



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2025

TO: USAID/Management/Office of Acquisition and Assistance/Cost, Audit and Support Division/Contract Audit Management Branch, Supervisory Auditor, Sheree Marshall

FROM: Director of External Financial Audits Division (IG/A/EFA), David A. McNeil /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of Norwegian Refugee Council Under Multiple USAID Agreements, for the Year Ended December 31, 2023 (3-000-25-014-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the recipient contracted audit of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) under multiple USAID agreements for the year ended December 31, 2023. NRC contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm of Gelman Rosenberg & Freedman (GRF) to conduct the audit. GRF stated that it performed the audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Financial Audit Guide for Foreign Organizations. GRF is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on NRC's schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; the effectiveness of its internal control; and 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 award presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues received, costs incurred, and assets, commodities and technical assistance directly procured with USAID funding for the period audited in conformity with the terms of the awards; (2) evaluate and obtain a sufficient understanding of NRC's internal controls related to the USAID funded programs, assess control risk, and identify reportable conditions, including material internal control weaknesses; (3) determine whether NRC complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; and (4) determine if NRC has taken adequate corrective action on prior audit report recommendations. To answer the audit objectives, GRF (a) reviewed direct costs and indirect

¹ We reviewed the audit 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 audit firm's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.

costs billed to and reimbursed by USAID and costs incurred but pending reimbursement by USAID, identifying and quantifying any questioned costs; (b) reviewed and evaluated the recipient's internal controls related to U.S. Government programs to obtain a sufficient understanding of the design of relevant control policies and procedures and whether those policies and procedures have been placed in operation; (c) identified the agreement terms and pertinent laws and regulations and determine which of those, if not observed, could have a direct and material effect on the fund accountability statements, and assessed the inherent and control risk that material noncompliance could occur for each of the compliance requirements; and (d) reviewed the status of actions taken on findings and recommendations reported in prior audits of USAID funded programs, and evaluated whether the recipient has taken appropriate corrective action. GRF examined NRC's costs of \$ 107,968,123 for the audited period.

GRF stated that the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, costs incurred and reimbursed by the United States Agency for International Development and pass-through agencies for the year ended December 31, 2023. There were no questioned costs identified. GRF identified one deficiency in internal control that was a material weakness and was also reported as an instance of noncompliance, which is required to be reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. GRF reported that one prior report recommendation is open.

To address the problems identified in the report, we recommend that USAID's Office of Acquisition and Assistance Cost, Audit and Support Division/Contract Audit Management Branch:

Recommendation I: Verify that Norwegian Refugee Council corrects the instance of material noncompliance detailed on pages III-2 to III-3 of the audit report.

We ask that you provide your written notification of actions planned or taken to reach a management decision.

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.