

Outcomes from the PMNCH Cross-SO Retreat

Betsy McCallon



PMNCH cross-SO retreat – November

Objectives of the cross-SO retreat:

- Review implementation of 2017 workplan
- Identify priorities for 2018 workplan in line with EWEC results areas
- Explore ways of improving the PMNCH partner-centric approach

Attended by more than 40 partners from across the four SOs and Partnership's constituencies

Soliciting Partner Feedback for the Retreat

- In October 2017, PMNCH undertook two online surveys

1. Improving PMNCH's partner-centric approach

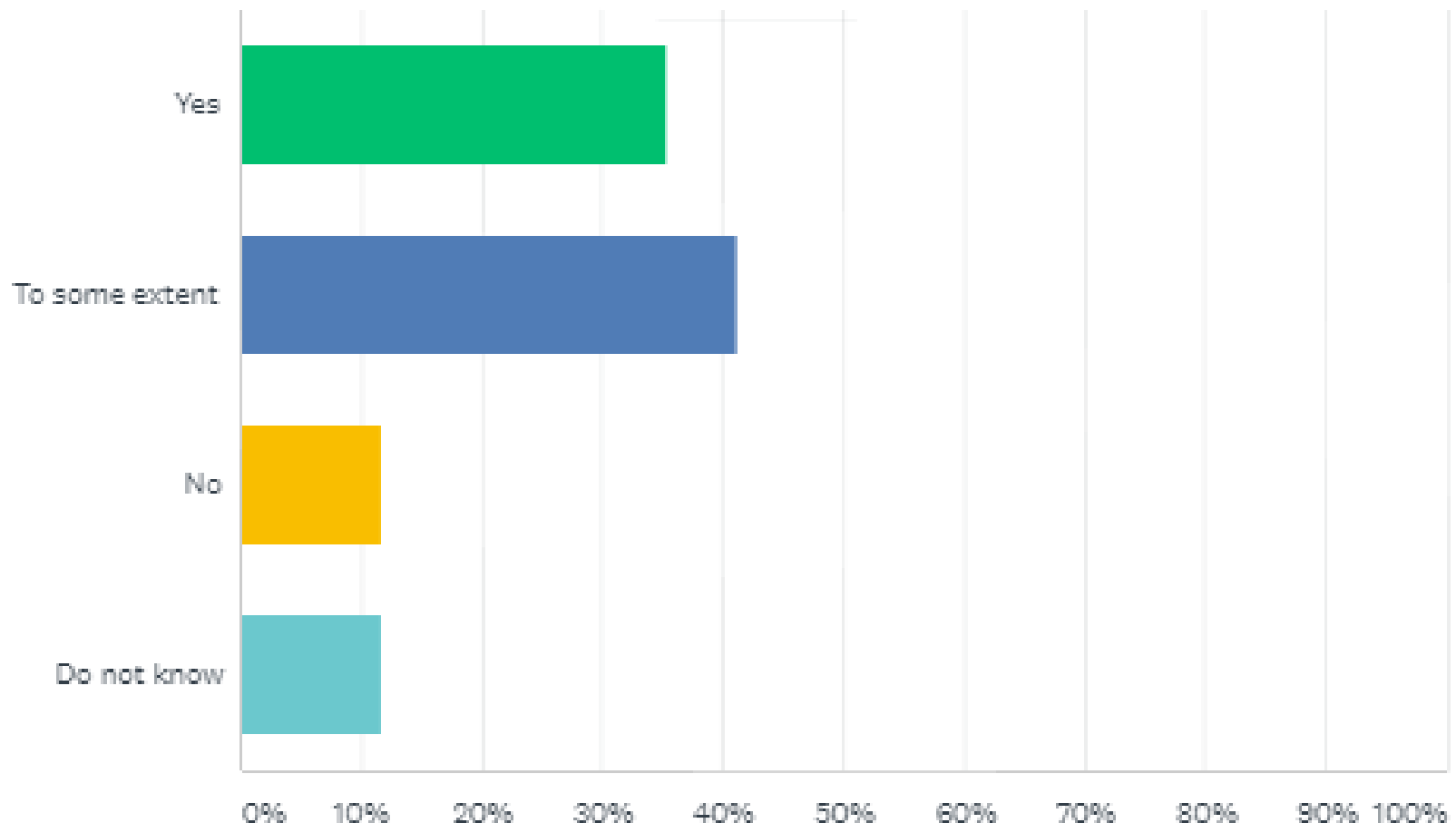
- Sent to PMNCH's SO0 Steering Groups (80 members in total of which 35 steering group members responded)
- The online survey included a total of 10 questions
- Developed in coordination with the EWEC Alignment Task Team

2. SO1 online survey

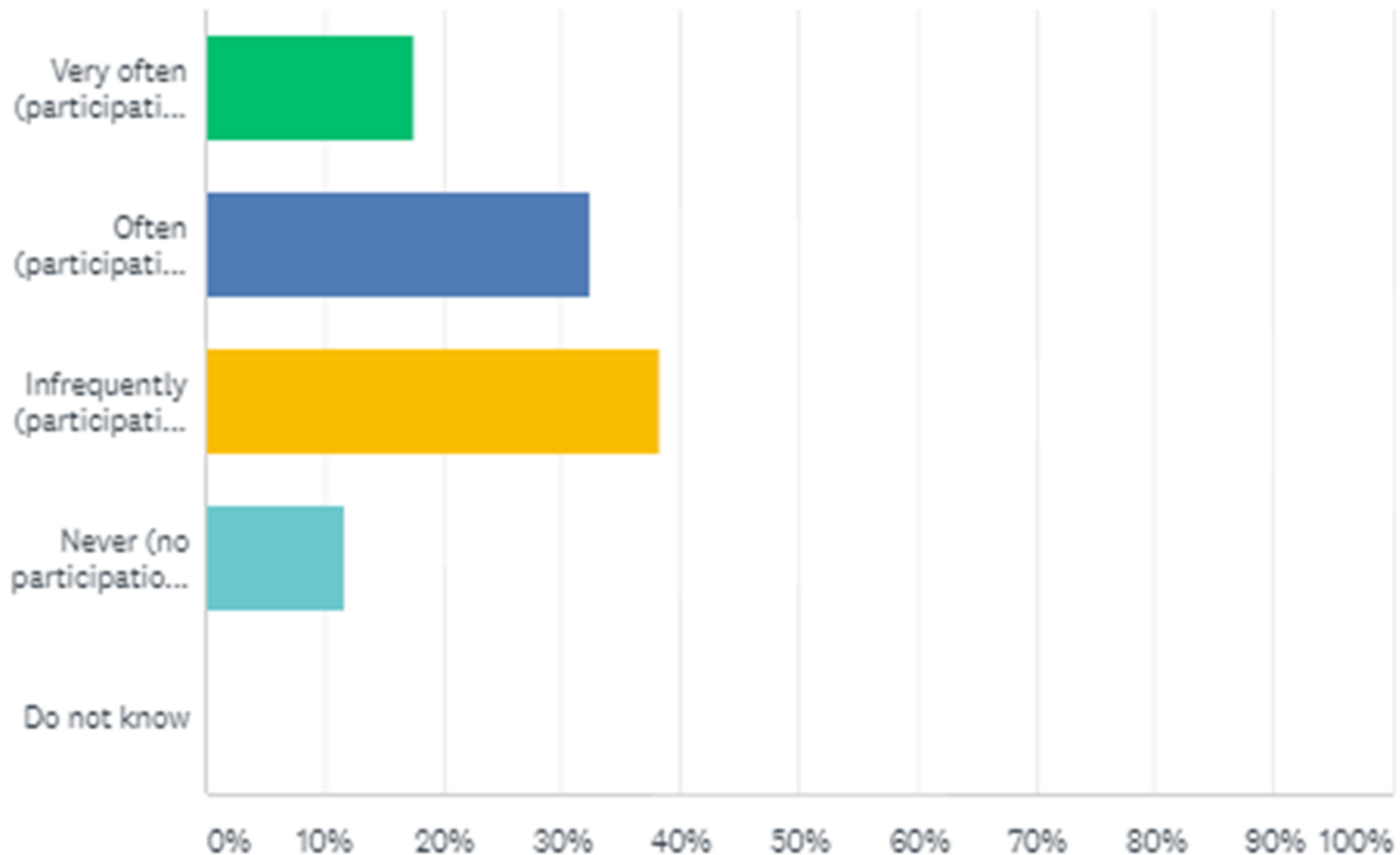
- Sent to the SO1 steering group, 19 members responded out of 35 partners that received the survey
- Developed and coordinated by SO1 co-conveners
- Included a total of 16 questions

Some findings from the Partners' Reflections Survey

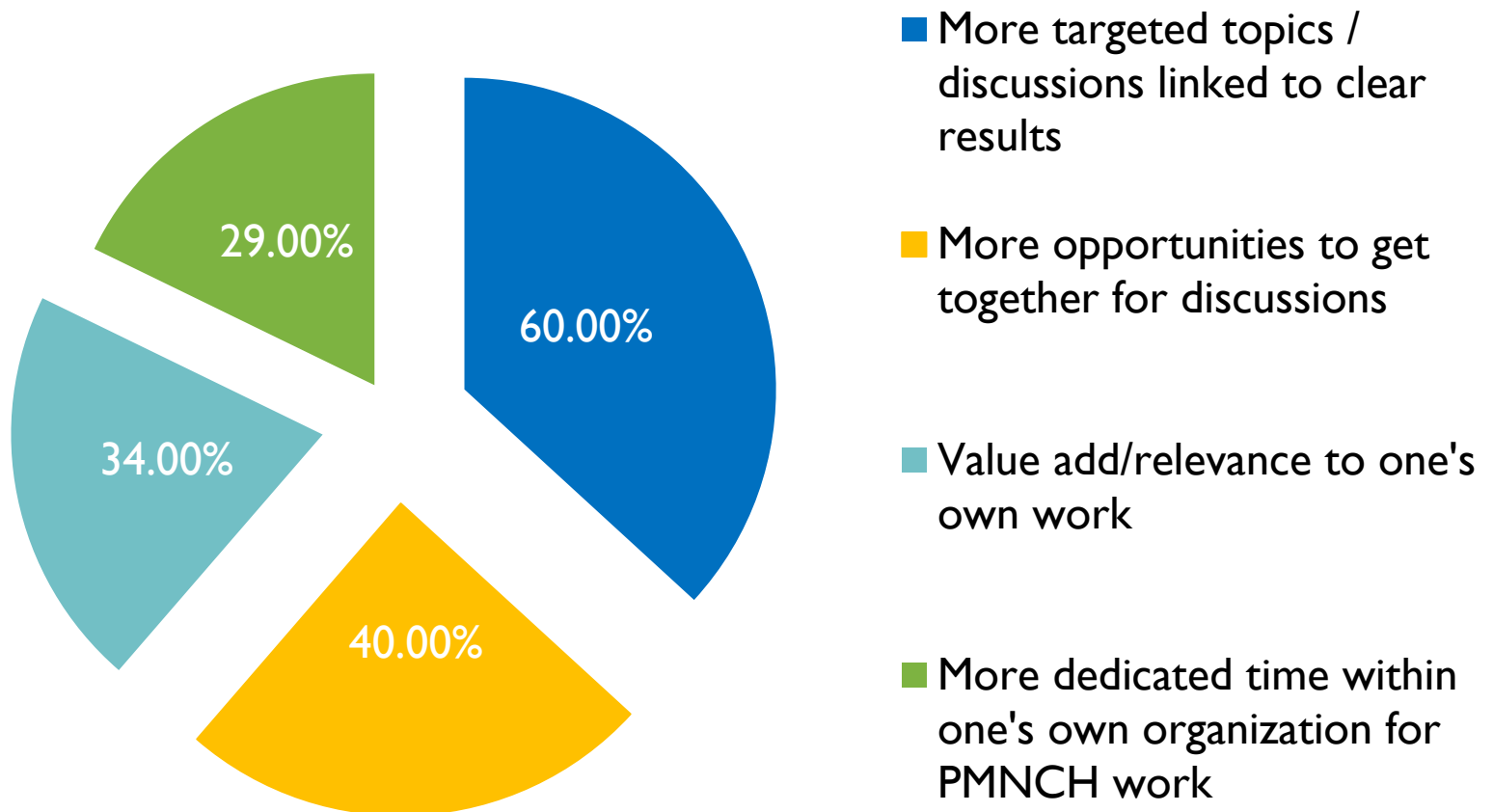
Has the SO structure helped the Partnership deliver on its 2016 to 2020 Strategic Plan and its annual workplans?



