

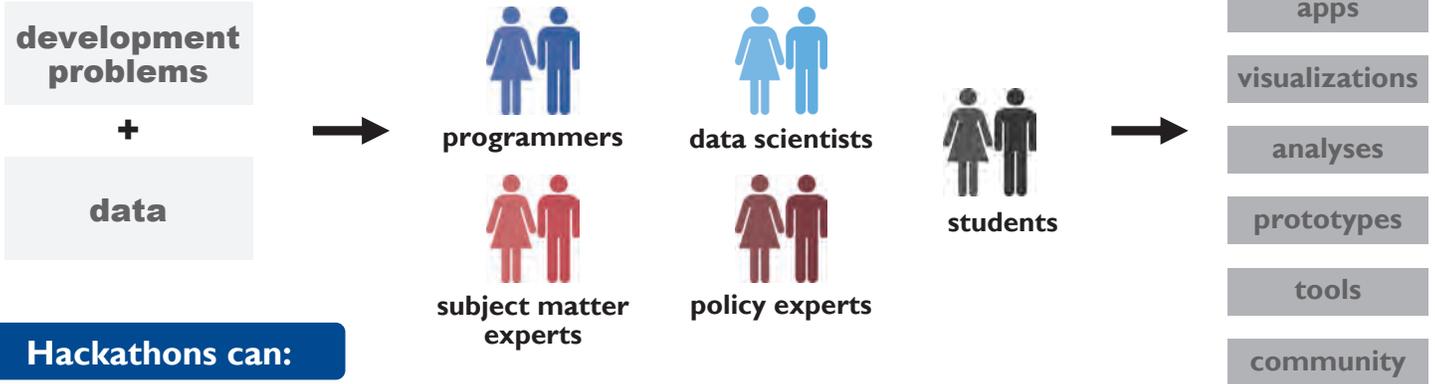


# Hackathons: Using Public Expertise to Tackle Development Challenges

## What's a hackathon?

A hackathon is an event that invites the public to examine data and develop prototypes or proposed solutions to a problem in a short time period.

Participants break into groups and tackle the questions using their various skill sets and creative thinking.



## Hackathons can:

- Rapidly test new ideas
- Provide new perspectives on development problems
- Solve tangible problems
- Build a community to use USAID's datasets to help meet development objectives



In April 2015, the Bureaus for Management, Latin America and the Caribbean, and USAID's Global Development Lab hosted a hackathon to use open data to address crime and violence.

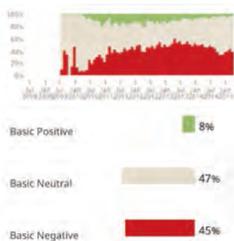
**?** **Crime and violence** pose ongoing challenges in Central America and Mexico.

How can USAID engage the general **public to use USAID data** and existing information to better target foreign assistance programming targeted against crime and insecurity?

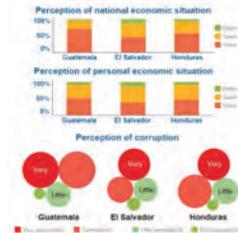
## Quick Facts

- > 100 participants
- > 50 different organizations
- 4 different cities
- 8 different projects
- 48 hours of hacking

## What did we do?



**ANALYSIS:** Can social media be a more timely proxy for existing public opinion data?



**VISUALIZATION:** How does USAID funded public opinion data tell the story of the Northern Triangle?

See all projects at [bit.ly/LACHackpad](http://bit.ly/LACHackpad)



**TOOL BUILDING:** Can we link the data and information from existing USAID information resources through automated interfaces?

## What's next?

This is just the start! These projects were all completed in less than 48 hours. Contribute to the projects and discussion at [www.usaid.gov/open/engagement](http://www.usaid.gov/open/engagement). Stay tuned for future opportunities to engage with USAID's data!