



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 17, 2020

TO: USAID/Kosovo Mission Director, Lisa Magno

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 Advocacy Training and Resource Center, Engagement for Equity Project in Kosovo, Cooperative Agreement AID-167-A-15-00001, January 1 to December 31, 2019 (8-167-21-013-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the fund accountability statement of Advocacy Training and Resource Center, Engagement for Equity Project in Kosovo, cooperative agreement AID-167-A-15-00001, from January 1 to December 31, 2019. The auditee contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Audit and Consulting Associates to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed the audit in accordance with U.S. Government auditing standards. However, it did not have an external quality control review or continuing education programs that fully satisfies the standards' requirements. The audit firm explained that Kosovo does not offer an external quality control review program. With regards to the continuing education program, the audit firm said that they could not satisfy the standards' requirements because they could not obtain the U.S. government related hours. 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 controls; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

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; and (3) determine whether the auditee complied with the award terms and applicable laws and regulations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm performed the subject financial audit that covered \$824,893, from January 1 to December 31, 2019.

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 auditors expressed an unmodified opinion on the fund accountability statement 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 agreement 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 December 17, 2020.

The report does not contain any recommendations for your action.

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”).