

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Office of Audit and Investigations



PERFORMANCE AUDIT

OF

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ARAB STATES

Report No. 2426
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Report on the Performance Audit of the Regional Bureau for Arab States Executive Summary

The UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) conducted a performance audit of the Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS or the Bureau) from 31 October to 22 November 2022. Performance auditing is an independent examination of an entity to assess whether the entity is achieving economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the employment of available resources.

The audit aimed to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of RBAS governance, Country Office support, Regional Programme and operations. To achieve its objective, the audit addressed the following performance audit questions:

- 1. Is RBAS effectively organized to guide and support the work of Country Offices and manage risk?**
- 2. Is the Regional Programme managed effectively and on track to achieve its expected results?**
- 3. To what extent are operations in RBAS conducted effectively and efficiently?**

The audit covered the activities of RBAS from 1 January 2021 to 31 October 2022. The audit was conducted in conformance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* of the Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA).

Overall audit rating

OAI issued an audit rating of **fully 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 = **3**, high priority = **0**

The audit did not result in any high (critical) priority recommendations. There are three 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 in regional project risk management and oversight (Recommendations 1 and 2) and gaps in controls regarding approval and processing of payments (Recommendations 3).

The three recommendations aim to ensure the achievement of the organization’s strategic objectives (Recommendations 1 and 2) and compliance with legislative mandates, regulations and rules, policies and procedures (Recommendations 3).

Management comments and action plan

The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States accepted all recommendations and is in the process of implementing them. Comments and/or additional information provided have been incorporated in the report, where appropriate.


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