

Research has indicated that investing early to prevent conflicts from escalating into violent crises is, on average, 60 times more cost effective than intervening after violence erupts.* Still, the world spends just \$1 on conflict prevention for every \$1,885 it spends on military budgets. Here in the U.S., less than 2% of income tax goes to civilian foreign affairs agencies; meanwhile, 39% goes to the military. And though taxpayers provide almost \$1 billion per year for military academies, they pay only about \$40 million for the United States Institute of Peace—the only U.S. agency dedicated to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The World Bank's 2011 Development Report notes that one quarter of the world's population now lives in a conflict-affected or violence-ridden country, highlighting that cycles of poverty and disease cannot be broken without also breaking cycles of deadly conflict. With the cost of global violence reaching \$8 trillion in 2010 alone—having a negative impact equal to 13% of global GDP—the need to invest in effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding is only growing.



Development assistance accounts for less than 2% of our budget

Kate Holt/IRIN

What about job creation? Believe it or not, military spending is not only costly when it comes to hardware and intervention—it's also less effective than non-military funding at creating jobs. Investing in education results in two and a half times more employment opportunities than investing in the military, while investing in clean energy production creates one and a half times more.

Is preventing war possible?

Following a devastating electoral crisis in late 2007, Kenya was concerned about the potential for renewed violence during its constitutional referendum in August of 2010. Efforts to prevent violent conflict were made both nationally and internationally, including U.S. initiatives made possible through the Complex Crises Fund. Investment in prevention proved successful—as well as cost-effective. While the economic cost of Kenya's crisis in 2007 was \$3.6 billion, the cost of preventive action supported by the U.N. during the peaceful referendum was just \$5 million.

*From Dr. Lisa Schirch and Dr. Michael S. Lund's May 2009 Statement to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities. The average is based on research found in the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict's *The Cost of Conflict: Prevention and Cure in the Global Arena* (Ed. Michael E. Brown and Richard N. Rosecrance, 1999).

60:1

Preventing war is 60 times cheaper than fighting it.



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WITH	YOU COULD FUND...	OR
\$2.5 million	About two drone strikes in Pakistan	A two-year conflict management project during which about 1,600 Iraqi mediators were trained and 130 disputes successfully resolved*
\$10 million	About ten U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan for one year	A year-long Civilian Response Corps deployment in South Sudan that included about twenty personnel and helped to prevent deadly conflict around the country's peaceful referendum in January of 2011
\$40 million	A little less than a year of funding for aerial attacks and covert intelligence operations in Somalia	A full year of the United States Institute of Peace, which has worked to prevent deadly conflict and build peace in over 76 countries worldwide
\$75 million	Less than one Super Hornet fighter jet	A full year of the Complex Crises Fund, which supports crisis prevention in places including Yemen, Kyrgyzstan, and Kenya
\$550 million	The first ten days of military operations to establish a no-fly zone in Libya	Two years' worth of the three conflict prevention tools listed above
\$15 billion	One aircraft carrier for the U.S. Navy	About two years of U.S. contributions to the United Nations, including all funding provided for peacekeeping operations and development assistance
\$28 billion	About the amount Lockheed Martin alone received in Department of Defense contracts in 2010	The total amount appropriated for the State Department's diplomatic and consular activity from 2007 to 2010



Voters register for the peaceful South Sudan referendum

Jenn Warren

“What is clear to me is that there is a need for a dramatic increase in spending on the civilian instruments of national security...Indeed, having robust civilian capabilities available could make it less likely that military force will have to be used in the first place”

– Robert Gates, former U.S. Secretary of Defense



A line of U.S. aircraft that can cost up to \$100 million each

Osakabe Yasuo/U.S. Air Force

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

\$60 billion is...	The maximum estimate of the amount of U.S. funds lost to fraud and waste in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001	
\$1.2 trillion is...	The total the Department of Defense has spent in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last decade	The amount Congress is trying to cut from the U.S. deficit over the next decade

*See Mercy Corps's final evaluation of its "Governance Promotion through Conflict Management" program in Iraq.