President Bush Signs Law Creating PEPFAR - May 2003
President Bush proposes the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in January 2003, and it is signed into law in May. The creation of PEPFAR marks a significant increase in funding to combat global HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria and prioritizes a data-driven approach, sustainability, and engagement with those most impacted.

President Bush Fulfills Pledge to Create Millennium Challenge Corporation - Jan. 2004
The MCC is created with strong bipartisan support as an innovative and independent U.S. foreign aid agency focused on competitive selection of partner countries that are committed to good governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizens, and are prioritizing country ownership and results.

President Bush Launches President’s Malaria Initiative - June 2005
President Bush launches PMI, a multi-agency collaboration led by USAID. A new type of initiative, PMI prioritizes leveraging partnerships, transparency of operating plans and contracts, and a focus on select countries.

HELP Commission Releases Report to Increase Effectiveness of U.S. Foreign Assistance - Nov. 2007
The Congressionally-established bipartisan Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People around the Globe (HELP) Commission releases a comprehensive review and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance. Recommendations include: rewriting the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act to reflect new and clear development goals; reorienting development programs to respond to local needs and priorities by better engaging local actors; strengthening monitoring and evaluation across all assistance agencies; and rebuilding human resources.

USAID Introduces the Development Leadership Initiative - Mar. 2008
Proposed by President Bush and championed by USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore, the Development Leadership Initiative (DLI) aims to expand, strengthen and invest in USAID’s workforce.

President Bush’s Proposed Food Aid Reforms Adopted in Farm Bill - June 2008
President Bush proposes 25% flexibility in the purchase of food aid, which leads to Local and Regional Purchase pilot program in 2008 Farm Bill.

Sens. Lugar and Kerry Introduce Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act - July 2009
Senate Foreign Relations Committee approves bipartisan legislation that calls for strengthening the technical expertise and capacity of USAID, including reestablishing the policy and planning bureau, and increasing accountability and transparency of U.S. foreign assistance. Many elements of the bill are folded into the USAID Forward initiative under Administrator Rajiv Shah.

President Obama Signs Landmark Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development (PPD-6) - Sept. 2010
President Obama signs first-ever PPD on Global Development, which emphasizes sustainable development through country ownership and mutual accountability. It also reaffirms development as one of the core aspects of U.S. foreign policy along with diplomacy and defense, consistent with President Bush’s National Security Strategy.

USAID Launches USAID Forward Reforms - Nov. 2010
USAID announces the USAID Forward initiative, an internal reform agenda to boost agency effectiveness through results-driven approaches, enhanced partnerships with local actors through the Local Solutions initiative, and a strong emphasis on evaluation and transparency. In 2014, USAID conducts 224 high-quality publicly-available evaluations, continues to increase assistance delivered through local NGOs, businesses, and governments, and leverages $250 million in public-private partnerships.

U.S. Launches ForeignAssistance.gov - Dec. 2010
ForeignAssistance.gov is launched as the first central location where all U.S. foreign aid data is to be made public and user-friendly.

House Establishes Congressional Caucus on Effective Foreign Assistance (CCEFA) - May 2011
Reps. Ander Crenshaw and Adam Smith launch the bipartisan CCEFA with the goal of examining where foreign assistance can be strengthened. The bipartisan Caucus continues to be active in highlighting the importance of reform.

U.S. Commits to IATI Transparency Standard and Aid Effectiveness Principles - Nov. 2011
The U.S. commits to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) for data transparency and to more inclusive partnerships based on shared principles and goals for effective development at the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

The GPA, introduced by former Rep. Howard Berman, marks the first attempt to completely rewrite the outdated Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 in two decades. The bill includes many reforms that promote country ownership and transparency.

Farm Bill Passes with Incremental Reforms to International Food Aid - Feb. 2014
The 2014 Farm Bill contains a small victory for more effective food aid: authorizing funds for additional Local and Regional Procurement, decreasing the need for the inefficient practice of monetization, and requiring USAID to report the cost-effectiveness of various methods of delivering assistance.

PEPFAR Launches 3.0 Sustainability Framework - Dec. 2014
PEPFAR shifts its focus to sustainable control of the AIDS epidemic with its new 3.0 framework. The framework prioritizes transparency, data-driven decision-making, and partnerships to ensure engagement of those most affected.

Sens. Corker and Coons Introduce Food for Peace Reform Act - Feb. 2015
To build on the modest Farm Bill reforms, Sens. Bob Corker and Chris Coons introduce the bipartisan Food for Peace Reform Act (S. 525) to maximize flexibility for the U.S. to provide life-saving food assistance, remove wasteful cargo preference requirements, and eliminate inefficient monetization of food aid.

U.S. Commits to Assisting Countries Mobilize Own Resources - Jul. 2015
The U.S. joins donor and developing country governments to launch an initiative to double support for technical cooperation for domestic resource mobilization by 2020. The Department of Treasury’s Office of Technical Assistance included $10 million in the President’s FY17 budget request towards fulfilling this commitment and agencies, like USAID, plan to significantly increase their focus on this area.

State Department Updates Evaluation Policy, and Congress Encourages Evaluation of Defense Programs - Jul. 2015
Following on the January 2015 release of an updated evaluation policy, the State Department announces in July that it will publish the full text of unclassified foreign assistance evaluations on a rolling basis, including security assistance. In the 2016 Defense Authorization bill, Reps. Ted Poe and Gerry Connolly lead a successful effort to encourage the monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian programs carried out by the Pentagon.

U.S. Adopts the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Sept. 2015
President Obama announces the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a sweeping global development agenda to end extreme poverty and hunger over the next fifteen years. The agenda highlights the link between country ownership and accountability.

Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act Passes House and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee - 2015
Sponsored by Reps. Ted Poe and Gerry Connolly and Sens. Marco Rubio and Ben Cardin, this bipartisan legislation would improve U.S. foreign assistance through more rigorous and cohesive monitoring and evaluation practices, and greater transparency. This bill unanimously passed the House in both 2012 and 2015, and SRRC in 2013 and 2015.