

Summary of substantiated investigation cases in 2021

IAIG case no.	Region	Type of wrongdoing	Allegations	Loss to UNOPS (US\$)	No. of personnel referred to HRLO	Action taken
2020/042	Africa	Other	A personnel member engaged in domestic violence against a family member.	0	1	The victim refused to cooperate with UNOPS. The personnel member agreed that if there is any similar incident in the future (domestic incident resulting in injury), his/her UNOPS contract will be ended.
2020/050	Middle East	Other	A personnel member failed to stop a colleague after learning that the colleague was contacting local government officials for help in obtaining travel permits for his/her family members.	0	1	The Executive Director (ED) issued a reprimand to the personnel member.
2020/090	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member stated to IAIG that a colleague had engaged in serious misconduct, but then refused to provide information to IAIG.	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.
2020-109	Europe	Fraud and financial irregularities	Six personnel members circumvented UNOPS recruitment rules by arranging for vendors to issue contracts to certain personnel to work in a particular UNOPS office. These arrangements caused financial loss of approximately \$29,411 to UNOPS.	29,411	6	All six personnel members admitted their actions. The two senior-most personnel members accepted disciplinary measures of loss of two steps and fines (the fines totalled approximately the amount of the financial loss caused by their actions). The four less senior personnel members agreed that, if they had not been separated for other reasons, they should have lost two steps.

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2020-114	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member improperly requested a UNOPS vendor to purchase furniture for a government employee's office.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the human resources legal officer (HRLO). This case is pending.
2020-135	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors colluded with each other in a UNOPS tender and submitted fake documents.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendors to the Vendor Review Committee (VRC). The case is pending with the VRC.
2020-158	Europe	Fraud and financial irregularities	A local business organization defrauded third parties by misrepresenting that it was associated with UNOPS and the Kingdom of Norway.	0	0	The VRC debarred the organization and its principal for seven years. IAIG also notified the Norwegian government regarding the misuse of its name.
2020-160	Middle East	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member working operationally for UNHCR submitted a forged medical invoice to UNOPS medical insurance provider for reimbursement.	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.
2020-164	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors submitted altered purchase orders as proof of prior experience in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue warning letters to these vendors instead of formal sanctions.

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2020-165	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member requested two other colleagues for money after processing their payments.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO for appropriate action. Since there was no evidence that the personnel member threatened to take adverse action if the colleagues declined her request, the HRLO decided not to impose disciplinary action. Instead, after consulting with the personnel member's supervisor, he/she was instructed not to make such requests.
2020-170	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	An employee of a UNOPS vendor prepared and submitted bids for both the vendor and his own company in several UNOPS tenders.	0	0	The VRC debarred the vendor and its two principals for five years.
2020-173	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors submitted fake documents in UNOPS tenders to misrepresent their prior experience.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue warning letters to these vendors instead of formal sanctions.
2020-180	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors colluded with each other in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendors to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2020-185	North-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member received help from another individual during the written test for a UNOPS recruitment and was thereafter hired for the position.	0	1	IAIG referred the personnel member to the HRLO. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2020-186	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	10 personnel members submitted fraudulent claims to a medical insurance provider for reimbursement.	0	10	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO for appropriate action. The HRLO requested that additional evidence be sought. As the alleged incidents took place in a remote location, IAIG is seeking the help of another UN entity.

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2020-189	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A former personnel member working operationally for WHO submitted four fraudulent claims to a medical insurance provider for reimbursement.	0	1	UNOPS referred the matter to WHO for appropriate action.
2020-190	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors submitted the same document copied from a publicly available brochure.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue warning letters to these vendors instead of formal sanctions.
2020-191	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two UNOPS vendors failed to declare their conflict of interest and colluded to create an appearance of competition during a UNOPS procurement exercise.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendors to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2020-192	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A UNOPS vendor misrepresented material information in its bid for a UNOPS tender.	0	0	The VRC debarred the vendor and its principal for three years.
2020-196	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A UNOPS personnel member submitted a fraudulent claim to a medical insurance provider for reimbursement.	0	1	The ED terminated the personnel member's contract.
2020-197	North-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A former UNOPS personnel member submitted a forged document to the United Nations Dispute Tribunal.	0	1	IAIG referred the former personnel member to the HRLO. Before any decision was made, the former personnel member filed an application in the UN Dispute Tribunal. The UN Dispute Tribunal dismissed the case, and the former personnel member filed an appeal in the UN Appeals Tribunal. The case is pending in the UN Appeals Tribunal.

