

11 December 2024

## **WFP Management Comments to the Internal Audit Report of Security in Field Offices - AR/24/19**

WFP Management welcomes the observations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report of Security in Field Offices (AR/24/19), covering the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

WFP Management acknowledges the audit's overall conclusion that "major improvement is needed" to provide reasonable assurance that security objectives are achieved. However, WFP Management is pleased that the report also recognises that the assessed governance arrangements, risk management and controls were generally established and functioning. Additionally, WFP Security had updated the Framework of Accountability and several procedures in consultation with country offices the field. The audit also noted that repositioning the Division with higher seniority was in line with best practices, due to the criticality of its role.

WFP Management agrees with and supports the seven (7) audit recommendations, comprising three (3) high-priority and four (4) medium-priority observations. WFP Management has initiated actions to address these recommendations, which are aligned with our organizational objectives and are expected to be completed within the agreed timelines. Regular reviews of outstanding agreed actions will take place, with updates provided through WFP's corporate tracking tool.

WFP Management recognises and agrees with the audit recommendations on the three high-priority observations in the areas of governance and resource allocation; digital transformation; and cooperation with partners in field locations. To address these observations WFP already launched the Security Strengthening Programme, which was presented externally to Executive Board members in November 2024. The programme aims to augment capacity and enhance WFP's security measures, particularly in field operations, aligning with WFP's broader risk management strategies and operational priorities.

WFP Management recognises the four medium-priority observations: 1) data access limitations and misalignment of security performance indicators with security objectives; 2) insufficient security risk management and preparedness; 3) gaps in the incident management process impacting decision making; and 4) gaps in scheduling, processing and analysis of security assistance missions results. To address these observations,

WFP will facilitate security personnel's access to up-to-date information; provide standards and tools for consistent and reliable operational information management at country office level; review existing key performance indicators (KPIs) and develop a set of new Key Risk Indicators; enhance integration of security risk management into WFP's emerging corporate risk management structures; advocate at the United



Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) level for policy revisions; revise the divisional strategy for security learning and development; review incident management and analysis processes; establish a knowledge management system; review and clean legacy databases; update its security assistance missions procedures and tools.

WFP Management would like to thank the Office of the Inspector General for its thorough analysis and its excellent collaboration with the Security Division and country offices during the audit. The implementation of the agreed actions will serve as a valuable instrument for improving operational effectiveness, as well as to further strengthen the governance, risk management and internal control processes of WFP security in field offices.