View the following TED Talk by Manu Prakash: <u>Lifesaving scientific tools made of paper</u>.

- To what degree should resources such as science and money be focused on solving problems in developing countries? What do you think about the current balance of resources on domestic versus foreign issues?

According to the nonpartisan think tank Brookings Institution, foreign assistance is less than 2% of the federal budget and while the U.S. provides more assistance than any other countries; in term of percentage of GDP, ranks at the bottom of the wealthy countries [1].

Resource allocation between developed and developing countries should not be viewed as an either/or scenario.

Today we are living in a global world, where people, economies, and cultures are interconnected and challenges in one part of the world can reverberate across borders, as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the exchange of knowledge and expertise between countries enriches societies and enables individuals to address challenges in their home countries more effectively.

Additionally, investing in healthcare and scientific advancements in developing nations is not merely an altruistic decision. These countries offer significant untapped business opportunities due to their large populations and potential for growth. For example, the development and distribution of cost-effective vaccines in such regions can not only save millions of lives but also generates substantial revenues.

As these developing economies grow stronger and standards of living improve, they become major players in the global marketplace. Skilled labor pools and increased financial resources in these countries can fuel innovation, and drive demand for more advanced products and services over time.

Therefore, it is important to strike a balance between addressing domestic issues and supporting development efforts in developing countries, recognizing the mutual benefits that such investments can yield.

[1]: [Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget](#)