

## HEALTH SECTOR COOPERATION BETWEEN MEXICO & DENMARK, Annual report for 2019

*Danish Authorities in International Cooperation*



### Project description

The main aim of the first phase of the Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) was to strengthen primary healthcare in Mexico. Focus was on communication and referral mechanisms, IT-systems and digital communication, as well as efficient use of data equipment and telemedicine. The main results from phase one are:

- Contribution to new ways of using health data in the implementation of clinical guidelines in Mexico.
- Visualizing the pathological picture of Mexico in the form of maps of the disease burden
- Contribution to new national indicators for diabetes in the primary healthcare sector in Mexico
- Development of national recommendations on the use of telemedicine.
- Adapting an evaluation model for effective use of telemedicine (MAST) to a Mexican context.

Phase two of the SSC project is currently being defined and will build on results from phase one. Thus, phase two will focus on strengthening primary healthcare in Mexico but will also include a new strand of work on access to medicines.

These areas are also key priorities of the Mexican Government. It is the expectation that these focus areas will be addressed under two main pillars in phase two:

Pillar 1: *Strengthening capacity in primary healthcare*

Pillar 2: *Strengthening the management of pharmaceuticals at national level.*

### Key activities in year 2019

In April 2019, a delegation consisting of representatives from the Danish Ministry of Health, the Danish Health Authority, the Centre for Telepsychiatry in the Region of Southern Denmark, MedCom and a Danish general practitioner visited Mexico. The visit included meetings with the Secretary of Health and other government officials as well as relevant partners at federal level and in the State of Tabasco. The objective of the visit was to identify priorities for the second phase of the SSC. The visit resulted in a consensus on the overall focus of the second phase of the SSC. Concurrently, a delegation from the Danish Medicines Agency visited Mexico on a fact-finding mission, which resulted in the elaboration of a paper on possible areas of collaboration with the Agency's Mexican counterpart in order to strengthen the management of pharmaceuticals at national level.

In September 2019, a technical delegation with experts from the State of Tabasco and representatives from the Secretariat of Health in Mexico visited Denmark. The visit focused on further elaborating cooperation activities.

In December 2019, a Danish expert participated in the National Quality Forum in Mexico to present Danish experiences in the area of telemedicine.

### Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

In 2019, focus has been on preparing phase two of the SSC. Strengthening primary healthcare and management of pharmaceuticals at national level have been identified as relevant focus areas of the second phase of the SSC.

In addition, mental health, diabetes and maternal health have been identified as relevant areas to address as part of the work related to strengthening the capacity of primary healthcare in Mexico.

Furthermore, in a presentation to the Parliament of Mexico, the Secretary of Health mentioned the collaboration with Denmark on strengthening the primary healthcare, which is an important expression of the new government's positive attitude and interest in continuing the collaboration in health through the SSC.

*Status: Project ending phase one and preparing phase two.*

*Project period: phase 1: 2016-2020, phase 2: 2020-2022*

*Partners: Federal Secretariat of Health in Mexico (SALUD), Secretariat of Health in the state of Tabasco and Danish Ministry of Health, Centre for Health Economics*

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