



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# Mexico

## CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

### CONTEXT

**31,000+**  
homicides in 2017.  
The most violent  
year on record.



The states with **the most homicides** in 2017 were **Guerrero, Guanajuato and State of Mexico.**

**16,000**  
youth were arrested for their participation in a wide range of crimes.




### OVERVIEW

Mexico has experienced significant increases in crime and violence in recent years, adversely affecting the country's security and economic growth, with an especially detrimental effect on youth. Much of the crime and violence is driven by criminal organizations battling 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, recruitment of youth into criminal organizations, and threaten the security and well-being of citizens.

### OBJECTIVE: CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN TARGETED COMMUNITIES SUSTAINABLY DECREASED

USAID is focused on preventing at-risk youth in the most violence-affected cities, especially on the border, from turning to crime and potentially joining organized criminal groups. The priorities for USAID are strengthening local authorities' commitment to tackle this challenge, increasing civil society organizations' programming capacity and continuing the engagement of the private sector in violence prevention. USAID targets youth in three stages: at-risk youth as mentioned above, youth who have already committed misdemeanors and youth in juvenile detention centers. USAID supports local actors in employing proven approaches, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, crime prevention through environmental design, community courts oriented to provide prompt, transparent and expedite solutions to community conflicts, and targeting the most at-risk individuals for a sustained reduction in crime and violence. USAID collaborates with government, civil society, academia, and private sector in 14 target municipalities to promote locally-led prevention programs, build community cohesion, and improve job opportunities for at-risk youth.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT



In USAID's programs for youth who are jailed or on probation, **recidivism** rate is only **1.25%**, compared to the national rate of 60%.

**70%** of at-risk youth in USAID programs now have a **formal job** and/or are enrolled in **school**.



USAID supports **7 CSOs** in their organizational performance and they all have an **+8% improvement** in their **technical and institutional capacities** in the first year.

Civic justice courts benefited **2,000+ youth** addressing **low-level crime** committed by youth with a **recidivism rate of only 9%**.



Youth in USAID programs have **decreased** their **risk factors** which make them susceptible to crime by up to **75%**.

### USAID CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

**Together to Prevent Violence (Chemonics).** This activity strengthens the capacity and sustainability of local violence prevention systems through improvement of Government of Mexico crime and violence prevention policies at federal, state and local levels. It does this through the support of the local actors using technical approaches and promoting the adaptation of evidence-based violence prevention practices and policies within local systems. The program works in eight municipalities in Baja California, Chihuahua, Michoacan, Jalisco and Nuevo Leon.

**CLAVE (Seguridad y Justicia de Ciudad Juarez and Pro Superación Familiar Neolonesa).** These activities, which implement a methodology used in the U.S. to lower homicide rates up to 64%, seek to lower homicide rates in Chihuahua, co-funded with business-led trust FICOSEC, and in Nuevo Leon, co-funded with the private sector and State Government. The activities will attempt to do this through identifying and communicating directly with the individuals that generate violence and promoting changes in their behavior through positive incentives. The project requires the active participation of civil society, the private sector and social institutions for its successful implementation.

**Youth in Conflict with the Law (Consejo Ciudadano de Seguridad y Justicia).** This public-private alliance, co-funded with FICOSEC in the State of Chihuahua, is a tertiary prevention model that seeks to reintegrate 450 youth jailed or on probation, focusing on individual, family, academic, professional and social development, advocating for decreased stigmatization of detained youth, and increasing engagement of the private and public sectors in the social reintegration of the youth.

**Platform of the Construction of Youth Citizen Security (Universidad Iberoamericana de Puebla).** This partnership with Carlos Slim Foundation will increase employment of at-risk youth through social enterprises based on a cooperative business model oriented to resolve social issues and violence prevention programs in Nuevo Leon, Chihuahua, State of Mexico, Baja California, Jalisco, Michoacan and Mexico City. Through advanced technology and training, the activity will help approximately 3,000 at-risk youth to create and sustain 70 social enterprises promoting self and community development.

**RedSumaRSE Initiative 2.0 (Via Educacion).** This is a public-private alliance co-funded with Red SumaRSE, a coalition of more than 25 businesses in Monterrey committed to reducing crime and violence and improving citizen security. The activity strengthens citizens' ability to lead and manage community-based secondary crime prevention activities for 2000 youth, as well as foster alliances among civil society organizations.

**Broadening the Development of Children (Salud y Desarrollo Comunitario de Ciudad Juarez).** This partnership with private sector associations FECHAC and FEYAC is a school-based, secondary prevention model implemented in the states of Chihuahua and Yucatan, focused in part on at-risk youth. The activity has two key objectives, to reduce school desertion in targeted schools by engaging young students (10-16 years old), and expand the replication of the model in public schools. It is estimated the program will benefit 3,200 at-risk youth and reduce dropout rates by ten percent.