Support the Complex Crises Fund

Complex Crises Fund (CCF) supports the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in responding to emergent conflicts and crises. It is a flexible source of funding for USAID to act in countries or regions that demonstrate a high or escalating risk of conflict, instability, or an unanticipated opportunity for progress towards sustainable peace.

BACKGROUND

The Complex Crises Fund was created as a separate appropriations line-item account by the 111th Congress. Since FY16, CCF funding has remained stagnant at $30 million. In response to increasing violence and conflict situations, there is a need to further expand funding for CCF. CCF provides critical funding in support of the Global Fragility Act, enacted in December 2019. CCF has been used to strengthen capacity of local governments and citizens, address growing risks of instability, prevent and respond to violence, and address insecurity.

CCF Funding Levels 2015-2021

COMPLEX CRISES FUND IN ACTION

In 2018 and 2019 alone, CCF has been used to respond to emergent crises in Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Mali, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan and Ethiopia.
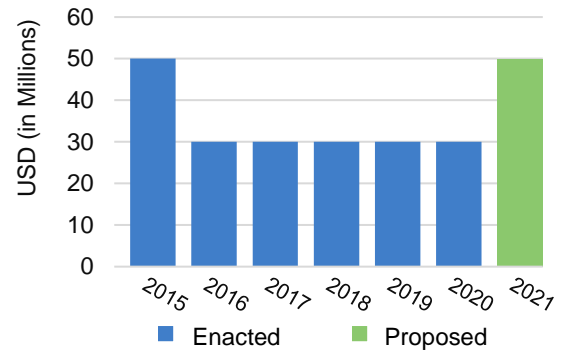
In Bangladesh, $3.2 million from CCF addressed growing instability and violence resulting from refugee and host community tensions and strengthened social cohesion to reduce future violence. With the arrival of over 745,000 Rohingya fleeing atrocities in Myanmar, the largest and fastest influx of refugees into Bangladesh, tensions between refugee and host communities have been on the rise, with escalating tit-for-tat violence and retributions . CCF funds were quickly mobilized to respond to the emergent violence and help stabilize the situation in 2018.

In Mali, $3 million of CCF funds were used to strengthen communities and build youth resilience to violence and extremism. CCF- funded programs allowed USAID to quickly respond to escalating activities of non-state armed actors and increasing instability in the region. This response included a conflict early warning and response mechanism; activities to engage vulnerable youth in viable alternatives to violence, and programs aimed to strengthen resilience of communities vulnerable to extremism and violence.

EXPANDING THE COMPLEX CRISES FUND

For the past five years, the CCF has been remained at only $30M, despite increasing violence and instability. In 2018, the OECD increased the total number of fragile countries to 58, with 15 considered 'extremely fragile.' In the Sahel, insurgent attacks constantly threaten the tenuous peace currently holding the region together. A breakdown of the peace agreement and an escalation of sectarian violence in the Central African Republic could further drive forced displacement and destabilize neighboring countries. While in Burundi, the UN found that all eight common risk factors of mass atrocities are clearly present as the country enters a contentious election year. The investment of an additional $20M would allow for two to five more CCF programs per year, at the potential cost of future conflicts.

> ## We request no less than $50 million be appropriated to the Complex Crises Fund in FY21
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> CCF is the only tool of its kind. It provides global, flexible, and rapid-response funding to prevent and reduce violence. This funding enables USAID to address emerging conflicts before a crisis develops, saving taxpayer dollars and, ultimately, lives.

Examples Of Recent USAID Complex Crises Fund (CCF) Programming

Country	Date Notified	Amount	Purpose
Burkina Faso	February 2018	$2.0M	To strengthen capacity of local governments and citizens to work together to address interrelated development and security concerns, mitigate conflict, and develop community driven strategies to reduce vulnerability to violent extremism.
Bangladesh	May 2018	$3.2M	To address growing risks of instability and violence as a result of tensions between refugees and host communities, with a focus on strengthening social cohesion, and reducing risks of communal violence in areas impacted by the refugee crisis. The program works to improve access to reliable information and build capacity for non-violent conflict resolution. The program addresses critical gaps in the prevention of trafficking in persons and protection of trafficking victims.
Mali	August 2018	$3.0M	To prevent and respond to violence and counter the potential for further destabilization in central Mali. The program includes activities to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to violence and extremism in Mali's two central regions, Mopti and Segou. The program supports conflict early warning management, and mitigation mechanisms; assistance to survivors of violence; and activities to constructively engage and empower youth with viable alternatives to extremist ideology and recruitment.
Mozambique	March 2019	$2.0M	To address insecurity and increasing violence in Cabo Delgado province that threatens to destabilize a region critical to Mozambique's future economic growth and security, with a focus on mitigating the drivers of instability and violent extremism in the province. The program includes activities to strengthen the economic and civic empowerment of youth; promote constructive engagement between communities and local government; and build capacity of local governments to address community and youth priorities. The program strengthens stakeholders' understanding of the drivers of instability and violent extremism. The program also informs USAID's planning to address instability as part of the expansion of development programs in Cabo Delgado.
South Sudan	September 2019	$4.2M	To reach citizens with timely, accurate information at a critical juncture in South Sudan's peace process, counter misinformation, and promote conflict mitigation and reconciliation in communities across the country. The program supports independent media and leverages independent radio networks to disseminate critical information and facilitate dialogue on peace and security issues. It includes targeted efforts to reach women and citizens in rural and insecure communities.