



MEXICO: HUMAN RIGHTS FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

Under the U.S.-Mexico Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities, the U.S. and Mexican governments prioritize human rights. Organized crime and its pernicious effect on governance, rule of law, and corruption drive many human rights violations in Mexico. Journalists, human rights defenders, and environmental activists continue to be targeted, threatened, and killed. Due to a legacy of violence, there is a significant forensic backlog to identify disappearances victims and bring closure and justice to their families.

OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE SYSTEMS TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

GOAL ONE

USAID collaborates with the Mexican Government to strengthen human rights prevention and protection systems through coordinated efforts at federal, state and local level.

GOAL TWO

USAID partners with the Mexican government and civil society to improve the accountability and effectiveness of human rights systems and promote access to truth and justice. USAID also supports civil society organizations to represent victims' rights on issues related to freedom of expression, gender-based violence (GBV), torture, and disappearances.

GOAL THREE

USAID partners with the government and civil society to enhance the quality of investigations and outcomes in cases of gross human rights violations.

ACTIVITIES

Documenta Tortura (Documenta A.C) 2019 – 2024. This activity works to reduce the occurrence of torture in Baja California, Coahuila, Jalisco, Oaxaca and Quintana Roo. Interventions include raising public awareness of torture and strengthening local actors' ability to investigate, prevent and sanction torture.

Strengthening Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, SAFE (Article 19/Mexico), 2021-2024. This activity improves respect for freedom of expression in Mexico by documenting and analyzing attacks against journalists and promoting government transparency and accountability in journalist protection. Article 19 has provided legal representation in emblematic cases and advocated against forced or self-censorship of journalists.

For the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, PDP (Tetra Tech/Management Systems International) 2021-2026. This activity partners with governmental and non-governmental actors to protect journalists, human rights defenders, and environmental activists. It supports an enabling environment where they can perform their important work safely, without fear of harm or harassment, and reduces impunity for crimes committed against them.

Human Rights Accountability Activity, RED-DH (Chemonics) 2022-2025. This activity partners with the GOM to provide more effective and accountable responses to grave human rights violations, namely forced disappearances and torture. It strengthens national human rights oversight mechanisms, improves inter-governmental coordination, supports state-level implementation of human rights laws and safeguards, and provides targeted forensic technical assistance to address the backlog of unidentified remains of disappearance victims in five priority states.

No More Femicides (Fundación IDEA) 2024-2026. This activity supports Oaxacan government institutions to address specific challenges in the prevention, classification, investigation, and prosecution of violent crimes against women and girls, including femicides. Worldwide, this is the first USAID activity designed with a targeted and integrated approach to prevent and address femicide.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF USAID SUPPORT

5,260

women who were **victims of violence** received legal and other type of assistance through a collaboration between USAID-supported civil society organizations.



4,366

family reference samples collected in Coahuila, Jalisco, Sonora, and the Regional Center for Human Identification enabled **118 positive identifications**.

1,327

human rights cases received legal assistance, covering disappearances (**65%**), femicides and domestic violence (**32%**), and crimes against freedom of expression (**3%**)

