



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 24, 2023

TO: USAID/West Africa, Regional Mission Director, Jo Lesser-Oltheten

FROM: USAID OIG Africa Regional Office, Audit Director, Robert Mason /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by SIA N'SON NGO in Benin Under Cooperative Agreement 72068020CA00002, January 1 to December 31, 2021 (Report No. 4-680-23-051-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on of USAID resources managed by SIA N'SON NGO (SIA N'SON) for the project entitled "Reinforcing the High Impact Prevention Package at the Community Level in Djougou, Copargo, Ouake, and Bassila Health Zones" (R-PIHI-Com DCO & Bassila). SIA N'SON contracted with the independent audit firm COFIMA, Cotonou, Benin to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and USAID's *Financial Audit Guide for Foreign Organizations*. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on SIA N'SON's schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

The audit objectives were to (1) express an opinion on whether schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate SIA N'SON's internal controls; (3) determine whether SIA N'SON complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) review of the indirect cost rate; and (5) review the implementation status of the prior period recommendations.

To answer the audit objectives, COFIMA (1) audited the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards including the budgeted amounts by category and major items and the revenues received from USAID for the period covered by the audit and the costs reported by SIA N'SON as incurred from January 1 to December 31, 2021; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to SIA N'SON 's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; (3) identified the award terms and pertinent laws

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.

and regulations and determined which of those, if not observed, could have a direct and material effect on the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; (4) determined that the review of the indirect cost rate was not applicable; and (5) reviewed the implementation status of the prior period recommendations. SIA N'SON reported expenditures of \$1,242,581 in USAID funds during the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period audited. The audit firm identified no questioned costs; no material weaknesses in internal control; and no instances of material noncompliance.

Accordingly, we are not making any recommendations.

During our desk review, we noted several areas for improvement which the audit firm should address in future audit reports. We presented these areas in a memo to the controller, dated January 24, 2023.

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").