

18 December 2024

Management Comments to the Internal Audit Report of WFP Operations in El Salvador (AR/24/18)

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report on WFP operations in El Salvador (AR/24/18), covering the period from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2024. WFP Management appreciates the audit's focus on risk management and management oversight, cooperating partner management, monitoring, community feedback mechanisms and cash-based transfers.

In El Salvador, WFP has been implementing innovative projects with a distinctive approach to enhancing food security and resilience. Through a strong partnership with the government, WFP focuses on three well-defined pillars of assistance, as outlined in the El Salvador country strategic plan (CSP), for the period 2022-2027. These include: crisis response and early-recovery activities; building resilience and sustainable food systems; and strengthening the capacity of government institutions.

WFP Management is pleased that the audit report acknowledges the country office's established tools for management oversight, including regular reporting on procurement and cash-based transfers, and the monitoring of trends and operational indicators to inform decision-making. The audit also highlighted efforts to minimize duplication and leverage the assurance work of the second line, which benefited from oversight missions carried out by the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

WFP Management welcomes the audit's overall conclusion of **"some improvement needed"** and agrees with one high and four medium-priority observations contained in the audit report. WFP Management fully endorses the corresponding agreed actions and has initiated implementation, with completion expected by the second quarter of 2025.

WFP Management recognizes the need for improvements in fully implementing the UN Partner Portal (UNPP) for selecting cooperating partners and maintaining an updated roster. This enhanced process will strengthen partner relationships through transparent due diligence, ensuring optimal alignment with corporate standards.

WFP Management notes that significant efforts are underway to finalize the medium-priority observations, beginning with the completion of the fraud risk assessment and a general Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption (AFAC) awareness session. The key processes analysed include cash-based transfers and cooperating partner management. Additionally, WFP will continue to strengthen monitoring processes, community feedback mechanisms and cash-based transfer activities in accordance with assurance standards.



WFP Management is committed to regularly reviewing the implementation of the agreed actions and will provide updates through WFP's corporate tracking tool. The Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean will provide guidance and technical support to the country office, as required.

WFP Management would like to thank OIG for their constructive engagement, comprehensive analysis, and efforts to ensure the audit observations and agreed actions reflect the operating context. Implementing the agreed actions in the audit report will play a crucial role in improving operational effectiveness, as well as further strengthening the governance, risk management, and internal control processes of WFP's operations in El Salvador.