



EMPOWERING THE SOUTH AMERICAN DIASPORA

AS AGENTS FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

A REGIONAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of data in this publication do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that safe, orderly and regular migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Publisher: International Organization for Migration

17 route des Morillons

P.O. Box 17

1211 Geneva 19

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 717 9111

Fax: +41 22 798 6150

Email: hq@iom.int

Website: www.iom.int

This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM.

Unofficial translation of the original version in Spanish, entitled *Empoderando la diáspora suramericana como actores en el desarrollo sostenible. Un diagnóstico regional*.

Citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2022. *Empowering the South American Diaspora as Agents for Sustainable Development - A Regional Assessment Study*. IOM, Geneva

ISBN: 978-92-9268-483-9 (PDF)

© IOM 2022



Some rights reserved. This publication is available under the Creative Commons Attribution–NonCommercial–NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO).*

For further specifications, please see the [Copyright and Terms of Use](#).

This publication should not be used, published or redistributed for purposes primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation, with the exception of educational purposes, e.g. to be included in textbooks.

Permissions: Requests for commercial use or other rights and licensing should be submitted to publications@iom.int.

* <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/legalcode>

Empowering the South American Diaspora as Agents for Sustainable Development

A Regional Assessment Study

“Transnational communities, consisting of migrants and diasporas, play an invaluable role in the life and growth of the various societies in which they engage.

They build bridges, that make it possible to share and disseminate knowledge, ideas, values, technology and other resources. They are agents of change that can deeply impact the reshaping of the worlds in which they live. As such, these communities are important stakeholders that can accelerate the achievement of sustainable development in their countries, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and beyond.”

António Vitorino

Director General of the International
Organization for Migration, 2020.



Foreword

The countries of South America have been shaped by migration processes over the centuries despite the changing nature of these flows. Transforming from receiving countries of European and African populations to countries of origin with trajectories destined for North America and Europe and today with a predominance of intraregional circulation. This complexity has resulted in a rich cultural fabric that gives life and colour to the region's communities within and beyond its geographic borders. These

transnational communities of migrants and diasporas today spread to every corner of the globe and in turn create new bridges for the transfer of ideas, knowledge, technology, norms, values, relationships and resources that drive a constant renewal of South American societies.

In spite of both their long history and their great impact the contributions of the transnational communities are often still poorly understood despite the many efforts of countries in the region to enhance and maximize them. In line with these efforts, this regional assessment seeks to make visible the evolution of these contributions as well as the influence of national institutions on this process.

To go beyond a policy review or historical analysis, this assessment was prepared by a team of researchers collecting primary data in different countries of the region with a set of qualitative and quantitative methodological tools to show both the national peculiarities as well as regional commonalities. For example, in collaboration with relevant government partners we were able to capture the perspectives of more than 1,100 people surveyed through a virtual survey, with a representation of more than 60 per cent of women, against which information was triangulated from more than 120 interviews, several focus groups and secondary sources.

This regional report is complemented by six national reports that analyse in depth the specificities of each country and a repository of more than 40 promising practices identified, which constitute a set of important wealth of knowledge for contributing to the development and implementation of policies and programmes for diasporas in the region.

From the IOM we maintain that the role of diasporas as agents of sustainable development for their countries and communities of origin is critical. This premise is recognized in objective 19 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration within which the States have committed to “empowering migrants and diasporas to catalyze their development contributions and to harness the benefits of migration as a source of sustainable development”. In turn, this is part of the 2030 Agenda and especially in its goal 10.7 to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” and goal 17.17 to “encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.”

In addition, the findings of this assessment demonstrate the central role of national actors in the strengthening of actions that enable the contribution of diasporic communities. In this regard, while acknowledging the efforts already implemented by the States of South America, the possibility of enhancing the impact of diaspora resources is identified through national policies and programmes that international cooperation also can support.

At the regional level, the contribution of diasporas was of interest from the beginning of the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and, during the XII Conference in 2012, the Member States of the SACM committed themselves to “develop joint actions to link fellow citizens abroad among the member countries.” We recognize great potential in such collaboration considering all the commonalities, including social, cultural, linguistic and historical, among others, that many of the diasporas of the region share. Beyond this, we have seen through this assessment that precisely in some countries of destination South American communities share, collaborate and organize themselves not only with their compatriots, but also with the broader Latin American community.

We are very grateful for the close collaboration that we have enjoyed with our government and diaspora partners, without whose support this assessment would not be possible. We hope that this document will open new horizons of cooperation and collaboration between the many actors involved, including governments and their diasporas, as well as between the countries of the region, between the women and men of diaspora communities and among many other actors.

We see it as a crucial effort to open the way for many conversations and concrete actions that allow empowering the South American people, who, although far away, continue to carry their communities in their hearts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a large, sweeping loop that ends in a horizontal line.

Marcelo PISANI

Regional Director for South America
International Organization for Migration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	IX
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Methodology	3
1.1.1 Tools and approaches used.....	3
1.1.2 Online survey.....	5
2 CONTEXT AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	9
2.1 Overview of contemporary South American research.....	9
2.2 Differences and similarities in the evolutions of South American diasporas.....	11
2.3 Review of regulatory frameworks.....	15
2.3.1 International framework	15
2.3.2 Regional framework.....	16
2.3.3 National regulatory frameworks and public policies	17
2.3.4 Implications of migration policies in countries of destination	19
2.4 Regional background within the SACM.....	20
3 FINDINGS ON SOUTH AMERICAN DIASPORAS	23
3.1 Role of the South American diaspora in the sustainable development of the region.....	26
3.1.1 Human capital.....	27
3.1.2 Social capital	29
3.1.3 Cultural capital	31
3.1.4 Economic capital.....	33
3.2 Obstacles encountered by diaspora communities.....	36
3.3 South American e-diasporas	39
3.3.1 Regional and national e-diasporas.....	40
3.3.2 Dimensions, profiles and trends	46





4 KEY GOOD PRACTICES IN THE REGION	49
• RAICES (Network of Argentinian Researchers and Scientists Abroad) programme	50
• Olimpíadas Brasileiras como Língua de Herança (PLH)	51
• Colombia Nos Une programme	52
• Transformation of paradigms in Guyanese public policies	53
• Don Carlos Antonio López (BECAL) national programme of overseas grants	54
• Second Global Survey for the Peruvian Community Abroad 2021	55
• Chile Global	56
5 RESULTS	57
5.1 Progress	57
5.1.1 Progress in public policies and institutional and regulatory frameworks.....	57
5.1.2 Progress of the civil society and academia.....	58
5.1.3 Progress of the private sector.....	59
5.2 Gaps	60
5.3 Recommendations.....	61
5.3.1 Institutional	61
5.3.2 Programmatic.....	63
5.3.3 Regional cooperation.....	66
5.4 Afterword.....	68
6 ANNEXES	69
Annex 1. Definitions.....	69
Annex 2. Online survey.....	73
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	77

LIST OF GRAPHS

Figure 1. Participants in the online survey by age range	16
Figure 2. Participants in the online survey by country of origin.....	17
Figure 3. Map of the main destinations of survey respondents	18
Figure 4. Responses to statements about the characteristics of the South American diaspora	35
Figure 5. Considerations on the situation of women from the South American diaspora	36
Figure 6. Perceptions of vulnerable populations of the South American diaspora	37
Figure 7. Identification of obstacles from the South American diaspora's perspective.....	49
Figure 8. Obstacles facing the South American diaspora abroad	50
Figure 9. Facebook pages by number of members according to their membership	52

Acknowledgements

This publication was made possible through the support provided by the IOM Development Fund. It was drafted by Fernanda Mora-Canzani, main researcher, in collaboration with Roberto Cancel, Regional Labour Mobility and Human Development Specialist and Laura Rolla, Regional Project Coordinator. This report contains and analyses the results of national studies supervised by IOM's focal points in each participating country.

We particularly thank the national researchers for their valuable contributions, in alphabetical order: Camila Escudero (Brazil), Paula Carello (Paraguay), María del Cisne Moscoso (Ecuador), Benoît Mougnot (Peru), Javier Niño (Colombia) andrea Vignolo (Uruguay) and Sheccid Ontivero Santilla (trainee, Harvard University).

We also appreciate the contributions of professionals who act as focal points in IOM's national offices, representatives of the foreign ministries of participating countries, members of diaspora organizations and academics consulted, who have kindly collaborated with this regional research through their participation in interviews, validation workshops, focus group meetings and in other events, as well as all those who have offered their time and attention taking part in the regional survey.



Introduction

Over 10 million South American emigrants live outside the region – according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) – and their contribution is crucial given the conditions in the region, recently aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The South American Conference on Migration¹ (SACM) has repeatedly stressed the multiple changes of international migration in South America in the first two decades of the twenty-first century, pointing out the prevalence of migration towards more developed countries and between countries in the region in the context of globalization, on the one hand and of subregional integration processes – especially the Andean Pact and Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) – on the other.

As regards migration dynamics in South America, the International Organization for Migration² (IOM) observes that it has been traditionally marked by intraregional and extraregional patterns. In the last few years, intraregional migration has been intensifying and it has become the predominant trend. Disparities in economic and work opportunities continue triggering these migration processes. Another migration pattern is the emigration of nationals from South America to North America (United States of America and Canada) and Europe (mainly Spain and Italy). The third pattern is extraregional immigration. In effect, in recent years, the number of people from other regions (Africa, Asia, North America, Central America, the Caribbean and Europe) who settle in South America has significantly increased. In addition, South America also receives an important number of returnees from developed countries, as a consequence of the crisis in employment and social protection systems that has been affecting the main European countries of destination for some years now. Several countries in the region have return programmes in place providing support for the return and reintegration of their nationals.

Taking into account these developments, representatives from South American and Caribbean countries have reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and have insisted on considering migration as a contribution

¹ This is an intergovernmental space established 20 years ago, where ideas are discussed and good practices are shared with the aim of achieving a regional migration policy.

² Source: www.iom.int/south-america-0.

to democracy, diversity and sustainable development; on respecting, protecting and enforcing migrants' rights and on supporting them in situations of vulnerability.³

Throughout 2021, in the framework of the project Empowering the South American Diaspora as Agents for Sustainable Development, implemented by the IOM Regional Office for South America, a study was conducted and this report details its results. This study aimed at improving key stakeholders' understanding (such as government, private sector, academia and civil society, among others) of the barriers and opportunities for diaspora engagement in the sustainable development of the region. It is specifically intended to diagnose the current state of play of the engagement of South American diasporas as agents for sustainable development and to make recommendations for its enhancement.

This report is framed within IOM's vast experience of supporting the development of diaspora-related policies, with governments and civil society and implementing more than 150 mapping exercises of diaspora communities around world. In concrete terms, the study took as a reference framework IOM's three-pillar strategy, consisting of enabling, engaging and empowering transnational communities as agents for development and the handbook *Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development*, co-published with the Migration Policy Institute in 2012.

It should be noted that this document is the first one of its kind in the region, as it coordinates and integrates the results of the national studies conducted in six target countries: the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, to which Uruguay was added and it also includes the experiences of Argentina, Chile, Guyana, Suriname and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The report contains five chapters. This introductory chapter includes a summary of the methodology used in the framework of this study. The second chapter describes the context and historical background and includes a literature review, an analysis of the evolution of the South American diaspora and a summary of the overall regulatory frameworks, as well as the background within the SACM. The third chapter describes the findings of the study in terms of the perceptions of the transnational communities of migrants and diasporas from South America, focusing on their roles in the sustainable development of the region. The fourth chapter refers to some key good practices identified in the countries in the region. The fifth and last chapter outlines the final results of the study, including the progress, gaps and recommendations surveyed.

This report is expected to allow governments and other major stakeholders in South America to explore greater collaboration at a regional level so as to empower transnational communities rooted in the region.

³ The regional review meeting of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was held virtually in April 2021, co-organized by IOM, in its capacity as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration and ECLAC.

1.1 Methodology

When developing the study, it has been sought to implement an inclusive and participatory process engaging all the protagonists, based on mutual trust and sharing of inputs and tools, but also encompassing the difficulties and obstacles encountered. It has also been attempted to formulate the necessary conditions for diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in South American countries and to face, in particular, periods of crisis, such as the health, economic and social crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The work team is made up of seven researchers: a main researcher in charge of developing and ensuring the correct implementation of methodological approaches and common tools; and a researcher in each country responsible for implementing the methodology and collecting data at a national level. Thus, this report incorporates the results of national studies in the Plurinational State of Bolivia⁴, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, added to secondary data gathered by the main researcher in the other South American countries: Argentina, Chile, Guyana, Suriname, Uruguay⁵ and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The methodology used is mixed and includes quantitative and qualitative elements. Among the national studies, over 120 semi-structured interviews were carried out with representatives from different categories of key stakeholders. In addition, various focus groups were held in each country, most of them virtually. In some of them, different groups participated in an integrated manner, while others were organized by specific categories of stakeholders. Finally, 1,173 responses to an online survey distributed through a variety of channels were collected. These various elements are further explained in the subsections below.



1.1.1 Tools and approaches used

The methodological approach has been built from a multidisciplinary perspective, taking into account multiple stakeholders, for the purpose of identifying facts, activities of civil society organizations in the diaspora, public policies having an impact on the subject matter of the research. For this reason, the research sought to include the participation of representatives of diaspora civil society organizations, State authorities and relevant business and academic spheres, adopting a gender focus to specifically show the role of women in each area. Collected, compiled and organized empirical material that has not been systematized thus far has also been explored and facts and

⁴ Throughout this document there are links to the reports which include the results of national investigations. They can be found at the following links:

- Plurinational State of Bolivia: www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-boliviana.pdf;
- Brazil: www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-brasileira.pdf;
- Colombia: www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-colombiana.pdf;
- Ecuador: www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-ecuatoriana.pdf;
- Paraguay: www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-paraguaya.pdf;
- Peru: www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-peruana.pdf.

⁵ In complementarity to the regional assessment, a national report for Uruguay has also been prepared: www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-uruguay.pdf.

stakeholders have been identified. All this has made it possible to reasonably encompass the existing information about the South American diaspora, to envisage the ways to harness it and to update perceptions and representations of diasporas in the national social consciousness.

Based on the foregoing, the national studies conducted in the framework of this study were organized in national timelines, following the recommendations of the methodological approach. The purpose of this common approach was to articulate the primary sources within the framework of a common timeline enabling the identification of historical sequences of diaspora participation in the sustainable development of countries, in the context of the successive “country projects” and the international strategies roughly incorporated into the legislation and public policies of each country. Thus, national researchers submitted the respective document reviews taking into account the following elements in each period: migration flows, approved treaties, national legislation, academic research, public policies, civil society initiatives and good practices.

The methodological approach consisted of a common work plan, the collection of primary and secondary data, the implementation of common tools (a common timeline template, mapping of stakeholders based on a common classification of categories) and an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) to draft recommendations. In concrete terms, a narrative was written for qualitative interviews and South American e-diasporas were explored. In addition, a survey was conducted regarding the perceptions and representations of South American diasporas, further explained in the following subsection.

Social media material used in campaign to disseminate the online survey



Finally, a regional repository of promising practices was prepared, based on a common definition and criteria and were validated by focus groups created as part of this research.

1.2 Online survey

The online survey sought to identify the perceptions on South American diasporas of the main categories of stakeholders in the development of related processes: authorities (national, regional, local), as well as parliamentary representatives and administrations involved or potentially involved, civil society organizations in the diaspora, academia, diaspora organizations, media and influencers, among others. To that end, a questionnaire was uploaded to the iDiaspora platform, which was available online from June to November 2021. The national researchers created lists of profiles of interest to participate in the survey and IOM's focal points and the respective foreign ministries collaborated in the dissemination of the initiative.

The survey contained two parts: the first one profiled participants according to gender, age, country of origin, country of residence, educational level, working situation, profession, engagement with the diaspora and length of time abroad in the case of emigrants. The second one explored participants' perception in terms of diaspora contributions to the sustainable development of the country of origin. In particular, it was aimed at exploring each participant's identification of main obstacles, the relevance of civil society initiatives in the matter and the specificities characterizing the role of women and groups in situations of vulnerability as regards their contribution as members of the diaspora.

In quantitative terms, 1,173 responses were obtained, which must be contextualized in the framework of the survey modalities below:

- Its digital format;
- Voluntary access through a link disseminated in social media and mailing lists addressed to a restricted panel of stakeholders related to diaspora issues in South American countries and members of their respective diasporas (approximately 200 people per country);
- Uploading of the questionnaire to the iDiaspora platform;
- Dissemination of the initiative through IOM's national offices in South America and, in some particularly successful cases, by South American State agencies responsible for engaging with their national diasporas.

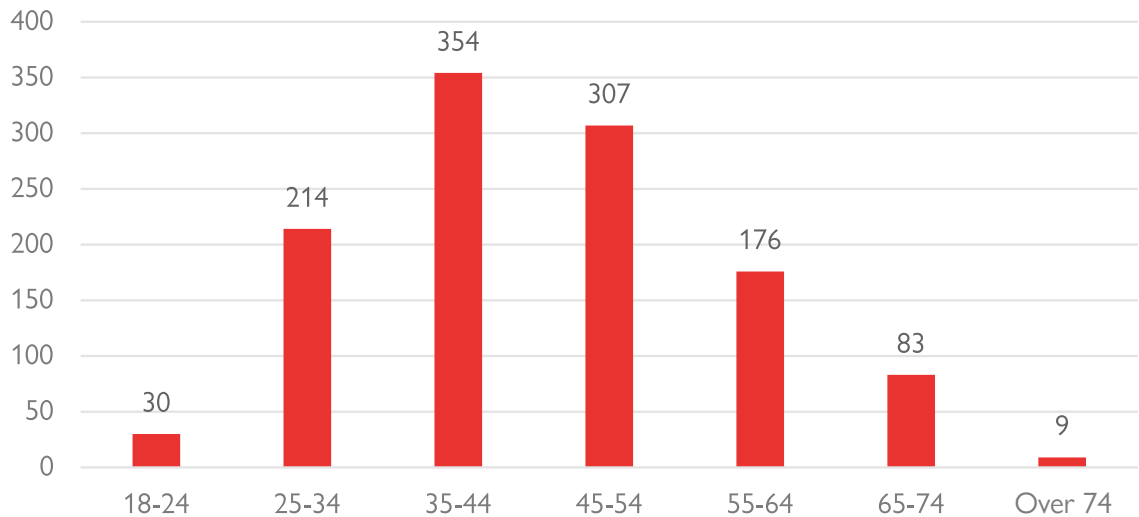
These implementation modalities tend to be interesting for potential participants who are familiar with virtual tools, linked with diaspora networks and active in social and professional interrelations.

Women account for the majority of participants (61%). Among them, the age group that has participated the most is that between 35 and 44 years, accounting for 33 per cent, followed by the 45 to 54 group, accounting for 26 per cent. The high proportion of female participants is consistent with the progressive feminization of the current national diasporas; in addition, women are usually widely represented in university, professional and assistance spheres, as gathered from most profiles of participants in the survey.



FIGURE 1

Participants in the online survey by age range

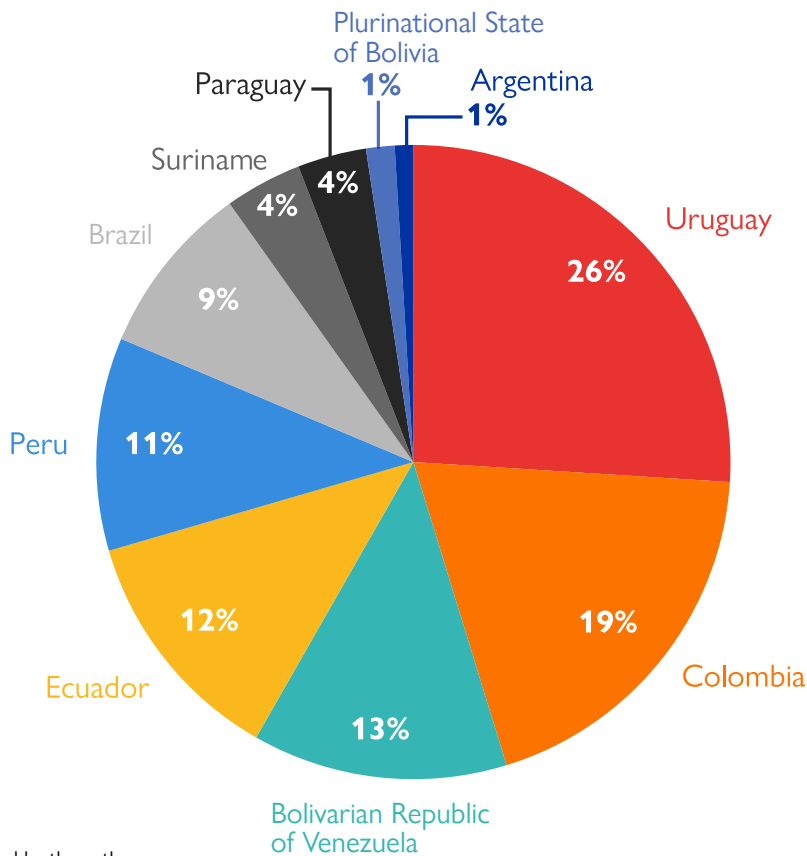


Source: developed by the authors.

In this sense, the most widely represented age groups correspond to ages of greater social activity in the context of active lifestyles, with young people, who are poorly engaged in institutional and association spheres, having a noticeably weak participation. The oldest groups, from 55 to 74 years of age (accounting for 23%), are also present and correspond to the age group of the so-called “first generation” in a diaspora situation, which remains active in their diaspora communities. In terms of labour market, the participants are mainly active: employed (47%) or self-employed (26%), while the participation of retired (6%) and unemployed (3%) people is considerably lower. The survey also attracted professionals (48%), with a significant presence of executives (12%) and, to a lesser extent, support and assistance workers (10%).

FIGURE 2

Participants in the online survey by country of origin



Source: developed by the authors.

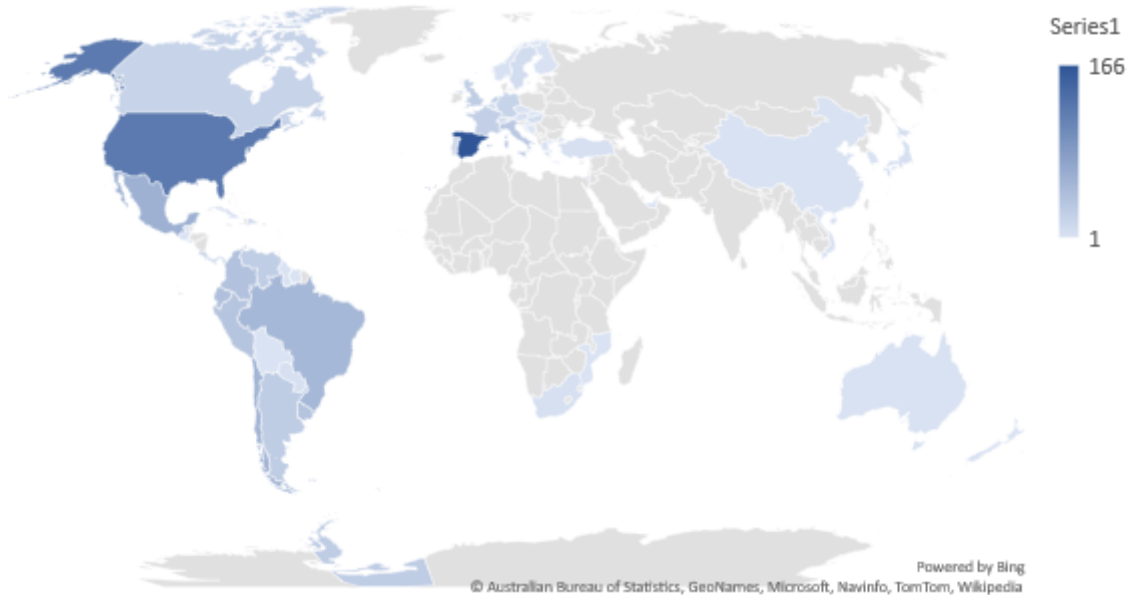


All the participants come from South American countries, with a majority of Uruguayans (26%), Colombians (19%), Venezuelans (13%) and Ecuadorians (12%). It is seen that, in the cases of Uruguay, Colombia and Ecuador, national authorities actively supported and promoted the survey. In the case of Venezuelans, especially within the region, it can be found that they are inclined to follow IOM's social media accounts encouraged by the support programmes offered to them. In Peru, the survey was disseminated through Facebook ads, i.e., ads posted in a page previously created for members of the Peruvian diaspora to communicate with each other. This strategy was effective to mobilize respondents, while at a regional level, the use of Facebook ads did not have fruitful results. The Facebook ads linked to the IOM Regional Office reached 169,114 people, but few of them responded to the survey. This result shows how difficult it is to mobilize participation when there is no prior relationship.

It is stressed that 85 per cent of participants live abroad, mainly in Spain (17%) and the United States of America (13%), followed by Mexico (6%) and Chile (5%), coinciding with the data on main destinations of South American extra- and interregional migration, such as the case of Spain and the United States of America, more specifically. Although the participants live in all the continents, the countries of residence are mainly located in Europe (37%), South America (33%) and North America (20%), which are the traditional destinations of South American emigrants.

FIGURE 3

Map of the main destinations of survey respondents



Source: developed by the authors utilizing Microsoft Excel.

This map is for illustrative purposes. The names and borders on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Of the 1,173 respondents, 957 migrants are currently living abroad, out of whom 167 preferred not to state the length of time spent outside their countries of origin. The time spent abroad spans from one year to 58 years, with the highest scales ranging from one to five years (accounting for 39%), with a peak at a three year permanence (11%) and from 20 to 21 years (9%).

Of the participants, 71.18 per cent live abroad and 7.08 per cent live abroad and are members of a diaspora organization while only 0.85 per cent live in their country of origin but have ties with their relatives abroad. In addition, 5.29 per cent work with their government to facilitate engagement of their diaspora and 5.71 per cent live abroad and are academics studying diaspora communities.



2

Context and historical background

This chapter seeks to describe the historical and regulatory processes that have shaped the reality of transnational communities of migrants and diasporas from South America, for the purposes of understanding them. The main sources of information have been literature reviews at a regional level and the results of national reports from the six countries that took part in the project.

First, the literature on the key concepts of the study concerning diasporas, in general and those from South America in particular, will be reviewed. Second, a comparative analysis of the different evolutionary processes of the diasporas in the region is presented to identify how they converge and what are their cross-cutting elements. Third, an analysis of the different regulatory frameworks will be presented and finally, the background of the current regional work carried out mainly in the framework of the SACM will be reviewed.

2.1 Overview of contemporary South American research

The analysis of the academic production concerning the role of diasporas in development has found a growing interest in this issue since the late 20th century, in parallel with the implementation of public policies aimed at promoting engagement with the respective diasporas. However, differences in definitions and a lack of robust monitoring and evaluation mean that comparative analysis of these policies is difficult (Migration Data Portal, 2020).

The link between diasporas and development was first observed in the framework of science, technology and innovation for development, influenced by movement of the so-called “highly qualified diasporas”. This mobility has given rise to expressions such as brain drain. IOM (2013a) defines brain drain as “depletion of human capital in a specific occupation or economic sector resulting from the emigration of skilled workers engaged in this occupation or sector from the country of origin to another country (or from one region of a country to another – internal migration)”. The concept of “brain gain” makes it possible to identify the impacts brought about by immigration.

The terms “brain circulation” and “brain bank” emerged in the 1990s. The former makes reference to emigrants who transfer to their country of origin very valuable skills and knowledge for

development, even without permanently returning to their country and develop cooperation mechanisms from their host countries, processes referred to as brain banks (Kapur, 2001). At the same time, five levels of direct or indirect engagement of diasporas in the development of their countries of origin have been identified: information reception, passive information collection, query, collaboration, individual or collective mobilization.⁶

Recent literature (Gamlen, 2014)⁷ underlines the evolution of diaspora-related practices and political discourses as a result of the greater efficiency with which they incorporate into various spheres of the countries, as well as the recognition of their importance as agents for development, including experiments in the mobilization of remittance (cash or in-kind transfers by migrants for relatives in their countries of origin). At the same time, it is seen that research usually focuses on south–north migration and pays little attention to south–south migration (Progressive Connexions, 2019). Consequently, little is still known about intraregional South American diaspora communities, despite some existing case studies.

In addition, the few existing studies are usually focused on analysing the contributions by highly qualified professionals with a high level of education in south–north migration, within the brain drain dynamics. Attention is also paid to the benefits of the participation of diasporas as a one-way flow of assets from developed countries in the north to developing countries in the south, without taking into account the south–south diaspora realities.

A report drafted within the framework of MERCOSUR in 2005 (Pérez Vichich, 2005) analysed the freedom of movement modalities of individuals and in particular, of workers, in the regional integration process, arguing that intraregional labour migration and free movement of individuals arose from the very start as the critical core of labour and social integration. The report also referred to migration issues in the light of social rights and anti-trafficking policies (IPPDH, 2019). Ana Margheritis (2016) affirms, however, that very little is known about the impact and long-term sustainability of State policies for emigrants in Latin America. The author specifies that Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay have developed new institutions and discourses to strengthen ties, to help, protect and grant rights to migrants and capture their resources. And she considers that, when adapting government techniques to global realities, these policies reshape the scope of policies, nations and citizenship, giving rise to a new form of transnational governance. For various reasons, the relations between the State and the diaspora have not become stable and fruitful partnerships, she argues. The national studies conducted in the framework of this study precisely seek to analyse these developments, assessing advances and taking note of impasses and also suggesting recommendations for enhancement.

Within the South American context, IOM (2016) has promoted the publication of the Migration Notebooks series, among which Issue 7 stands out, relating to the impact of qualified diasporas on development in 2016. This document finds that the government sector–academia–private sector virtuous triangle has many difficulties to materialize in the region due to a lack of coordination among the key stakeholders to enable a greater impact of qualified migration. In addition, it underscores the need to have clear policies or programmes to support reintegration with specific

⁶ The 3rd Global Conference. Diasporas: An Inclusive Interdisciplinary Conference. See: www.progressiveconnexions.net/interdisciplinary-projects/cultures-and-societies/migration-and-diasporas/conferences/.

⁷ Gamlen, A. *Human Geopolitics. States, Emigrants and the Rise of Diaspora Institutions*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2014. See: www.migrationdataportal.org/es/themes/diasporas.

institutional structures based on an analysis of national labour markets to identify skill and/or knowledge gaps that could be addressed by human capital abroad. Finally, it observes that some of the relevant issues require a regional approach, stating that the promotion and management of qualified labour mobility within South America could be a highly important contribution to boost endogenous development.

2.2 Differences and similarities in the evolutions of South American diasporas

The region has recent official data on international migration, analysed and incorporated in available reports, which have made it possible to establish prevailing patterns and trends. In view of the current dynamics, IOM does not foresee an end to the ongoing population movement, which includes a growing number of people in situations of high vulnerability.⁸ On this basis, the IOM Regional Strategy for South America 2020/2024 presents a perspective of migration trends and key policies in the region (IOM, 2020a: 12). As a result of the existing economic and social asymmetries among the countries in the region, the economic crises and recent episodes of social unrest and political instability that have occurred in various countries, IOM observes that citizens from countries of the Andean Community and Paraguay go to Argentina, Chile and Brazil in search for jobs and a better life (IOM, 2020b).

In South America, in the last ten years, over two million intraregional migrants have regularized their situation. IOM also underscores that intraregional migration has increased in the last decades, usually between neighbouring countries, although more recently towards more distant countries in the region, driven by greater flexibility in mobility and residence regulations (IOM, 2018a). It is also seen that the Colombian conflict of the last decades has led to significant movements of Colombian citizens within their country and abroad, especially towards developed countries (Spain and the United States of America) and neighbouring countries (mainly Ecuador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).⁹ National studies conducted in 2021 in the framework of this project confirm these trends and challenges, particularly marked by the recent intensification of intraregional migration.

The annual report on “Recent migration movements in South America” (IOM, 2021a), drafted in the framework of the Argentine Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT) of the MERCOSUR Specialized Migration Forum, jointly with IOM, published in 2021, makes it possible to update the contemporary South American migration outlook. South America has a high volume of emigrants (17.6 million in total, 2020 figures), with a negative balance in 2019 of 1.1 million, despite the unfavourable international circumstances. The emigrant percentages are generally high in relation to the total national population. Guyana and Suriname have the highest emigration percentages in relation to their total population (66.5% and 72.8%, respectively), followed by Uruguay (18.3%) and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (16.7%), whose emigration is highly intraregional and recent,

⁸ Current problems involve serious risks of exploitation and abuse (especially gender-based violence and trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants) and family separation (mainly, the risks of protection faced by unaccompanied and separated migrant children), as well as different problems affecting their social inclusion, especially those derived from the growing levels of xenophobia. (IOM, 2020a: 12).

⁹ Since 2018 there have been over 5.7 million internally displaced people (IOM, 2020c).



thus not appearing among the main populations in extraregional countries of destination. Brazil, by contrast, is the country with the lowest emigrant percentage (0.8%) given its great national population, although in absolute numbers, it has many emigrants, especially outside the region, as stated below. It is followed by Argentina (2.3%) and Chile (3.4%), which, in addition, are countries of destination for diasporas from other countries in the region. As regards extraregional destinations preferred by South American emigrants, the United States of America is still the main one, especially for Colombian, Peruvian and Brazilian emigrants; second, Spain is the destination for Colombian, Ecuadorian and Venezuelan diasporas. Three other destinations appear with significant volumes: Canada, Italy, and Japan (ibid.).

The percentage of intraregional migrants by country remained high between 2010 and 2020. In many cases, it increased significantly, such as the case of Colombia, showing a regional trend that is becoming consolidated. In the case of this country, intraregional migration involves a more modern pattern. In the same sense, it should be noted that half of the countries show movements that converged with the 2008 financial crisis, which may have stimulated greater intraregional migration. And by 2020 the effects of the North American foreign policy, as well as the COVID-19 impacts, would become apparent (ibid.). Finally, it is underscored that, through MERCOSUR's Residence Agreement, over three million (temporary and permanent) residencies have been granted between 2009 and 2020 in countries in the region.

Despite the diversities and specificities of national histories, a common chronology of the evolution of South American diasporas is observed, which will be expanded on in the following pages. These are migration processes linked to national contexts that are part of a regional landscape woven through policy developments and ruptures that are ultimately similar, through economic and social crises developed as beads of a same necklace in the different countries in the region. There are also opportunities in the context of the acceleration of globalization and the consolidation of democracy in countries once devastated by political conflicts, sometimes armed ones and the successive economic and social crises.

From this perspective, it is possible to identify some founding aspects and common turning points, in a relatively flexible time frame from one country to another in the region.

- The 1960s are generally indicated as a starting point for emigration processes in countries that were, from colonization to after World War II, primarily countries of immigration that have been transforming little by little into emigration countries, except for Chile, which maintained in the period considered the lowest emigration rate in the region.
- The first massive emigration wave took place in the 1970s and early 1980s. It is related to long periods of internal crises, of a political, economic and social nature, which generally ended up in the advent of authoritarian governments. These governments gave rise to significant political exile, but also, in some cases, a true exodus of considerable population volumes, on some occasions in an intraregional context (such as the case of Paraguay). For example, in [Uruguay](#), the first migration wave, mainly linked to political exile, occurred following the 1973 coup and there was a massive return of exiles between 1985 and 1989 with the fall of the dictatorship, but in subsequent years, a sustained permanence of former exiles in host countries was observed and exits due to economic reasons increased. In the case of [Paraguay](#), post-dictatorship democratization

resulted in the slowing down of Paraguayan emigration, with a simultaneous increase in the return of emigrants after Alfredo Stroessner's long dictatorship ended.

- The second emigration wave is usually situated around the year 2000, in this case being a rather economic and labour migration, in the context of the application of neoliberal and conservative policies in the countries of origin, frequently linked to reduced opportunities of employment, education and social protection.
- The 2008 world financial crisis favoured the return of many emigrants to their countries of origin due to the steep fall in life and working conditions, above all, in Spain and the United States of America. In the case of the young republic of Suriname, established in 1975, it has displayed a significant diaspora reflecting the diversity of a multiethnic and multilingual society, which already in 2015 had 261,578 first-generation Surinamese living abroad, mainly in the Netherlands (Heemskerk and Duijves, 2014).
- Diaspora consolidation. More recently, despite the world health crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its dire consequences in all the continents, a regional scenario is perceived with South American diasporas becoming structural, structured and connected and participating, although with varying geometries, in the creation and development of public policies aimed at engagement and promotion of their participation in all spheres. In this context, the case of Guyana is highlighted, which has historically experienced high levels of emigration with around 30,000 exits a year, considering a total population below one million inhabitants. As Guyana is the only South American country with English as its official language, emigrants mostly settle in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America but also in neighbouring territories in the Caribbean and South America. However, with the recent discovery of oil and gas reserves within Guyana's borders, the country expects a significant increase in labour demand.



Certain elements are recurrent in the different national scenarios, including:

- **Development of highly qualified diasporas.** One first significant process in the last 50 years in the region is the development of a qualified diaspora, in the initial framework of the so-called brain drain phenomenon. In most countries in the region, new forms of cooperation in terms of science, technology and innovation have been explored, particularly by means of virtual, temporary and/or circular mechanisms, i.e., systems to facilitate knowledge transfer through distance learning, agreements between research centres allowing for the implementation of seminars and stays of variable lengths for specialists from the diaspora in countries in the region and exchanges of qualified staff.
- **Feminization of South American emigration.** In a cross-cutting way, it is also necessary to point out the progressive feminization of South American emigration, identified in each case by national data, amounting in some cases to more than half of the diaspora emigrants who, initially, were mostly men.
- **Progressive diversity of the social sectors involved.** A progressive diversity is seen in the social sectors involved in the evolution of diasporas in the region, initially marked by the supremacy of urban middle classes, with the exception of Ecuador;

characterized by an early rural emigration to the United States. In addition, the emergence and spreading of South American diasporas are part of national contexts and projects of specific countries. According to the national report of the [Plurinational State of Bolivia](#), the correlation between ethnicity and income generates cyclic structures of behaviour and social demands promoting mobility and characterizing the diaspora as structured and cyclical in nature and, in conjunction with the moments of emerging economic, social and/or political conflicts, it becomes contingent and temporary.

- **Advances in modern public policies and institutional and regulatory frameworks.** A growing trend to consider the role of diasporas in the development of the respective countries is seen at a regional level. For example, the case of the Ecuadorian diaspora, which is a powerful agent for the dissemination of Ecuadorian culture, values and products and a significant support to economic growth thanks to remittances. The advances in public policies concerning the diasporas and assistance of nationals abroad are remarkable in all the cases studied. The progressive implementation of public bodies and institutions specifically involved in diaspora engagement and assistance shows the willingness (more or less explicit as the case may be) to adapt the regulations to international standards.
- **Consideration of situations of vulnerability and risk.** Post-armed conflict processes (e.g. the Colombian case), the increase in emigrants in prison in countries of destination, the awareness of human trafficking, illegal international trade related to migration, situations of xenophobic discrimination and violence in the countries of destination,¹⁰ and the responses to health crisis situations have led almost every country in the region to design and implement unprecedented mechanisms for the return and assistance of vulnerable groups.
- **An emerging awareness of LGBTQ+ communities,** with IOM's guidance recommending concrete strategies and actions to promote inclusion and diversity, through non-discriminatory behaviour norms, specific events and declarations, staff training, support to the LGBTQ+ Pulse Memorial Scholarship and productive dialogue with UN-GLOBE, the United Nations LGBTQ+ staff group.
- **Acknowledgement of citizen and political rights of diasporas.** Following the ratification of international treaties and bilateral and multilateral agreements, there has been a clear progressive adaptation of national laws to acknowledge citizen and political rights of emigrants. Incidentally, except for Suriname and Uruguay, all countries have granted voting rights to citizens abroad and, in the case of [Ecuador](#), the diaspora has posts assigned in the parliament.
- **Increased participation of civil society, academia and diaspora groups.** The active participation of organized civil society, academia and diaspora groups in social debates and in the sustainable development of the countries of origin has been gradually increasing in all countries.

¹⁰ See, in particular, the national reports of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Brazil. *Estudio Empoderando a la diáspora brasileña como actor del desarrollo sostenible*, www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-brasilera.pdf, and *Estudio Empoderando a la diáspora boliviana como actor del desarrollo sostenible*, www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-boliviana.pdf.

2.3 Review of regulatory frameworks

Numerous international, multilateral and bilateral agreements have framed, for decades, international migration, impacting transnational diaspora processes.

2.3.1 International framework

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹¹ proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948, Resolution 217 A (III),¹² although it is not binding, is the basis of an unavoidable process for the recognition of all the rights of all human beings alike. As regards human mobility, Article 13 of the Declaration states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own and to return to his country.”¹³ This was then codified in international law by means of Article 12 of the legally binding 1969 United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by all South American countries. Along these lines, the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (UN Resolution 45/158, 1990) should also be mentioned, as they gave rise to the implementation of national laws applied in the countries in the region that ratified them.

More recently, the Global Compact for Migration is the first intergovernmental agreement drafted under the auspices of the United Nations covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, adopted in Marrakech in 2018 by 160 Member States.¹⁴ In particular, Objective 19 seeks to: “Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.” Other relevant Global Compact for Migration objectives include:

1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.
16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.
20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.
22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits.

¹¹ The full text of the declaration can be found here: www.un.org/es/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights.

¹² Additional information can be found here: documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/046/82/PDF/NR004682.pdf?OpenElement.

¹³ Of the 58 member countries, 48 voted in favour, eight abstained and two were not present. In the regional South American context, the following countries voted in favour, in alphabetical order: Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

¹⁴ Additional information can be found here: news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028041.



23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

It is also important to underscore that, among its guiding principles, the Compact stresses the need for migration governance to adopt a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Thus, it is sought to identify all parties involved in development – national, regional and local governments, civil society organizations, trade unions, academia, private sector, development agencies –, in order to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships and dynamics in a multilevel governance system.

In addition, the Global Compact for Migration is fully framed within the Sustainable Development Objectives defined by the United Nations (2015), adopted by the Member States in 2015: eradicating poverty, significantly reducing inequalities and exclusion and safeguarding the environment. The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that migration must be an integral part of the strategies to plan development and to achieve the goals proposed, given its universal and indivisible nature.

For example, as regards the diaspora community, to achieve goal 8.2, it is important to consider the contribution of the qualified diaspora to reach higher levels of economic productivity by means of diversification, technological modernization and innovation, in communities of origin through the transfer of skills and technology. To achieve goal 10b, it is necessary to promote investment and other forms of financial support by means of cooperation with diaspora communities. Moreover, goals 17.3 and 17.5 call for the mobilization of additional financial resources, in order to promote diaspora investment. Finally, goal 17.18 calls for a significant increase in the availability of timely, reliable and quality data broken down by migration status, which is important to develop evidence-based policies with and for the diaspora (IOM, 2021b).

2.3.2 Regional framework

In the last decades there have been numerous regional, subregional and bilateral agreements tending to ensure respect for migrants in the region and enable intraregional mobility. The basis of these initiatives is the ratification by the countries in the region of the 1948 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, whose Article 8 defines the right of residence and transit.¹⁵ The American Convention on Human Rights within the Organization of American States (OAS), signed in Costa Rica in 1969, known as the Pact of San José, whose Article 22 states the right of movement and residence, mainly stands out.¹⁶

The Andean Community of Nations (CAN in Spanish) was created in 1969 by means of an Andean subregional integration agreement, referred to as the Cartagena Agreement, which has resulted in multiple multilateral or bilateral initiatives, for example:

- Creation of the Andean Passport as a valid travel document among the CAN member countries (2001 CAN Decision 504);
- Creation of the Andean social security instrument ensuring the rights of workers in the CAN territory (2004 CAN Decision 583).

¹⁵ The full text of the declaration can be found here: www.oas.org/es/cidh/mandato/Basicos/declaracion.asp.

¹⁶ The full text of the declaration can be found here: www.oas.org/dil/esp/tratados_B-32_Convencion_Americana_sobre_Derechos_Humanos.htm.



In 2012 the Framework Agreement of the Pacific Alliance was signed to build an area of integration and free movement of goods, services, capital and people among Mexico, Chile, Peru and Colombia and a technical group for the Movement of People and Facilitation of Migration Transit was created (Niño, 2021).

Additionally, the 1991 Treaty of Asunción gave rise to MERCOSUR, a process of regional integration that initially included Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay as Member States, subsequently adding the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.¹⁷ The following countries are Associated States: the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname.¹⁸ Various agreements have been executed specifically in relation to travel documents of Member States and Associated States (Decision 18 of 2008 and Decision 14 of 2011). In effect, in terms of residence and for the purposes of strengthening the regional integration process, since 2009 instruments have been implemented to facilitate the free movement of people among the countries that are part of MERCOSUR, through the Residence Agreement for Nationals of MERCOSUR Member States and the Residence Agreement for Nationals of MERCOSUR Member States, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Chile. The mechanisms grant MERCOSUR citizens the right to obtain legal residence in the territory of another Member State. They are currently in force for Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador (MERCOSUR, 1991). Argentina and Uruguay have unilaterally decided to continue applying the Residence Agreement to Venezuelan citizens.

In the last decade, the advances achieved in the construction of a regional citizenship have also been relevant. In 2010, the Common Market Council (CMC), by means of Decision CMC No. 64/10, decided to progressively promote a MERCOSUR Citizenship Statute, compiling rights and benefits in favour of nationals from Member States. In 2017, Decision CMC No. 32/17 entrusted the Commission of Permanent Representatives (CRPM in Spanish) with the support to the development of the Action Plan to frame the Statute through the implementation of a policy of free movement of people in the region, equal civil, social, cultural and economic rights and freedoms for nationals of MERCOSUR Member States and equal conditions. The CRPM has recently drafted the MERCOSUR Citizenship Booklet, which compiles the main effective regulations of interest for citizens and the bodies responsible for enforcing them in each Member and/or Associated State.¹⁹ The Citizenship Statute does not intend MERCOSUR citizenship to replace national citizenship, but allows regional citizens to stop being considered foreigners within the bloc.

