

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES
(UNOPS)****INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT****18 November 2025**

Project name:	Phase II: Yemen Integrated Urban Services Emergency Project (YIUSEP II)
Project number:	22988-001
Country:	Yemen
Auditor:	BDO LLP
Period subject to audit:	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024

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Acronyms and abbreviations

IAASB	International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
IAIG	Internal Audit and Investigations Group
IESBA	International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants
IPSAS	International Public Standard Accounting System
ISA	International Standards on Auditing
UN	United Nations
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
US\$	United States Dollars
YIUSEP	Yemen Integrated Urban Services Emergency Project

Executive summary

The engagement context

The Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG) of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), through BDO LLP (“the audit firm”), conducted an audit of the project ‘Phase II: Yemen Integrated Urban Services Emergency Project (YIUSEP II)’ (“the project”) (oneUNOPS project ID 22988-001), which is implemented and managed by the UNOPS Office in Yemen. The audit firm was under the general supervision by IAIG in conformance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

The project reported expenditure amounting to US\$ 33,415,842.41 during the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024. The donor who contributed to the project is the World Bank, through a donation from the International Development Association (IDA).

Audit objectives

The overall objective of the audit was to assess the management of the project operations to obtain reasonable assurance towards the achievement of the project objectives.

The areas of focus included:

- a) Effective, efficient and economical use of resources;
- b) Reliability of reporting;
- c) Safeguarding of assets; and
- d) Compliance with applicable legislation.

The purpose of the audit was to provide reasonable assurance that:

- a) Client/donor contributions and project expenditure are properly accounted for;
- b) Project expenditure was incurred in accordance with the contribution agreement, and is supported by adequate documentation; and
- c) The related financial statements prepared by UNOPS for the year under review present a fair view of the operations.

In particular, the audit firm provided an overall assessment of the operational and internal control systems that are in place for the management of the project so that related transactions are processed in accordance with UNOPS policies and procedures to achieve the project’s objectives.

Audit scope

The audit firm conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the IAASB and UNOPS internal audit practices, and in consideration of the requirements of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Audit rating

Based on the audit report and corresponding management letter submitted by the audit firm, IAIG assessed the management of the project as 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”. The details of the audit results are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Summary results of the financial audit

Project title		Period	Project no.
Phase II: Yemen Integrated Urban Services Emergency Project (YIUSEP II)		1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024	22988-001
Financial statement		Statement of non-expendable property	
Amount US\$	Opinion	Amount US\$	Opinion
33,415,842.41	Unmodified	69,799.39	Unmodified

Table 2: Internal control rating summary for project

Rating summary by functional area		
Functional area	Rating	
Project management	Satisfactory	
Finance	Satisfactory	
Procurement and supply chain	Satisfactory	
Human resources	Satisfactory	
General administration	Satisfactory	
Information and Communications Technology	Satisfactory	
Overall rating of internal control	Satisfactory	

Key issues and recommendations

No audit issues or recommendations have been raised.

Signed:



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BDO LLP

BDO LLP

18 November 2025

Operational overview

The Phase II: Yemen Integrated Urban Services Emergency Project (YIUSEP II) is a project financed by the World Bank (hereinafter 'the Bank') which aims to restore access to critical urban services and strengthen resilience to shocks in selected cities within the Republic of Yemen.

The primary beneficiaries of the project are the residents of the selected urban, peri-urban and rural areas in Yemen (3 million), including IDPs, marginalized groups such as women, girls and children who are the primary beneficiaries of improved services by having more access to improved drinking water and improved wastewater collection and treatment services.

The targeted services cover four sectors:

- (i) tertiary municipal services and solid waste management.
- (ii) urban water and sanitation.
- (iii) urban roads.
- (iv) electricity for critical services.

The project includes three components:

Component 1: Service Restoration:

- 1.1: Tertiary Municipal Services and Solid Waste Management
- 1.2: Urban Water and Sanitation
- 1.3: Urban Roads
- 1.4: Electricity for Critical Services

Component 2: Implementation Support and Capacity Development

- 2.1: Project Implementation and Management Support
- 2.2: Enhanced Capacity Building
- 2.3: Third-Party Monitoring
- 2.4: Supporting SWM service Delivery Improvement through Results Based Financing

Component 3: Contingent Emergency Response.

In June 2021, UNOPS and the World Bank signed a legal agreement for USD 50 million, set to span 36 months. The World Bank IDA invested an additional USD 120 million to implement the project activities through a Financing agreement signed in February 2022. This increased the budget to USD 170 million and extended the project duration to 48 months. In August 2023, the World Bank signed a second Additional Financing agreement, providing USD 19.5 million and secured a grant of USD 5.9 million from the Global Partnership for Results-Based Financing (GPRBA). These funds are dedicated to ongoing efforts to restore access to critical urban services and enhance resilience to shocks in selected cities within Yemen, resulting in a total project budget of USD 195.4 million.

The audit team extends its appreciation to the management and staff members of UNOPS office in Yemen for their full cooperation during the audit.

Annex I - Definitions

Standard audit ratings for overall performance of internal control system

Effective 1 January 2017, the internal audit services of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS and WFP adopted harmonized audit rating definitions, as described below. IAIG assesses the entity under review as a whole as well as the specific audit areas within the audited entity:

- (a) satisfactory (effective),
- (b) partially satisfactory (some improvement needed),
- (c) partially satisfactory (major improvement needed), and
- (d) unsatisfactory (ineffective).

The elements of the rating system take into account the audited office's internal control system, risk management practices, and their impact on the achievement of office objectives.

The definitions of the ratings are, as follows:

Standard rating	Definition
Satisfactory (effective)	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.
Partially satisfactory (some improvement needed)	The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and controls were generally 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.
Partially satisfactory (major improvement needed)	The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and controls were established and functioning, but need major improvement. Issues identified by the audit could significantly affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area.
Unsatisfactory (ineffective)	The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and controls were either not adequately established or not functioning well. Issues identified by the audit could seriously compromise the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity.

Categories for priorities of audit recommendations

The audit observations are categorized according to the priority of the audit recommendations and the possible causes of the issues. The categorized audit observation provides a basis by which the UNOPS country office management is to address the issues.

The following categories of **priorities** are used:

Categories	Definition
High	Prompt action is considered imperative to ensure that UNOPS is not exposed to high risks (that is, where failure to take action could result in critical or major consequences for the organization).
Medium	Action is considered necessary to avoid exposure to significant risks (that is, where failure to take action could result in significant consequences).
Low	Action is considered desirable and should result in enhanced control or better value for money.

Possible causes

The following categories of **possible causes** are used:

- **Guidelines:** absence of written procedures to guide staff in performing their functions;
 - o Lack of or inadequate corporate policies or procedures
 - o Lack of or inadequate RO/OC/PC policies or procedures
 - o Inadequate planning
 - o Inadequate risk management processes
 - o Inadequate management structure
- **Guidance:** inadequate or lack of supervision by supervisors;
 - o Lack of or inadequate guidance or supervision at the RO/OC/PC level
 - o Inadequate oversight by Headquarters
- **Resources:** insufficient resources (funds, skill, staff) to carry out an activity or function;
 - o Lack of or insufficient resources (financial, human, or technical resources)
 - o Inadequate training
- **Human error:** Un-intentional mistakes committed by staff entrusted to perform assigned functions;
- **Intentional:** intentional overriding of internal controls;
- **Other:** Factors beyond the control of UNOPS.