



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

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USAID OIG's Gaza-Related Oversight Work

The USAID Office of Inspector General is an active law enforcement agency, statutorily independent from USAID and the other agencies we oversee. **We do not set policy or award funds, but our independent oversight work is designed to inform those who do.** Oversight of aid to Gaza has been top priority since the influx of humanitarian assistance following Hamas' October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks in Israel. We continue to brief senior administration officials and Congress on our oversight work and observations for ensuring that aid to civilians in Gaza is not diverted or corrupted.

We have consistently cautioned Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and UN agencies of the risk of aid being diverted to Hamas and other U.S.-designated terrorist organizations. This includes investigations of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) officials associated with Hamas who participated in the October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks in Israel, including in the murder of Israeli and American citizens. This investigative work, through Operation Stop the Carousel, continues and is designed to prevent the circulation of Hamas members within taxpayer-funded aid programs. **In addition, we have received and are investigating credible allegations 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 investigations into these matters will work to ensure that continued humanitarian assistance into Gaza reaches its intended recipients.

When it comes to advancing our investigations, particularly involving UN agencies, we do not take "no" for an answer. After the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Service (OIOS) refused to share an unredacted copy of its investigation with us, we sought and obtained the information we needed for our UNRWA investigation through other sources, methods, and diplomatic channels. In addition to our investigative work, we have reported on inefficiencies, delays, and constraints in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including in the Joint Logistics Over the Shore (JLOTS) program, otherwise known as the Gaza pier. Our ongoing audits of programming in Gaza are designed to inform policymakers on potential waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in these programs.

USAID OIG will continue to investigate allegations of diversion, fraud, product substitution, smuggling, and other misconduct compromising humanitarian assistance intended for civilians in Gaza.

Gaza-Oversight Products

- **November 2023:** USAID OIG alert to NGOs, UN agencies, and contractors noting that it is USAID OIG's investigative priority to prevent the diversion of humanitarian assistance to Hamas and reminding aid agencies of fraud schemes to look out for, as well as avenues to report misuse of funding.
- **May 2024:** USAID OIG alert to NGOs, UN agencies, and contractors identifying their responsibility to report instances of illicit funding to UNRWA.
- **July 2024:** USAID OIG report identifying shortcomings and vulnerabilities in USAID oversight mechanisms to prevent aid diversion, including vetting of aid organization staff, lack of self-reporting by UN agencies, and contractual clauses that prevented USAID from obtaining information regarding prospective contractors' past relationships with terrorist organizations.
- **April 2025:** USAID OIG's UNRWA investigation and referral to the Department of State Suspension/Debarment Officer (ongoing).

Completed and Ongoing Work

Complete

USAID's Gaza Response: External Factors Impaired Distribution of Humanitarian Assistance Through the JLOTS Maritime Corridor

- We found that external factors impaired USAID's efforts to distribute humanitarian assistance to Gaza through the JLOTS maritime corridor. Due to structural damage caused by rough weather and high seas, the pier operated for only 20 days and was decommissioned on July 17, 2024. In addition, security and access challenges plagued aid distributions once on shore. As a result, USAID fell short of its goal of supplying aid to more than 500,000 Gazans each month for 3 months and, instead, delivered enough aid to feed 450,000 Gazans for 1 month.

Ongoing

Audit of Partner Vetting in West Bank and Gaza

- We initiated this audit following congressional and other stakeholder concerns about the Agency's ability to vet, screen, and prevent terrorist organizations or individuals engaged in terrorist activity from working for USAID-funded implementing partners or receiving other forms of USAID-funded assistance.

Inspection of the Health Supply Chain for USAID's Gaza Response

- We are looking at whether USAID (1) ensured pre-award requirements related to the supply chain of pharmaceuticals and other health commodities for Gaza were fulfilled and (2) monitored award implementation related to the supply chain of pharmaceuticals and other health commodities for Gaza.

Audit of USAID's Controls Over Cash Assistance in the West Bank and Gaza

- We are looking at whether USAID had processes in place for assessing, mitigating, and monitoring selected fraud risks in cash assistance awards to NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza.

Audit of USAID's Management of the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance Warehouse in the United Arab Emirates

- We are looking at how USAID designed and implemented policies, procedures, and practices to manage humanitarian assistance supplies warehoused in the United Arab Emirates.

Operation Stop the Carousel: Preventing the Circulation of Hamas and Other Terrorists Across Aid Organizations in Gaza

- "Operation Stop the Carousel" is a proactive investigation designed to prevent the circulation of terrorists across international aid organizations receiving U.S. funding in Gaza, including United Nations (UN) and non-government organizations. This Operation will expand OIG's existing investigation into Hamas-linked staff affiliated with UNRWA, which has already referred 17 individuals believed to have been affiliated with Hamas and/or supported or participated in the October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks for suspension/debarment consideration by the Department of State.

USAID OIG's Gaza-related investigative and audit work are active and ongoing. For more information, or if you would like to schedule a briefing, please contact OIGLegAffairs@usaid.gov.