




DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC 20201



March 20, 2023

TO: John F. Sopko
Inspector General
Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

FROM: Christi A. Grimm 
Inspector General
Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: OIG Final Report: *Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction External CIGIE Peer Review*, OEI-07-22-00560

Attached is our final report *Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction External CIGIE Peer Review*. This report contains no recommendations.

If you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me, or one of your staff may contact Joe Chiarenzelli at (202) 836-1073 or Joe.Chiarenzelli@oig.hhs.gov. To facilitate identification, please refer to report number OEI-07-22-00560 in all correspondence.

Attachment



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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External Peer Review Report

March 20, 2023

To: John F. Sopko, Inspector General, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance in CIGIE's *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*, December 2021. The review period was October 21, 2022, through February 13, 2023 (Enclosure 1).

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG), assessed the extent to which the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) complied with CIGIE's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book), December 2020. OIG's assessment included a review of SIGAR's *Products and Procedures Manual* issued in October 2021 for implementing the Blue Book standards. OIG's assessment also included a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2022, to determine whether the reports complied with the 2020 Blue Book standards and SIGAR's *Products and Procedures Manual*.

Overall Conclusion

OIG determined that SIGAR's *Products and Procedures Manual* generally was consistent with the Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. Of the three reports reviewed, all generally complied with the Blue Book standards and SIGAR's internal policies and procedures. We noted no significant noncompliance during our review.

In a letter of comment issued on the same date as this report, we describe findings not considered to significantly impact compliance with Blue Book standards.

SIGAR management officials provided a response to our Peer Review Report (Enclosure 2).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christi A. Grimm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christi A. Grimm
Inspector General

Enclosure 1: Scope and Methodology

Enclosure 2: SIGAR's Comments to Report

ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

OIG's peer review team considered all inspections and evaluations issued during our review period (October 21, 2022, through February 13, 2023) (n=6). We selected three reports for review, which differed in topic, length, and report team composition. All selected reports were conducted under the 2020 Blue Book standards.

The three reports reviewed were:

- *Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund: The World Bank Improved Its Monitoring, Performance Measurement, and Oversight, But Other Management Issues Persist*, SIGAR-22-15-IP, issued on March 23, 2022;
- *Collapse of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces: An Assessment of the Factors That Led to Its Demise* (Interim Report), SIGAR-22-22-IP, issued on May 12, 2022; and
- *Theft of Funds from Afghanistan: An Assessment of Allegations Concerning President Ghani and Former Senior Afghan Officials* (Final Report), SIGAR-22-35-IP, issued on August 9, 2022.

OIG's assessment included a review of SIGAR's *Products and Procedures Manual* (October 2021) for compliance with the Blue Book standards. It also included a review of the selected inspection and evaluation reports for compliance with SIGAR's internal policies and procedures and the Blue Book standards. On November 11 and December 5, 2022, the peer review team conducted phone interviews with the teams responsible for the selected reports.

ENCLOSURE 2: SIGAR's Comments to Report



SIGAR

Office of the Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Christi A. Grimm
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Ms. Grimm:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the February 13, 2023, draft external peer review of SIGAR's inspection and evaluation organization. We concur with the peer review team's conclusion that the *SIGAR Products and Procedures Manual* is generally consistent with the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book) standards, and that the three reports reviewed generally comply with Blue Book and SIGAR's internal policies and procedures.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank your staff for its professionalism during the peer review process. We appreciated their diligent efforts to analyze our system of quality control and offer an independent assessment of our processes and procedures.

Sincerely,

John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction