

**World Food
Programme****Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial****Programa
Mundial de
Alimentos****برنامج الأغذية
العالمي**

February 2016

Internal Audit of WFP Operations in Syria (AR/16/02)

Management Comments

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report on WFP operations in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period of 1 April 2014 to 31 July 2015.

WFP Management further welcomes the OIG's recognition of WFP Syria's positive practices and initiatives, including the Country Office's successful scale up of cross border operations to reach food insecure people in previously inaccessible areas; investments in capacity development of the cooperating partners and third party monitors; developing comprehensive strategies for nutrition, school feeding, livelihood activities and monitoring and evaluation; incorporating cash-based transfers in a fragile and complex environment; scaling up monitoring coverage through the effective use of third party monitors in high insecure areas; establishing a targeting/prioritization tool aimed at enhancing beneficiary selection; and achieving healthy cost efficiency in CO operations by reducing the overall Landside Transport, Storage and Handling (LTSH) rate by 44 percent.

WFP Management recognizes the overall conclusion of a partially satisfactory audit. Management acknowledges and has either already addressed or is in the process of adequately and significantly addressing all eight agreed actions. It also appreciates OIG's recognition of the significant amount of work that has been carried out by WFP CO. Furthermore, while noting the inherent risk and high-level complexity when operating in a conflict zone, WFP Management has already begun implementing the agreed security related risk management and risk reduction activities.

In order to ensure the full implementation of the agreed actions, Management will closely monitor the CO efforts to implement them on or before the target implementation dates, and will also ensure that updates on the implementation status of the remaining outstanding agreed actions are provided to OIG.

WFP Management is fully committed to ensure the continuous improvement and strengthening of its business processes and internal controls in the CO.