

Seafarers' Ministry and COVID-19 Worldwide Survey Report

By Kevin WALKER, NAMMA.

In July and early August of this year, ICMA surveyed its members about how COVID-19 had affected seafarers' welfare in their areas, what kinds of services they were offering them, what approach they were taking to protecting seafarers *from* COVID-19, and how COVID-19 and emergency funding had affected their finances. We received 95 responses. These are the results¹ of that survey, with a regional comparison included at the end.

¹ Responses in some cases required editing or regrouping, and for the sake of presentation the wording of some of the questions has been changed.

1: COVID-19 and Seafarers' Welfare

COVID-19 Affectedness

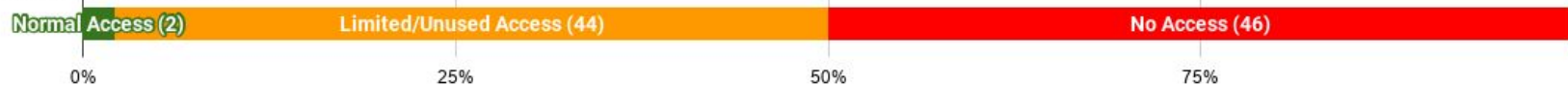


- **Fci [\ `m** ministries reported being in areas that were **gca Yk \ Uicf `a cfY UZZWYX `Vmi 7CJ-8!%**, while roughly reported being in areas that were **hcU `mg\ i hXck b**.

Access to Shopping and Supplies



Access to Shore Leave



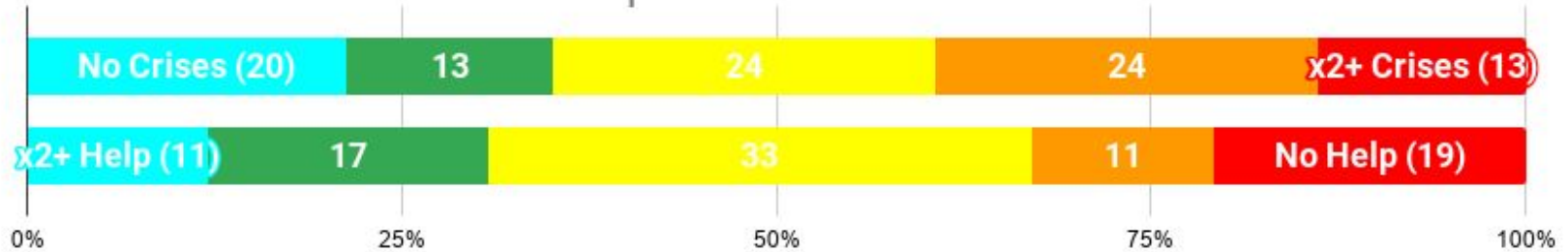
Access to WiFi



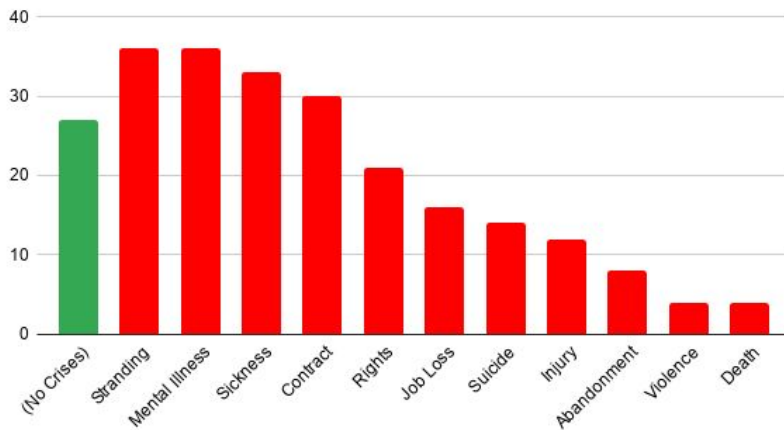
- The seafarers' wellbeing situation in ports themselves was somewhat more grim: without the help of port ministries, access to **gl cdd]b[žgl cfY`YUj YžUbX`k]Z`k YfYU``f X[YX`ja dagg]V`Y`b` cj Yf` `cZdcfhg`" `G\ cdd]b[`UbX`G\ cfY`YUj Yk YfYX]Z]W `hcf ``ja]hX`b` `cZdcfhgžk \]`Y`k]Z` k Ug`UV]ha cfY`UWYgg]V`Y`b`Uci hi `cZdcfhg`"**

1.1 Seafarer Crises

Seafarer Crises and Crisis Help



Incidence of Seafarer Crises

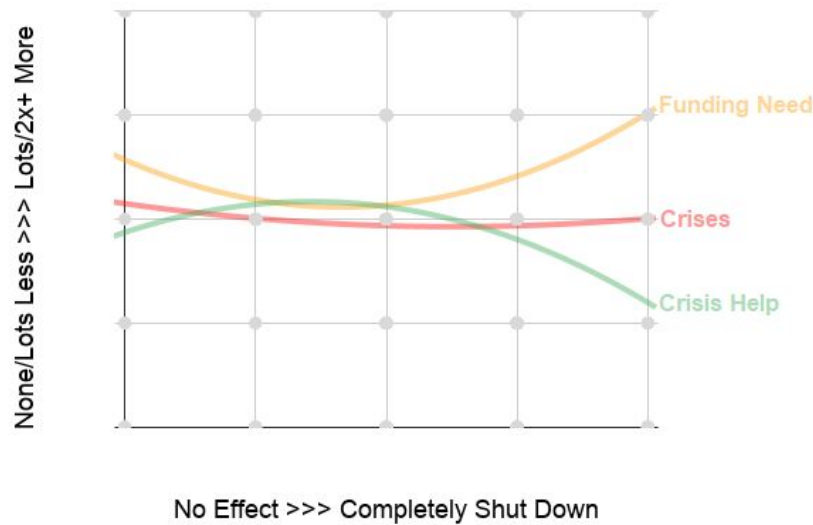


- There was a significant increase in how ministries reported 7 C J - 8 ! % D j ' Y Z W g ' c b ' g Y U Z f Y f ' W] g Y g ' and \ Y d ' [] j Y b . "

- In the grand scheme, the average change in W] g Y g was a g ` [\ h] b W Y U g Y and in \ Y d was a g ` [\ h i X Y W Y U g Y .

- G f U b X] b [, a Y b H U '] ` b Y g g , g] W _ b Y g g , and W ` b f U W i j] c ` U h c b all were reported by about 1/3 of ministries. Unfortunately, 1/3 reported suicides.

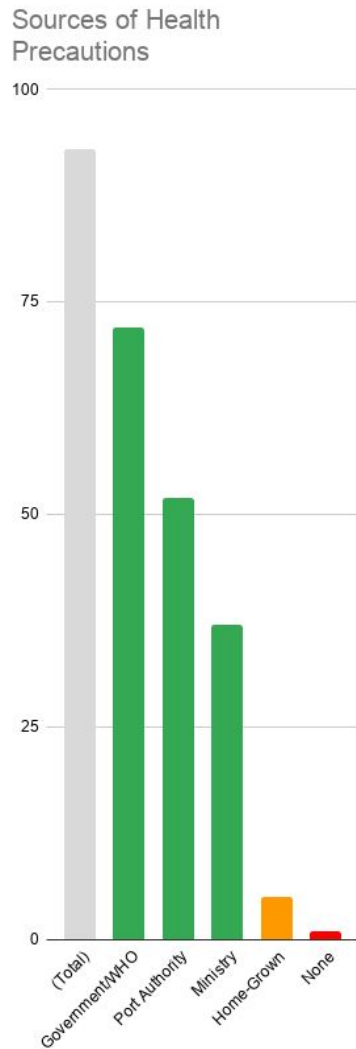
Effects of COVID-19 Severity: Funding Need, Seafarer Crises, and Crisis Help



- There was **gca Y'WffYUjcb** between **gYj Yf]micZ7 CJ-8 !%** in a ministry's area, the **fYXi Wjcb]b'h Y'Ua ci bhczl Yd** it was able to give to seafarers in crisis, and its **bYYX'Zcf' Ya Yf[YbWniZ bX]b[** (see section 6).

