Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance

State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill
Department of State
Title III

What is Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance?
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) is a presidential drawdown account that provides an important safety valve during emergencies, allowing the U.S. to meet rapidly occurring and unforeseen humanitarian needs. It also enables the President to address urgent, unexpected refugee and migration needs worldwide. The account is administered by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) in the U.S. State Department, which formulates population, refugees, and migration policies, and operates U.S. refugee assistance and admissions programs.

What do the funds support?
- ERMA investments provide life-sustaining assistance to refugees, including food, shelter, health care, and education.
- In 2022, the majority of funds were used to support the needs of Afghans and U.S. partners after the withdrawal of U.S. forces drove unprecedented use of ERMA funding, including support for Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) which coordinates ongoing efforts to support Afghans as they safely resettle in the U.S.
- Blankets, mattresses, food packs, warm clothing, shelter materials, medicine, and clean water and sanitation efforts were provided in Syria and Türkiye immediately following the earthquake in February 2023.
- Safe Mobility Offices support and address displacement in the Western Hemisphere.

Foreign Aid Delivers
As new and unanticipated humanitarian crises emerge, ERMA has allowed the U.S. to act quickly and proactively to respond to critical humanitarian needs. However, recent drawdowns from the account to respond to the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye as well as rising displacement in the Western Hemisphere have left it depleted and unable to respond to emerging and unforeseen crises.

Funding History
Funding levels may not accurately reflect those in the appropriations bills and/or reports due to rounding.