



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the UK and Ireland

Fact Sheet: VENEZUELA AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

WHAT ARE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

At the Millennium Summit in 2000 all 192 UN nations agreed on eight international development goals to tackle issues such as eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting disease epidemics such as AIDS, and developing a global partnership for development by the year 2015.

Venezuela has already achieved the majority of the goals and is well on target to tackle the remaining challenges by the 2015 deadline.

EIGHT GOALS

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality rate
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

“What Venezuela has achieved with regards to the Millennium Development Goals should serve as a model for all other countries.”

Ali Abdessalam Treki, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations

VENEZUELA’S ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- The Bolivarian government achieved this goal in 2006 when extreme poverty was reduced to 12.5 percent. In 2009, Venezuela went beyond its Millennium Development Goal and further reduced extreme poverty to 7.2 percent.
- Extreme poverty was reduced by 70 percent between 1990 and 2009.

- Unemployment has been cut to 7.5 percent
- Under the previous government, malnutrition was actually rising. In 1990 11 percent of people were malnourished; by

1998 the figure had risen to 21 percent.

Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education

- Venezuela is on target to achieve this goal well before 2015.
- Venezuela has increased spending on education from 5.4 percent of GDP in 2000 to 6.3 percent of GDP in 2008.
- Under the previous government, primary school enrollment averaged 86.6 percent. The figure now stands at over 93.3 percent.



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Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women

- Gender equality in the education sector has already been achieved. Since 1999 more girls than boys have registered in schools, a ratio of 103 girls for every 100 boys
- Women are enjoying greater equality in the employment sector
- The current government created the Ministry for Women and Gender Equality as well as the women's development bank Banmujer.
- Today, four out of the five Venezuelan state powers are headed by women.

Goal 4 - Reduce child mortality rate

- In 1990 the child mortality rate was 25.8 per 1000 live births. The figure now stands at 13.9 percent.
- Venezuela launched Mission Barrio Adentro in 2003 which has reduced infant mortality. The government has tackled the main causes of infant mortality by providing clean water, ensuring parents' access to education and investing in new technologies for the health service.

Goal 5 - Improve maternal health

- Mission Baby Jesus was launched in 2009 to improve care for pregnant women and newborns. This also includes the construction of Casas Maternas (maternity shelters) to provide care and

supervision to mothers in the days leading up to the birth.

- Maternal mortality was 56.8 per 1000 mothers in 2007 which is still high. For this reason, care for pregnant women has taken precedence.
- Other programmes include Proyecto Madre and the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme.

Goal 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

- The government has significantly increased treatment for people suffering from HIV and AIDS with a policy of free and universal supply of antiretroviral drugs to sufferers.
- In 2003, the Bolivarian Government launched the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan (Penvih, in Spanish).
- Spending on HIV in Venezuela has exceeded US \$ 230 million

Goal 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability

- The Bolivarian constitution enshrines the need for sustainability of the biosphere, preservation of water basins, natural parks etc.
- Venezuela is one the countries with the highest proportion of protected land areas in the Americas, (73 percent of Venezuelan territory is protected).
- Deforestation has been halted. Mission Arbol has planted over 22,000 trees since the launch of the project in 2006.



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- In 2005 Venezuela eliminated the polluting agent tetraethyl lead in gasoline
- In 2007 Venezuela banned the use of CFC (chlorofluorocarbon)
- Venezuela has successfully lowered CO2 emissions
- Venezuela is recovering fish stocks thanks to the ban on industrial trawling
- The goal to provide access to clean drinking water was achieved in 2001. 94 percent of the population now have access to clean water.

“The Millennium Development Goals have helped orientate the Venezuelan national development strategies in guaranteeing the exercise of human rights”

Hugo Chávez Frías
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Goal 8 - Develop a global partnership for development

- Venezuela has created universal access to information and communication technology to aid participatory democracy and socioeconomic development. The number of internet users has grown six fold since 2000
- After Cantv was nationalized, Venezuela now ranks number two in Latin America for the proportion of the population with access to a fixed telephone line.
- Venezuela implemented the National Technological Literacy plan in 2006 to provide free software and computers to schools.