

Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional findings from the 2024 Listening to Leaders Survey

Leaders in government, the private sector, civil society, media, and universities in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) share their views on priorities and progress, as well as the agenda-setting influence and helpfulness in implementation of the development partners with whom they work.

686

LAC leaders responded to our 2024 Listening to Leaders (LTL) Survey

Education

The top development goal for LAC leaders

IDB

Development partner with the largest footprint across the region

IMF

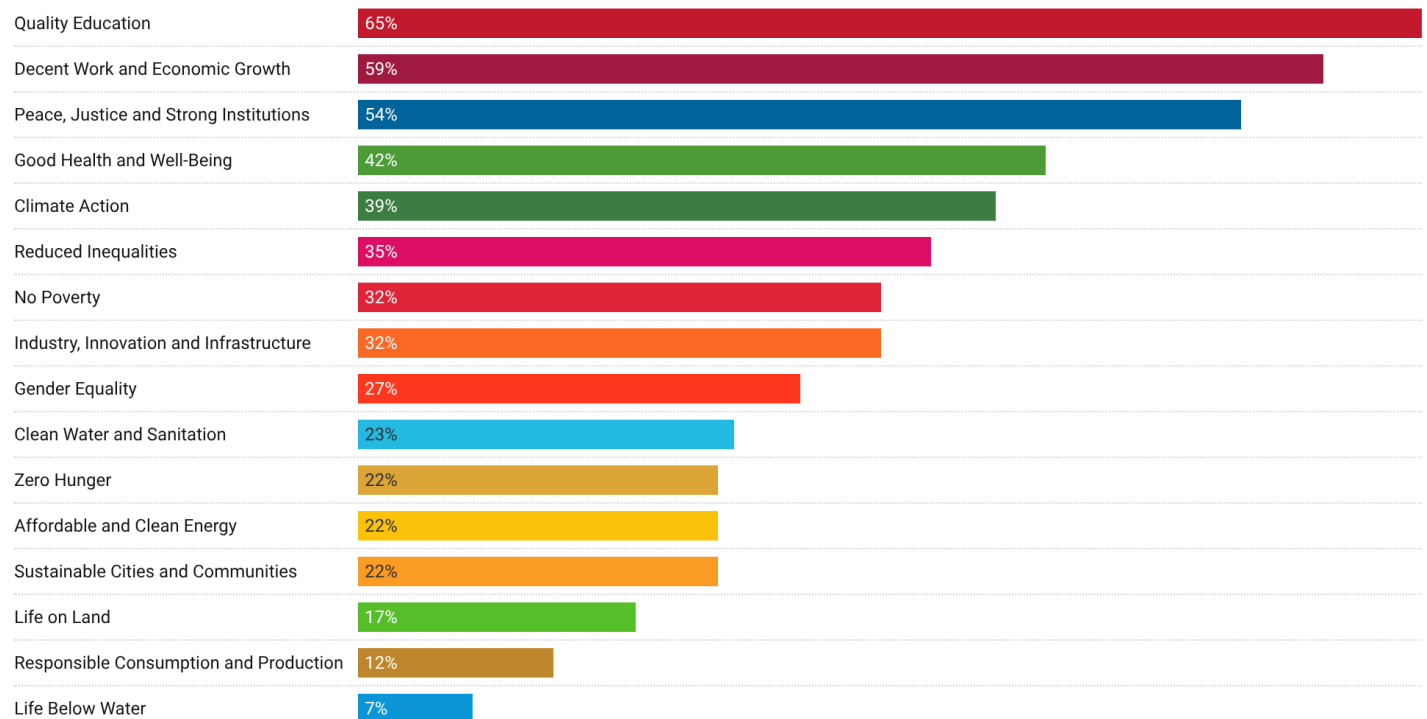
Most influential development partner across the region

European Union

Most helpful development partner across the region

SDG Priorities

Percentage of respondents



What leaders want

Leader priorities and the Global Goals

When asked to identify their top six development priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), LAC respondents were most likely to identify Quality Education (65%), Decent Work (59%), and Peace and Justice (54%). But these priorities aren't the same around the world. Of all regions in the world, LAC leaders were most likely to identify Eliminating Poverty (32%) as a priority. Decent Work was more likely to be a development priority in LAC (59%) than in any other region of the world.

Partner Rankings

Respondents indicated how helpful and influential they found the partners they worked with

Influence		Helpfulness		Footprint	
Development Partner	Percent of Respondents	Development Partner	Percent of Respondents	Development Partner	Percent of Respondents
1. IMF	85.5%	1. EU	99.1%	1. IDB	44.3%
2. WB	81.5%	2. ESP	87%	2. UNDP	37.8%
3. USA	80.4%	3. TWN	86.7%	3. WB	31.9%
4. UNAIDS	80%	4. UNAIDS	86.6%	4. EU	28.8%
5. WHO	79.8%	5. KOR	86.4%	5. USA	27.4%
6. EU	78.1%	6. WHO	85.1%	6. UNICEF	23.3%
7. IDB	76%	7. IMF	84.9%	7. CAN	21.5%
8. ESP	72.8%	8. USA	84.6%	8. IMF	20.9%
9. TWN	68.2%	9. UNESCO	84.3%	9. FAO	20.8%
10. ILO	67.8%	10. UNICEF	84.2%	10. WHO	19.3%

Influence, Helpfulness and Footprint

Three survey metrics that provide insights on the perceived regional impact of partners

Footprint reflects the percentage of leaders who worked with a given partner. Influence is a measure of the partner's impact on policy decisions that leaders make. Helpfulness indicates whether or not leaders found a partner's assistance to be useful in project implementation. Notably, the average partner was considered more helpful than influential.

Sources

Custer, S., Horigoshi, A., Boer, B., and K. Marshall. (2025). *Listening to Leaders 2025: Development cooperation over a decade of disruption*. Williamsburg, VA: AidData at William & Mary.

Horigoshi, A., Custer, S., Marshall, K., and B. Burgess. (2025). *Prioritizing Agenda 2030: How do Global South leaders navigate trade-offs and assess relevance?* Analytical Brief. Williamsburg, VA: AidData at William & Mary. September 2025.

About AidData

AidData (<https://aiddata.org/>) is a research lab at William & Mary's Global Research Institute in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. AidData helps governments and organizations make better-informed decisions on the reach, influence, and outcomes of overseas investments. We use rigorous methods, cutting-edge tools, and granular data to answer the question: who is doing what, where, for whom, and to what effect? The Listening to Leaders project surveys global leaders every 2–3 years, gathering insights on priorities, experiences with development

partners, and more across sectors like government, NGOs, civil society, and academia

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