
Recommendations for

measuring perceptions

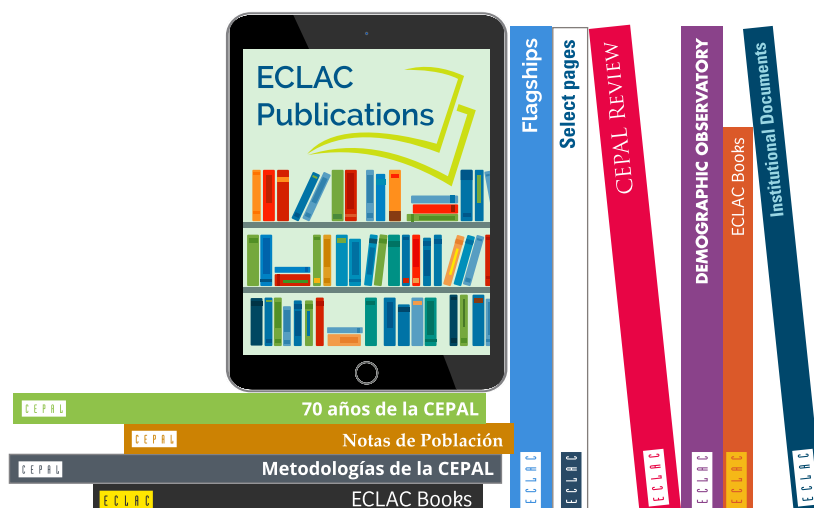
in household surveys



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Introduction

Recent years have seen a growing international interest in incorporating information on how citizens perceive and evaluate well-being into the monitoring of social progress. The emerging consensus maintains that conventional measurements of well-being are insufficient to provide a complete overview of quality of life. In turn, the recent wave of protests in different parts of the world, together with the crises in labour markets and in health, education and care systems, further aggravated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, has underscored the need to make progress with measuring people's perceptions in order to explore the complexity of social phenomena and contribute to the design of public policies.

Despite the increased acceptance of the importance of subjective information about well-being, much work still remains to be done. Although the report by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi (2009) urged national statistical offices to include more subjective information, few Latin American countries have as yet incorporated the necessary questions into their surveys. This document therefore offers recommendations for using household surveys to generate subjective indicators in order to make progress in this area and contribute to strengthening the capacities of national statistical systems for measuring well-being through subjective information.

The document is structured as follows: The first chapter discusses the background and objectives of the text. The second sets out guidelines for establishing a framework for perception-based indicators. Chapter III offers a compilation of international experiences with measuring perceptions that can serve as a point of reference for the region. The fourth chapter explores the gender perspective and intersectionality in measuring perceptions. Chapter V presents the conceptual and methodological framework, identifying the thematic areas of interest for regional public policies. The sixth chapter proposes indicators calculated on the basis of two questionnaires—one basic and the other expanded (see annex A1)—while a series of conclusions are offered in chapter VII.

Chapter I

Background and objectives of the document

In recent years, in its monitoring of social progress, the international community has expressed growing interest in information on how people perceive and evaluate their levels of well-being. Data on the population's material living conditions need to be supplemented with subjective information, since the actions that citizens take in connection with public affairs are shaped by their subjective perceptions. The recent wave of protests in different parts of the world, together with the crises in labour markets and in health, education and care systems, further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic (García Chueca and Teodoro, 2022), has underscored the gap that exists between policymakers and the general public and has highlighted the need to measure people's perceptions, so they can be taken on board in the design of public policies.

That growing interest was enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set indicators based on perceptions of discrimination, insecurity, satisfaction with public services and inclusive decision-making.¹ In turn, through its Better Life Initiative, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2020 and 2021) has promoted the measurement of well-being in non-conventional areas by developing guidelines to evaluate inclusion, employment quality, environmental conditions, subjective well-being, trust, security and other factors.

Much work still remains to be done, however. Although the report by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi (2009) recommended that national statistical offices include more subjective information, few Latin American countries have as yet incorporated questions of this kind into their surveys.

To address that need, between September and October 2020, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held four seminars that explored the conceptual and methodological aspects involved in perception-based measurements of quality of life. At the twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the countries' representatives agreed on the importance of producing official perception-based statistics and pledged to move forward with strengthening national statistical systems to measure well-being based on subjective information. Later, at the eleventh session of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in November 2021, the formation of a working group to prepare recommendations for measuring perceptions in household surveys was approved. This document is the result of that group's work.

Against that backdrop, the following specific objectives are proposed in this document:

- Reviewing international experiences in measuring perceptions and identifying those that provide relevant points of reference for the region.
- Identifying perception-based indicators of well-being in thematic areas of importance to Latin America.
- Reviewing national experiences with subjective measurements of well-being, with an emphasis on the methods used.

¹ For further information on the SDGs, see [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/> The indicators based on perceptions of discrimination, insecurity, satisfaction with public services and inclusive decision-making are the following:

- Indicator 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.
- Indicator 16.1.4: Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark.
- Indicator 16.6.2: Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services.
- Indicator 16.7.2: Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive (by sex, age, disability and population group).

- Designing a battery of questions for measuring perceptions and compiling them into a standard questionnaire.

The expected outcomes of the document are the following:

- Raising awareness about the importance of incorporating perception statistics into the regular output of national statistical offices.
- Providing national statistical offices with a point of reference for implementing perception-based surveys, addressing the challenges that this undertaking implies and proposing a battery of questions of common interest.
- Developing a baseline questionnaire for measuring perceptions by examining international experiences and selecting best practices.
- Setting a regional standard and ensuring that the product is sufficiently developed for approval by the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

Chapter II

General criteria for defining a framework of perception-based indicators

The following general criteria must be taken into account in formulating a framework of perception-based indicators: multidimensionality, complementarity, best practices, viability, comparability, timeliness and periodicity.

A. Multidimensionality

Indicators based on subjective information must address various aspects of well-being. The multidimensional framework of perception-based well-being indicators examines aspects of human development other than economic growth alone, incorporating the full range of dimensions that influence people's well-being.

International well-being monitoring mechanisms, such as the SDGs and the OECD well-being indicator framework, were used as reference points to identify relevant issues at the global level. In addition, a regional consultation exercise was conducted to determine the priorities shared by the region's countries that participated in the group, such as health, education, work and employment, income, security, housing, environment, culture, participation and personal satisfaction.

B. Complementarity

Subjective measurements supplement traditional measurements of well-being, which alone are not sufficient to determine quality of life. Subjective indicators are important in understanding citizens' life experiences and the way in which socioeconomic and political circumstances affect them. Perceptions provide a perspective on reality that may or may not coincide with the picture provided by conventional measurements of well-being.

The inclusion of perception-based indicators reduces the gap between official statistics and people's perceptions of their lives (Ocampo, 2021). Incorporating those indicators gives people a voice, makes information more relevant to citizens and strengthens democracy. For that reason, the framework for perception-based well-being indicators must draw on official sources of statistics, particularly household surveys.

C. Best practices

The need to produce statistics on how people perceive their quality of life opened up the possibility of collecting data on perceptions on a regular basis and, as result, countries designed methods for that purpose (Rubalcava Peñafiel, 2011). In designing those methods, national statistical offices apply international best practices and scientific methods to obtain information that will enable them to provide users with more and better decision-making resources.

D. Viability

Statistical viability means that the categories of analysis and the classes that comprise them can be effectively and accurately identified, constructed and measured. This ensures that constructing the indicator with the available data is feasible, that the data processing enables the categories to be formed accurately and that the measurements are correct and consistent with the information to be conveyed.

E. Comparability

Comparability allows the indicators from different national statistical offices to be correlated and interpreted with respect to each other or with respect to a common parameter (DANE, 2017). It is therefore necessary to formulate guidelines that allow the region's countries to be analysed and compared.

F. Timeliness

To comply with information needs, indicators must be published promptly after the data are collected. Ensuring the relevance of the time period covered by indicators improves the usability of the data.

G. Periodicity

In the interests of measuring quality of life in the fullest fashion possible, perception surveys should be conducted alongside household surveys. A system of well-being indicators based on objective and subjective information covering the same reference period would enable the following:

- Enhanced leverage of synergies between measurements of living conditions and of perceptions.
- Multidimensional indicator dashboards combining objective and subjective information so that there is at least one objective and one subjective indicator for each aspect, which would increase their analytical usefulness.
- Identification of linkages between the subjective and objective aspects of reality revealed by each survey, thus contributing to a multidimensional approach to economic and social phenomena.
- Identification of intersectional aspects associated with the dynamics of inequalities and establishment of a statistical baseline that recognizes the interactions between various relevant dimensions within specific phenomena.

Depending on the specific country in question, surveys should be conducted every two or every five years.

Chapter III

International experiences

This section describes experiences with recording perceptions in Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru and Canada. The thematic area, survey and indicator type are shown according to each country's conceptual framework.

A. Chile: Office of the Undersecretary for Social Evaluation

In Chile, well-being is measured using the capabilities-based approach devised by Amartya Sen (1993) and it is assessed by means of results, means and capabilities, with perceptions used as outcome indicators (Castellanos, 2018). This model uses the structure of the first OECD multidimensional framework for measuring well-being, which identifies 11 thematic areas covering material conditions and quality of life.

1. Social Well-being Survey (EBS)

Information on material living conditions comes from the National Socioeconomic Survey (CASEN), which is administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs. The quality of life indicators (see table III.1) are taken from EBS 2021, conducted on a CASEN subsample. The EBS target population comprises persons aged 18 and older who reside in private households. The sample is nationally representative of both urban and rural areas. Because of the pandemic, EBS 2021 was conducted by telephone over a period of eight weeks during the first half of the year (Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs, 2021).

Table III.1

Chile: subjective indicators of the Social Well-being Survey (EBS) and the National Socioeconomic Survey (CASEN), by thematic area

Thematic area	Results indicator (actual) ^a	Opportunities indicator (potential) ^b	Survey
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-reported health • Mental health: anxiety and depression according to the Patient Health Questionnaire-4 (PHQ-4) • Overweight and obesity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capabilities enabled by health quality • Perception of financial insecurity with respect to health care • Food insecurity^c • Access to health care • Access to medicines 	EBS
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of education^c • Expected level of education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capabilities enabled by level of education • Possibility of learning something new • Barriers to further study 	
Work/life balance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of time between family, work and personal activities • Satisfaction with time use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to childcare networks • Flexibility in the workplace for balancing work and family/personal time 	
Social connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network size and quality • Social support networks • Trust in others • Experience of mistreatment/abuse • Place of mistreatment/abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network heterogeneity 	
Civic engagement and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence in institutions • Social participation • Political participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in community/national decisions • Barriers to participation 	

Thematic area	Results indicator (actual) ^a	Opportunities indicator (potential) ^b	Survey
Quality of the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of environmental quality in the community Exposure to environmental problems Frequency of access to green areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacities limited by environmental issues 	EBS
Personal security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-reported victimization Experience of insecure situation Risk of sexual harassment in public places Sense of security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to protection and social security 	
Subjective well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfaction with life Satisfaction with life by domains Prevailing mood 		
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal household income^c Total household income^c Income poverty^c Gini index^c Adequacy of income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to meet basic needs Strategy for dealing with income crises Concern about indebtedness 	
Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciation of job quality aspects Evaluation of job quality aspects Perception of employability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills acquired through work 	
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenure type^c Overcrowding rate^c Materials and upkeep^c Access to basic sanitary facilities^c Access to heating fuels^c Internet access Housing quality problems Thermal comfort 		

Source: Prepared by the authors.

^a Result indicators focus on conditions and states that are the result of public policy.

^b Opportunity indicators focus on capabilities and access to opportunities.

^c Objective indicators from CASEN.

B. Mexico: National Institute of Statistics and Geography

In Mexico, surveys for measuring perceptions are invariably addressed to direct informants, who are selected on the basis of specifications defined for the observation unit. It is therefore not valid for another household member to answer on behalf of the selected person. Most of the surveys of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) that measure perceptions use two questionnaires: the first collects information on the characteristics of the dwelling and the household, while the second one, which is usually addressed to persons aged 18 and older, deals with perceptions of specific topics.

1. Self-reported Well-being Module (Basic BIARE)

Basic BIARE is intended to generate solid statistics on subjective well-being on a regular basis. The target population of Basic BIARE comprises adults aged 18 and over living in urban areas. It is a module of the National Consumer Confidence Survey (ENCC).

2. National Self-reported Well-being Survey (ENBIARE)

ENBIARE 2021 yields information on different dimensions of well-being, to reveal how women and men evaluate their situations, identify factors that facilitate and hinder well-being and highlight inequalities between groups. ENBIARE is aimed at the entire adult population aged 18 and over who are literate, Spanish-speaking and residents of urban and rural areas.

ENBIARE informants are randomly selected from among the members of the household (the group of people who share common expenses). This survey offers national coverage and can be broken down by State; and it uses stratified probabilistic, three-stage and clustered sampling.

3. Retrospective Demographic Survey (EDER)

EDER gathers longitudinal information on the life histories of people aged 20 to 54 years. The survey provides contextual information on the respondents' living conditions today and when they were 14 years old, as well as on their satisfaction with life today and at different moments in the past. The sampling system is probabilistic, stratified and by clusters. It has national coverage and allows breakdowns by State and by urban and rural areas.

4. National Time-use Survey (ENUT)

ENUT records all forms of paid and unpaid work, makes household production and its contribution to the economy visible and provides information on how men and women use their time and perceive their well-being.

This survey's target population is persons aged 12 and over, and it has national coverage and allows for breakdowns by State and locality size. It uses a probabilistic, two-stage, stratified and clustered sampling system.

5. National Health and Nutrition Survey (ENSANUT)

ENSANUT provides information on the health and nutrition of various population groups. The target population comprises national or foreign residents that make up households in private dwellings across the country. It uses a probabilistic, stratified and clustered sampling system.

6. National Housing Survey (ENVI)

The ENVI provides information on housing situations and characteristics and allows the needs and demands of the population in that regard to be identified. It focuses on inhabited private dwellings across the nation's territory. It offers national and State coverage. Its sampling method is probabilistic, two-stage, stratified and clustered. Informants are household members aged 18 or older who are in possession of information about the dwelling.

7. Social Cohesion Survey for the Prevention of Violence and Crime (ECOPRED)

ECOPRED measures risk factors and exposure to situations of crime and violence among urban youth aged between 12 and 29. It uses a probabilistic, stratified, multistage and clustered sampling system. Target respondents are persons 18 years of age or older and heads of household.

8. National Urban Public Security Survey (ENSU)

ENSU provides estimates on how the population perceives public security in their cities. Its purpose is to provide information for the general public and to offer inputs to be used in formulating public security policies. The target population is urban dwellers aged 18 and over.

9. National Survey on Victimization and Public Security Perceptions (ENVIPE)

ENVIPE allows estimates of the prevalence, incidence and number of crimes affecting households. It also reports on perceptions of public security, how the performance of security and justice institutions is viewed, the context of victimization, and the characteristics of crime and its economic and social impact. It has national coverage and allows breakdowns by States and metropolitan areas. The unit of analysis is the population aged 18 and older in private dwellings. It uses a three-stage probabilistic sampling method by stratified clusters.

10. National Sexual and Gender Diversity Survey (ENDISEG)

ENDISEG targets the population aged 15 and over who identify as having a non-normative or non-conventional sexual orientation or gender identity; i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (LGBTI+). The survey explores the main characteristics of this population, including their sexuality, education, employment, physical health, emotional health, personal satisfaction and so on.

ENDISEG covers the nation's entire territory and its geographical breakdown is by State (for estimating the LGBTI+ population only). It uses probabilistic, three-stage, stratified and clustered sampling. Informants are persons aged 15 and older.

11. National Survey on Discrimination (ENADIS)

ENADIS provides an approximation of the incidence and distribution of experiences of discrimination and its various manifestations in everyday life, and it provides data about who discriminates and in which areas they do so.

It uses a probabilistic, three-stage, stratified and clustered sampling method. Its informants are persons aged 15 and older. According to the sociodemographic characteristics obtained, the population aged 12 years and older is interviewed, along with those belonging to vulnerable groups (Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendants, people with disabilities, migrants, displaced persons, women, children and adolescents, domestic workers and so on). Its geographical breakdown is national and by State.

12. National Survey on Access to and Permanence in Education (ENAPE)

ENAPE provides information on the access of the population aged 0 to 29 to the National Education System and on their permanence in it, as well as on the reasons why this population does not complete their studies, does not enrol or decides to return when not enrolled. It also provides data on various aspects of school dynamics. It has national coverage and targets the population with a landline or mobile phone. It uses probabilistic, one-stage and stratified sampling.

13. Intergenerational Social Mobility Module (MMSI)

MMSI provides information on the intergenerational social mobility of the population aged 25 to 64 years by examining the influence of schooling, socioeconomic level and occupation on people rising through social strata. Its coverage is national and it uses probabilistic, stratified, two-stage and clustered sampling.

14. National Consumer Confidence Survey (ENCO)

ENCO reports on the population's satisfaction with their personal and family economic situation and that of the country, and on how they perceive changes in social well-being, development and other variables. The survey covers the country's urban areas, with data being collected in the 32 largest cities. It uses probabilistic, stratified and clustered sampling, and the informant can be the head of household or another household member aged 15 years or older.

Table III.2 shows a series of subjective indicators, broken down by thematic area, that can be obtained from the BIARE modules (basic and expanded), from ENBIARE 2021 or from other INEGI surveys.

Table III.2

Mexico: subjective indicators by thematic area and survey

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Subjective well-being	• Prevailing mood the day before the interview	Self-reported Well-being Module (BIARE)/National Self-reported Well-being Survey (ENBIARE)
	• Eudaimonia	
	• Satisfaction with life at present	BIARE/National Time-use Survey (ENUT)
	• Happiness	
	• Satisfaction with life one year ago	
• Satisfaction throughout life (childhood, adolescence, youth, adulthood)	Retrospective Demographic Survey (EDER)	
Social cohesion	<i>Social connections and networks</i>	
	• Satisfaction with social life	BIARE/ENBIARE/ENUT
	• Size of support networks (family members)	National Health and Nutrition Survey (ENSANUT)
	• Size of support networks (friends)	
	• Satisfaction with personal relationships	BIARE
	• Lack of companionship, exclusion and isolation	ENSANUT
	• Familiarity and relations with neighbours	National Housing Survey (ENVI)
	• Satisfaction with family life	ENUT
	• Satisfaction with emotional life	
	• Quality of sentimental partnership	ENBIARE
	<i>Civic engagement</i>	
• Satisfaction with the city	BIARE/ENBIARE	
• Satisfaction with the country		
Trust	<i>Institutional trust</i>	
	• Trust in institutions	ENBIARE/National Urban Public Security Survey (ENSU)
	• Trust in governing officials	ENBIARE
	• Trust in neighbourhood police	ENSU/Social Cohesion Survey for the Prevention of Violence and Crime (ECOPRED)
	• Reasons for distrusting the neighbourhood police	
	• Level of police effectiveness	National Survey on Victimization and Public Security Perceptions (ENVIPE)
	<i>Interpersonal trust</i>	
• In most people	ENBIARE	
• In acquaintances		
Discrimination	• Forms of discrimination	National Sexual and Gender Diversity Survey (ENDISEG)
	• Respect in the country for the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indigenous Peoples – People with disabilities – Older persons – Adolescents – Women and domestic workers 	National Survey on Discrimination (ENADIS)
Education	• Impact of schooling on future well-being	National Survey on Access to and Permanence in Education (ENAPE)

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Social mobility	<i>Social mobility</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of intergenerational decision-making freedom • Perception of intergenerational standard of living • Perception of intergenerational opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Educational – Employment – Of acquiring assets – Of level of work 	ENBIARE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of socioeconomic status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Current – At age 14 • Perception of children's socioeconomic status at the respondent's current age 	Intergenerational Social Mobility Module (MMSI)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations of obtaining and maintaining homeownership 	ECOPRED
Environment	<i>Satisfaction with the environment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction with aspects of water service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Taste, colour, smell – Reliability in health terms – Pressure – Continuity of service – Attention at offices – Leak repair – Metering – Fees • Satisfaction with aspects of the environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Air quality – Water quality in rivers, lakes, sea (beaches) – Access to green spaces (parks, woodland) – Noise – Access to drinking water – Access to drainage – Visual image – Odours – Attention to natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, landslides, droughts) 	Households and Environment Module (MOHOMA) 2015, environmental practices
	<i>Perception of environmental problems</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of the seriousness of refuse generation in Mexico • Satisfaction regarding refuse and litter on streets <i>Perception of the severity of various environmental problems</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Climate change/global warming • Water pollution • Loss or reduction of natural resources (woodlands, water, energy) • Endangered species and declining biodiversity (plants and animals) 	MOHOMA 2015, environmental practices
	<i>Water security</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about insufficient water • Level of annoyance with any water-related situation • Frequency of going to bed thirsty • Level of embarrassment or rejection because of water problems 	ENSANUT
	<i>General health</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction with personal health 	BIARE/ENBIARE
Health	<i>Disability</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability of one year or more • Periods of disability • Level of disability 	EDER
	<i>Physical health</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of body build • Perception of weight and health 	ENSANUT
	<i>Mental health</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms of depression • Symptoms of anxiety 	BIARE/ENBIARE

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Security	Citizen security • Satisfaction with citizen security	BIARE
	• Perception of security: – Vis-à-vis crime in different arenas – In different places – In the neighbourhood • Activities limited because of fear of crime <i>Victimization and justice system</i> • Perception of patrolling in the neighbourhood • Perception of police actions in the neighbourhood in response to a crime • Expectations of how security will change over the year (potential) • Expectations regarding neighbourhood security (potential) • Perception of future security on account of crime (potential)	ENVIPE ECOPRED
Economic situation	<i>Consumer confidence</i> • Perception of current personal, household and national economic situations compared to one year ago • Perception of change in purchasing possibilities compared to one year ago • Current possibility of personal savings • Perception of future personal, household and national economic situations compared to current (potential) • Household expectations regarding the possibility of vacationing (potential) Expectations for personal savings (potential) • Expectations for employment in the country Car purchasing plans (potential) • Plans to purchase, construct or remodel the home (potential)	National Consumer Confidence Survey (ENCO)
	<i>Subjective poverty</i> • Sufficiency of income • Sufficient income to cover monthly expenses • Sufficient income • Satisfaction with standard of living • Satisfaction with the economic situation	ENBIARE
	<i>Food security</i> • Concern about food shortages for money reasons <i>Economic security</i> • Risk of eviction from home • Financial protection against major health problems	
Work and job quality	• Voice at work <i>Work/life balance</i> • Satisfaction with available time	BIARE/ENBIARE
	• Employment expectations (potential)	ECOPRED
Use of social networks and information and communications technologies	• Frequency of use of social networks	ENBIARE
Time use	• Satisfaction with the time dedicated to different activities • Expectations about time spent with others and on fun (potential)	ENUT/ECOPRED
Housing	• Satisfaction with housing	ENUT/ENVI
	• Satisfaction with the neighbourhood • Change in satisfaction with housing size and space in the wake of the pandemic • Satisfaction with the quality of floors, walls and ceilings, paint, coatings and other finishes, lighting and ventilation, and protection from rain, cold, heat or wind • Satisfaction with the size of the different spaces in the home • Satisfaction with the distance between home and places of interest, or with the time it takes to get to those places • Perception of how the home identifies with tastes, customs and traditions • Problems in the home environment: ramps, noise, refuse, pollution, vandalism, theft	ENVI
	• Perception of the home’s physical condition compared to others in the neighbourhood	ECOPRED

Source: Prepared by the authors.

C. Colombia: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) conducts household surveys that follow the recommendations for the measurement of subjective well-being and that generate indicators on perceptions, attitudes, experiences and expectations (see table III.3). In the past, these measurements were produced annually; in the context of the pandemic, however, they began to be calculated on a monthly basis.

1. National Quality of Life Survey (ECV)

This was the first Colombian survey to include measurements of life satisfaction and subjective poverty.

2. Political Culture Survey (ECP)

This survey contains a module that addresses social capital (trust and reciprocity, social cohesion and inclusion, collective action and life satisfaction) and an experimental module dealing with support networks and trust.

3. Citizen Coexistence and Security Survey (ECSC)

Focused on measuring victimization, it also includes measurements on perceptions of insecurity and changes in daily habits.

4. Social Pulse Survey and Business Pulse Survey

These are the first monthly measurements of consumer confidence and business confidence, and they contain modules on expectations, mental health and confidence.

Table III.3

Colombia: subjective indicators by thematic area and survey

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Subjective well-being	• Satisfaction with life in general	National Quality of Life Survey (ECV)
	• Satisfaction with emotional life	Social Pulse
Health	• Satisfaction with health	ECV/Social Pulse
Security	• Satisfaction with security	ECV
	• Perception of the possibility of falling victim to crime in the next 12 months/perception of which crime respondents could be a victim of in the next 12 months	Political Culture Survey (ECP)
	• Perception of the contribution of the institutions to the security of the city or municipality	
	• Perception of security	Business Pulse
	• Level of security for walking alone at night in the neighbourhood	Social Pulse
Employment or activity	• Satisfaction with the job or activity performed	ECV/Social Pulse
Time use	• Satisfaction with free time	ECV/Social Pulse
Income	• Satisfaction with income	ECV
Governance	• Perception of transparency in vote counts	ECP
	• Satisfaction with the way democracy is working	
	• Perception of whether human rights are protected and guaranteed in Colombia	
	• Perception of the emergence of risks to the rights to life, liberty, integrity and personal security	

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Trust	• Trust in institutions or actors, according to the importance of different groups of people or factors in personal life	ECP
	• Perception of the performance of judicial branch institutions in contributing to citizen or municipal security • Trust in neighbours • Trust in strangers	Citizen Coexistence and Security Survey (ECSC)
Economic situation	• Expectations and uncertainty regarding the situation of the country and the company • Expectations about the exchange rate and inflation	Business Pulse

Source: Prepared by the authors.

D. Ecuador: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses

The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, the agency in charge of national statistics, is responsible for producing official statistics in Ecuador, which then serve as the basis for public policy decisions.

1. Living Conditions Survey (ECV)

Data from ECV are nationally representative, as regards both urban and rural areas, and cover four natural regions, 24 provinces, nine planning zones and four self-contained cities (Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca and Machala). The survey uses probabilistic, stratified and two-stage sampling, covering a universe of all households in urban and rural areas, and includes different indicators of subjective well-being (see table III.4).

Table III.4

Ecuador: subjective indicators by thematic area and survey

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Subjective well-being	Days on which the respondent experienced various emotions or feelings, by type	Living Conditions Survey (ECV)
	Perception of self	ECV
	Importance of various aspects of life, by type of aspect	ECV
	Personal resources	ECV
Environment	Concern for the environment	ECV

Source: Prepared by the authors.

E. Plurinational State of Bolivia: National Statistics Institute

The National Statistics Institute (INE) is the agency responsible for regulating, producing and publishing official statistics at the national level.

1. Household Survey (EH)

EH reports on major demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. It is the main source of information for measuring poverty and is disaggregated at the national, urban, rural and departmental levels. The unit of analysis is households and their members, and the universe is households and the persons residing in those households. It uses a probabilistic, two-stage method. The survey includes one indicator on citizen security (see table III.5).

Table III.5

Plurinational State of Bolivia: subjective indicators by thematic area and survey

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Citizen security	• Level of security when walking alone on the street	Household Survey (EH)

Source: Prepared by the authors.

F. Paraguay: National Statistics Institute

The National Statistics Institute is the agency responsible for regulating, producing and publishing official national statistics.

1. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)

MICS provides data to formulate evidence-based policies and monitor progress towards achieving national and international goals. Its coverage is national, in both urban and rural areas, and it covers nine regions, strata or planning domains. The survey includes indicators on different thematic areas that are described in table III.6.

Table III.6

Paraguay: subjective indicators by thematic area and survey

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Subjective well-being	• Hedonism	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)
	• Satisfaction with life in general	MICS
	• Satisfaction with appearance	MICS
	• Perception of improvements in life compared to the previous year	MICS
	• Expectation for improvements in life over the coming year	MICS
Health	• Satisfaction with health	MICS
Work	• Satisfaction with current employment	MICS
Surroundings	• Satisfaction with place of residence	MICS
Income	• Satisfaction with current income	MICS
Social cohesion	• Respondent's satisfaction with treatment received from other people	MICS

Source: Prepared by the authors.

G. Peru: National Statistics and Informatics Institute

The National Statistics and Informatics Institute is the lead agency of the National Statistical System and is responsible for planning, directing, coordinating and supervising the country's official statistics.

1. National Household Survey (ENAHO)

ENAHO allows living condition indicators to be monitored. The study population comprises dwellings and their occupants. Its geographical coverage is national, covering both urban and rural areas, and it uses a probabilistic, stratified and multistage sampling method. The survey includes indicators on different thematic areas that are described in table III.7.

Table III.7

Peru: subjective indicators by thematic area and survey

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Civic engagement and governance	• Most important feature of democracy	National Household Survey (ENAHO)
	• Usefulness of democracy	ENAHO
	• Importance of democracy	ENAHO
	• Functioning of democracy	ENAHO
	• Reasons for the malfunctioning of democracy	ENAHO
Discrimination	• Respect for freedom of expression, equality, political freedom and transparent elections	ENAHO
	• Discrimination by cause	ENAHO
Social authority, programmes and services	• Satisfaction with the authorities for different actions	ENAHO
	• Perception of improvements in households in the locality or community and in the respondent's own home	ENAHO
	• Satisfaction with the goods and services received from programmes	ENAHO
	• Level of programmes' contributions to household betterment	ENAHO
Food security	• Level of contribution of food received from programmes to household betterment	ENAHO
	• Level of contribution of social food programmes to household well-being	ENAHO

Source: Prepared by the authors.

H. Canada: Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada is the national statistical service, and it works to ensure that Canadians have information about the economy, society and the environment to function effectively as citizens and decision-makers.

1. Canadian Social Survey (CSS)

CSS collects information on the quality of life and cost of living in the country. The survey provides information on well-being, life opportunities and the effects of inflation on individuals and families (see table III.8).

The target population is all non-institutionalized persons aged 15 years and older in the ten provinces of Canada not living on reserves. CSS is a voluntary survey and data are collected through an electronic questionnaire or by telephone interviews. First contact is made by a letter of invitation that is sent by mail and provides a link and access code to answer the survey electronically or by telephone. Households may receive email or SMS reminders before being contacted by a Statistics Canada interviewer to complete the questionnaire by telephone.

Table III.8

Canada: subjective indicators by thematic area and survey

Thematic area	Indicator	Survey
Health	Health status	Canadian Social Survey (CSS)
	Mental health status	
Subjective well-being	Satisfaction with general standard of living	
	Satisfaction with the value of the things the person does	
	Hopeful vision of the future	
Work/life balance	Satisfaction with work/life balance	
Social cohesion	Frequency with which respondent feels lonely	
	Sense of community belonging	
	Frequency with which respondent can ask for help when needed	
Time use	Satisfaction with the amount of time respondent spends doing the things he/she likes to do	
Environment	Satisfaction with the environment, access to green spaces, and air and water quality	
	Concern about the risk of an emergency related to the weather or a natural disaster	
Trust	Trust in most people	
	Trust in people who speak another language	
	Trust in people whose religion is different	
	Trust in people of different ethnic or cultural backgrounds	
	Trust in strangers	
	Trust in the police	
	Trust in the justice system	
	Trust in the education system	
Income	Difficulty in meeting household financial needs (in the last year)	
	Perception of improvements in financial situation	
Social mobility	Perception that life opportunities will improve in the next year and over the next five years	
	Perception of improvement compared to parents or persons who raised the respondent in terms of acquiring assets (e.g. a house, business, or land)	
Housing	Satisfaction with housing	
Discrimination	Percentage of people who had an experience of discrimination, by type	

Source: Prepared by the authors.

Chapter IV

The gender and intersectional perspective in measuring perceptions

Discrimination is any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference or other differential treatment that is directly or indirectly based on internationally prohibited grounds of discrimination (for example, gender, colour, language, religion, national origin or disability). Discrimination nullifies or impairs the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of people's fundamental rights and freedoms (ECOSOC, 2009).

Economic growth, by itself, does not ensure sustainable development, and individuals and groups continue to face various inequalities, often resulting from or contributing to the entrenchment of certain forms of discrimination (Praia Group on Governance Statistics, 2020). One example of such inequalities are those related to gender. The gender perspective highlights the need to implement policies that foster women's equality and autonomy. Measurements of perceptions must provide information that reveals how women and men experience different situations, so that gender gaps can be better understood.

The aim of intersectionality in subjective statistics is to highlight the fact that gender and other social categories, such as ethnicity or class, are interrelated social constructs, as well as the fact that the convergence of multiple inequalities can lead to severe deprivations of rights.

Intersectional analysis is useful for casting light on cross-discrimination. Data disaggregation should be performed to show intersectional dynamics and how they relate to the distribution of well-being (Echarri Cánovas, 2020). Intersectionality implies disaggregating the indicators so that they show the co-occurrence of inequalities and make it possible to determine which groups are most vulnerable. The intersectional perspective shows how other characteristics in addition to gender—such as ethnicity, phenotype, social class or sexual orientation—have a synergistic potential.

The recommendations in this document are intended to provide guidance for incorporating subjective indicators with a gender perspective into countries' national statistical systems. The *Guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production*² are applied throughout the statistical production process of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) created by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Eurostat and OECD, which has been adopted by some of the region's national statistical offices.³

The following guidelines are offered for the incorporation of the intersectional and gender perspectives:

- Use of inclusive language.
- Training and awareness-raising about the gender perspective in order to eliminate stereotypes and biases in the statistical production process.
- Ensuring that gender specialists provide advice throughout the statistical process.
- Disaggregating the sex variable as a permanent, basic and cross-cutting classification.
- Disaggregating by other population variables in addition to sex to ensure an intersectional approach is followed.
- Creating guidelines to facilitate the incorporation of the gender perspective at the institutional level within national statistical systems.

² The *Guidelines* are a conceptual and methodological tool intended for entities of national statistical systems and national statistical offices, national mechanisms for the advancement of women, other public entities that produce official statistics and other organizations interested in generating, disseminating, interpreting and using statistics with a gender perspective (LC/CEA.12/12).

³ This model establishes eight phases to regulate the statistical production process (identification of needs, design, construction, data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and evaluation).

Chapter V

Conceptual and methodological framework

A. Background to measuring well-being

Focusing on the measurement of well-being and social progress changed the outlook on what is deemed important in assessing the quality of life. The Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, created in 2008, encouraged discussions on the limits of the gross domestic product (GDP) as a measure of well-being. In 2009, the European Union coined the phrase “beyond GDP”, alluding to the idea that gross domestic product figures alone are not sufficient to indicate quality of life. In turn, in 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 66/281 on happiness and well-being, and the organization’s Statistical Commission began to design progress indicators to complement traditional monetary metrics.

OECD formulated a multidimensional framework aligned with the recommendations of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress and, in 2011, it launched the Better Life Initiative, aimed at overcoming the limitations of GDP and influencing policies in order to foster well-being. This initiative involves two programmes: the *How’s Life?* report, which, since its first edition in 2013, compiles 11 internationally comparable indicators, and the Better Life Index virtual platform, which displays the 11 indicators in relation to a set of countries. Three of the indicators focus on material conditions and eight on quality of life. From the 11 dimensions of current well-being, the resources that make future well-being sustainable are derived: to wit, economic, natural, human and social capital.

B. The well-being framework of the OECD Better Life Initiative

The multidimensional well-being framework of the Better Life Initiative is intended to measure aspects of well-being that are important to people, including non-material dimensions of quality of life. The indicators used include the following: life expectancy, which is an objective indicator of the population’s health; educational attainment, which is also an objective indicator of non-material well-being; air quality, which is reported through an indicator of fine particulate matter levels (PM_{2.5}); civic engagement, expressed through voter percentages; the homicide rate, which indicates citizen security; and the time dedicated to work, leisure and self-care, which is an objective indicator of the balance between those different aspects of life.

Although these indicators are not based on subjective information, they could have a subjective counterpart indicating the person’s position on the issue, based on his or her perception. The perception-based quality of life indicators are the following:

- Satisfaction with life
- Prevailing mood
- Having a social support network and social connections
- Feeling safe when walking alone at night
- Interpersonal trust

People’s subjective perceptions, evaluations and experiences are crucial in measuring well-being. Based on the scheme used by the Better Life Initiative, there are several possible areas of well-being in which subjective

information is considered and that go beyond the indicators of subjective well-being. They include interpersonal trust and trust in institutions, the perception of corruption, expectations of social mobility, perceptions of discrimination and injustice and so on.

All of these issues can be measured at the micro, meso and macro levels and, in their measurement, respondents can be asked to report on certain events—such as their experience of having been a victim of violence— or to evaluate the conditions prevailing in their family, community or country. Use can also be made of subjective evaluations of material conditions, such as satisfaction with housing, employment, income and standard of living, or the perception of whether the household's income is sufficient to cover its expenses.

C. Conceptual delimitation

1. Subjective perceptions

Subjective perceptions are personal representations of reality. People perceive the world from their individual perspectives, based on their experiences. The subjective perspective emphasizes the meaning that reality has for people and the way that meaning is linked to their behaviours or preferences. Perception indicators can also provide approximations of objective phenomena, such as poverty, by indicating how people evaluate their situations and what meaning they have for them.

Subjective measurements are based on people's experiences and judgements about numerous aspects of their lives. They provide an alternative to conventional well-being metrics that focus on the availability of goods and services. Although service quality indicators based on beneficiaries' perceptions are not sufficient to determine that institutions are functioning correctly, they do give an idea of the benefit perceived by the population (CONEVAL, 2013). Subjective information casts light on the gap between economic indicators and people's perceptions.

Perceptions are measured by means of a variety of both national and international statistical exercises: the World Values Survey, Latinobarómetro, Eurobarometer, the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), the European Social Survey, the General Social Survey on Social Identity 2013 (Canada), the Political Culture Survey (ECP) 2017 (Colombia), the Community Life Survey 2018–2019 (United Kingdom), the BIARE modules (basic and expanded) and ENBIARE (Mexico) and various others.

2. Subjective well-being

The concept of subjectivity involves internal evaluations, and the concept of well-being is related to the state that people deem desirable. Thus, subjective well-being is focused on "good mental states, including all of the various evaluations, positive and negative, that people make of their lives and the affective reactions of people to their experiences" (OECD, 2013, p. 29).

Similarly, Diener (2006, cited in OECD, 2013, p. 29) states that "subjective well-being is an umbrella term for the different valuations people make regarding their lives, the events happening to them, their bodies and minds, and the circumstances in which they live".

The definition of subjective well-being contains three elements: (i) the reflective evaluations that people make about their lives in general or about some aspect of them (e.g. satisfaction with personal relationships or public security), (ii) affects or emotional states, and (iii) eudaimonia, which refers to the meaning and purpose of life and to the capacity to cope.

Reflective evaluations, whether general or specific, arise from a process through which individuals construct a standard that they perceive as appropriate for themselves and then compare the circumstances of their life to that standard (Pavot and others, 1991, cited in OECD, 2013). Affects, meanwhile, refer to the positive and negative feelings or emotions that people experience (Kahneman and Krueger, 2006).

“Eudaimonia” is a loan word from the Greek *eudaimonia*, which Aristotle used to refer to the “good” life (OECD, 2013). Eudaimonic well-being stands apart from the hedonistic approach and focuses on the realization of personal potential and the meaning of life. While empirical evidence on the reliability and validity of eudaimonic measurements was previously deemed less convincing than data on other measurements of subjective well-being, the Gallup World Poll has provided evidence of a strong correlation between perceived health problems and this dimension of subjective well-being (OECD, 2013; Joshanloo and Jovanović, 2021).

D. Thematic areas of relevance for policy design

Based on the proposal prepared by Mexico and the contributions of the ECLAC Advisory Group on Gender Mainstreaming, the National Statistics Institute (INE) of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile, 14 important thematic areas for the design of national public policies were identified.


1. Subjective well-being

Subjective well-being is understood as the degree of happiness or satisfaction that people feel with their lives. It is measured from three perspectives: the prevailing mood, or the balance between the positive and negative emotional states that the respondent experienced during the day prior to the interview; eudaimonia; and satisfaction with life today and over the course of life (INEGI, 2021). In addition, there is another dimension of subjective well-being in which, in keeping with the hedonic approach, happiness is considered the main component in evaluating personal well-being.

Thematic area: subjective well-being	
Topic	Subtopic
Prevailing mood	Prevailing mood
Hedonism	Hedonism
Eudaimonia	Eudaimonia
Satisfaction	Satisfaction with life at present
	Satisfaction throughout life


2. Social cohesion

Social cohesion refers to people’s social ties and to the satisfaction they derive from them. It includes the support networks or relationships available to a person for coping with adversities (INEGI, 2021), together with satisfaction with personal relationships, sentimental partnerships and social connections. This thematic area also considers civic engagement, which is measured in terms of satisfaction with the city and the country, the reasons why the person does not participate in any organizations and the perception that the government should consider the voice of the public.

Thematic area: social cohesion	
Topic	Subtopic
 Support networks and social connections	Support networks
	Satisfaction with personal relationships
	Sentimental partnership
	Social connections
Civic engagement	Satisfaction with the city
	Satisfaction with the country
	Citizen participation
	Voice in government


3. Trust

Trust is the degree of confidence with which a person expects someone to act, something to happen or something to work in a certain way (INEGI, 2021). This thematic area includes indicators of institutional and interpersonal trust, and also perceptions of institutional effectiveness.

Thematic area: trust	
Topic	Subtopic
 Institutional trust	Institutional trust
	Trust in governing officials
	Effectiveness of police forces
	Trust in police forces
	Trust in neighbourhood police
	Reasons for distrust
Interpersonal trust	Interpersonal trust

4. Discrimination

This thematic area includes perceptions of discrimination and of respect for the rights of particularly vulnerable groups. It also covers the perception of gender roles, understood as the social and behavioural norms that, within a specific culture, are broadly accepted as socially appropriate for persons of a specific sex (INEGI, 2022b, p. 252).

Thematic area: discrimination	
Topic	Subtopic
 Discrimination	Discrimination
	Respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples
	Respect for the rights of persons with disabilities
	Respect for the rights of adherents to a different religion
	Respect for the rights of older persons
	Respect for the rights of adolescents and young people
	Respect for the rights of women
	Respect for the rights of domestic workers
Perception of gender roles	Perception of gender roles

5. Education

Education is the main human capital that people possess and education systems are also an important arena for socialization. Acquiring knowledge and skills is indispensable for personal development, and education provides the capabilities needed to participate in social and economic life.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) developed guidelines for measuring mismatches between skills and competencies from a subjective perspective, and those guidelines go beyond what is indicated by classifications of study plans versus occupations. The educational area covers people's satisfaction with their attained levels of schooling, as well as how they assess and evaluate their skills and competencies.

Thematic area: education	
Topic	Subtopic
Skills and competencies	Skills and competencies

6. Social stratification

Equality of opportunities must lead to mobility. People's positions on the socioeconomic scale must not be predetermined by their origin (INEGI, n.d.-b). Perceived social mobility refers to the change in the quality of life to which a society's members have stable access over a given period of time, a change that affects their wealth and social prestige.

This thematic area covers intergenerational mobility, which refers to changes with respect to the family of origin in aspects such as living standards and employment opportunities. Social stratification also provides information on intergenerational mobility with respect to the freedom to make decisions, educational opportunities and wealth.

Thematic area: social stratification	
Topic	Subtopic
Social mobility	Social mobility

7. Environment

The environment is essential to human existence, and its quality has an impact on people's health and well-being. This thematic area includes the elements of the biophysical environment and the socioeconomic subsystem that make people's existence and development possible. It includes perception indicators relating to climate, natural resources and the production of refuse.

Thematic area: environment	
Topic	Subtopic
Environment	Satisfaction with the environment
	Environmental problems
Refuse	Refuse
Water	Satisfaction with water
	Water security

8. Health

The subjective approach places emphasis on people's perceptions of their state of health and, for that reason, satisfaction with personal health is included. Tudor (1996) introduced the dual continua model of well-being and psychopathology, which was further developed by Keyes (2002 and 2005). It states that well-being and psychopathology are two related, but distinct, dimensions of mental health (Franken and others, 2018). Thus, measuring mental health requires that both illness and health be addressed (OECD, 2023) and, in dealing with this topic, it is therefore suggested that symptoms of depression and anxiety be investigated and that respondents' prevailing moods, in both their positive and negative states, be evaluated.

On account of the pandemic, alongside mental health, disability also acquired a higher priority (Pérez Amador, 2022). Disabilities attributable to social barriers were exacerbated in the worlds of work, learning and socialization mediated by digital platforms.

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics has created a series of useful and comparable disability metrics for censuses and surveys. Those measurements are based on questions about difficulties in performing activities because of health problems, where “health” refers to vitality and the absence of illness and “problems” refer to the perception of having a deviation with respect to physical, mental or emotional well-being. Those problems include specific health problems (e.g. a chronic illness) or any type of physical or psychological symptom. These metrics of disability are not based on a diagnosis, but on a statement of a perceived difficulty.⁴

Thematic area: health	
Topic	Subtopic
General health	Health in general
Disability	Disability
Physical health	Physical health
Mental health	Symptoms of depression
	Symptoms of anxiety

9. Security

Public security is a fundamental part of the habitat. Living and travelling without fear is a right of every person and a prerequisite for a good life. Public insecurity affects people’s well-being and economic development. This area includes perceptions of security and of the likelihood of being a victim. It is approached from the perspective of citizen security, based on victimization and the administration of justice, with assessments of the protection provided by the police.

Thematic area: security	
Topic	Subtopic
Citizen security	Citizen security
	Social mobility (towards safer surroundings)
Victimization and justice system	Victimization and justice system

10. Economic situation

Poverty can be examined from several angles. When studied from the subjective point of view, it is analysed through the opinions that people have about their economic situation and evaluations of their perceptions of poverty levels. Respondents are asked about ideal incomes and how difficult they are to attain, and about food and economic security.

Thematic area: economic situation	
Topic	Subtopic
Subjective poverty	Subjective poverty
Income	Income
	Satisfaction with income
Food security	Food security
Economic security	Economic security

⁴ See [online] <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>.

11. Work and job quality

Working for the market not only implies remuneration or profit, it also constitutes a way of life and an expression of personal identity. In addition to being a means for continued skill acquisition, it confers a position in the chain whereby satisfiers are produced and distributed, provides status and builds personal networks, all of which have an impact on well-being. The loss of a job does not only compromise economic livelihood, it also implies a psychosocial loss. This thematic area includes perceptions of job quality and time use.

Thematic area: work and job quality	
Topic	Subtopic
Work and job quality	Work and job quality
Work/life balance	Satisfaction with work/life balance

12. Use of social networks and information and communications technologies

Information technologies allow activities to be performed and connections to be made remotely. A social network is a digital platform that allows interpersonal contact and functions as a channel for communicating and exchanging information. This thematic area explores how often those networks are used.

Thematic area: use of social networks and information and communications technologies	
Topic	Subtopic
Use of social networks and information and communications technologies	Frequency of use of social networks and information and communications technologies

13. Time use

The way people make use of their time and the activities they carry out are part of a context shaped by work, the home, the territory and the characteristics of the household and its members (ECLAC/INEGI, 2016). This thematic area covers satisfaction with how time is distributed among various activities.

Thematic area: time use	
Topic	Subtopic
Time use	Satisfaction with time use

14. Housing

Housing is fundamental to personal life. It provides basic needs, protection and family coexistence. Housing must offer privacy so that people can develop their personalities and form a family. All families must live in decent housing and policies must be adopted for this to be possible. This thematic area evaluates satisfaction with the size of the dwelling and with the dwelling itself, with the distance between the dwelling and other places or with the journey times required, with the neighbourhood and with various other aspects.

Thematic area: housing and neighbourhood	
Topic	Subtopic
Housing and neighbourhood	Housing and neighbourhood

E. Methodological considerations

1. Standardized scales for measuring subjective well-being

OECD proposes ordinal scales with lower and upper limits that go from 0 to 10 and represent conceptual absolutes (for example, 0 means total dissatisfaction and 10 means total satisfaction).

The use of these scales has empirical support: verbal anchors at the extremes facilitate the use of long scales (e.g. from 0 to 10) and allow accurate responses to be obtained, because only the extremes of the scale need to be retained in memory. When respondents are given support in the form of cards or visual prompts, it is recommended that the intervals on the scale be indicated with numerical rather than verbal labels (OECD, 2013).

Since these scales are ordinal measurements, they should not be interpreted arithmetically: e.g. 5 should not be interpreted as half of 10. Despite this, it has been shown that using ordinal approximation scales is useful because they have predictive validity and allow significant correlations to be established (Villatoro, 2012).

For measuring positive and negative moods, the use of unipolar scales—that is, scales that focus on a single dimension, either positive or negative, and that range from less to more—is suggested, rather than the use of bipolar scales with the two dimensions at opposing ends and ranging from one dimension to its opposite. Each mood has its own prevalence, and measuring each of them unidimensionally allows the construction of indicators of the balance between positive and negative states. With the unipolar format, the midpoint of the scale represents a moderate amount of the variable of interest, while in a bipolar format, the midpoint represents a neutral point between the two opposing dimensions. For example, on a unipolar scale, 0 means not sad at all and 10 means totally sad. In contrast, on a bipolar scale where one pole indicates “sad” and the other indicates “happy,” both emotions are combined, and 0 means very sad and 10 means very happy; thus, bipolar scales do not allow the balance to be calculated, only the average.

In assessments of life and eudaimonia, bipolar and unipolar measurements produce very similar results (OECD, 2013). The suggestion is therefore either to use bipolar scales ranging from total dissatisfaction to total satisfaction, or from worst to best, or unipolar scales ranging from strongly disagree to completely agree when the aim is for respondents to express their agreement or disagreement with a statement. In this latter case, unipolar scales are suggested because bipolar scales can be confusing for respondents when questions are formulated in negative terms. With respect to their length, the advantage of using scales with nine or more response categories is that they remain operationally manageable despite their length and, because they allow feelings to be expressed more accurately, they are more sensitive than shorter scales.

2. Dimensions of the indicator framework

One of the goals sought with the introduction of the subjective approach into the region’s official statistics is to reveal situations of exclusion and social deprivation that conventional indicators cannot record so easily (Villatoro, 2012). The indicators that can be obtained from the proposed battery can be framed in terms of the following dimensions:

(a) Size and macro context

Indicators related to the magnitude of the categories defined. They generally indicate prevalences, but they can also report averages.

(b) Horizontal inequality

Measurements of differences between groups to reveal inequalities. Disaggregations can be performed by such variables of interest as gender, age, level of schooling and so on.

(c) Gaps

These reveal vertical inequalities. For example, they measure differences between the subgroups located at the extremes of the distribution.

Horizontal inequalities also reveal gaps by focusing on the differences between groups that share common traits: for example, they allow the measurement of gaps according to population characteristics, such as sex or age.

(d) Deprivation

These indicators focus on the lowest extreme of the distribution. OECD (2023) uses the lower end of the results distribution and typically measures the proportion of the population that falls below a given threshold.

(e) Micro and meso context

This covers indicators relating to the geographical location and characteristics of the community—and even of the household—that may represent strengths or vulnerabilities with respect to access to goods, services, security and social protection systems. Aspects related to the legality derived from the regulatory frameworks that define the context are also included.

Chapter VI

Proposed perception indicators

This section addresses the regional consensus on the importance of incorporating perception-based statistics into the regular offerings of national statistical offices. The indicators proposed in table VI.1 are derived from the information gathered by means of the battery of questions in annex A1. The proposal includes indicators that cover both areas and dimensions.

Table VI.1
Proposed subjective indicators by thematic area and dimension

1. Subjective well-being		
Prevailing mood ^a	Average prevailing mood on the day prior to the interview (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Negative prevailing mood ^a	Percentage of the population whose prevailing mood on the day before the interview was negative	Deprivation
Hedonism	Percentage distribution by reported level of happiness	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Eudaimonia ^a	Average agreement with statements about eudaimonia (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Current satisfaction ^a	Average satisfaction with current life (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction ^a	Percentage of people assigning life satisfaction a score of 4 or less	Deprivation
Satisfaction throughout life ^a	Average satisfaction at different stages of life (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
2. Social cohesion		
Support networks ^a	Percentage of people who can count on the help of family or friends in the event of need	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Help from other people	Percentage of people with help from others available (who can lend them money, help them to resolve queries or navigate bureaucracy, or help them to get a job)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with personal relationships ^a	Average satisfaction with personal relationships	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with personal relationships ^a	Percentage of people who assigning satisfaction with social life a score of 4 or less	Deprivation
Satisfaction with social life	Percentage distribution according to the level of satisfaction with social life	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Sentimental partnership	Percentage of population reporting a good quality relationship with their partners	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Family to talk to	Average number of family members with whom the respondent feels comfortable discussing personal matters	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Family in the event of need	Average number of close family members the respondent can call on at times of need	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Friends to talk to	Average number of friends with whom the respondent feels comfortable discussing personal matters	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Friends in the event of need	Average number of close friends the respondent can call on at times of need	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Lack of company	Percentage distribution by the frequency with which respondents feel a lack of companionship	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Exclusion	Percentage distribution by the frequency with which respondents feel excluded	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Isolation	Percentage distribution by the frequency with which respondents feel isolated	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Familiarity and relations with neighbours	Percentage distribution by level of relationship with neighbours (in terms of cooperation, trust and the possibility of organizing with them)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with the city	Respondents' average satisfaction with their city (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with the city	Percentage of respondents who assign satisfaction with their city a score of 4 or less	Deprivation
Satisfaction with the country ^a	Respondents' average satisfaction with the country they live in (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with the country ^a	Percentage of respondents who assign satisfaction with the country a score of 4 or less	Deprivation
Limitation of community participation ^a	Percentage distribution by reasons for not participating in any social, cultural or political organization	Macro context/horizontal inequality

2. Social cohesion		
Agreement with the inclusion of the views of others in the design of public benefits	Percentage distribution by the level of agreement with the inclusion of other people's views in the design of public benefits	Macro context/horizontal inequality
3. Trust		
Trust in public security and justice institutions, in political institutions and in the media ^a	Average level of trust in the following (on a scale of 0 to 10): – The media – The municipal police – The regional police – The National Guard – The Army and the Navy – The Public Prosecution Service and Public Prosecutors' Offices – Courts and the judiciary – The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate – Political parties – Public officials	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Trust in governing officials ^a	Average trust in governing officials (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perceived effectiveness of police forces	Percentage distribution by the level of perceived effectiveness of the authority, by type of authority	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Trust in police forces ^a	Percentage distribution by the level of trust in the authority, by type of authority	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Trust in neighbourhood police	Percentage distribution by the level of trust that the police inspire in the neighbourhood or district (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Reasons for distrusting the neighbourhood police	Percentage distribution by reasons why respondents distrust the police in their neighbourhoods or districts	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Trust in most people ^a	Average trust in the majority of people (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Trust in acquaintances ^a	Average trust in acquaintances (on a scale of 0 to 10)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
4. Discrimination		
Forms of discrimination ^a	Percentage of respondents who have been discriminated against, by reason for discrimination	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Areas of discrimination	Percentage distribution by area of discrimination	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples	Percentage distribution by the level of respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights	Macro context
Respect for the rights of persons with disabilities	Percentage distribution by the level of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities	Macro context
Respect for the rights of adherents to a different religion	Percentage distribution by the level of respect for the rights of persons of different religions	Macro context
Respect for the rights of older persons	Percentage distribution by the level of respect for the rights of older persons	Macro context
Respect for the rights of adolescents and young people	Percentage distribution by the level of respect for the rights of adolescents and young people	Macro context
Respect for the rights of women	Percentage distribution by the level of respect for women's rights	Macro context
Respect for the rights of domestic workers	Percentage distribution by the level of respect for the rights of people who perform paid domestic work	Macro context
Perception of gender responsibilities	Percentage distribution by the person who should assume certain responsibilities, by type of responsibility	Macro context
Agreement with gender beliefs	Percentage of people who agree with gender beliefs, by type of belief	Macro context
5. Education		
Agreement with the impact of schooling on future well-being (potential)	Percentage distribution by the level of agreement with beliefs regarding the impact of schooling on future well-being	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of the influence of schooling on income and work	Percentage distribution by the extent to which respondents believe that their level of schooling has allowed them to secure higher incomes, promotions and to be valued at work	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Interest in continuing with studies	Percentage distribution by level of interest in continuing with studies	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Probability of continuing with studies	Percentage distribution by the level of probability of continuing with studies	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Economic resources for continuing with studies	Percentage of respondents who have the economic resources to continue their studies	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Time for continuing with studies	Percentage of respondents who have the time necessary to continue their studies	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Health for continuing with studies	Percentage of respondents who have the health necessary to continue their studies	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with educational level ^a	Percentage distribution by satisfaction with the level of education attained	Macro context/horizontal inequality
6. Social stratification		
Intergenerational comparison of decision-making freedom	Percentage distribution by intergenerational comparison of decision-making freedom	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Intergenerational comparison of standard of living ^a	Percentage distribution by intergenerational comparison of standard of living (socioeconomic)	Macro context/horizontal inequality

6. Social stratification		
Intergenerational comparison of educational opportunities	Percentage distribution by intergenerational comparison of educational opportunities	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Intergenerational comparison of employment opportunities ^a	Percentage distribution by intergenerational comparison of employment opportunities	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Intergenerational comparison of opportunities for acquiring assets	Percentage distribution by intergenerational comparison of opportunities for acquiring assets	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of current socioeconomic level	Average socioeconomic level that respondents consider they currently have	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of socioeconomic status at age 14 ^a	Average socioeconomic level that respondents consider they had at age 14	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of children's socioeconomic level	Percentage distribution by perceptions of the socioeconomic level that their children will have at the respondent's current age (potential)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Expectations of owning and maintaining a home (potential)	Percentage distribution by the probability of home ownership	Macro context/horizontal inequality
7. Environment		
Satisfaction with aspects of the environment ^a	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with various aspects of the environment	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with the environment	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with the environmental situation of the municipality or town	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with refuse and litter on the streets	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with refuse and litter on the streets of the town or city	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of the severity of various environmental problems ^a	Percentage distribution by level of severity of environmental problems	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of environmental quality	Percentage distribution by evaluations of the quality of various environmental aspects	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of exposure to environmental problems	Percentage of people exposed to environmental problems, by type of problem	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of the seriousness of refuse generation	Percentage distribution by level of seriousness of the problem of refuse generation in the country	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with various aspects of water service	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with various aspects related to the public water supply	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Concern about insufficient water supply	Percentage distribution by the frequency with which respondents feel worry, annoyance, thirst, embarrassment or rejection on account of water problems	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Annoyance with water-related situations	Percentage distribution by the frequency with which respondents have been annoyed by some water-related situation (in the past four weeks)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Going to bed thirsty	Percentage distribution by the frequency with which respondents have gone to bed thirsty (in the past four weeks)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Embarrassment over water-related problems	Percentage distribution by the frequency with which respondents have felt embarrassed owing to water-related problems (in the past four weeks)	Macro context/horizontal inequality
8. Health		
Satisfaction with general health ^a	Average satisfaction people feel with their general health	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with general health ^a	Percentage of the population whose level of satisfaction with their general health is 4 or less	Deprivation
Limitations due to health ^a	Percentage distribution by the degree of difficulty in performing various activities because of health, by type of activity	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Difficulty levels	Percentage distribution by level of difficulty in performing various activities, by type of activity	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of body build	Perception of body build	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of weight and health	Percentage distribution by level of perception of weight and health	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Symptoms of depression ^a	Percentage of people with symptoms of depression	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Symptoms of anxiety ^a	Percentage of people with symptoms of anxiety	Macro context/horizontal inequality
9. Security		
Satisfaction with citizen security ^a	Average satisfaction with citizen security	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with citizen security ^a	Percentage of population whose level of satisfaction with citizen security is 4 or less	Deprivation
Perception of security by geographical area	Percentage distribution by perceptions of how safe it is to live in each geographical area	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of security by type of location	Percentage distribution by perceived level of security in different places, by type of place	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of neighbourhood security ^a	Percentage distribution of the perceived level of security in the neighbourhood	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Probability of being a crime victim	Percentage of people who believe that they could be the victim of a crime during the remainder of the year, by type of crime	Macro context/horizontal inequality

9. Security		
Perception of change in security by geographical area	Percentage distribution of perceived level of change in security in each geographical area	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Limitation of activities due to fear	Percentage of people who limit their activities out of fear of being victims of crime, by type of activity	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Concern about street harassment	Percentage distribution by the frequency with which respondents worry about being harassed on the street	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Expectation of future security in the neighbourhood	Percentage distribution by the perceived likelihood that the neighbourhood will be safe in the future	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of patrolling in the neighbourhood	Percentage distribution by the perceived frequency of patrolling in the neighbourhood	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of police actions in the neighbourhood in response to a crime	Percentage distribution by perceptions of police attention to crime	Macro context/horizontal inequality
10. Economic situation		
Perception of change in current personal economic situation	Percentage distribution by perceived level of change in current personal economic situation	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Expectations about personal financial situation	Percentage distribution by level of expectations regarding personal economic situation	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of change in current household economic situation	Percentage distribution by perceived level of change in the household's current economic situation	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Expectations about the household's financial situation	Percentage distribution by level of expectations regarding the household's economic situation	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of change in the country's current economic situation	Percentage distribution by the perceived level of change in the country's current economic situation	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Expectations about the country's economic situation	Percentage distribution by the level of expectations regarding the country's economic situation	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Current personal possibilities for purchasing non-durable consumer goods	Percentage of people who have greater possibilities for purchasing non-durable consumer goods compared to the previous year	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Current possibilities for purchasing consumer durables	Perception of change in the household's possibilities for purchasing consumer durables	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Household vacation expectations	Percentage of people who have greater possibilities for taking vacations	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Possibilities of current savings	Percentage of people who currently have the possibility of saving	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Expectations of personal savings	Percentage distribution by expectations of personal savings	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of how prices will change over the next 12 months	Percentage distribution by perceived level of change in prices over the next 12 months	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Expectations for employment in the country	Percentage distribution by expectations regarding employment in the country	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Car purchasing plans	Percentage of households planning to buy a car in the next two years	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Home purchase, construction or remodelling plans	Percentage of households planning to buy, build or remodel a home	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Sufficiency of income	Percentage distribution by the adequacy of respondents' incomes to save and satisfy needs	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Sufficient income ^a	Average amount of income sufficient to cover one month's household needs	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Difficulty with sufficient income ^a	Percentage distribution by the difficulty in earning the ideal income	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with socioeconomic standard of living ^a	Average level of respondents' satisfaction with their socioeconomic standard of living	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with socioeconomic standard of living ^a	Percentage of the population whose level of satisfaction with their standard of living is 4 or less	Deprivation
Concern about food shortfalls	Percentage of people who in the last three months worried about running out of food at home	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of risk of eviction	Percentage distribution by perceived risk of eviction	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of financial protection	Percentage distribution by perceived level of financial protection against major health problems	Macro context/horizontal inequality
11. Work and job quality		
Voice at work ^a	Percentage of subordinates who have a voice in the workplace	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Importance of work-related aspects	Percentage distribution by the level of importance of various work-related aspects, by type of aspect	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Incentives in current job	Percentage distribution by level of incentives received in current job, by type of incentive	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Incentives in last job	Percentage distribution by level of incentives received in last job, by type of incentive	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Development in current job	Percentage distribution by possibilities for development in current job, by type of possibility	Macro context/horizontal inequality

11. Work and job quality		
Development in last job	Percentage distribution by possibilities for development in last job, by type of possibility	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of likelihood of securing a better job in the short term	Percentage distribution by perceived likelihood of securing a better job in the short term	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of likelihood of finding a job in the short term (unemployed people)	Percentage distribution by perceived likelihood of finding a job in the short term among unemployed people	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of likelihood of finding a job in the short term (inactive people)	Percentage distribution by perceived likelihood of finding a job in the short term among inactive people	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Thinking about domestic chores while at work	Percentage distribution by frequency with which respondents think about household chores while working	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with current job ^a	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with current job	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with last job ^a	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with last job	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Job expectations	Percentage distribution by level of job expectations	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with available time ^a	Average satisfaction with the time available to do what the respondent likes to do	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with available time ^a	Percentage of people whose level of satisfaction with their available time is 4 or less	Deprivation
Support for child care	Percentage of people with support for child care	Macro context/horizontal inequality
12. Use of social networks and information and communications technologies		
Frequency of use of social networks ^a	Percentage distribution by frequency of use of social networks, by type of network	Macro context/horizontal inequality
13. Time use		
Time spent on various activities	Percentage distribution by perceptions of the adequacy of the time respondents spend on various activities, by type of activity	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Desired time for various activities	Percentage distribution by the measure of time respondents would like to spend on various activities, by type of activity	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with the distribution of time between work and personal life ^a	Percentage distribution of the level of satisfaction with the distribution of time between work and personal life	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Likelihood of having time for socializing and fun in the future	Percentage distribution by the likelihood of having time for socializing and fun in the future	Macro context/horizontal inequality
14. Housing		
Satisfaction with housing	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with housing	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with the size of the spaces in the home	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with the size of the dwelling's spaces	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with the distance between housing and other places or with the journey times needed	Percentage distribution by level of satisfaction with the distance between the home and other places, or with the journey times needed	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Correlation of the home with tastes, customs and traditions	Percentage distribution by level of identification of the home with tastes, customs and traditions	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with housing ^a	Average satisfaction with housing	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with housing ^a	Percentage of population whose level of satisfaction with housing is 4 or less	Deprivation
Neighbourhood problems	Percentage distribution by the level of problems in the neighbourhood, by type of problem	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Satisfaction with the neighbourhood ^a	Level of satisfaction with the neighbourhood	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Dissatisfaction with the neighbourhood ^a	Percentage of the population whose level of satisfaction with the neighbourhood is 4 or less	Deprivation
Change in satisfaction with housing because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic	Percentage distribution of change in satisfaction with housing following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic	Macro context/horizontal inequality
Perception of dwelling's physical condition	Percentage distribution by the physical condition of the dwelling compared to other dwellings in the neighbourhood	Macro context/horizontal inequality

Source: Prepared by the authors, on the basis of the respective surveys.

