



U.S. Embassy - Mexico

Fact Sheet -- Corrections Reform

In 2008, the Mexican government embarked on a comprehensive reform of its penitentiary system. Merida Initiative funds are supporting this effort, through programs focusing on training, specialized equipment, and technical assistance. These programs will enhance the professionalism and effectiveness of Mexican prison officials and staff and provide them with tools and methodologies needed to monitor and interdict criminal activities operating within Mexican prisons. The programs will also enhance protection for the rights of offenders, improve conditions for the Mexican penitentiary system and broaden coordination with corrections systems in the United States.

Achievements:

- With Merida Initiative support, the Mexican Government opened the Mexican National Academy for Penitentiary Administration in Xalapa, Veracruz in May, 2009. The Academy has already trained 6,692 newly recruited officials.
- Merida Initiative funding is also providing training and certification for corrections instructors at the New Mexico Corrections Academy. Since 2009, more than 429 new corrections instructors were trained and certified.
- Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) has trained a total of 109 correctional staff on an objective inmate classification system. The system places inmates based on scored risk levels and allocates rehabilitation program resources. This training provided the basis for the newly developed classification and diagnostic systems.
- Eighteen individuals were trained on parole and re-entry Programs at Colorado Department of Corrections and 41 more at Maryland Police and Corrections Training Academy. This group is now working on the strategic plan for reforms in the Mexican Parole and Re-Entry Department.
- A group of 185 staff of the Transportation Unit have received training at the Colorado Department of Corrections. They are part of the newly created Prisoner Transportation Unit. Additionally, ten prisoner transport vans, two 12-inmates transportation units, one 26-inmates transportation unit, and ballistic and protection equipment were delivered to the Prisoner Transportation Unit.
- A total of 217 mid- and senior-level corrections staff have received training from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons in the corresponding leadership techniques. Seventy one corrections staff have been trained on First Line Supervisor techniques. An Advanced Leadership Training Course has been provided to upper level correctional officials in Denver, Colorado.
- Eighteen corrections officers received K9 Training at the New Mexico Corrections Academy. The program included 20 dogs, all associated equipment.
- Ninety-one corrections employees have received Gang/Intel training at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.
- Thirty -two female correctional staff received Female Offender Management Training in Colorado.
- With Merida Initiative support, the GOM is developing a Crisis Management System, 25 individuals were trained at California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. One hundred thirty three correctional officers have been trained in emergency response training (ERT) classes taught at the Mexican National Academy for Penitentiary Administration. Twenty-two instructors were certified to teach ERT. Equipment for this new unit has been delivered.
- Eight federal correctional facilities and the Mexican National Academy for Penitentiary Administration were accredited based on newly developed International Standards by American Correctional Association (ACA). In addition, five state prisons have received accreditation from ACA.
- Training equipment has been delivered to the National Penitentiary Academy ANAP.
- Technical assistance has been provided to CSN 12 new federal corrections facilities. Five new facilities were opened during 2012 -2013 with six more currently under construction. Four classes of activation of new facilities were provided to corrections staff in support to this new facilities opening process.
 - Purchased two mobile training units to help enable offsite basic correctional classes to be taught at state and federal facilities. The federal correctional trainers have trained 182 correctional employees by provided one basic correctional class to the states corrections employees, and several classes on human rights to the federal corrections staff.

August 2013



U.S. Embassy - Mexico

Fact Sheet -- *Corrections Reform*

- The International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) formalized the Latin American Chapter of this organization (ICPA-LA). Mexico hosted the ICPA international conference in 2012 in Mexico City.
- Biometric equipment consisting of figure print card readers, voice recognition and DNA test kits has been delivered. This equipment will be placed in Federal and State facilities for positive inmate identification and registration in the National Database.
- Provided training on the ACA accreditation auditing process to 48 federal correctional employees.

Future Directions:

- Continue with auditing and accreditation of state and federal facilities. We have several state and federal facilities which have expressed interest in starting the process.
- We assisted the GOM with the Regional Penitentiary Conferences with the State penitentiary authorities hosted by the Federal Penitentiary System by providing guest speakers and in-seminar training.
- Will provide training on operations of juvenile correctional facilities and provide technical assistance in development of procedures. The federal system in the process of developing a plan as the new law requires them to open a federal juvenile system.
- Will provide training on operation of half-way houses and tour facilities in the United States.
- Will provide training on operation of correctional industries business in Colorado to assist establishment of job training for inmates in the federal prisons.
- Will provide a train the trainers' class for leadership course which will be taught at ANAP in Xalapa.
- Will provide a train the trainers' class in armed transportation which will be taught at ANAP in Xalapa.

Currently evaluating request by the GOM of equipment and training for the states and federal systems.

August 2013