

Lifesaving and Life-affirming International Humanitarian and Development Assistance

April 10, 2026

Appropriations Accounts (\$ in thousands)	FY25 CR*	FY26 Enacted	FY27 President's Budget Request	FY27 USCCB/CRS Request
<i>National Security, State (NSRP)/State, Foreign Operations (SFOPs)</i>	29,829,856	24,577,083	11,908,857	25,180,020
Global Health Programs Includes maternal and child health, nutrition, vulnerable children, HIV/AIDS, Global Fund, global health security, malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases	10,030,450	9,415,775	5,123,000	9,518,712
International Humanitarian Assistance**	8,669,400**	5,400,000	4,000,000	5,400,000
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	100	100,000	500,000	100,000
National Security Investment Programs***	7,821,400***	6,766,874	0	6,766,874
Millennium Challenge Account	930,000	830,000	609,000	830,000
Contribution to the International Development Association	1,380,256	1,066,184	866,657	1,066,184
Green Climate Fund	0	0	0	500,000
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation	998,250	998,250	810,200	998,250
<i>Agricultural (Ag)</i>	1,927,583	1,440,000	0	1,740,000
Title II Food for Peace	1,687,583	1,200,000	0	1,500,000
McGovern-Dole	240,000	240,000	0	240,000
COMBINED TOTAL	31,757,439	26,017,083	11,908,857	26,920,020

Catholic Vision for U.S. Humanitarian and Development Assistance

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 Catholic Church has long recognized that helping those in need, regardless of nationality or faith, is a moral imperative. Humanitarian and development aid are an integral part of the Church's commitment to human life and dignity. As the Church pursues a more peaceful world through dialogue and diplomacy, lifesaving and life-affirming assistance act as necessary complements that allow for sustainable solutions to take root. A comprehensive pro-life, Catholic vision for U.S. humanitarian and development assistance recognizes that the U.S. government, alongside the Church, shares a responsibility to advance the common good. As taught in *Deus caritas est* (2005), the pursuit of a just social order "must be a fundamental norm of the State." *Gaudium et spes* (1965) elaborates on the global nature of this responsibility, noting that wealthier nations have a duty to assist poorer countries. Given that government institutions and the Church are jointly called to create a more just world, a Catholic approach to U.S. international assistance invokes both parties as essential partners in the promotion of human life. Therefore, the USCCB and CRS urge Congress to prioritize these accounts to save lives, reduce poverty, alleviate the drivers of forced migration, and invest in peace.

* Congress rescinded \$500M in Global Health Programs, \$2.5B in DA, \$496M in IDA, \$800M in MRA, \$1.65B in ESF, and \$43M in the Complex Crises Fund.

** The FY26 Enacted Bill merged International Disaster Assistance and Migration and Refugee Assistance. The FY25 base bill designates \$750 million as an emergency requirement for IDA and MRA, respectively. The Administration did not approve these funds after the CR passed but the funding is still available to be designated.

*** The FY26 Enacted Bill merged multiple accounts, including Development Assistance and the Economic Support Fund. The FY25 CR level is the sum of ESF and DA.

Account Descriptions

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Global Health Programs support multiple health activities. 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 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.

International Humanitarian Assistance provides for life-saving humanitarian assistance under a new consolidated account which includes the funding and authorities previously made available under International Disaster Assistance and Migration and Refugee Assistance. This includes authorities to support emergency health, water, shelter and nutrition efforts; disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation; and protection for refugees and internally displaced persons.

National Security Investment Programs merges Development Assistance and the Economic Support Fund to carry out an array of development and economic growth activities, including agriculture and rural development, education, environment, water and sanitation, democracy and governance, microfinance, anti-trafficking in persons, and peacebuilding. We support a poverty-focused use of these funds.

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance is a drawdown account used, with Presidential authority, to respond to humanitarian crises.

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 resources to developing countries to help governments carry out their expressed climate adaptation and mitigation priorities and protect their populations from the adverse impacts of a changing climate. In addition to GCF, Congress should consider funding other multilateral programs that protect families from adverse climate impacts, 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 less-developed countries. We support a use of these funds for economic and integral human development, and urge Congress to ensure that investments result in tangible development benefits for local families and markets.

Agriculture

Title II Food for Peace provides U.S. food aid for emergencies and provides \$365 million that can help address chronic hunger crises and transition families from food aid to self-reliance.

McGovern-Dole provides school lunches and take-home food rations that use U.S. food aid to encourage school attendance, improve literacy, and other nutrition and education support efforts. No less than \$24 million should be provided for local and regionally procured commodities for sustainability.