



USAID Office of Inspector General

Readout from the Inspector General's Visit to Israel

February 3, 2025

The week of January 20th, Paul Martin, Inspector General (IG) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), led an Office of Inspector General (USAID OIG) delegation to Israel. The purpose of the trip was to further USAID OIG's independent oversight of USAID-funded humanitarian assistance to Gaza. Since the Israel-Hamas war began on October 7, 2023, following Hamas' terrorist attacks in Israel, the United States has provided over \$1.2 billion in humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people with at least \$641 million of this aid programmed by USAID.

The USAID OIG delegation held meetings with several Israeli government officials, including Ambassador Amir Weissbrod, Deputy Director General for United Nations (UN) and International Organizations; Ambassador Eynat Shlein, head of MASHAV, Israel's International Cooperation Agency in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and representatives from the Israel Defense Forces and Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT). The parties discussed Israel's role in facilitating the transport of aid into and within Gaza and associated security challenges in transferring aid in a region currently controlled by Hamas. The USAID OIG delegation also attended a meeting of the Joint Coordination Board, comprised of COGAT, UN agencies, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, and the U.S. Army. The Joint Coordination Board is responsible for coordinating delivery of aid within Gaza.

USAID OIG has previously identified Gaza as "high risk for potential diversion and misuse of U.S.-funded assistance," noting that it is an "investigative priority to ensure that assistance does not fall into the hands of foreign terrorist organizations...including, but not limited to, Hamas." USAID OIG has several ongoing audits related to Gaza, and in August 2024 issued an [evaluation](#) of humanitarian assistance provided through the Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore maritime route, often referred to as the Gaza pier.

In addition to the meetings with Israeli government officials, the USAID OIG delegation met with Stephanie Hallet, Charge d'Affaires ad interim at the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, and officials from USAID's Mission for West Bank/Gaza. The delegation also hosted a forum of USAID-funded UN agencies and international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) to discuss USAID OIG's oversight role and the INGOs' responsibility to promptly report allegations of waste or misuse of USAID funds.

"USAID OIG is committed to providing timely, independent oversight of the hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer-funded aid to Gaza," IG Martin said. "USAID funds intended for those in need must not be diverted to Hamas nor should USAID inadvertently fund the salaries of Hamas members moonlighting as aid workers. We appreciated the opportunity to hear first-hand from Israeli officials and USAID-funded implementers responsible for the delivery of aid into this active conflict zone."

For more on USAID OIG's Gaza oversight work, please visit our [Gaza page](#).