



MONTHLY UPDATE



June 2023

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Embassy Port-au-Prince put \$138,040 to better use by clearing several overdue travel advances in response to recommendation 26 in OIG’s 2019 Inspection of Embassy Port-au-Prince, Haiti ([ISP-I-19-18](#)).

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In June 2023, a former World Learning vice president [pleaded guilty](#) to one count of wire fraud and agreed to pay \$425,000 in criminal forfeiture for orchestrating a scheme that misappropriated funds from a Department grantee organization. U.S. Agency for International Development and OIG special agents determined the vice president misused business credit cards and falsified invoices. Sentencing is pending.

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Also in June, the president and vice president of Education World Inc. each were sentenced to 5 years of probation and ordered to pay approximately \$18,000 in restitution for their roles in a conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government. Education World Inc. was also ordered to pay restitution and sentenced to 3 years of probation. OIG special agents, Homeland Security Investigations, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services uncovered the conspiracy between Education World and Regal Hospitality Solutions (RHS), which had [pleaded guilty to mortgage fraud in April](#). Education World Inc. recruited and hired non-citizens on tourist visas and without permits to work for RHS on various contracts within the retail and hospitality sectors. Others involved in the scheme also pleaded guilty to various charges in January 2022 and April 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of June 30, 2023

1,027*

Open Recommendations

48**

Recommendations Closed During June

[View Recommendations](#)

*Includes 46 recommendations associated with the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission.

**Includes 7 recommendations closed on OIG’s classified network.

[Reports](#)

[Ongoing Work](#)

SPOTLIGHTS ON SUCCESS

Teamwork Results in Enhanced Programing, Increased Student Numbers (*Inspection of Embassy Abuja and Constituent Post, Nigeria, [ISP-I-23-09](#)*)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff from Mission Nigeria’s American Spaces and staff from EducationUSA joined forces to increase the number of Nigerian students studying in the United States. Websites and Facebook pages were merged and programs were offered virtually. The changes accounted for an increase of 1,578 Nigerian students studying in the United States from the 2020-2021 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year.

Photo: Old State Department building, corner of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, photographed between 1861 and 1865. [Library of Congress](#).

NOTABLE OPEN RECOMMENDATION

In the November 2019 report, *Inspection of Embassy Nouakchott, Mauritania (ISP-I-20-04)*, OIG recommended that the Department: 1) bring the American Center in the new embassy compound into compliance with Department standards; 2) comply with Department standards for the use of public diplomacy funds; and 3) close out procurement files in accordance with Department standards. However, as of June 30, the Department's latest compliance response to the three recommendations was overdue by 272 days.

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Evaluation of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Global Canine Services Center Contract Expansion (ESP-23-02)*
- *Information Brief: Relocation and Resettlement Outcomes of Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders (AUD-MERO-23-21)*
- *National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2023, Section 5275 Interim Joint Report*
- *Audit of Department of State Procedures To Establish Program Fees for the Furniture and Appliance Pool Program (AUD-FM-23-22)*
- *Inspection of Embassy Abuja and Constituent Post, Nigeria (ISP-I-23-09)*
- *Inspection of the Bureau of Information Resource Management's Mobile and Remote Access Division (ISP-I-23-23)*
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Juba, South Sudan (ISP-S-23-12)*
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Chisinau, Moldova (ISP-S-23-19)*

AFGHANISTAN OVERSIGHT

OIG has conducted oversight of the Department and U.S. Agency for Global Media's Afghanistan-related programs and operations for many years. To help users easily locate Afghanistan products, we added a new [link to our website](#) to find information on planned, ongoing, and completed work.

OIG issued *Relocation and Resettlement Outcomes of Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders (AUD-MERO-23-21)* in June. This report discusses measures taken to relocate Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders prior to the U.S. government's August 2021 evacuation of Afghanistan, and details housing, schooling, and employment assistance provided to them, as well as information on those naturalized as U.S. citizens

OIG also issued the *National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2023, Section 5275 Interim Joint Report*, in coordination with inspectors general from five other agencies. This report was issued in response to a requirement in the National Defense Authorization Act. It provides information on the progress and results of five OIG's work to review U.S. government efforts to support and process evacuees from Afghanistan and the Afghanistan special immigrant visa program.



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