



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 21, 2020

TO: USAID/Colombia Mission Director, Lawrence Sacks

FROM: USAID OIG Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Office, Senior Auditor, John Vernon /s/

SUBJECT: Closeout Financial Audit of the Business Laboratories and Reconciliation Activity in Colombia Managed by Fundación Ideas Para la Paz, Cooperative Agreement AID-514-A-17-00011, January 1, 2019, to March 16, 2020 (9-514-20-038-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on Business Laboratories and Reconciliation Activity in Colombia. Fundación Ideas Para la Paz (FIP) contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm BDO Audit, S.A. to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and OIG Guidelines for Financial Audits Contracted by Foreign Recipients.¹ However, it did not have an external peer review because such program is not offered in Colombia. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on FIP's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.²

The audit objectives were to (1) express an opinion on whether the fund accountability statement for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate FIP's internal controls; (3) determine whether FIP complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; and (4) determine if cost-sharing contributions were made and accounted for by FIP in accordance with the terms of the agreement. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm reported that they assessed and tested the internal controls related to the project;

¹ On June 30, 2017, USAID OIG rescinded its "Guidelines for Financial Audits Contracted by Foreign Recipients," recognizing the Agency's role to impose requirements on its implementing partners and contractors as a management function. This contracted audit, however, follows the Guidelines.

² 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.

compliance with applicable laws, regulations, the agreement's provisions; and reviewed project expenditures. The audit covered \$845,949 of USAID expenditures for the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the fund accountability statement presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period audited.

The audit firm did not identify any material weaknesses in internal control or instances of material noncompliance with applicable laws, regulations, and agreement terms. The audit firm issued a management letter which included minor internal control deficiencies.

The audit firm stated that based on their review, nothing came to their attention that caused them to believe that FIP did not fairly present the cost sharing contributions schedule, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting used to prepare the cost sharing contributions schedule.

The auditors did not include a list of the project's non-expendable items in a note to the fund accountability statement. Additionally, the report did not include the final disposition of the assets.

During our desk review, we noted several minor issues which the audit firm will need to address in future audit reports. We presented these issues in a memo to controller, dated September 21, 2020.

Based on the results of the desk review, OIG is not making any recommendation to USAID/Colombia.

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").