



Peace Corps
Office of
INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

October 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025



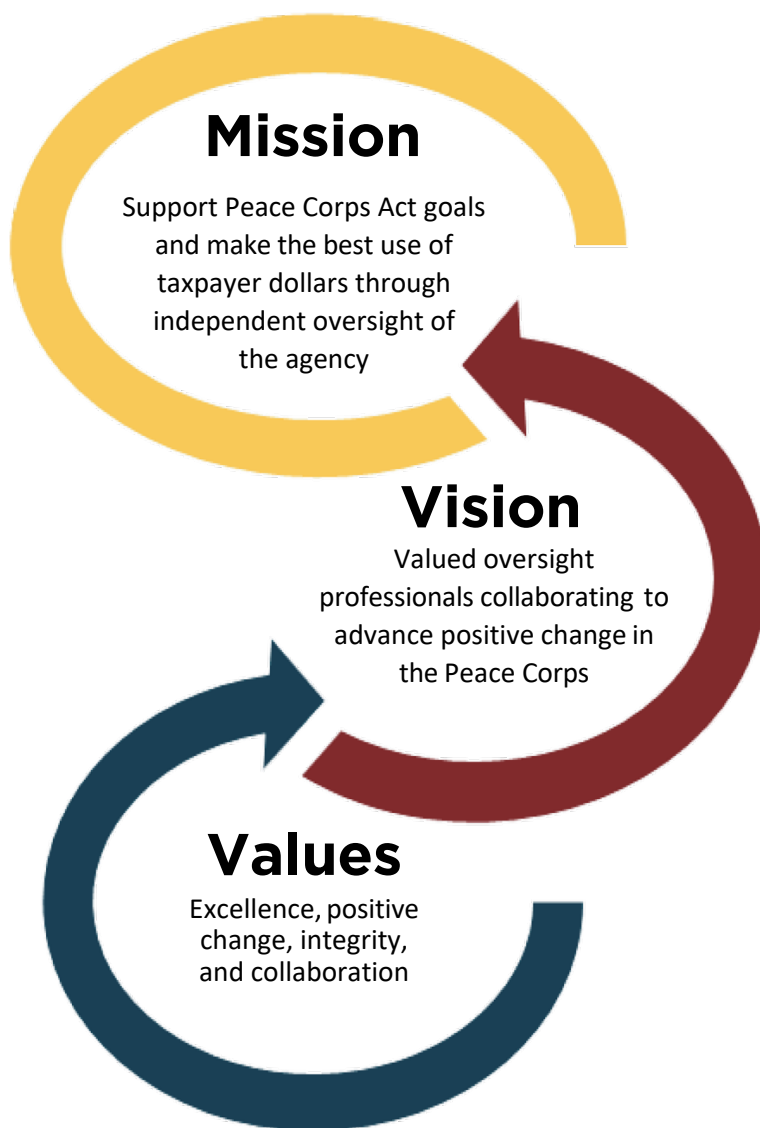
Office of Inspector General

TOGETHER WE MAKE A BETTER PEACE CORPS

Since 1989, the Peace Corps Office of Inspector General (OIG) has provided independent oversight of the programs and operations of the Peace Corps. OIG works to promote efficiency and effectiveness to help the Peace Corps achieve its mission: to promote world peace and friendship through community-based development and cross-cultural understanding. The Inspector General Act of 1978 (codified at 5 U.S.C. Chapter 4) charges OIG with the responsibility to keep Congress and the Director of the Peace Corps fully and currently informed of problems and deficiencies related to the administration of Peace Corps programs and operations.

OIG's oversight seeks to:

- Prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement
- Promote integrity, efficiency, and economy
- Identify risk and vulnerabilities and offer expert assistance to improve the programs and operations of the Peace Corps



In accomplishing its mission, OIG is committed to:

Excellence

Issuing accurate, timely, and reliable work products

Positive Change

Making value-added recommendations to address issues and challenges with agency programs and operations

Integrity

Maintaining independence from the agency, meeting professional and ethical standards, and committing to continual improvement

Collaboration

Working together and promoting best practices within the office, with the agency, and with external stakeholders



Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.....	1
MANAGEMENT AND ADMIN UNIT	3
ADVICE, ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER REPORTABLE MATTERS	5
AUDIT UNIT	9
AGENCY-WIDE AUDITS AND REVIEWS.....	10
POST AUDITS AND REVIEWS.....	13
EVALUATION UNIT	15
EVALUATIONS OF AGENCY PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS.....	16
INVESTIGATION UNIT	19
INVESTIGATIONS OF CRIMINAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE MISCONDUCT.....	20
INVESTIGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.....	23
INVESTIGATIONS OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.....	25
TABLES.....	27
TABLE 1. LIST OF REPORTS: AUDITS, EVALUATIONS, AND OTHER REPORTS.....	27
TABLE 2. REPORTS WITH QUESTIONED COSTS, UNSUPPORTED COSTS, AND FUNDS TO BE PUT TO BETTER USE.....	28
TABLE 3. RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH CORRECTIVE ACTION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED	29
TABLE 4. SUMMARY OF HOTLINE AND OTHER COMPLAINTS.....	36
TABLE 5. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES	37
TABLE 6. REFERENCES TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT, AS AMENDED	38
APPENDICES	41
APPENDIX A: REPORTING OF PEER REVIEWS.....	41
APPENDIX B: CONTRACT AUDIT REPORTS.....	43
APPENDIX C: HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING	44



Message from the Inspector General

1



I am pleased to submit the first Semiannual Report to Congress for fiscal year (FY) 2025, which summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Peace Corps Office of Inspector General (OIG) from October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

This report highlights how our investigators, auditors, and evaluators are committed to helping the agency achieve efficiency and effectiveness in its programs; preventing and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement; and ensuring the safety, security, and overall well-being of Peace Corps Volunteers.

OIG's Investigation Unit continued to ensure the integrity of the agency by holding accountable those who seek to abuse or defraud the Volunteer program, which was made possible through taxpayer funds. Our investigators served as the agency's "front line" by quickly responding to complaints and examining incidents that jeopardized Volunteer health and safety, as well as addressing allegations of wrongdoing at overseas posts. During this reporting period, OIG investigators visited all three Peace Corps regions—Africa; Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia; and Inter-America and Pacific—to conduct essential work, including examining accusations of theft of Government property, corroborating allegations of timecard fraud and non-performance by locally-hired staff at the posts, and, most critically, investigating alleged harassment and assault, including instances of sexual assault.

Additionally, our investigative work yielded important observations about the sufficiency of medical service coverage at a post in the Africa region. Through collaboration with Peace Corps senior leaders, we raised awareness about the potential risks understaffed medical offices may cause to Volunteer health and safety. The agency has responded by working to ensure Peace Corps Medical Officers (PCMO) are in place as required, and we continue to work together to monitor the situation.

Our efforts to help ensure Volunteer health and safety extended to our Evaluation Unit, which issued a country program evaluation of Guyana. The evaluation assessed the agency's effectiveness in meeting its objectives related to Volunteer health and safety, project activities, Volunteer training and support, and Post leadership.

Finally, our Audit Unit continued to provide critical oversight of the Peace Corps' information technology and financial management practices by issuing our annually mandated reports on the agency's compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA), the Payment Integrity Information Act (PIIA), and Financial Statement Audits. OIG auditors also issued important findings in our report on Peace Corps/Uganda post operations to help improve the post's internal controls and compliance with various laws and agency policies.

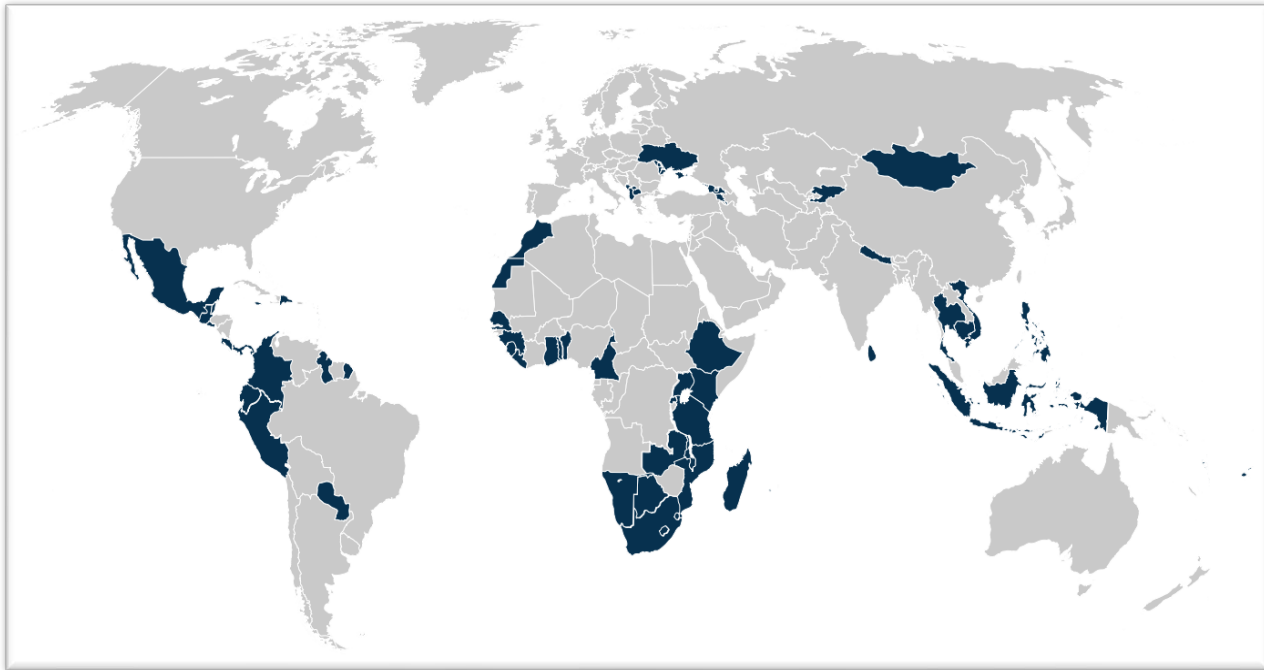
All our work, combined with an ongoing spirit of collaboration, has allowed us to continue to offer advice and assistance to the agency on a variety of matters, as appropriate, while working together to realize OIG's vision that, together, we can make a better Peace Corps.



Joaquin Ferrao
Inspector General

For the Reporting Period of October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025





PEACE CORPS COUNTRIES AND POSTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2025

Albania	Georgia	Moldova	South Africa
Armenia	Ghana	Mongolia	Sri Lanka
Belize	Grenada	Montenegro	St. Lucia
Benin	Guatemala	Morocco	St. Vincent
Botswana	Guinea	Mozambique	Tanzania
Cambodia	Guyana	Namibia	Thailand
Cameroon	Indonesia	Nepal	The Gambia
Colombia	Jamaica	North Macedonia	Timor-Leste
Costa Rica	Kenya	Panama	Togo
Dominica	Kosovo	Paraguay	Tonga
Dominican Republic	Kyrgyz Republic	Peru	Uganda
Ecuador	Lesotho	Philippines	Ukraine
El Salvador	Liberia	Rwanda	Vanuatu
Eswatini	Madagascar	Samoa	Viet Nam
Ethiopia	Malawi	Senegal	Zambia
Fiji	Mexico	Sierra Leone	

Agency Context

In March 2022, the Peace Corps began its first overseas redeployment of Volunteers since evacuating all Volunteers from posts in over 60 countries due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

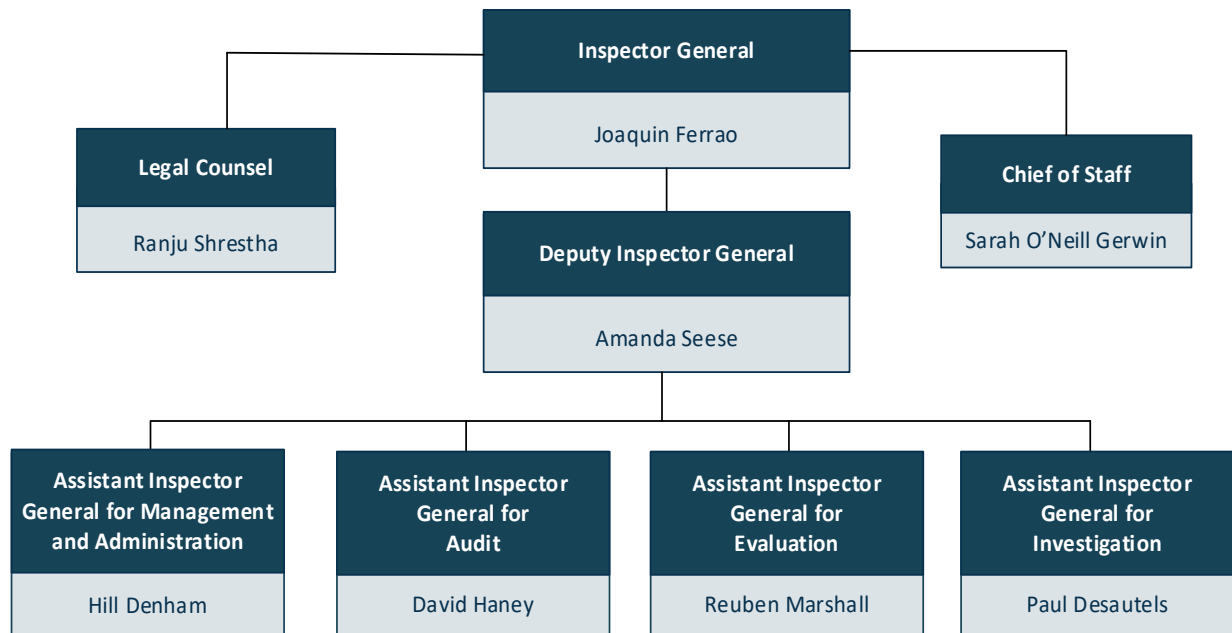
As of March 30, 2025, the Peace Corps has active Volunteer operations in 60 countries¹ managed by 56 Peace Corps posts,² with 3,006 active Volunteers serving and 282 Trainees.

The Peace Corps reported that it received 5,655 new Volunteer applications during this reporting period.

These efforts were supported by 954³ United States Direct Hires (USDH), 772 of whom were in headquarters and other domestic locations, and 182 of whom were located in host countries abroad. Additionally, the agency employed 2,347 locally-hired personnel in host countries.⁴



OIG Organizational Chart



¹ This includes Virtual Service Pilot assignments. Virtual Service is intended to allow participants to engage virtually with partner organizations in countries around the world.

² A Post is the principal Peace Corps office in any host country and has supervision over any sub-offices in that country. The Post may direct Peace Corps operations in one or more other host countries.

³ Includes Expert appointments; individuals who are specially qualified by education and experience to perform difficult and challenging tasks in a particular field beyond the usual range of achievement of competent persons in that field. (See 5 CFR 304.102(d).)

⁴ The agency reports that 104 of the 2,347 locally hired personnel were short term hires and not necessarily engaged with the agency during the reporting period.

Review of Agency Regulations, Policies, and Procedures

OIG continues to provide advice and assistance to the Peace Corps Senior Policy Committee and other offices by commenting on new or updated drafts of policies, procedures, and other documents governing the agency's organization and practices.

During this reporting period, OIG reviewed 59 Peace Corps policies and procedures. Topics and areas included: Presidential actions and implementing guidance; the Incentive Awards Program; the Personnel Security Program; Managing Overseas Emergencies; Alternate Dispute Resolution; Volunteer Leave; and the organization of the Office of the Director and the Office of Management.



Referral Follow up to CEO and Deputy CEO Regarding Medical Service Coverage Needs in Africa Region

The health, safety, and overall well-being of Volunteers are top priorities for both the agency and OIG. When OIG received a hotline complaint in March 2025 regarding potentially inadequate medical service coverage in a post in the Africa Region, the Investigation Unit immediately began to address the issue. The complaint concerned the management of the health unit and alleged that the post in question did not have appropriate



coverage for two PCMO positions, as required by agency policy, after one departed in February 2023. Given the situation's potential impact on Volunteer health and safety, the Inspector General promptly raised the matter with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).⁵ The CEO agreed to address the PCMO vacancy matter, and the Inspector General issued a follow-up letter on March 28, 2025, to the CEO and Deputy CEO highlighting OIG's specific concerns and associated risks. The agency responded by outlining its ongoing plans and actions to address

⁵ The CEO is designated to perform the duties of the Director in the absence of a politically appointed agency head.

the concerns. OIG will continue to work with the Peace Corps to monitor its progress in addressing PCMO coverage in this post in the Africa Region, and the office will maintain an oversight focus on this critical Volunteer health and safety matter at all posts during future work.

