

Job Creator: Nana Kojo Kondua IV

Village Chief Kondua is leveraging a tiny investment of US foreign aid to train fishermen and protect jobs and the environment in Abuesi, Ghana.

US foreign aid works best as a tool in the hands of the right local leaders—those trying to solve their own problems in their own nations and neighborhoods.

Kondua was alarmed at how over-fishing was affecting his community's pocketbooks and food supplies. As chief of Abuesi, a fishing village in western Ghana, he had to do something.



**POVERTY-FIGHTING FOREIGN AID IS
<1% OF THE US FEDERAL BUDGET.**

COMPARE THIS TO:



Americans spend as much on maintaining their lawns—\$30 billion annually—as the US government spends on foreign aid.



Americans spend more on caring for pets—\$45 billion annually—than the US government spends on foreign aid.

From Oxfam publication, "Foreign Aid 101."

But telling fishermen to change the ways they've been fishing for decades is no easy task. Kondua joined seminars on sustainable management of marine life offered by the Ghanaian non-profit organizations, Coastal Resources Center and Friends of the Nation, with support from USAID. Armed with new information and tactics, he is bringing people together to hold the fishing regulatory agencies accountable for enforcing compliance with fishing regulations.

"We have to re-educate our fishermen to the right type of fishing. [We] help the Ghana government to build up a very good capacity for fishermen in this country," Chief Kondua says.

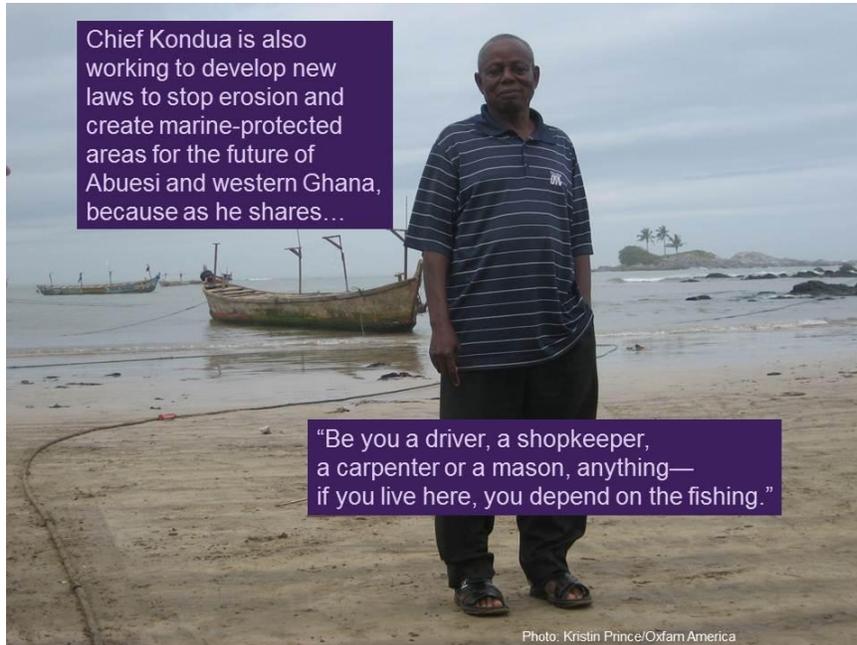


Photo: Kristin Prince/Oxfam America

In his role as chairman of the Western Regional branch of the National Canoe Fishermen's Council, Chief Kondua's is encouraging fishermen to follow current laws and adopt good fishing practices in order to protect their livelihoods. And it's not just his community that is at risk – nearly one-third of the country's fish harvest comes from the western region of Ghana, including Abuesi. As part of the Feed the Future initiative, USAID relies on local leaders like Kondua to help protect Ghana's food security.

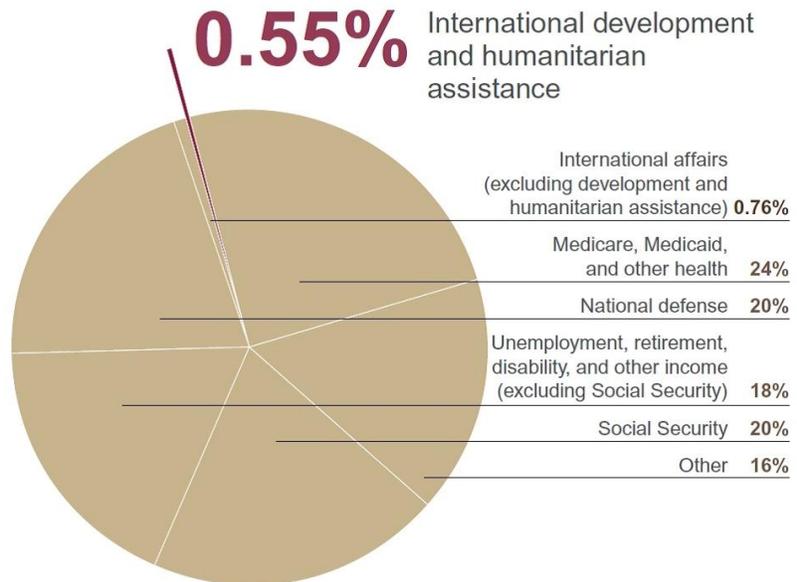
In recent years, the US government launched policy reforms that make US foreign aid more accountable to you, US taxpayers, and local leaders like Chief Kondua.

Aid works best when it supports local actors to take action and change the circumstances which place or keep them or their fellow citizens in poverty. Supporting effective aid now reduces the need for more aid later.

That's why Oxfam America is working to deepen the US government's commitment to making aid more effective.

Tell Congress: Don't cut aid. Keep investing directly in heroes like Chief Kondua.

Less than 1 percent of the federal budget goes to poverty-focused aid.



Based on FY2010 budget data. From Oxfam publication, "Foreign Aid 101"

Read more stories at: www.oxfamamerica.org/aidworks/



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