

**35 YEARS**  
**ONE MISSION**

**A HISTORY OF PEACE CORPS OIG**

19  
89



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## Peace Corps Office of Inspector General (OIG)

### **Vision:**

Valued oversight professionals collaborate to advance positive change in the Peace Corps.

### **Mission:**

Support Peace Corps Act goals and make the best use of taxpayer dollars through independent oversight of the agency.

### **Values:**

Excellence, Positive Change, Integrity, Collaboration

The goals of OIG are as follows:

- Promotes integrity, efficiency, effectiveness, and economy;
- Prevents and detects waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; and
- Identifies risk and vulnerabilities and offers expert assistance to improve the Peace Corps' programs and operations.

# Letter from the IG



This year marks the 35th anniversary since Congress established the Peace Corps Office of Inspector General. I have had the honor to serve the Peace Corps OIG since 2009 and am excited to continue to lead OIG in advancing positive change for the Peace Corps.

The OIG's 35th anniversary provides us with an opportunity to look back and reflect on our past work. For more than one-third of a century, OIG has provided independent oversight for the Peace Corps' programs and operations. Undoubtedly, OIG's success over the past 35 years could not have been realized without the foundational work of our past Inspectors General and their respective staff.

Organizations grow to meet new challenges, and OIG is no exception. Notably, the IG community, through the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), has recognized OIG with awards no less than 12 times in the past ten years. OIG reports have been the impetus for the agency to make important improvements on a range of complex issues, including Volunteer

healthcare, safety and security, programming, contracting, budget formulation, staff training, and more.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, OIG staff demonstrated their resilience by continuing to conduct thorough and independent oversight virtually and, in some cases, made extraordinary efforts to conduct in-person oversight in the field. During that time, our work shifted focus to headquarters operations and agency preparations for Volunteer return to service. Routine post field work resumed as of 2023. Today we continue to add value by identifying gaps and making recommendations on agency programs and operations, suggesting best practices, and lessons learned.

OIG's effectiveness is also due in large measure to the professionalism of the Peace Corps' agency staff. Together, we all share a common dedication to the wellbeing of the Peace Corps Volunteers. After 35 years of success, OIG stands ready to continue its tradition of independent oversight of the Peace Corps programs and operations, knowing that our work serves to enhance the Peace Corps' mission.

Joaquin Ferrao

A handwritten signature of Joaquin Ferrao in blue ink.

Inspector General

### **JANUARY 23, 1989**

In its 100th session, Congress amended the Inspector General Act of 1978 to create Offices of Inspectors General (OIG) in 33 designated Federal entities, including the Peace Corps (P.L. 100-504). Peace Corps OIG was established on January 23, 1989 and became effective by law on April 16, 1989. Gerard A. Roy was sworn in as the first Inspector General (IG).

### **1990**

OIG conducted its first country program evaluations in the Philippines, Thailand, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands.

### **1993**

OIG established its first employee complaint system, the IG Hotline, which included a toll-free telephone number and a District of Columbia post office box.

### **1993**

Deborah Holt Kirk, the first female IG, was sworn in.

The Inspections Unit changed its name to "Evaluation Unit."

### **1996**

Following the murder of a Volunteer in Madagascar, OIG conducted security assessments of the PC/Madagascar sites. As a result, 13 sites were closed. OIG worked with the agency's Deputy Director, who also served as the agency's Chief Compliance Officer, to design and install a computer-based recommendation tracking system.

### **1991**

OIG conducted its first post audits in Swaziland, Malawi, and Western Samoa.

### **1992**

The agency denied IG Roy's request to extend his tenure based on the requirements of Peace Corps' five year rule (FYR), raising questions about IG independence. Years later, OIG would cite this incident to support its proposal to exempt OIG from the Peace Corps' FYR, which limits staff appointments to a maximum of 5 years.

### **1995**

OIG performed an evaluation of the Peace Corps' Volunteer Delivery System (VDS), a system that the agency uses to recruit, select, and place Volunteers in the field. This was OIG's first evaluation of a major agency function that affected multiple agency offices.

### **2003**

OIG performed a follow-up evaluation of VDS, which concluded that the system had significant weaknesses, particularly in the areas of leadership and organizational change, information flow, IT, medical screening, customer service, staffing, and staff training.

## 2008

To better focus on oversight duties, OIG transferred primary responsibility for responding to violent crimes against Volunteers to The Office of Safety and Security (OSS).

