



INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION

REPORT 2015/042

Audit of the child protection programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Overall results relating to the effective management of the child protection programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur were initially assessed as satisfactory

FINAL OVERALL RATING: SATISFACTORY

22 May 2015
Assignment No. AP2014/634/13

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AUDIT REPORT

Audit of the child protection programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of the child protection programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).
2. In accordance with its mandate, OIOS provides assurance and advice on the adequacy and effectiveness of the United Nations internal control system, the primary objectives of which are to ensure: (a) efficient and effective operations; (b) accurate financial and operational reporting; (c) safeguarding of assets; and, (d) compliance with mandates, regulations and rules.
3. With the adoption of resolution 1261 (1999), the Security Council formally acknowledged that the protection of children in armed conflicts was a fundamental peace and security concern. The Council subsequently reaffirmed its commitment by adopting 10 additional resolutions on children and armed conflict.
4. The UNAMID Child Protection Section was responsible for advising the Joint Special Representative on child protection issues including: mainstreaming of child protection in the Mission's work and strategies; and integrating the concerns of children into the peace process, peace agreements, post-conflict recovery and reconstruction phases. The Section was also responsible for following up specific recommendations in the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the situation of children in Sudan as well as the recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on children and armed conflict in Darfur.
5. The UNAMID Child Protection Section was headed by a Child Protection Advisor at the P-5 level. The Section had an authorized staffing level of 30 comprising 6 international staff, 4 national professional officers, 14 national staff and 6 United Nations volunteers. UNAMID budgets for fiscal years 2012/13 and 2013/14 were \$1.67 million and \$1.62 million respectively for child protection activities.

II. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

6. The audit was conducted to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of UNAMID governance, risk management and control processes in providing reasonable assurance regarding the **effective management of the child protection programme in UNAMID**.
7. The audit was included in the 2014 risk-based work plan of OIOS because of the risks relating to UNAMID activities on the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict.
8. The key controls tested for the audit were: (a) risk assessment and planning; (b) programme management; and (c) coordinated management. For the purpose of this audit, OIOS defined these key controls as follows:
 - (a) **Risk assessment and planning** - controls that provide reasonable assurance that risks and opportunities relating to the UNAMID child protection programme are identified and assessed and used as a basis for planning the implementation of the child protection programme.

(b) **Programme management** - controls that provide reasonable assurance that there is sufficient management capacity for the UNAMID child protection programme. This includes: sufficient financial resources; sufficient and competent human resources; and appropriate project management tools, methodologies and systems.

(c) **Coordinated management** - controls that provide reasonable assurance that potential overlaps in the delivery of the child protection programme in UNAMID are mitigated, and that issues affecting or involving other United Nations partners and actors are identified, discussed and resolved in a timely manner and at the appropriate forums.

9. The key controls were assessed for the control objectives shown in Table 1. Certain control objectives in Table 1 noted as “not assessed” were not relevant to the scope defined for this audit.

10. OIOS conducted the audit from September 2014 to January 2015. The audit covered the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2014. OIOS visited three of the five UNAMID sectors in Darfur.

11. OIOS conducted an activity-level risk assessment to identify and assess specific risk exposures, and to confirm the relevance of the selected key controls in mitigating associated risks. Through interviews and analytical reviews, OIOS assessed the existence and adequacy of internal controls and conducted necessary tests to determine their effectiveness.

III. AUDIT RESULTS

12. The UNAMID governance, risk management and control processes examined were initially assessed as **satisfactory**¹ in providing reasonable assurance regarding the **effective management of the child protection programme in UNAMID**. UNAMID implemented adequate controls to ensure that the concerns of children were integrated in the peace process, and parties to the conflict agreed on and implemented time bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers. In particular, UNAMID had: (a) adequately engaged organized armed parties on the protection of children; (b) trained its civilian and military personnel and implemented activities to build the capacity of local communities on the protection, rights and welfare of children; and (c) established and implemented an adequate monitoring and reporting mechanism in respect of violations perpetrated against children.

13. The initial overall rating was based on the assessment of key controls presented in Table 1. The final overall rating is **satisfactory**.

¹ A rating of “**satisfactory**” means that governance, risk management, and control processes are adequately designed and operating effectively to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of control and/or business objectives under review.

Table 1: Assessment of key controls

Business objective	Key controls	Control objectives			
		Efficient and effective operations	Accurate financial and operational reporting	Safeguarding of assets	Compliance with mandates, regulations and rules
Effective management of the child protection programme in UNAMID	(a) Risk assessment and planning	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Not assessed	Satisfactory
	(b) Programme management	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Not assessed	Satisfactory
	(c) Coordinated management	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Not assessed	Satisfactory
FINAL OVERALL RATING: SATISFACTORY					

A. Risk assessment and planning

The Mission had adopted a child conscious approach to its activities

14. UNAMID was required to implement activities to ensure all concerned parties complied with the requirement of Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) to protect children in the implementation of the Darfur peace process. The Department of Peacekeeping/Department of Field Support (DPKO/DFS) policy on child protection required the Child Protection Advisor to actively collaborate with relevant Mission components to ensure that key actors within the Mission adopted a child conscious approach to their respective tasks. The Child Protection Advisor was the Mission's focal point on children's issues and was responsible for making sure that child protection issues were mainstreamed in the Mission's work and strategies.

15. A review of the activities of the Child Protection Section indicated that the Section planned and implemented activities to ensure the mainstreaming of child protection issues in the activities of the Mission. Toward this end, the Child Protection Section: (a) routinely briefed, advised and reported to the Joint Special Representative on child protection issues; (b) held meetings with armed parties to assess the implementation of action plans to end the use of child soldiers; and (c) participated in relevant meetings with UNAMID senior management on child protection issues. Also, the Section actively collaborated and worked with other Mission components to ensure child protection issues were properly integrated into their activities. For example, the Section worked with: (i) the HIV/AIDS Unit on the referrals of child victims for Post Exposure Prophylaxis treatment; and (ii) the Ordnance Disposal Unit to provide awareness training in schools to reduce the death rate of children related to unexploded ordnance. OIOS concluded that UNAMID had implemented adequate controls to ensure a child conscious approach was adopted when planning and implementing its activities.

UNAMID had adequately engaged organized armed parties on the protection of children

16. Security Council resolution 1539 (2004) and the DPKO/DFS policy on mainstreaming the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict required UNAMID to establish dialogue with parties to the conflict to agree on and implement time-bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

17. A review of minutes of the Child Protection Section's meetings with armed groups, attendance at one meeting held on 26 November 2014, and briefing notes to the Joint Special Representative indicated that the Section established dialogues with leaders of nine armed groups and the Sudanese Ministry of Defense. These dialogues resulted in the leaders issuing nine command orders to prevent their respective field commanders from recruiting and using child soldiers. The armed groups also developed action plans containing their commitments to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers and to prevent their re-recruitment as well as to release all children found within their ranks. The Section also made sure that each armed group appointed a focal point on the implementation and reporting in respect of the action plan. As a result of these activities, as at November 2014, the parties to the conflict registered 1,300 former child soldiers with the Sudanese Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission where they received support as well as psycho-social training before they were reintegrated into their communities. Some of the former child soldiers were enrolled in secondary schools, universities and vocational training programmes. Based on the recommendations of UNAMID, the Secretary-General removed four armed parties from the list of violators, as they had fully implemented their action plans.

18. OIOS concluded that UNAMID had implemented adequate controls to ensure dialogues were held with organized armed parties to agree on and implement time bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

B. Programme management

The Mission was training its personnel and building the capacity of local communities on the protection, rights and welfare of children

19. The DPKO/DFS policy on mainstreaming the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict within United Nations Peacekeeping Operations required UNAMID to provide training to all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, rights and welfare of children. The DPKO/DFS policy also required training and capacity building of the host community to promote greater protection for children.

20. A review of training records indicated that during fiscal year 2013/14, the Child Protection Section delivered 52 training sessions to 5,852 individuals on the protection, rights and welfare of children to promote greater protection for children. The trainees included UNAMID civilian personnel and peacekeepers as well as participants from the Government of Sudan's Police and Corrections Services, ex-combatants, community leaders, youth leaders, state officials and medical professionals. Further, the Section, in collaboration with the Integrated Mission Training Centre and relevant actors, provided briefings on the responsibilities of Mission personnel on child protection during the mandatory induction training sessions for all new incoming Mission personnel.

21. OIOS concluded that the Mission had implemented adequate controls in respect of the training of its personnel and capacity building of local communities on the protection, rights and welfare of children.

C. Coordinated management

The Mission implemented adequate mechanism to monitor and report on violations against children

22. Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) required UNAMID to establish a mechanism in collaboration with another United Nations agency and other relevant partners to monitor and report on violations perpetrated against children. The resolution further required UNAMID to establish a United

Nations led Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) to be co-chaired by the UNAMID Head of Mission and a representative of another United Nations agency.

23. UNAMID established the CTFMR on June 2011. The Task Force comprised members from the United Nations Country Team in Darfur and was co-chaired by the Regional Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, the UNAMID Joint Special Representative and a representative of another United Nations agency. The CTFMR also established child protection working groups at sector levels that were co-chaired by UNAMID child protection officers and representatives of another United Nations agency. The working groups met regularly to gather and strengthen the exchange of information on the abuse of children's rights and investigate the authenticity of the information received. The CTFMR had fulfilled its monitoring and quarterly reporting requirements through the more detailed monitoring activities of the working groups.

24. OIOS concluded that UNAMID had implemented an adequate mechanism to monitor and report on violations perpetrated against children.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

25. OIOS wishes to express its appreciation to the Management and staff of UNAMID for the assistance and cooperation extended to the auditors during this assignment.

(Signed) David Kanja
Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services

APPENDIX I

Management Response

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNAMID



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

African Union – United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

05 May 2015

To: Ms. Eleanor T. Burns, Director
Internal Audit Division, OIOS

From:  Abiodun Oluremi Bashua
Acting Joint-Special Representative
UNAMID 

Subject: **Draft report on an audit of the child protection programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (Assignment No. AP2014/634/13)**

1. With reference to your memorandum of 04 May 015, on the captioned-subject matter, I confirm the factual accuracy of the report for your further consideration.
2. I have also taken note that OIOS will post the final report, which will include the Mission's complete comments, on its website 30 days after its issuance in line with the General Assembly resolution 69/253.

Thank you.

cc: Mr. Abdul B. Kamara, Deputy Joint Special Representative, UNAMID
Mr. Rakesh Malik, Director, Mission Support Division, UNAMID
Mr. Boubacar Dieng, Chief, Child Protection, UNAMID
Mr. Bolton Tarleh Nyema, Chief, Peacekeeping Audit Service, IAD, OIOS
Mr. Prances Sooza, Chief Resident Auditor, Internal Audit Division, OIOS
Mr. Velayutham Gopal, Audit Focal Point, UNAMID
Ms. Cynthia Avena-Castillo, Professional Practices Section, Internal Audit Division, OIOS