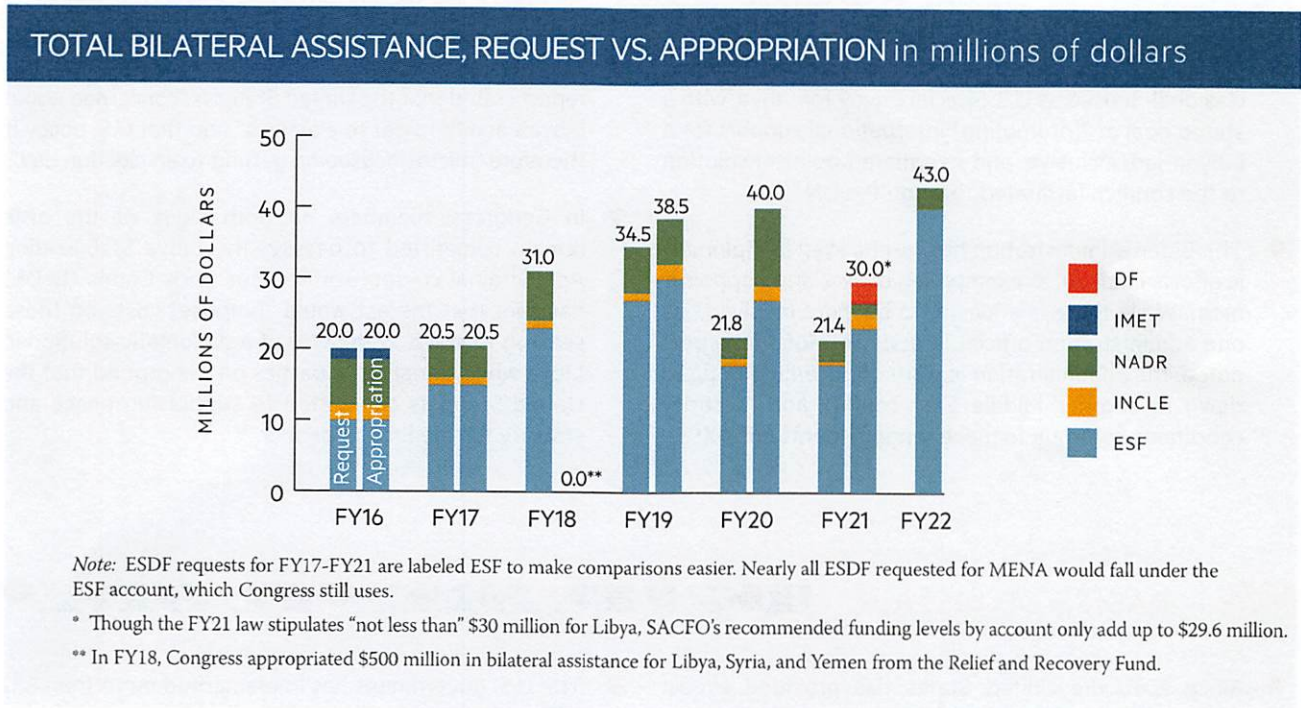


LIBYA snapshot

FY22 REQUEST in thousands of dollars				FY21 APPROPRIATION	
ACCOUNTS		OBJECTIVES		ACCOUNTS	
ESF	\$40,000	Peace and Security	\$8,000	ESF	\$23,100
INCLE	\$0	Gov. Justly & Democratically	\$19,500	INCLE	\$2,000
NADR	\$3,000	Investing in People	\$0	NADR	\$1,500
IMET	\$0	Economic Growth	\$15,500	DF	\$3,000
TOTAL			\$43,000	TOTAL	\$30,000*



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ In October 2020, the UN brokered a ceasefire to end years of fighting between the UN-recognized Government of National Accord in the west and its rival in the east, the Libyan National Army (LNA), led by Commander Khalifa Haftar.
- ◆ The following month, the UN announced that the warring sides had agreed to hold parliamentary and presidential elections on December 24, 2021, which marks Libya's Independence Day.¹ Since that agreement, however, Libyan officials have been unable to reach consensus on necessary electoral laws, which could force a delay in the vote.²
- ◆ The UN estimated in January 2021 that 1.3 million people in Libya are in need of humanitarian assistance, following years of armed conflict that have left the country's economy reeling and the population lacking basic services.³ These problems have been compounded by the pandemic and by an increasing number of internally displaced persons returning to their places of origin.⁴

LIBYA

- ◆ The continued presence of foreign forces and mercenaries in Libya—including from Russia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates—has complicated the attempt to fully implement the fragile ceasefire agreement, which required that all foreign forces depart within 90 days of its signing. Despite that deadline being long past, calls from the UN Security Council and other international actors for those forces to leave have gone unheeded.⁵
- ◆ In March 2021, the Libyan parliament approved an interim Government of National Unity (GNU), led by Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Dbeibah.⁶ Prior to the GNU's establishment, Libya effectively had two governments: the internationally recognized Government of National Accord in Tripoli, led by Fayyez al-Saraj, and a rival cabinet based in eastern Libya, backed by Haftar and not recognized internationally.



POLICY CONTEXT

- ◆ In May 2021, U.S. Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland was dual-hatted as U.S. Special Envoy for Libya, with a stated goal of “[promoting] international support for a Libyan-led, inclusive, and negotiated political solution to the conflict, facilitated through the UN.”⁷
- ◆ The Biden administration has re-engaged in diplomatic efforts in Libya, as exemplified by Norland's appointment. While there is a “desire to be more involved,” as one administration official interviewed for this report noted, the administration is wary of becoming bogged down in another Middle East conflict and “security conditions continue to make [engagement] difficult.”⁸
- ◆ Another administration official interviewed for this report stated that the United States is “concerned about Libya’s ability to get to elections” and that U.S. policy is therefore “micro-focused on getting to an election day.”⁹
- ◆ In Congress, members on both sides of the aisle remain committed to passing the Libya Stabilization Act. Original co-sponsor Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) has said that the act would “[impose] costs on those seeking to stand in the way of a diplomatic solution in Libya while signaling to parties on the ground that the United States is committed to supporting peace and stability for the Libyan people.”¹⁰



BASICS OF U.S. AID

- ◆ Since 2011, the United States has provided almost \$900 million in aid to Libya: \$605 million in bilateral assistance and nearly \$270 million in humanitarian aid.¹¹
- ◆ The U.S. government has implemented more than \$82 million in democracy and governance programming since FY16, which has focused on promoting a peaceful political transition and on strengthening the foundations of a unified Libyan state.¹²



FY22 REQUEST

- ◆ For FY22, the Biden administration has requested \$43 million for Libya, double what the Trump administration requested the previous two years and 43 percent more than what Congress appropriated in FY21.¹³
- ◆ Of the \$43 million request, \$40 million is for ESF. According to the CBJ, this funding would focus almost entirely on Libya’s “democratic transition to a stable and unified state,” including \$19.5 million specifically for democracy, rights, and governance programs. The remainder would support economic growth programs.¹⁴

- ◆ The remaining \$3 million is for NADR programs that will help build the capacity of the Libya Mine Action Center to carry out demining activities.¹⁵



FY21 APPROPRIATION

- ◆ In the FY21 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress included an earmark of “not less than” \$30 million for stabilization assistance (which can be provided from more than one account), including “support for a United Nations-facilitated political process and border security.”¹⁶
- ◆ In addition, due to the fluid security situation and lack of a diplomatic presence in the country, Congress required the secretary of state, prior to obligating the funds, to report to the Appropriations Committees on what steps the administration is taking to ensure that “mechanisms are in place for monitoring, oversight, and control of such funds.”¹⁷
- ◆ SACFO’s FY21 Explanatory Statement recommended funding levels by account just shy of the law’s \$30 million earmark. The recommended levels were \$21.3 million in ESF, \$1.5 million in NADR, \$2 million in INCLE, and \$3 million from the Democracy Fund (DF).



HOW AID IS SPENT

- ◆ USAID’s recent democracy and governance aid has focused on good governance, elections, and civic participation.¹⁸ In addition, the United States has provided more than \$27 million in FY21 to support health, protection, shelter, and other humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Libya.¹⁹
- ◆ According to a representative of a democracy-promotion organization interviewed for this report, U.S. programming before the ceasefire had been shifting toward combatting disinformation and hate speech. After elections were scheduled, programming abruptly shifted to electoral preparations.²⁰
- ◆ U.S. assistance is providing technical support for the elections, including election security, voter awareness, and monitoring misinformation and disinformation.²¹
- ◆ According to a representative from a democracy-promotion organization interviewed for this report, U.S. security restrictions still prohibit American citizens from entering Libya, which presents challenges in implementing effective programs.²²



EXPECTATIONS FOR FY22 APPROPRIATION

- ◆ Congressional staff interviewed for this report believe the Libya Stabilization Act is likely to move forward later this year. One section requires the administration to provide democracy assistance that is commensurate with the administration’s FY22 request.²³ It is POMED’s expectation that the chairman of SACFO and co-sponsor of the bill, Senator Coons, will ensure that Congress provides funding at a level similar to the president’s request.
- ◆ The FY22 HACFO bill, while not including an earmark for Libya, recommends assistance above the \$30 million appropriated last year. It also “directs the Sec-

retary of State and USAID Administrator to strengthen the Libyan political process to help ensure free, fair, and credible elections in December 2021 as well

as ongoing efforts to remove foreign forces and mercenaries from Libya.”²⁴

POMED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ While it is promising that an election date has been set, much work remains to ensure that the elections take place and are free and fair. The administration should continue to engage diplomatically to push for clear election rules.
- ◆ Congress should provide bilateral assistance at the levels requested by the administration for FY22 and demonstrate its commitment to a democratic Libya by passing the Libya Stabilization Act.

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