

“Giving in the Netherlands” provides macro-economic estimates of philanthropy by households, bequests, corporations, foundations and charitable lotteries in the Netherlands. The Center for Philanthropic Studies at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam has conducted the research since 1995. This is the 12th edition, about giving in the year 2018.

# Giving in the Netherlands 2020

The Netherlands gave

**€5.7  
billion**

(\$6.2 billion, £5.1 billion)

or

**0.8%**  
of GDP

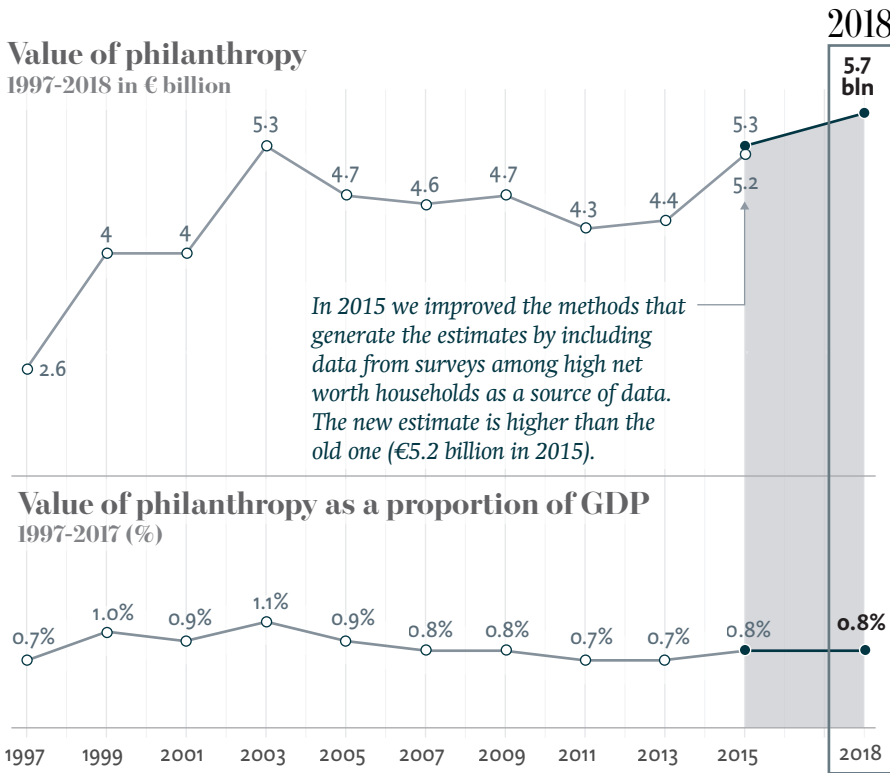
in addition,

**40%**

of the population  
was engaged in  
**volunteer work**

## What was the value of philanthropy in the Netherlands?

As a proportion of GDP, the Netherlands gave about the same in 2018 as in 2015



### Amount in Euro increased

In total, the Netherlands gave about €5.7 billion to charitable causes in the year 2018, in the form of money and in-kind.

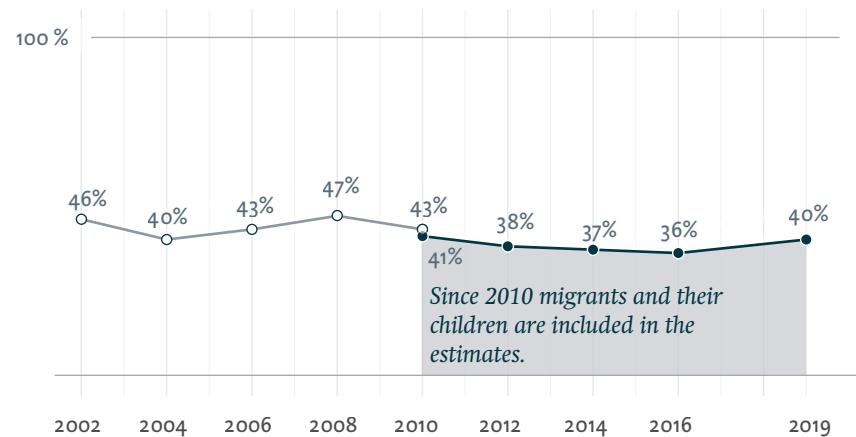
### Percentage of GDP stable

The Netherlands gave 0.8% of GDP, about the same in 2018 as in 2015.

## How often do people in the Netherlands volunteer?

40% of the Dutch population was engaged as a volunteer in the year 2019

### Volunteer work (%), 2002-2019



### More volunteering

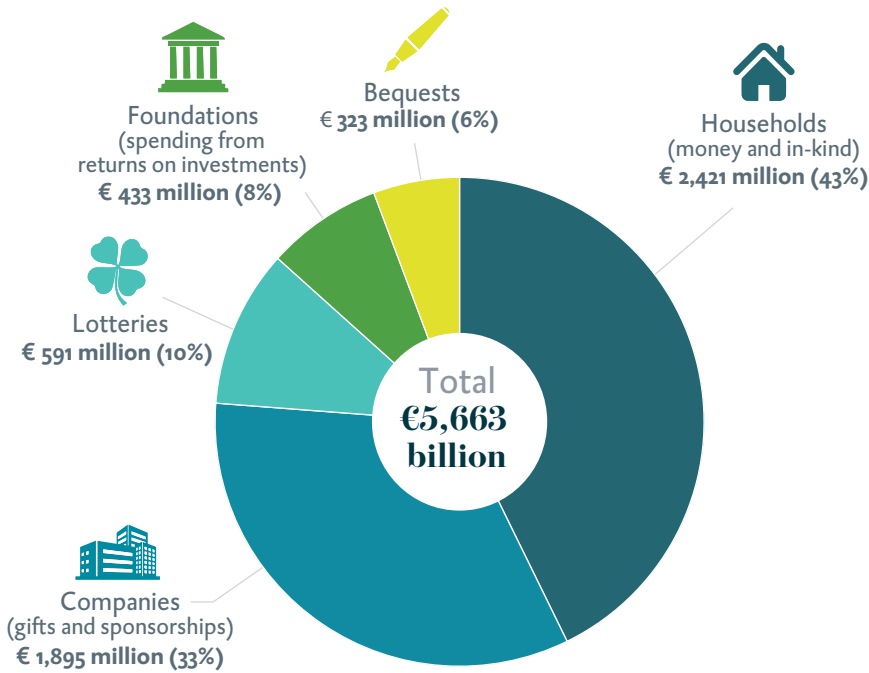
In 2019, 40% of the Dutch population was engaged in volunteer work. This percentage is higher than in 2016, after a decline since 2010

\* In contrast to the measurement of monetary giving, the measurement of volunteer work concerns the years 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2019.

# Who gives in the Netherlands?

Households and corporations give most

## Contributions by source in € millions in 2018



### Households give most

Together, households and corporations are responsible for almost 80% of all philanthropy in the Netherlands.

## How did we produce these estimates?

The estimates of the contributions by households and corporations are based on observations from surveys that we weighted to obtain representative samples of all households and corporations in the Netherlands. The estimated contributions from bequests and foundations are based on register data, supplemented by estimates from targeted samples. Unfortunately, these sources are not exhaustive, and the estimates cannot be generalized because a sampling frame is lacking. Therefore the estimates for bequests and foundations are lower-bound estimates of total contributions. The tax office does not publish income data for registered charities, and legal status as a charity or foundation in the Netherlands does not require a pay-out of a percentage of the endowment. The estimates for households are based on 3,127 surveys from three samples: a broadly representative

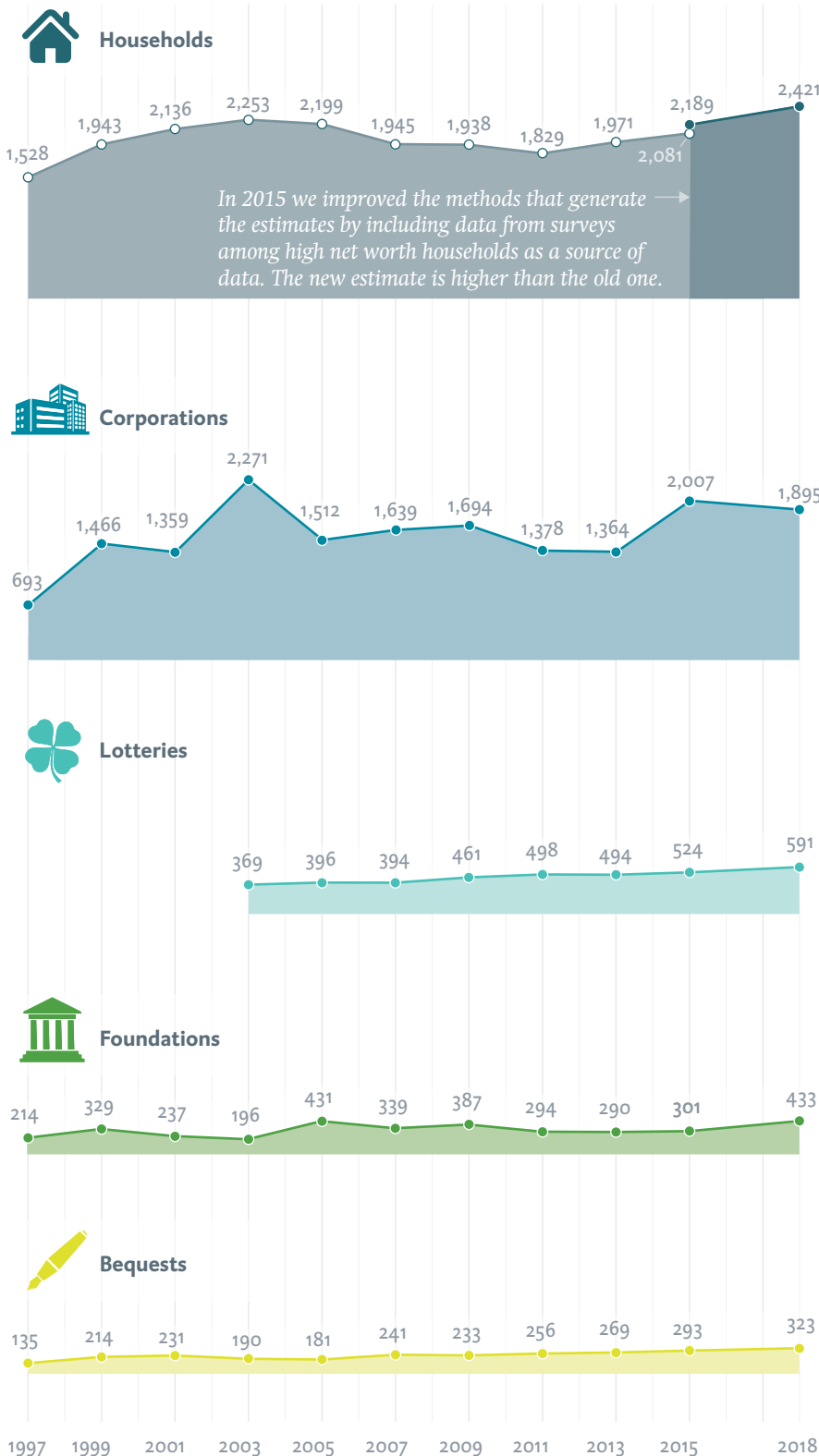
survey of the population (n = 1,201), an oversample of high net worth households (n = 1,187) and an oversample of households with a migration background (n = 739). The estimates for corporations are based on a broadly representative survey (n = 1,022) among corporations registered at the Chamber of Commerce. The estimates for bequests are taken from the database created by the Central Bureau of Fundraising (CBF), which gathers information from fundraising organizations on income from bequests (n = 676), and an additional survey among foundations supporting academic hospitals and universities (n = 37). No data are available on bequests to churches, religious congregations, endowed foundations, voluntary associations, and fundraising organizations that do not report to the CBF. The estimates for foundations are based on register data from the CBF for fundraising

foundations (n = 361) and annual reports from endowed foundations with an estimated annual spending of at least €500,000 (n = 89). Of all spending by foundations, only the amount funded by returns on investments is included in the estimates of total contributions. Amounts spent by fundraising and endowed foundations funded by income from corporations, households, other foundations and from bequests are excluded from total contributions because they are included already as contributions from these sources. The amounts contributed by lotteries are not estimates but complete population values because the lottery market is open only to a small number of permit holders. These lotteries are required to spend a percentage of total revenue on charitable contributions and report these amounts in their annual reports. ◀

# Trends over time by source of contributions

An increase in contributions in 2018 from all sources except corporations

## Contributions by source in € millions, 1997-2018



### Households largest contributors

After a decline in contributions since 2003, gifts by households increased since 2011. Also as a percentage of household expenditure giving has increased in 2018.

### Corporations gave less than in 2015

Contributions by corporations can fluctuate strongly from year to year. In 2018 the amount contributed was somewhat lower than in 2015.

### Contributions from lotteries increase

The upward trend continues in 2018.

### More data on foundations

While contributions by foundations are underestimated, improvements in data collection have uncovered a larger amount of total spending.

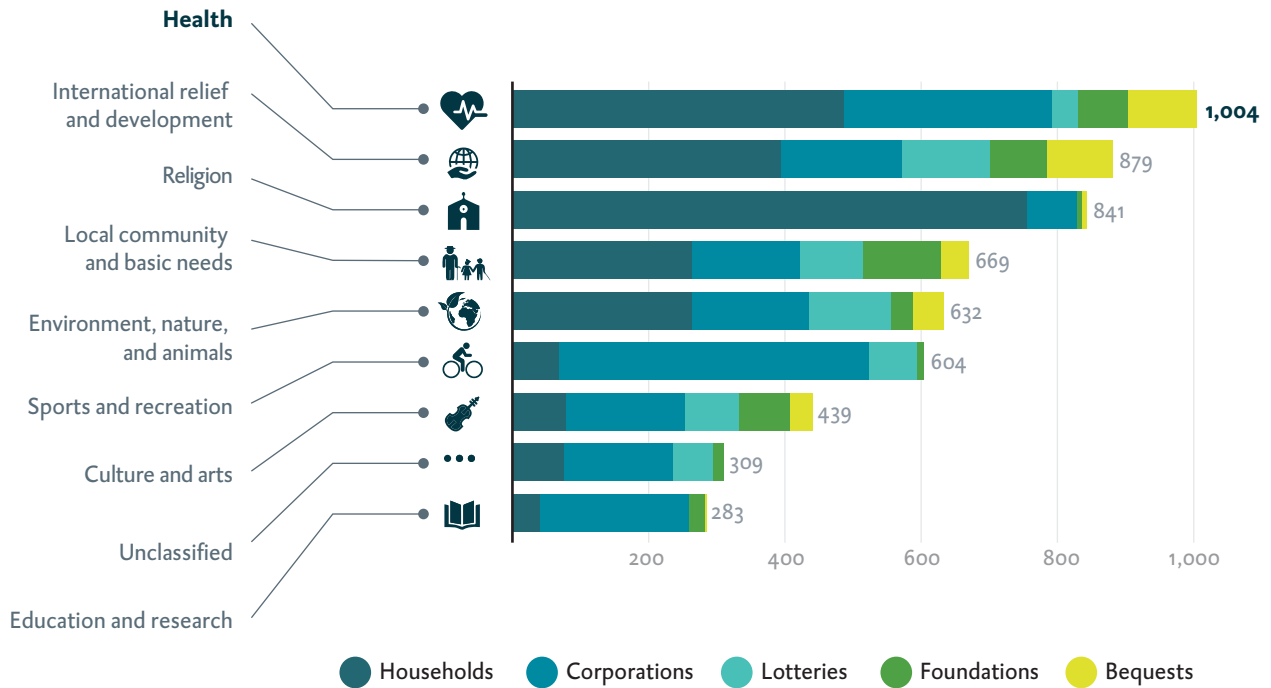
### The 'Golden Age' of Philanthropy is coming

Contributions by bequests are on the rise since 2005.

# Which causes does philanthropy support in the Netherlands?

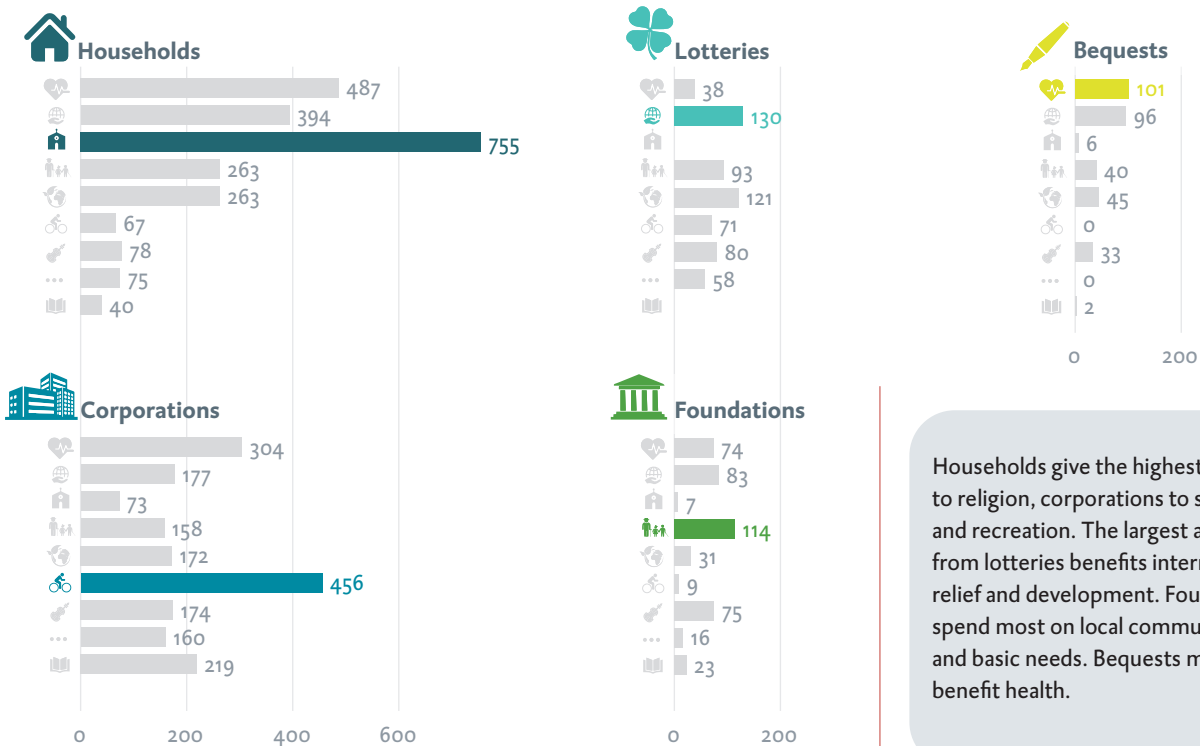
Largest recipient cause: health

Recipients in 2018, in € millions



## Every source has its favorite recipient cause

Recipients by source in 2018, in € millions

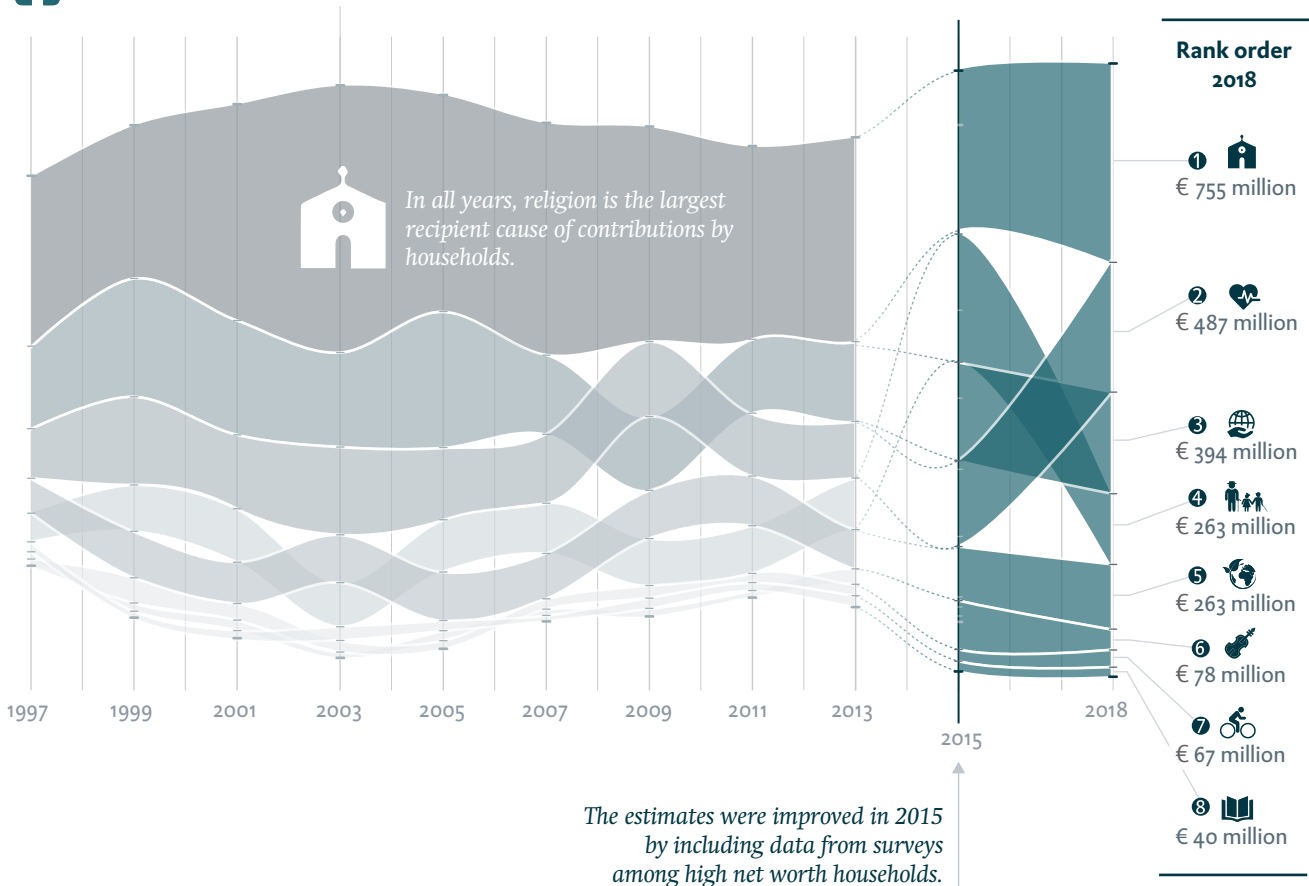


Households give the highest amount to religion, corporations to sports and recreation. The largest amount from lotteries benefits international relief and development. Foundations spend most on local communities and basic needs. Bequests mainly benefit health.

# Rank order of causes supported by households

Contributions by households in € millions, 1997-2018

 Households



## How to read this graph?

In this graph you can see the rank order of recipient causes for all years by following the bands. The width of the bands represents the amount households contributed to each cause.

## Trends in the shares of recipient causes

The share of total contributions received by religion declines. At its all-time high in 2017 it was 47%. In 2018 it is 32%. Health receives about 15% of total contributions by households. Since 2013 this share increased, to 20% in 2018. The share of international relief and development declined from 1999

(24%) to 2009 (16%), but increased afterwards. In 2018 (17%) it was lower than in 2015 (19%). In the year 2005 gifts to international relief were higher because of the campaign for victims of the tsunami. The share of total contributions by households to environment, nature and animals increases over time from 9% in 1997

to 11% in 2018. The share of local community and basic needs is also increasing, from 8% in 1997 to 11% in 2018. Culture and arts as well as education and research receive the smallest share of contributions by households, each about 2%.

# Who gives to which recipient cause?

Who gives what in € millions

In 2018  
the Netherlands gave  
**€ 5.7 billion**  this amount equals  
**0.8% of GDP**

