EL SALVADOR (Country Case Study)

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**A. Background**

1. **Which UNCT members have collaborated on this case study?**
   - UNDP
   - UNICEF
   - IOM
   - UNHCR
   - WFP
   - UNWomen
   - UNFPA
   - UNAIDS
   - UNESCO
   - UNFPA
   - UNAIDS
   - UNESCO
   - OHCHR
   - PAHO

2. **Which national partners (governmental and non-governmental) were involved in developing this case study and how?**
   - Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency of El Salvador (SETEPLAN, for its acronym in Spanish)
   - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador (MRREE, for its acronym in Spanish)

3. **Does the case study illustrate one or several phases or levels?**
   - Adapting SDG 16
   - National level
   - Implementing SDG 16
   - Regional level
   - Monitoring & Reporting on SDG 16
   - Local level

**B. Case Study**

3. **Country context for the achievement of SDG 16**

Within the framework of the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Government of El Salvador was selected by the United Nations to be part of a Pilot Initiative for the Monitoring of the SDG 16: “Peace, Justice and Solid Institutions”, which is being coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Open Government Partnership (OGP),
4. Efforts to achieve SDG 16

• As part of the actions undertaken to implement the 2030 agenda, the government established a road map. Likewise, it was considered necessary to conduct a diagnosis of national statistics generation capabilities, identifying the important combination of surveys and institutional administrative records to respond to global indicators.

• During year 2017, to promote the approach of the SDG 16 in the country and contribute to the strengthening of national capacities, El Salvador was one of the 6 countries selected to participate in the Pilot Initiative for the Monitoring of the SDG16: “Peace, justice and solid institutions”, which is being coordinated along with the Government of El Salvador supported by the UNDP, in collaboration with the Alliance for Open Government (OGP, for its acronym in English), the Community of Democracies (CD), with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Civil society organizations, such as: the Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES), the Doctor Guillermo Manuel Ungo Foundation (FUNDAUNGO), The Central American University “José Simeón Cañas” (UCA), the National Association of the Private Enterprise (ANEPE), the American Chamber of Commerce of El Salvador (AmCham), the National Foundation for Development (FUNDE) –all of them with their corresponding Spanish acronyms shown in parentheses–, and the private sector participated in this initiative.

This exercise allowed to identify that, when attempting to collect data on the 23 global indicators of the SDG16, only 3 of these were currently being tracked in the country:

- 16.3.2. Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population;
- 16.6.1. Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector;
- and 16.9.1. Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age.

• Although, only 3 out of the 23 global indicators were measurable as stipulated at the global level, during 2017 it was possible to increase the number to 6, through workshops with the institutions and members of the civil society; and the design and implementation of national surveys, conducted with the technical and financial support of the UNDP/ USAID InfoSegura project and the DIGESTYC technical counterpart, along with the participation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In specific, these tools allowed to produce information for the 2 following indicators:

- 16.1.4. Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live.
- 16.3.1. Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms.

• Furthermore, during the 2017-2019 period, El Salvador implemented the Violence against Children Survey (VACS), led by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
and conducted by the DIGESTYC, with support from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and with funds from USAID. The VACS collects information to estimate the prevalence and impact of emotional, physical and sexual violence against girls, boys and young people from ages 13 to 24 in El Salvador. The survey also contributes to the identification of risk and protection factors from violence, as well as the consequences of violence for health. The results of this survey are related to the following SDG targets:

- 16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere, and;
- 16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

• In addition, it was also confirmed through workshops that the required information to account for the following indicator was available:

- 16.10.2. Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.

• Meanwhile, alternative national indicators were collected to serve as proxy of some global indicators. Therefore, only 8 global indicators remain not measurable. In total, 15 alternative national indicators were defined in El Salvador.

• In 2017, the United Nations System inter-agency mission called Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) was present in the country, identifying public policies and developing workshops with entities of the social management cabinet and institutions that work with national statistics that would be relevant to monitor progress and fulfillment of the SDGs. This exercise helped to identify the contribution of other actors involved in the security issue, beyond the government: such as the private sector, justice sector, legislative sector, Attorney General Office, Ombudsperson, academia, among others).

• Having identified the global indicators and making national counterproposals, the technical scorecards of SDG 16 indicators, both global and national, were prepared. For their part, the State institutions contributed to the collection of data and the validation of indicators (both national and global, also). For this, the degree of alignment of the SDG 16 indicators and the country program strategies were also examined, such as the one held with the Five-Year Country Development Plan 2014-2019 (PQD, for its acronym in Spanish), and El Salvador Seguro Plan (PESS, as it is known by its Spanish acronym).

• Also, since the last few months of year 2018, an exercise to align the goals and actions of the results of El Salvador Seguro Plan, with the 2030 development agenda, particularly regarding SDG 5 and SDG 16, has been carried out in the country.

5. Results so far and Way Forward

• Currently, accessible information for the population is available through the online interactive IT platform, which provides access to data on the indicators of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, responding to the transparency of management results accountability: [http://190.5.135.86/KPI_FORM_QUA/en/0/BSS](http://190.5.135.86/KPI_FORM_QUA/en/0/BSS). In particular, specialized digital infographics have been developed on SDGs 5 and 16, to make indicators and progress in the matter accessible.

• On the other hand, the country counts with a Violence against Women Survey, for the year 2017 and 2 Culture of Peace Surveys, which correspond to the years 2017 and 2018; all three administered by the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC, for its acronym in Spanish). In particular, the Culture of Peace Survey is based on a regional methodology and questionnaire, which is the Latin American and the Caribbean...
Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (LACSI or VICLAC, for its acronym in Spanish), which has also been tested and applied in countries such as Argentina, Panama, Guatemala, and hold comparable methodologies with surveys conducted in Mexico, Colombia, Chile, among others.

- Both set of instruments (Violence against Women Survey and the Culture of Peace Surveys) strengthen the production of SDG indicators 5 and 16, such as the rates of physical, psychological and sexual violence in women and the percentage population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live.
- The implementation framework of the PESS has fostered the coordinated articulation of cooperation with the participation of different actors.

### 6. Lessons Learned

- The complexity of the SDG 16 has been an opportunity to involve different State institutions, which are not only of the Executive, being the only SDG in which this articulation has been achieved, so far.
- The efforts to implement the 2030 agenda and in particular the SDG 16, have made it clear that institutional strengthening is a key element that must be considered at all times for the adequate and timely production of statistical information.
- Although the gathering of information is a technical process, political accompaniment is also essential to implement SDG 16, articulating it with national and sectoral plans, and making it possible to set the goals to be achieved over time.
- Finally, the national construction of the 2030 agenda has contributed to the participation and multi-sectoral dialogue with a long-term development focus.