

*Financial Statement, Supplementary and Other  
Information, and Report on Internal Control and  
Compliance*

**Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Multisectoral Early Childhood Development  
Project - Grant Number D424-MH**  
(Financed by the International Development Association)

*Year ended September 30, 2023  
with Report of Independent Auditors*



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Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project -  
Grant Number D424-MH  
(Financed by the International Development Association)

Year ended September 30, 2023

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## Report of Independent Auditors

Honorable Minister David Paul  
Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statement of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project (the Project) financed by the World Bank's International Development Association - Grant Number D424-MH, which comprises the statement of cash receipts and disbursements for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of the Project for the year ended September 30, 2023 in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2 to the financial statement.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Project 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.

#### ***Emphasis of Matter***

##### ***Reporting Entity***

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statement, the financial statement referred to above presents only the activities of the Project administered by the RMI Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services and is not intended to present fairly the results of other non-Project related operations of the RMI Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services in conformity with 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 Financial Statement***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2 to the financial statement; this includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statement, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Project's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial 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 GAAS and *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 financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial 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 financial 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 the Project's 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 financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Project's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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.

### ***Basis of Accounting***

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement is prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### ***Other Matters***

#### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statement that collectively comprise the Project's basic financial statement. The supplementary information, which comprises the Schedule of Grant Drawdowns on page 8, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statement. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statement. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statement and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statement or to the basic financial statement themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statement as a whole.

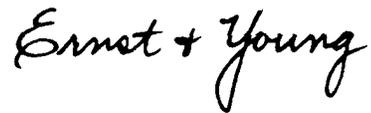
#### ***Other Information***

Management is responsible for the other information included in the financial statement. The other information comprises the Schedule of Implementation Costs - Budgeted vs. Actual Project Disbursements on page 9 but does not include the financial statement and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statement does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statement, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

## **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 27, 2025, on our consideration of the Project's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely 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 the effectiveness of the Project's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing* in considering the Project's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

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October 27, 2025

Republic of the Marshall Islands  
 Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project -  
 Grant Number D424-MH  
 (Financed by the International Development Association)

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Year ended September 30, 2023

Cash receipts:	
IDA grant drawdowns	\$ 151,698
Refunded to World Bank	( 34,647 )
Total cash receipts	<u>117,051</u>
Cash disbursements:	
Component 1: Improve Coverage of Essential Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (RMNCH-N) Services	55,873
Component 2: Improve Coverage of Stimulation and Early Learning Activities	109,133
Component 3: Social Assistance for Early Years' Families	120,992
Component 4: Strengthening the Multisectoral ECD System and Project Management	<u>95,695</u>
Total cash disbursements	<u>381,693</u>
Net change	<u><u>\$ ( 264,642 )</u></u>

Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project -  
Grant Number D424-MH  
(Financed by the International Development Association)

Notes to Financial Statement

Year ended September 30, 2023

**1. Organization**

On March 15, 2019, the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) through the Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services (MOFBPS or the Recipient) signed a Financing Agreement with the International Development Association (the Association) for the purpose of assisting in financing the implementation of the RMI Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project (the Project). The Association agreed to extend to the Recipient an amount equivalent to SDR 9,400,000 (\$12,984,481) under IDA Grant No. D424-MH to cover eligible expenditures up to the closing date of December 31, 2024. On March 18, 2022, the Association approved advancing the closing date to December 31, 2022.

The objectives of the Project are to improve coverage of multisectoral early childhood development services in the RMI and in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, respond promptly and effectively to it.

The Project consists of the following parts with respective allocations:

Component 1 - Improve Coverage of Essential RMNCH-N Services	\$ 3,660,000
Component 2 - Improve Coverage of Stimulation and Early Learning Activities	3,144,481
Component 3 - Social Assistance for Early Years' Families	2,910,000
Component 4 - Strengthening the Multisectoral ECD system and Project Management	<u>3,270,000</u>
	<u>\$12,984,481</u>

On March 18, 2022, the Association also approved a partial cancellation of grant proceeds in the amount of SDR 7,200,000 (\$10,028,283), reducing the approved grant amount from \$12,984,481 to \$2,956,198.

MOFBPS is designated as the representative of the RMI for the purposes of the grant regulations as well as the Project Implementation Agency responsible for carrying out the Project. MOFBPS has established and manages an advance account to be used exclusively for the Project. An initial advance payment under the Project was authorized to facilitate the implementation of the Project through timely release of funds and \$300,000 of grant proceeds were made available for this purpose. The accompanying financial statement is prepared for and relates solely to those accounting records maintained by MOFBPS associated with the Project and do not incorporate any accounts related to other non-Project activities of MOFBPS or any other departments or agencies of the RMI Government.

Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project -  
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Notes to Financial Statement, continued

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles**

*Basis of Accounting*

The Project's policy is to maintain its accounts and prepare its financial statement on the cash basis of accounting. Cash basis of accounting is a special purpose framework, and similar to other bases such as tax, regulatory and contractual, use a definitive set of logical, reasonable criteria that is applied to all material items appearing in the financial statements. The cash, tax, regulatory, and other bases of accounting are commonly referred to as other comprehensive basis of accounting.

The cash basis differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) primarily because receipts/revenues are recognized when received rather than when earned and disbursements/expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) issues nonauthoritative guidance and best practices in the form of Practice Aids.

The financial statement is presented in US Dollars, which is the Project's functional and presentation currency.

**3. Commitments**

As the closing date was advanced from December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2022, no further commitments are associated with the Project. Outstanding and unspent grant proceeds of \$34,647 were refunded on April 27, 2023.

**4. Subsequent Event**

MOFBPS has evaluated subsequent events through October 27, 2025, which is also the date the Project's financial statement is available to be issued.

## Supplementary and Other Information

Republic of the Marshall Islands  
 Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project -  
 Grant Number D424-MH  
 (Financed by the International Development Association)

Schedule of Grant Drawdowns

Year ended September 30, 2023

	WA #	Date Funds Received	Total
Replenishment	WA# 8	November 7, 2022	\$ 151,698
			\$ 151,698

Republic of the Marshall Islands  
 Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project -  
 Grant Number D424-MH  
 (Financed by the International Development Association)

Schedule of Implementation Costs - Budgeted vs. Actual Project Disbursements

Period from inception (March 15, 2019) through September 30, 2023 and for the year ended September 30, 2023

	<u>Total Project Budget</u>			<u>Total Cumulative Project Disbursements</u>						
	Original	Partial Cancellation	Revised	Cumulative from March 15, 2019 to September 30, 2022	Year ended September 30, 2023	Cumulative from March 15, 2019 to September 30, 2023	Unspent	<u>Year ended September 30, 2023</u>		
				Budget	Actual	Variance				
Implementation costs:										
Component 1: Improve Coverage of Essential Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (RMNCH-N) Services	\$ 3,660,000	\$( 3,203,277 )	\$ 456,723	\$ 400,850	\$ 55,873	\$ 456,723	\$ ---	\$ 1,972,082	\$ 55,873	\$ 1,916,209
Component 2: Improve Coverage of Stimulation and Early Learning Activities	3,144,481	( 2,162,186 )	982,295	873,162	109,133	982,295	---	1,088,854	109,133	979,721
Component 3: Social Assistance for Early Years' Families	2,910,000	( 2,195,714 )	714,286	593,294	120,992	714,286	---	989,570	120,992	868,578
Component 4: Strengthening the Multisectoral ECD System and Project Management	<u>3,270,000</u>	<u>( 2,467,106 )</u>	<u>802,894</u>	<u>672,552</u>	<u>95,695</u>	<u>768,247</u>	<u>34,647</u>	<u>1,365,714</u>	<u>95,695</u>	<u>1,270,019</u>
Total implementation costs	<u>\$ 12,984,481</u>	<u>\$( 10,028,283 )</u>	<u>\$ 2,956,198</u>	<u>\$ 2,539,858</u>	<u>\$ 381,693</u>	<u>\$ 2,921,551</u>	<u>\$ 34,647</u>	<u>\$ 5,416,220</u>	<u>\$ 381,693</u>	<u>\$ 5,034,527</u>



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## Report of Independent Auditors on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Honorable Minister David Paul  
Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statement of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project (the Project) financed by the World Bank's International Development Association - Grant Number D424-MH, which comprises the statement of cash receipts and disbursements for the year ended September 30, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statement, and have issued our report thereon dated October 27, 2025.

### **Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Project's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Project's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Project's internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

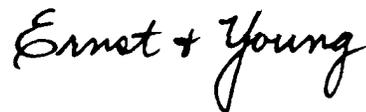
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Project's financial statement is free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

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October 27, 2025