



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Decision on SECU Case. No. SECU0005

UNDP takes note of the compliance review that the Office of Audit and Investigations conducted on Case No. SECU0005 and wishes to thank the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit for its analysis and recommendations which will be used to inform UNDP's approaches going forward.

UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) are a mandatory requirement for all parts of the organization - in all programmes and projects - as part of UNDP's quality assurance and risk management process.

The purpose of SECU is to ensure accountability to those individuals and communities with whom we work. It is important that these voices are heard, and that UNDP has an opportunity to respond to the issues that they have raised.

In my capacity as Administrator of UNDP, I therefore take very seriously SECU's reports and our responsibility to comply fully with our Social and Environmental Standards (SES).

The report dated 24 October 2019 and published on 30 October 2019 has been thoroughly analysed by the Regional Bureau for Africa and the UNDP Country Office in Malawi.

The report acknowledges the importance of this project in providing national identification cards to the citizens of Malawi and the potential long-term benefits in terms of citizens gaining better access to social services, participation in voting and more effective government planning and administration. The findings also show that there is room for organizational learning.

Looking ahead, UNDP will put in place a series of follow up actions to respond to each of the five recommendations of the report. These include actions to:

- Ensure adequate screening for social and environmental risks in future UNDP projects.
- Ensure that all procurement processes include SES requirements as per UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) and that contractors are made aware of and supervised to implement relevant measures to comply with the SES.
- Continue to bring all credible allegations of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse to the attention of UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigation (OAI), for its assessment.
- Ensure measures required by SES around labour standards are applied to future UNDP projects as appropriate, including in the activities of sub-contractors.
- Ensure that future projects enhance grievance redress systems and ensure they are easily accessible to those potentially impacted.



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Specifically, I have asked our Regional Bureau for Africa, the UNDP Country Office in Malawi, and the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support to prepare action plans by mid-March 2020 that will be shared with SECU once agreed. I also note that the findings and recommendations of this Report have already been taken into account in the design of another similar UNDP national registration programme. This is a welcome example of how we can make good use of SECU reports to better inform UNDP's programming approaches in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Achim Steiner'.

Achim Steiner
Administrator
2 March 2020