FACTOR 1A: HUMANITARIAN GOALS FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Questions defining this factor:


Q28. Priority of U.S. government assistance to increasing survival rates of babies and young children.


Q18. Priority of U.S. government assistance to improving the status of women.

Q20. Priority of U.S. government assistance to relieving human suffering brought about by civil war and natural disaster.

Q30. Priority of U.S. government assistance to helping women in poor countries avoid unintended pregnancies.

Q17. Priority of U.S. government assistance to improving economic conditions in developing countries.


“Humanitarian goals” is one of two factors where opinions on goals for international economic assistance group together. Formation of the two international economic assistance factors reveals what respondents believe are two thrusts of international economic aid; these groupings do not necessarily represent an endorsement of international economic assistance but rather are a statement of two areas in which the money should be spent if it is to be given.

This first factor is composed of questions that ask opinions on “humanitarian” questions, such as improving women’s, men’s, and children’s health; increasing survival rates of babies; relieving human suffering; helping women avoid unintended pregnancy; promoting human rights; improving economic conditions; and protecting the global environment. Opinions about improving women’s and children’s health loaded first in this factor; however, there is still a strong degree of association with other nonhealth-relief efforts aimed at human rights issues, poverty, and the environment.

Regression analysis shows the individuals who are most enthusiastic about humanitarian goals for international economic assistance are women, Democrats, African-Americans, liberals, and those who have traveled to other countries for educational purposes.

**FACTOR 1B: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GOALS FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE**

**Questions defining this factor:**

Q29. Priority of U.S. government assistance in promoting trade between the United States and other countries.


Q23. Priority of U.S. government assistance in preventing civil wars and regional conflicts.

The “international relations” factor is the second of the U.S. assistance goal groupings. The international relations sentiments that hold together are promoting trade, promoting democracy, supporting U.S.-friendly governments, and preventing civil war and regional conflict. Promoting trade loaded first on this factor, and respondents’ opinion on promoting trade showed strong correlation with opinions on more governmental questions.

Regression analysis shows that Democrats, older Americans, and those who are heavy television and radio news consumers are the most ardent supporters of the international relations type goals.

**FACTOR 2: TARGETS OF AID**

**Questions defining this factor:**

Q34. Favor/Oppose U.S. aid programs contributing to the funding of programs to give girls in developing countries the same opportunities for education as boys have.

Q37. Favor/Oppose U.S. aid programs contributing to the funding of programs to encourage men to take an active role in practicing family planning.

Q35. Favor/Oppose U.S. aid programs contributing to the funding of programs to improve women’s health generally.

Q36. Favor/Oppose U.S. aid programs contributing to the funding of efforts to reduce domestic violence against women.

Q33. Favor/Oppose U.S. aid programs contributing to the funding of programs to help women support themselves and their families financially.

Q38. Favor/Oppose U.S. aid programs contributing to the funding of programs to improve the rate of survival of babies and young children.

Q32. Favor/Oppose U.S. sponsoring voluntary family planning programs in developing countries.
The formation of a factor out of seven of eight possible programs suggested by the ICPD Programme of Action indicates that people who support one program area are likely to support all. The only exception is abortion programs in countries where it is requested. Abortion does not correlate with the other elements of the ICPD Programme of Action but instead groups with other abortion items in Factor 3.

Regression analysis shows the targets of aid represented in Factor 2 were well-received in general but received even stronger support from younger Americans, liberals, females, Democrats, and frequent consumers of print media.

**FACTOR 3: ABORTION**

**Questions defining this factor:**

Q54. Favor/Oppose the government providing funding for abortion services to poor women in the United States.

Q39. Favor/Oppose U.S. aid programs contributing to the funding of voluntary, safe abortion as part of reproductive health care in developing countries that request it.

Q57. Agree/Disagree that legal abortion encourages more sexual activity among teenagers and unmarried couples.

Q55. Agree/Disagree that many women’s lives are saved when abortion is legal, as compared to when abortion is illegal.

Q56. Agree/Disagree that too many women use abortion as a routine means of controlling births when it is legal.

Q58. Agree/Disagree that in most cases, women who have a legal abortion do so only as a last resort when their birth control fails.

Q59. Agree/Disagree that having legal contraception encourages more sexual activity among teenagers and unmarried couples.

The factor brings together opinions on abortion questions pertaining to reproductive health care, funding abortion for poor women, and the way that abortion is used and its relationship to sexual activity among teens. When people answer questions related to abortion,
they answer consistently in a pro- or antiabortion manner; abortion stands out as a factor because people have consistent opinions on it as an issue.

While there are certainly differences of opinion on abortion among age and educational groups, regression analysis reveals that differences in opinions on abortion are more accurately predicted by religious, political, and informational variables. Attending religious services is the variable most strongly associated in regression analysis with the abortion factor. Most-frequent attendees of religious services are against abortion, while less-frequent attendees are more supportive of abortion rights. Attitudes on abortion are sharply divided by religious denomination as well: Jews and High Protestants (Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Lutherans) support abortion rights, while Evangelicals and born-again Christians and other Christian denominations (such as Pentecostal and Mormon) oppose them.

Politically, Democrats and liberals are more supportive of abortion than are Republicans and conservatives.

Also significant in the regression analysis of the abortion factor are information sources. Those who use the Internet and those who most frequently read newspapers are more supportive of abortion rights.

**FACTOR 4: GLOBAL PROBLEMS**

**Questions defining this factor:**

Q11. How serious a problem is the spread of nuclear weapons?

