

Side by Side Comparison of Foreign Aid Reform Bills

Bipartisan foreign assistance reform legislation has now been introduced in both the House and the Senate. The House and Senate bills address different aspects of the reform process, yet both seek to strengthen foreign assistance by assuring that the programs are better coordinated, transparent, and effective. The sponsors of each bill emphasize that their legislation is an initial first step toward more comprehensive reform.

(H.R. 2139) Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act April 28, 2009	(S. 1524) Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act July 28, 2009
<p>Introduced by House Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA) and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL)</p>	<p>Introduced by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA), Ranking Member Richard Lugar (R-IN), and Committee Members Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Bob Corker (R-TN), James Risch (R-ID), and Ben Cardin (D-MD)</p>
<u>Issue: National Development Strategy (NDS)</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDS is the core focus of this bill; proposes NDS will be a whole-of-government exercise developed and implemented by the President, that will guide future reforms, and articulate U.S. development objectives, describe link between development and national interests, and clarify roles of agencies involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specifics on a National Development Strategy. • Strategic planning for development housed at USAID, and new Council on Research and Evaluation (CORE) of Foreign Assistance
<u>Issue: Changes at USAID</u>	
<p>No specifics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates new position, Assistant Administrator for Policy and Strategic Planning • Establishes Office for Learning, Evaluation, and Analysis in Development • Mandates Comprehensive Workforce and Human Resources Strategy for USAID put together by a task force made up of 4 senior career professionals from USAID with different backgrounds; • Comprehensive Strategy will modernize workforce, set performance priorities, increase career development opportunities;

Issue: Changes in the field

No specifics

- All U.S. humanitarian and development efforts in a country placed under responsibility of USAID Chief of Mission under overall direction from the chief of U.S. diplomatic mission
- USAID should undertake comprehensive examination of mission structure
- Administrator to report to Congress after 18 months on modernization, including balancing roles and improving coordination with other agencies
- Program funds can be used for some travel, research, and policy analysis costs typically covered by Operating Expenses

Issue: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Each Federal agency carrying out foreign assistance programs must have measurable performance goals, including gender-sensitive goals; criteria for evaluation; adequate staff and funding for carrying out evaluation; process for applying lessons learned; public availability of evaluations
- Each agency must develop an annual evaluation plan for the agency in consultation with other agencies, countries, NGOs, and others and submit to Congress
- President shall increase training and education opportunities related to best practices for evaluation for agencies involved in foreign assistance
- President authorized to increase monitoring and evaluation capacity of recipient countries

- To be carried out by new Council On Research and Evaluation (CORE) of Foreign Assistance on an interagency, whole-of-government level
- New Office of Learning, Evaluation, and Analysis in Development within Bureau for Policy and Strategic Planning at USAID responsible for monitoring and evaluation of projects, collecting lessons learned, and serving as a government-wide resource on project evaluation

Issue: New Offices

- United States Foreign Assistance Evaluation Advisory Council will provide guidance on evaluations and help coordinate evaluation across agencies
- Membership appointed by President; at least 7 members; private individuals with experience in monitoring and evaluating foreign assistance programs, at least 2 with specialty in impact and outcome methodologies

- USAID Bureau for Policy and Strategic Planning
- Council On Research and Evaluation (CORE) of Foreign Assistance will look at relationship between foreign assistance programs and U.S. policy, strategy, priorities, request information from Federal agencies carrying out assistance programs
- Director of CORE appointed by President from lists of 3 names provided by Senate and House Foreign Relations Chairmen and Ranking Members; Director has rank equivalent to Under Secretary
- Advisory Board includes Director of CORE, Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury,

USAID Administrator, MCC CEO, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Defense, HHS Secretary, 1 individual appointed by Director, 1 Foreign Service Officer (from State or AID), 4 Presidential appointments with consent of Senate, each chosen from lists of 3 provided by Senate Foreign Relations Chairman and Ranking Member and House Foreign Affairs Chairman and Ranking Member

Issue: Transparency

- Information to be made accessible in a timely fashion, including detailed program-by-program and country-by-country information
- Includes planning, allocation, contracting, monitoring and other elements
- President should fully engage in the International Aid Transparency Initiative established at the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

- All information about foreign assistance programs should be made publicly accessible
- President should fully engage in the International Aid Transparency Initiative established at the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

Issue: Authorization of Funding

- No authorized funding.

- Authorization of \$5 million for FY10 and funds necessary for FY11 for USAID for Office for Learning, Evaluation, and Analysis in Development
- Authorizes \$30 million in FY11 and \$5 million more each year until FY16