



## **The International Affairs Budget in Fiscal Year 2022**

*Due to the growing global challenges of COVID-19, the concern of new variants and the need to prevent future pandemics, at least \$14 billion in new resources is needed for the International Affairs Budget.*

### **Why is the International Affairs Budget important?**

The International Affairs Budget supports critical development and diplomacy programs around the world. Programs funded by the International Affairs Budget create U.S. jobs by opening new markets to American businesses. These programs also protect our national security by fighting terrorism and preventing conflicts. The International Affairs Budget is an efficient investment that:

- staffs all U.S. embassies overseas
- fights pandemic disease
- provides emergency response after natural disasters
- implements agriculture programs to promote stability and prevent hunger
- saves millions of lives with HIV/AIDS medications
- provides essential good governance assistance to emerging democracies.

### **How much is currently allocated?**

The International Affairs Budget received a total of \$62.7 billion in the FY2021 budget deal, which passed in December 2020. This included \$49.9 billion in base funding, \$8 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding, and \$5.3 billion in emergency funds. Overall, the International Affairs Budget received an \$800 million increase (1.5%) in funding compared to FY2020 and a 12.7 billion increase (29%) over the Administration's initial requests. **Still, the International Affairs Budget leverages less than 1% of the overall budget.**

### **Support for the International Affairs Budget**

The approval of \$62.7 billion in funding marks the fourth year that Congress rejected the proposed cuts to America's development and diplomacy programs, demonstrating the importance of strengthening U.S. global leadership. While we celebrate these victories, more work remains to address the gaps in funding, especially as 265 million people globally are at risk of starvation due to the secondary socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

**Now more than ever, it is vital to prioritize international funding and provide relief to the world's most vulnerable communities, in turn, protecting the health and security of all Americans.**

On March 8, 2019, **more than a dozen former combatant commanders** wrote to Congress asking policymakers to continue to protect resources for America's International Affairs Budget, asserting that, "Doing so is critical to keeping our nation safe and prosperous."

In February 2020, right before the FY2021 budget request was released, former **Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen** wrote a letter to congressional leadership warning that, "The more we cut the International Affairs Budget, the higher the risk for longer and deadlier military operations."

***Specific Ask: We urge Congress to support an increase of at least \$14 billion for the International Affairs Budget in FY22 to keep pace with today's growing global challenges.***