



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Mexico

RULE OF LAW

CONTEXT

In Mexico, only **7 out of every 100** committed crimes are reported.



99%
of crimes committed are unpunished.



Mexico ranked **92** out of 113 countries in the **World Justice Project Rule of Law Index.**

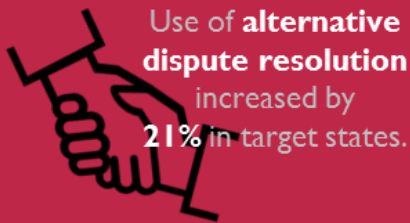
OVERVIEW

In 2008, the Government of Mexico (GOM), under increasing pressure from justice sector stakeholders and civil society networks, approved constitutional reforms mandating the nation-wide adoption of a new adversarial criminal justice system (NCJS). The reforms required all state and federal jurisdictions to implement justice reforms by June 2016, and to improve the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice proceedings, while protecting due process, promoting assistance to crime victims, and strengthening human rights. Since the 2016 transition, USAID's focus has been on the consolidation of the reform at the state level with an emphasis on decreasing high levels of impunity through prioritization of investigative and prosecutorial resources. U.S. Government support for the reforms is part of the Merida Initiative.

OBJECTIVE: MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

USAID is supporting attorney general offices and courts, among other institutions, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal and civil justice systems, including developing analytical ability, improving victims' access to justice, and building public support for criminal justice reforms. USAID also works with civil society and private sector actors to support public outreach to inform the citizenry of the nature of the reforms, thus generating increased buy-in. USAID efforts focus on 12 states: Baja California, Baja California Sur, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Jalisco, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, Tabasco and Zacatecas (with more limited activities in Hidalgo, Quintana Roo, Michoacán, Estado de México, Puebla and Yucatán).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT



USAID RULE OF LAW ACTIVITY

PROJUST (Management Systems International and Tetra Tech DPK) provides strategic technical assistance to Mexican state and federal authorities in support of an effective consolidation of the new criminal justice system. Activities focus on: strengthening the legal framework; increasing prosecutorial and judicial capacity; promoting outreach; building analytical capacity in justice sector institutions (to better track progress); and, supporting victims' assistance and access to justice, particularly for women.

For Fiscal Year 2016, PROJUST increased its support for the formation and operation of specialized units within State Attorney General Offices (homicide, gender-based violence, robbery and intelligence/context analysis units). In addition, PROJUST is fostering increased levels of inter-institution collaboration through promotion of 100-Day Challenges that have successfully met ambitious targets for case disposition in target jurisdictions. The number of gender-based violence cases resolved increased by a factor of 120 (from one to 120 cases a month) in Tabasco (Villahermosa), by a factor of 6 (from 11 to 68 cases a month) for robbery cases in Zacatecas (Zacatecas City), and by almost a factor of six (from eight to 45 cases a month) for robbery cases in Chihuahua (Chihuahua City).