

STAND UP
FOR AID

Stand Up for Aid Situation Report #5

March 20, 2025



83%

USAID programs terminated. Approximately 5,200 programs terminated and 1,000 programs remain.*



10,000

Number of outstanding payments for work performed prior to February 13.**



2,193

Number of payments made for work performed prior to February 13.**



Flow of Life-Saving Aid:

Minimal



Flow of USAID Payments:

Scattered

*Source: [X post](#) by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on March 10, 2025.

**Source: [Status Report](#) as of March 19, 2025.

Key Developments

- **Administration meets Court metric of 300 payments per day, 10,000 payments remain outstanding:** On March 19, defendants in the lawsuits filed by the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition and Global Health Council (GHC) [reported](#) processing nearly 2,200 payments to plaintiffs and non-plaintiffs between March 10 and March 18, in-line with the Court order to process 300 payments per day. The defendants also noted that approximately 10,000 payments remain to be processed and proposed completing remaining payments to plaintiffs by March 21 and all remaining payments

by April 29. The status report aligns with numerous reports from partners that while they have received some payments, the payments have been scattered to date with several invoices not yet paid or not paid in full.

- **Judge issues favorable preliminary injunction; however, the impact may be short-term as plans to transition USAID into the U.S. Department of State are shared in more detail:** On March 18, the U.S. District Judge for the District of Maryland issued a favorable [preliminary injunction](#), ordering the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to temporarily stop the further dismantling of USAID, sending a strong signal that the dismantling of USAID is likely unconstitutional. The impact may be limited and short-term, as duly appointed USAID officials may authorize or ratify certain decisions previously made by DOGE. [Note: See next bullet for recent leadership changes at USAID.] However, the judge also determined that the executive branch alone may not unilaterally dissolve an executive agency and that closing USAID undermines the role of Congress in establishing USAID as an independent agency. An internal memo being circulated at USAID outlines a series of long-term statutory changes and financial changes required to reform the current USAID structure. During a March 12 meeting, the BHA Assistant Administrator [informed](#) staff that the anticipated final day of USAID is September 30, 2025, after which USAID functions will be transferred to the U.S. Department of State.
- **USAID leadership transitions and provides high-level plan for transfer of USAID operations to State:** On March 18, Pete Marocco circulated an email informing staff that he was stepping back from his role as Acting USAID Deputy Administrator to continue on in his role as the Director of Foreign Assistance (DFA). Jeremy Lewin and Kenneth Jackson are replacing DFA Marocco to perform the duties of deputy administrators; however, all new foreign assistance obligations still require DFA approval. In a follow-up email to USAID staff, Lewin and Jackson shared three key priorities for the coming weeks and months: 1) effective, efficient, and responsible administration of the approximately 1,000 life-saving programs; 2) ensuring the safety, dignity, and productivity of USAID personnel during the transition; and 3) working with Secretary Rubio, State, and Congress to articulate a clear vision for the future delivery of foreign assistance programs at State. The email did not include details regarding how the U.S. Department of State will build or maintain grantmaking or operational capacity that USAID has historically had the capability to perform.
- **Foreign aid review continues, resulting in uncertainty regarding non-terminated programs:** In his email, Marocco also noted that Phase III of the foreign assistance review—likely referencing an Office of Management Budget Foreign Assistance Review data call from mid-February— is ongoing, during which there will be a deeper analysis in order to provide Secretary Rubio with recommendations going forward. The email came following a March 10 [tweet](#) from Secretary Rubio announcing the termination of 5,200—83 percent—of USAID programs and continuation of 1,000 programs. USAID staff subsequently [reported](#) that they had been asked to conduct a retroactive review so that actual terminations aligned with the announcement.

Roadblocks and Systemic Challenges

Payments

- **Partners receive some payments, millions of dollars still outstanding:** As of March 14, plaintiffs and nonplaintiffs in the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition and GHC lawsuit continued to [report](#) that they had not yet received outstanding payments in full for work completed prior to February 13. The GHC surveyed members, who collectively report that 25 members received approximately \$44 million in payments since the preliminary injunction, with approximately \$173 million outstanding. The small business association for international companies (SBAIC) also surveyed members, who collectively reported that 32 members received approximately 57 payments totaling approximately \$12.8 million, with approximately \$47 million outstanding. InterAction reported that 37 member organizations had received approximately 85 payments totaling approximately \$19 million, with an additional \$19 million outstanding. Based on the status report [submitted](#) to the Court on March 19 by the defendants, some of the outstanding payments had been made since March 14 but 10,000 payments remained to be paid.
- **U.S. Department of State issues updated guidance for ongoing State/USAID-funded programs:** Updated guidance circulated by the U.S. Department of State on March 20 indicates that the review of foreign assistance awards has been completed, resulting in decisions to either terminate or continue awards. Bureaus and offices are instructed to take immediate steps to rescind any remaining stop work orders (SWOs) or suspensions of foreign assistance programs. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of State Senior Bureau Officials (SBO) will approve disbursing funds—identified as legitimate expenses and expenses related to the SWO and suspensions—to ongoing foreign assistance programs which were not terminated during the review process. SBOs will also approve disbursing funds to terminated awards, including legitimate shutdown and other costs associated with termination. The guidance states that the payment of legitimate expenses incurred by foreign assistance programs before February 13 or in connection with SWOs and suspensions should be paid as soon as possible, with oversight from grants or contracts officers.

Personnel

- **USAID staff drawdown continues, guidance given to overseas staff for a permanent change of station:** The verified number of remaining USAID staff has not been shared, although sources indicate that approximately 800 direct hire staff remained working across headquarters and overseas posts as of mid-March. Additional staff were put on administrative leave on March 14 and continued drawdowns are anticipated in the coming weeks. On March 10, USAID sent an email to overseas direct hire staff providing steps to complete as part of a Permanent Change of Station (PCS), with a relocation date of April 6. [Note: Some reports indicate that this may be delayed to the end of May. In addition, many foreign service officers (FSOs) have still not received reduction in force (RIF) notices, creating more

confusion as to whether they will need to relocate.] A formal grievance was filed by USAID FSOs stationed abroad which stated that , “The Agency has not explained pertinent and critical details [since sending the email about PCS], including: the rationale for the drastic action of Repatriation; the purpose it hopes to achieve through such action; the employment status of FSOs once they return to the United States; where the FSOs will be repatriated to; which allowances and funding will be provided to support FSOs and their families in their transition; and whether the Agency will reimburse FSOs for financial losses caused by the Repatriation. More importantly, the Agency has not provided the legal authority for carrying out such an action.” With overseas staff returning to the United States by end-of-May, USAID will have no overseas capacity or presence to make awards, implement programs, or provide oversight if programs restart. On March 19, the American Foreign Service Association announced a class action appeal that includes all members of the Foreign Service who have received RIF notices.

- **Details shared regarding intended transition of USAID operations to U.S. Department of State:** During a March 12 meeting, the BHA Assistant Administrator [informed](#) staff that the anticipated final day of USAID is September 30, 2025, after which USAID operations will be transferred to the U.S. Department of State. While the U.S. Department of State has some capacity to provide foreign assistance awards, State’s humanitarian assistance has traditionally made large contributions to the United Nations while USAID has provided smaller targeted awards to NGOs and faith-based organizations, in addition to the United Nations. USAID’s targeted awards enable the U.S. government to better track funding and provide technical oversight to ensure alignment with programmatic goals.
- **Transition period results in significant uncertainty around continuity of programming and operations despite email outlining priorities ahead:** The longer-term vision shared during the March 12 meeting for significantly reduced staffing, including a minimal staffing footprint overseas, limits USAID’s ability to monitor active awards. State also does not presently have the capability to rapidly deploy staff, make grants, or facilitate the procurement and movement of relief supplies and in-kind assistance; as such, a transition period will likely occur during which these capabilities are severely limited if a crisis occurs despite priorities outlined by the individuals performing the duties of deputy administrators in their recent email.
- **USAID does not currently have the capacity to program Congressionally-mandated funds:** On March 15, President Trump [signed](#) a full-year continuing resolution (CR) that maintained U.S. foreign aid at fiscal year (FY) 2024 levels. However, USAID personnel actions challenge the ability of the Agency to program the Congressionally-appropriated funding. For example, USAID’s Bureau for Global Health had approximately 900 staff based in Washington, D.C., prior to January 20. Approximately 67 staff remain—including 15 staff members who received RIF notices and whose last day with the Agency is on April 24. This will leave just 6 percent of staff as compared to FY 2024 levels to program the funding in the CR.

