

IMAGES Country Study Documentation

Bolivia

2022

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KEY OBJECTIVES

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), co-created and coordinated by Promundo and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a multi-country study on men's and women's realities, attitudes and behaviors around gender equality, including childhood experiences of violence, gender relations, partner relations and relationship satisfaction, gender-based violence and sexual behavior. IMAGES surveys are conducted together with qualitative research to map masculinities, contextualize survey results, and provide detailed life histories that illuminate quantitative findings. The questionnaire is adapted to country and regional contexts, with approximately two thirds of the questions being standard across settings. The general objective of IMAGES is to contribute to the understanding of the practices and attitudes of men in relation to gender equality, in order to adopt information, guide and monitor the development of policies that promote gender equality through participation of men and women in these policies.

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KEY OBJECTIVES

After having been carried out in several countries around the world, the IMAGES survey was carried out in Bolivia in 2019 thanks to the financial support of the Swedish International Development Association (SIDA). For this purpose, the Center for the Generation of Information and Statistics (CEGIE) of the Bolivian Private University (UPB) was the institution in charge of carrying out said survey. The IMAGES survey was carried out in the urban and rural areas of the nine departments of Bolivia, under an adequate sampling system to cover issues of gender, ethnicity and demographic population. Following this, a qualitative survey across Bolivia was also conducted in 2021.

The specific objectives of the IMAGES survey is to provide a first ever measurement of men's and women's attitudes and practices around gender equality in Bolivia.

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KEY OBJECTIVES

The main goals are to generate a nationally representative database related to gender issues that affect daily life, and to help inform or promote policies and programs that will transform harmful norms and practices, increase gender equality, reduce gender-based violence, and engage men in non-violent, equitable caregiving in Bolivia. Key domains of enquiry included in this study are gender attitudes, caregiving and parenting practices, household relations, gender-based violence, and health. The study population are a representative sample of men and women between 18 and 59 years old from all regions and all districts of Bolivia.

The objective of the qualitative component is built on quantitative findings to explore issues of gender, masculinities and violence in three of Bolivia's indigenous communities. Specifically, the qualitative research intends on problematizing unsophisticated readings of these communities, their gender practices, positionings and structures, which often lead to stigmatization and marginalization of these communities on the national stage.

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KEY OBJECTIVES

Topics included in the qualitative study include the formation and presentation of hegemonic and alternative/divergent masculine identities, barriers and facilitators to men's equitable engagement in parenting and other unpaid care, household labor, non-violent partnerships, and sexual and reproductive health. Participants include men and women from three of the most populous indigenous communities in Bolivia (the Aymara, Quachua and Guarayo communities), as well as experts and community leaders knowledgeable about issues of gender and identity in these communities, who themselves identify as indigenous as well. The study population are a representative sample of men and women between 18 and 59 years old from all regions and all districts of Bolivia..

2 DATA COLLECTION

Quantitative Research

The questionnaire used in IMAGES Bolivia was developed based on the IMAGES survey carried out by Promundo, and was adapted to the Bolivian reality. This questionnaire was translated into Spanish for application in the field. The questions were coordinated by Promundo and CEGIE-UPB in order to retrieve complete and reliable information.

Data collection began in April 8th, 2019 in Cochabamba and Beni and ended on May 6th of the same year in La Paz.

The field work was carried out by two 4 teams: 2 teams of men, and 2 teams of women. Each team had 4 interviewers and 1 supervisor. All of the surveys were carried out by people of the same sex as respondents; that is, male interviewers carried out the questionnaire for male respondents, and female interviewers carried out the questionnaire women.

2 DATA COLLECTION

All respondents were explained the purpose and the confidentiality of the study, and the benefits and the costs of taking the questionnaire. The survey was conducted anonymously, that is, at no time was the person asked to give his or her name. The informant only had to declare that she agreed with the survey when reviewing the consent.

Qualitative Research

The qualitative study design was created between January and September of 2020 and included Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and In-depth Interviews (IDIs). After IRB approval, the research partners worked with local governmental and non-governmental institutions to facilitate community leadership approval and access to research participants.

2 DATA COLLECTION

Local technical support staff and partner institutions assisted with logistical and technological issues and enabled connectivity through EDMODO or WhatsApp. Enrollment of participants for the focus group discussions and interviews with community members took place between October 2020 and January 2021, on a rolling basis. Interviews with experts and community leaders took place between October 2020 and March 2021. The process of transcription took place between February and early March.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The IMAGES Bolivia Survey collected quantitative information from 887 women and 888 men in urban and rural areas of the nine departments of Bolivia, totaling 1775 completed surveys. This work generated a nationally representative database of attitudes and behaviors related to gender issues that affect the daily life of the Bolivian population.

The sample frame is made up of the results of the National Census of Population and Housing carried out in 2012 by the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia.

The survey was conducted in selected households in urban and rural areas belonging to municipalities that are part of the selected sample. In order to optimize the design of the sample, the classification of the municipalities was carried out taking into account population parameters related to the areas (urban or rural) in which the people reside.

The type of sampling used is probabilistic, multistage stratified by conglomerates. In each stratum, an independent sample was selected that is representative at that level.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Stratification divides mutually exclusive population units and collectively exhaustive groups or strata, from which independent random samples will be selected. The primary purpose of stratification in this case has been to improve the precision of the survey estimates and / or reduce the variance. In this case, the formation of the strata has been such that the units in the same stratum are as homogeneous as possible and the units between different strata are as heterogeneous as possible with respect to the characteristics and / or variables of interest of the survey and divided into two large groups. The explicit stratification was carried out taking into account the classification of municipalities based on the proportion of the population living in rural or urban areas; this classification is shown in the following table.

Explicit Stratification of municipalities

Type of municipality	Populations 18 to 59 years old	Number of municipalities
Urban municipality	3,760,175	69
Rural municipality	1,589,292	270
Total	5,349,467	339

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

For the implicit stratification, the municipalities are also grouped according to their degree of urbanization, in this sense the division of each stratum into two substrata was included.

Only urban municipalities: strictly urban population

Urban Municipalities: Greater proportion of urban population

Only Rural Municipalities: Strictly rural population

Rural Municipalities: Higher proportion of rural population

The main objective of the stratification procedure was to statistically reduce the variance of the survey parameters of interest, these stratification variables are highly correlated with the parameters used to determine the sample size. The strata are, by definition, homogeneous inside, which establishes a fundamental difference with respect to the characteristics of the conglomerates.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The strata were not used as selection units because they are all represented in the sample. Therefore, conglomerates are defined as Primary Sampling Units (PSU) composed in urban areas by a block or a set of blocks and in rural areas by a set of dwellings (communities). This heterogeneity guaranteed that different units of the population were included within it.

It should be noted that, in general, the formation of clusters tends to increase the variance of the sample. However, its use in the sample design allowed flexibility in the number of selection stages. The distribution of the sample in terms of areas has been 51% of the surveys in urban areas and 49% in rural areas.

In the second stage of sample design, the municipalities in which the survey was carried out were selected. To carry out this selection, groups of municipalities were formed according to the proportion of people who declared that they belonged to a nation or indigenous / native people.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

According to the methodology used to analyze the results of the 2012 Census, the responses were classified into three groups: Group A, majority indigenous / native peoples or nations, Group B, indigenous / native minority peoples or nations contemplated in the electoral regime law, Group C, other statements.

Six different nations or indigenous / native peoples that belong to the three groups were formed, including Quechua, Aymara, Chiquitano, Guarani, Chica, and Mojeño. Afterwards, the groups of municipalities formed were the following:

Group 1, Municipalities with a high proportion of Quechuas

Group 2, Municipalities with a high proportion of Aymara

Group 3, Municipalities with a high proportion of Quechuas and Aymaras

Group 3, Municipalities with a high proportion of Chiquitanos, Guaraníes, Chichas and / or Mojeños

Group 4, Municipalities with a high proportion of “none” (declarations of not belonging to any indigenous / native people or nation).

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Once the groups to which the municipalities belong were identified, a random selection of 36 municipalities, 14 urban municipalities and 22 rural municipalities was carried out. Once the municipalities had been selected, the distribution (allocation) of the sample was carried out.

In a next stage, depending on the type of municipality, the random selection of groups of blocks and / or communities was carried out for each of the municipalities.

The table below details the sociodemographic characteristics of the sample population

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Sociodemographic characteristics of the sample

Basic sociodemographic information				
Percentage of the distribution of men and women by general characteristics				
General Characteristics	MMen		Women	
Age	%	n	%	n
18-24	33.10	925,416	21.82	557,929
25-34	26.92	752,558	29.92	764,930
35-49	25.81	721,552	31.97	817,458
50+	14.18	396,422	16.29	416,631
Age (mean, SD)	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
	32.91	12.31	35.48	11.67
Education	%	n	%	n
None	0.05	1,450	2.19	56,125
Informal education	0.30	8,329	0.37	9,516
Complete or incomplete primary	10.96	306,454	23.49	600,630
Complete or incomplete secondary	51.73	1,446,457	44.30	1,132,827
Technical (medium/supier and complete/incomplete)	8.47	236,905	7.17	183,427
Normal/Police/Military complete or incomplete	1.96	54,796	1.28	32,802
University and postgraduate	26.52	741,557	21.18	541,621
Language or language learned in childhood	%	n	%	n
Quechua	15.80	441,738	16.40	419,224
Aymara	9.02	252,326	8.23	210,541
Guaraní	0.78	21,719	0.50	12,698
Spanish/Castilian	72.87	2,037,338	73.93	1,890,305
Other	1.53	42,827	0.95	24,180
Language most frequently used	%	n	%	n
Quechua	22.84	638,593	24.03	614,405
Aymara	13.42	375,079	10.26	262,287
Guaraní	2.00	55,890	1.66	42,423
Spanish/Castilian	99.74	2,788,544	98.94	2,529,925
Other	3.94	110,136	2.82	72,000
People with whom respondent identifies with	%	n	%	n
Quechua	53.34	645,766	48.37	653,380
Aymara	23.23	407,015	25.88	571,619
Guaraní	14.64	136,886	22.64	48,238
Other	4.92	107,290	1.91	30,178
Ninguno	3.86	1,482,542	1.20	1,221,213
Indigenous identifier	29.67	829,650	29.70	759,536
Religion	%	n	%	n
Catholic/Evangelical	83.77	2,330,343	86.52	2,185,823
Other (Christian, Protestant, Lutheran, etc)	8.09	224,946	9.79	247,211
Muslim	0.00	0	0.06	1,441
No religion (atheist/agnostic)	7.12	198,176	3.45	87,163
other	1.02	28,355	0.19	4,693
Urban or rural area	%	n	%	n
Urban	69.97	1,956,264	71.33	1,823,952
Rural	30.03	839,684	28.67	732,996

*Pregunta de opción múltiple

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Qualitative Research

The qualitative research component included FCDs with 57 men and 27 women from three of the most populous indigenous communities in Bolivia (the Aymara, Quachua and Guarayo communities) and in-depth interviews (IDIs) including 12 men and 5 women, as well as experts and community leaders knowledgeable about issues of gender and identity in these communities, who themselves identify as indigenous as well.

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RESPONSE RATE

In total 1775 complete surveys were conducted. There was 1 instance of refusal to participate in the survey after beginning the informed consent process. This person simply stated that they were not interested in participating. The voluntary nature of participation had been explained, and no further insistence on the part of the interviewer ensued. There were also 3 instances where participants begun but did not complete the survey due to other commitments. Completion at a later time was not possible.

The details are presented in the table below.

Survey Result	Quantity	Percentage
Complete	1,775	100%
Incomplete	3	0%
Refusal	1	0%
Total	1,779	100%

In the qualitative component, 17 participants were initially enrolled for IDIs and 84 for FGDs for a total of 101 participants. Only one participant withdrew from the FGD component (after informed consent was provided), leaving a total of 100 completed interviews or participations in FGDs.

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WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

After the field work carried out, the Expansion Factor was calculated taking into account the inverted probability of selection of dwelling, household and person. This factor helped expand the data and be able to view the information on a national scale (based on 2012 Bolivian National Census of Population and Housing data).

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MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

No additional information available in this section.

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QUALITY CONTROL

Data quality and consistency analyses were performed during field work. The data were filled in the CS Entry application developed by the United States Census Bureau; the information processing was developed in STATA 15. The study variables were developed by the questionnaire questions and variables designed in previous IMAGES studies worldwide.

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INTERVIEWER TRAINING

All field staff went through a 10-day training where the interviewers received a detailed explanation of the purpose of the survey, the handling of the questionnaire and the tablet, awareness of issues of violence, gender and childcare. At the same time, dynamics were carried out to address the safety of the survey and the work teams. Finally, a field practice was carried out in a rural community in the department of La Paz to consolidate this knowledge.

Partners conducting qualitative research were trained and equipped to comply with COVID-19 precautions and ethical guidelines.

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DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

The questionnaire used in IMAGES Bolivia was developed based on the IMAGES survey co-created by Promundo and the International Center for Research on Women.

The questions were coordinated by Promundo and Center for the Generation of Information and Statistics (CEGIE) of the Bolivian Private University (UPB) in order to retrieve complete and reliable information. The CEGIE-UPB was the institution in charge of carrying out the survey and conducting data collection.

The research team for the qualitative data was composed of Acción por los Derechos Humanos and Promundo-US, who collaborated in a process of study design (and then re-design once the pandemic restrictions became more clear), tool development, analysis planning and codebook development, literature review, data collection planning, and training on ethics of conducting research on sensitive topics, gender and masculinities.

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DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

After ICRW IRB approval was granted for the qualitative research, the research partners liaised with key institutions and community leadership (among which are the "Central de Organizaciones de Pueblos Nativos de Guarayos" (COPNAG), "Servicios Educativos" (PROCESO), and the "Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado" (CIPCA)), who facilitated community leadership approval to conduct this research and access to research participants. Partners also identified key technical support staff through partner institutions that assisted with the delivery of phone data credit to enable EDMODO or WhatsApp accessibility for all participants and assisted with any logistical or technology issues.

10 ETHICAL APPROVAL

The questionnaire used in the quantitative fieldwork was approved by the Ethics Committee of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW).

The inclusion of a qualitative component of this study was reviewed and approved by the ICRW IRB on September 8th, 2020.

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NOTES ON STUDY

The IMAGES Bolivia survey was the first in the country and sheds light on the issues of masculinity and gender equity. The contribution of this information opens lines of deepening in the investigation of these topics in order to be able to do a follow-up in the coming years.

The sample was representative for men and women between 18 and 59 years of age living in urban and rural areas of Bolivia. The sample design of the survey also makes it possible to carry out a comparative analysis between people who consider themselves to belong to indigenous / native peoples or nations with those who do not consider themselves to belong to any indigenous / native nation or people.

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NOTES ON STUDY

Additionally, the sample design allowed estimates to be made at the national level, total urban and total rural, and by regions (highlands, valley and plains) of the main results of the survey. People who had the characteristic of being “permanent or habitual residents” of “private” dwellings and their occupants who make up households in both rural and urban areas were considered eligible to be included in the survey.

The background is a solid teal color with several dark blue, hand-drawn style lines. These lines are abstract and somewhat chaotic, with some forming large loops and others being straight or slightly curved. The lines vary in thickness and have a slightly textured, chalk-like appearance.

IMAGES

International
Men and Gender
Equality Survey