



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Mexico

CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

DATA AT GLANCE

Homicide rates between 2014 and 2015 increased by **6.3%** due to ongoing drug-related violence

In 2011 Mexico had **12** cities ranked among the world's 50 most violent



In 2016 **10**

9 Of them were among the top 25

were still ranked most violent, with **2** in the top 25



16,000 young people were arrested for their participation in diverse types of crimes²

¹ Institute of Economics and Peace
² Wilson Center, 2014

OVERVIEW

Mexico has experienced an increase in narco-trafficking-related crime and violence in recent years, significantly affecting the country's security and economic growth, with an especially detrimental effect on youth. The country has been troubled by violence, caused largely by transnational criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and other illegal activities, and recent Government of Mexico (GOM) data show the national murder rate increasing once again. Many areas of the country are being shaken by violence as traffickers battle to fill the vacuum left by the deterioration of large cartels. 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.

OBJECTIVE: CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION MODELS REPLICATED BY LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Under USAID/Mexico's Country Development Cooperation Strategy, for Fiscal Years 2014-2018, and as part of the Merida Initiative, USAID is dedicating approximately \$90 million to advance crime and violence prevention by increasing collaboration between government, business, academia, and civil society in target cities; strengthening government capacity to design and implement crime and violence prevention policies and plans; and increasing the ability of at-risk youth to play a productive role in their communities. USAID focuses on youth most at-risk, encouraging them to stay in school, strengthening social integration and civic leadership, and offering opportunities to improve life skills and obtain self- or salaried-employment. Additional activities include support to youth who have been in conflict with the law or are currently in detention centers. Technical assistance to the GOM is improving government entities' ability to design, implement, and monitor crime and violence prevention activities at federal and local levels.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT



Since 2012, activities have benefited over **35,000** at-risk youth in **Ciudad Juarez (CJ), Monterrey (MTY), and Tijuana (TJ)**



Supported creation of **Municipal Crime and Violence Prevention Committees** in TJ, MTY, and CJ. GOM to **replicate** in other cities



In 2015, USAID & GOM developed an **eBook** for GOM officials & civil society on **effective practices** on crime and violence **prevention**



Prevention efforts reached more than **9,000** at-risk youth in **CJ and TJ**

They participated in **summer camps, after-school activities, and employability programs**



70% of participants gained **employment, secured an internship, or returned to school** within **6 months**

USAID CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Together to Prevent Violence Activity, Implementer: Chemonics. The activity promotes proven crime and violence prevention models that have the potential to be replicated by public, private, and civil society actors. The activity is developing a city network, a crime prevention lab, and a national fund to prevent crime and violence.

Developing Learning Skills Responsibilities to Transform the Environment, Implementer: Alianza Heartland Mexico. This school-based activity works with at-risk youth in the state of Nuevo Leon and helps build healthy relationships, acquire life skills, and gain independence through social and economic entrepreneurship.

Youth without Prison Activity, Implementer: Reinserta Un Mexicano. This activity supports previously or currently incarcerated youth in Mexico City. It provides skills, confidence, mental and physical health, and positive social connections crucial to living outside the penal system and being productive in their community.

RedSumaRSE Initiative 2.0, Implementer: Via Educación. This public-private partnership aims to strengthen citizens' ability to lead and manage community-based activities focused on prevention and strengthen alliances among civil society organizations. This model is implemented in Monterrey and will support close to 2,000 youth.

Schools Building Peace in Mexico Activity, Implementer: Fundación Mexicana de Apoyo Infantil. This school-based prevention model utilizes mediation and behavior change programs to build a culture of peace among at-risk youth in 80 schools in marginalized high crime urban neighborhoods in Tijuana, Monterrey, Culiacan and Acapulco.

Youth Pathways Initiative Phase II Activity, Implementer: YouthBuild International. This public-private partnership assists youth in Monterrey, Tijuana, and Mexico City. It provides opportunities for youth in schools, communities, and detention centers to advance academically, acquire technical skills, and pursue livelihoods.

Youth in Conflict with the Law, Implementer: Consejo Ciudadano de Seguridad y Justicia. This public-private partnership aims to reintegrate 450 youth held in detention centers in the state of Chihuahua back into their communities; advocates for decreased stigmatization of formerly detained youth; and increases engagement of the private and public sectors.

Broadening the Development of Children, Implementer: Salud y Desarrollo Comunitario de Ciudad Juárez, A.C. This activity, implemented in the states of Chihuahua and Yucatan, has two key objectives: 1) reduce school desertion among 10-16 year-old students, and 2) facilitate the replication of the activity in government schools.

Youth: Work Mexico, Implementer: International Youth Foundation. This activity works with civil society groups in Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana to create safe spaces for youth and offers various after-school programs.