



Management Comments to the Inspection Report of WFP Operations in Mauritania
(IR/01/2013)

Management Comments

WFP Management appreciates and agrees with all the observations and recommendations made by the Office of the Inspector General through this inspection report of WFP operations in Mauritania, focused on the activities conducted in Mbera camp.

The crisis that erupted in Northern Mali in January 2012 resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Malians within Mali and to neighbouring countries, including Mauritania. The crisis was compounded by the 2011-2012 drought in the Sahel, which also affected Mauritania. UNHCR had registered more than 73,000 refugees in Mbera Camp by mid-year 2012. This camp is located in one of the most remote, economically deprived and food-insecure regions of Mauritania.

The difficult working conditions and complex circumstances, combined with weaknesses in the Mauritania Country Office and poor relations with partners, led to operations being managed in an unsatisfactory manner. Mitigating measures and corrective actions were and are being put in place by the Country Office, working in close coordination with WFP's Dakar Regional Bureau and Rome headquarters, to address the areas of risk identified by the inspection report. By the time of the inspection mission, which took place in April 2013, progress was noted in implementation of WFP operations in Mbera Camp, such as enhanced distribution methods and increased monitoring, resulting in improvement in the nutritional status of the beneficiaries.

This combination of exceptional circumstances has resulted in the reaffirmation by WFP Management of their commitment to strengthen partnerships as a critical element of successful operations. Lessons learned from this inspection report will be used to further improve WFP capacity to deliver in humanitarian situations such as Mbera Camp.

As a result of preliminary progress noted by this report and the further corrective measures taken since the inspection, beneficiaries in Mbera Camp are better placed to receive the appropriate food assistance. WFP Management will ensure continued progress in implementation of the recommendations so that the highest standards are upheld and maintained.