
**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM AND
FINANCIAL RECORDS OF ACENTDFB, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2024**

Project ID: P126974 (IDA/Grant No: 5414 NG)

1ST MARCH, 2024

1. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

In line with the mandate of the Committee to ensure compliance with both National and other relevant Financial Laws, Project Operational Manual (POM), implementation arrangement structure and reports on inherent risks, we are pleased to present our report for the 2024 second quarter (1st July to 31st December, 2024) to the Board of ACENTDFB.

2. ABRIDGED RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROJECT

The ACENTDFB is one of the Africa Centres of Excellence (ACEs) sponsored by the World Bank specifically to strengthen the Institutional capacity of 12 participating countries namely: Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Senegal, Republic of The Gambia, and Republic of Togo.

The objective of the Project is to improve the quality, quantity and development impact of postgraduate education in selected universities through regional collaboration and training. The Centre was established to fill the existing gap in postgraduate training and cutting-edge research that addresses regional developmental challenges, especially as it relates to neglected tropical diseases and forensic sciences.

Currently, the Centre in collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry runs postgraduate programmes (MSc and PhD) in Biotechnology and PGD in Forensic Science. These programmes have received both national and international

accreditation. The resource verification for the Centre's planned programme for MSc in Forensic Science conducted by NUC was successful.

3. THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The main objective of the Audit Committee is to review the financial reporting processes, the Internal and External audit reports of the Centre's system of internal controls; compliance with relevant laws and regulations thereby assisting the board to fulfil its oversight responsibilities. The Management of the Centre is accountable for the design of internal control systems that will provide reasonable assurance towards the achievement of operational goals. To achieve the targeted goals, the Audit Committee and the Centre Management review and deliberate on the quality of the financial statements and clarity of disclosures in the Internal Audit Report of the Centre.

The composition of the Committee comprises non-executive members as follows:

Members	Faculty/Unit	Status
Prof. Mohammed Umaru Kawu	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Chairman
Prof. Abdullahi Yunusa Idris	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Member
Prof. Donatus Adie	Faculty of Engineering	Member
Aliu Nuhu Onimisi	Bursary Department	Member/Secretary
Maiyaki Hamisu Musa	Internal Audit Division	Member

4.0 REVIEW OF PROJECT OFFICERS REPORT ON THE CENTRE'S ACTIVITIES

The reports of the following officers were reviewed:

4.1 INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Committee reviewed the second half year report of the Internal Audit and observed as follows:

I. Improvement in record keeping

The Committee significant improvement in maintenance of books of accounts, store records and other relevant records.

II. Reduction in the percentage level of unretired advances

The Committee observed that the process of retirement cash advances has improved significantly.

III. Budget performance

A. Budget planning and implementation had adequate input from relevant stakeholders in the project and aligns with the work plan, and approved by the WB.

B. Improvement in budget performance (64%) and budgetary control mechanisms.

IV. Organogram

The Committee commend the Centre for its improved organogram that had impacted on the operational efficiency of the various Units and Officers of the Centre with significant reduction in conflict of responsibilities and channels of reporting.

V. Asset register

The Committee also commend the availability of a comprehensive Assets Register for the record keeping of the Centre's assets.

VI. Accounting

A. The Centre uses the University accounting Information system and in conjunction with WB flexible accounting software.

B. The Centre has maintained proper books of account and other relevant records.

C. The Centre has up to date Internal Audit and External Audit Reports.

D. The Center has a comprehensive Project Financial Management Procedure Manual in conformity with the WB standard.

VII. Internal Control

The Committee agreed substantially with the observation of the Internal Auditor on significant improvement in retirement of cash advances, availability of adequate supporting documents for all payments, segregation of duties and responsibilities, stock controls, physical control of assets, cost control procedures and approval and authorization procedures.

VIII. 2024 work plan activities and their percentage attainments

The Committee observed a significant improvement in percentage performance (50 - 95%) in majority of activities contained in the work plan. This is commendable.

5.0 2024 EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed the 2024 Audited Account of the Centre and the Management letter. The Committee noted and commended the following conclusions from the report:

A. The Centre has kept proper books of account, so far as it appears from our examination of those books.

B. The Centre's statement of financial position, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account.

6.0 COLLABORATIONS

The Committee observed the improvement in the number of national, regional and international collaborations by the Centre and urges for more of such engagements that have revenue generating potentials.

7.0 PROJECT REVENUE GENERATION

The Committee observed the Centre's improvement in revenue generation in 2024 (\$578,855.00) and urges for more pro-activeness in this direction.

8.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

The Committee reviewed the M & E Officer's reports and noted with commendation the following achievements of the Centre:

- A.** The 60 - 100% attainments in DLLs 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2 and 7.5; comprising of activities such as: student admissions, programmes accreditation, research publications, acquisition of intellectual property rights for drug discovery and diagnostic tools, timely fiduciary reporting, financial online transparency, equipping the forensic lab with state of the art facilities, research grant award to staff and students, improved national, regional and international collaborations.
- B.** The improvement in the number of research grants won and revenue generated to the tune of \$578,855.00 in 2024.
- C.** However, the Committee also noted that even though significant progress was achieved in some DLLs (6.1, 6.2 and 6.3); a 100% attainment may not be possible before the end of the project.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Copies of signed MOUs should be archived in the Centre's Admin Manager's Office, Registrar's Office/Legal Office and Directorate of Academic Planning.
- ii. Fast-track low performing activities on the workplan in order to improve their percentage attainment by the end of the project in July, 2025.
- iii. Improve the percentage disbursed earnings from DLLs from the current 12% to at least 25% by the end of the project.
- iv. Improve Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) through improved national, regional and international collaborations with funding agencies.

- v. Enhancement in prepayment audit in compliance with the WB audit procedures.
- vi. optimize implementation the of National Competitive Bidding (NCB) as much as possible for all procurement.

10.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee notes and commends the Centre in its Internal financial control, budgeting, and auditing operations and urges the Centre to implement the above recommendations to further enhance the quality of the Centre's activities and internal financial control system. Furthermore, the Committee urges the Centre to fast-track activities that will upscale earnings/disbursement from low performing DLIs, hopefully from the current 12% to at least 25% before the end of the project in 6 months' time; and also improve its internally Generated Revenue to ensure that it thrives as a going concern for the foreseeable future.



Prof. Mohammed U. Kawu
Chairman, Audit Committee



Aliu Nuhu Onimisi
Secretary, Audit Committee