

Report on the Quality Assessment Review of the  
U.S. Agency for International Development –  
Office of Inspector General (USAID - OIG)



Conducted in Washington, DC

By

The Office of Investigations  
Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction  
Arlington, VA

Team Leader: Scott M. Hahn,  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge

*January 2023*

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**SIGAR**

Office of the Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

John F. Sopko  
Special Inspector General

February 15, 2023

Ms. Nicole Angarella  
Acting Deputy Inspector General  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: **Report on the Quality Assessment Review of the U.S. Agency for International Development – Office of Inspector General (USAID-OIG)**

Dear Inspector General Angarella,

The Office of Investigations for the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) Peer Review team reviewed the system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative operations of the U.S. Agency for International Development – Office of Inspector General (USAID-OIG) in effect for the yearlong period that ended on December 31, 2022. Our review was conducted in conformity with the *Quality Standards for Investigations* (November 2011) and the *Qualitative Assessment Review Guidelines for Investigative Operations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* (July 2017) established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

We reviewed USAID-OIG's compliance with its system of internal policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. The review was conducted at USAID's headquarters office in Washington, DC. Additionally, we sampled 20 case files of investigations closed during the previous 12-month period that ended on December 31, 2022.

In performing our review, we also considered the *Attorney General's Guidelines for Offices of Inspector General with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority* (December 2003), as well as Section 6(e) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (the IG Act), as amended. Those documents authorize law enforcement powers for eligible personnel of each of the various Offices of Inspectors General. Law enforcement powers may be exercised only for activities authorized by the IG Act, other statutes, or as expressly authorized by the Attorney General.

In our opinion, USAID-OIG's system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative function in effect for the year ending December 31, 2022, is in compliance with the quality standards established by CIGIE and the other applicable guidelines and statutes cited above. These safeguards and procedures provide reasonable assurance of USAID-OIG conforming with

professional standards in the planning, execution, and reporting of its investigations and in the use of law enforcement powers.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (703) 545-6000. Alternatively, you may contact ASAC Hahn at (727) 666-1443 or Scott.m.hahn3.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

John F. Sopko  
Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

Attachments:

- A) Listing of Visited Field Offices
- B) Listing of Sampled Closed Investigative Files

**Attachment A : Visited Field Offices**

Location:

1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20004

Number of Personnel Interviewed: 14

**Attachment B : CY 2022 Closed Investigative Files Reviewed**

<b>Case File Number</b>
AF-FR-18-0105-1
AF-H1-18-0428-1
AF-KU-18-0830-1
AF-PR-18-0893-1
AF-CA-19-0430-1
AF-KU-19-0417-1
AF-SA-19-0376-1
HQ-HQ-19-0668-1
LA-HO-19-0275-1
LA-HO-19-0575-1
AF-H1-20-0011-1
AF-PR-20-1342-1
AF-PR-20-1534-1
AF-SA-20-0237-1
LA-HO-20-0032-1
LA-HO-20-0387-1
LA-HO-20-0907-1
LA-HO-20-1555-1
LA-HO-21-1274-1
LA-H1-21-1331-1



**SIGAR**

Office of the Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

John F. Sopko  
Special Inspector General

February 15, 2023

Ms. Nicole Angarella  
Acting Deputy Inspector General  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**Subject: Letter of Observations following the Report on the Qualitative Assessment Review of the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Agency for International Development**

Dear Inspector General Angarella:

This is a supplement to our Report on the Qualitative Assessment Review of the Investigative Operations of the U.S. Agency for International Development – Office of Inspector General (USAID – OIG), conducted in January 2023.

In addition to reporting a rating of compliant, the peer review team identified four best practices or similar notable positive attributes of your investigative operations. Specifically, the review team identified the following best practices:

- USAID-OIG’s evidence control measures were identified as a “Best Practice” during a previous Peer Review. SIGAR reviewers have once again identified this area as a “Best Practice”. The evidence is maintained in an adequately secure space with the appropriate access controls. The evidence room is spacious, notably clean, and very well organized. The evidence log and associated documentation are maintained in a scrupulous manner. A spot check of 15% of evidence holdings and documentation was conducted and found to be 100% compliant.
- USAID-OIG’s Criminal Investigator Manual (CIM) is well written, thorough, and easy to understand. Each chapter contains links to all necessary forms, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) memos, and quick reference sheets within the requisite chapters, which improves the manual's function as a viable resource. One recommendation for further enhancement to the CIM would be for USAID-OIG to explore the feasibility of including a chapter dedicated to “Investigative Analyst Operating Procedures”, which would provide guidance for analysts and specifically recognize the significance of the analysts’ role in the investigative process.
- USAID-OIG’s investigative reporting processes are to be commended in two specific areas: 1) the inclusion of the interviewers notes as an attachment to the Investigative Interview Report (IIR) and 2) inclusion of the investigative plan as part the opening Investigative Report (IR). These “best practices” are recognized for ensuring documentary control during both the investigative process and in support of potential prosecutorial efforts; as well as ensuring the investigative team has an established set of benchmarks in furtherance of their respective cases.

- USAID-OIG's Digital Forensics and Investigative Technology Division (DFIT) standard operation procedures and capabilities were identified as being highly commendable. USAID-OIG's support to capitalize upon the virtual capabilities available to examine electronically stored information and utilize current specialized investigative techniques are practices to be emulated.

In addition to reporting a rating of compliant, the peer review team identified one area for improvement or increased efficiency or effectiveness:

**Observation #1: Firearms and Ammunition Inventory Reporting**

- According to USAID policy, "OSD SAC oversees all functions related to the OIG/I Firearms Program including, but not limited to maintaining records and inventories (annual or otherwise) of all firearms and ammunition. A status report memorandum will be submitted to the AIG/I no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year". The Firearms Coordinator (FC) responsibilities include, "maintaining day-to-day inventory of all OIG/I firearms and ammunition and provide a status report memorandum to the OSD SAC." During the Peer Review process, an inventory accounting for weapons held in the USAID-OIG armory was produced for 2021, but a certified OSD SAC inventory accounting for weapons was unable to be verified for 2022. It is noted that for both 2021 and 2022, meticulous records of the inventory were present but not confirmed, and there were OSD SAC and FC position changes with gap time. This was immediately rectified with a 100% inventory conducted by the FC and Peer Reviewer with no additional discrepancies identified. We recommend verbiage be added to the FC's listed responsibilities in the CIM to include a date in support of the AIG/I deadline.

We hope you find the Peer Review to have been thorough and that the suggestions herein are beneficial in furtherance of your work. We note that implementation of the suggestions is done at your discretion and will not be tracked or monitored by the Peer Review Team.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (703)545-6000 or ASAC Hahn at (727) 666-1443 or Scott.m.hahn3.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

John F. Sopko  
Special Inspector General  
for Afghanistan Reconstruction