

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six

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Who are the main actors in the United States' development cooperation?

White House sets high-level direction; Congress, the State Department, and USAID define priorities; USAID leads on administering assistance

The president, Donald Trump (Republican), sets overarching policy orientations for US foreign assistance, including for development. The president is assisted by several White House offices. The most important for development issues are the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the National Security Council (NSC). In consultation with executive agencies, OMB produces the president's budget request, which outlines policy and funding priorities. The NSC is the principal forum for the president to consider matters of national security and foreign policy.

Approximately 25 government institutions contribute to funding or implementing US foreign assistance and development cooperation. Key institutions include:

Government departments

The **US Department of State (State Department)**, headed by the secretary of state (currently Mike Pompeo), is primarily responsible for foreign policy but is also an important party to development policy-setting. Under direction from the White House, it has sole- or joint-policy authority on issues including peacekeeping, democracy, global health, and food security. The State Department manages or co-manages a wide range of bilateral development programs as well as funding to international organizations. In countries where the US has strong foreign policy and national-security interests, the State Department and its embassies play an active role in informing overall development policy in that country. While different approaches and mechanisms are deployed depending on which governmental agency is implementing, the State Department has Integrated Country Strategies (ICS) that strive to encapsulate the government's foreign-policy objectives into one high-level strategy.

Several offices oversee the State Department's development-related activity:

- **Deputy Secretary of State**, currently John Sullivan, is the second-ranking officer at the Department of State.

Other institutions are involved in foreign assistance. They include:

- Other departments: Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, and Department of the Treasury.
- Other institutions: Inter-American Foundation, OPIC, Peace Corps, US African Development Foundation, Export Import Bank.

- **Office of US Foreign Assistance Resources** is led by the director of US Foreign Assistance Resources. This office assists the secretary of state in providing strategic direction to foreign assistance resources and coordinates policy and planning of the State Department and USAID.
- The **Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy (OGAC)** administers the State Department's HIV/AIDS funding and coordinates the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). PEPFAR programs are implemented by other US agencies, including USAID, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). OGAC is currently headed by Ambassador Deborah Birx.
- **Under-Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights** (vacant) is responsible for US efforts to address threats to civilian security such as extremism, mass atrocities, and weak governance, as well as refugee, migration, and population issues.
- **Under-Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment**, Manisha Singh (Acting) leads efforts on policies related to economic growth, energy, environment, science, and technology.
- **Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)** leads on the US' work with refugees, migrants, and victims of conflict. It also engages with multilateral organizations. PRM is currently led by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Carol Thomson O'Connell.

Other key State Department stakeholders include the special representative for Global Food Security (vacant) and the US ambassador to the UN, Jonathan Cohen (acting). To date, many of the political positions remain unfilled at the State Department, limiting political leadership of the department's work.

US Department of Defense (DOD), currently led by Patrick M. Shanahan (acting), manages aid-funded military assistance programs, some humanitarian assistance, and programs on disease surveillance and health research and development.

US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), currently led by Secretary Alex Azar II, implements global health programs, including a portion of PEPFAR. HHS has four independent agencies that are especially active in global health: the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, further details below), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA).

US Department of the Treasury (Treasury), currently led by Secretary Steven Mnuchin, leads US efforts to promote economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries through the Office of Development Policy and Debt. This office manages US contributions to and participation in the World Bank (along with the US executive director to the World Bank) and other multilateral and regional development institutions.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA), currently led by Secretary Sonny Perdue, provides food assistance and finances the 'Food for Peace Program', the US' largest provider of food assistance (see 'Sector: Agriculture' and 'Sector: Nutrition').

Government agencies

US Agency for International Development (USAID) is headed by USAID Administrator Mark Green. The agency is technically independent but operates within the parameters of foreign policy guidance from the president, the secretary of state, and the NSC. The agency leads the implementation of US global development programs, though it often shares responsibility for strategy and implementation with the State Department. USAID is organized around programmatic as well as country programs, managed by offices in partner countries (called USAID missions), which are supported by headquarters

in Washington, DC. Based on analysis of each partner countries, USAID's overseas missions develop five-year Regional or Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCS) in cooperation with Washington headquarters and local stakeholders. At the country level, USAID mission directors exercise discretion on some aspects of strategy and implementation.

USAID is currently undergoing a reorganization (see 'What are the US' priorities for global development?' for more information) to create a more field-oriented and functionally-aligned agency through eight new thematic bureaus and merged policy and budget functions. It is also working towards partner country self-reliance, helping countries to transition from development assistance. USAID also includes the **Development Credit Authority (DCA)**, which implements risk-sharing agreements between lenders and small businesses to mobilize local private capital for small businesses. This function will be transferred to the new US development finance institution, the DFC.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), part of HHS, is the largest government agency worldwide working in disease control and prevention. It operates both within the US and abroad. The Center for Global Health (CGH) was established in 2007 to drive CDC's work globally. CGH has four divisions: 1) Division of Global HIV/AIDS, 2) Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria, 3) Division of Global Health Protection, and 4) Division for Global Immunization. CDC's Office of Infectious Diseases (OID), comprising three national centers, also participates in US global health efforts.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) are a collection of 27 research institutes under HHS that comprise one of the world's top global health research institutions. NIH conducts basic research on diseases and disorders for improved diagnosis, prevention, and treatment.

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is an initiative to provide development assistance for economic development to low-income countries and lower-middle-income countries that have committed to political, economic, and social reforms. The programs are administered through partner-country compacts, each of which establish a Millennium Challenge Account for implementation. It is legally authorized to enter into five-year commitments known as 'compacts' with partner countries.

THE US' DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM

