



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 2025

TO: USAID/Philippines Mission Director, Ryan Washburn

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

SUBJECT: Closeout and Financial Audit of Multiple USAID Awards Managed by Action for Economic Reforms in the Philippines, for the period January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023 (5-492-25-031-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report of Action for Economic Reforms (AER) under the following awards:

Award Name (Type)	Award Number	Audit Period
Coalescing Organizations Towards Locally Led Actions to Boost Development (Cooperative agreement, closeout)	72049220CA00012	January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023
Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Alliance (Sub-award)	N/A	August 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023

AER contracted with the independent audit firm, Ramon F. Garcia & Company, CPAs 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.¹

The audit objectives were mainly to (1) express an opinion on whether AER's schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the audited period were presented fairly, in all material

¹ 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.

respects; (2) evaluate AER's internal controls related to the USAID-funded project; and (3) determine whether AER complied with the award terms and applicable laws and regulations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm conducted a financial audit that covered costs of \$1,096,045 for the audited period.

The audit firm concluded that the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly, in all material respects, project revenues and costs incurred under the agreement for the period audited. The audit firm did not identify any material instance of material noncompliance but identified two material internal control weaknesses. The audit firm issued a management letter that had no material issues that required a recommendation.

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.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 oinotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov.