



*Office of Inspector General*

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 25, 2019

**TO:** USAID/Armenia Mission Director, Deborah Grieser

**FROM:** Middle East/Eastern/Europe Regional Office (Frankfurt), Assistant Audit Director, Saiming T. Wan /s/

**SUBJECT:** Financial Audit of the USAID Resources Managed by Media Initiatives Center in Armenia, for the Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2017 (8-111-19-029-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on Media Initiatives Center's incurred costs under the following awards:

Award Name (Type)	Award Number	Period	Prime implementer
Media for Informed Civic Engagement (cooperative agreement)	A10-111-A-14-00005	September 16, 2014 - September 30, 2019	
CSO DePo: CSO Development Program (subagreement)	Y14-1002	June 6, 2014 - June 30, 2018	Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF)

This memorandum transmits the final report of the fund accountability statement audit of Media Initiatives Center in Armenia, for the Calendar Year Ended December 31 2017. Media Initiatives Center contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Grant Thornton, CJSC, Yerevan to conduct the audit. The contract required the audit firm to perform the audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and USAID OIG Guidelines for Financial Audits Contracted by Foreign Recipients.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> On June 30, 2017, USAID OIG rescinded its Guidelines for Financial Audits Contracted by Foreign Recipients, recognizing the Agency's role to impose requirements on its implementing partners and contractors as a management function.

The audit firm states that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, except for not participating in an external quality control review program, and not having a continuing education program that fully satisfy the standards' requirements. The audit firm explained that Armenia does not offer such a review program. With respect to the continuing education program, the audit firm says that they could not satisfy the standards' requirements because they could not fully obtain the U.S. Government auditing related hours.

The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed auditor's report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on the auditee's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal controls; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.<sup>2</sup>

The audit objectives were mainly to: (1) express an opinion on whether the fund accountability statement for the period audited was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate the auditee's internal controls; (3) determine whether the auditee complied with the award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) determine if the auditee has taken adequate corrective action on prior audit report recommendations. . To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm performed the subject financial audit that covered \$988,912, for the Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2017.

The auditors expressed an unmodified opinion on the fund accountability statement and did not identify any questioned costs. The audit firm did not identify any material internal control weaknesses, or any material instances of noncompliance with the task order terms, conditions and applicable laws and regulations.

The report does not contain any recommendations for your action.

We appreciate the assistance extended to the audit staff during the engagement.

The 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").

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<sup>2</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.