



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Photo: Article 19

Mexico

HUMAN RIGHTS

CONTEXT



12 journalist were killed in **2017** in Mexico.



Officially, the GOM acknowledges the disappearances of **+30,000** people.



In **2017**, the National Human Rights Commission received **398** complaints for **arbitrary detention**, **83** for **torture** and **21** for **forced disappearance**.

OVERVIEW

Significant human rights violations persist in Mexico. Violations include unlawful killings, torture, 32,000 unresolved disappearances, and physical abuse. The state is not effectively addressing the high levels of kidnapping and violence by organized criminal groups and there is police and military involvement in serious abuses. Journalists and human rights defenders are often targeted, threatening freedom of expression. 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 many 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 victims of torture and forced disappearances. Technical expertise provided to the GOM's National Protection Mechanism 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 **#Ayotzinapa30Meses** with over **200,000** associated publications.




Attorneys General's Offices in **Coahuila, Michoacan, and Veracruz** indicted **four** defendants in **forced disappearance** cases.



USAID activities trained **214** journalists on **self-protection** to help them safely conduct their work.



Coahuila Attorney General's Office indicted defendants in **four** cases for **torture**.



20 civil society interventions in **official investigations** of cases of serious **human rights violations** due largely to strengthened **technical capacities** of CSOs.

USAID HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

EnfoqueDH (Chemonics). This activity supports GOM efforts to implement its National Human Rights Plan 2014-2018, with the purpose of addressing structural human rights challenges. The activity seeks to incorporate human rights-based approaches into GOM initiatives by strengthening GOM 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 directly addresses impunity with the goal of increasing trust and confidence that the GOM will more effectively address aggressions against journalists and human rights defenders. The activity will support organizational and operational improvements to the National Mechanism to Protect Journalists and Human Rights Defenders (the NPM), and will build and strengthen linkages and coordination among the special prosecutor for crimes against freedom of expression (FEADLE by its Spanish acronym), civil society (including academia and networks of journalists and human rights defenders), and the private sector (particularly large media houses).

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

Dialogue on Journalist's Protection (Article 19/Mexico). This activity aims to promote protection for journalists by raising awareness of threats against exercising freedom of expression in Mexico. In addition, the activity looks to increase availability of self-protection tools and support networks for journalists at risk. The activity tailors its approach to take into account issues of gender.

Communications for Human Rights Awareness (CENCOS). The activity is developing the capacity of human rights and media CSOs to address and advocate on human rights issues, as well as improve their communication strategies and support greater exchange between journalists and CSOs. The activity utilizes a train-the-trainer approach and incorporates gender considerations.