YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION SECTION

The Independent Evaluation Section (IES) provides independent evaluation-based knowledge for decision-making in UNODC’s mandated areas of work through capacity development, independent evaluation as well as knowledge products and innovation. IES also contributes to the implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025, which places increased emphasis on evaluation and related services and products as a tool to strengthen oversight, accountability, and learning at UNODC.

87.5% of responding Member States
• “Agree” or “strongly agree” that IES contributes to improving UNODC’s accountability.
• Consider that evaluation results are “very important” or “important” for their work.
• Rate IES presentations to FINGOV as well as bilateral meetings as “very useful” or “useful” for their Permanent Mission.

EVALUATION RESULTS

Despite implications of Covid-19, IES finalized 15 utilisation-focused evaluations, including one pilot. These evaluations fully integrated gender quality, human rights and disability considerations and informed new programmes and strategies, contributing to enhanced effectiveness of UNODC. The strategic evaluation of UNOV/UNODC’s work to advance Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women was further conducted and is anticipated to be finalized in 2022. The lessons learned of these evaluations will pave the way for the mainstreaming of evaluation processes, including a lighter process to better meet the needs of project managers and strategic evaluations to respond to requests by Member States and inform decision-making at UNODC.

Approved budget of projects/programmes evaluated: over US$450 million

10 Independent Project Evaluations, plus 1 pilot Independent Project Evaluation

4 In-depth Evaluations

100% of independent external evaluation quality assessment (EQA) of evaluations completed in 2021 rated as “Good” or “Very Good”

Evaluation stakeholders:
- 36% female
- 64% male

Evaluators and experts:
- 46% female
- 54% male

12 of the evaluations covered SDG 16
6 of the evaluations covered SDG 17
7 of the evaluations covered SDG 5

Evaluation Policy

The UNODC Evaluation Policy was updated in consultation with Member States and Senior Management and will be launched in 2022. The revised policy is now aligned with the Administrative Instructions on Evaluation in the UN Secretariat (ST/AI/2021/3), as well as the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025.
IES synthesized key evaluation results and lessons learned into innovative knowledge products and shared such with Member States and Senior Management. This includes meta-syntheses jointly developed with partners within the UN system, including the first ever UN system-wide meta-synthesis of evaluations under the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. These actions strengthened the use of results-based knowledge for decision-making at UNODC, as well as responded to UN reforms for aggregate results to inform policy formulation. Additionally, through using Unite Evaluations for all phases and processes of UNODC’s evaluations, access to recommendations and lessons learned was facilitated. These actions contributed to improved utility, visibility, and dissemination of evaluation results to support evidence-based decisions at UNODC.

**EVALUATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

Each evaluation was used for on-the-job training, tailored to the different needs of the target audience, with IES developing innovative new methods, including a pilot to test field-based evaluation capacity development in the UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico. Moreover, IES launched the first Toolkit for Evaluating Crime Prevention and Terrorism, a User Manual on the innovative web-based tool Unite Evaluations, and initiated work with SPIA to further strengthen evaluation and monitoring expertise of UNODC staff. As a result, evaluation capacity at UNODC was further enhanced.

**15 Evaluations finalised in 2021**

- Global: 4
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 4
- Europe and West and Central Asia: 2
- South Asia: 2
- South East Asia and the Pacific: 1
- Africa and the Middle East: 2

**EVALUATION KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS & SYSTEMS**

IES engaged in numerous activities related to building an evaluation architecture in the UN reform context. Together with other evaluation function across the UN system, IES further invested in several initiatives, testing innovative approaches, and sharing lesson learned. As a result, new partnership in the UN system were built and collaboration with oversight bodies and the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) was strengthened.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**INDEPENDENT EVALUATION SECTION**

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Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria

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Email: unodc-ies@un.org
https://unodc.org/evaluation

**Toolkit for Evaluating Interventions on Preventing and Countering Crime and Terrorism**

**1 web-based evaluation application, Unite Evaluations, further enhanced**

**1 system-wide meta-synthesis of evaluations on the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy**