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Are We Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?:

Using AmericasBarometer Data to Measure Progress in the Americas

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Key Findings:

- Cross-national survey data like the AmericasBarometer can help measure progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The 2018/19 round of the AmericasBarometer included 70 questions that relate to 10 of the 17 Goals.
- To illustrate, we show whether the countries of the Americas have made progress in reducing crime, reducing bribery, and improving public services.
- While there are a handful of success stories, the region has made little progress – and many countries have worsened on these indicators.



In September 2015, the leaders of 193 UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While these goals are wide-ranging, they focus primarily on ending extreme poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and addressing climate change. They provide, “a global blueprint for dignity, peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future.”¹ For instance, Goal 16 focuses on peace, justice, and strong institutions. Its targets include developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms, and promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.²

As the UN enters what it calls its “Decade of Action” before the 2030 target date for the SDGs, serious gaps in the data to measure progress to these goals remain. According to the UN’s 2020 report,³ the biggest problems in evaluating progress toward the Goals are that data are not available for every country and the time it takes for data to become available. For 4 of the 17 Goals, the report finds that less than half of the 194 UN member states have data that can be used for cross-national comparisons. Particularly worrisome is data for Goal 5 (gender equality), where only 40% of countries have comparable data on the necessary indicators. Some Goals have much higher levels of data availability, but there is not a single Goal for which data coverage is 100%. Moreover, for 8 of the 17 goals, the most recent available data is, on average, from 2016. Only Goal 14 (life below water) has average data availability as recent as 2018.

This *Insights* report illustrates how survey data can aid researchers, governments, and international organizations in assessing the status of certain goals and document achievements or setbacks over time. We examine why cross-national survey data like the AmericasBarometer is important, its advantages over other data sources, and why it can be useful to include measures of individual experience and opinion in policy analysis. These data can complement official statistics and other sources in assessing progress toward the SDGs.

Table 1: AmericasBarometer Survey Questions Related to SDG Indicators

Sustainable Development Goal	Survey Question
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Q10G, Q10NEW, WF1, CCT1B, R12, R14
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	FS2, FS8
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	DVW1, DVW2, CP20, R4A
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	R12, R14, PSC1, PSC2, PSC7, PSC8, PSC9, PSC10, PSC11, PSC11A, PSC12, PSC13
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	DIS7A, DIS8A, DIS9A, DIS10A, DIS11A
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	VIC72, FEAR6E
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	ENVIC1, ENVIC2
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	DRK1, DRK12, ENV2B1, ENV2B2, DST1B1, DST1B2, PSC3, PSC4, PSC5, PSC6
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	CCQ3
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	VIC1EXT, VIC1EXTA, VIC71, VIC73, VIC74, FEAR6FA, VIC43, AOJ12, B1, EXC14, EXC2, EXC6, EXC7NEW, EXC7, EXC20, EXC11, EXC13, EXC14, EXC15, EXC16, EXC18, B2, B12, B13, B18, B21A, B32, SD2NEW2, SD6NEW2, INFRAX, POLE2N, SGL1, CP7, CP8, CP13, NP1, MIL10OAS1, MIL10UN1, VB1, INF1, B37, MEDIA3, DIS7A, DIS8A, DIS9A, DIS10A, DIS11A

Table 1 summarizes the specific survey questions asked in the AmericasBarometer between the 2010 and 2018/19 rounds that address one of the indicators in each Goal.⁴ In the 2018/19 round alone, the survey asked 70 questions that relate to 10 of the 17 SDGs. In order to illustrate how these survey data can help measure progress toward the SDGs, we examine three questions related to Goal 16: crime victimization, bribery, and satisfaction with public services. For each indicator, we compare each country's progress between 2012 and 2018/19. We also show how survey data can be used to examine subnational variation in this progress.

How Can Survey Data Help?

Since their introduction in the 1940s, public opinion surveys have, “provided the gold standard for measuring citizen opinions that are the heart of democratic deliberation... [Surveys are] powerful collectors and accurate magnifiers of information.”⁵ Surveys often provide information that would otherwise not exist, especially when they are designed to include politically marginalized subgroups. They are also used to evaluate public policies, determine whether interventions achieve their objectives, uncover strengths and weaknesses, and suggest avenues for improvement. Both public and private institutions today rely heavily on survey data in decision-making and planning.⁶

Compared to other sources of data about the public, high-quality surveys have several advantages. Probability-based survey samples give us confidence that our measures are unbiased and provide a reliable estimate of the precision of the data. Moreover, when survey measures are standardized across respondents and contexts, surveys provide information that is comparable across individuals. Survey data also offer systematic measures of change over time, across subgroups within a population, and across populations, including across countries. Finally, survey data are typically available shortly after data collection, making them timely and up-to-date.

Although public institutions are among the largest creators and collectors of data about the public, and these datasets are increasingly available to the public, the quality of the information they provide is often mixed. In many developing contexts, public institutions simply do not have the infrastructure, resources, or continuity to produce data that are collected following rigorous standards, transparent about the methods employed, and consistent in applying those standards – all critical factors for assessing change over time. Without confidence in these aspects of the data, it becomes impossible to know whether changes in the data measure true changes in the population or instead artifacts of variation in methodology. Public data may also not be reliable, or may not be collected regularly enough to assess change. Official institutions may not coordinate to make their measures comparable across countries. In all these instances, high-quality cross-national surveys can provide an alternative.

Consider the example of data on crime. There is ample evidence that official statistics about crime – which come largely from police reports – dramatically underestimate actual crime rates. Many crimes may go unreported to the police, especially in contexts where citizens mistrust the police. Even when they are reported, police precincts may record crimes differently, making it difficult to accurately aggregate and systematize these data.⁷ Similarly, public data on violence against women in Latin America is often unreliable because police records do not distinguish femicides from other kinds of homicide.⁸

Problems also arise when public institutions respond to political pressures to hide or manipulate official data. Argentina's official economic statistics became mired in political conflict between 2007 and 2015, leading some observers and international organizations to question their reliability.⁹ Similarly, reports suggest that the Venezuelan government has been hiding rising inflation rates as the economy collapses and shortages spread.¹⁰ In these kinds of circumstances, survey data collected by independent organizations offer a valuable alternative to official statistics.

The AmericasBarometer can both complement official data and help fill gaps when official data are unreliable or unavailable. These high-quality survey data help assess improvements or setbacks in the progress toward the SDGs. Based on nationally representative samples of voting-age adults in 34 countries across the Americas, the AmericasBarometer offers data that are comparable across countries, across subnational units, and over time. These data offer a unique opportunity to track progress toward the SDGs, especially with regard to issues that are otherwise difficult to measure reliably, like corruption and crime. Moreover, AmericasBarometer data allow observers to drill down to see subnational variation over time. While this goes beyond the scope of the SDGs, subnational data can identify which regions and subpopulations to target in efforts to improve national progress. Importantly, all of the data are freely available to the public through LAPOP's website.¹¹

Three Illustrations

In order to illustrate how AmericasBarometer data speak to the SDGs, we focus on Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. In particular, we focus on three survey questions that address specific targets within this goal: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere (16.1), Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms (16.5), and Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels (16.6).

Although violence takes many forms, crime is undoubtedly one of the most common in the Americas. But measuring crime is challenging, making it difficult to assess whether countries are reducing violence. Since many crimes go unreported, survey data on crime victimization regularly yield rates that are much higher than those based on official crime statistics. Since 2010, the AmericasBarometer has been asking citizens across the Americas whether in the prior 12 months they had

been the victim of at least one crime.¹² The comparability of these data over time allow us to track each country’s progress systematically and assess SDG target 16.1 directly.

Figure 1 shows the progress countries in the Americas have made in reducing crime victimization between the 2012 and 2018/19 survey rounds. For each country, we report the level of crime victimization in each round. The right-hand column lists the change in each country, with bolded values representing those changes that are statistically significant.

