USAID Alumni Association

November 25, 2026

UAA Calls for Removal of Sensitive Information from USAID Website and Protection of Former Employees and Partners

WASHINGTON — The USAID Alumni Association (UAA) calls on Secretary of State Marco Rubio to immediately review and remove sensitive information recently published on the official USAID website. The release of unredacted names and identifying information of former USAID employees, locally employed staff in other countries, implementing partners, and other organizations puts individuals and their families at risk, particularly those who served in conflict zones and politically sensitive environments.

After being taken entirely offline in January 2025, the USAID website has reappeared with thousands of internal documents and communications, some published without adequate redaction or context. While transparency and public access to government records are important, they must not come at the expense of personal safety or an accurate historical record. Some of these documents are also marked as Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU), a designation that imposes restrictions on their public release and dissemination.

Of equal concern is the selective presentation of these materials, which can be misleading and create a distorted picture of USAID's work. Documents presented without their original context, the policies they were intended to advance, or the circumstances in which decisions were made can be used to unfairly discredit the Agency, its workforce, and the organizations that partnered with it. The American public deserves an accurate and balanced accounting of USAID's accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned—not a selective portrayal that undermines decades of public service.

USAID employees served administrations of both political parties, implementing policies established by successive presidents and Congress. Their work contributed to significant American achievements, from supporting democratic transitions and advancing global health initiatives, including PEPFAR, to providing life-saving humanitarian assistance and reducing global poverty. These efforts were carried out on behalf of the American people, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Transparency and accountability are essential to public service, but they must be accompanied by responsibility. Many former employees and local partners took considerable personal risks in serving our country, often in environments where association with the U.S. government exposes them and their families to retaliation. Their identities and safety must be protected.

UAA calls on Secretary Rubio to immediately remove the sensitive material, ensure that personal and identifying information is appropriately redacted, and establish safeguards and appropriate context before any documents are made publicly available again. Protecting those who served the United States, preserving an accurate historical record, and recognizing the contributions of America's development and humanitarian workforce must be paramount.

About the USAID Alumni Association

Founded in 2009, the USAID Alumni Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing former USAID employees and members of the broader development and humanitarian assistance community. UAA supports its members, preserves the professional knowledge and experience of the USAID community, and promotes public understanding of the importance of international development and humanitarian assistance.