



The International Affairs Budget in Fiscal Year 2025

Work remains to address gaps in global funding, such as the war in Ukraine and global competition with China. Now more than ever, it is vital that Congress prioritize international funding and provide relief to the world's most vulnerable communities, in turn, protecting the health and security of all Americans.

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 \$60 billion in the FY2024 spending package, which passed in March 2024. This included \$2.5 billion in “emergency designated funding,” or base funding, and \$57.5 billion in non-emergency funds. **Still, the International Affairs Budget leverages less than 1% of the overall budget.**

Support for the International Affairs Budget

The world has changed so drastically in the last few years. For example, 345.2 million people were projected to have been food insecure in 2023. As such, it is critical that the U.S is prepared to respond to escalating global crises. On March 7, 2023, **nearly 20 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.” **However, the International Affairs Budget received a dangerous 6% cut in FY24.**

In February 2020, 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.” This remains true today.

America’s military leaders constantly remind Congress that civilian resources funded through U.S. international affairs programs are a relatively small, but incredibly vital investment to protect our nation’s security and economic interests.

Specific Ask: *The Borgen Project urges Congress to support no less than the Senate-proposed level of \$63.4 billion for the FY25 International Affairs Budget to advance America’s security and economic interests in the midst of numerous global crises.*