

From Principles to Practice: Making US Foreign Assistance Work for the World's Poor

Global Washington, a membership association of international development practitioners, is drawing on our members' expertise to create a set of principles that can guide US foreign aid in the 21st Century. Global Washington is also launching a policy initiative to encourage the State Congressional Delegation to endorse the Guiding Principles and use them as framework for reforming aid. Washington State has a tremendously diverse and dynamic global development sector and a citizenry committed to global development. Global Washington will ask Washington's Congressional Delegation to be the leaders of efforts to reform foreign aid and really make it work for the world's poor.

FACTS:

The Foreign Assistance Act is 1000 pages long
The FAA has not been rewritten since 1961
The FAA contains 140 broad priorities and 400 directives
The US ranks 18 out of 22 in the Commitment to Development Index, measuring aid, trade, investment and security policies.

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The State of US Foreign Aid

Half the world's population lives on less than the \$2 per day. The American people and government have made repeated commitments to undo this global tragedy, resulting in the largest official assistance budget in the world. However, US foreign assistance is neither effective nor efficient. Foreign aid legislation and policy is disjointed and confused and aid delivery is not strategic, reducing impacts on poverty reduction. The US is ranked 18th in the Commitment to Development Index, measuring aid, trade, investment and security policies. The US comes in 20th in terms of aid commitment.

Global Washington's Approach

The approach will focus on creating guiding principles that can be used by policy makers and influential groups as a framework for approaching foreign assistance. While many groups focus on either the content of aid legislation or the size of the budget, no groups have focused on guiding principles. Global Washington is in a unique position to develop this approach because of the broad experience of its members in delivering foreign aid.

Activities

- Develop Guiding Principles with broad based input from practitioners
- Demonstrate the value of these principles by highlighting the contradictions in current development assistance legislation
- Advocate for the integration of the principles into national efforts to reform foreign aid with national allies such as RESULTS, IGD and USGLC
- Lobby for WA Congressional delegation to endorse the principles and support of the Global Poverty Act and the rewrite of the FAA.

Goals

- 1) Global Washington Principles endorsed by members of Global Washington that include non-profits, businesses, philanthropic and academic centers
- 2) Washington State Congressional Delegation endorses Global Washington's strategic principles
- 3) Congressional Delegation leads the calls for reforms of US foreign aid
- 4) National policy makers and influencers endorse the principles and advocate for their use in rewriting the FAA



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