

GAO: \$21 billion spent fighting ISIS

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In a rare accounting for the federal government's war on ISIS, a sweeping new report put a pricetag of \$21.1 billion on the four-year effort, more than the 2017 budget for the state of Connecticut.

And while it appears that ISIS is cornered and certainly on the run, the [Governmental Accountability Office](#) found that government lacks a strategy to fight the extremism that ISIS is a part of and that most threatens the U.S. homeland.

"We found the federal government does not have a cohesive strategy or process for assessing the countering violent extremism effort. We recommended that Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice develop a cohesive strategy with measurable outcomes and establish a process to assess the overall progress of efforts to counter violent extremism," said GAO.

The 47-page report opens with the cost analysis from figures provided by the Pentagon and State Department:

Pentagon \$10.9 billion.

The Department of Defense (DOD) reported that it has allocated \$10.9 billion for counter-ISIS operations from August 2014—when these operations began—through 2016.

State aid to allies in the fight \$2.4 billion.

The Department of State (State) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) report having allocated more than \$2.4 billion in funding for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria to counter ISIS, respond to and mitigate the Syrian crisis, bolster regional security, and support development programs.

Humanitarian aid \$7.8 billion.

State and USAID also report that, separate from U.S. political efforts to counter ISIS, the two agencies have provided more than \$1.3 billion in humanitarian assistance to Iraqis in the region since fiscal year 2014 and more than \$6.5 billion in humanitarian assistance to Syrians and others in the region affected by the Syrian crisis.

The new report is a public version of an earlier classified review and includes several sections addressing the war on ISIS and recommendations to improve it.

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