



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**MEXICO**

# COUNTRY PROFILE

## OVERVIEW

For reasons of geography alone, the Mexico-United States relationship is unique. We share a 2,000 mile border, with over one billion dollars in trade and an estimated million people crossing the border every day. Based on these unique factors and extensive economic, cultural and social ties, the rationale for USAID programming in Mexico has historically been driven by imperatives of the overall Mexico-U.S. relationship. Working with Mexican public- and private-sector institutions, USAID programs support Mexican leadership in two specific technical areas that are high priorities for both the Governments of Mexico and the United States: 1) strengthening security under the Merida Initiative, and 2) reducing greenhouse gas emissions as part of President Obama's Global Climate Change Initiative.

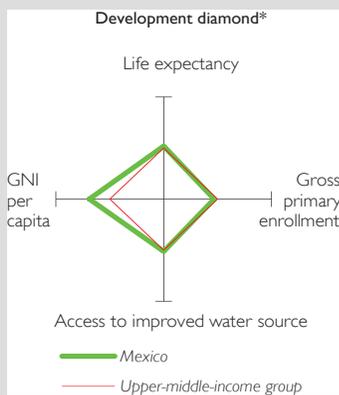
USAID programs pursue four Development Objectives under the Country Development Cooperation Strategy 2014-2018:

- 1. Crime and Violence Prevention:** *Crime and violence prevention models replicated by local stakeholders.* USAID works closely with the Mexican government to support crime prevention and reduction initiatives, and to test new approaches to youth development. USAID support focuses on improving federal, state and local government capacity to safeguard citizen security, catalyzing public and private sector resources to expand socio-economic opportunities in areas most affected by crime and increasing youth capacity to play constructive roles in their communities.
- 2. Rule of Law:** *Constitutional criminal justice reforms of 2008 are operational.* USAID supports Mexico in the development of policies and legislation for key rule of law reforms and strengthening institutional capacity to promote and implement justice system improvements.
- 3. Human Rights:** *Enabling environment to protect human rights and prevent abuses improved.* USAID's cooperation seeks to prevent human rights violations, promote a culture of respect and value for human rights, and adequately respond to violations when they occur.
- 4. Global Climate Change:** *Greenhouse gas emissions reduced in targeted key sectors.* USAID supports Mexican initiatives to reduce emissions and address climate change, including support for designing and implementing a low emissions development strategy, building institutional and technical capacity to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and addressing clean energy through policy development and building the capacity of key institutions.

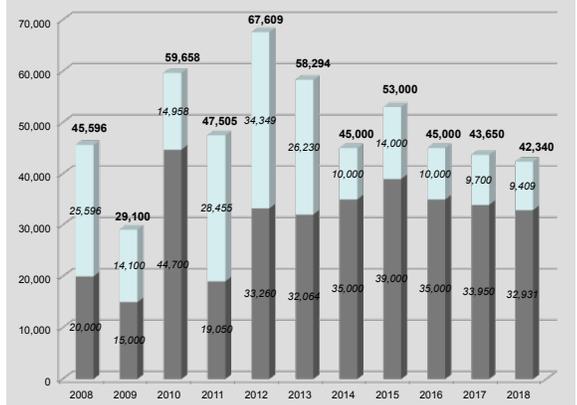
Work in all four areas focuses on developing models and mechanisms to leverage public- and private-sector resources, increase individual and institutional capacity, and strengthen policy and legal frameworks that support reforms. USAID received USD\$58.3 million in FY 2013 to support Mexican development and reform initiatives.

## MEXICO

- Population: 120.8 million
- GNI per capita: USD\$9,640
- Poverty (percentage of population below national poverty line): 52
- GDP: USD\$1,178.1 billion
- Average annual growth (GDP): 3.0
- Area (comparative): Slightly less than three times the size of Texas
- Urban population: 78% of total population
- Maternal mortality rate: 50 deaths/100,000 live births
- Infant mortality rate: 16.26/100,000 live births



## USAID BUDGET



# USAID's PARTNERS IN MEXICO

## CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION, RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Alianza Heartland	Fundacion IDEA
American Bar Association (ABA)	Instituto Mexicano de Derechos Humanos y Democracia (IMDHD)
Asociacion de Scouts de Mexico	Instituto para la Seguridad y la Democracia (INSYDE)
Centro de Estudios sobre la Ensenanza y el Aprendizaje del Derecho, A.C. (CEEAD)	International Republican Institute (IRI)
Centro de Investigacion para el Desarrollo (CIDAC)	International Youth Foundation (IYF)
Ciudadanos Comprometidos con la Paz (CCOMPAZ)	Management Systems International (MSI)
Freedom House	National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Fundacion del Empresariado Chihuahuense (FECHAC)	Tetra Tech - ARD
	YouthBuild International

## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura Sostenible, A.C	Peace Corps
Green Hub / MDB Advisors, LLC	Pronatura Sur
Green Momentum	Tetra Tech ES
National Renewable Energy Laboratories	The Nature Conservancy
	United States Forest Service

## COMPETITIVENESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Abt Associates	Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad (IMCO)
Avance-Analisis, Investigacion y Estudios para el Desarrollo (Fundacion Ethos)	International Youth Foundation (IYF)
Centro de Investigacion para el Desarrollo (CIDAC)	Peace Corps
Council of State Governments	Salud y Desarrollo Comunitario de Ciudad Juarez (FEMAP)
Evensen Dodge	World Learning / CISCO
Georgetown University	

## LOCATIONS OF ACTIVITIES



## MEXICO

The site of several advanced Amerindian civilizations—including the Olmec, Toltec, Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Maya, and Aztec— Mexico was conquered and colonized by Spain in the early 16th century. Administered as the Viceroyalty of New Spain for three centuries, it achieved its independence early in the 19th century. The global financial crisis beginning in late 2008 caused a massive economic downturn the following year, although growth returned quickly in 2010. Ongoing economic and social concerns include low real wages, underemployment for a large segment of the population, inequitable income distribution, and few advancement opportunities for the largely indigenous population in the impoverished southern states. The elections held in 2000 marked the first time since the 1910 Mexican Revolution that an opposition candidate—Vicente Fox of the National Action Party (PAN)—defeated the party in government, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). He was succeeded in 2006 by another PAN candidate Felipe Calderon, but the PRI regained the presidency in 2012. Since 2007, Mexico powerful drug-trafficking organizations have engaged in bloody feuding, resulting in tens of thousands of drug-related homicides.

Mexico has a free market economy in the trillion dollar class. It contains a mixture of modern and outmoded industry and agriculture, increasingly dominated by the private sector. Recent administrations have expanded competition in seaports, railroads, telecommunications, electricity generation, natural gas distribution, and airports. Per capita income is roughly one-third that of the US; income distribution remains highly unequal. Since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994, Mexico's share of US imports has increased from 7% to 12%, and its share of Canadian imports has doubled to 5.5%.

Major drug-producing and transit nation; world's second largest opium poppy cultivator; opium poppy cultivation in 2009 rose 31% over 2008 to 19,500 hectares yielding a potential production of 50 metric tons of pure heroin, or 125 metric tons of "black tar" heroin, the dominant form of Mexican heroin in the western United States; marijuana cultivation increased 45% to 17,500 hectares in 2009; government conducts the largest independent illicit-crop eradication program in the world; continues as the primary transshipment country for US-bound cocaine from South America, with an estimated 95% of annual cocaine movements toward the US stopping in Mexico; major drug syndicates control the majority of drug trafficking throughout the country; producer and distributor of ecstasy; significant money-laundering center; major supplier of heroin and largest foreign supplier of marijuana and methamphetamine to the US market (2007).