## SIGAR

## Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

SIGAR 24-33 Financial Audit

USAID's Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global LLC

In accordance with legal requirements, SIGAR has redacted from this report certain information because it is proprietary, could impact public safety, privacy, or security, or is otherwise sensitive.



AUGUST 2024

## SIGAR

### Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

#### WHAT THE AUDIT REVIEWED

On January 27, 2020, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission to Afghanistan awarded a cost-plus-fixed-fee contract to DAI Global LLC (DAI) to implement the Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity (ACEBA). ACEBA's objectives were to enhance the competitiveness of exportoriented businesses in Afghanistan and promote sustainable economic growth. The contract included a 3-year base period and a 2-year option period. The period of performance for the 3-year base period was from January 27, 2020, through January 26, 2023. The period of performance for the 2-year option period is from January 27, 2023, to January 26, 2025. USAID modified the contract eight times. The modifications increased the total estimated cost-plus-fixed-fee from \$65,141,235 to \$105,722,822, and extended the period of performance to January 26, 2025.

SIGAR's financial audit, performed by Castro & Company LLC (Castro) reviewed \$56,287,958 in costs and fixed fees charged to the contract from February 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023. The objectives of the audit were to (1) identify and report on material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in DAI's internal controls related to the contract; (2) identify and report on instances of material noncompliance with the terms of the contract and applicable laws and regulations, including any potential fraud or abuse; (3) determine and report on whether DAI has taken corrective action on prior findings and recommendations; and (4) express an opinion on the fair presentation of DAI's Special Purpose Financial Statement (SPFS). See Castro's report for the precise audit objectives.

In contracting with an independent audit firm and drawing from the results of the audit, auditing standards require SIGAR to review the work performed. Accordingly, SIGAR oversaw the audit and reviewed its results. Our review disclosed no instances wherein Castro did not comply, in all material respects, with generally accepted government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

#### August 2024

USAID's Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global LLC

#### **SIGAR 24-33-FA**

#### WHAT SIGAR FOUND

Castro identified one deficiency in DAI's internal controls and one instance of noncompliance with the terms of the contract. Castro reviewed three annual inventory reports DAI submitted to USAID and noted that the fiscal year 2021 annual inventory report was not submitted by the due date stipulated in the contract. Castro did not question any costs related to the internal control deficiency or noncompliance.

Castro identified 15 prior audit reports relevant to DAI's ACEBA contract. Of these 15 audit reports, four included five findings that required follow-up or corrective action and could have a material effect on the SPFS or other financial data significant to the audit objectives. Castro's audit noted DAI has not taken corrective action on three of the five prior audit findings and found similar issues in the current audit. In fact, the current finding about poor annual inventory records was identified in a prior audit report dated April 2022.

Castro issued an unmodified opinion on DAI's SPFS, noting it presents fairly, in all material respects, revenues received, and costs incurred for the period audited.

#### WHAT SIGAR RECOMMENDS

Based on the results of the audit, SIGAR recommends that the responsible contracting officer at USAID:

- Advise DAI to address the report's internal control finding.
- 2. Advise DAI to address the report's noncompliance finding.



August 8, 2024

The Honorable Samantha Power Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

Mr. Joel Sandefur Mission Director, U.S. Agency for International Development

We contracted with Castro & Company LLC (Castro) to audit the costs incurred by DAI Global LLC (DAI) under a cost-plus-fixed-fee contract issued by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in support of its Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity (ACEBA). The goal of ACEBA was to enhance the competitiveness of export-oriented businesses in Afghanistan and promote sustainable economic growth. Castro reviewed \$56,287,958 in costs and fixed fees charged to the contract from February 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023. Our contract with Castro required that the audit be performed in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Based on the results of the audit, SIGAR recommends the responsible contracting officer at USAID:

- 1. Advise DAI to address the report's internal control finding.
- 2. Advise DAI to address the report's noncompliance finding.

Castro discusses the results of the audit in detail in the attached report. We reviewed Castro's report and related documentation. We also inquired about Castro's conclusions in the report and the firm's compliance with applicable standards. Our review, as differentiated from an audit of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, was not intended to enable us to express, and we do not express, an opinion on DAI's Special Purpose Financial Statement, or conclusions about the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance with laws and other matters. Castro is responsible for the attached auditor's report, dated April 22,2024, and the conclusions expressed therein. However, our review disclosed no instances in which Castro did not comply, in all material respects, with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Please provide documentation related to corrective actions taken and/or target dates for planned completion for the recommendations to sigar.pentagon.audits.mbx.recommendation-followup@mail.mil, within 60 days from the issue date of this report.

