



World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

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Management Comments to the Internal Audit Report of WFP Operations in Syria (AR/19/06).

WFP Management appreciates and welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report (AR/19/06) on WFP's Implementation of General Food Assistance and Livelihood Activities in Syria, covering the period from 1 November 2017 to 31 October 2018.

Once a middle-income country, the Syrian Arab Republic has faced a prolonged crisis in recent years, which has been detrimental to development gains achieved before 2011. Years of conflict have destroyed public infrastructure, depleted social support systems and exhausted community coping mechanisms. Millions of Syrians are deprived of basic services. While the crisis is increasingly concentrated in specific regions, with relative stability returning to many other areas, access and security challenges persist. WFP will continue to provide unconditional food assistance to the most vulnerable people. Where possible, WFP will scale-up its implementation of livelihood activities to support an equitable and sustained recovery for the affected populations. WFP will also continue to implement education and nutrition activities.

WFP Syria Management welcomes OIG's recognition of the Country Office's positive practices and initiatives to: (a) act upon its mandate to serve humanitarian needs while adhering to humanitarian principles and United Nations Security Council resolutions, respond to host government expectations, address diverse donor priorities, and operate in coherence with the wider United Nations response; and (b) establish well-functioning governance arrangements, risk management measures and controls.

WFP Management acknowledges the overall conclusion of partially satisfactory/some improvement needed, as well as the four observations resulting in one high priority and three medium priority actions. WFP Management is confident that the implementation of the agreed actions by the end of 2019 will refine WFP's existing operations and support its continued focus on enhancing targeting, beneficiary and cooperating partner management, monitoring and evaluation, data collection, evidence-based programming and the strengthening of knowledge management systems.

The audit recommendations have been agreed to by WFP Syria Management and an action plan to address these is under development, which will include benchmarks to ensure accountable action. In relation to the high priority observation "Reaching the neediest and advocating for the most suitable response strategy", the Country Office aims to conduct a household level re-targeting exercise in 2019 as part of its continuing efforts to enhance targeting. The results of this exercise will further ensure that WFP's assistance reaches the most food insecure families. This exercise will be further complemented by a comprehensive communications package aimed at affected populations, partners and stakeholders.

WFP Management thanks OIG for its collaborative and supportive approach to this audit and for their constructive and useful observations.