



# USAID Alumni Association

## STATEMENT of the USAID ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The **USAID ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**, an organization of more than 1300 former USAID Foreign and Civil Service employees, is deeply troubled by the new Administration's recent actions affecting USAID. We question:

- the Administration's ill-advised and unnecessary suspension of foreign assistance, now only partially withdrawn, and
- the Administration's unprofessional and threatening treatment of Agency personnel, including its abrupt removal of 56 career Senior Executive Service and Senior Foreign Service Officers without cause or consideration, warning or due process.

We acknowledge the Administration's right — indeed, its responsibility — to review Agency programs, to make strategic changes and initiate reforms, in order to ensure that those programs are effective and consistent with its foreign policy goals.

However, the Administration's suspension of assistance programs — including the issuance of stop-work orders, before its review has even begun — has disrupted critical, life-saving Agency programs that provide humanitarian relief to Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza, fight diseases like HIV/AIDS and Ebola, and combat the poverty and violence that drive migrants from Central America to the US. It has forced USAID and its partners in the field to halt activities and lay off workers, and will cause, in many cases, operations to stop permanently.

The Administration's abrupt removal of USAID's top career leadership and its efforts to push career officers into early retirement, have aggravated the ill effects of the suspension and will make it difficult to restart programs and carry out the Administration's policies once the suspension is lifted. They threaten the goodwill and trust the US has built over years and will allow adversaries and competitor countries to take full advantage of our absence.

Foreign assistance is critical to national security. It builds allies, strengthens ties, expands trade; it encourages countries to cooperate on common interests—containing disease, creating jobs, ending illiteracy, and attacking cross-border issues like terrorism, crime, and misuse of natural resources which are too big for one country to take on alone. It helps get at the root causes—poverty, corruption, abuse, human trafficking, and conflict—of immigration, one this new administration's greatest concerns. It is essential that USAID and its implementing partners retain the institutional capacity required for a robust and successful foreign assistance program in the future.

Accordingly, UAA calls on Secretary of State Rubio to lift the suspension of foreign assistance for all USAID programs, and to actively engage USAID staff — including the employees placed on administrative leave on January 27 — in planning the Agency's future. Our goal should be to resume full operations as soon as possible, thereby preserving and

strengthening USAID's institutional capacity to carry out the development and humanitarian programs that serve our country's vital interests.

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