



**World Food Programme**

**Programme Alimentaire Mondial**

**Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية العالمي**

10 August 2019

## **Management Comments to the Internal Audit Report of WFP Operations in Sudan (AR/19/14)**

---

WFP Management appreciates and welcomes the observations made by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report (AR/19/14) on WFP's Implementation of Food Assistance Activities in Sudan, covering the period from 1 January 2018 to 28 February 2019.

Sudan is classified as a lower-middle-income country and is ranked 167 out of 188 countries against the Human Development Index for 2018. Two thirds of the population of Sudan live in rural areas, where more than half the population lives in poverty. External debt has risen to 61 percent of GDP, and over the past 2 years Sudan has experienced a heightened degree of economic instability and political turmoil, resulting in acute civil unrest and peaceful protests, culminating in April 2019 with a change in the ruling regime.

The recent partial lifting of economic sanctions, coupled with a reduction in the number of new internally displaced people, have provided the foundation for a shift from humanitarian interventions to assistance that directly addresses the triple humanitarian, development, and peace nexus. WFP Management welcomes the audit mission's observation that WFP is recognized as a leading actor in the humanitarian sector in Sudan and that it has developed effective relationships and partnerships with various governmental and non-governmental entities. In addition, the profiling exercise carried out by WFP Sudan is recognized as an appropriate means of shifting assistance from a status-based to needs-based approach and to effectively mitigate the impact of resource constraints on WFP's ability to achieve positive food security outcomes.

WFP Management acknowledges the overall conclusion of partially satisfactory/some improvement needed, as well as the eight observations, including one high priority and seven medium priority actions, four of which include agreed actions requiring support and guidance from the corporate level.

WFP Management agrees with the audit recommendations, which are being addressed through development of an action plan, including establishment of reporting benchmarks to ensure effective and actionable accountability. WFP Management is confident that implementation of all the agreed actions by the end of June 2020 will further refine WFP's existing operations, while supporting a continued focus on the enhancement of cash-based transfers, cooperating partners management, monitoring and evaluation, local procurement, and human resources management.

In relation to the high priority observation on food procurement, country office management in Sudan will work jointly with the HQ Food Procurement Unit (OSCF) and the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) to define a food procurement strategy, taking into account the supply of food to other operations in the region, while also ensuring that country office Procurement Contracts Committee (PCC) members and other concerned units undertake further online procurement training. The country



office will also further assess and address the effectiveness of its activities to strengthen the capacity of the national strategic grain reserve within the framework of its partnership with the Agricultural Bank of Sudan. The results of this exercise will further bolster WFP's capacity to support the strengthening of food systems in Sudan.

WFP Sudan's Management would like to thank the OIG for the collaborative and supportive approach to this audit and for its constructive and useful observations.