



### Matching Mexican Challenges and Demand with Danish Competences

Growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and poor attention on mental health are major challenges in Mexico, and there is a clear demand for collaboration with Denmark. The health system in Mexico is highly fragmented, and especially primary health services are lacking coverage. More than 10% of public expenditure on health is spent on administration. Collaboration on a more coherent health system is demanded. The Danish public sector can offer knowledge on establishing and supporting (partly by IT-solutions) a more coherent and effective health system at primary level.

In addition, the Danish private sector can offer substantial knowledge on prevention and treatment of NCDs and mental health and on technological support to the challenges faced by Mexico.

### Key Activities

A health counsellor was recruited and posted to the embassy in August 2015. The embassy's relations to the Mexican health authorities have been intensified, and a close relationship has been established to the international department and a number of federal health institutions. Network and knowledge of strategies in international organisations and NGO's (e.g. PAHO, World Bank and Save the children) have been established.

The preparatory Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) project has been accomplished. This included a fact-finding mission to Mexico with an opening seminar about potential collaboration between the countries

### HEALTH SECTOR COOPERATION IN MEXICO

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with representatives at high and technical level, visits at hospitals, clinics and relevant centres of the Mexican health ministry, and a field trip to rural areas providing both the delegation and its Mexican counterparts insights in challenges and solutions in both countries.

A potential partner on the Mexican side was identified and invited to Denmark to meet representatives in the ministry and other relevant institutions, hospitals and health clinics. During the visit the parties agreed to focus the full SSC project on improving cooperation and communication between primary healthcare providers, and in particular: 1) Communication and referral mechanisms; 2) IT-systems and digital communication; 3) Efficient use of data equipment and telemedicine.

A baseline and stakeholder analysis and the SSC project were developed before the official state visit by the President of Mexico to Denmark in April 2016, where the agreement was signed by the Danish Minister for Health and the Mexican Secretary for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Mexican Secretary for Health.

In June a delegation of Danish experts visited Mexico and the state of Yucatan. The purpose of the visit was to achieve more in-depth knowledge at technical level and prepare a Forum taking place in September 2016, where the Danish Minister for Health will travel to Mexico to open the SSC with her Mexican counterpart.

### Milestones and Early Results by Mid-2016

Several results have been achieved: 1) During the state visit to Denmark three agreements on health were signed, including the SSC; 2) A conference in Copenhagen on health initiated by the Mexican embassy in Denmark; 3) The delegation visits between Denmark and Mexico has established good cooperation, where challenges and solutions for both countries have been discussed.

**SSC Status:** SSC Project on strengthening primary healthcare is under implementation. Next activity in the SSC is a Forum to be held in Mexico with Danish and Mexican experts hosted by the Danish Minister for Health and the Mexico Health Secretary. Expected project period is until June 2018.

**SSC Partners:**

Mexico: Secretariat of Health in Mexico (SALUD); Directorate of Health Planning and Development

Denmark: Danish Ministry of Health; Centre for Health Economics

See [website](#) & [guidelines](#) for more information on the Partnering with Denmark Initiative and the 2015-16 Annual Report.