



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mexico

RULE OF LAW



DATA AT GLANCE

GOM has invested more than

\$1.2 billion

to implement
justice reforms



**June 18,
2016**

was the deadline for
implementation of
the justice reforms

On that date, states and federal
entities committed to continue
consolidation and institutionalization
of the reforms



The justice reforms
are operational in
all **32**
states and the
federal level

93%

of laws required
by the reform
have been passed



OVERVIEW

For many years, the Mexican criminal justice system has been criticized for being slow, inefficient, and plagued with deficiencies such as prolonged pre-trial confinement, low case disposition rates, a lack of transparency, and questionable attention to due process. In 2008, the Government of Mexico (GOM), under increasing pressure from justice sector stakeholders and civil society networks, approved constitutional reforms, mandating the nation-wide adoption of a new adversarial criminal justice system (NCJS) in the country. The reforms required all state and federal jurisdictions to implement constitutional justice reforms by June 2016, and aim to improve the transparency, effectiveness, and efficiency of criminal justice proceedings, while protecting due process, promoting assistance to crime victims, and strengthening human rights. U.S. Government support for the reforms is part of the Merida Initiative.

OBJECTIVE: CONSTITUTIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS OF 2008 ARE OPERATIONAL IN MEXICAN STATES

Under USAID/Mexico's Country Development Cooperation Strategy, for Fiscal Years 2014-2018, USAID supports the GOM in making the constitutional criminal justice reforms implemented on June 18, 2016 operational and durable. The new criminal justice reforms represent a paradigmatic shift that will likely take a generation to complete, a fact the Mexican government recognizes. GOM ownership and full participation are critical to all USAID programming, as well as to the long-term sustainability of the results achieved. USAID's current rule of law portfolio totals approximately USD \$87 million and is focused on supporting the GOM, civil society, and other legal institutions to transition to the new adversarial criminal justice system at the state level.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT



Pre-trial detention rates have decreased in some states by **25%** or more



Pre-trial detention in **Baja California Sur** dropped from **100%** to **73%**
In **Michoacan** from **99%** to **70%**



GOM administered an exam to **233** students to measure abilities and knowledge on **NCJS**



The rate of **compliance by defendants** of the precautionary measures imposed by courts ranges from **90%** to **97.3%** in supported states



Successful use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms **doubled** available resources for courts to address violent crimes



In states supported by USAID, **100%** of hearings were attended by judges

USAID RULE OF LAW ACTIVITIES

Current (additional activities under development)

Promoting Justice (PROJUST), Implementer: Management Systems International (MSI). PROJUST, USAID's flagship justice activity, provides comprehensive technical assistance to Mexican state and federal authorities in support of an effective transition to and consolidation of the new criminal justice system. Activities focus on: strengthening the legal framework; increasing prosecutorial and judicial capacity; promoting outreach; building analytical capacity in justice sector institutions (to better track progress); and, supporting victims' assistance and access to justice, particularly for women.

Recently Completed

Support for Law Schools under the New Criminal Justice System Program, Implementer: Centro de Estudios sobre la Enseñanza y el Aprendizaje del Derecho (CEEAD). This activity provided technical assistance to law schools to better prepare students to practice law in the new criminal justice system, and helped sustain Mexico's groundbreaking reform of the criminal justice sector.

Collective Justice Program, Implementer: Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo (CIDAC). This activity increased public support for the new criminal justice system reforms and focused on monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the reforms, building civil society understanding, and promoting the participation of civil society.

Consolidating Political Parties, Civil Society, and Consensus Building Processes in Mexico, Implementers: International Republican Institute (IRI) and National Democratic Institute (NDI). This long-term activity strengthened consensus building and increased citizen involvement in political processes by improving government responsiveness to citizen needs regarding criminal justice, crime prevention, and human rights.