



15 September 2021

Internal Audit of WFP Operations in Cameroon (AR/21/15)

Management Comments

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report (AR/21/15) on WFP operations in Cameroon, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

WFP Management acknowledges the complexity of the Cameroon operations coupled with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, during the third year of implementation of its Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2018-2021), the country office responded to three complex crises in Cameroon: the political crisis in the northwest and southwest regions; the spill-over effects of the conflict in the Central African Republic; and the non-state armed groups' insurgency on both sides of the Cameroon-Nigeria border.

WFP Management has been implementing its four-year CSP in Cameroon since 2018, targeting over one million vulnerable food-insecure populations annually in six crisis-affected regions (Adamawa, East, North, Far North, North West, and South West). The target populations include refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria fleeing violent conflicts, internally displaced persons affected by the socio-political crisis in the North West and South West regions, returnees, and vulnerable host communities.

WFP Management acknowledges the report's overall conclusion of **"partially satisfactory / major improvement needed"** and agrees with the recommendations related to the three high priority observations and the five medium priority observations.

The implementation of the three high priority recommendations is already in progress and it covers corridor management, beneficiary data management and monitoring. The recommendations on corridor management are also partly addressed to the Regional Bureau for Western Africa, and headquarters who will provide overall oversight guidance and technical support to the country office. WFP Management is committed to meeting the agreed deadlines for implementing all the high priority and medium priority recommendations.

At the time of the audit, the country office had already started to address some of the operational challenges identified in the audit report, by mitigating staffing gaps and reinforcing existing structures, processes and controls associated with the management of operations under the CSP and in the Douala corridor, as well as by requesting increased support from the Regional Bureau for Western Africa.

WFP Management is determined to leverage the benefits availed by the internal audit report, to build a robust internal control environment; to embrace and embed effective risk management systems; and to ensure that WFP's objectives are successfully met in Cameroon.

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 is already providing guidance and technical support to the country office.

WFP Management appreciates the constructive and valuable engagement of OIG and notes that the implementation of the agreed actions will further strengthen the governance, risk management and internal control processes of WFP's operations in Cameroon.