

CONSOLIDATED REPORT

ON

THE AUDIT OF THE SOUTH SUDAN COMMON HUMANITARIAN FUND

Report No. 1618

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Report on the Audit of South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund Executive Summary

Background

The members of the United Nations Representatives of Internal Audit Services (UN-RIAS) agreed to undertake a joint audit of the South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (South Sudan CHF) based on an audit risk assessment carried out by the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) in 2014. This consolidated summary audit report presents the main findings and recommendations and status of their implementation from audits of the South Sudan CHF carried out by the Internal Audit Services of the Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs). The findings and recommendations in the audits of the Administrative and Managing Agent functions covered the period 1 January 2014 - 30 April 2015, the audit of the governance arrangements that covered the period 1 January 2014 - 30 September 2015, and various audits carried out by the Internal Audit Services of the PUNOs that covered 2014 and part of 2015. The exact period covered varied, depending on the Internal Audit Services of the PUNOs. The last report was issued 28 December 2016.

The joint audit was conducted in accordance with the Framework for Joint Internal Audits of United Nations Joint Activities (the Framework) endorsed by the UN-RIAS. The audits were conducted in conformance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*.

The Engagement Steering Committee (the Committee) for the joint audit of the South Sudan CHF was established in May 2015, in accordance with the Framework. The Committee comprised the Internal Audit Services of FAO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNOPS, WHO and the United Nations. The current consolidated report builds upon the audits conducted by FAO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNOPS and the United Nations.

The South Sudan CHF was established in February 2012 by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator to support timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to critical humanitarian needs. The South Sudan CHF is a country-based pooled fund mechanism that operates under the overall authority of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), and is intended to support national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies providing humanitarian assistance to persons in need in a strategic and timely manner. The South Sudan CHF aims to give the HC, in consultation with the South Sudan CHF Advisory Board, the ability to prioritize funds for humanitarian needs, encourage early donor contributions and allow rapid response to unforeseen needs. Each PUNO has full financial and programmatic accountability for the funds received.

From its inception through the end of 2016, the South Sudan CHF received a total of \$528 million from donors. Total net transfers to PUNOs were \$525 million and cumulative expenditure amounted to \$442 million, according to financial information available on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office website.

Coverage and audit results

The joint audit of the South Sudan CHF comprised the following audits:

1. Audit of the Administrative Agent function conducted by OAI/UNDP (OAI Report No. 1494, issued 4 September 2015), which had a 'Satisfactory' rating and contained no recommendations.
2. Audit of the Managing Agent function conducted by OAI/UNDP (OAI Report No. 1546, issued on 16 October 2015). The audit had a 'Partially Satisfactory' rating and contained three recommendations. As of April 2017, all of the recommendations had been implemented.

3. Joint audit of the governance arrangements of the South Sudan CHF carried out by an inter-agency team of auditors¹ (OAI Report No. 1558, issued on 28 December 2016). The audit was rated as 'Partially Satisfactory' and had four recommendations; three of them remained open and one had been implemented as of April 2017.
4. Individual audits performed by the Internal Audit Services of FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNOPS of programmatic and operational activities of their respective organizations in relation to the South Sudan CHF, including expenses tests of their projects. Audit issues raised from the United Nations, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF audits are included in this consolidated report and are grouped by issue area.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of the United Nations also separately published a report on their audit of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in South Sudan on 29 April 2016, which was rated as 'Partially Satisfactory'.

¹ The joint audit team comprised the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of the United Nations; the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) of the United Nations Development Programme; the Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIS) of UNFPA; and the Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG) of UNOPS.

"Signed"

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