
TRACK RECORD OF REFORM ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

February 2019

Marking Nearly Two Decades of Achievement

Since 9/11, Republican and Democratic Administrations and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have enacted reforms to ensure foreign assistance is more transparent, accountable, and data-driven to deliver the greatest results. These initiatives highlight significant progress in recent years:

- **PEPFAR:** Under President George W. Bush, the U.S. launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) with bipartisan support in Congress in 2003. By focusing on outcomes – lives saved – rigorous data and the use of innovative new technologies, U.S. investments in global health have helped save 17 million lives and ensured 2.4 million babies have been born HIV-free.
- **Millennium Challenge Corporation:** The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has been ranked one of the most transparent donor organizations in the world for its use of public data to fight poverty by making catalytic investments in countries committed to their own economic development. By partnering with developing countries to remove constraints to economic growth, MCC builds new markets and opportunities for private investment.
- **USAID:** As America's lead development agency, USAID has undertaken significant reforms in recent years that increase its focus on results; catalyze new commitments in health, agriculture, and energy; and leverage private sector resources and expertise. From a renewed commitment to rigorous monitoring and evaluation to prioritizing science and technology, USAID is focused on ensuring its investments help countries on their journey to self-reliance and demonstrate a return on investment for the American people.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Nearly 100% of foreign assistance is available to view online on the Foreign Assistance Dashboard, enabling Americans to see where their tax dollars are going. USAID has conducted more than 1,400 evaluations by independent third parties since 2011 and reports that 90% of these evaluations have been used to shape USAID policies. MCC and USAID were also ranked 1st and 2nd across the federal government by the 2018 Federal Invest in What Works Index for their use of data and evidence to inform policy and management decisions.
- **Science and Technology:** America's development agencies have renewed their commitment to science and technology-based solutions in the developing world. Through the U.S. Global Development Lab and the Grand Challenges for Development, USAID has sought innovative solutions to complex challenges, fostering more than 420 development innovations and helping to improve the lives of over 24.5 million people.
- **Leveraging Private Sector:** When over 90% of all financial flows to the developing world today come from private sources, the U.S. is increasingly using foreign assistance to catalyze private sector investment and expertise to tackle global challenges at scale. Power Africa – the signature U.S. initiative bringing electricity to sub-Saharan Africa – has leveraged more than \$54 billion in private sector commitments from an initial \$7 billion U.S. investment. Additionally, Feed the Future – the U.S. global hunger and food security initiative – partners with over 60 U.S. companies to promote agricultural innovation and resilience.
- **Development Finance:** President Trump signed into law the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development (BUILD) Act in 2018, which will create the new U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) to replace and increase the capacity of America's current development finance agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. The USDFC will do more to help American businesses invest in emerging markets where there are business opportunities that promote economic development but private sources of financing are unavailable. Since its creation in 1974, OPIC has facilitated more than \$80 billion in U.S. exports mostly from small and medium sized businesses while also returning nearly \$4 billion to the U.S. Treasury.

BIPARTISAN COMMITMENT TO EFFECTIVENESS

- “We have invested in better health and opportunity all over the world through programs like PEPFAR, which funds AIDS relief; the President’s Malaria Initiative; the Global Health Security Agenda; the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery; and the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, part of our commitment to empowering women all across the globe.”
– **President Donald Trump**, September 2017
- “We’ve ushered in a new era of accountability and results. For donor nations like the United States and for all of us who believe passionately in development, we’ve got to make every penny count.”
– **President Barack Obama**, July 2016
- “We have an unprecedented opportunity to help other nations achieve historic victories over extreme poverty, with policies and approaches that are tested and proven.”
– **President George W. Bush**, June 2005
- “As we celebrate PEPFAR’s 15th Anniversary, we applaud how its remarkable efforts have saved millions of lives and changed the course of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. ... These outcomes are driven by transparent, accountable, and cost-effective investments. In addition to saving lives, PEPFAR enables economic growth, reinforces stability and security in key regions and accelerates progress towards global health security. It has been key to a brighter future.”
– **Secretary of State Mike Pompeo**, May 2018
- “Innovation is making the impossible, possible, the unsolvable, solvable. And of course, nowhere is this more true than in the area of international development, where technology and new thinking are enabling us to reinvent how we go about fulfilling our mission.”
– **USAID Administrator Mark Green**, September 2017
- “U.S. diplomatic and foreign assistance efforts must be efficient, effective, and accountable... That is why we have worked together in a bipartisan manner for more than a decade to advance reforms that have delivered tangible results, including by making the State Department and USAID more transparent and data-driven.”
– **Representatives Nita Lowey** (D-NY) and **Hal Rogers** (R-KY) in a bipartisan letter to the Office of Management and Budget, September 2017
- “I believe in the power of our development assistance, and one of the keys to its success is economic growth. The Millennium Challenge Corporation has a proven track record, and I am excited to expand its ability to promote cross-border engagement in developing countries.”
– **Senator Johnny Isakson** (R-GA), April 2017
- “Helping other nations confront the challenges of poverty, globalization, disease and disaster is in our national interest, and making sure the aid we give is effective will help us better and more quickly achieve our goals around the world.”
– **Senator Jeanne Shaheen** (D-NH), March 2018
- “The more effective aid we distribute globally helps alleviate pressure on our defensive foot print around the globe. Our mission is to also increase the accountability of American tax dollars sent to foreign countries and to transition from aid to trade.”
– **Representative Ted Yoho** (R-FL), March 2017

BUILDING A BETTER, SAFER WORLD

The strong consensus to strengthen America's civilian-led tools of development and diplomacy since 9/11 has led to a series of bipartisan actions undertaken over the past decade by three presidents and their Secretaries of State, USAID Administrators, and heads of other foreign policy agencies.

2001

DIPLOMATIC READINESS INITIATIVE

After years of decimated capacity, the Diplomatic Readiness Initiative led to increasing our foreign service officers by 1,000 to strengthen America's engagement in the world.

2002

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

The White House National Security Strategy for the first time articulated a new framework calling all "three Ds" – Defense, Diplomacy, and Development – critical to keeping America safe.

2003

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

The creation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) changed the face of assistance with a focus on results alongside requirements for recipients' sound governance, economic, and social policies.

2004

PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF

PEPFAR was the most significant global health response ever, saving millions of lives and ushering in the possibility of an AIDS-free generation.

USAID FORWARD

USAID Forward initiated ambitious reforms to ensure accountability and transparency, promote local capacity building innovation, and achieve improved outcomes.

DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Development Leadership Initiative (DLI) made rebuilding capacity at USAID a priority by aiming to double the size of its Foreign Service.

MALARIA INITIATIVE

The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) prioritized reducing the risks of one of the developing world's most prevalent and preventable diseases.

2005

2010

PRESIDENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIVE ON U.S. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

The first-ever Presidential Policy Directive on U.S. Global Development established development as a core pillar of American power, prioritizing economic growth.

2007

FEED THE FUTURE

Feed the Future launched as an innovative way to help countries address the root causes of hunger and poverty with local ownership, private sector partnerships, and real accountability.

2006

TRANSFORMATIONAL DIPLOMACY

The Transformational Diplomacy Initiative moved American diplomats from traditional posts to regions and countries of emerging importance.

ECONOMIC STATECRAFT

The Economic Statecraft initiative capitalized on the intersection of foreign policy and the U.S. economy, increasing the importance for our diplomats to assist American businesses abroad.

2011

INTERNATIONAL AID TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

ForeignAssistance.gov was launched, making foreign aid transparency, data, and accountability a major policy priority.

POWER AFRICA

Power Africa launched with strategic partnerships with the private sector on energy to reduce poverty and improve lives by doubling access to power in sub-Saharan Africa.

2013

WOMEN'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

W-GDP launched to promote women's economic empowerment around the world, provide skills training, and partner with private sector. The initiative follows the passage of the 2018 Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act.

USAID TRANSFORMATION

Focused on promoting more effective humanitarian response, a stronger policy and budget voice, and efficient technical assistance around the world.

2019

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

The BUILD Act, signed into law in 2018 with broad bipartisan support, will create an empowered development finance institution that promotes economic growth by facilitating greater private investment in emerging markets.

2018

BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION

Congress passed an impressive number of bills in 2015 and 2016 to strengthen our nation's international affairs programs: the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act, the Global Food Security Act, the Electrify Africa Act, the Girls Count Act, and the END Wildlife Trafficking Act.

2016