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Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries ECHS

Malta, New York

The Bolivarian Republic of
Venezuela

The Crisis in Venezuela

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is currently in the midst of a grave crisis, they are enduring a severe food shortage and economic crisis ("UN to provide"). In response to the food crisis, the government has seized more control by transferring management of the distribution of food to the military and local party chapters (Venezuela - The World Factbook, 2021). The Venezuelan food crisis has reached such proportions that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is now the fourth most food insecure country on the planet ("UN to provide"). This problem is caused largely by the severe economic crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and it is compounded by the many negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic situation has been worsened by people leaving the country due to lack of opportunity (Venezuela - The World Factbook, 2021). This food insufficiency crisis calls for collaboration between the government, humanitarian organizations, and the United Nations. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela must enact anti-bribery laws to fight hyperinflation and in turn, help end this economic crisis (Davila et al.). Venezuelan currency has been devalued to such a great extent that it is worth more as a form of craft paper than as money (Sergio Held). The Venezuelan government must fight corruption on all fronts to reduce hyperinflation and bring about some semblance of economic stability, thus helping increase food security by improving the economic conditions ("Tackling the Hunger").

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a nation with a population of twenty-nine million sixty-nine thousand one hundred fifty-three people as of 2021 (Venezuela - The World Factbook, 2021). Most houses in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are located in slums that have been built by the people who live there (10 FACTS ABOUT SLUMS). In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's major cities such as their capital Caracas, the working class occupies hillside shantytowns and has a poor quality

of life in the shantytowns (Medina). Most families in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela get their food from military and local party committee-led distribution lines which provide food to the Venezuelan people. They typically either eat their food as given or boil it. (Venezuela - The World Factbook, 2021) Many eat yuca or a tin of sardines for their one meal (Carmen Ross). Many people work in the food processing industry. Others work in varying industries such as; oil, construction materials, textiles, mining, steel, and tourism ("Working and Getting"). The average monthly salary in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is around \$25, with the minimum wage being around \$6 ("Cost of Living"). Venezuelans have to rely on home medicine due to the severe shortage in the Venezuelan healthcare system (Broner). Currently, much of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's drinking water is polluted (Venezuela - The World Factbook, 2021). Around 8 out of 10 Venezuelans don't have regular access to uncontaminated drinking water and basic hygiene ("Unraveling"). This makes it more difficult to manage other crises such as the food shortage while also dealing with a lack of clean drinking water which is safe to consume. Food shortages in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have reached dangerous proportions, driven by extreme economic instability linked to inflation and corruption. This economic instability is driving the food scarcity brought on by the total lack of enforced anti-corruption laws in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the devaluation of currency ("Tackling the Hunger").

Financial instability ripping through the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and an out-of-control food shortage have hurt families and individuals deeply, hurting people's financial well-being and ability to stay healthy. A generation of Venezuelan children is growing up without an adequate amount of food resulting in stunted growth ("The Hungry"). Unable to provide adequate food for their families, Four million Venezuelans have left the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to seek a better life abroad (Herrera). Children do not receive food in schools and often faint and underperform due to this (Kurmanaev and Herrera). The Venezuelan government has refused foreign aid which could have alleviated the food insufficiency in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Wroughton and Rampton). The situation has been only getting worse and it will not be reduced until the Venezuelan government tackles the root of its financial troubles, corruption ("Tackling the Hunger"). Incurring some of the worst effects of this shortage are the indigenous peoples of Venezuela who are already marginalized and now suffer even further due to the increased inaccessibility of food, with many being forced to leave the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela due to the scarcity (Faria and Williamson). Both the country's socio-economic crisis and COVID-19 have had large impacts on indigenous peoples in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in particular indigenous women who have found themselves vulnerable to gender-based violence when their relatives or partners make border crossings to buy goods such as food ("A safe space"). This demonstrates how the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's crisis can impact the various peoples of Venezuela, with some groups experiencing an intersection of inaccessibility and suffering due to their social status and ethnicity. Food inadequacy affects every facet of life in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, often it is a harrowing experience that forces people into making difficult and painful decisions.

The Venezuelan shortages continue to ravage the people and nation. It continues despite efforts such as the military and local introduction of food distribution which have seemed to be unsuccessful (Venezuela - The World Factbook, 2021). The fact that there is no anti-bribery law in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela drives economic instability ("Tackling the Hunger"). Proposed solutions to this problem have included establishing anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws to handle inflation and help ease the food shortage by building financial security among Venezuelans allowing for them to access food themselves rather than be stuck in a state of financial disarray, unable to access adequate food (Davila et al.). This adaptation could lower the inflation rate and allow the Venezuelan people to have more economic security allowing them to obtain the food they need. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also needs to be opened to foreign aid rather than closed to it, this is to treat and aid the immediate condition of the Venezuelan populace. Since the United Nations recognizes the dire situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and includes them in their world hunger map, they would be in the best position to help fight hunger in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and fund efforts to support food availability.

Behaviors that have to be considered are the more isolationist outlook of the Venezuelan government which hampers efforts at reforming the system. We need to approach this in a reconciliatory manner to not cause further isolation. One step towards reconciliation would be an immediate cessation of all efforts by the United States to forcefully institute regime change, once this hostile action has ceased there would be far less reason for the Venezuelan government to be skeptical of humanitarian aid offers. The American government has at times sought to use humanitarian aid tactics and international pressure to bring about forced regime change in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Bravo, 2019). This project to improve the financial stability and living standards of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would be sustainable in that foreign aid and relief coupled with anti-bribery laws would help address the immediate shortage and the root problem of inflation and the lack of availability. Foreign aid has demonstrated its usefulness in Liberia and Sierra Leone, the program by the United States Agency for International Development helped stimulate their economies during the Ebola outbreaks of 2014 and 2015 and helped agricultural production and anti-poverty initiatives ("THE SUCCESS"). In 2021, the United Nations appealed for over seven hundred million dollars for their 2021 Venezuela Humanitarian Response Plan which aimed to assist four million and five hundred thousand Venezuelans, an update from their 2020 plan ("United Nations"). It is of utmost importance for the United Nations to continue yearly Humanitarian Response Plans. Stabilizing a nation's economy benefits not only the nation being aided, especially as seen through the United States Agency for International Development's aid, but also boosts the American economy. Aid from the United States Agency for International Development not only helps other countries but also boosts the American economy. As countries become financially stable they will buy products and services from the United States of America ("How USAID"). Aid from the United States Agency for International Development to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Venezuelan people would not be a negative for Americans but rather a positive which is in their common interest. Once the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is economically stable and the government of Venezuela is able to provide for its citizens they will then be able to buy American products and services which in turn boosts the economy of the United States of America. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is currently lacking in transparency, openness, and accountability, all of which are needed to combat corruption ("Combating Corruption"). These anti-corruption policies are successful, in particular in the Republic of Lithuania. The Republic of Lithuania successfully implemented a national anti-corruption program yielding positive results in the Lithuanian audit office ("Fight Against"). These successful reforms indicate that if similar policies and legal reforms were implemented in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, then similar results could be seen in the Venezuelan audit office. Reducing corruption through this program would help tame inflation and the economic crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Over time this would address the problems which the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela experience such as lack of goods and financial security, moving towards a more prosperous future in which inflation has been tackled and food is available to all of the Venezuelan people. Once inflation has been decreased, food is available, and economic stability is established, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the potential to become a great tourist destination ("Venezuela travel"). Revenue from tourism in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela could help repair infrastructure, go towards food distribution, and education. This revenue would go a long way in bringing the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela back on its feet and function as a stable country.

The crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela can only be resolved through determination, international collaboration, and a sense of mutual understanding working through international organizations such as the United Nations. Reforms must be made in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, governmental attitudes must be addressed, and a reliable system of food distribution must be established in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Aid from the United States Agency for International Development must be provided to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela unconditionally in the interest of attaining financial stability in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. At the minimum, the international community must strive for warmer and more reconciliatory relations with the Venezuelan government to

help create a more open environment to work with in terms of food distribution, and this must happen now.

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