



REPORT ON THE GENDER STATUS IN VENEZUELA

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BASIC PROFILE OF THE COUNTRY:

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a sovereign country located in northern South America. Venezuela comprises a continental mainland and numerous islands, located off the Venezuelan 2,800 km coastline, in the Caribbean Sea. The country borders Guyana to the east, with a land boundary of: 743 km., with Brazil to the south, with a land boundary of 2,200 km, and Colombia to the west with a land boundary of: 2,050 km. Falling within the tropics, Venezuela sits close to the equator, in the Northern Hemisphere.¹

Venezuela is a federal presidential republic divided into 23 states, the Capital District (covering Caracas), and Federal Dependencies (covering Venezuela's offshore 311 islands and islets). The home based national command centers for the government's administration are located in the Capital City, Caracas. Maracaibo, Valencia, Barquisimeto and Ciudad Bolivar are the most important cities. The official language is Spanish; Indigenous languages are recognized for indigenous regions.²

The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, approved in the Constituent Referendum dated December 15th, 1999, and amended for the first time in 2008, establishes that Venezuela..... *"Is constituted in a Democratic State, Social by Law and Justice"*³and, as a*"Federal Decentralized State"*.....⁴ ; with a horizontal distribution of Public Authorities into Legislative, Executive, Judiciary, Citizen and Electoral Powers; and a vertically in, National, State, Municipal and Regional, with representatives selected for each position by elections.

Table nº1.- Constitution of Public Power in Venezuela

Public Power	Constitución
Legislative	National Assembly
Executive	Presidency, Vicepresidency y Ministries.
Judiciary	Supreme Court of Justice.
Citizen	General Magistrate of the Republic, People's defense Committee, Comptrollership of the Republic, (Republican Moral Council).
Electoral	National Electoral Council.

Elaborated by our Team

Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias, is currently, the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, elected in 1999, who, since his first Government Plan in 2001-2007, establishes the development of the nation with the main characteristic of economic and social inclusion of the underprivileged, excluded sectors. Inclusion strategies were therefore designed; among them stand out the creation of *Missions*, with distinct budgets in order to produce short-term impacts.

The purpose of the Administration's management has been positioned towards overcoming social accountability, which was accumulated during decades, with the commitment of overcoming poverty; consequently encouraging Venezuelan men and women to confront any form of exclusion. Women have been amongst the most affected and predominantly excluded social groups, most of all, those women coming from the lowest social strata. This is the basic reason why the conduct in government policy has been foremost intended towards the retrieve of their rights and press forward to equality and equity.

¹ Available in URL: http://www.gobiernoonlinea.ve/venezuela/perfil_geografia.html

² 1999. Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Article 9

³ 1999. Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Article 2

⁴ 1999. Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Article 4

SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE:

The National Statistics Institute (INE) holds the technical leadership of public statistics activity for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with the objective of coordinating the National Statistics System and producing official statistics, steered towards national planning and performance of common power in public management.

In Venezuela, according to INE official figures, the total estimated population for September 2010 is of 28,384.132 habitants⁵. The largest concentration of urban population is in the northern cities, 88.06%. There is an enormous depopulation in the south, as a consequence of rural exodus with the petroleum (oil) industrialization.

The demographic characteristics of Venezuelan population are hereunder reflected in the following chart:

Table nº 2.- Venezuelan Demographic Characteristics.

Total population	28.384.132
Density- habitants per square kilometer (hab/Km2)	30.97
Rural population	11.93 %
Urban population	88.06%
Indigenous population	202.443 personas
Population over 65 years old.	1.574.833
Population under 15 years old.	8.439.176
Inter-annual relative growth	1.61
<i>approximate rate of life expectancy</i>	73,94.

INE, 2010. Accomplishing the millennium goals. Available at URL: http://www.ine.gov.ve/metasmilenio/OBJETIVOS_MILENIO_2010.pdf

Venezuelan economy is primarily oil based, in economic figures it can be evidenced as follows:

Table nº 3.- Description of Venezuelan Economy.

Economic Indicators	Indicator figure	Date of indicator figure
Gross domestic product GDP (PIB)	13.687.761	August 2010
International Reserves BCV	29.129 million US\$	September 2010
Minimum monthly wage	1.223,89 Bs	May 2010
Food basket	Bs 1.312,35	July 2010
Oil price, OPEP basket	73,52 US\$/barrel	10 September 2010
Inflation rate	26,2 %	2009
Human Development Index (PNUD)	0,84	2009
Activity rate, labor force	65,1 %	August 2010
Percentage of workers, Public sector	18,9%	July 2010
Unemployment rate	9,6%	August 2010
Measure of inequality in home income, Coefficient Gini.	0,3928	2009
Percentage of extreme home poverty by line of income.	6,0	Second Semester 2009

INE, 2010. Available at URL: <http://www.ine.gov.ve/>

The official figures for labor force for the month of August 2010 set out by the National Statistics Institute (INE), proves as follows: total active population 13,208.632, with an activity rate of 65,1%; total population employed 11,944.322, with a rate of occupation of 90,4%; total unemployed population ranges in 1,264.310 with a percentage rate of 9,6%; total unemployed population is in 1,142.624 with a rate of 8,7%; the total of inactive population the value is of 7,093.536, inactivity rate of 34,9%.⁶

⁵ INE, 2010. Accomplishing the millennium goals. Available at URL:

http://www.ine.gov.ve/metasmilenio/OBJETIVOS_MILENIO_2010.pdf

⁶ 2008. Memory. Ministry of Common Power for Health. Available in URL:

http://www.msds.gov.ve/descargas/memoria_cuenta/myc2008.html

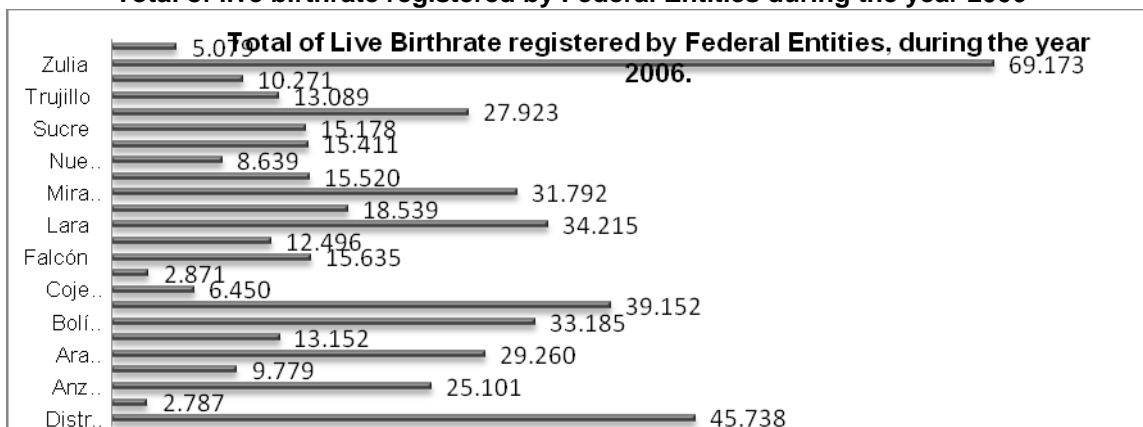
HEALTH PROFILE:

The Ministry of Common Power for Health is the Institution in charge of designing and executing projects aimed to reinforce management capacity in the health issue. It is directed towards strengthening the National Health Assistance Net for the National Public Health System, to diminish social gap in priority groups; contributing to lift the quality of life in the population, particularly concerning public health problems through strategic and specific interventions.⁷

The official figures issued by the Ministry of Common Power for Health in Birth Bulletin for 2007, gives statistics information collected in 2006, showing 500.436 total live births by federal regions; divided into 252.852 live males and 243,760 live ratio in females, plus 3.823 live ratio unknown.⁸

Chart No 1, elaborated based on recent statistic data available from the Ministry of Common Power for Health in the 2007, Birth Bulletin; shows an amount of 500.435 live births registered by federal departments during the year 2006, demonstrating a larger number of live births in the State of Zulia and the Capital District, with figures of 60.137 and 45.738 respectively.⁹

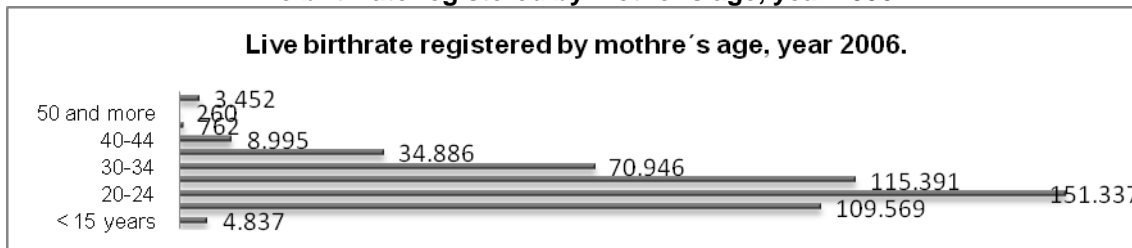
Graphic nº 1
Total of live birthrate registered by Federal Entities during the year 2006



Source: Health Statistic and Data. Ministry of Common Power for Health. Birthrate Bulletin.

The 2007 Birth Bulletin aforementioned, reflects a total amount of live births registered by the mother's age groups as follows: under 15 years of age 4.837, between the ages of 15 and 19, 109.569; between 20 and 24 years of age, 151.337; between 25 and 29 years 115.391, between 30 and 34 years 70.946, between 40 and 44 years 8.995; between 45 and 49 years 762, from 50 on 260, and a total of 3.452 of mother's age unknown. 30% of live births registered amongst females of 20 to 24 years of age, as shown in Chart 2, were elaborated based on recent official statistical data, taken from the Ministry of Common Power for Health.

Graphic nº 2
Live birthrate registered by mother's age, year 2006.



Source: Health Statistic and Data. Ministry of Common Power for Health. Birthrate Bulletin

⁷ 2008. Memory. Ministry of Common Power for Health. Available in URL:

http://www.msds.gov.ve/descargas/memoria_cuenta/myc2008.html

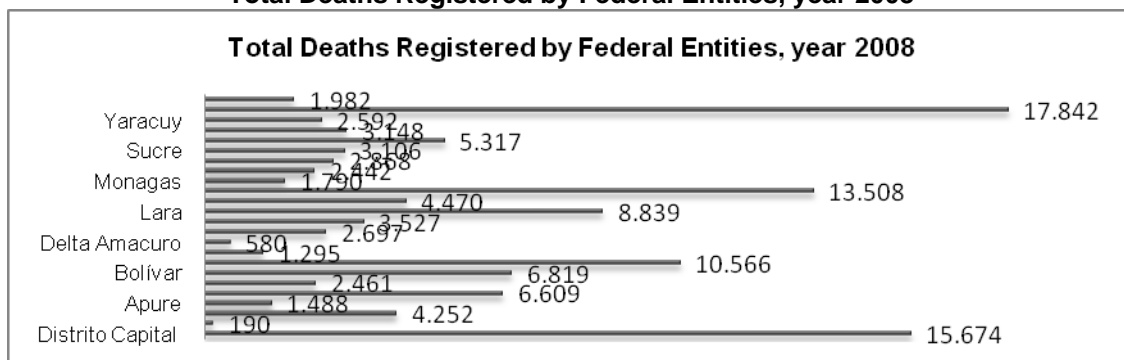
⁸ 2007. Birthrate Bulletin. Direction of Data and Statistics for Health. Ministry for Common Power for Health.

⁹ 2007. Birthrate Bulletin. Direction of Data and Statistics for Health. Ministry for Common Power for Health.

Report on the Gender Status in Venezuela

Official figures registered in different jurisdictions of prefectures and mayor's offices during the year 2008 and published by the INE (Statistics Institute) in the Web, evidence a National death toll of 124.062 deaths, the largest figures are in Zulia State and the Capital District¹⁰; these figures are shown in Chart No 3, data taken from recent statistics publicized by the INE.

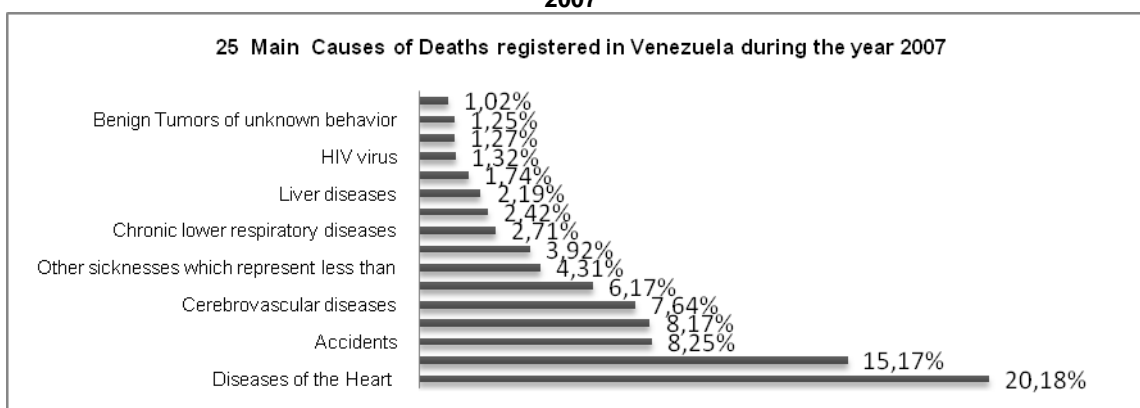
Graphic nº 3
Total Deaths Registered by Federal Entities, year 2008



Source: INE. <http://www.ine.gov.ve/registrosvital/estadisticasvital.asp>. Source Municipalities and Mayor's Headquarters.

In the mortality yearbook, published by the Ministry of Common Power for Health in December the 2008, twenty five main causes of death were registered and listed as follows: disease of the heart, accounted for 20.18 percent, malignant neoplasm (cancer) accounted for 15.17percent, all type of accidents 8.25 percent, homicides and suicides 8.17%,cerebrovascular diseases, accounted for 7.64 percent, diabetes mellitus, accounted for 6.17 percent, certain affections originated before birth, accounted for 3.92 percent, chronic lower respiratory diseases, accounted for 2.71 percent, influenza and pneumonia, accounted for 2.42 percent, liver diseases, accounted for 2.19 percent, congenital anomalies 1.74%, HIV 1.32%, nephritic and related diseases, accounted for 1.27percent; benign tumors of unknown behavior 1.25 percent, intestinal infectious diseases, accounted for 1.02 percent, other sicknesses which represent less than 1% for a total of 3.28% and a general total of 87.73%, causes of mortality during the year 2007¹¹, the figures are represented in Chart No 4; and were elaborated based on recent official statistical data, publicized by the Ministry of Common Power for Health.

Graphic nº 4
25 main causes of deaths registered in Venezuela during the year 2007



Source: Ministry of Common Power for Health. Year bulletin for mortality 2007.

