



4 March 2018

Management comments to the internal audit report of WFP Operations in Central African Republic (AR/19/03)

WFP management appreciates and welcomes the conclusions and observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report (AR/19/03) of WFP Operations in Central African Republic, for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2018.

WFP has been present in Central African Republic since 1969. The Level 3 Emergency declared in December 2013 was downgraded to Level 2 in June 2015 and is still ongoing. In October 2017, the WFP Executive Board approved an Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020 with a budget of USD 335 million. WFP supports the implementation of the National Peace and Recovery Plan 2017-2021, working towards Zero Hunger by providing technical support to strengthen the national capacities on social protection, and closely collaborating with partners around the five interlinked strategic outcomes of the ICSP.

WFP in Central African Republic has five field offices: Bouar, Paoua, Bossangoa, Kaga Bandoro and Bambari, covering the geographical band from the west to the centre-north of the country. With the objective of providing timely delivery of food assistance and to be closer to the central-east operations, WFP is opening a new field office in Bria (Haute-Kotto). Limited access to remote areas because of insecurity is exacerbated by very poor infrastructure, bad road conditions and the aging fleet of local transporters. Nevertheless, the country office continues to improve its operational capacity to better respond to the needs of crisis-affected populations, including through strengthening its capacity to transport and pre-position food, as close as possible to hotspots.

WFP Management acknowledges the audit's overall conclusion of partially satisfactory/major improvements needed and the six areas identified as high priority, which were the management of the L2 emergency, accountability to affected populations, management of the WFP owned fleet, commodity management, security and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Management further recognizes the eight medium priority observations. The implementation of the agreed actions is well underway and will be fully completed by the agreed implementation dates, in collaboration with the regional bureau and concerned HQ divisions with a view to ensuring that controls in the highlighted areas are strengthened and operate consistently.

WFP Management will continue to give close attention to management oversight and effective risk management in the implementation of activities in the country. In addition, WFP Management will work in close collaboration with the regional bureau and OIG to ensure a regular review of outstanding agreed actions, as well as to prepare implementation status reports.

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