



Americans on Foreign Aid and World Hunger
A Study of U.S. Public Attitudes
(Feb. 2nd, 2001)

Dates of Survey: November 1-6, 2000 Margin of Error: Full Sample +/- 3.3%
Sample Size: 901 Respondents 2/3 Sample +/- 4%

Results (including demographics) are weighted to the Bureau of the Census's Current Population Study for education level and age.

1. Gender (Recorded by observation)

Male	48.2%
Female	51.8

2. What is your feeling about how things are going with the economy in the US? Overall, would you say the economy is getting better, getting worse, or is staying about the same?

Getting better	29.4%
Getting worse	19.6
Staying about the same	49.0
Don't Know	1.9

Refused	.1
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[2/3 SAMPLE]

3. I would like to ask your views on foreign aid, the assistance that the United States gives to other countries. How would you say you feel toward foreign aid on a scale of 0-10, with 0 being very bad, 10 being very good, and 5 being neutral?

0-4	31.4%
5	35.3
6-10	31.0
Don't know	1.9

Refused	.4
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Mean	4.90
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4. How would you say the average American feels toward foreign aid on the same scale of 0-10?

0-4	39.5%
5	38.2
6-10	13.8
Don't know	7.1

Refused 1.4

Mean 4.36

5. Do you feel the amount the US spends on foreign aid is too much, too little, or about right?

Too much	61.47%
Too little	6.8
About right	25.8
Don't Know	5.6
Refused	.4

[IF ANSWERED "TOO MUCH" IN Q5; n=354]

6. Does this mean you want to cut foreign aid?

	Total	% of Q5 respondents
Yes	65.2%	40.1%
No	32.4	19.9
Don't Know	2.2	.2
Refused	.1	-

[IF ANSWERED "YES" IN Q6; n=231]

7. Would you like to cut foreign aid a little, somewhat, a lot, or eliminate it entirely?

	Total	% of Q5 respondents
A little	19.1%	7.7%
Somewhat	35.0	14.0
A lot	35.1	14.1
Eliminate it entirely	10.8	4.3
Don't Know	-	-
Refused	-	-

8. Just based on what you know, please tell me your hunch about what percentage of the federal budget goes to foreign aid. You can answer in fractions of percentage points as well as whole percentage points.

Median	20.0%
Mean	24.0%

9. What do you think would be an appropriate percentage of the federal budget to go to foreign aid, if any?

Median	10.0%
Mean	13.8%
Response of "zero"	4.3

10. Now, imagine that you found out that the US spends 1% of the federal budget on foreign aid. Would you feel that this is too little, too much or about right? [IF TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE, ASK:] Would that be a bit too (much/little) or way too (much/little)?

Way too little	13.2%
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A bit too little	24.1
About right	43.5
A bit too much	8.4
Way too much	4.9
Don't Know	5.2
Refused	.6
<i>Total too little</i>	37.4
<i>About Right</i>	43.5
<i>Total too much</i>	13.3

[2/3 SAMPLE, HALF OF WHICH DID NOT HEAR Q3-7]

11. I would like to ask your views on the US government working to reduce hunger in poor countries. How would you say you feel about this on a scale of 0-10, with 0 being very bad, 10 being very good, and 5 being neutral?

0-4	23.6%
5	41.8
6-10	30.3
Don't know	3.7
Refused	.7
Mean	5.17

12. Do you feel the amount the US spends on efforts to reduce hunger in poor countries is too much, too little, or about right?

Too much	22.9
Too little	29.8
About the right amount	40.6
Don't Know	6.7
Refused	-

[IF ANSWERED "YES" IN Q12; n=146]

13. Does this mean you want to cut the amount spent on these efforts?

	Total	% of Q12 respondents
Yes	87.2%	20.0%
No	10.9	2.5
Don't Know	1.3	-
Refused	.6	-

[IF ANSWERED "YES" IN Q13; n=127]

14. Would you like to cut the amount a little, somewhat, a lot, or eliminate it entirely?

	Total	% of Q12 respondents
A little	31.0%	6.2%
Somewhat	30.5	6.1
A lot	17.1	3.4
Eliminate it entirely	21.4	4.3

Don't Know	-	-
Refused	-	-

[2/3 SAMPLE]

Statement: As I read some types of foreign aid, tell me whether you favor or oppose them....

[Q15-16 Rotated]

15. Food and medical assistance to people in needy countries.

Favor	86.6%
Oppose	11.6
Don't Know	1.7
Refused	.1

16. Aid that helps needy countries develop their economies

Favor	73.2
Oppose	25.0
Don't Know	1.7
Refused	.1

[For Q17-21, whether pro or con comes first is randomized. Pros and cons alternate. One-third sample hears 2 pros and 2 cons; the other third hears 2 pros and 3 cons.]

Statement: Now, I am going to read you a number of points of view on the subject of foreign aid. As I read each one please say whether you agree or disagree with it. [AFTER EACH, PROMPT:] Do you agree or disagree? [IF AGREE OR DISAGREE, ASK:] Would that be strongly or somewhat?

17. The United States should be willing to share at least a small portion of its wealth with those in the world who are in great need.

Agree strongly	34.8%
Agree somewhat	44.1
Disagree somewhat	11.8
Disagree strongly	8.9
Don't Know	.3
Refused	-

Total Agree 78.9

Total Disagree 20.7

18. The world economy is so interconnected today, that in the long run, helping third world countries to develop is in the economic interest of the US. Many of these countries will become trading partners that buy our exports, so eventually our aid will pay off economically.

Agree strongly	28.6%
Agree somewhat	36.0
Disagree somewhat	16.9

Disagree strongly	14.6
Don't Know	3.9
Refused	-

<i>Total Agree</i>	64.5
<i>Total Disagree</i>	31.5

19. Helping people in foreign countries is not the proper role for the US government. This should be strictly a private matter taken care of by individuals giving donations through private organizations.

Agree strongly	19.7%
Agree somewhat	23.4
Disagree somewhat	31.0
Disagree strongly	23.4
Don't Know	2.3
Refused	.2

<i>Total Agree</i>	43.1
<i>Total Disagree</i>	54.4

20. Taking care of problems at home is more important than giving aid to foreign countries.

Agree strongly	65.1%
Agree somewhat	19.3
Disagree somewhat	10.7
Disagree strongly	3.2
Don't Know	1.3
Refused	.4

<i>Total Agree</i>	84.3
<i>Total Disagree</i>	13.9

21. Too much US foreign aid goes to governments that are not very democratic and have poor human rights records. This is not consistent with American principles.

Agree strongly	49.0%
Agree somewhat	28.3
Disagree somewhat	12.0
Disagree strongly	5.7
Don't Know	4.8
Refused	.1

<i>Total Agree</i>	77.4
<i>Total Disagree</i>	17.7

22. Please tell me which of the following two statements comes closer to your point of view?
[random alternate order]

A. We should only send aid to parts of the world where the US has security interests.

B. When hunger is a major problem in some part of the world we should send aid whether or not the US has a security interest in that region.

Statement A	33.8%
Statement B	62.5
Don't Know	2.6
Refused	1.0

23. I'd like to know your best guess. Of all the aid given by wealthy countries to poor countries to help them develop their economies, what percentage do you think is given by the US?

Median	33.0%
Mean	36.8%

24. What percentage do you think the US should give?

Median	20.0%
Mean	25.6%

25. When it comes to addressing the problem of hunger, there is a debate about whether the US should just provide food or if it also should help poor countries develop their economies. Here are two statements on the issue. Please tell me which you agree with more:

A. It is important to help poor countries develop their economies so that they can become more self-sufficient.

B. Helping poor countries develop their economies is too complicated and we cannot really tell if it is doing much good.

Statement A	71.4%
Statement B	25.7
Don't Know	2.2
Refused	.7

[FULL SAMPLE]

26. Please tell me your best guess. What percentage of US aid money that goes to poor countries ends up helping the people who really need it?

Median	10.0%
Mean	23.1%

[HALF SAMPLE]

27. Some of the US aid money that goes to poor countries is spent through private charitable organizations such as Care or Save the Children, who then use it to directly help people in those countries. In these cases, what is your best guess about what percentage of US aid money ends up helping the people who really need it?

Median	30.0%
Mean	37.4%

28. Some of the US aid money that goes to poor countries is spent through religious charities

such as Catholic Relief Services or Church World Service, who then use it to directly help people in those countries. In these cases, what is your best guess about what percentage of US aid money ends up helping the people who really need it?

Median	30.0%
Mean	37.0%

[2/3 SAMPLE]

29. Which statement do you agree with more? [random alternate order]

A. When the US gives aid to a country it is generally best for the aid to go directly to the government, because then the US is more likely to increase its ability to influence the government of that country.

B. When the US gives aid to a country it is generally best to work through programs that directly help the people who really need it, because then it is less likely to end up in the pockets of corrupt government officials there.

Statement A	15.8%
Statement B	81.1
Don't Know	3.1
Refused	.1

Statement: Here is a list of reasons for giving aid to other countries. For each one please tell me how good a reason it is for giving aid on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning a very bad reason, 10 meaning a very good reason, and 5 being neutral.

[Q30-35 Random Order]

30. To increase US influence over other countries.

0-4	38.5%
5	36.2
6-10	22.8
Don't know	2.1
Refused	.5

Mean	4.40
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31. To get countries to give the US access to regions where we have strategic interests.

0-4	21.0%
5	28.5
6-10	47.5
Don't know	2.9
Refused	.2
Mean	5.79

32. To discourage countries from trying to develop nuclear weapons.

0-4	29.5%
5	16.6
6-10	50.8
Don't know	2.6

Refused	.4
Mean	5.98

33. To help newly democratic countries develop their democratic institutions.

0-4	21.9%
5	33.2
6-10	41.7
Don't know	2.8
Refused	.3
Mean	5.52

34. To alleviate hunger and disease in poor countries.

0-4	8.9%
5	11.9
6-10	77.4
Don't know	1.2
Refused	.5
Mean	7.71

35. To help poor countries develop their economies.

0-4	16.2%
5	23.5
6-10	58.5
Don't know	.8
Refused	1.0
Mean	6.42

36. Is it your overall impression that over the last few decades the number of people in the world who do not have enough to eat has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

Increased	59.2%
Decreased	10.5
Stayed about the same	28.7
Don't Know	1.3
Refused	.3

37. If you had to choose which countries should get US aid, which of these would you select as the most important? [random order]

Countries with the poorest economies	58.9%
Countries needed by the US as trade partners	12.9
Countries important to US security	22.6
Don't Know	4.5
Refused	1.2

38. I'd like you to think about your tax dollars that go to help poor people at home and abroad. Of this total amount, what percentage of it do you think should go to help poor people in other countries?

Median	10.0%
Mean	15.6%

[HALF SAMPLE]

Statement: Now I'm going to read you a list of different forms of giving foreign aid. For each one, please tell me how you feel about it on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being very bad, 10 being very good, and 5 being neutral.

39. US foreign aid programs that work through private charitable organizations, such as Care or Save The Children, to help people in poor countries.

0-4	9.9%
5	30.4
6-10	58.0
Don't know	1.5
Refused	.2
Mean	6.65

40. US foreign aid programs that work through religious charities, such as Catholic Relief Services or World Church Service, to help people in poor countries.

0-4	15.3%
5	28.5
6-10	54.2
Don't know	2.0
Refused	-
Mean	6.53

[2/3 SAMPLE]

[For Q41-50, random order]

41. The Peace Corps.

0-4	9.4%
5	23.6
6-10	63.6
Don't know	2.5
Refused	.9
Mean	7.07

42. Education and training for people in poor countries.

0-4	13.8%
5	17.1
6-10	67.0
Don't know	1.0
Refused	1.0
Mean	7.04

43. Aid to Israel and Egypt, which includes military and economic aid.

0-4	40.2%
5	30.8
6-10	26.9
Don't know	1.5
Refused	.6
Mean	4.45

44. Military aid, which provide weapons and materiel to countries that are friendly to the US.

0-4	41.9%
5	28.1
6-10	25.1
Don't know	1.8
Refused	3.1
Mean	4.26

45. Child survival programs, which includes prenatal care, immunizations and nutrition.

0-4	9.2%
5	11.9
6-10	76.0
Don't know	1.1
Refused	1.8
Mean	7.66

46. Making very small loans to people in poor villages so they can start small businesses there.

0-4	28.4%
5	22.5
6-10	45.7
Don't know	1.7
Refused	1.6
Mean	5.59

47. Programs that focus on helping women and girls in poor countries.

0-4	13.2%
5	23.3
6-10	60.8
Don't know	.6
Refused	2.1
Mean	6.81

48. Military aid to Colombia to help them fight drug traffickers.

0-4	35.8%
5	18.6
6-10	42.4
Don't know	1.2
Refused	2.0
Mean	5.32

49. Giving aid to farmers in Colombia to help them convert from producing drugs to producing normal crops.

0-4	29.8%
5	20.5
6-10	47.1
Don't know	1.0
Refused	1.7
Mean	5.64

50. Promoting democracy by helping organize and monitor elections.

0-4	26.4%
5	27.9
6-10	40.8
Don't know	3.6
Refused	1.3
Mean	5.52

[FULL SAMPLE]

51. Please tell me your best guess. What percentage of US aid money that goes to poor countries ends up in the pockets of corrupt government officials there?

Median	50.0%
Mean	53.8%

[2/3 SAMPLE]

[For Q52-57, whether pro or con comes first is randomized. Pros and cons are alternated. Each respondent hears 2 pros and 2 cons.]

Statement: The OECD, which is a group of all the major industrialized countries -- primarily the US, Europe and Japan -- has proposed a goal of cutting hunger in half by the year 2015. Some people have proposed that these countries should commit to a joint plan for achieving this goal. I would like you to consider some points of view on this proposal. For each one please tell me if you find it convincing or unconvincing.

52. Given the high level of wealth in the industrialized countries, we have a moral

responsibility to share some of this wealth to reduce hunger in the world.

Convincing	68.7%
Unconvincing	29.2
Don't Know	1.8
Refused	.3

53. Because the world is so interconnected today, reducing hunger in the world ultimately serves US interests. It creates more political stability, and by promoting economic growth helps create more markets for US exports.

Convincing	64.4%
Unconvincing	32.7
Don't Know	2.3
Refused	.6

54. The industrialized countries have huge economies and tremendous resources. If they would all chip in, hunger could be cut in half at an affordable cost.

Convincing	74.8%
Unconvincing	22.6
Don't Know	2.1
Refused	.5

55. It is not the responsibility of countries like the US to take care of the hungry in other parts of the world; that is the responsibility of their governments.

Convincing	45.3%
Unconvincing	52.0
Don't Know	2.3
Refused	.4

56. It is unrealistic to try to cut world hunger in half. It would cost more money than people in the industrialized countries would be willing to pay.

Convincing	41.7%
Unconvincing	52.8
Don't Know	5.1
Refused	.3

57. The causes of hunger in other countries are complex and poorly understood. It is naive to think that outsiders can really make a serious difference by throwing money at the problem.

Convincing	41.0%
Unconvincing	55.3
Don't Know	3.5
Refused	.2

[FULL SAMPLE]

58. So, having heard all these points of view, do you think that, if the other industrialized countries are willing to do their share, the US should or should not be willing to commit to a joint plan for cutting world hunger in half by the year 2015?

Yes, should be willing	83.3
No, should not be willing	13.3
Don't Know	3.2
Refused	.3

[Note: This series, Q59-64, was asked to 1/3 sample near the beginning of the survey and to 2/3 sample in this location to test for information effects. The responses have been combined here, as the difference between the responses for Q59 and its earlier iteration was not statistically significant.]

59. I would like to know your best guess. Imagine the industrialized countries DID contribute on an equal basis to a plan to cut world hunger in half. How many dollars in taxes do you think the average American would have to pay each year to do this?

Median	\$50.00
Mean	\$558.41

[IF GAVE AN ANSWER OTHER THAN ZERO IN Q59; n=547]

60. If the other industrialized countries would do their share, would you be willing to have your taxes go up that much for a plan to cut world hunger in half?

Yes	68.9%
No	29.2
Don't Know	1.9
Refused	-

[IF DID NOT ANSWER OR ANSWERED ZERO IN Q59, OR IF "NO" OR "DON'T KNOW" IN Q60; n=479]

61. How much, if any, would you be willing to have your taxes go up for this purpose?

Median	\$0.00
Mean	\$37.27

[IF "YES" IN Q60, OR GAVE AN ANSWER OTHER THAN ZERO IN Q61; n=554]

62. Please tell me your best guess. Do you think the average American would be willing to have their taxes go up that much?

Yes	32.4%
No	65.2
Don't Know	2.4
Refused	-

[FULL SAMPLE]

63. If the US were willing to do its share as part of such an international plan to cut world hunger in half, do you think the European countries would be willing to do their share?

Yes, willing	44.2%
No, not willing	47.1
Don't Know	8.3
Refused	.3

[IF ANSWERED "YES" OR "NO" IN Q63; n=559]

64. What about Japan? [IF NECESSARY, PROMPT:] Do you think Japan would be willing to do its

share as part of an international plan to cut world hunger in half?

Yes, willing	43.4%
No, not willing	48.4
Don't Know	7.9
Refused	.2

[2/3 SAMPLE]

Statement: There is a controversy about the US foreign aid that goes to Africa. Here are some points of view on this subject. For each one, please tell me whether you find it convincing or unconvincing.

[For Q65-68, whether respondent hears pro or con first is randomized. Pros and cons alternate]

65. Africa is the continent with the highest percentage of undernourished people and where hunger is growing the fastest. Therefore the US should pay special attention to the problem of hunger in Africa.

Convincing	72.1%
Unconvincing	26.4
Don't Know	1.0
Refused	.6

66. Africa has the potential to become a significant market for US trade. Therefore the US should make an effort to help Africa get on its feet.

Convincing	65.1%
Unconvincing	31.8
Don't Know	2.5
Refused	.6

67. The corruption in the governments of African countries is so widespread that US aid does little good there. The US should stop throwing good money after bad.

Convincing	53.4%
Unconvincing	41.1
Don't Know	3.1
Refused	2.4

68. The US has no vital interests in Africa. Therefore the US should make Africa a lower priority when deciding where to distribute its aid.

Convincing	23.9%
Unconvincing	70.4
Don't Know	5.0
Refused	.7

[FULL SAMPLE]

[Note: Q69 was asked of 1/3 sample prior to the Africa pros and cons; 2/3 heard it afterward to test for information effects. Because the difference in results were not statistically significant, both questions have been combined here.]

69. So, in conclusion, do you think US aid to Africa should be increased, cut, or kept about the same?

Increased	31.3%
Cut	12.2
Kept about the same	49.5
Don't Know	6.5
Refused	.5

[2/3 SAMPLE]

70. I'm going to read you two statements. Please tell me which one you agree with more.

[random alternate order]

A. When giving foreign aid, it is best for the US to participate in international efforts, such as through the UN. This way it is more likely that other countries will do their fair share and that these efforts will be better coordinated.

B. When giving foreign aid it is best for the US to do so on its own because that way the US has more control over how the money is spent and will get more credit and influence in the country receiving the aid.

Statement A	57.3%
Statement B	39.3
Don't Know	2.6
Refused	.8

71. Currently there is a debate about how best to approach helping countries that are at risk for humanitarian disasters. Please tell me which statement you agree with more: [random alternate order]

A. Rather than simply responding to disasters, the US should work to help strengthen the economies of poor countries so that they will be in a better position to cope when disaster strikes.

B. Trying to help poor countries develop their economies is a bottomless pit and often ends up just enriching corrupt government officials.

Statement A	57.8%
Statement B	39.2
Don't Know	2.4
Refused	.5

72. Some people who study economic development say that aid programs should put special emphasis on helping women, because they are more apt to share the benefits with children and other family members, and because when women are more economically secure they tend to have fewer children. Others argue that it is not right to emphasize women because it discriminates against men and it might interfere with the prevailing culture in those countries. Do you think that it seems like a good idea or not a good idea for aid programs to put special emphasis on helping women?

Good idea	66.0%
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Bad idea	29.9
Don't Know	2.5
Refused	1.6

73. Finally, just a few questions for statistical purposes. In politics today, do you think of yourself as:

Strongly Republican	19.8%
Leaning toward Republican	11.5
Leaning toward Democrat	9.9
Strongly Democrat	24.2
Independent	23.1
Other	7.8
Don't Know	1.3
Refused	2.4
Total Republican	31.3%
Independent	23.1
Total Democratic	34.1

74. In what year were you born? (age calculated)

18-29	22.5%
30-39	21.1
40-49	20.7
50-59	14.3
60-69	9.8
70 and over	11.7

75. What is the highest level of education that you have had:

Less than high school	17.1%
High school graduate	32.5
Some college	26.1
4 year college degree	15.5
Advanced degree	7.0
Don't Know	.2
Refused	1.6

76. Are you married, divorced, separated, widowed or have you never been married?

Married	54.2%
Divorced	14.8
Separated	2.1
Widowed	6.3
Never Married	19.6
Live together, unmarried (vol)	1.1
Refused	1.9

77. Do you have any children who are under 18 years of age?

Yes	40.8%
No	57.6
Refused	1.7

78. What ethnic group do you consider yourself to be part of? [IF UNCLEAR:] Would that be White, African American, Hispanic, or another group?

White/Caucasian	78.4
Black/ African American	8.0
Hispanic/Latino	3.7
Other	6.5
Don't Know	.2
Refused	3.2

79. Please tell me which of the following best describes your total household income for last year.

Below \$15,000	14.7%
Between \$15,000 and \$30,000	21.5
Between \$30,000 and \$50,000	26.3
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	15.2
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	6.1
More than \$100,000	6.2
Don't Know	1.7
Refused	8.3

Addendum-Omnibus Question

Dates of Survey: November 16-19, 2000

Sample Size: 1023 Respondents

Margin of Error: +/- 3%

Q. The OECD, which is a group of all the major industrialized countries - primarily the US, Europe and Japan - have proposed a plan for cutting hunger in the world in half by the year 2015. Assuming that this plan would cost the average taxpayer in the industrialized countries \$50 a year, and that people in the other countries, as well as the US, were willing to pay their share, would you be willing to pay \$50 a year to cut world hunger in half?

Yes	75%
No	19
Don't Know	5
Refused	1