



**DESK REVIEW**

**Of**

**UNDP SYRIA**

**GRANTS FROM THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT  
AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA**

**Report No. 1231**

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## Report on the Desk Review of UNDP Syria Grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Executive Summary

The UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI), from 2 to 17 December 2013, conducted a desk review of two grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) (Project Nos. 59095 TB, and 81886 HIV) managed by UNDP Syria (the Office) as the Principal Recipient. These grants were managed under the Global Fund's Additional Safeguard Policy.

Due to the precarious security situation in Syria, OAI was not able to conduct the required annual audit in 2012 and 2013. To provide some oversight, in consultation with the Bureau for Development Policy, a desk review was conducted with the following scope limitation: (a) sub-recipient management (absence of visits to Sub-recipients or assessment of monitoring and evaluation visits and follow-up); (b) supply management (review of inventory, warehousing management and distribution); (c) asset management; (d) vouching actual staffing against staff contracts and costs; and (e) limited checks on training costs and supporting data. To the extent possible, the desk review covered the following areas: (a) governance and strategic management, specifically the organization structure, staffing; (b) Programme management, specifically project implementation, monitoring and evaluation; (c) procurement and supply management, specifically procurement of health and non-health products; and (d) financial management, specifically expenditure testing.

The desk review covered the activities of the Office from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012. Under the audited period, the Office recorded Global Fund-related expenditures totalling \$1.7million. The last audit of the Office's Global Fund-related activities was conducted by OAI in 2011.

The desk review was conducted in conformance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*.

### Overall review rating

In view of the scope limitations of the desk review, OAI is not issuing an overall audit rating. The desk review will not provide the same level of assurance as a regular audit.

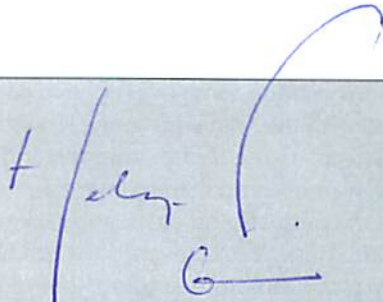
**Key recommendations:** Total = 4, high priority = 0

The desk review did not result in any high (critical) priority recommendations. There are four medium (important) priority recommendations, which means "Action is required to ensure that UNDP is not exposed to significant risks. Failure to take action could result in negative consequences for UNDP." These recommendations include actions to address unclear bonus processing, inadequate internal control structure within the project, Monitoring and Evaluation plan not reflective of contextual challenges, and non-competitive procurement process and insufficient documentation.

### Management comments and action plan

The Resident Representative accepted all four recommendations and is in the process of implementing them. Comments and/or additional information provided had been incorporated into the report, where appropriate.

Issues with less significance (not included in this report) have been discussed directly with management and actions have been initiated to address them.



Helge S. Ostveiten  
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