



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 23, 2020

TO: USAID/Ethiopia, Mission Director, Sean Jones

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

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Anthropologists Under Multiple Awards, January 1 to December 31, 2019 (Report No. 4-663-21-014-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Anthropologists (ESSSWA) under 1) Strengthening Public Sector Social Services System in Ethiopia cooperative agreement AID-663-A-13-00014 and 2) Caring for Vulnerable Children(CVC) project, under FHI 360, subaward 102337-001-004. ESSSWA contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm MSE Auditors Partnership, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 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 continuing professional education and an external peer review that fully satisfied 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 ESSSWA'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 ESSSWA's internal controls; (3) determine whether ESSSWA complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) review the indirect cost rate; and (5) review the implementation status of the prior period recommendations.

To answer the audit objectives, MSE Auditors Partnership (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 ESSSWA as incurred from January 1 to December 31, 2019; (2) evaluated the control

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.

environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to ESSSWA's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the fund 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 the prior period recommendations. ESSSWA reported expenditures of \$812,229 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 \$63 in total unsupported questioned costs; no material weaknesses in internal control; and three 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 for the questioned costs and the one finding specifically related to the questioned costs. Nevertheless, we suggest that USAID/Ethiopia determine the allowability of the \$63 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for significant deficiencies noted in the report, we suggest that USAID/Ethiopia determine if the recipient addressed the issues noted.

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 the controller, dated November 23, 2020.

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

Recommendation I. Verify that Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Anthropologists corrects the two instances of material noncompliance detailed on pages 29 to 31 of the audit report findings 4.2.1 and 4.2.3.

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

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").