



U.S. Embassy Sana'a, Yemen

February 2021

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In response to recommendations in a 2020 report, *Audit of Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations Process To Identify and Apply Best Practices and Lessons Learned to Future Construction Projects (AUD-MERO-20-39)*, the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO), continues to take action. OBO is expanding and creating a more agile Lessons Learned program to capture, analyze, and disseminate broader best practices and lessons learned in constructing embassies throughout the bureau. This helps to address factors such as strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, facilitating building maintenance, and improving program and construction management. Taking advantage of these opportunities could improve OBO operations and help achieve its stated goal of completing construction projects on time and within budget.

In response to a recommendation from a 2019 report, *Inspection of Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (ISP-I-19-17)*, Embassy Santo Domingo provided documentation that it cleared overdue travel advances by recouping funds from employees, resulting in \$53,715 being put to better use.

In February 2021, former Department grant recipient Oyetayo Fagbenro was sentenced to 366 days of confinement, 730 days of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$775,000 restitution. In December 2020, he had pled guilty to misappropriating \$775,000 in Department grant funds for his own purposes. OIG special agents determined Fagbenro falsely certified that he had complied with the terms and conditions of three grants that were to be used to build media operations centers in Afghanistan. Instead, he sent much of the money to friends, relatives, and entities unrelated to the grants.

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Research for Proposed Office of Inspector General Audit of Internal Controls Over Management Processes at U.S. Embassy Cairo, Egypt*
- *Research for Proposed Office of Inspector General Review of the U.S. Agency for Global Media's (USAGM) Security and Suitability Process To Ensure USAGM Personnel Possess Valid Security Clearances*
- *Audit of Department of State's Use of Not Otherwise Classified Budget Object Codes*
- *Research for Proposed Office of Inspector General Audit of Cooperative Agreements and Grants Related to Iran*
- *Audit of Department of State Management and Monitoring of Federal Assistance Awards to For-Profit Organizations*

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of February 28, 2021

<p>577*</p> <p>Open Recommendations</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Recommendations Closed During December</p>
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*Classified recommendations are not included in these totals because of delays in preparing classified materials due to OIG's effort to maximize telework and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Management Assistance Report: Deficiencies in Consular Physical Space at Overseas Missions (ISP-21-08)*
- *(SBU) Management Assistance Report: Deficiencies in Management of Active Directory Privileged Accounts and Security Groups at Overseas Posts (ISP-21-13)*
- *Management Letter Related to the Audit of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, FY 2020 Financial Statements (AUD-FM-21-15)*
- *Management Letter Related to the Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media FY 2020 Financial Statements (AUD-FM-IB-21-17)*
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020*
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020*

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