



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Mexico

RULE OF LAW

CONTEXT

In Mexico, only **7 out of every 100** crimes committed are reported.



Mexico tops the list of countries in the Americas with the **highest rate of impunity.**



Mexico ranked **92** out of 113 countries in the **World Justice Project Rule of Law Index.**

OVERVIEW

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 an adversarial criminal justice system. The reforms required all state and federal jurisdictions to implement justice reforms by June 2016, and to improve the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice proceedings, while protecting due process, promoting assistance to crime victims and strengthening human rights. Since the 2016 transition, USAID has focused on the consolidation of the reform at the state level, with an emphasis on decreasing high levels of impunity through prioritization of investigative and prosecutorial resources. U.S. Government support for the reforms is part of the Merida Initiative.

OBJECTIVE: MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

USAID is supporting offices of state attorneys general and courts, among other institutions, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal and civil justice systems, including developing analytical capacity, improving victims' access to justice and building public support for the criminal justice system. USAID also works with civil society and private sector actors to support public outreach to inform the citizenry about the value of having transparent, efficient and responsive justice. USAID efforts focus on 11 states: Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Jalisco, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, Tabasco and Zacatecas (with more limited activities in Hidalgo and Quintana Roo).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT

Use of **alternative dispute resolution** increased by **59%** in target states.



"Justice for You" platform provided information on the legal system to **32,389 people** across 32 states.

State courts **sustained disposition rates** year-on-year in **Coahuila, San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas** despite more than a two-fold increase in new cases.



Cross-sector coordination in 100-day challenges resulted in **450%** increase in robbery case resolutions across 4 states.



Due to an increase in **investigative capabilities**, work carried out by **7 specialized homicide units** resulted in **probable cause determinations** in **20%** of cases when measured annually.



USAID RULE OF LAW ACTIVITY

PROJUST (Management Systems International and Tetra Tech DPK) provides strategic technical assistance to Mexican state and federal authorities in support of an effective consolidation of the new criminal justice system. Activities focus on: strengthening the legal framework; increasing prosecutorial and judicial capacity; promoting outreach to explain the system to the citizenry; building analytical capacity in justice sector institutions to better track progress; and supporting victims' assistance and access to justice, particularly for women.

For Fiscal Year 2018, PROJUST continued its support of specialized units within offices of state attorneys general (homicide, gender-based violence, robbery and intelligence/context analysis units). In addition, PROJUST is fostering greater inter-institution collaboration through the promotion of 100-day challenges that have successfully met and, at times, surpassed ambitious targets for case disposition in target jurisdictions. In 2018, PROJUST convened the first wave of 100-day challenges in January, with eight teams across five states tackling impunity in crimes of robbery and domestic violence. Teams saw dramatic gains in the number of case resolutions for high-impact crimes across all cities. The notable impact of the methodology sparked greater private sector participation in the second round of challenges starting in July, with 14 frontline teams across seven cities in five states focused on robbery and domestic violence cases.