Mexico
RULE OF LAW

CONTEXT

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

Mexico tops the list of countries in the Americas with the **highest rate of impunity.**

Mexico ranked **104** out of 128 countries in the **World Justice Project Rule of Law Index.**

OVERVIEW

Impunity - and the crime, violence and corruption that it enables - is Mexico's principal governance challenge. With nearly 93 percent of crimes going unreported or uninvestigated, Mexico's high level of impunity reduces economic growth and hinders citizen faith in government. USAID's rule of law activities help reduce impunity and improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of Mexico's justice institutions. They partner primarily with state justice institutions as well as civil society to work together to more effectively identify, investigate, and prosecute high-impact crimes. USAID also collaborates on public policy, helping leaders in Mexico's justice system to expand data-based decision making to better program resources in response to citizen needs.

OBJECTIVE: A MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

USAID supports the courts as well as state attorneys general to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal justice systems, by developing analytical capacity, improving victims' access to justice, and protecting human rights. USAID also works with civil society and the private sector to support public outreach to inform the citizenry about the value of having transparent, efficient and responsive justice.

USAID'S RULE OF LAW ACTIVITIES

Improving Effectiveness of State-Level Justice Institutions in Mexico (DAI Global, LLC) $33m, 2020-2023. This activity increases the effectiveness, responsiveness, and accountability of the Mexican justice system in targeted states. It strengthens the ability of justice institutions - including prosecutors, investigators, analysts, and court personnel - to efficiently resolve cases and improve the quality and quantity of investigations. It also develops the capacity of justice institutions to provide accountable due process and human rights protections, better use data and analysis for decision-making, and enhance coordination between justice actors and institutions to provide oversight and constructive engagement with government.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT

Use of **alternative dispute resolution** increased by **59%** in target states.

Inter-institutional coordination in 100-day challenges resulted in the resolution of **3,505** cases and an increase of **172%** in effectiveness.

"Justice for You" platform provided information on the legal system to **40,786 people** across 32 states.

State Courts in **Coahuila, Nuevo León** and **Chihuahua** increased disposition rates by **22%** despite an increase in new cases.

Due to **increased investigative capabilities**, work carried out by specialized homicides units in **6** target districts resulted in an increase of **36% in probable cause determinations.**

Justice Access for Victims and the Accused (Fortis Consultores, S.C.) $5m, 2019-2021. This activity improves the ability of state-level justice institutions to ensure due process for the accused, deliver services to victims, and to support roles for civil society to improve these services.

Alliances for Analysis and Communication (México Evalúa) $2.3m, 2019-2024. This activity enhances local actors' ability to monitor, evaluate, and interact with the Court Justice System. It also promotes the use of data, by allies like civil society organizations universities in order to advance the accountability and effectiveness of local justice systems.

Judicial Transparency and Accountability (México Evalúa) $300,000, 2018-2021. This activity improves transparency and independence within state-level judicial councils, which are responsible for assigning judges and monitoring judicial performance. The project identifies best practices and gives recommendations through comprehensive evaluations of state judiciaries, including the strength of career services, transparency, and access to public information.