



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 1, 2020

TO: USAID/Management/Office of Acquisition and Assistance/Cost, Audit and Support Division, Supervisory Auditor, Eleanor C. Jefferson

FROM: Director of External Financial Audits Division (IG/A/EFA), David A. McNeil /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of Centre for International Studies and Cooperation Under Multiple USAID Awards for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2014 (3-000-20-027-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) resources managed by the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) under multiple awards for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014. CECI contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and the Guidelines for Financial Audits Contracted by Foreign Recipients.¹ The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on CECI's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.²

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 CECI's internal controls; and (3) determine whether CECI complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm examined evidence which supported the financial transactions recorded as expenditures in the fund accountability statement. The audit firm performed the subject financial audit that covered

¹ On June 30, 2017, USAID OIG rescinded its "Guidelines for Financial Audits Contracted by Foreign Recipients," recognizing the Agency's role to impose requirements on its implementing partners and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."

² 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.

total expenditures of \$1,664,032 for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014.

The audit firm concluded that: (1) the fund accountability statement presented fairly, in all material respects, costs incurred and reimbursed by USAID and pass-through entities for the year ended March 31, 2014, in accordance with the terms of the agreement and in conformity with the accrual basis of accounting except for plant and equipment that is expensed when purchased; (2) CECI had two significant deficiencies in internal control regarding non-compliance with U.S. government regulations on terrorism and procurement documentation; and (3) there were two instances of material noncompliance one with the U.S. government regulations on terrorism and the other due to missing procurement documentation. The audit firm did not identify any questioned costs related to USAID awards. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for the two significant deficiencies noted in the report, we suggest USAID's Office of Acquisition and Assistance, Cost, Audit and Support Division determine if the recipient addressed the issues noted. CECI submitted a management letter, which was included in the report.

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 memo to the CFO, dated September 1, 2020.

To address the issues identified in the report, we recommend that USAID's Office of Acquisition and Assistance, Cost, Audit and Support Division:

Recommendation I. Verify that the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation corrects the two instances of material noncompliance detailed on pages of III-1 and III-2 of the audit report.

We ask that you provide your written notification of actions planned or taken to reach a 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").