

# Protect Foreign Assistance

***Uphold development, global health, and humanitarian work as a central pillar of U.S. foreign policy*** Summer 2026



In 2025, an estimated 500,000–1,000,000 people died due to U.S. aid cuts, a figure that could rise to 1.6 million this year if aid funding and delivery systems are not restored.<sup>1</sup> New research suggests that sudden cuts were associated with weaker democratic governance and greater civil unrest in areas that previously received higher aid per capita.<sup>2</sup> These cuts do not reflect the views of most Americans; public opinion surveys show that a majority support foreign aid, including for medicine and medical supplies, food, economic development, and strengthening democracy.<sup>3 4</sup>

## Aid on the Hill asks:

### 1. **Preserve funding**

- Fund the FY27 budget at a stable level.
- Hold the Executive Branch accountable for faithfully spending appropriated funds, in line with American values and Congressional intent.
- Oppose rescissions and impoundment of foreign assistance funds, in compliance with the law.

### 2. **Restore expertise**

- Hold government agencies administering foreign assistance accountable for hiring sufficient numbers of staff with technical and operational skills.

### 3. **Defend statutes**

- Uphold bipartisan laws governing foreign assistance.
- Refuse to make permanent changes to foreign assistance authorities and structures until Congress can convene a transparent, accountable, and evidence-informed process.

**Who we are:** Aid on the Hill is a nonpartisan grassroots initiative powered by former aid and international development practitioners. We champion effective, accountable U.S. foreign assistance that both strengthens American interests and advances global progress. Visit [www.aidonthehill.org](http://www.aidonthehill.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Kenny and Justin Sandefur, "Update on Lives Lost from USAID Cuts," Center for Global Development, December 16, 2025, <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/update-lives-lost-usaid-cuts>.

<sup>2</sup> Dominic Rohner, Austin L. Wright, Jian-Ren Zeng, Uwe Sunde, and Oliver Vanden Eynde, "Aiding Peace or Conflict? The Impact of USAID Cuts on Violence," Science, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aed6802>.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Wike, Janell Fetterolf, Laura Clancy, and Jordan Lippert, "International Engagement and Support for Foreign Aid," in Majorities of Americans Support Several – But Not All – Types of Foreign Aid, Pew Research Center, May 1, 2025, <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2025/05/01/international-engagement-and-support-for-foreign-aid/>.

<sup>4</sup> Echelon Insights and The Rockefeller Foundation, An American Perspective on Foreign Aid: Measuring Americans' Perceptions Toward U.S. Foreign Aid, One Year Since USAID's Dismantlement, The Rockefeller Foundation, June 26, 2026, <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/reports/an-american-perspective-on-foreign-aid/>