



# Track Record of Reform at USAID

Over the last 15 years, Republican and Democratic Administrations have reformed the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to strengthen its capacity to deliver results-driven, transparent, and accountable foreign assistance in the fight against global poverty. As America's lead development agency, USAID is catalyzing new commitments to tackle global challenges in health, agriculture, and energy, and leveraging limited taxpayer dollars for an impact at scale. From a renewed commitment to rigorous monitoring and evaluation to prioritizing science and technology and building partnerships with the private sector, USAID has made significant progress toward ensuring that America's development investments are sustainable and maximized. Bipartisan leadership in Congress has endorsed these reforms through legislation including the Electrify Africa Act, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act, and the Global Food Security Act in 2016.

## Roadmap to Accountability

- **Elevating development as central to our national security.** Since 9/11, National Security Strategies by Republican and Democratic Presidents have elevated development – alongside diplomacy and defense -- as a core pillar of American power and U.S. national security.
- **Setting strategic vision.** USAID rebuilt its capacity to be a strategic partner with the Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning and Office of Budget and Resource Management and completed 60 Country Development Cooperation Strategies to guide U.S. investments.
- **Applying rigorous monitoring and evaluation.** USAID has conducted more than 1,000 evaluations by independent third parties since 2011 and reports that 98 percent of these evaluations have been used to shape and inform USAID policies.
- **Tracking country-by-country spending.** The online Foreign Assistance Dashboard posts aid budget data so policy makers and Americans can see exactly where and how their tax dollars are being spent.
- **Leveraging private resources.** USAID's Global Development Alliance has leveraged over \$1.5 billion of private capital for development projects, and Development Credit Authority has doubled its total loan guarantees since 2011. For Power Africa, the initiative to bring electricity to sub-Saharan Africa, an initial \$7 billion commitment has leveraged more than \$20 billion in private sector commitments.
- **Prioritizing science and technology.** USAID has renewed its commitment to science and technology-based solutions that enable transformative change in the developing world. Through the U.S. Global Development Lab, USAID has fostered more than 420 development innovations, helping to transform the lives of over 24.5 million people.
- **Strengthening host country ownership.** USAID works with countries to ensure they are committed to their development and invest their own national resources to improve the lives of their citizens. In Feed the Future, the U.S. is working with host governments to develop national agricultural development strategies that guide and ensure U.S. investments are sustainable.

# Quotes



“USAID, as I said, is an important part of the projection of America’s values around the world.”

– Secretary of State nominee Rex Tillerson, January 18, 2017



“With limited aid available, it is our responsibility to ensure American resources are used in the most effective manner possible.”

– Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), February 13, 2015



“U.S. leadership on foreign development, aid programs, and economic assistance is the global gold standard making impactful and positive changes throughout the world. But we must always demand the highest standards of transparency and accountability to ensure our foreign assistance efforts are making the most positive and meaningful impact in the communities we assist.”

– Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), October 20, 2015



“I’m actually an advocate for spending more on foreign aid—I think we can avoid wars that way, and I’ve spoken about that. But I love the leveraging impact of what you all at USAID are doing, with programs like Power Africa, where we get private money to partner with public money and get great economic returns.”

– Senator David Perdue (R-GA), June 30, 2016



“We need to invest in diplomacy, development, and foreign assistance in order to tackle all of these challenges. We need to make the case that modest investments today – just over 1% of the federal budget – will pay back huge dividends for our security and prosperity tomorrow. And we need to show that American leadership is always a sure thing, because if we’re not doing this work around the world, no one else will.”

– Rep. Elliot Engel (D-NY), February 25, 2016



“USAID, our government’s lead development agency, also has undergone a significant and much-needed modernization in recent years, substantially improving the transparency, accountability and learning efforts that are necessary to achieve lasting development results.”

– Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL), on December 21, 2016



“Aid programs that are effectively executed can help create more stable societies, speed economic growth, and advance U.S. national security interests.”

– Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), April 9, 2014



“America’s ability to protect itself and advance its global interests often depends as much on its “softer” power as it does on our nation’s armed forces.”

– Former CIA Director Gen. David Petraeus, April 30, 2013



“Over the past five years, we have made difficult choices about where our work will have the greatest impact, shifting resources and personnel to better advance our mission of ending extreme poverty around the world.”

– Former USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, April 10, 2014



“Evaluation is a very powerful tool for holding ourselves accountable and making the case to the American public and the Congress that we are good and effective stewards of the tax-payer money.”

– Former USAID Administrator Gayle Smith, March 30, 2016