



Management comments to the internal audit report of WFP Operations in the Dakar Regional Bureau (AR/13/11)

Management Comments

WFP Management appreciates the productive work done by the Office of Internal Audit and the useful feedback provided through this audit report of WFP Operations in the Dakar Regional Bureau, covering the period from 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012.

WFP established the Dakar Regional Bureau in Senegal to oversee operations in the region. The Regional Bureau provides support and guidance to WFP operations in 19 countries in West Africa. The Regional Bureau was involved in the management, coordination and support of WFP's response to the 2012 Sahel Crisis, an extreme drought which threatened millions in the Sahel region with starvation, and was engaged in a regional Emergency Operation for assistance to refugees and internally displaced people in Mali.

WFP management will ensure the full implementation of the Internal Audit recommendations by closely following up and putting in place the required systems to strengthen internal controls. The Regional Bureau has, for example, instituted joint oversight missions by the various Bureau units in order to ensure that these missions add value to Country Office operations and reduce the burden on Country Offices in managing frequent missions from individual Regional Bureau units. WFP management is pleased to report that five of the fourteen recommendations have already been implemented and that actions are being taken towards the timely implementation of the remaining ones.

The absence of high-risk observations is a significant achievement, given the challenging operating environment.

WFP management notes with appreciation the audit's conclusion on the effective oversight system in finance, the comprehensive regional response framework for the Sahel crisis, the coordinated and emergency-prepared logistics, the effective procurement of large quantities of food from the region, and the effective technical support provided to Country Offices for various programmes.

Management welcomes the opportunities identified in the audit to improve internal controls, governance and monitoring.