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The US is one of the world's most consistently generous countries, according to leading global index of generosity

The United States is one of the five most generous countries in the world, according to the CAF World Giving Index – the world's leading measure of global generosity.

Today's report, which ranks 146 countries, put the US in 4th place worldwide, up one place from last year, and the most generous country in the region. This is the ninth World Giving Index report, in which the US has been in the top five every year – showing that the generosity of American people is consistent and strong.

Around six in ten (61%) of people reported donating money in the month before they were polled, up from 56% last year. Almost three-quarters (72%) said they had helped a stranger in the past month. The survey also found that 39% of people had volunteered time.

Levels of giving across Africa are continuing to grow, confirming a trend which appeared in last year's Index. While last year's report showed that every western country in the top 20 had a lower giving score, this decline has now largely been reversed.

Indonesia tops the CAF World Giving Index for the first time. While its three individual giving scores are largely unchanged on last year, it has moved into the top spot. Polling was carried out in 2017, and so before the earthquake and tsunami which struck the country in September 2018.

Myanmar, the most generous country on earth for 2017, fell to 9th place in the rankings, owing largely to a fall in the number of people volunteering.

More than half of people in 146 countries (51.1%) said they helped a stranger, up from 49.6% last year.

The index is published just under a month before #GivingTuesday – November 27 – the global day of giving when people are asked to give their time, money or voice to a good cause.

The CAF World Giving Index, the leading comparative study of global generosity, records the number of people who helped a stranger in the past month, volunteered their time (21.1%, up from 20.8% last year) or gave money to a good cause (29.1%, down slightly from 29.6% last year). This year more than 150,000 people in 146 countries were surveyed as part of the Gallup World Poll. As a result, the index highlights statistically significant global shifts in behaviour even when changes may appear to be small.

Findings include:

- This year's Index shows high levels of generosity in Haiti, with the country featuring in the top 20 for the first time.
- Singapore also features in the top 20 for the first time this year, having ranked as low as 64th place just five years ago. There have been increases in volunteering and helping a stranger, which may be as a result of a number of schemes to increase volunteering in the country over recent years.
- Libya was the most generous in terms of helping a stranger, where 83% of people reported having done so.

The Index, now in its ninth year, shows high levels of generosity in some countries experiencing civil war, conflict and unrest, showing how the human urge to help others comes through even in some of the most troubled nations on Earth.

In many countries, men remain more likely than women to have volunteered time (22.6% compared with 19.5%) but the slight global increase in volunteering time has been driven more by women, who increased their participation rate by 0.5 percentage points year on year. There is, however, little difference between men and women when it comes to donating money.

The CAF World Giving Index top 10

Country	CAF World Giving Index Ranking	CAF World Giving Index Score (%)	Helping a stranger score (%)	Donating money score (%)	Volunteering time score (%)
Indonesia	1	59	46	78	53
Australia	2	59	65	71	40
New Zealand	3	58	66	68	40
United States of America	4	58	72	61	39
Ireland	5	56	64	64	40
United Kingdom	6	55	63	68	33
Singapore	7	54	67	58	39
Kenya	8	54	72	46	45
Myanmar	9	54	40	88	34
Bahrain	10	53	74	53	33

Ted Hart, President and CEO of CAF America, said:

“Americans are consistently among the most generous people on earth. This is shown once again as the United States continues to be in the top 5 most generous countries on Earth.

“CAF America remains committed to supporting US philanthropists, Fortune 500 companies, foundations, and individuals in their efforts to make a difference both domestically and around the globe.”

John Low, Chief Executive of the Charities Aid Foundation, an international charity which helps people and companies give worldwide, said:

“It is forever humbling to see how people across the world continue to be moved to help others, giving their time, donating money and helping strangers. It is a basic human instinct

to lend a helping hand, and it is always amazing to see how people in countries which have suffered conflict and natural disasters are stirred to help those in need.

“It is good news that this year’s CAF World Giving Index shows a continued increase in giving across Africa. It is also encouraging that last year’s decline in western countries seems to have been reversed.

“But we should be concerned that for the second year running there has been a decline in the proportion of people donating money to good causes. It is a reminder to all of us in civil society that we should never take giving for granted.”

Notes to editors:

Methodology

The World Giving Index is primarily based upon data from Gallup’s World View World Poll, which is an ongoing research project carried out in more than 146 countries in 2017 that together represent around 95% of the world’s population. The survey asks questions on many different aspects of life today including giving behaviour. The countries surveyed and questions asked in each region varies from year to year and is determined by Gallup. More detail on Gallup’s methodology can be viewed online.

About CAF

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is a leading international charity registered in the United Kingdom, with nine offices covering six continents. We exist to make giving go further, so together we can transform more lives and communities around the world. We are a champion for better giving, and for over 90 years we’ve been helping donors, companies, charities and social organisations make a bigger impact.

www.cafonline.org

About CAF America

CAF America, a U.S. public charity, is committed to fostering a culture of giving by making it easy, reliable and effective for US philanthropists to give both internationally and domestically.

Since 1992 we enable our donors to achieve their philanthropic goals by making strategic, cost-effective and tax-advantaged grants while reducing the risk, reputational exposure, and administrative burden associated with cross-border grantmaking.

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