

More than 68 million people around the world are on the run, for one primary reason:

VIOLENCE



Sumaya Agha for Mercy Corps 0319

What does 68 million people look like?

It's more than the entire population of France, or the populations of California and Texas combined. Global violence is the worst it's been in 25 years—a catastrophe with both a human and financial cost. More than 550,000 people die from violence every year in places like Syria, Yemen and South Sudan, while the annual humanitarian need globally has increased from \$3.5 billion to over \$20 billion since 2004.

Too much foreign assistance is spent on treating the symptoms of violence rather than the causes. In 2016, only 2 percent of official development assistance to fragile countries was dedicated to conflict prevention. Yet, we know these programs work: they enhance security and promote stability that can break devastating cycles of violence.

OUR OPPORTUNITY

The Global Fragility Act

The U.S. government has never had an interagency policy and foreign assistance strategy to address violence and conflict in fragile states. However, Congress introduced the Global Fragility Act of 2019—landmark bipartisan legislation that would create for the first time a U.S. government-wide strategy to prevent and reduce violent conflict, including violent extremism.

The bill requires the administration to develop a strategy for preventing violence in fragile states. By establishing a new process to identify the causes of conflict and reallocating resources to address them, this act will help prevent violence more effectively and reduce its enormous cost on families and communities.

» **Take action today!** Global violence is a crisis of epic proportions, and the need for peace has never been more urgent. This bill is an important step in the right direction—but we need your support.



Sign our petition online at mercycorps.org/endviolence



Call your member of Congress at **(202) 224-3121** and tell them to take a stand for a more peaceful world by supporting this bill.



Show your support for the bill by using the hashtag **#EndViolenceNow**.