



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2025

TO: USAID/Ethiopia, Mission Director, Scott Hocklander

FROM: USAID OIG Africa Regional Office, Audit Director, Ryan Werner /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Mekdim Ethiopia National Association Under Multiple Awards, January 1 to December 31, 2023 (Report No. 4-663-25-057-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Mekdim Ethiopia National Association (MENA) for the following awards:

Award Name (Type)	Award Number	Audit Period	Prime Implementer
Family Focused HIV Prevention Care and Treatment Service in Addis Ababa (cooperative agreement)	72066320CA00012	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023	
HIV Service for Key and Priority Populations (subaward)	72066318CA00001	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023	Population Service International Ethiopia (PSI)
Family Focused HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Services in Oromia Region (subaward) - closeout	72066320CA00013	Jan. 1 – Aug. 11, 2023	Integrated Service for Health and Development Organization (ISHDO)

MENA contracted with the independent audit firm MSE, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 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 MENA'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

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.

of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate MENA's internal controls; (3) determine whether MENA 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, MSE (1) audited the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards 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 MENA as incurred from January 1 to December 31, 2023; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to MENA's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; (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 schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; (4) determined that the review of the indirect cost rate was not applicable; and (5) reviewed the implementation status of the prior period recommendations. MENA reported expenditures of \$3,112,000 in USAID funds during 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 audited. The audit firm identified \$11,617 in unsupported questioned costs; no material weaknesses in internal control; and four instances of material noncompliance. One instance of material noncompliance is related to unique circumstances of the banking sector in Ethiopia; hence, we are not making a recommendation. 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/Ethiopia determine the allowability of the \$11,617 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for significant deficiencies noted in the report, we suggest that USAID/Ethiopia determine if the recipient addressed the issues noted.

During our desk review, we noted several areas for improvement which the audit firm should address in future audit reports. We presented these areas in a memo to the controller, dated February 4, 2025.

To address the issues identified in the report, we recommend that USAID/Ethiopia:

Recommendation I. Verify that Mekdim Ethiopia National Association corrects the three instances of material noncompliance detailed on pages 35 to 38 of the audit report.

We ask that you provide written notification of actions planned or taken to reach 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.