

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

January 29, 2026

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee
Oslo, Norway

Dear Nobel Peace Prize Committee:

I am pleased to submit this nomination of the United States Agency for International Development for the Nobel Peace Prize. The impact this Agency has had on peace through development has been unprecedented in its scope. USAID has provided both country and global leadership through innovative approaches in all the key sectors, the promulgation of technical development knowledge and effectiveness principles.

I can personally attest to the effectiveness of USAID's support during my country's recovery from civil war and in my previous position as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. Few in the global development community would question the key role USAID has played from the early days of the Green Revolution to the creation of the Millenium Development Goals and all in between.

I was elected as President of Liberia during a challenging period in my country's history. I am proud of the progress we made in overcoming tragic civil strife and later the loss of life to diseases like Ebola and Covid. USAID was instrumental in helping my government overcome these and other challenges.

In considering the 63-year history of this unique Agency, detailed in this nomination, I can think of no more worthy recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Thank you for giving this your thoughtful and hopefully favorable consideration.

Sincerely



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

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Attachement 1: Narrative Supporting Documentation: USAID

Introduction and Summary

Created in 1961, USAID, with the conviction that peace requires more than deterrence and diplomacy, began its effort to improve human welfare and strengthen societies in developing countries. The Agency, inheriting the legacy and staff of its predecessors, the International Cooperation Administration and the Development Loan Fund, worked from its inception and over decades, side-by-side with multilateral agencies, and a growing network of bilateral donors and NGOs to confront famine, disease, poverty and fragile institutions, root causes of conflict. Within that community, owing to its operations in multiple countries, its financial weight and technical capacity, USAID often provided technical backbone and large-scale logistics that helped transform ideas into measurable outcomes.

Independent evaluations by third parties confirm that USAID helped save and improve hundreds of millions of lives, strengthen institutions of human welfare and lay the foundation for a global system of shared development responsibility. USAID's achievements amount to a significant and enduring part of the total effort of a global alliance that has measurably impacted human welfare.

Health: USAID, with the CDC, played a major role in eradicating smallpox. More than 200 million lives were saved through the global effort to eradicate smallpox, up to 26 million through the HIV/AIDS programs of The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS (PEPFAR), and seven million through malaria control. The World Health Organization (WHO) and *The Lancet* credit USAID's role as significant, if not decisive for each. USAID's support for immunization, oral rehydration and its

cholera control programs saved tens of millions of children from preventable death. To protect populations against River blindness, Elephantiasis and other “neglected” tropical diseases, USAID alone distributed 3.3 billion treatments for 1.7 billion people, preventing disfigurement for life of those infected and prevention for millions.¹

Food Security: USAID’s early and subsequent investments in agricultural science and input delivery were instrumental in catalyzing and sustaining the Green Revolution that fed more than a billion people, preventing mass famine, stabilizing regions once at risk of war and providing the work force for subsequent industrialization. USAID’s Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) and the Food for Peace Program contributed critically to famine prevention and mitigation.

Education: USAID trained over one million in leadership and youth programs, financed equitable access to primary and secondary education for millions, provided scholarships, and strengthened scores of universities through linkages with American universities, making a significant contribution to the human capital for development.²

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Governance and Equity: Together, USAID’s programs for democratic governance, women’s empowerment, and voluntary family planning supported social stability and peaceful transitions of power.

Humanitarian Response: USAID’s rapid disaster response and adaptation programs, including Food for Peace, protected millions from catastrophe and displacement, mitigating the destabilizing consequences of disaster and war.

I. Health as a Foundation of Peace

1. Smallpox Eradication

Under the leadership of the WHO, inspired by the former USSR, a global campaign to eradicate smallpox began around 1960, drawing heavily on vaccine contributed by the USSR. Beginning in the mid-1960s, USAID, scaling up the effort, financed and managed national vaccination campaigns across twenty countries in West Africa and South Asia. It supplied vehicles for vaccine transport, cold-chain equipment, vehicles, and stipends for field teams. USAID trained thousands of vaccinators (using initially a USAID-adapted military jet injector), epidemiologists, and logistics officers who carried out surveillance and containment operations in collaboration with the WHO.³

When the WHO certified global eradication in 1980, its Final Report of the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication credited USAID’s field

financing and logistical support as essential to success.⁴ Economists later estimated annual savings of over one billion dollars worldwide and the WHO estimated that more than 200 million lives were preserved since eradication.⁵ It remains one of the clearest demonstrations of how international cooperation, enabled by USAID's operational reach, technical capacity and financial weight (in this case an estimated 25% of total external resources) can secure a lasting benefit for human welfare and societal strengthening.

2. Child Survival

In support of UNICEF's Child Survival objectives, USAID, as a leading donor, launched a major child survival initiative, starting in the 1980s-90s, aimed at drastically reducing under-five mortality principally through the relatively inexpensive "twin engines" of immunization and Oral Rehydration Therapy.⁶ This was underpinned by in-country institutional capacity building, systems/logistics strengthening and community engagement (with the help of local NGOs). USAID's community level efforts often

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facilitated other donors' contributions, such as vaccines. At the time, childhood diarrhea and cholera together were claiming more than five million lives each year.⁷

USAID's immunization work became embedded in its child survival effort, moving its support from separate, vertical campaigns (e.g., measles and polio) to encouraging integrated routine, national programs; a direction accelerated by the Global Health Initiative (GHI) of President Obama. USAID contributed significantly to a vast global immunization effort with UNICEF, the WHO, Gavi (Gates Foundation) and other bilateral agencies, saving millions of children's lives.⁸ USAID was instrumental to contribute to a reduction in measles deaths globally by 90% between 2000 and 2024, increasing DPT coverage globally from 20% in 1980 to 80% by 2019 and reducing polio cases by 99% from 1988 to 2020.⁹

USAID recognized that a simple mixture of glucose and salts could replace costly hospital treatment and be used in every home. Working with the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research (Bangladesh), the Agency financed the construction of factories to manufacture oral rehydration salts (ORS) packets, trained community health workers, and organized village-level education campaigns across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. By 2000, global diarrheal mortality had fallen by over 80 percent.¹⁰ The Agency supported cholera-control initiatives in Bangladesh, Haiti, and sub-Saharan Africa, funding ORT, emergency treatment centers, clean-water infrastructure, and rapid-diagnostic capacity that helped keep Cholera under control in target countries and cut cholera death rates significantly in epidemics.¹¹

The U.S. provided 35-45 % of all donor-government health assistance across that

era (including contributions to multilateral institutions) with USAID serving as the principal implementing agency (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation).¹² USAID's Child Survival Health Account alone, according to the Congressional Budget Office, amounted to an average of \$350 million annually in the late 1990s and early 2000s.¹³ In 2025 USD, this amounts to over \$676,000,000 USD.¹⁴

3. The HIV/AIDS Pandemic and Tuberculosis

In 1996, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/Aids was launched under the aegis of WHO and later, UNAIDS. When HIV/AIDS threatened to devastate entire societies at the turn of the century, USAID with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) became the principal implementing agency of PEPFAR, created by former U.S. President George W. Bush. Coordinating with UNAIDS, the Agency established national supply chains for antiretroviral drugs, trained nurses and laboratory staff, and funded community treatment centers and counseling programs in more than fifty countries. *The Lancet* Commission on PEPFAR (2023)

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documented that the PEPFAR program as a whole, much of it led operationally by USAID with CDC, saved up to 26 million lives and restored average life expectancy by a decade in the hardest-hit nations.¹⁵

The social impact was transformative. In countries such as Uganda and Zambia, the revival of the civil service, police, and teaching workforce restored institutional stability and civic confidence, a tangible peace dividend verified by longitudinal studies from the World Bank and UNAIDS.

Recognizing that tuberculosis was the leading cause of death among people living with HIV in the early 2000s, USAID assumed a leading role in integrating TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment into HIV/AIDS programs. USAID worked with WHO, UNAIDS and national ministries of health to establish joint TB/HIV strategies in more than 30 high-burden countries. These efforts included routine HIV testing in TB clinics and TB screening in HIV clinics with ionized preventive therapy (IPT) that strengthened infection control; and joint laboratory and supply-chain systems that served both diseases.

USAID's global TB portfolio tested tens of millions of people for TB, provided TB preventive therapy (TPT) and saved over 79 million lives.¹⁶ USAID's reach and technical leadership, especially in GeneXpert diagnosis enabled target countries to scale up TB detection and treatment rapidly, delivering a sustained decline in co-infection mortality.

4. Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases

In the early 2010s, coinciding with the advent of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, plus massive contributions of medicine donated by pharmaceutical companies and increased support from NGOs, the U.S. President's Malaria initiative (PMI) and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) program were launched. USAID and partner governments mounted the largest malaria vector-control and mass treatment operations since World War II.¹⁷ The Agency financed the purchase of hundreds of millions of insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor-residual-spraying campaigns, and rapid-diagnostic kits, while training a community of health agents on the ground.¹⁸ WHO's World Malaria Report (2023), attributes an average of 37% of global malaria funding between 2010 and 2023 to U.S. sources with USAID claiming roughly half of it.¹⁹

Earlier decades of USAID's malaria control operations, beginning successfully in 1961, saved lives with malaria reaching near extinction in Sri Lanka and India while later resurging. Beginning in the early 1960s, USAID's continuous funding of malaria vaccine research helped lay the scientific and institutional foundations for today's malaria vaccines, including Mosquirix and R21/MatrixM. The WHO's historical review of malaria

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research notes that USAID played a key role in the financing of early field trials and immunologic investigations which defined the antigenic basis for later vaccine design. And the Path Malaria Vaccine Initiative credits USAID and U.S. government partners for providing the financing backbone that enabled Mosquirix to reach late-stage trials.²⁰

Among the most remarkable of NTD programs was the fight against river blindness and elephantiasis. USAID coordinated with WHO, the Carter Center, and national programs in West Africa to distribute Ivermectin/Mestizas (the development of which was credited to Nobel laureates, Dr. Satoshi Omura and Dr. William C Campbell), donated by Merck, Dr. Campbell's employer and drug developer. The combined global donor effort for all NTDs delivered billions of anti-filarial treatments across endemic countries, 58 of which have eliminated at least one NTD.²¹ With its extensive reach, community based care, and logistical funding, USAID, alone enabled national programs to distribute over 3.3 billion treatments reaching 1.7 billion people in 26 countries.²²

By 2023, as a result of the global fight against malaria, the WHO's World Malaria Report estimated that malaria deaths had fallen by nearly 50 percent since 2000, preventing about 7 million deaths.²³ The WHO's 2022 NTD Progress Report cited USAID as a principal architect of the NTD global partnership, noting that at least

one NTD was eliminated in 58 countries.²⁴ Independent evaluations confirmed that USAID's integrated delivery model played a transformative role to accelerate elimination timelines.²⁵

5. Health Systems and Climate Resilience

USAID strengthened the institutions that protect societies from failing. It financed training for tens of thousands of doctors, nurses, and logisticians; restored hospitals after wars and disasters; and helped ministries of health design budget and supply systems. Evaluations by the World Bank and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that USAID's investments in basic health systems were among the most cost-effective known, preventing millions of indirect deaths by enabling rapid epidemic response.²⁶

In its later decades, USAID integrated climate-resilience planning into health programs, fortifying water systems, reducing mosquito-borne disease risks, and protecting clinics against extreme weather. These interventions, verified by WHO and FAO field assessments, illustrated that public health and climate adaptation are mutually reinforcing foundations of human welfare.

II. Food Security, Agricultural Transformation, and Famine Prevention

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1. USAID and the Green Revolution

From its earliest years, USAID recognized that hunger was both a humanitarian catastrophe and a chronic threat to global stability. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Agency became a principal engine of what came to be called the "Green Revolution," created by Norman Borlaug, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 and is widely credited with saving over a billion lives. The term was coined by William Gaud, USAID's administrator, who testified that USAID's financing of the scientific and institutional base that transformed world food production at times garnered 50% of USAID's budget during the 1960s.²⁷

Working with the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, the World Bank, and national agricultural ministries, USAID helped expand and sustain the work of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico. It then, as a founding member, helped launch the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in 1971, providing sustained core funding and technical staff.²⁸

USAID's contribution extended far beyond laboratory research. It financed the training of thousands of agricultural scientists in the U.S. and at research centers

in third countries, the multiplication and distribution of high-yield seed varieties, construction of fertilizer plants and irrigation systems, development of credit institutions (so that farmers could purchase inputs), and expansion of agricultural-extension services that trained tens of thousands of field agents. It equipped demonstration farms, supported national seed-certification systems, and supplied vehicles and testing facilities that linked research stations to villages. In India, USAID and PL-480 counterpart funds financed 40 percent of India's early Green Revolution budget (1965-1975), including irrigation, fertilizer imports and research (World Bank). Its grants financed the Punjab Agricultural University, support to India's Agricultural Research Institute, and training links to U.S. land-grant universities.²⁹

The effect was transformative. Between 1965 and 1990, cereal yields in Asia more than doubled, and global grain production rose by over a billion tons annually.³⁰ The FAO and World Bank jointly concluded that these advances prevented famine for over one billion

people in South and East Asia.³¹ USAID's role in the Green Revolution's success was essential as confirmed by Norman Borlaug, Nobel Laureate, who acknowledged that without USAID's support for research and extension infrastructure, the scientific breakthroughs could not have reached scale.³²

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2. Rural Infrastructure and Market Integration

To ensure that increased production translated into prosperity, USAID financed the physical and institutional infrastructure that connects farms to markets. The Agency's engineers designed and funded feeder roads, rural electrification networks, and market facilities that linked isolated communities to trade. (with the National Rural Cooperative Association, USAID brought electricity to some 220 million rural people in 54 countries).³³ Working jointly with the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and regional governments, it supported cooperative storage systems, village marketing associations, and grain-pricing boards.

Independent audits in the 1970s showed that USAID-funded rural works generated especially high employment multipliers. By strengthening rural economies, USAID helped reduce the social grievances that often fuel unrest, turning food surplus into a foundation for peace.³⁴

3. Combating Famine – From Relief to Prediction

Building on lessons from the Sahel droughts of the early 1970s and the Ethiopian famine of 1984, USAID helped institutionalize famine response as a permanent

global capacity. Through Title II Food for Peace, established under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act, it delivered emergency grain shipments, nutrition programs, and food-for-work projects that employed millions while restoring irrigation canals, roads, and schools.³⁵ Over its first four decades, Food for Peace fed over three billion people in 150 countries in cooperation with the World Food Program (WFP) and hundreds of NGOs including Catholic Relief Services and CARE.³⁶

Recognizing that reaction was not enough, USAID, under Administrator Peter McPherson, created the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) in 1985, a global analytic system combining satellite rainfall data, market prices, and field reports to forecast food shortages months in advance.³⁷ Evaluations by the U.S. National Academies of Sciences and the FAO found that FEWS NET became the up-stream world standard for early-warning analysis in cooperation with the FAO.

In 1994, alerted by FEWS to an impending famine in Africa with millions of lives at risk, USAID Administrator, J. Brian Atwood, led a high-level mission to the Horn of Africa and Rome, triggering a life-saving donor response to the impending crisis and the creation of the President's Greater Horn of Africa Initiative (GHAI).³⁸ This initiative focused on institutionalizing preventive action in the region by providing access to the FEWS network and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and by measures such as rapid needs assessments, pre-positioned food stocks, pre-agreed

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transport and logistical pipelines, improved intra-regional communications and pre agreed regional, national and donor coordination mechanisms.

In the 1999-2000 Ethiopian crisis, early warning and rapid mobilization prevented widespread famine. During the 2010–2011 and 2017 Horn of Africa droughts, FEWS NET gave the early alert in both cases and issued the warnings jointly with FAO.³⁹ Its precise, public warnings of the impending 2011 crisis saved millions of lives in Kenya and Ethiopia according to FAO and the World Food Program (WFP) while conflict blocked humanitarian access to parts of Somalia.⁴⁰ Alerted again in 2016, all three countries were able to mobilize resources to avert famine. FEWS NET had become a global trigger for anticipatory action.

By integrating prediction with response, USAID helped to shift the global paradigm from relief after death to prevention before it occurred.

4. Food Aid, Nutrition, and Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Beyond crisis response, USAID redesigned food aid to promote resilience and nutrition. Its Food for Peace and later Feed the Future programs linked immediate

humanitarian support to long-term development. The Agency's programs financed school-feeding programs, maternal and child nutrition initiatives, and agricultural-livelihood projects that raised incomes and diversified diets.⁴¹ Working with FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and national ministries, it introduced drought-tolerant seeds, soil-conservation measures, and watershed management in semi-arid zones.⁴²

Through these efforts, USAID and its partners demonstrated that food security is inseparable from climate security.

III. Education, Family Planning and Women's Empowerment

1. Education:

From its creation in 1961, USAID was one of the foremost champions of education as a pathway to national stability and human development. USAID helped strengthen ministries, expand access to schooling, improve literacy and bolster universities, including through long term university partnerships. These programs produced the

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trained teachers, administrators, and professionals needed to run effective national systems and sustain development across multiple sectors.

A USAID Progress Report in 2015 recorded 151 basic-education programs in 46 countries directly benefiting 41.6 million learners across pre-primary through secondary levels.⁴³ USAID helped train 450,000 teachers and educators and helped build or rehabilitate over 11,000 classrooms between 2011 and 2015.⁴⁴ In Sub-Saharan Africa, education reforms produced national gains: Benin's enrolment rose 60 percent,⁴⁵ Ethiopia's primary enrollment increased from 20 to 62 percent within 10 years,⁴⁶ and Guinea's girls' enrolment more than doubled from 17 to 37 percent (1989- 1997) following USAID-financed teacher training, school construction, textbooks, and policy reforms.⁴⁷ Outcome analyses, such as the USAID/Malawi's *Girls' Attainment in Basic Literacy and Education (GABLE)* project evaluation, revealed higher persistence and achievement for girls.⁴⁸

These investments emphasized evidence-based reading programs, teacher professional development, and system strengthening. Kenya's *Tusome Early grade Reading Activity* demonstrated measurable learning gains: pupils in Tusome schools were twice as likely to meet national reading benchmarks as those in

control schools.⁴⁹

In the 1970s and 1980s, to strengthen secondary and technical schooling as a bridge between learning and economic growth across continents, USAID financed teacher training colleges, curriculum reform, and vocational programs linking education and employment. Projects such as polytechnic institutes in Egypt,⁵⁰ teacher and technical colleges in Kenya,⁵¹ Ghana, and Malawi helped generate the skilled workforce that supported early industrial and agricultural modernization.⁵² Independent reviews by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the World Bank identify USAID as a leading bilateral contributor to vocational and technical education during this period, noting USAID's focus on workforce development and institutional capacity.⁵³

In subsequent decades, USAID applied these approaches in post-conflict environments. The Agency also introduced civic-education curricula emphasizing tolerance, rights, and community participation, notably in Bosnia, Herzegovina and Liberia.⁵⁴ The Brookings Institution cited such programs as examples of education serving both as humanitarian response and long-term peacebuilding, underscoring that USAID's secondary-level investments advanced not only human capital but also social cohesion and democratic values.⁵⁵

A signature element of USAID's legacy has been its vast Participant Training Program, later known as Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD), and subsequently as the Africa Graduate Fellowship

Program (AFRGAD) and the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs).⁵⁶ From the 1960s onward, USAID sponsored over one million participants at U.S. universities

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and scores of thousands in developing countries with the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities in support of institution-building programs and program execution across sectors for study, research or professional training.⁵⁷ Many alumni subsequently served as ministers, university rectors, or research directors in their home countries.⁵⁸

A major feature of this undertaking was a partnership model linking U.S. and developing country universities and research centers, a key capacity-building program demonstrated by the thousands of agricultural scientists and technicians who underpinned the Green Revolution. A landmark National Academy of Sciences review of agricultural higher education in 1977 found that USAID-sponsored university linkages, particularly between U.S. land-grant institutions and emerging agricultural colleges in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, played a decisive role in transforming agricultural faculties from teaching outposts into research-based national resources.⁵⁹

2. Family Planning and Women's empowerment:

USAID understood that peace required equity and human dignity. According to the Data for Impact Project, beginning in the 1960s, USAID financed the first large-scale voluntary family-planning programs in the developing world. Working with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank, and national ministries of health, the Agency supplied contraceptives, trained nurses and outreach workers, and built clinics in both urban and rural areas.⁶⁰

By the 1980s, USAID-supported programs were operating in more than 30 countries, including Egypt, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.⁶¹ In Bangladesh, fertility fell from 6.9 to 2.1 children per woman between 1971 and 2020, a transformation the World Bank remarked this was possible primarily because of the government's intervention.⁶² In 2024 alone, USAID's family planning assistance served around 47 million women and couples, prevented 17 million unintended pregnancies, and averted over 34,000 maternal deaths.⁶³

The Agency promoted women's economic participation through microenterprise loans, property-rights reform, and vocational education.⁶⁴ Partnering with NGOs such as CARE, Freedom from Hunger, and BRAC, USAID helped establish women's savings and credit groups throughout the developing world.⁶⁵ Independent impact evaluations by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) found significant reductions in household hunger and gender-based violence.⁶⁶

IV. Governance, Humanitarian Action, and the Architecture of Peace

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1. Democracy, Governance, Justice, and the Rule of Law

When authoritarian regimes began to fall in the 1980s and 1990s, USAID became a central and catalytic actor in building democratic institutions. In partnership with the UNDP, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the European Union, financed electoral commissions, voter registration systems, election monitoring and governance strengthening.⁶⁷

In parallel with its massive financial support to sustain Ukraine's government after the Russian invasion in 2022, USAID helped Ukraine strengthen anticorruption systems,⁶⁸ decentralization,⁶⁹ justice reforms,⁷⁰ oversight bodies and civil society,⁷¹ included in billions in development assistance to Ukraine.⁷²

USAID played an early and influential role in strengthening domestic election monitoring movements beginning in the Philippines in 1986, where its support was delivered through the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the

International Republican Institute (IRI), and the Asia Foundation.⁷³ This helped the Philippine monitoring coalition, centered on NAMFREL, organize a nationwide network of more than 60 civic organizations that conducted a parallel vote tabulation and documented widespread fraud during the snap presidential election, contributing to the peaceful transition to democracy.⁷⁴

Building on this model, USAID financed voter-education, political-party training, and independent monitoring programs during Chile's 1988 plebiscite and subsequent elections, enabling Chilean civil society to field domestic observers and verify results that ended the Pinochet regime. USAID's efforts were central to Chile's success in consolidating democracy after the 1988-1989 transition.⁷⁵ In the former Soviet Union after 1991, USAID scaled this approach across Russia,⁷⁶ Ukraine, Armenia,⁷⁷ Georgia,⁷⁸ Kyrgyzstan,⁷⁹ Moldova,⁸⁰ and the Baltics, funding nonpartisan election commissions, voter-registry modernization, civic observer networks; and in cooperation with the OSCE, helping establish transparent vote counting and peaceful electoral competition in the region's first post-authoritarian transitions.

The Agency funded programs to computerize court records, train judges and clerks, and expand legal-aid access. In Ukraine,⁸¹ such initiatives reduced case backlogs by up to 60 percent and improved citizen confidence in justice systems. Through its Media Development and Freedom of Information programs, USAID trained journalists, strengthened independent radio networks, and supported legislation guaranteeing press freedom. Using the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project at the University of Gothenburg, USAID documented measurable governance improvements in nations with

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sustained USAID engagement.⁸² These programs collectively replaced repression with participation, the transformation of political conflict into peaceful discourse.

2. Humanitarian Response and Disaster Risk Reduction

For more than half a century, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), later the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), which then included the Agency's Food for Peace program, led the world's largest bilateral relief operation.⁸³ Its Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs), created by former USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, deployed within a day to respond to earthquakes, famines, or epidemics, serving to coordinate logistics and information flows for the entire international response system.⁸⁴ While humanitarian crises throughout the world were escalating, Russia's invasion of Ukraine added to the need of enormous economic and humanitarian flows.

Following the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, USAID scaled up its humanitarian programs exponentially with massive budget support (more than \$45 billion by 2025 channeled through a World Bank Peace Fund and managed by USAID) to sustain Ukraine's government, financing civilian salaries, pensions and social benefits, enabling essential public services to continue.⁸⁵ USAID delivered large-scale food aid, emergency cash transfers, shelter materials, medical supplies, trauma care, water and sanitation support, protection services, and winterization assistance for millions of displaced and war-affected Ukrainians inside Ukraine.⁸⁶ This aid was largely channeled through the World Bank and Ukrainian authorities, helping municipalities manage displacement, keeping hospitals and utilities functioning under bombardment, and maintaining social-service delivery in frontline areas. USAID prioritized support for local NGOs, emergency responders, and civil society organizations, strengthening Ukraine's capacity to assess needs and respond rapidly.⁸⁷

After the 2010 Haiti earthquake, USAID financed search-and-rescue missions, airlifted emergency supplies, and organized the country's largest cash-for-work program.⁸⁸ A team of independent evaluators in 2011 found that these interventions prevented "countless deaths."⁸⁹

During the 2014 West Africa Ebola outbreak, USAID built community care centers and diagnostic laboratories that the World Health Organization credited with shortening the epidemic's trajectory.⁹⁰

In the aftermath of Liberia's 14-year civil war, USAID played a central role in restoring core government functions, reviving agriculture and essential services and supporting democratic institutions, enabling its transition from state collapse to sustainable peace and reconstruction.⁹¹

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USAID delivered life-saving food, water, shelter, and medical care to millions, saving millions of lives every year.⁹² As the world's largest bilateral donor, USAID, in fiscal year 2023, disbursed roughly \$44 billion across 160 countries.⁹³ Focusing also on prevention, USAID funded hazard mapping, early warning systems, and local evacuation plans countries around the world.⁹⁴

3. Leadership in the Architecture of Global Cooperation

Beyond its own programs, USAID helped build the cooperative machinery that sustains peace through development. Staffed and led at its outset by experienced professionals from its predecessor agencies, USAID played a key role in transforming the Development Assistance Group into the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in the early 1960s, establishing shared reporting and

evaluation standards still used today.⁹⁵ It co-founded the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which became an engine of agricultural innovation worldwide.⁹⁶ It participated in the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, along with allied U.S. health agencies, shaping the Fund's results-based financing model and its performance-based framework.⁹⁷ USAID provided on the ground capacity to other donors such as Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative), enabling Gavi-funded vaccines to reach children.⁹⁸

USAID promoted aid transparency, launching the Foreign Assistance Dashboard and joining the International Aid Transparency Initiative, so that partner governments and citizens could track every project.⁹⁹ The Publish What You Fund Index (2022) ranked USAID among the most transparent major donors.¹⁰⁰ Its officers chaired global working groups on food security, pandemic preparedness, and climate adaptation, furthering collaboration among donors. The OECD-DAC Peer Review (2022) concluded that USAID's convening power and operational reach enabled collective action on a scale unmatched by any other bilateral donor.¹⁰¹

V. A Legacy of Collective Peace

Across more than sixty years of uninterrupted service, USAID, as the leading bilateral assistance donor, promoted and helped finance global development, reducing human suffering and fostering the economic and social strength that underpins lasting peace. Its enduring legacy lies in its essential contribution to building national capacities, reducing the drivers of conflict and helping nations move from crisis to stability through

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measurable improvements in health, food security, governance and economic opportunity.

Its legacy endures in the institutions that continue to serve humanity; among them research centers that help to feed billions, health systems that prevent epidemics, generations of citizens, trained by strengthened, self-sustaining education systems and cooperative networks that encourage partnerships among the donor community and linkages between donor country and developing country institutions. Through its reach, financial weight and technical capacity, USAID helped create the conditions for peace for hundreds of millions of people. It helped nations facing crisis to persevere, nations across the globe to reduce poverty, many to progress to middle income status, and several in Asia and Latin America to aspire to an advanced status. Its record stands as proof that organized and practical,

compassionate assistance can foster the peace of nations.

To recognize USAID with the Nobel Peace Prize would be to recognize not only a single agency, but also the entire global development assistance community, the multilateral organizations, bilateral donors, and NGOs, and the humanitarian professionals whose work has saved lives, built resilience, and fostered fraternity among nations. Their collective endeavor embodies the evolving vision of the Nobel Committee that peace is achieved through the advancement of human welfare and societal strengthening.

¹ WHO. “Neglected Tropical Diseases Further Neglected due to ODA Cuts.” Who.int. World Health Organization: WHO, June 4, 2025.
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² Ali, Hadeil. “USAID Youth Engagement: A Potential Generation Lost?” Csis.org, 2025.

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³ See U.S. Embassy Tbilisi. 2021. “USAID and Vaccines: Helping Save 9.3 Million Children in the Last 10 Years - U.S. Embassy in Georgia.” June 15.
<https://ge.usembassy.gov/usaid-and-vaccines-helping-save-9-3-million-children-in-the-last-10-years/>. and Biden, Joseph R. 2021. “White House Press Release - USAID Announces Initiative for Global Vaccine Access (Global Vax) To Accelerate Vaccine

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<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/white-house-pressrelease-usaid-announces-initiative-for-global-vaccine-access-global-vax>.

⁴ *Final Report of The Global Eradication of Smallpox: Commission for the Certification of*

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Attachement 2: Support Statement from David Beasley

January 28, 2026

Statement by David Beasley, former Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), in support of the nomination of USAID for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dear Committee members,

I had the privilege of serving as Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) from 2017-2023, and it is my honor to second President Sirleaf Johnson's nomination of USAID for the Nobel Peace Prize, owing to USAID's decades of work preventing famine, saving millions of lives, and stabilizing fragile communities by modernizing food assistance worldwide. In my six years at WFP and in my travels to

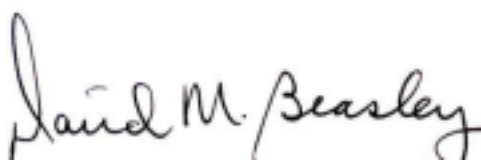
countless crisis areas and conflict zones, I have seen firsthand how USAID saved lives and stabilized communities through timely and effective food and cash interventions. USAID has been central to famine-prevention efforts, providing more bilateral food assistance to reach the world's most vulnerable than any other country or organization. Indeed, when WFP received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020, we were aware that we could not have done the work we did – and would not have been recognized for that work – without the generous support USAID provided our agency. Year after year, USAID was by far the largest donor to WFP, even as our budget expanded dramatically in the face of spiraling needs over the past decade. In 2017–2018, for example, USAID funded most of WFP's famine-prevention operations in the Horn of Africa, often exceeding 70 percent of nutrition-based funding in Somalia and Ethiopia. In 2024, USAID invested \$4.45 billion in WFP, roughly 46% of the agency's total budget.

USAID has also been a critical innovator. The agency led the global push for cash-based transfers, enabling families to purchase food locally, preserve dignity, and strengthen markets. Between 2021 and 2023, for example, USAID programs delivered cash and vouchers to nearly 5 million people in Somalia, over 2.5 million in Sudan, and millions more in Ethiopia, alongside in-kind food aid, helping families remain rooted and protecting livelihoods. By ensuring predictable access to food, strengthening early-warning systems, and investing in anticipatory action, USAID transformed reactive relief into proactive support, reaching millions before crises escalated.

USAID's leadership in the provision of lifesaving food is a frontline investment in peace. It is for this reason that USAID is not only one of the most trusted institutions in the world; it is also an agency that has enjoyed decades of broad bipartisan support. As a former Republican governor with deep ties on both sides of the aisle in Washington, I was always heartened to see this strong and deep coalition uniting on behalf of feeding the less fortunate. I am confident that honoring USAID for all the good it has done since 1961 in alleviating poverty, combatting disease, educating the young, and feeding the hungry would be cheered across the political spectrum. Such recognition this year may also increase the likelihood that USAID's essential work will be revived. USAID's sustained absence, by contrast, would leave the world hungrier, poorer, and more dangerous. For its sustained contribution to saving lives, stabilizing communities, and advancing global food security, USAID is deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sincerely,

David Beasley



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Attachement 3: Support Statement from Dr. Dagur Eggertsson

Statement by Dr. Dagur Eggertsson in Support of the Nomination of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the Nobel Peace Prize

This statement supports the nomination of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the Nobel Peace Prize. For more than six decades, USAID has contributed substantially to peace and international stability by addressing the structural causes of conflict through humanitarian assistance, public health interventions, poverty reduction, democratic institution building, and

post-conflict recovery.

USAID has played a central role in advancing global health security and disease prevention. Through sustained investment in maternal and child health, vaccination programs, HIV/AIDS treatment, malaria control, nutrition, and health system strengthening, USAID-supported programs have contributed to large-scale reductions in preventable mortality and morbidity. These interventions reduce societal vulnerability, protect civilian populations, and strengthen the resilience of fragile states, thereby mitigating conditions that contribute to conflict and displacement.

USAID's impact has been amplified through sustained cooperation with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNAIDS, the World Bank, and other United Nations agencies, as well as national ministries of health and local civil society organizations. USAID-supported programs strengthened frontline health systems by training community health workers, nurses, laboratory staff, epidemiologists, and logisticians, improving surveillance capacity, supply-chain management, and clinical practice. These investments expanded national professional capacity, improved service quality, and created lasting institutional knowledge that continues to benefit health systems beyond individual project cycles.

In humanitarian crises, USAID has been among the most consistent providers of emergency assistance, supporting food security, clean water access, shelter, medical care and disaster response operations in conflict zones and disaster-affected regions. Rapid humanitarian response and stabilization programming have helped prevent the escalation of crises into broader regional insecurity and mass displacement.

USAID's development model emphasizes local institutional capacity, accountable governance, civil society participation, gender equality, human rights and the rule of law. These priorities align closely with internationally recognized peacebuilding principles. Strengthening democratic institutions, improving economic opportunity, supporting education, and reinforcing local governance structures contribute to durable peace by reducing inequality, political exclusion, and social fragmentation.

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Independent evaluations and global disease-burden analyses attribute millions of lives saved to USAID-supported health, nutrition, immunization, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and child-survival programs over multiple decades. Modeling studies of large-scale development and health assistance indicate that significant reductions or termination of such programs would be associated with substantial increases in preventable mortality, particularly among children and vulnerable populations in low-income and fragile states. The continuity of development assistance is therefore directly linked to the preservation of human life and the prevention of humanitarian destabilization.

The Nobel Peace Prize has historically recognized not only peacemaking through

diplomacy, but also sustained contributions to human security, humanitarian protection, and international cooperation. USAID's long-term commitment to reducing poverty, preventing disease, stabilizing fragile regions, and strengthening institutions represents a sustained investment in the foundations of peace.

I give this statement of support on the basis of my professional experience as an Icelandic parliamentarian, medical doctor, former Mayor of Reykjavík (2014–2024), and holder of a master's degree in international human rights and humanitarian law. This has provided direct insight into the relationship between public health, governance, crisis response, and peace. This perspective informs a strong professional recognition of USAID's long-term contribution to global stability through development and humanitarian action.

I am deeply convinced that for its enduring contribution to global stability, public health advancement, humanitarian protection, and conflict prevention through development, USAID meets the core criteria of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dagur Eggertsson', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dagur Eggertsson, MD, Member of Parliament of Iceland (MP), former Mayor of Reykjavík (2014-2024).

Attachement 4: Support Statement from Catherine Bettini

30 January 2026

To the Nobel Committee:

With great respect, I second the nomination of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Through post-conflict reconstruction, disaster relief, disease reduction, democracy promotion, educational assistance, and more, USAID has saved and improved hundreds of millions of lives. It has been the leader of global bilateral humanitarian and development efforts.

USAID prevented famines and mass starvation throughout the world, playing leadership roles in Sudan, DPRK, former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and countless other places, thus promoting peace and stability by reducing chances of conflict. Its Famine Early Warning System is a global tool that has been essential in preventing food crises and promoting peace.

In the 1960s and 70s, its first two decades, USAID dedicated one-third to one-half of its resources to implementing the Green Revolution which saved an estimated one billion lives by expanding crop yields. In its latest two decades alone, USAID delivered over 20 million metric tons of food aid as well as cash transfers for people cut off from food to purchase in local markets.

USAID played a leadership role in efforts to reduce malaria, HIV, and other diseases, saving an estimated 91 million lives in the last twenty years.

Just two years ago, USAID responded to 84 crises in 66 countries.

USAID's programs have fostered strong democratic institutions, monitored elections, battled corruption, countered human trafficking, promoted civic participation and improved the rule of law. They have highlighted and supported the roles of women and girls in communities, agriculture, leadership, education, and post-conflict care. The improvement of education and opportunities for women has contributed directly to national prosperity, peace and stability.

I strongly recommend USAID to the Nobel committee for its consideration for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Catherine Bertini". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Catherine" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Bertini".

Catherine Bertini

Former Executive Director, United Nations World Food Programme (1992-2002)