

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Office of Audit and Investigations



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PERFORMANCE AUDIT

OF

BUREAU FOR POLICY AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Report No. 1749

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Report on the Performance Audit of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support Executive Summary

The UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) conducted a performance audit of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) from 24 October to 16 December 2016. Performance auditing is an independent examination of a programme, function, operation, project, or the management systems and procedures of an entity to assess whether the entity is achieving economy, efficiency and results in the employment of available resources.

The audit objective was to assess to what extent BPPS fulfils its mandate for policy development, programme support, knowledge management, and emergency response support as outlined in its Terms of Reference. The audit focused on two main audit questions:

- (i) Are the organizational structure and governance mechanisms of BPPS established and functioning?
- (ii) Is BPPS effective in achieving its mandate for policy development, advocacy and emergency response support?

The audit covered the activities of the Bureau from 1 October 2014 to 16 December 2016. This was the first audit of the Office.

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

Overall audit rating

OAI assessed the Office as **satisfactory**, which means, "The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and controls were adequately established and functioning well. Issues identified by the audit, if any, are unlikely to affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area."

Key recommendations: Total = 4, high priority = 0

The audit 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 risks. Failure to take action could result in negative consequences for UNDP." These recommendations include actions to address weaknesses noted, such as the financial sustainability of BPPS staffing structure, and an outdated and inefficient quality assurance process within BPPS.

The four recommendations aim to ensure the following:

Objectives	Recommendation No.	Priority Rating
Effectiveness and efficiency of operations	1,2,3,4	Medium

Management comments and action plan

The Director of BPPS accepted all four recommendations and is in the process of implementing them. Comments and/or additional information provided have been incorporated in 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. Osttveiten
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