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# Confío (México): An emerging market experience

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Javier García  
May 23, 2014

Iniciativa de:



Centro para  
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Member of  
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# Mexico: its society and NGOs (CSOs)

**2005:**

**Poverty:** 47% living in poverty,  
18% in extreme poverty.

**Wealth:** 10% of the population with  
the highest income holds 40%,  
20% with the lowest holds 3.8%.

## NGOs in Mexico (Census Office)

- ❖ 15,000 – Yr. 2000
- ❖ 40,000 – Yr. 2008



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# Evolution of NGOs in Mexico

**Colonial – 1523 – 1800**, charity organizations funded by the Catholic Church

**Independence 1821- 1875.** Estate expropriation of Catholic Church property, virtual ruin of the charities.

**Dictatorship. 1876 -1910.** Return of the Catholic Church, government creates lottery to fund charities

**Post revolution. 1921 – 2000.** PRI in power, inhibit of philanthropy, corporatism of all governmental and civil structures, changes in the 1990s

**Political alternation. 2000 - present.** New sources of public and private funds became available for Civil Society Organizations. Changes in regulation, not all for good. Legal and fiscal framework for civil society organizations is restrictive and cumbersome.

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# Mexican non-profit sector 20 years ago...

| Income sources   | In Mexico | Other Latin American countries | Total of 22 included countries |
|------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Fees and charges | 85.2%     | 74%                            | 49.4%                          |
| Philanthropy     | 6.3%      | 10.4%                          | 10.5%                          |
| Public Sector    | 8.5%      | 15.5%                          | 40.1%                          |

Salamon, 1999

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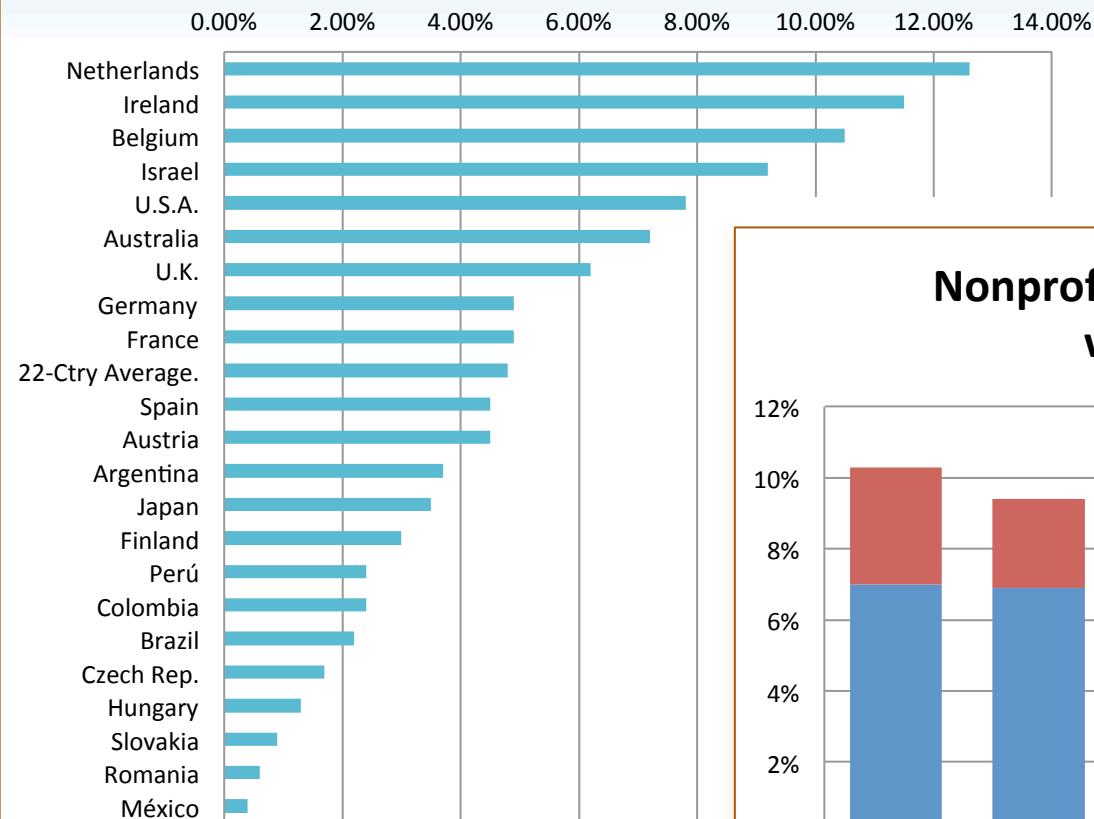


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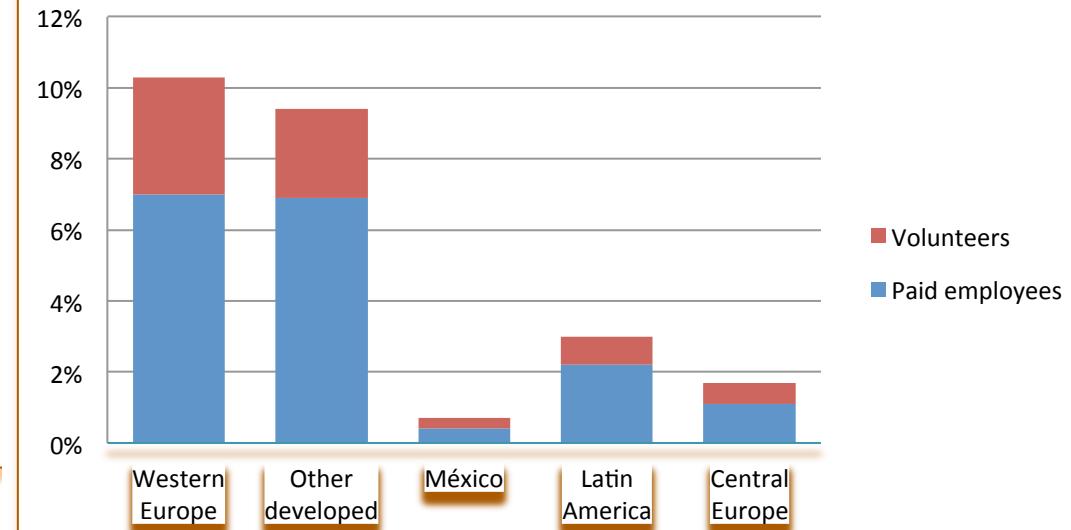
# Nonprofit employment – comparison

## Nonprofit share of total employment



Salamon, 1999

## Nonprofit employment, with and without volunteers



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# Civil Society Organizations

## *Federal government funding*

Federal Registry of CSOs and its funding

| Year | Number of CSOs registered | Number of NGO that received funds | %  |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|
| 2005 | 2,958                     | 2,596                             | 88 |
| 2006 | 4,402                     | 1,891                             | 43 |
| 2007 | 6,132                     | 2,876                             | 47 |
| 2008 | 8,436                     | 2,598                             | 31 |
| 2009 | 10,772                    | 2,587                             | 24 |

Verduzco, 2013

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# Civil Society Organizations

## *Federal government funding*

| Gov. Budget for CSOs  | Growth of CSOs federal registry   | % of CSOs covered in 2009  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2005: 15 million USD</li><li>• 2009: 25 million USD</li><li>• 64% increase</li><li>• Average support: \$13 thousand USD</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2005 – 2009: More than 100%</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Of federal registry: 24%</li><li>• Of total universe: about 6.5%</li></ul> |

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# Tax – exempt: a convenient status (but complicated) to obtain funds from the private sector

*(Authorized grantees)*

**2008: 6,364 tax - exempt CSOs  
16% of total universe**

- ❖ High administrative costs for achieving and maintaining status
- ❖ Administrative expenses limited to 5% of received donations

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# Tax – exempt: Distribution of grants received

*Authorized grantees in 2008: 6,364*

|                            | 5 CSOs (.078%) | 60 CSOs (1.1%) | 3,071 CSOs (58%) | 895 CSOs (14%) |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Cash donations received    | 19.7%          | 47.2%          | 7.80%            | 0              |
| USD (Millions)             | 344.1          | 824.4          | 135.6            | 0              |
| In kind donations received | 74.4%          | 92.7%          | NA               | 0              |
| USD (Millions)             | 58.7           | 731.3          | NA               | 0              |

## Highlights:

- ❖ 91.3% of donations received by authorized grantees had a domestic origin in 2009
- ❖ Authorized grantees from 5 states of Mexico, which had 33% of the population, received more than 81% of total donations

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Natal, 2013

# Mexican foundations and other donor institutions

*Analysis of 150 donor institutions with tax-exempt status in 2007*

Gave 515 million USD:  
91% of all donations

Of those:

|                             | 1 donor | 10 donors | 32 donors | 118 donors |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| <b>% of total donations</b> | 40%     | 59%       | 82%       | 18%        |
| <b>Given to CSOs</b>        |         |           | 82%       |            |
| <b>Given to Gov. Prog.</b>  |         |           | 16%       |            |

