

**World Food Programme****Programme Alimentaire Mondial****Programa Mundial de Alimentos****برنامج الأغذية العالمي**

20 November 2019

Management Comments to the Internal Audit Report of WFP Operations Peru (AR/19/18)

WFP Management appreciates and welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report (AR/19/18) covering the period from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Peru has a population of 32 million and was ranked 89 out of 189 countries in the 2018 Human Development Index. Consistent economic growth combined with investments in infrastructure, education and health, and an expansion of social programmes, have resulted in significant reduction in hunger and poverty, including in stunting from 29 percent in 2007 to 13 percent in 2016. Despite these successes, Peru faces several challenges in its fight against hunger and high levels of inequality. According to the country office's (CO) strategic review of food security and nutrition, and WFP's assessments in 2016, some of the challenges to achieving zero hunger include: increasing difficulty in reducing malnutrition; high and rising anemia levels; and persistent and deep pockets of food insecurity and vulnerability, particularly in rural areas. Peru is facing the double burden of malnutrition, which implies a significant increase of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents.

WFP Management welcomes the acknowledgement of the audit team that the Country Office successfully managed the transition as a facilitator of change by positioning itself as a key government counterpart in the fields of nutrition and disaster risk management. This also includes the audit observation that the country office's pilot programme activities, such as capacity strengthening, could provide a learning opportunity for WFP as they represent innovations from traditional operating models.

WFP Management is pleased to acknowledge the overall conclusion of effective/satisfactory, as well as the four observations, including one high and three medium priority observations. WFP Management concurs with the agreed actions of the audit, which are being addressed through a duly defined action plan, including detailed corrective measures and timelines.

WFP Management is confident that implementation of all agreed actions by the end of June 2020 will reinforce the effectiveness of internal controls and will give further assurance to WFP's existing operations in the country, while strengthening WFP's position as a key government partner on food security and nutrition.

In relation to the high priority observation on operationalization of the monitoring framework, the Country Office Management is committed to: (1) Finalize its monitoring tools and plan; (2) Update COMET records to reflect all programmatic and partnership information; and, (3) Evaluate how to give visibility to some indicators that would not appear in the annual country report, in alignment with the communications strategy.



WFP Management would like to thank the OIG for the collaborative and supportive approach to this audit and for its constructive and useful observations to enhance the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Peru.