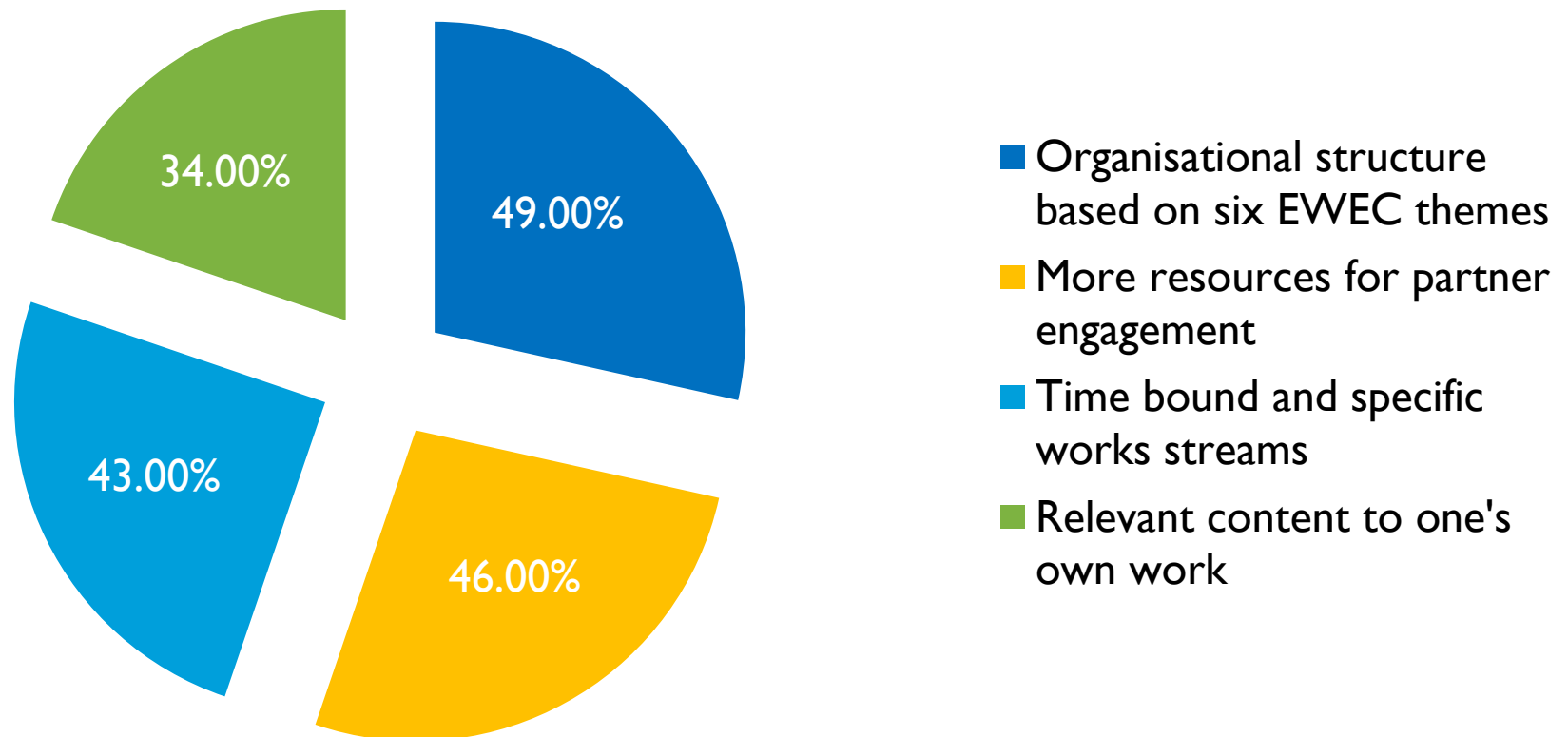
How often do you participate in SO or other working group based discussions and interactions?



