

3 OTHER AGENCY OVERSIGHT



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U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West and others meet with Afghan civil society leaders in Istanbul, Turkey, 4/2023. (Twitter photo by U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan)

OTHER AGENCY OVERSIGHT

SIGAR’s enabling legislation requires it to keep the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense fully informed about problems relating to the administration of Afghanistan reconstruction programs, and to submit a report to the Congress on SIGAR’s oversight work and on the status of the U.S. reconstruction effort no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter. The statute also instructs SIGAR to include, to the extent possible, relevant matters from the end of the quarter up to the submission date of its report.

Each quarter, SIGAR requests updates from other agencies on completed and ongoing oversight activities. This section compiles these updates. Copies of completed reports are posted on the agencies’ respective public websites.

The descriptions appear as submitted, with minor changes to maintain consistency with other sections of this report: acronyms and abbreviations in place of full organizational names; standardized capitalization, punctuation, and preferred spellings; and third-person instead of first-person voice.

These agencies perform oversight activities related to Afghanistan and provide results to SIGAR:

- Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DOD OIG)
- Department of State Office of Inspector General (State OIG)
- Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General (USAID OIG)

COMPLETED OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

As of March 31, 2023, participating agencies reported one recently issued oversight activity related to Afghanistan reconstruction. This activity is listed in Table 3.1 and described in the following section by the agency.

TABLE 3.1

RECENTLY ISSUED OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER U.S. AGENCIES, AS OF MARCH 31, 2023			
Agency	Report Number	Date Issued	Report Title
State OIG	ESP-23-01	3/31/2023	Review of Challenges in the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program

Source: State OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 3/15/2023 and 3/31/2023.

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U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

This quarter, DOD OIG did not issue any reports related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

U.S. Department of State Office of Inspector General–Middle East Regional Operations

State OIG issued one Afghanistan-related report this quarter.

Review of Challenges in the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program

In 2021, State implemented the Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) program to facilitate the resettlement of Afghan nationals in communities around the United States in conjunction with nine resettlement agencies. The domestic resettlement framework implemented by the APA program was influenced largely by the reception and placement program, a component of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The Afghans admitted through the APA are sponsored by the same nine resettlement agencies that participate in the reception and placement program. State OIG initiated this review to examine the challenges faced by the nine agencies in implementing the APA program and to identify any lessons learned for future resettlement efforts.

State OIG found that resettlement agencies reported that the APA program involved some of the most significant challenges that they had ever faced, and that many of these challenges were external, such as the fast pace and large number of Afghan arrivals and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the decrease in refugee admissions during the prior Administration, many of the agencies and their affiliates did not have adequate staffing for the number of arrivals they were receiving and had to hire staff quickly to implement the APA program. In addition, the fast pace of arrivals, the lack of available housing, difficulty obtaining necessary documentation for APA participants, and minimal pre-arrival cultural orientation also presented challenges for resettlement agencies. The resettlement agencies did report that State provided sufficient funding for the APA program, and they also reported positive impressions of the coordination between State and other U.S. government agencies in implementing the APA program.

Because the APA program was a limited-term program that ended in 2022 and was created to deal with unique circumstances, this report contained no recommendations for corrective action. Nonetheless, State OIG reported that lessons learned from the APA program could be applied to future situations involving a surge of refugees or evacuees into the United States.

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Government Accountability Office

This quarter, GAO did not issue any reports related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General

This quarter, USAID OIG did not issue any reports related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

ONGOING OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

As of March 31, 2023, the participating agencies reported eight ongoing oversight activities related to reconstruction in Afghanistan. These activities are listed in Table 3.2 and described in the following sections by agency.

TABLE 3.2

ONGOING OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER U.S. AGENCIES, AS OF MARCH 31, 2023			
Agency	Report Number	Date Initiated	Report Title
DOD OIG	D2022-D000FV-0091.000	1/28/2022	Audit of the DOD's Financial Management of the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund
DOD OIG	D2022-D000AX-0138.000	5/5/2022	Audit of DOD Afghanistan Contingency Contracts Closeout
State OIG	22AUD012	12/2/2021	Review of the Department of State Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program
State OIG	22AUD016	12/30/2021	Review of Emergency Action Planning Guiding the Evacuation and Suspension of Operations at U.S. Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan
State OIG	22AUD065	5/19/2022	Audit of the Department of State's Efforts to Identify and Terminate Unneeded Contracts Related to Afghanistan
State OIG	23AUD001	12/13/2022	Audit of the Disposition of Defensive Equipment and Armored Vehicles in Advance of Evacuations of Embassies Kabul and Kyiv
USAID OIG	552F0223	04/30/2023 (Estimated)	(REVISED) Audit of the Schedule of Expenditures of USAID Award Managed by Chemonics International Inc. (CHEMONICS) Under Global Health Supply Chain Management (GHSCM) - Population and Reproductive Health (PRH) Program Contract No. AID-OAA-TO-15-00010 for the period January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2020
USAID OIG	552F0123	2/27/2023	(REVISED) Audit of the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards managed by Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) under program The Claims Related to Installation of Turbine Generator Unit 2 at Kajaki Dam Hydropower Plant (Kajaki), Implementation Letter No. 306-IL-15-56-09 for the period April 1, 2013, to December 31, 2016 (Closeout) and program Power Transmission Expansion and Connectivity (PTEC), Implementation Letter No. 306-IL-13-22-7 for the period January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2020 (Financial)

Source: DOD OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 3/15/2023; State OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 3/15/2023; USAID OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 3/15/2023.

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U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

DOD OIG has two ongoing projects this quarter related to reconstruction or security operations in Afghanistan.

Audit of the DOD's Financial Management of the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund

The objective of this audit is to determine whether DOD managed the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Audit of DOD Afghanistan Contingency Contracts Closeout

The objective of this audit is to determine whether DOD contracting officials closed out contingency contracts supporting Afghanistan operations in accordance with applicable federal laws and DOD regulations.

State Office of Inspector General–Middle East Regional Operations

State OIG had four ongoing projects this quarter related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Review of the Department of State Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program

This review will be issued as a series of reports in response to requests from multiple congressional committees to review a range of topics regarding the Afghan SIV program.

Review of Emergency Action Planning Guiding the Evacuation and Suspension of Operations at U.S. Embassy Kabul

The audit is reviewing whether U.S. Embassy Kabul followed established State Department guidance in preparation for the evacuation of U.S. government personnel, private U.S. citizens, Afghans at risk, and others from Afghanistan before and after the suspension of operations.

Audit of the Department of State's Efforts to Identify and Terminate Unneeded Contracts Related to Afghanistan

The primary objective of the audit is to determine whether the State Department identified and terminated contracts impacted by the withdrawal of U.S. operations in Afghanistan in accordance with federal and Department requirements.

Audit of the Disposition of Defensive Equipment and Armored Vehicles in Advance Operations of Evacuations of Embassies Kabul and Kyiv

This audit will determine whether U.S. Embassies Kabul and Kyiv managed, safeguarded, and disposed of sensitive security assets in advance of the evacuation and suspension of operations at each post in accordance with Department of State guidance.

Government Accountability Office

GAO did not have any ongoing projects this quarter related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General

USAID OIG had two ongoing financial audits this quarter related to reconstruction in Afghanistan. Financial audits of USAID/Afghanistan programs are performed by public accounting firms. USAID OIG performs desk reviews and random quality control reviews of the audits, and transmits the reports to USAID/Afghanistan for action. Summaries of financial audits can be found on the agency's website.