

9 May 2022

Management Comments to the Internal Audit of WFP Operations in Jordan (AR/22/08)

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report (AR/22/08) on WFP operations in Jordan, covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. WFP Management appreciates the focus on five functional areas comprising beneficiary management, monitoring, cash-based transfers (CBT), finance, and supply chain.

Needs remain high in Jordan for vulnerable populations, including among refugees and host communities, and have been exacerbated by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and are likely to be further aggravated by the ongoing increase in global food prices. WFP operations in Jordan are outlined in its Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022), which is tailored to the context of this upper middle-income country with a mature financial services sector, functioning markets, and a strong national social protection system. The programme uses different approaches to ensuring food security by supporting vulnerable Jordanians and refugees through cash-based transfers and the promotion of financial inclusion; advancing the national social protection agenda through enhanced social protection programmes; and the provision of technical support to national institutions. All activities use sophisticated technological solutions which provide robust assurance and operational transparency.

WFP Management acknowledges that the operating context in Jordan was heavily impacted by the COVID pandemic and that significant funding challenges have emerged due to donor fatigue and shifts in priorities amongst traditional donors. WFP Management has therefore been monitoring and mitigating these challenges to food security for vulnerable populations, while continuing its different activities in support of the Government of Jordan. During 2021, the country office actively engaged in risk assessments, while building awareness of staff, beneficiaries and partners on matters related to anti-fraud and anti-corruption.

WFP management recognizes the audit's overall conclusion of **"effective/ satisfactory"** and agrees with the four medium-priority observations, which will be addressed within the agreed timeline of 28 February 2023.

In parallel to this audit, WFP has also carried out a decentralised evaluation of the Jordan Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022); the draft findings complement the conclusions of this audit. The country office is already taking action to address recommendations of both this audit and the evaluation. The audit and the evaluation have also informed the country office's development of its new Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027), which is currently undergoing review through the regular corporate clearance process.

WFP Management would like to thank the Office of the Inspector General for the thorough analysis undertaken in Jordan, including field visits and meetings with implementing partners. WFP Management considers the observations and the agreed actions presented by the internal audit report as a valuable



instrument to improve operational effectiveness and to further strengthen the governance, risk management, and internal control processes of WFP's operations in Jordan.