



Alliance for Peacebuilding

March XX, 2024

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chair
House Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Christopher Coons
Chair
Senate Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs

Dear Chair Diaz-Balart, Chair Coons, Ranking Member Lee, and Ranking Member Graham,

The [Alliance for Peacebuilding](#) (AfP), a leading nonpartisan network of 200+ organizations working in 181 countries to prevent and reduce violent conflict and build sustainable peace, and the undersigned organizations respectfully request Congress robustly fund key peacebuilding and conflict and atrocity prevention accounts in the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) State Department, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPs) appropriations bill.

While the world suffers from interconnected, compounding security and humanitarian crises, the U.S. has the tools—if properly resourced—to prevent further violence through key legal and policy frameworks, such as the [Global Fragility Act](#) (GFA), [Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act](#), the [Women, Peace, and Security \(WPS\) Act](#), and their related strategies. 2023 saw a [12% increase](#) in conflict compared to 2022, and a 40% increase compared to 2020—with one-in-six people living in active conflict in 183 ongoing conflicts around the world by the start of 2024. In 2024, nearly [300 million people](#) will need humanitarian assistance globally. The UN estimates that by the end of the year, [130 million people](#) will be displaced due to conflict, human rights violations, and environmental threats. These devastating, [record-breaking](#) trends can be seen in new and ongoing crises in [Israel-Palestine](#), [Ukraine](#), [Sudan](#), the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#), the [Sahel](#), [Myanmar](#), and other conflict-affected and fragile states around the world.

These severe threats to peace and security are concerning, but their solutions are within grasp of the U.S. Government. Funding to support efforts to prevent violent conflict, atrocities, and fragility and build more peaceful societies is not only a moral priority, but also a good investment that advances U.S. national interests and protects taxpayer dollars. Peacebuilding and upstream prevention through foreign assistance and development are [cost-effective](#), as they reduce the need for humanitarian aid and securitized interventions—saving lives and money. Unfortunately, peacebuilding laws and policies lack adequate funding to advance their meaningful implementation. A recently published analysis by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows that peacebuilding accounted for just [9.6%](#) of official development assistance (ODA) in 2021—a 15-year record low, wherein the U.S. contributed its smallest volume (\$2.94 billion) of ODA toward peace in nearly 20 years.



Fortunately, Congress recognized the need for conflict and atrocities prevention and peacebuilding by enacting the GFA, Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, and WPS Act. By robustly funding critical peacebuilding accounts in FY25, Congress can ensure the U.S. builds stronger alliances with bilateral and multilateral donors and [develops a smarter foreign policy](#) that promotes economic growth, democracy, and partnership with fragile or at-risk states. AFP requests that Congress fully fund the accounts below that support U.S. Government conflict and atrocities prevention and peacebuilding activities in the FY25 SFOPs bill:

<u>Account</u>	<u>FY23 Enacted¹</u>	<u>FY25 Request</u>
Atrocities Prevention Fund	\$6 million	\$25 million
Atrocities Prevention Training	\$500,000 (State/DRL)	\$1 million (\$500,000 for State/DRL and \$500,000 for USAID)
Complex Crises Fund	\$60 million	\$75 million
Conflict and Stabilization Operations	\$5 million	\$16.1 million
Contributions to International Organizations	\$1.438 billion	\$1.725 billion
Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities	\$1.481 billion	\$2.745 billion
Democracy Fund, USAID	\$133.25 million	\$160 million
Human Rights and Democracy Fund, State Department	\$222.45 million	\$250 million
Multi-Donor Global Fragility Fund	\$25 million from the Prevention and Stabilization Fund	\$25 million, separate and distinct from the Prevention and Stabilization Fund

¹ Given that the U.S. Congress has not yet passed appropriations bills for FY24, and is currently running on a Continuing Resolution (CR) for SFOPs that expires March 8, 2024, the FY23 represents the most recently enacted figures.



Office of Transition Initiatives	\$80 million	\$120 million
People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund	\$50 million	\$100 million
People-to-People Reconciliation Fund (Reconciliation Programs)	\$25 million	\$40 million
Prevention and Stabilization Fund	\$135 million (including \$25 million for Multi-Donor Global Fragility Fund)	\$200 million
Unarmed Civilian Protection	\$0	\$25 million
United States Institute of Peace	\$55 million	\$60 million
Women, Peace, and Security	\$150 million	\$200 million

Atrocities Prevention Fund: This fund enables the State Department to prevent atrocities, in furtherance of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, including by implementing recommendations of the Atrocity Prevention Task Force. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$25 million annually*.

Atrocities Prevention Training: Atrocities prevention training funds support the instruction of officials serving in countries experiencing or at-risk of mass atrocities, as mandated in the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act. The [U.S. Strategy to Anticipate, Prevent, and Respond to Atrocities Strategy](#) clearly identifies that “for the U.S. Government to identify, prevent, and respond to atrocities effectively, U.S. Government personnel must be trained to recognize and report on early warning indicators and escalatory risk, as well as potential U.S. interventions.” While the Strategy calls for “each U.S. department and agency [to be] responsible for developing and providing relevant atrocity prevention training and guidance to its personnel,” in FY23, only the State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor received such funding, despite the continued need at USAID. Congress should appropriate *no less than \$500,000 annually for the State Department and no less than \$500,000 annually for USAID* to conduct atrocities prevention training.

Complex Crises Fund (CCF): The CCF is used by the State Department and USAID to support GFA implementation and prevent and respond to emerging or unforeseen crises. CCF is a tool for the U.S. Government to direct resources to countries or regions that demonstrate a high or escalating risk of conflict, atrocities, instability, or unanticipated opportunities for progress in fragile democracies. CCF provides global, flexible funding. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$75 million annually*.



Conflict and Stabilization Operations: The Conflict and Stabilization Operations account supports the work of the State Department’s Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO). CSO delivers technical expertise and advanced data analytics tools that help to prevent and resolve conflicts. CSO also deploys stabilization advisors and works alongside partners across the Department of State, Department of Defense, and USAID. Additionally, CSO serves as Secretariat for the Atrocity Prevention Task Force—as outlined in the 2022 United States Strategy to Anticipate, Prevent, and Respond to Atrocities—and is the lead coordinating agency for implementation of the GFA and [U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability](#). AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$16.1 million annually*.

Contributions to International Organizations: Multilateralism has long been a pillar of U.S. foreign policy. The world is interconnected—when violent conflict happens anywhere, it can spread and disrupt peace everywhere. The Contributions to International Organizations account supports the UN regular budget and more than 40 international organizations, such as UN specialized agencies, NATO, and the Organization of American States. Investing in this account can strengthen cost-effective multilateral efforts in peace negotiations and mediation and across sectors like public health and food security, ultimately cultivating shared responsibility for peace across the international community. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$1.725 billion annually*.

Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities: Another crucial component of U.S. support to the UN is through funding for peacekeeping missions. As of March 2024, there are [11 UN peacekeeping operations globally](#), consisting of [85,000 personnel](#). [Research](#) demonstrates that these missions are extremely effective at protecting civilians from violence, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and supporting democratic processes and the rule of law. Given the disruptive role of Russia, China, and other actors at the UN and on the global stage more broadly, U.S. commitment to [cost-effective multilateral action to reduce civilian casualties](#), prevent conflict, and build peace—especially international peacekeeping activities—is more critical than ever. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$2.745 billion annually*.

Democracy Fund, USAID: This fund supports the work of USAID’s Center of Excellence for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance, which exercises broad oversight over the global democracy, human rights, and governance programs implemented by the agency. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$160 million annually*.

Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF), State Department: This account functions as a “venture capital fund,” enabling the State Department to respond quickly and flexibly to changing needs and opportunities to advance democracy and promote human rights. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$250 million annually*.

Multi-Donor Global Fragility Fund: This account allows the State Department to leverage, receive, and coordinate program funds provided by other donors, governments, and private sector partners to carry out the Global Fragility Strategy. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$25 million annually, separate and distinct from the Prevention and Stabilization Fund*.

Office of Transition Initiatives: This fund supports USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI). OTI addresses opportunities and challenges in countries in crisis and assists in their transitions to promote stability, peace, good governance, and democracy. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$120 million annually*.



People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund: Created through the 2020 Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA), this fund provides resources to help build the foundation for peaceful co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians, encourage economic development, and promote a sustainable two-state solution. MEPPA authorizes up to \$250 million over five years through FY25. Given the spike in violence in the region amid the Israel-Hamas war, and the need for an inclusive, long-term solution for peace, AfP recommends Congress *double peacebuilding funding in the region via MEPPA from \$50 million per year to \$100 million for FY25.*

People-to-People Reconciliation Fund: The People-to-People Reconciliation Fund supports “people-to-people” conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs, managed by USAID’s Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention. These programs bring together diverse individuals of different ethnic, religious, class, or political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict for meaningful engagement. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$40 million annually.*

Prevention and Stabilization Fund (PSF): This account allows the State Department and USAID to support the stabilization of conflict-affected areas and counter global fragility, including through implementation of the GFA and U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability. We recommend that funds within this account support GFA implementation, as well as operational, management, monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities related to implementation. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$200 million annually.*

Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP): UCP is an evidence-based strategy for the non-violent direct protection of civilians, the reduction of localized violence, and the development of local peace infrastructures in which unarmed, trained civilians work alongside local civil society in conflict zones. We recommend support for UCP be made through the allocation of funds appropriated under the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement and the Prevention and Stabilization Fund. AfP recommends Congress to appropriate *no less than \$25 million annually.*

United States Institute of Peace: The U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) is an independent, nonpartisan institution charged with increasing U.S. capacity to prevent, mitigate, and resolve international conflict without violence. AfP recommends Congress appropriate *no less than \$60 million annually.*

Women, Peace, and Security: The [WPS Act](#) of 2017 seeks to ensure women’s meaningful leadership in peace, security, and political processes. AfP recommends Congress provide dedicated funding for the advancement of the WPS agenda and *create a distinct WPS fund* to resource programs, supplies, training, and other measures, materials, and initiatives that encourage women’s participation in governance, peacebuilding, transition, relief, and recovery processes within partner governments and civil society, as well as multilateral institutions and security cooperatives. AfP recommends Congress provide *no less than \$200 million annually.*

Amply funding peacebuilding and conflict and atrocities prevention in the FY25 International Affairs budget will ensure that the U.S. Government can apply long-term, adaptive, flexible, and evidence-based approaches to foreign policy and assistance. This strategy can help policymakers scale what is working, pivot away from what is not, provide immediate humanitarian relief, and build sustainable peace over a longer period of time, all in the national interest of the U.S.

Sincerely,