

Snapshot: Venezuela

*The Amazonas SDSN was established to develop a vision of sustainable development for the Amazon region and to bring together stakeholders to identify, share and promote new technologies, public policies and business models for sustainable development.* [*sdsn-amazonia.org*](http://sdsn-amazonia.org)

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# Background

Venezuela is located on the northern coastline of South America and shares borders (some contested) with Suriname, Brazil, and Colombia. Indigenous people resisted colonization by Spain in the 16th century, but eventually the Spanish gained control. In the early 19th century Venezuela gained independence from Spain as part of the federal republic or Gran Colombia, later becoming an independent country in 1821. Today it has a population of around 30 million, most living near the coast. Venezuela has been classified in the Human Development Index (HDI) as a high HDI country, ranking 71 out of 188 in the 2015 report. Countries with similar rankings include Iran, Costa Rica, Senegal, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Cote d’Ivoire.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The executive leadership of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is vested in the President, supported by a cabinet of Ministers appointed by the President.[[2]](#footnote-2) The government also includes a legislative branch consisting of a unicameral National Assembly and a judicial branch.

The economy is extremely dependent on oil revenues, which account for about 11% of GDP. Overall industry accounts for roughly a third of Venezuela’s economy, and services nearly 2/3, with just 3% left for agriculture. Venezuela’s GDP was around US $540 billion (PPP) in 2014, with a growth rate that fell from 5.6% in 2012 to -4% in 2014. Per capita GDP (PPP) in 2014 was around US $17,800.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Although definitions vary, roughly half of Venezuela’s land area is considered to be part of the Amazon rainforest ecosystem. The remaining half of the country can be divided between the Andes highlands of 1500 – 3000 meters in the northwest, and lowlands of 500 meters and lower along the north coast.

# SDG 1: Poverty

The MDG Country Progress Snapshot for Venezuela (updated in 2015) shows that in 1992 4.4% of the population was living on less than US $1.25 per day, while in 2006 that number had risen to 6.6%.[[4]](#footnote-4) According to other data sources, the situation is worse. According to the World Bank, about 32% of Venezuelans were living below the national poverty line in 2013,[[5]](#footnote-5) and a BBC article from 2015 placed the figure at 60%.[[6]](#footnote-6)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

High levels of poverty and the unequal distribution of poverty is a major challenge to achieving the SDGs. The regions with the highest levels of poverty those that are most difficult to reach and therefore have the lowest levels of service provision, making it difficult to bring about sustainable improvement on health, education, and agricultural outcomes. Further, most indigenous Venezuelans reside in these remote areas and have the highest levels of poverty relative to other ethnic and racial groups. However, another challenge is the relevance of an indicator such as *population living on less than US $1.25 per day* in assessing the poverty status of these populations; many of them wish to preserve traditional knowledge and use of forest resources to satisfy basic needs such as food and shelter. For these communities, using an indicator of multidimensional poverty that looks at their access to services and general well-being rather than income in currency will be important in measuring poverty.

# SDG 2: Hunger & Agriculture

In 1991, 14.1% of the population was below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption, but by 2015 this fell to below 5%. Venezuela has therefore met the MDG target for dietary energy consumption.[[7]](#footnote-7) The World Health Organization estimates that around 13% of children under age 5 are stunted, indicating that micronutrient deficiency remains a problem.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Roughly a third of Venezuela’s land area is devoted to agriculture;[[9]](#footnote-9) however, only 3% of the country’s GDP is from the agricultural sector (the majority is from oil exports), and only 7% of Venezuelans are employed in agriculture.[[10]](#footnote-10) In the sparsely populated forested states, most residents participate in subsistence agriculture.

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Much could be done to reinvigorate the agricultural sector in Venezuela, and especially in the expansion of agricultural exports. Rubber, Brazil nuts, and palm fiber were major exports in previous centuries but are no longer produced for export. Investments in agriculture are an option to diversify the economy and reduce dependence on oil. Recently, there have been moves to produce high-quality cocoa for export. There are also opportunities for expansion of forestry operations, although these policies will need to be balanced with stamping out illegal logging operations in the Amazon rainforest and strict regulation to prevent the loss of natural forest cover.

# SDG 3: Health & Well-Being

During the MDG period under-5 mortality fell significantly in Venezuela, from 29.5 deaths per 1,000 births in 1990 to 14.9 in 2013. Other indicators on child health show mixed results; while measles immunization rates are around 90% in recent years, DTP3 immunization is inconsistent, ranging between 60 and 80%. Under-5 stunting has declined from 20% in 1990 to 15% in 2010, indicating that micronutrient deficiency remains an issue.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Maternal mortality rose from 93 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 110 in 2013, and births attended by skilled health personnel fell slightly, from 96% to 94%. However, over that same period the number of women receiving at least 4 antenatal visits rose from 61% to 86%.[[12]](#footnote-12)

On communicable diseases, there was success in reducing the number of tuberculosis (TB) deaths during the MDG period; the number of deaths per 100,000 people fell from 4.3 in 1990 to 1.6 in 2013. However, deaths due to HIV/AIDS also appear to be rising.[[13]](#footnote-13)

Non-communicable diseases are a growing concern in Venezuela. Cardiovascular disease and diabetes are the leading causes of death, while Venezuela has a higher prevalence of the risk factors hypertension and obesity relative to the regional average.[[14]](#footnote-14)

Health systems in Venezuela are primarily financed and delivered by the government. Despite providing a reasonably high level of care in the past, today systems are weak, as economic challenges have reduced government expenditures. Per capita health expenditure in Venezuela is dramatically lower than the regional average, with spending around $500 per capita in 2013 in Venezuela, versus an average around $3,300 for the region.[[15]](#footnote-15) Success under the SDGs will require major investment in health systems, especially to achieve universal health coverage and financial risk protection. Further, utilization of health services remains lower in Venezuela than in the rest of the region.[[16]](#footnote-16) Access to quality should be a priority during the SDG period, including expanding care to rural and indigenous populations who have worse health outcomes and little access to services.

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Inequality in health outcomes is a major challenge. One study found that infant mortality in indigenous populations is ten times higher than the national average, and that tuberculosis is 11 times higher than the national average.[[17]](#footnote-17)

# SDG 4: Education

Education for many Venezuelans (65.7% of children) begins with voluntary nursery and/or pre-K schooling. Primary schooling is mandatory for ages 6 to 11, lower secondary for 12 to 14, and upper secondary for another two years, from age 15 to 16. Enrollment is high in Venezuela; only 4% of boys and 7% of girls of primary school age were not enrolled in 2012.[[18]](#footnote-18) Enrollment rates for secondary education are similar, with 7% of secondary school aged children not enrolled in 2013; however, the gender gap shifts at this age, with slightly more girls enrolled than boys. A high proportion of students (78% in 2009) continue into tertiary programs. Government spending on education was around 3.6% of GDP in 2006 and 2007, but rose to 6.9% in 2009.[[19]](#footnote-19)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Inequality in educational outcomes remains a challenge; the majority of children not enrolled are rural, indigenous Venezuelans. Achieving the SDGs will require investments to ensure these children have the education needed to achieve their full potential. Recently, greater effort has been made to improve educational outcomes in rural, indigenous communities. Today, far more indigenous youth are completing school through the tertiary level. In consequence, there are new concerns over the loss of traditional knowledge among indigenous youth. The Indigenous University of Venezuela (Universidad Indígena de Venezuela) in Caño Tencua aims to address this issue, offering courses in both traditional and contemporary study areas.

# SDG 5: Gender Equality

Venezuela’s legal system grants equal rights irrespective of gender. A 2015 World Economic Forum (WEF) report estimates the country’s overarching Gender Index at 0.685, where 0 implies total inequality and 1 full equality, and ranks it at 86 out of 142 countries. The WEF report ranks countries according to how much they reduce gender disparities in economic participation, education, health and political empowerment. Venezuela performs well in terms of equal access to health and education, with outcomes for women nearly identical to those of men. However, Venezuela does poorly with regards to political empowerment; women have little representation in parliament or ministerial positions.[[20]](#footnote-20)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

The Women’s Development Bank (Banco de Desarollo de la Mujer, or BanMujer) provides microfinance opportunities to women in Venezuela. They have supported a number of initiatives, such as indigenous artisans and farming enterprises. This program allows women to raise their household income while diversifying the economy.

