

Political Trends in Latin America



Poverty in South America

Country	GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	GDP per capita (current US\$)	2023 Population
Uruguay	\$15,800	\$17,020.60	3,423,108
Chile	\$15,000	\$16,502.80	19,629,590
Venezuela	\$13,080	\$16,055.60	28,838,499
Argentina	\$10,050	\$10,729.20	45,773,884
Guyana	\$9,380	\$9,374.80	813,834
Brazil	\$7,720	\$7,518.80	216,422,446
Peru	\$6,520	\$6,692.20	34,352,719
Colombia	\$6,160	\$6,131.20	52,085,168
Ecuador	\$5,930	\$5,934.90	18,190,484
Paraguay	\$5,340	\$5,400.10	6,861,524
Suriname	\$4,440	\$4,836.30	623,236
Bolivia	\$3,360	\$3,414.90	12,388,571

*Venezuela data current as of 2014

Source: World Bank, 2021

Western Hemisphere: Inflation, end of period

(year-over-year percent change)

	2021	EST. 2022	PROJECTIONS	
			2023	2024
North America	7.2	6.9	2.8	2.2
Canada	4.7	6.7	3.3	2.1
Mexico	7.4	8.5	4.8	3.5
United States	7.4	6.7	2.5	2.1
Puerto Rico	4.2	4.8	2.3	2.5
South America	14.1	18.3	12.7	8.9
Argentina	50.9	95.9	60.0	44.0
Bolivia	0.9	3.8	3.5	3.5
Brazil	10.1	5.8	5.7	3.5
Chile	7.1	12.5	5.0	3.0
Colombia	5.6	12.7	7.3	3.2
Ecuador	1.9	3.7	2.3	1.3
Paraguay	6.8	8.2	4.2	4.0
Peru	6.4	8.0	3.0	2.3
Uruguay	8.0	8.9	7.2	5.8
Venezuela	686.4	220.0	150.0	n.a.
CAPDR	5.1	7.4	4.5	3.5
Costa Rica	3.3	8.3	4.1	3.4
Dominican Republic	8.5	7.2	4.9	4.0
El Salvador	6.1	6.0	2.0	1.5
Guatemala	3.1	10.0	5.5	4.5
Honduras	5.3	9.8	6.2	4.0
Nicaragua	7.2	11.2	6.1	4.8
Panama	2.6	2.2	3.1	2.0

Source: International Monetary Fund

Chinese Loans in Latin America



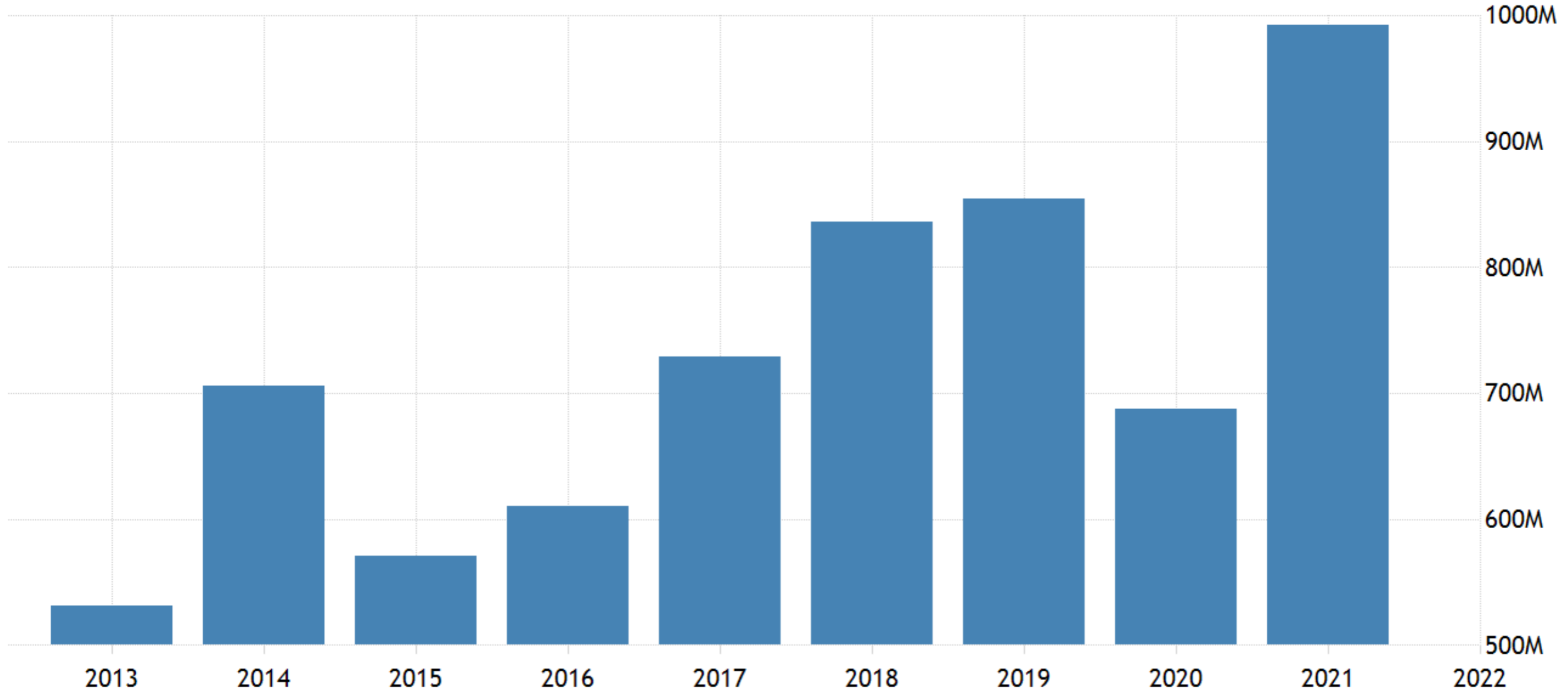
Source: Boston University Global Policy Development Center

