



Southern voices on Dutch development cooperation

A comparison of the results from the VoiceOver 2015 questionnaire and the Dutch Barometer on development cooperation

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Edition

NCDO, May 2010

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1. Introduction

NCDO conducts an annual survey to obtain an insight into public support for development cooperation in the Netherlands (since 2006): the Barometer on international cooperation. This survey is conducted among a representative sample (N=1546) of the Dutch population. The most recent survey took place in June 2009. The full report of the Dutch Barometer is published on www.ncdo.nl/onderzoek (in Dutch: 'Barometer Internationale Samenwerking').

VoiceOver 2015 is a network of people from developing countries whose members contribute to the Dutch debate with their opinions on international cooperation. Their website, www.voiceover2015.nl, shares information on the reality of living in a developing country. NCDO decided to formulate a VoiceOver 2015 questionnaire on development cooperation so that the opinions of the network's members could be incorporated in development issues and policies as formulated in the Netherlands. Since the questions asked in this questionnaire are the same as those in the Dutch Barometer the two questionnaires are comparable. The questionnaire was distributed to 475 VoiceOver members in December 2009, and was also distributed on the Internet to the target audience: people from developing countries.

303 respondents began to fill in the questionnaire¹ and 249 respondents ultimately answered all the questions in the questionnaire. 228 of these respondents indicated that they were member of VoiceOver 2015, equivalent to 92% of the total number of respondents that answered all questions in the questionnaire. Since almost all of the respondents were VoiceOver members and the remainder were potential members of VoiceOver this report refers to the respondents as VoiceOver members.

Most respondents answered all the questions in the questionnaire (N=249). However, this report also includes the answers from the respondents who completed only part of the questionnaire and did not reply to all questions. It is not known why these respondents did not complete the questionnaire (this could be due to a faulty Internet connection). Since it would be undesirable to discard the valuable contributions made by these respondents the results and tables for each question includes the answers from the total number of respondents (N) that answered the relevant question. Annex 1 contains more background information about the respondents.

Since the Dutch Barometer and VoiceOver questionnaires asked exactly the same questions the results from the two surveys are readily comparable. However, the reliability of the two questionnaires differs greatly. In contrast to the Dutch questionnaire, which was completed by a representative sample of the population, the VoiceOver questionnaire was completed by a far from representative sample of people living in developing countries. This is due to two reasons. Firstly, only a very small sample of the population actually living in developing countries gave their opinion. Secondly, VoiceOver members are by definition actively engaged in development cooperation. For these reasons this report does not examine statistically significant differences between the questionnaires but rather the prima facie differences. Consequently, the results from the comparisons made in this report should be read and interpreted as solely indicative.

¹ 313 respondents began to fill in the questionnaire. However, it transpired that 10 respondents were not members of the target group (nationals of developing countries).

This report combines the results from the Dutch Barometer and its ‘southern’ counterpart. The report emphasises the most striking similarities and differences to provide an insight into the differences between the views on development issues held by VoiceOver respondents and Dutch respondents. Sections 2 to 12 discuss the various themes that were put before respondents (the full questionnaire is enclosed in Annex 2). Section 13 completes the report with a concluding summary.

2. Development cooperation *does* make a difference

An absolute majority of respondents from the Netherlands and the developing countries are of the opinion that it is important or very important that people in rich countries help people in poor countries to develop themselves (see Table 1). The most striking difference between the two groups of respondents is that VoiceOver respondents are more frequently of the opinion that this help is very important (up to 58% of VoiceOver respondents in comparison with 18% of Dutch respondents).

Table 1 In your opinion, how important is it that people in rich countries help people in poor countries to develop themselves?²

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N= 298		Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546	
	(Totally) unimportant	Totally unimportant 7% Unimportant 1%	8%	Totally unimportant 4% Unimportant 3%
Neither important nor unimportant	4%		23%	
(Very) important	Important 29% Very important 58%	87%	Important 50% Very important 18 %	68%
Don't know / no opinion	0%		3%	

3. Southern voices versus Dutch voices

The respondents were asked to give their opinion on some propositions on development cooperation. The following six propositions were put to the Dutch respondents and the VoiceOver respondents:

- The Netherlands must not allocate any funds to development cooperation while there are still people living in poverty in the Netherlands
- The problems in developing countries are so severe that countries such as the Netherlands have to step in and do something
- The problem of poverty cannot be solved
- Getting rid of poverty in developing countries is also in the self-interest of the richer countries
- Developing countries should solve their problems on their own

² Percentages are rounded off to the nearest integer: 0.5 is rounded off to 1.

- The poor countries are in part poor because of the richer countries' policies and actions

The following two propositions were put solely to the VoiceOver respondents:

- Development cooperation results in the poor countries' aid addiction
- Development aid keeps corrupt leaders in power

The following proposition was put solely to the respondents for the Dutch Barometer:

- It is worthwhile to donate money to development cooperation

The following tables present the opinions of the two groups of respondents on these propositions together, where appropriate, with a comparison of the opinions and/or an indication of any similarities.

Table 2 The Netherlands must not allocate any funds to development cooperation while there are still people living in poverty in the Netherlands

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=251	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Disagree (entirely)	75%	44%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%	29%
Agree (entirely)	7%	23%
Don't know	1%	5%

VoiceOver respondents more frequently disagree with this proposition than the Dutch respondents.

Table 3 The problems in developing countries are so severe that countries such as the Netherlands have to step in and do something

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=249	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Disagree (entirely)	14%	9%
Neither agree nor disagree	9%	22%
Agree (entirely)	76%	64%
Don't know	1%	5%

The opinions of the two groups of respondents exhibit a remarkable degree of agreement. The majority of both VoiceOver respondents and Dutch respondents are of the opinion that the richer countries need to take action to help solve the problems in developing countries.

Table 4 The problem of poverty cannot be solved

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=249	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Disagree (entirely)	80%	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	8%	33%
Agree (entirely)	11%	34%
Don't know	0%	6%

Opinions on this proposition differ greatly between VoiceOver respondents and Dutch respondents. The Dutch respondents are divided on this issue: equal numbers believe that it is possible and impossible to solve the problem of poverty. VoiceOver respondents are generally

of the opinion that poverty can be solved (80%): just 11% state that the problem will never be eradicated.

Table 5 Getting rid of poverty in developing countries is also in the self-interest of the richer countries

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=249	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Disagree (entirely)	13%	10%
Neither agree nor disagree	11%	21%
Agree (entirely)	74%	63%
Don't know	2%	7%

Both Dutch respondents and VoiceOver respondents are in general agreement with this proposition: both regard eradicating poverty in poorer countries as being in the richer countries' interest.

Table 6 Developing countries should solve their problems on their own

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=249	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Disagree (entirely)	65%	62%
Neither agree nor disagree	22%	24%
Agree (entirely)	13%	10%
Don't know	1%	5%

Once again, both groups of respondents are in general agreement with this proposition. The majority of both groups state that developing countries should not have to cope with their problems on their own.

Table 7 The poor countries are in part poor because of the richer countries' policies and actions

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=248	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Disagree (entirely)	15%	17%
Neither agree nor disagree	23%	26%
Agree (entirely)	60%	50%
Don't know	2%	7%

Here again, both Dutch respondents and VoiceOver respondents would appear to be unanimous: about half of each group agrees with the proposition that development problems are in part caused by the richer countries' actions and policies and roughly similar proportions disagree (between 15% - 17%)

Table 8 Development cooperation results in the poor countries' aid addiction

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=246
Disagree (entirely)	31%
Neither agree nor disagree	29%
Agree (entirely)	38%
Don't know	3%

This proposition was put solely to VoiceOver respondents. It is interesting to observe that these respondents are divided on the issue of aid addiction. More than one-third agrees with the proposition that development cooperation leads to aid addiction in the receiving countries and a further almost one-third disagrees.

Table 9 Development aid keeps corrupt leaders in power (N=246)

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=246
Disagree (entirely)	37%
Neither agree nor disagree	26%
Agree (entirely)	25%
Don't know	2%

This proposition was also put solely to the VoiceOver respondents. One-fourth of the VoiceOver respondents agree with the proposition that aid keeps corrupt leaders in power and more than one-third disagrees.

Table 10 It is worthwhile to donate money to development cooperation

	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Disagree (entirely)	19%
Neither agree nor disagree	35%
Agree (entirely)	42%
Don't know	5%

More than one-third of the Dutch respondents agree with the proposition that it is worthwhile to donate money to development cooperation while a further one-third is not fully convinced.

Conclusion: southern voices versus Dutch voices

The general impression obtained from the answers to the propositions is as follows: VoiceOver respondents and the Dutch respondents are both of the opinion that the problems in developing countries are of a severity such that (richer) countries like the Netherlands must step in and do something. VoiceOver respondents also find this important when the rich countries have people living in poverty, while Dutch respondents tend to attach less importance to development cooperation when there is also poverty at home. Nevertheless, over one-third of the Dutch respondents regard donations to development cooperation as worthwhile.

Both groups of respondents agree that developing countries cannot solve their problems on their own. Both groups also appear to agree with the proposition that the poverty of the poor countries is in part due to the richer countries' policies and actions.

Although both groups of respondents regard eradicating poverty in poorer countries as being in the richer countries' interest, they differ in their opinions on the extent to which the problem of poverty can be solved. In contrast to the Dutch respondents, who are divided on this issue, the majority of VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that poverty can be solved. VoiceOver respondents are also divided on the issues of aid addiction and corruption. More than one-third is of the opinion that development cooperation leads to 'aid addiction' and

(only) one-fourth is of the opinion that development cooperation enables corrupt leaders to stay in power.

4. General opinion on development aid

The VoiceOver respondents were asked to give their opinion on development cooperation in general. Since this question was not put to the Dutch respondents a comparison cannot be made between the answers from the two groups of respondents.

The vast majority of VoiceOver respondents are in favour of development cooperation in general: 85% are in favour, 7% are not in favour and 7% do not have an opinion. (N=243). The reasons respondents gave for being in favour included: *'Simply because developing countries need it and it helps improve the standard of living of people in developing countries'*, *'It assists the effort of poor countries to deal with their poverty problems.'* or *'It makes a difference, but we need to be patient as the process of change is very slow'.*

Many VoiceOver respondents state that they are in favour of development cooperation provided that development money is spent well. However, many are of the opinion that this is not currently always the case. This is illustrated by a few quotes: *'It helps raise living conditions and improve livelihoods. However, it should be structured in a way that creates sustainability. This is not the case at present. 'When properly structured and accounted for then it can eradicate dependency and create sustainable development in Africa.' It does help in some cases, but not in all. It should be continued, but with a view to eventual self sufficiency 'It can really make a contribution to developing countries, but only when the funds are invested directly in the receiving country and the people living in the country benefit – and then only when the funds are used for infrastructure, education and health.'*

The reasons why respondents are not in favour of development cooperation can be classified into two general categories:

1. Aid addiction and corruption. For example: *'The current aid system results in aid addiction and corruption in high places.'*, *'It creates more corrupt people and the so-called helpers go there for their own interest rather than to provide help.'* and *'Unless and until the corrupt leadership is replaced by honest leadership nothing can be changed.'* or *'Unless corruption is totally eradicated in developing countries no amount of cooperation will be able to alleviate poverty or enable the countries to develop into economic, socially self-sustained states.'*
2. Non-effectiveness of funds and efforts. As one respondent states: *'Most of the funds are not used for their intended purpose'.* And another states: *'There has been more than 30 years of Development cooperation but there has not been a lot of change in Africa.'* and *'No results have been achieved in the last decades.'*

5. Problems in developing countries

Just over 50% of the VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that the greatest problem confronting the developing countries is the lack of good policy and public administration. A further 20% state that the greatest problem is the economic conditions in these countries.

The respondents who answered this question with the 'other' option frequently cite issues related to lack of good policy or good public administration. A selection of the quotes includes: 'Weak enforcement of policies and laws and poor leadership in developing countries', and 'Poor enforcement of existing policies and poor local leadership'. In addition, they often state a combination of the problems listed in Table 11.

Table 11 A number of issues that are or can be a problem in developing countries are listed below. What, in your opinion, is the biggest problem confronting the developing countries?(Choose one option).

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N= 295	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Lack of good policy or good public administration	51%	30%
Economic conditions	20%	8%
Social inequality	8%	11%
Other, namely	7%	2%
Conflicts, disasters and emergencies	6%	13%
Lack of basic facilities and natural resources	5%	27%
Unbalanced composition of the population	2%	3%
None of the above	-	1%
Don't know / no opinion	-	6%

Dutch respondents state two other main problems, namely: 'a lack of good policy or good public administration' and a 'lack of basic facilities and natural resources' as the problems of greatest urgency.

The analysis of the problems made by the Dutch respondents and VoiceOver respondents would appear to differ greatly. Just 5% of VoiceOver respondents regard the lack of basic facilities as the main problem, while about 27% of the Dutch respondents perceive this as the main problem. Although 71% of VoiceOver respondents regard the economic conditions in combination with the lack of policy and public administration as the primary issue, this opinion is shared by just 38% of the Dutch respondents.

6. Solutions

The respondents were asked to give their opinion on the extent to which the following solutions make a real contribution to the development of a country. The results are listed in Table 12, ranked according to the relevance VoiceOver respondents attach to each solution.

Table 12 To what extent, in your opinion, do the following solutions actually contribute to the development of a country?

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N= 275 – 285		Percentage Dutch respondents N= 1546	
	Not at all/ Very little	A lot/ A great deal	Not at all/ Very little	A lot/ A great deal
Financing projects focused on society building ³	5%	78%	12 %	49%
Creating Dutch public awareness of the importance of international collaboration ⁴	6%	75%	27%	17%
Lobbying and influencing policy ⁵	10%	74%	28%	20%
Financing projects focused on the structural alleviation of poverty ⁶	12%	72%	12%	53%
The provision of emergency aid ⁷	18%	57%	30%	24%
The secondment of experts ⁸	18%	56%	9%	50%

Dutch respondents would appear to be more critical about the contribution made by the solutions cited in the questionnaire than respondents from developing countries. Between 17% and 53% of Dutch respondents are of the opinion that the solutions cited in the questionnaire contribute a lot or a great deal, while 56% to 78% of VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that they make a favourable contribution to the development of a country.

³ The provision of a contribution to the advancement of powerful social organisations and democratic structures in developing countries to ensure that people have more control over their life, for example by helping to set up a farmers' network to enable them to jointly stand up for their interests or the provision of support to women's organisations in the healthcare and education sectors.

⁴ Activities to increase the involvement of the public and organisations in the structural alleviation of poverty and motivate people to make a contribution to a fair world without poverty, for example by the provision of information and the organisation of campaigns to draw people's attention to the unfairness in the world.

⁵ Requesting the attention of politicians, other policy-makers and the business community for the problems in developing countries, for example by urging politicians to put important issues on the agenda or encouraging the business community to adopt corporate social responsibility.

⁶ The improvement of the life of people living in poverty, with a focus on the improvement of (access to) healthcare, education, water and food, for example, by ensuring that children of poor families eat breakfast at school every morning or by investing in water facilities.

⁷ The provision of financial support to the victims of disasters such as droughts, floods or earthquakes, for example via international aid organisations or partner organisations in the afflicted country.

⁸ The secondment of Dutch experts with the experience and expertise required to make a contribution to building organisations and companies in developing countries.

Between 72% and 78% of the VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that the following solutions contribute either a lot or a great deal to the development of a country:

- financing projects focused on society building
- creating Dutch public awareness of the importance of international collaboration
- lobbying and influencing policy
- financing projects focused on the structural alleviation of poverty

Between 49% and 53% of Dutch respondents have either a lot or a great deal of confidence in the following solutions:

- financing projects focused on the structural alleviation of poverty
- the secondment of experts.
- financing projects focused on society building

VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that the least effective methods are the provision of emergency aid and the secondment of experts. Dutch respondents regard the provision of emergency aid, lobbying and influencing policy, and creating Dutch public awareness as being the least effective methods.

Dutch respondents and VoiceOver respondents share the opinion that the provision of emergency aid makes a smaller contribution. The most striking difference revealed by the two surveys is that VoiceOver respondents have much greater expectations of lobbying and creating awareness in the Netherlands than Dutch respondents.

All in all, VoiceOver respondents have more confidence in the contribution made by the solutions than Dutch respondents.

7. Who should take the lead?

VoiceOver respondents were asked to give their opinion of the role played by three categories of players that are or could be held responsible for the enhancement of development: international organisations and institutions, developing countries, and rich countries such as the Netherlands. The results given in the following table below indicate that VoiceOver respondents perceive a role for all three categories: a majority of respondents are of the opinion that each of the three categories of players should give shape to development. However, VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that the developing countries should bear the primary responsibility, followed by international organisations and then the rich countries.

Table 13 Who, in your opinion, should ideally encourage and give shape to development? (Several answers possible)

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N= 273
The developing countries	74%
Rich countries such as the Netherlands	56%
International organisations and institutions	66%
Don't know / no opinion	1%

Comparable data on this issue is not always available for Dutch respondents since they were only asked to give an opinion on the role of 'western players'. Their answers and some concluding remarks on the most suitable development players are presented in the last subsections. Consequently, the following two subsections review solely the opinions of VoiceOver respondents.

The role of developing countries

The large majority of VoiceOver respondents (70%, N=267) are of the opinion that professional development organisations and local NGOs are the most suitable organisations and institutions in developing countries for giving shape to the development of and the fight against poverty. A majority also regard national governments and social organisations and institutions as being suitable for this task (66%, N=267). 57% and 55% (N=267) regard local governments (provinces and municipalities) and the business community respectively as being most suitable for the enhancement of development. 44% (N=267) regard private aid initiatives as being the category that is most likely to achieve this objective. The majority of VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that all these players, with the exception of the last category, should make an effort to promote development. Some 14 respondents (5%) cited 'other' players as being most appropriate for the enhancement of development. Six of these respondents stated a further important player, namely: *'Traditional and community councils'* or, in other words, *'Communities with own solutions to their problems'*. Some respondents also stated that the promotion of development is a task and responsibility shared by all the organisations cited in the questionnaire.

Organisations and institutions at international level

On being asked to state which international organisations and institutions they believe are most suitable for giving shape to development in developing countries, VoiceOver respondents indicate that they expect most from international development organisations (such as OXFAM and Medecins Sans Frontière) and regional cooperation arrangements (such as the European Union (EU), African Union (AU) and Mercosur). 70% and 71% respectively (N=267) of the respondents state that these two categories are most suitable. In addition, a majority of VoiceOver respondents state that international financial organisations (such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and Regional Development Banks) and worldwide intergovernmental organisations (such as the United Nations and WTO) are suitable players for giving shape to development in developing countries. However, 11 VoiceOver respondents (4%) state that none of these international organisations are fit to this task. One of the respondents clarified this answer as follows: *'None of the organisms above should give shape to the development of a country, as each of them has their own agenda and vision of what is development, based in their convenience or standard model. Without the people the process will always be vertical.'*

The role of Dutch organisations and institutions

The VoiceOver questionnaire also asked respondents to give their opinion on the appropriateness of Dutch players. Their answers reveal almost the same pattern as that for the suitability of players in developing countries: once again, the majority are of the opinion that professional development organisations are the best equipped for the task (74%, N = 268), followed by national governments (68%). While the majority of respondents regard local governments in developing countries as suitable 'developers', only 31% are of the opinion that Dutch local governments are suitable for this task. The majority of respondents are also of the opinion that the Dutch business community and social organisations also have a task in

enhancing the situation in developing countries. Almost half (47%) of VoiceOver respondents regard Dutch private aid initiatives as 'development players'. Only 1% state that none of the Dutch organisations and institutions cited in the questionnaire can play a useful role in enhancing development and fighting poverty in other countries.

Dutch respondents on the role of western players

The Dutch respondents were asked to give their opinion on the role of western players in development cooperation. This question, rather than addressing development in general, focused on development cooperation from a more western perspective.

Table 14 Who, in your opinion, of the mentioned organisations and institutions should ideally encourage and give shape to development cooperation? (Several answers possible)

	Percentage Dutch respondents N= 1546
International organisations	48%
Professional development organisations	48%
Social organisations and institutions	18%
Private aid initiatives	14%
National government	13%
The business community	13%
Local governments such as the provinces and municipalities	4%
None of the above	4%
Other, namely	2%
Don't know/ no opinion	11%

The answers reveal that Dutch respondents regard international organisations and professional development organisations as being most suitable: about half of the respondents cite these players. Dutch respondents regard all the other players as being much less suitable: for example only 13% of Dutch respondents regard the national (Dutch) government as being a suitable development player.

