

COUNTRY PROFILE

Ukraine's strategic position between Europe and Eurasia heightens its importance to regional stability and security. Ukraine today finds itself at a crossroad fighting a Russian-backed separatist movement in the East, while pursuing reforms that will bring it closer to Europe. USAID's goal is a stable, democratic, and prosperous Ukraine, and programs primarily focus on good governance, economic growth, strengthened health services and humanitarian assistance. Since 1992, USAID has contributed approximately \$1.9 billion to Ukraine's economic and social development.

STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE

USAID supports more participatory, transparent, and accountable governance processes in Ukraine. Working with the parliament, USAID helps improve the legislative process and increase public engagement and accountability. USAID supports programs that prevent trafficking in persons and help its victims. Programs strengthen the rule of law by improving judicial accountability and independence. USAID also helps build the foundation for power decentralization and local government accountability.

USAID develops the capacity of nongovernmental organizations to monitor the government, protect human rights and as-



U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt and Vice Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Ruslan Koshulynsky greeted interns of the 20 Parliamentary Internship Program. (Photo Credit: USAID FAIR project)

sure that citizens have a voice in government decision making. Training and support for Ukraine's independent media increases journalistic professionalism, news quality and media literacy. Finally, USAID political processes programs help ensure that elections are free and fair, while also working to increase the accountability of political parties and elected officials before their constituents.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since gaining independence 20 years ago from a Soviet planned economy, various inconsistent reforms edged Ukraine toward market-based economic efficiency and a more equitable distribution of public goods. With USAID support, the Government of Ukraine recently achieved several milestones, including the introduction of laws that facilitate business and investment in Ukraine.

USAID is working to build a strong financial sector in Ukraine that is regulated by politically and financially independent entities, supported by industry best practices, integrated with international standards, and trusted by Ukraine's citizens and the investor community.

USAID also promotes effective agricultural and property rights policies, building international market channels and establishing financing mechanisms for small and medium producers. USAID leads efforts to decrease Ukraine's energy dependence and CO₂ emissions by reducing waste in central heating systems. In response to deteriorating public infrastructure and public services, USAID promotes public-private partnerships that attract private capital and incorporate management incentives.

WORKING TOWARD A HEALTHIER UKRAINE

USAID's programs in health focus on improving the availability and effectiveness of health services and ensuring that Ukrainians are better-informed health consumers. USAID efforts increase the Government of Ukraine's capacity to improve the quality of family planning and reproductive health practices. USAID strives to contain the spread of HIV/AIDS and TB by working with the government and civil society organizations and by reaching out to high-risk groups with a comprehensive package of services and education. USAID supports implementation of proven practices in TB control and prevention and works to improve access to TB/HIV co-infection diagnosis and treatment. USAID also works to reduce HIV transmission among most-at-risk-populations by providing quality information and services, building a policy environment that increases access to quality services, and strengthening the capacity of government and NGOs to implement national HIV/AIDS and TB programs.

HUMANITARIAN AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

USAID/OFDA provides life-saving humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and conflict affected vulnerable populations throughout eastern Ukraine and Kyiv Oblast.

USAID/OTI works to address the potentially destabilizing effects of the crisis, such as helping local government and civil society efforts to accommodate and integrate IDPs and providing accurate information through local media.

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