



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 29, 2019

TO: USAID/Country Nicaragua Deputy Controller, Virginia Prudo

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

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of Fundación para la Autonomía y el Desarrollo de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua's Management of the Education for Success Program in Nicaragua Under the Central American Regional Security Initiative, Cooperative Agreement AID-524-A-10-00005, January 1 to December 31, 2018 (9-524-20-005-R).

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the Education for Success Program in Nicaragua under the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI). Fundación para la Autonomía y el Desarrollo de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua (FADCANIC) contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Grant Thornton Hernández & Asociados, S.A. 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 because such program is not offered in Nicaragua. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on FADCANIC's fund accountability statement; 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 fund accountability statement for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate FADCANIC's internal controls; (3) determine whether FADCANIC complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) determine if cost-sharing contributions were made and accounted for by FADCANIC in accordance with the terms of the agreement; (5)

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.

determine if FADCANIC has taken adequate corrective action on prior audit recommendations; and (6) perform an audit of the indirect cost rate. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm reported that they assessed and tested the internal controls related to the project; compliance with applicable laws, regulations, the agreement's provisions; and reviewed project expenditures. The audit covered \$1,248,583 of USAID expenditures for the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the fund accountability statement presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period.

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 stated that based on their review, nothing came to their attention that caused them to believe that FADCANIC 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. Additionally, the audit firm determined that the recipient has taken adequate corrective actions on prior audit report recommendations.

The audit firm stated that the schedule of computation of indirect cost rate was fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the fund accountability statement.

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

We appreciate the assistance extended during the engagement.

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").