USAID
SHADY AGENDA EXPOSED

Published March 03, 2025
Publication No. 0335-030325

CIHS | Centre for Integrated and Holistic Studies

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Table of Contents

USAID: Shady Agenda Exposed

INTRODUCTION

Foreign influence peddling is not new to India. From colonial trade networks to modern soft power strategies, external forces have long sought to shape the nation's socio-political landscape.

In the present era, dominance is not limited to dominance through military strength but exercised via economic dependencies, cultural narratives and policy interventions to try and subjugate communities to slavery of ultra-modern variety.

In Indian context, foreign influence is often orchestrated through a meticulously structured network of private corporations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), think tanks and academic institutions with funding streams strategically directed to shape public discourse and policy formulation. And, in most cases, it's an operation of the deep state. At the heart of this intricate web, the common patron is United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

USAID's role takes on a different shade—one that demands urgent scrutiny. This report is not just an exposé of financial transactions; it is an indictment of sophisticated machinery of influence operating under 'development assistance' banner.

USAID, like many other American institutions, presents itself as a beacon of global goodwill. Yet, behind the veil of humanitarian aid lies a well-oiled apparatus designed to align recipient nations with U.S. strategic interests. From Latin America to Southeast Asia, the agency has long been accused of orchestrating political realignments, funding subversive movements and engineering economic dependencies. The question is not whether USAID wields influence, but rather, how much of India's policy space was being shaped by it?

USAID was formally established on November 3, 1961, by an executive order issued by President John F. Kennedy under Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The act consolidated various foreign aid programs that had existed under different agencies, creating a single, centralized body with a streamlined mission. This was not made in isolation but was part of direct response to Cold War outcomes.

The global battle for influence between United States and Soviet Union have had reached a new level where military interventions alone were insufficient to secure strategic footholds. From the outset, USAID was never just about humanitarian aid. It was designed as an instrument of American foreign policy and deep state as a soft-power weapon to project U.S. influence into strategically significant regions.

Kennedy's administration framed foreign aid as an essential pillar of its global diplomacy, ensuring that economic assistance became a means of securing allies, countering Soviet expansion and embedding American ideologies in developing nations.

During its congressional debates, the formation of USAID was met with broad support from U.S. legislators, who saw it as a necessary weapon for expansion of American influence. The U.S. Congress, particularly through House Foreign Affairs Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, extensively discussed how foreign aid would be leveraged to maintain U.S. supremacy on the global stage.

Among the stated goals were economic growth, political stability and resistance to communist influence. However, many of the discussions also revealed a clear, underlying motive: USAID would serve as a key tool for engineering socio-political environments in ways that aligned with American interests. At its inception, USAID's mission was couched in the language of humanitarian assistance, with an emphasis on alleviating poverty, improving healthcare, and fostering economic growth.

Yet, behind the scenes, its actual function was to create dependencies on American financial aid, ensuring that recipient countries remained within Washington's sphere of influence. The agency's structure allowed it to bypass formal diplomatic channels, working directly with local organizations, governments, and private entities to ensure that U.S. strategic priorities were embedded into national policies and governance frameworks.

Since its inception, USAID has functioned as more than just an aid agency. It operates with a blueprint that prioritises geopolitical interests over genuine humanitarian concerns. In country after country, its funding patterns, organisational alliances and programmatic focus have reflected an uncanny alignment with broader American strategic objectives.

India, with its rich cultural history, diverse demographic landscape and complex socio-political environment, has been a prime target for such influence. The structure of USAID's operations in India is a testament to its multi-layered approach. Funding is directed not just towards governmental projects but, more significantly, through a vast web of non-government organizations, civil society outfits and policy think tanks.

While many of these initiatives ostensibly focus on issues such as gender equality, environmental sustainability and economic empowerment, a closer examination reveals a consistent pattern—an underlying effort to shape public discourse, influence policy decisions and gradually alter India's socio-political ecosystem in ways that align with Western narratives. This is akin to the ways American establishments used multi-lateral financial institutions as dovetail to further its interests.

Consider the nature of projects USAID funds: research grants, development initiatives, capacity building programmes and human rights campaigns. These efforts, on face value, appear noble, yet they often carry an embedded agenda. By funding specific areas of research and advocacy, USAID steers discussions towards preferred narratives, creating a climate that is receptive to external influence. This soft power strategy is not merely about funding change; it is about ensuring that the change serves specific ideological and strategic interests.

Aid is rarely neutral. It is, more often than not, a calculated investment in a particular vision of the world—one where influence is exerted not through direct force but through economic and social

leverage. Countries that accept aid without scrutiny often find themselves gradually entangled in obligations that shape their governance structures, economic policies, and even cultural dynamics.

USAID's engagements in India have followed a pattern observed across multiple countries where it has a significant presence. Through its funding mechanisms, the agency has sought to gain an outsized role in critical sectors: media, education, civil society activism, and grassroots mobilisation. Each of these arenas provides an opportunity for long-term influence—an ability to subtly shape public opinion, elevate certain ideologies and even exert political pressure when needed.

Take, for instance, USAID's investments in India's health sector. Officially framed as efforts to enhance healthcare access and disease prevention, these programs serve as an entry point for broader influence. They create dependencies on foreign funding, positioning USAID-backed entities as indispensable players in national policymaking. Over time, this fosters an ecosystem where domestic institutions rely on external resources, inadvertently ceding control over critical areas of governance to foreign agencies.

Another key domain of USAID's focus in India has been gender and social equity programs. While initiatives aimed at improving women's rights and minority welfare are crucial, USAID's selective funding choices reveal a pattern where support is funneled towards organizations that promote specific ideological standpoints. By favouring groups that align with Western and purported progressive narratives, USAID effectively marginalises indigenous movements that operate outside its preferred framework, ensuring that discourse remains within a controlled spectrum of acceptability.

India stands at a critical juncture. Its trajectory as an emerging global power will be defined not just by its economic and military strength but by its ability to celebrate its sovereignty over its cultural, political, and developmental choices. USAID's presence in India must be examined through this lens—not as a benign force of goodwill, but as a strategic entity that seeks to mold India's future in a direction that serves external interests.

The time for complacency is over. India's ability to chart its own course in the global order hinges on its willingness to confront and challenge narratives imposed from the outside. The true measure of sovereignty is not just the ability to reject external control, but the power to define one's own future—free from the veiled hand of foreign influence.

USAID AND GLOBAL DISRUPTIONS

With billions of dollars invested in international development projects each year, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has long been a pillar of American foreign aid. But, over the years, the agency has come under scrutiny and accused of corruption, wasted spending and poor management in several nations. Below is a summary, by countries, that explores some of the most important accusations and complaints made against USAID.

INDIA

$ 21 Million[1] for 2024 Elections: Covert Foreign Intervention?

A troubling question is raised by USAID's $21 million allocation to "boost voter turnout" in India's 2024 parliamentary elections: Why is a foreign government supporting voting in a sovereign state?

India, largest democracy in the world, has a history of free, fair and high voter turnout; in the 2019 General Elections, 600 million people cast ballots without outside interference. What, therefore, is USAID trying to "fix"?

USAID funded $21 million in India for "voter turnout" via CEPPS, DOGE revealed (Image: File/Deccan Herald)

Political engineering, destabilisation and clandestine influence activities have frequently resulted from USAID's engagement in foreign countries. Under the guise of democracy-building, these "assistance programs" have served as platforms for advancement of geopolitical objectives from Latin America to Eastern Europe. Is the next target India?

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[1] https://www.opindia.com/2025/02/usaid-21m-voter-turnout-india-cepps/; https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/elon-musk-trump-doge-usaid-voter-turnout-india-bjp-foreign-interference-125021600194_1.html

CEPPS's funding in India came through IFES.

Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Year Ended September 30, 2019

Subrecipient and Program Description	Grant Number	CFDA	Project Code	Total Grant Obligations	Prior Years' Expenditures	Total 2019 Expenses	Cumulative Grant Expenditures	Amount Provided to Subrecipients
IFES CEPPS III DFD-A-00-08-00350-00								
ADMINISTRATION		98.001	L00623	$ 45,000	$ 53,037	$ -	$ 53,037	$ -
TL ADJUDICATION GUIDE		98.001	L00634	117,307	132,864	-	132,864	-
TL CIVIL/VOTER REGISTRY		98.001	L00635	87,693	97,323	-	97,323	-
TL ERIS		98.001	L00636	189,090	188,682	-	188,682	-
CAMBODIA		98.001	L00637	14,898	14,897	-	14,897	-
TL TIDE II		98.001	L00674	129,931	130,008	-	130,008	-
ELECTORAL PROCESS DIAGNOSIS		98.001	L00687	223,559	223,342	-	223,342	-
ELECTORAL LAW REFORM		98.001	L00688	148,078	147,335	-	147,335	-
CREDIBLE ELECTIONS INSTITUTE		98.001	L00689	26,169	948	-	948	-
SUBAWARDS PROGRAMS		98.001	L00690	253,761	253,422	-	253,422	-
E- VOTING		98.001	L00713	176,547	175,620	-	175,620	-
TUNISIA		98.001	L00698	988,902	987,632	-	987,632	-
ALBANIA		98.001	L00702	83,528	83,528	-	83,528	-
INDIA		98.001	L00708	319,667	318,614	-	318,614	-
COTE D' IVOIRE		98.001	L00712	700,000	689,612	-	689,612	-
LIBYA		98.001	L00714	1,779,333	1,771,959	-	1,771,959	-
DOMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGOONGO		98.001	L00715	46,567	45,883	-	45,883	-
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INTIATIVE		98.001	L00716	607,953	612,436	-	612,436	-
BURMA		98.001	L00719	195,896	194,776	-	194,776	-
UKRAINE		98.001	L00750	150,000	181,638	-	181,638	-
IFES CEPPS III DFD-A-00-08-00350-00 Subtotal				6,283,879	6,303,556	-	6,303,556	-

Source: CEPPS

Through carefully selected NGOs and advocacy groups, this so-called "assistance" tries to influence public opinion, finance narratives, and influence election results. It is blatantly neocolonial. It is no accident that as India asserts its strategic independence on international matters, these interventions become more intense. Also, it's rather quixotic that US with questionable track record of low voters turnout sought to spend for high turnout in India whose record of polling is impeccable.

AFGHANISTAN

As a review of its recent history, USAID has been the target of similar accusations, much before Trump administration targeted the agency. It has been charged with corruption and financial mismanagement in Afghanistan.

Since 2001, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has played a significant role in Afghanistan's development and reconstruction initiatives. Nonetheless, the organisation has consistently been accused of poor administration, ineffectiveness, corruption, and political bias in the disbursement of aid. Critics contend that due to financial irregularities and security issues, USAID's initiatives in Afghanistan have frequently fallen short of producing sustainable development results.

Investigations have revealed billions of dollars in fraud, waste, and abuse in USAID projects including those conducted by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). Money meant for healthcare, education, and infrastructure was frequently misappropriated, and many projects were either abandoned or not properly maintained.

There was no direct monitoring because USAID mostly relied on contractors and local middlemen. It was reported that a sizable amount of aid was embezzled through exaggerated project expenses and fraudulent contracts.

Numerous projects financed by USAID have come under fire for being unsustainable, short-lived, and failing to take local governance structures into account. Although schools and clinics were constructed, they frequently lacked long-term funding, qualified personnel, and equipment.

Rather than being in line with actual humanitarian needs, USAID's strategy in Afghanistan was primarily in line with American military and counterinsurgency goals. As a result, projects were focused on areas of strategic military relevance, rather than where they were most required.

A cycle of elite capture was reinforced by USAID initiatives that frequently collaborated with warlords and powerbrokers who were charged with corruption and violating human rights. Local residents became resentful as a result, which hurt USAID's and the Afghan government's legitimacy.

According to reports, subcontractors who paid "protection money" to prevent attacks on projects may have indirectly transferred USAID monies to the Taliban. This sparked worries that the very insurgents the US was battling were being indirectly funded by US government dollars.

Although rebuilding Afghanistan and improving lives was USAID's purpose, its efficacy was compromised by systemic execution failures, lack of control, and political entanglements. A common example of the ineffectiveness of foreign aid when it lacks accountability, local ownership and a long-term vision is the failure of USAID's efforts in Afghanistan.[2]

NIGERIA

A Chemonics subcontractor in Nigeria committed a multimillion-dollar fraud. In 2021, the Global Fund's Office of Inspector General claimed to have discovered this substantial fraud, underscoring the weaknesses in USAID's contractor monitoring.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Nigeria has been the target of numerous charges and grievances, mainly related to its involvement in governance initiatives, socio-political interventions, and humanitarian assistance in Nigeria. Among the principal accusations are:

Funding Controversies: Under the pretense of providing humanitarian relief, USAID has been charged with covertly aiding organisations associated with political and religious extremism. Some monies intended for development, according to critics, have been diverted to non-governmental organisations with dubious links.

Interference in Domestic Affairs: Concerns have been raised that USAID's governance initiatives have an excessive impact on domestic political and policy choices in Nigeria and frequently serve

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[2] https://www.sigar.mil/Portals/147/Files/Reports/Lessons-Learned/SIGAR-16-58-LL.pdf

American strategic objectives at the expense of Nigeria's ambitions. According to certain officials, USAID's operations compromise Nigeria's independence.

Lack of Transparency: Concerns have been voiced by a number of civil society organisations and Nigerian watchdogs over USAID's project implementation, pointing to a lack of accountability in the distribution of funds, project execution, and monitoring systems. According to reports, money is frequently used for administrative expenses rather than helping Nigerian communities directly.

Cultural and Religious Sensitivities: Conservative and religious organisations in Nigeria have reacted negatively to USAID's support of gender rights, LGBTQ+ concerns, and reproductive health programs because they perceive these efforts as attempts to impose Western values that are at odds with local customs and beliefs.

Allegations of Exacerbating Conflicts: By giving preference to some ethnic or religious groups over others when distributing aid, some observers contend that USAID's engagement in conflict-prone areas, like the Northeast, has unintentionally exacerbated tensions. According to reports, this has increased misgivings and charges of prejudice.

RUSSIA

USAID provided funding to the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) in the 1990s to help reconstruct Russia's economy. However, the project was tainted by controversy as it was alleged that HIID advisers had misused government funds and had conflicts of interest due to their personal investments in Russia. USAID's grant to HIID was terminated as a result of this incident, and people involved were sued.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was expelled from Russia in 2012 as a result of serious charges and grievances it had received there. According to the Russian government, USAID engaged in actions that aimed to weaken national sovereignty, supported opposition movements, and meddled in domestic politics.

Political Interference: Russian officials charged USAID of providing financial support to opposition groups, particularly those associated with political discontent and anti-government demonstrations. The organisation was perceived as aiding anti-Kremlin civil society organisations.

Election Manipulation: Independent election monitoring organisations like Golos, which revealed electoral fraud in Russian elections, were accused of receiving support from USAID. It was thought that this was an effort to undermine the government.

Human Rights Agenda as a Geopolitical Tool: The Russian administration claimed that Western pressure and influence were being applied to Russian domestic policies through USAID-funded human rights and democracy initiatives.

Influence in the North Caucasus: Under the pretense of development assistance, Russian officials asserted that USAID-funded initiatives in the unstable North Caucasus region, especially Chechnya, were attempts to destabilise the nation.

Biological Research Concerns: USAID has been accused by some Russian lawmakers and media sources of supporting biological research in former Soviet states, claiming that such operations could endanger Russian security.

Because USAID's efforts were "not always in line with the declared goals of development and humanitarian assistance," the Russian Foreign Ministry ordered the organisation to stop in 2012. The action fit into Russia's larger plan to curtail outside influence, especially that of Western governments and non-governmental organisations.

Since then, Moscow has tightened its regulations on foreign funding and increased inspection of international organisations working within its borders, greatly reducing USAID's involvement in Russia. Russia's efforts to exert more control over its civil society and the widening gap between the US and Russia were reflected in this expulsion.

CUBA:

In a secret operation in Cuba, political instability was spurred through a social media platform ZunZuneo, created with assistance from USAID. Launched in 2010, the site was designed to attract visitors with non-controversial content before incorporating political materials intended to promote opposition against the Cuban regime.

BOLIVIA:

USAID was fired in 2013 after President Evo Morales accused the organisation of undermining his government in Bolivia. The Bolivian government accused USAID of interfering in internal affairs, particularly in regions where separatist groups were prominent, leading to the termination of the organization's operations in Bolivia.

Global Health Supply Chain

Chemonics International led USAID's $9.5 billion Global Health Supply Chain effort has been beset by inefficiencies and fraud allegations. Reports state that there were not only significant delays, lasting nearly two years, in deliveries of essential medical supplies under, but also illicit behaviour linked to numerous arrests and convictions related to the project that sparked questions about USAID's ability to oversee.

GAZA:

USAID has been accused of inadvertently sending aid to terrorist organisations in Gaza. Senator Tom Cotton expressed concerns about the possible transfer of funds to Hamas and other organisations, citing the misuse of over $1 billion in U.S. humanitarian aid to Gaza. USAID's screening practices and the challenges of delivering help in conflict zones have come under fire.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Agriculture, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provide funding to their "sister"

organisations in the United States, while the FBI and CIA monitor terrorist outfits both here and overseas.[3]

Long masquerading as a nonprofit, the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), the U.S. front for the dangerous South Asian extremist group Jamaat-e-Islami, has unsettling connections to international jihadist networks. Helping Hand for charity and Development (HHRD), its foreign charity branch, came under fire in 2017 for organising a lecture at a government-run college in Pakistan in cooperation with Lashkar-e-Taiba, the same Pakistani terrorist group that carried out the 2008 Mumbai attacks. There should be immediate national security worry over a U.S.-based organization's involvement with terrorist planning organisations. Such groups, which pose as humanitarian endeavours while supporting extremist goals, must be subject to strict legal and financial oversight in order to keep them from functioning unhindered by American institutions.[4]

CHINA:

U.S. taxpayer funds, between 2014 and 2021, were directed by USAID to Chinese companies like Wuhan Institute of Virology, Wuhan University, and the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, all conducting coronavirus research. These institutions received seven sub-awards totaling over $2million, raising concerns about accountability and potential implications for global health security.

Mismanagement and Fraudulent Activities:

Over the years, there have been several accusations of corruption and poor administration against the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Significant scrutiny and calls for agency reform have resulted from these accusations.

Some of the major unnecessary expenditures are[5]:

USAID's $15 Million For Condoms For The Taliban	While Afghan women face oppression under Taliban rule, the U.S. allocates **$15 million worth of condoms** to an extremist regime notorious for **suppressing women's rights**. Instead of supporting **education and freedom**, taxpayer money is funneled into absurd aid that does nothing to address Afghanistan's real crisis. **Where is the accountability?**
$446,000 For Promoting Atheism in Nepal	While Nepal, a deeply spiritual nation, grapples with economic and social challenges, **USAID allocates nearly half a million dollars to push atheism**. Is this **"aid" or ideological interference**? At a time when respect for cultural and religious diversity should be paramount, why is U.S.

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[3] https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/us-government-funds-sister-organisations-terror-groups-fights

[4] https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/11/151931.htm

[5] https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/condoms-for-taliban-to-drag-shows-in-ecuador-craziest-usaid-spends-revealed/articleshow/118003488.cms; https://www.news18.com/world/from-condoms-in-afghanistan-to-promoting-atheism-in-nepal-usaids-controversial-spending-9218566.html

$47,000 For A Transgender Opera In Colombia	taxpayer money funding **belief engineering in sovereign nations**? While Colombia faces pressing issues like poverty, crime, and infrastructure gaps, **USAID directs taxpayer money to fund a transgender opera**. Is this truly a priority for development aid, or another case of ideological spending masquerading as assistance? **Shouldn't U.S. funds serve real needs instead of niche activism?**
$20,600 For Drag Shows In Ecuador	While Ecuador faces economic struggles and security challenges, **USAID allocates taxpayer money to fund drag performances as part of an LGBTQ cultural initiative**. Is this development aid or ideological export? **Shouldn't U.S. funds prioritize real humanitarian needs over cultural activism?**
$350 Million For A Pier In Gaza	**Aid or Strategic Misstep?** As U.S. taxpayers' shoulder economic strain, **$350 million is allocated for a pier in Gaza**, a region controlled by **Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist group**. With no guarantees on aid distribution, **will this funding truly help civilians or be exploited by extremists? Where is the oversight?**
$55,000 for a climate change seminar exclusively for female & LGBTQ journalists in Argentina	At a time when global challenges demand real solutions, **USAID prioritizes niche ideological programs over tangible development aid**. Should taxpayer money be funding **exclusive activism**, or addressing real economic and environmental needs? **Where is the accountability?**

USAID has been charged with widespread financial mismanagement in 2025, pointing to numerous examples of unnecessary expenditures. The government emphasised initiatives like the $2.5 million for the construction of electric vehicle chargers in Vietnam and the $1.5 million allotted for LGBTQI+ workplace inclusion in Serbia.

USAID contractor, Chemonics International, also consented to pay $3.1 million in 2024 to settle claims of false billing pertaining to its work in Nigeria. The business was charged with giving payments to terrorist organisations and overcharging the US government.[6]

Syrian national Mahmoud Al Hafyan was charged in December 2024 with major fraud against the United States for unlawfully transferring over $9 million in humanitarian aid funded by the United States to armed combatant groups, including the Al-Nusrah Front, a designated foreign terrorist organisation, for Syrian civilians.[7]

USAID has been accused of financial mismanagement and "willful sabotage of congressional oversight" by Senator Joni Ernst. She cited a number of controversial spending decisions, such as $1 million for the Wuhan lab, $9 million in help purportedly received by terrorists, and millions

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[6] https://oig.usaid.gov/node/7359?utm

[7] https://oig.usaid.gov/node/7283?utm

spent on Lebanese travel, Moroccan pottery workshops, and an Iraqi Sesame Street project. Ernst accused USAID of purposefully abusing security systems and misrepresenting data transparency, as well as of impeding monitoring and deceiving her employees.[8]

Former USAID officials have spoken about alleged waste and fraud within the agency. Catharine O'Neill Gillihan, a former State Department and USAID official, described the spending and programs as "out of control," citing a lack of traceability and accountability that made it difficult to perform her duties effectively.[9]

Due to claims of poor management and excessive expenditure on staff parties and retreats, USAID terminated International Relief and Development Inc. (IRD), one of its biggest nonprofit contractors, in 2015. After legal battles, the suspension was eventually removed; however, the case brought to light serious oversight problems with USAID's procurement procedures.

USAIDs ideological overreach was exposed through its unrelenting advocacy for transgender "recognition" in socially conservative countries like Bangladesh, Kosovo, and Guatemala serves as an example where such interventions exacerbate social unrest and threaten local cultural norms. Everything that is wrong with USAID's current course is summed up by this blatant imposition of Western gender ideals, frequently at the expense of actual humanitarian concerns.

The organisation seems more interested in imposing divisive social engineering initiatives on sovereign nations than in concentrating on real development, such as infrastructure, economic empowerment, and poverty reduction. In addition to undermining USAID's credibility, such activism led by ideologically motivated bureaucrats runs the risk of inciting hostility from communities who perceive these initiatives as an outright attack on their customs and system of government.[10]

These incidents highlight how crucial it is for USAID to have strong oversight, accountability, and openness in order to guarantee that aid reaches its intended recipients and advances US strategic interests.

FACTSHALA:

Factshala, a so-called "media literacy" initiative in India, operates under the guise of combating misinformation but is, in reality, a vehicle for narrative manipulation. Funded by Google News Initiative and the ideologically biased Internews, Factshala selectively targets information that challenges Western-funded agendas while conveniently ignoring propaganda that aligns with its backers' interests. By masquerading as an independent fact-checking program, it subtly reinforces ideological biases, shaping public discourse to serve external influences rather than genuine truth-seeking.

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[8] https://nypost.com/2025/02/05/us-news/sen-joni-ernst-warns-of-willful-sabotage-at-usaid-cites-millions-in-funding-for-wuhan-lab-and-terrorists/?utm

[9] https://www.foxbusiness.com/media/ex-usaid-officials-speaks-out-over-alleged-waste-fraud-inside-agency?utm

[10] https://nypost.com/2025/02/05/opinion/transgender-recognition-in-bangladesh-kosovo-guatemala-how-one-usaid-employee-shows-whats-wrong-with-the-embattled-agency/?utm

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FactShala is run by DataLEADS with support from the Google News Initiative. It was launched in 2020 by Internews with support from Google.org

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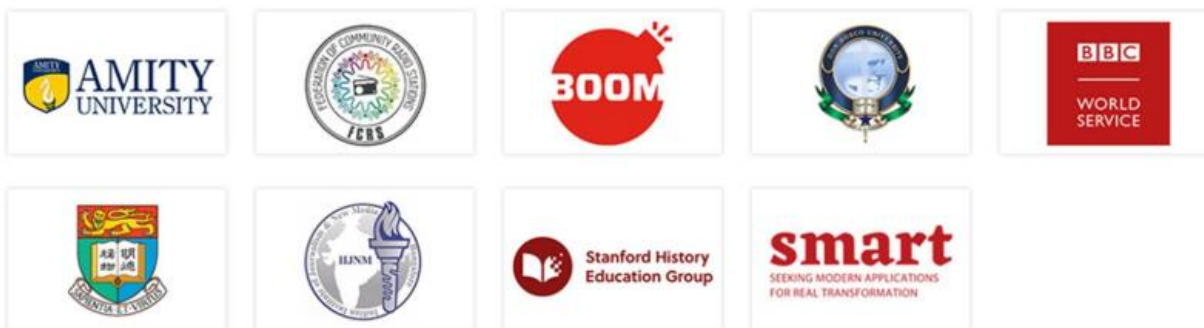Internews

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FactShala joined hands with some of the best experts in media and information literacy like the Stanford History Education Group, the BBC World Service, Hong Kong University, the Asian Network of News & Information Educators, Amity University, Noida, BoomLive, Don Bosco University, Assam and Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media, Bangalore to design a curriculum that is being used by FactShala trainers to deliver end training. The training material has been translated in seven Indian languages for ease of training. The curriculum is based on the insights drawn from a baseline exploratory study done under the consultation of the Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) to understand how end users assess various types of messages they access online and what makes them believe or reject certain messages.

For the Community radio work, we also joined hands with the Federation of Community Radio Stations (FCRS) and Radio Mewat (run by SMART Seeking Modern Applications for Real Transformation).

INTERNEWS

Under the pretense of supporting independent journalism, press freedom, and media growth, Internews is a multinational nonprofit organisation. Its actions have frequently prompted questions about its more profound ties and influence operations. Supported by private foundations like Open Society and Western governments like the U.S. State Department and USAID, Internews has been connected to media interventions in politically sensitive areas, narrative management, and information warfare tactics.

Internews is crucial in guiding public opinion in target countries through its trained journalists, providing funds for media organisations, and establishing digital regulations. Its engagement in regions undergoing political unrest or conflict, points to a larger goal of ideological impact as opposed to merely empowering the media. Scrutinising its involvement in manipulating narratives and its alignment with intelligence-backed information campaigns is necessary given its financing sources and operational characteristics.

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[11] https://internews.org/about/

Facebook

Global Call for Climate Action/ Tck Tck Tck

Great Britain Rotary Club Districts 1070 & 1260

HIVOS

Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.

KYNE

Melwood Global

Net Hope

Paul Hastings LLP

Ropes & Gray LLP

Sky News

Frontline SMS

Google

GW & Wade LLC

Howard Kennedy LLP

Humanity United

Legacy Venture

National Geographic Photo Camp

ONE HUNDRED

RAPP

RSF Social Finance

Top Countries Receiving U.S. Foreign Aid, 2023

In 2023, economic aid accounted for 88% of foreign aid obligations by the U.S., while military aid accounted for 12%.[12]

USAID DISTRIBUTION, TOTAL SPEND 2023

CIHS Centre for Integrated and Holistic Studies

Source: U.S. government

Graphic: CIHS

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[12] https://www.newsweek.com/usaid-map-counties-most-money-2025073
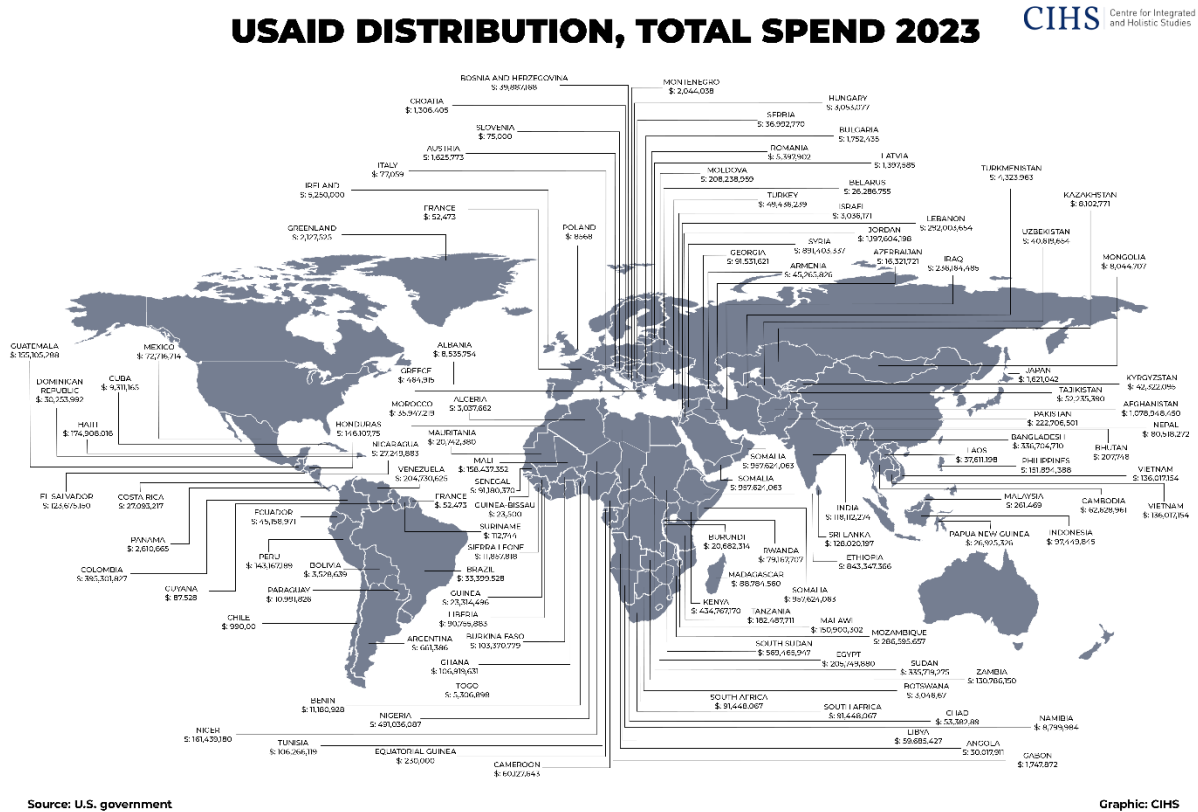
According to the federal website Foreignassistance.gov. USAID disbursed over $44 billion, of which $16 billion went to Ukraine, in the fiscal year 2023 (the most recent known)[13] followed by Israel, Jordan and Egypt in the list of nearly 180 countries receiving funds from the U.S.

Where USAID Is Going

U.S. international aid disbursed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in FY 2023

Country	Amount
Ukraine	$16,021M
Ethiopia	$1,676M
Jordan	$1,195M
Afghanistan	$1,089M
Somalia	$1,047M
DRC	$936M
Syria	$895M
Nigeria	$824M
Yemen	$812M
South Sudan	$740M

Latest available
Source: Foreignassistance.gov

USAID Activities in India

1. Introduction

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was established in 1961 under the Kennedy administration with the proclaimed aim of fostering global development, humanitarian relief, and economic growth in developing nations.[14] In India, USAID's presence has been extensive, spanning projects in health, education, infrastructure, and governance. While the agency purports to serve purely as a humanitarian instrument, growing evidence indicates that its activities in India often intersect with covert political intervention, unintended support for extremist networks, and the imposition of Western ideological norms.[15]

Over the decades, USAID's funding channels have supported an array of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups that ostensibly work toward development. However, investigative reports, leaked documents, and Congressional inquiries have raised questions about USAID's oversight and the potential misuse of foreign aid to further strategic political ends.[16] Critics contend that USAID's expansive network not only contributes to economic development but also inadvertently—or at times deliberately—creates vulnerabilities that

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[13] https://www.foreignassistance.gov/
[14] USAID Act 1961.
[15] Congressional Research Service, 'USAID's Global Influence and Strategic Operations '(2021).
[16] USAID Office of Inspector General (OIG), Annual Report (2023).

extremist groups can exploit. In a country as complex and diverse as India, where issues of national sovereignty and cultural integrity are fiercely defended, such activities have provoked heated debate.

This analysis examines case studies ranging from terror financing associated with the 2008 Mumbai attacks to politically sensitive interventions in Kashmir and grassroots mobilisation through NGO networks. In addition, it explores how global philanthropic and media institutions shape public policy, political narratives, and social discourse in tandem with or parallel to USAID's initiatives. By understanding the multifaceted roles of USAID and allied global actors, one can better appreciate the profound impact of foreign aid as both a tool of development and a lever for geopolitical influence.

The chapter is structured as follows: First, we review USAID's dual nature in India—its contributions to development alongside its less-discussed geopolitical interventions. Next, we detail five key case studies that illustrate various controversies: terror financing linked to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the Kashmir conundrum, political destabilization through NGO networks, social engineering through ideological imposition, and the creation of economic dependency that erodes national sovereignty.

Finally, we explore the roles of influential global actors—namely, the Open Society Foundations, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Amnesty India, the Washington Post, and Netflix—in shaping India's development discourse, often in connection with USAID's work. We conclude by considering the implications of these overlapping influences and proposing the need for enhanced transparency and accountability.

2. USAID in India: Dual Nature of Foreign Aid

2.1. Developmental Achievements & Positive Contributions

USAID has long been associated with projects that aim to improve lives of millions in India. Since its inception, the agency has been involved in initiatives designed purportedly to upgrade public health, modernise education, and develop rural infrastructure. Some key claims include:

- **Public Health Initiatives:** USAID-supported immunisation programs have significantly contributed to the decline in infectious diseases and infant mortality rates. For instance, large-scale vaccination drives have been instrumental in controlling diseases such as polio and measles, thereby saving countless lives.[17]
- **Educational Reforms:** USAID's involvement in education has seen the construction of schools, teacher-training programs, and curriculum modernisation projects that have improved literacy rates and widened access to education, particularly in rural and underserved regions.[18]
- **Infrastructure Development:** Through support for public-private partnerships (PPPs), USAID has aided in modernising transportation networks, energy projects, and urban

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[17] Senate Intelligence Committee Report, 'The Shadow of Terror: USAID and South Asia '(2020).
[18] U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, 'Investigation into USAID Funding Vulnerabilities '(2022).

development programs. These initiatives have spurred economic growth and improved access to essential services.[19]

Such projects have got traction from quarters with questionable linkages. USAID's technical assistance and capacity-building efforts have also been credited with introducing innovative public management practices in Indian government departments. These initiatives, in many cases, have fostered collaboration between local authorities and international experts, creating opportunities for sustainable development, it has been claimed.

2.2. Hidden Geopolitical Agenda

A substantial body of research reveals that USAID's operations in India are not without controversy. Beneath veneer of humanitarian work lies a more complex reality: USAID's funding mechanisms have sometimes been intertwined with US geopolitical objectives and strategic interests.

Critics argue that while USAID channels substantial resources into India's development, the agency's expansive network of NGOs and its partnerships with influential global foundations often serve as conduits for political intervention. Such interventions have reportedly led to:

- **Support for Extremist Networks:** Development funds have, in some instances, been diverted into channels that subsequently support militant organizations or insurgent groups.
- **Political Subversion and Destabilization:** By funding NGOs and civil society groups that challenge authority of the state or promote separatist narratives, USAID aid has undermined India's political stability.
- **Western Ideological Norms:** Projects that promote progressive social policies—such as LGBTQ+ rights or gender equality—may conflict with India's traditional cultural values, leading to societal polarization and resistance.

These controversies are explored in detail with case studies.

3. USAID Controversial Operations in Bharat

3.1. Terror Financing & Mumbai 26/11 Attacks

3.1.1. Exploitation of Aid Channels

The 2008 Mumbai 26/11 terrorist attacks which claimed 166 lives and inflicted immeasurable social trauma stand as a stark reminder of how foreign aid systems can be exploited by extremist elements. In the aftermath of attack, investigative reports revealed that terror networks had leveraged various funding channels—including those associated with development aid—to finance and orchestrate their operations.[20]

Intelligence reports have pointed to instances where USAID funding streams in South Asia, particularly those managed through NGOs in Pakistan and broader region created

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[19] Declassified U.S. Government Documents, 'David Headley and the Web of USAID-Linked NGOs '(2019).
[20] Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, 'Report on Foreign NGO Activity in Kashmir '(2020).

loopholes that militant groups leveraged. In some instances, these NGOs and terror outfits received US funds by design.

One alarming aspect was diversion of funds intended for humanitarian projects. Hawala networks, which operate outside conventional banking system, were used to transfer money from developmental grants to cells linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the group responsible for Mumbai attacks.[21] Such diversions were not openly documented, highlighting deficiencies in oversight and accountability within USAID funding mechanisms. Also, involvement of US 'deep state' was not ruled out.

3.1.2. David Headley Connection

David Headley case illustrates vulnerabilities that were effectively used to transfer funds to terror outfits. Headley, a Pakistani-American implicated in reconnaissance operations for Mumbai attacks, was found to have early associations with organizations that had received USAID grants.

Headley's background underscores potential for development funds to become entangled with extremist networks. This incident serves as a cautionary tale, emphasizing critical need for rigorous monitoring and due diligence in disbursement of foreign aid. Without robust oversight, funds ostensibly intended for development purposes were siphoned off to support activities that threaten Indian security and global communities.[22]

3.2.   Jammu and Kashmir Conundrum

3.2.1. Funding Extremist Ideologies

Jammu and Kashmir, a region steeped in Pakistan backed violence and political volatility has long been focal point for terrorist movements and insurgency. Allegations have surfaced that USAID-funded projects operating in areas adjacent to or within Kashmir have provided support for extremist ideologies. Critics argue that NGOs, buoyed by substantial USAID support, have served as platforms for disseminating separatist narratives under the guise of promoting human rights and local development.[23]

Investigative reports indicate that education and cultural initiatives in Kashmir—projects that ostensibly aim to improve local infrastructure and governance—have sometimes been manipulated to include politically charged content. For example, curricula developed under USAID-supported programmes have featured material questioning legitimacy of Indian rule in Kashmir. Such practices compromised intended development outcomes and fostered a climate of dissent and separatism exacerbating regional instability.[24]

3.2.2. Foreign NGO Networks

The situation is compounded by involvement of foreign NGO networks that were funded by USAID. Many of these organizations operate with minimal local oversight, allowing them to become conduits for external political influence by design. USAID has had

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[21] Indian Express, 'USAID, NGOs, and the Propaganda War in Kashmir '(2021).
[22] The Economic Times, 'Debate Over USAID Funding in Conflict Zones: A Call for Greater Oversight '(2022).
[23] Times of India, 'Controversy over Progressive Gender Curriculum in Indian Schools '(2022).
[24] Hindustan Times, 'Local Backlash Against USAID-Supported Social Programs '(2021).

empowered entities that challenged authority of Indian state. In a region as sensitive as Kashmir, support for such narratives can have profound consequences for national unity and security.[25]

3.3. Destabilization via NGO Networks

3.3.1. Empowering Parallel Institutions

USAID's extensive reliance on NGOs as vehicles for implementing development projects is hallmark of its operational strategy in India. While many of these organizations have purportedly made contributions to grassroots development, there is growing evidence that some have evolved into powerful political actors. These NGOs often enjoy significant autonomy from local governmental oversight and have, in several instances, engaged in activities that challenge state authority.

Documented cases reveal that USAID-funded NGOs have organized protests, rallies and grassroots mobilization that extended beyond addressing social issues. In certain cases, these activities have taken on a distinctly political character with campaigns that not only criticize government policies but call for radical systemic reforms. The emergence of such parallel institutions which operated as semi-autonomous entities with their own agendas posed a challenge to established political order in Bharat. Critics contended that when external funding bolstered these organizations, it created environment ripe for political subversion and instability.[26]

3.3.2. Oversight Dilemma

A significant factor that contributed to this problem is the lack of robust oversight over USAID-funded NGOs or the very intent of US aid agencies. Sheer scale and diversity of projects supported by USAID made it difficult to ensure that funds were used strictly for intended development purposes. Without rigorous monitoring, there was and is risk that some organizations may have drifted to advancing donor-driven political agendas rather than addressing local needs. This oversight dilemma not only threatened the integrity of development programmes but opened doors for external actors to exert undue influence on domestic political processes.

3.4. Social unrest, imposition of western beliefs

3.4.1. Social disturbances

In addition to its claims on work in health, education, and infrastructure, USAID has had shifted focus to social policy in India. These projects often aimed to push gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights and education related conversations. On its public face, USAID championed vital components of human development. However, critics argue that these projects represented a form of social engineering—a deliberate attempt to impose Western cultural norms on a society with deeply rooted traditions and values.

[25] Financial Express, 'Public-Private Partnerships and the Debt Trap: USAID's Economic Influence in India '(2021).
[26] Open Society Foundations, 'The Impact of Private Philanthropy on Global Politics '(2018).

Several USAID-supported educational programs have integrated modules on gender fluidity and non-binary identities. These programmes clashed with local cultural norms triggering protests and public outcry. In one notable instance, USAID-funded school in northern India introduced curriculum that included distorting gender theories, resulting in widespread demonstrations by community members who viewed the program as violation of traditional values.[27]

3.4.2. Conditional Aid and Cultural Polarisation

Imposition of Western social norms through conditional foreign aid was yet another contentious aspect of USAID operations. By tying financial assistance to adoption of western policies, USAID effectively uses aid as leverage to shape domestic cultural debates. In contexts where national identity and cultural heritage were held in high regard, such conditions polarized public opinion and deepen societal divisions. Rather than fostering organic cultural evolution, externally driven social distortions led to resistance and backlash.[28]

3.5. Economic Dependence and the Erosion of Sovereignty

3.5.1. Conditionality on Economic changes

USAID economic interventions in India were characterised by significant conditions. Funding agreements often required recipient organizations and local governments to change their economic models and bring them in tune with implement a set of economic changes in sync with Western principles. While proponents argue that such changes led to modernization of economies and attract foreign investment, critics maintained that they undermine India's capacity to chart its own developmental course.

A prominent example is USAID support for public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the infrastructure sector. Contractual conditions attached to these projects often favoured foreign investors, entities and firms thereby limiting policy space available to local authorities. Over time, this can lead to a form of economic dependency that erodes fiscal autonomy and compromises India's ability to make independent policy decisions in its own national interest.[29]

3.5.2. Impact on National Sovereignty

Economic dimension of USAID operations has broader implications for India's national sovereignty. By conditioning aid on adoption of market-oriented changes, USAID reinforces a global economic order that privileges Western models of growth.

These dynamic challenges India's longstanding tradition of economic self-reliance and forces the country into a position where critical developmental choices are increasingly influenced by external forces. Such external pressures not only compromise fiscal

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[27] Ford Foundation, 'Supporting Social Justice: A Global Perspective '(2019).
[28] Rockefeller Foundation, 'Economic Restructuring and Global Markets '(2018).
[29] Amnesty International, 'Annual Report: Human Rights and Foreign Influence in India '(2020).

autonomy but risk undermining India's ability to pursue a development paradigm that is tailored to its unique social and economic realities.[30]

4.   Global Actors links with USAID

Foreign aid is not solely realm of governmental agencies; influential global actors also shape development discourse through their funding, advocacy, and media outreach. In India, several prominent institutions work either in concert with or parallel to USAID. This section critically examines the operational realities of these global actors and their interconnections with USAID activities.

4.1.   Open Society Foundations (OSF)

4.1.1. Real face

Founded by George Soros, Open Society Foundations (OSF) publicly champion democracy, human rights, and transparency. In India, OSF supports a wide range of initiatives, including legal reform, media development, and civil society empowerment. However, open-source research and investigative reports reveal that OSF's operational model goes well beyond philanthropic support. Critics argue that OSF tends to favour organizations that propagate purported liberal values and challenge established local power structures, sometimes fostering dissent that undermines traditional governance.[31]

4.1.2. Synergy with USAID

There is significant overlap between NGOs and civil society groups supported by OSF and those funded by USAID in India. Both organizations frequently back initiatives that promote transparency, market-oriented reforms, and liberal democratic values. This convergence has created a synergy wherein the ideological narrative promoted by OSF is reinforced by USAID's development agenda. Some analysts contend that this dual funding mechanism serves as a conduit for soft power, subtly influencing domestic policy in ways that may not fully reflect local priorities or cultural norms.[32]

4.2.   Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

4.2.1. Achievements and Critiques

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is internationally recognised for its reported work in public health, sanitation, and vaccination. In India, the foundation claimed that its projects led to substantial improvements in health outcomes, including control of infectious diseases and a reduction in child mortality.

