

Internal Audit of WFP Operation in Yemen (AR/16/13)

Management Comments

WFP Management appreciates and welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report on WFP operations in Yemen (AR/16/13) for the period 1st January 2015 to 30th April 2016. WFP Management is taking action to address all audit observations.

Beginning in 2015 WFP scaled up its response to the severe humanitarian crisis resulting from the escalating conflict in Yemen. A fragile economy, high levels of pre-conflict food insecurity and severe malnutrition – combined with ground fighting, airstrikes and widespread insecurity – severely disrupted livelihoods and drastically increased the need for humanitarian assistance. Seven million Yemenis currently face severe food insecurity. Internally displaced persons are amongst the most vulnerable. WFP's response is delivered in an active war zone: a highly complex environment where insecurity, access restrictions and political issues offer major challenges.

WFP Management welcomes the OIG's recognition of WFP and the Yemen Country Office's positive practices and initiatives. These include the national staff's extraordinary efforts to ensure business continuity after the evacuation of international staff; effective communication with cooperating partners; the use of mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) to collect and share food security analysis with the humanitarian community; the creation of a call centre to perform remote monitoring and data collection; and the achievements of the WFP-led Logistics Cluster and Air Service.

WFP Management recognizes the overall conclusion of the audit, which noted five high-risk and six medium-risk observations. While the operating environment in Yemen has not improved and remains difficult, WFP Management confirms that the implementation of agreed actions is receiving priority and is underway. These actions are closely monitored by the Corporate Response Director, Regional Bureau and Country Office; all actions will be implemented on or before the agreed due dates. WFP Management will provide updates on the implementation status of agreed actions to OIG.

WFP Management is committed to the continuous improvement and strengthening of its internal controls, business processes and risk management practices in the Yemen Country Office.

WFP Management would like to thank the OIG for its collaboration and support.