

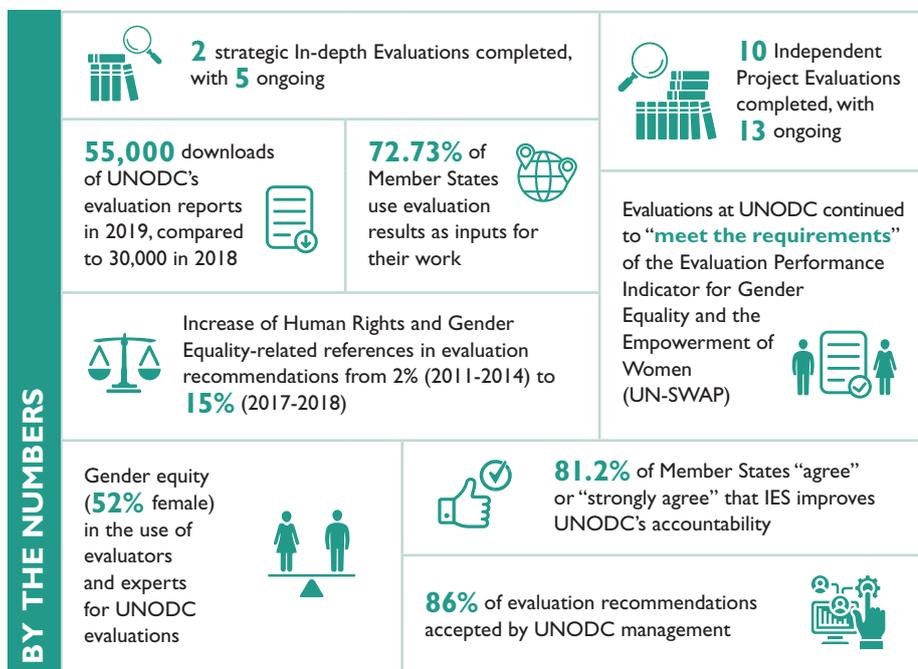


# YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

## EVALUATION RESULTS

 The Independent Evaluation Section (IES) plays a critical role in contributing to UNODC's accountability and evaluation-based decision-making in the response to drugs, crime and terrorism. It does so by offering a wide variety of services and products including the conduct of independent evaluations at policy, programme and project levels, as well as engaging in an ongoing dialogue relating to system-wide and joint evaluation with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG).

A key priority of IES is to ensure that UNODC evaluations fully meet the Norms and Standards of UNEG and are useful to the key audience, reporting directly on the results of its completed independent evaluations to Member States and UNODC's Executive Director.



## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND INNOVATION

 United Nations reforms and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require investments into strong, independent evaluations, and in particular aggregate evaluation results to inform strategic decisions at the highest political levels.

Upon request by Member States, a meta-synthesis of all evaluations finalized in 2017-2018 was developed. This is the third meta-synthesis by IES, aiming to increase knowledge and awareness of recurring recommendations and lessons learned, as well as to increase the utility of evaluation results and contribute to evidence-based decision making.

## SPOTLIGHT

### A model for future evaluations

The complex, innovative and highly participatory In-depth Evaluation of the Western Balkans Counter-Serious Crime Initiative offers a model for future evaluations. The continuous engagement beyond the end of the evaluation, through dedicated follow-up workshops, helps ensure the usefulness of the evaluation recommendations to the initiative's stakeholders. The Western Balkans Integrative Internal Security Governance Support Group highlighted that "the evaluation process has offered space for honest, open dialogue and exchanges, supporting learning and building trust."

### The importance of gender-responsive evaluations

IES maintained its good practices for gender-responsive evaluations and further increased its efforts in mainstreaming gender equality in all evaluation processes, guidelines, templates and knowledge products.

One best practice is the evaluation of the Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML) in 2017. As a direct consequence, GPML implemented the evaluation recommendation to further strengthen gender equality in its work. This includes an event on Empowering Women Leaders to share best practices on gender equality in the international Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism community. GPML further hired a gender expert to strengthen gender mainstreaming, assess training materials and mentor activities and related workshops.

**ABOUT IES.** The Independent Evaluation Section (IES) delivers products and services in line with our three strategic pillars of mandated work. We conduct gender-responsive evaluations of projects, programmes and strategies related to drugs, crime and terrorism. We lead and facilitate the aggregation of evaluation results. We develop innovative evaluation-based knowledge management systems and products. And we support evaluation capacity development. IES reports directly on evaluation results to the UNODC Executive Director and Member States.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Unite Evaluations**

IES launched its new evaluation management system, Unite Evaluations. This is where evaluations are managed from start to finish and beyond (progress, budget, quality, implementation of recommendations, etc.). Unite Evaluations allows for the aggregation and dissemination of evaluation results by programme, thematic area, SDGs, region, etc. The system also collects lessons learned and tracks the follow-up on recommendations.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) has highlighted Unite Evaluations as a “notable good practice in evaluation management” as well as “a noteworthy example in advancements made for reporting evaluation results vis-à-vis the SDGs”.

**EVALUATION QUALITY ASSESSMENTS**

As part of its efforts to ensure that independent evaluations provide credible information for planning processes, IES has commissioned independent evaluation quality assessments (EQAs) of evaluations since 2014. IES also seeks to improve evaluation practice and to create better mechanisms for tracking and using the knowledge gained from evaluations as part of ongoing organizational learning. Following best practice from previous years and, continuing with the trend from the EQA of all 2018 evaluations, the EQA of all evaluations in 2019 showed that 100% of independent evaluation reports were rated by the EQA as “Good” or “Very Good”.

**BY THE NUMBERS**



**1** innovative web-based evaluation application, Unite Evaluations, online since March 2019

**100%** of independent evaluation reports were rated by the EQA as “**Good**” or “**Very Good**”.



**1** Meta-synthesis report of all evaluations 2017-2018 developed, covering **31** evaluation reports, representing more than **USD 300 million** of UNODC’s budget.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**National evaluation capacity strengthened**

IES invited a Moroccan delegation to participate at a workshop in Vienna on “Independent Evaluation and National Evaluation Capacity Development,” and form part of the panel at a side-event in the context of CCPCJ on “Best practices in evaluation and accountability in the 2030 Agenda: the experience of the Kingdom of Morocco”.

These activities built on previous efforts, including the development of a module on evaluation and the SDGs for the national Master’s Programme in Public Policy Evaluation at the University Moulay of Meknes, the first of its kind in Morocco. The Moroccan delegation highlighted that these initiatives have helped train “a new generation of professionals in evaluation, capable of contributing both at the national and the international level to the achievement of the SDGs”.

**EVALUATION CAPACITY BUILDING**



IES engaged closely with UNODC’s field office network, United Nations Resident Coordinators and UNEG in offering technical assistance to strengthen national evaluation capacities and systems in line with General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/237 and the 2030 Agenda. Innovative partnerships were further built, as exemplified by IES’s contribution to the United Nations Joint Programme in the Kingdom of Morocco. An external assessment of this pilot initiative was conducted to ensure that lessons are learned.

IES also continued engaging in capacity-building to internal and external stakeholders, through technical support and the development of guidelines, templates and tools, as well as on-the-job training.

**BY THE NUMBERS**



**8** presentations delivered in UNEG and other international events/meetings



**245** participants at IES presentations to UNEG and international events/meetings



**34 (58% female)** government staff and stakeholders trained in evaluation

