



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 2024

TO: USAID/Peru, Mission Director, Amy Paro

FROM: Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Office, through Global and Strategic Audits Division (GSAD) Assistant Director, Pamela Hamilton /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of the Community of Special Coffees Project, Managed by Central de Organizaciones Productoras de Café y Cacao del Perú, Cooperative Agreement 72052721CA00006, September 15, 2021, to December 31, 2022 (9-527-24-005-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the Community of Special Coffees Project. Central de Organizaciones Productoras de Café y Cacao del Perú (Café Perú) contracted with the independent audit firm Rivera & Asociados 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 Café Perú'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 the Café Perú's internal controls; and (3) determine whether Café Perú complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm reported that they assessed and tested the internal controls related to the project; assessed and tested compliance with applicable laws, regulations, the agreement's provisions; and reviewed project expenditures. The audit covered \$1,662,045 of USAID expenditures for 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 \$ 4,978 in total ineligible questioned costs. Since the questioned costs did not meet

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.

the OIG's established threshold of \$25,000 for making a recommendation, we are not making a recommendation. Additionally, the audit firm confirmed that the recipient reimbursed the questioned costs to USAID.

The audit firm did not identify any material weaknesses in internal control. The audit firm identified one instance of material noncompliance related to the questioned costs detailed above. Since the audit firm reported that the questioned costs were reimbursed to USAID, we are not making a recommendation regarding this finding. The audit firm issued a management letter which included minor internal control deficiencies.

Based on the results of the desk review, OIG is not making any recommendation to USAID/Peru.

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"). In addition, USAID OIG has determined that this transmittal memo and the enclosed report are not subject to notification and reporting requirements under Section 5274 of the National Defense Authorization Act.²

² The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 5274. Please direct related inquiries to oignotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov.