

## USAID OIG's Active and Ongoing Investigations Involving Misuse of American Taxpayer Dollars

September 2025

### **300** Ongoing Investigative Matters

**149** Active Investigations

23 Preliminary Inquiries into Allegations of Fraud, Corruption, and Diversion to Terrorist
Organizations

128 Open Complaints/Allegations Currently Under Assessment

USAID OIG's investigative work to protect hard-earned American taxpayer dollars remains active and ongoing. Our seasoned Criminal Investigators, digital forensics specialists, and investigative analysts across the globe are working to combat the misuse of U.S. taxpayer dollars spent overseas through fraud, corruption, and diversion to foreign terrorist organizations. Our number of open complaints/allegations increases by the day, due to our active <a href="Hotline">Hotline</a> which continues to receive allegations related to misuse of taxpayer dollars by NGOs, contractors, UN agencies, and government personnel.

Of our active investigations, **35** have been accepted for criminal prosecution by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and **16** have been accepted by DOJ as civil fraud matters.

### Recent Investigations into Diversion of Aid to Hamas and other Terrorist Entities

USAID OIG has received and is actively investigating <u>credible allegations</u> of Hamas interference, diversion, and theft of humanitarian aid in Gaza, as well as allegations of smuggling contraband into Gaza through humanitarian aid shipments. Our investigation into UNRWA staff affiliated with Hamas and/or perpetrators of the October 7 terrorist attacks in Israel remains ongoing. This work will ensure that perpetrators of terrorist attacks or members of terrorist organizations do not circulate across other U.S.-funded aid programs in Gaza.

Recent Closed Investigations into Fraud and Corruption in Foreign Assistance Programs

USAID Official and Three Corporate Executives Plead Guilty to Decade-Long Bribery Scheme Involving Over \$550 Million in Contracts; Two Companies Admit Criminal Liability for Bribery Scheme and Securities Fraud

Following a USAID OIG investigation, four men, including a government contracting officer for USAID and three owners and presidents of companies, pleaded guilty for their roles in a decade-long bribery scheme involving at least 14 prime contracts worth over \$550 million in U.S. taxpayer dollars. Link. Based on our investigative referral, all four of those individuals are now debarred.

### Director on USAID Funded PEPFAR Project Pleads Guilty to Nine-Year Fraud Scheme

In partnership with the DOJ, USAID OIG held accountable a USAID-funded project director who attempted to defraud PEPFAR programming for illicit personal gain. Ruth Chisina Mufute, a Zimbabwean citizen, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States for enriching herself and others by obtaining housing allowances under false and misleading pretenses, including by submitting fraudulent documents and electronic communications. Link.

### Former Contractor of USAID-Funded Program Extradited to the United States, Convicted and Sentenced for Conspiracy to Obtain Grant Money Through Fraud

A USAID OIG investigation revealed that a Logistics Operations Manager for a firm that implemented a USAID power distribution program in Pakistan took kickbacks of USAID-funds used to pay for the services rendered. After fighting extradition for more than two years, the former contractor was extradited to the United States where he pleaded guilty. Link.

# USAID Personal Services Contractor Gave his US Embassy Issued Identification Card to Two Local Women and Used his Government Issued Mobile Phone to Arrange Sexual Encounters with Several Women

As a result of our investigation, USAID terminated the individual and removed him from Post. The contract termination led to cost savings of approximately \$317,374. <u>Link</u>.

### **Recent Suspensions and Debarments**

USAID OIG's investigative work does not stop at criminal convictions—we routinely work with government agencies to prevent those who misuse taxpayer dollars or abuse their authority from recirculating to other U.S.-funded organizations via suspensions and debarments.

Former OIG Employee Debarred for 3 Years After Pleading Guilty to Wire Fraud in a COVID Relief Fraud Scheme



A former OIG official who made false and fraudulent representations on applications to obtain federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, has led to a United States government-wide 3-year debarment. In May 2025, Jamil Mohammed pleaded guilty to wire fraud based on a USAID OIG investigation which found Mohammed falsely represented his company's formation date for the PPP loan program, inflated gross income to qualify for a larger loan, and did not use the loan funds for eligible expenses under the program.

### Former USAID Subcontractor Employee Debarred Following Sentencing for Theft and Resale of Hundreds of Government-Issued Phones, Tablets, and Computers

Our investigation revealed that from July 2022 to August 2023, hundreds of phones and computers had been removed from a USAID-contracted destruction process and resold for personal gain. The former employee pleaded guilty and was convicted in February 2025. As a result of USAID OIG's referral, the employee has been debarred from receiving future government funds. <u>Link</u>.

### USAID OIG Investigation Leads to Debarment of USAID Subawardee CEO Following Conviction in a COVID Relief Fraud Scheme

A USAID OIG investigation revealed false and fraudulent representations on applications to obtain federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and led to the debarment of the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a USAID subawardee. Link.

### Former USAID Subawardee Employee Debarred for 5 Years for Embezzling U.S. Global Health Funds and Falsifying Documents

USAID OIG's investigation into an allegation that a former employee of a USAID subawardee performing a tuberculosis prevention global health program falsified documents and embezzled project funds found that the individual created fraudulent bank statements, contacts, invoices, and tax documents. Investigators also determined that from April 2020 through May 2022, the individual made 359 unauthorized wire transfers, totaling more than \$230,000, from USAID-funded bank accounts to benefit themselves and others. OIG referred this matter to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, which declined to pursue a criminal prosecution. However, based on our investigation, the former subawardee employee was debarred. Link.



### Ongoing Investigations into Fraud and Corruption in Foreign Assistance Programs

### **Operation African Star**

We continue to play a key role in Operation African Star, collaborating with international organizations, African law enforcement, CBP, and foreign partners to detect and disrupt the diversion of U.S.-funded pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. These efforts have generated joint investigations, enforcement actions, and new leads. We are focused on protecting donated supply chains to ensure supplies reach intended populations rather than fueling illicit markets.

#### **Ukraine Aid Fraud**

We are investigating allegations of fraud and misrepresentation by a USAID awardee in Ukraine, as well as two fraud schemes within the Direct Budget Support (DBS) program. OIG received allegations that an awardee had knowledge of the fraud and made several internal changes as a result but failed in their reporting obligations. Under the DBS program, the first fraud scheme involves allegations of false disability certifications and subsequent improper disability pension payments, and the second scheme involves the alleged creation of ghost employees and the use of those ghost employees to claim fraudulent reimbursements from DBS.

### **Operation Polaris**

OIG initiated a proactive investigation on USAID's use of business class and first-class air travel based on allegations that senior USAID personnel in prior years leveraged medical documentation to qualify for potentially questionable reasonable accommodation waivers.

#### **PEPFAR Fraud**

We are actively investigating allegations of wide-scale fraud involving the volunteer medical male circumcision program funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The investigation has, so far, led to the termination of a \$105 million contract and one mission employee. Approximately \$52 million remained unspent due to the contract termination.

### **Ethiopia Food Aid Diversion**

Our investigation in Ethiopia has uncovered the diversion of USAID-funded food commodities, routed for sale by elements of the Ethiopian National Defense and Tigray forces. OIG fieldwork revealed World Food Programme knowledge of nonexistent food distribution points. Work continues to hold all perpetrators accountable.



### Bid Collusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina

We are investigating a reported appearance of bid collusion by a USAID awardee in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a USAID subaward to design a vaccine-tracking software program.

For more on USAID OIG's active and ongoing investigative work, visit https://oig.usaid.gov/our-work/investigations. Please contact OIGLegAffairs@oig.usaid.gov for inquiries.