

KEY ASKS

- Support a **strong and effective International Affairs Budget funded at no less than the FY23 enacted level of \$61.6 billion as the absolute floor** – ensuring America has critical resources to address growing competition from China, among other essential priorities, while also being ready to respond to emergency needs from support for Ukraine to the global food crisis.
- Ensure the 118th Congress continues to **champion effective, accountable, and results-driven international affairs programs** that deliver a return on investment for American taxpayers.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

Communicating with Elected Officials

SAY THANK YOU

- Everyone – including Members of Congress – appreciates being thanked for a job well done.
- If you are meeting with a Member who is supportive of the International Affairs Budget, remember to say, “thank you.” Expressing gratitude is an effective and powerful way to build relationships with Members of Congress.

TELL YOUR STORY

- A constituent voice is the most powerful advocacy tool. Why do **you** support American global leadership and investments in development and diplomacy?
- Does your company do business abroad? Do you work with a charity or religious organization that does humanitarian work overseas? Have you served in the military or the Peace Corps? Share a personal anecdote.

MAKE IT LOCAL

- Members of Congress want to know why America’s engagement in the world matters to their state or district.
- Use USGLC’s State Fact Sheet to share data that highlights how your state directly benefits from global engagement.

SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Don’t forget to take a photo with the Member of Congress or Congressional staffer you meet with.
- Post your picture on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter and tag USGLC and the Member of Congress. *(See our Social Media Guide to get ideas for posts and Member handles.)*

KEY MESSAGES

- In the face of escalating global threats – from competition with China to Russia’s war in Ukraine to historic humanitarian crises with skyrocketing levels of hunger, poverty, and migration worldwide – the **stakes could not be higher for America’s global leadership** and our ability to advance the security and economic interests of American families.
- **Global instability is affecting American families** from rising prices to supply chain disruptions – an acute reminder that what happens globally matters locally. The good news is that U.S. development, diplomacy, and foreign assistance programs are a proven investment in building a safer and more prosperous America.
- It is critical that **bipartisan Members of Congress and the Administration work together to ensure international affairs resources meet the realities on the global stage** and protect the security and economic interests of the American people.

TALKING POINTS

A SAFER, MORE SECURE AMERICA

- **FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE.** Top military leaders and veterans are the first to call for investments in diplomacy and development programs because they help stop threats before they reach our shores and keep U.S. servicemembers out of harm’s way. In a recent letter to Congress, **18 former U.S. Combatant Commanders** warned that “shortchanging our investment in these critical tools is dangerous to our own national interests.”
- **STRENGTHENING STABILITY.** More than **1 in every 4 countries** have populations facing severe hunger, exacerbating instability in hotspots around the world. U.S. foreign assistance is a critical tool to **prevent and reduce conflict** – helping stabilize fragile states, stem the drivers of food crises, and keep Americans safe at home.
- **COST-EFFECTIVE.** Every \$1 the U.S. spends to prevent conflict **saves an estimated \$16** in response costs – helping avoid more costly interventions in lives and taxpayer dollars.

AMERICANS’ ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **EASING ECONOMIC DISRUPTION.** The International Monetary Fund recently reported that the global economy is headed for its **weakest medium-term growth in more than 30 years**. Strong U.S. leadership on the world stage is critical to **protect American jobs and grow America’s economy** at a time of global economic uncertainty.
- **COMPETING WITH CHINA.** China’s development spending and financing has **increased by 430%** over the last ten years of available data – with China surpassing the U.S. as the largest trading partner in many countries in Latin America and Africa – posing a direct challenge to America’s strategic interests across the globe.
- **PROTECTING JOBS.** International trade supports **one in five jobs in the U.S.** and more than 95% of exporting companies are small and medium sized businesses. America’s economic future is directly tied to the strength of global markets.

PROJECTING AMERICAN VALUES

- **SAVING LIVES.** 339 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023, a 25% increase from last year. America's development and diplomacy programs help save lives and alleviate suffering – strengthening global stability and showcasing the best of our nation's values.
- **PROTECTING FREEDOM.** Global freedom and democracy have declined for the 17th consecutive year. With authoritarianism on the rise, U.S. leadership to strengthen democratic resilience advances America's security by promoting more peaceful, just, and stable societies.
- **PROVEN RESULTS.** As we mark its 20th anniversary this year, PEPFAR has saved more than 25 million lives to date and built health systems for partner countries to confront other current and future health challenges beyond HIV/AIDS, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2014 West Africa Ebola outbreak.

MOBILIZING ACTION AND MAXIMIZING IMPACT

- **LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES.** Recognizing that nearly 90% of financial flows to the developing world come from private sources, America's international affairs agencies have prioritized public-private partnerships – leveraging public funds to catalyze private sector expertise and resources on global challenges such as food insecurity, energy, and more.
- **BRINGING PARTNERS TO THE TABLE.** American leadership has mobilized international allies and partners and strengthened their commitment to supporting Ukraine in its war with Russia. With its recent commitments, the European Union and its member states are the largest contributors of economic and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and the U.S. actually ranks fifth globally in its support to Ukraine as a percentage of GDP.
- **PRIORITIZING COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT.** With its focus on country-led development, the U.S. is a more reliable partner than China for countries seeking sustainable growth. Through initiatives like Feed the Future and Power Africa, the U.S. works with partner countries to develop better policies and help them move from vulnerability to self-reliance.

BUILDING CONSENSUS ACROSS PARTY LINES

- **BIPARTISAN SUPPORT.** Democrats and Republicans in Congress have long supported strong funding for the International Affairs Budget and have worked together to ensure America's development and diplomacy programs are effective, accountable, and data driven.
- **REFORM-MINDED.** Over the past decade, Congress has passed more than 50 bipartisan bills to reform U.S. diplomacy and development programs on issues from food security to empowering women and girls to aid transparency.
- **UNITED FRONT.** It is a longstanding tradition for bipartisan Members of Congress to travel together abroad to advance U.S. foreign policy priorities and reinforce America's global leadership role. From the World Economic Forum to the Munich Security Conference and beyond, America is strongest when we stand together on the world stage.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET: STATE OF PLAY

International Affairs Budget Snapshot

FY22 Enacted*	FY23 Enacted**	FY24 Request***
\$58.0 billion	\$61.6 billion	\$70.6 billion

**Excludes \$29.3 billion in primarily Ukraine and Afghanistan-related emergency funding*

***Excludes \$4.5 billion in FY23 emergency funding for Ukraine included in the September 2022 Continuing Resolution and \$16.6 billion included in the FY23 Omnibus primarily for Ukraine.*

****Excludes request of \$13.1 billion in mandatory international affairs resources to compete with China.*

FY24 Budget Request

The Administration's FY24 budget request, released in March, seeks to "renew and revitalize U.S. leadership in the world, tackle global challenges, and ensure our foreign policy delivers for the American people" by proposing a **\$9 billion increase** for the International Affairs Budget compared to the FY23 non-emergency enacted level.

Specifically, the request **includes \$70.6 billion in discretionary non-emergency funding for the International Affairs Budget – 14.5% above the FY23 enacted level.** Similar to last year, the Administration proposes funding increases across a wide range of programs and accounts, from humanitarian assistance to climate change to global health.

Above and beyond its discretionary funding proposal, the Administration's request includes **\$13.1 billion in mandatory international affairs resources** to compete with China.

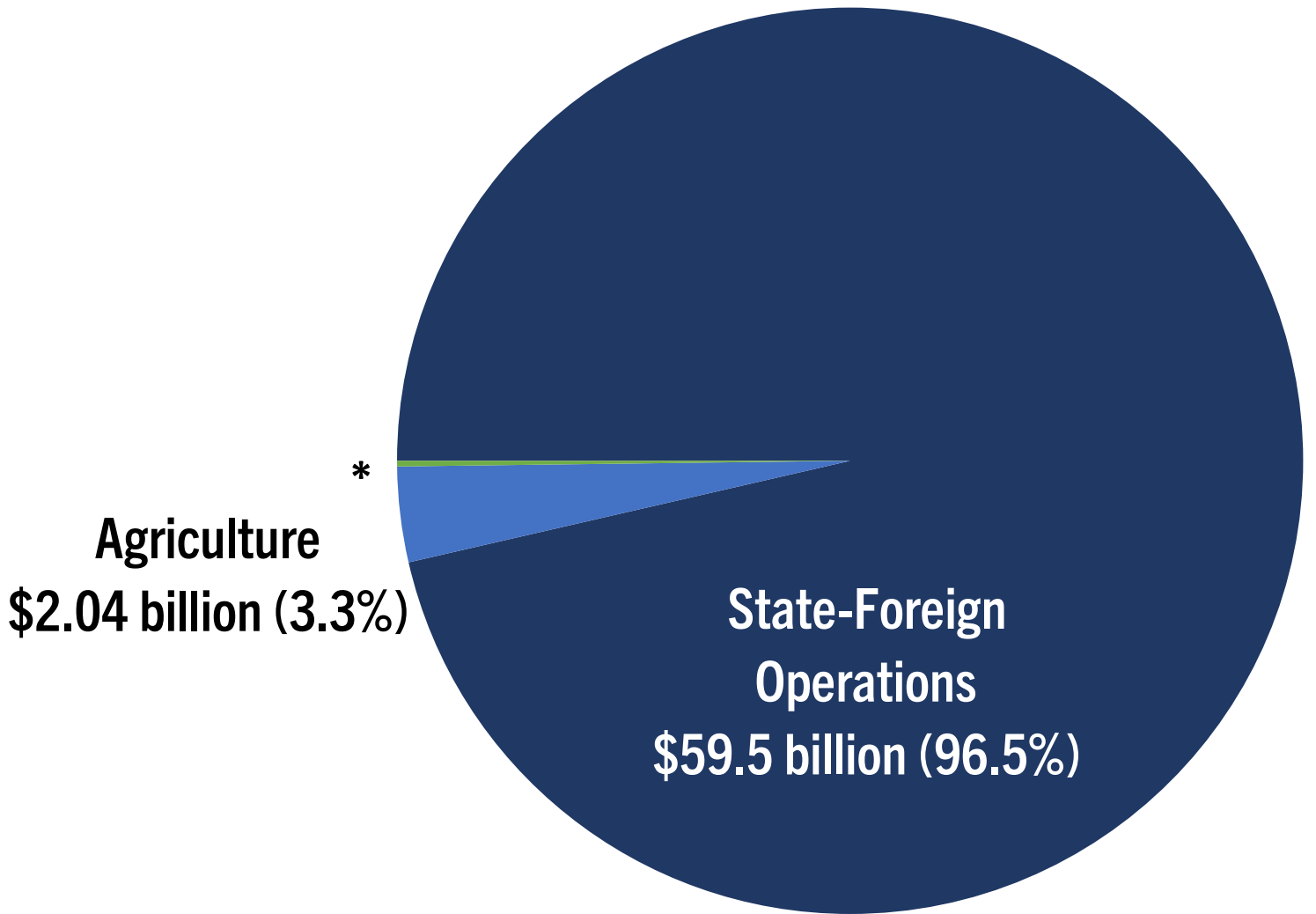
FY24 Budget and Appropriations Process

The annual budget and appropriations process has largely been on hold while negotiations between Congress and the Administration on a bipartisan debt ceiling and spending deal took place. Last week, Congress approved a bipartisan agreement that sets overall spending levels for FY24 – paving the way for Congress to begin work on FY24 spending bills, including the State-Foreign Operations bill that funds the vast majority of the International Affairs Budget. Notably, the spending deal caps non-military, non-veterans spending in FY24 at approximately the FY23 enacted level, which could significantly restrict Congress's ability to provide sufficient resources to address growing needs, including on the global stage.

To finalize FY24 spending in a divided Congress, Congressional and Appropriations leaders will still need to reach a bipartisan agreement on how to distribute resources across a wide array of federal agencies and programs. With less than four months until current government funding runs out, completing action on all 12 appropriations bills before the new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2023, could be a tall order.

In the absence of a final spending deal, Congress could pass a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) to provide additional time for negotiations. If no spending deal or CR is approved by the time current funding expires, a government shutdown could result.

FY23 ENACTED INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET BY APPROPRIATIONS BILL



*** \$125 million (0.2%) is funded through Commerce, Justice, Science**

WHY IS U.S. ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE CRITICAL TO AMERICA'S INTERESTS?

How is Russia's war in Ukraine impacting U.S. security and economic interests?

Russia's invasion of a sovereign nation has not only exacted immeasurable costs on the Ukrainian people, but **it also threatens global stability, directly impacting American stability** and our security and economic interests here at home.

U.S. National Security:

- **America's military leaders [continue to warn](#)** how Russia's war against Ukraine is creating significant "destabilizing impacts on global security" that stretch "far beyond the European frontlines." America's continued assistance to Ukraine helps advance global stability and U.S. national security – all without sending American troops into harm's way.
- **National Security Experts also [worry](#) that if sovereignty and democracy are not protected** in the face of Russia's brutal invasion that the ultimate costs of a hostile nuclear power on the doorstep of America's top NATO allies would be "far greater" than the cost of supporting Ukraine's self-defense.
- **Outside of Europe, the war continues to disrupt global food security** with 7 in 10 people facing crisis-level food insecurity in countries already affected by fragility and conflict, driving new threats for U.S. national security from global hunger, rising conflict, and extremism.

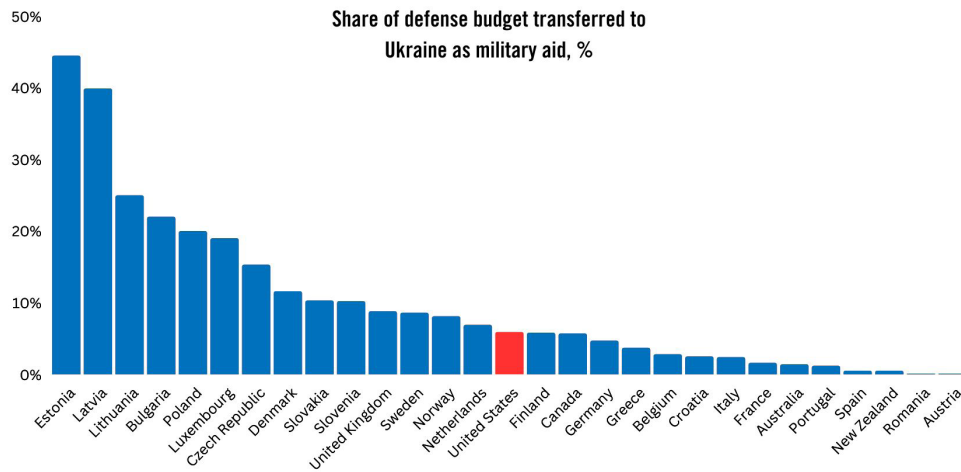
U.S. Economic Interests:

- **Russia's invasion of Ukraine has created havoc for global energy markets and food supplies**, directly impacting gas and grocery prices for American families at home, with U.S. food price inflation remaining stubbornly high at 8.5%.
- **The war has had an outsized and destabilizing impact on Europe's economy**, impacting America's economic interests given Europe remains one of our most trusted trading partners. **With \$1 trillion in annual U.S. trade with the continent, stable European markets are critical** for the exports of American companies and workers with 1 in 5 U.S. jobs depending on international trade. Europe also remains America's fifth largest market for agricultural exports from America's heartland and beyond.

Are America's allies and partners stepping up in support of Ukraine?

More than 50 NATO allies and other partner countries are sharing the burden and providing assistance to support the Ukrainian people and to enable the country to defend itself from Russia's invasion. President Vladimir Putin was banking on a fracturing of the West, when – in fact – the opposite has occurred with unprecedented resolve from America's allies. This united support is due in no small part to significant U.S. diplomatic leadership, the rallying of NATO and America's alliances, the commitments of the U.S. Congress, and – importantly – the bravery of the Ukrainian people.

- **While U.S. leadership has been indispensable, America [ranks](#) fifth globally in its support to Ukraine as a percentage of GDP**, behind Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and Lithuania, and tied with Bulgaria and Norway. When adding in the high burden of costs on countries hosting Ukrainian refugees, the U.S. actually ranks twelfth in overall commitment as a percentage of GDP.
- **The European Union and its member countries have committed more than \$69 billion in assistance.** With its recent [€18 billion commitment](#), the European Union and its member states are now the [largest contributors](#) of economic and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. In total, U.S. allies and partners – from Germany to the UK to Australia – have provided or committed over \$35 billion in security assistance to Ukraine.



Source: Aid data as of January 15, 2023 – Kiel Institute for the World Economy, defense budget data as of 2022 – SIPRI

How is U.S. assistance to Ukraine accountable? Is Ukraine pursuing anti-corruption reforms?

American security, economic, and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine is one of the most highly scrutinized and accountable aid programs that the United States has ever delivered to a partner country with dozens of Congressional delegations helping provide oversight.

- **All U.S. assistance to Ukraine is overseen by three independent U.S. inspectors general from the State Department, USAID, and the Pentagon.** Collectively, these three Offices of Inspector General have more than 250 personnel supporting oversight efforts of U.S. assistance to Ukraine. At the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, the State Department has [45 people](#) on the ground, responsible for monitoring and inspecting America’s assistance to Ukraine.
- **In recent testimony to Congress, all three inspector generals were clear** that their offices’ ongoing investigations to date have not uncovered any fraud, misuse, or diversion of U.S. resources to Ukraine:
 - » **Department of Defense Inspector General Robert Storch:** “Our completed work has not substantiated any allegations of diversion.”
 - » **Department of State Deputy Inspector General Diana Shaw:** “We have not substantiated any instances of the diversion of U.S. security assistance to Ukraine.”
 - » **USAID Acting Deputy Inspector General Nicole Angarella:** “We have not identified any instances of fraud or misuse with respect to the direct budget support.”
- **Despite wartime pressures, Ukraine has introduced significant reforms to combat corruption.**
 - » **In December 2022, the Ukrainian parliament [passed legislation to dissolve an Administrative court](#)** in Kyiv, long been deemed to be corrupt by Ukraine’s National Anti-Corruption Bureau and civil society actors. **Ukraine is one of the few countries in the world that improved its corruption score** over the last year, according to Transparency International.
 - » The Ukrainian government has held itself to rigorous standards with high profile dismissals of senior officials who have been suspected of any corruption or impropriety. And in March 2023, **the Council of Europe’s anti-corruption body [issued an interim report](#) praising Ukraine’s reforms** and progress to root out corruption as the country pursues EU membership.
- **All U.S. funding for direct budgetary support to Ukraine is reimbursed [only](#) after the Ukrainian government has verified its expenses.** This assistance, delivered through the World Bank, goes through rigorous verification processes with monthly reports to the U.S. government.
 - » **USAID Administrator Samantha Power** has been clear when it came to America’s position on corruption: “When something is spotted – because there are going to be issues – that this gets smothered, that the people get fired, that they get prosecuted.”

- » **USAID has engaged Deloitte Consulting to support the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance** and other Ukrainian government institutions to review and advise on the government's processes and procedures to oversee and report on the use of direct budget support funds provided by the U.S. government through the World Bank, bilaterally, or other mechanisms. While Deloitte is not auditing or verifying the use of direct budget support funds, Deloitte is reviewing and reporting on the Ukrainian government's monitoring, transparency, verification and reporting systems and safeguards, including on the use of direct budget support funds, results achieved, and metrics used to measure results.

Is there bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for Ukraine?

Top Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress continue to speak out on why U.S. support to Ukraine is critical for U.S. national interests, even though a small segment of have raised concerns about the level of U.S. support.

- » **Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY):** “Now is not the time... to take our foot off the gas when it comes to helping Ukraine. The single worst thing we can do right now is give Putin any signal that we are wavering in our commitment to defend democracy in Ukraine and around the globe.”
- » **Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY):** “This is not just some altruistic project. This passes every cold, hard, realistic calculation with flying colors. It's the right move for American taxpayers, for American servicemembers, for our allies and partners... Our investment in Ukraine is restoring and rebuilding deterrence for pennies on the dollar.”
- » **Senator Chris Coons (D-DE):** “More than 40 countries around the world are helping Ukraine... We have to continue to stand by Ukraine. Their fight is our fight. They are on the front lines of freedom, for the world, for this century, and I am determined that we will continue this fight to Ukrainian victory.”
- » **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC):** “If Putin dismembers Ukraine, he will not stop. China is more likely to go into Taiwan. The world will unravel and no domestic problem gets better here at home allowing Putin to destroy Ukraine – quite the opposite... We're spending money, but it's being spent on a good cause, the cause of freedom. So I'm all in, whatever they need as long as they need it.”
- » **House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY):** “It's not just between two countries. It's a battle between freedom and tyranny, it's a battle between democracy and autocracy, it's a battle between truth and propaganda... If Ukraine prevails, the free world prevails, and that's good for all of us.”
- » **Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX):** “I have supported U.S. assistance because a victory by Putin in Ukraine would further embolden Americans adversaries from Chairman Xi in Beijing, to the Ayatollah and Tehran to Kim Jong-un in North Korea... Last month, I led a congressional delegation to Ukraine and Poland to conduct in-person oversight of U.S. aid to Ukraine. I saw firsthand the process is working.”
- » **Ranking Member Gregory Meeks (D-NY):** “Congress and the American people will continue to stand with the brave Ukrainians who are defending their rights and freedom. Ukrainians did not ask for this unjust war of aggression. They are only asking for our support as they defend their home and their sovereignty. And it is in our national interest to provide that support to Ukraine.”

Background on Aid Accountability and Effectiveness

Over the past two decades, Republican and Democratic Administrations and Members of Congress have enacted bipartisan, game-changing reforms at agencies like USAID to ensure foreign assistance programs are more transparent, accountable, and data-driven. Agencies and initiatives such as the U.S. International **Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**, the **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)**, **Feed the Future**, and **Prosper Africa** are examples of these reforms at work. Below are key principles that have driven reforms in recent years:

- **Ensuring Transparency and Rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation:** In 2016, Congress passed the [Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act](#), institutionalizing reforms that make U.S. foreign assistance more impactful, transparent, and data-driven. Thanks to Congressional leadership, nearly 100% of foreign assistance is now available to view online at [ForeignAssistance.gov](#), allowing Americans to see exactly where their tax dollars are going. Similarly, this past year, [Results for America](#) awarded USAID a perfect score for its evidence-based evaluation policy and its performance management system.
- **Prioritizing Country Engagement:** New programs in food and climate resilience require country buy-in plans and reforms, ensuring the long-term sustainability of programs. Through [Feed the Future](#) (FTF), for example, the United States is working with host governments to develop national agricultural development strategies that ensure U.S. investments are sustainable. In 2022, FTF was [expanded](#) to eight new target countries in Africa to address global hunger, increasing investments in country-level capacity and resilience.
- **Leveraging Private Resources:** New public-private partnerships have catalyzed taxpayer dollars. Over the next five years, the [Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment](#) will mobilize \$200 billion in public and private financing to provide quality infrastructure in low-income countries. Further, since it was founded in 2019, [Prosper Africa](#), the U.S. government's private sector initiative to promote market opportunities in Africa, has helped close 800 deals across 49 countries for an estimated \$65 billion in exports and investments.
- **Emphasizing Return on Investment:** Humanitarian, development, and food assistance are cost-effective tools to prevent and reduce conflict and to grow the economy. For every \$1 the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) invests in its programs, it [generates \\$136 in U.S. exports](#). More broadly, for every \$1 the United States spends to prevent conflict, it [saves \\$16 in response costs](#). It is cheaper to invest early.

