
How does the Mexican Government contribute to financial education and bancarization of migrants?

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A difficult task:

Mexicans in the US: 30 million. 12 million were born in Mexico, 19 million are from Mexican origin.

Pew Hispanic Center survey in Mexican Consulates

- 35% have bank accounts but only 11% send remittances through banks
- 39% said they went for their Matricula Consular to open a bank account
- 78% send money to Mexico and 52% send money monthly

3 strategies

- Banking and access of financial services
- Low cost services to send money to Mexico
- Programs to give remittances additional value

Banking and Access to Financial Services:

Banking of Mexican migrants and facilitating their access to financial services is a consular responsibility. If migrants have access to financial institutions, not only robberies are avoided but workers can save money when sending remittances to Mexico, have a savings account and access to credits. This task was allowed through the Matricula Consular: Mexican ID issued in each one of the 50 Mexican Consulates in the US.

- **Agreements between Banks and Consulates**
- **Videos and education materials from “Salas de Espera”**
- **Inter-American Development Bank Informative Conferences**

Banking and Access to Financial Services:

Agreements between Banks and Consulates

- These agreements allow banks that accept the Mexican Consular ID as an official document to open bank accounts, to provide basic financial information inside the Mexican Consulates - 1 million Mexicans visit the Consulates each year-. Currently more than 400 financial institutions accept the MC as an official ID. 40 agreements have been signed in 15 Consulates in the United States.

Videos and education materials from “Salas de Espera”

- “The Mexican Consular ID and the US financial system”

Inter-American Development Bank Informative Conferences

- In 2007, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and IME signed an agreement to support some of the financial education programs IME promotes, especially Informative Conferences in Mexico. In 2009, the Conference will take place in May 20th to 23rd.

Low cost services to send money to Mexico:

Mexico received in 2008 more than 23 billion dollars in remittances. These contributions are fundamental resources for many families as a very high percentage of the money is spent in basic needs. Therefore, there is a clear commitment from President Calderon's administration to implement and support low cost services to send money to Mexico as well as to provide useful information to Mexican migrants about the methods and prices of sending remittances to their families.

- ◆ **Directo a México:** Mexican and US Central banks, financial corridors
- ◆ **Remittances calculator:** www.remesamex.gob.mx
- ◆ **Profeco:** Quien es quien en el envío de dinero

Programs to give remittances additional value:

Even though remittances are private resources that migrants save to send to their families, there is an institutional commitment to identify projects and programs that can give remittances an additional value.

- ◆ **3 x 1 Program**
- ◆ **“Mi Casa en México” housing program**

Programs to give remittances additional value:

3 x 1 Program

Objective: To support any development initiative of social impact from Mexicans abroad, through an equal partnership among the Federal, State and Local Mexican Government.

- Migrants send their proposals and a committee representing each partner in 3 x 1 (government and migrants) selects the projects to be financed (mainly infrastructure projects).

“Mi Casa en México”

Objective: To allow Mexicans abroad to buy houses in Mexico providing them with mortgage loans in Mexico that can be paid from the United States.

- Since 2004, more than 4000 credits have been authorized, 97% new houses and 3% used houses, average mortgage loan: 50,000 dollars, average house value 56,000 dollars, average monthly income 3,500 dollars, average age 37 years

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