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.

**EVALUATION RESULTS**

In response to CCPCJ 28/4/CND 62/9 resolutions, requesting strategic evaluations, and the Administrative Instruction on Evaluation in the UN Secretariat (ST/AI/2021/3), demanding evaluation at the sub-programme levels, IES finalized 15 independent evaluations. This includes the first Strategic Evaluation of UNOV/UNODC’s work to advance Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (Report; Brief), with its results being integrated in the UNOV/UNODC Gender Strategy 2022-2026. Moreover, 2 In-depth Evaluations: UNODC Work on Drug Dependence and Treatment (Report; Brief); and, UNODC Response to Drugs and Organized Crime in Nigeria (Report; Brief). IES also contributed to the joint evaluation on AIDS’ work with key populations (Report).

82% 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 POLICY**

IES implemented the revised UNODC Evaluation Policy, which will help ensure that UNODC continues to be a learning organization in which decisions are built on evidence and critical self-reflection to support the implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025. The revised Policy is aligned with the Administrative Instruction on Evaluation in the UN Secretariat (ST/AI/2021/3), and CCPCJ and CND resolutions 28/4 and 62/9.

100% of independent external evaluation quality assessment (EQA) of evaluations completed in 2022 rated as “Good” or “Very Good”

Evaluation stakeholders:
- 604 female
- 485 male
- 44 other or not stated

13 of the evaluations covered SDG 16
6 of the evaluations covered SDG 3
7 of the evaluations covered SDG 5
IES focused on supporting UNODC staff at HQ and field offices through enhanced evaluation capacity development to strengthen the use of evaluation results and further the nexus between evaluation and UNODC mandates.

This includes an innovative and successful pilot evaluation capacity development approach carried out in close coordination and collaboration between IES and the UNODC Office in Mexico (LOPMEX). IES later scaled up the training and delivered such to UNODC staff in Latin America (see the related web story). As a result, IES’ efforts in strengthening evaluation capacity not only increased the efficiency of LPOMEX by combining multiple evaluations into more strategic evaluations, but also led to reduced costs and time investments as well as increased availability of relevant data for strategic decision-making.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Process for Independent Project Evaluations fully revised</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meta-synthesis of UNODC evaluations 2019-2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint system-wide meta-synthesis of work under the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy</td>
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IEs disseminated key evaluation findings to internal and external stakeholder, contributing to enhanced utilization of evaluation results for programme design, planning and implementation. One of the related key achievements were two finalized innovative meta-syntheses, including a meta-synthesis of 2019-2021 UNODC evaluations (Report; infographic sheet, generating information at an aggregate level for improved decision-making to inform UNODC’s work on countering and preventing drugs, crime and terrorism.

Moreover, IES was fully investing in innovative IT-based tools, including IES’ evaluation management and knowledge management application, Unite Evaluations. It was used for all phases and processes of UNODC’s evaluations, as well as facilitated access to evaluation recommendations and lessons learned to support evidence-based decisions. In 2022, the application was enhanced to further facilitate project managers and IES in the management of evaluations. The Unite Evaluations User Manual was also adopted as well as translated into Spanish.

In response to requirements for evaluative evidence across individual entities, IES expanded its collaboration within the United Nations system with the first joint system-wide meta-synthesis of work under the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (Report; Brief), led by IES/UNODC is cooperation with the United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). This exercise forms part of a larger strategy to enhance cooperation between UN organizations on evaluation in the context of preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. This includes that IES, on behalf of UNODC, is leading the Sub-Group on Evaluation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee Working Group on Resource Mobilisation, Monitoring and Evaluation.