

Survey on Impact of US Foreign Assistance Cuts on DRG Programming



PRESENTED BY:

International IDEA and the Global Democracy Coalition

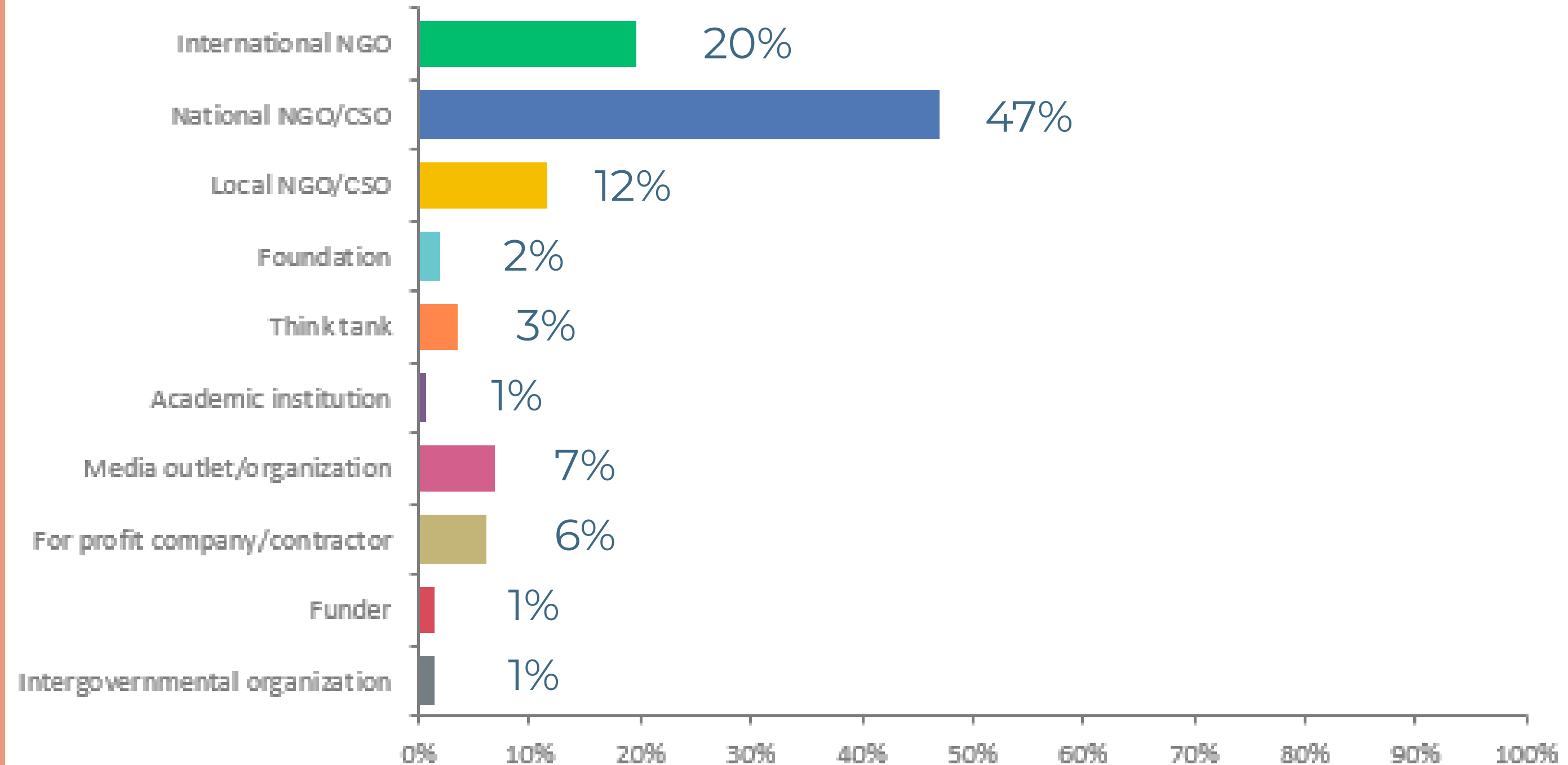


Survey Overview

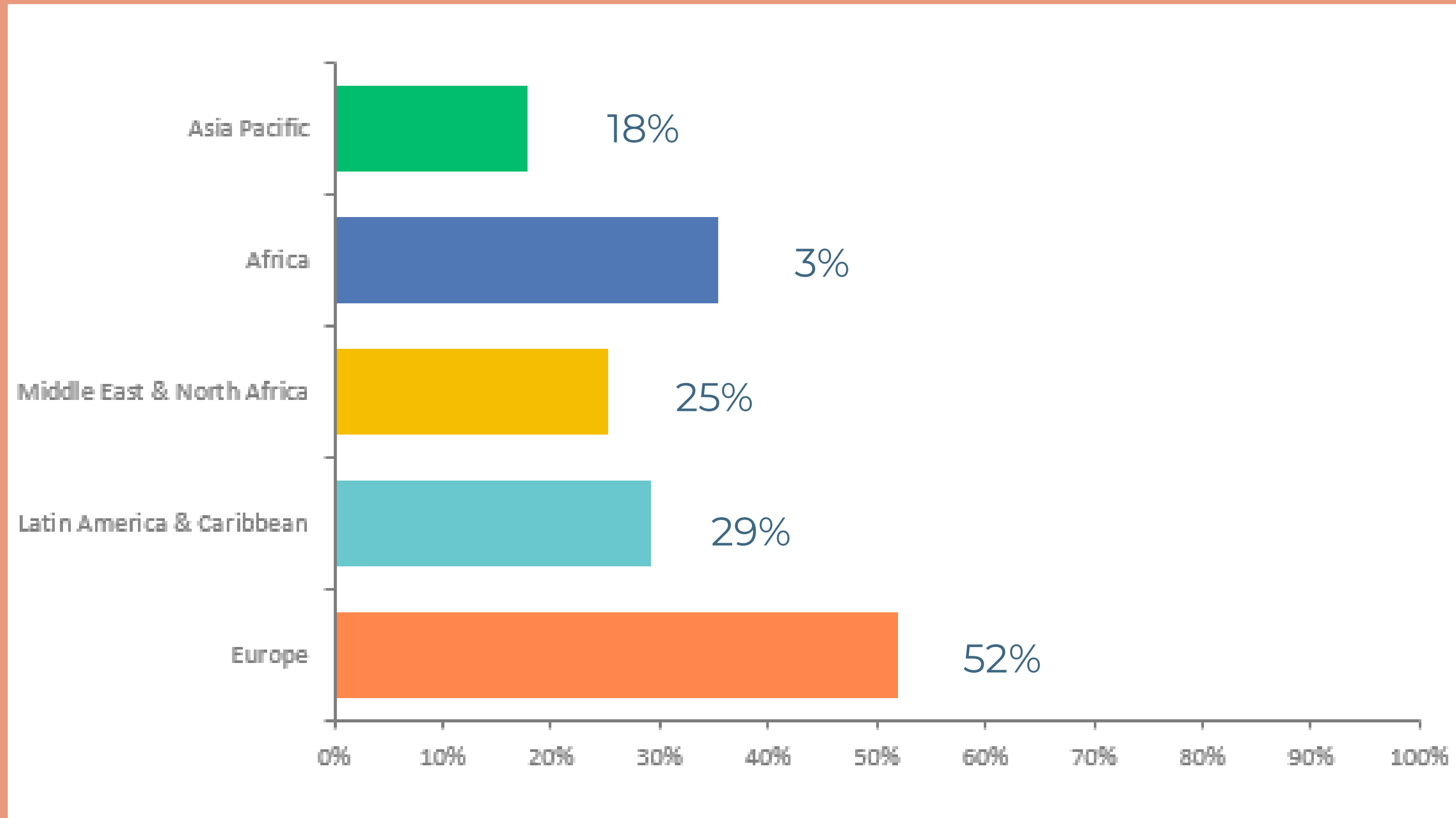
In early 2025, the US administration announced a sweeping freeze on foreign aid, ultimately terminating more than 7,000 awards and contracts—over 80% of USAID programs and a significant share of State Department grants. The impact has rippled across sectors and countries, with democracy, rights, and governance (DRG) programming among the hardest hit. Democracy assistance groups and independent media—especially those operating in or in exile from repressive or fragile contexts—have been especially hard hit by the cuts with their programs supporting elections, civil society, human rights, media freedom, inclusive participation, and anti-corruption cancelled worldwide. In countries like Ukraine, Myanmar, and Belarus, the loss of US support has created major gaps in critical democratic infrastructure. Compounding the crisis, many other donors have also cut their aid budgets, leaving few alternatives to fill the void. In response, the Global Democracy Coalition and International IDEA have undertaken a global impact study to assess the consequences of these funding cuts on the DRG ecosystem. Through a survey of more than 150 organizations worldwide, interviews, and focus groups, the research captures both quantitative data and human stories from organizations directly affected by the cuts. These slides show key highlights and preliminary survey findings ahead of the final report release in September 2025.



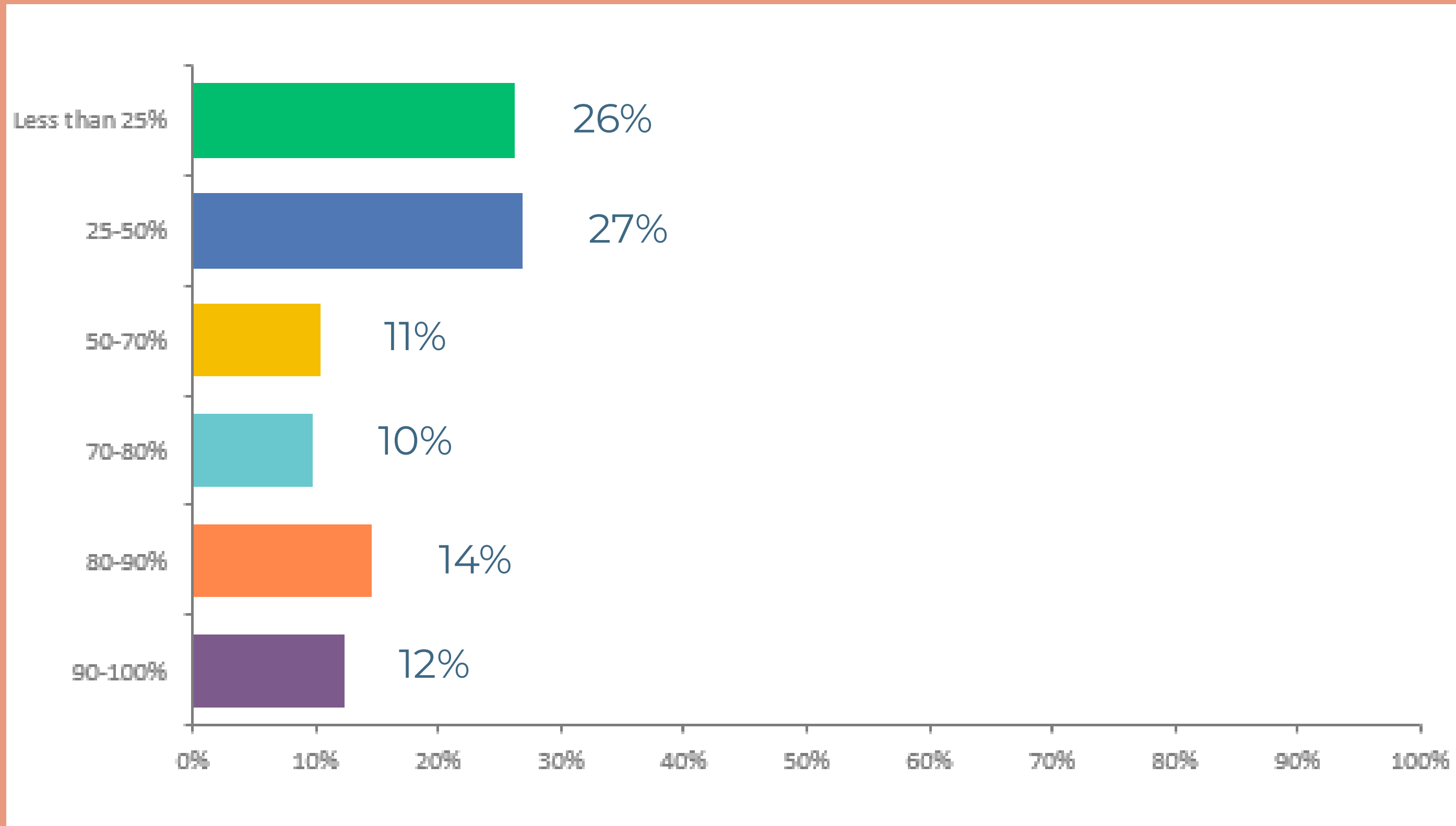
Type of Organization



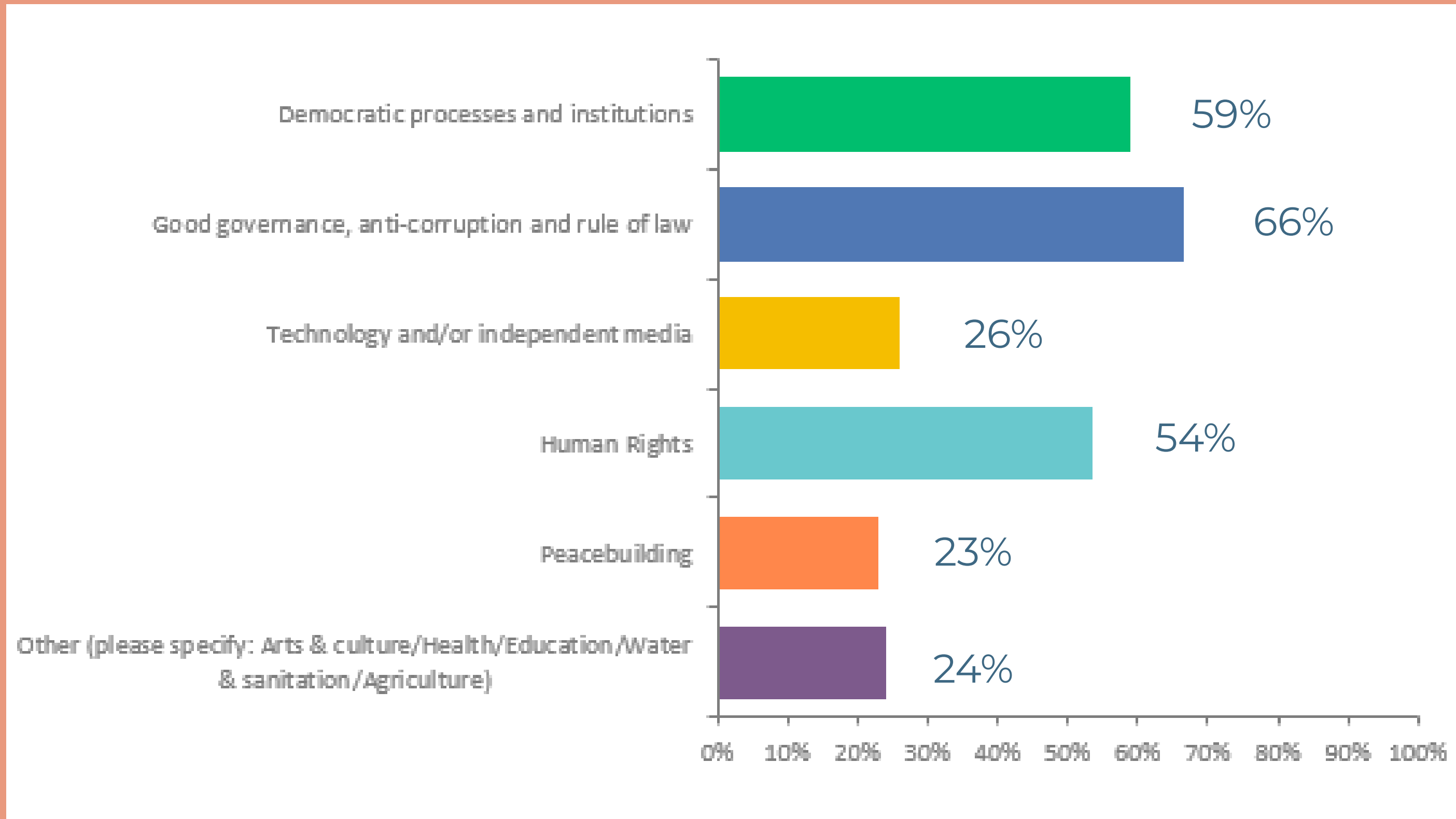
If regional, which region(s):



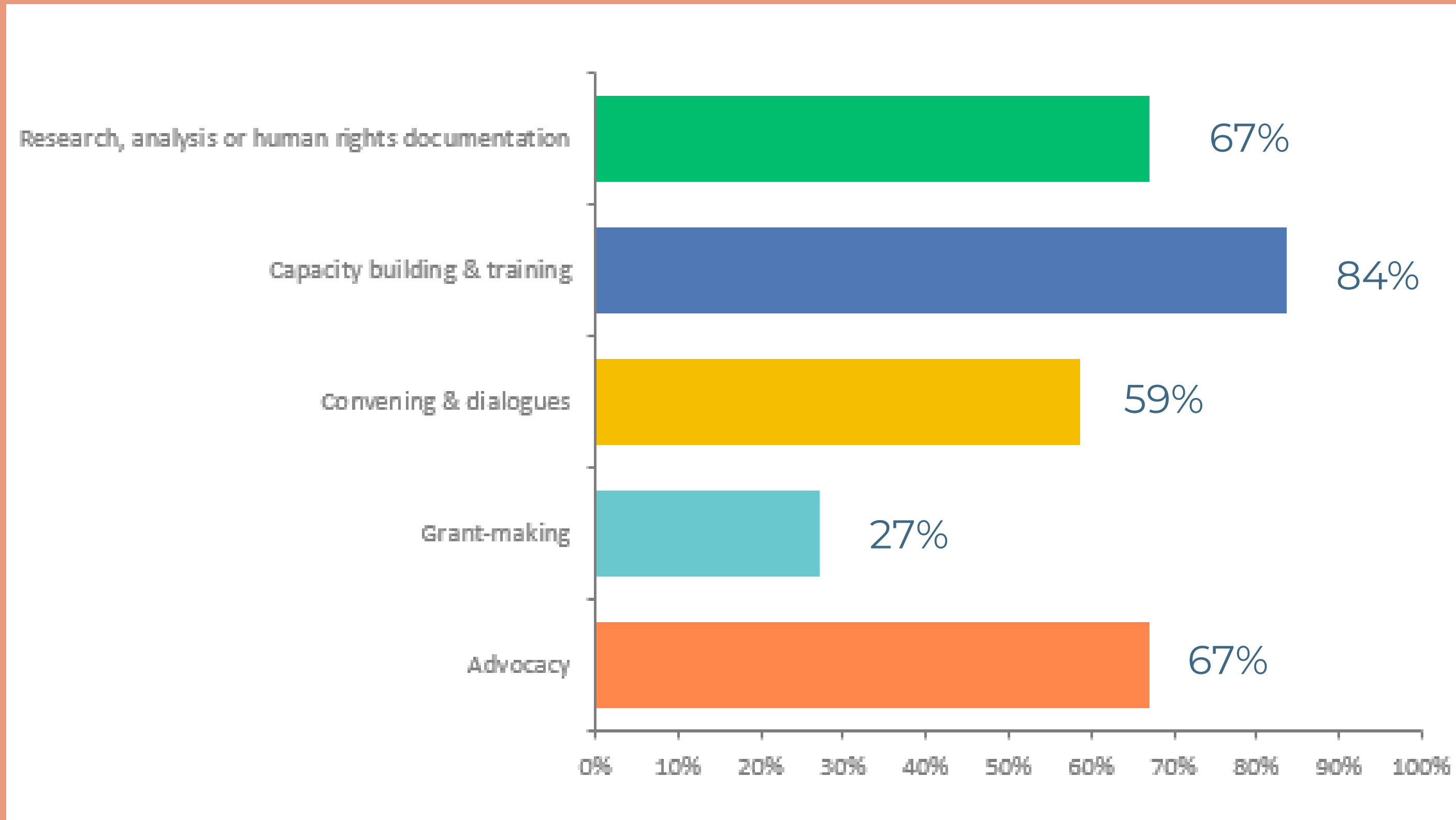
What percentage of your organization's yearly budget did US funding represent prior to the cuts?



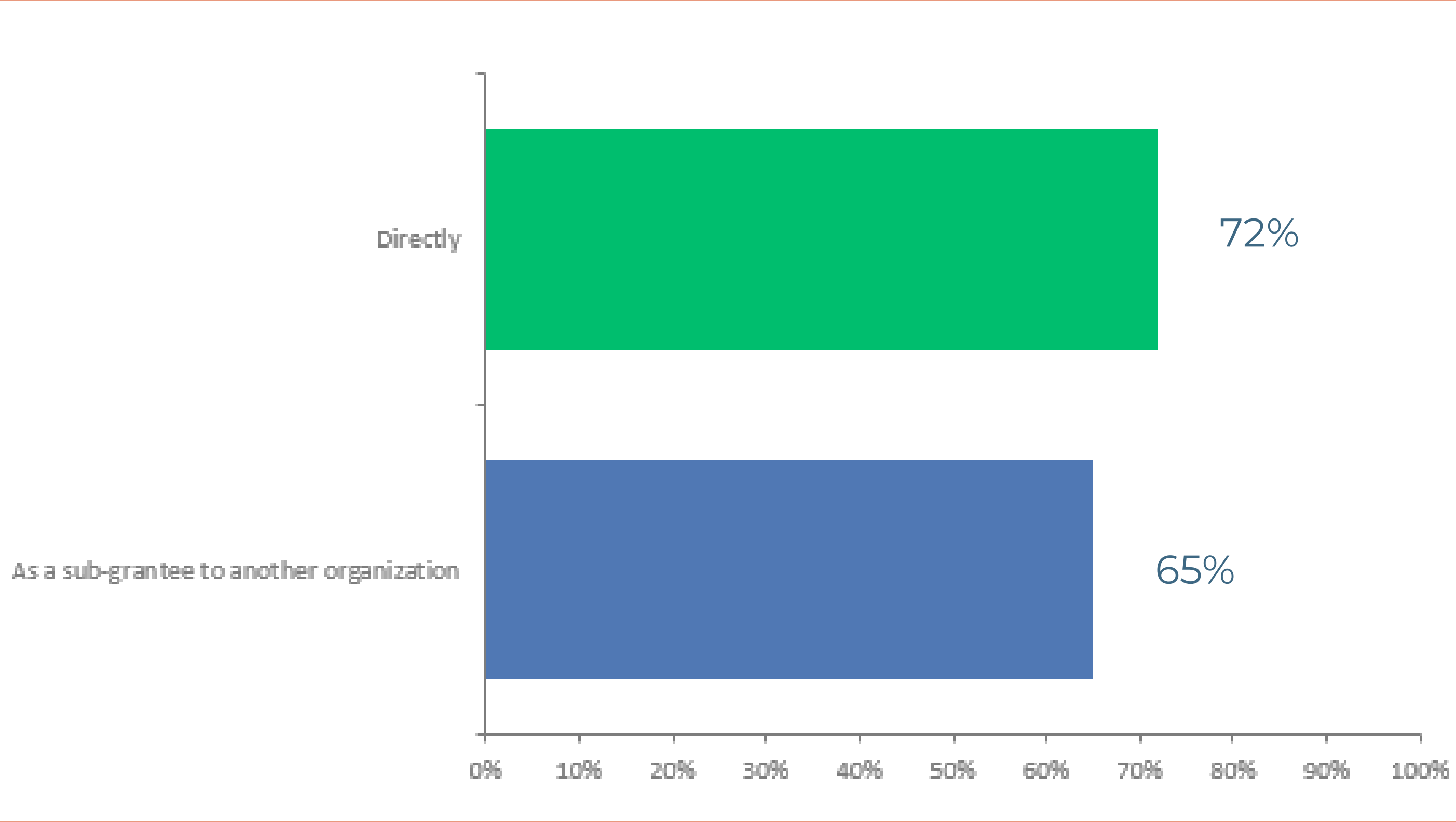
What is your organization's focus?



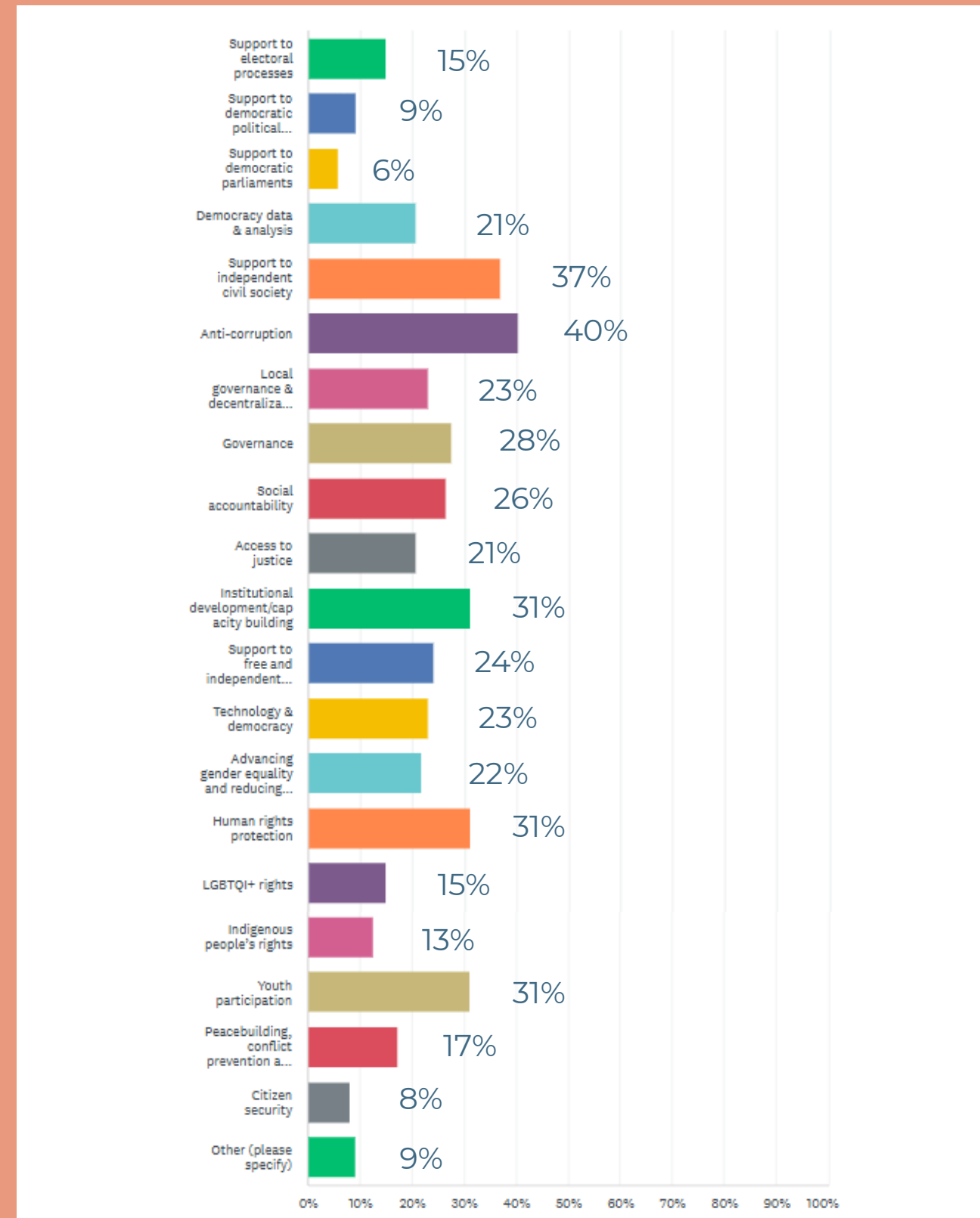
What type of DRG-related activities does your organization conduct?



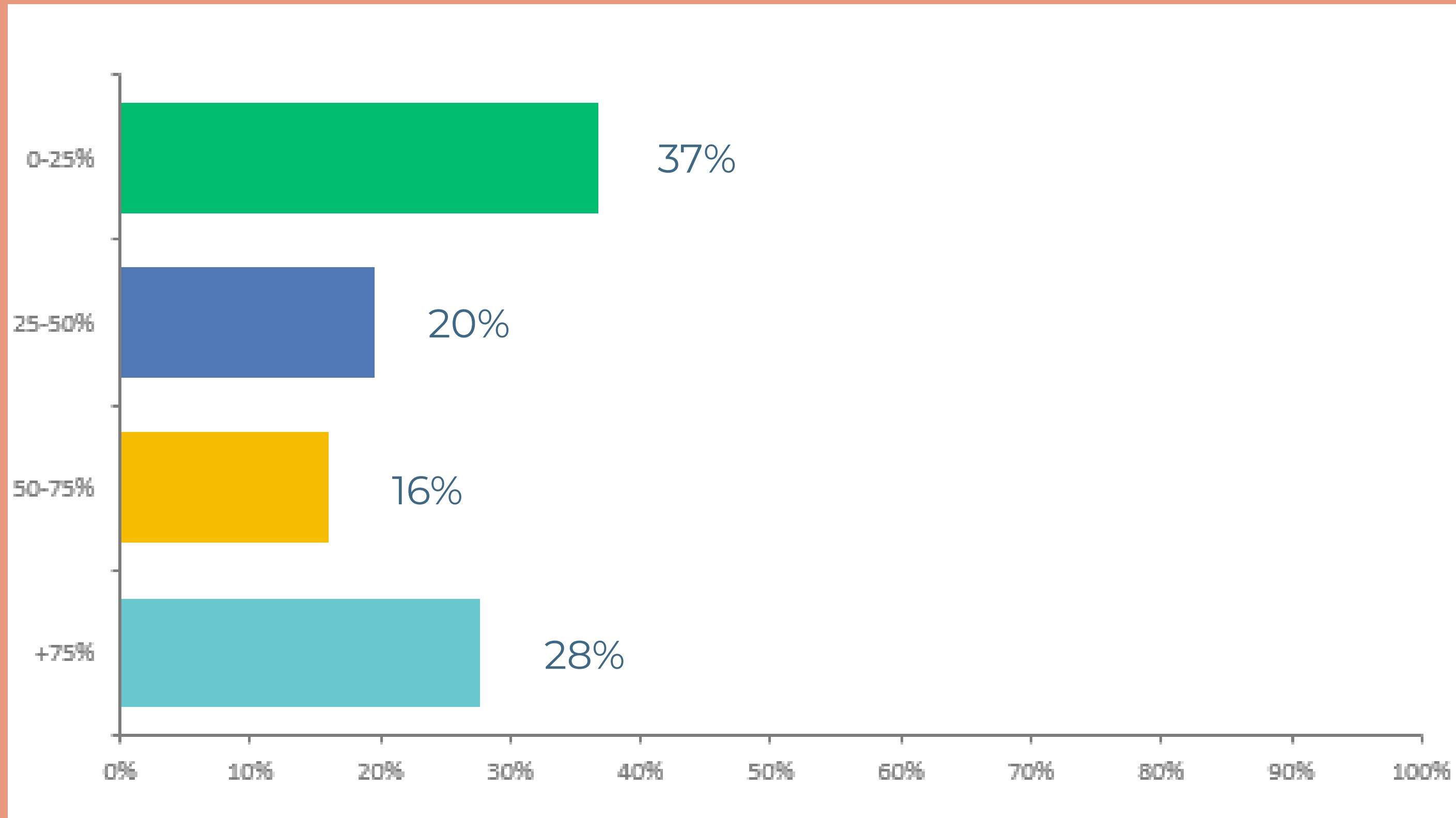
If you received US funding, did you receive this funding directly from the USG (USAID, State Department) or NED or as a sub-grantee to a US or other organization?



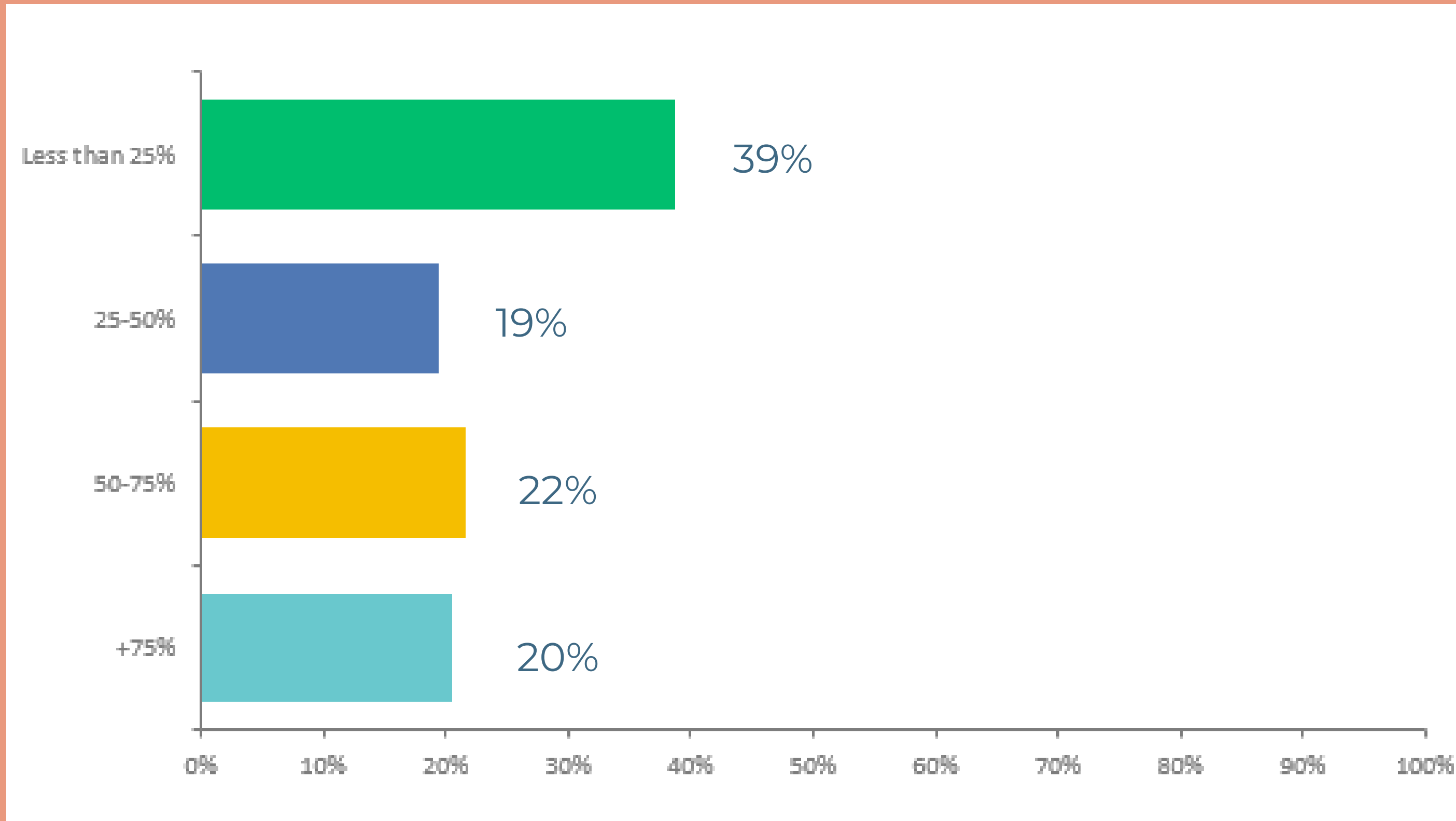
What type of DRG projects were terminated?



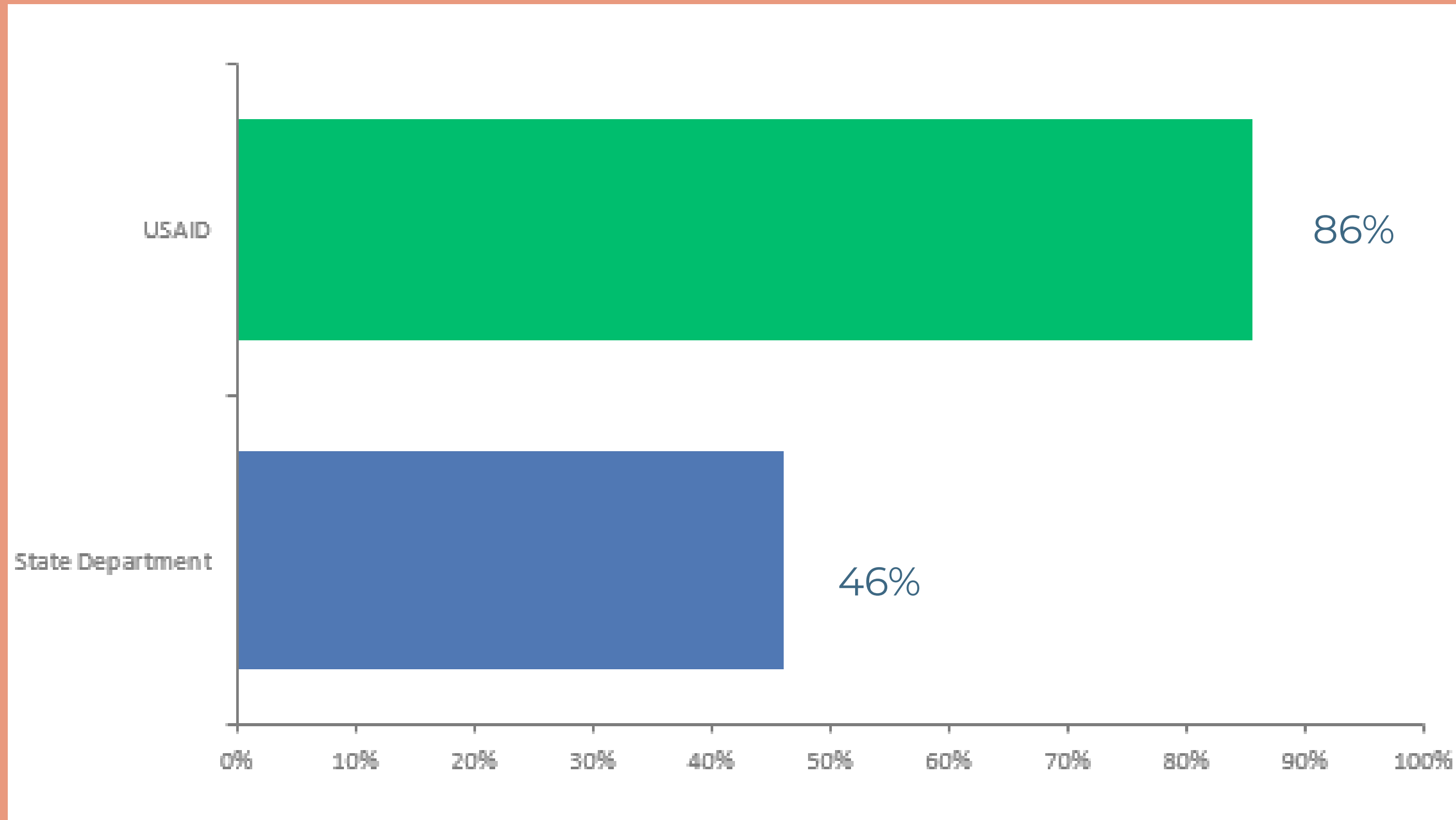
What percentage did this represent of your total number of grants/contracts?



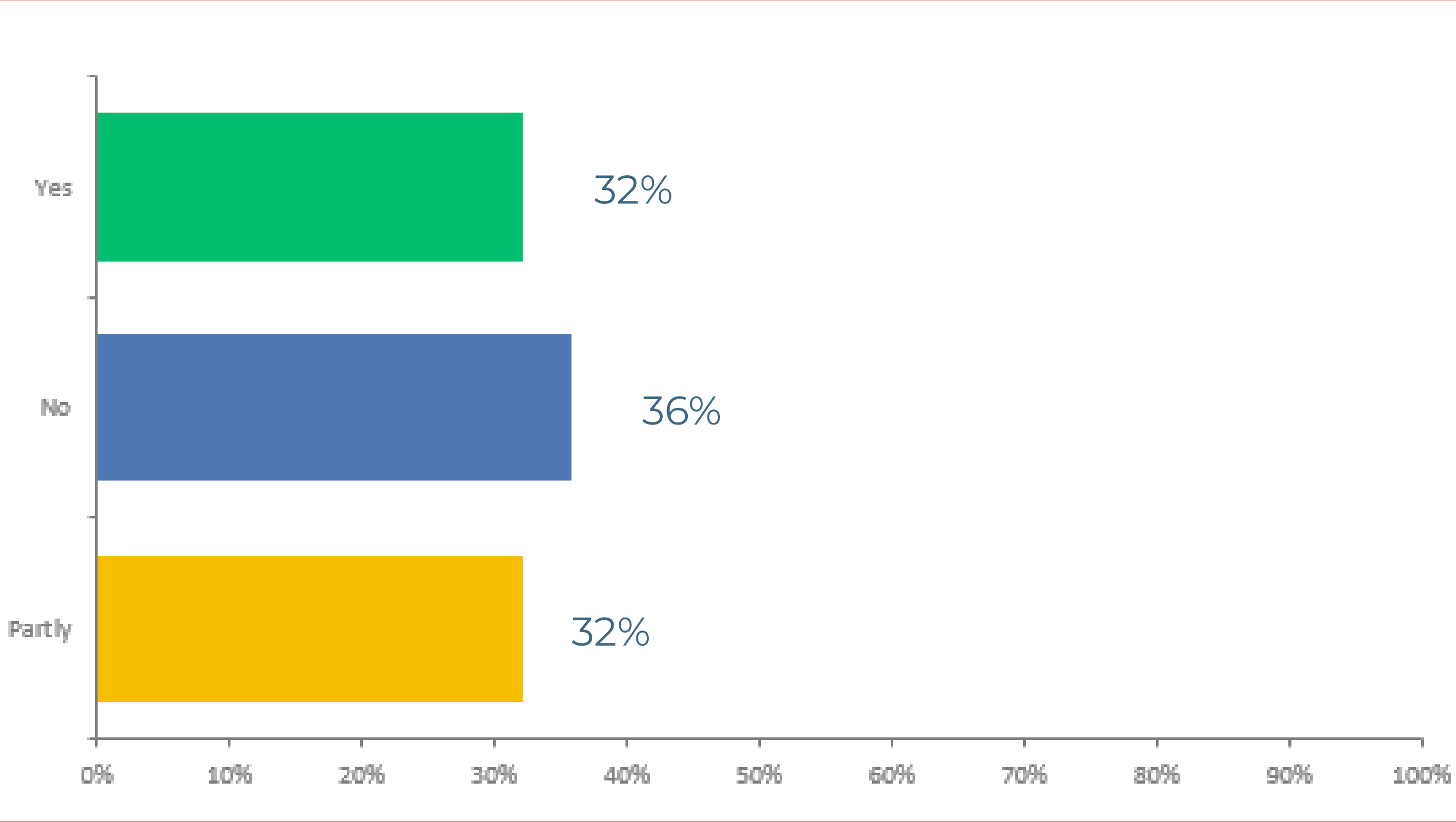
What percentage does this represent of your total budget?



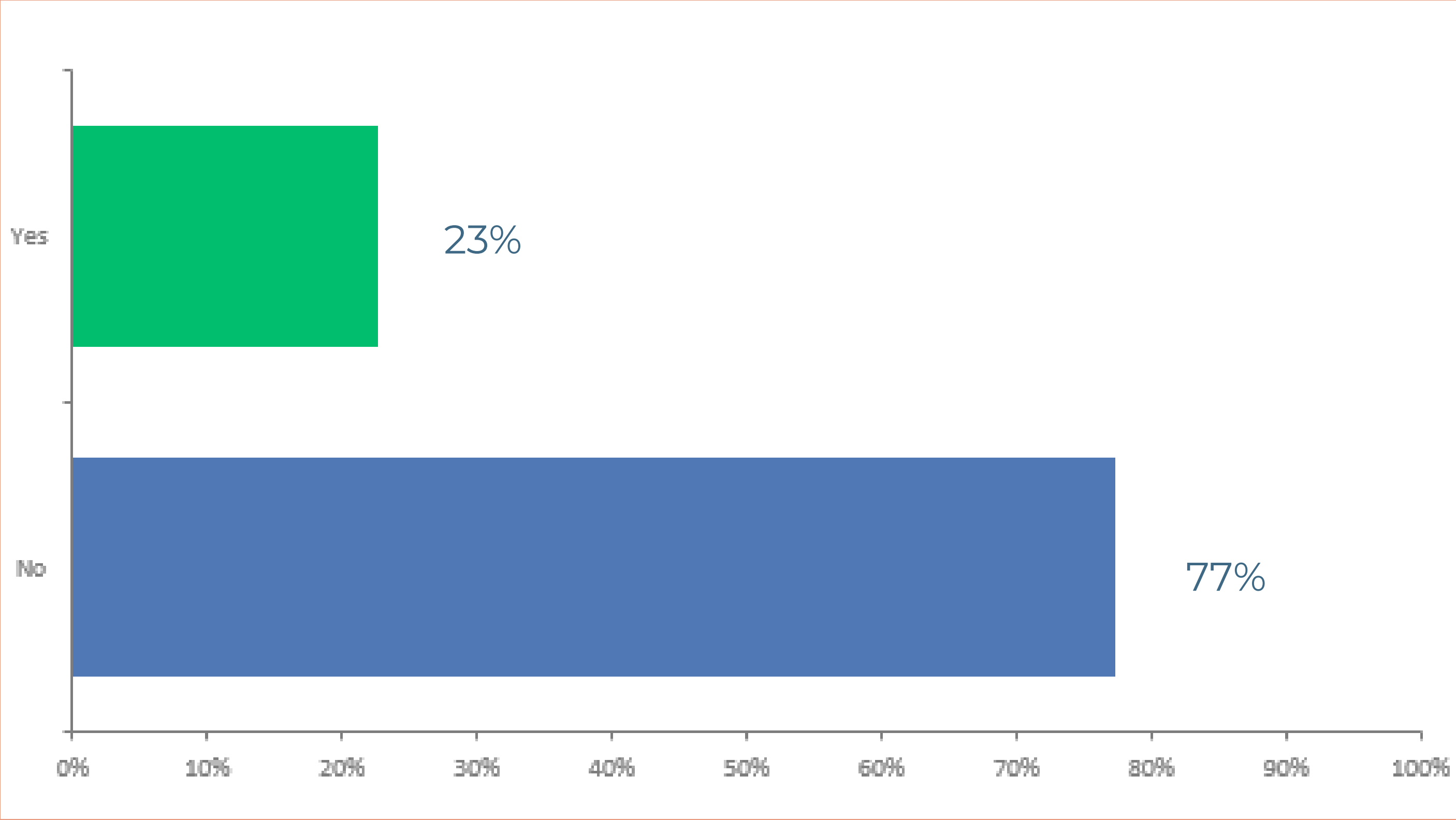
Of the awards cut, indicate the source.



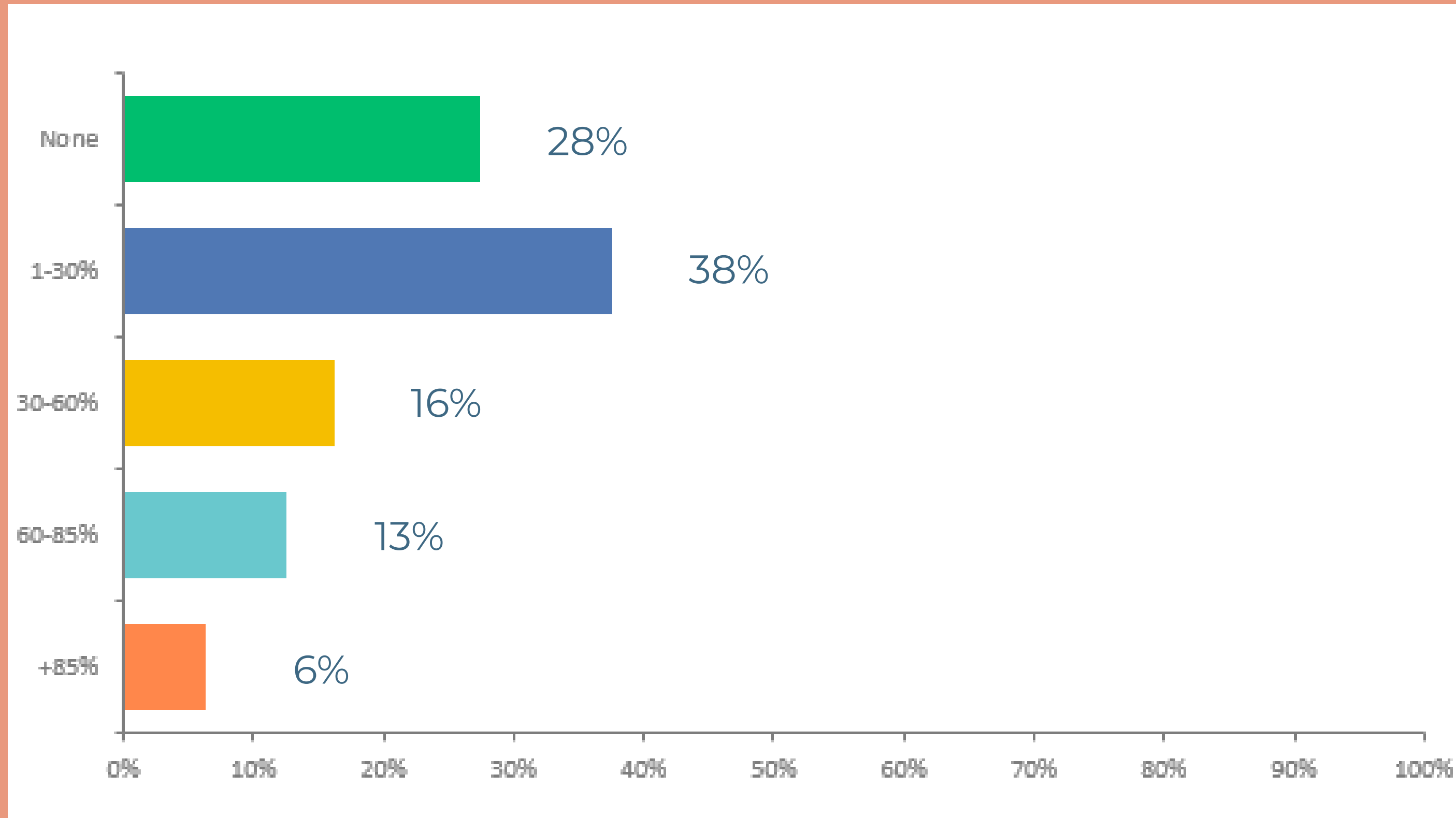
Of the obligated amounts already spent on DRG projects that were subsequently terminated, have you been reimbursed for the costs incurred?



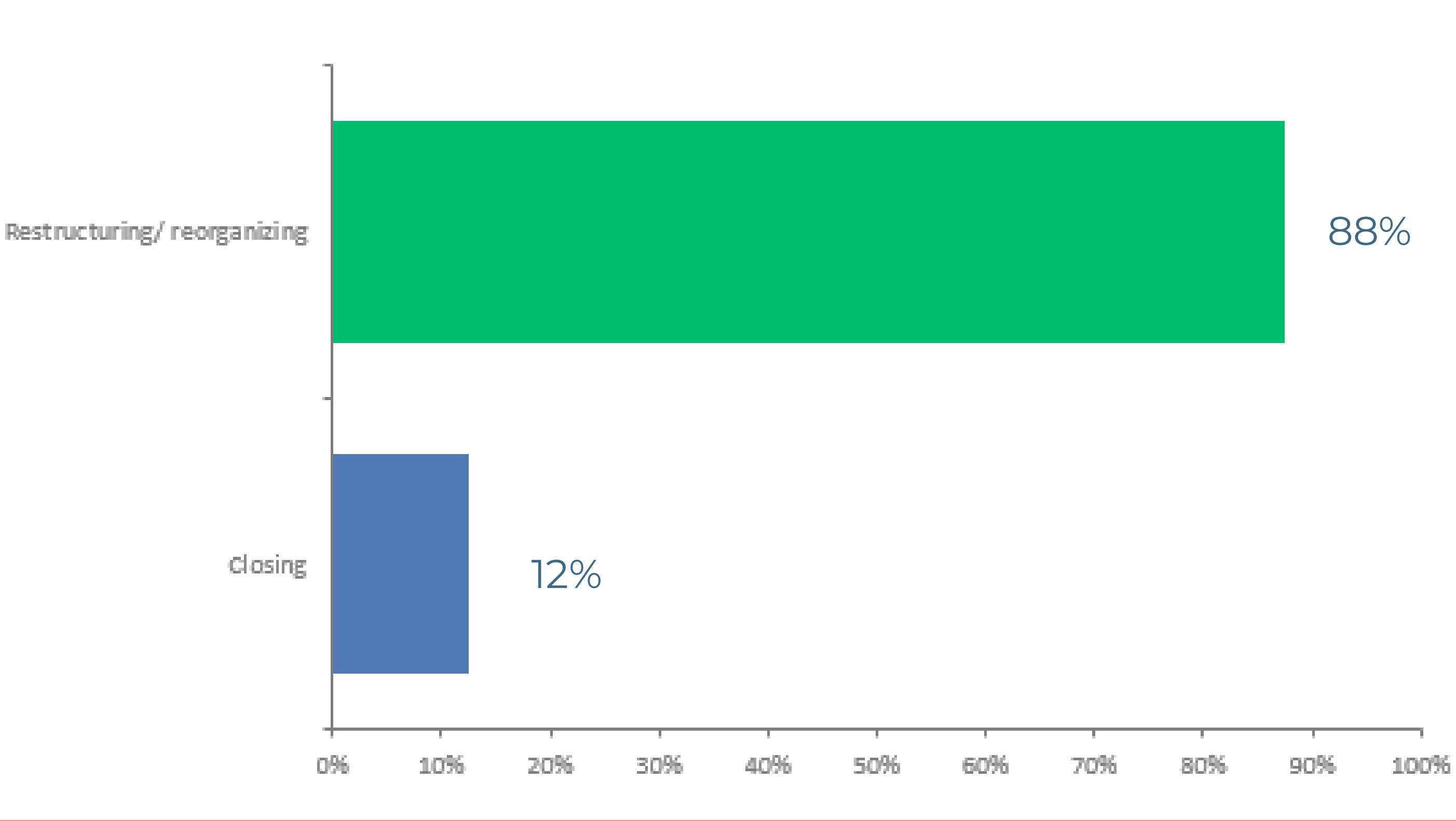
Has your organization experienced cuts from non-US donors on DRG programming since January 2025 as well?



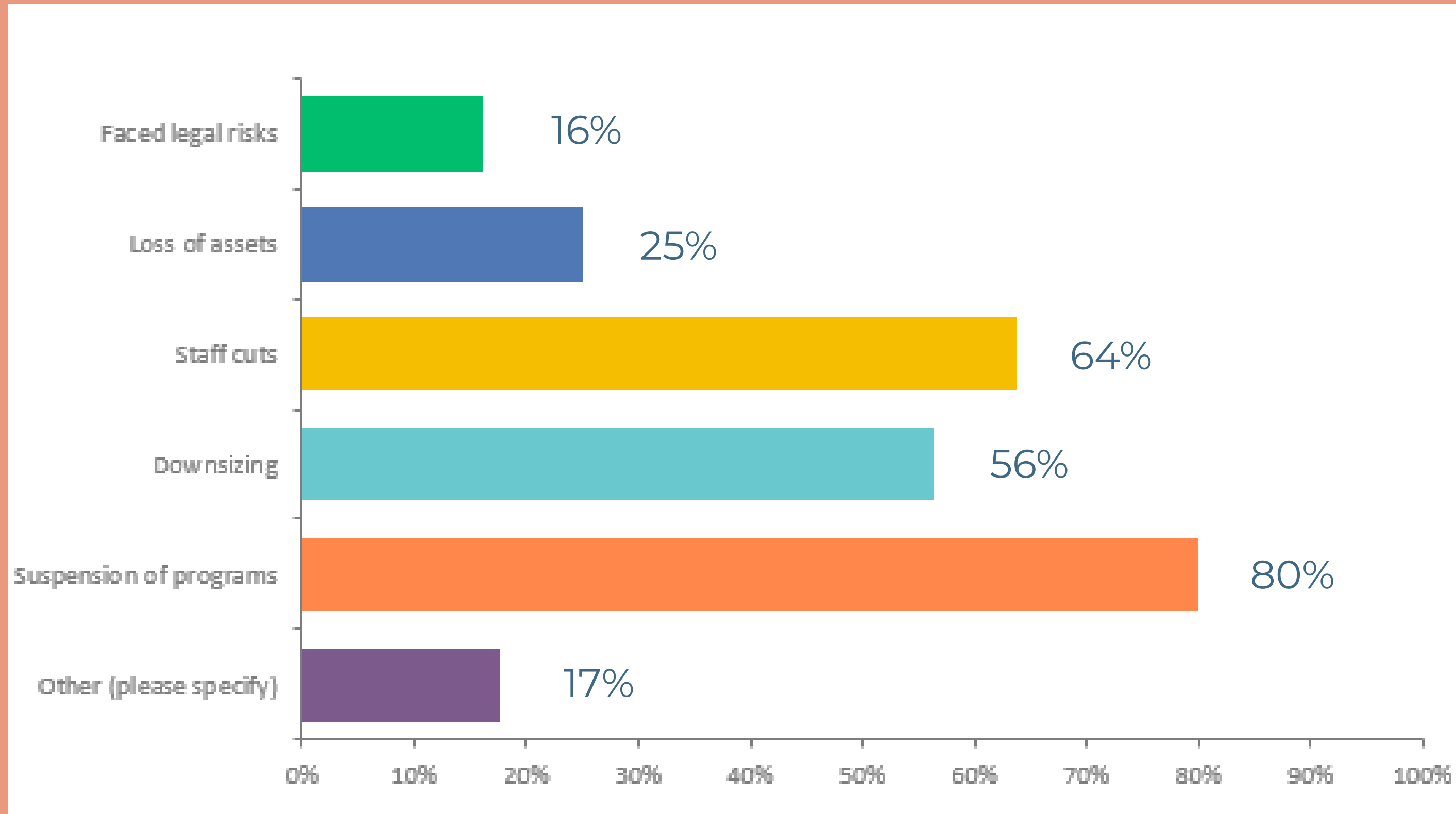
What share of your organization's staff has had to be terminated or furloughed as a result of the reduction in DRG funding?



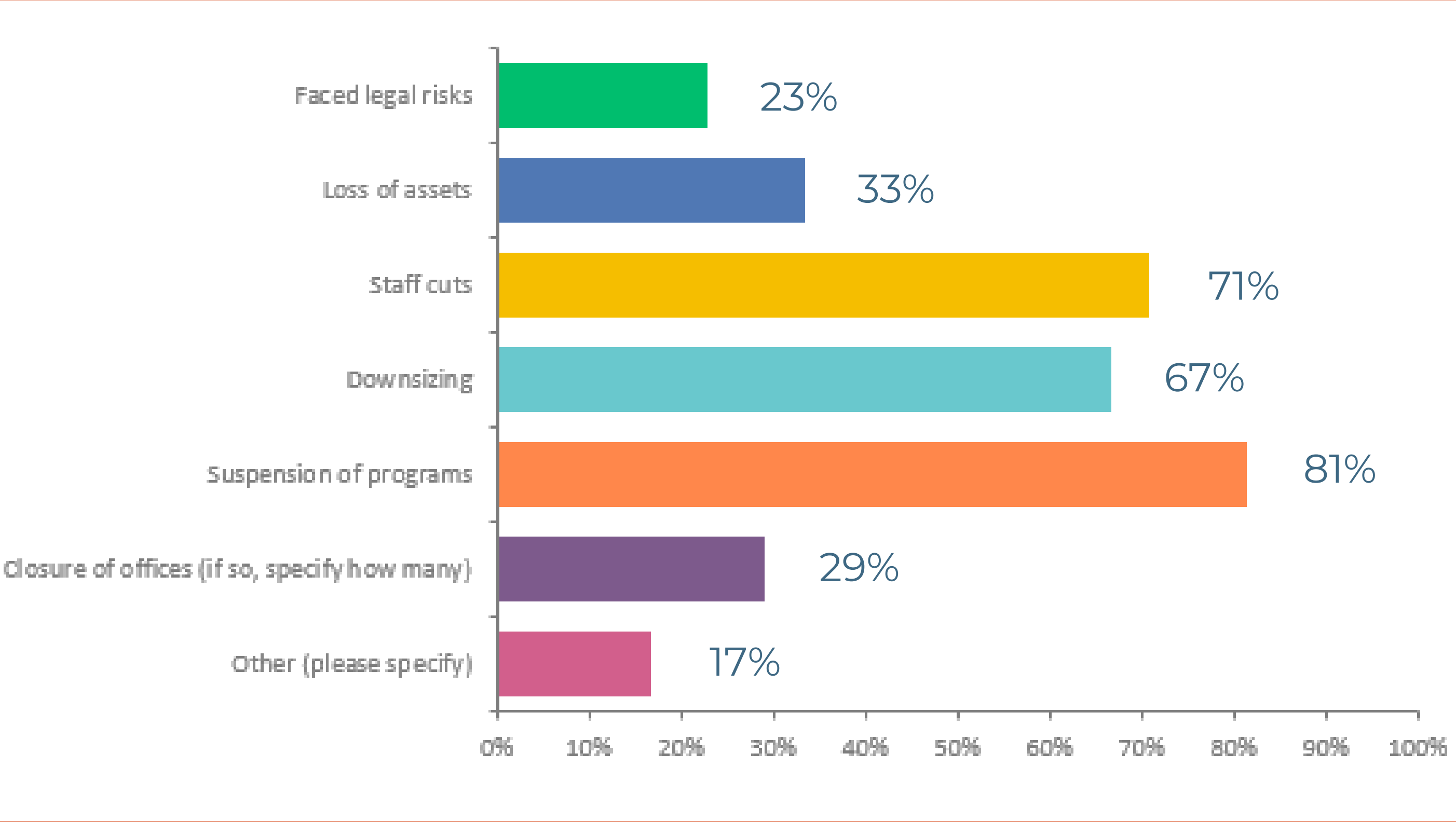
Is your organization at risk of restructuring/reorganizing or closing as a result of the reduction of DRG funding?



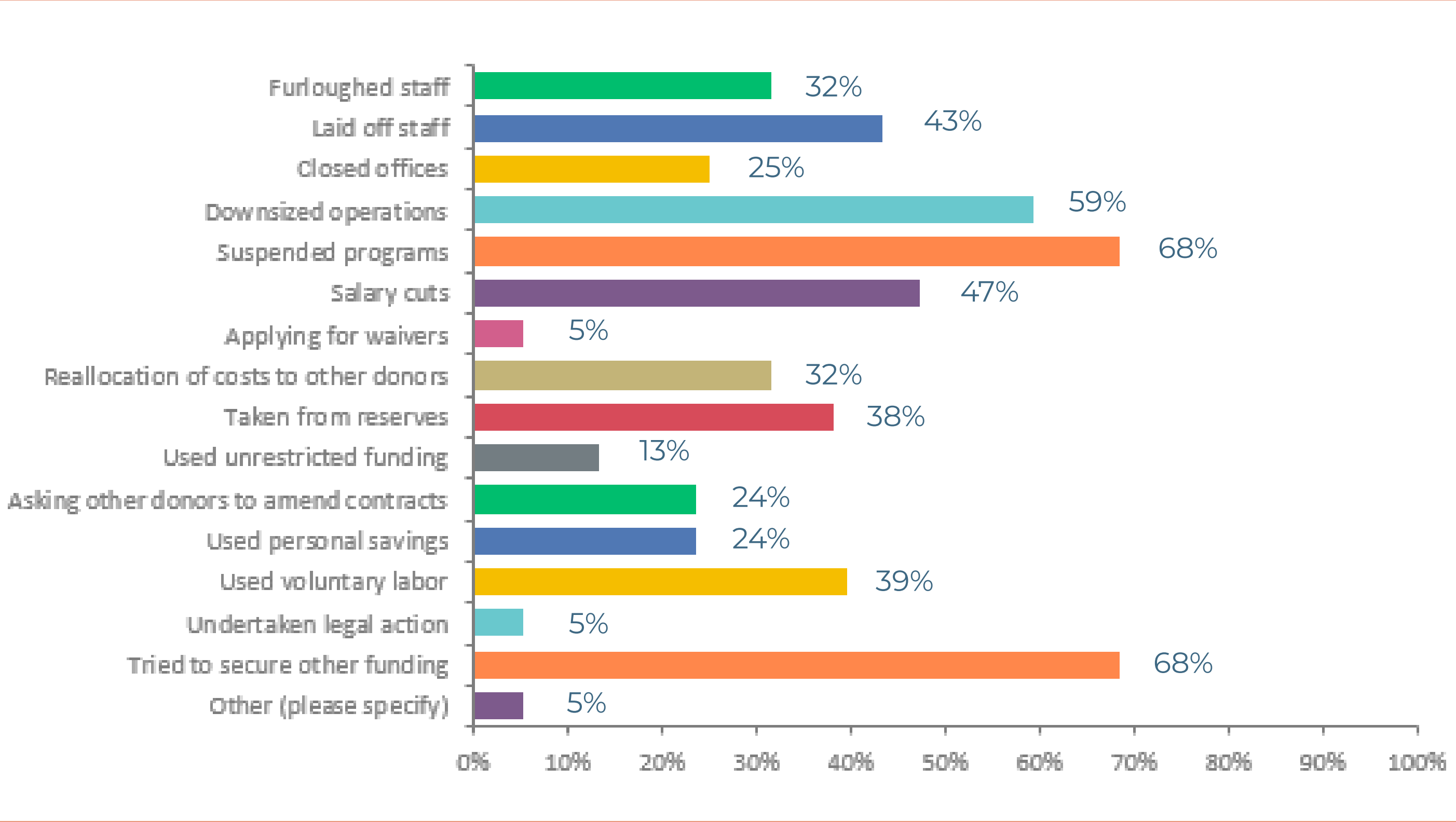
What best describes the impact that the US cuts have had on your organization and on your DRG programming.



What best describes the impact that the reduction in DRG-related foreign assistance has had on your partner's organizations and on their DRG programming.



What strategies and steps has your organization undertaken to address the impact of the reduction in DRG-related foreign assistance?



Have any other institutions or agencies stepped in to fill gaps or support the work affected by the reduction in DRG-related foreign assistance?