Despite these claims, the foundation's approach has faced criticism for promoting dependency on Western technologies and bypassing local expertise. Critics argue that the foundation's "solution-based philanthropy" sometimes imposes externally designed models that may not be sustainable or entirely appropriate for local conditions.[33]

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[30] Washington Post, 'Investigative Report: USAID, NGOs and Political Subversion in India '(2021).
[31] Netflix, 'Documentary Series: The New World Order '(2021).
[32] Ibid.
[33] See Open Society Foundations, 'Global Report on Civil Society Funding '(2018).

4.2.2. Questionable tie ups with USAID

In India, Gates Foundation and USAID often operate in overlapping sectors especially in public health and sanitation. There have been instances of joint initiatives and collaborative knowledge-sharing between the two organizations. While such cooperation can lead to impressive short-term gains, critics worry that the coordinated push for Western public health models reinforces a dependency that undermines the development of indigenous solutions. The intertwined agendas of USAID and Gates Foundation thus raise questions about the long-term sustainability of externally driven interventions in India's health sector.[34]

4.3.   Ford Foundation

4.3.1. Ideological Influence and Political Mobilisation

Ford Foundation has built its brand on claimed support to progressive causes and social justice initiatives. In India, it funds academic research, grassroots activism and civil rights advocacy possibly aimed at addressing inequality and corruption. However, investigative analyses reveal that Ford Foundation's support for political mobilisation can sometimes contribute to destabilization by backing groups that openly challenge state policies. Critics contend that, by promoting radical changes and supporting protests, Ford Foundation indirectly fosters an environment of political fragmentation that may compromise national stability.[35]

4.3.2. USAID & Ford Foundation nexus

There is documented evidence that several NGOs and civil society organizations in India receive funding from both Ford Foundation and USAID. This overlap reinforces the promotion of a liberal reform agenda that, while ostensibly aimed at enhancing democratic accountability, can also facilitate external influence over domestic political processes. The coordinated efforts of these organizations often result in a homogenized narrative that reflects Western ideological priorities, potentially at odds with India's diverse and context-specific political realities.[36]

4.4.   Rockefeller Foundation

4.4.1. Legacy and Interventions

Rockefeller Foundation's legacy is complex, marked by pioneering contributions to public health alongside controversial involvements in population control and economic restructuring. In India, Rockefeller-funded projects have focused on modernising infrastructure and reforming health systems. Critics argue that the foundation's approach promotes market liberalisation and privatisation, often accompanied by contractual conditions that limit local policy autonomy. Open research suggests that while Rockefeller

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[34] Ibid.
[35] See Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 'Impact Report: Global Health Innovations '(2020).
[36] Ibid.

initiatives can drive rapid development, they also pave the way for an economic model that heavily favours foreign investment and global financial interests.[37]

4.4.2. USAID, Rockefeller tango

In India, the Rockefeller Foundation and USAID sometimes collaborate on large-scale projects in infrastructure and public health. This convergence reinforces neoliberal economic policies that prioritize market-driven growth and external capital. The intertwined operations of these organizations have contributed to a development framework where critical policy decisions are increasingly influenced by global capital rather than by locally determined needs. Such dynamics raise concerns about the erosion of national sovereignty and the long-term sustainability of India's development path.[38]

4.5.   Amnesty India

4.5.1. Human Rights Advocacy and Oversight

Amnesty India, the Indian branch of Amnesty International, is renowned for its human rights advocacy and critical investigations into the impacts of foreign aid. The organization has published numerous reports alleging that some USAID-linked projects have resulted in human rights violations—whether through inadvertent support of extremist networks or by creating environments in which dissent is suppressed. Amnesty India's findings underscore the need for robust oversight mechanisms to ensure that foreign aid does not harm vulnerable populations.[39]

4.5.2. Countering Donor-Driven Agendas

By providing a counter-narrative to the polished images projected by donor agencies, Amnesty India challenges the assumption that foreign aid is uniformly beneficial. Its investigations have revealed discrepancies between the stated objectives of USAID and its allied institutions and the on-the-ground realities in India. These reports call for greater transparency and accountability in the disbursement of foreign aid, emphasizing that the rights and interests of local communities must not be subordinated to donor-driven agendas.[40]

4.6.   Washington Post

4.6.1. Investigative Reporting and Exposing Hidden Networks

The Washington Post has emerged as a key investigative outlet in exposing the covert dimensions of USAID's operations in India. Through a series of in-depth reports, the newspaper has uncovered instances of fund diversion, mismanagement, and the overlapping funding networks that connect USAID with influential global actors. The Post's work has illuminated how foreign aid can serve as a conduit for political subversion and soft power projection, offering critical insights that challenge official narratives.[41]

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[37] See Ford Foundation, 'Global Social Justice Initiatives Report '(2019).

[38] Ibid.

[39] See Rockefeller Foundation, 'Global Economic Policy Brief '(2018).

[40] Ibid.

[41] See Amnesty International, 'Report on Human Rights and Foreign Aid in India '(2020).

4.6.2. Influencing Public Discourse

By bringing hidden practices to light, the Washington Post has played an instrumental role in shaping public debate about the role of foreign aid in India. Its investigations have spurred calls for enhanced oversight and reform, empowering civil society and prompting policymakers to reexamine the transparency of aid programs. In doing so, the Post contributes to a broader ecosystem of accountability that is essential for safeguarding national sovereignty against undue external influence.[42]

4.7. Netflix

4.7.1. Cultural Narratives and Soft Power Projection

Although primarily an entertainment platform, Netflix has increasingly become a significant player in shaping cultural and political narratives. In India, Netflix-produced documentaries and series have addressed contentious issues such as political corruption, social inequality, and the influence of foreign powers on domestic affairs. These productions often challenge official accounts and expose the underlying geopolitical dynamics that influence development policy. Open research reveals that Netflix's content not only entertains but also educates audiences about the complex interplay between foreign aid, global philanthropy, and national sovereignty.[43]

4.7.2. Complementing Investigative Efforts

Netflix's foray into documentary filmmaking complements the investigative work of organizations like the Washington Post and Amnesty India. By presenting issues in an accessible visual format, Netflix reaches a broad audience and stimulates public debate on topics that might otherwise remain confined to academic or policy circles. Its role in highlighting controversies surrounding USAID and its global partners contributes to a more informed and engaged citizenry, ultimately strengthening the call for transparency and accountability in foreign aid operations.

5. Synthesis and Implications for India's Development Paradigm

5.1. The Dual-Edged Nature of Foreign Aid

The evidence presented in the preceding sections reveals a dual-edged nature to USAID's operations in India. On one hand, USAID has made substantial contributions to improving public health, education, and infrastructure—achievements that have positively impacted millions. On the other hand, its funding channels and partnerships have also, at times, facilitated covert political interventions, inadvertently supported extremist networks, and imposed Western cultural norms. This inherent tension poses a significant challenge: how can a country balance the immediate developmental benefits of foreign aid with the long-term risks of external geopolitical influence?

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[42] Ibid.
[43] Washington Post, 'Investigative Report: USAID, NGOs and Political Subversion in India '(2021).

5.2. Intersections with Global Actors

The analysis of global actors further complicates this picture. Influential institutions such as the Open Society Foundations, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Amnesty India, the Washington Post, and Netflix each project a public face of benevolence and progress. Yet, critical open research reveals that these organizations also pursue strategic objectives that align with broader Western geopolitical and economic interests. Their activities often intersect with USAID's work in India, creating overlapping networks that reinforce particular ideological narratives and policy directions.

This convergence of interests is not incidental. Rather, it reflects a coordinated strategy wherein multiple channels—governmental, philanthropic, media, and cultural—are mobilised to shape development discourses and influence domestic policy. For India, a nation with a strong sense of national identity and a history of economic self-reliance, such external influences can present both opportunities for modernisation and challenges to sovereignty.

5.3. The Need for Enhanced Oversight and Accountability

One of the most critical issues emerging from this analysis is the need for enhanced transparency and oversight in the disbursement of foreign aid. The cases presented—whether the diversion of funds that inadvertently supported terror networks, the manipulation of educational content in politically sensitive regions like Kashmir, or the economic conditionality that undermines fiscal autonomy—underscore the vulnerabilities inherent in current aid mechanisms.

For India, addressing these challenges requires a multi-pronged approach:
- **Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks:** Indian authorities must develop and enforce robust regulatory frameworks to monitor the flow of foreign aid, ensuring that funds are used exclusively for their intended developmental purposes.
- **Enhancing Local Oversight:** Empowering local institutions to audit and supervise the activities of NGOs and foreign-funded projects can help ensure that external funds do not override local priorities.
- **Promoting Transparency:** Greater transparency in the funding arrangements and contractual conditions attached to aid programs will allow civil society and the media to hold both donor agencies and recipient organizations accountable.
- **Encouraging Public Debate:** An informed citizenry is critical to safeguarding national sovereignty. Platforms such as the Washington Post and Netflix play an important role in stimulating public debate, and their efforts should be supported as part of a broader strategy for accountability.

5.4. Implications for India's National Development

The convergence of USAID's developmental initiatives with the strategic agendas of influential global actors has profound implications for India's national development paradigm. While foreign aid can catalyse rapid improvements in health, education, and infrastructure, it may also steer policy in directions that are not fully aligned with India's

indigenous priorities. The imposition of Western models of governance, economic reform, and social policy risks undermining the country's cultural heritage and political autonomy.

For India to truly harness the benefits of foreign aid while preserving its sovereignty, it is imperative to adopt a more discerning approach:

- **Prioritising Homegrown Solutions:** India must invest in developing local capacities to address its challenges, reducing over-reliance on external funding and expertise.
- **Selective Engagement:** By critically assessing the strategic agendas behind foreign aid, India can engage selectively with donor agencies and global foundations, ensuring that external interventions complement rather than dictate domestic policy.
- **Institutional Reforms:** Strengthening the institutional framework governing foreign aid can help balance the benefits of external support with the need for national self-determination.

6.   USAID, Implementation Partners and effect on India's Innovations

India's sovereignty has long been threatened by outside forces who use cultural meddling and economic dependency as means of control. India's social structures, economic policies, and governance frameworks have all been quietly altered to suit Western geopolitical goals by USAID and other global deep state actors that function under the pretence of humanitarian help. By providing funds to controversial institutions, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), USAID's presence in India aims to shift the country's values and policies away from traditional and indigenous frameworks and toward goals set by outside forces.

Despite USAID projects' frequent claims to prioritize economic sustainability, healthcare, and gender rights, their underlying effects show a decline in India's cultural and policy independence. The agency uses advocacy organizations, academic institutions, and grassroots movements to spread narratives that quietly incorporate India into a Western-dominated world system. The country's socio-political landscape is impacted by USAID's operations, which go beyond providing aid and are revealed in this chapter.

7.   USAID's Development Rhetoric

In India, USAID's activities demonstrate a methodical effort to affect important areas that serve as the foundation for both national identity and governance. The organization has established itself in important policy-making arenas by sponsoring think tanks and NGOs that promote Western-centric viewpoints. This also holds true for fields like education, environment, and reproductive health, where groups supported by USAID quietly present viewpoints that run counter to India's customary and self-sufficient systems.

In addition to creating dependencies, the agency's economic interventions put India's energy, healthcare, and agriculture sectors in a situation where they rely on outside remedies rather than domestic breakthroughs. Organizations with USAID funding support policies that undermine established community institutions and substitute them with models that are more in line with Western ideas. These interventions aim to influence long-standing cultural and societal norms under the guise of modernization and development, whether by influencing India's family planning program or policies about climate change.