SPOTLIGHT: MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

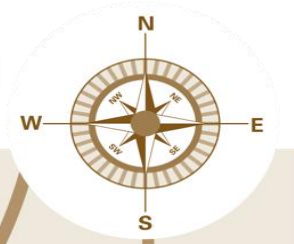
The [Millennium Challenge Corporation](#) (MCC) is an innovative and independent U.S. foreign assistance agency that provides time-limited grants to reduce poverty through economic growth and strengthen institutions to support global stability and enhance American interests.

Created by the U.S. Congress in 2004, the MCC is a [uniquely bipartisan organization](#) that has led the charge on how to deliver the smartest and most impactful U.S. foreign assistance by focusing on evidence-based policies, country-led solutions, and transparent results. In 2022, the MCC was ranked the [world's most transparent bilateral donor](#) for its commitment to transparent operations, public accountability, and data-driven decision making.

MCC's [results framework](#) has served as a model for aid effectiveness by focusing on learning and accountability. With its emphasis on both interim and long-term impacts through independent evaluations, the MCC is a champion of transparent results reporting. [In nearly two decades](#), the MCC has signed 38 long-term contracts with 29 countries, worth more than \$14 billion and benefitting 190 million people worldwide.

GLOBAL IMPACT FORUM

Capitol Hill Map



Legend

	Accessible Entrance		Elevators
	Accessible Route		Parking
	Visitor Services Shuttle		Bus Pick-Up
	Circulator Bus Stop		Bus Drop-Off
			Metro Station





Capitol Area Sightseeing Guide

Below are a few sightseeing suggestions in case you have an opportunity to explore the Capitol area during your visit.

The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center | Beneath the East Front Plaza of the U.S. Capitol at First Street and East Capitol Street.

The Capitol Visitor Center leads free tours by professional guides through the Capitol complex and visit the Crypt, the Rotunda, and the National Statuary Hall. The tour does not include visits to the Senate and House Galleries. The Capitol Visitor Center is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and advanced reservation is recommended on visitthecapitol.gov.



Smithsonian Museum of Natural History | 10th St. & Constitution Ave. NW

Home to more than 147 million objects and specimens, including the famous Hope Diamond, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History is the largest natural history collection in the world. With current exhibits from “Lights Out: Recovering Our Night Sky” to “Our Places: Connecting People and Nature” this museum has something for everyone. The museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and admission is free.



National Portrait Gallery & Smithsonian American Art Museum | 8th and G Streets NW

The National Portrait Gallery holds more than 23,000 works, including the only complete collection of presidential portraits outside of the White House. On the other side of the building, the American Art Museum is home to one of the largest and most inclusive collections of American art in the world and is housed in one of the oldest public buildings constructed in early Washington. Admission is free, and the gallery is open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.



National Museum of the American Indian | 4th Street and Independence Ave

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian is the first national museum in the country dedicated exclusively to Native Americans. The museum offers a range of exhibitions, film and video screenings, public programs and living culture presentations. Admission is free, and the museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily.



United States Botanic Garden | 100 Maryland Avenue SW

The U.S. Botanic Garden is a living museum first envisioned by George Washington and established in 1820 by Congress. It is the oldest continuously operating public garden in the United States. All admission is free, and the gated outdoor gardens are open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily with the conservatory open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.



National Museum of American History | 1300 Constitution Ave. NW

The Smithsonian Museum of American History traces the American experience since colonial times by exploring America's social, political, cultural, scientific, and military history. The museum is home to more than 1.5 million objects and more than three shelf-miles of archival collections, including the Star-Spangled Banner and Abraham Lincoln's top hat. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and admission is free.



National Museum of African American History | 1400 Constitution Ave. NW

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. It was established by an Act of Congress in 2003, following decades of efforts to promote and highlight the contributions of African Americans, and has collected more than 40,000 artifacts. Admission is free but timed-entry passes are required which visitors are encouraged to book in advance. The museum is open from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays and open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from Tuesday through Sunday.



National Postal Museum | 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum is located in the historic City Post Office Building, which was constructed in 1914 and served as the Washington, D.C., post office from 1914 through 1986. The museum's many exhibition galleries present America's postal history from Colonial times to the present and houses one of the largest and most significant postal history collections in the world. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and admission is free.”.



Welcome to Washington, D.C.!