



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 31, 2019

**TO:** USAID/West Bank and Gaza, Acting Mission Director, Courtney Chubb

**FROM:** USAID OIG Middle East and Eastern Europe (ME/EE) Regional Office, USDH NFA Coordinator, Abdoulaye Gueye /s/

**SUBJECT:** Closeout Examination of Ta'awon Palestinian Conflict Resolution Institute's Compliance With the Terms and Conditions of Fixed Amount Award 294-F-16-00001, Partnership for Social Accountability Project in West Bank and Gaza, July 1, 2018, to January 31, 2019 (8-294-20-005-O)

This memorandum transmits the final report on the closeout examination of Ta'awon Palestinian Conflict Resolution Institute's compliance with the terms and conditions of fixed amount award 294-F-16-00001, Partnership for Social Accountability project in West Bank and Gaza, for the period from July 1, 2018, to January 31, 2019. The USAID/West Bank and Gaza contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm El Wafa Company to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its examination in accordance with the U.S government auditing standards applicable to attestation engagements and the standards established by American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for attestation engagements, except for not participating in an external quality control review program. The audit firm stated that they participate in MAZARS worldwide quality control review by partners and managers from other affiliate offices. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on Ta'awon's Organization's internal control effectiveness or its compliance with the awards, laws, and regulations.<sup>1</sup>

The examination objectives were mainly to: (1) determine whether Ta'awon Organization complied, in all material respects, with contract's specific terms and applicable laws and regulations, including testing the contractor's compliance with Executive Order 13224 – Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Person Who Commit, Threaten to

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 examination 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 examination performed.

Commit, or Support Terrorism; (2) evaluate and obtain a sufficient understating of Ta'awon's Organization's internal controls related to compliance, assess control risk, and identify reportable conditions, including material internal control weaknesses; and (3) provide reasonable assurance of detecting fraud, illegal acts, or violations of provisions of the contract. To answer the examination objectives, the auditors performed the subject examination engagement that covered the period from July 1, 2018, to January 31, 2019.

The auditors expressed that Ta'awon's complied in all material respects with the terms of the contract and applicable laws and regulations for the period from July 1, 2018, to January 31, 2019 and did not identify any material instances of noncompliance. The auditors did not identify any material weakness and significant deficiency in internal control. The auditors also did not identify any material instances of noncompliance with Executive Order 13224.

The report does not include any recommendations for your action.

We appreciate the assistance extended during the engagement

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").