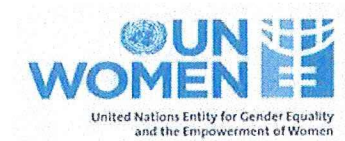


**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and
the Empowerment of Women
Independent Evaluation and Audit Services
Internal Audit Service**



AUDIT

OF

CIVIL SOCIETY DIVISION

Report No. IEAS/IAS/HQ/2018/001

Issue Date: 21 December 2018

Report on the Audit of Civil Society Division

Executive Summary

The UN Women Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS) conducted an audit of the Civil Society Division (the Division) from July to August 2018. The audit aimed to assess whether the Civil Society Division has put in place adequate governance, organizational structures, financial management and controls to mitigate and manage potential risks in effective and efficient Implementation of operational priorities as set out in its Annual Work Plans and the UN Women Strategic Plan for 2018–2021.

Based on a preliminary risk assessment by IAS, the audit covered selected systems, processes and activities of the Division from 1 January to 31 December 2017. Where changes were noted between 2017 and the time of the audit, audit tests of selected systems and processes were extended to 31 July 2018. In 2017, the Division recorded programme and management expenses of approximately US\$ 0.9 million. This is the first audit of the Division since UN Women was established.

IAS followed the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* in conducting this audit.

Overall audit rating

IAS assessed the Division as **Partially Satisfactory (Some Improvement Needed)**, meaning “*the assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and control processes 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.*” The rating was mainly due to improvements needed in identification of risk, selection of partners, financial management and delay in liquidation of advances to partners.

Good practices

- In 2017, the Division coordinated the partnership between the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and UN Women for the creation of the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) that gave high visibility to advocacy for equal pay for work of equal value between genders.
- The Division supported the work of the Civil Society Advisory Group in El Salvador with catalytic funds towards a national advocacy campaign to end violence against women, which has given UN Women significant recognition in the country with minimal financial investment.

Key recommendations: Total = 4, none high priority, 4 medium priority

The audit did not result in any high (critical) priority recommendations. IAS made four medium (important) priority recommendations, meaning, “*Action is required to ensure that UN Women is not*

exposed to risks. Failure to take action could result in negative consequences for UN Women. These recommendations include actions to proactively manage risk, document selection processes for partners, monitor the timely liquidation of cash advances to partners, and improve the Division's financial management.

IAS categorized the audit recommendations according to the internal control objectives stated in the UN Women Internal Control Framework:

Internal Control Objectives	Recommendation No.	Priority Rating
Operational (strategic and operating objectives, effectiveness and efficiency, safeguarding of resources)	1, 2	Medium
Financial (safety and maintenance of records and preparation of reliable financial and operational information)	3	Medium
Compliance (regulations and rules, policies and procedures)	4	Medium

Management comments and action plan

The Director of the Division accepted all of the recommendations and plans, or is in the process of implementing them. Comments and/or additional information provided have been incorporated in the report, where appropriate.

Low risk issues (not included in this report) have been discussed directly with the Division and actions have been initiated to address them.



Lisa Sutton
Director
Independent Evaluation and Audit Services