# SDG 6: Water & Sanitation

In 1990 roughly 70% of Venezuelans had access to improved water and sanitation, rising to 80% in 2015. Access to improved drinking water sources shows marginal improvement, rising from around 88% in 1990 to 91% in 2015.[[21]](#footnote-21) Despite this positive trend, investments will be needed to bring improved water and sanitation facilities to underserved rural populations. An estimated 73% of water withdrawals in Venezuela are for agriculture, 23% for municipal use, and 4% for industrial purposes. When taken as a whole, the country has sufficient water resources to meet its demands; however, demand is concentrated along the coast, while supplies are concentrated in the interior of the country. Therefore, demand often exceeds the supply. Efficiency measures are being implemented, and the government is also looking into ways to redistribute water resources.[[22]](#footnote-22)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Lack of infrastructure to provide safe water and sanitation services to Venezuelan’s is a challenge. In the case of water supply, the government has launched several projects to improve access to clean water, although many have failed or are not operational. Many rural dwellers in rural areas do not have access to modern sanitation. The main city in Amazonas state often discharges untreated or inadequately treated water into the Orinoco River. Lack of access to sanitation poses a risk to the health of local populations as well as those living down stream.

# SDG 7: Energy

According to the World Bank, 100% of Venezuelans had access to electricity in 2012.[[23]](#footnote-23) Roughly 90% of Venezuela’s energy comes from fossil fuels, with the remainder coming from renewables.[[24]](#footnote-24)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Despite reporting universal access to electricity, Venezuela has been implementing projects to bring solar micro-grids to rural and indigenous communities, implying that at least some populations do not yet have access to modern energy services. In Delta Amacuro, for example, 2,000 households were electrified with solar systems and community members were trained in their maintenance. In addition to ensuring all Venezuelans have access to modern energy services, achieving the SDGs will necessitate a shift away from fossil fuels to renewables. At the local level, scaling up wind, solar, and hydropower is a solution to expand energy access into rural areas. At the global level, this transition poses a challenge to the Venezuelan economy, which is heavily dependent on oil exports. One solution could be investing in solar and hydro technology, to meet both local energy consumption but also for export as a means of diversifying the economy.

# SDG 8: Economic Growth

The economy of Venezuela is based on oil revenues, with a GDP of around US $540 billion (PPP) and a growth rate averaging 1% for the period 2012-14. Roughly 4% of Venezuela’s GDP is from agriculture, 33% from industry, and 63% from services.[[25]](#footnote-25) Per capita GDP (PPP) in 2012 was around US $12,700. Unemployment was 8.6% of the total labor force in 2014.[[26]](#footnote-26)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Unemployment is a challenge, particularly for some regions. In the state of Delta Amacuro state, for example, unemployment is near 30% for men and 50% for women. At the same time, the state contains a large national park and beautiful coastline, making it an excellent candidate for low-impact tourism to provide jobs and diversify the economy. Responsible and sustainable tourism can support indigenous communities and help preserve their culture and knowledge. Today Venezuela is not a popular tourist destination, despite many attractive sights; better governance and personal security will be required to attract foreign visitors. In addition, infrastructure investments (hotels, transportation) will be needed.

Tourism is just one opportunity to diversify the Venezuelan economy. As countries begin transitioning away from fossil fuels to mitigate climate change, diversification of the economy will be vital for the long-term growth of Venezuela. Other opportunities include increasing the share of GDP from agriculture, and pioneering renewable energy technologies.

# SDG 9: Industry & Infrastructure

As of 2014, roughly 57% of Venezuelans have access to the Internet, while 99% have a mobile phone. Indicators of innovation include the US$ value of high technology exports, which have been erratic with an overall declining trend from 2006 to 2013. On the logistics performance index, which measures the quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure, Venezuela has a score of 2.8 out of 5. On the quality of port infrastructure (measured on a scale of 1 to 7), Venezuela only scores 2.6.[[27]](#footnote-27) This is perhaps because the economy is so heavily dependent on oil and gas that investments in infrastructure focus mostly on this one industry and its operations near the coast. While natural resource rents accounted for 26% of Venezuela’s GDP in 2013, only 1.1% was for minerals (mostly gold) and another 0.1% for forests; the rest was for oil rents (23.6%) and natural gas (1.2%).[[28]](#footnote-28)

*Challenges and Opportunities*

Despite the small role that minerals and forestry play in Venezuela’s economy, their location in more remote, forest regions means that mining and logging firms often come into conflict with indigenous groups and their interests. Further, several operations are illegal, and even legal operations do not comply with regulations, leading to environmental problems such as contamination of water and degradation of forests. In addition, mining activities in rural areas often compete with local communities for resources such as gasoline, leaving rural populations including teachers and health workers unable to travel. Worse still, many illegal operations arm their workers to stomp out local resistance, and promote corruption.

