

The Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018

Objective: To improve the coordination and effectiveness of U.S. Government efforts to reduce violence and instability in fragile and failing states.

Background: Violence, instability, and fragility in countries around the world threatens U.S. national security by allowing for environments in which terrorism, criminal activity, corruption, and underdevelopment thrive. Violence and violent conflict are also driving global displacement and humanitarian needs, with 68,500,000 people forcibly displaced around the world¹ and 134 million people in need of humanitarian assistance². Over the last decade, the U.S. Government has provided more than one-third of its foreign assistance to countries with ongoing violent conflicts³, yet lacks a coordinated and long-term strategy for stabilizing violence-affected states and addressing the root causes of violence and fragility.

Key Provisions: The Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act requires the Secretary of State and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to submit a 10-year strategy for reducing violence and fragility in no less than six priority countries, known as the “Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence”. Countries will be categorized as “core countries” where levels of fragility are highest in the world, or “prevention countries” where efforts are likely to make a meaningful difference in preventing future violence.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The bill requires the Administration to measure and evaluate progress in reducing violence, instability, and fragility in the target countries and to use the results of monitoring and evaluation to update programming.

Assistance: The bill allows funds appropriated for the target countries in past and future appropriations bills to be used to support the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence and individual country plans, providing the necessary flexibility for USAID to adapt programming to conditions on the ground.

¹ UNHCR, “Global Trends: Forced Displacement In 2017”

² UNOCHA, “Global Humanitarian Overview 2018”

³ Stabilization Assistance Review