



Secretary Brooke L. Rollins

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250**

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1078-012

June 30, 2025

**PRIORITIZING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WHICH MAKES THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA SAFER, STRONGER, AND MORE PROSPEROUS.**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish a return to American principles and realign the Department's focus towards its original objectives of maximizing and promoting American agriculture, ensuring a safe, nutritious and secure food supply, enhancing rural prosperity, and protecting our National Forests and Grasslands. To achieve this purpose, this memorandum orders the rescission of all foreign assistance previously granted through the Department which does not actively make the United States of America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. It also calls on the Department to recognize the goodwill of American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers in all foreign assistance programs.

The United States of America has long been the most generous and charitable country in the world. American prosperity has been shared for decades in the spirit of kindness to feed the hungry and economically develop a great many countries. However, for too long, this generosity has been taken advantage of by a foreign aid industry and bureaucracy that is not aligned with American interests. American agriculture feeds, fuels, and clothes the world.

Therefore, this Department and all supporting agencies and mission areas will focus on foreign assistance that prioritizes (1) making America safer, stronger, and more effective; (2) meeting our core objectives at USDA; and (3) ensuring a return on investment for the American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers who seek to support vulnerable communities around the world with the bounty of American agriculture.

2. POLICY

To affect these priority areas, USDA will:

1. Review and terminate foreign assistance projects that do not contribute to making America safer, stronger, and more prosperous, specifically when it comes to American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers. Any projects focused exclusively on benefitting foreign agricultural systems, with no tie to the

American people or developing market access for the American producer, will no longer continue.

2. Realign Department foreign assistance priorities towards projects that support the economic prosperity of American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers. Specifically, foreign assistance must support, develop, or advance market opportunities for American agriculture and forest products while seeking to support vulnerable communities across the globe.

3. Bring American farmers and ranchers back to the decision-making table for foreign assistance. For too long, the foreign aid industry has operated in a vacuum, one that has not also prioritized the goals of the American agricultural community. USDA will solicit input from American farmers and ranchers on how best to serve vulnerable communities.

4. Coordinate with all other relevant Federal agencies to ensure aligned foreign assistance objectives in the interest of the American people. The Federal government should have complimentary foreign assistance projects and objectives, not duplicitous or competing priorities which do not provide effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. USDA will work closely within the Executive Branch to further efficient foreign assistance programs that directly further the safety, strength, and prosperity of the United States of America.

The Office of Budget and Programs Analysis (OBPA) and Office of General Counsel (OGC) shall assist USDA agencies and organizations properly to comply with the provisions of this.

3. INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, are authorized to approve such transfers of funds, personnel, employment authority, space, records, property, and incidentals as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Memorandum.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

This memo is effective immediately.



/s/ Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture