



# Diaspora engagement mapping

## BOLIVIA

### Facts & figures

#### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections  
for citizens residing abroad



#### Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **3.16%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **1,449**

#### Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



#### Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2023).

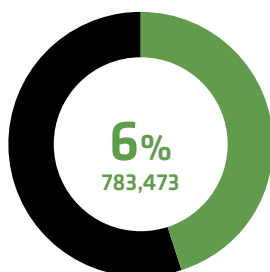
#### Emigration



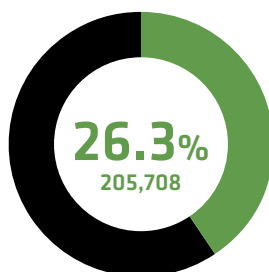
% of emigrants in  
total population



% of which  
in the EU



♂ 45%  
♀ 55%



♂ 40.7%  
♀ 59.3%

#### Top countries of destination<sup>1</sup>



Argentina	337,017
Spain	188,863
Chile	150,155
Brazil	46,373
Peru	22,190

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2011** ● **Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security** guarantees Ibero-American migrant workers' right to contribute to and collect social security benefits. This applies in Bolivia, Spain and any country which has signed up to the agreement.<sup>2</sup>
- 2012** ● **Agreement on Institutional Cooperation for the Promotion, Defense, Protection and Expansion of Human Rights** promotes the rights of Bolivians living in Spain and establishes that each country will prioritise the human rights of people deprived of liberty, children and teenagers, pregnant women and the elderly. This agreement also determines that migrant workers' rights come before legal status.<sup>3</sup>
- 2013** ● **Migration Statute N. 370** includes issues of Bolivians abroad as well as migrants within the country. For Bolivians abroad, it states that diplomatic representations are to protect and assist victims of violence, human trafficking, persecution, and other international crimes.. Based on this statute, the diplomatic offices and consulates are to promote the respect, rights, and interests of Bolivians while abroad. Bolivian parents can register their children and obtain their children's birth certificate while abroad.<sup>4</sup>

### >> Trends

Diaspora engagement in Bolivia is quite limited, evident in the sporadic and non-policy driven engagement activities with limited prioritization of diaspora into the national agenda. Progress is evident in the provision of consular services to allow the Bolivian diaspora to engage with government officials, make inquiries on services that they can access, and facilitate processes to stay up to date with their Bolivian documentation.

In most cases, what amounts to government engagement and practices is their participation as partners or welcoming third party initiatives from international organisations or the diaspora.

In recent years, the Bolivian government has prioritised strengthening consular protection, with a particular focus on members of the diaspora in vulnerable situations, such as women, children, and victims of human trafficking. In this context, it has reinforced cooperation with international organisations such as IOM, participating in dialogue and capacity-building initiatives to improve assistance to these groups.

## Obstacles



- **Diaspora institution:** Bolivians living abroad are yet to be consulted about the country's legislation and development policy. Without an official government body dedicated to the diaspora, there will be no strategic approach to engaging Bolivians living abroad. There are no entities with mandates to oversee, engage with, and protect Bolivians abroad.
- **Priority:** While Bolivians abroad have been participating in the process by voting from abroad and protesting in their countries of residence, the current attention from embassies, consulates, and government officials within the country is on national politics rather than on creating much needed policies relating to Bolivians living abroad.

2 <https://oiss.org/bolivia-firmo-el-acuerdo-de/> and [https://medios.economiayfinanzas.gob.bo/VPSF/documentos/Convenio\\_multilateral/1\\_QUE\\_ES\\_EL\\_CONVENIO.pdf](https://medios.economiayfinanzas.gob.bo/VPSF/documentos/Convenio_multilateral/1_QUE_ES_EL_CONVENIO.pdf)

3 <http://www.cancilleria.gob.bo/webmre/sites/default/files/files/PLAN%20ESTRATEGICO%20INSTITUCIONAL%20DEL%20MRE%20PEI%202013%20-%202017%20RM%20685.pdf>

4 <https://red-iam.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/Ley%20de%20Migración.pdf>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

Explore 400+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



### Remittances and Financial Inclusion Program, 2016

Financed primarily by the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) and the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), the programme aims to support central banks and other relevant authorities through the development of regulatory frameworks that promote the financial inclusion of remittance clients through services, information and products. It supports central banks, particularly the Bolivian Central Bank and other relevant authorities to identify, reduce and eliminate barriers to financial inclusion.

REMITTANCES

### Tigo Money and Western Union, 2016

To improve the effectiveness of remittances to Bolivia, Tigo Money and Western Union collaborated to offer immediate international remittance transactions through mobile wallets. Users can send funds from a Western Union agent or through their digital channels onto Tigo's Mobile Wallet application. The funds can be transferred or used to make payments. Western Union's tariffs are applied to the money transfer, which is paid by the person who sends the money; the recipient is not charged. The objective is to provide clients with access to Western Union's services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

REMITTANCES

### Consulado en tus Manos

New technologies have been introduced to increase access to consular services for Bolivians abroad. The mobile app "Consulado en Tus Manos" applies facial recognition techniques to provide Bolivians with documents. A Digital Consulate allows Bolivians living abroad to process documents and renew their driving licenses. Additionally, a Mobile Consul assists individuals 24 hours a day with their questions.

DIGITAL

### Distance Learning Technical Courses

The Plurinational Centre for Alternative Distance Education (CEPEAD), with the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education, offers the Bolivian diaspora training courses in technical specialities taught online. The courses are open to any Bolivian living abroad and are free of charge. CEPEAD offers courses in a variety of subjects, such as nursery education, agriculture and livestock, socio-community gerontology, textile manufacturing, civil construction and general accounting, among others.

EDUCATION

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions

- **Regional organisations:**

#### The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

As of March 2020 Bolivia is in the process of accession to the regional integration process which was established in 1991 to promote a common space between member countries to generate business and investment opportunities through the integration of national economies into the international market. Agreements established within the Southern Common Market relate to cultural, migratory, and labour matters.

- **National institutions:**

#### Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Establishment in 1884,. The ministry handles consular policy and it keeps a relatively low profile in terms of engaging with its diaspora, focusing efforts on keeping its consular offices active and accessible to Bolivians living abroad.<sup>5</sup>

#### Ombudsman's Office 1997

Governmental institution whose main objective is the protection and defence of the human rights of Bolivians, particularly of vulnerable groups and disadvantaged sectors. Its areas of action include Bolivians living abroad.

### Diaspora organisations in Europe

#### Anglo Bolivian Society 1995 UK

The Anglo Bolivian Society is a non-profit organization based in London that aims to promote and encourage social, cultural, and commercial relations between Bolivia and the United Kingdom. As a society, they maintain close relationships with embassies, diplomats, trade leaders, leading academics, researchers, students and political representatives in Bolivia and the UK.

#### Asociación Boliviana Asboles-Va Spain

An NGO that assists immigrants in Valencia, Spain, with their paperwork for legal status, conducts integration workshops, as well as legal assistance.

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)



Read more about diaspora organisations in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora organisation](#)"



<sup>5</sup> <https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/32654/INTERACT-RR-2014%20-%202012.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

### **Asociación de Bolivianos en España (ASBOE)** Spain

This organisation located in Spain seeks to inform, provide advice, and assist Bolivians living in Spain. The group also promotes Bolivian culture and celebrates its national holidays.

### **Centre Bolivià Català** Spain

The centre works to bring Bolivian immigrants in and around Barcelona together, to foster good relations between Bolivians and the Government of Catalonia, and to collaborate with national and municipal institutions to execute and apply immigrant integration policies. The centre is also a starting point for coordination with the entities responsible for health care, registration, education and legal assistance.

### **Espiritu de Santa Cruz de La Sierra** Spain

Located in Barcelona, this group coordinates cultural, athletic, social, and gastronomic events with the purpose of strengthening relationships between Santa Cruz and Catalunya, Bolivia, and Spain.

### **Friends of Bolivia** 1983 UK

#### **Development activities**

This UK based charity is dedicated to improving the living conditions of Bolivia's most vulnerable people by providing financial assistance to charities and NGOs working in the country. Their mission is to help improve the living conditions of Bolivia's poorest and neediest, particularly women, children and the elderly.

### **Fundacion ACOBE** 2004 Spain

This NGO located in Spain and in Bolivia aims to promote integration, tolerance, and solidarity for immigrants living in Spain. The primary participants are Bolivian immigrants in Spain. The organisation is also responsible for managing the Hispano-Bolivian Centre (CEPI) and provides legal, employment, and psychological support.

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