Assessing the Civil Society Sector's Contribution to Well-being in Relation to Ukraine's GDP

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Satellite account for 2024–2025
CASE Ukraine, commissioned by ISAR Ednannia, 2026

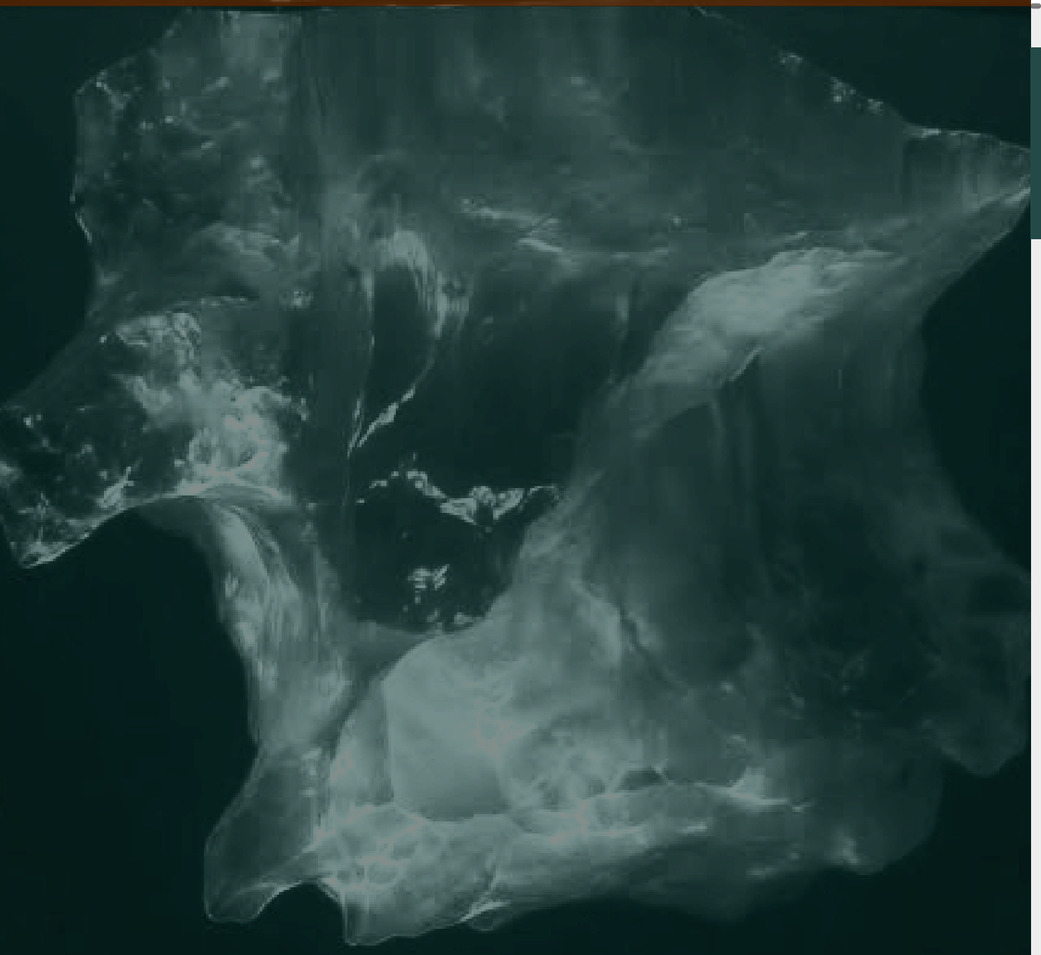


Main result

≈ 0.4% of GDP

civil society in national accounts

The whole NPISH sector is ≈ 1%, but besides civil society it also includes cooperatives, condominium associations, trade unions…



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Gross value added created by civil society equals 3.2–5.2% of GDP, but only ≈ 0.4% is counted in GDP

4–4.5%

most likely ratio to GDP
(author's estimate)

0.7–1.5%
NGOs and charities (many do not file financial reports)

+ 2.5–3.7%
individual volunteers and informal groups, which is more than organizations

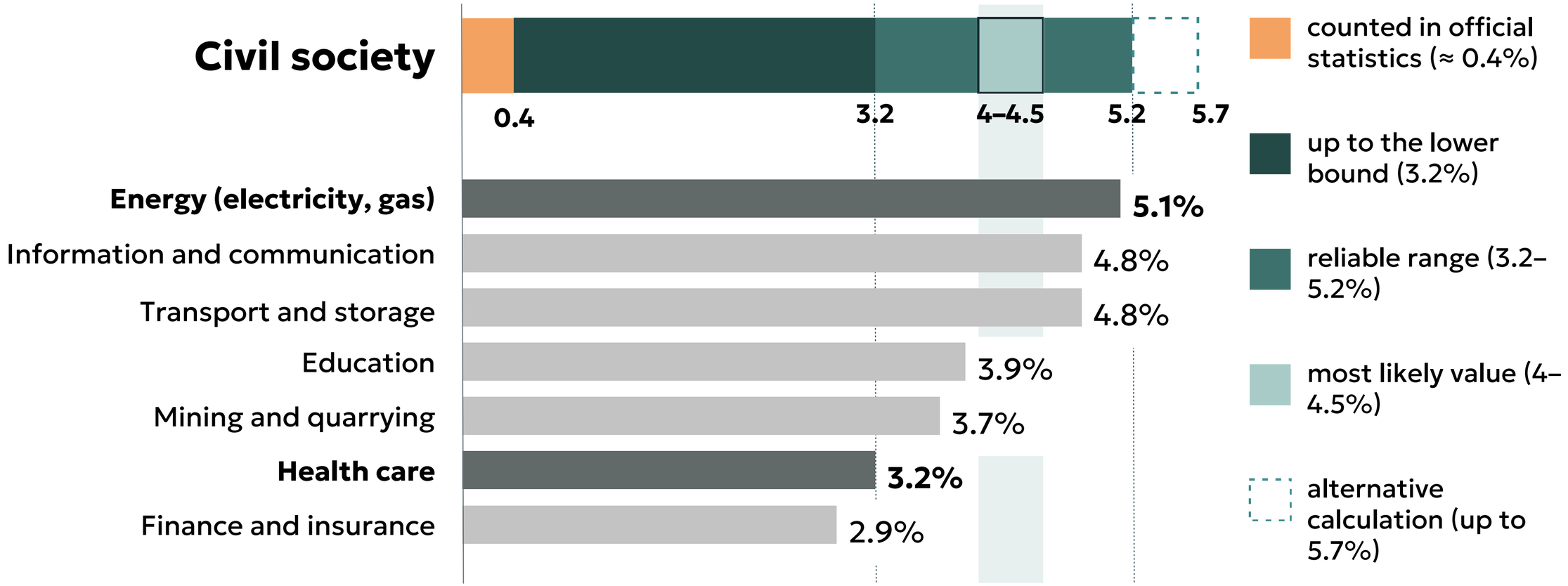
Reliable range:
3.2–5.2%

Full range of estimates:
2.9–5.7%

= 3.2–5.2% ratio to GDP

CASE Ukraine estimates based on Info Sapiens surveys, 2024–2026

Civil society weighs as much as health care, or even energy



Industries: shares of GVA, 2025 (State Statistics Service of Ukraine). Civil society: share of GDP, 2024–25. The comparison is indicative.

Civil society is activity directed outward: at other people and society

Definition: "Activity of individuals or organizations aimed at solving pressing problems of other people or society as a whole, carried out without the purpose of making a profit"

Included

- NGOs (public associations)
- Charitable foundations
- **Individual volunteers and informal groups**

Not included — they serve their own members

- Condominiums, trade unions, cooperatives
- Religious communities (except charities)
- Hobby clubs, business associations and business think tanks
- Charitable foundations of schools and hospitals



Method

Value added: millions of volunteers and tens of thousands of organizations

Individual volunteers: the bulk of the contribution

43.6% of the population volunteered

- ≈ 5 million raised funds, 10.3 million helped hands-on (some did both)
  75–79% of them acted alone or in informal groups
- Regularly, 5+ hours a week: ≈ 3.5 million

NGOs and charities

69,607	match our definition (46,395 NGOs + 23,212 foundations)
58,883	likely active → upper bound
28,731	file financial reports → lower bound

Volunteers: Info Sapiens survey for the NGO “Gender in Detail”, 2025. Organizations: ISAR Ednannia database, CASE Ukraine survey.

Existing data do not cover the sector, so the estimate is based on surveys



Ukrstat: NPISH sector

Not suitable

UAH 64 bn of GVA (2023), but it includes organizations outside our definition (condominiums, unions, parties, religious communities) and excludes volunteers. They cannot be separated.

Monobank “Jars”

A benchmark for one part

≈ UAH 43 bn in donations (2024). They cover only some of the volunteers who raise funds — those using “jars”. And this is turnover, not value added.

Surveys

Basis of the estimate

They give volunteer hours and staff costs. But respondents tend to overstate time spent and their very participation in volunteering.

The result is a satellite account: it covers volunteer labour, the main part of the value added that is missing from official GDP.

State Statistics Service of Ukraine (NPISH, 2023); monobank, Opendatabot; Info Sapiens surveys.

Three Info Sapiens surveys and one principle: value added ≈ cost of labour



For Zagoriy Foundation

Population 18+. Donations and share of volunteers

For the NGO “Gender in Detail”

Population. Who volunteers and for how many hours

For CASE Ukraine (2024 data)

NGOs, foundations and volunteers: 585 questionnaires, 257 usable responses from organizations

Value added (cost method) =

staff pay including taxes
+ services of sole proprietors (FOPs)
+ volunteer hours × average hourly wage

- ≈ UAH 100/hour (2024), UAH 119/hour (2025), per Pension Fund and Tax Service data
- The sector has no profit or taxes on products

Respondents tend to overstate their contribution, so as a minimum estimate we also count regular volunteers separately

Independent volunteers create 2.5–3.7% of GDP

How we calculated

4.5 hours

a week of volunteering per person (on average)

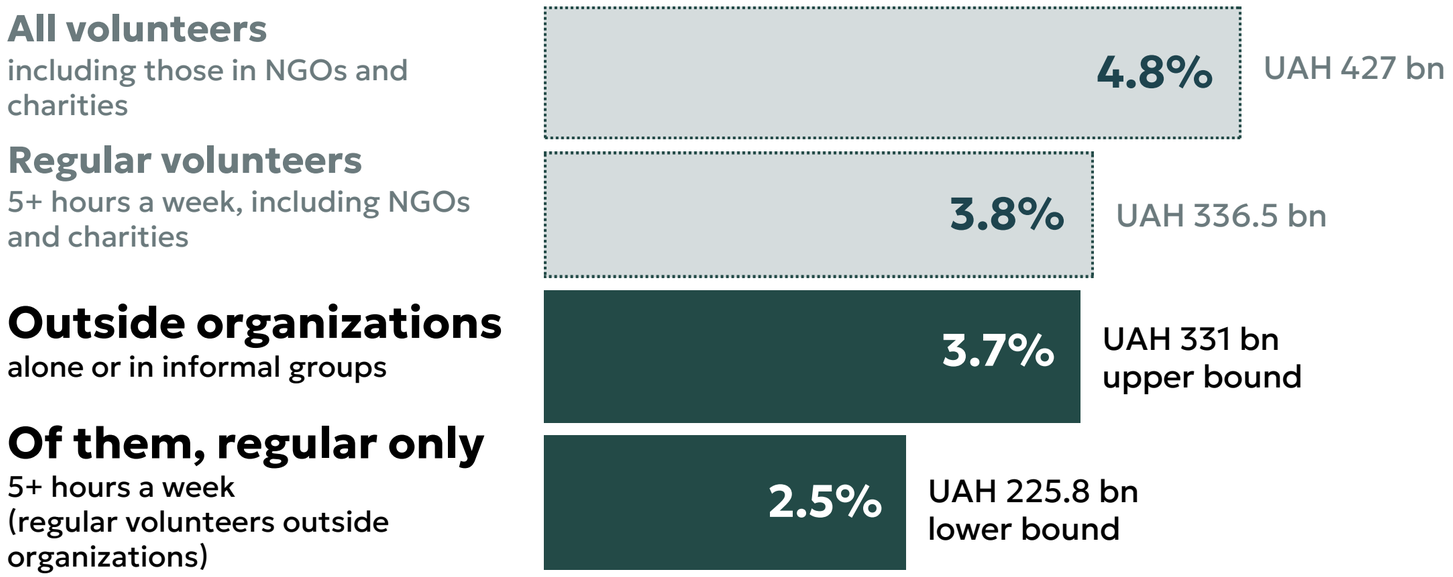
× UAH 119

the cost of an hour of work: the average wage in Ukraine in 2025

= UAH 27,800

per volunteer per year, then multiplied by the number of volunteers →

The share of GDP depends on whom we count



Only the dark bars go into the total: 2.5–3.7% of GDP

The grey bars include volunteers of NGOs and charities. Their work is already counted in the organizations' contribution (next slide), so we do not count it twice.

Data: Info Sapiens survey for the NGO “Gender in Detail”, 2025; GDP and average wage (Pension Fund and Tax Service), 2025.

NGOs and charities add another 0.7–1.5% of GDP

One organization per year (2024): paid labour + its own volunteers

NGO
UAH 2.07 m
per year, on average



Charitable foundation
UAH 1.88 m
per year, on average



× number of organizations = two bounds of the estimate

Upper bound
58,883: all NGOs and charities except inactive ones

1.5% of GDP
UAH 118 bn

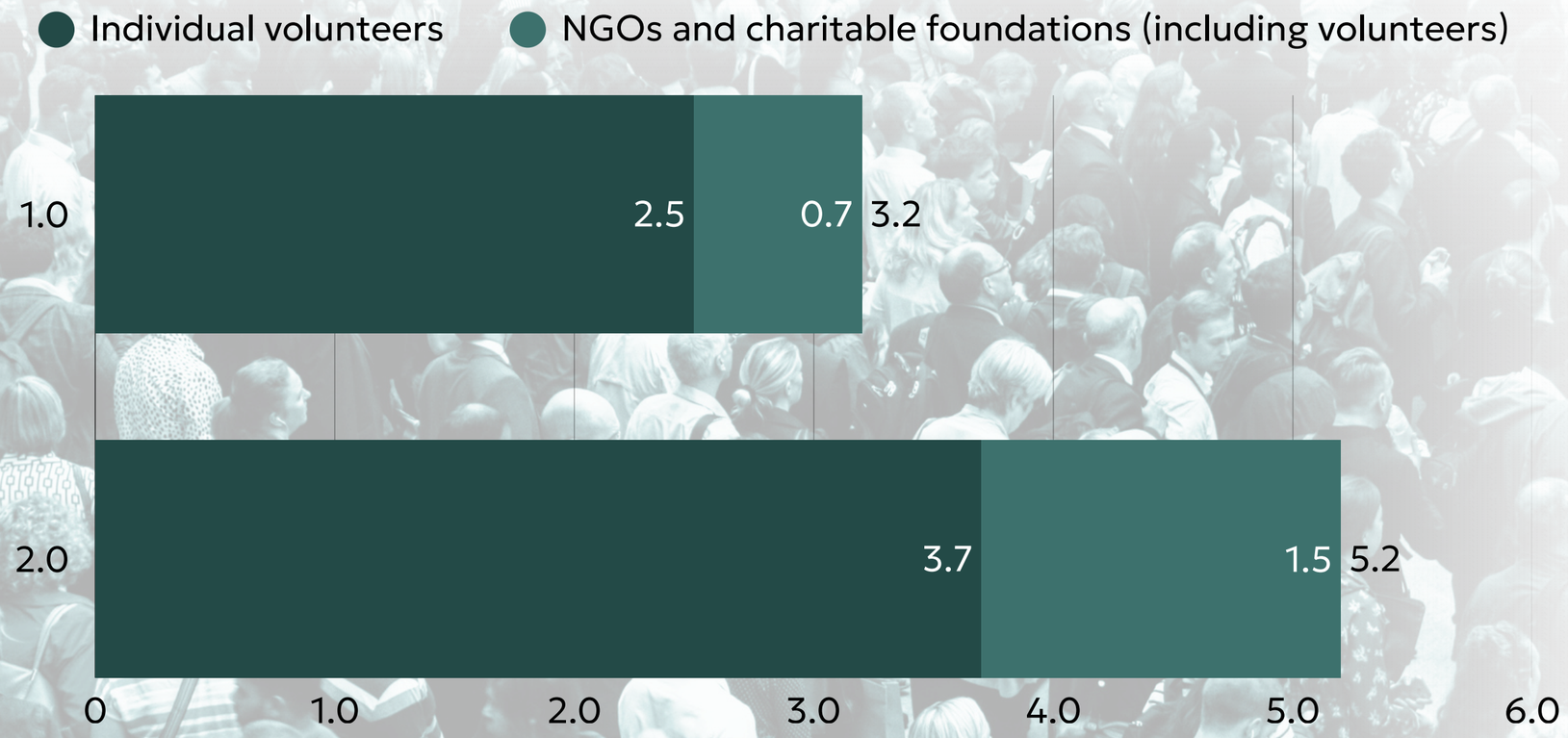
Lower bound
28,731: only those that file financial reports

