

Foreign Assistance Is Critical to U.S. Strength, Safety, and Prosperity

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE SUPPORTS AMERICAN FARMERS

- U.S. farmers rely on American programs that provide foreign assistance. In 2020, U.S. food aid programs bought **\$2.1 billion of American-grown commodities**.¹ In 2024, programs like Food for Peace **bought over one million tons of food** from U.S. farmers.²
- U.S. farmers **grow commodities** like corn, wheat, and soybeans that supply roughly **40% of U.S. international food assistance**.³
- **Farmers are speaking out against funding cuts** that threaten their entire way of life:

“Once you lose those markets to other suppliers, it’s **very hard to get them back**.”⁴
- Iowa Corn Farmer, 2025

“It has really **sent a chill** among a lot of farmers... So much of what we do with each other is based on that **basic trust**, and to have that be **shattered** is very, very worrisome.”⁵
- Maine Berry Farmer, 2025

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROMOTES U.S. INTERESTS ABROAD

- **Strengthens U.S. commerce**: Foreign assistance is a temporary investment in foreign capacity-building that creates **long-term export markets and trading partners**.⁶ U.S. exports to the eleven countries that successfully “graduated from” American aid programs have **increased** from over \$2 billion in 1995 to **over \$10 billion per year in 2015**.⁷
- **Bolsters strategic competitiveness**: Foreign assistance strengthens the U.S. in its **strategic competition with countries like China**, for example, through development aid programs that build civil society and **reduce partners’ vulnerability** to hostile influences.⁸
- **Enhances national security**: Foreign assistance **supports key allies, promotes regional and global stability and peace**, and **addresses transnational threats** such as pandemics, trade in narcotics, and non-state malign actors.⁹
- **Reduces forced migration**: Foreign assistance combats the drivers of forced migration to the U.S. by spurring economic development in emerging economies.¹⁰

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REQUIRES STABILITY TO AVOID WASTE AND HARM

- After the Trump Administration **froze foreign aid spending** without congressional input, it granted “waivers” for life-saving foreign assistance programs targeting severe malnutrition.¹¹ Despite the grant of these waivers, **funding has not resumed for many organizations**, and agencies’ payment systems reportedly remain disrupted by the freeze.¹²
- American-grown food products are being left to rot at ports and in warehouses, **wasting nearly \$500 million worth of commodities** from organizations that had received waivers.¹³
- Contracts with organizations that received waivers **are now being terminated**,¹⁴ halting life-saving work like treating malnourished children around the world, putting 60,000 children under the age of 5 at immediate risk of death.¹⁵

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