



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 24, 2021

TO: USAID/Kenya and East Africa, Mission Director, Mark Meassick

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

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by TradeMark East Africa in Multiple Countries Under Multiple Agreements, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020 (Report No. 4-623-21-060-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania for the following agreements:

Award Name (Type)	Award Number	Audit Period
Trade Infrastructure Project (cooperative agreement)	AID-623-A-14-00002	Jul. 1, 2019 - Jun. 30, 2020
Ongera Ubucuruzi Project (cooperative agreement)	72069618CA00003	Jul. 1, 2019 - Jun. 30, 2020

TMEA contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Ernst & Young, Nairobi, Kenya, to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standard (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 TMEA'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

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.

TMEA's internal controls; (3) determine whether TMEA 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, Ernst & Young (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 TMEA as incurred from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to TMEA'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. TMEA reported expenditures of \$4,445,137 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. The audit firm reported \$12,463 in ineligible questioned costs; no material weaknesses in internal control; and one instance of material noncompliance directly related to the questioned costs. Since the questioned costs identified did not meet the OIG's established threshold of \$25,000 for making a recommendation, we are not making a recommendation on the questioned costs or the related noncompliance finding. Nevertheless, we suggest that USAID/Kenya and East Africa determine the allowability of the \$12,463 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for the significant deficiency noted in the report, we suggest that USAID/Kenya and East Africa determine if the recipient addressed the issues noted. The audit firm issued a management letter.

Accordingly, we are not making any recommendations.

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 May 24, 2021.

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").