

UAA Statement in Support of All Public Sector Workers.

May 5, 2025

This week is Public Service Recognition Week, and follows last Friday's Foreign Service Day. The Board of the USAID Alumni Association joins in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of public servants, be they Civil Service, Foreign Service, Uniformed Service, and at all levels of government, Federal, State, and Local. We celebrate the service of First Responders, the fire fighters, the emergency medical teams, police, and hospital workers. We celebrate the enthusiastic and optimistic volunteer work of the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps.

For those of us who served with USAID, we routinely stepped up and served in some of the most difficult, most complex, and most inhospitable regions and countries of the world. We brought peace to warring factions, we reconstructed irrigation systems, we built potable water systems, and we connected isolated communities to the world. We identified emerging infectious diseases and stopped them before it became a global pandemic. We were the first responders in the aftermath of war, and we were the first responders in the aftermath of a natural disaster. We built and strengthened systems and institutions, making them more responsive, transparent, and accountable to the people they represent. We were global leaders not because of our financial resources but because of our technical skill and our understanding and commitment to reflect the best interests of the communities and the people of the country where we were serving. We did so with the fundamental knowledge that serving the best interest of the people in those countries also served the best interest of the United States. It is after all, the strengthening of trust that is the investment needed to build social capital, leading to lasting relationships and alliances.

Around the world, we brought peace where conflict was a way of life, we brought health to those who were hours away by foot from the nearest clinic. We brought shelter to those who had no roof, we brought food to the malnourished and starving.

Where people were hopeless, we brought hope.

Happy Public Service Recognition Week.