



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2024

TO: USAID/El Salvador, Mission Director, Christopher Cushing

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 Education and Coexistence Project in El Salvador Managed by Fundación Empresarial Para El Desarrollo Educativo (FEPADE), Cooperative Agreement No. 72051918CA00003, January 1 to December 31, 2022 (9-519-24-007-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the Education and Coexistence Project in El Salvador. Fundación Empresarial Para El Desarrollo Educativo (FEPADE) contracted with the independent audit firm BDO Figueroa Jimenez & Co., S.A. to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, and the USAID Financial Audit Guide for Foreign Organizations. However, it did not have an external peer review because this program is not offered in El Salvador or a continuing professional education program that fully satisfy the standards' requirements. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusion expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on FEPADE'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 FEPADE's internal controls; (3) determine whether FEPADE complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) review monthly indirect costs to determine if charges are in accordance with provisions of the budget and signed agreement. 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 USAID expenditures of \$3,218,669 for the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly, in all

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.

material respects, program revenues, costs incurred, and reimbursed, under the award for the period audited.

The audit firm did not identify any material weaknesses in internal control or instances of material noncompliance with applicable laws, regulations, and agreement terms. The audit firm issued a management letter which stated that there were no internal control deficiencies that came to their attention.

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

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 oinotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov.