



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 7, 2023

TO: USAID/Malawi, Acting Mission Director, Anna Toness

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

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Malawi College of Health Sciences Under Cooperative Agreement 72061221CA00005, May 5, 2021, to September 30, 2022 (Report No. 4-612-23-080-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Malawi College of Health Sciences (MCHS) under the Leveraging Local Capacity to Strengthen Health Services Delivery - Human Resources for Health (HRH) project. MCHS contracted with the independent audit firm AMG Global, Lilongwe, Malawi to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. However, it did not have an external peer review or a continuing professional education program that fully satisfy the standards' requirements. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on MCHS'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 the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate MCHS's internal controls; (3) determine whether MCHS 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, AMG Global (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 MCHS as incurred from May 5, 2021, to September 30, 2022; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to MCHS'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 and

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.

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. MCHS reported expenditures of \$1,362,845 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 except for \$37,313 in total questioned costs (\$1,723 ineligible and \$35,590 unsupported); no material weaknesses in internal control; and no instances of material noncompliance. The audit firm also issued a management letter.

During our desk review, we noted an area for improvement which the audit firm should address in future audit reports. We presented this area in a memo to the controller, dated June 7, 2023.

To address the issues identified in the report, we recommend that USAID/Malawi:

Recommendation I. Determine the allowability of \$37,313 in questioned costs (\$1,723 ineligible, \$35,590 unsupported) on pages 19 and 22 of the audit report and recover any amount that is unallowable.

We ask that you provide your written notification of actions planned or taken to reach management decision.

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").