

## Implementing a well-being approach to policy and international partnerships in Latin America

*Virtual event series, 28-30 June 2022*

- Tuesday 28 June 2022: **From dashboards to decision-making: adapting complex information on well-being for policy use**
- Wednesday 29 June 2022: **Linking well-being evidence across the policy cycle and across different timeframes: from long-term vision to planning to budgeting and action**
- Thursday 30 June 2022: **Exploring the potential of well-being metrics for supporting new international partnerships**

As Latin American countries chart a path forward in the midst of an ongoing pandemic and in the face of the adverse economic consequences of the war in Ukraine, it is more important than ever that people and their well-being are placed at the heart of government action. The 2021 report, *How's Life in Latin America: Measuring well-being for policy making*, showed that despite considerable well-being gains in the region since 2000, even before the COVID crisis many indicators of progress had already begun to falter, and events of recent years have only further complicated the policy landscape. The negative impact of the pandemic on every dimension of people's lives and its role in deepening pre-existing inequalities cannot be overstated, while rising economic volatility in the wake of the Ukraine conflict brings additional barriers for achieving equitable and sustainable well-being in the LAC region. While economic recovery remains an urgent priority, governments need to resist the urge for quick fixes that may boost short-term growth at the expense of long-standing structural challenges such as multidimensional inequality and environmental vulnerability. Indeed, the disruption wrought by recent crises bring an opportunity to implement more ambitious frameworks that pursue more inclusive and greener growth strategies that directly focus on improving people's well-being. Taking a well-being approach to policy and international cooperation requires governments to pay more attention to people's material conditions and quality of life, to the resources that will shape these conditions into the future, and to the uneven distribution in these conditions and resources across territories and population groups. This entails a deep change in mind set and functioning in public policy, moving away from assumptions that macro-economic outcomes will automatically translate to improvements in other areas, and instead devising frameworks and processes that monitor and directly address well-being outcomes across multiple dimensions.

Since 2018, the OECD Centre for Well-being Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE) and the OECD Development Centre have been leading the EU-funded project "Metrics for Policies for Well-being and Sustainable Development in Latin America", in collaboration with the Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission and ECLAC. This project provided a platform for knowledge exchange on well-being measurement and policy frameworks through various conferences, online events, and consultations. It culminated in the launch of the *How's Life in Latin America?* report at the end of 2021, which brought together the available comparative evidence on well-being and sustainability for 11 LAC countries, identified areas for statistical development, and explored the opportunities and challenges for well-being approaches to policy in the region. This online event series built on the findings of the EU-OECD-ECLAC project on Metrics for Policies for Well-being, addressing in depth some of the key issues raised in the report, and setting out next steps for strengthening the implementation of well-being approaches to policy and international cooperation in Latin America.

## Session 1. From dashboards to decision-making: adapting complex information on well-being for policy use

**Tuesday 28 June 2022**

16.00 – 18.00: Paris

8.00 – 10.00: San José

9.00 – 11.00: Bogotá, Lima, Mexico City, Quito

10.00 – 12.00: Asunción, Santo Domingo, Santiago

11.00 – 13.00: Buenos Aires, Montevideo, São Paulo

For most countries, the first step to taking a well-being approach to policy is developing a comprehensive set (or dashboard) of indicators for monitoring current and future well-being, as well as its distribution across territories and population groups. The OECD well-being measurement framework – spanning material conditions, quality of life, resources for future well-being and inequalities of opportunity – provides one model that has been adapted by countries in the LAC region and around the world. Other countries have developed their own frameworks from the ground up, such as the Buen Vivir/Vivir Bien approaches in Ecuador and Bolivia, which were strongly informed by Andean Indigenous perspectives. In addition, the indicators associated with the UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals provide a global and extensive measurement template which has been streamlined and adapted at national level to reflect countries' specific well-being and development priorities, as well as at the regional level (through ECLAC's Conference of Statisticians of the Americas).

Multidimensional well-being dashboards represent powerful sources of information for monitoring progress 'beyond income', giving a detailed view of economic, social, environmental and distributional outcomes that matter for well-being today and into the future. However, they also introduce a greater complexity into analytical processes, necessitating more sophisticated methods for comparing different priorities, evaluating trade-offs and synergies, and forecasting the impact of various policy options. While allowing for greater complexity and breadth in policy analysis is a step in the right direction – as most challenges and over-arching trends facing governments today are themselves complex and multidimensional, such as climate change, trenchant inequalities, rising migration, population ageing, and the digital transformation – well-being evidence and tools for informing decision-making need to minimise this complexity as much as possible.

This session presented the latest developments in well-being monitoring in the region, addressing some of the following key questions:

- What are the latest developments in well-being data dashboards, and what new information do they provide?
- What are the pros and cons of using composite indices on well-being or related aspects to inform policy decision-making?
- What other quantitative methods exist to evaluate policy from a well-being perspective?

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### Agenda

16.00	Welcome and opening remarks by <b>Alejandra Botero</b> , Director General, National Planning Department (DNP), Colombia
16.10	<a href="#">Introduction by <b>Sebastian Nieto Parra</b>, Head of Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, OECD Development Centre) and <b>Kate Scrivens</b>, Policy Analyst and Project Manager, OECD Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE)</a>

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	<i>Moderator: Rolando Ocampo</i> , Chief of the ECLAC Statistics Division
	<i>Speakers:</i>
16.20	<a href="#">Juan Daniel Oviedo</a> , Director, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Colombia
16.35	<a href="#">Matias Cociña</a> , Head of Social Observatory, Ministry of Social Development and Family, Chile
16.50	<a href="#">Gerardo Leyva</a> , Deputy Director of Research, National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI)
17.05	<a href="#">Eleni Papadimitriou</a> , European Commission's Joint Research Centre – Competence Centre on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards (COIN)
17.20	<a href="#">Nancy Hey</a> , Executive Director, What Works for Wellbeing Centre, United Kingdom
17.35	<a href="#">Stefan Thewissen</a> , Programme Lead for Economic Policy Analysis, CPB Netherlands
17.50	Q&A
18.00	End of session

## Session 2. Linking well-being evidence across the policy cycle and across different timeframes: from long-term vision to planning to budgeting and action

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Realigning national policy efforts to achieve well-being requires more than improved measurement: it demands a more coherent and coordinated approach to government, ensuring that all departments, levels and territories are working towards a shared aim. A first step towards this is producing a public statement of national development or well-being priorities, ideally reflecting the views of a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society. Many LAC countries do this regularly in the form of National Development Plans, which have increasingly in recent years incorporated social, environmental and equity aspects, alongside traditional macro-economic objectives. In addition, reflecting the fact that improving well-being and ensuring its sustainability is a long-term, intergenerational challenge, some countries are producing longer-term visions for how they want their societies to look in 20 or even 30 years' time. The UN 2030 Agenda also provides an important long-term global framework, and most countries in the region have made efforts to align their planning with the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, while long-term visions and medium-term planning focused on well-being and sustainability represent valuable statements of government (or, ideally, societal) priorities, they often fall short of their potential to coordinate action across sectors, timeframes and different stages of the policy cycle. For example, one of the most significant steps in the policy process – budgeting and resource allocation – is often conducted in complete disconnect from long- and medium-term planning priorities. This is the case across Latin America, but also elsewhere in the OECD. There are many reasons for this, including the fact

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that budgeting generally takes place on a different (annual) timeframe, with a focus on programmes and outputs rather than societal outcomes, and using prioritisation methods that do not give prominence to well-being evidence. In addition, when there is institutional disconnect between the departments leading well-being planning and frameworks, and the Treasuries or Finance Ministries managing the budget process, there is little incentive to change established processes.

It does not have to be this way though, and a number of countries in the region and elsewhere are making efforts to ensure that well-being evidence informs decision-making across the policy cycle. This session explored some of these examples, addressing some of the following key questions:

- How can governments better link intermediate processes such as budgeting, and the monitoring and evaluation of programme performance, with higher level societal outcomes expressed in medium-term plans and long-term visions for improving well-being and sustainability? What are the main challenges which need to be overcome?
- What institutional and operational innovations can help to mainstream well-being and sustainability approaches across the policy cycle?
- What is the value of having a long-term societal vision for well-being and sustainability, and can it be sustained across electoral cycles?
- Do crises – such as the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine – present more of an opportunity or a constraint for implementing well-being approaches in policy?

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## Agenda

15.00	<a href="#">Introduction by Sebastian Nieto Parra, Head of Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, OECD Development Centre</a> and <a href="#">Kate Scrivens, Policy Analyst and Project Manager, OECD Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE)</a>
	<i>Moderator:</i> <b>Sebastian Nieto Parra</b> , Head of Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, OECD Development Centre
<i>Panel 1: Linking well-being evidence through the policy cycle - from planning to evaluation, budgeting and action</i>	
15.20	<b>Amanda Janoo</b> , Economics and Policy Lead, Well-being Alliance
15.35	<a href="#">Olga Lucía Romero, Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, SINERGIA, National Planning Department (DNP), Colombia</a>
15.50	<a href="#">Marcelo Amarilla, Director for Results-based Budgeting, Paraguay Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning, Paraguay</a>
16.05	<a href="#">Kari Wolanski, Acting Director, Department of Finance, Canada</a>
16.20	Q&A
<i>Panel 2: Mainstreaming a long-term well-being perspective in government decision-making</i>	
	<i>Moderator:</i> <b>Kate Scrivens</b> , Policy Analyst and Project Manager, OECD WISE Centre
16.40	<a href="#">Carlos Alonso Von Marschall, Head of Prospective Analysis and Public Policy, Ministry of National Planning and Policy (MIDEPLAN), Costa Rica</a>
16.55	<b>Diego Rubio Rodríguez</b> , Director of the National Foresight and Strategy Office, Spain



17.10	<a href="#"><u>Ernesto Soria Morales, Senior Policy Analyst, Division for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Goals, OECD Governance Directorate</u></a>
17.25	<a href="#"><u>Marie Brousseau-Navarro, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Commissioner, Future Generations Commission, Wales</u></a>
17.40	Q&A
18.00	End of session

## Session 3: Exploring the potential of well-being metrics for supporting new international partnerships

**Thursday 30 June 2022**

16.00 – 18.00: Paris

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The COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts and emerging international agendas are increasingly aligning actions towards facing global shared challenges, such as climate change, digital transformations or global health preparedness. This follows the blunt pandemic reminder of how interconnected national and international policies are. Not only can countries not face global challenges alone, but also an increasing number of these challenges are influencing the capacity of countries to pursue their own development paths. The pandemic reminded us of the notions of development as a multi-dimensional and continuous process, that can be reversed any time, and of the pressing need to be prepared for future shocks. The pandemic also reminded the world of the stark vulnerabilities existing within countries regardless of income level, such as weaknesses in health infrastructure, supply chains or economic systems, or to the environmental fragility of our planet. It stressed the strong interlinkages across people, planet and the economy, and called for collective solutions to global problems.

This new context presents an opportunity for broadening the range of metrics for informing transformative global partnerships. The global community needs to ensure that new partnerships and efforts focus on well-being, and that multidimensional and people-focused approaches prevail when assessing developments. For decades, metrics like GDP and Gross National Income (GNI) have acted as proxies for countries' development levels. Moving beyond GDP to better capture countries' well-being is a long-standing and ongoing debate. Since the very establishment of GDP as an indicator by American economist Simon Kuznets in 1937, its abilities have been questioned. Latin America is a clear example, as ECLAC estimates that the region's GDP declined by 6.8% in 2020, its worst economic contraction in more than a century and the deepest of any region in the developing world. However, the lack of a clear relationship between per capita GDP and the impacts of COVID-19 in different countries of all income levels was observed, highlighting the importance of a broader range of factors requiring consideration when gauging countries' multidimensional capacity.

Despite the criticisms, GDP is the predominant indicator to assess countries' development and guide multilateral and bilateral actions. Several alternative indices and frameworks have been proposed over the years, but their use largely remains marginal. While the world acknowledges that we are far from achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda, we cannot abandon reflection on how best to improve measurement for informing new partnerships and engagement across countries in key transformative agendas. Latin

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American and the Caribbean can be an example of how to rethink indicators for supporting the mobilisation of resources, institutional strengthening, capacity building, and knowledge exchange for more effective collective action on shared global challenges.

This session presented some of the alternatives for using people-centered measures in informing new global partnerships, addressing some of the following key questions:

- It is increasingly being recognised that the relationship between economic growth and inclusive and sustainable development is more complex than can be captured in macro-economic indicators alone, and that a broader information set is needed to provide a fuller picture. What are the existing alternative measurement options for informing international co-operation in LAC? What are the barriers to their use?
- What are the existing alternative indicators and metrics existing at the global level for measuring development outcomes? How are they serving to describe the current increasing challenging world of multiple vulnerabilities? Are people-centered approaches at the core of these new metrics?
- How feasible is to have a composite indicator or shared set of indicators for measuring engagement at the country level on global shared challenges? What would be the advantages and disadvantages? What would be a roadmap for implementation/use of such an indicator or indicators?

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### Agenda

16.00	Introduction and moderation by <b>Federico Bonaglia</b> , Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre
	<i>Speakers</i>
	<b>First round of questions</b>
16.05	<b>Keynote by H. E. Gaston Browne</b> , Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda
16.20	<b>Jorge Murillo</b> , Diplomatic Expert on Economic and Financial Matters, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations
16.30	<b>Patrick Guillaumont</b> , President, The Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development (FERDI)
16.40	<b>Gerardo Bracho Carpizo</b> , Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the OECD
16.50	<b>Sebastián Rovira</b> , Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC)
17.00	<b>Second round of questions (reverse order of interventions)</b>
17.30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
17.55	Closing remarks by <b>Federico Bonaglia</b>
18.00	End of session

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