



1.7.1. Applications

The Patria System (Sistema Patria) and VenApp are the principal applications used by the government to monitor and control the population.^{[323](#)} The Patria System, managed by the Patria Foundation (Fundación Patria) under the Office of the Vice-President,^{[324](#)} is a digital platform functioning as a centralised mechanism for distributing social assistance.^{[325](#)} To access benefits and maintain eligibility, citizens must regularly update personal information and complete random surveys on socio-economic conditions and consumer habits.^{[326](#)} Some of the data collected concern individuals' relationships with relatives, neighbours, friends, and institutions, as well as information on banking transactions; this allows authorities to construct detailed maps of social networks, including connections involving people who are not themselves registered in the Patria System.^{[327](#)} The platform's website is registered under the ruling PSUV rather than a government agency, further subordinating citizens to party interests.^{[328](#)}

The Homeland Card (Carnet de la Patria) is an identity document that is linked to the Patria System.^{[329](#)} It contains a QR code and is required to access government services, including CLAP food boxes.^{[330](#)} According to the unofficial National Survey on Living Conditions 2025 (Encuesta Nacional sobre Condiciones de Vida, Encovi 2025),^{[331](#)} approximately 7.63 million households, or 81.7 % of all households, received CLAP food boxes, down from 8.17 million in 2024.^{[332](#)} In 2025, CLAP distributions reached 63 % of households classified as 'not poor', 84 % considered 'poor', and 87 % of those in 'extreme poverty'.^{[333](#)} Citizens' dependence on social programs delivered through the Patria System compels them to register and continually provide personal information.^{[334](#)}

VenApp is an application created in 2022 for reporting public services problems^{[335](#)} through geo-localised alerts, such as broken water lines or subway delays.^{[336](#)} It also functions as a chat-messaging platform.^{[337](#)} In August 2024, the government introduced changes enabling users to report political protests and dissidents, and in October 2025, President Maduro requested the addition of a feature allowing citizens to report "'everything they see, everything they hear'".^{[338](#)} According to DFRLab, VenApp has evolved into a tool of 'collective surveillance' that promotes the 'institutionalisation of reporting on neighbours'.^{[339](#)}

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