



# Foreign Aid

## An Investment in America's Future

THE UNITED STATES  
AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

### Why is foreign aid in our national interest?

American interests are best served by a stable world in which people can improve their lives and those of their families. The U.S. foreign aid program, by fostering freedom and prosperity, promotes peace and stability in the developing world, Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union. Stable, prosperous countries make strong, reliable allies and trading partners. These nations often become eager customers for U.S. exports. Economic growth stimulates greater exports for U.S. businesses... and, consequently, American jobs.

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### How is U.S. foreign aid used?

Foreign assistance serves six basic objectives:

- building strong economies with prosperous people;
- improving the individual well-being of people throughout the world;
- supporting the growth of democratic governments and institutions;
- encouraging conservation and the prudent use of natural resources;
- contributing to the solution of global problems; and,
- helping victims of natural or man-made disasters.



*USAID research and funding reduce the threat of diseases worldwide. Today, USAID assistance fights against childhood killers such as dehydration from dysentery, measles, AIDS and hunger.*

seas, work to ensure that U.S. aid money is spent prudently and honestly and that it reaches the people for whom it is intended.

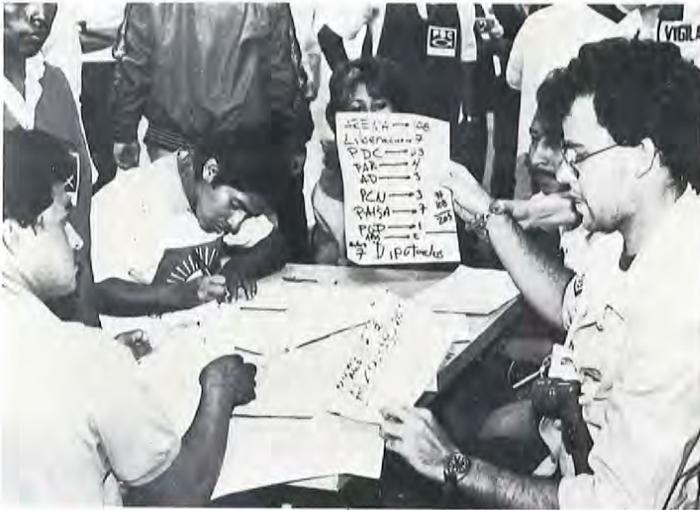
USAID programs range from immunizing small children in Asia against polio to helping subsistence farmers in Africa grow more food to supplying shelter and medicine to hurricane victims in the Caribbean. A major thrust of USAID's program is to help countries build democratic governments and encourage private business and free-market economies.

### What is USAID's role?

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is the federal agency that manages the U.S. foreign economic and humanitarian assistance program in more than 100 countries. USAID often works with U.S. business and non-profit organizations as partners in development. Agency employees, many of whom are based over-

*As nations receiving economic assistance prosper, they become greater markets for U.S. exports. In 1991, U.S. exports to developing countries totaled \$147 billion. Every additional \$1 billion in new exports means 20,000 new American jobs.*





*Throughout the world, USAID programs help developing and other aid-recipient countries make the transition to free, open societies. Promoting democracy is one of USAID's primary objectives.*

### How much do we spend on foreign aid?

In 1992, U.S. foreign economic assistance will amount to approximately \$7.5 billion, only about one-half of 1 percent of the total federal budget.

The returns on America's investment are immense. For example, of the 50 largest buyers of U.S. farm goods, 43 are countries that used to receive food aid from the United States.

### Does foreign aid really help?

The short answer is "yes." America, through its foreign aid program:

- helped save 20 million people in Africa from starvation in 1985, during one of the worst droughts in the history of sub-Saharan Africa; and the United States now is providing food to more than 30 million people in 10 southern African countries who are suffering from the continent's worst drought this century;
- helped eradicate smallpox throughout the developing world;

- fostered free elections and free markets in Central America and Eastern Europe;
- increased literacy rates in USAID-assisted countries by 33 percent;
- helps developing countries prevent children from dying in infancy;
- helps in the global fight against AIDS and illegal drug production and use;
- provides 45 percent of all the family planning funds in the world, enabling some 30 million couples to practice family planning;
- helps save millions of acres of tropical forest, together with untold thousands of species of rare animals and plants;
- creates new markets for U.S. goods and services by helping developing and other aid-recipient nations grow and prosper; and,
- gives millions of people around the globe a better chance to live in a world of peace, without hunger or dictatorships and with greater opportunities for all.

### Want to know more?

For more information or additional copies, contact:

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*Nepal's national forestry and conservation programs, developed with USAID assistance, help the mountain kingdom save its tropical and temperate forests from destruction.*