Request to the Director Regarding Challenges with Agency Management of Human Capital

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 406(c), in January 2025, the Inspector General requested the former Director’s assistance in taking actions to expedite the hiring and onboarding of critical OIG positions. Leading up to this request, OIG attempted to work with the appropriate offices and agency management over a 2-year period to appropriately staff its operations, as OIG relies on the agency’s human resources services. The agency made limited progress in processing OIG’s staffing requests. With a nearly 30 percent officewide vacancy rate—and a 45 percent vacancy rate in its Audit Unit—OIG’s ability to conduct audits and provide support services to its Audit, Evaluation, and Investigation Units had been hampered.

Subsequently, on January 20, 2025, an executive order enacted a hiring freeze for Federal civilian employees throughout the executive branch. OIG was able to reinstate certain job offers after working with senior leadership at the Office of Personnel Management. Consistent with the law, the agency assisted OIG “insofar as is practicable” by onboarding the exempted job offers within 30 days of OIG’s letter to the Director, negating the congressional reporting requirements under 5 U.S.C. § 406(c)(3).



OIG Outreach

On October 16, 2024, OIG celebrated 35 years of oversight and accountability by hosting an open house event for all Peace Corps personnel to attend. More than 200 agency staff participated by learning more about OIG’s mission, engaging in interactive activities, and gathering OIG educational materials that will help them continue their collaborative efforts to combat fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in Peace Corps programs.

To ensure the effectiveness of Peace Corps operations, OIG staff conduct regular overseas visits to review post operations, meet with Volunteers and staff in-person, and assess the adequacy of the program and Volunteer support. In November and December 2024, while conducting field work, the Investigation Unit delivered briefings on OIG’s mission to USDHs and Locally Employed Staff (LES) in four countries to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Peace Corps programs, initiatives, and operations, as well as prevent and detect fraud, waste, and



abuse. In January 2025, OIG senior leaders provided two detailed briefings to assist with the Presidential transition: one to the incoming Administration's Agency Review Team, and one to the new Peace Corps acting leadership team members, including the CEO and Deputy CEO. The presentations focused on OIG authorities, operations, and ongoing work.

OIG Support for Background Checks

During the reporting period, OIG supported the agency's standard operating procedures for background checks, which integrates and automates requests for OIG record checks. Any individual who worked or volunteered for the Peace Corps and seeks to return as staff or as a Volunteer undergoes an OIG record check. This supplements the agency's onboarding process to produce accurate and complete background checks for employment and Volunteer Service. This process helps the agency comply with the employee and Volunteer background check requirements of the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. § 2507b(a)). During this reporting period, OIG conducted 489 records checks, of which 147 were for potential staff and 342 were for potential Volunteers and Virtual Service Pilot participants.





Overview

The Audit Unit's objectives are to independently examine the financial and administrative operations of the Peace Corps; promote effectiveness and efficiency; and ensure compliance with Federal laws, regulations, and Peace Corps policy. Audits cover a wide range of activities, including agency operations at overseas Posts as well as agency-wide functions that impact multiple offices and programs. Auditors report their conclusions and recommendations based on data and document analyses, interviews, and direct observations. The Audit Unit also monitors the agency's progress in correcting the systemic weaknesses identified in its published audit reports.

Audits and other reviews⁶ are conducted under the direction and guidance of the Assistant Inspector General for Audits. Audits are performed in accordance with the U.S. Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Ongoing Work

The Audit Unit continued its work on two reports: The Pre-award Process for Domestic Awarded Contracts and Post Operations in Peru. The Unit began its work on a review of the Peace Corps' information technology environment, which includes network penetration testing and assessing vulnerability management of specific systems and applications. The Unit also announced the legislatively required review of the Peace Corps' compliance with the FISMA requirements for FY 2025.



⁶ Other reviews include Management Implication Reports (MIR) and Management Advisory Reports (MAR), which are conducted in accordance with OIG Directive 2020-03 – Revision to Reporting Procedures for MIRs and MARs.

Agency-Wide Audits and Reviews



Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program for FY 2024

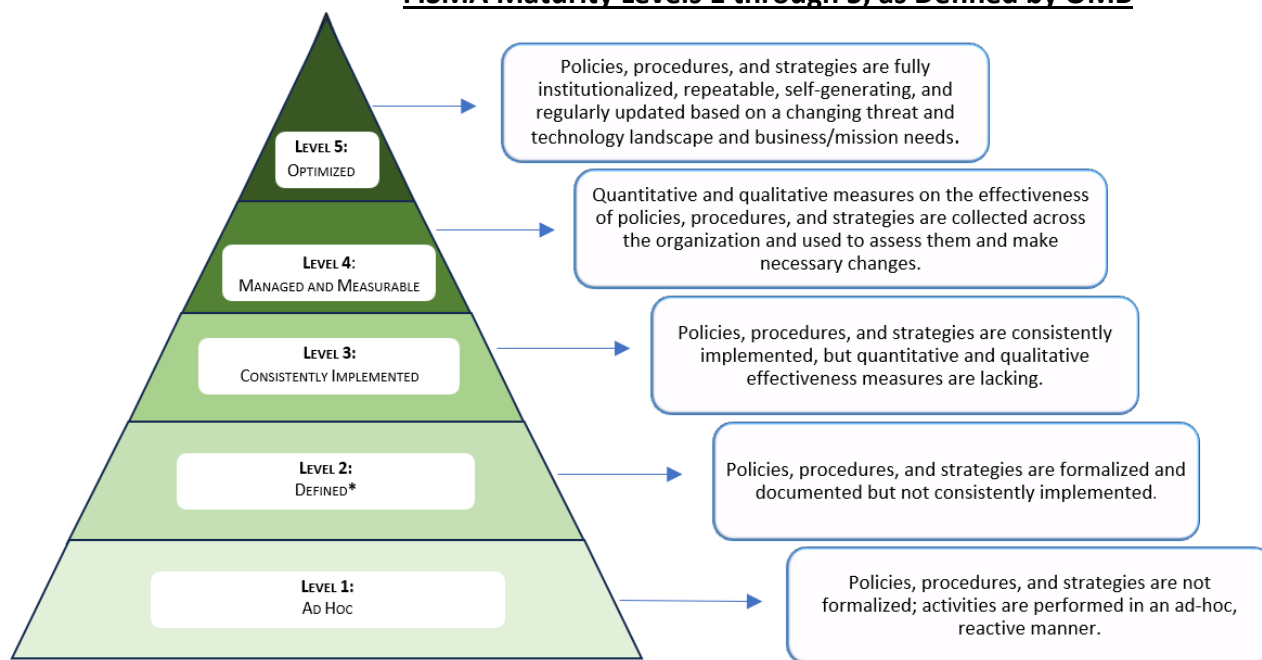
IG-25-01-SR

In October 2024, OIG issued a report on the Peace Corps' information security program for FY 2024, in compliance with FISMA (Public Law No. 116-117). OIG contracted with Williams, Adley & Company-DC LLP (Williams Adley), an independent and certified public accounting firm, to perform a review of the agency's information security program. FISMA requires the OIG of each agency to annually conduct an independent assessment of the agency's information security program to ensure it has developed, documented, and implemented agency-wide programs that provide comprehensive security for the information and systems that support their operations and assets.

The Peace Corps has made significant progress in enhancing its information security posture since FY 2023, but overall, remained at Level 2, falling short of Level 4, which OMB considers to be an effective level of security.

Since FY 2023, the Peace Corps has enhanced its information security posture by addressing four recommendations from previous audit reports. The Peace Corps had improved in various FISMA domains, such as Risk Management, Configuration Management, and Incident Response. While these quantifiable improvements reflect a strong commitment to meeting FISMA requirements, the Peace Corps information security program remained at Level 2 – Defined.

FISMA Maturity Levels 1 through 5, as Defined by OMB



*Peace Corps maturity level as of FY2024

The review identified nine new exceptions and issued five new recommendations. The agency concurred with the five new recommendations while three recommendations remain open from prior reviews. All recommendations are part of a regular 12-month cycle and will be re-assessed during the FY 2025 FISMA review, which is currently underway.

Audit of the Peace Corps' Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Statements

In November 2024, OIG issued its final report on the Audit of the Peace Corps' Financial Statements for FY 2024 pursuant to the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. § 3521(e)(1)). OIG contracted with Williams Adley to audit the Peace Corps' financial statements in accordance with GAGAS; the standards applicable to financial audits in the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); and OMB Bulletin No. 24-02, Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements.

The Peace Corps' agency leaders have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to financial management, as evidenced by more than 15 consecutive years of clean financial statement audit opinions. This year, the audit concluded that the Peace Corps' financial statements were fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP. The audit also noted three significant deficiencies in the agency's internal control over financial reporting as well as one instance of reportable noncompliance related to provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. Two of the significant deficiencies are repeat findings from prior years that were highlighted for the agency's attention and action but have yet to be fully realized.

Significant Deficiencies

New Findings

1. Peace Corps' processes for lease reporting requirements

The lease reporting processes, which was a new reporting requirement for FY 2024, were manually intensive, changed frequently, and would not be easily repeatable in the future. The manual processes increased the risk of human error that could result in an erroneous calculation and possible misstatement of balances.

Repeat Findings

2. Improper internal controls over Property, Plant, and Equipment (PP&E)

The agency decommissioned its existing Property Management System in June 2024 without having an operational replacement system in place. Instead, the agency relied on manual reporting mechanisms that resulted in a variety of challenges, including untimely, inconsistent, and incomplete PP&E data. At the time of the report, the Peace Corps did not have an operational Property Management System replacement or a projected date for when one will be completed and functional. Generating timely, reliable, and useful PP&E data is essential to ensuring sound financial management. This finding contains new and concerning factors that present notable risk to the agency if it is not addressed in a timely manner.

3. Lack of effective information technology security

The Peace Corps did not comply with Federal requirements for risk management; identity, credential, and access management strategy; training; lessons learned; and the agency-level Business Impact Assessment.

Reportable Noncompliance and Internal Control Deficiencies

Reportable Noncompliance

Lack of full compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014

The agency did not meet the required maturity level of Managed and Measurable.

Internal Control Deficiencies

Less severe internal control deficiencies

The Peace Corps has two internal control deficiencies, including inadequate controls surrounding the processing of personnel actions and inadequate controls related to documenting authorized access and timely removal of access from the Financial Services systems.

Management concurred with the 11 recommendations in the report and 5 in the management letter, and all remain open at the end of this reporting period. All recommendations issued in this report are part of a regular 12-month audit cycle.

OIG's review of Williams Adley's report and related documentation disclosed no instances where Williams Adley did not comply, in all material respects, with GAGAS. As required by OMB Circular A-136, Financial Reporting Requirements, the auditors' report was published in the Peace Corps' FY 2024 Agency Financial Report.

Review of the Peace Corps' Compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act for Fiscal Year 2024

IG-25-02-SR

In March 2025, the OIG issued a report on the Peace Corps' compliance with PIIA (Public Law No. 116-117) for FY 2024. The PIIA requires OIG to annually review the agency's improper payment and payment reporting made in the annual Agency Financial Report to determine compliance.

This review determined that the Peace Corps complied with the PIIA for FY 2024 and that it is unlikely that the Peace Corps reached the significant improper or unknown payment threshold. The report also noted that the dollar values of the individual payments are considerably lower than the significant improper payment threshold amounts.

This review determined that the Peace Corps complied with the PIIA for FY 2024.

The audit did not identify any significant improper payments that met or exceeded the PIIA-established threshold in OIG's FY 2024 audits, the audit of the agency's FY 2024 financial statements, or other audits or reviews conducted during FY 2024.

As a result of this review, OIG did not make any recommendations to the Peace Corps.

Post Audits and Reviews

Uganda Post Operations

IG-25-01-A

On December 20, 2024, OIG issued a report on the financial and administrative operations at the Peace Corps/Uganda post. The audit found that the post's operations need significant improvement to meet agency policies and comply with Federal laws and regulations. Overall, the post did not provide sufficient oversight to ensure controls were properly implemented.

In addition, OIG found that the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) can enhance Peace Corps/Uganda post operations by improving its management of value-added tax, capitalized assets, open obligations, and Personal Service Contract (PSC) files.

OIG made 20 recommendations for the post, OCFO, and other headquarters offices to improve operations. Those recommendations included developing and implementing policies and procedures, conducting oversight to ensure policies are followed, conducting training to ensure staff are aware of requirements, and reviewing questioned costs to ensure they did not result in an Anti-deficiency Act violation. When implemented, these recommendations should help to improve financial and administrative operations at the post.

The agency concurred with 19 of the 20 recommendations and 8 of 20 remain open at the end of this reporting period.

Potential Cost Savings

This report identified \$40,132 in questioned costs and \$28,679 in funds put to better use.

Key Areas OIG identified for Compliance or Improvement:

- Tracking value-added tax submissions;
- Adhering to Federal guidance when procuring meals, lodging, and entertainment for participants attending training and events within their designated duty station limits;
- Adhering to agency property management guidance for accountable assets;
- Ensuring payments are collected from early-terminated Volunteers;
- Complying with agency established guidelines for managing expired medical supplies;
- Ensuring that PSC wages and cash awards were accurately calculated and processed; and
- Complying with Peace Corps guidance to maintain the required supporting documentation.



Overview

The Evaluation Unit provides the Peace Corps with independent evaluations and reviews of agency programs and operations at overseas posts and domestic offices. Evaluations address efficiency and effectiveness, identify best practices, and recommend improvements. The Evaluation Unit's reports provide information that is useful to agency managers, policymakers, and others. Evaluations and other reviews⁷ are conducted under the direction and guidance of the Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation. OIG evaluations are performed in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE) Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation.

Ongoing Work

During this reporting period, the Evaluation Unit worked on drafting a report for the country program evaluation of Peace Corps/Madagascar, which will be issued in the following reporting period. The Evaluation Unit also launched a country program evaluation of Peace Corps/North Macedonia, which included travel to the post. Additionally, the Unit has been conducting ongoing fieldwork for an evaluation regarding agency challenges in recruiting, selecting, and placing Volunteers.



⁷ Other reviews include MIRs and MARs, which are conducted in accordance with OIG Directive 2020-03 – Revision to Reporting Procedures for MIRs and MARs.



Evaluations of Agency Programs and Operations

Evaluation of Peace Corps/Guyana

IG-25-01-E

In March 2025, OIG issued an evaluation report on the operations and activities at the Peace Corps Guyana post from October 1, 2021, to May 3, 2024.

OIG determined that the post's project activities aligned with host country needs and priorities. However, Peace Corps/Guyana received fewer Volunteers than requested over the last 3 years.

OIG also found that the post was not in compliance with the procedures for assessing Volunteer work assignments. Also, Volunteer counterparts⁸ were often unprepared to successfully fulfill their roles due to high turnover as trained counterparts left their sites for other opportunities. With untrained counterparts, Volunteers were falling short of their project goals.



Additionally, while staff successfully met standards for visiting Volunteers, OIG found that staff did not always meet the requirements for uploading their site visit documentation into the Peace Corps database or documenting feedback on Volunteers' quarterly project reports, which resulted in a lack of guidance for many Volunteers who needed to adjust or improve their planned activities.

OIG found that the post's safety and security program was largely compliant with agency requirements and highly regarded by Volunteers. However, some Volunteers reported that they did not feel sufficiently informed about protecting themselves from bush fires and smoke exposure. In addition, while most sites OIG visited met post housing criteria, some Volunteer homes had improperly placed propane tanks, presenting a serious safety risk.

Volunteer counterparts were often unprepared to successfully fulfill their roles due to high turnover... With untrained counterparts, Volunteers were falling short of their project goals.

The post's Volunteer health program complied with agency requirements and was highly regarded by Volunteers. Peace Corps headquarters reviewed the health unit in 2023,

⁸ Counterparts are community partners who are aware of the local environment, culture, and history, and provide guidance and assistance to Volunteers' project activities. Counterparts may be professional colleagues, members of organizations, or community members that connect Volunteers with their networks to fulfill the capacity building aspect of their work. (Peace Corps, Publication No. T0121, Working with Supervisors and Counterparts, November 2013)

and post staff successfully closed all recommendations associated with that review by March 2024.

To improve the post's overall effectiveness in meeting its objectives, the report issued nine recommendations: four related to improving Volunteer site and project support documentation; one focused on ensuring counterparts are adequately prepared to support Volunteers; and four concerning Volunteer health and safety risks associated with bush fires and propane gas use in homes. The Peace Corps submitted evidence of corrective actions completed, and OIG closed five of the nine recommendations upon issuance of the report.





Overview

The Investigation Unit is authorized to conduct investigations of alleged criminal and administrative violations of laws, regulations, and policies for Peace Corps programs and operations, both domestically and internationally. The Unit investigates allegations involving Peace Corps staff, contractors, Volunteers, and other individuals who conduct transactions with the Peace Corps. Allegations are made by Peace Corps stakeholders, such as Volunteers, Trainees, staff, contractors, other Federal entities, and the public.

The Investigation Unit receives allegations through audits, evaluations, Hotline complaints, and other means. OIG Special Agents have full law enforcement authority, including the authority to, upon probable cause, seek and execute warrants for arrest, search premises, and seize evidence. They are authorized to carry firearms and to make arrests without a warrant while engaged in official duties. In addition, OIG receives substantial investigative support from the Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

The Investigation Unit continues to implement provisions of the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. § 2507b(a)(7)) regarding independent reviews of the facts and circumstances surrounding Volunteer deaths. The Investigation Unit reviews the details of each incident to assess whether further investigation is required. During this reporting period, no Volunteer deaths were reported.



Investigation Unit



Investigations of Criminal or Administrative Misconduct

Report of Fraternization in the Inter-America and Pacific Region

OIG received an anonymous complaint of fraternization and personal favors among USDH and LES. OIG's investigation uncovered rumors and speculations, but found no evidence of employees in violation of the fraternization policy and no evidence to sustain allegations that personal favors were extended to Peace Corps employees. The matter was closed without referral to the Peace Corps, as no evidence of staff misconduct was found.

Report of Healthcare Mismanagement in the Africa Region

OIG completed an investigation regarding the sufficiency of Volunteer healthcare pertaining to a specific medical event a Volunteer experienced in the Peace Corps Africa Region. OIG's investigation found no evidence to indicate that healthcare services provided to the Volunteer were substandard. OIG's investigation yielded no actionable information, and the matter was closed without referral to the Peace Corps.

Report of Travel Voucher Fraud in the Africa Region

OIG received information from a post that indicated an LES member may have submitted fraudulent receipts for reimbursements above what had been advanced for routine activities in the field. The investigation yielded an admission from the LES. As a result of the confession and corroborating evidence obtained by OIG, the Peace Corps terminated the staff member, and OIG closed the matter.



Update: Report of Harassment and Whistleblower Retaliation in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia Region

OIG previously reported on a Hotline complaint of harassment and whistleblower retaliation by a USDH against an LES. The complaint also alleged that the USDH had a history of similar misconduct at other Peace Corps locations. OIG's investigation disclosed substantial evidence to indicate whistleblower retaliation and harassment by the USDH employee, including attempted termination of the LES, until senior officials halted the actions. OIG also found evidence to show that the USDH employee had received financial benefits they were not qualified to receive, and that the USDH employee had an extensive history of creating intimidating, hostile, and abusive work environments for Host Country Nationals. Prior to the

completion of the investigation, the USDH employee resigned from the Peace Corps.

Since our initial report, additional action has been taken by the agency. Although the agency initially issued a notice of an adverse finding based upon the OIG investigation, due to a lack of internal procedures, the Peace Corps ultimately opted to not pursue action under 5 U.S.C. § 3322, which would have made a permanent notation in the employee's official personnel record file. However, the Peace Corps informed OIG that it had made a finding in its records pursuant to the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018. OIG has no further related activity and closed this matter.



Report of Fuel Theft and Funds Misallocation in the Inter-America and Pacific Region

OIG received a complaint that an LES allegedly committed fuel theft and acted as a co-conspirator in replicating an electronic fuel chip for the purpose of fueling personal vehicles using Peace Corps funds. Based on a review of charges, documents, and video footage, OIG determined that the LES made numerous unauthorized fuel charges using a Government-owned fuel chip for personal vehicles. The LES admitted to making unauthorized charges to the Government account for fuel. The Embassy Regional Security Officer (RSO) revoked the LES's security clearance. The Peace Corps subsequently terminated the LES, and OIG closed the matter.

Report of Volunteer Misconduct in the Africa Region

OIG received an allegation of harassment by a Peace Corps Volunteer toward another Volunteer in the Africa Region. Based on the results of the investigative work, OIG found no evidence to substantiate the allegations. The results of the investigation were presented to the Peace Corps.



Investigation Unit

Report of Misconduct and Contract Non-Performance in the Africa Region

OIG investigated allegations of Non-Performance of a PSC by the post's PCMO. OIG found the PCMO was inaccessible to perform scheduled health/medical related duties and instead was performing work at a private practice during assigned duty hours. The PCMO admitted the alleged misconduct to OIG. The Embassy RSO revoked the PCMO's security clearance, and the Peace Corps subsequently terminated the PCMO's contract. Based on the results of the investigative work, OIG submitted a contractor debarment proposal to the Office of Acquisitions and Contract Management.

Report of Misappropriated and Stolen Equipment and Threatening Behavior in the Africa Region

OIG received a complaint that solar batteries and other equipment had been stolen by a staff member at a post in the Africa region. The Embassy RSO assisted OIG. During the investigation, the RSO revoked the accused staff member's security clearance for a lack of candor about the handling of the batteries, and the Peace Corps subsequently terminated the staff member. The OIG investigation revealed that the post has experienced challenges with inventory management and tracking. Without the necessary inventory and tracking controls, OIG was unable to identify and locate the suspected stolen items.

The complaint also alleged that a generator had been improperly procured by another staff member. OIG's investigation disclosed substantial evidence demonstrating that a senior LES failed to properly perform contract procurement functions, as listed in their Statement of Duties. OIG also learned of multiple allegations of this senior LES making threats toward other staff members at post. OIG's investigation substantiated that Peace Corps staff members were the target of threats conveyed by the senior LES, which put them in reasonable fear for their safety. OIG referred its investigative findings to the Peace Corps.



Investigations of Sexual Misconduct

Report of Sexual Assault by a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Africa Region

OIG initiated an investigation after receiving a report that a Volunteer sexually assaulted a Host Country National. The Volunteer was already on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) because of a prior unrelated incident and was prohibited from certain actions for the duration of service. The accused Volunteer claimed the sexual contact was consensual but admitted to other actions prohibited under the CAP at the time of the reported assault. During the investigation, the Volunteer resigned from the Peace Corps. The agency issued an Attachment J,⁹ and OIG closed the matter.

Report of Alleged Child Sexual Assault in the Africa Region

OIG initiated an investigation based on a security incident report disclosing that local government officials at a post site were propagating reports of unknown validity that a Volunteer may have had inappropriate relationships with children. The investigation did not substantiate the allegation that the Volunteer was involved with children and disclosed information from the community that the Volunteer had been doing an exemplary job. During the investigation, OIG observed unprofessional behavior among the local government officials that raised questions about their credibility and candor. The investigation was closed and referred to the Peace Corps, and the post indicated they would no longer use the site.



Report of Alleged Sexual Assault of a Minor in the Africa Region

OIG received an allegation that a Volunteer had engaged in sexual relations with a minor during in-country Pre-Service Training. The Volunteer denied the claims to OIG. Prior to OIG concluding the investigation, the Volunteer resigned from the Peace Corps. OIG did not find any physical or digital evidence to corroborate claims that the Volunteer had engaged in child sexual abuse and closed the matter. The Peace Corps documented the early resignation with an Attachment J.

⁹ Attachment J is a notation in a Volunteer record of service the Peace Corps uses when: (1) there is an allegation of serious misconduct but the Volunteer early terminates before a disciplinary action is either initiated or ruled out; or (2) when the Country Director learns of the allegation after the Volunteer leaves service.

Investigation Unit

Report of Non-Aggravated Sexual Assault by a Peace Corps Trainee in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia Region

OIG completed a preliminary inquiry regarding allegations of possible non-aggravated sexual assault of a Peace Corps Trainee by another Trainee in the Peace Corps Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia Region. When the Country Director initially notified OIG of the allegation, the notification also inadvertently included the Trainee who was the subject of the investigation. The Peace Corps Office of General Counsel was immediately notified of the inadvertent disclosure and breach of confidentiality, and the Country Director was counseled

about the handling of the matter. The agency notified the Trainees of the breach and verified their health and safety were not compromised.



The subject Trainee resigned in lieu of administrative separation that was proposed for various reasons. Based on preliminary investigative work, OIG has no further ongoing or planned activity related to this matter.

Report of Non-Aggravated Sexual Assault by a Peace Corps Employee in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia Region

OIG investigated an allegation of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault of a PSC by a USDH employee. The investigation obtained evidence and testimony, including from the USDH, to corroborate the allegation. The investigation also found that the Peace Corps' policy for sexual assault reporting was not properly followed, and OIG assisted with reporting the sexual assault in accordance with Peace Corps policy.

Results of the investigation were presented to an Assistant U.S. Attorney, who declined Federal criminal prosecution in favor of agency action. As a result of the OIG investigation, the Peace Corps placed the USDH on administrative leave. The USDH subsequently resigned from the Peace Corps. OIG referred the matter to the agency for appropriate administrative action, including consideration of a permanent notation in the employee's official personnel file under 5 U.S.C. § 3322.

Investigations of Senior Government Employees

The Inspector General Empowerment Act requires OIG to summarize in the SARC each investigation involving a Senior Government Employee when allegations of misconduct were substantiated. There were no instances of alleged Senior Government Employee misconduct during this reporting period.





Table 1. List of Reports: Audits, Evaluations, and Other Reports

Agency-Wide Audits and Reviews	Page
Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program for FY 2024 (IG-25-01-SR)	10
Audit of the Peace Corps' Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Statements	11
Review of the Peace Corps' Compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act for Fiscal Year 2024	12
Post Audits and Reviews	Page
Uganda Post Operations (IG-25-01-A)	13
Evaluation of Agency Programs and Operations	Page
Evaluation of Peace Corps/Guyana (IG-25-01-E)	16

Tables

Table 2. Reports with Questioned Costs, Unsupported Costs, and Funds to Be Put to Better Use

	Rec. No.	Questioned Costs ¹⁰	Unsupported Costs ¹¹	Funds to Be Put to Better Use ¹²	Recommendation Status at the End of the Reporting Period
Reports for which final action had not been taken at the commencement of the reporting period.¹³					
IG-23-01-A: Audit of the Peace Corps' Management of Payroll Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires					
	2	\$1,550			Closed
	3	4,383			Open
	12	13,011			Open
	13	3,880			Open
	22	135,612			Open
	24	1,279			Open
	27	48,501			Open
	28	153,738			Open
	30	112,690			Open
IG-24-01-A: Oversight and Monitoring of Peace Corps' Domestic Awarded Contracts Audit					
	9			530,472	Open
Total	10	474,644		530,472	
Reports issued this reporting period					
IG-25-01-A Audit Report: Uganda Post Operations					
	4	\$32,543			Open
	5	6,339			Closed
	10			28,679	Closed
	14	743			Closed
	18	507			Open
Total	5	\$40,132	-	\$28,679	
Total recommendations for which no final action has been taken at the end of the reporting period					
Total	11	\$506,144		\$530,472	Open

¹⁰ Questioned Cost – A cost that is an alleged violation of Government or Peace Corps regulations. For example: prohibited purchases and expenditure of funds for purposes that do not relate to the Peace Corps mission.

¹¹ Unsupported Cost – A cost that is not supported by adequate documentation.

¹² Funds to Be Put to Better Use – Funds that could be used more efficiently if management took actions to implement and complete a recommendation.

¹³ This table captures recommendations with related costs that were open as of October 1, 2024.

Table 3. Recommendations on Which Corrective Action Has Not Been Completed

Type of Report	Number of Recommendations Open at the End of the Reporting Period	Number of Recommendations Open for More than 180 Days
Audits and Evaluations	50	38
Special Reports	4	4
Other	24	N/A

Audits and Evaluations

Audit of the Peace Corps' Management of Payroll Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires (IG-23-01-A)

20 of 30 recommendations open since November 29, 2022

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that Chief Human Capital Officer issue retroactive locality payments to the three underpaid individuals for approximately \$4,383.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$4,383

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that Chief Human Capital Officer and Office of Chief Financial Officer establish a process to review and reconcile retroactive adjustments to ensure that the correct amounts are reflected in the payroll transactions.

Recommendation 6: OIG recommended that the Chief Human Capital Officer ensures that the standard operating procedures for Position Management System Online are updated to include the review of duty station codes when employees are promoted.

Recommendation 9: OIG recommended that the Senior Policy Committee and Office of Chief Financial Officer update the waiver process to allow for increased transparency in the approval process timeline, require that waiver justifications have accurate waiver amounts, and document how the bill was ultimately resolved.

Recommendation 10: OIG recommended that Office of Chief Financial Officer develop a report to track payroll bills, collections, and waivers to properly account for improper payments for payroll transactions.

Recommendation 12: OIG recommended that the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure employees receive appropriate retroactive compensation for delayed within grade increases totaling approximately \$13,011.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$13,011

Recommendation 13: OIG recommended that the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure that the employee is billed, or a Chief Financial Officer approved waiver is processed for the within grade salary overpayments totaling approximately \$3,880.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$3,880

Tables

Recommendation 17: OIG recommended that Office of Chief Financial Officer develop reports using data received from payroll files to assist with resolving discrepancies such as employee's names, social security numbers, pay period covered dates, and individual transaction amounts.

Recommendation 18: OIG recommended that Office of Chief Financial Officer ensure journal vouchers are timely processed to be included in the monthly reconciliation process.

Recommendation 19: OIG recommended that Office of Chief Financial Officer establish and implement a process to review, reconcile, and resolve discrepancies identified during the three-way reconciliation process between National Finance Center reports, Treasury, and the general ledger.

Recommendation 20: OIG recommended that Office of Chief Financial Officer document the monitoring process in a standard operating procedure that records the process and assigns accountability for reconciling, recording and correcting errors during the monthly reconciliation.

Recommendation 21: OIG recommended that Office of Chief Financial Officer and Chief Human Capital Officer develop and implement a process to track all unresolved errors, investigate, and record corrective actions.

Recommendation 22: OIG recommended that Chief Human Capital Officer and Office of Chief Financial Officer reconcile charges totaling approximately \$135,612 with National Finance Center to determine if the two payments (\$97,780 and \$37,832) were allowable and request a correction if they are unallowable.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$135,612

Recommendation 23: OIG recommended that the Office of Chief Financial Officer develop and implement a process to reconcile variances in employees' payroll to detect unusual transactions.

Recommendation 24: OIG recommended that Chief Human Capital Officer and Office of Chief Financial Officer bill, request CFO approval to waive, or collect the unallowable payments hazard pay totaling \$710 and health benefits paid by the agency for \$569.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$1,279

Recommendation 26: OIG recommended that the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure the incorrect retirement categories are changed and retroactively adjusted for 35 employees.

Recommendation 27: OIG recommended that the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure approximately \$48,501 in salary overpayments for retirement are resolved by issuing Administrative Billing and Collection bills and/or requesting waiver approvals from the Chief Financial Officer.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$48,501

Recommendation 28: OIG recommended that the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure employees that were overcharged approximately \$153,738 in retirement deductions receive refunds.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$153,738

Recommendation 29: OIG recommended that the Chief Human Capital Officer review the accuracy of the refunds already issued to employees and make necessary corrections.

Recommendation 30: OIG recommended that the Chief Human Capital Officer and Office of Chief Financial Officer ensure agency contribution rates were accurately adjusted to reflect retroactive corrections for approximately \$79,473 in underpayments and \$33,217 in overpayments.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$112,690

Audit of the Peace Corps' Volunteer Payments and Collections at the End of Service (IG-23-02-A)

1 of 9 recommendations open since March 31, 2023

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Office of Chief Financial Officer develops an automated process to calculate evacuation allowance payments.¹⁴

Evaluation of Human Resources Management for Overseas Contract Staff (IG-23-08-E)

6 of 9 recommendations open since September 29, 2023

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the agency assigns a key role in the organizational structure that has the overall responsibility to manage human resources for overseas PSCs.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the agency conducts a comprehensive review of human resources management for overseas PSCs to improve performance outcomes and operational effectiveness.

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that the agency develops a plan to implement improvements identified in the comprehensive review of human resources management for overseas PSCs.

Recommendation 5: OIG recommended that the agency ensures that each Post establishes a hiring process that includes a standard timeline for hiring and clarifies the responsibilities of staff that have a role in the process.

Recommendation 6: OIG recommended that the agency establishes grievance policies and procedures for overseas PSCs that includes guidance about how grievances are raised and resolved.

Recommendation 9: OIG recommended that the agency develops and implements a plan to train USDH and local staff for their human resources management responsibilities.

Audit Report: Oversight and Monitoring of Peace Corps' Domestic Awarded Contracts Audit (IG-24-01-A)

9 of 9 recommendations open since September 23, 2024

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management develops standard operating procedures for issuing contract modifications.

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management provides training on the updated contracting procedures.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management develops a COR handbook that aligns with COR designation memo and includes policies, standard operating procedures, and best practices to assist the COR with contract oversight.

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management defines and communicates the roles, responsibilities, and standard operating procedures for the TPOC to ensure efficiency in executing the contract activities.

¹⁴ The agency did not concur with this recommendation.

Recommendation 5: OIG recommended that the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management develops a centralized system for maintaining contract files to ensure that CORs are compliant with FAR and record retention requirements.

Recommendation 6: OIG recommended that the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management ensures that COs review COR files annually and develop a checklist for the review.

Recommendation 7: OIG recommended that the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management ensure that contract management personnel have access to CPARS and develop and implement standard operating procedures for performance assessments to be submitted into CPARS at the time the work under the contract or order is completed.

Recommendation 8: OIG recommended the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management ensure contracts are closed-out within the specified FAR time frames and back logged contracts are properly closed.

Recommendation 9: OIG recommended that the Director of Acquisition and Contract Management works with the CO Rs to establish processes and standard operating procedures that ensure de-obligations are completed when the period of performance ends and the final invoice is paid.

Potential Funds put to better use Identified: \$530,472

Evaluation of the Office of Health Services' Technical Guidelines' Revision and Implementation Process (IG-24-02-E) **2 of 2 recommendations open since September 26, 2024**

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended the Peace Corps develops a plan to implement automation of the Quality Improvement Unit's update process and management of Technical Guidelines and to assess its impact on the efficiency and effectiveness in managing and updating Technical Guidelines.

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps develops a process or mechanism for PCMOs and other users to report TGs that need review, to include a procedure for how the issues will be systematically addressed.

Audit Report: Uganda Post Operations (IG-25-01-A) **8 of 20 recommendations open since December 20, 2024**

Recommendation 3: The Director of Management and Operations complies with Federal law, regulations, and agency policy when procuring food, accommodations, and other costs for Personal Service Contract staff attending retreats and trainings; inquire with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer regarding exceptions to the policy; and document decisions made.

Recommendation 4: The Peace Corps conducts an internal review of the questioned costs and works with the Government Accountability Office to determine if the questioned costs result in Anti-deficiency Act violations.

Recommendation 6: The Director of Management and Operations ensures that property management personnel are fully trained on using the property management system and establishes specific standard operating procedures to ensure all accountable assets are reviewed and recorded accurately in the asset management system by post staff that manage property.

Recommendation 7: The Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Office of Management develop additional guidance to ensure the property meeting the capitalization threshold is accounted for and capitalized, including those purchased from multiple vendors, are reviewed, and recorded accurately in the fixed asset records.

Recommendation 8: The Director of Management and Operations ensures property disposal requests are approved prior to changing the property system records and disposing the assets.

Recommendation 16: The Director of Management and Operations conducts training and reviews record retention requirements with post staff to ensure documentation is retained in accordance with Peace Corps guidance.

Recommendation 18: The Director of Management and Operations reviews holiday and premium pay for other hourly Personal Service Contracts and determines if any additional collections are needed and then issue bills of collection or waive the collection. If needed, provide training on payroll calculations.

Recommendation 19: The Director of Management and Operations ensures the post follows guidance when processing Personal Service Contract awards and seeks approval from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer before deviating from it.

Evaluation of Peace Corps/Guyana (IG-25-01-E) 4 of 9 recommendations open since March 28, 2025

Recommendation 4: The Director of Programming and Training ensures that staff receive sufficient training to use the Volunteer Reporting and Grants system.

Recommendation 5: The Director of Programming and Training ensures that Volunteers are receiving feedback in compliance with the post's standard operating procedures.

Recommendation 6: The post works with the Peace Corps Safety and Security Officer to reassess the health and safety risk level of bush fires in the post risk assessment.

Recommendation 7: The post works with the Peace Corps Safety and Security Officer, Office of Health Services, and Peace Corps Medical Officers to prepare Volunteers for the potential scenario in which their home or worksite is threatened by bush fires.

Special Reports

Management Advisory Report: Volunteer Drug Use (IG-18-01-SR) 2 of 6 recommendations open since August 7, 2018

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps provide country directors with additional support to resolve allegations of drug involvement under manual section 204, 3.5.1 and specifically consider the efficacy of reasonable suspicion drug testing as a means of doing so.

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the Office of General Counsel review the evidentiary standard required to administratively separate a Volunteer suspected of involvement with drugs to determine whether the standard, and its application, is consistent with promoting the integrity of the program and continues to serve the policy interest of the Peace Corps.

Management Advisory Report: Cybersecurity Breaches Highlight a Need for Improvement in Peace Corps' Incident Response (IG-24-01-SR)
1 of 7 recommendations open since December 19, 2023

Recommendation 7: OCIO ensure that the PC network is continuously monitored to mitigate the risk of cyberthreats.

Entry Health and Safety Review /PC Cambodia (IG-24-01-E)
1 of 6 recommendations open since March 18, 2024

Recommendation 2: The Office of Health Services and the Country Director either identify a local backup medical provider or renew the Post's agreement with the State Department.

Other

Financial Statement Audit Recommendations

Summary of Internal Control Issues Over the Peace Corps' Financial Reporting			
Issue	Year First Identified	Agency Concurrence with Issue	Open Recommendations
Inadequate Internal Controls over Property, Plant, and Equipment	2019	CONCUR	4
The Peace Corps Needs to Strengthen Its Processes for Implementing the Requirements for Reporting on Leases	2024	CONCUR	6
Lack of Effective Information Technology Security	2018	CONCUR	1
Inadequate Controls Surrounding Processing of Personnel Actions	2020	CONCUR	3
Access Control Process	2024	CONCUR	2
Total Open Recommendations			16

Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) Review Recommendations

Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program (FY2024)
5 of 5 recommendations open since October 11, 2024, and 3 of 7 recommendations open since 2023

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps develops and implements a cybersecurity risk register to support the implementation of a fully integrated Risk Management and Information Security Continuous Monitoring (ISCM) program.

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps develops component authenticity policies and procedures.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps periodically evaluates, reviews, and updates its policies and procedures, as necessary, to align with an issued and approved ICAM strategy which includes assigning personnel risk designations and performing appropriate screening prior to granting access to its systems.

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps conducts, captures, and shares lessons learned in its implementation of the incident response program.

Recommendation 5: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps conducts agency-level Business Impact Assessments (BIA) and integrates the results into information security strategies and other plan development efforts.

Prior Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps develops a strategy and structure that integrates information security into the agency's business operations. This should include an established responsibility for assessing information security risks in all agency programs and operations and providing this analysis to senior leadership, including the ERM Council, for decision-making.

Prior Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps further defines and implements the ERM program to ensure information security risks are communicated and monitored at the system, business process, and entity levels.

Prior Recommendation 7: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps completes and fully implements an identity credential and access management program.

Table 4. Summary of Hotline and Other Complaints

Complaints Received

Complaints	Total
Complaints Received via Hotline	125
Complaints Received via Other Sources ¹⁵	4
Total Complaints (All Sources)	129

Overview of Complaint Activity¹⁶

Complaint Activity	Total
Resulted in Investigations	4
Resulted in Preliminary Inquiries	9
Resulted in Audits or Evaluations	0
Referred to Agency Management	102
Referred to Other Agency	0
No Action Needed	9

¹⁵ These complaints are largely a result of outreach by OIG staff and were received by email, phone calls, and conversations.

¹⁶ The following actions summarize the disposition of complaints received by OIG. In some instances, one complaint can result in multiple actions. In other cases, multiple complaints may be received about the same issue, resulting in one referral or result. The results reflect complaint activities that occurred during this reporting period; in some instances, the complaint may have been received during a prior reporting period.

Table 5. Summary of Investigative Activities and Outcomes

Investigative Activities	Preliminary Inquiries ¹⁷	Cases
Open at the beginning of the reporting period	9	12
Opened during the reporting period	13	10
Closed during the reporting period	14	8
Total open at the end of the reporting period	8	14

Referrals	Total
Persons referred for criminal prosecution (Department of Justice)	3
Persons referred for criminal prosecution (state and local authorities) ¹⁸	-
Cases referred to the Department of Justice	-
Cases referred to agency management for administrative action	4
Cases referred to agency management for other information/ action	1
Referrals to other agencies	-

Reports	Total
Investigative reports issued	5

Court Actions	Total
Criminal information and indictments	-
Trial(s) pending	-
Ongoing prosecution ¹⁹	-
Convictions	-
Judgments	-

Administrative Actions	Total
Employee resignations and terminations ²⁰	3
Other employee actions ²¹	-
Suspension/debarment referrals	1

Monetary Results Annual Savings Recoveries/Restitution	Total
Annual Savings	-
Recoveries/restitution ²²	-
Cost avoidance	-

¹⁷ Preliminary inquiries are initiated for complaints which either (1) are received from a Peace Corps source (for example, staff, Volunteer, contractor) or (2) relate to a matter within the jurisdiction of OIG. A preliminary inquiry is limited in scope to the verification of information in a complaint or allegation and to confirm that it falls within the jurisdiction of OIG.

¹⁸ Includes foreign courts.

¹⁹ Includes overseas criminal proceedings.

²⁰ Volunteers/Trainees are included as Peace Corps staff for the purpose of reporting investigative activity.

²¹ Includes administrative actions that are less than resignation or termination, for example: letters of reprimand, counseling, and retraining.

²² Includes potential recoveries.

Table 6. References to Reporting Requirements of the Inspector General Act, as Amended

5 U.S.C. Section Reference	Reporting Requirements	Section	Page
§ 404(a)(2)	Review of legislation and regulations	Advice and Assistance	5
§ 405(a)(1)*	Significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies and associated reports and recommendations for corrective action made by the Office	Audits and Evaluations	9, 15
§ 405(a)(2)	Recommendations made before the reporting period for which corrective action has not been completed, including potential cost savings associated with the recommendation	Table 3	29
§ 405(a)(3)	Summary of significant investigations closed during the reporting period	Investigations and Table 5	19, 37
§ 405(a)(4)	Total number of convictions during the reporting period resulting from investigations	Investigations and Table 5	19, 37
§ 405(a)(5)	List of audit, inspection, and evaluation reports, including the total dollar value of questioned costs, unsupported costs, and funds to be put to better use, and if a management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period	Audits, Evaluations, and Table 2	9 15 28
§ 405(a)(6)	Information regarding any management decision made during the reporting period with respect to any audit, inspection, or evaluation issued during a previous reporting period	Table 2	28
§ 405(a)(7)	Information under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996	N/A	-
§ 405(a)(8) – (10)	The results of the last peer review conducted by another OIG	Appendix A: Reporting of Peer Reviews	41

5 U.S.C. Section Reference	Reporting Requirements	Section	Page
§ 405(a)(11)	Statistical table - investigative reports issued; persons referred for criminal prosecution; indictments and criminal information	Table 5	37
§ 405(a)(13)	Investigations involving a senior Government employee where allegations of misconduct were substantiated	Investigations	19
§ 405(a)(14)	Instances of whistleblower retaliation	Investigations	19
§ 405(a)(15)	Interference with Independence	N/A	-
§ 405(a)(16)	Detailed descriptions of the particular circumstances of each:		
	(A) inspection, evaluation, and audit conducted by the Office that is closed and was not disclosed to the public	N/A	-
	(B) investigation conducted by the Office involving a senior Government employee that is closed and was not disclosed to the public	N/A	-

* All references to 5 U.S.C. § 405 include the noted “Amendments Not Shown in Text.”



Appendix A: Reporting of Peer Reviews

Pursuant to Section 989C of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Public Law No. 111-203),²³ OIG reports the following peer review information:

Audit Unit

No peer review of the Peace Corps OIG's Audit Unit was conducted within this reporting period. The date of the last peer review conducted by another OIG was in March 2023, when the Denali Commission OIG issued its System Review Report of the Peace Corps OIG Audit Unit for the period ending September 30, 2022. The Audit Unit received a rating of "pass," the highest rating available. The peer review found that the Audit Unit's system of quality control was suitably designed and achieved adequate compliance. The Denali Commission did not provide any recommendations in the System Review Report.

Peace Corps OIG's Audit Unit completed a peer review of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) OIG audit organization in December 2024, for the period from April 2021 through March 2024. The AOC OIG received a rating of "pass," for the review of their audit unit. The peer review found that the AOC OIG's system of quality control for its audit organization, in effect for the year ended March 31, 2024, had been suitably designed and followed to provide AOC OIG with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in accordance with applicable professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements in all material respects.

Evaluation Unit

In August 2023, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) OIG completed an external peer review of Peace Corps OIG's Evaluation Unit for the period April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2023. The review assessed the extent to which the Peace Corps OIG complied with the CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, December 2020 (Blue Book), and included a review of the Peace Corps OIG's internal policies and procedures implementing the Blue Book standards, and a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports. CPB OIG determined that the Peace Corps OIG's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review, and that the reports reviewed generally complied with the Blue Book standards and the Peace Corps OIG's internal policies and procedures. CPB OIG did not issue any recommendations.

The Peace Corps OIG's Evaluation Unit did not conduct any peer reviews within this reporting period. Previously, the Evaluation Unit completed a peer review of the Export-Import Bank of the United States OIG in August 2022, for the period March 31, 2019, through March 31, 2022.

²³ Section 989C of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act amended Section 5(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

Investigation Unit

In April 2019, the Export-Import Bank of the United States OIG conducted a peer review of the Peace Corps OIG Investigation Unit for the period ending February 15, 2019. The review focused on the Peace Corps OIG's internal safeguards and management procedures for its investigative operations. The review team found all the examined areas to be compliant with CIGIE's quality standards for investigations and quality assessment review guidelines, as well as the Attorney General Guidelines for Offices of Inspector General with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority.

In early 2025, the Peace Corps OIG Investigation Unit underwent its next quality assessment review, performed by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board OIG. Results and a final report are forthcoming.

In April 2024, Peace Corps OIG agents conducted an investigative peer review of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative operations of the OIG for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (NRC and DNFSB OIG) in effect for the period beginning July 31, 2019, and ending on March 31, 2024. The peer review was conducted by OIG's investigative staff under the direction of the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, with the support of the OIG for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), OIG's Special Agent in Charge of the Electronic Crimes Unit and Forensic Laboratory. Peace Corps OIG provided its results to the NRC and DNFSB OIG in June 2024. The review found that the NRC and DNFSB OIG was compliant with CIGIE's quality standards for investigations and quality assessment review guidelines, as well as the Attorney General Guidelines for Offices of Inspector General with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority.

Appendix B: Contract Audit Reports

Pursuant to Section 845(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law No. 110-181), OIG reports on final contract audit reports with significant audit findings. During this reporting period, OIG did not issue any audit reports meeting the “significant audit findings” criteria established in Public Law No. 110-181.



Appendix C: Human Trafficking Reporting

Pursuant to Section 122 of Subtitle B, Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act ([Public Law No. 117-348](#)), OIG reports on the number of suspected violations reported, the number of investigations, the status and outcomes of such investigations, and recommended actions to improve the programs and operations of the agency relating to trafficking-in-persons. During this reporting period, OIG reports no relevant information meeting the criteria established in Public Law No. 117-348.

Help Promote the Integrity, Efficiency, and Effectiveness of the Peace Corps

Anyone knowing of wasteful practices, abuse, mismanagement, fraud, or unlawful activity involving Peace Corps programs or personnel should call or write the Office of Inspector General. Reports or complaints can also be made anonymously.

Contact OIG

Reporting Hotline:

U.S./International: 202.692.2915
Toll-Free (U.S. only): 800.233.5874

Email: OIG@peacecorpsoig.gov

Online Reporting Tool: peacecorps.gov/oig/contactoig

Mail: Peace Corps Office of Inspector General
1275 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20526

For General Information:

Main Office: 202.692.2900

Website: peacecorpsoig.gov



[x.com/pcraig](https://twitter.com/pcraig)

