



International Poverty-Reducing Development and Humanitarian Accounts

December 18, 2024



Appropriations Accounts (\$ in thousands)	FY24 Base Approps	FY25 House Bill	FY25 Senate Bill	USCCB/CRS FY25 Request	USCCB/CRS FY26 Request*
State, Foreign Operations (SFOPs)	29,922,456	23,938,237	30,255,030	30,755,030	32,030,405
Global Health Programs Includes maternal and child health, nutrition, vulnerable children, HIV/AIDS (USAID and State), Global Fund, global health security, malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases	10,030,450	9,268,712	9,674,950	9,674,950	10,030,450
Development Assistance Includes agriculture and rural development, education, environment, water and sanitation, democracy and governance, microfinance, and anti-trafficking in persons	3,931,000	3,000,000	4,153,150	4,153,150	4,769,787
International Disaster Assistance	4,779,000**	3,452,362	4,829,000***	4,829,000	4,850,000
Complex Crises Fund	55,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Economic Support Fund	3,890,400	3,430,888	4,083,324	4,083,324	4,083,324
Migration and Refugee Assistance	3,928,000**	1,953,236	4,028,850***	4,028,850	4,211,188
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	100	0	100	100	100,000
Millennium Challenge Account	930,000	937,000	937,000	937,000	937,000
Contribution to the International Development Association	1,380,256	1,097,010	1,480,256	1,480,256	1,480,256
Green Climate Fund	0	0	0	500,000	500,000
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation	998,250	769,029	1,008,400	1,008,400	1,008,400
Agricultural (Ag)	1,927,583	1,240,000	1,970,607	1,970,607	2,065,000
Title II Food for Peace	1,687,583	1,000,000	1,720,607	1,720,607	1,800,000
McGovern-Dole	240,000	240,000	250,000	250,000	265,000
COMBINED TOTAL	31,850,039	25,178,237	32,225,637	32,725,637	34,095,405

Message to Congress

Each year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) implore Congress to assess budget decisions using three criteria: protection of human life and dignity, impact on the most vulnerable, and advancement of the common good. The Church views international assistance as an essential tool to protect life, uphold human dignity, and pursue sustainable solutions to the world's toughest challenges, including those that lead to forced displacement. Making up less than 1% of the annual federal budget, international humanitarian and development assistance is a small yet smart investment to accomplish Church priorities and advance U.S. interests: to foster economic opportunity, promote peace and security, and project to the world the values this country holds dear. Therefore, the USCCB and CRS urge Congress to prioritize these accounts in order to save lives, reduce poverty, alleviate the drivers of forced migration, and invest in peace.

* This request was formulated prior to the President's FY26 Budget Request and congressional 203(b) subcommittee allocations.

** The base bill designates \$750 million as an emergency requirement for IDA and MRA respectively. Total enacted with supplemental funding: IDA- \$10.5B; MRA-\$7.4B.

*** The base bill designates \$1.4 billion and \$1.1 billion as an emergency requirement for IDA and MRA respectively.

Account Descriptions

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Global Health Programs support multiple health activities managed by USAID and State. We do have principled concerns about certain health activities we find inconsistent with Catholic teaching, including artificial family planning, and do not implement or advocate for these activities.

Maternal and Child Health programs provide low-cost, life-saving interventions such as micronutrient supplementation, nutritional support, newborn care, immunization, and treatment of pneumonia and diarrheal disease – addressing the biggest killers of mothers and children. This account provides funding for the U.S. contribution to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, which purchases vaccines for children in poor countries.

Nutrition programs provide interventions such as micronutrient supplementation and growth monitoring, which combined with an adequate diet and clean water and sanitation, improves outcomes during the first critical years of a child's life. Malnutrition is the underlying cause of 45 percent of preventable child deaths.

Vulnerable Children funding promotes family care for vulnerable children and seeks to reduce violence against children.

HIV and AIDS PEPFAR (USAID & State Funding) supports HIV and AIDS efforts in 50 countries to achieve epidemic control. Ten percent of PEPFAR funding focuses on mitigating the negative impact of HIV on orphans and vulnerable children affected and infected by HIV and AIDS. Also included is funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria which works to prevent, treat, and care for people with HIV, TB and Malaria and build health systems.

Malaria programs treat, prevent, and control this deadly disease which is one of the biggest killers of children under five worldwide.

Tuberculosis programs screen, diagnose, and treat millions of people each year. TB is the leading infectious killer globally.

Global Health Security programs prevent, prepare for, and respond to unanticipated and emerging global health threats.

Development Assistance programs support an array of critical development activities.

Agriculture and Rural Development funding supports The Global Food Security Strategy, or Feed the Future, to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. Programs support agriculture development, nutrition, and resilience; research; and technical assistance.

Education funding includes basic education, which increases access to and improves the quality of education in low-and middle-income countries and helps children and youth develop skills to reach their fullest potential.

Environment programming includes climate adaptation, which supports efforts to build resilience to storm surges in coastal communities, stabilize areas prone to landslides, improve soil health, and reduce food insecurity through regenerative, sustainable agriculture.

Water and Sanitation programs provide access to safe drinking water, toilets, and handwashing to improve the health, security, and economic potential of communities.

Democracy and Governance programs, such as strengthening the rule of law and civil society, support efforts to build a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Microfinance provides people who cannot access most formal financial institutions with access to financial services such as credit, savings, and insurance.

Anti-Trafficking in Persons assistance helps other nations to prevent trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, and support victims (also addressed through ESF).

Complex Crisis Fund enables rapid investments to catalyze peace and mitigate conflict in the face of unforeseen crises or violence.

Economic Support Fund supports development and economic assistance in countries of importance to U.S. foreign policy. We support a poverty-focused use of ESF funds.

International Disaster Assistance funds emergency health, water, shelter and nutrition efforts, as well as disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation through the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). It also supports cash and voucher-based Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP).

Migration and Refugee Assistance protects refugees and internally displaced persons, helps them to repatriate when conflict ends or natural disaster responses permit, and supports legal resettlement pathways to safe third countries such as the U.S. for those who are unable to be repatriated.

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance is a drawdown account used, with Presidential authority, to respond to humanitarian crises. ERMA is capped at \$100M.

Millennium Challenge Account provides U.S. funding to countries with a commitment to good governance, focusing on infrastructure projects.

Contribution to the International Development Association help the World Bank provide concessional loans, grants, and debt relief to the lowest-income countries. In addition to IDA, Congress should consider funds to support other multilateral development banks that support poverty-reduction.

Green Climate Fund provides assistance to developing countries to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In addition to GCF, other multilateral programs to address climate change adaptation and mitigation should be considered, including the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund.

U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, created by the BUILD Act, utilizes financial tools such as loans and loan guarantees, technical assistance, feasibility studies, political risk insurance, and equity investments to promote private investment that bolsters health, agriculture, energy security, infrastructure, and small businesses in low- and lower-middle income countries.

Agriculture

Title II Food for Peace provides U.S. food aid for emergencies and funds \$365 million in long-term development programs that support nutrition and build resilience.

McGovern-Dole provides school lunches and take-home food rations to encourage students, especially girls, to attend school, and other school support efforts. No less than \$26.5 million should provide for local and regionally procured commodities for sustainability.