WFP

World Food Programme

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**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 25–28 May 2015

RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Agenda item 6

For consideration

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WFP MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATE EMERGENCIES

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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DRAFT DECISION*

The Board takes note of "WFP Management Response to the Recommendations of the Report of the External Auditor on the Management of Corporate Emergencies" (WFP/EB.A/2015/6-G/1/Add.1).

INTRODUCTION

1. This document presents the Secretariat's response to the recommendations in the "Report of the External Auditor on the Management of Corporate Emergencies " (WFP/EB.A/2015/6-G/1).

2. WFP management welcomes this external audit of WFP's management of corporate emergencies and the External Auditor's recommendations, which will enhance WFP's operational preparedness and response to its beneficiaries in Level 3 emergencies. WFP management acknowledges the need to review and strengthen its processes and protocols in order to adapt to an increasing number of emergencies.

3. Specific responses to the recommendations are presented in the attached matrix.

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* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

WFP MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATE EMERGENCIES			
Recommendations	**Action by**	**WFP management response**	**Timeframe**
Recommendation 1: We encourage WFP to strengthen its mechanism of conducting and documenting detailed analysis of the five criteria prior to declaration of a Level 3 emergency in line with the practice it has followed in respect of Iraq and the Ebola situation.	Emergency Preparedness and Support Response Division (OSE)	Agree. Prior to the declaration of a Level 3 emergency, WFP conducts a detailed analysis of the five criteria using an options paper and documents the results. This mechanism was utilized for the Iraq and Ebola crises, and has been adopted as a standard practice for future deliberations on Level 3 declarations.	Continuing throughout 2015
Recommendation 2: WFP may strive to make the STF system more effective by having in place a formal follow-up mechanism to implement the decisions taken in the STF meetings and monitor the progress made thereof.	Operations Services Department (OS)	Partially agree. While WFP acknowledges the recommendation, it should be noted that systems to monitor implementation of the decisions taken already exist. The forthcoming update on the various corporate response protocols will clarify and improve the tracking of decisions taken.	End of 2015
Recommendation 3: WFP may endeavour to adhere to the prescribed time schedule for finalising the lessons-learned reports and organizing a separate lessons-learned exercise focused on leadership aspects during the Level 3 response.	OSE and OS	Agree. While acknowledging the recommendation, it should be noted that WFP has conducted seven Level 3 lessons learned exercises since 2010 and only one report remains outstanding. The issue of the timeliness of Level 3 lessons learned exercises is a challenge in the context of protracted crises and is under review as part of the corporate response activation protocol revision. The need to capture lessons on leadership will be reviewed in this context.	End of 2015
Recommendation 4: WFP may continue the efforts of updating OPWeb to ensure that it emerges as a comprehensive site combining the relevant information of all divisions.	OSE	Agree. WFP is already in the process of developing a comprehensive OPWeb model pending the results of a survey on its use launched in early 2015.	End of 2015
Recommendation 5: WFP may consider the possibility of presenting the financial information (including expenditure incurred) on projects related to Level 3 response.	Budget and Programming Division (RMB)	Agree. Financial information on projects is an integral part of the Standard Project Reports, which are available to all stakeholders including Board members. The Secretariat takes note of the recommendation and will determine how existing reporting mechanisms may be enhanced to provide financial information on the Level 3 emergency response.	Second quarter of 2016

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Recommendations	**Action by**	**WFP management response**	**Timeframe**
Recommendation 6: We encourage WFP to continue its efforts to engage both traditional and non-traditional donors for the mobilization of global resources.	Government Partnerships Division (PGG)	Agree. WFP will continue engaging with traditional and non-traditional donors to mobilize a maximum level of resources. Internally, WFP will follow up on its successful donor relations training carried out in 2014. Externally, WFP will continue reaching out to donors at various levels and updating donors on WFP's evolving needs.	Ongoing
Recommendation 7: WFP may expedite the process of addressing the risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register of 2014 in respect of "WFP overextended in multi emergencies" for early completion.	OSE	Agree. WFP is updating its mechanisms and protocols to mitigate the risk of overextension in multiple emergencies.	Ongoing

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ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

OS	Operations Services Department
OSE	Emergency Preparedness and Support Response Division
PGG	Government Partnerships Division
RMB	Budget and Programming Division