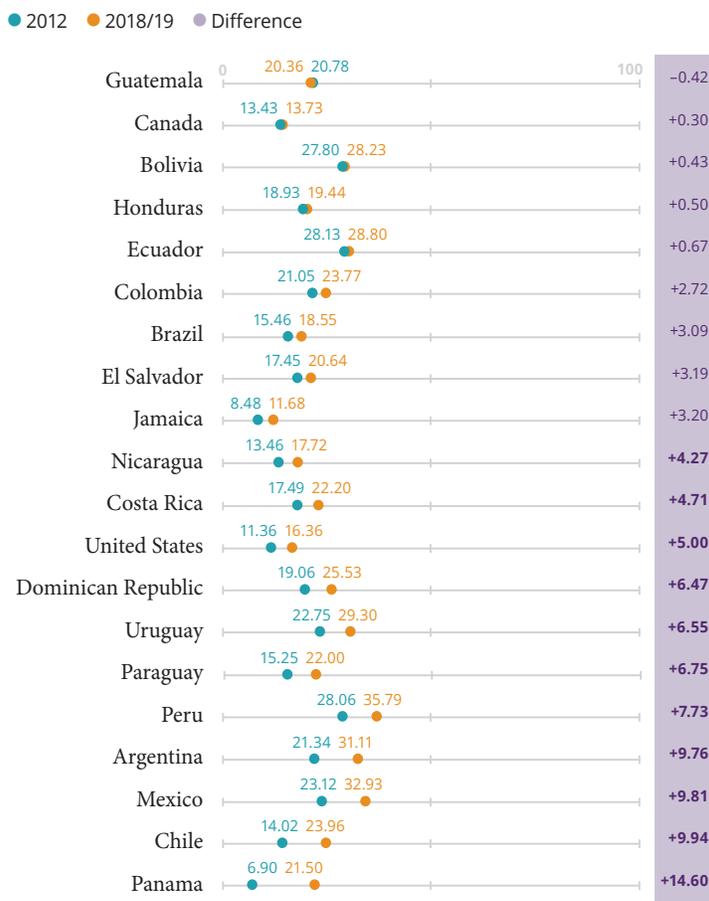


Figure 1: Crime Victimization by Country, 2012 and 2018/19

Bolded differences are those that reach statistical significance at the 95% level.

No country in the region appears to have reduced the proportion of adults who report having been the victim of a crime. As many observers have noted, crime rates have risen across much of the region in recent years. According to the AmericasBarometer, the rate of crime victimization has increased most in Panama, Chile, Mexico, and Argentina, although there are substantial and statistically significant increases across much of the region. Even in countries like Ecuador, Bolivia, and Colombia, where the rate of crime victimization has stayed relatively stable since 2012, it remains high, with more than 1 in 5 adults reporting that they had been victimized.

These national-level figures, however, mask a great deal of variation within countries. One useful feature of AmericasBarometer survey samples is that they are not only nationally representative, but also representative at the regional level within countries.¹³ As an example, Figure 2 shows the same change in crime victimization, but this time for regions within Brazil and for men and women, separately. Despite the slight (but not statistically significant) increase in crime victimization at the national level between 2012 and 2019, the South region reported a decrease of almost 7 percentage points. But that decrease appears to be driven mostly by declining female victimization. In contrast, the Mid-west and Southeastern regions reported jumps in the rate of in crime victimization of over 5 percentage points during the same period, with the increases substantially higher among men than among women.



Figure 2: Subnational and Gender Variation in Crime Victimization in Brazil, 2019

Bolded differences are those that reach statistical significance at the 95% level.

SDG Goal 16 also exhorts countries to reduce corruption and bribery (target 16.5). Because they are unlawful, corruption and bribery are often very difficult to document, making it especially difficult to assess progress on this target. Again, survey data may prove useful. For over a decade, the AmericasBarometer has been asking citizens in the region about their experiences being asked to pay bribes. A core set of items in the survey asks whether in the prior 12 months an official has asked the respondent to pay a bribe.¹⁴

Which countries have made progress toward reducing bribery? Figure 3 compares the proportion of respondents who reported having been asked to pay a bribe at least once in the 2012 round to the same proportion in the 2018/19 round. The countries toward the top of the figure are those that have made the most progress toward reducing bribery. Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Bolivia have substantially reduced the proportion of citizens who report having been asked to pay a bribe. At the other end of the spectrum, bribery seems to have increased significantly in Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay. Even in countries with no statistically significant change over time, the extent of bribery victimization is notable, ranging from nearly 6% of those surveyed in Uruguay to more than 1 in 4 adults in Peru and Honduras indicating that they had been asked to pay a bribe in the previous 12 months.

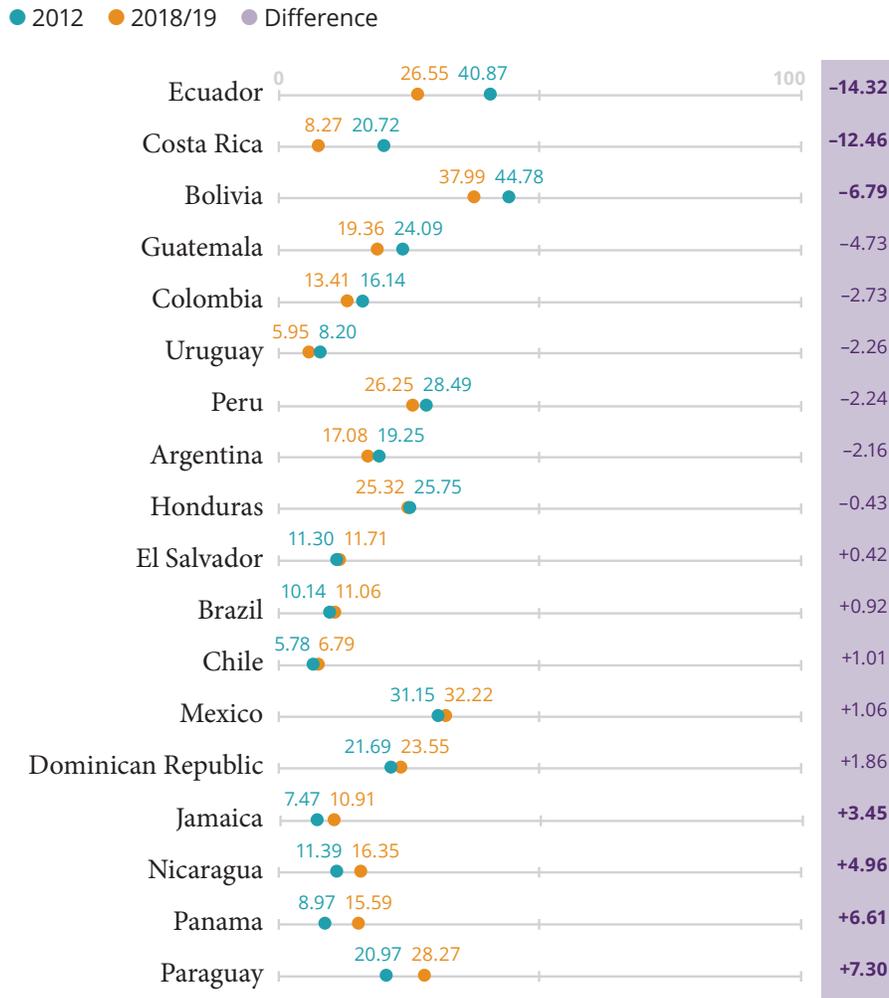


Figure 3: Bribery Victimization by Country, 2012 and 2018/19

Bolded differences are those that reach statistical significance at the 95% level.

Finally, AmericasBarometer data can help assess the degree to which government institutions are effective (target 16.6). The surveys offer information about the public’s assessment of services provided by the government, an important indicator of on-the-ground effectiveness.¹⁵ Figure 4 shows the proportion of citizens in the 2012 and 2018/19 sur-

vey rounds who indicated that they are very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of public medical and health services where they live. This question was only included in a subset of countries, but still highlights important patterns. As with the other indicators, these data show that satisfaction with the quality of health services has largely declined in these countries. Only in the Dominican Republic did the level of satisfaction increase over this period. In Guatemala, levels of satisfaction did not change, but remain low at 43%. In all the other countries in which the question was asked, satisfaction with public health services declined, sometimes dramatically. In Honduras, for instance, the level of satisfaction declined nearly 20 percentage points in a matter of six years.

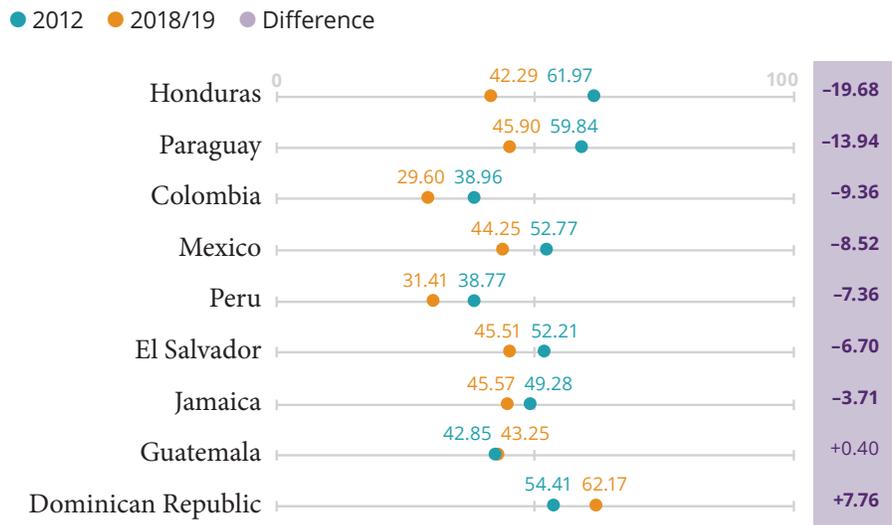


Figure 4: Satisfaction with the Quality of Health Services by Country, 2012 and 2018/19

Bolded differences are those that reach statistical significance at the 95% level.

AmericasBarometer Data Can Help Measure Progress

As international organizations and individual governments around the world assess progress toward the SDGs, it is important that we have accurate and reliable measures of specific targets and indicators. The AmericasBarometer offers high-quality data that speak to a large number of SDGs and individual targets. The data help provide a current snapshot of the region in terms of indicators of SDGs. They also provide information over time, helping policymakers evaluate the progress toward or regression from achieving the SDGs in the region.

Our analysis here has focused specifically on three indicators that address some of the targets in Goal 16 as examples of the kinds of evaluations that can be accomplished with cross-national survey data like the AmericasBarometer. Data from the survey also speak to many other indicators within the SDGs, as Table 1 and the Appendix highlight. Looking just at crime, bribery, and public services, though, is not reassuring about the progress being made in the Americas. While there are a handful of success stories on particular indicators, the region appears to have made little progress on these dimensions since 2012. In fact, many countries in the region have worsened, some substantially, on each.

Still, these survey data provide us with metrics we can use to document these trends, assess progress in ways that are comparable across countries in the region, and consider where to target interventions for improvement. The fact that AmericasBarometer samples are also representative at subnational levels could also aid policymakers target policies geographically or to especially affected subpopulations. Cross-national survey data like these can both complement official data and help fill in gaps when official data are unreliable or unavailable. Researchers and policymakers should take advantage of these data when they assess progress on the UN's SDGs in the Americas.

Appendix: Details of Americas Barometer Survey Questions Related to SDG Indicators

Table 2: Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	1.1.1 Proportion of population living below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)	Q10G. In this card there are several income ranges. Can you tell me into which of the following ranges fits the income you personally earn each month in your work or retirement or pension, without taking into account the income of other members of the home?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012
1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	Q10NEW. And into which of the following ranges does the total monthly income of this household fit, including remittances from abroad and the income of all the working adults and children?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012

Table 3: Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	WF1. Do you or someone in your household receive regular assistance in the form of money, food, or products from the government, not including pensions/social security?	2018/19 2016/17 2014
		CCT1B. Now, talking specifically about Conditional Cash Transfers, are you or someone in your house a beneficiary of this program? [Only in countries with CCT programs]	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	Could you tell me if you have the following in your house: R12. Drinking water line/pipe	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		R14. Indoor bathroom/toilet/WC	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010

Table 4: Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	FS2. In the past three months, because of a lack of money or other resources, did your household ever run out of food?	2018/19 2012
		FS8. In the past three months, because of lack of money or other resources, did you or some other adult in the household ever eat only once a day or go without eating all day?	2018/19 2012

Table 5: Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	DVW1. His wife neglects the household chores. Would you approve of the husband hitting his wife, or would you not approve but understand, or would you neither approve nor understand?	2014
		DVW2. His wife is unfaithful. Would you approve of the husband hitting his wife, or would you not approve but understand, or would you neither approve nor understand?	2014
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	CP20. [WOMEN ONLY] Meetings of associations or groups of women or homemakers? Do you attend them...	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	Could you tell me if you have the following in your house: R4A. Cellular telephone (Accept smartphone)	2010
			2012
			2014
			2016/17
			2018/19

Table 6: Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	R12. Drinking water line/pipe to the house	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		PSC1. What is the main source of drinking-water for members of your household?	2018/19
		PSC2. What is the main source of water used by your household for other purposes, such as cooking and hand washing ?	2018/19
		PSC7. How many days a week do you receive water from the water piping/public water line?	2018/19
		PSC8. How many hours of water per day do you get during the days you have service?	2018/19
		PSC9. During the past four weeks, how many times has the regular water service been interrupted?	2018/19
		PSC10. Sometimes, people do not pay their water bills for different reasons: they do not believe it is important, they believe water should be free, or they cannot afford it. Of the past six water bills you received, did you not pay any?	2018/19

Table 7: Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	R14. Indoor bathroom/toilet/WC	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
			2010
		PSC11. The bathroom or toilet facility/sanitary in this household is connected to...	2018/19
PSC11A. What do you use in your household as a bathroom?	2018/19		
PSC12. Do you share this facility with other households?	2018/19		
PSC13. Please, can you tell me how do you dispose of the garbage in this household?	2018/19		

Table 8: Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
<p>10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard</p>	<p>10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law</p>	<p>At any point in your life, have you experienced discrimination - not been allowed to do something, been bothered, or made to feel inferior - in any of the following situations as a result of the color of your skin?</p>	<p>2016/17 2012</p>
		<p>DIS7A. At school? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]</p>	<p>2016/17 2012</p>
		<p>DIS8A. At work, have you experienced discrimination due to the color of your skin? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]</p>	<p>2016/17 2012</p>
		<p>DIS9A. And have you ever experienced discrimination in the street or in a public place due to the color of your skin? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]</p>	<p>2016/17 2012</p>
		<p>DIS10A. Have you ever experienced discrimination by the police due to the color of your skin? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]</p>	<p>2016/17 2012</p>
<p>DIS11A. And on the part of any public official - have you experienced discrimination at any point in your life due to the color of your skin? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]</p>	<p>2016/17 2012</p>		

Table 9: Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
<p>11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons</p>	<p>11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p>	<p>Out of fear of being a crime victim, in the last 12 months...</p>	<p>2018/19</p>
		<p>VIC72. Have you avoided using public transportation? [Only Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama]</p>	<p>2016/17</p>
		<p>FEAR6e. And in general, how worried are you that someone in your family will be assaulted on public transportation? Would you say a lot, somewhat, a little, or not at all?</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>2016/17</p> <p>2014</p>

Table 10: Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
<p>12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature</p>	<p>12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment</p>	<p>ENV1C1. Some people believe that protecting the environment should be given priority over economic growth, while others believe that growing the economy should be prioritized over environmental protection. On a 1 to 7 scale where 1 means that the environment should be the highest priority and 7 means the economic growth should be the highest priority, where would you place yourself?</p>	<p>2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012</p>
		<p>ENV1C2. Some people believe that protecting the environment should be given priority over economic growth, while others believe that growing the economy should be prioritized over environmental protection. On a 1 to 7 scale where 1 means that the environment should be the highest priority, and 7 means the economic growth should be the highest priority, where would you place yourself?</p>	<p>2016/17 2012</p>

Table 11: Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	DRK1. How likely do you think it is that you or someone in your immediate family here in [country] could be killed or seriously injured in a natural disaster, such as floods, earthquakes, or hurricanes/landslides/tornadoes/storms, in the next 25 years? Do you think it is...	2018/19 2016/17 2012
		DRK12. How likely do you think it is that you or someone in your immediate family here in [country] could be killed or seriously injured in a natural disaster, such as floods, earthquakes, or hurricanes/landslides/tornadoes/storms, in the next 25 years? Do you think it is...?	2016/17 2012
	13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	ENV2B1. If nothing is done to reduce climate change in the future, how serious of a problem do you think it will be for [country]? [Read alternatives]	2018/19 2016/17 2012
		ENV2B2. If nothing is done to reduce climate change in the future, how serious of a problem do you think it will be for [country]? [Read alternatives]	2016/17 2012

Table 12: Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
<p>13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible</p>	<p>13.a.1 Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025</p>	<p>DST1B1. The government should spend more money to enforce buildings codes/norms/regulations to make homes safer from natural disasters, even if it means spending less on other programs... How much do you agree or disagree with this statement?</p>	<p>2018/19 2016/17 2012</p>
		<p>DST1B2. The government should spend more money to enforce building codes/norms/regulations to make homes safer from natural disasters, even if it means spending less on other programs... How much do you agree or disagree with this statement?</p>	<p>2016/17 2012</p>
		<p>PSC3. I am going to mention some problems many of us [nationality] have faced in the last years. Which ones of these have you personally, or someone from your household, experienced in the last three years?</p>	<p>2018/19</p>
		<p>PSC4. Who do you think is primarily responsible for droughts that have as a consequence water outages or lack of water?</p>	<p>2018/19</p>
		<p>PSC5. Who do you think is primarily responsible for the electricity outages?</p>	<p>2018/19</p>
		<p>PSC6. Who do you think is primarily responsible for the floods?</p>	<p>2018/19</p>

Table 13: Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world	15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	CCQ3. Are there codes/norms/regulations that regulate the use of the soil or the land in this city/area where you live?	2016/17 2012

Table 14: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	VIC1EXT. Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or any other type of crime in the past 12 months?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		VIC1EXTA. How many times have you been a crime victim during the last 12 months?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010

Table 15: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	VIC71. Have you avoided leaving your home by yourself at night? [Only Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama]	2018/19 2016/17
		VIC73. Have you avoided leaving your home unoccupied during the night? [Only El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru]	2018/19 2016/17
		VIC74. Have you prevented children from your home from playing in the street? [Only Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama]	2018/19 2016/17
		FEAR6FA. Still thinking of the past 12 months, have you prevented your children from going to school out of fear for their safety? [Only Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Dominican Republic]	2018/19 2016/17
		VIC43. Have you felt the need to move to a different neighborhood out of fear of crime?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012

Table 16: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	AOJ12. If you were a victim of a robbery or assault how much faith to you have that the judicial system would punish the guilty? [Read alternatives]	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		B1. To what extent do you think the courts in (country) guarantee a fair trial? [Read: If you think the courts do not ensure justice <u>at all</u>, choose number 1; if you think the courts ensure justice <u>a lot</u>, choose number 7, or choose a point in <u>between</u> the two.]	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		EXC14. In the last twelve months, have you had any dealings with the courts? Did you have to pay a bribe to the courts in the last twelve months?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010

Table 17: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	EXC2. Has a police officer asked you for a bribe in the last twelve months?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		EXC6. In the last twelve months, did any government employee ask you for a bribe?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		EXC7NEW. Thinking of the politicians of [country]...how many of them do you believe are involved in corruption?	2018/19 2016/17
		EXC7. Taking into account your own experience or what you have heard, corruption among public officials is: [1. Very common 2. Common 3. Uncommon or 4. Very uncommon]?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		EXC20. In the last twelve months, did any soldier or military officer ask you for a bribe?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012

Table 18: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	EXC11. [If the person had official dealings in the municipality/local government in the last twelve months] In the last twelve months, to process any kind of document in your municipal government, like a permit for example, did you have to pay any more money above that required by law?	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
			2010
		EXC13. [If the persons works] In your work, have you been asked to pay a bribe in the last twelve months?	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
			2010
		EXC14. [If the person had any dealings with the courts in the last twelve months] Did you have to pay a bribe to the courts in the last twelve months?	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
			2010
EXC15. [If the person used any public health services in the last twelve months] In order to be seen in a hospital or a clinic in the last twelve months, did you have to pay a bribe?	2018/19		
	2016/17		
	2014		
	2012		
	2010		

Table 19: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	EXC16. [If the person had a child in school in the last twelve months] Have you had to pay a bribe at school in the last twelve months?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010
		EXC18. Do you think given the way things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010

Table 20: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	B1. To what extent do you think the courts in (country) guarantee a fair trial?	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
		B2. To what extent do you respect the political institutions of (country)?	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
		B12. To what extent do you trust the Armed Forces? [Not asked in Bahamas, Costa Rica or Haiti]	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
B13. To what extent do you trust the National Congress?	2018/19		
	2016/17		
	2014		
	2012		
B18. To what extent do you trust the National Police?	2018/19		
	2016/17		
	2014		
	2012		
			2010

Table 21: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	B21A. To what extent do you trust the President/Prime Minister?	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
		B32. To what extent do you trust the local or municipal government?	2012
			2010
			2018/19
		2016/17	
		2014	
		2012	
		2010	

Table 22: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	SD2NEW2. Are you very satisfied, satisfied dissatisfied , or very dissatisfied with the condition of the streets, roads, and highways?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012
		SD6NEW2. And with the quality of public medical and health services? Are you...[very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied , or very dissatisfied]?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012
		SD3NEW2. And with the quality of schools? Are you... [very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied , or very dissatisfied]?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012
		INFRAx. Suppose someone enters your home to burglarize it and you call the police. How long do you think it would take the police to arrive at your house on a typical day around noon? [Read alternatives]	2018/19 2016/17 2014
		POLE2N. In general, are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied , or very dissatisfied with the performance of the police in your neighborhood?	2016/17 2014
		SGL1. Would you say that the services the municipality is providing to the people are...? [Read options] 1. Very good 2. Good	2018/19 2016/17 2014
		3. Neither good nor bad (fair) 4. Bad 5. Very bad?	2012 2010

