

Executive Summary of the Open Letter on THE FUTURE OF U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

The signatories of the Open Letter on the Future of Foreign Assistance ([full version here](#)) are the senior career diplomats and humanitarians who, until September 2025, led the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). They dedicated their careers to representing the best of American values around the world, serving under both Republican and Democratic administrations in the world's most complex contexts. U.S. international development and humanitarian programs have saved millions of lives, contained and eradicated debilitating diseases, lifted millions out of poverty, prevented and shortened conflicts, and catalyzed technological innovations that accelerate and sustain these gains. America's overseas investments helped to mobilize global resources to tackle some of humanity's most difficult challenges. Supporting our friends and allies around the globe unequivocally made America stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

As Americans debate the future of foreign assistance, this Open Letter offers non-partisan recommendations intended to inform that discussion. The signatories offer the recommendations as constructive input to ensure that American power aligns the values, interests, and grace of the American people. The following ten recommendations reflect support for a strategic realignment of America's foreign assistance and the need to modernize America's assistance approach.

- **Save Lives.** Continue life-saving aid in response to humanitarian disasters.
- **Support American Engagement Globally.** Be deliberate about supporting American companies and collaborating with other U.S. private capital flows.
- **Invest in America's Comparative Advantage.** Use America's resources, leadership, values, innovation, and institutions to advance global prosperity, security, and stability.
- **Protect Americans' Health and Economy.** Investing in other countries' human, animal, and plant health systems and responding to outbreaks remain critical to national security.
- **Invest in Champions.** Investments in future generations of global leaders establishes enduring networks of influence and shared values.
- **Insist on Commitment & Accountability with a Clear Endgame.** As an investment in a partner's future, assistance should be conditioned on shared commitment.
- **Make Targeted, High-Impact Investments in Fewer Countries.** Make more targeted, robust investments in fewer countries and issues.
- **Partnerships Should Reflect U.S. Interests, Not Self-Imposed Constraints.** Avoid self-imposed political and ideological constraints that prevent global cooperation and undermine America's security and prosperity.
- **Focus on Desired Outcomes, Not Earmarks.** Shift toward a results-driven framework that emphasizes long-term outcomes over rigid, input-based funding mandates.
- **Eliminate Barriers to a Whole-of-Government Approach.** Eliminate barriers to delivering assistance under a single American banner while utilizing the full weight, talent, and influence of the entire U.S. government.