



# Venezuela



## Introduction to VENEZUELA

THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA is known for its oil-rich economy and current, controversial leader Hugo Chavez. The country, situated on South America's Caribbean coast, is home to Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall. Drug-related violence continues near the Colombian border, and environmental misuse has been much criticized.

## The VENEZUELAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	26,814,843
<b>Children under 15:</b>	8,179,789
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	73.61 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$13,500
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	92.2%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	12 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	93%
<b>Internet users:</b>	7.167 million
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	27.084 million

**Major/official language(s):** Spanish

### Risk issues impacting children:

- Frequent natural disasters leave many children homeless and without access to education and health services.
- Violence is a daily reality for children along the Colombian border.
- Many children are born into poverty, and teen pregnancy is high.

## More about VENEZUELA

<b>Capital city:</b>	Caracas
<b>Type of government:</b>	Federal Republic
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	912,050

**General terrain:** Andes Mountains and Maracaibo  
Lowlands in northwest; central plains; Guiana  
Highlands in southeast

**Major industries/jobs:** Petroleum, construction materials, food processing, textiles, iron ore mining, steel, aluminum, motor vehicle assembly

**National motto:** "God and Federation"

**Major airport(s):**

Aeropuerto Internacional 'Simón Bolívar' in Caracas

## Reaching VENEZUELA

*Currently classified as World C: Christian*

### Major religions:

- Christian - 98%
- Other - 2%

### Christian groups:

- Roman Catholic - 89.1%
- Independent - 6%
- Protestant - 4.8%
- Orthodox - 0.1%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	2 (0.2% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.023
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	584,059
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	7,400
<b>Per million:</b>	276.89
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	7,000
<b>Per million:</b>	261.92
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	14,583

## Children's ministry in VENEZUELA

**Overview:** • Venezuela is a predominantly Christian nation, mostly of Roman Catholic background. There is also a steadily growing, active Protestant minority.

- So far, international children's outreach programs like Awana and Child Evangelism Fellowship have seen great success among the children of Venezuela. However, a shortage of training opportunities and curriculum seem to be the biggest hindrances to the spread of children's outreach and discipleship within the churches of Venezuela.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**14,583** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**8,179,789** children for Christ