



Background:

USAID/Mexico is supporting two complementary Femicide-Prevention and Response (F-PAR) activities in Nuevo León:

- **No More Femicides (*Ni Un Femicidio Más* - NUFM, 2018-2025)** supports government institutions to improve prevention of and state response to femicides.
- **Towards a New Understanding of Femicides in Nuevo León (*Hacia un Nuevo Entendimiento del Femicidio en Nuevo León* - HUNEF, 2019-2024)** works with civil society organizations to support prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) against women, improve litigation and advocacy to the justice sector, and monitor state performance in femicide cases.

What is a Holistic Approach?

The development of multiple parallel and interconnected activities through intentional efforts from USAID/Mexico and the Implementing Partners (IPs). The underlying assumption states that addressing the differentiated root causes by working with stakeholders from multiple sectors would result in broader and more sustainable impact.

Engaging different sectors through multiple activities operating in the same geographic area and working towards the same goal represents a new experience for USAID/Mexico. The Mission commissioned an assessment on the effectiveness of this holistic approach -that sought change at various interconnected levels of the broader system- to the Monitoring and Evaluation Support for Adaptation (MESA) Activity from November 2022 to July 2023. *The full assessment report is available on the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) [here](#).*

Assessment Purpose

- Understand the effectiveness of the holistic approach in strengthening the results and sustainability of the indirect prevention of and sanction of GBV in the state of Nuevo León.
- Learn from the F-PAR experience to inform future programming at the Mission.
- Support USAID/Mexico and the F-PAR activities to adapt and improve their coordination, results, and sustainability.

Assessment Questions:

1. To what extent, if at all, was implementing a holistic strategy focused on interventions with Civil Society Organizations and public institutions effective in preventing and sanctioning gender-based violence?
2. What factors (direct and indirect, expected and unexpected) hindered and/or promoted the effective and organic coordination between two USAID/Mexico funded activities?

Methodology: Content analysis of primary qualitative data, triangulated with secondary data.



24 interviews with staff of implementing partners, USAID, local government institutions, artists, and CSOs



1 Focus group discussion with representatives from **3** local CSOs;
3 workshops with IPs



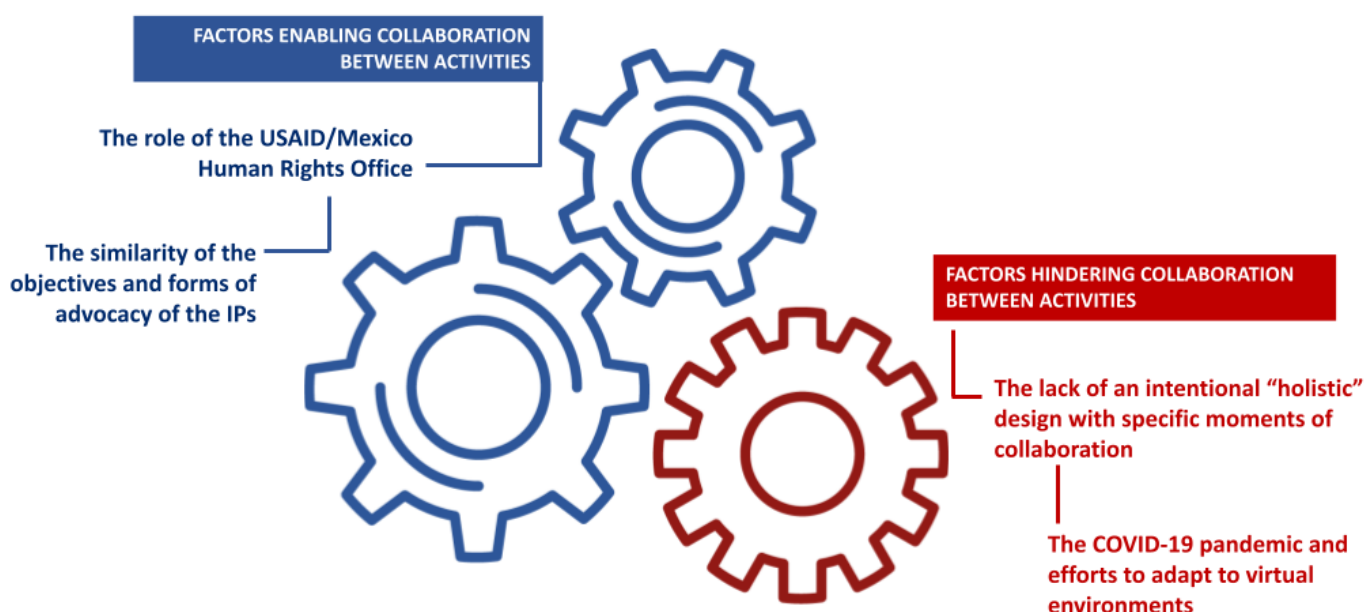
Review of **52** documents provided by USAID/Mexico and the F-PAR IPs

Findings:

Question 1: Effectiveness of the holistic approach. Each activity individually made progress towards their goal of preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) against women. However, **the activities missed an opportunity to improve results through increased collaboration and synergy.** Specifically, the NUFM Activity improved inter-institutional channels of communication and supported the application of new institutional approaches and tools to understand the prevention and investigation of GBV against women. The HUNEF Activity strengthened data analysis capacities of CSOs to improve their monitoring of cases, and established community spaces for dialogue and awareness raising among local CSOs, collectives, and community members.

The examples of collaboration and coordination between the two activities demonstrated the potential for this approach to increase impact and sustainability. For example, HUNEF's reports and infographic and video materials helped improve understanding of femicide and its causes, leading to greater awareness among strategic actors, especially police corporations. This supported the NUFM Activity's efforts to raise awareness among these institutions and address the challenges of GBV.

Question 2: Factors promoting and hindering collaboration. The assessment identified factors that promoted collaboration, such as **previous experience of collaboration among the IPs**, which increased their willingness to explore synergies; and the **participation of the USAID/Mexico Human Rights team**, which directly facilitated communication and coordination between activities. The assessment also identified some obstacles to collaboration, mainly associated with **unforeseen events** such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the high turnover of IP personnel and government officials. This information can influence future activities, leveraging the factors that enable collaboration and mitigating the factors that impede it. For example, future activities will benefit from clarifying the value of using this holistic and collaborative approach to participants, setting and aligning clear expectations, and directly facilitating collaboration.



Conclusions and lessons for future activities:

Based on the key findings, the assessment concluded that, although each project made progress individually, if they had applied the holistic approach in a coordinated and collaborative manner they would have achieved greater impact and better opportunities for sustainability. To maximize the effectiveness of a variety of interventions working toward a common goal, such as prevention and response to femicides, some specific actions and practices will help:

- **Create a space for ongoing collaboration** between relevant activities and their stakeholders that will allow them to share their plans and interventions, operational challenges and best practices, as well as lessons learned.
- **Develop and communicate a clear strategy for the holistic approach**, including articulation of how the activities are compatible and complementary, expectations for collaboration, and alignment of objectives and messaging.
- **Use a co-designed monitoring system** to measure progress on the actions and objectives for the holistic approach. This should include clear, shared indicators among the multiple activities.

For more information on the results of the assessment, please contact Karely Alvarado, Performance Management Specialist at USAID/Mexico: kalvarado@usaid.gov.