

Fund International Humanitarian Assistance & the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund

JRS/USA advocates funding the **International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA) account at \$8.7 billion and U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (ERMA) at \$100 million** to restore lifesaving programs and reaffirm the United States' commitment to **protecting human life and dignity**.

Through decades of work accompanying displaced communities in 55+ countries, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) has witnessed firsthand the **lifesaving role of U.S. international humanitarian assistance**. In the most extreme and under-resourced contexts, U.S. support has fed families facing hunger; kept displaced children in school and shielded from child labor, sexual exploitation, and recruitment into illicit networks and armed conflict; protected communities from preventable illness; and provided critical mental health care to people affected by violence and trauma. U.S. assistance gave millions of children and people forced to flee their homes a chance to recover and rebuild their futures.

Sharp reductions in humanitarian assistance in FY 2025 **severely weakened** this lifesaving system. Funding disruptions have triggered crises in health, hunger, homelessness, sexual exploitation, and education gaps among the world's **117.8 million forcibly displaced persons**.

WHY THIS MATTERS



Strengthens U.S. national security

Sustained humanitarian assistance helps stabilize crisis-affected regions and prevent instability from spilling into the U.S. by reducing pressures driving onward migration and limiting the expansion of terrorist groups, transnational criminal networks, and bad actors that exploit vulnerable people.



Protects U.S. leadership and influence abroad

Humanitarian assistance has been a key tool of U.S. foreign policy, promoting U.S. interests and values abroad and strengthening relations with strategic partners. The power vacuum left by the U.S. is now being exploited by actors positioning themselves as more reliable partners. For example, after the U.S. cut food assistance programs, China donated \$2 million in rice to Uganda in March 2025.



Saves taxpayer dollars

Humanitarian assistance is a cost-effective tool that reduces the likelihood of crises that could otherwise require military or higher-cost interventions, which could themselves jeopardize US interests.



Upholds human dignity and Catholic values

Catholic social teaching calls us to protect vulnerable people and uphold the dignity of every person.



CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Fund IHA at \$8.7 Billion and ERMA at \$100 Million

- Fund the IHA account with \$8.7 billion to provide health, water, shelter, nutrition and food programs for refugees and displaced people, and to reintegrate forcibly displaced people. This would restore the IHA account to FY25 and FY24 levels after a 37% cut for FY26.
- Fund ERMA with \$100 million to ensure the United States can respond swiftly to emerging humanitarian crises. This equals the level in FY26 – the statutory maximum.

How U.S. Funding Cuts Are Affecting Displaced Communities Served by JRS: Some Examples



CHAD **8,000 students lost access to education**

Following the 2025 U.S. foreign assistance cuts, approximately 8,000 students participating in JRS-supported programs were forced out of school. The loss of State Department funding also created a major gap in mental health and psychosocial support for refugees and displaced communities from Sudan, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, and other countries.



INDONESIA **Families face homelessness and interrupted education**

Funding reductions have left Afghan, Somali, Sudanese, Burmese and other refugees in Indonesia at greater risk of homelessness, while financial support helping refugee children attend public school has declined. Gaps in funding also threaten JRS' education and psychosocial support for 1,180 asylum seekers and refugees.



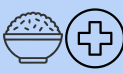
ETHIOPIA **Children face greater harm and fewer opportunities**

Reduced U.S. funding forced JRS to scale back child protection, education, mental health and psychosocial support, and emergency assistance for refugees from Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and host communities. As a result, vulnerable children and their families face higher rates of attempted suicide, hunger, abandonment, and vulnerability to security risks.



SOUTH SUDAN **Families lost access to essential services**

Over 90% of JRS' programs in South Sudan were previously supported by the U.S. State Department. Recent cuts have reduced essential access to education, mental health, and psychosocial support for displaced people from Sudan, South Sudan, DRC, and the Central African Republic. As the number of displaced people rises rapidly, there are insufficient resources to effectively respond to people's basic needs.



UGANDA **Displaced people face hunger and inadequate medical care**

Funding reductions have contributed to growing food insecurity and reduced access to essential medical care for refugees from DRC, South Sudan, Somalia, and other countries. At the same time, continued displacement from the DRC and Sudan is increasing demand for emergency assistance that existing resources cannot meet.