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USAID DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT: VENEZUELA DIASPORA SURVEY

Introduction

What do Venezuelans living in the United States think about investing their time, talent, and financial resources in Venezuela? Could you contribute *JUST 25 MINUTES* to ensure that your voice is heard?

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is conducting a study of the Venezuelan diaspora. This study is one of a series of USAID research projects focused on diaspora communities based in the United States. The goal of the study is to better understand the demographic profile and networks of the diaspora community and their activities on behalf of Venezuela.

As a member of the Venezuelan diaspora, your participation in this survey will provide invaluable input and feedback on the profile, challenges and interests of your community.

We would appreciate it if you could complete this survey and share it with others that you know in the Venezuelan diaspora as well.

Your responses are confidential. The survey does not contain any information that personally identifies respondents.

For the purposes of clarity, please note that we will be using an important term in the survey: diaspora. "Diaspora" refers to people who maintain an identity or connection with Venezuela. This can refer to those who have emigrated from Venezuela and are now living outside the country, it can also refer to individuals who spend part of their time in Venezuela and part of their time in another country (countries), or it can refer to the children and grandchildren of emigrants from Venezuela – as long as they feel an affinity for Venezuela as a type of "home."

A. Diaspora Organization Membership

In this section, we would like to learn about your membership in Venezuelan diaspora organizations. If you are a member of any of the following types of organizations, please indicate the name of the organization in the spaces below. (Organizations can be listed twice if they qualify for multiple categories).

DIASPORA GROUPS - Diaspora groups may exist solely or mainly online or have a physical world presence (that is, having face-to-face meetings or a physical meeting place).

1. If you belong to a Venezuelan school/university/alumni organization, what is the name of that association? Please write out the full name of all of the organizations that apply.

Organization 1

Organization 2

Organization 3

2. If you belong to a Venezuelan religious organization (e.g., a church, synagogue or mosque with a significant Venezuelan diaspora population), what is the name of that organization? Please write out the full name of all of the organizations that apply.

Organization 1

Organization 2

Organization 3

3. Do you belong to any Venezuelan cultural organizations? Please write out the full name of all of the organizations that apply.

Organization 1

Organization 2

Organization 3

4. Do you belong to any Venezuelan professional or business associations? Please write out the full name of all of the organizations that apply.

Organization 1

Organization 2

Organization 3

5. . Do you belong to any Venezuelan associations involved in human rights awareness or political activism? Please write out the full name of all of the organizations that apply.

Organization 1

Organization 2

Organization 3

6. . Do you belong to any Venezuelan philanthropic associations involved in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela? Please write out the full name of all of the organizations that apply.

Organization 1

Organization 2

Organization 3

7. . Do you belong to any other Venezuelan diaspora associations? Please write out the full name of all of the organizations that apply.

Organization 1

Organization 2

Organization 3

B. Remittances

1. What is the total approximate amount of **money or in-kind goods** (in USD) that you sent to Venezuela to support family and friends in Venezuela (**remittances**)? (Please enter a number only—no symbols, commas or words). If you have not sent money home, please enter a zero or skip the question.

Total amount of money sent or cost of in-kind shipments

In 2016

In 2015

In 2014

2. How do you send remittances? (mark all that apply)

Banks

Bureaus

Remittance Agencies (Moneygram, Western Union, etc.)

Delivery service door-to-door of goods

Travelers

Value transfer through broker at parallel market rate (making a USD deposit and arranging with someone in Venezuela to make an equivalent payment in bolivars)

On-line open market currency platform (e.g. Mercadolar)

Other _____

C. Philanthropic Giving

The questions below refer to any CHARITABLE or Philanthropic CONTRIBUTION (financial, or material) made with the intention of improving the lives of others for which you receive no direct material benefit.

1. Did you donate to any charitable efforts aimed at helping Venezuelans in Venezuela over the last three years? (If no, skip to section D)

Yes/no

2. If so, please indicate the type of donation you made

Financial donations to organizations in Venezuela (either directly or through a US-based charity)

In kind donations (e.g. materials, food, medical supplies) to organizations in Venezuela (either directly or through US-based charity)

Both

3. What is the approximate value (in USD) of your annual charitable contributions (money and goods) that you sent to Venezuela? (Please enter a number only—no symbols, commas or words).

2016

2015

2014

4. To which of these groups is your charitable giving directed? (May mark multiple options)

Any who are in need in Venezuela

Specific individuals that you know in Venezuela

Specific groups of people that you know of in Venezuela

Specific organizations that you know of in Venezuela (if yes to this question, please respond to question 5)

Other _____

5. Type of recipient organization (may mark multiple options)

Donations to COMMUNITY-level projects in Venezuela

Donations to a SCHOOL or educational projects in Venezuela

Donations to a RELIGIOUS organization or charity in Venezuela

Donations to a HOSPITAL or healthcare projects in Venezuela.

Donations to a HUMAN RIGHTS-related organization in Venezuela

Donations to other type of NON- PROFIT organization in Venezuela.

Donations to a FOR- PROFIT FIRM in Venezuela

Other _____

D. Estimated Volunteer Contributions

For the questions below, please think of volunteerism as the contribution of time made with the intention of improving the lives of others for which you receive no direct material benefit.

1. What is the approximate time (total equivalent days) you spent VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES on behalf of organizations that assist Venezuela? If you have not spent time volunteering in THE UNITED STATES on behalf of organizations that Venezuela, please enter a zero or skip the question.

- In 2016
- In 2015
- In 2014

2. Did you spend any time volunteering IN VENEZUELA during the last three years? (yes/no: If no, will jump to Question 5)

3. What is the approximate time (total equivalent days) you spent VOLUNTEERING IN VENEZUELA?

- In the past year (2016)
- One year ago (2015)
- Two years ago (2014)

4. Please select the type of organization you have volunteered for in Venezuela (select the top two)

- Community-level
- School
- Hospital
- Religious organization
- Human rights organization
- Non-Profit
- For-Profit firm
- Venezuelan (national, state or municipality) public sector agency
- Other _____

5. Please select the skillset you have offered through volunteerism (select the top two):

- Business skills
- medical expertise
- logistical support/transport
- fundraising
- teaching
- ICT/Technology
- investment support
- Organizational development
- energy solutions
- policy reform and advocacy
- Other _____

E. Investment Activity & Attitudes

Next, we would like to learn more about your experience in investing in Venezuela

1. Have you made any investments (in your enterprises or someone else's) in Venezuela in the past three years. (If not, will skip to Section F)

2. For each of the investment options listed below, please indicate if you have invested in any of the following in THE PAST THREE (3) YEARS (Please check all that apply)

Purchasing property in Venezuela for personal use.

Purchasing property in Venezuela for rental or resale purposes.

Establishing manufacturing facilities in Venezuela to produce products for sale in Venezuela or for export

Investing in a fund that would purchase equity ownership in companies in Venezuela .

Investing in equity ownership directly in a firm in Venezuela .

Investing in a fixed-income security that would lend money to small- and medium-sized enterprises in Venezuela in social-impact areas (e.g., education, healthcare, agriculture, energy, sanitation), etc.

Investing in enterprises in Venezuela that loan money to small and medium enterprises.

Investing in incubators or start-up firms in Venezuela (PTS, Wayra, ImpactHub, Accede, among others)

Other (please specify)

None

3. In which SECTORS have you invested in the last three years?

Agriculture/livestock sector

Energy sector

Education sector

Healthcare sector

Information and communications technology sector

Manufacturing/processing

Trade/market linkages

Real estate

Construction/infrastructure

Tourism services

Other services or sector _____

4. In this section, we are interested in why you invest in Venezuela. On a scale of 1-7, please select a response that most accurately indicates your level of agreement with each of the statements below.

Profitability is my main concern when I invest in Venezuela

I invest in Venezuela to improve the value of my investment portfolio

I invest in Venezuela to make a social impact

Personal financial independence is a very important goal when I invest in Venezuela

I feel it is my personal duty to invest in Venezuela

I feel a sense of personal accomplishment when I invest in Venezuela

I take great pride in making investments in Venezuela

I invest in Venezuela because my family in Venezuela expects me to do so

I would feel disgraced if I did not invest in Venezuela

People in the Venezuelan diaspora who do not invest in Venezuela lose social status within the Venezuelan diaspora

Individuals who invest in Venezuela are highly respected in the Venezuelan diaspora

I invest in Venezuela because I believe I will have an easier time getting access to government officials than if I do not invest

I invest in Venezuela because I believe my opinions/ideas will have more influence on government policy than if I do not invest

Family members of diaspora investors in Venezuela benefit from greater political protection than families whose overseas family members do not invest in Venezuela

Other _____

F. Possible Barriers to Diaspora Engagement

In this section, we would like to learn what you think are possible barriers to diaspora engagement in Venezuela

1. To what degree do you believe the following coordination challenges are obstacles to greater diaspora support for Venezuela *in general*? (scale of 1-7)

Lack of regular communications and coordination between Venezuelan diaspora groups

Lack of regular communications and coordination between Venezuelan diaspora groups and organizations (charity or civil society) in Venezuela

Lack of regular communication and coordination between Venezuelan government officials and Venezuelan diaspora groups

Other _____

2. In this section, we would like to learn what you think may be possible barriers to *diaspora for-profit investment* in Venezuela (scale of 1 - 7)

- Difficulty opening a bank account in Venezuela
- Exchange rate policy
- Difficulty borrowing money in Venezuela due to time and number of processes involved in lending
- Difficulty transporting funds physically or electronically within Venezuela
- Difficulty transporting funds physically or electronically from Venezuela to another country outside of Venezuela
- Lack of intellectual property right enforcement in Venezuela
- Difficulty acquiring land in Venezuela
- Difficulty in obtaining building permits in Venezuela
- The cost of transportation in Venezuela as a percentage of total expenses
- Limited infrastructure in Venezuela
- Challenges maintaining machinery due to a lack of skilled mechanics or parts
- Poor quality and reach of Venezuela's communications infrastructure (e.g., phone lines, internet access, etc.)
- Lack of government accountability in Venezuela
- Not knowing what to expect regarding future government policies in general in Venezuela
- Unpredictability in interest rates and other monetary policies in Venezuela
- Unclear tax policies
- Taxation policies that prohibitively add to operation costs in Venezuela
- Difficulty coordinating with government officials in Venezuela
- A tendency for government officials to request unofficial payments in Venezuela
- Safety and security concerns in Venezuela
- Time it takes to import goods (e.g. clearing customs) into Venezuela
- Lack of clear information about import/export procedures
- Costs of importing/exporting

- Taxes on imported products into Venezuela
- Importance of personal relationships in business transactions in Venezuela
- Cost of insurance in Venezuela
- Difficulty in obtaining reliable access to electricity or other energy sources in Venezuela
- Difficulty in identifying reliable suppliers in Venezuela
- Unfamiliarity with human resource policies in Venezuela
- Difficulty in evaluating the work history of prospective employees in Venezuela
- Difficulty hiring skilled workers in Venezuela
- Other _____

G. Potential diaspora engagement opportunities

Following are five different general descriptions of potential diaspora engagement opportunities that could be offered to the Venezuelan diaspora. How interesting are the following engagement models to you (scale of 1-7)?

- A. An online platform that connects the Venezuelan diaspora to vetted non-governmental organizations in Venezuela that are eligible for charitable donation?
- B. A volunteer opportunity in which members of the Venezuelan diaspora were invited to participate in mentorship or internship programs—either in person or on-line – working with non-profit organizations or with entrepreneurs in Venezuela.
- C. A platform in which members of the Venezuelan diaspora were brought together to monitor, report on and raise awareness in the United States of the current Venezuelan context, including through partnerships with US and international organizations
- D. An online platform that facilitates and establishes knowledge-based, investment or trade partnerships between diaspora entrepreneurs with start-ups or other businesses in Venezuela.
- E. An investment fund that raises funds from the Venezuelan diaspora to lend money to enterprises in Venezuela. Depending on how the fund is structured, USAID or another partner might offer some sort of credit enhancement or guarantee to reduce the risk of lending to Venezuelan enterprises. Enterprises receiving funding would be selected and vetted based on strict criteria and would be expected to conform to US standards of transparency and audit.

H. Potential Change Scenarios

So far we have been focused on the present day and the current context. However, as we all know, political and economic situations evolve over time. We are interested in your thoughts on how diaspora engagement might shift if there is a significant change in political and economic situation in Venezuela in the future. **If there is a significant change**, how would you answer the following questions:

1. Do you expect that diaspora members would move back to Venezuela?

If so, which sub-groups in particular?

2. Are you likely to move back to Venezuela? (yes/no)

I. Future Volunteerism Interest

Should political and economic conditions change in Venezuela, please indicate your degree of interest in volunteering your time: (scale 1 – 7)

Volunteering my time with an organization or charity in the United States to work on behalf of Venezuela.

