



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Mexico

CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

CONTEXT



35,500+ homicides in 2019, making it the **most violent year on record.**



The states with the most homicides in 2019 were **Guanajuato, State of Mexico, and Baja California.**

16,000 youth were **arrested** for their participation in a wide range of crimes.



OVERVIEW

Mexico has experienced significant increases in crime and violence in recent years. Violent crime enabled by impunity and the ineffectiveness of government institutions to ensure basic security, diminishes public confidence in government, and threatens citizen well-being, economic growth, and the social fabric of communities across the country. Furthermore, day-to-day lower-level criminality including assaults, muggings, public disturbances, and robbery fuel citizen perceptions of insecurity. Youth, facing a dearth of productive alternatives to lucrative illicit activities and emboldened by a perception that there is no penalty to pay for criminality, are ideal recruits for TCOs and their subsidiary organizations.

OBJECTIVE: CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN TARGETED COMMUNITIES SUSTAINABLY DECREASED

USAID supports local actors--government, civil society, the private sector and academia--to test, implement and scale alternative justice models, such as civic justice to address community-level conflict and violence, and slowly rebuild social capital among community members and confidence in government institutions. Through this approach, local authorities, in particular law enforcement first responders, will build trust with citizens, while generating information that is shared with state prosecutors to better target and allocate criminal justice system resources. USAID programming also curbs the escalation of criminal behavior by the primary perpetrators -youth-through systematic identification of high-risk individuals and provision of tailored services. USAID supports the adoption of evidence-based prevention approaches, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, by the GOM and local stakeholders to promote social reintegration of youth and reduce the recruiting base for criminal organizations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT



In USAID's programs for youth who are jailed or on probation, **recidivism** rate is only **3.11%** compared to the national rate of 60%.



105 out of 314 youth who were formerly jailed, **obtained employment** after completing job training.



USAID supported **17 CSOs** of which **12 notably improved** their **financial and administrative capacities** in under a year.

Civic justice courts benefited **2,000+ youth** addressing **low-level crimes** committed by youth with a **recidivism rate of only 9%**.



1,049 of at-risk youth completed **cognitive behavioral therapy** sessions of which **488 successfully reduced** their risk factors.



USAID CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Violence Prevention and Reduction Activity (Chemonics International, Inc.) \$19.4m, 2020-2024. This activity strengthens the capacity of municipal governments to reduce crime and violence in their communities by shifting the focus from purely punitive justice to preventative and proactive civic justice and policing. Addressing low-level crime and violence expeditiously through municipal civic justice courts will reduce the number of cases channeled to the overburdened criminal justice system, allowing more time and resources to investigate and prosecute high-impact cases.

Systematic Strategy Against Violence/CLAVE (Seguridad y Justicia de Ciudad Juárez and Pro Superación Familiar Neolonesa) \$1.7m (USAID) / \$1.7 m (leveraged funds), 2018-2021. This activity seeks to reduce homicide rates in high-crime areas in Chihuahua and Nuevo León by targeting specific individuals driving local violence with incentives to deter future criminal behavior. Co-funded by local private sector and state governments and based on the tested US-based Focused Deterrence model, this activity promotes strategic collaboration and coordination among law enforcement, justice operators, community leaders and social service providers.

Social Reintegration Model for Juvenile Offenders (Reinserta un Mexicano) \$1.3m (USAID) / \$1.3m (leveraged funds) 2019-2023. This comprehensive reintegration program provides youth in detention centers in Mexico City and the state of Mexico with educational programs, job training, psychological and health support, as well as job placement to help them build a crime-free life and reduce recidivism. The activity will replicate the model in the state of Nuevo León.

Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Youth on Probation Activity (MBCT) (Centro de Desarrollo y Atención Terapéutica (CEDAT), A.C.) \$847,000 (USAID) / \$892,400 (leveraged funds), 2020-2023. This activity aims to reduce recidivism rates for youth on probation in 27 municipalities in three states (Chihuahua, Jalisco, and Nuevo León) through MBCT, increased access to education, and the promotion of employment options. CEDAT will train local government institutions and civil society organizations in the model, forge public-private partnerships, and advocate for state-level policy reform and resource allocation for alternative justice approaches.