Program Updates

- Displacement anticipated to surge in countries that have been national security priorities for the United States:** On March 16, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) released its annual [Global Displacement Forecast](#). DRC's analysis indicates that an additional 6.7 million people are projected to be displaced by the end of 2026, increasing the current 122.6 million displaced people. In a scenario where all U.S. funding is terminated, an estimated 57 million fewer people could be reached and only 26 percent of the 307 million people in need worldwide would receive the required assistance. The increase in displacement and severe funding cuts will be felt particularly in low-income countries. While Secretary Rubio has announced that 83 percent of USAID programs will be terminated and the remainder will resume, the impact of U.S. foreign aid funding cuts will significantly limit the international system from responding to the current and future displacement crises—including in countries that are projected to see a surge in displacement that have historically been national security priorities for the United States. The report highlights Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and Venezuela will be particularly affected by complex emergencies.
- Initial analysis indicates more than a 40 percent cut in health and humanitarian sectors:** A verified list of terminated and/or remaining programs has not been released and therefore an in-depth analysis of the scope and impact of the terminations cannot be conducted. However, media circulated a [list](#) of approximately 5,800 USAID awards believed to be terminated and leaked to the Senate Foreign Relations committee prior to Secretary Rubio's tweet on March 10. The Center for Global Development (CDG) conducted an [analysis](#) of the list, noting that terminations appeared to cover every USAID sector. Based on CGD's analysis, agriculture, maternal and child health, infrastructure, good governance, pandemic preparedness, water supply and sanitation, and disaster readiness, among others, were cut by more than 40 percent; protection, HIV/AIDs, malaria, nutrition, and basic education, among others, experienced a 20-40 percent cut; and macroeconomic foundations for growth were relatively spared. CGD highlights that without an updated list of cancelled grants and contracts and updated data on new awards, it is challenging to get a full and accurate picture regarding the aid disruptions.

Humanitarian and Development Assistance

- Partners continue to halt life-saving programs due to terminations:** A number of USAID partners report that funding shortfalls resulting from or exacerbated by U.S. foreign aid cuts will result in the suspension of life-saving activities. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) [reported](#) that it halted life-saving projects due to lack of payments over the past six weeks, unable to distribute food in warehouses or provide health and nutrition services to women and children. Following Secretary Rubio's announcement of the completion of the foreign aid review, dozens of CRS' life-saving projects will halt aid to more than 20 million people; 11 terminated projects had received humanitarian waivers.
- Armed groups gaining ground as USAID funding is terminated in the Sahel:** In the Sahel, [media](#) report that U.S. foreign aid cuts come as al-Qaida and the Islamic State

are gaining ground. The United States committed to increasing aid in the region during the first Trump administration to counter escalating extremism violence in Mali. USAID projects recently terminated include economic development activities, such as vocational training and micro-loan disbursement for vulnerable populations. The United Nations highlights that in the Ivory Coast, supporting border communities with assistance is critical to preventing people from being recruited by armed groups.

- **Additional impacts anticipated as a result of U.S. funding freeze in countries important for U.S. national security:** The UN World Health Organization (WHO) [reports](#) that 80 percent of essential care services it supports in Afghanistan risk shutdown by June, leaving 1.8 million Afghans without access to primary health care at a time when the country is battling multiple health emergencies such as measles, polio, and haemorrhagic fever. WHO also reports the disruption of health surveillance mechanisms as a result of funding cuts. In [Somalia](#), approximately 1.7 million children faced acute malnutrition in 2024 with a La Nina-driven drought anticipated in 2025. Humanitarian assistance has historically not met the scale of need; however, U.S. funding cuts will worsen the funding gap at a time when malnutrition rates are soaring and displacement is increasing. These and other impacts being reported will likely create greater instability and increase the spread of infectious disease.

Global Health

- **Deaths confirmed as a result of foreign aid freeze, with projections of thousands dying per day if aid does not resume:** [Media](#) report that people have died as a result of the foreign aid freeze, and USAID partners continue to report the impact of the abrupt halt of life-saving programs due to the sudden loss of funding. CGD aimed to [calculate](#) the number of lives at risk due to the aid freeze and terminations, noting that estimates are inexact depending on how much aid continues. However, estimates indicate that annually: 1.65 million people could die without U.S. foreign aid for HIV prevention and treatment; nearly 550,000 people could die without humanitarian assistance; more than 502,000 people could lose their lives without vaccines; 306,000 people could die from tuberculosis; and nearly 293,000 people could die from malaria. During the aid freeze, CGD estimates that more than 3,800 people per day and more than 1,500 people per day potentially lost their lives from loss of HIV/AIDs treatment and prevention and humanitarian assistance, respectively.
- **An estimated 350,000 children at risk for becoming infected with HIV:** On March 17, UNAIDS [reported](#) the results of rapid surveys assessing the impact of fundings cuts on recipients of HIV services. Although continuation of services for HIV treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission was allowed despite the U.S. funding cuts, several countries reported the closure of some U.S.-funded facilities that provided these services. Reports from several dozen countries in recent weeks show that U.S. funding cuts have impacted HIV testing services, including for pregnant women. If women attending antenatal care are no longer tested for HIV, those who are living with HIV will not receive the medicines they need to prevent transmission.

