



Save Foreign Aid: Preserve Funding, Statutes, and Expertise

January 2026

While 2025 was an unprecedented year for cuts to U.S. international assistance, it is not too late to restore effective, life-saving foreign aid. In 2025, an estimated 500,000-1,000,000 people died due to the chaotic U.S. aid withdrawal, and this figure could rise to 1.6 million in the next year if funding and operational aid delivery systems are not restored (<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/update-lives-lost-usaid-cuts>).

To ensure strong, effective U.S. international assistance continues in 2026 and beyond, Aid on the Hill asks:

1. Preserve international assistance funding levels in FY26-27 appropriations.

We want Congress to preserve funding for programs across areas such as health, agriculture, education, clean water, and economic growth that support both humanitarian needs and long-term development.

2. Hold the executive branch accountable for spending all foreign aid appropriations per Congressional intent and statutory laws.

Appropriations should safeguard against further rescissions, and funding should be used in the way Congress intended. Aid funds should follow the numerous existing laws governing international assistance programming and reporting: for example, Water for the World Act, READ Act, Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act, and others.

3. Government agencies programming foreign assistance must hire sufficient numbers of technical staff.

Departments and agencies must hire appropriate numbers of technical staff in both headquarters and embassies around the world to manage international assistance programs to ensure spending is fair, transparent, and effective to achieve development goals, including direct hire contracting /agreement and program officers.

Aid on the Hill is a movement of aid professionals, advocates, and engaged citizens working to ensure that U.S. international assistance policy remains strong, effective, and central to America's role in the world.

For more information, visit www.aidonthehill.org.

