Management Comments to the Internal Audit Report of WFP Operations in Libya (AR/19/21)

WFP Management appreciates and welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) through their review of the agreed actions identified in the context of audit report AR/19/04 on WFP operations in Libya, covering the period between 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018.

WFP Management acknowledged the original overall conclusion of ineffective/unsatisfactory and has been proactively taking effective actions to improve the areas highlighted by the audit report. The implementation of the seven high priority and four medium priority observations was completed before the field visit of the audit team and cleared during the audit mission.

The implementation of the remaining three agreed actions is well underway and Management will ensure the implementation by the end of 2019. In this regard, Management wishes to report that the following actions have been undertaken as follows:

With reference to Observation 12, (action i) The Country Office hired a Protection Advisor who designed a mechanism to assess protection risks following a strong methodological approach consisting of the following:

- Terms of Reference for the protection risk assessment have been developed based on a review of existing documentation related to protection risks observed in different types of WFP intervention and based on the knowledge of existing gaps that need further attention;
- The desk-review findings were complemented by interviews with key informants (Cooperating Partners and WFP stakeholders);
- The risks identified were further validated through a two-day workshop, organized with the support of the Regional Protection advisor, attended by WFP staff and relevant external partners. The identified risks were reviewed, and appropriate prevention and mitigation measures have been recommended for implementation.
- The report of the Regional Protection Advisor related to the protection risk assessment is under discussion by the country office and the regional bureau and is almost finalized.
- The output will be shared with OIGA before the end of 2019 to close this agreed action.

Also, the (action ii) Monitoring and Evaluation Unit has developed a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to report and escalate all type of serious incidents, including sexual exploitation and abuse. The document is currently being reviewed by Management and will be shared with OIG by the end of 2019.
WFP Management appreciates the audit's recognition of the positive steps taken by the Country Office and the considerable progress undertaken throughout 2019 which denote CO Management commitment to work towards a constant and efficient improvement of WFP internal controls systems and risk management.

WFP Management would like to thank OIG its constructive and collaborative approach to this follow-up audit mission.