

Food Aid Project: USAID Fact Sheet

U.S. foreign assistance has always had the twofold purpose of furthering America's foreign policy interests in expanding democracy and free markets while improving the lives of the citizens of the developing world. Spending less than one-half of 1 percent of the federal budget, USAID works around the world to achieve these goals.

USAID's history goes back to the Marshall Plan reconstruction of Europe after World War Two and the Truman Administration's Point Four Program. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed the Foreign Assistance Act into law and created by executive order USAID.

Since that time, USAID has been the principal U.S. agency to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms.

USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. USAID supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting:

- economic growth, agriculture and trade;
- global health;
- democracy, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance.

Leadership: USAID is headed by an Administrator and Deputy Administrator, both appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. In recent months the group has endured particular upheaval as Andrew Natsios left the organization in January 2006 to teach at his alma mater, Georgetown. The current Acting Administrator is Deputy Administrator Frederick Schieck. In January 2006, the President nominated Randall L. Tobias as the fourteenth Administrator of USAID. For the purposes of this exercise, assume that the organization is still run by Andrew Natsios and target your deliverables as such.

Andrew S. Natsios was sworn in on 2001, as administrator of USAID. Natsios has served previously at USAID, first as director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and then as assistant administrator for the Bureau for Food and Humanitarian Assistance from 1991 to January 1993.

Natsios CEO of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority where he took over management of the "Big Dig" after a period of scandal and cost overruns. In 1998, he held the Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowship at the U.S. Institute of Peace. From '93 to '98, Natsios was vice president of World Vision U.S. Natsios served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1975 to 1987. He also was chairman of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee for seven years. Natsios is a graduate of Georgetown University and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He is a 22 year veteran of the Army Reserves and has authored many books on famine.

The Tasks:

1. Prepare a 10-12 page strategy memo for Andrew Natsios on how to respond to the concerns raised by stakeholders to the USAid proposal. Be sure to link the strategy to USAid's core values propositions while also taking account of the interests of all other crucial stakeholders including Oxfam, Cargill and Catholic Relief Services.
2. Prepare a 15 minute Powerpoint presentation to persuade Oxfam, Cargill and Catholic Relief Services on the merits of your position. The presentation will be given during a meeting (held during the last class session) that will include members of all four groups and will be hosted by USAid.
3. Prepare a 30 minute presentation to be given to the advisory board of USAid that covers items 1 and 2 above. This presentation will be given outside of class during the week prior to the last class.

Important Links:

Official website: <http://www.usaid.gov>

Foreign Aid Policy - 2004: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/pdabz3221.pdf>

9 Assistance Principles: http://www.usaid.gov/policy/2005_nineprinciples.html

Future of USAID in flux: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5158012>

Organizational Structure:

