



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 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 Organization for Sustainable Development, Strengthening and Self-Promotion of Community Structures in Benin Under Cooperative Agreement 72068020CA00003, January 1 to December 31, 2021 (Report No. 4-680-23-052-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Organization for Sustainable Development, Strengthening and Self-Promotion of Community Structures (DEDRAS) under the Reinforcing the High Impact Intervention Package at the Community Level (R-PIHI-Com ASô-AZT-SaBa) project. DEDRAS 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, International Standards on Auditing, 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 DEDRAS' 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 the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate DEDRAS' internal controls; (3) determine whether DEDRAS complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) review 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 DEDRAS 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 DEDRAS' ability to

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.

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 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. DEDRAS reported expenditures of \$1,162,568 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 \$3,382 in ineligible questioned costs; no material weaknesses in internal control; and one instance of material noncompliance specifically related to the questioned costs identified. Since the questioned costs did not meet the OIG's established threshold of \$25,000 for making a recommendation, we are not making a recommendation. Nevertheless, we suggest that USAID/West Africa determine the allowability of the \$3,382 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for the significant deficiency noted in the report, we suggest that USAID/West Africa determine if the recipient addressed the issue noted.

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 25, 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").