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**To:** Sheila Crowley, Acting Director, Peace Corps

From: Kathy Buller, Inspector General, Peace Corps fathy a Salle

**Date:** August 10, 2017

**Subject:** OIG's review of unredacted documentation of sexual assault cases related to our

2016 evaluation of the sexual assault risk reduction and response program

This memo summarizes the results of our review of unredacted documentation for a sample of cases we reviewed as part of our 2016 evaluation of the agency's sexual assault program. The memo will be appended to our "<u>Final Evaluation Report: The Peace Corps' Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response Program [IG-17-01-E]</u>," which was issued and made public in November 2016.

As you know, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011 required OIG to conduct a case review of a statistically significant number of sexual assault cases as part of an evaluation of the agency's sexual assault risk reduction and response program. OIG conducted this evaluation and case review with documentation the agency provided. Half of the cases reviewed were "restricted" cases, and the relevant documentation the agency provided related to its response to those sexual assault victims had been redacted to remove any personally identifiable information. As a result, OIG included a data limitation in the report.<sup>1</sup>

In December 2016, the President signed into law the Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016 affirming OIGs' right to access all documents needed in our work. Accordingly, we requested a sample of unredacted documents from the case review. This was necessary in order to compare the complete documents to the redacted ones we were originally provided with the purpose of verifying the accuracy of documentation we relied on for the case review.

OIG identified a random sample of nine restricted cases and specified particular documentation from those cases that had been redacted; we then requested that the agency provide copies of the same documents in their original, unredacted form. In July 2017, OIG received the unredacted documents in hard copy and compared them to the redacted versions reviewed during the case review.

The agency provided 14 of the 15 unredacted documents, and our comparison between those and the redacted documents we relied on for our case review verified the accuracy of the documentation. One of the documents we requested in unredacted form could no longer be retrieved from an agency system that had been discontinued. However, we were able to verify the accuracy of the redacted document in question by using other documents provided to us.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Final Evaluation Report: The Peace Corps' Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response Program [IG-17-01-E]," pages iii, 70, and 71.

In sum, OIG has no concerns related to the accuracy of documents we relied upon to conduct our case review for the 2016 evaluation. We plan on including the results of this review in our next Semiannual Report to Congress and will post this memo on our external web site.

cc: Kathy Stroker, Acting Deputy Director
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