



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 16, 2020

TO: USAID/Lebanon Mission Director, Anne Patterson

FROM: USAID OIG Middle East and Eastern Europe (ME/EE) Regional Office, USDH
NFA Coordinator, John Vernon /s/

SUBJECT: Audit of the Fund Accountability Statement of Caritas Lebanon, Building Alliance for Local Advancement, Development, and Investment (BALADI) Program in Lebanon, Cooperative Agreement AID-268-A-12-00005, October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017 (8-268-20-056-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the fund accountability statement of Caritas Lebanon, Building Alliance for Local Advancement, Development, and Investment (BALADI) program in Lebanon, cooperative agreement AID-268-A-12-00005, October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017. The auditee contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Ernst and Young, Lebanon to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. However, it did not participate in an external quality control review program and not having a continuing education program that fully satisfies the standards' requirements. The audit firm explained that Lebanon does not offer such a review program. With respect to the continuing education program the audit firm explained that they are taking appropriate steps to implement a continuing education program that fully satisfies the requirement. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed 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 control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

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.

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 agreement terms and applicable laws and regulations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm performed the subject financial audit that covered \$1,190,294, for the period from October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017.

The audit firm expressed an unqualified opinion on the fund accountability 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 agreements' terms, conditions and applicable laws and regulations.

During our desk review, we noted minor issues which the audit firm will need to address in future audit reports. We presented these issues in a letter to the controller dated April 16, 2020.

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").