



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 5, 2024

TO: USAID/Malawi, Mission Director, Pamela Fessenden

FROM: USAID OIG Africa Regional Office, Audit Director, Robert Mason /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance in Malawi Under Cooperative Agreement 72061221CA00004, May 5, 2021, to December 31, 2022 (Report No. 4-612-24-064-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA) under the Leveraging Local Capacity to Strengthen Health Service Delivery - Human Resources for Health program. GAIA contracted with the independent audit firm BDO Chartered Accountants, Blantyre, Malawi to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. However, it did not have an external peer review program that fully satisfy the standards' requirements. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on GAIA'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 to (1) express an opinion on whether the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate GAIA's internal controls; (3) determine whether GAIA complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; and (4) review the indirect cost rate.

To answer the audit objectives, BDO (1) audited the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards including the budgeted amounts by category and major items and the revenues received from USAID for the period covered by the audit and the costs reported by GAIA as incurred from May 5, 2021, to December 31, 2022; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to GAIA's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; (3) identified the award terms and pertinent laws and regulations and determined which of those, if not observed, could have a direct and material

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.

effect on the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; and (4) determined that the review of the indirect cost rate was not applicable. GAIA reported expenditures of \$1,936,246² in USAID funds during the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period audited. The audit firm identified \$11,632 in ineligible questioned costs; no material weaknesses in internal control; and no instances of material noncompliance. Since the questioned costs did not meet the OIG's established threshold of \$25,000 for making a recommendation, we are not making a recommendation. Nevertheless, we suggest that USAID/Malawi determine the allowability of the \$11,632 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. The audit firm issued a management letter.

Accordingly, we are not making any recommendations.

During our desk review, we noted several areas for improvement which the audit firm should address in future audit reports. We presented these areas in a memo to the controller, dated February 5, 2024.

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.³

² Total expenses \$2,201,638 – Refund to USAID \$265,392 = \$1,936,246

³ The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 5274. Please direct related inquiries to oignotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov.