USAID: Corruption, Fraud & Oversight Research

A working research file of primary-source findings on USAID fraud, waste, diversion, media funding, and the 2025–2026 shutdown, compiled as of the evening of November 24, 2026, America/New_York.

Status of the records

As of the evening of November 24, 2026, America/New_York, https://www.usaid.gov/ no longer serves the old program portal. A live fetch returned a page titled USAID Files, introduced with the line that under previous administrations USAID was weaponized to advance a radical agenda, and offering about 311 internal files, memos, emails, videos, and spreadsheets, concentrated on disinformation and information-integrity work and outreach to Meta, Google, and YouTube.

Historic country and program pages generally no longer resolve to their original content. Pre-shutdown copies are at https://usaid.govarchive.us/ and in the Wayback Machine at https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://www.usaid.gov/. USAID OIG remains live and was still publishing audits and semiannual reports in 2026 at https://oig.usaid.gov/. Spending records remain on https://foreignassistance.gov/data and https://www.usaspending.gov/agency/agency-for-international-development. The official Development Experience Clearinghouse at dec.usaid.gov is dark; a partial archive is at https://usaid-archive.aiddata.org/.

Findings

All 24 findings are listed below, sorted by date, newest first. Source links are clickable.

Finding	Category	Date	Dollars	Status	Source
A live fetch of usaid.gov returned a page titled USAID Files, publishing about 311 internal files, memos, emails, videos, and spreadsheets, concentrated on disinformation and information-integrity work and outreach to Meta, Google, and YouTube, including a GDI Concept Note and a 92-page USAID Disinformation Primer.	Media funding	Nov 24, 2026, America/New_York	No program-dollar totals in the dump index itself	**Verified primary**	https://www.usaid.gov/
Internews Network's USAspending recipient profile. Cite the Awarding Agencies table, not the page header, which showed $0 from 0 transactions when fetched.	Media funding	Fetched Nov 24, 2026, America/New_York	Awarding Agencies table: $277.15 million in USAID obligations; $51.13 million from the Department of State.	**Verified primary**	https://www.usaspending.gov/recipient/668979ff-9e8a-29fa-4bb5-f6dd13711184-P/all
USAID OIG Semiannual Report to Congress for April 1–September 30, 2026: 20 investigations opened and 11 convictions. Desk reviews covered 23 audit reports.	Investigations	Apr 1–Sep 30, 2026	Monetary results: $2,500,387. Funds audited: $882 million. Desk reviews: $184,201 in questioned costs.	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2026-11/USAID IG Semiannual Report to Congress- Fall 2026.pdf
OIG Report 9-000-26-002-P: USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance did not complete a fraud-risk assessment or response-risk profile for multipurpose cash assistance in West Bank and Gaza. Identified risks included diversion to unauthorized recipients and terrorist groups. The awards were terminated in February and March 2025.	Gaza/West Bank	May 21, 2026	Awarded: about $36 million for multipurpose cash assistance in fiscal year 2024, to four nongovernmental organizations, as stated in the audit.	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2026-05/Audit of USAID Cash Assistance to West Bank Gaza (9-000-26-002-P).pdf
OIG Report 8-294-26-003-P: USAID selectively vetted partners for West Bank and Gaza humanitarian awards. In a four-award sample, 622 of 627 entities were deemed eligible. UN staff and some sub-threshold recipients were exempted under a policy last updated in 2007. Vetting relied on implementer self-reporting.	Gaza/West Bank	May 14, 2026	18 active humanitarian assistance awards, valued at $650 million, from January 2023 to October 2024.	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2026-05/Final Audit Report - West Bank and Gaza Partner Vetting Audit (8-294-26-003-P).pdf
OIG Report 9-121-26-001-P: Oversight of USAID direct budget support to Ukraine through the World Bank PEACE fund was weakened by late or missing contractor deliverables. Deloitte submitted nearly one-third of required deliverables late. KPMG did not submit any of six required audit reports on time or at all. Ukraine confirmed reimbursement of duplicate payments to four internally displaced persons and incomplete verification of payments to IDPs who had moved abroad.	Ukraine	Mar 3, 2026	Obligated: about $30.7 billion in direct budget support in fiscal years 2022 to 2024, as stated in the audit. 84 percent went through the PEACE fund.	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/Audit of Direct Budget Support to Ukraine (9-121-26-001-P).pdf

