



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

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 30, 2024

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

**FROM:** Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Office, Audit Director, Hannah Maloney /s/

**SUBJECT:** Financial Audit of the Civil Society and Democracy Project in the Eastern Region of El Salvador, Managed by Universidad de Oriente, Cooperative Agreement 72051918CA00002, January 1 to December 31, 2022 (I-519-24-013-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the Civil Society and Democracy Project in the Eastern Region of El Salvador. Universidad de Oriente (UNIVO) contracted with the independent audit firm Corpeño y 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 program that fully satisfies 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 UNIVO's schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.<sup>1</sup>

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 UNIVO's internal controls; (3) determine whether UNIVO complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; and (4) determine if cost-sharing contributions were made and accounted for by UNIVO in accordance with the terms of the 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 \$972,870 of USAID expenditures for the audited period.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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 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 included a minor internal control deficiency and an immaterial instance of noncompliance.

The audit firm stated that based on their review, nothing came to their attention that caused them to believe that UNIVO did not fairly present the cost sharing contributions schedule, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting used to prepare the cost sharing contributions schedule.

During our desk review, we noted one area for improvement which the audit firm should address in future audit reports. We presented this area in a memo to the controller, dated April 30, 2024.

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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:oignotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov).