



**Management comments to the internal audit report of WFP Operations in the
Republic of Mali (AR/14/05)**

Management Comments

Management welcomes and appreciates the findings and recommendations made by the Office of Internal Auditor on WFP operations in Mali, and recognizes the achievements made by the Country Office despite the difficult environment. Of note are the positive practices and initiatives around: the re-organization and re-alignment between programme needs and staffing levels and profiles; the evacuation of staff from the North of the country; the steady increase in local procurement; and the partnership with third-party monitors to oversee programme implementation in areas that were inaccessible by WFP staff for security reasons.

To ensure the full implementation of the Internal Audit recommendations, management will closely monitor the efforts of the Country Office in this direction, and is pleased to report that six of the eleven recommendations have already been implemented while actions are underway towards the implementation of the remaining ones. For example, upon a thorough review of the reasons for budgeting errors, the Country Office has made procedural corrections to ensure prompt recording and payment of contractual liabilities.

The Regional Bureau in Dakar (OMD) will closely follow-up with the Country Office to: i) strengthen security management and ensure full and prompt compliance with UN Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) requirements: to this effect, a professional Security Officer was assigned to Mali Country Office in 2013; ii) ensure that the risk register reflects actual key risks; iii) review and update the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) Package and ensure that actions are promptly completed; iv) strengthen compliance with WFP rules and procedures regarding procurement; and v) ensure staffing levels and profiles are aligned with forecasted activity plan.

Management appreciates the opportunities identified by the audit to improve internal controls, security standards, governance, and Country Office organizational structure and monitoring.