



Peace Corps
Office of
INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

April 1, 2025, to September 30, 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



For the Reporting Period of April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025

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For the Reporting Period of April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025

Message from the Inspector General

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I am pleased to share the Peace Corps Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Semiannual Report to Congress, highlighting our office's key work and accomplishments from April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025.

Through our important mission to fight fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, we have consistently worked with our agency partners, holding to our core belief that, together, we can make a better Peace Corps. Over the recent 6-month reporting period, our work has continued to help the agency navigate its most pressing challenges.

Notably, we issued our evaluation of the Peace Corps' Volunteer Delivery System (VDS) to help the agency better understand challenges in recruiting and placing Volunteers into service. Our evaluation found the need for an agency-wide strategy to address Volunteer shortages and a lack of connectivity among systems and personnel that support the VDS. The Peace Corps' mission success depends on its ability to recruit and place Volunteers, and our evaluation's recommendations aim to help the agency address critical VDS issues.

The work of our office continues to focus in on helping to ensure the safety, security, and health of Volunteers. Our evaluation of Peace Corps/Madagascar revealed issues with Volunteer housing, the assessment of referral medical facilities and consultants, and safety and security training procedures. We commend the agency's quick action to correct several of these issues when we raised them after immediately returning from our field work in Madagascar. Additionally, we conducted investigative work to ensure adherence to the requirements of the Kate Puzey Volunteer Protection Act, alerting the agency to an instance when a Volunteer did not receive adequate support from Peace Corps post staff following an allegation of sexual assault.

Finally, but certainly not least in its importance, we completed a variety of work that supports the integrity of Peace Corps operations, infrastructure, and funding. We conducted the agency's first-ever independent penetration testing effort, helping protect key Peace Corps information technology (IT) systems and sensitive information from cybersecurity threats. We also reported on medical inventory procedures and controls at several overseas posts, noting where best practices at one post can inform needed improvements at another. In addition, we issued a report highlighting studies and recommendations the agency can leverage in addressing persistent human capital management issues we have consistently raised as a top management challenge. Additionally, our investigative work uncovered overseas procurement fraud at several posts, as well as timecard fraud at Peace Corps Headquarters, with the latter culminating in a multiagency investigation led by our office.

As a result of this interagency investigation, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland charged a former Peace Corps employee with wire fraud, theft of government funds, and making false statements to federal agents. As the U.S. Attorney said in announcing the arrest of the former employee, "Public service is a public trust, and that trust is broken when government employees falsify records or otherwise engage in fraudulent behavior." OIG's investigation and the corresponding arrest underscored our

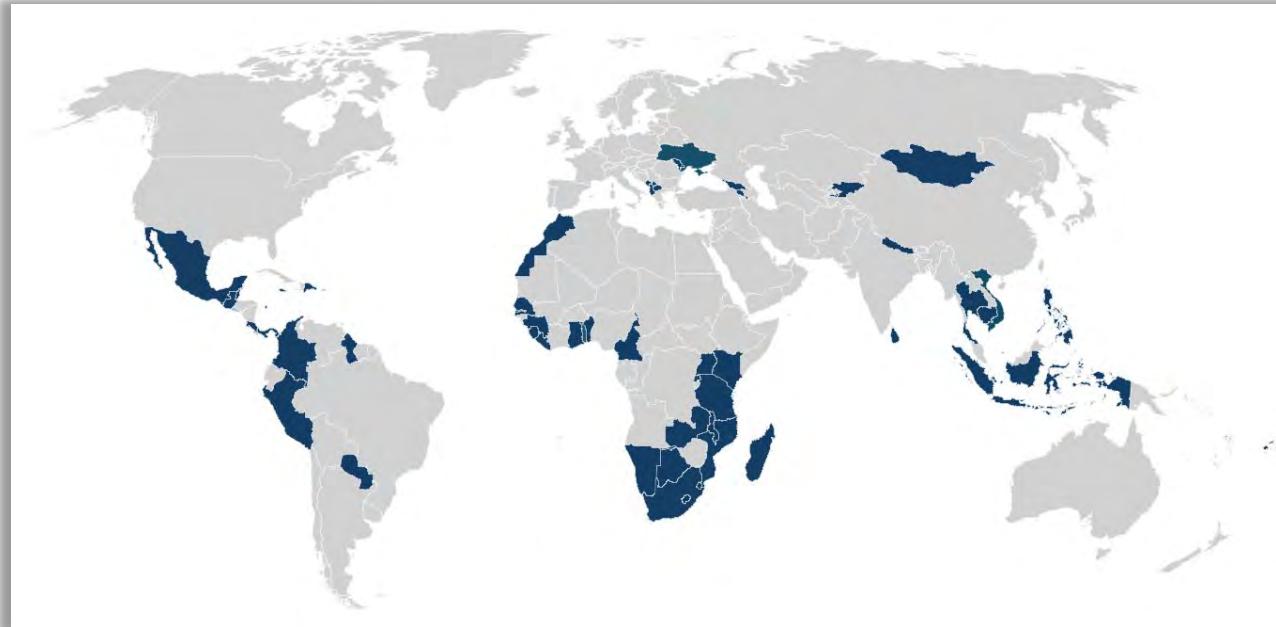
Message from the Inspector General

commitment to pursue allegations against those who would defraud U.S. taxpayers and undermine the public trust in the integrity of the federal workforce.

Collectively, these highlights and the full body of work our office undertook this reporting period helped ensure that the Peace Corps' dedicated employees and Volunteers have the services and support they need to carry out their valuable mission. We are proud to work alongside our agency partners in our collaborative efforts to help the Peace Corps fulfill its mission while also ensuring the integrity and transparency of those efforts and the taxpayer funds that make them possible.



Joaquin E. Ferrao
Inspector General



Peace Corps Countries and Posts as of September 30, 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
Comoros	Jamaica	North Macedonia	Timor Leste
Colombia	Kenya	Panama	Togo
Costa Rica	Kosovo	Paraguay	Tonga
Dominica	Kyrgyz Republic	Peru	Uganda
Dominican Republic	Lesotho	Philippines	Ukraine
Ecuador	Liberia	Rwanda	Vanuatu
El Salvador	Madagascar	Samoa	Viet Nam
Eswatini	Malawi	Senegal	Zambia
Fiji	Mexico	Sierra Leone	

* In May 2025, the agency announced plans to close the Peace Corps/Mozambique post. In November 2025, the agency also announced plans to close the Peace Corps/South Africa post.

Management and Administration Unit

Agency Context

The success of the Peace Corps' mission depends on the effective recruitment and placement of individuals to fill host country requests for Volunteers. As of September 30, 2025, there were 3,322¹ Volunteers serving across 57 posts² and 61 countries. These Volunteers were supported by 928³ U.S. Direct Hires (USDH), 162 of whom worked abroad, and 766 of whom worked at headquarters and other domestic locations.

Additionally, the agency employed 2,207 locally-hired personnel in host countries.⁴ The Peace Corps reported that it received 6,598 Volunteer applications during this reporting period.

In August 2025, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) announced that the agency's goal was to place 8,000 Volunteers in service by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2030. The Peace Corps also made it clear that in the upcoming fiscal year, the agency will complete its significant restructuring and reorganization to help achieve its goals. The agency will operate with at least 375 fewer USDH full-time staff and expert staff (approximately a 40 percent reduction) and at least 275 fewer full-time locally employed staff (approximately a 16 percent reduction).

OIG Organizational Chart



¹ This excludes Virtual Service Pilot Volunteer assignments. Virtual Service is intended to allow participants to engage virtually with partner organizations in countries around the world. The agency reported 133 virtual service Volunteers, as of September 30, 2025.

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)

⁴ The agency reports that 159 of the 2,207 locally hired personnel were short-term hires as of September 30, 2025.

In accordance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, OIG submitted a statement on what it considers to be the most significant management and performance challenges facing the Peace Corps. OIG based this statement on its audit, evaluation, and investigative work; our knowledge of the Peace Corps' activities and operations; and the insights of agency senior leaders who provided their perspectives and expertise. For FY 2026, OIG identified the following challenge areas:

- *Volunteer Delivery System*
- *Volunteer Health and Safety*
- *Human Capital Management*
- *Information Technology Security Management*

Addressing the issues related to these challenge and performance areas will enhance the agency's operational efficiencies, minimize potential fraud, waste, and abuse, and improve mission effectiveness. The Peace Corps faces the task of addressing its management and performance challenges while navigating in a dynamic environment. The Peace Corps will be challenged to place 8,000 Volunteers in service by 2030 while at the same time restructuring and significantly reducing USDH staff.

To learn more about the FY 2026 Management and Performance Challenges, including the agency's recent progress and planned approaches for addressing them, see the full report:

[Inspector General's Statement on the Peace Corps Management and Performance Challenges for FY 2026 | Peace Corps OIG](#)





Review of Agency Regulations, Policies, and Procedures

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

During this reporting period, OIG reviewed 18 Peace Corps policies and procedures. Topics and areas included:

- Conditions of Service for USDH Employees;
- Use of Government Technology Services and Equipment;
- The Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection;
- The Office of Global Operations;
- Situational Telework;
- Staff Absence and Leave; and
- The Performance Management Program.

Management Advisory Report on the Peace Corps' Non-Disclosure Agreements Compliance with Anti-Gag Provision Requirements

On June 13, 2025, OIG issued a Management Advisory Report (MAR) on the Peace Corps' compliance with anti-gag provision requirements. This report provided the results of OIG's survey of the Peace Corps' compliance with the anti-gag provision requirement in the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(13)). OIG initiated this assessment at the request of Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA).

OIG determined that the statutorily required anti-gag provisions were listed in a sample of the Peace Corps' non-disclosure agreements (NDA), with some variances in the verbiage. These variances did not alter OIG's assessment that the reviewed NDAs complied with the statute. However, the agency generally did not include the required anti-gag provisions in its applicable policies, procedures, and forms.

The agency concurred with the report's one recommendation that the Peace Corps amend or modify its relevant policies, procedures, and forms to incorporate the required anti-gag provision and it remains open at this time.



OIG Outreach and Activities

Between April and September 2025, the Investigations Unit conducted investigative fieldwork at several Peace Corps posts and delivered in-person briefings on OIG's mission, authorities, and investigative processes. These briefings aim to enhance awareness of OIG's role in promoting accountability and to encourage staff to report potential misconduct, fraud, waste, or abuse. The briefings were delivered to USDH and locally employed staff (LES), and in some cases to Volunteers. Two briefings were conducted in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region and four in the Africa region.



During the same period, the Audit and Evaluation Units delivered briefings to USDH and LES staff while conducting oversight work in Benin, Togo, Tonga, The Gambia, Albania, North Macedonia, Zambia, the Philippines, Eswatini, and Thailand. The briefings provided an overview of OIG's audit and evaluation methodologies, current areas of focus, and opportunities for collaboration to strengthen internal controls and program effectiveness.

In addition to post-level engagements, throughout the reporting period OIG staff participated in a range of professional development and interagency events, including presentations at Peace Corps' Overseas Staff Training; the Government Accountability Office International Auditor Fellowship Program; and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE) Inspections and Evaluations Committee's training on best practices in conducting agile oversight. During each knowledge-sharing event, OIG emphasized its commitment to engage with stakeholders to help support and improve oversight.



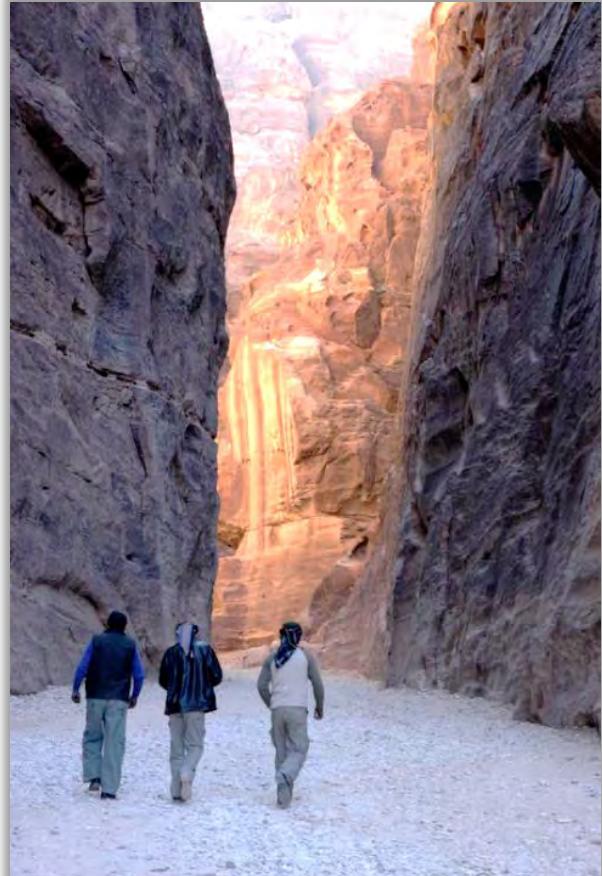
In July 2025, OIG senior leadership delivered a comprehensive orientation briefing to the Peace Corps' newly appointed political appointees, which included an overview of OIG's statutory authorities, operational priorities, and ongoing oversight initiatives.

As part of OIG's strategic focus on agile and responsive reporting, the Audit and Evaluation Units also presented interim briefings to agency leadership on critical reviews and evaluations, including the Volunteer Delivery System, post closure management, and the Tonga country program evaluation. These efforts reflect OIG's commitment to providing actionable insights that support the Peace Corps' mission and enhance program resilience.



OIG Support for Background Checks

During the reporting period, OIG supported the agency's standard operating procedures for personnel 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. During this reporting period, OIG conducted 328 records checks, of which 103 were for potential staff and 225 were for potential Volunteers and Virtual Service Pilot Participants.





Overview

The Audit Unit conducts independent audits and reviews of agency programs and operations that support the Peace Corps' mission. OIG audits are designed to independently examine the agency's financial and administrative operations, promote economy and efficiency, and ensure compliance with Federal laws, regulations, and Peace Corps policy. Audits are wide-ranging, covering agency activities that are carried out at overseas posts, as well as agencywide operations that affect 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 systemic weaknesses identified in audit reports.

Audits and other reviews⁵ 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 issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Ongoing Work

The Audit Unit continued its work on the pre-award process for domestic awarded contracts and a review of post operations in Peru. The Unit also began work on the annual audit of the Peace Corps' FY 2025 Financial Statements. In addition, as required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014, the Unit completed work on the Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program. The Audit Unit issued products for two of these four projects during the first half of FY 2026 and expects to complete the others early in the 2026 calendar year.



⁵ Other Reviews may 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.

Other Reviews



Management Advisory Report on Post Medical Inventory

IG-25-03-SR

In July 2025, OIG issued a Management Advisory Report on a review of two posts' (The Gambia and Namibia) inventory of controlled substances to determine whether they managed such substances in compliance with Peace Corps requirements.

OIG found that Peace Corps/The Gambia maintained effective controls over its management of controlled substances in accordance with Peace Corps policies and procedures. Peace Corps/The Gambia improved its management of controlled substances within the last year, following an internal assessment by the Office of Health Services (OHS). The post's medical inventory review revealed promising practices for other posts to follow, especially posts that are experiencing challenges in managing controlled substances.

Peace Corps/The Gambia improved its management of controlled substances within the last year, following an internal assessment by OHS. The post's medical inventory review by the OIG revealed promising practices for other posts to follow.

The second post OIG reviewed, Peace Corps/Namibia, could benefit from Peace Corps/The Gambia's promising practices. OIG found that the post did not maintain effective medical inventory controls for compliance with policies and procedures. Specifically, the post needs to improve its management of controlled substances. OIG's review identified multiple instances of non-compliance with Peace Corps policies and procedures.

Overall, the report made eight recommendations to the Peace Corps to enhance the management of controlled substances. Management concurred with all eight recommendations, OIG has closed five recommendations, and three remain open at this time.

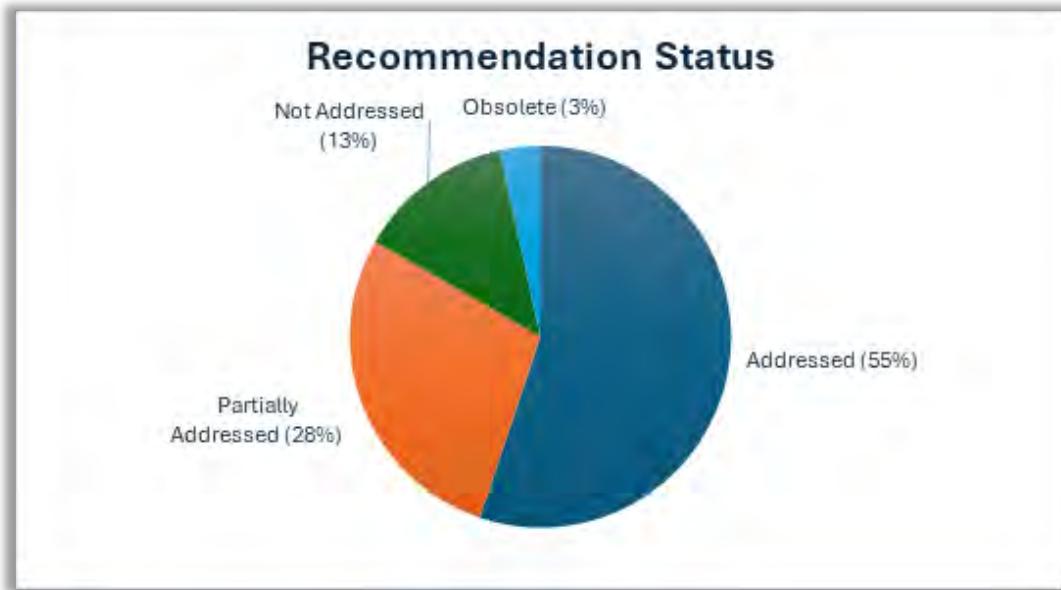


Management Implication Report: Recommendations Issued to the Peace Corps Regarding Human Capital Management



IG-25-04-SR

In August 2025, OIG issued a Management Implication Report on a review of the status of human capital-related recommendations that had been made to the Peace Corps. The scope of this review focused on four reports various Federal agencies and offices—including OIG—had issued to the Peace Corps Office of Human Resources (OHR) from 2019 through 2024.



OIG identified 185 recommendations in these four reports and determined that 174 were human capital related. OHR reported on the status of each of the 174 recommendations as follows:

- 96 of the recommendations (55 percent) have been **addressed**, meaning the recommendation was completed/implemented and could have an ongoing component;
- 49 of the recommendations (28 percent) are **partially addressed**, meaning the recommendation has been considered, and OHR is working on the plan to implement/complete the recommendation;
- 23 of the recommendations (13 percent) were **not addressed**, meaning the recommendation was not complete, and either no plan had been developed, or no remediated efforts had been taken; and
- 6 of the recommendations (3 percent) are **obsolete**, meaning the recommendation was outdated or irrelevant due to changes in Federal law, policies/systems/practices.

In conjunction with this report, OIG provided a detailed list of the recommendations and their status to the agency for its reference and use.



Special Report on the Peace Corps' Information Technology Environment

IG-25-05-SR

In September 2025, OIG issued a special report on the Peace Corps' Information Technology environment. OIG contracted with technical subject matter experts to conduct three cybersecurity tests from January 2025 to March 2025. The three tests included a simulated phishing campaign, a review of the agency's internal vulnerability management practices, and penetration tests that targeted critical Peace Corps systems.

OIG found that the Peace Corps' monitoring capabilities were able to identify the testing activities and demonstrate its incident response procedures. However, testing also uncovered multiple vulnerabilities and misconfigurations in the Peace Corps' IT network and systems.

The simulated phishing campaign sent falsified and fake emails to a sample of Peace Corps network users. The vulnerability assessment evaluated the effectiveness of the Peace Corps' security controls for selected systems and applications. The assessment also analyzed the Peace Corps vulnerability scanning and management, and phishing defense mechanisms. The penetration tests included two different perspectives—one as a user who has

access to the Peace Corps' network (internal testing) and another as an individual who does not have access to Peace Corps' network (external testing).

OIG found that the Peace Corps' monitoring capabilities were able to identify the testing activities and demonstrate its incident response procedures. However, the cybersecurity tests also uncovered multiple vulnerabilities and misconfigurations, with risk ratings ranging from informational issues (lowest) to critical severity (highest) risks that the Peace Corps needs to review and address. The ratings reflected the severity of the risks, which corresponded to the potential damage that each risk could cause to the network.

The penetration test results and assessments revealed one critical severity risk vulnerability for a system and several high, medium, and low risk vulnerabilities across all four systems. The phishing campaign and the vulnerability assessment also identified several critical and high-risk vulnerabilities. The agency should take action to address the critical and high-risk vulnerabilities as soon as possible to improve the effectiveness of its security controls.

The tests and assessments conducted during this review resulted in seven recommendations for the Chief Information Officer, Associate Director for Management, and Director to strengthen the Peace Corps IT environment and better protect its network and data from potential cybersecurity threats and risks. The agency concurred with all seven recommendations, closed four recommendations, and three recommendations remain open at this time.

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. Evaluation Unit reports provide information that is useful to agency managers, policymakers, and others. Evaluations and other reviews⁶ are conducted under the direction and guidance of the Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations. OIG evaluations are performed in accordance with the CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation.

Ongoing Work

During this reporting period, the Evaluation Unit completed fieldwork for the country program evaluation of Peace Corps/North Macedonia, and the report will be issued in the following reporting period. Additionally, the Evaluation Unit launched the country program evaluation of Peace Corps/Tonga, which included travel to the post to conduct field work in August 2025.



⁶ Other reviews may include MIRs and MARs, which are conducted in accordance with OIG Directive 2020-03 – Revision to Reporting Procedures for MIRs and MARs.

Evaluation Unit

Evaluations of Agency Programs and Operations

Evaluation of Peace Corps/Madagascar

IG-25-02-E

In September 2025, OIG issued an evaluation report on Peace Corps/Madagascar's operations and activities from October 2021 to May 2024. At the time of the evaluation, the post had 46 Volunteers, 59 full-time staff, and 3 project sectors: Agriculture, Education, and Health.

The evaluation revealed opportunities for improvement across all five of the objectives OIG assessed at Peace Corps/Madagascar, including notable issues with host country engagement documents, safety and security training and procedures, Volunteer housing, and the post's assessment of referral healthcare facilities and consultants.



OIG Evaluator inspecting a Volunteer's home in Madagascar

Although the post received qualified Volunteers, OIG found that over the past 3 years the post received fewer Volunteers than it had requested—an agencywide challenge that has impacted many Peace Corps posts.

OIG found that over the past 3 years, the post had received less Volunteers than it had requested—an agency-wide challenge that has impacted many Peace Corps posts.

OIG found that the Peace Corps/Madagascar Volunteer safety and security program met various agency requirements, but it was not fully compliant with others that could present serious risks to Volunteers. For example, Volunteers told OIG that the post did not provide them with effective sexual harassment and assault training that was specific to Madagascar. The post's Volunteer health program largely complied with agency requirements and received high marks from staff and Volunteers for its provision of effective training and healthcare.

Finally, post leadership generally supported Volunteers and staff by complying with personnel requirements and conducting effective emergency planning and testing. Prior to the issuance of this report, the country director also implemented a plan to improve communication and trust between staff and Volunteers.

OIG reviewed evidence of corrective actions completed by the agency and closed 9 of the 13 recommendations and 4 remain open.



Evaluation of Peace Corps' Volunteer Delivery System

IG-25-03-E

In September 2025, OIG issued an evaluation report on the Peace Corps' VDS, aimed at understanding persistent Volunteer shortages. Since early 2020, when nearly 6,900 were required to return from service abroad to the United States, the Peace Corps has struggled with recruiting and maintaining Volunteer numbers. In FY 2024, the agency reported that 3,337 Volunteers—less than half of the pre-pandemic number of Volunteers—were serving abroad.

OIG found that the Peace Corps lacked an agencywide strategy to allocate its resources where they are needed most: to increase the number of Volunteers in service. For example, of the 22 performance goals the agency lists in its fiscal year (FY) 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, only 1 goal explicitly focused on Volunteer recruitment. Moreover, the strategic plan did not have specific Volunteer recruitment target numbers, which could be used to help the agency's recruitment components successfully develop and meet their programmatic goals.

The Peace Corps lacked an agencywide strategy to allocate its resources where they are needed most: to increase the number of Volunteers in service.

OIG found that the agency's multiple information management systems, which are used across numerous offices to support the VDS, were ineffective. For example, the information systems that the agency used for recruitment and marketing did not interconnect with its system for managing Volunteer applications. As a result, staff were unable to determine which applicants were recruited by which recruiters; and therefore, could not evaluate the recruiters' performance. Moreover, the agency lacked effective information systems for critical functions such as tracking time-to-hire which impacted recruiter onboarding. The Peace Corps also experienced long-term vacancies for positions that support and maintain these systems.

OIG found that the agency has struggled to fill its recruiter vacancies in the VDS for various reasons, including inadequate staffing in the Office of Human Resource Management (OHR), along with high turnover. The agency has faced a steady decline in its number of recruiters, who are tasked with promoting the Peace Corps' mission at universities, job fairs, speaking engagements, and other outlets. OIG determined that the Peace Corps did not have enough recruiters to achieve its onboard strength projections. OIG found that in recent years' data, the number of recruiters positively correlated with the number of Volunteer applicants. The agency has historically relied on Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) with non-competitive eligibility to fill these positions. However, due in part to the global evacuation, the Peace Corps experienced a limited pipeline of RPCVs, a significant contributing factor in the underfill of open recruiter positions.

OIG found that the Peace Corps lacked processes to address its post-pandemic recruitment challenges. OIG reviewed records from and interviewed members of the VDS Steering Committee, a multi-office entity that monitors VDS activities and oversees its quality

Evaluation Unit

improvement. However, the Steering Committee did not provide effective oversight of the VDS and struggled to address numerous internal and external challenges.

The evaluation reported on the varied success of multiple VRS recruitment and selection strategies, as well as approaches for the agency to consider when planning or implementing future recruitment investments. The agency concurred with five recommendations and did not concur with two recommendations related to recruiter extensions and recruiter incentives and benefits. OIG has closed two recommendations, including one non-concurred recommendation, and five remain open.

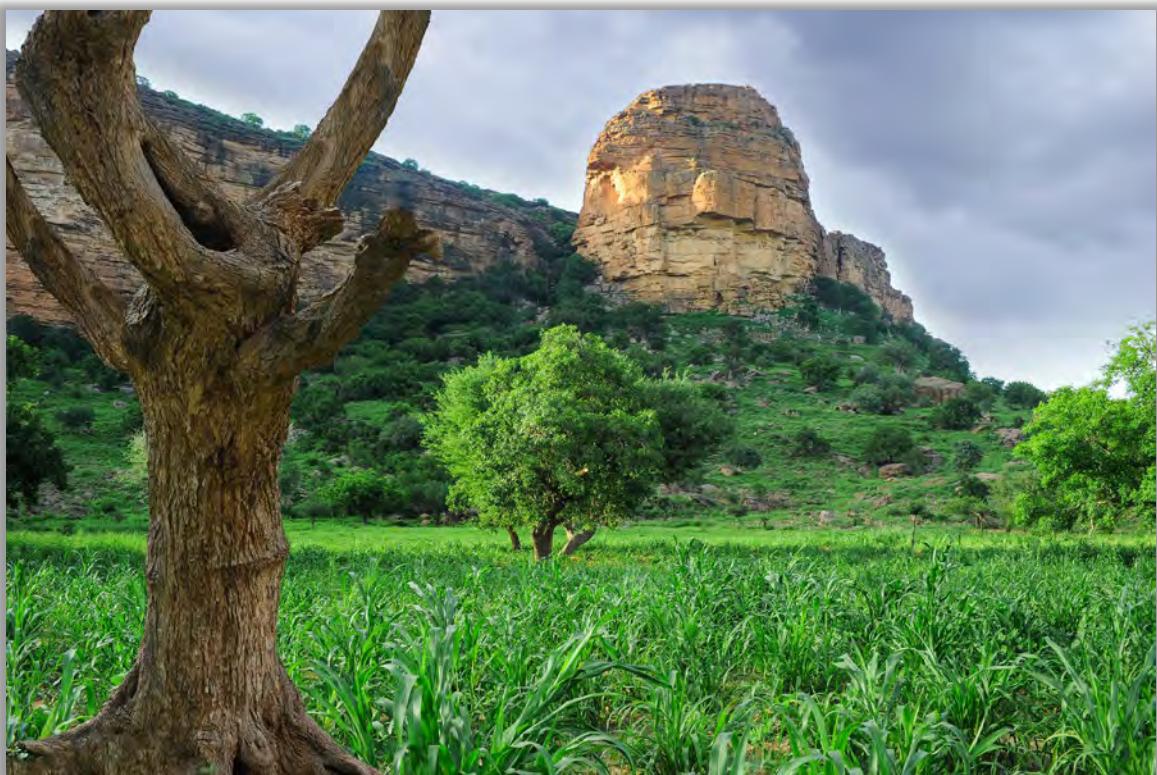


Overview

The Investigation Unit is authorized to conduct investigations of alleged criminal and administrative violations of law, regulation, and policy in Peace Corps programs and operations, both domestically and internationally. The Unit investigates allegations involving Peace Corps staff, contractors, Volunteers, and other individuals conducting 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 investigators have Federal law enforcement authority as approved by the Attorney General, including the authority, upon probable cause, to 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.

Pursuant to the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. § 2504(p)) the Investigation Unit is responsible for independent reviews of the facts and circumstances surrounding Volunteer deaths. It is the practice of the Investigation Unit to review the details of each incident to assess whether further investigation is required. During this reporting period, no Volunteer deaths were reported.



Significant Investigations of Criminal or Administrative Misconduct

Alleged Time and Attendance Fraud at Peace Corps Headquarters

OIG received a complaint that a senior government official may have been committing time and attendance fraud. As a result of the OIG's investigation, the employee was arrested for engaging in a scheme to defraud the U.S. Government by simultaneously working as a Federal employee and Federal contractor; falsifying timecards submitted to multiple Federal agencies; and misrepresenting the amount of work performed for the Government. The alleged scheme involved the use of wire communications to submit false time and attendance reports.

Additionally, the employee was accused of making false statements about the nature of their ties to individuals overseas, and about the electronic accounts created, actions taken, and money sent to foreign nationals in exchange for explicit content. The employee also allegedly abused Government access to computers and systems and used commercial email accounts to send protected Government information to commercial email servers and mobile devices.

In December 2024, the employee retired from the Peace Corps during the ongoing criminal investigation. On June 30, 2025, OIG, along with the OIGs of the other impacted agencies (the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and the U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency), arrested the employee and submitted the matter to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland for prosecution.

Report of Possible Procurement Fraud in the Africa Region

OIG received a notification regarding a possible bidding scheme involving a local contractor who had a personal relationship with a Peace Corps staff member. The contractor allegedly submitted several bids for a Government contract while posing as separate companies. The investigation determined that some of the bids in question came from unregistered business entities. Rather than conducting independent research to verify the bids, the agency staff member procured the services of a contractor with whom they had a personal relationship. As a result of the investigation, the Embassy Regional Security Officer revoked the agency staff member's security certification. Subsequently, the staff member was terminated from their Peace Corps employment.

Report of False Certifications in the Africa Region

Based on an OIG post audit report, OIG initiated an investigation regarding suspected violations of Federal appropriations law and agency policies when procuring meals, lodging, and entertainment for participants attending training and events within their designated duty station area. The investigation revealed that officials at a Peace Corps post improperly documented authorizations for per diem and lodging for staff who were within their official duty station area. Senior post staff claimed that they were unaware of the rules that prohibit per diem and lodging payments for travel within

their official duty station area. The OIG made a referral to the U.S. Attorney's Office for alleged false statements. The matter was declined for prosecution. The agency addressed the matter by acknowledging the errors and identified necessary corrective action for re-training staff and careful review of the voucher approval process.

Report of Medical Inventory Mismanagement in the Africa Region

OIG received a complaint that multiple posts in the Africa Region had significant medical inventory discrepancies, including incomplete or missing prescription drug inventory counts for the prior fiscal year. In response, OIG's Audit and Investigation Units conducted a joint review of multiple posts-controlled substances inventories. Following the July 18, 2025, issuance of OIG's related Management Advisory Report (referenced in the Audit Unit section of this report), this matter was closed and necessary actions by the posts are being addressed through the OIG recommendation process.

Report of Communicated Threats to a Country Director

OIG received an allegation from a third-party complainant that an RPCV had sent aggressive, inappropriate emails to a Country Director (CD). OIG confirmed the RPCV posed no immediate threat to the CD and was receiving mental health support. OIG issued the RPCV a cease-and-desist notice in April 2025, requesting the RPCV stop engaging in communications with the CD.

Report of Threatening Communications by a Volunteer to the President – Elect Found to be Unsubstantiated

The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), a Federal agency partner, notified OIG that a serving Volunteer may have made threats to the president-elect of the United States and his immediate family. OIG took primary investigative responsibility and, throughout the investigation, obtained substantial evidence that the Volunteer had no involvement in the conveyed threat. JTTF concurred with OIG's assessment. The matter was transferred back to JTTF for further investigation related to any threats made by non-Peace Corps Volunteers.

Report of Alleged Possession of Contraband Material in the Inter-America and Pacific Region

OIG was notified of an allegation that a Peace Corps Trainee may have possessed child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on one of the Trainee's personal electronic devices. The Trainee voluntarily chose early termination before the allegation was made, for a reportedly unrelated reason. Digital forensic analysis revealed no CSAM on any of the Trainee's devices. Other OIG investigative activity did not substantiate claims that the Trainee's departure was due to being in possession of CSAM. OIG closed the matter without referral to the Peace Corps.

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

OIG received an allegation that a Volunteer had physically assaulted a Host Country National at a commercial lodging establishment. Reportedly, the Volunteer and HCN were at one time romantically involved, and they were on a trip within the Volunteer's site at the time of the incident. After the HCN made a report to the Peace Corps Safety and Security Office, the Volunteer reported the incident to the CD. OIG interviewed the Volunteer, who admitted to restraining and physically striking the HCN in self-defense. The Volunteer was placed on administrative hold, and subsequently resigned from the Peace Corps. The agency issued an Attachment J.⁷

⁷ As noted in [Peace Corps Manual Section 284 Early Termination of Service](#), completion of Attachment J is only required in cases where an allegation of serious misconduct has been made, but the Volunteer/Trainee early terminates before a disciplinary action was either initiated or ruled out. Attachment J also may be completed when the Country Director learns of the allegations after the Volunteer or Trainee leaves service or if a pending allegation remains unresolved as of the date of a PCV's close of service.

Sexual Misconduct

Report of Mismanagement Following a Sexual Assault in the Europe, Mediterranean and Asia Region

OIG received a complaint alleging a Volunteer did not receive adequate support from Peace Corps post staff after they reported being sexually assaulted. OIG obtained substantial evidence that a specific post staff member did not fully comply with the Peace Corps Sexual Assault Policy, mandated by the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act. The staff member's actions included open personal criticism of the Volunteer's choices leading up to the alleged assault incident. Further, OIG found the staff member did not uphold agency policy standards regarding confidentiality for sexual assault victims. The matter was referred to the Peace Corps for appropriate action.

Report of Possible Sexual Activity with a Minor in the Europe, Mediterranean and Asia Region

OIG was notified of an allegation that a Volunteer had sexual relations with a minor, paid for sexual encounters, and drove a vehicle while intoxicated. OIG investigative activity did not substantiate allegations that the Volunteer engaged in sexual relations with minors or paid for sexual encounters. The Volunteer told OIG that, despite agency policy prohibiting Volunteers from operating a vehicle overseas, they drove a vehicle because the original driver was intoxicated and the Volunteer had not consumed any alcoholic beverages during the incident in question. OIG referred the matter back to the post.

Report of Alleged Inappropriate Relationship with a Minor in the Inter-America and Pacific Region

OIG received a complaint regarding a Volunteer who was potentially involved in a sexual relationship with a local minor. An OIG investigation revealed that the Volunteer was social with the local minor, however, the investigation did not uncover evidence to substantiate claims that the Volunteer engaged in sexual activity with a minor or violated any child protection act or Volunteer conduct policies. The Volunteer opted to terminate service prior to OIG being notified of the allegation for reasons unrelated to the investigation. The matter was closed without referral to the Peace Corps.

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.

Report of Whistleblower Retaliation at Peace Corps Headquarters

OIG received a complaint from a former employee who was allegedly terminated after making two disclosures regarding Volunteer health and safety and the Volunteer Delivery System. OIG investigated the actions of three senior government employees, and their involvement in the personnel action impacting the complainant, under the standards of the Whistleblower Protection Act. OIG found that one of the two allegations was likely a protected disclosure and that the former employee had engaged in protected activity when reporting concerns about Volunteer Health and Safety, and the Volunteer Delivery System to the OIG.

OIG determined that there was likely a *prima facie* case that the former employee's disclosures and activity were a contributing factor in the agency's decision to propose terminating their one-year appointment prior to its expiration date. Under the law, once a *prima facie* case is made, the agency has the burden to show by clear and convincing evidence it would have taken the same personnel action without the protected disclosures or protected activity. OIG determined that it is unlikely the agency can meet its burden with clear and convincing evidence. Additionally, during the investigation, OIG determined that one of the senior government employees fell short of their obligation to fully cooperate with OIG under Peace Corps policy. OIG issued a report regarding the allegation of whistleblower retaliation. At the time the matter was referred to the agency, the senior government employees were no longer with the Peace Corps. Accordingly, the agency determined that no disciplinary actions were necessary. The agency also determined no additional policy changes were necessary.

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

Evaluation of Agency Programs and Operations	Page
Evaluation of Peace Corps' Volunteer Delivery System <i>IG-24-EVAL-01</i>	17
Evaluation of Peace Corps/Madagascar <i>IG-25-02-E</i>	16

Other Reports	Page
Management Advisory Report on Post Medical Inventory <i>IG-25-03-SR</i>	12
Management Implication Report: Recommendations Issued to the Peace Corps Regarding Human Capital Management <i>IG-25-04-SR</i>	13
Special Report on the Peace Corps' Information Technology Environment <i>IG-25-05-SR</i>	14

Tables

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

Rec. No.	Questioned Costs ⁸	Unsupported Costs ⁹	Funds to Be Put to Better Use ¹⁰	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.¹¹				
IG-23-01-A: Audit of the Peace Corps' Management of Payroll Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires				
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
IG-25-01-A: Audit Report Uganda Post Operations				
4	32,543			Open
Total	10	505,637	\$530,472	
Reports issued this reporting period				
		-n/a-		
Total recommendations for which no final action has been taken at the end of the reporting period				
Total	10	\$505,637	\$530,472	Open

⁸ 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.

⁹ Unsupported Cost – A cost that is not supported by adequate documentation.

¹⁰ Funds to Be Put to Better Use – Funds that could be used more efficiently if management took actions to implement and complete a recommendation.

¹¹ This table captures recommendations with related costs that were open as of April 1, 2025.

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	47	38
Special Reports	10	3
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)

19 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 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

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.

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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.¹²

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

5 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 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.

¹² The agency did not concur with this recommendation.

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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

Audit Report: Uganda Post Operations (IG-25-01-A) 3 of 20 recommendations open since December 20, 2024

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 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.

Evaluation of Peace Corps/Guyana (IG-25-01-E) 1 of 9 recommendations open since March 28, 2025

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.

Evaluation of Peace Corps/Madagascar (IG-25-02-E) 4 of 13 recommendations open since September 12, 2025

Recommendation 1: The Country Director establishes memoranda of understanding, or informal cooperative agreements with clear expectations, with the Madagascar ministries of health, education, and agriculture.

Recommendation 2: The Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection, the Office of Communications, and the post work together to develop and implement strategies that address applicant concerns specific to Madagascar to increase application and retention rates.

Recommendation 9: The Country Director develops post-specific procedures for receiving and responding to Safety and Security incidents, to include roles and responsibilities, and then trains staff in those procedures.

Recommendation 12: The Country Director works with the Peace Corps Medical Officers to ensure they visit more Volunteers at site per TG 204 requirements and develop and implement a plan to assess healthcare facilities and consultants as required.

Evaluation of the Peace Corps' Volunteer Delivery System (IG-25-03-E) 5 of 7 recommendations open since September 30, 2025

Recommendation 2: The Peace Corps Director, in collaboration with the Associate Director of the Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection, develops and implements a plan to generate the predetermined number of qualified Volunteers.

Recommendation 3: The Peace Corps Director, in collaboration with the Chief Information Officer, develops a prioritized plan to upgrade information management systems used to support the Volunteer Delivery System. If funding is insufficient, the prioritized plan should be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget as part of the agency's annual budget request for consideration.

Recommendation 4: The agency develops a plan that determines appropriate staffing levels and addresses retention, resource allocation, tools and training for offices that provide critical support to the Volunteer Delivery System.

Recommendation 6: The Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection and the Office of Human Resources assess the appropriateness of existing monetary and non-monetary incentives and benefits for recruiters, taking into account industry standards, performance, and the impact of recruiter turnover.

Recommendation 7: The Peace Corps Director improves governance of the VDS steering committee, or establishes other mechanisms, to oversee VDS operations. The committee, or other mechanisms, should ensure clear decision-making authority, effective coordination, and improved program implementation across agency offices and components.

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.

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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 ensures that the PC network is continuously monitored to mitigate the risk of cyberthreats.

Management Advisory Report: Peace Corps Non-Disclosure Agreements Generally Comply with Anti-Gag Provision Requirements, but Agency Policies Need Updating (IG-25-SR-02) 1 of 1 recommendation open since June 13, 2025

Recommendation 1: OIG recommends that the Peace Corps amend or modify its relevant policies, procedures, and forms to incorporate the required anti-gag provision.

Management Advisory Report: Post Medical Inventory: Promising Practices in Peace Corps/The Gambia Can Inform Needed Improvements in Peace Corps/Namibia (IG-25-03-SR) 3 of 8 recommendations open since July 18, 2025

Recommendation 4: The Country Director and Director of Management and Operations of Peace Corps/Namibia conduct staff training on the medical inventory process and educate staff on agency requirements, roles and responsibilities, procedures for implementing the inventory system, and special standards for controlled substances in accordance with agency requirements.

Recommendation 6: The Country Director of Peace Corps/Namibia ensures controls over dispensing records, including signed receipts from the Volunteers (Form Peace Corps – 734D), are monitored, the dispensing book is secured properly, and copies are distributed to designated staff and filed in a timely manner.

Recommendation 8: The Associate Director for Health Services and the Regional Director of the Africa Region follow up with the Country Director and Peace Corps Medical Officer in Peace Corps/Namibia to ensure appropriate action is taken to implement these recommendations to improve management of controlled substances.

Special Report on the Peace Corps' Information Technology Environment (IG-25-05-SR) 3 of 7 recommendations open since September 26, 2025

Recommendation 3: The Chief Information Officer ensures that the actions shared with the agency in the detailed technical report are taken to properly configure and fully utilize anti-phishing protections.

Recommendation 4: The Chief Information Officer and the Associate Director for Management, review and develop a strategy to provide agency-wide training on the phishing reporting process and specific individual training related to those who failed the phishing campaign.

Recommendation 5: The Chief Information Officer implements continuous improvement and emphasizes a “Zero Click” mindset throughout the organization to reduce the threat from phishing campaigns.

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Other

Financial Statement Audit Recommendations

<u>Summary of Internal Control Issues Over the Peace Corps' Financial Reporting</u>			
Issue	Year First Identified	Agency Concur reccomendations 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 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 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 Identity, Credential, and Access Management 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 and integrates the results into information security strategies and other plan development efforts.

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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	117
Complaints Received via Other Sources ¹³	14
Total Complaints (All Sources)	131

Overview of Complaint Activity¹⁴

Complaint Activity	Total
Resulted in Investigations	0
Resulted in Preliminary Inquiries	11
Resulted in Audits or Evaluations	1
Referred to Agency Management	99
Referred to Other Agency	1
No Action Needed	11

¹³ These complaints are largely a result of outreach by OIG staff and were received by email, phone calls, and conversations.

¹⁴ 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.

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Table 5. Summary of Investigative Activities and Outcomes

Investigative Activities	Preliminary Inquiries ¹⁵	Cases
Open at the beginning of the reporting period	8	15
Opened during the reporting period	15	3
Closed during the reporting period	10	5
Total open at the end of the reporting period	13	13
Referrals		Total
Persons referred for criminal prosecution (Department of Justice)		4
Persons referred for criminal prosecution (state and local authorities) ¹⁶		-
Cases referred to the Department of Justice		-
Cases referred to agency management for administrative action		2
Cases referred to agency management for other information/ action		1
Referrals to other agencies		-
Reports		Total
Investigative reports issued		2
Court Actions		Total
Criminal information and indictments		-
Trial(s) pending		-
Ongoing prosecution ¹⁷		1
Convictions		-
Judgments		-
Administrative Actions		Total
Employee ¹⁸ resignations and terminations		3
Other employee actions ¹⁹		-
Suspension/debarment referrals		1
Monetary Results Annual Savings Recoveries/Restitution		Total
Annual Savings		-
Recoveries/restitution ²⁰		-
Cost avoidance		-

¹⁵ Preliminary inquiries are initiated for complaints which either (1) are received from a Peace Corps source (e.g., staff, Volunteer, contractor) or (2) relate to a matter within the jurisdiction of OIG. A preliminary inquiry is limited in scope.

¹⁶ Includes foreign courts

¹⁷ Includes overseas criminal proceedings. Volunteers/Trainees are included as Peace Corps staff for the purpose of reporting investigative activity.

¹⁸ Volunteers/Trainees are included as Peace Corps staff for the purpose of reporting investigative activity.

¹⁹ Includes administrative actions that are less than resignation or termination, for example: letters of reprimand, counseling, and retraining.

²⁰ Includes potential recoveries.

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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	7
§ 405(a)(1)*	Significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies and associated reports and recommendations for corrective action made by the Office	Audits and Evaluations	11, 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, 38
§ 405(a)(4)	Total number of convictions during the reporting period resulting from investigations	Investigations and Table 5	19, 38
§ 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	11, 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

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§ 405(a)(11)	Statistical table - investigative reports issued; persons referred for criminal prosecution; indictments and criminal information	Table 5	38
§ 405(a)(13)	Investigations involving a senior Government employee where allegations of misconduct were substantiated	Investigations	25
§ 405(a)(14)	Instances of whistleblower retaliation	Investigations	26
§ 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 (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),²¹ OIG reports the following peer review information.

Audit Unit

In March 2023, the Denali Commission completed an external peer review of Peace Corps OIG Audit Unit and issued a System Review Report for a three-year 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.

The Peace Corps OIG’s Audit Unit completed a peer review of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General 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 completed a peer review of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) OIG in July 2025, for the period April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2025. The FCA OIG received a rating of “pass.” The peer review found that the FCA OIG’s system of quality control for its inspection and evaluation function, in effect for the year ended March 31, 2025, had been suitably designed and followed to provide FCA OIG with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with Blue Book standards.

²¹ Section 989 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act amended Section 405(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. Chapter 4).

Appendices

Investigation Unit

In January 2025, the Peace Corps OIG Investigation Unit underwent a quality assessment review performed by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board OIG. 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 April 2024, Peace Corps OIG agents conducted an investigative peer review of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative operations of the Office of the Inspector General 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 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), OIG's Special Agent in Charge of the Electronic Crimes Unit. Peace Corps OIG provided the 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 OIGs 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 under the law.

Appendices

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 under the law.

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: [Hotline | Peace Corps OIG](#)

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