

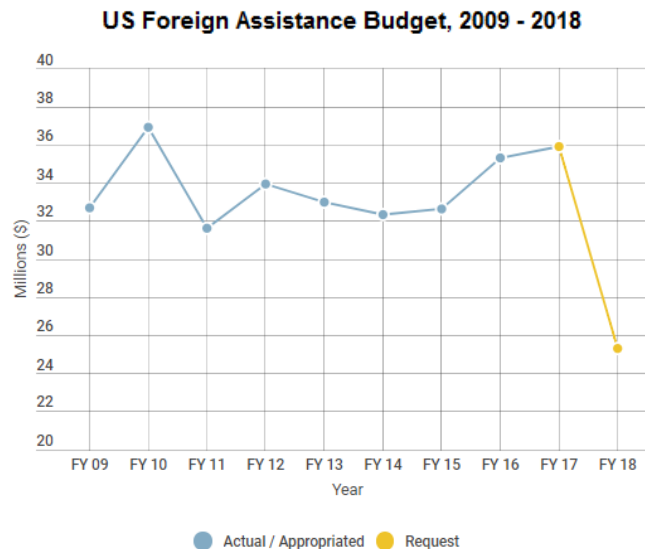
# US Foreign Assistance:

Measuring the impact of changes to the US foreign assistance budget

## Overview

In March 2017, President Trump released the 'America First' budgetary blueprint. The document proposed to cut US foreign assistance by roughly 30%, alongside other significant changes to how and where the remaining assistance is spent. This would have likely had far-reaching implications, not least because the US is the largest bilateral aid donor in the world. While the substantial cuts for this fiscal year did not come to pass, there remains concern that pressure to reduce and restructure US foreign assistance will continue.

As both the Administration and Congress debate the future shape and size of US foreign assistance, it is vital that they possess a solid understanding of the impact of their decisions. To contribute towards this evidence base, Publish What You Fund has launched a project to investigate the potential impact of future cuts. The findings will be shared in time for the Congressional budget debates for Fiscal Year 2019.



## Activities

**Research:** The project will initially scope all available open aid data and analyze the political economy of a number of partner countries currently receiving foreign assistance. This will be followed by key informant interviews in Washington DC and each of the partner countries, as well as comparative research on other donor activities in those countries. This research aims to determine the potential impact of changes to the US budget.

**Distribution:** The findings will be written up into a main report accompanied by country-specific briefings. These will be distributed through face to face events as well as via our partners in Washington DC.

**Transparency:** Taking lessons from the scoping of available open aid data at the start of the project, we will produce a number of targeted recommendations for how the US government can improve its transparency. The aim of this is to enable both the government and others to access and use this information more effectively in future.

## Timeline

	Oct - Dec 17	Jan - Mar 18	Apr - Jun 18	Jul - Sep 18	Oct - Dec 18
Desk-based research	Active	Active			
In-country research		Active			
Briefing material		Active	Active		
Final report			Active		
Informing the debate			Active	Active	
Making the case for greater transparency				Active	
Sharing our experience on using aid data				Active	Active