



Farm Credit Administration
Office of Inspector General

External Peer Review Report

March 4, 2025

To: Marc Meyer
Acting Inspector General
United States Agency for International Development
Office of Inspector General

We reviewed the system of quality control for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Inspector General (OIG) in effect for the year ended September 30, 2024. A system of quality control includes multiple aspects of an organization, including, but not limited to, policies and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance of complying with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE's) *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, December 2020 (Blue Book).

In our opinion, the system of quality control for USAID OIG in effect for the year ended September 30, 2024, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) OIG with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the Blue Book.

Inspection and Evaluation (I&E) organizations can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiencies, or fail. The USAID OIG has received an External Peer Review rating of **pass**.

Letter of Comment

We have issued a letter dated March 4, 2025, that sets forth a finding that was not considered to be of sufficient significance to affect our opinion expressed in this report.

Basis of Opinion

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with CIGIE's *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* (July 2023) and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Offices of the Inspectors General of USAID and FCA, entered on September 6, 2024.

During our review, we interviewed USAID OIG's personnel and obtained an understanding of the nature of USAID OIG's I&E function and the design of USAID OIG's system of quality control sufficient to assess the risks implicit in its I&E function. Based on our assessments, we selected I&E reports and administrative files to test for conformity with Blue Book standards and compliance with USAID OIG's system of quality control.

In performing our review, we obtained an understanding of the system of quality control for USAID OIG's I&E function. In addition, we tested compliance with USAID OIG's quality control policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests covered the application of USAID OIG's policies and procedures on selected I&E reports. Our review was based on selected tests; therefore, it would not necessarily detect all weaknesses in the system of quality control or all instances of noncompliance with it.

Prior to concluding the peer review, we reassessed the adequacy of the scope of the peer review procedures and met with USAID OIG management to discuss the results of our review. We believe that the procedures we performed provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Enclosure 1 to this report identifies USAID OIG's offices that we visited and the I&E reports we reviewed.

USAID OIG's management officials provided a response to our Peer Review Report (Enclosure 2) in which they agreed with our overall rating.

Responsibilities and Limitations

USAID OIG is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of quality control designed to provide USAID OIG with reasonable assurance that the organization and its personnel comply in all material respects with Blue Book standards. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and USAID OIG's compliance based on our review.

There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of quality control; therefore, noncompliance with the system of quality control may occur and may not be detected. Projection of any evaluation of a system of quality control to future periods is subject to the risk that the system of quality control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or because the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

We appreciate the courtesies given to our peer review team for the review and the professionalism of the USAID OIG staff.

Respectfully,

Nicholas J. Novak
Acting Inspector General
Farm Credit Administration
Office of Inspector General

Enclosures

Scope and Methodology

We tested compliance with USAID OIG’s system of quality control for I&Es in effect for the year ended September 30, 2024, to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests included a judgmental sampling of three of the seven I&E reports issued by USAID OIG between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, based on the date issued and subject matter. We also reviewed the internal quality control reviews performed by USAID OIG.

In addition, we reviewed USAID OIG’s monitoring of I&E performed by contractors during the 1-year period that ended on September 30, 2024. During the period, USAID OIG issued four reports conducted by contractors. We judgmentally sampled one of those reports based on the date issued and subject matter.

The peer review included a site visit to USAID OIG’s office located in Washington, D.C., in December 2024.

We reviewed the following I&E reports conducted by USAID OIG:

Report No.	Report Date	Report Title
E-121-24-003-M	September 19, 2024	Ukraine Response: Assessment of USAID’s Response to Staffing Challenges and Increased Programming Following Russia’s Full-Scale Invasion
9-199-24-001-M	September 5, 2024	Direct Budget Support: Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024, Mandated Assessment
E-306-24-001-M	March 18, 2024	Withdrawal From Afghanistan: USAID Faced Challenges Assisting in the Evacuation and Relocation of Implementer Staff

We reviewed the monitoring file of the following contracted I&E report:

Report No.	Report Date	Report Title
0-000-24-006-C	May 28, 2024	USAID Complied With the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 for Fiscal Year 2023

USAID OIG Response to the Report



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 28, 2025

TO: Nicholas J. Novak
Acting Inspector General
Farm Credit Administration

FROM: Marc Meyer
Acting Inspector General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Marc Meyer", written over a horizontal line.

SUBJECT: Response to the Inspections and Evaluations External Peer Review Draft Report

We would like to thank the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) OIG for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Peer Review report. We appreciate the Review Team's independent assessment of our office's compliance with the December 2020 CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book) and review of our internal policies and procedures.

While the draft Peer Review report did not identify deficiencies, we have taken the recommendations provided in the draft letter of comment into consideration and clarified our internal policies and procedures to enhance our performance of Blue Book work.

We have no comments on the draft Peer Review report and wish to express our appreciation of the FCA OIG's time, dedication, and professionalism in conducting this peer review.

USAID Office of Inspector General
Washington, DC
oig.usaid.gov