OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

AUDIT OF USAID'S PROGRESS IN ADOPTING CLOUD COMPUTING TECHNOLOGIES

AUDIT REPORT NO. A-000-15-006-P
March 12, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.

This is a summary of our report on the *Audit of USAID's Progress in Adopting Cloud Computing Technologies*. The objective of the audit was to determine whether USAID implemented selected governance controls over its cloud computing services in accordance with federal guidelines. According to National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication (NIST SP) 800-144, cloud computing is "a model for enabling convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., network, service, storage, applications and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction." In addition, the cloud-computing project proposal of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency states, "Cloud computing offers the potential for significant cost savings through faster deployment of computing resources, a decreased need to buy hardware or build data centers, and enhanced collaboration capabilities."

OIG concluded that USAID had not implemented selected governance controls for the services. For example, USAID did not do the following: protect personally identifiable information and sensitive but unclassified information from unauthorized disclosure; complete adequate cost-benefit analyses for cloud services; have a complete and accurate inventory of cloud computing contracts; and follow best practices for contracting cloud computing services.

USAID made management decisions on 16 of OIG's 18 recommendations and planned to address the remaining 2 in the future. However, OIG disagreed with 2 management decisions because they did not fully address each recommendation, and we encouraged USAID to revise them.