

During the past decade, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has significantly increased its commitment to peacebuilding in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). In 2011, USAID's total commitment to SSA was approximately \$1.2 billion, which grew to over \$2 billion by 2019. This increase reflects a growing recognition of the importance of peacebuilding in achieving sustainable development and stability in the region.

One of the key drivers of this growth has been the increasing focus on conflict prevention and resolution. USAID has supported a wide range of initiatives, including community dialogues, mediation efforts, and the establishment of local peace committees. These efforts have helped to reduce the number of conflict-related deaths and injuries in several countries, and have laid the foundation for more inclusive and resilient societies.

However, there are still significant challenges ahead. Many countries in SSA continue to face high levels of poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, which are all factors that can contribute to conflict. In addition, the region is still recovering from the devastating impact of the Ebola virus disease outbreak, which has left millions of people in need of support and assistance.

To address these challenges, USAID and other international partners must continue to work closely with local governments and civil society organizations. This includes providing technical assistance, funding for peacebuilding programs, and supporting the development of strong, transparent institutions. Only through a sustained and coordinated effort can we hope to achieve lasting peace and prosperity in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to promoting peace and stability in sub-Saharan Africa. We believe that local voices and leadership are essential for building a more peaceful and prosperous future for the region.

For more information, please visit our website at www.southernvoices.org.

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