



31 May 2021

## Internal Audit of WFP Operations in Burkina Faso (AR/21/06)

### Management Comments

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report AR/21/06 on WFP operations in Burkina Faso, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

Since 2018, WFP has been scaling-up its integrated resilience activities in the country and remains the leading actor providing assistance to people vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition thanks to its capacity to scale-up interventions when and where needed. In 2020, WFP accounted for over 80 percent of the lean season and IDP response provided by all actors, including the Government. The country office's activities are implemented through the Country Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 (CSP) and as of February 2021, it had been revised to a total needs-based plan value of USD 729 million, representing an increase of USD 556 million from the initial CSP.

WFP Management acknowledges the report's overall conclusion of "**partially satisfactory/major improvement needed**" and agrees with the recommendations related to three high and seven medium priority observations. WFP Management has already commenced implementing some critical agreed actions and is committed to meeting the agreed deadlines.

The implementation of the three high priority internal audit recommendations has already commenced and covers beneficiary targeting and assistance distribution, beneficiary data management as well as CBT governance, set-up and assessments. Priority is also being given to the implementation of the seven medium audit recommendations for a holistic approach to effectively manage associated risks with internal processes.

WFP management is determined to leverage on the benefits availed by this report to build a robust internal control environment and embedded effective risk management to ensure WFP objectives are successfully delivered in Burkina Faso. Specifically, appropriate committees, working groups and relevant standard operating procedure (SOP) will be put in place to reinforce WFP business processes in specific areas. Furthermore, strategies and an effective road map will be put in place to fully implement all the recommendations within the set deadline.

WFP Management will undertake regular reviews of outstanding agreed actions and provide updates through WFP's corporate tracking tool. The Regional Bureau for Western Africa (RBD) will provide regular guidance and technical support to the country, as required.

WFP Management appreciates the constructive and useful engagement of OIG and notes that the implementation of the agreed actions will further strengthen Burkina Faso's internal controls, governance and risk management processes, with a view to ensuring an efficient and effective utilization of resources and maximum impact for the people it serves.