Cognitive tests for SDG 16 survey-based indicators in El Salvador

February 2021
Background

DIGESTYC, assisted by UNDP-Infosegura, has produced information for public policy indicator systems on Citizen Security and Violence Against Women, including information for SDGs 5 and 16:

The road traveled

2020

- COVID-19 first reported case
- Lockdown until June 14th
- Economic activation began on June 16th
- Instruments translation and hiring the firm
- Amanda and Cristóbal Tropical Storms
- Workshop DIGESTYC UNDP
- Cognitive test report translated

March 18
March 21
May 21
June 4
June 18
June 27
August 21
Sept. 21

- Cognitive test first half (20 interviews)
- Cognitive test second half (20 interviews)
- Cognitive test report submitted to OCC
Cognitive tests

Interviewing process

• Computer Assisted Web Interviews (CAWI)

• Pilot to test web-based experience.

• Flash cards are displayed on screen.

Participants

• Both genders, 18+

• Selected on the basis of previous experiences as victims of crime.

• Participants received a monetary incentive.
Challenges

LACK OF PARTICIPATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE MADE DIFFICULT TO ATTAIN DESIRED SAMPLE SIZE.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS WEAK IN EL SALVADOR AND CAN SUFFER FROM TROPICAL STORMS.

TOTAL TIME OF APPLICATION MAY EXHAUST PARTICIPANTS, REQUIRING A TASK ROTATION.
Lessons learned

▪ The challenges faced have served DIGESTYC as training for future cognitive tests and field works in general.

▪ Digital channels add value to the data gathering process in a country with high levels of insecurity and new normal due to COVID-19.

▪ Digital field work allows not only timeliness and quality of the results but also cost reductions.
Conclusions

▪ DIGESTYC is new to crime, insecurity, victimization and SDG measurements, but it has made huge progress in the field to inform evidence-based policies.

▪ Contributing from El Salvador to enhance a global instrument to measure progress on SDG16 is really important, for global initiatives need to feed on local experiences to represent reality better.

▪ The pilot study that we will carry out in March 2021 is our next step in contributing to improve security and justice statistics in El Salvador and we are pleased that it is of benefit to other countries as well.