The Independent Evaluation Section (IES) provides evaluation-based knowledge for decision-making to the UNODC Executive Director, Senior Management and Member States. IES implements its work across three inter-linked pillars of work:

1) Providing high-quality human rights-responsive and gender-sensitive independent evaluations (also at a system-wide level);

2) Strengthening evaluation capacity of internal and external stakeholders, including through the offering of technical advice for country-led evaluations;

3) Offering syntheses and innovative evaluation knowledge products and systems to foster accountability and learning, based on strong partnerships, both within and outside the UN system.

IES actively engaged with several organizations relating to evaluative services and products and jointly led the first EU/UN Compendium of Good Practices in measuring results in counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism with UNOCT.

The Compendium was launched during a dedicated side event at the Counter-Terrorism Week in New York, highlighting good practices across UN and EU entities. This product is a follow-up initiative on the joint system-wide meta-synthesis of work under the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, which IES conducted in coordination with UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and in collaboration with the UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) and the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

IES also made significant progress in further mainstreaming human rights, gender equality, disability inclusion and leaving ‘no one behind’ in all evaluation processes, including developing comprehensive guidance notes for evaluators on inclusive, gender-responsive and human rights sensitive evaluations.

100% of independent external evaluation quality assessment (EQA) of evaluations completed in 2023 rated as “Good” or “Very Good”

100% of evaluations meet or exceed UN SWAP Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women requirements
IES has further increased its efforts in strengthening both its internal and external evaluation capacities; most recently demonstrated through hosting the first international Evaluation Expert Group Meeting. This high-level initiative resulted in a valuable exchange of lessons learned and knowledge sharing in the field of evaluation in drugs, crime, and terrorism between international and national and regional evaluators and experts. IES further increased its evaluation capacity building efforts for UNODC staff, through a range of means, for example joint and on-the-job trainings, to foster a culture of evaluation.

For more information, see IES website.

In response to identifying information needs, IES has implemented two innovative meta-syntheses related to UNODC work in Mexico and Eastern Africa to further strengthen the strategic focus and offer synthesized evidence across a large number of evaluations and oversight reports. See all meta-syntheses on the IES website. In addition, IES has further increased the utility of Unite Evaluations, the innovative evaluation management application, based on a substantive upgrade for joint evaluations and a roll-out of the tool to other UN Secretariat entities was initiated.

IES is co-chairing, together with OIOS, the UN Peacebuilding Support Office and UNDP, the system-wide meta-synthesis on evaluation results of the Peace Pillar (SDG 16) of the SDG Global Synthesis Coalition, which will be presented at the Summit of the Future in September 2024. This is an initiative of more than 40 UN entities, organizations and global evaluation networks to synthesize rigorous evaluative evidence in line with the five SDG pillars.

IES supported Member States in conducting their own evaluations for the purpose of contributing to enhanced evidence-based decision-making at national levels. This included technical assistance and support on the evaluation of a National Drugs Control Master Plan and a National Anti-Corruption Plan (ongoing).

DONORS: Thanks to funding from Sweden, the USA and Norway, IES has been able to invest in innovative tools, syntheses and capacity development to meet the learning and accountability needs of UNODC and Member States.

First IES international Evaluation Expert Group Meeting – source: IES

The Global SDG Synthesis Coalition