

# Performance Summary and Highlights

In FY 2017, the Department of State continued to focus on the analytical rigor built into strategic planning and performance management activities within the Department. The latest reporting on the previous JSP and the

associated major program areas can be found in the joint State/USAID FY 2016 *Annual Performance Report* at <https://www.state.gov/s/d/rm/rls/perffplan>. The following section provides an overview of the seven major program areas.

## MAJOR PROGRAM AREAS

### Peace and Security

The United States faces ever-evolving and multi-dimensional security challenges. Weapons of mass destruction, narcotics, transnational crime, pandemic diseases, trafficking-in-persons, and the underlying conditions for these threats all threaten America's security at home and abroad. To meet these challenges, we support and collaborate with both new and old partners to defend shared interests and to adapt to the changing international environment. This means sustaining our long-term competitive advantage, defeating capable transnational terrorists, deterring Russian aggression, promoting rule of law in the Americas, addressing nuclear threats, and strengthening government and civil society institutions in fragile states. The Department is focusing its efforts on strategically vital regions to prevent crises and foster resilience in ways that align to our broader commitments and that secure our borders.

### Democracy, Human Rights and Governance

Accountable governments contribute to a freer, more prosperous, and peaceful world. Democracies are our strongest partners on security, trade, and energy, in peace and in conflict. Our support is a lifeline for nations and individuals striving for change, and is our greatest strength in combating violent extremism. Democratic governments work with the United States to build consensus and solve problems on the global stage. Their respect for the pluralism of ideas, inclusiveness, and vibrant civil societies leads to innovation and entrepreneurship that benefit all.

The State Department and USAID will continue to champion U.S. democratic values and liberty. This includes working to strengthen institutions and processes to improve

electoral administration, enhance citizen oversight and civic participation, strengthen legislative frameworks that protect fundamental freedoms, and other efforts that promote political liberty. Because there is no democracy without the inclusion of women and underrepresented groups, the U.S. Government also works to ensure their full participation in every aspect of these processes. Consistent and balanced U.S. engagement is necessary to contribute to sustainable progress. However, only a nation itself – its people – can truly bring about sustainable democracy within its borders, and this can take decades.

### Health, Education and Social Services

U.S. efforts to improve specific challenges in global health and education advance our broader national security interests by addressing underlying drivers of terrorism and constraints to inclusive economic growth that open markets and reduce fragility. The State Department and USAID use diplomacy and foreign assistance programs to create an AIDS-free generation, end preventable child and maternal deaths, reduce the threat of infectious diseases, and fight pandemic diseases. The U.S. Government partners with multilateral institutions, donor nations, and other organizations to encourage and empower developing countries to build strong, sustainable health care systems. Expanding health care capacity abroad is essential to long-term development. U.S. investments that result in healthier people make for stronger, more prosperous, and more stable countries; they enhance international security and trade; and in turn ensure a safer, more resilient America. Despite successes in recent decades, much remains to be done to strengthen health systems in developing countries so that they can address emerging threats and long-term challenges,