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# The determinants of subjective wellbeing in a developing country: The Ecuadorian case

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# **The determinants of subjective wellbeing in a developing country: The Ecuadorian case**

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## **Abstract**

Ecuador is a country characterized by deep social and territorial inequalities. In order to overcome this issue the national government setup in 2008 the National Plan of Wellbeing, a master plan whose objective is to put at the centre of the political action the wellbeing of the human being. This study aims to analyze the individual and contextual determinants of subjective wellbeing in Ecuador by examining a set of variables linked to the specific social and territorial characteristics of the country and to its main policy priorities. The assessment is based on econometric techniques able to account for the nested structure of the data, namely ordinary least squares and ordered logit with clustered standard errors and multilevel ordered logit. The results are robust and show that institutional trust, income, good housing conditions and education fosters wellbeing. On the other hand, being a woman, belonging to an ethnic minority or living in an oil dependent area is negatively correlated to subjective wellbeing. The policy implications range from an improvement of the institutional framework and redistributive system to better inclusion policies.

**Keywords:** individual wellbeing, Ecuador, multilevel model, clustered standard errors.

**JEL classification:** I3, P16, C30

\*The views expressed are the author's alone and do not necessarily correspond to those of the European Commission.

# 1 Introduction

In recent years, subjective wellbeing has provoked increasing interest from both social science researchers and governmental institutions. In developed countries, it is worth mentioning the Canadian Index of Wellbeing and the inclusion of the measure of “equitable and sustainable wellbeing” in the Italian State Balance in 2016. Furthermore, the UK (Dolan et al. 2011), France (Tavernier et al., 2015) and Germany (Die Bundesregierung, 2017) all have initiatives to include wellbeing into high level policy discussion. Developing countries are also beginning to consider wellbeing formally, with Mexico and Brazil including it in their constitutions in 2010 and 2015, respectively, and Ecuador in 2008. In the last country, the principle of good living, embodied in the Constitution and based on the ancestral concept of “Sumak Kawsay” (see García Álvarez, 2014), guides social and state action (SENPLADES, 2009, p. 32) and is operationalized through the National Plan for Good Living (SENPLADES, 2009).

In light of the originality of the Ecuadorian case, this paper aims to analyze the individual and contextual determinants of subjective wellbeing in this country.

To our knowledge little research has been conducted on the determinants of wellbeing in South American countries (among the few examples there are: Dugain & Olaberría, 2015; Gómez et al., 2016; Graham & Felton, 2006; Valente & Berry, 2016), and only one study by Ramirez (2009) has estimated the determinants of life satisfaction in Ecuador. Ramirez (2009) includes a set of subjective and objective variables at the individual level and finds that the effect of the former outweighs the effect of the latter on life satisfaction. The results of the ordinary least squares (OLS) and probit estimations show that, among the objective variables, leisure hours and income have a positive relationship with life satisfaction. Conversely, being indigenous or a male translates into lower reported wellbeing. Regarding subjective factors, social relationships and civil status have the most impact. Despite its importance as the only study in Ecuador, one of its problem is that it includes subjective variables that may have led to unsolved endogeneity problems (Kuroki, 2011). Beside this, it does not explicitly account for i) variables linked with the National Plan for Good Living and ii) contextual effects, which should not be ignored in a country characterized by deep territorial inequalities (Mendieta Muñoz & Pontarollo, 2016).

To overcome these limitations, in our analysis, we do not include subjective variables, but we do consider both the individual and contextual variables traditionally investigated in the literature on wellbeing, as well as some others related to the National Plan for Good Living: i.e. institutional trust, health insurance and housing conditions among the individual factors and, for the contextual variables, oil dependency, urbanization and natural hazards.

Finally, regarding the empirical technique, we adopt an OLS and ordered logit approach with clustered standard errors, and an ordered logistic multilevel analysis in order to take account of the nested structure of the data: i.e. individual observations within distinct territorial units. The adoption of these three approaches, which are usually used singularly in evaluating the determinants of wellbeing, allows us to check the robustness of our estimates to different techniques.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the background, methodology and the data. In Section 3 we present the results of the empirical analysis and in the last section we provide some conclusions and policy implications.

## 2 Background, Methodology and Data

### 2.1 Background

Ecuador is a country with 16.5 million inhabitants, divided into four geographic regions, 24 provinces, 221 cantons and 1,228 parishes. Each of its four regions has its own climate and biodiversity conditions (see Figure 1). Ecuador is a rich country in terms of natural resources, although also highly exposed to natural disasters (Demorales & D'Ercole, 2001). World Bank (2015) shows that, among South American countries, it has one of the highest proportions of the population living in rural areas (36%). According to the last census, the ten most populated cities account for half of the population of the country, and the two main cities, Quito and Guayaquil, account for one third and half of the Gross Value Added (GVA) product, respectively (Ecuadorian Central Bank, 2017).

The Ecuadorian population has historically been subject to poverty and social inequality (SENPLADES & SETEP, 2014). In particular, poverty has affected women, indigenous groups<sup>1</sup> and rural populations extensively (BTI, 2016). The dependency of the national economy on the export of oil and other commodities constantly exposes the country to price volatility and therefore to periodic sharp economic downturns.

Limitations in basic services, housing, education and health care are associated with central Andes, north Amazonia and rural areas, particularly affecting indigenous households (SENPLADES, 2009, 2013a, 2013b). As a result, spatial heterogeneity as well as profound social and economic disparities, persist (Mendieta Muñoz & Pontarollo, 2016).

In 2007, left-wing president Rafael Correa took office and pushed the writing of a new constitution, which was adopted in 2008. This includes major improvements to enforce the rights of women, minorities and, moreover, consideration of the rights of the natural environment (Freedom House, 2017). The foundation of this new Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador was Good Living, and, since then, planning and public policy have been oriented towards the achievement of that. To this extent, in 2008, the national government designed the National Plan for Good Living (SENPLADES, 2009) as Ecuador's planning instrument. Based on the indigenous concept of "sumak kawsay", the SENPLADES (2009, p. 6) defines the concept of Good Living as "covering needs, achieving a dignified quality of life and death; loving and being loved; the healthy flourishing of all individuals in peace and harmony with nature; and achieving an indefinite reproduction perpetuation of human cultures. Good Living implies having free time for contemplation and personal emancipation; enabling the expansion and flourishing of people's liberties, opportunities, capabilities and potentialities so as to simultaneously allow society, specific territories, different collective identities, and each individual, understood both in universal and relative terms, to achieve their objectives in life (without causing any kind of material or subjective dominance over any other individual). Our concept of Good Living compels us to re-build the public sphere in order to recognize, understand and value ourselves as diverse but equal individuals, and in order to advance reciprocity and mutual recognition, enable self-advancement, and build a shared social future (Ramírez, 2008: 387)". The plan is operationalized through twelve overarching objectives intended to address national needs and to foster social and economic justice. The objectives aim (i) to consolidate democratic governance and construct the people's power, (ii) to foster social and territorial equity, cohesion, inclusion, (iii) to improve people's quality of life, (iv) to strengthen citizen capacities and potential, (v) to build spaces for social interaction and strengthen national identity, diverse identities, pluri-nationality and interculturality, (vi) to consolidate the transformation of the judicial system and reinforce comprehensive security, with strict respect for human rights, (vii) to guarantee the rights of Nature and promote environmental sustainability globally, (viii) to consolidate the solidarity of the social and

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<sup>1</sup>According to the last Census, indigenous people represent 7% of the population.

economic system, (ix) to guarantee dignified work in all forms, (x) to promote transformation of the productive structure, (xi) to ensure the sovereignty and efficiency of the strategic sectors for industrial and technological transformation, (xii) to guarantee sovereignty and peace, enhancing strategic insertion worldwide and Latin American integration (SENPLADES, 2013b, pp. 47-50).

In the last decade, important goals within the Good Living objectives were achieved thanks to the high oil prices that allowed social spending to double, especially through a vast investment in infrastructure, and increasing public sector wages and subsidies (BTI, 2016). Among the main objectives achieved, have been a reduction in rates of poverty and extreme poverty, which have declined by 38% and 47%, respectively. The inequality and unemployment rates have also significantly reduced, while educational enrolment rates have increased at various levels in the education system (BTI, 2016). With regards to education, public spending on higher education has risen from 0.7% of 2006 to 2.1% of GDP in 2016, the highest in Latin America (CEPR, 2017). Additionally, one of the greatest achievements during the last decade has been the increase in the minimum wage by 48% in real terms, which allowed the reference household income to exceed the cost of the basic consumption basket for the first time in 2014 (IMF, 2015).

Despite the social progress described above, many challenges still remain, with 61% of indigenous people in Ecuador still reporting that their basic needs are not satisfied. Only 54% of households report good quality of their houses' walls, and among these, 82% additionally reported good status of floors and roofs (INEC, 2015). In addition, in 2015, only 22% of Ecuadorian women who were heads of households had access to health insurance, versus 34% of men (INEC, 2015).

Furthermore, Ecuador is a country characterized by a weak institutional framework and has one of the highest corruption indices, ranking 120 among 176 countries (Transparency International, 2017). The public administration has been criticized regarding rights and freedoms of the population: in the last years the indigenous movements and the labour unions have been weakened, in addition to a permanent dispute between the government and the media, (BTI, 2016). From an economic perspective, the greatest challenges faced by the country are the low level of Foreign Direct Investment and its dependency on oil (BTI, 2016).

Finally, since 2013, with the decline of oil prices, the public administration has been forced to cut the public budget: in 2015, and the share of social spending as a proportion of GDP, reached the lowest value since 2010 (CEPR, 2017).

## 2.2 Methodology

Our empirical model follows Fleche et al. (2011) and Blanchflower & Oswald (2004) and adopts the following structure:

$$\text{Life satisfaction}_{ic} = \alpha + \beta \text{individual}_{ic} + \gamma \text{contextual}_c + \varepsilon_i \quad (1)$$

Where the subscripts  $i$  represent individuals and  $c$  local administrative units (cantons). *Individual* displays a vector of personal; while *contextual* represents a set of territory specific variables, and  $\varepsilon_i$  is the error term. Following the approach of Alesina et al. (2004), Rodriguez-Pose and von Berlepsch (2013) and Rozer and Kraaykamp (2013), among others, we avoid the inclusion of subjective assessment variables because they may be highly endogenous with the dependent variable (Kuroki, 2011). The data will be discussed in detail in the following section.

The dependent variable  $\text{Life satisfaction}_{ic}$  is the self-reported life satisfaction, which is an ordered categorical variable, while the true wellbeing is a latent variable that is unobservable.

The reported life satisfaction, then, is a reporting function of the true life satisfaction. Since the dependent variable in this study is measured on an ordinal scale, the empirical analysis is conducted through the use of an ordered logistic regression (Blanchflower & Oswald, 2004; Fleche et al., 2011; Rodríguez-Pose & von Berlepsch, 2014). In addition, we adopt an OLS analysis because, according to Van Praag & Ferrer-i-Carbonell (2008), this is an alternative to the ordered logistic regression where the dependent variable can also be treated as cardinal, at least in practice if not in theory. Ferrer-i-Carbonell & Frijters (2004), Graham & Nikolova (2015) and Rodríguez-Pose & von Berlepsch (2014), among others, report that the application of the OLS to the estimation of the determinants of subjective wellbeing has resulted in quite similar outcomes to those obtained by the use of ordered logistic regressions.

Furthermore, in order to deal with the above-discussed *contextual* variables, which include the territorial peculiarities of each canton, we also adopt an ordered logistic multilevel approach including random intercepts and fixed slope coefficients (Rözer & Kraaykamp, 2013).

According to Deeming & Jones (2015), there is a natural congruence between the multilevel random coefficients approach and the aim of incorporating context-specific determinants to investigate the determinants of individual wellbeing. While modelling both individuals and their contexts simultaneously, with this analysis we work under the assumption that there is a general pattern that holds across groups of population belonging to the same canton, and that random intercepts are established by each of them to allow for variation that we do not model (Hox, 1995). In multilevel analysis, the dependent variable is considered at Level 1 - individuals in our case - who are nested in cantons (Level 2). An analogous choice has been done by Ballas and Tranmer (2012) because multilevel models, among other advantages allow to explicitly avoid the issue of endogeneity bias (Rice and Jones, 1997).

Furthermore, to address the hierarchical structure of the dataset, we estimate clustered standard errors at cantonal level for OLS and ordered logistic models (Alesina et al., 2004; Graham & Felton, 2006; Di Tella et al., 2001). As Moulton (1986) shows, when the nesting of observations within geographical units is not taken into account, the unobserved characteristics that individuals share within this unit are not accounted for, leading to an underestimation of the standard errors of the dependent variables. This is due to the within-group (intra-class) correlation across individual units.

## 2.3 Data

The dependent variable of life satisfaction comes from the National Survey on Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment 2015 (ENEMDU), December edition, provided by the Ecuadorian National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC, 2015).<sup>2</sup> It is defined by a question in which, using a Cantril ladder, respondents are asked to assess their lives (Helliwell et al., 2017)<sup>3</sup> by replying to the question: "if 0 means totally unhappy and 10 totally happy, how do you feel regarding all aspects of your life taken together?" Following Rodríguez-Pose & von Berlepsch (2014), despite the different connotations of the terms life satisfaction, subjective wellbeing and wellbeing, we will use them interchangeably.

The data was originally gathered in interviews with respondents aged five and older; however, in our paper only respondents identified as households heads are considered. Furthermore,

