



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Mexico

RULE OF LAW

CONTEXT



In 2020, **only 7 out of every 100 crimes** were reported and investigated in Mexico. INEGI's victimization survey



Mexico is among the countries with the **highest rate of impunity** in the Americas, according to the GII 2020.



Mexico ranked **129** out of 139 countries in the criminal justice component of the **2021 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index**.

Overview

Alarmingly high levels of impunity in Mexico enable human rights violations, extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, torture and the operation of transnational criminal organizations (TCOs). Mexico's 93.2 percent impunity rate is still one of the country's principal governance challenges. Of every 100 crimes that are committed, only 6.4 are reported; of every 100 crimes that are reported, only 14 are solved. This means that the probability that a crime will be solved in Mexico is only 0.9 percent. These figures are reflected in the low levels of trust that citizens report towards public institutions and state attorneys, with only 10.3 percent of people saying they trust these institutions. There are states that have adopted good practices, particularly around the new accusatory justice system and that show improvement in the levels of impunity; others, on the contrary, show worrying trends.

OBJECTIVE: A MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

USAID's activities help reduce impunity by improving the effectiveness, responsiveness and accountability of Mexico's state justice institutions, including courts, prosecutors, public defenders, victim advocates, Women Justice Centers, and Pretrial Service Units. USAID partners with these institutions to improve their analytical and operational capacity and inter/intra-institutional coordination to address citizen justice needs. Part of USAID'S strategy is to involve civil society and the private sector to monitor justice system responsiveness. Activities focus at the state level as state justice systems process 97 percent of criminal cases.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT



USAID supported the **development and implementation of strategic Criminal Prosecution Policies** for the federal government.



USAID improved **management systems in target institutions**, reducing average response times by 28 percent for users in the Attorney General's Office of Sonora.



In partnership with the GOM, USAID carried out a **national diagnosis for state Pretrial Service Units**, resulting in development plans.



Task forces supported by USAID have identified and indicted more than **50 members of criminal organizations committing high-impact crimes** in the states of **Sonora, Coahuila and Zacatecas**.

USAID'S RULE OF LAW ACTIVITIES

Improving Effectiveness of State-Level Justice Institutions in Mexico - CONJUSTICIA (DAI Global, LLC) \$33m, 2020-2025. This activity aims to increase the effectiveness, responsiveness, and accountability of the Mexican justice system in targeted states. It strengthens the ability of justice actors - 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 safeguard due process and human rights, better use data and analysis for decision-making, and enhance intra- and inter-institutional coordination.

Justice Access for Victims and the Accused (Fortis Consultores, S.C.) \$5m, 2019-2024. This activity improves the ability of state-level justice institutions to ensure due process for the accused, deliver services to victims, and support civil society in its effort to improve these services. The activity works with state-level Women Justice Centers and Victim Centers to improve justice service delivery, decrease re-victimization, and promote a more comprehensive approach to victim support. The activity improves the efficiency of Pretrial Service Units and Public Defender's offices using management tools that help guarantee due process of law for defendants, including women and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

Analysis and Communication Alliance (México Evalúa) \$2.3m, 2019-2024. This activity enhances local civil society actors' ability to monitor, evaluate, and interact with the criminal justice system. It promotes the use of data by allies like citizen organizations and universities, and informed dialogue between authorities and nonstate actors to address specific challenges and advance increased accountability and effectiveness in local justice systems.