



Peace Corps
Office of
**INSPECTOR
GENERAL**

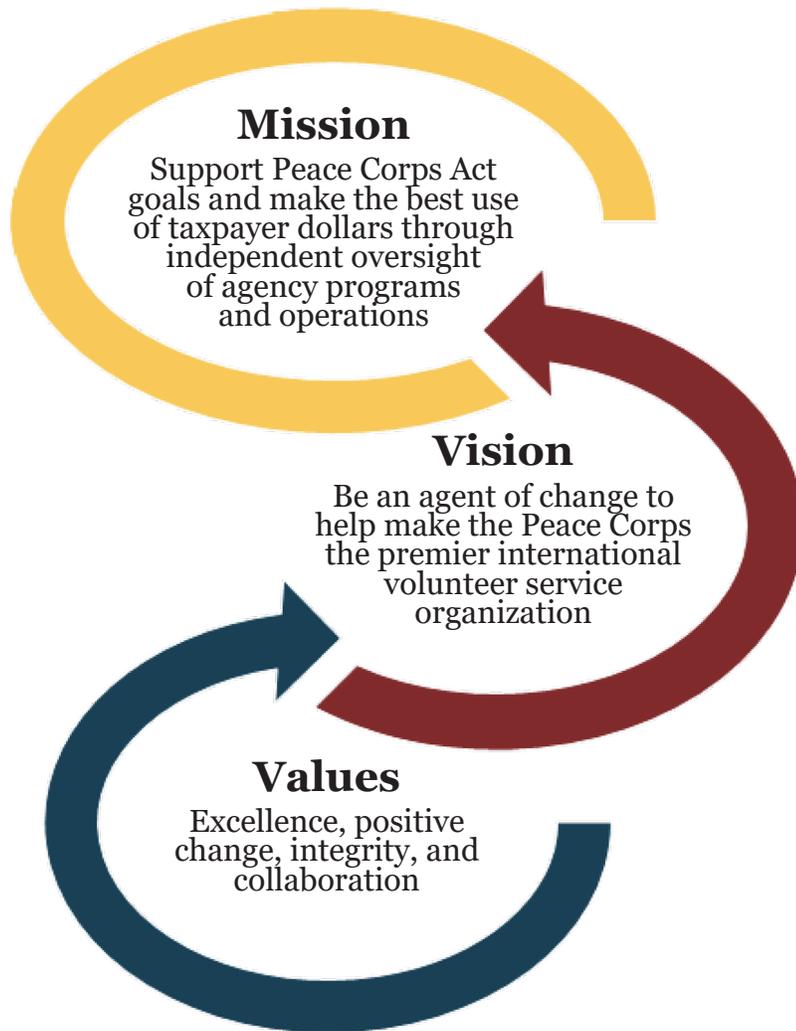
SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022



Office of Inspector General

TOGETHER WE MAKE A BETTER PEACE CORPS



Established in 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.

Goals

- 1 Provide independent oversight
- 2 Effectively communicate with stakeholders
- 3 Strengthen OIG

Semiannual Report to Congress
October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022

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Highlights from this Report

Message from the Acting Inspector General

I am pleased to present the Peace Corps Office of Inspector General's (OIG's) Semiannual Report to Congress. This report describes the work of OIG from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, and reflects our responsibility to keep Congress fully and currently informed about the challenges facing the Peace Corps and the actions recommended to address them.



In March 2022, the Peace Corps began redeployment of its Volunteers. After the unprecedented evacuation of all Volunteers—as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic—the Peace Corps established internal and external criteria and an extensive process to resume their overseas Volunteer program. We are excited to support the agency's efforts to redeploy Volunteers to the field. For our part, the Evaluation Unit recently launched a new evaluation product that assesses overseas post-level compliance with agency policies and guidance related to Peace Corps Volunteer/trainee health and safety and the re-entry process. Through these health and safety reviews, we expect to be able to support the global re-entry of Volunteers.

In addition to the above-mentioned health and safety reviews, the Evaluation Unit has continued work on several ongoing products including reviews of how the Peace Corps responded to reports of sexual assaults.

During this reporting period, the Audit Unit reported on the agency's compliance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014; Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act supplemental funding requirements; and Peace Corps' financial statements as of September 30, 2021. The Unit continues working diligently on the Audit of the Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires.

The Investigation Unit conducted investigations of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in Peace Corps programs and operations, including alleged sexual assault mismanagement. In the area of mismanagement, investigators have also been working with evaluators to support cross unit projects, including a matter related to Volunteer medical care.

We are pleased to report that, during this six-month period, the agency prioritized the importance of compliance, closing out 75 recommendations with a total cost savings of \$5.4 million related to 27 OIG reports. This resulted in the closure of 13 out of 27 OIG reports with open recommendations. Closure of the recommendations represents actions that help ensure compliance, address internal controls, and/or improve an agency program or operation.

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Lastly, after 38 years of public service—35 of which were served in the Inspector General community— former Inspector General Kathy Buller retired from our office. We honor her service to the country and celebrate the legacy of hard work and commitment she leaves behind. I am privileged to lead the office, pending the appointment of a new Inspector General.



Joaquin Ferrao
Acting Inspector General

Management and Administration

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Management and Administration Unit

Agency Context

In March 2022, the Peace Corps deployed its first post-pandemic Volunteers back to overseas service, almost two years after the agency suspended its operations and evacuated more than 7,000 Volunteers from posts in more than 60 countries. As of March 31, 2022, the Peace Corps resumed Volunteer operations at two posts. There are 27 Volunteers and trainees serving in Zambia and 13 serving in the Dominican Republic. The Volunteers deployed in Zambia are engaging with communities to provide education about the Coronavirus and promote access to vaccines. Those in the Dominican Republic are supporting communities to overcome challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, helping to recover literacy skills, addressing increased school dropout rates, and preparing young adults for the work force. As of March 31, 2022, the Peace Corps issued invitations to Volunteers to serve in an additional 24 posts.

Peace Corps Response (PCR) is also working to deploy Volunteers back to short-term, highly specialized assignments overseas and by March 31, 2022, issued invitations to Volunteers for inputs to 16 countries scheduled to depart by the end of FY22. During this reporting period, PCR worked with 35 countries and received 848 applications to serve overseas.

The agency also continued to engage in the Peace Corps Virtual Service Pilot model where Virtual Service Pilot Participants (VSPPs) donate time and voluntary services to the agency to participate virtually and contribute to the requests of interested Host Country Partners for support. During this reporting period, 326 VSPPs engaged in 39 countries.

In March 2022, the agency released a [brief and a roadmap](#) detailing the changes the agency made to enhance the Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response program and to broaden its overall approach to sexual assault mitigation and response. The agency outlined its continued commitment to improve agency-wide structures and programming to better mitigate the risk of sexual assault to Volunteers and to provide a supportive response to Volunteers in situations where sexual violence occurs.

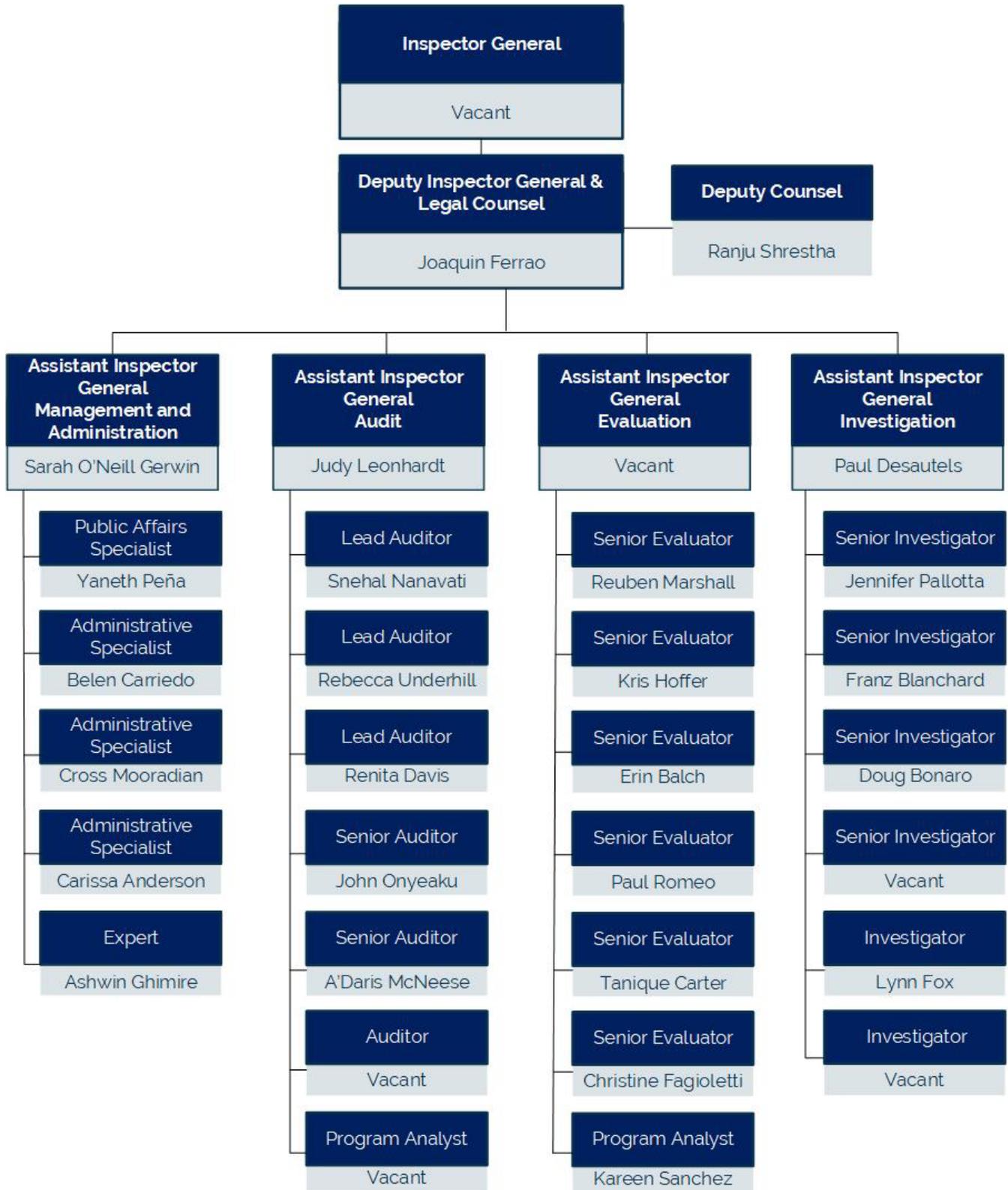
These agency initiatives were led by 2,431 locally engaged personnel in host countries and 935 U.S. direct hire staff, of whom 174 worked abroad, 761 worked at headquarters, regional recruiting offices, and other domestic locations, during this reporting period.

Staffing

Ranju Shrestha joined OIG in January 2022 as Deputy Counsel but is currently serving as Acting Counsel. Ranju joins us from the Social Security Administration (SSA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) where she served as Legislative Counsel to the Inspector General. In that role, she handled the legislative and congressional affairs for SSA OIG. Previously, she served as an Attorney in the Office of the Chief Counsel to the SSA Inspector General where she handled general law matters, civil monetary penalty cases, and various legislative issues. During her time with the Chief Counsel's office, she completed a six-month developmental detail at Peace Corps OIG serving as a Special Assistant to the CIGIE Legislation Committee. Prior to joining SSA OIG, Ranju served as an Attorney Advisor with SSA working on complex disability cases. Before joining the Federal government, Ranju was a Managing Attorney with the House of Ruth Maryland Domestic Violence Legal Clinic where she provided legal representation to domestic violence survivors. Ranju also served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Ranju received her B.A. from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law, and an Executive Leadership Certificate from American University.

John Onyeaku joined OIG in February 2022 as a Senior Auditor. John previously worked for Export-Import Bank OIG, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, and United States Postal Service OIG. He holds a Master of Science degree in Accounting from Seton Hall University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Montclair State University. John obtained a Doctor of Business Administration degree from the University of Maryland Global Campus. His dissertation explored how leadership style impacts the retention of knowledge workers. John has published two scholarly articles about the challenges of organizational restructuring, and the role of appraisal systems in retaining knowledge workers, respectively.

OIG Organizational Chart



Advice, Assistance, and Other Matters

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Advice, Assistance, and Other Reportable Matters

Support to the Agency

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 drafts of new or updated policies, procedures, and other documents governing agency programs and operations. During this reporting period, OIG reviewed 16 policies and procedures. Topics included the following: Peace Corps overseas post operations during COVID-19 response and recovery; opening a Peace Corps post; the Peace Corps organization; Peace Corps Volunteer allowances; immunity from disciplinary action in sexual assault and stalking incidents; hiring individuals with disabilities; corrective and adverse actions; Peace Corps medical offices and medical officers; remote work program; diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility policy; and Peace Corps evaluation policy.

Participation in Peace Corps Staff Training

OIG participated in three virtual overseas staff trainings during this reporting period. In the trainings, OIG briefed six country directors, nine directors of programming and training, nine directors of management and operations, one financial specialist, one administrative specialist, and six Peace Corps medical officers (PCMOs) on best practices and common deficiencies noted by OIG.

On March 15, 2022, the Office of the Chief Compliance Officer (OCCO) and OIG offered a joint briefing to 491 host country national staff. OIG and OCCO discussed the OIG hotline reporting process and whistleblower protection laws. The agency and OIG collaborated to create a course on the topic on the Learning Management System available to all overseas staff.

OIG Support for Background Checks

During the reporting period, OIG continued to implement the new standard operating procedure established with key Peace Corps offices, by which those offices would integrate, and automate, requests for OIG records check as part of the background check process on any individual who worked or volunteered for the Peace Corps and is seeking to return as an employee or Volunteer. This procedure is meant to supplement the agency's onboarding process to produce accurate and complete background checks for the purposes of employment and volunteer service. This program has helped the agency

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comply with the employee and Volunteer background check requirements in the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018. Additionally, upon the request of the agency, the OIG expanded support to the Peace Corps Virtual Service Pilot model. During this reporting period, OIG conducted 482 records checks, of which 91 were for staff and 391 were for Volunteers or participants.

Management Implication Reports

Peace Corps Response to Reports of Sexual Assault: Compliance with the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act

During the previous reporting period, a news media outlet published an article asserting that the Peace Corps failed to support Volunteers when they reported sexual assaults during their service. Chief Executive Officer Carol Spahn requested OIG review each case for possible criminal and management-level implications and compliance with Kate Puzey Act requirements regarding the provision of support services for victims of sexual assaults. During this reporting period, OIG issued three Management Implication Reports (MIRs) related to this matter.

IG-22-01-SR

OIG issued this MIR in October 2021. In this matter, a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) reported two cases of sexual assaults while serving in the Inter-America and the Pacific region from 2018 to 2019. In one case, the RPCV reported not being contacted by the Office of Victim Advocacy in a timely manner. In a separate incident, the RPCV reported that the Peace Corps failed to offer the services of a sexual assault response liaison or accompanied medical evacuation.

In one case, OIG determined that the agency provided the services required under the law and agency policy. However, in the other case, OIG found that the RPCV did not receive services until nine months after reporting the sexual assault due to an incorrect understanding of the agency's crime definitions by the staff member receiving the report.

IG-22-02-SR

OIG issued this MIR in December 2021. In this matter, an RPCV reported multiple sexual assaults while serving in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region from 2017 to 2018. The RPCV reported that the Peace Corps knowingly placed a Volunteer in a dangerous situation. The RPCV also expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of counseling services provided by staff of the Behavioral Health and Outreach Unit at Peace Corps headquarters.

OIG did not travel to post for this matter and therefore, could not verify the RPCV's specific concerns about the site placement and poor support at post, but the complaints were consistent with findings from a recent OIG country program evaluation that have since been addressed by the agency. While limited, agency survey data on Volunteer satisfaction with the Behavioral Outreach Unit staff does not suggest a systemic issue

with the quality of counseling services. OIG confirmed that the agency offered or provided all required sexual assault response services to the RPCV.

IG-22-04-SR

OIG issued this MIR in March 2022. In this matter, two RPCVs reported sexual assaults while they served in the Africa region from 2017 to 2018.

One RPCV reported making a request to the Peace Corps not to place Volunteers at the site where the RPCV served and reported being sexually assaulted. Another RPCV, later placed at the site, reported that the Peace Corps failed to inform the RPCV of the previous sexual assault and did not originally grant the RPCV's request for a new site placement. The RPCV also reported that when medically evacuated, following a sexual assault at the new site placement, Peace Corps headquarters support staff did not make contact with the RPCV until more than a month into the medical evacuation.

OIG determined that the agency provided the former RPCV with the required sexual assault support services, and post staff completed the required safety assessments prior to placing other Volunteers at that site. Peace Corps policy requires site history files to maintain safety and security information about Volunteer sites and use of the information to make placement decisions; however, staff are not required to disclose the history of incidents at a particular site to incoming Volunteers. OIG determined that the agency provided the latter RPCV weekly communications from headquarters support staff during the medical evacuation. However, OIG was unable to determine why the RPCV did not receive one of the support services requested due to the lack of documentation in the agency's case management system.

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Audit Unit

Overview

The Audit Unit conducts independent audits and reviews of agency programs and operations that support the Peace Corps mission. The objectives of OIG audits are to independently examine the financial and administrative operations of the Peace Corps; to promote economy and efficiency; and to ensure compliance with Federal law, regulations, and Peace Corps policy. Audits are wide ranging, covering agency activities carried out at overseas posts, as well as agency-wide operations that affect multiple offices. Auditors report their conclusions and recommendations based on data and document analyses, interviews, and direct observation. OIG also monitors the agency's progress in correcting systemic weaknesses identified in audit reports.

Audits and other reviews¹ 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

Along with the final reports detailed in the following sections, the Audit Unit continues its work on the Audit of the Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires. The Audit Unit's initial work indicated that payroll data required to support audit analysis would need to be sought directly from the National Finance Center². Audit staff are currently reviewing and analyzing the data and expect to report on our findings in September 2022.

¹ Other reviews include MIRs/Management Advisory Reports (MARs), which are conducted in accordance with OIG Directive 2020-03 – Revision to Reporting Procedures for MIRs and MARs.

² The National Finance Center is a Federal government Shared Service Provider for Financial Management Services and Human Resources Management Services.

Agency-Wide Audits

Audit of the Peace Corps' Compliance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act

IG-22-01-A

In November 2021, OIG issued the final report on the Audit of the Peace Corps' Compliance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act). OIG previously reported on the Peace Corps' DATA Act submissions in November 2017 and 2019. Both of these previous audits illustrated that the agency lacked a comprehensive quality control program over the DATA Act process.

The objectives of this audit were to assess (1) the completeness, accuracy, timeliness, and quality of the Fiscal Year 2021, Quarter 1 financial and award data submitted for publication on USASpending.gov; and (2) implementation and use of the Government-wide financial data standards established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of the Treasury.

During this audit, we found that the Peace Corps' DATA Act submission was not accurate nor timely. While the majority of the data submitted was of high quality, the agency failed to include required information in their submission and submitted inappropriate data. These errors occurred because the agency continues to lack a comprehensive quality control program over the DATA Act submissions, including source systems and data. This resulted in reporting untimely and inaccurate information to USASpending.gov. Further, the DATA Act submissions did not provide the Department of the Treasury, the public, and other stakeholders with an accurate understanding of how the Peace Corps spends money on Federal contracts and programs.

Management concurred with the three recommendations made, and all three remained open at the end of this reporting period.

Audit of the Peace Corps' Compliance with the CARES Act Supplemental Funding Requirements

IG-22-02-A

In November 2021, OIG issued the final report on the Audit of the Peace Corps' Compliance with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Supplemental Funding Requirements. The objective of this compliance audit was to assess the Peace Corps' internal controls over the budget, obligation, and disbursement of CARES Act funds including reimbursements for expenses incurred prior to the enactment of this Act on March 27, 2020.

The CARES Act allotted the Peace Corps \$88 million in supplemental funding to support the agency's response to the pandemic available through September 30, 2022. The agency's funding plan included funds for:

- evacuating Peace Corps Volunteers and U.S. direct hire staff (USDH) employees worldwide;
- providing support measures to Volunteers and USDHs after evacuation;
- providing supplies and services required to mitigate COVID-19 infection at Peace Corps headquarters and posts worldwide; and
- evaluating and returning to posts as is feasible.

Our review included assessing internal controls; budget reports and processes; payment of allowances to Volunteers and USDHs; travel expenses; and contract execution. We also verified that the agency reported expenditures and contracts, as required. We confirmed that the agency applied relevant provisions of the CARES Act, OMB Memo 20-21, *Implementing Guidance for Supplemental Funding Provided in Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019*, and other applicable guidance.

Based on our review, we concluded that the Peace Corps complied with the provisions of the CARES Act, OMB implementing guidance, and other relevant policies. The agency's internal controls were sufficient to provide oversight over spending and reporting requirements. We did not issue any recommendations with the report.

Audit of the Peace Corps' Financial Statements

FY 2021

In November 2021, OIG issued the final report on the Audit of the Peace Corps' Financial Statements for FY 2021. We contracted with Williams Adley, an independent certified public accounting firm, to audit the Peace Corps' financial statements as of September 30, 2021 and 2020. The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the OMB Bulletin No. 21-04, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*.

Williams Adley's report for FY 2021 includes: an opinion on the financial statements, conclusions on internal control over financial reporting, and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. In its audit of the Peace Corps, Williams Adley found that:

- The financial statements were fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAGAS principles.
- There were no material weaknesses in internal control.
- Two significant deficiencies related to internal control were disclosed by Williams Adley:
 - *Lack of effective information technology security*—Williams Adley cited a lack of a comprehensive risk management program.
 - *Inadequate internal controls over property, plant, and equipment*—Williams Adley cited gaps in the internal control framework in the areas of recording and tracking property, assigning the proper useful life of assets, and performing necessary reconciliations of property data.
- One instance of reportable noncompliance was found relating to applicable provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements which are required to be reported under GAGAS or OMB guidance. Williams Adley found that the Peace Corps did not fully comply with:
 - The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 by not fully implementing information security continuous monitoring and the agency's risk management program.

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 within the Peace Corps' FY 2021 Agency Financial Report.

Additionally, a separate letter describing internal controls weaknesses considered less severe than a significant deficiency was issued by Williams Adley and provided to Peace Corps management. Williams Adley noted two concerns regarding internal controls:

- Inadequate controls surrounding the processing of personnel actions, specifically with the processing of employee separations.
- Weaknesses identified with the financial system were not documented as a Plan of Action and Milestone within 30 days, as required by policy.

Management concurred with all 13 recommendations in these reports, and all remained open at the end of this reporting period. All recommendations issued in this report are part of a normal 12-month audit cycle. As a result, recommendations made during a given fiscal year will remain in an open status during the entire subsequent fiscal year.

Other Reviews

Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program

FY 2021

In October 2021, OIG issued the final report on the Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program for FY 2021. Since 2009, OIG reported in statements on management and performance challenges that the Peace Corps has not implemented an effective information security program or achieved full compliance with Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA).

We contracted with Williams Adley, an independent certified public accounting firm, to assess the agency's performance against a government-wide maturity model, and the FY 2021 results place the Peace Corps at Level 2, Defined; which is an improvement over prior years where the agency was only able to achieve Level 1, Ad-hoc. Since our last review, the Peace Corps has made progress in formalizing several core policies and procedures, such as an Information Security Continuous Monitoring strategy.

Despite documenting policies on paper, OIG remains concerned about the quality of the agency's information security program since the agency's actions demonstrate that the Peace Corps has not fully adopted a risk-based approach and incorporated information security into its business decision-making process. This is consistent with more than a decade of OIG reviews outlining concerns over the agency's management of information security, especially considering the sensitive data that the Peace Corps maintains, notably employee personnel records, Volunteer health records, and Volunteer sexual assault incident information.

The most significant finding from this year's review relates to the Peace Corps' ongoing disregard for the importance of the General Support System (GSS) assessment and authorization process. As a recurring issue from prior years, the Peace Corps' GSS – which serves as the backbone of the agency's information technology (IT) infrastructure – still operates without undergoing a full and comprehensive system security review to ensure that all proper controls are in place. This issue is illustrative of a larger systemic weakness in the Peace Corps' information security program, where even though policies and procedures are defined, the agency has not fully adopted the risk-based approach to improve its IT security posture. Specifically, the agency lacks (1) an understanding of their operating environment, (2) a comprehensive risk management strategy, and (3) an independent information security office.

This report made four recommendations to strengthen the information security program, such as elevating and expanding the chief information security officer role. Management concurred with three of the four recommendations, and all remained open at the end of this reporting period. All recommendations issued in this report are part of a normal 12-

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month audit cycle. As a result, recommendations made during a given fiscal year will remain in an open status during the entire subsequent fiscal year.

Evaluations Unit

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Evaluation Unit

Overview

The Evaluation Unit provides the agency with systematic and independent evaluations and reviews of agency programs, operations, or policies at overseas posts and domestic offices. Evaluations address efficiency and effectiveness, identify best practices, and recommend improvements. Evaluation Unit reports provide timely, credible information that is useful to managers, policymakers, and others. Evaluators also participate in cross-unit reviews with OIG auditors and investigators.

Evaluations and other reviews³ are conducted under the direction and guidance of the Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations. Evaluations are performed in accordance with the CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*.

Ongoing Work

The Evaluation Unit has continued work on several ongoing projects including the Evaluation of Human Resources Management for Overseas Contract Staff, the Review of the Medical Care of a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Africa Region, and reviews of reports of sexual assaults. Evaluators also performed preparatory survey work for other projects yet to be announced.

