



# Peace Corps Office of Inspector General

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*Popocatepetl Volcano, Mexico*

## **Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-2016**

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**July, 2013**

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## VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

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### VISION

Provide high impact work products that agency management acts upon to increase the Peace Corps' efficiency and effectiveness.

### MISSION

Through audits, evaluations, and investigations, OIG provides independent oversight of agency programs and operations in support of the goals set forth in the Peace Corps Act while making the best use of taxpayer dollars.

OIG:

- Promotes integrity, efficiency, effectiveness and economy;
- Prevents and detects waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement;
- Identifies risk and vulnerabilities and offers expert assistance to improve the Peace Corps' programs and operations

#### **Authority:**

Established in February 1989, OIG receives its legal authority from the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The law requires that OIG fully and currently inform the Peace Corps Director and the Congress about problems and deficiencies identified by OIG relating to the administration of agency programs and operations.

### CORE VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

*In accomplishing its mission, OIG is committed to:*

**Excellence:** Issuing well-supported, high impact work products, which are accurate, relevant and reliable.

**Professionalism:** Meeting professional standards and effectively using knowledge, skills, and experience to perform duties with integrity.

**Positive Change:** Making value-added recommendations to address challenges and issues with due consideration of the Peace Corps' mission and goals.

**Independence and Integrity:** Operating independently from the agency while maintaining a professional relationship with management and adhering to the highest standards of ethics and accountability.

**Growth and Improvement:** Promoting professional growth and development among OIG staff; supporting continual learning, self-assessment, and office enhancement.

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## STRATEGY STATEMENT

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OIG will conduct audits, evaluations and investigations addressing the following priority areas:

**Kate Puzey Volunteer Protection Act of 2011<sup>1</sup>.** OIG will prioritize work related to implementation of the Act. Given the requirement for multiple OIG reports over a number of years and the breadth, complexity and impact of the law on agency operations, OIG will place special emphasis on oversight of the agency's implementation of the Act.

**Management Challenges.** OIG work products will place emphasis on these items which are identified annually in the Performance and Accountability Report as the most significant challenges facing the Peace Corps.

**Agency-wide Process, Programs, and Systems.** OIG will continue its focus on agency wide systemic issues or functional areas that affect multiple systems or posts. Topical, functional or systemic approaches to audits and evaluations can better leverage OIG's limited resources and increase the impact of its work products. In particular OIG will review the adequacy of management oversight, internal controls, compliance with laws and regulations, and support provided by headquarters.

**Volunteer Safety and Security and Medical Care.** These two areas are essential to Volunteer support. OIG will continue to follow up on past work performed and will address new and emerging focus areas.

**Overseas Post Operations.** The Peace Corps must ensure that post staffing, site development, Volunteer training and support, and related infrastructure are sufficiently robust to support the Peace Corps' mission, existing or new programs. Particular attention will be directed at new country entry assessments and start up operations to determine adequacy of planning, staffing, support and other resources.

**Stakeholder Communication:** Inform all stakeholders (agency staff, Volunteers, Congress, and the general public) about the role, work and resources of OIG, including promotion of the OIG Hotline.

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<sup>1</sup> P.L. 112-57

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## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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### OIG GOAL 1

Provide meaningful and useful recommendations that enhance Peace Corps' management and operations and minimize the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse.

**Objective 1.1:** Conduct audits and evaluations at overseas post, to include reviews to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance with laws, regulations, and Peace Corps policy.

**Objective 1.2:** Perform audits and evaluations of Peace Corps programs that identify systematic weaknesses, areas of noncompliance with standards, and ways to improve the agency.

**Objective 1.3:** Leverage expertise from two or more units (audits, investigations and evaluations) to perform reviews of high risk operations or programs.

### OIG GOAL 2

Utilize the most common OIG report findings, recommendations, and trends as a tool to effect change in management practices.

**Objective 2.1:** Report trends and emerging issues developed from reports and recommendations issued to agency management.

**Objective 2.2:** Establish a stronger corrective action process to facilitate the timely closure of report recommendations.

### OIG GOAL 3

Identification and investigation of criminal activities, misconduct or fraud committed by Peace Corps employees, contractors, and Volunteers.

**Objective 3.1:** Engage in proactive investigative initiatives to identify financial fraud.

**Objective 3.2:** Strengthen identification of potential contract fraud and misconduct in headquarters and field operations.

### OIG GOAL 4

Support training and collaborate with the agency to improve essential Volunteer support functions, establish adequate internal controls, and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

**Objective 4.1:** Provide advice and assistance to the Peace Corps on financial, administrative, and programming related issues.

**Objective 4.2:** Inform agency staff of their duty and V/Ts of their right to provide OIG information and to forward complaints confidentially, without fear of reprisal.

**Objective 4.3:** Collaborate and share information, when appropriate, with the Office of Safety and Security (SS).

### **OIG GOAL 5**

Improve OIG communication efforts and internal processes to more efficiently and effectively carry out our mission.

**Objective 5.1:** Improve communication and internal processes within and across units and with OIG senior management.

**Objective 5.2:** Use the OIG Outreach Committee to increase awareness of the OIG's purpose and role within the Peace Corps.

# 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

### Hotline:

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

Email: [OIG@peacecorps.gov](mailto:OIG@peacecorps.gov)  
Online Reporting Tool: [peacecorps.gov/OIG/ContactOIG](http://peacecorps.gov/OIG/ContactOIG)

Mail: Peace Corps Office of Inspector General  
P.O. Box 57129  
Washington, D.C. 20037-7129

### Other Inquiries:

Main Office: 202.692.2900