



The United States Agency for International Development

## The Four Pillars of USAID

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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
FACT SHEET

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***"As a great power, I believe America's foreign assistance both serves to accomplish our foreign policy objectives, and expresses the deep humanitarian instincts of the American people."  
Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator, USAID, May 8, 2001.***

In order to improve USAID's effectiveness as a key foreign policy instrument, this Administration intends to coordinate and focus Agency resources and capabilities to address globalization and conflict. USAID will bring together programs and activities into three program pillars that cut across all USAID funding accounts. By aggregating current and new programs that are mutually reinforcing into these pillars, USAID will be able to use scarce budget and human resources more effectively, and to describe its programs more clearly.

### The Global Development Alliance (GDA)

The Global Development Alliance (GDA) is USAID's commitment to change the way we implement our assistance mandate. We propose to serve as a catalyst to mobilize the ideas, efforts, and resources of the public sector, corporate America, the higher education community and non-governmental organizations in support of shared objectives. For example, a critical development need is to help poor countries have access to new information technologies, so they aren't left permanently off the digital highway.

### Economic Growth and Agriculture

More than 1.2 billion people live on less than a dollar a day; more than 800 million people continue to go to bed hungry; and more than 113 million children are not in school. The Economic Growth and Agriculture pillar will strengthen U.S. efforts to ensure that these people are able to take advantage of the potential of globalization, rather than becoming its victims. It highlights the interrelationship and interdependence of economic growth and agricultural development, environmental sustainability, and the development of a country's human capital - with the ultimate goal of creating and cultivating viable market-oriented economies. Programs in this pillar will

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encourage economic opportunity, agricultural development, education and training, and effective management of natural resources.

### **Global Health**

USAID intends to include in this pillar maternal and child health, nutrition, women's reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and programs that address other infectious disease such as malaria and tuberculosis. These are global issues with global consequences: the health of a population directly affects their productivity, and unchecked infectious diseases in other countries pose threats to our own.

### **Conflict Prevention and Developmental Relief**

USAID continues to stand at the forefront of agencies around the world in its ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters. The request will enable USAID to maintain this capability to provide needed help rapidly when international emergencies occur.

This initiative will integrate the existing portfolio of USAID democracy programs with new approaches to crisis and conflict analysis, and new methodologies to assist conflicting parties resolve their issues peacefully. Our experience has proven that by promoting and assisting the growth of democracy - by giving people the opportunity to peacefully influence their government - the United States advances the emergence and establishment of societies that will become better trade partners and more stable governments. By facilitating citizens' participation and trust in their government, our democracy efforts can help stop the violent internal conflicts that lead to destabilizing and costly refugee flows, anarchy and failed states, and the spread of disease.

Foreign assistance is an important tool for the President and the Secretary of State to further America's interests. In fact, it is sometimes the most appropriate tool, when diplomacy is not enough or military force imprudent. In general, foreign assistance works hand-in-hand with other foreign policy tools. Foreign assistance implements peace agreements arranged by diplomats and often enforced by the military; supports peacekeeping efforts by building economic and political opportunity; helps developing and transition nations move toward democratic systems and market economies; helps nations prepare for participation in the global trading system and become better markets for U.S exports. All of these activities help build a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous world - which is very much in the interest of the United States.

Foreign assistance does work, but it takes years of investment and hard work.

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