



Internal Audit of WFP Operations in Afghanistan (AR/15/04)

25 March 2015

Management Comments

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report on WFP Operations in Afghanistan for the period 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014. The observations will assist WFP Management to carry out its important mandate in Afghanistan.

Despite the extremely challenging operating environment in Afghanistan, the Country Office continued to deliver its programmes to about 3.7 million beneficiaries and implement a highly innovative Purchase for Progress (P4P) project. WFP also provided air travel support to the international humanitarian community through United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS). This was made possible with the continued support of the donor community; a network of supporting cooperating partners; successful coordination with all stakeholders; and WFP's continued focus on the needs of beneficiaries.

WFP Management therefore greatly appreciates the OIG's recognition of the positive business practices and initiatives actively sought out and adopted in Afghanistan including, inter alia: the management and comprehensive monthly reporting of the Beneficiary Hotline; an improved and strong resource management, based on reliability and simplicity of resource information from a single source ('One Voice') and through the production of a One-Page resource summary and projection; the implementation and roll-out of the ACCESS project to extend operations beyond those normally achievable; and the implementation of a comprehensive digital telecommunications network.

WFP Management also acknowledges the overall conclusion of partially satisfactory and has already started implementing the agreed actions, including: specific actions on the strengthening of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities and beneficiary oversight; the inclusion of the UNHAS planning and risk management tools with those of the Country Office; further integration of gender activities in the structure of the Country Office; the strengthened management and oversight of the P4P activities and planning for 2015 procurement; and UNHAS safety and security issues.

WFP Management is fully committed to ensure the implementation of all of the agreed actions within the agreed timeline. WFP Management will continue to provide strong oversight and support for the operations in Afghanistan to strengthen further internal control and risk management practices.