



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Mexico

ENHANCING INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY

CONTEXT

Nearly **80%** of Mexicans see corruption as **the most significant problem** facing the country, just behind security.

In the **2017 Global Impunity Index**, Mexico had the **highest levels of impunity** in the Americas.



Mexico's ranking in **Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index** fell from **71st** in 2007 to **135th** in 2017 out of 180 countries.

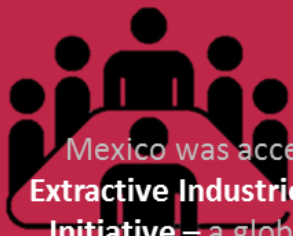
OVERVIEW

Preventing corruption is one of the most important domestic policy priorities for Mexico and an important part of the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States. In 2017, the Government of Mexico (GOM) launched the National Anti-Corruption System (NAS), a series of institutions and laws designed to prevent and sanction corruption. Corruption amplifies the inequality gap, costing the poor even more than wealthy citizens. Corruption and impunity also degrade Mexicans' confidence in their own government institutions.

OBJECTIVE: GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY STRENGTHENED AND SUSTAINED

USAID helps the GOM increase transparency and integrity, and supports Mexican-led efforts to reduce corruption and impunity at the federal level and in several states. USAID works alongside Mexican public, private, and non-governmental stakeholders and international organizations to respond to GOM priorities to develop its institutional and technical capacity to fully implement the NAS, to increase impartiality and professionalism in GOM audit functions, to improve civil society's and journalists' ability to monitor corruption issues, and to promote greater transparency in public procurements. USAID programs support the collaborative efforts of Mexican citizens, civil society, independent media, and private sector to advocate for full implementation of the anti-corruption reforms, contribute to public policy formulation, and demand transparent and accountable government.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT



Mexico was accepted into the **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative** – a global standard for accountability – following USAID’s support for the GOM’s required **consultative process with civil society and the private sector.**

Nuevo Leon and Chihuahua adopted a mechanism to **reduce risks of corruption** in public infrastructure procurements in schools.



USAID supported state policymakers’ implementation of **nine anti-corruption laws and initiatives.**



USAID supported the development of the **“Anti-corruption Stoplight,”** a tool that allows the general public to **monitor** how far states have advanced in the **implementation** of their **local anti-corruption laws and institutions.**

USAID INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACTIVITIES

Mexico Transparency Rapid Response Project (TRRP) (Checchi and Company). This activity helps core GOM entities at the federal and state levels to develop and implement anti-corruption systems and policies, and supports civil society organizations’ coordination and engagement with GOM entities. This is a rapid response mechanism with flexibility to address a range of requests from GOM, civil society and USG interests.

Alliance for Integrity in Mexico (Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad – IMCO). This activity is jointly funded through a 1-to-1 match between USAID and IMCO. Among its activities, IMCO is creating a GOM Procurement Integrity Barometer; developing a model business integrity policy; and analyzing options for legal reforms to increase prosecution of cross-border private sector bribery. IMCO is also mapping corruption in the education and health sectors in Chihuahua and Nuevo Leon.

Strengthening National and Local Anti-Corruption Systems through Civil Society and Private Sector Participation (Ethos Public Policy Laboratory). Jointly-funded through a 1-to-1 match, this activity engages civil society and the private sector at the national level and in select border states to advance the implementation of state-level anti-corruption reforms through citizen engagement, improved budget transparency, and policy advocacy.

Actions Today for Less Corruption Tomorrow (Mexicanos Contra la Corrupción y la Impunidad – MCCI). Jointly funded through a 1-to-1 match, this activity helps to incentivize change and engages government institutions in anti-corruption efforts by fostering broad coalitions of citizens, journalists, and experts. MCCI also provides technical support to government institutions to ensure their ability to respond constructively to citizen anti-corruption priorities.

Judicial Transparency and Accountability (México Evalúa). This jointly-funded activity improves transparency and independence within state-level Judicial Councils, which are responsible for the assignment of judges and monitoring judicial performance.

Mexico-US Border Reporting Hub (International Center for Journalists – ICFJ). This activity will support transparency efforts in targeted Mexican states and municipalities by improving journalists’ ability to investigate corruption-related issues. The activity will also help journalists incorporate necessary digital and physical security protocols in their work.

State and municipal partnerships for transparency, accountability, and civic participation (various). In addition, USAID partners with a range of local partners to promote open government, budget analysis, ethics reforms, and civic participation. Partners include Cómo Vamos La Paz, Plan Estratégico de Juárez, Consejo Cívico de Instituciones de Nuevo León (CCINL), and the International City-County Management Association México-Latinoamérica (ICMA-ML).

USAID also supports the Ministry of Public Administration (Secretaría de la Función Pública, SFP) and federal and state-level Transparency Secretariats to tackle challenges related to ethics, transparency, and civic participation through multilateral awards to the World Bank and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).