02/03/2020

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Management, Office of Management Services, Information and Records Division 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20523-2701 Room 2.7C RRB (202) 712-0960

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Considering that transparency of public financial management is guarantee of institutional stability and that constant civic vigilance is essential to establish and maintain public confidence in government, whose policies and resolutions are subjected to the law and democratic values, we are addressing your office with this letter.

The present letter constitutes a formal request under the Federal Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Pursuant to the FOIA, in which I request access to and copies of:

1. The Development Objective Agreement in detail (DOAG) signed between USAID administrator Mark Green and Venezuelan Ambassador to the United States, Carlos Vecchio on October 8, 2019. According to news releases:

https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/oct-7-2019-administrator-green-and-honorable-carlos-vecchio-ambassador-venezuela-bilateral-agreement

In addition, and under Public Law 109 - 282 - Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, and considering that the USAID has committed more than \$277 million Outside Venezuela and more than \$158 million Inside Venezuela to support Venezuelan <u>Human Rights defenders, civil society organizations, independent media, and electoral oversight,</u> I request a detailed list of all "humanitarian partners" referenced in the following press releases and notes:

- https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-7-2019-us-airlifts-additional-humanitarian-assistance-cucuta-help-venezuelans (regional humanitarian partners)
- https://www.usaid.gov/venezuela/usaid-in-venezuela-faqs
- https://www.usaid.gov/crisis/venezuela-regional (international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local NGOs)

The main purpose of this request is to make sure incoming aid is not diverted for corrupt purposes. Taxpayer funds are in play; therefore, we are verifying aid is going to legitimate recipients. In this manner, our request is built on the following facts:

- 1. Growing number of corruption scandals and allegations related to embezzlement and mismanagement of the humanitarian aid to assist Venezuelans inside and outside Venezuela.
- 2. The absence of a detailed report identifying both fiscal and physical addresses, as well as registration numbers, board of directors, and effective contact information of each entity that USAID supports for development of assistance programs in Venezuela mentioned and underlined in the paragraph above.

- 3. The absence of a public, periodic, and detailed asset management accountability by entities that USAID has identified as regional humanitarian partners.
- 4. The absence of certified independent audits of each entity that USAID has identified as regional humanitarian partner.

Note that none of these points are reflected in detail on the USAID fact sheets.

Therefore, the requested records must contain:

- Complete identification and description of entities receiving the Humanitarian Aid. (Fiscal and physical addresses, registration numbers, board of directors, and effective contact information)
- The amount of the Humanitarian Aid for each entity (Public and Private)
- The Information on the Humanitarian Aid including transaction type, funding agency, and other sources.
- A unique identifier of the entity receiving the Humanitarian Aid; and
- Names and compensation of highly compensated officers.

I request these records in both electronic and paper format.

I fit in the "all others" category of stablished fees and I'm willing to pay up to US\$100.00 for this request.

Considering this information if of high public interest, the above-mentioned documents are being requested based on my interest as a private Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States of America.

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all such denials by reference to specific exemptions, and provide an explanation of why USAID "reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest" protected by that exemption or why "disclosure is prohibited by law[.]" 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8). Please also ensure that all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material are released.

Shall you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me at:

I look forward to your determination within 20 working days as is required by law.

Sincerely,

Filipp A. Rodríguez