

# 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

A video falsely claimed that USAID paid Hollywood celebrities, including Angelina Jolie, Sean Penn, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Orlando Bloom, and Ben Stiller, to visit Ukraine. However, the BBC and The Hollywood Reporter debunked the video, identifying it as a Russian disinformation campaign. Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip. The video was fabricated to appear as though it came from E!.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m12wl0jwpo>, <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/politics-news/fake-online-usaid-paid-hollywood-stars-debunked-1236129713/>, [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).

### Evidence from web\_search

The Duke Sanford School of Public Policy reported on 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. <https://sanford.duke.edu/news/dan-ariely-usaid-didnt-pay-celebrities-travel-ukraine-despite-new-claims/> and <https://www.imdb.com/news/ni65115329/>.

## Elaboration

The evidence indicates that the claim is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC and The Hollywood Reporter, debunked a video that falsely claimed USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine. The video was part of a Russian disinformation campaign. Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip.

## Final Judgement

The claim that E! News reported USAID paid millions for celebrities to visit Ukraine is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC and The Hollywood Reporter, have debunked this claim, identifying it as a Russian disinformation campaign. The evidence shows that the video was fabricated and misrepresented the situation.

false

## **Verdict: FALSE**

### **Justification**

The claim is false. Multiple sources, including the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m12w10jwpo>) and The Hollywood Reporter (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/politics-news/fake-online-usaid-paid-hollywood-stars-debunked-1236129713/>), debunked a video that falsely claimed USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine, identifying it as a Russian disinformation campaign.