



USAID Mission:

We partner to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity.

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Recent Activities in USAID

President Obama's Commitment to Global Development

Through the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals during the UN General Assembly in September 2015, the United States joins with countries around the world in pledging to leave no one behind by ending extreme poverty and prioritizing policies and investments that have long-term, transformative impact and are sustainable. Under the Obama Administration, the United States has committed and helped mobilize more than \$100 billion in new funding from other donors and the private sector to fight poverty in the areas of health, food security, and energy. In the United States, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda coincides with a growing bipartisan consensus on the importance of global development, and direct philanthropic contributions from the American people, who annually provide substantial support for emergency relief and development around the world.

Today, U.S. global development investments are now better targeted to achieve sustainable development outcomes and impact; to leverage critical partnerships with other donors, the private sector and nongovernmental partners; and to more effectively use the power of technology and innovation to lift the most vulnerable out of poverty. The United States is exercising global leadership that will be pivotal to achieving the 2030 Agenda in the areas including global health, food security, power, gender equality, education, conflict and disaster response, and spurring innovation, etc.

USAID Administrator was Sworn into Office

Gayle E. Smith was sworn into office as the 17th Administrator of USAID on December 2, 2015. As a long-time leader in President Obama's Administration, she has helped shape and guide America's international development policy for the past seven years, including by elevating development as a vital component of the national security agenda.

As Administrator of USAID, Smith oversees a dedicated team of nearly 10,000 professionals working to end extreme poverty, foster sustained and inclusive economic growth, and promote resilient, democratic societies all over the world.

She is committed to sustaining USAID's work to lift up the world's most vulnerable people through promoting innovative partnerships, emphasizing science and technology, engaging with and strengthening local leadership, and maintaining a relentless focus on evaluating, measuring, and delivering results.

Most recently, Administrator Smith served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Development and Democracy at the National Security Council (NSC), where she helped manage the U.S. Government's responses to more than 15 major humanitarian crises and worked to strengthen democratic institutions around the world. She has been a driving force behind Presidential initiatives that are advancing USAID's mission, including Feed the Future and Power Africa.

Administrator Smith was previously a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, Co-Founder of the ENOUGH Project, and Co-Founder of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network. During the Clinton Administration, she served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the NSC, and as Senior Advisor to the Administrator and Chief of Staff of USAID.

Prior to her U.S. Government service, she worked as a journalist in Africa for over 20 years, where she covered military, economic, and political affairs for the BBC, Associated Press, Reuters, Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, Toronto Globe & Mail, London Observer, and Financial Times. She won the World Journalism Award from the World Affairs Council and the World Hunger Year Award in 1991, and in 1999 she won the National Security Council's Samuel Nelson Drew Award for Distinguished Contribution in Pursuit of Global Peace.

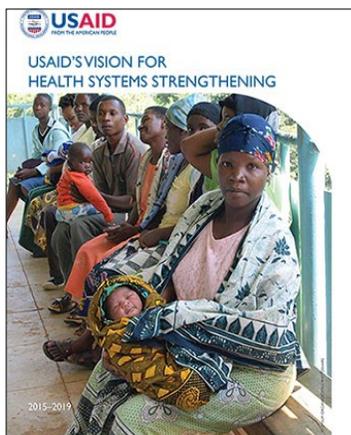
Administrator Smith is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has served on the boards of Oxfam America, the Africa America Institute, ASSET, USA for Africa, and the National Security Network. She has also consulted for a range of NGOs, foundations, and governmental organizations including UNICEF, the World Bank, Dutch Interchurch Aid, Norwegian Church Relief, and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.

She also served on the policy and advisory boards of DATA, the Acumen Fund, and the Global Fairness Initiative, and was the Working Group Chair on Global Poverty for the Clinton Global Initiative from 2005 to 2007.

She received a B.A. from the University of Colorado at Boulder.



USAID's Vision for Health Systems Strengthening



USAID recently announced the release of its **Vision for Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) 2015–2019**. The Vision will guide USAID's work and investment focus to evidence-based HSS approaches that contribute to positive health outcomes and help create an environment for universal health coverage.

The USAID Vision for HSS is to partner with countries to provide sustained, equitable access to essential, high-quality health services that are responsive to people's needs without financial hardship, thereby protecting poor and under-

served people from illness, death, and extreme poverty. It will also contribute to the Agency's ongoing efforts to end preventable maternal and child deaths, create an AIDS-free generation, and protect communities from infectious diseases, including achieving the goals of the Global Health Security Agenda.

USAID's Vision focuses the Agency's HSS work to achieve four strategic outcomes:

- ⇒ **Financial Protection**
- ⇒ **Essential Services**
- ⇒ **Population Coverage**
- ⇒ **Responsiveness**

USAID Supports WFP with \$9mn for refugee support in Uganda

In October 2015, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) received US\$9 million from USAID to provide food assistance for more than 320,000 refugees living in Uganda. The support will also allow WFP to provide cash to 20,000 refugees in areas where markets are able to meet the demand.

This contribution brings USAID's 2015 WFP support to refugees in Uganda and extremely vulnerable populations in Karamoja to an estimated US\$26 million.

Uganda currently hosts more than 490,000 refugees, mostly

from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Burundi. Roughly two-thirds of the refugees in Uganda depend on WFP to meet their basic food needs.

WFP will use the funding, received through USAID's Office of Food for Peace, to purchase more than 13,000 metric tons of cereals and beans within Uganda for more than 300,000 refugees.

(text and photo: www.wfp.org)



Fulfilling U.S. Commitments to Women, Peace, and Security

Fifteen years since U.S. Commitments to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted in 2000, the United States remains a strong advocate for women's equal and full participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace building, and peacekeeping. During the UN Security Council Open Debate on WPS on October 14, 2015, the United States reaffirmed its continued support of women as equal partners in all aspects of peace and security and, in doing so, made a series of monetary commitments totaling \$31.3 million. USAID contribution include:

- ⇒ *Through USAID's Women, Peace, and Security Incentive Fund, the United States is devoting \$3.7 million to strengthen the roles of women and youth in political and peace processes in Mali, increase political empowerment and agency for Syrian women, and improve services for survivors of gender based violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the West Bank and Gaza.*
- ⇒ *Through USAID's Global Women's Leadership Program, the United States is dedicating \$500,000 to support the participation of women in peace processes, political transitions, and other decision-making processes. This investment builds on the activities under and lessons learned from USAID's \$2.6 million Global Women's Leadership Fund.*
- ⇒ *USAID is also committing \$1 million to a creative new USAID partnership that brings together the WPS and climate change agendas to tackle the critical intersections of gender, climate, security, and resilience.*
- ⇒ *Finally, USAID is making a new commitment of \$80,000 to support a mechanism to 'roll up' the experiences and findings of field based researchers into an international practitioner-researcher network. This network will focus on non-traditional researchers and opening the space for interacting with policy makers.*



Harnessing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development

Harnessing the data revolution is a critical enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a founding member of the Global Data Partnership, launched on the sidelines of the 70th United Nations General Assembly, the United States is working together with signatories to address the barriers to accessing and using development data, delivering outcomes that no single stakeholder can achieve working alone. Highlights of US international efforts that USAID plays an active roles include:

USAID invested over \$125 million towards strengthening host country health information, inclusive of technical assistance for training and analyses, to ensure greater capacity for countries to prevent and respond to health needs and crises. By the end of 2015, through the President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the U.S. Government will release a range of additional data, including PEPFAR procurement transaction data from the USAID Supply Chain Management System and sub-national results on the PEPFAR Dashboards.

To support the Climate Services for Resilient Development partnership, USAID will provide \$9 million in support of user-tailored climate service activities and products. The partnership aims to empower developing nations to boost their own climate resilience, and will provide actionable science, data, information, tools, and training to developing countries that are working to strengthen their national climate resilience—with an initial focus on Bangladesh, Colombia, and Ethiopia.

USAID and NASA are going to establish SERVIR, a joint development initiative, to work in partnership with leading regional organizations around the globe to link NASA's satellite data with the needs of local decision-makers facing challenges related to food security, water resources, disasters, weather and climate, and land use.

Working with the global open mapping community, the U.S. Department of State, USAID, and the Peace Corps are expanding efforts to recruit, train, and mobilize digital volunteers to contribute to [OpenStreetMap](#), an open and editable map of the world.

World Food Day Highlights Importance of Resilience in Agricultural Development

This year's World Food Day on October 16 is a reminder that building resilience to climate change and other shocks and stresses is critical to achieving food security. Increasing food production alone is not enough to combat poverty and hunger among the world's most vulnerable communities. Roughly 1.2 billion people worldwide live in extreme poverty, with 78 percent of them living in rural areas where agriculture is the main driving force of the economy. Programs to better manage drought cycles, revolutionize farming in traditionally unproductive zones, connect farmers to early warning data, and promote access to financial services can truly transform livelihoods and break the cycle of chronic food insecurity.

Global Resilience Challenge, launched by USAID and

partners, called for innovative solution to disaster resilience in priority regions in the world. Several of the winning teams are demonstrating how these approaches can build resilience among some of the world's vulnerable populations:

In the drylands of the Sahel, Groundswell International will help female farmers increase crop yields by teaching new farming methods.

MercyCorps, working in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, will engage in two projects to expand farmers' access to financial services to protect their assets.

Grameen Foundation will provide the Philippines' coconut farmers with real-time climate data as part of an insurance financing pilot. Watch this video to



What's New in Beijing USAID

China, U.S. attend drill on disaster relief operations in Seattle

From November 16–22, 2015, Ms. Maria Rendon, the Development Counselor of USAID in Beijing, participated in the Disaster Management Exchange (DME) between US Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in the United States.

The DME is composed of academic exchanges and field drills which provides the opportunity for both sides to understand the disaster response mechanisms of each country and to advance coordination in humanitarian disasters taking place in a third country which requires assistance from the international society. Although initiated as a military to military exercise, there are more and more civilians and non-military organizations or agencies participating in the event. This year, the event was held at Joint Base Lewis–McChord, southwest of Seattle, Washington state, the United States.



The 2015/2016 USAID Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) solicitation is now open. USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) has two calls for research proposals related to rapid assessment of fish stocks in the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.

PEER is a competitive awards program that invites scientists in developing countries to apply for funds to support research and activities on topics of importance to USAID. Projects are conducted in partnership with U.S. government-funded and selected private sector partners. Since its inception in 2012, USAID PEER has awarded 205 grants in more than 44 countries totaling over \$28 million in USAID funds while leveraging more than \$250 million in U.S. government support.

The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is January 15, 2016.

We welcome you comments and suggestions.

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