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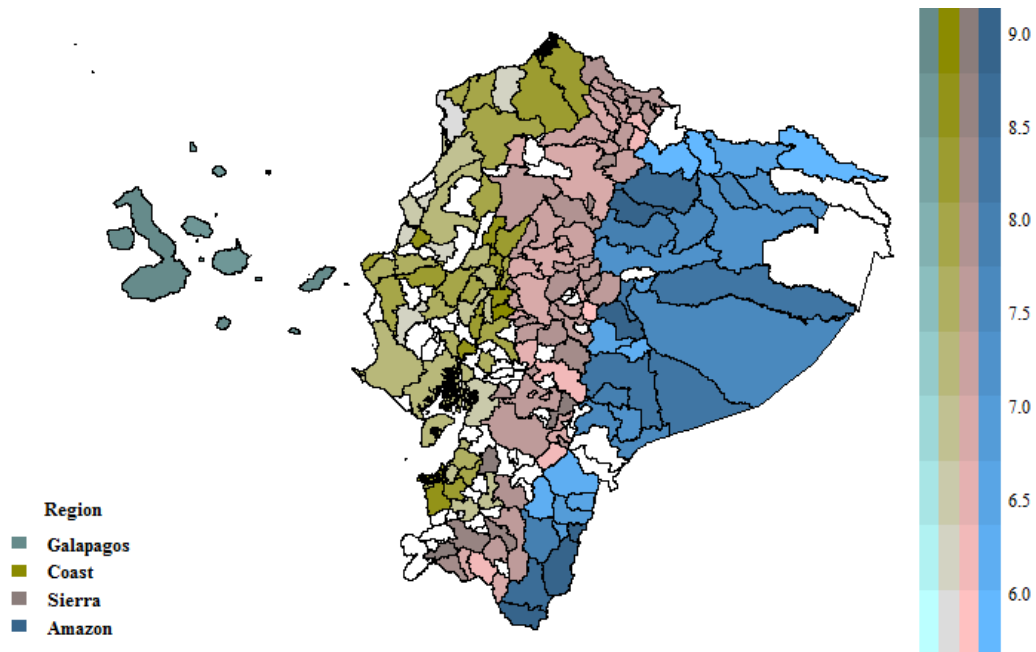
<sup>2</sup> The ENEMDU dataset comes from a quarterly survey exploring employment, educational attainment, housing services and conditions, consumption and self-perception questions. The surveys of June and December almost double the sample size of the others and contain questions on self-perception on which we rely for representing life satisfaction.

<sup>3</sup> Subjective wellbeing comprises three dimensions: evaluative, hedonic, and eudaimonic (see OECD (2013), for a revision of these concepts). Due to the wide development of the conceptual framework for research on the former and given data availability, in this study we will focus on the evaluative dimension.



we limited our analysis to cantons where more than 30 individuals were interviewed, resulting in a total database of 157 cantons and 21,265 individuals. A robustness check is conducted including cantons where more than 50, 70 and more than 90 individuals were interviewed.

Figure 1: Wellbeing across cantons in Ecuador (2015)



Source: authors' elaboration based on ENEMDU, INEC 2015.

Ecuadorians report an average life satisfaction level equal to 7.49. The spatial distribution of wellbeing is highly heterogeneous, however. Oil cantons, located in the north of the Amazon region (north-east in the map), are those reporting the lowest levels of wellbeing: 7.10; while the Galapagos territories (west islands) report the highest level.

### 2.3.1 Individual variables

Following most wellbeing research, we include a set of *individual* variables from ENEMDU 2015 (a summary of the definitions and descriptive statistics of our set of control variables is provided in Table 1). In order to minimize the issue of omitted variables bias, a first set is taken from the literature on the determinants of wellbeing, and another is related to the specificities of the Ecuadorian context.

Among the *individual* variables of the first group expected to affect subjective wellbeing positively there are: age, income level, education level, internet access, health status, marital status (Easterlin, 1974; Kuroki, 2011). On the other hand, we consider characteristics likely to decrease wellbeing such as unemployment, belonging to an ethnic minority, and household size (Gómez et al., 2016; Kahneman & Deaton, 2010; Shams, 2016). Income is included in deciles in order to elucidate in detail the type of relationship between this individual

characteristic and life satisfaction (Blanchflower & Oswald, 2004; Rodríguez-Pose & von Berlepsch, 2014; Easterlin, 1974).

Table 1: Definition and descriptive statistics of individual variables

<b>Variable type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>
Urban	1 = if urban area of residence	0.42	0.77	0	1
Sex	1 = if man	0.44	0.73	0	1
Age	Age of respondent	15	46	16	98
Married	1 = if married respondent	0.49	0.41	0	1
Religion	Importance given to religion (1 – 4 = the highest)	0.72	3.53	1	4
Leisure time	Personal satisfaction with available leisure time (1 -10 = the highest)	1.91	7.13	0	10
Institutional Trust	Trust in the Public Defender Center (1 – 5 = the highest)	1.08	3.18	1	5
Indigenous	1 = if respondent self-identified as indigenous	0.21	0.12	0	1
Secondary	1 = if respondent reports secondary education	0.45	0.28	0	1
Tertiary	1 = if respondent reports tertiary education	0.41	0.21	0	1
Employed	1= if employed respondent	0.36	0.84	0	1
Socio-economic status	1= if respondent has a directive/managerial/scientific/intellectual job	0.29	0.09	0	1
Health Insurance	1= if respondent has health insurance	0.46	0.31	0	1
Condition of walls	1 = if walls are in good condition	0.50	0.54	0	1
Internet access	1 = if access	0.48	0.37	0	1
Home-owner	1 = if home owner	0.48	0.65	0	1
Household income lev.	Per capita household income	410.96	294.48	0	13371

Source: authors' elaboration.

Considering the specificities of the Ecuadorian context, we highlight the inclusion of some representative individual-level variables such as area of residence (urban or rural), institutional trust, ethnicity, importance attributed to religion, health insurance and housing conditions.

The type of area is incorporated in our analysis to describe whether an individual lives in an urban area. Higher urbanization may increase the availability of services and job sources, and then wellbeing. Empirical evidence, anyway, shows that urbanization can also prevent life satisfaction if the access to these services is hindered by distance between them and people (Hudson, 2006), or have no significant effects (Knight et al., 2009).

The inclusion of institutional trust in our study is supported by its importance in relation to wellbeing (Frey & Stutzer, 2000; Hudson, 2006). In the particular case of Ecuador, the weak institutional framework can generate discomfort among citizens.

Ecuador is recognized as an ethnically diverse country (SENPLADES, 2009), where minorities tend to live in isolated communities. We therefore incorporate this key characteristic through a dummy variable representing indigenous people, the largest ethnic groups in the country.

Religion is also important to our analysis since 91.95% of Ecuadorians report to have a religious belief (INEC, 2012). Contrary to other regions, in Latin America people consider

religion to be an essential element of life (Lora, 2008): it seems to give hope, meaning, optimism, and security to individuals. In this regard Helliwell & Putnam (2004) and Rodríguez-Pose & von Berlepsch (2014) show that both religiosity and religious activity are positively related to subjective wellbeing.

One of the peculiarities of Latin America is that health insurance coverage is not universal and its expansion is a public policy priority (Miller et al., 2013). In Ecuador, according to the INEC (2015), less than half of the population has access to a health insurance system. We therefore include a dummy indicating whether the individual has any type of health insurance, public or private. In Ecuador, health insurance later translates into access to retirement pensions.

Housing conditions are another key indicator of wellbeing in Latin America, and have been one of the major concerns of the international development organizations since 1970, and thus the focus of numerous studies, and recent wellbeing research gives credit to this link with housing conditions (Lora, 2008). As shown in paragraph 2.1, there is evidence of a tight relationship in Ecuador between quality of walls and the general housing conditions;<sup>4</sup> therefore, we use a variable that indicates the status of walls to depict this characteristic.

### 2.3.2 Contextual variables

Taking into account the territorial heterogeneity present in Ecuador (Mendieta Muñoz & Pontarollo, 2016; Orellana Bravo et al., 2016; Raileanu Szeles & Mendieta Muñoz, 2016), we included a set of *contextual* variables shown in table 2. Defined at the cantonal level, these include the percentage of urban area, the per capita Gross Value Added from Central Bank of Ecuador and an income inequality index (Gini) and from ENEMDU 2015, a natural hazards index (Demoraes & D'Ercole, 2001), and a dummy related to the presence of oil mining activity.

Table 2: Definition and descriptive statistics of contextual variables

Variable type	Description	SD	Mean	Min	Max
Oil dependant	1= if oil-dependent canton	0.12	0.01	0	1
GVA/pop	LN of non-oil sector's per capita GVA	0.36	8.59	7.83	10
Inequality	Gini coefficient	0.06	0.43	0.26	1
Natural Hazard	Natural Hazard Index (1 – 12 = the highest)	2.09	7.36	0	12
Urban area	Urban territory percentage	25.02	67.24	5.14	100

Source: authors' elaboration.

The cantonal variable indicating the percentage of people living in urban areas accounts for the quantity of services and job sources as well as possible congestion costs.

The Gross Value Added per capita is included in our analysis in order to associate the average cantonal level of production to wellbeing. The former has been the focus of several economic policies implemented in Ecuador with the objective of increasing the value added in production so as to improve the quality of life (SENPLADES, 2013b). According to Stiglitz et al. (2009), wellbeing is closely related to income and, therefore, consumption. Measures of production, like GVA, however, do not inherently translate into individual income. This may result in an

<sup>4</sup> To be habitable, a house must offer protection against environmental factors, isolation from the natural environment, privacy and comfort to carry out certain biological and social activities and help to avoid relative privation among its inhabitants (CEPAL, 1988)

inaccurate assumption of the existence of a positive relationship between production measures and individual wellbeing. In this context, we incorporate the average per capita Gross Value Added at cantonal level with the aim of evaluating whether value added in production can be considered a vehicle of wellbeing.

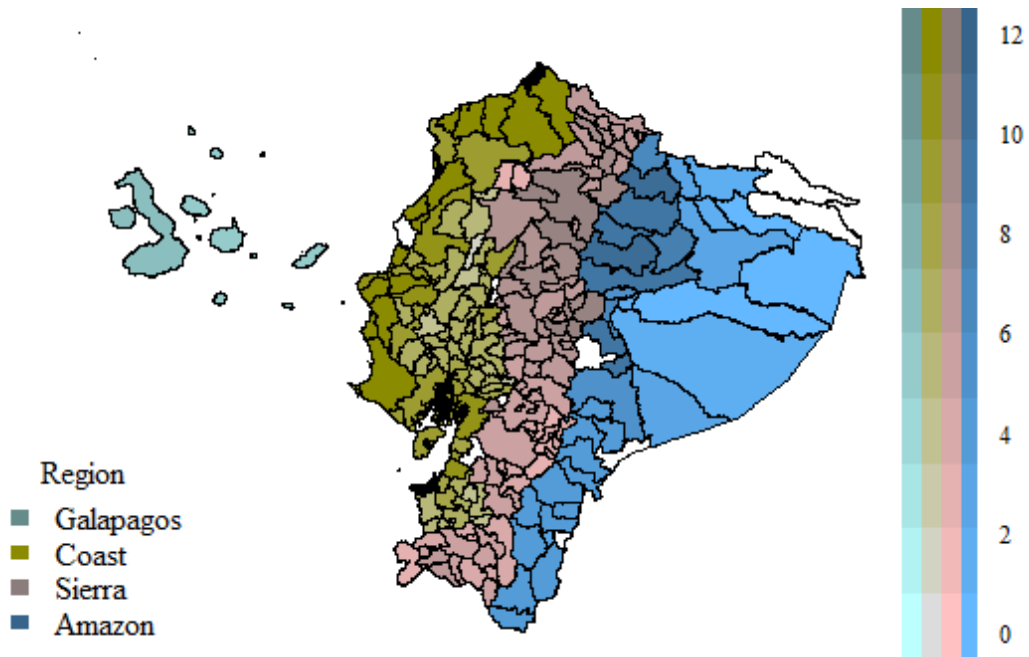
Income inequality represents another important characteristic to study in wellbeing research (Alesina et al., 2004). Nevertheless, results in respect to this factor are inconclusive (Graham & Felton, 2006), as it appears to have positive, negative or no statistically significant effect, depending on the aggregated income level (Rozer & Kraaykamp, 2013). Theoretically, inequality has a high social cost due to its limiting effect on democracy and development, which negatively affects growth and efficiency (Stiglitz, 2014). According to the Inter-American Development Bank (2008), the high poverty rates in Latin America are the result of high levels of inequality in the distribution of income. Furthermore, Ecuador has reported high inequality rates throughout its history, which supports the insertion of this variable in this study. Finally, GVA per capita and inequality are included together at cantonal level because “there is also specific evidence that the omission of per capita GDP can seriously distort the effect of inequality” Krzysztof (2013, p.1095).

Ecuador’s development model has, historically, been linked to the oil extraction sector, which has an influence on wellbeing through the public investment it brings, but also through the inequality and environmental degradation that it causes (Chiasson-LeBel, 2016). Oil exploitation in non-industrialized countries like Ecuador has an enclave nature, and is not considered a source of quality jobs for locals. Besides the unequal distribution of the resulting oil rents, it does not generate spill-over effects to other industries of the economy (Ayelazuno, 2014). Seven out of 157 cantons rely on the oil mining industry, four of which are located in the Amazon region and three in the Coast region. In our analysis, we aim to analyze the effect of oil activity on wellbeing by using a dummy that indicates whether or not the territory is considered to be an oil dependent canton.

Finally, living in a country highly exposed to natural hazards may suppress wellbeing. In this context, we introduce to our analysis a cantonal natural hazards index built up by Demorales & D’Ercole (2001) and based on a set of indicators about seismic and volcanic activity, along with tsunami, landslide, flood and drought hazards (see Appendix 2 for the details). This comprehensive cantonal natural hazards index tries to overcome the limitation of the approach of Fleche et al. (2011), which uses an air quality index as a proxy for environmental conditions.

Figure 2 shows the spatial distribution of the natural disasters index, revealing higher vulnerability in the North Coast and Central-North Andes, but lower susceptibility in provinces located in the Amazon.

Figure 2: Spatial Distribution of the Natural Hazards Index.



Source: authors' elaboration based on Demorales & D'Ercole (2001).

### 3 Results

Results of the estimation of equation (1) are presented in Table 3. Consistent with previous research (see, for example, McNeish et al., 2017), the estimations performed through both multilevel models and standard models with clustered standard errors show similar results in terms of standard errors and coefficients. The results are also robust to changes in the minimum size of cantons, as shown in Appendix 1.

Table 3: Regression results

	OLS		OLOGIT		MULTILEVEL	
	(1)		(2)		(3)	
	Coefficients	S.E.	Coefficients	S.E.	Coefficients	S.E.
<b>Contextual</b>						
Oil Dependent	-0.326*	(0,17)	-0.446**	(0,22)	-0,303	(0,22)
Ln(GVA/pop)	-0.278***	(0.10)	-0.472***	(0.14)	-0.124	(0.15)
Inequality	-0.252	(0.37)	-0.243	(0.49)	-0.216	(0.63)
Natural Hazard	-0.00862	(0.01)	-0.0102	(0.01)	-0.00658	(0.02)
Urban Area	0.000396	(0.00)	0.000513	(0.00)	0.00279	(0.00)
<b>Individual</b>						
Urban	-0.0438	(0.05)	-0.0921	(0.07)	-0.0646	(0.07)
Sex	0.102***	(0.03)	0.126***	(0.04)	0.0916**	(0.04)
Age	-0.0127***	(0.00)	-0.0170***	(0.00)	-0.0210***	(0.00)
Age^2	0.00009**	(0.00)	0.000120**	(0.00)	0.000163***	(0.00)
Married	0.0796***	(0.03)	0.0992***	(0.04)	0.153***	(0.03)
Religion	0.0377*	(0.02)	0.0313	(0.03)	0.0445*	(0.03)
Leisure Time	0.291***	(0.01)	0.401***	(0.02)	0.401***	(0.02)
Inst. Trust	0.133***	(0.02)	0.174***	(0.02)	0.181***	(0.02)
Indigenous	-0.119*	(0.07)	-0.164**	(0.08)	-0.0501	(0.08)
Secondary	0.124***	(0.02)	0.142***	(0.03)	0.169***	(0.03)
Tertiary	0.190***	(0.04)	0.235***	(0.04)	0.269***	(0.04)
Employed	0.130***	(0.03)	0.141***	(0.04)	0.164***	(0.04)
Socio Econ. Status	0.143***	(0.04)	0.180***	(0.05)	0.203***	(0.05)
Health Insurance	0.0611**	(0.03)	0.0879***	(0.03)	0.0692**	(0.03)
Walls	0.210***	(0.03)	0.273***	(0.04)	0.294***	(0.04)
Internet	0.100***	(0.03)	0.127***	(0.04)	0.169***	(0.03)
Home Owner	0.0599**	(0.03)	0.0778**	(0.04)	0.0541	(0.04)
2.Decile	0.0913*	(0.05)	0.0963	(0.06)	0.0928	(0.06)
3.Decile	0.0823*	(0.04)	0.111*	(0.06)	0.126**	(0.06)
4.Decile	0.0406	(0.05)	0.0275	(0.06)	0.048	(0.06)
5.Decile	0.0779*	(0.05)	0.0904	(0.06)	0.115**	(0.06)
6.Decile	0.116**	(0.05)	0.119*	(0.07)	0.151**	(0.06)
7.Decile	0.169***	(0.05)	0.153**	(0.07)	0.178***	(0.07)
8.Decile	0.192***	(0.06)	0.219***	(0.08)	0.241***	(0.07)
9.Decile	0.181***	(0.06)	0.220***	(0.07)	0.243***	(0.06)
10.Decile	0.329***	(0.06)	0.417***	(0.08)	0.407***	(0.07)
<i>Cantonal variance</i>					0.285***	
<i>Observations</i>	21265		21265		21265	
<i>N. of cantons</i>	157		157		157	
<i>R<sup>2</sup></i>	0.2027		0.0664			
<i>AIC</i>	75700,53		72686.31		71957.57	
<i>Log likelihood</i>	-37818,267		-36302.153		-35936.787	
<i>chi2</i>			3224.16		2990.62	
<i>Prob &gt; <math>\chi^2</math></i>	0		0		0	

Notes: \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \*<0.10. Pseudo R<sup>2</sup> for ologit. Clustered standard errors for OLS and ologit in parentheses. S.E. represents the standard errors.

The coefficients related to the personal characteristics show that being a man implies a higher level of wellbeing. Although previous studies are not conclusive in this regard, our findings are consistent with the findings obtained for Colombia (Gómez et al., 2016) and Mexico (Dugain & Olaberría, 2015). As in related literature (Gómez et al., 2016; Kahneman & Deaton, 2010; Shams, 2016), people belonging to an indigenous ethnicity have a lower wellbeing. Furthermore, married individuals tend to have a higher life satisfaction than those reporting other civil status (Frey and Stutzer, 2000; Helliwell, 2002), while age appears to have a U-shaped effect, which is coherent with the findings of Blanchflower & Oswald (2008). The turning point is around 70 years old,<sup>5</sup> which corresponds the retirement stage, in which adults feel a higher life satisfaction due to the reduced burden of responsibilities, especially in respect to reduced labour-related commitments (Gómez et al., 2016).

In line with previous wellbeing research from Dugain & Olaberría (2015) and Krauss & Graham (2013), education displays a positive and highly significant effect on individual wellbeing. This reflects the knowledge and skills that formal education offers, enabling people to improve their lives and health, and their civic and political participation, as well as making them to be more likely to have a quality job and thus earn sufficient to meet their needs (Krauss, 2012).

In relation to work characteristics, being employed is positively related to life satisfaction (Di Tella et al., 2001; Helliwell, 2002; Helliwell et al., 2017). Specifically, having a managerial, scientific or intellectual job position compared to other activities increases life satisfaction (Helliwell et al., 2017) as well as having health insurance (Kahneman & Deaton, 2010; Krauss & Graham, 2013). The access to health insurance increases wellbeing as it is less likely that individuals are affected by medical costs, thus reducing economic insecurity and probability of debt (Krauss & Graham, 2013). Our results point out that money “buys” wellbeing (Blanchflower & Oswald, 2004; Deeming & Jones, 2015; Helliwell, 2002). Indeed, the relationship between income and subjective wellbeing is found to be non-linear, exerting increasing effect as income increases, which may imply the absence of a satiation point, in line with results of Stevenson & Wolfers (2013).

In line with Lora’s (2008) findings, religion is a positive driver of life satisfaction, which can be explained either by the support provided by having a religious belief or by the social connections built in to religious communities (Helliwell & Putnam, 2004). In the same way, wellbeing is increased by higher satisfaction with leisure time (Van Praag & Ferrer-i-Carbonell, 2008; Ramirez, 2009) and higher institutional trust (Frey & Stutzer, 2000; Hudson, 2006; Kuroki, 2011). The latter result is particularly important because it denotes that the improvement of institutions is not important only for economic development (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2008) but is associated with higher levels of subjective wellbeing (Frey & Stutzer, 2000). In the Ecuadorian case, this can be explained by the participative governmental budgets, which are mandatory, and aim at involving citizens in the political decisional process. This may generate direct utility (Frey & Stutzer, 2000) and better expectations about the public administrations’ actions.

The properties of their place of inhabitation, such as access to the internet and structural integrity are linked to improvement in wellbeing. Home ownership allows people to live in comfort and avoid overcrowding but, in the Ecuadorian context, it is perceived also as a guarantee for the future generations. In fact, approximately 14% of sons with their own families live within the same house as their parents (INEC, 2010). Structural integrity (here measured through the proxy of the perceived condition of the walls) can highly determine the achievement of basic needs like shelter, sleep, access to water and sanitation, and personal security, all contributing to wellbeing (Krauss & Graham, 2013). Internet access, finally,

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<sup>5</sup> The turning point for model (1) is calculated as:  $\frac{\partial \text{wellbeing}}{\partial \text{age}} = -0.0127 + 2 \times 0.00009 \text{age} = 0 \rightarrow \text{age} = \frac{0.0127}{0.00018} = 70$

enables people to communicate socially and be interconnected, which can be especially important in a country characterized by emigration like Ecuador (Hall & Banaszek, 2014).

Turning to the contextual variables included in our analysis, we observe a lack of significance of the percentage of urban area per canton that might be due to the broad definition of urban area adopted by the National Statistical Institute: human settlements with a population equal to or higher than 2,000 inhabitants (INEC, 2015). The natural hazards index has no significant effect on individual subjective wellbeing. These results conflict with previous research from Becchetti & Castriota (2010), and Ramirez (2009), but are in line with Fleche et al. (2011) and Carroll et al. (2009). Carroll et al. (2009) suggest that accounting for geographical specific effects (cantonal clustered standard errors and random variables, in our case) reduces the significance of contextual variables.

The coefficient for the average cantonal GVA per capita is negative, which could possibly imply a mismatch between the measure of GVA and of personal income.

Income inequality, on the other hand, does not affect the wellbeing in line with Senik (2004) and Krzysztof (2013), but in contrast with Alesina et al. (2004) and Graham and Felton (2006).

The dummy for oil dependent cantons shows a negative and highly significant coefficient, revealing its relevance in perceived individual wellbeing. This might be a consequence of the enclave nature of the oil mining activity in Ecuador (Ayelazuno, 2014), which, besides causing environmental damage, has also generated historical class conflict and social struggle (Chiasson-LeBel, 2016). In fact, environmental degradation has been empirically related to lower levels of wellbeing in many countries (Di Tella & MacCulloch, 2008), which is explained by the intrinsic value given to "ecologically responsible behavior" (Warren Brown & Kasser, 2005) and to the environment itself. The latter is especially applicable to Ecuador, where the indigenous communities consider themselves part of nature (Gudynas & Acosta, 2011).

Finally, we tested the presence of endogenous placement issue by estimating our model on the subsample of people that never moved from their cantons and on the subsample of people that lived in other places before displacing in the canton in which they are interviewed. The Likelihood Chow test accepts the null hypothesis of coefficient stability between the two groups at 1%. The results, available upon request, confirming that there are no significant differences between the estimates of the two subsample, support the hypothesis of no endogenous placement issue.



## 4 Conclusion and policy implications

Our study examines the individual and contextual factors that affect individual wellbeing in Ecuador paying particular attention to those aspects that characterize the socio-economic structure of this country. The outcomes highlight that the main factors influencing subjective wellbeing in Ecuador are consistent with those reported in previous studies in other countries. Regarding the variables related to the characteristics of the country, a positive role is played by institutional trust, health insurance, condition of walls, religion, education and ethnicity. Among territorial characteristics, oil cantons and GVA per capita are statistically significant and negatively related to individual subjective wellbeing. Furthermore, we find that, the use of an OLS and ordered probit with clustered standard errors leads to similar results as those provided by a more complex multilevel ordered probit model. This leads us to prefer simpler models, which require simpler computation and assumptions, correcting for the clustered standard errors, a highlighted also by McNeish et al. (2017) and Primo et al. (2007).

The results suggest some relevant policy implications related to the National Plan for Good Living.

The importance of appropriate housing conditions, such as the characteristics of walls, for individual's wellbeing is coherent with objective number 3 of the National Plan for Good Living. According to our dataset, however, in 2015, around half of houses lacked good wall conditions. In this context, public policies launched by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing should continue to promote adequate housing.

Beyond housing, objective number 9 of the National Plan for Good Living relates to job stability and social security as channels to improve individuals' life satisfaction and industrial productivity. In this regard, our analysis shows that having health insurance can boost wellbeing. Despite the advances in this domain, however, 46% of Ecuadorians (69% of households' heads) still do not have access to any type of health insurance system. Hence, public policy should continue to encourage workers' affiliation to social security systems as mandatory in law.

Education is another priority included in the National Plan for Good Living (objective number 4). Our results show that the higher the education level is, the higher the reported wellbeing. In Ecuador, there is a wide educational lag and an unequal distribution of education in detriment of historically disadvantaged groups: women, indigenous and rural inhabitants (SENPLADES, 2013b). Public policies should therefore continue to improve the accessibility to education at all levels and guarantee its quality in order to improve life satisfaction and to close gaps.

Despite the progress in the fields of social inclusion and justice, equal opportunities for women and ethnic minorities remain a public policy goal. Nevertheless, as shown in this paper, heads of the households who are women or who belong to an ethnic minority experience lower levels of wellbeing. This might be related to cultural heritage and to their low access to sanitation, education and labour markets. This suggests the importance of continuing to promote active integration within society and the emancipation of the weaker sectors of the population.

Finally, a key role in respect to wellbeing is played by institutional trust. Institutional trust can be enhanced through the improvement of national and local institutions. These are also instrumental to income redistribution. In this regard, therefore, the Value Added produced in the cantons needs to be translated into an improvement in the basic living needs of the citizens, represented in our analysis by the condition of walls. This, in turn, would decrease social and/or ethnic marginalization, and increase the trust in institutions. Institutional improvement in developing countries, according to Kyriacou et al. (2016), can be reached via fiscal decentralization, which can be used to modify the tax collection through increasing local accountability (Escobar-Lemmon and Ross, 2014). The collection of more resources would

allow redistributive public policies for housing policies, social services, and market and social inclusion, which, as discussed above, are directly linked to subjective wellbeing.

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## Appendix 1: Robustness check

Table A1.1: more than 50 persons per canton

	OLS		OLOGIT		MULTILEVEL	
	(1)		(2)		(3)	
	Coefficients	S.E.	Coefficients	S.E.	Coefficients	S.E.
<b>Contextual</b>						
Oil Dependent	-0.325*	(0.17)	-0.442**	(0.21)	-0.311	(0.23)
Ln(GVA/pop)	-0.308***	(0.10)	-0.518***	(0.13)	-0.269	(0.17)
Inequality	-0.261	(0.39)	-0.261	(0.51)	-0.391	(0.66)
Natural Hazard	-0.007	(0.01)	-0.00779	(0.01)	-0.000835	(0.03)
Urban Area	0.000458	(0.00)	0.000618	(0.00)	0.00249	(0.00)
<b>Individual</b>						
Urban	-0.0478	(0.06)	-0.0992	(0.07)	-0.0695	(0.07)
Sex	0.0889***	(0.03)	0.109**	(0.04)	0.0820**	(0.04)
Age	-0.0138***	(0.00)	-0.0185***	(0.00)	-0.0218***	(0.00)
Age^2	0.00010**	(0.00)	0.00014***	(0.00)	0.00017***	(0.00)
Married	0.0868***	(0.03)	0.109***	(0.04)	0.154***	(0.04)
Religion	0.0453**	(0.02)	0.039	(0.03)	0.0542**	(0.03)
Leisure Time	0.292***	(0.01)	0.403***	(0.02)	0.403***	(0.02)
Inst. Trust	0.129***	(0.02)	0.168***	(0.02)	0.179***	(0.02)
Indigenous	-0.105	(0.07)	-0.144*	(0.08)	-0.0323	(0.08)
Secondary	0.124***	(0.02)	0.146***	(0.03)	0.169***	(0.03)
Tertiary	0.195***	(0.04)	0.244***	(0.05)	0.270***	(0.04)
Employed	0.134***	(0.03)	0.147***	(0.04)	0.163***	(0.04)
Socio Econ. Status	0.134***	(0.04)	0.165***	(0.05)	0.193***	(0.05)
Health Insurance	0.0568**	(0.03)	0.0837**	(0.03)	0.0650**	(0.03)
Walls	0.206***	(0.03)	0.270***	(0.04)	0.283***	(0.04)
Internet	0.104***	(0.03)	0.133***	(0.04)	0.169***	(0.03)
Home Owner	0.0576*	(0.03)	0.0725*	(0.04)	0.0551	(0.04)
2.Decile	0.0848	(0.05)	0.0897	(0.07)	0.0871	(0.07)
3.Decile	0.0814*	(0.05)	0.120**	(0.06)	0.132**	(0.06)
4.Decile	0.0342	(0.06)	0.0224	(0.07)	0.044	(0.07)
5.Decile	0.0722	(0.05)	0.0902	(0.06)	0.115**	(0.06)
6.Decile	0.109*	(0.06)	0.118*	(0.07)	0.145**	(0.07)
7.Decile	0.163***	(0.06)	0.152**	(0.07)	0.174**	(0.07)
8.Decile	0.190***	(0.06)	0.219***	(0.08)	0.235***	(0.08)
9.Decile	0.174***	(0.06)	0.212***	(0.07)	0.234***	(0.07)
10.Decile	0.321***	(0.07)	0.412***	(0.08)	0.397***	(0.08)
<i>Cantonal variance</i>					0.274***	
<i>Observations</i>	20150		20150		20150	
<i>N. of cantons</i>	116		116		116	
<i>R<sup>2</sup></i>	0.2024		0.0664			
<i>AIC</i>	71803.82		68891.47		68237.9	
<i>Log likelihood</i>	-35869.911		-34404.737		-34076.949	
<i>chi2</i>			3077.75		2989.36	
<i>Prob &gt; <math>\chi^2</math></i>			0		0	

Notes: \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \*<0.10. Pseudo R<sup>2</sup> for ologit. Clustered standard errors for OLS and ologit in parentheses. S.E. represents the standard errors.



Table A1.2: more than 70 persons per canton

	OLS		OLOGIT		MULTILEVEL	
	(1)		(2)		(3)	
	Coefficients	S.E.	Coefficients	S.E.	Coefficients	S.E.
<b>Contextual</b>						
Oil Dependent	-0.344**	(0.17)	-0.471**	(0.21)	-0.387*	(0.22)
Ln(GVA/pop)	-0.307***	(0.10)	-0.518***	(0.14)	-0.224	(0.18)
Inequality	-0.145	(0.39)	-0.116	(0.52)	-0.165	(0.64)
Natural Hazard	-0.00986	(0.01)	-0.0117	(0.01)	-0.0176	(0.02)
Urban Area	0.000565	(0.00)	0.000699	(0.00)	0.00225	(0.00)
<b>Individual</b>						
Urban	-0.0551	(0.06)	-0.111	(0.08)	-0.0775	(0.07)
Sex	0.0787**	(0.03)	0.0994**	(0.04)	0.0799*	(0.04)
Age	-0.0148***	(0.00)	-0.0192***	(0.00)	-0.0228***	(0.00)
Age^2	0.00011***	(0.00)	0.00014***	(0.00)	0.00018***	(0.00)
Married	0.0888***	(0.03)	0.110***	(0.04)	0.153***	(0.04)
Religion	0.0468**	(0.02)	0.0426	(0.03)	0.0540**	(0.03)
Leisure Time	0.289***	(0.01)	0.400***	(0.02)	0.402***	(0.02)
Inst. Trust	0.131***	(0.02)	0.171***	(0.02)	0.180***	(0.02)
Indigenous	-0.107	(0.08)	-0.152*	(0.09)	-0.0642	(0.09)
Secondary	0.127***	(0.02)	0.151***	(0.03)	0.169***	(0.03)
Tertiary	0.190***	(0.04)	0.240***	(0.05)	0.268***	(0.05)
Employed	0.131***	(0.03)	0.144***	(0.04)	0.163***	(0.04)
Socio Econ. Status	0.120***	(0.04)	0.148***	(0.05)	0.177***	(0.05)
Health Insurance	0.0695***	(0.03)	0.0975***	(0.03)	0.0698**	(0.03)
Walls	0.209***	(0.03)	0.273***	(0.04)	0.285***	(0.04)
Internet	0.104***	(0.03)	0.130***	(0.04)	0.165***	(0.03)
Home Owner	0.0591*	(0.03)	0.0763*	(0.04)	0.0604	(0.04)
2.Decile	0.0947*	(0.06)	0.104	(0.07)	0.101	(0.07)
3.Decile	0.0832*	(0.05)	0.125**	(0.06)	0.138**	(0.06)
4.Decile	0.05	(0.06)	0.0463	(0.07)	0.0572	(0.07)
5.Decile	0.0937*	(0.05)	0.124**	(0.06)	0.143**	(0.06)
6.Decile	0.125**	(0.06)	0.141*	(0.07)	0.158**	(0.07)
7.Decile	0.185***	(0.06)	0.185**	(0.07)	0.197***	(0.07)
8.Decile	0.213***	(0.06)	0.253***	(0.08)	0.256***	(0.08)
9.Decile	0.199***	(0.06)	0.248***	(0.07)	0.260***	(0.07)
10.Decile	0.346***	(0.07)	0.450***	(0.09)	0.421***	(0.08)
<i>Cantonal variance</i>					0.214***	
<i>Observations</i>	19191		19191		19191	
<i>N. of cantons</i>	95		95		95	
<i>R<sup>2</sup></i>	0.2037		0.0672			
<i>AIC</i>	68381.98		65559.48		65028.56	
<i>Log likelihood</i>	-34158.989		-32738.74		-32472.278	
<i>chi2</i>			3290.12		3045.41	
<i>Prob &gt; <math>\chi^2</math></i>			0		0	

Notes: \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \*<0.10. Pseudo R<sup>2</sup> for ologit. Clustered standard errors for OLS and ologit in parentheses. S.E. represents the standard errors.

Table A1.3: more than 90 persons per canton

	OLS		OLOGIT		MULTILEVEL	
	(1)		(2)		(3)	
	Coefficients	S.E.	Coefficients	S.E.	Coefficients	S.E.
<b>Contextual</b>						
Oil Dependent	-0.354**	(0.17)	-0.486**	(0.22)	-0.427**	(0.22)
Ln(GVA/pop)	-0.313***	(0.10)	-0.528***	(0.14)	-0.234	(0.19)
Inequality	-0.0206	(0.42)	0.0766	(0.56)	0.375	(0.74)
Natural Hazard	-0.00963	(0.01)	-0.0117	(0.01)	-0.0208	(0.02)
Urban Area	0.000353	(0.00)	0.000544	(0.00)	0.00128	(0.00)
<b>Individual</b>						
Urban	-0.0642	(0.06)	-0.123	(0.08)	-0.0965	(0.08)
Sex	0.0776**	(0.03)	0.0947**	(0.04)	0.0756*	(0.04)
Age	-0.0136***	(0.00)	-0.0176***	(0.00)	-0.0213***	(0.00)
Age^2	0.000096**	(0.00)	0.00012**	(0.00)	0.00016***	(0.00)
Married	0.0916***	(0.03)	0.118***	(0.04)	0.162***	(0.04)
Religion	0.0477**	(0.02)	0.0433	(0.03)	0.0533*	(0.03)
Leisure Time	0.289***	(0.01)	0.402***	(0.02)	0.404***	(0.02)
Inst. Trust	0.139***	(0.02)	0.181***	(0.02)	0.189***	(0.02)
Indigenous	-0.125	(0.08)	-0.173*	(0.09)	-0.082	(0.09)
Secondary	0.129***	(0.02)	0.153***	(0.03)	0.163***	(0.03)
Tertiary	0.185***	(0.04)	0.236***	(0.05)	0.253***	(0.05)
Employed	0.121***	(0.03)	0.135***	(0.04)	0.155***	(0.04)
Socio Econ. Status	0.111***	(0.04)	0.136***	(0.05)	0.169***	(0.05)
Health Insurance	0.0707***	(0.03)	0.0924***	(0.03)	0.0695**	(0.03)
Walls	0.209***	(0.03)	0.273***	(0.04)	0.293***	(0.04)
Internet	0.101***	(0.03)	0.126***	(0.04)	0.161***	(0.04)
Home Owner	0.0458	(0.03)	0.0594	(0.04)	0.0455	(0.04)
2.Decile	0.106*	(0.06)	0.117*	(0.07)	0.121*	(0.07)
3.Decile	0.0942*	(0.05)	0.140**	(0.06)	0.159**	(0.06)
4.Decile	0.0468	(0.06)	0.0496	(0.07)	0.0668	(0.07)
5.Decile	0.103**	(0.05)	0.138**	(0.06)	0.168***	(0.06)
6.Decile	0.135**	(0.06)	0.159**	(0.08)	0.180**	(0.07)
7.Decile	0.197***	(0.06)	0.206***	(0.07)	0.221***	(0.07)
8.Decile	0.221***	(0.07)	0.264***	(0.09)	0.270***	(0.08)
9.Decile	0.216***	(0.06)	0.274***	(0.07)	0.287***	(0.07)
10.Decile	0.360***	(0.07)	0.468***	(0.09)	0.442***	(0.08)
<i>Cantonal variance</i>					0.166***	
<i>Observations</i>	18286		18286		18286	
<i>N. of cantons</i>	79		79		79	
<i>R<sup>2</sup></i>	0.2055		0.0681			
<i>AIC</i>	65049.41		62341.51		61920.55	
<i>Log likelihood</i>	-32492.706		-31129.754		-30918.276	
<i>chi2</i>			3328.85		3141.38	
<i>Prob &gt; <math>\chi^2</math></i>	0		0		0	

Notes: \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \*<0.10. Pseudo R<sup>2</sup> for ologit. Clustered standard errors for OLS and ologit in parentheses. S.E. represents the standard errors.

## Appendix 2: Natural Hazards Index Methodology

Demorales & D’Ercole (2001) built a quantitative synthetic indicator based on the valuation of six natural hazards for 218 Ecuadorian cantons: (i) the expected magnitude (seismic), (ii) the intensity (droughts), (iii) the extent of the danger (landslides and floods), (iv) the danger (volcanoes), (v) the recurrence (floods) and (vi) the potential (tsunami, earthquakes, volcanoes). Each natural hazard was scored on a 0 - 2 or 0 - 3 scale for every canton. This information was provided by the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, the Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School and the Military Geographic Institute.

Table A2.1: scores’ range for each of the natural hazard

<b>Natural Hazard</b>	<b>Score range</b>
Earthquake	0-3
Tsunami	0-2
Volcano	0-3
Flood	0-3
Landslide	0-3
Drought	0-2
Total Hazard Index	0-16

Source: (Demorales & D’Ercole, 2001).

The range is determined by the degree of danger represented by the potential natural disaster, as established by the institution providing the information. For instance, the Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School points out four seismic and tsunami hazard zones. For the most dangerous zones, the score will be 3 and zero for the less dangerous. Droughts, on the other hand, have a three categories rating: strong potential (scores 2), average potential (scores 1) and weak potential (scores 0).

In cases where the given information shows a canton to be exposed, at least partly, to a natural hazard, all its territory is given the corresponding score. The final cantonal score is given by the addition of each natural hazard’s score and the maximum possible value for the cantonal index is 16.

## Appendix 3: Correlation matrix

Table A3.1: correlation matrix

	SWB	Urban	Sex	Age	Marr.	Relig.	Leis. time	Inst. Trust	Indig.	Sec.	Ter.	Emp.	Soc. st.	Health ins	Walls	Internet	Home owner	Decile	Oil dep	GVA/pop	Ineq	Nat haz	Urb. area	
Well-being	1																							
Urban	0.028	1																						
Sex	0.075	-0.108	1																					
Age	-0.043	0.007	-0.073	1																				
Married	0.089	-0.031	0.391	0.044	1																			
Religion	0.014	-0.029	-0.022	0.077	0.004	1																		
Leisure time	0.376	0.082	0.032	-0.007	0.076	0.013	1																	
Inst. Trust	0.110	-0.072	0.001	-0.037	-0.013	0.027	0.078	1																
Indig.	-0.030	-0.224	0.050	-0.058	0.111	-0.005	-0.012	0.021	1															
Second.	0.037	0.133	0.012	-0.207	-0.009	-0.022	0.043	0.004	-0.027	1														
Tertiary	0.141	0.172	-0.015	-0.067	0.116	-0.039	0.113	-0.045	-0.060	-	1													
Employed	0.064	-0.091	0.273	-0.354	0.087	-0.028	0.005	0.017	0.053	0.323	0.037	1												
Soc.-econ. stat.	0.127	0.095	0.012	-0.031	0.092	-0.033	0.078	0.007	-0.020	-	0.538	0.137	1											
Health Ins.	0.114	0.103	0.117	-0.244	0.089	-0.034	0.090	0.006	-0.043	0.148	0.266	0.288	0.314	1										
Cond. of walls	0.162	0.175	0.021	0.001	0.144	-0.014	0.168	0.013	-0.054	0.069	0.250	-	0.173	0.130	1									
Internet access	0.137	0.235	0.032	-0.004	0.227	-0.021	0.123	-0.052	-0.116	0.068	0.381	0.039	0.294	0.237	0.305	1								
Home - owner	0.008	-0.149	-0.001	0.333	0.114	0.024	-0.006	-0.013	0.043	-	-	-	-0.004	-0.123	-	0.017	1							
Decile	0.150	0.257	0.027	0.130	0.079	-0.007	0.152	-0.039	-0.134	0.040	0.380	0.004	0.312	0.307	0.310	0.377	-0.029	1						
Oil-dependant	-0.027	-0.026	0.019	-0.037	-0.005	-0.002	-0.029	-0.004	0.046	0.025	-	0.020	-0.001	0.021	0.035	-0.025	-0.005	0.026	1					
GVA/pop	-0.045	0.209	-0.036	-0.029	0.011	-0.043	0.039	-0.070	-0.084	0.085	0.091	-	0.058	0.136	0.167	0.165	-0.116	0.216	0.285	1				
Inequality	0.017	-0.113	0.045	-0.004	0.054	0.001	0.027	-0.002	0.105	-	0.014	0.012	0.066	0.019	0.046	0.012	0.008	-	0.019	0.175	-0.002	1		
Natural Hazard	-0.022	0.192	-0.025	0.008	-0.011	-0.062	0.022	-0.065	-0.083	0.020	0.054	-	0.016	0.065	0.049	0.050	-0.019	0.058	-0.289	0.080	0.109	-	1	
Urban area	0.010	0.511	-0.080	0.016	-0.069	-0.026	0.066	-0.069	-0.200	0.104	0.090	-	0.021	0.075	0.091	0.159	-0.088	0.208	-0.098	0.265	-	0.218	-	1
												0.071									0.266			

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