

22 June 2022

## **Management Comments to the Internal Audit Report of WFP Operations in Kenya (AR/22/09)**

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report (AR/22/09) on WFP operations in Kenya, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021. WFP Management appreciates the focus on beneficiary management, cash-based transfers, supply chain and monitoring, and the tailored review of country strategic plan (CSP) implementation, human resources, and budget management processes.

WFP operations in Kenya are defined in its CSP (2018-2023), which aims to provide food assistance to refugees and vulnerable Kenyans, support national and county government institutions in building capacity and systems to assist food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable people; and provide supply chain services, including humanitarian aviation, for partners operating in the country. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the desert locust invasion and consecutive poor rains, WFP continued to deliver its mandate effectively through nine CSP activities, reaching over 1.2 million people.

WFP Management welcomes the independent feedback provided by the audit team, praising WFP's performance and delivery. Also noteworthy is the strength of the relationship between WFP and government institutions at both national and local levels.

WFP Management recognises the audit's overall conclusion of **"some improvement needed"** and concurs with the report's one high and four medium priority observations and the accompanying agreed actions. WFP Kenya is committed to the implementation of the agreed actions within the specified timelines, which considers the ongoing development of the successor CSP and upcoming general elections in Kenya.

WFP Management acknowledges the high priority observation under the heading of beneficiary management and notes that the passing of the Refugee Act in November 2021 opens new possibilities for refugees to have access to livelihood opportunities, and economic and social integration. In that context, WFP Management agrees that a comprehensive targeting strategy will be critical for the accuracy of WFP's ongoing programmes. The Joint Assessment Mission planned for September 2022 in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will contribute not only to improved programme design and targeting but also facilitate resource mobilisation to ensure effective use of resources to the benefit of refugees and their surrounding communities. WFP Management also acknowledges the importance of following-up on issues reported by monitoring staff and field offices. As such, WFP Kenya will be reviewing and upgrading its systems to better capture and consolidate all reported cases and ensure these are followed through for resolution.

WFP Management would like to thank the Office of the Inspector General for its thorough analysis, and its excellent collaboration with the country office team. Implementation of the agreed actions will serve as a valuable instrument to improving operational effectiveness, as well as to further strengthen the governance, risk management and internal control processes of WFP's operation in Kenya.