The Evaluation Unit launched the pilot of a new evaluation product: Post Re-entry Health and Safety Reviews. The objective of these reviews is to assess the re-entry process and overseas post-level compliance with agency policies and guidance related to Peace Corps Volunteer/trainee health and safety. The pilot review is the Post Re-Entry Health and Safety Review of Peace Corps/Ecuador. We anticipate completing our review and publishing our findings within the next reporting period.

³ Other reviews include MIRs/MARs, which are conducted in accordance with OIG Directive 2020-03 – Revision to Reporting Procedures for MIRs and MARs.

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Investigation Unit

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, Volunteers, trainees, contractors, grantees and other individuals conducting transactions with the Peace Corps. Allegations are made by Peace Corps stakeholders, such as Volunteers, staff, contractors, foreign counterparts, other Federal entities, and the general public. OIG receives these allegations through audits, evaluations, Hotline complaints, and other means. OIG investigators have full law enforcement authority, 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 Bureau of Diplomatic Security within the U.S. Department of State.

The Investigation Unit continues to implement the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 provisions regarding 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.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Peace Corps Volunteers were evacuated from posts to the U.S. in 2020, and most Peace Corps staff were placed on full-time telework prior to the beginning of this reporting period. As such, the Investigation Unit continued to experience a significant reduction in the number of complaints received during this reporting period.

Investigations of Criminal and Administrative Misconduct

Report of Contract Kickbacks in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia Region

OIG received a report that a Peace Corps employee had solicited contract bidders for kickbacks while awarding a contract for a new Peace Corps building. OIG conducted an investigation, which did not find any evidence to corroborate that the employee solicited a bribe, was offered a gratuity, or was provided a kickback at any time during the contracting process.

Report of Information Technology Misuse in the Africa Region

OIG received a report that a Peace Corps host country national (HCN) staff member was participating in a text messaging group using an application cleared for official use with several locally hired staff of a different U.S. government agency, wherein a range of inappropriate, and potentially illegal content was being shared. OIG reviewed the relevant messages and determined the Peace Corps staff member shared inappropriate content, in violation of agency policy, with the group. OIG interviewed the subject, who admitted to sharing inappropriate content with the group during work hours and knowing that several members of the group were using U.S. government issued cellular phones to participate in the group. The staff member resigned from the Peace Corps.

Fraudulent Activity in the Inter-America and the Pacific Region

OIG received a report that a HCN staff member was possibly engaging in fraudulent or criminal activity. OIG obtained information and documentation that indicated the subject wrongfully requisitioned unneeded equipment for personal use and attempted, unsuccessfully, to bill the Peace Corps for these items. OIG also obtained preliminary information and documentation suggesting this staff member may have defrauded the Peace Corps by falsifying information to obtain fuel for unofficial use using the Peace Corps fuel account. The U.S. Department of Justice declined U.S. prosecution. The Peace Corps terminated the employee.

Report of Mismanaged Healthcare in the Africa Region

OIG received a report from a RPCV regarding the agency's management and follow-up of healthcare issues. The RPCV reported receiving insufficient medical care that led to an in-country emergency surgery. The RPCV outlined a series of concerns about the quality of medical services in country, as well as the representations made by medical staff concerning the outcome of the surgery. An OIG investigation confirmed that care delivered to the RPCV did not adhere to Peace Corps' protocols for medical follow-up

and documentation. The investigation outlined a number of concerns with the management and treatment of the RPCV's medical condition. The results of the investigation were referred to agency management.

Sexual Misconduct Investigations

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

OIG received an allegation that a Peace Corps medical officer (PCMO) misrepresented details of a Volunteer's reported sexual assault, which led a country director (CD) to unreasonably deny the Volunteer's request for reinstatement. The Volunteer also alleged that the Peace Corps denied the Volunteer access to a gender-specific medical provider.

OIG initiated an investigation and found errors in the Volunteer's sexual assault examination form. However, the investigation determined the denial of reinstatement was not based on erroneous documentation. Available evidence revealed that the agency made the decision not to reinstate the Volunteer based on the Volunteer's documented violations of Peace Corps policy. The investigation confirmed the CD's role was consistent with agency policy in the decision to deny reinstatement.

The investigation also confirmed the Volunteer received the required sexual assault response services under the law and agency policy. The investigation found that the Volunteer was not able to choose a medical provider with the Volunteer's preferred gender due to resource constraints within the Federal Employee Compensation Act program, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Report of a Rape in the Inter-America and the Pacific Region

OIG received a report from a former Peace Corps trainee that the trainee was raped by multiple fellow trainees and a locally employed staff member. The OIG conducted an exhaustive investigation, deploying 19 special agents from two investigative agencies to two countries and nine U.S. states to investigate. The investigative fieldwork involved interviews of 31 individuals. The investigation did not find any evidence to corroborate that the trainee was raped by the reported trainees or the locally employed staff member. The results of the investigation were provided to agency management for informational purposes.

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1: List of Reports: Audits, Program Evaluations, and Other Reports

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| Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program FY 2021 | 19 |

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

| Report | Questioned Costs ⁴ | Unsupported Costs ⁵ | Funds to Be Put to Better Use ⁶ |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal | - | - | - |
| Total | | | \$- |

⁴ 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.

⁵ Unsupported Cost – A cost that is not supported by adequate documentation.

⁶ Funds to Be Put to Better Use – Funds that could be used more efficiently if management took actions to implement and complete a recommendation.

3: Status of Reports Issued by OIG with Questioned and Unsupported Costs

| Recommendation Status | Number of Reports | Questioned Costs | Unsupported Costs |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| No management decision made by the start of the reporting period | 6 | \$4,454,180 | \$649,300 |
| Issued during the reporting period | | | |
| Audits | - | - | - |
| Total | 6 | \$4,454,180 | \$649,300 |
| Management decision made during the reporting period | | | |
| (i) Disallowed costs ⁷ | 6 | \$4,366,348 | \$649,300 |
| (ii) Costs not disallowed ⁸ | - | - | - |
| Subtotal | 6 | \$4,366,348 | \$649,300 |
| Total for which no management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period | 1 | \$87,832 | - |

4: Status of Reports Issued by OIG with Funds to Be Put to Better Use

| Recommendation Status | Number of Reports | Funds to Be Put to Better Use |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| No management decision made by the start of the reporting period | 2 | \$354,199 |
| Issued during the reporting period | | |
| Audits | - | - |
| Total | 2 | \$354,199 |
| Management decision made during the reporting period | | |
| (i) Dollar value of recommendations agreed to by management | 1 | \$350,000 |
| (ii) Dollar value of recommendations not agreed to by management | - | - |
| Subtotal | 1 | \$350,000 |
| Total for which no management decision had been made by the end of the reporting period | 1 | \$4,199 |

⁷ “Disallowed costs” are costs that, upon review, management determined that they are not allowable.

