



Technical Assistance in Mexico

Building a robust labor rights system together

In partnership with the government of Mexico, the U.S. Department of Labor's \$180 million investment in technical assistance is strengthening labor institutions, advancing worker protections, combating child and forced labor, making workplaces safer, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace. Our projects also support the growth of independent unions and educate employers about Mexico's labor reforms.

These projects help the government of Mexico uphold its labor commitments under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which has the strongest labor provisions of any free trade agreement. This in turn helps ensure a level playing field for U.S. workers and businesses.



Our Impact

Union Democracy

- Enabled more than 30,000 workers to join Mexico's independent labor movement, leading to increased wages and improved working conditions in industries that export to the United States.
- Supported the trailblazing rubber industry contract at Goodyear Tire San Luis Potosi, winning \$4.2 million in backpay for unpaid benefits.
- Established five worker centers that support workers' organizing efforts, including labor rights awareness-raising and advice on establishing unions and bargaining collectively.
- Empowered women workers to be labor leaders through professional training and negotiation workshops.
- Launched a publicly accessible union democracy database that provides transparent information on all collective bargaining agreements in the country.
- Created a digital union registration and legitimization platform that simplifies this formal process for government and union officials.

Inspections and Enforcement

- Supported Mexico as it works to prohibit imports made with forced labor.
- Developed a new national labor inspector training program.
- Upgraded labor inspectorate's electronic case management system.
- Updated the administrative sanction system to improve the quality, coverage, and transparency of the fine collection process.

Business Compliance

- Promoted Mexican businesses' compliance with labor law in sectors vital to U.S. trade.

Labor Courts

- Built the capacity of state labor courts to efficiently resolve cases.
- Developed a series of bench books, or guides, for federal labor judges on collective matters.

Conciliation

- Implemented an electronic case management system that has allowed federal and state labor conciliation centers to more efficiently manage over 700,000 conciliations to date.
- Delivered a comprehensive training program for thousands of conciliators, labor judges, and staff to enhance their operational effectiveness.

Child Labor and Forced Labor

- Supported Mexico in carrying out the 2019 and 2022 National Child Labor Surveys, a key tool to drive impactful policies to combat and prevent child labor.
- Offered opportunities to over 400 women and adolescent girls for vocational training, employment readiness, and paths toward entrepreneurship.
- Strengthened public sector capacity by developing protocols to identify and refer child and forced labor cases at the state level and training more than 2,300 public servants on child labor, forced labor, and other labor violations with a gender equality lens.
- Trained over 500 teachers and administrative staff on identifying child labor and supporting social-emotional development.



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