

**WE THE
WOMEN**

Global Survey Results

**WOMEN ON THEIR PRIORITIES
AND BUILDING THE FUTURE
THEY WANT.**



Global Survey Results

The We the Women survey reveals that despite facing a global backlash against women’s rights, 85 per cent of the 25 000 women surveyed across 185 countries express willingness to contribute to advancing their rights.

An overwhelming majority - 60 per cent - of women believe that women’s representation in leadership roles in their respective countries will improve over the next decade. Moreover, more than two-thirds of the women worldwide assert the necessity for enhanced representation in leadership positions at both national and global levels to influence the future. An overwhelming 85 per cent of women identify themselves as advocates for women’s rights.

The survey reveals widespread optimism among women regarding a range of issues, even amidst the world’s concurrent pressing challenges, conflicts, and crises. For women, climate and conflict are the top concerns. The survey also reveals a widespread dissatisfaction with international collaboration in addressing global challenges. Only 19 per cent believe countries are adequately cooperating to resolve conflicts, 21 per cent to tackle economic insecurity, and 30 per cent to address gender inequality – highlighting a perceived lack of effective multilateral action.

WE THE WOMEN GLOBAL SURVEY

The United Nations Office for Partnerships and the polling company John Zogby Strategies surveyed women around the world on their priorities and the future they want.

The survey is the central piece of the We the Women Campaign. Alongside the global survey, intergenerational dialogues are being held at country level to gather perspectives of women on key issues and challenges.

With the results we aim to inform actions and policies around the world to accelerate progress toward SDG 5 Gender Equality and all the SDGs.

The We the Women campaign is based on the intention that the views expressed in the survey will inform world leaders efforts to address global issues at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 and years to come as we keep the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The We the Women Campaign was launched by United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed and German Minister of Foreign Development and Cooperation Svenja Schulze in September 2023 on the margins of the SDG Summit. The campaign is part of the global initiative of the Deputy Secretary-General’s Women Rise for All, which is working to highlight the transformational leadership of women in addressing the world’s most pressing crises.

KEY FINDINGS

A total of 25,854 responses from women in 185 countries were collected from 8 March through 26 April 2024, and analyzed.

Overall, it is clear that large numbers of women are keenly aware of the serious challenges facing their lives and their fellow citizens and expect these challenges to become even more acute in the next decade. Still, they are not pessimistic about the future. The women surveyed identified clear pathways for leadership to meet these obstacles going forward and suggest a greater role for women in global and local leadership.”

185
countries

25,854
women respondents

63%
between 18 and 34 years old

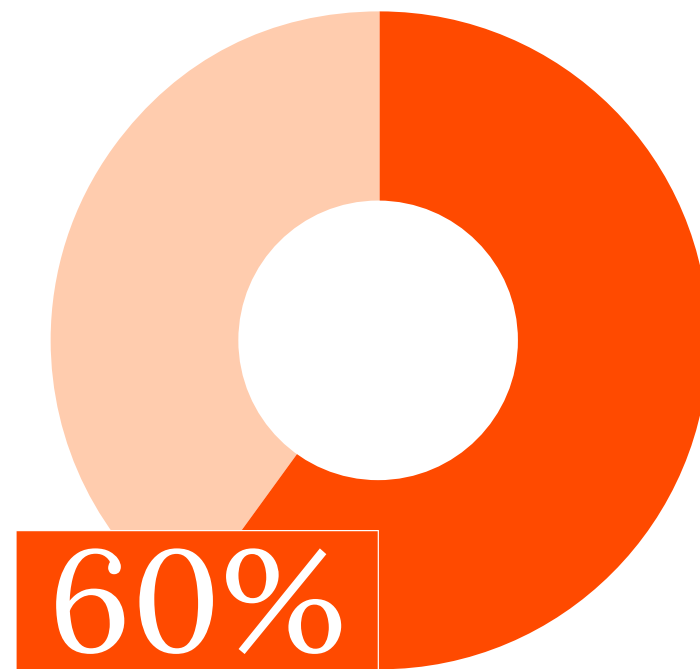
01. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

The survey revealed that a large majority of women polled around the world are willing to contribute to efforts aimed at advancing women's rights and participation in government.

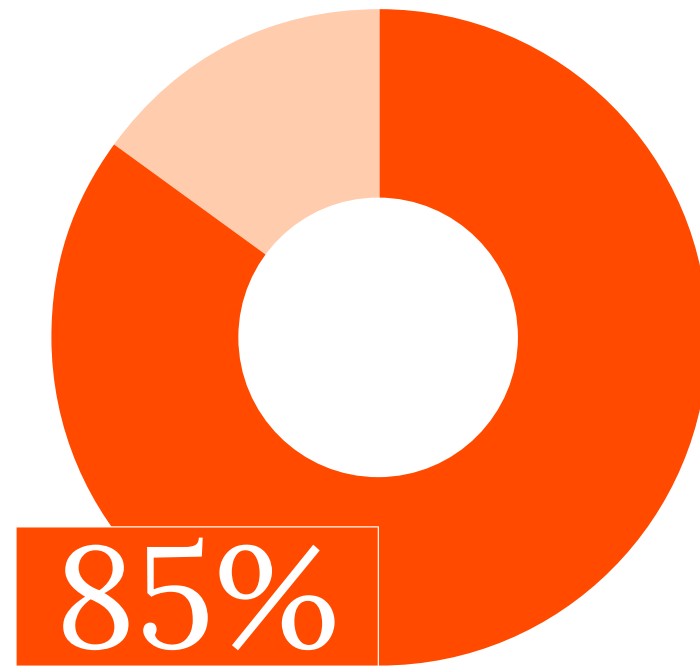
The We the Women survey reveals that despite facing a global backlash against women's rights, 85 per cent of the women expressed willingness to contribute to advancing their rights.

Women are optimistic about their representation in leadership roles in their respective countries. 60 per cent believe that it will improve over the next decade. Moreover, more than two-thirds of the women worldwide assert the necessity for enhanced representation in leadership positions. They believe this is essential at both national and global levels to influence the future.

An overwhelming 85% of the respondents consider themselves to be 'women's rights advocates,' which is true across every region – 87% in Africa, 81% in Asia, 77% in Eastern Europe, 90% in Latin America, and 85% in the West.



of women believe women's leadership in their country will improve in the next decade.



of women consider themselves women's rights advocates

02. OPTIMISM OVER PESSIMISM

In the midst of global crises and turmoil, and even amid a global backlash on women's rights and participation, women are a strong force for optimism and positive change.

A solid majority (57%) expect their quality of life to improve over the next five years, while only 9% expect it to worsen. Younger women are 20 points more positive than older women about their future.

There is a strong sense among the women surveyed that there has been some progress in their own lives. Overall, 61% say that their own "quality of life is better than" it was five years ago. Only 10% say they are worse off, and 23% are not sure.

Younger women (under 35) are much more likely to feel that their quality of life will be better in the next five years (63% to 43% for the group of older women).

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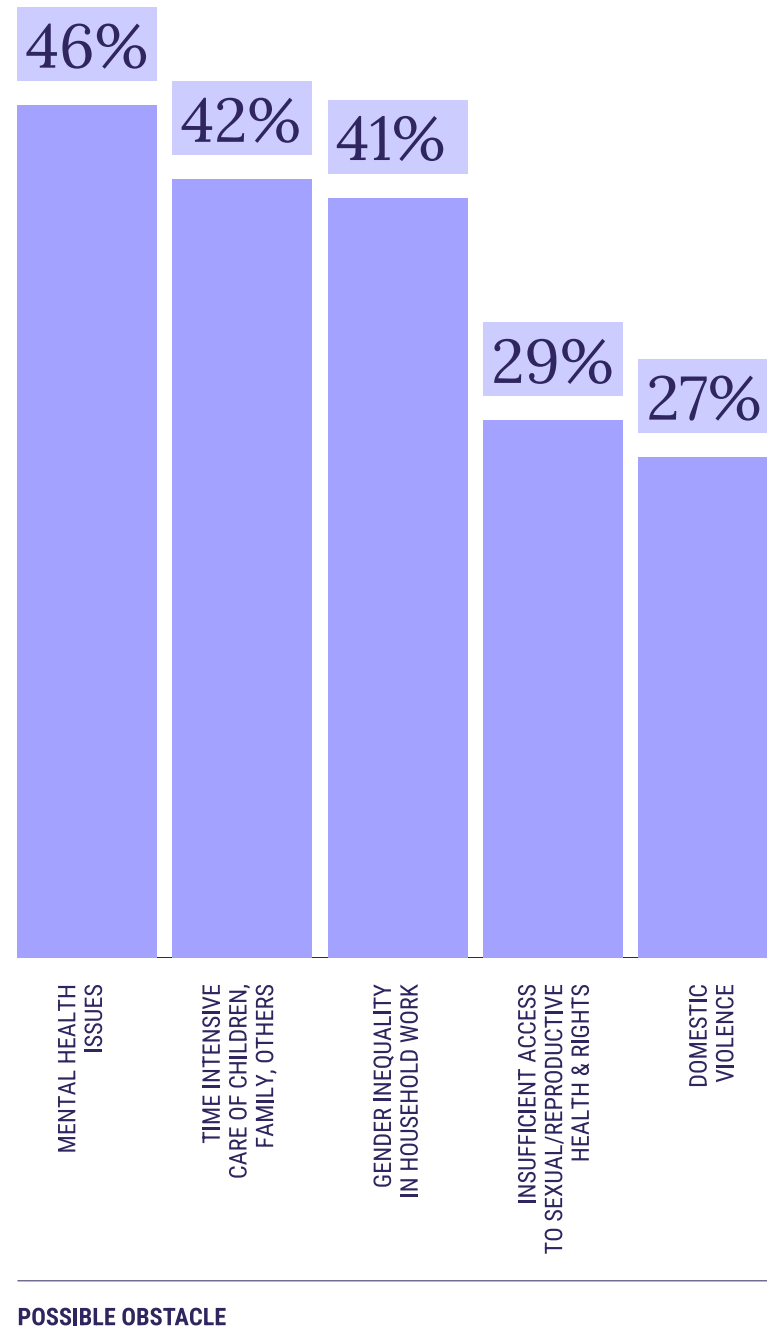
03. BARRIERS FOR CHANGE

Although women are a force for positive change, they continue to face barriers that might prevent them from realizing their full potential and contributing to their communities and countries.

Mental health is a major issue for almost half of the women worldwide. A disproportionate burden of domestic and care work is also reported as a major issue for 40% of women, which would prevent them from being better off in the next 5 years.

What are the obstacles that might prevent you from having a better quality of life in the next five years?

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN FOR WHOM IT IS A GREAT CONCERN



Intergenerational Dialogue

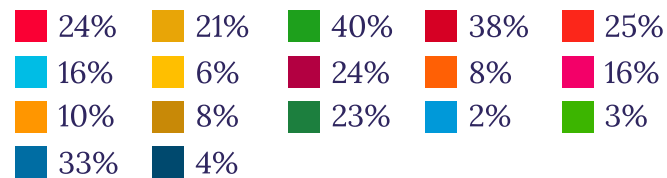
In **Morocco**, participants raised that women who do work face numerous challenges and constraints (care work, family, no flexibility in working hours, etc.). Unpaid care work must be acknowledged, and long-term strategies must be set in place to promote a better work-life balance for women.

04. WOMEN AND THE SDGS

Among the SDGs, women consider health and education as significant prerequisites for achieving global goals. In a record year for elections around the world, women rank living in peaceful countries, where justice prevails and institutions are strong, as one of the top three priorities.

SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being - is ranked among the top three \ by 40% of women, SDG 4 on Quality Education - by 38% of women, and SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions - by 38% of women.

Within the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, what are the 3 most important to you?



Intergenerational Dialogue

In **Bhutan**, participants highlighted that advances in healthcare, especially in reducing maternal mortality rates, have significantly improved the status and empowerment of women.

05. KEY ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN NOW:

CLIMATE CHANGE, ECONOMIC INSECURITY, AND GENDER INEQUALITY ARE THE KEY ISSUES ON WOMEN'S MINDS AND ARE AFFECTING THEM TODAY.

Around half of the women worldwide report that climate change, economic insecurity, and gender inequality significantly affect them today. Lack of access to technology is reported as an issue by only a quarter of women globally.

06. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICT ON WOMEN'S MINDS FOR THEIR FUTURE

Women around the world expect war and climate change to be two major challenges that will increasingly affect them in the next decade.

More than half of women surveyed – and 70% of women in Eastern Europe – are affected by armed conflict or anticipate being affected by war in the next decade.

86% of women respondents are affected by climate change or anticipate being affected by it in the next decade, with foreseen impacts on their health and in terms of natural disasters.

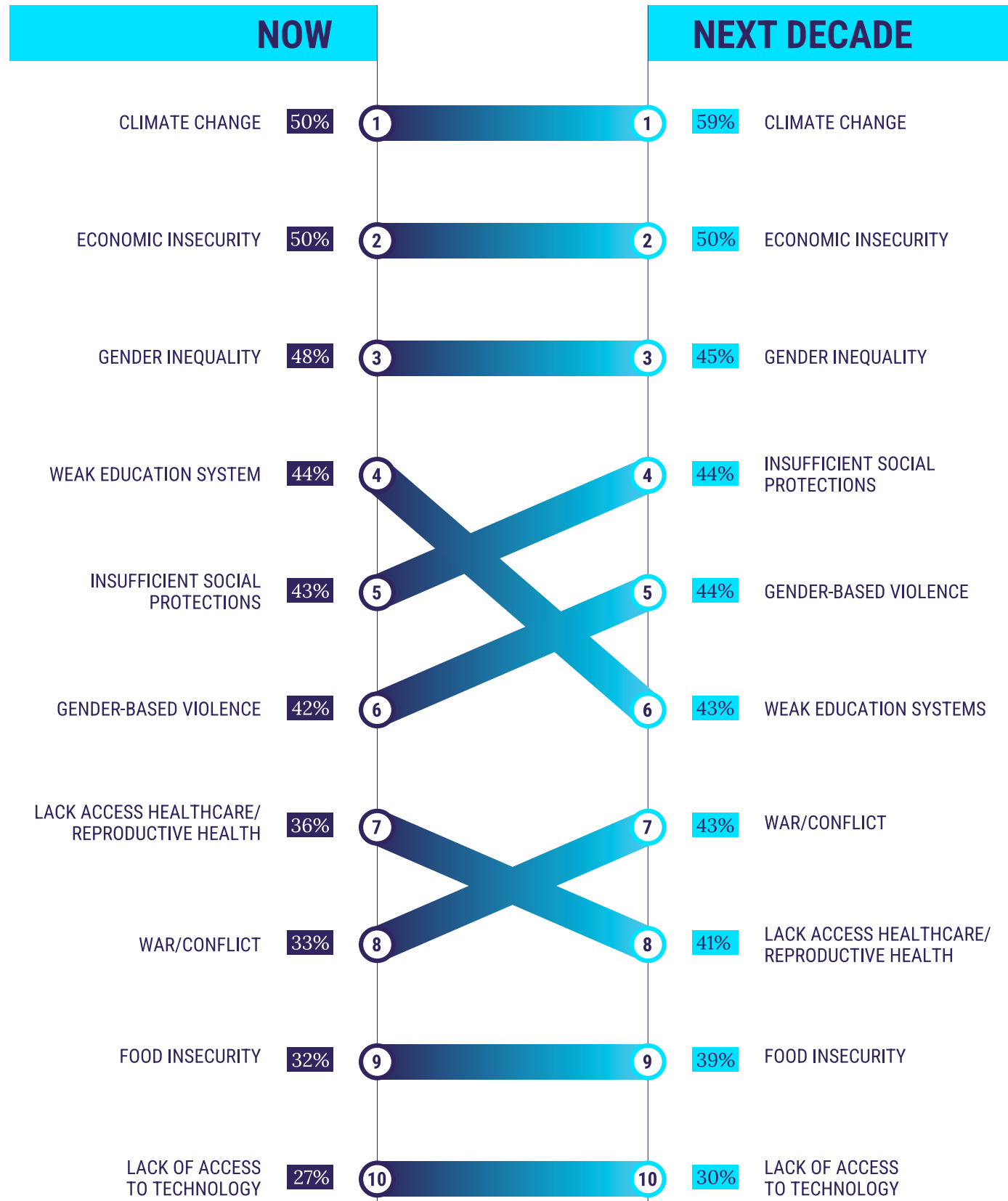
When asked about the extent to which key issues affect women now versus the next decade, what is most significant is the dramatic increases in concern over climate change (9 points) and war and conflict (10 points). When it comes to climate change, women expect to be most impacted in terms of their health and in relation to natural disasters.

In which ways will climate change most impact you?



% SAYING MOST IMPACTED

To what extent will the following key issues affect you now?
And in the next decade?



Intergenerational Dialogue

In **Nigeria**, women stated that the inclusion of women's voices in global affairs can produce transformative results such as more gender-responsive policy advocacy and formulation. Women bring unique perspectives and experiences which can inform policies that better address the intersecting needs of diverse populations. Further, the inclusion of women especially women from conflict and marginalized communities in decision-making would lead to more inclusive approaches to peace and security processes, addressing the root causes of conflict and instability.

07. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WILL BE POSITIVE FOR MANY

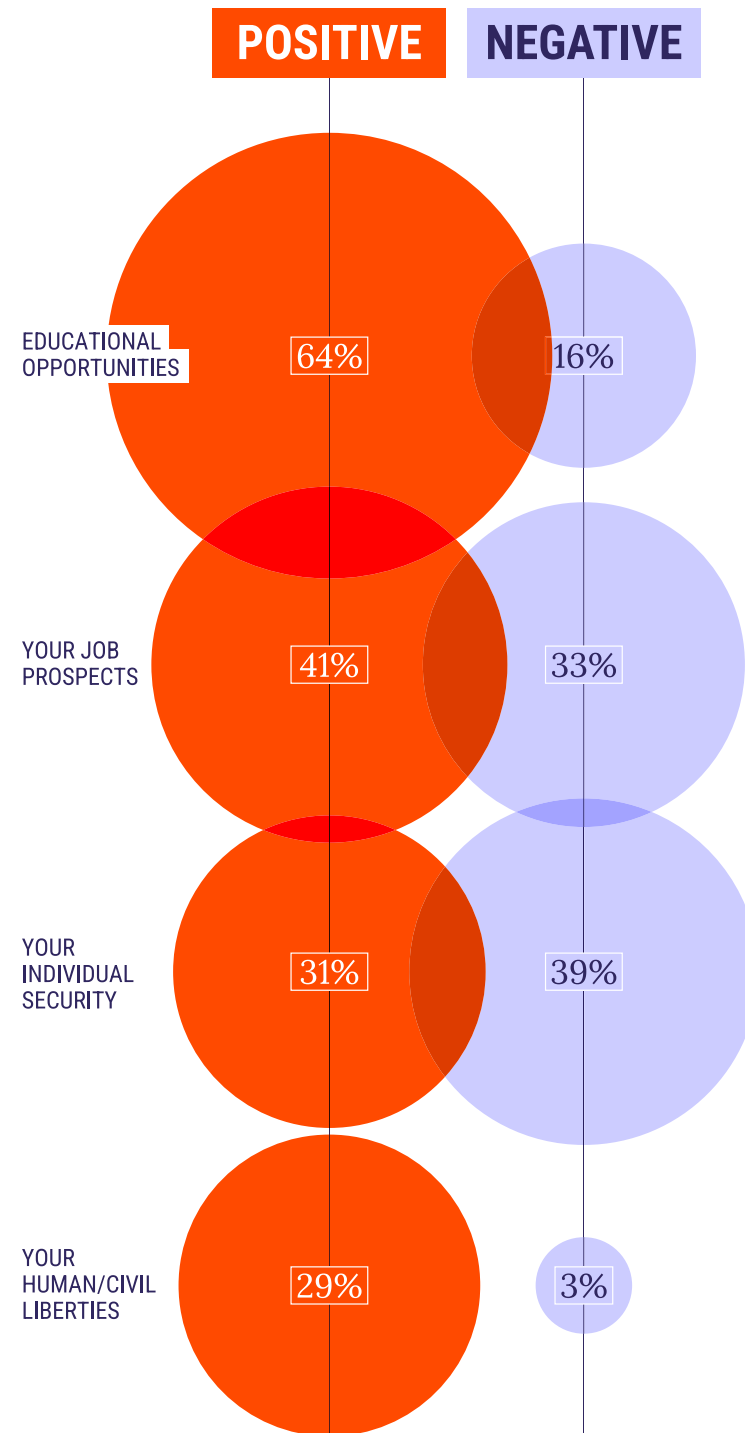
More than twice as many women see Artificial Intelligence as an opportunity rather than a threat, but they expect negative effects in certain areas of life:

AI receives mixed reviews. Overall, about twice as many (45%) view AI as an opportunity, while over 24% see it mainly as a threat, and 19% are not sure. Younger women (18-34 years old) are more inclined to see the positives in the impact of artificial intelligence. 48% of them see AI as more of an opportunity than a threat, compared to 41% for older women. More positive views—about 50%—were expressed in every region except the West, where only 39% thought AI is an opportunity.

Two-thirds of women worldwide think Artificial Intelligence is positive for their education, while less than one-third believe it can have a positive effect on their security and civil liberties.

Women in Western Europe and North America are the only ones who fear repercussions of AI on their jobs.

Focusing on these areas of life, do you think new technologies, like Artificial Intelligence over the next ten years will impact each positively, negatively, or not at all?



Intergenerational Dialogue

In **Namibia**, concerns were raised about the gendered distribution of digital skills and access to technology, particularly in rural areas, and the importance of educating women and girls on online safety.

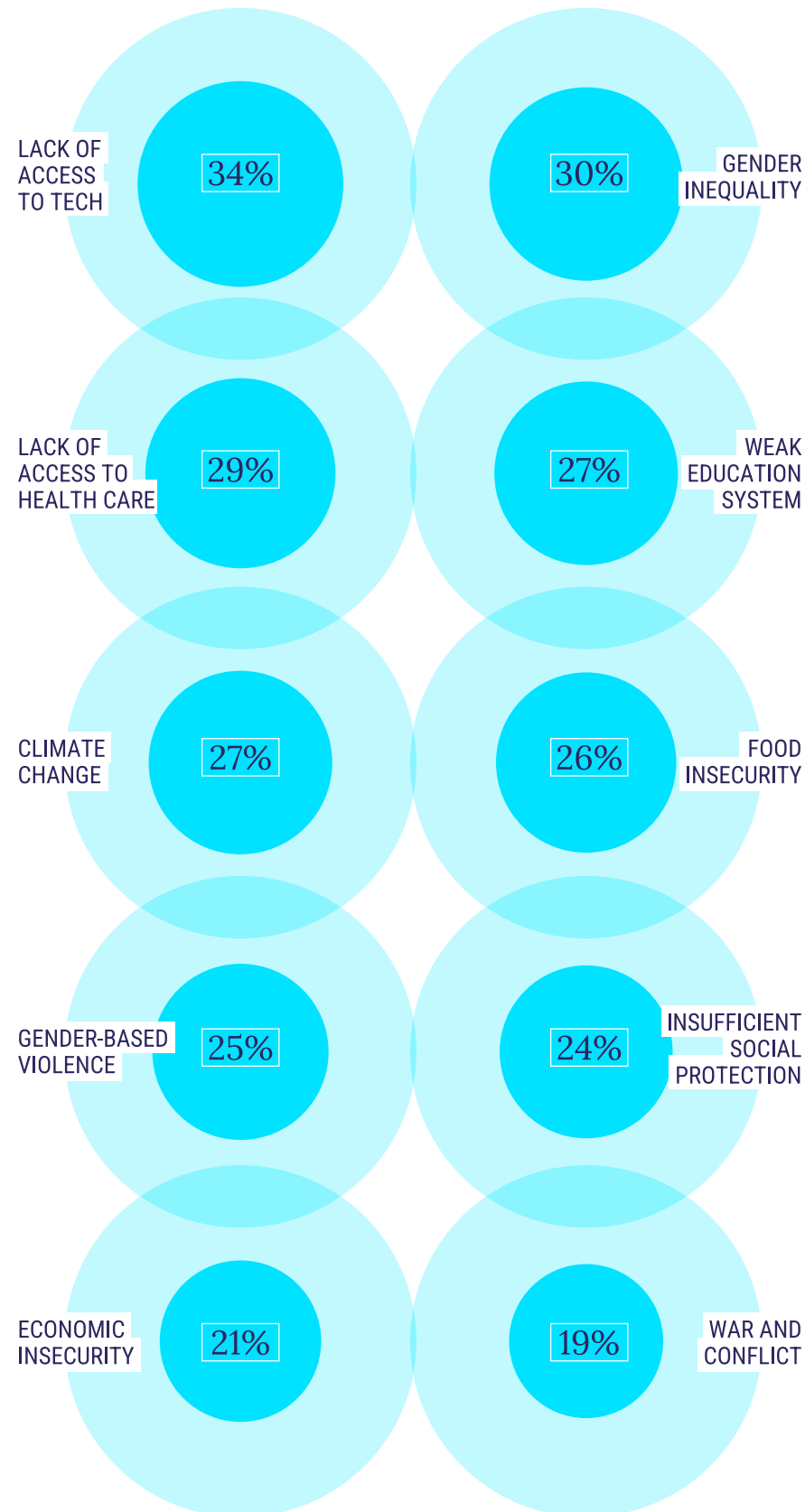
08. PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

Women around the world believe that countries do not collaborate effectively enough on all key issues and advocate for inclusive multilateralism. They also believe that their voices should be heard in shaping the future of the world.

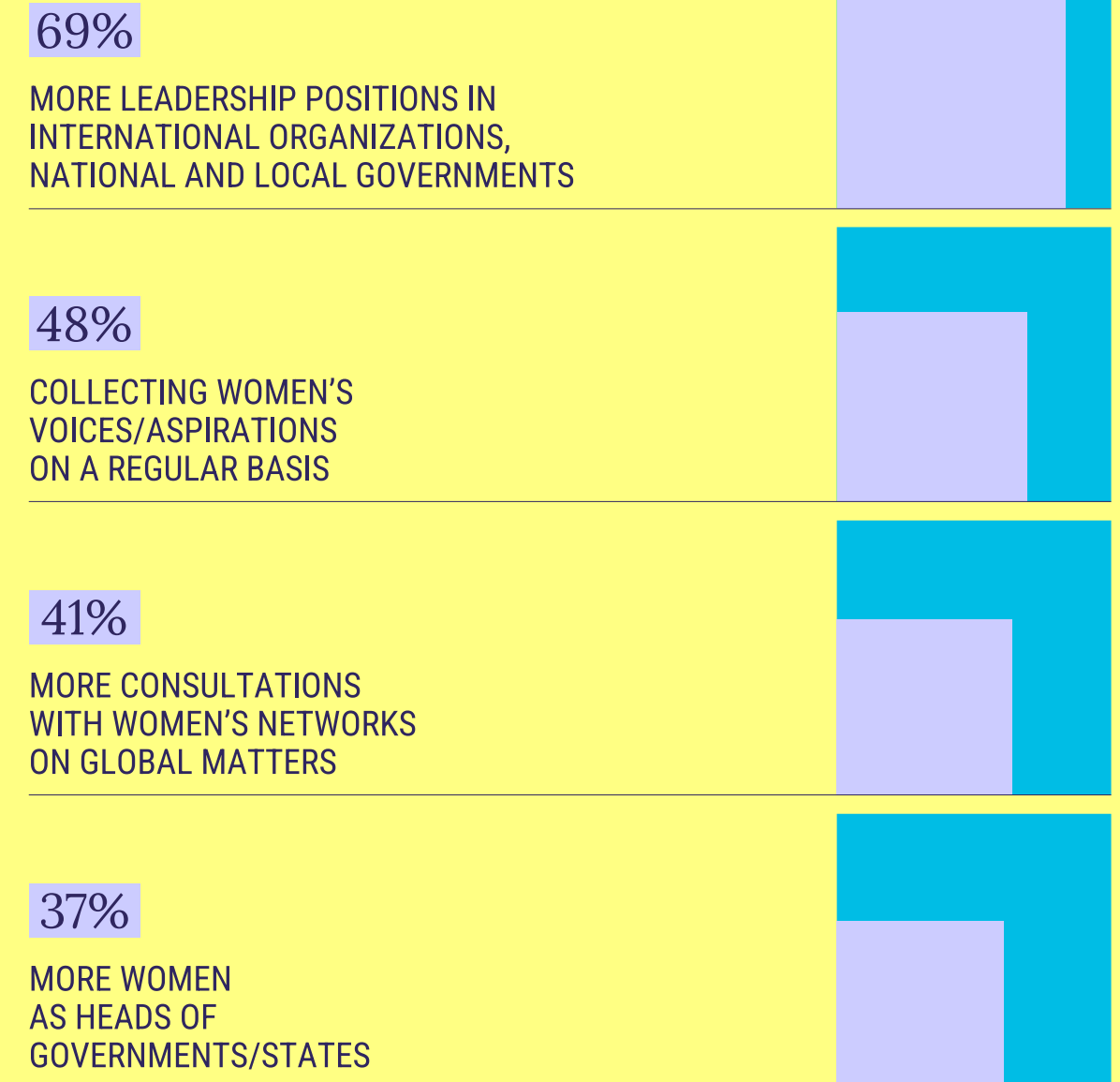
On major key issues, women perceive a lack of effective collaboration among countries, and they call for more multilateral solutions to global challenges. Among the three key issues that matter most to them, only 19% believe that countries work well enough to solve conflicts, and 21% feel the same about addressing economic insecurity. Additionally, 30% of women believe that countries work well enough to tackle gender inequality.

69% of women worldwide say they need better representation in leadership positions at the national and global levels to allow women's voices and perspectives to play a larger role in shaping the future of the world. Strong women also called for more inclusive multilateral institutions that are open to regularly listening to women's voices, including through women's organizations.

Overall, how well are countries working together to find solutions for the following issues?



In your opinion, which ones of the following actions would be the most helpful in ensuring that women's voices and perspectives help shape the future of the world?



09. WE THE WOMEN ACROSS REGIONS

Beyond the shared challenges and priorities, disparities across regions mostly concern the level of optimism about the future:

Women from Africa are the most optimistic about their lives now and in the future (6 points above the average), while women from Western and Eastern Europe and North America are the least optimistic (8 points below average). African women are also much more optimistic about women's representation and leadership (two-thirds of them think it will progress in the next decade).

Women in the West and Eastern Europe are the most concerned about climate change, whereas women in Eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa are the most concerned about war.

Regarding the consequences of climate change, fear of natural disasters is prevalent in every region (ranging from 50% in Africa to 62%-71% in every other region), scarcity of food is a particular concern in Latin America (48%) and Africa (45%), and the loss of economic opportunity is a worry in Africa and Asia (29% each).

WOMEN FROM AFRICA ARE THE MOST OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR LIVES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE EXPECT THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE TO IMPROVE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



Intergenerational Dialogue

In **Honduras**, participants highlighted the level of discrimination, including in terms of access to education, work, or political life for people with disabilities. In the case of women with disabilities, discrimination is even more severe, they noted.

10. WE THE WOMEN: THE GENERATIONS

Women of different age groups share common views on challenges and priorities but have different perspectives on their current status as women and their future.

Both younger and older women describe themselves as advocates of women's rights at 85%, and 51% of each group said they were mainly in control of their own lives.

Younger women are significantly more likely to perceive their quality of life as better today than it was five years ago compared to the older group (56% versus 47%). They are also 20 points more likely to believe that their quality of life will improve in the next five years.

Younger women are more keenly aware of the obstacles they face as women compared to older women. They are 8 points more likely to see insufficient access to reproductive/sexual rights as an obstacle, 12 points more likely to regard mental health as an obstacle, 10 points more likely to be concerned about domestic violence, and 7 points more likely to worry about gender inequality in general.

YOUNGER WOMEN ARE MORE KEENLY AWARE OF THE OBSTACLES THEY FACE AS WOMEN COMPARED TO OLDER WOMEN.



Intergenerational Dialogue

In **Barbados**, Intergenerational engagement and a growing presence of young women in movement building emerged as a source of hope.

CONCLUSION

Given the volume of responses and breadth of geographic sources, the responses present clear messages from more than 25,000 women worldwide regarding their overall view of the future.

The survey allows us to analyze their views through the prism of uniquely women's concerns, personal aspirations, the overarching challenges of AI, war, and climate change, and the need for more representation of women in the corridors of power.

The survey provides validation of a list of priorities and clear messages to world leaders on how and when they should listen to and include women in decision-making processes, how they should address the issues that affect women most, and how they should collaborate better on key issues. This benchmark We the Women survey marks just the beginning. Alongside the results of Intergenerational Dialogues held in key countries around the world, it will inform decisions made by world leaders and the international community for years to come, beginning with the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

The United Nations Office for Partnerships will continue to check-in, as requested by the survey's participants, with the women of the world to inquire about their priorities and challenges and to observe how these evolve over time. It will also continue to collaborate with key partners to ensure that women play a full part in shaping the future of the world.

METHODOLOGY

The United Nations Office for Partnerships commissioned John Zogby Strategies to conduct a worldwide survey of adult women.

Zogby Strategies did not employ a method of "random probability sampling" but instead relied on the global dissemination network of the United Nations, partners, and UN Online Volunteers.

The survey was offered in the six official United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish) plus Portuguese.

Frequencies represent the total number of responses per category. Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding. While the respondents are younger, more highly educated, single, and residents of larger cities, this is indeed representative of the United Nations Network, not the population of women as a whole. Since the focus of the survey is on the future, accentuating the view of younger women is particularly vital.

WE THE WOMEN

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including frequency report,
sample characteristics,
and list of nations

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