^a Priority indicators.

Conclusions

With the aim of further strengthening national statistical systems for measuring well-being and quality of life, and based on the recommendations of international organizations and the experiences of the region's national statistical offices, this document provides a conceptual framework for measuring subjective perceptions in national household surveys.

Although national experiences vary from one country to the next, the areas addressed in the conceptual model are of general interest in the region, and each area explores aspects of well-being that are both important and not covered by the other topics. Each area has different correlations with the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the populations of the region's countries.

If multipurpose surveys covering these thematic areas were integrated into national statistical systems, and if the continuity of those data-gathering projects were assured, it would be possible to track how people perceive social and economic conditions and to calculate the impact that changes in those conditions have on perceived well-being. In addition, indicators of subjective well-being can be used to identify the factors that are critical to people's well-being and those that are most important to them.

This document presents general criteria for defining a framework of indicators based on subjective perceptions to monitor quality of life and to design and evaluate policies. Standardized metrics must be used in constructing a system of indicators based on subjective information. In including each indicator, consideration should be given to its relevance for the population and public policies, its technical and operational feasibility, its international comparability and its consistency with other sources of information.

In order to provide a point of reference for implementing multipurpose perception-based surveys, annex A1 proposes a battery of questions of common interest, along with their wordings and response scales. The annex includes suggested questions for both a basic questionnaire and an expanded questionnaire. The proposed battery can be adopted in the region and adapted to each country's specific situation and needs.

To facilitate the presentation of results, the dimensions reported by the indicators arising from the questions within each topic are identified. The purpose of those dimensions is to reflect the context or to further explore the deprivation of certain sectors or the gaps that exist between groups.

An Excel file entitled "Indicators of subjective perceptions" contains the 14 thematic areas and the suggested questions and indicators, as well as the dimension addressed by the indicators. This provides a complete picture of the proposed indicators suggested in this document. It is available online <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/80410-recomendaciones-la-medicion-percepciones-encuestas-hogares>.

In these recommendations, national statistical offices can find examples of international best practices for producing subjective information that will allow them to offer users more and better resources for decision-making and conducting diagnoses of issues related to well-being. The steps to be followed will depend on the specific objectives pursued by the countries. In adopting these recommendations, national statistical offices may choose to create cognitive tests. Sharing the empirical data derived from those tests will help strengthen the measurement of perceptions in the region's household surveys.

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Annex A1

Table A1.1
Battery of questions^a

Question	Example survey	Module
1. Subjective well-being		
1.1 Prevailing mood		
<p>The respondent is shown a card with the corresponding scale and is told the following: Look at the scale on this card, where 0 means “at no time of the day” and 10 means “all day”. As for the intermediate numbers, those close to 0 indicate little time and those close to 10 mean most of the time. During what part of yesterday did you feel...? <i>Codes: from 0 (no part of the day) to 10 (all day).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In a good mood? Tranquillity or calm? Energy or vitality? That you could concentrate or focus on what you were doing? Excitement or joy? <p>Now tell me, during what part of yesterday did you feel...?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In a bad mood? Worry, anxiety or stress? Tiredness or lack of vitality? Boredom or a lack of interest in what you were doing? Sadness or depression? <p>(The use of a card is suggested).</p>	National Self-reported Well-being Survey (ENBIARE) 2021 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
1.2 Hedonism		
<p>Overall, how happy would you say you are?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Not at all happy Mostly unhappy More or less happy Happy Very happy 	National Time-use Survey (ENUT) 2019 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
1.3 Eudaimonia		
<p>Look at the scale on this card, where 0 means strongly disagree and 10 means strongly agree. Remember that the intermediate numbers can also reflect your opinion. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? <i>Codes: from 0 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Overall I feel good about myself. I am always optimistic about my future. I am free to make decisions about my life. I am strong in the face of adversity. In general I feel that what I do in my life is worthwhile. I am a fortunate person. Whether I do well or poorly depends primarily on me. I feel I have a purpose or a mission in life. Religion is important in my life. Most days I feel like I have accomplished something. <p>(The use of a card is suggested).</p>	Self-reported Well-being Module (Basic BIARE) (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
<p>Now I am going to say another sentence: remember that 0 means you strongly disagree and 10 means you strongly agree.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When something makes me feel bad, I have a hard time getting back to normal. <p>(The use of a card is suggested).</p>	BIARE Basic (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
1.4 Satisfaction		
<p>Look at the scale from 0 to 10 on this card, where 0 means “total dissatisfaction” and 10 means “total satisfaction” and tell me the number that best reflects your opinion. How satisfied do you currently feel with your life? <i>Codes: from 0 (total dissatisfaction) to 10 (total satisfaction).</i></p> <p>(The use of a card is suggested).</p>	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
Look at the scale from 0 to 10 on this card, where 0 means "total dissatisfaction" and 10 means "total satisfaction", and tell me the number that best reflects your opinion. How satisfied were you with your life...? 1. In childhood? (from 0 to 9 years old) 2. As a young man or young woman? (from 20 to 29 years old) 3. In adolescence? (from 10 to 19 years old) 4. As an adult? (30 years and over) (The use of a card is suggested).	Retrospective Demographic Survey (EDER) 2017 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
2. Social cohesion		
2.1 Support networks and social connections		
In the event of an emergency or need, do you believe you can always count on help from...? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. Has no family.</i> 1. People in your family? 2. Friends or people not in your family?	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Do you know anyone who...? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, someone outside the household, 2. Yes, someone within the household, 3. Both, 4. Knows nobody.</i> 1. Could lend you money in the event of an emergency? 2. Could help you with legal or financial issues or formalities? 3. Could help you get a job?	Social Well-being Survey (EBS) 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
How satisfied are you with your personal relationships? <i>Codes: from 0 (total dissatisfaction) to 10 (total satisfaction).</i> (The use of a card is suggested).	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your social life? 1. Totally dissatisfied 2. Dissatisfied 3. Indifferent 4. Satisfied 5. Totally satisfied	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
Do you think that...? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No.</i> 1. You could easily identify three characteristics you most admire in your partner? 2. Your partner takes your opinion into account when making decisions? 3. You and your partner make a good team?	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
With how many family members do you feel comfortable talking about personal matters? <i>Codes: None, 1, 2, 3 or 4, 5 to 8, 9 or more.</i>	National Health and Nutrition Survey (ENSANUT) 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How many of your family members do you feel close enough to call on when you need help? <i>Codes: None, 1, 2, 3 or 4, 5 to 8, 9 or more.</i>	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
With how many of your friends do you feel comfortable talking about your personal matters? <i>Codes: None, 1, 2, 3 or 4, 5 to 8, 9 or more.</i>	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How many of your friends do you feel close enough to call on when you need help? <i>Codes: None, 1, 2, 3 or 4, 5 to 8, 9 or more.</i>	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How often do you feel you lack companionship? <i>Codes: Almost never (or never), Sometimes, Often.</i>	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How often do you feel excluded? <i>Codes: Almost never (or never), Sometimes, Often.</i>	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How often do you feel isolated from others? <i>Codes: Almost never (or never), Sometimes, Often.</i>	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Regarding your neighbours, to what extent...? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. Little, 4. Not at all.</i> 1. Do you know each other? 2. Do you cooperate with each other? 3. Can they be trusted? 4. Do you organize together to resolve neighbourhood or district (town) issues?	National Housing Survey (ENVI) 2020 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
2.2 Civic engagement		
How satisfied are you with your city? <i>Codes: from 0 (total dissatisfaction) to 10 (total satisfaction).</i> (The use of a card is suggested).	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How satisfied are you with your country? <i>Codes: 0 (total dissatisfaction) to 10 (total satisfaction).</i> (The use of a card is suggested).	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
<p><i>Filter: For people who do not participate in any social, cultural or political organization</i></p> <p>What do you identify as the main reason for not participating in any social, cultural or political organization?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No time Do not know of any organization of interest Do not believe it would be useful or fruitful to participate Do not think it is important to you Other (specify) 	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic
		Expanded
<p>How much do you agree or disagree that the government takes the views of people like you on board when designing or modifying public benefits?</p> <p><i>Codes: 1. Totally disagree, 2. Disagree, 3. Indifferent, 4. Agree, 5. Totally agree.</i></p>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
3. Trust		
3.1 Institutional trust		
<p>In general, how much do you trust...?</p> <p><i>Codes: from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely), 99. Don't know/no answer.</i></p> <p><i>(Adapt institutions to how each country is organized).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The media? The municipal police (preventive police or citizen security corps)? The regional police (State, provincial and so on)? The national police (Federal Police, National Guard)? The national armed forces (the Army and Navy, in some countries)? The Public Prosecution Service (prosecutor's offices, district attorneys)? The courts and the judiciary? The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate? Political parties? Public officials of the local (municipal) government? Public officials of the regional (State) government? Public officials of the national (federal) government? <p><i>(The use of a card is suggested).</i></p>	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
<p>In general, how much do you trust...?</p> <p><i>Codes: from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely), 99. Don't know/no answer.</i></p> <p><i>(Adapt the authorities to how each country is organized).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The person who leads your country (the head of the federal or national government, or the president of the republic)? The person who governs your State (federal entity or second level of government)? The person who governs your municipality (mayor or mayoress) (third level of government)? 	National Urban Public security Survey (ENSU) 2023 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
<p><i>This question can be asked of respondents who first stated that they can identify each type of authority (adjust the authorities to how each country is organized).</i></p> <p>How effective do you deem the performance of...?</p> <p><i>Codes: 1. Very effective, 2. Somewhat effective, 3. Not very effective, 4. Not at all effective, 5. Don't know/no answer.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The municipal police (preventive police or citizen security corps)? The regional police (State, provincial and so on)? The national police (Federal Police, National Guard)? The Army? The Navy? 	ENSU 2023 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
<p>How much trust do you have in...?</p> <p><i>Codes: 1. A great deal of trust, 2. Some trust, 3. Little trust, 4. No trust, 9. Don't know/no answer.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The municipal police (preventive police or citizen security corps)? The regional police (State, provincial and so on)? The national police (Federal Police, National Guard)? The Army? The Navy? 	ENSU 2023 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
<p>How much trust do you have in the police in your neighbourhood or district?</p> <p><i>Codes: 1. A great deal of trust, 2. Some trust, 3. Little trust, 4. No trust, 9. Don't know/no answer.</i></p>	Social Cohesion Survey for the Prevention of Violence and Crime (ECOPRED) 2014 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded
<p>Why do you distrust the police in your neighbourhood or district?</p> <p><i>Circle the corresponding codes.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I think they have ties to crime They stop people for no reason I think they are going to extort me or abuse their authority I think they are not interested in my security Their attitude and appearance make me distrustful They do not have the right equipment or vehicles to combat crime I think they are corrupt Other Don't know/no answer 	ECOPRED 2014 (Mexico)	Basic
		Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
3.2 Interpersonal trust		
In general, how much do you trust...? <i>Codes: from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely).</i> 1. Most people? 2. People you know? (The use of a card is suggested).	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
4. Discrimination		
4.1 Discrimination		
In the last 12 months, have you felt discriminated against for any of the following reasons? <i>Multiple response. Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. Prefer not to say, 4. Don't know.</i> A. Sexual orientation and gender identity B. Age C. Sex (male, female) D. Colour E. Membership in an Indigenous nation, people or group F. Language G. Clothes H. Regional origin I. Nationality (foreign origin) J. Disability K. Religion L. Economic or social status (poverty) M. Other reason (specify)	Household Survey (Plurinational State of Bolivia)	Basic Expanded
Could you tell me where you have felt discriminated against? 1. At a health centre 2. At work 3. At a place of learning 4. At public services, municipal offices, government offices and others 5. On the street 6. In shops 7. Within the family 8. Other (specify)	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
In your opinion, how much are the rights of Indigenous Peoples respected in the country? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. Little, 4. Not at all, 9. Don't know.</i>	National Survey on Discrimination (ENADIS) 2017 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
In your opinion, how much are the rights of persons with disabilities respected in the country? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. Little, 4. Not at all, 9. Don't know.</i>	ENADIS 2017 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
In your opinion, how much are the rights of people of different religions respected in the country? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. Little, 4. Not at all, 9. Don't know.</i>	ENADIS 2017 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
In your opinion, how much are the rights of older persons respected in the country? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. Little, 4. Not at all, 9. Don't know.</i>	ENADIS 2017 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
In your opinion, how much are the rights of adolescents and young people respected in the country? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. Little, 4. Not at all, 9. Don't know.</i>	ENADIS 2017 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
In your opinion, how much are women's rights respected in the country? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. Little, 4. Not at all, 9. Don't know.</i>	ENADIS 2017 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
In your opinion, how much are the rights of people who perform paid domestic work respected in the country? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. Little, 4. Not at all, 9. Don't know.</i>	ENADIS 2017 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
4.2 Perceptions of gender roles		
According to what you think or believe, answer the following questions: <i>Codes: 1. Women, 2. Men, 3. Both.</i> Who should be responsible for the care of children, the sick and the elderly? Who should be responsible for household chores? Who should be responsible for bringing money home? Who is more capable of working or studying?	National Survey on Household Relationship Dynamics (ENDIREH) 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Who do you think should earn more at work? 1. Women 2. Men 3. They should earn the same	ENDIREH 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
I am going to read you a number of statements. According to what you think or believe, answer “yes” when you agree and “no” when you disagree: Do you agree that men and women have the same right to go out at night to have fun? Do you agree with women who have children working even if they do not need to? Do you agree that women who wear low-cut dresses provoke men into bothering them? Do you agree that a married woman should have sex with her husband whenever he wants?	ENDIREH 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
5. Education		
5.1 Skills and competencies		
How much do you agree with the following statements? <i>Codes: 1. Strongly agree, 2. Somewhat agree, 3. Somewhat disagree, 4. Strongly disagree, 9. Don't know.</i> 1. The more schooling a person has, the better his or her chances of a higher standard of living. 2. People who continue to study have better job opportunities. 3. More years of study helps people make better life decisions.	National Survey on Access to and Permanence in Education (ENAPE) 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Thinking about your education, how much has your level of schooling enabled you to...? <i>Codes: 1. Not at all, 2. A little, 3. Somewhat, 4. Considerably, 5. A lot.</i> 1. Earn more income? 2. Secure promotions at work? 3. Be appreciated at work?	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
How interested are you in continuing your studies in the near future? <i>Codes: 1. No interest, 2. Little interest, 3. Some interest, 4. Considerable interest, 5. Keen interest.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
And how possible would it be for you to continue studying? <i>Codes: 1. Not possible, 2. Not very possible, 3. Somewhat possible, 4. Quite possible, 5. Very possible.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
Do you have the financial resources to continue studying? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
Do you have the time needed to continue studying? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
Do you have the health needed to continue studying? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the level of schooling you have attained? 1. Totally dissatisfied 2. Dissatisfied 3. Indifferent 4. Satisfied 5. Totally satisfied	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
6. Social stratification		
6.1 Social mobility		
<i>Filter: People who believe they have been able to make decisions freely throughout their lives.</i> Has your ability to make decisions freely been...? 1. Greater than that of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 2. Similar to that of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 3. Less than that of your parents (or whoever raised you)?	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Expanded
How does the (socioeconomic) standard of living of your current household compare to the household where you grew up? 1. Higher 2. Similar 3. Lower	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Expanded
Have your educational opportunities been...? 1. Greater than those of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 2. Similar to those of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 3. Lower than those of your parents (or whoever raised you)?	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Expanded
Have your work opportunities in (country) been...? 1. Greater than those of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 2. Similar to those of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 3. Lower than those of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 4. I have never tried to get a job.	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Expanded
Have your opportunities to acquire assets been...? 1. Greater than those of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 2. Similar to those of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 3. Lower than those of your parents (or whoever raised you)? 4. I have not yet tried to acquire assets.	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
Thinking about your socioeconomic situation and using a scale that goes from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest), where would you place your current socioeconomic level? <i>Codes: from 0 to 10.</i> (The use of a card is suggested).	Intergenerational Social Mobility Module (MMSI) 2016 (Mexico)	Expanded
Thinking about the family where you grew up and using the same scale, where would you place the socioeconomic level your family had when you were 14 years old? <i>Codes: from 0 to 10.</i> (The use of a card is suggested).	MMSI 2016 (Mexico)	Expanded
Thinking now about your children when they reach your present age, do you think they will have a socioeconomic level...? 1. That is lower than yours? 2. That is the same as yours? 3. That is higher than yours? 4. I have no children/do not plan to have children. 9. Don't know. (The use of a card is suggested).	MMSI 2016 (Mexico)	Expanded
How likely do you think it is that in the future you will be able to own or maintain your own house or apartment (property)? 1. Very likely 2. Likely 3. Unlikely 4. Very unlikely 5. I have no interest in that 9. Don't know/no answer	ECOPRED 2014 (Mexico)	Basic
7. Environment		
7.1 Environment		
How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the environment of the town or city where you live? <i>Codes: 1. Very dissatisfied, 2. Dissatisfied, 3. Satisfied, 4. Very satisfied, 9. No opinion.</i> 1. Air quality 2. Water quality in rivers, lakes and the sea (beaches) 3. Access to green spaces (parks, woodland) 4. Noise 5. Access to drinking water 6. Access to drainage 7. Visual image 8. Odours 9. Attention to natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, landslides, droughts)	MOHOMA 2015 (Mexico)	Expanded
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the environmental situation in your municipality or town? 1. Totally dissatisfied 2. Dissatisfied 3. Indifferent 4. Satisfied 5. Totally satisfied	MOHOMA 2015 (Mexico)	Expanded
How satisfied are you with refuse disposal and waste (animal droppings) on the street in the town or city where you live? 1. Very dissatisfied 2. Dissatisfied 3. Satisfied 4. Very satisfied 9. No opinion	MOHOMA 2015 (Mexico)	Expanded
How serious do you consider the following environmental problems to be in (your country)? <i>Codes: 1. Not serious, 2. Slightly serious, 3. Somewhat serious, 4. Very serious, 9. Don't know/no opinion.</i> 1. Air pollution 2. Climate change/global warming 3. Water pollution 4. Loss or reduction of natural resources (forests, water, energy) 5. Endangered species and declining biodiversity (plants and animals)	MOHOMA 2015 (Mexico)	Expanded
Thinking about all the aspects that make up the environment, how would you evaluate the following? <i>Codes: 1. Very bad, 2. Bad, 3. Regular, 4. Good, 5. Excellent.</i> 1. Air quality in your municipality or town 2. Water quality in your municipality or town 3. The general state of the environment in your municipality or town	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
Thinking about where you live, are you exposed to the following environmental problems? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No.</i> 1. Air pollution 2. Water pollution 3. Drought 4. Exposure to chemicals and pesticides 5. Exposure to nuisance noise	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
7.2 Refuse		
How serious do you consider the problem of refuse generation to be in (country)? 1. Not serious 2. Slightly serious 3. Somewhat serious 4. Very serious 9. Don't know/no opinion	MOHOMA 2015 (Mexico)	Expanded
7.3 Water		
How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the public water service? <i>Codes: 1. Very dissatisfied, 2. Dissatisfied, 3. Satisfied, 4. Very satisfied, 9 No opinion.</i> Aspects: 1. Taste, colour and smell of water 2. Reliability of water in relation to health 3. Water pressure 4. Continuity of water service 5. Attention at offices 6. Leak repair 7. Metering 8. Fees	MOHOMA 2015. Mexico.	Expanded
In the past four weeks, how often did you or someone in your household worry about not having enough water to meet all of the household's needs? 1. Never (0 times) 2. Seldom (1 or 2 times) 3. Sometimes (between 3 and 10 times) 4. Frequently (between 11 and 20 times) 5. Always (more than 20 times) 6. Don't know 7. Not applicable	MOHOMA 2015 (Mexico)	Expanded
In the past four weeks, how often did you or someone in your household feel annoyed with a water situation? 1. Never (0 times) 2. Seldom (1 or 2 times) 3. Sometimes (between 3 and 10 times) 4. Frequently (between 11 and 20 times) 5. Always (more than 20 times) 6. Don't know 7. Not applicable	ENSANUT 2021, Household Questionnaire (Mexico)	Expanded
In the past four weeks, how often did you or someone in your household go to bed thirsty because there was no water to drink? 1. Never (0 times) 2. Seldom (1 or 2 times) 3. Sometimes (between 3 and 10 times) 4. Frequently (between 11 and 20 times) 5. Always (more than 20 times) 6. Don't know 7. Not applicable	ENSANUT 2021, Household Questionnaire (Mexico)	Expanded
In the past four weeks, how often did you or someone in your household feel embarrassed because of water problems? 1. Never (0 times) 2. Seldom (1 or 2 times) 3. Sometimes (between 3 and 10 times) 4. Frequently (between 11 and 20 times) 5. Always (more than 20 times) 6. Don't know 7. Not applicable	ENSANUT 2021, Household Questionnaire (Mexico)	Expanded
8. Health		
8.1 General health		
How satisfied are you with your health? <i>Codes: from 0 (total dissatisfaction) to 10 (total satisfaction).</i>	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Thinking about your current state of health, to what extent have you had difficulty in...? <i>Codes: 1. No difficulty, 2. Little difficulty, 3. Some difficulty, 4. Quite some difficulty, 5. A great deal of difficulty.</i> 1. Attending social, cultural or sports events? 2. Working? 3. Studying?	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
8.2 Disability		
In your daily life, to what extent have you had difficulty in...? <i>Codes: 1. No difficulty, 2. Little difficulty, 3. A great deal of difficulty, 4 I cannot do that.</i> 1. Seeing, even when using glasses? 2. Hearing, even when using a hearing aid? 3. Walking or using stairs? 4. Remembering or concentrating? 5. Bathing, dressing or eating? 6. Talking or communicating (i.e. understanding and being understood by others)? (The use of a card is suggested).	ENBIARE 2021	Basic Expanded
8.3 Physical health		
I am going to show you some body shapes. Which shape do you feel most resembles you at the moment? <i>Codes: Male and female shapes with different builds ranging from 1 (thin) to 9 (obese).</i> (The use of a card is suggested.)	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Do you think your current weight is...? 1. Above what is healthy? 2. Healthy? 3. Below what is healthy? 4. No answer 5. Don't know	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
8.4 Mental health		
Over the past week...? <i>Codes: 1. Rarely or never (less than one day), 2. Seldom or occasionally (1 or 2 days), 3. A considerable number of times (3 or 4 days), 4. All or most of the time (between 5 and 7 days).</i> 1. Did you feel unable to shake off sadness? 2. Did you find it hard to concentrate on what you were doing? 3. Did you feel depressed? 4. Did you feel that everything was an effort? 5. Did you not sleep well? 6. Did you enjoy life? 7. Did you feel sad?	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Over the past two weeks, how often have the following problems bothered you? <i>Codes: 0. Less than one day, 1. Several days, 2. More than half of the days, 3. Almost every day</i> 1. Nervousness or unease, nerves on edge. 2. Constant worry or worries that cannot be controlled.	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
9. Security		
9.1 Citizen security		
How satisfied are you with citizen security? <i>Codes: from 0 (total dissatisfaction) to 10 (total satisfaction).</i>	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Thinking about crime, do you think that living in (geographical area: neighbourhood, town/municipality, borough/State) is...? 1. Safe? 2. Unsafe? 9. Don't know/no answer	National Survey on Victimization and Public Security Perceptions (ENVIPE) 2022 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Thinking about crime, tell me if you feel that there is security or insecurity... <i>Codes: 1. Security, 2. Insecurity, 3. Not applicable, 9. Don't know/no answer.</i> 1. In your home 2. In your workplace 3. On the street 4. At school 5. At the market 6. At the shopping centre 7. At the bank 8. At a street-side cash machine 9. On public transport 10. In your car 11. On the open road 12. At the park or recreation centre	ENVIPE 2022 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How safe do you feel walking alone at night in the area where you live (around your home)? 1. Very safe 2. Safe 3. Unsafe 4. Very unsafe 5. Not applicable 9. Don't know/no answer	ENVIPE 2022 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
For the remainder of (survey year), thinking about the areas you travel through or the type of activities you do, do you think that...? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. Not applicable, 9. Don't know/no answer.</i> 1. You could be robbed or assaulted on the street or on public transport? 2. You could be injured in a physical assault? 3. You could be extorted or kidnapped for money or property?	ENVIPE 2022 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
According to your experience, do you think that in the remainder of (survey year) public security in (geographical area: neighbourhood, town, State, country)...? 1. Will improve? 2. Will remain just as good? 3. Will remain just as bad? 4. Will worsen? 9. Don't know/no answer	ENVIPE 2022 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
During (survey year), did you refrain from doing any of the following activities out of fear of being a crime victim (robbery, assault, kidnapping, other)? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. Not applicable, 4. Don't know/no answer.</i> 1. Going out at night 2. Allowing the household's minors to go out alone 3. Visiting relatives or friends 4. Taking a taxi 5. Using public transport 6. Carrying cash 7. Going to school 8. Going to the cinema and theatre 9. Going out for a walk 10. Wearing jewellery 11. Going out for lunch or dinner 12. Carrying a credit or debit card 13. Going to the stadium 14. Visiting shopping centres 15. Travelling by road to another State or municipality 16. Carrying a mobile phone	ENVIPE 2022 (Mexico)	Expanded
In the past year, how often did you worry about being harassed on the street? <i>Codes: 1. Never, 2. Seldom, 3. Occasionally, 4. Frequently, 5. Always</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Basic Expanded
How likely do you think it is that, in the future, living in your neighbourhood or district and in your home will be safe? <i>Codes: 1. Very likely, 2. Likely, 3. Unlikely, 4. Very unlikely, 5. I have no interest in that, 9. Don't know/no answer.</i>	ECOPRED 2014 (Mexico)	Expanded Expanded
9.2 Victimization and justice system		
How would you describe the police patrols in your neighbourhood? 1. Permanent 2. Frequent 3. Scarce 4. Non-existent 9. Don't know/no answer	ECOPRED 2014 (Mexico)	Expanded
If someone committed a crime in your neighbourhood, would the police...? 1. Capture the criminal? 2. Capture the criminal, but let him/her go? 3. Pursue the criminal but fail to catch him/her? 4. Do nothing? 5. Don't know/no answer	ECOPRED 2014 (Mexico)	Expanded
10. Economic situation		
10.1 Subjective poverty		
How would you describe your economic situation compared to 12 months ago? <i>Codes: 1. Much better, 2. Better, 3. The same, 4. Worse, 5. Much worse, 6. Don't know.</i>	National Consumer Confidence Survey (ENCO) 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
And what do you think your economic situation will be like 12 months from now? <i>Codes: 1. Much better, 2. Better, 3. The same, 4. Worse, 5. Much worse, 6. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Thinking about the economic situation of this household's members 12 months ago, how would you describe their situation now? <i>Codes: 1. Much better, 2. Better, 3. The same, 4. Worse, 5. Much worse, 6. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
What do you think the economic situation of this household's members will be like in 12 months from now? <i>Codes: 1. Much better, 2. Better, 3. The same, 4. Worse, 5. Much worse, 6. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How would you describe the country's economic situation today compared to 12 months ago? <i>Codes: 1. Much better, 2. Better, 3. The same, 4. Worse, 5. Much worse, 6. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
What do you think the country's economic situation will be like in 12 months from now? <i>Codes: 1. Much better, 2. Better, 3. The same, 4. Worse, 5. Much worse, 6. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
Are you more likely to buy clothes, shoes, food and other items now than you were a year ago? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. Same likelihood, 3. No, 4. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Comparing the current economic situation to the one a year ago, how likely do you think it is that you or someone in this household will now buy furniture, televisions, washing machines, other household appliances or other items? <i>Codes: 1. More likely, 2. Same likelihood, 3. Less likely, 4. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Do you think that during the next 12 months you or any of this household's members will be able to afford to go on vacation? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Are you currently able to save any part of your income? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. Don't know, 4. I have no income.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How do you rate your financial possibilities of being able to save in 12 months' time compared to today? <i>Codes: 1. Very good, 2. Good, 3. The same, 4. Bad, 5. Very bad, 6. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Compared to the previous 12 months, how do you think prices in the country will behave over the next 12 months? <i>Codes: 1. They will fall a lot, 2. They will fall slightly, 3. They will remain the same, 4. They will rise slightly, 5. They will rise the same, 6. They will rise a lot, 7. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
What do you think will happen regarding employment in the country over the next 12 months? <i>Codes: 1. It will increase a lot, 2. It will increase slightly, 3. It will remain the same, 4. It will decrease slightly, 5. It will decrease a lot, 6. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Are you or any other member of this household planning to purchase a new or used vehicle in the next two years? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. Probably, 3. No, 4. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
Are you or any other member of this household planning to buy, build or remodel a home over the next two years? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. Probably, 3. No, 4. Don't know.</i>	ENCO 2023 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
10.2 Income		
Thinking about the income you earn or receive, would you say that...? 1. You have money left over to save? 2. It is only enough for your needs? 3. It is not even enough for your needs?	National Survey of Household Finances (ENFIH) 2019 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
In your opinion, what amount of income would be enough to cover all your household needs for one month? <i>Codes: responses are recorded using numbers; there is an option for the respondent to indicate that he/she prefers not to answer.</i>	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How difficult will it be for you or your household to obtain that level of income next month? <i>Codes: 1. Without any difficulty, 2. With some difficulty, 3. With great difficulty, 4. It will be unattainable. 9. Don't know.</i>	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
How satisfied are you with your (socioeconomic) standard of living? <i>Codes: from 0 to 10, where 0 means total dissatisfaction and 10 means total satisfaction.</i>	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
10.3 Food security		
Over the past three months, did you ever worry about your household running out of food because of a shortage of money or other resources? <i>Codes: 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. No answer, 4. Don't know.</i>	ENSANUT 2021 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
10.4 Economic security		
How great a danger is there of you being evicted from this home? 1. A lot of danger 2. Some danger 3. Little danger 4. No danger	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Basic Expanded
In the event of a major health problem, how financially protected or unprotected would you feel? 1. Very unprotected 2. Unprotected 3. Neither protected nor unprotected 4. Protected 5. Very protected	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
11. Work and job quality		
11.1 Work and job quality		
Is your opinion taken into account at work? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Sometimes	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
Thinking about work in general, how important is...? <i>Codes: 1. Not important, 2. Not very important, 3. Somewhat important, 4. Quite important, 5. Very important.</i> 1. Receiving recognition? 2. Receiving employment benefits? 3. Having a flexible schedule? 4. Being able to work remotely? 5. The possibility of promotion? 6. Interacting well with workmates? 7. Being treated well by your direct superior?	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
Thinking about your current job, to what extent would you say that...? <i>Codes: 1. Not at all, 2. A little, 3. Somewhat, 4. Considerably, 5. A lot.</i> 1. You have received recognition? 2. You have received employment benefits? 3. You have had a flexible schedule? 4. You have been able to work remotely? 5. You have had the opportunity of a promotion? 6. You have had good interactions with your workmates? 7. You have been treated well by your direct superior?	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is unemployed.</i> Thinking about your last job, to what extent would you say that...? <i>Codes: 1. Not at all, 2. A little, 3. Somewhat, 4. Considerably, 5. A lot.</i> 1. You received recognition? 2. You received employment benefits? 3. You had a flexible schedule? 4. You had the possibility of working remotely? 5. You had the opportunity of a promotion? 6. You had good interactions with your workmates? 7. You were treated well by your direct superior?	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is employed.</i> Thinking about your current job, to what extent would you say that you were able to...? <i>Codes: 1. Not at all, 2. A little, 3. Somewhat, 4. Considerably, 5. A lot.</i> 1. Receive support from acquaintances to improve your employability? 2. Develop your skills? 3. Enjoy financial stability? 4. Balance the time devoted to work and the time devoted to your family or friends? 5. Complete your projects and accomplish your goals?	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is unemployed.</i> Thinking about your last job, to what extent would you say that you were able to...? <i>Codes: 1. Not at all, 2. A little, 3. Somewhat, 4. Considerably, 5. A lot.</i> 1. Receive support from acquaintances to improve your employability? 2. Develop your skills? 3. Enjoy financial stability? 4. Balance the time devoted to work and the time devoted to your family or friends? 5. Complete your projects and accomplish your goals?	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is employed.</i> If you wanted to change jobs, how likely is it that you could get a better one in the next three months? <i>Codes: 1. Very unlikely, 2. Unlikely, 3. Somewhat likely, 4. Quite likely, 5. Very likely.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is unemployed.</i> How likely is it that you will be able to find a job in the next three months? <i>Codes: 1. Very unlikely, 2. Unlikely, 3. Somewhat likely, 4. Quite likely, 5. Very likely.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is unemployed.</i> How likely is it that you will be able to find a job in the next three months? <i>Codes: 1. Very unlikely, 2. Unlikely, 3. Somewhat likely, 4. Quite likely, 5. Very likely.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is employed.</i> While you are working, either from home or on site, how often do you think about household or family chores? <i>Codes: 1. Never, 2. Seldom, 3. Occasionally, 4. Quite frequently, 5. Very frequently.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is employed.</i> How satisfied are you with your current job? <i>Codes: 1. Not satisfied, 2. Slightly satisfied, 3. Somewhat satisfied, 4. Quite satisfied, 5. Very satisfied.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
<i>Filter: Only if the respondent is unemployed.</i> How satisfied were you with your last job? <i>Codes: 1. Not satisfied, 2. Slightly satisfied, 3. Somewhat satisfied, 4. Quite satisfied, 5. Very satisfied.</i>	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
How likely do you think it is that in the future...? <i>Codes: 1. Very likely, 2. Likely, 3. Unlikely, 4. Very unlikely, 5. I have no interest in that, 9. Don't know/no answer.</i> 1. You will grow in your job or profession? 2. You will have a good job? 3. You will have your own business or be self-employed?	ECOPRED 2014 (Mexico)	Expanded
11.2 Satisfaction with life-work balance		
On a scale of 0 to 10, how satisfied are you with the time you have to do things you like to do? <i>Codes: from 0 to 10, where 0 means total dissatisfaction and 10 means total satisfaction.</i>	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Expanded
If needed, could you obtain childcare support: for example, from a nursery, childcare services, or family or friends? 1. Yes 2. No 7. Not applicable	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
12. Use of social networks and information and communications technologies		
12.1 Use of social networks and information and communications technologies		
Last week, how often did you express your ideas or communicate through...? <i>Codes: 1. Never, 2. Seldom, 3. Occasionally, 4. Frequently, 5. Very frequently.</i> 1. Facebook? 2. X (Twitter)? 3. Instagram? 4. WhatsApp or Telegram? 5. TikTok? (The use of a card is suggested).	ENBIARE 2021 (Mexico)	Expanded
13. Time use		
13.1 Time use		
How do you feel about the time you spent last week...? <i>Codes: 1. I would like to spend less time on that, 2. The time I spent on that was fine, 3. I would like to spend more time on that, 8. Not applicable (did not engage in that activity).</i> 1. Tasks performed in the home without payment, such as cleaning, preparing meals, laundry or ironing? 2. Caring for children and for dependent or sick members of the household? 3. Paid work or the economic activity you perform? 5. Socializing with family and friends? 6. Travelling to work or school? 7. Bureaucratic formalities, payments or collecting from any social programme you receive or received in the past? 8. Leisure, social life and hobbies? 9. Sleeping (including naps)?	ENUT 2019 (Mexico)	Expanded
Thinking about the following activities, to what extent would you like to spend less time, the same amount of time, or more time on them than you currently do? <i>Codes: 1. I would spend less time on that; 2. I would spend the same amount of time on that as I do now; 3. I would spend more time on that.</i> 1. Caring for children and for dependent or sick members of the household? 2. Tasks performed in the home without payment, such as cleaning, preparing meals, laundry or ironing? 3. Paid work or job 4. Travelling to work 5. Leisure, social life and hobbies 6. Study 7. Sleep (including naps)	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way you distribute your time between work and personal life? 1. Totally dissatisfied 2. Dissatisfied 3. Indifferent 4. Satisfied 5. Totally satisfied	EBS 2021 (Chile)	Expanded
How likely do you think it is that you will have time for socializing and fun in the future? 1. Very likely 2. Likely 3. Unlikely 4. Very unlikely 5. I have no interest in that 6. Don't know/no answer	ECOPRED 2014 (Mexico)	Expanded

Question	Example survey	Module
14. Housing		
14.1. Housing and neighbourhood		
Thinking about this home, how satisfied are you with...? <i>Codes: 1. Very satisfied, 2. Somewhat satisfied, 3. Slightly satisfied, 4. Not satisfied.</i> 1. The quality of the floor? 2. The quality of the walls and ceilings? 3. The paint, coatings and other finishes? 4. The natural light? 5. The natural ventilation? 6. The protection it gives you against rain, cold, heat or wind? (The use of a card is suggested).	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Expanded
Thinking about this home, how satisfied are you with the size of...? <i>Codes: 1. Very satisfied, 2. Somewhat satisfied, 3. Slightly satisfied, 4. Not satisfied.</i> 1. The bedrooms? 2. The bathroom or bathrooms? 3. The kitchen? 4. The living-dining area? 5. The yard? Interviewer: the following question only applies to apartments in a building, duplex houses or single houses that are part of a horizontal condominium. If it does not apply, use code 8. Not applicable. 6. The shared areas? (The use of a card is suggested).	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Expanded
How satisfied are you with the distance between this home and the places identified below, or with the time it takes to get there? <i>Codes: 1. Very satisfied, 2. Somewhat satisfied, 3. Slightly satisfied, 4. Not satisfied.</i> 1. Work 2. School 3. Health centres 4. Markets or shopping centres 5. Parks or sports facilities 6. Recreation centres or cultural facilities (The use of a card is suggested).	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Expanded
To what extent do you think that this home identifies with your tastes, customs and traditions? 1. A lot 2. Somewhat 3. A little 4. Not at all	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Expanded
On a scale of 0 to 10, how satisfied are you with this home?	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Expanded
In your neighbourhood or district (town), how much of a problem is there with...? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. A little, 4. Not at all.</i> 1. The absence of ramps (or lifts) for persons with disabilities? 2. Excessive noise caused by neighbours or coming from outside? 3. Refuse left on the streets? 4. Environmental pollution caused by factories or construction? 5. Deterioration because houses or public spaces have been abandoned? 6. Vandalism, graffiti, broken windows and the like? 7. Robberies or assaults?	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Expanded
On a scale of 0 to 10, how satisfied are you with your neighbourhood or district (town)?	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Expanded
Since March 2020, and on account of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, how much did your satisfaction with the size, spaces, and location of your home change? <i>Codes: 1. A lot, 2. Somewhat, 3. A little, 4. Not at all.</i>	ENVI 2020 (Mexico)	Expanded
Compared to other houses in the neighbourhood, how do you rate the physical condition of your home? 1. Much better than the others 2. Somewhat better than the others 3. Somewhat worse than the others 4. Worse than the others 9. Don't know/no answer	ECOPRED 2014 (Mexico)	Expanded

Source: Prepared by the authors, on the basis of the respective surveys.

^a The original wording of some questions was modified to ensure inclusive language or to facilitate their use in the context of different countries.



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