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2020-202	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors submitted forged registration certificates in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue warning letters to these vendors instead of formal sanctions.
2020-204	Africa	Sexual misconduct	A former personnel member sexually assaulted and abused a waitress who worked at a local business.	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.
2020-207	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A former UNOPS personnel member defrauded UNOPS by misappropriating funds and forging payment receipts to conceal the fraud.	2,100	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. The personnel member also reimbursed the misappropriated funds.
2020-208	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member was employed with an implementing partner while still holding a full time position with UNOPS. The individual was no longer employed with UNOPS at the time of the investigation.	0	1	IAIG recommended to HRLO that a note be placed in the personnel member's file stating that IAIG should be notified if he/she is considered for a position with UNOPS in the future. HRLO proceeded in accordance with IAIG's recommendation.
2021-001	Europe	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor defrauded UNOPS in almost 20 procurement exercises and colluded with three other UNOPS vendors by, for example, providing fake performance certificates to help it meet the experience requirements.	0	0	The VRC debarred the four vendors and their principals for seven years.

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2021-002	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	Eleven vendors submitted fraudulent documents in UNOPS tenders. The fraudulent documents were mostly bid documents that contained information of a different bidder, such as registration certificates or legal documentation from other bidders.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue warning letters to these vendors instead of formal sanctions.
2021-008	Africa	Sexual misconduct	An employee of an implementing partner sexually assaulted a minor. While the implementing partner terminated the person, it nonetheless failed to timely report the allegations to UNOPS. It also failed to undertake any independent review of the allegations, but instead relied entirely on the version of events and documents of the perpetrator.	0	0	IAIG referred the vendor to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2021-011	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A UNOPS vendor engaged in an unethical practice by submitting its bid after working as a consultant on another vendor's bid.	0	0	IAIG referred the matter to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2021-014	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	An implementing partner submitted fraudulent invoices to inflate their expenses covered by a UNOPS grant.	317,682	0	IAIG referred the implementing partner to the VRC and recommended that management recover the misappropriated funds. The case is pending with the VRC.

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2021-015	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	An unidentified third party misappropriated a payment to a UNOPS vendor by changing the vendor's bank details. Two UNOPS personnel members failed to follow the procedure established to prevent this type of fraud, but completed UNOPS forms stating that they had followed the procedures.	14,743	2	IAIG referred the two personnel members to the HRLO. While the fraud could have been prevented had either or both followed the established procedure, neither was entirely responsible for failing to prevent the fraud. Consequently, both were censured but their contracts were not terminated. The HRLO also requested the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs to refer the third party fraudster to the national authorities.
2021-019	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor misrepresented material information during a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the matter to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2021-022	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors failed to declare their business relationship in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to send warning letters to both vendors.
2021-026	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted fake documents regarding their prior experience.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a warning letter to the vendor instead of formal sanctions
2021-037	Middle East	Fraud and financial irregularities	Four external candidates plagiarised portions of their answers in a written test for a UNOPS recruitment.	0	4	The two individuals who admitted their conduct were deemed ineligible for UNOPS vacancies for one year. The two that denied their conduct despite the evidence were deemed ineligible for UNOPS vacancies for two years.
2021-044	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor's employee submitted altered manufacturer's authorization certificates 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.

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2021-048	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor misrepresented information regarding a sub-contractor in their bid for a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue warning letters to the vendors instead of formal sanctions.
2021-058	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors failed to declare their conflict of interest and colluded in two UNOPS tenders.	0	0	IAIG referred the matter to the VRC for appropriate action. The case is pending with the VRC.
2021-060	Asia	Sexual Misconduct	A volunteer of an implementing partner sexually abused a minor.	0	0	The implementing partner terminated the volunteer and provided assistance to the victim. IAIG was satisfied with the actions taken by the implementing partner and closed the case.
2021-062	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted fake bank guarantees in two UNOPS tenders.	0	0	IAIG referred the matter to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2021-071	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member working operationally for another UN agency inflated fuel consumption of three UN vehicles.	3,000	1	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO for appropriate action. IAIG also recommended the HRLO to recover the misappropriated funds from the personnel member. The case is pending with the HRLO.
2021-076	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A grantee failed to provide adequate supporting documentation for \$587 in grant funds and failed to cooperate with IAIG's investigation.	587	0	IAIG referred the matter to the VRC for appropriate action, including restitution of the misappropriated funds. The case is pending with the VRC.

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2021-080	Africa	Other	A supervisor and supervisee who were in a romantic relationship made false statements to try to conceal their relationship. Moreover, the supervisor had a conflict of interest when requesting an extension of the supervisee's contract after they became romantically involved. Both personnel members failed to cooperate with the IAIG investigation	0	2	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO. The HRLO closed the case after both personnel members agreed to leave UNOPS.
2021-090	Latin-America	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted a fraudulent document in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a warning letter to the vendor instead of a formal sanction.
2021-115	Asia	Other	A personnel member attempted to enter a country that had strict COVID-19 travel restrictions even though he/she did not meet the special conditions that allowed UNOPS personnel to enter the country. The personnel member also made false statements to a colleague.	0	1	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO. The HRLO closed the case after the personnel member agreed to leave UNOPS.
2021-120	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member stole \$897. The personnel member admitted the conduct to his/her supervisor, and later paid back the money to the colleague.	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.
2021-126	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor submitted a document belonging to another vendor in a UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue warning letters to the vendors instead of formal sanctions.

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2021-129	Africa	Sexual misconduct	An employee of a UNOPS vendor kidnapped and sexually assaulted a 16-year old girl.	0	0	The vendor terminated the employee. The matter was also reported to the local police. IAIG did not refer the vendor to the VRC.
2021-137	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	An external candidate cheated in a written test for a UNOPS recruitment.	0	1	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO. HRLO asked IAIG to review the case further. The case is pending with IAIG.
2021-147	Europe	Fraud and financial irregularities	An external candidate cheated in a written test for a UNOPS recruitment.	0	1	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO. As the evidence was clear and the person did not cooperate with UNOPS, the person was deemed ineligible for UNOPS vacancies for two years.
2021-155	Africa	Sexual Misconduct	Two employees of an implementing partner engaged in intimate relationships with beneficiaries. Another employee of the implementing partner also attempted to sexually assault another local woman. The implementing partner failed to properly report the incident and misrepresented information to UNOPS.	0	0	IAIG referred the implementing partner to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2021-160	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two companies colluded with one another in nine procurement exercises.	0	0	IAIG referred the matter to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2021-167	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	Two vendors failed to disclose their common ownership when they both participated in the same UNOPS tender.	0	0	IAIG referred the matter to the VRC. The case is pending with the VRC.
2021-168	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	A personnel member submitted a fraudulent claim to the UNOPS medical insurance provider.	0	1	IAIG referred the matter to the HRLO. The case is pending with the HRLO.

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2021-172	Africa	Fraud and financial irregularities	An external candidate and a UNOPS personnel member plagiarised parts of their answers to a written test for a UNOPS recruitment.	0	0	IAIG issued a written warning to both individuals.
2021-175	Asia	Fraud and financial irregularities	A vendor failed to disclose its conflict of interest when it submitted a bid for a UNOPS tender while at the same time offering its services to two other bidders as a subcontractor.	0	0	IAIG and the VRC agreed to issue a warning letter to the vendor instead of a formal sanction.
2021-204	Africa	Sexual Misconduct	An employee of an implementing partner had an intimate relationship with a minor.	0	0	The implementing partner terminated the employee's contract and reported the matter to the local authorities. As a result, IAIG did not refer the vendor to the VRC.
Total financial loss and number of individuals referred to the HRLO				367,523	43	