2.3.3 National regulatory frameworks and public policies

South American countries have modernized their respective regulatory frameworks in the last two decades, signing international treaties and following the world trend to a growing acknowledgement of diasporas. They have also sought to harmonize national regulations with international standards, in particular as regards people's rights. Numerous international treaties have been approved in all countries, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant

¹⁷ The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been suspended from the exercise of all of its rights and duties arising from its condition of MERCOSUR Member State (1991).

¹⁸ The Plurinational State of Bolivia is currently in the process of accession.

¹⁹ Additional information available at: www.mercosur.int/cartilla-de-la-ciudadania-compila-normas-relacionadas-con-los-derechos-de-los-mercosurenos/.

Workers and Members of their Families and the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica) and corresponding national laws have been passed.

In effect, laws have been enacted in all the countries in the region to incorporate international standards into national frameworks and national regulations have been adapted to facilitate the return of emigrants. Ratification by most South American countries, except for Chile, of the 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, negotiated and approved in the framework of the United Nations, is highlighted.

The contemporary trend towards allowing voting from abroad is notable, although with various modalities: only Suriname and Uruguay have not enabled any form of voting abroad.²⁰ Various bills to authorize Uruguayans' voting abroad have been submitted since 2004 in the legislative field, without success. In terms of civic and political participation, the case of Ecuador stands out, where six representatives from the diaspora were elected in 2007 to be part of the Constituent Assembly that promulgated the Constitution the following year, determining the rights of emigrants and setting out the special electoral districts for extra-territorial suffrage. In Uruguay, Law No. 18250 was also passed in 2007, which grants advisory boards an institutional status.

South American public policies on migration cover a wide range of areas of intervention, with different focuses depending on the country, in terms of orientations, priorities, programmes and institutions. Diaspora-related public policies refer to assistance of nationals abroad, the promotion of their political participation, engagement, integration into the different aspects of society and return.

In many countries, consular services have been reorganized and modernized. For example, in Brazil since 2010 a master plan for consular reform has been implemented, with practical tools, such as the consular card and the electronic system for service provision to Brazilians abroad, leading to a new law in 2017 (No. 13445), which had a human rights approach and enabling the abolition of the Alien Status in force since 1980, incorporating in this period the diaspora issue in national censuses.

Units to assist nationals abroad have been created in several countries, including Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. In Paraguay, the Migration Department was created in 1993 within the framework of the National Police, as well as the Development Secretariat for Fellow National Returnees and Refugees (SEDERREC in Spanish) to facilitate the return of exiles and the Directorate for Assistance of Paraguayan Communities Abroad (DACPE in Spanish) was created in 2009. In 2004 a new body was established for assisting Brazilians abroad within the framework of the General Directorate for Consular Affairs of the Foreign Ministry and the network of honorary consulates was expanded. The following year, the General Directorate for Consular Affairs and Engagement with Uruguayans Abroad was created. In Guyana, in 2012, the Foreign Ministry established a Diaspora Affairs Unit to promote and guide a structured approach to diaspora engagement, aiming at strengthening the relations and dialogue with overseas Guyanese, so that the diaspora may contribute to national development. Since its independence, various bodies have been created within Suriname's Government to manage, study and regulate migration flows: the Migration Institute (1981, abolished in 1987), the Interdepartmental Commission on Population Policy (2008) and the Integration and Migration Unit within the Ministry of Home

²⁰ For more information on voting from abroad, see IDEA International's manual on the topic at: www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/voto-en-el-extranjero-el-manual-de-idea-internacional.pdf.

Affairs. The policies and programmes on national diaspora engagement are not only limited to the national level; in some countries, local authorities have also promoted such initiatives. The [Brazilian case](#) stands out, with the development of decentralized actions for the benefit of emigrants (like in the case of Goiás) and local populations, for example, through the application of diaspora financial resources to productive activities by means microenterprises. In the [Plurinational State of Bolivia](#), several “migrant municipalities” have been developed since 1990 to promote diaspora donations aimed at improving the local health, sports and education infrastructure.

In addition to these policies and institutional reforms, there is also a proliferation of specific programmes on South American diaspora engagement. In [Uruguay](#), for example, the first diaspora engagement programmes appeared in 2000, preceded by the national programme for return from exile (20,000 beneficiaries). In 2001, a programme was initiated to engage with highly qualified professionals overseas, promoted by the Foreign Ministry, the University of the Republic, IOM, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and a national commission on diaspora engagement and an advisory committee were created by decree. In Ecuador, in the last decade, several programmes were created for the diaspora: the National Councils for Equality, including the human mobility issue, the “Bienvenidos a Casa” plan, “Tierras” plan, “Ecuador Saludable Vuelvo por Ti”, and the “Retorno de Maestros” plan. In 2017, with IOM’s support, the Government of Suriname launched a web site for the diaspora to disseminate useful information and facilitate their engagement in development programmes and activities. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in 2018,²¹ the “Vuelta a la Patria” plan was created with the aim of promoting the return of the diaspora and offering opportunities for labour, social and cultural reintegration of migrants and their family members, according to the protection system guaranteed by the Social State of Law and Justice established in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

2.3.4 Implications of migration policies in countries of destination²²

It should be pointed out that migration policies in the United States of America have a deep impact on South American migration and the evolution of South American diasporas in that country (the United States is one of the main extraregional countries of destination for the South American diaspora). By way of example, programmes to curb migration, such as those of 2000, the repercussions of the USA Patriot Act against terrorism, the programme Zero Tolerance or Streamline,²³ the 2010 law of the State of Arizona against irregular migration,²⁴ and then the Trump administration’s efforts to limit immigrants’ access to the national territory (in 2016, Donald Trump had committed himself to reducing immigration and irregular entry into the United States of America, which included building a border wall with Mexico), all these programmes and actions lead more immigrants to choose to migrate intraregionally instead of travelling to the United States of America and more South American migrants to return to their countries of origin. By contrast, regularization programmes such as Deferred Action for childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred

²¹ *Return to the Homeland: A New Beginning*, 2018, published by the People’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accounting for the Venezuelan government’s response to the vulnerability situation of thousands of Venezuelans abroad. Available here: [/mppre.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/REPORTE-VZLA_10_OCT_ING-compressed.pdf](#).

²² [archivos.juridicas.unam.mx/www/bjv/libros/9/4302/10.pdf](#).

²³ [www.cbp.gov/newsroom/zero-tolerance-immigration-prosecutions-family-fact-sheet](#).

²⁴ [www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-reform-and-executive-actions/](#).



Action for Parents of Americas (DAPA) have allowed South American migrants in the United States to have better access to jobs and services such as financial services, increasing their capacity to contribute to their countries of origin.

In the European context, the co-development policy appeared in the 1980s, as a new form of cooperation between the north and the south, involving migrants' countries of origin and destination.²⁵ Numerous actions were implemented in this framework, aimed at strengthening local projects co-funded by migrants – such as channelling savings to productive investments – and at enhancing the contributions of scientific, technical and economic diasporas in their countries of origin. In this context, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission²⁶ has developed multiple activities, in the framework of the regulations on the rights of people on the move in the Schengen area.²⁷ It should be noted that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recently approved the recommendation of a policy on diasporas, based on a report drafted by the Commission for Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons. It considers that diasporas and their associations positively contribute to the development of both the countries of origin and destination, enrich cultural diversity and build dynamic and constructive relations that foster economic and cultural exchange and co-development (Pisco, 2021).

2.4 Regional background within the SACM

The SACM²⁸ is the main institutional sphere in the region enabling a space for exchange, consultation and search for common strategies. This body, also referred to as the Lima Process, is a consultative forum for all South American countries concerning development, diasporas, migrant rights and integration, among others. Since May 2000, the SACM has gathered representatives from Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela with Guyana and Suriname joining later. Due to its non-binding nature, it has been the framework for the emergence of very valuable reports and exchanges on the migration situation and the impact of diasporas on development. The successive conferences (the last one, the 20th, was held under the PPT of Chile in 2022) have reflected the common concerns and advances achieved in migration in the region, which has an impact on the engagement of South American diaspora communities with their countries of origin.

Thus, even though the SACM is not binding for the governments participating in this space, it has established guiding principles and strategic guidelines with an impact on the South American intra and extraregional diaspora communities; it has driven the necessary regulatory coherence between national policies and laws and the participation of civil society. This has resulted in the

²⁵ The concept was outlined more precisely by professor and member of the European Parliament Sami Nair (1997).

²⁶ Additional information available here: immigration-portal.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

²⁷ Additional information available here: home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-area_en.

²⁸ Additional information on the South American Conference for Migration is available here: csmigraciones.org/es.



implementation of programmes and specific activities, related to the promotion of human rights of migrants and their families, as well as to regulatory adaptation, promotion of participation by a diversity of stakeholders in consultation processes and exchange of experiences, including capacity building for migration management and other aspects. In this sense, the creation of the South American Migration Observatory (OSUMI in Spanish) stands out, whose objective is to collect relevant and strategic information to draft public policies on migration in South America and share migration information of member countries (including a space with restricted access for focal points appointed by SACM governments).²⁹

The SACM has been interested in the diaspora issue or the engagement of emigrants with their countries of origin since its inception. This issue became visible first in the Second and Fifth Conferences (in 2001 and 2005, respectively). At the 12th SACM held in 2012, under the auspices of Chile's PPT, a preliminary report was submitted on programmes for assistance of and engagement with overseas nationals. This report stressed that, in their diversity, the engagement programmes developed in South American countries reflect the countries' awareness of the "broad-based citizenship" concept, seeking to assist their nationals abroad through their protection, access to economic and social rights, promotion of their culture of origin and extension of political rights.³⁰

A discussion on the use of the term "diaspora" in the South American context was also included, proposing a very narrow definition of the word and finding the term "nationals abroad" to be more adequate. The broader definition of "diaspora" has been adopted in international spaces such as Objective 19 of the Global Compact for Migration and it should be noted that the term "nationals abroad" normally refers only to first-generation emigrants, excluding the second and third generations which usually have better access to resources to contribute to their countries of origin. For these reasons, the inclusive use of the term "diaspora" is proposed in the South American context.

In the 12th SACM declaration, the member countries committed to the following initiative: "to develop joint actions between the member States to connect citizens abroad, in order to add efforts and good practices in favour of the South American migrants." The same was repeated in the 13th SACM declaration in Cartagena, Colombia, where the PPT took ownership of a proposal "to develop joint efforts oriented toward the establishment of links with South American nationals living abroad." To materialize "its permanent commitment to continue strengthening the link with its compatriots residing overseas", in the 16th SACM declaration under the auspices of Paraguay, it committed to schedule "a workshop on good practices about policies for linking with compatriots residing overseas." The Regional Workshop, which was going to be held in Santiago, Chile, in 2017 at the 17th SACM, was then rescheduled for 2019 at the 18th SACM, but it was not held until 2022, with the support of IOM, as part of the 20th SACM under the auspices of Chile's presidency due to complications related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁹ IOM, the SACM Technical Secretariat, is in charge of promoting and driving this observatory, in the framework of the project Government capacity building for Migrants' Human Development.

³⁰ The report can be downloaded at: csmigraciones.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/stgo_-_xii_csm_-_6_los_programas_de_atencion_y_vinculacion_de_los_paises_sudamericanos_con_sus_nacionales_en_el_exterior.pdf.



3

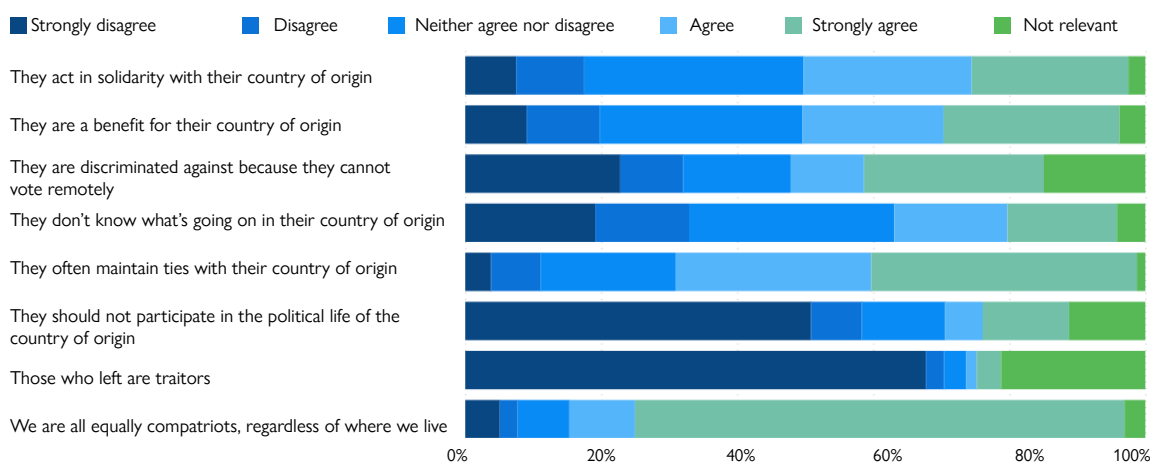
Findings on South American diasporas

This chapter focuses on the analysis of the data gathered throughout the study on the perspectives and configurations of South American diaspora communities. To this end, the data collected by means of national studies, the regional literature review and the online survey are all analysed. These rich sources of information are complemented to provide a triangulated view of how men and women from the South American diasporas contribute to development in the region, the obstacles they face, how they communicate and organize themselves and, finally, how they characterize their own communities and their members. This last item will be developed next, while the others will be elaborated on in the following subsections.

Even though it is not a representative sample, the over one thousand responses collected by the online survey make it possible to outline some of the most significant perceptions of the diasporas in the region. Next, an analysis of the responses to the questions in the survey concerning the characteristics and attributes of the different groups within the diaspora communities is presented. To understand them, it must be borne in mind that the choice of the answers to the items proposed was not exclusive: respondents selected a value for each option, between 1 and 5, but they could select 5 for all of them if they so chose.

FIGURE 4

Responses to statements about the characteristics of the South American diaspora



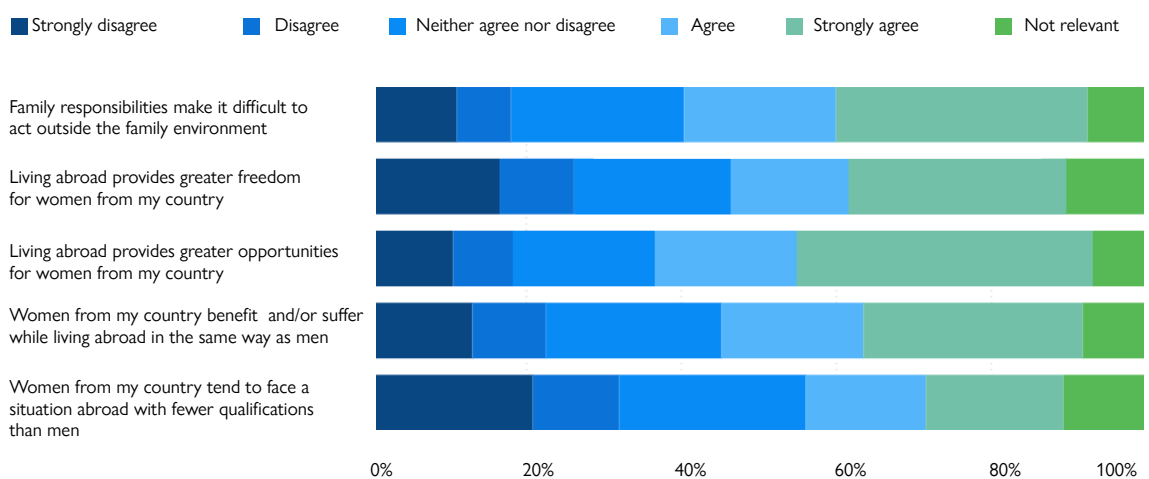
Source: developed by the authors based on the online survey.

The first relevant question aimed at characterizing diaspora members in general. The response provided by the majority (71%) describes diaspora members as full citizens, with equal status as nationals at home; followed by the affirmation that they maintain ties with their country of origin (39%). The assessments of the other options to the questions were similar, with one quarter of participants in agreement, except for the consideration of diaspora members as traitors to their country (4%).

It should be noted that, among the answers of respondents living overseas and those who are in their country of origin, despite a general concurrence in the assessments, those in the country of origin agreed more (53%) on the fact that diaspora members benefit their countries of origin than the diaspora members living abroad themselves (46%). This difference is mainly due to extraregional diaspora respondents, out of whom only 43 per cent agreed on this option, as opposed to intraregional diaspora members who had a similar assessment to the respondents in countries of destination. It might be possible to imagine that the rhetoric on migration outside the region is generally less positive and this has influenced the self-assessment of diaspora members exposed to it on a daily basis. The other variation worth mentioning relates to the characterisation that they suffer from discrimination. Extraregional respondents were 13 per cent more in disagreement on this item than diaspora members in the region. It is impossible to know whether this perception is due to the fact that they experience less discrimination or due to a different concept of what is regarded as discrimination.

FIGURE 5

Considerations on the situation of women from the South American diaspora

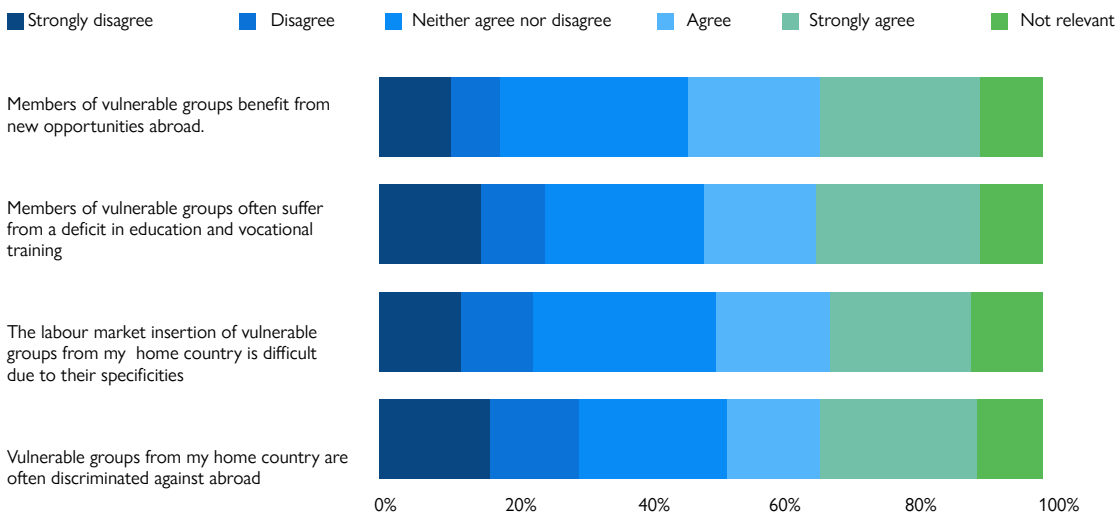


Source: developed by the authors based on the online survey.

The survey also sought to identify specific characteristics about the role of diaspora women as regards their contribution to development. In a scenario of relatively similar answers among all options, it is stressed that female respondents expressed a positive assessment of their migration experiences. Fifty-seven per cent indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed on the attribute that living abroad provides greater opportunities and 45 per cent agreed or strongly agreed on the fact that this situation provides them with more freedom, although family responsibilities make it difficult to act outside their sphere (53%). In addition, 47 per cent expressed that they agreed or strongly agreed on the fact that men and women abroad benefit and/or suffer from their situation similarly. Among male respondents, this last figure is the same and the one for greater opportunities is also similar, while only 40 per cent of men stated that living abroad provides more freedom to women from their country. This optimism among women is even clearer in those who live outside the region: 63 per cent stated that they have greater opportunities and 50 per cent, more freedom. Such variation is not found in male respondents living outside the region. Female respondents who have lived for more than 30 years in their country of destination indicate that they are less optimistic about having greater opportunities (52%) and more freedom (40%), but, similarly, 46 per cent state that men and women have the same experiences abroad.

FIGURE 6

Perceptions of vulnerable populations of the South American diaspora



Source: developed by the authors based on the online survey.



Finally, the particularities characterizing the role of vulnerable groups in terms of their contribution to development were investigated. In this question, answers seem to be distributed in a very similar way among the different options, outlining a scenario where it is mainly considered that, at the same time, vulnerable people have access to better opportunities in the diaspora (24%), although they remain discriminated against (24%), have educational deficits (21%) and suffer from labour integration difficulties (24%).

With these data, it may be understood that the perceptions of diaspora members, including their self-perception, is quite positive. They consider themselves as an equal part of their respective nations, but they perceive that their situation of living abroad provides them with new opportunities, especially for women and vulnerable groups. These two characteristics largely account for the important potential of diasporas as agents for development. Their knowledge, ties and affection allow them to contribute to the development of their countries of origin in circumstances where others may not do so or do not dare to do so, while the resources and capital to which they have access abroad allow their contributions to have a greater impact.

So far, the overall analysis of the answers makes it possible to affirm that there are significant obstacles for South American diasporas in their daily life and to drive the sustainable development of their countries and communities of origin. The following subsections will elaborate on these items in more detail.

3.1 Role of the South American diaspora in the sustainable development of the region

Consideration of the role of diasporas in the development of their countries of origin has been recurrent in the last few decades, both at a global and regional level (as indicated above), being the subject matter of numerous studies and debates in intergovernmental, regional and extraregional forums.³¹ Among them, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) acknowledges the contribution of diasporas to the development of their countries of origin, specifically referring to remittance, direct investment, transfer of knowledge and know-how and tourism, among others. The governments of the countries of origin, at a varying pace and intensity, have tried to take into account these contributions in terms of public policies for their promotion, facilitation and encouragement. Based on the foregoing, a summary of the main contributions of the South American diaspora as regards to their human, social, cultural and economic capital is presented below.

³¹ See section 1.2.

3.1.1 Human capital

Human capital is defined based on the skills, knowledge and experience of an individual or population in terms of its value or cost for an organization or country. In all cases studied, the incalculable value of the diaspora, arising from its broad heterogeneity, is unanimously outlined, both for countries of origin and destination. This value is expressed through the production and transfer of knowledge – in particular, of science, technology and innovation –; through the support to entrepreneur cultures and innovative art practices and through the dissemination and circulation of cultures. For this reason, emigrants are seen as bridges, intermediaries or influencers.

As an example of its importance, in the framework of the online survey, 51 per cent of the responses indicated that scientific and technological cooperation was among the most significant contributions of communities of fellow nationals abroad. This assessment is reduced among intraregional diaspora respondents, out of whom only 36 per cent answered that this type of contribution was among the most significant ones. By contrast, among the respondents who indicated that they were students abroad, 64 per cent affirmed that such contribution was among the most significant ones and 29 per cent found it to be barely significant.

A sector that has been benefited from diaspora human capital is the health and care sector. In the [Bolivian](#) case, both exemplary and resilient personal experiences and collective examples are highlighted: Bolivian doctors (escaping from the political persecution of the 1970s dictatorship) who studied in the medicine schools of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Mexico and then, in the 1980s, returned to the Plurinational State of Bolivia with advanced knowledge, improving the quality of medical health care and university teaching. Another example that may be mentioned is the experience of urban women settled in Spain with secondary-level studies who obtained advanced vocational training degrees in the area of the “care economy” and ended up transferring the knowledge to the Plurinational State of Bolivia to older adults and children, as well as the nursing practice. In the case of [Ecuador](#), among both Ecuadorian professionals living overseas and returning migrants, medicine, dentistry, ophthalmology and nursing professionals stand out, trained at a graduate and postgraduate level in Chile, Argentina and Mexico as the main countries in Latin America, but also in the United States of America, France, Spain and Germany. To conclude this series of illustrations, the experience of a late Paraguayan ophthalmologist who resided in Barcelona and frequently visited communities in vulnerable situations in his country of origin to provide his services may be mentioned.

In addition, the contributions of South American diasporas to academia and sciences in general have been underscored. For example, the [Ecuadorian](#) government programme Universidades de Excelencia, which offered scholarships to access universities of excellence around the world to many Ecuadorians in areas related to the “strategy for changing the productive matrix”. Grantees were trained at a graduate and postgraduate level in courses and specialisations related to engineering and hard sciences. Most of them returned to the country as the scholarships were given under a policy of service commitment in Ecuador, which contributed to disseminating knowledge. In Argentina, the Network of Argentinian Researchers and Scientists Abroad (RAICES) was established by Law No. 26421 of 2008 to strengthen scientific and technological capacities of the country by means of the development of engagement policies with Argentine researchers living overseas and actions aimed at promoting the permanence or return of researchers to the country. In the Peruvian case, it is stressed that human capital is a central element of diaspora engagement given that studying has been traditionally one of the primary reasons identified to leave the country, as



observed since the first migration stage. The programme Beca 18 Internacional worked along this line and has already provided 150 scholarships in Cuba, Honduras and France to high-performing public education students. The “Generación del Bicentenario” scholarships are currently being offered through the National Grant and Student Loan Programme (PRONABEC) of the Peruvian Government. In the last few years, reforms such as the University Law (2014) have contributed to continuously improving the quality of university institutions in the country. In this process, the Peruvian diaspora is increasingly aware that it has a key role to build bridges: collaboration through academic agreements to attract doctoral-level researchers with more experience and access to equipment and research networks. Collectives of “citizen professionals” have emerged from the civil society of the [Uruguayan diaspora](#), who develop cooperation initiatives between universities and research centres, of critical importance for the reconstruction of public policies and programmes, research support, the management of grants and mentoring of young doctoral students abroad and the development of science and technology in Uruguay. But despite some encouraging public policies, the full integration of the connection between the scientific and technological diaspora and the country’s development project is still under construction, particularly as part of Uruguay’s national strategy.³²

Other sectors identified that have benefited from human capital are more specific to certain countries. For example, Ecuadorians working in the construction sector, as labourers mainly in the United States and Spain, acquire knowledge of modern construction techniques, use of new materials, etcetera, which may be disseminated when returning to their country. The same happens with those who have worked in the agricultural or the hotel and tourism sectors in Spain. In the case of the [Plurinational State of Bolivia](#), the work circuit in textile workshops in Buenos Aires/Sao Paulo/El Alto is underscored, deriving in a technological transfer and development of large scale business ventures in El Alto in La Paz and Plan 3.000 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (from fabric production and product manufacturing to marketing).

Good practices in this area have been identified, but also obstacles hindering its materialization and enhancement. In several countries, governments have implemented scholarship programmes, including Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, which require those who emigrated with scholarships to return to their country. Even though these programmes contribute to knowledge dissemination – as most grantees return to their country after completing their studies –, they may be further improved. One aspect to consider is that those who have emigrated to study may do some work abroad after finishing their studies and acquire more professional qualifications in addition to the academic ones, as well as the possibility to work with the country of origin even remotely. For example, in the case of the Ecuadorian diaspora, despite the return of many emigrants to the country, there are also professionals who have not returned because they found better job opportunities in the countries of destination or did not find a job in Ecuador. In the case of the [Paraguayan](#) Don Carlos Antonio López National Programme of Overseas Grants (BECAL in Spanish), the scarce possibilities of professional reintegration (in particular at a state level, as officials or researchers) of those who emigrate under BECAL frequently result in a significant loss of human capital. With respect to the Peruvian academic diaspora, it is also aware that it may be more useful for its country from abroad, thus, it should not be obliged to return to its country to obtain a scholarship.

³² Additional information on Uruguay’s national development strategy can be found at: www.opp.gub.uy/sites/default/files/documentos/2018-05/Hacia_una_Estrategia_Nacional_de_Desarrollo_Uruguay_2050-Publicacion.pdf.

Other programmes developed by the countries in the region seek to provide distance training to their nationals abroad. For example, the Plurinational Centre for Alternative Distance Education under the Bolivian Ministry of Education is in charge of providing training to emigrants according to their social and professional characteristics, needs and potential. In addition, in the United States of America and Spain – principal destinations of the Ecuadorian diaspora – for over 15 years there have been extension services of the Technical Particular University of Loja, a distance study centre which opened its doors in the places where the diaspora is concentrated, precisely with the aim of promoting Ecuadorian human talent overseas.

In some countries, such as [Colombia](#) and [Paraguay](#), some obstacles are hindering the maximization of the contribution of the diaspora human capital due to the difficulty in recognizing qualifications obtained abroad. In the case of Colombia, in particular, it is deemed as an obstacle that only 17 per cent of emigrants have registered with the consulates. In terms of human capital of the Paraguayan diaspora, it is argued that it may be harnessed through channels or mechanisms for certifying skills or transferring knowledge (implementing online classes to members of the diaspora), for example.

One of the main challenges in terms of human capital relates to the updating and systematization of information. For instance, the web page Cientificos.pe uses the service provided by the platform Mapah.net2, allowing for the geopositioning identification of Peruvian researchers abroad.

3.1.2 Social capital

This section provides information on networks of relationships among people living and working in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively. South American diasporas are heterogeneous and involve several generations in all the cases studied, with a constant propensity to self-organization in the countries of destination, but also among those emigrants returning to their countries of origin. Thus, the South American diaspora is highly varied and includes many collectives sharing common interests: community, art, sports, solidarity, politics among others.

Even though the contributions of political participation in the country of origin and of solidarity with social work were not assessed as the most significant ones by 32 per cent and 39 per cent of respondents in the online survey, when asked about civil society initiatives, the answers showed that they regarded them highly and had an in-depth knowledge of them. In particular, the transmission of values and roots to the new generations and the promotion of the image of the countries of origin in the world may be mentioned, both of them assessed as being among the most significant contributions by 57 per cent of respondents, followed by the defence of rights (55%) and the promotion of the country's culture, family support and scientific and technological cooperation (54%).

One of the central aspects of social capital is evidenced in the experiences of political participation of the diasporas, which usually shows limited margins of representation in the countries of origin. In this sense, in the case of [Peru](#), the round table meetings organized by diaspora representatives in the framework of the election of two positions in the National Congress stand out. Additionally, there appears a complex assemblage between a plurality of scales, including the global, national and local levels (Imilan, 2017; Stefoni, 2008). In the case of civil society groups and collectives, although they are numerous and actively present in several countries around the world, they are not usually integrated and/or articulated.



The presence of several generations in the South American diasporas provides them with a wealth of social networks at different levels. For example, the Ecuadorian diaspora consists of, at least, three generations of emigrants: from those above 45 years of age in a country of destination to second- and third-generation Ecuadorian emigrants, especially in the United States, Canada, Spain and Italy, to where emigration started earlier. The Colombian diaspora is grouped in associations and collectives, expressing a particular interest in engaging second generations of emigrants through these structures.

The different groups and structures developed by South American diasporas represent a variety of objectives. In the case of [Colombia](#), the following main categories of interests were identified: assistance of fellow nationals abroad (28%), promotion of Colombian identity (24%), social work support in Colombia (17%) and support to armed conflict victims (15%), among others. Similarly, the [Bolivian diaspora](#) community has succeeded in building capacities as social and collective capital, harnessing its organization for the benefit of emigrants, especially vulnerable women and children. An example is an association called Simbiosis Cultural, created in 2007 in response to a fire in a textile workshop in 2006 in the neighbourhood of Caballito in Buenos Aires.³³ This collective is a space for self-defence from the labour exploitation of women and men employed at the textile workshops to build resilience by accumulating intangible capital of resistance and to fight against exploitation, such as the case of emigrant women who also suffer from gender-based violence, especially female Bolivian textile workers in Argentina and Brazil. The Tinkus Tiaco fraternity in Arlington, Virginia, may also be mentioned, which works effectively as an employment agency to facilitate job placement of Bolivian emigrants in the construction sector in the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. In addition, [transnational Uruguayan networks](#) have remained active since political exile and have evolved based on various interests: solidarity with social work in the country; promotion of cultural, artistic and sports activities; support to scientific, technological and academic cooperation; defence of political rights; and, in particular, the struggle to implement voting abroad. These networks are characterized by a non-conventional structure, marked by the lack of hierarchies and umbrella superstructures. In the case of Peruvian entrepreneurs – for example, Peruvian restaurants in the city of Santiago de Chile –, the presence of development dynamics is identified through their location and the networks bringing them to life.

Diaspora communities may also forge important relations with the authorities of their countries of destination, especially at the local level. For instance, local governments of host cities frequently acknowledge the [Ecuadorian diaspora](#) as social stakeholders, invite them to civic acts in the city, consider them for the development of public policies and work closely with the diaspora. In New Jersey, the city Mayor gave the name Plaza Ecuador to the main place where Ecuadorians gather in that city. The diaspora organizations have become ambassadors of their cities of origin and have enabled twinnings and agreements with the cities of destination, as expressed by representatives of the Ecuadorian Civic Committee of New Jersey or the Ecuadorian Alliance Association of Passaic.

In addition to the association among members of the same diaspora, in many places of destination networks of immigrants from different nations have been created. That is proven by the good relationship among Ecuadorians, Colombians, Peruvians and Mexicans even in distant places such as Australia, where these communities get together and participate in common spaces, especially cultural and civic ones, such as the national festivities of those countries. Many diaspora associations

³³ Like in this case, there are similar collectives in Brazil, Spain, the United States of America and Italy.

include members of several nationalities, which also generate links and networks with state bodies and civil society organizations of various nationalities, of a marked transnational nature. This was mentioned, for example, by a Peruvian immigrant in Sao Paulo who leads the Association of Latin Immigrant Traders of the State of Sao Paulo,³⁴ an organization that is connected with consuls from Ecuador, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Paraguay and other nationalities and with private sector bodies from those countries and civil society.

3.1.3 Cultural capital

This section explores the new values, perspectives and ideas that transnational communities contribute to the society where they live and where they come from. The national studies conducted are convergent as regards the value of diaspora communities in the dissemination and maintenance of the culture of the respective countries of origin by means of music, folklore, art and gastronomy. Among the most valued contribution was the one related to increasing the international prestige of the country of origin (46%), only topped by remittances and scientific and technology cooperation. But among the intraregional diaspora respondents, this contribution takes the first place with 64 per cent. It may be thought that the large portions of diaspora populations in neighbouring countries make them feel more capable of influencing the perception of their country of origin in their country of destination. By contrast, the diaspora members in countries outside the region represent a smaller proportion among the different migrant communities. This kind of contribution also has a special resonance among the students who answered the survey: 71 per cent indicated that the influence in the prestige of the country of origin was among the most significant contributions.

In the [Colombian diaspora](#), for example, cultural capital builds on a foundation of shared traditions, values and life principles: the positive aspect is its rich folklore, a broad musical tradition and great literary wealth accounting for a creative society contributing a cultural heritage that is renowned and in constant production. But it also has a negative dimension, linked to the image derived from drug trafficking and its consequences in armed conflict. Meanwhile, in the case of [Peru](#), it is stressed that Peruvian emigrants are usually considered to be the ambassadors of the cultural and gastronomic diversity of the country. Similarly, by means of events that are appealing in the receiving countries, the [Ecuadorian diaspora](#) disseminates the country's culture through its gastronomy, folklore and music. It is important to highlight intercultural collectives from Ecuador, such as the *otavalo*s, who are present in many countries and cities around the world due to their commercial activity and who spread Ecuador's culture by means of handicrafts, clothing, festivities and art.

Another significant aspect is the incorporation of values and innovative topics in the countries of origin, as a consequence of the experiences in the countries of destination, for example, as regards equal rights of women and the fight against domestic violence. In this sense, for example, the criminalisation of domestic violence in the United States of America and Spain (among other

³⁴ The observation was made during a focus group held on September 10, 2021, on Zoom.



receiving countries) also contributed to changing behaviour and practices of the Ecuadorian diaspora, precisely due to the social rejection and legal and police penalties in other countries, which in the case of the United States is a cause for deportation for migrants in an irregular situation. The support experiences of Serviço de Atendimento aos Brasileiros no Japão (SABJA) and SOS Maes are also outlined, which provide psychological, cultural and labour assistance and other tools to Brazilian women in Japan.

However, in the case of [Peru](#), it was noted that the values and principles that the diaspora members have acquired over time may sometimes be contradictory and even conflicting, with those of the country of origin and hinder the long-awaited return after several years, contributing to favouring a “return myth.” This reintegration into the country is not always simple and depends on several factors, such as the individual’s educational level, his/her migration status or capacity to adapt. This has also been evident in the case of the Paraguayan diaspora, based on the testimonies of community leaders.

Transnational interculturality also emerges as an alternative to purely national dynamics in the cultural sphere, fostered by the globalisation of communication and information media. The [Ecuadorian diaspora](#), for example, participates in cultural spaces of receiving countries, such as Canada, where it annually celebrates the “Carassauga” festival of cultures, in the city of Mississauga, Toronto. In this large space, they offer food, music, handicrafts and promote Ecuador as a tourist destination. The indigenous council Quichua Runa Pura, located in the city of Cali, Colombia, may also be mentioned: not only does it contribute to the dissemination of Ecuador’s cultural wealth, but also to the interculturality of Cali, which is nowadays acknowledged as a multicultural territory with an indigenous population. By contrast, in the [Paraguayan case](#), a limited contribution to the host communities is observed, given that their cultural celebration events seem to be – mostly – related to the community itself and, with a few exceptions, do not transcend it.

In the same sense, the national festivities organized by the Peruvian community in the city of Paterson, New Jersey, also stand out. They are a space of political and cultural intermediation, not only at a national scale but also at a transnational one. Another example of a tool for the transmission and spreading of cultural capital is Diga aí, a digital platform that adds and curates the Brazilian cultural production in Boston. Its mission is to strengthen the cultural identity of Brazilian emigrants.

Without overlooking the importance of festivals, which are an integral part of the diaspora experience in all the cases, educational activities and programmes and projects aimed at second and third generations are also noted. The festivals celebrated by South American diasporas may be motivated by different reasons, from historical ones – such as the commemoration of national independence – to religious ones. For example, the hundreds of [Bolivian associations](#) in Argentina, Brazil, Spain, the United States, Italy and, more recently, in Chile, in addition to Casa de Bolivia (Bolivian centre) in Catalonia, celebrate through folklore, dancing and carnival, on the occasion of patron saint festivities, football championships and national anniversaries. Thus, they reinforce the positive national identity, support emigrants with a low self-esteem and few resources and generate a sense of belonging so strong as to counter the racism and xenophobia that may be experienced in host societies. The [Ecuadorian diaspora](#) holds in some cities, mainly in New York and Madrid, religious celebrations such as the parade of the travelling child (El gran Pase del Niño Viajero), an event that gathers the community and spreads the Ecuadorian culture in the country. In New York and New Jersey, every year the Ecuadorian Civic Committees also celebrate, the civic parades for

Ecuador's independence, known as the Ecuadorian identity day. These events not only gather the Ecuadorian community, but also Latinos and receiving communities in general. For the [Paraguayan diaspora](#) it is deemed important to celebrate the Paraguayan culture, in particular for the second and third generations. Some cultural events stand out, such as “Buenos Aires Celebra Paraguay” (Buenos Aires celebrates Paraguay), organized by the Paraguayan Federation in the Argentina jointly with institutions that participate with their stalls selling regional products and typical food and with Paraguayan musicians living in Argentina. Independence Day and Mother's Day in Paraguay are also commemorated, occasions where Paraguayan music and dancing is spread, becoming a space where Paraguayans living abroad get together. In addition to these celebrations, the Paraguayan School in New York is an example of engagement with Paraguayan emigrant children and young people, who are taught contents of Paraguay's curriculum.

All these efforts largely depend on the support and recognition of the respective States of origin that these transnational communities receive. For instance, Peruvian emigrants expressed that they feel torn between being proud of representing an age-old culture, a symbol of cultural fusion throughout its history and, at the same time, being critical of the lack of support and recognition by the State in this task of cultural dissemination. This is also evidenced in the experience of the Paraguayan diaspora, which is different from other experiences of continued government commitment, such as the case of Colombia. In the Paraguayan case, some gaps are seen in terms of the State contributions for the celebration of the national culture and the lack of specific lines of cultural engagement between those who emigrated and the community of origin. By contrast, the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs developed the [Colombian Promotion Plan](#) in about 70 countries, in coordination with Colombia's mission overseas and including performing arts, film, audiovisual, gastronomic, literary, academic and musical activities. In the case of Spain, since October 2014, there has been a branch of the Caro y Cuervo Institute, in the Cervantes Institute, where approximately forty annual activities are performed, including workshops, conferences, book presentations and talks with great authors from the Colombian literature. These activities are coordinated with the Embassy and Consulate in Madrid.

In the field of heritage conservation, the contribution of migrants is also underscored. An example of this is the recognition by the city of Buenos Aires of Casimiro Sejas López, a member of the [Bolivian diaspora](#), by granting him the title of “living cultural heritage”, as the person behind the recovery of many public and private properties in the city of Buenos Aires, among them Carlos Gardel's house.

3.1.4 Economic capital

This section analyses all economic resources used to buy and/or make products and provide services. In general, the online survey respondents assessed the economic contributions made by South American diasporas as follows: 52 per cent stated that the transfer to the family was the most significant one, 45 per cent pointed out economic investments and 43 per cent tourism. While the assessment of other economic contributions varies among the different groups of respondents, remittances are among the highest ones for all of them. This includes unemployed respondents, who show a decrease in the “most significant” assessment among all the other contributions. This consistency illustrates the importance and resilience of remittances despite the setbacks experienced by the members of the diaspora sending them. Conversely,



for self-employed respondents abroad there is an increase in the assessment of other economic contributions, especially as regards investment: 58 per cent indicate that it is the most significant one. International trade, tourism and even remittances had a higher assessment as well. In addition, among intraregional diaspora respondents, there is an increased assessment of their contribution in terms of economic investment (51%) and businesses in the national territory (50%). This may be due to fact that the proximity of their country of destination facilitates the establishment and administration of a business in their country of origin.

In the case of the [Plurinational State of Bolivia](#), for example, the transfer of remittances in January 2021 reached 113.6 million US dollars, which increased by 7.4 per cent with respect to the amount registered in the same month in 2020, according to the Central Bank of Bolivia. One of the reasons for this may be that remittance-sending economies already started their economic reactivation together with COVID-19 vaccination campaigns. It may be seen that the volume of remittances registered in 2021 correlates with the purchasing power in host societies and with the predominant type of emigration in each receiving country: the middle-class Bolivian diaspora is mostly settled in Spain, where 37 per cent of remittances originate, while more depressed communities are located in Argentina and Brazil, both of them accumulating almost 50 per cent of the total emigration of the country, but only 10 per cent of remittances. In the case of [Colombia](#), despite the decrease expected due to the pandemic, the efforts of the migrant population reached a record of 6,902 million USD in 2020. The importance of remittances was evident, for example, last year when the contribution to GDP was above two per cent, directly reaching more than two million households. Similarly to the Bolivian and Colombian cases, remittances to [Ecuador](#) did not collapse during the pandemic as a domino effect, on the contrary: at the end of 2020, the Central Bank of Ecuador stated that remittances increased more than in the last ten years, accounting for more than a billion dollars increase compared to 2019. In this sense, remittances embody migrants' concern for their families, their health and well-being, both in the place of destination and of origin.

According to World Bank data, in 2021 family remittances received by Ecuador corresponded to 3.5 per cent of its GDP, a very significant figure for the country. By contrast, it is seen that the remittances of the Paraguayan diaspora have accounted for more than 1.5 per cent of its GDP over the last decade. Diaspora remittances have also provided economic stability to many families in Guyana, as almost all Guyanese have at least one member of their families living abroad. In the Peruvian case, the economic impact of remittances is important in terms of volume, exceeding 3.3 million dollars, although it only accounted for 1.4 per cent of its GDP in 2019, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Information. However, it is acknowledged that these transfers are mainly a contribution at the level of household and family economies to cover their needs. As regards remittances to [Uruguay](#), although they do not reach the high levels of other South American countries, they are significant in the national context and have been recorded in the balance of payment by the Central Bank since 2002.

However, some emerging forms of entrepreneurship and social cooperativism support – both from the diaspora and the new generations in the countries of origin – have been explored, in some cases through innovative start-up sponsorship mechanisms, in particular in the fields of science and technology. The [Colombian experience](#) shows economic contributions in two main sectors: the aforementioned remittances and those derived from business activities, where ethnic trade and entrepreneurial activity of the diaspora stand out. In the [Ecuadorian case](#), it should be noted that return migration brings capital for national investment through start-up businesses. The impact of a

national programme for the support of Paraguayan returnee entrepreneurs should be mentioned, which has benefited almost 1.5 million people, with a private investment of 5.72 million, reaching entrepreneurs in the primary (natural), secondary (industrial) and tertiary (services) sectors. In Guyana, the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest), under the Ministry of Business, aimed at facilitating investment for diaspora members through GO-INVEST Home 2021. Similarly, the Re-emigration Programme made around 400 lots available for purchase by the diaspora, as since 2018 they have been allowed to buy plots of land for residential and commercial development with no need to return. As regards [Uruguay](#), it is noted that the economic policy carried out since 2005 has allowed for a significant increase in national and foreign investment based on the confidence built by the country, the macroeconomic stability, the institutional strengthening and the implementation of tax incentives (including the Investment Promotion Law, which has increased their use since 2007). Meanwhile, in [Peru](#), several proposals are under study to encourage housing finance with diaspora resources, with the contribution of existing social programmes (such as Mi Vivienda o Techo Propio), in addition to an initiative to allocate a part of diaspora financial resources to create pension funds.

Philanthropy is also an important mechanism to channel the economic capital of South American diasporas in the development of their countries of origin, especially at the local level. For example, the experience of the municipality of Arbieto, in Valle Alto, Cochabamba, whose traditional diaspora community has succeeded in producing funds in the United States of America to generate public investment in the [Plurinational State of Bolivia](#). Thus, this municipality, as well as Aranjuez, Arpita, Tarata and Toledo, all of them from Valle Alto in Cochabamba, have created the so-called “migrant municipalities”, developing a donation policy to improve the local health, sports and education infrastructure in their towns of origin, thanks to the matching funds sent to build squares, churches, sports fields and schools as part of the Evo Cuple programme created by Decree 29091 of 2007.

The delivery of medicine by migrant families during the pandemic is also of note, as it was very important for the well-being of Ecuadorians, given that the health crisis in [Ecuador](#) implied problems in the supply of drugs for other illnesses. In general, there are few philanthropic contributions from the Paraguayan diaspora, with few exceptions of engagement with parishes of cities or towns of origin and in moments of crisis, but the response to the COVID-19 pandemic may be highlighted as an example of this potential. The Paraguayan civil society created a multi-stakeholder platform that managed to collect approximately 2.3 billion *guaraníes* in donations to buy medical supplies and equipment and food, both for the metropolitan area and the interior of the country.

