



# Diaspora engagement mapping DOMINICA

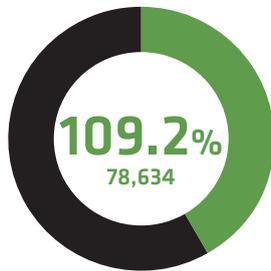
## Facts & figures

### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 41.8%  
♀ 58.2%



♂ 38.7%  
♀ 61.3%



**Remittances as a share of GDP: 8.4%**  
**Remittances inflow (USD million): 46**



### Top countries of destination

U.S.	34,965 (44%)
U.K.	9,272 (12%)
France	7,093 (9%)
U.S. Virgin Islands	5,510 (7%)
Antigua & Barbados	4,934 (6%)



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>12</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



Voting from abroad



## Diaspora Policy 2010



Established by the Ministry of Trade, Employment, Industry and Diaspora, the Diaspora Policy focuses on the Dominican diaspora and recognises its ability to contribute meaningfully to the country's social and economic development.

The Diaspora Policy focuses on citizenship rights, skills retention, skills transfer, financial and economic incentives, investment opportunities, trade promotion, tourism promotion, and cultural exchanges. In relation to each of these topics, the policy commits the government to a range of activities such as working with its diaspora to develop financial instruments through which they may contribute to funding projects at national and community levels; establishing a database of skilled non-resident Dominicans; and encouraging information flow from the diaspora to the government to guide policy and strategies. The Diaspora Policy also established an annual Dominican Diaspora Day in November in order to meet with visiting overseas nationals to monitor the implementation of the Diaspora Policy.<sup>3</sup>

1 Dominica Citizenship Act, Part II, <http://www.dominica.gov.dm/laws/chapters/chap1-10.pdf>

2 [https://www.dominicagardens.com/uploads/9/2/0/3/92034718/dominica\\_diaspora\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dominicagardens.com/uploads/9/2/0/3/92034718/dominica_diaspora_policy.pdf)

3 [https://www.dominicagardens.com/uploads/9/2/0/3/92034718/dominica\\_diaspora\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dominicagardens.com/uploads/9/2/0/3/92034718/dominica_diaspora_policy.pdf)

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



### 2019 ● The National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS): Dominica 2030

The NRDS was created through the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and with the participation of various ministries, departments, and agencies. It sets the governmental priorities to reach sustainable economic growth, generate employment, reduce poverty and increase social protection, and improve the overall quality of life of its citizens. The NRDS recognises that the diaspora can play an important role through knowledge transfer to Dominica's citizens. A priority area is to focus on social planning strategies to encourage the return of the diaspora through strategies which allow them to contribute to the country's workforce at a later age. The NRDS recognizes the need to engage the diaspora through remittance flows, knowledge transfers, application of skills and investments for a resilient and prosperous nation.<sup>4</sup>

#### >> Trends:

There is an evident understanding that the diaspora should be engaged for local development as seen through the Diaspora Policy and the current National Resilience Development Strategy. The government's view of the diaspora's impact is expansive and recognises the need to direct efforts towards creating knowledge transfer activities and incentivising the diaspora to invest in the country and promote tourism.

## Obstacles



- **Inactivity:** While there is a specific diaspora policy, it has not been updated since 2010. Furthermore, the potential of diaspora involvement is limited by the few projects and activities executed by the government.
- **Resources:** Recent natural disasters have reduced the resources available to engage with the diaspora and have redirected them to respond to immediate needs. The government needs to find options to dedicate time and resources to identify and create relationships with the diaspora.
- **Institutional reach:** Embassies and consulates are key spaces for government representatives to meet with and engage the diaspora. However, there are currently only six embassies and one consulate in operation.<sup>5</sup> This may limit the diaspora's access to its representatives abroad and therefore the potential to establish relationships and potentially work together for the country's development.

4 <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/sites/default/files/plan/files/Dominica%202030The%20National%20Resilience%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>

5 <https://www.dominicaembassy.com/>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Diaspora Connect - 2017

Following Hurricane Maria, the High Commission for The Commonwealth of Dominica relaunched its website to include a section called “Diaspora Connect” in order to identify and strengthen its diaspora. Diaspora Connect shares information related to Dominican associations and events relevant to the diaspora. This section includes a volunteer registration page that allows Dominicans to enter their information so they can be contacted when their assistance is required. The High Commission plans on creating a skills database to identify individuals within specific professions.<sup>6</sup>

HUMANITARIAN  
AID

### Dominica Diaspora Connection (DDC) - 2018

This initiative was established by the Discover Dominica Authorities (DDA) to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the country’s independence and recognise the contribution that Dominicans living abroad have made to their home country. The DDC is an open membership group for Dominicans in the diaspora. Members receive special benefits and information on cultural and national development, airline and accommodation specials, recognition and rewards for contribution to the national economy, and assistance in travel for members’ groups visiting from their country of residence. To launch this initiative, the DDA conducted the Distinguished Dominicans activity featuring members of the diaspora community in social media channels. In addition, the ‘First Forty’ awards rewarded the first forty diaspora members to arrive to Dominica in November with commemorative gifts and the ‘Bring Home a Friend Campaign’ awarded a special prize to individuals who sent or brought the most friends to Dominica between October 2018 and March 2019.<sup>7</sup>

TOURISM

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.dominicahighcommission.co.uk/single-post/2017/11/29/Dominica-High-Commission-launches-new-website-and-Social-media-feeds>

<sup>7</sup> <https://dominicafestivals.com/dominica-diaspora-connection/>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

#### **The Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent countries which Dominica joined in 1978. The member countries have agreed to promote development, democracy, and peace. Through coordination and cooperation, the Commonwealth group attempts to mitigate threats to peace and security, human rights, and democracy.<sup>8</sup>

- **National institutions**
  - At ministerial level

#### **The Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Business and Export Development**

The Ministry's mission is to formulate and implement policies to advance and encourage Dominica's trade, industry, domestic and foreign investment, private sector relations, consumer protection and the full engagement of the diaspora for greater growth and development. This Ministry has the responsibility to manage diaspora relations.<sup>9</sup>

#### **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations**

This entity is responsible for formulating and implementing the foreign policies of the government. It executes all diplomatic and consular relations with foreign governments and represents Dominica in international organisations. Its mission is to increase social and economic development through foreign policies.<sup>10</sup>

- At sub-ministerial level

#### **The Discover Dominica Authorities (DDA)**

The DDA is a statutory body responsible for the implementation of tourism promotion and marketing activities. The DDA has developed specific promotion activities focused on the diaspora such as the "Dominica Diaspora Connection."<sup>11</sup>

8 <https://thecommonwealth.org/about-us/charter>

9 [http://dominica.gov.dm/services/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=137&Itemid=298](http://dominica.gov.dm/services/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=137&Itemid=298)

10 <http://www.dominica.gov.dm/ministries/foreign-affairs-international-business-and-diaspora-relations>

11 [http://dhta.org/talking-tourism/2018/10/25/discover-dominica-authority-launch-diaspora-initiatives/;](http://dhta.org/talking-tourism/2018/10/25/discover-dominica-authority-launch-diaspora-initiatives/)  
<https://discoverdominica.com/en>

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



The UK and France are the second and third largest destination for Dominicans living abroad with a combined population of Dominicans totalling 16,365. The relatively small population of Dominicans living abroad can explain the limited number of diaspora organisations in Europe.

**Dominica First** 1995 UK <https://www.dominicafirst.com/about>

### ☑ Development activities

This group collaborates, plans and facilitates rapid disaster relief response between member associations and groups. This group is composed of seven charities and other groups.<sup>12</sup>

**Dominican UK Association (DUKA)** 1976 UK

### ☑ Development activities

This charity's key focus areas include poverty relief, health care provision, education, and the youth primarily in Dominica and the United Kingdom.<sup>13</sup>

**Grand Bay UK Dominica Community Alliance** 1992 UK

### ☑ Development activities

This NGO is focused on providing economic and educational assistance for Grand Bay in the south of Dominica. It relies primarily on the support of Dominicans for fundraising activities for organisations in Dominica such as the Grand Bay's primary and secondary schools, Saint Jerome's home for the elderly, and the Grand Bay Public Library.<sup>14</sup>

**Slough Dominican Association - SDA** 2018 UK

### ☑ Development activities

This non-profit organisation is composed of a community of Dominicans supporting efforts to rebuild the country following Hurricane Maria in 2018. Their aim is to provide long-term support to schools, medical centres, and infirmaries through fundraising activities.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.dominicafirst.com/about>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.duka.org.uk/index.php/about-us>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GrandBayUKDominica>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/pg/sloughdominican/about/>

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



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

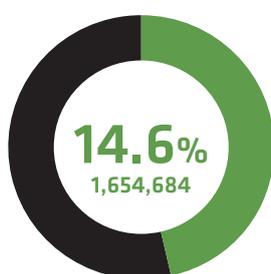


# Diaspora engagement mapping CUBA

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

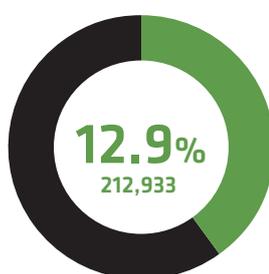
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 46.5%  
♀ 53.5%



% of which in the EU



♂ 40.4%  
♀ 59.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **N/A**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **N/A**



### Top countries of destination

USA	1,337,371
Spain	141,447
Italy	37,307
Canada	19,010
Puerto Rico	13,645



### Political rights



Dual citizenship\*<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>23</sup>



Voting from abroad



**Cuba does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



There is no government-diaspora engagement in terms of policy or legislative framework. The Division of Migration Policy and Cuban Residents Abroad focuses predominantly in 'tramitología' or paperwork related to consular services to Cubans abroad.

1 Article 36 of the 2019 Cuban Constitution amended the law to allow Cubans dual citizenship. However, it stipulates that while in Cuba (temporarily or permanently) they are treated as a Cuban citizen, not a foreign national. <http://www.granma.cu/file/pdf/gaceta/Nueva%20Constituci%C3%B3n%20240%20KB-1.pdf>

2 <http://www.granma.cu/file/pdf/gaceta/Nueva%20Constituci%C3%B3n%20240%20KB-1.pdf>

3 Comments online are illustrative of permitting voting abroad. However, it is not clear whether this happens in practice. Citizens must have lived in the host country for at least two years, be duly registered in their Municipality (in Cuba) and they have to be registered in the electoral list (in Cuba). <https://twitter.com/SoberonGuzman/status/1085223108305477633>



## Trends:

In consequence, to new migration flows from Cuba to destinations like Spain or Latin American countries, as of 2018 the government of Cuba has started to promote engagement with Cubans abroad. For example, it has stated the importance of Cubans abroad as a pillar of defence and it has organised a national event in April 2020 to bring back Cubans living in the diaspora.<sup>4</sup>

Medical tourism is one area of diaspora engagement. Cuba markets itself as a destination for medical tourism by offering high-quality medical infrastructure, expertise, and services at competitive prices. It has strong medical tourism campaigns that raise awareness among and seek support from diaspora members regarding medical services. As a result, many diaspora members have invested, volunteered, or made philanthropic contributions to the medical sectors in Cuba.<sup>5</sup> Achievements:

The government of Cuba involved Cubans abroad in drafting the 2018 constitutional reform. A section was enabled on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX) website so that all Cubans abroad could access an online form to send proposals for modifications or comments about the constitution.<sup>6</sup>

## Obstacles:



- **Low priority:** Cuba has a lower level of institutionalisation of diaspora policies than may be expected based on the importance of its diaspora and considering most of the country's challenges involve Cuba's political system and the international community's relationship with it.<sup>7</sup>
- **Trust:** The diaspora has little trust in the Cuban government, particularly those that exited voluntarily following the regime change which was opposed by groups who then fled into exile. A perception of pervasive corruption and ineffective governance at home can impede the ability to build trust.<sup>8</sup> The significant political discrepancy between the government and the diaspora also means that government effectiveness deteriorates when it comes to possible cooperation with the diaspora.<sup>9</sup>
- **Remittances:** In addition to Cuban policy, U.S. laws bring challenges to sending remittances. In 2019, the Trump Administration changed policies to increase pressure on the Cuban government for its violations of human rights. For example, The Treasury Department eliminated donation remittances, a category that allowed Americans to send money to friends or organizations in Cuba.<sup>10</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



There are no diaspora-engagement initiatives involving government authorities, development agencies, or the private sector, including on remittances.

4 <http://misiones.minrex.gob.cu/es/articulo/los-cubanos-residentes-en-el-exterior-constituyen-un-importante-pilar-en-la-defensa-de-la-1>

5 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)

6 <http://misiones.minrex.gob.cu/es/articulo/cubanos-residentes-en-el-exterior-participaran-en-debate-del-proyecto-de-constitucion-2>

7 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)

8 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)

9 Soltész, Béla. "Migration and Diaspora Policy Institutions in Latin America." *Demografía English Edition*, vol. 59, no. 5, 2017, doi:10.21543/dee.2016.2.

10 <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/cuba/article234796257.html>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions

- **At national level**
  - At sub-ministerial level i.e. agency, committee, departments

#### Consular Policy Division

<http://www.minrex.gob.cu/en/direccion-de-asuntos-consulares-y-atencion-cubanos-residentes-en-el-exterior-daccre>

This entity is entrusted with managing consular affairs of Cubans living abroad.

#### Division of Migration Policy and Cuban Residents Abroad

<http://www.minrex.gob.cu/en/direccion-de-asuntos-consulares-y-atencion-cubanos-residentes-en-el-exterior-daccre>

A newly created entity operating since 2018 with the purpose to extend other services to Cubans abroad. Its approach is to promote Cuba's culture among its diaspora. It has scheduled a conference in 2020.<sup>11</sup>

### Diaspora organisations in Europe



#### Asociación cubana extremeña. ASCUEX Spain

<http://ascuex.blogspot.com/2011/05/asociacion-cubana-extremena.html>

An association that attends to Cuban immigrants, helping them to insert themselves into Spanish society and creating a space for entertainment and recreation among all Cubans. Spanish citizens who are interested in Cuban history and culture can also be part of the organisation.

#### Asociación de Cubanos Italy

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/AsociacionDeCubanos/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/AsociacionDeCubanos/about/?ref=page_internal)

The association is based in Italy and develops cultural events and activities, commercial and recreational. It creates partnerships with other Italian associations and groups and works to strengthen its bond with the country and institutions. The association also develops joint actions with political, religious and social workers and undertakes actions to transmit culture to generations born outside the island, preserving and promoting the most authentic of their roots.

#### Asociación de cubanos residentes en Andalucía. Tocatoro Spain

<http://asociaciondecubanoستocatoro.blogspot.com/p/quienes-somos-la-asociacion-de-cubanos.html>

The association of Cubans living in Andalusia, Tocatoro is a non-profit organisation promoting cultural exchange between Cuba and Andalusia. It is composed mainly of Cubans, their families and friends from Cuba.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.nacionyemigracion.cu/content/daccre>

**Comuna Cuba** (Spain) <http://www.comunacuba.es/index.html>

Organisation focused on sharing Cuban culture in Spain.

**Federación de asociaciones de cubanos residentes en España** Spain  
<https://facrejosemarti.wordpress.com/>

Coordination platform for the purpose of sharing a common culture and ideology.

**La Mesa de la Unidad Cubana (MUC)** Spain  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/MUCCuba/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/MUCCuba/about/?ref=page_internal)

An association based in Spain that has among its objectives to mobilise Spanish and European public opinion, governments and EU institutions to advocate for freedoms and rights in Cuba. This appears to be more for Cubans in exile and those based in Spain.

**Observatoria Cubano de Derechos Humanos** Spain <https://observacuba.org/>

The Spain-based organisation provides humanitarian, social, medical and integration support to Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, whether released or in prison and contributes to the transformation of Cuba into a social and democratic State based on the rule of law.

**Trans-Fusion** Spain [https://www.transfusioncultural.org/?page\\_id=24](https://www.transfusioncultural.org/?page_id=24)

The organisation is based in Spain and aims to serve as a bridge to fuse cultures in all directions, transcending any kind of barriers in pursuit of a common good: to share culture with mutual respect, by understanding each other's values and the creativity of the human being regardless of race, social, economic or political condition.

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



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

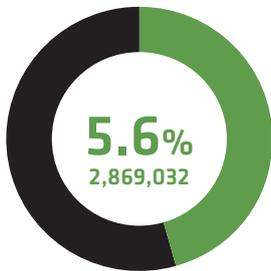


# Diaspora engagement mapping COLOMBIA

## Facts & figures

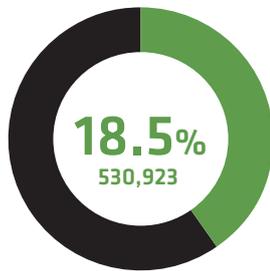
### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 45.6%  
♀ 54.4%

% of which in the EU



♂ 40.4%  
♀ 59.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **2.1%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **7,011**



### Top countries of destination

Venezuela	953,386
U.S.	798,294
Spain	367,816
Ecuador	191,537
Chile	120,626



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



Colombia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/node/6289>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.registraduria.gov.co/-Colombianos-en-el-Exterior,3752-.html>, The Colombia Diaspora in the United States." Migration Policy Institute for the Rockefeller Foundation-Aspen Institute Diaspora Program. May 2016.

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2003** ● **Decree 1239<sup>3</sup>** established the National Intersectoral Commission on Migration (CNIM) as a body for coordination and guidance in the implementation of immigration policy, which includes informing Colombians abroad about strategies concerning rights to protection and social security.
- 2009** ● **CONPES 3603 Document<sup>4</sup>** approved the Comprehensive Migration Policy (PIM) established to provide guidelines, strategies and actions to assist Colombians abroad. It also acknowledges the rights of Colombians abroad and proposes measures such as developing a strategy for the use of remittances and the establishment of a remittances committee.<sup>5</sup>
- 2009** ● **Comprehensive Migration Policy (PIM)<sup>6</sup>** - has the goals to: achieve the defence, protection and guarantee of the rights of Colombians abroad; to strengthen the transfer of skills of diaspora members with high human capital, as well as to maintain and expand training opportunities for Colombians abroad; and to ensure a permanent, sufficient and effective supply of state services towards Colombians abroad.
- 2011** ● **Law No. 1465 of 2011<sup>7</sup>** established the National Migration System (SMN) as “a harmonious combination of institutions, civil society organizations, norms, processes, plans and programmes through which to undertake the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of migration policy so as to enhance the quality of life of Colombian communities abroad.”<sup>8</sup> It proposes measures such as developing a strategy for the productive use of remittances and the establishment of a remittances committee.



### Trends:

Firstly, there is an increasing interest in Colombia in strengthening the infrastructure supporting remittances and a renewed focus on using remittances more productively by cross selling products linked to remittances and securitising remittance flows.<sup>9</sup>

Colombia has investment schemes but does not have remittances for co-development, controls on remittance fees or improvement to remittance channels. In this regard, Colombia has reformed its tax laws to encourage expatriates to send a larger portion of their earnings to relatives in Colombia. The focus is on easing obstacles and providing incentives.

Secondly, there is a push to maintain relations between the state and diverse groups of the diaspora. The diaspora has an active part in engagement with the state, demanding participation in Colombian affairs.



### Achievement:

An International Victims' Forum was established in 2014. It mobilised people in Europe and the Americas to make those living abroad more visible in the peace negotiations and to demand recognition of their rights in the process.

3 [https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/sites/default/files/Normograma/docs/decreto\\_1239\\_2003.htm](https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/sites/default/files/Normograma/docs/decreto_1239_2003.htm)

4 <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/colombia/migracion/conpes>; <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Econ%C3%B3micos/3603.pdf>

5 <http://www.banrep.gov.co/es/remesas>

6 <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/colombia/migration/policy>;

7 [http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/senado/basedoc/ley\\_1465\\_2011.html](http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/senado/basedoc/ley_1465_2011.html)

8 <https://www.iom.int/countries/colombia>

9 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)



## Obstacles

- **Trust:** One challenge to diaspora engagement is building trust after decades-long civil war and political conflict. Although Colombian immigrants have started initiatives to form associations in the United States in order to facilitate collective action or giving, in practical terms few groups have been formed due to lack of trust and the fragmented nature of the diaspora (there are divisions between those supporting the peace agreements and those against it).
- **Resentment:** Efforts to promote the participation of the diaspora have not always been welcomed by civil society in Colombia because of widely held perceptions that 'living abroad' equalled 'living in comfort'. At times, sectors of the political opposition have criticized those who 'abandoned' the country in difficult times and later wanted to participate.<sup>10</sup>
- **Gender:** Difficulties such as 'machismo' in civil society organizations remain a significant hurdle for the participation of women both in Colombia and abroad.<sup>11</sup>
- **Bureaucracy:** Red tape and the lack of precedents have further impeded the implementation of participation in diaspora initiatives. For example, three years after having set aside two seats for diaspora representation, the National Peace Council has not been able to agree on the mechanism to select two people to occupy them.

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Colombia Unites Us<sup>12</sup>

Colombia Unites Us is run by the Directorate for Immigration, Consular Affairs and Citizen Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As of this writing, Colombia Nos One had two "investment projects" which provide a total of \$2.5 million in general programme support<sup>13</sup> and intend to strengthen and provide support to the Colombian community abroad.<sup>14</sup>

Colombia Nos One offers a housing programme for emigrants who are interested in buying a home in Colombia but require financial support. The initiative runs the program Mi Casa con Remesas together with the National Bank of Colombia and IDB.

Colombia Nos One has also partnered with the Colombian Foreign Trade Bank (BANCOLDEX) to offer lines of credit to diaspora entrepreneurs. In addition, it offers nonfinancial support to entrepreneurs such as working with local universities to train individuals on business management.

It also has a virtual portal, Portal RedEsColombia to increase interaction among members of the diaspora and promote new ideas for development. The Colombian government considers the website to be one of its most successful initiatives.

INVESTMENT

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

10 The Colombia Diaspora in the United States." Migration Policy Institute for the Rockefeller Foundation-Aspen Institute Diaspora Program. May 2016

11 <https://www.c-r.org/accord/inclusion-peace-processes/colombian-diaspora-peace-process>

12 <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/content/%E2%80%9Ccolombia-nos-une%E2%80%9D-colombia-unites-us>

13 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)

14 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)



INFORMATION

### Conexion Colombia<sup>15</sup>

Provides useful information for Colombians abroad via a website that allows exchange on academic and sport related information, look for jobs abroad, and search for financial sponsors.

DIGITAL

### Democracy Earth Foundation<sup>16</sup>

The tech non-profit launched digital voting platform Plebiscito Digital and worked with several civil society organisations to allow Colombians abroad to cast symbolic votes through the platform. The Digital Plebiscite was powered by blockchain technology, testing a new way of validating and authenticating electoral votes.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.conexioncolombia.com/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://democracy.earth/>, <https://www.oecd.org/gov/innovative-government/embracing-innovation-in-government-colombia.pdf>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions



- **National institutions**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs** <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/minister>

Among its many functions, the MFA formulates and executes activities for the protection of the rights of Colombians abroad, and takes relevant actions with the authorities of the country in which they are to be found, in accordance with the principles and rules of international law.

- **At sub-ministerial level**

**National Intersectoral Commission on Migration (CNIM) 2003**

<https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/colombia/migration/policy/commission>

Decree 1239/2003 set up CNIM as a body for coordination and guidance in the implementation of immigration policy. Its duties include creating programmes that allow the reconnecting of Colombian nationals with the country and informing Colombians abroad about strategies concerning rights to protection and social security in order to safeguard employment history and other benefits which workers can access. An amendment to Decree 1239/2003 linked Colombians abroad - Colombia Nos Une programme - as the Technical Secretariat of the CNIM.

**Bureau of Consular and Citizen Affairs: Colombia Nos Une 2002**

<https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/help/faq/cnu>

This Internal Working Group attached to the Directorate of Migration, Consular Affairs and Citizen Service seeks to link Colombians abroad and make them subjects of public policies. Likewise, it seeks to establish the conditions for nationals who wish to migrate to do so voluntarily and in an orderly manner, ensuring the protection of their rights, maintaining their links with the country, and providing support in the event of their eventual return.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



**Aculco (Asociación Cultural Colombiana - Colombian Cultural Association) 1992 Spain**

<https://aculco.org/>

Aculco is a non-profit organisation established in Spain by Colombians residing in the country. It provides information and support to migrants in Europe and it is dedicated to increasing social awareness about the migration phenomenon. One of its aims is to increase the political participation of foreign communities in Spain, Italy, and England.

**Colombianitos** 2001 UK <https://colombianitos.org/en/>

✔ Development activities

Colombianitos is an international organisation with offices in the UK, US and Colombia. It aims to change the future of Colombia by investing in children and by using sport as a tool for social development. Its programme “Scoring for life” was selected as the ‘best practice for youth’ in Latin America and the Caribbean by UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank.

**Colombia Solidarity Campaign** UK <https://colombiasolidarity.org.uk/about>

This UK based organisation campaigns for sustainable peace and a socially just Colombia.

**Comité Madrileño por defensa de los derechos humanos en Colombia** Spain  
<https://www.nodo50.org/comadehco/>

✔ Development activities

A Spanish non-profit association that works for the defence of human rights and International Humanitarian Law in Colombia. It studies and disseminates information on the economic, social and cultural situation in Colombia. It also organises awareness activities such as courses, conferences, seminars, colloquiums, round tables and cinema-forums aimed at increasing the solidarity of the Spanish population and Europe in general.

**Diaspora Woman Belgium Spain Sweden** UK <https://www.mujerdiaspora.com/>

Formerly the Truth, Memory and Reconciliation Commission of Colombian Women in the Diaspora, Diaspora Woman is an organisation was founded by women from diverse social and political backgrounds who saw the need for a space specifically for women for psychosocial healing and reconciliation and to address the exclusion of women’s voices and experiences in the peace process. They have hubs in London, Barcelona, Stockholm and Brussels and the network also works on diaspora integration in host countries.

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

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

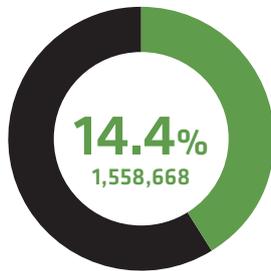


# Diaspora engagement mapping DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

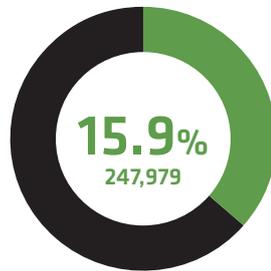
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 41.3%  
♀ 58.7%



% of which in the EU



♂ 36.4%  
♀ 63.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **8.6%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **7,359**



### Top countries of destination

U.S.	1,173,662
Spain	167,176
Puerto Rico	50,643
Italy	46,127
Venezuela	14,441



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



**The Dominican Republic does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

1 Article 20 of the Dominican Constitution, <https://republica-dominicana.justia.com/nacionales/constitucion-de-la-republica-dominicana/titulo-i/capitulo-v/seccion-i/>

2 <https://acento.com.do/2016/especiales/8329993-el-voto-de-los-dominicanos-as-en-el-exterior/>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2015** ● **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2020** focuses on aligning the national development agenda with the country's international context. The MFA commits to develop the diaspora's national identity, facilitate the reinsertion of returnees, protect Dominicans while abroad, and promote the integration of Dominicans living abroad in the country's development.<sup>3</sup>
- 2015** ● **Presidential Decree No. 372-15** created the Institute for Dominicans Abroad (Instituto de Dominicanos y Dominicanas en el Exterior - INDEX). The decree commits INDEX to developing programmes that strengthen ties with Dominicans living abroad and integrate them into the economic, political, social, technological, and cultural development of the Dominican Republic.<sup>4</sup>
- 2016** ● **President Danilo Medina's Government Programme 2016-2020** commits to promoting links between citizens living abroad and the development of their communities in their country of origin. Additionally, the programme pledges to design and execute mechanisms to reduce the cost of and promote the productive use of remittances.<sup>5</sup>
- 2016** ● **Organic Law No. 630-16** delineates the MFA and its subdivisions' roles and responsibilities. The law also mentions the need to strengthen links with Dominicans abroad and include them in the country's operations and development.<sup>6</sup>
- 2018** ● **Law No. 1-08 on the National Council for the Dominican Communities Living Abroad:** the law created the National Council for the Dominican Communities Living Abroad (Consejo Nacional para las Comunidades Dominicanas en el Exterior- CONDEX) led by the President. Justifying the creation of the council, the law mentions the need to develop policies that can utilise the contribution that Dominican communities abroad can have on the economic, political, social, and technological development in the country.<sup>7</sup> The INDEX and CONDEX are separate entities and do not always coordinate their efforts. There are two main differences: INDEX is subordinated to the Foreign Relations ministry, whereas CONDEX is led by the President's office with a council of advisors.

### » Trends

The Dominican state has shown commitment to create links between Dominicans living abroad and the national interests. INDEX and CONDEX are entrusted to foster these ties, yet the efforts are relatively new, making it hard to identify specific trends or patterns beyond the institutional interest in diaspora engagement for development.

The Dominican diaspora is also actively seeking to engage with the government through organisations in Europe, France, Italy and Spain, as well as in the United States.

## Obstacles



- **Commitment:** The government's specific attention to linking the diaspora with the country's development plans is recent. It will take time to create relationships with diaspora and develop mechanisms to reach out to them. Furthermore, although there are mentions in the legislation and policy to link the diaspora with the country's operations and interests, there is no detailed plan on how to do so.

3 <https://www.mirex.gob.do/pdf/planestrategico.pdf>

4 [https://index.mirex.gob.do/images/reglamento\\_index\\_decreto\\_303-17.pdf](https://index.mirex.gob.do/images/reglamento_index_decreto_303-17.pdf)

5 [https://presidencia.gob.do/sites/default/files/Plan\\_Gobierno\\_Danilo\\_Medina\\_2016-2020\\_v2.pdf](https://presidencia.gob.do/sites/default/files/Plan_Gobierno_Danilo_Medina_2016-2020_v2.pdf)

6 <https://dgii.gov.do/legislacion/leyesTributarias/Documents/Otras%20Leyes%20de%20Inter%C3%A9s/630-16.pdf>

7 [http://legalia.com.do/serve/listfile\\_download.aspx?id=1007&num=1](http://legalia.com.do/serve/listfile_download.aspx?id=1007&num=1)

- **Resources:** Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' strategic plan, specific weaknesses are mentioned that may result in challenges for diaspora engagement. The MFA stated that its structure is obsolete and that there are insufficient funds to meet the promises made. Weaknesses such as insufficient funds can lead to embassies and consulates focusing on immediate needs rather than new projects such as the mapping of diaspora groups, as identified by other agencies, like Condex. Furthermore, the Ministry has stated that there is a lack of supervision and control of personnel working abroad.<sup>8</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### City Juan Bosch (Cuidad Juan Bosch) - Currently Active

This public-private-partnership coordinated by the President's Ministry and executed through the Public Matrix's Trust for the Construction of Low-Cost Housing Dominican Republic assists all Dominicans, including those abroad, access housing. Dominicans living abroad are able to access benefits such as the ITBIS bond and the Land Bond, which may provide between 8-12% of the value of housing within City Juan Bosch. When the banks associated with this project analyse a participants' ability to pay, they take income supported by remittances into account.<sup>9</sup>

HOUSING

### SocialiSation Workshop for the Processes of the Dominican Diaspora Integration into the Local Development Processes in the Dominican Republic 2019

Through this workshop, the Ministry of Economics, Planning, and Development in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) strategised on how to include the Dominican diaspora for the development of the country, including new methods for the sending and receipt of remittances. As an outcome, a community based pilot diagnostic (not yet implemented by the government) to identify the key areas of engagement of the diaspora will be conducted. Subsequently, a Working Group for Local Development will be created and will include the diaspora as participants. The plan is to then institutionalise the resulting structures and actions in order to replicate this process in communities beyond the pilot community.<sup>10</sup> At this workshop, IOM presented its proposal for an International Guarantee Fund (FIG DOMEX) which would support saving and access to credit in the country of destination for investment in the Dominican Republic.<sup>11</sup>

OUTREACH

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.mirex.gob.do/pdf/planestrategico.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://ciudadjuanbosch.gob.do/dominicanos-del-exterior/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://mepyd.gob.do/imparten-taller-integracion-la-diaspora-dominicana-al-desarrollo-local-rd/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://programamesoamerica.iom.int/en/news/iom-supports-efforts-dominican-republic-diaspora-integration-and-crisis-management>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**
  - At ministerial level

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** 2016

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs develops foreign affairs policy linking the national development agenda with international affairs in order to benefit the Dominican Republic.<sup>12</sup>

#### **Vice-Minister for the Dominican Communities Living Abroad** 2016

The basic functions of this Vice-Minister is to link Dominicans living abroad with their country of origin, promote their inclusion in country development and operations, promote the culture and identity of Dominicans living abroad, and promote education abroad for Dominicans to increase their capacity and skills.<sup>13</sup>

#### **National Institute for Migration (Instituto Nacional de Migracion-INM RD)** 2011

This entity is in charge of the design and promotion of migration studies as well as the organisation and programming of technical activities both in the country and abroad relating to migration. INM RD's mission is to contribute to migration management through proposals of public policy that lead to sustainable development and strengthen migration governance.<sup>14</sup>

#### **Institute for Dominicans Abroad (Instituto de Dominicanos y Dominicanas en el Exterior-INDEX)** 2015

Located within the Foreign Affairs Ministry, INDEX's objective is to develop programmes for Dominicans living abroad and seeks their economic, political, social, and cultural integration to their communities of origin.<sup>15</sup>

#### **National Council for the Dominican Communities Living Abroad (Consejo Nacional para las Comunidades Dominicanas en el Exterior- CONDEX)** 2018

CONDEX is in charge of executing a participative process to create policies and programmes that link and integrate Dominicans living abroad to national policy. CONDEX is also tasked with recommending policies that promote the strengthening of ties between communities living abroad with communities in the Dominican Republic to facilitate the execution of joint projects and activities. Furthermore, in order to do so, the council is to recommend policies that promote sustained and direct communication with Dominicans living abroad.<sup>16</sup>

12 <https://www.mirex.gob.do/nosotros/quienes-somos>

13 <https://dgii.gov.do/legislacion/leyesTributarias/Documents/Otras%20Leyes%20de%20Inter%C3%A9s/630-16.pdf>

14 <http://inm.gob.do/index.php/sobre-nosotros-m> and <https://dgii.gov.do/legislacion/reglamentos/Documents/2011/631-11.pdf>

15 <https://www.index-pr.com/sobre-nosotros/quienes-somos.html>

16 [http://legalia.com.do/serve/listfile\\_download.aspx?id=1007&num=1](http://legalia.com.do/serve/listfile_download.aspx?id=1007&num=1)

## Diaspora organisations in Europe

Although Spain and Italy are amongst the top five destination countries for Dominicans, 75% of the Dominicans living abroad are located in the United States. With this being the case, it is not surprising to find a limited number of diaspora organisations in Europe.

### **ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE DOMINICANAS Y DOMINICANOS DE ULTRAMAR (ADU)** Spain

#### Development activities

This Association seeks to defend Dominicans from Ultramar, fight for their social, economic, and cultural interests, as well as maintain contact with their country of origin. This group provides remittances services, leadership workshops for women, and assists with legalization paperwork, amongst others.<sup>17</sup>

### **Asociacion de Mujeres Dominicanas en España (AMDE)** Spain

AMDE is an NGO that creates spaces for cultural exchange between Dominicans, and orients and informs Dominican women on the best ways to integrate in Spanish culture. It promotes the conscious understanding of their double condition as “women and migrants.”<sup>18</sup>

### **La Asociacion Socio - Cultural - DOMINICANOS EN ITALIA - (A.S.C.D.I.)** Italy

This NGO was created to help Dominicans living in Italy with social and migration related orientation. ASCDI assists migrants with their documentation processes and promotes the values, traditions, and culture of Dominicans.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <http://adumadrid.blogspot.com/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.gloobal.net/iepala/gloobal/fichas/ficha.php?entidad=AgentesGid=151&opcion=descripcion>

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/pg/jascdi/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/jascdi/about/?ref=page_internal)

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



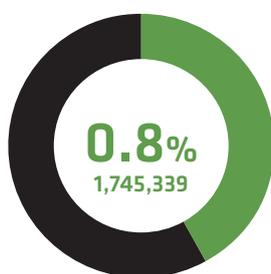


# Diaspora engagement mapping BRAZIL

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

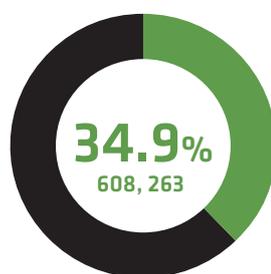
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 42.3%  
♀ 57.7%



% of which in the EU



♂ 38.1%  
♀ 61.9%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.2%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **3,180**



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

US	459,876
Japan	189,735
Portugal	136,526
Italy	115,970
Spain	109,552



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



### Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



\*According to the Brazilian constitution, Brazilian citizens who acquire another nationality may lose their Brazilian one. A 1994 constitutional amendment allows two exceptions. Firstly, in the case of foreign law recognition of "originary nationality" i.e. where the other nationality is acquired by origin (birth or descent, as opposed to naturalisation). The second exception occurs when the other country requires naturalisation for the person to remain residing or to exercise civil rights.<sup>2</sup>

**Brazil does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

<sup>1</sup> For presidential elections. Voters must be on the nearest consulate's registration list and vote there in person; there is no postal vote or online polls. <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/perguntas-frequentes-artigos/19385-assistance-to-brazilians-abroad#1118>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.portalconsular.itamaraty.gov.br/perda-da-nacionalidade>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework:



- 2010** ● **Decree No. 7.214<sup>3</sup>** establishes principles and guidelines of government policy for Brazilian communities abroad. It includes the Brazilian Conferences in the World (CBM) and creation of the Council of Representatives of Brazilians Abroad (CRBE).<sup>4</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs created the website Portal Brasileiros no Mundo (Brazilians in the World) to implement the decree (see Spotlight section).
- 2011** ● **'Actions to Benefit Brazilians Abroad' Action Plan<sup>5</sup>** comprises around 100 joint activities aimed at meeting the demands of the Brazilian Diaspora. The plan covers areas such as consular services and assistance; policies for expatriate communities; education; social security; labour; health; social services and human rights; culture and communication; economic affairs and science and technology.



### Trends:

The Brazilian diaspora is relatively autonomous and not substantially engaged with the homeland. Fewer Brazilians tend to remit compared to other nationalities, and they also tend to emigrate in smaller numbers. Once abroad they mainly focus on cultural awareness. The government also maintains a low profile. Its efforts are mainly limited to enabling remittance transfers and providing consular services.

There are recent efforts to bridge relations between government and civil society, as seen by public foundations linked to government institutions and financial institutions are becoming increasingly involved in social development.



### Achievements:

The first international conference of the Brazilians communities abroad was co-organised in 2008-2009 by the Alexandre de Gusano Foundation (FUNAG), - a public foundation linked to the MRE devoted to the study and disclosure of Brazilian foreign policy and themes related to international relations. FUNAG has been involved in supporting the diaspora through the organisation of meetings and publications.<sup>6</sup>

In 2017, the Central Bank of Brazil changed regulations for remittances as part of its efforts to open the banking sector to more players. A cash transfer from abroad can now be deposited directly into a checking or savings account in Brazilian reais, without the need for a foreign exchange transaction.<sup>7</sup>

3 [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2007-2010/2010/decreto/d7214.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2007-2010/2010/decreto/d7214.htm)

4 <http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/apresentacao/decreto-no-7.987-de-17-de-abril-de-2013>

5 <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/press-releases/16677-actions-to-benefit-brazilians-abroad>

6 <http://funag.gov.br/index.php/pt-br/>, Padilla, Beatriz. "Engagement Policies and Practices: Expanding the Citizenship of the Brazilian Diaspora." *International Migration*, vol. 49, no. 3, 2011, pp. 10-29., doi:10.1111/j.1468-2435.2011.00694.x.

7 <https://www.bnamericas.com/en/news/brazils-central-bank-updates-remittances-regulations>

## Obstacles



- **Representation:** Emigrants wish to have congressional representation but agreement cannot be reached due to inadequate partisan support. Recently, NGOs and government representatives have also been pushing for such representation.
- **Political participation:** Voter turnout is low. Voting is compulsory for citizens who are temporarily or permanently abroad and yet only about 5% of eligible external voters participate.
- **Remittances:** Information on the remittance marketplace is inadequate. It is hard to determine how much is arriving into the country and how much competition really exists between unlicensed and licensed businesses. There are recent initiatives that aim at improving foreign exchange controls to increase transparency and reduce costs to encourage remittance payments.