China and LAC

Country	Recognizes China's claim over Taiwan	Belt and Road Initiative participant	Using or planning to use Huawei equipment in 5G networks
Antigua and Barbuda	Yes	Yes	No data
Argentina	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bahamas	Yes, as of 1997*	No	No data
Barbados	Yes, as of 1977*	Yes	No data
Belize	No	No	No data
Bolivia	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brazil	Yes	No	Yes
Chile	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colombia	Yes, as of 1980*	No	Yes
Costa Rica	Yes, as of 2007*	Yes	No data
Cuba	Yes	Yes	No data
Dominica	Yes, as of 2004*	Yes	No data
Dominican Republic	Yes, as of 2018*	Yes	Yes
Ecuador	Yes	Yes	Yes
El Salvador	Yes, as of 2018*	Yes	No data
Grenada	Yes, as of 2005*	Yes	No data
Guatemala	No	No	No data
Guyana	Yes	Yes	No data
Haiti	No	No	No data
Honduras	No	No	No data
Jamaica	Yes	Yes	No data
Mexico	Yes	No	Yes, with restrictions
Nicaragua	Yes, as of 2021*	Yes	No data
Panama	Yes, as of 2017*	Yes	No data
Paraguay	No	No	No data
Peru	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saint Kitts and Nevis	No	No	No data
Saint Lucia	No	No	No data
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	No	No	No data
Suriname	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trinidad and Tobago	Yes	Yes	Yes
Uruguay	Yes	Yes	Yes
Venezuela	Yes	Yes	No data

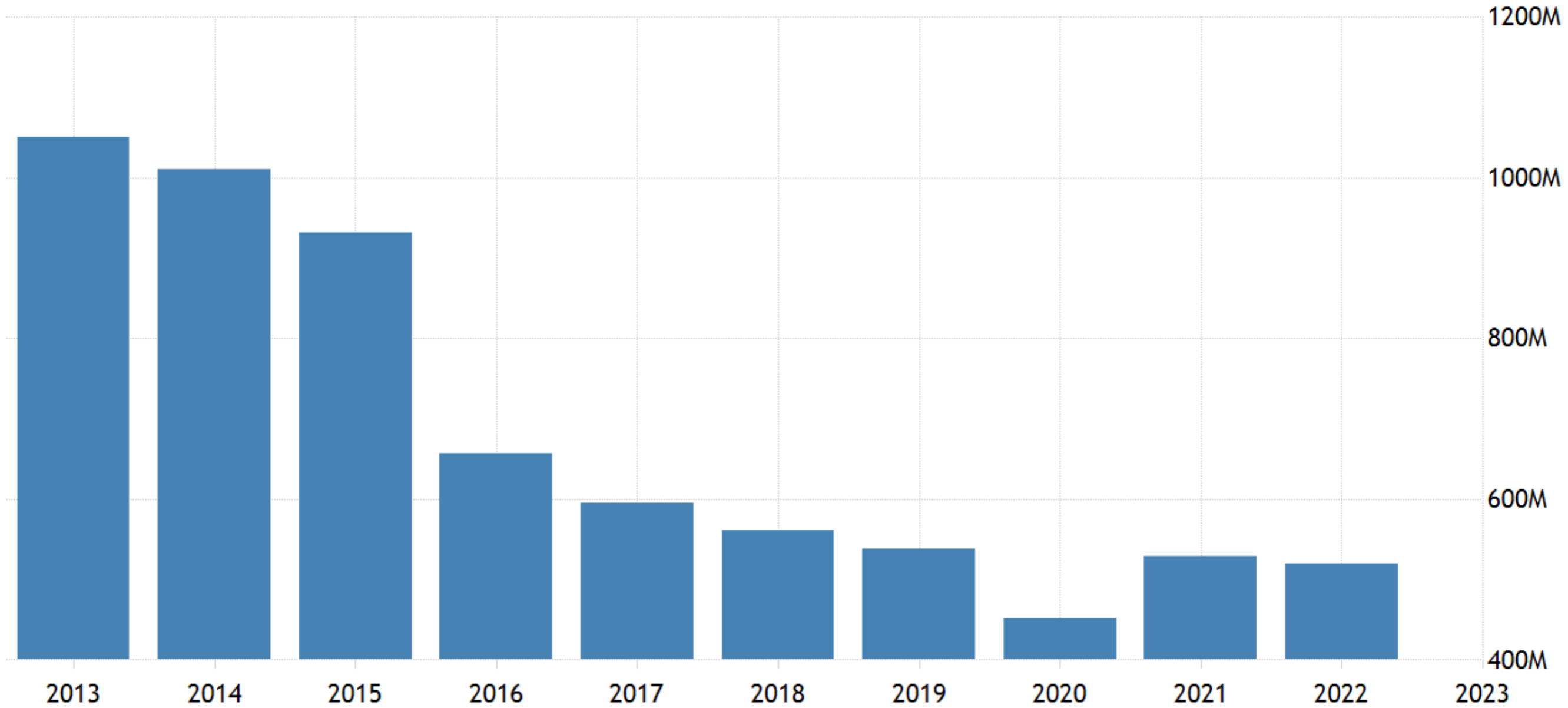
Source: Council on Foreign Relations

China Exports to Bolivia



Source: Trading Economics

U.S. Exports to Bolivia



Source: Trading Economics

Diminished U.S. Influence in LAC

- ❖ Pending or no U.S. Ambassador in seven countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, and Peru**
- ❖ U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela based in Colombia**
- ❖ Recognized failed presidents in Venezuela (Guaidó) and Bolivia (Añez)**
- ❖ Does not recognize legitimacy of longest-serving president in LAC (Ortega, Nicaragua)**

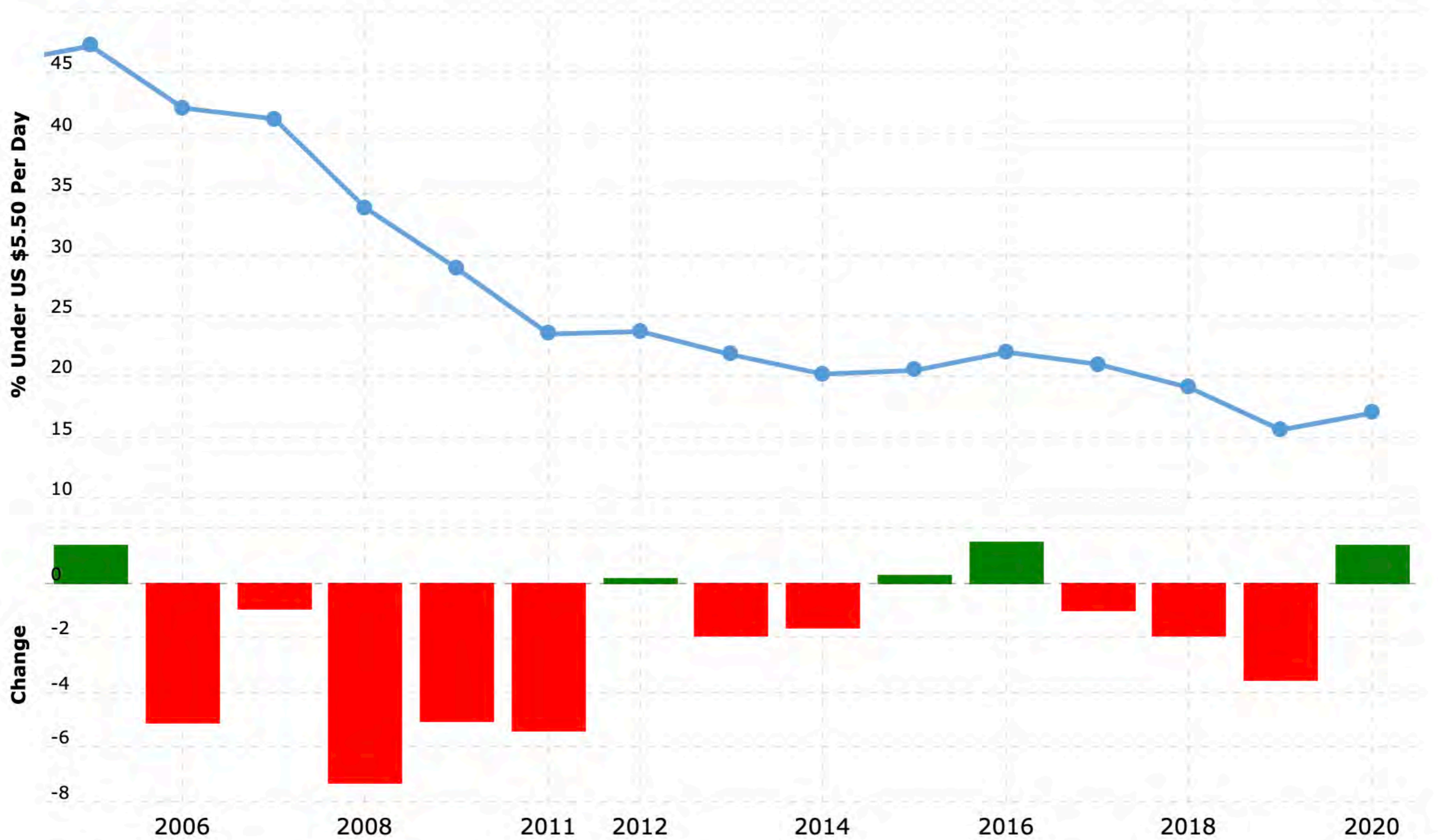
Source: American Foreign Service Association

Socialism in Bolivia

- ❖ Followed blueprint of Chavez Era in Venezuela
- ❖ In South America, Bolivia has the second-lowest Human Development Index, a measure of health, education, and income (UN Development Programme, 2021)
- ❖ Voting is mandatory for all adults (18 years and older)
- ❖ Five-year presidential term, no limit on number of terms served
- ❖ One year of military service is mandated for all adult males
- ❖ Mandatory increases and bonuses for all public and private salaried employees each year
- ❖ Since 2012, currency (boliviano) has remained stable against the U.S. dollar (6.9:1)

Poverty Rate in Bolivia

From: 2005 To: 2020



Source: World Bank

Bolivia's Loss of Land



Source: U.S. Army Special Operations History Office

Coca in Bolivia

- ❖ **World's third-largest producer of coca, behind Colombia and Peru**
- ❖ **In March 2023, Colombia and Bolivia petition U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs to remove coca as a prohibited substance**
- ❖ **Drug trade fueling illicit businesses**
- ❖ **Stepan Company's plant in NJ is only commercial entity authorized to import coca leaf into U.S.**

Source: White House ONDCP 2022

Lithium in Bolivia

- ❖ **World's largest salt flat, Salar de Uyuni**
- ❖ **World's largest identified lithium resources, 21 million tons**
- ❖ **Signed \$1B contract with Chinese consortium to develop untapped lithium deposits**
- ❖ **Has yet to produce commercial quantities**
- ❖ **Environmental conditions impede extraction**

Pervasive Informal Economies

Informal Economy Size (% of GDP): All Countries

Latest Data

Afghanistan	72.0
Zimbabwe	64.1
Nigeria	57.7
Haiti	55.1
Bolivia	54.8
Nicaragua	52.5
Panama	51.6
Gabon	51.6
Myanmar	49.0
Benin	48.8
Guatemala	48.6
Congo, Dem. Rep	48.3

Source: World Economics

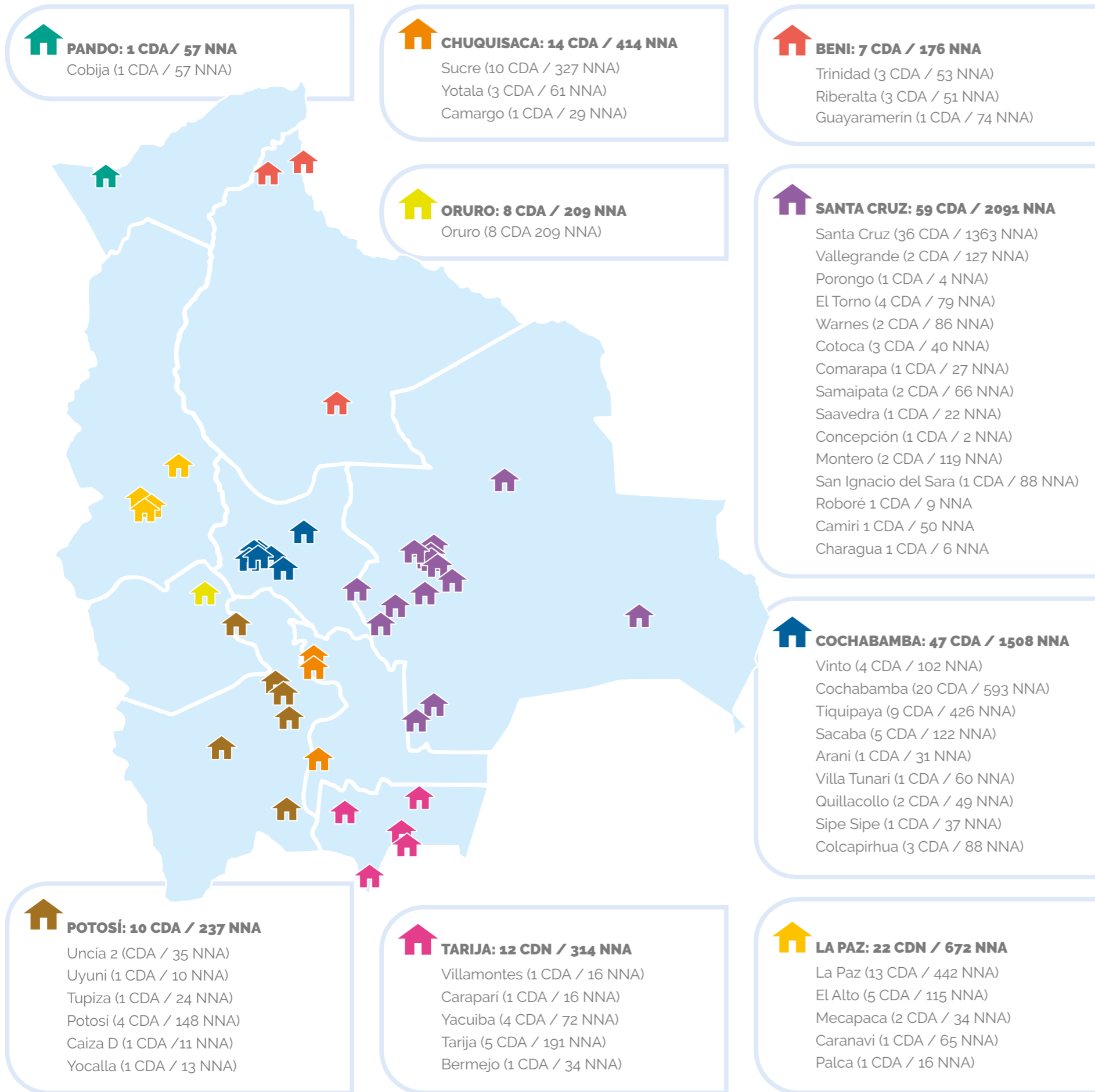
The Village of Aramasí



The Village of Aramasí



Bolivian Orphanages



❖ 5,678 children

❖ Siblings separated

❖ Age out at 18

❖ Little or no gov't funding

❖ Domestic violence against women

❖ Absent fathers



Source: UNICEF, 2021

Bolivian Documentaries

- ❖ Our Brand is Crisis (2005) (not the Sandra Bullock movie)
- ❖ Cocalero (2007)
- ❖ The Devil's Miner (2005)
- ❖ Weaving Stories (2015)
- ❖ Salero (2016)
- ❖ Cocaine Prison (2017)
- ❖ The Fight (2017)
- ❖ When the Bull Cried (2017)
- ❖ Most Dangerous Ways to School: Bolivia (2019)
- ❖ A Taste of Sky (2019)

Books on Bolivia

- ❖ *Water for All: Community, Property, and Revolution in Modern Bolivia* (Sarah Hines, 2021)
- ❖ *Dignity and Defiance: Stories from Bolivia's Challenge to Globalization* (Jim Shultz and Melissa Draper, 2009)
- ❖ *Whispering in the Giant's Ear: A Frontline Chronicle from Bolivia's War on Globalization* (William Powers, 2006)
- ❖ *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent* (Eduardo Galeano, 1997)
- ❖ *¡Gracias!: A Latin American Journal* (Henri Nouwen, 1993)