

We welcome the PA of C&V based operations and we agree with all its recommendations.

Most of the operations reviewed by the PA were designed and implemented either during the C&V pilot period or at the early stage of the Cash for Change initiative.

As you know, in 2011 and 2012, the Cash for Change initiative worked toward standardization, developing an integrated cash, food and vouchers business model, and adaptating existing systems and processes to support the new business model. In 2012, with the financial support from a number of donors, the Cash for Change initiative launched a broad training program in view of building capacities in C&V transfers.

In line with the Cash for Change roadmap, the systematic roll out of the new systems and tools started in early 2013 along with continued technical support and capacity building. We are therefore very pleased to see that these systems and tools are in line with the PA recommendations.

In particular we agree that the selection of the most appropriate transfer modality, cash, in-kind, vouchers, or any combination of these three, must be based on the comparative cost efficiency and effectiveness of available/feasible options.

The Cash for Change initiative is supporting COs to undertake sectoral capacity assessments using the recently developed corporate tools and we are also in the process to systematically carry out cost-efficiency and effectiveness analyses to estimate the optimal level of C&V in the top 10-15 countries.

In-depth research studies like those recently completed by IFPRI are also providing useful findings on the effectiveness of these transfer modalities.

With regard to the role and engagement of CPs we are working with the Cash Learning Partnership to ensure that the CaLP training includes a dedicated module on how to work together with WFP. On parallel, the partnership with MasterCard is helping the Programme to enhance its understanding and knowledge around electronic cash transfers, pre-paid cards, mobile-phone banking, etc including cost drivers and fees of FSPs.

Information technologies have been leveraged to ensure the identification and management of beneficiaries enrolled into any assistance program.

Last but not least, capacity building efforts are still on-going to reach as many staff and partners as possible with tailored training to build the required competencies in several functional areas.

We agree that we need to build capacities at CO level to ensure operations are properly designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. Capacities need to be further expanded also at RB level for technical support to COs and oversight.

While substantial progress was made during 2011 and 2012 to adapt corporate systems and processes thus to integrate cash and voucher transfers into WFP toolbox and programme of work, continued effort is required to fully implement the Cash for Change roadmap in line with the agreed PA recommendations.

We acknowledge and appreciate your continued support on this matter.