0.7% of GDP
UAH 57.2 bn

Value added = salaries with taxes + services of sole proprietors + volunteer hours × ~UAH 100/hour. Data: Info Sapiens survey for CASE Ukraine, 2026 (2024 data). Three records with atypically large volumes were excluded, so the estimate is understated. The contribution of the largest NGOs and charities should be estimated separately

Total: 3.2% to 5.2% of GDP, most likely 4–4.5%

Share of GDP, %



3.2%

lower bound: 2.5 + 0.7

5.2%

upper bound: 3.7 + 1.5

4–4.5%

of GDP: the most likely value (author's estimate)

Volunteers: survey for the NGO “Gender in Detail”, 2025. Organizations: CASE Ukraine survey, 2026 (2024 data).

An alternative calculation gives 5.2–5.7% of GDP



A different scheme: in organizations we count only paid labour, and volunteer labour for all volunteers together (4.8% of GDP)

≈ 0.4% — paid labour of organizations that file reports: counted in the national accounts

2.9% — counting only regular volunteers and only organizations that file reports (a deliberately conservative estimate)

Volunteers: survey for the NGO “Gender in Detail”, 2025. Organizations: CASE Ukraine survey, 2026 (2024 data).

Conclusions



Significant scale

3.2–5.2% of GDP, likely 4–4.5%: on a scale from healthcare to energy



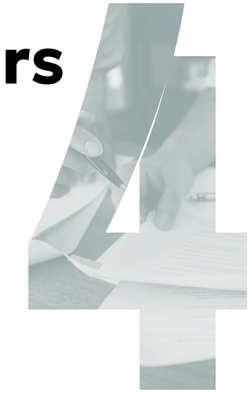
Almost invisible

Official statistics account for only ≈ 0.4%. The rest is volunteer labour and organizations that do not file reports



Driven by volunteers

Individual volunteers (2.5–3.7% of GDP) contribute far more than organizations (0.7–1.5%)



A conservative estimate

The largest foundations were not assessed separately; surveying them may revise the result upward



Limitations of the estimate and next steps

- **Self-reported time:** may be overstated, so regular volunteers were also counted separately
- **Number of active organizations:** not known exactly, hence two bounds
- **Unusually large records excluded:** so the result is likely understated
- **2024 and 2025 data:** reconciled via shares of GDP

What to do next

Survey the largest organizations (top 10) separately

Clarify the share of inactive organizations



How to make the civil society sector's contribution visible in statistics and policy

1

A regular satellite account

Measure the sector's contribution regularly using one methodology, ideally jointly with Ukrstat.

2

Volunteering in official surveys

Add a volunteer-work module to household surveys to get stable data on volunteer numbers and time.

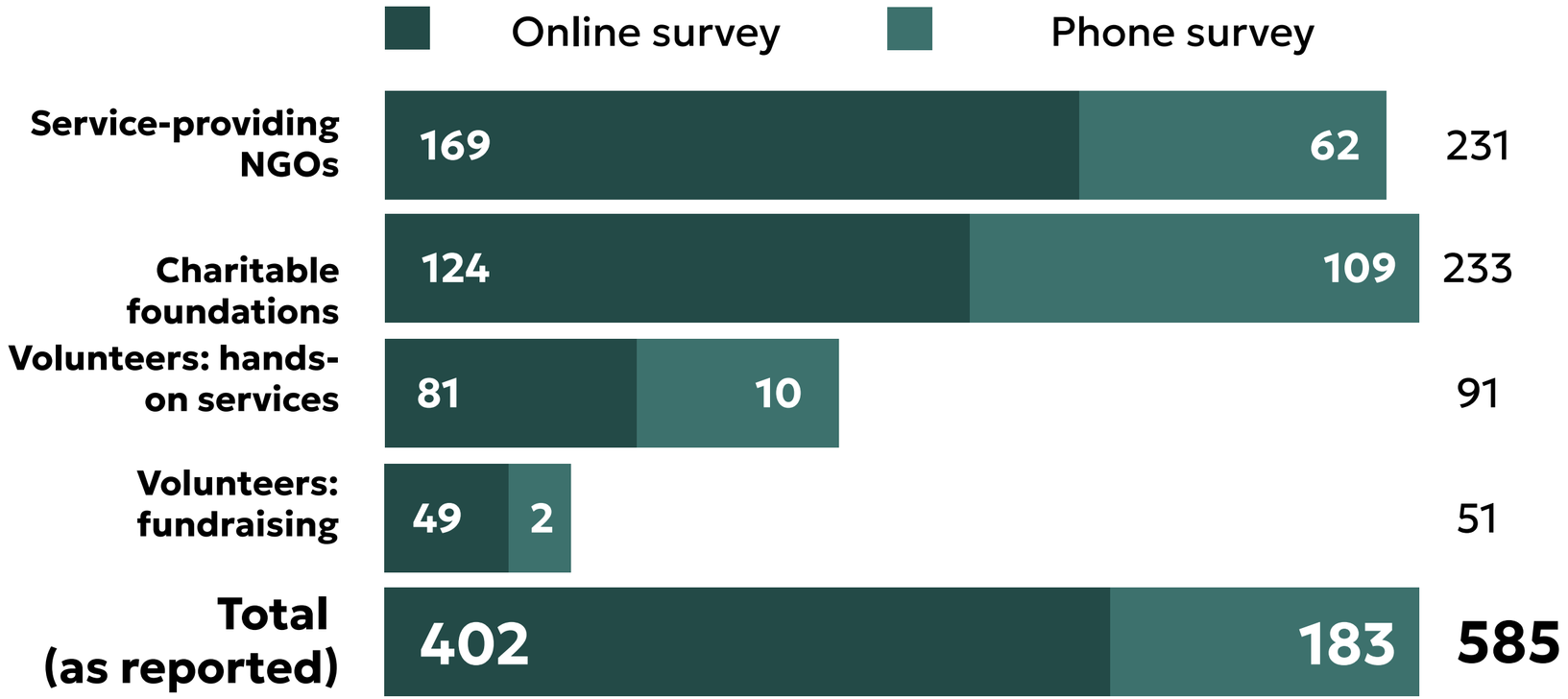
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The sector in policy-making

Reflect it in recovery policy and in the next National Strategy for Promoting Civil Society Development.

Appendix

CASE Ukraine survey: January–July 2026, data for 2024



Respondents were heads or chief accountants: only they know the financial figures

The online questionnaire was distributed by ISAR Ednannia

Volunteers' answers are not representative, so volunteers were estimated from population surveys

Thank you!

Research: CASE Ukraine
commissioned by ISAR Ednannia

We thank Info Sapiens, Zagoriy Foundation, the NGO “Gender in Detail” and ISAR Ednannia for their data and support

