



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Field work dates:	November 22 nd to December 1 st , 2005.
Interview type:	Personal interview, one per household.
Number of interviews:	1,244.
Margin of error:	±2.8 points.
Respondent:	Guatemalan adult, residing in the country at the time of study.
Type of sample:	Random. Representative of national adult population living in particular households.
Geographic Area:	Nationwide, except Petén.

The information contained in this document is confidential and may be subject to professional secrecy international laws. The information is destined only for the person or organization it is directed to and any other party authorized by said organization. If you are not authorized to view this information, you are hereby notified that any form of publication, copy, distribution or action taken based on the information herein contained is strictly forbidden and may be illegal.

Distribution embargoed until August 17th, 2005

Ref. Op_gua43-ingles.doc

Public Opinion Survey
GUATEMALA #44
December, 2005



PRESENTATION

The Consultoría Interdisciplinaria en Desarrollo – CID/Gallup Latin America – presents the results of the 44th Guatemalan Public Opinion Survey, emphasizing on this occasion the job performance evaluation of the Óscar Berger administration two years after his election as the nation's president. The study is part of a series started in the late 70's in Central America and Guatemala and in the mid 80's in Guatemala, with the goal of evaluating the changes in the mindset and coexistence with leaders of the time, a process that is possible through the use of the same methodology and system in these studies.

To achieve the goals of the Project, data was collected and processed from November 11th to December 1st, 2005, when 1244 Guatemalan adults nationwide—except Petén—were interviewed (total results have a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of ± 2.8). One interview per household was done, and 100 segments were chosen randomly and visited. In some occasions information from this study is compared to results from other public opinion studies carried out by CID Gallup in the country, for illustration purposes.

CID Gallup Latinoamérica is a company specialized in market and public opinion research. Operations are financed through the sale of the information produced through rigorous scientific procedures to subscribers. In Guatemala reports are sold to the public, including embassies, learning institutions, companies, state institutions, or political parties. The exclusive publications rights belong to the newspaper El Periódico and for television to Notisiete.



Table #1:
Sample's Sociodemographic Characteristics.
n= 1,244 ^{a) b) c)}

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>%</i>
<u>Residence</u>		<u>Respondent education</u>	
Guatemala Metro	16	None	13
Other Cities	10	Primary incomp./complete.	44
Rest of country	74	High School incomp./complete.	37
		University	6
<u>Wearing indigenous clothes</u>		<u>Age</u>	
Yes	10	18 – 24	23
No	90	25 – 39	35
<u>Gender</u>		40 – 54	23
Male	50	55 and more	18
Female	50		

- a) The “n” =1,244 is the same in all subsequent charts and graphics – unless otherwise stated
 b) Results are weighted according to gender and region of residency.
 c) Results can add up to “99” or “101” because of rounding of decimals in this and other tables presented hereafter.



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Two years after the beginning of his presidential term, Oscar Berger has lost the trust of the people of Guatemala which he had earned during the electoral campaign and at the start of his administration. Today he receives negative evaluations, both at the general level and in the individual areas evaluated in the study, including the fight against corruption which was one of his main campaign promises. In addition, and when he is just halfway through the term, many consider the government “has given all that it could give,” therefore for what is left of his term nothing or little more is expected from this administration. It is also important to mention that the executive branch is not the only one receiving negative evaluations, Congress is evaluated in a very harsh manner and the Judicial system is perceived by a considerable part of the population as those responsible of the increase in crime and the problems with the country’s jails.

The country is going through a difficult situation at the social, economic and political levels. The negative environment seems to have increased in the last months as a result of the increase in the cost of living and in crime. The threat of crime is perceived as one of the country’s main problems where a great proportion of the population mention they do are not aware of a government plan to solve this situation.

In the face of these circumstances, Guatemalans have also lost hope of any positive changes that elections might bring for the nation. With two years to go before the next elections, three fourths of citizens do not show party preference for any group, and, therefore, organized groups have the challenge of being perceived as honest and sincere to receive the voters’ support, and to channel the demands of Guatemalans into concrete actions that will bring greater social wellbeing to the general population.



II. PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

1. Three out of five respondents (62%) consider Guatemala is “going in the wrong direction.”
2. Eighty percent of study participants consider the cost of living has increased significantly in the last four months.
3. In 42% of homes there is a perception that the financial situation is worse than a year ago.
4. Thirty-six percent of respondents consider their families will be financially worse in 2006 in comparison to today. Only 22% perceive they will be better-off.
5. The “rise in the cost of products of the basic basket of goods” is the financial problem that will affect more families in the country (57%).
6. “Crime and violence” is considered by 48% of respondents as one of the country’s principal problems, whether in first or second place. “Lack of employment,” “rise in cost of living” and the “country’s economy” are also mentioned quite often.
7. In 26% of homes in the country there lives at least one person who has been the victim of criminals in the last four months. This percentage rises to 42% in Metropolitan Guatemala homes.
8. Thirty-seven percent of respondents are of the opinion that the current government has a plan to decrease crime. Unfortunately only 38% of them believes this plan is “good” or “very good.”
9. The lack of an efficient jail system in the country is responsibility of the state apparatus (President, Congress and Courts) and not one specific entity or person.
10. Fifty-six percent of respondents agree with the removal of the Minister of Defense by President Berger because of the slow response in providing security at the country’s jails.
11. Seventy-two percent of participants declare being aware of the Free Trade Agreement between Guatemala and the United States.
12. Twenty-eight percent of those who say they are aware of CAFTA consider Guatemala will benefit with the signing of the treaty.



13. Sixty-four percent of voters consider that upcoming presidential elections will help “a little” or “not at all” to solve the problems of the country.
14. “Honesty and sincerity” is mentioned by 30% of respondents as the main personality trait they hope the country’s next president will have. It is followed by having the “personality to rule” (10%) and “hardworking” (8%).
15. Voters are not yet thinking about the country’s the next president and only 42% of respondents mentions a name, especially Álvaro Colom (28%), as the one who will win the election.
16. Álvaro Colom is mentioned by 25% of respondents as the person they would like as Berger’s successor at the head of the nation.
17. Seventy-four percent of respondents declare no political party preference.
18. The political groups UNE (7%) and PAN (7%) are the ones with the greater number of followers among political parties in this study.
19. Eighty-two percent of the electorate feels “not at all” “slightly” represented by existing political parties.
20. Among the names of public personalities evaluated, Álvaro Arzú (53%), Óscar Berger (47%) and Álvaro Colom (41%) enjoy the greater number of favorable opinions.
21. Among the names of public personalities evaluated Efraín Ríos Montt (70%), Óscar Berger (44%) and Álvaro Colom have the greater number of negative opinions.
22. Fifty-nine percent of respondents evaluate the current work of Congress negatively.
23. Óscar Berger is evaluated by more people negatively (24%) than positively (19%) in his job performance as the Nation’s President.



24. Despite this negative result, there is a slight improvement in the perception of Berger's administration, as the index of his job performance evaluation moves from 10 negative points to five negative points.
25. There are more individuals who consider the country will be worse at the end of the Berger administration (32%) than those who consider it will be better (16%) compared to January 2004.
26. Sixty-three percent of respondents agrees with the statement "the government has already given all it could give."
27. Fifty-six percent of participants in the study consider that Óscar Berger "almost never" or "never" does that which is beneficial for the country.
28. Forty-seven percent of respondents can mention at least one achievement of the current administration. They mention principally the help to those affected by recent rains that hit the country.
29. Seventy-two percent of respondents can mention at least one failure of the current administration. The failure they mention the most often is the increase in crime and the unwillingness to keep campaign promises.



METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE

The sample used in the poll is representative of the country's population aged 18 and over, and covers 96.7% of the Guatemalan population (excludes the Petén department). What follows is a detail of the sample's distribution and what it covers.

1. *Sample specifications:*

a) **Description of Sample Frame:**

The sample frame used for Guatemala, was created by CID based on information provided by the “Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censo de Guatemala”, updated with the results of the “Censo de Población y Vivienda” conducted by that institution in 2002. The sample frame contains the municipalities for the entire country and is divided in three previously established strata. The sample of each of these strata is obtained independently.

b) **Stages of Sample Design:**

It is important to define several concepts before explaining the stages of sample design. They are:

Geographic Area: Entire National Territory except for the Petén department. For purposes of analysis, this is divided into three regions: Guatemala Metropolitan Area, Cities with a population over de 10,000; and Rest of country.

Primary Sampling Unit: Selection of municipalities inside the departments.

Secondary Sampling Unit: Census segments, which correspond to the colonies or neighborhoods inside the municipalities.



Tertiary Sampling Unit: Households inside the census segments.

Final Sampling Unit: Guatemalan male or female over 18, resident in a private household.

Unit of Information: In this case, it is the same as the final sampling unit.

Sampling design is conducted in four stages, which are detailed below:

First stage: Independently of each of the three strata selected according to the political distribution of Guatemala, a random selection is conducted by the probability proportional to size of municipalities. These strata are defined as:

Guatemala Metropolitan Area: Corresponds to zones 1 through 19 and zone 25, and the municipalities of Villa Nueva, Amatitlán, Santa Catarina, Chiantla, Mixto, and Antigua Guatemala.

Cities with a population of 10,000 and more: Correspond to those municipalities of Guatemala that have a population over 10,000. These are generally head of departments, and have a high proportion of urban population.

Rest of Country: This stratum includes all municipalities not included in the previous regions. Therefore, areas with a predominantly rural population are included here –excluding the Petén department.

Second stage: The conglomerate of households (colonies/neighborhoods/villages) is randomly sampled inside the municipalities that will be visited.

Third stage: The supervisor and the head of fieldwork - following a predetermined route - select households. For each housing conglomerate a route is established beforehand which includes a definite number of homes to be visited and where interviews take place.

Fourth stage: The selection of adults to be interviewed is conducted through age, gender, and education quotas, to reflect real population values. The exact number of interviews to be conducted is determined before going to the field.



DESIGN, SELECTION AND DISTRIBUTION:

Sampling Units employed: Municipalities.

Design: The country is divided into three previously established strata: Guatemala Metropolitan Area, Cities with a population of 10,000 and more, and Rest of Country (all defined above).

Selection: The primary sampling units – municipalities – are selected through the probability proportional to its size. The neighborhoods/colonies are randomly selected, and the households are visited following a predetermined route.

Distribution: In Guatemala, between 100 and 120 census segments were visited.

Method of selection of respondents:

One informant per household was selected – as a first attempt the “person who had the most recent birthday” method was used, and was complemented by control of gender, age and education quotas that reflect real population values.

Sampling error:

The study has a margin of error of ± 2.8 percentage points –calculated at a 95% confidence level— for total results. This varies according to the variability of estimators and internally between subgroups. In specific cases the sampling is mentioned.

Due to data collection dates, between November 22nd to December 1st, of 2005, all effects or changes in public opinion caused by events occurring after November 28th and prior to the divulgation of this study are not included in this report.