Engaging hard-to-reach and hard-to-engage populations

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Outline

- Introduction: Our Commitment to Action (CtA)
- Objectives and expected outputs
- Working Definitions
- Methods
- Results/Discussion
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
Objectives and expected outputs

- To identify elements of innovative and successful Science Engagement projects involving hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations

- To create a guide for Science Engagement practitioners to plan, implement and evaluate similar projects.
Introduction: Definitions

- **Science Engagement**: active involvement of the public and researchers in scientific knowledge production and sharing

- **Hard to Reach**: populations who face barriers that are external to them: e.g. geographical location

- **Hard to Engage**: populations who face barriers that are internal to them: e.g. physical disabilities, lack of awareness
Methods

- Reviewed winning projects of Falling Walls Engage for years 2018, 2019 and 2020

- Conducted a cross-sectional, online survey of winners of Falling Walls Engage for years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021
Results and discussion

- Most projects selected from high-income countries
- But more occurred in lower-middle income countries than upper middle income countries
- Low-income countries under-represented
Results and discussion
Results

- Total number of respondents: 23
- Among populations considered to be hard-to-engage, there was a statistically significant relationship between them and a project being in a rural area (p=0.012)
- Of the 11 such projects, 8 (72.7%) occurred in rural areas
Results

- Among populations considered to be hard-to-engage, there was a statistically significant relationship between them and a project taking place in a location which is considered to be “other” (p=0.009)

- Of the 11 such projects, only 1 (9.1%) occurred in “other” location
Results

- Among the specific populations, there was a statistically significant relationship between them and projects taking place at schools ($p=0.014$)

- Of the 11 such projects, all 11 (100.0%) occurred at schools
Conclusion

- Winning science engagement projects capture diverse countries
- Terminologies for describing priority populations may need a reflection: Hard-to-reach, hard-to-engage, vulnerable or excluded populations?
- More is needed for exploring science engagement projects in rural communities
- Our CtA is exploring science engagement approaches and evaluation methods for assessing impacts, with emphasis on hard-to-reach, hard-to-engage or excluded populations
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Questions or comments?

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