Conclusion: who should take the lead?

In general, VoiceOver respondents perceive the enhancement of development as a responsibility that is shared between different players in developing countries, rich countries and at international level. None of the players cited in the questionnaire is perceived as bearing the sole responsibility, although VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that players in the developing countries bear the primary responsibility, international organisations the secondary responsibility and players from rich countries the tertiary responsibility.

Dutch respondents are of the opinion that professional development organisations are very suitable. VoiceOver respondents also regard these professional developers as being the best equipped for this task, irrespective of whether they are based in the developing countries, western countries or are active at an international level. A further comparison of the opinions of VoiceOver respondents and Dutch respondents reveals that VoiceOver respondents have a much more favourable opinion of the contribution western players can make to promoting development. 75% of the VoiceOver respondents regard Dutch development organisations as being suitable while only 48% of Dutch respondents share this opinion. In addition, while 68% of VoiceOver respondents regard national (Dutch) government as being suitable for the

enhancement of development just 13% of Dutch respondents also have this opinion. A comparison of the opinions on international organisations and their suitability for the development tasks reveals that VoiceOver respondents have a more favourable opinion: in contrast to the 48% of the Dutch respondents who regard international organisations as being suitable, 66% of VoiceOver respondents regard them as being suitable.

8. Effectiveness of development cooperation

Does development cooperation by rich countries (such as the Netherlands) make a structural contribution to the improvement of living conditions in developing countries? 50% of the VoiceOver respondents (N=256) are of the opinion that development cooperation does make a structural contribution to the improvement of living conditions in developing countries. A further 46% are of the opinion that development cooperation does contribute in part. Only 18% of Dutch respondents are of the opinion that development cooperation makes a structural contribution and a further 60% are of the opinion that this structural contribution is in part yes and in part no (see Table 15).

Table 15 Does development cooperation (by rich countries as the Netherlands) make a structural contribution to the improvement of living conditions in developing countries?

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N= 256	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Yes	50%	18%
In part yes, in part no	46%	60%
No	2%	14%
Don't know / no opinion	2%	8%

Consequently, these results reveal that people from developing countries have a much more favourable opinion of the effectiveness of development cooperation than people from the Netherlands, who do not appear to be fully convinced of its effectiveness. The general opinion of Dutch respondents is more divided: they also express a great deal of doubt as compared to VoiceOver respondents, who stress that development cooperation *does* have (a favourable) effect.

Organisations active in development cooperation have individual budgets which they are expected to allocate in a prudent manner. The respondents were asked to give their opinion on the manner in which a number of players allocate their development budgets. Their opinions are summarised in the following table.

Table 16 What is your general opinion of the manner in which the following organisations allocate their budget for development cooperation?

	Percentage VoiceOver N= 254			Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546		
	(very) poor	Neither poor nor good	(very) good	(very) poor	Neither poor nor good	(very) good
International organisations	18%	27%	50%	14%	31%	33%
National governments of rich countries / Dutch National government	1%	21%	61%	16%	35%	28%
Professional development organisations in rich countries	10%	18%	66%	11%	22%	49%
Aid initiatives by private individuals and social organisations	13%	26%	51%	9%	23%	49%

A majority of VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that all players allocate their budget in a prudent (good or very good) manner. In addition, the level of trust in two categories of players is striking: professional development organisations are perceived as allocating their budget somewhat more prudently than others while international organisations are perceived as allocating their budget somewhat less prudently than others.

Dutch respondents exhibit the same general favourable trust in the professional development organisations' allocation of their budget. Dutch respondents also exhibit a high level of trust in Dutch private initiatives and social organisations. However, in general Dutch respondents are more critical of the allocation of the development players' budgets than VoiceOver respondents: for example, only 28% of Dutch respondents are of the opinion that national government allocates the budget in a very good manner while no less than 61% of VoiceOver respondents have a high opinion of their allocation of the budget. Both groups of respondents are of the opinion that the international organisations' allocation of their budget allocation is somewhat poorer than the other organisations.

9. Dutch budget for development cooperation

The Dutch government allocated 4.9 thousand million euros to development cooperation in 2008, equivalent to 0.8% of the country's GNP (Gross National Product). In the 1970's, the rich countries (via the United Nations) agreed that they would reserve at least 0.7 percent of their GNP for development cooperation.

VoiceOver respondents were asked to give their opinion on the amount of the Dutch budget for development cooperation. A total 258 respondents answered this question: 64% are of the opinion that the budget should be raised, about one-fourth (24%) state the budget should remain the same, 4% state that the budget should be lowered and 1% state that the budget should be abolished in its entirety. The same question on the amount of the Dutch budget has been raised in each annual Dutch Barometer since 2006, with the exception of the 'it should be abolished' option that is not included in this survey. The results are shown in Table 17.

Table 17 What, in your opinion, should be done with the Dutch budget for development cooperation?

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents	Percentage Dutch respondents				
	2009 N= 258	2006 N = 1512	2007 N = 1487	2008 N = 1493	2009 N=1546	
It should be raised	64%	17%	13%	13%	10%	
It should remain the same	24%	46%	53%	51%	56%	
It should be lowered	4%	37%	34%	36%	34%	
It should be abolished	1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Don't know/ no opinion	7%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	

This table reveals that the percentage of Dutch respondents who are of the opinion the budget should remain the same or should be raised remains fairly constant at about two-thirds (63% to 66%). The percentage of VoiceOver respondents who share this opinion is considerably higher (88%), while two-thirds are actually of the opinion that the budget should be raised. A much higher percentage of Dutch respondents than VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that the budget should be lowered (35% and 5% respectively). This indicates that respondents from developing countries attach much greater importance to a commitment from richer countries to development cooperation than Dutch respondents.

Most VoiceOver respondents wish to see the budget increase in view of the great needs in developing countries or the increasing problems caused by climate change and economic crisis. Quotes: *'Needs are enormous in developing countries, especially in these times of economic crisis and natural disaster.'* and *'At the current pace, it will be impossible to achieve MDGs by 2015'*. The VoiceOver respondents who are of the opinion that the budget should remain the same clarify this opinion by stating that this is the amount laid down by the UN agreements. *'That's the minimum commitment from the DAC. Other countries who have committed and are not contributing to the 0.7% should be the ones to up their contributions. The Dutch are doing just fine; in fact doing more with the +0.1 percent.'* Some of the respondents stated that the question is not so much the amount of the budget but rather the manner in which the budget is allocated. *'I think it should remain the same for now so that we first realise results.'* Another reason cited was *'Other rich countries should also participate and Netherlands should also care for its own citizens.'* Some reasons people from developing countries give to lower or abolish the budget: *'Corruption in developing countries is too ripe. Money given out as aid never really reaches the needy people or at least get to finish the projects it was meant for. First tackle corruption, let the developing government be transparent, then aid can work.'* *'The only way to promote development is improving fair competition.'* *'With the goal of eventually phasing out development aid and letting developing countries take charge of their own development.'*

10. Millennium Development Goals

The leaders of the governments of 189 countries reached agreements in the year 2000 on the reduction of poverty, disease and hunger by 2015. These agreements are laid down in the following eight Millennium Development Goals.

Table 18 What, in your opinion, is the likelihood that each of the following goals will be achieved by 2015?

	In percentages VoiceOver respondents N= 252		In percentages Dutch respondents N= 1546	
	Definitely not/ Probably not	Probably yes/ Definitely	Definitely not/ Probably not	Probably yes/ Definitely
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	62%	20%	55%	10%
Achieve universal primary education	34%	40%	54%	15%
Promote gender equality and empower women	33%	45%	56%	13%
Reduce child mortality	33%	42%	29%	34%
Improve maternal health	28%	46%	28%	32%
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	43%	29%	42%	21%
Ensure environmental sustainability ⁹	55%	22%	34%	26%
Global partnership development ¹⁰	38%	35%	42%	18%

In general, the opinions of VoiceOver respondents on the likelihood that MDGs will be met by 2015 are divided: equal numbers believe that six of these goals will or will not be achieved. In addition, a majority of VoiceOver respondents do not believe that two of these goals will be achieved before 2015, namely 'eradicate extreme hunger and poverty' and 'ensure environmental sustainability'.

Dutch respondents also have divided opinions on the achievement of these goals. The most striking difference between the opinions of the two groups of respondents is the apparent lower confidence of Dutch respondents in the achievability of all of the MDGs than the VoiceOver respondents. The two groups of respondents also differ in their opinions of the goals that will not be achieved. In addition to a majority that do not believe that 'eradicate extreme poverty and hunger' will be achieved by 2015, a majority of Dutch respondents do not

⁹ a sustainable living environment, clean drinking water and better facilities in slums

¹⁰ access to affordable medicines and a fair-trade system by reaching worldwide agreements on development aid

believe that 'universal primary education' or promote gender equality' will be achieved by 2015.

There was no one specific goal that a majority of either VoiceOver respondents or the group of Dutch respondents expected would be achieved. VoiceOver respondents had the highest expectations that 'promote gender equality' and 'improve maternal health' would be achieved: Dutch respondents have highest expectations for the achievement of 'reduce child mortality' and 'improve maternal health' although, as indicated earlier, to a lesser extent than VoiceOver respondents.

11. Personal actions by VoiceOver respondents

VoiceOver respondents were asked whether they are personally active in development cooperation and the fight against poverty. Almost two-thirds of the VoiceOver respondents (N=267) stated that they are personally involved. Around half of the respondents included comments on their activities. This results in the following overall impression:

Most are active on what would appear to be a voluntary basis (although this is often not totally clear from the descriptions) within local organisations focused on the enhancement of development. For example: *'A member of a trade union and a welfare organisation', 'I am coordinating a project aimed at sustainable development options for people affected by or infected with HIV'.*

Some are promoting developmental issues in their everyday lives by helping people and/or raising awareness: for example, *'assisting some students to settle their school fees', or 'I specialise in writing about developmental issues as a journalist'.* Others are (self) employed in local development oriented organisations or companies: *'I run a company with 3 other directors to promote education in informal settlements in breaking the cycle against poverty'.* Some are working for international agencies on a volunteer basis, whilst a few are employed by these agencies: for example, *'I work in the field of AID and Development with International NGOs'.*

12. Personal actions by the Dutch public

Many Dutch individuals take part in activities to enhance or contribute to development in developing countries. About 72% of Dutch respondents (N=1546) state they have taken part or taking part in one or more of these activities. The most popular activity is giving individual donations to activities focused on the enhancement of development, followed by the donation of goods and taking part in a lottery that supports charitable causes. Other activities the Netherlands public takes part in include buying fair trade products, donating to one or more development organisations on a regular basis, watching TV programmes, reading an article or book or searching for information on the Internet about life in developing countries, carrying out volunteer work in the Netherlands or in a developing country and participating in a development cooperation campaign or activity. The VoiceOver respondents were asked to give their opinion on the extent to which it is worthwhile for the Dutch public to take part in these activities. The results were compared with the figures for the actual behaviour of the Dutch respondents (see Table 19).

Table 19 To what extent, in your opinion, is it worthwhile for the Dutch public to take part in the following activities?

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N=260		Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
	Not at all	A lot/ A great deal	Actual behaviour
Take part in a development cooperation campaign or activity other than the mentioned options	2%	76%	3%
Carry out volunteer work in a developing country	2%	75%	1%
Donate to one or more development organisations on a regular basis	2%	72%	20%
Carry out volunteer work in the Netherlands for a development cooperation project, activity or organisation	4%	67%	3%
Give individual donations to activities that aim to enhance development	4%	62%	38%
View programmes on TV, read an article or book or search for information on the Internet about life in developing countries	4%	61%	15%
Buy fair trade products	5%	57%	22%
Take up a paid job in the development sector	7%	47%	0%
Donate goods (such as clothes, shoes, computers, etc.)	11%	46%	34%
Take part in a lottery that supports charitable causes	12%	35%	34%

This table reveals that VoiceOver respondents generally regard the Dutch public's participation in all these activities as worthwhile. None of the activities cited in the questionnaire are regarded as being totally worthless, although less than 50% of VoiceOver respondents regard the donation of goods and taking part in a lottery with charitable causes as contributing a lot or a great deal and more than 10% regard these as being worthless. It is interesting to note that taking up a paid job in the development sector is regarded as less worthwhile (47% regard this as worthwhile) than volunteering in developing countries (75% regard this as worthwhile). Ranking the activities that are regarded as most worthwhile results in the following top 3:

- Take part in a development cooperation campaign or activity (76%)
- Carry out volunteer work in a developing country (75%)
- Donate to one or more development organisations on a regular basis (72%)

When compared with the actual behaviour of Dutch respondents the most remarkable differences are:

- While 'take part in a development cooperation campaign or activity' is actually very low key in the Netherlands (only 3% of Dutch respondents took part in an activity of this nature in the past 12 months), VoiceOver respondents regard this activity as being most worthwhile.
- While one-third of the Dutch take part in lotteries that support charitable causes the VoiceOver respondents do not regard this activity as contributing a great deal.

- About one-fifth of Dutch respondents donate to development organisations, an activity that is regarded as being very worthwhile by about 70% of VoiceOver respondents.

From the above it is possible to draw the conclusion that VoiceOver respondents are of the opinion that involving the Dutch public in donations to development organisations on a regular basis, promoting voluntary work in developing countries and encouraging the public to take part in campaigns and other activities would be most effective. This is illustrated by the following quote by one VoiceOver member:

'Volunteers are key learning from different cultures and social experiences is vital for the world today so as to eradicate fears and myths between different cultures.'

13. Concluding summary

Study 49

Southern voices on Dutch development cooperation

A comparison of the results from the VoiceOver 2015 questionnaire and the Dutch Barometer on development cooperation

What do people from developing countries think about development cooperation? Do the opinions of people from the south on development issues differ greatly from those of people living in the Netherlands? NCDO formulated the VoiceOver 2015 questionnaire on development cooperation to answer these questions. VoiceOver 2015 is a network of people from developing countries whose members contribute to the Dutch development debate with their opinions. A questionnaire, comparable to the Dutch Barometer, was distributed to members of the VoiceOver 2015 network in December 2009 (249 people from developing countries completed all questions). The Dutch Barometer is carried out once a year among a representative sample of the Dutch population. The underlying research paper presents the answers from VoiceOver members and compares them with the answers from the Dutch Barometer 2009. Since the VoiceOver questionnaire is not representative for people in developing countries the results should be read and interpreted as solely indicative. This summary presents the most salient results from the comparative survey.

Development cooperation *does* make a difference

An absolute majority of respondents in both the Netherlands and the southern countries think that it is important that people in rich countries help people in poor countries to develop themselves (see Table 1).

Table 1. In your opinion, how important is it that people in rich countries help people in poor countries to develop themselves?

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N= 298	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
(Totally) unimportant	8%	7%
Neither important nor unimportant	4%	23%
(Very) important	87%	68%
Don't know / no opinion	0%	3%

However, VoiceOver members have more confidence in the contribution development cooperation actually makes to the enhancement of living conditions in developing countries than the Dutch respondents (see Table 2).

Table 2. Does development cooperation (by rich countries as the Netherlands) make a structural contribution to the improvement of living conditions in developing countries?

	Percentage VoiceOver respondents N= 256	Percentage Dutch respondents N=1546
Yes	50%	18%
In part yes, in part no	46%	60%
No	2%	14%
Don't know / no opinion	2%	8%

In addition, the vast majority (around 85%) of VoiceOver members is in favour of development cooperation in general. VoiceOver members on development cooperation:

'It assists the effort of poor countries to deal with their poverty problems.'

'It makes a difference but we need to be patient as the process of change is very slow'.

VoiceOver members are also more optimistic that poverty can be solved. The Dutch respondents are divided on this issue: equal numbers believe that it is possible or is not possible to solve the problem of poverty. VoiceOver members are generally of the opinion that poverty can be solved (80%); just 11% state that the problem will never be eradicated.

Richer countries should help poorer countries

VoiceOver members and the Dutch respondents are both of the opinion that the problems in developing countries are of a severity such that (richer) countries as the Netherlands must step in and do something. VoiceOver members also find this important when the rich countries have people living in poverty, while the Dutch respondents tend to attach less importance to development cooperation when there is also poverty at home. Nevertheless, over one third of the Dutch respondents regard donations to development cooperation as worthwhile. Both groups of respondents agree that developing countries cannot solve their problems on their own. Both also agree with the proposition that the poverty of poor countries is in part due to the richer countries' policies and actions. In addition, the two groups of respondents regard eradicating poverty in poorer countries as being in the richer countries' interest.

VoiceOver members are also divided upon the issues of aid addiction and corruption. More than one-third thinks that development cooperation leads to 'aid addiction' and one-fourth thinks that development cooperation enables corrupt leaders to stay in power.

Lack of good policy is a main problem

Many people from developing countries regard 'a lack of good policy and public administration' (51%) together with 'economic conditions' (20%) as the biggest problems confronting developing countries. Dutch respondents think that after 'a lack of good policy' (30%), 'a lack of basic facilities and natural resources' (27%) is the most urgent problem. Southern respondents have more confidence in all the strategies presented for the enhancement of development (for example financing projects, the secondment of experts and emergency aid) than the Dutch respondents.

Dutch respondents and VoiceOver members both agree that professional development organisations are the most appropriate organisations for giving shape to development, whether they are based in developing countries, rich countries or at international agencies.

Different views on the Dutch development budget

Opinions on the level of the Dutch budget for development cooperation differ greatly between the Dutch respondents and the VoiceOver members. About two-thirds of the Dutch respondents are of the opinion that the budget should remain the same or be raised while considerably more VoiceOver members, 88%, have this opinion. Two-thirds of the respondents from developing countries are of the opinion that the budget should be raised, an opinion shared by just 10% of the Dutch respondents. This indicates that people from developing countries attach greater importance to a commitment from richer countries to development cooperation than Dutch people. In their own words:

'Needs are enormous in developing countries, especially in these times of economic crisis and natural disaster.'

However, some VoiceOver members think that development aid should be abolished or reduced (about 5%). For example:

'With the goal of eventually phasing out development aid and letting developing countries take charge of their own development.'

Will we attain the Millennium Development Goals?

Opinions on the likelihood of achieving the MDGs by 2015 are divided among both groups of respondents. There was no one specific goal that a majority of either the group of people from developing countries or the group of Dutch respondents expected would be achieved.

However, in general the Dutch respondents appear to have less confidence in the achievability of all the MDGs than the VoiceOver members.

Individuals in action are considered positive

About 72% of the Dutch respondents took part in one or more development cooperation activities in the last 12 months. For example, they donated money or goods or bought fair-trade products. VoiceOver members think that it is generally worthwhile for the Dutch public to take part in activities of this nature. When asked, VoiceOver members regard the following three actions as very valuable to the enhancement of development: Taking part in a

development cooperation campaign or activity, carrying out volunteer work in a developing country and donating to one or more development organisations on a regular basis
A VoiceOver member comments upon the importance of volunteer work:

*'Volunteers are key in promoting cross cultural exchange.
Learning from different cultures and social experiences is vital for the world today
so as to eradicate fears and myths between different cultures.'*

Source

Woerds, ter S. & Mous, K (2010). *Southern voices on Dutch development cooperation. A comparison of the results from the VoiceOver 2015 questionnaire and the Dutch Barometer on development cooperation*. Amsterdam: NCDO
www.voiceover2015.nl

NCDO, May 2010

NCDO involves people in the Netherlands in international cooperation and sustainable development. This involvement is supported by providing them information, subsidies and advice. NCDO organises studies to assess the Dutch society's involvement in international cooperation. This is a summary of the report of one of these studies. The complete report of the survey and a list of all NCDO studies is available at www.ncdo.nl/onderzoek

Annex 1 VoiceOver 2015 respondents background

Gender

The majority of VoiceOver respondents that completed the questionnaire (N= 243) are male, 71%, and 39% are female.

Age

The majority of the VoiceOver respondents are aged between 26 and 45 (total 52%). The age of respondents that started the questionnaire is distributed as follows (N=313):

Age	Percentage
18-25	13,4
26-35	33,5
36-45	18,5
46-55	8,6
56-65	1,9
65 up	0,6
unknown	23,3
Total	100,0

Education

VoiceOver respondents have generally completed a high education. 83% have a higher education and 13% a post-doctoral education. Only 4% stated secondary education as their highest completed level of education (N=241).

Occupation

44% of the VoiceOver respondents (N=241) are employed fulltime, 17% have part-time employment, 8% are seeking work and 13% are students. Around 17% stated that they have other occupations, such as volunteers, people working for NGOs or social organisations and self-employed persons (for example, consultants and advisors).

Nationality

313 VoiceOver respondents taking part in the survey were born in one of the following countries: Afghanistan; 7, Argentina; 1, Bangladesh; 2, Benin Republic; 1. Bolivia: 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 4, Burkina Faso; 5, Burundi; 7, Cambodia; 1, Cameroon; 5, Central African Republic; 1, China; 1, Colombia; 9, Costa Rica; 1, Democratic Republic of Congo; 6, Ecuador; 1, Egypt; 1, Georgia; 1, Ghana; 23, Guatemala; 1, Honduras; 3, India; 8, Indonesia; 9, Iran; 1, Israel; 2, Ivory Cost; 1, Jordan; 1, Kenya; 26, Liberia; 3, Malawi; 4, Mexico; 1, Moldova; 1, Mozambique; 1, Nepal; 7 ,Nigeria; 8, Pakistan; 6, Palestinian Territories; 1, Peru; 1, Philippines; 9, Republic of Panama; 1, Rwanda; 2, Senegal; 2, Netherlands; 1, Philippines; 1, Serbia; 1, SFR Yugoslavia; 1 Sierra Leone; 9, Somalia; 2, South Africa; 10, Sri Lanka; 2, Suriname; 3, Tanzania; 2, Timor-Leste; 1, Uganda; 6, Ukraine; 1, Vietnam; 2, Yemen; 2, Zambia; 10, Zimbabwe; 7. Another 71 respondents did not answer this question.

Annex 2 VoiceOver 2015 questionnaire on development cooperation

Welcome to the VoiceOver2015 questionnaire on development cooperation

This questionnaire is about international cooperation, also referred to as 'development cooperation' or 'development aid'. This form of cooperation is focused on the improvement of the living conditions of people in poor countries and, in particular, combating poverty.

VoiceOver 2015 is a network of people from developing countries: VoiceOver members contribute their views and opinions to the Dutch debate on development cooperation. Unfortunately, the Dutch frequently discuss development cooperation without listening to the people it concerns. VoiceOver 2015 is interested in hearing what nationals of developing countries think about development cooperation.

Please indicate your answers as clearly as possible by putting an X in the table in front of your answer.

1. Are you a national of a developing country? (according to [the DAC list of OECD](#))

	Yes (Go to question 2)
	No Unfortunately, you are not a member of the target audience for this questionnaire. Thank you for your interest. Yours sincerely, On behalf of VoiceOver 2015 www.voiceover2015.nl

2. In your opinion, how important is it that people in rich countries help people in poor countries to develop themselves?

	Totally unimportant
	Unimportant
	Neither important nor unimportant
	Important
	Very important
	Don't know / no opinion

3. A number of issues that are or can be a problem in developing countries are listed below. What, in your opinion, is the biggest problem confronting the developing countries? *Choose one option.*

	Economic conditions. For example, non or poor functioning (labour) markets, limited access to international trade, inflation, poor or non-use of sustainable resources, inequality.
	Lack of good policy or good public administration. For example, non-functioning or poorly functioning government agencies, corruption, lack of public participation.

	Conflicts, disasters and emergencies. For example, war, violence, natural disasters and refugees.
	Social inequality. For example, large differences between the rich and poor, the deprivation of specific groups in society such as women, minorities, the handicapped
	Lack of basic facilities and natural resources. For example, the absence of facilities in the fields of healthcare, education and food, poor infrastructure and lack of natural raw materials.
	Unbalanced composition of the population. For example, a high rate of population growth, high mortality rate, migration from rural areas to the cities.
	None of the above
	Other, namely:
	Don't know / no opinion

How to achieve development?

In the following six questions we will ask you about methods used by a number of Dutch development organisations.

4. To what extent, in your opinion, does financing projects focused on the structural alleviation of poverty contribute to the development of a country?

(Structural alleviation of poverty: The improvement of the life of people living in poverty. The focus lies on the improvement of (access to) healthcare, education, water and food. For example, by ensuring that children of poor families eat breakfast at school every morning or by investing in water facilities.)

	Not at all
	Very little
	A little
	A lot
	A great deal
	Don't know / no opinion

5. To what extent, in your opinion, does financing projects focused on society building contribute to the development of a country?

(Society building: The provision of a contribution to the advancement of powerful social organisations and democratic structures in developing countries to ensure that people have more control over their life. For example by helping to set up a farmers' network to enable them to jointly stand up for their interests or the provision of support to women's organisations in the healthcare and education sectors.)

	Not at all
	Very little
	A little
	A lot
	A great deal

	Don't know / no opinion
--	-------------------------

6. To what extent, in your opinion, does the provision of emergency aid contribute to the development of a country?

(Emergency aid: The provision of financial support to the victims of disasters such as droughts, floods or earthquakes. For example through international aid organisations or partner organisations in the afflicted country.)

	Not at all
	Very little
	A little
	A lot
	A great deal
	Don't know / no opinion

7. To what extent, in your opinion, does the secondment of experts contribute to the development of a country?

(Secondment of experts: The secondment of Dutch experts with the experience and expertise required to make a contribution to building organisations and companies in developing countries.)

	Not at all
	Very little
	A little
	A lot
	A great deal
	Don't know / no opinion

8. To what extent, in your opinion, does lobbying and influencing policy contribute to the development of a country?

(Lobbying and influencing policy: Requesting the attention of politicians, other policy-makers and the business community for the problems in developing countries. For example by urging politicians to place important issues on the agenda or encouraging the business community to adopt corporate social responsibility.)

	Not at all
	Very little
	A little
	A lot
	A great deal
	Don't know / no opinion

9. To what extent, in your opinion, does creating Dutch public awareness of the importance of international collaboration contribute to the development of a country?

(Creating Dutch public awareness of the importance of international collaboration: Activities to increase the involvement of the public and organisations in the structural alleviation of poverty. To motivate people to make a contribution to a fair world without poverty. For example by the provision of information and organisation of campaigns to draw people's attention to the unfairness in the world.)

	Not at all
	Very little
	A little
	A lot
	A great deal
	Don't know / no opinion

10. Who, in your opinion, should ideally encourage and give shape to development? Several answers possible.

	International organisations and institutions
	The developing countries
	Rich countries such as the Netherlands
	Don't know / no opinion

The previous question made a distinction between three levels that can encourage development: international organisations and institutions, the developing countries and rich countries. In practice, institutions and organisations at all three levels are active in the provision of development aid. The following three questions relate to each of these levels.

11. Which of the following Dutch organisations and institutions are, in your opinion, the most suitable for giving shape to the development of and fight against poverty in developing countries? *Several answers possible.*

	National government
	Local governments such as the provinces and municipalities
	The business community
	Professional development organisations (such as Oxfam Novib, Hivos, Plan, Stop Aids Now, War Child and Terre des Hommes)
	Social organisations and institutions (such as schools, churches and mosques, trade unions, sports clubs, migrant organisations, care institutions and welfare organisations)
	Private aid initiatives
	None of the above
	Other, namely
	Don't know / no opinion

12. Which of the following organisations and institutions in the developing countries are, in your opinion, the most suitable for giving shape to the development of and fight against poverty in developing countries? *Several answers possible.*

	National governments
	Local governments such as the provinces and municipalities
	The business community
	Professional development organisations and local NGOs
	Social organisations and institutions (such as schools, churches and mosques, trade unions, sports clubs, care institutions and welfare organisations)
	Private aid initiatives
	None of the above
	Other, namely
	Don't know / no opinion

13. Which of the following international organisations and institutions are, in your opinion, the most suitable for giving shape to the development of and fight against poverty in developing countries? *Several answers possible.*

	International development organisations (such as Plan [formerly: Foster Parents Plan], OXFAM, Medecins sans frontiere)
	Regional cooperation arrangements (such as the European Union (EU), African Union (AU) and Mercosur)
	International financial organisations (such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and Regional Development Banks)
	Worldwide intergovernmental organisations (such as the United Nations and WTO)
	None of the above
	Other, namely
	Don't know / no opinion

14. Are you personally active in development cooperation and the fight against poverty?

	No. Go to question 15
	Yes, Namely.....
	Don't know / no opinion

15. Conduct of the Dutch public: To what extent, in your opinion, is it worthwhile for the Dutch public to take part in the following activities?

	Not at all	Very little	A little	A lot	A great deal	Don't know/ no opinion
Donate to one or more development organisations on a regular basis						
Give individual donations to activities that aim to enhance development						
Donate goods (such as clothes,						

	Not at all	Very little	A little	A lot	A great deal	Don't know/ no opinion
shoes, computers, etc.)						
View programmes on TV, read an article or book or search for information on the Internet about life in developing countries						
Carry out volunteer work in a developing country						
Carry out volunteer work in the Netherlands for a development cooperation project, activity or organisation						
Buy fair trade products						
Take part in a lottery that supports charitable causes						
Take up a paid job in the development sector						
Take part in a development cooperation campaign or activity other than the aforementioned options (for example, visiting a debate or lecture, participating in an exchange programme, signing a petition, etc.)						

16. The Dutch government allocated 4.9 thousand million euros to development cooperation in 2008, equivalent to 0.8% of the country's GNP (Gross National Product). In the nineteen seventies the rich countries (via the United Nations) agreed that they would reserve at least 0.7 percent of their GNP for development cooperation.

What, in your opinion, should be done with the Dutch budget for development cooperation?

<input type="checkbox"/>	It should be raised. Go to question 17
<input type="checkbox"/>	It should remain the same. Go to question 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	It should be lowered. Go to question 19
<input type="checkbox"/>	It should be abolished. Go to question 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know / no opinion. Go to question 21

17. Why do you think that the budget should be raised?

.....

(Go to question 21.)

18. Why do you think that the budget should remain the same?

.....

(Go to question 21.)

19. Why do you think that the budget should be lowered?

.....

(Go to question 21.)

20. Why do you think that the budget should be abolished?

.....

(Go to question 21.)

21. The effectiveness of development cooperation

Does, in your opinion, development cooperation by rich countries (such as the Netherlands) make a structural contribution to the improvement of living conditions in developing countries?

	Yes
	In part yes, in part no
	No
	Don't know / no opinion®

22. The following organisations and institutions each have a budget for development cooperation. What is your general opinion of the manner in which they allocate their budget?

	Very poor	Poor	Neither poor nor good	Good	Very good	Don't know/ no opinion
International organisations (such as the UN, World Bank and EU)						
National governments of rich countries (such as the Netherlands)						
Professional development organisations in rich countries (such as Oxfam Novib, Hivos, Plan, Stop Aids Now and Terre des Hommes)						
Aid initiatives by private individuals and social organisations in rich countries (such as individuals, schools, sports clubs and churches).						

23. Millennium Development Goals

The leaders of the governments of 189 countries reached agreements in 2000 on the reduction of poverty, disease and hunger by 2015. These agreements are laid down in the following Millennium Development Goals. What, in your opinion, is the likelihood that each of the following goals will be achieved by 2015?

	Definitely not	Probably not	Maybe yes,	Probably yes	Definitely	Don't know /

			maybe no			no opinion
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger						
Achieve universal primary education						
Promote gender equality and empower women						
Reduce child mortality						
Improve maternal health						
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases						
Ensure environmental sustainability (a sustainable living environment, clean drinking water and better facilities in slums)						
Global partnership development (access to affordable medicines and a fair-trade system by reaching worldwide agreements on development aid)						

What is your opinion on the following propositions?

24. The Netherlands must not allocate any funds to development cooperation while there are still people living in poverty in the Netherlands

<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree entirely
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree

	Agree
	Agree entirely
	Don't know / no opinion

25. The problems in developing countries are so severe that countries such as the Netherlands have to step in and do something

	Disagree entirely
	Disagree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Agree
	Agree entirely
	Don't know / no opinion

26. The problem of poverty cannot be solved

	Disagree entirely
	Disagree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Agree
	Agree entirely
	Don't know / no opinion

27. Getting rid of poverty in developing countries is also in the self-interest the richer countries

	Disagree entirely
	Disagree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Agree
	Agree entirely
	Don't know / no opinion

28. Developing countries should solve their problems on their own

	Disagree entirely
	Disagree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Agree
	Agree entirely
	Don't know / no opinion

29. The poor countries are in part poor because of the richer countries' policies and actions

	Disagree entirely
	Disagree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Agree
	Agree entirely
	Don't know / no opinion

30. Development cooperation results in the poor countries' aid addiction

	Disagree entirely
	Disagree

	Neither agree nor disagree
	Agree
	Agree entirely
	Don't know / no opinion

31. Development aid keeps corrupt leaders in power

	Disagree entirely
	Disagree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Agree
	Agree entirely
	Don't know / no opinion

32. Can you please indicate your opinion on development cooperation in general?

	I am in favour because
	I am not in favour because
	Don't know / no opinion

To conclude we would like to know a little bit about your background

33. Are you male or female?

	Female
	Male

34. What is your age (in years)

35. Are you a member of VoiceOver 2015?

	Yes
	No

36. In which country were you born?

.....

37. In which country do you currently live?

.....

38. What's the highest educational level you completed?

	Primary education
	Secondary education
	Higher Education
	Post-doctoral education
	None
	Don't know

39. What is your current occupation?

	Employed, fulltime
	Employed, part time

	Seeking work
	Housewife, houseman
	Student
	Other, namely

Thank you very much for your contribution to this questionnaire.
You can send your answers to k.mous@ncdo.nl

The results will be published on www.voiceover2015.nl