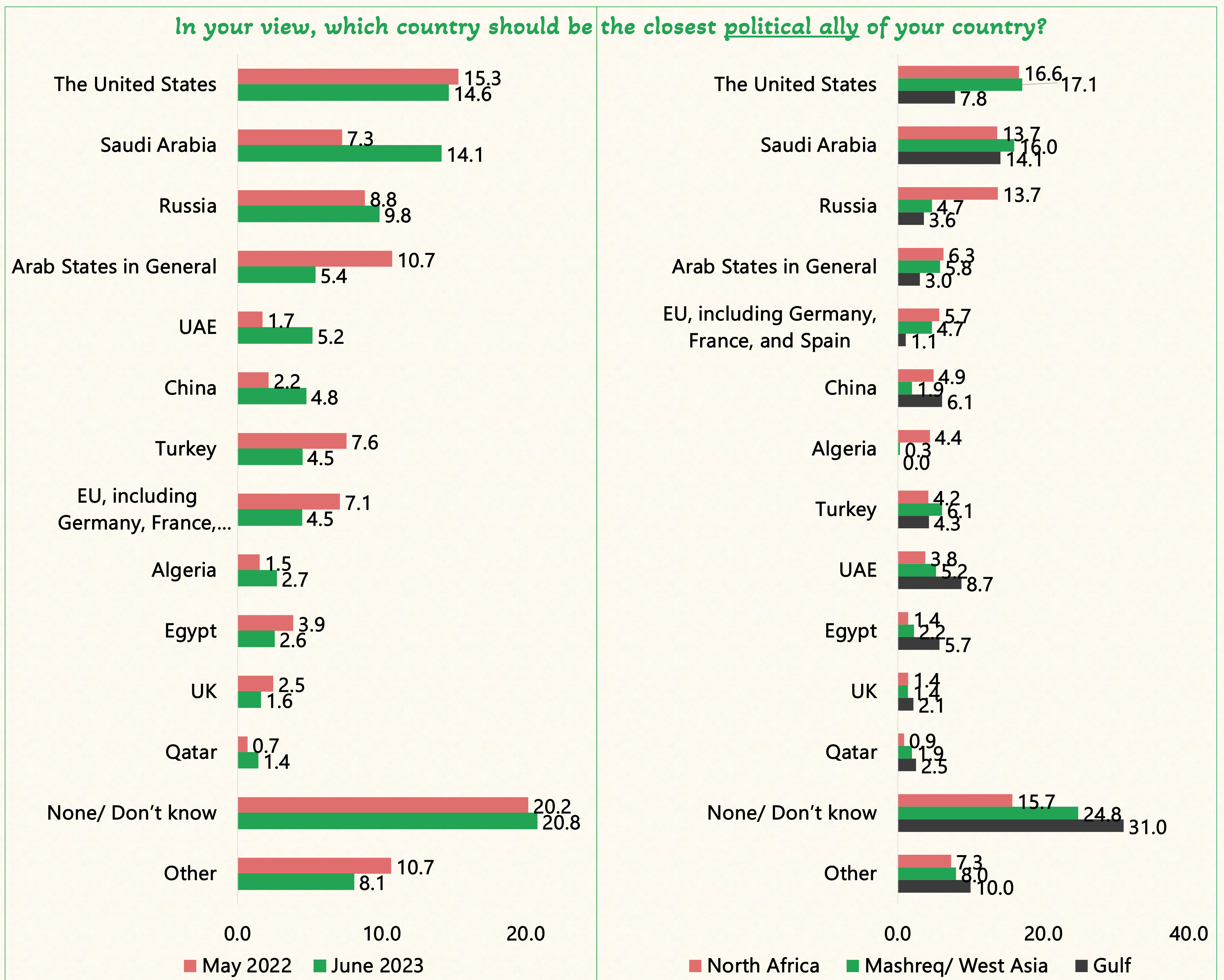


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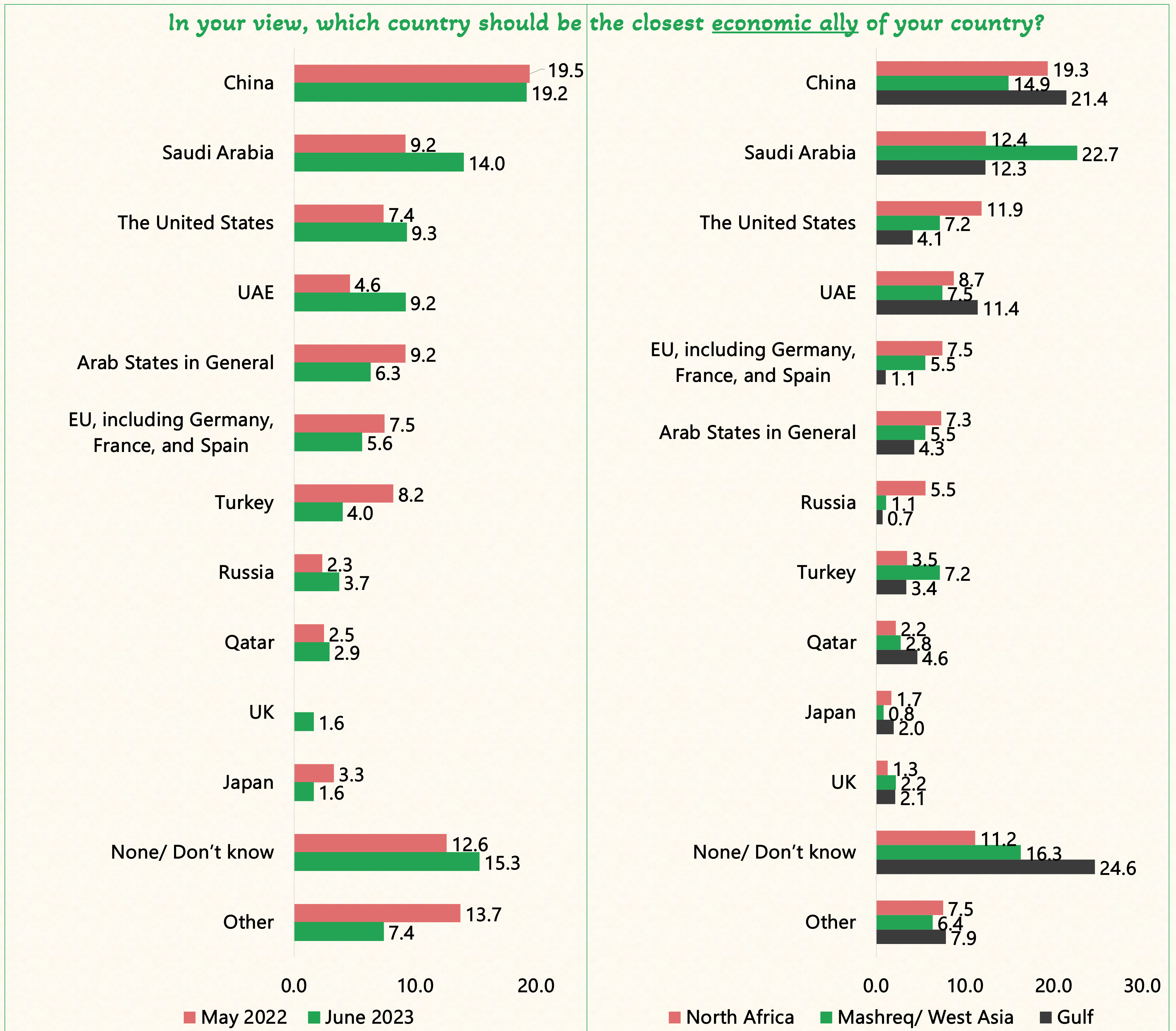
A man in a tactical vest and light-colored pants stands in a volcanic landscape, holding a professional video camera on a tripod. The background shows a large, active volcano with bright orange and red lava flows. The man is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent black box with a white border.

**Section 4:
Perceptions of
Foreign Relations**

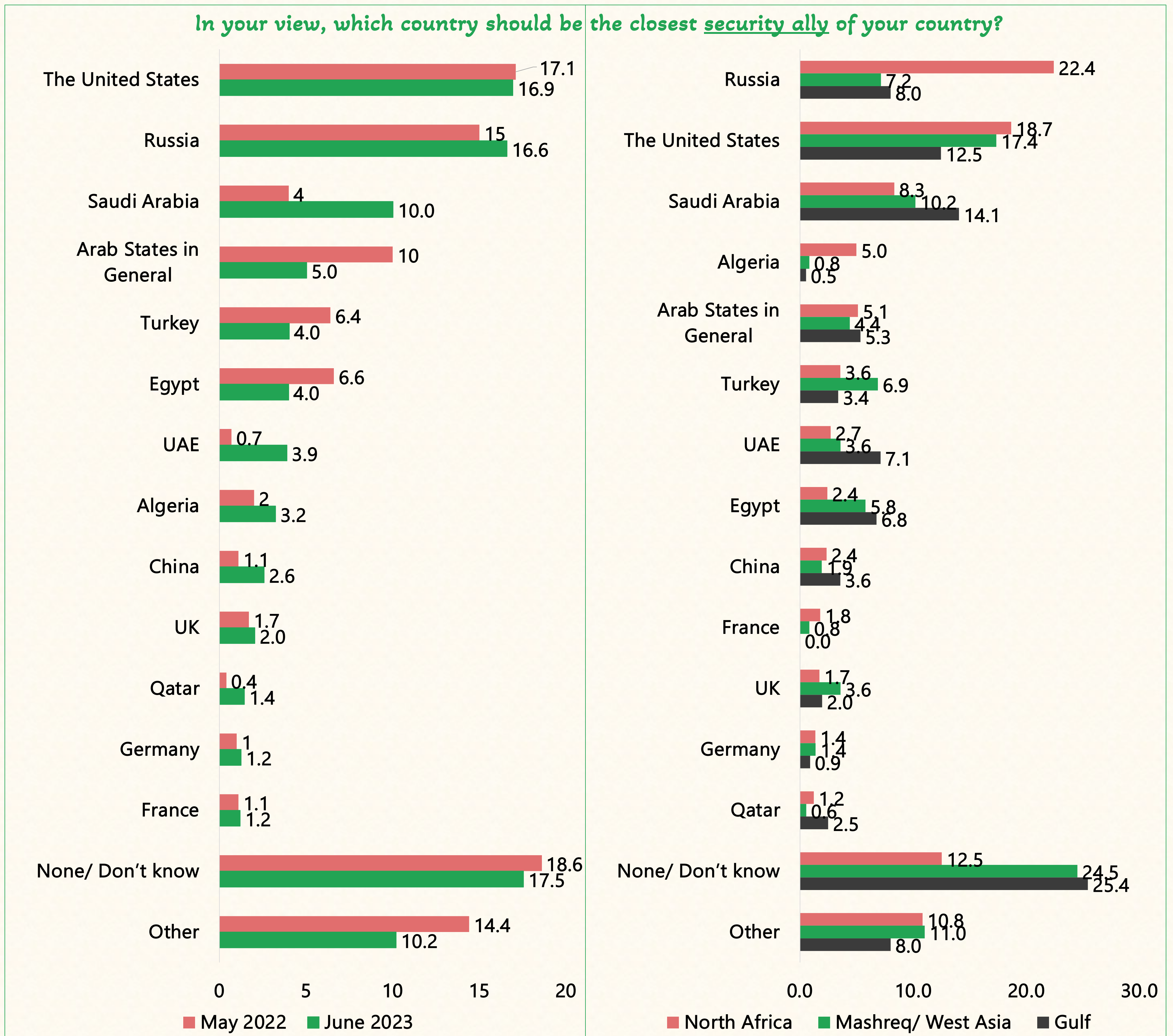
The fourth part of the survey delved into perceptions of international relations, with emphasis on preferred alliances and desired orientations. When asked about which country should be the closest political ally of theirs, 14.6% of the respondents indicated the United States, followed by 14.1% for Saudi Arabia, and 9.8% for Russia. In comparison to the previous wave, the results show a slight decrease among those who indicated the United States whereas there was a substantial increase for Saudi Arabia’s desirability, coupled with notable increases for Russia, the UAE, and China. Much of Russia’s political appeal appears to come from North Africa, as 13.7% of respondents from that sub-region identified Russia as their most desired political ally for their country, second only to the United States (16.6% among North African respondents). In the Mashreq, Saudi Arabia’s political appeal continues to grow, as 16% of respondents from that sub-region indicated their desire to have their country enhance their political relations with the Kingdom. It was also only second to the United States (17.1% among respondents from the Mashreq). Regionalism was mostly prevalent in the Arab Gulf sub-region, as 14.1% of the respondents from the Gulf indicated Saudi Arabia and 8.7% for the UAE, compared to 7.8% for the United States and 6.1% for China, interestingly.



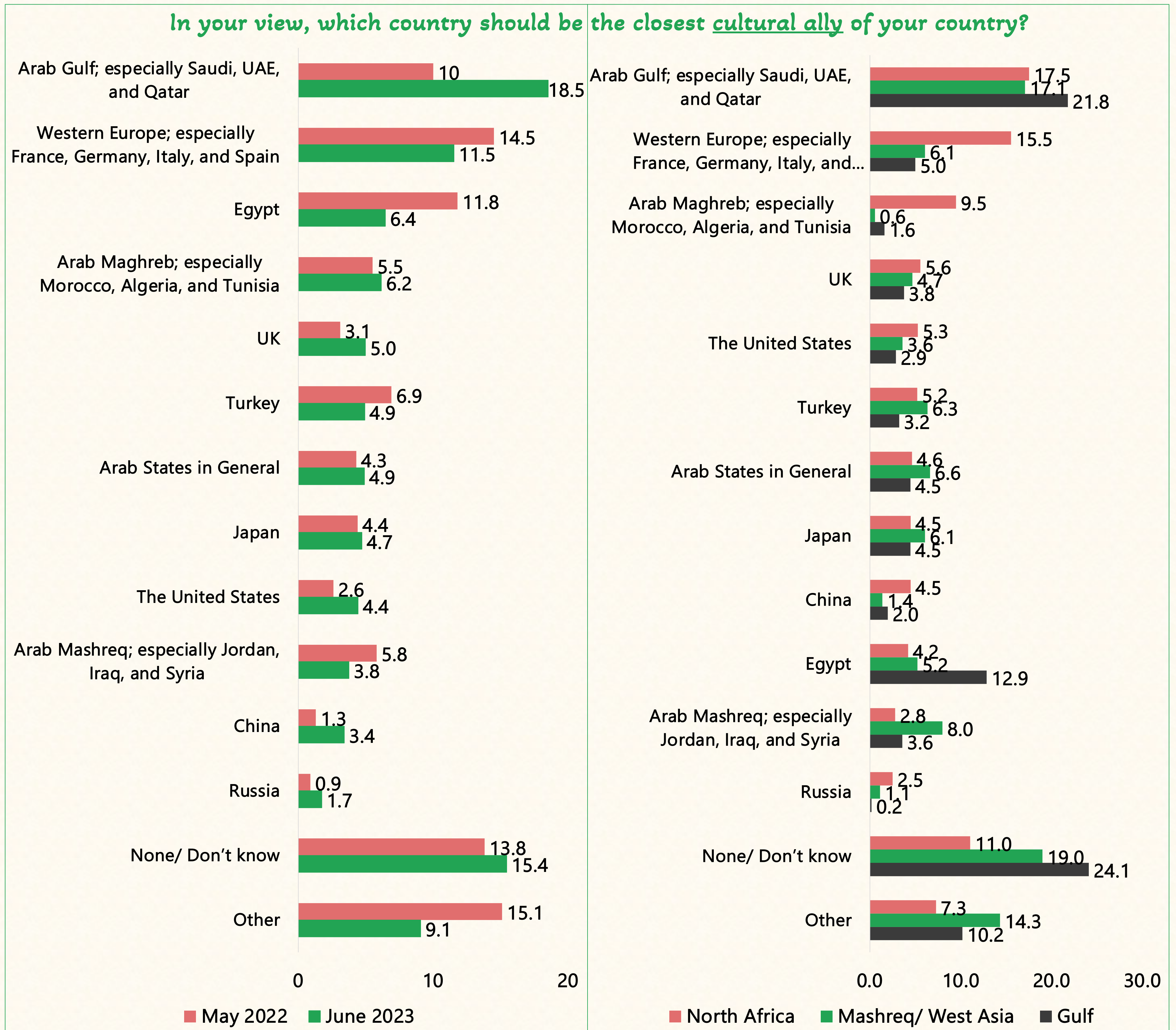
For economic alliances, 14.6% of the respondents indicated China as their most desired economic ally for their countries, followed by 14% for Saudi Arabia, 9.3% for the United States, and 9.2% for the UAE. In comparison to the previous wave, there is a noticeable increase for each of Saudi, the United States, and the UAE. Russia also saw a slight increase, as Turkey’s economic appeal seems to be dwindling in the region. Looking at each sub-region individually, the survey results show an increasing economic appeal for China in North Africa and in the Gulf, and it also shows substantial economic appeal for Saudi among respondents from the Mashreq sub-region. Russia also appeared quite popular, economically, among North African respondents. While each of Saudi and the United States were more prevalent responses among younger individuals, China was more favored among those aged 35 and older, same as Turkey.



When asked to pinpoint their most desired security ally for their countries, the survey results show that the United States maintained its place as the most desired security ally with nearly 17%, followed by Russia with 16.6%, which saw a 1.6 percentage points increase between the two waves. Saudi Arabia also witnessed a substantial increase from just 4% in 2022 to 16.6% in this wave. Regionally, Russia's appeal in North Africa appears centered in its security desirability, as 22.4% of North African respondents identified Russia as their most desired security partner for their countries. The United States' influence, in terms of its security power, was rather lower than expected in the Gulf with just 12.5% of the respondents, compared to 18.7% among respondents from North Africa and 17.4% among those from the Mashreq. Understandably, respondents from the Gulf sub-region went for Saudi Arabia instead with 14.1%, compared to 10.2% among those from the Mashreq and 8.3% for North African respondents.

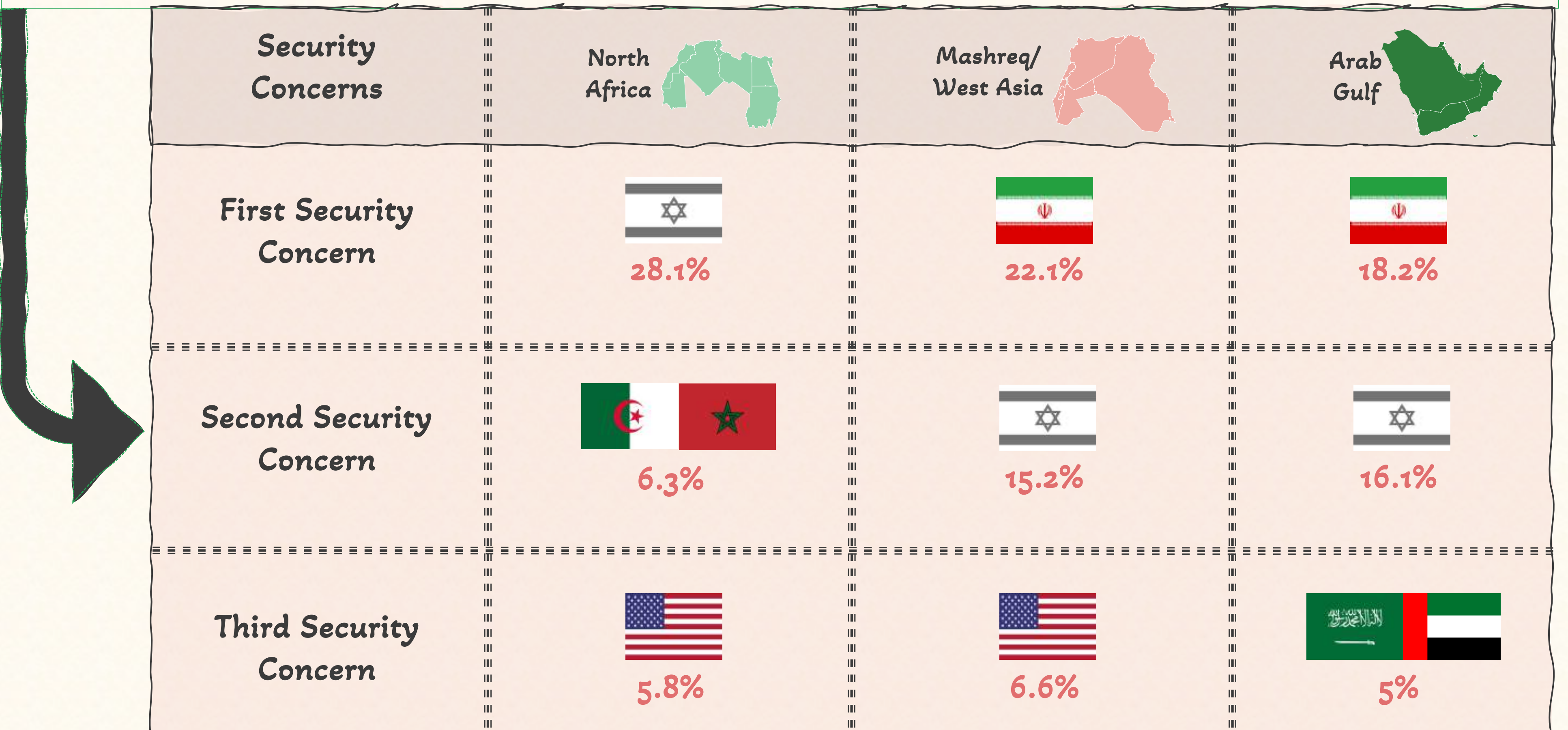
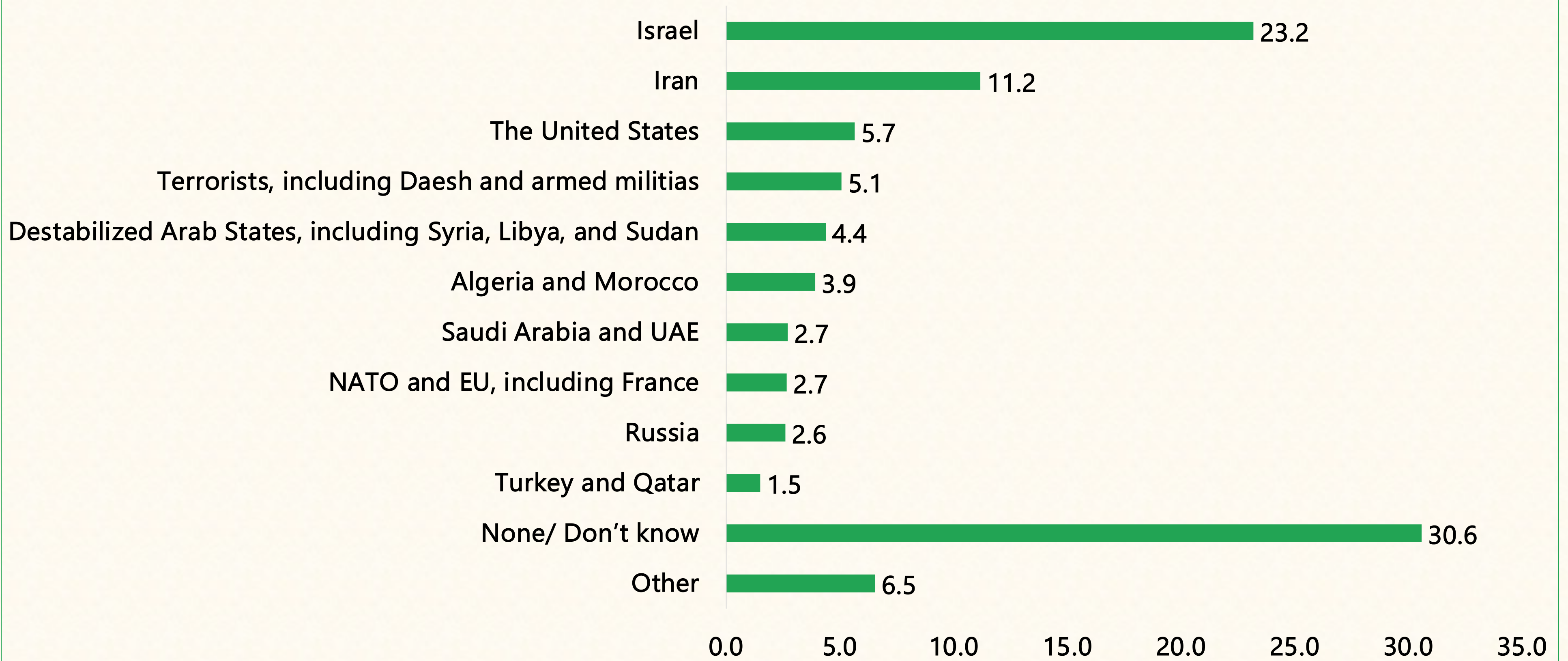


When asked about cultural alliances, the results show that Arab Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar ranked first with 18.5%, compared to 10% in 2022. This was followed by 11.5% for Western European states, including France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, albeit with a slight decrease from 14.5% in the previous wave. Egypt continued to have a substantial cultural appeal even though it went from 11.8% of respondents to 6.4%. Mashreq countries also saw a slight increase to level at 6.2% of the respondents. Looking at each sub-region, 21.8% of the respondents from the Gulf sought partnerships within their sub-region while 17.5% of respondents from North Africa also referred to the Gulf region as their most desired cultural allies, followed by 15.5% for Western European countries. As for the Mashreq, the Gulf was also the most desired culturally for them as well, followed by 8% for alliances within their sub-region and 6.3% for Turkey.



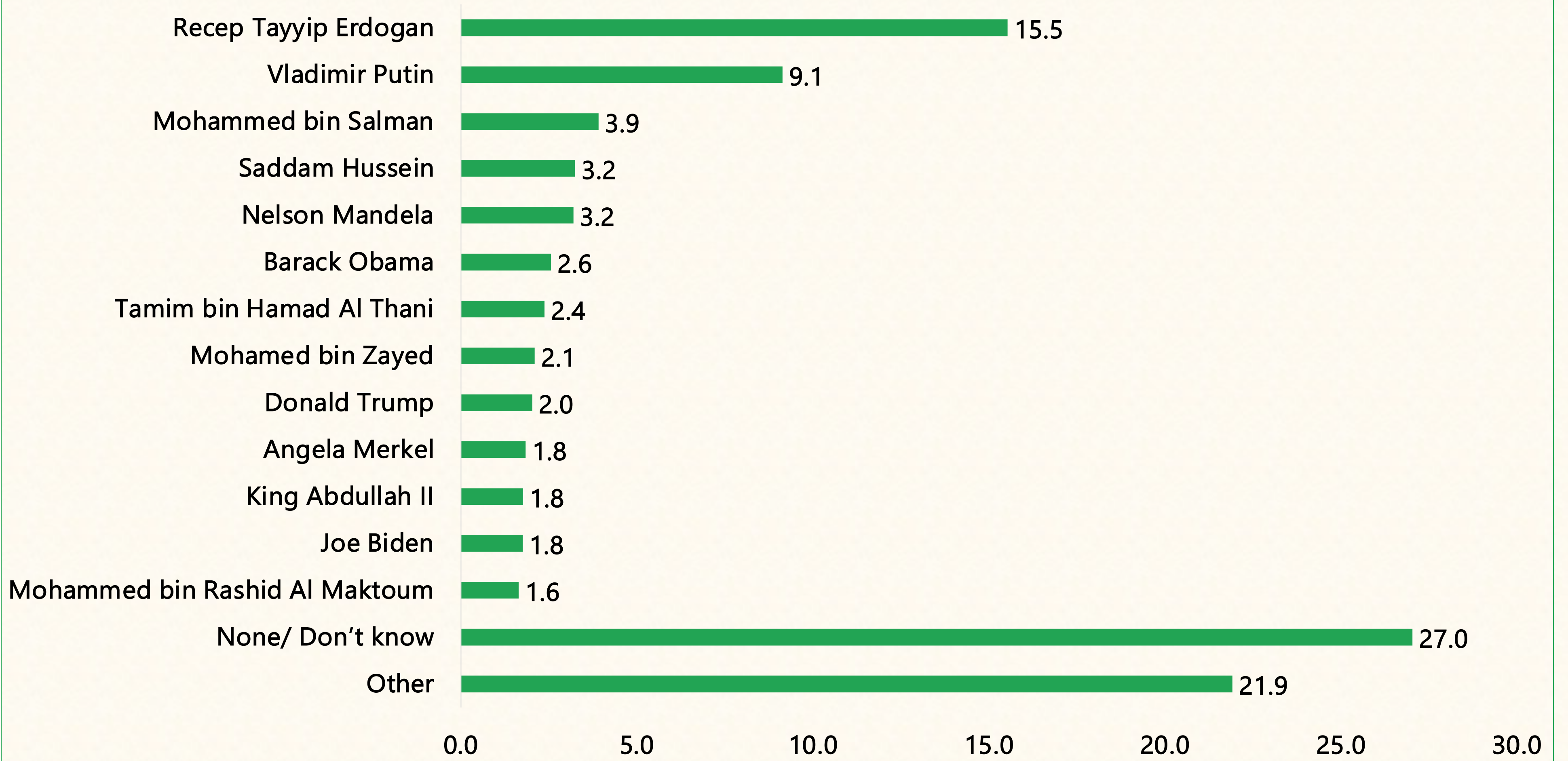
When asked about the country or group which constitute the biggest security threat in the MENA region, 23.2% pointed to Israel, followed by 11.2% for Iran, 5.7% for the United States, and 5.1% for violent extremism. Additionally, 4.4% of the respondents warned about destabilized Arab states such as Syria, Libya, and Sudan, 3.9% indicated the Algerian-Moroccan rivalry and 2.7% for each of Saudi Arabia and UAE dyad and for NATO and EU. With a marginal percentage of respondents indicating China, it seems as though the region is not worried about the Eastern rising power though 2.6% did indicate Russia.

In your opinion, which country or group constitute the biggest security threat in the MENA region?



When asked about the political personality they respect the most, outside of those from their own countries, 15.5% of the respondents mentioned current Turkish president Erdogan, followed by Russian president Putin (9.1%), Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and 3.2% for Saddam Hussein and for Nelson Mandela.

Who is the political personality you respect the most? (Not from your own country)

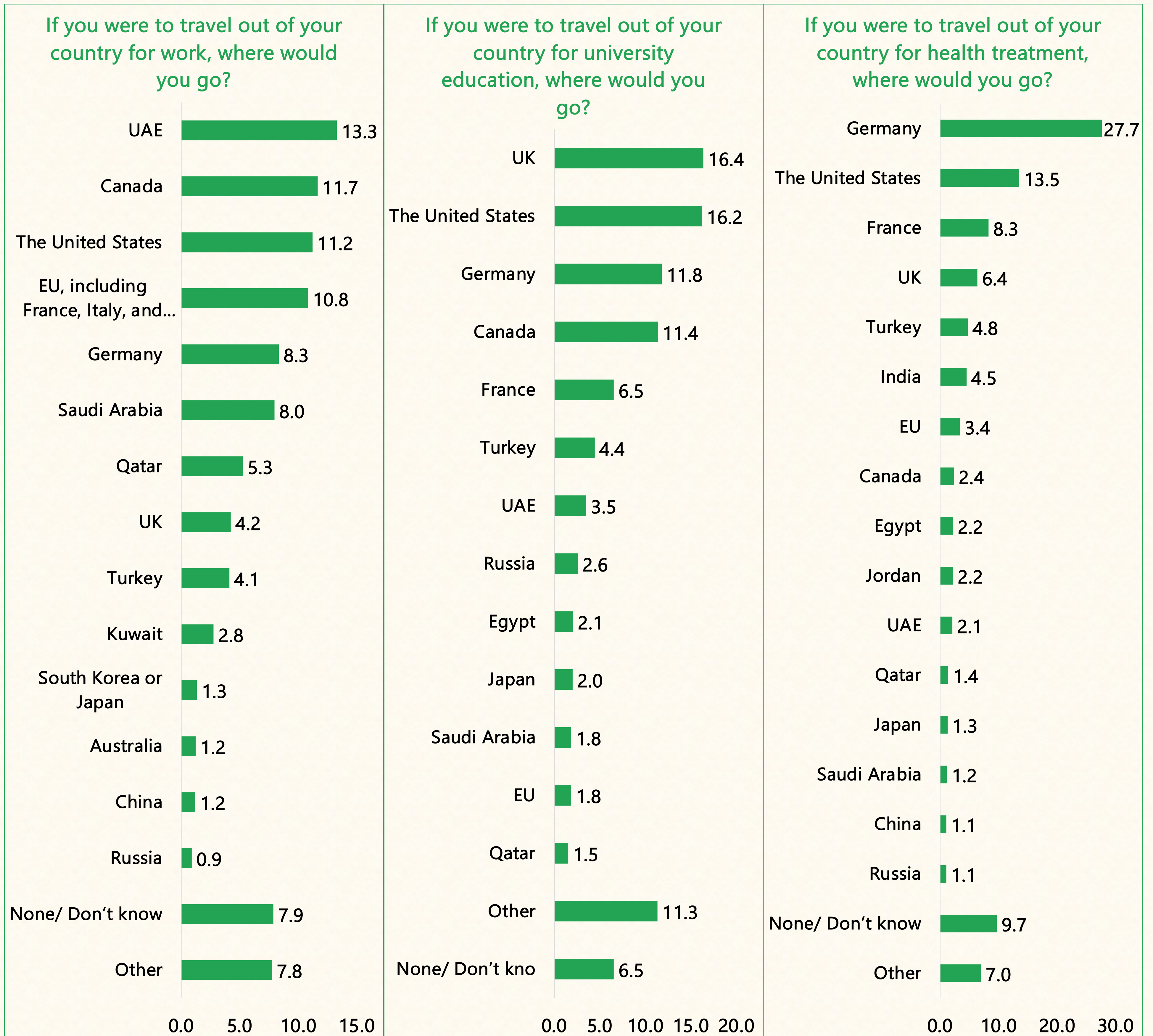


Personality Choices	North Africa	Mashreq/ West Asia	Arab Gulf
First Personality	17.7%	11.5%	12.7%
Second Personality	12.3%	5.5%	6.6%
Third Personality	4.2%	5.5%	3.9%

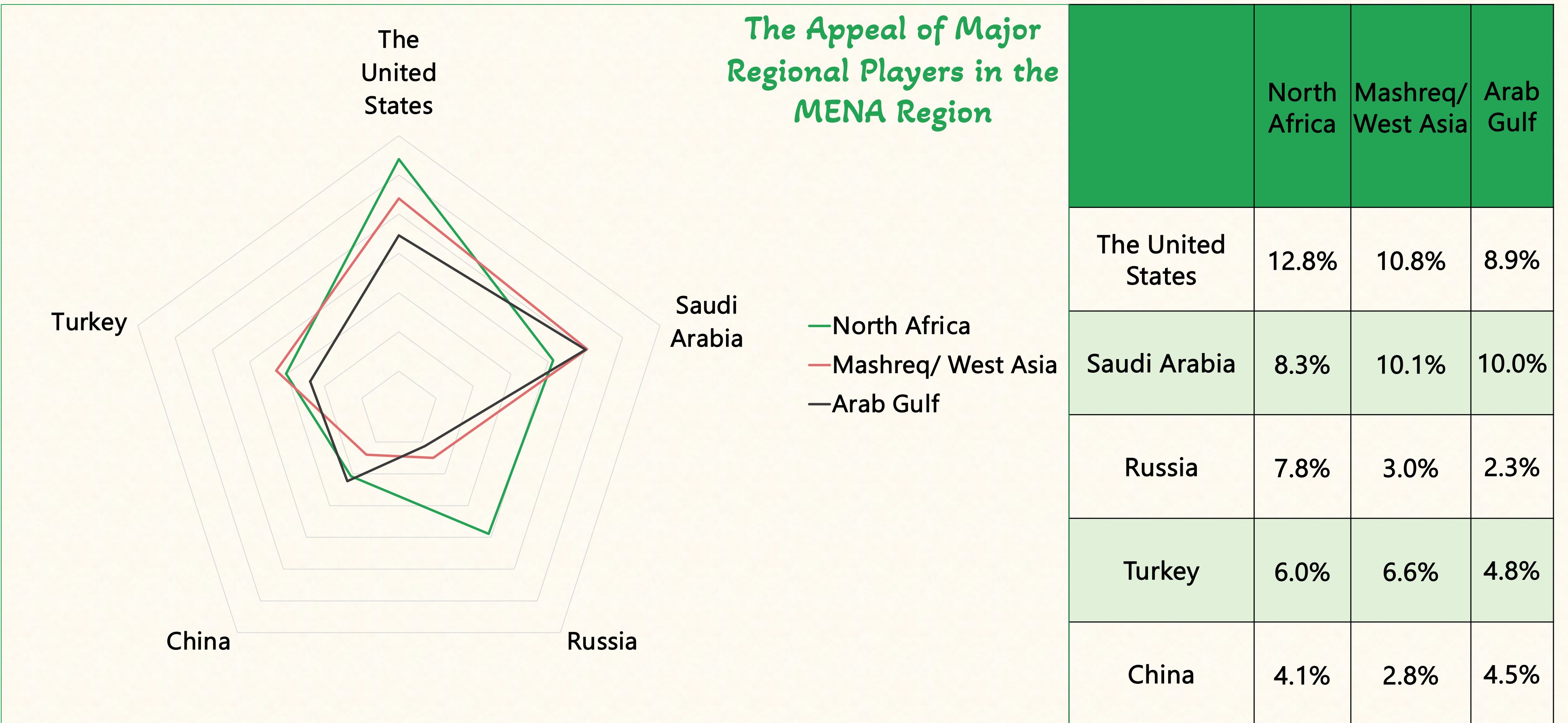
Next, the respondents were asked to indicate their preferred destination if they were to travel for work. The results show that 13.3% indicated the UAE, followed by 11.7% for Canada, 11.2% for the United States, 10.8% for the EU and 8.3% specifically for Germany, and 8% for Saudi Arabia.

As for traveling for university education, the UK and the United States ranked at the top with 16.4% and 16.2%, respectively, followed by 11.8% for Germany, 11.4% for Canada, and 6.5% for France.