49% had a web page

Layton, 2013

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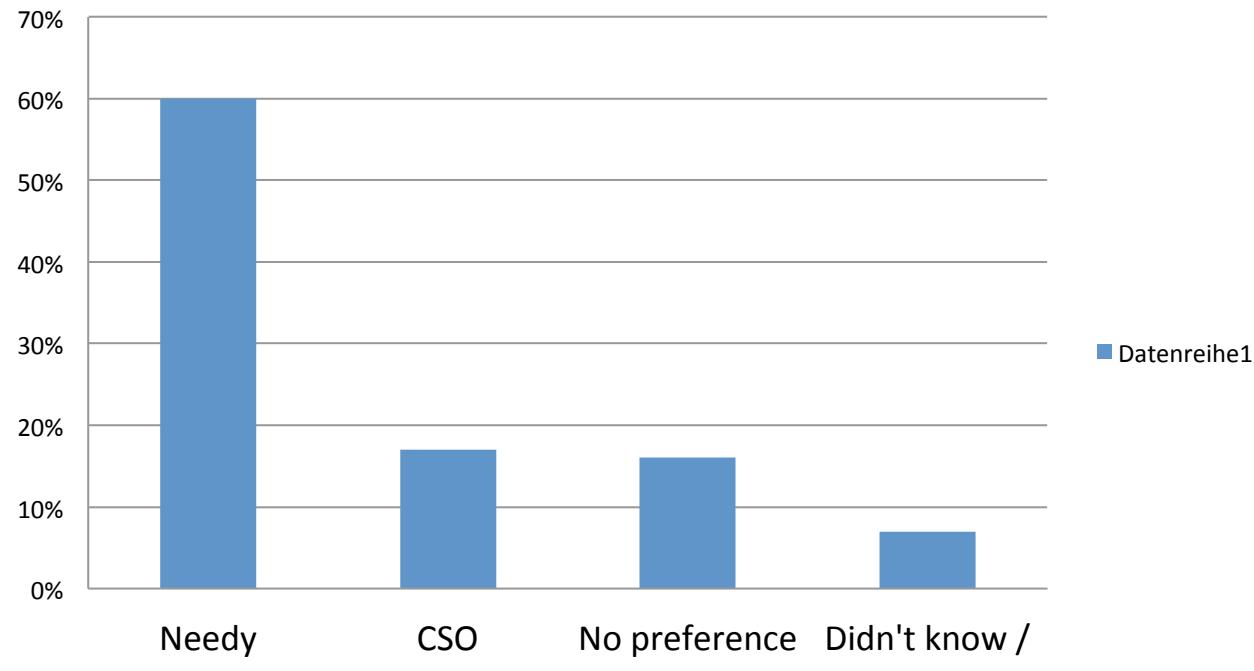


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# Mexican confidence on Civil Society Organizations

Preference in giving support and donations



Layton, 2010

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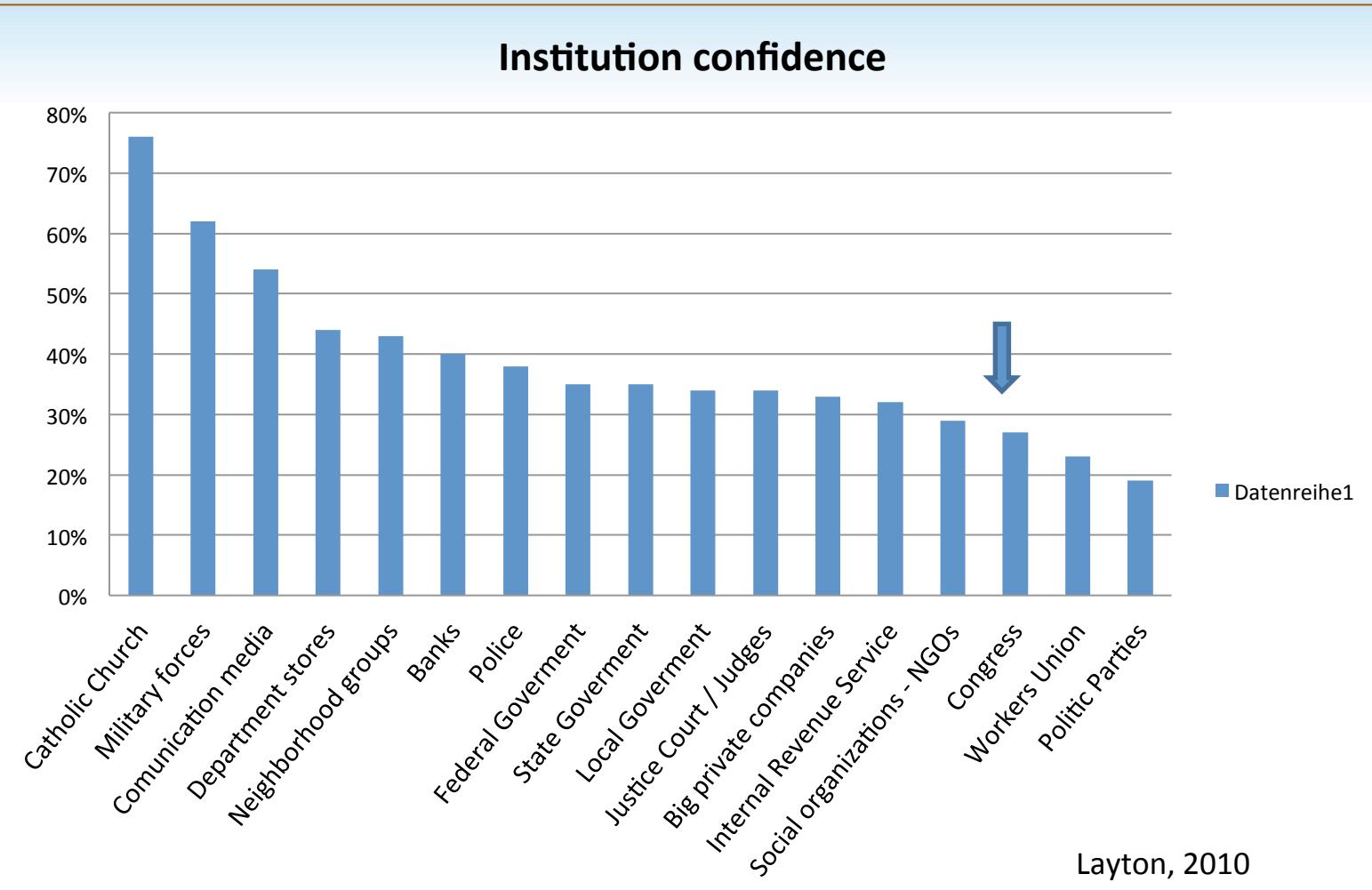
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# Construyendo Organizaciones Civiles Transparentes A.C. (Confío)

2009



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2010



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## Misión:

"Build trust in civil society organizations to create a greater social participation by promoting their transparency".

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# Confío, first years of operation

## More than:

- **850** CSOs in conferences about transparency
- **700** OSC diagnosed – 9 Standards
- **30** CSOs assessed + **15** on the way
- **\$18.7 Million USD** of monitored income



Workshops and conferences in 10 states

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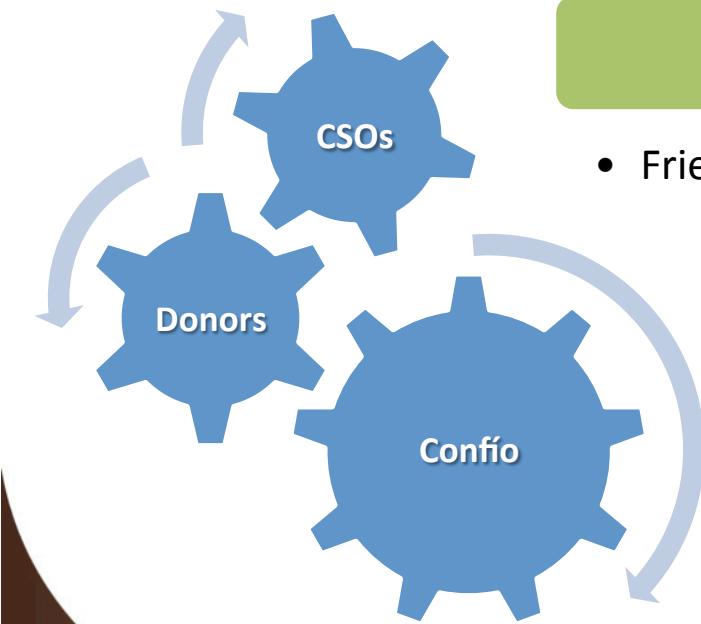
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# Principal learnings...

## CSOs interested in transparency and assessment

- Limited institutional capacities
- Lack of incentives in the environment discourage additional efforts



### Donors

- Friendly to model but very cautious, others prefer to wait

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