

**Devex - USAID has begun to formally cancel contracts.** 13 Feb 2025

## **You're fired**

For weeks, there's been crickets from the administration in terms of details on the foreign aid freeze. **Waivers are moving slower than molasses**, and even if approved, they don't amount to much because the payment system is frozen.

Now, however, there's been some movement — though not in the direction aid advocates were aiming for.

The Trump administration has begun to [formally cancel hundreds of USAID contracts and grants](#), according to several sources and internal documents.

The **initial number of proposed terminations surpassed 800**, several sources say — with the targeted projects encompassing everything from election monitoring to rural internet access. And more are still rolling in, my colleague Elissa Miolene writes.

Many programs **are being terminated with immediate effect**, despite the fact that at least one of these organizations was supposed to be warned of a program termination 30 days in advance.

And, not surprisingly, **there are legal repercussions** to this latest Trumpian twist.

The flurry of termination notices has put contracting officers in a bind because they are warranted to represent the U.S. government, and as such, can be sued for breaching federal agreements.

It's "a lawyer's field day," says a former contracting officer.

Theoretically, the termination process **could also help organizations make up for lost cash**, but it'll take a while.

"I doubt these folks will ever really pay out these costs," says the former contracting officer. "And if they do, the vast landscape of [US]AID's implementing partners will be out of business, and it will be too late."

Yesterday, the contractors and NGOs [currently suing](#) the Trump administration filed a document with the court alleging that the administration was "accelerating their terminations of contracts and suspensions of grants of USAID and State Department partners — exacerbating the irreparable harm" they are suffering.

Later that evening, in response to the judge's request, the government filed a list of **231 programs or projects that had been terminated** on Feb. 11 and Feb. 12.

**Read:** [The dismantling continues — hundreds of USAID awards terminated](#)

**ICYMI:** [Major new lawsuit filed by USAID contractors, NGOs challenges aid freeze](#)