



Office of Inspector General

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 23, 2020

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, John Vernon /s/

SUBJECT: Closeout Audit of the Funds Accountability Statement of QED Group, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Project in West Bank and Gaza, Contract AID-294-C-17-00005, August 4, 2017 to January 31, 2019 (8-294-20-022-N)

This memorandum transmits the final closeout audit report on the fund accountability statement of QED Group, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Project in West Bank and Gaza, Contract AID-294-C-17-00005, from August 4, 2017 to January 31, 2019. USAID/West Bank and Gaza contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Ernst and Young- Middle East to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. However, it did not participate in an external quality control review program because West Bank and Gaza does not offer such a review program. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on the auditee's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations¹.

The audit objectives were mainly to: (1) express an opinion on whether the fund accountability statement for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate the auditee's internal controls; and (3) determine whether the auditee complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations, included testing the auditee's compliance with Executive Order 13224 – Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm performed the subject financial audit that covered \$332,722 for the period August 4, 2017 to January 31, 2019.

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.

The auditors expressed an unmodified opinion on the fund accountability statement and did not identify any questioned costs. The audit firm did not identify any material internal control weaknesses, or any material instances of noncompliance with the award terms, conditions and applicable laws and regulations. The auditors also did not identify any material instances of noncompliance with Executive Order 13224. Further, the audit firm issued a management letter.

During our desk review, we noted a minor issue which the audit firm will need to address in its future audit reports. We presented this issue in a letter to the controller dated April 23, 2020. Please note that pages 16 and 17 of the audit report include personally identifiable information.

The report does not contain any recommendations for your action.

We appreciate the assistance extended to the audit staff 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").