Table 23: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decisionmaking is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	CP7. Meetings of a parents' association at school? Do you attend them...	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
		CP8. Meetings of a community improvement committee or association? Do you attend them...	2010
			2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
		CP13. Meetings of a political party or political organization? Do you attend them...	2012
			2010
			2018/19
			2016/17
NP1. Have you attended a town meeting, city council meeting or other meeting in the past 12 months?	2014		
	2012		
	2010		
	2018/19		

Table 24: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	MIL10OAS1. The OAS, Organization of the American States. In your opinion, it is very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy, or not at all trustworthy, or do you not have an opinion?	2016/17
		MIL10UN1. The UN, United Nations. In your opinion, it is very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy, or not at all trustworthy, or do you not have an opinion?	2016/17
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	VB1. Are you registered to vote? [El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru: Do you have an Identity Card?]	2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012
		INF1. Do you have a national identification card?	2010
			2018/19
			2016/17
			2014
			2012

Table 25: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	B37. To what extent do you trust the mass media? MEDIA3. Information reported by the [country] news media is an accurate representation of the different viewpoints that exist in [country]. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?	2018/19 2016/17 2014 2012 2010 2016/17

Table 26: Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, cont.

Target	Indicators	Survey Question	Available Year
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	At any point in your life, have you experienced discrimination - not been allowed to do something, been bothered, or made to feel inferior - in any of the following situations as a result of the color of your skin? DIS7A. At school? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]	2016/17 2012
		DIS8A. At work, have you experienced discrimination due to the color of your skin? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]	2016/17 2012
		DIS9A. And have you ever experienced discrimination in the street or in a public place due to the color of your skin? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]	2016/17 2012
		DIS10A. Have you ever experienced discrimination by the police due to the color of your skin? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]	2016/17 2012
		DIS11A. And on the part of any public official - have you experienced discrimination at any point in your life due to the color of your skin? [Only in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru]	2016/17 2012

Notes

1. UN (2019b).
2. UN (2019a); UN (2019b).
3. UN (2020).
4. The Appendix matches each of these survey questions with a specific indicator, lists the full question wording, and notes in which survey round each question was asked.
5. Brady (2000, 47).
6. Joye et al. (2016, 12).
7. e.g., Marenin (1997).
8. Reina, Centenera, and Torrado (2018).
9. Daniel and Lanata Briones (2019).
10. The Economist (2015).
11. Data for each round is released when all data are collected and processed. LAPOP grants unrestricted access to the AmericasBarometer surveys through its website: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/data-access.php>.
12. Specifically, the question (**VIC1EXT**) asks, “have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or any other type of crime in the past 12 months?” Note that the question does not ask how many times each individual was the victim of a crime. As a result, this question measures the rate of crime victimization – what proportion of the population has been victimized at least once – rather than the crime rate.
13. Although the AmericasBarometer uses representative samples at the subnational level, there are not enough cases at this level to assess changes very precisely. As a result, most

of the differences in Figure 2 do not reach conventional levels of statistical significance.

14. These items ask: “Now we want to talk about your personal experience with things that happen in everyday life... **EXC2**. Has a police officer asked you for a bribe in the last twelve months? **EXC6**. In the last twelve months, did any government employee ask you for a bribe? **EXC20**. In the last twelve months, did any soldier or military officer ask you for a bribe? **EXC11**. In the last twelve months, to process any kind of document in your municipal government, like a permit for example, did you have to pay any money above that required by law? **EXC13**. In your work, have you been asked to pay a bribe in the last twelve months? **EXC14**. Did you have to pay a bribe to the courts in the last twelve months? **EXC15**. In order to be seen in a hospital or a clinic in the last twelve months, did you have to pay a bribe? **EXC16**. Have you had to pay a bribe at school in the last twelve months?” In our analysis here, respondents are coded as having been asked to pay a bribe if they responded affirmatively to any one or more of these questions.
15. While the AmericasBarometer includes several indicators of satisfaction with public services, here we focus on **SD6NEW2**. Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the quality of public medical and health services?

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