



Guatemala Human Rights Commission / USA

Fact Sheet

U.S. Foreign Assistance to Guatemala

U.S. aid programs in Guatemala can be separated into two categories: economic & social aid, and military aid. The majority of aid goes through USAID for economic and social programs. Military aid focuses on the counter drug and terrorism effort in Central America, now known as the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI).

Economic and Social Aid for 2010

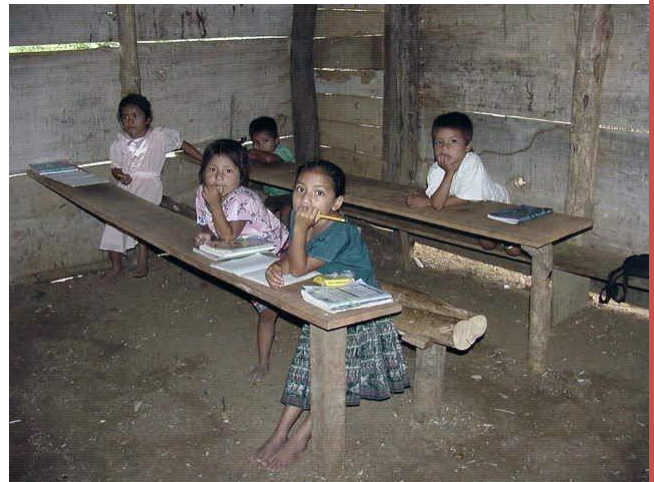
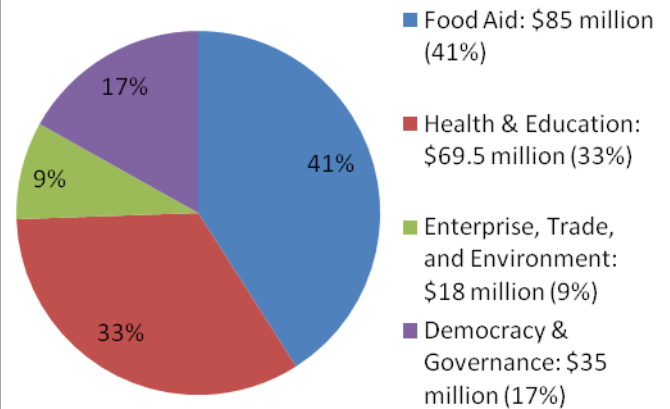
USAID is the greatest receiver and allocator of U.S. foreign assistance to Guatemala. ([USAID](#))

- **Development Aid:** \$51,050,000
 Agriculture & Rural Development \$24,050,000
 Basic Education Program: \$6,000,000
 Direct Trade Capacity Building: \$2,000,000
 Global Climate Change Adaptation: \$2,000,000
 Global Climate Change Sustainable Landscapes: \$4,000,000
 Other Programs: \$13,000,000
- **Global Health and Child Survival:** \$16,400,000
 HIV/AIDS: \$2,000,000
 Maternal & Child Health: \$3,800,000
 Family Planning & Reproductive Health: \$6,600,000
 Nutrition: \$4,000,000
- **Food for Peace:** \$25,000,000 ([USAID](#))

Additional U.S. Assistance to Guatemala for 2010

- \$4 million to support the CICIG, which was established by the U.N. to investigate and dismantle organized crime groups with the additional goal of strengthening the judicial system and reducing violence.
- \$2 million for protection programs for human rights defenders
- Up to \$2 million for legal reform and gender-based violence programs. ([Upside Down World](#))

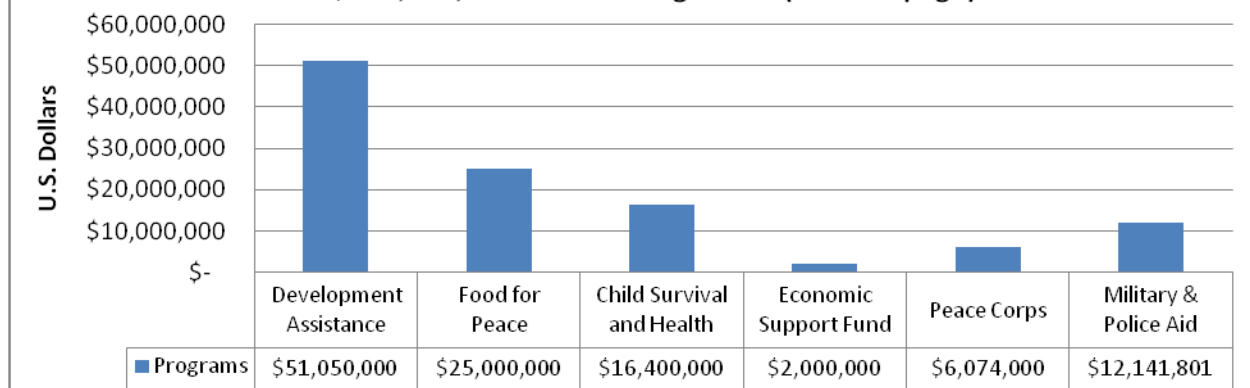
USAID Spending, FY 2004-2009



Rural Students in Guatemala ([USAID](#))

U.S. Foreign Assistance to Guatemala 2010

\$112,665,801 not including CARSI (see 2nd page)



Graph:
[Just the Facts](#)
[Peace Corps](#)

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U.S. military with Guatemalan soldiers (1965)

1990: The Congress again suspended all military aid under the Foreign Operations bill, except for E-IMET (Expanded International Military Education and Training/ funding for non-combat courses, human rights, resource management, and other topics). Despite this, an additional \$10 million was covertly channeled via the CIA.

1996: The Peace Accords reinforced the suspension of all military aid to Guatemala.

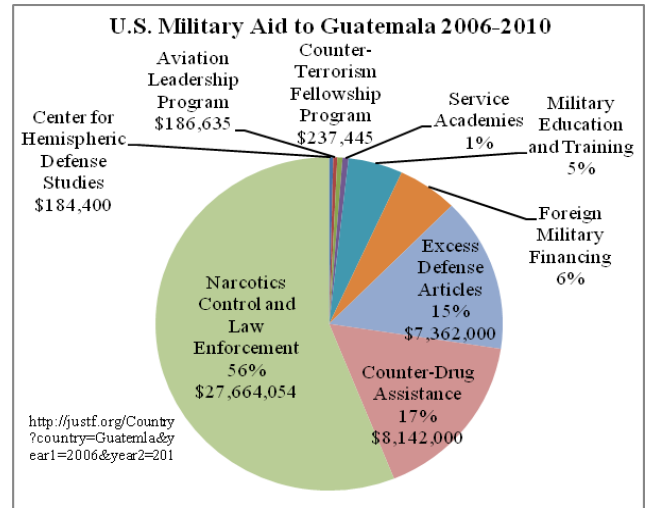
2005: On March 26, 2005, George W. Bush gave \$3.2 million in military aid to Guatemala under President Berger. This was after an agreement between Guatemala and the United Nations to assure protection against human rights abuses.

2009: U.S. pledged \$16 million for Guatemala to fight the war on drugs under the Merida Initiative.

Merida/CARSI Initiative

The Merida Initiative began as a 3-year program (FY2008 to FY2010) to fight the war on drugs in Mexico and Central America. The \$460 million plan aimed to combat drug trafficking, transnational crime, and money laundering via training, equipment, and intelligence.

Critics have compared the Merida Initiative to Plan Colombia, a



failed U.S. policy to fight the war on drugs that led to further human rights abuses by police and Colombian military forces.

A Violation of the Peace Accords?

President Colom's counter-narcotics strategy includes the remilitarization of Guatemala, in direct violation of the Peace Accords.

The Guatemalan military's mission is to engage in defending Guatemala's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The accords also call for the reduction in the size and spending of the military by 33%.

In March 2010, President Colom asked Secretary of State Clinton for additional military aid to support the struggle against organized crime and drug trafficking.

A Brief History of U.S. Military Aid to Guatemala

1966: The U.S. became directly involved in counterinsurgency operations in Guatemala with the goals of training the inefficient army and defeating the rising left wing guerilla insurgency.

1977-1983: The release of a U.S. Department of State human rights report in April 1977 led to the suspension of U.S. direct security assistance to Guatemala.

1980s and Reagan:

Reagan wanted to openly restore aid to Guatemala in the 80s, but public recognition of the failure in Vietnam prevented it. Thus, the U.S. openly condemned human rights abuses while secretly channeling aid through covert operations via the CIA.

1987: Direct U.S. military aid was restored under the return of "civilian rule" in Guatemala with democratically elected President Vinicio Cerezo.

Sources: <http://www.ghrc-usa.org/Publications/UPDATE/vol17no07.pdf>; <http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/fs/122397.htm>; <http://www.statecraft.org/chapter13.html>; <http://upsidedownworld.org/main/news-briefs-archives-68/2428-a-human-rights-perspective-on-clintons-visit-to-central-america>; <http://justf.org/Country?country=Guatemala&year1=2006&year2=2011>; <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=pchq.policies.docs>