⁸ “Costs not disallowed” are costs that, upon review, management determined that they are allowable.

5: 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 | 29 | 26 |
| Special Reports | 25 | 25 |
| Other | 17 | n/a ⁹ |

Audits and Evaluations

Evaluation of the 5-Year Rule (IG-12-05-E)

2 of 5 recommendations open since June 20, 2012

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the Director identify which functions should be subject to periodic turnover to meet the needs of the agency, and implement a process to manage turnover so that the agency retains qualified personnel on the basis of merit and performance.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Director identify the agency's core business functions and positions that currently suffer from frequent staff turnover and lack of continuity, and determine and implement a process for acquiring and retaining qualified personnel to perform those functions on the basis of merit and performance.

Audit of Peace Corps Overseas Staffing (IG-14-01-A)

2 of 13 recommendations open since November 21, 2013

Recommendation 10: OIG recommended that the Office of Human Resource Management provide biennial training and guidance to all post rating officials on their role in conducting performance appraisals and the level of detail needed to provide adequate feedback.

Recommendation 11: OIG recommended that the Office of Global Operations develop guidance and provide oversight of post senior staff performance appraisals to verify that each performance element is consistently addressed in the appraisal.

Evaluation of Overseas Staff Training (IG-14-07-E)

2 of 23 recommendations open since September 30, 2014

Recommendation 21: OIG recommended that the chief of staff develop and implement a process to conduct staff training needs assessments on an ongoing basis.

Recommendation 24: OIG recommended that the chief of staff conduct a comprehensive assessment of the applicability and relevance of federally mandated trainings to overseas staff and develop training requirements and training programs as necessary.

⁹ All recommendations issued in conjunction with the Audit of the Peace Corps' Financial Statements and Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program are part of a normal 12-month audit cycle. As a result, recommendations made during a given fiscal year will remain in an open status during the entire subsequent fiscal year.

Follow-Up Evaluation of Issues Identified in the 2010 Peace Corps/Morocco Assessment of Medical Care (IG-16-01-E)

3 of 23 recommendations open since March 23, 2016

Recommendation 7: OIG recommended that the associate director of the Office of Health Services ensure staffing is sufficient to adequately implement a more effective sentinel event reporting system and that staff involved in root cause analyses have not had direct involvement in the case.

Recommendation 8: OIG recommended that the associate director of the Office of Health Services perform all root cause analyses in a manner that includes key components (system focus, cause/effect, action plan and measures).

Recommendation 9: OIG recommended that the associate director of the Office of Health Services improve staff understanding of best practices for selecting sentinel events for review and for carrying out root cause analyses.

Evaluation of Peace Corps/Paraguay (IG-19-04-E)

1 of 16 recommendations open since July 16, 2019

Recommendation 10: OIG recommended that the country director and Peace Corps medical officers adhere to Technical Guideline 510, and clarify to medical staff and Volunteers the referral process for providing mental health counseling support to Volunteers.

Homestay Impact Evaluation (IG-19-05-E)

2 of 4 recommendations open since July 29, 2019

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the deputy director of the Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning collaborate with the Office of Safety and Security to develop a plan to assess the impact of homestay requirements on Volunteer safety using Interrupted Time Series analysis or a similarly robust approach.

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the deputy director of the Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning collaborate with the Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support to develop a plan to assess the impact of homestay requirements on Volunteer language proficiency using Interrupted Time Series analysis or a similarly robust approach.

Audit of the Peace Corps' Compliance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (IG-20-01-A)

2 of 4 recommendations open since November 7, 2019

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the chief financial officer develop and implement a data quality plan that aligns with the requirement of OMB memorandum 18-16 and outlines the risk and mitigating controls the agency has in place to demonstrate that the data submitted is of high quality.

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that the chief financial officer require all quality review steps, outlined in the data quality plan, be performed prior to the senior accountable officer certification of the quarterly submissions for the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014.

Evaluation of Peace Corps/Panama (IG-20-01-E)

2 of 14 recommendations open since March 6, 2020

Recommendation 6: OIG recommended that the country director and the safety and security manager conduct consolidation tests to improve Volunteer awareness of their consolidation point.

Recommendation 9: OIG recommended that the director of management and operations improve the administration of allowance surveys to raise the Volunteer response rate.

Evaluation of Peace Corps/Tanzania (IG-20-02-E)

1 of 22 recommendations open since March 31, 2020

Recommendation 11: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps safety and security officer conduct a full country risk assessment for the post.

Audit of Peace Corps/Thailand (IG-20-03-A)

1 of 13 recommendations open since July 2, 2020

Recommendation 5: OIG recommended that the country director and the director of management and operations work with the Royal Thai Government to create a new memorandum of understanding regarding host country contributions.

Audit of Peace Corps/Ghana (IG-20-04-A)

6 of 52 recommendations open since July 23, 2020

Recommendation 10: OIG recommended that the director of management and operations ensure that the training center sub-cashier's pass-through accounts is fully operational.

Recommendation 11: OIG recommended that the director of management and operations apply due diligence in collecting approximately \$3,379 USDE in overpaid living allowances.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$3,379

Recommendation 12: OIG recommended that the director of management and operations apply due diligence in returning approximately \$820 in over-collected living allowances and uncollected bank account balances to Volunteers.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$820

Recommendation 22: OIG recommended that the director of management and operations make an effort to obtain itemized records of all property auctions from FY 2018 and FY 2019 and take action to correct asset management system records accordingly.

Potential Cost Savings Identified: \$87,832

Recommendation 43: OIG recommended that the director of management and operations review all users of Peace Corps information technology systems and update their forms to ensure that they have proper access to these systems.

Recommendation 51: OIG recommended that the director of management and operations ensure that the obligations under this guard-service contract are properly closed.

Audit of Peace Corps/Ethiopia (IG-20-05-A)

2 of 13 recommendations open since August 19, 2020

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Office of the Chief Financial Officer issue guidance to manage withdrawals of funds from Volunteer bank accounts where the post does not have power of attorney over them.

Recommendation 7: OIG recommended that the country director and the director of management and operations work with the Offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the General Counsel to resolve the open grants and the amounts withheld from the prior grants coordinator.

Audit of Peace Corps' Compliance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (IG-22-01-A)

3 of 3 recommendations open since November 8, 2021

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the chief financial officer develop and implement a process to review and document justifications and/or corrections for all DATA Act Broker errors and warnings prior to quarterly certification.

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the chief financial officer develop and implement a process to validate the accuracy of DATA Act files after changes to the financial system have been implemented.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the chief financial officer update the process for submitting contract data to FPDS-NG. This process should include steps to ensure that all vendor information (such as address) is validated against the vendor data in Odyssey and that any pre-populated fields are accurate before the contracting action is finalized and reported in FPDS-NG.

Special Reports

Management Advisory Report: Site History Files (IG-16-02-SR)

2 of 3 recommendations open since August 24, 2016

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the associate director for Safety and Security, the associate director of Global Operations, and regional directors collaborate to strengthen oversight mechanisms to improve the completeness, organization, and use of site history files for site development and selection.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the associate director for Safety and Security, the associate director for Global Operations, regional directors, and the chief information officer collaborate as needed to provide systems for post for maintaining site history files.

Management Advisory Report: Volunteer Drug Use (IG-18-01-SR)

5 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.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps make necessary changes to policies, procedures, and forms related to Volunteer resignations and administrative separations, so that Volunteer files and early termination statistics include accurate information regarding unauthorized drug use.

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps take effective steps to ensure ongoing compliance and consistency in implementation of the Volunteer separation recordation processes.

Recommendation 5: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps gather and analyze continuous information on the prevalence of, and factors contributing to, unauthorized drug use in the context of Volunteer service, through the Annual Volunteer Survey or another data gathering tool.¹⁰

Management Advisory Report: Seed Global Health Services (IG-19-01-SR)

5 of 5 recommendations open since October 25, 2018

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps require the chief acquisition officer to implement procedures and practices that ensure proper segregation of duties to avoid potential conflicts and appearances of favoritism in the cooperative agreement award process.

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps establish comprehensive agency policy and procedures on cooperative agreements with non-governmental entities. At minimum, such policy should address the need for competition, circumstances where competition is not required, justifications for noncompetitive awards, and appropriate limitations on cooperative agreement extensions.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps require the Chief Acquisition Officer to implement a record management system for cooperative agreements, to include maintaining specific written documentation to justify all future non-competitive agreements in the agreement file that will assist other staff in substantiating decisions made by former staff.

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps require the Chief Acquisition Officer to submit to GSA's Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance complete and accurate information regarding all grants and cooperative agreements with the Peace Corps.

Recommendation 5: OIG recommended that the Director of the Peace Corps require the Chief Acquisition Officer to review relevant Peace Corps contracts, grants, and agreements to ascertain that each file contains the proper anti-lobbying certification, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and report to OIG the failure of any entity to submit required certifications.

Review of New Country Entry Guidance for Conflict-Affected Environments (IG-19-05-SR)

1 of 14 recommendations open since September 19, 2019

Recommendation 11: OIG recommended that the associate directors for the Offices of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection, Global Operations, and Peace Corps Response develop focused Volunteer recruitment protocols and pre-departure communications for conflict-affected environments which inform invitees about challenges of service.

Management Advisory Report: Peace Corps PEPFAR Financial Guidance (IG-20-01-SR)

1 of 6 recommendations open since March 31, 2020

Recommendation 6: OIG recommended that the Office of the Chief Financial Officer ensure that the PEPFAR value added tax that was incorrectly refunded to the general fund be transferred back to the PEPFAR account.

Management Advisory Report: Review of the Facts and Circumstances Surrounding the Death of a Peace Corps/Ghana Volunteer (IG-21-03-SR)

11 of 12 recommendations open since August 2, 2021

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that Peace Corps/Ghana complete their medical action plan so that it fully complies with agency policy, using the specified form for facility assessments.

¹⁰ The agency partially concurred with this recommendation.

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the country director and Peace Corps medical officer in Ghana submit a plan that will ensure local emergency transportation options are sufficiently researched and coordinated.

Recommendation 3: OIG recommended that the Director develop a plan to fully staff the assessment of local medical resources internally or contract the responsibility to an external entity.

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that the chief of staff work with the associate directors to ensure that drills to prepare for medical and life-threatening emergencies cover both local and international medical evacuations and that all potential responders (medical staff at headquarters and regional hubs, private medevac contractors, other federal agencies, Volunteers, etc.) are included.

Recommendation 5: OIG recommended that the associate director for the Office of Health Services collaborate with the associate director for the Office of Global Operations to develop guidance and training for non-clinical staff to address medical emergency preparedness when conducting site visits, including, but not limited to, providing community contacts with the Peace Corps' contact information and visiting local medical facilities, and integrate this guidance into existing site visit guidance.

Recommendation 7: OIG recommended that the Office of Health Services develop and implement a process for managing its recommendations that includes a review of evidence and documentation prior to deciding to close recommendations.

Recommendation 8: OIG recommended that the Director develop a comprehensive plan to improve institutional memory in the Office of Health Services, including, but not limited to, identifying critical positions and exempting them from term limits.

Recommendation 9: OIG recommended that the Director ensure that international emergency transportation options, including Department of Defense and Department of State, are researched, documented, and incorporated into Peace Corps policies and procedures.

Recommendation 10: OIG recommended that the associate director for the Office of Health Services incorporate a mechanism and procedures into TG 370 to obtain teleconsults so that the Office of Health Services accesses medical experts during field consults.

Recommendation 11: OIG recommended that the Director develop agency-wide policy and procedures that define staff roles and responsibilities to respond to life-threatening medical emergencies.

Recommendation 12: OIG recommended that the associate director of the Office of Health Services include provisions for a Root Cause Analysis charter in TG 167.

Other

Financial Statement Audit Recommendations

| <u>Summary of Internal Control Issues Over the Peace Corps' Financial Reporting</u> | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Issue | Year First Identified | Agency Concurrence with Issue | Open Recommendations |
| Information Technology Security | 2013 | Concur | 5 |
| Inadequate Internal Controls over Property, Plant, and Equipment | 2019 | Concur | 4 |
| Inadequate Controls Surrounding Processing of Personnel Actions | 2020 | Concur | 3 |
| Plan of Action and Milestones Deficiencies | 2020 | Concur | 1 |
| Total Open Recommendations | | | 13 |

Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) Review Recommendations

Review of the Peace Corps' Information Security Program (FY 2021)

4 of 4 recommendations open since October 29, 2021

Recommendation 1: OIG recommended that the Director move the chief information security officer position and staff to a new office that is independent from the chief information officer. These two separate offices should both report to the same senior executive.¹¹

Recommendation 2: OIG recommended that the Chief Information Officer perform a full security assessment of the General Support System to obtain a complete understanding of system weaknesses.

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.

Recommendation 4: OIG recommended that the Peace Corps consistently improve and implement its inventory management process to ensure information system, hardware, and software inventories are accurate, complete, and up-to-date.

¹¹ The agency did not concur with this recommendation.

6: Summary of Hotline and Other Complaints

Complaints Received

| Complaints | Total |
|---|--------------|
| Complaints Received via Hotline | 58 |
| Complaints Received via Other Sources ¹² | 6 |
| Total Complaints (All Sources) | 64 |

Overview of Complaint Activity¹³

| Complaint Activity | Total |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Resulted in Investigations | 4 |
| Resulted in Preliminary Inquiries | 7 |
| Resulted in Audits or Evaluations | 0 |
| Referred to Agency Management | 17 |
| Referred to Other Agency | 0 |
| No Action Needed | 9 |

¹² These complaints are largely a result of outreach by OIG staff and were received by email, phone calls, and conversations.

¹³ 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.

7: Summary of Investigative Activities and Outcomes

| Investigative Activities | Preliminary Inquiries¹⁴ | Cases |
|--|---|--------------|
| Open at the beginning of the reporting period | 8 | 7 |
| Opened during the reporting period | 7 | 5 |
| Closed during the reporting period | 6 | 3 |
| Total open at the end of the reporting period | 9 | 9 |

| Reports | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Investigative reports issued | 4 |

| Referrals | Total |
|---|--------------|
| Persons referred for criminal prosecution (Department of Justice) | - |
| Persons referred for criminal prosecution (state and local authorities) ¹⁵ | - |
| Cases referred to the Department of Justice | - |
| Cases referred to agency management for administrative action | 1 |
| Cases referred to agency management for other information/ action | 3 |
| Referrals to other agencies | - |

| Court Actions | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Criminal information and indictments | - |
| Trial(s) pending | - |
| Ongoing prosecution ¹⁶ | - |
| Convictions | - |
| Judgments | - |
| Fines/assessments/fees | - |

| Administrative Actions | Total |
|--|--------------|
| Employee ¹⁷ resignations and terminations | 2 |
| Other employee actions ¹⁸ | - |
| Suspension/debarment referrals | - |

| Monetary Results | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Annual savings | - |
| Recoveries/restitution ¹⁹ | - |
| Cost avoidance | - |

¹⁴ 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 to the verification of information in a complaint or allegation and to confirm that it falls within the jurisdiction of OIG.

¹⁵ Includes foreign courts.

¹⁶ Includes overseas criminal proceedings.

¹⁷ Volunteers/trainees are included as Peace Corps staff for the purpose of reporting investigative activity.

¹⁸ Includes administrative actions that are less than resignation or termination, for example: letters of reprimand, counseling, and retraining.

¹⁹ Includes potential recoveries.

8: References to Reporting Requirements of the Inspector General Act, as Amended

| Section Reference | Reporting Requirements | Section | Page |
|-------------------|---|---|------------------|
| § 4(a)(2) | Review of legislation and regulations | Advice and Assistance | 8 |
| § 5(a)(1) | Significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies | Advice and Assistance, Audits, and Evaluations | 8, 14, 22 |
| § 5(a)(2) | Significant recommendations for corrective actions | Advice and Assistance, Audits, Evaluations, and Table 5 | 8, 14, 22, 32-38 |
| § 5(a)(3) | Prior significant recommendations on which corrective action has not been completed | Table 5 | 32-38 |
| § 5(a)(4) | Matters referred to prosecuting authorities | Investigations and Table 7 | 24, 40 |
| § 5(a)(5) | Summary of instances where information was refused | N/A | - |
| § 5(a)(6) | 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 | Audits, Evaluations, and Tables 1-4 | 14, 22, 30-31 |
| § 5(a)(7) | Summary of significant reports | Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations | 14, 22, 24 |
| § 5(a)(8) | Statistical table - questioned and unsupported costs | Tables 2 and 3 | 30, 31 |
| § 5(a)(9) | Statistical table - funds to be put to better use | Tables 2 and 4 | 30, 31 |
| § 5(a)(10) | Summary of previous reports with open recommendations | Table 5 | 32-38 |
| § 5(a)(11) | Significant revised management decisions | N/A | - |
| § 5(a)(12) | Significant management decisions with which the Inspector General disagrees | N/A | - |
| § 5(a)(13) | Information under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 | N/A | - |
| § 5(a)(14)-(16) | The results of the last peer review conducted by another OIG | Appendix A: Reporting of Peer Reviews | 44 |
| § 5(a)(17)-(18) | Statistical table - investigative reports issued; persons referred for criminal prosecution; indictments and criminal information | Table 7 | 40 |
| § 5(a)(19) | Investigations involving a senior government employee where allegations of misconduct were substantiated | N/A | - |
| § 5(a)(20) | Instances of whistleblower retaliation | N/A | - |
| § 5(a)(21) | Interference with Independence | N/A | - |
| | Detailed descriptions of the particular circumstances of each- | | |
| § 5(a)(22) | (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 | - |

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Appendices

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Appendices

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),²⁰ OIG reports the following peer review information:

Audit Unit

In December 2021, Peace Corps OIG's Audit Unit announced its peer review of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) OIG. Our review of the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2021, was completed in March 2022. NCUA OIG has received an External Peer Review rating of "pass." We provided our results to the NCUA OIG in March 2022, along with a Letter of Comment.

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 2020, when the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) OIG issued its System Review Report of the Peace Corps OIG Audit Unit for the period ending September 30, 2019. 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 NLRB did not provide any recommendations in the System Review Report.

Evaluation Unit

No peer review of the Peace Corps OIG's Evaluation Unit was conducted within this reporting period. The date of the last peer review conducted by another OIG was in July 2020 when the Corporation for Public Broadcasting OIG, with assistance from the Securities and Exchange Commission OIG, issued a final report after completing an external peer review of Peace Corps OIG's Evaluation Unit for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. The review assessed compliance with seven standards from CIGIE's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation (Blue Book)* and determined that Evaluation Unit policies and procedures generally met the standards and the two reviewed reports generally met the standards and complied with Evaluation Unit policies and procedures.

²⁰ 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

No peer review of the Peace Corps OIG's Investigation Unit was conducted within this reporting period. The date of the last peer review conducted by another OIG was in April 2019 when 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 of the examined areas to be compliant with CIGIE's *Quality Standards for Investigations* and *Qualitative Assessment Review Guidelines for Investigative Operations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*, 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.

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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 contact 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
Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters
1275 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20526

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