



Americans on Foreign Aid and World Hunger
A Study of U.S. Public Attitudes
(Feb. 2nd, 2001)

1. Do you feel the amount the US spends on foreign aid is too much, too little, or about right?

Too much	75.0%
Too little	4.2
About right	17.4
Don't Know/refused	3.4

[IF ANSWERED "TOO MUCH"]

Does this mean you want to cut foreign aid?

Yes	84.9% (64% of total sample)
No	12.6
Don't Know/refused	2.5

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: 801

Date: Jan 12-15, 1995

2. Do you think the amount of money the United States is now devoting to foreign aid should be increased, reduced, or kept at about the present level?

09	Increased
47	Reduced
40	Kept at about the present level
04	No opinion

Survey Organization: Gallup Organization

Sample Size: 1011

Dates: May 18, 2000 to May 21, 2000

(I am going to read a list of present federal government programs. For each, I'd like you to tell me whether you feel it should be expanded, cut back or kept about the same.)...Economic aid to other nations

13	Expanded
48	Cut back
36	Kept same
03	Not sure

Survey Organization: Gallup Organization / Chicago Council on Foreign Relations

Sample Size: 1507

Dates: Oct 15, 1998 to Nov 10, 1998

Should federal spending on foreign aid be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

07	Increased
49	Decreased
38	Kept about the same
06	Don't know/No answer

Survey Organization: New York Times

Dates: Apr 15, 1998 to Apr 20, 1998

Sample Size: 1395

3. Question: Overall, do you feel that government spending to aid foreign nations should be increased, decreased, or kept where it is now?

Increased	2%
Decreased	67
Kept where it is	28
Don't know	4

Survey Organization: Institute For Social Inquiry/Roper Center, Univ. Of Ct.

Sample Size: 1031

Date: MAR 5, 1995

Do you feel that government spending should be increased, decreased, or kept where it is now with respect to aid to foreign nations?

Increased	3%
Decreased	73
Kept where it is now	20
Not sure	4

Survey Organization: Yankelovich Partners Inc./ Time, Cable News Network

Sample Size: 1000

Date: JUN 22, 1995

(I am going to read a list of present federal government programs. For each, I'd like you to tell me whether you feel it should be expanded, cut back or kept about the same.)...Economic aid to other nations

Date	N	Expand	Cut Back	Keep Same	Not Sure
Nov 1998	1507	13	48	36	3
Oct 1994	1492	9	58	28	5

Organization: Gallup/CCFR

4 Do you feel the amount the US spends on foreign aid is too much, too little, or about right?

Too much	55.4
About right	34.8
Too little	3.2
Don't Know	6.4
Refused	.2

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: 652

Dates: May 23 to July 9, 2000

Do you feel the amount the US spends on foreign aid is too much, too little, or about right?

Too much	75.0
About right	17.4
Too little	4.2
Don't Know/refused	3.4

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: 801

Dates: Jan 12-15, 1995

5 Question: (We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount.) Are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on... foreign aid?

	6/19/98 (~1400)	5/25/96 (~1450)
Too little	7	4
About right	27	22
Too much	60	68
Don't know	6	6

Organization: National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago

Sample Size: 2832

Date: as noted

6 Helping people in foreign countries is not the proper role for the US government. This should be strictly a private matter taken care of by individuals giving donations through private organizations.

Agree strongly	16.5%
Agree somewhat	22.1
Disagree somewhat	32.2
Disagree strongly	26.2
Don't Know	2.9
Refused	-
Organization: PIPA	
Sample Size: 801	
Date: Jan 12-15, 1995	

7 Question: (I'm going to read you a list of federal government programs and for each one, please tell me how important you think this program is. Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?) What about... foreign aid?

14	Very important
46	Somewhat important
25	Not very important
13	Not at all important
02	Don't know

Organization: ICR/National Public Radio, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard U.
Sample Size: 1203
Dates: Mar 4-24, 1999

8 Question: Are you generally in favor or opposed to the US (United States) giving economic assistance to help other countries? (If favor/oppose, ask:) Is that very much in favor/oppose or somewhat in favor/oppose?

	2/5/00 (2201)	9/3/98 (1500)	2/15/94 (2080)
Very much favor	14	18	8
Somewhat favor	41	41	38
In between (vol.)	-	-	4
Somewhat opposed	27	22	28
Very much opposed	15	15	15
Don't know	2	4	5
Refused	*	*	1

Organization: Belden Russonello & Stewart
Sample Size: as noted
Date: as noted

9 On the whole, do you favor or oppose our giving economic aid to other nations?

	Nov 1998 (~1500)	Nov 1994 (~1500)
Favor	47	45
Oppose	45	45
Don't know/no opinion	8	10

(I am going to read a list of present federal government programs. For each, I'd like you to tell me whether you feel it should be expanded, cut back or kept about the same.)...Economic aid to other nations

Date	N	Expand	Cut Back	Keep Same	Not Sure
Nov 1998	1507	13	48	36	3
Oct 1994	1492	9	58	28	5

Organization: Gallup/CCFR

Sample Size: as noted

Dates: as noted

10 (I would like to ask you a few questions about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them.) As far as you know, is more of the federal budget now spent on Medicare or is more spent on foreign aid?

27	Medicare
63	Foreign aid
10	Don't know/Refused

Survey Organization: Pew Research Center

Dates: Sep 25, 1997 to Oct 31, 1997

Sample Size: 1762

11 If you had to choose two items from this list, (would you say are the two largest areas of spending by the federal government) which would you choose... food stamps, defense, foreign aid, Medicare, or Social Security?

26	Food stamps
56	Defense
64	Foreign aid
23	Medicare
50	Social Security
01	Don't know/No opinion

Note: Adds to more than 100% due to multiple responses

Survey Organization: Washington Post, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard

University
 Dates: Mar 13-23, 1997
 Sample Size: 1309

12 (Regardless of how well you think the economy is doing, there are always some problems that keep it from being as good as it might be. I am going to read you a list of reasons some people have given for why the economy is not doing better than it is. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a major reason the economy is not doing better than it is, a minor reason, or not a reason at all.) How about...foreign aid spending is too high?

66	Major reason
23	Minor reason
10	Not a reason
01	Don't know/No opinion

Survey Organization: Washington Post, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University
 Dates: Jul 22, 1996 to Aug 2, 1996
 Sample Size: 1510

13 What do you think would be an appropriate percentage of the federal budget to go to foreign aid, if any?

	11/00 (~600)	7/00 (652)	6/96 (610)	12/95* (1013)	1/95 (801)
Median	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	5.0
Mean	13.8	15.2	12.8	-	8.4

Survey Organization: PIPA, *Washington Post
 Dates: Mar 13, 1997 to Mar 23, 1997
 Sample Size: 1309

14 Now, imagine that you found out that the US spends 1% of the federal budget on foreign aid. Would you feel that this is too little, too much or about right? [IF TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE, ASK:] Would that be a bit too (much/little) or way too (much/little)?

Way too little	15.5%
A bit too little	17.6
About right	45.5

A bit too much	8.9
Way too much	8.6
Don't Know	3.8
Refused	-

Organization: PIPA
Sample Size: 801
Date: Jan 12-15, 1995

15 Coming back to the subject of your tax money that goes to help poor people. Of this total amount, what percentage of it should go to help poor people in other countries, and what percentage of it should go to poor people in America?

Other countries

Median	20.0%
Mean	22.3

Americans

Median	80.0%
Mean	77.3

Organization: PIPA
Sample Size:
Date: June 1996

16 As I read some types of foreign aid, tell me whether you favor or oppose them....Food and medical assistance to people in needy countries

86	Favor
12	Oppose
02	Don't know/Refused

Survey Organization: Princeton Survey Research Associates
Dates: Sep 4-11, 1997
Sample Size: approx. 1000

17 (I'm going to read a list of possible foreign policy goals that the United States might have. For each one please say whether you think that it should be a very important foreign policy goal of the United States, a somewhat important foreign policy goal, or not an important goal at all.) How important a foreign policy goal should... combating world hunger be?

Very important	62%
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Somewhat important	32
Not important	4
Don't know maintaining superior military power worldwide be?	2
Very important	59%
Somewhat important	31
Not important	6
Don't know controlling and reducing illegal immigration be?	4
Very important	55%
Somewhat important	34
Not important	6
Don't know improving the global environment be?	5
Very important	53%
Somewhat important	36
Not important	6
Don't know	5

Organization: Gallup / The Chicago Council on Foreign Relations

Sample Size: 1507

Date: NOV 1998

(I am going to read a list of possible foreign policy goals that the United States might have. For each one please say whether you think that it should be a very important foreign policy goal of the United States, a somewhat important foreign policy goal, or not an important goal at all.) How about...combating world hunger?

Very important	56%
Somewhat important	36
Not important	6
Not sure maintaining superior military power world-wide?	2
Very important	50%
Somewhat important	39
Not important	9
Not sure	2

Organization: Gallup / The Chicago Council on Foreign Relations

Sample Size: 1492

Date: OCT 1994

18 What do you think will be the most important problem facing the world in the 21st Century?

War	18%
Poverty/Hunger	12
Overpopulation	8
Environment	6
Economy	6
Crime	3
Moral Values	3
Terrorism	3
Social Issues	2
Nuclear	2
Other	19
Don't know/No answer	18

Organization: CBS News
 Sample Size: 1026
 Date: DEC 19, 1999

19 Question: If you had to choose which countries should get U.S. aid, which of these would you select as most important?

	1992 (~1200)	May 1986 (~1200)
Countries that are important to U.S. security	21	44
Countries with the poorest economies	44	33
Countries that the U.S. needs as trading partners	27	19
Don't know	8	4

Organization: Strategic Information Research Corporation
 Sample Size: as noted
 Dates: as noted

20 Question: As I read some types of foreign aid, tell me whether you favor or oppose them:

	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref
Military aid to countries that	73	22	5

are important allies of the U.S.

Organization: Pew Research Center

Sample Size: 1007

Date: September 11, 1997

21 Thinking about where you would like to see the United States use its resources, here are some possible goals for the US government assistance programs to other countries. Using a scale where 1 means lowest priority and 10 means top priority, please rate these goals for US government assistance overseas. The first one is:

	Mean
Improving Children's Health	7.8
Protecting the global environment	7.7
Increasing survival rates of babies and young children	7.4
Relieving human suffering brought about by civil war and natural disaster	7.4
Promoting human rights	7.0
Promoting trade between the US and other countries	7.0
Helping women in poor countries avoid unintended pregnancies	6.9
Promoting democracy	6.9
Improving women's health	6.9
Preventing civil wars and regional conflicts	6.4
Helping countries slow their rate of population growth	6.3
Supporting governments friendly to the US	6.8
Improving the status of women	6.5
Improving men's health	6.3

Organization: Belden, Russonello and Stewart / RAND

Sample Size: 1500

Date: September 1998

22 Assuming that any change in spending would also increase or decrease your own taxes accordingly, I would like to know if you would favor increasing spending, cutting spending, or keeping total spending the same a now...[respondents were read descriptions and current expenditures for each program]

For military aid, which provides weapons and other military capabilities to countries that are friendly to the US.

Spend more	6
Spend the same	41
Spend less	52

Don't know/refused	1
Spend more	6
Spend the same	41
Spend less	52
Don't know/refused	1

For humanitarian relief, which is for caring for people who urgently need food, medical care or shelter because they are refugees or victims of disaster like a famine, flood, or a war.

Spend more	41
Spend the same	46
Spend less	12
Don't know/refused	1

For assistance to poor countries to help them improve their food production, their basic health care, their schools, their private enterprises and so on.

Spend more	29
Spend the same	46
Spend less	24
Don't know/refused	1

For aid to Israel and Egypt, which includes military and economic aid.

Spend more	4
Spend the same	38
Spend less	56
Don't know/refused	2

For aid to Turkey and Greece, which allow us to put military bases on their territory

Spend more	6
Spend the same	55
Spend less	38
Don't know/refused	1

The Peace Corps

Spend more	47
Spend the same	43
Spend less	9
Don't know/refused	1

For environmental aid to poor countries to help them preserve their environment and to reduce pollution, especially pollution that may contribute to global warming.

Spend more	38
Spend the same	41
Spend less	20
Don't know/refused	1

For family planning, to help poor countries limit the growth of their population

Spend more	36
Spend the same	38
Spend less	25
Don't know/refused	2

For child survival programs, which help feed poor children, combat childhood diseases and provide prenatal care

Spend more	56
Spend the same	35
Spend less	8
Don't know/refused	1

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: 801

Date: Jan 12-15, 1995

23 (In particular, do you think economic aid to the following people or nations should be increased, decreased, kept about the same, or stopped altogether?) How about...African countries?

24	Increased
16	Decreased
38	Kept same
13	Stopped altogether
09	Not sure

Survey Organization: Gallup Organization/ Chicago Council on Foreign Relations

Dates: Oct 15, 1998 to Nov 10, 1998

Sample Size: 1507

24 Question: Do you think the amount of foreign aid the United States gives to African countries should be increased, decreased, or remain the same?

Increased	13%
Decreased	43
Remain the same	35
Not sure	9

Survey Organization: Yankelovich Partners Inc./ Time, Cable News Network

Sample Size: 600

Date: JUN 2, 1995

25 (Please tell me if you think this country is too concerned, is not concerned enough, or is about as concerned as it should be about problems in each of the following places.) Do you think this country is too concerned about problems in...[country/region] ...is not concerned enough, or is about as concerned as it should be?

Africa

Too concerned	11%
Not concerned enough	47
As concerned as it should be	34
Don't know	8

Eastern Europe

Too concerned	30%
Not concerned enough	23
As concerned as it should be	41
Don't know	6

Western Europe

Too concerned	24%
Not concerned enough	19
As concerned as it should be	50
Don't know	7

The Middle East

Too concerned	26%
Not concerned enough	32
As concerned as it should be	36
Don't know	6

China

Too concerned	23%
Not concerned enough	41
As concerned as it should be	31
Don't know	5

Russia

Too concerned	22%
Not concerned enough	33
As concerned as it should be	38
Don't know	7

Organization: Princeton Survey Research Associates / Newsweek

Sample Size: 405
Dates: MAY 13-14, 1999

26 In general, do you favor or oppose the US (United States) government spending money to help solve the problem of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa? (If favor/oppose, ask:) Do you favor/oppose this strongly, or only somewhat?

Favor-strongly	33%
Favor-only somewhat	30
Favor-don't know/refused strength	*
Oppose-strongly	15
Oppose-only somewhat	14
Oppose-don't know/refused strength	1
Don't know/Refused	7

Survey Organization: Kaiser Family Fdtn., Harvard Sch. of Pub. Health
Sample Size: 1200
Dates: MAY 26 to JUN 4, 2000

(I'm going to name some different ways in which the US (United States) government might provide financial help to fight AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each one.) Would you favor or oppose the US government... reducing the amount of money these African countries owe to the United States, so they can use the money to deal with the problem of AIDS?

Favor	51%
Oppose	40
Don't know/Refused	9

Survey Organization: Kaiser Family Fdtn., Harvard Sch. of Pub. Health
Sample Size: 1200
Dates: MAY 26 to JUN 4, 2000 (Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose the United States doing each of the following.) Would you favor or oppose... spending more money generally on Africa, in addition to funds specifically for AIDS?

Favor	48%
Oppose	43
Don't know	9

Survey Organization: Princeton Survey Research Associates / Newsweek
Sample Size: 753
Dates: JAN 6, 2000 to JAN 7, 2000

27 (As I read some types of foreign aid, tell me whether you favor or oppose them.)...Aid

that helps needy countries develop their economics

Favor	76%
Oppose	21
Don't know/Refused	3

Organization: Princeton Survey Research Associates / Pew Research Center

Sample Size: approx. 1000

Dates: SEP 4-11, 1997

28 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement. As one of the world's rich nations, the United States has a moral responsibility toward poor nations to help them develop economically and improve their people's lives. Would that be strongly or somewhat (agree/disagree)?

Strongly agree	30.8
Somewhat agree	36.9
Somewhat disagree	15.6
Strongly disagree	13.9
Don't Know	2.4
Refused	.3

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: approx. 600

Date: October 21-29, 1999

29 In the long run, if developing countries do become stronger economically, do you think there will be a very positive impact, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative impact on: [randomize]

U.S. business opportunities in developing countries

Very positive	23.8
Somewhat positive	50.3
Somewhat negative	17.6
Very negative	4.5
Don't Know	3.9
Refused	-

The U.S. economy

Very positive	17.9
Somewhat positive	51.6
Somewhat negative	20.3

Very negative	5.5
Don't Know	4.6
Refused	.1
Jobs in the United States	
Very positive	17.6
Somewhat positive	45.1
Somewhat negative	25.3
Very negative	9.4
Don't Know	2.5
Refused	.1

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: approx. 600

Date: October 21-29, 19991

30 As I read some statements about US assistance for developing countries, tell me if you tend to strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree...It is against our interests to help developing countries because they will compete with us economically and politically?

Total Agree	29%
Total disagree	67
Don't know/refused	4

Organization: Intercultural Communication, Inc.

Sample Size: 1201

Date: March 21, 1993

31 In the years after the Korean War, the US gave billions of dollars in aid to South Korea. Some people feel that this is a good example of how we contributed to developing a country that is now an ally and a trading partner. Others feel that this aid helped South Korea take away our markets by selling low cost goods, and therefore was a mistake. Do you think it was a mistake to have given aid to South Korea?

Yes	33%
No	60
Don't know/refused	7

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: 801

Date: Jan 12-15, 1995

32 Okay, now I'd like to ask your views about some kinds of possible US aid programs to other countries. Please tell me if you favor or oppose the US aid programs contributing to the funding of each of these in developing countries: Programs to give girls in developing countries the same opportunities for education as boys have.

Favor strongly	72
Favor somewhat	18
Oppose somewhat	5
Oppose strongly	5
Don't know/refused	-

Programs to improve women's health generally

Favor strongly	52
Favor somewhat	36
Oppose somewhat	6
Oppose strongly	5
Don't know/refused	1

Efforts to reduce domestic violence against women

Favor strongly	63
Favor somewhat	22
Oppose somewhat	7
Oppose strongly	7
Don't know/refused	-

Programs to help women support themselves and their families financially

Favor strongly	55
Favor somewhat	29
Oppose somewhat	8
Oppose strongly	7
Don't know/refused	1

Organization: Belden, Russonello and Stewart / RAND
Sample Size: 1500
Date: September 1998

33 Currently there are efforts to find ways to help the very poorest countries in the world other than giving them direct aid. One idea being discussed is for the wealthier countries to allow in more of the products from these very poor countries. Some say that this would

be a good idea because it would help these poor countries get on their feet, and because their imports would still be no more than one percent of all imports, it would cost the wealthy countries very little. Others say that allowing in more goods from these very poor countries is a bad idea because it might threaten the jobs of American workers producing the same kinds of products. Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea to allow in more products from the very poorest countries?

Good idea	62.7
Bad idea	30.0
Don't Know	6.6
Refused	.7

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: approx. 600

Date: October 21-29, 1999

34 Question: Do you think we should pass Africa trade legislation that would open up our trade with that continent or not?

Yes	56%
No	28
Don't know	16

Organization: Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates / Democratic Leadership Council

Population Size: 1400

Date: AUG 2, 1998

35 At present, the US limits the import of goods from countries by giving countries a limited number of quotas, which give them the right to sell a certain number of products in the US. At present, most of these quotas go to countries that are not poor. Some people say that we should give more of these quotas to poor countries, especially those that presently receive US foreign aid, because this would help their economies and may even help some foreign aid recipients get to the point that they will not need aid. Others argue that this is not a good idea because we may have to take quotas away from the wealthier countries that presently have them, and this could be politically sensitive. Do you favor or oppose the idea of giving poor countries more of such quotas?

	10/99	1/95
Favor	71.5	68.5
Oppose	21.4	22.0
Don't Know	6.5	9.5
Refused	.5	-

Organization: PIPA

Sample Size: as noted

Date: as noted

36 Question: (Okay, now I am going to read you a number of arguments that have been made on the subject of foreign aid. As I read each one please say whether you agree or disagree with it (strongly or somewhat.) Too much U.S. (United States) foreign aid goes to governments that are not very democratic and have poor human rights records. This is not consistent with American principles.

Agree strongly	49%
Agree somewhat	30
Disagree somewhat	11
Disagree strongly	5
Don't know/refused	5

Organization: Program On International Policy Attitudes

Sample Size: approx. 600

Dates: JAN 12, 1995 to JAN 15, 1995

37 Question: (Okay, now I am going to read you a number of arguments that have been made on the subject of foreign aid. As I read each one please say whether you agree or disagree with it (strongly or somewhat.) There is so much waste and corruption in the process of giving foreign aid that very little aid actually reaches the people who really need it.

Agree strongly	59%
Agree somewhat	24
Disagree somewhat	9
Disagree strongly	3
Don't know/refused	5

Organization: Program On International Policy Attitudes Sample

Size: approx. 600

Dates: JAN 12, 1995 to JAN 15, 1995

38 Question: (I'd like to turn now to a few questions about America's place in the world. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each.)... There is so much waste in our foreign aid program that very little actually reaches the people who need it.

Agree	83%
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Disagree 8

Don't know 8

Survey Organization: Institute For Social Inquiry/Roper Center, Univ. Of Ct Sample Size: 1031

Dates: FEB 26, 1995 to MAR 5, 1995

39 Question: Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following: If I knew that most foreign aid was going to the poor people who really need it, rather than to wasteful bureaucracies and corrupt governments, I would

Agree 58%

Disagree 41

Don't know/refused 2

Organization: Program On International Policy Attitudes Sample Size: approx. 600 Dates: JAN 12-15, 1995