



**World Food
Programme**

**Programme
Alimentaire
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**Programa
Mundial de
Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية
العالمي**

22 January 2018

Management comments to the internal audit report of WFP Operations in Somalia (AR/17/20)

Management Comments

WFP management appreciates and welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report (AR/17/20). The audit focused on WFP operations in Somalia from 01 January 2016 to 30 June 2017. WFP Management is taking action to implement the agreed actions.

During the audit period, WFP's strategy in Somalia prioritized malnutrition and food security of vulnerable communities in the country, pursuing a shift from relief to recovery and resilience-building activities with an emphasis on addressing the underlying causes of undernutrition. In 2017, because of the persisting severe drought conditions impacting food security, WFP's Somalia Country Office focused on famine prevention by scaling-up response efforts in the affected areas, especially through increased use of Cash-Based interventions. In February 2017, the deteriorating situation resulted in emergency conditions with WFP activating the "Horn of Africa" Level 2 emergency response.

WFP management welcomes the OIG's recognition of WFP Somalia's effective coordination with the humanitarian community, between the Liaison Office and the Area Offices, through Headquarters participation in coordination meetings, and with the Regional Bureau Nairobi, particularly on resource mobilization in the scale-up phase.

WFP Management recognizes the overall conclusion of effective and satisfactory. The overall satisfactory result and the absence of high-risk observations are a significant achievement in such a challenging context. Management further notes that the implementation of the six medium priority agreed actions in the audit report will be fully implemented by the agreed implementation dates in the report.

In particular, WFP's management will review, and where appropriate, revise or enforce the established corporate protocols which require Headquarters involvement in the coordination meetings of Level 2 emergency operations, as well as regularly review staff presence and give attention to the relief and development continuum. Further, WFP's management, in acknowledging the high inherent risk of fraud and corruption associated with the context of the Somalia operations, will work to ensure that controls in the following areas are strengthened and operate consistently: the profiling of cooperating partners; the beneficiaries feedback and incident reporting mechanism; the performance assessment of cooperating partners; controls on the Cash Based Transfers sub-contractor; the management of e-cards; and engagement of Headquarters to complement knowledge and skills at the local level.



To ensure the full implementation of the Internal Audit agreed actions, Management will closely monitor the Country Office efforts to implement them on or before the target implementation dates. WFP Management, in close collaboration with OIG, will undertake quarterly reviews of outstanding agreed actions and ensure that implementation status updates are provided through the WFP internal tracking system.

WFP Management would like to thank the Office of the Inspector General for the meaningful collaboration and support.