



*Office of Inspector General*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **USAID Inspector General's Office Recognized for Syria Humanitarian Aid Oversight, Ebola Lessons Learned Report**

*Investigative and Audit Staff Receive Awards at Inspector General Community's Annual Ceremony*

Washington, D.C.—The U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General, or OIG, was recognized for the impact of its investigative and audit work at the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's 21st annual awards ceremony. OIG received awards in four categories based on its oversight of humanitarian aid programs in Syria, investigations into material support to terrorism, and its report on lessons learned from the 2014 Ebola crisis.

The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or CIGIE, holds the ceremony each year to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the inspector general workforce. CIGIE is a council of Inspectors General within the executive branch that aims to improve the effectiveness and maintain the integrity of the IG community, promote best practices among OIGs, and address issues that impact agencies across the U.S. Government.

USAID OIG earned two Special Category Awards:

Special Agent Rebecca Giacalone received the Alexander Hamilton Award for superior levels of performance, extreme courage, and investigative determination in a war-torn region. This award is the highest recognition awarded by CIGIE, presented to an individual or group that demonstrates outstanding achievements in improving the integrity, efficiency, or effectiveness of agency operations.

OIG's Syria Investigations Team was awarded the Sentner Award for Dedication and Courage in recognition of exceptional and sustained courage and investigative determination in overseeing foreign assistance in a war-torn region. The impact of this work is significant. USAID OIG's investigations into fraud and diversions in U.S.-funded aid programs in Syria have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in funds suspended; over 50 suspensions and debarments of companies or individuals; and a series of recommendations for program improvements.

USAID OIG also received two awards for excellence for both investigative and audit work:

Special Agent Eric Del Valle received the Investigation Award for Excellence for courage, determination, and excellence in procurement fraud investigations that cut off the diversion of U.S. funds to terrorist organizations.

OIG's Public Health Preparedness Audit Team received the Audit Award for Excellence for its outstanding work on lessons learned from USAID's response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Findings from the team's report, [\*Lessons from USAID's Ebola Response Highlight the Need for a Public Health Emergency Policy Framework\*](#), produced 14 recommendations that led to USAID enhancing its policies, procedures, and guidelines for launching a systematic, streamlined response to global health crises.

USAID Inspector General Ann Calvaresi Barr said, "I am extremely pleased to congratulate our award recipients, whose work reflects our mission to safeguard U.S. foreign assistance from fraud, waste, and abuse. The recognition of both our audit and investigative work reflects our organizational efforts to provide more cross-cutting, timely, and impactful oversight."

USAID OIG conducts independent investigations and audits to make U.S. foreign assistance programs more efficient, effective, and accountable. As part of its mandate, OIG investigates allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse; operates complaint hotlines; and audits foreign assistance programs. More information about USAID OIG, its mission, and its work is available at <https://oig.usaid.gov/>.

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