

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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MEMORANDUM

March 18, 2024

To: Members, Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

From: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing titled “Accountable Assistance: Reviewing Controls to Prevent Mismanagement of Foreign Aid”

On **Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 2:00 PM ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs will host a hearing titled “Accountable Assistance: Reviewing Controls to Prevent Mismanagement of Foreign Aid.”

I. BACKGROUND:

The United States heavily relies on direct budget assistance to foreign governments as a way of providing foreign assistance. The U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) lack comprehensive accountability mechanisms to track foreign assistance, whether administered through contracts, grants, or aid given to multilateral organizations. Once funds are dispersed, the U.S. has little visibility over foreign aid, and often relies on the receiving country to conduct oversight—leaving assistance susceptible to waste, fraud, and abuse.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine the U.S. Department of State and USAID’s monitoring and evaluation process to ensure foreign assistance is meeting intended goals and going to intended purposes, as well as mechanisms the U.S. has in place to keep foreign assistance out of the hands of nefarious actors.

III. WITNESSES:

Jim Richardson
Former Director
Office of Foreign Assistance
U.S. Department of State

Max Primorac
Senior Research Fellow, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom
The Heritage Foundation