- Interestingly, there was a **cfY'cf''Ygg'bc'** **WffYUjcb** between the **gYj Yf]micZ7 CJ-8 !%** and the **]bWYUgY'cf'XYWYUgY'cZgYUZF Yf'W]gYg** reported. Overall, **gYUZF Yf'W]gYg'UfY'Ug'Z'Yei Ybh' Ug'Yj YfZUH ci [\ '7 CJ-8 !%** **'gYYa g'bhlc' \ Uj Y' YI UWfVUH'X'h Ya 'Ug'W'bg]ghYbhmUg]h\ Ug' a]b]ghf]YgDUV]]mhc'fYgdc bX'lc'h Ya "**

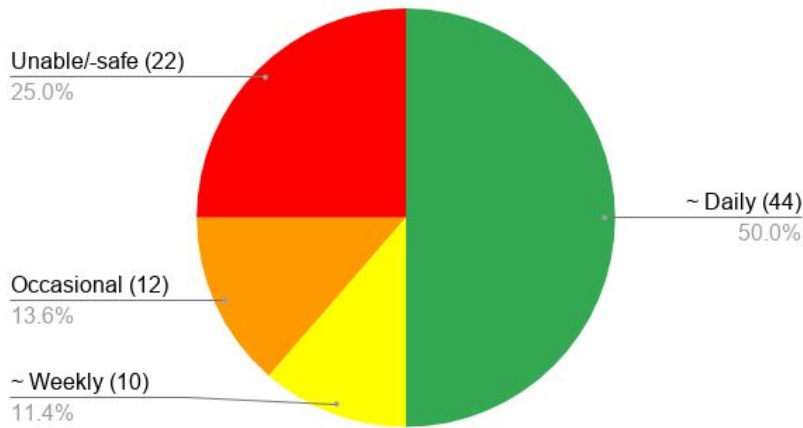
1.2: Health Precautions



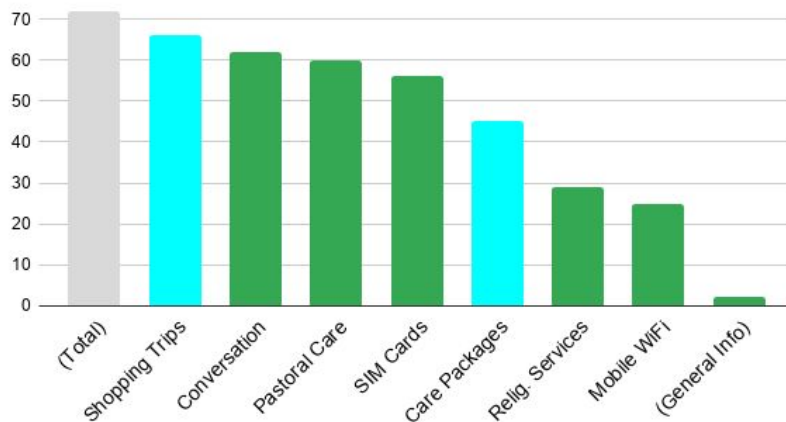
- 5`a cghU`a]b]g]f]Yg`k YfY`i g]b[\ YUH `dfYWI h]cbg, often taken from governments organizations (including the UN and the WHO), port authorities, or from their society's head or other seafarers' non-profits (including ICMA itself's guidelines).
- Many ministries took \ YUH `dfYWI h]cbg`Zca `a i `h]d`Ygci fWg.
- A small minority just made their own health precautions, and Ub`Yj Yb` ga U`Yf`a]bcf]m\ UX`bc`dfYWI h]cbg.
- More information on the different kinds of health precautions ministries took when visiting ships, when receiving seafarers in their centres, and when transporting seafarers, can be found in sections `&, ' , and (respectively.'

2: Ship Visits

Ship Visiting



Ship Visiting Ministries



! of all ministries that ship-visit regularly were doing ship visits on a roughly **XUJ**mbasis, while had either been forbidden or decided that it was unsafe to do so.

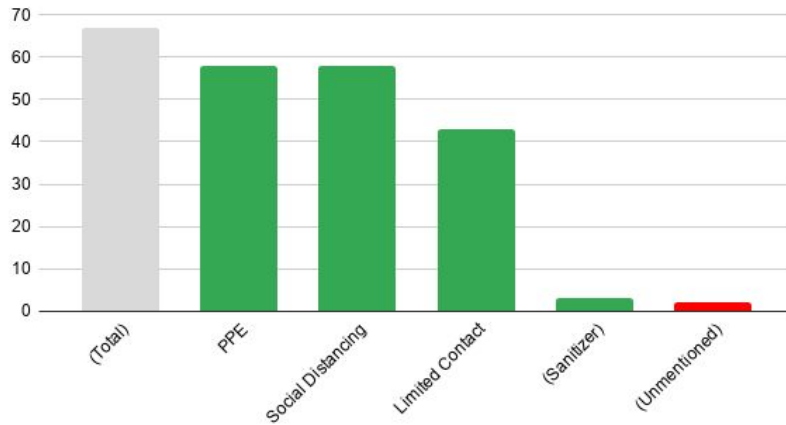
- **5`a cghU`** ship visiting ministries provide **Wt bj YfgUjcb**, **dUghcfU`WUfY**, **G=A`WUfX`** sales, and **gl cdd]b[`lf]dg** on seafarers' behalf.

- **5 Vci hi** included **fY][]ci g'gYfj]WYg**, **a cV]YK]:]i b]hg**, and **WUfY`dUW_U] Yg`**.

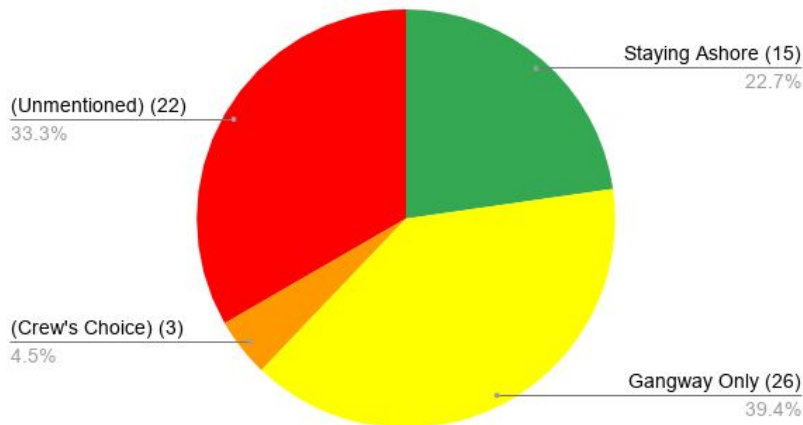
- A few ministries also mentioned providing **[YbYfU`]bZcfa Ujcb** about the port or COVID-19 on ship visits - this was not asked about, so many more may do this than reported.

! **G\ cdd]b[`lf]dg`** and **WUfY`dUW_U] Yg`** have emerged as particularly significant forms of ministry - they have their own subsections below.

