

GLOBAL DISASTER & HUMANITARIAN REALITY — 2026

Why International Instability Now Directly Shapes Local U.S. Resilience

1. The World Is Becoming More Dangerous — Fast

- Civilian casualties in conflict have risen from **1% at Gettysburg** to **>90% today**, reflecting a world where civilians — not soldiers — bear the brunt of violence.
 - Disasters abroad now drive **supply-chain shocks, price spikes, workforce disruptions, and pressure on U.S. housing and social services.**
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2. Foreign Assistance Has Been One of the Most Effective Life-Saving Interventions in Modern History

- **>90 million lives saved (2001–2021)** through global health and humanitarian programs.
 - **Maternal, infant, and child mortality cut in half** from 1990–2023.
 - **Extreme poverty dropped from 2 billion people to 712 million** — from **36% to 9%** of the world's population.
 - Every **\$1 invested in nutrition returns \$166** in economic benefit and increases national GDP expotentially.
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3. Foreign Aid Strengthens U.S. National Security and the Economy

- **10 of America's 15 largest export markets** are former foreign-aid recipients — meaning aid creates future trading partners.
 - Stable nations require **fewer U.S. military interventions**, reducing long-term defense costs and risk.
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4. The Cuts Are Severe — and the Human Cost Is Staggering

- Current reductions are projected to result in **9.4 million additional deaths** over the next four years — including **2.5 million children under age 5**.
 - Lifesaving programs are ending in **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Somalia, and Zimbabwe**, even as **6.2 million people** face “extreme or catastrophic conditions.”
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5. Foreign Assistance Is Less Than 1% of the Federal Budget

- Despite its impact, foreign assistance accounts for **just 0.87%** of U.S. federal spending — a fraction with outsized global and domestic consequences.
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6. Why This Matters for U.S. Communities

International instability now translates directly into:

- Higher food, fuel, and goods prices
 - Increased migration pressures
 - Strain on local health, housing, and social systems
 - Greater reliance on local volunteer and nonprofit networks
 - Reduced federal capacity to respond to domestic disasters
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7. The Core Message

Global crises don’t stay global. They land in American communities — economically, socially, and operationally.

Foreign assistance is not charity; it is a strategic investment in global stability, U.S. security, and community resilience.
