



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 24, 2024

TO: USAID/Dominican Republic, Mission Director, Rebecca Latorraca

FROM: Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Office, Audit Director, Hannah Maloney /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of the Higher Education Partnership, Managed by Universidad ISA in Dominican Republic, Cooperative Agreement 72051719CA00005, January 1 to December 31, 2022 (I-517-24-025-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the Higher Education Partnership in Dominican Republic. Universidad ISA contracted with the independent audit firm Campusano & Asociados, S.R.L. to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. However, it did not have an external peer review or a continuing professional education program that fully satisfy the standards' requirements. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on Universidad ISA's schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; 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 schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate Universidad ISA's internal controls; (3) determine whether Universidad ISA complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) determine if cost-sharing contributions were made and accounted for by Universidad ISA in accordance with the terms of the agreement; and (5) determine if Universidad ISA has taken adequate corrective action on prior audit recommendations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm reported that they assessed and tested the internal controls related to the project; assessed and tested compliance with applicable laws, regulations, the agreement's provisions; and reviewed project expenditures. The audit covered \$1,507,343 of USAID expenditures for the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period

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

audited.

The audit firm did not identify any material weaknesses in internal control or instances of material noncompliance with applicable laws, regulations, and agreement terms. The audit firm issued a management letter which included minor internal control deficiencies and immaterial instances of noncompliance.

The audit firm stated that based on their review, nothing came to their attention that caused them to believe that Universidad ISA did not fairly present the cost sharing contributions schedule, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting used to prepare the cost sharing contributions schedule.

Regarding whether the recipient has taken adequate corrective action to address all the prior audit report recommendations, the audit firm stated that two recommendations were still in process.

During our desk review, we noted one area for improvement which the audit firm should address in future audit reports. We presented this area in a memo to the controller, dated September 24, 2024.

Based on the results of the desk review, OIG is not making any recommendation to USAID/Dominican Republic.

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”). In addition, USAID OIG has determined that this transmittal memo and the enclosed report are not subject to notification and reporting requirements under Section 5274 of the National Defense Authorization Act.²

² The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 5274. Please direct related inquiries to oignotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov.