



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2021

TO: USAID/West Bank and Gaza, Acting Mission Director, Courtney Chubb

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

SUBJECT: Fund Accountability Statement Audit of Appleseeds Academy, Net @ IT Community Youth Leaders Activity Project in West Bank and Gaza, Cooperative Agreement 294-A-17-00003, January 1 to December 31, 2019 (8-294-21-019-N)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the fund accountability statement of Appleseeds Academy, Net @ IT Community Youth Leaders Activity project in West Bank and Gaza, cooperative agreement 294-A-17-00003, for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019. USAID/West Bank and Gaza contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Ernst & Young – Middle East to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with U.S. Government Auditing Standards. However, it did not have an external peer review. The audit firm explained that such program is not offered by professional organizations in West Bank and Gaza. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on Appleseeds Academy fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; 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 \$341,968 for the period 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 audit firm 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 but identified one material instance of noncompliance. The same material instance of noncompliance was disclosed in the prior period audit report (8-294-21-003-N) conducted by another audit firm, and USAID OIG ME/EE regional office included an official procedural recommendation to USAID/West Bank and Gaza to address this finding. Accordingly, to avoid duplication, we are not including a similar procedural recommendation for this audit report. The audit firm said that the program is not subject to Mission Order Number 21 and Executive Order Number 13224, as it falls outside the scope of the mandatory provisions underlying Mission Order Number 21. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for the significant deficiencies noted in the report, we suggest that USAID/West Bank and Gaza determine if the recipient addressed the issues noted. The audit firm issued a management letter.

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”).