



Management Response to the Report of the Board of Auditors

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Anna-Karin Jatfors, Director
Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division

CONTENT

1. Context and overview
2. Overview of 2021 UNBoA audit
3. Implementation status of audit recommendations
4. Benefits of implemented audit recommendations to the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 OEE output areas
5. Response to Executive Board Decisions



CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

UN-Women commits to:



Accelerate **business transformation**, guided by the uptake analyses of critical audit recommendations and built upon **strengthened internal governance, risk management, and controls** that will harness the expected benefits from the new ERP system Quantum.



Continue the effective implementation of the Executive Board-endorsed **Strategic Plan 2022-2025**, supported by the timely resolution of audit recommendations and increased **accountability and transparency**.

OVERVIEW OF 2021 UNBOA AUDIT

as of 31 December 2021



11th

consecutive unqualified audit opinion



19

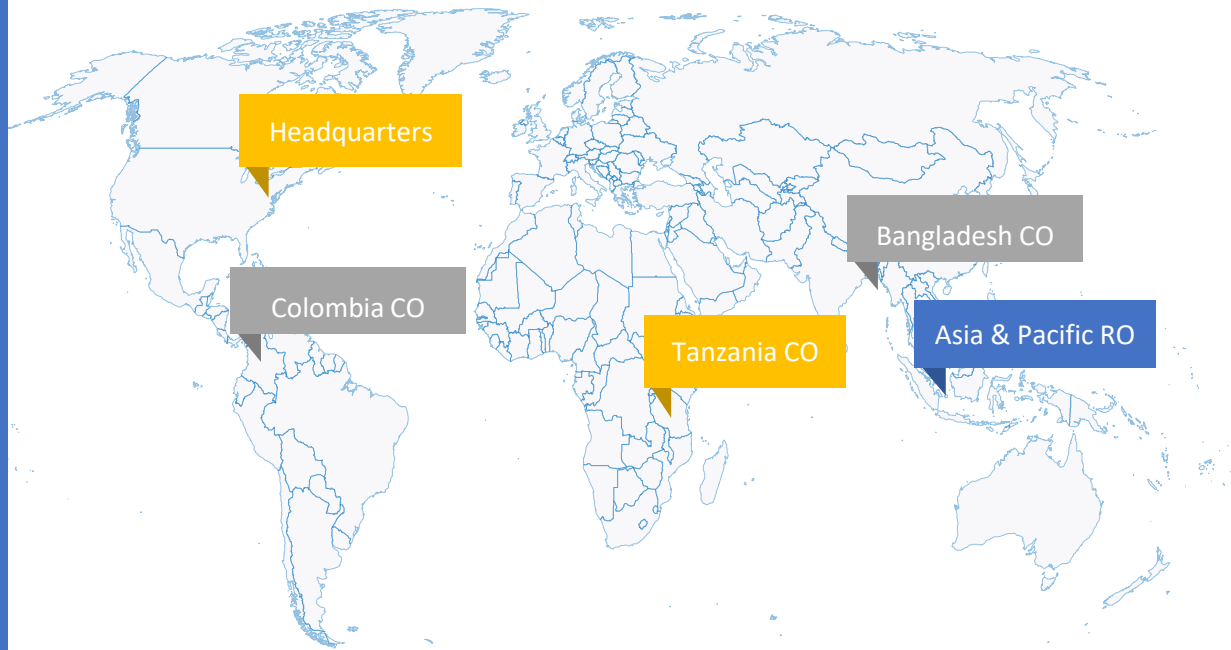
New recommendations



72%

Overall Prior Years' (2019 and older) recommendations implemented

UN-Women Offices Audited:



IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

as of January 2023

Actions completed/implemented

Assessed as implemented (12 recs)

Actions completed (5 recs)



Actions In Progress

Actions in progress (10 recs)



Long-outstanding recommendations

No Long-outstanding (more than 2 years) recommendations



A total of 27 outstanding audit recommendations as of 01 January 2022 needing management actions

8 issued in 2020



19 issued in 2021

BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTED AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025 OEE OUTPUT AREAS



Principled Performance

- Strengthened controls for partner project expenditures liquidation and reporting
- Improved compliance with partner project progress reporting
- Strengthened assurance for timely updates of policies, procedures, and guidance documents
- Active participation in policy cycle management by the governing-level and enhanced monitoring for effective mitigation of risks



Products, Services and Processes

- Fortified Information Security certification aligned with UN Cybersecurity Minimum Baseline Standards
- Risk Appetite Statement established
- Procedures for fast-tracking programme actions in crisis promulgated



Advancing Partnerships and Resourcing

- Enhanced procedure for inclusion of all contribution agreements in ERP



Business Transformation

- New project partner expenditure account codes for enhanced liquidation reporting



Empowered People

- Deepened implementing partners' capacity on project expenditure reporting
- Enhanced internal knowledge of ERM

RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISIONS

The Board “.....requests UN-Women to continue its ongoing efforts to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors.” (Decision 2022/1)

Of the **8** outstanding 2020 recommendations:

- **Closed** by the Board: **3** recs
- **Completed actions** and closure requested: **3** recs
- **In progress**: **2** recs

“Encourages UN-Women to harmonize further its management response to the report of the Board of Auditors with other United Nations funds and programmes and the implementation of the recommendations” (Decision 2022/1)

UN-Women has harmonized with sister UN Agencies the management response to the report of the Board of Auditors, submitted as a background document to the Executive Board.



THANK YOU!