

# U.S. International Assistance: A Win for Americans

## Americans Get a Safer World

### Preventing costly and unnecessary wars

**For every \$1 the U.S. spends to prevent conflict, it saves an estimated \$16 in response costs.**

U.S. international assistance plays a crucial role in enhancing national security and preventing unnecessary wars. As Admiral James Stavridis recently [said](#), “If you want to try to save money by cutting USAID, you will only end up spending more on costly Pentagon programs.”

Investments in international assistance have proven vital for counterterrorism operations to combat ISIS and Al Qaeda and to counter the threat of Al-Shabaab against vital shipping lanes. Through Anti-Terrorism Assistance programs, U.S. assistance helps to prevent conflicts, enable forward-deployed partner forces, and minimize risks for U.S. service members.

Programs like Plan Colombia have [pulled](#) countries back from the brink of collapse and help stem the flow of illegal migration to our borders.

**Emergency food assistance provided by the U.S. has helped reduce the incidence of violent conflict by nearly one-third** in crisis zones like Syria, Sudan, and the Sahel region of Africa.

By ensuring communities have access to food, U.S. international assistance programs help stabilize regions, diminish competition over scarce resources, and reduce susceptibility to manipulation by terrorist groups.

**America's Feed the Future program has pulled 23.4 million people out of poverty.**

As Secretary of State Rubio has [said](#),  
**“Food security is national security.”**

## Reducing migration at America's Southern Border

**In the Northern Triangle, U.S. international assistance programs have helped reduce migration rates by up to 68%** in targeted communities, including through programs focused on countering gang activity and violence, boosting agricultural production, and promoting good governance.

The [Alliance for Prosperity](#) with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, has leveraged U.S. support to bolster good governance and local security, expand economic growth and job opportunities, and combat health threats such as HIV/AIDS to reduce migration into the United States.

**International assistance [supports](#) programs that combat human trafficking globally**, protecting vulnerable populations, disrupting criminal networks, strengthening enforcement tools and court capacity, and helping survivors of trafficking to reintegrate into their communities. The U.S. government also provides critical resources to the business community, helping industries understand, detect, and address forced labor in global supply chains. These efforts enhance our security by reducing the reach of transnational organized crime.



**Investments in diplomacy have created a platform for the U.S.-Mexico Anti-Drug Partnership to reduce drug supply and prevent harm caused by opioids.**

For every dollar spent on interagency counter-narcotics operations, the Partnership produces an estimated return for the American people of \$4-5 through reduced healthcare costs, law enforcement expenses, and social consequences.

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## Protecting Americans' health

**Stopping Deadly Outbreaks Before They Reach Our Shores:** A 2013 outbreak of Ebola began in Guinea and surged across West Africa, eventually reaching the United States. Containing it took several months and a massive global response, including by the U.S. military. U.S. global health security programs [helped](#) African countries bolster their capacity to better prevent, detect, and respond to disease outbreaks. When a subsequent outbreak occurred in 2020, the Democratic Republic of the Congo identified and was able to mount a response to it in just two weeks, preventing its spread across borders and before ever reaching our shores.

**U.S. international assistance has helped drive rapid responses to multiple disease outbreaks around the world,** including a September 2024 outbreak in Rwanda of the Marburg virus, which has a death rate as high as 80%. Within two days of detecting the outbreak, the U.S. had embedded senior scientists with the Government of Rwanda to support its response. In just 9 days, the U.S. had partnered with the private sector to deliver doses of vaccines and treatments – developed with U.S. government support – for emergency use for patients, their contacts, and frontline health workers. Our quick response and trusted partnership with Rwanda on global health security reduced the death rate to just 23% and stopped the spread of this dangerous virus.

The U.S. government's successful partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria has led to 65 million lives saved, 25 million people on ARV treatment for HIV, 7.1 million people treated for TB, and 227 million mosquito nets distributed.

For every dollar the U.S. invests in international global health initiatives like the Global Fund, it catalyzes up to \$3 from other international partners, ensuring that the U.S. is not tackling these challenges alone.

Partnerships such as the Global Fund, Gavi, and the Pandemic Fund showcase U.S. leadership and create opportunities for greater U.S. influence in sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and other regions of strategic importance.

## Limiting the influence of the Chinese Communist Party

**International assistance provides an important foothold for the U.S. in regions where we're in direct competition with rivals like China.** As Rep. Young Kim (R-CA) [said](#) recently, "[President] Xi Jinping is watching, and he is waiting for the chance to fill any U.S. vacuum."

In response to the recent freeze on U.S. assistance, China has openly signaled its willingness to support projects in Nepal, the Indo-Pacific, Colombia, and Cambodia – critically important geographies for the U.S.

**The alliances forged through U.S. international assistance are key to securing the critical minerals necessary to drive the U.S. economy and compete with China.** Securing the U.S. supply chain for critical minerals like lithium and cobalt and creating opportunities for American companies requires engagement with resource-rich countries in Africa and Latin America.

In Angola, America is supporting the development of a railway to move goods and critical minerals to the Atlantic port of Lobito. The railway will accelerate win-win investments in areas like 5G, energy, agriculture, and infrastructure that will simultaneously promote economic growth in Angola and help deliver critical minerals to the United States and its allies.

## Americans Get a Stronger International Posture

### Strengthening alliances and asserting American influence

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has saved more than 25 million lives and prevented tens of millions of HIV infections, engendering goodwill and support from African countries to advance U.S. foreign policy and national security priorities.

During the Ebola crisis, and in every subsequent outbreak, PEPFAR platforms across Africa have been marshaled to monitor for and stop the spread of disease. An outbreak in western Uganda in 2023 was stopped in weeks due to contact tracing and systems put in place through international assistance.



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## Americans Get More Prosperity and Jobs

### Growing markets for American exports

Since 1990, U.S. international assistance has helped to lift close to 1 billion people out of extreme poverty, creating a new market of consumers of American goods and helping to reduce America's trade deficit.

The Heritage Foundation praised Prosper Africa, an initiative launched by President Trump in 2019, as a novel way of "strengthening the U.S. private sector's competitive advantage in African markets through increasing investments, improving the business environment, and expanding a middle class."

Before Prosper Africa, U.S. trade and investment in Africa were steadily decreasing, leaving the U.S. well behind China. Since the initiative was launched, U.S. exports have steadily risen. Between 2023 and 2024, U.S. exports to Africa jumped by 11.9%, to \$32.1 billion, and the trade deficit decreased by 26.4%.

In just the last half of 2024, the U.S. government facilitated [401 trade and investment](#) deals valued at \$32.5 billion across Africa.

**13 of America's top 15 export markets were previously [recipients](#) of U.S. international assistance.** More than 50% of U.S. exports now go to the developing world, with a global purchasing power of \$50 trillion.



**The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) [generates](#) \$231** in exports of U.S.-goods and services for every \$1 programmed for projects in emerging markets.

## Creating opportunity for America's farmers and businesses

In 2023, the U.S. [purchased](#) 1.1 million metric tons of food from American farmers to help more than 45 million people with emergency food and nutrition assistance, generating more than **\$1.9 billion** in revenue for U.S. farmers.

As of 2021, the U.S. Feed the Future program had [established](#) Innovation Labs at 13 universities, including Kansas State University, University of Florida, and Purdue University. These labs employ Americans and develop solutions to a variety of challenges facing the global agriculture sector.



**Over the past decade, [Power Africa](#) has supported 152 power projects across the continent to add 14,300 megawatts of new electricity, which has created thousands of American jobs, reduced poverty, and expanded connectivity.**

U.S. energy equipment suppliers, project developers, operators, and investors, such as General Electric, Rickly Hydro in Ohio, and AEG International and Babcock & Wilcox in North Carolina, have participated in projects across the continent.