



United States Department of State

Washington, DC 20520

May 7, 2026

Request No. F-2025-26796

Manasi Raveendran
Center for Reproductive Rights
1600 K Street NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Raveendran:

This letter is in response to your request dated August 29, 2025, regarding the release of certain Department of State (“Department”) material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State (“Department”) has thus far identified two responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined both records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. To the extent another agency asserts that it can neither confirm nor deny the existence of certain records, the Department of State will similarly take the position that it neither confirms nor denies the existence of those records.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Zachariah Lindsey, USADC, at Zachariah.Lindsey@usdoj.com. Please refer to the case number, F-2025-26796, and the civil action number, 25-cv-04338, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diamonece Hickson
Supervisory Government Information Specialist
Litigation and Appeals Office

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From:	(b)(6)@usaid.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@usaid.gov>
CC:	(b)(6)@usaid.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	[External] Re: Urgent inquiry regarding USAID commodities
Date:	Fri, 13 Jun 2025 16:11:46 -0400

Thank you (b)(6)

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 3:05 PM (b)(6)@usaid.gov> wrote:
Here is the article we worked on with actual facts: <https://www.dailywire.com/news/exclusive-state-department-destroys-13-million-in-biden-era-contraceptives?author=Mary+Margaret+Olohan&category=News&elementPosition=6&row=0&rowType=Vertical+List&title=EXCLUSIVE%3A+State+Department+To+Destroy+%2413+Million+In+Biden+Era+Contraceptives>

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 3:03 PM (b)(6)@usaid.gov> wrote:
Hi (b)(6)

Could you take a look and reply to this? I just happened to check my USAID email.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bledsoe-Herring, Daisy (Foreign Relations)** <Daisy_Bledsoe-Herring@foreign.senate.gov>

Date: Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 2:50 PM

Subject: Urgent inquiry regarding USAID commodities

To: (b)(6)@usaid.gov, (b)(6)@usaid.gov, (b)(6)@ghsc-psm.org, (b)(6)@ghsc-psm.org, (b)(6)@ghsc-psm.org, (b)(6)@ghsc-psm.org

Cc: Hobbs, Cassidy (Murkowski) <Cassidy_Hobbs@murkowski.senate.gov>, Durakoglu, Naz (Foreign Relations) <Naz_Durakoglu@foreign.senate.gov>, Barlow, Molly (Foreign Relations) <Molly_Barlow@foreign.senate.gov>, Herman, Jodi (Foreign Relations) <Jodi_Herman@foreign.senate.gov>, English, Amy (Foreign Relations) <Amy_English@foreign.senate.gov>, Oke-Thomas, Philip (Foreign Relations) <Philip_Oke-Thomas@foreign.senate.gov>

Good afternoon,

The offices of Senator Murkowski and Ranking Member Shaheen are following up on the Washington Post article of June 5, 2025 titled "[The U.S. bought \\$12 million in aid for poor nations. Under Trump, it may be destroyed.](#)"

The article discusses how more \$12 million worth of contraceptives and HIV-prevention medications purchased by the US government as aid for developing countries under programs that have since been discontinued will likely be destroyed unless officials sell or otherwise off-load them.

We strongly urge you to distribute these taxpayer-purchased commodities directly or through partners - in line with Congressional intent in appropriating for these programs - rather than needlessly destroy them. It will only cost taxpayers more to destroy these commodities.

Please respond by COB today, June 13, 2025 to the following questions regarding these commodities and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars:

1. What were the options presented to USAID for these commodities?
2. Have other governments, especially those hosting warehouses, been consulted in this decision-making process?
3. What is the final decision on the fate of these commodities? Who made this decision? What was the reasoning?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Best,
Daisy

~~Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU)~~

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(b)(6)

Senior Advisor | USAID

(b)(6)

~~Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU)~~

~~Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU)~~

Sender:	(b)(6)	@usaid.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)	@usaid.gov>;
	(b)(6)	@usaid.gov>;
	(b)(6)	@state.gov>

From:	"Rigas, Michael J" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
CC:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Lewin, Jeremy (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Fw: [External] FW: Follow up Call w/ Deputy Secretary Mike Rigas
Date:	Fri, 25 Jul 2025 22:20:40 +0000

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: Durakoglu, Naz (Foreign Relations) <Naz_Durakoglu@foreign.senate.gov>
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2025 2:41:25 AM
To: Rigas, Michael J (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: [External] FW: Follow up Call w/ Deputy Secretary Mike Rigas

You don't often get email from naz_durakoglu@foreign.senate.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mr. Deputy- Senator Shaheen appreciates your letter and recent call. Flagging that we've been stonewalled on any follow-up to her inquiries to you, including on information related to the family planning commodities.

Mr. Deputy, I suspect you may know but in case you are not tracking, the purposeful destruction of medicines that are not abortion-related is unprecedented. The Trump Administration adheres to an expanded Mexico City Policy—this is in addition to existing laws that prevent federal assistance to abortion or abortion services. The destruction of commodities to help women space out childbirths, give them a chance at healthy childbirth, and treat reproductive/medical conditions is not anti-abortion—it's something quite extreme (and a waste of resources). In case you haven't seen it, I am including the Senator's bipartisan letter on this topic from May.

Thank you again,
Naz

From: Herman, Jodi (Foreign Relations) <Jodi_Herman@foreign.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 10:31 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@usaid.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: English, Amy (Foreign Relations) <Amy_English@foreign.senate.gov>; Durakoglu, Naz (Foreign Relations) <Naz_Durakoglu@foreign.senate.gov>; Bledsoe-Herring, Daisy (Foreign Relations)

<Daisy_Bledsoe-Herring@foreign.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Follow up Call w/ Deputy Secretary Mike Rigas

Good Morning – Circling back for response to questions below. I understand officials are in Brussels today – we'd like to hear your perspective on options to sell or transfer commodities following the warehouse visit.

