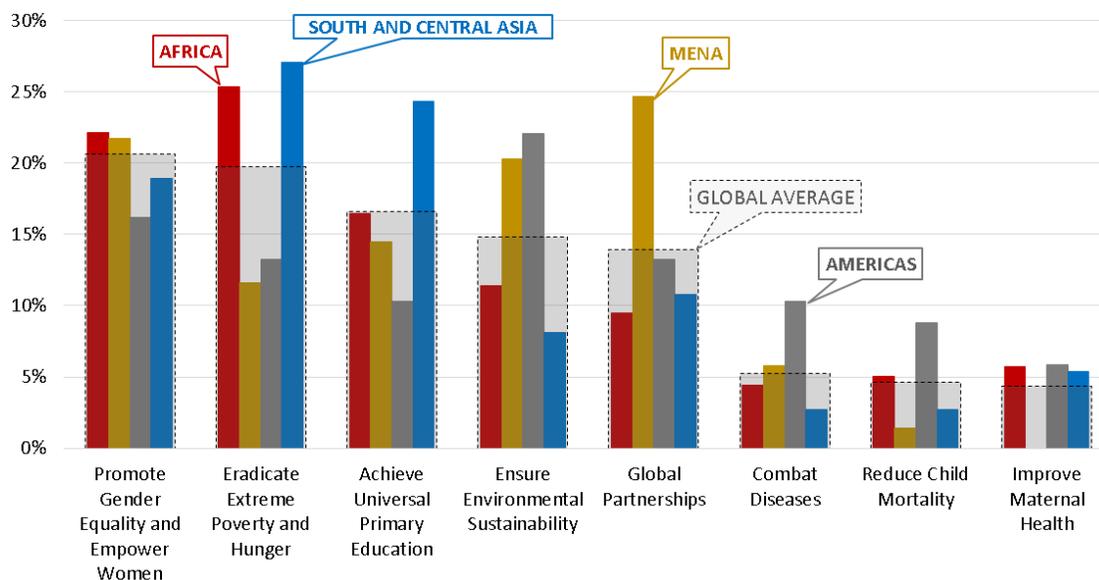# The 2014 Global Youth Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **2014 Global Youth Survey** was initiated by the Millennium Campus Network (MCN) to assess the core competencies and challenges of youth-led and youth-serving organizations advancing global development and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Survey identifies key program-related information which defines characteristics of organizations that are led by youth or serving youth populations. The initial data and feedback are presented in this preliminary report display a clear need to continue to survey and evaluate these grassroots-level organizations. To better understand the organizations supporting bottom-up development initiatives, the Global Youth Survey seeks to evaluate the size and impact of organizations in addition to organization's structural operations, including milestones in financing, leadership development, and networking and partnership building.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
WHICH GOALS ARE ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING?

The survey utilizes Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which assess youth organizational capacity. The KPIs are metrics developed by MCN Director of Programs Abigail Kelble, MPH, who facilitates youth organizational leadership for the Millennium Fellowship program.

Who participated in the survey? Over 150 responses from youth leaders in 45 nations are included in these preliminary findings, which are presented herein by regions aligned with the U.S. Department of State. Results are displayed for 4 key regions where response rates were highest: North and South America, Mid East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South and Central Asia. The results from this pilot survey shed light onto the issues and challenges preventing successful organizations from scaling-up their efforts.

About 70% of reporting organizations have full and/or part time staff, while just under 10% of organizations surveyed rely on volunteers only. About half of the membership of surveyed organizations is comprised of college or university students, and nearly a third of members defined as students under 18 years of age. About 5% of organizational membership is comprised of faculty members, and 15% by professionals. The median age of the survey respondents was 27 years, with a standard deviation within the sample of about 6.75 years.

What do the organizations do? Globally about 20% of all organizations are involved in promoting gender equality and empowering women, and nearly 20% in addressing extreme poverty and hunger. The remaining organizations work to address goals in primary education, environmental sustainability, and global partnerships (about 15% each). To address these challenges, over 75% of all organizations participate in awareness-building initiatives, and nearly 70% of all organizations provide some service for the community served. 40% of organizations reported fundraising as a main organizational function, while just 25% organizations provide physical goods. Of significant interest was the finding that under 20% of organizations participate in any political action.
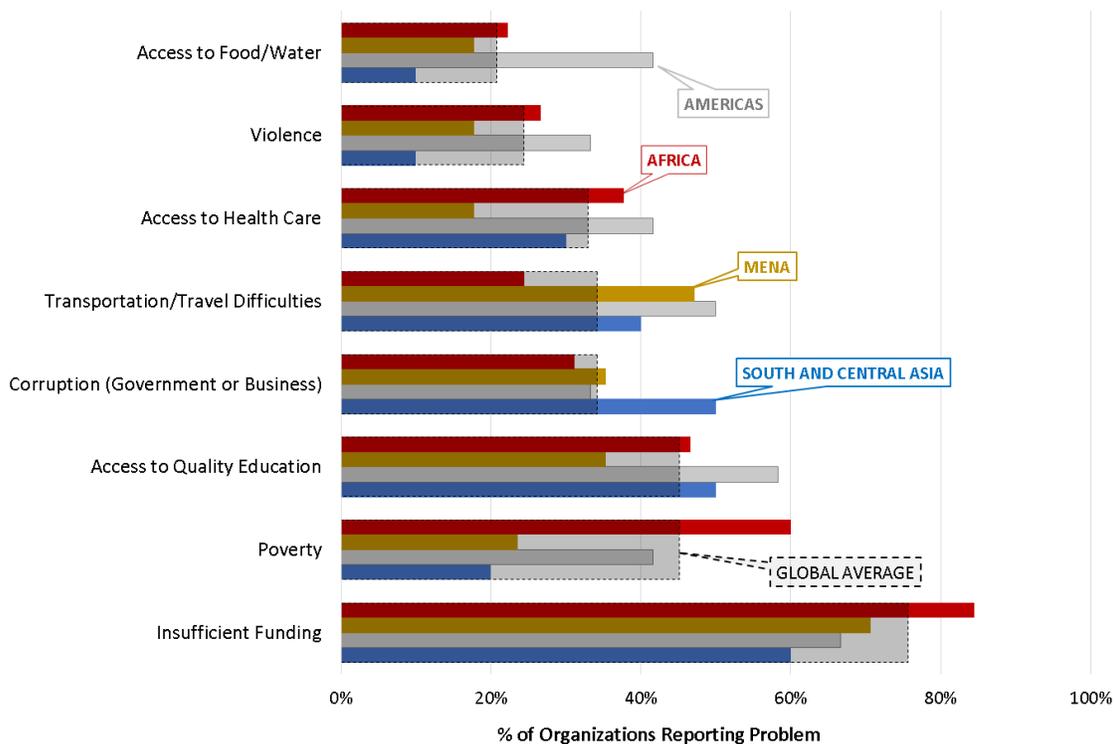
Community Development Centre, Balaghat, India

Organizations reported that their country and local governments, in addition to both internal and external partner organizations, were among the most highly contacted and referenced. Similarly, these institutions, in addition to the United Nations, were cited as having the most external influence on an organization's operations. While most organizations seek partnerships in theory, they are difficult to maintain in practice.

What are their challenges?
The biggest obstacle facing youth-led and youth-serving organizations is, unsurprisingly, an inconsistency and insufficiency in funding sources. Nearly 80% of all organizations reported having challenges in sustaining financing for the organization and/or the community served. Nearly half of reporting organizations indicated challenges with poverty or access to education. While the data are limited in these preliminary results, the average organization required funding of $5 to $50 per person served. Financially-constrained youth organizations require funding for staffing, facilities, and the procurement of technology and infrastructure.
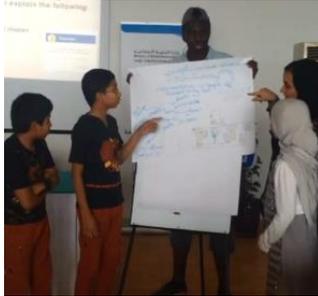
Does the organization, or the youth that are supported by the organization, face challenges with ...

% of Organizations Reporting Problem

Recommendations: What can be done to support these youth-led organizations?
Within these initial results from 150 participants representing 45 different countries, several recommendations have been distilled in order to further support and enable the scaling of youth-serving organizations:

1. **The single most significant impediment to growing the capacity of youth-led organizations is a lack of funding resources and grant opportunities.** It is recommended that national governments and established financial institutions support creative funding and recognition initiatives, such as social impact competitions, grant programs, and crowdfunding platforms. The following recommendations also seek to directly or indirectly support improved access to funding resources. **(Reference full report pages 10, 11, 16, 21, 22, 27, 30, 33)**

Tri Bahrain

2. **Greater support and acknowledgement from national and international institutions helps formalize and institutionalize small to mid-sized youth-led organizations, improving sustainability and accountability.** Formal recognition from national and international NGOs provides partner youth-led initiatives leverage in fundraising, outreach and marketing. Collaboration between international and youth-led organizations should be encouraged, supported and facilitated by nations and international institutions. **(Reference pages 17, 21, 22, 26, 29, 32)**

3. **The United Nations and affiliated entities should support the creation and maintenance of a public online database for organizations addressing the MDGs to self-report activities to be publicly available in a manner similar to the World Bank's projects page.[1]** The Global Youth Action Network (a program of Taking It Global) provides an exemplary model for such a database, however more attention to the user interface and design are needed to fully leverage this platform. Youth leaders have cited a need for more accessible information about civil society and youth led organizations, which helps to facilitate partnership and collaboration opportunities. **(Reference pages 19, 22, 26, 32)**

4. **Organizations should aggressively seek to embrace and disseminate computer, software, and mobile phone technologies.** Access to basic computer technology and software and internet connectivity in developing nations is critical in supporting the growth and sustainability of youth-led organizations. **(Reference pages 21, 22, 26, 29, 32)**

ADA Togo

5. **Youth organizations seek partnerships and opportunities to collaborate with national and international stakeholders, however the majority fail to utilize available resources or communicate effectively.** The resources and tools made available by large institutions to help youth organizations are often severely under-utilized. Interactions between youth organizations and political institutions from local to international levels are currently minimal, and must be encouraged to promote greater alignment, productivity and efficiency of civic projects. As youth embrace mobile technologies, governments and international institutions must seek creative pathways to communicate with youth and both measure and support their efforts. **(Reference pages 17, 22, 30)**

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[1] http://www.worldbank.org/projects

The full Global Youth Survey report can be accessed online at:
www.globalyouthsurvey.org

The report is divided into 3 main sections.

1. **Participating Organizations**
Overall trends in organizational capacity of the 150+ organizations
who participated in the 2014 Global Youth Survey

2. **Regional Results**
Quotes and feedback from youth organization leaders in:
   I.   Africa
   II.   Mid East and North Africa
   III.   North and South America
   IV.   South and Central Asia

3. **Organizational Database and Information**
Database of the participating youth organizations

Thank you to all supporting youth leaders and organizations for their participation!
View the report's Acknowledgements chapter in the full report for a listing of participating individuals.

For more information on the Global Youth Survey, please visit:
www.globalyouthsurvey.org