



MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: BOLIVIA

ICA – EU PARTNERSHIP



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I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report is part of a Mapping exercise launched by the International Cooperative Alliance and its regional offices, within the framework of a partnership signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-2020. The programme aims to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development. Other research projects led within this partnership include a worldwide Legal Frameworks Analysis, and several thematic researches on themes of significance for cooperatives.

Responding to challenges and existing knowledge gaps facing the cooperative movement, this research seeks to provide exhaustive information on cooperatives worldwide. This is achieved through a process jointly conducted by the ICA and its four regional offices – Cooperatives of the Americas, Cooperatives Europe, ICA Africa, and ICA Asia-Pacific – using a common methodology. Each office collected the input of ICA members present in the countries within its geographic area, by using the same questionnaire, and completing it with relevant national statistics, in order to obtain an accurate picture of the national situation.

Mapping out cooperatives in each country provides a more precise picture of the cooperative context at national and regional levels, enhances the movement's visibility, networking, partnerships opportunities, as well as advocacy, and empowers cooperators by providing them tools for positive change.

Within this framework, the present report showcases information about the cooperative landscape in Bolivia.

i. Historical background

The 2012 ICA and ILO Joint Publication¹ mentions that the genealogy of Andean cooperative work is based on the ayni (reciprocity) and on the ayllu (community site), ancestral pre-Hispanic forms of organization for social production, which preserve the structure of the Tahuantinsuyo empire, based on the economic unit-social cooperative work of the ayllu and its integration into the brand, a collectivist federative form.

As a result of these ancestral manifestations, in the 1930s and early 1940s, different development theses were elaborated on the traditional bases of associated work and pre-cooperative life. It is then when cooperativism begins to be established as a revolutionary and modern form of economic organization and is considered viable, on one hand, due to the easy conversion of indigenous communities into socialist cooperatives and, on the other, as part of the democratic bourgeois revolution.

The Bolivian cooperative movement arose from the concept of an “idealistic association” of individual production and marketing, promoted by ex-combatants of the Chaco War, constituted as recipients of land, machinery, equipment and seeds. This is how the first agricultural and livestock cooperatives were formed in areas near the defended oil zones of Choreti, Camiri and Sanandita. This process continued with a state intervention for cooperative development, empowering the emerging movement and rapidly spreading it to other sectors. In this period, the Federation of Urban Teachers of Bolivia was created, which promoted the Decree Law for the Creation of Cooperatives and Healthcare Assistance of December 2, 1939.

The aforementioned process also led to the expansion of this economic model to other sectors, such as manufacturing and mining, with the Supreme Decree of Consumer Cooperative Societies of May 20, 1941. This cooperative impulse led to the establishment of the cooperative model in telecommunications, by means of the Supreme Decree of Organization and Operation of Technical Services of Tramways and Telephones of December 14, 1944.

¹ Mogrovejo, R. & Vanhuynegem, P. (2012). Overview of the cooperative sector in Bolivia: A unique model of cooperative development. Available at: [http://www2.congreso.gob.pe/sicr/cendocbib/con5_uibd.nsf/341836C5E17928840525829F00775E63/\\$FILE/Visi%C3%B3n_panor%C3%A1mica_sector_Coop_Bolivia.pdf](http://www2.congreso.gob.pe/sicr/cendocbib/con5_uibd.nsf/341836C5E17928840525829F00775E63/$FILE/Visi%C3%B3n_panor%C3%A1mica_sector_Coop_Bolivia.pdf)

ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Bolivia, the present section provides key data from the country's public registers as a useful background context to the ICA members' data showcased in Section II of the report.

The data presented here come from the National Cooperative Diagnosis of Concobol in 2008².

NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

For 2008, the Concobol National Cooperative Diagnosis identified a total of 1 170 cooperatives in Bolivia.

EMPLOYMENT:

Likewise, the National Cooperative Diagnosis of Concobol counted 29 550 direct jobs generated by Bolivian cooperatives, of which 18% correspond to women and 82% to men.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The National Cooperative Diagnosis of Concobol counted 2 280 015 cooperative memberships in Bolivia, of which 18% correspond to women and 82% to men.

PRODUCTION VALUE:

Cooperatives billed a total of 8.5 thousand million bolivars (BOB) in 2008, which is close to one thousand million euros (EUR)³.

² Concobol. (2008). National Cooperative Diagnosis: Executive Summary. Digital Version.

³ Exchange rate in December 2012 from InfoEuro, 1EUR = 8.5BOB

iii. Research methodology

The aim of the mapping research is to collect and make publicly available reliable and up-to-date data to understand what the cooperative movement represents in the targeted country. With this view, the data detailed in the present report has been collected using the methodology detailed below.

The methodological tools include a questionnaire used to collect the data, which was distributed online to the members, as well as a methodological note provided for further guidance. They were built jointly with all ICA regional offices with the support of external experts from the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) and are applied in a harmonised way in all the target countries.

The classifications used in the research are consistent with the internal system used within the ICA movement (e.g. on membership status and types of cooperative organisations) and with standards increasingly adopted in recent studies and by international organisations like the ILO – e.g. using international classifications of economic activities such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) rev. 4, which ensures the comparability of statistics both nationally and internationally, as well as with statistics on other forms of enterprises.

Regarding the target organisations, considering that a worldwide survey has very challenging goals, and while the value of directly collecting data from non-member cooperatives must be recognised, the present Mapping exercise targets cooperative organisations members of the ICA.

Furthermore, in order to complete the ICA members' data, the decision was taken to also look at external sources, to provide additional and more exhaustive cooperative statistics for the country. As a result, the data is collected following two strategies contemporaneously: 1) collecting statistics already available in the country; 2) carrying out a survey targeting ICA cooperative members.

In Bolivia, the mapping questionnaire was distributed and completed by 1 ICA member organization. After further follow-up of the surveyed members, the figures provided were compiled to be presented in the next section.

II. KEY FIGURES

This section presents the results of data collection conducted by ICA members.

Bolivia has 3 ICA member organizations (all as full members):

- **Cooperativa Rural de Electrificación R.L. (CRE).** Full member.

Founded in 1962 with the objective of providing quality and reliable electric power service, to respond to the demands of the population under a cooperative model with a high social focus. Sector: Utilities.

- **Cooperativa de Telecomunicaciones Santa Cruz (COTAS Ltda.).** Full member.

It has been operating since 1963, and is currently a global telecommunications operator, providing fixed telephony, wireless fixed telephony, national and international long-distance telephony, data transmission, satellite solutions, Internet and pay television. Sector: Utilities.

- **Cooperativa Boliviana de Cemento, Industrias y Servicios (COBOCE LTDA.).** Full member.

Founded in 1966 as a cement industry and with the passing of time it diversified its activities to other activities such as ceramics, concrete, metal, construction and even an opinion editorial. Sector: Industry.

ICA member organizations are directly or indirectly active in the following sectors>

- Industry
- Utilities

iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided for the year 2018, as supplied by the member cooperatives.

v. General overview

This section provides an overview of the ICA membership data for Bolivia. It is displayed in various categories and supported by tables and graphs, for clarity.

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	3
Number of memberships	123 870
Number of employees	564

Overall, ICA members represent 3 cooperatives in the country, with a total number of memberships of 123 870 and a total number of 564 employees.

vi. Sector overview

The sectors used below correspond to the categories used in the ISIC rev. 4. to classify the economic activities carried out by the organisations concerned. With regards to the turnover, where available, the amount is provided in bolivars (BOB).

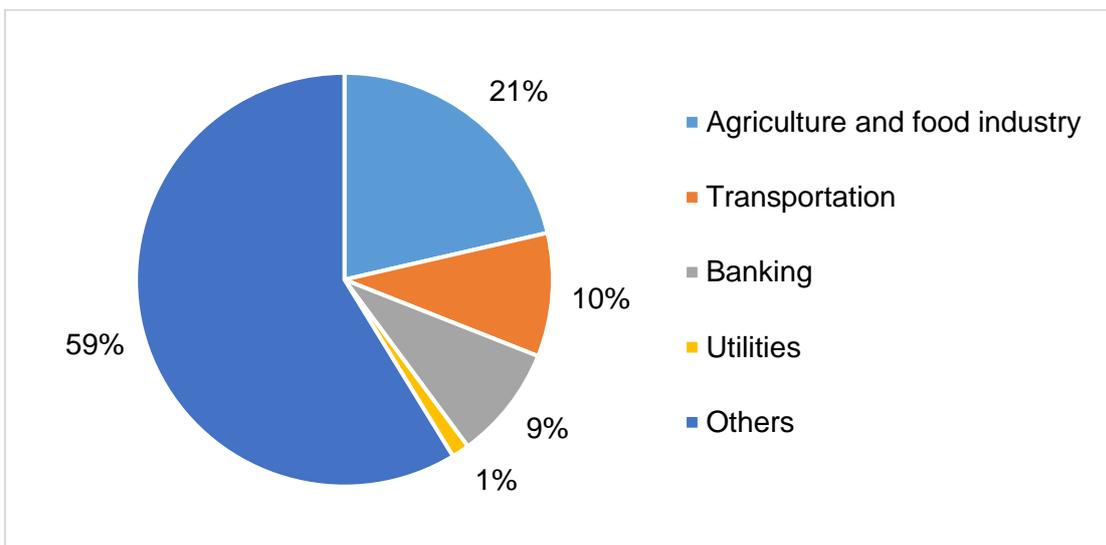
A general overview is provided in the chart below:

Sector	Cooperatives	Employees	Membership	Turnover
Agriculture and food industry	250	921	15 836	82 397 306
Transportation	113	449	9 408	24 480 140
Banking	104	2 406	721 687	398 765 596
Utilities	16	3 278	515 179	1 395 479 001
Others	687	22 496	1 017 905	6 640 368 951
Total	1 170	29 550	2 280 015	8 541 490 994

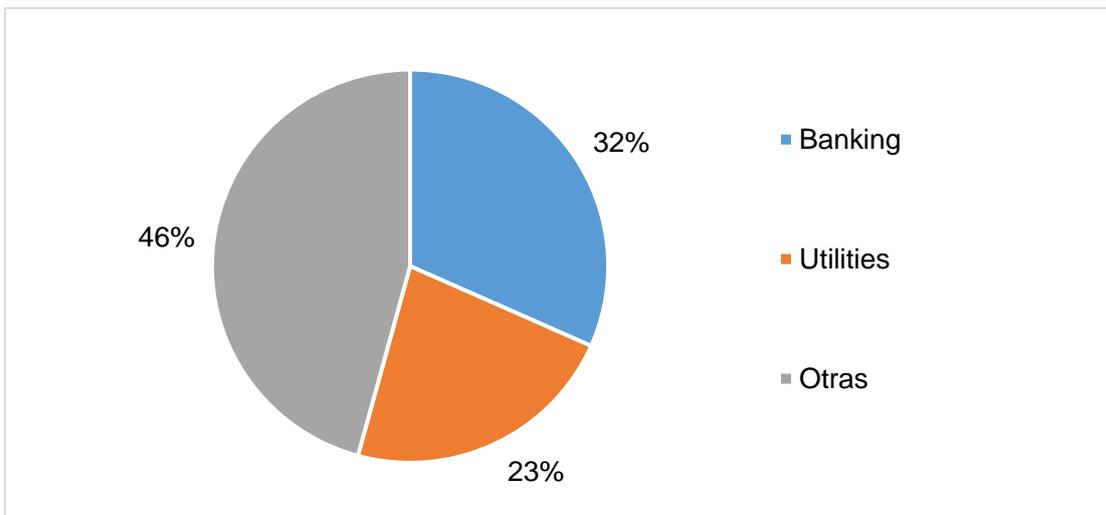
III. GRAPHS

Specific variables are also detailed in the graphs below when sectorial data was available.

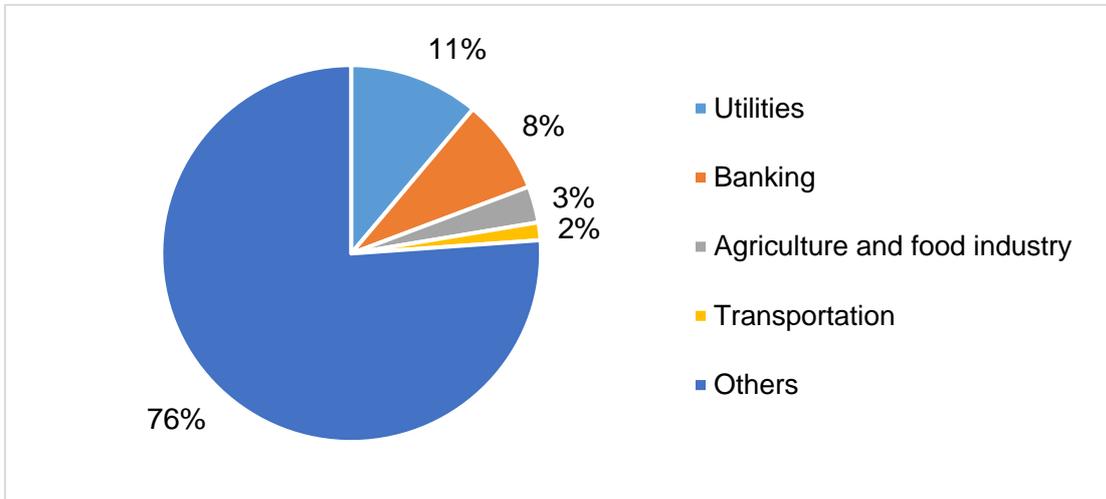
vii. Percentage of total cooperatives by sector



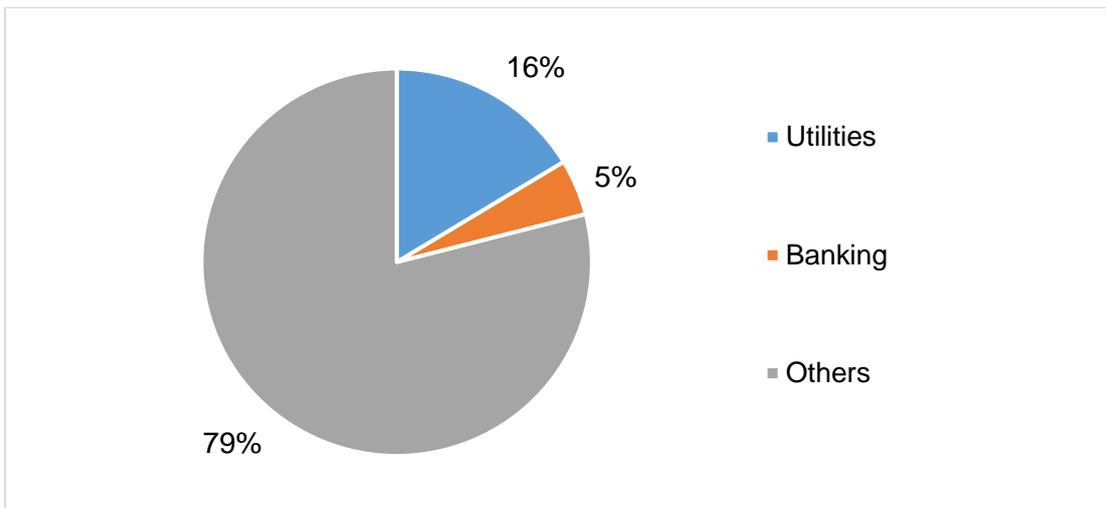
viii. Percentage of total memberships by sector



ix. Percentage of total employees by sector



x. Percentage of total turnover by sector



IV. ANNEXES

Sources:

Mogrovejo, R. & Vanhuynegem, P. (2012). Overview of the cooperative sector in Bolivia: A unique model of cooperative development. Available at:
[http://www2.congreso.gob.pe/sicr/cendocbib/con5_uibd.nsf/341836C5E17928840525829F00775E63/\\$FILE/Visi%C3%B3n_panor%C3%A1mica_sector_Coop_Bolivia.pdf](http://www2.congreso.gob.pe/sicr/cendocbib/con5_uibd.nsf/341836C5E17928840525829F00775E63/$FILE/Visi%C3%B3n_panor%C3%A1mica_sector_Coop_Bolivia.pdf)

Concobil. (2008). National Cooperative Diagnosis: Executive Summary. Digital Version.

Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on www.coops4dev.coop

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