



Promoviendo la Rendición de Cuentas por los Derechos Humanos (RED-DH)

Quarterly Progress Report

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DISCLAIMER

This publication was produced at the request of the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared independently by Chemonics International Inc.

Acronyms

AI	Amnesty International
ASF	Superior Auditor of the Federation
CCC	Centro de Colaboración Cívica
CED	UN Committee against Enforced Disappearances
CEDHV	Veracruz State Human Rights Commission
CJF	Council of the Federal Judiciary
CNB	National Search Commission
CNC	National Citizen Council
CNIH	National Center for Human Identification
CNPJ	National Conference for the Prosecution of Justice
CRIH	Regional Center for Human Identification
DEAPD	Special Declaration of Absence due to Disappearance
DGEADH	General Directorate of Strategies for the Attention of Human Rights
DGPPDH	General Directorate of Human Rights Public Policy
DOF	Federal Official Gazette
EU	European Union
FAFG	Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation
FEIDT	Special Prosecutor for the Investigation of the Crime of Torture
FGR	Attorney General's Office
FJDL	Fray Juan de Larios Diocesan Center for Human Rights
FJEDD	Foundation for Justice, and the Democratic State of Law
GLFD	General Law on Forced Disappearance
GLT	General Law on Torture
GOM	Government of Mexico
HRW	Human Rights Watch
ICMP	International Commission on Missing Persons
LCC	Local Citizen Councils
LLE	Laboratorio de Litigio Estructural
LSC	Local Search Commissions
MEIF	Extraordinary Mechanism for Forensic Identification
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
NPPT	National Program to Prevent Torture
PHB	Unified Search Protocol
PNBP	National Search Program
RED-DH	Promoviendo la Rendición de Cuentas por los Derechos Humanos
RNPDNO	National Registry of Missing or Disappeared Persons
SEGOB	Ministry of the Interior
UDDH	Unit for the Defense of Human Rights
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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1. Executive Summary

<p>Activity Name</p>	<p>Promoviendo la Rendición de Cuentas por los Derechos Humanos (RED-DH)</p>
<p>Activity Purpose</p>	<p>RED-DH will enhance the capacity and commitment of the Government of Mexico (GOM) to provide effective and accountable responses to gross human rights violations, such as forced disappearances and torture, by: strengthening national oversight mechanisms and enhancing inter-governmental coordination; supporting state-level implementation of laws and safeguards to prevent and respond to human rights abuses; and by providing targeted forensic technical assistance to address the backlog of unidentified remains in five priority states.</p>
<p>Activity Description</p>	<p>In 2017, the GOM responded to the human rights crisis with several diverse initiatives. To further select initiatives, the General Laws on Torture and on Forced Disappearances were approved by the GOM in 2017. For these General Laws to be implemented at the federal and state levels, it is essential that there are competent authorities, efficient institutions, and an active and participatory civil society. To ensure the previous, RED-DH will work with GOM counterparts at the federal and state levels - including decentralized and autonomous institutions and targeted subnational government entities, forensic experts, victims' collectives, and civil society.</p> <p>This quarter (FY22 Q2), RED-DH will report on technical progress made on the following activities:</p> <p>COMPONENT 1. Establish and sustain national oversight, coordination, and implementation mechanisms to deliver GOM commitments under the 2017 General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Law enforcement authorities have improved their capacities to investigate and address cases of torture. 1.2. Improved registries and knowledge regarding the crime of torture. 1.3. Strengthened efforts and capacities to actively pursue acts of torture and to curb a culture of impunity. 1.4. Mechanisms strengthened for the National Search System. 1.5. Citizen oversight of the GLFD strengthened. 1.6. Improved capacities to ensure cases of forced disappearance are sentenced in accordance with the GLFD and international standards.

	<p>COMPONENT 2. Enhance implementation of the 2017 General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearances in five priority states Coahuila, Jalisco, Puebla, Sonora, and Veracruz.</p> <p>2.1. States have improved their responses to forced disappearances. 2.2. Capacities of civil society organizations and victims’ families’ movements strengthened to advocate and address serious human rights violations. 2.3. Increased public awareness of the issue of disappearance and torture at the federal and state levels.</p> <p>COMPONENT 3. Decrease the backlog in forensic cases in priority states: Coahuila, Jalisco, Puebla, Sonora, and Veracruz</p> <p>3.1. Improved forensic system capacities to identify human remains. 3.2. Strengthen state forensic capacity in select Mexican states to decrease the backlog in human identification.</p>
Geographic Areas	RED-DH works at the federal level and in five priority states: Coahuila, Jalisco, Puebla, Sonora, and Veracruz.
Reporting Period	Year Two, Quarter Two (January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2022).

2. Context Analysis

2.1. Relevant background and context information for the RED-DH Activity

- Mexico has been going through a severe crisis of violence and insecurity for several years, which increased with the so-called "war on drugs" in 2006, leading to alarming levels of crimes and human rights violations. The ineffectiveness of law enforcement agencies has weakened the rule of law, creating structural conditions of impunity and challenges that the Government of Mexico (GOM) must address urgently.
- In 2017, the General Law on Torture (GLT) (June 26) and the General Law on Forced Disappearance (GLFD) (November 17) were published in the Federal Official Gazette (DOF).
- President Andres Manuel López Obrador took office (December 2018) one year after the GLT and GLFD were published in the DOF. However, to this day, essential components of both laws have not been implemented, largely due to weak coordination and a lack of systems for information sharing and coordinated operations among the many local and federal human rights system actors.
- During the first days of his administration, President López Obrador acknowledged the enormous challenges the State faces in addressing human rights violations and recognized the need to take decisive actions. In this regard, under the leadership of Alejandro Encinas, Undersecretary for Human Rights, there have been significant commitments to advance the human rights agenda.
- Even though the GOM has taken significant steps toward building an institutional framework that puts the search for missing persons as a cornerstone of the federal policy, with the understanding that it is an obligation of the State, challenges remain.
- Concerning the administration of justice at the federal level, in 2020, the Superior Auditor of the Federation (ASF) found that the General Prosecutor's Office (FGR) was investigating more than 1,600 crimes of enforced disappearance. However, for years, the cases remained stuck in the initial procedural stages. Even when the FGR dispatched some cases, they never resulted in prosecutions. According to the [Washington Office on Latin America \(WOLA\)](#), the specialized prosecutor's office of the FGR on the matter reported that it did not obtain any convictions for the crime of disappearance from 2018 to 2020.
- Regarding the forensic crisis, official figures indicate that more than 52,000 people remained unidentified, most of them in mass graves. Currently, the GOM lacks the capacity to respond to this crisis. According to the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB), the states can only identify two out of every ten bodies they receive, coupled with corpse storage facilities being overcrowded by 40%. In addition, as of 2019, there were only 217 identification laboratories and 263 forensic offices at the national level.

- One of the government's responses to address the forensic identification backlog has been the creation of the MEIF on December 5, 2019. The MEIF is an extraordinary, multidisciplinary mechanism with technical-scientific autonomy to carry out the appropriate expert assessments on the bodies or remains that have not been identified and are within its faculties. The agreement was published in the DOF on March 19, 2020. In August 2021, the MEIF's Coordinating Group formally began activities. Three months later, the EM concluded the planning for 2022, which constitutes Phase I of a six-year strategic plan (2022-2027) that is still under construction. For the first year of operations, a 40 million pesos (USD 2 million) budget was assigned to the MEIF via the United Nations Population Fund.
- The GOM also inaugurated in August 2020 the Regional Center for Human Identification (CRIH) created to amass, organize and analyze all available information regarding unidentified remains in Coahuila and adjacent states. Finally, for the past two years, the CNB has been promoting the implementation of a methodology to massively process human remains and genetic information.
- Specifically, all branches of government still need to provide a comprehensive coordinated response, from federal to municipal levels, including autonomous institutions. In terms of financial resources, as of November 2021, [1.7 billion pesos \(USD 85 million\) of federal subsidies](#) have been allocated to Local Search Commissions (LSC). Furthermore, the National Search Commission's (CNB) staff has doubled since its creation, with 89 people now employed (52% women and 48% men).
- In the case of torture and other ill-treatment, there are no reliable figures at the national level. Data from surveys of persons deprived of liberty reflect the high incidence of these gross human rights violations. In 2021, 85.8% of the population deprived of liberty suffered some use of force during an arrest. Moreover, six out of ten mentioned that the police or authorities used physical force to subdue them. Additionally, 64.5% suffered some act of violence, carried out or allowed by the police or authority after the arrest and up until they were presented to the prosecuting authorities.
- From 2019 to 2021, the Executive Commission for Victims' Attention treated 2,254 victims of torture, including direct and indirect victims.
- From 2006 to October 2021, the FGR initiated 20,777 criminal investigations (10,395 preliminary inquiries and 10,382 investigation files) for the crime of torture. As of November 1, 2021, 4,801 case files are pending resolution (3,583 preliminary investigations and 1,218 investigation files).
- As part of FGR's reforms, on January 26, 2018, the Special Prosecutor for the Investigation of the Crime of Torture (FEIDT) was created. Consequently, as of October 2021, 26 states have created Specialized Prosecutors or institutions focused on the matter. Out of RED-DH's priority states, four have established specialized institutions for the crime of torture, with Sonora being the only one pending.

- From its creation in 2015 until October 31, 2021, the FEIDT initiated 4,627 investigations (3,142 preliminary investigations 1,485 investigation files).
- In November 2021, the Supreme Court of Justice updated the Action Protocol for those who impart justice in matters involving torture and ill-treatment, initially published in 2014. USAID, through its EnfoqueDH Activity, had the opportunity to collaborate in its update.
- During 2020-2022, the COVID-19 health emergency added a layer of complexity to the implementation of activities across the country. The sudden change of “normality” forced both governmental and non-governmental organizations to work remotely and rely on information and communication technologies to carry out most of their tasks.

2.2. Mexico and the United States’ bilateral relationship and relevant points within the human rights agenda

An important milestone was the [visit to Mexico of US Vice President Kamala Harris](#) on June 8, 2021. On that day, Mexico and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding on international cooperation. Among its highlighted areas of cooperation, noteworthy is the commitment by both governments to engage in forensic cooperation that will help solve the thousands of enforced disappearances in Mexico for the benefit of victims’ families and their fight against impunity.

Another important development occurred with the appointment of Ken Salazar as US Ambassador to Mexico on August 26, 2021. His appointment injected renewed energy into the cooperation agenda between the two countries, translating into opportunities to promote concrete and strategic partnership actions to address the human rights crisis.

In late August 2021, [USAID’s Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mileydi Guilarte, made a three-day visit to the Mexican capital](#). Guilarte, along with Mission Director Bruce Abrams, [met with the SEGOB](#) and held a series of roundtables on climate change, [human rights](#), and [civil society](#).

Finally, on October 8, 2021, a [US delegation, led by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, traveled to Mexico City](#) to participate in the first U.S.-Mexico High-Level Security Dialogue. Both governments agreed on a [new security collaboration framework: the Bicentennial Understanding on Security, Public Health and Secure Communities](#), which replaces the Mérida Initiative. The occasion served to reinforce the commitment of both governments on forensic cooperation to address the thousands of cases of forced disappearances. The agreement was officially published on January 31, 2022. Its contents can be reviewed [here](#).

2.3. Y2 Q2 – January – March 2022: National Overview: Human rights context

Three events serve as a compass to understand this quarter’s context, including the publication of the annual reports of Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International (AI), both with assessments on the human rights situation in Mexico during 2021, and a judicial decision made by the Inter-American Court that can have profound effects on the human rights context in the country.

On January 13, 2022, HRW published its [32nd edition of the World Report 2022](#), in which it examines human rights practices in almost 100 countries where the organization operates. In Mexico, HRW noted that human rights violations, including torture, enforced disappearances, abuses against migrants, extrajudicial killings, gender-based violence, and attacks on independent journalists and human rights defenders, have continued under President López Obrador. From their perspective, legal reforms enacted in 2017 and 2018 have been slow and ineffective in addressing torture and impunity.

On January 19, when the [Inter-American Court of Human Rights found Mexico internationally responsible](#) for the severe deficiencies that occurred during the investigation into the death of human rights defender Digna Ochoa on October 19, 2001. For RED-DH's purposes, we highlight that the ruling mandates the GOM to “prepare, present and promote a constitutional reform to provide autonomy and independence to Forensic Expert Services.” In response, [the GOM reiterated its recognition and respect](#) for the work of human rights defenders.

On March 29, AI published its 2021 annual report. In the [section dedicated to Mexico](#), AI commends the creation of the truth and justice commission for gross human rights violations committed during the “Dirty War” (the 1960s to 1980s). However, it pointed out the need to guarantee the army’s collaboration in making historical archives available. In the case of forced disappearances, the report emphasizes the prevailing impunity, with only 35 convictions in a country with more than 97,000 people registered as disappeared at the end of 2021. As for torture, the AI report noted the delays in the publication of the National Program to Prevent Torture (NPPT), while celebrating the presidential decree to release prisoners in prolonged preventive detention who were victims of torture. Yet, AI highlighted that the decree did not adopt recommendations from civil society and restricted those able to prove torture to people who had a medical examination based on the Istanbul Protocol. Other criticisms include the exclusion of prisoners accused of involvement in organized crime and kidnapping. Ultimately, the decree resulted in the approval of the release of more than 682 prisoners while 4,233 were under review. Beyond the fact that both reports highlight a complicated situation in the field of human rights in Mexico, RED-DH closed 2021 with new opportunities for collaboration with authorities and civil society organizations.

With regards to forensic matters, on February 2, 2022, the [MEIF's Coordinating Group presented its first activities report](#), which included the proposed structure of its operating team, to be comprised of data analysts and forensic specialists. The Group highlighted its work with prosecutors’ offices through a Collaboration Agreement with the National Conference for the Prosecution of Justice (CNPJ). Joint work includes the design of human identification projects in conjunction with local prosecutors’ offices. Planned activities also contemplate the creation of a communication mechanism with the participation of families, search groups, and international cooperation agencies. Given this opportunity to strengthen the MEIF, RED-DH has been in permanent contact with the Group.

Later, on March 17, at the daily presidential press conference, the Undersecretary for Human Rights, Alejandro Encinas, presented the report: “Forensic Crisis and Forensic Public Policy Proposal from the Federal Government,” acknowledging the existence of more than 52,000 unidentified bodies stored in forensic facilities. Ten states (Baja California, Mexico City, Edomex, [Jalisco](#), Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, [Veracruz](#), Sinaloa, and *Sonora*) concentrate 80% of the unidentified bodies, which include three of RED-DH’s priority states. At the same time, Encinas highlighted the international cooperation agreements to address the forensic crisis, including the work carried out with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to build forensic capacities in Coahuila with the collaboration of the Guatemalan

Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG). The GOM also emphasized the allocation of 1,700 million pesos to strengthen search and forensic capacities and infrastructure. This commitment has resulted in the creation and operation of two regional human identification centers (Coahuila and San Luis Potosi) dedicated exclusively to the mass identification of disappeared persons.

In parallel and following the agenda of the United Nations, on March 28, the UN Committee against Enforced Disappearances (CED) began its working session, which will end on April 8. It will review Greece and Niger and adopt its report on the visit to Mexico. The CED also [presented a video](#) of the visit made in November 2021 to the country. Information on the official adoption of the CED’s report will be shared as soon as it is published.

This quarter ended with critical news relevant to RED-DH. On March 31, 2022, the President submitted to Congress an initiative amending and adding several provisions of the GLFD and creating the National Center for Human Identification (CNIH). The initiative will be turned over to Congressional Commissions for study and analysis, who will then be able to propose a discussion and vote. It is expected that this process will open the discussion process to key actors and relatives of disappeared persons. Once approved by Congress, it will be sent to the Senate for its analysis, discussion, and vote. These discussions are likely to take place from September to December 2022.

Federal Human Rights Budget during 2022

Institution		2021 MXN millions	2022 MXN millions	% change
SEGOB	National Search Commission	720.40	747.43	↑ 3.75
	General Directorate of Strategies for the Attention of Human Rights	117.33	122.08	↑ 4.05
	Undersecretariat for Human Rights	35.87	37.95	↑ 5.80
	Unit for the Defense of Human Rights	24.04	27.92	↑ 16.16
	General Directorate of Human Rights Public Policy	29.65	26.43	↓ -10.87
FGR	General Coordination of Expert Services	1,195.11	1,188.61	↓ -0.54
	Specialized Prosecutor for Human Rights	228.36	244.95	↑ 7.27
	General Directorate of Criminalistic Laboratories	107.81	107.73	↓ -0.07
	Specialized Prosecutor for the Investigation of Enforced Disappearances	20.87	20.05	↓ -3.93
	Specialized Prosecutor for the Investigation of the Crime of Torture	19.03	18.90	↓ -0.69
	General Directorate of Documentary Expert Specialties	11.18	11.14	↓ -0.42
	General Directorate of Forensic Engineering	10.92	10.86	↓ -0.51
	General Directorate of Forensic Medical Specialties	10.52	10.48	↓ -0.37
	Specialized Prosecutor for the Investigation of Crimes Against Migrants	3.26	2.94	↓ -9.84

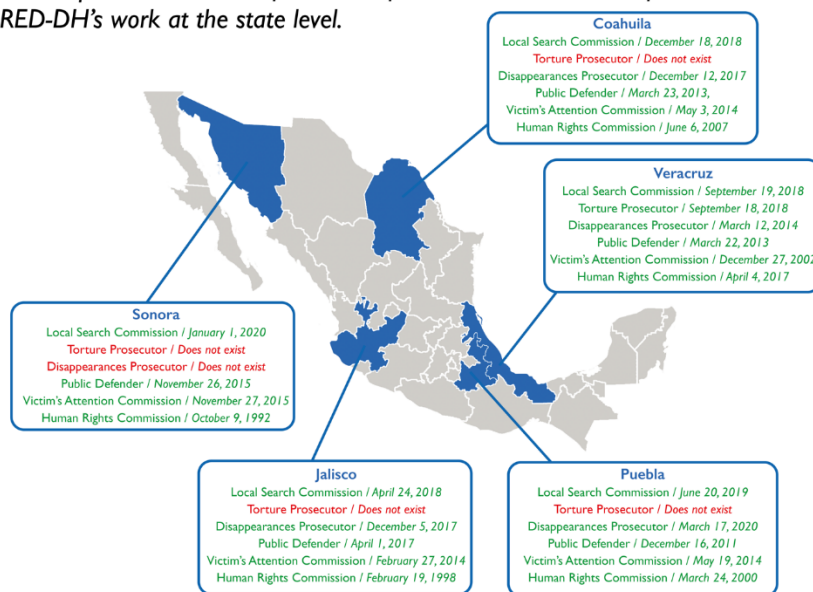
Source: GOM Expenditure Budget 2021 and 2022

Federal budget decisions made in early 2022 resulted in budget allocated to the areas of human rights either marginally increase or maintained within the same range as in 2021. According to various civil society organizations, the budget does not adequately prioritize the human rights agenda since some of the amounts allocated to institutions and policies do not reflect the urgency of the crisis the country is experiencing. RED-DH will follow up on the expenditures made at the federal level and in the five priority states throughout the year.

State overview

Institutional progress in priority states

The map shows the date of creation of the relevant institutions for RED-DH's work at the state level.



Coahuila

This quarter, the CRIH gained attention from the international community. Several international delegations and representations in Mexico have scheduled visits to their facilities to see first-hand how the Center operates. In March, the Deputy Ambassador of Canada in Mexico, the General Consul of Canada in Monterrey, and the International Committee of the Red Cross visited the CRIH. Currently, there are no other governments providing the same type of comprehensive support to the CRIH as USAID is through RED-DH.

Jalisco

In Jalisco, changes in two institutions stood out. First, on January 10, the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente's (ITESO) Governing Board appointed Alexander Paul Zatyryka Pacheco as its Dean for the next four years. Zatyryka previously served as Dean of the Ibero University in León, and from 2014 to 2020, was a professor in the Department of Philosophy and Humanities at ITESO. At the government level, on February 1, 2022, General State Prosecutor, Gerardo Octavio Solís Gómez, resigned for health reasons from the position he held for more than three years (since November 26, 2018). The governor then sent a request to Congress to ratify Luis Joaquín Méndez Ruíz, who served as Executive Prosecutor for Criminal Investigation, as the new State Prosecutor. On February 3, 2022, Mr. Méndez was ratified.

Puebla

During March, three extraordinary municipal elections were held because previous elections in these locations were declared null and void. Winning candidates will not take office until May 1, 2022.

Sonora

Throughout the quarter, search groups from Central and South America joined the First International Search Squad to locate disappeared migrants in border areas.

In the previous quarter, RED-DH maintained conversations with search collectives in the state, such as Guerreras Buscadoras, Buscadoras por la Paz Sonora, and Madres en Búsqueda Sonora. These dialogues served to coordinate activities and ensure that grantee IDHEAS can address the priorities and needs of the collectives.

On March 3, the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) in Mexico visited Sonora and agreed with federal authorities' actions to strengthen the capacity of state institutions to search for and identify disappeared persons. The activities consist of training forensic personnel to improve their skills in human identification. The agreement does not contemplate support to process or recover bodies or biological samples of relatives of disappeared persons for identification purposes. However, USAID will lead the latter in future activities. Overall, the EU's project will last 18 months and will cover the states of Sonora, Jalisco, and Coahuila. In February, federal and state authorities reported the arrest of the probable culprit of the femicide of Aranza Ramos, a member of the Madres Buscadoras de Sonora collective (murdered in July 2021) who had been looking for her missing husband since the end of 2020.

Veracruz

On March 18, the RED-DH team visited Huatusco, a town in Veracruz where the Solecito Collective had a bazaar to fundraise for their search and advocacy activities. On that occasion, RED-DH donated seven workstations/computer equipment to Solecito so it can carry out its daily work. The meeting also allowed RED-DH to review some aspects of the legal assistance being provided to the Collective, which is expected to conclude in the second half of 2022.

Initiatives and collaborative activities between states

The following activities highlight the collaborations that authorities and other civil society organizations are beginning to foster:

- In February, Alejandro Encinas, Undersecretary for Human Rights, agreed with the Nuevo Leon Prosecutor's Office, the LSC, and search collectives to build a Temporary Forensic Shelter regionally coordinated between Tamaulipas and Coahuila.
- On February 18, 2022, ITESO hosted the first meeting in Jalisco between affected individuals, groups, and the Presidential Commission for Access to Truth, Historical Clarification and the Promotion of Justice for Serious Human Rights Violations committed from 1965 to 1990. The meeting helped explain the objectives of the Commission and to establish contact with victims and relatives in Jalisco. ITESO, an ally of RED-DH, was the leading actor in building bridges of communication between groups and local and federal authorities.

- On February 21, the Madres Buscadoras de Sonora Collective organized the first search brigade in the Guadalajara Metropolitan Area. Until mid-March 2022, the group claimed to have located 71 bodies in 221 bags found in more than ten houses and three areas in open fields. However, the state government assured that only 44 bodies were found.

3. Indicator Progress

3.1. The Indicator Summary Table, which includes detailed information about RED-DH's indicators as defined in the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan, is presented in Annex 1.

The following shows progress in each indicator during the current implementation year:

Context Indicator 1. Number of torture and other ill-treatment complaints received by National and State Human Rights Commissions in RED-DH priority states.

This quarter RED-DH concluded gathering the data for the indicator's baseline.

<u>Commission type</u>	<u>Torture complaints received (2021)</u>	<u>Other ill-treatment complaints received (2021)</u>
<u>National</u>	50	217
<u>State-Coahuila</u>	26	109
<u>State-Jalisco</u>	28	0
<u>State-Puebla</u>	38	47
<u>State-Sonora</u>	47	0
<u>State-Veracruz</u>	83	172

Now that the baseline has been established, RED-DH has begun requesting the information to feed information of this context indicator in the following quarters.

Context Indicator 2. Number of missing persons registered.

Data from the National Registry of Missing or Disappeared Persons (RNPDNO):

<u>From January 01, 1964, to December 31, 2021:</u> National total= 96,715. Males= 72,229. Females= 23,968. Unknown= 518. 14 or younger = 7,597. *Date reviewed: April 06, 2022.	<u>From January 01, 1964, to March 31, 2022:</u> National total= 98,707. Males= 73,716. Females= 24,475. Unknown= 516. 14 or younger = 7,802.
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Compared to the last quarter, the increase of disappeared people was similar among females (2.11%), males (2.05%), and 14 or younger (2.69%).

Indicator 3. Number of supported GOM actors who report to the National Registry of Victims of Torture or to the National Registry for the Crime of Torture.

Target Y2: 1

Accomplished: 0

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 0%

Quarter report: RED-DH continues to maintain close collaboration with Federal and State authorities to support the operation of torture registries. Through different activities, RED-DH is exploring collaborations with Coahuila's Prosecutor's Office, Public Defense Institutes from Puebla and Veracruz, the Executive Commission for Comprehensive Attention to Victims of Veracruz. RED-DH expects to report progress on this indicator in the coming quarters.

Indicator 4. Number of strengthened GOM service delivery systems to victims of torture and disappearance.

Target Y2: 4

Accomplished: 4

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 100%

Quarter report: Grantee Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho (FJEDD) supported the FGR to carry out a notification to relatives of a disappeared person identified on October 28, 2021, in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. The FJEDD's efforts focused on ensuring the FGR complies with the minimum and dignifying requirements for notifications of identifications.¹

Indicator 5. Number of torture and disappearance cases that show progress in criminal proceedings.

Target Y2: 0

Accomplished: 0

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: Targets have been set from Year 3 onwards.

Quarter report: Because targets have been set from Y3 onwards, RED-DH is following-up cases supported both in Y1 and currently. From year one to now, RED-DH has supported 151 cases so far. Next quarter, RED-DH expects to receive information on one particular case (Monica Ruth Roja's case) regarding the start of the trial. The case is being supported through the grantee IDHEAS.

¹ This impact is counted on quarter two because the methods of verification were available by January 2022.

Indicator 6. Percent decrease in the backlog of unidentified remains at the federal level and in RED-DH priority states

Target Y2: -10%

Accomplished: -35.96%

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 360%

Quarter report: Between October 2021 and March 2022, in collaboration with the CRIH, grantee FAFG carried out complex but productive work. FAFG collected DNA samples from 652 human remains and 239 relatives of disappeared persons over a six-month period. The mass exhumations work in Coahuila has yielded 6 positive cross matches between the recovered remains and the family reference samples. 31 additional positive cross matches, which are pending additional genetic validation as to whether the cross matches were positive, and 4 genetic profiles that will continue to be compared as more reference samples are added to CRIH's database.

Indicator 7. Number of missing persons identified.

Target Y2: 11

Accomplished: 41

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 373%

Quarter report: According to the PIRS: Identification refers to a missing person / disappearance case in which RED-DH has been able to forensically determine or confirm the identity of remains using multidisciplinary scientific forensic methods. The identifications made by RED-DH--in collaboration with government authorities, subcontractors, and grantees-- are those where genetic samples have been collected, processed, and compared. This process can also involve a remains analysis and a multidisciplinary identification report. Moreover, under the PIRS, identification implies to "forensically determine or confirm the identity of remains," which FAFG and the CRIH achieved through the confirmation of the genetic identity. If a genetic profile from a human remain yields a positive crossmatch with a family member, it will translate into notifications to family members. The mass exhumations work in Coahuila has yielded 6 positive crossmatches between the recovered remains and the family reference samples. 31 additional positive cross matches, which are pending additional genetic validation as to whether the cross matches were positive, and 4 genetic profiles will continue to be compared as more reference samples are added to the CRIH's database.

Indicator 8. Number of public policies proposed to or adopted by the GOM to address torture and disappearances.

Target Y2: 12

Accomplished: 10

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 83%

Quarter report:

- On January 25, 2022, FGR and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) concluded the development of a Sustainability Plan to ensure that the former will successfully apply new DNA extraction methods.
- On February 12, 2022, RED-DH proposed two public policies to the CNB which included: an update to the methodological guidelines and databases of the Mass Graves that will enable the qualitative input of information and a Manual on event narratives to guide authorities with the drafting of context analysis that was delivered to the CNB.

- On February 12, 2022, RED-DH delivered legal recommendations to the CNB to strengthen the reform to create the CNIH.
- On February 14, 2022, RED-DH delivered recommendations to the GOM to strengthen its truth and memory policy based on an extensive systematization of the Archives of Resistance and Archives of Repression on movements during the systematic repression of Mexican authorities between the 1960s and the 1980s.

Indicator 9. Number of communication campaigns to raise public awareness on torture and disappearance.

Target Y2: 15

Accomplished: 18

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 120%

Quarter report:

- During December 2021, grantee ARTICLE19 disseminated the document: “Archives of the Resistance” at the University of Guadalajara. The dissemination strategy included 10 interviews in local media and several posts on social media.²
- Grantee CEPAD implemented two campaigns. First, in February 2022, the campaign “Resilient voices, survivors of torture” was launched to shine a light on the psychosocial impacts of torture through stories shared by survivors. Subsequently, in March, CEPAD launched the campaign #PorLeyesQueSeCumplan on social media to emphasize the significance of implementing the General Law of Victims, the National Law of Criminal Enforcement, and the GLT in Jalisco.
- On February 28, 2022, grantee CEPIADET broadcasted podcasts about the GLT and GLFD aimed at indigenous-speaking audiences in Puebla, Veracruz, and Jalisco. These podcasts were produced in six different indigenous languages, representing different audiences.

Indicator 10. Number of reports or analyses developed with project support to improve the prevention and investigation of torture and disappearances carried out by GOM authorities.

Target Y2: 24

Accomplished: 16

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 67%

Quarter report:

- On January 12, 2022, RED-DH, through the work of an expert consultant, delivered to the CNB a report that processes 1,083 files of disappeared persons and their families, including personal information and data on the detention. These files mention 3,038 people (including disappeared persons and relatives), 798 organizations that these people are associated with, and 1,282 places linked to the disappearances.
The previous is part of a wider technical assistance provided to the CNB's Search Unit for Disappeared Persons to expand the analytical capabilities of a computer system called "Angelus".
- On February 04, 2022, RED-DH delivered to the CNB two analyses of regulatory improvements where it identified the obstacles that search commissions currently face, evaluated their faculties according to the GLFD and pinpointed those that restrain the effectiveness of search efforts.
- On February 14, 2022, RED-DH delivered two reports with systematized information regarding the experiences building the Archives of Resistance and Archives of Repression.
- On March 09, 2022, grantee CEPAD delivered to the State Prosecutor's Office a report with the GOM's obligations regarding torture, their work on that matter, requirements, and areas for

² This impact is counted on quarterly two because the data sources were available by January 2022.

improvement within Jalisco's Prosecutor's Office, and recommendations for the creation of that Specialized Prosecutor's Office.

- On March 31, 2022, grantee FJEDD delivered the report on experiences and best practices for forensic research to the MEIF's Coordinating Group.

Indicator 11. Number of torture and disappearance cases supported, to improve investigations and/or administrative measures for victims and families.

Target Y2: 25

Accomplished: 90

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 360%

Quarter report: This quarter grantee FJEDD reported providing legal support for one emblematic case of disappearances and massacres of migrants. Specifically, the 72 Migrants Case.

Indicator 12. Number of strategies developed for prosecution authorities to advance with the investigation of torture and disappearance cases.

Target Y2: 4

Accomplished: 16

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 400%

Quarter report:

- On February 23, 2022, RED-DH supported the CNB in presenting an administrative complaint against the Council of the Federal Judicature aiming at guaranteeing the right to be searched.
- On January 11, 2022, grantee FJEDD delivered to the FGR, nine investigation plans addressing three massacres committed in Mexico.
- On February 16, 2022, and with the support of grantee IMDHD, relatives of Alfredo Tlaxcalteco Calte delivered to Veracruz's Prosecutor's Office a series of recommendations to strengthen the investigation plan within the official inquiry.
- On February 28, 2022, grantee CEPAD reported the presentation of two investigation strategies for long-term supported cases by the organization.

Indicator 13. Number of coordinated ventures among state and non-state actors involved in the protection of human rights.

Target Y2: 8

Accomplished: 9

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 113%

Quarter report:

- On January 27, 2022, RED-DH, ICMP and FGR exchanged experiences on challenges regarding massive quantities of data, from its collection to the analysis. These actors explored areas of collaboration on these topics.
- On February 17, 2022, grantee NKUC exchanged best practices in the search for persons with the National Search Citizen Council and the CNB.
- On February 25, 2022, grantee CEPAD and the State Executive Commission for the Attention to Victims held an exchange about the Monitoring and evaluation system for GLT implementation in Jalisco developed by CEPAD.
- On March 09, 2022, grantee LLE and the Federal Institute for Public Defense presented the Practical guide for the adequate use of the attention form to document torture and ill-treatment acts to

public defenders from all over the country.

Indicator 14. Number of human remains processed to obtain DNA information.

Target Y2: 200

Accomplished: 681

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 341%

Quarter report: On March 07, 2022, grantee FAFG reported processing 652 additional human remain samples within its intervention along Coahuila's CRIH. Additionally, by January 2022, ICMP reported processing 20 samples.

Indicator 15. Number of family reference samples collected and processed.

Target Y2: 500

Accomplished: 244

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 49%

Quarter report: On March 07, 2022, grantee FAFG reported processing 239 additional family DNA reference samples within its intervention in Coahuila.

Indicator 16. Number of notifications to families about the identification of missing persons.

Target Y2: 1

Accomplished: 6

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 600%

Quarter report: On March 07, 2022, FAFG reported that the CRIH notified six families about the identification of their disappeared relative.

Indicator 17. Number of human rights organizations trained and supported.

Target Y2: 12

Accomplished: 27

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 225%

Quarter report: Next quarter, the IMDHD will report on the completion of trainings for search collectives in Veracruz regarding the Special Declaration of Absence.

Indicator 18. Number of government officials receiving USG-supported human rights training.

Target Y2: 75

Accomplished: 128 (64 males and 64 females).

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 171%

Quarter report:

- Between January 31 and February 2, 2022, RED-DH trained a total of 10 public officials from five states on context analysis.
- Between December 2, 2021, and February 2, 2022, grantee ICMP trained 20 public officials from the FGR on DNA extraction methods.
- Between September 20, 2021, and February 4, 2022, grantee Delibera trained 31 police officers from Guadalajara's Metropolitan Area belonging to Municipal Search Cells.

Indicator 19. Number of persons trained with USG assistance to advance outcomes consistent with gender equality or female empowerment through their roles in public or private sector institutions or organizations.

Target Y2: 20

Accomplished: 31

Percentage of Y2 Achieved: 155%

Quarter report: Between September 20, 2021, and February 4, 2022, grantee Delibera trained 31 police officers from Guadalajara’s Metropolitan Area. This training included a module called “uses of the gender perspective in cases of disappearances.” That module aimed to strengthen police officers’ capacities from a gender perspective, differentiated approach to females using gender procedures, a legal framework aimed at women as a vulnerable group, and steps to systematize women’s rights from these Municipal Search Cells.

4. Accomplishments and Overall Status

In this quarter, RED-DH can confirm that it has achieved 12 of the 17 goals foreseen for year 2 and has put in place strategies to meet each deliverable defined in the work plan and contract.

COMPONENT 1. Establish and sustain national oversight, coordination, and implementation mechanisms to deliver GOM commitments under the 2017 General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearances.

Key Outcome 1: National oversight, coordination, and implementation mechanisms to deliver GOM commitments under the 2017 General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearances established and sustained.

Key Result 1.1 National plans / programs, policies, and oversight mechanisms in place for the EM on Forensic Identification of Disappeared Persons to oversee commitments and coordinate implementation with GOM agencies.

1.1.1. Recover experiences and best practices in forensic investigation for the EM.

1.1.1.a. Recover experiences and best practices in forensic investigation for the EM.

1.1.2. Provide technical support to track, identify, and report on disappeared persons and their remains.

1.1.2.a. Promote technical support for the creation and enforcement of minimum forensic standards.

During this quarter, together with USAID, RED-DH held various meetings to explore areas of collaboration with the Group. Currently, RED-DH is reviewing a grant proposal submitted by UNFPA to support the MEIF’s (EM) work. In addition to the collaboration with the EM, on March 3, grantee Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho (FJEDD) delivered a report to the EM which compiles important lessons learned over the more than seven years of the work of the Forensic Commission.³ The document highlights best practices and systematizes approaches to identify bodies and remains. It also includes interviews with relatives of disappeared persons and information that can aid the MEIF in the definition of forensic investigation criteria.

³ The Commission was formed in September 2013 after an agreement was signed between the FGR, the Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense (EAAF), and eleven non-governmental organizations from Central America and Mexico, represented by the FJEDD. Its purpose was to identify the remains found in mass graves related to three massacres of migrants perpetrated between 2010 and 2012.

Key Result 1.2 CNB provides effective oversight of search efforts with states.

On January 13, 2022, [USAID, through RED-DH, met with the CNB](#) to resume activities and explore work plans following the collaboration agreement signed on February 4, 2021, that has guided joint efforts for more than a year.

1.2.1. Provide needs-based support to CNB

An important part of the collaboration with the CNB consisted of the review and analysis of relevant regulatory frameworks regarding enforced disappearances and the design of proposals to strengthen the capacity of Search Commissions. This support contributes to improving the guarantee of rights of disappeared persons and their families through more effective search processes.

1.2.1.a. Enable tools for state-level Context Analysis Units for Search and Investigations in coordination with FGEs.

At the request of the CNB, since January 2021, RED-DH has provided technical assistance through a team of specialized consultants to build the capacities of Context Analysis Units. By strengthening the skills of authorities in charge of searching for disappeared persons, RED-DH has been able to advance with the implementation of the GLFD. To this end, from January 31 to February 2, 2022, RED-DH trained 10 public servants from the local commissions of Veracruz, Coahuila, Jalisco, Sonora, Colima, and Guerrero on “the ABC of Context Analysis, basic tools to search for missing persons”. These trainings contributed to ensuring that national and local search commissions have the necessary capacities to systematize, analyze and update information related to the disappearance of persons, as mandated by the GLFD.

1.2.1.b. Design with a participatory vision the construction of the National Search Program (PNBP)

As part of its obligations under the GLFD, the CNB had the mandate to establish the National Search Program (PNBP) 180 days after its creation. Despite this, its publication has been delayed for more than three years. Against this backdrop, since September 27, 2021, RED-DH has been supporting the CNB in the design of the PNBP, with the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders so it can become an efficient policy that guides the national strategy to search and locate disappeared persons in Mexico. In line with these efforts, in March 2022, RED-DH, through grantee NKUC, reviewed with the CNB, the PNBP’s proposals of objectives, strategies, lines of action, and follow-up. NKUC discussed the PNBP proposals with various actors, such as the National Search System, the National Search Citizen Council, relatives of disappeared persons, civil society organizations, and subject-matter experts.

1.2.1.c. Foster the implementation of the Unified Search Protocol (PHB).

On March 8, for the commemoration of International Women's Day, RED-DH collaborated with the CNB and UN Women to produce a social media campaign to create awareness about the obligations of authorities in the search for disappeared women, adolescents, and girls established in the PHB. The campaign also addressed the importance of incorporating a gender perspective and the differentiated approach during search and location processes.

1.2.1.d. Develop and disseminate differentiated summarized targeted versions of the Unified Search Protocol for different stakeholders.

The PHB is a legal instrument that establishes the obligations of public officials and institutions in the search for and location of missing and forcibly disappeared persons. This quarter, RED-DH worked with the CNB to review the contents of four didactic summarized versions of the PHB aimed at criminal justice operators, public security institutions, diplomatic representations, and local search commissions. Their purpose is to share key information with authorities regarding their obligations in the search for disappeared persons. The work will conclude during 2022, to the extent that the review and approval process advances by the Implementation Commission of the PHB⁴.



1.2.2. Support GLFD mutual accountability

1.2.2.a. Create a GLFD evaluation instrument for CNB to apply in states, focusing on infrastructure, human resources, institutional framework, and legislative alignment.

In late December 2021, the CNB applied a self-assessment tool for local search commissions, which was designed by RED-DH. Based on the information collected, in January 2022, the CNB developed an assessment of the capacities of each state to search for disappeared persons. The assessment also identified areas of opportunity for the 29⁵ LSCs that provided information in four categories: (i) human capital, (ii) infrastructure and equipment, (iii) regulations and processes, and (iv) management quality. Moreover, to compare the self-perception of the commissions, the tool was adapted so that Local Citizen Councils could

⁴ The CNB chairs the Implementation Commission. The rest of the members correspond to a representative of each Local Search Commissions, two members of the CNC, and a person designated by the CNPJ. It also has the participation of international organizations as permanent guests and experts.

⁵ The LSC of Chiapas, Hidalgo and Yucatan did not submit their self-assessments by the closing date of the reception period (January 3, 2022).

answer it. Out of the fourteen⁶ councils around the country, nine responded⁷ to the evaluation. The results from the overall assessment have served as key inputs in the design process of the PNBP.

Also in collaboration with the CNB, RED-DH provided technical assistance to promote actions that facilitate the search for disappeared persons. Through an analysis of the legislative adaptation needed to improve forensic investigation and attention to disappearances, RED-DH identified the obstacles that search commissions currently face, evaluated the powers conferred to them by the GLFD, and pinpointed those that hinder the effectiveness of search efforts. This support contributed to the GOM's initiative to amend and add several provisions of the GLFD and the creation of the National Center for Human Identification.

Key Result 1.3 Full implementation of the National Program to Prevent Torture (NPPT) and other Cruel Treatments.

1.3.1. Build capacity to promote full implementation of the NPPT.

1.3.1.a. *Follow up on the publication of NPPT.*

1.3.1.b. *Organize work sessions with key actors to review the final version of the NPPT.*

On March 25, RED-DH received a communication from the FGR to follow up on potential collaborations stemming from the publication of the NPPT, a key element under the GLT. Initially, SEGOB was expected to lead on its implementation. However, the Legal Department of the Presidency indicated that in fact the FGR had the right legal powers to guarantee the implementation of the NPPT. Therefore, the FGR, in coordination with SEGOB, organized a meeting on April 6 to establish the follow-up route of the final version of the NPPT that was produced as a result of the collaboration between civil society and government officials. The agreements and next steps will be reported next quarter.

1.3.1.c. *Review of the Standardized Protocol for the Investigation of Torture.*

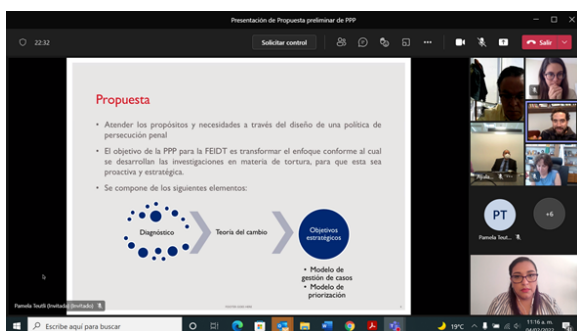
RED-DH maintained regular communications with the FEIDT to establish steps to update the Unified Protocol for the Investigation of the Crime of Torture. In February, RED-DH presented a preliminary report that identifies the critical aspects that the FEIDT must update following the GLT and international recommendations. RED-DH agreed with the FEIDT to carry out a session with relevant stakeholders to disseminate the document and elicit feedback.

⁶ Mexico City, Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Mexico, Michoacan, Puebla, Sonora, Veracruz, Baja California Sur, Coahuila, Hidalgo, Morelos, Tamaulipas and Zacatecas.

⁷ Mexico City, Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Mexico, Michoacan, Puebla, Sonora, and Veracruz.

1.3.1.d. Provide technical assistance to the FGR for the design of a Prosecution Plan for the Crime of Torture

In March 2022, through subcontractor Fortis, RED-DH concluded technical assistance provided to the



1. Fortis presents to the FEIDT a proposal to identify obstacles that hinder investigations

FEIDT. This support focused on defining the strategic objectives that should guide the investigation and prosecution of the crime of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. RED-DH and Fortis worked with the FEIDT to identify flows of investigation processes in the accusatory and traditional criminal justice systems that may be hindering the effectiveness of investigations. Fortis then elaborated general recommendations regarding processes and management mechanisms with optimization opportunities to implement the operation of a criminal prosecution policy for torture. In addition, Fortis created a case

management model to enhance the investigation process carried out by the FEIDT based on prioritization criteria and institutional strategic objectives.

1.3.1.e. Support GOM actors who report to the National Registry of Victims of Torture or to the National Registry for the Crime of Torture.

In articles 83 to 85, the GLT regulates the National Registry for the Crime of Torture (RENADET), which is defined as a tool of investigation and statistical information that must compile data on all cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatments that are being investigated, including the number of victims. According to the FGR, at the federal level, RENADET became operational in May 2019, while its [operating guidelines](#) were approved and published on December 15, 2021. However, as of that date, the process to gather information and connect the Registry to sources of information from the state level continues.

1.3.2. Strengthen GLT oversight and accountability

1.3.2.a. Collaborate with the Observatory Against Torture to continue promoting the platform that monitors GLT implementation at the federal level and in RED-DH's priority states.

RED-DH continues to actively participate in meetings with the Observatory Against Torture to review strategies that promote the GLT's implementation, particularly the NPPT. In addition, RED-DH took part in discussions on the challenges faced during the Law's implementation with the intention of facilitating a list of preliminary questions that would be submitted to the UN Committee against Torture.

1.3.2.b Build capacity of public defenders at the Federal Institute of Public Defense.

On March 9, through grantee LLE, RED-DH presented the "[Practical Guide for the proper use of the assistance form in cases of torture](#)", which was developed in collaboration with the Federal Institute of Public Defense. The guide aims to strengthen the application of Principles on Effective Interviews for Investigation and Information Gathering, also known as the "Méndez Principles" among government and civil society. This

practical tool seeks to explain the phenomenon of torture clearly, without losing depth, as it incorporates relevant regulations and current standards. The document also guides those who have first contact with victims of torture to keep an orderly record of all the relevant data that helps identify clues and lines of investigation.

Key Result 1.4. Increased collaboration between EM, FGR, CNB and state-level governments, search commissions, and AGOs to consolidate databases, registries, and other data tools and effectively respond to disappearances and forensic remains.

1.4.1. Support the development of interoperable registries and their sustainable maintenance and operation.

1.4.1.a. Provide technical assistance to the FGR and CNB to collaborate in the Registration and Information System that aims to improve the capacity to register, control and follow up on the information corresponding to the crime of Disappearance of Persons.

1.4.1.b. Improve with the CNB the technological development that facilitates the organization and analysis of information from the enforced disappearances that have occurred since the 1960s, with the purpose of structuring search actions and learning the fate of persons.

1.4.1.c. Collaborate with the CNB in strengthening the Mass Graves Module (MFC), which is part of the National Register of Mass Graves and Clandestine Graves (RNFCFCFC)

1.4.2. Strengthen efforts and capacities to actively pursue acts of Forced Disappearances and to curb a culture of impunity.

1.4.2.a Collaborate with the FGR on mechanisms for the review of files and lines of investigation of crimes of disappearance through experts and civil society organizations.

1.4.2.b Develop tools aimed for judges to comply with the correct implementation of the GLFD.

Since February 2021, RED-DH has provided technical assistance to the CNB through consultants specializing in forensic sciences by developing assessments of cemeteries and mass graves in priority states and carrying out fieldwork to detect deficiencies in the systematization and safeguarding of information on unidentified deceased persons. This work contemplates the digital collection of documentation of mass graves, the generation of an updated proposal to the National Registry of Mass Graves, and a pilot to fill the registry. By improving burial records in mass graves of municipal cemeteries, particularly the Mass Graves Module of the National Registry of Missing or Disappeared Persons, authorities are able to carry out a massive and systematic crossmatching of information to facilitate potential identifications of people located in those cemeteries.

Likewise, in coordination with the CNB's Search Unit for Disappeared Persons during the Dirty War, RED-DH is contributing to expand the analytical capabilities of a computer system called "Angelus", which facilitates the organization and analysis of information from the period of the dirty war. The purpose of this system is to structure search actions, allowing the CNB to become better equipped at understanding the fate of disappeared persons during that period. This work began in December 2021 and will conclude in June 2022.

Finally, RED-DH is providing technical inputs to the CNB for the review of guidelines of the National Registry of Disappeared and Non-Located Persons in light of personal data protection standards and the guarantee of the rights of disappeared persons and their families.

C. 1. Extraordinary collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and the Attorney General's Office of the Republic. Institutional strengthening for the Undersecretariat for Human Rights.

C.1.a Design and Development of a Digital Platform for the Follow-up of the National Human Rights Program 2020-2024.

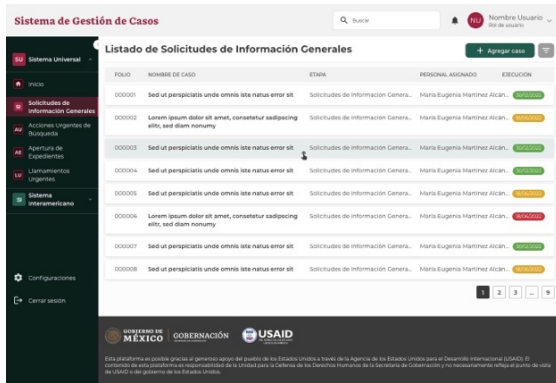


2. Home page of the platform to monitor the National Human Rights Program developed by Importare

RED-DH is supporting the General Directorate of Human Rights Public Policy (DGPPDH,) through a subcontract with Importare, to develop a digital platform to monitor the implementation of the 2020-2024 National Human Rights Program. This support will allow the Ministry to review and monitor compliance with the Program and follow up on pending actions. After the evaluation of the technological requirements needed by the GOM, and the completion of the platform’s design, the installation process will begin next quarter. This quarter, progress was made with the

DGPPDH team on the review of the platform’s architecture, graphic design, the loading of information, and server requirements. The preliminary version of the platform can be found here: [Public version](#) / [Private version](#).

C.1.b. Design and develop a technological platform for management, attention, and follow-up of cases.



3. Information request page, part of the case management system developed by VIRK for the UDDH

RED-DH is providing technical assistance to the Unit for the Defense of Human Rights (UDDH) for the design and development of a case management system for human rights violations, through a subcontract with VIRK. This system will allow the Unit to centralize and monitor case information, improving the Unit’s abilities to respond, follow up and provide comprehensive care to victims of human rights violations and their families. The project is in the design stage to validate the architecture of the case management system. After holding various work meetings with the International Affairs Coordination Team, VIRK is working on adapting the structure to respond to the needs raised by the GOM. Once the structure is adapted, VIRK will begin the development phase.

C.1.c. Technical Assistance for the design and development of the National Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes Committed against LGBTI+ Persons. To date, the FGR has not requested additional technical assistance on the matter.

C.2 Support the recovery of memory, truth and justice for gross human rights violations committed between 1960-1980.

C.2.a. Recover experiences of digitization of Historical Archives from 1960 to 1980.

C.2.b. Develop documentary and testimonial research on places related to human rights violations that occurred between the 1960s and 1980's.

On February 14, RED-DH in collaboration with ARTICLE19, delivered to the General Directorate of Strategies for the Attention of Human Rights (DGEADH) of SEGOB three documents with inputs for their Policy of Truth and Memory of the Recent Past. With this effort, RED-DH collaborated to strengthen and improve the actions that the Undersecretary for Human Rights is implementing. The three documents are:

- “Recommendations to strengthen the public policy on human rights archives and historical memory” which consists of specific recommendations that seek to strengthen the policy of memory and truth.
- “Systematization of Archives of the Repression” which narrates the experiences and lessons learned by ARTICLE19 during the work of cataloging the Archives of the Repression.
- “Systematization of the Archives of the Resistance” which narrates the experiences and lessons learned by ARTICLE19 during the work of cataloging the Archives of the Resistance.



4. Final document of recommendations to strengthen public policy on human rights archives and historical memory

C.2.c. Strengthen the work of the Extraordinary Mechanism for Historical Clarification.

On October 6, 2021, President López Obrador signed a decree to create a Commission for the Truth and Historical Clarification of Gross Human Rights Violations from 1965 to 1990. As part of the Commission, the GOM will establish a special working group to investigate, monitor, propose, and issue reports related to the gross human rights violations during the aforementioned period of political violence. On January 21, 2022, the Commission held its first working session in which Félix Santana Ángeles, general director of DGEADH of SEGOB, was appointed as executive secretary of the Commission. In March, RED-DH began conversations with SEGOB to assess possibilities for collaboration with the Mechanism. As a result, several actions for technical assistance are being evaluated for the next quarter.

C.3 Provide technical assistance to the FGR on the design and development of the National Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes Committed against LGBTI+ Persons and Migrants.

C.3.a RED-DH will work to promote the use of the investigation protocol, for crimes committed against LGBTI+, which was developed in Y1

After six months of work, RED-DH, with subcontractor Fundación Arcoiris por el Respeto a la Diversidad Sexual, finished the design and elaboration of the National Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes Committed against LGBTI+ people. In addition to the drafting of the final version of the National Protocol, the subcontract developed an analysis of the legal framework and the investigation process of the crimes against LGBTI+ people. The FGR approved both products last December, thus fulfilling the commitment established in the collaboration agreement signed between USAID and the FGR in March 2021.

C.3.b Provide technical assistance to the FGR on the design and development of the National Protocol for Migrants.

In March, RED-DH opened a request for CVs to select a team of experts to provide technical assistance in the design and development of the Approved Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes Committed by and against Migrants and Subjects of International Protection. This protocol will provide critical support for the FGR's Unit for the Investigation of Crimes for Migrant Persons.

C.4 Provide technical assistance to the Unit for the Investigation of Crimes against Migrants from the FGR.

C.4.a RED-DH will strengthen, through technical assistance, the Unit with clear guidelines for investigating crimes related to migrants.

On August 31, 2021, RED-DH, in collaboration with grantee FJEDD, began providing support to the FGR to build the capacity of authorities to advance forensic investigations of forced disappearances of migrants.

To achieve this, a team of experts and personnel from the FJEDD analyzed the information in case files of disappearances and massacres of migrants in a coordinated and multidisciplinary manner. As a result, FJEDD suggested lines of enquiry and procedural steps to the Special Prosecutor's Office for the Investigation of Crimes Committed against Migrants. FJEDD also provided legal support for seven emblematic cases of disappearances and massacres of migrants, which occurred between 2010 and 2015: 72 Migrants Case; Clandestine Graves Case; Cadereyta Case; Guemez Case; Roman Brothers Case; San Luis de la Paz Case; and the Camargo Case.

On January 10, the FJEDD presented to the FGR data-collection tools used to capture the information of the investigation case files of the massacres, along with recommendations for the investigative activities and the forensic proceedings of cases. In March, as part of the project's conclusions, the FJEDD presented its final report highlighting the development of a legal strategy and a methodology to investigate disappearances and massacres of migrants.

The experts also produced and delivered working documents on the cases to the prosecutors to plan future strategies that could potentially lead to follow-on investigative actions related to the cases.

The project had tangible results. On average, the FJEDD provided the FGR with three new lines of enquiry for each massacre (all based on the data contained in the case files) and suggested more than 300 investigative steps. Some of which were implemented by the FGR during the project. Given that this collaboration proposal is part of a special request, USAID and the FGR will hold conversations to assess next steps.

COMPONENT 2. Enhance implementation of the 2017 General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearances in five priority states: 1. Coahuila; 2. Jalisco; 3. Puebla; 4. Sonora; and 5. Veracruz.

Key Outcome 2: Implementation of the 2017 General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearances in five priority states enhanced.

Key Result 2.1 Strategies, workplans, budgets, and processes in place in five priority states to implement the General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearances.

2.1.1 Conduct state-level PEAs to map actors and assess status of GLT and GLFD implementation.

2.1.1.a. Elaborate annual state reports for: Coahuila, Jalisco, Puebla, Veracruz, and Sonora.

2.1.1.b. Design a proposal for state legislative harmonization in accordance with the GLD and GLT.

2.1.2. Facilitate system alignment through State Systems through CEBs or other established platforms for coordination across the system.

2.1.2.a Design and follow up drafts for State and /or Regional Search Plans. Stage 1.

In 2019, the CNB, in coordination with state authorities, carried out consultations for the development of the Northeast Regional Search Program (PRB-NE). For the second half of 2022, the CNB is planning to continue developing regional search strategies. Specifically, it is contemplating initial assessments in a) Sonora; and b) in the Bajío region, including Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, and Zacatecas. Based on this new priority, RED-DH is assessing support for these activities, which involves contributing to the design of search strategies with a regional focus, through a participative approach with government and non-government stakeholders.

2.1.2.b. Develop Directives clarifying roles and responsibilities of CEBs and support oversight of state level search efforts in line with the Unified Search Protocol.

2.1.3. Facilitate system alignment through State Systems for the Prevention of Torture.

2.1.3.a Design a draft plan for each State.

Veracruz. On January 27, USAID, RED-DH, and the Veracruz State Human Rights Commission (CEDHV) held a virtual work session to learn about the priority areas of the Commission. During the session, RED-DH provided an update on the grant with LLE and the activities that will be carried out next month that focus on assessing the current situation of torture in Veracruz.



5. Invitation to the presentation of the report on the situation of the disappearance of people in Puebla organized by Ibero Puebla on February 23

Puebla. On February 23, grantee Ignacio Ellacuría Human Rights Institute of Puebla's Iberoamerican University presented a [report about the disappearance of persons in the state](#). The event included the participation of Uniendo Cristales and Voz de los Desaparecidos, two groups comprised of victims' families. The report contains an account of disappearances in the state and highlights the difficulties victims' families face when accessing justice. Most importantly, the document analyzes the state's proceedings in the investigation and search for disappeared persons from the families' point of view. The report describes that, in general, families experience going through local institutions as an added problem. By supporting local actors with these efforts, RED-DH expects to raise awareness about the magnitude of the crisis in Puebla, highlighting the obligations of the government to address it.

Jalisco. Grantee CEPAD concluded the design of a GLT monitoring and evaluation mechanism. To achieve this, the organization developed a methodology that grouped the obligations of each of the authorities in charge of implementing the law in Jalisco into seven indicators that measure prevention of torture, investigations as human rights violations and crimes, administration of justice, ruling of cases, attention to victims, and harmonization with the legal framework. This mechanism was then presented on February 25 to the Head of the Executive Commission for Attention to Victims of Jalisco to receive feedback. The authority stressed the value of the initiative as it recognized the absence of public information related to torture cases and the pending implementation at the local level.



6. Illustration part of the campaign "Resilient Voices: Survivors of torture" developed by CEPAD.

Key Result 2. 2. Improved capacity of state-level commissions, autonomous institutions, prosecutors, and judges to detect and track disappearances and torture cases, as well as to coordinate on investigation, identification, notification, referral, and integral reparation.

2.2.1. Assess and build capacity to detect and track disappearances in coordination with other system actors.

2.2.1.a In coordination with the CNB promote capacity building in Local Search Commissions (LSC) to conduct context analysis.

From January to February 3, ten members from the local search commissions of Veracruz, Jalisco, Coahuila, Sonora, Guerrero, and Colima participated in the [course "The ABC of context analysis: Basic tools of context analysis oriented to the search for disappeared persons"](#) as part of the technical assistance to the CNB. Its purpose was to foster the adoption of context analysis concepts and basic technical tools for the analysis of disappearances among participants.

Under the framework of the technical assistance provided to the CNB to strengthen search actions through the analysis and review of regulatory frameworks, in January 2022, the Commission reported that upon hearing about three cases of forced disappearance, two District Courts in Nayarit⁸ suspended the Amparo trial for one year since it was not possible for the forcibly disappeared persons to go to court to ratify the claim. The Courts argued that the lawsuit would be deemed not filed if the disappeared persons did not appear. From a human rights perspective, this decision failed to comply with legal obligations to trigger a judicial search for a disappeared person. Consequently, during January and February 2022, RED-DH provided legal assistance to the CNB to prepare an administrative complaint resource that could be provided to the families and accompany their presentation before the Council of the Federal Judiciary (CJF). In February 2022, the CNB and the Nayarit Search Commission assisted the three families in the [formal presentation of the complaint](#) to support the defense of the victims and enable mechanisms to enforce the right to search in the judicial field. The aforementioned is in compliance with the provisions under the Unified Search Protocol and the Amparo Law itself, which provide exceptions when dealing with cases of forced disappearance. From the filing of the complaint appeal, it is likely that in the coming months - there is no defined time - the CJF will rule on the admission of the appeal, and an investigation of the judges' actions will begin to evaluate their performance.

Finally, RED-DH discussed with Jalisco's Undersecretary of Human Rights and LSC an in-kind grant. The assistance would strengthen the LSC's capacity to carry out context analysis in a specialized manner, through the donation of state-of-the-art software. This work will contribute to the production of location hypotheses, development of search strategies, and location of people by analyzing the dynamics of violence and criminality that lead to the disappearances.

2.2.1.b. Build capacities in the search of persons with a differentiated and gender approach (Alba and Childhood Protocols).

As part of the International Women's Day commemoration on March 8, RED-DH, collaborated with the CNB and the UN Women to produce a [social media campaign](#) regarding the search for missing and disappeared women and girls, considering the specific impact it has on them. The materials emphasize that different types of gender-based violence can aggravate female disappearances and highlight several legal instruments that establish obligations for authorities in the face of these disappearances⁹.

2.2.1.c. Strengthen Units for the Search of Persons

2.2.1.d. Build the capacities of law enforcement authorities from Jalisco.

Jalisco. On February 4, grantee Delibera concluded the Training Program for Municipal Police on the Search for Disappeared and Missing Persons in the State of Jalisco. The program began on September 21, 2021 and included the participation of a teaching team of 17 subject-matter experts. The topics focused on the legal framework of forced disappearances, the incorporation of a gender perspective, the Unified Search Protocol, victims' rights, information analysis, and self-care strategies. Delibera implemented the course simultaneously in two workgroups comprised of 31 police officers, 48.39% were men, and 51.61% were women.

⁸ The Amparos presented uses the formats and recommendations of the publication "[Amparo Buscador: a tool against the forced disappearance of persons. Guide for relatives and judges.](#)"

⁹ *Regarding activities related to children, the CNB, in coordination with the EU launched a [social media campaign for children and adolescents](#) to know their rights are and what happens after someone disappears

2.2.2. Assess and build capacity to detect and track torture cases in coordination with other system actors

2.2.2.a. Support public defenders, victim's advisers, and judicial personnel in the five priority states by equipping them with better tools and understanding regarding their role to prevent and respond to torture.

Puebla. As a result of the grant with LLE, which has the objective of building the capacities of public defenders, RED-DH held conversations with the Director of Puebla's Institute of the Public Defense to set out the steps to draft a report that identifies areas of opportunity for the institution. The conversation allowed RED-DH to explore potential collaboration and technical assistance related to the prevention and punishment of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

Veracruz. As part of the grant with LLE, next quarter, the organization will carry out activities with the State Institute for Public Defense focused on promoting the exchange of best practices to address torture with the Federal Institute of Public Defense. In addition, on March 4, RED-DH arranged for an expert consultant to deliver a conference on torture for the public defenders at the State Institute.

Key Result 2.3. Data systems to track and report on torture cases, number of disappearances, and unidentified human remains.

2.3.1 Promote the development, use of, and integration of state-level registries for torture cases.

2.3.1.a. Support State actors to report to the National Registry for the Crime of Torture.

As the Registry is not fully operational, there has been no progress to report during the quarter. This area of support is still in the design stage, with RED-DH exploring collaborations in Sonora, Veracruz and Puebla that may be reported in the next quarter.

2.3.2. Promote the development, use of, and integration of state-level registries on number of disappearances, and unidentified human remains.

2.3.2.a. In coordination with the CNB provide technical assistance for the use of National Registry for Missing or Disappeared Persons. In addition, the use of different types of registries will be promoted among state search commissions.

In January, RED-DH began a collaboration with the CNB to provide technical assistance to strengthen the National Registry of Missing or Disappeared Persons. RED-DH has reviewed the guidelines of the Registry and provided recommendations in light of personal data protection standards and to guarantee the rights of disappeared persons and their families. At the state level, RED-DH has been working with the CNB to propose recommendations on burial and registration practices in cemeteries and mass graves. The efforts include the protection and registration of the corpses of unidentified deceased persons and unclaimed persons.

Key Result 2.4 Strengthened services to victims of torture and families of disappeared persons, including psychological, social, and administrative support, in five priority states.

2.4.1. Integrate victim services across RED-DH support.

2.4.1.a. Support victims and families defend and enforce their rights.

2.4.1.b. Provide institutional capacity building to victims' service providers to budget sufficient resources for specialized services and design effective strategies for the fulfillment of their obligations.

On March 16, RED-DH provided technical assistance to the Government of Veracruz on the draft of a proposal to regulate the Victims' Law in the state. Comprehensive attention and reparation for victims are one of the government's most significant pending issues, so this regulation is crucial to the implementation of the General Law on Victims in Veracruz. The State Executive Commission for Comprehensive Attention to Victims now must discuss the document with other authorities and groups of victims to integrate their concerns before it enters into force.

2.4.2.c. Elaborate tools to make visible the effects of torture on the victims and their families.

2.4.2. Increased public awareness of the issue of disappearance and torture.

2.4.2.a. Design and disseminate communication campaigns with civil society to raise public awareness on torture and disappearance cases.

2.4.2.b. Elaborate with civil society tools to inform the public about "What to do in case of a disappearance."



  
Esta campaña se produce gracias al generoso apoyo del pueblo de los Estados Unidos a través de la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID). El contenido es responsabilidad del Centro Profesional Indígena de Asesoría, Defensa y Traducción y no necesariamente refleja las opiniones de USAID o del gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

7. A poster disseminated on CEPIADET social media announcing the podcasts in indigenous languages with key information on torture and disappearance.

