



Management comments to the internal audit report of WFP Operations in The Republic of South Sudan (AR/14/04)

Management Comments

WFP management appreciates the observations and recommendations made by the Office of Internal Audit in its audit report on WFP operations in the Republic of South Sudan for the period 1 January to 31 December 2012. During this period the operation transitioned from a sub office to a fully fledged Country Office and the country team is appreciative of the recognition by the internal audit team that this was successful.

The scale and diversity of the operations in the Republic of South Sudan coupled with the geographical, political and social challenges add to the complexity of managing the operation. WFP management acknowledges the successes achieved in such a short time while maintaining focus on the challenges still to come. The audit report is instrumental in keeping those challenges in focus.

Management recognises the high-risk issue relating to the low monitoring and evaluation (M&E) coverage rates. This issue has been addressed during 2013 and continues to be a focus of control improvements including the development of a M&E strategy whereby data collection tools, guidelines and reporting formats have been revised for WFP and partner organizations. WFP management welcomes the positive feedback from Office of Internal Audit regarding the preparation of a comprehensive checklist to harmonise and strengthen M&E activities at sub national level.

WFP management notes with appreciation that the audit team recognised the significant improvements in addressing some of the challenges logistics faced, particularly in the pre-positioning exercise and the extensive consultation with cooperating partners to address common concerns.

WFP management welcomes the positive feedback from the auditors with regard to the preparation of a Country Strategy, which will continue to play a part in building resilience and improving livelihoods in non-conflict areas.

The recommendations of the Office of Internal Audit are appreciated and will be implemented to strengthen operational efficiency and effectiveness in the Republic of South Sudan.