



CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION



DATA AT A GLANCE

Youth under age 24 represent 50% of the population in Mexico.

Youth represent approximately 38% of the homicide victims in Mexico in the last decade.

Despite nearly universal primary school registration of 97-99% in Mexico, less than half of students graduate from middle school.

In 2012, almost 25% of youth in Mexico were not employed or involved in education or training.

OVERVIEW

Mexico has experienced an increase in narco-trafficking-related crime and violence in recent years, which has significantly affected the country's security and economic growth and has had an especially detrimental effect on youth development. Violence and rapid urbanization, particularly in Mexico's northern border cities, have contributed to increased crime rates and threaten the security and well-being of citizens. Strengthening communities' social and economic resilience, while addressing the risk factors that create an environment in which criminal organizations can exist and thrive, will contribute to improving citizen security in targeted communities.

OBJECTIVE

Under USAID/Mexico's Country Development Cooperation Strategy 2014-2018, USAID supports the Government of Mexico's (GOM) efforts to improve citizen security through the development and testing of prevention models that mitigate the community-level impacts of crime and violence. Falling under the broader bilateral Merida Initiative, USAID's current crime and violence prevention portfolio has dedicated approximately USD\$50 million to support GOM and civil society efforts to achieve these objectives in nine target communities in Ciudad Juarez, Monterrey and Tijuana. Each community was selected by the GOM based on a range of criteria, including high crime rates and local prevention and development initiatives.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Crime Prevention Master Plans were developed in each of the nine communities. Using these plans, USAID was able to leverage over USD\$100k in GOM funds for urban development and community policing initiatives.
- Since 2010, 19,000 at-risk youth have benefited from after-school enrichment and summer school programs, community engagement, vocational training and job placement initiatives.
- Seventy-nine at-risk youth aged 11-15 have learned an instrument well enough to participate in either an orchestra or contemporary music concert. The grade point average of students enrolled in the initiative increased an average 25% from the previous school year.
- In Ciudad Juarez, over 70% of graduates of USAID's Youth Work: Mexico initiative between the ages of 18-26 have found gainful employment or returned to school.
- USAID trained 130 local government officials representing 90 municipalities on the design, implementation and evaluation of youth

public policies and programs and established the National Network for Youth Development, which includes 22 local, national and international organizations that promote effective youth policies.

- Six youth community centers were established in Monterrey serving 1,406 beneficiaries aged 6-18. Over 850 parents of youth beneficiaries are participating in monthly parent meetings.
- The GOM plans to replicate the USAID-supported Futbol: Escuelas de Vida model in 60 locations throughout Mexico.
- The State Government of Mariano Matamoros in Tijuana donated 5,784 m² of land to support physical, intellectual, social and emotional development programs for at-risk youth between ages 7-29.

USAID CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Crime and Violence Prevention Program (CVPP)

Implementer: Tetra Tech – ARD

This initiative supports community-based strategies to prevent and counteract crime and violence. CVPP supports GOM efforts to formulate and implement evidence-based crime prevention policies and local efforts to promote social cohesion. CVPP activities are closely coordinated with all levels of government and with civil society. Local Crime and Violence Prevention Master Plans, which were developed in each community through participatory processes, guide project planning, implementation and community engagement.

Empowerment and Education for the Advancement and Respect of Youth (EJEMPLAR)

Implementer: Heartland Alliance

This initiative is focused on preventing youth from participating in organized crime and dropping out of school, as well as promoting healthy lifestyles in low-income communities. This inclusive community-based initiative engages youth participants, parents, educators, and civic leaders.

Expanding the Development of Children (ADN)

Implementer: Chihuahua Entrepreneurial Foundation, A.C. (FECHAC)

ADN focuses on youth development and helps youth take on productive roles in their communities. ADN's activities take place before and after-school and in the summer.

Messengers of Peace

Implementer: Scouts Association of Mexico

This initiative focuses on at-risk youth between the ages of 10-29 who are vulnerable to engaging in criminal activities. Messengers of Peace provides youth access to direct academic counseling, non-formal educational activities, and psychosocial support through a renowned social leadership program.

Music in Human Development for a Culture Free of Violence

Implementer: Citizens Committed to Peace (CCOMPAZ)

This initiative engages secondary school students through music education. Activities teach young participants to play musical instruments and showcase their talents in public concerts. Participating adolescents also receive academic support and healthy life skills instruction in order to promote their overall development as young adults.

Partnership for Youth

Implementer: IDEA Foundation

This initiative aims to minimize the social factors contributing to youth engagement in criminal activity by promoting sustainable public policies directed towards at-risk youth. Partnership for Youth is creating a National Network for Youth Development to design and evaluate projects and promote national-level youth policies. Special priority is given to NGOs and local authorities at the state and municipal levels.

Youth Pathways Mexico (YPM)

Implementer: Youth Build International

This initiative is a USAID Global Development Alliance (GDA) led by Youth Build International in collaboration with key local and international partners. Youth Pathways Mexico increases the availability, relevance and quality of youth leadership and workforce development programs and creates economic, educational and social opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups.

Youth:Work Mexico

Implementer: International Youth Foundation (IYF)

Youth:Work Mexico creates safe spaces for disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16-28, strengthens and expands after-school and summer programs, and prepares participants for worthwhile employment opportunities. This initiative is implemented in partnership with GOM and local civil society groups.