

Summary of substantiated investigation cases in 2022

IAIG case no.	Region	Type of wrongdoing	Allegation	Loss to UNOPS (US\$)	No. of personnel referred to HRLO	Action taken
2021-063	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted a fake guarantee letter in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principals to the Vendor Review Committee (VRC) for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the first quarter of 2023.
2021-113	HQ	Fraud and financial irregularities	A grantee misused funds from a UNOPS grant by engaging in several related party transactions.	766,186	0	IAIG referred the grantee and its principal to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC. IAIG also referred the case to management for recovery of the financial loss. The recovery is handled by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs.
2021-139	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor misrepresented the work performed in a construction project. Two UNOPS personnel members approved the payments to the vendors without verifying that the work was performed.	200,000	2	The VRC debarred the vendor and its principal for six years. After the investigation report, the personnel members made new arguments. Since this case concerned the construction of a road in Afghanistan, and there have been major changes in Afghanistan in the last year, the HRLO needs time to obtain additional information and assess the validity of the personnel members' new arguments.

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2021-145	Middle East	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor misrepresented its project team's qualifications in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	The VRC debarred the vendor and its principals for two years.
2021-169	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted a fake ISO certificate in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	The VRC debarred the vendor and its principals for seven years.
2021-190	Middle East	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor misrepresented its experience in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a written warning to the vendor instead of a formal sanction.
2021-193	North-America	Prohibited conduct	A personnel member abused their authority and engaged in external activities without authorization.	0	1	The Executive Director (ED) terminated the personnel member's contract.
2021-196	North-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member misrepresented information about their past employment.	0	1	The UNOPS personnel was separated from service because of the abolition of his post. Subsequently, pursuant to UNOPS policy, the personnel member's HR records were revised to state that the personnel member was dismissed from UNOPS.

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2021-199	Asia	Sexual misconduct	A personnel member sexually harassed a colleague.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO in Q1 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2021-203	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted fake certificates in a UNOPS tender. The vendor did not forge the documents themselves but failed to verify their authenticity.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a warning letter to the vendor instead of a formal sanction.
2021-205	Europe and Central Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member and a vendor failed to disclose their conflict of interest during a UNOPS tender.	0	1	The VRC debarred the vendor and their principal for four years. UNOPS placed a record in the personnel member's files precluding rehiring in the future.
2021-209	Africa	Sexual misconduct	A personnel member sexually harassed a colleague.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q2 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2021-213	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted fake financial statements in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	The VRC debarred the vendor and its principal for four years.

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2022-007	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor misrepresented information about its project team in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	The VRC debarred the vendor and their project team for three years.
2022-008	Europe and Central Asia	Other wrongdoing	A former personnel member misrepresented information about their experience when applying for a new position with UNOPS.	0	1	The ED placed a note in the personnel member's file stating that he/she would have been charged with misconduct if he/she had not already separated from UNOPS on other grounds.
2022-009	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member submitted a fraudulent claim to UNOPS medical insurance provider.	0	1	The ED terminated the personnel member's contract.
2022-010	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	An external candidate plagiarised his/her answers in a UNOPS recruitment test.	0	1	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO. The person was deemed ineligible for UNOPS vacancies for one year.
2022-014	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors colluded in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	The VRC debarred the vendors and their principals for three years.

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2022-021	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor's employee submitted a fake certificate in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	The vendor terminated its employee's contract and adopted new controls to prevent similar conduct. In view of the punitive and preventive actions taken by the vendor, IAIG considered that no further action was warranted.
2022-022	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted plagiarised documents in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a warning letter to the vendor instead of a formal sanction.
2022-023	Europe and Central Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor misrepresented information about its financial situation in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principals to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023.
2022-028	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Other wrongdoing	A personnel member misrepresented information about their experience in a UNOPS recruitment.	0	1	The ED terminated the personnel member's contract.
2022-031	Africa	Prohibited conduct	A personnel member verbally abused a peacekeeper.	0	1	UNOPS demoted the personnel member.

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2022-042	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted a fake document regarding its equipment document in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principals to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the first quarter of 2023.
2022-046	Middle East	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor asked an employee of another UN organization to favour them in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023.
2022-047	North America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member submitted a fake diploma in a UNOPS recruitment.	0	1	The personnel member moved to another UN entity. As only that other entity can take against that personnel member, UNOPS referred the case to that other UN entity. The personnel member raised a new point with the other UN entity (namely, that he/she was defrauded by a third party who is being prosecuted by national authorities), and the other UN entity decided that in light of this no action is warranted.
2022-050	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member failed to return funds that UNOPS had transferred by mistake.	5,107	1	In 2023, the ED placed a note in the personnel member's file stating that he/she would have been terminated if he/she had not already separated from UNOPS on other grounds.

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2022-055	HQ	Fraud and financial irregularities	An unidentified third party misappropriated \$56,000 by diverting a payment to a vendor. IAIG had previously improved internal controls to prevent this type of fraud. However, a UNOPS personnel member failed to conduct the verification recommended.	0	1	The personnel member resigned. In 2023, pursuant to a UNOPS policy, the personnel member's HR records were revised to state that the personnel member's contract was terminated for serious misconduct. UNOPS requested that the third party fraudster be referred to the national authorities. In light of the lack of personal gain or fraudulent intent, IAIG did not request that UNOPS refer the personnel member to national authorities.
2022-045	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Sexual misconduct	A personnel member sexually harassed a colleague.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q3 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2022-061	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted forged documents regarding its subcontractors in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the first quarter of 2023.

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IAIG case no.	Region	Type of wrongdoing	Allegation	Loss to UNOPS (US\$)	No. of personnel referred to HRLO	Action taken
2022-063	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted fake financial statements in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the first quarter of 2023.
2022-065	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member obtained access to the model answers for a UNOPS recruitment test in which he/she participated. The personnel member also failed to cooperate with the investigation.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q3 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2022-074	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted a fake document regarding its prior experience in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case during the first quarter of 2023.
2022-075	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Sexual misconduct	A former personnel member sexually assaulted another UN employee while he/she was employed by UNOPS.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q4 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.

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2022-077	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor failed to disclose in a UNOPS tender that it had been previously sanctioned by a government entity.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the first quarter of 2023
2022-088	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member obtained access to the model answers of a UNOPS recruitment in which he/she participated. The personnel member also failed to cooperate with the investigation.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q4 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2022-091	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member submitted fraudulent claims to UNOPS medical insurance provider.	0	1	The ED placed a note in the personnel member's file stating that he/she would have been terminated if he/she had not already separated from UNOPS on other grounds.

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2022-096	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A former personnel member obtained access to the model answer of a UNOPS recruitment test in which he/she participated. The personnel member also failed to cooperate with the investigation.	0	1	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO. The person was deemed ineligible for UNOPS vacancies for two years.
2022-099	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Sexual misconduct	A personnel member sexually harassed a colleague, abused his/her authority, breached UNOPS security, and misused UNOPS ICT systems.	0	1	The ED terminated the personnel member's contract in 2023.
2022-101	Europe and Central Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted forged documents regarding its prior experience in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a warning letter to the vendor instead of a formal sanction.
2022-102	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member submitted fake quotes to circumvent procurement procedures.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q4 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.

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2022-111	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	An external candidate misrepresented information in a UNOPS recruitment.	0	1	In 2023, UNOPS placed a record in its systems precluding the person from being hired by UNOPS.
2022-112	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted fake financial statements in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case during the second quarter of 2023.
2022-115	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member submitted a fraudulent claim to UNOPS medical insurance provider.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q4 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2022-116	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted a fraudulent document in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case during the second quarter of 2023.
2022-118	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	An external candidate plagiarised his/her answer in a UNOPS recruitment test from an online document.	0	1	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO. The HRLO completed the case in 2023 and the person was deemed ineligible for UNOPS vacancies for one year.

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2022-120	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors submitted fake documents regarding their prior experience in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023.
2022-121	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors submitted fake documents regarding their prior experience in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023.
2022-123	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member misappropriated \$950 from UNOPS by submitting forged receipts. The personnel member reimbursed the funds when confronted.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q4 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2022-141	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted fake documents regarding its prior experience in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023.

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2022-148	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Sexual misconduct	An employee of a vendor sexually assaulted a colleague.	0	0	The employee resigned shortly after the incident. UNOPS offered support services to the victim. IAIG was satisfied with the actions taken by the vendor.
2022-149	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member shared the answers of a UNOPS recruitment test with an external candidate.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q4 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2022-154	Asia	Sexual misconduct	An employee of an implementing partner sexually exploited a beneficiary.	0	0	The implementing partner terminated the employee's contract and provided support services to the victim.
2022-162	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member submitted a fraudulent claim to UNOPS medical insurance provider.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q4 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2022-170	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member submitted a fraudulent claim to UNOPS medical insurance provider.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action in Q4 of 2022. The case is pending with the HRLO.

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2022-199	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor included a subcontractor in their bid without obtaining their consent. The subcontractor submitted its own bid in the tender, which created a potential conflict of interest.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a warning letter to the vendor instead of a formal sanction.
2022-201	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor misrepresented information about its project team in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a warning letter to the vendor instead of a formal sanction.
2022-207	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors colluded with one another in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023.
2022-214	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted a fake document regarding its subcontractor in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023

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2022-215	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors colluded with one another in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023.
2022-220	Latin-America and the Caribbean	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted fake documents regarding its project team in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor and its principal to the VRC for appropriate action. The VRC should complete its review of the case in the second quarter of 2023.