8.   USAID Implementation Partners

The following table lists the major USAID implementation partners of 2023-24 in India along with critical observations that expose them:

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding Sources	Primary Concern	Critical Observations & Exposé
IPE Global Private Limited	*Founder:* Ashwajit Singh	USAID, global health donors	**Foreign Control Over Healthcare**	Uses public health as a Trojan horse to create dependency on foreign pharmaceutical companies.[44]
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine	*Founder:* Johns Hopkins University	USAID, medical research grants	**Pushing Foreign Medical Narratives**	Implements Western public health models that ignore India's demographic, cultural, and traditional medicine framework.[45]
Jhpiego Corporation	*Founder:* Johns Hopkins University	USAID, global health donors	**Westernization of Healthcare**	Aims to reshape India's healthcare landscape by pushing reproductive health policies aligned with Western ideologies.[46]
Population Services International (PSI)	*Founder:* Phil Harvey	USAID, Gates Foundation	**Anti-Natal Population Control**	Known for aggressively pushing sterilization, contraception, and abortion in developing countries to align with Malthusian

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[44] https://biovoicenews.com/usaid-ipe-global-led-samridh-wins-prestigious-p3-impact-award/

[45] https://medicine-matters.blogs.hopkinsmedicine.org/2019/08/accelerate-progress-to-end-hiv-in-india/

[46] https://www.msn.com/en-us/politics/government/15-top-organizations-that-benefit-from-usaid-where-the-money-goes/ar-AA1yoKMy

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding Sources	Primary Concern	Critical Observations & Exposé
				population control agendas.[47]
SEWA Bharat	*Founder:* Ela Bhatt	USAID, global feminist donors	**Weaponizing Feminism**	Uses gender issues as a pretext to dismantle family structures, promoting radical feminism over traditional economic empowerment.[48]
Industree Crafts Foundation	*Founder:* Neelam Chhiber	USAID, CSR partnership	**Disrupting Traditional Women's Roles**	Encourages collectivist feminist models over family-centric economic roles, subtly eroding traditional Indian values.[49]
The Asia Foundation (TAF)	*Key Person:* Nandita Baruah	U.S. government, USAID	**Influencing India's Foreign Policy**	Disguised as a development initiative but operates as a soft power arm to align Indian policies with American geopolitical interests.[50]
Research Triangle Institute (RTI International)	*Key Person:* Tim J. Gabel	USAID, U.S. Energy Department	**Sabotaging Energy Independence**	Uses climate change rhetoric to weaken India's coal, oil, and nuclear sectors, making it dependent on

[47] https://www.worldhealthpartners.org/resources/Final%20Project%20Report_SAMAGRA.pdf
[48] https://feminisminindia.com/2017/06/08/sewa-women-self-sufficient/#google_vignette
[49] https://whatsworkingsolutions.org/resource/interview-with-neelam-chhibe-industree-foundation/
[50] https://kuberneininitiative.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Applying-a-Feminist-Lens-to-Indias-Foreign-Policy-A-Compendium-of-Essays.pdf

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding Sources	Primary Concern	Critical Observations & Exposé
				costly Western solutions.[51]
Tetra Tech ARD	*Founder:* Tetra Tech, Inc.	USAID, corporate grants	**ESG Imperialism**	Imposes Western-style environmental policies to hinder industrial growth while Western nations continue exploiting their resources.
Room to Read India Trust	*Founder:* John Wood	USAID, private donors	**Rewriting Indian History**	Uses education to introduce subtle anti-Indian narratives, portraying Western intervention as beneficial while undermining national pride.
The Tibet Fund	*Founder:* Dalai Lama's supporters	USAID, private donors	**Foreign Interference in Tibet**	Keeps the Tibet issue alive to serve as a strategic leverage point for U.S. interests against China, at India's expense.
ICRAF (Agroforestry)	*Founder:* World Agroforestry Centre	USAID, environmental grants	**Western Environmental Agenda**	Enforces land use restrictions under the guise of climate action, limiting local economic potential.

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[51] https://www.rti.org/brochures/experience-india

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding Sources	Primary Concern	Critical Observations & Exposé
CARE USA	*Key Person:* Madhu Deshmukh[52]	USAID, corporate donors	**Colonial Educational Framework**	Promotes Western-style education that prioritizes globalist ideologies over nationalistic or indigenous knowledge.[53]
NDI (National Democratic Institute)	*Key Person:* Tamara Cofman Wittes	USAID, NED	**Engineering Civil Unrest**	Historically linked to regime-change operations under the guise of "democracy promotion," posing a sovereignty risk.[54]
Winrock International	*Founder:* John D. Rockefeller	USAID, Rockefeller Foundation	**Corporate Takeover of Resources**	Hides behind environmental protection to control India's water, forests, and agricultural policies.[55]
Qualcomm Technologies	*Founder:* Irwin Jacobs Andrew Viterbi Franklin Antonio *Key Person:* Savi Soin	USAID, U.S. corporate sector	**Tech Surveillance State**	Ensures U.S. control over India's 5G backbone, increasing vulnerability to foreign surveillance.[56]

[52] https://www.care.org/about-us/leadership/madhu-deshmukh/
[53] https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/mha-suspends-fcra-licence-of-care-india-over-violations/articleshow/100947304.cms
[54] https://www.ndi.org/taxonomy/term/1053 *(The map on the website removed the Indian region of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.)*
[55] https://www.highergov.com/grant/72038623CA00001/
[56] https://www.qualcomm.com/news/releases/2007/08/qualcomm-dialog-telekom-and-usaid-partner-bring-high-speed-wireless-data?

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding Sources	Primary Concern	Critical Observations & Exposé
ACCESS Health International	*Founder:* William A. Haseltine	USAID, global health donors	**Foreign Influence in Family Planning**	Manages USAID-funded programs aiming to reshape India's family planning landscape, potentially undermining traditional family structures under the guise of women's health and economic empowerment.[57]
DAI Global, LLC	*Key Personnel:* James Boomgard (CEO)	USAID, international development funds	**Economic Manipulation**	Engages in projects that may prioritize Western economic models over indigenous practices, potentially leading to economic dependencies.[58]
State Innovations in Family Planning Services Project Agency (SIFPSA)	*Foundation:* Join Venture under Indo-US bilateral agreement	USAID, Government of India, Government of Uttar Pradesh	**Cultural Disruption in Family Planning**	Implements family planning initiatives that may conflict with local cultural norms, promoting Western ideals of reproductive health.[59]
	Founder: Prashant Bhushan	Work in collaboration of Inernews which is	**Disruption of Media Narrative**	Institute serves as a hub for leftist activism, regularly

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[57] https://accessh.org/access-health-international-to-manage-usaid-funded-fhm-engages-work-in-india/

[58] https://www.dai.com/news/dai-to-implement-usaid-market-systems-and-partnerships-program

[59] https://sifpsa.org/who-we-are.html

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding Sources	Primary Concern	Critical Observations & Exposé
Sambhaavnaa Institute of Public Policy and Politics		heavily funded by USAID, alongside the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, and tech companies such as Google and Facebook.		conducting workshops to train activists and journalists in leftist ideology. [60]
Karwan-e-Mohabbat	*Founder: Harsh Mander*	Get funds from interlinked organisation of USAID, Amnesty International and Ford Foundation.	**Reinforces divisive narratives aligned with left-wing ideological bias.**	Advocates external influence in shaping narratives on communal violence in India. [61]
Internews Network	*Founder: David Hoffman*	USAID, Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, and tech companies such as Google and Facebook. [62]	**External influence on India's media landscape**	A soft-power tool, embedding foreign-funded narratives into India's media and civil society, subtly influencing public opinion and policy debates in ways that may not align with national interests. [63]

[60] https://www.opindia.com/2025/02/ravish-kumar-pratik-sinha-prashant-bhushan-internews-usaid-expose-wikileaks-anti-india-propaganda/

[61] https://www.opindia.com/2025/02/donald-trump-crackdown-usaid-george-soros-congress-connection-anti-india-propaganda-regime-change-explained-details/

[62] https://internews.org/about/current-donors/

[63] https://organiser.org/2025/02/10/277413/bharat/usaid-spent-millions-of-dollars-to-promote-media-control-through-internews-which-is-linked-to-india-based-factshala/

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding Sources	Primary Concern	Critical Observations & Exposé
OW DataLEADS Private Limited	*Founder: Syed Nazakat*	Google News Initiative, Internews, USAID, and the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)	**External influence on India's media literacy and fact-checking ecosystem**	It is a part of global networks that influence public discourse under the pretext of combating misinformation.[64]
World Vision Inc.	*International President:* Andrew Morley	USAID and Philanthropic initiatives	**Religious Conversion**	Predatory proselytization masked as humanitarian work and funded terror outfit like Hamas.[65]
Centre for Equity Studies (CES)	*Key Person: Harsh Mander, Ghanshyam Shah, S. Parasuraman, Jean Drèze.*	It gets funds from multiple sources such as DanChurch Aid which get funds from USAID.	**Undermining India's governance.**	Under the pretence of research, CES publishes misleading reports, receives questionable foreign funding, manipulates data to suit anti-India narratives, and has been investigated by the CBI for financial irregularities, raising serious concerns about its true motives and impact on national sovereignty.

[64] https://organiser.org/2025/02/10/277413/bharat/usaid-spent-millions-of-dollars-to-promote-media-control-through-internews-which-is-linked-to-india-based-factshala/
[65] https://organiser.org/2025/02/10/277368/bharat/usaid-funded-world-vision-a-70-year-campaign-of-conversion-and-terror-ties-exposed-fcra-license-revoked-by-modi-govt/

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding Sources	Primary Concern	Critical Observations & Exposé
Good Business Lab (GBL)	*Founder: Anant Ahuja*	USAID and international organisations.	**Foreign Meddling Threat**	GBL received funds for a project on "alleviating loneliness" among migrant garment workers in India, drawing criticism from US Representative Nancy Mace, who questioned its relevance to US interests, stating, "USAID is too busy playing global Good Samaritan to advance American interests."[66]
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab	*Key Person: Abhijit Banerjee and Shobhini Mukerji[67]*	Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundation, USAID with many other.[68]	**Wokeism and Social Engineering Concerns**	Their approach aligns with Western academic and policy narratives that aim to reshape developing countries' governance systems. J-PAL is shaping narratives rather than purely academic inquiry.

[66] https://x.com/RepNancyMace/status/1887185065727143957
[67] https://www.povertyactionlab.org/person/mukerji
[68] https://www.povertyactionlab.org/partners

In 2014

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
 Vellore Christian Medical College Foundation	*Key Person:* Dr. Vikram Mathews	USAID[69] and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation[70]	Subtly advocates for the western model and often challenged the Indian government policies.
 SAMRIDH	*Key Person:* William Khanna (CEO)	USAID and Rockefeller Foundation[71]	An initiative of IPE Global; Involved in anti-India narrative in collaboration with USAID.[72]
 Learning4Impact	*Key Person:* Dr Angela Chaudhuri	USAID	As it's an initiative of Swasti Public Health, try to amplify the western narrative.[73]
 Devex	*Key Person:* Raj Kumar[74]	USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Vision[75]	On the name of global development, platform supports the US deep state outfits.

[69] https://vellorecmc.org/newsroom/featured-stories/2024-gala-healthcare-innovation-award/?

[70] https://www.gatesfoundation.org/about/committed-grants/2014/04/opp1108936?

[71] https://www.samridh.org/people/

[72] https://disa.org/usaids-alleged-dissemination-of-anti-india-propaganda-and-strategic-disclosure-in-a-disinformation-primer/

[73] https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/loop-viral-leadership-angela-chaudhuri-o6yqc/?trackingId=JvlPb56QRJuJBZcGO8tGOw%3D%3D

[74] https://www.linkedin.com/in/rajdevex/

[75] https://pages.devex.com/about-devex

In 2015

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
Dasra	*Key Person:* Deval Sanghavi and Neera Nundy	USAID, David and Lucile Packard Foundation,[76] Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Ford Foundation.[77]	As a part of larger left ecosystem, risks external influence on India's policies, governance, and socio-economic framework, aligning with foreign agenda over indigenous priorities.[78]
UnLtd India	*Key Person:* Anshu Bhartia	Dasra and Rockefeller Foundation[79]	UnLtd India and Dasra have collaborated to support social organizations in India by providing funding and capacity-building assistance.[80]
Villgro Innovations Foundation	*Key Person: Paul Basil[81] and* Srinivas Ramanujam[82]	USAID,[83] Ford Foundation[84] and Rockefeller Foundation[85]	Promotes foreign agritech models.

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[76] https://www.dasra.org/our-partners

[77] https://www.dasraphilanthropyforum.in/

[78] https://www.dasra.org/pdf/financials/1714991862.pdf

[79] https://unltdindia.org/about-us/

[80] https://ssir.org/articles/entry/collective_impact_the_missing_link

[81] https://www.villgro-us.org/our-directors-paul-basil

[82] https://www.linkedin.com/in/srinivas1729/?originalSubdomain=in

[83] https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/usaid-villgro-launch-yash-entrepreneurs-programme/90848748

[84] https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/our-grants/awarded-grants/grants-database/villgro-innovations-foundation-131600/

[85] https://inc42.com/features/impact-incubator-villgro-on-two-decades-of-backing-indias-agritech-startups/

In 2016

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
 KNCV	*Key Person:* Ms. Mirella Visser	USAID	It works in partnership with Indian NGO's. Foreign pharmaceutical and NGO influence on India's healthcare policies.[86]
 Centre for Urban and Rural Excellence	*Key Person:* Dr Renu Khosla	USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, IPE Global, Aga Khan Foundation[87]	With huge amount from foreign entities it influence the sectors like water, sanitation, and urban planning.[88]
 Wish Foundation India	*Key Person:* Sunil Wadhwani	USAID with other[89]	Works on health sector of India with various initiatives.[90]

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[86] https://www.kncvtbc.org/en/2016/02/09/usaid-supported-tb-call-to-action-awarded-to-reach/

[87] https://cureindia.org/page8.html

[88] https://cureindia.org/assets/files/Quarterly-FC-April-June16.pdf

[89] https://wishfoundationindia.org/partner-with-us/

[90] https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/WISH-USAID-brace-up-to-improve-primary-healthcare/articleshow/51070174.cms

In 2017

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
Urban Institute	*Key Person:* Sarah Rosen Wartell	USAID	USAID-funded research and analysis.[91]
Safe Water Network	*Key Person:* Ravindra Sewak	Conrad N. Hilton Foundation[92] and USAID[93]	Influence exerted by foreign agencies on domestic policies and priorities.
Institute For Sustainable Communities	*Key Person:* Suresh Kumar Kotla	USAID, MacArthur Foundation[94], and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency[95]	Worked environment, health, safety, and energy training and assistance.[96]

In 2018

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness	*Key Person:* Indra Prasad Sharma	USAID[97]	In India it works in partnership of various eye care centres.[98]

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[91] https://www.urban.org/building-healthy-cities

[92] https://www.hiltonfoundation.org/grant/safe-water-network/?

[93] https://2017-2020.usaid.gov/india/press-releases/sep-14-2017-usaid-safe-water-network-host-beyond-pipe-forum

[94] https://www.macfound.org/grantee/institute-for-sustainable-communities-9632/?

[95] https://sustain.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/ISC-Annual-Report-2023.pdf?

[96] https://sustain.org/program/ehs-center-india/

[97] https://www.iapb.org/news/usaid-grants-for-child-eye-health/

[98] https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas/magnitude-and-projections/countries/india/

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
Public Health Foundation of India	*Key Person:* Prof. Sanjay Zodpey	USAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and McArthur Foundation[99]	USAID-funded PHFI for two project such as PIPPSE (HIV/AIDS Partnership: Impact Through Prevention, Private Sector, and Evidence-Based Programming) and SESSIHFI (Strengthening Ecosystem for Sustainable and Inclusive Health Financing in India) which are already under scrutiny in audit.[100]
Child Health Task Force	*Key Person:* Dyness Kasungami	USAID[101]	Worked with selected institutes in India.

[99] https://phfi.org/our-supporters/
[100] https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2019-06/5-386-19-003-N.pdf
[101] https://www.childhealthtaskforce.org/about#Funding

In 2019

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
Centre for Financial Accountability	*Key Person:* Joe Athialy[102]	Multiple Sources like AID-USA and other.[103]	As it is a project of CACIM (India Institute For Critical Action Centre In Movement) and active part of left ecosystem.
Pragya India	*Key Person:* Gargi Banerji	Various entities and has FCRA	Under All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development, a joint funding initiative of USAID, World Vision and AusAID, awarded Pragya.
World Agroforestry Centre	*Key Person:* Javed Rizvi	USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation[104]	Dependency over foreign agricultural policies and products.

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[102] https://scroll.in/latest/1070501/fcra-licence-of-centre-for-financial-accountability-cancelled-non-profit-claims-political-targeting
[103] https://hindupost.in/law-policy/fcra-ngo-recipients-of-foreign-contributions-from-association-for-indias-development-usa/
[104] https://www.cifor-icraf.org/about/partners/

In 2020

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
 Bainum Family Foundation	*Key Person:* Scott Renschler, Psy.D.	UNICEF, USAID	Influencing domestic education initiatives.[105]
 WRI India Ross Center	*Key Person:* Madhav Pai	USAID,[106] Ford Foundation, OAK Foundation.[107]	Working on the clean air catalyst in association with foreign funders.[108]
 International Youth Foundation	*Key Person:* Christina Sass and Akash Sethi[109]	USAID, Microsoft and others[110]	Its board member and earlier country director Akash Sethi is a part of larger nexus includes Dasra[111], which works in alliance of deep state of US.

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[105] https://bainumfdn.org/blog/expanding-international-impact-global-education-fund-now-supports-children-in-india/

[106] https://www.wricitiesindia.org/content/clean-air-all

[107] https://www.wricitiesindia.org/content/our-partners

[108] https://www.wricitiesindia.org/content/clean-air-all

[109] https://iyfglobal.org/board-of-directors

[110] https://iyfglobal.org/country/india

[111] https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dasra_questlearningobservatory-ugcPost-7250230668230561792-DTZ5?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAC-mRNYB9RlDiBKi1pNsoNf5gcq460NqA-I

In 2021

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
Alliance India	*Key Person:* Sanjay Gupta	USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UNFPA[112]	Subtly influence India's social policies, cultural values, and governance under the guise of public health initiatives.
Solidarity and Action Against the HIV Infection in India	*Key Person:* Dr. L. Ramakrishnan[113]	USAID,[114] Johnson and Johnson and other.	Foreign influence on India's healthcare policies, privatization of public health, data security risks, cultural sensitivities, and potential compromises to national sovereignty in shaping its health priorities.
British Asian Trust	*Key Person:* Richard Hawkes and Bharath Visweswariah	USAID, JSW Foundation among others	Influencing the cultural appropriateness and societal impact.

[112] https://allianceindia.org/about-us/our-donors/

[113] https://saathii.in/our_leadership/

[114] https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/5-386-21-023-R.pdf

In 2022

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
John Snow India Private Limited (JSI India)	*Key Person:* Dr Sanjay Kapur[115]	USAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation among others[116]	Undermining the country's sovereignty, promoting a Western-driven agenda, and imposing culturally alien health narratives on vulnerable populations.
Jivika	*Key Person:* Jignesh Patel and Krunal Mehta[117]	USAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Jhpiego among others.[118]	Veiled efforts to privatize public health, advance corporate agendas, and exploit vulnerable populations under the guise of international aid.[119]
Aga Khan Foundation	*Key Person:* Tinni Sawhney	USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, Oak Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation.[120]	The Foundation has been criticized for financial mismanagement and potential political influence, with claims that its connections to global elites and "deep state" partners shape its projects to align with broader geopolitical and economic

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[115] https://www.linkedin.com/in/drsanjaykapur/?originalSubdomain=in
[116] https://www.gatesfoundation.org/about/committed-grants/2021/01/inv028159?
[117] https://jivika.org/leadership/
[118] https://jivika.org/
[119] https://jivika.org/swasthya-sawari-a-vision-to-focus-on-providing-quality-primary-healthcare-services/
[120] https://the.akdn/en/who-we-are/our-partners

Implementing Partner	Founder(s) / Key Personnel	Funding/Partner	Primary Concern
			interests rather than humanitarian goals.

Apart from USAID's institutional implementation partners, we also analyzed the network of individuals who act as its strategic operatives. USAID cultivates key figures within media, academia, and civil society to further its ideological and geopolitical ambitions. These individuals, who work as journalists, professors, and activists, aid foreign influence by shaping public discourse and policy decisions to suit external interests. By shaping narratives under the guise of development and advocacy, they enable a more insidious version of intervention—one that gradually undermines India's cultural and strategic autonomy. The study investigates both the institutional and human networks that sustain this authority, with potentially far-reaching implications for national sovereignty.

9. Unmasking the Agents[121]

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity	
Aathira Perinchery	*Bengaluru, India*		The Hindu The Wire Mongabay-India The Print
Aishwarya Tripathi	*Lucknow, India*		The Wire Al Jazeera Mongabay-India

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[121] https://earthjournalism.net/who-we-are/fellows

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Akanksha Mishra	*New Delhi, India*	ThePrint NDTV (previously) Scroll.in (previously) The Swaddle (previously)
Akash Gulankar	*Pune, India*	The Times of India CNN-News18 TV9News The Federal People's Archive of Rural India
Ananda Banerjee	*New Delhi, India*	Hindustan Times Outlook India Mint/The Wall Street Journal Truthout Business Standard The Hindu Business Line Firstpost ThePrint

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity	
Anjali Marar	*Pune, India*		The Indian Express
Anup Dutta	*Bhopal, India*		Medium Daily Mail The Times of India India Times Al Jazeera English Quartz Firstpost Mint Outlook India The Hindu Mongabay-India eNewsroom India
Aparajito Bandyopadhyay	*Kolkata, India*	Not Found	Ganashakti Patrika
Aparna Ganesan	*Chennai, India*		Deutsche Welle (DW) Fault Lines Videos Mongabay-India

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Aradhna Wal	*New Delhi, India*	Scroll.in The Caravan IndiaSpend The Wire (India) The Signal Devex Himal Southasian
Arathi Menon	*Mysuru, India*	Mongabay-India India Water Portal Nature inFocus
Aswathy T Kurup	*Thiruvananthapuram, India*	The Malayalam daily Deshabhimani

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Ayesha Khan	*Mumbai, India*	FairPlanet
Cheena Kapoor	*Delhi, India*	The Guardian The Telegraph Reuters BBC Al Jazeera Devex Dialogue Earth
Disha Shetty	*Mumbai, India*	Forbes Undark VICE IndiaSpend
Diwash Gahatraj	*Siliguri, India*	The Guardian VICE South China Morning Post The National Atlas Obscura Rest of the World Bluedot Living Think Global Health

