An American Conversation

On the Post-2015 Development Agenda

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America
A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the closing months of 2013, over 1,000 Americans gathered in communities large and small to discuss the world they want in 2030. They came together to answer a call to action from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for every UN member state to seek public input for a new and ambitious development agenda to replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015.

From October to December 2013, the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), a program of the United Nations Foundation, held day-long consultations in 12 cities across America. The 16 proposed development themes listed on the *MY World 2015* website of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) served as the starting point for each conversation with participants ranking each theme while adding new ideas of their own.

This report provides a window into the conversations that unfolded as Americans stepped back from their daily routines to think about how a new development agenda might impact their own lives as well as the lives of citizens of other UN member states around the world. The conversations included a diverse audience from age 15 to 95 and revealed both cross cutting themes and a few surprising findings.

CAUTIOUS SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSAL GOALS

Participants were quick to recognize that the challenges before the world are in many ways common to all countries, and that many, if not most, are not simply "developing country" issues, but rather have consequences for communities everywhere. Participants viewed the concept of "universality" not as a burden imposed from outside, but as an opportunity to share policy successes, learn from others, and track progress in meeting goals that American communities set for themselves.

Many participants explicitly recognized the potential for applying the new development goals in their own communities. From expanded access to Pre-K education to market incentives to encourage energy efficiency, participants were quick to point out areas where American communities are already making great progress in meeting universal goals, but which would benefit from a shared system for tracking progress, as well as opportunities for mutual cooperation. As one participant said, "We need global initiatives where everyone raises the bar. The language of the goals should apply to all."

However, many acknowledged that the adoption of universal development goals will require a strong public outreach effort to ensure that such goals are accurately portrayed as a set of nonbinding targets that all nations may use to judge progress as they pursue their own independent policy choices, rather than as outside interference in the domestic policy of the United States or any other UN member state.

GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON EDUCATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

As of February 2014, UNDP has received nearly 1.5 million worldwide submissions on *MY World*, with education chosen as the first priority among both developed and developing nations alike. Good governance ranks fourth globally, but second among respondents from high income countries. The 12 city consultations echoed these findings with participants choosing education and good governance as their top two priorities.

Many stated that if people were better educated and better informed they would become more involved and make better decisions about critical issues in both their own communities and globally. For example, education brings awareness about the effects of climate change, the responsibilities of citizenship, how to raise healthy children or prevent pregnancy, the appreciation of diversity or a preference for peaceful resolution to conflict. Many thought that education should be about "empowering people to be able to contribute to society."

There was broad consensus that honest and responsive governments are essential partners in moving sustainable development forward. Participants agreed that a principal purpose of government is to protect basic human rights and preserve peaceful and secure communities while fostering opportunity for all. However, the conversation around governance also touched upon challenges at home. Domestic challenges noted by participants included "politicians are choosing the voters instead of the voters choosing the politicians."

A CALL FOR ACTION ON GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

While the top two priorities from the consultations echoed global findings, participants ranked "Equality between Men and Women" and "Action Taken on Climate Change" far higher than the global *MY World* responses to date. Gender equality was ranked third among participants, versus eighth among worldwide responses. Climate change ranked seventh compared with a worldwide rank of 16th. Actions to address climate change were also listed as key elements in virtually every other development theme discussed from education to infrastructure.

Both priorities benefitted from the format of the consultations, which allowed Americans to share ideas among each other and explore the connections between issues in ways that someone simply choosing items from a list on *MY World* would not. When Americans have a chance to have a conversation about the challenges the world faces, gender equity and action on climate change clearly emerge as priorities with cross cutting impact.

Discussions on gender generally began with a focus on the human rights elements of the theme. In the words of one participant, "With females representing about 50 percent of the world population, clearly there is a human rights dimension to advancing the rights of girls and women." However, the discussion would often pivot to the return on investment that comes from promoting girls' education and ensuring that women have an equal voice in decision-making. Participants believed

that gender equity has an impact that ripples out across all development challenges from poverty alleviation to climate change. As one teenaged participant put it, "Equality for girls equals dignity for all."

Similarly there was broad consensus that failing to address climate change will undermine all other development goals. However, participants noted that part of the challenge is both demonstrating that action on climate change is essential for maintaining and even increasing economic growth as well as demystifying jargon-laced terms like "sustainable development." As one participant simply put it, "Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations."

A NEW PRIORITY FROM A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

When given the opportunity to offer suggestions for other themes or issues not included in the *MY World* list, the participants rapidly gravitated to "Protecting the Rights of Refugees and Migrants."

Participants were both committed to finding long-term solutions to support refugees and eager to highlight the important development impact of migration for both sending and receiving nations. Participants suggested, "Finding durable solutions for refugees—including resettlement to a third country, integration or repatriation—should be a development priority." Participants also emphasized that "Migrant workers are among the hardest workers in our society, and they make significant contributions to our economy. Yet they face a number of challenges based on inequality in status and societal discrimination."

THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Public-private partnership was identified in almost every discussion as a key tool for advancing development both at home and abroad. Participants stressed that the business community has a critical role to play in creating sustainable growth, promoting gender equality, and meeting virtually every other theme identified in the consultations. "Working with the private sector will be our best bet … in order to really move the dial forward." Many saw market based solutions as the most promising option in such important sectors as sustainable water and energy systems, communications, and infrastructure.

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CONVERSATION

These consultations are just one step in a conversation beginning to unfold between individual Americans and UN institutions that are increasingly looking for public feedback through innovative mechanisms like *MY World.* These consultations represent the first episode in that conversation, but much more public dialogue will be needed as the new development goals are negotiated and enacted, and future progress is monitored. Given the high stakes involved in setting an agenda for the "World We Want"—including the fates of hundreds of millions still mired in extreme poverty—there has never been a better time to have such a conversation.

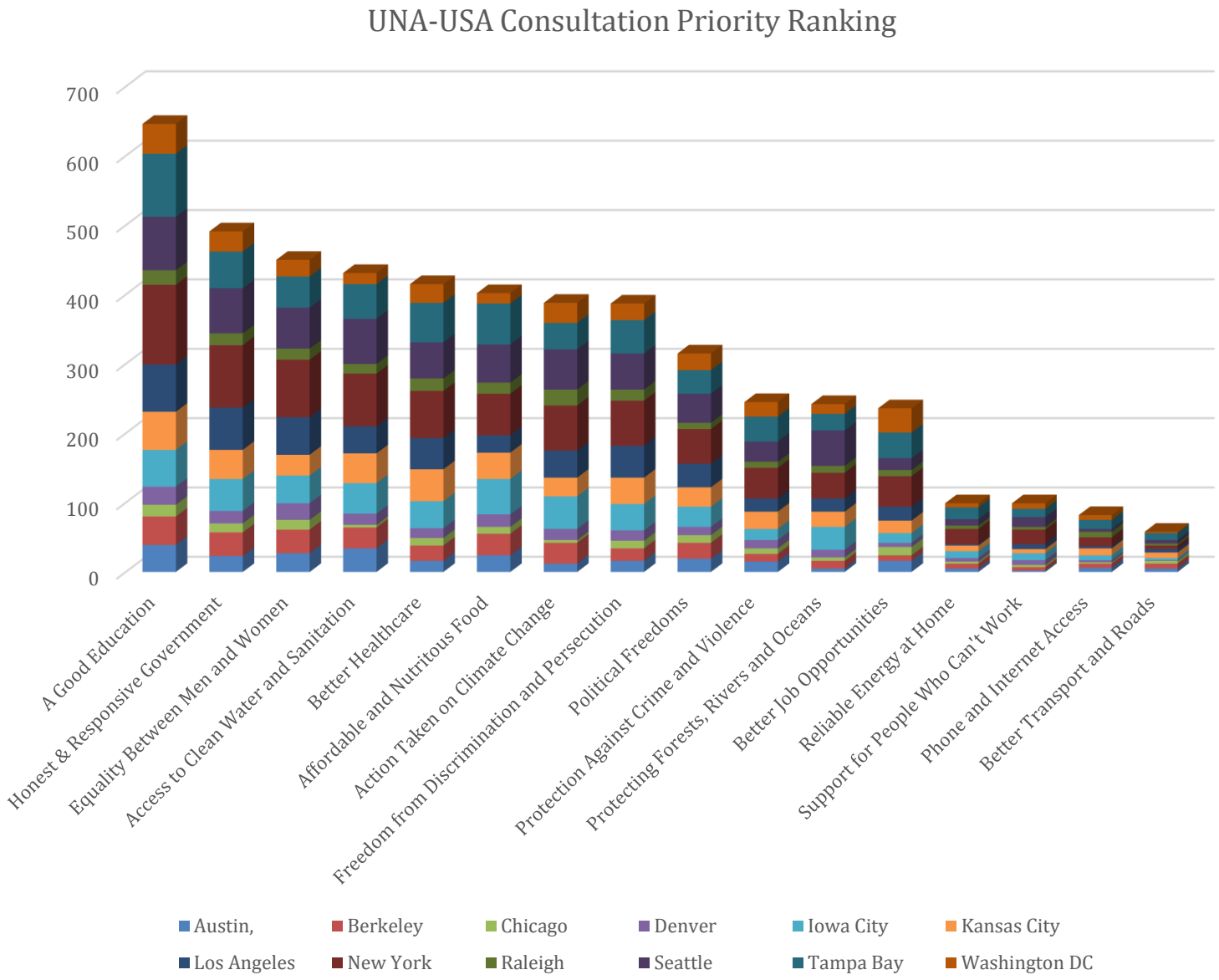

UNA-USA Consultation Priority Ranking
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
A Good Education
Honest & Responsive Government
Equality Between Men and Women
Access to Clean Water and Sanitation
Better Healthcare
Affordable and Nutritous Food
Action Taken on Climate Change
Freedom from Discrimination and Persecution
Political Freedoms
Protection Against Crime and Violence
Protecting Forests, Rivers and Oceans
Better Job Opportunities
Reliable Energy at Home
Support for People Who Can't Work
Phone and Internet Access
Better Transport and Roads
Austin,
Berkeley
Chicago
Denver
Iowa City
Kansas City
Los Angeles
New York
Raleigh
Seattle
Tampa Bay
Washington DC

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **1**

INTRODUCTION **6**

THE CONVERSATIONS .....

A Good Education 8
An Honest and Responsive Government and Political Freedoms 10
Equality Between Men and Women 12
Access to Clean Water and Sanitation 14
Better Health care 16
Affordable and Nutritious Food 18
Action on Climate Change 20
Freedom from Discrimination and Persecution and Support for People Who Cannot Work 22
Protecting Forest, Rivers and Oceans 24
Protection Against Crime and Violence 25
Better Job Opportunities 26
Reliable Energy at Home 27
Phone and Internet Access 28
Better Transport and Roads 29
Protecting the Rights of Refugees and Migrants 30

APPENDIX A: *MY WORLD* SURVEY RESULTS **31**

APPENDIX B: LIST AND DATES OF CONSULTATIONS **44**

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), a program of the United Nations Foundation, is delighted to present this public consultation report on the post-2015 development agenda. This report presents the results of a journey across the United States. Between October and December 2013, the chapters and divisions of UNA-USA organized community consultations in 12 different cities to explore Americans' views, perspectives and opinions about the world they want for themselves, the global community and future generations.

BACKGROUND

The post-2015 development agenda represents the next step in implementing the vision of the 2000 Millennium Declaration. In 2015, a new agenda will be adopted to both replace and build on the original Millennium Development Goals. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon observed, "The post-2015 development agenda will need to complete the Millennium Development Goals, scale up their success, expand their scope and address new challenges."

In 2011, the Secretary-General called for a global debate and stressed that the post-2015 development framework would have the most impact if it emerged from an inclusive, open and transparent process. Since 2012, civil society organizations and members of the United Nations system have convened an unprecedented series of community consultations all over the world to capture the vision and voices of over a million individuals on "The World We Want."

CREATING A U.S. CONSULTATION PROGRAM

In 2013, UNA-USA, with the support of the UN Foundation, organized and hosted community consultations in Chicago, New York, Seattle, Iowa City, Kansas City, Tampa, Raleigh-Durham, Austin, Denver, Los Angeles and Berkeley. The objective of the consultations was to stimulate an inclusive, bottom-up debate on the post-2015 development agenda and to facilitate consultation based on people's experiences and ideas. Participants were invited to contemplate, debate and envision "The World We Want." The results form the basis of this report and are intended to provide perspectives to governments, civil society, businesses, and individuals—all the stakeholders—about the challenges people face in improving their lives, those of their families and communities, and their vision and priorities for the future.

In each city, organizers cast a wide net to gather an inclusive and representative group of participants. Nationwide, the consultations brought together nearly 1,000 participants from community organizations, local governments, universities and community colleges, local and internationally oriented civil society organizations, businesses, health-care providers, city, state and national agencies, philanthropies, public and private schools, and associations of organizations. Youth accounted for at least 20 percent of the participants at all the events, because the young have both the most to gain and the most to lose in charting a course toward a sustainable

future. (A list of the consultation events and organizations represented is included in Appendix B.)

Each event was unique, reflecting that each community is unique in its resources and challenges. The events varied in length, but all were organized around a common agenda intended to give voice to the participants. There were three distinct sessions. The first, which varied from city to city, included an introduction to the United Nations' post-2015 process, the Secretary-General's call for an open and inclusive process and general background on the Millennium Development Goals. In some cities, distinguished political and community leaders spoke. During the second session, guests participated in roundtable discussions that included a facilitator, a note-taker and between five and 10 participants. In the final plenary session, representatives from each group presented highlights from the conversation.

The discussion groups were the principal focus of the events and were intended to highlight the views, concerns and opinions of each participant. Each group was given background materials but was explicitly given free rein to take the conversation in whatever direction the group wished. Aside from time limits, there were no restrictions, and the results were diverse, imaginative and comprehensive. The participants brought to the conversations their experiences, knowledge, energy, passion, frustrations, beliefs and hopes—all of which are represented in this report.

In nearly all the cities, the groups were organized around the 16 themes in the *MY World* survey. This report is divided into sections corresponding to these themes: a good education, an honest and responsive government, equality between men and women, access to clean water and sanitation, better health care, freedom from discrimination, action on climate change, affordable and nutritious food, political freedoms, protection against crime and violence, better job opportunities, protecting forests, rivers and oceans, reliable energy, support for people who cannot work, phone and Internet access, and better transport and roads. For the purposes of this report, political freedom has been combined with an honest and responsive government, and support for people who cannot work has been integrated into the section on freedom from discrimination and persecution. In addition, a section on migrant and refugee rights has been added. Each section is intended to reflect the voices of the participants at the discussion tables, and every effort has been made to be true to their visions.

WELCOME TO THE CONVERSATIONS

We hope that the results of the UNA consultation effort will contribute to the UN's effort to create an effective development framework. As the Secretary-General observed, "Defining the post-2015 development agenda is daunting, inspiring and historic. The global conversation about a post-2015 world is one of the most important debates of our time." It was with great appreciation that UNA-USA took up the Secretary-General's call to action to begin this conversation. Likewise, it is with great pleasure that we present the results.

1. A GOOD EDUCATION

Americans joined 1.5 million worldwide respondents on the *MY World* website in choosing "A Good Education" as the **top priority** for the new development agenda**.** Participants believed the theme to be equally as important for addressing challenges in their own communities as for advancing development abroad.

The Indispensable Investment

Participants believed that access to quality education is critical to progress in every other area and fundamental to achieving the "The World We Want." Participants concluded that every student should discover the joy of learning, engage in the search for the meaning of life, and ultimately be able to adapt to the world as it is, prepare for the world that might be, and be inspired to create "The World We Want." Quoting the late, great Mr. Nelson Mandela, one participant noted, 'The most powerful weapon you can use to change the world is education.'"

Achieving Literacy and Universal Access to both Primary and Secondary Education

Everyone agreed that education should continue to be a goal after 2015. "Education is a right and should be equal and available to all." "We must finish what we started and work to achieve universal primary education." Yet many wanted to see even more aspirational goals. "Progress has been made, but we need to continue because too many children are still not learning the basics of reading, writing and math." Many emphasized, "Along with primary education, steps must be taken to also encourage secondary and higher education—to get a more level playing field once and for all."

Creating Equal Opportunity for Education

There was a great deal of discussion about equal access and how to ensure "equal opportunity for a good education." Many saw "equality" as the "the biggest question mark." While all the groups recognized the huge challenges that developing countries face, several groups maintained that in many countries, including the United States, "the real issue is the equal distribution of existing resources." "Recognizing the right to education and lifelong learning and achieving access to quality education for all—especially marginalized populations—remains a daunting challenge, globally, nationally and locally." However, all the groups acknowledged that in underdeveloped and conflict-affected regions, achieving universal access to education will be much more challenging. "Equal education for all cannot exist unless there is peace, security and sufficient access to food, water, sanitation and other primary needs."

Ensuring Essential Resources Are Available

The need for additional resources, both globally and in the United States, was emphasized at every table. All groups agreed that more funding for education is essential and that governments are the principle actors in ensuring sustainable funding. "Governments must invest much more in education." Some urged, "Require

a certain percentage of a nation's GDP to be invested in education." Some wanted to see "countries sign a pledge to invest in education," and for low developed countries with very limited resources, many agreed that foreign assistance dollars should be prioritized to support educational programs.

A Mandate for Gender Equality

Gender equality was a central theme in every discussion group. Participants insisted, "Gender equality must be achieved." "In addition to girls, we need to reach adult women—mothers and young married girls." Many of the groups stressed that investing in education for women and girls provides a great return and results in stronger communities. "The *Girl Effect* has shown that focusing resources on women and girls has a domino effect—the whole society benefits." "Educated women have healthier, more educated children. They have more power in the household to make choices beneficial for their children and about when to have children." "Educated women can also educate their sons on gender equality."

Educating and Valuing Our Teachers

Many conversations focused on teachers as a vital part of the good education equation. "To have a good education, you need a good teacher." "Great educators, even with bad curriculum, can still deliver great results." Many emphasized that better salaries, quality professional development programs, access to resources and more recognition were all essential.

Ensuring a Broad Standard of Quality

Everyone agreed that quality is an issue. There was broad debate about what should be taught. Many asked, "How do we ensure that the students in public schools are getting a quality education in a way that they are prepared for their working life?" There were many suggestions, but at a minimum, most participants agreed that "schools should achieve knowledge in three fundamental fields: arithmetic skills, reading/writing and applicable life skills" including vocational education.

Providing Programs for Early Childhood Learning and Support

Many groups also focused on the importance of early childhood learning. There was strong support for "preschool programs to help to prepare children for school, offer nutritious meals and provide quality affordable care for working parents." "Not just an educational head start, but a lifetime head start." Universal preschool programs were highlighted as a way to get "everyone on equal footing and give children the social skills necessary to succeed in school."

Creating Global Citizens

There was wide support for the proposition that "we need to prepare upcoming generations to live in a diverse and dynamic world." "Encourage students to become global citizens at an early age." Participants wanted to see more emphasis "on the appreciation of other cultures" and "more coverage of international affairs." One high-school aged participant stated, "If I had not joined UNA, I wouldn't have known much."

2. AN HONEST AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

While "Honest and Responsive Government" is the fourth highest priority worldwide, it ranked **second** among participants. This tracks with the broader findings from *MY World* with higher income countries and participants over age 35 in all countries ranking good governance among their top two or three priorities.

Good Governance and Accountability Essential for Progress

Good governance and accountability emerged as a strong and all-encompassing priority. "Honest and responsive governments should be one of the foremost concerns." There was unanimous consensus that governments should be effective, transparent, accountable and not corrupt. Several speakers acknowledged that good governance underpins progress across the development agenda, but underscored "achieving success is hard, and is hard to define, especially given the universality of the problem." Strengthening the rule of law, establishing good governance, building accountable institutions and promoting transparency were all recognized as vital.

Political Freedoms and Good Governance Are Mutually Dependent

Governance and political freedoms were discussed interchangeably, and some suggested that one of the principal purposes of promoting good governance is to protect basic human rights, including those associated with political freedoms such as freedom of assembly and expression. "Ensuring that justice institutions are accessible, independent and well-resourced with respect for due-process rights is fundamental." Others warned, "The inclusion of political freedom in the new agenda would be controversial to the extent it is politically controversial and culturally subjective—it could undermine the universality of the agenda."

While there was some concession that "political freedoms must be culturally relevant," in all the discussion groups the mandate for a government that was responsive to its people was unavoidable. "The government represents the interests of the people, and ensuring it is responsive to its citizens is the first step." "Corporations may only be accountable to shareholders, but we're the shareholders in government."

Right to Political Participation and Equal Representation

Participants emphasized an individual's right to participate in the political processes through voting, joining political parties and taking part in all aspects of civil society. Many discussion groups stressed that equal access was essential to ensuring meaningful representation. Participants stressed that when groups are excluded, such as women, their interests are not represented and "they are treated differently."

Free and fair elections were discussed in all the good governance groups. Participants emphasized, "The election of representative officials and leaders must be transparent, and citizens must have equal access to information on which to base their choices." Everyone agreed that it was vital to continue global support for free

and fair elections, including both the legitimacy of the process and the integrity of the results. On elections, participants suggested that "specific targets should be set for different segments of the population: youth, lower socio-economic bracket, immigrants, etc."

Many participants expressed concern about what they perceived to be deliberate measures in some U.S. jurisdictions to constrain voting, including new voter identification requirements and the widespread use of redistricting/ gerrymandering. "The politicians are choosing the voters instead of the voters choosing the politicians."

Responsibilities of Citizenship

While ensuring government accountability and transparency were dominant themes in the good governance groups, the responsibility of citizenship was also highlighted. "The accountability of governments is closely tied to the accountability of its citizens." "Rights are different from freedoms in that they imply a contract that also entails responsibilities." "Response and participation are two interconnected phenomena—both are needed for a more responsive government."

Participants insisted, "Higher voting turnout in both local and national elections is needed to strengthen democracy and equality." Some opined, "Americans are apathetic," and many agreed that it was important to combat voter apathy. Yet there were many unanswered questions about how to actually accomplish this. "Are people discouraged from voting because they have lost trust in the government?" Some suggested mandatory voting, but others disagreed, pointing to examples such as Chile, where in 2009, they ended compulsory voting in favor of voluntary voting.

Universal Problem of Corruption

There was unanimous consensus among all the groups that corruption was the single biggest impediment to good governance and effective institutions throughout the world. "Corruption is one of the most persistent obstacles to moving poor nations up the development curve and drastically limits the potential of business."

Participants stressed the need for more transparency and accountability at all levels. Some proposed, "Transparency is the key, particularly financial transparency in budgeting, accounting, and public debt." Many insisted, "Campaign finance policy is one of the main obstacles to the democratic process in the United States and abroad."

Participants acknowledged that "Corruption is a tough issue and is viewed differently in different places." Yet many felt that efforts to address corruption and its many manifestations have been "limited and timid." Many participants expressed concern that "most Americans feel like they don't know how the federal government is spending their tax dollars and sometimes feel like they have very little say in it." Many concluded that goals and targets to address corruption must apply universally. "Good governance is extremely important, and it seems unfair to expect reforms in developing counties but not in our own."

3. EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

"Equality between Men and Women" ranked eighth worldwide, but **third** among participants. Achieving progress on gender equity was seen as a catalytic investment that would benefit all other themes.

Universal Goals for Gender Equality

Gender equality was explicitly seen as a universal issue: "No country has achieved gender equality." Participants stressed, "Seventy percent of the bottom billion are women and girls—we need to empower women!" Participants wanted to see more female leaders in both the public and private sectors, more girls educated beyond primary school, more women in control of their own health and property and more men helping to pull them up. There was strong support in the gender equality groups for a human rights-based agenda and strong mandate for "zero tolerance for violence against women."

Women Leaders

There was consensus that to pull more women out of poverty, there needed to be more women in leadership positions across the board. "Basically, we need more participation of women in all areas—politics, media, doctors, businesses, faith-based organizations, etc." Participants wanted to see more programs to empower young women to enter into leadership roles, and they hoped to see more mentors and more commitment from all sectors of society.

Economic Empowerment and Legal Equality

Economic empowerment was seen as critical to moving more women out of poverty "If you empower women with a skill or a trade, you build a system of equality." "Women can help solve many problems if given the chance," but they need an equal playing field, encouragement and access to education and resources.

Participants highlighted the importance of legal equality—equal access to nationality, inheritance, the right to own property and other legal and financial rights. "Ninety percent of 193 economies have at least one legal difference prohibiting women's opportunities." "Widows are often denied their family inheritance—we need equal rights in marriage, property and divorce." "Empowering women means giving them the ability to survive without a man."

Social and Cultural Barriers

Participants recognized that existing opportunities for women and girls in developing countries are vastly different than those in developed countries, yet many of the underlying issues identified were characterized as universal, including access to credit and financial resources, equal pay for equal work, social stigmas and stereotyping. "There is 'a glass ceiling' for women created through culture. Even when the resources are available to women, culture often prevents equality through expectations and norms." "Social and cultural issues are where gender issues lie."

Health Care and Reproductive Rights

Access to health care and respect for reproductive rights were also seen as critical to addressing the root causes of women's poverty. Everyone agreed that health care must be accessible and women must be free to make their own decisions about their health. Women should be able to "access health services safely and privately." For most, the priorities were addressing maternal and infant mortality rates and lack of access to contraceptives and education about reproductive health and rights.

Education was seen as a top priority, and there was strong support for introducing a framework for education on reproductive rights and responsibilities. "The lack of information on reproductive rights and health leads to unplanned pregnancies and higher HIV/AIDS infections."

Some participants highlighted the "horrific infant mortality rates and maternal health problems in the U.S. today, predominately among poor women and women of color." Many wanted to see free access to birth control. "Income inequality—women need birth control and access to reproductive health care to avoid a constant cycle of poverty."

Expand Educational Opportunities for Women and Girls

There was a spirited and unanimous call for better education for women and girls. "The single most important factor in development is education for girls and women—not enough just to read and write—we need more girls finishing secondary schooling." Education was also seen as a crucial crossover issue. "If you educate a woman, you can educate an entire community." Participants also wanted to see more support for literacy and vocational skills for all women. Education was also recognized as vital to empowering girls to become leaders and break free from negative stereotypes.

