



# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

## U.S. Agency for International Development

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 22, 2025

**TO:** USAID/Bangladesh Mission Director, Reed J. Aeschliman

**FROM:** Asia Regional Office, Assistant Director, Rhonda M. Horried /s/

**SUBJECT:** Financial Audit of USAID Awards in Bangladesh Managed by International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research for the year ending December 31, 2023 (5-388-25-013-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh incurred costs under the following awards:

<b>Award Name (Type)</b>	<b>Award Number</b>	<b>Audit Period</b>
Research for Decision Makers (cooperative agreement) [Close-out]	AID-388-A-17-00006	January 1 to October 31, 2023
Alliance for Combating TB (cooperative agreement)	72038820CA00002	January 1 to December 31, 2023

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh contracted with the independent audit firm, ACNABIN, Chartered Accountants to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS). However, the audit firm disclosed that it did not have continuing professional education and external peer review programs that fully satisfy GAGAS requirements. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on the recipient's schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.<sup>1</sup>

The audit objectives were mainly 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 International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh's internal controls;

<sup>1</sup> We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify items that need clarification or issues that require management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and exclude review of the auditor's supporting workpapers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.

and (3) determine whether International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh complied with the award terms and applicable laws and regulations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm conducted this financial audit that covered costs of \$12,448,881, for the audited period.

The audit firm concluded that the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the awards for the period audited except for \$11,717 in questioned costs (\$11,679 ineligible and \$38 unsupported). The audit firm did not identify any material internal control weaknesses or any material instances of 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. Nevertheless, we suggest that USAID/Bangladesh determine the allowability of the \$11,717 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. The audit firm issued a management letter to International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh and its sub-recipients that had no material issues that required a recommendation.

During our desk review, we noted areas for improvement that the audit firm will need to address in its future audit reports. We presented these deficiencies in a memorandum to the mission controller dated January 22, 2025.

The report does not include 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"). 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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:oignotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov).