

# Exploiting the Vacuum: China's Global Development Activities in 2025

## U.S. surrenders trust and leverage to China's growing influence after USAID's retreat



**Has Beijing replaced the former U.S. role in foreign assistance?** No — and the evidence suggests it isn't trying to fill the financing gap, despite the messaging.

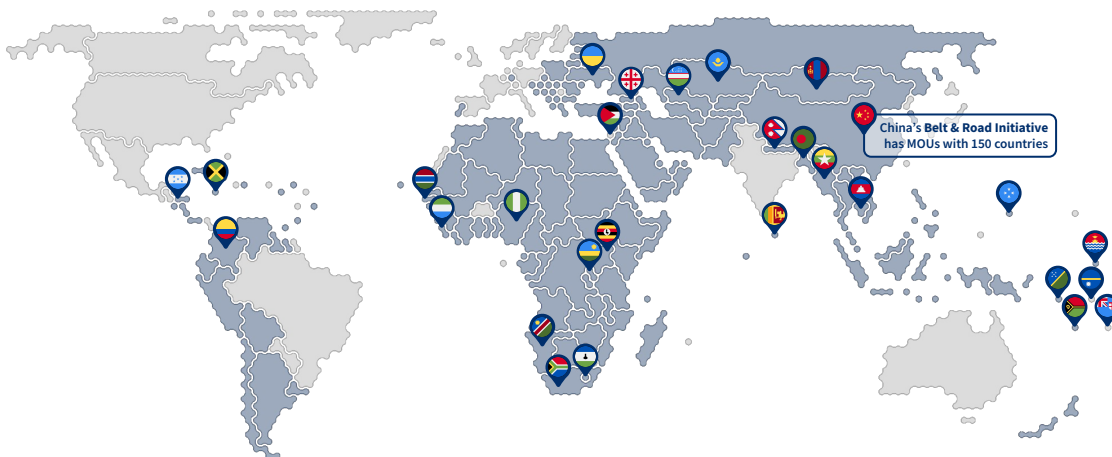
**Strategic Opportunism:** The dismantling of USAID, begun in February 2025, provided a perfect opening for the PRC to position itself as a stable alternative partner.

**Targeted Influence:** Contrary to predictions, the PRC is not attempting to match former U.S. spending levels, and its domestic economic constraints make that improbable. Instead, they are pursuing “*small and beautiful*” (小而美) initiatives — projects that are smaller in scale but highly visible, including sectors once lead by the U.S., such as health, food security, and disaster response.

**Multilateral Legitimacy:** Beijing is also leveraging partnerships with U.N. agencies and other multilateral institutions to gain legitimacy and expand influence at a relatively low cost, without shouldering the full burden of bilateral aid.

**The "Lose-Lose" Dynamic:** The current trajectory suggests a decline in U.S. soft power while development outcomes deteriorate. The PRC's targeted approach generates goodwill, but it is not a meaningful attempt to prevent the suffering of the world's most vulnerable populations at scale.

NOTE: This map is based on anecdotal reporting from local news sources collected throughout 2025. It is not a comprehensive dataset and should not be interpreted as evidence of regional or sectoral investment trends, which will require official 2025 financial disclosures and systematic data analysis.



**FEBRUARY 2025**  
[KAZAKHSTAN](#) [timesca.com](#)  
**USAID's retreat from Kazakhstan: Central Asia braces for a new power struggle**

[CAMBODIA](#) [khemtimeskh.com](#)  
**China provides \$4.4 million more in demining aid amid USAID funding freeze**

[NIGERIA](#) [unicef.cn](#)  
**China EXIM and UNICEF agree to support vulnerable children in Nigeria with life-saving services**

[GAZA](#) [palestinechronicle.com](#)  
**China expands humanitarian relief, providing food to 60,000 Gaza families**

**MARCH 2025**  
[HONDURAS](#) [newsinamerica.com](#)  
**Honduras prepares to sign a trade agreement with China**

[LESOTHO](#) [lesotho.co.ls](#)  
**China donates 810 tons of rice and wheat**

[CAMBODIA](#) [unicef.org](#)  
**Cambodia, China and UNICEF partner to strengthen education, health and hygiene for Cambodia's most vulnerable children**



[NEPAL](#) [news.cn](#)  
**China-Nepal center for blindness prevention inaugurated in Kathmandu**

[RWANDA](#) [unicef.org](#)  
**UNICEF and China support the Government of Rwanda to enhance early childhood development**

[MONGOLIA](#) [ifrc.org](#)  
**IFRC and CIDCA launch first joint project in Asia to strengthen climate resilience in Mongolia**

**APRIL 2025**  
[BURMA \(MYANMAR\)](#) [reuters.com](#)  
**China pledges \$137 million for earthquake relief**



[UZBEKISTAN](#) [uzdaily.uz](#)  
**Uzbekistan and China strengthen cooperation in investment and infrastructure sectors**

[BANGLADESH](#) [thedailystar.net](#)  
**China to provide 1 billion RMB grant for economic, technical cooperation**



[THE GAMBIA](#) [thepoint.gm](#)  
**GRCS launches CIDCA project**

**MAY 2025**  
[COLOMBIA](#) [reuters.com](#)  
**China, Colombia sign Belt and Road cooperation pact**

[GEORGIA](#) [thediplomat.com](#)  
**What has Georgia gained from its strategic partnership with China?**

[UGANDA](#) [monitor.co.ug](#)  
**China donates 1,610 metric tonnes of rice to Karamoja**



**AUGUST 2025**  
[CAMBODIA](#) [khemtimeskh.com](#)  
**China-aided malaria projects expected to help Cambodia achieve malaria-free goal**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**  
[SOLOMON ISLANDS](#) [abc.net.au](#)  
**China aid and investment returns to Solomon Islands**

**NOVEMBER 2025**  
[FIJI](#) [KIRIBATI](#) [FS MICRONESIA](#)  
[NAURU](#) [VANUATU](#) [globaltimes.cn](#)  
**China, 5 Pacific Island nations ink deal to deepen partnership**

[SIERRA LEONE](#) [gov.cn](#)  
**China ready to enhance mutual support with Sierra Leone**



[UKRAINE](#) [thediplomat.com](#)  
**China will help rebuild Ukraine – but that comes with risks**

[SOUTH AFRICA](#) [businessinsider.com](#)  
**China steps in with \$3.49 million HIV response fund as U.S. backs down**



**DECEMBER 2025**  
[JAMAICA](#) [ourtoday](#)  
**China lends a hand to Jamaica for hurricane recovery effort**



[SRI LANKA](#) [sri.lankamirror.com](#)  
**China hands over aid to Sri Lanka**

[NAMIBIA](#) [nbcnews.na](#)  
**China donates N\$76.5 million in rice for drought relief**