Giving a total of cause of death accounted for 127.463; distributed in 79.156 groups of males, and 48.307 groups of females, in groups of ages from less than 1 year of age to 85 years of age and over.¹²

¹⁰ 2008. INE available at: URL: <http://www.ine.gov.ve/registrosvital/estadisticasvital.asp>.

Source: Prefectures and Mayor's headquarters..

¹¹ 2008. Ministry of Common Power for Health. Yearly Mortality rate 2007.

¹² 2008. Ministry of Common Power for Health. Yearly Mortality rate 2007.

EDUCATION PROFILE:

There are two ministerial structures in Venezuela; both represent the educational system, the Ministry of Common Power for Education which includes the instruction levels of preschool, basic, media, diversified, professional, adult and special education; and the other being the Ministry of Common Power for Higher Education (University). This institution covers higher educational levels; both institutions are responsible for the regulation, the formulate and record politics, planning and fulfillment of activities of National Executive with regards to education, including orientation, programming, development, promotion, coordination, supervision, control and evaluation of the educational system at all level and modality.

Likewise, as strategies of educational inclusion, *missions* have been developed to contribute with the incorporation of all who have been excluded from the Venezuelan educational system, they are pointed out hereunder:

Table nº 4.- Educational Missions

MISSION	SCOPE	AUTHORITY
Robinson ¹³	Stage 1: Literacy Stage 2: Basic Education Stage 3: Reading Circles	Ministry of Common Power for Education.
Ribas ¹⁴	Educación media, diversificada y profesional	Ministry of Common Power for Energy & Oil.
Sucre ¹⁵	University. Higher Education	Ministry of Common Power for University Ed.

Statistics issued by the Ministry of Common Power for Education and publicized by the (INE) National Statistics Institute in the Web page, reflect the following results of the Venezuelan educational system.

Table nº 5.- National situation of the Venezuelan Educational System.

<u>Total students enrolled in preschool</u> 2006-07	<u>Total students enrolled in basic education from 1º to 9º grade</u> 2006-07	<u>Total students enrolled in media education, diversified and professional</u> 2006-07	<u>Total students enrolled in adult education 2006-07</u>	<u>Total students enrolled in special education</u> 2006-07
1.047.811	4.984.453	711.305	356.159	190.036

A grand total of 7.121.764 students enrolled in the national educational system for the period of 2006-2007, in a platform of 26.561 schooling structures in the entire country.

As to the university enrollment by dependency (official and private) for 2008, according to figures of the Ministry of Common Power for Higher Education the registry of students if in the percentage of 72,0% and 590.471 belong to private institutions with a percentage of 28,0%.¹⁶

Table nº 6.- Total Registry of University Education
Total Registry of University Education-pre and post-graduate 2008.

Post-graduate course	102.983
Pre-graduate course	2.006.348
Total	2.109.331

¹ Ministry of Common Power for Higher Education. November 2009. Statistics Committee for Higher Education. Available in

URL: <http://www.mppeu.gob.ve/documentos/estadistica/Global.pdf>

¹³ On October 2005 UNESCO declared Venezuela a land free of illiteracy (1.500.00 instructed) available at URL: <http://www.misionrobinson.me.gob.ve/index> . <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/gmr06-en.pdf>

¹⁴ The total tuition enrollment for March 1st, 2010 in the Capital District is of 13.746 incorporated students. Official data available by the Ministry of Common Power for Energy and Oil..

¹⁵ Presently, Mission Sucre includes 555.813 students studying in the 1.643 university villages standing in 335 municipalities, and duly certified by official universities. Available data at: <http://www.misionsucre.gov.ve/>

¹⁶ Ministry of Common Power for Higher Education November 2009. Statistics Committee for Higher Education. Available in URL.: <http://www.mppeu.gob.ve/documentos/estadistica/Dependencia.pdf>

SITUATION OF WOMEN AND GENDER GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

GENERAL SITUATION:

The incorporating women as object of a *historiographical reflexion* and subject to history, has been a process in which feminists struggles and the vindictive movement of women have had direct intervention considering and trying to respond to a series of interrogatives directly related to the women's process itself, establishing that many women from the university and academic field are involved in the study of the challenging problems of women. There is an enormous female representation that performed and was perceived according to certain patterns of behavior which ruled feminine life, they kept themselves within their houses, they went-out in good company and assisted churches; similar to what took place when referring to female education, it was not a common practice for women to have considerable access to education, comparable to the wide-ranging agreement in which women other than instructed must be focused on being educated, learn religion, urbanity rules, virtues and abilities in relation to their sex.¹⁷

Likewise, female life went by, outside everyday existence and domestic routine to show us the concern and actions related to life and women's political scenery in the past century. While politics was considered and in practice it was, an exclusive space destined to male activity, it is not less true that many women, mostly completely anonymous, were involved in their way, in political facts of the time; furthermore they took sides to different causes and participated with their families in war; they watched over the interests of their closest affections or were renowned as exceptional companions to political figures of our history, affecting in an exacting manner the outcome of events they were compelled to live.¹⁸

Women's movements in Venezuela have taken part in leading roles of social mobilizations, encouraging changes and amendments, building a more just, pluralistic and democratic social order in all dimensions, specifically related to equality and fairness among men and women.¹⁹ The first women's organization was founded in the year 1928 under the name of '*Sociedad Patriótica de Mujeres Venezolanas*', (Venezuelan Patriotic Women's Society) to fight for prisoners and victimized by *General Gomez*' dictatorship in power for twenty seven (27) years. When General Gomez died on December 1935, *General Lopez Contreras* assumes command and women organized in associations such as: Feminine Cultural Association, Venezuelan Women's Association and the Caracas' Ateneo, sent him a communication demanding political and social rights for women in the country. Additionally, women initiate a series of legal debates on women's right to vote and women's parental rights. Afterwards, in 1942 during the government of *General Medina Angarita* the abovementioned organizations present a plead to the National Congress holding 12000 signatures for the modification of some of the articles in the Civil Code, later in 1943 women begin a campaign to battle for the reform of the Constitution in political matters, which lead to guarantee in 1945 the right of women to vote, but only the ones who could read, and only to vote for the election of municipal authorities. In 1946 a Constituent Assembly is called upon with the participation of fourteen (14) women delegates to elaborate a National Constitution, when it was later declared in force on July 5th, 1947, incorporating for the first time in Venezuelan history, the rights to a universal direct and secret vote, for the entire country.

In the year 1950, Venezuelan groups of organized women achieved sounded opposition to face up to the dictatorship of *General Marcos Perez Jimenez* that started November 24, 1948 with a coup d'état overthrowing the government of Romulo Gallegos. These women's organizations obtained important places first within political parties of the resistance and afterwards in unitary spaces, example of this, were the ***Union of Girls in 1950*** and the ***National Union of Young***

¹⁷ Quintero, Inés (Looking through a Window) Publication. Travelers' and legionaries testimony on women of the XIX century. Available at: <http://www.analitica.com/Bitbllo/quintero/mujer.asp>

¹⁸ Mentioned publication.

¹⁹ Dr.Barreto M. The contribution of Venezuelan Women to the Construction of a new Society. Available at URL: http://guiagenero.mzc.org.es/GuiaGeneroCache/Pagina_Decisiones_000177.html

Women of Venezuela, these groups gathered high school and university students, sharing the goals to a right to education, right to work and minimum wage for men and woman alike. In the year 1953 the joint resistance was organized forming the **National Union of Women of Venezuela** and the **Patriotic Feminine Board**, both scoring benefits for woman's rights and political activity at the time, until the overthrow of dictatorship on January 23rd, 1958.²⁰

The 60's meant years of guerrilla warfare, women leaders from all sectors kept collaborating to achieve women's advances even with political differences; they managed to broadcast a radio program on National Radio, and started an ideological discussion on the specific condition of the housewife. 1962 was the year of the creation of **FEVA**, Venezuelan Federation of Women Lawyers. The 'First Congress for the Evaluation of Venezuelan Women' was held in 1968; in this opportunity it was continued with the specific gender vindications. The **Movement for the Emancipation of Women** was founded by the end of the 60' decade with the first group self-declared feminist which attracted political and syndicate leaders.²¹

1974 was the year that the government of the Republic of Venezuela created *The Feminine Commission to Advise the Presidency of the Republic*, (**COFEAPRE**); later in 1975 was declared women's International year, with the celebration of the First Venezuelan Congress of Women, as a result the state begins systematic action on behalf of women. Henceforth women participate in the First International Conference of Women organized by (UNO) United Nations Organization in Mexico 1975, it is then proclaimed *The United Nations Decade for Women*²²; in which events, Venezuelan women have an outstanding participation. In 1979 is founded the Ministry of State for the Incorporation of Women to the Development, Mercedes Pulido presiding, with the intention to produce spaces of encounter between women of government and non-government sectors, well-informed as to feminine condition and the institutional back-up to support reform of the civil code, later approved in 1982²³.

In 1979 the ONU approves the Convention for the elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), with the objective of recognizing equal responsibilities and opportunities between men and women, establishing for each country the creation of courts and public institutions which assure the elimination of all form of discrimination towards women. The CEDAW is approved by the government of Luis Herrera Campins in 1982, and official as National Law by the Congress of the Republic of Venezuela in 1983. In 1984 the government of Dr. Jaime Lusinchi eliminates the Ministry of State for the Incorporation of Women to Development and forms the National Office of Women and Family, ascribed to the Ministry of Youth which later in 1986 became the Ministry of Family, presided by a woman as Minister; then with higher hierarchy, is created the General Sectorial Direction for the Promotion of Women which develops the formation of Advise Commissions for women's issues, in different topics and specific programs related to, self-esteem, female leadership, and women's participation in politics; forming a space for gathering between women from political organizations of diverse ideologies and organizations from the community.²⁴

During the second period of government of Carlos Andres Perez in the year 1989, the initiative of the State towards women is consolidated thus creating once more, the COFEAPRE presided by a woman Minister of State for the Promotion of Women, with the assignment of proposing a Public Administration office to assist public political affairs for women in a permanent and complete approach, assembling within its activities and responsibilities, the 1991 Second Congress of Venezuelan Women, and the design of a Bicameral Commission for Women Rights, with the endeavor of perfecting the existing legislation and the production of new laws in search for equality. This commission was propelled among others, by the social fighter and feminist leader, Argelia Laya and presided by Mercedes Pulido.²⁵

²⁰ Del Olmo Rosa (2003) Women in Venezuela. Minimum Story Pg 33 and 36 Ed. Funtrapet. Caracas.

²¹ Organisms and Popular Action of Women. Available at URL:

<http://www.eurosur.org/FLACSO/mujeres/venezuela/orga.htm>

²² Dr. Barreto M. The contribution of Venezuelan Women to the Construction of a new Society. Available at URL:

http://guiagenero.mzc.org.es/GuiaGeneroCache/Pagina_Decisiones_000177.html

²³ Available at URL: <http://www.eurosur.org/FLACSO/mujeres/venezuela/orga - 4.htm>

²⁴ Available at URL: <http://www.eurosur.org/FLACSO/mujeres/venezuela/orga - 4.htm>

²⁵ Mentioned publication.

Between 1985 and 1990 women discuss the project for the new Organic Labor Law (LOT), approved by National Congress in 1990 and is put in force by 1992, in its Title VI "Of Maternity and Family Labor Protection" it is therein established that maternity has a public meaning and therefore must be protected, and also establishes the maternity privilege, as protection for pregnant workers against dismissal. It is consequently approved in 1993 the Law for Equal Opportunities for Women (LIOM), setting-up the Approval Law of CEDAW, and as part of this legislation, it is established the creation of The National Institute for Women (INAMUJER), which is not instituted during the period of government of Rafael Caldera, for this reason COFEAPRE impelled the creation by decree of the National Institute for Women, (CONAMU) in that same year, with the principal objective of giving stability to the making and the development of public politics and sectoral plans towards the promotion of equal rights between genders. In 1999 CONAMU is substituted, because finally, the NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN (INAMUJER) is formed²⁶. The configuration of Chairs for Women commences in academic scope of universities, as is the case of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV), and the University of Zulia State (LUZ), also in 1992 sees the creation of the Center for Women Studies of the Central University of Venezuela (CEMUCV), with the purpose of promoting and encouraging investigation, teaching and the extension on the women problematical issues, presenting feasible solutions to the demands and challenges that the university and the society require in the scope of gender. In addition to this the Central University of Venezuela establishes a Master's degree in the *Study of Women*.

In 1994 the Organization of American States (OEA) approves the Inter-American Convention, to prevent, penalize, and eradicate violence against women, **Convencion Belem Do Para**, forcing countries to adopt prevention programs, legal and administrative methods, to refurbish and restore damages, abuse and ill-treatment which victimize women; and 1995 reflects international conciliation to achieve goals of equality, progress and peace from women through the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, Venezuela was one of the participant countries in these methods.²⁷ In January 1999 comes into effect the Law against Violence towards Women and Family; approved by National Congress in September of that same year, this is a legal instrument which allows the prevention and penalty of all type of violence against victimized women and family groups, assuring the support and attention of the victims of domestic violence, sexual harassment and incest, guaranteeing the statistical registry of the cases of child abuse and violence against women and child.²⁸ This way the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CRBV) of 1999, views the woman as a citizen with rights and duties, creator, independent and essential to the full development of society with implementation of inclusive and non sexist language, breaking the patriarchal paradigm of subordination and exclusion in gender relationship, evidenced in the articles of the constitution.²⁹

In 2000 during the government of President Hugo Chavez Frias, the structure of support for equality is institutionalized, evidenced in the creation of national and state structures to support and enforce equity in gender in Venezuela, it is signed in the United Nations the Optional Protocol for the CEDAW. The Women Development Bank is formed in 2001, as a public micro-financial Institution to facilitate financial and non-financial services, to provide inclusion and organized welfare services for the community. Also in the year 2008 is the year of the design of the Special Legal Defense Unit for Women, ascribed to the Peoples 'Defense Unit, the Offices of the Minister of State for Women Affairs, The Bolivarian Gender Observatory, as a space for evaluation, follow-up and analysis of public politics directed towards women. In 2009 the Ministry of Popular Power for Women and equality of Gender, as a direction in public politics, plans, programs and projects which compels women's involvement.

²⁶ Mentioned publication.

²⁷ INAMUJER "Women Human Rights (UNICEF).

²⁸ Dr. Barreto M. The contribution of Venezuelan Women to the Construction of a new Society. Available at URL: http://guiagenero.mzc.org.es/GuiaGeneroCache/Pagina_Decisiones_000177.html

²⁹ Mentioned publication.

GOVERNMENT GENDER POLITICS:

Venezuela has implemented public politics and strategies with the intention of escalating the process of social inclusion, directing all arrangements towards the vindication of rights and the advance towards equality and equity of gender, through the creation of spaces to reassure elimination and suppression of the discrimination against women, as the aforementioned Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Equality of Gender, its Divisions and five (5) Vice-Ministries.

Internationally, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has subscribed and arranged agreements, protocols and international treaties all of which have been fulfilled and strengthened, the most relevant being: CEDAW (1979).- The Declaration of the United Nations on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence Against Women (1993).- Convention Belem Do Para, (1994). Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women, (1995)³⁰. (2000) United Nations Millennium Convention, where it was agreed to reach eight (8) Millennium Goals for 2015.

On a national scale in Venezuela we can identify political instruments allowing advance on rights and citizen participation of women since the ends of the XIX century, as in example: 1870 Decree on Public Instruction, which provides access to free and compulsory primary education to boys and girls, without discrimination of gender; the articles in the 1936 Labor Law which protect labor for women when it establishes before and after maternity leaves and the prohibition of night labor for women.³¹

Likewise, the first and second COFEAPRE, were established as the first political mechanisms to improve equality and equity of gender in Venezuela, notwithstanding vulnerability in social politics to confront discrimination towards women was obvious; even though there is yet a lot to cover, these politics have grown stronger, for example in 1993 **CONAMU** structured an elaborated a plan called: the *Women's First National Plan (1998-2003)*.

Ever since its foundation in December 1999 until 2008, **INAMUJER** was the executive rector of public politics designed for equality in gender, reaching important political mechanisms:

- .- Concerning women's economic rights it proposed and impelled the creation of the Woman's Bank as the micro-financial Institution to support with financial and non-financial services Venezuelan women's economy;
- .- Organized with the special goal of public defense of women's rights was created the *National Defense of Women's Rights* according with Article IV of the LIOM³²;
- .- Concerning social security, the Mission Barrio Mothers "*Josefa Joaquina Sanchez*", was created in order to sustain the foreseen in Article 88 of the CRBV acknowledging the housewife's work and their rights to social security.
- .-In the 2005 ruling in connection with the backing of political rights, the Rule of Evenness and Alternativeness in the making of the List of Candidates destined to Institutions of Popular Elections, for the National Electoral Council, the application of this rule is evidenced in that year's parliament elections where 20 Parliamentary Deputies were elected, thus representing 14,2% of the elected legislators, notorious difference to the 9,6% in the previous period of 2000-2005. Today we have a woman as parliamentarian president of the National Assembly, accompanied by another woman Deputy as Vice-President. This arrangement including the quota established in 1996 of 30% for women in the electoral lists, were eliminated in 2010 by the National Assembly.

³⁰ Ministry of Popular Power for equal gender. Preliminary Report for the 11th, Regional Conference on Latin American and Caribbean Women (CEPAL 2010).

³¹ Acevedo, Doris. National Instruments of Public Politics for Gender Equality. Basic Course on Socialism, Feminism and Gender. III Module. Lecture 3. Available at URL: http://www.efosig.gob.ve/CBSFG/EFOSIG/Material%20did%C3%A1ctico/2.%20Todas%20las%20lecturas/Modulo%20II/I/M%C3%B3dulo%20III_Lectura%203_Instrumentos%20Nacionales%20de%20Pol%C3%ADticas%20P%C3%BAblicas%20.pdf

³² 1999. Law on Equal Opportunities for Women. Title IV. Official Gazette No. 5.398.

.-In the 2008 regional elections, two Governesses were elected one in Falcon State and the other in Delta Amacuro State; also of the 336 Mayoralties, were elected 51 Mayoress; plus in the Legislative Councils 56 women were elected. Moreover, of the five National Public Powers, women have four chairwomen: in the Legislative Power, Presiding the National Assembly for the 2005-2010 period; in the Judicial Power, Presiding the Supreme Court; in The Citizen Power: the District Attorney; in Peoples' Defense Court and the Electoral Power, women hold the presidency.³³

.-Likewise, in the academic field the presence of women holding important directive positions is clearly evidenced at the Central University of Venezuela for the 2008-2012 periods, the Principal is a woman. As a matter of fact, in a total of twenty-eight (28) public universities nine (9) have women presiding, representing 32.14%. Other private university institutions are also directed by women.

.-To consolidate sexual and reproductive rights approved by the CRBV, it is organized by the Ministry of Health, the Official Norm for Integral Attention of Sexual and Reproductive Health, reaching the entire national health system, although to this day is imperceptibly instrumented.

.-With the purpose of including gender indicators in the Statistics National Systems, a Sub-Committee of gender statistics in the INE is organized working in every vital area of importance to women:

.- To eradicate all forms of violence towards women, in 2006, the 1999 Law on Violence against Women and Family, is repealed in 2006 in its place the Organic Law on the Rights of Women to a life free of violence; giving this law organic character and disposition, with the idea that it may prime over other laws, since it develops constitutional rights and attempts to cover all possible situations wherein gender violence is proven, it stipulates 19 types of gender violence, it establishes actions and manifestations of gender violence in the intra-familial environment as outside, giving way to new definitions as are institutional violence, media violence, patrimonial violence, and labor violence, among others which affect women in different spaces of social performance.³⁴

.- To submit and apply the Organic Law on the Rights of Women to a Life free of Violence 2006, were organized and impelled from the Justice or Supreme Court (JSC), special Courts for the resolution of the cases covered by the law, stipulating and encouraging officials and judges to be educated and structured with a gender perspective point of view.

.- Combined with the Ministry of Popular Power for Internal Affairs and Justice, an Inter-institutional Commission for Assistance, Prevention and Battle against the Treaty of Persons is structured through cooperation in the protection and essential assistance to the victims of Treaty of persons, specially women, girls and adolescents;

.- With the objective of guaranteeing gender equity in politics, programs, projects, and budgets from Venezuelan government, a gender viewpoint is incorporated in the planning system and National and Municipal budgets, through the Project of Implementation of gender sensible budgets, as part of an initiative proposed by **INAMUJER** and the **UN Funds for International Cooperation (UNIFEM) (UNFPA)**, **German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)** and the **UN Program for Development (PNUD)**. This experience starts in the Caroni Municipality of the State of Bolivar in 2006 reaching among other results, the separated inclusion of goals, objectives and description of programs focused on gender. On a national scale it was included in the cause exposure of the National Budget Law for 2007, henceforth the condition of development of projects separating gender view. As well as the incorporation of alignment in

³³ Ministry of Popular Power for gender equality. Report for the 11th Regional Conference on Latin American and Caribbean Women (CEPAL 2010).

³⁴ 2007. Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free from Violence. Explanatory Memorandum. Official Gazette No. 38.668.

planning and budget processes for 2009, that all public institutions must have at least one project instructed towards gender equity;

.- To guarantee the application of the Convention CEDAW, the Application Project and Follow-up of the Convention 2004-2008 is instructed, counting with the cooperation of CEM-UCV, to give wide diffusion and information of the contents of the Report presented by the Venezuelan government before the CEDAW Commission in the year 2003.

.- Conciliation of spaces guided towards the creation of conscience with gender vision among men and women, with the design of the School of Socialist Formation for Gender Equality "Ana Maria Campos" (EFSIGAMC) ascribed to the Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality.

.- As an instrument of attention and communication with women in situations of violence a telephone line, 0800MUJERES is maintained working ascribed to INAMUJER in order to assist, help and guide cases of gender violence.

Public Policies of the Venezuelan Government Intended for Women, about Political and Human Rights and CEM's Expert Review Concerning.

POLITICAL RIGHTS: Social, Political and legal participation.

OBJECTIVE 1. - To boost the 50-50 alternative inclusion of political participation in all public spaces.

Line of Action: To promote inter-sectoral and inter-agency strategic actions for the 50-50 alternative and parity inclusion of political participation in the Organic Law of Electoral Power; sponsor the diffusion, communication and information of the 50-50 political participation within national, state, municipal and local levels; to encourage gender perspective in women's organizations and groups.

Policies: Decree No. 050401-179 (2005) of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Decree No. 080721-658 (2008 of the CNE; legislation to regulate nominations in an alternative and parity method; Bill of Electoral Processes.

Achievements: Nominations must be of alternative and parity, for the elections of (he or she) Governors, Deputies to the Regional Legislative Councils, as well as for Mayors; Women in Public Office; Today, of the five powers that make up the National Public Power, three of them are led by women.

Weaknesses: In the Electoral Processes Law, approved in 2009, parity was eliminated. For the process of Parliamentary Elections of 2010, the Decree is not considered; The LAW OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES was approved in 2009, gender parity is not incorporated; Lack of political willpower and incidence of the women's movement; the decision-making positions are still held by male majority.

OBJECTIVE 2.- Intensify the empowerment of women through community organizations and specially Meeting Points with the National Institute for Women,(INAMUJER).

Line of Action: Promote and strengthen the improvement of women's organizations with gender perspective, for the defense of their rights.

Policies: Organize and promote Regional Women's Institutions, (IREMUJERES).

Achievements: The institutionalization at regional level.

Weaknesses: Very few States and Municipalities have Regional Women's Institutes.

OBJECTIVE 3.- To boost the creation of a Woman's National Organization that would include every movement, group, and association of women in the Country.

Line of Action: Coordinate actions with the various groupings and women's movements of the Country, intended for the foundation of the National Union of Women in Venezuela.

Policies: Establishment of Meeting Points with INAMUJER (1999); Socialists Bolivarian Women's Alliance (2008).

Achievements: Machinery that allow the mobilization of large number of proletariat women.

Weaknesses: Irregular performance; control and supremacy of political positions.

OBJECTIVE 4. - To consider the (National Institute for Women) INAMUJER as the prevailing organization in the design of policies directed toward women.

Line of Action: To establish mechanisms in order to incorporate the President of INAMUJER in the Cabinet; promote and support the inclusion of the gender approach into all programs of the public policies.

Policies: The creation of the Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality (2009); the promotion of Laws with Gender Perspective (Mentioned in the course of the matrix).

Achievements: The incorporation of INAMUJER in the Cabinet.

Weaknesses: Limitations on the implementation of Laws with Gender Perspective.

OBJECTIVE 5.- To establish permanent communication with the Commission of Family, Women and Youth of the National Assembly to introduce gender perspective in every project of Laws.

Line of Action: To coordinate actions with Governmental (OGs) and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOS) for the revision of mechanisms of laws relating to the rights of women.

Policies: Registry of NGOS s before the INAMUJER organization.

Achievements: Up the 2004 there have been 84 NGOS's registrations.

Weaknesses: NGOS considers that this type of registration limits their action; the elimination or limiting subsidies of NGOS's, those which the government considers opposition, for example the case of the Venezuelan Association for Alternative Sex Education (AVESA).

HUMAN RIGHTS: Integration, cooperation, solidarity.

OBJECTIVE 1.- Promote actions to comply with International agreements that favor women's improvement in the Country.

Line of Action: To promote actions with government agencies and International exchange for the education and training in strategic areas to enable the advancement of women.

Policies: INAMUJER's attendance and participation in 2008 in the Meeting of Women Ministers of the Andean Region (REMMA); the 2008 attendance and participation of the organization INAMUJER to the Second Conference of States as part of the follow-up and monitoring mechanism of the *Belem Do Pará* Conference; INAMUJER's attendance and participation in 2008 to the XXXIV Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM).

Achievements: Active participation in activities of International trade.

Weaknesses: Small possibilities and low potential for the incorporation of women and their needs to social movements of integration.

OBJECTIVE 2.- To promote technical cooperation headed for the support of the development process of Venezuelan women.

Line of Action: To establish mechanisms for technical cooperation with countries which have experience in various areas for women's improvement.

Policies: The Project of the Bolivarian Observatory of Gender (2008) which was developed with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), and the Program of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); training workshop for women judges and the Judges recipients of the Courts of Violence against Women (2008), which was developed under the auspices of the Fund of the United Nations Development Fund (UNFPA); Workshops on Planning and Gender-Sensitive Budgets (2008), sponsored by UNFPA.

Achievements: Publication of results 1999-2009 on Policies Directed toward Women.

Weaknesses: Restrictions on processing the complaints from victims of violence against women; Limited progress in the implementation of PSG.

OBJECTIVE 3. Encourage new International agreements to improve women's living conditions.

Lines of Action: To promote women's representation in International events and within the decision-makers of the International agreements.

Policies: International Conference Women, Gender and Rights, 2008; 8th Ibero-American Meeting on Gender and Communication.

Achievements: Representation of the Venezuelan women in events and in International bodies of decision-making.

Weaknesses: The International representation is detached from the impact at a national level; they do not communicate or improve the results.³⁵

NATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Although in Venezuela public politics mechanisms are oriented to visualize gender viewpoint must be evidenced in every institutional structure on a national level, it is represented in the Executive Power through the Ministry of Popular Power for Women and gender equality, in the Legislative Power it is through the Permanent Commission for Family, Women and Youth of the National Assembly, in the Special Court for Violence against Women, and in the Citizen Power we have the Special Woman's Defense Bureau. Regarding the State Popular Power we have sixteen (16) Regional Institutes for Women (*IREMUJERES*), and in Municipal Public Power we find twenty nine (29) Municipal Institutes for Women founded since 2001.³⁶

The Ministry of Popular Power for Women and gender equality (MPPMIG), acts as commanding institution on public politics, plans, programs and projects, impelling women participation in popular power and must guarantee the exercise of their rights and gender equality, looking forward to their leadership in planning, and coordinating strategies and public politics for women and the equality of gender in Venezuela³⁷, currently it is a woman who presides this institution. Assigned to MPPMIG are:

a) **INAMUJER.** Women's National Institute, in order to guarantee legal, economic, cultural, political and domestic necessary services in terms considered by the **LIOM**.³⁸ Inside INAMUJER's provisions there is a 24hour free attention phone service (0800MUJERES) which offers free primary psychological attention available 24hours, 365 days a year;

b) **BANMUJER,** Women's Development Bank, with the intention of giving financial and non-financial services essentially to women in discrimination and exclusion situations in order to promote leading, sovereign and equal participation for the construction of an inclusive society.³⁹ BANMUJER counts with 253 employees, 200 are women and 53 are men, likewise in its organic structure the bank counts with thirteen (13) directions, ten of them (10) are directed by women; the financial services offered by BANMUJER are constituted by credits for the consolidation of economic initiatives and the non-financial are designed for education in diverse areas through training workshops; and

c) The Foundation: "*Mision Madres del Barrio*" *Josefa Joaquina Sanchez*", through this institution a grant is given to excluded housewives with great family burden therefore strengthening initiatives of economic solidarity.⁴⁰

Executive Power:

Within the organizational configuration of the Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality, there are five (5) Vice-Ministries with specific roles as follows:

.- Vice-Ministry for the Political Transversality of Sort: with the function to impel policies that allow to surpass all form of discrimination against the women, in democratic, egalitarian, joint,

³⁵ Venezuelan Gender Observatory. Public Policies Directed towards Women. Results 1999-2009.

³⁶ 2009. Bolivarian Gender Observatory. Results 1999-2009.

³⁷ Available at URL: Disponible en URL:

http://www.minmujer.gob.ve/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59&Itemid=55

³⁸ 1993. Law for Equal Opportunities for Women. Article 48 # 3.

³⁹ 2010. BANMUJER Performance.

⁴⁰ 2009. Bolivarian Gender Observatory. Results 1999-2009.

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participating, protagonist and socialist a society in coordination with the Powers public, the Organs and beings of the State;

.- Vice-Ministry for Socio-economic Strategies with perception of Gender, Ethnic and Class, intended to developing a new socialist socio-economical model based on expansion of economy incorporating women completely thus guaranteeing equality and gender parity, beating a classists and patriarchal society;

.-Vice-Ministry for Gender Equality and Equity designed for a Leading Involvement and Socialist-Feminist Formation: with the intention of structuring sense of nationhood, of class, gender and ethnic, by dynamic training of women and their movements, within a protagonist joint democracy, equally and revolutionary for the construction of a feminist socialism equivalent in gender;

.-Vice-Ministry for Equality and Equity in Gender, African descendents and Ethnicity: with the objective to impel politics which guarantee integral rights of African descendant women to achieve equality and equity in gender; and

.-Vice-Ministry of Social Strategies for Gender Equality: with the purpose of promoting development of politics and social strategies to guarantee equality in gender at work, social security and protection of women in specific conditions.^{41*}

Citizen Power:

Within the structure of the Citizen Defense Committee, is situated the Special Defense Committee for Women, with authorization to guarantee through the corresponding court jurisdiction all legal, political, social and cultural rights of the female sector, the most vulnerable in society; also to receive and direct accusations made by a citizen or organization connected to transgressions of rules related to programs inciting violence or promoting the devaluation of women and family.⁴²

Legislative Power:

Within the commissions that frame the National Assembly is structured the 'Permanent Commission of Family, Woman and Youth, in charge of family protection, the gratification of rights and guarantees of women and the development of programs aimed towards youth and childhood.⁴³ Presently it counts with seven (7) representatives in Congress and five (5) of them are women.

Judicial Power:

Within the structure of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Special Court for Violence against Women performs as receptor of claims and allegations of crimes stipulated in the Organic Law on the Rights of Women to a Life Free of Violence.

Public, State and Municipal Power:

While we survey a more desegregated structure in State Public Power, we count up with regional institutions for Women, **IREMUJERES**, was structured since the year 2001 ascribed to the states' administration Offices and prompted by **INAMUJER**. Up to the year 2009, sixteen (16) of these institutions have been formed. Likewise, on a city level twenty-nine (29) Municipal Institutes for Women have been created, ascribed to Town Hall Offices.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Ministry for Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality. Available URL:

http://www.minmujer.gob.ve/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=62

⁴² 1993. Law of Equal Opportunities for Women. Title IV of the National Defense for Women Rights. Article 54 # 3 and 4.

⁴³ Available in URL: http://www.asambleanacional.gob.ve/index.php?option=com_comisionesficha&tipoComi=permanente&hidId=reporteComisionPermanente&hidComid=18&Itemid=98&tab=dip&lang=es

⁴⁴ 2009 Bolivarian Gender Observatory. Results 1999-2009. Public Politics guided towards Women. Results 1999-2009.

Strengths and Weaknesses of Gender Mechanisms:

In Venezuela among the strengths the gender mechanisms present we have the visualization of women within government public politics and in Public Power structures.

The weaknesses which these mechanisms present are:

- .- Difficulty to access information to recent statistics, fact which constitutes inconveniency in the design and performance of public politics.**
- .- Institutional incoordination amid gender mechanisms with the rest of public mechanisms.
- .- Reduced budgets for these mechanisms and a lack of information on assigned amounts.
- .- Limitations for verification and performance of public politics resulted from gender mechanisms.

Gender mechanisms are ascribed to Institutions' Budgets:

The budget assigned for the fiscal year 2009 published by the National Budget Office, **ONAPRE**, for the institutions to which gender mechanisms are ascribed was the following:

Peoples' Defense Office: 78.998.200Bf.

National Assembly: 859.499.674 Bf.

Supreme Court of Justice: 4.381.180.100Bf.⁴⁵

Notwithstanding it was not possible to learn which amount is allocated to the offices of these agencies dealing in relation to visibility of women.***

Coordination with other areas:

Regarding coordination with other areas, gender mechanisms in Venezuela, count with the cooperation of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Program (PNUD), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Center for the Study of Women of the Central University of Venezuela. (CEM-UCV).

In Venezuela gender mechanisms work jointly to be trained and achieve proficiency in gender areas with the aforementioned institutions that sponsor publications as well as finance projects that promote women's role in improvement and eradication of all forms of discrimination, hence support gender equality and equity in Venezuela.

* At the time of the discussion of 2009's Budget, the Ministry for Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality, was not yet created, therefore we have no data.

** The data omitted corresponding to the budget for gender mechanisms, was not available at the Web, we have requested this information and it is pending.

*** The data missing regarding the number of employees in gender mechanisms was requested and is pending, we trust to be able to provide the same by the ending of this report.

⁴⁵ Available in URL: http://201.249.236.149:7777/onapre/Ley_2009/Resumen_Distribucion_General_2009.pdf

SITUATION OF WOMEN BY SECTOR.

EDUCATION:

In Venezuela all Citizens have the right to receive quality education without any discrimination related to sex, race, social status or ethnicity; the State is in the obligation to offer such an education as a public service thus is sustained officially and legally in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (1999) in Articles 102 and 103, in the Basic Education Law (2009) Article 3, the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents in force since 2000, Article 62, the Law of Universities (1970) currently under discussion which strained the principle of autonomy and the Community Service Law (2007). Venezuelan Educational System consists of 4 levels and 6 modalities; they include preschool education, basic school education, middle diversified and professional education and superior education by levels and special education, education for arts, military education, education for religious ministers, adult education and non-formal education as modalities. There are two (2) structures representing the educational system; 1.-The Ministry of Popular Power for Education (MPPE), which includes the following levels: preschool, basic school, middle school, diversified school, adult and special education; and 2.-The Ministry of Popular Power for Higher Education which includes the professional level (MPPEU).

1.-The Ministry of Popular Power for Education (MPPE), defined in the profile of education in the page number 3 of the present report, it is thus structured and organized: Ministerial Cabinet; Vice- Ministry for the Coordination of the Bolivarian Education; Development Vice-Ministry for the Integration of the Bolivarian Education; Vice-Ministry for the Participation and Academic Support; Vice-Ministry for the Academic Development Programs.⁴⁶

A significant advance has been made into an equitable distribution of gender within students' enrolment as of the initial Educational level up to the levels of Basic, Media and Diversified Education;

The project: Education for Sexuality and Gender Equity developed throughout the curricula in Initial and Basic Education levels, strengthens the gender fairness point of view within the Educational institutions, however it is necessary to point-out that the goal of publishing school texts with gender perspective has not yet been fulfilled;

The enactment of the Ministerial Resolution Number 1762 of the Ministry of Education and Sports that requires protection for pregnant girls in educational Institutions ensures them of their right to the continuity of their studies;

Venezuela will reach the universalization of basic primary education by the year 2015, according to the report submitted by the Ministry of Popular Power for Communication and Information, on the Implementation of the Millennium Goals (2010), this universalization is being reflected in the increase in net rate of schooling and the proportion of boys and girls who reach the sixth grade, the enrolment at this level of education, in the school terms of 2000-2001 up to 2008-2009 is higher compared with the 1990's, this figure has been sustained at an average 91.9%, consequently for the years 2008-2009 it was situated at 92.3% while in the school years 1993-1994, 1999-2000 it was situated at 86.6%. Concerning the continuity of basic education and its success for the 1990 decade of 70% in relation to the 2000 decade presenting an increase of 14%, thus representing that from every (100) one hundred students (84) eighty-four of them finish sixth grade.⁴⁷

Aiming at the achievement of social equilibrium and to improve the enormous differences affecting our society which bears the burden of exclusion and social injustice, the National Government has implemented a series of socio-educational measures which are allowing eradication of illiteracy and school desertion and exclusion through the implementation of educational 'missions' described as follows: Mission: *Robinson*, which has the purpose of

⁴⁶ Data available at: URL: <http://me.gob.ve/>

⁴⁷ Ministry of Popular Power for Communication and the Information. Venezuela Fulfills the goals of the Millenium 2010.

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teaching to read and write with the Literacy method called: 'Yes I can', the literacy rate for 2009 is of 98.7% in men and women 15 to 24 years of age⁴⁸;

The expansion of *Mission Robinson to Robinson II* consists in procuring those who finished *Mission Robinson I* to reach the basic primary education;

The *Mission Ribas* is an educational program developed with the aim of including all those who have not yet completed their high school, a total of 632,623 were graduates by December 2009⁴⁹, having an enrolment for carry-over from *Robinson II* of 129.943 students⁵⁰, and a carry-over enrolment from *Mission Ribas* to *Mission Sucre* of 245.805 students⁵¹.

Mission Sucre's target is management and control given to the municipality for the community's higher education. The single statistical data available is for the Capital District's student's enrolment to march 2010, there were 37.548 graduates and 13.746 current students, and these are official figures according to the Ministry of Popular Power for Energy and Oil.

Two compensatory social programs are currently in force, aimed at the scholastic population, they are the School Nutrition Program (PAE) and the Students Transport Subsidies. The first has a coverage of 715,816 students which implies a ratio of 13.44% children assisted in correlation with the total enrolment of Basic and Middle Education. The transportation financial assistance is partial to the cost of public transportation, corresponding to 70% of the total; the student must pay 30%.⁵²

The foregoing figures show academic enrolment in educational levels of initial, primary, middle, special and adult education for 2009-2010 issued by the Ministry (MPPE):

Table nº 7.- Total School enrolment, school year 2009-2010

General Total		
Total	Male (M)	Female (F)
7.735.815	3.866.182	3.869.633
	49,97%	50,02%

Source: Ministry for Popular Power for Education. Direction of Statistics.

Table nº 8.- School enrolment separated by sex; Initial Education, Basic School, Middle School, and Special and Adult educational levels for 2009-2010 school years.

Initial Education		Primary Education		Middle Education		Adult Education		Special Education	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
769.65	793.46	1.774.26	1.654.08	1.098.32	1.156.60	119.31	162.83	104.61	102.65
6	1	9	2	7	8	7	0	3	2
9,94%	10,25%	22,93%	21,38%	14,19%	14,95%	1,54%	2,10%	1,35%	1,32%

Source: Ministry for Popular Power for Education. Direction of Statistics.

Public Policies of the Venezuelan Government Intended for Women, about Education and CEM's Expert Review Concerning.

SOCIAL RIGHTS: Women's Education, Information and Communication.

OBJECTIVE 1.- Education as strategy to produce qualitative changes in society, directed towards the decline of cultural gaps in order to achieve gender equity.

Line of Action: To eradicate illiteracy in women.

Policies: The Mission: '*Robinson*'.

Achievements: The declaration of a territory Free of Illiteracy in 2005; Attention to the women excluded from the formal education system.

OBJECTIVE 2. - To promote the incorporation of the gender viewpoint in educational and labor training missions.

Lines of Action: To Promote actions to include gender and inter-culture activities in the missions.

Policies: Mission: *Robinson II* (2003); Mission: *Ribas* (2003), Mission: *Sucre* (2008).

⁴⁸ Ministry of Popular Power for Communication and the Information. Venezuela Fulfills the goals of the Millenium 2010.

⁴⁹ Data available at: URL: http://www.misionribas.gov.ve/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=110

⁵⁰ Data available at: URL: http://www.misionribas.gov.ve/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=110

⁵¹ Data available at: URL: http://www.misionribas.gov.ve/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=110

⁵² Herrera Mariano, The Venezuelan educative system. Available at: URL:

<http://www.cice.org.ve/descargas/Sistema%20Educativo%20Venezolano.pdf>

Achievements: Attention to women who are excluded from the formal education system; incorporate these women into the formal education system; massification of higher education.

Weaknesses: Flaws in the operation and procedures; family responsibilities prevent women to continue their studies, there is no concern or solution to this problem.

OBJECTIVE 3.- To contribute to the stability of girls and adolescent girls within the formal educational system.

Line of Action: Participate actively in inter-sectoral action to guarantee the permanence of girls and adolescent girls in the formal education system.

Policies: Project: 'Simoncito' (2004).

Achievements: The incorporation of non-sexist language and gender perspective in the pattern of the first stage of education for girls and children, 0-6 years of age.

Weaknesses: Nevertheless the coverage does not yet reach the entire child population. Efforts in training teachers in gender terms have been uneven and somewhat erratic.

OBJECTIVE 4.- Foster the reactivation of the Program: Teaching for Equality and extend it to all educational modalities.

Line of Action: Coordinate inter-sectoral actions to promote the Program Teaching for Equality throughout the educational system.

Policies: Program: Teaching (1992). Program: Educating for Gender Equality.

Achievements: Presently the program 'Educating for Gender Equality' is adhered to the program: '*Simoncito*' connecting it to the teachings given to children, 0 to 6 years of age.

Weaknesses: We do not count with official statistics or any other source of information which may confirm the achievement of this policy.

OBJECTIVE 5.- The proper incorporation of gender in all public policies of communication and information, focusing on a non stereotypical portrayals of women.

Line of Action: Coordinate inter-sectoral action, inter-institutional and with community organizations for the broadcasting, communication and information on women's rights.

Policies: Training School for the Exercise of Sovereignty (2002); Socialist Training School for gender equality, '*Ana Maria Campos*' (EFOSIG, 2008).

Achievements: Strengthen capacities in search of advancement headed for women in a socialist society; 'Gender mainstreaming'.

Weaknesses: Activities are suspended to reorganize.

OBJECTIVE 6. - To promote mass diffusion of all aspects related to women's rights in every area of National life.

Line of Action: To enable and support State agencies to develop materials of mass diffusion concerning women's rights in their area of competition.

Policies: Massive educational and informative publications; Publication of Newspapers, magazines, newsletters and bulletins.

Achievements: To rescue the historical memory of our Heroines; Venezuelan magazine of the Center for Studies of Women, Universidad Central de Venezuela (CEM-UCV); Periodic publishing and distribution by the office of the People's Defense Court (Ombudsman).

OBJECTIVE 7. - To support educational skills for nontraditional careers for women in technical and vocational field.

Line of Action: Motivate actions to support the development of education for nontraditional professions for women.

Policies: Mission 'Che Guevara' (2007), previously named: '*Vuelvan Caras*' (2004).

Achievements: Training for the work field.

Weaknesses: No massive campaigns have been carried-out that would eventually change sexual stereotypes when choosing labor activities.

OBJECTIVE 8. - Scrutinize the implementation of all Education Programs for preschools and nurseries.

Line of Action: Coordinate inter-sectoral and inter-agency actions that guarantee responsibility of programs for preschool and nursery education within public and private institutions.

Policies: Project: 'Simoncito' (2004).

Achievements: Complete attention toward childhood ensuring social, educational and nutritional conditions to let them continue their basic education with equal opportunities.

Weaknesses: The lack of a better effort to expand 100% of childhood.

OBJECTIVE 9.- To support policies that incorporate women in sports and in cultural affairs.

Line of Action: Coordinate inter-sectoral proceedings to sustain women's expansion within diverse cultural demonstrations; coordinate inter-sectoral actions for the inclusion of women in the sports activity as part of their essential development.

Policies: Mission: 'Culture' (2004); Sports Mission: 'Barrio Adentro Deportiva' (2004).

Achievements: A relevant inclusion of girls, boys and adolescents with sensitivity for arts and music; to struggle against drug problem and violence in the grassroots sectors.⁵³

2.-The Ministry of Popular Power for Higher Education (MPPEU) created in 2002 is the governing department which rules the policies for university education; it is directed by a Deputy Minister for Academic policies and a Deputy Minister for Student Policies. The powers of MPPEU are pointed towards planning, directing and coordinating activities inherent to the counsel, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, control and diffusion of academic and scholar policies in order to strengthen the quality, equity and social relevance of higher education in accordance with the Venezuelan State. Agencies that are attached: Office for the scheduling and planning of the University Sector (OPSU), the Foundation for Medical Care Hospitals for Students of Higher Education (FAMES), the Foundation International Center Miranda (CIM), the 'Dr. Alejandro Prosperous Reverend' Foundation, and the 'Poliedro de Caracas' Foundation.⁵⁴ As for the College tuition per division (official – private) in 2008 the registry was, according to official figures of the Ministry of Popular Power for Higher Education, 2,109,331 students, 1,518,860 of them form part of the official university institutions for a percentage of 72.0% and 590,471 form part of the private university institutions with a percentage of 28.0%.⁵⁵

Table nº 9.-Total University enrolment, 2008

Total enrolment for higher education (Pre-grade-Post-grade) 2008	
Post-grade	102.983
Pre-grade	2.006.348
Total	2.109.331

Source: Ministry of Popular Power for Higher education. November 2009. Higher Education Statistics committee. The Education Statistics managed by gender separation present a 5% margin of error, therefore we were not provided with data from the Institution.

The information on educational levels achieved by the Venezuelan population show the thriving effort accomplished by women to incorporate themselves into the different levels of instruction. Maybe within the area of education this effort is the largest positive pinpointing of women's goal to achieve equal opportunities. The educational situation of women improved enormously in the last decades⁵⁶ by percentage parity index in university education in the last years show greater participation of women represented by 1.46% by 2009.⁵⁷

The following is a Table of Contents representing figures for the Budget assigned to the MPPE and to MPPEU since 2006 to 2010, as well as the figure of the national expenditure budget.

⁵³ Venezuelan Gender Observatory. Public Policies Directed towards Women. Results 1999-2009.

⁵⁴ Data available at: URL: <http://www.mppeu.gob.ve/resena.php>

⁵⁵ Ministry of Popular Power for Higher education. November 2009. Higher Education Statistics committee. Data available at: URL: <http://www.mppeu.gob.ve/documentos/estadistica/Dependencia.pdf>

⁵⁶ Paredes Rosa, The Women in Venezuela: Strategies to leave the Poverty. Venezuelan Magazine of Studies of the Woman - caracas, enero-junio 2005 - Vol 10 - N° 24

⁵⁷ Ministry of Popular Power for Communication and the Information. Venezuela Fulfills the goals of the Millenium 2010.

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Table n° 10.- Budget of expenses assigned to MPPE and to MPPEU in relation to the national expenses budget for the 2006-2010 period.

	2006 (Bs)	2007 (Bs)	2008 (Bf)	2009 (Bf)	2010 (Bf) in million bolívars
MPPE	11.794.183.000.000	18.593.636.935.168	19.331.843.848	25.060.932.727	23.628,4
% in relation to the National budget	13,55%	16,14%	14,05%	14,96%	14,82%
MPPEU	6.996.603.531.126	9.042.393.437.041	10.592.222.900	11.207.034.644	10.629,3
% in relation to the National budget	8,03%	7,85%	7,69%	6,69%	6,66%
National Budget	87.029.741.240.375	115.178.096.852.679	137.567.650.786	167.474.173.604	159.406,1

Own research.⁵⁸ Budget for: 2006-2007-2008-2009-2010.
Source: National Budget Office.

On the figures shown above in Table No 4, it can be verified that the budget assigned to MPPE has remained constant except for the year 2007; on the other hand the budget assigned to MPPEU has fallen by nearly 1.5% for the period of 2006 to 2010, being the lowest budget for 2010 in percentage as well as in absolute figures, however inflation rate has been over 25% as result of this Public University Institutions have had a large accumulation of debt.

HEALTH:

In Venezuela the Ministry of Popular Power for Health (MPPS), is the organization in charge of planning and implementing projects aimed at strengthening the leadership capacity in the health issue, furthermore; to reduce social gaps and unfair treatment within prioritized groups, contributing to elevate the population's quality of life specially the approach of public health issues by means of strategic and specific interventions.⁵⁹ Technical-administrative structure in the health area is managed by the Ministry of Popular Power for Health (MPPS) the National organization which governs all health-related matters, it is organized as follows:

The Minister's headquarters (a), the State Health Divisions, and a Cabinet formed by the Vice-Ministry of a Network of Health Services and the Vice Ministry of a Network of Collective Health and the Vice-Ministry of Health Resources.⁶⁰

The following Table of Contents demonstrates a representative chart of the budget assigned to the Ministry of Popular Power for Health, 2006 to 2010 as well as the National budget figure:

Table n° 11.- Budget of expenses assigned to MPPS in relation with the National Budget for the period: 2006-2010.

	2006 (Bs)	2007 (Bs)	2008 (Bf)	2009 (Bf)	2010 (Bf) in million bolívars
MPPS	4.429.097.875.000	6.024.321.650.786	7.041.869.800	9.289.541.528	9.332,1
National Budget	87.029.741.240.375	115.178.096.852.679	137.567.650.786	167.474.173.604	159.406,1
% relation to the National Budget.	5,08%	5,23%	5,11%	5,54%	5,85%

Own research.⁶¹ Budget 2006-2007-2008-2009-2010.
Source: National Budget Office

According to data from the publication of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Gender Health and Development in the Americas, basic indicators 2009, the health expenditure in Venezuela for 2007 was of 2.8% of the PIB⁶², of 27.3% of the National budget equivalent to a very low percentage of investment in health when compared with International standards.

In Venezuela among the legal instruments that declares the State's commitment to guarantee the population of their right in the health matter we have the following: The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CRBV); Act of Equal Opportunities for Women; Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence; Organic Law for the Protection of the Child

⁵⁸ Data available at: URL: <http://www.ocepre.gov.ve/>

⁵⁹ 2008. Memory. Ministry of Popular Power for Health. Available at URL: http://www.msds.gov.ve/descargas/memoria_cuenta/myc2008.html

⁶⁰ Available at URL: <http://www.mpps.gob.ve/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=3>

⁶¹ Data available at URL: <http://www.ocepre.gov.ve/>

⁶² Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). 2009. Gender, Health and Development, Basic indicators 2009.

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and Adolescent (LOPNA); Decree 1762 of the Ministry of Education (1996); Act of Partial Reform of the Organic Law of Social Security System. The CRBV recognizes health as an integral social right and guaranteed as part of the right to life and to a dignified level of wellbeing; thus overlapping the fact of health just as the absence of sickness, stated in the Articles: 7, 83, 84, 85 and 86.

It is important to pinpoint that in the issues of Sexual and Reproductive Rights for Adolescents, we count with regulations such as the Organization Act for the Protection of the Child and Adolescent (LOPNA), in Articles 50, 259, 260. The 1762 Decree of the Ministry of Education (1996) provides the preservation of the right of pregnant teenagers to continue their studies in every school and educational institution of the Country. The Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and the Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life free from Violence all these laws compose the authorized instruments which guarantee women on the possibility to apply their rights and their protection when facing violent manifestations present in any familiar or institutional circumstance.⁶³

The State has redefined priorities, assigning financial resources through Mission '*Barrio Adentro*', created in 2003, to provide primary health care in sectors of lesser socio-economical income. The health personnel that work in this Mission from the beginning held 13.000 doctors who assist 8.500 consultation points, 4,600 dentists and 8,500 nursing aides. The majority of Cuban origin only 30% is Venezuelan. In 2005 Mission '*Barrio Adentro II*' is formed, composed of 600 Integral Diagnostics Centers (CDI), Integral Rehabilitation Rooms (SRI), and Centers of High-Technology (CAT). The State announces the creation of 'Hospitals for the People' to strengthen the country's hospital networks and respond to the demand of the CDI, SRI and CAT. At the beginning of '*Barrio Adentro*', consultation rooms would perform in spontaneous places or in family houses with the Community's help. A construction plan is started to build health modules and medical residences and to relocate the attention centers; the plan is financed by several state institutions among them is '*Petroleos de Venezuela*', (Venezuela's largest oil Company), (PDVSA) and the Armed Forces. '*Barrio Adentro III*' is created for the attention of chronic diseases such as cancer, kidney failure, liver disease, traumatismos and cardio-vascular problems, with financial aid for organ, tissue and cell transplants, heart interventions, material for bone-synthesis, and medical treatment and radiation for cancer.⁶⁴

Birth and Infant Mortality:

Official figures issued by the National Institute of Statistics, regarding registration of births during the period 2006-2008 at national level by gender demonstrates the following data:⁶⁵

Table nº12.- Total national registry of infants born alive, 2006-2008 by gender.

Year	Born alive Nationally	Born alive National Registry Male (%)		Born alive National registry Female (%)	
2006	646.225	332.785	51,49%	313.440	48,50%
2007	615.371	316.636	51,45%	298.735	48,54%
2008	581.480	292.107	50,23%	289.373	49,76%

Own research:

Source: Statistics Institute INE, Available at: URL: <http://www.ine.gov.ve/registrosvtales/resnacimiento.asp>

Table nº 13.- Fertility rate registered during 2006-2008

Year	Fertility Rate
2006	2,62
2007	2,58
2008	2,55

Own research.

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística INE, (Statistics Division) Available at: URL: <http://www.ine.gov.ve/registrosvtales/Natalidad/TGFCEFederal.htm>

⁶³ Beltrán Luz, Report on the Situation of the Sexual and Reproductive Health in Venezuela. Available at: URL: http://www.observatoriomujeres.org.ve/index.php?option=com_rokdownloads&view=folder&Itemid=81&limitstart=10

⁶⁴ Beltrán Luz, Report on the Situation of the Sexual and Reproductive Health in Venezuela. Available at: URL: http://www.observatoriomujeres.org.ve/index.php?option=com_rokdownloads&view=folder&Itemid=81&limitstart=10

⁶⁵ 2007. Bulletin of Natality. Directorate of Intelligence and Statistics in Health. Ministry of Popular Power for Health.

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The rate of mortality in infants of less than one year, during 1990 and 2008, decreased by 11.9%, thus representing a decline of 46%. Total infant mortality rate per 1.000 live births, for 2008, was of 13.9 the neonatal rate was 9.7 and the post-neonatal rate was of 4.2.⁶⁶ The following figures show mortality of neonatal and post-natal during 2008 at national level:

Table nº 14. Mortality Rate neonatal and post-neonatal, year 2008

Year 2008	Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)			
	Neonatal		Postneonatal	
	Observed	Corrected	Observed	Corrected
	7,71	11,08	3,28	4,72

Source: INE Available at URL: <http://www.ine.gov.ve/registrosvtales/mortalidad/TMNPCSEfederal.htm>

Sexual and reproductive Health:

In the Sexual and Reproductive Health issue the MPPS changes the Sexual and Reproductive Health Program to give way to the Draft: '*Madre 2007*', Mother (2007), which covers the programs: Sexual and Reproductive Health in children, adolescents and infants in breastfeeding, focusing its purpose in the achievement of reduction in maternal and child mortality. In Venezuela maternal mortality rate has presented variations during the period 1990-2008; in 2007 it registered a 56.8 per 100.000 children registered born alive which is still a high rate. In order to put this purpose into action in 2009 Mission: '*NIÑO JESUS*', was created to implement and strengthen preconception, prenatal, childbirth and puerperium attention (this is a period of time including childbirth and approximately 6 weeks afterward), emphasizing on prevention and provision of adequate health services with the support of organized communities, aiming at the goal of improving care awareness for pregnant women in order to guarantee women with a praiseworthy childbirth in fitting conditions and also the creation of maternal shelters which may provide timely care and consideration to the mother in the days prior to delivery.⁶⁷

Hiv/Aids:

For the attention of persons affected by HIV/AIDS, the MPPS counts with the National AIDS Program which has among its important functions the delivery of antiretroviral drugs (ARVS) to people with positive diagnosis, in the past three years the expenditure relating to HIV has exceeded 495 million bolivars allowing the expansion of attention coverage to people with HIV.⁶⁸ The IVSS (the Social Security Institute) also assumes the task of providing ARVS, although there is supply failure not resolved. According to figures handled by the direction of the National Program of AID/HIV, of the MPPS, in 2009, a total of 11.212 new cases of people with the virus were reported; 8.725 cases were men and 2.487 women of which 233 are pregnant.⁶⁹ The year 2007 recorded 1.670 cases of death by HIV making AIDS number 12 of 25 within the leading causes of death, thus representing 1.32% of total deaths.⁷⁰

Gender Violence:

Violence against women generates devastating consequences in all areas of health both mentally and physically, the aftermath affects the performance and the quality of life of women workers and housewives. Considering the scope of mental health we encounter problems as insomnia, depression, isolation, suicide attempts, post-traumatic stress, etc. As for physical injuries they range from minor injuries to chronic health conditions including death. An important issue to be considered is sexual and reproductive health in which it can be proven facts of serious consequences, pregnancies not desired, sexually transmitted infections and the link between HIV and violence against women. Venezuela finds profound problems inside issues of public policies for the health centers with regards to violence; in the first place in the units of health service there is no sensitiveness towards the causes of physical injuries of women who

⁶⁶ Ministry of Popular Power for Communication and the Information. Venezuela Fulfills the goals of the Millenium 2010.

⁶⁷ Ministry of Popular Power for Communication and the Information. Venezuela Fulfills the goals of the Millenium 2010.

⁶⁸ Ministry of Popular Power for Communication and the Information. Venezuela Fulfills the goals of the Millenium 2010.

⁶⁹ Ministry of Popular Power for Health. National program of SIDA/HIV.

⁷⁰ Ministry of Popular Power for Communication and the Information. Venezuela Fulfills the goals of the Millenium 2010.

attend health centers. Likewise women do not count with specialized services which can provide attention to women victims of violence.⁷¹

As to the figure of violence against women, the data obtained was recollected by the Unit of Attention and Prevention of Women's National Institute (INAMUJER); this institution provides free attention through the telephone line 0800MUJERES, a total of 10.745 telephone calls attended since January to September 2010, in September they attended 385 registered cases of philological violence, 29 cases of stalking and persecution, 97 cases of coercion, 146 cases of physical violence, 5 cases of domestic violence, 24 cases of sexual violence, 14 cases of employment violence, 37 cases of heritage and economic violence, 1 case of obstetric violence, 1 case of institutional violence, 1 case of women, girls and adolescents trafficking for a total of 708 cases of different types of violence in the month of September.⁷²

Public Policies of the Venezuelan Government Intended for Women, about Health and CEM's Expert Review Concerning.

SOCIAL RIGHTS: Health and Quality of Life.

OBJECTIVE 1.- To ensure performance of the health policies in order to handle women's essential right to a comprehensive health care with fairness and equal opportunities.

Line of Action: To ensure compliance and guarantee of vital attention to women, elderly women, incapacitated women, women with any type of addiction, indigenous women and afro-descendent women.

Policies: Creation of the Missions for Health Care, Mission '*Barrio Adentro*' 1 Primary Health Care Center; Mission '*Barrio Adentro*' 2 (2005); Network of Services; Mission '*Barrio Adentro*' 3, Hospitals for the People; Mission '*Barrio Adentro*' 4, construction of new specialized hospitals; Mission: '*Sonrisa*' (2006); Mission: '*Miracle*' (2004).

Achievements: The installation of free attention services in unattended zones; Creation of the Cardiology Hospital for Children.

Weaknesses: Insufficiency in the performance of '*Barrio Adentro*' Modules 1; the attention is casuistry, it does not cover thoroughly, there are irregularities in its performance and many of these modules are unattended and neglected.

OBJECTIVE 2.- The main objective is to enhance the inter-institution and inter-sector relationships with the corresponding departments in order to increase the health care issue as an individual and communal expression to improve quality of life and women's wellbeing.

Line of Action: Encourage the various departments that are in charge of mounting health care to include gender perspective.

Policies: The structure of both gender health promoters; Formation and performance of the Pregnancy Association; Association of the mother and the newborn.

Achievements: Permanent training; attention to the future mother and father before the birth process; to stimulate the psychomotor development of the infant and the socialization process.

Weaknesses: Low population coverage.

OBJECTIVE 3.- Promote gender vision in policies and occupational health programs as well as social security to allow the expansion coverage to all women workers.

Line of Action: Promote and encourage the inclusion of all formal and informal women workers in the social security benefits.

Policies: National Institute for Prevention, Occupational Health and Safety (INPSASEL).

Achievements: Inclusion of active women in the formal sectors in policies concerning prevention, health and safety.

Weaknesses: Labor security measures are not applied in all formal or informal employment.

OBJECTIVE 4.- To intensify the inter-institutional relations to comply with the Law on Violence against Women and Family.

⁷¹ Álvarez Ofelia, 2008. Violences against the women in Venezuela: antecedents, analysis, conclusions and proposals to face them. Available at URL:

http://www.observatoriomujeres.org.ve/index.php?option=com_rokdownloads&view=folder&Itemid=81&limitstart=20

⁷² Data provided by the Unit of Attention and Prevention of INAMUJER.

Line of Action: Strengthen actions been carried out by the National Plan of Prevention and care for Violence toward Women; Favor the the health services a specialized care area for women victims of violence.

Policies: Organic Law on Women's Right to a Life free of Violence (2006); Creation of the Service Phone Line 0800MUJERES (0800WOMEN) (in 1999); Creation of the Women's District-Attorney's Office (2001); Creation of Shelter Houses (2006).

Achievements: Criminalization and Typification of habitualized actions of Violence toward Women; Free attention telephone line during 24 hours 365 days a year to women victim of violence; Creation of a legal office that support and assist women in the defense of their rights; specialized attention to women who are in imminent danger of dying from family violence.

Weaknesses: Limitations in the applicability of the Law; it works in an irregular way; it does not have sufficient capacity of attention; presently in restructure stage. There are only three shelter houses on a national scale and it is insufficient.

OBJECTIVE 5.-Promote the empowerment of women in relation to sexual health and reproductive rights.

Line of Action: Promote Sexual and Reproductive Health through inter-agency networks at national, state, municipal and local levels through the support of programs which promote these rights.

Policies: Project: 'MADRE' in (2006), Mission: 'Niño Jesus' (Baby Jesus).

Achievements: Meet the objective of the Millennium Goals relating to the decline of maternal-infant mortality.

Weaknesses: The figures remain controversial, there are different points of view regarding this issue depending on the sources consulted, it has not been possible to obtain statistical data on the web site of the Ministry of People's Power for Health.

OBJECTIVE 6.- Encourage the fulfillment of social programs as to equal opportunities for women.

Line of Action: To Incorporate gender perspective in all social missions.

Policies: Mission: 'Negra Hipolita', Mission: "Jose Gregorio Hernandez", Mission: 'Mercal' (this is an Institution of low-cost food).

Achievements: Reinsert into the workforce people who are in the streets in extreme conditions; attention to the excluded population who have some type of disability; the presence of women employed in the missions was increased.

Weaknesses: Insufficient to none attention to people in street-situation and with mental health problems; limited coverage.⁷³

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING:

In Venezuela the Ministry of Popular Power for Agriculture and Land (MPPAT) is the institution elected by the National Executive Power to carry through the processes of coordination and consultation of the agro-production chains with the intention of expanding the development in an enhanced agricultural sector, diversified and with high ranking levels of efficiency strengthening specific systems of information and escalating in publicity technology in order to provide the necessary tools to the agents involved, to optimize and increase working efficiency to guarantee food supply to all Venezuelans, always within a framework of respect towards biodiversity and to encourage environmental management in agricultural production-consumption chain.⁷⁴

The MPPAT is organizationally structured by the Minister's Headquarters; the HQ of the Vice-Minister of Integral Development; the HQ of the Vice-Minister of Agricultural Economics; the Headquarters of the Vice-Minister of Agricultural and agro-food; and the following appointed agencies: the (CVA) Venezuelan Agricultural Corporation; the Foundation for Training and

⁷³ Venezuelan Gender Observatory. Public Policies Directed towards Women. Results 1999-2009.

⁷⁴ Available at: URL: <http://www.mat.gob.ve/>

Innovation to Support The National Agricultural Production (CIARA); The National Land Institute (INTI); The Autonomous Service for Agricultural Health (SASA); National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA), the National Institute for Rural Development (INDER); The Socialist Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Insopesca); the Socialist Fund for Agricultural Development (FONDAS); The National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health (INSAI); and the Agricultural Bank of Venezuela (BAV).⁷⁵

The following is a representative chart demonstrating the budget assigned to the Ministry of People's Power for Agriculture and Land (MPPAT), from the year 2006 until 2010, as well as the budget figure for national spending:

Table nº 15.- Budget assigned to the MPPAT with regards national expenses for the 2006-2010 period.

	2006 (Bs)	2007 (Bs)	2008 (Bf)	2009 (Bf)	2010 (Bf) millon bolívares
MPPAT	757.346.554.959	1.109.516.729.050	1.645.073.400	2.335.020.443	2.221,7
National Budget	87.029.741.240.375	115.178.096.852.679	137.567.650.786	167.474.173.604	159.406,1
% relating National Budget	0,87%	0,96%	1,19%	1,39%	1,39%

Own research.⁷⁶ Budget for the years: 2006-2007-2008-2009-2010.⁷⁷
Source: National Budget Office.

The Decree with Force of Law issued in 2001, on Land and Agricultural Development,⁷⁷ which sets-up the bases for an integral and sustainable rural development of the agricultural sector, impacting the use of all public or private lands calling for the agricultural-food production.

WOMEN AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY:

There has been a historical sub-record of the participation of women in the work field, since the instrumentation is designed to involve recording of formal and remunerated employment, working conditions which do not prevail rural women who work in the agricultural field and contribute through various tasks in the family units of production. The work within the women in the rural field is characterized by being above all, of a small scale and in many cases work done within the household together with the activities of reproduction or in the company of the other family members in the house. Generally it is an unstable and irregular activity and the prime difference with other formal jobs is that they do not always have a market value.

There is very little literature on women's contribution in the various tasks within the agricultural production. In general terms women's participation in the production process of crops and food is determined by the prevailing production systems, even though their support is fundamental to the plantations, in survival agriculture, semi-commercial agriculture in fruit- growing and commercial horticulture.

Women work in family production units as unpaid family workers and as independent producers, they are hired as temporary wage-earners in commercial production units; they are also part of the hand-labor workforce for rural agro-industries, and have created rural enterprises for food processing of various size and organizational forms.

In small family farms women are involved in the preparation of the land, in the sowing, the cleaning of the plot, in harvesting, in the classification of the production, in processing, in the transformation and conservation, as well as in sales and in profit collection. Besides they have under their responsibility the farming of home gardens and groves, seedbeds, minor animal husbandry and elaboration of handicrafts. In many units women administer the necessary resources for production and derived income. In rural agro-industries women are involved in the selection, categorization and packing; while in the economic initiatives formed by themselves, besides taking charge of the production processes and marketing women assume the

⁷⁵ Available at: URL: <http://www.mat.gob.ve/>

⁷⁶ Data available at URL: <http://www.ocepre.gov.ve/>

⁷⁷ Available at: URL: <http://www.mat.gob.ve/leyarchivos/LEYTIERRASDESARROLLOAGRARIO.pdf>

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administration and management of the wide range of tasks and resources involved in the endeavors.

Women have particular importance in the processing activities and food processing and in the making of handicrafts. By means of the constitution of small companies in the sector, the inhabitants of rural localities are succeeding in generating jobs and income, enhancing their technological capabilities and their personal and social abilities and the increase of their involvement in local and extra-local public life.

The form of 'Rural Savings' ("*Cajas Rurales*"), is among the initiatives created in recent years by public national, regional and local institutions, as well as private entities, this type of saving is administered by the communities themselves, and women have a significant participation. However it lacks the scope and achievements in creditworthiness and the access to financial resources for women in rural areas, since the majority of women have complete absence of sufficient resources to enable them to initiate an endeavor and at the same time keep hold of it; this reason concerns both working capital, and the necessary investment in infrastructure, machinery and equipment, as well as the impossibility of obtaining costly registries and permits, which are required to be able to honor a productive activity. Another important initiative was proposed in March of 2004, the National Institute for Training and Education (INCE), which is the main institution responsible for work training, was responsible for implementing the Mission: '*Vuelvan Caras*'. The mission is framed in the design of endogenous development and social economy; it intends to respond to the problems of employment and productive work through training and linking with other national public institutions, to provide resources and assets to cooperatives.⁷⁸

The figures for the VII Agricultural Census for 2007 are hereunder shown; reflecting the relationship between men and women who integrate this production process:

Table nº 16.- Total Producers at National Level, sex desegregated, VII Agricultural Census for 2006-2007.

Total producers	Women	Men
1.091.047	228.048	862.999
%	20,90%	79,09%

Source: Ministry Popular Power for Agriculture and Land. Statistics Department. Data collection. Years 2006-2007.

The following are the figures shown in the data supplied by the Statistics Division of the MPPAT of the VII Agricultural Census in relation to the number of producers who live in or outside of the Unit of Agricultural Production (UPA).

Table nº 17 .- Total Producers at a National level, sex disaggregated, according to their inhabit. VII Agricultural Census 2006-2007.

Total producers inhabiting inside and outside of the Agricultural Production Unit (UPA).			Total Men Producers inhabiting in and out of the Unit (UPA).			Total of Women producers inhabiting inside and outside of agricultural production Unit (UPA).		
Outside the Unit UPA	Inside the Unit- UPA	Outside the UPA In the Sector.	Outside the UPA	Inside the UPA	Outside the UPA in the Sector.	Outside the UPA	Inside the UPA	Outside the UPA In the Sector.
54.090	156.250	190.924	1.049	29.886	40.608	53.041	126.364	150.316
%			1.93%	19.12%	21.2%	98.06%	80.87%	78.7%

Source: Ministry of Popular Power for Agriculture and Land. Statistics Division. Data for the year 2006-2007, There is no official publication for the year.

Through BANMUJER and according with the programs promoted by the national government, we have PLAN COFFEE which has reinforced organic agricultural activity improving the conditions for 307 families who are coffee-growing farmers in the States of: Yaracuy, Trujillo, Merida, Táchira, Aragua, Portuguesa, Lara, Barinas and Carabobo, benefiting a total of 627 people, distributed in 371 hectares with an investment of Bs. 1,879,178,556.00. Of the total of

⁷⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(FAO), 2006. Situation of the Rural Women in Venezuela. Available at: URL: http://www.rlc.fao.org/mujer/docs/venezuela/vene_00.pdf

265 micro-credits granted by the bank BANMUJER, with an investment of Bs. 1,325,000.00, 236 micro-credits with an investment of Bs 1,180,000.00 correspond to the agricultural sector.⁷⁹

In the framework of the Mission '*Agropatria*', to ensure agricultural inputs and the means of mechanization in the food production, in search for sovereignty in food production, on January 29th to February 15th 2011, commenced a registry of producers, at National level, into Mission '*Agro Venezuela*'. This Mission has assisted over two hundred (200) thousand agricultural producers. Specially designed for this recording were 347 '*tricolor*' stands activated in 'Bolívar' squares of the Country, as well as at the headquarters of '*Agropatria*', the Units of Social Ownership and the Agricultural Bank. The quantity of producers registered in the Mission will be available in the future.

Public Policies of the Venezuelan Government Intended for Women, about Rural Development and CEM's Expert Review Concerning.

RIGHTS TO TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY: Decentralization, Rural Development and Environment.

OBJECTIVE 1.- To deepen actions with State, Municipal and Parish authorities for the creation of Regional Institutes for Women (IREMUJER).

Line of Action: Coordinate with (he or she) Governors and Mayors to encourage them with the creation of regional institutions of Women and other women's organizations.

Policies: The creation of IREMUJERES on a State level and 29 Municipal Institutes of Women.

Achievements: The presence at all levels of the Public Power on a National, Municipal, Parrish and Local scale, of the Institution that is leader of public policies favoring gender equality.

Weaknesses: Limited resources.

OBJECTIVE 2.- To make sure that the policies of decentralization consider gender perspective in its formulation and implementation.

Line of Action: To guarantee the promotion of employment with gender perspective on the basis of regional potential; include gender perspective in all programs and projects of the rural development.

Policies: Mission: Tree (2005); Mission: '*Guaicaipuro*' (2003).

Achievements: To cause in the Venezuelan population an environmental awareness and responsiveness; registration of indigenous population at a national level.

Weaknesses: Insufficient participation of women; Absence of an ample program directed specifically to indigenous women within their specificities.⁸⁰

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES:

The Ministry of Popular Power for Labor and Social Security (MPPTRASS) has as basic function to promote the social dialog with the aim of encouraging within a solidarity framework a productive economy, employment, decent work also the protection of the human and syndicate rights of the workers; the development of a system of public social security with solidarity; and providing a service of quality and efficiency to allow the regulation of labor relationships accessible to all men and women workers. The MPPTRASS aims to ensure compliance with the labor laws and regulations, seeking solutions to labor problems, as well as balancing the interests of employers and workers. This is organizationally structured by the General Direction of the Vice Minister of Labor' Headquarters, and the Vice Minister of Social Security.⁸¹

The MPPTRASS counts with the following attached agencies: the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security (IVSS) a Public Institution whose primary *raison d'être* is to provide social security to all beneficiaries in contingencies of motherhood, old age, survival, sickness, accident, disability, incapacity, marriage, death, retirement and severance or forced unemployment, in a timely manner and with quality of excellence in the service, within a legal framework which regulates the Institution; the National Institute of Prevention, Health and Labor Safety (INPSASEL), this is

⁷⁹ Management Banmujer September 2001- March 2010.

⁸⁰ Venezuelan Gender Observatory. Public Policies Directed towards Women. Results 1999-2009.

⁸¹ Available at: http://www.mintra.gov.ve/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=55

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an institution committed to the design and implementation of national policy for the promotion, prevention, health care and job security, thus guaranteeing the fulfillment of legal regulations in the area, as well as, the best possible conditions of work to all he or she, workers; and INCRET which is an Institution committed to the design, development, promotion and implementation of policies, plans and programs of recreation for the workers and their families' quality of life according to the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and all other laws.⁸²

The following is a representative Table of the Budget allocated to the Ministry of People's Power for Labor and Social Security (MPPTRASS) since 2006 to 2010, as well as the figure for National Expense Budget:

Table nº 18.- Budget assigned to MPPTRASS concerning the National Budget for 2006-2010 periods.

	2006 (Bs)	2007 (Bs)	2008 (Bf)	2009 (Bf)	2010 (Bf) in millon bolivares
MPPTSS	5.076.902.700.000	8.799.093.500.000	9.802.795.700	12.191.311.499	11.554,1
National Budget	87.029.741.240.375	115.178.096.852.679	137.567.650.786	167.474.173.604	159.406,1
% in relation to National Budget	5,83%	7,63%	7,12%	8,99%	7,24%

Own research.⁸³ Budget for 2006-2007-2008-2009-2010
Source: Office of National Budget Office.

Among the socio-cultural determining factors which limit employment offers for women, is the belief that women are more expensive than men, due to the costs, and to labor interruptions associated with maternity. Furthermore, there is the labor protection that benefits women with pre and post-natal leave of absence. Presently an affirmative action is taken to attain the collective bargaining, since the guideline by the system doers of working relationships seem to be one of the most appropriate mechanisms to address the problem. In a sense this proposes a modification of the capital-labor pledge, base to the welfare State.⁸⁴

The following are the figures on global indicators of labor force published by the National Institute of Statistics (INE), which demonstrate a steady growth in the indicators of the active and engaged women labor force, all along the semesters of 2006 to 2009 period, observing a slight decline in 2010 of the mentioned indicators.

Table nº 19.- Global indicators for women's labor force- semester periods 2006-2010.

Populatio n	Women	15 years and over	Active	% (*)	Empleye d	% (*)	Unemploye d	% (*)	Inactive	% (*)
2006 1st, Semeste r	13.308.57 0	9.275.405	4.681.09 8	38,82 %	4.144.839	38,43 %	536.259	42,13 %	4.594.30 7	71,56 %
	13.428.25 3	9.387.053	4.747.73 8	38,72 %	4.222.954	37,98 %	524.784	45,88 %	4.639.31 5	72,12 %
2007 1st, semeste r	13.536.26 7	9.488.411	4.740.96 0	38,80 %	4.255.976	38,36 %	484.984	43,08 %	4.747.45 1	71,10 %
	13.657.59 1	9.600.449	4.810.45 0	38,73 %	4.418.920	38,45 %	391.530	42,18 %	4.789.99 9	71,57 %
2008 1st, semeste r	13.764.87 2	9.701.948	4.835.20 8	38,85 %	4.431.431	38,67 %	403.777	41,01 %	4.866.74 0	70,87 %
	13.884.18 0	9.812.141	4.965.24 9	38,98 %	4.598.626	38,76 %	366.623	41,99 %	4.846.89 2	71,37 %
2009 1st, semeste r	13.993.67 8	9.914.884	5.049.27 4	39,64 %	4.644.597	39,26 %	404.677	41,46 %	4.865.61 0	70,32 %

⁸² Available at URL: http://www.mintra.gov.ve/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=55

⁸³ Data available at URL: <http://www.ocepre.gov.ve/>

⁸⁴ Richter Jacqueline. Segmented and secreted: the women in the force of work in Venezuela. Politeia magazine, N° 39, vol. 30. Institute of Political Studies, Central University of Venezuela (UCV), 2007:151-185

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2 nd , Semester										
	14.112.41 1	10.025.48 9	5.078.29 9	42,02 %	4.650.308	39,08 %	427.991	43,25 %	4.947.19 0	70,12 %
2010 1 st , semester	14.221.90 9	10.129.62 3	5.075.13 7	39,37 %	4.616.220	39,03 %	458.917	40,21 %	5.054.48 6	70,44 %

% with respect to total active, employed, unemployed, and inactive population.⁸⁵
Own research. Years 2006-2007-2008-2009- 1st semester of 2010.

Source: National Statistics Institute.

The **Bank for Women's Development (BANMUJER)** operates since 2001, backed-up by microfinance entities directed towards supporting women. Since September 2001, until March 2010, BANMUJER approved a total of Bs (F406, 923,715.68 in micro-credits; as well as for the year 2010 it approved a total of 265 micro-credits within the National country in the amount of Bs F 1,325,000. 00. According to the economic sector, the micro-credits approved by BANMUJER since its inception until March 2010 corresponding to the manufacturing sector amounted to 60,072, corresponding to the trade sector 24,896, corresponding to the agricultural sector 13,374, and for the services sector 12,325, for a grand total of 110,667 micro-credit approved.; of the total credits approved 106,210 have been settled. Of the total credits settled since September 2001 to the month of March 2010, 98% were women and 2% were to men.⁸⁶

The networks of users of BANMUJER for the first quarter of 2010, is composed of 5,945 people, of which 5,782 are women (97%) and 163 are men (3%). During the first quarter of 2010, BANMUJER guaranteed women in the poor sector, the insertion into the microfinance public system with the creation of 863 productive direct jobs and 1,726, indirect jobs, resulting in a total of 2,589 socio-productive jobs. Likewise a special financial and non-financial attention has been given to 2,092 women belonging to the indigenous people and with respects to the African-descendant women; BANMUJER integrates the Subcommittee for Statistics of the African-descent people and incorporate a gender vision.⁸⁷

Furthermore, the **Bank of the Sovereign People** as a micro-financial institution promotes the integration of women to the economic activity through the conferral of credits. Since its creation in the year 1999 to 2010 they have served a total of 63,993 people of which 37,712 are women, equivalent to a 58.9% of the total of number of people assisted in relation to the total of micro-credits granted since 2000 until the year 2010 a total of 47,663 microcredit have been granted in an amount of 350,854,168.58 bolívares.⁸⁸ There is no information available on approved micro-credits disaggregated by sex.

Currently the INE is developing the '*I Survey on the Use of Time in Venezuela*' with the intention of strengthening the indicators of social welfare and underline the time committed to the various household tasks; this survey is to be carried out in the entire country, it will be between the months of February 2011 and January 2012; 10,500 homes will be visited nationwide and approximately 32,500 persons will be surveyed including citizens of 12 years of age or more. According to the opinion of the President of INE, the survey will assist in the certification and identification of "tasks which are not visible with the current evaluation instruments to appraise social and economic environment; for example, how are the non-remunerated working activities distributed within the household; how do people use their time to perform activities such as studies, entertainment, cultural and personal activities, consequently it will allow the upholding of design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and programs in these areas.⁸⁹

Public Policies of the Venezuelan Government Intended for Women, about Economic Rights and CEM's Expert Review Concerning. ECONOMIC RIGHTS: Economic Inclusion and Working Scenario.

⁸⁵ Available at URL: http://www.ine.gov.ve/hogares/hogares2.asp?Periodo=S&Ano=2006&R_Desde=1Sem&R_Hasta=2 Sem

⁸⁶ Management Banmujer September 2001- March 2010.

⁸⁷ Management Banmujer September 2001- March 2010.

⁸⁸ Available at URL: http://www.bancodelpueblo.gob.ve/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=110&Itemid=2

⁸⁹ Available at URL: <http://www.ine.gov.ve/textospromocionales/UsoTiempoenero2011.htm>

OBJECTIVE 1.- To promote the incorporation of women inside the economic activity by means of employment policies, without any type of discrimination and within paramount labor conditions.

Line of Action: To favor intensification of agreements with micro-financial institutions plus further economic activities suitable for urban and rural environment, aimed towards women excluded from formal labor sector and the independent production companies; Enhance women's technological capacity for work; Enhance organizational mechanisms focused on the improvement of labor conditions for women; Enhance the practice of statistical socio-economic year in organizations with gender perspective.

Policies: The creation of the Bank for Women (BANMUJER) 2001; the creation of the Sovereign People's Bank (1999); Decree of the Law for the Development of Popular Economy (2008); Mission: '*Madres del Barrio*' (2006); Micro-Financial Development Fund (FONDEMI 2001); Mission: '*Che Guevara*', 2007 (previously named: '*Vuelvan Caras*', 2004); Center of Endogenous Development '*Fabricio Ojeda*', among others; Special Law for Cooperative Associations (2001); National Institute for Statistics in Population Census 2001.

Achievements: Institutionalization of microfinance institutions, emphasizing on the significance of women within the popular economy, mainly in the poorest sectors where women are the productive force which allows family survival; Creation of FONDEMI; Acknowledging housewives; Education for work, Women are an extremely important part of those who receive training, a number of preliminary studies indicate they represent 60%; instruct women for work; Enhance the creation of joint businesses or cooperatives with gender perspective; Most statistics collected is disaggregated by gender. All hand-labor and unemployment statistics are gender separated.

Weaknesses: Very few housewives are beneficiated; lack of information to verify statistics accomplishments in order to confirm the achievement of this objective, we have difficulty to access and obtain up-dated data on the results of these policies; unsuccessful cooperative results due to the lack of monitoring, follow-up and supervision; dispersed and unreliable information.

OBJECTIVE 2.- Support social security's legal process directed towards women who perform the productive and reproductive work.

Line of Action: To ensure compliance with social security for housewives, for elder women, the incapacitated, the indigenous women and the Afro-descendent, as well as women who are in the formal production sector.

Policies: Implementation of Article 88 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CRBV); Approved in first discussion, the Law for Social Protection Act for Housewives (2009); Enactment of the Social Service Act (2005); Law of Employment Settlement (2005).

Achievements: The establishment of Mission: '*Madres Del Barrio*' aimed at the poorest women who receive economic support and are trained for work, when they reach the age and other conditions to work. The Institutionalization of Social Security as well as periodic inspections carried-out in order to verify the achievement of the promised support and working conditions.

Weaknesses: Lack of political will power to achieve agreements in the approval of the Law; Application of the Law by election or by particular cases, no data available with respects to this issue; there is yet much evasion and non fulfillment, on the side of companies, including contracting without settlement for female workers, benefits not registered or not recorded astutely in order to prevent women from obtaining their benefits.

OBJECTIVE 3.- To promote the formulation of the national budget from a gender perspective. Promote inter-sectoral actions within the various institutions to promote the development of the national budget from a gender perspective.

Line of Action: Promote actions on a national, state, municipal and local scale to support budgets with gender perspective.

Policies: Project proposed by INAMUJER and (PSG) International Cooperation to Implement Gender-Sensitive Budgets; Signing of the Presidential state of accounts (2005) to substantiate the Plan of Institutional Articulation for the implementation of the (PSG) Gender Sensitive Budgets.

Achievements: Official and International support and coordination in the direction of political improvement; development of workshops and training supported by UNIFEM to the Financial and budget division workers of the Government; Pioneer experience of the (PSG) Gender Sensitive Budgets in the Caroni Municipality of the State of Bolivar (2006).

Weaknesses: Limited advances.

OBJECTIVE 4.- Guarantee the protection of the female worker in the reproductive stage.

Line of Action: Ensure the compliance with the laws of protection to female workers who are pregnant; incorporate the concept of parenthood in the laws dealing with agreements between work and family; enhance the design of daycares for daughters and sons of workers (both genders) in every institution, both private and public.

Policies: Organic Labor Law (1999) Articles 97, 103, 385; Organic Law of Social Security; Law for the Protection of Family, Maternity and Paternity (2005); Organic Labor Law (1999).

Achievements: Mothers have a total of five months pre and post natal leave and a year of job security; maternal privileges; 16 days of paternity leave; triple economic support.

Weaknesses: These benefits are only for women employed in the formal sector; they do not apply for women who work on their own account, in cooperatives or any other type of job, nor in contracts or term agreements; these benefits are only for those women employed in the private or government sectors; it has not been consolidated in every institution.⁹⁰

As an additional contribution, there joins the following table, that shows the fulfilments of the institutional commitments assumed by the countries assistants to the Regional X Conferences on the woman, realized in Quito, Ecuador in the year 2007. The above mentioned countries promised to promote the equal incorporation of the women so much in the capture of decisions, since in the world of work, guaranteeing the elimination of all the discrimination conditions and assuming this way the exercises of all the rights and the autonomy of women.

Table nº 20.- ISO QUITO and its components.⁹¹

	Women's welfare Index	Economic Parity and Labor Index	Parity in Decision-Making Index	ISOQuito
Argentina	0,843	0,748	0,662	0,417
Costa Rica	0,868	0,653	0,631	0,358
Chile	0,900	0,687	0,470	0,291
Uruguay	0,895	0,824	0,331	0,244
Panamá	0,748	0,730	0,432	0,236
Venezuela	0,790	0,726	0,389	0,223
México	0,757	0,695	0,407	0,214
Perú	0,632	0,736	0,373	0,180
Rep. Dominicana	0,608	0,716	0,408	0,178
Ecuador	0,638	0,740	0,360	0,170
El Salvador	0,509	0,738	0,392	0,147
Colombia	0,687	0,731	0,291	0,146
Honduras	0,396	0,709	0,514	0,144
Paraguay	0,597	0,772	0,305	0,140
Brasil	0,731	0,786	0,231	0,133
Guatemala	0,366	0,676	0,297	0,073

The index measured by the ISOQuito fluctuant between zero and one, more wellbeing if this more near one. We can observe that Venezuela, in average it occupies the position number 6 whit ISO Quito 0,223, nevertheless in the relating thing to index of economic parity and labor index it occupies the position number 9, and in the parity in decision making index the position number 8. To our criterion much is absent in order that there are fulfilled the commitments acquired by our country in this Regional X Conference of woman.

GENDER PROJECTS:

⁹⁰ Venezuelan Gender Observatory. Public Policies Directed towards Women. Results 1999-2009.

⁹¹ ISOQuito: Instrument for monitoring the Consensus (2007). Available at URL: <http://www.mujeresdelsur-afm.org.uy/isoquito.pdf>

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, Venezuela. PNUD:

- National Observatory for Gender Equity. Date ended: 2009. Counterpart: INAMUJER. Resources generated by Spanish Agency of International Cooperation and Development (AECID).
- Local Human Development, Governance and Gender Equity. Approximate ending date: 2009. States: Bolívar, Lara, Portuguesa and Sucre. Counterpart: BANMUJER. Resources from: BANMUJER, STATOIL, Conoco Venezuela C.A, PNUD (TRAC funds).
- Local Human Development, Governance and Gender Equity. Approximate ending date: 2009. States: Amazonas, Delta Amacuro, Nueva Esparta and Táchira. Counterpart: Banco Del Pueblo Soberano, (Bank of the Sovereign People) Resources provided by: Bank of the Sovereign People.
- Musical Academic Training Program of the State Foundation for the National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras of Venezuela (FESNOJIV). Estimated ending date 2010. Counterpart FESNOJIV. Resources obtained from: National Government.
- Support to the Musical Academic Foundation of the State to the National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras of Venezuela (FESNOJIV). II Fase. Ending date 2012. Counterpart: FESNOJIV. Funds: National Government FESNOJIV, PNUD fund trac.⁹²

United Nations Children's Funds, UNICEF:

- Cooperation Program 2009-2013 between UNICEF and the Venezuelan Government: The components for the Program Country are: More Protection, Less Violence and More Inclusion, and Less Disparity.⁹³

United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA: Updated Business Plan 2006-2007:

- Population and Development Strategy. Executing Institution: Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology.
- Technical Assistance for Production and Use of Statistical Data. Executing Institution: National Statistical Institute.
- Education of Sexuality, Reproductive Health and Gender Equity. Executing Institution: Ministry of Popular Power for Education.
- Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health. Executing Institution: Ministry of People's Power to Health.
- Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Rights, from the Outpatient and with the community: Executing Unit: Project *Paria* Foundation in the State of Sucre.
- Education in Sexual and Reproductive Health for the National Armed Forces. Executing Unit: National Armed Forces.
- Integral Attention in Sexual and Reproductive Health Outpatient Facilities of the Municipality of *Baruta*, Miranda State. Executing Unit: Mayor Headquarters. Foundation: Health Care.
- Model of attention and Management in Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Municipality of Caroní, Bolivar State: Executing Unit: Mayor of Caroní- **FUNDAMUJER**.
- Education -Permanent Action in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Service Quality in the 'Concepcion Palacios' Maternity. Executing Unit: Health Division of the Metropolitan Mayor of Caracas.
- Network for the Metropolitan Gyneco-obstetric Attention. Executing Unit: Secretary of Health of Metropolitan Mayor, Caracas.
- Strengthening Women's Network for the prevention of HIV-AIDS. Executing Unit: INAMUJER.
- Education and Training in Rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Inamujer, Banmujer, and Women's Popular Circles. Executing Unit: BANMUJER, INAMUJER, and CFP.⁹⁴
- Promotion of Economic and Social Rights. Harmonization of Roles, productive and reproductive rights of Women and Men. 2010-2011. Counterpart: Center of Studies for Women (CEM-UCV), BANMUJER.

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)

- Venezuela is part of the **C** Category of the Association of AECID, in which place are the countries that permit the establishment of concrete association strategies intended for the

92 Available at URL: http://www.pnud.org.ve/component/option.com_docman/task.cat_view/gid.23/Itemid.81/

93 Available at URL: http://www.unicef.org/venezuela/spanish/unicef_venezuela_15686.htm

94 Available at URL: <http://venezuela.unfpa.org/documentos/Plan%20de%20trabajo%202006-2007.pdf>

promotion of the development through the strengthening of inclusive public policies, the promotion of south-south cooperation, the triangular cooperation and the provision of global public goods.⁹⁵ The AECID cooperated in the Project of the National Observatory for Gender Equality.

VENEZUELAN RED CROSS:

- Health issue improvement of the Community of Babilla de Pintao, Amazonas. Funded by the Spanish Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). Date of completion of the draft May 2003.
- Health improvement of the Community of *Caño Tigre*, Amazonas. Funded by the Spanish Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). Date of completion of the draft October 2003.
- To Improve the living conditions of 163 families in the community of '*Viento Suave*' in the State of Carabobo, with the construction of basic health infrastructure. Funded by the American Red Cross. Date of completion of the draft May 2003.⁹⁶

European Union EU (Venezuelan Delegation for the European Union):

- Strengthening of NGOs's in the Promotion and Enforceability of the Right to Non-Discrimination in people with HIV/ AIDS. European Union contribution: € 119,918 (80 % of the total). Executing Agency: Civil Association- Solidarity Action; duration: from 12/2009 to 06/2012.
- Technical capacity and manage intensification of the '*Larense*' Association for Family Planning (**ALAPLAF**) concerning prevention, promotion and attention of sexual and reproductive health. **EU** contribution: € 406.603 (90 % of the total). Executing Agency: ALAPLAF, duration: from 02/2011 until 02/2014.
- Institutional Strengthening of the Organized Civil Society with work on HIV/AIDS in Venezuela.
- European Union contribution: € 266.346 (90% of the total). Executing Agency: Association: Citizen Action Against AIDS. Duration: from 01/2010 until 01/2013.
- The strengthening of the institution A. C. SENOSALUD in the construction and consolidation of a methodological design in the formation of a VOLUNTEERING for the Prevention of Breast cancer, EU contribution: € 329.125 (90 % of the total). Executing Agency: Civil Association **SENOSALUD**, duration: from 02/2010 until 02/2013.
- Venezuelan Observatory of Women's Human Rights, EU contribution: € 49.719 (52.57 % of the total). Executing Agency: Center for Social Research Studies and Training of Women, a Nonprofit Civil Association; duration: from 09/2007 to 11/2009.
- To prevent and reduce gender-based violence among the poorest sectors, sub-urban and rural areas of the State Lara and the Capital District in Venezuela adopting a new methodology and a holistic approach, EU contribution: € 614.594 (75% of the total). Executing Agency: *Associazione Italiana Donne Per Losviluppo (AIDOS)*, duration: from 12/2007 up 12/2010.
- Care Program to teenage mothers, children, and youth in terms of social risk, through the development of actions in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, life project, job training and micro-enterprises. EU contribution: € 313.943 (90 % of the total). Executing Agency: Civil Association *Nina Madre*, duration: from 11/2009 to 05/2012.
- Promotion and accomplishment of human rights through the exercise of the participation of children and adolescents in the prevention of physical violence. EU contribution: € 105.092 (80 % of the total). Executing Agency: Civil Association *ICARO*, duration: from 01/2011 until 01/2012.
- To promote the development of initiatives of the youth to achieve a more active participation in their communities. EU contribution: € 171.000 (95 % of the total). Executing Agency: '*Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli Onlus*', duration: from 01/2011 to 05/2012.
- Promoting the participation for the protection and prevention of violence towards children and adolescents. EU contribution: € 285.000 (95 % of the total). Executing Agency: Civil Association of Community Learning Centers (CECODAP), duration: from 01/2011 until 01/2014.⁹⁷

United Nations' Fund for Women (UNIFEM):

- 'Algeria Laya's Project toward Gender Equality applying, implementation and monitoring the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), in

⁹⁵ Available at URL: <http://www.aecid.es/web/es/cooperacion/coop-paises/>

⁹⁶ Available at URL: <http://www.cruzrojavenezolana.org/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=10>

⁹⁷ Available at URL: http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/venezuela/projects/list_of_projects/projects_es.htm

conjunction with UNDP, UNFPA. 2007-2009. Counterpart: Center for Studies of Women (CEM-UCV), INAMUJER. .

.-Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Organic Law on the right of women to a Life Free of Violence in Venezuela. 2009. Counterpart: Venezuelan Association for an Alternative Sex Education. (AVESA), the Center for Studies of Women (CEM-UCV), International Amnesty.

.- Implementation of Gender-Sensitive budgets in the Municipality of *Caroní*, Bolívar State. UNIFEM, in conjunction with UNFPA, UNDP. June 2006. Counterpart: Mayor of the Autonomous Municipality of *Caroní*; Home of the Caroní Women, Women's Organizations and Networks, BANMUJER, INAMUJER.

.- Implementation of Gender-Sensitive Budgets at National Level, also Sectoral and Municipal levels. Development Fund of the United Nations for the Women-Andean Region (UNIFEM-RA) in combination with UNDP, UNFPA, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). November 2005. Counterpart: INAMUJER, BANMUJER.⁹⁸

SOURCES ABOUT GENDER:

International Organizations:

.-Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional y Desarrollo (AECID). <http://www.aecid.es/web/es/enlaces/cooperacion/desarrollo/venezuela/>

.- Amnistía Internacional. <http://amnistia.me/>

.- Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja Internacional (CICR). URL: <http://www.icrc.org/spa>

.- Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales. URL: <http://www.clacso.org.ar/>

.- Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y Empoderamiento de las Mujeres. ONUMUJERES.

<http://www.unwomen.org/es>

.- Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas en Venezuela. UNFPA.

.- Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia. UNICEF Venezuela.

<http://www.unicef.org/venezuela/spanish/>

.- Instituto Latinoamericano de Investigaciones Sociales.

http://www.ildis.org.ve/website/p_index.php?ids=1

.- Programa Conjunto de las Naciones Unidas dedicado al VIH/SIDA ONUSIDA.

<http://www.onusida-latina.org/index.php?item=7&content=contact>

.- Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, Venezuela. PNUD.

<http://www.ve.undp.org/>

.- Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO. <http://www.flacso.org/>

.- Unión Europea. URL:

.- Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura. UNESCO.

<http://www.unesco.org/nac/geoportal.php?country=VE&language=S> Oficina Técnica de Enlace con la UNESCO. Centro de la Diversidad Cultural.

.- Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo. AIDOS. ONG's Italiana.

URL: <http://www.aidos.it/>

.- Red Latinoamericana Mujeres Transformando la Economía. REMTE.

URL: <http://www.movimientos.org/remte>

.- Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe. REPEM

URL: <http://www.repem.org.uy/>

Non Governmental Organizations (ONG's):

.- Aliadas en Cadena AC. www.aliadasencadena.org/

.- Alianza Laboral para Mujeres. (ALMU). Caracas.

.- Asociación Ciudadana contra el Sida. URL: www.accsi.org.ve

.- Asociación Civil de Planificación Familiar (PLAFAM). URL: www.plafam.org.ve/

.- Asociación Civil Desarrollo, Igualdad y Paz. Caracas.

.- Asociación Civil Mujer y Ciudadanía.

.- Asociación Civil Niña Madre. URL: www.ninamadre.org.ve/

⁹⁸ Available at URL:

http://www.presupuestoygenero.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=72&Itemid=400033

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- Asociación Civil Anisos. Anisos.ong.blogspot.com
- Asociación Civil Mujeres en Positivo. <http://www.mujiresenpositivo.org/>
- Asociación Civil Proyectos Inesalud. Teléfono: 0212-4849072
- Asociación de Defensa de la Mujer Reclusa.
- Asociación Hogares sin Violencia. Estado Anzoátegui. Teléfono: 0281-2672602
- Asociación Lareense de Planificación Familiar (ALAPLAF). Estado Lara. Teléfono: 0251-2522514
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DEFINITIONS:

- **Active Population Indicator:** includes people of 15 years of age and over with availability and readiness to work in the reference period.
- **Beijing 1995:** Global Platform for Action of the Fourth International Conference on Women.
- **Convention Belem do Para:** Inter-American Convention to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women.
- **CEDAW:** Convention for the elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
- **CONAMU:** national advice of the woman
- **CRBV:** Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- **COFEAPRE:** The Feminine Commission to Advise the Presidency of the Republic
- **CEM-UCV:** Center for the Study of Women of the Central University of Venezuela.
- **Endogenous Development Centers:** productive spaces which under the form of cooperatives develop projects with State funding and can be shaped by more than one cooperative and dedicated to different items.
- **Economic Parity and Labor Index:** it measures the degree of parity between men and women in economic issues particularly the referring to paid work, varies between 0 and 1 to greater value better position. This index combines the following indicators, economic participation in the labor market (for a population of 15 to 59 years of age), social security coverage, urban wage and poverty index.
- **GTZ:** German Technical Cooperation
- **Indicator of Employed population:** includes people 15 years and older, of both genders, who claimed were at work or had a job, during the week before the day of the interview.
- **Inactive Indicator:** includes people of 15 years and over, students, housewives, renters, pensioners, retirees and family workers working less than 15 hours a week.
- **ISOQuito:** instrument for monitoring the Consensus of the X Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, took place in Quito, Ecuador on 6-9 August 2007.
- **INAMUJER:** National Institute for Women
- **IREMUJERES:** regional institutions for Women
- **JSC:** Justice or Supreme Court
- **MPPE:** Ministry of Popular Power for Education
- **MPPEU:** Ministry of Popular Power for Higher Education
- **MPPAT:** Ministry of Popular Power for Agriculture and Land
- **MPPTRASS:** Ministry of Popular Power for Labor and Social Security

- .- **MPPS:** Ministry of Popular Power for Health
- .- **Missions:** massive strategies aimed at guaranteeing fundamental rights to the population, with emphasis on the most excluded sectors. In areas such as: Education (Missions Robinson I, II, Ribas, Sucre), Health (Barrio Adentro Mission 1, 2, 3 and 4, Mission *Sonrisa*, Mission *Milagro*, Mission *Niño Jesus*, Mission *Negra Hipolita*, Mission Jose Gregorio Hernandez), Culture (Mission *Cultura*), Sports (Mission *Barrio Adentro Deportiva*).
- .- **National AIDS Program:** program developed by the Ministry of People's Power for Health aimed for the care of people infected with the virus of HIV/AIDS.
- .- **N.A.:** National Assembly
- .- **OEA:** Organization of American States
- .- **Project Madre:** this project is developed by the Ministry of the People's Power for Health in order to meet infant-maternal mortality.
- .- **Project Simoncito:** intended to the initial integral education of girls and boys from 0 - 6 years of age.
- .- **Program Educating for Equality:** incorporating the gender perspective in the formal and informal education.
- .- **Parity in Decision-Making Index:** It measures the degree of parity in women and men's partaking within the three branches of the State (legislative, executive and judicial) it varies between 0 and 1 to greater value better position. The index combines the following indicators: participation in Parliament, participation on the cabinets of Executive Power and participation in the Supreme Court of Justice or Supreme Court.
- .- **PNUD:** United Nations Development Program
- .- **Sexual and Reproductive Health:** field of development of the overall health of individuals and groups which is shaped by social, cultural, political, and economic and environment factors.
- .- **Shelters:** places intended to give temporary protection and care for women in imminent danger of death, for their sons and daughters facing serious situations of family violence.
- .- **U.N:** United Nations
- .- **UNIFEM:** the United Nations Development Fund for Women
- .- **UNFPA:** United Nations Population Fund
- .- **Unemployed Population Indicator:** includes people 15 years old and older of both genders who declared not to be working and are in search of a paid job.
- .- **Violence against Women:** includes all sexist act or inappropriate conduct which has or may have resulted in a damage or physical suffering, sexual, psychological, emotional, labor, and economic or heritage; the coercion or arbitrary deprivation of freedom, as well as the threat of executing such acts, whether occurring in public or private.
- .- **Women's welfare Index:** measures women's situation concerning education, health and poverty, it varies between 0 and 1 to greater value better position. This combines the following indicators: percentage of women 15 - 24 years of age illiterate, maternal mortality rate and the percentage of poor women.

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