


UPDATED AND EXPANDED VERSION

THE SOCIAL INCLUSION INDEX 2013

In its second year, *AQ's Social Inclusion Index* adds three new variables, expands to four more countries, and includes new data on race and gender. Fresh data show improving trends in some countries and some curious contradictions.



We created the Social Inclusion Index last year for the fifth anniversary issue of *AQ* to provide a more nuanced and multifaceted discussion of a topic that is very much on the agenda of policymakers, multilateral agencies and politicians.

Our Index reflected the emerging consensus that social inclusion comprises an institutional, social, political, and attitudinal environment that goes beyond economics and the reduction of poverty and inequality—in much the same way that “sustainable development” (another trendy term) embodies issues, such as the environment, climate change and good governance, that go beyond the traditional notions of development current in the 1960s and 1970s.

At its most basic, social inclusion is about opportunity: it represents the combined factors necessary for an individual to enjoy a safe, productive life as a fully integrated member of society—irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. But because political and social environments aren’t virtuous, any measure of social inclusion must also include the factors that allow for a citizen to express himself or herself to demand change and a reasonably accountable government that will respond to those demands.

This ambitiously humane concept touches on a wide range of factors that can be grouped roughly into inputs and outputs. They encompass, of course, economic growth, social spending, reduction of poverty, access to education and other social services, and access to formal employment. Also included are measures for the respect for basic human, political and civil rights, as well as the extent to which citizens participate in civil society and the perceived responsiveness of government.

But most of all, they require equal access to and enjoyment of these goods without regard to race, ethnicity and gender. The poor are not homogeneous. Effectively addressing poverty and social inclusion requires knowing who the poor are and, in particular, understanding the overlay of race and gender on access to private- and public-sector goods, and how race and gender influence political participation and popular attitudes of personal empowerment and government responsiveness.

In our second Social Inclusion Index, it is particularly important that we include measures by race/ethnicity and gender for most of the individual-level variables (thanks largely to the data made available to us by The World Bank and Vanderbilt University’s LAPOP surveys) in almost all the countries in Latin America.

Notably, our second SI Index includes three new important variables. The first, financial access, measures individuals’ interaction with the formal banking system based on data compiled by The World Bank’s Global Findex and disaggregated by gender. The second, LGBT rights, is a seven-point scale developed by Javier Corrales, Mario Pecheny and Mari Crook—the Gay Friendliness Index—that measures LGBT rights and protections in all 16 countries in our index. And third, with the help of Jane Marcus Delgado and Joan Caivano, we have included a scale of women’s rights, with five scores that measure maternal death rates, the presence of laws criminalizing sexual and physical violence against women, and women’s political representation, among others.



In all, we have a total of 21 variables. The lack of data for some countries permitted only 10 countries to be measured across all 21. When data were lacking for a country, we rescaled it according to those variables for which there were data. The final index for all countries and for some of the most important variables is in the conclusion, starting on page 58. This year, we also included Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, and Honduras in the scale. In the conclusion, we compare levels of social inclusion with rates of violence.

When we calculated the final index, we did not weight any of the variables; all were given the same importance. The reason, in part, is that in the absence of compelling quantifiable evidence that any one variable correlates most strongly to economic and social outcomes associated with social inclusion, we believe they should be valued equally.

Does that mean we are agnostic on which ones are more important? No. Logic would dictate that some are certainly more important than others (such as economic growth and access to secondary education), but to weight them against the others without any specific evidence for how much would be arbitrary.

Moreover, it would also violate the governing concept of the Index. What we seek to do in the pages that follow is lay out all the possible variables that arguably affect social inclusion. This is intended to be a dashboard presentation of variables that both grounds and broadens our discussion of social inclusion in a way that pushes the limits of how we define development. We are not saying that economic growth or access to secondary school is equivalent to, say, LGBT rights or racial equality in personal empowerment; but can we honestly believe that a country is socially inclusive without them?

None of these variables is easy to change in a year. Many are the result of centuries of discrimination, embedded cultural attitudes and bureaucratic or civil structure. Yet our second iteration demonstrates some notable shifts and changes.

The question is whether these changes will last.

The really good news is the quality of data that is available. When creating indices such as these, the risk is that you measure only what you have data for, while more important variables get pushed aside for lack of data. With only a few exceptions, we have either avoided that or found a compromise. For example, one of the variables in the five-point women's rights scale should have included reports of violence against women over a set period. Unfortunately, some governments are not

OUR INDEX REFLECTS THE EMERGING CONSENSUS THAT SOCIAL INCLUSION COMPRISES AN INSTITUTIONAL, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ATTITUDINAL ENVIRONMENT THAT GOES BEYOND ECONOMICS AND THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY.

forthcoming with that information. So, we scored countries on whether the government provided the data or not (receiving a 0 or a 1). Admittedly, this is less than perfect, but it does provide a critical proxy measure of how seriously governments take the issue of violence against women.

Clear, objective information does matter, not just to policy wonks but to citizens, who deserve to know how their government is performing. Which brings us to the issue of the quality of national data in some countries, and to the countries not included in this survey. We did have some concerns about Bolivia's data for access to secondary school and poverty, because there was an unusual jump from the previous year; we include that data, but with a warning.

The greatest problems were presented by Argentina and Venezuela. While there were data available for political and civil rights and for the public opinion variables, we simply did not have enough confidence in some of the other data to include either country in the broader index. That's regrettable, since the governments of both countries have staked their political claims and legitimacy on social inclusion—and arguably, there have been advances in each.

KEY TO VARIABLES AND SOURCES

INPUTS

GDP GROWTH A country can reduce poverty and inequality only if it grows economically. This measure takes the country's average growth from 2002-2012.

PERCENT GDP SPENT ON SOCIAL PROGRAMS There are no measures of the effectiveness of state spending on social programs. We used a simpler measure of percent of GDP spent. Countries were scored on a relative basis, since there is no optimal level—though up to a certain point, more, of course, is better.

CIVIL RIGHTS These scores, ranging from 0 to 60, are from Freedom House's survey *Freedom in the World 2012*. They evaluate respect for 15 civil liberties in 4 categories: freedom of expression and belief (4 questions); associational and organizational rights (3); rule of law (4); and personal autonomy and individual rights (4).

WOMEN'S RIGHTS These scores account for maternal mortality rates, reproductive rights, women in political power, rates of violence against women, and the availability of data on sexual violence against women. The data, compiled by Joan Caivano and Jane Marcos Delgado, is based on research by the Inter-American Dialogue. The score ranges from 1 to 26.

LGBT RIGHTS Based on Javier Corrales' "Gay Friendliness Index," this score reflects the existence and permissibility of same-sex relationships, related anti-discrimination laws and laws on same-sex relationships, and ranges from 0 to 7.

ENROLLMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOL There is near-universal enrollment in primary schools in the region, so we looked at secondary school. We used data disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity and analyzed by The World Bank. Non-minority refers to respondents who did not identify as Indigenous, Afro-descendant or other similar terms.

POLITICAL RIGHTS These scores, ranging from 0 to 40, are from Freedom House's survey *Freedom in the World 2012*. They evaluate respect for 10 political rights in 3 categories: electoral process (3 questions); political pluralism and participation (4); and functioning of government (3).

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION Based on 2012 data from *AmericasBarometer*, this measure the average number of associations respondents said they participated in, out of a possible 6. Data has a margin of error of +/- 2.9%.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION This score uses the WB's data on access to an account at a formal institution. It measures the percentage of respondents with an account at a bank, credit union, another financial institution, or the post office, including respondents who have a debit card.

OUTPUTS

PERCENT LIVING ON MORE THAN \$4 PER DAY These are based on household data disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity (non-minority/minority). According to The World Bank, over \$4 per day is defined as above moderate poverty—for our purposes, a better measure than being out of absolute poverty (\$2.50/day).

PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT This is the standard measure of what is called "internal efficacy" in political science. Drawn from 2012 *AmericasBarometer* survey data, it is based on the statement, "You feel that you understand the most important political issues of the country," asking respondents to disagree or agree on a scale of 1 to 7. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.9%.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS (EFFICACY) This is the standard measure of what is called "external efficacy" in political science. Drawn from 2012 *AmericasBarometer* survey data, it is based on the statement, "Those who govern are interested in what people like you think," asking respondents to disagree or agree on a scale of 1 to 7. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.9%.

PERCENT ACCESS TO A FORMAL JOB Based on household data disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity. An individual between 25 and 65 is considered to have a formal job if he/she will receive a pension.

ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HOUSING Based on household data disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity. It includes 3 indicators of adequate housing: access to water; access to electricity; and lack of severe overcrowding.

INPUTS		OUTPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	%	Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	%	by gender	Male % Female %
Enrollment Secondary School	%	by race	Administrative % Minority %
by gender	Male % Female %	Personal Empowerment	1-7
by race	Administrative % Minority %	by gender (1-7)	Male % Female %
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 40	by race (1-7)	Administrative % Minority %
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 50 60	Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	1-7
Women's Rights	1-26	by gender (1-7)	Male % Female %
LGBT Rights	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	by race (1-7)	Administrative % Minority %
Civil Society Participation	1-6	Access to Adequate Housing	1-7
by gender (1-6)	Male % Female %	by gender	Male % Female %
by race (1-6)	Administrative % Minority %	by race	Administrative % Minority %
Financial Inclusion	%	Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	%
by gender	Male % Female %	by gender	Male % Female %
		by race	Administrative % Minority %
COMMENTS			

Name of Country	Overall Score
Bolivia	47.6

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	42.9%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	16.24%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 97.6% female 97.8%
by race	non-minority 97.9% minority 97.1%
Political Rights	0 10 20 29 30 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 40 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 19
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 2.46 female 2.47
by race (1-6)	non-minority 2.06 minority 2.49
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 33.19% female 21.97%

OUTPUTS	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	
by gender	male 76.8% female 75.5%
by race	non-minority 81.9% minority 62.9%
Personal Empowerment	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.84 female 3.46
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.73 minority 3.64
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.45 female 3.26
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.14 minority 3.37
Access to Adequate Housing	
by gender	male 63.2% female 64.9%
by race	non-minority 72.2% minority 45.2%
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	
by gender	male 47.0% female 51.2%
by race	non-minority 50.5% minority 42.1%

COMMENTS

Civil society participation and enrollment in secondary school are the highest in the region. The country still ranks low in access to formal jobs and adequate housing, and in financial inclusion.

NOTE: We question the reliability of the data for enrollment, housing, and formal jobs.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Brazil	53.5

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	3.51%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	26.05%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 72.8% female 78.2%
by race	non-minority 76.4% minority 65.3%
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 33 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 48 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 22
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.41 female 1.50
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.31 minority 1.54
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 61.1% female 51.02%

OUTPUTS	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	
by gender	male 74.4% female 73.7%
by race	non-minority 74.5% minority 69.8%
Personal Empowerment	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.53 female 3.18
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.46 minority 3.30
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	
by gender (1-7)	male 2.88 female 2.87
by race (1-7)	non-minority 2.92 minority 2.86
Access to Adequate Housing	
by gender	male 92.6% female 93.6%
by race	non-minority 93.2% minority 91.6%
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	
by gender	male 80.7% female 76.7%
by race	non-minority 79.3% minority 75.2%

COMMENTS

Despite Brazil's recent economic slowdown, the country still ranks among the highest in the region on social spending and access to housing. Brazil is also a leader in LGBT rights and in the past year improved access to formal jobs. However, the country still ranks low in personal empowerment and enrollment in secondary school, particularly by race.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Chile	68.4

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	4.46%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	14.22%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 90.5% female 90.9%
by race	non-minority 90.8% minority 89.4%
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 39 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 50 57 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 21
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.18 female 1.49
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.32 minority 1.39
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 43.44% female 40.97%

OUTPUTS	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	
by gender	male 88.3% female 87.2%
by race	non-minority 88.2% minority 81.4%
Personal Empowerment	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.43 female 3.99
by race (1-7)	non-minority 4.15 minority 4.16
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.17 female 3.28
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.12 minority 3.41
Access to Adequate Housing	
by gender	male 95.9% female 96.4%
by race	non-minority 97.0% minority 84.3%
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	
by gender	male 83.5% female 75.1%
by race	non-minority 80.4% minority 74.4%

COMMENTS

Chile's rankings are consistently high across all indicators. The country leads the pack in political and civil rights, though civil society participation is among the lowest in the region. In women's and LGBT rights it scores quite low.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Colombia	48.4

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	4.53%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	12.59%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 79.4% female 81.2%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Political Rights	0 10 20 27 30 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 34 40 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 24
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.73 female 1.80
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.62 minority 1.82
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 35.94% female 25.35%

OUTPUTS	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	
by gender	male 68.3% female 67.1%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Personal Empowerment	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.94 female 3.25
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.52 minority 3.63
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.20 female 3.13
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.14 minority 3.18
Access to Adequate Housing	
by gender	male 84.5% female 85.8%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	
by gender	male 63.6% female 61.8%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%

COMMENTS

Colombia continues to be one of the strongest performers in economic growth in the region. It is a leader in women's and LGBT rights. Although it ranks low on civil rights and personal empowerment, civil society participation—by race and by gender—are relatively high.

Name of Country

Costa Rica

Overall Score

57.8

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INPUTS		OUTPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012		4.70%	
GDP Spent on Social Programs		19.32%	
Enrollment Secondary School			
by gender	male 74.9%	female 81.9%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 40	38	
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 50 60	53	
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26	26	
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2	
Civil Society Participation			
by gender (1-6)	male 0.98	female 1.24	
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.16	minority 1.05	
Financial Inclusion			
by gender	male 60.2%	female 40.66%	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day			
by gender	male 87.4%	female 87.2%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	
Personal Empowerment			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.90	female 3.56	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.72	minority 3.77	
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)			
by gender (1-7)	male 2.61	female 2.47	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 2.54	minority 2.53	
Access to Adequate Housing			
by gender	male 97.0%	female 97.5%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)			
by gender	male 76.9%	female 67.9%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	

COMMENTS

Costa Rica is a very positive example of gender equality in the region. The country is one of the region's leaders in women's rights, financial inclusion and access to housing, by gender. It also leads in social spending, as well as political and civil rights. Civil society participation and government responsiveness, though, remain very low.

Name of Country

Ecuador

Overall Score

52.9

SOCIAL INCLUSION
INDEX 2013

INPUTS		OUTPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012		4.59%	
GDP Spent on Social Programs		6.39%	
Enrollment Secondary School			
by gender	male 84.1%	female 82.2%	
by race	non-minority 74.8%	minority 84.5%	
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 40	24	
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 50 60	36	
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26	22	
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	5	
Civil Society Participation			
by gender (1-6)	male 1.94	female 1.94	
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.92	minority 1.94	
Financial Inclusion			
by gender	male 40.46%	female 33.16%	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day			
by gender	male 72.3%	female 70.5%	
by race	non-minority 74.0%	minority 51.9%	
Personal Empowerment			
by gender (1-7)	male 4.00	female 3.70	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.91	minority 3.85	
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.76	female 3.65	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.61	minority 3.71	
Access to Adequate Housing			
by gender	male 86.5%	female 87.6%	
by race	non-minority 89.3%	minority 70.9%	
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)			
by gender	male 54.5%	female 66.3%	
by race	non-minority 59.7%	minority 47.8%	

COMMENTS

Poverty in Ecuador has declined and overall secondary school enrollment, as well as access to formal jobs, have increased since last year. Although political and civil rights have declined, personal empowerment and perceptions of government responsiveness remain high.

Name of Country	Overall Score
<i>El Salvador</i>	<i>36.2</i>

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	190%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	11.07%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 45.2% female 46.0%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 35 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 42 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 18
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.82 female 1.74
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.78 minority 1.77
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 17.62% female 10.13%

OUTPUTS	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	
by gender	male 57.5% female 58.3%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Personal Empowerment	
by gender (1-7)	male 4.21 female 3.39
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.97 minority 3.77
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.39 female 3.49
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.42 minority 3.45
Access to Adequate Housing	
by gender	male 55.8% female 58.8%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	
by gender	male 49.7% female 56.9%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%

COMMENTS

Women in El Salvador perceive their government as relatively responsive to their needs. Yet they participate less in civil society and feel less personally empowered than most of their counterparts in the region.

Name of Country	Overall Score
<i>Guatemala</i>	<i>14.8</i>

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	349%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	7.03%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 67.6% female 61.2%
by race	non-minority 69.7% minority 57.3%
Political Rights	0 10 20 24 30 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 33 40 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 16
LGBT Rights	1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 2.44 female 2.11
by race (1-6)	non-minority NA% minority 2.28
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 29.89% female 15.59%

OUTPUTS	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	
by gender	male 37.3% female 36.9%
by race	non-minority 48.0% minority 20.4%
Personal Empowerment	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.36 female 3.45
by race (1-7)	non-minority NA% minority 3.55
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	
by gender (1-7)	male 2.97 female 2.96
by race (1-7)	non-minority NA% minority 2.97
Access to Adequate Housing	
by gender	male 43.4% female 45.1%
by race	non-minority 33.3% minority 30.5%
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	
by gender	male 33.7% female 40.5%
by race	non-minority 43.6% minority 17.4%

COMMENTS

Poverty and inequality are stark in Guatemala across all indicators, and unfortunately, it spends the least on social programs in the region. Staggeringly few Guatemalans have access to a formal job, and the country trails far behind on women's rights.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Honduras	23.0

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	4.1%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	11.38%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 49.2% female 58.6%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Political Rights	0 10 18 20 30 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 33 40 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 18
LGBT Rights	1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.83 female 1.88
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.89 minority 1.83
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 26.27% female 14.92%

OUTPUTS	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	
by gender	male 44.6% female 44.6%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Personal Empowerment	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.51 female 3.43
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.49 minority 3.46
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	
by gender (1-7)	male 2.72 female 2.70
by race (1-7)	non-minority 2.77 minority 2.67
Access to Adequate Housing	
by gender	male 65.3% female 68.8%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	
by gender	male 5.1% female 10.8%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%

COMMENTS

Poverty in Honduras is extreme and access to formal jobs is very low. In spite of this—and relatively weak civil, political, women's, and LGBT rights, plus low perceptions of government responsiveness—Hondurans feel more personally empowered than many in the region.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Mexico	45.2

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	2.31%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	12.52%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 73.7% female 76.3%
by race	non-minority 76.4% minority 69.9%
Political Rights	0 10 20 28 30 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 37 40 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 24
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5.5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.56 female 1.63
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.62 minority 1.59
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 31.12% female 25.11%

OUTPUTS	
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day	
by gender	male 72.7% female 71.6%
by race	non-minority 75.4% minority 61.3%
Personal Empowerment	
by gender (1-7)	male 4.04 female 3.58
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.97 minority 3.78
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)	
by gender (1-7)	male 3.34 female 3.28
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.63 minority 3.25
Access to Adequate Housing	
by gender	male 90.0% female 90.4%
by race	non-minority 92.0% minority 84.1%
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)	
by gender	male 41.1% female 43.6%
by race	non-minority 44.3% minority 33.1%

COMMENTS

Mexico stands out for its strong women's and LGBT rights. However, in spite of relatively low poverty rates and higher levels of development than other countries in the region, fewer than half of Mexicans have access to a formal job.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Nicaragua	29.7

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	34.7%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	12.30%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 47.6% female 59.6%
by race	non-minority 54.2% minority 44.9%
Political Rights	0 10 17 20 30 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 34 40 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 21
LGBT Rights	1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.96 female 1.99
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.98 minority 1.97
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 15.7% female 12.82%

OUTPUTS			
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day			
by gender	male 40.9%	female 41.7%	
by race	non-minority 41.8%	minority 31.5%	
Personal Empowerment			
by gender (1-7)	male 4.58	female 3.95	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 4.22	minority 4.28	
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.82	female 3.82	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.80	minority 3.83	
Access to Adequate Housing			
by gender	male 40.7%	female 44.7%	
by race	non-minority 44.4%	minority 11.5%	
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)			
by gender	male 34.9%	female 50.4%	
by race	non-minority 40.4%	minority 50.2%	

COMMENTS

Poverty levels in Nicaragua declined slightly from last year and levels of personal empowerment and perceptions of government responsiveness are high. Yet, in spite of moderate levels of social spending, access to public services, housing and formal jobs is low. So is enrollment in secondary school.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Panama	48.6

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	7.70%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	9.44%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male NA% female NA%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 36 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 46 50 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 18
LGBT Rights	1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.21 female 1.32
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.33 minority 1.24
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 26.55% female 23.35%

OUTPUTS			
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day			
by gender	male NA%	female NA%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	
Personal Empowerment			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.80	female 3.56	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.77	minority 3.65	
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)			
by gender (1-7)	male 2.92	female 2.91	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 2.95	minority 2.90	
Access to Adequate Housing			
by gender	male NA%	female NA%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)			
by gender	male NA%	female NA%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	

COMMENTS

Panama's very high GDP growth has not yet translated into greater spending on social programs. It boasts high political and civil rights against a backdrop of low civil society participation and low perceptions of government responsiveness, as well as limited women's and LGBT rights.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Paraguay	27.9

INPUTS		OUTPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012		3.58%	
GDP Spent on Social Programs		8.87%	
Enrollment Secondary School			
by gender	male 80.9% female 83.9%		
by race	non-minority 88.9% minority 70.7%		
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 40	27	
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 50 60	35	
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26	19	
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1	
Civil Society Participation			
by gender (1-6)	male 2.28 female 2.27		
by race (1-6)	non-minority 2.36 minority 2.23		
Financial Inclusion			
by gender	male 20.68% female 22.71%		
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day			
by gender	male 72.3% female 72.4%		
by race	non-minority 82.0% minority 53.1%		
Personal Empowerment			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.61 female 3.02		
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.43 minority 3.27		
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.16 female 2.95		
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.18 minority 2.99		
Access to Adequate Housing			
by gender	male 76.6% female 78.5%		
by race	non-minority 85.3% minority 62.2%		
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)			
by gender	male 39.7% female 45.5%		
by race	non-minority 47.1% minority 24.0%		

COMMENTS

Poverty in Paraguay has declined overall since last year. Yet significant disparities persist in school enrollment by race and in personal empowerment for both gender and race, and minorities have very limited access to formal jobs.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Peru	51.7

INPUTS		OUTPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012		6.38%	
GDP Spent on Social Programs		7.82%	
Enrollment Secondary School			
by gender	male 81.1% female 82.4%		
by race	non-minority 79.9% minority 84.1%		
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 40	30	
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 50 60	41	
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26	23	
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	4	
Civil Society Participation			
by gender (1-6)	male 1.99 female 2.04		
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.80 minority 2.03		
Financial Inclusion			
by gender	male 23.45% female 17.56%		
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day			
by gender	male 72.5% female 71.5%		
by race	non-minority 77.1% minority 64.6%		
Personal Empowerment			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.92 female 3.57		
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.92 minority 3.72		
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.25 female 3.20		
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.23 minority 3.22		
Access to Adequate Housing			
by gender	male 64.2% female 65.7%		
by race	non-minority 69.3% minority 58.8%		
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)			
by gender	male 64.2% female 54.3%		
by race	non-minority 63.3% minority 54.3%		

COMMENTS

In spite of extremely high GDP growth, Peru's level of social spending is low. Nevertheless, Peruvians perceive their government as responsive to their needs, across race and gender. Both women's and LGBT rights are high, yet financial inclusion is low, especially for women.

Name of Country	Overall Score
United States	64.6

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	1.68%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	16.20%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male NA% female NA%
by race	non-minority NA% minority NA%
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 37 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 50 56 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 26
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 1.38 female 1.09
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.23 minority 1.23
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 91.98% female 84.07%

OUTPUTS			
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day			
by gender	male NA%	female NA%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	
Personal Empowerment			
by gender (1-7)	male 5.44	female 4.68	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 5.05	minority 5.04	
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)			
by gender (1-7)	male 2.74	female 3.05	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 2.67	minority 3.40	
Access to Adequate Housing			
by gender	male NA%	female NA%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)			
by gender	male NA%	female NA%	
by race	non-minority NA%	minority NA%	

COMMENTS

The United States boasts extremely high levels of personal empowerment by both race and gender; the strongest women's rights; very high LGBT, civil and political rights; and the highest levels of financial inclusion in the region. Yet it ranks among the lowest in terms of perceptions of government responsiveness and civil society participation, by both gender and race.

Name of Country	Overall Score
Uruguay	75.5

INPUTS	
GDP Growth 2002-2012	4.12%
GDP Spent on Social Programs	21.65%
Enrollment Secondary School	
by gender	male 80.0% female 86.6%
by race	non-minority 83.7% minority 73.9%
Political Rights	0 10 20 30 39 40
Civil Rights	0 10 20 30 40 50 58 60
Women's Rights	1-13 14-26 24
LGBT Rights	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Civil Society Participation	
by gender (1-6)	male 0.91 female 1.11
by race (1-6)	non-minority 1.02 minority 1.00
Financial Inclusion	
by gender	male 23.2% female 23.83%

OUTPUTS			
Percent Living on More than \$4 per Day			
by gender	male 91.4%	female 91.2%	
by race	non-minority 91.7%	minority 83.8%	
Personal Empowerment			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.92	female 3.57	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.92	minority 3.72	
Government Responsiveness (Efficacy)			
by gender (1-7)	male 3.87	female 3.86	
by race (1-7)	non-minority 3.92	minority 3.72	
Access to Adequate Housing			
by gender	male 95.9%	female 96.7%	
by race	non-minority 96.6%	minority 91.0%	
Percent Access to a Formal Job (age 25-65)			
by gender	male 89.6%	female 85.4%	
by race	non-minority 88.1%	minority 79.8%	

COMMENTS

Uruguay ranks among the highest on social spending and leads the pack on political, civil and LGBT rights. It also boasts strong women's rights, as well as a very high sense of government responsiveness for both race and gender. However, it trails other countries in terms of civil society participation, for both race and gender.



CONCLUSION

Two major changes have occurred in the 2013 regional Social Inclusion Index rankings since last year. They are difficult to discern because this year—as we will do in the future—we included four more countries in the overall survey (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama) and ranked the United States, though it lacked data for eight variables. In addition, we disaggregated civil society participation, personal empowerment and sense of government responsiveness by gender and race/ethnicity. To more easily compare this year with last, we untangled updated results from the new additions below.

First, Uruguay moved up to claim the top spot over Chile. The change is partly due to the addition of two of the three new indicators—women’s rights, where Uruguay ranks third and Chile ranks ninth; and LGBT rights, where Uruguay is tied for first and Chile is tied for seventh.

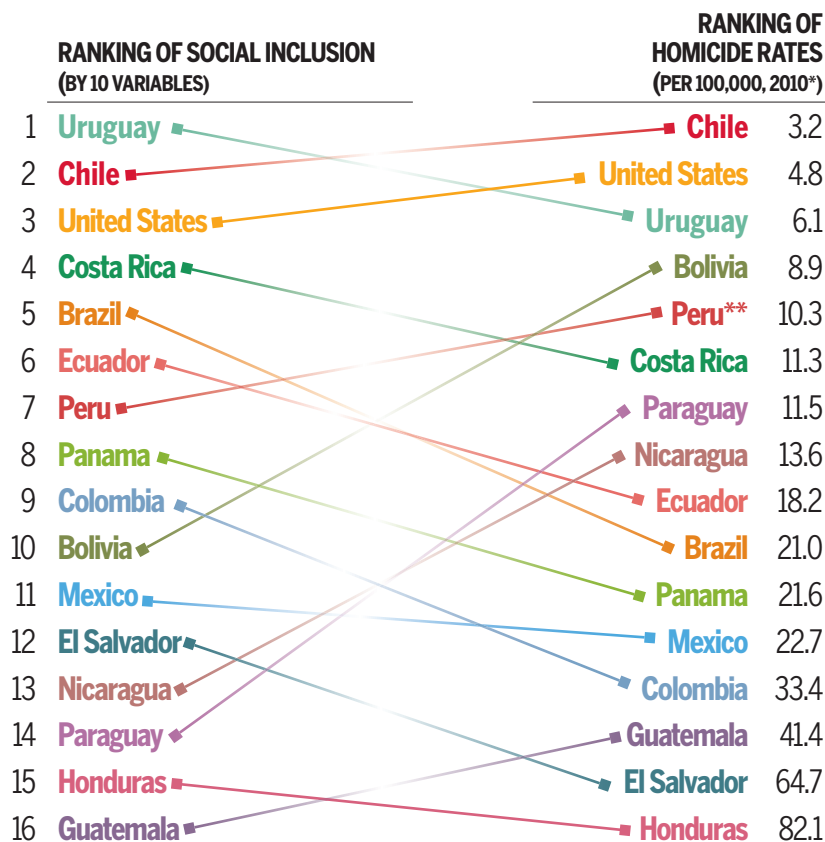
In most of the other variables, the two countries maintained their relative positions, with both ranking consistently in the top quarter for all the variables, and scoring first or second in political and civil rights. Chile placed near the top in women’s sense of personal empowerment and their access to adequate housing, and placed third to the U.S. and Brazil

for the financial inclusion of women. Uruguay led the ranking in percentage of GDP spent on social programs, perceptions of government responsiveness by both gender and race, and access to a formal job.

One clear takeaway is that both countries (despite Chile’s lower score on women’s rights) have made strides in gender equality, which boosted their scores overall and correlated with other measures of inclusion.

A second change in this year’s ranking is Colombia’s slump by one place: from fifth in 2012 to sixth (among the countries measured last year)—and ninth this year overall. Colombia’s strong GDP growth in 2013 placed it

The U.S.’ rank below Uruguay and Chile may come as a surprise. While there are clear challenges to social inclusion in the U.S., it’s worth noting that we didn’t have U.S. data for eight of the variables on which we ranked the other countries, explaining, in part, its place.



*Homicide data is from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. **Peru data is from 2009.

Ranking by variable: This is how countries stacked up in our three new indicators. To see a full list of rankings by all the variables, please visit www.americasquarterly.org/socialinclusionindex2013.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS	LGBT RIGHTS
1 Costa Rica United States	1 Brazil Uruguay
3 Colombia Mexico Uruguay	3 United States
6 Peru	4 Mexico
7 Brazil Ecuador	5 Colombia Ecuador
9 Chile Nicaragua	7 Chile Peru
11 Bolivia Paraguay	9 Bolivia El Salvador
13 El Salvador Honduras Panama	11 Costa Rica Guatemala Nicaragua
16 Guatemala	14 Honduras Panama Paraguay

fifth overall (third compared to the countries in last year's survey), but low scores in civil rights, poverty by gender and personal empowerment across race/ethnicity and gender, weakened it. And this was in spite of its strong scores in two of the three new variables: women's rights (tied for third) and LGBT rights (tied for fifth). Colombia scored comparatively low in women's financial inclusion (ninth, followed by Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, and Nicaragua).

While not dramatic changes, two other results are noteworthy. The first is Brazil's landing in fifth place this year. While the result of the addition of two new countries that scored above it (U.S. and Costa Rica), its aggregate score (53.5) is markedly lower than the score of the top three countries: Uruguay (75.5); Chile (68.4); and the U.S. (64.6). The second is the tragically low score of Guatemala at 14.8.

Of course, greater social inclusion is a worthy goal—for economic and moral reasons—in and of itself. This year, though, we compared the Social Inclusion rankings with the homicide rates in those countries, using 2010 data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The purpose was not to measure causality but to see correlation. (In fact, any causality between the two measures would flow both ways: social exclusion and marginality may contribute to violence, but violence also exacerbates social exclusion and marginality.)


Four trends stand out in comparing rates of social inclusion with rates of violence.

The first is the clear grouping

of countries at the top of the ranking. The comparison at the bottom is less clear, with the two lowest countries in the Social Inclusion ranking placing 14th and 16th in the violence ranking with El Salvador in between. (Note: The El Salvador numbers pre-dated the truce between the *MS-13* and *Barrio 18*.)

But above that there is no clear relationship. Nicaragua and Paraguay, while 13th and 14th on the Social Inclusion Index, rank eighth and seventh in the violence index; Bolivia and Peru also score better in terms of violence than social inclusion—all an indication that violence, or lack of it, is contingent on more than just underdevelopment and exclusion.

Another pattern is the discrepancy between higher social inclusion scores and higher rates of violence in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, and Costa Rica. The violence ranking of the first two comes as no surprise, given the narcotics-related crime that has plagued those countries. The score for Costa Rica, though, is particularly troubling, given that Costa Rica scores at the bottom in terms of civil society participation and perception of government responsiveness (both by gender and race) and the news of a growing narco-trafficking presence in the country.

Clearly, there's much more here than space will allow us to summarize and elaborate upon. We invite you to review the data, results and the rankings for all the variables on our website at www.americasquarterly.org/socialinclusionindex2013, and offer your suggestions for next year's Index. 

FINANCIAL INCLUSION BY GENDER
1 United States
2 Brazil
3 Chile
4 Costa Rica
5 Ecuador
6 Uruguay
7 Panama
8 Mexico
9 Colombia
10 Paraguay
11 Bolivia
12 Peru
13 Nicaragua
14 Honduras
15 Guatemala
16 El Salvador