



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 9, 2019

TO: USAID/ Acting North Macedonia Country Representative, Gretchen Birkle

FROM: USAID OIG Middle East and Eastern Europe (ME/EE) USDH NFA Coordinator, Abdoulaye Gueye /s/

SUBJECT: Audit of the Fund Accountability Statement of the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity, and Equality of Women of Republic of Macedonia, Legal Protection of Women Victims of Gender Based Violence and Discrimination Project in North Macedonia, Cooperative Agreement AID-165-A-14-00002, January 1, to December 31, 2016 (8-165-19-064-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the fund accountability statement of the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity, and Equality of Women of Republic of Macedonia, Legal Protection of Women Victims of Gender Based Violence and Discrimination Project in North Macedonia, Cooperative Agreement AID-165-A-14-00002, January 1, to December 31, 2016. The auditee contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Grant Thornton DOO Skopje to conduct the audit.

The audit firm states it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards except that it did not participate in an external quality control review program and did not have a continuing education program that fully satisfies the standards' requirements. The audit firm says that North Macedonia does not offer such a review program. With respect to the continuing education program, the audit firm says that they could not satisfy the standards' requirements because they could not fully obtain the U.S. Government auditing related hours.

The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed auditor's report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on the auditee's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

The audit objectives were mainly to: (1) express an opinion on whether the fund accountability statement for the period audited was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate the auditee's internal controls; and (3) determine whether the auditee complied with the award terms and applicable laws and regulations. To answer the audit objectives, the auditors performed the subject financial audit that covered \$124,530 from January 1 to December 31, 2016.

The audit firm expressed an unmodified opinion on the fund accountability statement and did not identify any question costs. The audit firm did not identify any significant deficiency or material weaknesses in internal control. The audit firm did not identify any material instances of noncompliance with the award terms and applicable laws and regulations.

The report does not contain any recommendations for your action.

We appreciate the assistance extended to the audit staff during the engagement.

The OIG does not routinely distribute independent public accounting reports beyond the immediate addressees because a high percentage of these reports contain information restricted from release under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905 and Freedom of Information Act Exemption Four, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) ("commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential").

Enclosed: a/s

¹ We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify any items needing clarification or issues requiring management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and excludes review of the auditor's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.