

# TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT



**W**hat do the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) do for the American people? With just over **one per cent** of the entire federal budget, they have a huge impact on how Americans live and how the rest of the world perceives America.

**1. We create American jobs.** We directly support 20 million U.S. jobs by promoting new and open markets for U.S. firms, protecting intellectual property, negotiating new U.S. airline routes worldwide, and helping American companies compete for foreign government and private contracts.

**2. We support American citizens abroad.** In 2014, we provided emergency assistance to U.S. citizens in countries experiencing natural disasters or civil unrest. In 2014, we assisted in 6,537 international adoptions and worked on more than 1,300 child abduction and access cases – resulting in the return of over 374 American children.

**3. We promote democracy and foster stability around the world.** Stable democracies are less likely to pose a threat to their neighbors or to the United States. We partner with the public and private sectors in countries in conflict to foster democracy and peace.

**4. We help to make the world a safer place.** Under the New START Treaty, we are reducing the number of deployed nuclear weapons to levels not seen since the 1950s. Our nonproliferation efforts prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction -- nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological. We have helped over 40 post-conflict countries clear millions of square meters of landmines and unexploded ordnance. Our security assistance programs provide training and equipment to improve the capabilities of partners to meet shared security challenges. We also work with foreign partners to strengthen international aviation and maritime safety and security.

**5. We save lives.** Strong bipartisan support for U.S. global health investments has led to worldwide progress against

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, smallpox and polio. Better health abroad reduces the risk of instability and enhances our national security.

**6. We help countries feed themselves.** We help other countries plant the right seeds in the right way and get crops to markets to feed more people. Strong agricultural sectors lead to more stable countries.

**7. We help in times of crisis.** From natural disasters to famine to epidemics, our dedicated emergency professionals deliver assistance to those who need it most.

**8. We promote the rule of law and protect human dignity.** We help people in other countries find freedom and shape their own destinies. Reflecting U.S. values, we advocate for the release of prisoners of conscience, prevent political activists from suffering abuse, train police officers to combat sex trafficking and equip journalists to hold their governments accountable.

**9. We help Americans see the world.** In 2014, we issued 14.1 million passports and passport cards for Americans to travel abroad. We facilitate the lawful travel of international students, tourists and business people to the U.S., adding greatly to our economy. We keep Americans apprised of dangers or difficulties abroad through our travel warnings.

**10. We are the face of America overseas.** Our diplomats, development experts, and the programs they implement are the source of American leadership around the world. They are the embodiments of our American values abroad and a force for good in the world.

**For a very small investment the State Department and USAID yield a large return by advancing U.S. national security, promoting our economic interests, and reaffirming our country's exceptional role in the world.**