

THE GLOBAL FRAGILITY ACT

Preventing and reducing violence in fragile states



What is the Global Fragility Act (GFA)?

Passed with strong bipartisan support in December 2019, the Global Fragility Act (GFA) reorients U.S. foreign policy and assistance to treat the root causes of violence that have displaced more than 70 million people worldwide. The GFA ensures that U.S. diplomatic, development, and defense agencies collaborate to reduce violence in at least five high-priority, fragile countries over a 10-year period. This law authorizes three separate funds – the Prevention and Stabilization Fund, the Complex Crisis Fund, and the Multi-Donor Global Fragility Fund – and at least \$230 million per year for five years to support the implementation of the law.

Which U.S. Agencies will Implement the GFA?

- **The Department of State (DOS)** is the lead agency and is responsible for advancing diplomatic and political efforts, drafting and executing strategy implementation, and guiding security efforts.
- **The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** is tasked with prevention program oversight and is the lead implementation agency for development, humanitarian, and non-security programs.
- **The Department of Defense (DOD)** may support the activities of the civilian agencies through joint formulation and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State.
- **Other relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of the Treasury**, are responsible for supporting GFA implementation with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator.



What are the key reporting deadlines for the GFA implementation?

1. First Deadline by September 15, 2020: Within *270 days* after the enactment of the Act, the President must submit to Congress a report detailing the Global Fragility Strategy (GFS), laying out how relevant U.S. government departments, agencies, and officials will achieve this strategy.

When developing the Global Fragility Strategy, the Global Fragility Act mandates that the U.S. government consult with **civil society** and other **global development organizations with experience implementing programs in fragile states**. The consultations must also include international and multilateral organizations – such as the World Bank and the United Nations – and the private sector. In addition, local NGOs in the priority countries must be consulted through a compact-based model to ensure local engagement and ownership of programs and policy, as well as mutual accountability for results.

2. Second Deadline by December 19, 2020: Within *one year* after the date of the enactment of the GFA, the President, along with relevant Federal agencies and departments, must submit to Congress a detailed 10-year strategy to prevent and address violence in **at least five priority countries**. This strategy must explain why each country was selected as a priority and include: a baseline analysis for each respective country, descriptions and timeline of goals and objectives, interagency plans that involve local government and civil society actors, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and descriptions of how such actions will strengthen U.S. partnerships with foreign governments, donors, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.

How will the priority countries be selected?

The selection of the priority countries will be based on: The national security interests of the United States; clearly defined indicators of the levels of violence or fragility in the country based on global fragility ranking lists; and the consultation and approval of Congress.

In addition, no fewer than *two* of the five countries selected must be countries or regions where conflict and fragility can be prevented through U.S. government engagement.

3. Third Deadline by December 19, 2022: Within *two years* after the GFS and priority country selections, the President shall provide to Congress a *biennial report* on the status of the GFA implementation. These reports must include descriptions of steps to incorporate the GFS into any relevant, existing country and regional plans, accountings of all funding received and obligated to each country strategy, and progress in achieving specific targets, metrics, and indicators.

Who will hold the U.S. Government Accountable for GFA Implementation?

The House and Senate Committees on Foreign Affairs/Relations and Appropriations Committees may request briefings on GFA implementation. The committees will also exercise oversight and review of the law's implementation through review of the GFS, priority country selection, and the mandated biennial reports.

How will the GFA be funded?

The GFA specifies the creation of three funds to resource the GFA Strategy:

1. **Prevention and Stabilization Fund:** Aims to support prevention of violence as well as stabilization of conflict-affected areas. It authorizes \$200,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024.
2. **Complex Crisis Fund:** Supports programs to prevent or respond to emerging or unforeseen conflicts. It authorizes \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024.
3. **Multi-Donor Global Fragility Fund:** Leverages both public and private contributions to foster multilateral coordination and ensure effective programming and burden sharing.

What are the key dates and timeline?

Action	Actor	Timeframe	Date
Submission of Global Fragility Strategy to Congress	President of the United States, along with relevant Federal agencies and departments	270 days after the enactment of the GFA	September 15, 2020
Submission of priority country selection and detailed 10-year strategy for at least 5 priority countries	President of the United States, along with relevant Federal agencies and departments	1 year after the enactment of the GFA	December 19, 2020
Submission of biennial progress report	President of the United States, along with relevant Federal agencies and departments	Within 2 years after the enactment of the GFA, then biennially after submission of the GFS and priority country selection report until the end of the 10-year strategy	December 19, 2022