## 2009

Investigation and Evaluation Units conducted a joint inquiry into the death of a Volunteer in Morocco. The subsequent report led to significant reforms of the agency's delivery of healthcare to volunteers.

## 2010

U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. granted OIG law enforcement authority under the Inspector General Act of 1978 and the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008.

## 2010

OIG's audit of the Peace Corps' Safety and Security Program found that without a clear management structure, no office had complete ownership of the Safety and Security Program. Report recommendations led to substantial changes to the management of safety and security, increased support for the program, and an MOU with the Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security to to better support the safety and security of Volunteers abroad.

## 2003

The Office of Safety and Security (OSS) was established to foster improved oversight, coordination, communication, and accountability for all Peace Corps safety and security efforts.

To assist the agency's newly formed OSS, OIG assumed responsibility for coordinating investigations and prosecutions of violent crimes against Volunteers overseas.

## 2010

OIG conducted an audit on the solicitation, awarding, and administration of contracts within the Peace Corps. Some of the findings were that the agency needed to improve its monitoring of contracts, training for contracting officers, and compliance with federal regulations.

## 2010

OIG performed a follow-up to its 2003 VDS report, and found that many of the corrective actions agreed to by the agency in 2003 had not been initiated or not fully carried out.

## 2011

The Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act was enacted which, among other things, increased OIG's oversight of the agency's response to sexual assault. The Act also exempted OIG from the five-year rule.

## 2012

OIG, working with United States and South African partners, aided in the conviction of a former PC/ South Africa Volunteer, who was sentenced to 180 months in prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release, for sexually abusing four minor girls, all under the age of 6, while serving in South Africa.

## 2013

Working with United States and Gabonese partners, OIG solved the 1998 homicide case of a PC/ Gabon Volunteer. The killer was sentenced to life imprisonment.

## 2014

OIG published the first of multiple reports required by the Kate Puzey Act on Peace Corps training and management of its sexual assault risk reduction and response program.

## 2017

In a multiyear effort, OIG supported the Benin Government, Department of Justice and Department of State in efforts to seek justice for Kate Puzey. The trial in Benin of the four defendants for the murder of Peace Corps Volunteer Kate Puzey ends in acquittal.

## 2012

The agency and the Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DOS/DS), signed an agreement formalizing a framework for cooperation in support of safety and security. OIG also signed an addendum with DOS/DS on cooperation and sharing of information to enhance response to staff and volunteer incidents.

## 2017

OIG issued its Commitment to Sexual Assault Victims outlining the steps OIG will continue to take to honor the Peace Corps' commitment to support sexual assault victims while providing robust oversight.

## 2016

The Inspector General Empowerment Act was enacted. As a result, the Peace Corps provided OIG with full access to agency information after a longstanding impasse over OIG's access to any records related to Peace Corps' management of sexual assault cases.

## 2018

After an OIG investigation, a former Peace Corps employee was criminally charged with violating post-employment conflict of interest laws.



**2018**

The Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act is enacted. The legislation improved access to medical care for Volunteers, strengthened accountability and oversight, and enhanced procedures to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime in the countries in which the Volunteers serve. The law provides for enhanced OIG reviews of Volunteer deaths.

**2020**

Global Pandemic. All serving Volunteers and trainees were evacuated.

**2021**

Volunteers began to return to service after the pandemic.

**2021**

OIG launched limited scope reviews monitoring post preparation and implementation of the Peace Corps' Country Re-Entry Guide.



**APRIL 23, 2023**

Joaquin Ferrao was appointed as Inspector General for the Peace Corps.

**2020**

Peace Corps Policy was revised to improve accountability by clarifying the Volunteers duty to cooperate with OIG.

**2020**

OIG issued Recurring Issues Report ahead of post-pandemic efforts to redeploy Volunteers in the field.

**2020**

Formal agreement between OIG, Volunteer Recruitment and Selection, and Peace Corps Response to perform name checks against Peace Corps OIG records to support Volunteer vetting.

**2021**

IG Kathy Buller, retired after having served as the Peace Corps Inspector General for 13 years. Deputy IG and Legal Counsel Joaquin Ferrao becomes the acting IG.

**2024**

OIG resumed Post Audits and Evaluations, which were suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic.

# History

The concept of Inspectors General (IG) has existed in western culture since at least the 17th century, when a French monarch appointed inspectors general to review his troops.