The high material and non-material value of native tourism in some countries where such data are available is also noted. In Guyana, for example, native tourism is highly significant: 45 per cent of the 235,000 tourists recorded in 2016 are of Guyanese origin. Although not at the same level, in the case of Uruguay (Vignolo, 2021) a high level of native tourism is seen, whose evaluation is possible thanks to the data collected, compiled and broken down by the Ministry of Tourism: between 2006 and 2015, the percentage of native tourists ranged from 28 per cent to 13 per cent of the total visitors, generating significant levels of economic resources beneficial for the country (Mora-Canzani, 2017).

Successful experiences of commercialization of national products abroad have been identified, both in countries of destination and origin, as well as, in some countries, the contribution to productive transformation in the countries of origin thanks to the introduction of diverse innovations. The



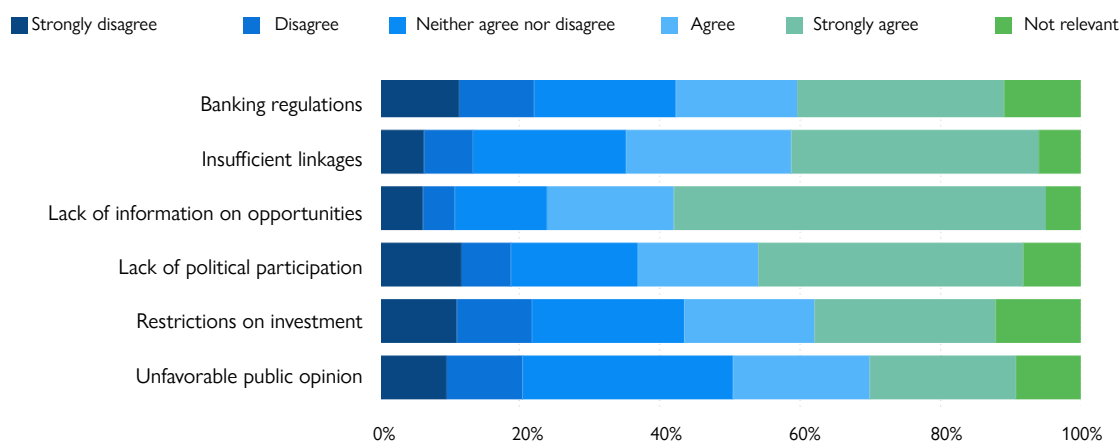
economic contributions of the [Ecuadorian diaspora](#) through the commercialization of Ecuadorian products globally are also stressed. An example is the recent opening in New York of the coffee store Zaruma Gold Coffee, which has been greatly supported by the diaspora in the city and has made Ecuadorians proud, in addition to contributing to the commercialization of the coffee from Zaruma, which already has an appellation of origin and is exported to several destinations around the world. Another example is the Mutualista Azuay agency in New York, a financial entity from the country that plays an important role in real estate investment in the cities of Cuenca and Azogues, but, above all, contributes to the financial inclusion of Ecuadorian emigrants. Additionally, this social financial institution provides technical advice to emigrants and has generated productive linkage with the aim of supporting and guiding investments of Ecuadorians from abroad and to direct resources to the country in a legally and technically sound manner. As regards economic contributions of the [Paraguayan diaspora](#), converging sources consider that Paraguayans abroad make contributions at an investment and trade level, in addition to remittances. Similarly, the economic capital of the Peruvian diaspora goes beyond the sending of remittances and is also characterized by the development of business and investment activities, contributing, in short, to the economic and export growth in the country.

3.2 Obstacles encountered by diaspora communities

The investigation also sought to explore the main obstacles to enhancing the diaspora's engagement in the country's sustainable development. The lack of information appears as the main obstacle identified by participants (53%), followed by an insufficient political participation (37%) and engagement (35%), which places the main obstacles in the spheres of public policies and tools for promoting political participation and fostering engagement. At the economic and financial levels, banking regulations and investment restrictions are assessed as obstacles (29% and 26%, respectively); another obstacle mentioned is an unfavourable public opinion concerning the diaspora (21%).

FIGURE 7

Identification of obstacles from the South American diaspora’s perspective



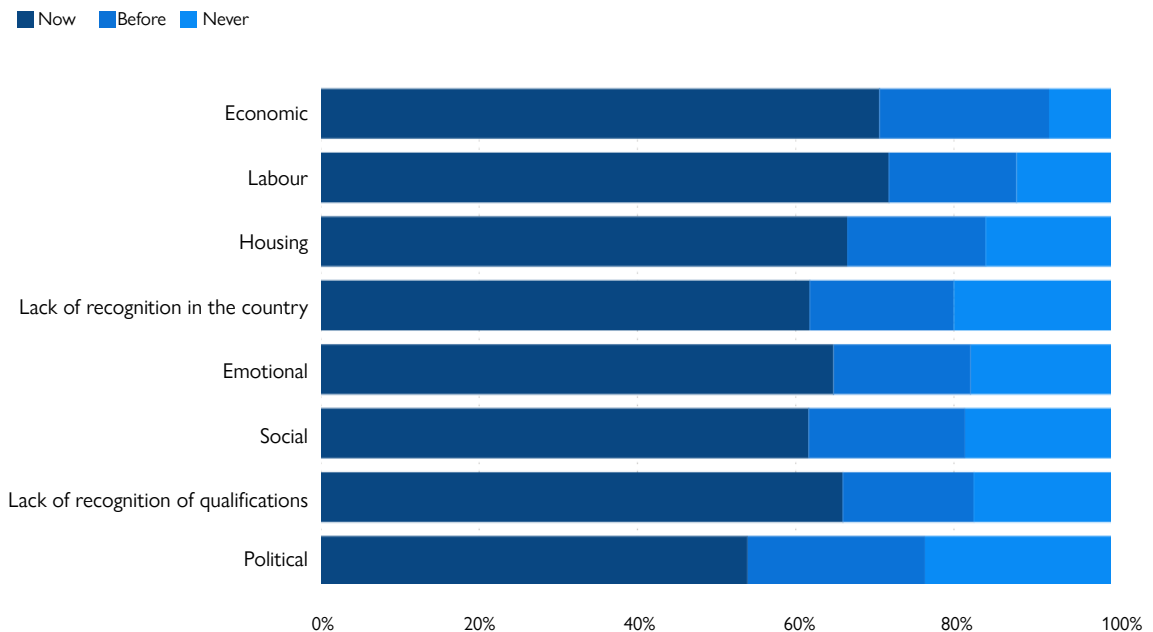
Source: developed by the authors based on the online survey.

The answers by various groups of respondents show a remarkable convergence and differences between intra- and extraregional diasporas can barely be found. Those women who responded from abroad generally found all the obstacles to be more significant than men did, but the relative values of such obstacles remained the same. Those respondents who have lived in their country of destination for over 30 years usually state that obstacles are not relevant, reaching 31 per cent for “investment restrictions” and 25 per cent for “banking regulations”, which may suggest an increased level of integration and adaptability in the country of destination after so many years. That said, the assessments of the various obstacles by this set of respondents coincide with the overall trends.



FIGURE 8

Types of obstacles faced by the South American diaspora abroad



Source: developed by the authors based on the online survey.

As for the obstacles currently encountered by diasporas, it is worth pointing out a high and very similar assessment of the various items at present. In material terms, economic and employment difficulties are the most cited items (70% and 71%, respectively), followed by accommodation (67%). However, emotional, symbolic (lack of recognition in the countries of origin) and social difficulties are also highlighted (65%, 61% and 65%, respectively). Finally, the lack of opportunities for political participation (66%) and difficulties in the recognition of qualifications (61%) are equally significant. These perceptions may be correlated to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, which underpin an uncertain economic scenario, a weakened labour market situation in the main receiving countries and recession and instability in the entire world. In addition, sensitivity to emotional and symbolic phenomena frequently affecting South American diaspora communities worldwide is noticed. Aspirations for increased political participation and enhanced equivalence of qualifications, so as to facilitate human mobility and to improve migrants' social and labour integration, are also reflected.

Similar to the previous question about the significance of specific obstacles, female respondents stated that they did continue facing the various types of obstacles 7.5 per cent more frequently than men did. In addition, those respondents who had been living in their country of destination for over 30 years, in general, tended to state more frequently that they had faced the various types of obstacles before or not at all with the possible exception of labour and economic obstacles. Again, this shows the adaptability acquired by members of the diaspora after years of residence in the country, as well as the potential impact of the pandemic on their livelihoods. Respondents among intraregional diasporas showed a tendency to state more frequently that they continued facing the various types of obstacles compared to the respondents among extraregional diasporas, especially

in terms of economic and housing obstacles. Even though this may be explained by the economic challenges experienced by many countries, a deeper analysis finds that this increase is mostly linked to the answers of the Venezuelan community, which accounts for 37 per cent of the intraregional respondents. Other nationalities, such as the Uruguayan and Surinamese communities, stated more frequently that they had never faced most of the obstacles compared to the overall trends.

3.3 South American e-diasporas

Contemporary developments of South American diaspora communities unfold in a global context of postmodernity, globalization and transnational processes in a hyperconnected world where a greater mixing and an unprecedented fluidity of multiple identities can be distinguished. Therefore, diaspora communities refer both to a form of social organization and a specific consciousness, both of which “construct” new modes of cultural production in the framework of what may also be defined as “imagined communities” (Anderson, 1993).

In this scenario, in the last two decades, the exponential multiplication of what are known as “e-diasporas”, as defined by sociologist Dana Diminescu (2012), has stood out:

A migrant collective that organizes itself and is active first and foremost on the Web: its practices are those of a community whose interactions are “enhanced” by digital exchange. An e-diaspora is also a dispersed collective, a heterogeneous entity whose existence rests on the elaboration of a common direction, a direction not defined once and for all but which is constantly renegotiated as the collective evolves.

In this framework, the iDiaspora³⁵ platform, a virtual hub for diasporas worldwide to connect, learn and contribute, has been developed. Open both to organizations and individuals, this virtual space intends to facilitate the expression of views, make recommendations, provide access to information from the resource centre, so as to improve both relevant practices and policies and to disseminate success stories associated with diasporas.

Made up of “connected migrants”, these unstable and self-defined collectives have been systematically tracked in the framework of this regional study, resulting in regional and national maps, aiming at identifying the evolutions, trends and profiles of South American diaspora communities in social networks, choosing Facebook in particular due to its extensive development since the early 21st century.



³⁵ The iDiaspora platform can be found at the following address: www.idiaspora.org/es.

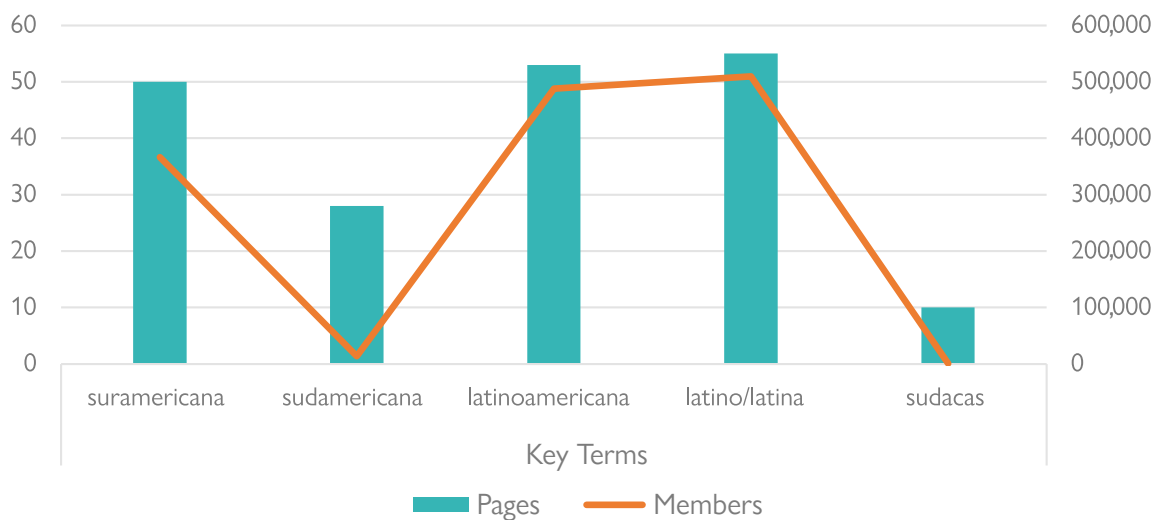
3.3.1 Regional and national e-diasporas

In March 2022, Facebook pages were regionally tracked so as to identify regional trends and profiles concerning South American e-diasporas and to complete the findings of the national studies conducted in the framework of the project.

It is noted that the results presented below must be considered in terms of semantic, geopolitical and methodological particularities. In this sense, it is stressed that the regional profiles of diaspora communities in the region can be identified on the basis of a wide semantic variety, involving pages for *suramericanas* and *sudamericanas* (forms of “South American” in Spanish), *latinoamericanas* (meaning Latin American).

FIGURE 9

Regional E-diasporas by number of Facebook pages and amount of members



Source: developed by the authors.

Consequently, there is a progression of complex identifications of diaspora communities beyond the strictly national spheres, noticing the development of a recent regional identity in the contents of the Facebook pages explored. These notions are also consistent with a geopolitical vision of the region that may encompass, according to varying geometries, the countries from South America, Latin America and the Americas as a whole.

From a methodological point of view, it is specified that the browser searched for key words on Facebook and that data are based on publicly accessible declarative information, collected on each page identified (members, purpose, contents, etc.), the truthfulness of which is their administrators' responsibility. As to the results of the regional sample, the following is highlighted:

- 50 *sudamericanas* Facebook pages, gathering 366,676 members in total, the contents of which are mostly related to sports (58% of the pages relate to football); companies, media, professional federations and diaspora communities are equally present in quantitative terms, accounting for 10 per cent by each category. This last category is defined on the basis of specific territorialities, such as pages from Peruvian and South American communities in Spain, Chile, La Coruña.
- 28 *suramericanas* Facebook pages, gathering 14,038 members in total, the contents of which are mainly organized around interests, in descending order: business (43%), community (18%), culture (18%) and information (11%).
- 53 *latinoamericanas* Facebook pages gather 487,736 members, mainly organized around fans of sports/new technologies (41%), culture (11%), business (11%) or political affairs (33%); a single page was identified as specifically diaspora-related, gathering 5,200 members. Pages with a Latin American profile gathering professionals, for instance, professional networks of social and solidarity economy, educators, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), journalists, academics and scientists have not been compiled here as they are not specifically diaspora networks.
- An initial analysis shows that 55 pages identified by means of the key word “Latino/a” have 509,996 members, all of whom belong to Latino diaspora communities around the world, based in extraregional territories: mainly the United States of America and Europe. This fact suggests that a Latino diaspora identity relies on the interaction with societies with an extraregional destination. The pages with the largest number of members are: *Latinos en España* (Latinos in Spain, 51,000 members), *Latinos Unidos en Estados Unidos* (United Latinos in the United States, 47,000 members) and *Latinos emprendedores en Estados Unidos* (Latino entrepreneurs in the United States, 34,000 members). Additionally, it is observed that these groups usually completes the affirmation of a Latino identity with thematic interests, which mainly relate to culture, but also business; no page combining *latinidad* (Latin identity or culture) with political or institutional interests could be identified. Nevertheless, pages for women, Mamás latinas en París (Latina moms in Paris), Latinas en USA (Latinas in the USA) and Latinas en República Checa (Latinas in the Czech Republic), and for young people, Estudiantes Latinos en París (Latino students in Paris), were identified.
- At the same time, active Latin American diaspora associations and collectives have been identified on the web, for instance, the Centro de Promoción del Inmigrante Latinoamericano (Latin American Immigrant Promotion Centre), led by Ecuadorian emigrants, which fosters the participation of Latin American emigrants regardless of their nationality so as to fight for the exercise of migrants’ rights and to promote Latin American culture, art and cuisine. Other outstanding examples include the Unión Suramericana de Emigrantes en Italia (Union of South American emigrants in Italy), whose Facebook page has over 150,000 members and the Rumiñahui Association, also Ecuadorian and based in Madrid, whose Facebook page has almost 10,000 members and which fights for the rights of persons in human mobility situations in several countries.



- Finally, Facebook pages responding to the *sudaca* identification have been explored and, even though they are considerably smaller in volume, they introduce a particularly significant identification in terms of the interaction with the host society. This colloquial term refers to South American emigrants mainly in Spain. The term was pejorative and xenophobic in the 70s and 80s in the context of massive waves of South American immigrants to Spain, but, little by little, it started spreading positively among South American emigrants around the world who proudly identify themselves as such. Ten pages with these characteristics gather 621 members from diaspora communities in Europe and the United States; a page of feminist *sudacas* and a global media page can be highlighted.

This regional scenario underscores a significant presence of diaspora collectives which are active on the Web and reflect regional dynamics. They link emigrants from the region in extraregional territories, mainly in the United States of America and Europe and reach over half a million emigrants connected in mostly community dynamics of mutual support, solidarity and useful exchange in host societies. It is noted that regional identifications frequently arise as a response to the perceptions of host societies positively or negatively affecting South American emigrants. Therefore, the regional affiliation of national diasporas could be largely correlated with the host country's perceptions and realities and the interaction with host societies, which clearly defines a "we" and a "they"; this is not the case in the intraregional sphere. For example, countries with languages other than Spanish or English, such as France and Germany, rather attract academic, scientific and intellectual elites which are, in turn, valued and considered as legitimate stakeholders and bridges between cultures of origin and destination.

Differentiated perceptions are observed based on economic and cultural position in the case of Spain, including phenotypic characteristics deriving from colonial times, where common traits, indigenous affiliations or the performance of low-skilled and low-paid work result in frequent stigmatisation. In this stigmatisation, perceptions are negative or discriminatory: one of the examples in everyday language is the term *sudaca* to refer to poor or vulnerable South American emigrants, as previously stated. Something similar occurs in countries such as the United States, where the command of the language and the socioeconomic status establish clear differences and condition the level of integration.

Additionally, the diaspora communities in the region which are active on the web express views frequently associated with their countries of origin. Based on this, volumes, territorial settlements, thematic interests, particularities and similarities of diaspora communities specifically linked to their countries of origin, as shown below, have been explored.

- For Argentina, a sample of 55 Facebook pages of Argentinian diaspora communities, gathering 462,440 members in total, have been explored. Among them, the largest ones are pages of territorialized communities, whose main contents are of a community nature: mutual help and exchange of information or services between Argentinians who are either residents or temporarily living in a town/country/region. This category accounts for 89 per cent of the pages explored: 30 are based in Europe, 13 in North America, 4 in South America, 1 in Australia and 1 is global. The pages with the largest numbers of members are mainly based in extraregional countries or towns, mostly in Europe, in particular, the cities of Valencia (38,000 members) and Barcelona (34,000 members), followed by Paris (31,000 members).

- In the [Plurinational State of Bolivia](#) around 500 pages have been identified (using the Google Analytics search tools) and they are mainly active in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Italy, Spain and the United States of America, predominant destinations of Bolivian emigrants. Consistent with nationalities from South America, the topics of interest identified – mainly and not exclusively – relate to integration and employment (57%); social interaction (34%); cultural interaction (20%); business and labour (23%); political socialization (20%) and information about migration regulations (6%).
- For Brazil over a hundred Facebook pages gathering nationals around the world have been explored and they have been estimated to have more than 2,500,000 members. The main topics addressed are similar to those of the countries mentioned above.
- To analyse Chile's e-diaspora, a sample of 50 Chilean Facebook pages has been considered, with similar results to those of other national cases. They gather 284,338 Chilean emigrants and have a high percentage (80%) of entities of a territorialized community nature, for the purposes of mutual support and exchange of information and recommendations.

The number of members of entities on Facebook is relatively small compared to other countries. The largest number is found in the portal of Chileans in Miami (49,000 members), followed by portals of Chileans in Italy (17,000 members), Australia (16,000 members) and Brazil (15,000 members). There are also, although with smaller numbers, entities for disseminating the Chilean culture and for connecting Chilean emigrant women and for youths, particularly students in Europe, noticing “working holidays” dynamics in these cases. As for specificities, it is seen that, like Uruguay, in Chile there are entities of a political nature, particularly involved in defending the political rights of Chilean emigrants around the world and supporting social struggles in the country of origin (8%). Finally, in the Chilean experience, the development of an innovative entrepreneurship community that is active on the web stands out, in connection with the Chile Global programme initiated 40 years ago by Fundación Chile, whose portal offers an overview of its history, purposes and intervention mechanisms and whose Facebook page has gathered 3,951 members to date.

- In the experience of [Colombia](#), in the United States of America there is the largest number of associations (59) engaging with the diaspora and maintaining relationships with the country through electronic portals, followed by Spain (43) and then Canada and Chile (20 sites, respectively). It is also noted that these four countries are home to the largest emigrant population from Colombia.
- To conduct the analysis for [Ecuador](#), pages of the three major social media, namely Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, were checked in the 15 main countries of destination for Ecuadorian emigrants, amounting to 163 accounts on the three social media platforms and 550,655 members. Of them, 134 (82%) belong to Facebook; the country with the largest number of members is the United States of America (174,805), followed by Spain (140,336). The main scope of action of social media is the community, accounting for 83 per cent of the media, followed by culture and politics. The largest number of pages is based in the United States of America (26%), followed by Spain (21%) and Germany (11%). Instagram is the second most widely used media by the Ecuadorian diaspora, with



thirteen community accounts; on Twitter eight community accounts of the diaspora have been found. In terms of the scope of these accounts, it is seen that most of them (82%) are nationwide, but a very similar number (80%) are local.

- When considering the case of Guyana, Facebook pages related to the Guyanese diaspora have been tracked, identifying 21 entities that connect 116,573 members. More than half (57%) of the active entities are global, connecting Guyanese around the world and in the country. The largest page has gathered 74,000 members thus far, accounting for 63 per cent of Guyanese connected in this way. Nearly a quarter of the entities identified (24%) are community-based (mutual help, dissemination of useful information, etc.) and are established in specific territories, mainly in the United States of America (New York, Georgia, Florida), in line with the figures of the largest concentrations of Guyanese emigration pointed out above and in the United Kingdom, although to a smaller extent. A news site, two portals of Guyanese cultural associations and a portal of an international association of Guyanese women, connecting 3,800 active members, have been identified as well. In addition, the presence of institutional portals on the web, such as Guyana Global, aiming at engaging the Guyanese diaspora in the country's development, stands out. In effect, institutions use the web and social media to facilitate the communication with Guyanese emigrants, in particular through the portal United Guyanese Diaspora Global Network. In this sense, it is seen that a Facebook page connects members of the diaspora around solidarity and support activities for the development of Guyana.
- As for [Paraguay](#) Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts have been explored using tools such as Ubersuggest, proving that users prefer Facebook. Most of these sites (106) started in Argentina, country of destination for most Paraguayan emigrants; the largest site has over 90,000 followers (*Paraguayos en Argentina*, or Paraguayans in Argentina). The engaging topics were classified, like in the other national cases, as "general", "community" and "specific". In this last category, there are miscellaneous topics ranging from football and sports in general, COVID-19, culture, religion, gastronomy, celebrations, etc.
- When analysing the case of [Peru](#), the exploration of the Peruvian e-diaspora shows a significant presence of Peruvian emigrants in social media, such as Facebook, identifying, not exclusively, 50 pages in 20 countries, accounting for 449,568 members, among which 96 per cent are community pages. The main Facebook pages are found in America (United States of America, Chile, Mexico) and Europe (France and Spain); and the United States is the country with the largest number of Facebook pages (12 pages). These countries have the pages with the largest number of members: *Peruanos Unidos U.S.* (United Peruvians in the U.S.), for instance, is the Facebook page with more members (85,029 members to date).
- As for the e-diaspora of Suriname, there is a small number of communities of Surinamese emigrants on the Web, consistent with the volume of Surinamese emigration that is significantly smaller than that of other South American countries: 261,578 emigrants registered in 2013, with a subsequent slight decrease – in 2015, 184,098 emigrants were registered in the Netherlands and 21,564 in French Guiana. Among the identities

tracked, the following pages stand out: A group of Surinamese in the Netherlands (1,400 members); one in French Guiana (1,400 members); one in the United States of America (7,000 members); two entities in Belgium (with 6,671 members in total) and the Island of Saint Martin (170 members). As for the Netherlands, it is seen that a cosmopolitan page bringing together several nationalities has over 35,000 expats in the country, suggesting that Surinamese emigrants may be active by this means. An entity of Surinamese alumni in the United States of America gathering, since 2013, 350 members who have worked or studied in that country and aiming at contributing knowledge and experience for the development of their country of origin is particularly noteworthy.

- When addressing [Uruguay](#), Uruguayan collectives abroad were mapped in 2016, identifying 137 associations and 31 advisory councils. On the web, 33 sites were explored, among which a dozen media (radio stations, bulletins, TV) and 205 Facebook pages, mainly starting from 2006 onwards, grew exponentially in the following decade. In terms of territorial location, it is seen that the entities identified on Facebook are not only present in the five continents, but also half of them have a significant global dimension in the sense that they do not refer to a specific national territory. In terms of the audience of the Facebook entities identified, there are 330,507 users without double counting. As for the territorial dimension, it is highlighted that global entities approximately amount to nearly a half (47.57%); followed by similar figures of pages located in Europe (20.75%) and South America (19.54%). The topics of engagement are organized, like in the cases above, into three main categories: community, general and specific. A third of the thematic audience accounts for community affairs, mainly covered by national entities; another third accounts for general affairs and the last third includes specific topics, among which 10 per cent of the entities particularly engaged in the rights and diaspora fields stand out; in modern-day Uruguay this is mainly expressed in terms of claims for extraterritorial voting and sustainable public policies on engagement, with over 33,000 users specifically involved in these issues. (Mora-Canzani, 2017).
- Finally, in the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it is seen that the Venezuelan e-diaspora is clearly the largest of the South American diasporas: the 58 pages explored, not exclusively, gather and connect 1,360,843 members. In terms of territory, it is underscored that most of the Venezuelan entities on Facebook are intraregional and it is the only South American country with these characteristics. In effect, 73 per cent of the Facebook entities of the Venezuelan e-diaspora are based in South America; the most significant ones in terms of membership are those of Venezuelans in Bogota (118,000), Colombia (112,000 and 85,000 members), Chile (106,000 members) and Argentina (100,000); the entity *Venezolanas en Perú* (Venezuelan women in Peru) has 88,000 members. In addition, it is worth pointing out that nearly all these entities (96%) are community-based, that is, for mutual help and exchange of information and/or services among fellow nationals settled in specific territories. A recent presence of Venezuelan associations abroad which bring together professionals can be seen, such as the association of Venezuelan nurses in Spain (1,900 members) or pages with political views, such as *Resistencia activa de venezolanos en Francia* (Active resistance of Venezuelans in France); 2,900 members. There are several collectives of Venezuelan immigrants that are active on the web and structured into associations, in particular in Spain (Alicante, Coruña, Vigo, etc.), but also in Chile and Switzerland.



3.3.2. Dimensions, profiles and trends

The active presence of South American emigrants on the web connected through social media has become, in the last two decades, massive and sophisticated with the development of information and communication technologies, the low costs of access and use and the emergence of several possibilities to access information circulating with a speed and outreach that would have been inconceivable only a few years ago. Virtual spaces – Facebook pages, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp groups and other platforms – emerge as connecting communication tools, resulting in an unprecedented – family, professional, citizen, cultural, commercial, etc. – proximity. In turn, they arise as leveraging and leadership spaces for emigrants' claims, building ties, new modalities of identification, participation and, above all, visibility of the public legitimacy of the South American diaspora groups, both in the countries of origin and in the interaction with host societies.

In terms of dimensions, while not exhaustive, there are considerable numbers of South American emigrants connected in one way or another through social media, mainly Facebook, amounting to nearly seven million active members (precisely 6,784,081 to date). It is noted that South American emigrants connect to each other through entities with a regional dimension (201 entities identified) and/or national dimension (1,454 entities identified), the latter including the local dimension (cities, towns, subnational regions). Hence, a non-exhaustive total of 1,654 Facebook pages connecting the South American e-diaspora have been catalogued.

The main interests of regional and national entities mostly relate to the community (in the particular case of Latino entities gathering over half a million members); business (product and service offerings); community information (radio stations, TV, etc.); and sports.

It has then been determined that there is an approximate 12 per cent of South American entities on Facebook, where a South American or Latin American identity prevails, as in “South Americans in”, “Latinos/as in”, “Latin American diaspora”, and several oral, written and TV media outlets are also present, as well as commercial offers of a regional type (“Latino Market”). It is worth pointing out that, in this category, the volumes of users are generally restricted: the largest groups do not exceed 5,000 users, as is the case of *Diáspora latinoamericana* (Latin American diaspora). Finally, some local groups and pages on Facebook, where a regional dimension prevails, stand out in this category, as is the case of *Comunidad latinoamericana platense* (Latin American community in La Plata), in La Plata, Argentina.

Therefore, two categories of South American e-diaspora profiles can be distinguished: regional and national. The latter includes the local dimension. There is a tangible presence of regional collectives on the web, mainly settled in extraregional territories that seem to define a “we” (South Americans) and a “they” (Europeans, North Americans, etc.). In addition, national dynamics seem to be more intense in intraregional territories, when communities sharing the same nationality are large in specific territories or countries, reflected on the large number of collectives of “nationals abroad” on the web and Facebook pages. For instance, the Peruvian diaspora has been particularly present in South America for several decades, especially in Chile and Argentina. It is also the case of the Paraguayan diaspora, which is mainly focused in Argentina: in both cases, in the region there are web collectives with a national scope; the presence of Venezuelans on Facebook pages is the strongest in the region. These are cases of intraregional e-diaspora communities, where it would be naturally difficult to propose a regional identification as the host community is part

of that identity. That is, these organizations are creating a “we” (diasporas) and a “they” that are constituted by the host societies and both are part of the South American category.

The South American diaspora communities settled outside the region, in particular, when their national numbers are reduced, like in European countries, tend to incline to collectives and social networks of a regional type (South Americans, Latin Americans, Latinos, *sudacas*, etc.). In the case of entrepreneurs, it has been seen that business relations and the exchange of information are more intense at the regional level, among Latinos or South Americans, than among nationals abroad. Additionally, it is seen that, in some cases, for example, in the academic field, certain issues imply a look exceeding the national scopes and, consequently, promote the interaction and articulation among regional stakeholders, e.g. in terms of sustainable development, the fight against greenhouse gas emissions or biodiversity protection.

National profiles have the largest number of pages and users and Brazil is the country with the greatest number of connected emigrants (2.5 million), followed by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela with 1.5 million (non-exhaustive tracking). In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the largest number of Facebook pages (500) has been identified, followed by Uruguay (205), which has the largest percentage of pages of a global nature (43%). The interests of the pages with a national scope are widely convergent, starting from community purposes (between 80% and 96%, depending on the case) and including cultural, citizen, professional and commercial scopes.

When analysing all these e-diasporas, some common trends are found. The new information and communication technologies, as well as the decreased costs of communication, have fostered and accelerated a deep transformation of the migrant status and the structure of diaspora communities. In this global context, modern-day South American migrants reverse the numerical domains, as they become progressively more numerous and active on the Web. They have become stakeholders in a new culture of engagement and connection by means of new information and communication technologies; they frequently overcome the digital gap inherited in many South American, especially rural, territories of origin and in social sectors overwhelmed by poverty, inequalities and ethnic discrimination. In that sense, it has been possible to prove, in the last two decades, the emergence and consolidation of an active presence of South American emigrants and diaspora collectives progressively connected on Facebook, thus constituting true e-diaspora communities.

In effect, it has been seen that the endless connection opportunities through virtual spaces nurture community, emotional, social, professional, commercial, solidarity and political ties and build new rites through regular virtual connections, resulting in an unprecedented virtual proximity among migrants by means of new engagement channels. Though variable in geometry, Facebook pages, which are the most widely used ones, attract and connect millions of South American emigrants, with eventually converging objectives related to the preservation and expansion of cultures and values of origin; mutual help of a community character; defence of citizen, political and social rights; support and dissemination of national businesses and products.

In this scenario, even though there are several union or proximity factors – such as shared language, cultural or religious festivities, or passion for football –, most of the entities active on the web which relate to the South American e-diaspora are mainly organized around national identifications. In this sense, it has been identified that there is a lack of central poles of attraction for connected



South American emigrants, beyond common interests, such as sports: it is recalled that Facebook pages about football in the region have a considerable number of users. But this situation may evolve, for instance, in the field of science, technology and innovation and foster the emergence of South American networks of scientists and engineers based on the experiences of Argentina, Colombia and Peru. The same may occur in the field of entrepreneurship, developing programmes modelled on Chile Global, for example. Along the same lines, the implementation of regional programmes modelled on the programme Colombia nos une would undoubtedly promote new engagement dynamics at the regional level. It is convenient to appraise and promote the existence of the iDiaspora platform, with several relevant stakeholders, to “connect, learn and contribute” in a virtual space of the “global diaspora community.”

Ultimately, even though tangible results have been obtained in terms of identifying and characterizing the respective South American e-diasporas at regional and national levels, there is still much to be learnt about the circulation and articulation among pages, in particular, on Facebook and in “connected” collectives. Finally, considering the results and findings of this research and relating to the analytical mapping of the South American e-diaspora entities, a structural, structured and connected contemporary South American diaspora, whose vitality and dynamics have grown in the last two decades, has been observed.



4

Key best practices in the region

This chapter presents a sample of the many practices identified within the framework of the study. In total, over 40 promising practices have been identified in the region, which can be found in [the repository complementary to this report](#). Among them, some key best practices to be highlighted here have been identified. IOM defines best practices based on the following criteria: they may be replicated in the region, adapted to different contexts; they have been put into practice relatively successfully; they cannot be merely good intentions; they are actions observing international and national legal frameworks, with some exceptions where the practice in a country is more advanced than the law in another and they become examples of the kind of actions that can be undertaken under an updated legal framework. The intent has been to identify, in this way, relevant public policies based on association, innovation, sustainability, replicability and efficiency criteria. The following best practices have been identified in the framework of the national investigations conducted as part of this regional study and approved at the national levels by the key stakeholders consulted.



RAICES Programme

Network of Argentinian Researchers and Scientists Abroad

- **Geographical scope:** Global.
- **Implementers:** Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, in the framework of the 2030 National Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation.
- **Status:** Active.
- **Objective:** To strengthen the country's scientific and technological capabilities by developing policies for engaging Argentine researchers living abroad and actions aimed at promoting researchers' permanence in or return to the country, covering four main aspects: acknowledgement, strengthening, integration and dissemination.
- **Target population:** Local and overseas scientific community.
- **Context:** It is sought to encourage the return of Argentine researchers living abroad, to expand the country's capabilities with the collaboration of the qualified diaspora, to promote the participation of Argentinian researchers abroad in the construction of the national science, technology and innovation policy and to favour international training and development opportunities for Argentinian scientists.
- **Description:** The programme networks are spaces for engaging Argentine scientists living abroad. Organized by country of residence.
- **Results:** Recognition, strengthening, integration and dissemination of knowledge. Subsidies, awards, ongoing projects, grants, traineeships and networks overseas.
- **Link:** www.argentina.gob.ar/ciencia/raices.



Brazilian Heritage Language Olympics

- **Geographical scope:** Every country with organized Brazilian communities and consular representation.
- **Implementers:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Itamaraty, diplomatic and consular representations of Brazil.
- **Status:** Active.
- **Objective:** To arouse the interest of Brazilian children and adolescents living abroad in the study of the Portuguese language, Brazil and its culture, contributing to the appreciation of the Portuguese language and to the strengthening of the national identity among diaspora members.
- **Target population:** Brazilian children and adolescents living abroad.
- **Context:** Appreciation of the language and strengthening of the diaspora's cultural ties with Brazil. There is an organization around the event leading the Brazilian government to interact and dialogue, through representations, consulates and embassies, with emigrants and various associations of the community abroad, opening up a channel for dialogue and outreach.
- **Description:** Tests are divided into two categories, based on age and are addressed to Brazilians between 9 and 15 years of age. They are completed in stages, they have a scoring system and a symbolic prize is awarded. In 2021, they were executed by consulates in 18 cities in 13 different countries.
- **Results:** Tests performed in various regional classification stages. In some countries, organizations and associations are coordinated to offer free preparatory courses for child and young participants. Supported by the Council of Representatives of Brazilians Abroad (CRBE).
- **Link:** www.xn--heranabrasileira-gpb.com/ol.





Colombia Nos Une Programme

- **Geographical scope:** Global.
- **Implementers:** National Government.
- **Status:** Active.
- **Objective:** To create initiatives, projects and strategies aimed at networking and promoting collaborative activities and fostering the positive contribution of migration to the country's actual problems and needs. To promote actions aimed at encouraging return in positive conditions if migrants decide to return to the country. To develop networked social processes allowing for an increased social capital of Colombian communities abroad.
- **Target population:** Colombians abroad.
- **Context:** There are 21 multipliers at the consulates of the countries with the largest numbers of fellow nationals.
- **Description:** Development of an Internet portal providing services for the Colombian population living abroad.
- **Results:** These services are offered through newsletters, services fairs, information forums and the active promotion of Colombian companies offering these services targeted at the diaspora. Together, they boost the economic resources derived from the work and businesses of the Colombian population overseas.
- **Link:** www.colombianosune.com/.



Transformation of paradigms in Guyanese Public Policies

- **Geographical scope:** Global.
- **Implementers:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diaspora Affairs Unit.
- **Status:** Completed.
- **Objective:** To contribute to Guyana's economic development through the support and engagement of the Guyanese diaspora.
- **Target population:** Fellow nationals abroad.
- **Context:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established the Unit to promote and guide engagement aimed at strengthening relations and dialogue with overseas Guyanese, so that they can contribute to national development (Diaspora Affairs Unit). The Guyanese Diaspora Project was implemented as an extension of this unit, in collaboration with the IOM Guyana Office.
- **Description:** Two main activities were carried out: mapping of skills and resources available in the Guyanese diaspora and use of social media to facilitate the provision of answers for mapping purposes.
- **Results:** In May 2017 the Government launched the Go See Visit project, a project within the framework of engagement for development in the Caribbean, along with IOM and Guyana Global, a portal to facilitate communications and collaboration.
- **Link:** www.iom.int/news/iom-and-guyana-launch-diaspora-engagement-project.





Don Carlos Antonio López (BECAL) National Programme of Overseas Grants

- **Geographical scope:** Global.
- **Implementers:** Ministry of Education and Science, Technical Secretariat of Economic and Social Development Planning, National Science and Technology Council, Fund for Education and Research Excellence, Ministry of Finance.
- **Status:** Active.
- **Objective:** To increase the number of researchers with Master's and PhD degrees in the areas of Science and Technology and of educators with Master's degrees in Education trained in various areas of knowledge.
- **Target population:** Researchers who are going to do master's degrees, doctorates or complementary postgraduate studies in the field of research; professionals who are going to do technical master's degrees; and educators who will develop training courses, educational master's degrees and doctorates.
- **Context:** Low capacity of the country to generate and apply the knowledge required for development and limited business innovation. Need to strengthen the research capabilities in the areas of Science and Technology, business innovation, public management, universities and Research and Development Centres.
- **Description:** Pre-departure support mechanism: Links with the students while they are staying abroad. This support is processed through the application system of the National Science and Technology Council (CONACYT) and it is followed up and monitored. The General Directorate for Migration is also consulted in special and specific cases. This process is updated so that the list of returned grant holders is posted on BECAL's web page, as well as the status of return and permanence monitoring tasks.
- **Results:** Sixty months after it was first executed, 2,100 grants (26 countries) have been funded through 68 national calls, covering research, innovation and teaching areas. Women account for 63 per cent of holders. Funds are fully committed.
- **Link:** www.becal.gov.py/.



Second Global Survey for the Peruvian Community Abroad 2021

- **Geographical scope:** Peru and the rest of the world.
- **Implementers:** Institute of Statistics and Information (INEI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IOM.
- **Status:** Completed.
- **Objective:** To provide information on demographic, social and economic characteristics and on the vulnerability, migration status and engagement with Peru of residents abroad, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Target population:** Peruvians aged 18 and above living abroad.
- **Context:** Need to improve and update statistical information on the profile of Peruvians living abroad.
- **Description:** Dissemination of an online survey with complex sampling. Difficulty in locating migrants filling the gender and age group quota (sample of over 15,000 nationals).
- **Results:** Data available on INEI's homepage. Updating of demographic, social and economic characteristics, a source of information for public and private institutions and international cooperation agencies to make decisions concerning public policies for the Peruvian community abroad.
- **Link:** www.inei.gob.pe/.



Chile Global programme

- **Geographical scope:** Chile and Latin America.
- **Implementers:** Fundación Chile Global (FCh).
- **Status:** Active.
- **Objective:** To assume risks building non-existing industries and creating businesses in various types of economic activities, focusing on the country's competitive advantages for national economic development.
- **Target population:** Entrepreneurs in the region.
- **Context:** In this framework, strategies have been developed for engaging the qualified diaspora, creating pools and mentor networks and angel funds to develop and speed up high-impact start-ups.
- **Description:** By means of four lines of impact (Funds, Ventures, Angels, Start-ups), the mentor network and the Chile Global Ventures Club, a wide range of possibilities is offered to strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Chile and Latin America and to support the success of the start-ups that are part of the community, in each stage of their growth.
- **Results:** Through its various models, FCh has created more than 66 early-stage companies, which have had a positive profitability, investing a total of USD 100 million.
- **Link:** chileglobalventures.cl.



Results

5

This chapter aims at reviewing the findings, updated data, perceptions observed and testimonies collected in the research process, for the purposes of contributing to the design of public policies for the promotion of a more widespread and intense engagement of the diaspora in the development of the region, laying the foundations to replicate and consolidate successful experiences and, finally, systematizing and disseminating evidence-based information concerning the diaspora's actual contributions to the region.

5.1 Progress

Throughout this study, significant regional progress has been identified in the empowerment of South American diasporas by the public and private sectors and the civil society. Some of the most notable breakthroughs are presented below by sector.

5.1.1 Progress in public policies and institutional and regulatory frameworks

In all the national cases studied, there is a remarkable gradual progress in engaging and proactive public policies related to diasporas and the assistance of fellow nationals abroad, the steady implementation of bodies and public institutions specifically concerned with engaging and assisting the diaspora and, finally the more or less explicit willingness, as the case may be, to adapt national

regulations to the new conditions of globalisation and international regulations, in particular in terms of human rights.

In the [Colombian](#) case, for instance, it has been possible to complete a process for the construction of policies with the recent enactment of the Comprehensive Migration Policy by means of Law No. 2136 of 4 August, 2021. Regional spaces for dialogue and consensus have also been implemented and joint declarations stressing the great value of the diaspora for the development of the region have been approved in various events in the framework of the regional institutions, in particular, the SACM.

This regional research has also noted the awareness of situations of vulnerability and risk in diaspora contexts and, in some cases, the subsequent development of national provisions to assist and support people and social groups facing those difficult circumstances abroad. In this regard, postarmed conflict processes (Colombian case); an increase in emigrants held prisoners in countries of destination (Brazilian case) and, more generally, trafficking in persons; international illicit trades involving migration; situations of segregation, discrimination and xenophobic violence in countries of destination; domestic violence; specificities of children, young people, LGBTQ+ groups and women in diaspora communities have all been identified. Responses to situations caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the war in Ukraine, have also led countries in the region to formulate and execute unprecedented return and repatriation mechanisms, implementing airlifts for nationals stranded around the world and assisting vulnerable groups. In addition, significant progress has been observed in the recognition of citizen and political rights of diasporas. Following the ratification of international treaties and bilateral and multilateral agreements, there has been a gradual adaptation of national laws to recognize the citizen and political rights of emigrants; in that regard, with the exception of Suriname and Uruguay, all countries have gradually granted the right to vote from abroad. By way of example, the Superior Electoral Court registered an active participation of Brazilians abroad in the 2010 and 2014 elections: 200,392 and 337,168, respectively.

Laws and regulations on human mobility are heterogeneous in the countries of the region: they are cutting-edge in the cases of Colombia and Ecuador, which have drafted and implemented organic laws on human mobility that may inspire less other governments not only in terms of policymaking, but also planning, follow up, monitoring and assessment. Even though progress is observed in the modernization of consular services, the diaspora communities surveyed fully expect improved assistance for nationals abroad, access to better services and lower costs. Subnational governments (local, subregional, municipal) show a growing tendency to draft and implement migration policies, programmes and projects, as is the case of the Decentralized Autonomous Government of the city of Cuenca, in Ecuador, in the framework of which an ordinance on human mobility, including engagement with the diaspora and assistance to returning migrants, is being implemented.

5.1.2 Progress of civil society and academia

An active presence of the organized diaspora civil society, the academia and diaspora communities more generally has gradually unfolded in every country, even though they are still poorly assessed. This occurs in spite of the fact that, in some cases, their organizations are recognized and granted institutional status by law, as is the case of the Advisory Councils in [Uruguay](#), created in 2005,

which gather fellow nationals abroad and amount to about 50. For decades now, there has been a clear tendency toward solidarity and mobilization of civil society organizations with specific localities in the countries of origin, as is the [Brazilian case](#) (projects in Minas Gerais, Goiás and Valadares). In addition, the creation of the network of Paraguayan women around the world in 2015 is highlighted.

Over the last thirty years, South American diasporas have developed specific media outlets. One of the earliest examples is the *Brazilian Times* founded in 1988 in Massachusetts, United States: an organic body growing out of the support networks for Brazilians abroad. Similarly, in 1993, *Nane reta* was founded, a monthly newspaper dedicated to the Paraguayan community in Argentina. In turn, the Ecuadorian community witnessed the opening of correspondent offices of the *El Comercio* newspaper in New York and Madrid in 2006, when the newspaper, *El Migrante*, was founded in the city of New Castle, Pennsylvania. In 2009, the agency of Paraguayan journalists abroad was established. In the case of Uruguay, in 2009, a programme dedicated to the diaspora started on a public and local cable TV channel: *Ir y Volver/TV Ciudad-Montevideo*; in 2012 a radio programme dedicated to the diaspora was launched in the national public radio station: *Departamento 20/SODRE*.

A growing interest in producing knowledge on the South American diaspora is seen in the national academia, in line with the international trend of the quantitative boom of studies in the areas of migration, diaspora and development, particularly concerning the emigration of the highly qualified referred to as brain drain. For instance, in Ecuador, 73 documents were produced in four years only; the *AndinaMigrante* bulletin of Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Ecuador published 12 issues and 60 theses on migration issues were identified. The publication, in 1994, of one of the earliest studies in the area is underscored: *Brazilian Migration to North America*, by Franklin Goza. Additionally, the emergence of networks of scientists and professionals for promoting the sustainable development of the region is observed. In Peru, the 1995 case study of *dekasegi nikkeis* workers in Japan and, from civil society, the 1994 study initiated by the Association of Peruvian Refugees and Immigrants in Spain, on the living and working conditions of Peruvian immigrants in Madrid, are highlighted. In Uruguay, in 1997, the *Pensando la diáspora* project was conceived and developed by the academia and, in 2019, the first study of Uruguayan people and immigrants was published for the purposes of identifying the labour and migration paths of these categories,³⁷ implemented in the framework of the *Población* programme of the School of Social Sciences of the University of the Republic. The research on the Peruvian female migration in global care chains in Chile and Spain, conducted in 2012 with the support of the United Nations, is also noteworthy due to its gender perspective.

5.1.3 Progress of the private sector

A regional trend to consider the potential of the diaspora's return migration in terms of development has been observed. For instance, [Ecuador](#), through specialized literature, has recognized the positive influences of return migration in terms of investment, business creation, self-employment, transfer of professional skills and knowledge, even though it is noted that these outcomes have not



³⁷ The study can be found for download here: hdl.handle.net/20.500.12008/22319.

achieved a high level of visibility in the region. A programme for Brazilian entrepreneurs aimed at facilitating their return is also recognized.

In addition, the organizational potential of returning migrants who work together to facilitate the conditions for return and advocate with States for supportive environments at the social, economic and political levels that efficiently contribute to the sustainable development of the countries in the region is underscored.

Successful experiences concerning the development of productive activities in/with the South American diaspora, including those associated with productive transformation and local development, have been identified.

5.2 Gaps

While there is much to celebrate in terms of the region's achievements to facilitate the contributions to the development of South American communities around the world, there is always room for improvement. The gaps identified by the study are described below:

- Incipient recognition and little visibility. Even though, in some cases, institutional status is granted by law – as is the case of the Advisory Councils in [Uruguay](#) and representatives of the diaspora in the Ecuadorian parliament – diasporas are generally little recognized and valued in the countries of the region. The legitimacy of national or regional diaspora organizations as spokespersons of their aspirations and demands is still pending, both at national and regional levels.
- Scarcity of reliable data. It should be pointed out that data about national diasporas are still scarce and difficult to access. In some cases, like in [Brazil](#), there is no consensus among the various sources. In other cases, like in [Peru](#), global diaspora surveys have been implemented, thus resulting in recent data collected in two consecutive editions.
- An abundant yet poorly mobilized academic production. Even though there is a relatively rich and recent academic and institutional literature, the knowledge gained in some cases is rarely shared and agreed upon in a regional framework.
- Incipient studies. The study of transnational South American diaspora communities is incipient and there is no digital mapping, except for [Uruguay](#).
- Technical and technological difficulties for exploring new configurations. Researchers are poorly trained and, in turn, there is no interdisciplinary collaboration when identifying circulation and articulation on social media and, in broader lines, e-diasporas or diaspora collectives active on the web.

- Specific, poorly systematized and insufficiently assessed development initiatives. Therefore, they have insufficient tools and resources for extension and consolidation, as well as poor assessment and dissemination. Even though all the countries appreciate recommendations, initiatives and good practices for promoting their diaspora's engagement in development, experiences are clearly insufficiently sustained, assessed and disseminated.
- In some countries, like in [Paraguay](#), significant institutional gaps are verified, among others: fragmentation of the institutions involved in the area; lack of coordination among them; lack of training on migration and development for diplomatic and consular staff; shortcomings concerning the identification of and engagement with qualified nationals abroad and policies for supporting low-skilled returning migrants; insufficient articulation with local authorities; lack of compendiums of laws and regulations in connection with the diaspora and provisions on remittances. In addition, like in the case of [Brazil](#), the specific needs of LGBTQ+ collectives, which still suffer prejudice, are not operationally considered. In the case of [Ecuador](#), the need to strengthen the protection of Ecuadorians abroad through the institutionalisation of programmes and projects that are not subject to budget cuts and through the creation of a fund to address vulnerabilities and to assist those who may be in need abroad and do not have any social protection mechanisms and to repatriate the deceased, has been noted.
- The so-called digital divide associated, for instance, with the use of social media appears in the first generations, as in the case of the [Peruvian diaspora](#). This situation is challenging for the government's direct communication with the entire community abroad, but also in terms of the visibility of its contributions to sustainable development.



5.3 Recommendations

Considering the progress made and the remaining gaps, recommendations aimed at leveraging the former and addressing the latter are made below. Recommendations are organized into categories according to their arrangement in terms of public policies. In this sense, institutional and programmatic actions (at the national level) and those implying the development of regional cooperation are presented.

5.3.1 Institutional

- The institutionalized articulation among State services, both central and local and civil society organizations is an effective lever to promote an enhanced engagement of the diaspora in the sustainable development of the region. It is recommended that countries without central coordination bodies for migration in general, where issues of their diasporas can be addressed in particular, like in Peru and Ecuador, among others, establish and strengthen these types of agencies.

- Apart from governmental coordination spaces, the need to include other sectors is stressed, such as the academia and private sector, so as to ensure a comprehensive perspective enabling collaboration with diasporas at various levels of the society and community of origin.
- The need to collect the necessary data to enable the profiling of diasporas is highlighted, like in the cases of Peru and Colombia, whose regulations identify this action as a priority. Hence, it is recommended that methods for collecting data on the most significant characteristics of diaspora communities be institutionalised by means of specific surveys supported by consulates, as implemented by the Peruvian government or, where this is not possible, by including questions in national censuses and/or household surveys making it possible to extrapolate profiles of the community abroad, like in Brazil's 2010 census. In the case of specific surveys, it is recommended that a standardized methodology be used, such as the [Diaspora Mapping Toolkit](#) developed by IOM to facilitate the comparability of collected data and to enable comparative analyses among national and regional communities.
- Updating knowledge and developing technologies for producing and analysing information on the contributions to sustainable development by regional diaspora communities around the world is urgently needed to inform the drafting and implementation of public policies. As a concrete example, direct investments and business activities of the South American diaspora in the region should be systematically identified both by national and regional mechanisms and tools, based on official data collected by the corresponding systematised services (central banks, for instance) to make up a body of reliable data and information as a basis for the future development of financial policies and mechanisms. With this purpose, it is recommended that a Diaspora Data Framework be developed to a) identify priority data for the country to develop public policies; and to b) agree on the collection and analysis methods by means of existing data collection mechanisms, such as international transaction reporting systems. IOM provides the following guide to support countries in this process: [Contributions and Counting: Guidance on Measuring the Economic Impact of your Diaspora](#).
- The development of diaspora assistance mechanisms has been widely renewed in the last decades in most countries in the region, but the role of embassies should be further strengthened, extending the traditional representation of the country, with a greater role in the country's development and in engaging communities abroad. For instance, by giving information about events and activities in the host country and business incentives and opportunities in the country of origin as well as benefits available for return. This must be done by means of specialised training for diplomatic staff and sustainable planning of the necessary resources in national budgets. This would also enable greater interaction with host States in terms of promoting integration.
- Considering the demands of regional diaspora communities to access better and cheaper consular services, investing in mechanisms and technologies to speed up and facilitate access to documents is recommended, for instance, by means of digital identification tools simplifying administrative procedures such as police records and birth certificates.

- Also considering that communities are sometimes far from urban centres where consular offices are located, both in the region and around the world, virtual assistance mechanisms should be strengthened and mobile consulates should be implemented (like in the experience of Uruguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the latter through the platform “El Consulado en tus manos”). Thus, it is intended to develop outreach strategies, especially bringing consular services to people in situations of vulnerability who cannot travel for economic or health reasons.
- It is also recommended that bilateral and multilateral social security agreements between countries of origin and host countries be extended to ensure full access to social security and to the enjoyment of every right by migrants and diaspora communities.
- It is noted that, in addition to national identities, diaspora members can relate to subnational spheres and contribute to maintaining links with their communities of origin, which enables the possibility of decentralizing engagement tasks at local levels, such as departments/states and municipalities. For that reason, it is recommended that they be included in national planning instruments with budgets, goals and indicators making it possible to implement and monitor concrete activities in their territories and with their diasporas. This, in turn, would enable mechanisms to transfer resources and technical support to these intervention levels, which are usually highly efficient when it comes to reaching the local population and diaspora communities.
- Considering the significant feminisation of the South American diaspora and the situation of vulnerability observed, a gender perspective should be mainstreamed in every policy, programme and project in this area and instruments should be used to specifically assist groups and people in situations of vulnerability.
- In view of the economic and political contribution of diasporas to their identified countries of origin, the possibility to authorise voting abroad in the two countries in the region where it is still not allowed should be considered. For those countries which already have such mechanisms in place, the possibility to elect representatives of the diaspora in national parliaments, like in Ecuador, is proposed. To the extent permitted by national regulations, remote voting tools could also be explored, such as postal or online voting, as many South Americans abroad live far away from their polling stations.
- The legitimacy of groups representing the diaspora’s civil society should be strengthened, recognizing and reinforcing structures like the Advisory Councils in Uruguay and Peru.

5.3.2 Programmatic

- The South American diaspora in general seeks improved information channels about existing policies and procedures of public institutions through which their rights are enforced or services are provided, which is why official information and assistance services should be strengthened through virtual means and social media, which are more useful for the South American communities abroad. By way of example, the “Guyana Global” portal, aimed at facilitating faster two-way communication and collaboration between Guyana and the diaspora, can be cited.



- University research and laboratories aimed at studying the evolution of emigrant populations should be promoted, like in the case of the population and development programme from the School of Social Sciences of the University of the Republic in Uruguay, extending its scope to the regional level, which has been poorly developed in the diaspora area. This type of programme could be replicated at other regional universities and, above all, regional academic initiatives could be promoted by existing academic networks.
- It is understood that extending twinning arrangements between cities in the region and cities where there are large numbers of South American emigrants can make it easier to make better decisions considering the needs and desires of diaspora communities. As an example of this, a transnational agreement for the creation of the Bolivia/Bergamo Liaison Centre in 2008 is highlighted.
- Returning emigrants should benefit from guidance, follow-up and training in entrepreneurship so as to promote their full labour and economic reintegration by means of partnerships between the public and private sectors; cooperativism should also be fostered, like in the Paraguayan experience identified.
- Contributions of the South American diaspora should be recognized, systematized and disseminated by means of research and information and awareness-raising campaigns addressed to the public opinion so as to reverse the negative perceptions still prevailing in some countries of origin and destination and to counter the increase in violence and discriminatory and xenophobic situations found in some countries of destination. The global conferences of Brazilians abroad and events such as the “Brazilian workers’ week” in Japan, the United States and Portugal are illustrative examples. Along this line, training in diaspora-related matters and development of communication professionals are recommended both in countries of origin and destination.
- There is a priority to promote engagement mechanisms for second and third generations addressing children, adolescents and young people and multiplying successful experiences such as the Paraguayan School in New York; to validate knowledge like in the Brazilian case, through certifications open to young people abroad; to promote South American contests and artistic and cultural events in the countries of destination, like in the case of “Peru Village” in Los Angeles; to address vulnerable cases associated with domestic violence, like in the Brazilian experience assisting migrant women in Japan, including psychological and logistic support; to recognise the skills acquired in the field, for instance, as regards domestic and care work.
- In terms of scientific, technological and academic cooperation, it is recommended that networks of highly qualified South American professionals abroad be identified and strengthened, that their engagement in development projects in the region be promoted and that their regional dimension be developed by creating a regional exchange and mutual support platform.
- The diaspora’s cultural practices in the various artistic and academic disciplines should be known better and promoted as part of the region’s cultural, artistic and intellectual heritage through festivals, specific events and open competitive funds.

- Diaspora investors are frequently the first ones to integrate into emerging economies given their knowledge of national standards and customs that help to mitigate risk. Taking this into account, it is recommended that institutions and programmes promoting national production be coordinated with export associations and national chambers of commerce to outreach and motivate them by means of one-stop shops, with the various administrative services involved and fiscal incentive mechanisms to boost investments oriented towards sustainable development and to promote joint ventures. In addition, diplomatic missions should support the diaspora private sector, facilitating the creation of diaspora business networks and fostering a regulated use of the “country” brand.
- Diaspora communities can become an important point of entry into international markets by means of ethnic and nostalgic trade. National institutions for the promotion of exports and tourism in the region, such as PromPerú, should work directly with the diaspora to bring representatives of the country to national and international events and fairs and to extend the benefits of “country” brands to diaspora companies. Programmes to support diaspora entrepreneurs with technical guidance on export, import and marketing processes concerning national products in the countries of destination should also be developed, as a mechanism to contribute to the country’s economic development.
- Emerging businesses abroad should also benefit, like in the Peruvian case, from national programmes for promoting businesses and supporting certifications. For instance, the certification “Auténtica cocina peruana” (authentic Peruvian cuisine), which allows Peruvian entrepreneurs abroad to validate their ingredients, procedures and presentations of the national gastronomy.
- The willingness of diaspora members to get off the beaten path when visiting their countries and communities of origin is recognised, thus paving the way to new sustainable tourist destinations. With this in mind, diaspora tourism should be promoted; the identification of data in that regard should be reinforced; specific offers for nationals abroad should be created; and marketing strategies should be devised, such as cards offering benefits to diaspora tourists, among others.
- It is an opportunity for bodies governing these issues, in coordination with consulates and embassies, to include the diaspora as a sort of “tourism ambassadors” and to involve them in the country’s tourism promotion as a concrete action to support the country’s sustainable development.
- The tendency of diaspora members to invest in real estate in their communities of origin is considered, which may be a key initial capital to improve existing houses or to build independent units for rental. To maximize this potential, these flows should be channelled taking advantage of existing support programmes, like the programmes Techo Propio, Mi Vivienda or Saca provecho a tu techo in Peru.
- It is also necessary to address how the remittances of the diaspora in the region can be leveraged. In line with the proposals of ECLAC, financial inclusion and access to financial services for migrants and remittance recipients should be promoted by means of legal frameworks for new, conducive and inclusive financial products, such as savings accounts, insurance policies and pension funds enabling transnational access to financial services.



5.3.3 Regional cooperation

- It is considered essential to strengthen the regional mechanisms for holding a dialogue, reaching consensus and articulating policies and regulations on migration and aimed at supporting the South American diaspora in regional integration spaces and, in particular, in the South American Conference on Migration. A specific and sustainable setting would be thus created for the study and exchange of experiences of diasporas and development in this framework. In addition, regional civil society coordination and articulation mechanisms should create sustainable frameworks.
- To facilitate smooth collaboration at the technical level as well, it is proposed that regional trainings on topics concerning the empowerment of diaspora communities be implemented. In this context, participants will not only benefit from the information, techniques and methods shared, but also from experiences and know-how of their counterparts in other countries in the region, which may be applicable to their context and/or inspire them to develop new policies and programmes.
- Considering the importance of access to consular services identified by this study, especially for diaspora members outside the main destinations of their community, it is recommended that consular cooperation among countries in the region be strengthened so as to maximize their outreach. Thus, diaspora members in places where their country of origin does not have a diplomatic mission could go to the consulate of a neighbouring country, which would also allow governments to strategically coordinate their investments in their respective consular structures so as to maximize their institutional resources.
- Taking into account the linguistic and historical similarities among diaspora communities from South America and Latin America in general, the potential of joint initiatives to be developed at the regional level should be explored as they may benefit from economies of scale to facilitate the contributions of diasporas in the region. They may include funds to channel investments to significant sectors strengthening regional value chains or the replication of successful national programmes at the regional level, such as RAICES in Argentina for scientific, technological and academic cooperation; Chile Global to support regional start-ups; and BECAL in Paraguay to facilitate the training of Paraguayans abroad.
- In the short term, binational and multilateral programmes and policies to support scientific, technological and innovation development in the region should be promoted, offering the highly qualified diaspora with a wider range of opportunities, not necessarily subject to their return, but oriented to new forms of cooperation, which is essential to build knowledge societies.
- With the support of specialised agencies, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, it is recommended that a South American regional fund be created, modelled on MERCOSUR's convergence funds and the European Social Fund of the European Union and engaged in supporting concrete initiatives with a multistakeholder approach extending the participation of the South American diaspora in development.
- International training platforms and bodies, such as the [iDiaspora platform](#), are invaluable, but relatively little known tools, which should be targeted by sustainable efforts to consolidate them and leverage their impact. Hence the following is recommended at

the regional level, with the support of IOM: supporting, guiding and training diaspora associations and advisory boards, seeking their empowerment by means of creating Web platforms, finding opportunities for funding, technical guidance on project development and management and disseminating national, regional and international calls.

- The MERCOCIUDADES forum is an interesting space enabling the promotion of the role of local authorities in the empowerment of diaspora communities. The main cities of destination for immigrants and the main cities of origin for emigrants in the region should be actively engaged so as to foster the mainstreaming of this issue in the agenda of the forum.
- The Migration Data Portal³⁸ and its space specifically dedicated to the diaspora is an invaluable tool to know information about diasporas and support their transformations, which should be better known and whose data should be particularly disseminated in training processes for competent authorities and the civil society involved in these issues.
- Regional stakeholders should consider and contribute relevant data to the regional initiatives whose activities have an impact on the knowledge of the South American diaspora:³⁹ the regional page on migration data in South America⁴⁰, the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA)⁴¹; and the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI)⁴².
- The experience of African diasporas in terms of transfer of resources, savings and engagement in the development of the countries of origin, frequently assessed in research, reports and international forums, may very well contribute knowledge and practices in these areas, in the framework of South–South cooperation initiatives and exchanges. With this in mind, interregional meetings with regional bodies in other parts of the world should be organized so as to facilitate peer learning.



³⁸ The data portal can be found here: www.migrationdataportal.org/.

³⁹ IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has been recently implemented to capture information on the mobility of the Venezuelan population in Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, flow monitoring surveys have been implemented since 2016, starting in Colombia. DTMs have been implemented in transit and settlement locations, countries such as Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

⁴⁰ Additional information regarding the South America page on the migration data portal can be found at: www.migrationdataportal.org/es/blog/lanzamiento-de-la-pagina-regional-datos-migratorios-en-america-del-sur.

⁴¹ Additional information about IMILA can be found at: celade.cepal.org/bdcelade/imila/.

⁴² Additional information about SICREMI can be found at: www.oecd.org/migration/sicremi.htm.

5.4 Epilogue

The evolutions of South American diasporas are heterogeneous but similar, with chronological convergences and cross-cutting features identified in the framework of this regional study. National contexts and policies implemented by successive national governments determine, to a large extent, the migration waves noticeable in the most recent decades, which are also conditioned by the advances and ruptures in receiving countries, in the context of globalization.

The challenges to diaspora engagement in the sustainable development of the region unfold in a context where the region is in a development trap, facing marked inequality and low growth obstacles. These challenges are also reflected on diaspora communities, made up, in turn, of a wide range of profiles, from highly qualified professionals to skilled or unskilled manual workers and domestic workers focused on the care sector.

National authorities and regional bodies have made effort to consider, although with varying degrees of consistency, the new configurations of diaspora communities. Diasporas play an essential role in the dissemination of the culture and products of the region around the world, as well as in the contributions to countries in the region, in terms of remittances, diaspora tourism and scientific, technological and innovation cooperation. These characteristics determine the slow but inexorable construction of a new citizenship, marked by transnational and extraterritorial processes. The capital of South American diasporas has efficiently contributed to disseminating knowledge in various areas, improving health care and public services and benefited families in the region thanks to a constant transfer of resources that did not decrease even in the most difficult periods in the countries of destination (financial, economic and health crises).

For migration to be safe, orderly and regular, joint efforts of every stakeholder involved are required: authorities, civil society, entrepreneurs, banks and international organizations, both in the countries of origin and destination. In this framework, the project Empowering the South American Diaspora As Agents For Sustainable Development, implemented by IOM's Regional Office for South America, has carried out this study for the purposes of improving the understanding of key diaspora-related stakeholders in terms of the obstacles to and opportunities for their engagement in achieving regional sustainable development goals. This paper is expected to be constructive and inspiring and to open up new paths and strategies to collaboratively explore new spaces, ideas and initiatives, linking diasporas and sustainable development in South America.



Annexes

ANNEX 1

Definitions

This study takes into account the evolution of the concept of the modern nation to the contemporary nation, marked by the development of transnationalism, cosmopolitanism, post-nationalism, in a framework of globalization, expanding and considering the evolutions of the concept of State/Nation, from the contemporary configurations between “the inside” and “the outside.”

Globalization is considered as an economic phenomenon more than anything: it is a dynamic and multidimensional process of economic integration, through the increasing internationalization of financial markets and goods and services, increasing the interdependence of national economies (OECD, 2005:11).

The so-called “second globalization” extends from 1980 to the present and is characterized by an acceleration of scales, a precipitous increase in transaction volumes, by the speed of exchanges; in facilitated by electronics and the internet, increased investment in third countries and fragmentation of production systems.

Empowerment means the fact of having power: of doing something, of saying something, of being heard, of being “someone”; it also refers to the experience of access to that power and its facilitation, fully incorporating the role of the environment, as well as the effort on itself that it implies.

Regarding the concept of sustainable development, this study is part of IOM’s strategy for the 2030 Agenda, comprehensively incorporating migration and development into the formulation of public policies and programmes, recognizing that well-managed migration can be both a development strategy and a development outcome.

Review of the concept of diaspora⁴³

Etymologically “diáspora” means, in Greek, “dispersion”.

According to Stéphane Dufoix (2003), the concept was practically absent from the lexicon of the social sciences until the sixties. Until the mid-eighties the term “diaspora” was used to name certain populations, in particular the Jewish, Chinese, from the Palestinian Territories African populations who lived outside a reference territory and to designate African mercantile networks or the commercial diaspora.⁴⁴

For Dufoix, definitions of diaspora can be organized into four categories: open, categorical, iconoclastic and oxymoronic.

Open definitions (Armstrong, 1976; Sheffer, 1986) refer to the maintenance of the link with the country of origin, whatever the case studied; consequently, its study includes the consideration of different dimensions: the origin of migration (voluntary or forced); settlement in one or more countries; the maintenance of community identity and solidarity; relations between States and diasporas.

The categorical definitions (Lacoste, 1989), on the other hand, establish a series of strict criteria that must be met in order to benefit from the scientific term “diaspora”, including the relative size of the dispersed population in relation to a people or the total population of the country.⁴⁵

Drawing inspiration from the Jewish diaspora, William Safran (1991) identifies six criteria for characterizing a diaspora: ancestral dispersal or dispersal from one centre to at least two foreign peripheral regions; the maintenance of a collective memory of the place of origin (homeland); the certainty that full integration into the host society is impossible; belief in the collective obligation to commit to the perpetuation, restoration and security of the homeland; and the maintenance of relations with the homeland.

Following the synthesis made by Dufoix, Robin Cohen represents the current called “iconoclast”, which specifies in *Global Diasporas* (2008) four new specific criteria related to diasporas: voluntary migration for reasons of trade, work, colonization; an “ethnic consciousness” maintained over time; empathy and solidarity with members of their ethnic community in other countries.

Thus, the typology proposed by Cohen is composed of “victim” diasporas (Jewish, African, Armenian, from the Palestinian Territories); labour diasporas (India); trade diasporas (China); or imperial diasporas (European).

Postmodern French philosophical thought (Foucault, Lyotard, Deleuze, Guattari) and cultural studies (Hall, Clifford, Gilroy) initiated in the 80s, which study subaltern or postcolonial “subcultures”, have enriched the concept of diaspora.

⁴³ The primary source for this section is Mora-Canzani (2017 31–33).

⁴⁴ Following his argument, several typologies have been attempted (Armstrong, 1976; Sheffer 1986; Hettlage 1991), later developed in the context of studies on the global diaspora (Cohen, 2008).

⁴⁵ From this point of view, there would only be five diasporas: Jewish, Lebanese, Armenian, Irish and from the Palestinian Territories.



These currents emphasize the contemporary phenomena of miscegenation, the fluidity of identities, doubt and the end of certainties, so they make less reference to a starting point and the maintenance of an identity despite dispersion, favouring paradoxical identity, non-centre and hybridity.

Studies and monographs on the diaspora have multiplied since then, in an effort to shed light on the changes brought about by postmodernity, globalization and transnationalism.

In its contemporary evolution “diaspora” is used both as a “social form”; as a specific “type of consciousness”; and also as a “mode of cultural production.”

Sociologists Chantal Bordes-Benayoun and Dominique Schnapper (2016) state that the diaspora is not a fact: it is elaborated through the history that people live and write. In this line, for the Mexican political scientist Leticia Calderón Cheluis “diaspora” refers to original communities of the same population, dispersed in different regions of the world, maintaining relationships and ties of identity; diaspora then assumes a common cultural heritage, often a relationship to a territory or a nation-state; characterizing people who “feel, maintain, invent or revive a connection to their land of origin.” Consequently, for the author a diaspora is a “social construction based on feeling, consciousness, memory, mythology, history, stories, group identity, aspirations ... reflecting a sense of belonging to a transnational network.” (Calderón, 2003:23)

In addition, it can be stated, from the Uruguayan experience (Mora-Canzani, 2017), that diasporic processes can generate the emergence of new forms of extraterritorial citizenship, formed through: a shared sensory and emotional subjectivity; an internalized territory through language (Gómez Mango and Viñar, 2016); individual and collective experiences “inhabiting” a common history; a rhizomatic rooting thought under the prism of a philosophy of networks (Deleuze and Guattari, 2000); an expansion through networks (Networking), deployed in versatile constellations; civic and political empowerment. This deployment could, under certain conditions of legitimation and in particular through the implementation of extraterritorial voting and valorization, potentiate their participation in the sustainable development of their countries of origin.

Sociologist Dana Diminescu uses the concept of “e-diaspora” to designate:

Immigrant collective that organizes and is active on the Web: their practices are those of a community in which interactions are enhanced by numerical exchanges. A diaspora is also a dispersed collective, a heterogeneous entity whose existence rests on the elaboration of a common direction, not defined perennially, but rather constantly renegotiated according to collective evolution. It is therefore an unstable collective..., self-defined... The very object of the cartographies in the form of “atlases of i-diasporas,” which we explore, is not the “numerical migrant,” but the “connected migrant” (Diminescu, 2012).

The concept of diaspora defined by the International Organization for Migration then refers to:

Migrants or descendants of migrants whose identity and sense of belonging, either real or symbolic, have been shaped by their migration experience and background. They maintain links with their homelands, and to each other, based on a shared sense of history, identity, or mutual experiences in the destination country (IOM, 2013b).

In the South American context, it is observed, finally, that terminology in terms of public policies related to diasporas tends to mobilize other meanings of the concept, such as “nationals abroad,” for example.

In some countries, the authorities even avoid the term “diaspora”, replacing it with various expressions, such as emigrants, expatriates, residents abroad, nationals abroad, among others, being more frequent the meaning of “transnational communities” in the international and multilateral framework.



Source: Roberto Cancel, IOM, Webinar I Diasporas, 17 June 2021 (available in Spanish only).

ANNEX 2

SONDEO SOBRE EL ROL DE LA DIASPORA SURAMERICANA EN EL DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE



¿Eres una persona migrante suramericana? ¡Puedes participar!

Este sondeo es una herramienta para recolectar las opiniones, perspectivas, e insumos de migrantes de América del Sur y sus descendientes en el marco del proyecto "Empoderando a la diáspora suramericana como agente del desarrollo sostenible."

Esta iniciativa, implementada por la [Oficina Regional de la OIM para América del Sur](#) busca alimentar un diagnóstico sobre la participación de las comunidades suramericanas fuera de su país de origen como actores del desarrollo sostenible para sus comunidades de origen y de destino, así como la producción de recomendaciones para su potencialización.

El sondeo toma entre 5 y 9 minutos. Su participación es voluntaria y anónima y sus insumos ayudarán a informar asesoría técnica y programas de capacitación para instituciones públicas a nivel nacional y regional dentro de América del Sur.

¡La recolección de esta información contribuirá con la generación de recursos nacionales y globales para potenciar el desarrollo de las comunidades migrantes!

- Perfil estadístico
- Perspectivas sobre contribuciones al Desarrollo Sostenible
- Complete

¿Qué edad tiene Ud.? *

- Menor de 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- Más de 74

¿Con cuál género se identifica? *

- Hombre
- Mujer
- Otro
- Prefiero no responder

¿Cuál país considera Ud su país de origen o de descendencia? *

- Seleccionar -

¿Qué vínculo tiene Ud con comunidades de connacionales viviendo en el exterior? (Por favor marque todos los que aplican) *

- Vivo en el exterior
- Soy miembro/a de una organización de connacionales en el exterior
- Trabajo con mi gobierno para facilitar la vinculación de connacionales en el exterior
- Trabajo para una organización de sociedad civil en el país vinculada a los connacionales en el exterior
- Soy académico/a y estudio estas comunidades
- Prefiero no responder
- Otro vínculo...

¿En qué pueblo o ciudad vive Ud actualmente la mayor parte de su tiempo? *

Otra ...

Por favor especifique...

¿Cuál fue el nivel más alto de educación que Ud completó? *

- Primaria
- Secundaria
- Educación Superior
- Post grado
- Maestría
- Doctorado
- Prefiero no responder
- Otra...

¿Dónde realizó sus estudios? (seleccione todos los aplicables)

- Su país de origen
- Su país de residencia
- Otro país

¿Cuántos hijos e hijas tiene Ud?

¿Dónde viven sus hijos y hijas?

- Todos en mi país de origen
- Todos en mi país de residencia
- Están divididos entre ambos países
- Viven en otro(s) país(es)
- Prefiero no responder

¿Cuántos nietos y nietas tiene Ud.?

¿Dónde viven sus nietos y nietas?

- Todos en mi país de origen
- Todos en mi país de residencia
- Están divididos entre ambos países
- Viven en otro(s) país(es)
- Prefiero no responder

¿Cuál es su principal actividad (económica) actual? Considere la actividad en la que pasa más tiempo o que contribuye más a sus ingresos. *

- Empleado
- Trabajadores por cuenta propia (incluidos agricultores o no agrícolas, grandes o pequeños negocios)
- Profesional por cuenta propia
- Desempleado y buscando trabajo
- Desempleado y no buscando trabajo
- Estudiante
- Retirado
- Aprendiz
- No sé / Prefiero no responder
- Otro...

¿Cuál es su profesión o ocupación principal?

- None -



Bibliography

AA.VV.

2008 *Voto en el extranjero, manual de IDEA Internacional*. Instituto Federal Electoral. México.

Anderson, B.

1993 *Reflexiones sobre el origen y la difusión del nacionalismo* (E. L. Suárez trad.). FCE. México.

Armstrong, J.A.

1976 Mobilized and Proletarian Diasporas. *American Political Science Review*. 70(2):393-408.
[EconPapers: Mobilized and Proletarian Diasporas \(repec.org\)](https://repec.org).

Bauman, Z.

1999 *Le coût humain de la mondialisation*. Ed. Hachette Littérature. Paris.

Beck, U.

2007 La condition cosmopolite et le piège du nationalisme méthodologique. *Sciences sociales et mutation*. Éd. Sciences Humaines. Auxerre.

Bennett, D. (ed.)

1998 *Multicultural States: Rethinking Difference and Identity*. Ed. Psychology Press. New York.

Bloemraad, I.

2004 Who claims dual citizenship? The limits of Postnationalism, the possibilities of Transnationalism and the persistence of traditional Citizenship. *International Migration Review*. 38: 389–426. New York.

Bordes-Benayoun, C. and D. Schnapper

2006 *Diasporas et nations*. Éditions Odile Jacob. Paris.

Brumat, L. and J. Artola

2015 *Circulación de personas e integración regional: ¿dónde está el Mercosur?* Real Instituto Alcano. ARI 43/2015.

Butler, J. and G.Ch. Spivak

2007 *L'État global*, traduit par Françoise BOUILLOT, Ed. Payot et Rivages. Paris.

- Calderón Chelius, L.
- 2003 *Votar en la distancia. La extensión de los derechos políticos a migrantes, experiencias comparadas.* Ediciones Instituto Mora. Mexico.
 - 2006 *El estudio de la dimensión política dentro del proceso migratorio.* Sociológica. 60(21). January/ April. Mexico.
- Cohen, R.
- 2008 *Global Diasporas: An introduction.* Second edition. Routledge. New York. (first edition published in 1997).
- Colliot-Thelene, C.
- 2015 *L'unité du monde de l'espérance cosmopolitique à la réalité de la globalisation. Histoires universelles et philosophies de l'histoire.* Ed. Presses de Sciences Po (P.N.S.F.). Paris.
- Cortes G. and L. Faret
- 2009 *Les circulations transnationales. Lire les turbulences migratoires contemporaines.* Ed. Armand Colin. Collection U. Paris.
- Dabène, O.
- 2006 *L'Amérique latine à l'époque contemporaine.* Edition Armand Colin. Paris.
- Dabène, O. and A. Boissière
- 2006 *Atlas de l'Amérique latine: violences, démocratie participative et promesse de développement.* Éditions Autrement. Paris.
- Deleuze, G. and F. Guattari
- 2000 *Mil mesetas. Capitalismo y esquizofrenia.* Valencia: Pretextos.
- Devoto, M.
- 2018 *Hacia una ciudadanía del MERCOSUR.* *Revista MERCOSUR de políticas sociales.* 2:326–332. doi: 10.28917/ism.2018-v2-326.
- Diminescu, D.
- 2012 *The concept.* En *e-diasporas.* Consultado el 15 de abril de 2022. Available at www.e-diasporas.fr/.
- Diminescu, D., W. Berthomiere, E. Ma Mung and V. Petit (dir.)
- 2014. *Les traces de la dispersion.* *Revue européenne des migrations internationales.* 30:3 and 4. Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société (MSHS). Poitiers.
- Diminescu, D. and M. Wiewiorka
- 2015 *Le tournant numérique... et après?* Ed. Maison des Sciences de l'Homme. Paris.
- Dufoix, S.
- 2003 *Les diásporas.* Collection *Que sais je ?* Ed. PUF. Paris.
 - 2012 *La dispersion: une histoire des usages du mot diaspora.* Ed. Amsterdam. Paris.
- Gamlén, A.
- 2014 *Human Geopolitics. States, Emigrants and the Rise of Diaspora Institutions.* Oxford University Press. Oxford.

- Gil Cancel Comas, R.
- 2018 Looking to share the stories of emigrants from South America and their descendants. Available at www.idiaspora.org/en/contribute/blog-entry/looking-share-stories-emigrants-south-america-and-their-descendants.
- Gómez Galán, M. (coord.)
- 2010 *Migraciones y codesarrollo en la relación entre la Unión europea y América latina y el Caribe*. CELARE, CIDEAL, Universidad Pedro de Valdivia. Santiago de Chile.
- Gómez Mango, E. and M. Viñar
- 2016 *Cuerpos, lenguas en las sesiones: Notas para un diálogo con Marcelo Viña*. Available at www.bivipsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-v17-2-2.pdf.
- Harvard Conference
- 2002 *What about Other Latinos?* Harvard University.
- Heemskerck, M. and C. Duijves
- 2014 *Suriname Migration Profile*. OIM, Fundación Unión Europea-América Latina y Caribe, Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas. Available at publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mp_suriname2015.pdf.
- Hettlage, R., F. Heckmann, R. Bauböck, P. Neurath, T. Abatzi and T. Wenzel
- 1991 Migration und Diaspora. *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie*. 16(3): 3–113.
- Hoffman, S.
- 1960 *Contemporary Theory in International Relations*. Prentice Hall Publisher. Englewood Cliffs. New Jersey.
- Huntington, S. P.
- 1973 *Transnational Organization in World Politics*. World Politics. vol. 25. Cambridge.
- Instituto de Políticas Públicas en Derechos Humanos del MERCOSUR (IPPDH)
- 2019 Migración, derechos sociales y políticas contra la trata de personas en las fronteras del MERCOSUR. El caso de las ciudades de la “Triple frontera.” Available at www.mercosur.int/documento/migracion-derechos-sociales-y-politicas-contra-la-trata-de-personas-en-las-fronteras-del-mercosur/.
- Kapur, D.
- 2001 Diasporas and technology transfer. *Journal of Human Development*. 2(2):265–286. doi.org/10.1080/14649880120067284.
- Lacoste, Y.
- 1989 Géopolitique des diásporas. En: *Hérodote*. Revue de géographie et de géopolitique. No. 53 (2nd trimester).
- Margheritis, A.
- 2015 *Migration Governance across Regions. State-Diaspora Relations in the Latin America-Southern Europe Corridor*. Routledge.
- 2016 *Migration Governance across Regions: State-Diaspora Relations in the Latin America-Southern Europe Corridor*. DO:10.4324/9781315693897. SN- 9781315693897.



- 2017 The Inclusion Paradox of Enfranchising Expats in Latin America. *International Migration*. 55(2). Available here onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imig.12315.
- McAuliffe, M. and M. Ruhs (eds.)
- 2017 Appendix B. Diaspora. *World Migration Report 2018*. International Organization for Migration. Geneva.
- MERCOSUR
- 1991 Available at www.mercosur.int/ciudadanos/residir/ and www.mercosur.int/quienes-somos/paises-del-mercosur/.
- Meyer, J.B. (coord.).
- 2015 *Diáspora. Hacia la nueva frontera*. Proyecto CIDESAL, (Creación de incubadoras de diásporas del conocimiento para América Latina) Comisión europea, Institut de recherche pour le développement/Universidad de la República.
- Migration Data Portal
- 2020 Diásporas. Available at: www.migrationdataportal.org/es/themes/diasporas.
- Mora-Canzani, F.
- 2017 *Citoyenneté diasporique. Problématiques et horizons au prisme de l'expérience uruguayenne*, thèse de doctorat en philosophie, Université Paris 8 Vincennes, Seine St. Denis.
- Naciones Unidas
- 2015 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Available at www.undp.org/es/sustainable-development-goals. (Consultado el 1 de agosto de 2021).
- 2017a *The challenges of measuring emigration*. In *Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses*. Chapter VI. United Nations, New York. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division (UNSTATS).
- 2017b *Plan Estratégico del PNUD para 2018-2021*. Junta Ejecutiva del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, del Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas y de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Servicios para Proyectos. Distr. general 17 October 2017. Español. Original: inglés 17-18438X (S) *1718438* special session of 2017 New York.
- 2020 *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020*. Available at unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2020.pdf.
- Nair, S.
- 1997 *Informe de balance y orientación sobre las políticas de codesarrollo vinculados a los flujos migratorios*. Novus Mundus Org. París.
- Niño, J.
- 2021 *Legislación migratoria Colombia*.
- Nyberg Sørensen, N.
- 2007 *Living Across Worlds: Diaspora, Development and Transnational Engagement*, IOM.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- 2005 *Manual sobre los indicadores de la mundialización económica*. Available at www.oecd.org/fr/sti/ind/34965041.pdf.
- 2015 *Connecting with Emigrants: A global Profile of Diasporas*. Paris. Available at www.oecd.org/development/connecting-with-emigrants-9789264239845-en.htm.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- 2007 *Diaspora Dialogues*. Geneva.
- 2013a *Diasporas and Development: Bridging Societies and States*. International Dialogue on Migration No. 22. Available at publications.iom.int/books/international-dialogue-migration-ndeg22-diasporas-and-development-bridging-societies-and-0.
- 2013b *IOM's Work on and With the Diaspora*. Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance Twelfth Session 13 and 14 May 2013. Geneva. Available at www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/2019-01/SCPF_97_1.pdf
- 2016a *Diaspora in Action Eighteen Stories from Around the World*. Geneva.
- 2016b *Cuadernos migratorios*. N.º 7. Available at repository.iom.int/handle/20.500.11788/1398.
- 2018a *Evaluación del Acuerdo de Residencia del MERCOSUR y su incidencia en el acceso a derechos de los migrantes*. *Cuadernos Migratorios*. N.º 9 [“Evaluation of the MERCOSUR Residence Agreement and its impact on access migrants’ rights.” Migration Notes. N.º 9]. Buenos Aires. robuenosaires.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl626/files/documents/Cuaderno_9-Evaluacion_del_Acuerdo_de_Residencia_del_MERCOSUR.pdf.
- 2018b *World Migration Report 2018*. Geneva. Available at publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2018.
- 2020a *South America – Regional Strategy 2020–2024*. Available at publications.iom.int/books/south-america-regional-strategy-2020-2024.
- 2020b *Migratory trends in South America, South American Migration Report* N.º 3. Buenos Aires. Available at robuenosaires.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl626/files/documents/Tendencias_Migratorias_en_America_del_Sur_Marzo_Final.pdf.
- 2020c Migration and migrants: regional dimensions and developments. In: *World Migration Report 2020*. Geneva. Available at publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2020-chapter-3.
- 2021a *Informe anual. Movimientos migratorios recientes en América del Sur*. Presidencia Pro Tempore Argentina del Foro Especializado Migratorio del MERCOSUR y Estados asociados y Organización Internacional para las Migraciones/Naciones Unidas. Available at: robuenosaires.iom.int/es/resources/movimientos-migratorios-recientes-en-america-del-sur-informe-anual-2021.
- 2022a *Empoderando la diáspora colombiana como agente del Desarrollo sostenible*. Available at www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-colombiana.pdf.
- 2022b *Estudio Empoderando a la diáspora brasileña como actor del desarrollo sostenible*. Available at www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-brasiliera.pdf.
- 2022c *Estudio Empoderando a la diáspora boliviana como actor del desarrollo sostenible*. Available at www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-boliviana.pdf.
- 2022d *Empoderando la diáspora ecuatoriana como actores del desarrollo sostenible*. Available at www.idiaspora.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl181/files/documents/diagnostico-de-diaspora-ecuatoriana.pdf.
- n.d. La diáspora uruguaya como factor de desarrollo sostenible. Uruguay (forthcoming).

Pellegrino, A.

- 2001 *Migrantes latinoamericanos y caribeños*. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Programa de Población. Facultad de Ciencias Sociales. Montevideo.
- 2003 *La migración internacional en América Latina. Tendencias y perfiles de los migrantes*. Conferencia Hemisférica sobre Migración Internacional: Derechos Humanos y Trata de Personas. Santiago de Chile. 20-22 November 2002. CEPAL/CELADE/BID. Available at repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/7172/S033146_es.pdf. Available at publications.iom.int/books/mrs-no-16-migration-latin-america-europe-trends-and-policy-challenges.



- 2004 *Migration from Latin America to Europe. Trends and Policy Challenges*. Migration Research Series No. 16. IOM. Geneva. Available at publications.iom.int/books/mrs-no-16-migration-latin-america-europe-trends-and-policy-challenges.
- Pellegrino, A., J. Bengochea and M. Koolhaas
- 2013 *La migración calificada desde América Latina: tendencias y consecuencias*. Programa de Población. Unidad Multidisciplinaria. Montevideo. Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de la República.
- Perez Vichich, N.
- 2005 *El Mercosur y la migración internacional*. Expert group meeting on international migration and development in Latin America and the Caribbean Population Division. Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations Secretariat. 30 November–2 December. Mexico City.
- Pisco, P.M.
- 2021 *Pour une politique européenne relative aux diasporas*. APCE. Commission des migrations, des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées. Portugal, SOC. Available at assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-fr.asp?fileid=29072&lang=fr.
- Progressive Connexions
- 2019 3rd Global Conference. Diasporas: An Inclusive Interdisciplinary Conference. Available at www.progressiveconnexions.net/interdisciplinary-projects/cultures-and-societies/migration-and-diasporas/conferences/.
- Rannveig Agunias, D. and K. Newland
- 2012 *Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries*. International Organization for Migration and the Migration Policy Institute. Available at publications.iom.int/books/developing-road-map-engaging-diasporas-development-handbook-policymakers-and-practitioners.
- Safran, W.
- 1991 *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*. 1(1): 83-99. University of Toronto. Available at cbpbu.ac.in/userfiles/file/2020/STUDY_MAT/ENGLISH/SSK/Myths of Homeland and Return1.pdf.
- Schapira M.-F. and H. Rivière D'arc (dir.)
- 2001 *Les territoires de l'État nation en Amérique latine. Travaux et mémoires*. Éditions de l'IHEAL. Paris.
- Sheffer, G.
- 1986 Modern Diasporas in International Politics. En *American Political Science Review New York* (APSR). St. Martin's, viii. 82(2).
- Solimano, A. (coord.)
- 2008 *Migraciones internacionales en América Latina. Booms, crisis y desarrollo*. Ediciones Fondo de Cultura Económica. Santiago de Chile.
- Van Der Laaty, C. and L. Maqueira Caeiro
- 2012 *Manual de referencia. Migración saludable en América central. Oficial Regional en Salud y Migración*. Oficina Regional para Centroamérica, Norteamérica y el Caribe. IOM.
- Vignolo, A.
- 2021 *La diáspora uruguaya como factor de desarrollo sostenible del país*. IOM.

USEFUL LINKS

Portal de datos sobre migraciones: www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/diasporas (only available in Spanish)

iDiaspora platform global knowledge and networking hub: www.idiaspora.org/

World Migration Report 2020: worldmigrationreport.iom.int/wmr-2020-interactive//

South American Conference on Migration: www.iom.int/south-american-conference-migration-sacm

Cuadernos migratorios, Organización Internacional para las Migraciones: robuenosaires.iom.int/cuadernos-migratorios

United Nations Network on Migration – Working Better Together: migrationnetwork.un.org/hub?gcm_objectives=All&cross_cutting_theme=All®ion=All&country=All&text=diaspora&embed_node=3173

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Perspectives on Environmental Migration): environmentalmigration.iom.int/10-key-takeaways-gcm-environmental-migration

E-Diasporas Atlas: www.e-diasporas.fr/

Mercociudades: Derechos humanos y migraciones: mercociudades.org/estructura-y-autoridades/tematicas/derechos-humanos/ (only available in Spanish)

Shabaka: connect.collaborate.innovate: shabaka.org/

The Migration & Diaspora Podcast: homelandsadvisory.com/podcast

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism: grfdt.com/about-us.aspx

Global Diaspora Platform Engager: www.diasporaengager.com

World's Map of the International Diasporas and Their Stakeholders: www.diasporaengager.com/map/

