

## 71% of Venezuelans Blame President Nicolas Maduro for the ongoing crisis

*among internet-connected respondents:*

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- **86% of Venezuelans disapprove of their president, Nicolas Maduro**
  - **71% disapprove of Maduro's recent decision to replace the National Assembly with a constituent assembly**
  - **65% support the ongoing protests, and 66% plan to protest in the next 3 months**
  - **71% of Venezuelans Blame President Nicolas Maduro and 51% blame former president Hugo Chavez for the ongoing crisis. Blame for Maduro and Chavez is lower in rural areas (59% and 41% respectively)**
  - **Nearly the entire population is suffering from food shortages (89%), medicine shortages (88%) and high costs of living (86%).**
  - **In a new presidential election, 41% of Venezuelans say they would vote for the imprisoned opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, while 4% would support Maduro.**
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*Berlin, 5 July 2017*

Venezuela is in the middle of the worst crisis that the country has ever seen. Given that the country is sitting on the largest oil reserves on the planet, the rest of the world is watching carefully. In the midst of full-scale economic and political crisis, reliable on-the-ground information from the Venezuelan population is hard to come by. Thanks to Dalia's mobile-technology, Dalia's surveys can reach thousands of people connected to the internet within a matter of days. To get a better understanding of the ongoing political events, Dalia is conducting a [monthly survey](#) to track the political events in Venezuela.

The first survey, launched in mid June 2017, was conducted on a representative sample for the online population aged 14-65 of Venezuela and included 627 respondents<sup>1</sup>. From the survey, Dalia found:

### **Strong disapproval of the current government**

Results show that a majority of respondents disapprove of President Maduro (86% disapprove, 8% approve). Furthermore, 71% disapprove of Maduro's decision to replace the National Assembly with a [new constituent body](#) to rewrite the country's constitution. Opponents view the proposal as a ploy by Maduro to consolidate even more power, while Maduro claims it is an attempt to ease political deadlock caused by the opposition. When it comes to the ongoing protests that have filled the streets with millions of Venezuelans since April 1st this year, a majority are in favour of continuing the protests (65% approve, 15% disapprove).

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<sup>1</sup> The internet-connected population in Venezuela represents about 61% of the total population. Non-online polls have indicated that support for Maduro is higher among Venezuelans who are not connected to the internet.

## **The main problem is the lack of food**

The problems in Venezuela are widespread and serious, with nearly the entire population suffering from food shortages (89%) and medicine shortages (88%), high cost of living (86%), inflation (85%), theft (80%), violent crime (80%) among others. Out of all of these problems, however, 45% of Venezuelans select food shortages as their most pressing concern.

## **Venezuelans blame President Maduro**

71% of Venezuelans blame President Maduro, and 51% blame the policies of former president Hugo Chavez. Blame for Maduro is highest among younger, urban and higher education Venezuelans.

## **A majority support the opposition**

29% of Venezuelans think things would be much better if the opposition coalition (MUD) gained power. 36% think it would be slightly better under the MUD, and 29% don't know, or think things might stay the same.

## **Imprisoned opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez is the most popular candidate for presidency**

When asked which candidate they would support in the case of a hypothetical presidential election, only 4% said they would vote for Maduro again. The most popular candidate is Leopoldo Lopez, a [controversial figure](#) currently in prison on charges of misusing of public funds and of inciting violence at protests in 2014. 41% of internet-connected Venezuelans say they would vote for him if they could. However, uncertainty remains high, as 11% wouldn't vote at all, 11% would chose another candidate not on the list, and 14% are undecided / don't know.

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## **Notes to editors**

### **About the survey**

The survey was conducted in June 2017 among n=627 respondents in Venezuela, as part of Dalia Research's Emerging Markets Pulse for Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela). The total sample of n=4.857 was drawn across 8 Latin American countries taking into account current population distributions with regard to age (14-65 years), education and gender. In order to obtain nationally representative results of the internet-connected population, the data was weighted based upon the most recent official statistics. The target weighting variables were age, gender, and level of education (as defined by ISCED (2011) levels 0-2, 3-4, and 5-8). An iterative algorithm was used to identify the optimal combination of weighting variables based on sample composition within each country. An estimation of the average design effect based on the distribution of weights was calculated at 1.56. Considering the sample size and the estimation of the design effect, the margin of error would be estimated at +/-4.9% at a confidence level of 95%.

### **Survey Questions**

1. "Do you approve or disapprove of the way that your national president / prime minister is performing his or her job?"  
(*strongly approve / somewhat approve / somewhat disapprove / strongly disapprove / don't know*)

2. "Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the person who represents you in your national parliament / congress is performing his or her job?"  
*(strongly approve / somewhat approve / somewhat disapprove / strongly disapprove / don't know)*
3. "What is your opinion of the government in Venezuela?"  
*(strongly approve / somewhat approve / somewhat disapprove / strongly disapprove / don't know)*
4. "Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?"  
*(President Nicolas Maduro is turning Venezuela into a dictatorship and should resign / The opposition is working with foreign entities, including the US, to destabilise Venezuela)*
5. "If the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) were in power instead of the current government, do you think that things would ...?"  
*(get much better / get slightly better / stay the same / get slightly worse / get much worse)*
6. "If presidential elections happened tomorrow, which of the following candidates would you vote for if you had the chance?"  
*(Nicolas Maduro / Leopoldo Lopez / Henrique Capriles / Henry Ramos Allup / Other / I would not vote / Undecided / don't know)*
7. "What do you think about President Nicolas Maduro's proposed 'National Constituent Assembly'?"  
*(I fully support it / I somewhat support it / I neither support nor oppose it / I somewhat oppose it / I fully oppose it / Don't know)*
8. "What do you think about the street protests against the government?"  
*(I fully support them / I somewhat support them / I neither support nor oppose them / I somewhat oppose them / I fully oppose them / Don't know)*
9. "Which of the following problems are you worried about? Select all that apply"  
*(Food shortages / Medicine shortages / Violent crime / Theft / My family's income / Inflation / High cost of living / None of the above)*
10. "In your opinion, who is responsible for the current economic problems in Venezuela? Select all that apply"  
*(President Nicolas Maduro / Private companies and financial elites / The United States / The policies of former president Hugo Chavez / The opposition parties / Other / None of the above)*

## About Dalia Research

Dalia Research was founded in Berlin in 2013 with a clear vision to utilize mobile technology to change the way attitudinal data is collected, analysed and presented. For more information about Dalia and its work, please visit: [www.daliaresearch.com](http://www.daliaresearch.com)

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