

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Factsheet dossier

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This dossier contains country factsheets on diaspora engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean. The factsheets were produced during EUDiF's global mapping on diaspora engagement, the full results of which are available via an [interactive map](#) on the project's website.

Statistics included in the factsheets come from UN and World Bank datasets; where data was unavailable for 2021, the 2019 dataset is used, as per the initial publication of the mapping. As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration. We are aware that this does not include all who consider themselves diaspora. In certain cases national statistics are included in the fact sheets.

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Cuba	Paraguay
Dominica	Peru
Dominican Republic	Suriname
Ecuador	Trinidad and Tobago
El Salvador	Venezuela

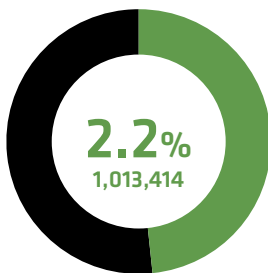


Diaspora engagement mapping ARGENTINA

Facts & figures

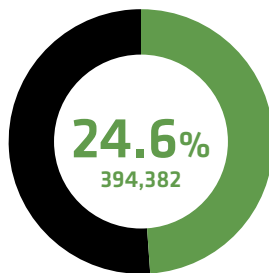
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 48.4%
♀ 51.6%

% of which in the EU



♂ 48.9%
♀ 51.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.2%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **632**



Top countries of destination

Spain	259,946
United States	215,239
Chile	72,813
Italy	71,880
Paraguay	58,535



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: The government uses the terms “Argentinos en el exterior”³ and “Argentinos en el mundo”⁴ to refer to Argentinians living or traveling in another country.

Argentina does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/migraciones/doble-nacionalidad>

2 Codigo electoral nacional: <https://pdba.georgetown.edu/ElecSys/Argentina/argentina.html>

3 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/migraciones/argentinos-en-el-exterior>

4 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/argentinosenelmundo>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2010 ● **Law on Migration (Law No. 25871) – Ley de Migraciones (Ley No. 25871)**: provides that the government may subscribe international agreements to guarantee labor and social security rights to Argentinians abroad and the possibility to send remittances to their families in Argentina. It also provides fiscal incentives to those Argentinians abroad who decide to return to the country (tax exemptions on professional tools, household goods and vehicles) and obliges embassies and consulates to provide all the necessary services to Argentinians abroad in order to keep them informed about fiscal incentives for their return.

» Trends & achievements

The government of Argentina has a very welcoming policy for citizen naturalization, which offers any Argentinian parent the ability to apply for citizenship for their child. Additionally, the government makes finding diaspora communities anywhere around the world relatively easy by maintaining a detailed website that includes groups in over 100 countries across six continents.

While the government makes locating diaspora communities a fairly simple task, there are no official diaspora policies and it is not clear whether the government is interested in strengthening its diaspora engagement or not.

Obstacles



- **Low remittance assistance:** Although 2% of Argentinians live abroad and the value of remittances is relatively low, diasporas from more advanced economies tend to be more active in other ways than via remittances, e.g. via philanthropy.
- **Lack of policy framework:** There is no policy framework informing government outreach to the diaspora or guiding activities. For example, although the Argentine government provides efficient and easily accessible government information and regional community programs to its citizens abroad through their website “Argentinos en el mundo”, the activity is primarily an effort of the foreign affairs office to fulfil its administrative work of informing its citizens, rather than an attempt to drive engagement.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Naturalization Efficiency

The government of Argentina makes citizenship through naturalization very accessible.⁵ Children born abroad to Argentines are able to apply for citizenship at their embassy or consulate. The child must have at least one Argentine parent. The cost of obtaining citizenship is free. However, in order to obtain the National Document of Identification (DNI), which is necessary for all citizens, the fee is 300 pesos in the currency of the country you live in.

MIGRANTS
RIGHTS

Recognition of Active Argentines Abroad 2018

In 2018, the Foreign Minister, Jorge Faurie, granted special recognition and signed diplomas to Argentines abroad who demonstrated outstanding work in the social or business sector or in the strengthening of bilateral relations. Argentinean representatives were prompted to identify citizens in their jurisdiction that matched the criteria; the main one being the positive contribution the citizen had made for the image and visibility of Argentina abroad and/or their contribution to the development and strengthening of ties between the members of the Argentine community in their country of residence. The awards were presented at a formal event with the winners' family and friends.

NETWORKING AND
PARTNERSHIPS

Comunidades Argentinas en el Mundo

The government of Argentina has an extensive list of local Argentinean community groups in 21 countries and 6 continents. The government website provides users with the type of group, the country and city it is located in, the name of the organization, an email contact, and the website link. New community groups can be submitted by email to argentinosenelmundo@mrecic.gov.ar The list is intended to be useful to Argentines abroad, who can access information about organizations where they can meet and interact with other Argentinean citizens.

COMMUNITY AND
ORGANIZATIONS

⁵ <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/optar-por-nacionalidad-argentina-para-hijos-de-argentinos-nacidos-en-el-exterior>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**
- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level



Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto Argentina 1853

The Ministry of Foreign Relations, International Business, and Argentinian Culture oversees the embassies and consulates abroad. It also provides individuals with information on visas. The ministry's website promotes international relations and shows users different events that have been hosted between diaspora populations across the globe.

Embassies and Consulates

The Argentinian embassies and consulates serve as political and economic representations of Argentina. They provide assistance, support, and guidance and containment to Argentinian citizens abroad. There are over 100 countries with Argentinian embassies and consulates. A complete list of locations and contact information is available here.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Asociación de Residentes Argentinos en Bélgica y Luxemburgo 1999 Belgium

- ✔ **Development activities**
- ✔ **Integration activities**

The Brussels-based organisation helps medical and educational programs in Argentina through donations and promotes cultural events.

Centro Argentino de Franken 1992 Germany

- ✔ **Integration activities**

The Erlangen based organisation aims to promote integration of Argentinians in Germany, as well as cultural exchange between the two countries and to maintain Argentinian cultural heritage.

Círculo Argentino de Señoras de Berlín Germany

- ✔ **Integration activities**

The Berlin-based organization aims to nurture Argentinian culture by promoting cultural exchanges through film screenings, dances and other cultural expressions and events.

Observatorio Hispano Argentino Spain

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The observatory is based in Madrid, from whence it promotes studies and analysis on both Argentinian and Spanish realities and aims to promote, defend, and spread migrants' rights, social development projects and cultural events.

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Find out more at www.diasporafordevelopment.eu

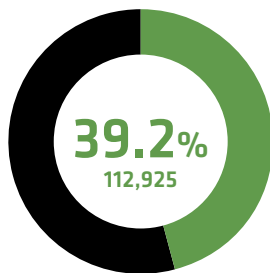


Diaspora engagement mapping BARBADOS

Facts & figures

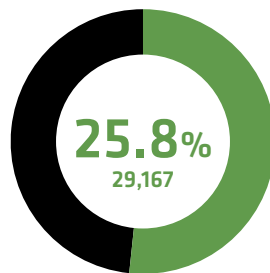
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 46.1%
♀ 53.9%

% of which in the EU



♂ 51.9%
♀ 48.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 2.5%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 108



Top countries of destination

United States	63,152
United Kingdom	28,618
Canada	15,011
Trinidad and Tobago	1,147
Jamaica	539



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Barbados does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ Barbados Citizenship Law, Chapter 186, The Constitution of Barbados (last amended in 2007) outlines the grounds for dual citizenship of Barbados. Dual citizenship is recognised and citizenship rights are conferred at birth to persons born abroad when at least one parent is a citizen of Barbados born in Barbados (Chapter II.5.1). The Barbados Constitutional Amendment Act 2000-18 enacted in 2000 extended the right to citizenship through descent to include not only fathers who are Bajan citizens born in Barbados, but also mothers. This amendment also provided citizenship rights to the spouses of female Barbadian citizens.

² Voting from Abroad: the International IDEA Handbook (2007)

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2007 ● **National Strategic Plan 2006-2025³** incorporates diaspora engagement into two of its six strategic goals. As part of Goal 6, the plan sets out to engage the diaspora to promote the Barbados brand and model. Goal 5 indirectly involves the diaspora in strategies for strengthening Barbados' prosperity and competitiveness by suggesting the role citizens living abroad play in supporting the domestic market.

» Trends

Recently, the government has taken a proactive stance in implementing foreign policy goals - such as attracting foreign investment - that engage the diaspora in the country's growth and development. It has moved beyond organising biennial conferences with the diaspora,⁴ to creating channels that institutionalise and facilitate diaspora engagement as a pillar of foreign investment strategies, specifically in sectors related to the blue and green economies.⁵

Actions that foster inter-generational national identity have also emerged, such as the 2020 homecoming campaign "We Gatherin"⁶ (see Spotlight section) and legislative initiatives to confer citizenship by descent to second and third generations. The "We connect" initiative (see Spotlight) includes the launch of three diaspora promotion investment initiatives (Bajan Connect, Innovate Barbados, and Bloom) aimed at providing marketing, branding and access to business intelligence to prospective investors, including the diaspora.⁷

Connecting Barbadian exports with the diaspora:⁸ The government recognizes that it is important to differentiate demand behaviour among the diaspora. The size of the diaspora necessitates creative strategies that take full advantage of market demand to achieve profitability. Specific areas that still need improvement include awareness of products and brands, shipping and logistics, and identifying consumer demand in real-time.

Dual citizenship: Legislative advances indicate greater governmental awareness that fomenting the diaspora's national identity is key to engaging them for trade and development. In November 2019, the Home Ministry announced that modifications to the Immigration Bill would be introduced to Parliament in 2020, which would extend citizenship rights to second and third generation Barbadians.⁹

✈ Achievements

Barbados has been successful in institutionalising diaspora engagement within a framework of social, economic, and cultural development. Government agencies have organised Biennial Diaspora Conferences between 2010 and 2016, and have involved the diaspora in annual business innovation conferences since at least 2016.

3 <http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/fr/national-strategic-plan-barbados-2006-2025-global-excellence-barbadian-traditions-4613>

4 <http://www.bidc.com/search?query=diaspora>, <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/tag/barbados-network-consultation/>

5 <https://www.investbarbados.org/newsmain.php?view=Inaugural%20Barbados%20Diaspora%20Conference>

6 <https://www.wegatherinbarbados.com/>

7 <https://bidc.org/business-news/we-connect-launch>

8 <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/are-you-up-for-the-blue-flame-challenge/>

9 <https://barbadostoday.bb/2019/11/21/nationality-law-changes-are-coming/>

Obstacles



- **Limitations to foreign investment:** Investment from the diaspora is lower than government agencies would desire, despite a relatively favourable investment environment, compared to other neighbouring countries. Nevertheless, there are hindrances to investment and business ownership, including exchange rate controls that make assets expensive, public debt and a need for greater access to angel investment networks.¹⁰
- **Inter-generational cultural heritage:** Fostering a sense of cultural heritage among second and third generations of the diaspora has been a challenge for Barbados. Not only does it affect the possibility of sustaining traditions abroad into the future it also impacts the potential for export markets, investment, and support for development projects.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Barbados Network Programme 2010

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Consular Division coordinates the Barbados Network Programme which facilitates the resettlement of Barbadians who are permanently relocating from overseas.¹¹ The programme was initially established on February 16, 1996 and relaunched on September 1, 2010.

2020 Year of the Diaspora and "We Gatherin'" homecoming campaign 2020

The government designated 2020 the "Year of the Diaspora", and the year-long, "We Gatherin'" homecoming campaign is its core initiative. The effort materializes the interest and commitment of the government to foster relationships with its communities living abroad. The premise is for Barbadians abroad to return to the island throughout 2020 in a celebration of culture and investment. The campaign seeks to cultivate relationships with Bajans abroad and mobilise their involvement in the country's economic development through contributions of time, expertise, and investment in enterprise and social causes.

'We Connect' programmes January 2020 – Ongoing

In 2020, the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation government agency launched its three main programmes Bajans Connect, Innovate Barbados, and Bloom)¹² under the theme "We Connect".¹³ This initiative integrates the three programmes under a common strategy focused on engaging the diaspora's potential as an export market, as well as its potential contribution to Barbados' development through the exchange of ideas, expertise, and investment. Innovate Barbados and Bloom focus on brainstorming and incubating innovative solutions to development challenges and their particular focus on the blue and green economies is indicative of interests to promote diaspora involvement these sectors.

RETURN &
REINTEGRATION

CULTURE;
INVESTMENT

DIGITAL;
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

10 Angel investment networks are networks of individuals who either provide capital for small start-ups in the initial phases of the business or help connect them with investors. In this case, diaspora investors who connect with entrepreneurs in Barbados. See World Bank report (2016) Investing Back Home: The Potential Economic Role of the Caribbean Diaspora

11 <http://jcustomsservices.net/services/returning-nationals/>

12 <https://gjsbarbados.gov.bb/blog/are-you-up-for-the-blue-flame-challenge/>

13 <https://bidc.org/business-news/we-connect-launch>

Annex:

List of actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) 1973

CARICOM promotes regional integration and functional cooperation among its 15 member states and 5 associate members. It operates as a single, regional market. CARICOM offers the diaspora a more attractive investment environment than national economies and regulatory frameworks. It also allows countries to incentivise domestic enterprises to export outside the CARICOM region.¹⁴

- **National institutions**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade coordinates the country's relations with foreign governments, regional and international organisations. It negotiates and monitors agreements and treaties related to foreign trade. The Consular Relations Division falls under the Ministry's mandate.

Ministry of Home Affairs

The Ministry of Home Affairs oversees legislation related to immigration, including citizenship for children of Barbadian nationals born overseas or spouses of Barbadians residing abroad.¹⁵

Barbados Immigration Department

The Immigration Department operates as part of the Ministry of Home Affairs and carries the mandate for providing passports to Barbadian nationals abroad. It implements immigration legislation, including citizenship through descent.

Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) 1992

BIDC is a government agency working to foster innovative and dynamic enterprises. It seeks to develop competitive business enterprises as a means of diversifying and growing the economy through new investment and increased exports, especially among diaspora markets. The BIDC promoted the "We Connect" event that included the three major programmes of diaspora engagement (Bajans Connect, Innovate Barbados and Bloom).¹⁶

14 <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/990601467315599193/pdf/105761-REVISED-CDI-Report-FinalLatest-PUBLIC.pdf>

15 <https://barbadostoday.bb/2019/11/21/nationality-law-changes-are-coming/>

16 <http://104.238.85.55/en/ShowPdf/340.pdf>

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Barbadian diaspora organisations in Europe are primarily located in the UK.

Bajans in London 2007 UK

Integration activities

The organisation seeks to educate and connect the Bajan diaspora in the UK with Barbados by providing updates on news and developments. It organises social and cultural activities to promote cultural heritage and build relationships among diaspora members in the UK. The organisation also provides guidance on issues such as housing and job searches.

Barbados and Friends Association Reading (BAFA) 2010 UK

Integration activities

The organization was created to promote community ties among the Barbadian diaspora. They organize cultural events all year long and partner with other organizations to promote similar activities.

Barbados Cultural Organization 2000 UK

Development activities

Integration activities

The organisation promotes Bajan culture in the UK by organising sports and entertainment activities that foster cultural heritage. It actively fundraises to support charitable causes in Barbados and maintains partnerships that promote tourism to Barbados.

Barbados Heritage UK 2019 UK

Development activities

The organisation works to preserve Bajan culture among diaspora members in the UK through activities that promote cultural expression. It focuses on fostering cultural identity among second and third generation Bajans and conducts fundraisers to support charitable projects in Barbados.

Barbados Overseas Association Manchester

1968. The association was created with the purpose of keeping Barbadians in the Manchester area informed about Barbados, promoting Bajan culture, and fostering cultural heritage among future generations of Bajans living in the UK. [[f](#)] [[t](#)]

2nd Generation of Barbadians & Friends Birmingham

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The association was founded to promote cultural and education events with an emphasis on Bajan culture and heritage. It also seeks to foster interaction across generations and provide a space for second generation Bajans to openly express their views and aspirations.

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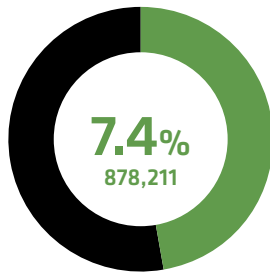
Diaspora engagement mapping

BOLIVIA

Facts & figures

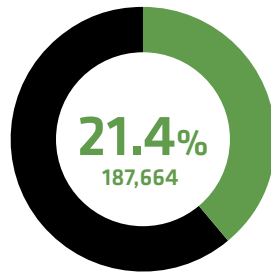
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 47.4%
♀ 52.6%

% of which in the EU



♂ 38.9%
♀ 61.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **2.8%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **1,122**



Top countries of destination¹



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

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



Bolivia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ 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.²
- 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.³
- 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.⁴

>> 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

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.⁵

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.⁶

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.⁷

DIGITAL

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

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

⁷ <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.⁸

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.

⁸ <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.

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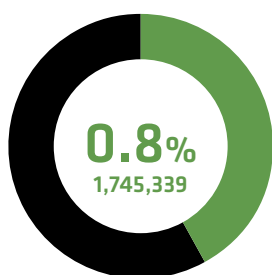


Diaspora engagement mapping BRAZIL

Facts & figures

Emigration

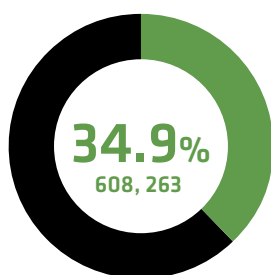
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 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): **3,566**



Top countries of destination¹

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



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



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.²

Brazil does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ 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>

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

Overview of the policy and legislative framework:



- 2010** ● **Decree No. 7.214³** 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).⁴ 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 Plan⁵** 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.⁶

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.⁷

3 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 World⁸

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.⁹

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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹

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

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.

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Implemented by



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the European Union



Find out more at www.diasporafordevelopment.eu

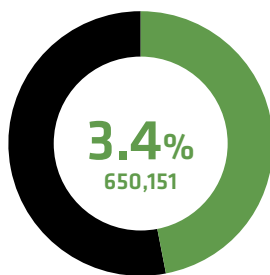


Diaspora engagement mapping CHILE

Facts & figures

Emigration

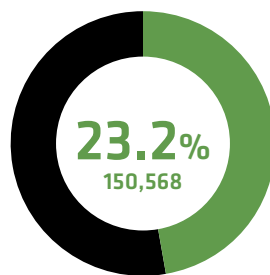
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 47%
♀ 53%



% of which in the EU



♂ 47.3%
♀ 52.7%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 0%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 71

Top countries of destination

Argentina	216,855
United States	115,243
Spain	56,704
Australia	33,707
Canada	28,441



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: The government uses the term “Chile en el Exterior” in reference to the government officials and embassies/consulates abroad and “comunidades de chilenos en el exterior” and “chilenos en el extranjero” to refer to the diaspora.

Chile does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 <https://www.extranjeria.gob.cl/nacionalizacion/preguntas-frecuentes-nacionalizacion/>; https://bibliotecadigital.indh.cl/bitstream/handle/123456789/511/La_nacionalidad_chilena_luego_de_la_reforma_de_2005_-_05_abril_2010_Libro_soc_de_Derecho_Constitucional_Francisco_Cumplido.pdf?sequence=1

According to the numbers provided by the Chilean authority DICOEX, as of 2016, 1.037.346 Chileans were living outside the country. This number considers both people born in Chile and born abroad with a father and/or mother born in Chile. Of this number, 26% live in Europe. (Source: https://www.chilesomostodos.gob.cl/chilesomostodos/site/docs/20180814/20180814173226/publicacion_segundo_registro_de_chilenos_en_el_exterior_1.pdf)

2 Since 2017 Chileans living abroad may exercise their right to vote in presidential elections and primaries, and since 2020 in national plebiscites as well. Voting from abroad is enabled at consulates or alternative premises in certain cases.

<https://duguechdip.com/chile-2017-elections-how-to-vote-from-abroad/>; <https://www.votoenelexterior.cl/votoenelexterior/preguntas-frecuentes>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2014** ● **Guide on Return for Chileans Abroad - Manual del Regreso para Chilenos en el Exterior.** This Guide was created by the Dirección para la Comunidad de Chilenos en el Exterior (DICOEX) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to bring Chileans abroad information about citizenship, voting, consular services and other topics of their interest.³
- 2015** ● **Guidelines and Instructions for the National Migration Policy (Presidential Note No. 5) - Lineamientos e Instrucciones para la Política Nacional Migratoria (Instructivo Presidencial No. 5).** Although this document mainly refers to immigration, it addresses Chileans abroad briefly in terms of the need for their recognition as subjects with rights and entitlement to public policies. It also establishes the government's obligations to provide them with services and to work towards stronger relationships with them.⁴

» Trends and achievements

Although there are no clear diaspora support policies set by the Chilean government, it makes locating nearby embassies or consulates a fairly simple task through an interactive digital interface and has a well-updated website with detailed event calendars for those who would like to attend Chilean events abroad, there are no clear diaspora support policies set by the government.

In 2017, the government granted the right to vote in presidential elections, presidential primaries, and national plebiscites to Chileans living in other countries.⁵ On October 25, 2020, for the first time, Chileans abroad exercised this right in a national referendum on a new Constitution and a Constituent Assembly.⁶ Out of 59.522 registration, 3.912 people voted, leading to a turnout of 51.93%⁷.

The Register of Chileans Abroad ("Registro de Chilenos en el Exterior"), was launched in 2003 and focuses on data collection to describe and characterize Chileans abroad.⁸ Additionally, the government uses the website "Chile Somos Todos", to communicate with different groups of Chileans abroad, as well as to share information and current events.⁹

Chile has bilateral agreements on social security with at least 27 countries and a multilateral agreement ratified by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Spain, Paraguay, Perú, Portugal, Uruguay and El Salvador, that allow Chileans who work abroad to access benefits such as pensions, in other countries, when applicable.¹⁰

3 "Manual del Regreso para Chilenos en el Exterior", 2014. https://chile.gob.cl/chile/site/artic/20170727/asocfile/20170727100930/manual_del_regreso_segunda_edicion.pdf Accessed September 2020.

4 "Lineamientos e Instrucciones para la Política Nacional Migratoria" (Instructivo Presidencial No. 5), 2015. <https://www.extranjeria.gob.cl/media/2019/03/Inst.-Pres-N%C2%BA5.pdf> Accessed September 2020.

5 <https://www.votoenelexterior.cl/votoenelexterior/preguntas-frecuentes>

6 Please see: <https://www.plebiscitonacional2020.cl/preguntas-frecuentes/> Accessed September 2020.

As mentioned in this article, the number of Chileans abroad registered to vote in the next referendum, increased in 48%. <https://www.cooperativa.cl/noticias/pais/politica/constitucion/plebiscito-chilenos-inscritos-para-votar-en-el-extranjero-aumentaron-en/2020-01-31/012247.html> Accessed September 2020.

7 https://servei.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/participacion_electoral_plebiscito_2020.pdf

8 The second and most recent Register was issued in 2018. <https://chile.gob.cl/chile/revisa-los-resultados-del-segundo-registro-de-chilenos-en-el-exterior> Accessed September 2020.

9 <https://chilesomostodos.gob.cl/chilesomostodos/stat/asociaciones/index.html>

10 Please see: <https://www.spsensiones.cl/portal/institucional/594/w3-propertyvalue-5936.html> Accessed September 2020.

Obstacles



- **Lack of dedicated policy framework:** The Chilean government currently lacks clearly defined policies to bolster Chilean communities abroad or create mutually beneficial relationships with other countries in order to support the diaspora population.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Embassy and Consular Events

The Chilean government has a very detailed, interactive website via which to find its embassies and consulates, as well as information on any upcoming or previous events related to Chilean culture.

CONSULAR SERVICES

Gobierno en el terreno 2011

The project seeks to bring the services provided by the State of Chile closer to nationals living abroad, in order to promote their links with the country; until 2010, it was developed in Argentina. From 2011, it was extended to non-bordering countries making use of information technologies such as videoconferencing and video calls; and in 2020, as a result of the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic, the virtual modality was enhanced. To date, 56 Gobierno en Terreno have been developed.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Revisitando Chile Programme carried out between 2001 and 2019 (currently in recess due to the pandemic).

It is aimed at older Chileans with limited resources who live in bordering countries. The beneficiaries return to Chile for a week and reconnect with the country they left. This initiative promotes and strengthens the link between the elderly compatriots who migrated from Chile decades ago and their families and roots.

TOURISM

Complementary Fund to support Chileans organisations abroad

This fund finances up to 50% of the total cost of a project developed jointly by a Consulate and a Chilean diaspora organisation. The project must fall within the following lines of participation: Culture, Sport and Recreation; Science, Technology and Innovation; and Integration. The first call for applications was launched in 2004. Since then, the call for applications has been held annually, except in 2016, when no competition was held.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **National institutions**

Intersectoral Working Bureau for the Chilean Community Abroad – Comité Interministerial para la Comunidad Chilena en el Exterior 2010

A multisector entity created by decree and chaired by the Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs and in charge of coordinating public policies for Chileans abroad in social and cultural issues, national identity, development of the country and other related issues.¹¹

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The ministry's mission is to structure and coordinate policy implementation with the public and private sectors, in order to safeguard the interests of Chile and Chileans globally.

Dirección General de Asuntos Consulares, Inmigración y de Chilenos en el Exterior

The General Directorate of Consular Affairs, Immigration, and Chileans Abroad aims to implement the policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in consular and immigration matters. Part of their obligations is developing efficient and modern oversight of the consular service in order to satisfy the needs of nationals residing abroad.

Diaspora organisations in Europe¹²



Asociación Casa de Chile Valencia 1994 Spain

Integration activities

This organization promotes and develops the strengthening of relations between Chileans and the community of Valencia and organises leisure activities.

Chilenos de Sardinia Italy

Integration activities

Development activities

A Rome-based association of adult Chileans who were adopted by Italians as children. It promotes cultural and social activities, mainly between its members and other Chileans abroad, including consular agents.

¹¹ "Decreto No. 139", 2010. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <https://minrel.gob.cl/transparencia/archivos/D.139.pdf> Accessed September 2020.

¹² <https://chilesomostodos.gob.cl/chilesomostodos/stat/asociaciones/index.html>

Círculo Chileno-Italiano de Roma 2000 Italy

Integration activities

This organization based in Rome promotes integration activities for Chileans in Italy, through events such as cultural and social reunions, parties and cooking competitions.

Club Chileno de Zürich 1998 Sweden.

Integration activities

Development activities

The organization aims to preserve Chilean culture and traditions and bring Chileans abroad together through social and cultural activities. The club also promotes fund raising activities to educational and medical programs in Chile.

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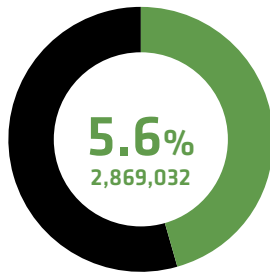


Diaspora engagement mapping COLOMBIA

Facts & figures

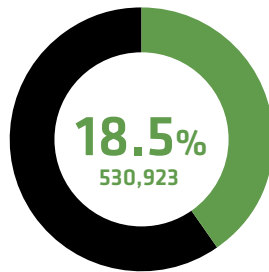
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 45.6%
♀ 54.4%

% of which in the EU



♂ 40.4%
♀ 59.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **2.5%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **6,874**



Top countries of destination

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



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



Colombia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

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

2 <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 1239³** 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 Document⁴** 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.⁵
- 2009** ● **Comprehensive Migration Policy (PIM)⁶** - 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 2011⁷** 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.”⁸ 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.⁹

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

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.secretariassenado.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



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.¹⁰
- **Gender:** Difficulties such as 'machismo' in civil society organizations remain a significant hurdle for the participation of women both in Colombia and abroad.¹¹
- **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 Us¹²

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 support¹³ and intend to strengthen and provide support to the Colombian community abroad.¹⁴

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

14 https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf



INFORMATION

Conexion Colombia¹⁵

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 Foundation¹⁶

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.

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

¹⁶ <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.

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**
Edited by: **EUDiF**
March 2020
Updated October 2021

Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union



Find out more at www.diasporafordevelopment.eu

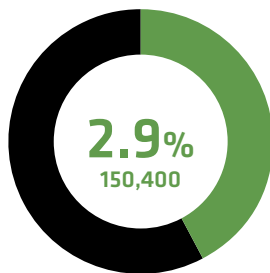


Diaspora engagement mapping COSTA RICA

Facts & figures

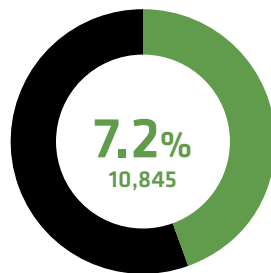
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 42.4%
♀ 57.6%

% of which in the EU



♂ 44.7%
♀ 55.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 0.8%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 500



Top countries of destination

United States of America	99,285
Nicaragua	11,283
Panama	8,260
Canada	4,206
Spain	3,459



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:³

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: In some cases, the term 'costarricenses en el exterior' is used in addition to 'diaspora'.

Costa Rica does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Constitución Política de la República de Costa Rica, 1949. Article 16 provides that Costa Rican citizenship cannot be lost or renounced. Accessed May 2020

2 Código Electoral. Ley No. 8765, 2009. Accessed May 2020

3 According to article 189 of the Código Electoral, the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) of Costa Rica may set up voting stations in Costa Rican consulates.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2009** ● **General Law on Migration and Aliens - Ley General de Migración y Extranjería (Law No. 8764)** regulates immigration, as well as the entry and departure of foreigners, considering the international human rights instruments executed by Costa Rica. It also establishes the main principles applicable to migration policies. In terms of emigration, one such principle is to promote migrant reintegration into Costa Rican society and to preserve links between the national society and its migrant communities abroad.
- 2013** ● **National Comprehensive Migration Policy 2013-2023 - Política Migratoria Integral para Costa Rica 2013-2023** was designed by the National Council on Migration and mainly centered on immigration, since Costa Rica is mostly considered a migrant-receiving country.⁴ It addresses diaspora briefly, including some actions about consular services improvements for Costa Ricans abroad. It also seeks to promote investment in the country, but there are no specific policies for returning migrants reintegration.⁵
- 2017** ● **National Integration Plan for Costa Rica 2018-2022** aims to guarantee the integration and social inclusion of the migrant and refugee population in the country; to promote equal opportunities, equity, and respect for human rights, through joint and articulated work of the public and private institutions; to comprehensively improve social, economic and cultural spaces; and to carry out a diagnosis of the needs of the immigrant and refugee population living in the country. Regarding Costa Rican returnees, this Plan improves consular services abroad.⁶

» Trends

Costa Rica's experience with its diaspora is relatively recent, perhaps dating back to 2010 when out-migration increased and talented Costa Ricans living abroad reached out to the state and private sector to share their knowledge. Costa Rica mostly considered itself a migrant-receiving country⁷. Government efforts mainly focus on immigration, so there are no special ties or projects with the diaspora. The interaction of the Costa Rican state with its diaspora so far has been mainly limited to consular services offered in small embassies and consulates around the world.⁸

The Costa Rican diaspora resides mainly in the US and one of its characteristics is that its labor composition is highly qualified.⁹ In turn, some in the diaspora have offered to improve Costa Rica's public plans by sharing their knowledge and experience.¹⁰

Due to the small size and relatively new experience of the Costa Rican diaspora, there are not many associations abroad, but there are some informal groups on social media such as Facebook, where they share information and tips about their country of origin, such as Ticos en España, Ticos en Alemania and Ticos en Europa exist.

4 "Measuring well-governed migration. The 2016 Migration Governance Index" The Economist, Intelligence Unit, 2016. Accessed June 2020.

5 International Organization for Migration (OIM). Migration Governance Profile. Costa Rica. 2019. <https://costarica.iom.int/sites/default/files/Perfil%20de%20Gobernanza%20Migratoria%20Final%20CR.pdf> Accessed June 2020.

6 Gatica, Gustavo, "Diagnóstico de la emigración de costarricenses y su reintegración en el país" *Culturas y Desarrollo en Centroamérica (CUDECA)*, 2018. Accessed June 2020.

7 "Measuring well-governed migration. The 2016 Migration Governance Index" The Economist, Intelligence Unit, 2016. Accessed June 2020.

8 Bravo Vanessa. "El Salvador and Costa Rica's State-Diaspora Relations Management", *International Journal of Communication* 8, Elon University, USA, 2014. Accessed September 2020.

9 Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE). *Reviews of Labour Market and Social Policies: Costa Rica, 2017*.

10 See "Diáspora científica y tecnológica de Costa Rica dialoga sobre estrategia nacional de ciencia para la innovación", 2019.



Achievements

Voting from abroad: In 2014, for the first time, Costa Rican citizens abroad were able to exercise their vote in a presidential election.¹¹ Voting from abroad subsequently took place in 2018. During such elections, the consulates acted as delegates of the Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones (TSE) of Costa Rica and organized voting stations.¹²

Recognition of highly educated diaspora: The Costa Rican government publicly recognizes its talent abroad, particularly the scientific and highly educated. For example, in 2019, the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Telecommunications (MICITT) invited diaspora to a dialogue via which to provide input to the National Science Strategy for Innovation.¹³

Obstacles



- **Low inclusion:** Although the government has made specific efforts with the emigrant population, such as its inclusion both in the National Comprehensive Migration Policy 2013-2023 and the National Integration Plan for Costa Rica 2018-2022,¹⁴ the diaspora asks for more inclusion in the official discourse and policy debate.¹⁵ The diaspora is rarely acknowledged in Costa Rica, even though migrants currently send around USD\$ 555 million a year in remittances, and their contributions are essential for their families' well-being, especially in certain agriculture-based regions of the country.¹⁶
- **Lack of specific initiatives and data:** Relations between the Costa Rican government and the diaspora centers on consular activities (such as passport requests) and at particular moments when aid is needed (such as during natural disasters),¹⁷ but there is a lack of public initiatives and information available regarding diaspora data and statistics.

11 Bravo Vanessa. Op. Cit. Accessed September 2020.

12 Salgado Retana Eduardo. "El voto costarricense en el extranjero y la participación del cuerpo consular", 2018. Revista de Derecho Electoral del Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones de la República de Costa Rica. Accessed June 2020.

13 "Diáspora científica y tecnológica de Costa Rica dialoga sobre estrategia nacional de ciencia para la innovación", 2019 <https://www.micitt.go.cr/noticias/diaspora-cientifica-y-tecnologica-costa-rica-dialoga-estrategia-nacional-ciencia-la> Accessed June 2020

14 Please see the "Overview of the Policy and Legislative Framework" section.

15 Bravo Vanessa. Op. Cit. Accessed May 2020.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.



SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Ticotal Network

Costa Rican Abroad Talent Network. 2010.

This network of Costa Rican Abroad Talent was created under the National Academy of Sciences to bring together Costa Rican scientists and engineers who study or work abroad. The network seeks to connect them with the scientific and technological cluster of the country by establishing a permanent instrument of interaction that enables the exchange of ideas, contacts, and experiences and identifies opportunities for cooperation in areas such as design and implementation on public policies, sabbaticals in Costa Rica and encouraging scientific and technological skills to young people. Success stories are available on [Ticotal's website](#).

Costa Rican Electoral Supreme Court Program (2012-2014) and [Basic Guide on Costa Rican Vote Abroad \(2014\)](#)

The Electoral Supreme Court developed a 2-year program to inform the Costa Rican diaspora about the absentee vote¹⁸ and compiled the Basic Guide on Costa Rican Vote Abroad, including all proceedings applicable for absentee voting.

¹⁸ Bravo Vanessa. Op. Cit. Accessed September 2020.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) 1975

SELA's main goal is to create a system of consultation and coordination for the region to address common positions and strategies on economic issues.

Central American Integration System (SICA) 1991

SICA is the institutional framework for Central American Regional Integration with the aim to fulfil peace, freedom, democracy and development in the region. SICA also promotes free mobility of citizens within the SICA area.

- **National institutions**

National Council on Migration

The Council was created by the General Law on Migration and Aliens (Law No. 8764)¹⁹ as an advisory body formed by several Ministries: in charge of designing the migration policy.

- At ministerial level

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

The Ministry is responsible for foreign policy, in charge of diplomatic and consular services and responsible for services to citizens in the national territory and abroad.

- At sub-ministerial level

Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (DGME)

Assigned to the Ministry of Public Security, the DGME is in charge of migration policies execution. It also regulates the activities of foreigners in the country and helps fight human trafficking crimes.



¹⁹ Articles 9 and 10.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Asociación de Costarricenses en Francia (ACRF) 2001 France

Integration activities

ARCF's purposes are to share the traditional Costa Rican art, music, and food and to give support to Costa Ricans living (or that will live) in France, in areas such as visa applications, studies, rentals and jobs.

Costa Rica in the UK 2016 UK

Integration activities

This non-profit cultural community organization promotes and organizes social and cultural events, to build a strong and welcoming community in the United Kingdom for Costa Ricans.



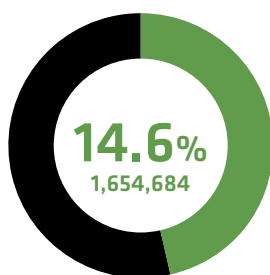


Diaspora engagement mapping CUBA

Facts & figures

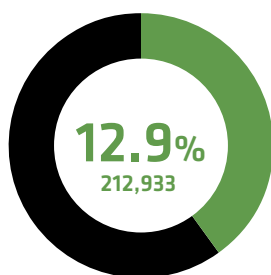
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 46.5%
♀ 53.5%

% of which in the EU



♂ 40.4%
♀ 59.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP: -
Remittances inflow (USD million): -



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*¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²³



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.⁴

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.⁵

 **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.⁶

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment is giving the opportunity for Cuban diaspora members to invest in local projects. Cubans from abroad are encouraged to invest in small and medium businesses in the tourism, agriculture and energy sectors among others.⁷

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.⁸
- **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.⁹ 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.¹⁰
- **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.¹¹

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

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

7 <https://www.macaubusiness.com/cuba-authorizes-emigrants-to-invest-in-small-projects/>

8 https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf

9 https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf

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

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



SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



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

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 2020.¹²

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

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.

¹² <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

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

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.

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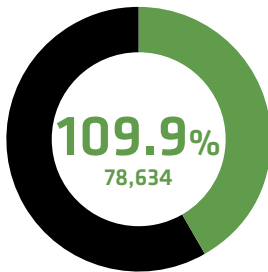


Diaspora engagement mapping DOMINICA

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population

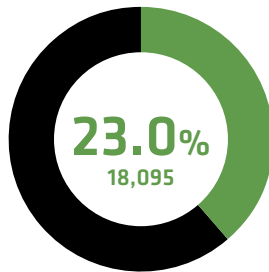


♂ 41.8%
♀ 58.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 9.5%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 49

% of which in the EU



♂ 38.7%
♀ 61.3%



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 citizenship¹²



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.³

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

3 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.⁴

>> 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.⁵ 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.⁶

HUMANITARIAN
AID

Dominica Diaspora Connection (DDC) - 2018

This initiative was established by the Discover Dominica Authorities (DDA) to celebrate the 40th 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 2019.⁷

TOURISM

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

⁷ <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.⁸

- **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.⁹

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.¹⁰

- 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."¹¹

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

9 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.¹²

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.¹³

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.¹⁴

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.¹⁵

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

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

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

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

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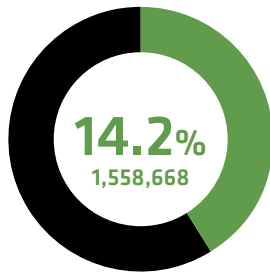


Diaspora engagement mapping DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Facts & figures

Emigration

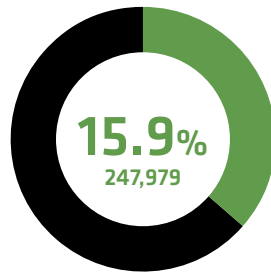
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 41.3%
♀ 58.7%



% of which in the EU



♂ 36.4%
♀ 63.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **10.6%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **8,332**



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 citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



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.³
- 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.⁴
- 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.⁵
- 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.⁶
- 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.⁷ 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

5 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

- **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.⁸

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.⁹

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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹

OUTREACH

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

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

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

¹¹ <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.¹²

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.¹³

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.¹⁴

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.¹⁵

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.¹⁶

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

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.¹⁷

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.”¹⁸

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.¹⁹

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

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

19 https://www.facebook.com/pg/jascdi/about/?ref=page_internal

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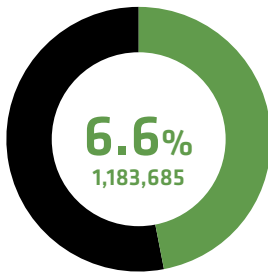


Diaspora engagement mapping ECUADOR

Facts & figures

Emigration

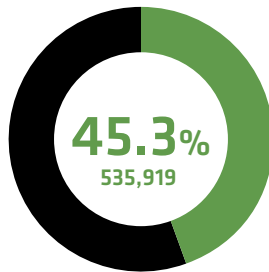
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 47.1%
♀ 52.9%



% of which in the EU



♂ 44.7%
♀ 55.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **3.5%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **3,344**



Top countries of destination¹

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.

¹ 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.²
- 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.³
- 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.⁴
- 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.⁵
- 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.⁶

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

6 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.⁷ 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.

⁷ <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.⁸

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.⁹

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.¹⁰

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

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

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.

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Find out more at www.diasporafordevelopment.eu

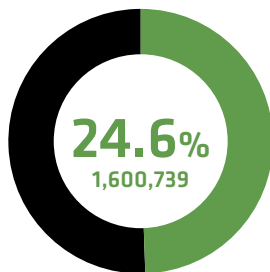


Diaspora engagement mapping EL SALVADOR

Facts & figures

Emigration

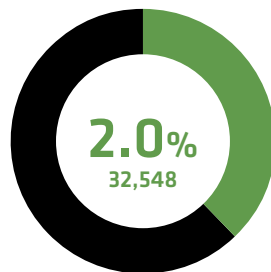
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 49.7%
♀ 50.3%



% of which in the EU



♂ 37.8%
♀ 62.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 24.1%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 5,936

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



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 abroad¹



Voting from abroad:

By post



El Salvador does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ 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)

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.² 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.³
- 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.⁴
- 2014** ● **Legislative Decree No. 663. Law for the creation of the Organism that Promotes Exports and Investment (PROESA)**⁵ - 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.⁶ Services expanded by El Salvador include legal assistance to Salvadorans in the US.⁷ 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.⁸
- 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*⁹. 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

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.¹⁰

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.¹¹ 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.¹²

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.¹³ 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.¹⁴

YOUTH

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

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

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

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

14 <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.¹⁵

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.¹⁶

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

¹⁶ <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.¹⁷

- 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.¹⁸

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

¹⁸ <https://rree.gob.sv/nuevo-consejo-de-conmigrantes-se-compromete-a-impulsar-transformaciones-en-materia-migratoria/> and <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/instituciones/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

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

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

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

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

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

 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

 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

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
Updated October 2021

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Find out more at www.diasporafordevelopment.eu

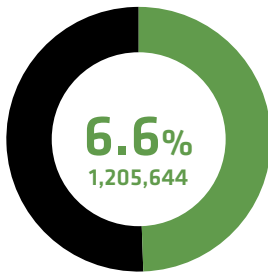


Diaspora engagement mapping GUATEMALA

Facts & figures

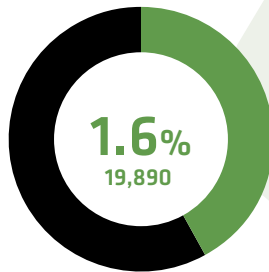
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 49.4%
♀ 50.6%

% of which in the EU



♂ 42.2%
♀ 57.8%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **14.8%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **11,403**



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*¹



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.³ However, Guatemala has a lower level of institutionalization of diaspora policies than could have been expected based on the importance of their diaspora.⁴ 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,⁵ 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.⁶

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."⁷

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

6 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelgoldberg/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.⁸
- **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.⁹

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Opportunities for My Community Project: 2016-present¹⁰

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.¹¹

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/LeydeICONAMIGUA.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://guatemaltecos-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.

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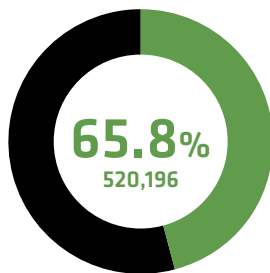


Diaspora engagement mapping GUYANA

Facts & figures

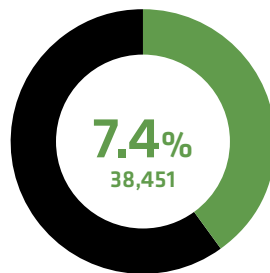
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 45.89%
♀ 54.11%

% of which in the EU¹



♂ 40.18%
♀ 59.82%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 6.3%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 361



Top countries of destination

United States of America	323,052
Canada	93,382
United Kingdom	30,180
Suriname	13,091
Trinidad and Tobago	10,582



Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³



Voting from abroad:⁴

At a ballot office



Terminology: The government uses the term “Guyanese Diaspora” and “overseas Guyanese”⁵ and the National Development Strategy refers to “overseas Guyanese”, “expatriate Guyanese” and “Guyanese living overseas.”⁶

1 Including United Kingdom as an EU member (2019).

2 Constitution of the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana, 1980. Article 44 refers to dual citizenship. According to article 46, the President has the faculty to deprive a citizen of Guyana (who has dual citizenship) of his or her citizenship acquired by registration, naturalization or any other voluntary and formal act (other than marriage). Also, the President has the permission to deprive citizenship if any citizen claimed and exercised any rights exclusively to its citizens in a country other than Guyana.

3 Representation of the People Act, 1964. Article 44 (2A) provides that the preliminary list of electors not resident in Guyana shall consist of the names of every elector not resident in Guyana who is - (i) an Ambassador or a High Commissioner; (ii) the wife or husband or child of an Ambassador or a High Commissioner; (iii) a member of the staff of an Embassy or High Commission; (iv) the wife or husband or child of a member of the staff of an Embassy or High Commission.

4 “Representation of the People Act.” 1964. Articles 51-57.

5 Diaspora Unit. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Accessed July 2020.

6 “National Development Strategy”, <https://finance.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/nds.pdf> Accessed July 2020.

Guyana does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

In 2017, at the initiative of the IOM, the government worked to draft a Diaspora Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.⁷ In 2018 it was presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The policy is designed to formally guide the administration's relationship with the diaspora with focus on three main operational areas: Diaspora Communities, Home Country and IT Social Media⁸. The strategy aims at strengthening and expanding of the Diaspora Unit, boosting short and long-term youth programmes, and boosting remittances, in the form of philanthropy. The Diaspora Engagement Strategy and Action Plan was still being finalised in October 2020⁹.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1980** ● **Constitution of the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana:** According to Article 31 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the state to protect the rights and interests of citizens living abroad.
- 1999** ● The **National Development Strategy 2000-2010** mentions the encouragement of expatriate Guyanese either to remigrate permanently, or to return home for specific periods to perform specific tasks, as a potential strategy to address the shortage of human capital in the country.

» Trends

Before the creation of the Diaspora Unit in 2011, most of the initiatives in the area of diaspora engagement in Guyana were developed with the support of international organisations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Their approach has been that bringing skills through the diaspora is a relevant capital to be gained.

In 2011, as a result of the recognition by the Guyanese government of the important role the diaspora can play as a contributor to Guyana's development, a Diaspora Unit was created within the Foreign Affairs Ministry, with the purposes of allowing a structured engagement and strengthening relations and dialogue with the diaspora. The Unit is designed to serve as liaison between the diaspora and the government and some of its main functions are to collect information about the diaspora and maintain relations with its leaders.

The government has adopted an ongoing rhetoric through official communications, projects and meetings with Guyanese abroad,¹⁰ in which it recognises that the diaspora is helping to fill the human capital gap in Guyana and that it is in a position to contribute to the implementation of its National Development Strategy (NDS).

However, beyond broad statements, the diaspora often requests that the government offer concrete policies or guidelines in order to participate in the country's development.¹¹

7 The Guyana Diaspora Engagement Strategy & Action Plan. (21 August 2017) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Co-operative Republic of Guyana. Accessed July 2020.

8 <https://www.minfor.gov.gy/featured/draft-diaspora-engagement-strategy-completed/>

9 <https://dpi.gov.gy/government-recognises-need-for-improved-structure-to-engage-diaspora/>

10 Such as the Guyanese Diaspora Project Launched in Canada and consultative meetings with Canadian-Guyanese. Both accessed September 2020.

11 Wayne Forde, The diaspora human capital could play a critical role in the oil and gas sector. Accessed May 2020



Achievements

Exclusive desks for diaspora: The government established an exclusive desk for the diaspora at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and at the Foreign Ministry.¹² The desk is part of the work performed by the Diaspora Unit, with the purpose to greet and to inform available incentives for those who wish to return to the country.

Mutual collaboration. The Diaspora Unit has sought joint collaboration with the diaspora, including donations and participation in conferences. The donation of medical equipment from the diaspora in Canada to hospitals in Guyana in 2018 is an example of the Unit's achievements.¹³

Obstacles



- **Lack of confidence in the government:** The diaspora has stressed that its willingness to engage and return is limited by a lack of trust in the state's legitimate commitment towards them.¹⁴

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Diaspora skills mapping and engagement

At the initiative of the IOM, under the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the government created the Guyana Diaspora (GUYD) project, a one-year initiative to gather information to map the diaspora and its skills. The purpose is to analyse available skills and resources that could be employed by the public and private organisations and institutions in Guyana. The mapping is to be carried out through an online survey, in person interviews and conversation between project staff and members of the diaspora, as well as workshops.¹⁵

Online magazine "Diaspora Digest" 2019

Produced by the Department of Public Information, this magazine provides news about Guyana (in areas such as politics, trade and cultural activities). The first edition came out in October 2019.¹⁶

"Go See Visit" 2017

As a result of a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the IOM, a pilot project titled "Go See Visit" brought ten Guyanese entrepreneurs from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States to explore the possibility to develop local businesses and increase employment opportunities in low-income communities in Guyana.¹⁷

HUMAN CAPITAL

COMMUNICATION

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

12 The Guyana Diaspora Engagement Strategy & Action Plan. (21 August 2017) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Co-operative Republic of Guyana. Accessed July 2020.

13 Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *Guyanese diaspora donates ultrasound machines to Ministry of Public Health*, 2018. Accessed July 2020.

14 Guyanese Migration and Remittances to Guyana. Hisakhana Pahoona. (2012) <http://www.ppgdstu.propesp.ufpa.br/ARQUIVOS/teses/TESES/2012/HISAKHANA%20PAHOONA%20CORBIN.pdf> (Page 113)

15 Diaspora Skills Mapping and Engagement <http://guydproject.minfor.gov.gy/diaspora-skills-mapping-and-engagement/> Accessed July 2020

16 Department of Public Information. "Hot off to the press diaspora digest", 2019. <https://dpi.gov.gy/hot-off-the-press-diaspora-digest/#gsc.tab=0> Accessed July 2020

17 *Engaging Guyana's Diaspora*. (21 August 2017) MFA. Accessed July 2020.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) 1973

CARICOM promotes regional integration through economic and trade union; coordination of the foreign policy and cooperation in areas such as health, education and culture, communications, and industrial relations.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The MFA is responsible for promoting the interests of Guyana within the international community and for contributing to the economic and social development of the Guyanese people.¹⁸ It also executes the Guyana Diaspora Project in partnership with the IOM.

- At sub-ministerial level

Diaspora Unit 2011

The Diaspora Unit promotes relations between the government and the Guyanese diaspora, seeking to engage the diaspora to contribute toward Guyana's national development. The draft Diaspora Engagement Strategy and Actin Plan foresees the expansion of its workforce.

Diaspora organizations in Europe



Association of Guyanese Nurses and Allied Professionals in the United Kingdom 1988

- ☑ **Development activities**

The association provides aid and support for Guyanese healthcare professionals. They also arrange exchanges with institutions and other charitable organisations in Guyana and the UK.

Guyana Diocesan Association in London UK 1994

- ☑ **Integration activities**
- ☑ **Development activities**

The Guyana Diocesan Association in London links the Church of England and the Diocese of Guyana for charitable purposes, especially in education, relief of poverty, and community development.

¹⁸ Mission statement. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guyana. Accessed May 2020.

Guyanese Federation of Nationals UK

☑ Integration activities

This umbrella body for many organisations works to improve relationships between overseas Guyanese and promotes events where they socialize with friends from home.

Guyana UK Social Development Association (GUSDA) UK 1995

- ☑ Integration activities
- ☑ Development activities

GUSDA contributes to the social development of Guyanese in Guyana and in the United Kingdom in areas such as health, education, culture, community development and general well-being.

Leeds UK Guyanese Association UK 2009

☑ Integration activities

A hometown association of Guyanese diasporans from Leeds.

Written by: Dr Manuel Orozco
Edited by: EUDiF
October 2020
Updated October 2021

Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union



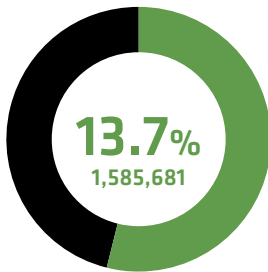


Diaspora engagement mapping HAITI

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



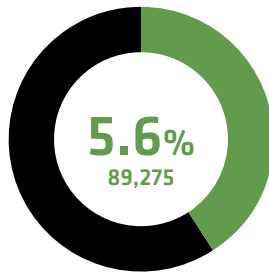
♂ 54.0%
♀ 46.0%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 21.8%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 3,111



% of which in the EU



♂ 41.0%
♀ 59.0%



Top countries of destination¹

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

Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³



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.⁴

» 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.⁵

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.⁶

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.⁷ Additionally, members of the diaspora may be discouraged from investing due to political instability and perception of corruption.⁸ 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/usaids-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.⁹

- **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.¹⁰

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



La Maison de la Diaspora¹¹ 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.¹² 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.¹³

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, <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 Initiative¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

The Annual National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals (NAAHP) National Conference¹⁶ 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.

¹⁴ <http://dci.naahpusa.org/>

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

¹⁶ <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)¹⁷ 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-Haiti¹⁸ 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 France¹⁹ 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)²⁰ 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.

¹⁷ <http://mhavie.gouv.ht/>

¹⁸ <http://coeh.eu/about-us/>

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

²⁰ <http://www.fedhe.org/>

PAFHA (Plateforme d'Associations Franco-haïtiennes)²¹ 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.²²

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

Written by: Dr Manuel Orozco
Edited by: EUDiF
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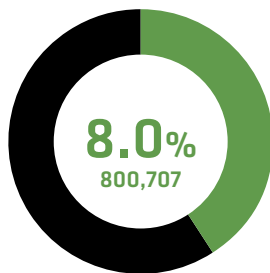


Diaspora engagement mapping HONDURAS

Facts & figures

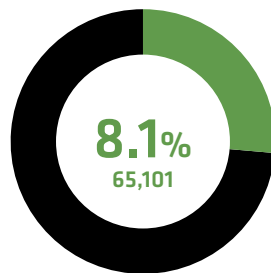
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 41.1%
♀ 58.9%

% of which in the EU



♂ 26.6%
♀ 73.4%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 23.5%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 5,576



Top countries of destination

United States of America	655,995
Spain	57,764
Mexico	15,300
Nicaragua	13,057
El Salvador	11,834



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:

at embassies and consulates



Terminology: The idea of diaspora is captured in the 2013 [Ley de Protección de los Hondureños Migrantes y sus Familiares](#) as it refers to “*hondureños residentes en el exterior*.” It also refers to the *diaspora* concept as “*hondureño migrante*” which is the term used by some government entities (e.g. Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante).

Honduras does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ Constitución de la República de Honduras, 1982. Article 28 provides that no Hondurans citizens by birth may be deprived of their nationality, even when they acquire another nationality.

² Ley Especial para el Ejercicio del Sufragio de los Hondureños en el Exterior Decreto No.72-2001

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2009** ● **Visión de País 2010-2038 and Plan de Nación 2010-2022:** The national development plan prioritises the issue of return and reintegration of migrants among those who left the country but were detained at US borders. The plan offers a commitment for decent employment opportunity to help reintegration upon return. The plan makes no mention of the importance of migrants and remittances for the country.
- 2013** ● **Ley de Protección de los Hondureños Migrantes y sus Familias:** This Act is a comprehensive legislation aimed at protecting migrants abroad. It promotes - among other things - the reduction of financial and other costs associated with remittances, and aims to strengthen the cultural, social and economic position of Honduran migrants. It creates the National Council to Protect Honduran Migrants and stipulates measures to coordinate among government agencies on issues of rights protection.

>> Trends

Honduras migration is relatively new, mostly a phenomenon resulting from Hurricane Mitch in 1998 when a large out-migration wave occurred, growing at an annual 7% rate. With the 2009 military coup and the global recession, a new wave later emerged, exploding in 2014 with thousands of unaccompanied minors leaving Honduras to the US. Because migration is a relatively new trend, diaspora communities are less established and there is less of a collective diaspora identity than evident in other nations.

Even though there are some institutions and programmes related to diaspora engagement and leveraging remittances for development should be a point of convergence between the diaspora and the government, the government sees little value to invest in diaspora engagement. In fact, the Honduran government has not engaged effectively with its diaspora, or even avoided doing so. The main reason is that Honduras prioritises the challenges posed by significant outmigration. It does not currently see its diaspora as a resource or a partner. The government chooses to focus on those returned or deported by the US government, with its policies addressing mainly outside pressures.

✈ Achievements

In 2016 Honduras signed several multilateral and bilateral agreements on migration, such as a Memorandum of Understanding on labour cooperation with Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala. It also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States of America to protect Honduran migrant workers against discriminatory practices.

A relevant fund, Fondo de Solidaridad con el Migrante Hondureño (FSMH, 2017-2019), was established as a result of a reform to the Ley de Protección de los Hondureños Migrantes y sus Familias by decree No. 15-2015. The last allocation for this fund was approved in 2019. The funds financed returned migrant care centres, social and labour reintegration programmes, the strengthening of Honduran consulates, non-profit organisations and the “Centro Consular de Protección al Migrante Hondureño”. It also provided direct help to Hondurans for their voluntary return and, when requested by the consulates, helped Hondurans deprived of liberty, provided hospital and medical aid and assistance in death or illness due to natural catastrophes and also supported the repatriation of bodies in case families did not have financial resources. Depending on the case, aid applications were submitted to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the consulates or the Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante.³

³ Reglamento del Fondo de Solidaridad con el Migrante Hondureño. Accessed July 2020.

Obstacles



- **Lack of data:** There is a lack of information on and analysis of the characteristics and development potential of Hondurans living abroad and statistics on the impact of remittances.⁴ With the foundation of the Observatorio Consular y Migratorio de Honduras (CONMIGHO) in 2015, the government has made a significant advance in statistical registration and helped close the gap. However, they still argue for the need to collect better information.
- **Resource limitations:** Due to their institutional and financial weaknesses, diaspora organisations lack resources (financial and organisational) and knowhow. Much diaspora-led work is run on donations and focuses on cultural and social activities, but there is no coordination structure. As a result, the government does not have a structured way to engage with these organisations.
- **Lack of programmes to build ties with the diaspora:** There are no formal programmes to build or preserve ties with the Honduran diaspora.⁵ Efforts were made through the Programa de Remesas Solidarias but since 2017 there are no further developments.⁶
- **The Honduran diaspora is weak overall due to its relatively recent development.** Nevertheless, it seeks to materialise its links with Honduras through cultural or philanthropic activities, or even reaching out to government officials. However, trust in the home country government is a latent issue.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Assisting returning migrants 2011

In 2011, the Asociación Hondureña de Instituciones Bancarias (AHIBA) initiated the “Friends of the Migrant Project”, a corporate social responsibility initiative which includes assistance on: awareness raising and education of migrants and their families on the proper use of remittances; encouraging saving practices; holding a semi-annual running event to raise funds for returned migrants with disabilities.

AHIBA and the Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional (INFOP) of Honduras, signed a Cooperation Agreement in 2012, through which they offer training with an entrepreneurial approach to promote entrepreneurship to deportees. AHIBA's participation is considered strategic as financial inclusion strategy to help returnees, mainly in terms of access to housing and productive assets.⁷

REINTEGRATION:
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

4 Wilson Center Latin American Programme. Fondo Social de Deuda Externa y Desarrollo de Honduras, Características Fundamentales para una Reinserción Efectiva de hondureños “TPS” Retornando a Honduras, recomendaciones de políticas públicas. Pages 28-29. Accessed May 2020.

5 International Organization for Migration (IOM). Migration Governance Snapshot: Republic of Honduras. 2018. Accessed May 2020.

6 “Programa Remesas Solidarias y Productivas ha beneficiado a más de 35,000 hondureños”, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional. November 2, 2017. Accessed May 2020.

7 Wilson Center Latin American Programme. Fondo Social de Deuda Externa y Desarrollo de Honduras, Características Fundamentales para una Reinserción Efectiva de hondureños “TPS” Retornando a Honduras, recomendaciones de políticas públicas. Pages 21-22. Accessed May 2020.



The Centros de Atención al Migrante Retornado (CAMR) 2000

RETURN & REINTEGRATION

is an entity operating on the basis of an agreement between the Scalabrinian Sisters Association/Catholic Church, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Secretariat of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation of Honduras. Their main goal is to provide immediate assistance (food, lodging, transportation, and health) to returned migrants from the United States and to promote their full reintegration through technical training and relocation for new jobs. In 2019, more than 60,000 Hondurans benefited from this initiative, 14,000 of them were minors.⁸

REMITTANCES

Solidarity and Productive Remittances Programme 2010

The Programme, launched in 2010 and resumed in 2015 until end of 2017⁹ was an initiative supported by the United Nations Development Programme to support 17 community development projects.¹⁰¹¹ These projects included diaspora cash donations to schools and community centres in the cities of Comayagua, La Paz e Intibucá that were matched by the government.

8 “Atención Integral a retornados” Sala de Prensa de la Presidencia de la República de Honduras, 2019. Accessed July 2020.

9 “Remesas Solidarias”, programa en el que Honduras invierte un dólar por cada uno que envían inmigrantes”. Proceso Digital. October 31, 2017. Accessed May 2020.

10 “Gobierno reactiva programa de remesas solidarias y productivas”. UNDP. March 12, 2015. Accessed May 2020.

11 “Programa Remesas Solidarias y Productivas ha beneficiado a más de 35,000 hondureños”. Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional. November 2, 2017. Accessed May 2020.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Regional Conference on Migration 1996

The RCM is a forum of discussion on international migration to share experiences relating to migration. Member countries include Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic. The Conference is led by Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Central American Integration System (SICA) 1991

The Central American Regional Integration System serves as an institutional framework for policy coherence and integration at regional level. The SICA has a division on migration to promote regional uniform policies.

Jesuit Refugee Service Latin America and the Caribbean (JRS LAC) 1980. Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC) y Radio Progreso. They offer legal, pastoral and investigative support to migrants, as well as help for Honduran compatriots and their families in situations of migration and often homelessness.

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de Honduras

The Secretariat for Foreign Affairs is responsible for external politics and international relations, including promotion of economic ties and political, cultural and international cooperation. It is in charge of the diplomatic missions abroad.

Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante 2013

The General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants is in charge of the execution of policies and programs to protect Honduran migrants abroad, as well as to execute return policies and programmes for Honduran migrants.¹²

Oficina de Protección al Hondureño Migrante (OPROHM) 2013

The Office for the Protection of the Honduran Migrant is in charge of executing policies and programs to protect Honduran migrants (e.g. repatriations, assistance to inmates and human trafficking cases).

Oficina de Asistencia al Migrante Retornado (OFAMIR) 2013

The Office for Assistance to Returned Migrants promotes and executes policies and programmes for the return of Hondurans abroad and the achievement of their social and labour reintegration. As well as providing technical and financial support to Centros de Atención al Migrante Retornado (CAMR).

¹² Observatorio Consular y Migratorio de Honduras CONMIGHO <https://www.conmigho.hn/direccion-general-de-proteccion-al-hondureno-migrante> Accessed May 2020.

Centros de Atención al Migrante Retornado (CAMR) 2013

The centres for Assistance to Returned Migrants implement policies and programmes from the OFAMIR. There are three centers actively operational: Centro de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familias Migrantes Belén, Centro de Atención al Migrante Retornado Omoa and Centro de Atención al Migrante Retornado en La Lima.

Unidades Municipales de Atención al Retornado (UMAR) 2013

There are 14 municipal units for assistance to returned migrants, where complete care is provided. The units offering central and local government aid to follow-up with and monitor applicants, thus achieving effective and sustainable reintegration into their communities.

- At sub-ministerial level

Consejo Nacional para la Protección al Hondureño Migrante (CONAPROHM) 2014

A consultative and advisory office attached to the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de Honduras, in charge of carrying out studies regarding Hondurans abroad.

Sistema Integral de Atención al Migrante Retornado (SIAMIR) 2014

SIAMIR's mission is to present statistical data on returnees to Honduras, with the purpose of easing the understanding of the migratory reality of the country.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Asociación de Hondureños en Málaga ADHEM 2018 Spain (inactive)

✔ Integration activities

ADHEM worked to promote activities of cultural interest, manage initiatives and actions to guide, supervise, and inform to promote quality of life as well as to strengthen humanitarian aid to people in need.

Asociación de la Comunidad Hondureña en España (ACHE) 2015 Spain

✔ Integration activities

ACHE fights for equal conditions for all Hondurans, taking into account that education can bring better opportunities for migrants without forgetting their national reality. [f]

Asociación Social Cultural de Honduras en La Provincia de Girona 2015 Spain

✔ Integration activities

Share their culture, customs and gastronomy, in order to create that harmony between the Hondurans and the Gironans. [f]

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**
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Diaspora engagement mapping JAMAICA

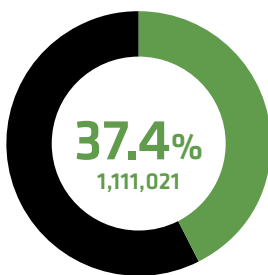
Facts & figures

Emigration

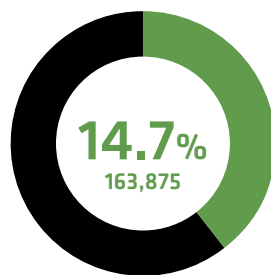
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 42.6%
♀ 57.4%



♂ 39.7%
♀ 60.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **21.2%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **2,956**



Top countries of destination

United States	759,172
United Kingdom	157,762
Canada	147,342
Cayman Island	11,448
Bahamas	7,965



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Right to Vote from abroad³



National Diaspora Policy, Working Document 2020



The National Diaspora Policy addresses the Government of Jamaica's (GoJ) commitment to pursue diaspora initiatives that are beneficial to national development and the wellbeing of the diaspora community. Although still in draft, the policy's goal is that by 2030 there will be "transformative engagements and partnerships providing an enabling environment for the empowerment of the Jamaican Diaspora to realize their fullest potential...while optimizing contributions to national development." The working document highlights eight main goals, such as: increasing diaspora engagement in national development planning, recognizing diaspora networks, encouraging diaspora investment, promoting research of diaspora contributions to development, among others.

1 Chapter 2 of the [Constitution of Jamaica](#)

2 <https://www.loopjamaica.com/content/veteran-jamaican-broadcaster-says-no-diaspora-vote>

3 <https://www.loopjamaica.com/content/veteran-jamaican-broadcaster-says-no-diaspora-vote>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2009** ● **Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan** aims at strengthening the involvement of the Jamaican diaspora in national development by establishing the Jamaica Diaspora Foundation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Additionally, the plan seeks to develop a strategy for engaging a wide audience on the island and in the diaspora community to promote media literacy.
- 2017** ● **Jamaica's International Migration and Development Policy (IMDP)**. The White Paper states that an aim of the policy is to have modern mechanisms in place by 2030 to facilitate global technological advances in remittance transmissions and promote investment opportunities. This can improve accessibility to remittance sending for the diaspora community. The policy also calls for the extensive and continuous policy-relevant research training programmes for data and research on migration and development.

» Trends and achievements

Almost 38% of Jamaicans live abroad, the majority residing in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. However, citizens with official residency status abroad do not have the right to vote. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) has made it a priority to develop boards and commissions that focus on their diaspora population; it has over 20 diplomatic missions and 400 Foreign Service officers.

There has been progress in policy initiatives to expand on inclusivity and development of the diaspora population, as well as to bridge relationships between diaspora youth populations and Jamaicans living on the island, such as the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council. In June 2019, the Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, announced that the government is lobbying the support of Jamaicans living abroad for the creation of proposed Global Jamaica Diaspora and Global Jamaica Youth Councils. These councils would not only alleviate some of the responsibility of the Diaspora Advisory Board, but would offer more inclusivity throughout the diaspora population. The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council was established end of January 2020⁴. The Global Diaspora Youth Council was created in 2019 to sustain connections between young Jamaicans living abroad and the island⁵.

Remittances play a large economic factor for Jamaica, totalling approximately 16% of the country's GDP. Ultimately, the government encourages members of the diaspora to return home to work, raise families, invest, and retire.⁶ This can also be seen in the inviting citizenship regulations – allowing people with grandparents from Jamaica to apply for citizenship. Additionally, the Jamaican government offers incentives in order to help returning residents and deportees move back to Jamaica; this includes assistance on moving and importing expenses.⁷

Key areas the government focuses on for diaspora engagement are:

Diaspora Tourism: The Jamaican diaspora accounts for approximately 7% of all stopover visitors to the island. The Jamaican government has noted this significant percentage and plans on creating specific programmes that will target said diaspora population – specifically youth and young adults, hoping to enhance their relationship with the island.

4 <https://mfaft.gov.jm/jm/the-global-jamaica-diaspora-council/>

5 <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalJAYouth/about/>

6 <https://mfaft.gov.jm/jm/returning-to-permanently-reside-jamaica/>

7 <https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/service/returning-resident>

Diaspora Philanthropy: Jamaicans abroad continue to make significant donations to the country's educational and health institutions. In 2017, over 9 million USD was donated by the Diaspora and Friends of Jamaica to Medical Missions, which offers free medical services to underserved populations in Jamaica.

Export of Jamaican Products: There has been a large demand from diaspora communities for Jamaican domestic products, helping the country increase their agricultural exports to the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Total exports grossed USD 554,952 in 2017, compared to USD 464,660 in 2016. The demand is typically for non-traditional exports like yams, sweet potatoes, papayas, pumpkins, etc. An increase in non-traditional exports helps the country financially while the demand for indigenous food products gradually increases.

Economic Assistance Through Remittances: Jamaica receives an average of USD 2.2 billion dollars annually in remittances, equating to approximately 16% of its GDP. The vast majority of remittances (90%) come from countries with the highest concentration of Jamaicans (Canada, UK, USA). A survey conducted by the Bank of Jamaica noted that roughly 85% of remittances are used to pay utility bills and for other basic expenses, proving to be very useful to the residents of Jamaica.

Communication network: The Jamaican Government plans to establish a singular communication network and platform in order to efficiently disseminate information to the Jamaican diaspora globally. Additionally, there are plans to improve data collection and research and build relationships with the younger generation.

Obstacles



Lack of economic opportunities: A main motivator of Jamaican migration is the search for better economic opportunities and family unification, resulting in historical outmigration from Jamaica to Canada, the UK and the United States.⁸

Lack of overseas voting mechanism: The process of voting outside of the country is neither clear, nor easily accessible. Consulates do not make voting abroad possible, but anyone registered to vote can travel back to Jamaica to do so. An option that may be impossible for many migrants.⁹

⁸ <https://mfaft.gov.jm/jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revised-DRAFT-NATIONAL-DIASPORA-POLICY-Jamaica-Version-11-June-2019.pdf> page 16

⁹ <https://www.loopjamaica.com/content/veteran-jamaican-broadcaster-says-no-diaspora-vote>



SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



The Jamaica Diaspora Show

COMMUNICATION

The online TV show which started in 2017 aims to be a communication tool for the Jamaican diaspora in the United States, Canada, and UK. The show discusses shared interests, activities and concerns related to a variety of topics, including crime, immigration, youth development, politics, health, economic growth. It goes out weekly and is accessible on [HPATV](#).

Jamaica Diaspora New York

COMMUNICATION

The website and social media is used to help strengthen the Jamaican Community in New York City and surrounding cities through information sharing about activities, events, projects, and news that are of interest to Jamaicans abroad.

Annex:

List of Actors



Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

The Diaspora Affairs Department (DAD)

The DAD works to bridge relationships between the Jamaican government and the Jamaican diaspora population through activities, programmes, and projects. The DAD is also responsible for policy implementation and monitoring of the National Diaspora Policy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT)

This is the lead entity tasked with ensuring successful implementation of the National Diaspora Policy. The Jamaican Foreign Service's headquarters are located in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and 20 diplomatic missions and consular posts in the Caribbean, North, Central, and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. MFAFT has roughly 400 Foreign Service officers who provide direct and indirect services to Jamaican and international communities on the island and abroad.

- At sub ministerial level

Global Jamaica Diaspora Council 2020

The council facilitates a relationship between Jamaica and the diaspora. The council was established in 2020 and hopes to create a pathway for increased engagement with the Jamaican diaspora. Members serve for three years, allowing them time to achieve agreed deliverables.

Diaspora Advisory Board 2004

The Diaspora Advisory Board was established in 2004, as an advisory body to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. There are eight board members that reside globally, in the U.S., Canada, and the UK. They are responsible for diaspora affairs by working as a bridge between the government and Jamaicans abroad.

Jamaica Diaspora Foundation

A non-profit organization that aims to strengthen links and support systems between Jamaicans abroad and on the island. The Jamaica Diaspora Institute is the operation arm of the foundation, which works to strengthen the entrepreneurial and business management skills of youth in Jamaica.

Joint Select Committee of the Houses of Parliament on Diaspora Affairs 2009

Established in 2009, the Joint Select Committee of the Houses of Parliament on Diaspora Affairs elevated the relationship between the government and the diaspora, especially due to its bipartisan composition.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association of Jamaican Nationals UK

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The Birmingham-based association aims to benefit the people from Jamaica in the West Midlands and Jamaican nationals in Jamaica through education and training, relief of poverty, promotion of good health, providing support and activities that develop skills, capacities, and capabilities, among other things.

Association of Jamaicans (UK) Trust UK

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The association works to improve the quality of life for Jamaicans, including the UK diaspora. It aims to provide support and advocacy for Jamaicans in the UK, share information and knowledge with the Jamaican High Commission, and raise funds and provide financial support to Jamaicans on the island.

Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Group Council

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Group has planned events for the global Jamaican youth community. They are committed to unifying Jamaicans by engaging, organizing, empowering, and investing in the Jamaican youth diaspora, ages 18-35. The council is endorsed by the Jamaica Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. There are different chapters of the council all across the globe.

Jamaicans Inspired UK

- ✔ Development activities

This youth-focused diaspora organization aims to mobilize 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation Jamaican diaspora living in the UK and Europe. The organization recognizes that remittances have a large economic impact on the Jamaican economy and teaches the diaspora about investment opportunities within Jamaica. The Jamaica Stock Exchange is a partner.

Jamaica Society Manchester UK

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The society focuses on promoting Jamaican culture and supporting the Jamaican community – especially with their annual Independence Dinner and Dance event. The society visits the sick, promotes health awareness, and has built charitable and governmental ties over the years.

Implemented by

Funded by
the European Union

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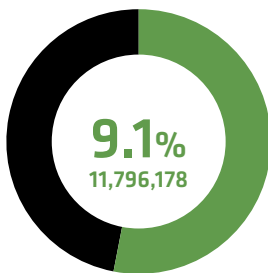


Diaspora engagement mapping MEXICO

Facts & figures

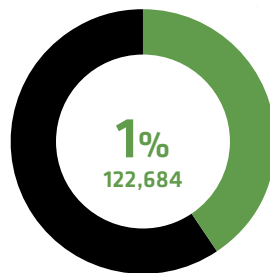
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 53.2%
♀ 46.8%

% of which in the EU



♂ 40.7%
♀ 59.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 4.0%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 42,880



Top countries of destination

United States	11,489,684
Canada	85,825
Spain	53,158
Guatemala	18,003
Germany	16,892



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:^{3,4}

By post or electronic vote



Terminology: In many official documents and press releases, the government refers to the diaspora as “paisanos”, “connacionales” and “mexicanos en el exterior”.⁵

Mexico does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

Instead of a policy, Mexico has a diaspora framework, which is found in a collection of different official efforts, including laws, norms and institutions. The new migration policy includes aspects of relationship with Mexicans abroad, but is not a diaspora policy per se.

1 “Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos”, 1917; “Ley de Nacionalidad”, 1998.

2 “Ley General de Instituciones y Procedimientos Electorales”, 2014. Article 329 provides that Mexicans abroad exercise their right to vote to elect both President and Senators. However, in the case of state and municipal elections, the right to vote will depend on state constitution or the Federal District Government’s Statute. For further information about voting of Mexicans abroad, see “Voto de las Mexicanas y los Mexicanos Residentes en el Extranjero. Estrategia Integral de Promoción 2019-2021” (Vote of Mexicans Living Abroad. Comprehensive Strategy for Promotion 2019-2021) and “Voto de los Mexicanos Residentes en el Extranjero” (Vote of Mexicans Living Abroad). All accessed August 2020.

3 as provided by the General Council of the National Electoral Institute (in Spanish “Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE)”). Articles 341-344 of the Ley General de Instituciones y Procedimientos Electorales. Specific procedures on voting of Mexicans abroad are included here. Accessed August 2020.

4 Personal delivery of the ballot in the modules installed in embassies or consulates and by electronic mail will be possible in 2021. “Voting of Mexicans Abroad.” How to vote abroad.

5 Programa Paisano and Centro de Información y Asistencia a Mexicanos en Estados Unidos.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1974 ● **Ley General de Población** provides that the Secretariat of Interior (ES: “Secretaría de Gobernación”) oversees the necessary actions for the attention and reintegration of Mexican returnees, especially regarding essential utilities such as water and electricity and employment opportunities.
- 1998 ● **Ley de Nacionalidad** recognizes Mexican citizenship for those born abroad regardless of time, as long as they are children of a Mexican father or mother. It also provides there is no cause for Mexican citizenship lost.
- 2018
∨
2024 ● **Nueva Política Migratoria del Gobierno de México 2018-2024** (EN: New Migration Policy of the Government of Mexico) refers to strengthening the presence and protection of Mexicans abroad, as well as referring to the integration and reintegration of migrants and the sustainable development of migrant communities.

>> Trends

Currently, Mexico is one of the most advanced countries in diaspora engagement. It gradually shifted from seeing its diaspora negatively to a new, positive perspective, during its democratic transition when then President Vicente Fox (2000-2006) referred to the diaspora as VIP, ‘Very Important Paisanos’. The creation of a special institute to formally engage Mexicans abroad, the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (ES: “Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME)”) is a worth mentioned milestone.

The Mexican government has a very comprehensive approach to its diaspora, both at federal and state level, as well as putting forward legislation to address return migration and transit migrants.⁶ It also has a few programmes to encourage the diaspora to return - permanently or not - such as the Paisano Guide (“Guía Paisano”), Housing for Mexicans Living Abroad (“Viviendas para Mexicanos en el Exterior”), and Build in your homeland (“Construye en tu Tierra”).

Offices at the sub-ministerial level have diversified their portfolios by adopting initiatives that facilitate their diasporas’ integration into host-country societies and participation in development activities at home. The Institute of Mexicans Abroad (“Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior”), IME, concentrates its efforts on the contributions made by Mexicans abroad - both in their localities and in their communities of origin - through activities regarding both remittances and community development. It encourages diaspora organisations to join the consultative framework established by IME. The IME has formalised a long-standing Mexican government policy to gain the trust and support of an increasingly influential expatriate population who live mainly in the United States. IME’s website also provides information about remittances to Mexico.

The Mexican consular network plays an important role in strengthening the development and progress of the Mexican communities in which the community itself participates through its leaders, clubs and federations, Mexican migrant organizations, as well as local institutions and organizations.

It is important to note that 29 of the 32 states and the Mexico City have established state-level offices or ministries that address migrant or expatriate affairs and have a national coordinating secretariat. Moreover, in addition to federal legislation, most states in the Mexican federation have established their own legislation over the past 15 years.

⁶ Many individual states have adopted laws on migration, considering the importance of their local migrants. States such as Sonora, Durango, and Hidalgo and the City of Mexico, have laws to protect and attend to migrants and their families.



Achievements

Matricula Consular (MC): In the early 2000s, the Mexican Government promoted the issuing of their ‘matricula consular’ among its diaspora. The MC is an identification card issued by the government through consular offices to confirm that the carrier is a Mexican national. The consular identification card has become an important vehicle for Mexican migrants to obtain drivers licenses and open bank accounts, for example.

Vote abroad campaigns: Through the National Electoral Institute (“Instituto Nacional Electoral”), Mexico promotes and encourages the diaspora to vote and has developed some campaigns in order to facilitate the registration and voting of Mexicans abroad; even a website has been enabled for this purposes.

Access to health services access: Through the IME and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the support of the Mexican consular network, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has implemented several health initiatives to facilitate the access of Mexican migrants to primary and preventive health services, in addition to providing information, education and advice on health issues.⁷

Engagement through sports organizations: Mexican-American sports clubs and associations have been a great support element for the activities organised by consulates, offering a recreation space for the Mexican community of all ages, where they can develop skills, motivate themselves to participate actively in tournaments and competitions and improve family life and links with the local community.⁸

Obstacles



- **Measuring impact:** It remains challenging to effectively measure the impact of the State’s diaspora engagement, through its many, varied, initiatives over the past 20 years. There is a lack of suitable monitoring and evaluation data and tools.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Tres por Uno (3x1) investment matching program 2002

3x1 is a public programmes in which every \$1 contributed by diaspora associations, is matched by the federal and state governments. This money is gathered in a fund that is then used to invest in local development, with investment decisions made by local residents and contributing emigrants. From the government perspective, this allows them to provide public goods with partial funding from privates residing abroad, whilst the local communities play an active role in the investment decisions.⁹

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
REMITTANCES

7 “Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries” (2011). IOM. See Ch.4.

8 Loc. Cit.

9 Loc Cit.

HUMAN CAPITAL

Red Global MX 2005

Previously known as Red de Talentos Mexicanos, Red Global MX is an independent network with strong ties to the Mexican government and non-government institutions, which attempts to leverage the resources of its highly qualified diaspora to help Mexico develop a knowledge-driven economy. One of its achievements is the “SínLímites” initiative, coordinated by the Math2Me and the Red Global MX, which promotes the recreational use of mathematics and their mass distribution by virtual channels.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Vivienda para Mexicanos en el Exterior 2016

The “Your Housing in Mexico” (“Tu Vivienda en México”) program is the result of a collaborative effort between the Mexican government through the National Housing Commission (CONAVI) and the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME), and with private mortgages and housing developers, to encourage and promote the acquisition of housing in Mexico among the Mexicans abroad. The program allows the purchase of a new or used home through mortgage credit, making credit payments from the place of residence of the client. The IME has supported this program through a dissemination campaign in the Consulates of Mexico in the United States and Canada. “Built in your Homeland” (“Construye en tu Tierra”) is also a programme developed by the IME along with the CONAVI, to encourage and promote the building of housing in Mexico, through credit and providing a grant for the construction of houses.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
REMITTANCESFinancial Education Week ongoing (2020 was the 12th edition)

This campaign promoted by the Mexican government offers Mexicans in the US information and services to strengthen their financial literacy and enhance financial inclusion, through strategic alliances with actors in Mexico and the United States. In 2017, it engaged over 70,000 people. It offers orientation workshops on access to financial services, business development and basic skills for personal and family finance management.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
REMITTANCESPrograma de Educación Financiera para Migrantes Mexicanos 2019

The Institute of Mexicans Abroad has developed financial education programs aimed at the Mexican community; it is promoted through the Consular Network with the collaboration of various financial actors. They promote financial education of Mexican migrants through courses, workshops and distribution of information in Spanish. They also promote programs and resources offered by other organizations in the United States and Mexico, including an annual event.

HEALTH

Ventanilla de Salud 2002

The Mexican consulates offer information health services through 51 outlets based at the consular offices to provide information and education related health services.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- At regional level
- National institutions

Consejo Nacional para las Comunidades Mexicanas en el Exterior 2002

Permanent inter-ministerial commission with the objective of proposing and executing policies for the benefit of Mexican communities abroad.

- At ministerial level

Secretaría de Gobernación (SEGOB)

Entity in charge of coordinating the necessary actions for the attention and reintegration of Mexican returnees.

Secretaría del Trabajo

This entity is in charge of coordinating Mexican labor migration, particularly the agricultural guest worker programs with the United States and Canada.

Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM) 1993¹⁰

INM falls under SEGOB; it is in charge of applying the current immigration legislation. Its mission is to strengthen the protection of the rights and security of national and foreign migrants, to grant all foreigners the necessary facilities to carry out legal, orderly and safe immigration procedures that affect their entry and stay in national territory with strict attachment to protect human rights, implementing the regulations established in the Migration Law and its regulations.

Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE)

SRE conducts Mexico's foreign policy through dialogue, cooperation, promotion of the country and attends to Mexicans abroad, as well as coordinating the international action of the Government of the Republic.

Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP)

One of its internal units, the General Directorate of International Relations, administers the platform of Mexicans Abroad, which has the purpose of disseminating relevant information in educational matters for all those Mexicans who are abroad and/or who wish to re-join the National Educational System.

¹⁰ INSM's Paisano Program, which began in 1989, operates permanently but reinforces its actions during the periods of greatest affluence of Mexicans in the national territory, establishing, through special operations (Easter, summer and winter). It guarantees that the entry, transit and exit of its nationals through Mexican territory is with absolute guarantee of their rights, the security of their goods and full knowledge of their obligations. Accessed August 2020.

Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) 2005

IME's mission is to address initiatives and needs of Mexicans living and working abroad, as well as to promote strategies, integrate programs, collect proposals and recommendations from communities.

Consejo Ciudadano del Instituto Nacional de Migración

The council belongs to the National Institute of Migration. It strives to:

- 1) Comment on the execution of migration policy;
- 2) Formulate proposals for specific actions for the promotion, protection and defence of the human rights of migrants, so that they may be presented to the Advisory Council on Migration Policy;
- 3) Propose actions of cooperation, consultation and monitoring of civil society to the activities of the National Migration Institute;
- 4) Propose coordination agreements with federative entities and agreements with civil society organisations, academia and other relevant actors, in accordance with the provisions of the Migration Law.

Consejo Consultivo del IME (CCIME) 2003

CCIME's main task is to maintain a dialogue between Mexican communities abroad and the government, making specific recommendations on how to improve their quality of life, on topics such as health, education, legal issues, borders, economy, business, and politics.

Banco del Bienestar, Sociedad Nacional de Crédito, Institución de Banca de Desarrollo 2019

The Welfare Bank, National Credit Corporation, Development Bank Institution is the main disperser of social programme resources of the federal government. It promotes and facilitates savings among Mexicans, inside and outside the country, and is present in the most remote locations, directly through a wide network of branches, and indirectly through institutional and commercial agreements or alliances with correspondents and private companies, as well as with cooperatives and savings banks. For this entity, remittances are an important opportunity to improve the financial inclusion of Mexicans, both for those living in the United States and for their families in Mexico.

Procuraduría Federal del Consumidor (PROFECO) 1976

PROFECO provides a calculator to send remittances from the US to Mexico and to know the commission costs that different companies offer. By simply entering the amount and selecting a city of origin, users can know the money in pesos they will receive in Mexico, once the commission for the service is discounted, at the exchange rate at that time. Data from the Bank of Mexico indicates that of the three thousand 375 million dollars in remittances sent to the country in 2018, 98.3 percent were made via electronic transfer, with more than 9.8 million operations.

Comisión Nacional para la Protección y Defensa de los Usuarios de Servicios Financieros (CONDUSEF) 1999

CONDUSEF promotes and disseminates information on education and financial transparency so that users make informed decisions about the benefits, costs and risks of the products and services offered in the Mexican financial system; as well as protect their interests through supervision and regulation of financial institutions. It provides customers with advice and supports them in the defence of their rights. It also acts as a transfer cost watchdog.

- At sub-ministerial level

Unidad de Política Migratoria, Registro e Identidad de Personas

The unit belongs to the Secretaría de Gobernación and its mission is to propose the policy on migration of the country, considering the legal and human rights framework and national development.

- At local level

Secretaría del Migrante y Enlace Internacional, Guanajuato 2012

The Secretariat facilitates the processing and sending of documentation related to birth, marriage, divorce and death ; apostille management in the USA and official translation of documents. It also arranges transfers of the sick and human remains, Certificates of Studies, Dual Nationality Procedures, the Migrant Will (a testament at affordable prices for the community). It deals with locating missing persons in the US, guidance and support to invest in the infrastructure of a municipality, and investment modalities to collaborate in the improvement of the communities of origin.

Secretaría del Migrante, Michoacán 2008

The Secretariat provides information in case of detention in the United States, actions that could be taken to consolidate a permanent collaboration in the communities of origin and advice in International Return of Minors, to Request Compensation, Application for Legal Pardon (Waiver), Dual Nationality, Mexican Passport, Tourist Visa for the United States of America, Nullity of Birth Certificate and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Mexico - Canada.

Secretaría de los Migrantes y Asuntos Internacionales Guerrero 2011

This entity supports the communities of Guerrero living in other parts of the country and abroad, by promoting the economic and social development of their communities of origin and protecting the human rights of migrants; as well as fostering inter-institutional relations with governmental and non-governmental organizations for purposes of international cooperation.

Coordinación de Asuntos Internacionales-Migrante Mexiquense Estado de México 2006

The coordination body for the state of Mexico provides assistance, support and guidance to migrants, including free services as processing and sending of documentation, transfers of the sick and human remains, location of missing persons, support for deportees and advice for special visas.

Diaspora organizations in Europe



Asociación Cuauhtémoc 2002 Spain

Integration activities

The association works to promote and spread Mexican culture through artistic and gastronomic activities. Its members also participate in events with other groups through organisations dedicated to the theme of migration, to promote interculturalism and social integration.

Asociación Cultural Mexicano-Catalana 2008 Spain

Integration activities

The main goal of this organization is to spread Mexican culture in Catalonia and Catalanian culture in Mexico, seeking for their integration through culture, gastronomy, and music. Its members also support projects of immigration and solidarity.

Asociación Cultural Mexicana de Sevilla Spain

Integration activities

The association aims to promote cultural ties between Mexico and Seville. [[f](#)]

Asociación de Abogados Alemanes-Mexicanos 1988 Germany

Integration activities

Development activities

The association develops comparative law studies on Mexican and German civil and commercial law and annual conferences with practical cases on such matters, to motivate business operations between the countries.

Colonia Mexicana en Madrid 1996 Spain

Integration activities

Its mission is to promote coexistence among Mexicans, to share their roots and customs and to support entrepreneurial projects. [[f](#)]

Mexico Amigo UK

Integration activities

Development activities

This charitable organization aims to preserve and promote the Mexican culture, as well as to increase awareness in British society. It develops fundraising activities to support charitable projects in Mexico.


Mexicanos en Alemania 2010 Germany

Integration activities

The organization collects and provides information about sites, groups, services, and blogs of Mexicans in Germany. They share information related to culture, commerce, society, history, as well as information about procedures for residence visits to Germany.

Mexicanos en Madrid, Madrid 2013 Spain

Integration activities

The organization supports Mexicans who want to move to Spain and gives advice on procedures either to study or to work. It also promotes meetings to celebrate Mexican festivities. []

Society of Mexican Students in the UK 2002 UK

Integration activities

This organization represents Mexican students in the United Kingdom, sharing their academic, cultural and social achievements.

Written by: Dr Manuel Orozco
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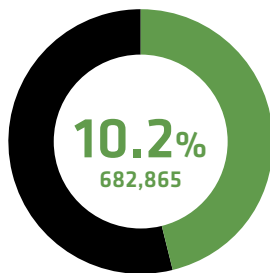


Diaspora engagement mapping NICARAGUA

Facts & figures

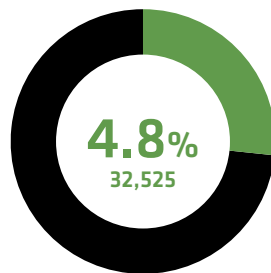
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 46.3%
♀ 53.7%

% of which in the EU



♂ 26.8%
♀ 73.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 15.3%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 1,855



Top countries of destination

United States of America	302,845
Costa Rica	296,541
Spain	25,969
Panama	13,752
Canada	10,511



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad

At embassies/consulates



Nicaragua does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 "Constitución Política de la República de Nicaragua", 1987. <https://www.asamblea.gob.ni/assets/constitucion.pdf> Article 20 provides that Nicaraguan citizenship will not be lost if another citizenship is acquired. Accessed June 2020

2 See: "Ley Electoral. Ley No. 331", 2012. <http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/3133c0d121ea3897062568a1005e0f89/8abab-8f0a5a0cfd306257a830079bc60?OpenDocument> Article 122 provides the vote of Nicaraguans abroad, but it has never been exercised. (Accessed June 2020).

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2011** ● **General Law on Migration and Aliens (*Ley General de Migración y Extranjería*; Ley No. 761)** The main purpose of the law is to implement Nicaragua's migration policy. It also refers to consular services for Nicaraguans living abroad. Additionally, it creates the National Council on Migration and Aliens, (Consejo Nacional de Migración y Extranjería), which is officially responsible for designing actions and programmes to promote engagement between Nicaragua and its citizens abroad. However, the law is not yet operational.³
- 2017** ● **Guidelines of the Human Development Programme (*Ejes del Programa Nacional de Desarrollo Humano*) 2018-2021** very briefly addresses migration issues, with references to regulation of migratory flows, ensuring efficient services for migratory documents and procedures and the protection of the rights of Nicaraguans abroad.⁴

➤ Trends

In general, the Nicaraguan government does not engage with its diaspora. Although the 2021 electoral law grants Nicaraguans abroad the right to vote, due to political bias, despite the thousands of Nicaraguans abroad, the current government has not enabled voting from abroad. It also makes very little effort to engage with the diaspora economically, despite the significant economic impact of its remittances. Another example of the lack of interest from the government towards its diaspora was shown during the COVID-19 crisis when the Nicaraguan government kept its border closed, not allowing its citizens living abroad to return, until neighboring countries pressured the Nicaraguan government to let them in.⁵

The Nicaraguan diaspora can be divided in two groups, the first one includes those who emigrated between the early 1970s to the late 1990s, mostly victims of the civil war and natural disasters.⁶ The second group is formed by migrants linked to the social and political crisis of 2018, mainly composed of people who supported protests against Daniel Ortega.⁷

The Nicaraguan diaspora is engaged in political activities focused on improving education and social and economic conditions for Nicaraguans and in advocating for freedom, justice and democracy in Nicaragua.⁸ The work of organisations such as the Nicaraguan Freedom Coalition (NFC),⁹ the Anti-Corruption Party in Nicaragua (PANA)¹⁰ and the Diaspora Global Nicaragüense (DIASGLONIC),¹¹ are examples of the diaspora active participation on political issues. Part of the diaspora has also promoted actions against Ortega's government, including stopping remittances, and activating solidarity networks.¹² The diaspora has also asked for sanctions from the European Union for human rights violations.¹³

3 "Ley General de Migración y Extranjería", 2011. <http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/fb812bd5a06244ba062568a30051ce81/5c50ce4ad5bcb20406257905006c3242?OpenDocument> Accessed June 2020.

4 "Ejes del Programa Nacional de Desarrollo Humano 2018-2021", 2017. <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/sites/default/files/plan/files/Nicaragua.EJES%20DEL%20PROGRAMA%20NACIONAL%20DE%20DESARROLLO%20HUMANO.pdf> Accessed June 2020.

5 <https://confidencial.com.ni/la-fobia-contra-los-migrantes-que-retornan/>

6 Orozco, Manuel. "The Nicaraguan diaspora: trends and opportunities for diaspora engagement in skills transfers and development", 2008. The Inter-American Dialogue. http://archive.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/The%20Nicaragua%20case_M%200rozco%20REV.pdf Accessed June 2020.

7 "Migración forzada de nicaragüenses a Costa Rica", 2019. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) <http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/MigracionForzada-Nicaragua-CostaRica.pdf> Accessed June 2020.

8 "Diáspora nicaragüense insta a la creación urgente de una Gran Coalición Azul y Blanco", 2019. La Prensa. <https://www.laprensa.com.ni/2019/09/30/politica/2595652-diaspora-nicaraguense-insta-a-la-creacion-urgente-de-una-gran-coalicion-azul-y-blanco> Accessed June 2020.

9 "Nicaragua Freedom Coalition anuncia campaña para recoger fondos destinados a refugiados en Costa Rica", 2020. 100% Noticias. <https://100noticias.com.ni/nacionales/101257-nicaragua-freedom-coalition-campana-ayuda/> Accessed June 2020.

10 "La diáspora nicaragüense crea un partido de centro derecha para el cambio", 2019. Agencia EFE. <https://www.efe.com/efe/usa/politica/la-diaspora-nicaraguense-crea-un-partido-de-centro-derecha-para-el-cambio/50000105-3932833> Accessed June 2020.

11 "Propuesta electoral para la construcción de una Nicaragua mejor para todos", 2019. Diáspora Global Nicaragüense (DIASGLONIC). <http://diasglonic.com/diaspora-global-nicaraguense/reforma-electoral-diasglonic-pmu/> Accessed June 2020.

12 "Convocan a un paro de remesas como protesta en contra del gobierno de Daniel Ortega", 2018. 100% Noticias. <https://100noticias.com.ni/nacionales/94685-paro-remesas-nicaragua-daniel-ortega/> Accessed June 2020.

13 "Nicas en España protestan contra Ortega y demandan sanciones", 2019. Despacho 505. <https://www.despacho505.com/nicaraguenes-en-espana-protestan-contra-ortega/> Accessed June 2020.



Achievements

Achievements in the field of diaspora engagement in Nicaragua relate explicitly to policy interventions from international stakeholders, like IOM, the private sector, the diaspora or other organizations.

Obstacles



- **Informal organisations:** Most Nicaraguan diaspora organisations are social media groups doing locally based-activism without an obvious view to long-term development.¹⁴
- **Inability to vote:** The vote of Nicaraguans abroad is a right established in article 122 of the Electoral Law (Ley Electoral No. 331); however, it has never been applied due to a lack of political will.¹⁵
- **Social and political crisis:** One of the main causes of Nicaraguan migration is the social and political crisis that began in 2018.¹⁶ As the Nicaraguan diaspora is quite engaged with the opposition, there is no government outreach or intention to reach out to its nationals abroad for fear that they will be critical of the government.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



ProNicaragua Investment Promotion Agency 2002

Created by the government, this agency delivers guidance with contacts and advice for those who are seeking to invest in Nicaragua. Although not specifically targeting the diaspora, this is an option for the diaspora to invest or start a new business in their country.¹⁷ In 2018, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reached USD 1,06 billion and was centered mainly on industry, finances, telecom, business & services, and energy.¹⁸

Financial inclusion for remittance recipients 2014

In partnership with the International Organization for Migration and a consortium of foundations, Central America and Mexico Alliance for Migration (CAMMINA), a financial inclusion project for remittance recipients was developed with the private bank BANPRO. The purpose was to increase rates of savings for Nicaraguans receiving remittances. This project aimed to enhance financial literacy and practices, as well as provide information on financial products. More than 10,000 clients were beneficiaries and savings through the scheme totalled US\$ 960,000.¹⁹

14 "Nicaragua's diaspora activists bear a 'double burden'", 2018. Global Voices. <https://globalvoices.org/2018/08/27/nicaraguas-diaspora-activists-bear-a-double-burden/> Accessed June 2020.

15 Álvarez, Leonor. "¿Por qué los nicaragüenses no pueden votar en el exterior?", 2016. <https://www.laprensa.com.ni/2016/11/01/politica/2126678-nicaraguenses-voto-exterior> Accessed June 2020.

16 "Migración en el contexto de crisis sociopolítica y violación de los Derechos Humanos en Nicaragua. Desde los casos de Managua y Chinandega", 2019. Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes. http://www.uca.edu.ni/4/images/SJM/2019/Publicaciones/INFORME_FINAL_CRISIS2018.pdf Accessed June 2020.

17 Sharma, Krishnan, et al., 2011. Realizing the development potential of diasporas. United Nations University Press. <https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:2532/ebrary9789280811957.pdf> Accessed June 2020.

18 "A Dynamic Economy". ProNicaragua. <http://pronicaragua.gob.ni/en/nicaragua-2/6-economy/> Accessed August 2020.

19 Orozco, Manuel. "Asesoría e inclusión financiera en Banco Banpro" (Consulting and financial inclusion in Banco Banpro), 2017. The Inter-American Dialogue. https://www.thedialogue.org/analysis/asesoria-e-inclusion-financiera-en-banco-banpro/#_ftn1 Accessed June 2020.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) 1975

SELA's main goal is to create a system of consultation and coordination for the region to adopt common positions and strategies on economic issues, including remittances and development as an important economic policy topic.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of foreign policy and diplomatic and consular services.

- At sub-ministerial level

Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería

Assigned to the Ministry of Government, this office controls and registers migratory movements of nationals and foreigners and provides information on legal and health conditions of irregular migrants.

- At local level / civil society

Red Nicaragüense de la Sociedad Civil para las Migraciones 2002

Red provides a space for civil society organisations that promote and defend the human rights of migrants and their relatives to interact.

Servicio Jesuita de Migrantes 2009

This organization promotes and defend the rights of the migrant population and their families.



Diaspora organisations in Europe



Asociación Nicaragüita 2018 Spain

Integration activities

The association aims to gather Nicaraguans living in Euskadi and its surroundings to help with residence and legal information for newcomers and give advice on courses and employment opportunities.

SOS Nicaragua-Europa 2018 Spain

Integration activities

Development activities

The organisation is made up of Nicaraguans living in Europe who support the demands of the Nicaraguan people. It aims to contribute to the return of democracy, justice, and freedom in Nicaragua.

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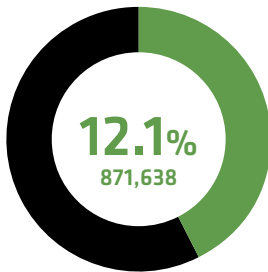


Diaspora engagement mapping PARAGUAY

Facts & figures

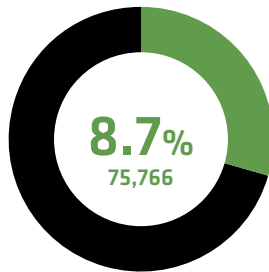
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 42.7%
♀ 57.3%

% of which in the EU



♂ 29.5%
♀ 70.5%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.6%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **584**



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 citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



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

2 Article 120 Constitution of Paraguay, 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.³
- 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.⁴ 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.⁵



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.

³ https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Ley_de_Migraciones_Paraguay.pdf

⁴ http://www.migraciones.gov.py/application/files/1015/0471/8741/RES.D.G.M._N_1096_SE_EXONERA_DE_MULTAS_A_PARAGUAYOS.pdf

⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷

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.⁸

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.⁹

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.¹⁰

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

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.¹¹

- **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.¹²

- 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.¹³ 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.¹⁴

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.¹⁵

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.¹⁶

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.¹⁷

Development activities

¹⁶ <http://www.paraguayosmalaga.org>

¹⁷ http://asociaciones.alcobendas.org/integra_social/asociacion-de-paraguayos-de-alcobendas-y-san-sebastian-de-los-reyes/

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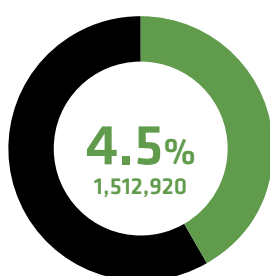


Diaspora engagement mapping PERU

Facts & figures

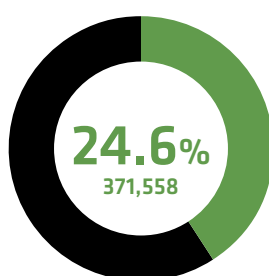
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 41.9%
♀ 58.1%

% of which in the EU



♂ 40.9%
♀ 59.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 1,4%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 2,938



Top countries of destination

United States	525,527
Chile	205,609
Argentina	198,744
Spain	193,786
Italy	117,189



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:³

At embassies/designated locations



Terminology: In addition to the term “diaspora”, the government of Peru and the laws related to this topic refers to “peruanos en el exterior”, “peruanos residentes en el extranjero” and “ciudadanos residentes en el extranjero”.

Peru does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Constitución Política del Perú, 1993. Article 53 provides that Peruvian nationality shall not be lost, except by renunciation thereof. “Ley de Nacionalidad (Ley No. 26574)”, 1995. Article 9 provides that Peruvians by birth who adopt the citizenship of another country, shall not lose their Peruvian citizenship, except by voluntary renunciation.

2 “Ley Orgánica de Elecciones”, 1997. Title X of this Law refers to the vote of Peruvians abroad and its article 224 provides they have the right to vote in general elections and popular consultations. The Act also includes the procedures for doing so. It includes an electoral district for Peruvians abroad, so they will be able to elect representatives. [Additional resource](#).

3 “Ley Orgánica de Elecciones”, 1997. Articles 26 and 27.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2005** ● **Consular Regulation (Supreme Decree No. 076.2005-RE) - Reglamento Consular (Decreto Supremo No. 076.2005-RE)** creates a special commission in charge of the review and update of the Consular Regulation, formed, among others, by the General Director of the Rights of Peruvians in Foreign Countries. It also establishes the guidelines for consular activities, including a program for the promotion of an effective exercise of the citizenship and democratic participation by Peruvians abroad and programs on remittances security and promotion.
- 2013** ● **Law on Economic and Social Reintegration for the Returnee Migrant (Law No. 3001) - Ley de Reinserción Económica y Social para el Migrante Retornado (Ley No. 3001)** aims to facilitate the return of Peruvians residing abroad (regardless of their migratory situation), through incentives and actions that enable economic and social reintegration and that contribute to the generation of productive employment. It provides fiscal incentives (tax exemptions on household goods, vehicles, and professional tools).
- 2017** ● **Legislative Decree on Migrations (Decree No. 1350) - Decreto Legislativo de Migraciones (Decreto No. 1350)** regulates immigration, as well as the entry and departure of both nationals and foreigners, defining what topics should be included in the Migratory Policy, including the protection and assistance of Peruvians abroad.
- 2017** ● **National Policy on Migration 2017-2025 (Supreme Decree No. 015-2017-RE) - Política Nacional Migratoria (Decreto Supremo No. 015-2017-RE)** addresses Peruvians abroad and returnees, recognizing their importance and the problems they face.

»» Trends and achievements

Through legal initiatives, Peru has shown efforts to encourage the Peruvian diaspora to return and to recognize its importance in local political decisions. The Law on Economic and Social Reintegration for the Returnee Migrant mentioned above provides Peruvians abroad with fiscal incentives for their return. Since 2020, the creation of an electoral district for Peruvians abroad allows them to elect congressional representatives, through an amendment to the Organic Law on Elections.

Additionally, the government makes a point to recognize accomplishments of its citizens abroad at international events.⁴ The government also promotes study abroad through scholarships managed by the Scholarships and Educational Credit National Programme (Programa Nacional de Becas y Crédito Educativo (PRONABEC)),⁵ in order to improve skills for young students so they come back to Peru and help the country's development.

4 <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/rree/noticias/61174-celebracion-del-dia-de-los-peruanos-residentes-en-el-exterior> Accessed September 2020.

5 Please see: <https://www.pronabec.gob.pe/becas-otros-paises/> and <https://gestion.pe/economia/management-empleo/pronabec-becas-estudios-peruano-postular-beca-18-presidente-nnda-nnlt-250462-noticia/> Accessed September 2020.

Obstacles



- **Lack of incentives to return:** Even though the legal framework has changed to attract the return of Peruvians abroad, there are some practical obstacles to overcome. These include the lack of economic opportunities upon return.
- **Difficulties to obtain dual citizenship:** Due to current regulations, while it is not discouraged to obtain dual citizenship, it is difficult. To become a naturalized citizen, you must be at least 18 years of age, have at least two consecutive years of legal residence in Peru at the submission of the request, and have been in the country for more than 183 consecutive days or accumulated days in one calendar year. Additionally, individuals must have a clean record and show economic stability.⁶
- **Lack on information:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers little information about the Peruvian diaspora.⁷
- **Lack of policy framework:** The Peruvian government currently has a lack of clearly defined policies to bolster Peruvian communities abroad or create mutually beneficial relationships with other countries in order to support the diaspora population.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Day of Peruvians Residing Abroad

In 2006, the government of Peru proclaimed October 18 as the “Day of the Peruvians Residing Abroad”, in order to recognize and reward those Peruvians abroad known for their commitment with social projects and the strengthening and link of the Peruvian community abroad.

Academic Scholarships

The President Scholarship is awarded to Peruvian citizens, with excellent academic performance, who wish to study abroad. The award covers the cost of tuition, transportation, food, accommodation, medical insurance, class materials, and a living stipend. This scholarship allows many students the ability to travel abroad, who might otherwise not be able to do so for financial reasons.

CULTURE

EDUCATION

PERU

⁶ <https://www.dualcitizenshipreport.org/dual-citizenship/peru/>

⁷ <https://socialprotection.org/connect/stakeholders/peru-ministerio-de-relaciones-exteriores-ministry-foreign-affairs>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

Intersectoral Working Bureau for Migration Management – Mesa de Trabajo Intersectorial para la Gestión Migratoria (MTIGM) 2011

This multi-sectoral entity was created by decree. It is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in charge of proposing migration policies and programmes, and promoting the strengthening and updating of migration regulations.⁸

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees foreign policy and diplomatic and consular services. It works in coordination with Peruvian ambassadors and consuls and international organizations.

Minister of Interior – Ministerio del Interior

The entity in charge of internal and public order, with a technical and specialized area called Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones, which attends the migratory control.

- At sub-ministerial level

Consulates

By the mandate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peruvian missions abroad provide assistance and protection to Peruvians and bring them information about legal and educational services, among other.

General Directorate of Peruvian Communities Abroad and Consular Affairs - Dirección General de Comunidades Peruanas en el Exterior y Asuntos Consulares

Under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this Directorate oversees protection and assistance to Peruvians abroad.

Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones

Assigned to the Minister of Interior, this is a technical and specialized entity in charge of the migratory control of both Peruvians and foreigners.

⁸ "Decreto Supremo No. 076-2011-PCM", 2011. Accessed September 2020.



Diaspora organisations in Europe



Asociación Cultural Alma Peruana 1991 Spain

Integration activities

This Association promotes Peruvian cultural heritage through dance, aiming to protect it. It also pretends to develop educational programs.

Comunità Italo-peruana Italy

Integration activities

The organisation promotes Peruvian culture in Italy, through dance, music, and cuisine. It also offers help to Peruvians in Italy, so they can adjust to the new country.

Associazione Sonrisas Andinas Italy

Development activities

This group organizes fundraising activities to finance medical surgeries for Peruvian children. [f]

Peruanos en España 2018 Spain

Integration activities

This is a public Facebook group for Peruvians living in Spain with over 31,000 members. The description states that they give preference to publications of job offers, job searches, and room/house rentals. [f]

Written by: **Dr Manuel Orozco**
Edited by: **EUDiF**
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Implemented by



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Diaspora engagement mapping SURINAME

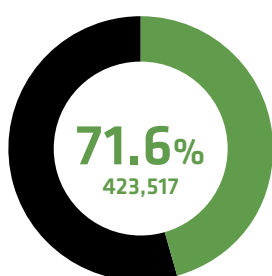
Facts & figures

Emigration

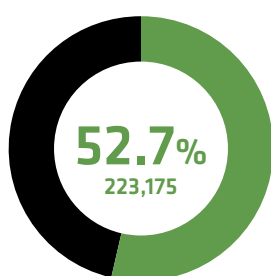
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 45.8%
♀ 54.2%



♂ 53.8%
♀ 46.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 0%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 1



Top countries of destination



Netherlands	191,481
French Guiana (France)	60,907
United States	15,975
Guyana	4,689
Belgium	3,909

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Suriname does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b50714.html>

2 Electoral law last amended in 2005: <https://pdba.georgetown.edu/Electoral/Sur/suriname.html>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2014 ● **Persons of Surinamese Descent Act (PSA, *Personen van Surinaamse Afkomst*) – SB 2014 No. 8³** defines Surinamese descent to include persons with at least one parent or grandparent born in Suriname and creates the status of PSA beneficiary for all those who do not have Surinamese nationality but are of Surinamese descent. PSA beneficiaries must apply for the status in order to activate it and receive the associated work and residency benefits. This status is not synonymous with dual citizenship.
- 2014 ● **Amendments to the 1975 Law on Surinamese Nationality and Residence (WSI)** facilitate the acquisition of Surinamese nationality and reduce legislative gaps that contribute to statelessness among children of Surinamese descent born abroad. It also confers mothers of Surinamese descent to pass on Surinamese nationality to children born outside Suriname, a right which was previously limited to fathers.⁴
- 2012
▼ ● **National Development Plan⁵** establishes five areas of intervention: good governance, economic diversification, social development, education, and natural resource management. It recognizes the role of the diaspora in the implementation of the plan.
- 2016
▼
- 2017
▼ ● **National Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (Ontwikkelings Plan 2017-2020)⁶** broadly recognizes that the diaspora presents opportunities for Suriname's long-term development strategy. It mentions the historic relationship with the United States and the Netherlands as well as the diaspora relationship with countries and economies it deems influential such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, China and the African continent.
- 2020

» Trends

In 2010, the government recognized the contribution of the diaspora to national development and that diaspora policy plays an important role within migration policy. By 2012, the government had taken steps towards identifying its diaspora as part of national economic development strategies and setting a baseline for engaging this group. The IOM was central to supporting and guiding these efforts, especially between 2013 and 2017. Accompanied by IOM, the government created the Diaspora Unite Suriname Project, which comprised two main projects to map the diaspora and engage diaspora entrepreneurs in investment.

Nevertheless, diaspora policy initiatives have not materialized and it is unclear what initiatives were sustained. In addition, the National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021 only refers briefly to the diaspora and does not recognize its importance as part of a migration policy, as the previous NDP did. Collaboration between diaspora groups and the private sector has also emerged as a means of fostering investment and trade and connecting the diaspora with social projects in Suriname, for example the ApuraNetwork crowdfunding project.

3 <http://foreignaffairs.gov.sr/consulaire-diensten/personen-van-surinaamse-afkomst-psa/>

4 <http://www.dna.sr/wetgeving/surinaamse-wetten/wijzigingen-na-2005/wet-wijz-surinamerschap-en-het-ingezetenschap/>

5 <https://www.scribd.com/document/311067421/Suriname-National-Development-Plan-2012-2016>

6 <https://www.planningofficesuriname.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/OP-2017-2021-Ontwikkelingsprioriteiten-van-Suriname-1.pdf>



Achievements

Legislative framework on nationality: The Surinamese government made strides to reduce gender discrimination in the legislation by granting parents the right to pass on Surinamese nationality to children born abroad. The 2014 amendments to the nationality legislation brought this framework into greater compliance with international standards on discrimination against women and took steps towards reducing statelessness among children born abroad to Surinamese mothers.⁷

The PSA Act formalizes the government's relationship with the diaspora in certain and specific aspects. Though it does not include dual citizenship,⁸ it marks a step forward in the government's efforts to incorporate the diaspora into the country's development and nation-building, as presented in the 2012-2016 National Development Plan.⁹

Obstacles



- **Incomplete legislative efforts on dual citizenship:** Although naturalization legislation has been amended to facilitate the acquisition of Surinamese nationality, current legislation does not allow for dual citizenship among persons of Surinamese descent living abroad.¹⁰ In 2015, the Supreme Court decided in favor of dual citizenship for people of Surinamese decent with Dutch nationality; however, they must have their main residence in Suriname.¹¹
- **Incomplete policy efforts to engage the diaspora:** The lack of diaspora policy is an issue of national discourse.¹² A migration policy addressing the diaspora remains in draft form. The National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021 reiterates creating a migration policy, but it does not mention incorporating the diaspora unlike earlier NDPs. The migration policy considered under the 2017-2021 plan largely focuses on employment provisions for the agricultural sector.
- **Regulatory challenges for foreign investment and entrepreneurship:** Foreign nationals seeking to invest or start businesses in Suriname face regulatory challenges that can discourage such actions.¹³ The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report 2020 ranked Suriname at the bottom of the list of 190 countries in terms of ease of starting a business (rank of 182) and 181 for getting credit.

7 <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2014/7/53d20b756/unhcr-applauds-suriname-ensuring-gender-equality-nationality-laws.html>; <https://www.srherald.com/suriname/2014/07/11/leilis-suriname-stimuleert-dubbele-nationaliteit/>

8 <http://foreignaffairs.gov.sr/consulaire-diensten/personen-van-surinaamse-afkomst-psa/voordelen-van-het-psa-document/>

9 https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/suriname_national_development_plan_2012-2016.pdf

10 https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/36943/Eudo_Cit_2015_17_Suriname.pdf?sequence=1

11 <https://www.navigators.nl/document/id3c15ad42e6694d09b67e8d7af3c996d7/ecli-nl-hr-2015-1749-ecli-nl-phr-2015-402-hr-26-06-2015-nr-1403881>

12 <http://dwtonline.com/laatste-nieuws/2020/01/22/sapoen-pleit-voor-duurzaam-diasporabeleid/>

13 <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/990601467315599193/pdf/105761-REVISED-CDI-Report-FinalLatest-PUBLIC.pdf>

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



INVESTMENT + ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Suriname Dutch Chamber of Commerce (Suriname-Nederland Kamer van Koophandel) 2018¹⁴

The Suriname-Netherlands Chamber of Commerce was created to foster entrepreneurship and trade between Suriname and the Netherlands. The Chamber is an initiative put forth by the Suriname Embassy and the diaspora organisation SunDeSa. It streamlines and accelerates the process for Dutch investors - many of whom are part of the Surinamese diaspora - to set up a business in Suriname, by addressing weaknesses in these systems that deter investment.

HUMAN CAPITAL

Diaspora Unite Suriname Project 2013-2017

The Surinamese government partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on two projects that sought to engage the diaspora for economic development under the umbrella Diaspora Unite Suriname Project. According to the sources cited by the IOM, the government received technical assistance for drafting a migration policy, building an official website for the diaspora, conducting surveys to map the diaspora, and implementing a programme to expose foreign entrepreneurs to Suriname's business climate and network.

PHILANTHROPY

Apura Networks 2003

Apura Networks is a crowdfunding platform that seeks to connect the Surinamese diaspora and other interested professionals and students with enterprises and non-profit initiatives in Suriname. In doing so, it engages the diaspora in Suriname's social, economic, and cultural development and builds networks between the diaspora and Surinamese residents.¹⁵ Recently, the diaspora co-initiated the project Save Thalia! to renovate a nearly 200 year-old theatre at the heart of Suriname's cultural history.

SKILLS TRANSFER + CAPACITY BUILDING

Twinning Facility Netherlands-Suriname (Twinningfaciliteit Suriname-Nederland) 2008

The Twinning Facility (TW) was created as a mechanism for continuing collaboration between the Netherlands and Suriname when bilateral development cooperation ended in 2010. The TW provides joint financing for partnerships between Dutch and Suriname civil society organizations that bolster Surinamese civil society through knowledge exchange, capacity building, and institutional strengthening.

¹⁴ <http://stvs.sr/suriname-nederland-kamer-van-koophandel-opgericht/>

¹⁵ <https://apura.org/pages/apura-story#>

Annex: List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) 1973

CARICOM promotes regional integration and functional cooperation among its 15 member states and 5 associate members; it operates as a single, regional market. CARICOM offers the diaspora a more attractive investment environment than national economies and regulatory frameworks. It also allows countries to incentivise domestic enterprises to export outside the CARICOM region.¹⁶

- **National institutions**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BUZA) 1975

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees work to establish and maintain relationships with countries and organizations abroad. This includes consular services and involving the diaspora in projects that contribute to Suriname's development.

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism (Ministerie Van Handel, Industrie en Toerisme) 1991

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism works to promote domestic and foreign trade, including relevant policies. It also addresses commercial policy issues and grants import, export, and foreign exchange licenses. It encourages innovative and competitive enterprise and contribute to inclusive private sector development.¹⁷

Subdirectorate for Consular Affairs and Personal Traffic (Onderdirectoraat Consulaire Zaken en Personenverkeer) 2011

The Subdirectorate for Consular Affairs is charged with overseeing the coordination of consular activities, including matters affecting the diaspora's rights, responsibilities, and interests such as PSA card applications.

Subdirectorate for International Development Cooperation and International Trade (Onderdirectoraat Internationale Ontwikkelingssamenwerking)

This subdirectorate coordinates bilateral and multilateral international development cooperation and works to increase Suriname's participation in international trade. In terms of international development, it oversees the implementation of agreements with partners, such as the Twinning Facility initiative in the Netherlands.

¹⁶ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/990601467315599193/pdf/105761-REVISED-CDI-Report-FinalLatest-PUBLIC.pdf>

¹⁷ <http://tradeandindustry.gov.sr/over-ministerie/missie-visie/>

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Surinamese diaspora organisations in Europe are largely concentrated in the Netherlands.

Diaspora Events Foundation (Stichting Diaspora Events) 2018 Belgium

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The organization works to build solidarity and cultural identity among Surinamese in the Netherlands, Belgium, and other areas where the diaspora resides. It organizes cultural and social events and encourages knowledge transfer about Suriname.

Friendship Bands Netherlands (VNS) (Stichting Vriendschapsbanden Nederland Suriname) 2008

Netherlands

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The organization works to build ties between the Netherlands and Suriname and serves as a channel for providing Dutch society with accurate information about cultural, social, and political developments in Suriname. To do so, it organizes cultural activities, workshops, and guides educational trips to Suriname that also support local organizations. [f]

NAKS Netherlands Foundation (Stichting NAKS Nederland) 2010 Netherlands

- ✔ Development activities
- ✔ Integration activities

The organization is a subsidiary of NAKS Suriname, which was founded in 1947. It seeks to support the work of its parent organisation, to raise awareness about Afro-Surinamese culture in the Netherlands, and to pass on cultural heritage.

Our Suriname Association (Vereniging Ons Suriname) 1919 Netherlands

- ✔ Participates in Development projects in Suriname
- ✔ Participates in Integration projects in the country of establishment

The organization promotes cultural heritage and awareness of Suriname's history among people of Suriname descent in the Netherlands and Dutch society in general. It organises large-scale events and serves as a platform for the diaspora to remain informed about current events and issues of public debate in Suriname.

Stichting Collectief Overzee Suriname 2011 Netherlands

- ✔ **Development activities**
- ✔ **Integration activities**

This organization aims to promote unity among Surinamese in the Netherlands and develops social, cultural, and humanitarian projects in Suriname and the Netherlands.

Suriname Diaspora Association (Surinaams Nederlands Diaspora Associatie, SuNeDA) Netherlands

- ✔ **Development activities**

The organization carries out cultural activities as well as initiatives that contribute to Suriname's development and build community among the diaspora. These range from fundraisers¹⁸ that support Surinamese non-profits, to activities that engage Surinamese students in the Netherlands in exchanges in Suriname.

Surinamese Students Abroad (SSA) 2012 Netherlands

- ✔ **Development activities**
- ✔ **Integration activities**

The SSA is a student association comprised of Surinamese youth studying in the Netherlands as well as non-Surinamese students with an interest in the country. It organizes activities that build cultural identity and it focuses on Surinamese students' professional development and motivating them to return to Suriname upon completing their studies.

¹⁸ <http://www.dwtonline.com/laatste-nieuws/2020/02/12/wan-okasi-schenkt-aangepaste-rolstoel-aan-tienjarige/>

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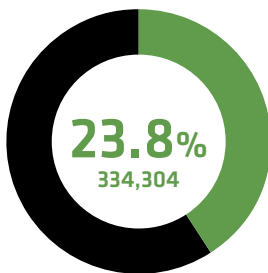


Diaspora engagement mapping TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population

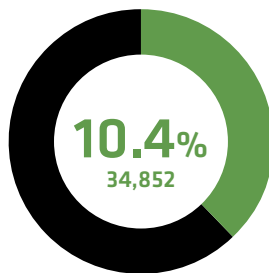


♂ 40.9%
♀ 59.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.8%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **178**

% of which in the EU



♂ 38%
♀ 62%



Top countries of destination

United States	276,440
Canada	69,264
United Kingdom	31,720
Venezuela	2,750
Jamaica	2,328

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Terminology: The term 'diaspora' is used in national documents.

Trinidad and Tobago does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ According to the Citizenship Act of Trinidad and Tobago Chap 1:50 Section 12(1)

² Voting from Abroad - the International IDEA Handbook (2007) p.244

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1973** ● **Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago** (Article 17(1) – last amended 1973) grants citizenship by descent to children of citizens born abroad when at least one parent is a citizen through means other than by descent.³
- 1978** ● **Citizenship of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Act** (Chapter 1:50, Art. 5 and Art. 11(2D) (last amended 1978 and 1988 respectively) outlines a framework for acquiring citizenship by descent (Article 5) and dual citizenship (Article 11, Section 2D), granting citizenship to persons born outside of Trinidad and Tobago under certain conditions.⁴
- 2016**
⇓
2030 ● **National Strategic Plan 2016-2030** addresses diaspora relations and recognizes the diaspora as a strategic actor in achieving several national goals. Goal 2 points to the creation of a Diaspora Affairs Unit as part of strategies to strengthen and modernize public service. Diaspora engagement is also mentioned as a component of economic growth strategies that seek to develop the country's export market, foster trade, and attract a high-skilled workforce. Building partnerships with the diaspora and offering financial and non-financial incentives to attract diaspora resources are recognized as key to these strategies.

» Trends

Since 2016, the Trinidad and Tobago government has begun to acknowledge the diaspora's potential as key to the country's efforts to diversify its historic economic dependence on oil and gas production as prices fall. Partly due to the wealth these sectors generated, Trinidad and Tobago had not looked to the diaspora as a source of investment, trade, and expertise in the past. The goals outlined in the most recent National Strategic Plan along with the national investment promotion agency's impetus to target the diaspora indicate a shift towards greater diaspora engagement as part of economic growth strategies, in particular through increased trade via access to new markets and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The Trinidadian diaspora is mostly located in the United States, where its members are most likely to work in management, business, science, and arts occupations. They have the highest median income compared to other Caribbean diasporas.⁵

Due to the lack of a policy to entice educated and training personnel, Trinidad and Tobago has faced a problem of skilled worker emigration, such as a large number of nurses who leave the public health system and emigrate to seek work in other countries.⁶

As Trinidad and Tobago has begun to diversify its economy, it has also taken specific steps to institutionalize the diaspora's role in social and economic development and to create platforms for mapping and engaging this group, such as a project conducted by the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington D.C. and the *ilove TT* project (see in spotlight section). This is notable considering that the country's relationship with the diaspora has largely been concentrated in consular services and remittances are not a considerable contribution to GDP.

³ https://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic3_tto_constitution.pdf

⁴ The citizenship is granted if one of the parents is a citizen who gained citizenship through means other than descent, per constitutional guidelines. It is worth mentioning that in 1988, this law was amended to allow dual citizenship to citizens by birth or descent, a right that was not granted under earlier legislation as citizens had to renounce citizenship of Trinidad and Tobago upon acquiring citizenship of another country.

⁵ Zong, J., Batalova, J., (Feb 2019) *Caribbean Immigrants in the United States MPI*

⁶ Please see: IOM Trinidad & Tobago and *The Caribbean Diaspora - An Untapped Resource for Impacting Economic Development through Investments in the Caribbean*

Obstacles



- **Incomplete policy efforts:** Trinidad and Tobago has considerable terrain to cover in terms of a policy framework for engaging the diaspora.⁷
- **Lack of foreign direct investment (FDI):** The diaspora faces limited investment options linked to the country's dependence on fossil fuel production. There are also challenges for streamlining diaspora FDI through the national investment promotion agency, which could help align investments with national development goals. Given the country's oil and gas tradition, diaspora investors have settled into a pattern of funding small-scale projects using personal networks rather than looking at government agencies.⁸
- **Lack of efforts to attract diaspora expertise.** A considerable part of Trinidad and Tobago's skilled workforce lives abroad, and the government's efforts to engage this group are incipient. The lack of connections (and platforms for building them) poses a challenge for initiatives seeking to tap into the diaspora's expertise and professional networks as the country diversifies economically and looks to attract a skilled foreign workforce.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Mapping diaspora skills & organisations

The Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC is building a database of diaspora members living in the United States as well as diaspora organisations. This is being done via a [Google Form](#) available on the embassy website at the time of writing. Information collected enables a geographical mapping the diaspora, identification of fields of employment, and affiliation with diaspora organizations.

[iloveTT 2018 - ongoing](#)

InvestTT, the country's national investment promotion agency, launched the iloveTT project as a platform for collaborating with the diaspora on social and economic development ventures outside the energy sector. In order to build the agency's database of potential diaspora investors and better target their engagement strategy, InvestTT's website hosts a survey where diaspora members can specify their areas of expertise and interest in supporting Trinidad and Tobago, whether it be as an advisor, mentor, brand promoter, investor, entrepreneur, or consumer. InvestTT highlights the [Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company](#) (TTFCC) as an example of successful diaspora investment. InvestTT played a central role in TTFCC's start-up operations and the company continues to receive guidance today, even as an award-winning chocolate manufacturer.

HUMAN CAPITAL

INVESTMENT:
HUMAN CAPITAL

⁷ World Bank (2016) [The Potential Economic Role of the Caribbean Diaspora](#) pg. 117.

⁸ Ibid. pg. 129.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) 1973

CARICOM promotes regional integration and functional cooperation among its 15 member states and 5 associate members; it operates as a single, regional market. CARICOM offers the diaspora a more attractive investment environment than national economies and regulatory frameworks. It also allows countries to incentive domestic enterprises to export outside the CARICOM region.⁹

- **National institutions**

Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

The Ministry oversees foreign relations and serves as a diplomatic channel for promoting national interests and development abroad. It also holds the mandate for services to the diaspora, which are carried out through the Consular Mission.

InvestTT 2012

InvestTT is the national investment promotion agency and operates as part of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It works to promote foreign direct investment in industries unrelated to oil, gas, and other types of energy. In recent years it has taken steps to directly target the diaspora as investors.¹⁰

Immigration Division

The Immigration Division is part of the Ministry of National Security and has the mandate to issue travel documents both locally and overseas, including citizenship documents, which may be requested by the diaspora.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

In Europe, organisations of the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora are primarily located in the UK. This could be due to the country's historic relationship with the Commonwealth and the fact that the diaspora is relatively small and largely resides in the United States and Canada.



⁹ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/990601467315599193/pdf/105761-REVISED-CDI-Report-FinalLatest-PUBLIC.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.investtt.co.tt/how-we-help/>

Trinidad and Tobago UK Association (TTA) 1988 UK

- ✔ **Development activities**
- ✔ **Integration activities**

The TTA promotes education and training for both adults and children of the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora in the UK, as well as opportunities for recreation. Its objective is to contribute to the diaspora's overall well-being and it primarily works in the London Borough of Haringey.¹¹

Trinis in London 2003 UK

- ✔ **Integration activities**

This organization provides coverage, information and facilitates links between organizations and people of the United Kingdom, Europe, and the Caribbean, through cultural and social events and activities.

¹¹ <https://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1132060&subid=0>

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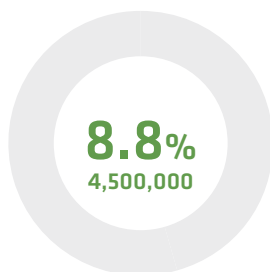
Diaspora engagement mapping

VENEZUELA

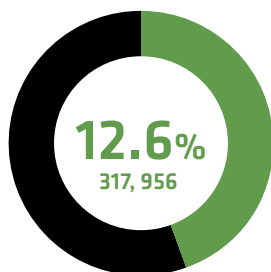
Facts & figures

Emigration¹

% of emigrants in total population²



% of which in the EU³



Remittances as a share of GDP⁴: 0.6%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 279



Top countries of destination

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



Political rights



Dual citizenship⁵



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad⁶



Voting from abroad⁷:

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

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.”⁸

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.⁹

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.¹⁰

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.¹¹



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.¹² 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.¹³

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.¹⁴ More than 3 million households are receiving over USD3bn dollars in funds from the diaspora.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷

NETWORKS

Una Medicina Para Venezuela¹⁸

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 Pastillita¹⁹

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

HUMANITARIAN AID

Vuelve a Casa²⁰ - 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 ; aseved.com

19 facebook.com/LeanAyudaHumanitaria; 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.veneuropa.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.

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