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# Why Foreign Aid Counts

**U.S.** foreign assistance programs are critical to building a stable and secure world. Supporting these programs is not only the right thing to do—it represents a practical investment in global stability.

U.S.-funded programs produce real change in the lives of children and families living in extreme poverty, while they strengthen U.S. economic security, defend against global health threats and create the basis for respect and good-will toward the United States in countries around the world.

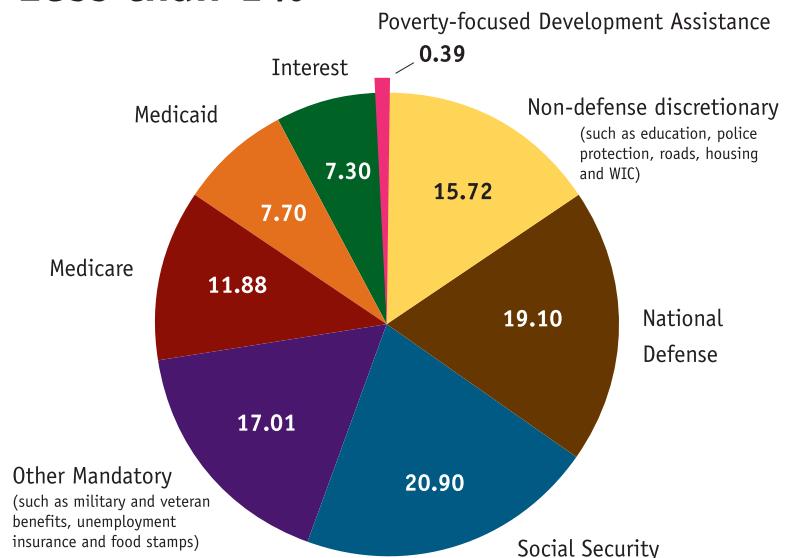
By emphasizing self-reliance and sustainability, U.S. foreign assistance programs help people help themselves. Over the past six decades, child mortality statistics have plummeted, literacy rates have risen and household income in the developing world has tripled.

Yet, much remains to be done—more than 1 billion people struggle on less than \$1 a day to build a life of hope and dignity for themselves and for their families.

One of the most important things the United States can do to help fight global poverty is devote sufficient resources to these programs.

Our country allocates less than 1 percent of its federal spending to poverty-focused assistance for other countries. That makes us the smallest contributor among major donor governments when calculated as a percentage of Gross National Product. Americans are a caring and generous people, and our government should reflect our values.

## Less than 1%



**U.S. Budget, Fiscal Year 2005**

Sources: Bread for the World estimates, House Committee on Appropriations, and the White House Office of Management and Budget

## What does U.S. foreign aid buy?

- For just one penny, we can provide clean drinking water for a family of six
- For the cost of a piece of bubble gum (16 cents) we can immunize one child
- For the cost of a magazine, (less than \$5) we can provide one person with a treated bed net to fight malaria
- For the cost of a movie ticket (\$7.50) we can pay for a daily dose of HIV/AIDS medicine
- For the cost of a dinner entrée (\$20) we can ensure prenatal care and a healthy delivery for one woman
- For the monthly cost of cable television (\$40) we can educate a child in the developing world for one year



U.S. international assistance has contributed enormously to the lives of millions of people throughout the world by helping them take better care of their families, educate themselves and build peaceful, democratic societies.

Women play a key role in the fight against poverty because as mothers, caregivers and providers, women touch so many lives every day. Through investments in women and girls, U.S. international assistance helps women fulfill their potential and build a brighter future for their families and communities.

### What are the results of U.S. foreign aid?

- More than 3 million lives are saved each year through U.S. international immunization programs.
- Infant mortality rates have been reduced by 10 percent worldwide in recent years and child survival programs funded by the U.S. government have made a major contribution to that reduction.
- With the help of U.S. international assistance, literacy rates worldwide have risen 50 percent since the 1960s.
- Investments by the United States and other donors in better seeds and agricultural techniques over the past two decades have made it possible to feed an additional billion people in the world.
- The United States has been a leader in responding to humanitarian crises around the world. In recent

years, U.S. assistance has helped rebuild Central American countries devastated by hurricanes and rebuild countries ravaged by war, such as Afghanistan.

- The average number of children born to couples in developing countries has dropped by about one third, from more than six to less than four, and more than 50 million couples in 60 countries in the developing world are able to plan their families as a direct result of U.S.-funded efforts.

## A Partner of Choice

CARE, one of the world's leading humanitarian organizations, and U.S. foreign assistance have similar roots; both began in the aftermath of World War II with post-war rebuilding efforts in Europe. (We originated the CARE Package, which was actually leftover U.S. Army rations.) For 60 years CARE has worked in partnership with the U.S. government and with poor communities in the developing world to save lives and help families and communities help themselves.

In 70 countries around the world, CARE works side by side with women and men, local groups and international organizations to root out the causes of poverty and inequality. We help families and communities create lasting solutions to poverty and discrimination, provide lifesaving assistance during times of crisis; and advocate for policies that promote the eradication of poverty.