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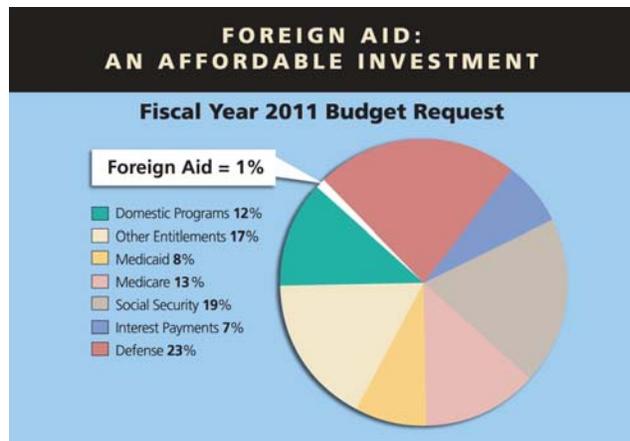
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Foreign Aid: Keeping America Safe, Strong and Prosperous

The United States faces extraordinary challenges to its preeminence in today's world. Our nation faces threats to its security and economic well-being. American military leaders repeatedly warn that we cannot meet these challenges through costly military force alone. U.S. leadership in the world today also depends on a robust foreign aid program that supports key allies like Israel and helps preserve America's safety, security and prosperity.

Foreign aid is an essential component of America's national security strategy.

- U.S. national security challenges today extend well beyond traditional military threats. A robust foreign aid program complements and reinforces the efforts of American military forces to combat aggression and promote stability in crucial conflict zones.
- Unless we provide the resources to help secure allies like Israel, build stable societies in conflict zones, stop criminals and disease from spreading across our borders and encourage responsible economic development in struggling countries, America will confront a much more precarious future.



- To achieve U.S. goals in Iraq and Afghanistan, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has called for “a dramatic increase in spending on the civilian instruments of national security—diplomacy, strategic communications, foreign assistance, civic action, and economic reconstruction and development.”
- Gates and other military leaders understand that the U.S. foreign aid budget helps strengthen civil society and build institutional and economic capacity in the very places where hundreds of thousands of American soldiers are risking their lives.
- Both the Obama and Bush administrations have included foreign aid, together with defense and homeland security, as part of overall “national security spending” in the budgets they presented to Congress.

Modest investments in foreign aid will save America money in the long run.

- At a time of declining budgetary resources, foreign aid is a cost-effective and relatively small investment that saves U.S. taxpayers money.
- Investing foreign aid dollars wisely today helps prevent the more costly wars, crises and disasters that might otherwise occur.

- Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said, “Having robust civilian capabilities available could make it less likely that military force will have to be used in the first place, as local problems might be dealt with before they become crises.”
- Admiral Mullen has stated, “It is my firm belief that diplomatic programs, as part of a coordinated strategy, will save money by reducing the likelihood of active military conflict involving U.S. forces. The more significant the cuts, the longer military operations will take and the more and more lives are at risk.”

Foreign aid asserts U.S. economic leadership and creates American jobs.

- In today’s global economy, foreign aid continues to help U.S. companies develop foreign markets, create jobs at home and build stable business environments in developing countries.
- Today, one in five American jobs is linked to U.S. exports. Foreign markets offer the best opportunities to expand the American economy.
- Foreign aid helps make the United States competitive with the fast-growing economies of the world. Foreign aid and the money America uses to fund its embassies and support American industry help ensure that the United States will not idly cede markets and business opportunities to international competitors.

Foreign aid promotes U.S. leadership abroad to protect Americans at home.

- We cannot disengage from the world without consequences for our homeland and for our people. To keep America safe, President Bush has written that, “America has a direct stake in the progress and hope of other nations.”
- Foreign aid helps bring political, economic and social stability to the most hopeless and poor areas around the world. Foreign aid helps prevent these areas from becoming breeding grounds for terror, disease, poverty and lawlessness that can spill over into other countries and directly threaten American interests as well as the American homeland.
- American foreign aid can be used wisely to help stabilize and develop failing states by building institutions; creating economic opportunities; developing standards for rule of law; and giving hope to young generations who have known violence, despair and ignorance.

Foreign aid helps affirm and promote American values.

- America’s foreign aid program embodies the core values of the United States: protecting the most vulnerable populations, especially when disaster strikes (such as the 2010 Haiti earthquake); promoting democracy, pluralism and human rights; and encouraging needy people and their governments to become self-sufficient and law abiding.
- Democracy-building programs in Central America, Eastern Europe, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East help organize free and fair elections, support due process, train future leaders, promote good governance and protect human rights.
- U.S. government programs leverage billions of dollars in contributions by private American donors for critical projects in needy countries. They also encourage collaboration between U.S. companies and private American voluntary organizations in running projects that promote health, education, economic development and private entrepreneurship.