



SDG 16 NATIONAL MONITORING INITIATIVE

CASE STUDY

MEXICO

CONTEXT

(e.g. opportunities or enabling factors, risks or constraining factors)

Mexico was one of the first countries to join the SDGs 16 National Monitoring Initiative in 2017. The implementation of the initiative was part of a greater **effort to understand the national context of the SDG 16** and unpack what it means for Mexico to move towards a more peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, with greater access to justice and effective, responsible, and inclusive institutions (referred in this document as SDG16 National Context Study). Mexico has shown commitment to SDGs planning, implementation, and follow-up, including by establishing a comprehensive **institutional framework**, for example, a National Council for the 2030 Agenda, and mechanisms for SDGs implementation and follow-up at the federal and subnational levels.

A Specialized **Technical Committee of the Information System of the SDGs** (CTEODS in Spanish), composed of representatives from all federal ministries, conducted a mapping of the global indicators for the 2030 Agenda, identifying the indicators that Mexico could track at the national level. The United Nations has been a permanent invitee in this Committee, initially through the UNDP. This Committee forms part of the National System of Statistical and Geographic Information of Mexico, established by law in 2008 (SNIEG in Spanish). It institutionalized structures and mechanisms to discuss the technical aspects of statistical projects, including the adjustment and improvement of statistical instruments. This structure foresees the participation of non-government actors.

The CTEODS was created in November 2015, as the natural successor of the Technical Specialized Committee for the Millennium Development Goals. It is also mandated to coordinate the participation of the private and social sector in the technical processes. The **Information System of SDGs** is a national tool developed between the Office of the Presidency and the National Statistical Office, NSO, (INEGI in Spanish) to present information to the public on the progress in the 2030 Agenda, in open data format. 46 national indicators are currently available, 12 of which correspond to the SDG 16. The CTEODS 2016-2018 Action Plan included methodologies for the discussion of the global framework and the decision making regarding the national indicators. The discussion scheme included consideration of proposals by civil society, academia, and private sector.

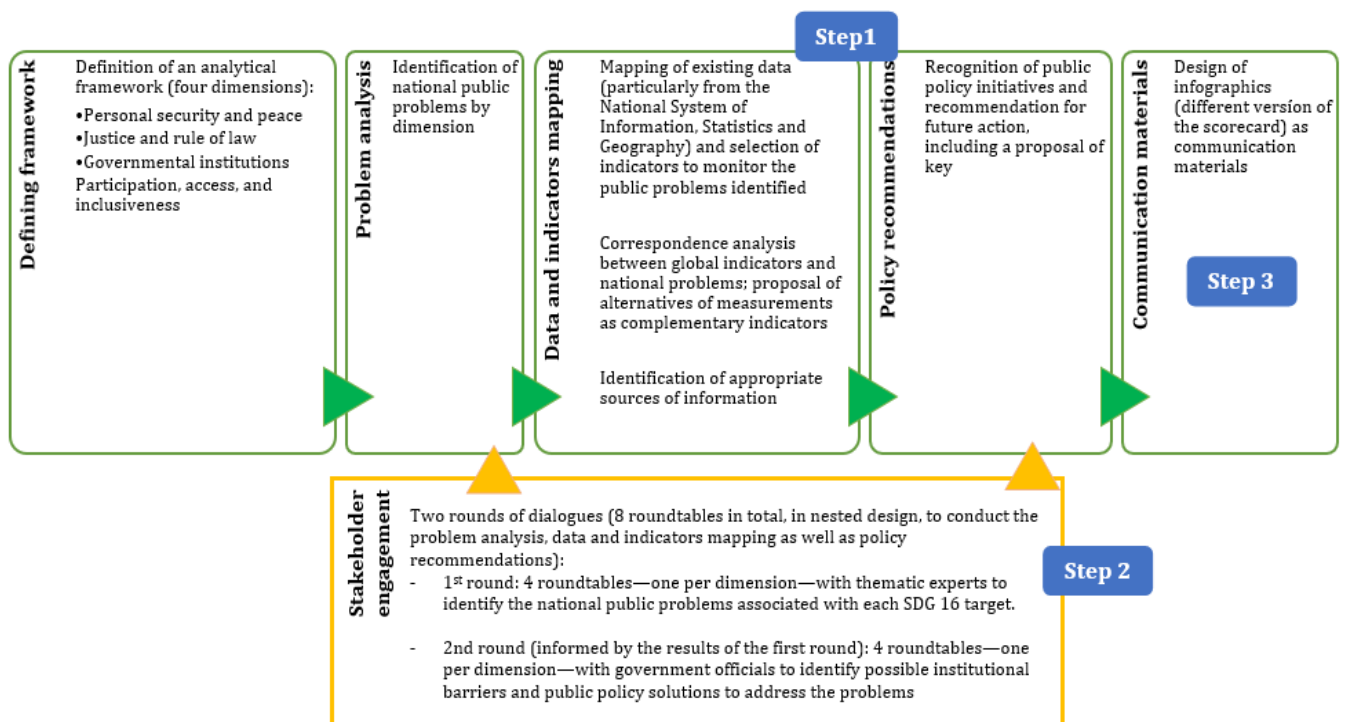
Bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as think tanks and academia conducted or supported efforts in 2017 to generate inputs for the definition of measurements for the monitoring of the SDG16 and the whole 2030 Agenda, at the national, even subnational level. Through the **Study of the National Context of the SDG 16** led by the UNDP Mexico, a set of national indicators were identified in consultation with a variety of actors from government, independent institutes, academia, think tanks, and CSOs.

Following, Mexico's general elections 2018, which had a great impact on the governance structures, including in relation the 2030 Agenda, the country adopted in 2019, a [National Strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), after 24 months of work. The discussions started long before the electoral process, but the final steps for its review and approval were assumed by the incoming administration.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

In 2017, the SDG16 National Context Study required the development of a conceptual framework - identification and description of governance gaps and challenges, and a stakeholder mapping. The underlying rationale for this process was that a diagnosis and a characterization of the national public challenges were necessary steps to propose indicators for the future monitoring of progress in tackling these gaps and challenges. Therefore, the exercise was not necessarily designed around the three steps of the methodology. Nevertheless, it is possible to identify these steps or essential aspects of the methodology throughout the design of the exercise. The identification of governance gaps and challenges and the discussion of available data and indicators were conducted in a participatory approach, engaging experts from academia and think tanks.

The below diagram illustrates activities in the order they occurred. It is indicated which parts of the process correspond with the three steps of the SDG 16 National Monitoring Initiative methodology. Further below, activities are described in the logic of the three steps.



Step 1 – Definition of Indicators and Data Collection:

- **Defining Framework:** In order to translate the global agenda into a working analytical framework, the targets associated with SDG 16 were grouped in four dimensions: 1) Personal security and peace (targets 16.1, 16.2); 2) Justice and rule of law (targets 16.3,

16.4); 3) Governmental institutions (targets 16.5, 16.6); and 4) Participation, access and inclusiveness (targets 16.7, 16.8, 16.9, 16.10).

- **Problem Analysis:** Identification of national public problems by dimension
- **Data and Indicators Mapping:**
 - Mapping of existing data (particularly from the National System of Information, Statistics and Geography) and selection of indicators to monitor the public problems identified
 - Correspondence analysis between global indicators and national problems; proposal of alternatives of measurements as complementary indicators
 - Identification of appropriate sources of information
- **Policy Recommendations:** Recognition of public policy initiatives and recommendation for future action, including a proposal of key

Step 2 – Stakeholder Engagement:

Two rounds of **dialogues** (8 roundtables in total, in nested design, to conduct the problem analysis, data and indicators mapping as well as policy recommendations):