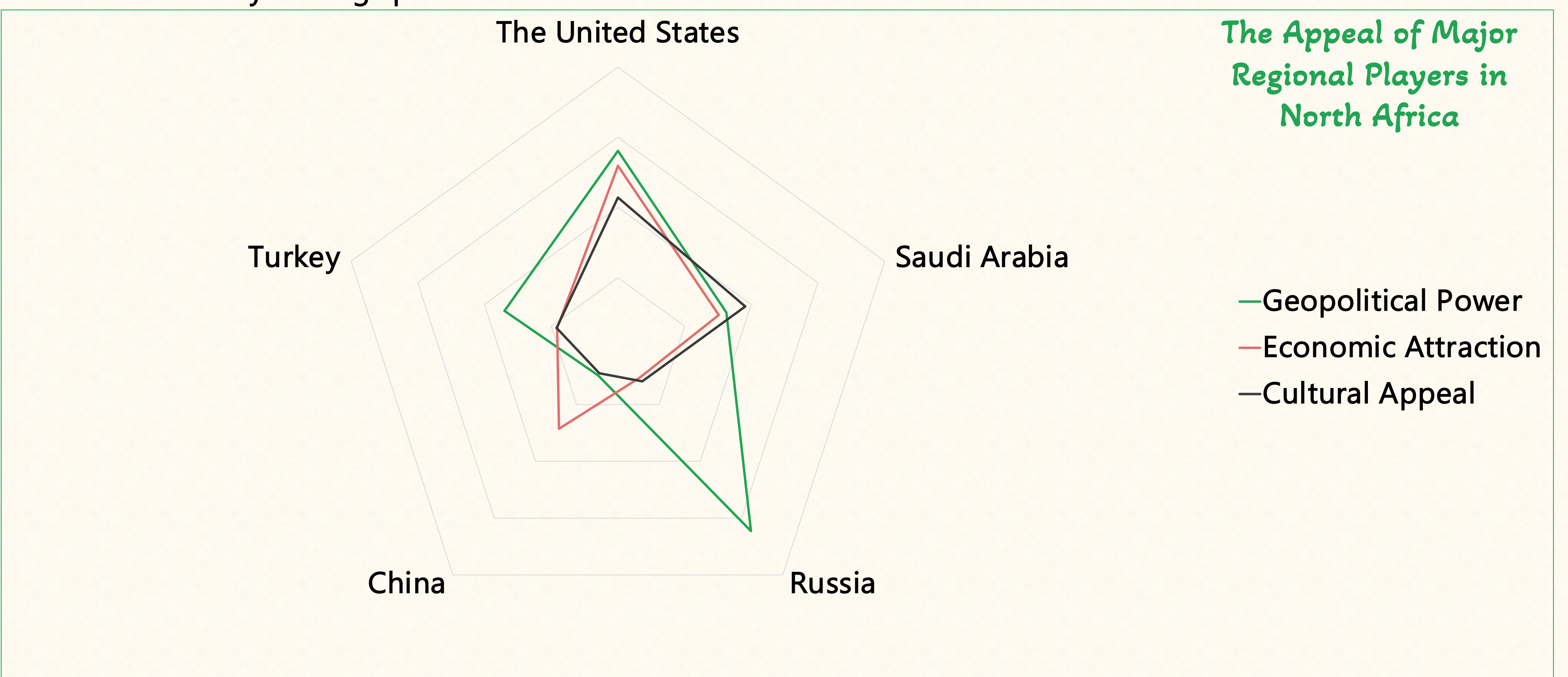
As for traveling abroad for health treatment, 27.7% of the respondents indicated Germany, followed by 13.5% for the United States, 8.3% for France, 6.4% for the UK, 4.8% for Turkey, and 4.5% for India.



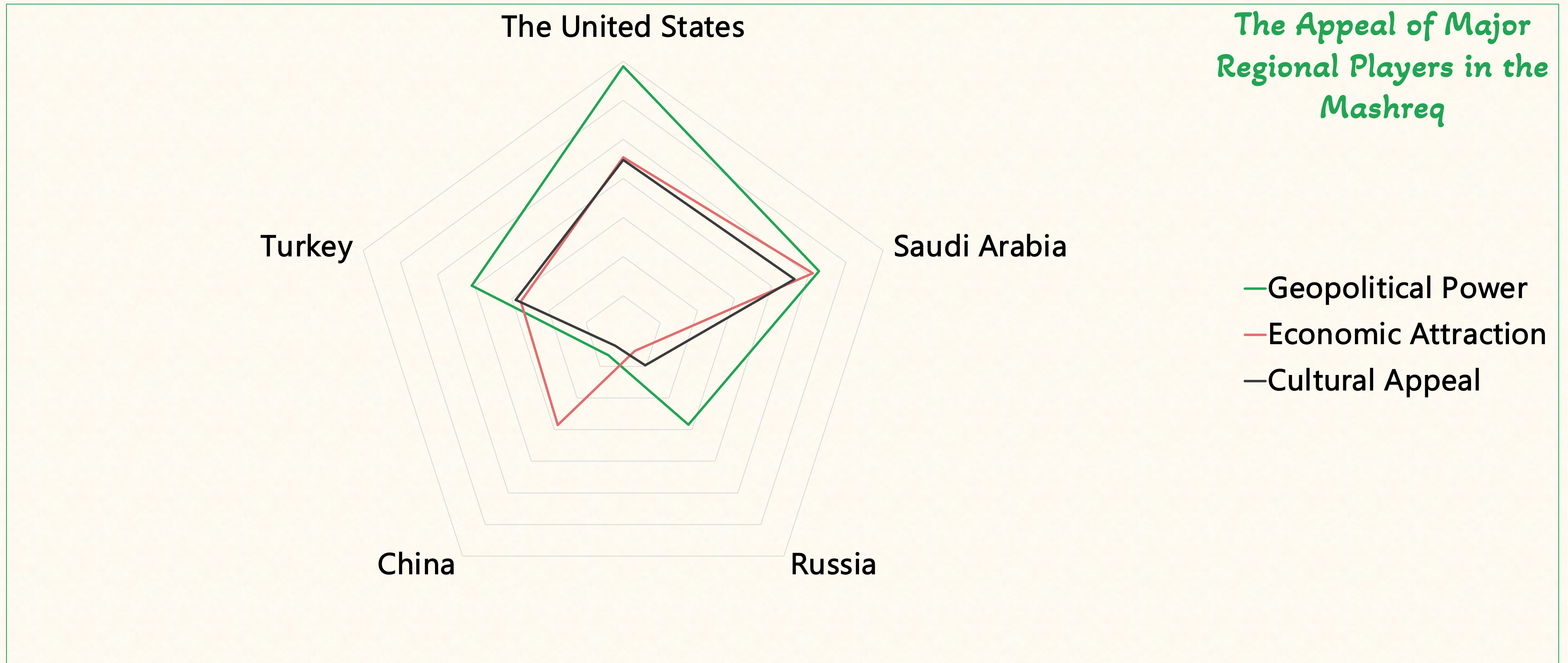
When looking at the appeal of political, economic, security, and cultural alliances with each of the following countries, along with the appeal of their personalities and the appeal of traveling for work, university education, and health treatment, the following table illustrates the average level of appeal for these five countries across the three sub-regions:



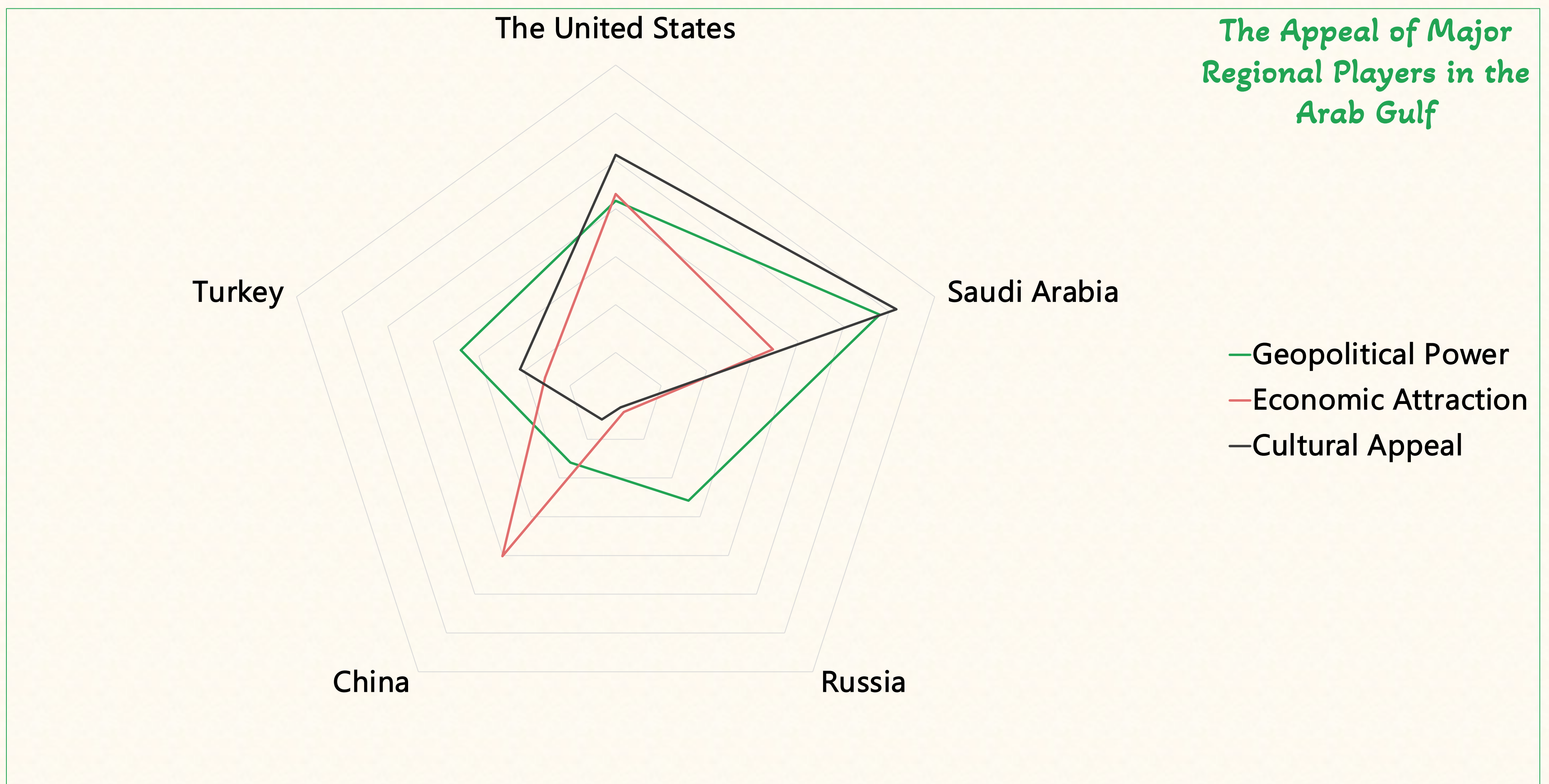
Looking at each sub-region, the United States appeared as the most appealing overall among respondents from North Africa even when Russia’s geopolitical appeal was larger, driven by its security appeal as well as the personality cult of Putin. Despite that, the US’ alternative in North Africa is not Russia, nor is it China, instead, the curated survey findings point to Saudi Arabia.



Among respondents from the Mashreq sub-region, the United States also ranked first as the most appealing state overall, followed by Saudi Arabia, with Russia, China, and even Turkey lag far behind.

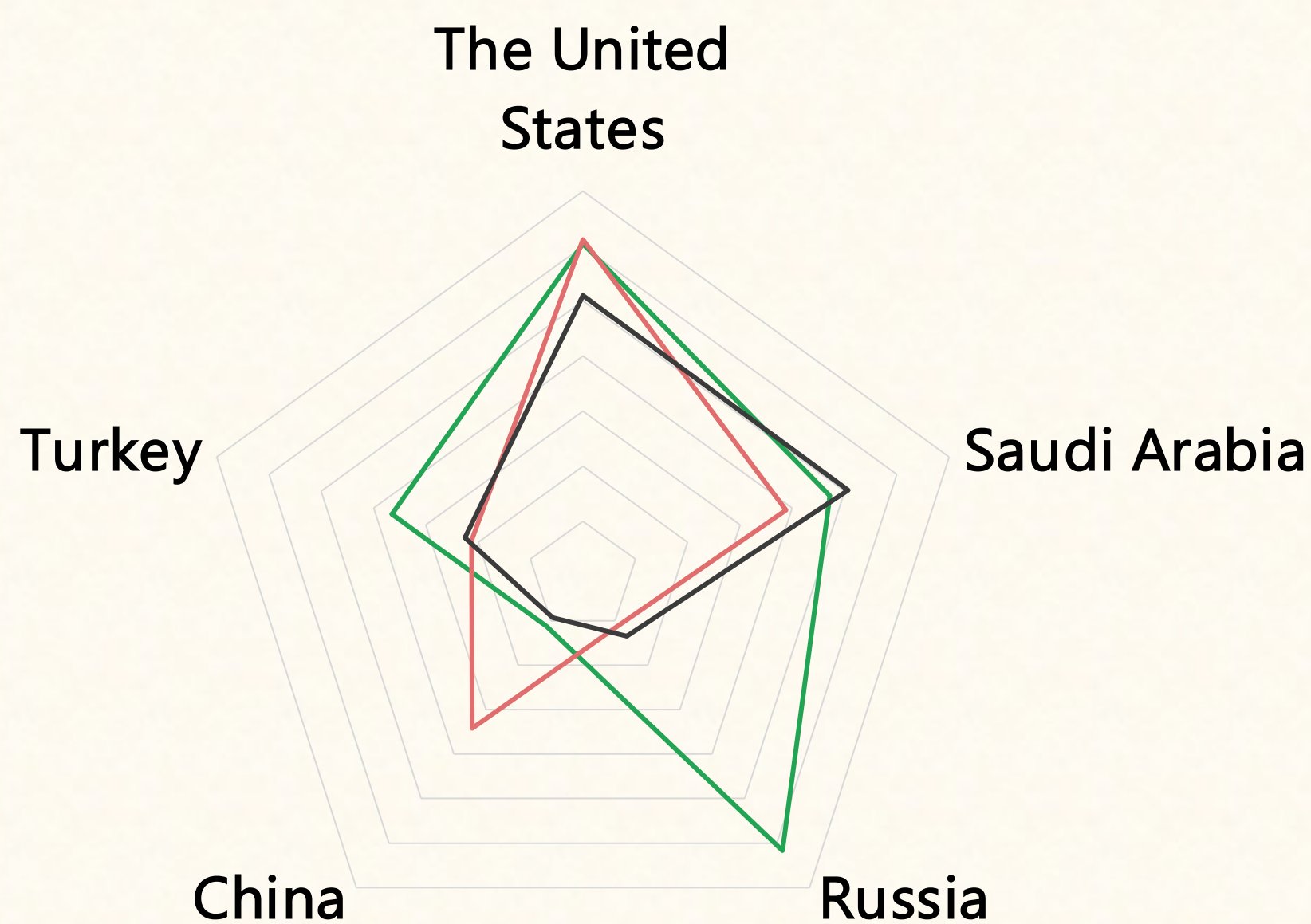


In the Arab Gulf, sub-regionalism was a driving force for the overall appeal and influence of major players, as Saudi Arabia was seen as the most appealing, following the United States, whose economic attraction (for economic alliances and for traveling for work and for health treatment were particularly important aspects for respondents from the Gulf sub-region).

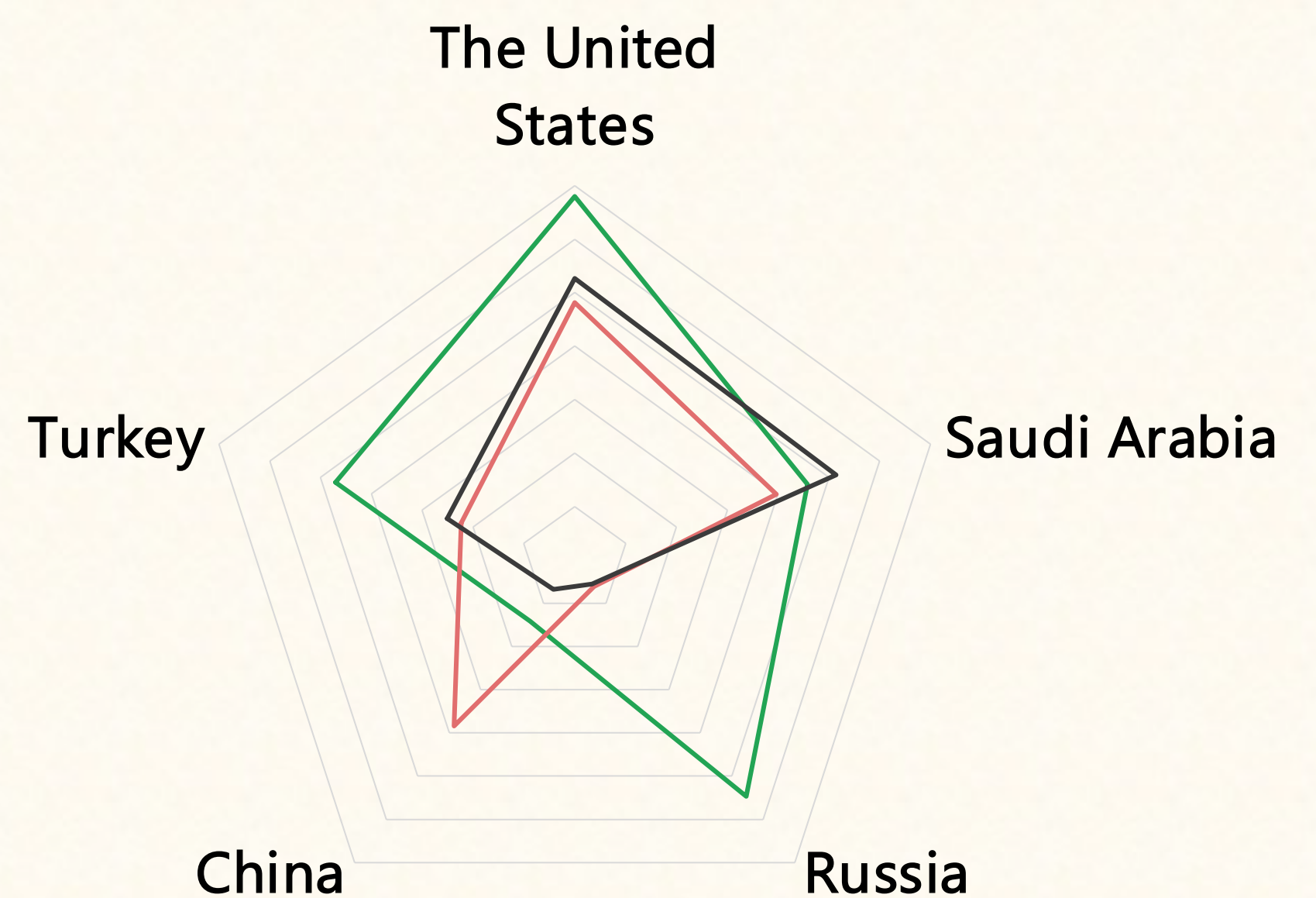


When looking at the appeal and influence of these different countries among different age groups, there were minimal deviations between younger and older respondents. In fact, the United States and Saudi Arabia were at the top with very similar percentages. Turkey was third most appealing among both groups though it was more appealing among older respondents. While China was slightly more appealing among older respondents, Russia was slightly more appealing among younger respondents. In fact, for younger respondents, Russia's geopolitical power was higher than that of the United States, but Russia's economic attraction and cultural appeal were marginal compared to the United States, or Saudi, China, and Turkey for that matter.

The Appeal of Major Regional Players among Respondents Aged 34 or Younger



The Appeal of Major Regional Players among Respondents Aged 35 and Older



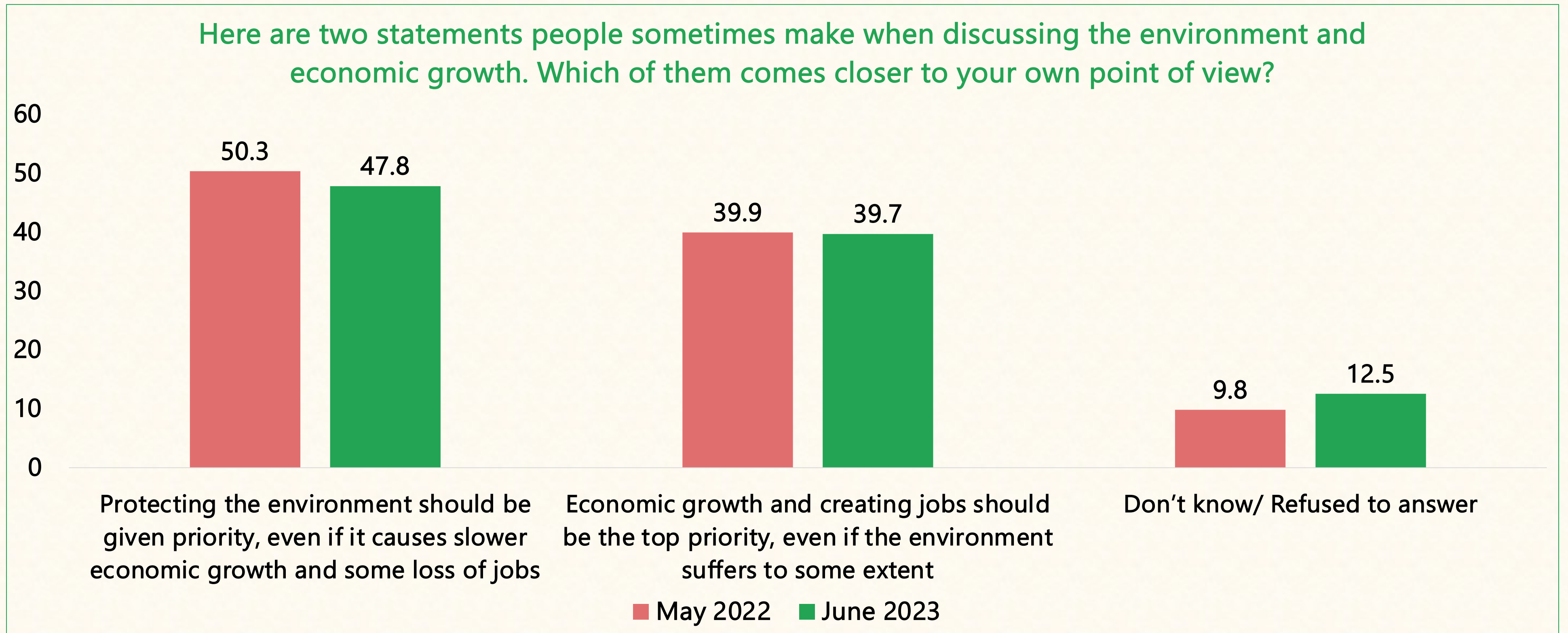
—Geopolitical Power —Economic Attraction
—Cultural Appeal

—Geopolitical Power —Economic Attraction
—Cultural Appeal

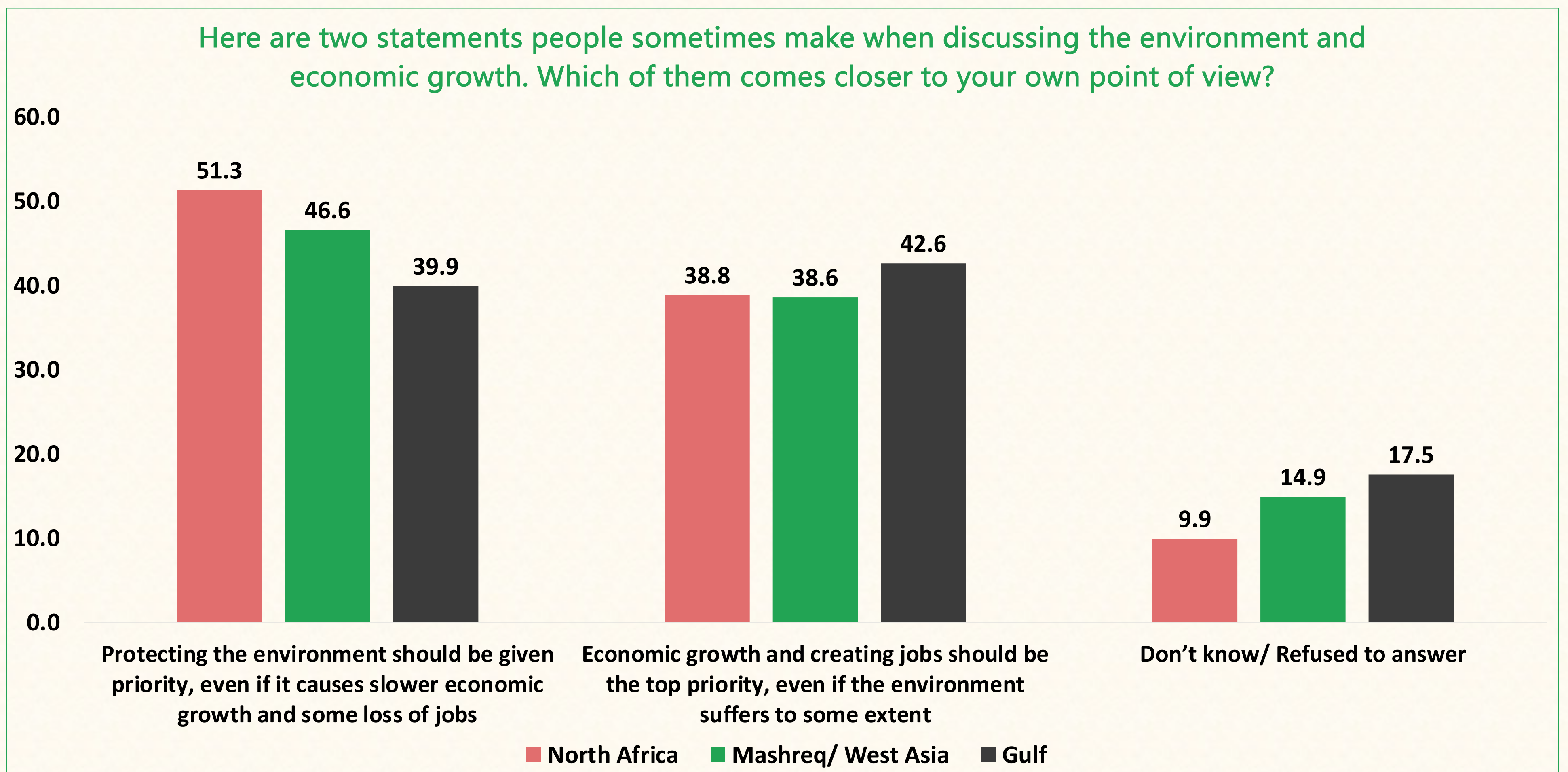
The background image shows a vast landscape. The upper portion features rolling hills with a patchwork of green and brown, suggesting agricultural fields or natural terrain. A road or path winds through the valley between the hills. The lower portion of the image is dominated by a field of tall grasses and several large, dark-colored flowers with prominent centers, possibly poppies or similar species. The entire image has a slightly desaturated, muted color palette.

**Section 5:
Environment and
Climate Action**

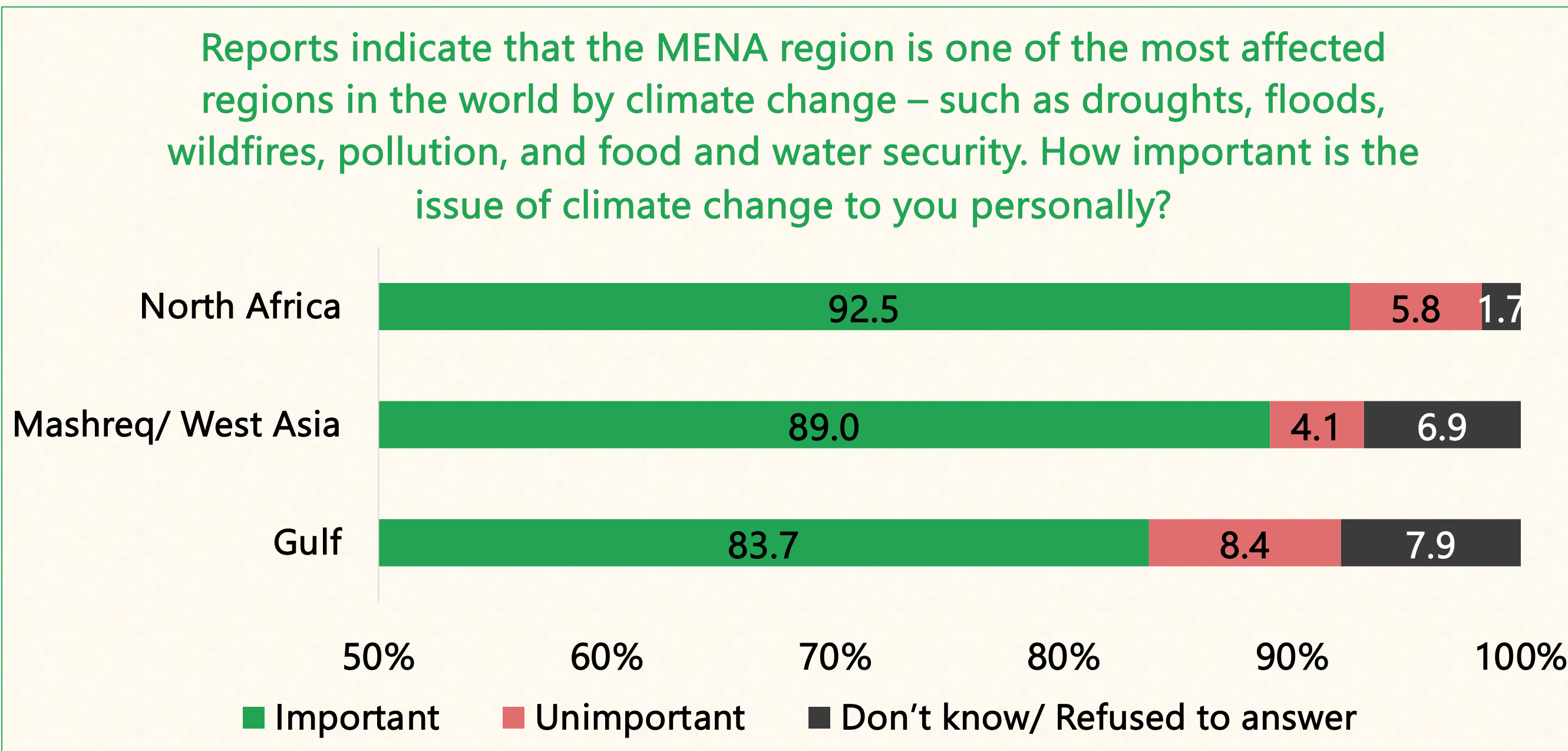
The fifth and final section of the survey looked to gauge the respondents' perceptions on environment related aspects. When exploring the dynamics between economic growth and protecting the environment, the respondents were still more in favor of environmental protection, even if it causes slower economic growth and some loss of jobs, with 47.8%, which decreased slightly from the 50.3% recorded in the first wave.



Regionally, more respondents from North Africa were in favor of preserving the environment than from the Mashreq. As for respondents from the Gulf, they were more in favor of ensuring economic growth and creating jobs even on the expense of the environment.

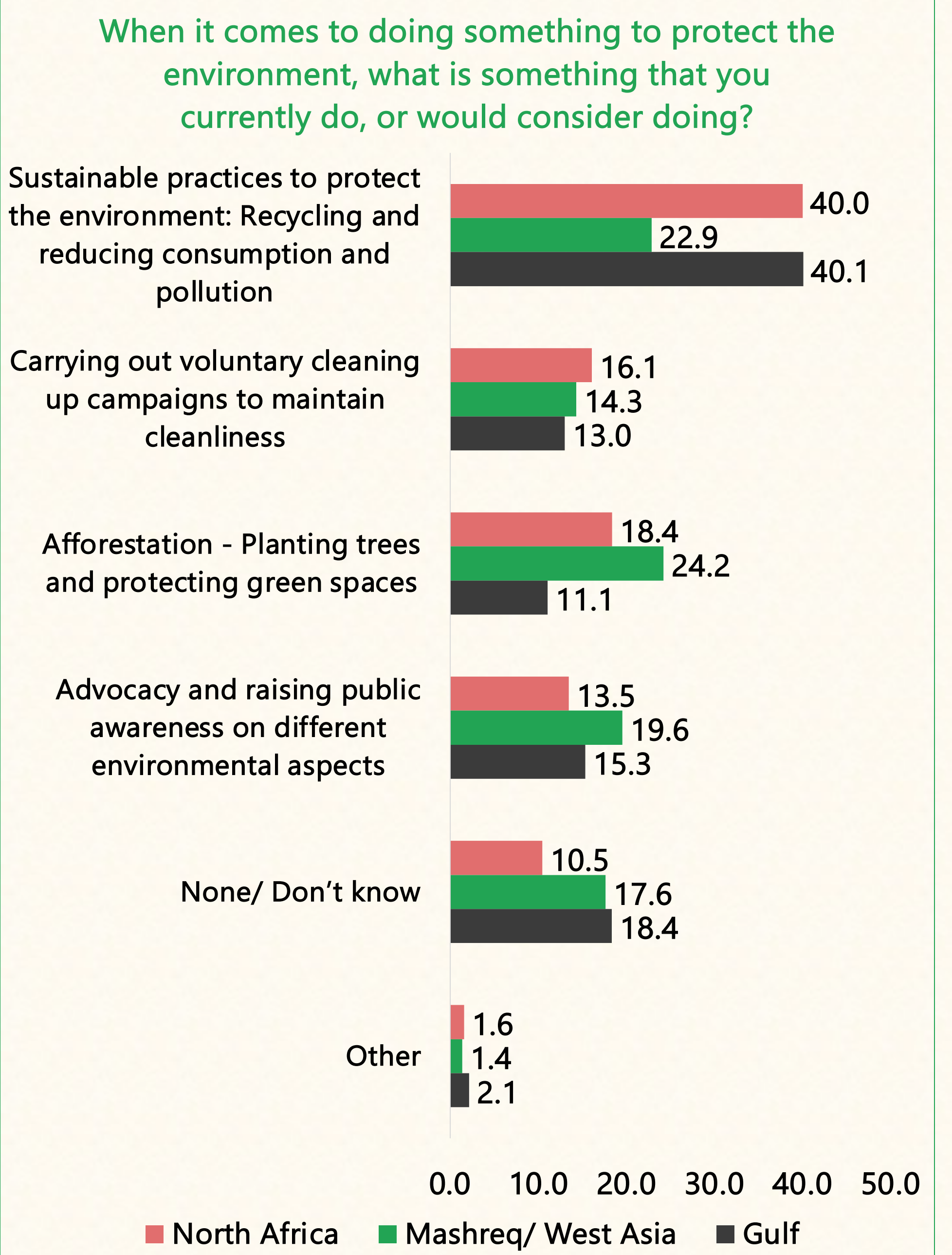
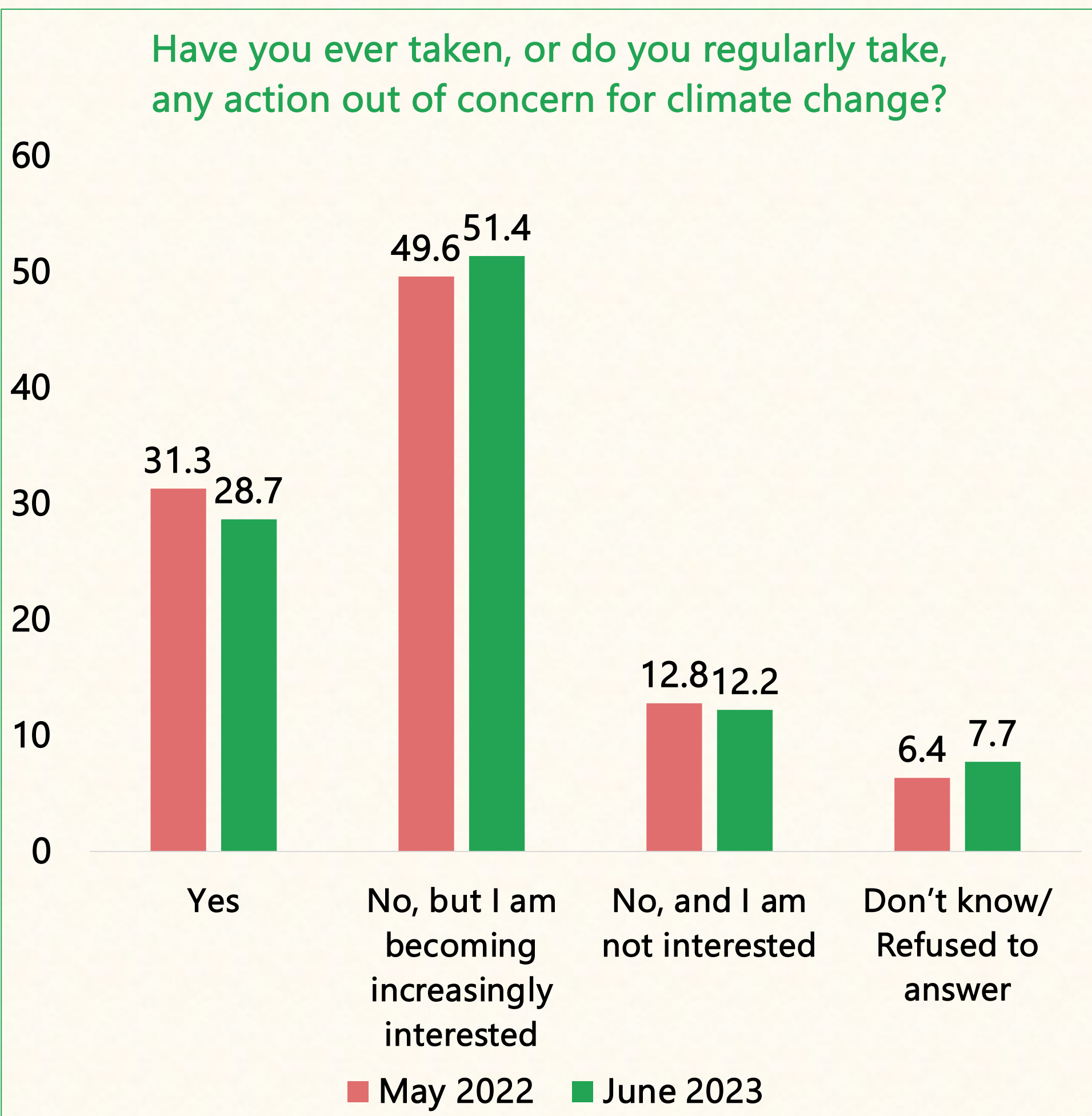


The vast majority of respondents maintained that the issue of climate change is important to them personally, as 57% and nearly 33% indicated very and somewhat important, respectively, though there was a slight decrease between the two waves. Sub-regionally, the importance of climate change as an issue was more prevalent among respondents from North Africa (92.5%), compared to 89% among those from Mashreq and 83.7% in the Arab Gulf.



When comparing climate action tendencies between the two waves, the responses were more or less similar as 28.7% reported that they take regular action out of concern for the environment, and 51.4% do not current take any action, but they reported increasingly interested. About a third of respondents from Mashreq take such regular action, compared to 28.7% among those from North Africa and 26.1% among those from the Arab Gulf.

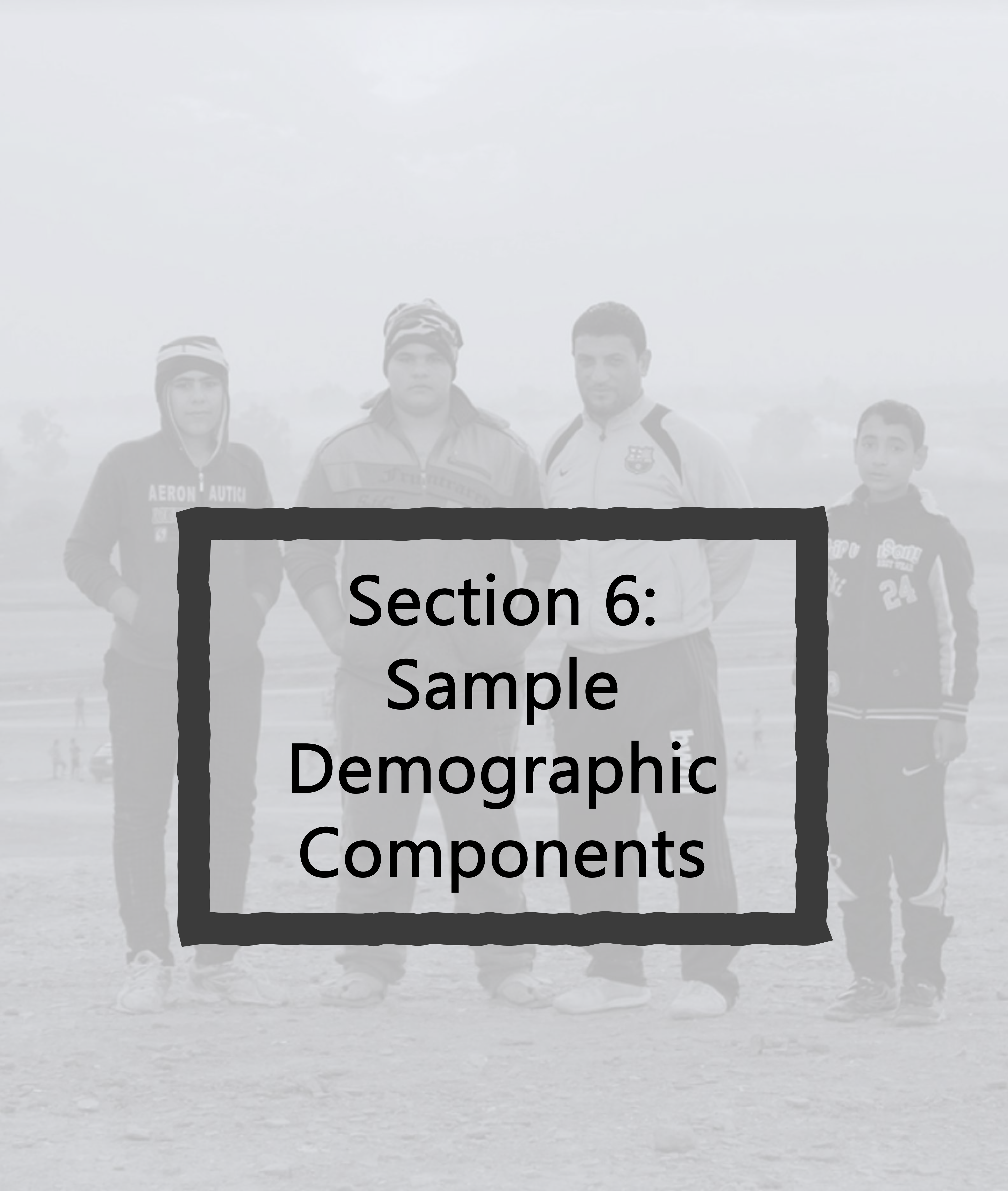
When asked about current climate action or action they would consider taking, sustainable practices to protect the environment, including recycling and reducing consumption was the most prevalent; followed by afforestation; carrying out voluntary clean up campaigns; and advocacy and raising public awareness on different environmental issues.



Finally, when examining perceptions vis-à-vis a number of environment related statements, the survey revealed mixed findings. The results were analyzed on an agreement scale of 1 to 10, whereby 10 means “strongly agree”; 7 means “somewhat agree”; 4 means “somewhat disagree” and 1 means “strongly disagree”. There was an increase among those who agreed that “having a car is part of having a good lifestyle” as the majority of respondents were centered around “somewhat disagree”, which was the same for “I am willing to make personal sacrifices for the sake of the environment”. While the increase among those who agree that they are willing to make such sacrifices is positive, the emphasis on associating cars with good lifestyle remains a challenge that awareness campaigns ought to address.

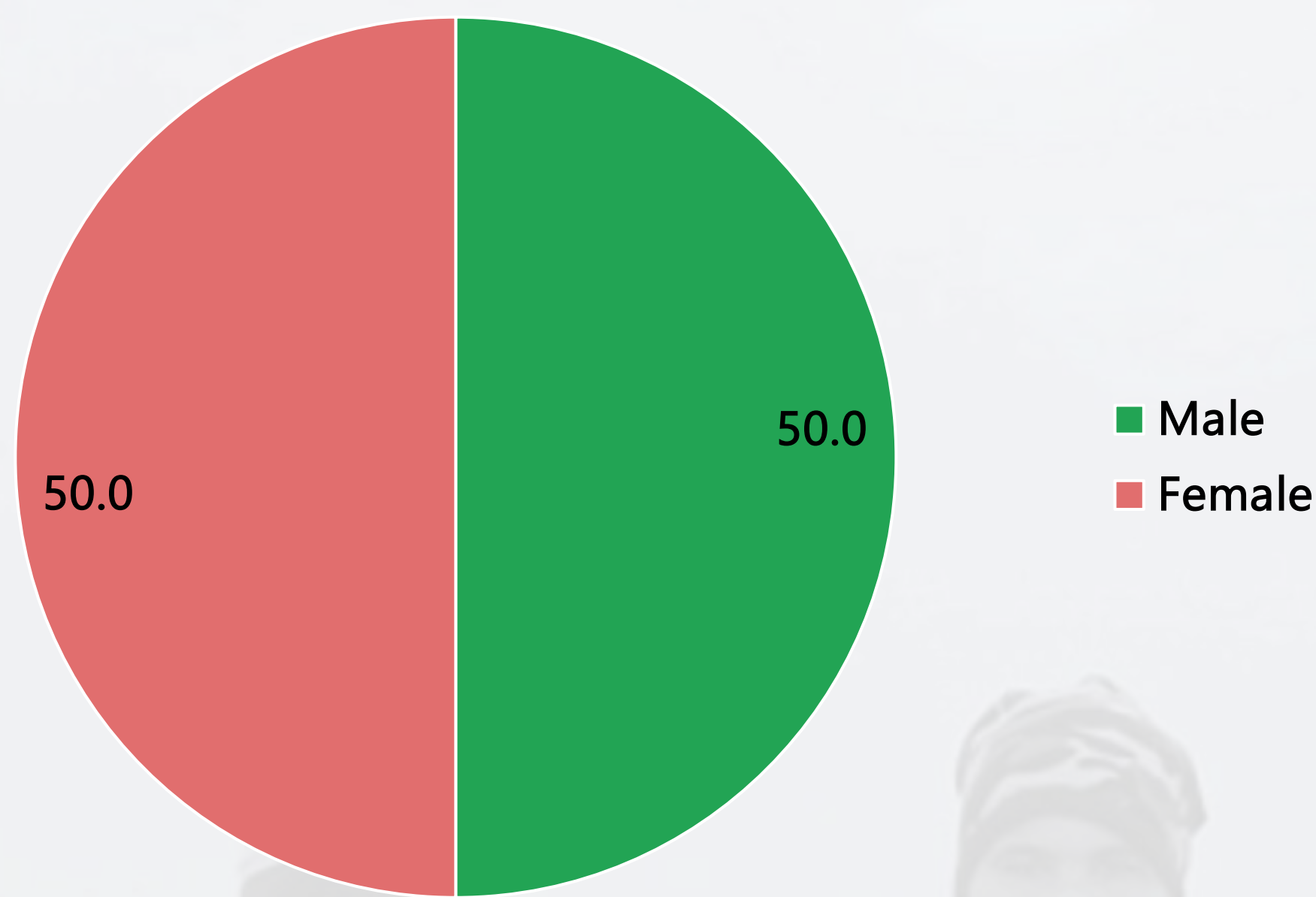


Looking specifically at the sub-regional breakdown of responses for “I am willing to make personal sacrifices for the sake of the environment”, the results show that respondents from North Africa were more likely to agree, compared to those from Mashreq and those from the Gulf. While more respondents from the Gulf had indicated earlier that they would not generally take action out of concern for the environment, more respondents from Mashreq did compared to North Africa. Therefore, it is rather interesting to explore the intensity of such action, and with difficult economic conditions, this particular action is exceptionally sacrificial.

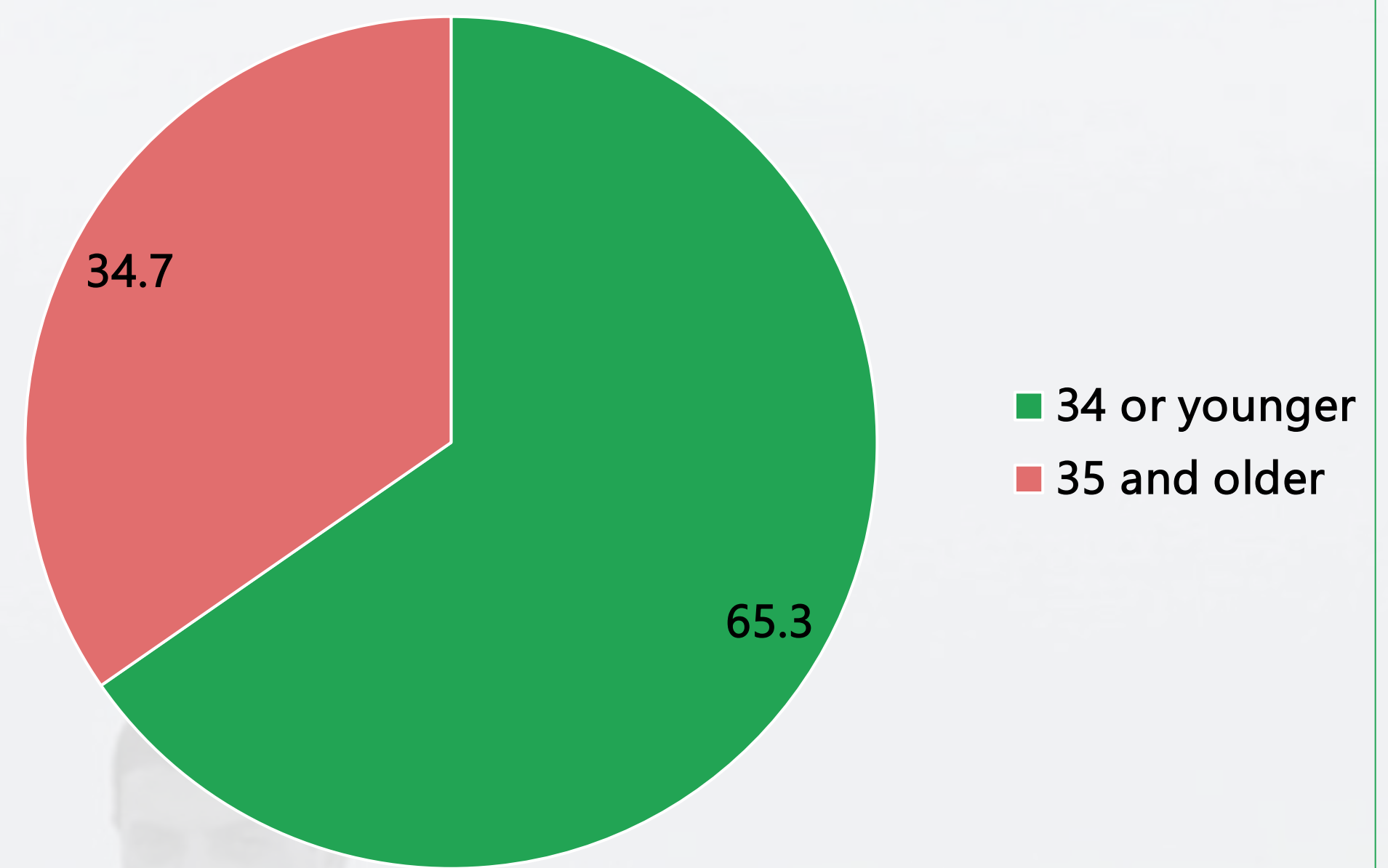
A grayscale photograph of four young men standing on a dirt or grass field. They are wearing various athletic jackets and hoodies. The man on the far left has 'AERON AUTUM' on his hoodie. The man in the center-right has a crest on his jacket. The man on the far right has '24' on his jacket. A large, black, hand-drawn style frame is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text 'Section 6: Sample Demographic Components'.

**Section 6:
Sample
Demographic
Components**

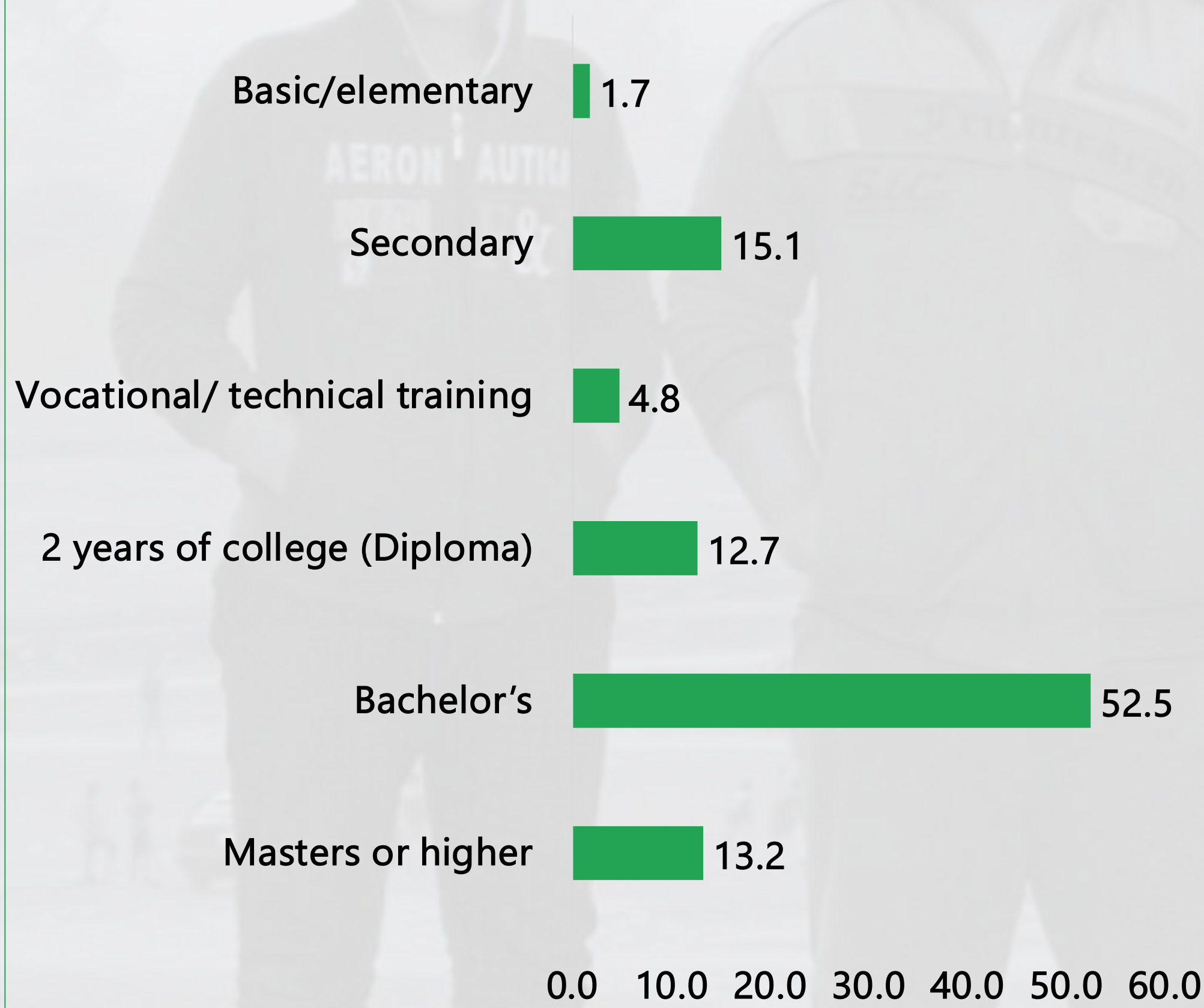
Sex of Respondent



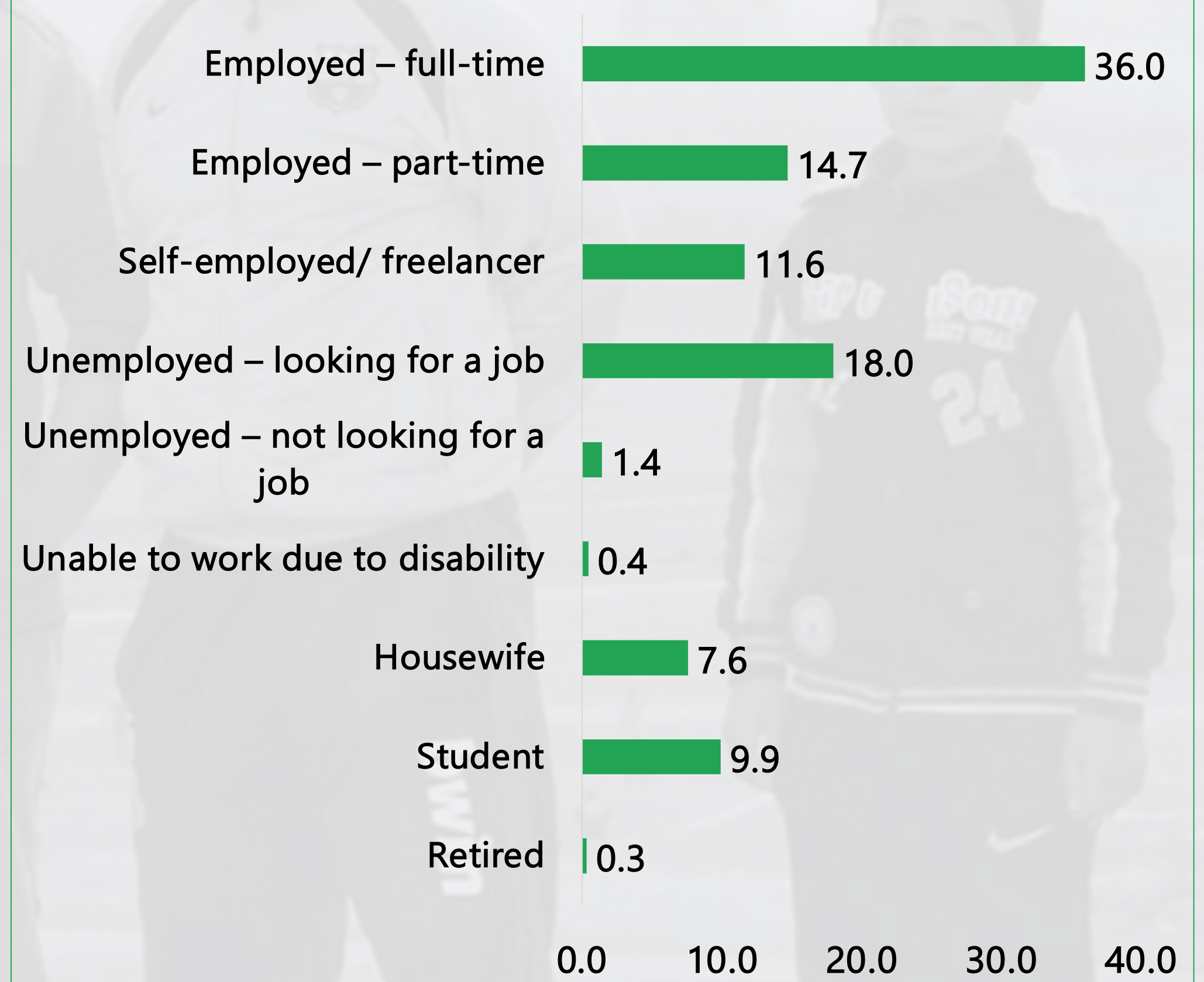
Age of Respondent



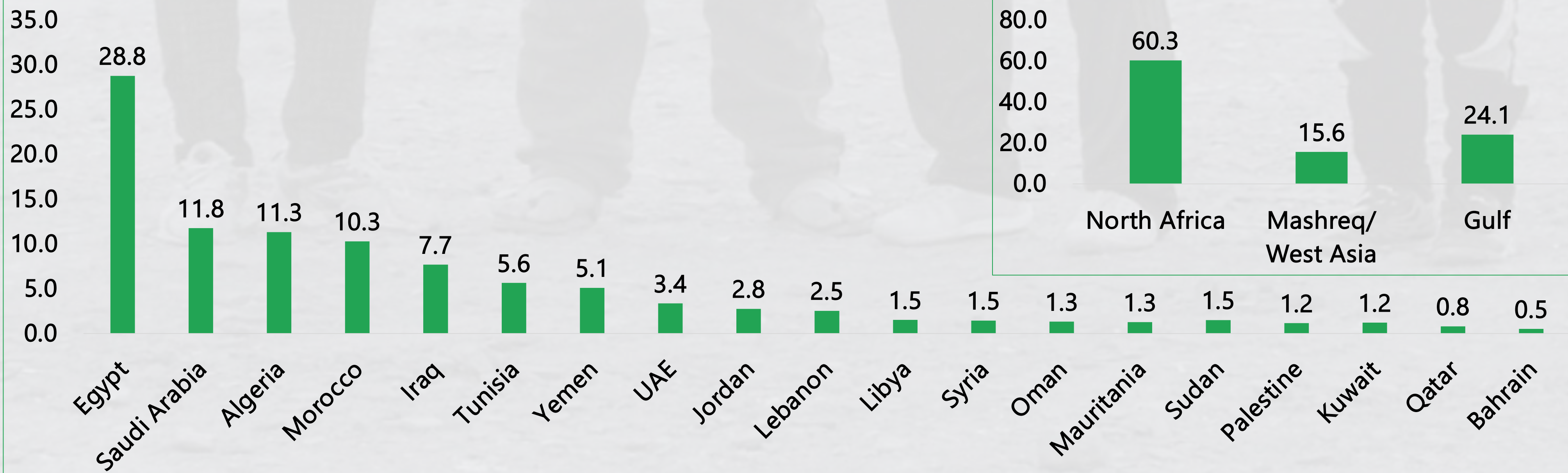
Education Level of Respondent



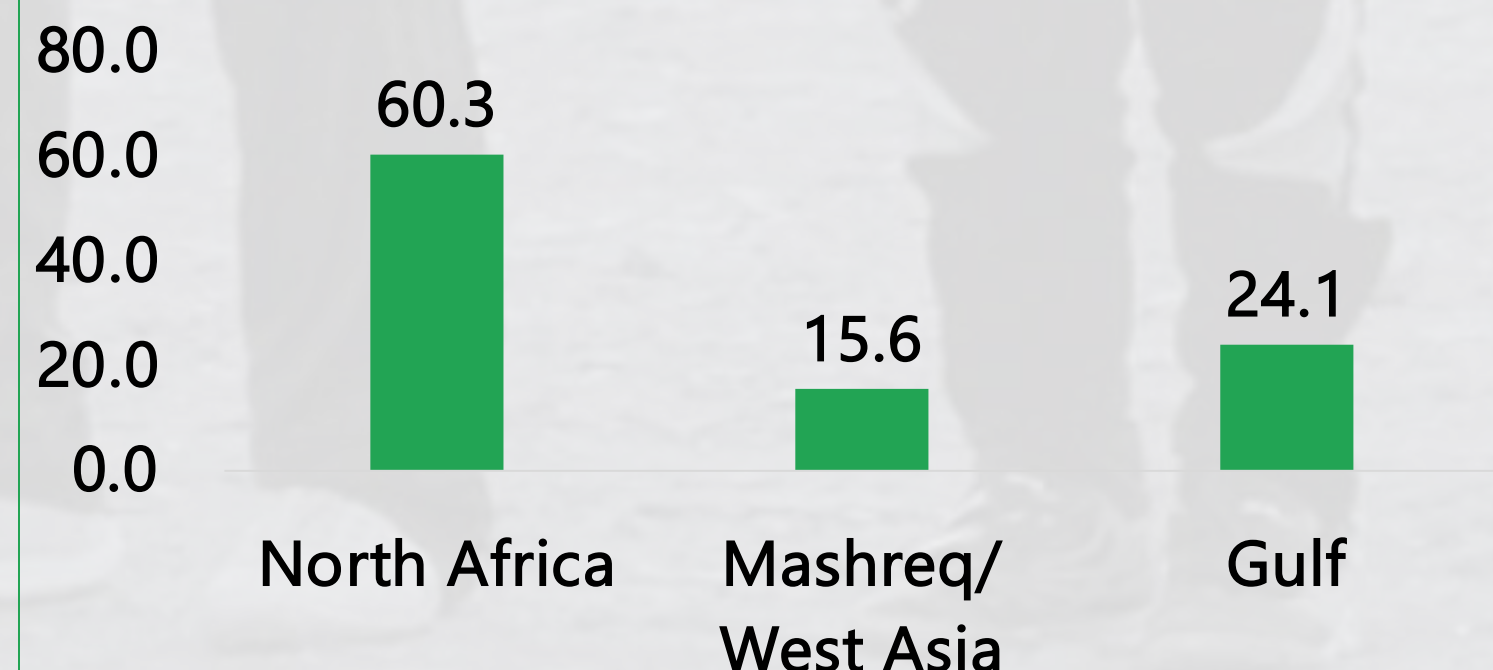
Work Status of Respondent



Country of Respondent



Sub-Regions





What IF Youth Led the MENA Region? Survey of Youth Perceptions: Wave II

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