

# 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 celebrity Ukraine visit cost")
```

## Evidence

### Evidence from `web_search`

Several news outlets, including BBC News (<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 alleging that USAID paid Hollywood celebrities to visit Ukraine. The video, which has been identified as part of a Russian disinformation campaign, named Angelina Jolie, Sean Penn, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Orlando Bloom, and Ben Stiller as recipients of these payments.

Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip. Vanity Fair ([https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/story/ben-stiller-denies-elon-musks-retweet-claiming-usaid-funded-the-stars-trip-to-ukraine?srltid=AfmBOooGw1dpqnug2OYCP6ztL\\_oynbLtgTwlK9XIbCoPDkIdmO6uAz](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/story/ben-stiller-denies-elon-musks-retweet-claiming-usaid-funded-the-stars-trip-to-ukraine?srltid=AfmBOooGw1dpqnug2OYCP6ztL_oynbLtgTwlK9XIbCoPDkIdmO6uAz)) also reported on the video, confirming that it was fabricated.

### Evidence from `web_search`

From [Source](#): Content: Deadline reported on February 5, 2025, that Ben Stiller denied claims from Russian media alleging that USAID spent \$4 million to send him on a trip to Ukraine. Stiller stated he self-funded his humanitarian trip and received no funding from USAID.



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## Elaboration

The evidence indicates that the claim is false. Multiple sources, including BBC News (<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 alleging that USAID paid celebrities to visit

Ukraine. Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip. The evidence does not mention E! News as a source.

## Final Judgement

The claim that E! News reported USAID paid millions for celebrities to visit Ukraine is false. Multiple sources have debunked the claim, identifying it as part of a disinformation campaign. Furthermore, Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip. The provided evidence does not mention E! News as a source.

false

**Verdict: FALSE**

## Justification

The claim is false. Multiple sources, including BBC News (<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 the allegation that USAID paid celebrities to visit Ukraine, identifying it as part of a disinformation campaign. Ben Stiller denied the claims, stating he self-funded his trip. The evidence does not mention E! News as a source.