

The MOWIP Methodology implementation in Mexico (2021)

The Elsie Initiative, was launched at the end of 2017 with the purpose of increasing women's involvement in UN peacekeeping operations. The initiative was led by the Government of Canada and supported by countries that made up a Contact Group, which includes two Latin American countries: Argentina and Uruguay. The initiative comprises of: a global fund (the Elsie Fund) to support the countries willing to deploy a larger number of women in peace operations; and a comprehensive assessment of the barriers to the deployment of women in uniform required to access the Elsie Fund. The development of the barrier assessment was entrusted to the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, which prepared a base study with the aim to identify the main reasons explaining the limited participation of women in UN peacekeeping operations. Based on such base study, in 2019, the “Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations” - MOWIP Barrier Assessment Methodology - was developed to measure the opportunities of uniformed women in peace operations. In this context, in 2019, Uruguay was one of the first four countries to implement the MOWIP Methodology study in the world. To carry out the study, DCAF selected a local partner to apply the methodology. In [the case of Uruguay](#), RESDAL was the implementing organization.

Furthermore, on 2021, Mexico was selected by the Elsie Fund, and had to go through the barrier assessment. For the case of Mexico, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico choose RESDAL as implementing partner on the field for UN Women, working also with the University of Americas Puebla (UDLAP). RESDAL carried out the implementation of the MOWIP Methodology during the months of august and September. This process consisted 1238 surveys to police and military personnel (SEDENA: 411; SEMAR: 420; SSPC: 407); and, of 44 interviews to officials of defence and security institutions.



The construction of an enumerators team

RESDALs' enumerators team for the application of the MOWIP Methodology in Mexico was consisting of a group of 23 enumerators: 7 international enumerators that had participated in the MOWIP Methodology implementation in Uruguay; 16 local enumerators that were proposed by the armed and security forces involved in the project. In order to prepare local enumerators for the task of survey military and security personnel, RESDAL developed a training workshop of 6 days where they were trained not only on how to delivered correctly the surveys, but also on the insight of peacekeeping missions, the Elsie Initiative and Fund, and the methodology itself. This surveys that seek to achieve a successful gender barrier assessment, are extensive (lasted between 1 and 2 hours) and touch uncomfortable and personal issues, in this context, enumerators must know what they are working for and have the tools to stablish the necessary connection with the person to be interviewed.



On another hand, due to the extensiveness of the Mexican territory and logistic aspects of the involved institutions, it was decided that a percentage of the surveys would be held on an online format. In this context, RESDAL took two days, of the six days training workshop, to train enumerators on the process of making a survey via the virtual meeting platforms. This type of non-face-to-face survey brings a new set of challenges to the table, as it is harder for an enumerator to not only make the person feel comfortable and interested in the survey but also to make the necessary uncomfortable and personal questions. In this sense, enumerators were trained on how to use a virtual meeting platform, and how to deliver the virtual-survey, as well as participating in pilot-surveys.

206 of the surveys were made with a virtual platform. 117 of them were made by the local enumerators team





831 surveys to military personell in the states of Guerrero, CDMX, Baja California, Colima, Veracruz, Chiapas, Jalisco, Guanajuato, Sinaloa, Nuevo Leon, Oaxaca, Coahuila.

407 surveys to security personell in the states of Acapulco, CDMX, Chiapas, Estado de México, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Mexicali, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, Veracruz, Sonora



The COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of a field project

One of the biggest challenges during the implementation of the MOWIP Methodology in Mexico was the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic was still an on-going factor in the world. One COVID-19 outbreak in the enumerators group would not only mean a set-back in the logistic and schedule for the implementation but also to put in risk the health of both the enumerators team and the personnel who were participating in the survey. In this context, RESDAL stablished norms of conduct and a series of protocols that were maintained during the hole implementation in the field, and reached the final day of surveys with 0 COVID-19 cases. The COVID-19 protocol consisted of:

- Complete vaccination for international enumerators coming to Mexico.
- Test PCR when leaving their country for international enumerators.
- Rapid-Antigen COVID test every 15 days during the implementation of the methodology in Mexico.
- Enumerators were handed new face masks every day.

- Body temperature was checked every day before the start of the day.
- Enumerators had to make the surveys with not only a face mask but also with a shield mask, and maintaining a distance of 1,5 meters.
- Enumerators were handed the necessary tools and devices to disinfect themselves and the instruments used for the survey.

Finally, RESDAL would like to thank:

- All those who facilitated this process, and to all military and police personnel who took time from their busy schedules with patience to respond to a survey of these characteristics.
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