



Foundation

WORLD RISK POLL

Report 2026

**A resilient life:
How wellbeing shapes
the capacity to cope**

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I Foreword

The Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll provides a crucial platform for people around the world to voice concerns about their safety, gathering data on everyday risks and harms every two years. Through its global coverage and inclusive methodology, the Poll amplifies marginalised voices, offering invaluable insights to guide interventions to protect those most at risk.

Starting in 2019 and now in its fourth edition, the Poll has spanned major periods of global and regional change and provides a unique insight into emerging trends in people's perceptions and experiences of risk in turbulent times. With more than 143,000 interviews conducted across 140 countries and territories in 2025, the latest Poll allows trends first identified in previous years to be tested and refined.

Resilience is the thread running through it all. Risks are constantly presenting themselves; what then separates a hazard from a disaster is how well-equipped individuals, households, communities and societies are to absorb the shock and recover from it. The World Risk Poll Resilience Index, introduced in 2021 and now measured for the third time, is the only global measure of that capacity built from what people themselves report about their own circumstances and the structures around them.

Overall global resilience is stable, but that stability conceals two opposing movements. Individual resilience has fallen for a second consecutive edition, while societal resilience has risen to its highest level since the index began. People are reporting stronger institutions around them but less confidence in their own ability to protect themselves and their families. Strong national frameworks will not deliver on their promise if the people inside them do not believe they can act.

The relationship between a good life and a resilient one is also examined in this report in depth for the first time using World Risk Poll data. Adults who consider themselves to be thriving score significantly higher on the Resilience Index than those who are suffering. But more surprisingly, perhaps, this improvement in resilience only holds to a point – those who rate the quality of their lives as exceptional display no more resilience than those who describe it as good. And pertinently, for those with the lowest wellbeing, national wealth offers almost no protection, with resilience in this group equally low regardless of whether they live in a middle- or high-income country. The greatest gains, therefore, lie in reducing the deepest distress, not in improving lives that are already comfortable.

Another critical theme is the perceived global deficit of care. Fewer than one in four adults globally believe their government or their neighbours care about them a lot. This matters, because feeling cared for is a fundamental foundation of resilience.

Shaped through dialogue with international bodies, sector experts and frontline organisations, the World Risk Poll and the Resilience Index have been built collaboratively from the outset, and are intended to be used the same way. We want this report, its companions on disasters and early warnings, and the underlying data, to help policymakers, researchers and civil society focus on the places and populations where resilience is lowest. The breadth and depth of the Poll allow those places to be identified from global to local level, providing a powerful tool to direct action and a strong foundation for collaboration.



Acknowledgements

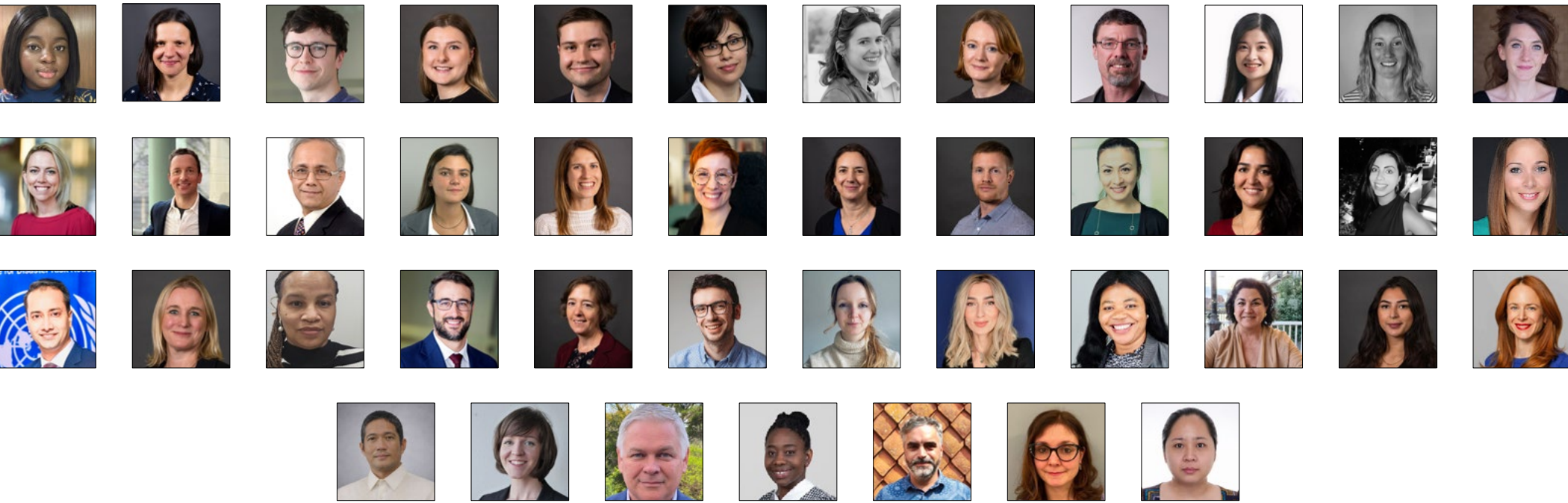
The World Risk Poll is a huge undertaking powered by multidisciplinary teams working across organisations. Lloyd’s Register Foundation is grateful to everyone who has contributed to this, and previous versions of the World Risk Poll, and the collaborative spirit in which they work.

We are continually inspired by the enthusiasm of our strategic impact partners who have invested time in developing the questionnaire and are now embedding the data in their work, inspiring and galvanising people to take action.

The Technical Advisory Group for the World Risk Poll was first convened in early 2019, and we are indebted to the ongoing time and effort voluntarily invested by the members in the analysis, planning and reviewing of all our outputs.

Finally, our thanks are extended to the team at Gallup for their efforts in constructing and testing the Poll, and to the local staff in countries across the globe who undertook the fieldwork, often under difficult circumstances. We are particularly grateful to the World Risk Poll delivery and analytical team at Gallup for their ongoing contributions and support.

You can learn more about the Poll and the change it has supported, through the Poll website at: wrp.lrfoundation.org.uk.



Additional information

About Lloyd’s Register Foundation

Lloyd’s Register Foundation is an independent global safety charity that supports research, innovation, and education to make the world a safer place. Its mission is to use the best evidence and insight, such as the World Risk Poll, to help the global community focus on tackling the world’s most pressing safety and risk challenges.

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About Gallup

Gallup delivers analytics and advice to help leaders and organisations solve their most pressing problems. Combining more than 90 years of experience with its global reach, Gallup knows more about the attitudes and behaviours of employees, customers, students and citizens than any other organisation in the world.

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Executive summary

The World Risk Poll is the first and only global, nationally representative study of worry about, and harm from, risks to people's safety. The Poll is based on more than 143,000 interviews conducted by Gallup in 140 countries and territories throughout 2025, and covers places with little to no official data on various aspects of safety and risk. This is the fourth edition of a dataset that offers a unique insight into people's experiences with and perceptions of different risks in their lives, from the everyday risks facing millions around the world, such as risks of harm from food and water or safety on the roads, to the generational and existential risk of climate change.

This report turns to resilience: how well-equipped people are to cope with those risks and recover from shocks. For the third time, the 2025 Poll measured resilience at the individual, household, community and societal levels and combined the four into a single Resilience Index score.

Alongside this, the Poll benefits from Gallup's core wellbeing measures from the same respondents, which allows the relationship between living a good life and living a resilient one to be examined directly. Two companion reports, *From alert to agency: What turns warnings into action?* and *After the storm: How disasters reshape resilience and trust*, carry the same Poll data into the hours before a disaster and the years after it. As with every edition, the underlying data are freely available for governments, regulators, researchers and civil society to use for research and action to improve resilience and disaster preparedness.

Global declines in individual resilience are offset by gains in societal resilience

- Global overall resilience is stable at 57 out of 100, level with 2023 and two points above 2021. Underneath the headline, individual resilience has fallen two points for a second consecutive edition, from 46 in 2021 to 42 in 2025, its lowest level since the index began. Household and community resilience are unchanged from 2023, at 55 and 63 respectively.
- The fall in individual resilience has been driven by a handful of large-population countries, including India, Pakistan and Indonesia, where people's sense of agency in the face of disasters has weakened. More countries recorded large gains in perceived agency than large falls between 2023 and 2025 (18 increases of at least 10 points compared with 13 decreases), but the countries moving downwards are among the most populous.

- Societal resilience has reached the highest level yet recorded, at 66, up from 65 in 2023 and 63 in 2021. Several high-income countries moved the other way, including Greece (down 11 points since 2021), New Zealand (down eight) and Australia, the Netherlands, Estonia and France (all down six). Societal resilience is the one dimension where high-income countries score lowest of all income groups, at 57.

Resilience is rising faster in Africa than anywhere else in the world

- All four of Africa's main regions recorded the largest regional gains worldwide since 2023: Northern Africa by five points, Southern Africa by four, and Central/Western and Eastern Africa by three each. These regions had among the lowest average scores globally in 2023 and this remains the case in 2025, so the gains close a gap rather than open a lead.
- Household resilience accounts for most of the movement, with the largest increases since 2021 in Algeria (up 13 points), Nigeria (up nine), Kenya (up eight), Egypt (up seven) and Uganda (up six). Rising internet access is one factor behind it: across Africa's four main regions, the share of adults with internet access has risen since 2019, by 17 percentage points in Northern Africa and 12 points each in Central/Western and Southern Africa.

A better-rated life is a more resilient one, up to a point

- Adults classified as thriving on Gallup's Life Evaluation Index score 63 on the Resilience Index, against 56 among those struggling and 47 among those suffering. The relationship holds in every country income group, and is strongest at the individual level, where adults who are thriving score twice as high as those suffering (52 against 26). It weakens at the community level and disappears at the societal level.
- National wealth does not protect people with low wellbeing from low resilience. Among adults who rate their present lives 0, 1 or 2 (out of 10) on the Cantril Ladder (wellbeing measure), resilience sits between 45 and 50 in lower-middle-, upper-middle- and high-income countries alike, and between 40 and 45 in low-income countries.
- Resilience improves as life ratings rise, but these gains flatten above a life rating of 7 out of 10. In most income groups, average resilience among people rating their lives a 10 is slightly lower than among those rating them a 9. Moving from a good life to an exceptional one therefore adds little further resilience.

Most people feel little or no care from their governments or their neighbours

- Perceptions of care improved marginally in 2025. Twenty-two percent of adults say their government cares about them ‘a lot’, 47% say ‘somewhat’ and 29% say ‘not at all’. The share saying ‘not at all’ has fallen eight percentage points since 2021, the largest movement on the measure. Neighbourly care follows a similar shape, with 23% saying ‘a lot’ and 26% ‘not at all’, down from 32% in 2021.
- Every time the Poll has asked, people worldwide have been more likely to say their government does not care about them at all than to say it cares a lot. In 97 countries that gap runs to at least 10 percentage points; the reverse is true in 20 countries.
- Perceived care is U-shaped by national income. Similar shares feel no government care at all in low-income (44%) and high-income (45%) countries, against roughly one in four in upper-middle- (24%) and lower-middle-income (25%) countries.
- Feeling cared for is associated with measurably higher household resilience. In high-income and upper-middle-income countries, adults who feel a lot of care from their neighbours score 10 points higher on household resilience than those who feel none, narrowing to six points in lower-middle- and low-income countries.

Policy implications

- **Reducing suffering builds more resilience than improving lives that are already decent.** The steepest resilience gains lie at the bottom of the wellbeing distribution. Much of what shapes wellbeing and resilience is designed and delivered locally, including housing, transport, green space, social services and emergency preparedness, which places local government at the centre of any response.
- **There is no trickle-down effect for resilience.** Among people at the bottom of the wellbeing scale, resilience differs little between high- and middle-income countries. Targeted support for the most vulnerable is as necessary in wealthy countries as in lower-income ones.
- **Resilience can be built at more than one level.** In lower-income countries, strong community structures partly offset weaker individual resilience, whilst investment in education and in people’s sense of agency raises resilience at the individual level.
- **Feeling cared for is a foundation of resilience.** Fewer than one in four adults globally believe their government or their neighbours care about them a lot. Local government, urban policymakers, charities and local businesses are often best placed to change that, through community engagement, social infrastructure and participatory planning.
- **Government care and community care are not substitutes.** Weak institutions are not automatically offset by strong informal networks, and the two deficits tend to coincide rather than compensate. At the national level, the share feeling no care at all from government correlates with the share feeling none from neighbours ($r=0.57$).
- **One resilience response will not fit every country.** Measures need to be matched to what drives low resilience in each society, whether that sits at the individual, household, community or institutional level. The U-shape of perceived care makes the point sharply: the least and most affluent countries share a symptom, but are unlikely to share a cause.

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CHAPTER 1

How is resilience changing around the world?

Risks to safety are a part of everyday life. Some affect individuals, such as health conditions or being harmed at work, while others, such as natural hazards, pose risks that affect many people at once. As the World Risk Poll report, *The quiet hazards: How everyday risk shapes daily life* (June 2026), outlines, significant percentages of the world's adult population have experienced recent harm from events related to natural hazards. In 2025, nearly one in five adults globally (19%) said they had experienced serious personal harm from severe prolonged weather events such as heatwaves or droughts, and another 17% from severe weather events such as floods or violent storms. These experiences are cited more often than harm from traffic accidents (15%), food (14%), drinking water (13%), mental health issues (12%) or violent crime (10%).

Natural hazards are becoming a more pressing threat to human life, particularly because of climate change. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) notes:

'Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people (high confidence). Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected (high confidence).'

1

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STORIES

Against this backdrop and other global challenges, such as pandemics, conflicts, technological transformation and changing populations, resilience — how well-equipped individuals, communities and societies are to cope with challenges and disasters — has become an increasingly important concept.

In 2021, the World Risk Poll introduced the Resilience Index, a groundbreaking measure of people’s ability to absorb and recover from shocks, accounting for individual circumstances, perceptions and societal conditions. Resilience is not a fixed and unchanging state. Because risks are dynamic and resilience can evolve^{2,3}, tracking both over time is crucial to understanding how the world is holding up in the face of multiple pressures and hazards. It can also reveal the factors shaping whether people and societies are growing more or less resilient⁴.

The index combines information on four underlying dimensions of resilience — individual, household, community and societal — to produce an overall score that ranges from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating greater resilience. By measuring resilience across these four dimensions, the index provides a more complete picture of how people withstand and recover from adversity. Full methodological details are available on the World Risk Poll website, with additional details on the index’s composition in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1. Dimensions and indicators in the World Risk Poll Resilience Index

The Resilience Index combines four dimensions, from personal circumstances to national institutions, each built from World Risk Poll questions asked of the same respondents.

DIMENSION	INDICATORS
INDIVIDUAL	Agency/Self-efficacy: If a disaster were to occur near you in the future, do you think there is anything you could do to protect yourself or your family from its impact?
	Educational attainment: What is your highest completed level of education?
HOUSEHOLD	Financial assets: Suppose your household suddenly lost all income and had to survive only on savings and things that could be sold. How long would your household be able to cover all the basic needs, such as food, housing, and transportation?
	Planning: If a disaster were to occur near you in the future, do you have a plan for what to do that all members of your household who are over 10 years old know about?
COMMUNITY	Access to communications: Does your home have access to: 1) the internet, 2) a cellular phone?
	Social capital: • How much do you think most of your neighbours care about you and your wellbeing? • Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live? • Have you done any of the following in the past month? Helped a stranger or someone you didn’t know who needed help.
SOCIETAL	Local infrastructure: In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with: • The roads and highways? • The educational system or the schools? • The availability of quality healthcare?
	Discrimination: Have you, personally, ever experienced any discrimination because of any of the following? The colour of your skin? Your religion? Your ethnicity/nationality? Your gender? A disability, if you have one?
	Safety net: How much do you think the government of [country] cares about you and your wellbeing?
	National Institutions Index: In [country], do you have confidence in each of the following, or not? • The military? • The judicial system or courts? • The national government? • The honesty of elections?

Overall resilience is stable globally, but individual resilience has declined, offsetting gains on the societal dimension

Over the three editions of the World Risk Poll that have measured the Resilience Index (2021, 2023 and 2025), overall global resilience has been relatively consistent. The global 2025 score of 57 is on par with 2023 and ahead of 2021 (55). However, this high-level stability masks more dynamic movement across the index's four dimensions.

Globally, individual resilience has fallen by two points for the second consecutive wave, down to 42 from 44 in 2023 and 46 in 2021, and is now at the lowest level recorded by the index. Meanwhile, global trends for household and community resilience remain unchanged from 2023 at 55 and 63, respectively. Societal resilience has reached its highest point at 66, rising from 65 in 2023 and 63 in 2021. As a result, losses in individual resilience have been offset by gains in societal resilience, leaving the overall global index virtually unchanged.

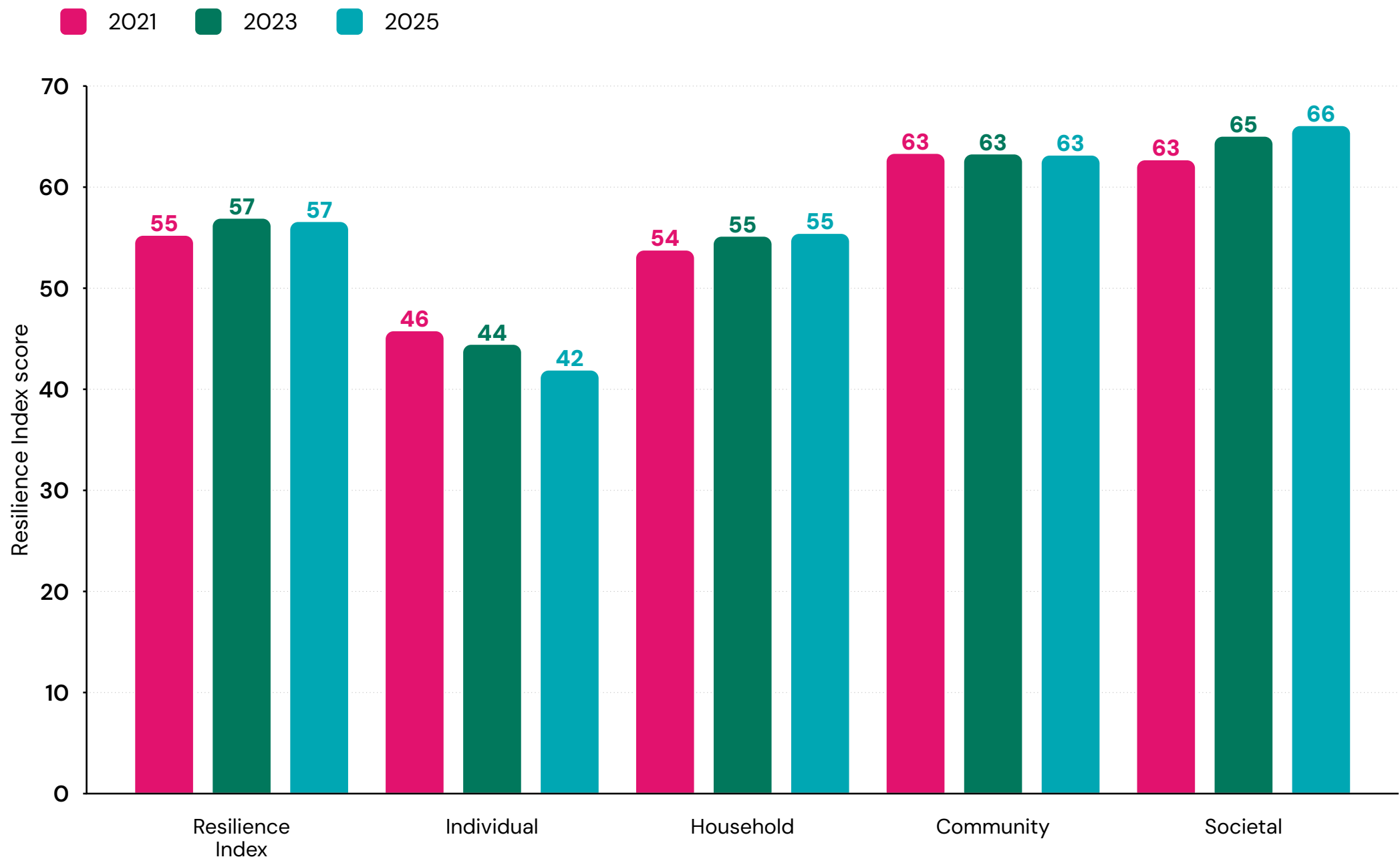
The relatively strong global scores on community and societal resilience are signals that go beyond traditional indicators, such as gross domestic product, and offer a new lens on human progress that other objective measures are unable to capture.

Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll Resilience Index: A quick reminder...

The Resilience Index quantifies people's capacity for resilience and ability to deal with adversity based on their personal circumstances and perceptions. The overall score ranges between 0 and 100, with higher values equating to higher resilience. The Resilience Index is a composite score based on four underlying dimensions: individual, household, community and societal resilience. By measuring resilience at these four levels, the index provides a holistic assessment of resilience. More details about the index can be found on the World Risk Poll website.

Chart 1.1. Changes in the Resilience Index and its four dimensions, 2021–2025

Individual resilience falls to 42, its lowest level yet, as societal resilience climbs to a record 66, leaving the overall index unchanged at 57.



The global decline in individual resilience has been driven by a handful of countries with large populations, where people's sense of agency in the face of disasters — their belief that they can protect themselves and their families — has weakened. Although more countries recorded large increases in perceived agency than large declines between 2023 and 2025 (18 with increases of at least 10 points vs. 13 with decreases of at least 10 points), three of the countries experiencing substantial declines are among the world's most populous: India, Pakistan and Indonesia. These declines have had a disproportionate effect on the global average.

A world where people feel less capable of protecting themselves, even as institutional structures around them strengthen, is not necessarily a more resilient world; it may reflect a growing disconnect between macro-level gains and people's actual capacity to act. Strong societal resilience frameworks will only translate into better outcomes if they are accompanied by parallel efforts to build individual agency and preparedness.

High-income countries are most resilient overall, but not in all dimensions

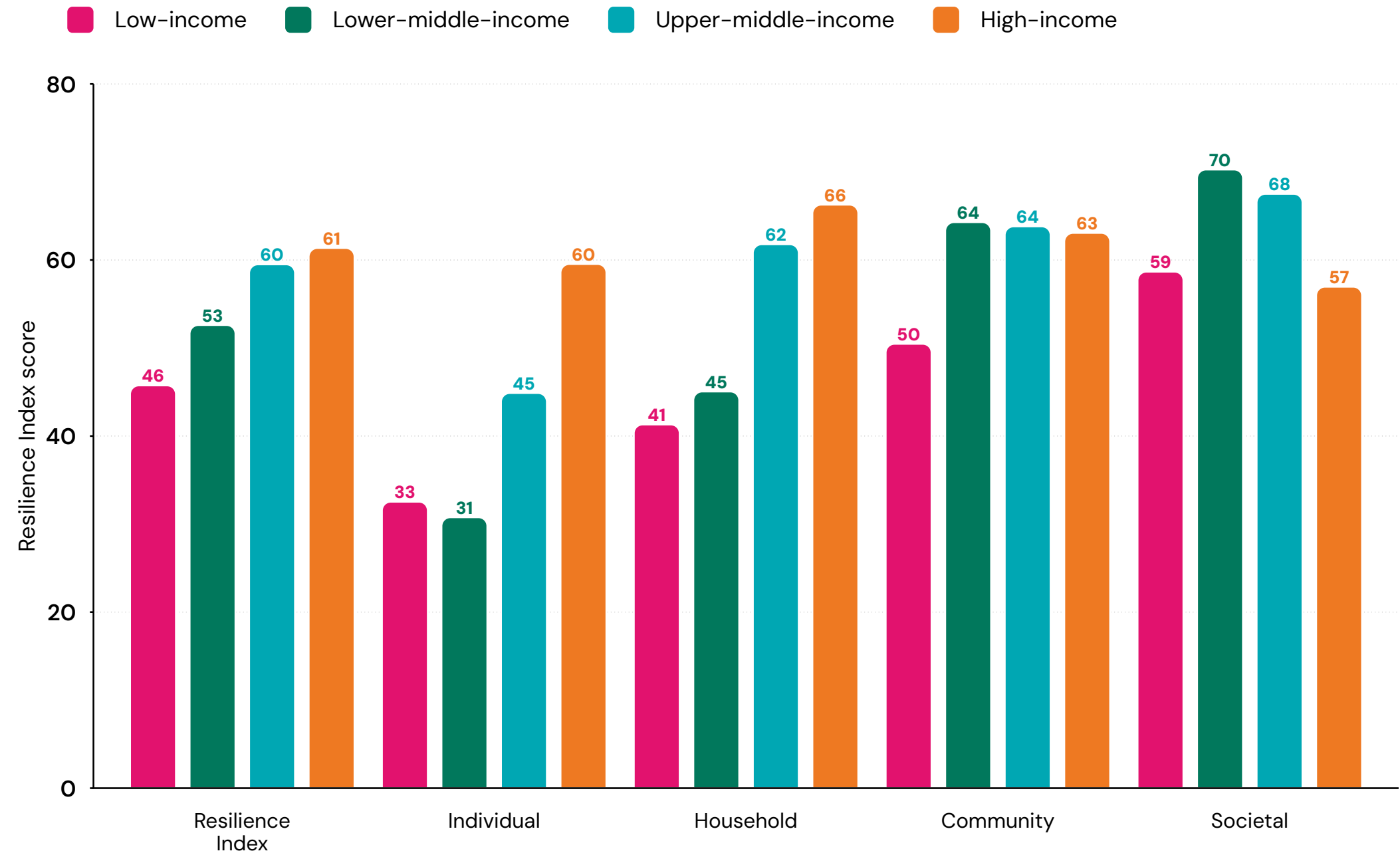
The world is not equally resilient. High-income countries report the highest overall resilience, with an average score of 61, marginally ahead of upper-middle-income countries (60) and significantly higher than lower-middle- (53) and low-income (46) countries.

Notably, high-income countries have a clear lead in individual resilience, with an average score of 60, 15 points higher than in upper-middle-income countries (45), and nearly twice as high as in lower-middle- (31) or low-income (33) countries. The gap narrows substantially regarding household resilience, which evaluates financial resilience, disaster planning and access to communications. Upper-middle-income countries are closer to high-income countries in this dimension (62 vs. 66, respectively), while lower-middle- (45) and low-income (41) countries continue to languish.

When resilience is measured at the local community or society, the relationship with country income changes significantly. The lead recorded by high-income countries disappears almost entirely at the community resilience level; lower-middle-, upper-middle- and high-income countries have similar scores (64, 64 and 63, respectively), standing far ahead of low-income countries (50) as they did in previous editions of the Poll. When it comes to societal resilience, high-income countries score lowest of all income groups at 57, marginally behind low-income countries (59) and lagging lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries significantly (70 and 68, respectively).

Chart 1.2. Resilience Index and its four dimensions, by World Bank country income group, 2025

High-income countries lead individual resilience by 15 points over upper-middle-income countries, yet rank last of all income groups on societal resilience at 57.



A country's resilience is closely linked to wealth, but as resilience shifts from the individual to the collective, that relationship weakens. High-income countries dominate at the individual level by a wide margin and retain a modest lead at the household level. However, at the community level, they lose the advantage, and they fall to the bottom of the rankings at the societal level. Wealth is therefore associated with stronger individual resilience, but it does not appear to translate into stronger societal structures as perceived by the people living within them.

Resilience is rising fastest in African regions

Since 2023, the largest regional improvements in resilience around the world have occurred in Africa. All four of the continent’s main regions have recorded gains in Resilience Index scores — Northern Africa by five points, Southern Africa by four points and Central/Western and Eastern Africa by three points each. Latin America and the Caribbean also improved, gaining two points over the same two-year period.

Despite these improvements, these five regions remain among those with the lowest average resilience globally. In Eastern, Northern and Southern Africa, however, the recent gains have offset previous declines recorded in 2021 to 2023. In all but Eastern Africa, resilience now stands at its highest level across three editions of the Poll.

Most other global regions have been broadly stable over the past two years, either changing by one point or remaining unchanged. Southern Asia and Eastern Asia are the only global regions where overall Resilience Index scores declined by two points since 2023.

Table 1.2. Regional changes in Resilience Index, 2021–2025

All four African regions post the world’s largest gains since 2023, led by Northern Africa at five points, though each still sits below the global average of 57.

REGION	2021	2023	2025
Northern Africa	51	49	54
Southern Africa	49	47	51
Central/Western Africa	44	44	47
Eastern Africa	50	46	49
Latin America and the Caribbean	49	48	50
Southern Europe	57	55	56
Northern America	65	63	65
Central Asia	61	61	62
Southeastern Asia	64	65	65
Eastern Europe	56	58	58
Middle East	52	53	53
Northern/Western Europe	64	63	63
Australia and New Zealand	66	64	63
Southern Asia	52	53	51
Eastern Asia	62	65	63

Further examining the Resilience Index across its four dimensions highlights regional and national stories of how resilience has changed over time.

Individual resilience dips in Eastern Europe

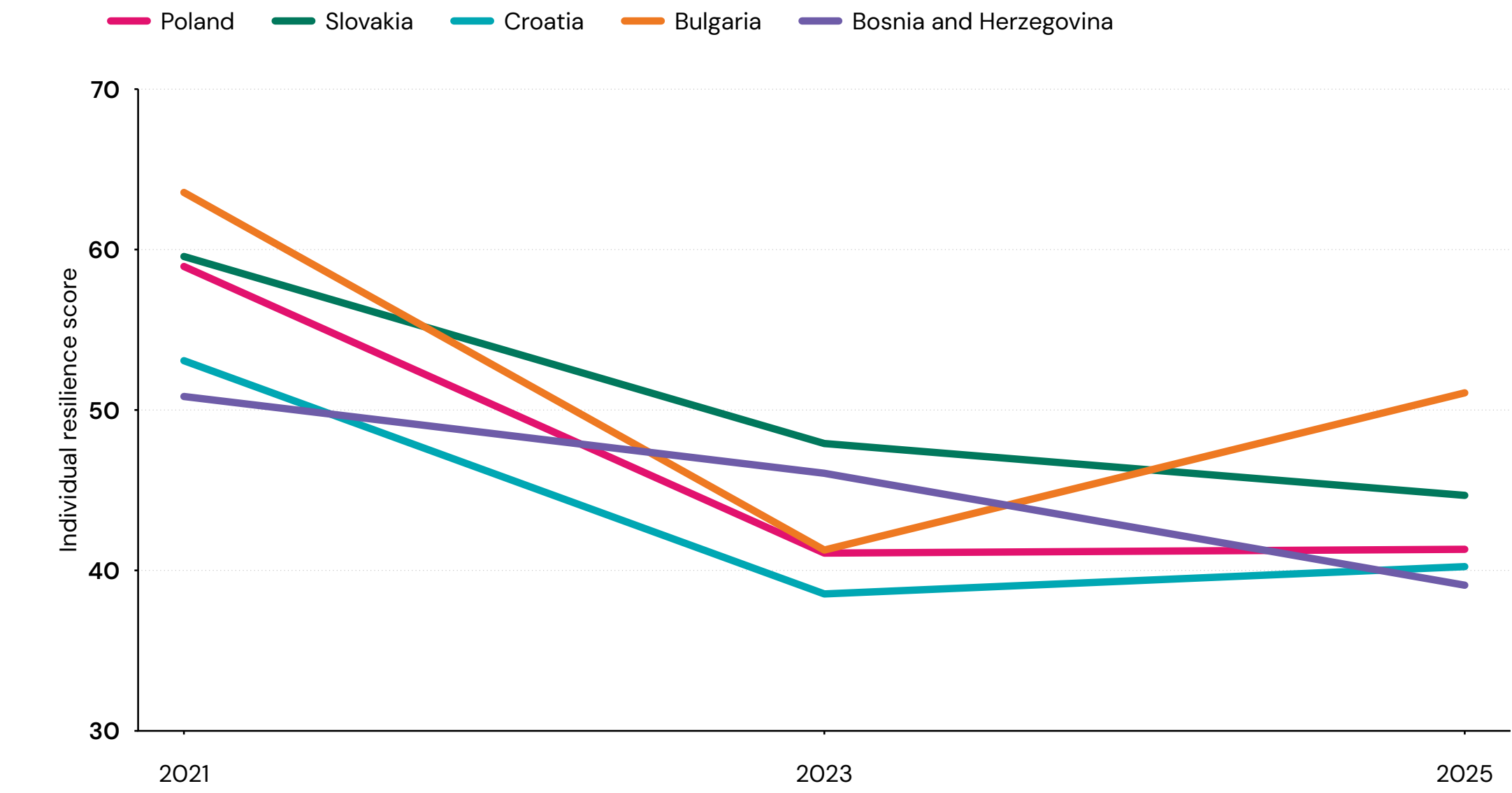
Individual resilience combines two things: people’s level of education, and their subjective feelings of agency in being able to protect themselves and their family in the event of a disaster.

Many of the largest national-level declines in individual resilience since the 2021 Poll have occurred in Eastern Europe. Individual resilience fell by 18 points in Poland and by double digits in Slovakia (–15 points), Croatia (–13), Bulgaria (–13) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (–12). Except for Bulgaria, which rebounded from a record low in 2023, these countries have experienced sustained declines in individual resilience. The only country to have recorded a larger decline since 2021 is Morocco, where individual resilience fell by 19 points, from 39 to 20, following the 2023 earthquake⁵.

These declines have been accompanied by a collapse in people’s sense of agency. Between 2021 and 2025, agency sharply fell by 42 points in Slovakia, 40 in Bulgaria, 37 in both Croatia and Poland and by 28 points in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The timing of these declines may partly reflect heightened concerns about personal safety amid the uncertainty of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. In Ukraine, however, resilience has increased over time as the war has progressed (see Chart 1.5). The findings suggest that geopolitical issues can influence resilience not only at the societal level but also at the individual level.

Chart 1.3. Changes in five Eastern European countries’ individual resilience, 2021–2025

Individual resilience falls across five Eastern European countries since 2021, furthest in Poland at 18 points, alongside a collapse in people’s sense of agency.



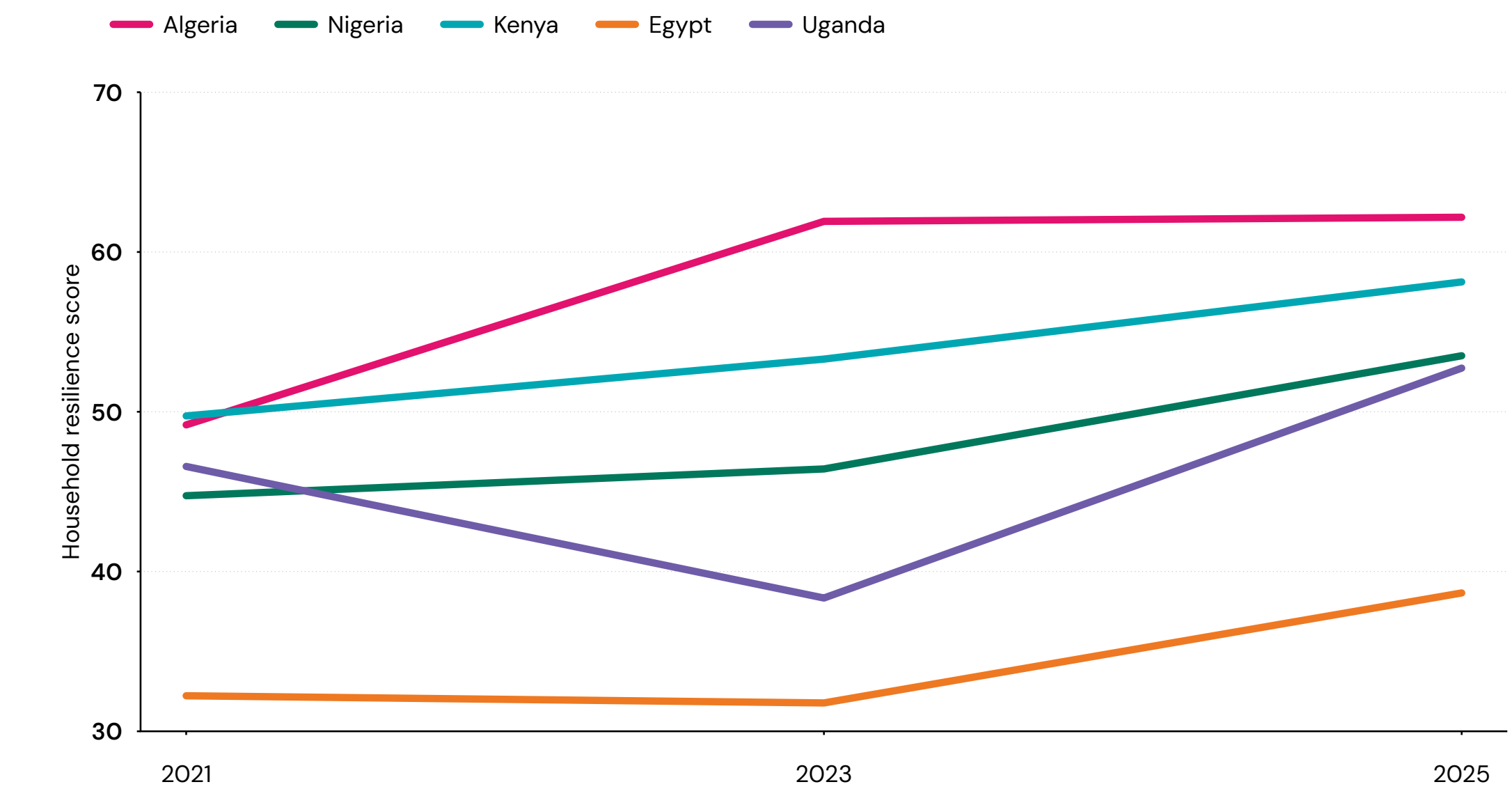
Household resilience jumps in many of Africa’s most populous countries

Household resilience combines people’s financial assets and ability to meet basic needs, the existence of household plans for a disaster, and access to communications in the form of the internet and mobile phones.

As shown in Table 1.2, Africa’s four major regions saw significant increases in resilience in 2025, driven largely by gains in household resilience. Many of the largest increases in household resilience globally have been among Africa’s most populous nations⁶. From 2021–2025, household resilience increased in Algeria (+13 points), Nigeria (+9), Kenya (+8), Egypt (+7) and Uganda (+6). Despite these gains, household resilience remains uneven across Africa, ranging from 62 in Algeria to 39 in Egypt.

Chart 1.4. Changes in five African countries’ household resilience, 2021–2025

Household resilience rises in Africa’s most populous countries, by 13 points in Algeria and nine in Nigeria, though scores still range from 62 to 39.



The reasons behind these increases are not uniform. Compared with 2021, the two populous Northern African nations of Algeria (+12 points) and Egypt (+14) saw bigger increases in financial resilience — i.e., the percentage saying they could last more than a month if they lost all household income — than Uganda (+7 points), Kenya (+4) or Nigeria (+3). By contrast, increases in the percentage saying their household has a plan in case of a future disaster (known to all members over the age of 10) were significant in Algeria (+30 points) and Kenya (+10), but more stable elsewhere.

Internet access can also strengthen household resilience by connecting people to early warning systems, essential services and sources of social support while also opening lines of communication. Over the past four editions of the World Risk Poll, internet access has increased across Africa’s main regions, another potential factor behind the rise in resilience scores.

Table 1.3. Changes in internet access in Africa’s four main regions, 2019–2025 (% with internet access)

Internet access rises across all four African regions since 2019, by 17 percentage points in Northern Africa, whilst Eastern Africa remains lowest at 37%.

REGION	2019	2025
Northern Africa	52	69
Central/Western Africa	31	43
Southern Africa	51	63
Eastern Africa	28	37
Global average	56	74

Survey question: Do you have access to the Internet in any way, whether on a mobile phone, a computer, or some other device?

Resilience in Ukraine climbs, driven by community cohesion following invasion

Community resilience combines measures of social capital, including perceptions of care from neighbours, feelings of safety and helping strangers, as well as satisfaction with local infrastructure like roads, schools and healthcare.

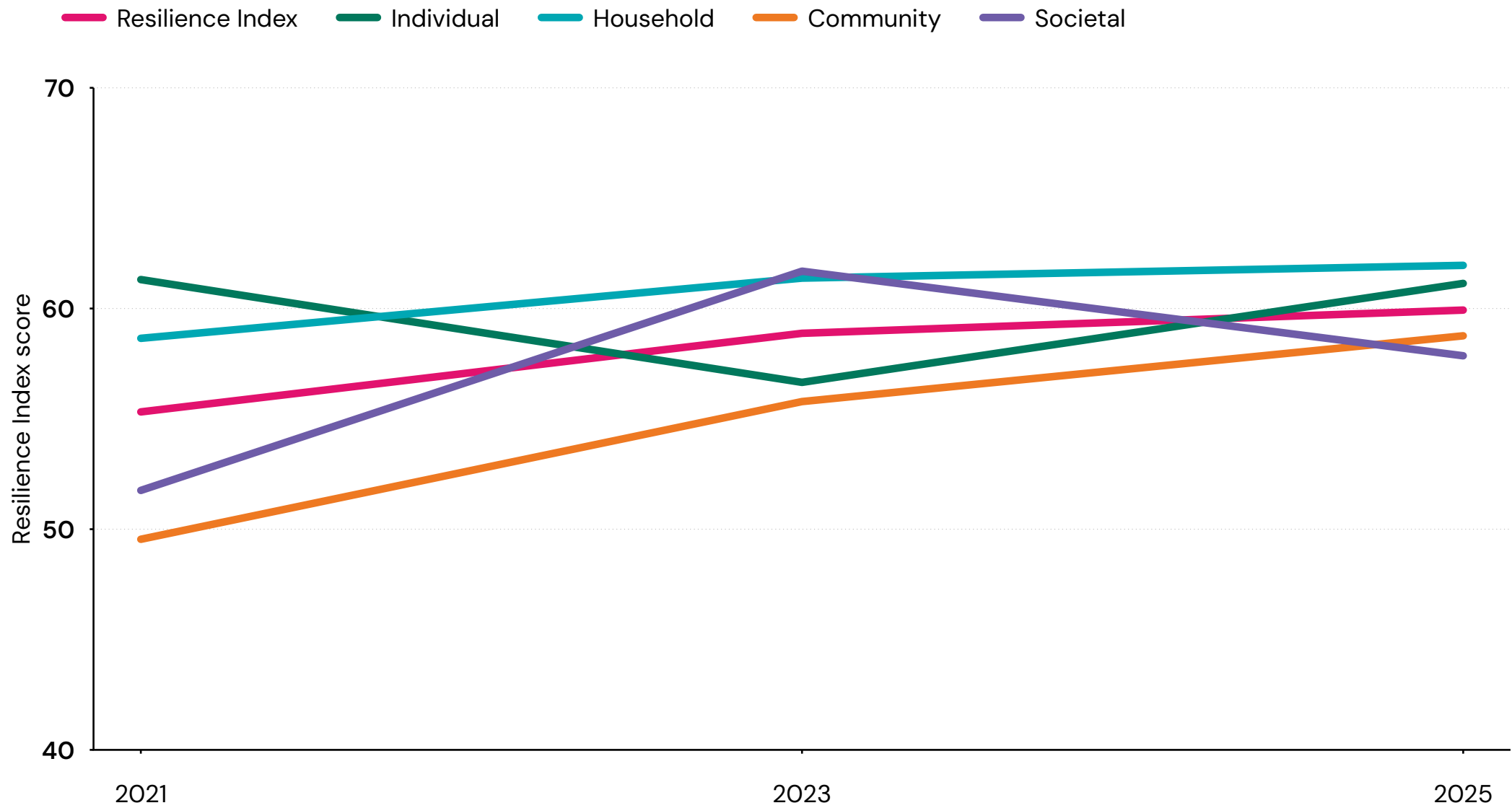
Ukraine offers a useful example of how different dimensions of resilience can evolve in the face of extreme shocks, such as armed conflict. Research suggests that, following a disaster, communities can function and adapt successfully through a mix of economic development, social capital, access to information and community competence⁷.

Since 2021, Ukraine has recorded one of the world’s largest increases in community resilience, rising from a score of 50 in 2021 to 56 in 2023 following Russia’s full-scale invasion in 2022, and rising again to 59 in 2025. This increase outstrips all other dimensions of the Resilience Index for Ukraine. With the exception of individual resilience, which is in line with pre-war levels (scoring 61), all other dimensions have also increased compared to before the invasion.

The increase in community resilience in Ukraine is largely due to greater social cohesion and feelings of care. In 2021, 42% of adults said they thought their neighbours cared about them at least somewhat. This figure rose to 46% in 2023, and again to 49% in 2025.

Chart 1.5. Changes in Ukraine’s Resilience Index and its four dimensions, 2021–2025

Ukraine’s community resilience climbs from 50 to 59 across the course of the war, outstripping every other dimension, built on stronger perceptions of neighbourly care.



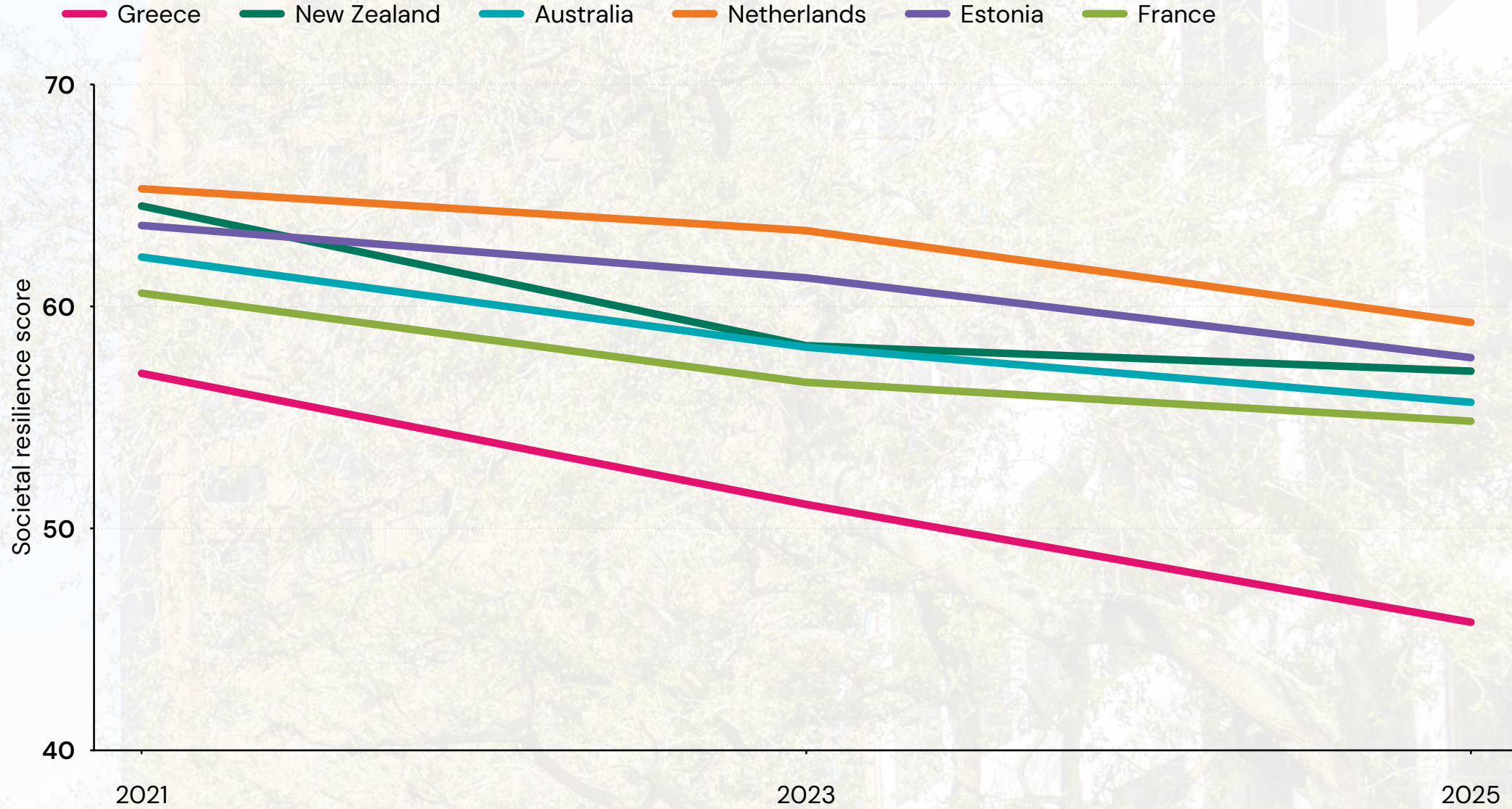
Several high-income countries see large declines in societal resilience

Societal resilience combines experiences of discrimination, perceptions of governmental care and confidence in institutions, including the military, judiciary and national government.

Even though societal resilience has increased globally since 2021, several high-income nations have moved in the opposite direction. As shown in Chart 1.2, societal resilience is the only dimension of the Resilience Index in which high-income countries do not rank highest or joint-highest compared with countries of lower income. Several high-income countries feature among the list of greatest declines since 2021, including Greece (-11 points), New Zealand (-8) and Australia, the Netherlands, Estonia and France (all -6).

Chart 1.6. Changes in six high-income countries' societal resilience, 2021-2025

Six high-income countries lose ground on societal resilience since 2021, Greece furthest at 11 points, with confidence in national government down in every case.



These declines share commonalities and differences across countries. All saw declines in confidence in their national governments and in the perception that their governments care about people's wellbeing. Australia, Greece, New Zealand and the Netherlands saw significant drops in confidence in the military, while Australia and Greece also saw declines in confidence in the judiciary. Australia further reported increases in experiences of discrimination based on skin colour, gender and disability.

The United States: Among the highest in individual resilience, but lowest in societal

No country better illustrates the multi-dimensional and complex nature of resilience than the United States, as it has done in previous editions⁸ of the Poll. At the individual (68) and household (77) levels of resilience, the U.S. ranks second highest in the world behind Sweden (72) and Vietnam (79), respectively. Due to its relatively high levels of education, feelings of agency, household disaster plans, financial resilience and access to communications, the U.S. virtually leads the world in resilience at a smaller scale.

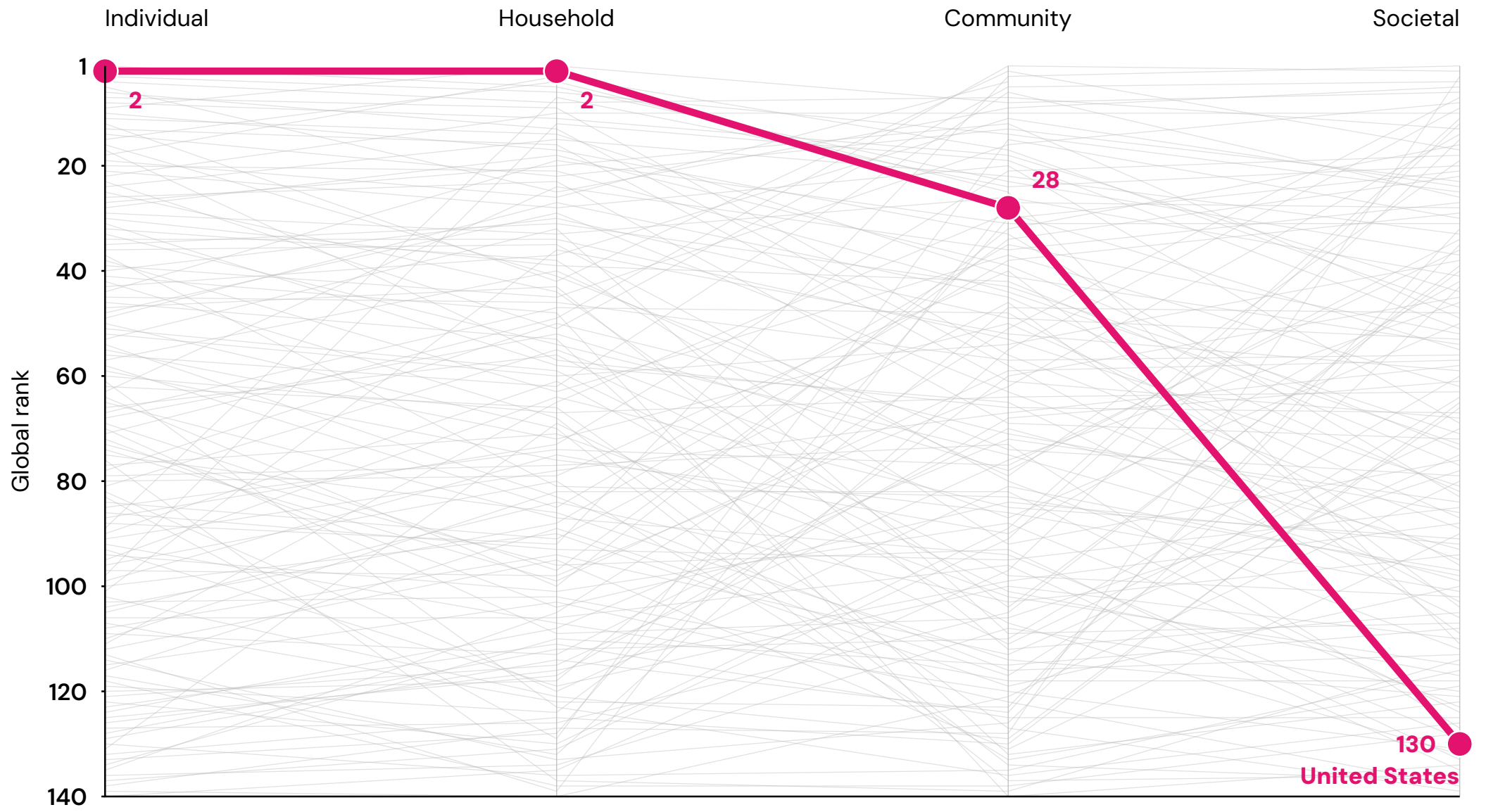
However, the picture changes at broader levels of resilience. The U.S. drops to a score of 68 on community resilience, equating to a rank of 28th globally. While this still places the U.S. in the top quintile of countries on this measure, societal resilience is the real outlier. With a rank of 130th in the world out of 139 countries and territories, no other country ranks so highly at the microlevel and so low at the macrosocietal level.

The U.S. has low scores on most aspects of societal resilience. It ranks among the bottom 20% globally for confidence in the national government (30%) and judicial system (41%), as well as feeling cared for by the national government (only 4% feel cared for ‘a lot’). It also ranks in the top 20% for reported experiences of discrimination based on religion (14%) and disability (9%), third highest globally for reported experience of discrimination based on skin colour (25%) and fifth for discrimination based on nationality or ethnicity (28%) and gender (26%).

The U.S.’s one area of relative strength in societal resilience is trust in the military (80%), though this is still 10 points lower than in the first edition of the Poll in 2019 (90%). Overall, the case of the U.S. highlights that resilience capacity relies on all four dimensions. Regardless of scoring high on one or two dimensions, all four need to be high to prevent other parts of the system from being under too much strain.

Chart 1.7. Differences in U.S. global ranking across Resilience Index dimensions, 2025

The United States ranks second worldwide on household resilience and 130th of 139 on societal resilience, the widest such split of any country.



CHAPTER 2

The links between a resilient life and a good life

The concept of wellbeing encompasses how life is going for individuals, communities and nations, and how sustainable that state is for the future. It is often assessed through overall life evaluation alongside wider economic, social and environmental measures that go beyond traditional indicators like GDP and income. Together, these measures provide a picture of whether people are feeling good and functioning well.

To sustain and grow wellbeing, people need to have the capacity for resilience and the ability to recover from difficulties. Individuals, communities, businesses and states not only need to be able to react to events quickly, they need to anticipate future risks, prepare for them and invest in long-term strength and stability. This is particularly true against the backdrop of common global challenges like climate change, population shifts and emerging technologies.

THE GAP FADES AS THE CIRCLE WIDENS

Each ring is one level of the Resilience Index, and its thickness is the gap between adults who are **THRIVING** and adults who are **SUFFERING**. That gap runs to 26 points at the **INDIVIDUAL** level and closes to nothing at the **SOCIETAL** one.



Wellbeing and resilience have gained significant attention in academic and policy circles in recent years for moving beyond traditional measures like GDP to focus on how people experience their lives and the links between resilience and mental health⁹, psychological¹⁰ and youth wellbeing¹¹.

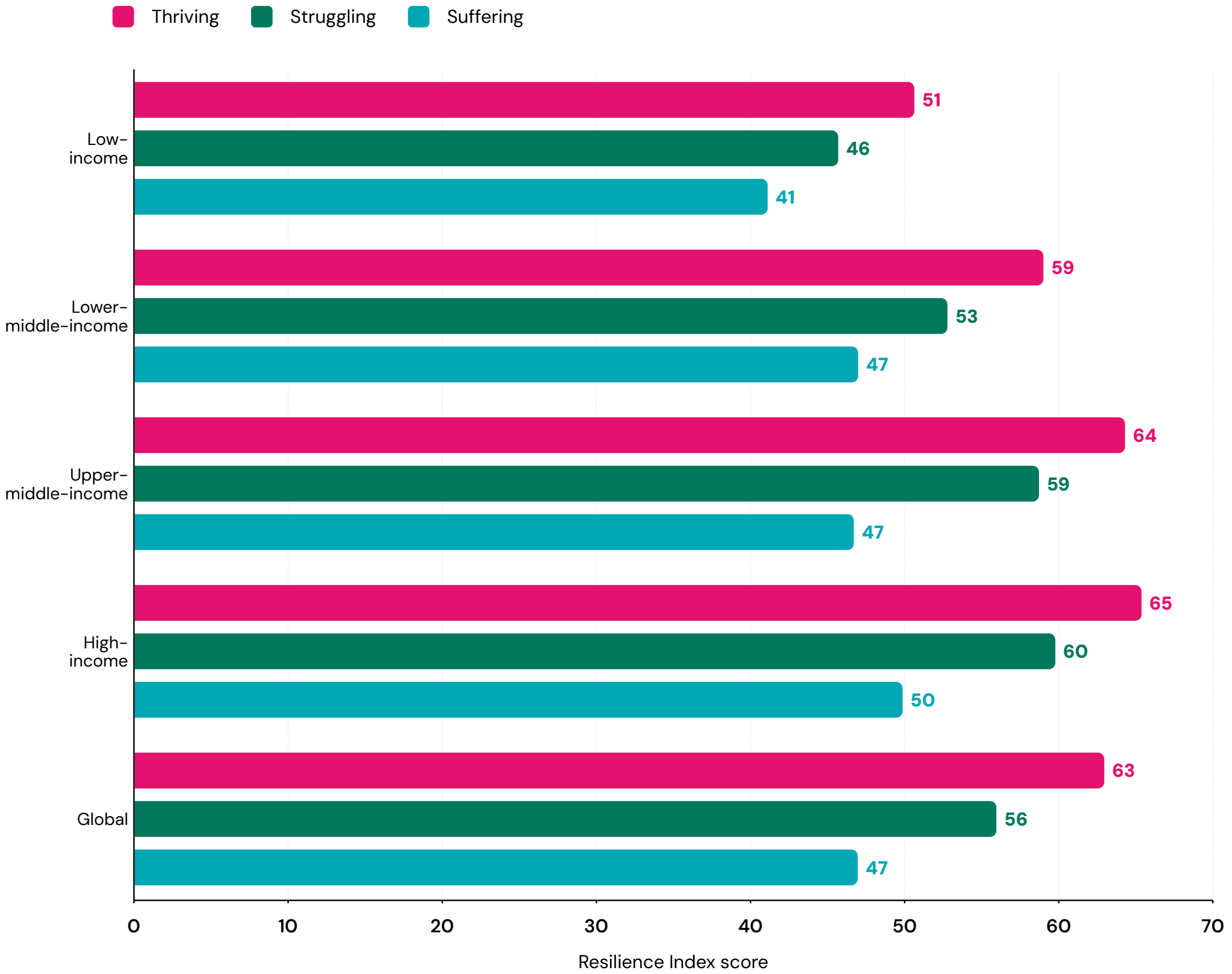
The World Risk Poll provides a unique opportunity to examine the relationship between resilience and wellbeing because it measures both in the same survey, among the same respondents. Alongside its Resilience Index, the Poll draws on core Gallup World Poll wellbeing measures, including the Cantril Ladder, which asks people to rate their lives overall and in five years’ time, and daily experiences of positive and negative daily emotions. This chapter examines what those measures reveal about the relationship between living a good life and living a resilient one.

Higher wellbeing is tied to higher resilience

At the global level, people with higher wellbeing are consistently more resilient. People classified as ‘thriving’ on Gallup’s Life Evaluation Index have an average resilience score of 63, significantly higher than the score among people who are classed as ‘struggling’ (56) or ‘suffering’ (47). This relationship holds across all country income groups. From high- to low-income countries, the better people rate their lives overall, the more resilient they are. In every income group, the resilience gap between people who are thriving and those who are suffering is at least 10 points.

Chart 2.1. Average Resilience Index scores, by World Bank country income group and Life Evaluation Index

Adults who are thriving out-score those who are suffering by 16 points globally and by at least 10 points across every income group.



Note: Gallup’s Life Evaluation Index, based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, asks people to rate their current and future lives on a ladder from 0 (worst) to 10 (best). Those scoring 7+ for the present and 8+ for five years ahead are ‘thriving’, while those rating both 4 or below are ‘suffering’. Everyone else is ‘struggling’.

A global map of resilience and wellbeing

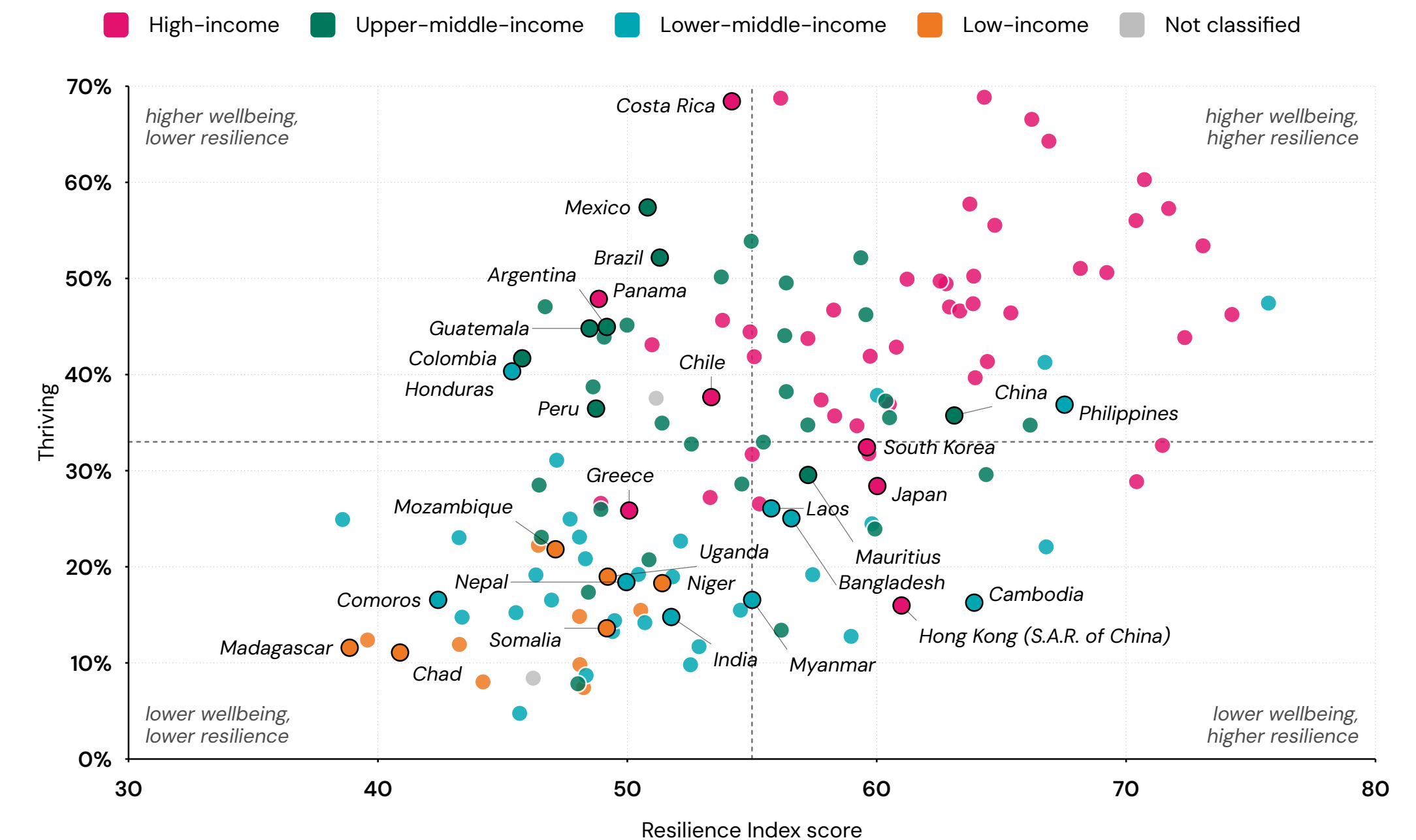
At the national level, a clear positive relationship exists between how people rate their lives today and a country's overall Resilience Index score ($r=0.61$). However, this relationship is not linear, particularly once country income is taken into account. Using the global median for thriving (33%) and the median Resilience Index score (55) as dividing lines, countries can be segmented to illustrate how wellbeing, resilience and national income intersect.

Most high-income countries and territories cluster in the higher wellbeing, higher resilience quadrant, with Nordic and Gulf states performing well on both measures, but exceptions exist. Several high-income economies in Eastern Asia, including South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong (S.A.R. of China), fall into the lower wellbeing, higher resilience quadrant. Conversely, Costa Rica, Chile and Panama are notable for combining higher wellbeing with lower resilience, while Greece scores low on both measures despite its high-income status.

Similar contrasts appear among middle-income countries. Many upper-middle-income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Peru, and lower-middle-income Honduras, fall into the higher wellbeing, lower resilience quadrant. In contrast, several Southeastern Asian countries — among them Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia — show the opposite pattern. Most remaining lower-middle-income countries, along with all low-income nations (concentrated largely in sub-Saharan Africa), fall into the lower wellbeing, lower resilience quadrant.

Chart 2.2. Quadrant map of World Bank country income group resilience and subjective wellbeing

Most high-income countries pair higher wellbeing with higher resilience, but Costa Rica, Chile and Panama combine high wellbeing with low resilience, and Greece scores low on both.



Note: Gallup's Life Evaluation Index, based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, asks people to rate their current and future lives on a ladder from 0 (worst) to 10 (best). Those scoring 7+ for the present and 8+ for five years ahead are 'thriving', while those rating both 4 or below are 'suffering'. Everyone else is 'struggling'.

The Life Evaluation Index is based on two questions that ask people to rate their lives today and where they expect their lives to be in five years, each on a 0–10 scale. Examining only current life evaluations across its entire scale highlights important variations in how wellbeing and resilience interact across country income levels.

Living in a wealthier country does not protect people with low wellbeing scores from low resilience. Among those who rate their present lives as ‘0’, ‘1’ or ‘2’ on the Cantril Ladder, resilience scores are broadly similar, hovering between 45 and 50 in lower-middle-, upper-middle- and high-income countries and between 40 and 45 in low-income countries.

Once present life ratings exceed ‘2’, resilience rises steadily as people rate their lives more positively, but differences by country income level become more pronounced. The increase is steepest in upper-middle- and high-income countries, while lower-middle- and low-income countries show more modest gains. Beyond a life rating of ‘7’, however, resilience begins to plateau, and in most income groups, average resilience scores for people rating their present lives a 10 are actually lower than for those rating their lives a ‘9’. This echoes previous research based on the Gallup World Poll, which finds that emotional wellbeing rises with income, but gains tail off significantly once people earn around \$75,000¹².

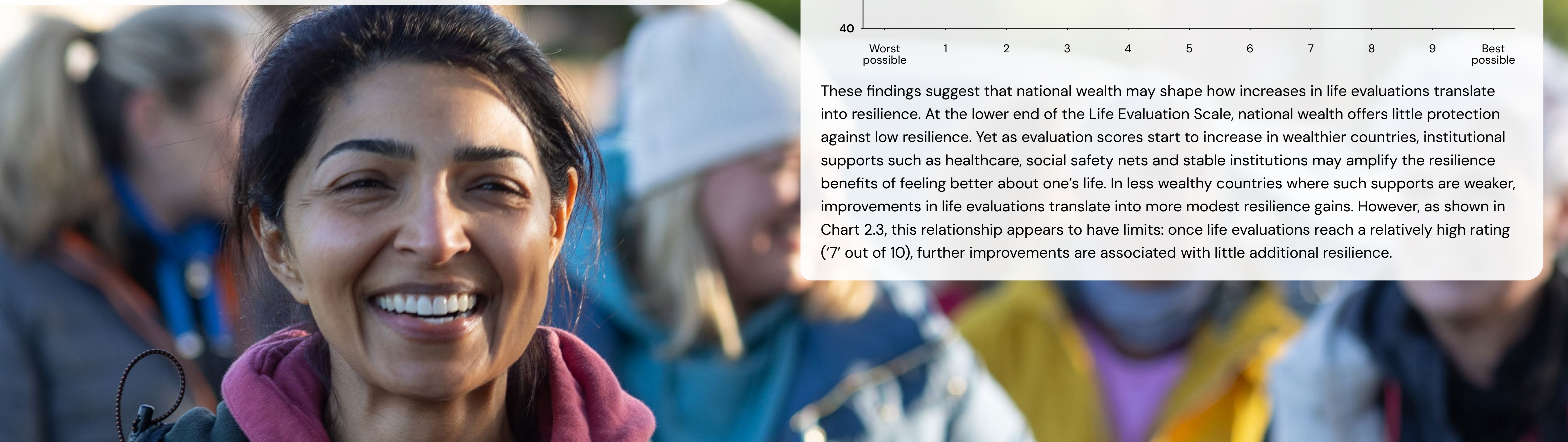
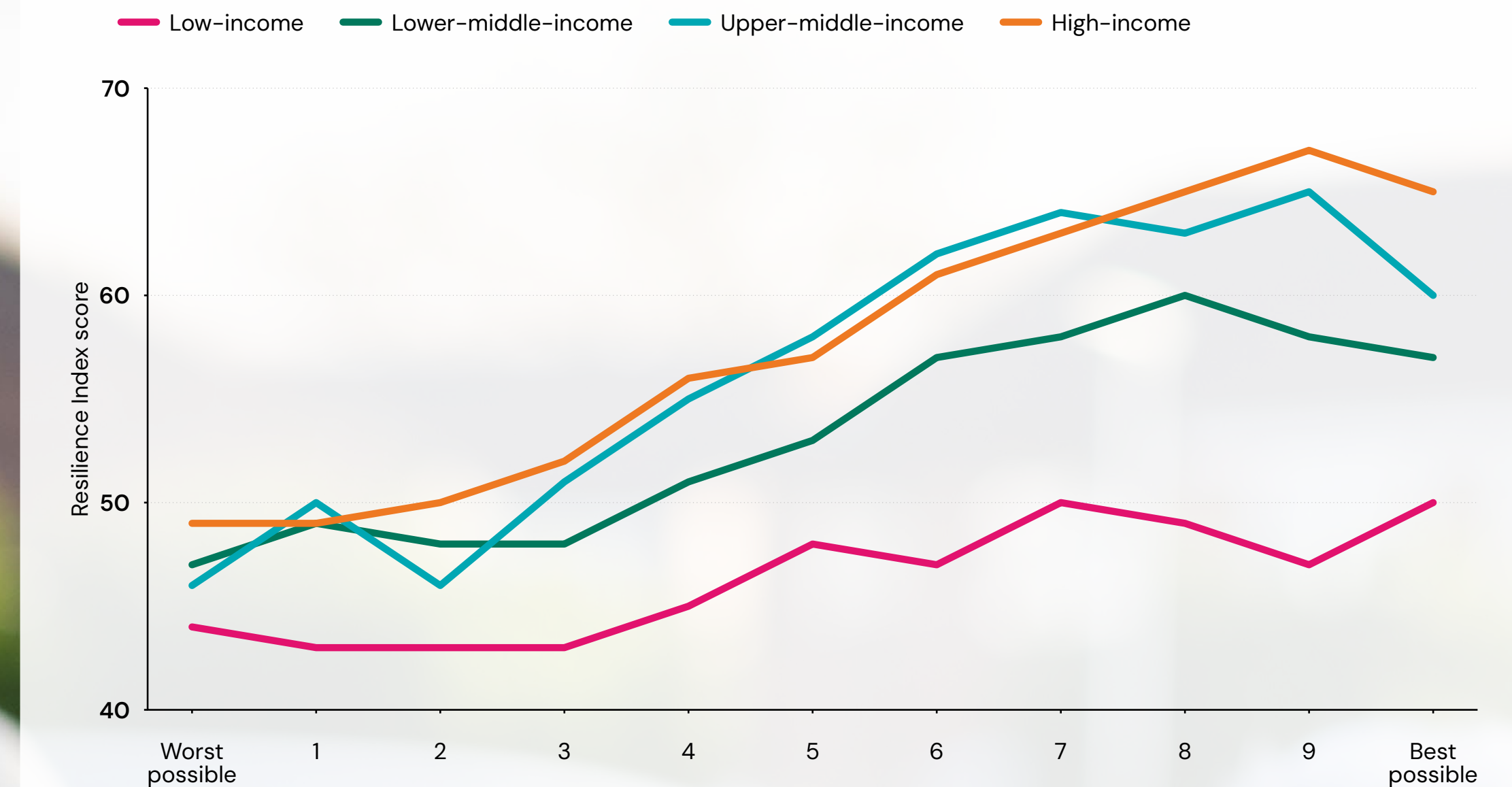


Chart 2.3. Average Resilience Index scores, by Cantril Ladder scores and World Bank country income group

Resilience rises with how people rate their lives, but only above a rating of 2 and only as far as 7, beyond which the gains plateau in every income group.



These findings suggest that national wealth may shape how increases in life evaluations translate into resilience. At the lower end of the Life Evaluation Scale, national wealth offers little protection against low resilience. Yet as evaluation scores start to increase in wealthier countries, institutional supports such as healthcare, social safety nets and stable institutions may amplify the resilience benefits of feeling better about one’s life. In less wealthy countries where such supports are weaker, improvements in life evaluations translate into more modest resilience gains. However, as shown in Chart 2.3, this relationship appears to have limits: once life evaluations reach a relatively high rating (‘7’ out of 10), further improvements are associated with little additional resilience.

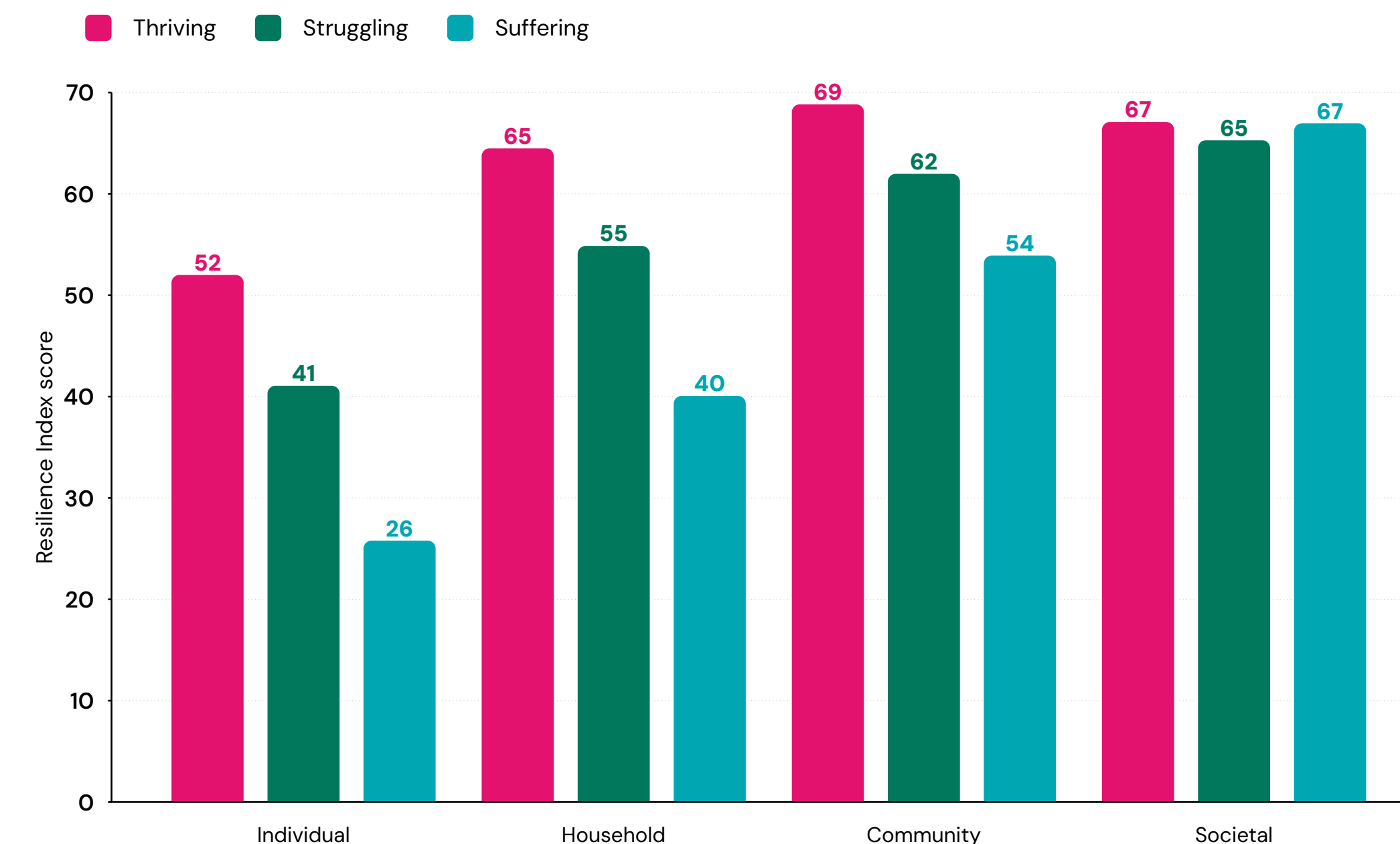
Wellbeing is more closely related to individual than societal resilience

Further examination of the four dimensions of the Resilience Index highlights additional nuances in the relationship between resilience and wellbeing. The relationship is strongest at the individual level, which is unsurprising given that subjective wellbeing is an inherently personal rating, and education is a component within the individual resilience dimension (more educated individuals tend to have higher wellbeing). Globally, people who are thriving in life score twice as high on individual resilience as those who are suffering (52 vs. 26). People who are struggling score somewhat closer to those who are thriving (41), though still lower. Household resilience scores also show a pronounced gradient, with 'suffering' individuals scoring 40, compared with 55 for those struggling and 65 among those who are thriving.

Notably, as the scope of resilience expands outwards, its relationship with wellbeing weakens at the community level and disappears entirely at the societal level. Whether someone is suffering or thriving appears to have no meaningful connection to how resilient their broader society is.

Chart 2.4. Relationship between Life Evaluation Index and four dimensions of the Resilience Index

The wellbeing gap in resilience is widest at the individual level, where thriving adults score twice as high as those suffering (52 against 26), and disappears at the societal level.

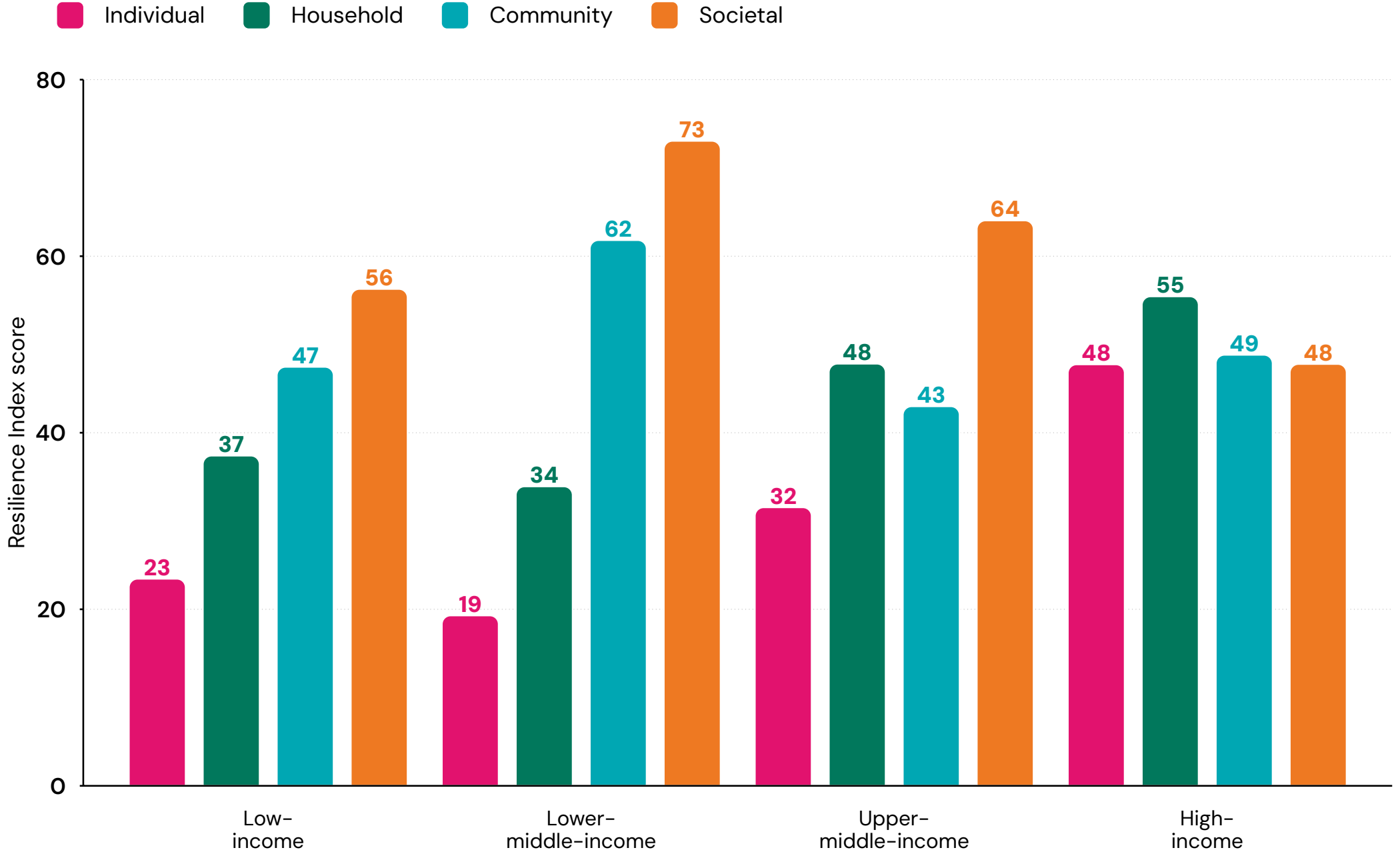


Note: Gallup's Life Evaluation Index, based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, asks people to rate their current and future lives on a ladder from 0 (worst) to 10 (best). Those scoring 7+ for the present and 8+ for five years ahead are 'thriving', while those rating both 4 or below are 'suffering'. Everyone else is 'struggling'.

Factoring in country income group reveals another important pattern. Among people in high-income countries who are suffering, resilience scores are fairly consistent across all dimensions, from the individual to the societal. However, in all other country income groups, resilience typically increases as it shifts from the individual to the collective level.

Chart 2.5. Resilience Index dimension scores among people who are suffering, by World Bank country income group

Among adults who are suffering, resilience rises from the individual to the societal level in every income group except high-income countries, where it stays flat.



This suggests that for those facing difficulties in life, the support they find appears to depend, in part, on where they live. In lower-income countries, people who are suffering may live in communities and societies that maintain relatively strong collective structures and networks despite difficult individual circumstances. Resilience in these contexts may be more collectively held than individually held given a higher dependency on governmental or international support for wellbeing in these countries. In high-income countries, individuals who are suffering have stronger personal resources, but they live in communities and societies that score lower on collective resilience. Therefore, support is more likely to come from the household or individual. This pattern may reflect social fragmentation or weaker community ties that characterise some wealthier nations.

Insight to action

Wellbeing and resilience are closely intertwined, but the relationship is nuanced. The data in this chapter highlight three key implications for policymakers working on resilience, wellbeing and the intersection between the two.

First, decreasing suffering is more likely to build resilience than increasing flourishing among those already doing reasonably well. The greatest opportunities to strengthen resilience lie in interventions that help those experiencing the lowest levels of wellbeing and reduce chronic suffering. Local government has a key role to play here. Many of the policies that shape both wellbeing and resilience, such as housing, transport, green space, social services and emergency preparedness, are designed and delivered locally.

Second, national prosperity alone does not protect people with low subjective wellbeing. Rather, individual support matters more than national wealth. In effect, there is no trickle-down effect for resilience: among people who rate their lives at the bottom of the wellbeing scale, resilience differs little between high- and middle-income countries. Therefore, universal safety net programmes and other support systems for the most vulnerable cannot be treated as problems only for lower-income nations; even the wealthiest nations need targeted policies to support those facing the deepest distress, such as community support and the provision of safe, not only skilled, jobs.

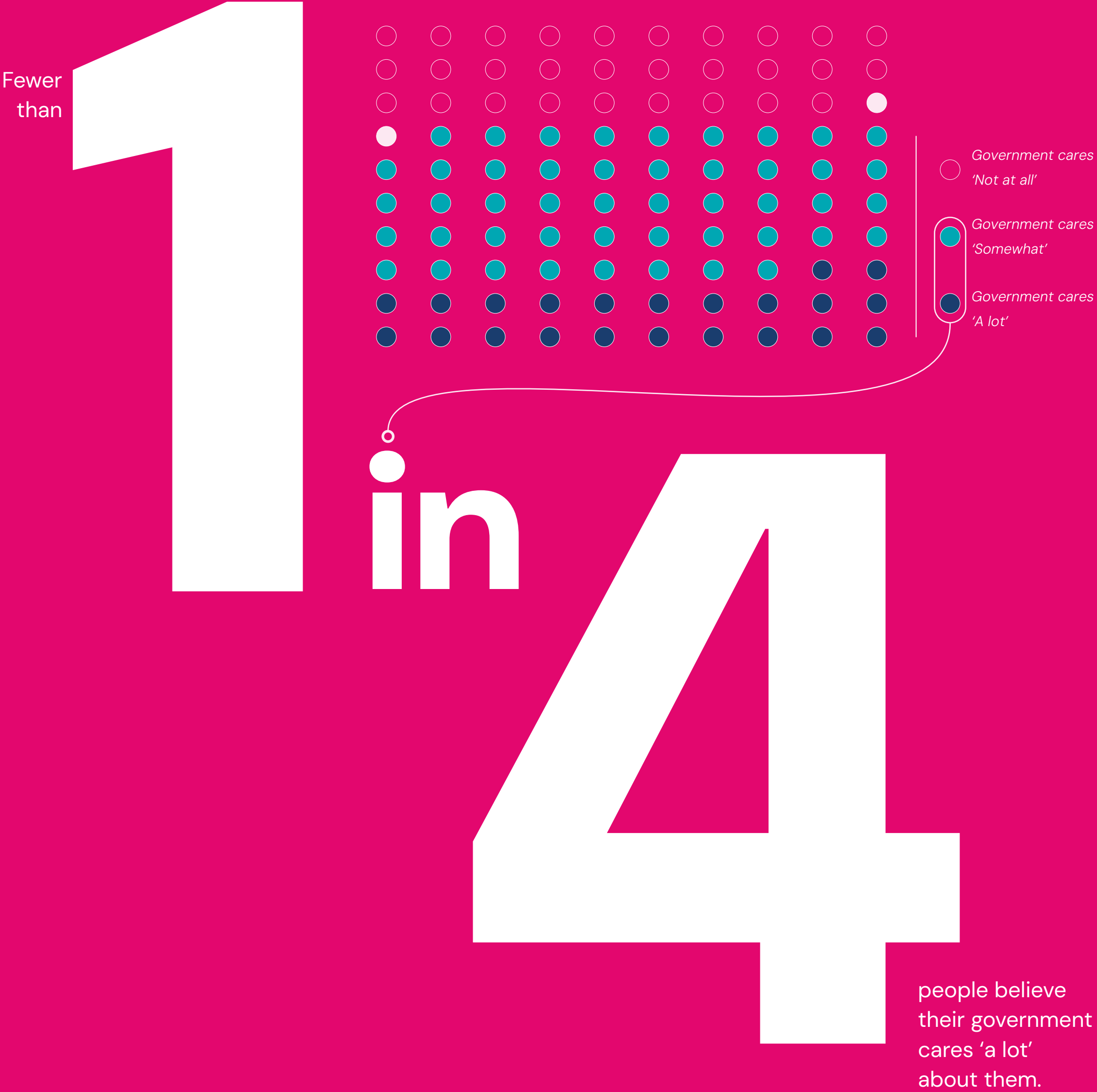
Finally, resilience can come from different sources. In lower-income countries, the different dimensions of resilience tend to compensate for one another in relation to wellbeing. Investments in communities can help compensate for weaker individual resilience. At the same time, investments in education and building agency would strengthen resilience at the individual level.

CHAPTER 3

Perceptions of global care

Feeling cared for by others and by society in general is an important source of resilience. When people believe that someone is thinking ahead with them and their wellbeing in mind, it can foster feelings of safety and trust. People who believe they can rely on their neighbours or that their government cares about their wellbeing are likely to be better equipped to cope with adversity. For this reason, a set of questions in the Resilience Index asks how much care people feel they receive from their neighbours (community resilience) and their national government (societal resilience). Together, these questions gauge how much of a stake people feel they have in their community and country.

Academic research has found multiple links between feeling cared for and resilience at different levels. For example, being cared for through social support is tied to neurological changes that dampen cortisol levels and reduce stress^{13,14}, psychological changes by creating secure attachments to others, and social changes through modifying emotional regulation and fostering a sense of belonging¹⁵.



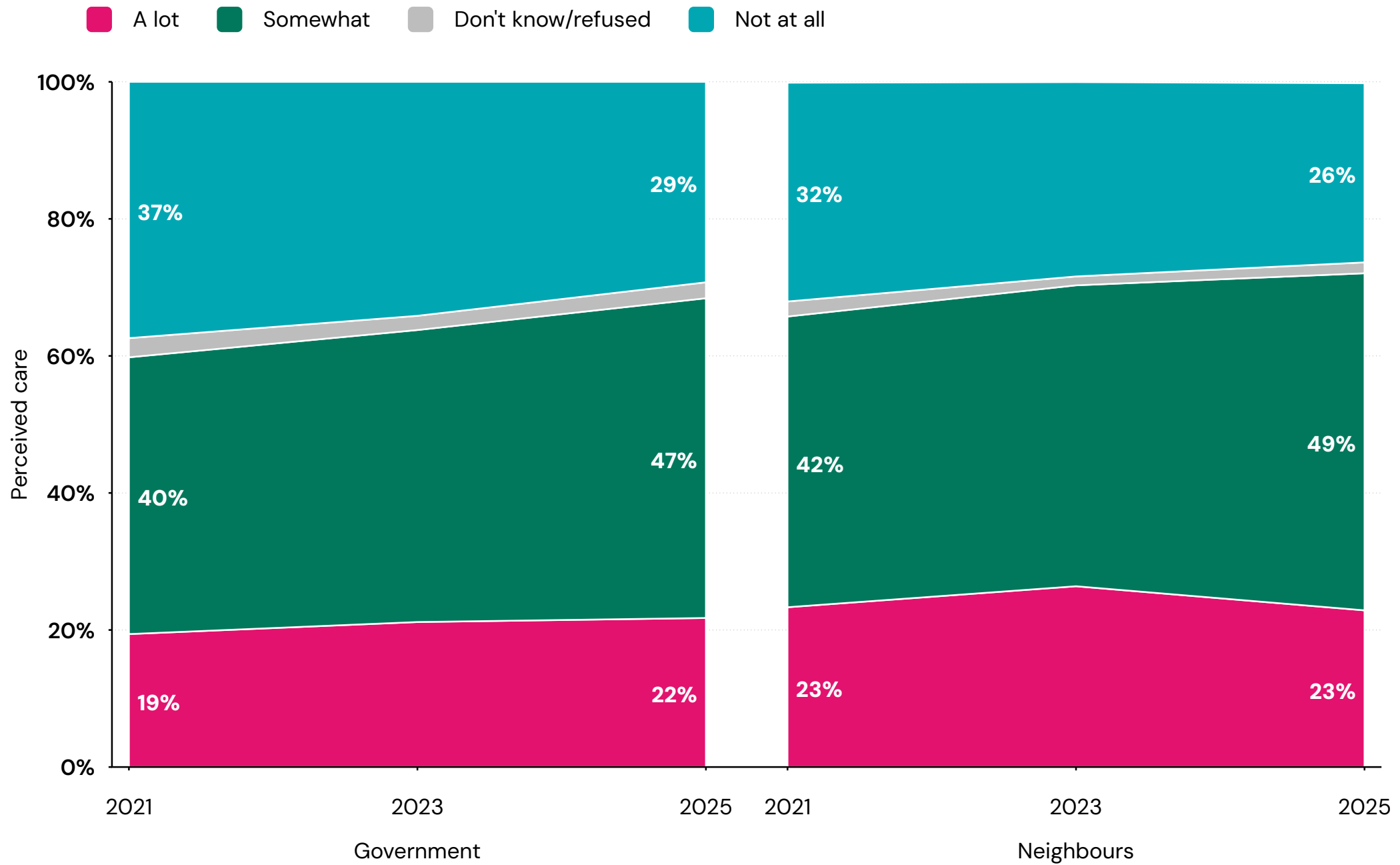
The World Risk Poll has measured perceptions of care in 2021, 2023 and 2025, making it possible to track changes over time. The most recent results show that while perceptions of care have improved globally, most people still do not feel that their neighbours or governments care much about them.

In 2025, the world felt marginally more cared for by neighbours and governments than it did in 2023 or 2021. Twenty-two percent feel their government cares about them ‘a lot’, while slightly less than half (47%) say the government cares about them ‘somewhat’, and 29% ‘not at all’. The share of adults saying they feel a lot of care from their government has nudged up by three points from 19% since 2021; however, the biggest change has been in the share of adults saying they feel no care at all from their government, which has dropped by eight points over the same period. Even so, people worldwide have consistently been more likely to say their government does not care about them at all than to say it cares about them a lot. The share who says they feel somewhat cared for by government has risen by seven points, from 40% in 2021.

Global perceptions of neighbourly care follow a broadly similar pattern. While the percentage who feel a lot of care from their neighbours is in line with 2021 (both 23%), the share feeling no care at all has dipped from 32% to 26%. The share answering ‘somewhat’ cared for increased by a similar margin, from 42% to 49%.

Chart 3.1. Perceptions of care from governments, neighbours, 2021–2025 (global %)

The share feeling no care at all from their government falls eight percentage points since 2021 to 29%, yet still exceeds the 22% who feel cared for a lot.



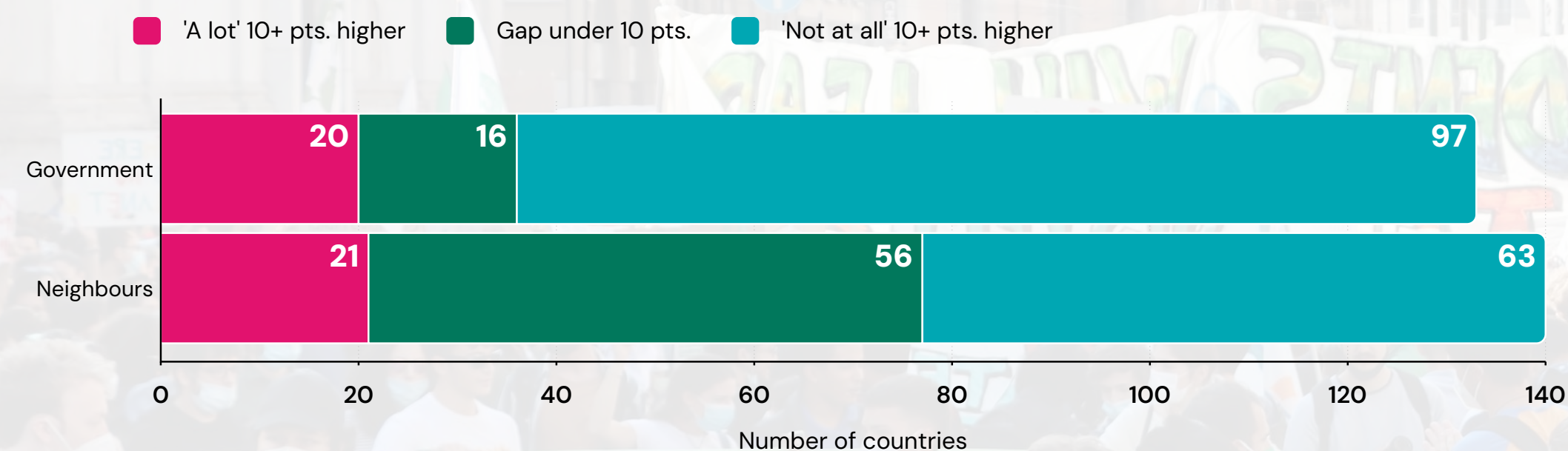
Question text: How much do you think the government of [country] cares about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?
How much do you think most of your neighbours care about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?
Note: Values under 5% are not displayed.

The global care deficit

Countries where people are substantially more likely to feel cared for are the exception rather than the rule. In 97 countries, the share of adults who say the government does not care about them at all is at least 10 points higher than the share who think the government cares about them a lot. The reverse is true in only 20 countries, while 16 countries have gaps of less than 10 points in either direction. Care from neighbours follows a similar pattern, though less extreme. In 63 countries, the 'not at all' share for neighbourly care exceeds the 'a lot' share by at least 10 points, compared with 21 countries where the opposite is true.

Chart 3.2. Country-level gaps in perceptions that governments, neighbours care 'a lot' vs. 'not at all' (# of countries)

In 97 countries, the share feeling no government care at all exceeds the share feeling a lot by at least 10 percentage points; only 20 countries run the other way.



Question text: How much do you think the government of [country] cares about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?

How much do you think most of your neighbours care about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?



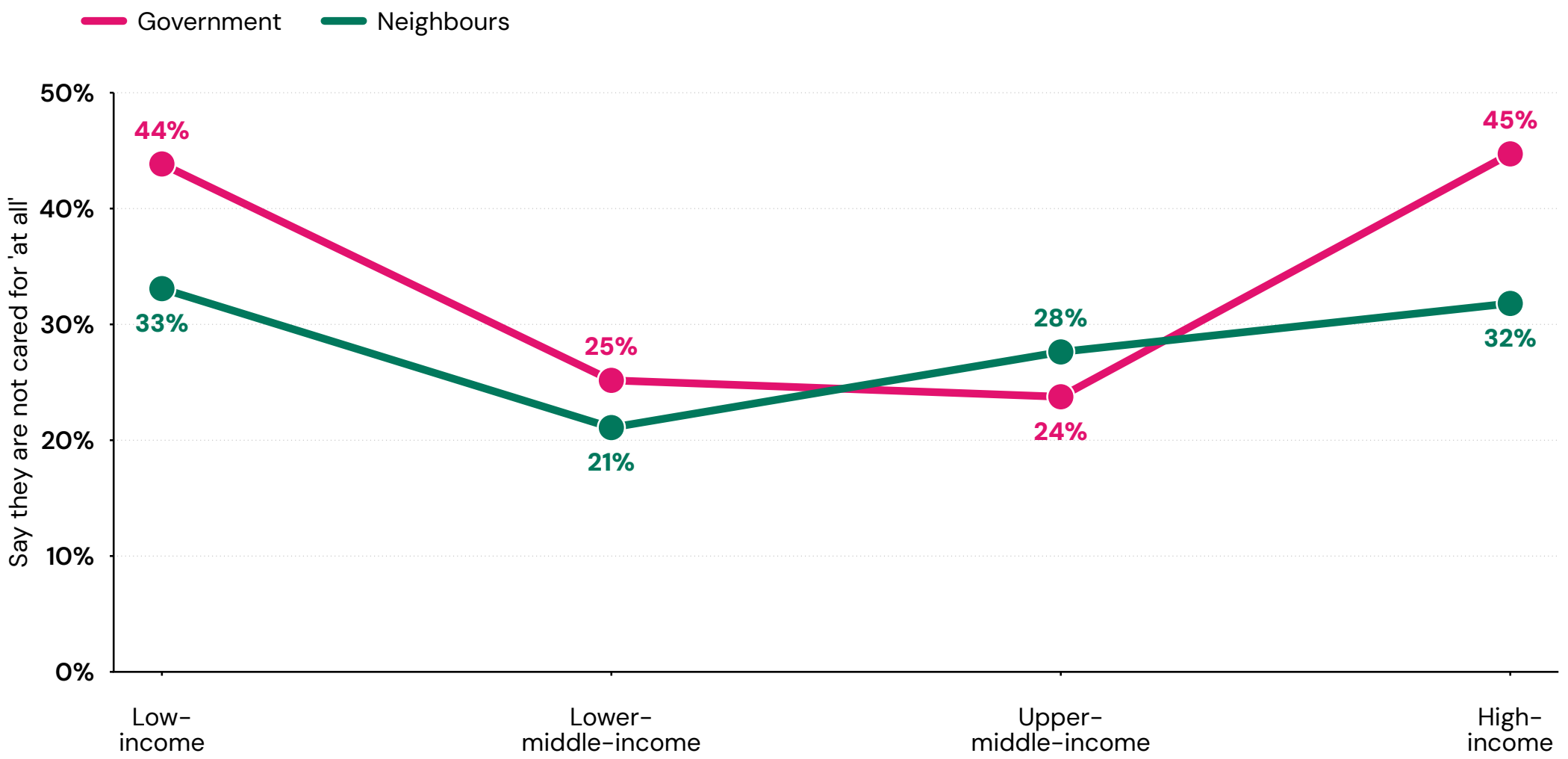
The U-shape of global care

While it is more common for people to feel no care at all from their government and neighbours than to feel a lot of care, it is worth noting that these perceptions vary considerably by country income level. However, rather than improving steadily as countries become wealthier, there is a distinct U-shaped distribution by country income groups. The most and least affluent countries consistently report the least perceived care, while middle-income countries are significantly more likely to feel cared for.

This pattern is particularly clear regarding perceptions of government care. Similar proportions of adults say they feel completely uncared for in low-income (44%) and high-income (45%) countries. In upper-middle- and lower-middle-income countries, roughly one in four people say the same (24% and 25%, respectively). Perceptions of neighbourly care follow a similar pattern: highest at the poles of the country income classification (33%: low, 32%: high), but lower among upper-middle- (28%) and lower-middle-income (21%) countries.

Chart 3.3. Perceptions of lack of care from governments, neighbours, by World Bank country income group (% not at all)

Perceived care is U-shaped by income, with 44% in low-income and 45% in high-income countries feeling no government care at all, compared with roughly a quarter in middle-income countries.



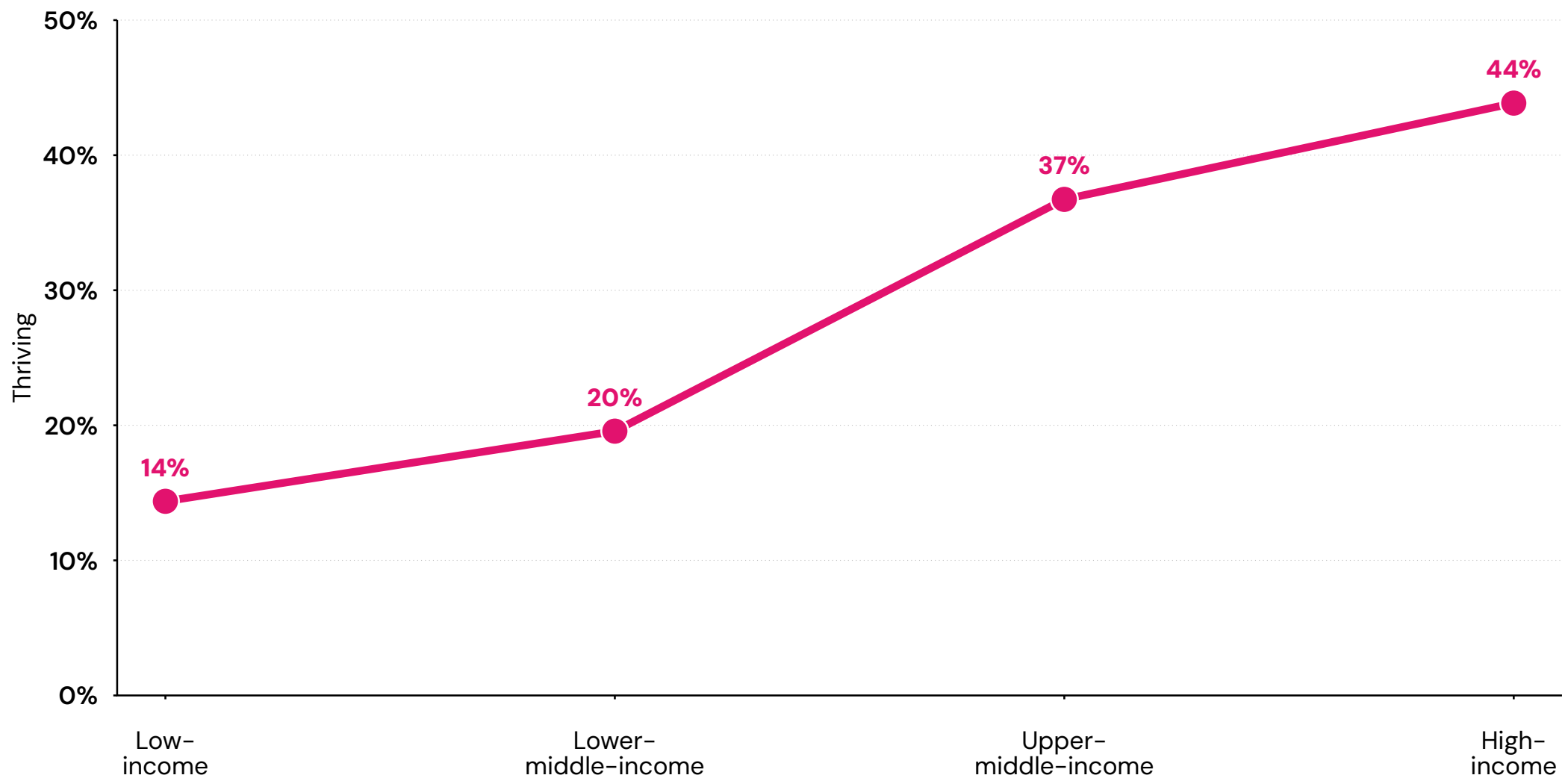
Question text: How much do you think the government of [country] cares about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?
How much do you think most of your neighbours care about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?

The underlying reasons for low perceived care may differ considerably between the two poles. In low-income countries, governments have limited resources and service capacity, which may lead people to feel less cared for, whereas in high-income countries, the causes appear more relational and institutional. Trust in national governments has remained below a majority across many established democracies for years¹⁶, suggesting people may feel provided for without feeling genuinely cared for.

This pattern stands in sharp contrast to well-established trends in wellbeing, which show that living in higher-income countries is positively associated with higher subjective wellbeing¹⁷. World Risk Poll trends also bear this out, showing how people’s life evaluations increase as country income level rises. These contrasting patterns highlight how resilience and wellbeing are distinct yet related phenomena.

Chart 3.4. Percentage thriving, by World Bank country income group

The share of adults thriving rises steadily with country income, the opposite of the U-shape in perceived care, marking the two measures as related but distinct.

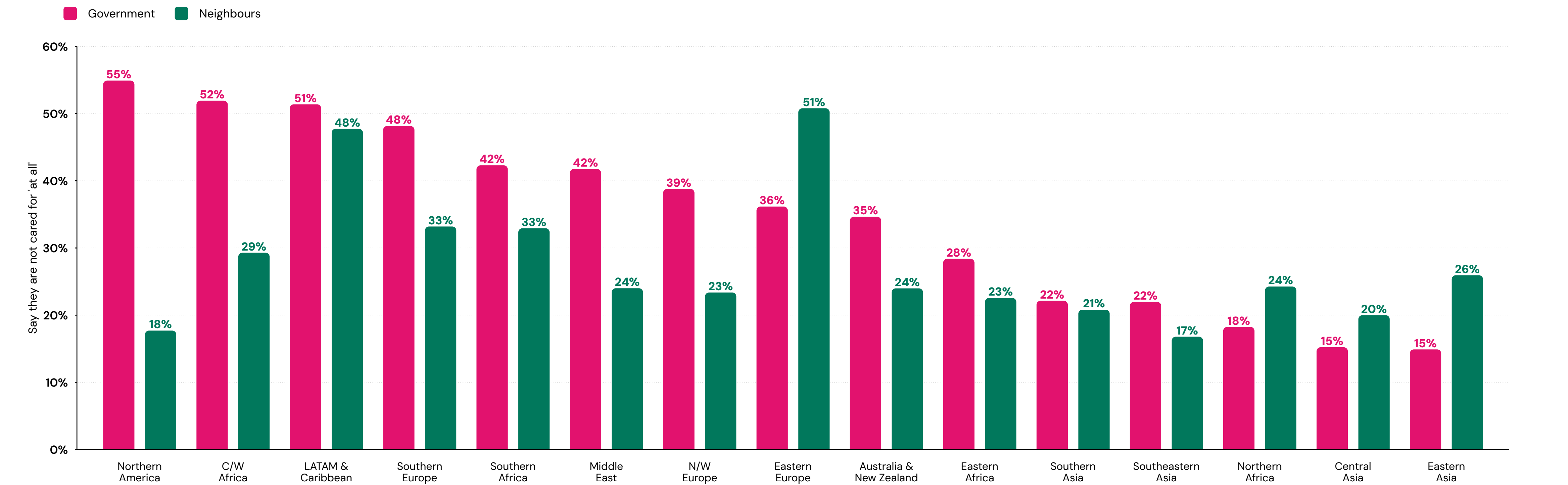


Perceived care deficits often coincide at regional and national levels

Regional patterns reveal considerable variation in perceptions of care. Northern America records the highest share of adults who feel completely uncared for by their government (55%), followed by Central/Western Africa (52%). By contrast, Eastern Europe (51%) has the highest share of adults who feel no care at all from their neighbours, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (48%). At the other end of the spectrum, Eastern and Central Asia report the lowest levels of perceived governmental lack of care (both 15%), while Southeastern Asia records the lowest level from neighbours (17%).

Chart 3.5. Perceptions of lack of care from governments, neighbours, by region (% not at all)

Northern America records the world's highest share feeling no government care at all (55%), whilst Eastern Europe leads on perceived lack of neighbourly care (51%).



Question text: How much do you think the government of [country] cares about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?

How much do you think most of your neighbours care about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?

At the national level, perceived care deficits often go hand in hand: the share of adults feeling no care at all from government correlates with the share feeling none from neighbours (r=0.57). Countries where a higher percentage of adults feel totally uncared for by their governments also see high percentages feeling uncared for by their neighbours. This relationship is particularly clear among countries with the largest care deficits for both measures.

Of the top 10 countries ranked by the share of people reporting no care at all from their government or neighbours, five appear on both lists, four of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Honduras and Madagascar, at least seven in 10 adults say they feel no care at all from their government, and at least 55% say they feel no care at all from their neighbours. Other countries from the region also feature on these lists, with Panama (74%) and Paraguay (73%) ranking highly for lack of government care, and Ecuador (55%) and Mexico (54%) ranking highly for a lack of neighbourly care.

Table 3.1. Countries and territories where the highest percentage of adults say government, neighbours do not care about them ‘at all’

Five countries appear on both lists, four of them in Latin America and the Caribbean, where at least seven in 10 adults feel no government care at all.

COUNTRY	GOVERNMENT	COUNTRY	NEIGHBOURS
Comoros	83	Hong Kong (S.A.R. of China)	64
Bolivia	78	Gabon	61
Peru	77	Peru	60
Panama	74	Madagascar	59
Romania	73	Bolivia	59
Paraguay	73	Russia	59
Colombia	72	Colombia	56
Honduras	71	Honduras	55
Madagascar	70	Ecuador	55
Greece	70	Mexico, Republic of Congo	54

Question text: How much do you think the government of [country] cares about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?
How much do you think most of your neighbours care about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?



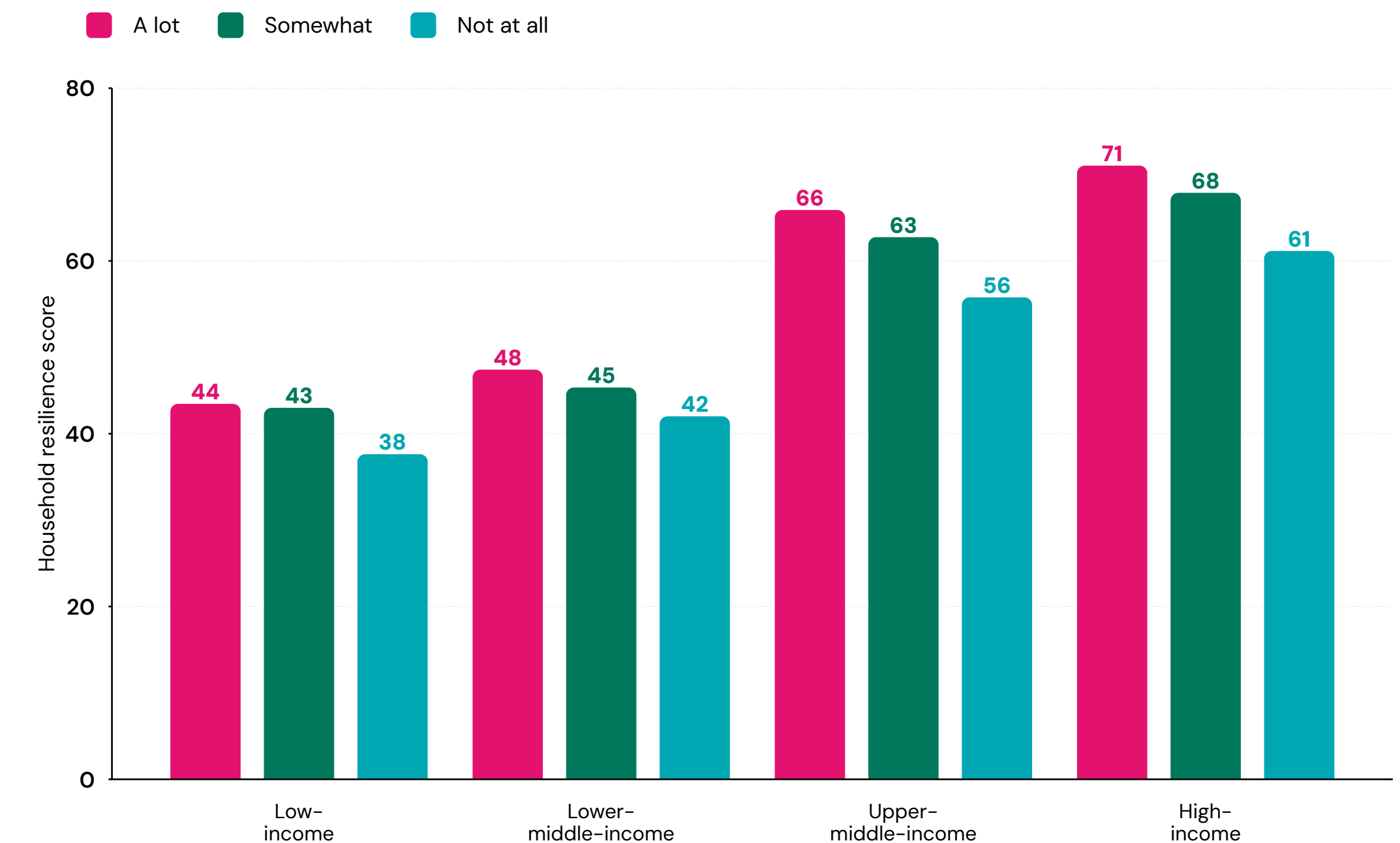
Why feeling cared for matters for resilience

Feeling cared for is widely seen as an important source of resilience. Research shows that people with strong social networks can better coordinate after a disaster and minimise the outflow of people and resources from the affected region¹⁸. In many disasters, neighbours act as the first responders before formal rescue operations reach those affected. For example, in the aftermath of the 1995 Kobe earthquake, most of those pulled from the rubble of collapsed buildings were rescued by their neighbours, not rescue workers¹⁹.

World Risk Poll data reflect these findings. People who feel their neighbours care a lot consistently rank higher on household resilience, which combines financial resilience, disaster plans and access to communication, and is associated with perceptions of care. This relationship is evident across all country income groups. In high-income countries, the gap in household resilience between those who feel a lot of care from neighbours and those who feel none is 10 points (71 vs. 61); in upper-middle-income countries, the gap is also 10 points, narrowing to six points in lower-middle- and low-income countries.

Chart 3.6. Household Resilience Index scores, by World Bank country income group and perceived care from neighbours

Adults who feel a lot of care from neighbours score 10 points higher on household resilience in high- and upper-middle-income countries, narrowing to six points in lower-income ones.

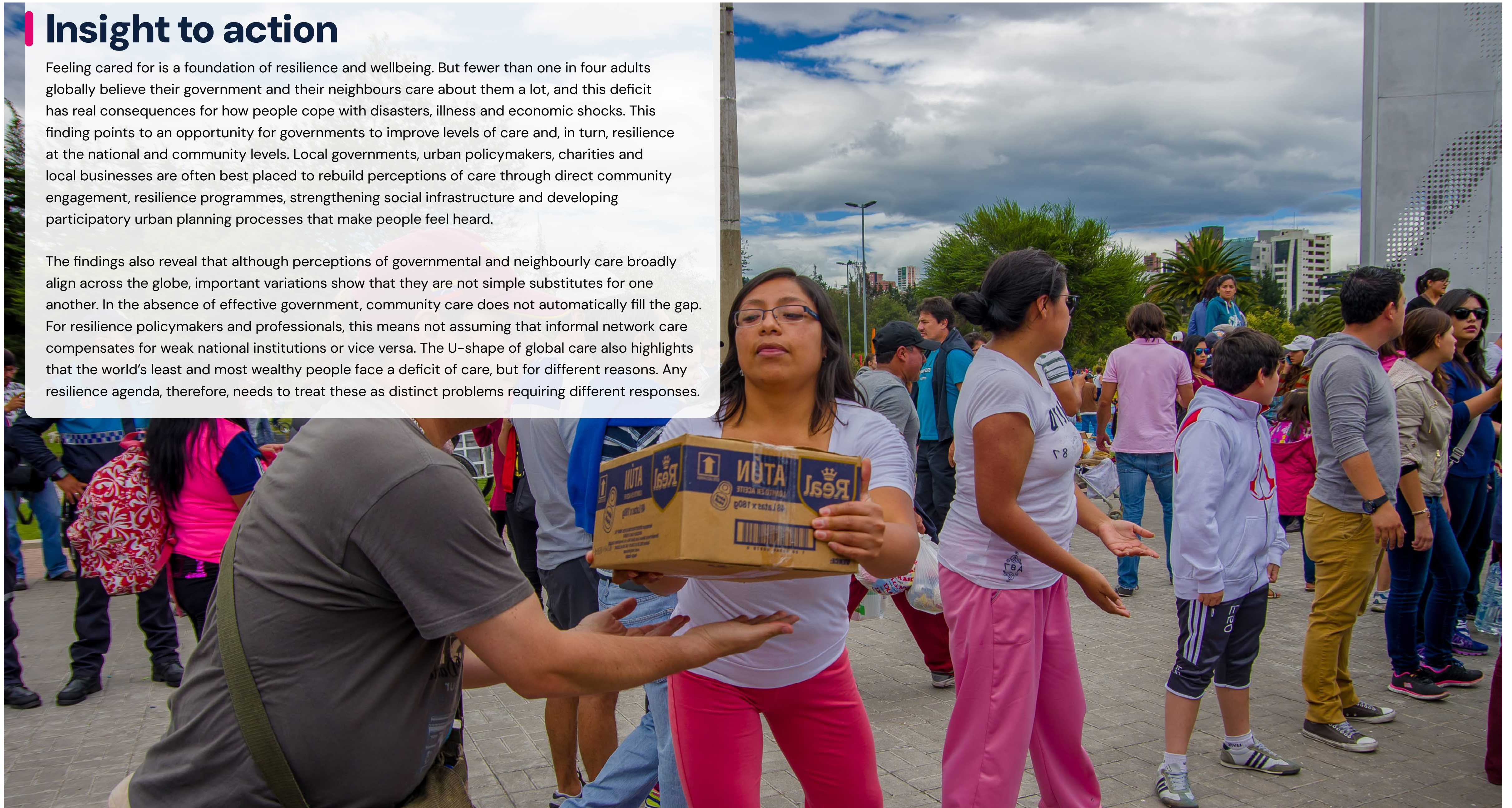


Question text: How much do you think most of your neighbours care about you and your wellbeing? A lot, somewhat or not at all?

Insight to action

Feeling cared for is a foundation of resilience and wellbeing. But fewer than one in four adults globally believe their government and their neighbours care about them a lot, and this deficit has real consequences for how people cope with disasters, illness and economic shocks. This finding points to an opportunity for governments to improve levels of care and, in turn, resilience at the national and community levels. Local governments, urban policymakers, charities and local businesses are often best placed to rebuild perceptions of care through direct community engagement, resilience programmes, strengthening social infrastructure and developing participatory urban planning processes that make people feel heard.

The findings also reveal that although perceptions of governmental and neighbourly care broadly align across the globe, important variations show that they are not simple substitutes for one another. In the absence of effective government, community care does not automatically fill the gap. For resilience policymakers and professionals, this means not assuming that informal network care compensates for weak national institutions or vice versa. The U-shape of global care also highlights that the world's least and most wealthy people face a deficit of care, but for different reasons. Any resilience agenda, therefore, needs to treat these as distinct problems requiring different responses.



Turning the World Risk Poll into action

The Poll is only useful if it changes something. The Foundation has committed £4.5 million so far to projects that use World Risk Poll data to alter practice rather than only describe it, awarded through an open competitive call, with further funding available on an ongoing basis. Several of those projects work directly on questions this report raises: the fall in personal agency recorded in Chapter 1, and the local delivery of resilience policy set out in Chapters 2 and 3.

Public skills for safety

Individual resilience has fallen to 42 in part because fewer people believe they can protect their families. Wändi Bruine de Bruin and colleagues at the University of Southern California are analysing Poll data on public readiness with the World Bank, Save the Children, the United Nations Foundation and the Waterkeeper Alliance, to inform development programmes in the countries most exposed to climate change and disasters. Almost all existing evidence on risk understanding comes from high-income countries.

[Promoting public skills for safety around the worldⁱ](#)

City investment matched to lived experience

Chapter 3 argues that perceived care is rebuilt locally. Resilient Cities Network and Arup are working with Lagos and Salvador to bring Poll data into each city's existing resilience framework and to co-develop a method for prioritising investment, with the aim of matching spending to what residents report and strengthening trust between communities and decision-makers. The method is designed to transfer to other cities.

[From risk data to resilient action: prioritising city investments for impactⁱⁱ](#)

^{i.} <https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/news/promoting-public-skills-for-safety-around-the-world>
^{ii.} <https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/news/from-risk-data-to-resilient-action-prioritising-city-investments-for-impact>

Disaster risk reduction in African cities

Africa's four main regions have recorded the world's largest resilience gains since 2023 whilst remaining among the lowest scoring. ICLEI Africa's DRR4Africa project used Poll data to select three African cities, then works with each to assess its climate-related disaster risk and co-develop a tailored package of interventions through participatory workshops. The project builds in a gendered approach, since women in rapidly urbanising cities often have the least access to the resources that preparation requires.

[Disaster risk reduction: a resilience agenda for urban Africaⁱⁱⁱ](#)

Resilience in industrial and labour policy

Societal resilience is the highest-scoring dimension globally at 66. IfM Engage at the University of Cambridge, working with United Nations partners in Jakarta, is using Poll data alongside policy review and stakeholder consultation across the ASEAN region to identify where digital, industrial and labour policy could carry more of the societal resilience burden.

[How can digital, labour, and industrial policies make people safer?^{iv}](#)

Details of every funded project, and the criteria for the next round, are on the Foundation's [grant funding pages^v](#).

^{iii.} <https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/news/disaster-risk-reduction-a-resilience-agenda-for-urban-africa>
^{iv.} <https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/news/how-can-digital-labour-and-industrial-policies-make-people-safer>
^{v.} <https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/partnerships-and-funding/grant-funding>

Conclusion

Global resilience has barely moved, and that is the least interesting thing about it. The overall index stands at 57, level with 2023 and two points above 2021, whilst individual resilience has fallen for a second consecutive edition to 42, the lowest recorded, and societal resilience has climbed to its highest at 66. The two movements cancel out in the aggregate and pull against each other in substance. People are reporting stronger institutions and weaker confidence in their own capacity to protect themselves and their families. Three of the countries behind the individual decline are among the world's most populous, which allows a small number of national shifts to move the global average.

Resilience is improving fastest where it is lowest. All four of Africa's main regions gained ground between 2023 and 2025, led by Northern Africa at five points, on the back of household resilience gains in Algeria, Nigeria and Kenya and steadily rising internet access across the continent. Those regions remain among the lowest scoring globally. In Ukraine, community resilience has risen from 50 in 2021 to 59 in 2025, driven by greater social cohesion during the war rather than despite it. Neither case fits a simple relationship between national income and resilience.

Wellbeing and resilience, measured here on the same respondents, turn out to be closely related at the individual level and unrelated at the societal one. Adults who are thriving score 63 on the index against 47 among those suffering, and 52 against 26 on individual resilience. The benefit flattens above a life rating of 7 out of 10, and at the bottom of the wellbeing scale, national wealth does almost nothing: among adults rating their lives 0 to 2, resilience is broadly the same in lower-middle-, upper-middle- and high-income countries.

Fewer than one in four adults believe their government or their neighbours care about them a lot, and in 97 countries, the share feeling no government care at all exceeds the share feeling a lot by at least 10 percentage points. This care deficit has the widest reach of any trend in this report. The deficit is U-shaped, with 44% in low-income countries and 45% in high-income countries feeling no care from government compared with roughly a quarter in middle-income countries. The causes at the two ends are unlikely to be the same. Limited state capacity and limited public trust produce the same answer to the same question and call for different responses.

Taken together, the evidence points towards where resilience investment does the most work:

- **Target the least well-off, everywhere.** Resilience rises most steeply where wellbeing is lowest, and the countries that need targeted support for their most vulnerable residents include the wealthiest ones.
- **Build at the level that is weakest.** High-income countries lead on individual resilience by a wide margin and rank last on societal resilience; low-income countries are the reverse. A single template will not serve both.
- **Treat perceived care as infrastructure.** Feeling cared for by neighbours is associated with household resilience scores up to 10 points higher, and the levers that shift it are largely local.
- **Track the dimensions, not the headline.** Two years of offsetting movements have left the global index unchanged and the picture underneath it materially different. Reporting the composite alone would have missed these shifts.

We hope that by identifying where resilience is strongest, where it is thinnest and which factors consistently strengthen it, this dataset can help policymakers, development organisations and other stakeholders target the interventions that close resilience and care gaps most effectively.

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