

USAID's Policy Framework and Journey to Self-Reliance Program

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Introduction

Utilizing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Policy Framework and their theory of supporting countries around the world on a "Journey to Self-Reliance", this project looks at how the distribution of USAID funding and the sectoral focuses by region are assisting in that goal. By examining the areas of the world in which USAID invests heavily, a pattern of regional health, security, and governance issues can be determined for further aid and evaluation.

Goals

- To advance country progress
- Focus on countrywide self-reliance
- Map countries progress toward self-reliance
- Transition as countries gain self-reliance

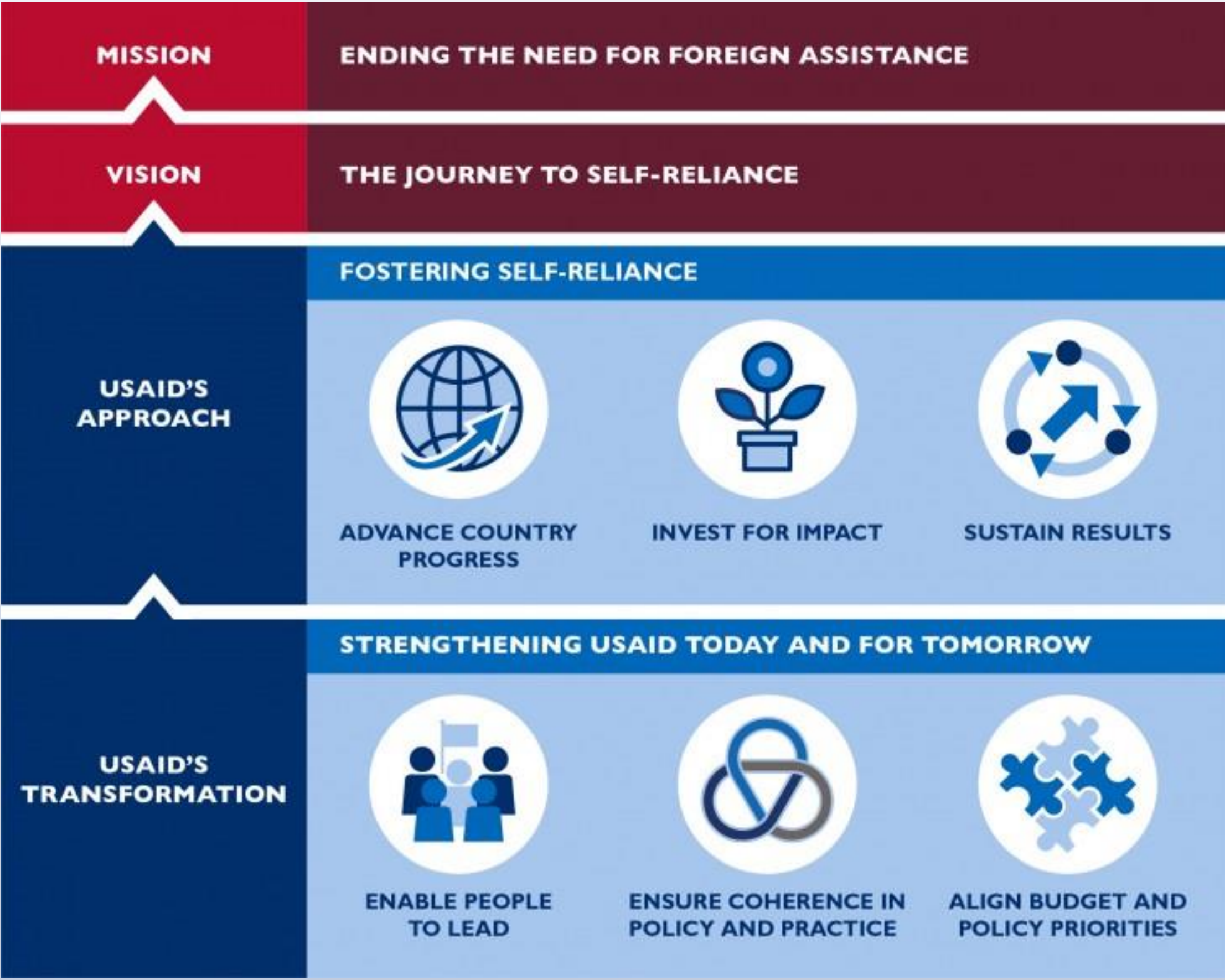
Since the creation of USAID in 1961, their efforts have contributed to increasing international equality and prosperity by reducing extreme poverty, increasing access to education, supporting good governance, and combating conflict and corruption.

Method

To determine the patterns of spending, first data was gathered directly from the USAID data portal. All financial data was gathered for the year 2014. Total spending per country was extracted as well as individual sector spending per country. The sectors of highest interest were Conflict, Peace and Security, Agriculture, Education, Governance and Civil Society, Emergency Response, and Health. The aggregated data was used to generate choropleth and graduated symbol maps in order to visualize the zonal patterns and the intensity of investment in certain countries. The sector data was calculated as a per capita figure to account for investment based on population in each sector. Furthermore USAID documents were reviewed in order to further determine the goals and strategy intended by the organization.

Results

Through careful examination of patters of investment, it is evident that USAID, through their policy framework and mission to promote democratic values and to partner with nations to save lives, strengthen self-reliance, and to end the need for foreign aid, they are strategically implementing programing that addresses these issues head on. With a regional focus on agricultural improvements and basic health initiatives in Africa and with a pattern of support for conflict management and improved governance in the Middle East, USAID is advancing the capacity of partner countries and is protecting American national security by empowering citizens on their journey of self- reliance.



Conclusions

USAID's policy framework and theory of accompaniment on a journey to self-reliance is strategically working to advance the well-being of partner countries through financial and technical support. This is demonstrated through patterns of funding and regional sectoral priorities. USAID is investing in the future by increasing capacity through impact and sustainability of programs.

Sources

USAID. "Fact Sheet: Fiscal Year 2020 Development and Humanitarian Assistance Budget Request | Press Release | U.S. Agency for International Development." . Accessed Dec 8, 2019. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-11-2019-fiscal-year-2020-development-and-humanitarian-assistance-budget>.
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Government and Civil Society

USAID works to build democratic governance and accountable institutions that work for the betterment of each country and the world. As we can see investments in 2014 were focused in regions where instability was threatening and the direct support of democratic processes could lead to greater civic participation, strengthening of civil society, fairer political competition, and overall justice.

Conflict, Peace, and Security

Responding to the needs of the Middle East region, particularly Syria and Afghanistan, USAID provided heavy investments in conflict resolution and peace and security strategies by holistic support of societies, seeing investment in social stability and addressing issues of poverty and poor governance as a means of empowering citizens and strengthening resilience.

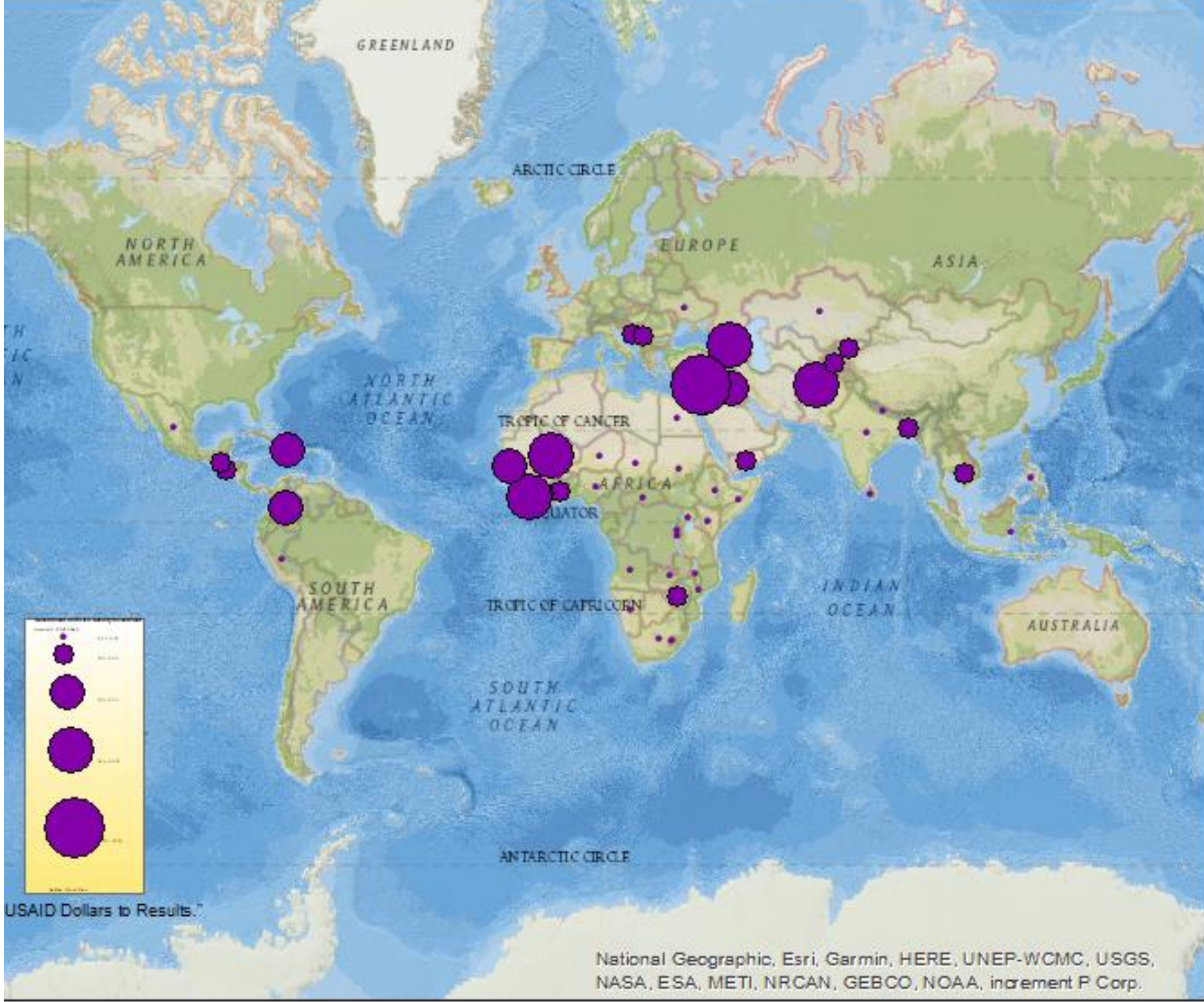
Agriculture

With an intense focus on agriculture in Africa, USAID works to improve standards, practices, and policies that increase access to cross border trade of agricultural products. Directly supporting farmers in improving methods and increasing yields helps not only the individuals but the system as a whole and to better provide for regions suffering from food deficits. Building capacity to withstand emergencies and increasing agricultural outputs is a key factor in promoting self-reliance.

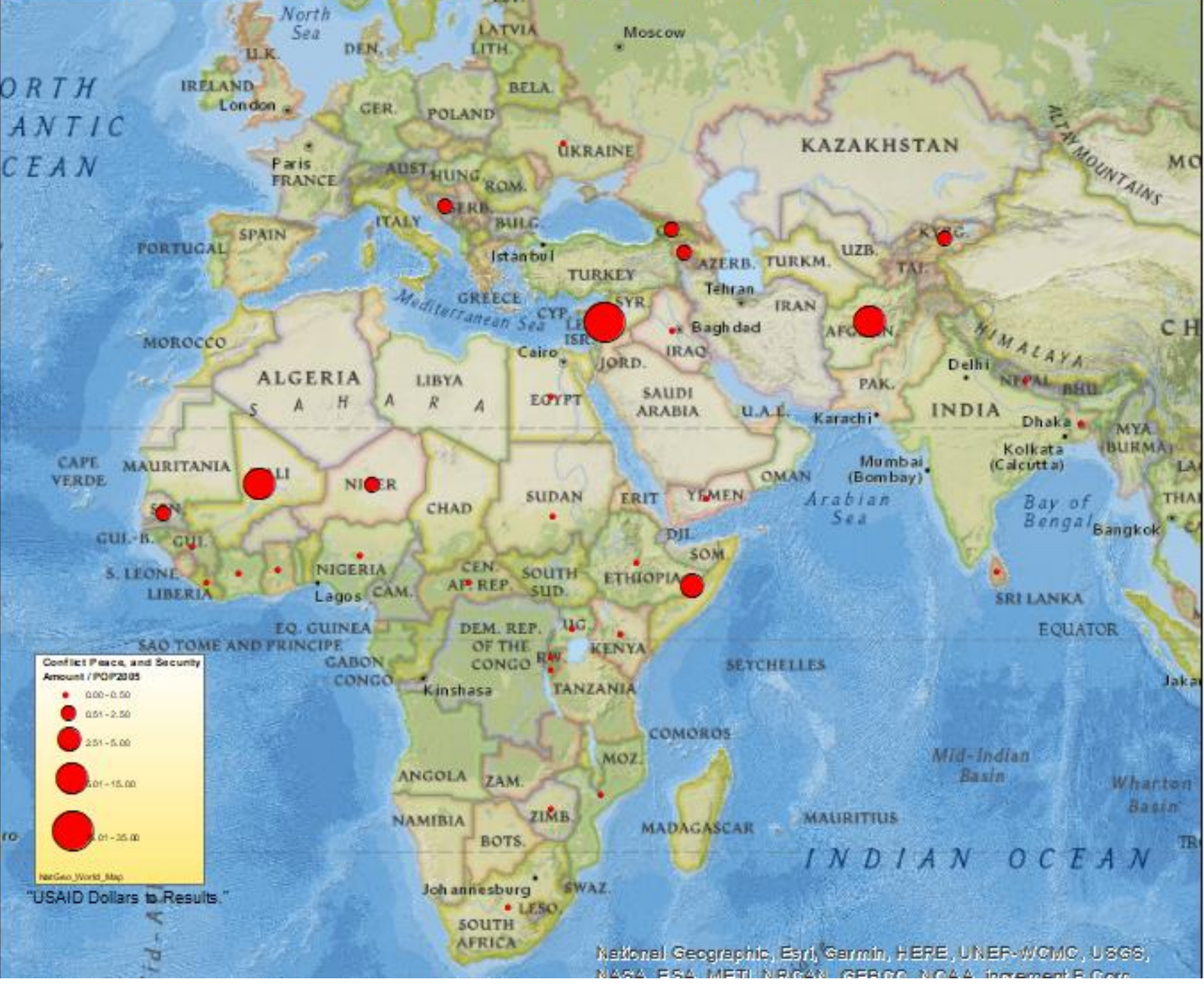
Basic Health

With the goals of improving overall global health, USAID strives to mitigate infectious disease, including pandemic threats such as Ebola, HIV/Aids, common environmentally effected diseases such as Malaria and to increase the uptake of preventative health maintenance. Strong support of women and children in high risk areas helps to increase resilience and the capacity of individuals to lead productive lives. Only with a healthy population can countries become self-reliant and prosperous.

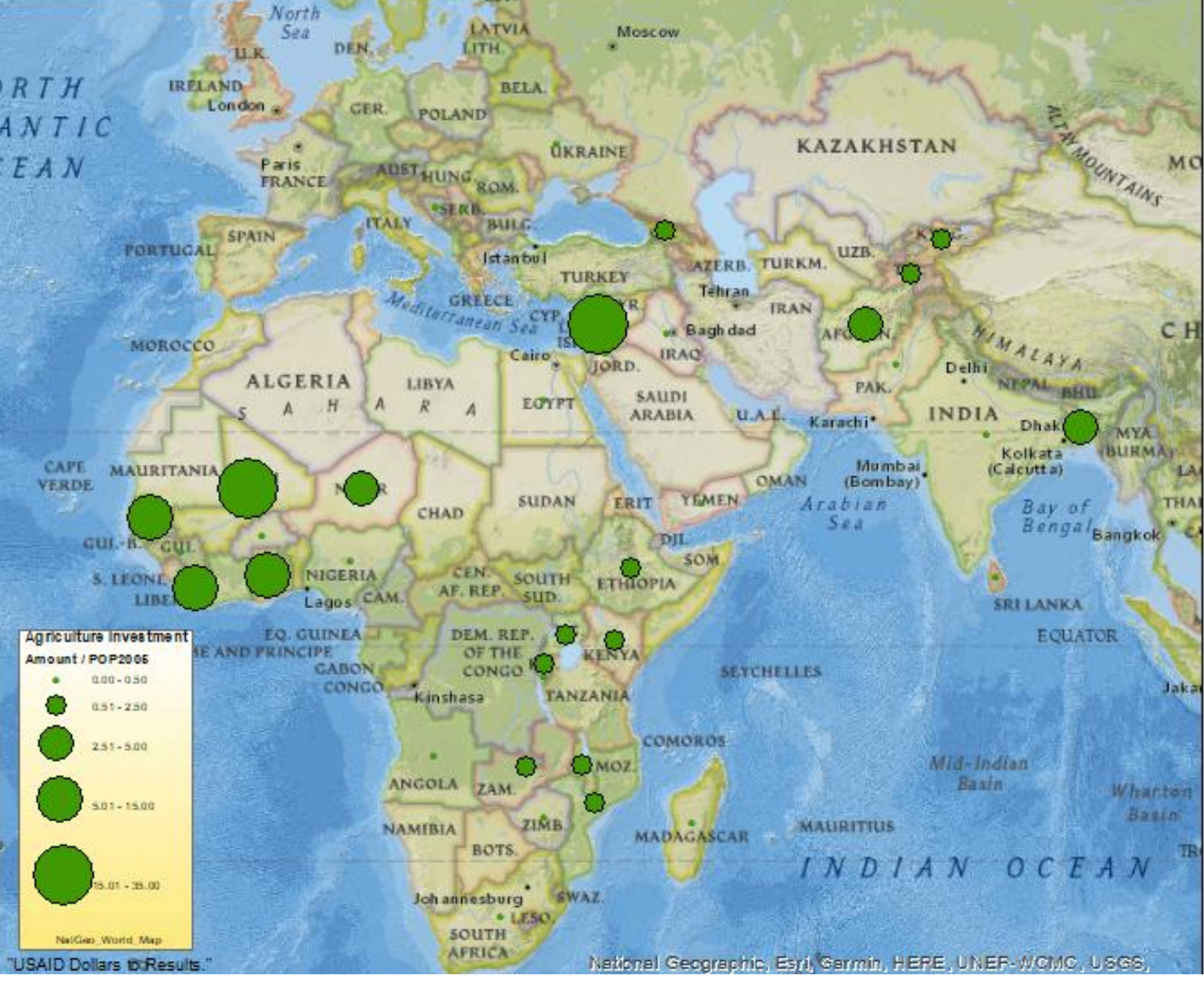
Government and Civil Society Sector Investments per Capita



Conflict, Peace, and Security Sector Investments per Capita



Agriculture Sector Investments per Capita



Basic Health Sector Investments per Capita

