US AID

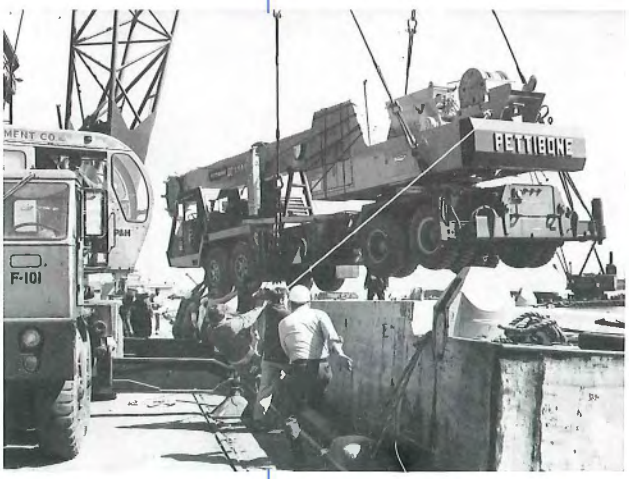
FOREIGN AID FACTS

THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Why does America give foreign aid?

Foreign aid is in America's national interest. It promotes world peace and stability and improves the lives of millions. It expresses the generous spirit of the American people. It helps to develop strong trading partners and new markets for U.S. business. It helps make the world a safer place.

Foreign aid is more than a gift to other countries. It's an investment in the future for us all.



As nations receiving economic assistance become prosperous, they become greater markets for U.S. exports. In 1989, U.S. exports to developing and newly industrialized countries totaled nearly $118 billion.

How is U.S. foreign aid used?

Foreign assistance serves six basic objectives:

- It helps build strong economies with prosperous people.
- It helps improve the individual well-being of people throughout the world.
- It supports the growth of democratic governments and institutions.
- It encourages conservation and the prudent use of natural resources.
- It helps solve global problems.
- It helps those who suffer from natural or man-made disasters.

What is USAID's role?

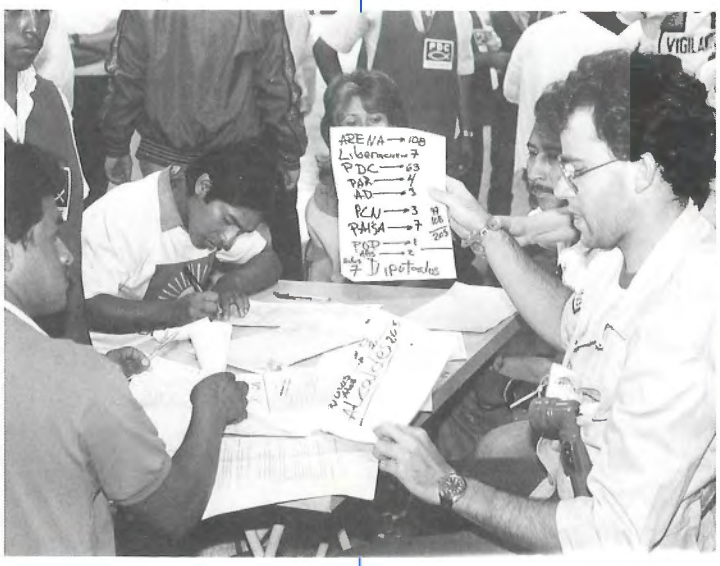
The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is the federal agency that manages the U.S. foreign assistance program, often working in tandem with U.S. business and non-profit organizations, its partners in development. USAID employees, many of whom are based overseas in developing countries, 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 research and funding helped reduce the threat of cholera in countries such as Bangladesh. Today, USAID assistance helps fight against childhood killers such as dehydration from dysentery, measles, AIDS and hunger.

USAID programs range from immunizing small children against polio in Asia to helping subsistence farmers in Africa grow more food to supplying shelter and medicine to hurricane victims in the Caribbean. Much of its efforts helps countries build democratic governments and encourage private businesses.

How much do we spend on foreign aid?

In 1990, U.S. foreign economic assistance will amount to about $7 billion. That's a lot of money, but it's actually only about one-half of 1% of the total federal budget.



Throughout the developing world, USAID programs help countries make the transition to free, open elections. Promoting democracy is one of the Agency's primary objectives.

Why is foreign aid in the national interest?

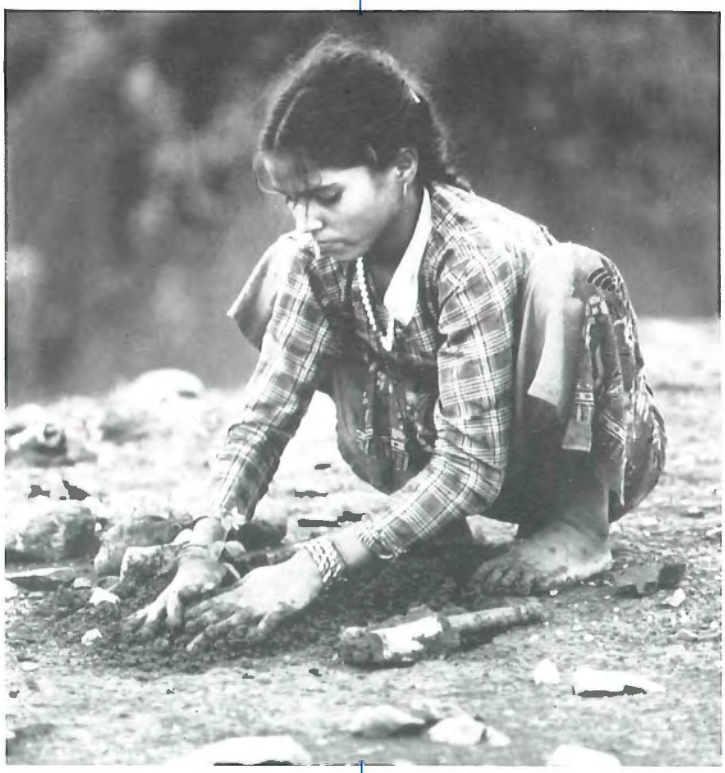
American interests are best served by a stable world, in which people have an opportunity to improve their lives and those of their families. Stable, prosperous countries make strong, reliable trading partners, and developing nations are often the most eager customers for U.S. exports. The U.S. foreign aid program, by fostering freedom and prosperity, promotes peace and stability in the developing world. Economic growth also fosters greater exports for U.S. businesses . . . and, consequently, American jobs.

In fact, of the 50 largest buyers of U.S. farm goods, 21 are countries that used to receive food aid from the United States. South Korea, for example, a longtime food aid recipient, bought $2.6 billion in U.S. agricultural exports in 1989.

Does foreign aid help people?

The short answer is "yes."

- It helped save 20 million people from starvation in 1985, during one of the worst droughts in the history of sub-Saharan Africa.
- It has helped about 70 developing countries prevent children from dying in infancy.
- It has helped to eradicate scourges such as smallpox throughout the developing world.
- It has fostered free elections in Central America and free markets in Eastern Europe.
- It has helped in the global fight against illegal drug production and use.
- It has helped save millions of acres of tropical forest, together with untold thousands of species of rare animals and plants.
- It has created new markets for American goods and services by helping developing nations grow and prosper.
- It has given millions of people around the globe a better chance to live in a world of peace, without hunger or dictatorships—with greater opportunities for all.



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

Want To Know More?

For more information or additional copies, contact:

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