

Visualization 2

Your average US citizen that reads an article detailing the U.S.'s foreign assistance spending is limited on two fronts; both the reader and author tend to frame spending in terms of the alternative for the U.S. For example, a US \$1 Million aid program could fund the police force in X town for Y years. While this perspective is intrinsically important, it unfortunately ignores the impact this outlay has on the recipient nation. The best example of this is Niger, where US foreign assistance accounts for nearly 3.5% of the country's annual GDP. An example is helpful to illustrate this point and place this in perspective for US readers. 3.5% of US GDP is \$752.5 million, certainly a large enough amount to fund impactful public programs. While the nominal value is certainly not the same for a country like Niger, the relative impact is the same. For the relatively small amount of our budget that is spent on foreign assistance, the positive impact we have on poor nations is outsized relative to foregone domestic spending.