United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

THE world IN 2030

Public Survey Report

We asked people around the world about our greatest challenges and hopes for the future.

This is what 15,000 of them told us.

Published in 2021 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

© UNESCO 2021

ISBN 978-9-231-00439-1

This publication is available in Open Access under the Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO (CC-BY-SA 3.0 IGO) license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/igo/). By using the content of this publication, the users accept to be bound by the terms of use of the UNESCO Open Access Repository (http://www.unesco.org/open-access/terms-use-ccbysa-en).

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The ideas and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors; they are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.

Cover art: Safi Sarr, young Syrian-Senegalese artist, France
"L'île assaillie par les vagues" / "The island beset by waves"
Cover design: Anna Mortreux
Graphic design: Anna Mortreux
Typeset: Anna Mortreux
Printed by: UNESCO

Printed in France

THE world IN 2030

Public Survey Report

Acknowledgements

Editorial Team: Tarja Turtia, Tim Francis and Ellen Ledger
Data management: Joshua Bennett

UNESCO wishes to thank the peer reviewers of this publication for their insightful comments and suggestions: Charaf Ahmimed, Rachel Pollack, Rémi Poirot, Cris Maslog and Kylie Ledger. UNESCO would also like to express its gratitude for the crucial input and review of its expert staff across the Organization, including colleagues from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, Montreal, for their inputs on reporting methodology.

The World in 2030 survey was realised with the financial support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and the in-kind contributions of Field Offices and National Commissions. UNESCO would like to acknowledge the contributions of all those partners who assisted in ensuring the survey's success.

Forward

by Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO

Today's world faces immense uncertainty and upheaval. As the effects of climate change escalate, inequalities have widened, and nationalism has grown. Now, COVID-19 is adding fuel to this fire.

The next years will be critical for putting in place the massive structural changes needed to see us through the coming decades in peace and prosperity.

Global challenges call for global solutions, and multilateral organizations have an essential role to play in this respect. This is especially true for UNESCO, which was created seventy-five years ago to build the defences of peace in the minds of women and men.

In the present day, the COVID-19 crisis represents a unique opportunity to create a break between our past and our present; an opportunity to imagine our world anew. In the words of Arundhati Roy, "the pandemic is a portal; a gateway between one world and the next."[1]

It is urgent, therefore, that we look towards the future now; and to do so, we need to answer some important questions. What do we want our world to look like? What are the biggest challenges we face? How do we overcome them? Finding responses to these questions is what the World in 2030 Survey set out to do.

This survey, launched in May 2020, aimed to gain insights into the challenges being faced by people around the world, and the solutions they felt were necessary. Responses to the survey were provided by more than 15,000 people from every region of the world – well over half of whom were under 35. The results are surprisingly consistent, whether across gender, age, or geographic lines.

Firstly, respondents told us that climate change and biodiversity loss are of by far the biggest concern worldwide, and that violence and conflict, along with discrimination and inequality, are also pressing issues.

Secondly, they told us that education is a crucial solution to almost every major challenge – whether through teaching environmental sustainability, tolerance and respect for diversity, by fostering digital skills and media and information literacy, or more generally by ensuring that everyone has access to quality learning.

Lastly, they told us, almost unanimously, that cooperation between countries is important for overcoming the major challenges of our time. Yet very few reported having any real degree of confidence that this could be successfully achieved.

In other words, rising to these challenges is the ultimate test for our international system – not to convince the world of its importance or value, but rather to prove its effectiveness, through concrete action and discernible results felt on the ground by populations across the globe.

As we work together to overcome the COVID-19 crisis with countless other fires burning in the background, let us reaffirm our shared commitment, as the international system, to meet the challenges or today and tomorrow. The very future of our world may just depend on it.

Audrey Azoulay

1 Arundhati Roy: 'The pandemic is a portal', Financial Times, 3 April 2020.
Available at https://www.ft.com/content/10d8f5e8-74eb-11ea-95fe-fcd274e920ca (consulted 30 November 2020).

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 6
Methodology 8

Global Challenges 13
Climate change and loss of biodiversity 14
Violence and conflict 16
Discrimination and inequality 18
Lack of food, water and housing 20
Health and disease 22
Disinformation and freedom of expression 24
Lack of decent work and opportunities 26
Political participation and democratic principles 28
Migration and mobility 30
Artificial intelligence and new technologies 32
Traditions and culture at risk 34

Top Solutions 36
Education 36
Science 38
International Cooperation 40

Building Back Better in the time of COVID-19 42

In Focus 44
Gender 44
Youth 46
Indigenous Peoples 48

Regional Insights 50
Sub-Saharan Africa 50
The Arab States 52
Asia and the Pacific 54
Eastern Europe 56
Latin America and the Caribbean 58
Western Europe and North America 60

Annexes 62
Notes 68

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the World in 2030 Survey, launched by UNESCO in May 2020 to provide a platform for people to share their views on our world's most pressing challenges, including what specifically they are worried about, and, most importantly, what solutions they feel are most needed. The results of this survey present a clear and systematic framework for action, one that can enrich global reflection over the coming decade as part of a renewed push to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.

Over 15,000 respondents from all regions of the world responded to the survey, providing a clear snapshot of global perspectives. This survey received particular participation from women and young people. A majority of respondents had a university education, and the top region from which participants hailed was Latin America and the Caribbean.

Over 15,000 respondents from all regions of the world participated in the survey, providing a strong snapshot of global perspectives.

Responses to the World in 2030 Survey indicate clear trends in the concerns felt by global citizens. According to survey respondents, the top challenge facing peaceful societies in the lead up to 2030 was, by far, **climate change and loss of biodiversity**, ranking in the top four challenges of 67% of respondents, and coming out on top for all regions and demographics. When examining this challenge, people were most concerned about *increasing natural disasters and extreme weather, loss of biodiversity and its impact on people, pollution of the ocean and rising sea levels, and risk of conflict or violence*. The top proposed solutions were *investing in green energy and sustainable economies, teaching sustainability through education, effective international cooperation, and building trust in science and science-based decisions*.

The next four most highlighted global challenges were **violence and conflict** (44%), **discrimination and inequality** (43%), **lack of food, water and housing** (42%), and **health and disease** (37%). There was some limited variation in the rankings of the relative importance of these four challenges across regions and demographics. For example, women and minority group respondents both ranked **discrimination and inequality** as the second most important global challenge, following **climate change and biodiversity loss**, rather than third, while respondents from indigenous communities and from Asia and the Pacific ranked **health and disease** as the second most important global challenge, rather than fifth.

The top global challenges were climate change and biodiversity loss, violence and conflict, discrimination and inequality and lack of food, water and housing.

The solutions proposed to respondents for each challenge were devised to cover a wide range of societal areas, from education, science, media, and communication, to civic engagement, gender equality, and international cooperation. They were also devised to align transversally with UNESCO's areas of competence. Across all challenges, respondents consistently prioritised solutions related to education, science, and international cooperation. Interestingly, these areas aligned with responses given by respondents when asked which areas they saw as most in need of rethinking in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, drawing a strong link between reflection and action.

As a top solution, suggestions related to education ranged from training in sustainability, science and technology, and health, to promoting non-violence, cultural tolerance, human rights, and gender equality, to teaching critical thinking, media literacy, civics, and heritage. Education-related solutions were selected first for seven of the 11 global challenges, and among the top five for all of the challenges. *Education and learning* (47%) was also found to be the area of society most in need of rethinking in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. That such solutions were so frequently selected reflects a collective conviction in the importance of education not only as an end in and of itself, but as a valid and wide-reaching solution to our many and varied global challenges.

Science-based solutions ranged from building trust in science, to facilitating scientific exchange and open science, to pursuing concrete science-based solutions. Science and science-based solutions were selected 15 times in the top five solutions

for the global challenges and were particularly emphasised in relation to **health and disease**. The *relationship between humans and nature* (45%) and *scientific cooperation and sharing of research* (40%) were voted the second and third areas of society most in need of rethinking in light of the COVID-19 crisis, respectively.

Solutions focused on international cooperation ranged from effective international cooperation in and of itself, to promoting inter-country and intercultural dialogue and developing challenge-specific international mechanisms and instruments. International cooperation-based solutions were selected 11 times in the top five solutions for the global challenges. *International cooperation* (39%) was also the fourth area of society in need of rethinking in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents were also presented with stand-alone questions on the topic to gauge their belief in the importance of international cooperation, and their confidence that global challenges can be addressed. A crucial trend saw people overwhelmingly extoll the importance of international cooperation, with 95% of respondents identifying it as important. At the same time, the vast majority expressed low confidence that the world can effectively overcome its common challenges, with only 25% expressing confidence. This reflects a critical mismatch between the widely accepted relevance and importance of multilateralism, and belief in its effectiveness.

Demographic questions also allowed UNESCO to analyse survey responses based on particular characteristics, including age, gender, self-identification as indigenous, and region. Dedicated sections have been set aside for these analyses. Young respondents and women both more often emphasised discrimination and inequalities, as well as barriers to engagement in decision-making and the labour market, while Indigenous respondents more often highlighted threats to culture and heritage, and the importance of protecting them. While there was general agreement across the survey from the different regions, there were some clear highlights to be made. For instance, respondents from the Arab States were more likely to select **violence and conflict** as a global challenge, while those from Eastern Europe focused on **disinformation and freedom of expression.** Respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa were more likely to favour solutions linked to science and technology, whereas those in Latin America and the Caribbean focused on women's rights. In Asia and the Pacific, there was a strong emphasis on localised impacts and relatively strong confidence that the world will be effectively able to address its major challenges.

Across challenges, respondents consistently chose solutions related to education, science and international cooperation.

The World in 2030 survey was operationalised during a time of great global change and anxiety as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic – which continue to transform our societies – were emerging. As the results are released and we move into a new decade, much of the world remains in the grips of this global crisis. In the face of not only this crisis but the many other challenges the world faces in the lead up to 2030, the results of this survey present a clear mandate to the global community: act on climate change and biodiversity loss. Address violence, inequalities, and deprivation. When acting across the spectrum of our challenges, from environmental degradation to disinformation to culture at risk, we must employ education, science, and international cooperation in finding solutions – and seek within the COVID-19 pandemic the opportunity to rethink these areas. Rebuild the relationship between humans and nature. Reconstruct faith in multilateralism. Acknowledge contextual and demographic complexities and embrace that diversity as a strong tool to reveal and address challenges experienced differently by different people. And, ultimately, do all in our power to build peaceful societies, up to 2030 and beyond.

SNAPSHOT ON UNESCO'S STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION

The World in 2030 Survey is an initiative of UNESCO's Strategic Transformation, which is an important undertaking born from the Organization's resolve to more effectively address the world's most pressing global challenges. By re-examining its modalities of action to deliver its programmes using a more collective, systematic and innovative approach, UNESCO seeks to position itself to be more efficient and effective in the long term. This forward-looking process is designed to align with the wider reform of the United Nations Development System, as a part of an overall endeavour to strengthen global efforts towards the 2030 Agenda and ultimately improve the delivery of the UN's mandate. In this spirit, UNESCO is looking toward more transversal and interdisciplinary programming and working methods which are based on cooperation and synergies, acknowledging the scale and multiplicity of the challenges we face.

Well into the third stage of the Strategic Transformation, UNESCO is working towards elaboration of its next Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029, an invaluable roadmap in this vital decade leading up to 2030. This elaboration has involved an innovative and inclusive process comprising a number of official consultations with Member States and National Commissions, as well as internal reflection, supported by the work of the Director General's High Level Reflection Group, this online public survey, a UNESCO staff survey, and inputs from Young UNESCO. This process will ultimately culminate at UNESCO's 41st General Conference in 2021 in the approval of the Medium-Term Strategy.

More information about UNESCO's Strategic Transformation is available on the Organization's website.

Methodology

The World in 2030 Survey aimed to provide a platform for citizens around the globe to offer their insights on the world's most pressing challenges, including the specific concerns linked to each, their "level" of worry (from individual to global), and the solutions most needed.

The survey was launched on 28 May 2020 and closed on 17 September 2020. It was an open survey, available online to anyone in the world with access to the internet. The estimated completion time was 6 minutes.

The design process for the survey involved extensive consultation across UNESCO's various programmes and services, on both general survey content, as well as issues like conception of the global challenges, structure, inclusivity, and transversality of concerns and solutions. An external expert[1] was likewise consulted on methodology, including aspects like survey structure, inclusivity of demographic questions, and respondent behaviour. Survey formulation, data analysis, and reporting were supported by an external data analyst.

The core part of the survey involved presenting respondents with 11 major global challenges and asking them to select up to four that they felt most worried about for a peaceful society in 2030. The challenges were selected based upon a global analysis of current issues, informed by numerous UNESCO studies, including the Global Education Monitoring Report,[2] the UNESCO Science Report,[3] the World Social Science Report,[4] and the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development series,[5] as well as external studies like the World Economic Forum Global Risks Report.[6] While not all challenges were directly applicable to UNESCO's mandate, efforts were made to take into account UNESCO's areas of competence, particularly in the conception of solutions, so that survey results could provide the most pertinent insights for UNESCO's strategic planning. They were also designed to closely align with the Sustainable Development Goals laid out in the 2030 Agenda.

For each of the four challenges they selected as most worrying, respondents were then asked for their top four specific concerns associated with the challenge, and the top four solutions they felt would best address these (as respondents only answered these questions for the four challenges they chose initially, sample sizes differ between challenges). In each case, around 8-12 possible concerns and a similar number of solutions were presented as options – enough to cover the most important aspects within the challenge without being too many for respondents to easily review and compare. The potential solutions to each challenge were developed to be as transversal as possible and linked to many different areas of society, from multilateralism, education, science and culture, to communications, media, technology, civic engagement, gender equality, and so on. Respondents were also asked to identify whether they were concerned about the impact of these challenges on the world, their country or region, their local community, or themselves and their family, in order to understand the context in which the challenges were viewed, and how "close" each respondent felt to the impacts of the challenge.

Respondents were further presented with a question about each the COVID-19 pandemic ("*In light of the COVID-19 crisis, which areas of society do you think we will most need to rethink moving forward? Choose up to three.*"), their confidence in the world to address its challenges (*"How confident are you that the world will be able to effectively address the challenges you selected?"*), and the importance of international cooperation ("*How important do you think it will be for countries to work together over the next 10 years to address the challenges you selected?"*). All questions were closed-ended questions with a list or rating scale for respondents to choose from. Most questions had an open-ended option labelled "other" to allow for respondents to provide their own insights and solutions, although with a relatively short character limit to facilitate review. These open-ended responses were examined, and some have been quoted in this report.

Demographic questions were also built in to ensure data could be analysed and reported by age, gender, region, education level, and self-affiliation as indigenous, immigrant, living with a disability, or as part of a minority group. Attracting a large number of responses from young people was seen as a major priority, given the focus on responding to challenges over the next ten years. This was done in collaboration with the UNESCO Chairs Network, ASPNet Schools and UNESCO youth networks.

It is important to note that the survey was not designed to be a scientific sample survey of the global population – mainly due to the potentially high cost of a global probability sample – and it was promoted predominantly through UNESCO's existing networks and those of its partners. Because of the chosen data collection method, the results are subject to self-selection bias and represent the views of respondents who have internet access and are likely to be within the existing reach of the Organization. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to organise the originally envisaged offline outreach strategy to reach some of the almost 50% of the world's population that do not have Internet access.

However, significant efforts were undertaken to make the survey accessible to as many respondents as possible. Firstly, it was translated into 25 different languages, including the most spoken languages in each region and three indigenous African languages (Swahili, Amharic, and Zulu). All UNESCO National Commissions and Permanent Delegations were invited to assist with providing translations into their languages.

Secondly, while no specific weighting or adjustment was applied, the demographic questions allowed sub-groups of respondents to be considered within the interpretation of the survey results in two ways – firstly, by generally evaluating how closely the results from each demographic group aligned with the global findings, and secondly, in places where variation was found, by reporting these differences throughout this report.

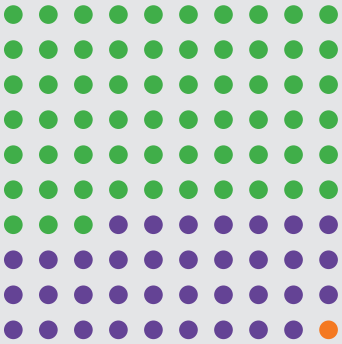
Selection of visuals used to promote the survey on social media

15,038

respondents completed the survey

GENDER

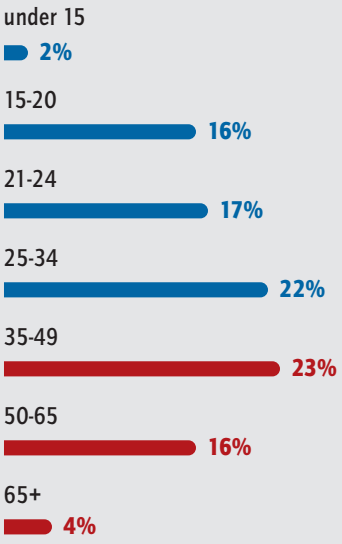
Female 63%



Male 36% Other genders 1%

AGE

UNDER 35 57%



35 AND OVER 43%

The high number of respondents for several demographic groups assisted with precision of analysis within those groups, taking into account potential overlapping and intersectional demographics (e.g., the high proportion of female respondents, and the high proportion of university educated respondents). The low number of respondents for some groups, for example those who identified as having a gender other than male or female (190 in total), has implications for the description of results we can conduct about these groups, particularly as these numbers were further divided in the follow-up questions linked to each challenge.

The survey was promoted through UNESCO's social media accounts, including through a campaign focusing on creative visual presentation of impactful global statistics related to each of the challenges (see a sample on p.9). Dedicated communications were also sent to Permanent Delegations, National Commissions, NGO partners, Goodwill Ambassadors, UN Agencies, UN Country Teams and the Resident Coordinators network via the UN Development Coordination Office, and the UNESCO Director-General's High-Level Reflection Group. UNESCO's Field Offices were also greatly involved in promoting the survey to their national networks and partners. Input on distribution was also sought from and provided by the UN75 Survey Team, in particular relating to enhancing survey visibility and maximising participation.

The survey was delivered on the LimeSurvey platform, an open-access platform designed to be as engaging as possible to encourage respondents to complete the entire survey. The survey had a very high completion rate, at some two-thirds of surveys completed once commenced. Incomplete survey responses are not analysed in this report.

It is also important to note that survey language was designed to be accessible to people all over the world, taking into account the translations into 25 languages, as well as at all levels of education and familiarity with the relevant issues. Terminology may therefore differ somewhat from that commonly used within the United Nations system and the wider development community. In addition, given that some themes may be considered "contentious" in some contexts, concerns across a spectrum of stances were included in order to more accurately gauge peoples' attitudes. However, solutions were designed to be consistently inclusive and constructive.

A Note on Reporting

This report details the average results for all respondents, and according to demographic and regional groupings. As noted above, each challenge contains a smaller group of respondents as all respondents only answered concern, scale and solution questions for each of the (up to) four challenges they chose. This means that analysis of these responses is based on a smaller sample size than that of the overall global sample (i.e. that of all responses to the survey combined).

When examining challenges, scales, and solutions within each challenge, when a 'global sample' is referred to, this means the global average of responses for that challenge, not disaggregated by region or other demographic factors. Percentages, including those represented in brackets (XX%), likewise refer to percentages based on the relevant number of responses, according to the challenge, and on region or demographic group, as specified in the text. Any percentages represented as (+XXpp.) or (-XXpp.) refer to XX more or XX less in percentage points than the relevant global sample, or other comparative group as identified in the text. This last note primarily relates to regionally disaggregated reporting available in the Regional Insights (from p.50). It is important to note that these profiles do not provide a summary of responses from each region, as these were for the most part consistent across regions. Rather, they highlight instances in which results differed from the global sample, or, in the case of Western Europe and North America, between the two regions. This method reduces repetition of results and allows for more targeted analysis. It should be noted that while survey terminology referred to 'the Middle East and North

Africa' in demographic questions, in this report that region is referred to as 'the Arab States', in line with UNESCO terminology. Please also note that percentages are rounded and may occasionally not add up to an even 100%.

Regional Abbreviations are as follows: Western Europe (WE); North America (NA); Eastern Europe (EE); Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC); Asia and the Pacific (AP); and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

For reference, survey questions are provided in Annex (1).

Who Responded?

A total of 15,038 respondents completed the survey. Respondents identifying as women were almost double those identifying as men. Age distribution was relatively well balanced between ages 15 to 65, with a smaller number of respondents under 15 and over 65. Concerted efforts to engage young people were very successful, with 57% of respondents under the age of 35, and 35% under the age of 25.

Regional Distribution

Regions in this report are broadly defined by UNESCO regional groups.[7] The regions with the highest number of respondents were Latin America and the Caribbean (33%) and Western Europe and North America (32%). These regions, along with Eastern Europe (11%), were overrepresented in view of their share of the global population. Some regions had lower representation than their share of the global population, with only 18% of the sample from Asia and the Pacific, and 6% in total from the Arab States (3%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (3%).

Despite low response rates from some regions, the representativity of results was addressed through disaggregated analysis of each region and comparison to the global sample, keeping in mind that a large proportion of responses within the global sample came from Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Europe and North America. Analysis conducted in this report is not designed to draw representative conclusions about regions, reflecting rather on data made available through the survey and highlighting overall trends. While noting the existence of some differences, results were found to be fairly consistent across geographic lines, and where they did differ, these variations are documented in the report. It should be noted that, despite being part of the same UNESCO regional group, Western European and North American results are frequently mentioned separately in this report, as they often differed significantly.

A key observation made was that while regional gender proportions largely followed the global sample, there was a slightly higher proportion of men (48%) to women (51%) in the Arab States compared to the global sample (36% and 63% respectively). This distinction was especially noticeable in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the global pattern was almost inverted for male (61%) and female (39%) respondents. A demographic breakdown for each region is available in the *Regional Insights* (from p.50).

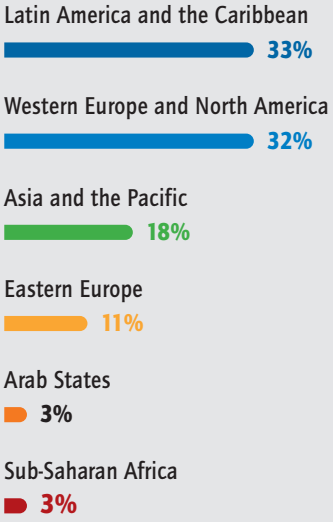
Education & Employement

A majority (70%) of the respondents in this survey had a university degree, making this survey over-representative of the university-educated population. Furthermore, 67% of non-university graduates said they were students (with around the same proportion (68%) under 25).

However, closer analysis showed that responses did not differ significantly for the most part between university-educated and non-university educated respondents. The largest distinctions in the overall global sample were of 6 percentage points between:

a) The proportion of university graduates (41%) and non-university graduates (47%) who chose *discrimination & inequality* as a global challenge; and

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



52%	English
18%	Spanish
10%	Portuguese
6%	French
3%	Italian
2%	Chinese
2%	German
1%	Arabic
1%	Russian
5%	Other (Amharic, Bengali, Filipino, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Persian, Polish, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Zulu)

b) The proportion of university graduates (19%) and non-university graduates (13%) who chose *migration & mobility* as a global challenge

Some limited distinctions between these groups were also found in analysing concerns and solutions associated with each challenge, and any notable such distinctions are referred to throughout the report.

The majority of respondents were employed full-time (39%), followed by students (35%), also denoting an over-representation of these groups compared to other forms of employment.

