



Management comments to the internal audit report of WFP Operations in Libya (AR/13/04)

Management Comments

WFP management appreciates the useful feedback provided by the Office of Internal Audit (OIGA) through this audit report on WFP operations in Libya. While the WFP Office in Libya closed in December 2012, the positive remarks and areas for improvement noted in the report have a wider applicability to other countries in which WFP did not have operational presence prior to launching an emergency response. Further, the comments are particularly useful to draw on lessons learned in similar situations when operating within the context of an emergency in Upper-Middle-Income countries.

In February 2011, WFP presence in Libya was limited to a logistics corridor for Sudan and Chad. As the internal conflict broke out, WFP launched a Regional Emergency Operation, and subsequently two Special Operations, to support civilians affected by the conflict both within Libya and in neighbouring Egypt and Tunisia, where large numbers of Libyans and third country nationals took shelter.

Responding to humanitarian emergencies is the primary focus for WFP. Together with its partners, WFP helps save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies by taking timely action to meet urgent food and nutrition needs. This requires WFP to quickly and efficiently assess needs, seek to secure and maintain humanitarian access, and deploy the most appropriate mix of tools for the country context and requirements of target populations. The quickness of WFP's emergency response is proved by the fact that WFP reached the first Benghazi beneficiaries in the first week of March 2011.

The internal audit report highlighted that internal controls, governance and risk management processes were generally established and functioning, while some areas were in need of improvement. WFP took immediate action to address them and continues working with partners to improve the efficient, effective and safe implementation of its global emergency responses.

The results of the audit drew attention to a certain number of positive practices and initiatives, particularly the involvement at different levels of the organisation on the scenario based analysis, the quarterly mapping of risks, the timely preparation and approval of emergency-related project documents, and the timely mobilization of internal resources. These lessons learnt will guide WFP in enhancing its corporate emergency preparedness and response as well as risk management at country, regional and global levels.

Based on the results of this audit report, WFP management is reassured of the successful implementation of WFP emergency operations in Libya. WFP recognises the importance of replicating some of the highlighted key successful actions while continuing to address areas that require improvement.