



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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Mexico

HUMAN RIGHTS

CONTEXT

18 journalists and **19** human rights defenders were **killed** in **2018** in Mexico.



Officially, the GOM acknowledges the disappearances of **37,000+** people.

760 femicides were reported in **2018**



In **2018**, the National Human Rights Commission received **618** complaints for **arbitrary detention** and **118** for **torture**.



OVERVIEW

Significant human rights violations persist in Mexico. Violations include unlawful killings, torture, 37,000 unresolved disappearances, and high numbers of femicides. The state struggles to address the high levels of violence by organized criminal groups and there has been police and military involvement in serious abuses. Journalists and human rights defenders continue to be targeted, threatened and killed. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the UN, the Inter-American Human Rights System and the country's National Human Rights Commission have documented and warned of human rights challenges in Mexico. While the Government of Mexico (GOM) has taken positive steps, grave human rights violations continue, along with the impunity for the majority of cases. CSOs recognize a need for an improved legislative framework at both federal and state levels, effective implementation of public policy, and access to justice.

OBJECTIVE: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND PREVENT ABUSES IMPROVED

USAID continues to improve the ability of the GOM to prevent, investigate, and prosecute human rights abuses, while strengthening civil society to hold the GOM accountable in this regard. In addition, assistance is supporting CSOs to engage actively with the GOM and the public on issues related to femicides, victims of torture, and forced disappearances. Technical expertise provided to the GOM's National Protection Mechanism, the Specialized Attorney General's Office for Crimes against Journalists (FEADLE) and civil society will improve accountability, effectiveness, and quality of preventative and protective measures enhancing the protection of journalists and human rights defenders. USAID also assists CSOs and networks of journalists and human rights defenders to network, form strategic alliances, and improve their advocacy and oversight of government efforts to improve protection from and prevent gross human rights abuses.

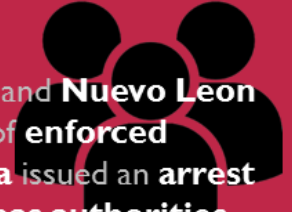
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT



USAID partner positioned two human rights campaigns: **#SeguridadSinGuerra** and **#FiscalfaQueSirva** reaching over **38,000** social media users.



FEADLE issued **three indictments** and established **probable cause** for **19** cases in 2018.



USAID activities trained **225** journalists on **self-protection** to help them safely conduct their work.



Attorney General's Office in **Baja California** and **Nuevo Leon** issued **two arrest warrants** on cases of **enforced disappearance**, while AG Office in **Coahuila** issued an **arrest warrant** on a **torture case**, and in **Chiapas** authorities established **probable cause** on another **torture case** following support from a USAID partner.

USAID HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

EnfoqueDH (Chemonics). This activity supports GOM efforts to implement its National Human Rights Plan, with the purpose of addressing structural human rights challenges. The activity seeks to incorporate human rights-based approaches into GOM initiatives by strengthening federal and state-level legislative frameworks and capacity to implement clear guidelines and procedures in line with international human rights standards. The activity also strengthens GOM capacity for outreach and dialogue with CSOs on human rights policies, supports the development of policies that help prevent abuses and assist victims of human rights violations, and supports a state response to human rights violations, including forced disappearances.

PROVOCES (Tetrattech/DPK). The activity aims to strengthen the institutional capacity and commitment of government and civil society counterparts to improve the security and protection conditions of journalists and human rights defenders. The activity also supports organizational and operational improvements to the National Mechanism to Protect Journalists and Human Rights Defenders, and will build and strengthen linkages and coordination among the special prosecutor for crimes against freedom of expression, civil society, and the private sector.

Protection from Torture and Enforced Disappearances Together (INSYDE). This activity develops the institutional and human capacity of the GOM and victims' associations to address cases of torture and enforced disappearances according to international human rights standards. Specifically, helps counterparts improve access to justice and the well-being of victims of torture and forced disappearances, building on previous USAID-funded efforts to prevent these crimes. The activity is developing a comprehensive model to strengthen search and judicial investigations, care for victims during criminal and civil proceedings, and the ability of victims' associations to effectively engage with government officials to promote effective finding processes, investigations and prosecutions.

Dialogue on Journalist's Protection (Article 19/Mexico). This activity aims to improve the respect for freedom of expression in Mexico by documenting and analyzing aggressions against journalists, increasing the visibility of aggressions against journalists at national and international levels and building capacity of government institutions to prevent and respond aggressions against journalists. In addition, the activity seeks to address broader challenges in Mexican democracy and governance that facilitate or exacerbate censorship or self-censorship.

Justice for the Disappeared (Nuevo Leon – CADHAC / Chihuahua - CEDEHM). Implemented in the states of Nuevo Leon and Chihuahua, the activity includes work with victims and victims' associations to guide and strengthen their efforts in the search for justice in cases of disappearances, including activities to improve strategic communications.

No More Femicides (Fundación IDEA). This activity supports state institutions to address specific challenges in the prevention, classification, investigation and prosecution of femicide cases. The activity promotes an integrated approach from State institutions to prevent the commission of femicides and will implement tailored activities that classify, prosecute and sanction these cases with a gender perspective.