

H.R. 3988, Mental Health in International Development and Humanitarian Settings Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on December 10, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between zero and \$500,000.

H.R. 3988 would require the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State to integrate mental health and support services into its development and assistance programs. Specifically, the bill would codify the position of USAID’s Coordinator for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. It also would codify the related working group that coordinates mental health and psychosocial support policy among federal agencies that manage U.S. foreign assistance programs.

In October 2020, USAID established the coordinator’s role and the working group to advance efforts to improve mental health globally. The coordinator and working group develop policy, provide technical support on programs and research, coordinate work with other organizations, and support access to effective mental health care. Based on information about those activities, CBO expects that USAID would satisfy the bill’s requirements under current law.

The bill also would require USAID to submit annual reports to the Congress for five years about how the Administration provides mental health and support services through its development and assistance programs. Those reports would include financial data, assessments of barriers to the implementation of those programs, and recommended actions to address those barriers. Using information about the costs for similar reports, CBO



estimates that satisfying those requirements would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2027 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Etaf Khan. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.