

—Slug:.....COMM-0848.bratt.WWAC\_USAID  
—Contributor.....  
—Contributor email.....  
—For section.....Town and Village  
—Format.....News - no byline  
—Dateline.....Brattleboro  
—Article Number:.....42884

[REDACTED]

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

[REDACTED]

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

#####BEGIN HED#####

1 One year after the end of U.S. foreign aid funding,  
2 WWAC forum looks at what comes next

#####END HED#####

#####BEGIN SUBHED#####

3  
4 #####END SUBHED#####

5 TEXT BODY:

#####BEGIN TEXT#####

6 One year ago, the Trump administration halted all  
7 foreign aid and refugee resettlement and subsequently closed the  
8 U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Members of  
9 the Windham World Affairs Council (WWAC) wrote in a news  
10 release that halting donations from the world's biggest provider of  
development aid was a shock to the international development

11 system and has had far-reaching ramifications in many countries  
12 of the world.

13 At that time, WWAC convened a "Members + Friends  
14 Salon" with local residents affected by these funding cuts.  
15 WWAC revisits this salon to discuss what has transpired in the  
16 year since, with a panel of former USAID staff and experts in  
17 international development, on Friday, Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at 118  
18 Elliot.

19 Michelle Barrett, deputy mission director of USAID's  
20 West Africa Regional Office until 2025, will share her experience  
21 of the agency's closure. Jim Levinson, who had a lengthy career  
22 at USAID and other international agencies, will discuss the  
23 impacts of USAID's closure across the world. Siena Fleischer,  
24 USAID career staff until 2025, will introduce new initiatives that  
25 have arisen to pick up the pieces.

26 At 5:30 p.m., before the panel, there will be a social hour  
27 with former USAID and State staff, grantees, and contractors. The  
28 time is envisioned as a space where those directly affected by  
29 these changes can network, problem-solve, and think outside of  
30 the box. Refreshments will be served.

31 The event is free with donations of \$10 gratefully  
32 accepted. Register at [USAID.eventbrite.com](https://USAID.eventbrite.com) to attend live. To  
33 attend via Zoom, register at [tinyurl.com/WWAC-USAID](https://tinyurl.com/WWAC-USAID).

34 For further information about future events, or if you  
35 would like to consider joining the WWAC board, visit  
36 [windhamworldaffairs council.org](https://windhamworldaffairs council.org).

#####END TEXT#####

BIO/COATTAIL:

#####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL#####

37

#####END BIO/COATTAIL#####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

#####BEGIN MAXISSUE#####

38

0

#####END MAXISSUE#####

LINKS:

#####BEGIN LINKS#####

39

#####END LINKS#####

VIDEO:

#####BEGIN VIDEO#####

40

#####END VIDEO#####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

#####BEGIN LOGLINE#####

41

#####END LOGLINE#####