Q14. How serious a problem is the threat of civil wars and international regional conflicts?

Q12. How serious a problem are threats to the global environment?

Q10. How serious a problem is disease and hunger in other countries?

The “global problems” factor brings together opinions on how big a problem disease and hunger, nuclear war, threats to the global envi-
ronment, and civil wars are: a somewhat “apocalyptic” grouping. Of note is that rapid population growth does not group with these vari-
ables but with a different set of questions about population issues.

Regression analysis shows women, African-Americans, frequent television and radio news media consumers, Christians who give Assembly of God, Mormon, United Church of Christ, and Pentecostal as their denomination, and youths agree most strongly that these are serious problems.

**FACTOR 5: POPULATION GROWTH**

**Questions defining this factor:**

Q43. Agree/Disagree that too much population growth in developing countries is holding back their economic development.

Q45. Agree/Disagree that rapid population growth in developing countries is frequently an underlying cause of civil war and regional conflicts.

Q24. Priority of U.S. government assistance in helping countries slow their rate of population growth.

Q13. How serious a problem is rapid population growth?

Opinions group together about rapid population growth holding back economic development, causing civil wars and regional conflicts, the goal of slowing population growth, and the seriousness of the population growth issue.

Regression analysis shows older respondents, those with lower levels of education, Hispanics, and those who attend religious services less often feel more strongly than average that increasing population pressures are related to conflicts and economic development. African-Americans, Catholics, and those with higher levels of education disagree that these crises are caused by rapid population growth.
FACTOR 6: CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS

Questions defining this factor:

Q52. Approve/Disapprove of Congress withholding a portion of United Nations dues for the past 12 years.

Q50. Approve/Disapprove of Congress voting to reduce the U.S. contribution to family planning in developing countries by 30 percent since 1995.

Q51. Approve/Disapprove of Congress voting to prevent the United States from funding family planning services in health organizations overseas, if those organizations also happen to perform abortions with other, non-U.S. funding.

This factor is composed of opinions on the three questions that ask respondents’ opinions about congressional actions in withholding funding from the United Nations or reducing or restricting funding for developing countries. Opinions about these actions of Congress cluster as their own group and do not associate with other variables.

Regression analysis shows that although public opinion shifts a lot over these three questions, there is a core group that answered the three questions similarly and affirmatively in support of Congress’s actions. This core group is older, male, conservative, Republican, has lower levels of education, and has not traveled abroad for educational purposes. On the other side, opponents of the congressional positions tend to be young women, liberals, Democrats, those with more education, those who have traveled abroad for educational reasons, Catholics, and those with no religious affiliation.

FACTOR 7: AID AND PAYBACK

Questions defining this factor:

Q42. Agree/Disagree that money we spend helping people overseas eventually helps the United States economically.

Q15. Favor/Oppose U.S. giving economic assistance to other countries.
The “aid and payback” factor is based on attitudes toward two questions: the first one asks whether money spent overseas eventually helps us here in the United States, and the second one is favoring or opposing giving economic assistance. This factor brings together international economic assistance with self-interest—that helping others also helps at home. When people believe that the United States is getting something out of economic assistance, they are more likely to support that funding.

According to regression analysis, Americans with higher levels of education, youth, and those who have traveled abroad for pleasure are more likely to support aid that helps the United States, while Baptists, Lutherans, and those who attend church frequently are less supportive.

**FACTOR 8: ENVIRONMENT**

**Questions defining this factor:**


Q12. How serious a problem are threats to the global environment?

Q47. Agree/Disagree that American overuse of resources is a major global environmental problem that needs to be changed.

Concern about U.S. overuse of global resources, the problem of disease and hunger, and a high priority for aid to protect the global environment group together to form this factor.

Opinions from three separate sections of the survey on environmental issues correlate very highly with each other.

Regression analysis reveals that support for environmental concerns was strongest among younger people, those with lower income levels, Democrats, women, liberals, and Americans with lower levels of education.
FACTOR 9: LOW FERTILITY IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND FAMILY PLANNING IN THE UNITED STATES

Questions defining this factor:

Q48. Agree/Disagree that people in the developed, wealthier countries are having too few babies.

Q62. Favor/Oppose the government providing family planning services to poor women in this country who want them, as part of their health care.

Q63. Agree/Disagree that health insurers in the United States should cover family planning services, just like other doctor’s visits and services, as part of their regular health care coverage.

Thinking that people in wealthier, developed nations are not having enough children correlates with opposition to providing family planning services for poor Americans and opposition to insurance companies covering family planning services in the United States.

Regression analysis shows that people over age 60 and those with incomes of less than $25,000 per year are the most persuaded by the idea that low fertility in developed countries is a problem; yet even among those subgroups a large plurality disagrees that the wealthy nations have too few births. This view is less endorsed by people under 30, those with the most education, income, and nonreligious individuals.

FACTOR 10: RIGHT TO DECIDE

Questions defining this factor:

Q49. Agree/Disagree that all couples and individuals should have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing, and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so.

Q46. Agree/Disagree that people should feel free to have as many children as they can properly raise.

The opinions associated in the “right to decide” factor are having as many children as one can properly raise and the principle underlying the ICPD Programme of Action. The principle loads first in this fac-
tor, emphasizing the fundamental right to decide, while the association with Question 46 reinforces freedom.

These two questions enjoyed widespread support across constituencies, and as a result not many groups stand out as more strongly interested than others. However, African-Americans and women are somewhat stronger in their support than the general population.