



# Diaspora engagement mapping

## PARAGUAY

### Facts & figures

#### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>2</sup>



#### Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.74%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **745,72**

#### 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).

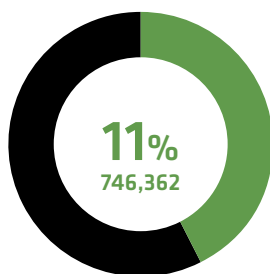
#### Emigration



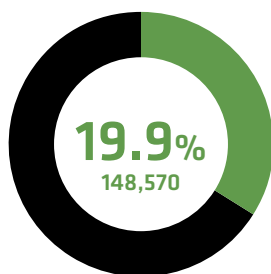
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 43%  
♀ 57%



♂ 34%  
♀ 66%

#### Top countries of destination



Argentina	517,429
Spain	144,878
Brazil	53,941
Chile	6,354
Canada	6,174

<sup>1</sup> Article 149 of the Constitution. It only allows for dual nationality if a bilateral treaty exists with another country, [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Paraguay\\_2011.pdf?lang=es](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Paraguay_2011.pdf?lang=es)

<sup>2</sup> Article 120 Constitution of Paraguay, [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Paraguay\\_2011.pdf?lang=es](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Paraguay_2011.pdf?lang=es)

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2012** ● **Resolution D.G.M No. 1096:** Since the adoption of this Resolution, if Paraguayans enter the country with a foreign passport and establish their Paraguayan nationality, they do not have to pay a fee.<sup>3</sup> Prior to 2012, Paraguayans with multiple nationalities (born in Paraguay and naturalised elsewhere) had to pay a penalty when entering the country with another passport.
- 2015** ● **Decree No. 4483 National Migration Policy (Decreto No. 4483 Política Nacional de Migraciones)** is Paraguay's first official national migration policy. It decrees that government entities analyse challenges and opportunities for residents abroad, promote and assist Paraguayan communities formed abroad, facilitate international participation in the legislative process, implement mechanisms to canalize remittances and facilitate the circulation of remittances amongst other initiatives.<sup>4</sup>
- 2022** ● **Law No. 6984 "On Migration",** established Paraguay's new immigration regime. It defines the principles and guidelines of the public policies in this matter and introduces the recognition of rights and guarantees for migrants, in line with international legal instruments on human rights and migration issues. It is also in line with the recommendations of competent international organizations.<sup>5</sup>



### Trends

Paraguay has been a late comer in terms of diaspora engagement. However, it is seeking to find ways to work with its diaspora. As in other countries, however, while the state seeks to establish communication channels and discuss development policy initiatives, there is a substantive vacuum as to the precision and purpose of those initiatives.



### Achievements

Within the last five years, Paraguay created its first national migration policy. This was meant to be a legislative roadmap for new legislation addressing migrants living within the country as well as its citizens abroad. This national migration policy outlines services which are to be provided to its citizens living abroad including the promotion of remittances.

The creation of specialised government units such as the General Migration Unit and the Unit Focused on Paraguayan Communities Living Abroad provides ample opportunity to create innovative and effective methods to engage the diaspora abroad such as through diaspora working groups for investment and the economic development of Paraguay.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.migraciones.gov.py/application/files/1015/0471/8741/RES.D.G.M.\\_N\\_1096\\_SE\\_EXONERA\\_DE\\_MULTAS\\_A\\_PARAGUAYOS.pdf](http://www.migraciones.gov.py/application/files/1015/0471/8741/RES.D.G.M._N_1096_SE_EXONERA_DE_MULTAS_A_PARAGUAYOS.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.migraciones.gov.py/application/files/4814/6886/6397/DECRETO4483\\_59t0gut8.pdf](http://www.migraciones.gov.py/application/files/4814/6886/6397/DECRETO4483_59t0gut8.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bacn.gov.py/leyes-paraguayas/10973/ley-n-6984-de-migraciones>

## Obstacles



- **Outdated legislation:** In 2016, the General Migration Unit (Dirección General de Migraciones) along with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and representatives of the Federation for Immigrants in Paraguay (FEDIPAR), introduced a new law for migration. This proposed new law sought to move beyond what is included in the current General Migration Law No. 978/96 and apply policies mentioned in the National Migration Policy. Specifically, the proposal aimed to expand consular presence in more countries.<sup>6</sup> However, this legislation has not passed, and Paraguay continues to operate under the General Migration Law. No. 978/96 which is over 20 years old. Such outdated legislation which does not account for current challenges creates obstacles to diaspora engagement.
- **Limited scope of dual nationality:** Paraguay's current policy on dual nationality, states that Paraguayans can only be dual nationals of countries which have international treaties permitting them to be so. As of January 14, 2020, Paraguay only has such treaties with Italy and Spain. This is effectively a barrier to Paraguayans living in countries with which Paraguay has not signed such a treaty.
- **Lack of cultural promotion:** There is little effort by Paraguayan authorities abroad to promote, foster, and preserve cultural heritage among members of the diaspora. None of the services provided by the DACPE, at least according to their web page, includes services which foster or promote cultural strengthening. Rather, many of the services offered by the DACPE relate to the repatriation or immediate security of the diaspora.<sup>7</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

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



### MIF and Visión Banco Partnership - 2014

The Remittances and Savings Program of the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), member of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Visión Banco signed a project agreement to reduce the vulnerability of remittance clients in Paraguay and improve their livelihoods by promoting savings at a formal financial institution. This project was also financed by Australian Aid, which supports projects within the MIF's Remittances and Savings Program. The initiative aims to directly benefit 27,750 Paraguayan remittance recipients residing in Paraguay and remittance senders in two migrant communities in Spain.

