



Migration Policy in Mexico: Evaluation efforts

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The General Law of Social Development

- On January 20th, 2004, the Mexican Government decreed the General Law of Social Development. The main purposes of this law are:
 - Secure increasing funds for Social Development.
 - Assure access to social policy to every person in need, in spite of political preferences.
 - Point out the responsibilities of the whole National Government in terms of Social Development.
 - Promote the Social Sector of the Economy.
 - Guarantee the delivery of goods and services offered by social programs,
 - Establish assessment and evaluation mechanisms of Social Development Policy.



The National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL)

- The National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy regulates and coordinates the evaluation of the Social Development Policy and Programs implemented by the Federal Government.
- The Council's purpose is to periodically verify compliance with the objective of the Social Development Policy's programs, goals and actions, so they may be corrected, modified, improved, reoriented, reduced or suspended.
- Social programs are measured with different kind of indicators (of results, management and services), in order to better understand their coverage, quality and impact.
- Indicators results prove the performance of the social objectives. Additionally, the management and service indicators provide information about the procedures and services' quality.
- Federal budget to social programs is partly determined by the evaluation results. When a program is negatively evaluated, its funds are decreased and it is eventually eliminated.
- The evaluation is performed based on budget assigned to programs. Small programs are rarely evaluated.



Social Policy aimed to Migrants

- Migrant groups are considered vulnerable population in Mexico.
- Several government programs are designed to benefit migrant groups: potential Mexican migrants; Mexicans in the US; Mexican families of migrants in the US; Central American and other migrants in Mexican territory.
- Only a program named “3x1” has been evaluated by the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy.
- Program 3x1 has performed poorly in terms of design and impact, and its funds have not increased in real terms in the last 3 years. This program is under review in order to get better targeted.




Some social interventions for migrant populations

- Strategy for the attention and prevention of non-accompanied repatriated children and young migrants.
- Paisano Program
- Human Repatriation Program
- Beta groups for migrants protection
- Social co-investment Program
- 3x1 Program
- Attention to Human Rights violations
- Program for precautionary measures
- Program for the attention of the National Commission of Human Rights recommendations.



The new migration law

- On May 25th, 2011, the Mexican Federal Government published a new migration law.
- This is the first law that considers migration apart from population affairs.
- The main characteristic of the law is that it guarantees access to public services to all migrants, independently of their migration status.
- It also protects migrants' human rights by easing their legal access to the country's judicial system.
- To avoid abuses from migratory authorities, the law creates a new center for the certification of these authorities (called "Evaluation and Control Center")
- It also eliminates the criminalization of any individual or group that happen to help undocumented migrants.



Strategy for the attention and prevention of non-accompanied repatriated children and young migrants.

- The purpose is to coordinate the efforts of public and private institutions and social organizations to assist young and non-accompanied migrants to find their families and get reinserted in society.
- The strategy focuses on Mexican youngsters, under 18 years of age, found in the US without proper documentation, who are repatriated by the US Government.
- The program also helps Mexican potential migrants in Mexican territory, under 18 years of age, to avoid their exposure to danger crossing the border without documents. These youngsters are returned to their communities of origin in an assisted manner.
- Finally, the program also assists foreign young migrants in Mexican territory without proper documentation to return to their families in their countries of origin.
- The institution responsible of the program is the National System for the Integral Development of Families (DIF)





Paisano Program

- The purpose of the program is to make sure Mexican nationals who live in the US and visit their families in Mexico are correctly treated by authorities.
- The program works mainly in borders and airports, but any Mexican living in the US can have access to the services provided by the program in Mexico through a telephone number and a web page.
- More than 3,500 volunteers serve the program, mainly during holidays.
- Programa Paisano works in 235 communities in Mexico, and annually assist more than 2 million Mexicans visiting their country.
- The program depends on the National Migration Institute.





Human Repatriation Program

- The purpose of the program is to make sure Mexican returnees back in Mexico achieve a correct reinsertion to the country and their communities in economic, social and physical terms.
- The program coordinates efforts of public and private institutions and civil society organizations.
- The program assists mainly deportees and repatriated Mexicans coming from the US.
- The program works in northern borders and the Mexico City airport.
- The program is responsibility of the National Migration Institute.





Beta groups for migrants' protection

- Beta groups are coordinated by the National Migration Institute, and their main purpose is to protect the physical and economic integrity of Mexican and foreign migrants in national territory and to defend their human rights.
- The protection of beta groups is offered to migrants independently of their migratory status.
- The program works mainly in border states, both in the north and in the south of the country, and in Oaxaca, a state of transit of Central Americans in their way to the US.
- The program is responsibility of the National Migration Institute.





Social co-investment program

- The program offers monetary support to civil society organizations that help vulnerable population in national territory.
- The program tries to strengthen social capital in migrant communities.
- Starting May 25th, 2011, the program is able to offer funds to social organizations that openly help migrant groups, independently of their migratory status.





3x1 program

- The Program is responsibility of the Social Development Ministry.
- It's purpose is to support the actions of migrant groups in favor of their origin communities.
- Investment funds of migrant groups are matched both by the Federal Government and the State Government, in order to promote social and economic development in source communities.
- The idea is to foster economic development in poor migrant source communities, to disincentive more migration to the US by the creation of opportunities.
- A basic critique from the evaluation exercises is that migration is not generated in poor and less developed communities, so the objective of the Program is not easily achieved.
- Moreover, the program mainly promotes investment in non productive projects, such as sport courts, churches, plazas and similar infrastructure.





Attention to Human Rights violations

- According to the new Migration Law, the Mexican State is responsible of protecting the human rights of migrants, independently of their migratory status.
- The Ministry of Public Security is in charge of this action.
- The Ministry investigates complaints of migrants regarding the violation of their human rights by federal, state or local authorities, in order to proceed accordingly.





Program for precautionary measures to protect migrant groups

- The Attorney General's Office is in charge of all precautionary measures carried out by public institutions in order to protect the physical, mental and economic integrity of migrants and their dignity.
- The actions take place mainly in migrant shelters threatened by organized crime groups.
- Among the precautionary measures we have surveillance of migrant houses, detention of suspects and random reviews of individuals or groups around migrants' shelters.





Program for the attention of the National Commission of Human Rights recommendations.

- The program is responsibility of the Ministry of Public Security.
- The purpose of the Program is to promote actions that meet the requirements of any human right authority in the country or of any member of the Interamerican and Universal Human Rights System.
- It is focused on victims that appeal to Human Rights authorities.

