

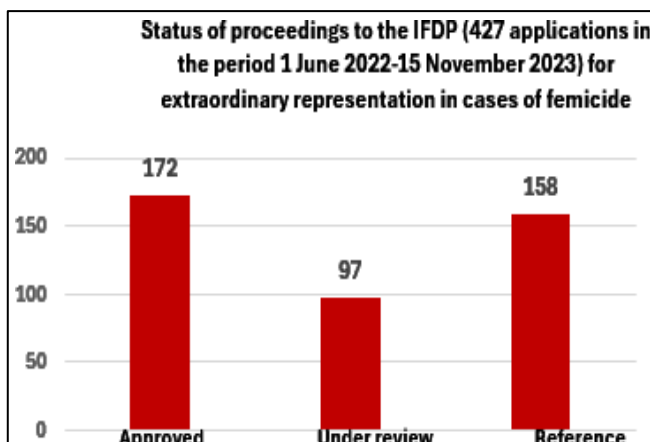
Improved access to justice for women in Mexico (PROFEMEX)

Context

Violence against women and children is the strongest expression of gender discrimination. According to a 2021 national survey on interpersonal dynamics in Mexican households, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) found that 70.1% of Mexican women aged 15 and older have experienced at least one situation of psychological, physical, sexual, economic, property violence and/or discrimination in their lives.

Most of these women do not turn to a public institution or file a complaint for various reasons, such as shame or fear (INEGI, 2021).

According to the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System (SESNSP), 948 cases with 969 victims of femicide were registered nationwide in 2022 - this corresponds to an average of 2.6 murdered women per day.



(Source: Annual report IFDP 2022/23)

Women, either as victims (of a criminal offence or a violation of the law) or as defendants (perpetrators), often face justice systems that are characterized by gender bias and stereotypes and do not take into account the context of vulnerability in which they find themselves

Project name	Improved access to justice for women in Mexico (PROFEMEX)
Commissioning party	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Region	Latin America and the Caribbean (APLAC)
Project Management	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ Mexiko)
Duration	04/2024 - 03/2027
Budget	4,5 Mio. Euro

Social norms regarding masculinity and femininity influence access to justice and the administration of justice in Mexico - both for those involved in the proceedings, as well as for the public officials responsible for the proceedings and services.

Authorities responsible for prevention, prosecution and the administration of justice are obliged to apply gender-specific and human rights approaches. In doing so, they continue to face a wide variety of challenges in order to act appropriately in cases of violence against women.

Project goals

The PROFEMEX project aims to support women's access to justice in Mexico by strengthening the processes, procedures and institutional capacities of public legal advice and defense at federal and state level (Oaxaca and Quintana Roo) and of lawyers and representatives of independent women's organizations.

The Mexican and German governments are combining their experience and synergies between the Institute of Federal Public Defense (IFDP) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).





Our approach

- **Gender-transformative approach:** Applying a gender-sensitive approach in the institutional services of federal public defense at national and local level and eliminating framework conditions that favor inequalities such as ethnicity, immigration, disability or gender identity.
- **Evidence-based policy decisions:** Promoting decisions based on data and reliable information concerning access to justice for women.
- **Strengthening social actors:** Networking of organizations and social actors that advocate and represent the interests of women vis-à-vis the judiciary and political bodies.

Expected impacts

- The confidence and satisfaction of women seeking legal advice and public defense services at federal and local level has increased.
- Legal advice and criminal defense services at federal and local level are characterized by an approach that is free of stereotypes and stigmatization. Women and people in vulnerable situations in particular benefit from this.
- Networks and alliances between organizations and social actors at local level have been sustainably consolidated. Access to justice for women is strengthened from a gender perspective.

Expected results

- The IFDP consistently and comprehensively applies a gender approach, taking gender equality criteria into account in its policies and services as well as in the various areas of law.
- The public defense institutions in Oaxaca and Quintana Roo improve and strengthen their services aimed at women, taking into account the gender perspective.
- The networks of organizations and social actors with local influence in Oaxaca and Quintana Roo are strengthened in order to support and represent women more effectively in their access to justice.

Contribution to sustainable development goals



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