REMITTANCES

### Paraguay's migrant service system 2018

In an effort to strengthen the programmes for Paraguayans abroad, a delegation from the Dirección de Atención a las Comunidades Paraguayas and consuls in major US cities attended a meeting on consular best practices at the Mexican Consulate in New York City. This meeting provided a space for dialogue and reflection regarding the identity of diasporas and their connections with the home country.

NETWORKS +  
CONSULAR SERVICES

### Diaspora Engagement, Data Management 2014-2020

ICMPD, under the MEUX programme, developed a Training curriculum on migration and development to support the implementation of the Paraguayan National Migration Policy, in particular to support the government in professionalising its public services for Paraguayans abroad.

CAPACITY  
BUILDING

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.migraciones.gov.py/index.php/noticias/presentan-propuesta-de-reforma-de-la-ley-migratoria-nacional-al-poder-legislativo>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.mre.gov.py/v2/Home/Contenido/579>



## Empowering The South American Diaspora As Agents For Sustainable Development

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The objective of this project is to support governments (including Paraguay) to contribute to the empowerment of the South American diaspora as actors in the sustainable development of the region, especially in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project foresees two main outcomes:

- The governments and other actors in the participating countries share lessons learned and good practices in relation to diaspora engagement;
- Men and women of the South American diaspora actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the well-being of communities in the region.

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP + RETURN & REINTEGRATION

## SEDERREC's Program to Support Entrepreneurial Returnees

This program provides technical and financial assistance to migrants who wish to return to the country and start a business for their socioeconomic reintegration.

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level:**

#### **The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) 1991**

MERCOSUR is a regional integration process that promotes 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**

- At ministerial level:

#### **Foreign Affairs Ministry (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores)**

The Foreign Affairs Ministry plans, coordinates, and executes foreign policy oriented towards the defense of international rights and the country's and its national's interests.

- At sub-ministerial level

#### **General Directorate of Consular Affairs (DGAC)**

DGAC is in charge of the country's consular policy (among others). Under its orbit, it operates the Directorate of Attention to Paraguayan Nationals Abroad (DACPE). Within the DACPE operates the Department of Attention to Migrants, which deals with issues related to detainees and convicts abroad, and social assistance.

#### **Paraguayos en Europa 2023**

A group of young Paraguayans inspired by the desire to create a community that unites them as compatriots living in Europe, with the aim of facilitating cultural exchange among themselves.

#### **Unit Focused on Paraguayan Communities Living Abroad (La Dirección de Atención a las Comunidades Paraguayas en el Extranjero - DACPE) 2009**

The DACPE, which operates within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was created through Decree No. 3.514/2009 and seeks to provide assistance to facilitate the regularisation of documents for Paraguayans living abroad, coordinate legal assistance for the protection of Paraguayan immigrants' human rights, coordinate programs related to remittances, assist citizens in deportation proceedings, and support cultural programmes that preserve national identity.<sup>8</sup> Services provided by DACPE include: personalised attention to families of Paraguayan migrants, localisation of individuals, repatriation, public funds for individuals with urgent needs, and assistance to Paraguayans who have been detained or charged while abroad.

<sup>8</sup> Respuestas del Estado Paraguayo al Cuestionario Sobre "Derechos Humanos de los Migrantes: La Migración y los Derechos del Niño"

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



## **General Migration Unit (Dirección General de Migraciones) 1996**

The General Migration Unit, which operates within the Ministry of Interior was created through Migration Law No. 978 and is in charge of applying and executing the National Migration Policy both for Paraguayans living in the country and for those living abroad.

## **Diaspora organisations in Europe**

There are few established Paraguayan diaspora organisations in Europe. This weak diaspora mosaic could be due to the size of the Paraguayan diaspora in the EU: 75,766. Spain is the second migrant destination of Paraguayans.

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



### **Asociación de Paraguayos en Malaga Spain 2004**

An NGO that aids Paraguayan immigrants with services such as, labor insertion, integration of immigrants with the host population through coexistence and integration of a positive image. The association works on providing for basic needs including food, clothing, medical care and legal aid. The group also provides job placement assistance.

### **Asociación de Paraguayos de Alcobendas y San Sebastián de los Reyes Spain 2012**

This group promotes the integration of Paraguayan immigrants and other nationalities residing in Spain as well as development and humanitarian aid programs. Their mission is to share Paraguayan culture and values between Spanish nationals and other nationalities. Similarly, they also seek to share the Spanish culture and values amongst Paraguayans.

#### **Development activities**

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Find out more at [www.diasporafordevelopment.eu](http://www.diasporafordevelopment.eu)