



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 19, 2020

**TO:** USAID/Southern Africa, Mission Director, John Groarke

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

**SUBJECT:** Financial Closeout Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa Under Cooperative Agreement AID-674-A-12-00023, April 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019 (Report No. 4-674-20-043-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). HSRC contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Deloitte & Touche, Johannesburg, South Africa, to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS), except that the audit firm did not have continuing professional education and external quality control review programs that fully satisfied the requirements set forth in GAGAS. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on HSRC's fund accountability statement; 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 fund accountability statement for the period audited was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate HSRC's internal controls; (3) determine whether HSRC 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, Deloitte & Touche (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 HSRC as incurred from April 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to HSRC's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the fund

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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.

accountability 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 prior period recommendations. HSRC reported expenditures of \$1,133,558 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, except for \$56,226 in total ineligible questioned costs; further, there were no material weaknesses in internal control and four instances of material noncompliance. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for the significant deficiency noted in the report, we suggest that USAID/Southern Africa determine if the recipient addressed the issues noted. Furthermore, since this is a closeout audit and we are not aware of ongoing agreements with HSRC, we are not making formal procedural recommendations but suggest that USAID/Southern Africa determine if the recipient addressed the material noncompliance issues noted before entering into any new agreements with the recipient.

To address the issues identified in the report, we recommend that USAID/Southern Africa:

**Recommendation 1.** Determine the allowability of \$56,226 in ineligible questioned costs on pages 12 and 13 of the audit report and recover any amount that is unallowable.

We ask that you provide your written notification of actions planned or taken to reach management decision. 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”).