

What is the relationship between the Mexican government and its citizens?

There are two different methods of accountability: the "long route" between citizens and the state via "voice" and between the state and service providers via "compact" and "the short route" directly between citizens and service providers through "client power." The political climate in Mexico has historically hindered citizens' ability to use voice to hold government accountable.

When there was a gap in government service provision, citizens could not exercise voice and client power that was effective in altering their service provision. Perhaps as a result of the powerlessness of citizen voice, many important services were effectively delegated directly from citizens to Civil Associations in an effort to fill those gaps in governmental service provision.

As Mexicans experience a severe lack in government service provision in many social service areas, the responsibility falls on the shoulders of citizen action and NGO service provision to fill those social service provision needs.

Oddly, the Mexican government seems more concerned about the welfare of its citizens once they flee their own country than while they are enduring the hardships of life at home, without either jobs or a "safety net." In Mexico the poor are a burden and could stimulate unrest, but once in the United States, they become a precious asset to their government.

Mexico wants its citizens to have unlimited access to work and a better quality of life in the United States, rather than trying to provide these benefits in Mexico. The government pushes for the unrestricted transport of goods and people across a new transnational zone that replaces the border between our two countries.