

# The 2017 Listening to Leaders Survey Aggregate Dataset

Released: 10/26/2018

## 1. Overview

Nearly 3500 leaders working in 22 different areas of development policy shared their views via AidData's 2017 Listening to Leaders Survey (LTLS). Survey participants first identified their primary policy focus (e.g., economic policy, health, education) and then answered a question about what they felt were the most important development issues for their country to address. Survey participants subsequently identified a particular policy initiative on which they worked most closely. The remaining questions were based on the survey participant's firsthand observations and experiences working on that policy initiative. The survey provides data on the influence, helpfulness and performance of 100+ development partners, as observed and experienced by in-country counterparts.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Methodology

Prior to fielding the 2017 Listening to Leaders Survey, nearly two years were spent to update a sampling frame of approximately 58,000 host government and development partner officials,<sup>2</sup> civil society leaders, private sector representatives, and independent experts from 126 low- and lower-middle income countries and territories. This work builds upon the previous sampling frame used to field the [2014 Reform Efforts Survey](#) (Custer et al. 2015; Parks et al. 2015). While the true global population of development policymakers and practitioners is for all intents and purposes unobservable, we took painstaking efforts to identify a well-defined and observable population of interest. We

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<sup>1</sup> Key findings of our survey are discussed in [Masaki et al. \(2017\)](#) and [Custer et al. \(2018\)](#). See more discussion on the representativeness of our sample in the online Appendix of [Custer et al. \(2018\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> Survey participants who worked for the in-country offices of their respective development partner organizations were invited to participate in this survey and evaluated other partner organizations with which they directly worked. The survey was designed in such a way that survey participants of development partner organizations did not evaluate their own organization but only evaluated other organizations.

define this population of interest for the *2017 Listening to Leaders Survey* as including those individuals who are knowledgeable about the formulation and implementation of government policies and programs in low- and lower-middle income countries at any point between 2010 and 2015. See more details on the process of sampling frame construction, breakdown of members in the sampling frame, and the survey questionnaire in the online [Appendix](#) of Custer et al. (2018).

## 2.1. Survey Implementation

The *2017 Listening to Leaders Survey* was administered between early January and late March 2017.<sup>3</sup> Survey implementation was guided by the Weisberg total survey error approach and the Dillman tailored design method. Survey recipients were sent a tailored email invitation to participate in the survey that included a unique link to the online questionnaire. During the course of the survey administration period, survey recipients received up to three different automated electronic reminders, as well as some additional tailored reminders. Survey participants were able to take the survey in one of six different languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, and Arabic. Of 47,000 individuals who received the email invitation, 3,468 participated (7.4%) and 1,441 of those survey respondents (41%) completed the survey.

## 2.2. Weighting Scheme for Aggregate Statistics

The response rate to the *2017 Listening to Leaders Survey* was 7.4 percent. Given imperfect information about the representativeness of our sample vis-à-vis the sampling frame (i.e., the population of interest), inverse probability non-response weights were employed to account for unit non-response (or survey non-response) and to redress potential bias deriving from it. To generate non-response weights, the following steps were taken. First, the probability of survey response was estimated by using a logistic regression. For all members of the sampling frame, we have information on their gender, country, institution type (e.g., finance ministry, anti-corruption agency, supreme

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<sup>3</sup> Parks served as the Principal Investigator and Custer was the Senior Management responsible for the execution of this work. This research was approved by the PHSC of the College of William & Mary under protocol PHSC-2017-09-11-12336-bcpark.

audit institution) and stakeholder group (e.g., host government officials, development partners). All of these predictors were used to estimate the probability of survey response for each member of the sampling frame (as each of them turns out to be significant in predicting survey response). Second, the inverse of the estimated probability was taken to arrive at the final non-response weights used in the analysis. In order to give researchers the option to choose which weighting scheme is most appropriate for their research question of interest, we provide both unweighted and weighted (using inverse probability non-response weights) versions of the variables.

### 3. Files Included in the *2017 Listening to Leaders Survey* Aggregate Dataset

The *2017 Listening to Leaders Survey* aggregate dataset consists of 6 ‘csv’ files. Table 1 presents the short description of each data file, and Table 2 shows the list of variables included in those data files with their description and corresponding survey question number. The ‘donor’ labeled data files contain the same set of variables (influence, helpfulness, data uptake, and helpfulness of information) but present them at different levels of aggregation. The ‘sdg’ labeled data files contain the proportion of respondents who selected a given Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), presented at different levels of aggregation. All the files include variables with both weighted and unweighted average scores.

**Table 1: Files in the *2017 Listening to Leaders Survey* dataset**

File Names	Description
<i>donors_global</i>	Scores of development partner performance across the globe
<i>donors_regions</i>	Scores of development partner across regions
<i>donors_sectors</i>	Scores of development partner performance across policy sectors
<i>donors_stakeholders</i>	Scores of development partner performance across stakeholder groups
<i>sdgs_regions_sectors</i>	Scores of SDG importance across regions and policy sectors
<i>sdgs_regions_stakeholders</i>	Scores of SDG importance across regions and stakeholder groups

**Table 2: Variables**

Variable Names	Description
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<i>influence_</i>	Proportion of respondents who evaluated a given development partner as "quite influential" or "very influential" (Q22)
<i>helpfulness_</i>	Proportion of respondents who evaluated a given development partner as "quite helpful" or "very helpful" (Q24)
<i>data_uptake_</i>	Proportion of respondents who indicated using at least one type of raw data or analysis from a given development partner (Q24)
<i>helpful_info_</i>	Proportion of respondents who rated the information provided by a given development partner as "quite helpful" or "very helpful" (Q33)
<i>influence_n</i>	Number of respondents who evaluated a given development partner in terms of influence (Q22)
<i>helpfulness_n</i>	Number of respondents who evaluated a given development partner in terms of helpfulness (Q24)
<i>data_uptake_n</i>	Number of respondents who answered the question on the use of raw data or analysis from a given development partner (Q24)
<i>helpful_info_n</i>	Number of respondents who evaluated information provided by a given development partner (Q33)
<i>p_</i>	Proportion of respondents who selected a given SDG as one of their top 6 priorities (Q8)

## References

Custer, Samantha, Zachary Rice, Takaaki Masaki, Rebecca Latourell and Bradley Parks. 2015. *Listening to Leaders: Which Development Partners Do They Prefer and Why?* Williamsburg, VA: AidData at William & Mary.

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