



UNITED NATIONS
BOARD OF AUDITORS



Briefing on the Concise Summary

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1

**General matters
regarding the audited entities**

1. General matters regarding the audited entities

- ***Audit opinions.*** All 18 entities received unqualified audit opinions. UNRWA received an unqualified opinion with an emphasis of matter.
- **Financial performance.** Overall, these 18 entities displayed healthy financial performance in 2023.
 - ***Assets.*** 4 entities experienced a decline in assets , 13 entities experienced an increase.
 - ***Liabilities.*** 2 entities experienced a decline, 15 entities experienced an increase.
 - ***Revenue.*** 10 entities experienced an increase, while 7 entities experienced a decrease.
 - ***Expenses.*** 12 entities increased while the other 5 entities experienced a decrease.
 - ***Net results.*** 12 entities concluded with a surplus, while 5 entities reported a deficit.
 - ***Ratios.*** In general, the financial position of all entities remained at least sufficient.



1. General matters regarding the audited entities



Cash and investment management

- 8 of the audited entities were participating in the investment pool maintained by the United Nations Treasury, which managed **cash and investments of \$10.67 billion** in its investment pool.
- UNDP managed investments totalling \$12.61 billion for its own programme and for other United Nations entities under service-level agreements covering four entities(UNCDF, UNFPA, UNITAR and UN-Women). Four entities (UNICEF, UNHCR, UNOPS, UNRWA) had a total of \$15.82 billion in cash and investments that were not pooled or managed by others.
- In general, investments were remaining stable.
- As at 31 December 2023, investments were above \$1 billion for six entities (United Nations (Vol. I), UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNICEF and UNOPS).



1. General matters regarding the audited entities



Receivables

- 17 United Nations entities had **accumulated total receivables of \$20,728 million** (2022: 19,743 million), receivables outstanding for one year or longer reached to \$1,191 million (2022: \$985 million) and receivables from other UN entities amounted to \$1,345 million (2022: \$1,169 million).
- 13 entities had increased receivables compared with the previous year. The entity with the highest receivables was UNDP, at \$5,053 million. UNEP had the highest receivables from other United Nations entities which was \$735 million.



1. General matters regarding the audited entities



Employee benefits liabilities

- **Except for UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF and UNU, employee benefits liabilities of all other entities increased compared with the previous year.** The increase was mainly attributable to the decrease in discount rate and changes of other actuarial assumptions.
- For 14 entities, such liabilities represented more than one quarter (25 per cent) of total liabilities.
- For 8 entities, employee benefit liabilities were more than half of total liabilities.
- For UNRWA and UNCDF, employee benefits liabilities were over 80 per cent of total liabilities.
- In 2023, the highest amounts for ASHI (with accounts of more than \$1 billion) were held by United Nations (Vol. I), United Nations peacekeeping operations, UNICEF, which is in line with the large number of staff in those entities.



1. General matters regarding the audited entities

After-service health insurance liability (ASHI)

- After-service health insurance accounted for the majority of employee benefits liabilities for all of the entities except UNRWA.
- In 2023, the highest amounts for ASHI (with accounts of more than \$1 billion) were held by United Nations (Vol. I), United Nations peacekeeping operations, UNICEF, which is in line with the large number of staff in those entities.



1. General matters regarding the audited entities



Fraud and presumptive fraud

- The total number of cases had an increase over the past three years, rising from 706 in 2021 to 856 in 2023. Out of these cases, 162 had remained pending for more than two years that involve eight entities.
- **12 entities had reported cases of fraud or presumptive fraud in each of the past two years in the 18 entities.**
- Among the above-mentioned 162 cases, UNFPA, United Nations (Vol. I), UNRWA and United Nations peacekeeping operations account for 30 per cent, 17 per cent, 17 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.



Number of cases of fraud and presumptive fraud reported in the past three years

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Number of cases of fraud and presumptive fraud</i>			<i>Number of cases pending for more than two years</i>
	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>	
United Nations (Vol. I)	118	108	92	28
United Nations peacekeeping operations	123	127	124	26
ITC	—	—	—	—
UNCDF	1	1	1	—
UNDP	62	42	35	22
UNEP	22	3	7	—
UNFPA	70	41	49	48
UN-Habitat	—	—	—	—
UNICEF	216	193	152	9
UNITAR	—	—	—	—
UNHCR	28	35	97	—
UNJSPF	—	—	—	—
UNODC	51	11	30	1
UNOPS	124	99	56	—
UNRWA	31	34	47	28
UNU	—	—	—	—
UN-Women	10	5	16	—
IRMCT	—	1	—	—



1. General matters regarding the audited entities



Status of implementation of outstanding recommendations

- **The overall rate of implementation of the outstanding recommendations was 51.08 per cent in 2023, decreased by 1.41 per cent compared with 2022 and 2.21 per cent compared with 2021.**
- The implementation rate of 10 entities was over 50 percent.
- 4 entities (United Nations (Vol. I) (**40% in 2023, 42.37% in 2022** and 35.25% in 2021), ITC, IRMCT and UN-Habitat) had an implementation rate below 50 percent over the past three years.
- United Nations peacekeeping operations had a lowest implementation rate, at 31.71 percent while UNCDF had a highest implementation rate of 100 per cent in 2023.
- United Nations peacekeeping operations, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNITAR, and UNU maintained a decreasing trend in their implementation rates over the past three years, while UNOPS, UN-Habitat and ITC showed an increasing trend.



United Nations (Vol. I) ↗	220 ↗	262 ↗	278 ↗	88 ↗	40.00 ↗	111 ↗	42.37 ↗	98 ↗	35.25 ↗
United Nations peacekeeping operations ↗	41 ↗	41 ↗	89 ↗	13 ↗	31.71 ↗	19 ↗	46.34 ↗	53 ↗	59.55 ↗
ITC ↗	16 ↗	19 ↗	21 ↗	7 ↗	43.75 ↗	8 ↗	42.11 ↗	8 ↗	38.10 ↗
UNCDF ↗	8 ↗	7 ↗	7 ↗	8 ↗	100.00 ↗	7 ↗	100.00 ↗	7 ↗	100.00 ↗
UNDP ↗	30 ↗	50 ↗	56 ↗	20 ↗	66.67 ↗	36 ↗	72.00 ↗	38 ↗	67.86 ↗
UNEP ↗	52 ↗	52 ↗	85 ↗	25 ↗	48.08 ↗	22 ↗	42.31 ↗	58 ↗	68.24 ↗
UNFPA ↗	46 ↗	36 ↗	30 ↗	29 ↗	63.04 ↗	27 ↗	75.00 ↗	24 ↗	80.00 ↗
UN-Habitat ↗	72 ↗	79 ↗	88 ↗	34 ↗	47.22 ↗	34 ↗	43.04 ↗	35 ↗	39.77 ↗
UNICEF ↗	33 ↗	28 ↗	44 ↗	24 ↗	72.73 ↗	23 ↗	82.14 ↗	37 ↗	84.09 ↗
UNITAR ↗	27 ↗	13 ↗	11 ↗	14 ↗	51.85 ↗	9 ↗	69.23 ↗	8 ↗	72.73 ↗
UNHCR ↗	58 ↗	77 ↗	80 ↗	34 ↗	58.62 ↗	31 ↗	40.26 ↗	43 ↗	53.75 ↗
UNJSPF ↗	15 ↗	35 ↗	41 ↗	9 ↗	60.00 ↗	29 ↗	82.86 ↗	26 ↗	63.41 ↗
UNODC ↗	24 ↗	33 ↗	29 ↗	10 ↗	41.67 ↗	22 ↗	66.67 ↗	13 ↗	44.83 ↗
UNOPS ↗	31 ↗	45 ↗	45 ↗	18 ↗	58.06 ↗	25 ↗	55.56 ↗	24 ↗	53.33 ↗
UNRWA ↗	35 ↗	49 ↗	51 ↗	21 ↗	60.00 ↗	31 ↗	63.27 ↗	29 ↗	56.86 ↗
UNU ↗	30 ↗	27 ↗	11 ↗	14 ↗	46.67 ↗	16 ↗	59.26 ↗	7 ↗	63.64 ↗
UN-Women ↗	26 ↗	27 ↗	29 ↗	24 ↗	92.31 ↗	19 ↗	70.37 ↗	21 ↗	72.41 ↗
IRMCT ↗	23 ↗	25 ↗	32 ↗	10 ↗	43.48 ↗	6 ↗	24.00 ↗	13 ↗	40.63 ↗
Total number ↗	787 ↗	905 ↗	1 027 ↗	402 ↗	↗	475 ↗	↗	542 ↗	↗
Overall percentage ↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	51.08 ↗	↗	52.49 ↗	↗	52.78 ↗



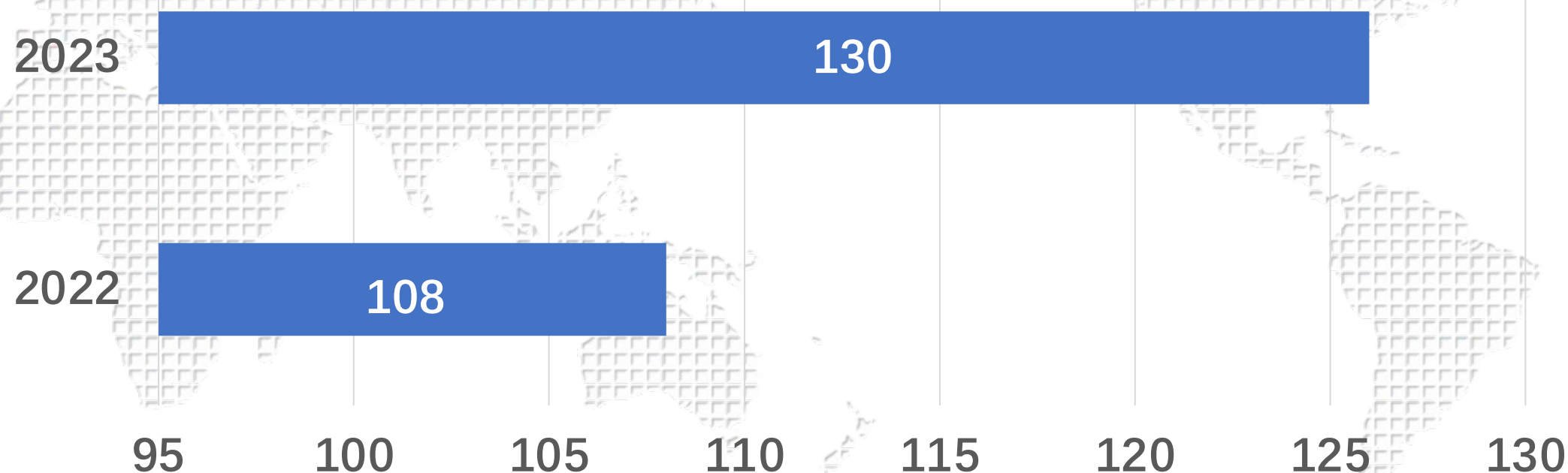


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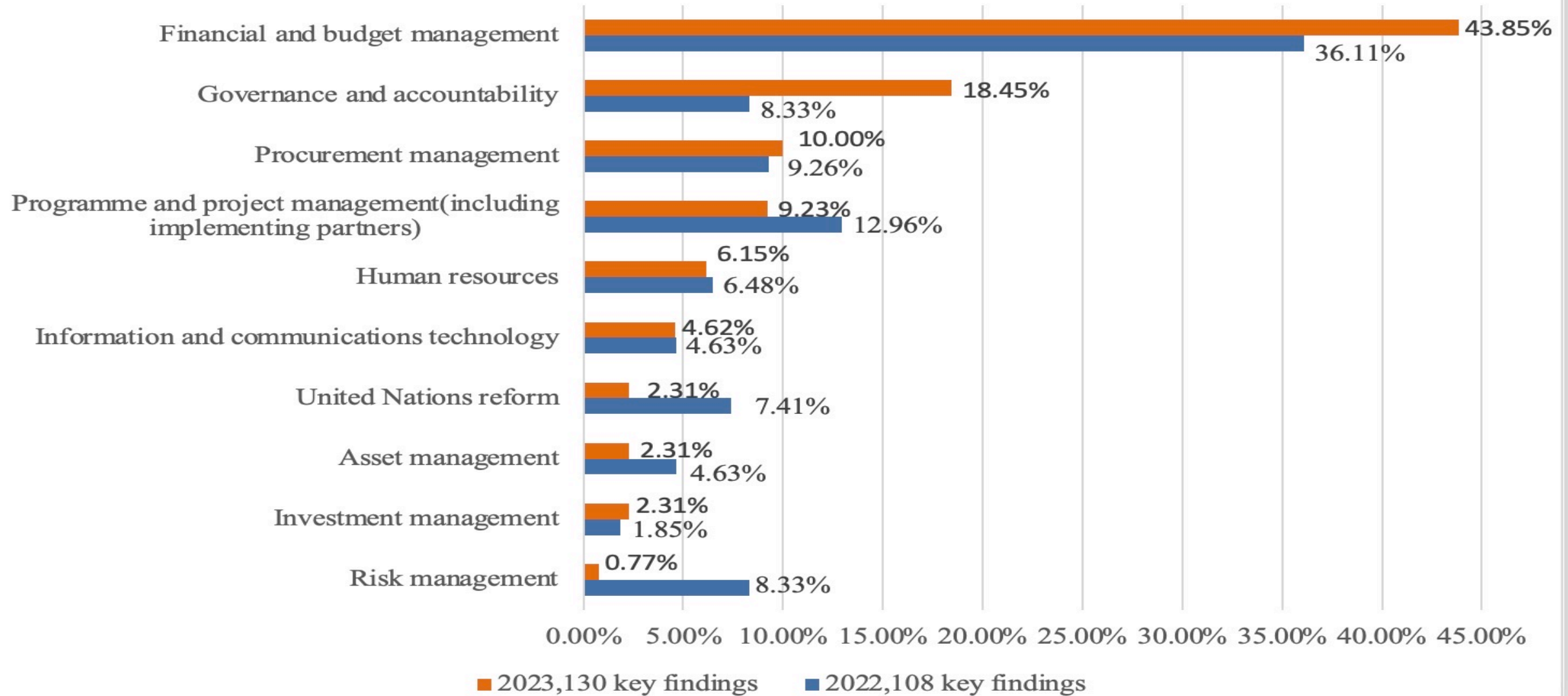
Key findings and recommendations

2. Key findings and recommendations

- **Key findings:**



Key findings, by category, 2022 and 2023 [↶](#)



