Agency can investigate money laundering crimes relating to environmental crimes.

Each year, between \$500 billion and a trillion dollars of laundered money is generated through international banks and financial institutions. It is estimated that half of this laundered money is conducted through banks in the USA [2].

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MEXICO'S LONG WAR. THE IMPROVED STRATEGIES TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING

The illicit drug industry in Mexico primarily targets foreign markets, but the industry's socioeconomic and political effects within Mexico have led to corruption, militarization, violence, and unintended victims. Originally designed to impose order along the border between Mexico and the United States, Mexico's drug control policies gravitated toward prohibiting production and interdicting smugglers.

At first, Mexico tried to exercise a semblance of control over the U.S. border and drug agents. In the latter phase of prohibition and interdiction, Mexico attempted to deal not only with aggressive U.S. agents but also with a smuggler counterstate growing on Mexican soil. U.S. prohibitionism created an extremely profitable climate for drug smugglers to use Mexico as a country for both production (marijuana and heroin) and transit (cocaine). While socioeconomic and political costs of drug consumption have mounted, Mexico's policy initiatives to reduce these costs have simply aggravated rather than solved the drug problem.

Mexico's policy initiatives to reduce these costs have simply aggravated rather than solved the drug problem. Drug trafficking and control policies have particularly affected Mexico's criminal justice system. Courts and jails are full of drug cases, limiting the system in terms of what can be accomplished in other areas of domestic law. The Mexican criminal justice system has concentrated the bulk of its resources on enforcing drug laws, even though domestic drug use in Mexico is relatively low. Realities of the "war on drugs" have dragged the Mexican government into adopting increasingly punitive programs that have rendered drug manufacture and smuggling more appealing.

President Calderon (2006–2012) declared war on the cartels shortly after taking office. Over the course of his six-year term, he deployed tens of thousands of military personnel to supplement and, in many cases, replace local police forces he viewed as corrupt. With U.S. assistance, the Mexican military captured or killed twenty-five of the top thirty-seven drug kingpins in Mexico. The militarized crackdown was a centerpiece of Calderon's tenure.

Shortly after taking office, President Lopez Obrador (2018 - present) announced that his government would move away from attempts to apprehend cartel leaders and instead focus on improving security and reducing homicide rates. His "hugs not bullets" approach to organized crime seeks to address the socioeconomic drivers of the problem.

The Mexican government has implemented a series of different policies to try to eradicate the pervasive power of cartels, and the violence accompanying them. However, an effective policy will require eliminating the source of cartels' power, rather than just undermining it.

Unemployment is one of the reasons for joining cartels. The Mexican government is creating more job opportunities now, particularly in rural areas where there is a big influence on citizens from the cartel's side. Mexico has existing agricultural and manufactured goods sectors, but there is capacity to expand. Mexico trades almost exclusively with the USA, but there is potential to diversify – the EU and British markets should be tapped. Increasing production and exports would create many farming, factory, and finance jobs. The existence of safe and legal alternatives would render cartel employment less appealing, decreasing the membership and therefore the power of the organisations.

Finally, to reduce unemployment and end impunity, the government is increasing its police force. The Mexican federal police is now recruiting officers to eradicate organized crime, which will strengthen the state and thus weaken the regional power of large cartels. Reinforced police are also helping to ensure that cartel members are charged with

crimes. To increase the number of police officers, the government should stimulate recruitment. Increasing the salaries of officers makes work more attractive and also reduces bribes. As the world's 15th largest economy, Mexico is trying to financially support more jobs in the higher-paying public police.

Implementing these policies certainly has the potential to create grievances amongst cartel workers – particularly for those prospering from impunity. However, given that the drug war can be defined as a conflict stemming from "greed" – that is, the cartels have not been fighting for ideological reasons – implementing these strategies is unlikely to incite further violence.

Conclusion

More than sixty-six thousand people have disappeared since 2006, primarily at the hands of criminal organizations such as the cartels. The United States has cooperated with Mexico on security and counternarcotics to varying degrees over several decades. Recent efforts have centered on the Merida Initiative; since Presidents George W. Bush and Calderon launched the partnership in 2007, the United States has appropriated more than \$3 billion for it. But now the Mexican government is actively working to overcome the country's economic problems, which should reduce the impact of cartels.

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