



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

VICE CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

For Immediate Release:

December 21, 2020

Contact:

Jay Tilton:

(202) 224-2667

Leahy Press Office:

(202) 224-3693

SUMMARY

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The fiscal year 2021 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill provides \$55.5 billion to project U.S. leadership and protect a wide array of U.S. security, humanitarian, and economic interests around the world. Of this amount, \$8 billion is for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) to support operations and programs in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries in conflict, as well as countries in political transition (including in Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, and Africa) and to respond to humanitarian crises (including in Syria, South Sudan, Burma, Venezuela, and Yemen). The bill totals \$820 million above the fiscal year 2020 level.

Consistent with prior years, the bill reflects a strong bipartisan view that diplomacy and development are indispensable components of U.S. foreign policy and necessary to effectively project U.S. leadership in a manner that is consistent with U.S. values and safeguards U.S. national interests. In doing so, the bill, as in past years, rejects the arbitrary and reckless cuts proposed by the Trump White House, and provides continuity and predictability for Federal agencies, including to support U.S. foreign and civil service personnel and the programs they administer. Millions of Americans travel, work, study, and serve abroad every year, and they rely on the many essential services provided by U.S. embassies and consulates overseas.

Key Points & Highlights

The State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) work around the world to strengthen alliances, combat terrorism, reduce conflict, respond to natural and man-made disasters, combat infectious diseases, strengthen democratic governance, and expand economic opportunities for local populations to reduce poverty and build stronger U.S. partners and markets for U.S. exports. Democrats and Republicans agree that the activities undertaken by the State Department and USAID and the other entities funded in the bill directly enhance U.S. security.

State Department and USAID Hiring

The bill includes funds to continue to restore cuts made by the Trump Administration to State Department and USAID hiring. Now more than ever we need to ensure that our foreign and civil service personnel have the resources to do their jobs.

Federal Agency Redesign and Reorganization

The bill conditions any steps to redesign or reorganize Federal agencies on detailed implementation plans to ensure that such efforts do not undermine effectiveness.

Consular Services

The bill includes an additional \$300 million in emergency appropriations to partially offset the looming shortfall of several hundred million dollars that would otherwise result in resource-driven layoffs of consular personnel in the coming months due to a drastic decrease in passport and visa fee revenue. The bill also includes three authorities that enable the State Department to use certain other fees it collects to support consular services in fiscal year 2021. Consular personnel perform a wide range of essential services for Americans living and traveling overseas, in addition to processing passport and visa applications.

International Organizations

The bill rejects the Trump Administration's antipathy toward multilateralism by providing the funds necessary to pay the full U.S. share of assessments to international organizations, including for the United Nations (UN), and includes \$387.5 million for voluntary contributions to various UN agencies and international organizations for which the White House proposed \$0. However, for the fifth straight fiscal year the bill does not fix the statutory cap on U.S. contributions for UN peacekeeping, which the Trump Administration pledged not to exceed even if provided with the necessary authority, resulting in arrears estimated in excess of \$1 billion through fiscal year 2021. Such arrears undermine U.S. credibility and influence, and weaken UN peacekeeping missions.

Oversight, Reforms, and Reducing Government Waste

The bill contains many of the same conditions on assistance for countries, contributions to international organizations, and other operations and programs as the fiscal year 2020 bill.

The bill also continues certain conditions and reforms included in prior years, and includes new reforms, to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of U.S. foreign assistance, and requirements to reduce waste and corruption and improve oversight, including:

Transparency and Whistleblower Policies

Imposes conditions on 5 percent of U.S. funding for certain international organizations based on transparency and effective whistleblower policies, as well as each organization's efforts to effectively implement policies limiting first class and business class travel.

Taxation of U.S. Foreign Assistance

Continues an existing provision prohibiting the taxation of U.S. foreign assistance.

Effectiveness of Humanitarian Aid

Continues and strengthens a provision to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian aid through the regular and systematic collection of feedback data directly from beneficiaries.

International Financial Institutions

Continues provisions designed to improve the quality, transparency, and oversight of lending by the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

Congressional Oversight

Includes provisions that ensure congressional oversight of decisions to reorganize, reduce, or terminate offices within foreign assistance agencies or overseas missions.

Diverted or Destroyed Assistance

Continues a provision requiring notification when U.S. assistance is diverted or destroyed.

Professional Security Forces

Maintains human rights conditions on a portion of assistance for several countries to help build professional security forces that respect the rights of civilians, and requires the Secretary of State to submit reports on actions by certain security forces to help improve congressional oversight.

Ex-post Evaluations

Includes a new provision and \$10 million to expand the use of ex-post evaluations to assess the sustainability of U.S. foreign assistance programs and improve program design.

