



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 impunity index** among all the countries in the **Americas**.



Mexico's ranking in the **Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index** fell from place **71 in 2004 to 135 in 2017**.

OVERVIEW

Preventing corruption is one of the most important domestic and foreign policy priorities for Mexico. The National Anti-Corruption System (NAS) which entered into force in 2017 establishes a space where citizens, local governments, and federal institutions can converge to defeat corruption. Corruption amplifies the inequality gap, because this type of practices costs more to those who have less. Corruption and impunity have strongly eroded the confidence of Mexicans and have contributed to citizen skepticism of state institutions.

OBJECTIVE: GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO (GOM) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY STRENGTHENED AND SUSTAINED

USAID helps the GOM increase transparency and integrity, and supports Mexican-led efforts to reduce corruption and impunity. USAID accompanies Mexican public, private, and non-governmental actors, alongside international organizations, to respond to GOM priorities to develop its institutional and technical capacity to fully implement the NAS, increase impartiality and professionalism in GOM audit functions and 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



USAID supported the **GOM consultative process** with civil society and the private sector which was a **decisive factor** in Mexico's accession to the **International Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative**.

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



USAID's RRP facilitated **9 anti-corruption measures** implemented at the sub-national level.



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

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. 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 has designed a pilot project in the state of Jalisco to review criminal case processing to ensure due process, respect for human rights and improved access to justice. IMCO will aid in the creation of specialized anti-corruption prosecutors within the federal and state Attorney General offices. Additionally, USAID supports IMCO to map corruption in the education and health sectors in Chihuahua and Nuevo Leon.

Mexico Transparency Rapid Response Project (RRP) (Cecchi 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.

Mexico Economic Policy Project (MEPP) (Abt Associates). This activity works to increase citizens' capacity to use open government tools to detect and prevent corruption. MEPP supports analysis of state and selected municipal regulatory and business environments, and a digital platform that enables businesses to report cases of corruption. The project is helping to re-design the federal procurement digital platform and to promote state adoption of the global Open Contracting Data Standard as well as anti-corruption legislation under the NAS.

Supporting the Government of Mexico's Transparency and Ethics Priorities (International City/County Management Association – ICMA Mexico). This activity helps public entities develop appropriate codes of ethics and conduct for public servants at the sub-national level, thereby promoting ethical behavior and good conduct that complement the GOM's efforts to reduce corruption in the public sector. Codes of conduct provide a reference point against which citizens can assess the behavior of public servants.

Nuevo Leon Transparency Public Outreach Campaign (Consejo Civico de Instituciones de Nuevo Leon - CCINL). This is a state-wide public outreach campaign to inspire shared responsibility and a common purpose in the fight against corruption. The campaign is led by local Mexican organizations, the private sector and the government of the state of Nuevo Leon and other actors, including artists, musicians and popular media. Participating private companies pay CCINL for the right to use these outreach tools and receive transparency and anti-corruption training for all of their employees.

USAID also supports the Secretaria de Funcion Publica (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).