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Brazilians in the World<sup>8</sup>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs website offers information about associations and organisations managed by Brazilians abroad, Brazilians in the World Conferences, and the latest developments on consular diplomacy. The website aims to strengthen and broaden the dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Brazilian communities abroad, as well as among themselves.

DIGITAL

### Titulo Net

Offering better means for Brazilians abroad to exercise their citizenship rights more effectively, Titulo Net is a joint initiative of the Itamaraty, the Superior Electoral Court and the Regional Electoral Court of the Federal District. It allows the registration, transfer, registration change and regularisation of Brazilian voters outside the country by electronic means, with immediate processing by the Electoral Justice after checking and endorsing data and documents by registered consular agents.

MIGRANT RIGHTS

### SIMPLE

Brazil-based exchange broker Frente Corretora de Câmbio (The Front Exchange) launched a fintech collaboration with San Francisco-based startup Ripple. The blockchain platform, Simple, is designed to allow people in Brazil to send money abroad without the high fees and the slow transaction times that are common in traditional money transfer mechanisms. Ripple uses Simple to address the fragmentation and unreliability of current remittances structures.<sup>9</sup>

REMITTANCES

### CAIXA

This government-run bank acts as the main agent of Brazil's social policies. It offers support to migrants and their relatives with financial services tailored to their needs.<sup>10</sup> Its mission is to provide training to migrants to help them become future business leaders. The Brazilian Support Service for Micro and Small Businesses (CAIXA's partner) is also taking steps to ensure that remittance recipients in Brazil receive training to start and strengthen businesses. The program has established a partnership with a US bank, conducted needs assessments for migrants and their families living in Massachusetts, and developed six remittance-linked financial products tailored to the target population.<sup>11</sup>

FINANCE

8 <http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/>

9 <https://www.ccn.com/ripple-launch-brazil-2-billion-remittances/>

10 <http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/trabalho-emprededorismo-retorno-remessas/programa-remessas>

11 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora\\_handbook\\_en\\_for\\_web\\_28may2013.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf)

## Annex:

# List of actors

## Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

**The Consular Office** <http://www.portalconsular.itamaraty.gov.br/>

The Brazilian Consular Network is one of the largest in the world. It consists of a set of Embassies, Consulates and Vice-Consulates, which can be contacted by Brazilian citizens in need of assistance abroad. The consular office is the unit through which the Brazilian Government is represented before the Brazilian community abroad, protecting and providing assistance to Brazilian citizens within their jurisdiction and within the limits set by existing international treaties and by the laws of the foreign country.

- **At ministerial level**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs** <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/services#consular>

The main services provided by consular offices are listed on the website Portal Consular of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE), including passports (regular, official or diplomatic); legalisation of documents issued abroad and in Brazil, and the issuance of other consular documents, such as proof of residence, travel authorization for children.

### **Undersecretary General for Brazilian Communities Abroad (SGEB)**

<http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/press-releases/16638-1st-meeting-between-the-ministry-of-external-relations-and-the-council-of-brazilian-representatives-abroad-brasilia-may-2-to-6-2011>

This office within and created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008 assists the largest and the most vulnerable Brazilian communities abroad, develops ties between Brazil and the diaspora, improves consular assistance, forms strategies for reaching out to Brazilian emigrants, and updates services and technologies (such as web portals) for emigrants.

### **Council of Representatives of Brazilians Abroad (CRBE)**

<http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/>

CRBE is a worldwide group of 32 elected representatives of nearly 4 million Brazilians living outside of Brazil. It is mandated by the Brazilian State Department to serve as liaison between the Brazilian Government and the Brazilian diaspora all over the world, establishing priorities and pursuing opportunities for bi-lateral improvements in government services and cultural and economic exchanges.

- **At sub-ministerial level**

### **Citizenship Councils**

<http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/associativismo-e-politicas-para-as-comunidades/CRBE/espaco-dos-conselhos>

The Citizen or Citizenship Councils are informal fora that aim to facilitate contacts between nationals living abroad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' consular network. On the Brasileiros no Mundo website there is a list of active councils .



## Diaspora organisations in Europe



**AACILUS - Association of Social Support and Immigration Guidance in Portugal** Portugal  
<https://www.aacilusbrasil.org/aacilus/>

The association provides clarification to the Brazilian community on the issue of visa regularisation and employability.

**Brazilian Association in the United Kingdom (ABRAS)** UK <http://www.abras.org.uk/>

This non-profit, non-governmental organization supports the Brazilian community in the United Kingdom by providing free services such as general assistance, legal and psychological counselling, translation, interpretation, assistance in finding accommodation, schools and work, arrangements with banks, doctors and dentists.

**Brazilian Association of Portugal (ABP)** Portugal <http://www.abp.com.pt/>

The association's corporate purpose is to support initiatives aimed at stimulating the insertion of Brazilian immigrants in the community of the host country, namely in the socio-cultural, labour and academic sectors, among others. It aims to facilitate access to the services necessary for immigrants' survival by assisting them in their personal and professional lives in the host country, including in the areas of health, education, work and housing.

**Brazilian Association for International Education** <http://faubai.org.br/en-us/>

The association attempts to serve as a point of reference for guidance on teachers (selection, hiring, training, qualification), curriculum (different approaches already used by other schools, including other community languages), teaching materials, networking with other groups in the UK and abroad, human and financial resources.

**Brazil Caledonia Association** 2008 Scotland, UK <http://brasilcaledonia.btck.co.uk/>

The Scotland-based volunteer-run non-profit association was set up in 2008. It has no political or religious ties but the joint purposes of promoting Brazilian culture and the Portuguese language, giving moral and social support to Brazilians in Scotland and boosting the connections between Brazilians and their descendants residing in Edinburgh, Scotland - United Kingdom.

**Roots Association** 2001 Switzerland  
<http://raizes.ch/>

Based in Geneva, Roots is a non-profit Brazilian cultural association, established by a decision of the Geneva State Council of 13/06/2001. Founded by Brazilian parents and educators, the association's work is done by both Brazilian and Swiss directors and members on a voluntary basis. It develops activities to promote the Brazilian language and culture.

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



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

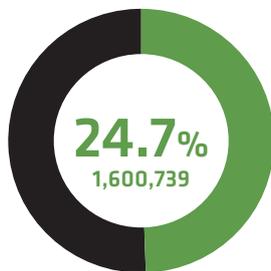


# Diaspora engagement mapping EL SALVADOR

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

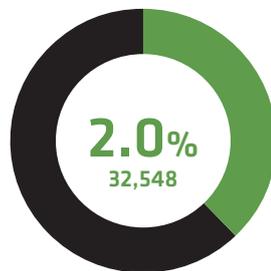
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 49.7%  
♀ 50.3%



% of which in the EU



♂ 37.8%  
♀ 62.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 20.8%

Remittances inflow (USD million): 5,609



### Top countries of destination

U.S.	1,429,155 (89%)
Canada	51,207 (3%)
Guatemala	19,704 (1%)
Italy	14,682 (1%)
Costa Rica	14,104 (1%)



### Political rights



Dual citizenship



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>1</sup>



Voting from abroad:

By post



Source: Remittances, World Bank Development Indicators (2018); Migration: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

El Salvador does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

<sup>1</sup> While Salvadorans abroad are legally able to vote, for the February 2019 election, only about 5,500 out of the over 350,000 Salvadorans that have the ability to vote registered. The registration process is done online, and it requires that their identification document (DUI) be scanned. Salvadoran's expired identification documents could be one of the causes of low international voting registration rates. ([https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/moe\\_ue\\_el\\_salvador\\_2019\\_informe\\_final\\_esp.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/moe_ue_el_salvador_2019_informe_final_esp.pdf))

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2005** ● **Legislative decrees 581 and 685) on identity documents** established a single identity document as to identify any Salvadorian, both within the country and abroad.<sup>2</sup> This law only regulates the issuance of the Identity Document within the national territory. Additionally, Decree 685 (2005) created the Special Law for the Issuance of Identification Documents Abroad, allowing Salvadorans to renew documentation while abroad, facilitating their ability to stay documented.<sup>3</sup>
- 2011** ● **Special Law for the Protection and Development of Salvadoran Migrants and their Families (Ley Especial para la Protección y Desarrollo de la Persona Migrante Salvadoreña y su Familia)** protects the rights of Salvadoran migrants and their families through the creation and monitoring of public policies focused on development and protection through interinstitutional coordination as well as intersectional relationships with civil society actors.<sup>4</sup>
- 2014** ● **Legislative Decree No. 663. Law for the creation of the Organism that Promotes Exports and Investment (PROESA)**<sup>5</sup> - A description of PROESA's mandate is in the annex listing relevant institutions.



### Trends:

El Salvador has aimed its efforts to facilitate at a minimum diaspora engagement through its expansion of embassies and consular offices, staffing new personnel for that purpose. It has also looked into mechanisms to promote diaspora investment, offer some protection of migrant rights, and create labour migration programs.



### Achievements:

- Additions of embassies such as the one opened in China in 2018 as well as the opening of four new consulates (in Canada, the US, and Mexico) provide Salvadorans with more access to assistance from the government.<sup>6</sup> Services expanded by El Salvador include legal assistance to Salvadorans in the US.<sup>7</sup> Focus by the government to provide better service for Salvadorans abroad through consular services has resulted in optimization of processes. Between 2014-2019 their consular offices processed 2,831,887 requests. As a way to facilitate communication, an institutional WhatsApp was created which has assisted over 13,000 people worldwide. Through these efforts Salvadorans residing abroad received assistance relating to family registration, notary services, visas, and other related matters.<sup>8</sup>
- The government continued its work to promote diaspora investment in line with the creation, in 2015, at the Foreign Relations Ministry of the *Mesa Interinstitucional de Atención a Inversiones de Compatriotas Residiendo en el Exterior*<sup>9</sup>. Between 2018 and 2019, the Ministry has worked to promote businesses in Los Nonaulcos and San Miguel. In December 2018, the Law to Facilitate Access to Credit and Financial Services for Returnees and Investments for the Salvadoran Community Abroad (Proyecto Ley Especial para Facilitar el Acceso a Crédito y Servicios Financieros de Salvadoreños Retornados y las Inversiones de la Comunidad Salvadoreña Residente en el Exterior) was

2 <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2002/1859.pdf>

3 [https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/sites/default/files/documents/decretos/171117\\_072859923\\_archivo\\_documento\\_legislativo.pdf](https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/sites/default/files/documents/decretos/171117_072859923_archivo_documento_legislativo.pdf)

4 <https://www.asamblea.gob.sv/sites/default/files/documents/decretos/F33C3EBE-8BBB-4410-8271-005B04B61F0E.pdf>

5 <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/els142869.pdf>

6 <https://rree.gob.sv/informe/memoria-de-labores-2018-2019/>

7 <https://rree.gob.sv/cancilleria-presenta-logros-y-avances-institucionales-durante-la-gestion-2014-2019/>

8 <https://rree.gob.sv/cancilleria-presenta-logros-y-avances-institucionales-durante-la-gestion-2014-2019/>

9 The Outreach and Investment Roundtable for Salvadorans Living Abroad

elaborated. In 2018 a conference related to community development and business was held in Los Angeles. 51 individuals from the business community attended through the coordination supported by the Salvadoran Consulate in Los Angeles.

## Temporary Migration Program

### August 2019

Announced by El Salvador's Labor Ministry in August 2019, the H-2A visa allows Salvadorans to gain a temporary visa to work in the United States. El Salvador's Labor Ministry's Temporary Migration Program (Programa de Migración Laboral) promotes its citizen's inclusion in the workforce through regular migration channels. In cooperation with the United States, the Labor Ministry helps Salvadorans attain employment in the US through the H-2A visa.<sup>10</sup>

## Obstacles



- **Resources:** In October 2019, PROESA's director, Salvador Gómez Góchez, called for Salvadorans residing abroad to invest in the country and offered the institution's assistance.<sup>11</sup> However, PROESA does not have dedicated staff in charge of working with the diaspora population, limiting its capacity to engage the diaspora and provide specialised assistance, despite its potential to do so.
- **Priority:** Current government priorities are linked to pressure from the US to prevent migration. This can have an impact on attention and funds targeting programmes that "regularise" migration rather than creating more links between the government, communities in the country, and communities living abroad.<sup>12</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Cumbres de Juventudes Salvadoreñas and Campamento Kuskatan 2018

Four youth conferences (Washington D.C., Dallas, Los Angeles and Milan) were organised for Salvadoran youth living abroad. The conferences aimed to empower youth abroad by sharing their experiences and reflecting to create initiatives for their own development as well as that of their communities. Through these events, Salvadorans abroad created networks to strengthen their cultural, political, and economic ties to El Salvador.<sup>13</sup> The conferences also led to the creation of Campamento Kuskatan, a camp for Salvadorans living abroad to go to El Salvador to learn about its culture.<sup>14</sup>

YOUTH

<sup>10</sup> and <https://www.inmigracionyvisas.com/a4518-Programa-Migracion-Laboral-Visas-H-2A.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://ultimahora.sv/proesa-ofrece-apoyo-a-la-diaspora-para-invertir-en-el-salvador/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://rree.gob.sv/cancilleria-presenta-logros-y-avances-institucionales-durante-la-gestion-2014-2019/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://rree.gob.sv/aviso/cancilleria-anuncia-proxima-cumbre-juventudes-salvadorenas-exterior/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.dallasnews.com/espanol/al-dia/dallas-fort-worth/2017/05/31/convocan-a-jovenes-salvadorenos-en-el-exterior-a-participar-en-campamento-kuskatan/>



## Manos Unidas por El Salvador, 2004 - 2019

### EDUCATION

Since 2004, Banco Agrícola and the Pan American Development Foundation have been working with the Salvadoran diaspora with the purpose of social and educational development in the country. As of September 2019, 11,208,275 school infrastructure programmes had been executed in 140 communities and 86 municipalities. The project has had over USD \$6 million in funding with more than USD \$750k contributions originating from Salvadorans in the US.<sup>15</sup>

### INVESTMENT

#### Salvadoreños en el Exterior (SALEX) Investment in Hotel and Restaurant “Bola de Monte Resort” in El Salvador, 2019

To promote tourism and invest in El Salvador, SALEX members invested USD \$3.5 million in a hotel to be built in Ahuachapán. This ecological resort will have 30 rooms, restaurants, and pools.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> <http://eltiempolatino.com/news/2018/sep/11/salvadorenos-del-area-invierten-en-educacion-en-su/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.proesa.gob.sv/novedades/noticias/item/1317-proesa-apoya-inversión-de-salvadoreños-en-el-exterior-en-proyecto-del-sector-tur%C3%ADstico>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### Diaspora related institutions



- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level:

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores)** <https://rree.gob.sv/areas-de-trabajo/>  
February 27, 1858

The Ministry increases cooperation and financing for development and defends its citizens' rights while abroad.

**Interinstitucional Group Focused on the Investments of Salvadorans Living Abroad (Mesa Interinstitucional de Atención a Inversiones de Compatriotas Residiendo en el Exterior)**

<https://rree.gob.sv/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/MEMORIA-DE-LABORES-RREE-2018-19.pdf>

This group was created in 2015 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote investment in El Salvador by Salvadorans living abroad back.

**Vice-ministry for Salvadorans Living Abroad (Viceministerio para los Salvadoreños en el Exterior)**

<https://rree.gob.sv/areas-de-trabajo/>

Within the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Vice-ministry for Salvadorans Living Abroad has been working since 2004 to ensure the rights of Salvadoran migrants by maintaining their inclusion in political, economic, and social processes as well as linkages to the country's development while favouring their reintegration. The Vice Minister for Salvadorans living abroad is in charge of increasing the know-how on and quality of assistance provided to Salvadoran migrants within any point of their migration cycle.<sup>17</sup>

- At sub-ministerial level:

**CONMIGRANTES**

<https://rree.gob.sv/nuevo-consejo-de-conmigrantes-se-compromete-a-impulsar-transformaciones-en-materia-migratoria/>

CONMIGRANTES, founded in 2011, is an autonomous and inter-institutional body composed of 22 state agencies, academia, and civil society actors. CONMIGRANTES promotes work relating to migration and development, particularly coordinating activities between consulates and public and private entities for local investment. It creates policies that protect Salvadorans living abroad as well as their families who live in El Salvador.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <https://rree.gob.sv/viceministro-para-los-salvadorenos-en-el-exterior/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://rree.gob.sv/nuevo-consejo-de-conmigrantes-se-compromete-a-impulsar-transformaciones-en-materia-migratoria/> and <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/institutions/rree/documents/otra-informacion-de-interes>

## PROESA

### Organism Which Promotes Exports and Investment in El Salvador (El Organismo Promotor de Exportaciones e Inversiones de El Salvador (PROESA))

<http://www.proesa.gob.sv/institucion/marco-institucional/historia>

Created through Legislative Decree No. 663 in 2014, PROESA has developed commissions and initiatives to promote country exports as well as investment into the country. PROESA develops strategies to identify and focus on strategic markets; it designs and promotes the country's image as an investment destination and provides technical assistance to investors. This organisation has worked with Salvadorans living abroad to promote common interests such as tourism and investment in the country.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



### Asociation El Salvador En Francia (ASEF) 2010 France

[http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones\\_ver.php?IDasociacion=85](http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones_ver.php?IDasociacion=85)

ASEF's objectives are to facilitate Salvadoran-French cultural, economic, legal, and social exchanges. Projects and activities include the creation of a Salvadoran cultural centre in France and the creation of a French cultural centre in El Salvador.

Development activities

### ASSOCIATION OF SALVADORANS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 2018 UK

[http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones\\_ver.php?IDasociacion=132](http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones_ver.php?IDasociacion=132)

Created to promote Salvadoran culture in the UK, support Salvadoran's social causes, and create relationships between the Salvadoran communities and those of Europe.

### ASOCIACIÓN SALVADOREÑA EN ANDALUCÍA 2017 Spain

[http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones\\_ver.php?IDasociacion=70](http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones_ver.php?IDasociacion=70)

Created in Sevilla, Spain, on the initiative of the former Honorary Consul, Ignacio de Cossio, the group promotes Salvadoran culture and tradition, provides legal assistance, and promotes the rights of unprotected groups.

### CÁMARA BINACIONAL DE COMERCIO EL SALVADOR 2017 The Netherlands

[http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones\\_ver.php?IDasociacion=74](http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones_ver.php?IDasociacion=74)

Development activities

The organisation seeks to create synergies between Salvadoran private entities and Dutch private entities. The Cámara Binacional has identified business opportunities for 118 Dutch companies and 226 Salvadoran companies and has the support of the Cámara Holandesa de Comercio.

### GRUPO SALVADOREÑO DE MUJERES CRISTIANAS BHETA 1995 Italy

[http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones\\_ver.php?IDasociacion=82](http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones_ver.php?IDasociacion=82)

This NGO promotes humanitarian assistance focused on integrating individuals into society focusing on women. Located in Italy, the NGO also provides social assistance, helps those without shelter, and provides migration related assistance.

**Juventud Activa Por El Salvador En Italia (JAXSI)** 2018 Italy  
[http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones\\_ver.php?IDasociacion=75](http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones_ver.php?IDasociacion=75)

☑ Development activities

JAXSI formed in Rome, Italy, is composed of members aged 17-35 years old who create alliances and better relationships, promote and share initiatives with fellow Salvadorans, and create opportunities for their current and future generations.

**La Asociacion Cultural Casa El Salvador en Barcelona** Spain  
<http://www.plataformasalvadorenã.es/casa-el-salvador2>

The group assists with the integration of Salvadorans in Spain, promotes Salvadoran culture in Cataluña, and develops projects to benefit Salvadorans in Cataluña and Spain.

**MAYA - CELTIC COMUNIDAD SALVADOREÑA EN LA REPÚBLICA DE IRLANDA** 2008 Ireland  
[http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones\\_ver.php?IDasociacion=83](http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones_ver.php?IDasociacion=83)

☑ Development activities

Through this organisation the Salvadoran community in Ireland seeks to assist Salvadoran migrants in their integration into the local community.

**RED DE SALVADOREÑOS Y AMIGOS EN SUECIA** Sweden  
<https://redsalsweden.wordpress.com/quienes-somos-vilka-ar-vi/>

This network seeks to promote relationships between individuals from El Salvador and Sweden through sports and cultural activities.

**VOZ DE LOS SALVADOREÑOS PARA EL DESARROLLO EN ESPAÑA** 2013 Spain  
[http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones\\_ver.php?IDasociacion=69](http://comunidades.org.sv/asociaciones_ver.php?IDasociacion=69)

Located in Madrid, this NGO promotes the interest of the Salvadoran community in Spain, promotes Salvadoran culture, and keeps the community informed on social and economic trends in El Salvador.

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



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



# Diaspora engagement mapping ECUADOR

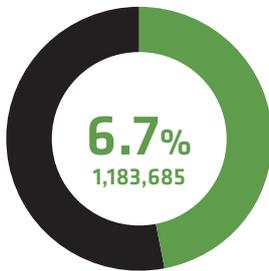
## Facts & figures

### Emigration

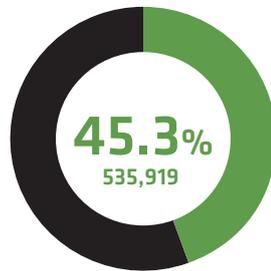
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 47.1%  
♀ 52.9%



♂ 44.7%  
♀ 55.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **3.0%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **3,169**



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

U.S.	516,236 (44%)
Spain	415,310 (35%)
Italy	85,272 (7%)
Venezuela	36,215 (3%)
Chile	30,325 (3%)



### Political rights



Dual citizenship



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



### Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



**Ecuador does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

<sup>1</sup> Source: Remittances, World Bank Development Indicators (2018); Migration: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019)

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2008** ● **Executive Decree No. 1397** created the Housing Subsidy for Migrants (Bono de Vivienda para la Persona Migrante) for migrants and their families which is still available today. This Decree increases migrants' and their families' access to habitable conditions and basic services by subsidizing housing costs in Ecuador whilst living abroad.<sup>2</sup>
- 2013** ● **Executive Decree Transformation of the Migrants National Secretariat SENAMI No. 20 (Decreto No. 20 Transformación Secretaría Nacional del Migrante (SENAMI))** transforms the Migrants' National Secretariat into the Vice Ministry of Human Mobility, which is housed within the Ministry of Foreign Relations and Human Mobility. The purpose of this change is to integrate policy relating to people's mobility with foreign policy. Ecuador's policies relating to human mobility encompass migrants within Ecuador as well as Ecuadorian emigrants.<sup>3</sup>
- 2017** ● **Human Mobility Law No. 938 (Ley Organica de Movilidad Humana No. 938)** establishes the rights of Ecuadorians living abroad, including the right to send and receive remittances, the right to access and participate in programmes and projects offered by the Ecuadorian government, the right to participate in elections for president, vice-president and legislators while abroad, and the right to Ecuadorian cultural identity. To guarantee the right to send and receive remittances, the Legislation states that the Ecuadorian government will create the necessary mechanisms to facilitate remittance transfers as well as incentives to develop relevant projects. This legislation also created the Registration of Overseas Ecuadorian Organisations service (Registro de Organizaciones Ecuatorianas en el Exterior) in order to guarantee Ecuadorians' rights to association. This law also details the services that consulates provide such as informing those living abroad of events in their interest.<sup>4</sup>
- 2018** ● **National Human Mobility Plan (Plan Nacional de Movilidad Humana)** seeks to guarantee the rights of Ecuadorians abroad and those foreigners in transit through public policy. The plan aims to be progressive and go beyond the control of inward and outward migration flows. One of the objectives is to "strengthen the protection of the rights of the population in mobility." To do so, for Ecuadorians living abroad, it seeks to implement an accessible remittances system, increase their financial inclusion in the country's financial system, facilitate access to professional opportunities in Ecuador while living abroad, and promote their inclusion in strategies relating to Ecuador's commercial, touristic, and cultural promotion. With regard to the objective "to defend diversity, integration, and coexistence of people in transit," the plan proposes to create international spaces for the country's cultural promotion, create ways for Ecuadorians living abroad to present artistic and cultural products, and host sporting events with the purpose of integrating Ecuadorian migrants and the local populations in countries of destinations.<sup>5</sup>
- 2018** ● **The Human Mobility Viceministry's Ministerial Agreement Number 000275 (Acuerdo 000275 Ministerial Numero 000275 del Viceministerio De Movilidad Humana)** created the National Human Mobility Working Group and the Permanent Intersectional Human Mobility Working Groups to coordinate public policy relating to human mobility for citizens and non-citizens entering and exiting the country. While this Agreement does mention Ecuadorians living abroad, it does not specifically mention the diaspora nor plans to engage with them for development purposes. Rather, the Agreement mentions Ecuadorian migrants and their need to be properly informed about their access to programmes and services, as well as the government's duty to protect their rights.<sup>6</sup>

2 <https://www.habitatyvivienda.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/09/Reglamento-Bono-Personas-Migrantes-y-su-Familia-Acuerdo-Ministerial-011.pdf>

3 <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/DECRETO-EJECUTIVO-NO.-20-DE-10-DE-JUNIO-DE-2013.pdf>

4 <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2017/10973.pdf>

5 [https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/plan\\_nacional\\_de\\_movilidad\\_humana.pdf](https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/plan_nacional_de_movilidad_humana.pdf)

6 [https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/acuerdo\\_ministerial\\_275.pdf](https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/acuerdo_ministerial_275.pdf)

## » Trends

Ecuador has progressively increased over the past ten years activities and services with a focus on voting rights, access to programmes and services, remittances and cultural identity.

The government has recently increased its attention to remittances. Both the National Human Mobility Plan (2018) as well as the Human Mobility Law. 938 (2017) explicitly mention remittances. The National Human Mobility Plan mentions the need to establish a system that facilitates remittances to meet its policy goal of strengthening the protection of the rights of the population in mobility.

The Ecuadorian government is also committed to assisting Ecuadorians to maintain their cultural identity.