USAID Accountability

Includes a new directive to enhance USAID accountability mechanisms for individuals and communities who may be adversely affected by USAID-funded projects.

International Military Education and Training Programs

Continues an existing provision requiring enhanced monitoring and evaluation of International Military Education and Training programs.

USAID's Local Works Program

Includes \$55 million (\$5 million above the fiscal year 2020 level) for USAID's Local Works program that provides small grants to local entities that have not traditionally received USAID funding, to encourage locally-led development.

COVID Response and Bolstering Global Health

In previous emergency supplemental appropriations bills the Congress provided \$2.4 billion to respond to the COVID pandemic overseas. That fell far short of what is needed for countries whose rudimentary public health systems are overwhelmed, to pay for the procurement, transport and distribution of vaccines, and to help mitigate the extreme economic disruption and hardship caused by the virus. This bill includes an additional \$4 billion for The GAVI Alliance for COVID vaccine procurement and delivery. This is a significant infusion of urgently needed resources to enable GAVI to ratchet up its response and save lives. However, it is still only a

fraction of what is required for the global pandemic response.

Other infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Zika, tuberculosis, and malaria are a constant reminder of the threats to millions of Americans who travel, live, study, and serve overseas, as well as here at home. Hundreds of millions of people in the poorest countries, especially children, die or suffer from debilitating diseases that can be prevented or treated. The bill maintains or increases funding for these life-saving global health programs.

HIV/AIDS

A total of \$6.26 billion to combat HIV/AIDS, including \$4.37 billion for Department of State programs in support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); \$1.56 billion for a U.S. contribution to the Global Fund; and \$330 million for USAID's HIV/AIDS programs, each of which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level.

Polio

The bill provides \$65 million, which is \$4 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, for polio prevention programs to build local capacity to identify and monitor outbreaks and plan for and implement immunization programs.

Family Planning/Reproductive Health

The bill provides \$575 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to support access to voluntary family planning services and other related health care. (See "Key Deficiencies" below for information on UNFPA and the Mexico City Policy). Democrats and some Republicans favored increases for voluntary family planning/reproductive health programs, which save the lives of women and children and reduce the incidence of abortion, but were blocked by the White House and the Republican leadership.

Maternal and Child Health

The bill provides \$855 million, which is \$4 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, for maternal and child health programs. Within these funds, \$290 million is included for The GAVI Alliance. These funds save lives in countries where easily preventable diseases, like measles, continue to kill hundreds of thousands of children each year.

Nutrition

The bill provides \$150 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, for nutrition programs. Malnutrition contributes to almost half of all the deaths of children under the age of five.

Malaria

The bill provides \$770 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to combat malaria.

Tuberculosis

The bill provides \$319 million, which is \$9 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, to combat tuberculosis. Multi-drug resistance presents increasing threats in countries where TB is prevalent.

Global Health Security

The bill provides \$190 million, which is \$90 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, to strengthen the ability of target countries to prevent, detect, and respond to future zoonotic viruses and other infectious diseases, and to identify unknown zoonotic viruses.

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

The bill provides \$102.5 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, for NTDs. More than one billion people worldwide suffer from one or more debilitating tropical diseases like River Blindness, which disproportionately afflict poor and rural populations.

Combating Poverty and Promoting Development and Democracy

The bill provides a total of \$7.8 billion for economic growth and development programs, including for agriculture and food security, basic and higher education, democracy and governance, environmental protection, water and sanitation, microenterprise, and women's leadership programs.

Education Programs

The bill provides \$950 million for education programs, which is \$75 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, for basic education programs to improve the quality of and access to education; and \$235 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, for higher education programs, including \$35 million for partnerships between U.S. and foreign higher education institutions. An additional \$50 million is provided to assist higher education institutions in countries in the Middle East and Asia impacted by economic crises.

Water and Sanitation Programs

The bill provides \$450 million water and sanitation programs, including \$225 million for programs in sub-Saharan Africa, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation, improve water resource management, and mitigate conflicts that arise from water scarcity.

Microenterprise Programs

The bill provides \$265 million for microenterprise programs, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to combat poverty by helping micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (including smallholder farmers) access financing and market opportunities and increase incomes.

Democracy Programs

The bill provides \$2.4 billion for democracy programs, which is \$17 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, for democracy programs to strengthen governance; freedom of expression, association, assembly, and religion; human rights; independence of the media; and the rule of law. These programs improve citizen access to information and political participation, and provide alternatives to radicalization.

Environment and Energy Programs

The bill provides \$320 million to protect biodiversity, which is \$5 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, for USAID conservation programs that protect forests, marine ecosystems, and

endangered species; \$75 million to address ocean plastic pollution, which is \$63 million above the fiscal year 2020 level; \$356 million for renewable energy and adaptation programs; \$139.6 million for the Global Environment Facility; and \$32 million for the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund.

Gender-Based Violence and Women's Leadership

The bill provides \$165 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence; and \$50 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, for programs to increase leadership opportunities for women in the public and private sectors.

Protection of Civil Society Activists and Journalists

The bill provides \$25 million, which is \$5 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, to protect and support civil society activists, including human rights and environmental defenders and journalists who are threatened, harassed, or attacked in foreign countries. The bill also requires an updated strategy to improve U.S. support for such activists.

International Freedom of Expression

The bill provides \$15 million, which is \$5 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, for programs to promote and defend freedom of expression and the independence of the media in countries where such rights are restricted or denied.

Supporting Key Allies

The bill provides substantial funding for key allies, including:

Israel

The bill provides \$3.3 billion for military aid for Israel, which is equal to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and fiscal year 2020 level.

Jordan

The bill provides \$1.65 billion in economic and military aid to Jordan, in addition to humanitarian aid for Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan, which is \$375 million above the current MOU and equal to the fiscal year 2020 level.

Tunisia

The bill provides \$241 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to expand economic growth, strengthen security services, support civil society, and strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law.

Countering Russian Influence Fund

The bill provides \$290 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to counter Russian influence and aggression by promoting good governance, energy independence, and economic stability in countries under pressure from Russia, and ensuring our allies can protect their territorial integrity.

Countering Chinese Influence Fund

The bill provides \$300 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to expand U.S. partnerships and counter Chinese pressure globally, which is in addition to funds made available for bilateral operations and programs.

Central America

The bill provides \$506 million to address the causes of migration of undocumented Central Americans to the United States, including to combat corruption and impunity, counter gang violence, and create educational and employment opportunities, which is \$14 million below the fiscal year 2020 level. Fifty percent of the funds made available for the central governments in the Northern Triangle countries are subject to conditions related to migration, human rights, and corruption.

Colombia

The bill provides \$461 million to support ongoing programs and implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC, which is \$13 million above the fiscal year 2020 level. Portions of the funds are subject to conditions related to counter-narcotics and human rights.

Special Immigrant Visas

The bill provides authorization and funding for an additional 4,000 Special Immigrant Visas for Afghans, and their families, whose lives are threatened as a result of the work they performed in support of the United States in Afghanistan, subject to certain conditions.

Combating Crime and Corruption

The bill provides \$1.39 billion for the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement account, including to sustain efforts to combat human trafficking; counter wildlife trafficking and poaching, which threaten endangered species and are a source of funding for criminal organizations; professionalize police; and strengthen independent judiciaries.

Programs to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Modern Slavery

The bill provides \$99 million, which is \$5 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, to work with nongovernmental organizations, partner governments, and others to prevent human trafficking, prosecute traffickers, and provide services for victims, including up to \$25 million to combat modern slavery.

Counter Wildlife Trafficking

The bill provides \$101 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to combat wildlife trafficking and poaching.

Combating Corruption

The bill provides \$45 million for attorneys general and other entities to fight corruption and impunity in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, and additional funds for programs to support independent judiciaries, prevent mass atrocities, and strengthen the rule of law globally.

Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremist Organizations

The bill makes funds available to stem the flow of foreign fighters seeking to join violent extremist organizations (VEOs), as well as to combat VEOs by addressing the causes of radicalization, which includes countering extremist propaganda, strengthening the capacity of foreign governments to address the grievances of citizens, holding individuals who have committed terrorist acts and other crimes accountable, and assisting victims of extremism.

The bill includes \$100 million for the Prevention and Stabilization Fund to implement the Global Fragility Act, which is the first appropriation specifically for such purpose.

Protecting Human Rights

The bill continues conditions on aid to foreign governments where there is a history of abuses by security forces, including Sri Lanka, Honduras, Egypt, Nepal, Philippines, and Colombia. \$75 million in military aid for Egypt – where a wrongfully imprisoned American citizen died in custody earlier this year – is conditioned on “clear and consistent progress” in releasing political prisoners and providing detainees with due process of law.

In addition, the bill includes \$15.5 million to support forensic anthropology programs to locate and identify the remains of victims of armed conflict and crimes against humanity.

The bill directs the Secretary of State to deny visas to foreign officials who use threats or the judicial process to try to silence independent journalists.

Responding to Humanitarian Crises

The bill provides \$7.8 billion to assist tens of millions of refugees and IDPs uprooted as a result of war and natural disasters in Venezuela, Colombia, Sudan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Yemen, and elsewhere, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level. The bill also directs that such funds for refugees shall be administered by the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, which is consistent with prior years.

Promoting U.S. Exports

In response to economic competition from China and other countries, as well as expanding U.S. trade with developing countries, the bill provides funding equal to the fiscal year 2020 levels to promote exports of U.S. goods and services for the Export-Import Bank and the Trade and Development Agency.

Private Sector Investment

The bill includes a significant increase for the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), as authorized in the BUILD Act of 2018, including \$450 million for equity investments and other DFC activities to spur private sector led development in less developed

countries, which is \$270 million above the fiscal year 2020 level for such activities, in addition to authority to transfer of up to \$50 million from the Department of State and USAID.

Payments to Victims of Terrorism and Assistance for Sudan

The bill includes emergency appropriations to pay claims of victims of terrorism and to support the political transition in Sudan, including \$150 million for payments to naturalized American citizen victims of the 1998 bombings at U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; \$120 million for multilateral debt relief for Sudan at the IMF; and \$700 million for a World Bank Trust Fund for economic assistance and for USAID global health programs for Sudan. The bill also includes \$111 million for bilateral debt relief for Sudan.

Other Key Programs

Educational and Cultural Exchanges

The bill provides \$740 million for Educational and Cultural Exchanges, which is \$10 million above the fiscal year 2020 level. Of this amount, \$274 million is for the Fulbright Program, which is \$2 million above the fiscal year 2020 level, including to expand engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions.

Embassy Security

The bill provides \$6.1 billion for embassy security, which is \$692 million above the President's request and equal to the fiscal year 2020 level, to meet the full cost of the State Department's share for overseas capital security and to protect U.S. diplomats and development personnel abroad.

International Commissions

The bill provides \$177 million for International Commissions to directly benefit the livelihoods of Americans through the management of commercial and recreational fisheries that generate billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs, to manage transboundary issues on the northern and southern borders, and for other purposes, which is \$14 million above the fiscal year 2020 level.

Peace Corps

The bill provides \$410.5 million for the Peace Corps, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level.

Debt Relief

The bill provides the second and final tranche of bilateral debt relief for Somalia, and the first tranche of bilateral debt relief for Sudan. This debt relief is urgently needed due to the economic impacts of the COVID pandemic and Sudan's fragile democratic transition. The bill also provides more funding for, and fewer restrictions on, bilateral assistance for Sudan.

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

The bill provides \$912 million for MCC, which is \$7 million above the fiscal year 2020 level. MCC supports economic growth programs that create jobs in countries that meet key anti-corruption and poverty reduction criteria. The bill also extends for one year the time available

for completing pending compacts that were delayed due to the coronavirus.

Global Internet Freedom

Not less than \$70 million for programs to promote Internet freedom in countries whose governments restrict freedom of expression. Efforts include countering repressive Internet-related laws and regulations and enhancing digital security for activists, which is \$4.5 million above the fiscal year 2020 level.

U.S. Institute of Peace

The bill provides \$45 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level.

Inter-American Foundation and U.S. African Development Foundation

The bill provides \$38 million for the IAF, which is \$500,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level; and \$33 million for the USADF, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level.

Hong Kong

The bill provides \$3 million for democracy programs for Hong Kong, which is \$1.5 million above the fiscal year 2020 level.

West Bank

The bill provides \$75 million for economic development programs implemented by international and nongovernmental organizations that benefit the Palestinian people and are intended to advance U.S. interests by increasing stability, including for people-to-people exchanges between Israelis and Palestinians, to be made available consistent with applicable provisions of law. The bill also provides \$75 million for security cooperation programs with the Palestinian Authority.

Nita Lowey

The bill also includes an authorizing bill, named after Chairwoman Nita Lowey, to codify people-to-people programs between Israelis and Palestinians and an investment initiative in the Palestinian private sector economy.

Key Deficiencies

While the bill includes funding for many programs with strong bipartisan support, funding for several key programs was prohibited, significantly reduced, or not included in the bill, including:

Family Planning/Reproduction Health

The agreement continues funding for USAID family planning/reproductive health programs and for UNFPA at the fiscal year 2020 levels, despite significantly higher funding levels in the House bill. However, it does not include a Senate poison pill to codify the Mexico City Policy (Global Gag Rule).

Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities

As in fiscal years 2017-2020, the bill retains the cap on funding for U.S. peacekeeping assessments at 25 percent of total UN peacekeeping, despite the Trump Administration's vote in favor of the current UN peacekeeping budget and the 27.9 percent U.S. assessment rate, which

undermines U.S. credibility and influence and has negative operational impacts for UN peacekeeping missions.

Green Climate Fund

As in fiscal year 2020, no funding is provided for a U.S. contribution to the Green Climate Fund. In fact, the words “climate change” do not appear in the 337 page bill.

#####