



The International Affairs Budget in Fiscal Year 2026

The United States is safer, stronger and more prosperous as a result of our life-saving investments in diplomacy and development. Foreign assistance is a strategic tool that supports U.S. global leadership, bolsters national security, promotes economic opportunity and reflects American values. Yet, the recent rescission package **slashed over \$8 billion** from previously approved international funding—undermining critical programs and progress. When these rescissions are included, the Administration’s FY26 budget proposal amounts to a **draconian 85% cut** to foreign aid.

Cuts of this magnitude have far-reaching consequences—not just for vulnerable communities around the world, but also for **American farmers, businesses and our national security interests**. Overall, this proposal threatens efforts that deliver nutrition, clean water and disease prevention, while weakening U.S. influence at a time of intensifying global instability. In the face of mounting humanitarian crises, rising authoritarianism and growing food insecurity, now is the time to **strengthen—not scale back—our investments in international assistance**.

Current Allocation

In FY25, the International Affairs Budget received **\$61.1 billion**—including \$2.5 billion in emergency-designated funding and \$58.6 billion in non-emergency funds. Yet this represented **less than 1% of the overall federal budget**, even as global needs continued to rise.

Decades of Bipartisan Support for U.S. Global Leadership

Throughout modern history, the International Affairs Budget has garnered strong **bipartisan support in Congress**. During the Trump Administration’s first term, Congress **rejected proposals to slash foreign aid every single year**. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have repeatedly recognized the vital role that diplomacy and development play in advancing U.S. interests and maintaining global stability. This longstanding, bipartisan commitment underscores a fundamental truth: foreign aid is not charity—it is a **smart, strategic investment** in a safer and more prosperous world.

In summary, the International Affairs Budget is an efficient mechanism that:

- Fights global pandemics and strengthens public health systems
- Provides emergency response after natural disasters
- Implements agriculture programs that combat hunger and promote stability
- Saves lives with access to HIV/AIDS medications
- Strengthens democratic institutions and good governance abroad

As **China, Russia, Iran and North Korea** expand their influence, the U.S. must use every tool at its disposal to maintain international partnerships, prevent costly conflicts and protect American leadership.

Specific Ask: The Borgen Project urges Congress to **reject the Administration’s proposed cuts** to protect America’s global leadership, strengthen alliances and advance both security and economic interests during a time of historic global upheaval.