

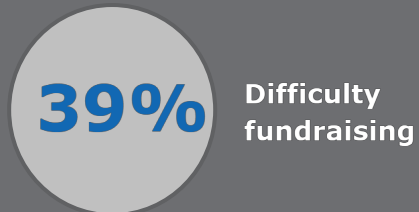
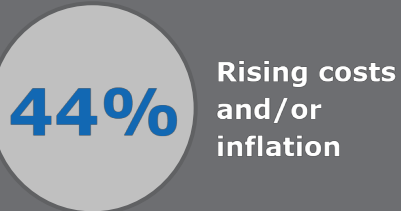
**Wave 7:
September-November 2023**

The *Scottish Third Sector Tracker* is a growing research community made up of representatives from third sector organisations based across the whole of Scotland, who are willing to share their experiences, views and concerns as the sector faces both new and ongoing challenges.

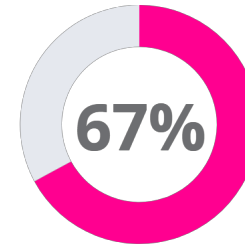
The Tracker is run by an independent research company called DJS Research on behalf of SCVO, the Scottish Government, the William Grant Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund.

The purpose of this online report is to share real-time insights from this research with stakeholders.

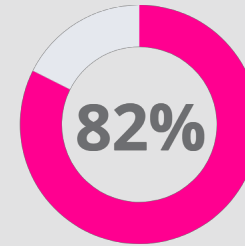
**The top three
challenges faced
were...**



Service delivery



were able to meet or exceed their planned programmes and services in the prior four months.



had the capacity to meet most, or all, of the demand for their core services across the last four months.

To **filter the report** by organisations of a specific size, please use the drop-down options below.

Employees

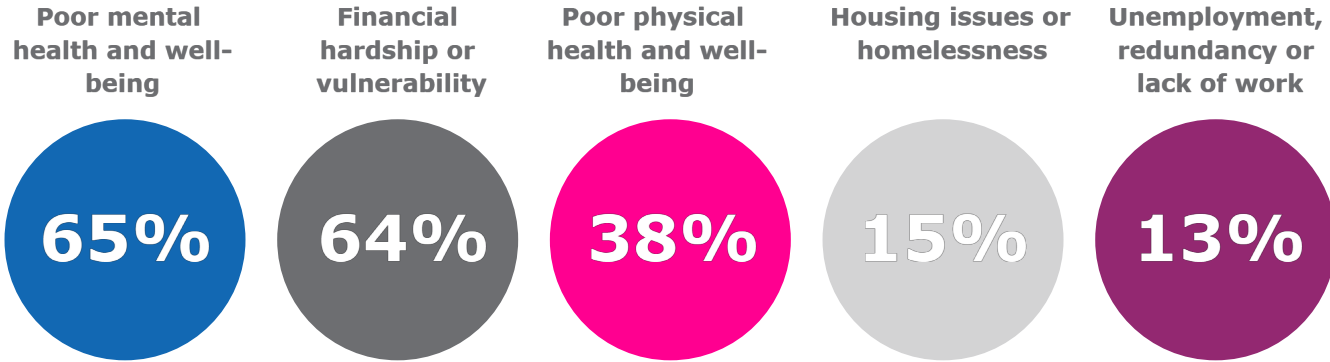
Volunteers

Turnover



Experiences of Scotland's communities

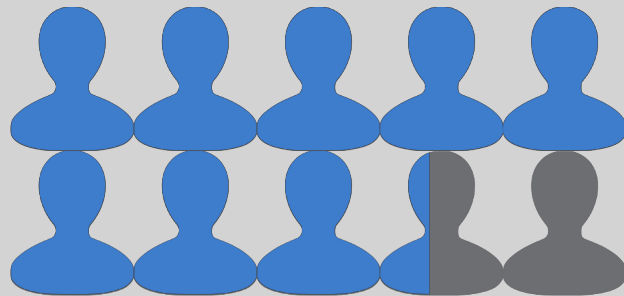
Organisations that support individuals and/or communities recorded witnessing the following social issues in the course of their work:



Of those who had witnessed these social challenges over the last four months, the following reported that these challenges had got worse:



84% reported being 'quite' or 'very' concerned about the impact of energy costs on the communities they work with, going into winter 23/24



Staffing and volunteers

24%

of those who employ staff had seen their **staff numbers go up** in the last four months



64%

saw **no change**



13%

saw them **go down**



55%

had faced a 'moderate' or 'significant' **challenge managing staff recruitment and/or retention** in the prior four months



19%

of those who utilise volunteers saw **volunteer numbers go up** in the last four months



64%

saw **no change**



17%

saw them **go down**

Organisational finances

23%

saw **increased turnover** in the previous four months

54%

saw **no change in turnover** in the previous four months

22%

saw **decreased turnover** in the previous four months



37%

of those reporting decreased turnover expected this to continue for at least 12 months



57%

believed rising costs negatively affected their ability to deliver core services/activities in the last four months

92%

were 'quite' or 'very' confident that their organisation would be operating in a year's time

Funding:

51% reported receiving funding from either a local council, the Scottish Government, the UK Government, or another funding organisation.

Of these...

42%

experienced delays in funding decisions in the previous four months

19%

had their funding decreased or stopped for 2023

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Outlook for the future



17% believe that **the Scottish third sector** will be in a **more positive** place in 12 months' time

believe that **the Scottish third sector** will be in a **less positive** place in 12 months' time **57%**

39% believe that **their own organisation** will be in a **more positive** place in 12 months' time

believe that **their own organisation** will be in a less positive place in 12 months' time **27%**

Climate change



42% had specific policies in place that aim to **reduce carbon emissions**

22% had specific policies in place that aim to **achieve Net Zero**