UNAIDS projects that an additional 350,000 children will be newly infected with HIV over the coming four years if HIV testing is not available at antenatal care centers.

Background: The Dismantling of USAID and Termination of Vital Programs

- On January 20, U.S. President Donald Trump issued an [Executive Order 14169 on Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid](#). The Executive Order included a 90-day pause in United States foreign development assistance.
- On January 24, Secretary Rubio paused all new foreign assistance obligations for an 85-day review period. On January 29, Secretary Rubio approved an [Emergency Humanitarian Waiver to the Foreign Assistance Pause](#). However, a directive for USAID staff to refrain from external communications outside of those necessary to implement the pause, administration actions that have terminated staff or placed nearly the entire USAID workforce on paid administrative leave and inaccessibility to Phoenix resulted in significant challenges to implementation despite the waiver. On March 10, Secretary Rubio declared that the review had been completed, and 5,200 awards would be terminated and 1,000 retained. [Note: See accompanying timeline graphic for additional details on the foreign aid review.]
- In recent weeks, a number of affected organizations have filed legal challenges to the administration's actions. [Just Security](#) continues to track legal challenges to the administration's actions, including efforts to dismantle USAID.
- [USAID Stop-Work](#) had confirmed nearly 15,600 people across 46 U.S. states and Washington, D.C., had lost their jobs and more than 140,000 people had lost their jobs globally as of March 18 due to the stop work orders on contracts and suspensions of cooperative agreements. These numbers will likely rise in the coming days as terminations remain ongoing.

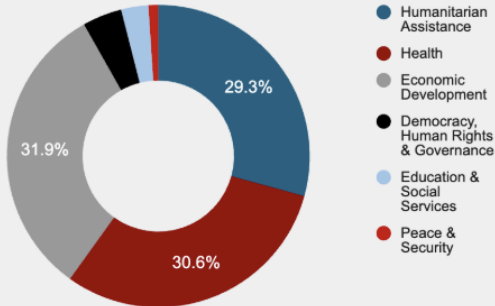
USAID By the Numbers (Before January 20, 2025)

FY24 Budget: \$35 Billion

Humanitarian Assistance Funding in FY 24
\$9.9 billion

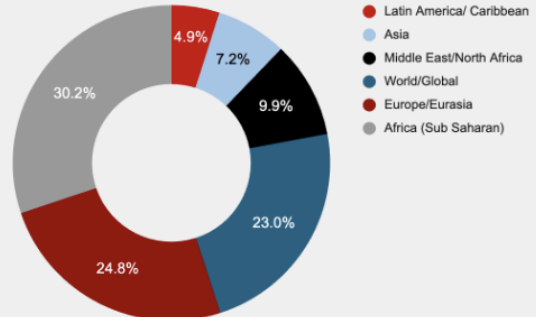
Funding for Global Health in FY 24
\$9.7 billion

USAID Funding by Sector, FY 21-23



Source: www.foreignassistance.gov, obligations

USAID Funding by Region, FY 21-23



Source: www.foreignassistance.gov, obligations

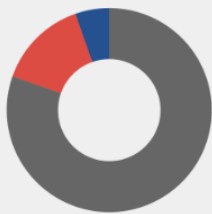
Percentage of USAID funds whose use is specifically (e.g, sector, country) directed or earmarked by Congress: **~80%**

Total workforce: **~13,000**
(of which ~6,500 were based overseas)

~1,000
personal service
contractors

~2,600
institutional
support
contractors

~5,000
Foreign Service Nationals
(locally hired staff)



Of ~4,500 USAID Direct Hire Staff pre-January 20
(civil service and foreign service)
800 remained as of mid-March
200-300 are expected to remain after September 2025

To be added to the distribution list or if you have additional information to share regarding the dismantling of USAID, please contact: standupforaidinfo@gmail.com

The next Situation Report will be distributed o/a March 27, 2025.