## Obstacles:

- **Engagement focus on return:** While Ecuador has programmes for Ecuadorians living abroad, a large portion of Ecuador's policy relates to returnees. Similarly, many government related groups are mandated to serve the returnee population resulting in government services geared towards returnees. One of the two groups managed by the Sub-secretariat of the Ecuadorian Migrant Community focuses on the integration of returnees and the other on the protection of Ecuadorians living abroad.<sup>7</sup> This combination of priorities on returnees both abroad and at home may limit the resources dedicated to other types of diaspora engagement.
- **Lack of knowledge of diaspora profile:** Many of the government's policies attempt to give the migrant population access to services available to Ecuadorians at home in order to protect Ecuadorian's rights both at home and abroad. While these programmes are still helpful, the government may be missing opportunities to differentiate the groups living abroad and use their diverse skillset and resources to benefit their community in their country of origin.
- **Low priority for government:** Ecuador, along with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, has directed its attention towards addressing the challenges resulting from the mass Venezuelan exodus. As a result, attention and resources have been focused on internal migration policy. Although this attention is warranted, it means that attempts to create links with the diaspora will likely be on hold.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Estructura-Cancilleria-1.pdf>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Registration of Overseas Ecuadorian Organisations (Registro de Organizaciones Ecuatorianas en el Exterior) - February 6, 2017 - Ongoing

#### NETWORKS

Created through the Human Mobility Law No. 938, this initiative was created with the purpose of registering emigrants' associations, civic committees, non-profit organizations, and all those relating to the organised social participation of Ecuadorians living abroad. Registration takes place in diplomatic offices and is publicly available to all Ecuadorians abroad. This registration facilitates engagement with the diaspora by mapping and identifying diaspora groups.<sup>8</sup>

### Housing Subsidy for Migrants (Bono de Vivienda para la Persona Migrante) - 2008 - Ongoing

#### HOUSING

The Housing Subsidy for Migrants is provided by the Ecuadorian government to a migrant or the migrant's immediate family members as a reward for saving. The programme aims to facilitate access to housing for migrants and their families, strengthen migrants' links to Ecuador, increase private sector participation through the construction industry, and incentivise individuals' desire to save their remittances to acquire housing.<sup>9</sup>

### Social Employment Network for Immigrants living Abroad and Returnees (Red Socio Empleo para Migrantes en el Exterior y Migrantes Retornados) - September 2017 - Ongoing

#### EMPLOYMENT

This programme allows Ecuadorians living abroad to register to the national information support system (Soprote informatico) which facilitates the recruitment and selection of the Employment Partner Group (Bolsa de Socio Empleo). This system provides access to the network of offices nationwide that provide employment intermediation and specialised training to find employment in both public and private entities in Ecuador.<sup>10</sup>

8 <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2017/10973.pdf>

9 <https://mexico.consulado.gob.ec/programa-bono-de-vivienda-para-personas-migrantes/>

10 <https://mexico.consulado.gob.ec/programa-red-socio-empleo-para-migrantes-en-el-exterior-y-migrantes-retornados/> and <http://www.trabajo.gob.ec/gobierno-nacional-promueve-el-empleo-para-migrantes-retornados/>

## Annex:

# List of actors

## Diaspora related institutions

- **Regional organisations**

**Comunidad Andina (CAN)** 1969

<http://www.comunidadandina.org/Seccion.aspx?id=189&tipo=QU&title=somos-comunidad-andina>

CAN is an international organisation that has several institutions that make up the Andean Integration System (SAI). Its objective is to achieve comprehensive development through Andean integration with a focus on South American and Latin American integration.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility (El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana (MREMH))** 2013 <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/objetivos/>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility coordinates and manages international policy and the integration of Latin America and human mobility. The Ministry seeks to not only protect Ecuadorians abroad but also to increase the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of services that the Ministry provides nationally and internationally to its citizens.

- At sub-ministerial level

**Vice Ministry of Human Mobility (Viceministerio de Movilidad Humana)** 2013

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/integracion-de-la-senami-al-nuevo-vice-ministerio-de-movilidad-humana/>

The mission of the Vice Ministry of Human Mobility is to plan, direct and evaluate the management of human mobility policy relating to emigration, immigration, transit, and returnees, in order to contribute to the protection and promotion of the rights of Ecuadorians abroad and migrants in Ecuador.

**Sub-secretariat of the Ecuadorian Migrant Community (Subsecretaria de la Comunidad Migrante Ecuatoriana)** 2013 <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/integracion-de-la-senami-al-nuevo-vice-ministerio-de-movilidad-humana/>

This Sub-secretariat directs and executes policy relating to human mobility for the promotion and protection of the rights of Ecuadorian migrants, and integration of the returnee population into the country. At the same time, the Sub-secretariat manages migratory policy both nationally and internationally.

**National Human Mobility Working Group (Mesa Nacional de Movilidad Humana)** 2018

[https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/acuerdo\\_ministerial\\_275.pdf](https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/acuerdo_ministerial_275.pdf)

The Working Group establishes, supervises, coordinates, and evaluates the implementation of public policy relating to people's mobility.

## Permanent Intersectional Human Mobility Working Groups (Mesas Intersectoriales Permanentes de Movilidad Humana) 2018

[https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/acuerdo\\_ministerial\\_275.pdf](https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/acuerdo_ministerial_275.pdf)

These Working Groups operationalise the decisions made by the National Human Mobility Working Group by creating a space for a wide array of government actors to implement the policies. There are eight working groups in total. The Intersectional Integration and Ecuadorian Migrant Community Working Group focuses on Ecuadorians living abroad. Although its mandate does not mention working with the diaspora for development, its mission is to ensure that Ecuadorians living abroad are properly informed about access to programmes and services provided by the government to support them as well as to protect their rights when needed.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



### Asociación Croata Ecuatoriana 2013 Croatia

<https://asociacion-croata-ecuatoriana.org/asociacion/#>

This group was created for all Ecuadorians, Croatians and anyone else who is interested in learning about Croatia, its culture and people. The group serves as portal for meetings, information, and business.

### Asociación de Ecuatorianos de Cataluña 1993 Spain

<https://www.shbarcelona.es/blog/es/cultura-ecuatoriana-barcelona/> and <https://www.facebook.com/ASOCIACION-DE-ECUATORIANOS-EN-CATALUNYA-180187618698130/>

This group encourages the integration of Ecuadorian migrants in Catalonia by strengthening their cognitive skills, providing legal advice, and offering Catalan courses. The group also strives to maintain Ecuadorian culture.

### Asociación Pueblos del Ecuador en Madrid (APEM) Spain

<https://www.apemecuador.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/apemecuador/>

APEM is a soccer league which is used as a tool for unity and coexistence between Ecuadorians living in Madrid.

### Asociacion Red Ecuador September 2016 Spain <https://www.fundacionmasecuador.com>

#### Development activities

This non-profit organisation based in Spain promotes, trains and advises agricultural communities in Ecuador. It also plans, develops, and executes agro-industrial projects benefiting agricultural and fishing communities with the objective of improving and optimising their production processes through donations, non-refundable credits, technical assistance, and technology transfers.

### Asociación Rumiñahui 1997 Spain <http://www.ruminahui.org/conocenos/>

#### Development activities

This non-profit organisation defends and advocates for the rights of migrants, trying to facilitate their integration and improve their quality of life and that of their families in Spain.

**Ecuadorian Community Association (ECA) - Asociación de la Comunidad Ecuatoriana en el Reino Unido**  
2007 UK <http://missecuador.org.uk/asociacion1.html>

 **Development activities**

ECA's mission is to integrate and unify the Ecuadorian community based in the United Kingdom. It identifies community needs and opportunities and then develops services to improve the quality of life of Ecuadorians and assist with integration into British society. This group also works to maintain Ecuadorian identity through cultural, social, and sports exchange activities. Additionally, the group seeks to create development projects and channel humanitarian aid to Ecuador.

**Movimiento Ecuador en el Reino Unido** 2007 UK  
<http://www.movimientoecuador.co.uk/enigma/index.php/component/content/article?id=36>

This organisation defends the rights of immigrants in the United Kingdom through proposals and initiatives for research as well as the awareness raising and promotion of human rights. The group's projects relate to maintaining their culture and creating spaces for integration through sports. The group also supports Ecuadorian talent initiatives in the United Kingdom.

**Written by: Dr Manuel Orozco**  
**Edited by: EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



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

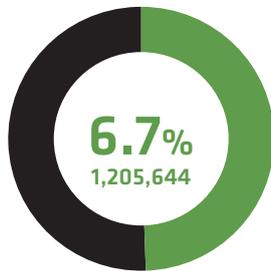


# Diaspora engagement mapping GUATEMALA

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 49.4%  
♀ 50.6%

% of which in the EU



♂ 42.2%  
♀ 57.8%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **13.0%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **10,696**



### Top countries of destination

US	1,070,743
Mexico	44,178
Belize	25,876
Canada	18,398
El Salvador	9,005



### Political rights



Dual citizenship\*<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



### Voting from abroad:

At embassies



**Guatemala does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

1 Recognizes dual membership selectively and has dual-citizenship agreements with other Central American countries. <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2001/0135.pdf>

2 In presidential elections only. <http://www.tse.org.gt/images/Acuerdos2016/274-2016.pdf>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2007 ● **Ley del Consejo Nacional de Atención al Migrante de Guatemala (CONAMIGUA), Decree 46-2007** addresses the needs of Guatemalans emigrating and facing human rights problems in transit to the United States and Mexico. It includes a mandate to establish links and empower migrant representatives to speak and engage with the Guatemalan state.

### » Trends:

The Guatemalan diaspora has sought to maintain as many ties as possible with the homeland. They do so predominantly on an independent basis, not necessarily in connection to the government. One emerging trend is the economic importance of the diaspora, evidenced for example by the high level of remittances and by the consumption of nostalgic goods.<sup>3</sup> However, Guatemala has a lower level of institutionalization of diaspora policies than could have been expected based on the importance of their diaspora.<sup>4</sup> CONAMIGUA itself is largely an entity that is politicised to satisfy interests among legislators rather than among the broader diaspora.

There are no more than 100 Guatemalan hometown associations, the majority in the United States. Their level of engagement is limited to philanthropic activities. Some of these organisations maintain important links and partnerships with private sector entities. The most typical philanthropic engagement is to provide donations on education or health issues. Guatemalans believe that a way out of migration, of which lack of opportunities is a core reason,<sup>5</sup> is to invest on education in order to make migration less likely.

The Guatemalan diaspora has become a significant source of funding for local start-up businesses, mostly in commerce, with Guatemalans who have found success outside the country providing those inside the country with international contacts to advise or invest in Guatemalan start-ups or offering employment opportunities if they expand their business into Guatemala.<sup>6</sup>

There is a growing expectation among the diaspora that the Guatemalan government should engage with it. From the government's point-of-view, diaspora engagement is a way to gain international legitimacy. The Guatemalan representative at the Diaspora Ministerial Conference in 2013 stated, "We have to ensure the rights of migrant workers and their families, so we are in close communication with the authorities of the host countries."<sup>7</sup>

3 <https://www.thedialogue.org/blogs/2018/10/opportunities-for-development-in-guatemala-a-study-on-the-nostalgic-trade/>

4 Soltész, Béla. "Migration and Diaspora Policy Institutions in Latin America." *Demográfia English Edition*, vol. 59, no. 5, 2017, doi:10.21543/dee.2016.2.

5 [www.saliendo-adelante.com](http://www.saliendo-adelante.com)

6 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelegoldberg/2019/09/08/whats-happening-in-guatemala/#16afbe75175c>

7 Gamlen, Alan John. *Human Geopolitics: States, Emigrants, and the Rise of Diaspora Institutions*. Oxford University Press, 2019, p. 231.

## Obstacles



- **Lack of government programmes:** There are still no formal or governmental programmes that work with Guatemalans in the diaspora. However, The Foreign Affairs Ministry, MINEX, has proposed measures to improve engagement by expanding diplomatic and consular representation abroad and by strengthening channels of communication for Guatemalans living abroad.
- **Remittances infrastructure:** Although there is a substantial flow of remittances to Guatemala, there is no government scheme that actively encourages the sending of remittances. There is no official source of remittance information; the Bank of Guatemala (BANGUAT) uses the IOM Migration and Remittances Survey to estimate the average cost of remittances to Guatemala.<sup>8</sup>
- **Informal nature of diaspora organisations:** Diaspora organisations and associations are often informal and small. The issue of weak institutional and implementation capacity is common in many associations in the US, UK and other European countries. There is a need for capacity-building efforts targeting diaspora-led development initiatives.
- **Lack of interest from diaspora:** Civil participation by Guatemalans abroad is limited. The electoral law was amended in 2017 to allow for voting abroad and work is now progressing on implementation.<sup>9</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Opportunities for My Community Project: 2016-present<sup>10</sup>

The project, implemented by USAID and the Inter-American Dialogue, links remittances, education and savings to promote economic and human development in Guatemala. It works to engage the Guatemalan government and the diaspora with the country's development through resource mobilisation directed toward educational programs within Guatemala.

The project has supported diaspora engagement through partnerships with Guatemalan Hometown Associations (HTAs), for example HTAs contacted teachers to teach and then the project trained them, monitored the classes, and provided educational materials.

The Project has also collaborated with remittance companies to engage the Guatemalan diaspora in addressing development obstacles. For example, it collaborated with the companies Dolex and Viamericas and delivered about 20,000 informational brochures to Guatemalan remittance senders, raising awareness about the importance of financial literacy in Guatemala. The Ministry of Education works with local schools and diaspora organizations to implement after school education programs funded by the diaspora.

#### → Raising funds through remittances for an educational camp for people with disabilities in Guatemala

NGO Vlamistad partnered with remittance company Viamericas to mobilise diaspora resources. The company launched a platform at eleven remittance-sending points located in Maryland from which the Guatemalan diaspora was able to make donations at no additional cost. Through using social media campaigns and newspaper advertisements, the diaspora living in Maryland learned about the campaign and was invited to participate by donating. In ten days, the campaign reached over 5,000 users, of which more than half interacted with the ad.<sup>11</sup>

8 <https://migrationdataportal.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/MGI%20Guatemala%20EN.pdf>

9 <https://migrationdataportal.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/MGI%20Guatemala%20EN.pdf>

10 <https://www.thedialogue.org/remittances-for-development-engaging-the-diaspora-with-social-projects-in-guatemala/>

11 <https://www.thedialogue.org/blogs/2019/08/remittances-for-development-engaging-the-diaspora-with-social-projects-in-guatemala/>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions



- **National institutions**

**General Directorate of Consular and Migratory Affairs** <http://igm.gob.gt/>

This is the entity entrusted with consular paperwork for Guatemalans living abroad, issuing documentation relating to their identity and national origin.

**Ministry of External Relations** <https://www.minex.gob.gt/>

The ambassador and consular officers are entrusted with establishing links and relationships with the diaspora.

- **At ministerial level**

**National Migrant Assistance Council of Guatemala (CONAMIGUA): 2008**

<https://conamigua.gob.gt/>, <https://www.minex.gob.gt/userfiles/LeydelCONAMIGUA.pdf>

CONAMIGUA was created through Decree 46-2007 by the Congress of Guatemala and is comprised of the Guatemalan State authorities responsible for monitoring and protecting the human rights and individual guarantees of Guatemalans living abroad. They are the governmental entity in charge of coordinating, defining, supervising the actions of the State aimed at protecting, attending and providing assistance to Guatemalan migrants, their families in Guatemala, as well as the population deported and returned to the country and of the migrants who are in the national territory.

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



**GUATEMALTECOS EN ITALIA** Italy <https://guatemaltecocos-en-italia.webnode.it/chi-siamo/>

- ✓ **Development activities**

The organisation strives to connect Guatemalans living in Italy and encourage cultural exchange between Guatemala and Italy. It promotes integration of Guatemalans in Italy and cultural events that promote Guatemala. The organisation is particularly concerned with bringing education to the poorest areas in Guatemala.

**La Asociación de Mujeres de Guatemala (AMG)** Spain <http://mujeresdeguatemala.org/>

A feminist non-profit organization, formed by Guatemalan women refugees and migrants, residing in Spain. AMG's objective is to make the violations of women's human rights, especially in Guatemala, known internationally. AMG supports accountability processes through strategic litigation in national and international courts with a legal team that specialises in human rights and gender-based crimes. AMG's relationship with the countries of origin allows it to work so that the institution of asylum does not become another factor of impunity for the state and for the criminals that cause the exile of women.

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**

Edited by: **EUDiF**

March 2020

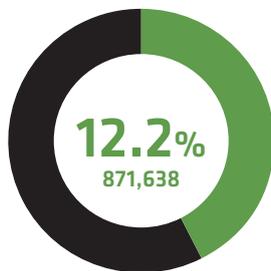


# Diaspora engagement mapping PARAGUAY

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

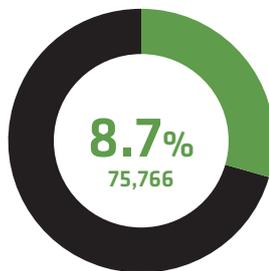
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 42.7%  
♀ 57.3%



% of which in the EU



♂ 29.5%  
♀ 70.5%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.5%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **618**



### Top countries of destination

Argentina	690,948 (79%)
Spain	64,547 (7%)
Brazil	52,770 (6%)
U.S.	34,307 (4%)
Canada	7,774 (1%)

### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



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



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



**Paraguay does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

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

2 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



- 1996** ● **General Migration Law No. 978/96 (Ley General de Migraciones No. 978/96)** seeks to regulate immigration and emigration. In terms of emigration, the law establishes the General Migration Unit (Dirección General de Migraciones), outlines the roles of embassies and consulates, seeks to incentivise the creation of associations abroad to preserve cultural identity, and prohibits labor recruitment of Paraguayans as migrant workers unless there is an existing authorised agreement. There is no direct reference made to the engagement of the diaspora for development.<sup>3</sup>
- 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>4</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>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> [https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Ley\\_de\\_Migraciones\\_Paraguay.pdf](https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Ley_de_Migraciones_Paraguay.pdf)

<sup>4</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>5</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)

## 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



### 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.<sup>8</sup>

### 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.<sup>9</sup>

### Diaspora Engagement, Data Management

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.<sup>10</sup>

REMITTANCES

NETWORKS +  
CONSULAR SERVICES

CAPACITY  
BUILDING

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

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

8 <https://www.fomin.org/en-us/Home/News/article-details/ArtMID/18973/ArticleID/2364.aspx>

9 [https://www.mre.gov.py/index.php/noticias-de-embajadas-y-consulados/sistema-innovador-de-paraguay-para-servicio-migrantes-fue-elogjado-en-nueva-york?ccm\\_paging\\_p=58](https://www.mre.gov.py/index.php/noticias-de-embajadas-y-consulados/sistema-innovador-de-paraguay-para-servicio-migrantes-fue-elogjado-en-nueva-york?ccm_paging_p=58)

10 <https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/139-paraguay-migration-and-development-diaspora-affairs-data-management>

## 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.<sup>11</sup>

- **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.<sup>12</sup>

- At sub-ministerial level

#### **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>13</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>14</sup>

#### **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.<sup>15</sup>

11 <https://www.mercosur.int/en/about-mercosur/mercosur-in-brief/>

12 <https://www.mre.gov.py/index.php/institucion/mision-y-vision>

13 Respuestas del Estado Paraguayo al Cuestionario Sobre "Derechos Humanos de los Migrantes: La Migración y los Derechos del Niño"

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

15 <http://www.migraciones.gov.py/index.php/institucion/resena-historica>

## 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.

### **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.<sup>16</sup>

### **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.<sup>17</sup>

#### Development activities

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.paraguayosmalaga.org>

<sup>17</sup> [http://asociaciones.alcobendas.org/integra\\_social/asociacion-de-paraguayos-de-alcobendas-y-san-sebastian-de-los-reyes/](http://asociaciones.alcobendas.org/integra_social/asociacion-de-paraguayos-de-alcobendas-y-san-sebastian-de-los-reyes/)

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union





# Diaspora engagement mapping

## VENEZUELA

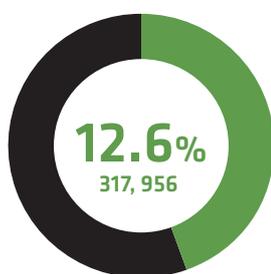
### Facts & figures

#### Emigration<sup>1</sup>

% of emigrants in total population<sup>2</sup>



% of which in the EU<sup>3</sup>



Remittances as a share of GDP<sup>4</sup>: 4.4%  
Remittances inflow (USD million): 301



#### Top countries of destination

Colombia	1,048,714
Peru	602,595
U.S.	255,141
Spain	202,859
Chile	109,798



#### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>5</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>6</sup>



Voting from abroad<sup>7</sup>:

At embassies/consulates



### Venezuela does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

There is effectively no government-diaspora engagement in the country's policy and legislative framework. Given the ongoing crisis, none of the organisations have direct ties or engagement with the government.

1 Source: <https://www.acnur.org/situacion-en-venezuela.html>; RMRP, Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, 2020, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/72254.pdf>.

2 Source: <https://r4v.info/es/situations/platform>, and RMRP, Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela. No disaggregated data available.

3 Source UNDESA

4 Source: Manuel Orozco, 'Remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019: Emerging Challenges', The Dialogue March 2020.

5 <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ve.html>

6 Around 60% of Venezuelans abroad have irregular status, meaning they cannot vote.

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/63088>;

[http://www.cne.gob.ve/web/normativa\\_electoral/ley\\_organica\\_procesos\\_electorales/titulo9.php](http://www.cne.gob.ve/web/normativa_electoral/ley_organica_procesos_electorales/titulo9.php)

7 At the discretion of the Consejo Nacional Electoral



## Trends:

There is little engagement between the government and the diaspora. Due to the socio-political crisis, many diaspora groups are forming outside of Venezuela and many within the diaspora would like to help Venezuela achieve stability. Most Venezuelans interviewed in different surveys reflect the syndrome of “far but not absent.”<sup>8</sup>

There are opportunities for mobilising the Venezuelan diaspora, including to support return to democratic and constitutional order in Venezuela and provide humanitarian assistance and post-conflict recovery, including rebuilding institutions and transitional justice.<sup>9</sup>

Engagement with diaspora groups to raise finance for refugee projects is challenging. Nonetheless, the use of online donation platforms is paving the way to developing a comprehensive framework for Venezuelans overseas to be involved in refugee assistance.<sup>10</sup>

There is also significant potential to boost financial flows from the Venezuelan diaspora. Particularly, sending remittances. After the changes in currency creating a new parity and devaluation system through the *Bolívar soberano* in 2018, remittance transfers have been seen as an opportunity to attract funds and to capture foreign exchange from Europe in particular.

David Smolansky, the exiled former mayor of El Hatillo municipality in Caracas, and part of the Organization of American States, OAS’ taskforce on the Venezuelan crisis, has proposed the creation of a regional ID card that allows Venezuelans to travel across Latin America without the need for passports, making it easier for receiving countries to register and monitor their activities.<sup>11</sup>



## Achievements:

To date, there are more than 100 Venezuelan diaspora groups within the US sending humanitarian aid to Venezuela. There are many positive cases of cooperation, such as the work by Plan Pais.<sup>12</sup> They provide education programs for children in Venezuela as an effort to increase school retention, but also focus on forming the opinion of Venezuela’s diaspora youth to increase their engagement in Venezuela.

Remittance transfer companies have entered into the Venezuelan market attempting to offer competitive exchange rates (at 10% differentials instead of 1000% rates during the *Bolívar fuerte* period).

## Obstacles



- **No institutional ties:** Institutionalisation of emigration policy is weak given the ongoing socio-political crisis. Many of the emigrants fleeing lack governmental support structures. There are no official figures on the diaspora, and it is considered non-existent by the government.<sup>13</sup>

8 Vivas Peñalver, Leonardo & Paez, Tomas. (2017). The Venezuelan Diaspora, Another Impending Crisis?. 10.13140/RG.2.2.17819.87843.

9 <https://www.csis.org/programs/americas-program/future-venezuela-initiative-fvi>

10 <https://www.ft.com/content/20e7e77a-1d6b-4c20-ad61-e8f854fa5f5b>

11 <https://www.caracaschronicles.com/2019/07/02/an-explosive-venezuelan-diaspora-threatens-latin-america/>

12 <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/how-the-diaspora-is-helping-venezuela-migration-crisis/>

13 Vivas Peñalver, Leonardo & Paez, Tomas. (2017). The Venezuelan Diaspora, Another Impending Crisis?. 10.13140/RG.2.2.17819.87843.

- **Financial infrastructure:** Remittances are largely informal and there is no official governmental program to facilitate remittances.<sup>14</sup> More than 3 million households are receiving over USD3bn dollars in funds from the diaspora.<sup>15</sup> It has become a pattern among Venezuelans in the diaspora to help their relatives at home, although it is done under very difficult conditions due to the strict foreign exchange controls, which until 2019, criminalized any free exchange of currencies. These conditions make it extremely hard to have a freely established remittances marketplace.
- **Inadequate legal & policy framework:** The regime disrespects political and civil rights in its most basic forms, including those of the diaspora seeking passports and ID documents.<sup>16</sup> Venezuelans needing such documents must return and sometimes wait several months under poor conditions, including risks of extortion, to obtain the documents. It is not possible to obtain an ID card abroad, placing many Venezuelans in limbo, neither citizens of the host country, nor legally Venezuelans. The same can be said of the difficulties to register to vote.

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### Voice of the Diaspora (La Voz de la Diáspora) - Research Project

Developed by a team at Universidad Central de Venezuela, the project aims to characterise and quantify the global distribution of the Venezuelan diaspora and give them voice and encourage their participation in networks. The information collected from online surveys, focus groups, or face-to-face interviews with nearly 4,000 people, allows for the characterisation by sociodemographic, professional, academic, and family characteristics; degree of integration into the host country; desire (or lack thereof) to return; and their willingness to participate in the reconstruction process.<sup>17</sup>

NETWORKS

### Una Medicina Para Venezuela<sup>18</sup>

Implemented by Asociación Española Venezolana por la Democracia, “the project which collects medicines and medical supplies in Spain and sends them to Venezuela.

HUMANITARIAN AID

### Dame tu Pastillita<sup>19</sup>

A communication campaign by Asociación LEAN Ayuda Humanitaria to collect and send medicine to Venezuela.

HUMANITARIAN AID

### Vuelve a Casa<sup>20</sup> - Return initiative (inactive)

This programme, promoted by the National Assembly (AN) and various organisations, is designed to “connect all Venezuelans living abroad and generates the conditions for their return.” However, the initiative is not in place due to the internal conflict between Guaido followers and the Maduro regime.

RETURN

14 *Latin American and Caribbean Migration from Weak and Failing States*, 2019. Washington, DC, IAD.

15 Orozco, Manuel. *Money Transfers to Venezuela, a brief overview*. 2020, Washington, DC, IAD, forthcoming.

16 Vivas Peñalver, Leonardo & Paez, Tomas. (2017). *The Venezuelan Diaspora, Another Impending Crisis?*. 10.13140/RG.2.2.17819.87843.

17 <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/amid-economic-crisis-and-political-turmoil-venezuelans-form-new-exodus>

18 [twitter.com/asevedemocracia?lang=es](https://twitter.com/asevedemocracia?lang=es) ; [aseved.com](https://aseved.com)

19 [facebook.com/LeanAyudaHumanitaria](https://facebook.com/LeanAyudaHumanitaria); [leanemergente.org](https://leanemergente.org)

20 <https://venepress.com/Pol%C3%ADtica/Guaido-lanza-el-programa-Vuelve-a-Casa1561391446747>

## Annex: List of actors

### Diaspora related institutions



There is no diaspora engagement within the government due to the socio-political crisis. Therefore, no institution is in charge of this issue.

### Diaspora organisations in Europe



**Un Mundo Sin Mordaza** 2009 <https://sinmordaza.org/historia/>

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza is an international organisation formed after the global protest No Más Cierres, in which more than 20 countries participated. The organisation was founded to institutionalise the “global solidarity” movement without borders.

**Veneeuropa Belgium**, Greece, Italy, Spain, Sweden, UK [http://www.veneeuropa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://www.veneeuropa.eu/index_en.htm)

Headquartered in Brussels, with delegations in six European countries and a youth delegation, Veneeuropa promotes analysis and debate about the reality of Venezuela from the perspective of the socio-cultural ties that unite it with Europe. It provides platforms and spaces facilitating the search for viable solutions to the conflict.

Implemented by



**ICMPD**

International Centre for  
Migration Policy Development

Funded by  
the European Union



Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

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

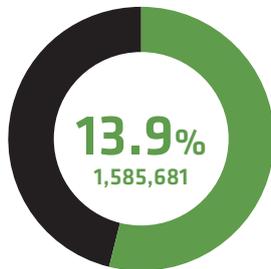


# Diaspora engagement mapping HAITI

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



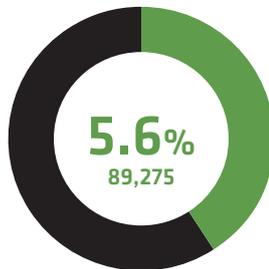
♂ 54.0%  
♀ 46.0%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **34.3%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **3,289**



% of which in the EU



♂ 41.0%  
♀ 59.0%



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

U.S.	737,058
Dom. Rep	491,013
Canada	99,564
France	81,854
Chile	68,643

### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>2</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>3</sup>



Haiti does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

2 Haiti's dual citizenship was recognized in 2012 amending the 1987 Constitution (article 13). <https://www.refworld.org/docid/50fd44852.html>

3 <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/ElecSys/Haiti/haiti.html>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2008 ● **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Haiti Renewal Alliance (HRA)**, signed between the Minister of Haitians Living Abroad and the Head of Mission of the International Organization for Migration, the MOU seeks to establish the terms to allow the HRA to conduct an inventory of the country's diaspora worldwide. Minister Ternier, who signed the agreement, announced that "it is necessary to list all the sons and daughters of the country living in foreign lands, in order to have information on their host country, their areas of expertise or profession and their willingness to return to Haiti or to help the country in well-defined circumstances." The information gathered through the inventory is to be used to create a database of diaspora members. This initiative is seen by the government as a step needed to enable the diaspora to reintegrate into the social and economic aspects of the country.<sup>4</sup>

### » Trends

Overall: The Haitian government's engagement with the diaspora reflects uncoordinated efforts between the Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad (MHAVE) and a wide range of initiatives that relate more to emergencies, outside actors, or differentiated impacts. Key sectors of diaspora engagement include emergency relief, new technologies, business development and investment. Despite the fact that the Haitian economy is largely dependent on remittances, the government is unresponsive and ineffective in leveraging these funds for economic growth or development.

Continued disaster relief efforts: The Haitian Diaspora Emergency Response Unit (HDREU) provides a coordinated and effective disaster response within the diaspora and between diaspora and other stakeholders, such as emergency responders and the local population. The coalition of more than 30 diaspora organisations mobilised resources to better support the needs of communities impacted by Hurricane Dorian.<sup>5</sup>

Business development and investment: the U.S. Government, through USAID, launched an initiative to attract private capital and credit for small and medium sized enterprises (SME) across Haiti. The Haiti INVEST project, for example, created a facilitation platform to mobilize financing for investment in high potential sectors in Haiti, such as agriculture. Through Haiti INVEST, USAID opens a path to mitigate risks and share rewards with diaspora and Haitian investors.<sup>6</sup>

## Obstacles



- **Lack of resources, legitimacy, and trust:** In principal, the diaspora has support through the Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad but, despite being the only government institution that engages with the diaspora, it struggles with funding and legitimacy. Diaspora engagement mainly occurs through non-profit or private institutions. While many of the challenges to diaspora engagement involve a lack of resources and economic development, there is also a lack of trust between the Haitian State and the diaspora. In some cases, the diaspora resents the Haitian government, which at some point fueled migration.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, members of the diaspora may be discouraged from investing due to political instability and perception of corruption.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, limited economic opportunities in the country may create a perception of competition between the government and members of the

4 <https://www.caribbeanationalweekly.com/caribbean-breaking-news-featured/haiti-to-conduct-survey-of-all-nationals-in-the-diaspora/>

5 <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-strengthens-engagement-diaspora-organizations-disaster-response-preparedness-and-recovery>

6 <https://ht.usembassy.gov/usa-id-launches-haiti-invest-to-open-access-to-credit-and-capital-for-haitian-enterprises/>

7 <https://books.openedition.org/pur/26979?lang=en>

8 <https://www.csis.org/analysis/role-haitian-diaspora-building-haiti-back-better>

diaspora that may wish to return later. Past issues with foreign involvement have created a lack of confidence and mistrust. The existing mistrust and lack of collaboration diminishes the ability to strengthen diaspora engagement.<sup>9</sup>

- **Few Remittances for development initiatives:** Despite a high remittance growth rate (36% of the country's national income in 2019) and numerous development initiatives in Haiti, there are few that link remittances to the country's development needs. This missing policy intervention dovetails with the already severe challenges to promote economic change in the country. Moreover, the World Bank has announced that long-term remittance growth is likely to be threatened by tightening of immigration policies. A threat to remittance growth can limit the potential government engagement with the diaspora through projects that leverage the use of remittances for development.<sup>10</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### La Maison de la Diaspora<sup>11</sup> 2008

La Maison de la Diaspora supports the Haitian Diaspora wishing to invest or move to Haiti with a focus on development. It helps different groups such as youth, women, retirees, the disabled. One of the main objectives is to pressure the Haitian Parliament to give the diaspora the right to vote abroad, and to allow the diaspora to hold government positions and to participate in elections as candidates, senators, deputies, general secretaries, etc.

INVESTMENT +  
ADVOCACY

### “By and for the Diaspora” campaign 2019

In the “By and for the Diaspora” (2019) campaign, the government aims to present, through interactive live broadcasts on television and social networks, the different ministries, directorates, and government services to the diaspora in order to increase understanding and better access to government services. More than one hundred thousand Haitians in the diaspora followed the first two broadcasts, mainly via Facebook Live. MHAVE plans to offer these sessions continuously to introduce public services to members of the diaspora.<sup>12</sup> Prior to this campaign MHAVE had also launched a promotional tool for diaspora members willing to invest in the country. The purpose of this tool was to simplify administrative procedures and provide information to diaspora members to facilitate their ability to conduct business in the country.<sup>13</sup>

DIGITAL

9 <https://books.openedition.org/pur/26979?lang=en>; <http://yris.yira.org/essays/1534>

10 <https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-24198-haiti-flash-record-of-remittances-from-the-haitian-diaspora.html>

11 [https://www.facebook.com/pg/Maison-de-la-Diaspora-Diasporas-House-291124567604523/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Maison-de-la-Diaspora-Diasporas-House-291124567604523/about/?ref=page_internal), <http://mhive.gouv.ht/actualites/rencontre-avec-les-representants-de-la-maison-de-la-diaspora/>

12 <http://www.loophaiti.com/content/par-et-pour-la-diaspora-nouveau-programme-au-service-de-la-diaspora>

13 <https://lenouvelliste.com/lenouvelliste/article/139535/KODYADEV-a-web-space-to-promote-Diaspora-investment>



## Diaspora Challenge Initiative<sup>14</sup> 2016

### INVESTMENT + ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Diaspora Challenge Initiative aims at leveraging ideas about successful development concepts amongst members of the diaspora looking for opportunities to contribute to Haiti's economic development. Funded by the United States' Agency for International Development (USAID), the initiative is part of the broader Leveraging Effective Application of Direct Investments programme (LEAD) implemented by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). The LEAD programme encourages the Haitian diaspora in the United States to support Haitian businesses. LEAD has organised four roadshow events in the United States, as well as sponsored two Investment Expos. Out of 272 applicants to the LEAD Business Plan Competition, 34% and 9 of the 31 winning enterprises were from the Haitian Diaspora. These diaspora projects involve diverse issues and sectors, including economic development and the environment. Combined, they are valued at over \$3.85M.<sup>15</sup>

## The Annual National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals (NAAHP) National Conference<sup>16</sup> 2011

### NETWORKS

The Annual NAAHP National Conference, routinely attended by more than 500 participants, has been held in major public and academic settings located in areas that feature large or growing populations of Haitian-Americans.

<sup>14</sup> <http://dci.naahpusa.org/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://leadinvestmentshaiti.info/diaspora-engagement>

<sup>16</sup> <http://naahpconference.org/>

## Annex:

### List of Actors

#### Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**
  - At ministerial level



#### **Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad (previously Ministry of Diaspora Affairs)<sup>17</sup> 1994**

The MHAVE is a body for information, liaison, orientation, facilitation, integration and coordination between the diaspora and the Haitian government. Created to enhance the value of the Haitian diaspora in the economic and social life of the country, the MHAVE represents almost all the services of the Haitian Government with this community. The ministry aims to encourage the participation of diaspora communities in technical and professional activities that advance Haiti's development efforts.

#### Diaspora organisations in Europe



#### **Coordination Europe-Haiti<sup>18</sup> Europe 2004**

##### Development activities

The Coordination Europe-Haiti is a network of engaged European civil society organisations and member-driven platforms. It works closely with civil society organisations and movements in Haiti, and its members come from six European countries. The network lobbies and advocates at the national and international level. Each member works with a network of partner organisations and civil society leaders in Haiti. One of its priorities is giving a voice to the concerns of Haitian civil society in Brussels and Strasbourg.

#### **Fondation de France<sup>19</sup> 2014**

##### Development activities

Through "Haiti Solidarity," Fondation de France supports long-term rebuilding projects of French organisations or NGOs working in partnership with Haitian organizations. These projects can last for up to 48 months aim and aim to rebuild disaster areas and help the Haitian population to get back to normal life.

#### **Fédération de la Diaspora Haïtienne d'Europe (FEDHE)<sup>20</sup> Europe 2010**

##### Development activities

The FEDHE is an organisation created with the purpose of supporting Haiti's reconstruction process post-earthquake. It is present in seven European countries including France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Federation initiatives focus on philanthropic support in health and education issues aiding non-profits in Haiti.

<sup>17</sup> <http://mhavie.gouv.ht/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://coeh.eu/about-us/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://fdnweb.org/ffdf/donors/haiti/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.fedhe.org/>

## PAFHA (Plateforme d'Associations Franco-haïtiennes)<sup>21</sup> France 2000

### ✔ Development activities

PAFHA is a collegial structure formed by associations with activities in both France and Haiti that share their experiences, lessons learned, and seek solutions to the challenges of development in Haiti. This platform is recognised for the large role that the associations play in the integration of Haitian migrants in France as well as their role in Haiti's development.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.coordinationsud.org/membre/plateforme-dassociations-franco-haitienne/>  
<sup>22</sup> <https://www.coordinationsud.org/membre/plateforme-dassociations-franco-haitienne/>

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



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



# Diaspora engagement mapping

## BOLIVIA

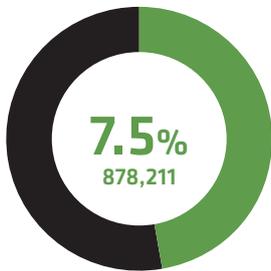
### Facts & figures

#### Emigration

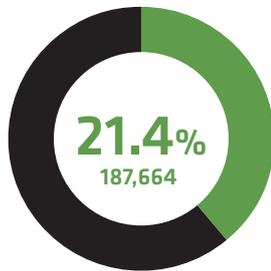
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 47.4%  
♀ 52.6%



♂ 38.9%  
♀ 61.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **3%**  
Remittances inflow (USD million): **1,307**



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



Argentina	426,394 (49%)
Spain	151,235 (17%)
U.S.	93,442 (11%)
Chile	80,813 (9%)
Brazil	52,184 (6%)

#### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



**Bolivia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.**

<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.

### Obstacles:



- **Diaspora institution:** As of 2020, 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:** As of March 2020, an interim government is governing the country. 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%20Migraci3n.pdf>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### 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. <sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup>

REMITTANCES

### "Bolivia en Tus Manos", 2019

New technologies have been introduced to increase access to consular services for Bolivians abroad . "Bolivia 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. <sup>7</sup>

DIGITAL

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cemla.org/remesas-if/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.paginasiete.bo/economia/2016/8/12/tigo-money-western-union-servicio-remesas-105980.html#!>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cancilleria.gob.bo/webmre/noticia/3659>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

## Diaspora related institutions



- **Regional organisations:**

### The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

<https://www.mercosur.int/en/about-mercosur/mercosur-in-brief/>

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** <http://www.cancilleria.gob.bo/webmre/pagina/84>

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>8</sup>

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



**Anglo Bolivian Society** 1995 UK <https://angloboliviansociety.org/>

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 <https://www.facebook.com/asbolesva>

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

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

<https://www.hacesfalta.org/transparencia-ong/detalle/?IdOng=6215>

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.

<sup>8</sup> <https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/32654/INTERACT-RR-2014%20-%202012.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

## 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

<http://santacruzdelasierra.cat/?q=es>

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 <http://www.friendsofbolivia.org.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 <http://www.acobe.org/>

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.

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**  
Edited by: **EUDiF**  
March 2020

Implemented by



Funded by  
the European Union



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