In the United States, George Washington was the first to propose having an IG to promote tactical efficiency in the Continental Army in 1777. Congress modified his vision by requiring the IG to report to Congress as well as the commander in chief. Ever since, this unique dual-reporting role has demanded a political balance from IGs, an act sometimes described as “straddling a barb-wired fence.”



Despite the success of IGs in the military, the concept of Federal IGs did not become a fixture in the U.S. Government until almost 200 years later. As a result of a series of procurement scandals that rocked Federal agencies in the 1970s, Congress enacted the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act), which established IGs in 12 Federal agencies.

Peace Corps Inspectors General	
Gerard A. Roy	1989-1992
John S. Hale	1992
Michael R. Hill	1992-1993
Michael Tully	1993
Jeffrey Rush Jr.	1993-1994
Deborah Holt Kirk	1994-1995
Charles C. Maddox	1995-1997
Charles D. Smith	1997-2006
Allan R. Gall	2006*
H. David Kotz	2006-2007
Geoffrey A. Johnson	2007*
Kathy A. Buller	2008-2021
Joaquin Ferrao	2022 –2023*
	2023-Present

*Acting\**

The stated purpose of the IG Act is to create independent and objective units within each agency that are responsible for combating waste, fraud, and abuse in the agencies they oversee. The OIG's use audits, investigations, and other studies to conduct agency oversight while recommending policies to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in agency programs and operations.

The IG Act also contains a variety of provisions designed to guarantee an IG's independence. For example, IGs may not receive cash awards or bonuses for good performance, cannot be removed by the agency without notifying Congress first, and the agency may not prevent or prohibit an IG from initiating, completing, or carrying out an audit or investigation. IGs also submit their budget requests separately from the agency and can independently hire employees and procure goods and services.

Another key requirement of the IG Act is that IGs must be provided with direct and prompt access to the head of the agency, as well as complete, unfiltered, and timely access to all records and information in the agency's possession. Many regard this broad access provision as the most important part of the IG Act; the key principle that forms the foundation for all OIG work.

Today there are 73 statutory IGs throughout the Federal Government, including Peace Corps OIG, which was established in 1989 when the IG Act was first amended.

While the 1989 amendment to the IG Act expanded the creation of OIGs to several Federal organizations, in the previous year a separate amendment to the IG Act required all IGs to provide a Semiannual Report to Congress (SARC). This biannual report provides an overview of an OIG’s functions and a summary of the reports released and investigations performed by an OIG within each fiscal year.

Our first SARC was published on October 31, 1989. We expanded our Fall SARC to include a section on management and performance challenges, which illustrate the most significant areas OIG believes need improvement in the agency. We also include a section highlighting the advice and assistance we provided to the agency within each 6-month period.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers currently in OIG		
Rashawna Alfred	Dominica	2010-2012
Carissa Anderson	Thailand	2018-2020
Erin Balch	Cabo Verde	2000-2002
Belen Carriedo	Fiji	2016-2018
Tanique Carter	Tanzania	2011-2013
Sarah O’Neill Gerwin	Romania	1993-1995
Kristine Hoffer	Mali	1994-1997
Reuben Marshall	Côte d’Ivoire	1996-1998
Victoria Molina	Kyrgyzstan	2017-2019
Yaneth Pena	Thailand	2018-2020
Paul Romeo	Romania	1998-2000
Kareen Vares	Dominican Republic	2010-2012



Peace Corps OIG consists of a legal team, and four units: Management & Administration, Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations. **Auditors** review the Peace Corps’ functional activities, such as financial program operations and contract compliance, to ensure agency accountability and recommend improvements in economy and efficiency. **Evaluators** conduct independent evaluations and reviews that address the efficiency and effectiveness of agency programs and operations at overseas posts and domestic offices. **Investigators** respond to allegations of criminal or administrative wrongdoing committed by Peace Corps personnel, including experts and consultants, and by those who do business with the Peace Corps, including contractors.

In addition to our statutory responsibilities, we also review proposed and existing legislation and regulations affecting the agency’s programs and operations, and independently process Freedom of Information Act requests directed to OIG.

The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) was created by the IG Reform Act of 2008, which consolidated and replaced several Federal entities, including the President’s Council on Integrity and Efficiency. CIGIE is charged with the two-fold mission to address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies, and to increase the professionalism and effectiveness of IG personnel. Our IG is the current chairman of CIGIE’s Legislation Committee.

CIGIE annually recognizes extraordinary OIG work that improved the performance of the agency they oversee. Achievements that are “so unusual or distinguished as to be at the forefront of the inspectors general community.” To date, Peace Corps OIG has received 19 CIGIE Awards for Excellence. We received these awards for our work that identified substantial weakness in agency processes, which significantly affected the support, health, and safety of Volunteers.

CIGIE Awards for Excellence	
2010	Peace Corps/Morocco Inquiry of Volunteer Death and Assessment of Medical Care
2010	Peace Corps’ Process for Soliciting, Awarding, and Administering Contracts
2011	Audit of the Peace Corps Volunteer Safety and Security Program
2012	Peace Corps Peru Country Program Evaluation Team
2012	Peace Corps’ Budget Formulation Process Audit Team
2013	Audit of Peace Corps/Tonga
2013	Investigative Team for U.S. v. Jesse Osmun
2014	Peace Corps Volunteer Murder Investigation Team
2015	The Peace Corps’ Overseas Staff Training Evaluation Team
2015	Investigative Review Team for the Death of a Peace Corps/China Volunteer
2016	Evaluation of the Peace Corps’ Volunteer Healthcare Program
2016	Audit of the Peace Corps’ Healthcare Benefits Administration
2016	Contract
	Peace Corps/Rwanda Country Program Evaluation Team
2017	The Peace Corps Sexual Assault Risk and Response Program
2017	Evaluation Team
	Peace Corps/Kosovo Country Program Evaluation Team
2018	Peace Corps Office of Inspector General Investigation Unit/
2018	Initiative Against Volunteer Drug Use
	Peace Corps/Comoros Country Program Evaluation Team
2020	Review of the Facts and Circumstances Surrounding the Death
2022	of a Peace Corps/Ghana Volunteer
	CIGIE Legislation Committee Team For the 117th Congress
2023	OIG Joint Evaluation/Investigation Review of Peace Corps
2023	Response to Reports of Sexual Assaults



The audit, evaluation, and investigation work we have undertaken has greatly contributed to improving the Peace Corps' operations and programs. Throughout our 35-year history, we have issued more than 600 reports, with the Audit and Evaluation Units having made nearly 3000 recommendations to promote our mission, vision, and values.

Many of our projects have required collaboration between team members from our different units. This interdisciplinary, collaborative approach has strengthened our work. The agency-wide reports mentioned below have had a lasting impact on the operations of the Peace Corps.

Volunteer health, safety, and security are the Peace Corps' top priorities. As the program evolved, we have assessed Volunteer health and safety in different ways: examining the agency's safety and security program, reviewing the role our medical staff and security coordinators play in direct care and support of Volunteers, or reviewing Peace Corps' adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftereffects on the agency.

OIG has evolved over the years to better help the agency meet new challenges to the integrity of its programs and operations, as well as new legal requirements and responsibilities. In recent years, we have focused on the agency's internal operations, such as the statutorily mandated audits of the agency's annual financial statements and reviews of its information security program.

## Evaluation of The Peace Corps Sexual Assault Risk and Response Program, 2016

**Impact:** The report covered many topics, including the management and oversight of the agency's sexual assault program. We suggested necessary changes to legislation and made recommendations on staff training and communications. This report, and its predecessor, had an important role in helping the agency establish its Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response Program, bolstering the agency's ability to support sexual assault victims in a timely and compassionate manner.



We issued a report in December 2023 outlining the needed improvements in the agency’s response process for addressing cybersecurity incidents and its adherence to Federal and agency requirements. That same year our auditors issued recommendations to Peace Corps on its management of payroll and Volunteer payments.

Our **Audit Unit** also annually reviews Peace Corps information security program. These are conducted as required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA).



#### **Management Advisory Report: Cybersecurity Breaches Highlight a Need for Improvement in Peace Corps’ Incident Response, 2023**

**Impact:** This review assessed the agency’s response to three cybersecurity incidents that occurred from 2022 to 2023 and its adherence to Federal and agency requirements. The review found the agency did not have a sufficient incident response plan to detect threat activity, respond to a threat incident, or contain it. However, since the first incident in June 2022, the agency has improved its cybersecurity incident response capabilities. The report made recommendations to help the agency enhance its incident response program.

The Peace Corps’ information security program has remained at Level 2 – Defined. However, the Peace Corps has made significant progress in enhancing its information security posture since FY 2023. Our FISMA reports provide recommendations that will improve the agency’s policies and procedures to cost-effectively reduce IT security risks to an acceptable level.

#### **Audit of the Peace Corps’ Healthcare Benefits Administration Contract, 2016**

**Impact:** The audit identified \$4.4 million in unsupported questioned costs and made 15 recommendations to the agency focused on minimizing potential waste; strengthening internal control over the healthcare benefits contract administration processes; providing more effective contract monitoring; and improving compliance with the FAR and other applicable laws, regulations, and Peace Corps policies.

Our **Evaluation Unit** promotes greater efficiency by recommending improvements to agency operations. For example, in 2012, we released a comprehensive review of the Peace Corps FYR. This report highlighted the benefits and challenges of the FYR and articulated a clear need for its reassessment and for action to address the constraints and problems the FYR presents for Peace Corps operations, such as excessive employee turnover and brief employee tenure.

In 2017, OIG issued a management implication report to inform agency leadership how personnel turnover continues to create and exacerbate challenges for overseas staff. Along with assessing staff turnover and retention, the Evaluation Unit also engaged in import assessments of staff training.

Since receiving full law enforcement authority in 2010, OIG's **Investigation Unit** has focused its efforts to strengthen collaborative relationships within the agency and develop law enforcement partnerships across the Federal Government. These partnerships have allowed our small OIG to have a global presence and effectively leverage its resources. The results of these efforts are demonstrated by the successful resolution of allegations, the actions taken by the agency in response to an OIG referral, and, when appropriate, the prosecutions of crimes, upholding the integrity of the Peace Corps.

In 2010, an OIG investigation of a country director at a post in South America lead to him pleading guilty for improperly purchasing and selling government vehicles. He was sentenced to 2 years' probation and ordered to pay restitution to the Peace Corps. A year later, OIG, along with an interagency team of law enforcement agencies and South African partners, investigated an allegation that a Volunteer had engaged in illicit sexual conduct with children. After a complex international investigation, the subject was indicted in a U.S. court and plead guilty, admitting that he had serially abused four girls when he was serving as a Volunteer. The former Volunteer was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

When a Volunteer dies in service investigators may be tasked to review the facts and circumstances surrounding

the incident. This work, which often is supported by Evaluations, is emotional and arduous, but vitally important. In 2014, OIG issued an investigative review of the circumstances surrounding the death of Peace Corps/China Volunteer Nicholas Castle after receiving information from his parents, which was not part of agency records. OIG's review concluded that the Peace Corps medical officer who treated Volunteer Castle did not use prudent judgment when treating him and that there were significant failures with the care provided by the Chinese ambulance emergency medical technicians. Based on our review, OIG made recommendations to the agency to improve Volunteer medical care.

**Management Advisory Report: Assessment of Post Re-entry Health and Safety Reviews' Findings, 2024**

**Impact:** This Evaluation assessed whether posts complied with the procedures outlined in the Peace Corps' Country Re-Entry Guide after the closure of all sites during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our recommendations helped improve guidance clarity, oversight, and the use of appropriate assessments. Addressing these recommendations ensured that the quality and safety of medical support Volunteers receive is not compromised.

In November of 2018, the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act was signed into law. It included mandates for both OIG and the agency. This legislation ushered in important reforms, including changes to Volunteer medical care, the screening of staff and Volunteers for previous serious misconduct, greater transparency for potential applicants on host country crime environment, and stop-gap medical benefits for





Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Several of these provisions were associated with previous OIG recommendations. The legislation enhanced OIG's role in reviewing Volunteer deaths, mandated the agency implement certain OIG medical care recommendations, and required that Volunteers be provided with information on OIG resources.

As a result of our enhanced role in reviewing volunteer deaths, OIG has provided the agency and Volunteer families with a thorough understanding of the facts and circumstances surrounding a Volunteer death. In each case they have also yielded important recommendations to Volunteer health care and safety.

Our most recent example of this is our 2021 review of the death of a volunteer in Ghana. The impact of that review led to OIG recommendations focused on improving adherence to processes for conducting medical facility



**Review of Death of Peace Corps Volunteer/Comoros, 2019**

**Impact:** OIG recommended a minimum number of qualified medical professionals at posts, focusing on remote posts with inadequate medical facilities. The report called for increased oversight and support for medical chart reviews, mentoring, determining clinical escalation thresholds and continuing medical education. The report recommended revisions to malaria medical technical guidelines, increased training for medical officers on diagnosing and treating sick patients in malaria areas.

**Evaluation Report on the Program Evaluation of the Peace Corps' Training of Overseas Staff, 2014**

**Impact:** The detailed findings and targeted recommendations contained in this report served as a catalyst and roadmap for action by the agency. Following its issuance, the agency established a multi-office staff training review group to undertake a training needs assessment, review agency-wide training, and generate the information necessary to establish an agency-wide training program.

assessments and action plans, including full consideration of evacuation options. OIG highlighted the need to comply with previous OIG recommendations on performing root cause analysis.

Our work over the past 35 years has not only helped safeguard the integrity and effectiveness of the Peace Corps but has also fostered a culture of continuous improvement and accountability. Through our comprehensive audits, evaluations, and investigations, we have helped the agency navigate new challenges while ensuring that the health, safety and security of Volunteers remain paramount. As we look ahead, OIG remains committed to adapting to evolving demands and providing critical oversight to ensure the Peace Corps continues to fulfill its mission in an ever-changing global landscape.



# Looking Forward

While we celebrate and acknowledge our achievements over the past 35 years, we know that significant challenges remain for the Peace Corps. Independent and effective oversight of the human and financial resources that the American public has entrusted to the Peace Corps is central to OIG's mission. Additionally, the challenges and effects of operating in a post-pandemic environment continue to require innovative solutions and approaches.

We remain vigilant in our long-standing efforts to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and promote effectiveness and efficiency. We will continue to advise and assist the Peace Corps so that the agency is positioned to address its management challenges and improve its performance and accountability. We will also continue to inform all stakeholders, from agency staff and volunteers to Congress and the general public, about the role, work, and resources of OIG.

## **Volunteer Support**

Volunteer health, safety, and security are top priorities for the agency and are essential for programmatic success. The OIG will continue to prioritize its work to focus on these core agency functions. The Kate Puzey Volunteer Protection Act of 2011 and the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 affected broad segments of the agency, and required significant changes to how the agency operates. Consistent implementation and adherence will continue to be challenges requiring OIG oversight.

## **Agency-wide Reviews**

OIG will also work to address agency-wide systemic issues, with an emphasis on reviewing the adequacy of management oversight, internal controls, and cybersecurity. Our work will address gaps in compliance with laws, regulations, and policies, and make recommendations on how Volunteers and overseas posts can be better supported. We strive to promote efficiency by addressing problems and encouraging corrective action at a global level.

## **Overseas Post Operations**

The Peace Corps must ensure that post programming, resources, and related infrastructure are sufficiently robust to support the Peace Corps' mission while ensuring the health, safety, and security of the Volunteers. OIG work will seek to identify best practices and opportunities for improvement to support agency success.

## **The Future**

While we are proud of our history and accomplishments and we believe that our best years have yet to come. Our independent oversight allows us to make significant contributions that empower the Peace Corps to fulfill its mission to promote world peace and friendship through community-based development and cross-cultural understanding. Together we make a better Peace Corps.

For more information visit: [peacecorpsoig.gov](https://peacecorpsoig.gov)

# Thank You

To all our dedicated Peace Corps OIG staff, both past and present, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your incredible contributions over the past 35 years. Your commitment, passion, and professionalism have played an essential role in shaping the success of the Peace Corps and ensuring that our mission endures. From the earliest days of OIG's work to today, your collective efforts have resulted in substantial improvements in Peace Corps operations and programs. Your collaboration across offices and countries has created a stronger, more cohesive organization, and I am so proud of all we've accomplished together.

I also want to thank Peace Corps headquarters and field staff whose support and partnership have been vital in helping OIG perform its work more effectively. COVID-19 forced rapid changes, but you responded with a dedication that ensured the health, safety, and well-being of Volunteers remained a priority. Your ability to adjust to remote work, new health protocols, and shifting global dynamics speaks volumes about your commitment to the Peace Corps' mission.

As we move forward, I have no doubt that Peace Corps OIG staff's continued efforts will keep driving the agency toward excellence. Thank you for everything you've done and continue to do for this incredible organization.





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# Together we make a better Peace Corps

