



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.

- **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

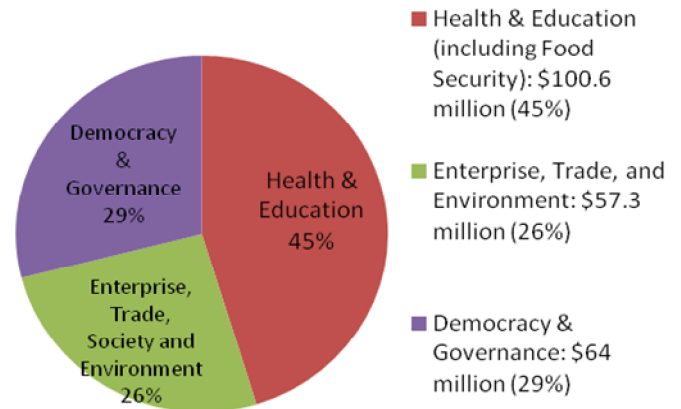
*Congressional Budget Justification, Volume 2
 FOREIGN OPERATIONS: Fiscal year 2011*

Additional U.S. Assistance to Guatemala for 2010

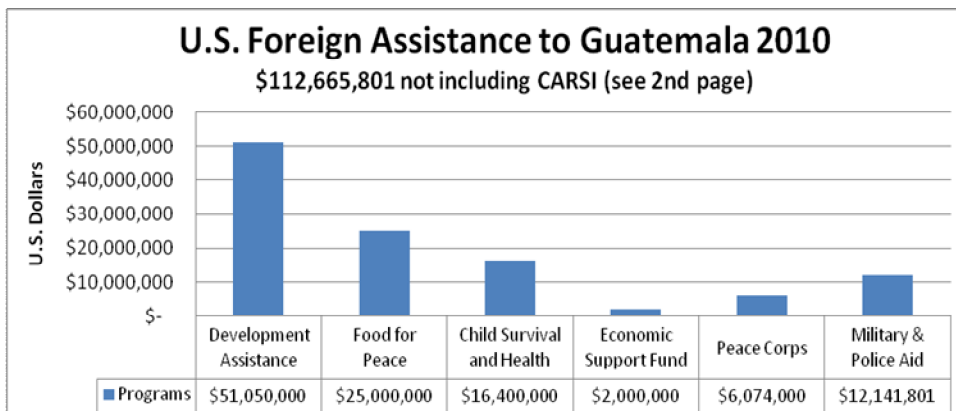
- \$4 million to support the CICIG, which was established by the U.N. to investigate and dismantle organized crime groups with the additional goal of strengthening the judicial system and reducing violence
- \$2 million for protection programs for human rights defenders
- Up to \$2 million for legal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

2010 Appropriations Law HR 3288

USAID Spending, FY 2004-2010



USAID/Guatemala Programs FY 2004-2010



Congressional Budget Justification Volume 2 FOREIGN OPERATIONS FY 2011

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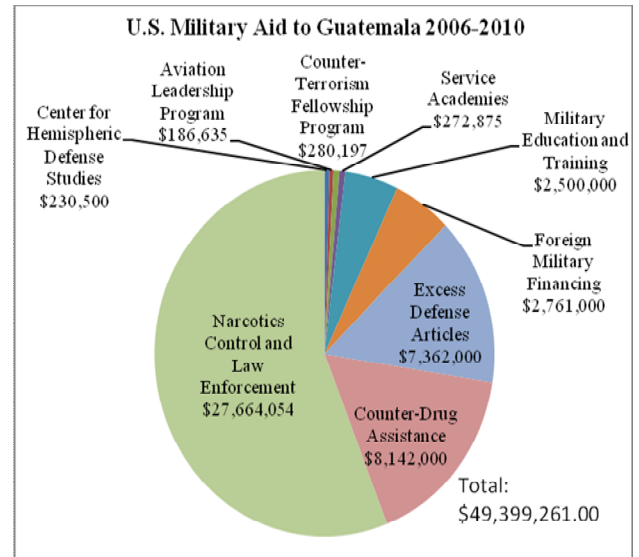
U.S. Foreign Assistance to Guatemala



U.S. military with Guatemalan soldiers (1965)

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

2005: Following an agreement between Guatemala and the U.N. to assure protection against human rights abuses, George W. Bush gave \$3.2 million in military aid.



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

1966: The U.S. facilitated counterinsurgency operations with the goal of training the army to defeat the rising left wing guerilla movement.

1977-1983: The U.S. Department of State human rights report was released in April 1977, suspending direct security aid to Guatemala.

1980s: Public recognition of the failure in Vietnam prevented Reagan from restoring aid. However, assistance was secretly channeled through CIA operations.

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

1990: Under the Foreign Operations bill, the U.S. again suspended all military aid except to E-IMET (Expanded International Military Education and Training). An additional \$10 million was covertly channeled via the CIA.

2009: U.S. pledged \$16 million 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 \$1.6 billion plan aimed to combat drug trafficking, transnational crime, and money laundering via training, equipment, and intelligence. The Central America Regional Security Initiative was created in 2009 under the existing Merida Initiative. In August 2010 \$165 million was pledged to CARSI.

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Public Affairs: CARSI

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 Colombian police and military forces.

Congressional Budget Justification, Volume 2 FOREIGN OPERATIONS: Fiscal year 2011

Violation of the Peace Accords?

The current counter-narcotics strategy includes the remilitarization of Guatemala, which violates articles 63 and 35 of the Peace Accords.

Article 63 mandates a 33% reduction in armed forces. The government met this goal within a decade after the signing; however Colom has since raised the cap of troops to 20,000.

Article 35 states the army's role as restricted to external affairs. Presidents Berger and Colom have mobilized the army to support the police in response to a rise in nationwide crime, using a constitutional clause (*Decree No. 40-2000, Art. 4*) as justification.

The corruption in both the police and the military has led to numerous and ongoing human rights violations in Guatemala.