



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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Letter from the Chairs

Welcome to HMUNC! My name is Varnith Samala and I am a sophomore. It is my first time taking Model UN and I have attended one conference. Model UN has become one of my passions and has helped me with public speaking as well as researching. Outside of Model UN, I like to play video games and I am a wrestler in school. I hope you will all enjoy our simulation of the Mexican Drug Cartel Crisis this year. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and being your chair this year at HMUNC!

Sincerely,

Varnith Samala

Welcome to HMUNC! My name is Zain Asif and I am a sophomore. It is my second time taking Model UN and I have attended 2 conferences. Model UN has become one of my passions and has intrigued me. Outside of Model UN, I play video games and watch movies. I hope you will all enjoy our simulation of the Mexican Drug Cartel Crisis this year. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and being your chair this year at HMUNC!

Sincerely,

Zain Asif

Welcome to HMUNC! My name is Grace Kuriakose and I'm a junior. I have been involved with MUN since freshman year and am currently the press secretary. Outside of MUN, I enjoy shopping, traveling, and taking naps. I hope you will all enjoy our simulation of the Mexican Drug Cartel Crisis this year. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and being your chair this year at HMUNC!

Sincerely,

Grace Kuriakose

How to Use this Guide

Dear delegates,

This is the background guide for the Mexican Drug Cartel Crisis at HMUNC 2024. As your chairs, we have spent a lot of time writing and gathering research to create the best possible guide for you, in hopes that it will aid you in your research and debate. We hope that you take some time to read this, as it'll provide a helpful guideline to the topics you will be discussing in debate as well as the potential solutions you may propose. This background guide should serve as one of the many sources you should utilize to conduct your research in preparation for our conference!

This background guide is filled with important statistics and subtopics that you may use in debate, and it provides delegates with a holistic understanding of both topics. In your position paper, you must include why your country thinks that these issues are important, how you have already tried to solve the problems and what possible solutions you may use to make the world a better place and minimize the problem. This background guide will help you understand the basic ideas of the issues, and it is your job to be creative and figure out different solutions. To aid you with your process of writing a position paper and finding solutions, we will have questions to consider at the end of every topic as well as descriptions of your position at the end of the background guide! We look forward to hearing the ideas you bring to the table! Good luck!

Our committee email is: hmuncunodc@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you in committee!

Sincerely, Varnith Samala & Zain Asif

How to Write a Position Paper

We ask that you submit at least one position paper on either Topic A, Corruption, or Topic B, Security at the Border. To be considered for awards, position papers should be no longer than one page in length and must have footnotes in MLA format for all sources used.

Paragraph 1:

- Quote important documents and find different statistics regarding Corruption or Security at the border.
- Use the background guide to familiarize yourself with the topics and why the issues are important to the Mexican Drug Cartel Crisis .
- Cite documents like the UN Charter or other legal documents that pertain to either topic.
- Explain why this issue is important and should be addressed.

Paragraph 2:

- Research more to find your country's policies and what they have done to address these specific issues.
- Use the position guides listed at the end of the background guide to help you.
- What laws have been passed? What is your country's stance on both topics? What countries has your country worked with in the past and what countries may it be looking to work with in the future?
- You can include quotes from your country's leader, conventions and resolutions your country has ratified, and statistics about your country to justify your position.

Paragraph 3:

- Come up with creative ideas that will help either solve or minimize this issue worldwide. How can we improve Corruption? How do we improve Security at the Border? What possible actions can we take?
- Remember to propose solutions relative to your country view and bloc (a bloc is a group of delegates that share similar ideas).
- At the bottom of each topic, we have added in questions to consider to help you find creative and thoughtful ideas.
- Make sure to write about what your country would like to accomplish in this committee.

Position Papers are due May 8th and must be e-mailed to:

hmuncunodc@gmail.com

Committee Background

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 through a merger of the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

Mexican Drug Cartel Crisis

The Mexican Drug Cartel Crisis is a GA Committee that works to UNODC's goal is to make the world safer from drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism by combating these threats to achieve health, security and justice for all and by promoting sustainable peace and well-being. The UNODC has supported initiatives to strengthen law enforcement and judicial cooperation across nations, aiming to dismantle the operations of Mexican drug cartels. The UNODC has also provided critical data to nations in hopes to dismantle their operations.

This committee was created in 1997 to assist the UN in better addressing a coordinated, comprehensive response to the interrelated issues of illicit drug trafficking, international crime, and terrorism, which were increasing globally.

UNODC History

The UNODC has played a pivotal role in drafting international treaties and legislation aimed at combating illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism. One of its major accomplishments includes the creation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols, which have been instrumental in promoting global cooperation against trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, and firearms trafficking.

UNODC Currently

Currently, the UNODC's projects span a wide array of activities, from helping states implement UN standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice to enhancing legal cooperation along drug trafficking routes. The UNODC also plays a significant role in the global response to drug addiction by promoting health-centered, rights-based approaches to drug use and by supporting countries in developing policies that treat drug addiction as a public health issue rather than solely a criminal one.

Topic A: Security at the border



What is Security at the Border because of drug cartels?

In this section you should:

Define essential terms:

- **Drug Cartels:** Organized criminal groups involved in the production, transportation, and distribution of illegal drugs, often operating across national borders.
- **Border Security:** Measures by governments to control and protect their borders from illicit activities, including drug trafficking, human smuggling, and terrorism.
- **Transnational Threats:** Criminal activities that span multiple countries, pose significant challenges to law enforcement and national security agencies.
- **Provide general introduction:** The issue of security at the border due to drug cartels has emerged as a concern for governments worldwide. Drug cartels, with their vast resources and large networks, pose a massive challenge to law enforcement agencies, threatening public safety and undermining the law. Across borders, these criminal organizations engage in illicit activities such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and violence. This requires border security measures to counter their operations.

Statistics and Anecdotes

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the global drug trade generates approximately 600 billion dollars annually, with cartels playing a significant role in this lucrative industry. In Mexico, cartels like the



Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel have been responsible for widespread violence, with thousands of deaths attributed to drug-related conflicts.



Border communities suffer the greatest impact because of drug cartel activities. Challenges such as increased crime rates, strained law enforcement resources, and social instability. It is necessary to address these issues for the well-being of border residents and ensure the security of our nations.

How did this topic become important?

The topic of security at the border due to drug cartel activities holds significant importance for both international organizations and national governments.

Transnational drug trafficking fuels violence and instability and also contributes to other illicit activities such as human trafficking and terrorism financing. As such, it has gained attention from committees focused on security, law enforcement, and public health, aiming to develop comprehensive strategies to combat this multifaceted threat.

Preluding Events

Escalation of Drug Violence: The escalation of drug-related violence, particularly in regions like Latin America, has increased the need for enhanced border security measures to disrupt cartel operations. **Rise of Transnational Criminal Networks:** The globalization of criminal networks has resulted in the expansion of drug cartels across borders, necessitating coordinated efforts to combat their activities.

Public Health Crisis: The opioid epidemic in North America and Europe has highlighted



the devastating impact of drug addiction, prompting governments to prioritize border security to stem the flow of illicit substances. The core issue of security at the border due to drug cartels revolves around the need to fight against transnational criminal

organizations engaged in drug trafficking and related activities. This includes putting

effective border control measures, enhancing international cooperation, and addressing the root causes of drug demand and supply. By addressing this issue completely, nations can mitigate the threat posed by drug cartels and safeguard their citizens' safety and security.

Border Patrol Operations:

Border Patrol Agents: Border patrol operations directly impact the agents tasked with enforcing border security, including their safety, workload, and resources available to them. **Drug Cartel Members:** The effectiveness of border patrol operations affects the operations and profitability of drug cartels because they try to evade detection and continue trafficking narcotics across the border. **Migrant and Refugee Populations:** Border patrol operations can impact migrant and refugee populations, Most of them plan their routes to avoid cartel-controlled territories. These are all the groups that are



specifically affected. **Border Hotspots** are Areas with high levels of illegal border crossings and drug trafficking activities are really important/relevant to border patrol operations. These include regions along the U.S.-Mexico border known for high cartel activity.¹ **Transit Routes** are Areas along

known drug trafficking routes, including both land and ocean routes, are important for

¹ Santana, Rebecca, and Elliot spagat “Illegal border crossings from Mexico plunge after a record-high December, with fewer from Venezuela.” AP News, 13 February 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-border-security-migrants-homeland-security-1c6e9f612dff721191c0254f980947a5>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

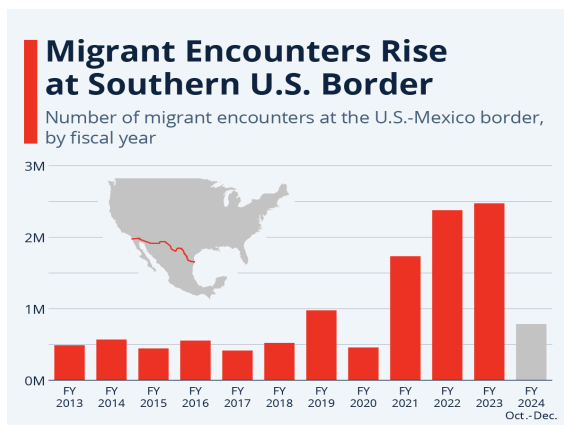
border patrol operations to monitor and intercept illicit activities.² Border Infrastructure: is the effectiveness of border patrol operations is dependent by the quality and accessibility of border infrastructure, such as fencing, surveillance technology, and checkpoints³. These are all areas that are most relevant to the issues at hand.

Factors such as training, staffing levels, equipment, and morale affect the effectiveness of border patrol operations and the safety of agents. **Drug Cartel Members:** Understanding cartel tactics, smuggling techniques, and the geographic terrain they operate in is crucial for developing effective strategies to combat and disrupt their activities.

Migrant and Refugee Populations: Humanitarian considerations, including the rights and safety of refugees, must also be one of the priorities of border patrol agents. Policies should address root causes of migration while ensuring humane treatment of those seeking asylum or refuge.

Social Ramifications: Migrants are affected socially by increased tensions at the border

with Mexico. The U.S. Border Patrol had nearly 250,000 encounters with migrants crossing into the United States from Mexico in December 2023, according to



² “Major drug routes in Latin America, by Cécile Marin.” Le Monde diplomatique - English, <https://mondediplo.com/maps/drugs>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

³ Wikipedia, <https://www.prodensa.com/us-mexico-border-boom/>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

government statistics. That was the highest monthly total on record, easily eclipsing the previous peak of about 224,000 encounters in May 2022. border patrol operations that can impact migrants, especially those who are trying to illegally cross the border.⁴ They may face the risk of detention, deportation, or abuse when they are caught.⁵ Border communities living near the border may experience disruptions to daily life due to increased law enforcement presence, checkpoints, and surveillance activities.⁶ Cartels also may control areas and thus hinder free movement for people who are held victim to the power of the cartels themselves.

Discrimination and Rights Violations: There have been reports of discrimination and rights violations against migrants, including instances of racial profiling and excessive use of force.⁷ Minority groups, including Hispanic and Indigenous populations, may be disproportionately affected by border patrol operations due to racial profiling and systemic biases⁸ The Economic Ramifications is that Border patrol operations can impact local businesses, especially those that are reliant on cross-border trade.

Increased security measures, such as stricter border controls or closures, can disrupt the flow of goods and services, leading to delays, increased costs, and reduced revenue for businesses operating near the border.⁹ The political ramifications are Refugees and

⁴ Gramlich, John. "Migrant encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border hit a record high at the end of 2023." Pew Research Center, 15 February 2024, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/02/15/migrant-encounters-at-the-us-mexico-border-hit-a-record-high-at-the-end-of-2023/>. Accessed 15 April 2024.

⁵ "When the Border Crisis Is in Your Backyard: Migrants, Cartels and Cowboys." The New York Times, 20 February 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/18/us/border-migrant-crisis-arizona.html>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

⁶ <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/crime/2024/04/03/el-paso-college-students-arrested-in-border-drug-bust-in-drug-cartel-classified-job-a-d-scheme/73180053007/>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

⁷ "US Records Show Physical, Sexual Abuse at Border." Human Rights Watch, 21 October 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/10/21/us-records-show-physical-sexual-abuse-border>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

⁸ "US Records Show Physical, Sexual Abuse at Border." Human Rights Watch, 21 October 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/10/21/us-records-show-physical-sexual-abuse-border>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

⁹ Rodríguez, Alejandro Brugués. "The economic impact of a more efficient US-Mexico border: How reducing wait times at land ports of entry would promote commerce, resilience, and job creation." Atlantic Council, 27 September 2022, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/the-economic-impact-of-a-more-efficient-us-mexico-border/>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

immigrant communities as well as policymakers, because they decide who can leave or enter the country with immigrants.

Drug Trafficking Routes:

The Cartels Control: These are often the primary organizations responsible for coordinating and managing drug trafficking routes. They compete with each other for control over territories and smuggling routes, leading to violence and instability.



Border Patrol and Customs

Agencies: Traffickers often use

cross-border routes to transport drugs between countries. Border patrol and customs agencies are responsible for intercepting these shipments, but they may face challenges due to the vast and remote nature of border regions. Local Communities are also affected. Drug trafficking can have devastating effects on local communities, including

increased crime, addiction, and violence.

Communities along trafficking routes may be particularly vulnerable to these negative impacts.

Which areas are most relevant to the issues at

hand? Geographical Location because Mexico shares a long border with the United States, one of



the largest drug-consuming markets globally. This proximity makes Mexico a crucial transit country for drug trafficking routes into the United States. Production and Trafficking is also a major problem in Mexico. Mexico is a significant producer of illegal

drugs, particularly marijuana, methamphetamine, and heroin. The cartels oversee the production, transportation, and distribution of these drugs, using sophisticated smuggling techniques.

Social Ramifications: Drug trafficking routes contribute to the distribution of addictive substances within communities along these routes. This leads to increased rates of drug addiction, substance abuse-related illnesses, and overdoses, and straining healthcare systems and social support networks.¹⁰

Economic Ramifications: Drug trafficking routes may disrupt trade and tourism in regions where they operate. Increased security measures and reputational damage due to drug-related violence can hinder investment and tourism, leading to revenue losses and hindering economic growth. **Political Ramifications:** Drug trafficking routes often have a lot of corruption within law enforcement agencies, judicial systems, and political institutions. Corrupt officials may facilitate drug trafficking operations in exchange for bribes, undermining the rule of law and eroding public trust in government.¹¹

¹⁰ “Mexicans are increasingly consuming illegal drugs.” The Economist, 21 July 2022, <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2022/07/21/mexicans-are-increasingly-consuming-illegal-drugs>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

¹¹ Grasso, Costantino. “Mexico's corruption problems are still among the world's deepest.” The Conversation, 19 June 2017, <https://theconversation.com/mexicos-corruption-problems-are-still-among-the-worlds-deepest-76627>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

Border Infrastructure and Security:

What groups are specifically being affected? **Border Communities:** Residents living in border communities are directly impacted by border infrastructure and security measures. These individuals may face disruptions to daily life, increased surveillance, and restrictions on movement due to security measures.

Migrant Populations: Migrants attempting to cross borders, whether legally or illegally, are affected by border infrastructure and security. Enhanced border security measures can stop or



redirect immigration which impacts the safety and well-being of migrants and influences their migration decisions. **Businesses and Industries:** Businesses operating in border regions, especially those who are involved in trade across the border and transportation are affected by border infrastructure and security. Delays at border crossings, compliance requirements, and trade disruptions can impact revenue.

Which areas are most relevant to the issues at hand?

Border Crossings and Ports of Entry: The efficiency and security of border crossings and ports of entry are important to border infrastructure and security. Improving infrastructure, enhancing technology, and putting qualified professionals at these locations are needed for legitimate trade and travel while preventing illicit activities.



Social Ramifications: Impact on Border Communities: Measures taken to enhance border security may affect the daily lives of border communities. Consideration must be given to minimizing disruptions and addressing community concerns.

Humanitarian Concerns: Border security measures can impact vulnerable populations, including asylum seekers, refugees, and migrant families. Policies must consider the humanitarian aspect and ensure the protection of human rights. Economic

Ramifications: Cost-Benefit Analysis: Investments in border infrastructure and security measures must go through a cost-benefit analysis to assess their economic impact and efficiency in achieving security objectives.

Political Ramifications

Sovereignty and National Security: Border infrastructure and security are connected to issues of national sovereignty and security. Political considerations about territorial sovereignty, and national defense impact decisions related to border security.

Diplomatic Relations: Border security measures can have implications for diplomatic relations between neighboring countries. Collaboration, communication, and mutual respect are needed for addressing shared border security challenges and maintaining positive relations.¹²

Humanitarian Concerns:

What groups are specifically being affected? Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Individuals fleeing persecution, conflict, or human rights abuses are directly affected by humanitarian concerns related to border policies. Asylum seekers and refugees may face obstacles, detention, or deportation when trying to get refuge across borders.¹³

¹² STEVENSON, MARK. "Mexico's president says he won't fight drug cartels on US orders, calls it a 'Mexico First' policy." AP News, 22 March 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-first-nationalistic-policy-drug-cartels-6e7a78ff41c895b4e10930463f24e9fb>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

¹³ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/what-asylum-seekers-face-at-the-u-s-border-after-a-grueling-journey-through-mexico>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

Migrant Families and Children: Families and children migrating for various reasons,



including economic opportunities or reunification, are vulnerable to humanitarian challenges at borders. Separation from family members, detention in bad conditions, and lack of access to essential services are massive

concerns.¹⁴

Which areas are most relevant to the issues at hand? **Border Processing Centers and Detention Facilities:** The treatment and conditions of border processing centers and detention facilities are important areas of concern for humanitarian issues. Ensuring humane treatment, access to legal representation, and adequate living conditions for detained individuals are paramount.¹⁵

Asylum and Refugee Policies: National asylum and refugee policies, including procedures for asylum applications, refugee resettlement, and international protection, are needed to address humanitarian concerns. Fair and efficient asylum processes are important for protecting vulnerable populations.¹⁶



Social Ramifications: Impact on Vulnerable Populations: Humanitarian concerns at borders affect vulnerable

¹⁴ Rose, Joe
<https://www.foxnews.com/immigration>

¹⁵ “Advocates: Migrant detention centers inhumane conditions after deadly fire.” NBC News, 28 March 2023, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/mexico-migrant-detention-centers-inhumane-conditions-fire-rcna77068>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

¹⁶ Fredrick, James. “New U.S. immigration rules send asylum requests soaring in Mexico.” NPR, 6 June 2023, <https://www.npr.org/2023/06/06/1179808179/mexico-immigration-title42-asylum>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

populations, including women, children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities. Social support networks, community engagement.

Economic Ramifications: Refugee-hosting communities may experience economic benefits from humanitarian assistance,

employment opportunities. Long-term economic development strategies should

include contributions of refugees and migrants. Political Ramifications: National

Sovereignty and Border Control:

Humanitarian concerns at borders mix with

national sovereignty and border control. Balancing state sovereignty with international obligations under refugee and human rights law requires cooperation among states.

Public Opinion and Political Discourse: Public perceptions of migration, asylum, and refugee issues influence political decision-making and policy outcomes. Political leaders must engage in responsible discourse, combat xenophobia, and uphold human rights principles in shaping public opinion



When appropriate (SPECIFICALLY GAs), please include case studies:

Case Study: Sinaloa Cartel



Incident: In 1992, A police Officer named Sergio Villarreal Barragán was in charge of a highway checkpoint Ciudad Juarez , just across the border from El Paso, Texas, where he was supposed to be searching vehicles for drugs,

guns, and other contraband. He pulled over an SUV full of people wearing police uniforms, but they were not cops. The men were heavily armed, so when Sergio asked them to step out of the vehicle One man stepped forward to identify himself as Amado Carrillo Fuentes. He was a feared drug cartel leader known as “The lord of the skies”, as he was in command of a fleet of planes that was used to transport cocaine from South America. He then told Sergio to comply and let them pass or he will kill them. That's when Sergio realized that the cartels owned law enforcement and controlled them through bribes or intimidation. This connects to the subtopic of corruption and security at the border because it shows that corruption is rampant in Mexico especially from the cartels. This also happened close to the border which shows that the Cartels go around law enforcement and security to smuggle the drugs through the border. Obviously the solution to this is not to comply with the criminal and call for backup which is what most do today.¹⁷

What Has Been Done?

Past Treaties Created:

The single convention on narcotic drugs (1961): this treaty aims to limit the possession, use, trade in, distribution, and port, export, manufacture, and production of drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes.



The convention on psychotropic substances(1971): expanded on the international drug control

¹⁷ Hamilton, Keegan, and Villarreal Barragán. “How the Sinaloa Cartel Corrupts Mexican Cops and Operates With Impunity.” *VICE*, 24 January 2023, <https://www.vice.com/en/article/epze4n/how-the-sinaloa-cartel-corrupts-mexican-cops-and-operates-with-impunity>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

empire to include control of psychotropic substances.

The United Nations convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances(1988, Vienna Convention): Specifically targeted drug trafficking with Provisions for extradition, Mutual legal assistance, and law enforcement cooperation.

Questions to Consider

Delegates should investigate the impact of these important treaties on shaping the global and National approaches to drug control, including legal, enforcement, and health point of view.

What are the outcomes and criticisms of other National approaches to drug policy, from harm reduction and decriminalization?

What innovative strategies or Technologies are being used or developed to make better the effectiveness of drug trafficking prevention and control?

How do social and economic factors contribute to the drug trade, and what can International Development play in addressing the root causes of drug trafficking and use?

Helpful Links

<https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/dir06515.pdf>

<https://library.brown.edu/create/modernlatinamerica/chapters/chapter-3-mexico/moments-in-mexican-history/inside-mexicos-drug-wars/>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/five-arrested-south-texas-allegedly-trafficking-military-grade-firearms-mexican-drug-cartel>

<https://www.crashoutmedia.com/p/how-much-of-mexico-is-governed-by>

<https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/mexicos-long-war-drugs-crime-and-cartels>



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Topic B: Corruption



Corruption the biggest barrier for businesses in México

What is corruption in Mexico?

In this section you should:

Bribery: The giving or offering of a bribe (persuade (someone) to act in one's favor, typically illegally or dishonestly, by a gift of money or other inducement).

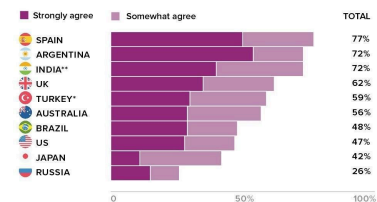
Embezzlement: Embezzlement involves the misappropriation or theft of funds or assets entrusted to one's care, typically by someone in a position of trust, such as a company executive, government official, or financial manager.

Nepotism: Nepotism refers to the practice of favoritism shown to relatives or close associates, especially in granting positions of employment, contracts, or promotions, regardless of merit.

Cronyism: Cronyism is the favoritism shown to friends, associates, or political allies, often in the form of granting them advantageous business contracts, appointments to government positions, or other benefits, without regard for qualifications or fairness.

Patronage: Patronage involves the distribution of government positions, contracts, or resources as rewards for political support or loyalty, rather than based on merit or need.

Transgender people “should be allowed to use the restroom of the sex they identify with.”



General Introduction

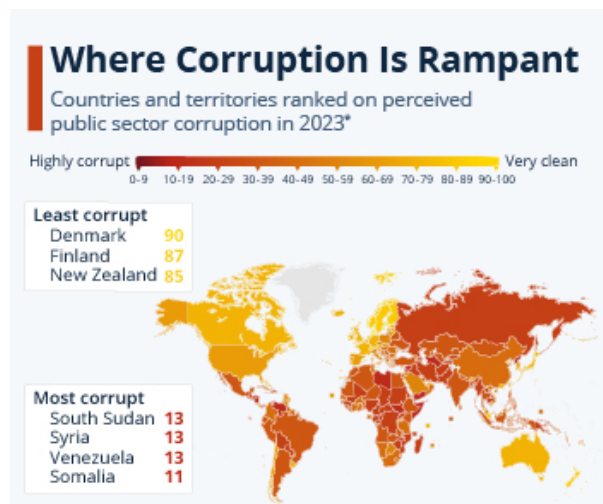
Corruption in Mexico has deep historical roots, but it has become increasingly prominent in recent decades, impacting the country's political stability, economic development, and social justice. Despite efforts to combat corruption, it remains a pervasive problem that undermines public trust in institutions and hampers progress.

Statistics

According to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, Mexico has consistently ranked poorly, indicating high levels of perceived corruption. In 2021, Mexico ranked 124th out of 180 countries surveyed, highlighting the severity of the issue.

Anecdotes

On Dec. 20, a political operative of Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Alejandro Gutiérrez, was arrested on charges of embezzlement and illegal use of public funds for his party. It was a relatively high-profile arrest, but one shouldn't get carried away about its meaning. Mexico's corruption problem has indeed become dysfunctional. But corruption remains an integral part of the country's political system and, absent a political revolution, is unlikely to fade away anytime soon.¹⁸



Influence of Drug Cartels on Mexican

Politics:

Politicians and Political Parties: Drug cartels look to infiltrate political parties and bribe politicians to gain influence over legislation, law enforcement, and government contracts. This involvement may range from local officials to high-ranking politicians at the federal level.

Law Enforcement and Security Forces: Corruption within law enforcement agencies and security forces allows drug cartels to operate without any repercussions. This includes police officers,

¹⁸ Rubio, Luis. "Corruption Is Mexico's Original Sin – Foreign Policy." Foreign Policy, 26 December 2017, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/12/26/corruption-is-mexicos-original-sin/>. Accessed 27 March 2024.

military personnel, and members of drug enforcement agencies who may be bribed or coerced into ignoring cartel activities. Judiciary and Legal System: Cartels have their influence over the judiciary by bribing judges, prosecutors, and other legal officials. This corruption makes the justice system look bad, leading to the dismissal of cases against cartel members, lenient sentences, or even the intimidation of judges and witnesses.¹⁹

Which areas are most relevant to the issues at hand?

Violence and Human Rights Abuses: The violence done by drug cartels goes together with corruption, as cartels intimidate, coerce, and sometimes collaborate with authorities to maintain their power. **Economic Impact of Cartel Activities:** Cartel activities contribute to corruption by messing up economic systems, and black markets, and undermining legitimate businesses through extortion and bribery. **Social Ramifications: Youth Recruitment and Exploitation:** Drug cartels target vulnerable youth for recruitment into the cartels, offering economic opportunities and a “Family” in exchange for participation in criminal activities. The long-term consequences, including continuing the cycle of violence and limited education and employment opportunities.²⁰

Normalization of Violence:

Long exposure to cartel-related violence desensitizes people and communities, leading to a normalization of violence as a solution of resolving conflicts. **Economic Ramifications: Disruption of Local Economies:** Drug cartel activities disrupt local economies in regions where they operate. This may involve extortion of businesses, control over certain industries such as

¹⁹ Wikipedia, <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/17/761493782/mexico-aims-to-reduce-corruption-with-a-new-legal-system>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

²⁰ Stevenson, Mark. “In Mexico, children as young as 10 recruited by drug cartels.” AP News, 14 October 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/caribbean-mexico-city-mexico-drug-cartels-6f73f0a2277ea91eb5a39a098238ae6b>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

agriculture or transportation, and the displacement of legitimate economic activities. Political Ramifications: Political Assassinations and Intimidation: The use of violence and intimidation tactics by drug cartels to control political processes and eliminate opposition.²¹ Undermining Democracy: The influence of drug cartels on Mexican politics messes up democratic institutions and processes. Corruption compromises integrity, weakens public trust in government, and hinders Mexico's ability to address broader issues.

International Relations and Cartel Operations:

What groups are specifically being affected: Central American Gangs (Maras): Groups such as Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio 18 have established links with Mexican drug cartels to facilitate drug trafficking, human smuggling, and other illicit activities across Central America and into Mexico.

Colombian Cartels: While not as dominant as they once were, Colombian cartels like the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) maintain connections with Mexican counterparts for drug trafficking operations and money laundering activities.



Which areas are most relevant to the issues at hand?

Money Laundering Networks: Collaboration with criminal organizations extends beyond drug trafficking to include money laundering activities. These networks help cartels launder their

²¹ "Mayoral Homicide in Mexico." University of Warwick, https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/research/centres/ehrc/research/current_research/constructionpublicoffice/mexico/scenarios/mex-pub-mexm-ayors-0531181.pdf. Accessed 4 April 2024.

illegal funds through international financial systems, contributing to corruption by infiltrating legitimate businesses and institutions.²²

Human Trafficking and Smuggling: Collaboration with criminal organizations extends to other illicit activities such as human trafficking and smuggling. This part of the drug cartels not only contributes to the exploitation of vulnerable populations but also mixing with corruption through the bribery of officials to facilitate the movement of people across borders.²³ Economic Ramifications: Drug Market Dynamics: The illicit drug trade affects the domestic economy in Mexico and recipient countries. There are economic incentives for individuals to engage in drug trafficking and the impact of drug-related profits on local economies, including the start of drug-funded businesses and investments in legit business areas.²⁴ Regional Economic



Disparities: The presence of drug cartels intensifies regional economic disparities in Mexico. Cartel activities concentrate wealth and power in certain regions while continuing poverty and underdevelopment in others, leading to social instability and continuing the cycle of violence and corruption.²⁵ Social Ramifications: Criminalization of Society: Cartel operations and

²² “Southern District of California | Sophisticated Sinaloa Cartel Money Laundering Organization Dismantled | United States Department of Justice.” Department of Justice, 11 April 2023, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/sophisticated-sinaloa-cartel-money-laundering-organization-dismantled>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

²³ “OPINION: Human and drug trafficking fueled by cartels.” Morgan Luttrell, 10 August 2023, <https://luttrell.house.gov/media/in-the-news/opinion-human-and-drug-trafficking-fueled-cartels>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

²⁴ “Mexico's "War" on Drugs: Causes and Consequences.” Office of Justice Programs, <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/mexicos-war-drugs-causes-and-consequences>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

²⁵ Johnson, Anjelah. “,” - YouTube, 17 September 2017, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0304387815001364>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

corruption contribute to the criminalization of society, where people are coerced or incentivized to participate in illegal activities for economic survival or protection. Political Ramifications
Public Perception and Trust in Government: The impact of cartel-related corruption on public perception and trust in government institutions. Public perception and trust will go down as people see the high level corruption in the government which will make it harder for people to feel safe and will demonize the government to lower class people as they see people in high positions getting more money and power through illegitimate ways.

Counter-narcotics Strategies and Policy Responses :

What groups are being specifically affected? Drug Cartels and Criminal Organizations: Counter-narcotics strategies primarily target drug cartels and criminal organizations involved in the production, trafficking, and distribution of illicit drugs. These groups face increased law enforcement efforts aimed at stopping their operations, disrupting supply chains, and catching key members.

Law Enforcement and Security Forces: Counter-narcotics operations often involve collaboration between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies,



as well as specialized units such as anti-drug task forces and military units. These security forces are tasked with implementing enforcement measures, conducting raids, and intercepting drug shipments. This puts them at the forefront of the fight against drug cartels.²⁶ What areas are more relevant to

the areas at hand.

²⁶ Prokip, Andrian, and Alejandro Hope. “U.S.–Mexico Counter-Narcotics Cooperation: Time for a New Approach.” Wilson Center, 16 March 2021, <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/us-mexico-counter-narcotics-cooperation-time-new-approach>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

Judicial Reform and Anti-Corruption Measures: Implementing judicial reforms aimed at increasing the independence, efficiency, and integrity of the judicial system to ensure fair and impartial overview of cases related to drug trafficking and corruption. As well as putting anti-corruption measures to address corruption within law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and other government institutions.²⁷

Community-Based Prevention and Rehabilitation Programs: Using community-based prevention and rehab programs aimed at addressing the root causes of drug abuse, reducing demand for illegal drugs, and providing support and resources to individuals and communities affected by drug addiction and other social problems.²⁸

Economic Ramifications: Loss of Human Capital and Productivity: The economic costs of violence, insecurity, and corruption linked to the drug trade in Mexico. The loss of human capital due to factors such as forced displacement, emigration of skilled workers, and the psychological toll of living in areas affected by cartel violence.²⁹ Foreign Direct Investment and



Trade Relations: The view of insecurity and corruption associated with the Mexican drug cartel crisis affect foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade relations.

There is a potential effect of companies and aid avoiding the country due to the rampant corruption in

Mexico due to cartel activity.³⁰ **Social Ramifications and the Criminalization of Society:** Cartel operations and corruption contribute to the criminalization of society, where people are coerced

²⁷ Esposito, Anthony. “Mexico to go after all narco judges: official.” Reuters, 20 May 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKCN1SQ2H6/>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

²⁸ “Mental Health Outcomes of Drug Conflict Among University Students at the U.S.–Mexico Border.” NCBI, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4664554/>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

²⁹ “Mental Health Outcomes of Drug Conflict Among University Students at the U.S.–Mexico Border.” NCBI, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4664554/>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

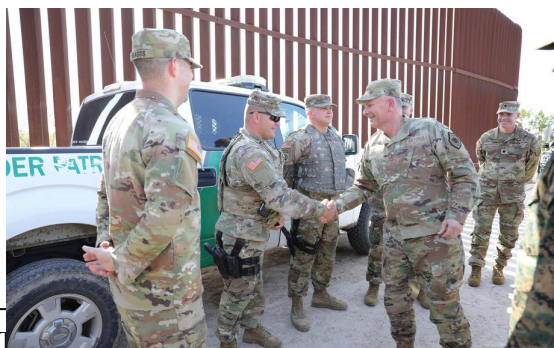
³⁰ Migliorini, Dario. “3 Ways Mexican Organized Crime Affects Foreign Investment.” InSight Crime, 25 October 2023, <https://insightcrime.org/news/3-ways-mexican-organized-crime-affects-foreign-investment/>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

or incentivized to participate in illegal activities for economic survival or protection. Political Ramifications: Undermining Democracy: The influence of drug cartels on Mexican politics messes up democratic institutions and processes. Corruption compromises integrity, weakens public trust in government, and hinders Mexico's ability to address broader issues.³¹

Environmental Degradation and Illegal Drug Cultivation

What Groups are being affected?:

Local Communities: Communities living in or near areas where drug cultivation occurs are directly impacted. They may face environmental pollution, deforestation, and loss of access to natural resources due to drug production activities.³² **Wildlife and Ecosystems:** Drug cultivation operations contribute to deforestation, habitat destruction, and pollution, directly impacting wildlife and biodiversity in affected areas. Endangered species and fragile ecosystems suffer as a result of these activities.³³ **Which areas are most relevant to the issues at hand?:** Corruption and



Law Enforcement: Corruption within law enforcement agencies can support illegal drug cultivation by allowing cartels to operate with impunity. Bribery of officials may lead to a lack of enforcement of regulations, enabling cartels to

³¹ [Redacted], "Drug Trafficking, Corruption, and Violence in Mexico | Chicago Policy Review." Chicago Policy Review |, 4 June 2021, <https://chicagopolicyreview.org/2021/06/04/drug-cartels-politics-and-violence-in-mexico/>. Accessed 6 April 2024.

³² Sundaram, Anjan. "Protecting Mexico's Environmental Defenders: A Policy Imperative." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 29 January 2024, <https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/01/29/protecting-mexico-s-environmental-defenders-policy-imperative-pub-91471>. Accessed 6 April 2024.

³³ Sundaram, Anjan. "Protecting Mexico's Environmental Defenders: A Policy Imperative." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 29 January 2024, <https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/01/29/protecting-mexico-s-environmental-defenders-policy-imperative-pub-91471>. Accessed 6 April 2024.

continue their destructive activities unchecked.³⁴ **Impact on Local Communities:** Illegal drug cultivation can have horrible effects on local communities, including displacement of indigenous peoples, loss of livelihoods for farmers, and health hazards from exposure to pesticides and other chemicals. Corruption worsens these impacts by weakening efforts to provide assistance and support to affected communities.³⁵ **Violence and Intimidation:** Drug cartels frequently use violence and intimidation tactics to control territory for drug cultivation. This is often in remote areas in the forest which compounds the impact on the environment and damages wildlife. Furthermore This creates an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among local



populations, leading to decreased trust in authorities.³⁶ **Economic Ramifications:** Impact on Agriculture and Tourism as well as Environmental degradation caused by illegal drug cultivation, such as deforestation and pollution, can harm agricultural productivity and damage ecosystems which are important for tourism. These sectors are

significant contributors to Mexico's economy, and their decline due to cartel activities can lead to huge revenue losses and decreased employment opportunities.³⁷

³⁴ Maizland, Lindsay. "Mexico's Long War: Drugs, Crime, and the Cartels." Council on Foreign Relations, 7 September 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/background/mexicos-long-war-drugs-crime-and-cartels>. Accessed 5 April 2024.

³⁵ Dittmar, Victoria. "Methamphetamine Production in Mexico Is Toxic for the Environment." InSight Crime, 3 November 2022, <https://insightcrime.org/news/methamphetamine-production-mexico-toxic-environment/>. Accessed 5 April 2024.

³⁶ Garcia, Sierra. "Where Drug Trafficking and Climate Change Collide." Jstor Daily, 26 3 2021, <https://daily.jstor.org/where-drug-trafficking-and-climate-change-collide/>. Accessed 5 4 2024.

³⁷ Saliba, Frédéric. "Deforestation of Central America rises as Mexico's war on drugs moves south." The Guardian, 15 April 2014, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/apr/15/central-america-deforestation-mexico-drugs-war>. Accessed 5 April 2024.

Political Ramifications: Policy Implications and Reform Efforts: There are challenges in implementing effective policies to combat corruption and address environmental degradation.³⁸

Case Study: Genaro Garcia Luna



Genaro Garcia Luna, former Mexican Secretary of Public Security, was convicted in the United

States on charges related to his involvement in protecting violent drug cartels in exchange for enormous bribes. He served as Mexico's Security of Public Secretary and headed the federal police from 2006 to 2012. During his tenure, testimonies revealed that he took millions of dollars in cartel cash, facilitated drug trafficking operations, and colluded with criminal organizations to undermine law enforcement efforts against them. Despite denying the allegations, Garcia Luna was convicted on charges including engaging in a continuing criminal

enterprise, cocaine



Accessed 5 April 2024.

distribution, and conspiracy.³⁹

What Has Been Done?

Treaties:

United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC): Mexico signed the UNCAC in 2004, which is the only worldwide agreement that legally requires countries to fight corruption. The convention covers a wide range of acts of corruption and sets out measures to prevent corruption.

Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Convention Against Corruption:

Mexico was one of the first countries to sign this convention in 1997. It is designed to promote and strengthen the operations to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate corruption.

OECD Anti-Bribery Convention: Mexico joined the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions in 1999. The OECD convention is significant for its focus on ending bribery of foreign officials.

The Mérida Initiative: Although not a treaty, the Mérida Initiative is an agreement made between Mexico and the United States, started in 2008, focusing on law enforcement cooperation to combat drug trafficking and organized crime, which includes efforts to end corruption within the security and justice side of the government.

Questions to Consider

- What institutions has Mexico created in order to battle corruption? What commitments have they made with other countries?
- What are the main challenges in enforcing anti-corruption measures in Mexico?

³⁹ Fernández, Belén. “Mexico's former public security chief convicted in US drug case.” Al Jazeera, 21 February 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/21/mexicos-former-public-security-chief-convicted-in-us-drug-case>. Accessed 9 April 2024.

- How have Mexico's international collaborations and treaties contributed to its anti-corruption efforts?

Helpful Links

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/21/mexicos-former-public-security-chief-convicted-in-us-drug-case>

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2024/02/08/mexicos-president-and-his-family-are-fighting-claims-of-corruption>

<https://www.oecd.org/corruption/ethics/mexico-integrity-review-highlights.pdf>

<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/mexico-organized-corruption/>

<https://www.u4.no/publications/overview-of-corruption-and-anti-corruption-efforts-in-mexico>



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



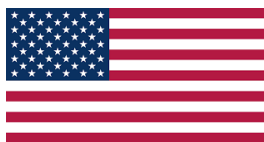
UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Country positions in a Model United Nations conference refers to the stances and policies that each country has on the topic. Delegates are assigned specific countries to represent and are expected to research and understand their country's positions on the topics. The country positions are outlined below.

Country Positions



United States:

The United States faces the Mexican drug cartel crisis with a comprehensive border security strategy that includes physical barriers, advanced surveillance technologies, and a significant deployment of border patrol agents. Despite these efforts, the sheer length of the U.S.-Mexico border and sophisticated smuggling tactics employed by cartels continue to pose significant challenges to containment efforts. Corruption, while less present than in some other countries, still presents issues, particularly in the form of incidents involving law enforcement or public officials facilitating or turning a blind eye to drug trafficking activities.



Mexico:

In Mexico, securing the border is very important to stop the smuggling of drugs in and out of the country. Mexico has created new security measures such as greatly increasing surveillance at the border and increasing patrols. Mexico is collaborating with the United States through initiatives such as the Mérida Initiative that was intended to strengthen border security and dismantle major drug trafficking networks used by cartels such as the Sinaloa, CJNG, Zetas cartel among many others.⁴⁰ Battling corruption is necessary for Mexico in order to fight drug cartels. Reforms have been made to battle corruption, including improving the integrity of law enforcement agents and political figures.

⁴⁰ Wyler, Liana Sun. "Mérida Initiative for Mexico and Central America: Funding and Policy Issues." CRS Reports, 29 November 2023, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R40135>. Accessed 4 April 2024.



3. Colombia:

In order to increase border security and prevent the trafficking of drugs in and out of the country Colombia has increased military and police presence at the border, as well as using technology for surveillance and monitoring. In order to eradicate corruption in Colombia, the government is trying to completely reform its judicial system, which is known to be very corrupt. Partnerships with organizations such as the EU is critical for Colombia to fight against drug trafficking.⁴¹



4. Venezuela:

Efforts to secure The borders in Venezuela and combat drug trafficking are hampered by limited resources, allegations of involvement by government officials in drug trade activities, and the challenging terrain that facilitates smuggling routes. Corruption is a prevalent issue, deeply established in many sectors of Venezuelan society, including within parts of the government and security forces, complicating efforts to enforce anti-trafficking measures effectively. Despite these challenges, Venezuela has occasionally cooperated with international bodies and neighboring countries to address specific drug trafficking cases. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is often questioned due to the alleged involvement in narcotics operations by some within the government.

⁴¹ Strengthen exchange between Colombia and Europol.” European Commission, 2 March 2023, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_1362. Accessed 7 April 2024.



5. Guatemala: The country has implemented measures to enhance border security, including increasing the presence of security forces and utilizing surveillance technologies to monitor and counteract drug trafficking activities. However, the effectiveness of these initiatives is often sabotaged by the terrain that facilitates smuggling routes and by corruption within law enforcement and governmental institutions, which can hinder anti-trafficking operations. Corruption remains a deeply rooted issue, affecting various levels of government and undermining public trust and governance. Efforts to combat corruption, including the work of international commissions and domestic reforms, have faced obstacles, including pushback from powerful political and economic interests. Guatemala's struggle against drug cartels and corruption is further complicated by limited resources, making international cooperation and support crucial to enhancing its capacity to address these challenges.⁴²



6. El Salvador: El Salvador was once facing the worst gang crisis in the world. The gangs had control over the government, police, and had influence all throughout the country. However, the current President preaches for peace and for all gang violence to end throughout the country. In recent years, El Salvador's murder rate has gone from an astonishing 53 per 100,000 people to only 2.4 per 100,000 people.⁴³ Over 76,000 people have been incarcerated due to belonging to gangs or suspected of being affiliated with gangs. Many praise the new policies, while others call for an increase of human rights within these prisons.



7. Honduras: Honduras faces major challenges regarding border security. The country's former president was recently indicted on drug trafficking charges. A key player in the war on drugs, and a prominent ally to the United States.⁴⁴ This shows the lack of security in the country. Despite forming alliances with neighboring countries as well as with the United States, these alliances have proved to be ineffective and the threat of drug trafficking still remains at an all time large.

⁴² "Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs: Guatemala Summary - United States Department of State." State Department, <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-international-narcotics-and-law-enforcement-affairs-work-by-country/guatemala-summary/>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

⁴³ Barrera, Carlos. "Photos: Inside El Salvador's near 2-year crackdown on gang suspects : The Picture Show." NPR, 6 February 2024, <https://www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2024/02/06/1226991801/el-salvador-state-of-exception>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

⁴⁴ "The former president of Honduras is tried for drug trafficking." The Economist, 29 February 2024, <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2024/02/29/the-former-president-of-honduras-is-tried-for-drug-trafficking>. Accessed 7 April 2024.

8. Belize:



Its geographic location makes it a critical point for drug trafficking routes from South America to the United States, meaning strong border security measures are necessary. In response, Belize has enhanced its border and coastal surveillance through increased patrols, technological upgrades in surveillance systems, and strengthened checkpoints to deter illicit activities, particularly focusing on narcotics smuggling and human trafficking. The Belize Defence Force and the Belize Coast Guard play pivotal roles in these efforts,⁴⁵ with support from regional partnerships and international assistance, especially from countries with similar interests in reducing drug trafficking. In the realm of anti-corruption, Belize has taken steps to improve corruption within its government. This includes the enactment of legislation aimed at preventing corruption, promoting public sector transparency, and fostering a culture of integrity among public officials.



9. Panama: Panama serves as a major transit point for the cartel. The drugs, primarily cocaine, are being smuggled in from South America and they go to North America and Europe. The country's strategic location connecting the Americas makes it a key route for cartels, which contributes to challenges in the country such as high rates of violence and crimes. This includes kidnappings, homicides and extortion, all affecting the safety of Panama citizens. The influence of drug money often leads to corruption in many countries and Panama is no exception. This can lead to people of various ranks in the law being corrupt and undermine the rule of law and can deter efforts to combat drug trade.



10. Costa Rica:

In recent years, Costa Rica has seen a record increase in crime and violence. A surge of homicides which are contributed by the Mexican drug cartels lead to a significant rise in murder rates. The rates have reached an unprecedented level marking it as one of the most violent periods in Costa Rica's history⁴⁶. Economic difficulties have only been made worse after covid. High unemployment in youths have made Costa Rica fertile ground for drug trade. This influences the citizens to engage more and more in the drug trade.⁴⁷ The country has evolved into a major trafficking hub for the cartel where they traffic drugs like cocaine into the United States and Europe.

⁴⁵ "Criminality in Belize - The Organized Crime Index." Global Organized Crime Index, <https://ocindex.net/country/belize>. Accessed 3 April 2024.

⁴⁶ 9 November 2017, <https://adnamerica.com/en/costa-rica/costa-rica-reaches-record-levels-drug-cartel-violence-murder-rate-increases>. Accessed 3 April 2024.

