

International Humanitarian Assistance

Restore FY27 humanitarian funding to \$8.7 billion

U.S. government-funded humanitarian assistance helps save millions of lives each year amidst the worst crises and disasters. U.S. funding provides vital emergency food assistance, shelter, health care, safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and protection for people affected by conflict, natural disasters, and displacement.

In FY2024, U.S. assistance supported responses to 84 crises across 66 countries. These investments reduce death and disease while helping communities recover. U.S.-supported programs prevent disease outbreaks, treat wasting — the deadliest form of malnutrition — strengthen pharmaceutical supply chains, expand access to safe drinking water, support education for children in emergencies, and build resilience to future shocks.

Increased humanitarian needs colliding with historic funding cuts

Last year, more than 300 million people required humanitarian assistance worldwide. Yet humanitarian funding experienced its steepest contraction in more than a decade, falling below 2016 levels despite significantly higher levels of need.

As the world's largest humanitarian donor, U.S. policy decisions have played a significant role in this decline. **In FY26, Congress approved a 37 percent reduction to International Humanitarian Assistance funding.** Combined with months of uncertainty surrounding the release of previously appropriated funds and major changes to the U.S. humanitarian architecture, these reductions disrupted humanitarian operations around the world.

The consequences are already being felt

Sharp funding cuts are forcing humanitarian organizations to scale back life-saving support. According to the Global Humanitarian Overview, health services for 52.6 million people were reduced or eliminated due to underfunding in 2025, affecting nearly 7,000 health facilities. In Somalia alone, more than 150 health facilities closed, including at least 8 hospitals. UNICEF's nutrition programs faced a 72 percent funding gap, leaving 20 million additional women and children without access to essential nutrition services.

Instability in Southwest Asia and North Africa, including the Strait of Hormuz, is creating additional challenges. Shipping disruptions through key maritime routes are delaying the delivery of food, medicines, and other emergency supplies, and increasing transportation

costs by an estimated 15-25 percent. UNICEF estimates these disruptions could continue to delay the delivery of critical supplies by up to six months. Fertilizer shortages are expected to reduce agricultural production in parts of Africa and Asia, increasing the risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty for years to come.

U.S. funds are starting to flow, but major gaps remain

The Administration has begun rebuilding U.S. humanitarian response capacity by establishing a new Bureau for Humanitarian Affairs and naming key leadership positions at the Department of State. It has also resumed major humanitarian awards, including \$3.8 billion for the United Nations Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and more than \$1 billion to UNICEF and the World Food Program.

These investments are already saving lives. OCHA has already disbursed 88 percent of available resources, turning around most funding in just seven days — more than twice as fast as previous efforts. Of the people targeted for this assistance, 92 percent live in the highest-need areas. This demonstrates how effective multilateral partnerships can rapidly translate funding into lifesaving assistance.

While these are important steps, **current U.S. humanitarian funding remains well below previous levels and far below what is needed to meet today’s humanitarian needs.**

Congressional leadership remains essential

Congress has a critical role to play in ensuring the United States remains a global leader in humanitarian response. This includes providing adequate funding for International Humanitarian Assistance, ensuring appropriated funds are obligated and spent consistent with congressional intent, conducting robust oversight of U.S. humanitarian programs, and supporting effective partnerships that maximize the impact of every taxpayer dollar.

Sustained U.S. leadership is essential to preventing famine, responding to conflict and natural disasters, reducing unnecessary suffering, and promoting global stability and prosperity. **Will you restore humanitarian funding to \$8.7 billion for FY27, and ensure existing funds are put to use right away for communities facing crisis?**

Account	FY25 Enacted	FY26 Enacted	FY27 PBR	FY27 House	FY27 RESULTS Request
International Humanitarian Assistance	\$8.7 billion	\$5.4 billion	\$4 billion	\$5 billion	\$8.7 billion