John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General

for Afghanistan Reconstruction

(F-282)

 $<sup>^{\</sup>scriptsize 1}$  The contract number is 72030619C00008.



DAI Global, LLC
Financial Audit of Costs Incurred
For Contract No. 72030619C00008
For the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023
(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)

**April 22, 2024** 

### Financial Audit of Costs Incurred Contract No. 72030619C00008

### For the Period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023

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### **Transmittal Letter**

April 22, 2024

To the Board of Directors and Management of DAI Global, LLC 7600 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200 Bethesda, MD 20814

To the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction 2530 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia 22202

We appreciate the opportunity to provide to you our report regarding the procedures that we have completed during our audit of the Special Purpose Financial Statement (the Statement) applicable to DAI Global, LLC's (DAI) Contract No. 72030619C00008 with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), funding the Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Within the pages that follow, we have provided a brief summary of the work performed. Following the summary, we have incorporated our report on the Statement, our report on internal control, and our report on compliance. We do not express an opinion on the summary or any information preceding our reports.

When preparing our report, we considered comments, feedback, and interpretations of DAI, USAID, and the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, provided both in writing and orally throughout the audit planning and fieldwork phases. Management's final written response was incorporated as **Appendix A** to this report.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to work with you and to conduct the financial audit of DAI's contract.

Sincerely,

Millie Seijo, CPA, Partner Castro & Company, LLC

### **Summary**

#### Background

On January 27, 2020, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission to Afghanistan awarded a performance-based completion-type Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee (CPFF) contract (Contract No. 72030619C00008) to DAI Global, LLC (DAI) for the implementation of the Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Orientated Business Activity (herein referred to as "ACEBA" or "activity"). The purpose of ACEBA is to enhance the competitiveness of Afghan export-oriented businesses and promote sustainable economic growth. The period of performance of this contract was a three-year base period with a two-year option period. The total estimated CPFF and obligated amount for the three-year base period was \$65,141,235 and \$20,525,911, respectively. This contract has been modified eight times, increasing the total estimated CPFF from \$65,141,235 to \$105,722,822, increasing the total obligated amount from \$20,525,911 to \$72,910,881, and extending the period of performance from January 26, 2023 to January 26, 2025.

The audit's scope included activity within the period of February 1, 2021 thro

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#### **Work Performed**

Castro & Company, LLC (Castro) was engaged by the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) to conduct a financial audit of DAI's Special Purpose Financial Statement (the Statement) for costs incurred under Contract No. 72030619C00008 for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

#### **Objectives Defined by SIGAR**

The following audit objectives were defined by SIGAR within the Statement of Work (SOW) for Financial Audits of Costs Incurred by Organizations Contracted by the U.S. Government for Reconstruction Activities in Afghanistan:

#### *Audit Objective 1 – Internal Controls*

Evaluate and obtain a sufficient understanding of DAI's internal controls related to the award; assess control risk; and identify and report on significant deficiencies including material internal control weaknesses.

#### *Audit Objective 2 – Special Purpose Financial Statement*

Express an opinion on whether the Statement for the award presents fairly, in all material respects, revenues received, costs incurred, items directly procured by the U.S. Government, and balance for the period audited in conformity with the terms of the award and generally accepted accounting principles or other comprehensive basis of accounting.

#### *Audit Objective 3 – Compliance*

Perform tests to determine whether DAI complied, in all material respects, with the award requirements and applicable laws and regulations; and identify and report on instances of material noncompliance with terms of the award and applicable laws and regulations, including potential fraud or abuse that may have occurred.

*Audit Objective 4 – Corrective Action on Prior Findings and Recommendations* 

Determine and report on whether DAI has taken adequate corrective action to address findings and recommendations from previous engagements that could have a material effect on the Statement or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.

#### Scope

The scope of our work included performing a financial audit of costs incurred of DAI's Contract No. 72030619C00008 for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. The audit was limited to those matters and procedures pertinent to the contract that have a direct and material effect on the Statement. The audit also included an evaluation of the presentation, content, and underlying records of the Statement. Further, the audit included reviewing the financial records that support the Statement to determine if there were material misstatements and if the Statement was presented in the format required by SIGAR. In addition, the following areas were determined to be direct and material and, as a result, were included within the audit program for detailed evaluation:

- Administrative oversight, controls, and fraud risk assessment;
- Budgetary Compliance;
- Methodology for allocation of Indirect Cost Rates;
- Disbursements (payroll and non-payroll);
- Procurement:
- Inventory Management;
- Reporting; and
- Compliance

Finally, we expressed an opinion on the Statement and are reporting our findings. Our audit was performed in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS or the "Yellow Book") issued by the Comptroller General of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) (2018 Revision).

#### **Methodology**

In order to accomplish the objectives of this audit, we designed our audit procedures to include the following:

#### **Entrance Conference**

An entrance conference was held via conference call on July 10, 2023. Participants included representatives from Castro, DAI, SIGAR, and USAID. The purpose of the entrance conference was to discuss the nature, timing, and extent of audit work to be performed, establish key contacts throughout the engagement, and schedule status briefings. We also discussed the timeframe for the completion of the audit.

#### **Planning**

During our planning phase, we performed the following:

- 1. Obtained an understanding of DAI;
- 2. Reviewed the contract and modifications;
- 3. Reviewed specific USAID regulations that are applicable to the contract;
- 4. Reviewed audited financial statements and previous SIGAR and USAID financial audit reports;
- 5. Performed a financial reconciliation; and
- 6. Selected samples based on our sampling techniques as outlined in our approved Audit Plan.

#### Audit Objective 1 – Internal Controls

Castro obtained and reviewed DAI's policies and procedures to gain an understanding of the system of internal control established by DAI during the period of performance. Additionally, Castro conducted interviews with management to obtain an understanding of the processes that were in place during the period of performance. The system of internal control is intended to provide reasonable assurance of achieving reliable financial reporting and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Castro confirmed internal controls identified by DAI and performed testing over certain key controls to understand if they were implemented as designed.

#### <u>Audit Objective 2 – Special Purpose Financial Statement</u>

Transactions were selected from the general ledger detail supporting the Statement and were tested to determine if the transactions were recorded accurately and consistent with the terms and conditions of the contract; were incurred within the period covered by the Statement; were appropriately allocated to the contract; and were adequately supported.

#### <u>Audit Objective 3 – Compliance</u>

Castro reviewed the contract issued by USAID to identify criteria against which to test the Statement. Using a combination of random and judgmental sampling techniques, Castro selected transactions, vouchers for payment submitted to USAID, procurements, government property, and reports for testing. Supporting documentation was provided by DAI and evaluated to assess DAI's compliance. Testing of indirect costs was limited to determining whether indirect costs were

calculated and charged to the U.S. Government in accordance with the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement issued by USAID.

#### Audit Objective 4 – Corrective Action on Prior Findings and Recommendations

Castro inquired of DAI, SIGAR, and USAID representatives regarding prior audits, reviews, or assessments that were pertinent to the audit scope. Castro also conducted an independent search of publicly available information to identify audit and review reports. As a result, we identified 15 prior reports. In each instance, Castro reviewed prior audit reports to ascertain whether findings may be direct and material to the audit objectives. In instances where findings were determined to be potentially material to the audit objectives, Castro reviewed the prior audit reports to determine whether corrective action from any of the prior findings and recommendations was denoted as unresolved, inadequate, or otherwise incomplete such that additional follow-up is necessary. See Schedule II: Summary Schedule of Prior Audit, Review, and Assessment of Findings.

#### Exit Conference

An exit conference was held on January 18, 2024 via a conference call. Participants included representatives from Castro, DAI, SIGAR, and USAID. During the exit conference, we discussed the preliminary results of the audit and reporting process.

#### **Summary of Results**

Upon completion of Castro's procedures, we issued an unmodified opinion on the Statement, noting that it presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues earned, costs incurred, and balance for the period audited. We also reported on DAI's internal control and compliance with contract terms, laws, and regulations.

Castro reported on both DAI's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance with the applicable laws, rules, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the contract. One deficiency in internal control was identified. The finding was also classified as an instance of noncompliance. In situations in which control and compliance findings pertained to the same matter, the finding was consolidated within a single finding. See Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control on page 11 and Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance on page 13.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Statement is free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of the contract and other laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of the Statement amounts. The results of our tests disclosed one instance of noncompliance related to this audit.

