



28 February 2019

Management comments to the internal audit report on the Development and Delivery of COMET (AR/19/02)

Management Comments

WFP Management appreciates the findings of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report (AR/19/02) on the development and delivery of COMET (Country Office Tool for Managing Programme Operations Effectively) and notes the overall conclusion of “partially satisfactory/major improvements needed” based on the audit period covered from 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2018.

WFP Management welcomes OIG’s acknowledgement of multi-stakeholder involvement at the onset of the project and at specific milestones, as well as COMET’s adaptation to evolving corporate processes throughout the development period. It includes the acknowledged success of the alignment of COMET to the Integrated Road Map (IRM), the largest WFP transformation in the last 20 years, which “provides a new business model for WFP, requires a full re-configuration of WFP’s IT system and demands a culture change throughout the organization with its focus on performance, transparency, and maximizing value for money”. WFP Management recognizes that alignment to the IRM led to delays in developing the monitoring functionalities of COMET.

Furthermore, WFP Management welcomes recognition of COMET’s central role as the source for organisational operational data, as a repository for strategic information and results master data, as a driver for improving data coordination, integration and quality, and in providing linkages to both internal and external corporate dashboards. Management appreciated the audit review of the effective usage of COMET, which includes an increase of on average 55 percent in the number of monthly users from 2016 (1,444 users) to 2018 (2,167) and an increase in access to the system by WFP staff working on monthly data validation checks for design and implementation processes supported by the system. WFP Management is committed to implement the agreed actions to remedy any limitations as per the timelines specified in the report.

WFP Management suggests that substantive project development should remain with the functional areas with support from TEC on infrastructure and system issues. Further development and oversight of progress vis-à-vis development and implementation of the Monitoring Module comes under the umbrella of a cross-functional governance structure established by the Management Information Systems Steering Committee (MISSC).



WFP Management will work closely with respective stakeholders to ensure the timely implementation of the agreed actions and, in collaboration with OIG, will undertake reviews of outstanding agreed actions and provide updates through WFP's internal tracking system.

WFP Management would like to thank the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the meaningful collaboration and considers the audit observations and agreed actions a valuable learning exercise.