



## **The International Affairs Budget in Fiscal Year 2021**

### **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 \$56.6 billion in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget deal, which passed in December 2019. **The International Affairs Budget leverages less than one percent of the overall budget.**

For Fiscal Year 2021, **the Trump Administration proposed another devastating cut** to the International Affairs Budget of 22 percent. Decreasing foreign aid funding at a time of extreme global threats, famines of historic proportions and a refugee crisis not seen since World War II is unfathomable.

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 Fiscal Year 2021 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 reject the Administration's proposal and support the current funding level of \$56.6 billion in FY21 to keep pace with today's growing global challenges.**



### **Congressional Leaders who Have Rejected the Administration's Proposed Cuts.**

“General Mattis, ‘Mad Dog’ Mattis, says that if we slash State Department funding, he’s going to have to order a lot more ammunition. And over 100 admirals and generals – retired admirals and generals – have said essentially the same thing. So I’m absolutely shocked at the Administration’s puny request...”

– **Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY 5th)**

“Former President Bush’s comment, which I’ve quoted many times, is as true as ever: ‘Defense, diplomacy, and development are equal legs of a stool of American foreign policy.’ Yet, dramatic reductions in the President’s proposed budget for the Function 150 account would undermine that delicate balance with the impacts of deep, ill-advised cuts.” – **Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY 17th)**

“It’s dead on arrival, it’s not going to happen, it would be a disaster... This budget destroys soft power, it puts our diplomats at risk and it’s going nowhere.” – **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**

“Slashing foreign assistance would be foolhardy, weakening our leadership and emboldening our adversaries.” – **Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)**

“I am deeply disappointed and dismayed to find out that despite the concerns raised by bipartisan Members of Congress and even by his own Secretary of State, President Trump appears determined to gut U.S. national security by slashing the State Department and USAID.” – **Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)**

“At a time when American leadership is needed more than ever, we must continue to invest in the International Affairs Budget.” – **Representative Ted Yoho (R-FL 3rd)**

“If we slash funding for diplomacy and development, we’re telling our service members and the American people, we’ll take our chances down the road – even if that may mean a much steeper cost in terms of American blood and American treasure.” – **Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY 16th)**