



Embassy of the United States in Mexico Fact Sheet Culture of Lawfulness

Merida Initiative Culture of Lawfulness (CoL) programs aim to instill a sense of individual responsibility to uphold the rule of law in Mexico, with the larger goal of reducing crime and corruption. CoL projects promote civic participation, efficient public services, and government transparency. To that end, the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section (INL) in Mexico—in partnership with civil society, public institutions, media, and the private sector—has allotted US\$24,700,000 to enhance CoL. Our projects focus on the following areas:

Instilling a Culture of Lawfulness in Mexican Youth

- CoL education is now part of the junior high school curricula in 31 states and federal entities, thanks to the program of civil society organization *México Unido Contra la Delincuencia A.C.* (MUCD). Since the program began, MUCD has directly trained more than 2,000 teachers, and MUCD provided CoL teaching materials that were used in 10,484 schools as part of the curriculum for four million students. During the academic year 2013-2014 alone, 856,348 students received CoL training as part of their education. Schools that have offered CoL training as part of their curricula report fewer fights, better communication between students, greater knowledge about the rule of law and bullying, and more respect for school regulations.
- The web portal of MUCD, <http://www.culturadelalegalidad.org.mx/>, provides information about CoL programs to almost 13,000 visitors per month. The organization also promotes CoL through social networks, with more than 41,282 Facebook followers, 10,913 Twitter followers, 99 infographics, 2,500 visits to its blog, and 233 videos on YouTube.
- The civil society organization *Centro de Estudios sobre la Enseñanza y el Aprendizaje del Derecho A.C.* (CEEAD) has received a two-year grant from INL to develop teaching materials for college-level CoL training in all fields of academic study. CEEAD makes the training materials available to universities throughout Mexico. At present, 14 universities include CoL training as part of their curricula.
- The organization Alliance for Border Collaboratives used a grant to develop a CoL program for fifth- and sixth-grade schoolchildren in at-risk communities in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, called *Pa' Que Te Cuides* ("Take Care of Yourself"). The program created teaching materials to be used by teachers and students, with the active participation of parents, to deter high-risk conduct and promote a CoL.

Increasing Government Transparency and Accountability

- MUCD has placed citizens' watch booths in 73 local offices of the Mexico City district attorney and a variety of government offices. The booths are staffed with citizen-observers who provide information to people reporting crimes, advise them of their rights, and invite them to file criminal complaints. The observers also conduct exit surveys to evaluate public opinion as to the quality of the services received. More than 21,000 surveys were conducted over 26 months to grade prosecutors and other criminal justice workers. The program has directly benefitted 180,000 citizens. The results of the surveys show that the services provided by the district attorney's offices had improved and, in some locations, corruption has decreased.
- The NGO *Plan Estratégico de Juárez A.C.* (PEJ) also runs a number of programs aimed at monitoring governmental activities. For example, in one project citizen-volunteers monitor 18 city councilpersons for compliance with their obligations under various laws. PEJ also has developed a system of 1,062 comparative performance indicators to be applied to various municipalities in the state of Chihuahua, including Ciudad Juárez.

Training Law Enforcement and Public Servants to Promote the Rule of Law

- Through a grant to the non-profit organization National Strategy Information Center (NSIC), INL's CoL programming has reached thousands of Mexican public servants directly and by training trainers. NSIC has taught a 40-hour CoL course to over 12,000 patrolmen and officers. At the state level, fifteen master CoL trainers have prepared over 90 instructors to teach CoL principles to police officers. As a result, over 8,500 officers in Baja California, Nuevo León, Chihuahua, and Coahuila have received CoL education. During the first half of 2014, NSIC has trained 1,150 Federal Police who are to become members of Mexico's new Gendarmerie.
- The Federal Electric Company (CFE) has given CoL training to over 8,500 employees, and the Secretariat of Public Administration (SFP) has taught 3,100 federal employees in 88 offices.
- The Ministry of Public Education of Chihuahua includes a CoL course in its professionalization curriculum. Teachers who complete the course are eligible for higher wages.
- MUCD has trained 2,037 public employees, certifying 402 as CoL trainers. These employees, in turn, have trained more than 26,000 individuals, principally in the federal and state comptroller-general offices.

Coordinating CoL Programs with the Private Sector and Civil Society

- In the city of Chihuahua, NSIC has worked to expand a "*Taxi Amigo*" program, in which taxi drivers take a one-day course teaching them to respect standards of customer service and to serve as role models of lawfulness for their customers. The program, which more than 500 taxi drivers have completed, also serves to promote tourism.
- MUCD is implementing a training program that teaches private sector employees to act as promoters of CoL principles. These individuals promise to demonstrate commitment to lawful behavior both as individuals and within their organization. Employees have been certified in 24 companies, among them PepsiCo, Pochteca, Grupo DeAcero, Grupo Altex, FEMSA, Kohler Co., and the Nuevo León chapter of COPARMEX (the Mexican Employers' Association), MUCD is also collaborating with AmCham/Mexico to offer CoL courses to member companies.
- MUCD has also taught CoL courses at 28 civil society organizations in eight states, accrediting 222 trainers and training 498 others." MUCD has also worked with religious organizations in eight states, sponsoring 99 workshops and 15 conferences for 6,902 people.
- In October 2013, MUCD, NSIC and CEEAD, together with members of Monterrey's public and private sectors, signed a collaboration agreement for a campaign called "Let's do it right" (*Hagámoslo Bien*), which has the goal of promoting CoL among city residents. With the assistance of COPARMEX, the campaign has begun to be replicated in other states of the country.

Anonymous Citizens Complaint Program

- In an effort to improve citizen's confidence in the work of the police, the Merida Initiative through the Anonymous Citizens Complain Program (ACCP) is continuing the work of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to help citizens understand and use Public Safety Services. With a better understanding of the work of the police, the level of trust will increase thus leading to a bigger amount of information being shared with the police that can improve police performance and greater protection of the citizens. INL will continue developing the ACCP in Ciudad Juarez for fourth consecutive year, thanks to the support of three NGOs (Programa Educación en Valores, Ciudadanos Organizados por el Desarrollo Integral de las Comunidades, and Fomento del Tejido Social) by carrying educational programs from puppet shows for children in order to decrease prank calls to workshops for young people and adults tailored to foster confidence in the public safety system by calling the 066 (emergency) or 089 (anonymous tip line).