



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2021

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

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

SUBJECT: Financial Closeout Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Developpement Durable, le Renforcement et l'Autopromotion des Structures Communautaires (DEDRAS) in Benin Under Multiple Awards, October 1, 2017, to March 31, 2020 (Report No. 4-680-21-089-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Developpement Durable, le Renforcement et l'Autopromotion des Structures Communautaires (DEDRAS) under the following awards: 1) PIHI-Com SaBa-ZO, cooperative agreement AID-680-A-17-00002 for the period January 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020; and 2) PIHI-Com BaKa, cooperative agreement AID-680-A-14-00008 for the period October 1, 2017, to January 31, 2020. DEDRAS contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm COFIMA, Cotonou, Benin, 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 DEDRAS' fund accountability statement; 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 fund accountability statement for the period audited was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate DEDRAS' internal controls; (3) determine whether DEDRAS complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; and (4) review the implementation status of the prior period

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.

recommendations.

To answer the audit objectives, COFIMA (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 DEDRAS as incurred from October 1, 2017, to March 31, 2020; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to DEDRAS' 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; and (4) reviewed the implementation status of the prior period recommendations. DEDRAS reported expenditures of \$1,447,234² 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.

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 the controller, dated August 30, 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").

² Total costs for PIHI-Com SaBa-ZO of \$573,453 + total cost for PIHI-Com BaKa of \$873,781 = \$1,447,234