

REPORT 2018/030

Audit of the human rights programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

The Mission needed to develop its human rights transitional strategy, assess the impact of its downsizing on the human rights programme, and enhance controls over field visits to hotspots

19 April 2018 Assignment No. AP2017/634/03

Audit of the human rights programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of the human rights programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The objective of the audit was to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNAMID human rights programme in assisting in the promotion of human rights and developing human rights institutions in the Darfur region. The audit covered the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017 and included a review of: human rights programme strategy and annual planning; monitoring and reporting of the human rights situation; capacity-building of national human rights institutions; mainstreaming of human rights in United Nations programmes; and human rights programme impact evaluation.

UNAMID had developed annual plans for the human rights programme, accurately reported its activities, coordinated with the United Nations Country Team in integrating human rights activities, and complied with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. However, the Mission needed to develop its human rights transitional strategy, assess the impact of its downsizing on the programme, and enhance controls over field visits to human rights hotspots.

OIOS made four recommendations. To address issues identified in the audit, UNAMID needed to:

- Expedite the development of a human rights transitional strategy and put in place a mechanism for monitoring the impact of the Mission's downsizing on human rights activities in areas surrounding the closed military camps;
- Ensure timely and complete recording of human rights violation cases into the database including the current backlog of cases, and institute performance measures to ensure consistent use, update and quality control of the information;
- Enhance the collaboration between the Human Rights Section, the Sector Head of Offices, the military and the police in planning joint patrols to ensure that escorts are provided to human rights officers at locations of special interest not covered by routine military patrols; and
- Ensure all staff complete the mandatory online human rights responsibilities course.

UNAMID accepted the recommendations and initiated action to implement them.

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Audit of the human rights 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 human rights programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).
- 2. The UNAMID Human Rights Section (HRS) was mandated by the United Nations Security Council to: monitor and report on the human rights situation in Darfur; collaborate in strengthening the capacity of key actors and developing national human rights institutions in a bid to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights; mainstream human rights activities in UNAMID and United Nations Country Team (UNCT) programmes; and assist in implementing the human rights and transitional justice chapters of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).
- 3. HRS was headed by the Chief Human Rights Officer (CHRO) at the D-1 level, who reported to the Joint Special Representative (JSR). The Chief also reported to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) based in Geneva and served as the representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Sudan.
- 4. HRS activities were governed by the Policy on Human Rights in United Nations Peace Operations and Political Missions (Human Rights Policy), jointly promulgated by OHCHR, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Field Support, and the 2002 memorandum of understanding (MOU) between OHCHR and DPKO.
- 5. For 2016/17, the Section had an approved staffing strength of 91 personnel (35 international staff, 46 national staff and 10 United Nations Volunteers) costing approximately \$9.5 million. The Section's operational budgets were funded by UNAMID and OHCHR. For 2015/16 and 2016/17, UNAMID budgets were \$100,000 for each financial year, while OHCHR budgets were \$170,000 and \$187,000 respectively.
- 6. Comments provided by UNAMID are incorporated in italics.

II. AUDIT OBJECTIVE, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

- 7. The objective of the audit was to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNAMID human rights programme in assisting in the promotion of human rights and the development of human rights institutions and actors in the Darfur region.
- 8. This audit was included in the 2017 risk-based work plan of OIOS due to operational and reputational risks related to management of the human rights programme in UNAMID.
- 9. OIOS conducted this audit from September to November 2017. The audit covered the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017. Based on an activity-level risk assessment, the audit covered risk areas which included: human rights programme strategy and annual planning; monitoring and reporting of the human rights situation; capacity-building of national human rights institutions; mainstreaming of human rights in United Nations programmes; and human rights programme impact evaluation.
- 10. The audit methodology included interviews with key personnel, review of relevant documentation and analytical review of data.

11. The audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

III. AUDIT RESULTS

A. Human rights programme strategy and annual planning

UNAMID had developed a human rights strategy and annual work plans

- 12. The Human Rights Policy requires UNAMID to identify and assess the risks and opportunities relating to the human rights programme and develop a strategy and work plan to mitigate risks and seize opportunities. Security Council resolutions on UNAMID mandated HRS to assist in the promotion of human rights in Darfur.
- 13. The UNAMID concept of operations for the period 2014-2016 articulated the areas of focus for the human rights programme including: monitoring and reporting of the human rights situation in Darfur; collaborating in strengthening the capacity of key actors and developing national human rights institutions; mainstreaming human rights in UNAMID and UNCT programmes; and assisting in the implementation of the human rights and transitional justice chapters of the DDPD. To implement its mandate, HRS established three units: the Capacity-building Unit, the Administration of Justice Unit, and the Monitoring, Reporting and Analysis Unit.
- 14. Under the leadership of the Deputy JSR, HRS conducted two strategic planning retreats; one in October 2013 to develop the human rights plan for 2014-2016 and another in August and September 2016 for developing the 2016-2018 work plan. These retreats resulted in the development of a human rights strategy and the Section's work plans, which included its vision, mission and priorities to achieve human rights objectives outlined in the Human Rights Policy. HRS annual work plans for the financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17 and the Mission's results-based budget's indicators of achievement were aligned with the human rights mandate and the Mission's concept of operations' thematic priority areas. HRS also conducted a risk assessment of the human rights programme and developed a risk register with appropriate mitigating strategies.
- 15. OIOS concluded that the strategy and annual planning for the human rights programme adequately identified and assessed risks and opportunities, as well as appropriate strategies and actions required to implement the programme's mandate.

Need to develop a human rights transitional strategy

- 16. The Human Rights Policy requires UNAMID to ensure that adequate human rights presence is maintained during the drawdown of the Mission to guarantee continuity of key human rights activities in the host country. Security Council resolution 2363 (2017) requires UNAMID to report on the impact of the Mission's downsizing on protection needs, violations and abuses of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law, and the ability for relief actors to provide humanitarian assistance.
- 17. HRS had not yet developed a transitional strategy to ensure continuity of human rights activities during the downsizing of the Mission. This was partly because HRS was unable to assess the impact of the Mission's downsizing on its human rights activities in areas near the 11 military camps that were closed following the reduction of uniformed personnel. HRS was unable to get access to these sites because of unavailability of military escorts, which were needed due to security concerns in traveling to these locations.

The CHRO explained that UNAMID, in collaboration with OHCHR, was in the process of seeking and advocating for the appointment of an independent human rights advisor for the UNCT that would be responsible for human rights matters in locations from where UNAMID had withdrawn its presence. OHCHR was also considering requesting its Ethiopia Office to undertake human rights monitoring visits in Darfur. Without a transitional strategy, human rights issues may not be appropriately considered and addressed during the downsizing of UNAMID.

(1) UNAMID, in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, should: (a) take steps to expedite the development of a human rights transitional strategy; and (b) put in place a mechanism for monitoring the impact of the Mission's downsizing on human rights activities in areas surrounding the closed military camps.

UNAMID accepted recommendation 1 and stated that it was coordinating with OHCHR regarding the development of a human rights transitional strategy. UNAMID added that it had designed a procedure for staff members to gather information showing the impact of downsizing on human rights activities in locations surrounding the closed military sites and reflecting them in mandatory reports. Recommendation 1 remains open pending receipt of the human rights transitional strategy and evidence that UNAMID is adequately monitoring the impact of its downsizing on human rights activities in Darfur.

B. Monitoring and reporting of the human rights situation

Need to update the human rights database

- 18. The Human Rights Policy requires HRS to enter data gathered on monitoring, fact-finding and investigation activities in the OHCHR human rights case database which is used to register, manage and follow up cases of human rights violations. The CHRO is responsible for ensuring consistent use of the database and quality control of the information recorded in it.
- 19. OIOS review of HRS weekly reports prepared from July 2015 to June 2017 indicated that HRS had verified 682 cases of human rights violations out of 932 reported cases involving 2,360 victims. Of the 682 verified human rights violation cases, only 112 cases (mainly from Sector North) were entered in the OHCHR case database. As of 11 September 2017, only 3 of the 112 cases had been closed in the database, and the remaining 109 had been open for an average of 469 days from the time they were initially recorded. There were no status updates in the database for 105 (93 per cent) of the 112 reported cases, and no cases were recorded or updated in the database during the period 26 February 2017 to 11 September 2017. The weekly reports also showed that a total of 641 out of 682 previously reported cases were followed up with host government authorities for resolution, but the database was not updated with results of the follow-up actions and whether satisfactory action had been taken.
- 20. Although the CHRO frequently reminded staff to record human rights cases in the OHCHR case database, delays in updating the database continued to be observed. Staff performance in this regard was not measured and monitored. As a result, UNAMID and OHCHR did not have comprehensive and accurate information to track and monitor the resolution of human rights cases.
 - (2) UNAMID should: (a) take necessary action to ensure timely and complete recording of human rights violation cases in the database including the current backlog of cases; and (b) institute performance measures to ensure consistent use, update and quality control of the information.

UNAMID accepted recommendation 2 and stated that it had taken steps to record human rights violation cases in the case database including the current backlog by instituting a system of reporting only those human rights violations which had a database case number and date. This measure would ensure that international human rights officers would be using the system consistently and reinforce the Team Leader's obligation to review and endorse cases, ensuring quality control. Recommendation 2 remains open pending receipt of evidence that the backlog of human rights cases has been recorded in the database and that all reviewed cases are entered in the database.

Monitoring and follow-up of field visits needed improvement

- 21. The Human Rights Policy requires HRS to conduct regular monitoring of the human rights situation with a view to identifying and verifying alleged human rights violations and abuses to inform preventive and protection action as an early warning mechanism. This involves gathering information by observing events such as demonstrations or trials and visiting detention places, hospitals and camps for internally displaced persons and refugees.
- 22. OIOS review of weekly reports on human rights monitoring activities indicated that:
 - (a) Some 250 out of 932 reported human rights violation cases were not verified by HRS due to a variety of reasons including capacity constraints and limited access to certain areas. Human rights cases are time-sensitive and if not followed up promptly, the cases in most instances cannot be effectively investigated at a later date;
 - (b) The sector human rights officers generally conducted visits to the same locations during field monitoring visits while some locations were not visited;
 - (c) There were 11 instances when HRS staff in the sectors did not undertake human rights field monitoring visits to any of the sector locations for about 30 days on average; and
 - (d) Sector human rights officers did not consistently follow up the resolution of previously reported human rights violation cases in a timely manner. For example, there were 20 instances where officers did not follow up on any of the previously reported cases for 40 days on average.
- 23. The CHRO explained that field monitoring and follow-up visits could not be done as required partly because of staff shortages and the lack of military escorts to hotspot areas due to inadequate coordination. Military escorts were mainly available for routinely patrolled locations. As a result, there was a risk that human rights violations and abuses may not be identified and verified, and perpetrators may not be held accountable for their actions. OIOS ascertained that HRS had 18 (51 per cent) of 35 international posts that were vacant, and its overall vacancy rate was 28 per cent. Subsequent to the audit, HRS implemented a mechanism to oversee the work of the available human rights officers in the sectors to ensure that mandated activities were appropriately prioritized and implemented.
 - (3) UNAMID should enhance the collaboration between the Human Rights Section, the Sector Head of Offices, the military and the police in planning joint patrols to ensure that escorts are provided to human rights officers at locations of special interest not covered by routine military patrols.

UNAMID accepted recommendation 3 and stated that it would endeavour to allocate human resources within the existing capacity to locations of special interest not covered by routine military or police patrols, taking into account the Government of Sudan's access restrictions to areas of specific interest. A functional coordination mechanism comprising the military, police and HRS was

being considered to ensure effective implementation of the recommendation. Recommendation 3 remains open pending receipt of evidence that human rights monitoring activities cover non-routinely patrolled locations.

HRS regularly prepared and submitted reports on human rights

- 24. Security Council resolutions on UNAMID require the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council detailed public reports on abuses and violations of human rights, including those committed against women and children, and violations of international humanitarian law. The Human Rights Policy and the MOU between DPKO and OHCHR require the CHRO to prepare and submit to the Government of Sudan and other key actors thematic and ad hoc reports that present an impartial analysis of and recommendations on human rights issues.
- 25. HRS prepared: (a) weekly and monthly activity reports that were submitted to the JSR and OHCHR; (b) information to be included in periodic reports submitted by the Secretary-General's to the Security Council detailing the activities of and challenges faced by the Section, and statistics on human rights violations in Darfur; (c) quarterly reports to the Secretary-General on sexual and gender-based violence including conflict-related sexual violence detailing statistics on violations and Mission initiatives; (d) thematic reports that provided in-depth analysis of human rights issues and recommendations to the Government of Sudan and other key actors; and (e) incident/investigation confidential reports on specific and significant human rights violations that required prompt intervention by United Nations senior management and the international community.
- 26. OIOS therefore concluded that UNAMID had implemented adequate controls over reporting on human rights activities in Darfur.

C. Capacity-building and development of human rights institutions

UNAMID was assisting in implementing the human rights and transitional justice chapters of the DDPD

- 27. UNAMID is required to assist in strengthening national human rights structures and capacities to sustain its achievements after the Mission is withdrawn, including advocating the establishment of transitional justice institutions.
- 28. UNAMID had advocated for the establishment of transitional institutions, which included: the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission established in 2014; the Special Court for Darfur for Serious Crimes established in 2012; the National Supreme Court Division for the Darfur States established in 2016; and the National Human Rights Commissions (NHRC) El Fasher regional office established in 2016. However, these transitional justice institutions faced challenges in delivering their mandates due to lack of staffing and funding. UNAMID, in an effort to make the NHRC El Fasher branch operational, donated construction materials for a temporary office and office equipment in July 2017 and sponsored an NHRC workshop for the review of the five-year national action plan. HRS also held several meetings during the audit period with transitional justice and human rights institutions on how to effectively implement the human rights mandates.
- 29. Additionally, HRS had advocated for further legal and justice reforms with State and non-State human rights actors resulting in an amendment of the Criminal Act in February 2015 to make a clear distinction between rape and adultery, the expansion of the mandate of the Darfur Special Court to include rape, and the establishment of the legal aid fund in 2016.

- 30. In 2015/16 and 2016/17, HRS planned to undertake 110 human rights capacity-building activities, e.g., training, workshops, and human rights commemorations targeting various human rights actors such as the armed forces, community members, internally displaced persons, police and prisons officers, judges and lawyers, as well as NHRC personnel. However, while 7,261 participants benefited from these activities, only 50 of the 110 activities were implemented. The remaining 60 were not implemented, partly due to insufficient planning by HRS, as well as funding constraints, staffing challenges at the sectors, and unavailability of targeted participants.
- 31. To enhance its capacity-building activities based on the challenges experienced in 2015/16 and 2016/17, HRS had started collaborating with other substantive sections in the Mission, such as the rule of law and police components, to deliver human rights training to 60 prison officers and 27 police officers. Additionally, for 2017/18, HRS was more realistic in planning its capacity-building activities, which comprised of 29 activities reflecting what could be implemented within its available staffing and funding.
- 32. In view of the ongoing efforts made by UNAMID in building the capacity of human rights institutions and actors under challenging conditions in Darfur, OIOS did not make a recommendation.

D. Mainstreaming of human rights in United Nations programmes

Need to ensure that Mission staff complete mandatory human rights training

- 33. The MOU between DPKO and OHCHR requires the JSR to ensure that all Mission staff are aware of and abide by international human rights and humanitarian law standards by issuing instructions to that effect. Additionally, all UNAMID staff were required to complete the mandatory course on United Nations Human Rights Responsibilities within six months.
- 34. OIOS review of training records in Inspira indicated that only 1,096 (36 per cent) of the 3,000 staff on board as at 30 June 2017 had completed the mandatory human rights training course. There was no indication that staff were reminded of their responsibility to complete the course, or that compliance was being monitored. Although HRS in conjunction with the Integrated Mission Training Centre delivered human rights awareness training during the induction of new Mission staff, this was an introductory module and not as detailed as the mandatory training course.
- 35. Non-participation of staff in mandatory human rights training increases the risk that they may not be appropriately aware of their responsibilities in relation to human rights issues.
 - (4) UNAMID should: (a) issue instructions requiring all staff to complete the mandatory online human rights responsibilities course; and (b) implement a monitoring mechanism to ensure that all staff have completed the course.

UNAMID accepted recommendation 4 and stated that HRS had instructed its staff to complete the mandatory training by 15 February 2018 and submit their certificate to the Chief of Section and a Mission-wide broadcast was issued on 22 February 2018, requiring staff to submit their certificate to the Integrated Mission Training Centre. Recommendation 4 remains open pending receipt of evidence that all UNAMID staff have completed the mandatory human rights training.

HRS coordinated with other UNAMID sections and UNCT to promote human rights

36. The Human Rights Policy requires the Mission to ensure: effective coordination mechanisms to enable HRS and relevant sections to share information and work in synergy to protect human rights in

Darfur; and requires the CHRO as the representative of OHCHR in Sudan to assist the Humanitarian Country Team to integrate rights-based approaches and reflect human rights considerations in their work.

- 37. HRS was effectively collaborating with other UNAMID sections and UNCT through various coordination meetings and joint working groups. This included: (a) collaboration with substantive sections in the functioning of the Joint Protection Working Group chaired by the Protection of Civilians Section; (b) participation in senior management meetings chaired by the JSR to share information among Mission components; (c) quarterly visits by HRS managers to the sectors to meet with other Mission components including the police and military; (d) regular meetings between the CHRO and members of the transitional justice system in Darfur at the sector level to discuss ways of strengthening the transitional justice system; (e) participation in monthly UNCT meetings to discuss and share information on human rights related issues; and (f) participation in the International Partners Forum on Human Rights comprising the European Union delegation to Sudan, donors and international non-governmental organizations.
- 38. Based on the above, OIOS concluded that UNAMID had implemented adequate coordination mechanisms to promote and protect human rights in Darfur.

Measures were in place to implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

- 39. The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces requires UNAMID to provide support directly or through implementing partners that are consistent with the Organization's purpose and principles in the Charter and its obligations under international law to respect, promote and encourage respect for international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. Support activities could include training, mentoring, advisory services, capacity- and institution-building.
- 40. UNAMID promulgated the HRDDP procedures regarding the Mission's support to non-United Nations security forces in Sudan on 26 November 2014. The policy outlined the roles and responsibilities of UNAMID sections and clarified decision-making processes and coordination mechanisms. HRS provided the following support in implementing the HRDDP Policy:
 - (a) Trained 28 stakeholders from the Sudanese Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and non-governmental organizations in July 2017 on HRDDP awareness;
 - (b) Conducted a HRDDP awareness workshop in October 2015 for seven UNAMID staff from the Civil Affairs Section, the Protection of Civilian/Humanitarian Liaison Office and the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section;
 - (c) Worked in liaison with the Civil Affairs Section to amend a quick-impact project review fact sheet to include a section for project sponsors to affirm that HRDDP had been fully complied with and no risk had been identified, before project proposals were approved by Mission management; and
 - (d) Attended all the three project approval committee meetings held during the audit period to approve 26 community-based labour-intensive projects/community stabilization projects, where doubts or concerns existed about the human rights violation of the recipients (individual or group).
- 41. Based on the above actions undertaken by HRS, OIOS concluded that measures were in place to ensure that UNAMID complied with the HRDDP.

E. Human rights programme impact evaluation

An evaluation of the human rights programme in UNAMID was ongoing

- 42. The Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2016/6 on regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation requires HRS to undertake periodic self-evaluation and/or engage an independent evaluator to determine systematically and objectively the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Section's activities in relation to its objective.
- 43. UNAMID had not engaged the services of an independent programme evaluation expert to assess the impact of the human rights programme on vulnerable civilians especially internally displaced persons, women and children, due to lack of funding for the exercise. However, HRS had undertaken a limited impact assessment of the programme during the two strategic planning sessions in 2013 and 2015 which resulted in some adjustments to the programme to make it more effective in delivering its mandate. Additionally, at the time of the audit, the Inspection and Evaluation Division of OIOS was conducting an evaluation of the human rights programme in UNAMID.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

44. 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) Eleanor T. Burns Director, Internal Audit Division Office of Internal Oversight Services

STATUS OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Audit of the human rights programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Rec.	Recommendation	Critical ¹ / Important ²	C/ O ³	Actions needed to close recommendation	Implementation date ⁴
1	UNAMID, in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, should: (a) take steps to expedite the development of a human rights transitional strategy; and (b) put in place a mechanism for monitoring the impact of the Mission's downsizing on human rights activities in areas surrounding the closed military camps.	Important	0	Receipt of the human rights transitional strategy and evidence that UNAMID is adequately monitoring the impact of its downsizing on human rights activities in Darfur.	31 August 2018
2	UNAMID should: (a) take necessary action to ensure timely and complete recording of human rights violation cases in the database including the current backlog of cases; and (b) institute performance measures to ensure consistent use, update and quality control of the information.	Important	0	Receipt of evidence that the backlog of human rights cases has been recorded in the database and that all reviewed cases are entered into the database.	31 July 2018
3	UNAMID should enhance the collaboration between the Human Rights Section, the Sector Head of Offices, the military and the police in planning joint patrols to ensure that escorts are provided to human rights officers at locations of special interest not covered by routine military patrols.	Important	0	Receipt of evidence that human rights monitoring activities cover non-routinely patrolled locations.	31 May 2018
4	UNAMID should: (a) issue instructions requiring all staff to complete the mandatory online human rights responsibilities course; and (b) implement a monitoring mechanism to ensure that all staff have completed the course.	Important	O	Receipt of evidence that all UNAMID staff have completed the mandatory human rights training.	31 July 2018

¹ Critical recommendations address critical and/or pervasive deficiencies in governance, risk management or control processes, such that reasonable assurance cannot be provided with regard to the achievement of control and/or business objectives under review.

² Important recommendations address important (but not critical or pervasive) deficiencies in governance, risk management or control processes, such that reasonable assurance may be at risk regarding the achievement of control and/or business objectives under review.

 $^{^{3}}$ C = closed, O = open

⁴ Date provided by UNAMID in response to recommendations.

APPENDIX I

Management Response





African Union - United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Office of the Joint Special Representative

17 April 2018

To:

Mr. Arnold Valdez, Officer-in-Charge

Peacekeeping Audit Service Internal Audit Division, OIOS

Jeremiah Kingsley Mamabolo Joint Special Representative

Subject:

Draft report on an audit of the human rights programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (Assignment No. AP2017/634/03)

With reference to your memorandum of 3 April 2018, on the captioned-subject, please find 1. attached UNAMID response (Appendix I) to the draft report for your consideration.

cc:

Mr. Marcel Akpovo, Chief Human Rights Section, UNAMID

Ms. Florence Ndungu, Senior Administrative Officer, ODMS, UNAMID

Ms. Dorothy Choto, Audit Focal Point, UNAMID

Mr. Alexandre Etocke, Chief Resident Auditor, Internal Audit Division, OIOS, UNAMID

Ms. Cynthia Avena-Castillo, Professional Practices Section, Internal Audit Division, OIOS

Management Response Audit of the human rights programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Rec.	Recommendation	Critical ¹ / Important ²	Accepted? (Yes/No)	Title of responsible individual	Implementation date	Client comments
1.	UNAMID, in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, should: (a) take steps to expedite the development of a human rights transitional strategy; and (b) put in place a mechanism for monitoring the impact of the Mission's downsizing on human rights activities in locations surrounding closed military camps.	Important	Yes	Chief Human Rights Officer	31 August 2018	UNAMID is in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the development of a human rights transition strategy. UNAMID has designed a procedure for staff members to gather information showing the impact of downsizing on human rights activities in locations surrounding closed military sites and reflecting same in mandatory reports.
2.	UNAMID should: (a) take necessary action to ensure timely and complete recording of human rights violation cases into the database including the current backlog of cases; and (b) institute performance measures to ensure consistent use, update and quality control of the information.	Important	Yes	Chief Human Rights Officer	31 July 2018	UNAMID has taken steps to record human rights violation cases into the case data base including the current backlog by instituting a system of reporting only those human rights violations which have a data base system case number and date of entry. This measure ensures that international human rights officers will be using the system consistently. It also ensures that the Team Leader's obligation to review and endorse cases in the system will enhance quality control.

¹ Critical recommendations address critical and/or pervasive deficiencies in governance, risk management or control processes, such that reasonable assurance cannot be provided with regard to the achievement of control and/or business objectives under review.

² Important recommendations address important (but not critical or pervasive) deficiencies in governance, risk management or control processes, such that reasonable assurance may be at risk regarding the achievement of control and/or business objectives under review.

Management Response Audit of the human rights programme in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Rec.	Recommendation	Critical ¹ / Important ²	Accepted? (Yes/No)	Title of responsible individual	Implementation date	Client comments
3.	UNAMID should enhance the collaboration between the Human Rights Section, the Sector Head of Offices, the military and the police to plan joint patrols to ensure that escorts are provided to human rights officers to locations of special interests not covered by routine military patrols.	Important	Yes	Chief Human Rights Officer; Head of Offices; Police Commissioner; Force Commander	30 May 2018	UNAMID will endeavor to allocate personnel and resources within the existing capacity to locations of special interest not covered by routine military or police patrols taking into account the Government of Sudan access and restrictions to areas of specific interest to human rights concern. A functional coordination mechanism comprising the military, police and the human rights section is being considered to ensure effective implementation of the recommendation.
4.	UNAMID should (a) issue instructions requiring all staff to complete the mandatory online human rights responsibilities course, and (b) implement a monitoring mechanism to ensure that all staff have completed the course.	Important	Yes	Chief Human Rights Officer	31 July 2018	The Mission Human Rights Section has instructed its staff to complete the mandatory training by 15 February 2018 and submit their certificate to the Chief of Section. Moreover, a mission wide broadcast was issued on 22 February 2018 through the Integrated Mission Training Centre which will be monitored similarly, by requiring staff to submit their certificate to the Integrated Mission Training Centre.