

# U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE: DID YOU KNOW?

## Did you know that U.S. international assistance programs strongly align with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's directive to make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous?

- For example, **U.S. international assistance programs purchase over \$2 billion in food from American farmers** to alleviate famine and instability around the world.
- These programs also respond to humanitarian crises that threaten millions of lives and directly affect U.S. national security priorities in strategic regions.
- They [combat drug activity](#) in Latin America and reduce the causes of migration to the U.S.
- They open investment opportunities in emerging markets for American companies and prevent, detect, and contain dangerous infectious diseases at their source to keep Americans safe.

## Did you know that U.S. international assistance has successfully tackled some of the world's most pressing challenges?

- U.S. international assistance has made significant impacts in health and economic development, leading to more stable economies across Africa, more trading partners for American goods, and keeping Americans safer.
- **Since 1990, U.S. international assistance has helped lift close to 1 billion people out of extreme poverty.**
- **America's HIV/AIDS programs have helped save over [25 million lives](#)** by providing AIDS treatment to millions in Africa.
- U.S. international assistance has helped drive rapid responses to multiple deadly disease outbreaks around the world – including Ebola, Mpox, and Marburg virus, helping to contain them and **minimize their threat to American lives and livelihoods.**
- U.S. international assistance has helped alleviate the devastating effects of malaria, a leading cause of death for children under 5 worldwide, **averting [2.2 billion cases of malaria](#) and [12.7 million malaria deaths](#) since 2000.**
- U.S. food aid programs have reached millions of hungry people in disaster-stricken regions, leveraging the ingenuity of American farmers to save lives.
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## Did you know that for every dollar USAID has invested, it has [catalyzed nearly \\$5 from the private sector](#)?

- This makes America more prosperous by generating a five-fold increase for the American taxpayer.
- **[13 of America's top 15 export markets](#) were once recipients of U.S. international assistance**, strengthening our economy and creating jobs at home.

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## Did you know that U.S. international assistance is largely targeted at low- and middle-income countries, as well as countries in extreme crisis and strategic allies?

- In 2024, [\\$12.7 billion](#) of U.S. international assistance went to Sub-Saharan Africa, and in 2023 [\\$1.3 billion](#) went to South Asia, regions that are some of the fastest-growing markets in the world and where U.S. engagement in economic development, health, and infrastructure is critical for building strong international alliances and competing with our rivals.
- Only about 5% of U.S. international assistance goes directly to governments, for strategic allies such as Egypt, Israel, and Jordan, and it is highly conditioned.
- The U.S. government vets both the domestic partner organizations, affiliated international organizations, and the recipients of aid to ensure American resources are not diverted to terrorism or illegal use, and that the values of other parties align with American goals.

## Did you know the U.S. spends less on international assistance as a proportion of its wealth than many of our allies?

- The U.S. spends 0.24% of its Gross National Income (GNI) per capita on international assistance. In comparison, countries like Germany, Norway, and Sweden contribute significantly more as a percentage of their GNI, 0.82%, 1.1%, and 0.93% respectively.
- During President Reagan's time in office in which he championed Peace Through Strength, the U.S. spent 0.6% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on international assistance. Today, we spend less than half of that.

## Did you know that nearly every dollar of U.S. international assistance is heavily scrutinized to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse?

- Every program needs signoff from the Director of Foreign Assistance at the State Department, the Office of Management and Budget, and four Congressional oversight committees. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) then audits programs to ensure the proper use of U.S. taxpayer dollars.
- Between October 2018 and September 2024, OIG conducted nearly 3,000 audits of programs totaling almost \$216.6 billion – nearly 95% of all USAID funds during those years. Of that total, only .3% was flagged for further investigation.