



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 10, 2019

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

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

SUBJECT: Compliance Examination on Women Media and Development, Under Fixed Price Award AID-294-F-15-00007, Women's Court Project, January 1 to December 31, 2017 (8-294-20-009-O)

This memorandum transmits the final examination report on Women Media and Development's compliance with the terms and conditions in its fixed price award AID-294-F-15-00007, Women's Court's project, for the period covering January 1 to December 31, 2017. USAID West Bank Gaza contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Ernst & Young in Ramallah Palestine to conduct the subject examination. The audit firm stated that it performed the engagement in accordance with U.S. Government Auditing Standards, Chapter 5 for General, Field Work, and Reporting Standards for Attestation Engagements. However it did not have an external peer review because no such program is offered by professional organizations in the West Bank and Gaza. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Women Media and Development's internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

The examination objectives were to (1) determine whether Women Media and Development complied in all material respects with the fixed price award terms and conditions and laws and regulations; and (2) provide reasonable assurance of detecting fraud, illegal acts, or violations of provisions of the award. The examination objectives also included testing Women Media and Development's compliance with Executive Order 13224 – Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism. To

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 engagement performed.

answer the engagement objectives, the audit firm performed the subject examination that covered the period from January 1 to December 31, 2017.

The auditors identified two material instances of non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the fixed amount award and two significant deficiencies in internal controls due to a lack of timesheets and inadequate policies and procedures. The auditors did not identify any material instances of noncompliance with Executive Order 13224. Ernst & Young also noted certain immaterial instances of non-compliance that they reported to Women Media and Development in a separate letter dated February 21, 2018. As of January 31, 2019, USAID/West Bank and Gaza terminated its foreign assistance activities, and as a result, Women Media and Development had its activities terminated and currently has no open awards with USAID. We are not including procedural recommendations regarding the two significant deficiencies internal control weaknesses and the two material noncompliance instances. However, if USAID/West Bank and Gaza considers future awards to Women Media and Development, it should ensure that adequate policies and procedures are implemented to address these findings, as detailed on pages 11 to 15 of Ernst & Young's report.

The report does not contain any recommendation 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").