



## The International Affairs Budget in Fiscal Year 2027

While Congress significantly scaled back the Administration's proposed cuts in the previous fiscal year, the Fiscal Year 2027 budget request once again proposes draconian reductions to U.S. foreign assistance accounts—representing nearly a 32% cut to international assistance programs. These proposals come at a time of increasing global instability and rising humanitarian need.

The United States is safer, stronger and more prosperous as a result of 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. However, continued pressure to reduce these investments risks undermining critical programs that advance both humanitarian objectives and long-term U.S. interests.

Cuts of this nature have far-reaching consequences, not just for vulnerable communities around the world, but also for American farmers, businesses and U.S. national security interests. They threaten programs that deliver nutrition, clean water and disease prevention, while weakening U.S. influence in regions where strategic competition is intensifying. Recent disruptions to U.S. foreign assistance in 2025 provide a stark example—the sudden reduction in USAID-supported programs contributed to [hundreds of thousands of preventable deaths](#) from malnutrition and infectious diseases within a single year.

### Current Allocation

For Fiscal Year 2026, just over **\$51 billion** was signed into law for global development, diplomacy and humanitarian assistance—representing a roughly 16% reduction from the prior year, but significantly less than the more than 50% cuts initially proposed.

### 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 global 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.