Volunteering my time in Venezuela, working in a specific REGION/COMMUNITY for a short period of time (3 months or less).

Volunteering my time in Venezuela to work in a SCHOOL or other educational institution in Venezuela for a short period of time (3 months or less).

Volunteering my time in Venezuela in a HOSPITAL or other healthcare setting in Venezuela for a short period of time (3 months or less).

Volunteering my time in Venezuela to serve as an intern/mentor for a FOR- PROFIT FIRM in Venezuela for a short period of time (3 months or less).

Volunteering my time in Venezuela to serve as an intern/mentor for a NON- PROFIT organization in Venezuela for a short period of time (3 months or less).

Volunteering my time in Venezuela to serve as an intern/mentor for a GOVERNMENT AGENCY in Venezuela for a short period of time (3 months or less).

Other _____

J. Future Philanthropic Interest

1. **Should conditions change in Venezuela**, do you believe your level of charitable/philanthropic contributions (cash or good) to Venezuela would:

increase

decrease

remain the same

K. Future Entrepreneurship Interest

1. **Should conditions change in Venezuela**, would you be interested in investing or starting a business in Venezuela? (if no, will skip to section L)

Yes/no

2. How interested would you be in each of the following sectors for investing or starting a business in Venezuela: (scale of 1 – 7)

- A) Agriculture/livestock sector
- B) Energy sector
- C) Education sector
- D) Healthcare sector
- E) Information and communications technology sector
- G) Manufacturing/processing
- H) Trade/market linkages
- I) Real estate
- J) Construction/infrastructure
- K) Tourism services
- L) Other services or sector _____

3. Should conditions change in Venezuela, please indicate your degree of interest in the following options in Venezuela (scale 1-7)

Purchasing property in Venezuela for personal use.

Purchasing property in Venezuela for rental or resale purposes.

Establishing manufacturing facilities in Venezuela to produce products for sale in Venezuela or for export

Investing in a fund that would purchase equity ownership in companies in Venezuela .

Investing in equity ownership directly in a firm in Venezuela .

Investing in a fixed-income security that would lend money to small- and medium-sized enterprises in Venezuela in social-impact areas (e.g., education, healthcare, agriculture, energy, sanitation), etc.

Investing in enterprises in Venezuela that loan money to small and medium enterprises.

Investing in incubators or start-up firms in Venezuela (PTS, Wayra, ImpactHub, Accede, among others)

Other

L. Demographics

1. Please indicate your gender:

Female

Male

2. In what year were you born? _____

3. In what city, state and country were you born? _____

4. In which Venezuelan state(s) do most of your friends and family live today?

a. _____

b. I do not have any friends or family in Venezuela.

5. If you were born in Venezuela, in what year did you leave Venezuela?

6. If you were not born in the United States, in what year did you arrive?

7. In what city, state do you reside currently?

8. (IF APPLICABLE) Prior to the United States, please list any other countries in which you have lived and list the amount of years you spent in that country.

a. _____

9. What is your religious affiliation?

a. Roman Catholic

b. Protestant

c. Jewish

d. Muslim

e. Not religious

f. Other (please specify) _____

10. What is the primary language(s) that you speak at home? (write all that apply)

a. _____

11. Over the PAST THREE YEARS, how often have you visited Venezuela ?

a. Total Number of Visits _____

12. What is your highest level of education?

Grade school

High school

Technical/trade school

- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Other (please specify) _____

13. What is your current occupational field?

- Business owner/entrepreneur
- Clerical/administrative professional
- Doctor/nurse/medical professional
- Engineer/technical professional
- Financial services professional
- Government worker
- Homemaker
- Investor (full-time)
- Lawyer or legal professional
- Manager
- Researcher/scientist/professor
- Student (full-time)
- Teacher/education professional (primary and secondary education)
- Retired
- Other _____

14. What is your approximate TOTAL ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME from all sources?

- Less than \$50,000
- \$50,000 – \$99,999
- \$100,000 – \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$249,999
- \$250,000 - \$999,999
- \$ 1 million or more

15. What is your NET INVESTABLE WEALTH? (Investable wealth includes liquid assets such as cash, stocks, bonds, insurance, and excludes property).

- Less than \$50,000
- \$50,000 – \$99,999
- \$100,000 – \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$249,999
- \$250,000 - \$499,999
- \$500,000 - \$999,999
- \$ 1 million or more

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. We know your time is valuable, and we are grateful that you shared your time with us today.