



AUDIT

OF

UNDP MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE

IN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Report No. 2712
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Report on the Audit of UNDP Multi-Country Office in Trinidad and Tobago Executive Summary

The UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) conducted an audit of the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Trinidad and Tobago (the Office) that also covered Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten, from 8 to 19 April 2024. 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, finance, human resources, administrative services, information communication and technology (ICT)

The audit covered the activities of the Office from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Office recorded programme and management expenses of approximately \$11 million. The last audit of the Office was conducted by OAI in 2018.

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 for the Office of **satisfactory/some improvement needed**, which means “The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and controls were 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 weaknesses in the process of hiring consultants, gaps in human resourcing and workload distribution, insufficient physical presence in countries under the purview of the Office, and insufficient recovery of Delivery Enabling Services (DES) from projects.

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.”

The four recommendations aim to ensure the following:

Objectives	Recommendation No.	Priority Rating
Achievement of the organization’s strategic objectives	1, 2	Medium
Reliability and integrity of financial and operational information	4	Medium
Effectiveness and efficiency of operations	3	Medium

Management comments and action plan

The Resident Representative accepted the four 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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