

The Foreign Aid Budget

The United States faces extraordinary challenges to its security, economy and preeminent role in world affairs. 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 budget.

MAKING THE CASE

National security is the exclusive domain of the federal government. The responsibility to protect the American people cannot be delegated to another branch of government or postponed until a more convenient time.

NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS

- STATES (IRAN, NORTH KOREA)
- TERRORIST GROUPS (AL-QAEDA, HIZBALLAH)
- PANDEMIC DISEASES
- DRUG CARTELS
- FOREIGN ECONOMIC COMPETITORS



WHAT FOREIGN AID CAN DO

- SECURE AMERICAN ALLIES
- BUILD STABLE SOCIETIES IN CONFLICT ZONES
- PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENT IDEOLOGIES
- STOP DRUGS AND DISEASES FROM CROSSING OUR BORDERS
- OPEN MARKETS FOR AMERICAN PRODUCTS



AN AFFORDABLE INVESTMENT

The foreign aid budget funds the majority of America's civilian foreign policy programs, including our diplomatic relations with other countries and security assistance to U.S. allies.

FOREIGN AID SPENDING

While polls show that most Americans think that foreign aid spending is 25 percent of the annual federal budget—and that 10 percent would be the appropriate amount to spend—the actual number is only one percent.

% of Budget that Americans...



PERCEPTIONS AND REALITIES OF FOREIGN AID SPENDING

Foreign Aid at Work

SUPPORTING STRATEGIC ALLIES

The United States provides security assistance to friendly nations, helping them achieve common security objectives and share burdens in joint missions. The foreign aid budget strengthens America's security with support for vital allies.

ENSURING THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL

In 2012, the United States provided \$3.075 billion in military assistance to Israel. As the only Western-style democracy in the Middle East, Israel is a critical ally of the United States in a volatile region. By helping Israel defend itself, the United States promotes its own interests at home and overseas.



HELPING POLAND EMERGE AS A STRONG NATO PARTNER

In the more than two decades since freeing itself from Soviet domination, Poland has benefitted from continued U.S. military assistance. The United States has trained more than 2,200 Polish military officers and civilians, helping pave the way for Poland's accession into NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. Poland today is a close U.S. ally.

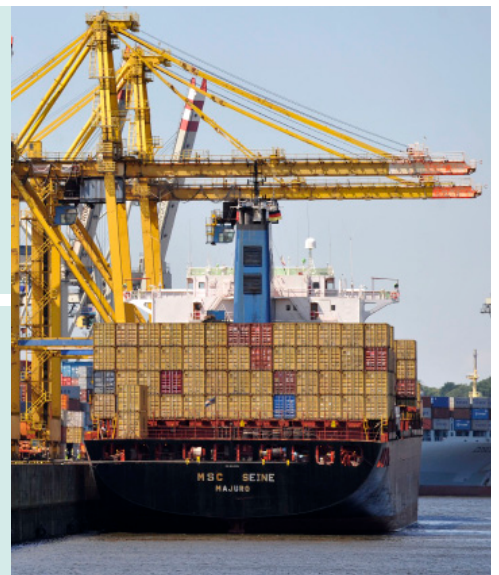


PROMOTING AMERICAN EXPORTS

U.S. foreign aid promotes exports to the developing world, which now accounts for nearly half of all U.S. exports. With 95 percent of the world's population, these countries present a tremendous potential for U.S. businesses.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES EXPAND TO NEW MARKETS

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) helps U.S. businesses expand while also helping developing countries grow their own economies. For example, OPIC loaned money to a small Utah construction equipment company, which then expanded its fleet of machinery in Nigeria. Small Nigerian businesses used the equipment to build roads and improve infrastructure.



IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD FOR U.S. BUSINESSES

As the city of Fez, Morocco, experienced rapid growth, officials became concerned that solid waste would contribute to public health problems. With the help of a U.S. Trade and Development Agency grant, a New Jersey company constructed a new landfill in Fez that not only improved the quality of life in the city, but also led to several additional long-term contracts for U.S. firms.

ADVANCING U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS

U.S. military strategy in Afghanistan depends on long-term development projects. Military gains are lost if U.S. soldiers leave an area and insurgents fill the void. Foreign aid programs help strengthen weak states before they become terrorist havens.

CONSOLIDATING MILITARY GAINS

Any hope of winning the peace in current conflict areas depends on America's willingness to invest in building civil society, economic infrastructure and stable government institutions. Civilian programs in Iraq are funded out of the foreign aid budget and are needed to help the government maintain stability and the rule of law.



PREVENTING FAILED STATES

American foreign aid can be used to help stabilize and strengthen failing states by building institutions, creating economic opportunities and giving hope to young generations who have known violence, despair and ignorance. Had the United States invested in such programs many years ago in Afghanistan, the Taliban might not have taken control so easily.

SAVING LIVES

The United States has long been on the front lines in supplying life-saving drugs to disease-stricken areas and providing humanitarian relief after natural disasters. The foreign aid budget funds U.S. responses to emergencies worldwide.

RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN DISASTERS

After the tsunami in Japan in 2011 and the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the United States responded with massive amounts of emergency food and medical relief, providing affected populations with food, shelter and clean water. USAID coordinated much of the initial assistance with crucial logistical support from the U.S. military.

INCREASING LIFE EXPECTANCY

Thanks to programs in the foreign aid budget, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday has been cut in half, and polio cases have been reduced by 99 percent in just 20 years. In addition, the United States has helped provide life-saving antiretroviral treatments for HIV/AIDS to nearly four million Africans since 2002.



Foreign Aid is a Valuable Investment

WHAT AMERICAN LEADERS SAY

America's leaders know the value of our investment in foreign aid. Our top officials agree that a strong and effective foreign aid budget is vital for America's national security.



“WE ONLY SPEND ABOUT ONE-PERCENT OF OUR BUDGET ON FOREIGN AID, BUT IT PAYS OFF IN A LOT OF WAYS. IF WE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO AN IMPROVING ECONOMY IN A COUNTRY, IF WE ARE GIVING PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY, IF WE ARE PREVENTING A FAMINE THAT RESULTS IN HUGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES, THAT POTENTIALLY SAVES US FROM HAVING TO DEAL WITH SOME MILITARY CRISIS SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD THAT COULD BE EVEN MORE EXPENSIVE.”

- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



“WE CANNOT STOP TERRORISM OR DEFEAT THE IDEOLOGIES OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM WHEN HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE SEE A FUTURE WITH NO JOBS, NO HOPE, AND NO WAY EVER TO CATCH UP TO THE DEVELOPED WORLD.”

- SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON



“IF THE EMERGING MARKETS AND DEVELOPING NATIONS GROW, WE CAN EXPORT MORE. WE CAN EXPAND OUR BUSINESSES. WE CAN HIRE MORE WORKERS. THAT IS WHY U.S. LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT MATTERS—BECAUSE IF WE ARE GOING TO BENEFIT FROM GLOBAL GROWTH, WE NEED TO SUPPORT IT.”

- SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TIMOTHY GEITHNER



“INADEQUATE RESOURCING OF OUR CIVILIAN PARTNERS COULD, IN FACT, JEOPARDIZE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE OVERALL MISSION... THIS IS A NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE.”

- DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, GEN. DAVID PETRAEUS (RET.)