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Dola Mitra	*Kolkata, India*	The Statesman (Journalist, Political) Outlook Magazine (Former Associate Editor) The Telegraph Cuckoo News (Editor-in-Chief) Mint
Flavia Lopes	*Mumbai, India*	IndiaSpend The Wire Article 14 BehanBox The Morning Context The Guardian Scroll.in The Quint BQ Prime Climate Tracker One Earth Pulitzer Center
Hanan Zaffar	*Delhi, India*	Al Jazeera English VICE TIME Magazine Deutsche Welle (DW) Newsweek TRT World Channel 4[Business Insider South China Morning Post Middle East Eye The Diplomat The Caravan Magazine The Guardian FairPlanet International Journalists' Network (IJNet) Mongabay India
Harithajohnponnu Kadicheeni	*Thiruvananthapuram, India*	Not Found

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Jeff Joseph Paul Kadicheeni	*Thiruvananthapuram, India*	Himal Southasian Scroll.in The Hindu Frontline Down To Earth The Quint The Hoot The Wire IndiaSpend The Lede
Jency Samuel	*Chennai, India*	Eco-Business eco-business.com Mongabay India Village Square Rural 21 India Climate Dialogue The Third Pole Women's Media Center womensmediacenter.com
Jisha Elizabeth	*Thiruvananthapuram, India*	Madhyamam (Malayalam daily) People's Archive of Rural India (PARI)
Jyoti Thakur	*New Delhi, India*	Bluedot Living Earth Journalism Network Al Jazeera Media Institute IndiaSpend Dialogue Earth New Lines Magazine The Guardian Al Jazeera Middle East Eye

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
		Deutsche Welle South China Morning Post The New Arab Article 14
Karishma Mehrotra	*Delhi, India*	The Indian Express The Wall Street Journal Scroll.in CNN Bloomberg Businessweek Radiolab Quartz Boston Globe
Kavitha Iyer	*Mumbai, India*	The Indian Express Article 14 The Guardian TIME Al Jazeera English People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) Firstpost
Komal Gautham	*Chennai, India*	The Times of India ET Real Estate (Economic Times Real Estate)

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity	
Mahesh Digamber Joshi	*Aurangabad, India*		Daily Divya Marathi The Indian Express
Mahesh Joshi	*Aurangabad, India*	Not Found	Daily Divya Marathi The Indian Express
Mahima Jain	*Bengaluru, India*		The Guardian The Fuller Project The Caravan Mongabay Scroll.in Hakai Magazine The Hindu Group London School of Economics' SouthAsia@LSE blog
Makepeace Sithou	*Guwahati, Assam, India*		Middle East Eye Foreign Policy CNN International The Juggernaut Asia Times The Washington Post Al Jazeera Fair Observer Popula BBC Vice Asia Vice World News The Huffington Post Article 14

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Manish Chandra Mishra	*Delhi, India*	Mongabay-India india.mongabay.com Firstpost Down to Earth Zenger News OZY IndiaSpend 101Reporters
Manish Jalui	*New Delhi, India*	BBC
Manish Kumar	*Ghaziabad, India*	Not Found
Manorma Singh	*Bangalore, India*	Manorama Online

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Mitul Kajaria	*Ahmedabad/Bengaluru, India*	
Mohsin Ibrahim Mulla	*Kolhapur, India*	
Monika Mondal	*New Delhi, India*	The Guardian Al Jazeera The Washington Post Undark The Caravan Livemint Mongabay The Third Pole The Diplomat

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Mubina Akhtar	*Guwahati, India*	Firstpost The Wire (India) Down To Earth The Third Pole Nenow Dialogue Earth Earth Journalism Network
Neha Thirani Bagri	*Mumbai, India*	The New York Times Quartz TIME Foreign Policy The Guardian Los Angeles Times BBC Al Jazeera
Nihar Gokhale	*New Delhi, India*	The Caravan caravanmagazine.in Mongabay-India india.mongabay.com The Wire (India) Scroll.in IndiaSpend Business Standard The Hindu Business Line The Quint BQ Prime The News Minute

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Nivedita Khandekar	*Delhi, India*	Medium The Times of India VICE CNN-News18 Firstpost Mint Rediff.com Mongabay YourStory Deccan Chronicle Dialogue Earth Outlook India News9live
Pawanjot Kaur	*New Delhi, India*	Financial Times Al Jazeera Deutsche Welle (DW) Himal Southasian The Wire
Pragathi Ravi	*Bengaluru, India*	Frontline Article 14 IndiaSpend Gaon Connection Christian Science Monitor The Morning Context

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Pranav Kumar	*Patna, India*	Mongabay-India
Rachna Verma	*Himachal, India*	Hindustan Times The Statesman Mongabay-India The Wire (India) 101Reporters
Rahul Singh	*Deoghar, India*	India Development Review

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Raihana Maqbool	*Srinagar, India*	Global Press Journal muckrack.com Nikkei Asia The Better India Women's Media Center The Fuller Project
Rajeev Tyagi	*Gwalior, India*	Groundreport
Ravleen Kaur	*Valod, Gujarat, India*	Down To Earth Mongabay-India india.mongabay.com Gaon Connection The Hindu The Tribune Civil Society The Indian Express

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Rishika Pardikar	*Bangalore, India*	Article 14 Eos eos.org The Hindu Drilled Africa Arguments
Rohit Upadhyay	*Noida, India*	The Wire (India) IndiaSpend Worldcrunch Groundviews UK Media Observer Mexico Business Today
Sanket Jain	*Ichalkaranji, India*	Forbes forbes.com The Caravan The Wire (India) Scroll.in Mongabay-India

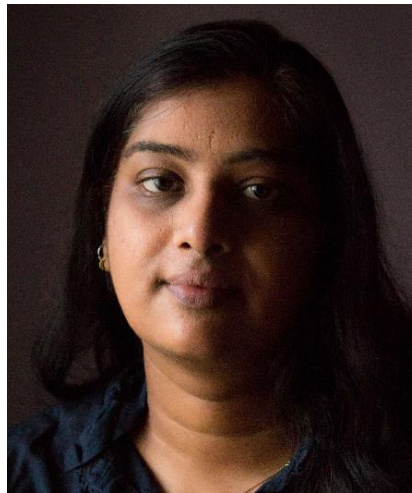| Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Seetu Tewari	*Patna, India*	BBC Hindi Doordarshan Bihar
Shaba Manzoor	*New Delhi, India*	Inkstick Media inkstickmedia.com IJNet Village Square Article 14 Mojo Story
Shakoor Rather	*New Delhi, India*	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Shamsheer Yousaf	*Bangalore, India*	Firstpost Mint South China Morning Post Al Jazeera The Guardian
Sharada Balasubramanian	*Coimbatore, India*	Mongabay-India The Hindu Down To Earth India Climate Dialogue The Wire (India)
Sharanya Deepak	*Delhi, India*	The Guardian Al Jazeera VICE Atlas Obscura Eater The Juggernaut

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Sharmila Vaidyanathan	*Bangalore, India*	The News Minute Citizen Matters Deccan Herald
Shubhangi Derghwen	*Ghaziabad, India*	
Shuchita Jha	*Delhi, India*	The Wire (India)
Sibi Arasu -	*Bangalore, India*	Mongabay-India The Hindu BBC Al Jazeera

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Simrin Sirur	*New Delhi, India*	The Print
Smitha TK	*Chennai, India*	The News Minute
Sneha Richhariya	*New Delhi, India*	India Today
Snigdhendu Bhattacharya	*Kolkata, India*	The Wire (India) Scroll.in Hindustan Times

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Subhrajit Sen	*Kolkata, India*	BBC India Mongabay-India india.mongabay.com Nikkei Asia The Hindu The Times of India People's Archive of Rural India (PARI)
Subuhi Jiwani	*Mumbai, India*	TimeOut Mumbai Daily News and Analysis ART India Mayday Scroll.in The Wire (India) People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) Citizen Matters
Suhail Bhat	*New Delhi, India*	Mongabay-India The Third Pole The Wire (India) The Citizen

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Sumit Kumar Sinha	*Patna, India*	
Supriya Vohra	*Goa, India*	The Caravan Mongabay-India Scroll.in The Wire (India) Fountain Ink
SV Krishna Chaitanya	*Chennai, India*	The New Indian Express Deccan Chronicle The Times of India
Sweta Daga	*Bangalore, India*	BBC Al Jazeera The Hindu Mongabay-India Scroll.in

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Tanmoy Bhaduri	*Kolkata, India*	Mongabay-India The Wire (India) IndiaSpend Gaon Connection Down To Earth
Tanvi Deshpande	*Mumbai, India*	IndiaSpend The Wire (India) Mongabay-India Scroll.in The Hindu
Tanya Thomas	*Mumbai, India*	Hindustan Times Mint The Hindu Moneycontrol Medscape The Hindu Business Line
Tanzil Asif	*Kishanganj, Bihar, India*	Outlook India The Quint The Wire (India)

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Tarushi Aswani	*New Delhi South, India*	The Wire (India) Article 14 The Quint
TRIPTI PANDEY	*Lucknow, India*	
Uzmi Athar	*New Delhi, India*	Press Trust of India (PTI)

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
Varsha Singh	*Dehradun, India*	Down To Earth Gaon Connection
Varsha Torgalkar	*Pune, India*	The Wire (India) Mongabay-India Scroll.in IndiaSpend
Vasudevan Sridharan	*Bangalore and Chennai, India*	International Business Times Deccan Herald

Name	Resident	Associated Media Entity
		The Wire (India)
		Scroll.in
		The Tribune
Vivek Gupta	*Chandigarh, India*	
		The Citizen
		The Wire (India)
		Free Press Kashmir
Wahid Bhat	*Srinagar, India*	

USAID's activities in India extend beyond development aid. Agency has a subtle yet significant impact on India's policies through selective sponsorship of media outlets, academic institutions, civil society organizations and individuals. USAID consistently erodes India's sovereignty and independence by integrating Western paradigms into important governing areas.

India's approach to international collaborations must be guided by the desire for self-sufficiency and cultural preservation, making sure that foreign assistance does not compromise independence and national identity.

10. Conclusion and recommendations

USAID's activities in India illustrate complex interplay between foreign aid, geopolitical influence, and social transformation. Through detailed case studies—from exploitation of aid channels in the wake of 2008 Mumbai attacks to politically charged environment in Kashmir, from the mobilisation of NGO networks to imposition of progressive social policies—this analysis reveals how USAID's ostensibly benevolent operations can contribute to erosion of national sovereignty and the subversion of domestic political processes.

Simultaneously, critical examination of influential global actors—the Open Society Foundations, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Amnesty India, the Washington Post, and Netflix—demonstrates that their publicly showcased missions often mask underlying strategic agendas. Their overlapping funding streams, collaborative initiatives and

coordinated efforts with USAID have, at times, reinforced a American interest oriented model of development and governance in India.

For India, a nation that cherishes its cultural vibrancy, economic independence, and political sovereignty, convergence of USAID development aid with the ideological agendas of these global actors present substantial challenges. As foreign aid continues to serve as a critical tool of international development, it is imperative that policymakers, civil society and global community work together to ensure that such aid is transparent, accountable and truly aligned with needs and aspirations of local populations.

In light of multifaceted impacts described in this chapter, a critical reassessment of USAID operations in India—and roles of its global partners—is urgently needed. Only through strengthened oversight, enhanced local engagement and a commitment to preserving national integrity can positive potential of foreign aid be realised without compromising India's sovereignty and social cohesion. Continued open research, investigative journalism and active public debate remain essential to ensuring that foreign aid serves as a force for genuine development rather than as an instrument of external influence.

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