

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**  
**Office of Audit and Investigations**



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**AUDIT**

**OF**

**UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE**

**IN**

**THE ISLAMIC**

**REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA**

**Report No. 2199**  
**Issue Date: 12 May 2020**

## Report on the Audit of UNDP in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania Executive Summary

The UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) conducted an audit of UNDP in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (the Office) from 24 February to 6 March 2020. The audit aimed to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance, risk management and control processes relating to the following areas and sub-areas:

- (a) Governance
- (b) Development Activities
- (c) Operations – Procurement
- (d) Operations – Finance
- (e) Operations – Human Resources
- (f) Operations – Administrative Services
- (g) Operations – ICT

The audit covered the activities of the Office from 1 January 2019 to 31 January 2020. The Office recorded programme and management expenses of approximately \$7.1 million. The last audit of the Office was conducted by OAI in 2016.

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 **partially satisfactory/some improvement needed**, which means that “the assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and controls were generally established and functioning but need some improvement. Issues identified by the audit do not significantly affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area.” This rating was mainly due to the financial sustainability of the Office being at risk.

**Key recommendations:** Total = 7, high priority = 1

The seven recommendations aim to ensure the following:

Objectives	Recommendation No.	Priority Rating
Achievement of the organization’s strategic objectives	3	Medium
Reliability and integrity of financial and operational information	1	High
	2, 6, 7	Medium
Effectiveness and efficiency of operations	4	Medium
Compliance with legislative mandates, regulations and rules, policies and procedures	5	Medium

For high (critical) priority recommendations, prompt action is required to ensure that UNDP is not exposed to high risks. Failure to take action could result in major negative consequences for UNDP. The high (critical) priority recommendation is presented below:

Financial sustainability  
at risk (Issue 1)

The revenue collection (including General Management Services and Government Contributions to Local Office Costs) in 2019 represented 73 percent (\$0.58 million) of the Integrated Work Plan target of \$0.8 million. The management expenses amounted to \$1 million, which resulted in a funding shortfall of \$0.42 million that was funded through the provision of additional core resources.

Recommendation: To improve financial sustainability, the Office should: (a) design and implement a financial sustainability strategy; and (b) continue its efforts to obtain funds from non-traditional donors.

### Management comments and action plan

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

Low risk issues (not included in this report) have been discussed directly with management and actions have been initiated to address them.



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