- 1st round: 4 roundtables—one per dimension—with thematic experts to identify the national public problems associated with each SDG 16 target.
- 2nd round (informed by the results of the first round): 4 roundtables—one per dimension—with government officials to identify possible institutional barriers and public policy solutions to address the problems

Step 3 – Institutionalisation / Scorecards:

- Design of **infographics** (different version of the scorecard) as communication materials

Other:

After four years of piloting the methodology, UNDP Mexico CO has identified the need to learn from previous efforts to support the country-owned monitoring system. The central questions for this assessment are:

How did the data ecosystem benefit from the pilot initiative? What opportunities and challenges appear in the current national and pandemic context for the strengthening of the SDG16 monitoring?

The goal was to extract learning from piloting the monitoring methodology, both at the institutional/organizational and individual level, to:

- 1) identify progress on the three steps of the methodology,
- 2) identify future anchoring points of the methodology and potential support needs of interested institutions at the national level, and
- 3) share learning with other countries and actors seeking to use the methodology.

RESULTS

(e.g. immediate effects, results after a year, observed effects on other policy areas)

The National Context Study generated three main **products**:

- 1) An overview of the Mexican context, framing the SDG 16 global targets within the national governance challenges and the specific dimensions for the framing in Mexico
- 2) A proposal of national indicators for specific gaps and challenges
- 3) Inputs for an advocacy agenda for the medium-long term, meant to be developed in complementarity and articulation with a wide range of actors, mainly from academia and think tanks to avoid duplicities and strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of public action.

Actors from different sectors recognized the institutional capacity of INEGI, its commitment to quality and methodological robustness, and the availability and reliability of key data. The results of the SDG 16 National Context Study were shared with the CTEODS and specific inputs with the Office of the Presidency that coordinated the overall process of the 2030 Agenda in Mexico. The [2018 Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) includes a reference to the study as an exercise aimed at contributing to the definition of national indicators framework and the identification of public policy problems.

Result of the initiative were reflected also **information platforms**, such as the [Development Analysis Platform](#) (PAD in Spanish) established by UNDP, aimed at generating visualizations and offer resources to support the design of diagnostics and decision making at the state and local levels, based on evidence. The SDG 16 has 8 indicators in the national framework. Part of the results of the SDG 16 National Context Study contributed to the work for PAD.

In addition to the SDG National Information System, the last four numbers of **INEGI's quarterly publication** "En Números" contained analyses and statistics related to the SDG 16:

- ["Statistical overview in Mexico of SDG 16: promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies"](#), No. 18, December 2019.
- ["Diagnosis of the operation and recording of information in the Women's Justice Centers"](#), No. 19, January- April 2020.
- ["Police officers shot down: the risk of serving public security in Mexico"](#), No. 20, May-August 2020.
- ["The National Catalogue of Indicators: a review of key indicators of governance, public security and justice"](#), No. 21, September-December 2020

These are public and actively shared with key stakeholders, although INEGI recognized that greater efforts to disseminate these products are required.

LESSONS LEARNED, RECOMMENDATIONS & TIPS

(e.g. challenges and success factors, do's and don'ts)

- **Entry point.** There are multiple entry points to strengthening the national monitoring of the SDG16. Support is more successful when responds to the specific needs of the national ecosystems for the SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda and recognizes the institutional capabilities already in place.

- **Sustainability.** The process can only benefit from being anchored to the existing coordination mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, especially if the coordination mechanisms work. The opportunity to leverage existing tools must not be missed. The experience of Mexico between 2019-2020 revealed that the definition of a monitoring framework is a multilayered and iterative process that relies on interconnected institutional structures for its relevance, legitimacy, and effectiveness.
- **Approach.** Interested actors (countries and UNDP offices) decide what the best approach is to use or promote the essence of this methodology for the national monitoring process.
 - Such assessment can lead to an ad hoc methodological design to support whether the introduction of a process, the strengthening of one or more of the essential aspects of the methodology (multi-stakeholder engagement, mapping of available data and information sources, and tracking mechanisms to assess progress and identify gaps), or the discussion of how to measure specific dimensions of the SDG 16.
 - Depending on the enabling environment and the specific needs, the assessment can also lead to a decision of supporting different actions in different moments that, all-together, produce the expected result: a country-owned monitoring system that is supported by relevant and meaningful governance, peace, and security measures, can be accessed by stakeholders, and can be used to track progress.
- **Partnership.** The approach defines the engagement scheme and the institutions to champion of the process. The collaboration with the NSO is key, as well as respecting the distribution of responsibilities among institutions in the National Statistical system (where it exists). The decision on what to measure and the translation into an indicator may originate in a line ministry, not the NSO. Therefore, assumptions on the scope of the responsibility of the NSO can be confusing. Regarding supporting international actors, multiple agencies are already engaged or willing to do so. Collaboration or distribution of roles between multilateral agencies and with bilateral development partners can increase the effectiveness of the support and reduce the burden on national actors.
- **Engagement.** Capacity development on multi-stakeholder engagement is useful for all actors involved. A multi-stakeholder strategy could help clarify expectations, build trust, consolidate partnerships, and therefore maintain engagement. Strategic updates and devolution are expected. Training on how to make sense of data and how data is produced contributes to a better use of the information and a more informed discussion on the relevance of indicators.
- **Impact.** Defining a set of indicators and creating or streamlining of a tracking tool (scorecards) is just the first step of a well-functioning monitoring framework. Useful indicators rely on regular measurement and reliable data. And data that is shared, easily accessed, and updated regularly has a better opportunity to affect policy. On the other hand, the best design indicators and tools become irrelevant if they are unknown. Leading institutions may discuss strategies to document the experience, be transparent and accountable with the decision making, and effectively communicate milestones. It is in the

interest of the whole society to learn what data is available and what the process was to agree, review and update indicators.

- **Learning.** Knowledge can be derived throughout the process of implementation of an initiative. Best practices are useful, but also learning from practices or steps that did not work or led to successful results. This knowledge is relevant to the different actors involved, including the UN. Annual discussions of what did not work in the implementation of different initiatives can reduce the risk of failure in the future.

The **following questions could inform the decision making** around the best approach to use or promote the essence of this methodology:

- Is there a national mechanism to coordinate the definition of a national monitoring framework of the 2030 Agenda?
- What is the timeline and process for the update and review the national indicators?
- Who participates in that mechanism? What does the space for engagement look like?
- What institutions have the guardianship of the SDG16? How are they be involved in the discussion of the monitoring framework?
- What is the distribution of responsibilities between line ministries and the NSO? Where does the decision to select an indicator originate?
- Is there a mechanism to regularly engage multiple stakeholders in the review of the 2030 Agenda?
- What expectations is this process creating in the stakeholders to engage?
- What are the tools to track and/or publish data on the 2030 Agenda?
- If a new tool (scorecard) is proposed, who will assume the responsibility to keep the tool updated?
- What is the value added of the support that UNDP and other agencies can provide, considering the national capacity developed?
- What is the strategy to inform the stakeholders about monitoring process, data updates and other milestones of the 2030 Agenda? Who is responsible?

USEFUL RESOURCES

(e.g. recommended tools or experts, template ToR)

- INEGI. (2019). [“Statistical overview in Mexico of SDG 16: promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies”](https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/productos/prod_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/nueva_estruc/702825197193.pdf). En *Números, Documentos de Análisis y Estadísticas*, Vol. 1. Num 18, septiembre- diciembre, https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/productos/prod_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/nueva_estruc/702825197193.pdf
- INEGI. Sistema de Información de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. <https://agenda2030.mx/#/home>

CONTACT for further information:

Carlos Cortes-Zea, carlos.cortes-zea@undp.org