Thanks,
Jodi

From: Herman, Jodi (Foreign Relations)

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 9:33 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@usaid.gov; (b)(6)@usaid.gov;

(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

Cc: English, Amy (Foreign Relations) <Amy_English@foreign.senate.gov>; Durakoglu, Naz (Foreign Relations) <Naz_Durakoglu@foreign.senate.gov>; Bledsoe-Herring, Daisy (Foreign Relations)

<Daisy_Bledsoe-Herring@foreign.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: Follow up Call w/ Deputy Secretary Mike Rigas

State and USAID Colleagues –

Thank you for arranging the call between Deputy Sec. Rigas and Senator Shaheen on commodities. There were several time-sensitive follow-up items from this call. I would really appreciate your help in running these down for Sen. Shaheen.

Regards,
Jodi

Family Planning Commodities

1. Brussels Warehouse Visit – Please advise whether we can send a staff person this week to Belgium to attend the warehouse assessment with Mr. Jackson.
2. What options are you exploring to donate these commodities? Will Mr. Jackson meet with the Belgian government during his visit this week to discuss options for donating commodities?
3. Who are the intended beneficiary countries for these commodities?
4. What is the location and value of any other family planning commodities located in other warehouses, such as Dubai?
5. For the smaller tranche of family planning commodities that you indicated were already destroyed please provide:
 1. A complete list of the destroyed commodities, including expiration dates
 2. The location of the commodities
 3. The date and method of destruction
 4. The value of the commodities
 5. The intended beneficiaries

Commodity Management & Planning

1. A document explaining the management and tracking of food and medical commodities to prevent spoilage and expiration. This will be provided to other SFRC members.
2. A list of all U.S. managed or contracted warehouses for all pre-positioned commodities, including food, medicine, medical devices and non-perishable commodities. A list and volume of commodities held in each warehouse.
3. A description of the 59 MT of currently held commodities
4. The intended country beneficiaries of the 44 MT of food commodities recently awarded to partners.
 - a. Will the U.S. backfill these commodities?
 - b. What is the planned metric tonnage for pre-positioned food commodities going forward?
5. Please provide a point of contact for my staff to schedule visits to commodity warehouses.

Jodi B. Herman

Sr. Professional Staff, Democratic Staff
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Ranking Member Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Email: Jodi_Herman@foreign.senate.gov

From: Durakoglu, Naz (Foreign Relations) <Naz_Durakoglu@foreign.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 8:33 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; D'Arcy, Meaghan (Shaheen) <Meaghan_D'Arcy@shaheen.senate.gov>; Johnston, Kelsey (Shaheen) <Kelsey_Johnston@shaheen.senate.gov>; Herman, Jodi (Foreign Relations) <Jodi_Herman@foreign.senate.gov>; English, Amy (Foreign Relations) <Amy_English@foreign.senate.gov>

Subject: Re: Follow up Call w/ Deputy Secretary Mike Rigas

Hi (b)(6) I'm adding Senator Shaheen's scheduling team and a few more.

Thanks,
Naz

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 18, 2025, at 8:03 PM, (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Hi Naz,

Hope this email finds you well.

Deputy Secretary Mike Rigas requested a call with Senator Shaheen to follow up on some of the questions raised during the hearing.

Is there a 30-minute window that might work on Monday between 3:30pm-5:00pm?

Thanks,

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Senior Advisor, Bureau of Legislative Affairs (H)

U.S. Department of State

Work Cell: (b)(6)

Sender:	"Rigas, Michael J" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Lewin, Jeremy (b)(6)@state.gov>



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Rubio:

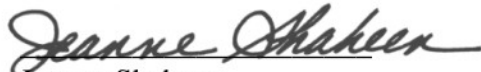
We write to object to the State Department's proposed destruction of more than \$9 million in taxpayer-funded family planning commodities purchased to provide support to women in crisis settings, including war zones, refugee camps and other extremely poor communities where access to family planning contraceptives is critical. These supplies do not include support for abortion services and are in full compliance with all U.S. foreign assistance laws, including the Kemp-Kasten amendment. Family planning contraceptives are part of life-saving humanitarian care, reducing unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions, improving health outcomes for women, lowering the risk of maternal and child mortality and saving lives.

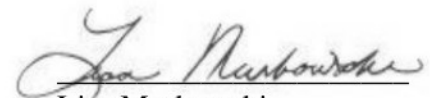
It is our understanding that the State Department has already initiated steps for imminent destruction of these commodities, including at a U.S.-funded warehouse in Belgium, as well as other locations. This action would be a waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars as well as an abdication of U.S. global leadership in preventing unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions and maternal deaths – key goals of U.S. foreign assistance. U.S. family planning assistance reaches 47.6 million women and couples every year, preventing 8.1 million unintended pregnancies, 5.2 million unsafe abortions and 34,000 maternal deaths.

While we disagree with the decision to cancel the family planning programs these commodities were intended to support, we are now concerned that the Administration intends to destroy, at additional cost, products that could be transferred to other countries or assistance partners. These supplies were purchased to fulfill Congressionally approved and appropriated programs that have a long history of bipartisan support. The Administration has offered no justification for why millions of dollars of already-purchased commodities should go to waste.

We urge you to quickly reverse the decision to destroy these supplies and transfer these valuable commodities to a country or partner that can ensure they are delivered to women around the world.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator


Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator