



# BELARUS

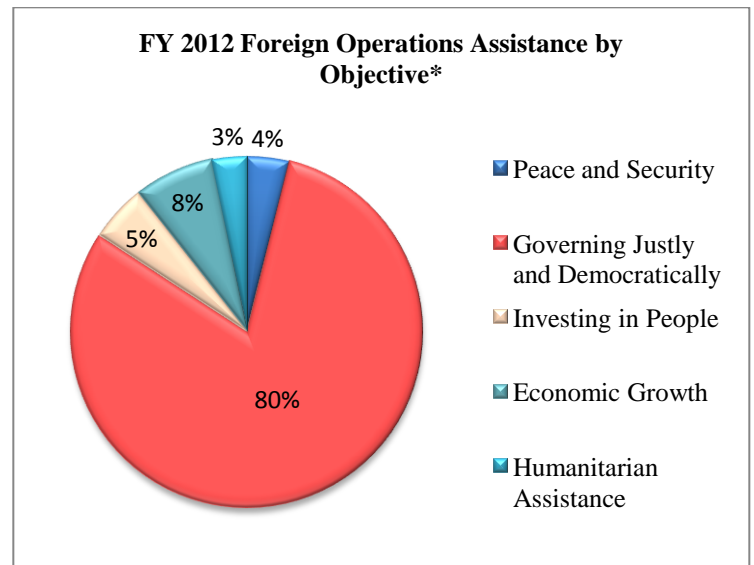


U.S. assistance to Belarus supports the Belarusian people in their efforts to establish a government that respects their democratic rights and fundamental freedoms. USG programs promote the opening of space for the free expression of political views, advancing human rights, developing civil society, and promoting media freedom. U.S. assistance also empowers entrepreneurs, encourages private sector growth, fights transnational threats, and protects and supports vulnerable populations.

## Assistance Activities by U.S. Goals:

*Promotion of a stronger, more active civil society, democratic values and enhanced access to information for the people of Belarus*

- U.S. assistance supports a broad array of civic organizations that promote citizen activism and advocacy, as well as think tanks and other organizations that encourage public policy debate. USG programs bring together citizens, local government, and the private sector to promote community development.
- In addition, U.S. assistance provides training and technical assistance to independent media outlets. USG-funded citizen exchange programs expose Belarusians to democratic values and strengthen people-to-people relations.



## *Increased share and competitiveness of the private sector in the economy of Belarus*

- U.S. technical assistance provides business information and training services to small and medium-size Belarusian companies through a leading web portal. The United States works collaboratively with other donors to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses associated with permits, licenses and other complex administrative procedures, and addresses non-transparent and inefficient inspection practices. U.S. assistance also encourages local entrepreneurs of micro-, small, and medium enterprises in western Belarus to engage in cross-border economic activity.

BY ACCOUNT	FY 2012 ACTUAL	FY 2013 ESTIMATE	FY 2014 REQUEST
<b>Total (in thousand \$)</b>	<b>11,072</b>	<b>11,001</b>	<b>11,000</b>
Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia	11,072	0	0
Economic Support Fund	0	11,001	11,000

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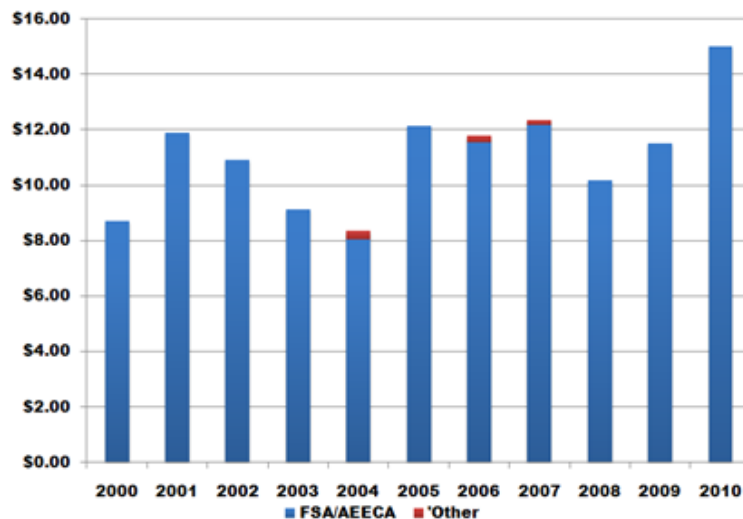
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## *Vulnerable groups are better served and better integrated into productive social and economic activities*

- U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking in Belarus focus on prevention--particularly in border areas and economically depressed regions--and victim assistance and reintegration. U.S. assistance builds awareness of the trafficking problem among vulnerable populations and the public at large, and supports job training and victim reintegration services for both victims and at-risk persons, while building the sustainability of anti-trafficking NGOs and fostering NGO cooperation and networking.
- Exchange programs, such as the Muskie Fellowship; academic advising services; and support for the Vilnius-based European Humanities University promote critical thinking and expand the options for higher education and academic freedom available to Belarusian youth. English Language Fellows and English Teaching Assistants promote English language learning and Western educational practices in largely Soviet-style institutions.
- U.S. assistance promotes the integration of persons with disabilities into Belarusian society by strengthening the sustainability and advocacy skills of NGOs in this sector.

BY OBJECTIVE	FY 2012 ACTUAL	FY 2013 ESTIMATE	FY 2014 REQUEST
<b>Total (in thousand \$)</b>	<b>11,072</b>	<b>11,001</b>	<b>11,000</b>
Peace and Security	430	1,100	424
Governing Justly and Democratically	8,892	8,271	8,822
Investing in People	580	730	800
Economic Growth	820	900	954
Humanitarian Assistance	350	0	0

**FY 2000-2010 Foreign Operations Assistance (in millions)**



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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Coordinator's Office Annual Reports](#)

[U.S. Embassy Website](#)

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