

HFAC Marking Up part of foreign aid bill today. *Devex*, 26 March 2026

Hitting the mark

Today, the House Foreign Affairs Committee is meeting to **mark up a multitude of measures related to U.S. foreign aid** — from authorizing the recruitment of disaster assistance responders to abolishing the [U.S. African Development Foundation](#), or USADF, a small agency that [won its legal battle](#) against the Trump administration earlier this month.

A markup is a legislative session that **gives lawmakers the chance to debate, amend, and rewrite proposed bills**. Representatives will “mark up” legislation by voting on those changes, with the ultimate goal of finalizing the text and advancing it on the House floor, my colleague Elissa Miolene tells me.

At 9 a.m. ET, the committee is set to mark up at least 20 pieces of legislation related to foreign policy, aid, and diplomatic affairs. Here are the ones we’ve got our eyes on:

The Generating Utility through International Disaster Expertise Act: This [bill](#) — which was introduced by California’s Republican Rep. **Young Kim** — would authorize the State Department’s foreign aid bureau to establish a program to **“recruit, train, and retain” specialized disaster assistance professionals** at State’s new Bureau of Disaster and Humanitarian Response.

Before the Trump administration collapsed [USAID](#) last year, the agency had a staff of over 10,000; going forward, State Department planning documents indicate a workforce of less than 250. It’s unclear whether this bill would add staff to that head count, or support the agency’s hiring within that plan.

The Locally Led Development and Humanitarian Response Act: Kim teamed up with another California legislator — Democratic Rep. **Sara Jacobs** — to [introduce this piece of legislation](#), which would encourage the U.S. to push for locally led development and humanitarian response. It would **mandate an increase of direct foreign aid dollars to local organizations**, increase those groups’ de minimis indirect cost rate, and make it easier for local organizations to access U.S. funding overall.

The African Development Foundation Termination Act: USADF has been a thorn in the side of Republican lawmakers for years. After fraud allegations surfaced at the small U.S. aid agency, successive bills have been introduced to shutter USADF — and early last year, the agency was one of three aid groups deemed “unnecessary” by the Trump administration.

A legal battle ensued, and though USADF ultimately won its case, a senior officer at the agency recently **pleaded guilty to accepting gratuities** from USADF contractors and lying to federal law enforcement. [This bill](#), introduced by Tennessee’s Republican Rep. **Tim**

Burchett, is the latest iteration of those attempts. It would **call for the agency's shuttering 120 days after passage**.

We'll also be watching how things play out for the Humanitarian Theft Enforcement Act, the Advance Global Health Act, the Transparency in Foreign Assistance Act, the American Assistance Visibility Act, the U.S. Commission on International Freedom Reauthorization Act, the Rejecting the Erasure of Afghan Women and Girls Act, and a bill to create a strategy for a democratic transition in Venezuela, among others.

Related: [State Dept. announces new humanitarian bureau, leadership team](#)