**Topic:**

**Partnering to provide responsible, well-targeted development assistance around the world, especially in Southeast Asia and Latin America … how and where should foreign aid be targeted to return the biggest benefits**

**Background:**

Foreign aid and foreign policy are two interchanging terms that are commonly used in governments of either the recipient or donor countries.

Foreign aid is the gratification where the rich nations transfer capital, goods or services to the poor ones for the benefit of both the country and its population [1]. Foreign aid comes in several ways namely: humanitarian foreign aid, subsistence foreign aid, military foreign aid, bribery, prestige foreign aid and foreign aid for economic development. All these varieties of foreign aid share one common characteristic, which is transfer of money, goods and services from one country to another and the only non-political type is humanitarian foreign aid. Recipient countries that have had freak incidents, for example floods, famine and epidemics are grouped into this category. Also, humanitarian aid includes other services such as medicine and agriculture which have been provided in Asia, Africa and Latin America by either churches or foundations [1]. The resources rendered can be in the form of grants or credit.

Looking at the history of foreign aid at the creation of the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act, the favor of non-military aid increased more than military aid which used to take the biggest share of foreign aid programs [1]. After World War II, the United States was channeling a lot of aid to European economies to restore Europe, which was being influenced by the rising Communist political forces on the continent [3]. Then In the 1990s, aid levels were cut to barely 0.8 percent of the overall budget and increased to 1.4 percent in 2007 after the 9/11 attacks. The U.S. always took Latin America aid programs as a top priority. The government has always been improving the living conditions in poorer countries and dedicated to the creation and guidance of economic systems around the world, for example the United States used economic aid to help Latin America develop economic conditions that would differ from the pro-Communist forces [2]. The historical relationship between aid and international power is explained by the study of aid to Latin America. The United States government has been an enforcer of democracy and effective governance to the least developed countries because when human rights are respected then economic development would absolutely occur.

Picard et al. (2007) mentions that “When development and governance fail in a country, the consequences engulf the entire region and leap around the world…. They endanger the security of the well-being of all Americans. ” So, foreign aid lessens the possibilities of a terrorist attack,which explains why global poverty elimination to be a worthwhile effort and this also explains how U.S. foreign aid policy has always been driven by National security concerns thus providing stability, democracy in conflicted regions [3].

Foreign aid achieves its objectives through a wide range of different programs. As McBride (2018) mentions, foreign aid spending in 2015 was broken down into following categories namely as follows: first, 38 percent allocated to long-term development which promoted economic growth development in the least developed countries amongst which half of this percentage was allocated HIV/AIDS and family health, second 35 percent was spent on military and security aid helping U.S allies purchase military hardware, military training of their personnel and supporting peacekeeping operations, third 16 percent spent on humanitarian aid, and fourth 11 percent spend on political aid promoting governance and justice systems reforms. U.S. foreign aid assistance is managed through a number of federal agencies which either fund or implement aid policies. Through the strategic guidance of the National Security, State Department and the president, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), created by the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act is the main aid organization that conducts the magnitude of humanitarian and economic development aid [3]. All the military aid is channeled through both the Department of Defense and the State Department.

The United States uses foreign aid to support its interests abroad, especially those interests which can not be secured by military means [1].

**Questions:**

1. The effects of Foreign aid on economic development.
2. What results are they achieving?
3. Does Foreign aid influence economic growth?
4. Is economic growth influenced by institutional, political, social and geographic factors? - New Tools
5. How is the global development aid monitored? Reference is below <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-022-00874-z>
6. How is Foreign aid influencing financial inclusion in South East Asia?
7. What are the main indicators that influence a country’s economic development in South East Asia? In knowing these indicators, that is where aid should be allocated.

**Reference** is below:

https://www.shs-conferences.org/articles/shsconf/pdf/2021/21/shsconf\_icemt2021\_02006.pdf

1. How has humanitarian aid improved primary health care in South East Asia?

**Reference paper:** <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9008259/>

1. Imigration: where are people migrating to
2. What diseases are affecting South East Asia?

Reference paper: https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/article/applications-of-machine-learning-techniques-to-predict-filariasis-using-socioeconomic-factors/61786B469CCCF578C24E106F42813FE2

**Data Sources:**

Journal Article with data set - https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0254894

<https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faoweb/statistics/SDG/October_2022/FAO_SDG_indicators_October_2022.xlsx>

**Bibliography**:

1. *Morgenthau, H. (1962). A political theory of foreign aid. American political science review, 56(2), 301-309.*
2. *Picard, L. A., Groelsema, R., & Buss, T. F. (Eds.). (2007). Foreign Aid and Foreign Policy. ME Sharpe.*
3. *McBride, J. (2018). How Does the US Spend Its Foreign Aid?. Council on Foreign Relations, 1.*