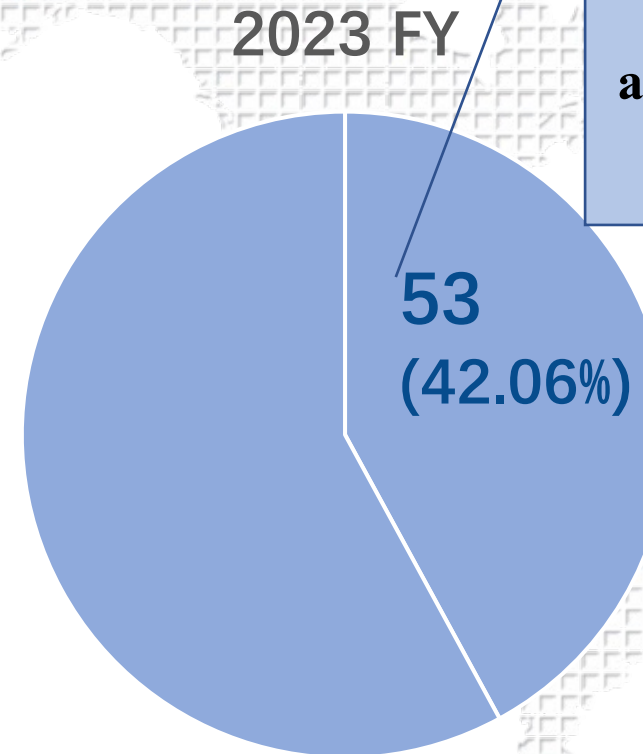
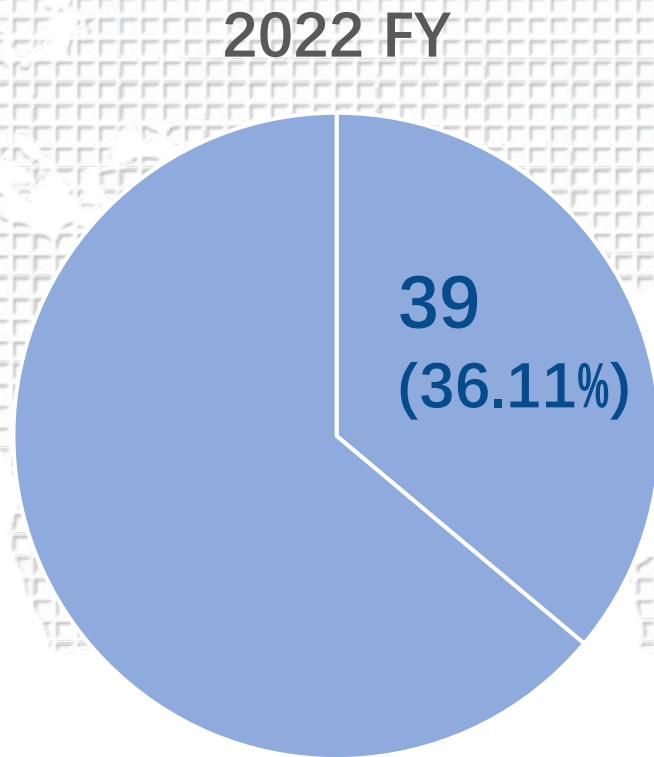
2. Key findings and recommendations

2023 Key findings:



2. Key findings and recommendations

- Findings about financial and budget management



**Budget
formulation,
implementation
and reporting, cost
recovery, etc.**





3

Financial and budget performance

From Compliance to Performance: FY2022 to FY2023

FY2022 Focus - Compliance Issues

FY2023 Focus - Performance

- **FY2022 Focus:**
- **Absence** of regulations and rules in some areas;
- **Inadequacies** for some regulations, rules, and guidelines;
- **Non full compliance** with the existing regulations and rules or guidelines;



3. Special chapter of FY2023

• **FY2023 Focus :**

Weaknesses in financial and budget performance.

- The Board probes into the performance from financial and budget perspective in key areas of budget management, financial management, supply chain management, project management, human resources management, etc., with an aim to identify weaknesses in financial and budget management which may negatively impact operational efficiency and performance.
- Such weakness may include loss or waste of resources, inactiveness of funds and idleness of resources, inefficiencies in operations, and challenge in meeting the targets etc.



3. Financial and budget performance

Insights for further improvement

(a) Promote a culture of efficiency and awareness of performance.

(b) Improve regulatory framework to provide clear guidance on operating standards, result-based management and monitoring.

(c) Maximize efficiency gains through targeted initiatives and best practices.

(d) Strengthen accountability measures to ensure responsibility and ownership.

(e) Due and timely implementation of the Board's recommendations.





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**Thank you for
your attention!**