Zero Tolerance for Violence against Women

Participants called for a clear and unambiguous mandate to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence. "Zero tolerance is a key term for all of us. We simply cannot have any violence toward women." "We need to combat our rape culture—stop telling women to avoid being raped and instead tell men to stop raping." "Culture and/or religion is never an excuse for violence against women." Participants also wanted to see more victim protection programs and "more women playing active roles in re-building post-conflict communities."

Human Rights and Accountability

Several discussion groups maintained that implementation and accountability are central concerns. "We need governments to vigorously enforce the laws that protect women, including sex trafficking, domestic violence, rape and child pornography." "We need greater participation of women in the police force." Several groups pointed out that "the United States is one of six countries that have not ratified the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)."

4. ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Participants ranked "Access to Clean Water" **fourth**, compared to a worldwide ranking of sixth. Although it did not make the top tier of priorities, the theme of sparked vigorous debate on the domestic dimensions of the issue and its connection to climate change.

A Critical Resource

Water was recognized as a critical component to the fulfillment of all other goals. Participants stressed that the demand for water will continue to increase with population growth, and urban immigration will continue to present huge challenges in providing access to clean water and sanitation. There was wide support for the proposition that all water systems needed to be improved, modified and/or developed to ensure that all water can be recycled and reused. "All new urban planning should include water conservation, collection, and recycling."

Protecting Water Resources

Many groups expressed deep concerns about contamination and pollution and wanted to see more emphasis on protecting and conserving watersheds, water sources and wetlands. "Ocean health is very important—we must control contamination—everything is interconnected and it will affect water and food supplies." Some participants proposed "channel rainwater and irrigation," "use bio filters," "desalination," "tax on bottled water that goes directly to helping clean water and sanitation development in poorer countries," "safe bleach powders and tablets," and generally "be smarter about water use."

Integrated Water Solutions—Addressing Agriculture, Energy and Climate Change

Since agriculture accounts for a large percentage of water usage, many agreed that fundamental changes in agricultural methods were required in response to growing water scarcity. "If agriculture increases, so will water usage, and if that water is entangled with pesticides, we are only continuing to pollute our most necessary resource." Immediate concerns included lack of energy for pumping and distribution, contamination of the water supply due to energy generation, fracking and the diversion of clean water. Nearly all the water conversations highlighted concerns about climate change. Participants stressed that solutions must be flexible and adaptable to changing climate conditions.

Good Governance Essential

Most participants believed that clean water and sanitation should be the responsibility of national governments and stressed that good governance was critical to ensuring everyone access to clean water and sanitation. Some stated that access to water should be viewed as a basic right and individuals, particularly in least developed countries, should not be expected to pay for access. However, others noted that if water has no cost then there will be no incentive for conservation.

Mobilizing Finance for Water Management Systems

Many conversations concerned financing for water and sewage facilities in urban and rural areas. Developing incentives was a constant theme, including incentives to encourage the use of new technology and to encourage people and businesses to recycle and reuse water. Some suggested that development of new and improved water systems could be an engine for growth and job creation. "Create industry around sustainable (or green) water management industry."

Focus on Collaboration

The need to partner with the private sector and the transnational nature of water resources were also raised. Many agreed that to ensure effective allocation of resources, collaboration was necessary and action should come from all sides. "Private enterprises and governments should cooperate on the development of clean water initiatives." Many participants agreed that multi-sector partnerships, multilateral agreements and better communication would be vital to resolving disputes over competing needs and priorities, as would development of new systems and technology to meet future demands. Participants wanted to see integrated water resources management with all stakeholders involved in the planning process.

Educate and Build Awareness

Education and building awareness about clean water and sanitation were highlighted as "probably the most important piece to this puzzle." Recommendations included everything from public awareness programs to dedicating additional resources for hydrology and engineering programs. "Improving water literacy—in developed countries, teaching kids about the global water crisis, and in developing countries, teaching kids and families about sanitation and hygiene behaviors." The need for behavioral changes was stressed: "Introducing new technology is not enough—people need to be educated to use water and sanitation facilities more wisely."

Finding Local Solutions

There was support for conservation campaigns and grassroots movements and a call for much more civic engagement. While the universal imperative of access to clean water and sanitation was supported, participants advocated for local people to help create local solutions. "The system is based on an old way of looking at things. We must create awareness at a local level." Participants wanted to see involvement of both women and men in water committees, water user associations and water management groups. Overall, participants wanted to see sufficient affordable options in the market from which communities or urban areas could choose.

5. BETTER HEALTH CARE

While "Better Health Care" is the second highest priority worldwide and the top priority for respondents over 55, it ranked **fifth** among consultation participants. This tracks with the broader findings from *MY World* with countries in the highest income categories ranking health care as a mid-tier issue and developing nations placing it near the top.

A Universal Need

The participants recognized that there are serious disparities in health care in developing versus developed countries, but many pointed out that "vaccinations, prenatal care…everyone needs these! In certain communities in the United States, there are unacceptable maternal and child mortality rates. We are part of the problem." The groups also recognized that a "universal agenda" may require a more complete definition of a healthy society and a change in attitude about health care.

Promoting a Holistic Approach to Health and Well-being

Nearly all groups stressed that health solutions must be more holistic, integrating economic, social and governance issues. They underscored that health care could not be treated in isolation. "We must eliminate the silos." Progress in health care was seen as directly dependent on improved water security, housing, nutrition, education, gender equity, reliable energy, cleaner environments and ending war, conflicts, corruption and negative political agendas.

Many participants focused on the concept of well-being and promoting healthy behaviors. "Advocate for an approach to health services which looks at the person and behaviors behind the disease and the public health implications." Participants noted that health issues in different countries will vary dramatically, but highlighted that in the U.S., individual responsibility for one's own health needs to be stressed. Accountability and incentives for healthy lifestyles were reoccurring themes.

Strengthening Health Systems and Using Technology

Strengthening health systems was highlighted as critical to achieving universal access to affordable care. Participants stressed that access to health care must be affordable and easy. Specifically, participants pointed to the need for more trained health professionals, community health workers, rural infrastructure and use of technology to share information and best practices.

Using mobile technologies and training community health workers were also seen as ways of addressing access for rural populations. "We have to bring health care to where people are—through traveling/mobile clinics and community health workers." "Utilizing better technology would allow for better data collection and communication and allow patients access to their own records and increase transparency."

Educating and Building Awareness

Nearly all participants saw education and building awareness as critical to improving health and access to health care. Many of the health groups concluded that if people were better educated and/or had a better understanding of the issues, they would make better decisions, whether about taking care of themselves through diet and exercise, immunizing their children or purchasing health insurance.

Critical Importance of Reproductive Health Rights

The health groups voiced strong support for sexual and reproductive health rights and education. One participant noted, "Maternal health—supplying women with basic prenatal care, a place to get care, or at least a community health worker to come to a woman's home and check up on her regularly—is a matter of will. The technology exists, but governments need to prioritize maternal health care and put some money and resources behind it."

There was wide agreement that family planning and reproductive health issues needed to be addressed head on. "We've already talked about the basic forms of health care such as vaccinations and prenatal care, but the healthiest pregnancies are those that are planned. There are direct, proven links between sexual and reproductive health and infant, child and maternal mortality." The groups agreed that reproductive health-care services should be made more available to the public, especially for youth, including quality preventative care, care during and after pregnancy and comprehensive sex education.

Drawing Attention to Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health

Several groups agreed that more attention must be given to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease, and nearly all agreed that mental illness must be included. "Obesity is one of the most prevalent diseases in the world." Several groups also emphasized the need for more attention to mental health. "The U.S. is doing a bad job of mental health care, and this will become increasingly important in all contexts."

Defining National Priorities and Promoting Partnerships

In discussing universal goals and national targets, it was suggested that goals should be universal, but target baselines could address disparities. Others thought that national goals were a good idea and would better address specific regional or national priorities. There was broad consensus that future goals and targets should reflect relative improvements among most vulnerable populations and/or geographic areas. Some emphasized that the new agenda should focus on goals that are truly measureable and achievable. "On zero goals, we need to consider which ones are within reach."

6. AFFORDABLE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD

Participants ranked "Affordable and Nutritious Food" **sixth** compared to a worldwide ranking of fifth. This differs slightly with the broader *MY World* findings as respondents from the highest income countries have ranked food even higher as priority number four than developing countries.

Increasing Production to Meet Growing Demand

There was a strong focus on how to increase production to meet growing demand. Some suggested that we must increase efficiencies and embrace new technologies. "Technology is going to be very necessary when it comes to feeding people and eliminating hunger." Some maintained, "Ending hunger may require genetic engineering of food (GMOs) in an environment of rapid climate change and dense global population." Others disagreed, pointing to the impact of GMOs on the environment. "It is important to have sustainable biodiversity so there aren't so many GMOs and one-dimensional foods." It was noted, "Consumers rank organic production as more important than food security experts do."

Community Solutions: Focus on Local Production and Distribution

Many wanted to see more focus on smallholder farms, crop diversity, sustainable farming techniques and more grassroots/community solutions. In urban areas, participants saw community farms and farmers' markets as one way to promote increased accessibility. "Even small scale community farms can empower people to connect to their food source and the land it's grown on. It also enhances the sense of community."

Making Nutritious Food Affordable

Several participants viewed nutrition as a top issue. They pointed to problems on both ends of the spectrum: obesity and malnutrition. Affordability and access were identified as key problems, and the persistence of "food deserts," where it is hard to find affordable and healthy food, was highlighted. "Nutrition is different than access to food. At least in the U.S., cheap food is not nutritious food." Participants from a local NGO working on food security explained that they had tried an experiment to see what food could be purchased on a budget of $1.25 a day. They reported, "The choices shrink. We ended up with bananas and canned beans."

Providing Safety Nets

Food assistance safety nets garnered wide support. "Safety nets are needed in every country, community, etc." Yet, some hoped that food assistance could be implemented in ways that would promote self-sufficiency. Others pointed out, "People with two jobs might not have the time or a backyard to grow their own food." Participants stressed that nonprofits often fill the gap where government assistance fails. "Food pantries, soup kitchens, redistribution of extra food to those who urgently need it, opening a garden or grocery store in a marginalized area, introducing basic technology to farmers to help them manage their farming inputs

and outputs—all these initiatives (and more) are undertaken by nonprofits/NGOs and should be subsidized or supported by governments."

Controlling Waste and Loss

Controlling waste and loss was also a dominant topic. In developing countries, waste was seen as primarily a "post-harvest" issue that often was connected to food storage deficits. In developed countries, "post-consumer" waste was seen as the main issue. It was emphasized that in the United States "we throw away 30 percent of what is put on our tables." Some maintained that redistribution is important.

Expanding Education

Education was emphasized as vital. "Education around agricultural practices is really essential to improved food security." Many agreed that educational programs must reflect community needs, but there was strong support for expanded education and public awareness programs addressing nutrition and obesity. "Kids need to start learning about food and where it comes from. Some schools are being pro-active by growing their own gardens and having students learn how to garden and grow food." Consumer education was also emphasized. "Now is the time for everyone to vote with their dollars and stop buying bad food." There was support for wider distribution of nutritional information and more responsible advertising.

A Call for More Intelligent Public Policy

It was emphasized that "on food especially, decisions in one country may affect consumers in another." Some contended that subsidies and tariffs protected big companies and were unfair to local farmers. Several groups discussed land shares and land rights. There was a call for more intelligent public policy to address food security. "There has to be a shift from subsidizing agriculture to investing in long-term agriculture."

Inclusivity and Building Resilience

Food security and sustainable agriculture were seen as crucial for progress under all the development goals. "Climate change affects how crops and animals grow, where they grow, how many people can be employed by farming and fishing and how many people can live off the land and oceans. The environment cannot be ignored in discussions of food and health."

Participants recognized that climate-related weather changes are already causing spikes in food prices. Some proposed that in light of the increasing frequency of weather-related disasters, it is more important than ever to have the capacity to mobilize food efficiently. "Disasters highlight societal weaknesses. Emergency planning might have holes, but we learn lessons about the quality of quick food and how much it costs." Participants stressed the same capacity would be needed to respond to the devastating effects of conflict and the displacement of populations. The link between food security and national security is clear, and many saw the need to increase governments' investments in food security to build up resilience and the capacity to better cope with crisis and disaster.

7. ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Action on Climate Change" ranked **seventh** among participants, compared to a bottom ranking of 16th among worldwide responses. However, once taking account of the very high number of participants who included action on climate change as a subtheme in their responses on energy, infrastructure, and virtually every other issue, the theme clearly was a top tier issue for most participants.

The Universal Issue

While many groups focused on action at the community level, climate change was recognized as a universal issue. "All people who depend on the environment will be affected by climate change." Some proposed that climate change is an "equalizer—natural disasters and pollution do not discriminate between rich and poor."

The discussion groups on climate change declared that it is "the most critical issue—it is at the root of all other social, economic and political issues." They emphasized "sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations." Many maintained that climate change merited greater attention, even though it would be politically challenging. Accountability, enforceability, sustainability and interdependence were all highlighted, but building awareness was the dominant theme.

Selling the Reality of Climate Change

One group proposed that awareness and belief were the two biggest challenges. "We cannot mobilize without first getting people to believe that climate change is taking place NOW." Surveys indicate that only 54 percent of Americans now believe that climate change is happening and is caused by human activity. Selling the reality of climate change to the public was seen as key to promoting change. "If we expect citizens to be more conscientious of their impact on the environment, we have to change the mindset. It has to become part of our culture—like counting calories."

Many asked, "How can we communicate that climate change is real and it is critical to take action now?" Suggestions included pointing out local examples, pointing to scientific facts, increasing media attention, using aggressive marketing campaigns and creating talking points for civil society. One participant offered, "Have a prominent Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives speak out in support of the scientific evidence on climate change."

The potential power of the media was recognized. "Change the perception of 'green living' to something that is hip and cool, not a sacrifice." Participants also though that highlighting potential benefits of more sustainable living practices was important. "Pushing self-interest can produce change. For example, people are consuming less red meat, not because they are necessarily concerned with sustainability, but because they want to improve personal health."

Finding Equitable Solutions to a Global Challenge

It was also acknowledged that developed countries with more resources are better equipped to "convert to sustainable practices…and deal with climate-related crises." There are serious questions about equity. "How much are we responsible for what is already there? And how much are the developing countries going to continue to contribute to climate change as they industrialize? Do we compensate other countries?" There was little consensus on how to answer these questions.

Several participants maintained, "The challenge for wealthy nations is how to address harmful practices. As we develop solutions, we should help to implement them in developing societies." Some participants reasoned, "The United States is a huge consumer and driver of climate change, so we need to be the first to take action." Many agreed that developed countries should work with developing countries to help them "leap frog" to sustainable technologies and provide aid to those most adversely affected by climate change.

Mandate for Government Action

Many agreed that governments have an important role in pushing action on climate change forward. "Climate change has to come from change in policy, from the government." Others insisted that "the things that are happening right now that really make a difference are coming from the grassroots." "We need more political will in addressing the issue and not bickering about whether or not it's real."

Promote Partnerships and Collaboration

As in many other areas, the climate change discussion groups focused on the need for multi-sector partnerships and the critical role of the private sector in creating sustainable change. "Working with the private sector will be our best bet to really move the dial forward."

Participants emphasized the need for more global collaboration on climate change. "Global environment and sustainable standards need to be established and nations held accountable." Many thought the United Nations has an important role in affecting action on climate change. Suggestions for UN involvement varied, but included: "Provide a forum under which countries can reach agreement." "Provide metrics and data for monitoring success and or failure."

Defining Accountability—Consequences and Rewards

Many participants contended, "We need more regulation and we need to monitor the regulations better." Others sought a better balance between regulations and free enterprise and wanted rewards for positive impact as well as consequences for negative impact, but emphasized the need for stronger enforcement of existing environmental laws.

Many saw the government's role as providing incentives to the private sector. "Allow competition to regulate the market, but with new incentives in place to regulate that competition."

8. FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION AND PERSECUTION AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO CANNOT WORK

Participants ranked "Freedom from Discrimination" **eighth** compared to a worldwide rank of ninth. Most participants viewed the theme as part of a broader goal of promoting greater equality at home as well as advancing rights abroad. Given this focus, participants were eager to include minimum wage levels, unemployment insurance, and other themes from the "Support for People Who Cannot Work," a separate category on *MY World*, in this discussion.

A Human Rights-Based Goal

In the discussion groups on freedom from discrimination and persecution, equality and equality of opportunity were the central focus. One group declared, "Freedom from discrimination is the essence of human rights and one of the top global challenges. It must be a universal goal, and we must aim to empower everyone to have a voice."

Promoting Political Equality

In the political domain, participants focused on the global need for peace, justice, due process rights and free and fair elections. One participant noted that starting in our own communities is essential and pointed out that "ninety-nine percent of [those] in the juvenile justice facility in the District of Columbia are youth of color—specifically black and brown youth."

Some expressed concern over the "recent rollback of voting rights access for minorities across the United States," while others maintained that "elections now are won based on money and funding—it's about who has the most money." Others contended, "The fact is that money doesn't vote, people do. The people with low economic status must get up and do something about it. People have the perception that money is power, but in fact, they have power."

Promoting Economic Equality

In the economic domain, the discussion was focused as much on challenges within the United States as in other countries. Participants expressed strong sentiments on the need to address income inequality, but often disagreed on what policies or approaches could best address the need.

Many discussion groups concluded, "Ending economic marginalization is key to ensuring the poor can take part in development." Some maintained that "having rich and poor is one thing, but having a society with no mobility is a problem."

Participants acknowledged that in the United States, "there is a big gap between the rich and the poor." While nearly all participants agreed that efforts must be made to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, some pointed out, "It is one thing to agree that inequalities within economies should be reduced, but a whole other matter to define how and by how much." One participant suggested, "The word

'equality' is the wrong word to use. 'Equal opportunity' is a better phrasing."

Many groups insisted that income inequality should be addressed through intelligent government policies. "An honest and responsive government fights against income inequality." Yet there was broad debate about the use of social safety nets and welfare programs. "All countries should provide social safety nets, including basic health care, universal education, income support, etc." Others stated, "Ideally, people would not be dependent on these services indefinitely. Rather, the services provided should help them become self-sufficient."

Some participants also questioned the effectiveness and integrity of income assistance programs. "We need a system that works for you —you should not be working the system." Many expressed the same sentiments regarding unemployment benefits. Some participants asserted that "a lot of people on unemployment have no incentive to end unemployment because they would earn less with a minimum wage job."

Others disagreed, stressing that "people want and need to be self-sufficient" and pointed to the lack of job opportunities. Many participants expressed support for a higher minimum wage.

A Broad Equality Agenda

All the groups recognized that certain groups are denied equal social standing based on factors such as gender, age, disability, sexuality, ethnicity, etc., and as a result are more likely to be living in poverty. "The priority must be inclusion for all—even subtle inequality can do great harm."

The conversations about discrimination were diverse and covered a range of issues, from reducing religious intolerance to issues related to sexuality and the LGBT community to the need for more anti-bullying programs. Nearly everyone stressed, "Discriminatory violence cannot be tolerated, and there must be definite consequences." Others focused on mental health and wanted to see "increased access to quality, evidence-based mental health treatment with an emphasis on substance abuse prevention and intervention" and "increased attention to the unique needs of military members and communities, especially in reference to post-traumatic stress disorder." Education was emphasized as crucial in each case.

Some groups focused on the challenges faced by people with disabilities. "If children are marginalized in school, then they will continue to be marginalized their entire lives." "Physical barriers have been broken down; attitudinal barriers now must be addressed."

Several groups highlighted the issue of age and "ageism." "It is one of the greatest, undercover discriminations in our society." "Looking to the future, we as a global population need to deal with the ageing demographic."

9. PROTECTING FORESTS, RIVERS, AND OCEANS

Participants ranked "Protections for Forests, Rivers, and Oceans" **ninth,** a level similar to its worldwide rank of 11th, but substantially lower than the fifth position afforded the category by respondents from high income countries. Many participants viewed the category as a subtheme of the climate change agenda.

Natural Resources Critical for Development

The groups discussing protecting forests, rivers and oceans emphasized that sustainability is about more than climate change—it is also about biodiversity. They stressed that more attention needs to be given to halting the degradation and destruction of our natural resources. "These issues are low on the totem pole for most individuals versus poverty and hunger, but our natural resources are critical to the development of the world as a whole." They also stressed that anything that affects wildlife and forests will also affect climate change.

Prioritize Education and Awareness

Education was identified as a top priority. As was the case in many other areas, participants believed that if people were more aware, they would make better decisions. Participants wanted to see more support for ecotourism programs: "Getting people out to experience the natural world is more important than talking about it in a classroom."

Partnerships and Global Solutions

As with action on climate change, the truly global nature of shared natural resources and the degradation of these resources were stressed. One participant remarked, "We can't tell Brazil to stop cutting down the rainforests. However, it is not only a question of ownership or sovereignty—it is also a question of responsibility. Each nation is the custodian of their natural resources." Everyone agreed that global solutions were needed, as were stronger partnerships with policy-makers and businesses partnering with communities. They also wanted to see more investments in technologies that could be used to protect ecosystems and bio-diversity.

Valuing Natural Resources

Participants also focused on how societies assign value. "How do we ensure that decision-makers value ecosystems and biodiversity? What economic tools or instruments can we utilize?" The UN program to reduce emissions from deforestation and development (REDD) was highlighted as an example of an incentive-based program through which countries were monetarily rewarded for protecting their forests. Participants agreed that if ecosystems were given a value, there would also be a corresponding cost to their destruction. As one participant phrased it, "The world needs a lot more accountants; we just need them to count different things."

10. PROTECTION AGAINST CRIME AND VIOLENCE

"Protection Against Crime and Violence" ranks **10th** among consultation participants, but 7th worldwide. However, many noted that peace and protection from violence—whether from crime or conflict—is an essential building block for development.

Peace and Security Challenges Are Universal

The 12 consultations included only a handful of discussions on protection against crime and violence. Yet the participants in those discussion groups made compelling arguments for the importance of addressing peace and stability in any future development agenda. "Recognition of the universality of peace and security challenges—globally, nationally and locally—is imperative, and effort is needed to find language for it that is widely acceptable."

Building Communities and Addressing Inequalities

Group discussions also focused on ensuring security in our communities. "Providing a safe and secure environment should be a top priority." Some participants pointed to the influence of the media and violent games, the lack of role models and the need to foster family values and responsible parenting. Many concluded that crime and violence are largely the result of inequality (both economic and social) and a lack of education and opportunity. "Inequality breeds crime and violence." Participants concluded that addressing peace and violence also means addressing education, health care, discrimination and inequalities across the board.

Support for Peacekeeping

On the international level, discussions turned to the role of UN peacekeepers in recognition of the important role that blue helmeted peacekeeping missions play in restoring law and order as well as in conflict resolution. Participants agreed that "international collaboration and U.S. leadership are important in deploying UN forces."

Some participants argued for greater U.S. funding for UN peacekeeping missions. "Without peace and security, development fails, but we can't be the world's policeman."

11. BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Creating "Better Job Opportunities" ranked **11th** among both consultation participants, but second in worldwide responses. However, many saw a clear connection between the issue and the need to address inequality at home.

Improving Education, Access and Affordability

Improving educational systems, increasing access to education and broadening education options were all seen as central to building economies and securing better jobs. "Teach life skills and expand programs in areas of high demand such as math and science." Some participants offered that there could be "a range of equitable and enjoyable opportunities" and "not everyone needs to be an analyst, accountant or doctor."

Participants also expressed deep concern that "we are not investing enough into education" and "the cost of education is too high." For many students, this means they are leaving with unmanageable levels of debts or are simply unable to continue their education.

The Role of the Private Sector

One group that focused on economic growth and poverty alleviation in addition to job growth concluded that "rapid economic growth and associated policy development is imperative but not enough—ethically-minded private businesses and entrepreneurs will be vital in creating quality jobs for both educated and uneducated people."

Individual Responsibility

Some participants pointed to existing job programs. "Tampa Bay Workforce has grants to enable people without connections to learn valuable skills and earn money while working for companies in the area." "I am a strong believer in working your way up. If you need a job or want a better job, go search for it. You can't sit back and wait for the programs to come to you."

12. RELIABLE ENERGY AT HOME

Providing "Reliable Energy at Home" ranked **12th** among both consultation participants and 15th in worldwide responses. However, most participants viewed the theme as an extension of climate change and therefore a component of a top tier priority.

Reliable Energy Enables Development

The reliable energy groups offered different perspectives on universal access to reliable energy. Most participants agreed that reliable energy is a prerequisite to economic growth and development. Yet all the discussions raised serious concerns about trade-offs between increasing access; addressing climate change; promoting renewable/clean energy; promoting conservation; developing infrastructure development and private financing; and the responsibility of developed nations to support creation of sustainable energy systems in developing countries.

Identified priorities include increasing the proportion of energy provided by renewable energy; reducing and stabilizing the consumption of fossil fuels; increasing access to marginalized and rural communities; focusing on urban areas; developing reliable storage systems; moving away from central distribution to regional or local distribution; promoting conservation and improved efficiency; and providing incentives for more investment and research into renewable technologies. There was no consensus on how to rank these priorities.

Reducing Carbon Dependency

Action on climate change was central in all the energy discussions. There was wide agreement that future decisions on energy must be measured against efforts to address climate change. Reducing carbon dependency was seen as vital. "How to minimize carbon is the real issue." Most agreed that regulation and economic incentives and disincentives were necessary and that the marketplace would play a critical role in the direction of future energy development.

Many participants wanted to see more public investment in renewable energies. These discussions quickly turned to how to make renewable energy viable. "We must change the projections about how sustainable energy can be affordable." "In Canada… there is large use of wind turbines and sustainable energy. Why is America not doing the same?"

Develop Sustainable Systems Globally

Many discussion groups acknowledged that population growth and the improvement in living standards in many developing countries would inevitably result in more energy consumption. This led to questions about how to "motivate other countries to increase their use of clean energy sources." "Why should other countries increase their usage of reliable energy if we do not set the example?"

13. PHONE AND INTERNET ACCESS

Improved "Phone and Internet Access" ranked **13th** among both consultation participants and worldwide responses. However, the issue of internet access and opportunities for utilizing mobile technology was frequently touched upon in discussions on health, education, and other top tier priorities.

Expanding Access

In the phone and Internet access groups, many agreed that governments and the private sector should make sure that everyone has access to a minimum level of communications technology. Many felt that the main issue was expanding Internet penetration to urban and rural poor areas. "In the next 15 years, we should strive for 95 percent broadband penetration or more." Participants advocated for more robust access in public schools, libraries and other public institutions.

Participants agreed that necessities like food, water and health care should be given higher priority, but they emphasized that access to communication technology is an enabler. "It can drive development forward."

A Powerful Development Tool

Access to communication technologies was seen as important for gathering information about innovations in education, health care and access to nutritious food. "Cell phones can help fight hunger and provide vital information to farmers on weather and markets." Participants also emphasized that technology can help save lives in emergency situations. "It is fundamental to early warning systems and can help direct the deployment of food, water and human resources."

Communication technology and social media were also lauded as tools to increase civic participation and improve government accountability. "Internet service and devices/computers can provide immediate access to information, which forms the basis of political freedom." "Public libraries or wired information stations can be key in developing countries where individuals do not own computers or cell phones."

The Private Sector—An Essential Partner

On the question of "affordability," some participants noted, "The cost associated with phone and Internet access is a tremendous barrier for many people." Many thought that "bare bones Internet should be free for everyone." Others contended, "It takes a tremendous amount of capital to set up the initial infrastructure. Who pays for it?" Most agreed that the private sector is an essential partner.

Privacy Concerns

Participants debated whether there should be limits on what kind of information is accessible. Some contended, "Privacy has been neglected and not entirely protected." Others contended that there are limits to expectations of privacy. "There is also accountability. You want to be private, but you also want to be safe—it's a double-edged sword."

14. BETTER TRANSPORT AND ROADS

"Better Transportation" access ranked **14th** among consultation participants, only slightly lower than its rank as priority 12 in *MY World* findings. However, it ranks eighth among low income countries and 16th among very high income countries in worldwide responses. This disparity is likely driven by great differences in local conditions. Many participants noted that the importance of the theme is both highly dependent on local conditions and an important extension of the climate change discussion.

Infrastructure as an Enabler for Growth and Development

In nearly all the discussion groups on better transport and roads, conversations turned to the need for infrastructure generally. "No matter where you are in the world, this issue directly affects you." However, some asked, "How can these issues be prioritized over basic survival needs?" Others pointed out, "A lot of those basic needs can be more easily met with better infrastructure and transit systems."

There was wide consensus that infrastructure, in both rural and urban communities, was a prerequisite to economic growth and an important enabler for progress in all the development areas. "Equal access to infrastructure is key to formation of civil societies, and its absence likely retards or terminates progress in other areas." Thus the majority of participants supported the inclusion of specific goals for infrastructure in water and sanitation, transportation, communications, waste disposal and energy.

Local Needs and Solutions

Participants acknowledged that needs in developed versus developing countries and urban versus rural areas are vastly different. "Problems with transportation are relative—sitting on I-275 for an hour versus the Nigerian bus system." Thus targets, and more importantly, solutions will vary from country to country and community to community. "What it all comes down to is the needs of local communities and how they choose to fund and manage their transportation/infrastructure projects."

Accountable and Competent Institutions

Good governance and competent institutions were emphasized as vital to creating rational and sustainable infrastructure systems. Some warned, "Politics can play a heavy role in the development of infrastructure. Governments must be trustworthy and transparent and should be held accountable."

Sustainable Systems

Participants stressed that climate change is a critical part of the equation. Some asked, "By building roads, are we encouraging the use of cars and fossil fuels?" Many felt that "policy-makers were unwilling or not incentivized to improve mass transit in cities," but there was wide consensus that public transportation systems merited greater attention. Many wanted to see public transportation integrated into all urban planning.

15. PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Although protecting the rights of refugees and migrants is not one of the principal priority areas in the *MY World* survey, and was not one of the main discussion group topics at the consultations, many conversations turned to the needs and rights of migrants and refugees. Many participants advocated for the inclusion of a specific target in the next development agenda to address these issues. "This should be included in the agenda because it affects all of our societies, both in receiving and sending countries."

Protecting Refugees

Many participants stressed, "In a leave-no-one-behind agenda, much more attention must be given to protecting the rights of refugee populations." Although participants acknowledged that "there have been some interagency efforts to help refugees," they contended that much more needs to be done. Participants suggested, "Finding durable solutions for refugees—including resettlement to a third country, integration or repatriation—should be a development priority."

At least one group also stressed the need to "recognize and aid refugees who are forced to seek refuge because natural disasters have decimated their homes and livelihoods." Participants urged "expanding the definition of refugee in applicable international agreements to include 'climate' as a justified reason for immigrating."

Participants hoped for greater cooperation between nations and the international community and suggested establishing a global fund for refugees that would financially assist refugee-overwhelmed countries in establishing housing, sanitation, nutrition, education and other basis needs for refugees. Collaboration with the private sector was also encouraged, "such as the IKEA-UNHRC partnership to provide refugees with sustainable housing."

Promoting the Inclusion of Migrants

Participants emphasized, "Migrant workers are among the hardest workers in our society, and they make significant contributions to our economy. Yet they face a number of challenges based on inequality in status and societal discrimination." Many stressed that we need to "educate to eliminate fear. New community members are assets."

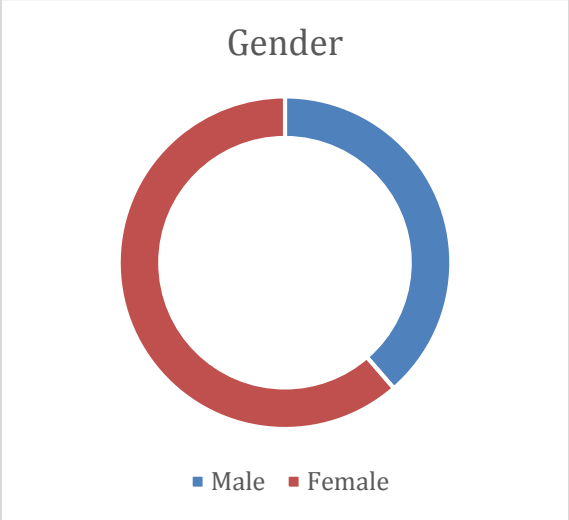
One group concluded, "In order to reap the developmental benefits of migration, countries should establish comprehensive, balanced and inclusive national policies on migration and at the same time strengthen bilateral, regional and global partnerships on migration."

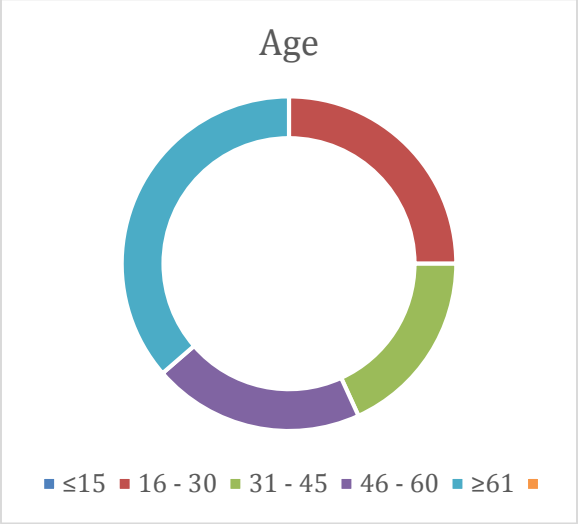
APPENDIX A – *MY World* Survey Results

As part of participation at a UNA-USA Chapter consultation, individuals were asked to complete the *MY World* Survey. The below charts visualize participant responses from each of the twelve consultations.

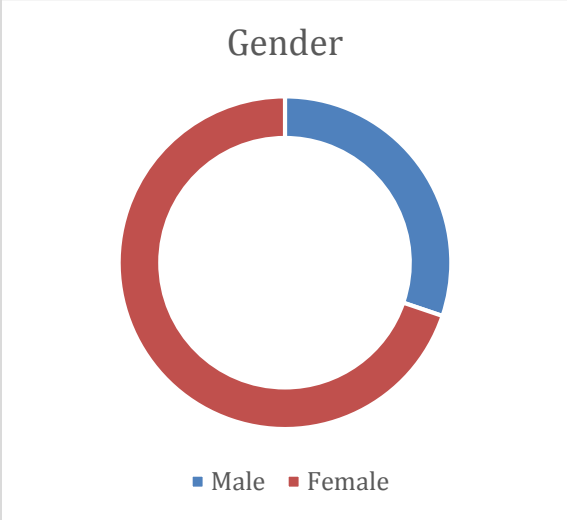
Austin, TX

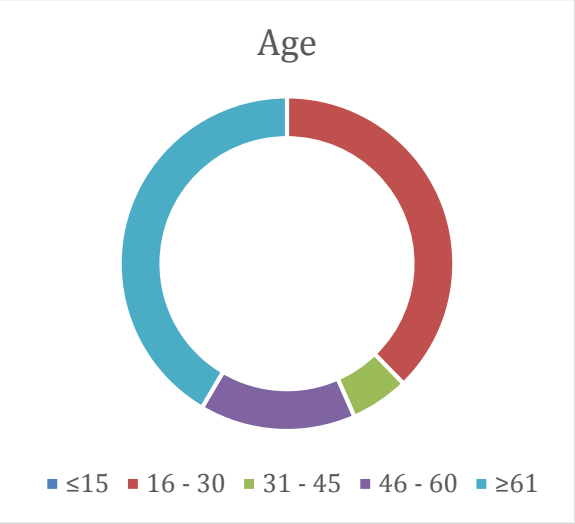
73 Participants





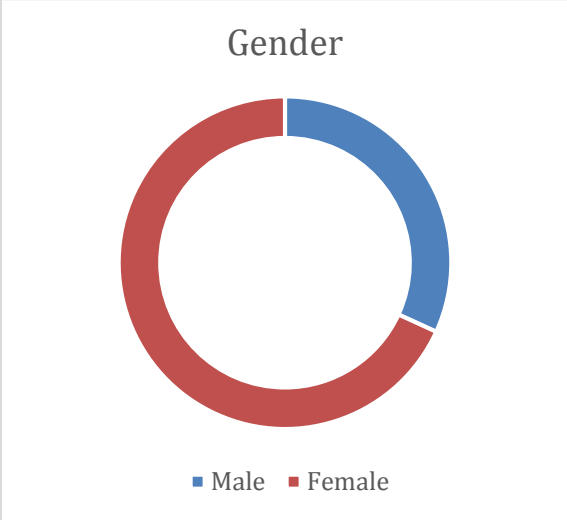
Berkeley, CA
85 Participants

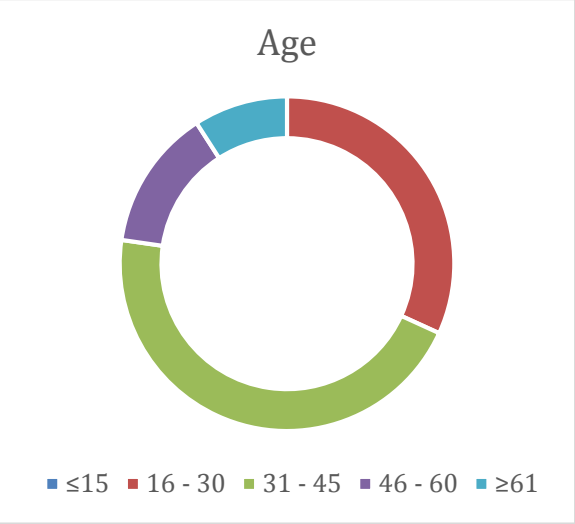




Chicago, IL

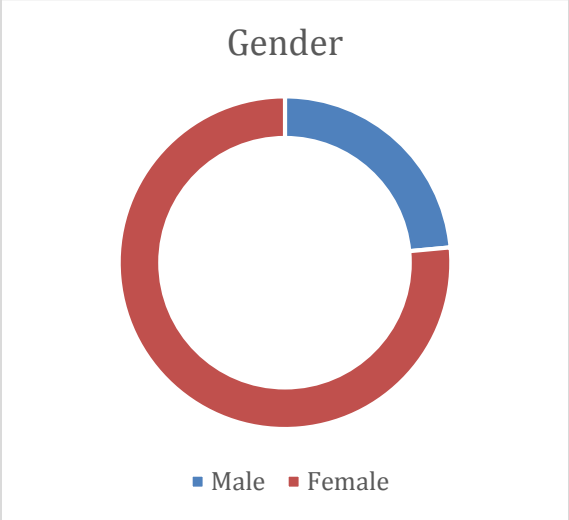
90 Participants

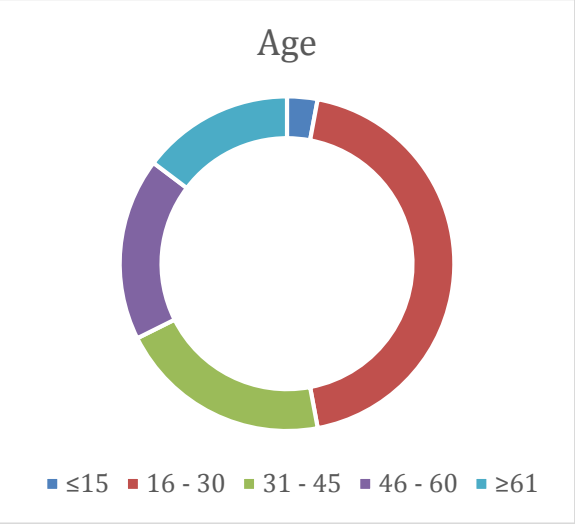


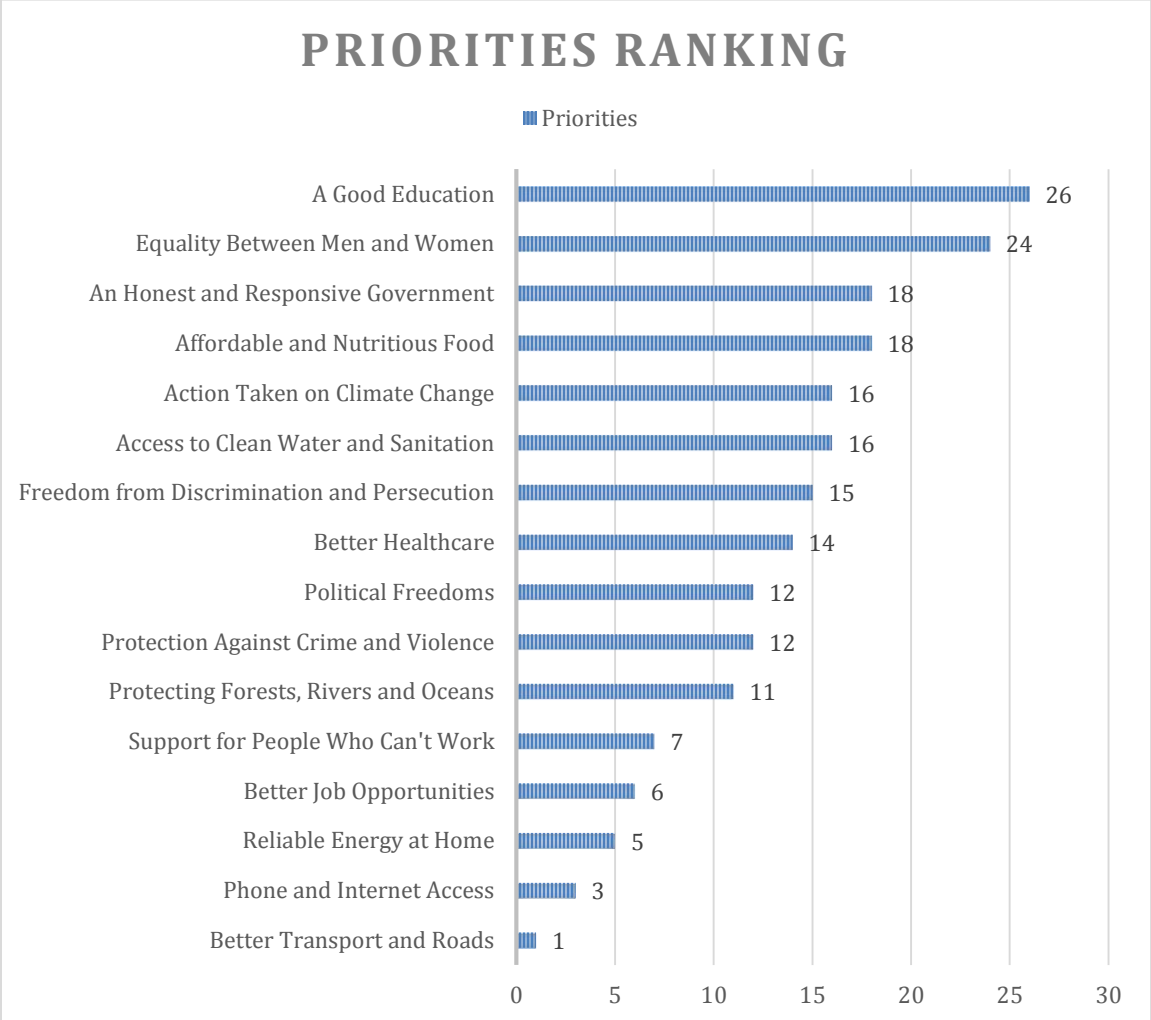


Denver, CO

52 Participants

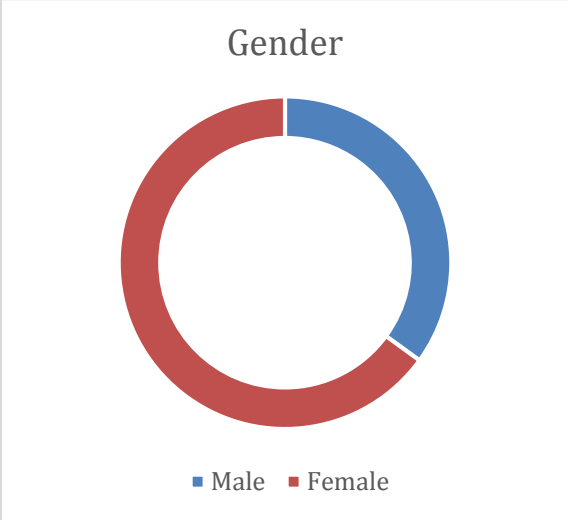


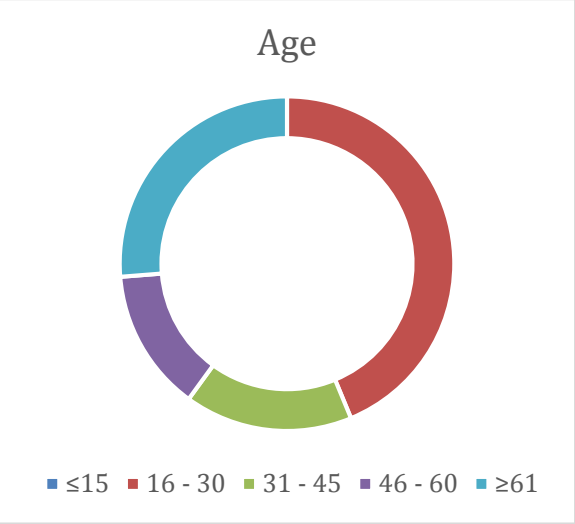


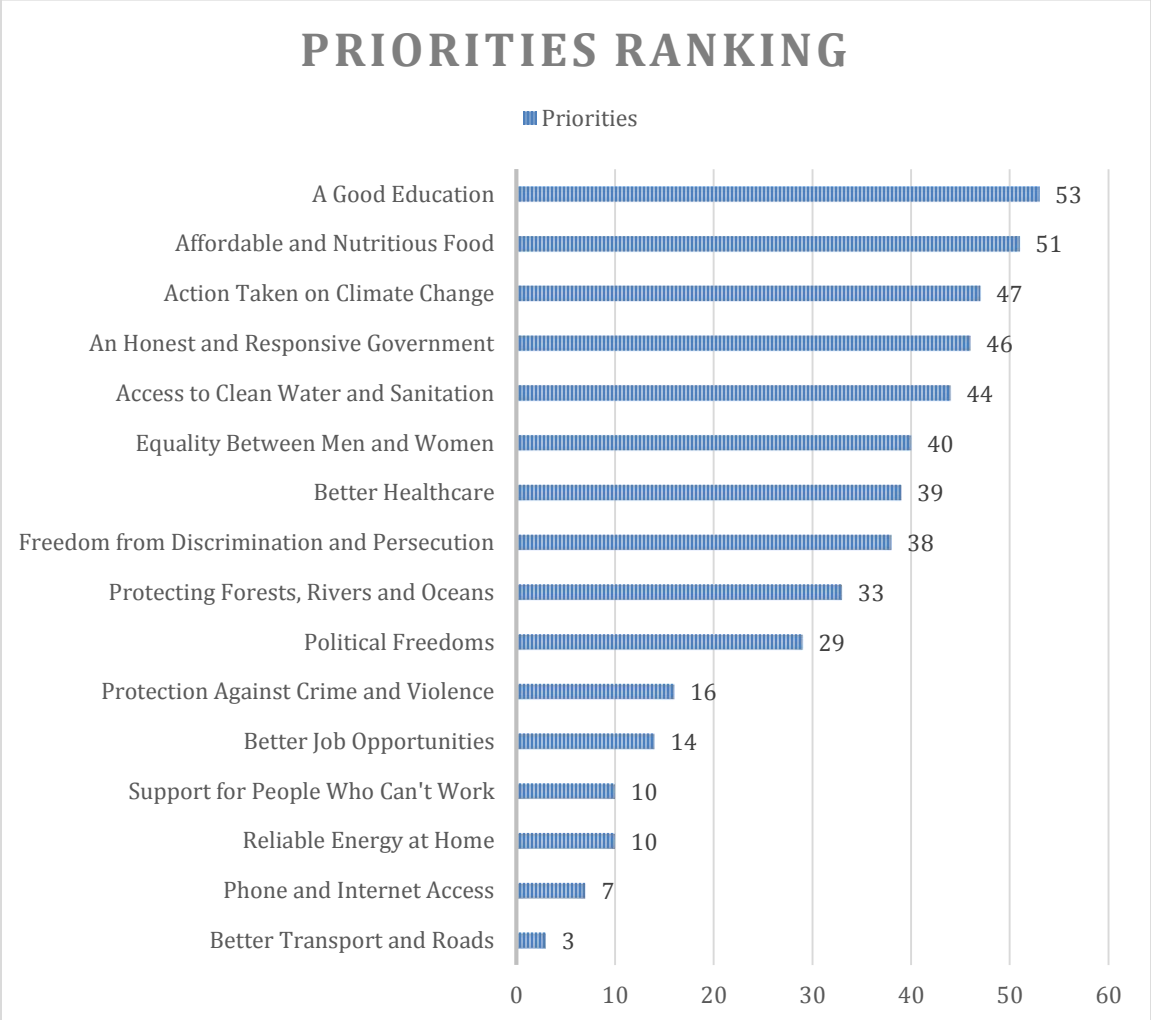


Iowa City, IA

78 Participants

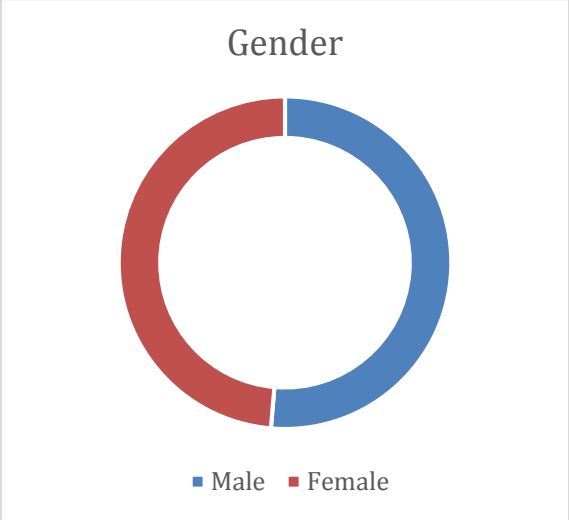


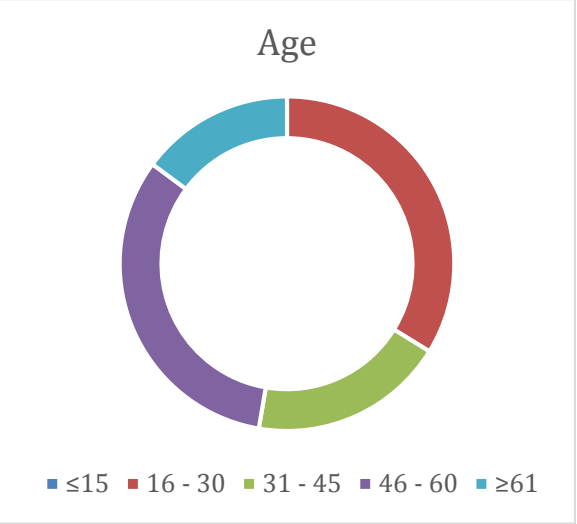


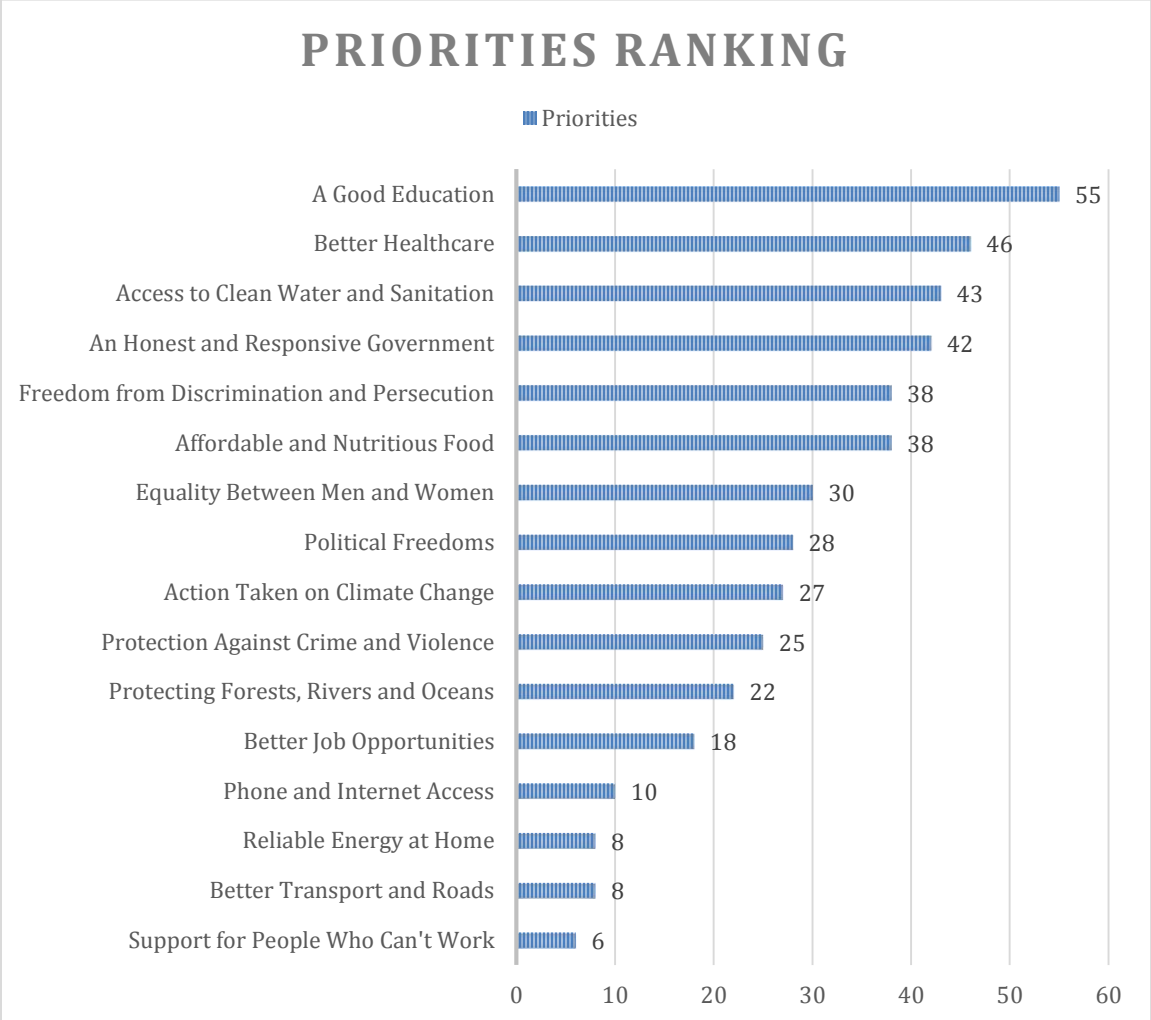


Kansas City, MO

70 Participants

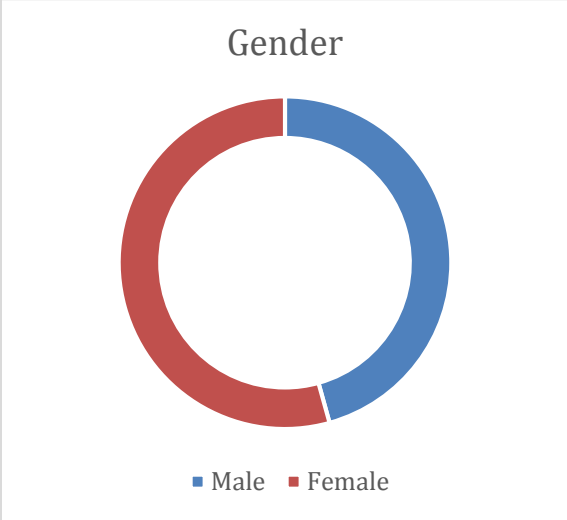


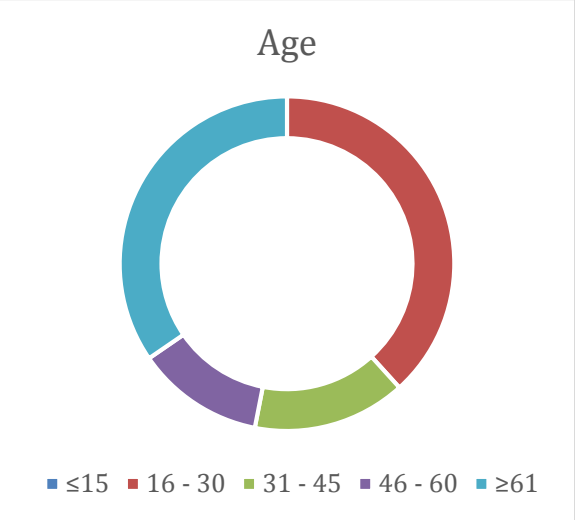




Los Angeles, CA

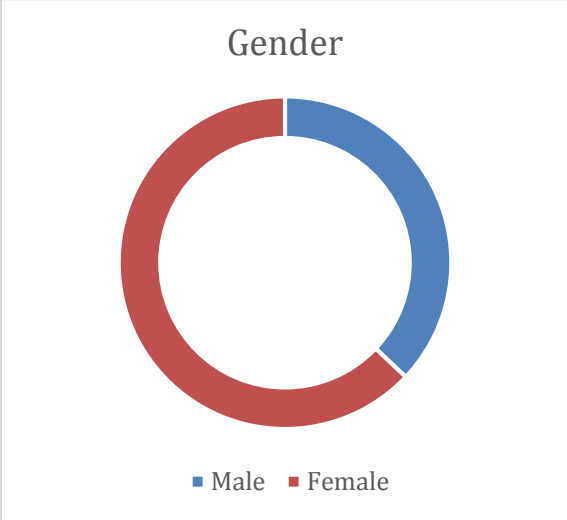
125 Participants

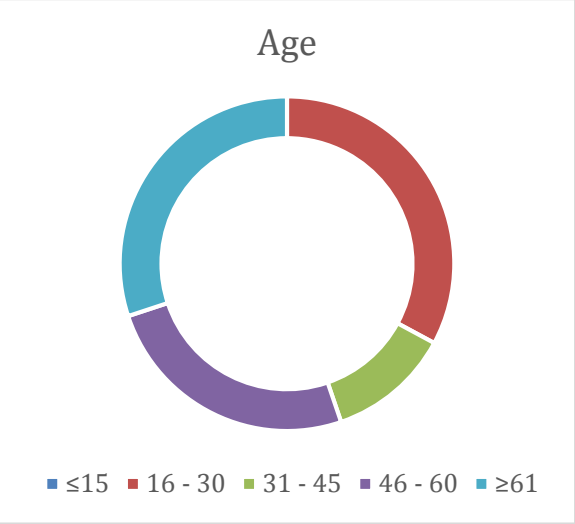


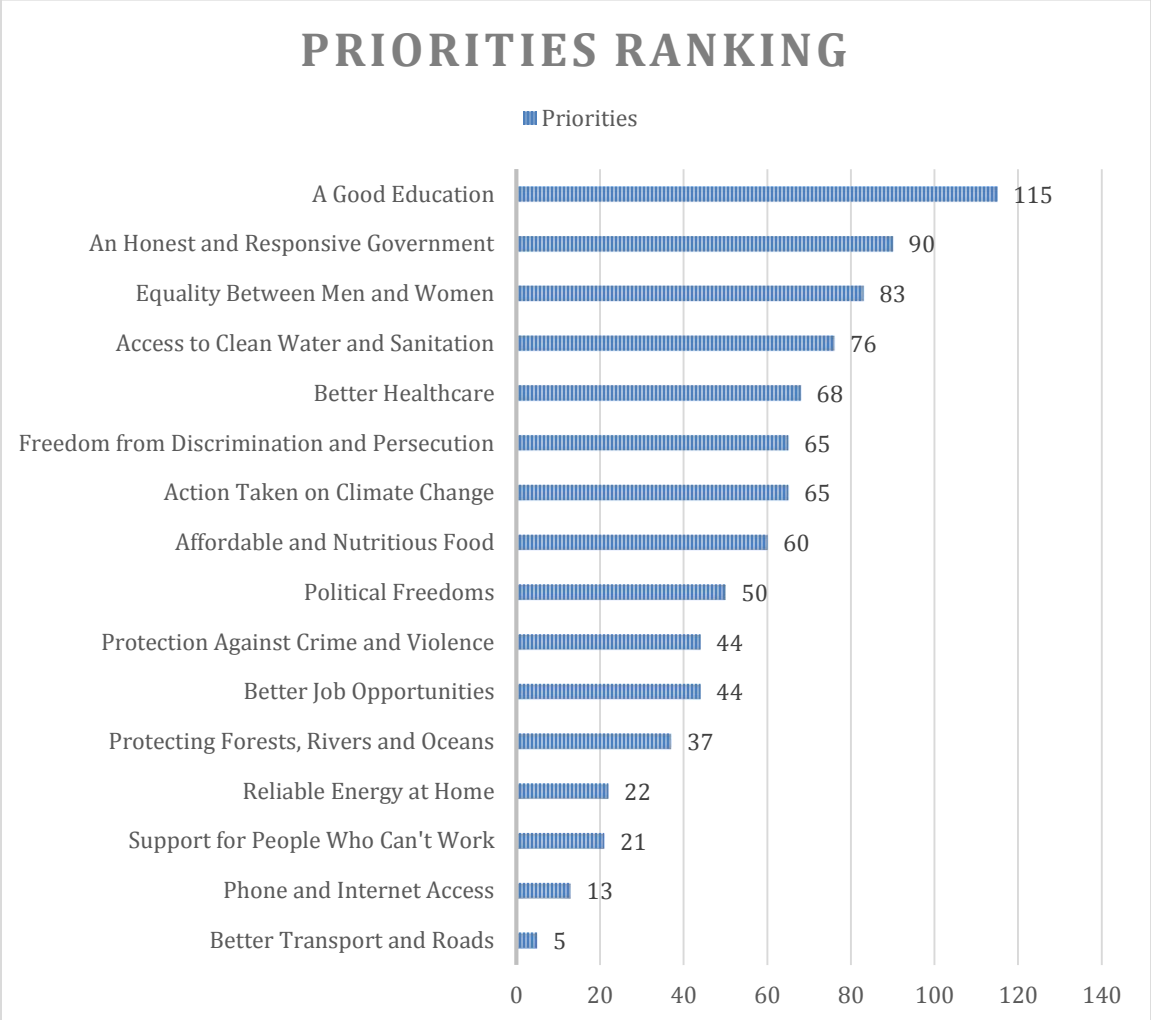


New York, NY

143 Participants

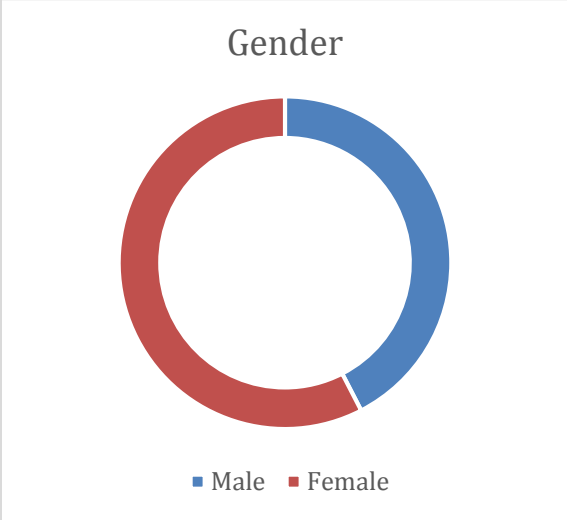


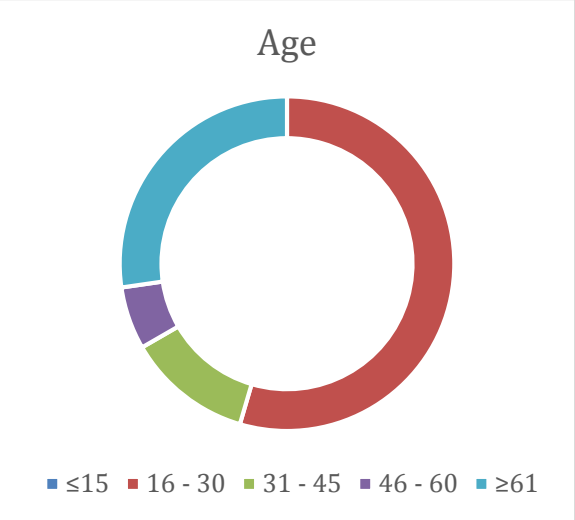




Raleigh-Durham, NC

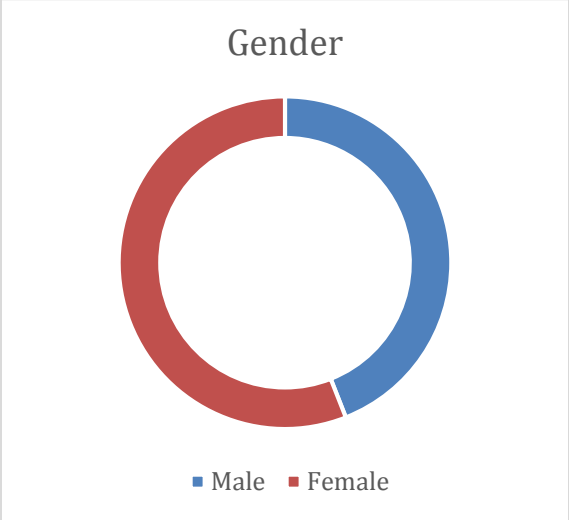
30 Participants

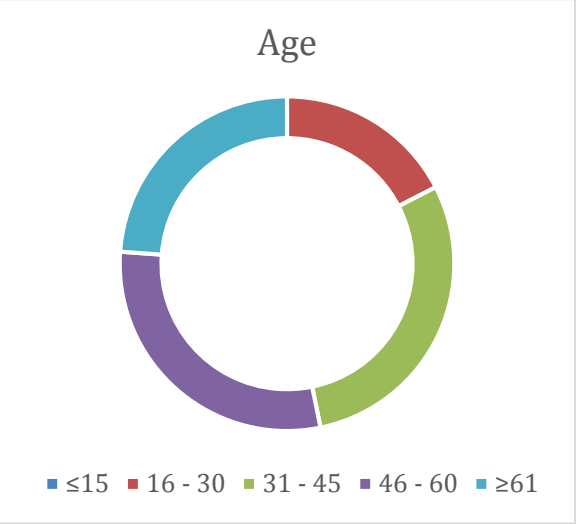




Seattle, WA

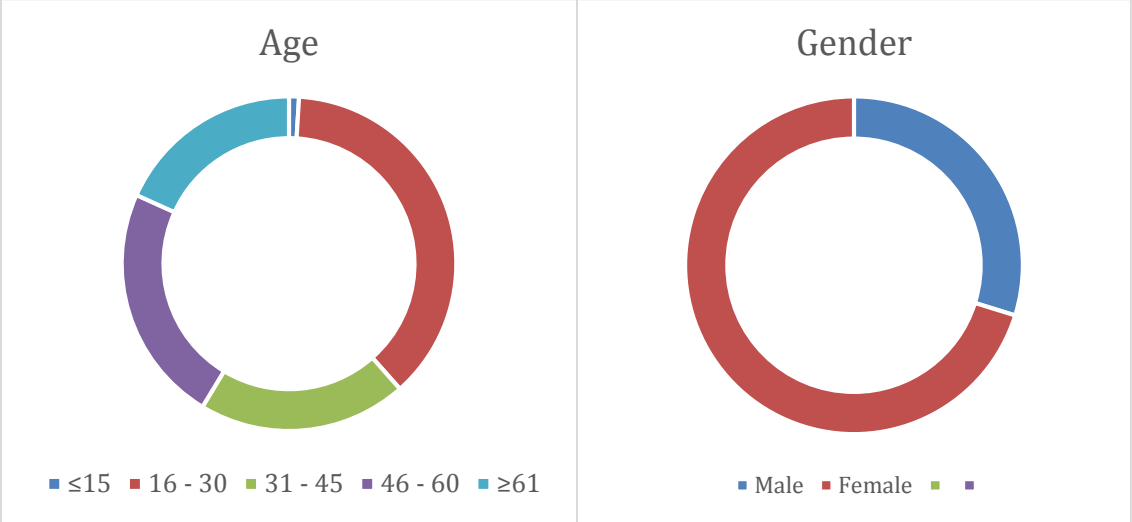
109 Participants

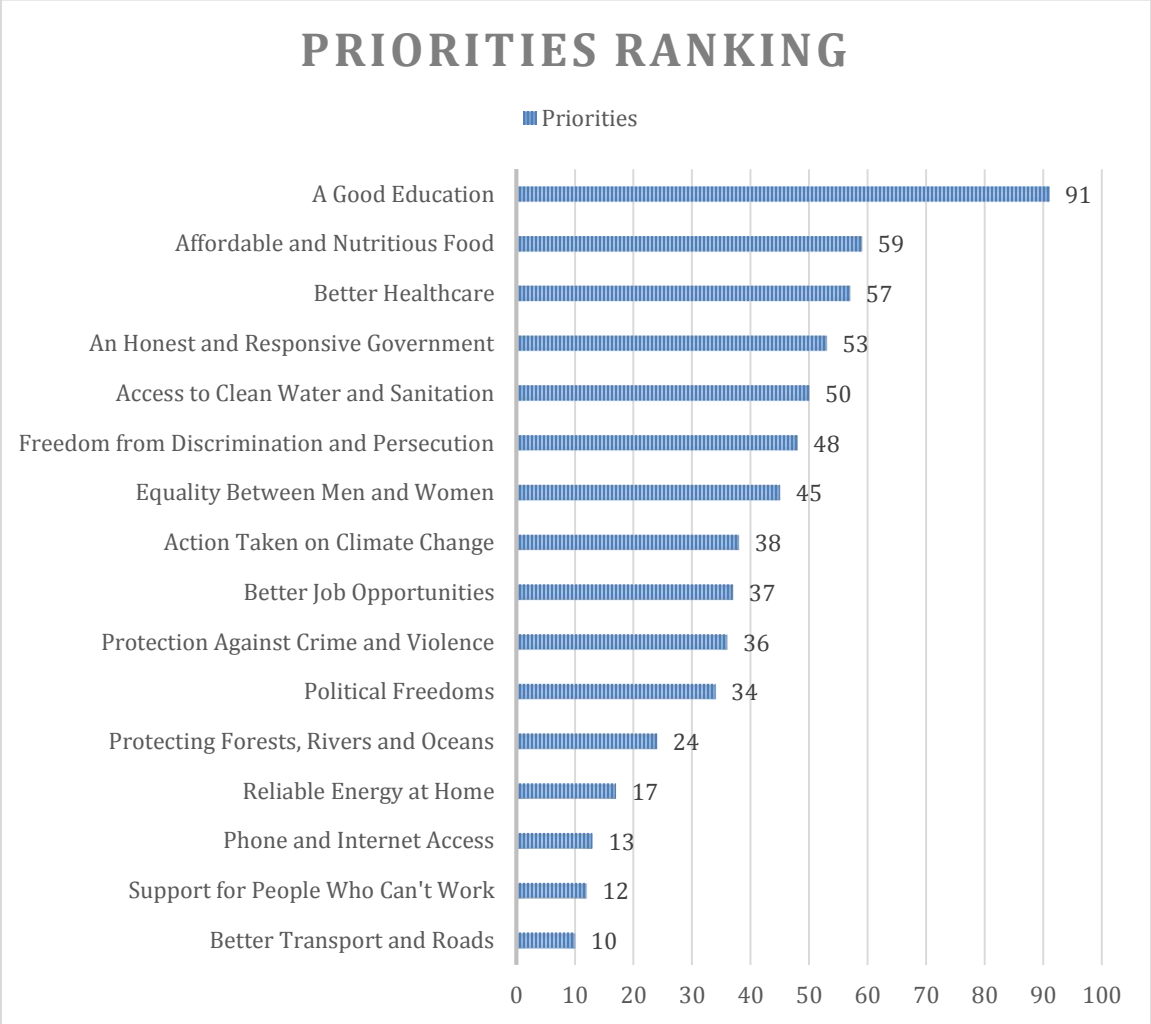




Tampa Bay, FL

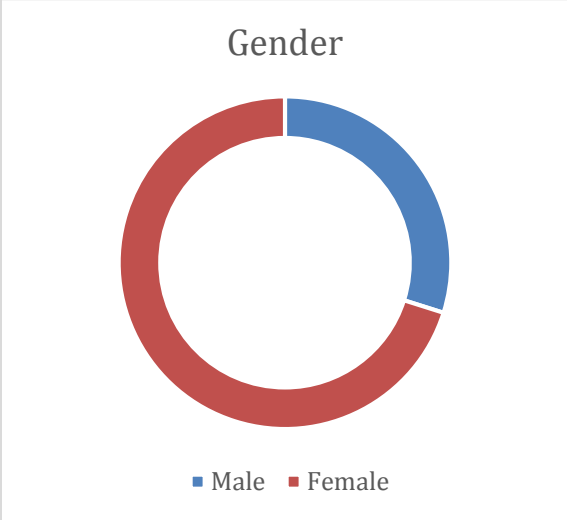
182 Participants

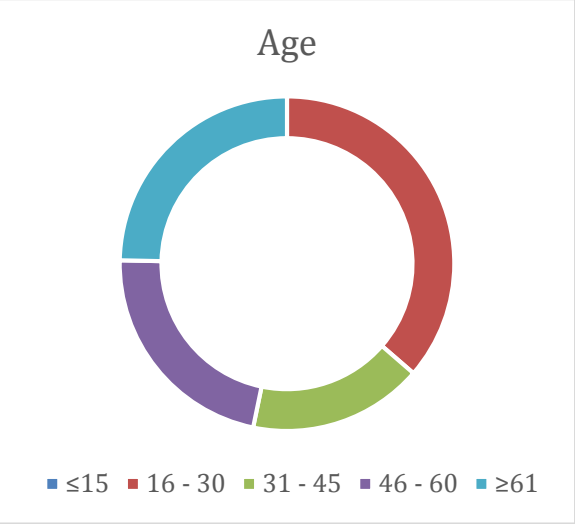


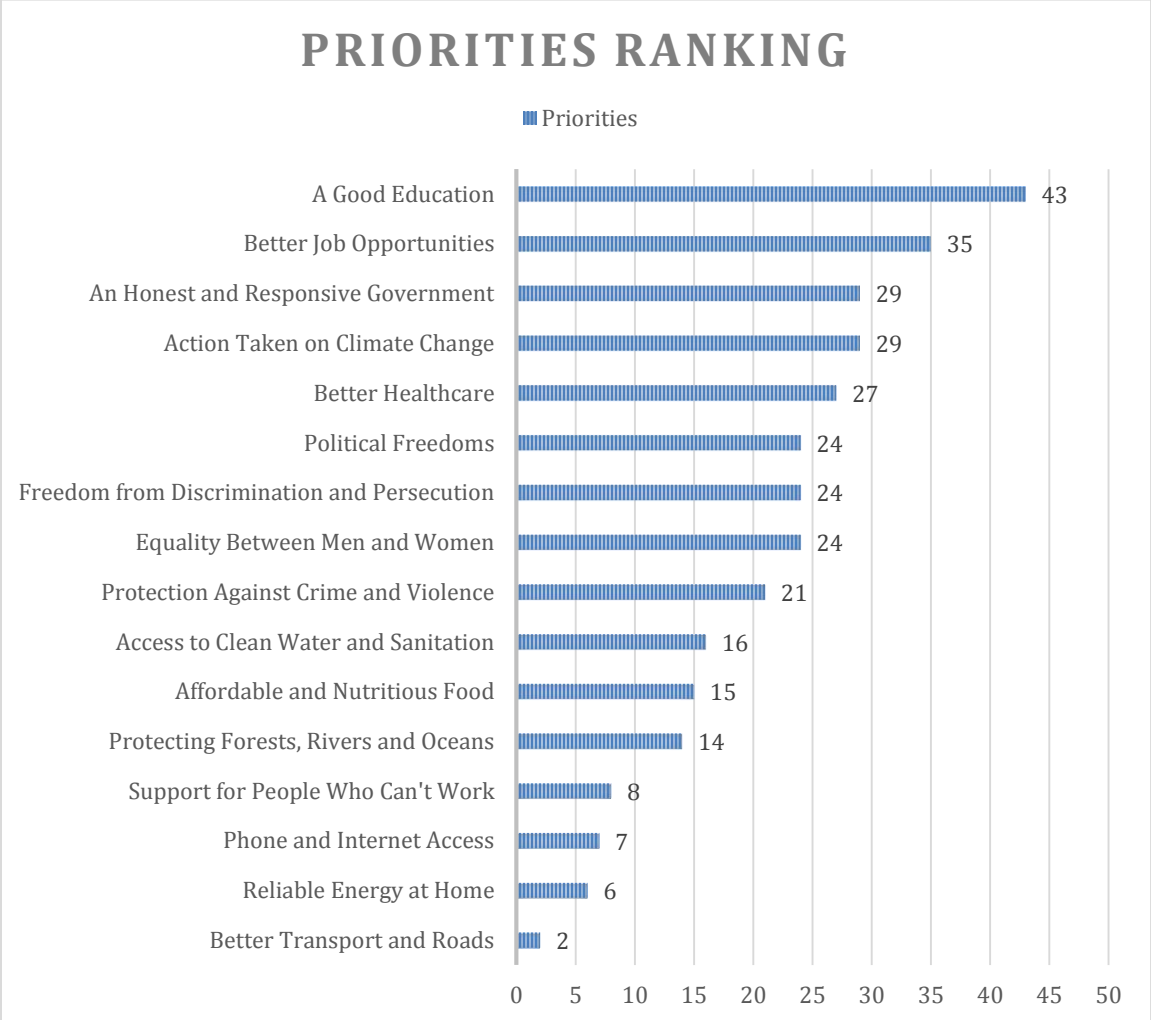


Washington, DC

100 Participants







APPENDIX B – List and Date of Consultations

Consultations organized by UNA-USA Chapters took place across twelve cities in the United States with more than 1,100 participants. Individuals present at these events represented a variety of local and national organizations including the ONE Campaign, Planned Parenthood, GirlUp, Amnesty International and Habitat for Humanity. Consultations also convened representatives from local, state and federal government agencies including state and federal elected officials. College students were a prominent demographic at consultations, in addition to staff and faculty from universities such as Northwestern University, UC Berkeley, University of Iowa, SUNY New Paltz, Duke University and Seton University of Law.

Chicago, Illinois – October 24, 2013

Washington, DC – October 29, 2013

New York, New York – November 1, 2013 & December 10, 2013

Seattle, Washington – November 2, 2013

Iowa City, Iowa – November 5, 2013

Kansas City, Missouri – November 16, 2013

Tampa, Florida – November 19, 2013

Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina – November 23, 3013

Austin, Texas – December 4, 2013

Denver, Colorado – December 5, 2013

Los Angeles, California - December 7, 2013

Berkeley, California – December 8, 2013