



FACT SHEET: MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



In September 2000, the member-states of the United Nations gathered in New York and signed the UN Millennium Declaration, an ambitious set of goals aimed at reducing global poverty and improving the lives of the billions of people that struggle on a daily basis.

The declaration laid out eight time-bound targets, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), that each country should seek to reach by 2015 – including halving poverty and hunger, achieving universal education, moving towards gender equality, promoting child and maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, promoting environmental

sustainability, and fostering a global partnership for development.

In late September 2010, the UN held a summit to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

VENEZUELA'S PROGRESS

During the September 2010 summit, Venezuela presented its advances on the goals, reporting that dramatic increases in social spending and innovative social programs had pushed Venezuela closer to achieving all eight goals.

“With the leadership of President Hugo Chávez, Venezuela has achieved the majority of the Millennium Development Goals,” said Jorge Valero, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the country’s Permanent Representative to the UN during a speech at the summit.

According to a Venezuelan government report on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals published in May 2010, Venezuela reached its targets in a number of goals (five years ahead of schedule), including the decrease of poverty and hunger and the

Progress on the Millennium Development Goals

>Venezuela reached some important MDG targets, like halving its rate of extreme poverty, five years ahead of schedule.

>Venezuela’s dramatic increases in social spending and innovative social programs have pushed Venezuela closer to achieving all eight goals.

>Venezuela will reach all MDG by the 2015 deadline.

eradication of illiteracy, and will meet remaining goals such as universal access to education and a significant reduction in maternal mortality by the 2015 deadline.¹

Venezuela’s advances come as a consequence of the government’s aggressive promotion of social development. From 1999 to 2009, for example, 60 percent of all government revenues have been destined to social programs aimed at tackling poverty, education, health, housing, and food security.

POVERTY AND HUNGER

Halving Extreme Poverty: In 2002, extreme poverty in Venezuela stood at 25 percent. By 2006, it had decreased to 12.5 percent, and in 2009 it reached 7.2 percent.

Achieve Full and Productive Employment: Despite a global financial crisis, unemployment in Venezuela decreased from a high of 16.8 percent in 2003 to 7.5 percent in 2009.

Halving Hunger: The prevalence of under-nutrition – a key aspect of hunger – has fallen dramatically in Venezuela. It stood at 21 percent from 1998-2000, and dropped to 6 percent in 2005-2007, a level considered “low” by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

Completion of Primary Schooling: During the academic years 1995-1996/2000-2001, 75 percent of students that entered the first grade completed their primary education. By 2003-2004/2008-2009, that number grew to 84 percent.



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United States

GENDER EQUALITY

Elimination of Gender Disparities in Education: The level of parity between men and women in higher education in Venezuela has increased since 1994, when it stood at 0.99. As of 2009, it reached 1.46, indicating that more Venezuelan women are pursuing higher education.

This improvement is further evidenced by the number of women working in the non-agriculture sector: in 1994, the number stood at 35.44 percent, growing to 41.96 percent in 2009.

Additionally, **four of Venezuela's five branches of government are led by women** – the legislature, the judiciary, the electoral authority, and the citizen's branch (attorney general, ombudswoman, comptroller general).

CHILD MORTALITY

Reduction of Under-Five Mortality: In 2008, the child mortality rate for children under the age of five stood at 16.35 per 1,000 births, a 49 percent decrease from 1990. In the same time-frame, the child mortality rate for children under the age of one fell from 25.8 to 13.9 per 1,000 births.

MATERNAL HEALTH

Reduction in Maternal Mortality: Venezuela's maternal mortality rate dropped from 68 per 1,000 births in 2002 to 56.8 per 1,000 births in 2007.

HIV/AIDS AND OTHER DISEASES

Combat HIV/AIDS: In 2002, only 7,170 Venezuelans with HIV/AIDS received anti-retroviral medication free of charge. By 2009, 32,302 patients received this medication free of charge. The government is continuously working on preventive campaigns to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Decline Rate of Tuberculosis Infections: From 1990 to 2008, the rate of tuberculosis infections in Venezuela declined from 4.11 to 2.30 per 100,000 residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Integration of Sustainable Development Principles: The principles of environmental protection and sustainability are outlined both in Venezuelan laws and in the country's constitution. This integration has led to a considerable slowing of the rate of deforestation since 1990.

Protection of Biological Diversity: Since the mid-1990s, Venezuela has taken steps to protect marine and terrestrial stocks and lands. From 2003-2008, for example, the percentage of protected marine and terrestrial areas stood at 66.24 percent of Venezuela's total area, an increase from the 65 percent between 1993-2002.

Access to Drinking Water: The percentage of Venezuela's population with access to safe drinking water has increased from 80 percent in 1998 to 94 percent in 2008. Additionally, the collection of wastewater has expanded from 62 percent to 83 percent over the same period.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Availability of New Technologies: Venezuela has made great strides in making communications and information technologies widely available. From 2000 to 2009, the number of Venezuelans with landline telephones increased from 2,535,966 to 6,866,626, while the number of subscribers to mobile telephone services jumped from 5,447,172 to 29,625,388. In the same period, access to the Internet rose from 273,537 to 2,033,858.

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¹ "Cumpliendo las Metas del Milenio 2010," República Bolivariana de Venezuela. <http://www.scribd.com/doc/33319964/Cumpliendo-las-Metas-del-Milenio-2010#fullscreen:off>