



Venezuela: Humanitarian Conditions



RAIO Research Unit

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Humanitarian Crisis



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



“Seven million people require some form of humanitarian or protection assistance in Venezuela.”

Humanitarian Crisis



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- **Economic contraction**
- **Inflation & hyperinflation**
- **Deepening poverty**
- **High unemployment**
- **Reduced access to & shortages of food & medicine**
- **Weakened medical system**
- **Re-appearance or increased incidence of certain communicable diseases**
- **COVID-19 pandemic**
- **Collapse in basic services**
- **Water, electricity & fuel shortages**
- **Political polarization**
- **Institutional & political tensions**
- **Human rights abuses & repression**
- **Protests**
- **Crime & violence**
- **Corruption**
- **Migration & displacement**

Economic Crisis



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Historically prosperous, with the largest proven oil reserves in the world

Economic collapse

- **Economic recession since 2014**
 - GDP declined by 66% (2014-2019)
- ***“more than twice the magnitude of the Great Depression in the United States”***
- **Oil exports have fallen to levels not seen since the 1940s**

Economic Crisis



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Hyperinflation

- One of the worst crises in modern history
- Over 130,000 percent inflation (2018)



Poverty

- 2014: 48% of the population
- 2019: 96% of the population (80% in extreme poverty)

Impact on the availability of & access to basic services and goods

Health Crisis



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Prolonged collapse of the health system

- Shortages of medicines & medical supplies
- Interruptions of utilities at facilities (electricity & water)
- Migration of healthcare workers

Resurgence or outbreaks of vaccine-controllable or infectious diseases

- Malaria, diphtheria & measles

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

Food Security



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Severe shortages of food & high prices

Hunger & malnutrition

- **32% of Venezuelans are food insecure**
- **Coping mechanisms**



Local Committees for Supply and Production (CLAP)

Access to Basic Services



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Collapse of basic services & shortages

- **Electricity**
- **Water**
- **Cooking gas**
- **Gasoline**



Protests & coping mechanisms

Political Crisis



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Political polarization

- **Government vs. opposition**
- **Institutional duality & parallel structures of power**



Competing presidencies

- **Nicolás Maduro vs. Juan Guaidó**
- **Maduro administration = de facto control**



Political Repression & Human Rights



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“systematic and widespread policy of repression in Venezuela for those who are critical of the government”

- **Defeat the “internal enemy”**
- **Targeting of actual or perceived government opponents**

UN & ICC: crimes against humanity

- **Committed by government officials & pro-government groups/individuals**
- **Extrajudicial executions, torture, arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances, monitoring & surveillance, suppression of protests, political discrimination, etc.**

Crime & Insecurity



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Epidemic of violence

- **High homicide & crime rates**
- **One of the highest rates of violent death in the world**

Armed groups

- ***Colectivos, megabandas, pranes, sindicatos*, Colombian guerrilla & paramilitary successor groups, Venezuelan guerrillas, etc.**
- **Exert territorial & social control in certain areas**

Venezuela-Colombia border

Crime & Insecurity



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“Mafia-state”

- Government institutions have become increasingly criminal
- Corruption & drug trafficking (*Cartel de los Soles*)

Security forces

- Militarized & abusive (extrajudicial killings)
- Corruption & involvement in crime
- Ineffective

Justice system

- Corrupt, inefficient & politicized

REWARD

			
Nicolas Maduro Moros \$15,000,000.00 USD	Diosdado Cabello Ronden \$10,000,000.00 USD	Hugo Carvajal Barrios \$10,000,000.00 USD	Cliver Alcalá Cordones \$10,000,000.00 USD

 CartelSolesTips@usdoj.gov

Migration



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“the exodus of Venezuelans has become the largest refugee crisis in Latin American history and rivals the magnitude of the Syrian refugee crisis”

Over 5.5 million Venezuelans have left the country since 2014

- **17% of the population**
- **Most remain in Latin America & the Caribbean**
- **Irregular status, restrictions & xenophobia**

Returnees

- **May face stigmatization, threats & mistreatment**



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