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RELEASE



MY WORLD.  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
GLOBAL SURVEY  
FOR A BETTER WORLD.

## **‘MY World’ Survey – first results - half a million citizens tell the United Nations their priorities**

- **“A good education”, “better health care” and “an honest and responsive government” are the top trending issues to date.**
- **MY World is the United Nations global survey to hear people’s priorities for the future development agenda after the Millennium Development Goals expire in 2015.**

**New York, 15 May 2013** – Over 560,000 citizens from 194 countries have already voted for the issues that would make the most difference to their lives, providing, for the first time ever, real-time and real-world intelligence on what people think about biggest challenges facing them and their families.

MY World, the United Nations global survey for a better world- [www.myworld2015.org](http://www.myworld2015.org)- is a groundbreaking initiative inviting citizens to virtually take their seat at the UN and participate in the global conversation on the next development agenda by voting in an options survey.

From Rwanda to Philippines and Mexico City to Amman; across schools, mosques, offices and even refugee camps, citizens have been turning out in their hundreds of thousands to vote and help define a better world for all.

*“We are using mobile phone and web technology to directly connect with people. This is allowing us for the first time to see in real time who is voting, from where, and what their priorities are – highlighted Corinne Woods, Global Director of the UN Millennium Campaign – MY World is therefore a powerful tool for national as well as global decision making. These half a million votes are just a start – we have till 2015 and beyond to continue gathering people’s views and maintain this conversation flow between policy makers and real people.”*

Initial results from this survey have been released this week as the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel for the post-2015 dialogue meets in New York to submit their recommendations on the future international development agenda. Real time results from MY World are also presented on a regular basis to the United Nations Secretary-General and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development.

### **Crowd sourcing the future development agenda.**

MY World demonstrates the UN’s commitment to an open and inclusive dialogue on the post-2015 agenda and harnessing the full power of technology and social media. MY World is supported by over 400 civil society organizations, youth groups, faith organizations, corporations and global personalities.

*“We are getting a rich mix of data that is generating important information not only on global priorities, but also how these differ by characteristics: gender, age, location and education level. So far there seems to be a strong overlap of priorities among regions. Education, health, water, food, “an honest and responsive government” and “protection against crime and violence” feature amongst the top ten for every region of the world”- said Claire Melamed, from the Overseas Development Institute.*



To date, 57% of the votes have been collected offline, 35% through the website and around the 8% have come through mobile phone.

### What are global citizens saying?

Participants in MY World are asked to select which six out of sixteen issues are most important for them and their families. Results to date reveal that voters' top three priorities are "a good education", "better healthcare" and "an honest and responsive government". "Access to water and sanitation" and "nutritious and affordable food" are also perceived by people as being of key importance to improving their lives.

Citizens voting predominantly for health and education reveal the continuing relevance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which recently observed the 1000 day milestone to their 2015 target date. MY World represents an entry point for people to build on MDG achievements and help define an ambitious development agenda after 2015 that has poverty eradication and sustainable development at its core.

However, results also indicate that people are pointing to new issues to be addressed, such as "an honest and responsive government", "better job opportunities" and "protection against crime and violence", which also rank within the top seven priorities.

MY World has generated extremely positive and powerful responses across the world, as shown by Omolade Makinde, one of the thousands of Nigerians that participated in this survey: *"In my opinion an honest and responsive Government that will have the interest of its people at heart and do its best to improve the standard of living and education should be a priority."*

Until 2015, the UN and partners continue to invite men and women everywhere to vote in MY World and contribute to shaping a better world together.

### NOTE TO THE EDITORS

**About MY World:** MY World is an opinion based survey developed jointly by the UN Development Programme, the UN Millennium Campaign, the Worldwide Web Foundation and Overseas Development Institute, with strategic funding from DFID and the Government of Nigeria. The survey aims to encourage people's participation in defining the next global development agenda by asking them to vote for the issues that would make the most difference to their lives.

#### About MY World voters so far:

- **Over three-quarters of participants are from developing countries™** -- nearly half (48%) from low human development countries; another 29% from medium human development countries (according to Human Development Index <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/> ).
- **There is a roughly equal gender split** for participants: 52% male, 48% female. The top seven choices are identical for men and women.
- **Nearly two-thirds (64%) of participants are under the age of 30.**
- **57% of participants completed the survey offline** and are likely to be amongst the poorest (without internet access, mobile phones). Of those, 67% were from rural areas.
- **45% of participants have low education levels and are likely to be poor** (education is used as a proxy for income in most surveys) -- 21% of participants did not finish primary school; another 24% only finished primary school.

To view the results to date, visit [results.myworld2015.org](http://results.myworld2015.org). To access the raw open data, visit [dataset.myworld2015.org](http://dataset.myworld2015.org).

View a recent call to vote from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDgHSSFARJY>.

#### For more information and interviews:

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