



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2023

TO: USAID/Lebanon Mission Director, Julie Southfield

FROM: OIG Middle East and Eastern Europe Regional Office, Audit Director, Louis Duncan, Jr. /s/

SUBJECT: Audit of the Schedule of Expenditures of Berytech Foundation, Lebanon MENA Investment Initiative, Cooperative Agreement 72026819CA00005, January 1 to December 31, 2021 (8-268-23-027-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the schedule of expenditures of Berytech Foundation, cooperative agreement 72026819CA00005, Lebanon MENA Investment Initiative, from January 1 to December 31, 2021. Berytech Foundation contracted the independent audit firm Grant Thornton to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated it performed the audit in accordance with the U.S. Government Auditing Standards. However, it did not have an external quality control review program or a continuing education program that fully satisfies the standards' requirements. The audit firm explained that professional organizations in Lebanon do not offer such a quality control review program. With respect to the continuing professional education program, the audit firm said that they could not satisfy the standards' requirements because they could not fully comply with the U.S. Government auditing related hours. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on the auditee's statement of expenditures; 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 for the period audited was presented fairly in all material respects; (2) evaluate the auditee's internal controls; and (3) determine whether the auditee complied with the award terms and applicable laws and regulations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm performed the subject financial audit that covered USAID expenditures of \$7,588,519, for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

The audit firm concluded that the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly,

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.

in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred for the period audited. The audit firm identified no questioned costs; no material weaknesses in internal control; and no instances of material noncompliance.

During our desk review, we noted one area for improvement which the audit firm will need to address in future audit reports. We presented this deficiency in a memo to the controller dated August 30, 2023.

The report does not include any recommendations for your action.

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.²

² 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.