



Strengthening Rule of Law in the Americas

Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) Alliance Partnership Fact Sheet

CWAG Alliance Partnership Initiatives and Goals

- At the request of the Department of State (USAID then INL), the Attorneys General initiated and implemented relationships which leverage the unique relationships and experiences of U.S. State Attorneys General with State Attorneys General in Mexico.
- Attorneys General have developed trust, collaborative efforts such direct communication regarding investigations which lead to successful extraditions and prosecutions on State-to-State levels in Mexico and the U.S.
- CWAG distinguishes itself from other capacity training endeavors through the peer-to-peer experienced based prosecutors and law enforcement personnel. Attorney General staffs share a common responsibility to pursue justice, promote institutions which sustain the Rule of Law and enhance civil-society support for governance.
- CWAG has developed institutional relationships which provide continuity in communications, programming and within the United States and Mexico regardless of political machinations in either country. The programs law enforcement based focus fosters non-partisan support in both countries.
- As a supplement to the highly effective but cost-intensive peer-to-peer trainings and spurred by requests for technical assistance from Mexican law enforcement, CWAG leveraged INL funding to coordinate distance learning programming within Mexico. CWAG also developed an online training component for the capacity trainings.

Widespread Support

- CWAG has **40** United States **State Attorneys General's Offices** participating in the training of Mexican State Attorneys General Offices and other Mexican justice and law enforcement entities.
- CWAG has **34** participating **Mexican jurisdictions** and 10 additional Mexican federal and State partnering agencies.

Alliance Partnership Historical Development Timeline

September 2006 – September 2012

- CWAG Chair Lawrence Wasden (ID) and CWAG Executive Director Karen White are asked by USAID Mexico and the Council of State Governments to develop a relationship with Mexican State Attorneys General. As PGR Mexico funds and coordinates many aspects of Mexican State Attorneys General, CWAG engages both PGR and the 33 local Mexican Attorneys General jurisdictions, in efforts to exchange information on law enforcement issues and begin developing relationships and areas ripe for State-to-State collaboration.
- CWAG Attorneys General host Mexican Attorney General Medina Mora and Mexican State Attorneys General in Phoenix, Arizona for a two day law enforcement summit on Bi-National Issues. Mexican Attorney General Medina Mora asks CWAG to provide “assistance in training federal and state institutions of justice in the implementation of criminal procedures and adversarial procedures.”
- The Council of State Governments executes a Cooperative Agreement with USAID with CWAG as a Sub Awardee where CWAG will promote AG to AG relations and initiate activities a platform for cooperation among attorneys general from the U.S. and Mexico; provide advanced capacity training for prosecutors and investigators; and offer Mexico officials access to legal and technical assistance through workshops, technical seminars, study tours, and the development of bilingual educational materials, as well as creating a state-of-the-art website for improved dissemination of training and reference materials.
- CWAG begins offering Alliance Partnership (AP) trainings based entirely in the United States. State AGO’s donate staff to develop curriculum and provide all technical assistance. Attorney General exchanges continue on an executive level with law enforcement officials developing trust, collaborative efforts and direct communication relating to investigations, extraditions and prosecutions.
- In 2009-10, requests for technical assistance and capacity training for Mexico continue to escalate. USAID expands funding for the training component of the programing. CWAG develops online classes and components to supplement curriculum. USAID asks CWAG Attorneys General to ramp up the provision of their technical trainings, to develop personnel and an organization structure which would train approximately 10,000 Mexican participants a year.
- CWAG Attorneys General approve USAID request to increase AP training schedule, create a sustainable organizational structure add 50 + trainings for the calendar year. USAID then apprises CWAG of funding challenges and asks INL to step in and become partners with CWAG in the AG to AG program. CWAG provides over 10,000 hours of programming with over 7,000 of those hours being donated to the program.

2010 – 2011 Developments

- In June of 2011, CWAG was awarded with a \$1,000,000 grant from the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance (SWBA) to facilitate relationships and carry out trainings to Mexican law enforcement, focused on anti-money laundering and anti-weapons trafficking investigations and prosecutions.
- In September of 2011 CWAG entered into a 2-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The program project focuses on fostering partnerships and building capacity with the state Attorney General's Offices in Mexico, to encourage greater cross-border cooperation among law enforcement agencies, leading to more successful prosecutions of trans-border crime.
- CWAG asked to develop initiatives which support the strengthening of Rule of Law initiatives throughout Central America. CWAG initiated dialogue with grass roots ethnic diasporas organizations to assist with bi-lingual country of origin training. Through the network of relationships within the U.S., Attorneys General have collaborated with bi-national U.S. citizens expressing strong interest in-country trainings by U.S. trained bi-lingual attorneys. This initiative expands the capacity and reach of international efforts. Professionals in NY, Chicago, and LA are poised to engage as program moves forward.
- CWAG enters agreements with Mexican State AGO's in August of 2011 for co-funded trainings within Mexico. After receiving information that CWAG would be winding down training activities for 2010-11, numerous Mexican State AGO's worked to secure funding for potential additional trainings from CWAG Attorneys General staff.
- El Salvador Fiscal General meets with 35 U.S. Attorneys General in July of 2011. U.S. AG's pledge support, contingent on INL funding, to initiate a pilot program in El Salvador enhancing the skills related to murder investigations and prosecutions. The El Salvadorans express a desire to improve skills that deliver an immediate impact to the community.

2010-2011 Alliance Partnership Deliverables

- \$4.5 million in funding from USAID and INL, CWAG trained 6,153 members of the Mexican legal community and civil society at an **average cost per participant in FY 10-11 of \$731**.
- In the same time period, CWAG States, affiliates, academic, public and private sector partners have leveraged their institutional commitments with more than \$2.4 million dollars in cash and in kind services for an **AG match of \$391 per participant**.
- CWAG's calendar incorporated **33 trainings** in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, incorporating Justice and Law Enforcement Training for **6,153 personnel**.

2011-2012 Alliance Partnership Deliverables

- During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the CWAG Alliance Partnership held more than 30 exchanges with law enforcement personnel from numerous state Attorney General's offices, through INL and SWBA funding, reaching almost 1,700 law enforcement personnel in various roles.

2012-2013 Alliance Partnership Schedule

- Through the continuing support of INL in the coming year, some 1,200 participants will be invited to participate in 15 training programs, in addition to binational exchanges and meetings.
- Other activities will include case consultations by U.S. state prosecutors, which allow for individualized case support for Mexican prosecutors preparing their cases for oral trial; office administration reviews conducted by administrative professionals from U.S. prosecutors' offices, offering work flow analysis and suggestions; and a prosecutorial justice forum, bringing prosecutors together with the members of the communities they serve to share information about the new system of criminal justice.
- Also, CWAG is making its programming available to Mexican state Attorneys General's offices that wish to use their own funding sources to contract for training, beginning with a multi-stage, multi-location program for 240 prosecutors, investigators and forensic scientists.