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PERU / SECTOR FACT SHEET

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

OVERVIEW

Effective government institutions that represent the interests of all citizens are essential for peace and prosperity. Over the past decade, evidence of public-sector corruption in Peru has increased dramatically. This has eroded citizens' confidence in democracy, and affected the country's political stability. Peru's National Comptroller General reports that corruption generated a loss of more than \$6 billion dollars in 2022, which threatens Peru's socioeconomic gains and the stability of the region.

Responding to increasing citizen discontent and interest from the Government of Peru (GOP) to strengthen its institutions, USAID works with civil society organizations, public-sector institutions, and private-sector partners to strengthen the responsiveness, transparency, and accountability of national and subnational governments. This work increases public integrity, reduces corruption, and supports human rights.

GOALS

USAID supports the GOP to **strengthen its anti-corruption systems to prevent and mitigate corruption**. This assistance advances strategic elements of Peru's National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Plan by improving public spending processes, strengthening internal fiscal control mechanisms, and establishing more competitive and transparent public procurement systems. Aligned with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) framework for public integrity and the GOP National Policy for Integrity and Anti-Corruption, USAID supports Peru's fight against pervasive and persistent corruption.

Non-governmental actors play a fundamental role in promoting democracy by advocating for stronger accountability and inclusivity in public policy decision making. By engaging business and private citizens in the fight against corruption, USAID **fosters an emerging whole-of-society culture of integrity and accountability**. These efforts strengthen transparency and self-regulation mechanisms within the private sector and facilitate civil society oversight of public investment.

USAID **supports the protection of human rights** by building the capacity of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Peruvians, the LGBTQI+ community, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups to advocate for their concerns and access justice services. USAID supports the GOP to strengthen the prevention, protection, and prosecution mechanisms that serve survivors of gender based violence (GBV) and human trafficking. USAID also protects civic space and freedom of speech by supporting the crucial work of independent and investigative journalists who risk their lives to expose corruption and human rights abuses.

KEY RESULTS

- USAID has supported the GOP to modernize the Public Procurement Law, including international best practices and OECD recommendations.
- With the support of USAID, five regional governments adopted the Corruption Risk Management Methodology and integrity model index (SIP).
- USAID trained 307 public officials on public procurement integrity standards for public investment projects.
- In cooperation with the GOP and other organizations, USAID supported the “From Business for Business” initiative to provide businessperson-led anti-corruption training for 41 new small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that perform public sector contracting work in 7 regions, resulting in fifty construction-sector SMEs committed to anti-corruption standards.
- USAID trained 286 leaders from Andean and Amazonian regions in citizen participation laws, citizen oversight of public budgets, transparency, and negotiation techniques to advocate for extractive royalty funds for their communities.

- USAID promoted the formation of Integrity Networks in 10 regions to oversee public spending. These networks are formed by governmental institutions, local NGOs, industry groups, and chambers of commerce.
- USAID fostered stronger alliances between Integrity Networks and regional journalist associations. As a result, 141 journalists improved their skills in investigative research and analysis and are now better prepared to cover topics related to government transparency and public expenditure.
- With USAID's support, four departments incorporated counter-trafficking in persons (C-TIP) objectives into their strategic plans (Cusco, Loreto, Madre de Dios, and Lima).
- Local governments in priority regions successfully secured \$3,000,000 in new funding from the national government to support C-TIP and GBV victim services.
- 517 judges, public attorneys, and prosecutors underwent training to improve prosecution of human trafficking and GBV; 91 shelter-care providers participated in training to improve their victim-support skills.

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