

December 2025

Management Comments to the Internal Audit Report of WFP in Ecuador (AR/25/16)

WFP Management welcomes the observations of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its internal audit report on WFP operations in Ecuador (AR-25-16), covering the period from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2025. Management appreciates the audit's focus on assistance for people in human mobility, host communities, and other vulnerable Ecuadorian people affected by disasters, emergencies, and prolonged crises (Activity 1), as well as the School Feeding Programme (Activity 3) under the Country Strategic Plan.

Ecuador continues to face complex challenges driven by migration flows, economic volatility, high levels of insecurity linked to organized crime, and climate-related shocks. During the audit period, WFP scaled up its response to support food security and nutrition for vulnerable populations, while strengthening partnerships with government institutions and local actors. The operational environment required adaptive approaches to ensure continuity of assistance and compliance with WFP standards.

Auditors commended WFP for strong government, partner, and community engagement, proactive risk management through timely reporting and fraud risk assessment, and integration of nutrition into assistance modalities. They also highlighted diversification of programmes and funding, including home-grown school feeding and private donor engagement, and WFP's leadership in food security analysis through its role in the first IPC Acute Food Insecurity assessment in South America.

WFP Management welcomes the audit's overall conclusion of "some improvement needed" and agrees with the two high- and four medium-priority observations. WFP fully endorses the agreed actions and has already initiated implementation, with completion expected by May 2026.

Regarding the high-priority observations, WFP Ecuador emphasizes that strong systems and internal controls are already in place to safeguard beneficiary identity management and programme monitoring. While the cases identified are limited, they are considered important and have been duly acknowledged. Targeted actions are underway to further strengthen verification processes and compliance mechanisms. In line with WFP's commitment to continuous improvement, additional measures are being implemented to reinforce accountability and ensure alignment with corporate standards and risk management principles within an already robust operational framework.

WFP management will also implement agreed actions to address all medium priority audit observations, specifically in the areas of governance, risk management and oversight, community feedback mechanisms, management of cooperating partners and controls over cash-based transfers: For each of these areas, management has developed action plans with clear timelines to ensure timely and effective resolution within the agreed timeframe.

WFP Management will closely monitor the implementation of the agreed actions through the corporate tracking tool, with support from the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office and Global HQ as needed.

Finally, WFP thanks OIG for its constructive engagement and comprehensive review. The agreed actions will further strengthen governance, risk management, and internal controls, while enhancing the overall effectiveness of WFP's operations in Ecuador.