In response to the identified instance of noncompliance, Castro did not identify any questioned costs. SIGAR requires questioned costs to be classified as either "ineligible" or "unsupported." SIGAR defines ineligible costs as those that are explicitly questioned because they are

unreasonable, prohibited by the audited contract or applicable laws and regulations, or that are unrelated to the award. Unsupported costs are those that are not supported with adequate documentation or did not have the required prior approvals or authorizations.

In performing our testing, we considered whether the information obtained during our testing resulted in either detected or suspected material fraud, waste, or abuse, which would be subject to reporting under *Government Auditing Standards*. Evidence of such items was not identified by our testing.

Castro also requested copies of prior audits, reviews, and evaluations pertinent to DAI's financial performance under this contract. Four of the 15 prior audits referenced above contained audit findings and recommendations that were direct and material to the award. From those four reports, Castro identified five findings that were subject to review. Castro conducted procedures to determine whether adequate corrective action had been taken on the five findings. Castro concluded that DAI had taken adequate corrective action on three of the five prior year findings. See Schedule II: Summary Schedule of Prior Audit, Review, and Assessment of Findings.

This summary is intended to present an overview of the results of the procedures completed for the purpose described herein and is not intended to be a representation of the audit results in their entirety.

**Summary of Findings and Questioned Costs** 

Finding No.	Finding Name	Classification		Questioned Costs
2023-01	Untimely Submission of Annual Inventory Report	Internal Control – Deficiency and Noncompliance	\$	( <u>1</u> )
otal Questione	d Costs	•	S	<u>_</u>

#### **Summary of Management Comments**

The following represents a summary of the response provided by DAI to the finding identified in this report. The complete response received can be found in **Appendix A**.

Finding 2023-01: DAI concurred with this finding. DAI confirmed that moving forward
they will ensure that the deliverable calendar is actively monitored by senior management
and is included in the agenda of weekly home office/field office calls to ensure prompt
preparation and submission.

No rebuttal is deemed necessary as DAI concurred with the finding and recommendation within this report.



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#### Independent Auditor's Report on the Special Purpose Financial Statement

To the Board of Directors and Management of DAI Global, LLC 7600 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200 Bethesda, MD 20814

To the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction 2530 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia 22202

#### **Opinion**

In accordance with the terms of the contract and requirements provided by the Office of Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), we have audited the accompanying Special Purpose Financial Statement (the Statement) of DAI Global, LLC (DAI) and the related notes to the Statement, with respect to Contract No. 72030619C00008 awarded by the United States Agency for International Development to support the Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity, for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. In our opinion, the Statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the respective revenue received, costs incurred, and balances for the indicated period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, in accordance with the terms of the contract and requirements provided by SIGAR.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S generally accepted government auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Special Purpose Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of DAI and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Basis of Presentation and Accounting

We draw attention to Notes 1 and 2 to the Statement, which describes the basis of presentation and the basis of accounting. As described in Note 1 to the Statement, the Statement is prepared by DAI on the basis of the requirements provided by SIGAR, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Special Purpose Financial Statement

DAI management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Statement in accordance with the requirements provided by SIGAR. Management is also responsible for the

design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Statement that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Special Purpose Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance, and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the Statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with U.S generally accepted government auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the Statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the Statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the Statement.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we have also issued our reports dated January 18, 2024 on our consideration of DAI's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, terms of the contract, and other matters. The purpose of these reports is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. Those reports are an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government

auditing standards in considering DAI's internal control over financial reporting and compliance and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

This report is intended for the information of DAI Global, LLC, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. The financial information in this report may be privileged. The restrictions of 18 U.S.C. 1905 should be considered before any information is released to the public. However, subject to applicable laws, this report may be released to the United States Congress and to the public by the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in order to provide information about programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Costro & Company, LLC Alexandria, VA

January 18, 2024

### DAI Global, LLC Financial Audit of Costs Incurred Contract No. 72030619C00008

#### For the Period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023

#### **Special Purpose Financial Statement**

Questioned Costs				Questioned Costs		
Budget		Actual	Ineligible	Unsupported	Total	Notes
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#### See Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The cumulative costs incurred exceeds the budget amount for Sub-Contracts. However, in accordance with FAR 52.232-22, Limitation on Funds, DAI is not required to notify USAID/Afghanistan of individual line item amounts in excess of the budget and is only required to report when the cumulative costs incurred will exceed the total estimated cost and/or total obligated cost. Castro confirmed the cumulative costs incurred did not exceed the total estimated cost and total obligated costs. Therefore, DAI adequately complied with contract requirements for the estimated cost budget.

### Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statement<sup>2</sup>

#### **Note 1. Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying Special Purpose Financial Statement (the Statement) includes revenues received and costs billed under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Contract No. 72030619C00008 for costs incurred in Afghanistan under the Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity (herein referred to as "ACEBA" or "activity") for the period February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Because the Statement presents only a selected portion of the operations of DAI Global LLC (DAI), it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of DAI. The information in the Statement is presented in accordance with the requirements specified by the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and is specific to the aforementioned contract.

#### **Note 2. Basis of Accounting**

DAI's understanding is that the audit is focused on ensuring that claims billed meet the compliance requirements in that they are allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Therefore, the Statement presented is based on costs billed to the client under the cost reimbursable contract during/for the period under audit. Allowable costs will be limited to reasonable, allocable, and necessary costs determined in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.216-7, Allowable and Payment.

#### **Notes 3. Foreign Currency Conversion Method**

For purposes of preparing the Statement, translations from local currency to United States dollars were prepared in accordance with DAI's exchange rate policy. To record financial transactions, DAI uses the exchange rate of the authorized bank or financial institution effecting the conversion of United States dollars to local currency for in-country purchases. This foreign currency exchange rate remains in effect until another currency conversion is required.

#### Note 4. Revenues

Revenues on the Statement represent fixed fee plus the amount of funds to which DAI is entitled to receive from USAID Afghanistan for allowable, eligible costs billed under the contract during the audit period.

The fixed fee payable under this contract will be tied to the completion of the results and deliverables specified in Section B.8 of the contract and in accordance with the fixed fee payment schedule as proposed and agreed upon.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Notes to the Special Purpose Financial Statement are the responsibility of DAI Global, LLC.

#### **Note 5. Costs Incurred by Budget Category**

The budget categories presented, and associated amounts reflect the budget line items within the final USAID approved budget under Contract No. 72030619C00008. Actual expenditures matched the approved budget categories for the contract. The budget amount covered the first year of an initial three-year base period of the award.

#### Note 6. Balance

The balance presented on the Statement represents the difference between revenues earned and costs billed such that an amount greater than \$0 would reflect that revenues have been earned that exceed the costs billed or charged to the contract and an amount less than \$0 would indicate that costs have been billed, but are pending additional evaluation before a final determination of allowability and amount of revenue earned may be made.

#### Note 7. Currency

All amounts presented are shown in United States dollars.

#### **Note 8. Activity Status**

The ACEBA Contract No. 72030619C00008 remains active to date. USAID exercised the two-year option period to Contract 72030619C00008 via Modification 7 on September 15, 2022. Contract No. 72030619C00008 is now scheduled to conclude on January 26, 2025.

#### **Note 9. Cost Sharing**

The ACEBA contract did not require any cost-sharing during the period under audit.

#### Note 10. Other

The United Stated ordered to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by August 31, 2021. Given the security conditions in Afghanistan and reduced staffing and capability, ACEBA's ability to implement programming was affected.

#### **Note 11. Subsequent Events**

Management has performed an analysis of the activities and transactions subsequent to the February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 period covered by the Statement. Management has performed their analysis through January 18, 2024, the date on which the Statement was available to be issued.



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## Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of the Special Purpose Financial Statement Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards

To the Board of Directors and Management of DAI Global, LLC 7600 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200 Bethesda, MD 20814

To the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction 2530 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia 22202

We have audited the Special Purpose Financial Statement (the Statement) prepared by DAI Global, LLC (DAI) under Contract No. 72030619C00008 to support the Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity, for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, and related notes to the Statement, and have issued our report thereon dated January 18, 2024 with an unmodified opinion. We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

In connection with our audit of the Statement, we considered DAI's internal control over financial reporting, consistent with our auditor's responsibilities discussed below.

#### Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described below and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies or to express an opinion on the effectiveness of DAI's internal control over financial reporting. Given these limitations, during our audit of the Statement, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

During our audit of the Statement, we identified one deficiency in internal control for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 that we do not consider to be a material weakness or significant deficiency. Nonetheless, this deficiency warrants DAI management's attention. We have communicated this matter to DAI management, which is described in the accompanying **Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs** as Finding Number 2023-01.

#### DAI's Response to Findings

DAI's response to the finding identified in our audit is included verbatim in **Appendix A** within this report. DAI's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the Statement, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

#### Basis for Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We performed our procedures related to DAI's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

#### Responsibilities of Management for Internal Control over Financial Reporting

DAI management is responsible for designing, implementing, and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Statement that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of DAI's Statement for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we considered DAI's internal control relevant to the Statement audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate under the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of DAI's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on DAI's internal control over financial reporting. We are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses.

#### Definition and Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel. The objectives of internal control over financial reporting are to provide reasonable assurance that (1) transactions are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of the Statement in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and (2) transactions are executed in accordance with provisions of applicable laws, including those governing the use of budget authority, regulations, and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the Statement.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements due to fraud or error.

#### Intended Purpose of Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our consideration of DAI's internal control over financial reporting and the results of our procedures, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of DAI's internal control over financial reporting. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, this report on internal control over financial reporting is not suitable for any other purpose.

This report is intended for the information of DAI Global, LLC, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these

specified parties. Financial information in this report may be privileged. The restrictions of 18 U.S.C. 1905, should be considered before any information is released to the public. However, subject to applicable laws, this report may be released to Congress and to the public by the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in order to provide information about programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Alexandria, VA

January 18, 2024

Castro & Campany, LLC



1635 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314 Phone: 703.229.4440 Fax: 703.859.7603 www.castroco.com

### Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance Based on an Audit of the Special Purpose Financial Statement Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

To the Board of Directors and Management of DAI Global, LLC 7600 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200 Bethesda, MD 20814

To the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction 2530 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia 22202

We have audited the Special Purpose Financial Statement (the Statement) prepared by DAI Global, LLC (DAI) under Contract No. 72030619C00008 to support the Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity, for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, and related notes to the Statement, and have issued our report thereon dated January 18, 2024 with an unmodified opinion. We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

In connection with our audit of DAI's Statement, we tested compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, and contracts consistent with our auditor's responsibilities discussed below.

#### Results of Our Tests of Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Contracts

Our tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and the contract disclosed one instance of noncompliance for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 that would be reportable under U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards which is described in the accompanying **Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs** as Finding 2023-01. However, the objective of our test was not to provide an opinion on compliance with those provisions applicable to DAI. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

#### DAI's Response to Findings

DAI's response to the finding identified in our audit is included verbatim in **Appendix A** within this report. DAI's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the Statement, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

#### Basis for Results of Our Tests for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Contracts

We performed our tests of compliance in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

#### Responsibilities of Management for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Contracts

DAI management is responsible for complying with Federal rules, laws, regulations, and the terms and conditions applicable to the contract.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for Tests of Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Contracts

Our responsibility is to test compliance with selected provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts applicable to DAI that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in DAI's Statement, and to perform certain other limited procedures. Accordingly, we did not test compliance with all laws, regulations, and contracts applicable to DAI. We caution that noncompliance may occur and not be detected by these tests.

#### Intended Purpose of Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Contracts

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, and contracts, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering compliance. Accordingly, this report on compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts is not suitable for any other purpose.

This report is intended for the information of DAI Global, LLC, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Office of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Financial information in this report may be privileged. The restrictions of 18 U.S.C. 1905 should be considered before any information is released to the public.

Alexandria, VA January 18, 2024

Castro & Campany, LLC

#### Schedule I - Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

### Finding 2023-01: Untimely Submission of Annual Inventory Report (Internal Control – Deficiency and Noncompliance)

**Condition:** As part of our compliance testing, we reviewed three Annual Inventory Reports submitted by DAI Global, LLC (DAI) to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). We noted that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Annual Inventory Report was not submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the contract deliverable due dates as noted below:

Reporting Deliverable	Due Date	Date Submitted	Days Late
FY 2021 Annual Inventory Report	02/26/2021	03/03/2021	5

#### Criteria:

Contract No. 72030619C00008, Part I – The Schedule, Section F: Deliveries or Performance, F.5 Summary of Plans, Reports, and Other Deliverables, states in part:

Plans, Reports and Other Documents	Version	Due Date	Submitted to	Reference
REPORTS				
Annual Inventory Report	Final	Within 30 calendar days of each award year	COR with cc to CO	F.4.B-5(e)

Cause: DAI did not have adequate procedures and controls in place to ensure the annual inventory report for FY 2021 was submitted to USAID by the date specified in the contract. Per DAI, due to a lack of staff and recruitment delays, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting the physical inventory review prior to the submission of the annual inventory report took longer than anticipated.