What would improve your ability to participate more regularly in the work of the Partnership? (Choose all relevant)

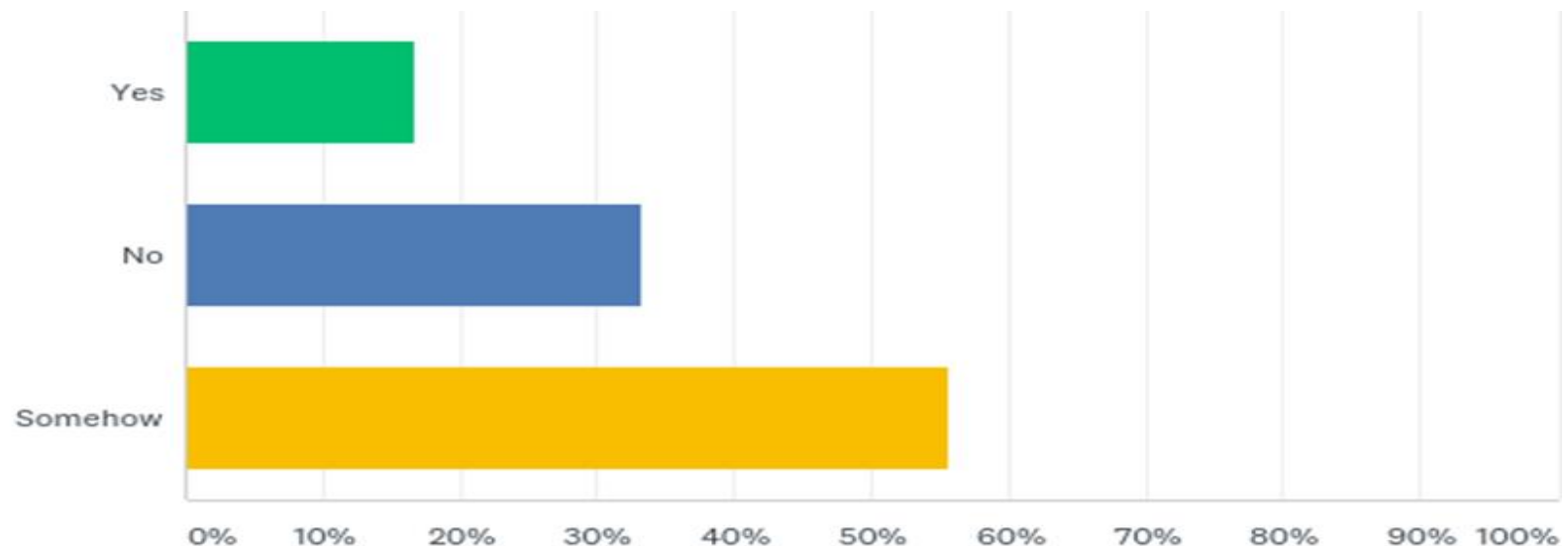


What factors in your opinion could improve partner engagement in delivering PMNCH priorities? (Choose all relevant):



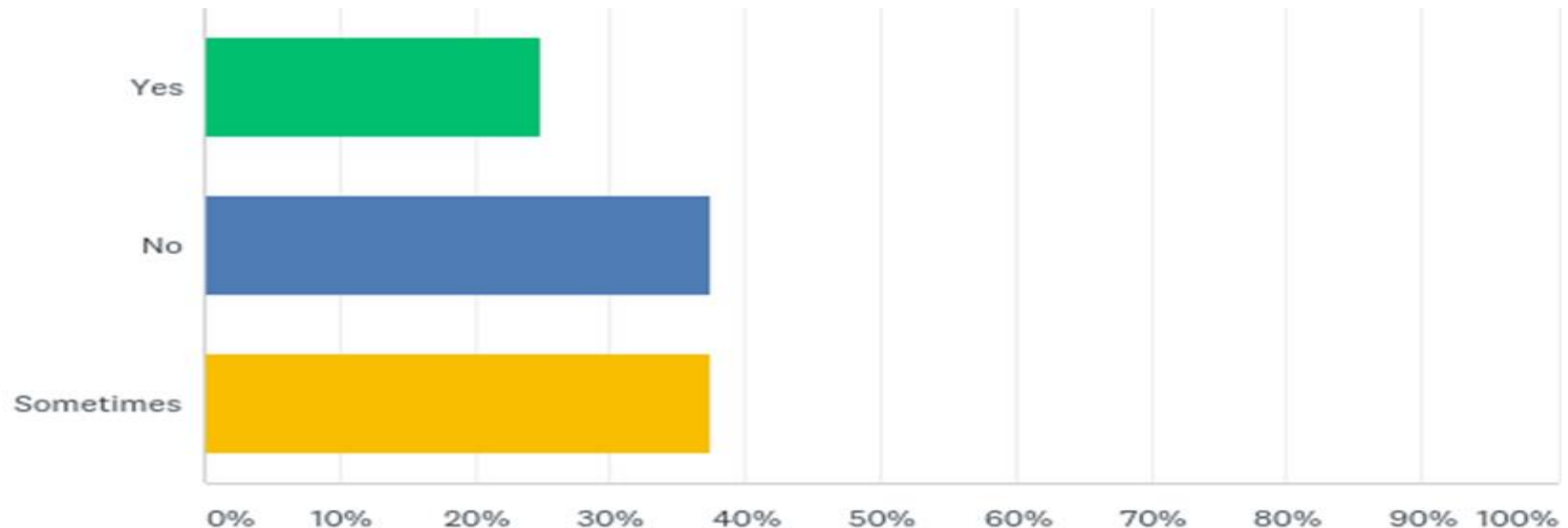
Some findings from the SOI Survey include

1/3 of respondent did not feel adequately informed of the SO working groups



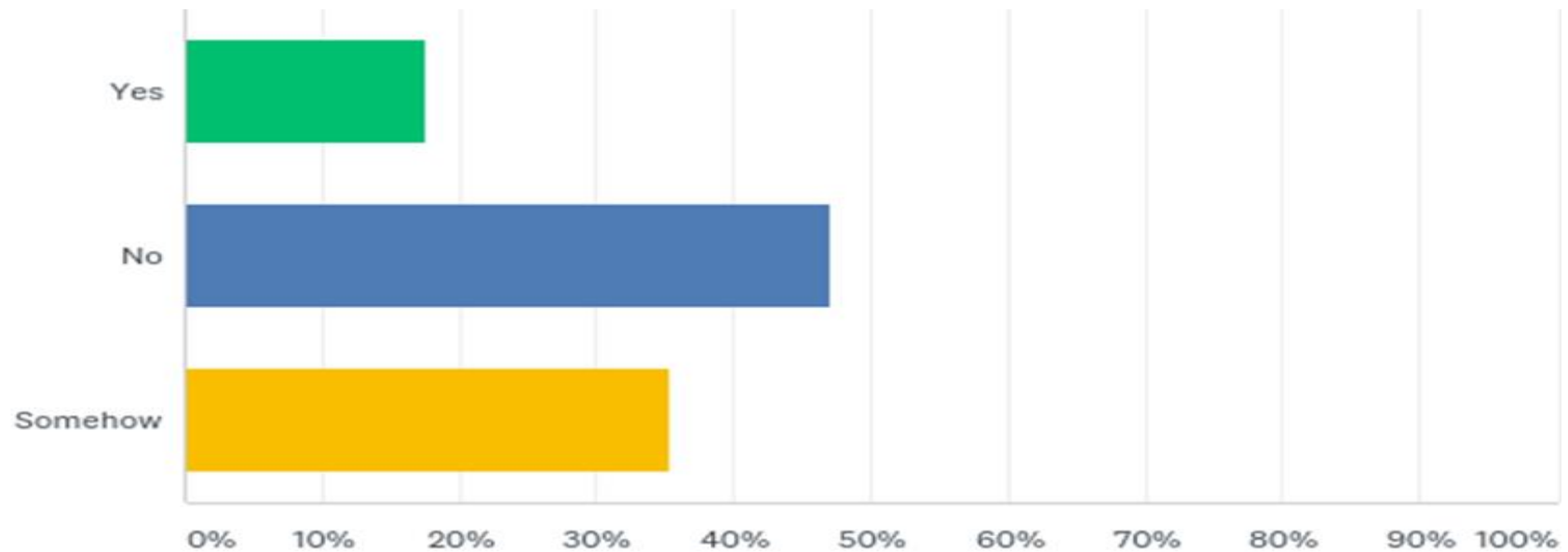
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	16.67%	3
No	33.33%	6
Somehow	55.56%	10
Total Respondents: 18		

A quarter of respondents felt that the partner-centric way of working was effectively operationalized by the SOI Steering Group



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25.00%	4
No	37.50%	6
Sometimes	37.50%	6
TOTAL		16

Half of respondents felt that the current level of engagement among the SOI Steering Group was optimal



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	17.65%	3
No	47.06%	8
Somehow	35.29%	6
TOTAL		17

What we heard at the cross-SO retreat

- The current SO based model is not fit for purpose: process heavy and time consuming, disconnect between content and structure, and limits partner engagement

What we need more of

- Clear thematic content focus: in 2018 a thematic focus, linked to the EWEC Partners' Framework would strengthen meaningful engagement of partners
- Stronger prioritisation of outputs within a thematic approach
- Stronger coordination across functions (4As) and thematic areas
- Rethink of approach to country engagement and partner alignment, which needs to be flexible, and cross cutting

Cross Cutting Approach to Country and Partner Engagement

- PMNCH's value add at the country level is to strengthen the multi-stakeholder country platform, based on country request
- PMNCH's support to “other” country specific activities, for instance partner engagement in-countries and small grants are seen as parallel activities rather than a comprehensive set of related activities in a country

Example: Support for CSOs engagement in national processes for developing the investment case

- GFF CS Engagement strategy aims to support engagement of CS so that the full breadth of their capacities can contribute to the achievement of GS, GFF and national goals
- CS in 7 countries have organized meetings to analyse investment cases and develop workplans outlining their contributions to the IC
- A regional workshop brought together CS from 12 countries in a knowledge exchange and capacity building exercise, which helped develop national CS workplans, consensus on a scorecard template, and highlighted opportunities to engage the private sector
- Concept note for a small grants programme for SRMNCAH will seek to operationalize the implementation plan and other CS advocacy and accountability efforts in countries
- CS coordinating group continues to grow and align partner efforts around GFF

Suggested Country Engagement Approach

- Holistic support : country engagement on support to effective functioning of the RMNCAH-N country platform & strengthening participation of under-represented constituencies all phases of a national plan based
- Open and on demand: provide support to any country based on the country's request and link more closely to new GFF countries
- Drive content: national multi-stakeholder platform should also be the vehicle to drive content of EWEC thematic areas / country priorities using PMNCH's core four functions i.e. accountability, advocacy, analysis, alignment
- One integrated channel: link the small grant to country engagement work to strengthen constituency engagement; build capacities to strengthen accountability, common advocacy, alignment and knowledge sharing. Mechanisms to be discussed.