



USAID Alumni Association

UPDATED STATEMENT
of the
USAID ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

February 5, 2025

As retired USAID officers who spent careers working to help countries respond to tsunamis, pandemics, famine, malnutrition, poverty, weak government, and illiteracy, we are appalled by the past week's effort to destroy our country's foreign aid capacity. The Administration's recent actions undermine 60 years of bi-partisan effort to build one of the world's largest and most successful bilateral aid agencies and 250 years of American tradition of helping countries in need, promoting US values, and building closer relationships through foreign assistance. USAID is not "a criminal organization" that should "die."

We protest the decision, without reason or explanation, to put all USAID staff on leave this Friday. We condemn the recall of all USAID staff serving overseas, halting their work, disrupting their families' lives, affecting thousands of USAID partners, contractors and grantees, and interrupting the relationships which make for effective development. These orders are unconscionable for the damage they will do to hundreds of workers, their families, the programs on which they are working, and US cooperation with host countries.

What is being proposed is incomprehensible in its destructiveness. If enacted, it will cripple US capacity to react to emergencies, provide humanitarian assistance, and improve the lives of people in need. And it will make America less safe, reduce our ability to grow our economy and lead to the expansion of China's global influence. We ask that all those who know the importance of USAID's work, who have partnered with USAID in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sudan, Somalia, Haiti, Nicaragua, more than 60 countries around the world, join with us in asking Secretary Rubio to stop the attacks on USAID staff, end recall of staff from overseas, and call off forced leave for all direct hire officers.

There is time to think through what the US wants to achieve in its foreign relations. The new Administration needs time to determine its objectives, assess its resources, including those provided by USAID, and set a path to strengthen the institutions required to meet our national security needs. The capacity to deliver humanitarian and development assistance is one of those. It is critical that it be protected and maintained.