

# Indices of Social Development

**Ellen Webbink**

[webbink@iss.nl](mailto:webbink@iss.nl)

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# What are Indices of Social Development?

- Indices = composite measures consisting of various individual measures ranging from 2 or 3 to over 20.
- Social development refers to the institutions of societies through which development is enhanced: the 'soft' dimensions of development, often invisible and difficult to measure
  - Social capital
  - Discrimination
  - Exclusion
- Institutions = formal and informal social norms that structure behaviour
  - Formal institutions: created by states and other entities such as laws, regulations, rules
  - Informal institutions: behavioural norms, attitudes, beliefs, rules of thumb

# Why Indices of Social Development?

- Show that the social development is something that we can define, measure, and ultimately advance
- Help development practitioners identify countries with particular social development needs and concerns
- Explore the research link between social development and other development outcomes, such as growth, governance, stability, and poverty reduction

# 6 Indices of Social Development:

## **Civic Activism**

The strength of civil society – levels of civic activism and access to information

## **Interpersonal Safety and Trust**

Norms of nonviolence between persons in society

## **Inter-group Cohesion**

Relations of trust and cohesion between defined ethnic, religious, or linguistic identity groups

## **Clubs and Associations**

Relations of trust and cohesion within local communities

## **Gender Equity**

Non-discrimination against women

## **Inclusion of Minorities**

Non-exclusion of social minorities & indigenous peoples

# Social Cohesion

Indicator	Source	n
(Log) Number of reported incidents of violent riots, per capita	Databanks	189
(Log) Number of reported incidents of assassinations, per capita	Databanks	189
(Log) Number of reported incidents of terrorist acts, per capita	Databanks	189
(Log) Number of reported incidents of guerrilla activity, per capita	Databanks	189
(Log) Number of reported incidents of guerrilla activity, per capita	Databanks	121
Rating on likelihood of violent demonstrations	Economist Intelligence Unit	121
Rating on potential for terrorist acts rating on the "legacy of vengeance-seeking group grievance or group paranoia"	Economist Intelligence Unit	121
rating on level of uneven economic development along group lines	Fund for Peace	176
Level of uneven economic development along group lines	ICRS	140
Level of civil disorder,	ICRS	140
Level of internal conflict	ICRS	140
Risk of terrorism	ICRS	140
Level of ethnic tensions,	ICRS	140

Level of ethnic minority rebellion in country, aggregated by group	Minorities at Risk	118
Level of economic and political discrimination against minorities in country, aggregated by group	Minorities at Risk	118
Economic and political disparities between minorities in country, aggregated by group	Minorities at Risk	118
% of respondents who don't want people of a different race as neighbors	World Values Survey	84
% of respondents who don't want people of a different race as neighbors	World Values Survey	50
% of respondents who don't want people of a different language as neighbors	World Values Survey	28
% of respondents who "not very much" or "not at all" trust people of another religion	World Values Survey	22
% of respondents who "not very much" or "not at all" trust people of another nationality	World Values Survey	21
level discrimination workplace/courts/school system/political parties/police]?	Latino barometer	17
Combined percentage citing discrimination against certain groups	Latino barometer	18
% reporting that their economic situation is the 'same' as other ethnic groups	Afrobarometer	16
% reporting that their political situation is the 'same' as other ethnic groups	Afrobarometer	8
% population reporting that their ethnic group is 'never' treated unfairly	Afrobarometer	4

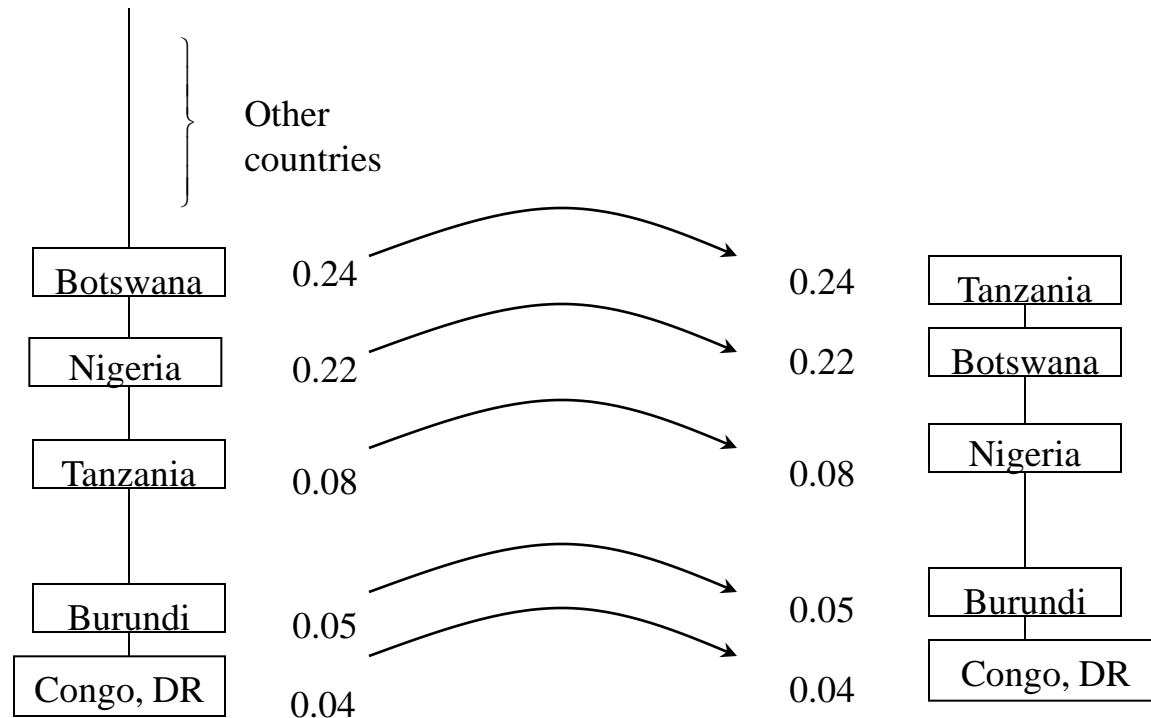
# Methodology

- The project combines over 200 indicators from 25 independent sources.
- We use the matching percentiles method used by Lambsdorff et al. (1999).
- Produces similar results to the unobserved components model used by the Worldwide Governance Indicators.
- In brief:
  - i) we order all of our indicators from the most to least reliable and representative.
  - ii) Scores from the second indicator are matched to the first indicator based on ranking of shared countries.
  - iii) These are combined with the first indicator to produced refined scores.
  - iv) We continue through all of the available indicators, reducing random error with each iteration to arrive at a final score.

# Matching Equally Ranked Values

*% respondent participation in demonstrations, petitions, boycotts (WVS)*

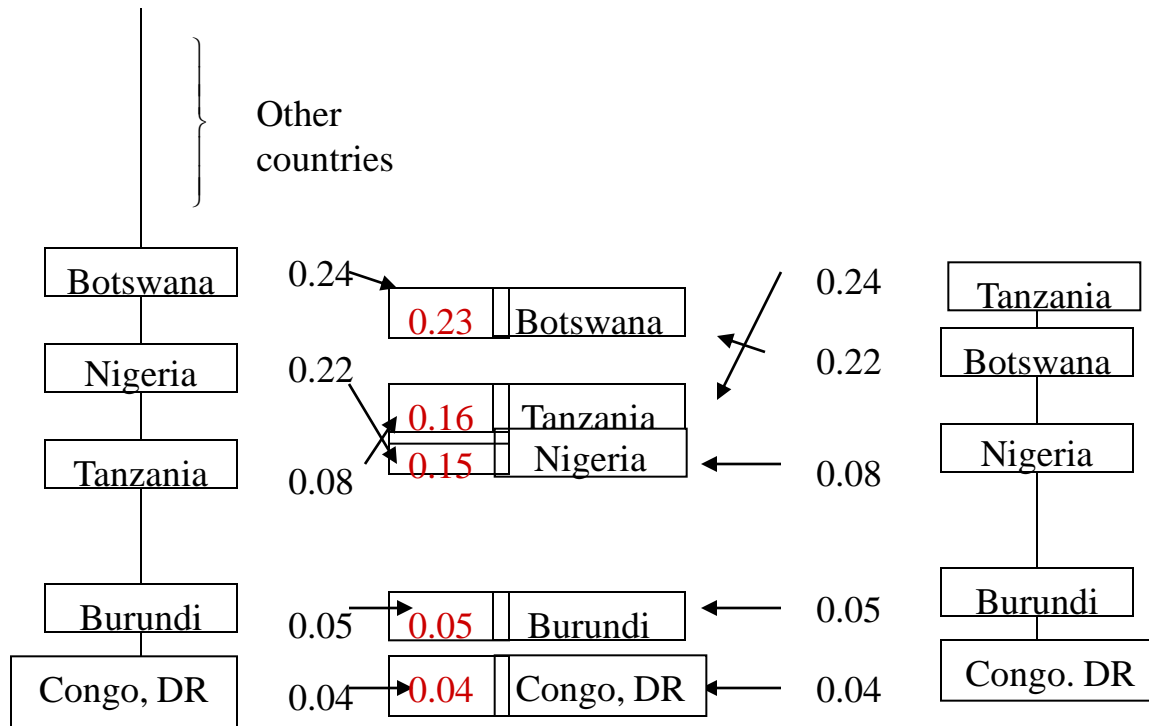
*Respondent has often attended meetings of a local development association (Afrobarometer)*



# Creating an Averaged Estimate

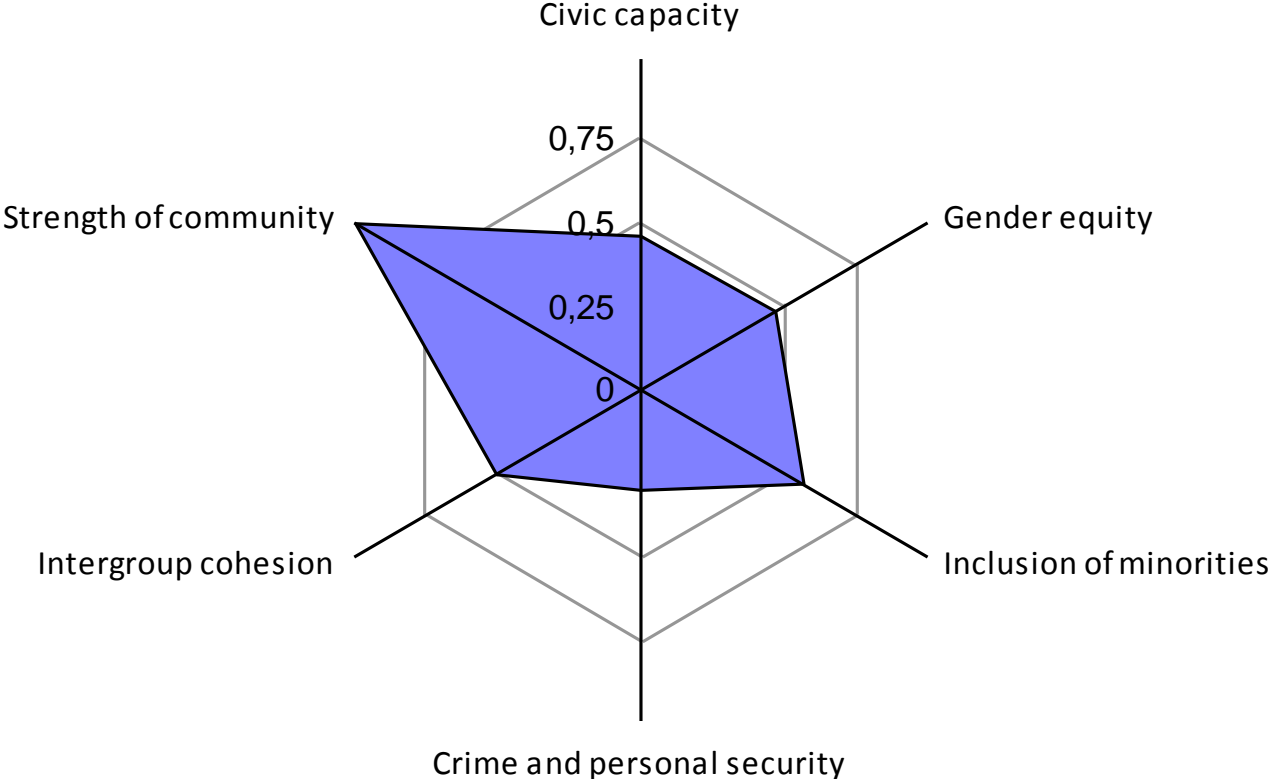
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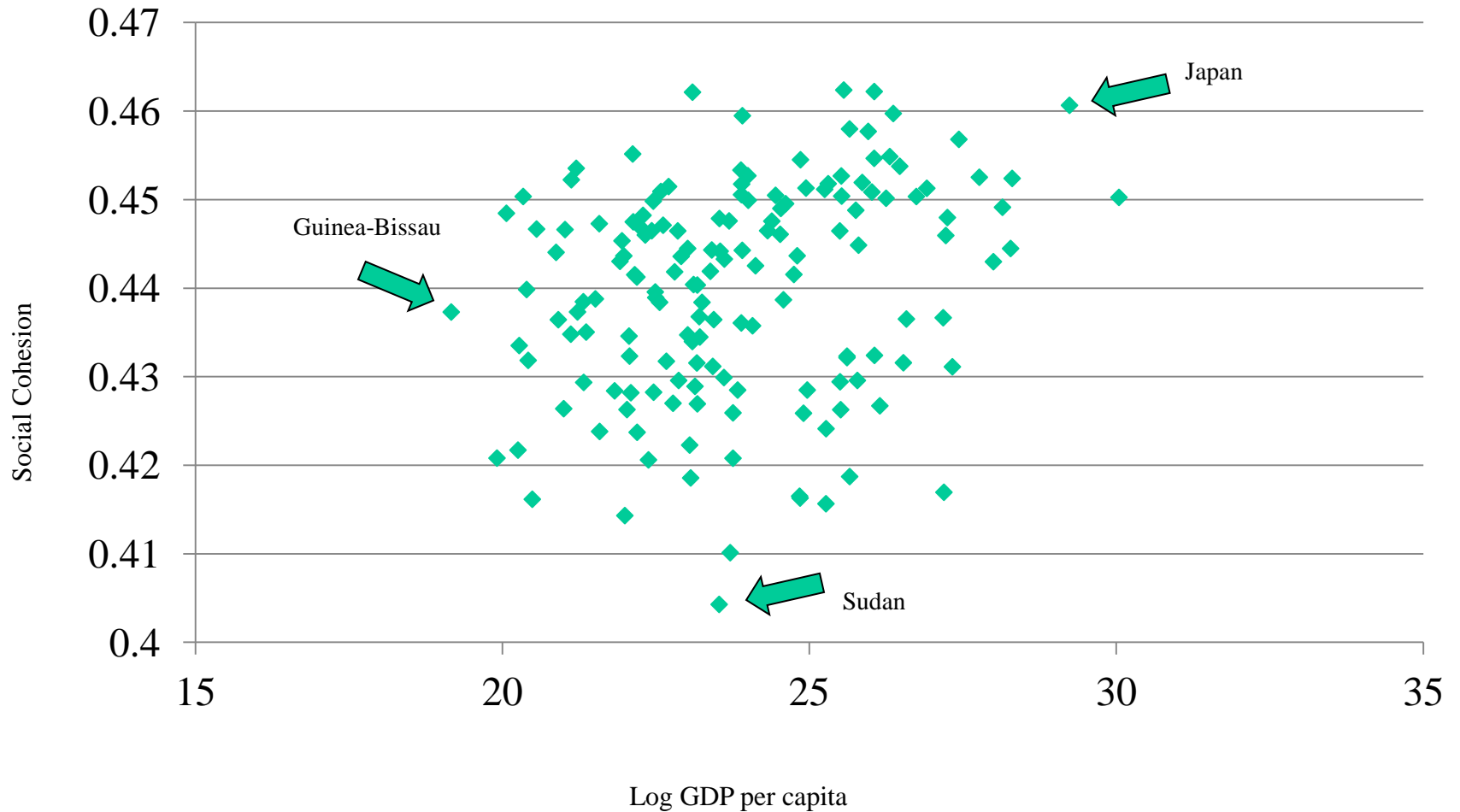




# Colombia



# Social Cohesion and GDP

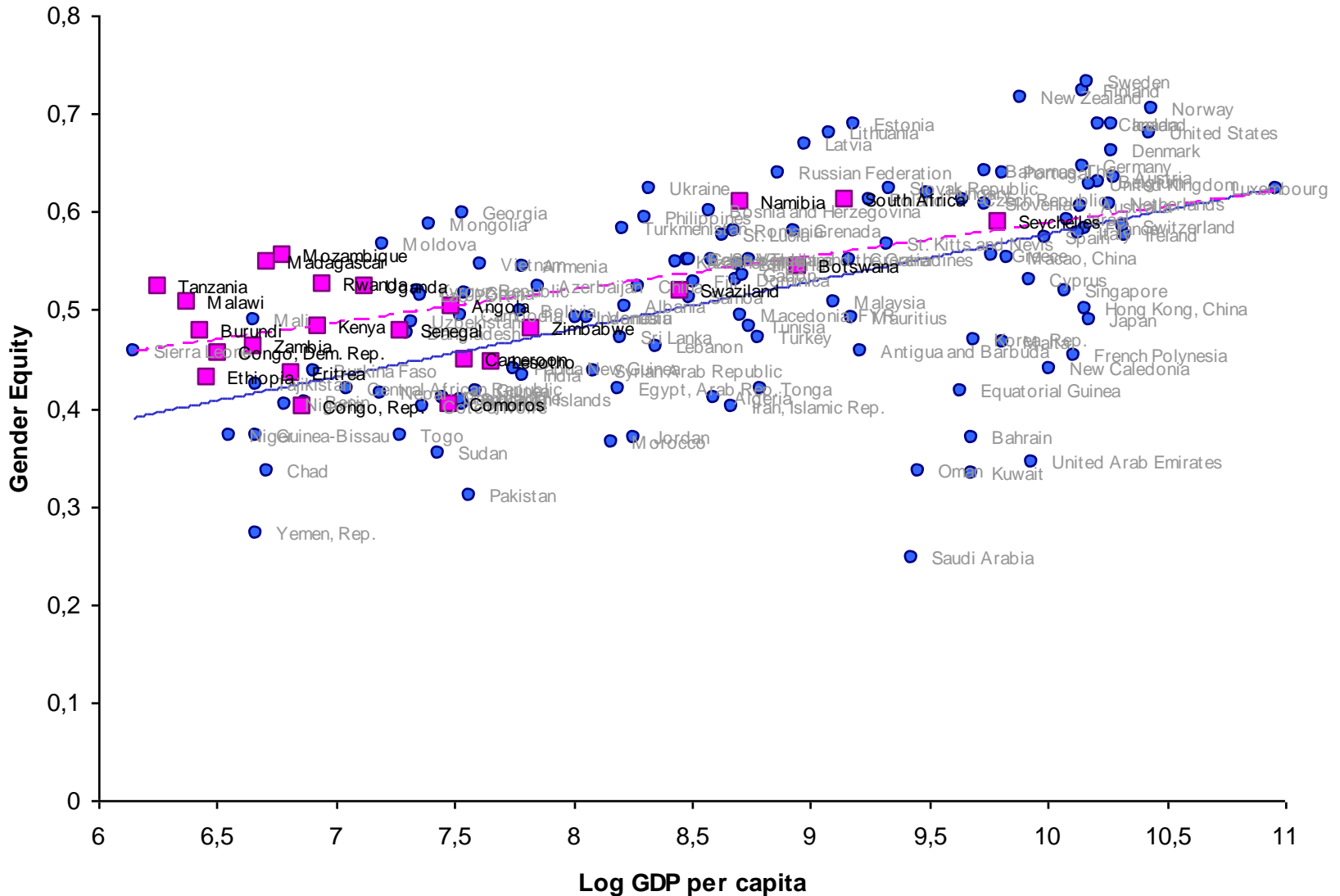


# Social development progress

For example, levels of gender equity in **Southern and Eastern Africa** are higher than their GDP would lead us to expect.



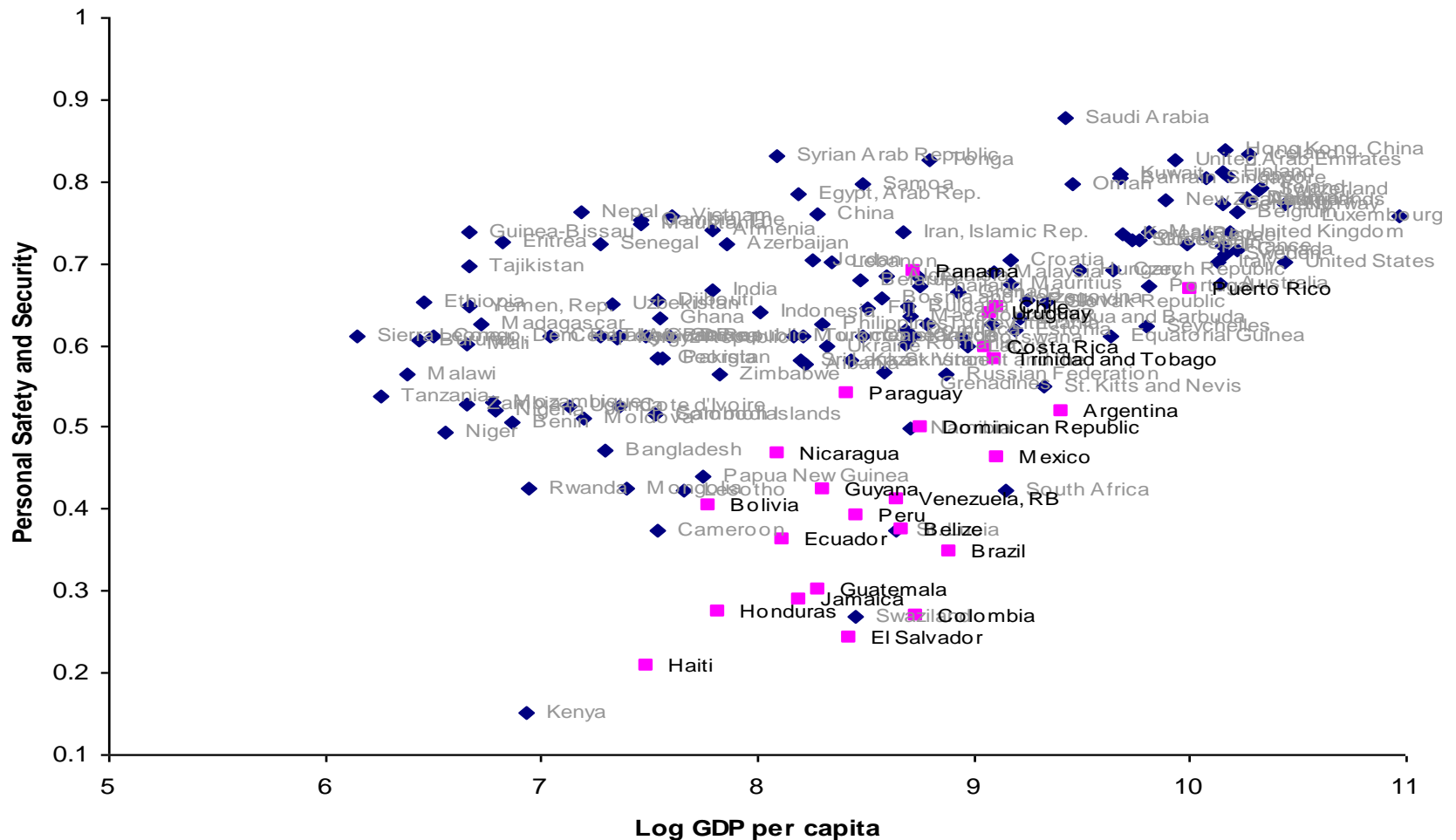
# Gender Equity in Africa



# Social development progress

But levels of interpersonal safety and trust in **Latin America and Caribbean** are lower than their GDP would lead us to expect.

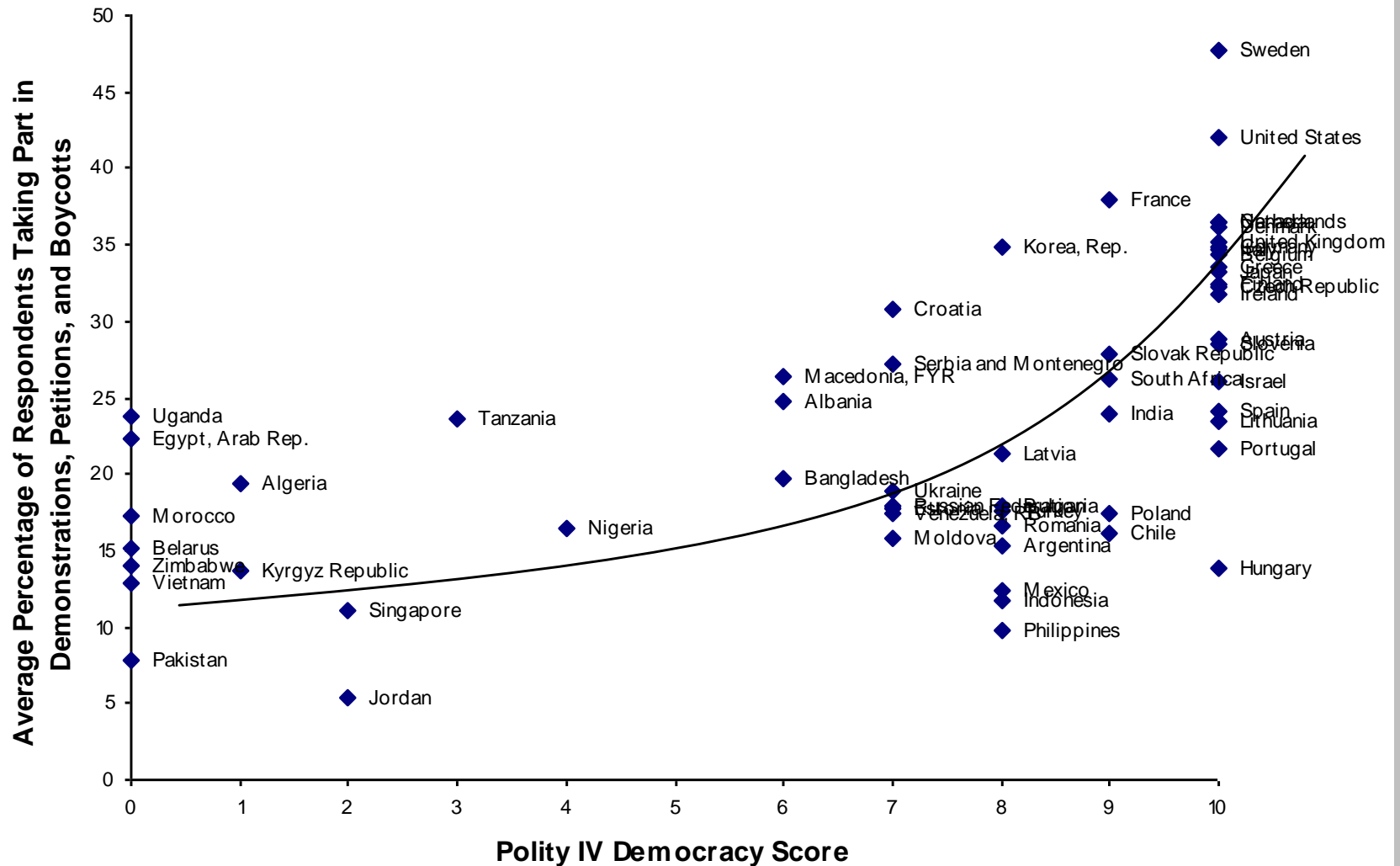
# Interpersonal Safety and Trust – Latin America and Caribbean



# Individual measures and policy objectives: an example

- Protest behaviour: indicator of free speech
- Democracy: policy objective

# Protest Behaviour and Democracy





# Possible use for development policy evaluation

- Helps to measure country-level and regional level progress in social development and enables policy makers to compare countries and regions
- Helps to monitor social development of countries and regions over time
- Helps to measure invisible dimensions of development at the meso and macro level: levels of social cohesion/ social capital, degree of discrimination, extent of social exclusion, governance issues.
- Suitable as a variable in macro level policy evaluation and institutional policy such as budget support and institution building and governance support

# Limitations of ISD for policy evaluation

- Not applicable at intra-country level
- Time periods are averages for several years of available data so it is not possible to link data to a specific year for a series of countries
- They do not distinguish between social development changes arising from aid and from trends or external factors

# Conclusion

- Indices of Social Development may be useful for macro-level policy evaluation
- Indices of Social Development may complement ‘hard’ measures of development such as economic (GDP growth, credit deepening) and biological (BMI) indicators
- Indices of Social Development provide quantitative variables for policy analysis, which may inform policy priorities (from country profiles showing scores on each index) and country selection (from country or regional scores or correlations of index scores with measures for policy objectives)
- 16 March launch [www.IndSocDev.org](http://www.IndSocDev.org) where all the indices data can be downloaded through free access.