# SDG 10: Inequality

Venezuela had a Gini coefficient of 44.8 in 2013 (the last year for which data is available), on a scale where 0 implies complete equality and 100 complete inequality.[[29]](#footnote-29) Venezuela had been performing well relative to other countries in Latin America, given that most Venezuelans have access to affordable healthcare and education. However, recent economic challenges, including rising inflation, corruption, and falling oil prices, are likely to have worsened inequality in recent years. The most marginalized are rural, indigenous populations with little or no access to services and the urban poor.

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Venezuela’s leftist government has experimented with wealth redistribution schemes to reduce inequalities. Furthermore, the socialist system offers urban residents access to basic healthcare and education services, reducing inequality.

Improving the lives of rural indigenous populations poses a greater challenge, as they often have limited access to services and few economic opportunities. One initiative supported by the Tierra Viva Foundation, Chevron, the European Union, and the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Fund, provided training in product innovation, marketing, and merchandising to indigenous Warao artisans. Some 200 artisans have participated, generating cash income for their households while simultaneously preserving traditional crafts and culture. In a next phase, training and support for community-based tourism will be offered. Another challenge for indigenous communities is their lack of legal land tenure. A few communities have been able to gain legal rights to their lands, but in general there has been little progress on granting titles.[[30]](#footnote-30) Lack of legal land tenure has led to increased conflicts between indigenous groups and commercial interests in some areas.

# SDG 11: Cities

Venezuela is one of the most urbanized countries in the world, with 90% of the country’s population residing in 24 municipal zones [[31]](#footnote-31) and 32% of urban residents living in what are considered slums.[[32]](#footnote-32) Achieving the SDG on cities will require significant action to improve the lives of these slum dwellers (nearly 30% of the population of Venezuela).

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Improving the lives of slum dwellers will be critical to achieving the SDGs, and require significant investments in improving housing infrastructure, especially water and sanitation; and improving access to services like public transport, healthcare, and education.

# SDG 12: Consumption & Production

This SDG calls on states to rationalize fossil fuel subsidies and reduce trade distortions. In Venezuela, the fossil fuel industry (oil, electricity, and gas) is heavily subsidized, receiving around US $30 billion in subsidies in 2014.[[33]](#footnote-33)

The goal also addresses waste management. In Venezuela there is much room for improvement in solid waste management; in 2010 the Inter-American Development Bank gave the country US $140 million to implement municipal waste collection and disposal in sanitary landfills, as opposed to open dumps.

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Reducing fossil fuel subsidies may prove difficult, particularly during such strained economic times. Further complicating the issue is government corruption, and the need to plan for unforeseen complications from policy changes.

Addressing waste management issues is important to protect both human and ecosystem health. This will require investing in the infrastructure and human resources needed for sanitary waste collection and disposal. Municipal waste collection also offers opportunities for recycling, which can both reduce waste and provide a source of raw materials for manufacturing.

# SDG 13: Climate Change

In 2011 the average Venezuelan had a CO2 footprint of 6.4 metric tons; for comparison, Australians average 16.5 tCO2, Chinese about 6.7 tCO2, and Indians 1.7 tCO2.[[34]](#footnote-34) In order to limit warming to 2°C, as agreed in the Copenhagen Accord, the global average of CO2 emissions per capita will need to be around 1.5 tCO2 by mid-century.[[35]](#footnote-35) Further, Venezuela’s coastal cities and mangroves are both vulnerable to sea level rise and salt-water intrusion. Other impacts include expansion of malaria-endemic areas, increased damage from storms and heavy rainfall events, and reduced agricultural yields.[[36]](#footnote-36)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Venezuela submitted an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UNFCCC during the 2015 Convention of the Parties in Paris. The country pledges to change the trajectory of their emissions growth so that in 2030 emissions are 20% lower that what is currently projected as a business-as-usual scenario.[[37]](#footnote-37) Given the limited ambition of their INDC and the lateness of submission (157 countries submitted ahead of Venezuela), one could argue that Venezuela is not taking mitigation seriously, an unsurprising position for an oil-rich country. However, a number of laws have been passed at the national level to increase energy efficiency and develop renewable energy resources. Already over 9% of the country’s total primary energy supply comes from hydropower,[[38]](#footnote-38) and there is potential to generate significantly more power from wind, solar, and hydro resources.

Venezuela will also need to adapt to the effects of climate change. As the world moves away from fossil fuels, the Venezuelan economy will need to diversify to maintain the current GDP. In addition, declining oil revenues will make it more difficult to expand social services and increase resilience to climate change.

