



Management Response to the Report of the Board of Auditors

For the year ended 31 December 2020

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CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

UN-Women commits to:



To promote **accountability and transparency** and as part of principled performance, strengthen systematic and sustainable uptake of audit and assessment findings for continuous improvement of **internal governance, risk management and controls**



Ensure successful implementation of the Executive Board-endorsed **Strategic Plan 2022-2025**, through timely implementation of audit recommendations and remain responsive and agile to respond to an evolving **operating environment**, including in the context of COVID-19.

OVERVIEW OF 2020 UNBOA AUDIT

as of 31 December 2020

10th

consecutive
unqualified audit
opinion

Offices Audited:



Headquarters



West and Central
Africa RO



Arab States RO



Jordan CO

23

recommendations
issued

**Positive impacts
from
recommendations
implemented
during 2020**

High priority recommendations:

- New corporate database as the single source of information on global footprint
- Strengthened management and oversight for timely processing and recording of partner project expenditures

Corporate recommendations:

- Formalized oversight mechanism and system control for robust information and data security
- Streamlined workflow for staff overtime request and approval

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF UNBOA AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

of total 29 outstanding audit recommendations as of January 2022

72%

(21 recs)

Actions completed
(9 recs)

Assessed as implemented
(12 recs)

28%

(8 recs)

Actions in progress
(8 recs)

UN-Women has **NO**
Long outstanding UNBOA
recommendations



CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025 IMPLEMENTATION

Positive impacts from implementing audit recommendations



Principled Performance

- Clear instruction to guide examination and inclusion of all standardized risks and mitigating actions
- Improved control on user access to ERM system
- Streamlined process for aggregation, determination and review of cross-cutting risks
- Enhanced review and timely reporting of coordination levy
- More robust ICT security through regular review and management of user access
- Increased compliance to risk-based partner expenditure review procedure
- Timely recording of partner project expenditures with enhanced monitoring mechanism



Products, Services and Processes

- Standardized checklist for project closures
- Well-defined workflow process to resolve project partner audit financial findings
- Updated guidance on the inclusion of project procurement plan



Advancing Partnerships and Resourcing

- Improved Donor Report preparation procedures for timely submission



Business Transformation

- Standardized process for objective assessment of office presence type
- Up-to-date corporate system as the single source information for global footprint
- Global availability of data on partner performance/capacity for project planning and implementation



Empowered People

- Deepened staff capacity and knowledge on risk-based partner expenditure review process through training

RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISIONS

Implementation status of prior years' audit recommendations

The Board “.....requests UN-Women to continue implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors from prior years for closure by the Board of Auditors.”

Of the remaining **6** prior years' recommendations issued in 2017 to 2019:

- **4** recommendations **assessed by UNBoA as implemented and closed**
- **2** recommendations with UN-Women **completed actions** and awaiting UNBoA assessment and closure





THANK YOU!