



# USAID Alumni Association

February 11, 2025

Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State and Acting Administrator, USAID  
Department of State  
Washington DC

Dear Secretary Rubio,

On February 7, Judge Carl J. Nichols ordered a pause on Administration plans to eviscerate USAID. This letter, on behalf of the 1300 members of the USAID Alumni Association (UAA), asks you to take advantage of that pause to end those plans. To continue cuts to USAID, before any review of its programs, without steps to mitigate the impact on the individuals directly involved and the thousands affected by programs they operate, would be both inconceivable and unconscionable. Gutting USAID will have grave consequences for the countries in which USAID operates, America's reputation, and US national security.

The UAA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of former USAID officers—foreign service, civil service, and locally employed staff. Over our careers, we have served in Washington and more than 120 countries on behalf of the American people. Across administrations, Republican and Democratic, we have overseen programs responding to disasters, mitigating epidemics, ending food insecurity, improving maternal and child health and cutting malaria, polio, TB, and epidemics like Ebola. We have partnered with U.S. business to open trade and investment opportunities. We have worked with U.S. Department of Defense to stabilize war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan and respond to natural disasters like the Asian tsunami and Haiti's earthquake. We have been active country team members in US Embassies around the world. Some of us have served as Ambassadors.

We have worked under the authority of US Ambassadors, following policies determined by the State Department, and managing programs authorized and funded by Congress. With this perspective, given this experience, we simply can't understand efforts to describe USAID as a rogue agency. Nor can we fathom the decision to destroy US capacity to deliver foreign aid. To terminate jobs and recall staff cripples a critical tool of American foreign policy. It is also cruel and unjust treatment for men and women who have spent their lives serving their country.

The harm these actions will cause cannot be overstated. As USAID closes critical programs, the vacuum left will be filled by our adversaries. Ending programs to cut alternatives to coca production will increase the flow of illicit drugs into the U.S. Shutting Central American youth programs will create openings for gang recruiters, drug promotion, and illegal migration. Where USAID programs are cut, we will see increased poverty, food insecurity, threats to health, and conflict.

We urge you to suspend plans for the drastic reduction of staff and repatriation of officers. Renew staff access to USAID systems, resume orderly operations, and establish a process for reviewing programs that permits your new Administration to align them to its objectives.

With respect,

The USAID Alumni Association.