



LAPOP – Vanderbilt University
Observatorio de la Democracia – Universidad de los Andes
Quarterly Report: January-April, 2013

This was a period dedicated to (1) finishing and testing the questionnaire, and starting the field work for the 2014 round; (2) further dissemination of the 2013 results; (4) ongoing activities of the Observatorio de la Democracia (OD).

Accomplishments

1. Colombia 2014 round

- Questionnaire:
 - o Based on USAID's requests, the Observatorio de la Democracia (OD) adjusted the final draft of the questionnaire. Special emphasis was put on adding questions aimed at capturing citizens' attitudes towards presidential and congress elections. Modules on reintegration and conflict from the last round were kept.
 - o On 2/14/2014 and 2/17/2014, the Centro Nacional de Consultoría (CNC), under the supervision of the OD's staff, tested for the first time the complete 2014 questionnaire. Six persons, selected according to their age, gender, and socioeconomic status, were interviewed. The results showed that, in general, the respondents understood well the questionnaire. However, some

questions were dropped due to their similarity with other items and the overall questionnaire extension.

- Regarding the sampling procedure, the OD submitted to the CNC the suggestions from Vanderbilt University to improve the sampling and make the sample comparable across countries for the 2014 round.
- The OD completed the pretest of the questionnaire both in paper and in the ADGYS application (for Android devices).
- Interviewer training and field work
 - Professor Miguel García conducted the training of interviewers at CNC offices in the following cities:
 - Bogotá (3/12/2014)
 - Cali (3/13/2014)
 - Bucaramanga (3/14/2014)
 - Medellín (3/20/2014)
 - Barranquilla (3/21/2014)
 - The Centro Nacional de Consultoría (CNC) started fieldwork for the 2014 comparative on 3/27/2014.

3. Further dissemination of the 2013 results

- Regarding the dissemination of the 2013 results, several presentations took place:
 - In 1/21/2014, Professor Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Raga presented for UN Women a brief analysis on citizens' perceptions about the peace talks from a gender perspective. The presentation took place at the UNDP's office in Bogotá in front of an audience of the UN staff, USAID representatives and other NGOs.
 - During February and March, Professor Miguel García presented for AsoMineros, El Espectador (newspaper), Humberto de la Calle (Government's chief negotiator with the FARC in Havana), and the Asociación Colombiana para la Reintegración ACR (Colombian Association for Reintegration) the 2013 results on the peace talks and reintegration of combatants. Dattis, the communications firm, scheduled some of these presentations.

- In 3/6/2014, Professor Miguel García travelled to Cali and presented the 2013 results from a regional perspective. He presented the results to El País, Diario de Occidente, Caracol Radio, InvestPacific, and the Peace Office of the Governorship. Dattis, the communications firm, scheduled these presentations.
- In 3/20/2014, Professor Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Raga presented the 2013 results to Juan Fernando Londoño and USAID's consultant Walter Guevara.

4. *Observatorio de la Democracia* (OD)

- The OD was involved in all activities related to dissemination activities for the 2013 round.
- The OD was also involved in data management and organization regarding the 2014 round.
- The OD has been responding to information and data requests by civil society organizations and universities, including information on attitudes towards demobilization, reintegration, gender issues, trust in political institutions, and elections, among other topics. Some of these requests come from people living in regions other than Bogotá, which show the interest of the project in the entire nation.
- The OD has been conducting weekly follow-ups meetings with Dattis regarding dissemination plans, a social network strategy, the development of an OD's brochure, and scheduling of presentations of the 2013 results.
- The OD is maintaining its website (www.obsdemocracia.org), updating it every week. The website information is combined with posts by the *Observatorio's* twitter account (@ObsDemocracia).
- The OD staff is currently working on a mini-series of short articles related to the UN's Millennium Goals. The drafts are being review for publication on the OD's website.

What was not accomplished

Most activities planned for the quarter were accomplished. The publication of the 2013 report was postponed to the second quarter of 2014. The launching event is scheduled for May 14th.

Work plan for the next quarter

1. AmericasBarometer 2014 Round

- Analysis of the 2014 data will be performed during the next quarter once the fieldwork is completed by mid to late April.
- A preliminary, fast report with the 2014 results regarding elections will be ready by the third week of May. It will be presented along with the 2013 full report in May.
- Further presentations will be scheduled with the help of Dattis to present the 2014 results.

2. AmericasBarometer 2013 Round

- The 2013 full report will be launched in May.

3. *Observatorio de la Democracia* (OD)

- The OD will maintain its website, including managing registered users, uploading new issues of the *Insight Series*, and reporting on the dissemination events conducted during the quarter.
- The mini-series on the Millennium Goals will be published on the OD's website.
- During the next quarter, the OD will set up packages including copies of previous years' reports. These packages will be delivered by mail to libraries in regional universities.
- We will put into practice new dissemination strategies to reach specific target audiences, with the guidance of Dattis, the communications firm.

Issues of importance for USAID/Colombia

The 2014 Americas Barometer/LAPOP study on Colombia, currently in progress, will complete 11 years of annual studies on the attitudes, beliefs, behavior, and values of Colombian citizens regarding their political institutions. The 2014 study will be particularly important since: (a) It involves studies done simultaneously in 27 countries in the region; and (b) It focuses on elections and the peace talks. With the launching of the comparative 2014 study, the AmericasBarometer/LAPOP on Colombia will make an even stronger impact on the scholar and policy communities.

New dissemination strategies, designed by Dattis, will be used to address the need to reach specific audiences, including government agencies and officials and decision-makers, elected officials and policy-makers, NGOs, and the media.

Analysis of the progress towards the targeted levels of performance

The 2014 round completes 11 years of valuable data and information, including comparative data from 26 countries in the Americas. This round in 2013 focused on Colombians' attitudes towards conflict, peace negotiations, and post-conflict, as well as their attitudes towards presidential and congress elections.

Besides its broad comparative scope, the sixth round in the hemisphere, the 2014 round will be a very valuable source of information regarding, first, how the perceptions and attitudes of Colombians towards the ongoing peace talks with the FARC have evolved since the 2013 round, and, second, their attitudes related to the upcoming presidential election.

The *Observatorio* is consolidated as a central achievement in institution and local capacity building, as envisioned in the original project. This goal is being accomplished at Universidad de los Andes but other educational institutions and policy-making agencies are increasingly making use of the Americas Barometer data in teaching and research activities, as well as in policy-making processes. The interest of high representatives of the National Government (as Humberto de la Calle) on the Americas Barometer data is clear evidence of this.