



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2020

TO: USAID/Zambia, Mission Director, Sheryl Stumbras

FROM: USAID OIG Africa Regional Office, Assistant Director, Matthew Rathgeber /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Closeout Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Women and Law in Southern Africa in Zambia Under Cooperative Agreement AID-611-A-13-00002, January 1, 2017, to April 2, 2018 (Report No. 4 -611-20-041-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) in Zambia under cooperative agreement AID-611-A-13-00002. WLSA contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm BDO, Lusaka, Zambia, to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS). However, it did not have a continuing professional education and external peer review programs that fully satisfy the requirements of GAGAS. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on WLSA'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 WLSA's internal controls; (3) determine whether WLSA complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations (4) review the indirect cost rate; and (5) review the implementation status of prior period recommendations.

To answer the audit objectives, BDO (1) audited the fund accountability statement for the award including the budgeted amounts by category and major items and the revenues received from USAID for the period covered by the audit and the costs reported by WLSA as incurred from January 1, 2017, to April 2, 2018; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to WLSA's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the fund accountability

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.

statement; (3) identified the award terms and pertinent laws and regulations and determined which of those, if not observed, could have a direct and material effect on the fund accountability statement; (4) determined that the review of the indirect cost rate was not applicable; and (5) reviewed the implementation status of the prior period recommendations. WLSA reported expenditures of \$1,308,172 in USAID funds during 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 audited except for \$1,898 in total questioned costs (\$1,699 ineligible and \$199 unsupported); no material weaknesses in internal control and four instances of material noncompliance. Since the questioned costs did not meet the OIG's established threshold of \$25,000 for making a recommendation, we are not making a recommendation. Nevertheless, we suggest that USAID/Zambia determine the allowability of the \$1,898 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. In addition, as this is a closeout audit and the recipient does not have any active agreements, we will not be making any recommendations; however, we suggest that the mission consider these issues if it plans to make future awards to WLSA.

During our desk review, we noted several minor issues which the audit firm will need to address in future audit reports. We presented these issues in a memo to controller dated February 13, 2020.

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").