



Democracy and Governance

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Human Rights

We address structural human rights challenges by strengthening national strategies and other legal and policy reform, and by supporting implementation of these frameworks. We build on a contextual understanding of the root causes of human rights violations to coordinate strategies that protect those rights and prevent further violations. Chemonics also supports civil society organizations (CSOs) in their efforts to raise awareness of and advocate against human rights violations.

Below we describe programs that illustrate our experience and expertise in promoting human rights in democracy and governance programs.

Project Examples

Mexico Human Rights Public Policy (HURPP)

HURPP incorporates human rights-based approaches into national government initiatives by strengthening legislative frameworks and building institutional capacity to align with international human rights standards. This activity addresses structural human rights challenges and priority issues in support of the Mexican government's



National Human Rights Plan. Project staff collaborate with federal, institutional, and civil society stakeholders to identify and meet their needs for implementation of the National Human Rights Plan, using annual action plans to build a functional early alert system and complementary preventive measures. Together with USAID and the Mexican

Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, HURPP strengthens the government's capacity for outreach and dialogue with CSOs on human rights policies. Project activities also support the development of public policies that prevent abuses and assist victims of human rights violations.

Colombia Human Rights Program III (HRP III)

HRP III responded to a history of human rights violations in Colombia, working with leading institutions and CSOs through a three-pronged strategy to promote a culture of human rights, prevent abuse and violations of human rights, and respond effectively to human rights violations that occur. To a great extent, this approach involved training regional public officials to better understand human

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rights-focused national laws and policies so they could respond more effectively at the institutional level to victim populations. The program strengthened oversight under the Victims' Law and also developed institutional strategies, tools, and mechanisms to improve the ways that victims were treated. HRP III emphasized inclusivity, addressing issues that affect Colombia's most vulnerable populations, including women; Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex communities; journalists; and youth. Overall, HRP III engaged in 19 activities with a government entities including the Ombudsman's Office, Victims' Unit, National Protection Unit, Interior and Education ministries, and the Inspector General's Office.

Key Results

- **Trained 28,681** human rights defenders
- **Assisted 18,731** victims
- Worked with more than **40 CSOs**, of which **82 percent** were regionally based
- Built the organizational capacity of **eight grantees**

Egypt Combating Violence against Women and Children



The USAID/Egypt Combating Violence Against Women and Children project collaborated with the Egyptian government and CSOs to advocate for policy changes to improve the human rights of women and children. The project led a variety of locally tailored, community responses to gender-based violence including advocacy, raising public awareness, and direct service initiatives. In doing so, the project engaged religious and traditional community leaders as advocates. The project also built local capacity to advocate for policy change and to understand and implement related laws. For example, when amendments were made to Egypt's Child Law, project staff built public awareness of the changes that established new systems to strengthen protections

for children. After helping to draft executive regulations, the project trained members of child protection committees created under the amended law and also trained legal professionals, judges, prosecutors, CSOs, social workers, and media representatives on the amended law itself. Moreover, the project-supported Egypt Violence Against Women Study provided concrete evidence of the forms and prevalence of violence against women in Egypt and actionable steps to address the problem.