Visiting Health Precautions



How Visitors Limit their Contact with Ships



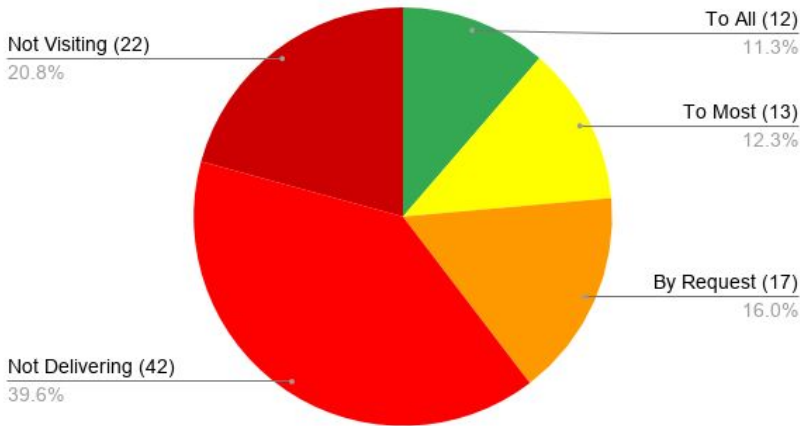
! 5`a cghU` ministries conducting ship visits reported taking some kind of health precaution - DD9`and gcVU`X]ghUbV]b[`were bYUf`mi b]j YfgU.

! &a]b]ghf]Yg'a Ybh]cbYX`bc` \ YUH` dfYWU h]cbg, (though they also did not declare that they had none).

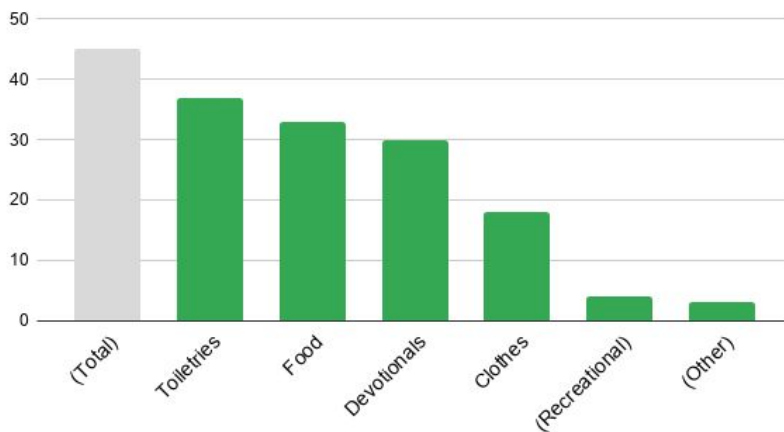
- 5 Vci hi `ghUmYX`cb`h` Y[Ub[k Umor Ug\ cfY, though `a]b]ghf]Yg independently reported that they would come aboard at the crew's discretion - more may do this besides.

2.1: Care Packages

Care Package Distribution



Care Package Contents



- The **a Ucf]lmof** ministries doing visits (or about overall) also distributed **WUfY`dUW_U] Yg** to seafarers at some rate.

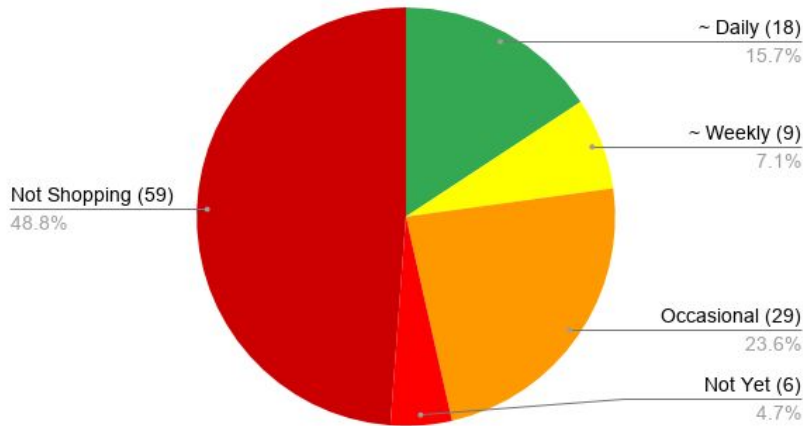
- of visiting ministries (overall) delivered care packages to **a cghior`U`** seafarers.

- **Hc]Yf]Yg, ZcX** (including snacks and drinks), **XYj ch]cbUg** (or other literature) were **U`** included in **a cgh** care packages.

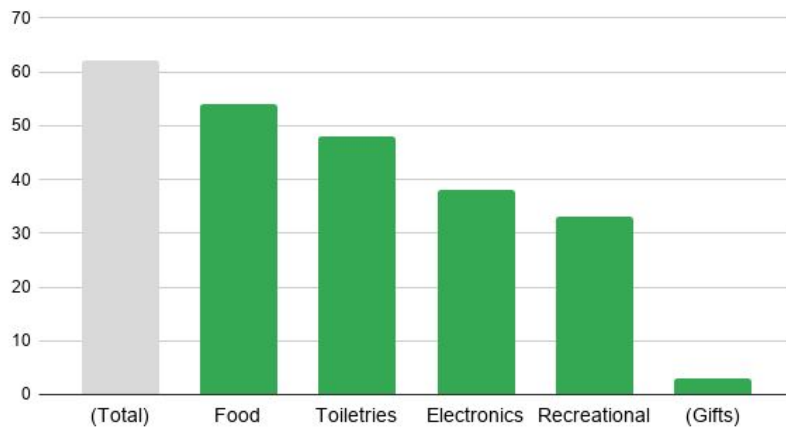
- **CH Yf** items (including **fWYU]cbUg**) included **ZWY`a Ug_g, 7 CJ-8 !%]bZcfa U]cb, W]XfYbEj`hcng,** and **VcUfX`[Ua Yg** - more ministries may have included these than reported.

2.2: Shopping for Seafarers

Shopping Trips for Seafarers



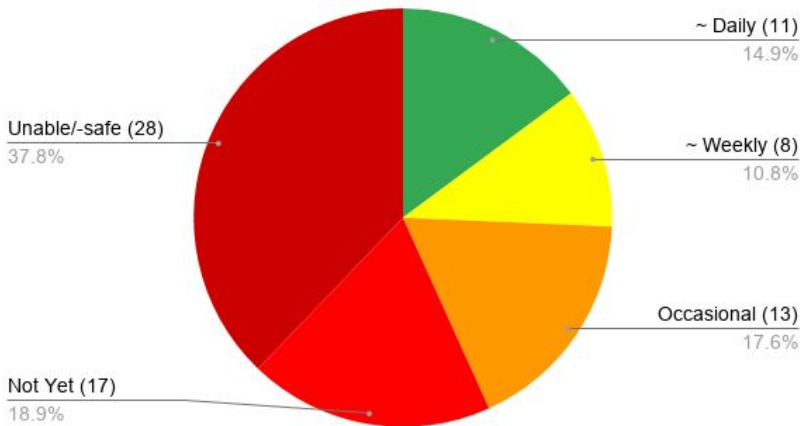
Items Bought for Seafarers



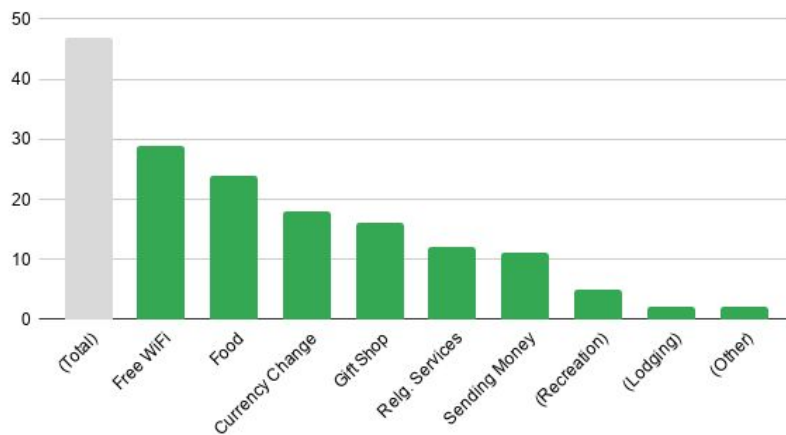
- **G'J[\ hmi`Ygg'h Ub'** of all ministries were shopping for seafarers, and a few more were able and willing to do so but had not had the occasion.
- This statistic is all the more significant given that access to supplies was **bcblYI]ghYbhor a cfY`ja]hYX in a cfY'h Ub'** ports (see section %).
- **: ccX'UbX'Xf]b_, a YX]WU]cbg'** (including vitamins), **Y'Wfcb]Vg,** and **fYWYU]cbU** items were frequent purchases.
- Some ministries also reported buying **[]Zg** on seafarers' behalf (including, in one case, a wedding ring!); since this was not asked about, more may besides.

3: Seafarers' Centres

Centre Visits



Centre Services



- **AcghWbhfYg** were **cdYb**, but more than **...** of them had yet to be visited by a seafarer.

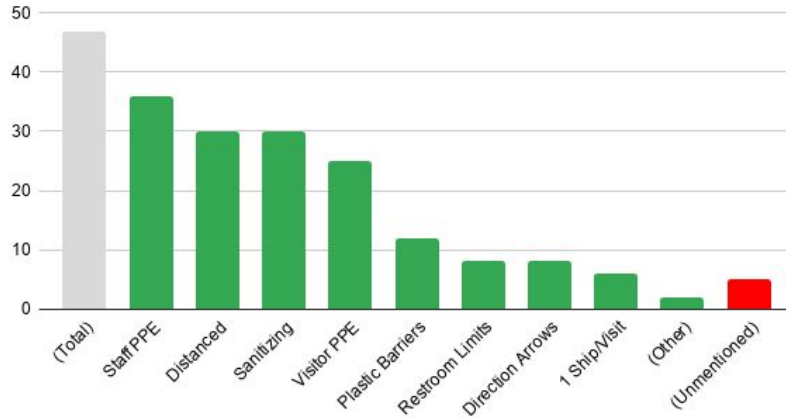
- **'cZcdYb'WbhfYg** were visited by seafarers **'Ygg'h Ub'cbW'Uk YY_**.

- Centres were **ei jh'Xj YfgY** in the **gYf j JWg** they offered: **k jZ'** and **ZcX** were offered in about **...**, while **a Ubnic'h Yf' j jh'gYf j JWg** were offered in **g] b]Z]WUbha]bcf]h]Yg**.

! **K]:]** is particularly significant, given that in more **'cZdcfhg'k jZ'k Ug XjZ]W`h'cf`ja dcgg]V`Y`hc`UWYgg** without the help of seafarers' ministries (see section 1).

! **í CH Yfî** services mentioned included **`cX[]b[** seafarers for the night **žfYb]b[** them **'V]WwYgž fYW]j]b['UbX\ c`X]b['g\]ddYX'di fW UgYg** for them (e.g., from Amazon) - these services were not asked about and may be done in more centres besides.

Centre Health Precautions



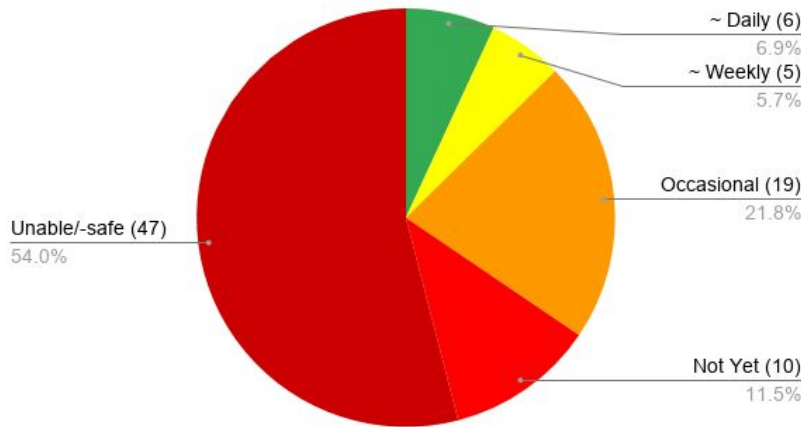
! - #/\$ centres named some kind of health precaution they were taking

! DD9 `Zcf`gHZZUbX`j]g]hcf g, X]gHUbWYX` gYU]b[, and gUb]h]n]b[`VYrk YYb`j]g]hg were required in a cghWbhfYg.

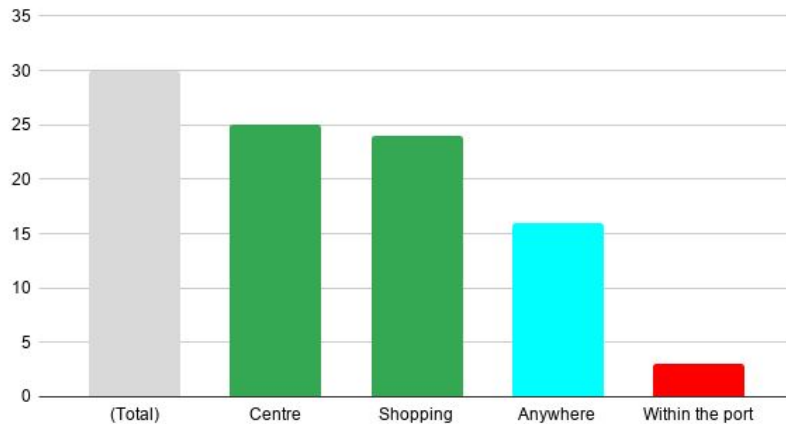
! Í CH Yfî health precautions included hU_]b[` j]g]hcf gDhYa dYfUi fY`UbX`WcbHWWi]bZcfa U]cb and `]a]h]b[`j]g]hg - more centres may do these things.

4: Transportation

Transporting Seafarers



Destinations



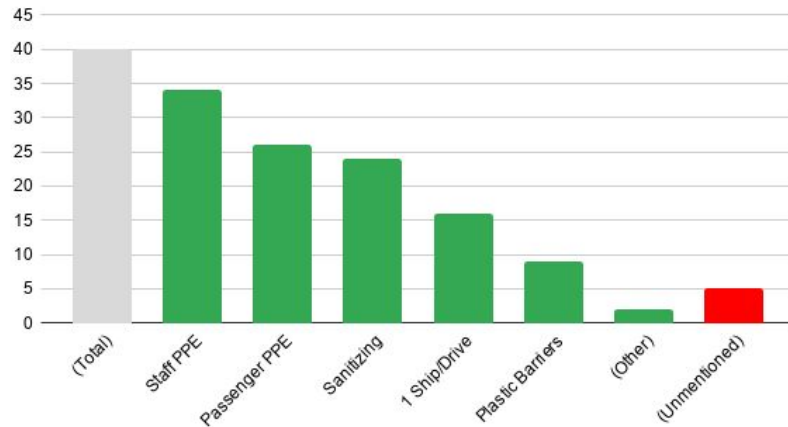
! 'cZa]b]gh]Yg' were hfUbgdcf]b[' gYUfYfg, and of those, only ' were doing so cb`U `Ygg!h Ub!k YY_`mVUg]g.

! G][\ hma cfY'h Ub' & of ministries transporting seafarers were transporting them to k \ YfYj Yf`h Ymik UbhYX`hc [c.

! HfUbgdcf]b]cb`hc`g\ cdd]b[was provided by UVci h of transporting ministries - a significant figure, given that `dcf]g afforded seafarers `]hY` cf`bc`UWYgg`hc`gi dd`Yg'(see section 1).

² This question was restricted to ministries that had reported *actually having transported* seafarers, i.e., it does not include those that were willing to transport but had answered “not yet” for the frequency of seafarer transportations.

Transportation Health Precautions



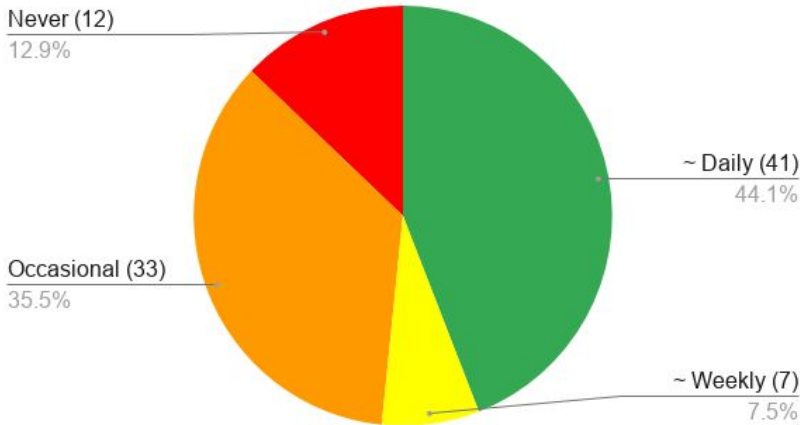
! DD9 'Zcf'gHZZUbXdUggYb[Yfg and gUb]h]n]b['h Yj Y]WY were all required by the majority of ministries transporting seafarers.

! Í CH Yfî 'transportation safety measures included HJ_]b['hYa dYfUhi fYg and cdYb]b[' k]bXck g; more ministries may do these.

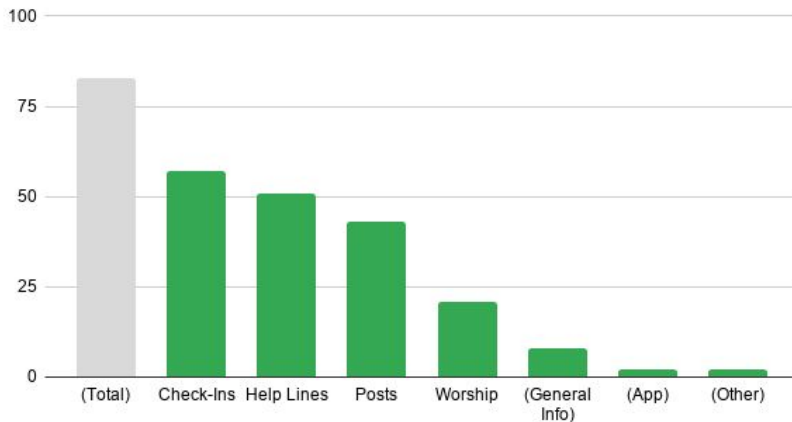
- Of those) 'a]b]gf]Yg that reported bc` \ YUH ' dfYWU h]cbg, ' were ministries that \ UX'mYhlc' hfUbgdcfhgYUZfYfg.

5: E-Ministry and Innovations

Ministry to Seafarers on the Internet



Kinds of E-Ministry



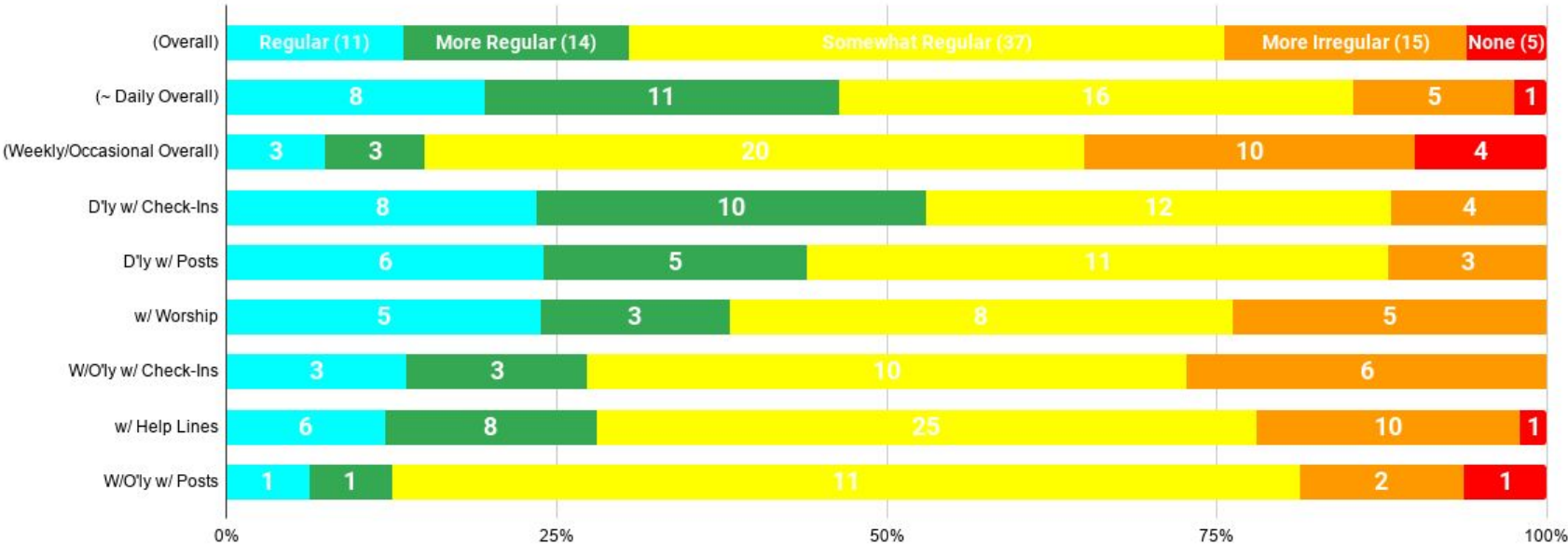
- About **80%** of ministries had some sort of online ministry.

- For those, **44%** ministered to seafarers online more or less **daily** and about **36%** ministered to seafarers **occasionally**.

! **80%** of the ministries included **working** with seafarers privately, serving on **video** like chat-to-a-chaplain, and/or **posting** content publicly. About **80%** **used** **apps**.

! **82%** ministries included **posting** about the port and updates on COVID-19, **using** for connecting seafarers in need of prayer with churches, **63%** **used** **apps** - more ministries besides may do these.

Regularity of Seafarer Engagement in E-Ministry Generally by Frequency of Ministry and Kinds of Ministry Included



- 8 U]me-ministries had more regular engagement than weekly and occasional ones.
- Of all kinds of ministry, W YW!]bg were the most predictive of regular general participation.
- Doing W YW!]bg'Ua cb['ch Yf' _]bXg'cZa]b]gfm was better than check-ins alone.

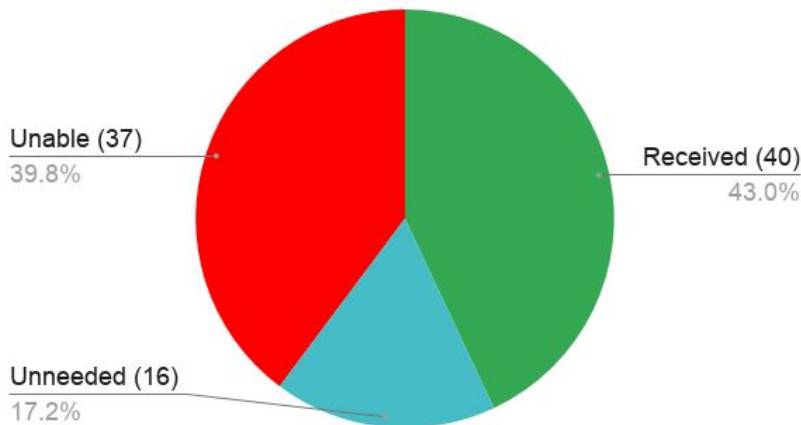
6: Emergency Funding Need & Reception

Ease of Continued Ministry without Continued Emergency Funding



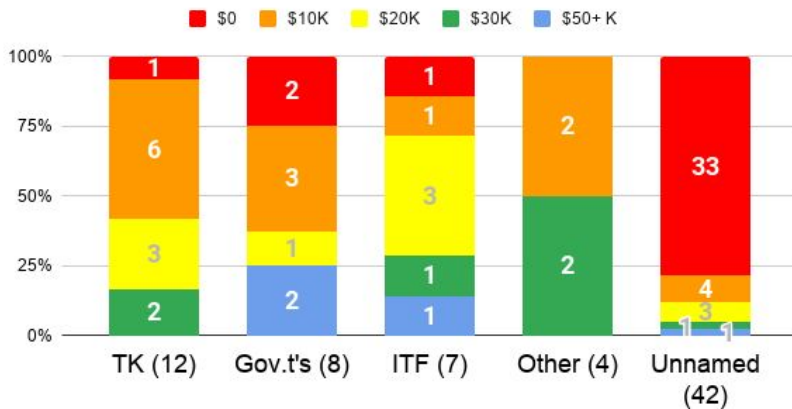
- Financial pressure was [YbYfU`m but bchi b]j YfgU`mfelt: `Ygg`h Ub` reported fYUhj Ym`Ygg`hc` bc`bYYX for emergency funding in order to continue their ministry, while around reported a cXYfUH` and a cfY`hc` [fYUhbYYX each.

Reception of Emergency Funding

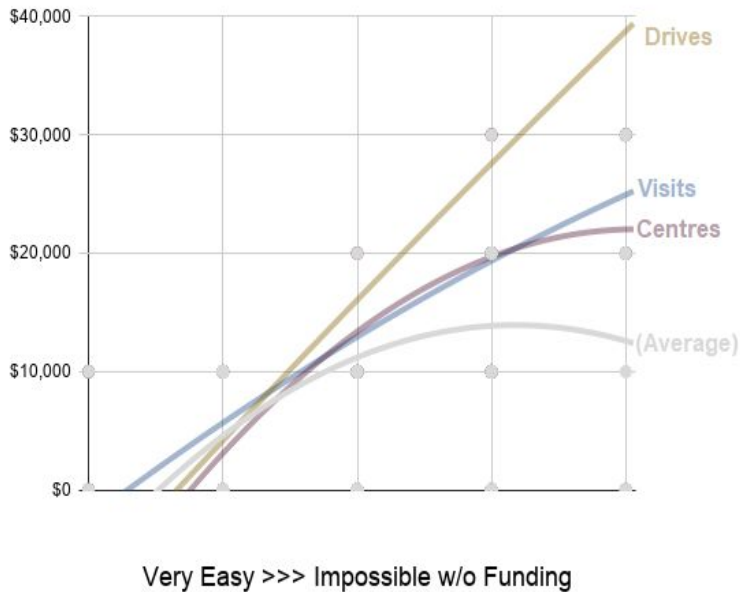


- @Ygg`h Ub` ministries had actually received emergency funding.
- 5`a cghi` of those ministries that reported needing emergency funding were i bUVY to get it. Indeed, some ambiguity in the answers suggests that number should be higher: some ministries that responded Í i bbYYXYXÎ still reported having sought funding and not received it.

Sources of Emergency Funding (in USD) (Rounded to nearest 10K)



Funding by Need: Different Ministries



- Note that the quantities of money listed here are in many cases **VYgh[i YggYg'VUgYX'cb`]a]hYX']bZfa U]cb`** (e.g., donations were sometimes listed without the kind of currency).

- There was **Wcbg]XYfUV'YX]j Yfg]lmin** sources of funding: the **H?` : ci bXU]cb** was the most commonly reported source of funding, while the **H: ` UbX`cWU` [cj Yfba Ybhtg`** also gave much.

- The funding sources included under “other” were in most cases other labour organizations and professional associations associated with maritime business.

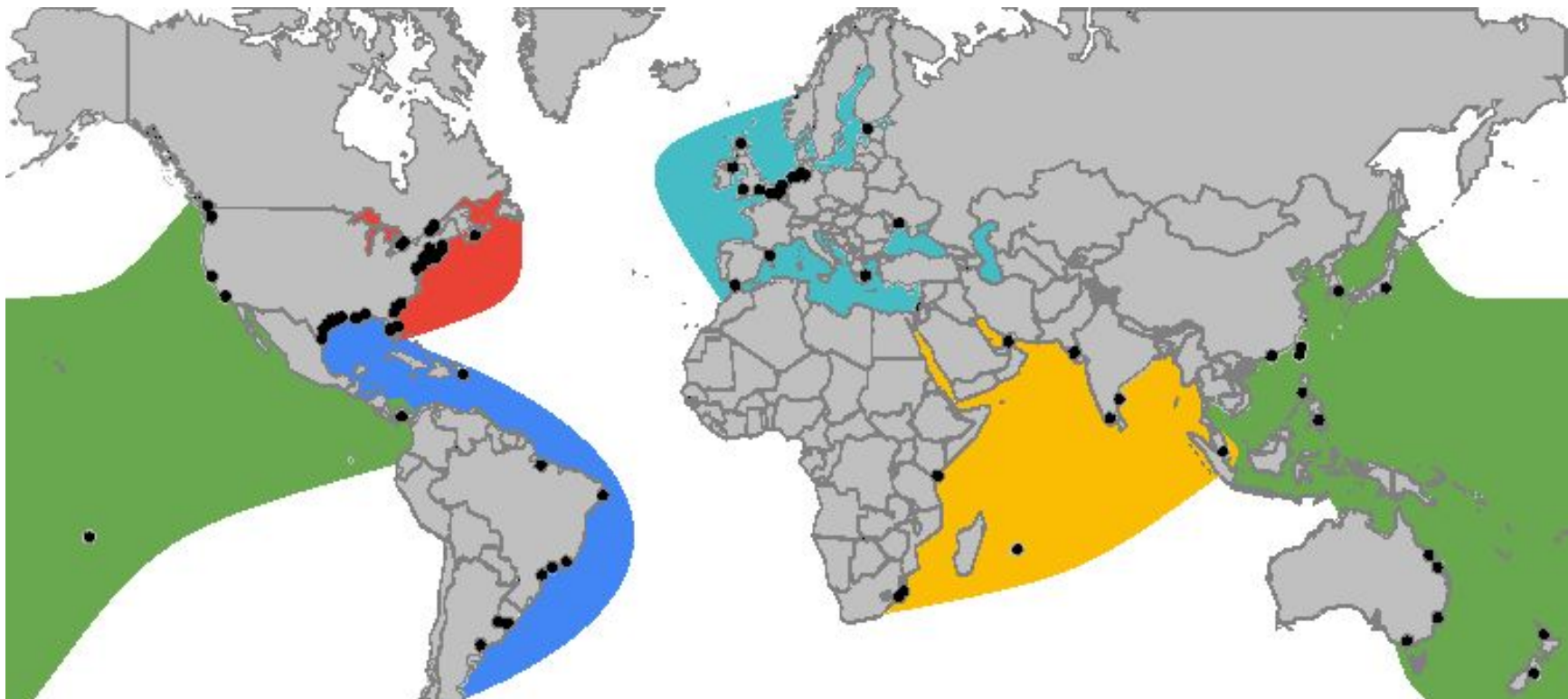
- Those ministries **a cgh`_Y mltc` \ Uj Y` Z bX]b[`a UW]b[`h Yf`bYYX** were ministries that **h Uhk YfY'fUbgdcf]b[`gYUZF Yfg**, while ministries **h Uhk YfY'j]g]h]b[`g\]dg`UbX#cf`fYWW]]b[` gYUZF Yfg`]b`h Yf`WbhfYg** also **[YbYfU`m] c h` Z bX]b[`a cfY'fYZYWW]b[`h Yf`bYYX"**

- This is of course **[ccX`bYk g`UbX`VUX`bYk g:** it is surely good that **Yl]gh]b[` \ Y dg`lc`gYUZF Yfg`**

UfY[YbYfU`mVY]b[`gi ddcfhYX; it is also quite probable that ministries not currently offering these services **a UmVYi bUV`Y`tc`Xi Y`tc`H Y]f`g]hi Uh]cb`UbX`bYYX`a cfY\ Yd`f`YWtj Yf]b[`tc`gYfj Y`gYUZfYfg.**

7: Regional Comparisons

The survey got responses from ICMA members all over the world. But the situation for seafarers is not the same all over the world - for more precision about the state of seafarers' welfare worldwide, responses have been divided into 5 regions roughly reflecting the areas within which a seafarer might be expected to pass: **North America**, **Europe**, **Asia**, **Africa** and **Oceania**.

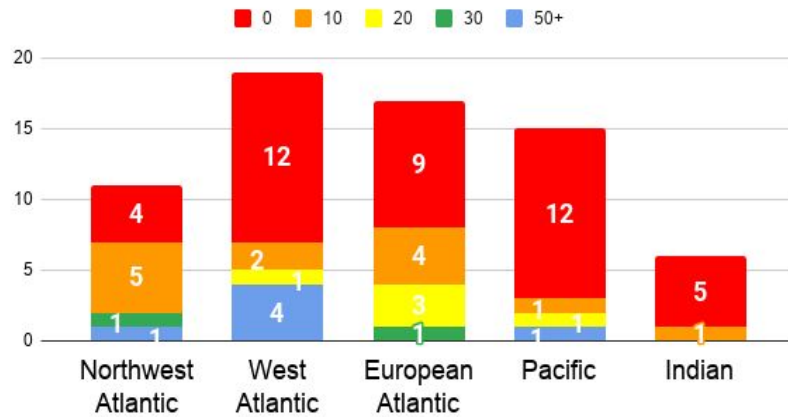


“Regions” here are meant to reflect connectivity across bodies of water, not within geopolitical borders. Therefore, the **BcfH k Ygh 5 hUbHjW** includes the American Eastern Seaboard and Eastern Canada, including the Great Lakes; the **K Ygh 5 hUbHjW** includes the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Atlantic South America; the **9i fcdYUb 5 hUbHjW** includes the Mediterranean, North, Baltic, and Black Seas; the **DUMZjW** includes the South China, East China, Philippine, and Japan/East Seas, Australia and New Zealand, and the North American West Coast, including Panama; and the **bxJUb** includes Coastal East Africa, the Arabian and Laccadive Seas, the Bay of Bengal, and Singapore.

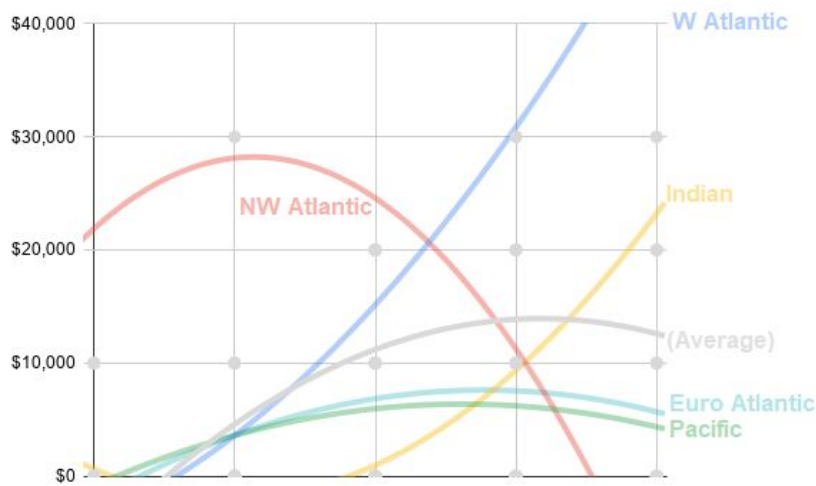
There are a few gaps and disparities to consider:

- **Bc** responses were received from **K YghYfb Gci H 5 a YfjWU** or from **9Ughor BcfH 5 ZjWU**.
- The number of responses from **5 hUbHjW BcfH 5 a YfjWU** and **BcfH Yfb 9i fcdY** was **Xjgdfcdcfhjc bUH m\] [**.
- the **DUMZjW** and **bxJUb** Oceans, despite each being sprawling oceans in their own right with heavily populated coasts, together are represented by **ZYk a cfY** responses than any of the **5 hUbHjW** regions taken singly.

Total Emergency Funding by Sea (Rounded to nearest \$10K USD)



Funding by Need: Different Seas



Very Easy >>> Impossible w/o Funding

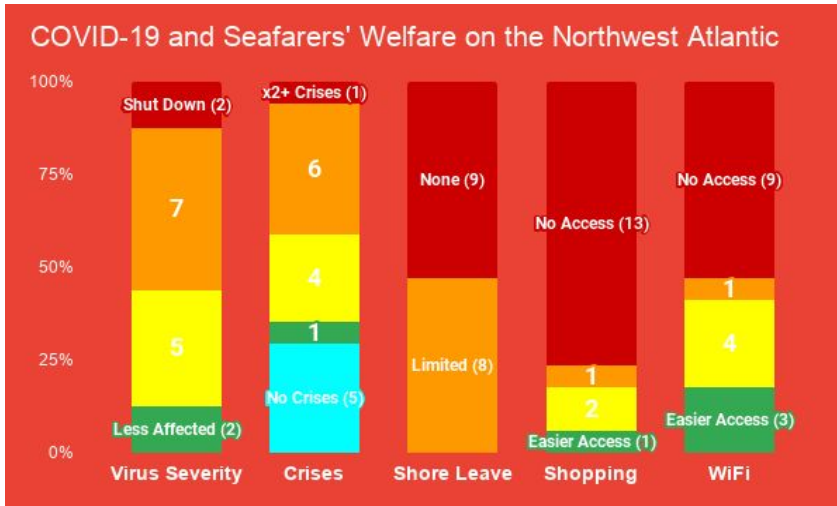
- The **a Ucf]hm** of ministries **]b' Yj Yfm fY]]cb** received **`Ygg' h Ub' ~% ?' | G8** of emergency funding.

- Still, ministries on the **bx]ub'** and **DUMZ]W** in general got the **least** emergency funding, and more ministries in the **Bcfh k Ygh** and **K Ygh 5 hUb]W** (particularly North America) got the **a cgh'**

- Funding **`ccgYma UHW YX'** need for funding in most regions, though the **9i fcdYub' 5 hUb]W** **bx]ubz'** and **DUMZ]W [YbYfU`mi bXYfg\ ch** it, the **K Ygh'** and **Bcfh k Ygh 5 hUb]W [YbYfU`micj Yfg\ ch** it, and **Z bx]b [`a UHW YX' bYYX' dUfh]W `Uf`midccf`m** on the **Bcfh k Ygh 5 hUb]W**

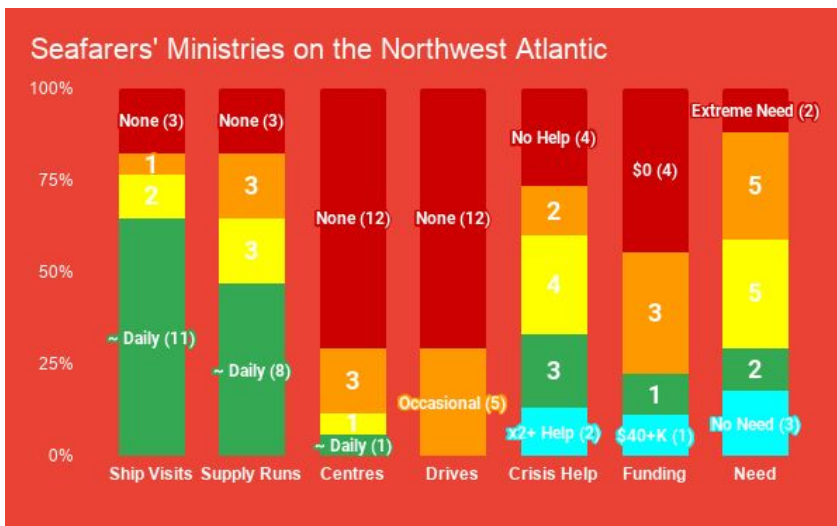
- In the regional comparisons that followed, it was found that **W]gYg' UbX' W]g]g' \ Ydž K]:**] **UWWggž WbhfY' cdYbbYggž UbX' Xf]j Yg' k YfY U`** **a cfY' cf' `Ygg' h Y' gUa Y Zca' gYU hc' gYU** (if generally a bit worse on the Indian Ocean).

7.1 Northwest Atlantic (17 from the St. Lawrence Seaway, Atlantic Canada, and Eastern Seaboard as far as Florida)



- Access to shopping and supplies was particularly limited for seafarers in the Northwest Atlantic - 'dcf hg\ UX'bc]bXYdYbXYbhiUWWgg'hc' gl cdd]b[, bcbY\ UX'YUgmiUWWgg'hc' gl cfY`YUj Y.

- It is perhaps not surprising, then, that shopping for seafarers was a bit more common there: Ua cghi `cZa]b]ghf]Yg'k YfY'Vi m]b[` gi dd`]Yg'cb'gYUZfYfgDVY UZXU]m



- Ship visits were also very common at cj Yf' ` j]g]h]b[`XU]m'

- The financial situation was hardly perfect, but better than in many places: just cj Yf' `cZ a]b]ghf]Yg'k YfY'fYWW]j]b[`Ya Yf[YbWniZ bX]b[ž]b' cbY'WUgY]b'YI WYgg'cZ` (\$?`I G, while UVci h' fYdcfHYX'VY]b[]b'a cfY'cf'YI hfYa YZ]bUbwU' bYYX.

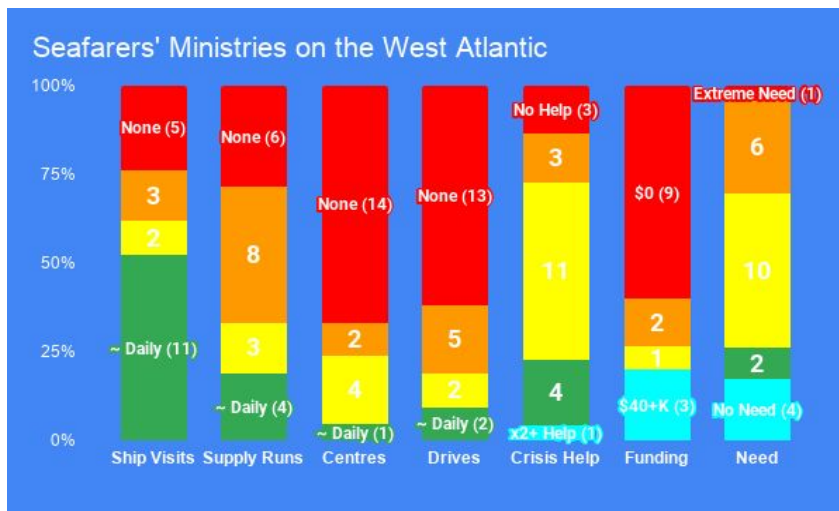
7.2 West Atlantic (23 from Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and Atlantic South America)



- As in the Northwest Atlantic, the West Atlantic had very little access to shopping and shore leave, but in more cases this was mitigated: `\ UX'gca Y UWWYgg'lc'gl cdd]b['UbX'gi dd']Yg`, although `'Ygg' h Ub'` had easy access.

- Supply runs and ship visits were common but rarer at roughly and daily, respectively.

- The financial situation in this region was better than anywhere else overall, although maybe a bit more polarized: only `'cZa]b]glf]Yg'fYdcfhYX' VY]b[']b'a cfY'cf'Yl hfYa YbYYX`, and `Ua cgh ' \ UX'fYWW]j YX'a cfY'h Ub' (~ $? 'l G, Vi hUVci h&# ' \ UX'fYWW]j YX'Z bX]b['bc'Z bX]b['UhU''`

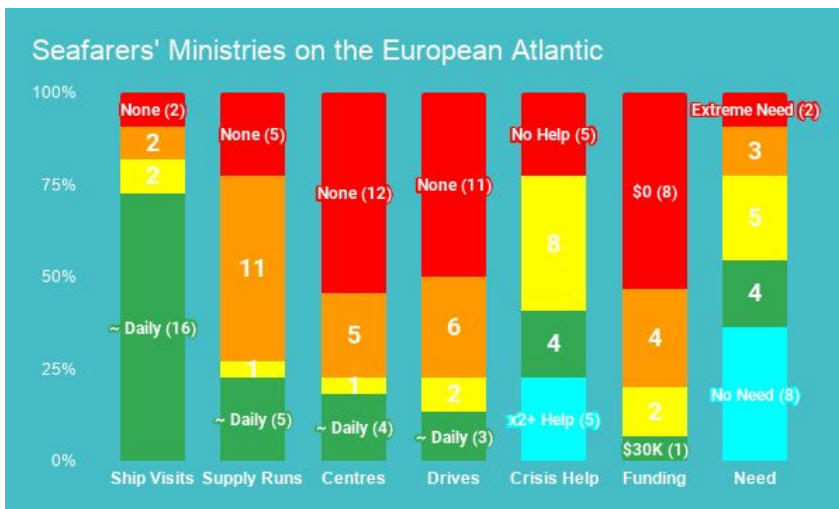


7.3 European Atlantic (22 from the Mediterranean, North, Baltic, and Black)



- The European Atlantic was overall the least affected by COVID-19, with almost 'fYdcfhjb[' VY]b['Ygg!'cf'i bUZZWYX. 'Gl cdd]b['UbX'gi dd'mi UWWYgg'UbX'gl cfY''YUj Y'k YfY'gh''X]Z]W`h]b' ' UbX' 'cZdcfhg, however.

- 'cZa]b]glf]Yg'fYdcfhYX'bchVY]b[']b' Z]bUbV]U`bYYX, although about 'k YfY]b' Wcbg]XYfUV'Y'cf'YI IfYa Y'bYYX and a bit more than 'cZa]b]glf]Yg\ UX'fYWW]j YX'bc`Ya Yf[YbWri Z bX]b[''



7.4 Pacific (21 from East Asia, Oceania, and Pacific North America)



- While **UWYgg'hc'gl'cfY`YUj Yžg\ cdd]b[`** gi dd`Ygžk YfY'bchia i W`dccfYf`H Ub`YgYk\ YfY` UbX'g\ cdd]b[`hf]dg'bchia i W`fUfYf, ship visits were more seldom, with **cb`mi`cZa]b]gfh]Yg`** WčbXi W]b[`fY[i `Uf`g\]d`j]g]hg.

- About **`cZa]b]gfh]Yg`** were in **'a cfY'cf`** Yl IfYa Y'bYYX`cZYa Yf[YbWniZ bX]b[, and **`\ UX`** fYW]j YX'bcH]b[.

