

# USAID

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the independent federal agency responsible for planning and managing U.S. foreign economic and humanitarian assistance around the world.

USAID has been the principal U.S. development agency since its creation by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Today, the Agency provides leadership, resources, and technical expertise in economic growth, agriculture, trade, democracy and conflict mitigation, humanitarian assistance, disaster preparedness and recovery, and global health. The Agency has also implemented a new business model of public-private partnerships called the Global Development Alliance.



In June 2002 USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios visited an alternative development project, a hearts of palm processing plant in Putumayo, Colombia.

Although at \$8.5 billion (Fiscal Year 2003) USAID's budget is less than one half of 1 percent of the U.S. federal budget, these foreign assistance funds enable USAID to provide global leadership in international development. USAID provides assistance through more than 70 field missions and its national headquarters in Washington, D.C., which includes four regional bureaus:

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Africa
- Europe and Eurasia
- Asia and the Near East

## USAID in Latin America and the Caribbean

With an annual investment of more than \$850 million, USAID is dedicated to improving the quality of life and strengthening the democracies and economies of our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.

In 2002, USAID investments in Latin America and the Caribbean include:

- Education, improving literacy and competitiveness;
- Poverty reduction and increased trade;
- Improved health care quality and access;
- Conservation of the hemisphere's resources;
- Natural disaster mitigation and reconstruction;
- Counter-narcotics and alternative development; and
- HIV/AIDS prevention and education.

USAID's **economic development** efforts in the region help small farmers diversify production and increase output; increase small and micro-businesses in rural and urban areas; and increase regional and global competitiveness.

USAID's **educational investment** in the region targets early childhood literacy; strengthens secondary education and workforce training with a focus on technical skills; and provides training and resources for teachers and families.

USAID also strengthens key **democratic processes and institutions** throughout the region, including the judicial, local government, and electoral systems.

Through USAID's investment in the opening of markets and expansion of exports; poverty alleviation; improved health; sound environmental policies; and increased citizen participation, **quality of life** in the region is improving.

USAID has an on-the-ground presence in Latin America and the Caribbean in 16 field missions throughout the Western Hemisphere, as well as operations in non-presence countries including Cuba.

Bolivia	El Salvador	Mexico
Brazil	Guatemala	Nicaragua
Colombia	Guyana	Panama
Dominican Republic	Haiti	Paraguay
Ecuador	Honduras	Peru
	Jamaica	

The U.S. Agency for International Development works in Latin America and the Caribbean in close partnership with many non-governmental organizations, universities, U.S. businesses, international agencies, foreign governments and other U.S. government agencies. USAID has working relationships with more than 3,500 U.S. companies and over 400 U.S.-based private and voluntary organizations.



Assistant Administrator Adolfo Franco giving a press briefing to a delegation of foreign press from Latin America.

USAID is led by Administrator Andrew S. Natsios. Assistant Administrator Adolfo A. Franco heads the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Franco was sworn in on January 31, 2002, and is one of the highest-ranking Hispanic-Americans in the Administration of President George W. Bush. Mr. Franco serves as principal advisor to USAID Administrator Natsios on all matters related to Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Franco is also responsible for the direction and supervision of the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and its overseas operations.

[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)



**Economic growth:** A businesswoman in Las Sabinas, Mexico, prepares fresh tortillas for market. USAID micro-enterprise and micro-finance programs are fueling economic development throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

*"We fight against poverty because hope is an answer to terror. We fight against poverty because opportunity is a fundamental right to human dignity. We fight against poverty because faith requires it and conscience demands it. And we fight against poverty with a growing conviction that major progress is within our reach."*

*President George W. Bush, March 2002*



**Education and workforce training:** Peruvian children who attend USAID-supported primary schools welcome visiting USAID officials in June 2002.

[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)



**Humanitarian assistance:** Thanks to USAID programs in disaster preparedness and recovery after hurricanes Georges and Mitch, residents of the region enjoy safer housing and improved health.

*"We will continue to work to prevent conflict by encouraging democracy and good governance throughout the region. We will continue to work to increase economic opportunity and reduce poverty through micro-enterprise programs, improving access to quality education and training, and encouraging better management of the environment."*

*USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios, May 2001*



**Democracy and governance:** USAID programs throughout the region are developed in consultation with country and community leadership, and assistance for developing local governments and increasing citizen engagement is a priority.



U.S. Agency for International Development  
Ronald Reagan Building  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20523  
Phone: (202) 712-4810  
Internet: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

# U.S. Agency for International Development in LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



*Providing economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 40 years*