

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Office of Audit and Investigations



PERFORMANCE AUDIT

OF

UNDP'S MANAGEMENT OF THE RISKS POSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Report No. 2437

Issue Date: 10 June 2022

Report on the Performance Audit of UNDP's Management of the Risks Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic Executive Summary

The UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) conducted a performance audit of UNDP's Management of the Risks Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic from 21 March to 8 April 2022. Performance auditing is an independent, objective and reliable examination of an entity or process to assess whether economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the employment of available resources is being achieved. The audit period was from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2021.

The audit was conducted in conformance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the audit was conducted remotely.

The audit aimed to assess the extent to which (a) UNDP was successful in effectively supporting its programmatic and operational activities and overall continuity of operations in response to the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; and (b) UNDP strategy, policies, procedures – including special measures – enabled the organization to effectively manage the risks related to the pandemic and carry out its operational and programmatic activities.

The audit addressed the following performance audit questions:

1. To what extent were UNDP governance arrangements effective in managing the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. To what extent did UNDP procedures and special measures support the organization in carrying out its programmatic and operational activities during the pandemic?

Overall audit rating

OAI assessed UNDP's management of the risk posed by the COVID-19 pandemic as **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 = **2**, high priority = **0**

The audit did not result in any high (critical) priority recommendations. There are two 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."


The two recommendations aim to ensure the following: (a) achievement of the organization's strategic objectives (Recommendation 1); and (b) the effectiveness and efficiency of operations (Recommendation 2).

Management comments and action plan

The Chief of Staff and Director, Executive Office, and the Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Management Services, accepted both recommendations and are 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.



 +/ms
Helge
Ostveiten
2022.06.10
15:51:30 -04'00'

Helge S. Ostveiten
Director
Office of Audit and Investigations