



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 16, 2022

TO: USAID/Senegal, Mission Director, Peter Trenchard

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

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by National Land Observatory of Burkina Faso Under Cooperative Agreement 72068519CA00007, January 1 to December 31, 2021 (Report No. 4-685-23-026-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by National Land Observatory of Burkina Faso (ONF-BF), under Feed the Future - Amélioration et Sécurisation des Terres vers la Résilience (ASTER) activity. ONF-BF contracted with the independent audit firm KPMG, Dakar, Senegal 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 ONF-BF'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 ONF-BF's internal controls; and (3) determine whether ONF-BF complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations.

To answer the audit objectives, KPMG, Dakar, Senegal (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 ONF-BF 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 ONF-BF's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; and (3) identified the award terms and pertinent laws and regulations and determined which of those, if not observed, could have

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.

a direct and material effect on the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards. ONF-BF reported expenditures of \$814,707 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 except for \$5,205 in unsupported questioned costs. The audit firm identified three 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/Senegal determine the allowability of the \$5,205 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for the medium/moderate and low risk deficiencies noted in the report, we suggest that USAID/Senegal determine if the recipient addressed the issues noted.

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 November 16, 2022.

To address the issues identified in the report, we recommend that USAID/Senegal:

Recommendation I. Verify that National Land Observatory of Burkina Faso corrects the three material weaknesses in internal control detailed on pages 29, 30, and 38 of the audit report.

We ask that you provide your written notification of actions planned or taken to reach management decision.

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").