Mexico
ENHANCING INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY

CONTEXT

According to the **2019 Global Corruption Barometer, 90%** of Mexicans see **corruption** as a **serious problem** facing the country.

In the **2018 Global Impunity Index,** Mexico has the **highest levels** of **impunity in the Americas.**

Mexico's ranking in **2019 Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index** is **130th** out of 180 countries.

OVERVIEW

Combating corruption is one of the most important policy priorities for Mexico and a critical aspect of the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States. Corruption has negative impacts on our countries' shared security and prosperity. It impedes economic growth, amplifies the inequality gap, and undermines the rule of law, while allowing transnational organized crime to flourish and discourage foreign investment. Corruption stems from systemic institutional incentives, weak oversight and cultural norms requiring stronger independent agencies, citizen engagement, and government accountability.

OBJECTIVE: GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY STRENGTHENED AND SUSTAINED

USAID supports Mexican-led efforts to reduce corruption and impunity at the federal and state levels. USAID works alongside Mexican public, private, and non-governmental stakeholders and often through international organizations to assist the GOM in the prevention, investigation and sanction of corruption. USAID's programming seeks to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of oversight institutions at the federal and local levels; improve civil society's and journalists' ability to monitor and report on corruption; advance integrity and ethics in the public and private sectors; and promote greater transparency in public procurements. USAID supports the collaborative efforts of Mexican citizens, civil society, independent media, and the private sector to advance anti-corruption reforms, contribute to public policy formulation, and foster more transparent and accountable government.

USAID INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACTIVITIES

Mexico Transparency Rapid Response Project (TRRP) (Checchi and Company) $6.8m, 2016-2021. This activity supports GOM institutions at the federal and state levels to develop and implement anti-corruption systems and policies, in coordination with civil society, the private sector, academia, and other local stakeholders. This is a rapid response mechanism with flexibility to address opportunities for advancing GOM and USG anti-corruption objectives.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT

With USAID assistance, **Chihuahua's State Judiciary improved** their **case resolution** for corruption offenses in **400%.**

USAID trained **7,956 public officials** and **1,044 representatives** from civil society, academia and the general public on the **National Anticorruption System.**

Due in part to USAID assistance, **Mexico's 2021 Federal Budget** included an **Anti-corruption Cross-Cutting Annex, increasing transparency** of government resources.

USAID trained **213 journalists,** equipping them with the necessary skills to use existing **data and evidence** to carry out **impactful investigative journalism.**

Actions Today for Less Corruption Tomorrow (Mexicanos Contra la Corrupción y la Impunidad, MCCI) $2.3m (USAID) / $2.25m (leveraged funds), 2018-2021. This activity integrates applied research, citizen participation and advocacy, investigative journalism and strategic litigation to advance policy and legal reforms to combat corruption. MCCI also helps government institutions respond constructively to citizen anti-corruption priorities.

Alliance for Integrity in Mexico (Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad, IMCO) $1.58m (USAID) / $1.58m (leveraged funds), 2017-2022. This activity supports independent research on key transparency issues to advance evidence-based public policies and reduce corruption. IMCO develops, applies, and disseminates results from the Corruption Risk Index in public procurement; models business integrity policies; provides options for legal reforms for prosecution of cross-border bribery; assesses justice system efficiency; and establishes anti-corruption protocols.

Strengthening National and Local Anti-Corruption Systems through Civil Society and Private Sector Participation (Ethos Public Policy Laboratory) $2m (USAID) / $2m (leveraged funds), 2018-2022. This activity assists civil society and the private sector at the state and national levels to advance the implementation of local anti-corruption reforms through citizen engagement, improved budget transparency, and policy advocacy. Efforts include tailored technical assistance, trainings, and financial support to select local organizations; analysis of corruption risk and development of mitigation tools jointly with government and businesses; and the promotion of national legislative and policy reform for increased transparency and government accountability.

Mexico-US Border Reporting Hub (International Center for Journalists, ICFJ) $6m, 2018-2023. This activity seeks to deter corruption in targeted northern border states and municipalities by improving journalists' ability to investigate corruption-related issues. The activity also helps journalists incorporate necessary digital and physical security protocols in their work.

State and Municipal Partnerships for Transparency, Accountability, and Civic Participation (various activities). USAID partners with a range of local partners to promote open government, procurement transparency, participatory budgeting, ethics reforms, and citizen oversight. Local partners include: Cómo Vamos La Paz ($500,000 (USAID)/$250,000 (leveraged funds), 2018-2021), **Plan Estratégico de Juárez** ($1.5m (USAID)/$1.5m (leveraged funds), 2018-2021), **Karewa** ($355,000 (USAID)/$355,000 (leveraged funds), 2019-2022); the **International City-County Management Association Mexico-Latin America** ($1.7m, 2017-2020); and **Ciuadadan@s por la Transparencia** ($635,845 (USAID)/ $635,845 (leveraged funds), 2020-2023).

USAID also provides funding to the **United Nations Development Program** (**UNDP**, $2.1m, 2019-2022) and the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** (**UNODC**, $1.6m, 2019-2022)) to support select federal and state-level public institutions to reduce corruption risks through collaborative citizen engagement and oversight, strengthened integrity in the public and private sectors, and state-level implementation of anti-corruption reforms and compliance with international standards.