

## USADF Background

The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) is an independent government agency managed by a seven-member board of directors. The agency is authorized to provide financial assistance to, and enter into contracts and other agreements with, Africa-based entities. The agency was all but shut down by the Trump administration after DOGE uncovered significant fraud. Most recently, as part of a Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation, Mathieu Zahui, the Director of Financial Management for USADF, [pled guilty](#) to corruption and obstruction of justice charges. This is only the beginning.

This corrupt agency is riddled with scandal, fraud, and other credible allegations of improprieties in recent years. Whistleblowers at USADF exposed misconduct in 2023 and faced retaliation from officials connected to the allegations. Below is a timeline of reports, exposés, and attempts to conduct oversight on USADF.

- Nov 1, 2023: Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Risch [sent an oversight letter](#) to USADF demanding answers for credible allegations on misuse of official funds, conflicts of interest, inappropriate partnerships, gross mismanagement, and attempts to suppress evidence and quash investigations.
- Aug 29, 2024: The USAID Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a [management advisory](#) against USADF for failure to report suspected misuses of grant funds and equipment.
- Oct 29, 2024: USAID OIG [search warrant](#) noting evidence of crime uncovered grant recipients secretly wiring money to the personal account of USADF officials at the same time as grants were disbursed to such recipients. The search was executed but the Biden administration did not take further action.
- Feb 21, 2025: DOGE was [physically blocked](#) from entering the USADF building by Zahui and other USADF officials in a desperate attempt to hide illicit contracts and kickbacks. [Democrats](#) and leftist outlets cheered USADF for its “bravery” and willingness to block oversight.
- May 6, 2025: The Daily Wire released a [four-part series](#) exposing the fraud at USADF.
- June 12, 2025: When the Trump administration announced the termination of grants administered by USADF, the [announcement had to be made on X](#) because USADF did not keep records of grant recipients. Only wiring instructions were available.
- Sept 15, 2025: The Government Accountability Office issued a [report](#) exposing that USADF had “no strategic approach for mitigating fraud, waste, or abuse in its operations.”
- Jan 30, 2026: The DOJ [secures a plea of guilt](#) from Mathieu Zahui, USADF Director of Financial Management.
- Jan 30, 2026: Acting Chair of USADF Pete Marocco [notes](#) how Zahui hired firms to attack whistleblowers and sent money to non-existent offices, and that investigations are ongoing.