**Effect:** Contractor inventories may be utilized by Government personnel as an input to their Federal financial statement development process. Therefore, there is a risk that Federal financial statements may be adversely impacted as a result of submitting Annual Inventory Reports to USAID late.

**Questioned Costs:** None. This finding relates to the late submission of the FY 2021 Annual Inventory Report to USAID and not costs incurred under the award.

#### **Recommendation:** We recommend DAI:

 Implement procedures and corresponding controls to monitor the submission of deliverables. Implement internal reviews to ensure that compliance with contractual deliverables and deadlines is not affected by staffing issues.

# United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Afghanistan Financial Audit of Costs Incurred Contract No. 72030619C00008 For the Period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023

#### Schedule II – Summary Schedule of Prior Audit, Review, and Assessment of Findings

Castro reviewed 15 prior audits, reviews, or assessment reports. Eleven of the reports contained findings and recommendations. We assessed the findings to ascertain whether the matters reported in the findings were direct and material to the Special Purpose Financial Statement (the Statement) or other financial information significant to the audit objectives. In addition, we reviewed the auditors' comments regarding the status of prior audit findings.

The reports reviewed by Castro are listed below:

- 1. SIGAR Audit No. 22-32 USAID's Afghanistan Value Chains Livestock Activity: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global LLC
- 2. SIGAR Audit No. 22-31 USAID's Afghanistan Value Chains High Value Crops Activity: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global LLC
- 3. SIGAR Audit No. 22-13 USAID's Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Business Activity: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 4. SIGAR Audit No. 22-10 USAID's Regional Agricultural Development Program East in Afghanistan: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 5. SIGAR Audit No. 22-09 USAID's Women in the Economy Program in Afghanistan: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 6. SIGAR Audit No. 22-07 USAID's Musharikat Program to Increase Afghan Women's Equality and Empowerment: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 7. SIGAR Audit No. 21-13 USAID's Strong Hubs for Afghan Hope and Resilience Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 8. SIGAR Audit No. 20-16 USAID's Women in the Economy Project: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 9. SIGAR Audit No. 20-14 USAID's Assistance to the Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan Project: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 10. SIGAR Audit No. 19-42 USAID's Strong Hubs for Afghan Hope and Resilience: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 11. SIGAR Audit No. 19-41 USAID's Regional Agricultural Development Program in Northern Afghanistan: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 12. SIGAR Audit No. 18-61 USAID's Agricultural Credit Enhancement Project: Audit of Costs Incurred by Development Alternatives Inc.
- 13. SIGAR Audit No. 18-05 Department of Defense Task Force for Business and Stability Operations' Afghanistan Indigenous Industries Program: Audit of Costs Incurred by DAI Global, LLC
- 14. USAID Closeout and Financial Audits of Schedule of Costs Incurred in Afghanistan by Development Alternatives Inc. under Contract No. 306-72030618C00011, 306-AID-306-BC-15-00005, 306-AID-306-C-14-00004, 306-AID-306-C-16-00011, 306-AID-306-TO-15-00073, and 306-AID-306-TO-15-00062 for the periods of December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019, December 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, December 1, 2018 to May 20,

# United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Afghanistan Financial Audit of Costs Incurred Contract No. 72030619C00008 For the Period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023

2019, December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019, December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019, and December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019, respectively.

15. USAID Financial Audits of Costs Incurred under Contracts Nos. 306-AID-OAA-C-17-00090, 306-AID-306-C-14-00002, 306-AID-306-TO-15-00062, 306-AID-306-C-14-00016, 306-AID-306-TO-15-00073, 306-AID-306-C-16-00011, 306-AID-306-BC-15-0005, 306-72030618C00011, and 306-72030618C00013 for the periods of September 28, 2017 to November 30, 2018, January 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018, July 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018, December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018, January 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018, January 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018, June 6, 2018 to November 30, 2018, and August 2, 2018 to November 30, 2018, respectively.

Per our review of the reports, Castro identified five prior year findings that required follow-up on corrective action.

#### <u>SIGAR 22-32 Financial Audit: USAID's Afghanistan Value Chains – Livestock Activity:</u> <u>Audit of Costs Incurred (dated April 12, 2022)</u>

**Finding 2022-01:** Three of 11 property records examined included acquisition costs that were incorrectly recorded in the United States dollar (USD) in error as the amount recorded represented Afghani (AFN) unit purchase price that had not been covered to USD.

**Status:** During our testing of DAI's inventory listing of government property, we noted that DAI maintained accurate property records in accordance with the Federal requirements. As a result, Castro determined that this issue was not a repeat condition for the program under audit during the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

**Finding 2022-02:** Three of the seven quarterly reports were not submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the contract deliverable due dates.

**Status:** During our testing of DAI's reporting compliance, we did note one instance where DAI did not timely submit the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Inventory Report. See **Schedule I – Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs**, Finding 2023-01. As a result, Castro determined that similar issues were noted, and this is a repeat condition for DAI related to Contract No. 72030619C00008 during the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

### <u>SIGAR 22-31 Financial Audit: USAID's Afghanistan Value Chains – High Value Crops Activity: Audit of Costs Incurred (dated April 12, 2022)</u>

**Finding 2022-01:** Two of seven reports were not submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the contract deliverable due dates.

# United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Afghanistan Financial Audit of Costs Incurred Contract No. 72030619C00008 For the Period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023

**Status:** During our testing of DAI's reporting compliance, we did note one instance where DAI did not timely submit the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Inventory Report. See **Schedule I – Summary of Findings and Questioned Costs**, Finding 2023-01. As a result, Castro determined that similar issues were noted, and this is a repeat condition for DAI related to Contract No. 72030619C00008 during the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

### SIGAR 22-09 Financial Audit: USAID's Women in the Economy Program in Afghanistan: Audit of Costs Incurred (dated August 27, 2021)

**Finding 2020-02:** DAI did not maintain accurate property records in accordance with Federal requirements. 112 out of the 384 non-expendable property items were missing the date placed in service and 1,116 out of 2,221 expendable property items were missing the date placed in service.

**Status:** During our testing of DAI's inventory listing of government property, we noted that DAI maintained accurate property records in accordance with the Federal requirements. As a result, Castro determined that this issue was not a repeat condition for the program under audit during the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

### SIGAR Financial Audit No. 22-07: USAID's Musharikat Program to Increase Afghan Women's Equality and Empowerment: Audit of Costs Incurred (dated August 16, 2021)

**Finding 2020-02:** DAI did not maintain accurate property records in accordance with Federal requirements. Two property items were classified as both expendable and non-expendable on Inventory Reports and equipment items had unit acquisition costs that did not agree with the inventory report provided for audit.

**Status:** During our testing of DAI's inventory listing of government property, we noted that DAI maintained accurate property records in accordance with the Federal requirements. As a result, Castro determined that this issue was not a repeat condition for the program under audit during the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

# United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Afghanistan Financial Audit of Costs Incurred Contract No. 72030619C00008 For the Period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023

#### Appendix A – DAI Global, LLC's Response to the Audit Finding



17 April 2024

Castro & Company, LLC 1635 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Subject:

DAI/ACEBA Project Management Responses to SIGAR Audit F-282

To Whom It May Concern:

We are providing these management responses in connection with the report from the financial audit of the Special Purpose Financial Statement (the Statement) applicable to DAI Global, LLC's (DAI) Contract No. 72030619C00008 with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the activity entitled Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Orientation Business Activity (herein referred to as "ACEBA" or "activity") for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. DAI appreciates the opportunity to provide additional context and justification to the reported findings.

Finding 2023-01: Untimely Submission of Annual Inventory Report (Internal Control – Deficiency and Noncompliance)

Condition: As part of our compliance testing, we reviewed three Annual Inventory Reports submitted by DAI Global, LLC (DAI) to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). We noted that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Annual Inventory Report was not submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the contract deliverable due dates (late by 5 days).

#### ACEBA Response:

ACEBA concurs with the finding regarding the submission of the Project Annual Report on Government Property in Contractor's Custody for 2021. ACEBA currently ensures that a contract deliverable calendar is actively monitored by senior management and is included in the agenda for weekly home office/field office calls to confirm prompt preparation and submission. Timely submission of contractual reports continues to be a focus for DAI/ACEBA. We aim to deliver a Project Audit debriefing and reminder on this topic to the Programs Team in May 2024.

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- improve contracting and contract management processes;
- · prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and
- advance U.S. interests in reconstructing Afghanistan.

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#### SIGAR's Mission

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