



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2023

TO: USAID/West Africa, Regional Mission Director, Jo Lesser-Oltheten

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

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Bureau des Projets de Développement des Œuvres Sociales ONG in Benin Under Cooperative Agreement 72068020CA00001, January 1 to December 31, 2021 (Report No. 4-680-23-054-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Bureau des Projets de Développement des Œuvres Sociales ONG (BUPDOS ONG) for the Renforcement du Paquet Communautaire d'Interventions à Haut Impact (Strengthening the Community Package of High Impact Interventions) project. BUPDOS ONG contracted with the independent audit firm Deloitte Benin in Cotonou to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and the *USAID Financial Audit Guide for Foreign Organizations*. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on BUPDOS ONG'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 schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate BUPDOS ONG's internal controls; (3) determine whether BUPDOS ONG complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) review of the indirect cost rate; and (5) review the implementation status of the prior period recommendations.

To answer the audit objectives, Deloitte Benin (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 BUPDOS ONG as incurred from January 1 to December 31, 2021; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to BUPDOS ONG's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in

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.

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 effect on the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; (4) determined that the review of the indirect cost rate was not applicable; and (5) reviewed the implementation status of prior period recommendations. BUPDOS ONG reported expenditures of \$1,058,875 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 \$292 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/West Africa determine the allowability of the \$292 in ineligible questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable.

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 6, 2023.

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").