



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the U.S.

# FACT SHEET: TWELVE YEARS, TWELVE ADVANCES

## *The Most Important Advances Under Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution*



**DEMOCRACY IS UP** Since 1998, there have been 16 elections in Venezuela, including a vote on a new constitution in 1999 and a first-of-its-kind recall referendum in

2004.<sup>1</sup> Not only have there been more elections, but more people are voting – the 2006 presidential election had 74 percent turnout, while the 1998 election saw only 54 percent, according to the National Electoral Council.

**SOCIAL SPENDING IS UP** According to Venezuela's National Institute of Statistics, the accumulated government investment in social programs from 1999 to 2009 came to \$330 billion, five times the investment made in the decade prior and the equivalent of more than 60 percent of all national revenues in those years.<sup>2</sup>

**LITERACY IS UP** After teaching 1.5 million Venezuelans to read, in 2005 UNESCO declared the country free of illiteracy. The recognition puts Venezuela as only the second country in the region, alongside Cuba, to reach this milestone.<sup>3</sup>

**HEALTH SERVICES ARE UP** With Mision Barrio Adentro – “In the Neighborhood” – medical clinics have been brought to communities that never had them before. From 2003 to 2010, there were 432 million visits to the clinics and over 300,000 lives were saved.<sup>4</sup>

**GENDER EQUALITY IS UP** Through the end of 2010, four of Venezuela's five branches of government were led by women. In 2011, women lead three of the five branches.

**TECHNOLOGY IS UP** Access to the Internet has increased from three percent of the population to over 33 percent in recent years. In 2010 alone, Internet service increased 43 percent, reaching 9.7 million Venezuelans. Additionally, the use of mobile phones has almost doubled, from 7.9 million to 14 million.<sup>5</sup>



**POVERTY IS DOWN** Since 1998, poverty has been cut in half and extreme poverty has decreased by two-thirds. A recent report from the UN's Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) recognized that by 2008 poverty in Venezuela was down to 27.6%.<sup>6</sup>

**INEQUALITY IS DOWN** Between 1998 and 2008, Venezuela saw a 17.9-percent decrease in economic inequality, a rate five times that of its regional neighbors. According to ECLAC, Venezuela and Uruguay are the countries with least inequality in the region.<sup>7</sup>

**MALNUTRITION IS DOWN** The level of under-nutrition in Venezuela fell from 11 percent in 1990 to six percent in 2007, and 14 million Venezuelans now have access to high-quality foods at subsidized prices.

**UNEMPLOYMENT IS DOWN** In 2003, close to 17 percent of Venezuelans were out of work. In February 2011, unemployment hit 8.8 percent.<sup>8</sup>

**DISCRIMINATION IS DOWN** Under the 1999 Constitution, indigenous languages are formally recognized and members of indigenous groups are given three seats in the National Assembly. Additionally, Venezuela has embraced its Afro-descendant population. In May 2011 – the Month of the Afro-Descendent – the National Assembly approved the Organic Law Against Racial Discrimination, a novel legislative mechanism to eradicate and punish racism.<sup>9</sup>

**MEDIA CONCENTRATION IS DOWN** Community-based radio stations, which did not exist in 1998, now number 243. Community-based television stations, which also didn't exist, number 37 today. Additionally, independent national production has increased considerably – currently 21,000 Venezuelans are producing independent material for radio and television. A review of the Venezuelan television audience share from 2000-2010 reveals that the private channels overwhelmingly dominate the Venezuelan media market.<sup>10</sup>

For more information, visit our website at [venezuela-us.org](http://venezuela-us.org) or write us at [prensa@venezuela-us.org](mailto:prensa@venezuela-us.org)

Follow Us: [Twitter.com/VzlaEmbassyUS](https://twitter.com/VzlaEmbassyUS)  
Friend Us: [Facebook.com/VzlaEmbassyUS](https://www.facebook.com/VzlaEmbassyUS)



Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the U.S.

# FACT SHEET: **TWELVE YEARS, TWELVE ADVANCES**

## *Progress Under Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution*

### *Sources*

1. Elections were held in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. The National Electoral Council's website can be found at <http://cne.gov.ve>
2. "Venezuela has invested more than \$330 billion in social projects," Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, July 29, 2010. <http://venezuela-us.org/2010/07/29/venezuela-has-invested-more-than-us-330-billion-in-social-project/#more-12831>
3. "UNESCO hails Venezuela's leading role in illiteracy reduction," Xinhua, August 31, 2010. <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90856/7124198.html>
4. "Over 300,000 lives saved by Mision Barrio Adentro," Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, April 18, 2011. <http://venezuela-us.org/2011/04/18/over-300000-lives-have-been-saved-by-mision-barrio-adentro/#more-16388>
5. "Internet usage advances in Venezuela," Venezuela Analysis, August 28, 2010. <http://venezuelanalysis.com/news/5596>
6. ECLAC, Social Panorama of Latin America 2010. P. 47. <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/1/41801/PSI2010-Chapter-I-Poverty.pdf>
7. ECLAC, Social Panorama of Latin America 2010. P. 49. <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/1/41801/PSI2010-Chapter-I-Poverty.pdf>
8. "Desempleo en Venezuela se sitúa en el 8,8% en febrero," Diariocritico de Venezuela, March 28, 2011. <http://www.diariocritico.com/2011/Marzo/noticias/262058/desempleo-en-venezuela-se-situa-en-el-88--en-febrero.html>
9. "Law against racial discrimination approved," Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, May 11, 2011. <http://venezuela-us.org/2011/05/11/law-against-racial-discrimination-approved/#more-16564>
10. "Televisión in Venezuela: Who dominates the media?," CEPR, December 2010. [http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/2010\\_12\\_venezuela\\_media.pdf](http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/2010_12_venezuela_media.pdf)