Self-Identification

Respondents were also asked whether they felt they identified with various groups: minority groups, people who are or have parent/s who are immigrants, indigenous communities, and people living with a disability. The survey did not attempt to define what each classification constitutes – people were free to choose this option if they self-identified with the statement in question and had the option to choose as many or as few as were pertinent to them, including an option labelled 'none of these'. 31.4% of the global sample chose at least one category. This left 10,316 respondents, or 68.6% of the global sample, who said that none of these categories applied to them.

2,228 respondents

14.8%

A part of a minority group

There were 2,228 respondents who said they were part of a minority group, accounting for 14.8% of the global sample. 3% of minority respondents identified as having a gender other than female or male. Minority respondents were generally younger, with 69% under the age of 35 (compared to 57% in the global sample). A strong majority of minority respondents came from Latin America and the Caribbean (42%), followed by Asia and the Pacific (17%). Minority respondents had the largest proportion of students of any demographic group at 46%.

1,421 respondents

9.4%

An immigrant, or having one or both parents who are immigrants

There were 1,421 respondents who said they were an immigrant, or had one or both parents who are immigrants, accounting for 9.4% of the global sample. The gender division of immigrant respondents matched that of the global sample, while the age range also followed that of the global sample closely. The majority of immigrant respondents were from Western Europe and North America (53%), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (20%).

1,304 respondents

8.7%

A member of an indigenous community

There were 1,304 respondents who said they were from an indigenous community, accounting for 8.7% of the global sample. 54% of indigenous respondents were female, 45% male, and 1% of another gender. 75% of indigenous respondents were university graduates, and a further 13% had a high school education. 30% of Sub-Saharan African respondents identified as indigenous, followed by respondents from the Arab States (29%) and Asia and the Pacific (19%). In gross numbers, the largest region represented was Asia and the Pacific, as 39% of indigenous respondents came from this region. Interestingly, despite respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean representing a large percentage of the global sample, very few respondents from the region indicated they identified as indigenous. In saying this, indigenous identity is a complex issue beyond the scope of data collection for this report (see *In Focus: Indigenous Peoples*, p.48).

311 respondents

2%

A person with a disability

There were 311 respondents who said they were a person with a disability, accounting for 2% of the global sample. 6% of these respondents identified as having a gender other than male or female, compared with 1% of all respondents. Other gender groups, as well as the age scale, largely followed the global sample. The majority of respondents living with a disability were from Western Europe and North America (43%), Latin America and the Caribbean (20%), and Asia and the Pacific (20%). The highest proportion by region of this demographic group was in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 3% of respondents said they were a person with a disability.

Global Challenges

The core part of the survey asked respondents to choose up to four global challenges from a list of 11 that they were most worried about for a peaceful society in 2030. The challenges were included as some of the most pressing globally and were also developed to align closely to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The top global challenge selected across all regions and demographics was **climate change and loss of biodiversity**, selected by over two thirds (67%) of global respondents. This challenge led all other challenges by double digits, 23 percentage points higher than the second challenge, **violence & conflict** (44%), and was also the only challenge agreed upon by a majority of the sample.

The next highest challenges were ranked together closely: **violence and conflict** (44%), **discrimination and inequality** (43%), and **lack of food, water and housing** (42%). **Health and disease** rounded out the top five at 37%. There was some limited regional and demographic variation in the rank order of these top five challenges, however, generally, the top five or six challenges remained consistent, varying slightly in rank order, across all regions and demographics, as did the bottom five or six.

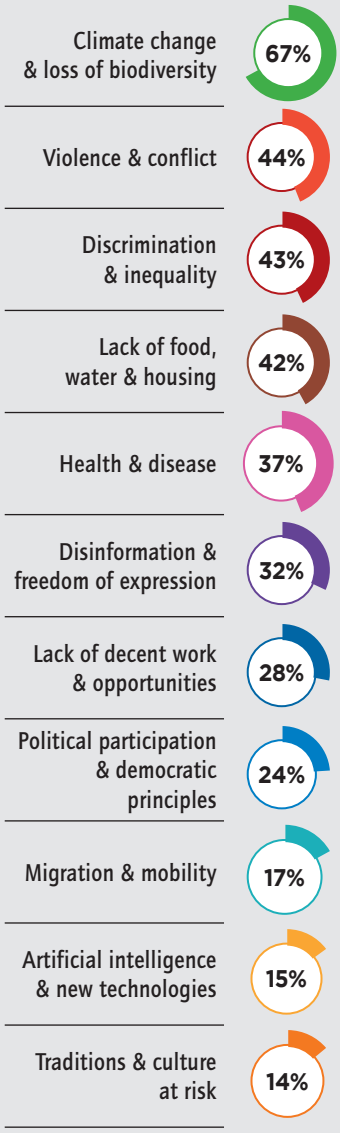
Just 2% of the global sample selected "other", choosing to input an alternative global challenge. Two of the key challenge areas identified by those write-in responses were **education** and **worsening economic inequality.**

While the above ranking provides a useful proxy of global focus and allows for some interesting insights when disaggregated by region or demographic group, ultimately the most important objective of the survey was to gain insights into each challenge individually: the specific concerns driving anxiety about them, who respondents were most concerned would suffer from them, and the types of solutions that respondents saw as most important in response. The following pages present these findings for each challenge and provide a framework for action to address them.

The most important objective of the survey was to gain insights into each challenge individually.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Percentage of all respondents who chose each challenge



#1

TOTAL RESPONDENTS
10,145

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

67% of all respondents

70% of women
63% of men
58% of other genders
71% of under 25's
66% of 25 and over

TOP REGIONS

Western Europe and North America 72%

Eastern Europe 70%

CONCERNS

Increasing natural disasters and extreme weather 73%

Loss of biodiversity and impact on people 71%

Pollution of the ocean and rising sea levels 63%

Risk of conflict or violence 44%

Less and less hope to be able to solve the problem 39%

People losing their homes or livelihoods 38%

Consequences being felt most by women or minority groups 25%

Impact on culture and heritage 15%

Giving up my current lifestyle 6%

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Climate Change & Loss of Biodiversity

Climate change encompasses long-term planetary warming and dangerous changes to living conditions, while **biodiversity loss** encompasses terrestrial and marine ecosystem degradation, and the decline and disappearance of species and genetic diversity. The two are intrinsically linked and directly threaten, among many other things, human lives, public health, ecosystems, food production, migration, human rights, heritage preservation and sustainable development. They exacerbate inequalities and impede and destroy the vital contributions of nature to humanity, endangering economies, livelihoods, food security, cultural diversity, and quality of life. They present global, cross-border challenges and constitute a major threat to global peace and security. Already impacting communities the world over, they are no doubt among the defining issues of our time.

Reflecting strong recognition of this, **climate change and biodiversity loss** was by far the most selected of all global challenges presented in the survey. The top three concerns chosen by respondents who selected this challenge relate to direct environmental impacts of the crises: *increased natural disasters*, *loss of biodiversity and its impact on people*, and *pollution of the oceans and rising sea levels*. These were notably the top three concerns for respondents across all regions and demographics, although the rank order of the three differed slightly between groups. Each of these three concerns were also selected by a majority of respondents who chose this challenge.

BUILDING TRUST IN SCIENCE

North America was the only region whose respondents did not choose *teaching sustainability* as the second highest solution. This was instead *building trust in science and science-based decisions* (55%). University graduates (46%) were also more concerned with this solution than non-university graduates (37%), as were men (51%) compared to women (39%). This last discrepancy can be almost wholly accounted for by the emphasis placed by women (19%) on *ensuring gender equality in decision-making* compared to their male counterparts (10%).

Apart from *less and less hope to be able to solve the problem,* the remaining concerns related to secondary impacts of the crises. These included *risk of conflict or violence*, *people losing their homes or livelihoods*, *consequences being felt most by women or minority groups*, *and impact on culture and heritage*. The rank order of all concerns did not differ much among regions or demographics, though respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia and the Pacific were the most concerned about the challenge overall at a country or regional level (56% and 54% respectively) and a community level (42% and 41%), as well as at a family or personal level (40% and 48%), along with respondents from the Arab States .

When looking at solutions, a strong majority of global respondents across all regions and demographics selected *investing in green energy and sustainable economies* . This speaks to the notion that fundamental structural change, supported by technological advancement and a rethink of global consumption habits, will be required to address climate change and biodiversity loss: restructuring our economies around sustainable systems – like those of energy and food production – so that we can live in and develop peaceful societies sustainably.

The second solution overall was *teaching sustainability through education*, which is critical for helping people, and especially young people, to develop the knowledge, skills, values, and behaviours needed for sustainable development, incorporating topics like climate change and biodiversity into teaching and learning.

Thirdly, respondents highlighted the importance of *effective international cooperation*, a strong endorsement of approaches like the Paris Agreement and other work undertaken by the United Nations and agencies like UNESCO (see *UNESCO Takes Action*). This also underlines the importance of working together across the globe to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, including through initiatives focused on, for example, disaster risk reduction, ocean health, and biodiversity promotion in conservation.

The fourth solution, *building trust in science and science-based decisions* was also ranked strongly. At a time when faith in scientific information and expertise seems to be waning in many areas – keeping in mind that scientists have been raising the alarm about these issues for decades now – it is critical to shore up trust in science and ensure that decisions taken are based upon sound scientific evidence.

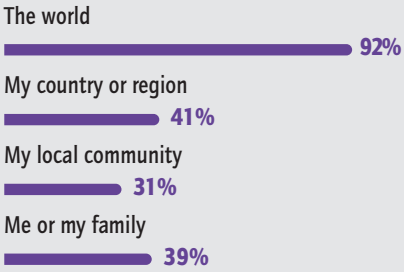
These solutions were in line with the top solutions selected by respondents throughout the survey: education, science and international cooperation (see *Top Solutions*, p.36).

UNESCO TAKES ACTION

CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

UNESCO aims to enable Member States to take urgent action on climate change and its impacts across the Organization's mandate. This involves supporting Member States to develop and implement education and public awareness programmes and policies, and promoting cultural diversity, heritage protection, inclusive social development, intercultural dialogue, and ethical and gender equality principles in relation to mitigation and adaptation. Most pertinently in view of survey responses, it involves promoting interdisciplinary climate knowledge and scientific cooperation, including in relation to the interaction between biodiversity and climate, dealt with via UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme. UNESCO has a strong focus on the impacts of climate change on Small Island Developing States, in line with the SAMOA Pathway and the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan, and also deals with the interactions between climate, biodiversity, water, oceans, and disaster risk reduction, including through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. This body promotes international cooperation in marine sciences to improve management of the ocean, coasts and marine resources, and has also been entrusted with coordination of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS

Vladimir RYABININ

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

"The great challenge of the 21st Century, and certainly of the next ten years, will be to transform our relationship with the planet from one of careless use to one of sustainable and mindful co-habitation. The time is ticking for reversing the decline in the health of our shared ocean, and we are starting to see the consequences on the climate and society."

#2

TOTAL RESPONDENTS
6,579

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

of all respondents

- 45% of women
- 42% of men
- 39% of other genders
- 46% of under 25's
- 42% of 25 and over

TOP REGIONS

Arab States 48%

Latin America and the Caribbean 46%

CONCERNS

Radicalisation, terrorism and violent extremism 60%

Global conflict and nuclear weapons 49%

Violence against minorities and vulnerable groups 46%

Violence against women and girls 43%

Armed conflict or civil war 42%

Violence, bullying and hate speech online 41%

Fighting over natural resources 41%

Violent crime or gang violence in my society 26%

Attacks on culture and heritage 17%

Violence against journalists and media workers 9%

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Violence & Conflict

Violence and conflict was ranked second among challenges in the global sample. Among respondents who selected this challenge, the top concern was radicalisation, terrorism and violent extremism. Other key concerns, all ranked within 8 percentage points of each other, were *global conflict and nuclear weapons, violence against minorities and vulnerable groups, violence against women and girls, armed conflict or civil war, violence, bullying and hate speech online, and fighting over natural resources*.

A majority of respondents across the world felt that *teaching peace and non-violence* would help solve the issue of conflict and violence. This was the top solution for all regions and all demographic groups, and again underlined the versatile role that education can play in dealing with global challenges.

> Preventing violence and conflict where it begins – in the minds of men and women – is central to the mandate of UNESCO, which was created alongside the rest of the United Nations system out of the ashes of World War II, the most violent and devastating conflict in human history.

Other key solutions looked at multilateral approaches to peace building, alongside the promotion of human values that engender dialogue, cooperation and understanding between people and cultures. These included *promoting dialogue and cooperation between countries, promoting respect for all cultures*, *global legal frameworks against violence and hate speech*, and *global campaigns to promote peace and non-violence*. Respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia and the Pacific, as well as indigenous respondents and respondents with a disability were the most supportive groups of protection of natural and cultural heritage and diversity.

DISTINCTIONS IN APPROACHES TO TARGETED VIOLENCE

Radicalisation, terrorism and violent extremism was the top concern for all groups and regions, with the exception of Latin America and the Caribbean, and those from minority groups. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the top concern was *violence against women and girls* (55%), while the top concern for minority groups was *violence against minorities and vulnerable groups* (67%). Respondents with a disability

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARAB STATES AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

While *armed conflict or civil war* ranked fifth in the global sample (42%), it was ranked first by respondents from the Arab States (65%). Likewise, while *violence against women and girls* was ranked fourth in the global sample (43%), it was ranked second by Sub-Saharan African respondents (50%). Respondents in the Arab States, and in Sub-Saharan Africa, were also more concerned about violence and conflict at proximity, with 66% and 67% respectively concerned about violence impacting their region or country. *Global campaigns to promote peace and non-violence* was a popular solution in these regions, with Sub-Saharan African respondents ranking it second (63%) and Arab State respondents (46%) ranking it third.

(54%) also highlighted this concern, just below *radicalisation* (55%). Minority group respondents were the top demographic group to identify *promoting respect for all cultures* (47%) as a solution, closely followed by immigrant respondents (46%), while also emphasising *programmes against gender-based violence* (31%). Women (26%) also chose this last solution more frequently than men (17%).

Differentiation in respondents' concerns about targeted violence indicates that more can be done to communicate on and address the different ways that different groups experience and are impacted by conflict and violence. Regional differentiation also indicates that contextually appropriate approaches are essential. A holistic approach to preventing violence and conflict takes these nuances into account and recognises the ways in which conflict and violence impact all areas of society. Such an approach also recognises the important roles of culture, education, intercultural dialogue, human rights, social cohesion and justice, heritage, media, science, and the environment in fostering communities free of violence.

That violence and conflict can have long-lasting impacts that may take years to overcome, or even cause violence to re-emerge, means that solutions favoured by respondents are therefore not just critical as a general rule, but are especially important in post-conflict situations, as part of reconstruction efforts, and as a way to encourage reconciliation and promote long-term peace (see *UNESCO Takes Action*).

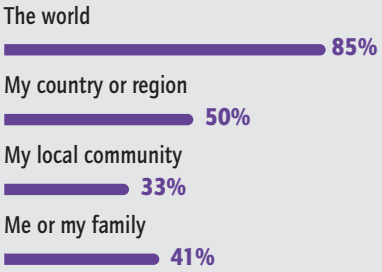
UNESCO TAKES ACTION

REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF MOSUL

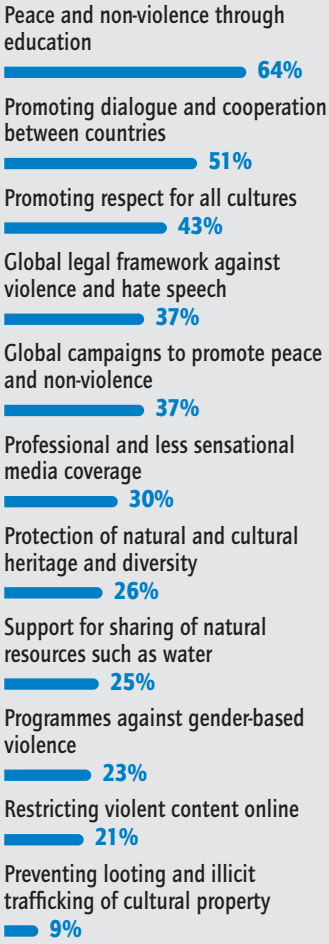
In the collective consciousness of Iraqis, Mosul was for centuries the city of knowledge, exchange, and a representation of the pluralistic identity of the Iraqi people. Historically, it was at the crossroads of trade and culture in the Middle East. However, three devastating years (2014-2017) of occupation by the Islamic State/Da'esh left much of Mosul in ruins, its heritage reduced to rubble, its education system collapsed, and thousands of its inhabitants displaced, leaving them scarred and with immense humanitarian needs.

UNESCO's flagship initiative "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" is the Organization's response for the recovery of this iconic city. It incorporates three strategic areas of focus: heritage, education, and cultural life. Reviving Mosul is not only about reconstructing heritage sites, but also about empowering the population as agents of change involved in the process of rebuilding their city through culture and education. The photos on right and p.52 are of children involved in UNESCO's Prevention of Violent Extremism through education training in Mosul and the Nineveh province, which at the time had trained over 1200 primary teachers and caretakers. The most recent development in this initiative is the November 2020 launch of an international architectural competition to rebuild the iconic Al-Nouri Mosque, destroyed during the conflict.

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS



> We must support cultural development programs and enhance the role of creative industries in societies as an effective way to invest the energies of youth and achieve local, regional and global development.
>
> Man, 35-49, the Arab States
> *Translated from Arabic*

#3

TOTAL RESPONDENTS
6,402

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

43% of all respondents

46% of women
36% of men
51% of other genders
49% of under 25's
39% of 25 and over
58% of minority
41% of non-minority

TOP REGIONS

Latin America and the Caribbean 50%
Western Europe and North America 44%

CONCERNS

Violence against women and minorities 69%
Increasing hate speech and harassment online 52%
Discrimination against women and LGBT people 40%
Intercultural or religious tensions geting worse 38%
Discrimination against cultural or religious minorities 33%
Stereotypes or lack of diversity in the media 32%
Discrimination or injustice I face myself 24%
Differences in learning opportunities for girls and boys 22%
Discrimination against people with disabilities 21%
My human rights not being taken into account 16%
Increasing political correctness these days 13%
Rights of minorities being seen as more important than the rights of the majority 10%

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Discrimination & Inequality

Discrimination is a human rights violation, impeding equal access to opportunities, including in education, the labour market, and access to decision-making positions. At its most extreme, discrimination can be expressed through violence and conflict. Beliefs of racial, gender, or any other superiority are intrinsically linked to hate speech and targeted violence, and to many of the major conflicts and social movements in recent history. Efforts to foster a human rights-based approach when addressing this issue around the world, including through the use of a gender lens, are therefore inseparable from those that fight all kinds of discrimination. Discrimination has strong links to inequality.

Inequality in its various forms is an issue that continues to define our time, and 'Leave no one behind' serves as the rallying cry of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Inequalities are not only driven and measured by income, but are determined by other factors, like gender, age, origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, class, and religion. They are also built on unequal access to opportunities and quality services, like education, healthcare, or transportation. Inequalities continue to increase within and between countries, while other gaps are emerging, such as in access to data, the internet and mobile technologies, along with the skills needed to use them. The costs of discrimination and inequalities are very high and borne by all – not just by the deprived, but collectively by current and future generations.

Discrimination and inequality ranked third among all challenges in the global sample and had some of the largest distinctions between demographic groups. The top concern across the world, and across all regions and demographics, was *violence against women and minorities*.[8] *Increasing hate speech and harassment online* was the second highest concern, and the only other concern selected by a majority of global respondents. Third ranked was *discrimination against women and LGBT people*, followed by *intercultural or religious tensions getting worse*, *discrimination against cultural or religious minorities* and *stereotypes or lack of diversity in the media*.

Dismantling discrimination and inequalities is crucial work, which must be pursued so that everyone can experience the benefits of sustainable development equally, and live peaceful lives free of fear of prejudice, intolerance, oppression or persecution. **The top four solutions** chosen by respondents were the same across all regions, with more than half of respondents in consensus. The top solutions were education-related: all regions (with the exception of North America) and all demographics selected *teaching tolerance and rights through education* as the top solution to discrimination. The second was *ensuring*

UNESCO's 2020 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report indicated that identity, background and ability still dictate education opportunities, based on inequality and characteristics like poverty, gender, and disability status. Recommendation 1 of the report was to "widen the understanding of inclusive education: it should include all learners, regardless of identity, background or ability."[9]

everyone has access to quality education. These solutions show the critical importance of education as a fundamental part of any response – not only via access, which is in and of itself a major axis of discrimination and inequality, but also through specific attention to the ways education systems can mobilize learners against discrimination and inequality in all areas of society.

After these solutions, respondents chose *promoting respect for all cultures and diversity* (North America's top pick) and *ensuring gender equality in all areas of society*. These solutions speak to two of the most significant lines along which discrimination and inequality can occur: culture and gender.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

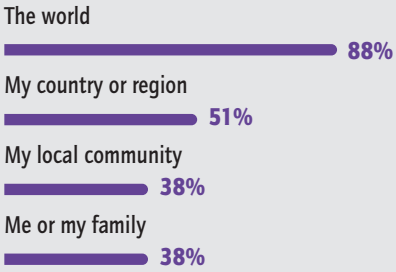
Almost half of female respondents (46%) selected **discrimination and inequality** as a top challenge, 10 percentage points higher than men (36%). 51% of respondents of a gender other than male or female chose this challenge. It was also selected by 49% of young people, compared to 39% of respondents 25 and older, as well as by 58% of minority respondents. Of respondents who chose this challenge, women (72%) were 11 percentage points more likely to be concerned with *violence against women and minorities* than their male counterparts (61%), while minority respondents (52%) were 12 percentage points more likely to be concerned about *discrimination against women and LGBT people* than the global sample. Concern for country or region was felt most in Sub-Saharan Africa (67%), the Arab States (63%), and Asia and the Pacific (61%). Respondents in Asia and the Pacific were the most concerned regional group about either their families or themselves (44%). Of the various demographic groups, respondents with a disability (55%) and minority respondents (54%) were the most concerned about themselves or their family.

As with **violence and conflict**, and more so given the size and incidence of differences, differentiation across demographic groups in concerns and solutions relating to this challenge is indicative of a need to understand, communicate and act on the differentiated experiences of discrimination and inequalities felt across the world (intrinsic as this is to these issues). Promoting empathy and understanding in relation to discrimination and inequality is essential to changing attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate these phenomena. It is also central to building peace in the minds of men and women: only by fighting discrimination at its roots can we hope to promote mutual understanding and tolerance between peoples.

RESPONDENTS LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

While the concerns of respondents living with a disability largely corresponded with the global sample, they were more than twice as likely to be concerned about *discrimination against people with disabilities* (51%). This concern ranked second in this demographic group, compared to ninth in the global sample. They were also more than twice as likely to have chosen *taking into account disabilities in all public policies* (42%) as a solution, ranking it fourth, than the global sample (16%), which ranked it eighth.

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS

Gabriela RAMOS

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences

"If there was any doubt about the faults of the social and economic system we have built in the last decades, the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impacts on the more vulnerable groups of our societies are a stark reminder of the need to redress the situation, fight increasing inequalities of income and opportunity, and end racism and discrimination once and for all."

#4

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

6,280

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

of all respondents

43%	of women
40%	of men
30%	of other genders
43%	of under 25's
41%	of 25 and over

TOP REGIONS

Latin America and the Caribbean 49%

Sub-Saharan Africa 46%

CONCERNS

Not enough safe drinking water 80%

Impact of disasters or climate change 64%

Not enough healthy or good quality food 49%

Risk of problems getting worse in the future 48%

Not enough food 39%

Not enough stable or safe housing 31%

Impact of conflict 27%

Women's needs and rights not being taken into account 21%

Lack of stable energy supply 18%

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Lack of Food, Water & Housing

The lack of food, water and housing that many populations are subject to around the world is linked to a huge number of associated issues: income inequalities, weak food systems and unequal distribution of food, poor sanitary services and gaps in infrastructure, climate change, conflict, natural disaster and drought, gaps in social security, and rapid urbanisation to name a few. These deprivations are often mutually reinforcing; for example, water scarcity exacerbates food insecurity by impeding sustainable food production, while lack of access to housing presents a barrier to clean water and basic sanitation. Deprivation of basic necessities has significant impacts on education outcomes and economic development, and access to resources has important implications for peace and security. Providing access to food, water and housing is a human rights obligation.

Lack of food, water and housing was ranked fourth in the global sample. Of the concerns selected by respondents, *not enough safe drinking water* was by far the greatest concern, selected by 80% of global respondents. This concern was ranked first by all regions and demographics and had the highest consensus of all concerns across the survey. *Impact of disasters or climate change* ranked second and was also selected by a majority of the respondents. Respondents were also concerned that there is *not enough healthy or good quality food*, and that there is *risk of problems getting worse in the future*.

Acting to defeat deprivation is an important step in the global pursuit of peace and sustainable development. Ensuring access to these basic necessities improves peoples' life chances and removes sources of potential conflict. Work on food and water security, and scientific capacity building to support this work (for example in sustainable

SPOTLIGHT ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Lack of food, water and housing was ranked second in Sub-Saharan Africa (46%). Sub-Saharan African respondents were significantly more concerned about their country or region (67%) and their communities (51%) than the global sample (45% and 32% respectively). *Support for associations and organizations* was the top solution for Sub-Sahara Africa, at 65%, while respondents from this region also focused on *promoting traditional agricultural practices/knowledge* (52%) and *investing in new technological solutions* (43%). (See *Top Solution: Science*, p.38)

agriculture, and disaster and climate change mitigation), is much needed. Results of this survey suggest that global respondents are aware of this.

The top three proposed solutions to tackle lack of food, water and housing were selected by a majority of respondents across all regions. *Effective international cooperation* (was the number one ranked solution in the global sample, and for most regions and demographics, representing a critical endorsement of the importance of multilateral action to address this challenge (See *Top Solution: International Cooperation*, p.40). This was followed by *education about science and technology*, and *support for associations and organizations working in these areas*. These solutions speak to the importance of capacity building and facilitating inclusive engagement in decision making processes to the benefit of constructive, concrete solutions to this challenge. These results indicate that education and science should again be a major focus of response, while strategic partnerships and other collaborative approaches in the field could help support organisations working in these areas.

The 2015 UNESCO Science Report found that in Africa, agriculture often suffers from poor land management and low investment, with agricultural R&D suffering as a result. Projects and policies focused on innovation and education in agricultural science and technology are helping some countries confront these challenges.[10]

The two key solutions which followed were *investing in new technological solutions* and *promoting traditional agricultural practices/knowledge*. Technological solutions can contribute to, for example, improved urban planning, water saving, and more productive sustainable agriculture. Leveraging traditional agricultural practices and knowledge can also help promote sustainability, while simultaneously benefitting communities, preserving heritage, and promoting economic independence. While seemingly the inverse of each other, these two solutions can also represent an important partnership in ways of thinking that is already helping to build more sustainable food systems around the world, such as in agroecology.

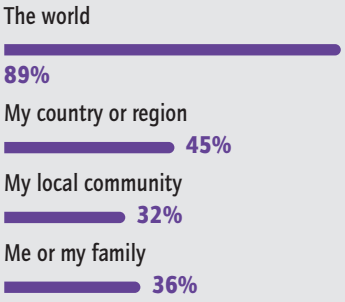
HEALTHY, GOOD QUALITY FOOD HIGHLIGHTED IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

For the majority of regions *not enough safe drinking water* ranked much higher than the concerns which followed. However, in Asia and the Pacific, the top three concerns were separated by only a few percentage points. This meant that *not enough safe drinking water* ranked 12 percentage points lower in Asia and the Pacific (68%) than in the global sample, and *not enough healthy or good quality food* ranked 13 percentage points higher (62%). *The impacts of disasters or climate change* ranked around the same (66%).

UNESCO TAKES ACTION
UNESCO'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME

The overwhelming concern expressed by respondents that there is *not enough safe drinking water* indicates that this issue must be urgently addressed, with a priority placed on international cooperation. Water security is a major focus of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), devoted to international cooperation on water research, water resources management, education and capacity building. Some of its keys focus areas include *water scarcity and quality*, which focuses on the protection of the world's freshwater resources to reduce impacts on human well-being and the natural environment; *water in human settlements*, which looks at urban and rural water planning and management; and *ecohydrology*, which looks at relationships between hydrological and biological processes at different scales to improve water security, enhance biodiversity, and further opportunities for sustainable development.

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS

> We must help the organisations that are already working in the field, to expand their actions in education, sustainable development, and environmental protection.
>
> Woman, 50-65, Caribbean

#5

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

5,578

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

of all respondents

- 39% of women
- 34% of men
- 29% of other genders
- 35% of under 25's
- 38% of 25 and over
- 44% of indigenous

TOP REGIONS

Asia and the Pacific 47%

Sub-Saharan Africa 42%

CONCERNS

Impact on the economy and employment 60%

Not knowing which info to believe or who to trust 51%

Effects on vulnerable groups in society 49%

Poor leadership stopping us responding effectively 48%

Divisions between groups and countries stopping us responding effectively 36%

Effects of confinement and social distancing 34%

Stigma and discrimination 30%

Risk of social unrest and gender-based violence 26%

Sexual and reproductive health 22%

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Health & Disease

In 2020, perhaps more than ever, the issue of **health and disease** is at the forefront of our minds. The global COVID-19 pandemic has brought to bear many of the immediate issues related to this challenge, like physical health impacts, the strength of health systems, and the logistical difficulties of dealing with large scale health threats, as well as indirect and associated issues, like the economic effects of poor health on both individuals and the wider economy, the importance of having access to reliable information, and the unequal impacts of poor health and disease. The associated lockdowns put in place in response have also raised issues from lack of access to culture and education, to digital divides and job security.

Young people (under 25) were particularly concerned about *sexual and reproductive health* (30%), being almost twice as likely to select it as a concern as people over 25 (18%). They were also almost twice as likely to choose *ensuring sexual and reproductive health rights and education* (28%) as a solution as their older counterparts (15%).

The timing of the survey, delivered in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, very likely influenced responses, although it should be noted that **Health and Disease** came out as only fifth overall among all challenges in the global sample. The top four concerns for this challenge were the same across all regions of the world and all demographics, with only a few differences in rank order. *Impact on the economy and employment* was the top ranked concern on average for most regions and groups, something that may not have been as closely associated with health and disease prior to the pandemic. This was followed by *not knowing which information to believe or who to trust*, *effects on vulnerable groups in society*, and *poor leadership stopping us responding effectively*).

Effectively addressing health and disease is undoubtedly an important end for the achievement of peaceful societies. Recognising that crises like the one we are currently living are likely to be reproduced in the future means being prepared to manage them is critical. Beyond this, creating peaceful societies globally and equitably means recognising the importance of good health to personal wellbeing and development, and the impediments to this around the world – whether that be HIV/AIDs, chronic disease, zoonosis, malnutrition, poor access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, climate change and natural disaster, weak health systems, or any other number of risks.

CONCERNS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN NORTH AMERICA

North America is one of the few regions that had a different (and tighter) rank order within the top four concerns. *Poor leadership stopping us responding effectively* (56%) was the top concern in North America, followed by *impact on the economy* (54%), *effects on vulnerable groups* (54%), and *not knowing which info to believe or who to trust* (47%).

The top solution selected by respondents across all regions and all demographics was the *sharing of research and scientific knowledge*, followed by *effective health education* and *effective international coordination*, all chosen by a majority of respondents. As with climate change and biodiversity loss, these solutions mirror those top solutions selected throughout the report: education, science, and international cooperation (see *Top Solutions*, p.36). That a majority of respondents chose each of these speaks to the important – and intersecting – roles that each of these solutions has in dealing with health and disease, something that has become clearer throughout the pandemic.

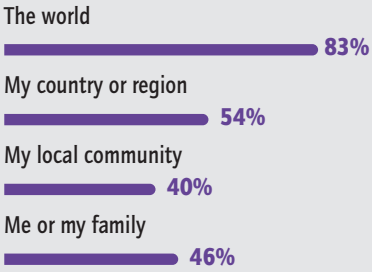
Respondents also called for *ensuring a healthy relationship with nature*, which was also ranked second as an area most in need of rethinking in light of the COVID-19 crisis (see *Building Back Better in the time of COVID-19*, p.42). Further, they pointed to *ensuring access to reliable and accurate information* and *maintaining access to education and culture*.

Of course, solutions in this arena must reach beyond the COVID-19 crisis – the world is facing many health threats on many scales. For example, comprehensive sexuality education is an important solution that can support sexual and reproductive health rights. Solutions highlighted in this survey provide a framework for global public health management – underlining the key roles of science, education, and international cooperation, as well as information, culture – and – a theme becoming more and more evident – the imperative of re-evaluating humanity's relationship with nature. Recognising the differentiated impacts of health threats means that solutions that identify and alleviate the inequal impacts of these threats on the vulnerable in society will also be important.

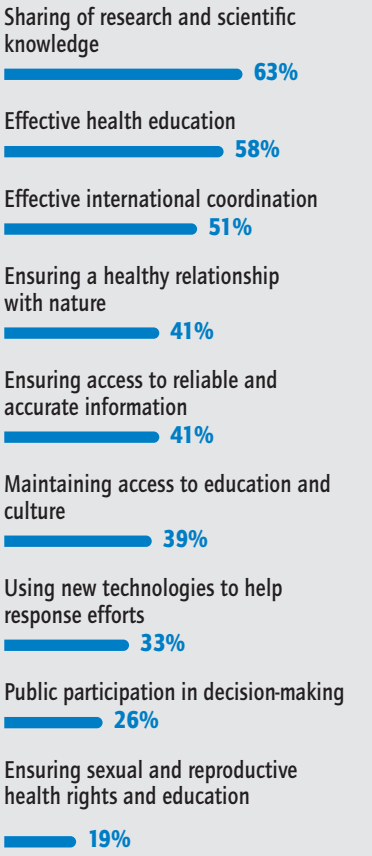
ATTITUDES TO HEALTH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Among all regions, respondents in Sub-Saharan Africa were the most concerned about **health and disease** in their region or country (69%) and their local community (54%). Sub-Saharan Africa was also the region where respondents expressed the most concern about *stigma and discrimination* (42%) and *sexual and reproductive health* (32%) while also giving the most support to *ensuring sexual and reproductive health rights and education* (29%) as a solution.

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS



> It is vitally important to ensure public health decisions are made in consultation with doctors of relevant fields and backed with scientific data. We also need to promote public health communication between international experts and the public.
>
> Woman, 21-24, Asia

#6

TOTAL RESPONDENTS
4,850

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

32% of all respondents

31% of women
35% of men
38% of other genders
34% of under 25's
31% of 25 and over

TOP REGIONS

Eastern Europe 39%
Western Europe and North America 34%

CONCERNS

Increasing difficulty to know what is true and what is false 66%
People deliberately spreading false information 62%
Negative impact of Internet and social media 47%
Leaders attacking the media for criticising them fairly 32%
Spread of anti-democratic messages 32%
Being less and less able to express myself freely 30%
Journalists no longer being able do their job safely 28%
Spread of rumours targeting minorities or other groups 25%
Media being biased against the leaders I support 17%
Attacks on artists or censorship of their work 16%
Attacks and harassment of women and women journalists 14%

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Disinformation & Freedom of Expression

Disinformation can be broadly defined as information that is false, although a distinction can be made between 'misinformation', which is simply incorrect, and 'disinformation', which is deliberately spread to mislead. Either way, it can be extremely harmful to the healthy functioning of societies. It is a direct impediment to peaceful communication and knowledge generation, can be used to exacerbate narratives of prejudice, racism, and discrimination, and, as we have seen during the pandemic, can have dangerous real-world consequences in situations when the accuracy of information can be a matter of life and death.

Freedom of Expression is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: '*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*' Freedom of expression, which serves as an enabler of all other rights, also lies at the core of UNESCO's constitutional mandate to "promote the free flow of ideas by word and image". Threats to freedom of expression, including those to press freedom, and the rights and safety of journalists, are a direct threat to democratic principles and fundamental human rights.

Access to reliable, independent, pluralistic and free information, and the protection and exercise of the right to freedom of expression are cornerstones of peaceful democratic societies. They represent a prerequisite for informed debate and discussion necessary to address the challenges faced by our societies. Yet, recent years have seen deeply worrying trends in these areas, including crackdowns on free expression and press freedom in some countries, and the growing impact of technological transformations, through the Internet and social media. While the latter have significantly expanded the ways in which individuals can express themselves, they have also led to new concerns about the reliability of information, the protection of data privacy, and increasing hate speech and a broader decrease in constructive public debate. They have greatly

undermined the kinds of professional and independent journalism that are needed to provide context, analysis and fact-checking in a democratic society.

Disinformation and Freedom of Expression was ranked sixth in the global sample. The top two concerns that stood out were *increasing difficulty to know what is true and what is false,* and *people deliberately spreading false information*. As in the case of *health and disease*, these concerns were likely further increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, although attention to these issues had also been growing for some time beforehand. Next ranked was the *negative impact of internet and social media*. These top three concerns were common across all regions and demographic groups, with very little difference in rank order.

There was strong consensus on the first two solutions for this challenge. The top solution, with 86% agreement, was *education to promote critical thinking and respect*, connected to what UNESCO terms 'media and information literacy'. This solution had the strongest consensus within a challenge for any global challenge, representing clear concurrence on the importance of education to counter disinformation and promote freedom of expression.

The second most chosen solution was *support for quality journalism and fact-checking* (63%). This solution was ranked second by all regions and demographics and is especially important in the face of widespread media closures, journalist layoffs, and job insecurity, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also means not just supporting the financial viability of media, but also ensuring that journalists have the necessary skills, know-how and tools needed to respond to these new challenges, and that they are free to do their jobs without interference or persecution. Support for quality and viable media is essential to ensure that information remains a common good.

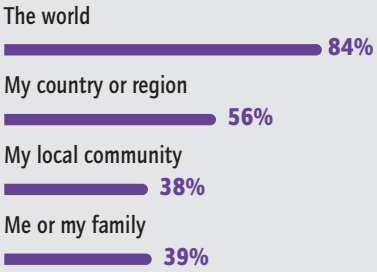
Respondents also chose *building trust in science and science-based decisions*. This is especially important as it pertains to the pandemic, but also to major issues such as climate change, where a lack of trust in scientific information is undermining efforts to collectively address the issue in many countries. Greater cooperation is needed between scientific institutions, media, and online platforms to restore this trust.

DIFFERENT REGIONAL APPROACHES

Respondents in Eastern and Western Europe both ranked this challenge fifth rather than sixth (39% and 35% respectively). Respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa (20%), on the other hand, ranked this challenge ninth, tied with traditions and culture at risk. One notable difference was observed in Asia and the Pacific, where respondents were more concerned about the challenge in their own country or region (67%), for themselves or their family (49%) and about the *negative impacts of internet and social media* (59%), than the global sample. In North America, *people deliberately spreading false information* was the top concern (69%).

When looking at solutions, respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Europe were the most supportive groups of *education to promote critical thinking and respect* (89% for both). Respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean were also the group that gave the most support to *building trust in science and science-based decisions* (48%), closely followed by respondents from North America (47%), and Eastern Europe (46%). Respondents from Western Europe gave the highest support of all regions for support for *quality journalism and fact-checking* (71%). Respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa were the most supportive regional group of global awareness campaigns (41%), and respondents from Asia and the Pacific were the most supportive regional group of *stronger penalties and legal frameworks* (43%).

LEVEL OF CONCERN



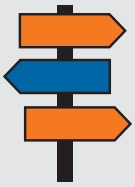
SOLUTIONS

Xing QU

UNESCO Deputy Director-General, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information a.i.

"The results of the survey show the importance of empowering citizens with media and information literacy skills to address the challenge of false information, and to support journalism to ensure that information remains a common good.

#7



TOTAL RESPONDENTS

4,242

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

of all respondents

- **29%** of women
- **28%** of men
- **23%** of other genders
- **25%** of under 25's
- **30%** of 25 and over

TOP REGIONS

Sub-Saharan Africa **37%**

Latin America and the Caribbean **36%**

CONCERNS

Education systems not teaching the skills needed to get by **61%**

Not being able to find decent work **51%**

Not having the same chance as others to get ahead **43%**

Not having the skills needed to get by in the future **36%**

Women getting paid less and struggling to get ahead **35%**

Caring, child-rearing and unpaid work not being appreciated **32%**

Impact of automation and technology **29%**

Impact of globalisation and free trade **26%**

Too much value being placed on work and income **25%**

Risk of backlash and violence from those affected **23%**

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Lack of Decent Work and Opportunities

Lack of decent work and opportunities represents a significant barrier for many to economic autonomy and emancipation, education opportunities, mental and physical health, and socioeconomic equality. It is experienced differentially across the globe and is deeply interwoven with discrimination and inequality: unequal access to work can exacerbate other inequalities, prevent the full exercise of human rights, and even incite conflict and violence. It is therefore likewise an obstacle to the sustainable development of peaceful societies internationally.

Lack of decent work and opportunities was ranked seventh in the global sample. The top concern regarding lack of decent work across the world, and across all regions and almost all demographics, was *education systems not teaching the skills needed to get by*, followed by *not being able to find decent work*, which was the top concern for respondents with a disability (63%). Respondents were also concerned about *not having the same chance as others to get ahead*, *not having the skills needed to get by in the future*, and *women getting paid less and struggling to get ahead*.

> UNESCO's 2016 World Social Science Report found that the most effective and sustainable route out of poverty for the working-age population is a decent, fairly paid job supported by effective labour market institutions, and that success in employment relies on access to quality education, which also offers synergies with reduced social and knowledge inequalities.[11]

This challenge had the highest concern at the individual/family level of all the global challenges, meaning it was the challenge that respondents were most worried about impacting them directly. Respondents cited similar levels of concern at an individual/family level (49%) for artificial intelligence and new technologies (p.32), which also has strong links to employment and skills-building.

Enabling access to decent work and opportunities means ensuring access to work and career development that delivers a fair and liveable income, safe conditions, workplace security, equality of opportunity, non-discrimination, and freedom to express concerns, organize, and participate in decisions that impact employees' lives and

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Respondents under the age of 25 (58%) were more likely than respondents over the age of 25 (48%) to be concerned about *not being able to find decent work*. Young people (50%) were also more likely to be concerned about *not having the same chance as others to get ahead* than older respondents (40%). Respondents under 25 (52%) also chose *ensuring gender equality in salary and job opportunities* as a solution more often than older respondents (43%), alongside *opportunities in science, engineering, etc.* (28% vs. 21%). (See *In Focus: Youth*, p.46).

wellbeing. It also means equipping people with the right skills, through education, to pursue such employment.

This focus on education came out clearly in the most selected solutions to this challenge. A strong majority of respondents pointed to *ensuring access to quality education for all*, which was also selected by a majority of global respondents across genders and age groups, and in every region. The region with the highest support for this solution was Latin America and the Caribbean. Other solutions relating to education were well-ranked by respondents, including *opportunities for learning and training later in life*, which was ranked first by respondents with a disability (56%), as well as *teaching digital and 21st Century skills* and *education focused on employability*. In highlighting the crucial role that education solutions play in dealing with this challenge, survey respondents underline the importance of education that focuses on lifelong learning, capacity-building, 21st century skills, and readiness for work.

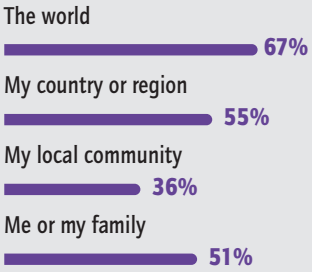
Respondents also chose *ensuring gender equality in salary and job opportunities* as a key solution. While this indicates a recognition of the gender inequalities at play in labour markets around the world, differentiated responses between women and men indicate that further communication and education regarding such inequalities may be beneficial (See *Gendered Perspectives*).

Solutions that consider the roles and value of different kinds of work, including those that tailor other responses accordingly (like relevant skills-based training), and those that recognise the disadvantages faced by those who are out of work, will also be useful for dealing with this challenge.

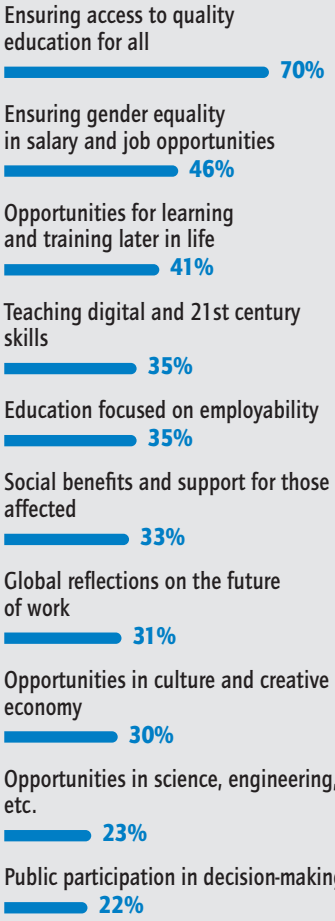
GENDERED PERSPECTIVES

While this challenge was selected at around the same rate across genders (for women 29%, for men 28%, and for others 23%), women were more than twice likely as men to be concerned about *women getting paid less and struggling to get ahead*. This concern was selected by 44% of female respondents, ranked third, compared to 18% of male respondents, ranked tenth. Women were likewise more concerned about *caring, child-rearing and unpaid work not being appreciated* (35%) than their male counterparts (26%). Men were slightly more likely to be concerned about *too much value being placed on work and income* (29% vs. 22%). The solution of *ensuring gender equality in salary and job opportunities* was selected by 54% of women, and ranked second, compared to 31% of men, ranked seventh. (See *In Focus: Gender* on p.44).

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS



> To address this challenge, we need education focused on women's rights.
>
> Man, 21-24
> Latin America

#8

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

3,675

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

of all respondents

23%	of women
26%	of men
26%	of other genders
22%	of under 25's
26%	of 25 and over

TOP REGIONS

Western Europe and North America	26%
Eastern Europe	26%

CONCERNS

Corruption and lack of transparency in society	58%
Democracy going backwards around the world	53%
Leaders and public figures not being held accountable for their actions	52%
Increasing difficulty in knowing who is telling the truth	40%
Increasing polarization and unwillingness to compromise	36%
Impact of social media and the Internet	30%
Increasing nationalism around the world	29%
Lack of justice when someone is wronged in my society	29%
Not being listened to or being part of decision-making	26%
People feel like democracy isn't possible or necessary	16%
Strength and stability are more important than democratic ideals	13%

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Political Participation & Democratic Principles

Political participation and democratic principles provide important foundations for peaceful societies and sustainable social, cultural and economic development. This stems from the fundamental idea that all decision-making should be based upon the needs and views of citizens, and that these citizens must be included in these decision-making processes. These ideals have been recognised at the highest level in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which recognises that *"in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom and freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his civil and political rights, as well as his economic, social and cultural rights".*

Where such principles are lacking, people's fundamental human rights are directly threatened, like the right to freedom of expression and rights relating to recognition, detention and justice before the law. Other rights are likewise impacted, particularly where restrictions on rights impede on human wellbeing and the power of choice. At a time of rising nationalism, and when the trend towards democracy and human rights over recent decades appears to be reversing in some places, it is critical to look at how these important ideals can be promoted and defended.

Political participation and democratic principles ranked eighth in the global sample. The top three concerns for global respondents worried about this challenge were *corruption and lack of transparency in society*, *democracy going backwards in the world* and *leaders and public figures not being held accountable for their action*). Respondents were also concerned about *increasing difficulty in knowing who is telling the truth*, *increasing polarization and unwillingness to compromis*), and the *impact of social media and the internet*).

PARALLELS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Concern for *corruption and lack of transparency in society* was cited the most by respondents in Sub-Sahara Africa (70%). Concern that *leaders and public figures [are] not being held accountable for their actions* was also felt strongly in Sub-Sahara Africa (65%) and was the top ranked concern in Asia and the Pacific (56%). Concern about democracy in local communities was felt strongly by respondents in Sub-Sahara Africa (52%) and Asia and the Pacific (49%). This was reiterated at the level of country or region, at 76% for Sub-Sahara Africa and 71% for Asia and the Pacific.

While *civics education and media literacy* was ranked first by global respondents and the majority of groups and regions, Sub-Saharan African respondents pointed to *public participation in decision-making* (68%) as the top solution. Sub-Saharan African (42%) and Asian-Pacific (33%) respondents also placed more emphasis on *creating spaces for discussions of local issues* than did respondents from other regions.

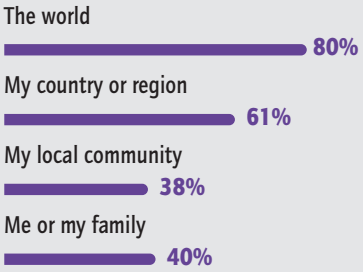
Promoting political participation and democratic ideals is an important element of the pursuit of peace and sustainable development. Working towards the realization of shared universal values, like tolerance, pluralism, the respect of human rights, freedom, and dialogue is a crucial process in the construction of peace. This involves working on governance, democratic institutions, citizenship, freedom of expression, youth representation, and active participation of citizens in decision-making processes.

The top ranked solution for this global challenge was *civics education and media literacy*, once again highlighting the importance of education-based solutions. Education that incorporates topics like media and information literacy and education for global citizenship go hand-in-hand with active participation in decision-making, development, and the protection and promotion of human rights, and help citizens to engage with their political context and make informed decisions.

Respondents built on this by next choosing *public participation in decision-making* and *global support for democracy*. In addition to the work outlined above, the overall promotion and strengthening of democratic principles and institutions must be prioritised around the world. This means finding concrete ways of fostering public participation, human rights, equality and other democratic principles in existing institutions, and in those institutions being built and rebuilt. It suggests that the world should not shy away from defending these democratic principles in places where they may be drifting astray.

Solutions which followed related to strengthening decision-making and institutions, starting with *supporting science-based decision-making*, underlining the importance of rational decisions based upon sound science for the health of democracies, especially at a time when trust in science and scientific information is being called into question in many places. *More women and girls in decision making* was also favoured by many respondents, highlighting the fact that barriers to political participation are not experienced equally by everyone, and that entrenched inequalities persist (see *In Focus: Gender*, p.44). Other solutions focused on strengthening local political engagement, while differentiated concerns and solution choices across regions again highlighted the importance of community engagement in tailored approaches to this often-complex challenge.

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS

> We need to find a sense of common good again, to reduce inequalities, which will help to restore confidence in political institutions.
>
> Woman, 35-49, Western Europe.
> *Translated from French*

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Migration & Mobility

#9

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

2,564

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

of all respondents

- 17% of women
- 18% of men
- 15% of other genders
- 14% of under 25's
- 19% of 25 and over

TOP REGIONS

Eastern Europe 27%

Western Europe and North America 22%

CONCERNS

Human rights of migrants and refugees 61%

Political backlash in the countries receiving migrants 49%

Human trafficking or sexual exploitation of migrants 46%

Climate change making the situation worse 44%

Migrants not being compatible with the culture of the countries receiving them 35%

Not being able to move and live freely in other places 32%

There aren't enough jobs and resources to go around 30%

Migrants bringing terrorism, crime or violence 26%

Risks faced by migrant women 20%

My education not being recognised everywhere I go 12%

Migration and mobility are key features of globalization, changing the face of societies and contributing to the rapprochement of culture. For millions around the world, it represents access to employment, acquisition of skills and qualifications, and improvement of life conditions, while for both countries of origin and destination it is a driver of growth and development. It is a challenge that intersects with many others, and also provides many benefits to societies around the world, encouraging economic growth, social development and cultural diversity that strengthens social fabrics and encourages sustainable development. Rates of migration will continue rising as the impacts of climate change, poverty, and inequality advance, populations grow, resources are stretched thin and urbanisation continues.

However, as a process it has also provoked serious concerns, whether related to the human rights of migrants themselves, or the impact on the societies receiving them. Migration has become a major point of political contention in many regions in recent years due to increased migrant flows resulting from conflict, disaster, and economic inequality. The process is marked by tremendous inequalities and serious human rights abuses, including trafficking and labour and sexual exploitation, as well as raising great challenges in terms of exclusion, racism and discrimination. In addition, the wellbeing and ongoing exercise of human rights of forcibly displaced peoples and refugees around the world are at constant and serious risk, with many individuals and groups exposed to violence and poor living conditions and experiencing long-term insecurity that, amongst other things, impedes access to employment and education, and disrupts culture and heritage. The most at risk are women and girls, who are prone to increased acts of abuse, violence, and trafficking.

Migration and mobility was ranked ninth in the global sample. The top concern globally and across almost all regions within this challenge was *human rights of migrants and refugees.* The concern for human rights was 12 percentage points higher than the second highest concern of *political backlash in the countries receiving migrants.* The concerns which followed were *human trafficking or sexual exploitation of migrants* and *climate change making the situation worse*.

A majority of regions selected *effective global/regional coordination* as their top ranked solution (*Different Regional Approaches*, p.31). As an inherently international

phenomenon in many cases, this is perhaps unsurprising, and lessons from the ongoing international migrant crisis show that global and regional cooperation is critical to managing large numbers of new arrivals.

UNESCO's 2019 GEM Report found that legislation enshrining the education rights of foreign-born populations increases the likelihood that the right to education will be fulfilled. It also found that literacy and language skills help immigrants and refugees to integrate with their host communities, improving communication, sense of welcome and belonging, job opportunities, higher earnings, and better self-reported health.[12]

Respondents also favoured *focusing on development in source countries* (48%) – in other words, addressing some of the root causes of migration, a strategy employed by many countries through development assistance. *Promoting respect for cultures and diversity* was also deemed important, likely to address backlash experienced in some regions, where concerns about migration are less linked to practical hurdles than to wider ideas of cultural compatibility and integration. Two other solutions focused on integration were the next most supported, with many respondents choosing *support for integration into host communities* and *better integration of migrants into education systems*.

Survey results indicate that rights-based solutions are vital when dealing with this challenge, as are communication- and social cohesion-based solutions that promote cultural harmony. Importantly, solutions that promote development in source countries and integration in host countries will be required, as will international cooperation for effective coordination. It is clear that this issue requires a broad range of solutions. Significant regional variation in responses also reflects the need for tailored solutions, whether that be in communicating the benefits of migration in host countries, supporting work on the ground that benefits migrants and host countries, implementing inclusive policies, legislation, and practices, or developing a culture of peace that fosters the full inclusion and participation of refugees and migrants in societies.

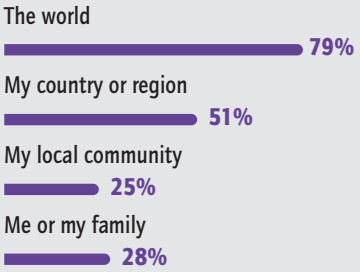
DIFFERENT REGIONAL APPROACHES

There was some significant regional variation in responses, the most marked coming from Eastern European respondents (See *Regional Insights: Eastern Europe*, p.56). The top ranked concern regarding migration cited by respondents from Eastern Europe was *migrants not being compatible with the culture of the countries receiving them* (68%), followed by migrants bringing terrorism, crime or violence (56%). Respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean were the group the most concerned about *human trafficking or sexual exploitation of migrants* (57%), and *not being able to move and live freely in other places* (42%), closely followed by respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa (41%), who were also the group most concerned about my *education not being recognised everywhere I go* (25%). Western European respondents were the group the most concerned about climate change making the situation worse (54%), while North American respondents were the group the most concerned about *risks faced by migrant women* (32%).

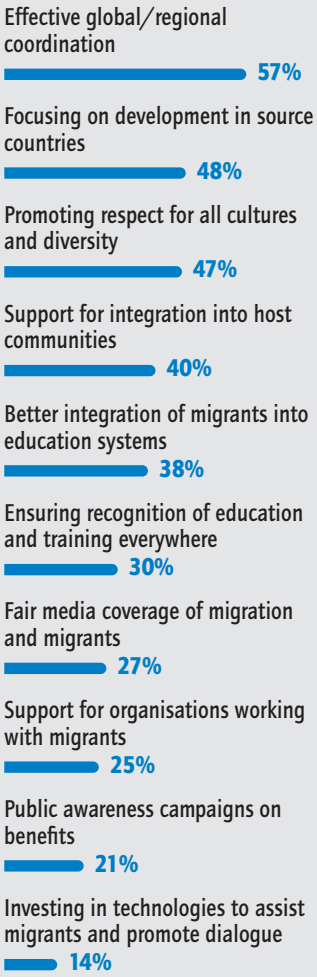
The highest concern at a country or regional level was cited by respondents from Eastern Europe (63%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (59%). At a community level, this was Sub-Saharan Africa (41%), with only 26% of Eastern European respondents selecting this scale.

In Latin America and the Caribbean promoting respect for all cultures and diversity (59%) was the top solution. Respondents from this region were also the most supportive group of support for *integration into host communities* (46%). North American respondents were the most supportive group of support for organisations working with migrants (36%), while Western European respondents were the group that was most supportive of focusing on development in source countries (58%), which was also the top solution in the Arab States (51%). Respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa were the group the most supportive of *effective global/regional coordination* (69%), while respondents from Eastern Europe were the group the most supportive of *fair media coverage of migration and migrants* (33%).

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS



> We need to address climate migration, and that means taking care of nature.
>
> Woman, 21-24, Eastern Europe

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Artificial Intelligence & New Technologies

#10

TOTAL RESPONDENTS
2,212

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

15% of all respondents

13% of women
17% of men
13% of other genders
13% of under 25's
16% of 25 and over

TOP REGIONS

Sub-Saharan Africa 23%
Arab States 21%

CONCERNS

Online privacy and surveillance 53%
Ethical issues they bring up 52%
Cyberwar and new forms of conflict 44%
New crimes such as hacking and identity theft 39%
Not knowing how my data is being used 37%
Lack transparency in how they are developed 35%
Increasing difficulty to find a decent job 27%
Not having the skills I need to keep up 23%
Intellectual property rights and fair remuneration 19%
Not being able to benefit 13%
Not everyone having a say in how they are developed 13%
Technologies reinforcing gender stereotypes 11%

Rapid developments in Artificial Intelligence and other new technologies are transforming disciplines, economies, industries, cultures, societies and the environment. On one hand, these technologies have the potential to change the future of humanity for the better. They offer new solutions that can provide millions of students with support to complete their education, create millions of jobs, contribute to the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, support heritage preservation, and help manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, such technologies also present a range of fundamental and evolving ethical quandaries. They are leading to unemployment through automation, and deepening inequalities and divides, while being implicated in malicious or criminal use, unregulated development, challenges to privacy and data protection, and increasing disinformation. Meanwhile, a lack of diversity and gender equality among those developing these technologies and their datasets can introduce, often inadvertently, programmed biases and further contribute to inequalities. Such quandaries and challenges pose problems for peaceful societies in their potential impact on human rights and the rule of law, their misuse and exploitation, their disregard for human and societal factors, and the potential barriers they create for equitable development.

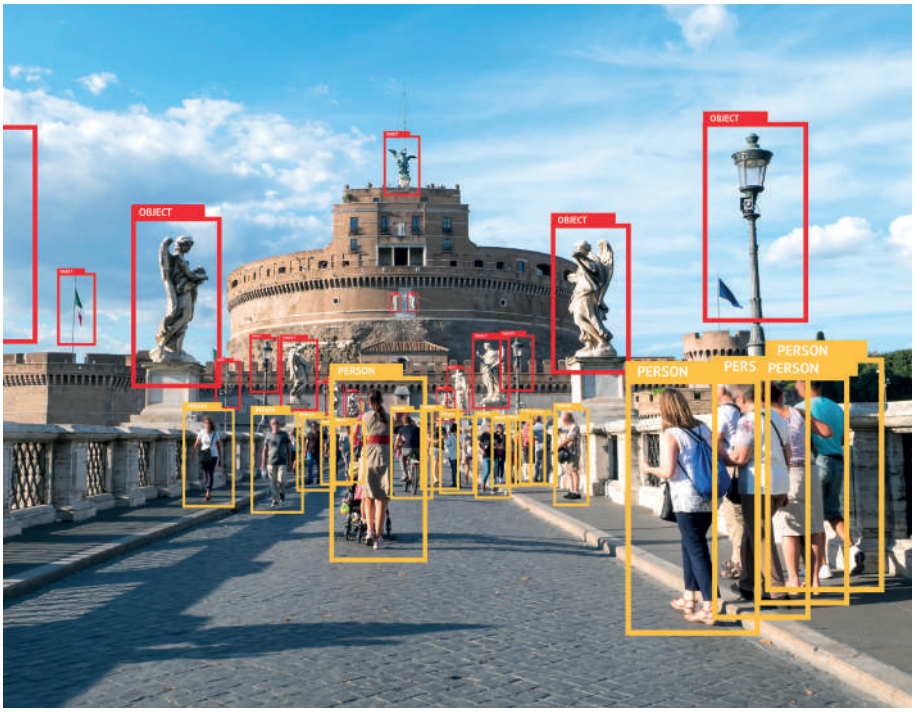
Artificial intelligence and new technologies were ranked 10th in the global sample. The top concerns were *online privacy and surveillance*, followed very closely by *ethical issues they bring up*. Respondents also chose *cyberwar and new forms of conflict*, *new crimes such as hacking and identity theft*, *not knowing how my data is being used*, and *lack of transparency in how they are developed*.

Ensuring that artificial intelligence and new technologies are developed ethically is important for the sustainable development of peaceful societies. Enabling them to do so involves engaging in a human-centred approach to such technology, while protecting and promoting human rights and the rule of law and promoting their use for the benefit of sustainable development and peace.

GENDER, TECHNOLOGY & ONLINE SAFETY

Female survey respondents (14%) were twice as concerned as male respondents (7%) about *technologies reinforcing gender stereotypes,* and slightly more supportive of *ensuring gender equality in decision making and development* (16%) than their male counterparts (10%). Interestingly, while registering similar levels of concern about *online privacy and surveillance* and *ethical issues,* women (43%) registered more concern than men (34%) about *new crimes such as hacking and identity theft,* and were more likely to call for *education on ethics, online safety and privacy* (62%) than their male counterparts (52%).

In 2020, UNESCO conducted a survey of women journalists about their experiences of online violence.[13] Findings from that survey found that 73% of female respondents had experienced online violence in connection to their work, including threats of physical and sexual violence. These kinds of experiences threaten both the safety and the privacy of women, resulting in mental health impacts and feelings and experiences of physical insecurity. While this report provided recommendations targeted towards these experiences in journalism, *education on ethics, online safety and privacy,* potentially delivered with a gender lens, could provide an important solution to such challenges more broadly.



The survey results indicate that solutions focused on ethics must be central to dealing with this challenge. The top solution chosen by respondents was *education on ethics, online safety and privacy*, perhaps in response to the dangers that a lack of understanding of these technologies can pose – like exposure to cybercrime and disinformation – and to ensure that everyone can benefit from development in this field. This was followed by *creating a global ethical framework*, and *promoting an ethical, transparent, and human focus*, both of which will be critical to ensuring technologies are developed in a way that benefits humanity as a whole (See *UNESCO Takes Action*). Such approaches must be imbued in the efforts of developers and users to ensure an ethical, transparent and human focus is maintained in the development and use of these technologies.

Respondents also cited *preventing crimes conducted online*, *focusing on solutions for health and the environment*, *opportunities for retraining and lifelong learning*, and *support for digital creative industries, arts and culture*. These solutions represent responses to a broad range of issues associated with this challenge, but also some very important opportunities presented by these technologies, like facilitating education delivery and contributing to the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

UNESCO TAKES ACTION

RECOMMENDATION ON THE ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

While AI technologies develop rapidly, with the enormous potential to benefit humanity, they also raise a multitude of new challenges and ethical issues for they ways our societies live and develop – for example, technologies have the capacity to be inherently biased based on the data on which they are trained, risking the advancement of prejudices and inequalities through technology. In the face of explosive growth and development in this area, a lack of coordinated regulation presents a key impediment to the development of AI technologies with clear ethical standards that respect human dignity and rights.

In response to this gap, and the pressing needs associated, UNESCO is in the process of elaborating a recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence, which, if adopted, will act as a comprehensive global standard-setting instrument to provide AI with a strong ethical basis, that will not only protect but also promote and advance human rights and human dignity. This aligns with respondents' call for a *global ethical framework*, as well as for promoting an *ethical, transparent and human focus.*

LEVEL OF CONCERN

The world 84%

My country or region 49%

My local community 36%

Me or my family 47%

SOLUTIONS

Education on ethics, online safety and privacy 58%

Creating a global ethical framework 53%

Promoting an ethical, transparent and human focus 50%

Preventing crimes conducted online 38%

Focusing on solutions for health and the environment 38%

Opportunities for re-training and lifelong learning 29%

Support for digital creative industries, arts and culture 28%

Public participation in decision-making 24%

Ensuring intellectual property rights and fair remuneration 20%

Ensuring gender equality in decision-making and development 13%

> As many of these technologies are new, the challenges are new, and require an ethical education that we must all promote.
>
> Woman, 21-24, North America. *Translated from Spanish*

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Traditions & Culture at Risk

#11

TOTAL RESPONDENTS
2,166

CHALLENGE CHOSEN BY

14% of all respondents

- 13% of women
- 16% of men
- 16% of other genders
- 14% of under 25's
- 15% of 25 and over
- 23% of indigenous

TOP REGIONS

- Sub-Saharan Africa 20%
- Arab States 19%
- Asia and the Pacific 19%

CONCERNS

- Cultural heritage and practices disappearing 75%
- Globalisation leading to loss of heritage or identity 61%
- Young people aren't interested in their cultural heritage 59%
- Lack of support for artists, artisans or creative fields 42%
- People feel more free to attack cultural and religious sites 35%
- Illicit trafficking of cultural property 20%
- My culture is under attack 18%
- Gender roles and traditions changing too quickly 17%
- Not being able to participate in cultural life 13%
- Not being included in mainstream culture 9%

The benefits of promoting cultural diversity and safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, including by ensuring the transmission of traditional knowledge, are boundless. The diversity of cultural expressions breeds social inclusion, open-mindedness, sustainability, and willingness to learn. In our deeply interconnected contemporary world, culture's power to enrich and develop societies is evident. Its diverse manifestations – from traditional practices, to precious historic monuments, artefacts, and museums, to contemporary and performing arts, oral traditions, music and film – enhance our lives and interactions in countless ways. Preserving heritage helps sustain sources of social cohesion and identity for communities around the world, often disrupted by change and instability. Embracing and promoting creativity aids in the construction of open, inclusive, and pluralistic societies. Supporting heritage and creativity is at the foundation of vibrant, innovative and prosperous knowledge societies.

The risks faced by culture are many and varied, including conflict and violence, globalization, climate change, natural disasters, illicit trafficking of cultural property and barriers to intergenerational knowledge transfer. These threats impact heritage – cultural, natural, tangible, intangible – cultural diversity, cultural practices, knowledge generation and transfer, and the people who are at the heart of the culture sector. As culture is so fundamental to people and their identities, intercultural understanding is a basic requirement for peaceful societies.

REGIONAL VARIATION

The concern that *young people aren't interested in their cultural heritage* was most keenly felt by respondents in Sub-Saharan Africa (73%), the Arab States (68%), and Asia and the Pacific (66%). Those in Latin America and the Caribbean were particularly worried about *lack of support for artists, artisans or creative fields* (55%). Concern on a country or regional level was most felt by respondents in Asia and the Pacific (68%), the Arab States (67%), and Eastern Europe (66%).

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Twenty-three percent of indigenous respondents selected this challenge, ranking it seventh in this group. Indigenous respondents were more concerned than the global sample about *[their] culture [being] under attack* (24%) and *gender roles and traditions changing too quickly* (25%). They were the demographic group most supportive of *engaging young people with their traditions* (67%), which tied for first as a solution for this group, alongside *education*. They were also supportive of *safeguarding cultural heritage sites and practices* (52%) and *promoting intercultural exchange and respect for diversity* (48%). (See *In Focus: Indigenous peoples*, p.48).

Traditions and culture at risk was selected by 14% of participants. Among these respondents, the top concern, ranked first by almost all regions, was cultural heritage and practices disappearing. A majority also felt that globalisation [is] leading to loss of heritage and identity, and that young people aren't interested in their cultural heritage. People were further concerned about the lack of support for artists, artisans or creative fields and that people feel freer to attack cultural and religious sites.

The top solution to these concerns was once again education, with a majority selecting integrating culture and heritage into education programmes. This aligns with respondents' concerns, as culture and education create a pathway to enhancing connections between people (especially youth) and their identities, particularly through arts and heritage education, imparting the importance of cultural heritage and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. This was echoed by the solutions that followed: promoting intercultural exchange and respect for diversity and engaging young people with their traditions.

The next solution is similarly important: safeguarding cultural heritage sites and practices. Direct efforts to safeguard heritage in the face the aforementioned challenges, like conflict and climate change, are vital, including normative efforts through international conventions and emergency safeguarding action, as well as awareness-raising and capacity-building for the conservation and protection of heritage. This includes cultural property threatened by illicit trafficking, intangible cultural heritage and practices, which can be particularly vulnerable, and underwater cultural heritage. These were the top four solutions across nearly all regions and demographics.

Importantly, respondents also called for support for local cultural institutions and artists, which has taken on a new urgency in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on the economic viability of these groups, which has exacerbated the creative sector's pre-existing volatility and inequalities. Improved mechanisms to protect the social, economic and working conditions of artists and cultural professionals have proven essential, as has guaranteeing international mobility and freedom of expression for these actors and adapting cultural policies and programmes to the digital age.

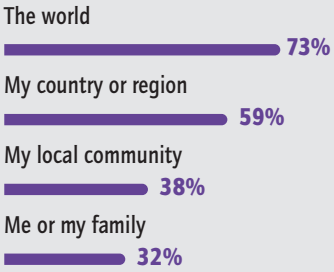
In the face of many attendant challenges, finding innovative ways to support cultural and creative actors and industries, safeguard the world's cultural heritage, and promote cultural diversity will be critical over the coming decades. Participatory governance, which takes into account different perspectives and approaches, such as those of indigenous communities, and ensuring gender equality and youth participation, will likewise be vital to effectively and holistically managing this area.

Ernesto OTTONE R.

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

"It is clear that, like UNESCO, the public is concerned about the threats facing culture today – whether from conflict, climate change or the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Safeguarding and promoting culture goes to the heart of UNESCO's mission. Culture is not only an economic driver and a source of wellbeing and employment for many, especially women and young people, but through the diversity of content and expressions it generates and the transmission of knowledge it encourages, it is also a conveyer of meaning, belonging, and identities, which have proven to be vital throughout the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

LEVEL OF CONCERN



SOLUTIONS

> "Culture must be truly integrated in national and international sustainable development agendas.
>
> Woman, 35-49, Pacific

EDUCATION
was in the top 3 Solutions for

Climate change & loss of biodiversity
#2 Teaching sustainability through education

Violence & conflict
#1 Peace and non-violence through education

Discrimination & inequality
#1 Teaching tolerance and rights through education
#2 Ensuring everyone has access to quality education

Lack of food, water & housing
#2 Education about science and technology

Health & disease
#2 Effective health education

Disinformation & freedom of expression
#1 Education to promote critical thinking and respect

Lack of decent work & opportunities
#1 Ensuring access to quality education for all
#3 Opportunities for learning and training later in life

Political participation & democratic principles
#1 Civics education and media literacy

Artificial intelligence & new tech.
#1 Education on ethics, online safety and privacy

Traditions & culture at risk
#1 Integrating culture and heritage into education programmes

TOP SOLUTION

Education

Education transforms lives and is at the heart of UNESCO's mission to build peace, eradicate poverty and drive sustainable development. UNESCO provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens education systems worldwide and responds to contemporary global challenges through education with gender equality as an underlying principle. UNESCO is entrusted to lead the Global Education 2030 Agenda through Sustainable Development Goal 4.

When examining our global challenges, **education** emerged overwhelmingly as a crucial solution. Education was the **number one solution** in seven of the eleven challenges, appeared twelve times in the **top three solutions** and was in the **top five for all challenges.** Furthermore, for the challenge *lack of decent work and opportunities,* the concern most expressed across all regions and almost all demographics was *education not teaching the skills needed to get by.*

The only global challenge in which education was not featured in the top three solutions was **Migration and Mobility**. Here, *better integration of migrants into education systems* (38%) and *ensuring recognition of education and training everywhere* (30%) were the fifth and sixth ranked solutions, respectively. However, *promoting respect for cultures & diversity* (47%) was the third most selected solution, and one that does denote a strong education component.

Quality education for all was highlighted as an important solution, reflecting an acknowledgement of the power of education as it pertains to addressing inequalities, in a strong show of support for UNESCO's pursuit of this fundamental human right. Nevertheless, the fact that so many specific applications of education were also chosen so frequently reflects **a collective conviction in the importance of education not only as an end in and of itself, but as a valued and wide-reaching solution to our many and varied global challenges.**

This calls for continued transformation in the actual content and practice of education, to build more inclusive and sustainable societies. Education must be geared to nurturing respect for our common humanity and shared planet, for cultural diversity, gender equality and human rights, and for peace and non-violence. Education fosters critical thinking skills, imparts digital competences, life skills, and scientific literacy that are essential for making informed decisions and fostering responsible citizenship

UNESCO TAKES ACTION
FUTURES OF EDUCATION: LEARNING TO BECOME

In a world of many challenges, education has a potentially world-changing role. The Futures of Education initiative harnesses humanity's greatest renewable resources for responding to challenges and inventing alternatives – knowledge and learning – to reflect on this role. It relies on a broad, open consultative process that involves youth, educators, civil society, governments, business, and other stakeholders, guided by a high-level International Commission composed of members from diverse fields and different regions of the world.

In November 2021 the commission will publish a report building on UNESCO's tradition of grappling with the challenges of the future, inspiring change, and issuing policy recommendations for education. This report, the latest in a series of global reports commissioned by UNESCO, will be designed to share a forward-looking vision of what education and learning might yet become and offer an agenda for education policy dialogue and action at multiple levels. The Futures of Education: Learning to Become initiative is even now catalysing a global debate on how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity and the planet.

today. These different dimensions closely align with leading programmes initiated by UNESCO, including education for global citizenship, the prevention of violent extremism, sustainable development, or media and information literacy, among many others.

The survey results provide a framework for a renewed focus on these essential facets of education that will be so crucial to addressing the major interconnected challenges the world is facing over the next decade, and to living together safely and peacefully.

The survey results provide a framework for a renewed focus on these essential facets of education that will be so crucial to addressing the major interconnected challenges the world is facing over the next decade, and to living together safely and peacefully.

This is particularly important at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically affected the education sector worldwide, with school closures impacting up to 1.6 billion learners in 190 countries in 2020, exposing widespread inequalities that require urgent intervention and resources in the coming years to fulfil everyone's right to education. The findings of the survey further support this: Education & Learning was considered the number one area of society most in need of rethinking in light of the COVID-19 crisis (chosen by 47% of respondents globally). (See *Building Back Better in the Time of COVID-19*, p.42).

Initiatives such as UNESCO's Futures of Education (see *UNESCO Takes Action*) will be critical to ensuring that the education systems of tomorrow are better equipped to ensure everyone has access to the quality education needed to address the major challenges we all face.

Women were the top demographic group to cite concern about *differences in learning opportunities for girls and boys* (25%)

UNESCO also places a major focus on gender equality in education, in line with its Global Priority Gender Equality. Large gender gaps exist in access, learning achievement and continuation in education in many settings, most often at the expense of girls, although in some regions, boys are at a disadvantage. Despite progress, more primary-age girls than boys remain out of school, and women account for two-thirds of the 773 million adults without basic literacy skills[14]. UNESCO estimates that 11 million girls are at risk of not returning to school due to COVID-19[15]. In response, UNESCO and members of the Global Education Coalition's Gender Flagship launched a new #LearningNeverStops campaign focused on girls' continuity of learning and safe return to school.

Latin America and the Caribbean was the top region to highlight education as a solution across challenges.

It was the first or second ranked region in ten of fourteen top education solutions, and frequently third. It was also the top region to choose education & learning as an area of society in need of rethinking in light of the COVID-19 crisis (55%). (See *Regional Insights: Latin America and the Caribbean*, p.58).

Stefania GIANNINI

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education

"This global survey affirms loud and clear our conviction that education stands at the very heart of building a better world for all. It provides understanding, skills, and an ethical compass to act with conscience. This is why education has to be urgently prioritized on every political agenda."

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

UNESCO is responsible for coordinating the international community to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4

SCIENCE
was in the top 5 Solutions for

Climate Change and Loss of Biodiversity
- **#1 Investing in green energy and sustainable economies**
- **#2 Teaching sustainability through education**
- **#4 Building trust in science and science-based decisions**
- **#5 Creating protected natural zones**

Lack of food, water and housing
- **#2 Education about science and technology**
- **#4 Investing in new technological solutions**
- **#5 Promoting traditional agricultural practices/knowledge**

Health and Disease
- **#1 Sharing of research and scientific knowledge**
- **#2 Effective health education**
- **#3 Effective international coordination**
- **#4 Ensuring a healthy relationship with nature**
- **#5 Ensuring access to reliable and accurate information**

Disinformation and Freedom of Expression
- **#3 Building trust in science and science-based decisions**

Political Participation and Democratic Principles
- **#4 Supporting science-based decision-making**

Artificial Intelligence and New Technologies
- **#5 Focusing on solutions for health and the environment**

TOP SOLUTION

Science

Creating knowledge and understanding through science gives us the tools needed to achieve sustainable development and find solutions to today's many economic, social and environmental challenges. Through international scientific cooperation, science not only expands knowledge, but also builds peace. UNESCO works to assist countries to invest in science, technology and innovation, to develop national science policies, to reform their science systems, and to build capacity to monitor and evaluate performance. The Organization also works in social and human sciences, science education, science and engineering capacity building, water security, geology, ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate change.

When asked to choose solutions to our global challenges, respondents consistently highlighted **science and science-based solutions.** These included solutions like building trust in science, supporting science-based decisions, science education, and open science, as well as science-reliant solutions in agriculture, technology, health and the environment. Recognising the integral role that science plays across society, respondents have underlined the important role it also plays in overcoming our major global challenges.

> To address this challenge, we need much greater investment and education in, and use of, nature-based solutions.
>
> Man, 50-65, Sub-Saharan Africa, on Lack of Food, Water & Housing

Respondents recognise the Role of Science in Global Crises

The role that science plays in addressing not only global challenges, but the urgent global crises that often accompany them, is significant. In this survey, which was delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen this role explicitly acknowledged when respondents chose *sharing of research and scientific knowledge* (63%) as the **top solution** for **Health and Disease**. We have also seen the transversal nature of science as, in the context of public health and pandemics, the next four solutions chosen for this challenge – *effective health education, effective international coordination, ensuring a healthy relationship with nature,* and *ensuring access to reliable and accurate information* – all rely heavily on reliable and accessible scientific enquiry and knowledge.

UNESCO GLOBAL PRIORITY AFRICA

Africa is one of UNESCO's two Global Priorities (alongside *Gender Equality*, see p.45). Its operational strategy, *Priority Africa at UNESCO: an operational strategy for its implementation, 2014-2021*, guides all UNESCO actions in favour of Priority Africa, particularly action under a number of flagship programmes. These include programmes related to strengthening education systems for sustainable development in Africa, fostering science for the sustainable management of Africa's natural resources and disaster risk reduction, harnessing the power of culture for sustainable development and peace in a context of regional integration, promoting an environment conducive to Freedom of Expression and media development, promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, and harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation and knowledge for sustainable socio-economic development in Africa. (See *Regional Insights: Sub-Saharan Africa*, p.50, for more insights and a word from the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations).

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been wide recognition of the important role science plays in society. Respondents acknowledged this explicitly when they selected *scientific cooperation and sharing of research* as the #3 area of society to be rethought in light of the COVID-19 crisis. This topic is a significant area of work for UNESCO.

Respondents also chose *the relationship between humans and nature* as the #2 area of society to be rethought in light of the COVID-19 crisis – in addition to highlighting **Climate Change & Biodiversity Loss** as the top global challenge by more than twenty percentage points. They further highlighted a number of important environmental science-based solutions.

Links made between the COVID-19 crisis and the environmental crises currently facing the world reflect an understanding of the many interlinkages that exist between our global challenges – while respondents' acknowledgment of the different applications of science speaks to the many interlinkages that exists between solutions. Science – when it is accessible and understood through education – can act as a bridge between the many actors attempting to find solutions to these challenges, and the crises they provoke.

The 2015 UNESCO Science Report found that environmental crises, be they natural or man-made, have been influencing science, technology and innovation policy and governance around the world.[16]

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN RESPONDENTS HIGHLIGHT CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO LACK OF FOOD, WATER & HOUSING

Unlike the global sample, which ranked it fourth, Sub-Saharan Africa ranked **lack of food, water and housing** second (46%). When looking at solutions, while other regions focused on *effective international cooperation*, Sub-Saharan African respondents focused on concrete, on-the-ground solutions, incorporating all three science-based solutions available for this challenge. They placed significantly more emphasis than the global sample on agriculture and support for organisations on the ground.

#1 Support for associations and organizations working in these areas — 65%

#2 Education about science and technology — 55%

#3 Promoting traditional agricultural practices/knowledge — 52%

#4 Effective international cooperation — 44%

#5 Investing in new technological solutions — 43%

Shamila NAIR-BEDOUELLE

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences

"Science is the engine of prosperity. The cars and trains that got us here today, our smart phones, the energy that lights this room, the clothes we wear, the food we eat; all of these were developed and improved through research and science. Science can fuel and fire our imagination!"

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
was in the top 5 Solutions for

Climate Change and Loss of Biodiversity
#3 Effective international cooperation

Violence and Conflict
#2 Promoting dialogue and cooperation between countries
#4 Global legal frameworks against violence and hate speech

Lack of food, water & housing
#1 Effective international cooperation

Health and Disease
#3 Effective international coordination

Political participation and democratic principles
#3 Global support for democracy

Migration and Mobility
#1 Effective global/ regional coordination
#2 Focusing on development in source countries

Artificial Intelligence and New technologies
#2 Creating a global ethical framework
#4 Preventing crimes conducted online

Traditions and Culture at risk
#2 Promoting intercultural exchange and respect for diversity

TOP SOLUTION

International Cooperation

Peace is founded upon international cooperation: multilateral dialogue, mutual understanding, and the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity. It was this very principle on which UNESCO and the wider United Nations system were built in the wake of two devastating world wars. Since then, the world has only become more interconnected, and the challenges we face, from the COVID-19 pandemic, to violent conflict and climate change, more universal.

Yet there is increasing attention to the perception that, at the very time that this cooperation is most needed, many people are turning away from multilateralism, questioning its effectiveness and even its relevance.

However, the results of the survey make clear that international cooperation is viewed almost universally as an important tool, providing a critical platform for identifying and discussing global and transnational challenges and formulating and implementing effective solutions.

When asked to choose solutions to the global challenges, respondents frequently highlighted international cooperation, and solutions facilitated by international cooperation. These included direct calls for effective international cooperation, coordination and dialogue, as well as global frameworks, intercultural exchange, solidarity, and focus on development. Respondents also underlined their strong support when directly asked about the importance of international cooperation.

Assessing Confidence in Multilateralism

In addition to the challenge questions, all respondents in the global sample were asked how important they thought it would be for countries to work together over the next 10 years to address the global challenges, as well as how confident they were that the world would be able to effectively address them.

A huge majority (95%) of global respondents said that international cooperation was either *very important* (80%) or *important* (15%), while only 3% of the world selected *somewhat important*, and 1% said *not important.* At 95% agreement, there was very little variation by region or demographics (ranging from 92% to 97%).

On the other hand, only 25% of the global sample indicated that they were *very confident* (4%) or *confident* (21%) that the world will be able to effectively address its global challenges. Just over half of global respondents selected *somewhat confident* (52%), while 23% were *not confident.* The region with the highest level of confidence was Sub-Saharan

REGIONAL CONSENSUS

Western Europe was the region with the highest and most consistent support for international cooperation-related solutions across challenges.

The only challenge where this was not the case was **migration & mobility**, for which Sub-Saharan Africa chose *effective global/regional coordination* (69%) slightly higher. In general, however, support was high across regions.

Africa (41%), followed by Asia and the Pacific (36%), the Arab States (25%), Latin America and the Caribbean (25%), North America and Western Europe (20%), and Eastern Europe (18%).

Rebuilding Confidence in Multilateralism

Taken together, the results suggest that the current crisis of confidence in multilateralism is not due to a lack of appreciation of its importance for responding to the world's challenges. Respondents were clearly not only aware of the global nature of our common challenges, which increasingly transcend borders and necessitate a collective response, but they also recognised the inherent and considerable advantages of international cooperation.

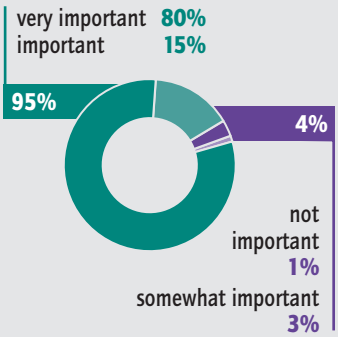
Rather, the results of the survey point to a lack of faith that the promise of multilateralism will actually be achievable. Further understanding this dynamic is critically important for multilateral institutions the world over to be able to function to their fullest potential. The survey results support the notion that, of the hurdles faced by multilateralism, one of the most paramount to overcome will be rebuilding public confidence in the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation itself. While there are many varied approaches to achieving this increase in confidence, two important steps include: firstly, reforming multilateral institutions and mechanisms; and secondly, better communicating to the public on the advantages and successes of consensus-building and cooperative action.

In saying this, the challenges confronted are no doubt large, complex, and in many ways overwhelming – a fact not lost on respondents. However, these challenges are not without solutions. The international nature of the challenges faced means that paths to overcoming them must incorporate open dialogue, intercultural exchange, mutual understanding, and multilateral platforms that bring everyone to the table. Ultimately, this requires international bodies with legitimacy based on consensus and collective approaches, which can engage with other key stakeholders, including civil society, in the pursuit of common solutions.

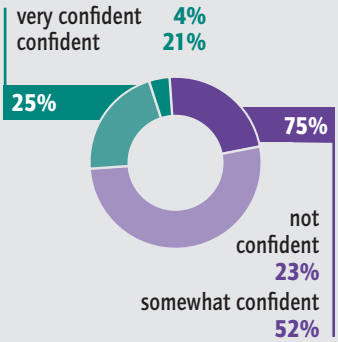
However, such approaches depend on collective trust in multilateralism to fulfill its mandates, to avoid a self-fulfilling prophecy that sees the lack of faith in question cause people to pull back from multilateral efforts, further undermining them. Survey responses help us confront this paradox: according to the data, the challenge for multilateral systems is not convincing people that international cooperation is a necessary solution, rather that it is an effective one.

Doing so, and thereby bolstering humanity's collective belief in the power of international cooperation, hinges on multilateralism that goes beyond the symbolic to deal in inclusive, sustainable, tangible solutions, like the ones outlined throughout this report, across, across the spectrum of our global challenges.

How important do you think it will be for countries to work together over the next 10 years to address the challenges you selected?



How confident are you that the world will be able to effectively address the challenges you selected?



AREAS OF SOCIETY WE WILL MOST NEED TO RETHINK IN LIGHT OF COVID-19
Choose up to three

Nicholas JEFFREYS

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Administration and Management

"In such a critical health situation, factors around leadership, management, communication, and engagement are crucial in ensuring delivery of our mandate and commitments. The Strategic Transformation has helped us achieve this, highlighting change management initiatives to improve delivery, efficiency, and accountability. We have also focused on having a well-functioning organizational structure, building capacity in our people, and importantly, strengthening our organizational culture."

Building Back Better in the time of COVID-19

The World in 2030 survey was launched in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global public health crisis that has resulted in devastating sickness and loss of life as well as socioeconomic upheaval, revealing and deepening inequalities within and between countries. As the severity of the crisis became apparent, calls immediately began for inclusive reflection on the kind of world that should emerge when the crisis ended, with many suggesting that entire sectors of society would need to be rethought and restructured from the ground up.

> As the world begins to look at what "building back better" really means, in a broader context of challenges beyond the pandemic, these survey results provide some illuminating ideas for where we should start.

In order to gain insights into respondents' thoughts on this, a targeted question was included in the survey, allowing all survey participants to choose up to three areas of society they felt were most in need of rethinking in light of the crisis. Interestingly, many of the results in this section reflected broader response patterns across global challenge questions, which highlighted climate change and biodiversity loss, and top solutions education, science and international cooperation. In revealing this connection through their survey responses, respondents created **a strong link between reflection and action**. As the world begins to look at what "building back better" really means, in a broader context of challenges beyond the pandemic, these survey results provide some illuminating ideas for where we should start.

#1 Education and Learning

As the pandemic has spread, UNESCO data shows that closures of educational institutions have impacted 1.6 billion students around the world, as they and their teachers have had to adjust their approaches to and methods of education and learning. The pandemic has subsequently highlighted inequalities across education, in issues like the digital divide – particularly stark in Africa – and the risk that students, including an estimated 11 million girls, may not go back to school at all after the pandemic. There is a serious risk this crisis will wipe out decades of global progress made in education.

Survey results, which have consistently pointed to education as a solution (See *Top Solution: Education*, p.36), are indicative of the weight the global community places on the right for everyone to receive a quality education. Recognising the important role of education as a solution to our global challenges, the threats that it has faced during the pandemic raise great concern. In identifying education and learning as a key area requiring both reflection and action, respondents have underlined the necessity for innovative and concrete solutions to ensure learning never stops.

#2 The Relationship between Humans and Nature

The emergence of COVID-19 has underscored the increasingly fraught relationship between humans and the natural world, and the immediate health risks posed by unhealthy intersections of the two. For example, zoonoses, which are diseases or infections transmissible from animals to humans (such as coronaviruses), are one result of unhealthy human encroachment on nature, such as in wild spaces, food systems, and illicit animal trafficking.

The emergence of this urgent global health crisis has also prompted reflection on its parallels with the twin crises of **climate change and biodiversity loss**, which carry their own attendant public health implications. Links between biodiversity loss and increased pandemic risk are increasingly well understood, while climate risk factors that directly impact health and safety, food security and the liveability of the planet are becoming more evident as time becomes more pressing. In not only highlighting the importance of rethinking our relationship with nature, but also choosing climate change and biodiversity loss as the top global challenge (p.14), respondents call on the global community to both reflect and act on these issues.

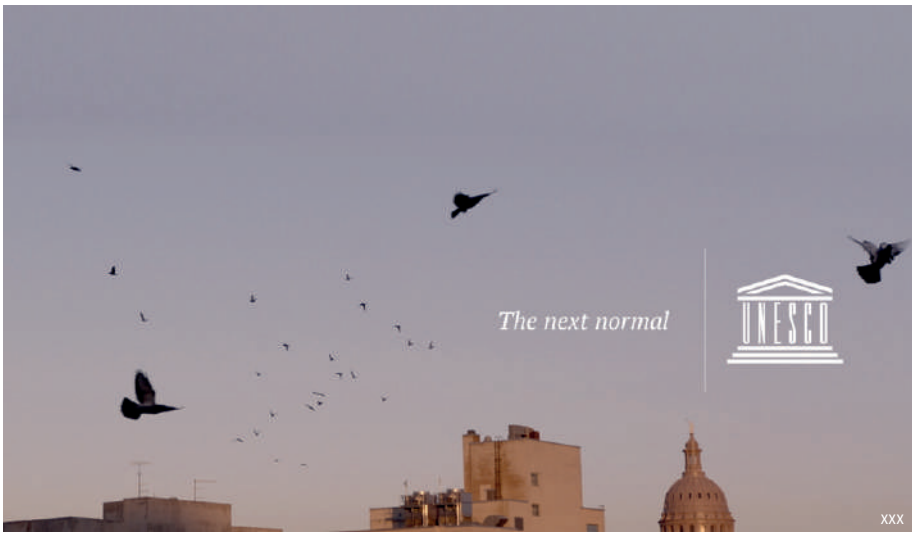
#3 Scientific Cooperation and the Sharing of Research

Today, the world is in urgent need of science. Throughout the pandemic, the issue of scientific cooperation and the sharing of research has become more prevalent in public discourse as scientists around the world share knowledge on the virus, and the development of vaccines. In addition, decision-makers and policymakers rely on the availability of reliable scientific information to inform evidence-based decisions, while citizens with access to facts are able to make more informed decisions for the health of themselves and their communities, and to factcheck and prevent the spread of disinformation.

Work to address scientific cooperation and the sharing of research should fulfil the human right to science, bridge gaps in science, technology and innovation, and ensure that scientific information is reliable and accessible. Survey respondents have reflected this by not only identifying scientific cooperation and the sharing of research as one of the top areas to be rethought in light of the pandemic, but also by frequently calling for science and science-based solutions to global challenges throughout the survey. (See *Top Solution: Science*, p.38).

#4 International Cooperation

Recognising the vital importance of international coordination and cooperation in this global health crisis has highlighted for many the importance of international cooperation in addressing global challenges outside the pandemic. Throughout the survey, respondents identified a need a need for international cooperation to deal with, for instance, health and disease, climate change and loss of biodiversity, migration and mobility, and lack of food, water and housing (See *Top Solution: International Cooperation*, p.40). In the midst of such an international crisis, the importance of effective multilateralism cannot be understated.



UNESCO TAKES ACTION COVID-19 RESPONSE

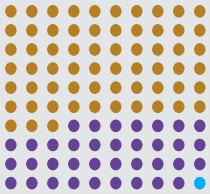
The COVID-19 pandemic has had considerable real-world impacts in all areas of UNESCO's mandate. UNESCO was quick to respond from the outset of the pandemic to promote international scientific cooperation, maintain learning and cultural life in the face of widespread lockdowns, safeguard human rights, and ensure populations have access to potentially life-saving information. Areas as varied as the preservation of heritage, the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, and the safety of journalists were all greatly challenged by the pandemic, requiring urgent actions.

UNESCO's response was structured around four main pillars: mobilising international cooperation and high-level policy dialogues, advocacy and awareness-raising, policy and technical support, and generation of data and analysis to support access to information and inform policy development.

Many of UNESCO's key responses have aligned with the issues highlighted by survey respondents. For instance, the Global Education Coalition has mobilised international cooperation to ensure continuation of learning. Several online advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, like #LearningNeverStops and #DontGoViral, have enabled UNESCO to collaborate on and share key messages and information through education and social media. The #Resiliart initiative has hosted more than 200 grassroots debates and movements in over 100 countries, where cultural actors have shared their needs and ideas for solutions. Further, UNESCO raised awareness of the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups, such as through research and advocacy relating to the risks for indigenous peoples and the solutions they have to offer. In addition, UNESCO has continued to serve as a laboratory of ideas, supporting initiatives such as the New Normal campaign, the Futures of Education programme, and the UNESCO Forum: Imagining the World to Come, which have challenged global citizens to rethink the world post-COVID-19.

Delivering a comprehensive and strategic response to the COVID-19 crisis has required UNESCO to respond efficiently, effective and creatively. Strengthening UNESCO's ability to do so has been one of the key aims of the Strategic Transformation.

DEMOGRAPHICS



Female
63% 9,452

Male
36% 5,317

Other gender
1% 190

GLOBAL CHALLENGES BY GENDER IDENTITY

IN FOCUS

Gender

For over 75 years, UNESCO has been at the forefront of efforts to support women's rights, women's empowerment, and gender equality. Gender equality refers to the achievement of equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities. It implies that everyone's interests, needs and priorities are taken into consideration in a gender inclusive manner. Gender equality is a fundamental human right, an enabler of inclusive peace, a necessary precondition for sustainable, people-centred development, and a goal in and of itself.

The World in 2030 survey results are strongly representative of women's views, with 63% of respondents identifying as women. 1% of respondents identified themselves as having a gender other than male or female. Global challenge responses across genders were largely similar; the ranked order of global challenges differed only slightly between groups, with women ranking **discrimination and inequality** second, and 10 percentage points higher than male respondents. Over half of respondents of a gender other than male or female also chose this challenge, likewise ranking it second. All genders identified **climate change and biodiversity loss** as the greatest challenge to peaceful societies over the coming decade.

→ Women called out gendered violence and barriers to engagement in decision-making and the labour market

Across the challenges, there were two key concerns and two key solutions that had a significantly large – more than 20 percentage point – difference in responses from men and women. These were, for **lack of decent work and opportunities,** the concern *women getting paid less and struggling to get ahead,* which women (44%) ranked third, and men (18%) ranked tenth and last, alongside the solution *ensuring gender equality in salary and job opportunities,* which women (54%) ranked second and men (31%) ranked seventh. Meanwhile, for **political participation and democratic principles**, women (45%) ranked *more women and girls in decision-making* fourth as a solution, while men (25%) ranked it ninth and last. Finally, for **violence and conflict**, women (50%) ranked the concern *violence against women and girls* third, while men (30%) ranked it eighth.

Recognising the important distinctions in recognition and prioritisation of gendered issues in the survey results allows us to reflect on the crucial importance of engaging men and boys in the promotion and pursuit of gender equality. Men and boys have a vital role to play in dismantling stereotypes, barriers to inclusion, and structures of oppression, as well as actively participating with women in the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and empowerment. Part of creating peace in the minds of men and women is the process of transforming mentalities to address the root causes and the consequences of gender inequalities, including gendered violence and barriers to engagement in decision-making and the labour market.

> "We need to ensure gender equality and the equal rights of the LGBTQI+ community.
>
> Woman, 25-34, Latin America

→ Women ranked discrimination and inequality second, and 10 percentage points higher as a global challenge – but within the challenge, concerns and solutions were shared

Importantly, where male respondents engaged with **discrimination and inequality** as a challenge, they frequently ranked gender-sensitive issues similarly to women, though with a lower proportion of respondents. Both women (72%) and men (61%) ranked *violence against women and minorities* first. Women ranked *discrimination against women and LGBT people* (40%) third and men fourth (37%). A larger distinction was made for *differences in learning opportunities for girls and boys,* with women (25%) ranking this seventh, and men (16%) eleventh. Importantly, both women (56%) and men (48%) ranked *ensuring gender equality in all areas of society* fourth as a solution.

This suggests that male respondents who did focus on the issue of **discrimination and inequality** were engaged with the gendered aspects of this challenge – it's just that male respondents more broadly were less willing to prioritise these aspects when comparing them with other concerns and solutions. This again speaks to the importance of engaging men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, as well as the importance of communicating on and engaging with women to share their experiences of discrimination and inequality across the spectrum of challenge areas.

→ Women tended to be more responsive to gender-sensitive issues overall

While global challenge ranking differed little, the distribution of concerns and solutions associated with each challenge gives us important insights. For instance, gender-sensitive concerns and solutions were sometimes not prioritised – for example, for each **artificial intelligence and new technologies, freedom of expression and disinformation, migration and mobility** and **lack of food, water and housing**[17], gender-sensitive concerns and solutions were ranked last or next-to-last, suggesting that more can be done to draw attention to the important gendered aspects of these challenges. In saying this, female respondents were at least six percentage points and often more than twice as likely to prioritise these particular issues – in fact, across all concerns and solutions, including those ranked more highly, women tended to be more responsive to gender-sensitive concerns and solutions.

UNESCO GLOBAL PRIORITY GENDER EQUALITY

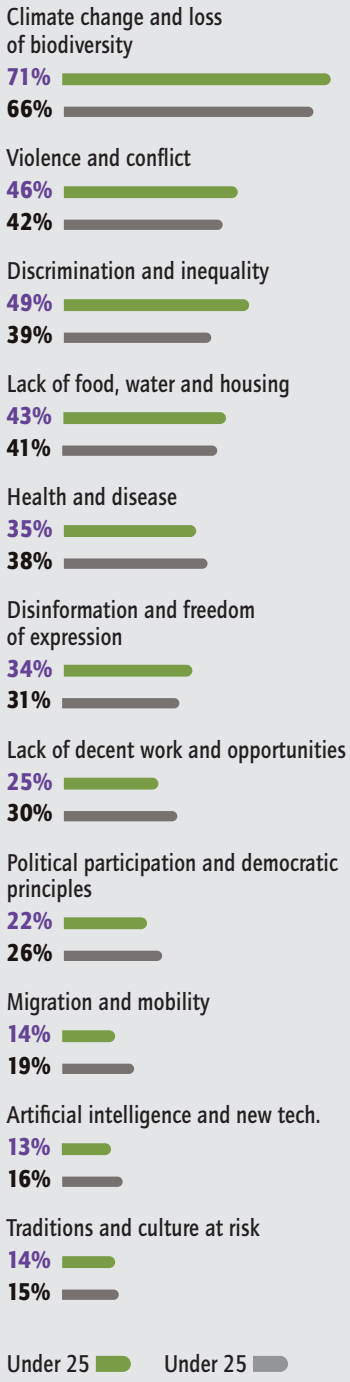
Gender equality is one of UNESCO's two Global Priorities (alongside *Africa*, see p.38). UNESCO's vision of gender equality is in line with the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and Sustainable Development Goal 5. As a Global Priority, gender equality is mainstreamed across all areas of UNESCO's work. As such, the Organization does a considerable amount of work in this area, recognising the important place of gender equality across a broad spectrum of global challenges. For instance, UNESCO addresses gender disparities and promotes equality throughout the education system and works to provide strong role models and build capacity for women in the sciences. It also fosters the inclusion of gender equality considerations in social inclusion and transformation policies and works to ensure that women and men equally enjoy the right to access, participate in, and contribute to cultural life. It further spearheads unique initiatives in the field of communication and information to empower women and girls, such as the development of Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM), the promotion of gender-sensitive Open Educational Resource policies and the protection of the safety of women journalists. UNESCO's work in gender equality is guided by its UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan: 2014-2021, 2019 revision.

DEMOGRAPHICS

5,226
respondents were under 25

63% were women
35% were men
2% were other genders
84% were students

GLOBAL CHALLENGES BY AGE GROUP



IN FOCUS

Youth

Youth have the creativity, the potential and the capacity to make change happen – for themselves, for their communities, and for the rest of the world. UNESCO works with young people and is committed to accompanying them to work together to drive social innovation and change, participate fully in the development of their societies, eradicate poverty and inequality, and foster a culture of peace.

Youth (63%) were more concerned than their older counterparts (57%) that young people aren't interested in their cultural heritage, and were also more likely to highlight engaging young people with their traditions as a solution (61% vs. 53%).

Because of UNESCO's strong focus on youth, and in recognition of the key role they play as actors of peace and sustainable development over the next decade and beyond, considerable effort was made to engage young respondents in the survey – resulting in 35% of respondents being under 25 (while young people between the ages of 15-25 account for about 16% of the global population). This has allowed the World in 2030 survey results to be strongly representative of youth perspectives.

Young peoples' top four global challenge picks were **climate change and biodiversity loss**, **discrimination and inequality**, **violence and conflict** and **lack of food, water and housing**. This differed primarily from the global sample in that **discrimination and inequality** was ranked before **violence and conflict**, with respondents under 25, like women, in fact more likely to choose this challenge than their older (or male) counterparts. . Interestingly, all four of the top challenges had a heavier proportion of votes from people under 25 than people over 25. Youth (22%) were marginally less confident than older respondents (26%) in the world's ability to address its global challenges.

→ Young people called for action on climate change and biodiversity loss, highlighting oceans and protected natural zones

Youth around the world are playing an important role in designing, co-producing knowledge, providing solutions, and raising awareness for climate action and environmental conservation. They also represent the generations – along with the generations to come – who will be the hardest hit by the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

When dealing with **climate change and biodiversity loss**, young people were most concerned about *increasing natural disasters and extreme weather* (72%), *pollution of the ocean and rising sea levels* (70%) and *loss of biodiversity and impact on people* (69%). They were more concerned about the ocean (70%) than their counterparts over 25 (59%). Importantly, young people ranked *less and less hope to be able to solve the problem* (44%) fourth in their list of concerns, compared to sixth for respondents over 25 (35%). Young people were also more likely to cite *creating protected natural zones* as a solution (31% vs. 22%).

Young people were far more concerned about discrimination against women and LGBT people (51% vs 32%).

→ Young people persistently highlighted discrimination and inequality and the challenges faced by vulnerable groups

While for the most part respondents under 25 ranked the global challenges similarly to their counterparts over 25, in addition to ranking **discrimination and inequality** second as opposed to fourth, across many of the challenges youth emphasised concerns and solutions associated with discrimination and inequality.

When dealing with **discrimination and inequality**, young respondents were most concerned about *violence against women and minorities* (70%), like older respondents. However, they put significantly more emphasis on their second ranked concern, *discrimination against women and LGBT people* (51%), rating it three places higher than older respondents (32%). Young people were also concerned about *increasing hate speech and harassment online* (46%) and *stereotypes or lack of diversity in the media* (35%).

When asked about **violence and conflict**, young people were more concerned about *violence against women and girls* (48% vs. 41%), ranking it third (tied with *violence against minorities and vulnerable groups*), rather than seventh. They were more likely to cite *programmes against gender-based violence* (28% vs. 21%) as a solution. When looking at **political participation and democratic principles**, young people ranked *lack of justice when someone is wronged in my society* (34% vs. 27%) fifth, rather than eighth. When looking at **disinformation and freedom of expression,** they were more likely to choose *promoting respect for women in online spaces* (21% vs. 15%) as a solution.

→ Young people want to break down barriers to engagement in decision-making and the labour market

Young people also frequently cited concerns about barriers to engagement in decision-making and the labour market. When dealing with **artificial intelligence and new technologies,** they cited *increasing difficulty to find a decent job* (38%) almost twice as often as older respondents (22%). When looking at **lack of decent work and opportunities**, they cited both *not being able to find decent work* (58%) and *not having the same chance as others to get ahead* (50%) 10 percentage points higher than older respondents. When looking at **political participation and democratic principles**, they were more concerned about *not being listened to or being part of decision-making* (29% vs. 24%) and were almost twice as supportive of *more/ better media coverage of local issues* (38% vs. 21%). When looking at **disinformation and freedom of expression**, they were more concerned about *being less and less able to express [themselves] freely* (38% vs. 26%) and were almost twice as supportive of *support for artistic freedom* (27% vs. 15%).

UNESCO TAKES ACTION YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

UNESCO prioritizes its work with and for youth across all its programmes. In line with the Agenda 2030, UNESCO works on the premise that youth are key partners and actors for development and peace. The Organization supports constructive partnerships with and between youth organizations and stakeholders and oversees numerous youth initiatives, including in education and literacy, skills building, employability, and resilience (such as through the Global Skills Academy), and engaging youth on peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism. Some UNESCO youth projects include The UNESCO Youth Forum, which provides an innovative opportunity for youth to dialogue among themselves and with UNESCO; MAB Youth (UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme), which aims to engage with youth as actors of change by strengthening their presence in MAB Programme governance, engaging them with communities in their biosphere reserves, and empowering them to make their voices heard in global debate on biodiversity and climate change; and the Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network (YoU-CAN), currently in elaboration, which aims to promote and support youth climate action networks around the world.

> "I would say education plays a very important role. It is essential to teach critical thinking skills, alongside history and politics in school. Otherwise, young people won't be able to participate in decision-making in an informed and constructive way.

Woman, 15-20, Western Europe on Political Participation & Democratic Principles

DEMOGRAPHICS

1,304
respondents were indigenous

54% were women
45% were men
1% were other genders
30% were under 25
70% were 25 and over
39% came from Asia and the Pacific
19% came from Eastern Europe

GLOBAL CHALLENGES ACCORDING TO INDIGENOUS RESPONDENTS

Climate change and loss of biodiversity 59%

Violence and conflict 41%

Discrimination and inequality 31%

Lack of food, water and housing 39%

Health and disease 44%

Disinformation and freedom of expression 28%

Lack of decent work and opportunities 23%

Political participation and democratic principles 20%

Migration and mobility 21%

Artificial intelligence and new tech. 19%

Traditions and culture at risk 23%

30% of Sub-Saharan African respondents and 29% of Arab State respondents said they were a member of an Indigenous community.

IN FOCUS

Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples live in all regions of the world and own, occupy, or use some 22% of global land area. Numbering at least 370-500 million, indigenous peoples represent the greater part of the world's cultural diversity and have created and speak the major share of the world's almost 7000 languages, a large proportion of which are in danger of extinction. Many indigenous peoples continue to be confronted with marginalization, extreme poverty, and other human rights violations. At the same time, many of the solutions needed to address the world's challenges – and especially those related to environmental sustainability and the relationship between humans and nature – may lie within their traditions and cultures.

The top four global challenges according to indigenous respondents were **climate change and biodiversity loss**, **health and disease**, **violence and conflict**, and **lack of food, water and housing**. Alongside prioritising **health and disease,** indigenous respondents were much more likely 40% more likely to be concerned about **traditions and cultures at risk**, ranking it seventh (tied with **lack of decent work and opportunities**), compared to eleventh and last in the global sample.

HOW DO WE DEFINE 'INDIGENOUS'?

In view of their enormous cultural diversity, their diverse histories of interaction with other societies, and the broad spectrum of political contexts in which they live, the United Nations has agreed that no universal definition of 'indigenous peoples' be adopted. However, most operational definitions converge around a set of criteria that may include (a) maintenance of distinct social and cultural traits (such as languages, political and legal systems, or spirituality); (b) unique ties to ancestral territories and natural resources; (c) self-identification within a distinct cultural group; and (d) historical or continuing experiences of subjugation, dispossession and marginalization.

Terminology also varies according to national norms, legal traditions, and language, as well as differing social and cultural meanings. For instance, in African or Asian contexts, majority and minority populations may consider themselves to be indigenous relative to settler or immigrant communities, while in Pacific Small Island Developing States, most peoples fit within the rubric, but as the numeric majority may not identify as such. Given this complexity, for the purposes of this survey no definition of 'indigenous peoples' was supplied to respondents, who self-identified as indigenous when selecting the option 'I am a member of an indigenous community.'

Indigenous respondents were concerned about risks to culture and heritage

Indigenous respondents were the demographic group the most concerned about **traditions and cultures at risk.** 49% of indigenous respondents who chose this challenge were concerned about it in their local community, compared to 38% in the global sample. They were more concerned that *young people aren't interested in their cultural heritage* (64% vs. 59%), that *[their] culture is under attack* (24% vs. 18%), and that *gender roles and traditions [are] changing too quickly* (25% vs. 17%). They placed strong emphasis on *engaging young people with their traditions* (67% vs. 56%).

Indigenous peoples were the demographic group with the highest level of confidence that the world can overcome its collective challenges, at 34%, over 25% higher than the global sample (25%) and all other demographics groups (21-25%).

> We need education on the preservation and respect of flora, fauna, and ecosystems from primary education to university education.
>
> Indigenous man, 21-24, Latin America.
> *Translated from Spanish*

They were also more concerned about *the impacts [of* **climate change and biodiversity loss***] on culture and heritage* (23%) than the global sample (15%) and were the largest demographic group to support *promoting indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices* (17%) in response. They were more concerned about *attacks on culture and heritage* (24%) in situations of **violence and conflict** than the global sample (17%) and were more supportive of *protection of natural and cultural heritage and diversity* (31% vs. 26%) as a solution, also the largest demographic group to be so. They chose *support for digital creative industries, arts and culture* (35%) as a solution to **artificial intelligence and new technologies**, more often than the global sample (28%). They were the demographic group the most likely to cite *access to culture* (7%) as an area of society to be rethought after COVID-19.

INDIGENOUS SOLUTIONS TO CULTURE & TRADITIONS AT RISK

UNESCO TAKES ACTION
ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

UNESCO's broad mandate in and programmes across the fields of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information have important implications for indigenous peoples. UNESCO recognises indigenous peoples as stewards of the world's biological, cultural and linguistic diversity, and works with indigenous peoples to address the many challenges they face. UNESCO's transversal work with indigenous peoples is guided by the *UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples (2017)*, which underpins the environmental and social safeguard standards of the Organization. UNESCO highlights a number of key themes in its work with indigenous peoples: self-determination, and free, prior and informed consent; human rights and fundamental freedoms; equality and non-discrimination; cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge, and languages; gender equality; conservation, sustainable use and protection of the environment; and education and development with culture and identity.

An example of UNESCO's work with indigenous peoples is **UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) programme**, which promotes local and indigenous knowledge and its inclusion in global, regional and national climate science and environmental knowledge and policy processes. LINKS has been influential in ensuring that local and indigenous knowledge holders and their knowledge are included in contemporary science-policy-society fora on issues such as biodiversity assessment and management, climate change assessment and adaptation, natural disaster preparedness, and sustainable development. Working at local, national and global levels, LINKS works to strengthen indigenous peoples and local communities, foster transdisciplinary engagements with scientists and policymakers, and pilot novel methodologies to further understandings of the environment, climate change impacts, adaptation, and mitigation.

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

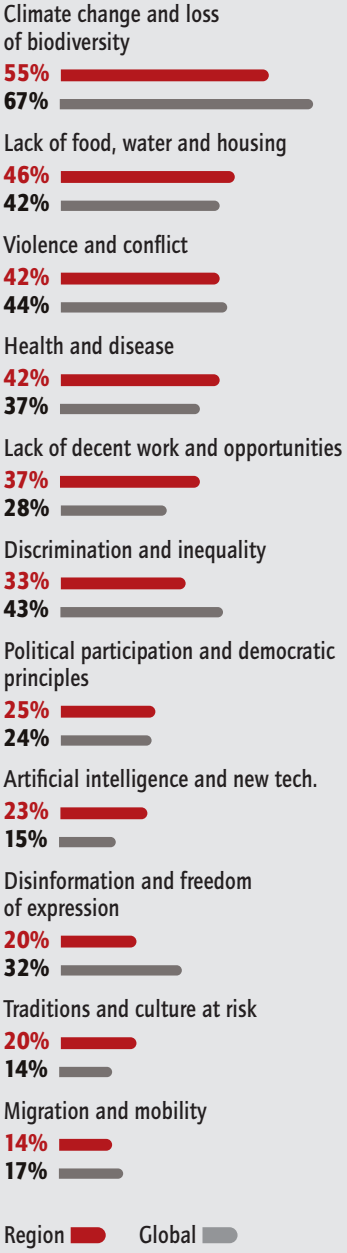
457

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **39%** were women
- **61%** were men
- **1%** were other genders
- **12%** were under 25
- **89%** were 25 and over
- **30%** were indigenous
- **20%** were from a minority group

Note: See Methodology for an explanation of analysis and reporting methods

GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



REGIONAL INSIGHTS

Sub-Saharan Africa

The top challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) was **climate change and biodiversity loss** (55%). SSA respondents placed more weight on **lack of food, water and housing** (46%), ranking it second as opposed to fourth, and **lack of decent work and opportunities** (+9%), ranking it fifth as opposed to seventh. They also highlighted **artificial intelligence and new technologies** (+8%) and **traditions and culture at risk** (+6%).

Sub-Saharan Africa was the top region to call for global campaigns to promote peace and non-violence (63%, +26pp.) in response to violence and conflict.

In keeping with highlighting **lack of food, water and housing**, and recognising its material impacts, we see some key patterns emerge across the range of SSA responses. For instance, **Sub-Saharan African respondents were particularly concerned about concrete issues associated with both environmental crises and violence and conflict**, like *people losing their homes or livelihoods* (46%, +8pp.), *impacts [of climate change and biodiversity loss] on culture and heritage* (23%, +8pp.), and *fighting over natural resources* (46%, +5pp.). SSA respondents were also more concerned than the global sample about both **climate change and biodiversity loss** (56%, +15pp.) and **violence and conflict** (67%, +17pp.) in their country or region, and in their local community (42%, +11pp. and 44%, +11pp. respectively). **Sub-Saharan African respondents likewise highlighted concrete support mechanisms as solutions across the board,** including *support for organisations working with migrants* (36%, +11pp.) and *support for digital creative industries, arts and culture* (46%, +18pp.).

Sub-Saharan African respondents were concerned about corruption, justice, and political participation, while being less concerned about nationalism (20%, -9pp.), polarization (18%, -18pp.), and *people deliberately spreading false information* (50%, -11pp.). They highlighted *corruption and lack of transparency in society* (70%, +12pp.), *leaders and public figures not being held accountable for their actions* (65%, +13pp.), *not being listened to or being part of decision-making* (38%, +12pp.), and *lack of justice when someone is wronged in my society* (37%, +8pp.). They disproportionately identified *public participation in decision-making* (68%, +15pp.) and *creating spaces for discussions of local issues* (42%, +13pp.) as solutions.

Sub-Saharan African respondents frequently highlighted inequality and human rights, like the *human rights of migrants and refugees* (75%, +14pp.), *the consequences [of climate change] being*

HIGHLIGHTS

SSA respondents were more concerned about *not enough healthy or good quality food* (64%, +15pp.) than the global sample. When asked for solutions, respondents from this region place greater emphasis on *support for associations and organizations working in these areas* (65%, +13pp.) and *promoting traditional agricultural practices/knowledge* (52%, +10pp.) (a solution they also highlighted in response to **climate change and biodiversity loss**, 21%, +8pp.). When asked about their level of concern, respondents from this region were more concerned about their country or region (67%, +12pp.), and their community (51%, +19pp.).

felt most by women or minority groups (35%, +10pp.), *violence against women and girls* (50%, +7pp.), and *attacks and harassment of women and women journalists* (20%, +6pp.). This was not always consistent, as some respondents were less concerned about *discrimination against women and LGBT people* (19%, -21pp.) and *women getting paid less and struggling to get ahead* (27%, -8pp.). **When looking at health and disease,** SSA was the region the most concerned about *stigma and discrimination* (42%, +12pp.) and *sexual and reproductive health* (32%, +10pp.), while also giving the most support to *ensuring sexual and reproductive health rights and education* (29%, +10pp.).

Sub-Saharan Africa was one of the regions that showed the most support for education solutions, highlighting in particular *effective health education* (65%, +7pp.), *teaching sustainability through education* (66%, +6pp.), *peace and non-violence through education* (69%, +5pp.), and most notably *integrating culture and heritage into education programmes* (82%, +14pp.) in response to **traditions and cultures at risk.** Sub-Saharan African respondents were particularly keen to use education as a capacity-building tool for employment. For **lack of decent work and opportunities**, these respondents were overwhelmingly concerned with *education systems not teaching the skills needed to get by* (82%, +21pp.), as well as *not having the skills needed to get by in the future* (45%, +9pp.). In response, they highlighted *teaching digital and 21st century skills* (59%, +24pp.), and *education focused on employability* (53%, +18pp.).

Sub-Saharan African respondents also identified the roles of science and technology in addressing challenges, highlighting such solutions as *focusing on [technological] solutions for health and the environment* (43%, +5pp.), *filtering [disinformation] through algorithms and artificial intelligence,* (26%, +8pp.), *developing new technologies and cultural platforms* (35%, +9pp.), and *using new technologies to help [health/disease] response efforts* (44%, +11pp.). They ranked *scientific cooperation and sharing of research* (33%) second as an area of society to be rethought in light of COVID-19, while also placing double the emphasis on *access to technology and the Internet* (30%, +16pp.) (for more information, see *Top Solution: Science*, p.38).

UNESCO TAKES ACTION

THE BIOSPHERE AND HERITAGE OF LAKE CHAD (BIOPALT) PROJECT

Located at the crossroads of several countries, the Lake Chad basin is a crucial source of fresh water that supports more than 45 million people. Between 1960 and 1985, the lake's surface area was reduced by 95%, leading to significant damage to ecosystems. It has been expanding since the 2000s. The challenges here are many, from conflict, migration, and poverty, to biodiversity, inclusive governance, and science-based decision-making.

This project employs a wide range of activities, from establishing an early warning system for droughts and floods to restoring degraded ecosystems such as spawning grounds, spirulina and the Kouri cow. The project works on income-generating activities by promoting a green economy and valorising the basin's natural resources. The project also accompanies Member States in preparation for the creation of a transboundary biosphere reserve and nomination to the World Heritage List. The first biosphere reserve, Hadejia Nguru Bade, was designated in October 2020.

LACK OF FOOD, WATER AND HOUSING (46%) IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

TOP CONCERNS

Not enough safe drinking water
73%

Not enough healthy or good quality food
64%

Impact of disasters or climate change
58%

Not enough food
47%

Risk of problems getting worse in the future
43%

TOP SOLUTIONS

Support for associations and organizations working in these areas
65%

Education about science and technology
55%

Promoting traditional agricultural practices/ knowledge
52%

Effective international cooperation
44%

Investing in new technological solutions
43%

Firmin Edouard MATOKO

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations

"Africa is a continent of challenges which can be outweighed by its opportunities, in particular its youth population. In this regard, it is heartening to see Sub-Saharan African respondents highlighting the importance of science and technology in addressing health and environment challenges, areas where young people have an increasing role to play."

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

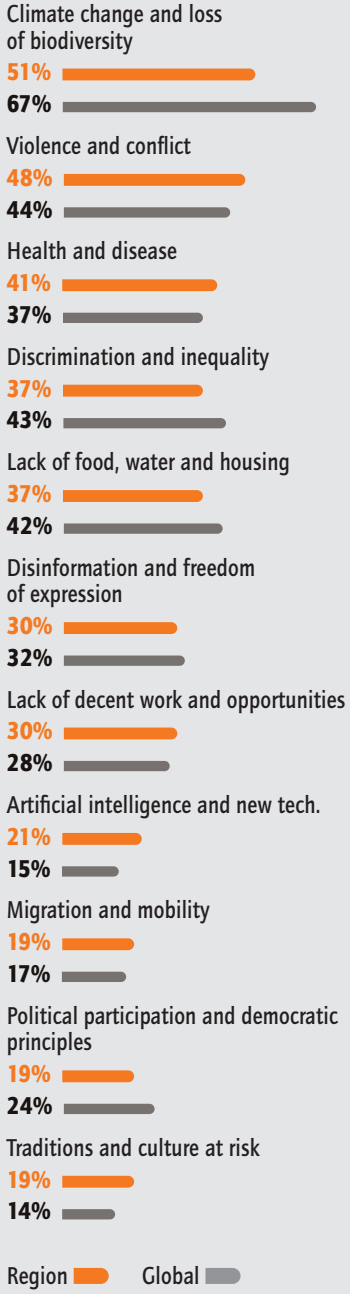
377

DEMOGRAPHICS

51% were women
48% were men
1% were other genders
25% were under 25
75% were 25 and over
29% were indigenous

Note: See Methodology for an explanation of analysis and reporting methods

GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN THE ARAB STATES



REGIONAL INSIGHTS

The Arab States

The key distinction between the responses of Arab State respondents and those of the global sample lies in their concern regarding **violence and conflict:** while **climate change and biodiversity loss** (51%) still ranked first for this group, **violence and conflict** (48%) followed very closely behind, with the most votes of any region. **Health and Disease** (41%) was ranked third, rather than fifth like the global sample.

Arab State respondents emphasised technological solutions and solutions related to public participation.

Even outside the dedicated challenge, Arab State respondents consistently highlighted conflict and violence-related concerns, like *intercultural or religious tensions getting worse (53%, +15pp.), my culture is under attack* (31%, +13pp.) and *migrants bringing terrorism, crime or violence* (36%, +10pp.). They were the second-to-top region most concerned about the *impact of conflict* (32%) on **lack of food, water and housing**, after Western Europe (33%), and followed closely by Eastern Europe (31%), and when looking at **climate change and biodiversity loss,** Arab State respondents were the regional group the most concerned about the *risk of violence and conflict* (52%, +8pp.) associated with this challenge.

Across challenges, Arab State respondents frequently highlighted technological solutions. For example, they put 26% more emphasis on *developing new technological solutions* (31%, +8pp.) in response to **climate change and biodiversity loss**, 37% more emphasis on *using new technologies to help response efforts* (52%, +19pp.) in response to **health and disease**, and 20% more emphasis on *investing in new technological solutions* (56%, +11pp.) in response to **lack of food, water and housing.**

Arab State respondents also emphasised solutions promoting public participation. For instance, they called for *public participation in decision-making* in response to **artificial intelligence and new technologies** (30%, +6pp.) and **political participation and democratic principles** (60%, +7pp.), for which they also highlighted *supporting local and community institutions* (44%, +13pp.). When dealing with **disinformation and freedom of expression,** they were more than 40% more supportive of *more effective citizen journalists* (31%, +13pp.) than the global sample. They were also the top region to call for *options for public participation* (25%, +8pp.) in response to **traditions and culture at risk.**

Respondents from the Arab States also highlighted several concrete education solutions, as well as solutions focused on global awareness and reflection. For instance, in response to **lack of work and opportunities,** they highlighted *teaching digital and 21st century skills* (42%, +7pp.), *education focused on employability* (39%, +4pp.), and *opportunities for learning and training later in life* (52%, +11pp.), for which they were also the top regional group. They highlighted *ensuring recognition of education and training everywhere* (38%, +8pp.) in response to **migration and mobility,** while also emphasising *public awareness campaigns on benefits* (27%, +6pp.). In response to **disinformation and freedom of expression,** they emphasised *global awareness campaigns* (39%, +11pp.), and in response to **traditions and culture at risk** they were they top regional group to call for both *reflection on the impact of globalisation on identities* (43%, +10pp) and *engaging young people with their traditions* (68%, +12pp.), the latter of which boasts a strong educational component.

VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT (48%) IN THE ARAB STATES

TOP CONCERNS

Armed conflict or civil war
65%

Radicalisation, terrorism and violent extremism
59%

Global conflict and nuclear weapons
51%

Violence against minorities and vulnerable groups
41%

Fighting over natural resources
39%

TOP SOLUTIONS

Peace and non-violence through education
58%

Promoting dialogue and cooperation between countries
47%

Global campaigns to promote peace and non-violence
46%

Promoting respect for all cultures
43%

Global legal frameworks against violence and hate speech
38%

HIGHLIGHTS

Respondents from the Arab States were the regional group the most worried about **violence and conflict** (+8%). Respondents from the region were 24% more concerned about the challenge in their country or region (66%, +16pp.) than the global sample. They were the region the most concerned about *armed conflict and civil war* (65%, +23pp.), and also expressed the most concern of any region about *attacks on culture and heritage* (27%, +10pp.). When looking at this solution, respondents were more supportive than the global sample of *global campaigns to promote peace and non-violence* (46%, +9pp.), though not as supportive as Sub-Saharan African respondents (63%). This region was the most supportive region of *restricting violent content online* (28%, +7pp.).

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

2,671

Asia	90%	2,404
Pacific	10%	267

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 61% were women
- 38% were men
- 1% were other genders
- 39% were under 25
- 61% were 25 and over
- 19% were indigenous

Note: See Methodology for an explanation of analysis and reporting methods

GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

REGIONAL INSIGHTS

Asia and the Pacific

Climate change and biodiversity loss (65%) was the top concern in Asia and the Pacific, with other global challenges falling in a similar rank order, with the exception of three challenges: **health and disease** (47%), which ranked second compared to fifth in the global sample, **Artificial Intelligence and new technologies** (20%), ranking ninth, and **traditions and culture at risk** (19%), ranking tenth. **Migration and mobility** (10%) was ranked last.

When looking at **artificial intelligence and new technologies**, Asian-Pacific respondents were again more concerned about their country or region (57%, +10pp.), their local community (44%, +8pp.), and themselves or

While Asian-Pacific respondents often emphasised localised impacts for many of the challenges, they were also one of the most hopeful regions, with 36% citing confidence that the world could address its challenges.

their families (56%, +7pp.). Respondents from Asia and the Pacific were the regional group most concerned about *not having the skills I need to keep up* (31%, +8pp.), the most supportive of *education on ethics, online safety and privacy* (63%, +5pp.), and also highlighted *support for digital creative industries, arts and culture* (34%, +6pp.), like Sub-Saharan Africa. When responding to **traditions and culture at risk**, responses from Asian-Pacific respondents did not differ greatly from the global sample.

When dealing with climate change and biodiversity loss, Asian-Pacific respondents highlighted localised impacts, natural disaster risk and the important place of culture. Asian-Pacific respondents who chose this challenge were the regional group the most concerned about *increasing natural disasters and extreme weather* (80%, +7pp.), and were also more concerned about the impact of this challenge on their country or region (54%, +13pp.), their local communities (41%, +10pp.), and themselves or their families (48%, +9pp.). They highlighted concern about the *impact on culture and heritage* (21%, +6pp.), and placed emphasis on both *protection of cultural heritage and diversity* (26%, +5pp.) and *promoting indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices* (18%, +5pp.) as solutions.

Asian-Pacific respondents placed emphasis on quality media coverage in response to multiple challenges, including **discrimination and inequality,** where they highlighted *fair and balanced media coverage and representation* (44%, +15pp.) as a solution, and **political participation and democratic values,** where they highlighted *more/ better media coverage of local issues* (34%, +8pp.). They were also the region the most concerned about the *(negative) impact of social media and the Internet* (36%, +6pp.) in relation to this challenge, and also in relation to **disinformation and freedom of expression** (59%, +12pp.).

HEALTH AND DISEASE (47%) IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

TOP CONCERNS

Impact on the economy and employment
63%

Not knowing which info to believe or who to trust
51%

Effects on vulnerable groups in society
46%

Poor leadership stopping us responding effectively
44%

TOP SOLUTIONS

Sharing of research and scientific knowledge
61%

Effective health education
58%

Effective international coordination
51%

Ensuring access to reliable and accurate information
45%

Ensuring a healthy relationship with nature
40%

HIGHLIGHTS

Asian-Pacific respondents were 10 percentage points more concerned about **health & disease** at both a country or regional level (64%) and a local community level (50%), and 6 percentage points more concerned about themselves or their family (52%) than was the global sample. Asian-Pacific respondents were more concerned about *stigma and discrimination* (35%, +5pp.), ranking this higher than *effects of confinement and social distancing* (28%, -6pp.). These respondents also ranked *ensuring access to reliable and accurate information* (45%) slightly higher than *ensuring a healthy relationship with nature* (40%), which came in fifth. When looking at **lack of food, water and housing**, Asian-Pacific respondents were 20% more concerned about *not enough healthy or good quality food* (62%, +13pp.) than the global sample.

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

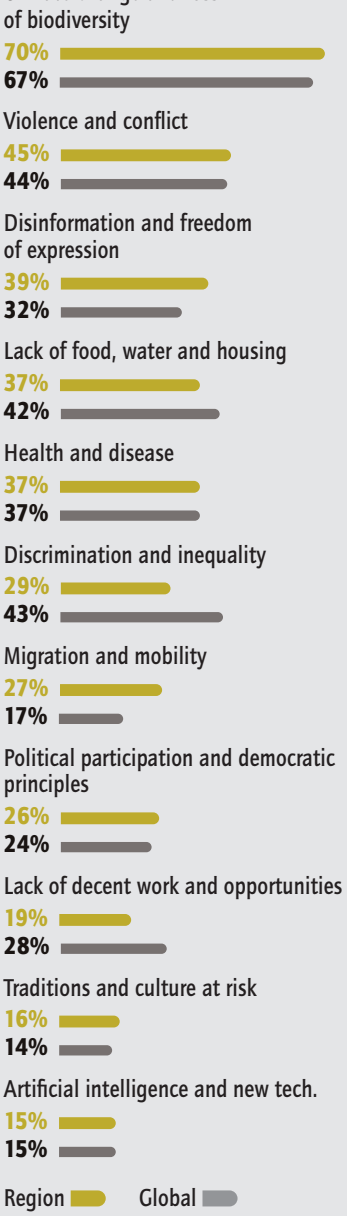
1,715

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 62% were women
- 36% were men
- 1% were other
- 40% were under 25
- 60% were 25 and over
- 20% said high school was their education level

Note: See Methodology for an explanation of analysis and reporting methods

GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN EASTERN EUROPE



REGIONAL INSIGHTS

Eastern Europe

The top challenge in Eastern Europe was **climate change and biodiversity loss** (70%). There were several differences between Eastern European respondents' ranking of the remaining challenges, and those of the global sample: **discrimination and inequality** (29%) ranked sixth, rather than third, while **disinformation and freedom of expression** ranked third, rather than sixth. **Migration and mobility** (27%) also ranked higher as a challenge in this region, coming in seventh.

Eastern European respondents were particularly concerned about disinformation and quality media coverage, across all challenges. In addition to those issues highlighted in **disinformation and freedom of expression,** when looking at **political participation and democratic principles** Eastern European respondents highlighted *increasing difficulty in knowing who is telling the truth* (49%, +9pp.), ranking it second rather than fourth. They also cited *not knowing which information to believe or who to trust* (62%, +11pp.) as their top concern when dealing with **health and disease.** Respondents from this region were the first to highlight *professional and less sensational media coverage* (36%, +6pp.) as a solution to **violence and conflict,** *fair and balanced media coverage and representation* (38%, +9pp.) to address **discrimination and inequality**, and *fair media coverage of migration and migrants* (33%, +6pp.). They also highlighted *more/ better media coverage of local issues* (33%, +7pp.) as a solution, and were the top region to choose *access to reliable information* (36%, +9pp.) as an area to be rethought in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eastern European respondents were particularly concerned about disinformation and quality media coverage, across all challenges.

Eastern European respondents were the most concerned about migration and mobility and had an approach to the challenge that differed significantly from the global sample.

Eastern European respondents were the most concerned about migration and mobility (27%, +10pp.) and had an approach to the challenge that differed significantly from the global sample. While the top concerns in the global sample were *human rights of migrants and refugees* followed by *political backlash in the countries receiving migrants*, the top concern cited by respondents in Eastern Europe who chose this challenge were *migrants not being compatible with the culture of the countries receiving them* (68%, +33pp.), followed by *migrants bringing terrorism, crime or violence* (56%, +30pp.). Eastern European respondents were also slightly more concerned about *climate change making the situation worse* (50%, +6pp.) than the global sample. They were half as concerned about *human rights of migrants and refugees* (31%, -30pp.), and were also less concerned about each *human trafficking or sexual exploitation of migrants* (34%, -12pp.) and *risks faced by migrant women* (8%, -12pp.). Eastern European respondents were the most concerned about this in their country or region (63%, +12pp.), though only 26% cited concern about this in their local community. Eastern European respondents were less supportive of *promoting respect for all cultures and diversity* (28%, -19pp.) and *support for integration into host communities* (26%, -14pp.), instead highlighting *focusing on development in source countries* (55%, +7pp.). Eastern European respondents were the top group to cite this solution.

DISINFORMATION AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (39%) IN EASTERN EUROPE

TOP CONCERNS

Increasing difficulty to know what is true and what is false
72%

People deliberately spreading false information
59%

Negative impact of Internet and social media
42%

Leaders attacking the media for criticizing them fairly
37%

Spread of anti-democratic messages
33%

TOP SOLUTIONS

Education to promote critical thinking and respect
84%

Support for quality journalism and fact-checking
66%

Building trust in science and science-based decisions
46%

Stronger penalties and legal frameworks
36%

Global monitoring and research
27%

HIGHLIGHTS

Eastern Europe was the region most concerned about *increasing difficulty to know what is true and what is false* (72%, +6pp.), and placed more emphasis on *leaders attacking the media for criticising them fairly* (37%, +5pp.). These respondents prioritised *attacks and harassment of women and women journalists* (6%, -8pp.) and *promoting respect for women in online spaces* (9%, -8pp.) the least of all regions. They were the most supportive region of *global monitoring and research* (27%, +2pp.).

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

4,967

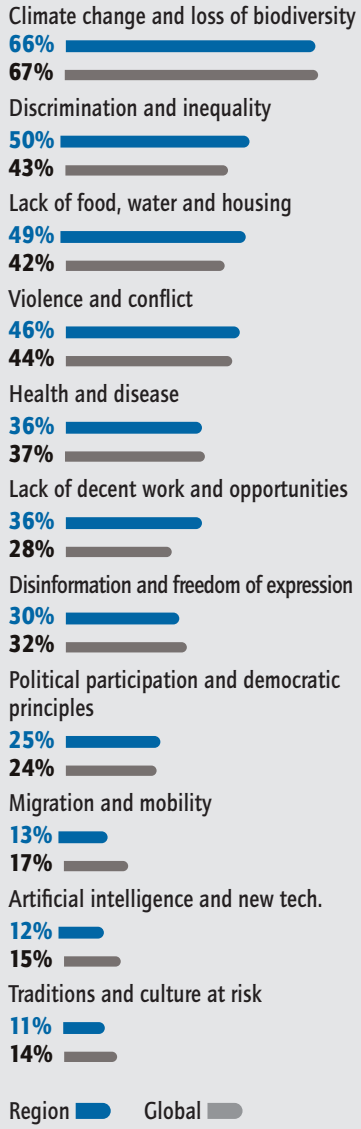
Latin America	97%	4,817
Caribbean	3%	150

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **64%** were women
- **35%** were men
- **1%** were other genders
- **41%** were under 25
- **58%** were 25 and over
- **19%** were from a minority group
- **20%** said vocationnal training was their education level

Note: See Methodology for an explanation of analysis and reporting methods

GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



REGIONAL INSIGHTS

Latin America and the Caribbean

Climate change and biodiversity loss was the top challenge in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). LAC respondents placed more emphasis on **discrimination and inequality** (50%)**,** ranking it second, and **lack of food, water and housing** (49%), ranking it third, as well as on **lack of decent work and opportunities** (36%), ranking it fifth with **health and disease,** rather than seventh.

LAC respondents placed major emphasis on concerns and solutions related to women's rights and gender equality across challenges. In addition to those issues stressed in **discrimination and inequality,** LAC was the top region to highlight *violence against women and girls* (55%, +12pp.), *women getting paid less and struggling to get ahead* (38%, +3pp.), and *attacks and harassment of women and women journalists* (19%, +5pp.), and the second highest to highlight *risks faced by migrant women* (26%, +6pp.). They were also the top region to call for *programmes against gender-based violence* (34%, +11pp.) and *ensuring gender equality in salary and job opportunities* (52%, +6pp.) as solutions. They consistently met or exceeded all other global rankings of concerns and solutions related to gender equality.

In additions to highlighting women's rights, LAC respondents frequently highlighted concerns and solutions linked to human rights, discrimination and inequality in general. For example, when dealing with the challenge of **migration and mobility,** LAC respondents were the most concerned of all regions about *human trafficking or sexual exploitation* (57%, +11pp.), while at the same time choosing *promoting respect for all cultures and diversity* (59%, +12pp.) as their top solution. They were also the regional group the most concerned about *violence against minorities and vulnerable groups* (53%, +7pp.), and *effects [of* **health and disease***] on vulnerable groups in society* (54%, +5pp.).

LAC respondents highlighted inequalities as a barrier to employment and expressed support for artists and cultural actors. LAC was the region the most concerned about *not having the same chance as others to get ahead [in employment]* (51%, +8pp.), while emphasising the importance of equal access to education and gender equality in the labour market. They were the top region to cite concerns about *lack of support for artists, artisans or creative fields* (55%, +13pp.) and *attacks on artists or censorship of their work* (19%, +3pp.), and the top region to call for *support for local cultural institutions and artists* (52%, +7pp.).

LAC was consistently the top region to highlight education as a solution. It was the first ranked region for seven of fourteen top education solutions. These included *teaching sustainability through education* (68%, +8pp.), *peace and non-violence through education* (70%, +6pp.), *ensuring everyone has access to quality education* (74%, +7pp.), *education about science and technology* (57%, +4pp.), *ensuring access to quality education for all* (80%, +10pp.), *education to promote critical thinking and respect* (89%, +3pp.), and *better integration of migrants into education systems* (39%, +1pp.). It was second ranked for four of the remaining seven solutions and was also the top region to choose *education & learning* as the area of society most in need of rethinking in light of the COVID-19 crisis (55%, +8pp.).

LAC respondents placed major emphasis on concerns and solutions related to women's rights and gender equality across challenges.

DISCRIMINATION AND INEQUALITY (50%) IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

TOP CONCERNS

Violence against women and minorities
74%

Increasing hate speech and harassment online
55%

Discrimination against women and LGBT people
45%

Discrimination or injustice I face myself
33%

Stereotypes or lack of diversity in the media
32%

TOP SOLUTIONS

Investing in green energy and sustainable economies
70%

Ensuring everyone has access to quality education
70%

Promoting respect for all cultures and diversity
64%

Ensuring gender equality in all areas of society
63%

Stronger legal protections and penalties
30%

HIGHLIGHTS

LAC respondents placed significant emphasis on women's rights and gender equality. It was the top region to highlight *violence against women and minorities* (+5pp.) and *differences in learning opportunities for girls and boys* (26%, +4pp.), and the second to highlight *discrimination against women and LGBT people* (+5pp.). It was also the top region to cite *ensuring gender equality in all areas of society* (+9pp.) and *ensuring everyone has access to quality education* (+7pp.) as solutions.

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

4,851

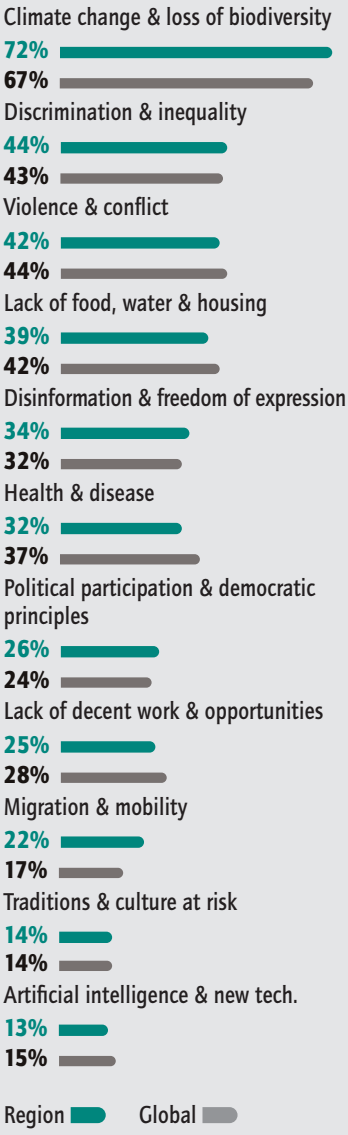
Western Europe	**77%**	3,740
North America	**23%**	1,111

DEMOGRAPHICS

66% were women
32% were men
1% were other
27% were under 25
73% were 25 and over
17% were immigrants
43% were under 25 in North America

Note: See Methodology for an explanation of analysis and reporting methods

GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA



REGIONAL INSIGHTS

Western Europe & North America

The top challenge for Western Europe (WE) and North America (NA) was **climate change and biodiversity loss** (72%). Responses from this region strongly correlated with those of the global sample, however differed significantly between WE and NA. A differentiated analysis is required to adequately represent responses from these two regions. WE and NA both ranked **climate change and biodiversity loss** first, however WE (74%) placed more emphasis on this challenge than NA (66%). WE (42%) and NA (50%) both ranked **discrimination and inequality** second, and **violence and conflict** third (with limited distinction). However, NA ranked **health and disease** fourth (41%), and 11 percentage points higher than WE, while WE ranked **lack of food, water and housing** (39%) fourth.

Highlights in regional responses to **climate change and biodiversity loss** provide a good overview of some of the key conclusions to be drawn about differences between the regions:

Western European respondents expressed concerns about and support for solutions related to environmental issues, while North American respondents tended to highlight concerns and solutions related to inequalities, discrimination, and intercultural tensions. For instance, compared to NA respondents, WE respondents highlighted the *impact of disasters or climate change [on **lack of food, water and housing**]* (72%, +12pp.), *fighting over natural resources* (44%, +10pp.), *ensuring a healthy relationship with nature* (43%, +6pp.), and *support for sharing of natural resources such as water* (34%, +12pp.). In the meantime, NA respondents expressed higher concerns about *violence against women and girls* (42%, +7pp.), *discrimination against cultural or religious minorities* (47%, +13pp.), *not having the same chance as others to get ahead* (48%, +15pp.), *people feel[ing] more free to attack cultural and religious sites* (50%, +14pp.), *human rights of migrants and refugees* (77%, +11pp.), and *risks faced by migrant women* (32%, +12pp.). They also placed more emphasis on *ensuring gender equality in decision-making* (31%, +9pp.) in relation to **lack of food, water and housing.**

Western European respondents consistently highlighted international cooperation as a solution to global challenges, while North America expressed lower faith in this approach. For instance, in addition to highlighting international cooperation as a response to **climate change and biodiversity loss,** compared to NA, respondents from WE also highlighted it in relation to **violence and conflict** (58%, +15pp.), **lack of food, water and housing** (75%, +14pp.), **health and disease** (65%, +19pp.), **political participation and democratic principles** (52%, +12pp.), and **artificial intelligence and new technologies** (62%, +18pp.). The only instance where NA placed more emphasis on international cooperation was when calling for *effective global/regional coordination* (65%, +4pp.) in response to **migration and mobility.** Interestingly, when asked directly about the importance of international cooperation, while NA respondents were eight percentage points less likely to choose *very important* (78%), overall there was consensus between the two regions that international cooperation is important. This may indicate that NA respondents simply prioritised this approach less when presented with other options.

In addition to international cooperation, North American respondents indicated a lack of faith in leadership and institutions, while Western European respondents expressed their belief in the importance of democracy. For example, the top concern for NA respondents in relation to **health and disease** was *poor leadership stopping us responding effectively* (56%), chosen 11 percentage points higher than WE and eight 8 percentage points higher than the global sample. When dealing with **political participation and democratic principles**, compared to WE, NA respondents highlighted *leaders and public figures not being held accountable for their actions* (55%, +6pp.), *increasing polarization and unwillingness to compromise* (46%, +5pp.), and *lack of justice when someone is wronged in my society* (29%, +9pp.). When WE respondents dealt with this challenge, they instead highlighted *democracy going backwards around the world* (59%, +13pp.), *increasing nationalism around the world* (45%, +16pp.), and *people feel like democracy isn't possible or necessary* (21%, +7pp.). On the same note, NA respondents highlighted solutions across challenges that strengthen institutions, like *training for security forces, judges, etc.* (26%, +11pp.), while WE respondents focused on *global support for democracy* (52%, +12pp.).

North America focused on solutions based on trust in science and access to scientific information, though they placed much less emphasis on education than did Western Europe. For instance, in addition to placing considerably more emphasis on *building trust in science and science-based decisions* (55%, +14pp.) in response to **climate change and biodiversity loss,** NA respondents also put slightly more emphasis on this solution in response to **disinformation and freedom of expression** (47%, +4pp.), and underlined the importance of *ensuring access to reliable and accurate information* (49%, +10pp.) in response to **health and disease** (though both regions ranked *sharing of research and scientific knowledge* first). Interestingly, all these choices were prioritised by NA respondents at the expense of either international cooperation or education related solutions. When dealing with education-related solutions, WE consistently placed more emphasis than NA, for example in such challenges as **climate change and biodiversity loss** (61%, +16pp.), **violence and conflict** (66%, +10pp.), **discrimination and inequality** (74%, +13pp.), **political participation and democratic principles** (71%, +12pp.), **traditions and culture at risk** (69%, +11pp.), **disinformation and freedom of expression** (89%, +13pp.), and **artificial intelligence and new technologies** (specifically *opportunities for re-training and lifelong learning)* (27%, +8pp.). Interestingly, those NA respondents who chose **lack of decent work and opportunities** highlighted *not having the skills needed to get by in the future* (40%, +13pp.), and in this case, prioritisation of education solutions was on par between the regions.

CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY LOSS (72%) IN WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

TOP CONCERNS

Increasing natural disasters and extreme weather
72%

Loss of biodiversity and impact on people
70%

Pollution of the ocean and rising sea levels
63%

Risk of conflict or violence
46%

TOP SOLUTIONS

Investing in green energy and sustainable economies
76%

Teaching sustainability through education
58%

Effective international cooperation
54%

Building trust in science and science-based decisions
44%

HIGHLIGHTS

When dealing with climate change and biodiversity loss, both WE (72%) and NA (70%) were strongly concerned about *increasing natural disasters and extreme weather.* WE (71%) was more concerned about *loss of biodiversity and impact on people* than NA (63%), while NA placed more emphasis on consequences being felt most by women or minority groups (36%, +12pp.) and was also the top region to do so. In the meantime, WE placed more than 25% more emphasis on *teaching sustainability through education* (61%, +16pp.), and 19% more emphasis on *effective international cooperation* (57%, +11pp.) as solutions, while NA was by far the top region to call for *building trust in science and science-based decisions* (55%), 25% higher than WE (41%), and 15% higher than the next highest region, Eastern Europe (47%). Both regions called strongly for *investment in green energy and sustainable economies* (76%).

ANNEX 1: Survey Questions

Welcome Screen

What will the world look like in 2030? What are your biggest concerns for the future, and the solutions needed to address them?

Help shape the direction of the world by taking this unprecedented global survey of the challenges we are facing, and the solutions needed to ensure that the world in 2030 is one we want to live in!

The results of the survey will help UNESCO set the global agenda on these issues over the next decade to ensure it is responding to the things you care about. You will identify which challenges you are most concerned about and what solutions you would most like to see, followed by a short series of general questions to help us understand you better.

Estimated completion time: 6 minutes

The survey is anonymous, and all data collected will be stored securely & anonymously in accordance with UNESCO's data privacy policy.

Global Challenges

Which of these challenges are you most worried about for a peaceful society in 2030? Choose up to 4. You will be asked some follow-questions for each challenge that you choose.

- ☐ Migration & mobility
- ☐ Climate change & loss of biodiversity
- ☐ Disinformation & freedom of expression
- ☐ Violence & conflict
- ☐ Health & disease
- ☐ Political participation & democratic principles
- ☐ Lack of food, water & housing
- ☐ Lack of decent work & opportunities
- ☐ Artificial intelligence & new tech.
- ☐ Traditions & culture at risk
- ☐ Discrimination & inequality
- ☐ Other: _____

Level of Concern

Who are you worried about suffering from this?
Select all that apply

- ☐ Me or my family
- ☐ My local community
- ☐ My country or region
- ☐ The world

Concerns

What are you specifically most concerned about?
Choose up to 4.
[See challenge sections for concerns by challenge and the table below.]

Solutions

What do you think are the most important solutions for responding to this challenge?
Choose up to 4.
[See challenge sections for solutions by challenge and the table below.]

Follow-up Questions

How confident are you that the world will be able to effectively address the challenges you selected?

- ☐ Not confident
- ☐ Somewhat confident
- ☐ Confident
- ☐ Very confident

How important do you think it will be for countries to work together over the next 10 years to address the challenges selected?

- ☐ Not important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Very important

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, which areas of society do you think we will most need to rethink moving forward?
Choose up to three.

- ☐ Access to culture
- ☐ Access to reliable information
- ☐ Relationship between humans & nature
- ☐ Scientific cooperation & sharing of research
- ☐ Inclusion & human rights
- ☐ Migration & mobility
- ☐ International cooperation
- ☐ Access to technology & the internet
- ☐ Employment & the economy
- ☐ Education & learning
- ☐ Other: _____

Your Views on UNESCO

How familiar would you say you are with the work of UNESCO?

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Somewhat familiar
- ☐ Familiar
- ☐ Very familiar

What areas of work do you most closely associate with UNESCO? Choose up to three.

- ☐ Freedom of expression & press
- ☐ Scientific cooperation
- ☐ Science, technology, innovation & research
- ☐ Access to information
- ☐ Culture
- ☐ Oceans, incl. Tsunami Preparedness
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Social sciences
- ☐ Humanities
- ☐ World Heritage

Demographics

Before you submit, help us better understand the survey results by providing some general (and anonymous) info about yourself.

What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Other

What is your age?

- ☐ Under 15
- ☐ 15-20
- ☐ 21-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-49
- ☐ 50-65
- ☐ Over 65

In which region do you live? Check the region your country is located in here.

- ☐ Sub-Saharan Africa
- ☐ North America
- ☐ Latin America
- ☐ Asia
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ Western Europe
- ☐ Eastern Europe
- ☐ Middle East & North Africa
- ☐ Pacific

Which of these statements best describes your current situation?

- ☐ Employed full-time
- ☐ Employed part-time
- ☐ Self-employed/Free-lance
- ☐ Unemployed & looking for work
- ☐ Unemployed & not looking for work
- ☐ Homemaker
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Retired

What is your level of education?

- ☐ Primary school
- ☐ High school
- ☐ Vocational training
- ☐ University graduate
- ☐ Other/Prefer not to say

Which of these statements do you feel apply to you? Select all that apply.

- ☐ I am a member of an indigenous community
- ☐ One or both of my parents are immigrants
- ☐ I am a person with disability
- ☐ I consider myself part of a minority group
- ☐ I am an immigrant
- ☐ None of these

Thank you for completing the survey. Your feedback will be crucial for the planning of UNESCO's actions over the next decade.

Table 1.1
Options provided for Question: Specific concerns for each global challenge

Migration & mobility	Climate change & loss of biodiversity	Disinformation & freedom of expression	Violence & conflict	Health & disease	Political participation & democratic principles
Political backlash in the countries receiving migrants	Giving up my current lifestyle	Increasing difficulty to know what is true and what is false	Armed conflict or civil war	Stigma and discrimination	Not being listened to or being part of decision-making
Human rights of migrants & refugees	Risk of conflict or violence	Journalists no longer being able do their job safely	Violence, bullying & hate speech online	Not knowing which info to believe or who to trust	Increasing difficulty in knowing who is telling the truth
Migrants not being compatible with the culture of the countries receiving them	Pollution of the ocean and rising sea levels	Negative impact of Internet & social media	Violence against journalists & media workers	Risk of social unrest & gender-based violence	Democracy going backwards around the world
Migrants bringing terrorism, crime or violence	Increasing natural disasters & extreme weather	Media being biased against the leaders I support	Radicalisation, terrorism & violent extremism	Effects on vulnerable groups in society	Impact of social media & the Internet
There aren't enough jobs and resources to go around	People losing their homes or livelihoods	Leaders attacking the media for criticising them fairly	Violent crime or gang violence in my society	Effects of confinement and social distancing	Increasing polarization and unwillingness to compromise
Human trafficking or sexual exploitation of migrants	Impact on culture and heritage	Attacks and harassment of women & women journalists	Violence against women & girls	Divisions between groups & countries stopping us responding effectively	Leaders and public figures not being held accountable for their actions
My education not being recognised everywhere I go	Less and less hope to be able to solve the problem	Being less and less able to express myself freely	Violence against minorities & vulnerable groups	Poor leadership stopping us responding effectively	Corruption and lack of transparency in society
Risks faced by migrant women	Consequences being felt most by women or minority groups	Attacks on artists or censorship of their work	Fighting over natural resources	Sexual and reproductive health	People feel like democracy isn't possible or necessary
Climate change making the situation worse	Loss of biodiversity & impact on people	Spread of anti-democratic messages	Attacks on culture & heritage	Impact on the economy and employment	Lack of justice when someone is wronged in my society
Not being able to move and live freely in other places	Other	People deliberately spreading false information	Global conflict & nuclear weapons	Other	Strength & stability are more important than democratic ideals
Other		Spread of rumours targeting minorities or other groups	Other		Increasing nationalism around the world
		Other			Other

Lack of food, water & housing	Lack of decent work & opportunities	Artificial intelligence & new tech.	Traditions & culture at risk	Discrimination & inequality
Not enough food	Too much value being placed on work & income	Not being able to benefit	Cultural heritage and practices disappearing	Violence against women & minorities
Not enough healthy or good quality food	Not having the skills needed to get by in the future	Increasing difficulty to find a decent job	Globalisation leading to loss of heritage or identity	Discrimination or injustice I face myself
Not enough safe drinking water	Not being able to find decent work	Ethical issues they bring up	Young people aren't interested in their cultural heritage	Intercultural or religious tensions getting worse
Not enough stable or safe housing	Education systems not teaching the skills needed to get by	Not having the skills needed to keep up	Gender roles and traditions changing too quickly	Increasing political correctness these days
Risk of problems getting worse in the future	Risk of backlash & violence from those affected	Lack transparency in how they are developed	My culture is under attack	Discrimination against women and LGBT people
Impact of disasters or climate change	Impact of automation and technology	Online privacy & surveillance	Lack of support for artists, artisans or creative fields	Discrimination against cultural or religious minorities
Impact of conflict	Impact of globalisation and free trade	Not knowing how my data is being used	People feel more free to attack cultural & religious sites	Discrimination against people with disabilities
Lack of stable energy supply	Women getting paid less and struggling to get ahead	Intellectual property rights & fair remuneration	Not being able to participate in cultural life	Rights of minorities being seen as more important than the rights of the majority
Women's needs and rights not being taken into account	Caring, child-rearing and unpaid work not being appreciated	Cyberwar and new forms of conflict	Not being included in mainstream culture	Increasing hate speech & harassment online
Other	Not having the same chance as others to get ahead	Not everyone having a say in how they are developed	Illicit trafficking of cultural property	My human rights not being taken into account
	Other	New crimes such as hacking and identity theft	Other	Differences in learning opportunities for girls & boys
		Technologies reinforcing gender stereotypes		Stereotypes or lack of diversity in the media
		Other		Other

Table 1.2
Options provided for Question: Solutions for each global challenge

Migration & mobility	Climate change & loss of biodiversity	Disinformation & freedom of expression	Violence & conflict	Health & disease	Political participation & democratic principles
Effective global/ regional coordination	Building trust in science & science-based decisions	Education to promote critical thinking & respect	Global campaigns to promote peace and non-violence	Sharing of research & scientific knowledge	Global support for democracy
Fair media coverage of migration & migrants	Public participation in political decisions	Stronger penalties & legal frameworks	Professional & less sensational media coverage	Public participation in decision-making	Civics education & media literacy
Support for organisations working with migrants	Effective international cooperation	Global awareness campaigns	Restricting violent content online	Ensuring access to reliable & accurate information	Public participation in decision-making
Ensuring recognition of education & training everywhere	Developing new technological solutions	Support for artistic freedom	Programmes against gender-based violence	Effective international coordination	More/ better media coverage of local issues
Support for integration into host communities	Protection of cultural heritage & diversity	Support for quality journalism & fact-checking	Promoting dialogue & cooperation between countries	Effective health education	Supporting local & community institutions
Focusing on development in source countries	Effective and professional media coverage	Filtering through algorithms & artificial intelligence	Peace & non-violence through education	Ensuring sexual & reproductive health rights & education	Supporting science-based decision-making
Better integration of migrants into education systems	Support for vulnerable groups/countries	Global monitoring & research	Support for sharing of natural resources such as water	Using new technologies to help response efforts	Creating spaces for discussions of local issues
Public awareness campaigns on benefits	Creating protected natural zones	More effective citizen journalists	Preventing looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property	Maintaining access to education and culture	Finding new ways to allow participation & discussion through technology
Promoting respect for all cultures & diversity	Investing in green energy & sustainable economies	Building trust & science-based decisions	Protection of natural & cultural heritage & diversity	Ensuring a healthy relationship with nature	More women & girls in decision-making
Investing in technologies to assist migrants & promote dialogue	Teaching sustainability through education	Promoting respect for women in online spaces	Promoting respect for all cultures	Other	Other
Other	Promoting indigenous and traditional knowledge & practices	Other	Global legal frameworks against violence & hate speech		
	Ensuring gender equality in decision-making		Other		
	Other				

Lack of food, water & housing	Lack of decent work & opportunities	Artificial intelligence & new tech.	Traditions & culture at risk	Discrimination & inequality
Support for associations & organizations working in these areas	Teaching digital & 21st century skills	Support for digital creative industries, arts & culture	Options for public participation	Teaching tolerance & rights through education
Promoting traditional agricultural practices & knowledge	Global reflections on the future of work	Public participation in decision-making	Integrating culture & heritage into education programmes	Taking into account disabilities in all public policies
Public participation in political decisions	Education focused on employability	Opportunities for re-training and lifelong learning	Promoting intercultural exchange & respect for diversity	Promoting respect for all cultures & diversity
Education about science and technology	Ensuring gender equality in salary & job opportunities	Ensuring gender equality in decision-making & development	Safeguarding cultural heritage sites & practices	Promoting healthier discussion online
Awareness-raising campaigns	Opportunities for learning & training later in life	Focusing on solutions for health & the environment	Reflection on the impact of globalisation on identities	Stronger legal protections & penalties
Access to information on existing actions	Opportunities in science, engineering, etc.	Promoting an ethical, transparent & human focus	Developing new technologies and cultural platforms	Ensuring everyone has access to quality education
Effective international cooperation	Ensuring access to quality education for all	Ensuring intellectual property rights & fair renumeration	Support for local cultural institutions & artists	Fair & balanced media coverage & representation
Investing in new technological solutions	Public participation in decision-making	Creating a global ethical framework	Campaigns against illicit trafficking	Creating new global legal frameworks
Ensuring gender equality in decision-making	Social benefits & support for those affected	Education on ethics, online safety & privacy	Engaging young people with their traditions	Ensuring gender equality in all areas of society
Other	Opportunities in culture & creative economy	Preventing crimes conducted online	Options for public participation	Training for security forces, judges, etc.
	Other	Other	Integrating culture & heritage into education programmes	Other
			Promoting intercultural exchange & respect for diversity	
			Other	

Notes

1 Dr. Jack Jedwab, President of the Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration (CIIM) and the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS)

2 Across a number of years, including Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All (2016), Accountability in Education: Meeting our Commitments (2017), and Migration, Displacement and Education: Building Bridges, Not Walls (2019). Available at: https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/allreports

3 Across a number of years, including The current status of science around the world (2010) and Towards 2030 (2015). Available at: https://en.unesco.org/unesco_science_report/collection

4 Across a number of years, including Challenging Inequalities: Pathways to a Just World (2016), Changing Global Environments (2013), and Knowledge Divides (2010). Available at: https://en.unesco.org/wssr2016

5 Across a number of years, including the Global Report 2017/2018 and Special Digital Focus 2015. Available at: https://en.unesco.org/world-media-trends

6 The Global Risks Report (2019) and (2020). Available at: https://www.weforum.org/global-risks/archive

7 Group I: Western Europe and North America; Group II: Eastern Europe; Group III: Latin America and the Caribbean; Group IV: Asia and the Pacific; Group V(a): Africa; Group V(b): Arab States. A complete list of UNESCO Member States is available in Annex (2). It should be reiterated that the survey was available globally, including to citizens from non-UNESCO Member States. This list is for information only.

8 While violence against women and minorities is clearly a form of violence, it is also deeply connected to discrimination. Links between challenges were deliberately included to explore their interconnections.

9 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2020: Inclusion and Education: All Means All. Available at: https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/report/2020/inclusion

10 The UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030 (2015). Available at: https://en.unesco.org/unescosciencereport

11 UNESCO World Social Science Report: Challenging inequalities: pathways to a just world (2016). Available at: https://en.unesco.org/wssr2016

12 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2019: Migration, displacement and education: Building bridges, not walls. Available at: https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/report/2019/migration

13 UNESCO (2020) Online violence against women journalists: a global snapshot of incidence and impacts, available here: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375136

14 UNESCO Institute for Statistics (February 2021) Available at:http://data.uis.unesco.org,

15 How many students are at risk of not returning to school? UNESCO (2020). Available at: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373992

16 The UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030 (2015). Available at: https://en.unesco.org/unescosciencereport

17 Gender-sensitive concerns and solutions (relating to sexual and reproductive health) also ranked poorly for Health & Disease, however this is excluded from analysis due to the likely influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on responses.

Photo credits

p. 13 ©UNDP Peru/Suárez Galindo
p. 14 milan zygmunt/shutterstock.com
p. 17 ©UNESCO/Moamin Al-Obaidi
p. 19 insta_photos/shutterstock.com
p. 20 davide bonaldo/shutterstock.com
p. 23 pongmoji/shutterstock.com
p. 27 jacob lund/shutterstock.com
p. 29 sewcream/shutterstock.com
p. 30 orlok/shutterstock.com
p. 33 zapp2photo/shutterstock.com
p. 34 issaret yatsomboon/shutterstock.com
p. 37 kdonmuang/shutterstock.com
p. 39 mark fisher/shutterstock.com
p. 41 ©UNESCO
p. 43 ©UNESCO
p. 45 Atstock Productions /shutterstock.com
p. 46 ©UNESCO
p. 48 ChameleonsEye/shutterstock.com
p. 49 Lucy.Brown/shutterstock.com
p. 51 yaw niel/ shutterstock.com
p. 52 chameleonseye/shutterstock.com
p. 54 chameleonseye/shutterstock.com
p. 57 pio3/shutterstock.com
p. 58 erlucho/shutterstock.com
p. 61 albachiaraa/shutterstock.com

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

THE world IN 2030

Public Survey Report

What are the biggest challenges to a peaceful society in 2030? What are the solutions most needed to address them? How confident do people feel that the challenges will be overcome, and how important is international cooperation for responding?

The *World in 2030 Public Survey* was an unprecedented global consultation undertaken by UNESCO in mid-2020. It collected responses from some 15,000 people from all regions on these fundamental questions for the direction of our world over the next decade. It also asked people about their specific concerns about each challenge and the areas of society most needing to be rethought in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From climate change and biodiversity loss, to discrimination and inequality, to violence and conflict, the results provide a systematic framework for action on the global challenges being faced around the world. Presented here alongside useful analysis and broken down along multiple geographic and demographic lines, they can inform policy and programmatic responses from governments, society and the wider international community over the next ten years and beyond.

9 789231 004391