

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

December 2015

Internal Audit of WFP's Ebola Virus Disease Response (AR/15/12)

Management Comments

WFP management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report on WFP's Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Response in West Africa for the period August 2014 – June 2015.

The outbreak has been the most significant ever reported in terms of cases, coverage, duration, and complexity. At the request of governments and health partners, WFP was requested to step in at scale, acting as an enabler to mitigate and contain the virus by providing emergency food and ensuring the common service backbone for the global response.

Management appreciates the OIG's recognition of the positive practices and initiatives, including the building of new partnerships paving the way for future emergency response collaboration and support; the set-up of multi-country humanitarian air operations; the proactive identification and escalation of risks; the deployment of national staff and experienced emergency experts; the establishment of a health advisor network and development of operating procedures in an EVD-context; and the structured roll-out of mobile data collection tools in an emergency.

Management recognizes overall conclusion of partially satisfactory audit, and the opportunities identified where tools and processes could be improved for future emergency response, including opportunities to review rapid staff deployment mechanisms. Management is fully committed to ensure implementation of all the agreed actions within the agreed timeframe, and in line with corporate guidance. Work is already underway to this end, including the clearance of open items and reconciliation, and the completion of asset tracking.

Management appreciates the recognition by the OIG that WFP has responded both flexibly and effectively, and that WFP's contribution has been a key element of the successful EVD response. The opportunities identified in the context of the internal audit will assist WFP to strengthen future emergency response.