2020 Budget: Safeguarding Institutions And Funds For Peace

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C., USA. – The U.S. Administration recently released its budget proposal for the fiscal year 2020, titled “Budget for a Better America.” The proposal requests an overall 23% decrease from the 2019 enacted budget for Department of State & International Programs. At the same time, this budget proposes a 5% increase to the Department of Defense. Individual cuts include the U.S. Institute of Peace, at less than half of 2019 enacted levels, and U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, at a 27% cut. The budget would zero out the Complex Crises Fund and Reconciliation Programs account.

As AfP has done for the last three years, we will work with partners and the U.S. Congress to reject these draconian proposed cuts. At the same time, we will
work to **leverage some positive policy signals** within the budget narrative, including the acknowledgment of conflict as the basis for crises, greater need for flexible funding, and better coordination across bureaus and agencies.

A [recent report on the cost of war](https://www.brown.edu/research/about研究中心/reports/2021/wealth-of-war) from Brown University highlights that the United States has spent close to $6 trillion dollars on war and war-related expenses since 2001. The report notes that these costs are a rising national security concern because they are not economically sustainable. The report also bolsters AfP advocacy for making prevention the tool of first resort and addressing the root causes of violent conflict, thereby avoiding the need for costly military interventions.

[Learn more about](https://www.afp.org/) AfP’s work in policy and advocacy.

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*With over 110 member organizations, AfP brings together the largest development organizations, most innovative academic institutions, and influential humanitarian and faith-based groups to harness collective action for peace. We build coalitions in key areas of strategy and policy to elevate the entire peacebuilding field, tackling issues too large for any one organization to address alone.*