



20 November 2019

## Management comments to the Internal Audit Report of WFP's Level 3 Emergency Response for the Sahel

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### Management Comments

WFP Management appreciates the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its audit report AR/19/15 of WFP's Level 3 Emergency Response for the Sahel covering the period from 29 May 2018 to 19 December 2018.

On 6 June 2018, based on the analysis of the five emergency response criteria (scale, urgency, complexity, capacity and reputational risk), WFP activated a pre-emptive Level 3 Emergency Response in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, with immediate effect until 29 November 2018 to safeguard the development gains and prevent any further deterioration in the nutritional status and food security of communities in the Sahel. Under WFP Regional Bureau for West Africa (RBD) leadership, the country offices prepared for the response by activating its preparedness and response action plan, undergoing budget revisions, adjusting staffing needs, planning the revised supply chain and accessing advance financing. This with the end goal of providing a timely response and delivering life-saving assistance and protection to the most vulnerable.

Overall, WFP provided humanitarian assistance to a total of 3.1 million beneficiaries, or 91 percent of the total targeted beneficiaries, during the six months of the L3 emergency response, throughout the six Sahelian countries. This includes the 385,000 children under five years of age and the 182,000 pregnant and lactating women, aged 15-49 years old; who received malnutrition prevention and treatment support. In total about 91,599 metric tons of food and 53.1 million dollars in cash were distributed.

WFP Management is pleased to acknowledge the overall conclusion of "*effective/satisfactory*" of the implementation of this emergency operation and audit recognition that governance arrangements, risk management and controls were adequately established and functioning well. The implementation of the agreed actions is already underway particularly for those observations that are due in October and these are expected to be completed by the agreed timeline.

Emphasis will be placed on all observations particularly emergency workforce and handover in emergencies considering that this region is prone to emergencies.



Management will regularly provide updates on the implementation status of the agreed actions to OIG.

WFP Management wishes to thank OIG for the productive engagement, effective service, and valuable observations provided, which will help WFP further enhance its operations and continue to make a difference in the lives of those most in need.