

# Claim

Claim: "E! News reported that the United States Agency Aid and Development (USAID) paid millions for celebrities to visit Ukraine."

## Actions

```
web_search("E! News USAID Ukraine celebrities")
web_search("USAID Ukraine celebrity visits")
```

## Evidence

### Evidence from web\_search

Several sources debunk a video alleging that USAID paid Hollywood celebrities to visit Ukraine. The BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m12wl0jwpo>) and The Hollywood Reporter (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/politics-news/fake-online-usaid-paid-hollywood-stars-debunked-1236129713/>) identified the video as Russian disinformation. The video falsely claimed USAID paid Angelina Jolie, Sean Penn, Jean Claude Van Damme, Orlando Bloom, and Ben Stiller.

Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip, as confirmed by Vanity Fair ([https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/story/ben-stiller-denies-elon-musks-retweet-claiming-usaid-funded-the-stars-trip-to-ukraine?srsId=AfmBOooGw1dpqnug2OYCP6ztL\\_oyb-nbLtgTwlK9XIbCoPDkIdmO6uAz](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/story/ben-stiller-denies-elon-musks-retweet-claiming-usaid-funded-the-stars-trip-to-ukraine?srsId=AfmBOooGw1dpqnug2OYCP6ztL_oyb-nbLtgTwlK9XIbCoPDkIdmO6uAz)). The video was falsely attributed to "eonline.com," which was dismissed by E! News-parent NBCUniversal.

### Evidence from web\_search

The Duke Sanford School of Public Policy published an article discussing claims that USAID paid celebrities to travel to Ukraine ([image:k](#)). The Hollywood Reporter published an article debunking a video that claimed USAID paid Hollywood stars to visit Ukraine. The article was written by Etan Vlessing and published on February 7, 2025. ([image:i](#), [image:j](#)).

## Elaboration

The evidence indicates that the claim is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m12wl0jwpo>) and The Hollywood Reporter (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/politics-news/fake-online-usaid-paid-hollywood-stars-debunked-1236129713/>), debunked a video that falsely alleged USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine.

The video was identified as disinformation, and the claim was falsely attributed to "eonline.com," which was dismissed by E! News-parent NBCUniversal. Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip, as confirmed by Vanity Fair ([https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/story/ben-stiller-denies-elon-musks-retweet-claiming-usaid-funded-the-stars-trip-to-ukraine?srsId=AfmBOooGw1dpqnug2OYCP6ztL\\_oyb-nbLtgTwlK9XIbCoPDkIdmO6uAz](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/story/ben-stiller-denies-elon-musks-retweet-claiming-usaid-funded-the-stars-trip-to-ukraine?srsId=AfmBOooGw1dpqnug2OYCP6ztL_oyb-nbLtgTwlK9XIbCoPDkIdmO6uAz)).

# Final Judgement

The claim that E! News reported USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC and The Hollywood Reporter, debunked a video making this claim, identifying it as disinformation. The video falsely attributed the claim to "eonline.com," and Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip.

false

**Verdict: FALSE**

## Justification

The claim is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m12wl0jwpo>) and The Hollywood Reporter (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/politics-news/fake-online-usaid-paid-hollywood-stars-debunked-1236129713/>), debunked a video that falsely alleged USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine. The video was identified as disinformation, and the claim was falsely attributed to "eonline.com." Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip, as confirmed by Vanity Fair.