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USAID OIG December 2025 fact sheet on active and ongoing investigations involving misuse of taxpayer dollars: 350 ongoing investigative matters and 141 active investigations, of which 41 had been accepted by the Justice Department for criminal prosecution and 16 as civil fraud.	Investigations	December 2025	None stated for the caseload totals	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/USAID OIG's Active and Ongoing Investigations 12.25 Final_1.pdf
A USAID OIG investigation resulted in the indictment of a former country director of a U.S.-funded NGO operating in Haiti.	Investigations	December 2025 fact sheet	Defrauded: over $700,000 in foreign assistance	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/USAID OIG's Active and Ongoing Investigations 12.25 Final_1.pdf
OIG investigation of alleged diversion from USAID/Kenya's Kenya Medical Supplies Authority Medical Commodities Program. OIG shared preliminary findings with USAID in January 2020.	Investigations	December 2025 fact sheet	Program: $650 million. After the findings, USAID deobligated or reprogrammed over $32 million.	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/USAID OIG's Active and Ongoing Investigations 12.25 Final_1.pdf
OIG is investigating allegations of wide-scale fraud in a PEPFAR volunteer medical male circumcision program. The investigation had, at the date of the fact sheet, led to termination of a contract and of one mission employee.	Investigations	December 2025 fact sheet	Terminated contract: $105 million. Unspent after termination: $52 million, described as approximate in the fact sheet.	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/USAID OIG's Active and Ongoing Investigations 12.25 Final_1.pdf
OIG is investigating allegations of fraud and misrepresentation by a USAID awardee in Ukraine, plus two fraud schemes in the Direct Budget Support program: alleged false disability certifications and improper pension payments, and alleged ghost employees used to claim fraudulent reimbursements. No dollar totals for these schemes are stated in the fact sheet.	Ukraine	December 2025 fact sheet	None stated for these schemes	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/USAID OIG's Active and Ongoing Investigations 12.25 Final_1.pdf
OIG investigation in Ethiopia uncovered diversion of USAID-funded food commodities for sale by elements of the Ethiopian National Defense and Tigray forces. Fieldwork found World Food Programme knowledge of nonexistent food distribution points. No dollar total is stated in the fact sheet.	Investigations	December 2025 fact sheet	None stated	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/USAID OIG's Active and Ongoing Investigations 12.25 Final_1.pdf
Operation Stop the Carousel is a proactive OIG investigation to prevent recirculation of terrorists through U.S.-funded aid organizations in Gaza, including UN and NGO staff. The fact sheet says the UNRWA-related work had referred 19 individuals for suspension or debarment consideration by the Department of State.	Gaza/West Bank	December 2025 fact sheet	None stated	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-12/USAID OIG's Active and Ongoing Investigations 12.25 Final_1.pdf

Finding	Category	Date	Dollars	Status	Source
USAID OIG Semiannual Report to Congress for April 1–September 30, 2025: 10 convictions and 19 government-wide suspensions and debarments. Desk reviews covered 190 non-federal audit reports.	Investigations	Apr 1–Sep 30, 2025	Monetary results: $139,696,072. Desk reviews: $7,230,655,156 in funds audited, including $4,486,451 in questioned costs. Monetary results may include deferred-prosecution-agreement amounts counted regardless of inability to pay.	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/SARC Fall 2025_12.30.2025_final.pdf
Supreme Court, Department of State v. AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, No. 25A269, stayed a District of Columbia district-court preliminary injunction directing the Executive to obligate expiring aid funds, as to the funding covered by the President's August 28 special message. The Court said the order should not be read as a final determination on the merits.	Litigation	Sep 26, 2025	Injunction had directed obligation of roughly $10.5 billion. The stay applies to $4 billion covered by the August 28 special message.	**Verified primary**	https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a269_bp7c.pdf
USAID OIG recorded that on July 1, 2025, the Department of State assumed responsibility for USAID's remaining programming.	Policy	Jul 1, 2025	None stated	**Verified primary**	https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/Audit of Direct Budget Support to Ukraine (9-121-26-001-P).pdf
USAID contracting officer Roderick Watson and executives Walter Barnes (Vistant), Darryl Britt (Apprio), and Paul Young pleaded guilty in a decade-long bribery scheme involving at least 14 prime contracts. Apprio and Vistant entered three-year deferred prosecution agreements.	Bribery	Jun 12, 2025	Contracts: over $550 million. Alleged bribes to Watson: more than approximately $1 million. Calculated criminal penalties: $51,673,185 (Apprio) and $86,407,740 (Vistant). Civil payments under the resolutions: $500,000 and $100,000, after inability-to-pay findings.	**Verified primary**	https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/usaid-official-and-three-corporate-executives-plead-guilty-decade-long-bribery-scheme
Judicial Watch filed Judicial Watch Inc. v. U.S. Agency for International Development, No. 1:25-cv-00508, seeking records on waste, fraud, and abuse in USAID aid to Ukraine.	Litigation	Feb 28, 2025	None stated for the lawsuit itself	**Verified primary**	https://www.judicialwatch.org/judicial-watch-sues-usaid/
Judicial Watch's Ukraine FOIA release cited a January 2025 USAID exit memo stating the agency had sent Ukraine close to $35 billion since the February 2022 invasion. The exit memo itself was not independently opened in this research.	Ukraine	Cited Feb 28, 2025; memo dated January 2025	Close to $35 billion, as quoted by Judicial Watch from a January 2025 USAID exit memo	**Unconfirmed lead**	https://www.judicialwatch.org/judicial-watch-sues-usaid/
Outlook India reported that the administration said it would eliminate most multiyear USAID awards and a large share of State Department grants, attributing the figures to an internal memo and federal court filings. Those counts were not independently confirmed in a primary memo or docket entry in this research.	Policy	Feb 27, 2025	Reported, unconfirmed: 5,800 of 6,200 multiyear USAID awards ($54 billion) and 4,100 of 9,100 State grants ($4.4 billion).	**Unconfirmed lead**	https://www.outlookindia.com/international/us/trump-administration-says-us-to-cut-90-of-usaid-contracts-60-b-assistance-across-globe

Finding	Category	Date	Dollars	Status	Source
In Global Health Council v. Trump, No. 1:25-cv-00402 (D.D.C.), the government on February 12, 2025, filed a first list of USAID contracts and grants terminated or placed under stop-work orders since the lawsuit was filed the previous morning. The notice said the list might later be supplemented. A complete count is not in the notice opened for this research.	Litigation	Feb 12, 2025	None stated in the notice	**Verified primary**	https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.277336/gov.uscourts.dcd.277336.20.0_2.pdf
The State Department announced that President Trump had appointed Secretary Marco Rubio Acting USAID Administrator and had notified Congress that a review was underway with an eye toward potential reorganization.	Policy	Feb 3, 2025	None stated	**Verified primary**	https://www.state.gov/secretary-marco-rubio-appointed-as-acting-administrator-for-the-united-states-agency-for-international-development-usaid
Executive Order 14169 imposed a 90-day pause on new foreign-development-assistance obligations and disbursements, pending a program-by-program review.	Policy	Jan 20, 2025	None stated in the order	**Verified primary**	https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/
Judicial Watch v. U.S. Agency for International Development, No. 1:24-cv-02159, seeking records on Gaza grants awarded to Miscellaneous Foreign Awardees, including Federal Award Identification Number 720BHA24GR00005. Judicial Watch later said USAID produced records but withheld recipient names.	Litigation	Awards Nov 15, 2023; suit Nov 13, 2024	$7 million awarded Nov 15, 2023, plus a $20 million continuation the same day, totaling $27 million.	**Verified primary**	https://www.judicialwatch.org/27m-grants-gaza/

Caveats

- OIG headline monetary results can include deferred-prosecution-agreement amounts counted regardless of inability to pay, and should not be read as cash collected. In the June 12, 2025, Justice Department announcement, calculated criminal penalties for Apprio and Vistant were $51,673,185 and $86,407,740, while the resolutions provided for civil payments of $500,000 and $100,000 after inability-to-pay findings.
- For Internews Network, cite the Awarding Agencies table on the USAspending recipient profile ($277.15 million in USAID obligations and $51.13 million from State), not the page header, which showed $0 from 0 transactions when fetched on November 24, 2026, America/New_York.
- The Outlook India figures of 5,800 of 6,200 multiyear USAID awards ($54 billion) and 4,100 of 9,100 State grants ($4.4 billion) are marked as an unconfirmed lead. They were attributed to an internal memo and court filings and were not independently confirmed in a primary document in this research.

Reusable research prompt

The following prompt can be reused in a later research session to continue the same scope and source rules.

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Research USAID as a historical case in U.S. government corruption, waste, fraud, and the
political use of foreign-aid money. I am a historian. Prefer primary documents over commentary.
Do not invent dollar amounts, recipient names, award numbers, or case captions. If a figure
cannot be tied to a cited primary page or PDF, say so and leave it blank.

Scope. Cover the agency from its statutory origins through the 2025–2026 shutdown and transfer
of remaining functions to the Department of State, with emphasis on: (1) procurement fraud and
bribery; (2) OIG and SIGAR findings of fraud, waste, questioned costs, and diversion of aid,
including to terrorist organizations; (3) pass-through funding to NGOs, contractors, and other
implementing partners, including subawards; (4) media, “disinformation,” “information
integrity,” and social-media-platform work; (5) large country programs, especially Ukraine,
West Bank/Gaza, Afghanistan, Haiti, Ethiopia, and Kenya health commodities; (6) congressional
oversight, FOIA releases, and court cases from 2025–2026, including the funding freeze,
contract terminations, and impoundment litigation.

Where the records are now. Start with the current USAID.gov “USAID Files” dump (https://
www.usaid.gov/). For the pre-February 2025 website and program pages, use https://
usaid.govarchive.us/ and the Wayback Machine (https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://
www.usaid.gov/). Use USAID OIG (https://oig.usaid.gov/) for audits, investigations, and
Semiannual Reports to Congress; USAspending.gov for prime and subawards; ForeignAssistance.gov
for historical aid flows (the complete dataset was still being updated in 2026); the AidData
DEC archive (https://usaid-archive.aiddata.org/) because dec.usaid.gov went dark; Justice
Department press releases and PACER/CourtListener dockets; Judicial Watch FOIA releases; SIGAR
for Afghanistan; and official White House and State Department notices on the 2025
reorganization.

Source rules. After primary documents, acceptable secondary sources are trusted X accounts
(@jsolomonReports, @laralogan, @C__Herridge, @JoshJPhilipp, @TomFitton, @naomirwolf,
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@julie_kelly2, @RealSLokhova, @RealPNavarro), Judicial Watch, Indian outlets (Outlook India
first), and Japanese outlets. Do not use mainstream U.S. or Western newspapers or networks as
authorities. Exclude @GenFlynn and any Australian sources. Use X posts only as leads; verify
any factual claim in a primary document before repeating it.

For every award, investigation, or audit extracted, capture: dollar amounts (obligated,
disbursed, questioned, recovered, deobligated — and say which); recipient legal name, UEI/DUNS,
and any parent or subrecipient; award or FAIN/PIID; dates (award, period of performance,
termination, plea, sentencing); OIG or SIGAR report number and publication date; statutes or
charge counts; court case number and docket entry; and a direct URL to the PDF or official
page. Flag inability-to-pay or "regardless of inability to pay" footnotes so headline "monetary
results" are not mistaken for cash recovered. Distinguish findings of risk or weak controls
from proven diversion or convicted fraud.

Output format. (1) A two-sentence status note on what usaid.gov and the main portals show as of
the date of the research. (2) A findings table or bullet list, each row one claim with the
primary URL. (3) A short list of the highest-value open questions and the exact collections
that would answer them (for example, a named SARC, a USAspending download, a specific FOIA
case, or a Wayback snapshot). (4) An annotated source list separated into primary documents and
approved secondary sources. Do not pad with commentary.
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Data portals

1. USAID Files dump (current usaid.gov) — https://www.usaid.gov/
2. Pre-shutdown USAID.gov mirror — https://usaid.govarchive.us/
3. Wayback Machine index of usaid.gov — https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://www.usaid.gov/
4. USAID Office of Inspector General — https://oig.usaid.gov/
5. OIG audits — https://oig.usaid.gov/our-work/audits-memos
6. OIG investigations — https://oig.usaid.gov/our-work/investigations
7. OIG Semiannual Reports to Congress — https://oig.usaid.gov/our-work/semiannual-report
8. Foreign assistance budget and disbursement data — https://foreignassistance.gov/data
9. USAID agency profile on USAspending — https://www.usaspending.gov/agency/agency-for-international-development
10. Partial Development Experience Clearinghouse archive — https://usaid-archive.aiddata.org/
11. State Department USAID archive and policy page — https://www.state.gov/policy-issues/u-s-agency-for-international-development-usaid
12. Executive Order 14169 — https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/
13. Justice Department press releases — https://www.justice.gov/opa
14. Judicial Watch USAID FOIA releases — https://www.judicialwatch.org/
15. SIGAR Afghanistan oversight — https://www.sigar.mil/
16. Oversight.gov report library — https://www.oversight.gov/

Open questions / next to research

- Confirm the Outlook India 5,800 of 6,200 / $54 billion and 4,100 of 9,100 / $4.4 billion cut figures in the administration memo or in later docket filings, beyond the February 12, 2025, first-tranche termination notice in Global Health Council v. Trump, No. 1:25-cv-00402, Document 20.
- Open the January 2025 USAID exit memo cited by Judicial Watch for the close to $35 billion Ukraine figure.
- Download the Internews Network award data from USAspending as a CSV to reconcile the Awarding Agencies table ($277.15 million USAID; $51.13 million State) with the $0 header shown at fetch.
- Identify which matters make up the OIG $139,696,072 monetary-results total for April–September 2025, and how much of that total is deferred-prosecution-agreement calculated penalties rather than cash collected.
- Check sentencing outcomes for Watson (scheduled October 6, 2025), Young (September 3, 2025), Britt (July 28, 2025), and Barnes (October 14, 2025), which were scheduled dates in the June 12, 2025, Justice Department release as updated July 9, 2025, not confirmed results in this research.
- Locate any later, complete terminated-awards list after the February 12, 2025, first tranche.
- Identify the withheld recipient names behind the $27 million Gaza Miscellaneous Foreign Awardees grants, including FAIN 720BHA24GR00005, if later productions or USAspending records name them.
- Map subaward chains for large implementing partners beyond Internews, using USAspending subrecipient records.
- Recheck https://www.usaid.gov/ for later batches added to the USAID Files dump after November 24, 2026, America/New_York.
- Seek a fuller Development Experience Clearinghouse collection than the AidData evaluation subset, and any official successor archive at State or the National Archives.