⁴⁷ 9 November 2017, <https://adnamerica.com/en/costa-rica/costa-rica-reaches-record-levels-drug-cartel-violence-murder-rate-increases>. Accessed 3 April 2024.



11. Nicaragua: Nicaragua has taken various steps in combating the drug trafficking crisis, collaborating with the United States and other countries. Nicaragua and the United States are working together to better intercept drug trafficking by sea, which is a primary route for the transportation of cocaine from South America to Mexico, the United States and Europe. The collaboration has led to major drug seizures which highlights the country's role as a major transit area for drug trafficking. Operation Martillo, a joint effort among 14 partner nations, including Nicaragua, through the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), exemplifies this collaboration.



12. Dominican Republic:

The Dominican Republic has drastically increased border security after the situation in Haiti and is presently combating corruption. The government has been fortifying the border, preventing drug shipment coming in and out the country. The country collaborates with international allies, notably the United States, for intelligence sharing, training, and resources to strengthen these efforts.



13. Jamaica: Jamaica's strategic location with over 638 miles of coastline and numerous unmonitored airstrips makes it a major transit point for the illegal drug trade. Cartels from Mexico use Jamaica as a key stopover for drugs like heroin, cocaine and marijuana. The DEA has identified Jamaica as a major transit point in the drug trade.⁴⁸ Despite these efforts, challenges persist due to corruption and the sophisticated methods employed by major Mexican and Colombian cartels. Initiatives like the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) aim to control and reduce drug trafficking and related violence within the CARICOM region. This includes a shift towards providing job training for youth and efforts to end corruption.



14. Haiti:

Haiti is collaborating with agencies such as the DEA and Interpol to crack down on routes for drug trafficking. Amidst this crisis, Haiti is facing major political problems within the country, such as the president fleeing the country after gangs are running rampant and took control of over 80% of Port-au-Prince. With the gangs in charge, the problem will only get worse as Haiti has no central government. The United Nations is supporting Haiti in gaining political stability and getting rid of the gangs to finally end drug trafficking in the Caribbean.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ "Jamaica: In the Drug Trade—Big and Getting Bigger." COHA, 20 July 2007, <https://coha.org/jamaica-in-the-drug-trade%E2%80%94big-and-getting-bigger/>. Accessed 4 April 2024.

⁴⁹ "Haiti's criminal markets:." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 17 February 2023, https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/toc/Haiti_assessment_UNODC.pdf. Accessed 5 April 2024.



15. Brazil: To enhance border security, the Brazilian government has ramped up surveillance, deployed advanced technology, and increased the presence of military and police forces, focusing on stopping the flow of illicit drugs, human trafficking, and the illegal trade of goods. Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, Brazil engages in regional agreements with neighboring countries to strengthen cross-border security and intelligence sharing.⁵⁰ Simultaneously, the nation combats corruption within its ranks by implementing stringent legal frameworks, promoting transparency, and enhancing the independence of judiciary bodies to investigate and prosecute corruption cases effectively.



16. Argentina: To bolster border security, the country has implemented advanced surveillance technologies, enhanced border patrols, and improved coordination among security forces, targeting the prevention of drug trafficking and other illicit activities across its large borders with Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, and Chile. Recognizing the importance of regional and global partnerships, Argentina engages with neighbors through MERCOSUR, and with international allies like the United States and the European Union,⁵¹ to share intelligence and conduct joint operations against drug cartels. Concurrently, Argentina's fight against corruption involves strengthening its legal and institutional frameworks to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity within public services. This includes rigorous laws, the establishment of anti-corruption bodies, and measures to encourage public participation and oversight.



17. Chile:
In response to the threat of drug trafficking, partly due to the activities of Mexican drug cartels, Chile has enhanced its border security measures. This includes deploying advanced surveillance systems, increasing the manpower of border patrols, and improving coordination among various national security agencies. Chile's approach emphasizes not just the interception of illicit goods but also intelligence-led operations to dismantle criminal networks. On the front of combating corruption, Chile has implemented a strong legal framework that includes strict penalties for corruption, and greater oversight of public officials.



18. Peru:
Efforts are supported by international cooperation with neighboring countries and partners such as the United States, aiming to disrupt the operations of drug cartels that use Peru as a transit or operational base.

⁵⁰ “CBP signs Mutual Recognition Arrangement with Brazil | U.S.” Customs and Border Protection, 16 September 2022, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-signs-mutual-recognition-arrangement-brazil>. Accessed 5 April 2024.

⁵¹

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/glo-act/glo-act-supports-the-mercosur-institute-of-public-policies-on-human-rights-in-carrying-out-research-on-migration--social-and-political-rights-against-trafficking-in-persons.html>. Accessed 5 April 2024.

In the battle against corruption, the Peruvian government has undertaken significant legal and institutional reforms. These include the enactment of tougher anti-corruption laws, the establishment of dedicated anti-corruption agencies, and measures to enhance the transparency and accountability of public institutions.⁵²



19. Bolivia: For border security, Bolivia focuses on enhancing surveillance and patrol operations along its extensive borders with five countries. Recognizing the role of its territory as a transit point for drug trafficking, particularly influenced by the operations of Mexican drug cartels, Bolivia has invested in technology and training for its border and customs officials. Efforts to curb the flow of illegal narcotics include collaboration with neighboring countries and international agencies to share intelligence and conduct joint operations. On the corruption front, Bolivia has undertaken reforms to improve transparency and accountability in public administration. This includes the establishment of anti-corruption bodies, the enactment of stricter laws against bribery and misuse of public funds.⁵³



20. Ecuador:
Positioned between Colombia and Peru, two of the world's largest cocaine producers, Ecuador has intensified its border security measures. This involves a significant increase in the deployment of security forces, the adoption of cutting-edge surveillance technologies, and enhancements in border infrastructure to halt illegal activities effectively. The country prioritizes collaborative efforts with its neighbors and benefits from partnerships with other countries to tackle the threat of drug trafficking through shared intelligence and coordinated operations. Simultaneously, to combat the pervasive issue of corruption, Ecuador has launched comprehensive reforms aimed at fortifying their government. These reforms have brought forward more rigorous anti-corruption legislation, establishing specialized anti-corruption bodies, and promoting greater accountability in public administration. Especially since corruption is at an all-time high in Ecuador.⁵⁴

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<https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/peru-has-strengthened-domestic-corruption-enforcement-now-must-maintain-momentum-and-increase-foreign-bribery-awareness-and-enforcement.htm>. Accessed 5 April 2024.

⁵³ Chene, Marie. "Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Bolivia." Transparency International Knowledge Hub, https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/helpdesk/346_Overview_of_corruption_in_Bolivia.pdf. Accessed 5 April 2024.

⁵⁴ "Ecuador - 9.1-Corruption | Privacy Shield." Data Privacy Framework, <https://www.privacyshield.gov/ps/article?id=Ecuador-Corruption>. Accessed 7 April 2024.