OECD Digital Government Studies

Open Government Data Review of Mexico
DATA REUSE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR IMPACT AND INNOVATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Executive summary

Open government data (OGD) can be a powerful lever for social and economic development. It can also be used to improve public governance by enhancing transparency, openness, integrity and public participation at the central and local levels of government. By ensuring open government data availability, accessibility and reuse by public, private and civic stakeholders, governments can design more evidence-based and inclusive policies, stimulate innovation inside and outside the public sector, and empower citizens to take better-informed personal decisions.

Mexico’s open data policy goals aim to fight corruption, improve public service delivery and public sector efficiency, increase public engagement, and create an innovative climate that delivers new economic opportunities for the private sector. In a short period of time, Mexico has developed and implemented an ambitious National Open Data Policy that sets a broad vision for open data and paved the way for significant accomplishments at the federal level. Mexico has issued an Open Data Executive Decree, deployed a fully functional central open government data portal, established regulatory and technical support bodies and guidelines, and implemented initiatives to make public institutions and data users collaborate to find solutions to public issues. These federal initiatives have been complemented by activities at the local level. Nonetheless, open government data has yet to make a sustainable domestic impact on the Mexican economy and society.

This Review proposes strategic actions for achieving tangible and sustainable benefits with open government data for the Mexican public administration, businesses and citizens. It assesses the efforts made by the government to date to establish the policy and governance framework for open government and open government data, and examines initiatives implemented at the central and local levels. The Review reveals a number of opportunities to fully capture the potential benefits of OGD in Mexico. In particular, it highlights the need to improve the co-ordination between its open government data and open government agendas, increase the reuse of OGD, and to foster the creation of public value through collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders from within and outside the public sector. Mexico needs to develop a dynamic open government data “ecosystem” in which data are produced, enriched and reused by multiple actors from the public, private and social sectors. This involves strengthening the connections with and among these actors, as their engagement in the creation and reuse of open data can help generate products and services that benefit ordinary citizens.

The policy recommendations in this Review should assist Mexico in setting the conditions required to increase the uptake of the federal OGD policy by central and local government institutions and to strengthen the reuse of OGD by a broad set of actors across the country. Changes are required in the strategy and governance of OGD, in public institutions’ culture and capacities, and in the way the government connects with OGD stakeholders. There is a need to ensure that public institutions are data literate, that they fully understand and reap the benefits of OGD, and that they support the implementation of OGD initiatives as engaged actors. Opportunities to engage and collaborate with the OGD ecosystem at the central and local levels of government are not always fully exploited. More long-term policy objectives, such as using open data to support the digital economy, inform policy making and improve organisational efficiency, depend on collaborative action with actors from both within and outside government. While multi-
stakeholder collaboration initiatives have been put in place by the centre of government, the proactive involvement of public institutions does not happen regularly. In Mexico, the centre of government faces the challenge of institutionalising open data across the public sector in order to disseminate open data initiatives with the support and proactive leadership of line ministries and key public bodies.

Coherent open data initiatives developed in collaboration with local governments are key to creating value from open data; they would also contribute to Mexico’s achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by enabling the creation of impact in a collaborative fashion with the participation of local stakeholders.

The Review’s key policy recommendations for the Mexican government are to:

- **Ensure that policies for open government data are integrated with those for open government.** The integration between OGD and open government policies could contribute to better achieving cross-cutting policy goals, such as greater public sector integrity and citizen engagement.

- **Reinforce the policy framework for open government** by developing a comprehensive National Open Government Policy, which would help Mexico move from open government to an “open state” strategy (involving the judiciary and the legislative branches of power in the open government initiatives of the executive, along with the other public sector bodies at central and local levels and independent institutions) and by better connecting open government to national development.

- **Sustaining the current institutional governance structure to ensure the continuity of high-level political support and regular funding for the open data policy** would contribute to policy continuity in the short and medium term. This would also contribute to increasing the institutionalisation of open data across public institutions by ensuring the continuity of regulatory, technical and legal support from the centre of government to public institutions.

- **Develop a National Open Data Strategy** to create a visionary institutional environment that supports open data, a structured demand-driven approach to open data, a clear and comprehensive data and privacy protection regulatory framework, and to provide continuous technical assistance to public institutions.

- **Foster a demand- and value-driven prioritisation of data disclosure.** This entails aligning public institutions with the federal government’s vision for open data; consulting users regularly; enabling data requests and co-creation of data, services and products via the central OGD portal; and developing segmented open data marketing and communication strategies.

- **Activate and engage different communities of open data “prosumers”,** i.e. actors who are at the same time potential data producers and users, by strengthening general data skills across society and within specific social groups, and by facilitating stakeholder collaboration that contributes to open data co-creation.

- **Support business-oriented data disclosure and the development of skilled and innovative open data business communities** to unleash the potential of open data as an enabler of the data-driven economy and civic innovation.
• **Respond to and address specific public institutions’ needs to enhance institutional capacities beyond data management and disclosure** (i.e. data analysis, data science). The long-term goal should be to foster a data-driven public sector in which the production, use and reuse of data by public institutions are part of everyday government business.

• **Make use of the Open Mexico Network** not only to develop open data initiatives at the local level but to enable horizontal collaboration between local governments, to further connect local governments with the international open data ecosystem, to get closer to local stakeholders, and to help achieve the SDGs drawing upon impact co-creation.