On February 28, grantee CEPIADET launched the campaign "Don't hurt me... Rights live in all languages", an innovative initiative focused on translating and broadcasting essential information on the General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearance; the mechanisms, institutions, and means to take legal actions; and the rights of individuals and their families. Comprised of eight audio capsules in six indigenous languages present in Jalisco (Wixrarika from the east and Purepecha), Puebla (Nahuatl from the northwestern highlands and central Totonac from the north), and Veracruz (Nahuatl from the Huasteca and Totonac from the coast). The campaign will conclude on April 15, 2022 and is being broadcast across four public radio stations, in addition to available audios found on [Spotify](#), [iVox](#), and [Soundcloud](#). With this project, RED-DH is promoting the right to information from a multicultural and multilingual perspective for

indigenous populations.

In Jalisco, during February and March, grantee CEPAD implemented two communications campaigns. First, on February 15, it launched the campaign "Resilient voices, survivors of torture" to shine a light on the psychosocial impacts of torture through stories shared by survivors via [drawings](#), poems, songs, and [narratives](#) to raise awareness of this problem, promote change and advocate against the use of torture. All materials produced can be found [here](#).

Subsequently, in March, CEPAD launched the campaign [#PorLeyesQueSeCumplan](#) on social media to emphasize the significance of implementing the General Law of Victims, the National Law of Criminal Enforcement, and the GLT in Jalisco. For this, CEPAD produced three capsules explaining the

contents/benefits of each of the laws, seven infographics, and one video. In addition, CEPAD disseminated all materials on their social networks ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Spotify](#)).

Key Result 2.5. Increased case documentation and legal representation of torture and disappearance cases by CSOs and victims' families leading to investigation

2.5.1. Empower collectives and CSOs, including Citizen Councils to advance human rights cases.

2.5.1.a. Support the participation of families of missing persons in the development of investigations or public policies through legal advice, elaboration of advocacy strategies and strategic litigation of cases of disappearance before national and international human rights protection institutions.

2.5.1.b. Strengthen capacities and tools at the disposal of local actors for the adequate documentation, follow-up, and visibility of torture cases.



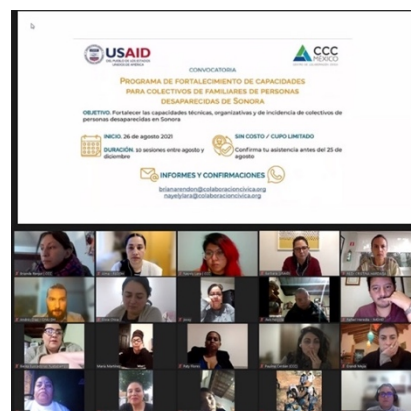
8. Poster promoting the third case documentation and context analysis workshop organized by IMDHD in Veracruz on March 20.

Veracruz. This quarter, RED-DH continued to provide legal assistance to the Solecito Collective. Assistance included an assessment of the Collective's cases to document their status, identify proceedings and pending investigations, generate recommendations to improve investigations, and provide the Collective with inputs to follow up on its cases. To develop the assessment, RED-DH will collect, analyze and systematize the information contained in investigation folders or preliminary inquiries filed with Veracruz's General Prosecutor's Office related to the investigation of the disappearance in as many cases as possible from a list of 78 files previously selected by Solecito.

On March 11,12, 19 and 20, grantee IMDHD organized workshops with over 25 relatives of disappeared persons from Veracruz. The participants learned about the Special Declaration of Absence procedure, context analysis, and case documentation. With this support, RED-DH is equipping victims' relatives with knowledge necessary for them to claim their rights before the authorities. In April and May, IMDHD will hold the second and third series of workshops in the cities

of Córdoba and Orizaba in Veracruz.

Sonora. On January 11, grantee Centro de Colaboración Cívica (CCC) concluded the training program to enhance the technical, organizational, and advocacy capacities of 11 groups of families from different cities and regions of the state. During 16 weeks through virtual sessions, they reviewed the legal framework for victims' rights, such as the right to participation, the importance of collective advocacy, and the construction of spaces for collaboration. Participants also had the opportunity to meet with international forensic experts such as the EAAF. As a result, the sessions became a space to share experiences among groups of families searching for their loved ones. At the end of the course, the CCC produced a [video with a chronological tour of the sessions](#).



9. Kick-off session of the CCC training program to strengthen the capacities of search collectives in Sonora.



10. Poster announcing IDHEAS course on mechanisms for protecting the rights of disappeared persons and their families.

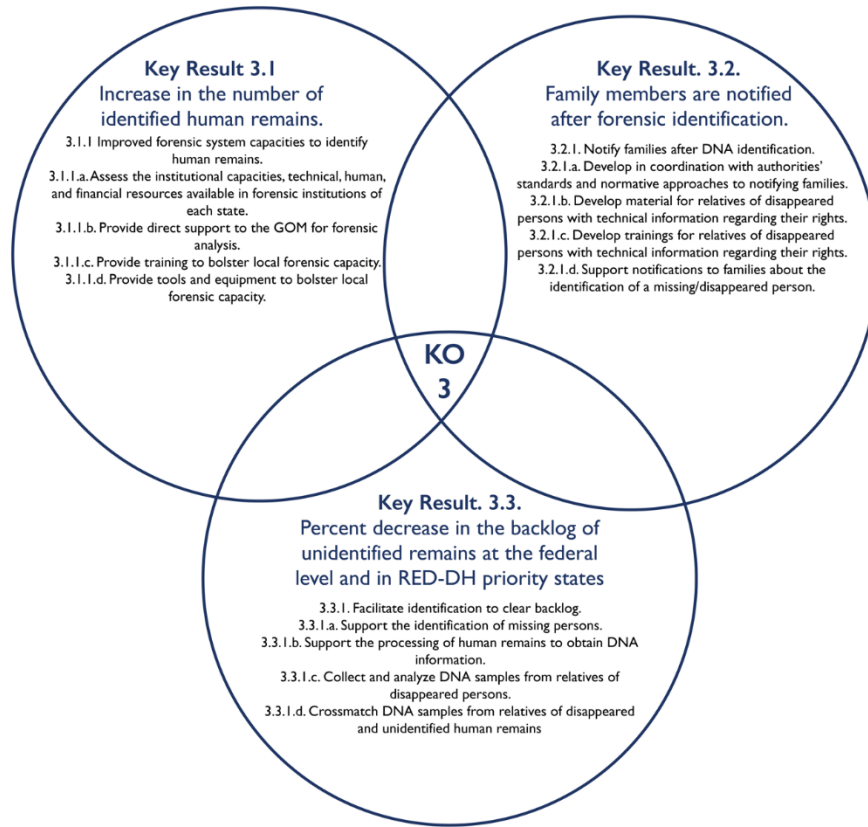
The CCC also elaborated a manual that documents all contents reviewed in the sessions of the Strengthening Program. The manual will enable families to reinforce their learning and share it with other family members who were not able to attend the training program. Finally, grantee IDHEAS reached out to collaborate and support Sonora's families of disappeared persons. Next quarter, IDHEAS will hold workshops on case documentation, follow-up procedures, and the rights of families during the criminal investigation of their cases.

Coahuila. Grantee Centro Diocesano para los Derechos Humanos Fray Juan de Larios (FJDL) completed its work focused on case support and design of the citizen platform to monitor searches and human identification processes through the systematization of cases. The platform concentrates information about cases supported by the FJDL and provides valuable knowledge for context analysis regarding disappearances throughout the region.

Puebla. Next quarter, RED-DH will award a grant to the Ibero Puebla to build the capacities of collectives of disappeared persons in Puebla and foster the implementation of the State Law on Forced Disappearance.

COMPONENT 3. Decrease the backlog in forensic cases in priority states.

Key Outcome 3: Backlog in forensic cases in priority states decreased.



Mexico faces a severe forensic crisis marked by many unidentified humans remains. Adequate techniques for DNA extraction in samples of unidentified remains are necessary to obtain the identification of remains that are highly degraded.

To achieve results for Component 3, RED-DH provides support through grants and subcontracts to leading forensic institutions and non-governmental organizations to deploy teams of investigators, scientists, and anthropologists in priority states to process forensic cases and to build local capacities through proven forensic methods, piloting emerging technologies, and exchanging best practices.

As part of the second year's work plan, RED-DH established key alliances with world-renowned international forensic organizations such as the FAFG, EAAF, and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) to support the GOM in decreasing the backlog in the recovery, processing, and identification of human remains. Likewise, RED-DH has worked side by side with the federal government and the states in strengthening Forensic Identification Centers. At the same time, the Activity has been collaborating with human rights organizations and victims to advance in the search for, and identification of forcibly disappeared persons.

During Year 1 and the first semester of Year 2, RED-DH's work has focused on collaborations with Coahuila's government, the CNB, and the FGR. Currently, no activities are being carried out in Veracruz given that on October 27, USAID notified RED-DH that any activity that involved assistance or collaboration

with the Veracruz Prosecutor's Office would have to be suspended, as the US Government had limited any type of direct work with this institution. Since forensic identification activities in Veracruz involved direct work with the State Prosecutor's Office, USAID's notification eliminated the possibility to carry out forensic activities.

In Jalisco, the EU is supporting the CNB with human identification efforts in the state. To avoid duplicating or interfering with activities that the CNB and State Government are carrying out, RED-DH is exploring potential activities that could eventually complement efforts. As for Sonora, on March 30, [RED-DH held a meeting with FAFG, Sonora's authorities, and the CNB to advance the design of forensic activities](#) in the state. RED-DH will continue reviewing lines of work to keep its actions in Coahuila, Sonora, and at the federal level with the FGR.

“Towards an Effective and Sustainable Strategy to Account for Large numbers and Complex cases of Missing Persons in Mexico”. Technical assistance to the FGR

Under the collaboration agreement signed between USAID and the FGR in March 2021, RED-DH awarded a grant to the ICMP to increase the FGR's capacity to obtain DNA profiles from highly degraded bone samples. Through a specialized scientific collaboration, the ICMP is supporting the FGR's Central Genetics Laboratory to optimize and implement new methods that increase their success at identifying disappeared persons. From December 2021 to February 3, the ICMP carried out a hybrid training (online and in-person) for 20 authorities from the FGR on optimized DNA extraction methods for unidentified human skeletal remains. The training lasted 23 hours virtually and 80 in-person. It also included a series of didactic videos that can be found [here](#). The training consisted of selecting a small group of four participants to observe the DNA extraction process followed by applying the process themselves. With these efforts, RED-DH is building the capacities of authorities responsible for genetic analysis on criminal cases through two DNA extraction protocols for highly degraded bone remains. It is expected that the new protocols will increase the FGR's success rate of genetic analysis and therefore increase the chances of identifying disappeared persons. As part of the conclusion of these activities, [on February 3, representatives of FGR, USAID and ICMP gathered at the closing ceremony of the training.](#)



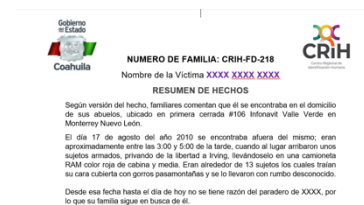
11. Representatives from the FGR, USAID, and ICMP attend the closing session of the course on the implementation of new DNA extraction methods on February 3.

Multidisciplinary forensic support for the Regional Center for Human Identification in Coahuila by the FAFG and technical assistance coordinated between the CNB and Coahuila's Government.

On March 19, 2021, USAID, through RED-DH, formalized a collaboration with Coahuila's Search Commission and the CRIH to provide technical assistance to support authorities' response to disappearances and move forward with forensic identifications in the state. To advance this collaboration, RED-DH awarded a grant to FAFG to strengthen the CRIH's institutional capacities related to forensic identification through guided exhumations, forensic anthropological analysis, genetic analysis, database population, and confirmation of identifications. The grant began activities on March 10, 2021, and closed on April 11, 2022, with an amount of USD 427,653.22. This quarter, FAFG concluded its technical activities. The grant summary is as follows: From January to March 2022, specialized personnel from the FAFG worked directly with experts from the CRIH to build their capacities and create a sustainable work model. The intervention of FAFG allowed the CRIH to progressively strengthen their abilities in victim investigation and documentation, forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology, and forensic genetic analysis. By the end of the grant, FAFG noted a considerable improvement in the technical capacities of the CRIH's staff, particularly in the decision-making process pertaining to the analysis of bone remains. By the end of the activity, the communication strategy outlined and promoted by the FAFG managed to build trust between family members and the CRIH's work.

Grant achievements - March 2021 to March 2022:

- 1,118 blood samples from relatives of disappeared persons were collected, which yielded 1,000 genetic profiles.
- The genetic profiles acquired represent 496 cases of disappeared persons. According to the methodology used by FAFG, each family profile requires taking samples from more than one family member to increase the probability of certainty in the identifications. CRIH was able to take samples from two or three members per case.
- In total, the bodies and remains of 460 people were recovered.
- Out of the 460 people, 936 samples were taken and delivered to the genetics laboratory to be processed.
- From the massive comparison between genetic profiles of families and human remains or bodies, 47 genetic matches were obtained.
- Out of the 47 matches, 8 have been confirmed, and 33 are still being validated, which means that the statistical information is insufficient to reach the minimum identification threshold of 99.9%. In those cases, technical-scientific decisions are made to obtain more information and increase the identification probabilities. Finally, 6 cases have been subjected to new comparisons.
- 8 identifications have been notified to their relatives. The bodies have already been handed over in a dignified manner by the CRIH in coordination with the State Prosecutor's Office and the State Victim Assistance Commission.



12. Official document that informs of the delivery of a body identified in the exhumation work conducted by the CRIH

CRIH's institutional strengthening

As reported in the last quarterly report, in November 2021, RED-DH, awarded an In-Kind Grant agreement with the Coahuila Search Commission to donate specialized equipment to enhance CRIH's capabilities to

identify people¹⁰. In particular, the CRIH received two computers with specialized software for data collection and genetic profiling and a 3500 8-capillary Genetic Analyzer¹¹. From January 11 until the end of March, CRIH's staff conducted the first stage of internal validation of the Genetic Analyzer. This process consists of examining electropherogram results of blood samples, bone, positive controls, negative controls, and allelic ladders using the GeneMapper Full and GeneMapper™ IDX v1.6 software. Likewise, studies of stochastic effects, probabilistic effects that occur by chance, have been initiated. The CRIH will continue with the methodology optimization process during the following two months. Afterwards, CRIH will begin conducting reproducibility and repeatability studies. All of the previous processes will allow the Center to certify its laboratory under the International Organization for Standardization's criteria.



13. Working session of forensic experts with families

Centro Diocesano para los Derechos Humanos Fray Juan de Larios

This quarter the FJDL concluded its forensic interventions on cases that it was supporting in Coahuila. On December 7, 2021, the FJDL took nine bone samples and one dental sample for later analysis as part of a follow-up strategy for two cases: the Verastegui and Roy Rivera families.

For the first one, the FJDL, in coordination with the Verastegui family and Coahuila's Prosecutor, sent nine bone samples to the [NOVOGEN](#) laboratory. Out of these, only seven samples had the right size and condition (not having apparent thermal damage) to obtain the genetic profiles. Additionally, the laboratory processed four reference samples from relatives to have enough information that would allow the genetic comparison with the data obtained from the bone remains. In January 2022, the FJDL's independent expert concluded that the bone fragments did not correspond to the disappeared persons of the Verastegui family. This information was then relayed to the family.

The FJDL will now deliver the genetic profiles to the authorities to be used in the identification processes carried out by both the State Prosecutor's Office and the CRIH. The genetic information of the Verastegui family will be available for comparison with other human remains.

In the Rivera case, in September 2021, Roy Rivera's mother gave the FJDL a dental piece to determine if it belonged to her son. The relevance of obtaining the genetic profile of the tooth lies in the fact that there are no other remains of Roy that could be used to make genetic comparisons. That same month, the FJDL gave the tooth to the NOVOGEN laboratory for genetic processing. In October 2021, the laboratory issued the results, concluding that the dental piece did not belong to Roy Rivera but to his brother. The FJDL notified the result to the family, and in agreement with them, it safeguarded the data so it could serve in future genetic comparisons.

¹⁰ On November 29, 2021, Governor Miguel Ángel Riquelme and Commissioner Karla Quintana inaugurated the CRIH Genetics Laboratory, where the equipment donated by USAID is located.

¹¹ A Genetic Sequencer or Analyzer is a technological system that allows the reading of DNA information in a biological sample, whether a reference or human remains. Its use in the identification process is essential; otherwise, it would not be possible to import the genetic information into the database to compare DNA profiles. The 3500 8-capillary Genetic Analyzer has the capacity to process up to 368 samples per day.

Although no positive results have been obtained for the families, joint work with civil society organizations such as the FJDL to obtain genetic profiles is a positive step, as it opens the door to future collaborations to address the forensic backlog with local civil society actors as opposed to exclusively with public authorities.

National Center for Human Identification (CNIH)

As mentioned in the context segment of this report, on March 30, [President López Obrador sent to Congress](#) an initiative to create a CNIH that will facilitate progress towards an effective search model and a dignified treatment of unidentified bodies.

The proposal can be traced back to technical assistance provided by RED-DH to the CNB from November 2021 to March 2022. Specifically, RED-DH's consultant contributed to the drafting of a proposal for legislative modification of various legal procedures, including the GLFD, and incorporated a recommendation to create the CNIH. [The proposal must still run its course through the legislative process.](#) However, the available information indicates that in budgetary matters, the estimated operating cost of the CNIH is 250 million pesos (USD 12.5 million), which includes approximately 180 personnel.

5. Programmatic Challenges (and/or Lessons Learned)

As part of the process undertaken to sign a letter of intent between USAID and the Undersecretariat for Human Rights of Jalisco, the latter shared information about an official communication from the Federal Liaison Unit and International Affairs of the state, which states that at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in compliance with the Law on the Celebration of Treaties, any state agency that seeks to formalize any agreements with foreign or international organizations will have to notify the Coordinator of International Cooperation of Jalisco, and then the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for review and opinion. To date, RED-DH has not received additional information to move forward with the process. So far, this has not caused any delays in the implementation of activities.

6. Major Activities and Corrective Actions

Under the grant with the ICMP, in January 2022, authorization was granted for the use of the selected samples to test new DNA extraction methods. However, the process had to be interrupted given the unexpected unavailability of the Proteinase K reagent (used in all types of genetic tests). Additionally, since more extractions were performed than planned, the stock of AMICON and ZYMO reagents included in the grant was nearly exhausted. After evaluating this situation, RED-DH swiftly moved to coordinate with ICMP a solution, consisting of the reallocation of savings from the initial purchase of laboratory supplies and equipment, to the ICMP so it could purchase the required reagents. Moreover, in February, the Central Laboratory of the FGR was able to allocate Proteinase K to the validation experiment, which allowed activities to be partially restarted. As of the date of this report, the delivery of the reagents to restart validation is expected to begin in April.

7. Updates on Evaluation and Learning Plans and Activities

As part of year three planning, RED-DH organized four virtual exchanges between grantees. These exchanges will enable civil society organizations to share information about their activities, best practices, and common challenges faced in the implementation. The dates of these exchanges will be:

1. April 20, 2022. Processes to strengthening search collectives and their relatives.
2. May 18, 2022. Communication campaigns and memory recovery initiatives.
3. June 22, 2022. Assessments and evaluations of the GLT and GLFD implementations.
4. July 22, 2022. Experiences supporting cases of disappearance and torture.

While these exchanges occur, RED-DH will identify the more insightful experiences and shortlist them to apply a new round of After-action reviews by the end of Year 2.

8. Gender Activities

According to the Gender Activities Track from Partners Guidelines, the gender activities listed in the following table (especially the column "Beneficiaries") should not be counted in RED-DH's output indicators.

- **No information to report**

Time period: Q2, FY 2022							
State	City/Municipality	Institution/ Organization	Type of activity	Tools or materials used/developed	Duration	Beneficiaries (if any)	Notes



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

USAID partners with indigenous communities to translate relevant laws on torture and disappearances in Mexico and disseminate key information

Making legislation and information available in indigenous language is essential for the full exercise of human rights



Esta campaña se produce gracias al generoso apoyo del pueblo de los Estados Unidos a través de la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID). El contenido es responsabilidad del Centro Profesional Indígena de Asesoría, Defensa y Traducción y no necesariamente refleja las opiniones de USAID o del gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

Credit: USAID's RED-DH Activity.

Indigenous peoples remain among the world's most marginalized population. They often face systematic exclusion from their country's social, economic, and political systems. According to the 2020 census, in Mexico, 7,364,645 people aged three years and older speak one of the 68 indigenous languages, accounting for 6% of the total population. Moreover, they also encounter obstacles in access to justice and respect for their human rights. For example, out of the nearly 100,000 people registered as disappeared, it is unclear how many are indigenous, as official figures rarely collect data on the victims' ethnicity.

Through grantee “Centro Profesional Indígena de Asesoría Defensa y Traducción, A. C.” (CEPIADET), USAID has developed a novel initiative focused on translating and broadcasting essential information on torture and forced disappearance to indigenous communities. Since CEPIADET found no prior translations regarding these subjects, the production of materials was quite a challenge, but made it even more critical to reach these indigenous populations.

The initiative culminated on February 28, with the launch of the campaign “*Don't hurt me... Rights live in all languages,*” comprised of eight audio capsules in six different linguistic variations, with the potential to reach large audiences in the states of Jalisco, Puebla, and Veracruz. Furthermore, as a high percentage of indigenous speakers do not read or write, the audio content became an efficient medium to convey important messages. The material was broadcasted through eight radio stations from February 28 to April 15, 2022, and uploaded onto Spotify, iVox, and Soundcloud platforms. As a result, indigenous audiences gained access to information about the General Laws on Torture and Forced Disappearance; the mechanisms, institutions, and means to take legal actions; and an understanding of the rights of individuals and their families.

By bringing essential information to individuals, families, and communities who represent victims of gross human rights violations, USAID demonstrates its commitment to continue promoting the right to information from a multicultural and multilingual perspective for indigenous peoples.