



Democracy, Conflict & Humanitarian Assistance

Advancing Democracy
Building Resilience
Tackling Fragility
Saving Lives
Supporting Our Team

USAID Mission

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

The USAID **Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance** promotes democratic and resilient societies that are able to mitigate disasters and conflicts, and stay on a path toward peace and prosperity. By promoting societies that can govern effectively and withstand shocks and stresses, we protect USAID's development investments to end extreme poverty.

Objectives

Advancing Democracy

Effectively supporting and consolidating inclusive and accountable democracies that advance freedom, dignity, and development

Building Resilience

Strengthening resilience in areas of recurrent crisis, thereby reducing chronic vulnerability and facilitating inclusive growth

Tackling Fragility

Enhancing effective, coordinated responses to crises, fragility, and political opportunities

Saving Lives

Providing timely and effective life-saving humanitarian responses

Supporting Our Team

Nurturing and supporting talent through professional development and clear, effective systems

Capabilities

The **Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance** rapidly deploys teams, resources, and capabilities to save lives and lay the groundwork for good governance and inclusive growth.

Expertise

More than 800 team members across nine offices have the expertise necessary to assess, design, and manage programs in difficult and rapidly evolving environments either directly or in support of USAID in-country Missions.

Technical Assistance

Amidst growing restrictions against fundamental freedoms globally, USAID remains committed to bolstering the role of civil society. The Bureau establishes high-impact partnerships with local organizations, civil society groups, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and local governments to drive locally led solutions. We build the capacity of local organizations and newly-formed or evolving governments to preserve and expand democratic and peaceful space in complex political environments.

AFP Photo / Fethi Belaid



Tunisia, the country that ushered in the Arab Spring, celebrated its first democratic and free election in 2014. USAID was front and center in supporting civic participation, particularly of youth and women, during this critical milestone.

Coordination and Response

The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance has the Presidential authority to lead and coordinate international humanitarian disaster response on behalf of the U.S. government. In the event of a large-scale disaster, the Office can rapidly deploy a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), which draws on expertise across the U.S. government to provide the most timely and effective humanitarian response. The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance partners with Urban Search-and-Rescue Teams that are on standby to deploy within hours if necessary.

Bureau offices have surge staff available with a wide array of skills, from engineers to democracy specialists, to rapidly augment USAID disaster relief, food aid, and responses to complex political crises.

Crisis and Opening Action Coordination Teams (COACT) led by the Bureau's senior staff and technical experts, ensure a fast, coordinated USAID response to priority crises. The Office of Civilian-Military Cooperation enhances coordination between USAID and the U.S. military by facilitating Agency oversight of key Department of Defense policy, doctrine, and plans, and delivering extensive training programs for both the military and USAID personnel.



USPHS/Mike Muni

USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team in West Africa coordinates an aggressive whole-of-government effort to tackle Ebola, the largest U.S. response to a global health crisis in history. In the picture above, a seven year old child leaves a mark of survival on the Bong Ebola Survivor Board.

Early Warning

The **Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance** has early warning systems, including the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET), a leading provider of early warning on acute food insecurity, and assessment tools that measure the risk of armed conflict across countries. These systems inform programs to prevent and respond to crises—from floods to electoral violence—in a timely manner. As a result, our response often begins before a crisis hits.

Prepositioned Commodities

The Bureau has three emergency warehouses overseas stocked with essential relief supplies—including emergency shelter materials, warm blankets, water treatment systems, and hygiene kits—that can be transported rapidly to disaster-affected areas around the globe; and eight sites where 100,000 tons of food commodities are rapidly dispatched when food aid needs arise.

Innovative Program Mechanisms

The Bureau manages innovative mechanisms that foster collaborative and innovative approaches to constantly evolving situations, including:

- The Rapid Response Program supports a consortium of humanitarian partners, including local organizations, for the delivery of effective and country-appropriate support to those affected by natural disasters and conflicts.
- The International Emergency Food Assistance Annual Program Statement enables the rapid provision of grants for the start-up of emergency programs that can combine traditional U.S. food aid, local and regional procurement of commodities, cash transfer, and food voucher activities, depending on the appropriate mix for each situation.
- The SWIFT indefinite quantity contract enables the quick provision of small grants to local organizations to promote stability, peace, and democracy.
- The Consortium for Elections and Political Processes Strengthening cooperative agreement provides flexible, multi-year funding to a consortium of organizations to strengthen democratic processes and political transitions.
- The Global Civil Society Strengthening cooperative agreement enables multi-year programming to a consortium of organizations to support civil society and advance fundamental freedoms.
- Programming Effectively against Conflict and Extremism supports implementation of and learning from conflict-sensitive development programs that manage and mitigate the sources and consequences of violent conflict.



The United States is the single largest donor in the Syrian crisis, the largest and most complex humanitarian emergency of our time. As part of our *Safe from the Start* and *No Lost Generation* commitments, USAID is working with partners to ensure relief efforts in Syria provide maximum safety and dignity for women and children. A critical part of USAID's assistance is food aid, including flour to bakery programs, such as the one featured in this photo.

Agile Funding

The Bureau deploys funds to prevent, respond, recover, and transition from crisis including:

- The International Disaster Assistance account allows for a rapid response to humanitarian crises.
- With new flexibilities in the Farm Bill, Food for Peace Title II cash assistance can be used to quickly respond to food crises.
- The Transition Initiatives account enables rapid programming to take advantage of new opportunities to advance political transitions and address conflict.
- The Elections and Political Processes fund supports programs in countries experiencing an urgent need due to snap elections, electoral violence, and political instability.
- The Human Rights Grants Program provides grants to address urgent Human Rights abuses and challenges through partnerships with local partners through USAID missions.
- The Complex Crises Fund enables timely investments to catalyze peace and mitigate conflict in advance or in the face of unforeseen crises or violence.

Catholic Relief Services /Catianna Tijerina



In the Central African Republic, the Complex Crises Fund is helping to restore peace in a country ravaged by war since 2012. The photo to the left shows Muslim and Christian leaders embracing at a day of prayer in Bangui, Central African Republic.

Assessment Methodologies

The **Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance** staff uses innovative analytical frameworks and methodologies to inform programs, including:

- Strategic Assessment Framework for Democracy and Governance
- Conflict Assessment Framework
- Nongovernmental Organization Sustainability Index and Media Sustainability Index
- Humanitarian Assessment Framework

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance has nine offices:

The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) leads and coordinates the U.S. Government's humanitarian assistance in response to disasters overseas by saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the social and economic impact of disasters, all while helping communities and governments build capacity to prepare for disasters and mitigate their consequences.

The Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) supports U.S. foreign policy by seizing emerging windows of opportunity in the political landscape to promote stability, peace, and democracy by catalyzing local initiatives through adaptive and agile programming.

The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) aims to improve the food security of vulnerable populations around the world through development and emergency food assistance to save lives, tackle under-nutrition, build household and community resilience, and break the cycle of poverty and hunger.

The Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) generates and disseminates knowledge about the global advancement of democracy, human rights, and governance; elevates the role of democracy, human rights, and governance in key USAID, U.S. Government, and multilateral strategies; and provides technical support to USAID missions implementing programs in these areas.

The Office of Crisis Surge Support Staff (CS3) mobilizes highly qualified technical experts providing critical development skill sets to USAID Missions in support of operations essential to crisis prevention, response, recovery, and transition efforts.

The Office of Civilian-Military Cooperation (CMC) serves as USAID’s primary point of contact with the Department of Defense, and leverages the unique capabilities of USAID and Department of Defense to achieve better development outcomes in pursuit of U.S. national security goals and national values.

The Office of Program, Policy, and Management (PPM) provides oversight, guidance, coordination, and support on administrative, management, program, and policy issues, and manages the Crisis and Opening Action Coordination Teams, and the Complex Crises Fund through an interagency Monitoring and Review Committee.

The Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) identifies and analyzes sources of conflict and fragility, supports early responses to address the causes and consequences of instability and violent conflict, and integrates conflict mitigation and management into USAID’s analysis, strategies, and programs.

The Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) provides funds for construction, renovation, and the purchase of durable commodities to strengthen overseas schools, hospitals, and libraries in order to build mutual understanding and friendship with people of other countries through the demonstration of the best in American ideas and practices in health and education.



Children at the Mthunzi Centre and the Ngwerere Lubuto Library, a partner of USAID’s Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad in Zambia.



We know that the best way to protect Americans ultimately is going to stop this outbreak [of Ebola] at the source. And I just had the privilege of speaking with some of the men and women who are working to do just that—our Disaster Assistance Response Team on the ground in West Africa...They're now the strategic and operational backbone of America's response."

President Barack Obama, October 28, 2014, on the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team's work during the Ebola Crisis in West Africa.



U.S. Agency for International Development

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20523

(202) 712-0000

www.usaid.gov

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