EVALUATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
INNOVATIVE PILOT ACTIVITY IN MEXICO

May 2022 –The Independent Evaluation Section (IES), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), has since 2020 put the focus on its Strategic Pillar 3: "Strengthening the capacity of UNODC staff for planning, implementing, and using evaluations", contributing to improved UNODC and partner countries' accountability and evaluation-based decision making in the response to drugs, crime, and terrorism. This focus has also helped address challenges to the evaluation process stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

One example of IES's related efforts is a fruitful pilot collaboration between IES and UNODC's Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico (LPOMEX). Over the last years, LPOMEX has increased its number of evaluation activities, strengthened its evaluation culture, and established working groups that facilitate knowledge sharing between LPOMEX staff involved in evaluations and those involved in monitoring and research activities, as well as with external partners such as the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

With the generous support of the German government and in close coordination with the Mexican Permanent Mission in Vienna, Moritz Schuberth, a team member from the IES was deployed from January to April 2022 to LPOMEX to support ongoing evaluations and to pilot the delivery of newly designed evaluation capacity development modules.

Two training sessions have been carried out as part of this collaboration. Both sessions were introduced by Kristian Hölge, Country Representative, and Katharina Kayser, Chief, IES, and delivered by Carlos Asenjo, Evaluation Officer, IES, and Moritz Schuberth, Associate Evaluation Expert, IES.

The first session provided an introduction on evaluation to 120 LPOMEX staff. The innovative delivery method, which included the utilization of interactive quizzes and polls generated with the software Mentimeter, was rated "Excellent" by 79% of participants and "Very good" by another 19%.

The second session entitled "Unite Evaluations: planning, managing and using evaluations in UNODC" was delivered in a hybrid modality to 54 LPOMEX staff (36 online and 18 in-person). The quality and usefulness of the training was highly rated by participants at the end of the session, with 60% of participants rating the quality of the session "Excellent" or "Very good". Moreover, 87% of participants rated the usefulness of the session "Highly useful" or "Useful".

The temporary assignment of a member of IES team to Mexico also facilitated the planning and implementation of several independent evaluations of LPOMEX projects, including an in-depth cluster evaluation of UNODC's work on anti-corruption in Mexico, which will be carried out in 2022-2023. This evaluation, which covers 6 projects and one global segment focused on anti-corruption in Mexico, will also help test the revised IES process and guidance for cluster evaluations.

The close collaboration between IES and LPOMEX further allowed for evaluation-focused meetings in Mexico with key donors (INL and USAID), as well as for exploring opportunities for future collaboration both within the UN System – with relevant working groups in LPOMEX and the UN Country Team – and externally with two leading evaluation institutions Mexico, namely the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) and the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.

Given the very positive outcomes of this collaboration, IES and LPOMEX are committed to continuing working together in the future.

One example is the present collaboration between IES and LPOMEX for scaling up the two evaluation training modules that were piloted in Mexico to all UNODC staff involved in evaluation in the LAC region. The webinar sessions will be delivered as a workshop organized by LPOMEX in the context of the gLOCAL Evaluation Week (May 30 – June 2, 2022). In the second half of 2022, IES further aims at developing and piloting in LPOMEX a third training module on planning evaluations and using evaluation results.