



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 18, 2021

**TO:** USAID/West Africa, Regional Mission Director, Daniel Moore

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

**SUBJECT:** Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in West Africa Under Implementation Letter 624-A17-ECREEE-17-IL#5, January 1 to December 31, 2020 (Report No. 4-624-22-006-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). ECREEE contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), Accra, Ghana, to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS). However, it did not have continuing professional education and an external peer review that fully satisfied the requirements of GAGAS. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on ECREEE's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.<sup>1</sup>

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 ECREEE's internal controls; (3) determine whether ECREEE complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) review the indirect cost rate; and (5) review the implementation status of the prior period recommendations.

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<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 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.

To answer the audit objectives, PWC (1) audited the fund accountability statement for the award 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 ECREEE as incurred from January 1 to December 31, 2020; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to ECREEE's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the fund accountability statement; (3) identified the award terms and pertinent laws and regulations and determined which of those, if not observed, could have a direct and material effect on the fund accountability statement; (4) determined that the review of the indirect cost rate was not applicable; and (5) determined that the review of implementation status of the prior period recommendations was not applicable. ECREEE reported expenditures of \$1,035,816 in USAID funds during 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 identified no questioned costs; no material weaknesses in internal control; and no instances of material noncompliance. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for significant deficiencies noted in the report, we suggest that USAID/West Africa determine if the recipient addressed the issues noted. The audit firm also issued a management letter.

Accordingly, we are not making any recommendations.

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 October 18, 2021.

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").