



The International Affairs Budget in Fiscal Year 2024

Due to the negative challenges from COVID-19 and growing global crises in 2022, it is critical that Congress support 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 \$78.3 billion in the FY2023 spending package, which passed in December 2022. This included \$61.7 billion in base funding, and \$16.6 billion in emergency funds for Ukraine. Overall, the International Affairs Budget received an 6% increase in funding compared to FY2022. **Still, the International Affairs Budget leverages less than 1% of the overall budget.**

Support for the International Affairs Budget

While we celebrate Congress's support towards America's development and diplomacy programs, more work remains to address gaps in global funding, especially as the world has changed drastically due to the negative secondary impacts of COVID-19. For example, 265 million people globally were at risk of starvation due to the secondary socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 in 2022.

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." This remains true today.

Specific Ask: We urge Congress to support the International Affairs Budget to keep pace with today's growing global challenges.



Congressional Leaders who Support the International Affairs Budget

“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-K-5)**

"For decades, Republicans and Democrats have agreed on foundational principles of U.S. leadership in the world. We engage with the world. We consistently and reliably support our allies. We lead by example, especially on our core values. We fight for the rule of law, for human rights, and for democratic institutions because doing so makes us safer and more secure.”

– **Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)**

“Foreign assistance is an insurance policy. Investing over there, even though we have needs here, makes us safer.”

– **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**

“I just want to point out that foreign assistance is just 1% of our budget, but it pays large dividends... We must make these investments not just because it is the right thing to do, but also because it helps contribute to economic growth, and just as importantly, stability.”

– **Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)**

“In fact, an estimated 200 million more people are likely to be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030 due to the severe long term impact of the pandemic, reversing 20 years of progress... A robust FY 2022 International Affairs Budget can help not only support more equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics around the world, but also strengthen health infrastructures, shore up food assistance programs, and provide other life-saving aid to those in need.”

– **Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Dick Durbin (D-IL)**

“This is a critical time for global investment and cooperation as we fight back a global pandemic, and we have much work to do.”

– **Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA-13)**