



*Office of Inspector General*

October 2, 2017

The Honorable Steve A. Linick  
Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520-0308

Dear Mr. Linick:

Thank you for your correspondence on June 28, 2017, which included a Report on the Quality Assessment Review and a Letter of Observations on the investigative operations of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Per the Report on the Quality Assessment Review, evaluation of USAID OIG's system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative operations - in effect for the period ending May 12, 2017 - was in full compliance with the quality standards established by the Council of the Inspector General on Integrity and Efficiency, as well as the Attorney General's Guidelines for Offices of Inspector General with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority. These safeguards and procedures provide reasonable and effective assurance of conforming to professional standards in the planning, execution, and reporting of our investigations.

We were pleased to see that your correspondence entitled, "Letter of Observations," included positive recognition of several areas of our operations. Specifically, your team noted the high-quality of our evidence program and our exceptional proactive fraud awareness briefing program, which strengthens the impact of our multi-national outreach and relationship-building efforts. The review team also made special note of our recently developed and implemented case prioritization matrices that optimize our investigative efforts by identifying the most significant allegations with the greatest potential to cause financial or reputational harm to USAID and USAID-funded programs.

The letter also identified two opportunities for improvement. While our investigative practices are in accordance with the Attorney General's Guidelines, the USAID OIG Criminal Investigator Manual was not as clear and succinct as it could have been in communicating that matters involving violations of Federal law by foreign nationals must be referred to the Attorney General. Also, the Criminal Investigator Manual did not include detailed procedures around the use of certain specialized investigative techniques. Given your team's recommendation and note for consideration in these areas, we updated our Criminal Investigator Manual and have strengthened our internal processes to address both issues.

I would like to thank you and your team for the expertise and professionalism of your review efforts. Your team carried out the review in a way that allowed us to continue our day-to-day operations without disruption and evaluated our operations with the intent to improve or increase our efficiency or effectiveness with great appreciation.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Daniel Altman, at (202) 712-0075.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ann Calvaresi Barr  
Inspector General