

14 September 2022

## **Follow-up Review of the Implementation of Agreed Actions from the 2021 Internal Audit of WFP Operations in Mali (AR/22/13)**

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### **Management Comments**

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) through their review of the agreed actions identified in the internal audit report (AR/21/16) on WFP operations in Mali, covering the period from 1 January 2020 to 30 April 2021.

WFP Management acknowledges that the operating context in Mali continues to be characterized by significant and escalating security risks, protracted armed conflict, and a corresponding increase in needs among vulnerable populations. Despite these challenges, in 2021, WFP assisted 1.6 million beneficiaries through a combination of cash-based transfers and in-kind food assistance.

WFP Management appreciates the outcome of the Follow-up Review, noting that concrete steps have been made to continue the efforts undertaken since the 2021 internal audit in the identification and mitigation of risks, in coordination with the Regional Bureau for Western Africa and headquarters units.

WFP Management has been proactively taking action to improve the areas highlighted in the audit report. Of the 37 agreed actions, 34 have been implemented and closed, including all high-priority observations. WFP Management is taking significant steps to ensure that the remaining three agreed actions, corresponding to medium priority observations, are fully implemented and closed by the end of September 2022. The regional bureau and headquarters will continue to provide the needed support to ensure that these actions are effectively implemented within the agreed deadline.

WFP Management appreciates the audit's recognition of the positive steps taken by the country office and the considerable progress made in 2021 and 2022. WFP Management is strongly committed to working towards improving operational effectiveness and to further strengthen the governance, risk management, and internal control processes of WFP's operation in Mali

Finally, WFP Management appreciates the constructive and useful engagement of the Office of the Inspector General and its thorough analysis and collaborative support.