

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES
(UNOPS)****INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT****27 February 2026**

Project name:	3R For Conflict-Affected Communities (Tigray)
Project number:	23546-001
Country:	Ethiopia
Auditor:	BDO LLP
Period subject to audit:	8 July 2024 to 7 July 2025

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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

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 ‘3R For Conflict-Affected Communities (Tigray)’ (“the project”) (oneUNOPS project ID 23546-001), which is implemented and managed by the UNOPS Office in Ethiopia. The audit firm was under the general supervision of IAIG in conformance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

The project reported expenditure amounting to US\$ 9,029,759¹ during the period from 8 July 2024 to 7 July 2025. 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).

¹ The financial statements show total project expenditure to the reporting date of 7 July 2025 of US\$ 18,874,288. Of this, US\$ 9,844,529 was incurred prior to the start of the reporting period for this audit, and had been previously audited, meaning the balance of US\$ 9,029,759 is the subject of the current audit.

Audit rating

Based on the audit report and corresponding management letter submitted by the audit firm, IAIG assessed the management of the project 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.
3R for conflict affected communities (Tigray)		8 July 2024 to 7 July 2025	23546-001
Financial statement		Statement of non-expendable property	
Amount US\$	Opinion	Amount US\$	Opinion
9,029,759	Unmodified	16,892	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:

DS
BDO LLP

BDO LLP

27 February 2026

Operational overview

In November 2020, an armed conflict erupted in the northern region of Ethiopia (Tigray) between the Federal Government and Tigray People Liberation Front. The conflict has escalated to the neighbouring regions of Tigray (Amhara and Afar regions). The impact of the conflict has resulted in loss of lives, displacement of population in Tigray and neighbouring regions, destruction of social and economic infrastructure and gender-based violence (GBV).

The Government of Ethiopia and its partners have pledged funds to rehabilitate conflict-affected basic service provision and support the GBV survivors as an emergency response with the aim to promote recovery and resilience for conflict affected communities in Ethiopia. As part of this response the Bank availed a grant worth 300 Million USD for the rapid response, recovery and resilience in conflict affected regions of Ethiopia. Per the Financing Agreement signed between the Government of Ethiopia and the Bank, the federal and regional governments will implement the Project, except in Tigray. Due to political reasons, the Government selected third-party implementers to implement components 1 and 2 of the project in high-risk of ongoing conflict (HROC) areas. UNOPS was assigned the role of third-party implementer for Component 1 of the project in Tigray, considered HROC, with the following sub-components:

- Community-based Rapid Response basic services
- Community-based Recovery activities
- Strengthening institutions for Resilience

The contract entered into force on 30 June 2022 for a period of 48 months, ending on 30 June 2026 for a total amount of US\$ 25,000,000. An amendment was signed on 19 August 2025 extending the project to 31 December 2026.

The audit team extends its appreciation to the management and staff members of UNOPS office in Ethiopia 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;
 - Lack of or inadequate corporate policies or procedures
 - Lack of or inadequate RO/OC/PC policies or procedures
 - Inadequate planning
 - Inadequate risk management processes
 - Inadequate management structure
- **Guidance:** inadequate or lack of supervision by supervisors;
 - Lack of or inadequate guidance or supervision at the RO/OC/PC level
 - Inadequate oversight by Headquarters
- **Resources:** insufficient resources (funds, skill, staff) to carry out an activity or function;
 - Lack of or insufficient resources (financial, human, or technical resources)
 - 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.