# SDG 14: Marine Ecosystems

Venezuela’s coast faces both the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean; this causes the country to have a diverse array of marine habitats including mangroves, marine sea grass beds, coral reefs, sandy and rocky beaches, estuaries, and over 311 islands and cays. Venezuela’s coast also has 9 areas where deep, nutrient-laden water upwells to the surface, providing sustenance for diverse sea life. Unfortunately, only 0.6% of Venezuela’s seas are protected.[[39]](#footnote-39) FAO shows that Venezuela is the largest producer of fish in the Atlantic Caribbean, and that over 780,000 people are employed in fishing and processing. The majority are artisanal fishers for sardines, although there is some industrial-scale fishing for tuna as well. Seafood exports in 2003 were worth over US $73 million, while imports were only $16 million. Unfortunately, FAO also notes that many marine fisheries are currently being fished in excess of their maximum sustainable yield,[[40]](#footnote-40) threatening the longevity of the sector and the food security of the nation.

*Challenges & Opportunities*

Venezuela should consider setting aside marine protected areas and setting catch limits to safeguard fish stocks; an added benefit of marine protected areas could be tourism in areas overlapping with coral reefs.

# SDG 15: Terrestrial Ecosystems

Venezuela has a diversity of terrestrial habitats, including savannahs, forests, and wetlands, including several Ramsar sites. The total forested area is estimated at 46.6 million hectares, or about 53% of the country.[[41]](#footnote-41) Protected areas cover 56% of the terrestrial area of Venezuela.[[42]](#footnote-42)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

One chellenge for Venezuela is that different states have significantly different development plans. For example, while states of Bolivar and Amazonas share a terrestrial ecocystem dominated by the Amazon rainforest, in Amazonas logging and mining activities are extremely restricted, while there are major extractive operations in Bolivar. In Amazonas, the terrestrial ecosystem has been conserved to a high degree, whereas in Bolivar it has been degraded, and local indigenous cultures marginalized as workers coming in from other states shift local demographics. Furthermore, in many places, including protected areas, illegal mining and logging is performed both by Venezuelans and migrants crossing into Venezuela from neighboring countries.

# SDG 16: Inclusive Institutions

Venezuela has been supportive of international processes on sustainable development and strengthening institutions at the international level through support of the following agreements:

* [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/), adopted 1948
* [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf), signed in 1980, ratified in 1983
* [Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer](http://ozone.unep.org/en/treaties-and-decisions/vienna-convention-protection-ozone-layer), acceded in 1988
* [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](http://www.ramsar.org), entered into force 1988
* [Montreal Protocol](http://ozone.unep.org/en/treaties-and-decisions/montreal-protocol-substances-deplete-ozone-layer), ratified in 1989
* [Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal](http://www.basel.int), signed in 1989 and ratified in 1998
* [Convention on the Rights of the Child](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx), signed and ratified in 1990
* [Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)](http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm), signed in 1992
* [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)](https://www.cbd.int), signed in 1992 and ratified in 1994
* [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)](http://unfccc.int), signed in 1992 and ratified in 1994
* [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)](http://www.unccd.int), ratified in 1998
* [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity](https://bch.cbd.int/protocol), signed in 2000
* [International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78)](http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-(MARPOL).aspx)
* [Kyoto Protocol](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol), ratified in 2005
* [Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)](http://www.kimberleyprocess.com)
* [Minamata Convention](http://www.mercuryconvention.org), signed in 2013

*Challenges & Opportunities*

It is of note that Venezuela never signed or ratified the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreemen%E2%80%A6) or the [Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization](https://www.cbd.int/abs/).

A major challenge for Venezuela in the SDG period will be lack of data to monitor and evaluate progress. Despite efforts to strengthen and improve the capacity of the National Institute of Statistics, environmental and socio-economic datasets continue to have gaps, are discontinuous in time, often outdated, and difficult to access. In addition, available data is often of questionalble accuracy. The Amazon Observatory proposed by the Venezuelan government in February of 2015 could provide an opportunity to be more systematic and orderly in collecting and sharing data.

Venezuela has drafted several national- and regional-level planning documents that focus at least in part on sustainable development. However, none are truly actionable, being either outdated or vague. A more comprehensive and specific plan will be needed to guide the country away from business as usual and towards a more sustainable trajectory.

# SDG 17: Partnerships

Bringing together the right people to get the job done is critical to the success of the SDGs. This section describes current and potential active partners for SDG achievement in Venezuela. This list includes organizations whose roles include regulation, implementation, and financing. It is not an exhaustive list, nor does it seek to list stakeholders to be consulted.

Academic Institutions

* Central University of Venezuela (Universidad Central de Venezuela), [http://www.ucv.ve/organizacion/rectorado/direcciones/direccion-de-extension- universitaria/programas-y-proyectos/programa-de-amazonas.html](http://www.ucv.ve/organizacion/rectorado/direcciones/direccion-de-extension-%20universitaria/programas-y-proyectos/programa-de-amazonas.html)
* National Experimental University of Guyana (Universidad Nacional Experimental de Guayana), <http://investigacionypostgrado.uneg.edu.ve/centros/cieg/cieg.php>
* University of the Andes (Universidad de Los Andes), <http://www.cjp.ula.ve/cepsal/enlaces/index.php>
* Simon Bolivar University (Universidad Simón Bolívar), <http://www.funindes.usb.ve>
* Venezuelan Institute of Science (Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas), <http://www.ivic.gob.ve/ecologia/?mod=home.php>
* Venezuelan Academy of Science (Academia de Ciencias de Venezuela), [www.fudeci.org.ve](http://www.fudeci.org.ve/)

Private Sector Firms

* Total Oil & Gas, <http://www.total.com/en/Venezuela>
* Chevron, <http://www.chevron.com/countries/venezuela>
* Corporación Venezolana de Guayana, [www.cvg.com](http://www.cvg.com)
* PDVSA, <http://www.pdvsa.com>
* Corpoelec, <http://www.corpoelec.gob.ve>

NGOs

* Fundación Tierra Viva, <http://www.tierraviva.org>
* Grupo Social CESAP, <http://gruposocialcesap.org/detalle.asp?ID=17>
* Fundación La Salle de Ciencia Naturales, [www.fundacionlasalle.org.ve](http://www.fundacionlasalle.org.ve)
* Centro Educativo para la Autogestión Indígena (Cepai-Amazonas)
* ACOANA, <http://acoana.org/contacto.html>
* Fundación Dos Aguas, <http://fund-dosaguas.webnode.es>

Donors and Financing Institutions

* La Salle Natural Science Foundation (Fundación La Salle de Ciencias Naturales), [www.fundacionlasalle.org.ve](http://www.fundacionlasalle.org.ve/)

Government Agencies

* Ministry of Habitat and Housing (Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ecosocialismo, Hábitat y Vivienda), <http://www.minamb.gob.ve>
* Ministry of Agriculture (Ministerio del Poder Popular para Agricultura y Tierras), [www.inia.gov.ve](http://www.inia.gov.ve)
* Ministry of Education, Science, and Innovation (Ministerio del Poder Popular para Educación Universitaria, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación), [www.fundacite-deltaamacuro.gob.ve](http://www.fundacite-deltaamacuro.gob.ve); [www.fundacitebolivar.gob.ve](http://www.fundacitebolivar.gob.ve); [www.fundaciteamazonas.gob.ve](http://www.fundaciteamazonas.gob.ve)
* Ministry of Health (Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Salud), [www.mpps.gob.ve](http://www.mpps.gob.ve)
* Ministry of Tourism (Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Turismo), <http://www.mintur.gob.ve>
* Ministry of Indigenous Communities (Ministerio del Poder Popular para los Pueblos Indígenas), <http://www.minpi.gob.ve>
* State governments
* Municipal governments
* Orinoco Botanical Garden, [www.jardinbotanicobolivar.com.ve](http://www.jardinbotanicobolivar.com.ve)

*Challenges & Opportunities*

The political situation in Venezuela could hamper the progress of international partnerships; many international institutions are reluctant to do work in Venezuela due to corruption, and current economic challenges only make the situation more difficult. Despite recent increases in out migration (“brain drain”), Venezuela does have some strong institutions that can partner with each other at the national level.

# Conclusion

There are many challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in Venezuela in the next 15 years. Major challenges include an economy that is heavily dependent on oil, and therefore vulnerable to volatility, as well as corruption and lack of transparency in government systems. Despite these challenges, there remain many options available to Venezuela to diversify the economy and reduce inequalities.

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2. US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). *The World Factbook Venezuela.* (Washington DC: CIA, 2015). Accessed at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gy.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. CIA, 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
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6. BBC. “Venezuela Country Profile – Overview.” *BBC News* March 11, 2015. Accessed at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19649648>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
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