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# FACT SHEET

## REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROJECT

Despite important human rights achievements, particularly in legislation and institutional capacity, insecurity and violence persist in the Central America region. USAID’s Regional Human Rights and Democracy project helps prevent human rights violations, strengthens the response to address these violations, and promotes sustainable early warning and protection systems for key vulnerable groups. The project focuses on protecting human rights for the most vulnerable populations, including children, youth, women, LGBTIQ+ community, and people with disabilities.

While recognizing that each country in the region is unique in terms of legal, political, economic, social, and cultural contexts, there are common human rights violations and challenges. The project improves awareness and understanding of human rights and helps countries in the region meet their obligations under international law to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all members of society.

The project helps to improve the operating environment and public policies, enabling human rights defenders, media, civil society organizations, and other individuals to promote and defend human rights without fear of violence or retaliation. Activities include training for grassroots and civil society organizations, government employees, and the facilitation of exchanges and regional forums among legislators and civil society.

The project includes the design and operation of early alert systems that protects the rights of internally displaced populations and migrants, as well as supporting the creation of a missing person single registry for Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. The project is working with networks of civil society organizations to address the issue of forced internal displacement through research, advocacy, training, creation of educational materials, and the documentation of cases in the region.

In addition, the project will establish specialized curricula in human rights for teachers, disseminating practices, methodologies, and research data for more effective public policies at the national and regional level.

The project addresses the defense and improvement of labor rights in Central America, starting with diagnosis on the status of labor rights statics in the region, training sessions that enhance labor union’s capacity to defend their rights. These actions have been conducted in close coordination with labor unions, different workers’ associations, employers, and governments.



### Regional Human Rights and Democracy Project

**TOTAL INVESTMENT:**

\$29.8 million

**TIME PERIOD:**

February July 2016 – July 2024

**GEOGRAPHIC AREA:** Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:** Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)

**PARTNERS:**

- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
- Notre Dame University
- Internews
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI)
- Solidarity Center
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Foundation for Peace and Democracy

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For more information on USAID El Salvador and USAID Central America Regional Programs, please call: (503) 2501-3411; 3344; 3432 or visit [www.usaid.gov/el-salvador](http://www.usaid.gov/el-salvador)

