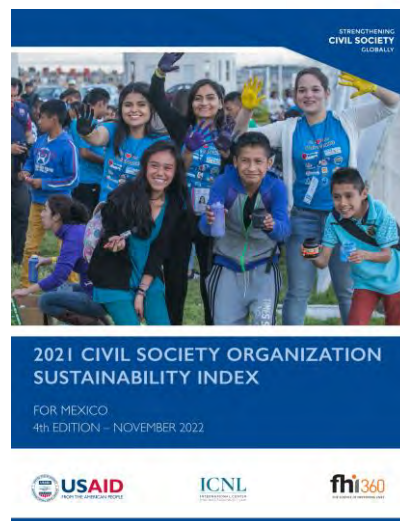


2021 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index – Mexico

Overview The 2021 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index (CSOSI) for Mexico reports on the state of the Mexican CSO sector. The report addresses seven key components or “dimensions” of the sustainability of the civil society sector: legal environment, organizational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, sectoral infrastructure, and public image. The Index is intended to be a useful source of information for local CSOs, governments, donors, academics, and others who want to better understand and monitor key aspects of sustainability in the Mexican CSO sector.

The CSOSI provides a comprehensive assessment of the capacity of civil society to serve as both a short-term partner in implementing development solutions and a long-term actor in ensuring that development outcomes are sustained. The CSOSI empowers local civil society actors to collectively assess not only the environments in which they operate, but also their own capacities to advocate, operate sustainably, and communicate with citizens. Allowing local civil society to self-identify their development challenges is the first step in promoting resiliency and long-term self-reliance.

The CSOSI is produced by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with FHI 360, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), and a local implementing partner in each participating country. A total of 73 countries across the globe were surveyed in various regional editions of the CSOSI in 2022. This is the fourth year the CSOSI reports on developments in Mexico, the only country in the Latin American region to be covered by the CSOSI.



Results CSOs in Mexico continue to operate in a context of insecurity, violence, and impunity. In this context, the overall sustainability of Mexican CSOs deteriorated slightly in 2021, driven by negative developments in the legal environment and advocacy dimensions. The legal environment governing civil society deteriorated significantly, continuing the trend observed over the last few years, largely as the result of two major developments: a tax reform that limits the amount of deductions that individuals can receive from donations to eligible organizations and a presidential decree that ordered the dissolution of the federal government agency responsible for providing capacity building for CSOs. CSOs also continued to be subjected to state harassment. CSOs’ capacity to advocate and participate in public policy making deteriorated moderately in 2021 as the federal government replaced channels of institutional dialogue with confrontation, restrictive legislation, and authoritarian tendencies, such as the Foreign Ministry’s note declaring the international funding of Mexican CSOs as an act of

interventionism and the proposal to restrict CSOs’ access to this funding through the Financial Intelligence Unit. Further, the president’s routine verbal attacks on the press and CSOs create an unfavorable environment for cooperative work between government agencies and CSOs. These negatives were balanced out to some extent by a slight improvement in the sectoral infrastructure supporting Mexican CSOs—already the strongest dimension of CSO sustainability—fueled by a notable increase in the supply of training content for CSOs offered by foundations and consultants.

Resources The 2021 CSOSI regional reports can be found on FHI 360’s [resource page](https://www.csosi.org). Explore historical CSOSI data at <https://www.csosi.org>.