

REDEEMER'S UNIVERSITY EDE, OSUN STATE

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF AFRICAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON THE GENOMICS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (ACEGID)

PERIOD COVERED: JANUARY TO JUNE 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

ACEGID was established in September 2013 upon approval by the World Bank. The Centre specializes in research on the genomics of infectious diseases with the aim of contributing to the control, management and elimination of infectious diseases in the African Continent. The audit covered all the grants from various donors for research activities at the Centre and it was conducted in accordance with the World Bank's Financial Management guidelines and requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards. During the period under review, the Internal Audit ensured compliance with the internal control measures put in place by the University in addition with other regulatory requirements by the Nigerian Government. Records available for checking during the period under review were cash books, bank statements, bank reconciliation statements, and payment vouchers. These were reviewed to eliminate the risks of non-compliance with the agreed financing agreements.

1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE AUDIT:

To gain a reasonable assurance that:

- i. Funds are utilized for the intended purposes
- ii. Funds received and expenditures incurred are judiciously utilized
- iii. Proper accounting records are maintained
- iv. Internal control measures are instituted which, as far as is reasonably possible, safeguard the assets of the project.
- v. Actions are taken to prevent fraud and other irregularities.
- vi. Financial transactions conform with the financing agreements and only eligible expenditures are made.
- vii. Balances shown in the records are in existence and accurate.

2.0 INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW:

2.1 ACCOUNTING

Suitable accounting policies were adopted and consistently applied.

2.2 INTERNAL CONTROLS

Adequate internal control measures are in place. The Project activities go through the normal University procedures for processing of transactions which include 100% prepayment auditing. It should be noted that internal auditing functions at the Centre is risk-based, in line with best practice. This is to ensure data integrity of amounts that will eventually flow into the financial statements.

Test of controls were done routinely. These include segregation of duties, physical control, approval and authorization procedures, control over assets (including maintaining properly updated fixed assets register).

2.3 EFFECTIVENESS OF MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT INCLUDING AUDIT COMMITTEES

The University Audit and Risk Management Committee, a Committee of Council performs oversight functions on the financials of the University and those of ACEGID. The minutes of meeting of the Committee is available on ACEGID website for reference purposes. Also, the Vice Chancellor, Bursar and Head of Internal Audit supervise financial activities of the Centre. Though the Centre is autonomous, university financial procedures and regulations are adopted for financial activities.

2.4 FUNDS FLOW

Apart from grant from the World Bank, the University also provide adequate support to the Centre to facilitate research activities. Some other grants received by the Centre are from Human, Heredity and Health in Africa (H3 Africa), Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Wellcome Trust Grant, Joint West Africa Research Group (JWARG), Audacious Sentinel and Fast Grant.

2.5 FINANCIAL REPORTING

A 100% review of expenditure presented in the Financial Management Report was carried out. Expenses were checked to the relevant vouchers, Admon cash books, and bank reconciliation statements.

2.6 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

There was no case of fraud and corruption. There are adequate controls in the Centre.

2.7 PAYMENT PROCEDURES

A 100% review of all expenditures was done. No ineligible expenditure was incurred as transactions undergo pre-audit procedures to ensure integrity and eligibility of transactions.

2.8 PHYSICAL VERIFICATION THROUGH ON-SITE VISITS

The Internal Audit inspects all items purchased to confirm delivery. All Fixed Assets are in their proper places and well secured.

2.9 PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES

The Deputy Centre Leader, Project Manager and Procurement Officer are responsible for the preparation, presentation, and defence of the Procurement Work Plan subject to approval by the relevant donor agency. The Procurement officer handles all procurement activities. The procurement procedures in place were adequate to ensure that:

- i. Values were received in respect of funds released to suppliers and other service providers.
- ii. Items purchased meet the requirements of the Centre.

3.0 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS AUDIT OBSERVATIONS

A. Yet-to-be retired Cash Advance: The following advances are yet to be retired.

S/N	Reference	Amount (N)	Date obtained	Age Analysis	Auditee's Response	Project	Current Status
1	ADVG/02/23/24/0046	4,084,980.00	12/2/2024	About 1 year	This cash advance is for the ongoing landscaping work at ACEGID sites. The retirement will be processed upon completion of the work.	Audacious	Retired
2	ADVG/02/23/24/048	554,450.00	13/2/2024	About 1 year	The retirement is already under processing.	Audacious	Retired
3	ADVG/02/23/24/0	6,942,085.00	1/7/2024	Over 7 months	The retirement is already under processing.	Audacious	Retired

Summary- Satisfactory

4.0 CURRENT AUDIT OBSERVATIONS

A.) BANK RECONCILIATION: The following observations were made in the course of audit.

S/ N	Date	Project	Amount =N=	Remarks	Auditee's Response
1	February 2025	ACEGID IGR Naira PV no 44	13,000.00	It should be Prof A Happi and not Osilaja L.O. as written.	Observation has been corrected.
2	February 2025	ACEGID IGR Naira PV No-923041	331,000.00	This is not relevant. It will cause confusion.	Observation has been corrected.
3	April 2025	ACEGID Escrow Dom	24,743.98 24,743.68	Written Expected	Observation has been corrected.
4	May 2025	ACEGID Escrow Dom		This was not duly endorsed.	This has now been duly endorsed.
5	June 2025	ACEGID IGR Dom (\$)	\$0.09	There are two journal reports raised with respect to additional bank charges (GJV/02/24/25/JUN/000611 and GJV/02/24/25/JUN/000652) but only one is reflected in the Admon cashbook transactions.	The journal GJV/02/24/25/JUN/000611 is not relevant to the account as it was neither signed nor posted. However, it has been removed from the file.

B.) CASH ADVANCES: The following cash advances are already due for retirement, but they have not yet been retired.

S/ N	Date	Voucher no	Details	Amount	Response
1	21/3/25	ADVGM AR/0098	1,740,000.00	Resident permit for ACEGID International students	Resident permit processing is still on-going.
2	31/3/25	ADVGM AR/0102	450,000.00	ICEMR Clinical study participant	Project is not yet concluded (still on-going).
3	15/5/25	ADVGM AY/0113	1,825,000.00	Procurement of propane gas- Osilaja	Retirement in processing.
4	31/3/25	ADVGM AR/00101	750,000.00	ICEMR Clinical	Project activities is not yet concluded (still on-going).
5	17/2/25	ADVGM/FE B/0084	2,640,000.00	Lassa Immunology study operational budget (3rd to 24 th Feb, 2025)	Project is not yet concluded (still on-going).
6	28/8/24	ADVGM/A UG/0001	508,800.00	ISTH site running cost	Retirement in processing.
7	31/1/25	ADVGM/JA N/00073	213,400.00	GPAZDS Project activities	Project activities is yet to be concluded (still on-going).
8	3/3/25	ADVGM AR/00089	72,000.00	Payment for Led security light	Retirement in processing.
9	28/3/25	ADVGM AR/00100	2,550,000.00	Procurement of inverter	Retirement in processing.

Further comments By Audit: Responses are noted.

5.0 CONCLUSION: The Project Accountant should follow up on unretired advances. Project funds are used for the purposes meant for. The overall audit report rating is Satisfactory.

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Project Internal Auditor
1/08/2025