

UAA Statement in Support of the Office of the Inspector General

February 12, 2025

The USAID Alumni Association, representing over 1300 former USAID officers, were dismayed and alarmed to learn that the USAID Inspector General had been summarily fired. We call on the Administration officials to immediately reinstate the IG. There is no role in the Agency that is more important than that of the IG to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and in accordance with existing laws.

As USAID officers, we have been instructed from the day we started service until we retired, of the importance of the sound and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. We have built in numerous firewalls, checks and balances to ensure that the most cost-effective programs are in place, and that there is transparency and accountability. For example, the director of USAID operations overseas, the Mission Director, is prohibited from any role in reviewing and adjudicating proposals for a grant or a contract. In every mission overseas and in Washington, we have legal, contract, and financial management officers that serve as internal controls on the use of funds. We also rely on the independent Office of the Inspector General. The IG is free to evaluate and investigate any aspect of any program at any time. We do not interfere in their activities. We are respectful of their work and greatly appreciative of what they do. They serve in some of the most challenging environments overseas, and when our host-country grantees know that our IG can investigate their actions at any time, those grantees make the extra effort to ensure accountability. As a result of IG investigations, we have modified or terminated programs. Investigations by the IG have resulted in criminal charges against individuals and organizations.

We support the IG without any hesitation. We appreciate their dedication and commitment to safeguarding taxpayers' funds. If the Administration is concerned about waste, fraud and abuse, the last thing it should do is to summarily fire the IG. The IG should be reinstated immediately.