CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO – REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROJECT

FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

USAID's $29.8 million Regional Human Rights and Democracy project with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) helps prevent human rights violations, strengthens the response to address these violations, and promotes sustainable early warning and protection systems for key vulnerable groups.

The project focuses on protecting human rights for the most vulnerable populations, including children, youth, women, LGBTIQ+ community, and people with disabilities.

REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROJECT

TOTAL INVESTMENT:
$29.8 million

TIME PERIOD:
July 2016 - July 2026

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)

PARTNERS:
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
- Notre Dame University
- Internews
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI)
- Solidarity Center
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- Foundation for Peace and Democracy

PRIORITIES

While recognizing that each country in the region is unique in terms of legal, political, economic, social, and cultural contexts, there are common human rights violations and challenges. USAID improves awareness and understanding of human rights and helps countries in the region meet their obligations under international law to respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of all members of society.

The project helps to improve the operating environment and public policies, enabling human rights defenders, media, civil society organizations, and other individuals to promote and defend human rights without fear of violence or retaliation. Activities include training for grassroots and civil society organizations, government employees, and the facilitation of exchanges and regional forums among legislators and civil society.

The project includes the design and operation of early alert systems that protect the rights of internally displaced populations and migrants, as well as supporting the creation of a missing person single registry for Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. The project is working with networks of civil society organizations to address the issue of forced internal displacement through research, advocacy, training, creation of educational materials, and the documentation of cases in the region.

In addition, the project will establish specialized curricula in human rights for teachers, disseminating practices, methodologies, and research data for more effective public policies at the national and regional level.

USAID addresses the defense and improvement of labor rights in Central America, starting with diagnosis on the status of labor rights in the region and training sessions that enhance labor union's capacity to defend their rights. These actions have been conducted in close coordination with labor unions, workers' associations, employers, and governments.