

OIG Office of Investigations and COVID-19 Fraud Reporting

OIG's investigative work focuses on programs that face high risks from fraud and other abuse while also promoting integrity among organizations delivering U.S. foreign assistance. We educate USAID staff and implementers on fraud prevention and reporting. This document outlines guidance for reporting potential fraud in COVID-19 programs and supplements information in our [Fraud Awareness Handbook](#).

USAID COVID-19 Response

On April 3, 2020, USAID issued a global disaster declaration that at the time approved the movement of up to \$1.33 billion in U.S. Government funds, which will facilitate emergency responses to COVID-19 in more than 64 developing countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. With additional funding from various Agency accounts and the State Department, the total investment in USAID's COVID-19 activities approaches \$2 billion. Program activities may include some or all of the following:

- Promoting risk-communications and engagement with communities
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support
- Preventing and controlling infections (IPC) in health facilities, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Improving health systems components and management of COVID-19 cases
- Strengthening laboratory diagnostics via supply of equipment and testing materials
- Capacity building and training to support surveillance, rapid response, and emergency operations
- Planning for the availability and delivery of future vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments



Handover of donations of PPE in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Photo by Olivier Le Blanc/USAID .

COVID-19 RELATED FRAUD AWARENESS AND REPORTING

OIG will provide oversight for all USAID implementers carrying out COVID-19 prevention and mitigation activities, with a focus on monitoring commodity diversion and program and procurement fraud. Implementers should report any incidences of the following to USAID OIG:

- USAID-branded COVID-19 commodities appearing for sale in open markets or anywhere else outside of response activities
- Conflicts of interest between project staff and local vendors
- Procurement steering or bid-rigging by primary project staff and/or sub-implementers
- Incomplete project activities that have been falsely invoiced by implementers
- Invoicing that includes costs that are far beyond local market rates
- Program fraud that includes inflation of service records or beneficiaries
- Product substitution or sub-quality commodities that have been procured for the response
- Diversion or theft of commodities by local armed groups or terrorist organizations
- Any incidents of sexual exploitation or abuse; especially between project staff and beneficiaries
- Any issues with potential fraud with third-party monitoring entities in regions with remote access
- Fraud occurring within food distribution or cash-based assistance programs
- Fraud occurring during the recruitment and hiring process for project staff

CONTACT USAID OIG

To report suspected fraud, waste, and abuse, go to <https://oig.usaid.gov/report-fraud> to submit a form or email ighotline@usaid.gov.