



## Call Congress: Protect lifesaving foreign aid, end the USAID stop-work order now

A series of White House actions have halted health and development programs globally. These actions have already been [catastrophic for communities around the world](#). They also hurt [businesses and farmers in the U.S.](#) Countless lives are at stake as the promise of waivers remains unfulfilled. Meanwhile, the administration is attempting to dismantle USAID with no clear plan for what's next.

Each day of frozen aid is counted in deaths. The true impact of U.S. foreign aid is not in lofty foreign policy goals or ideals — it's in the real-world impact that these programs have had in the lives of millions. In 2023, USAID programs reached 28 million children under age 5 with nutrition, supported drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) treatment for 113,000 people, and made sure 12 million women had safe facilities for childbirth. If aid remains frozen for 90 days:

- 7 million children will miss out on nutrition that prevents death and disability.
- 28,250 people will go without treatment for a deadly, drug-resistant disease.
- 3 million women won't have access to safe facilities to give birth.

Reviewing how and what the U.S. funds is a valid exercise. Arbitrarily halting all aid is unnecessarily destructive and violates the authority of Congress. An actual review could be a chance to strengthen the impact of health, education, and poverty programs. [A freeze only serves to destroy the entire aid system.](#)

Secretary of State Rubio promised that waivers would allow lifesaving programs to restart. But there has been no clear guidance from the State Department, and countless lifesaving programs remain shuttered. The handful of health programs that have received waivers are unable to access the funding they need to restart.

Congress alone holds the legislative and funding authority for this work and must intervene. They need to be the ones setting the priorities for the future of global aid. Lifesaving global health and development programs have deep, longstanding bipartisan support. Congress must defend them. Congress must end the funding freeze, rescind the stop-work order, and protect the future of global aid programs.

## Sample call language to Congress in EPIC format

Call your representative and urge them to protect lifesaving programs around the world. Invite others in your network to call their congressional representatives as well. Call every day until Congress acts.

### **Subject: Protect Global Aid — End the Funding Freeze and Stop-Work Order Now**

**Engage:** A 90-day foreign aid freeze will result in catastrophic harm to communities, child and maternal health, and safety and security worldwide. Deadly drug-resistant diseases will have the opportunity to spread while tens of thousands of people go without treatment. Three million women will lose access to safe places to give birth, and seven million children will lose access to nutrition that prevents death and disability.

**State Problem:** The Trump Administration has issued a USAID stop-work order and frozen funding on almost all foreign assistance. This puts millions of lives at risk, hurts U.S. farmers, and undermines U.S. credibility around the world. It also goes against the will of Congress, who appropriated funding for USAID with strong bipartisan support.

**Inform:** The Trump Administration does not have the authority to end or freeze the funds of a congressionally mandated agency. [USAID was established by Congress in 1961 as an independent agency.](#) Through bipartisan effort over the past 64 years, Congress has continued to fund foreign assistance through USAID. This strengthens democracy, protects freedom and human rights, safeguards the health of vulnerable populations, and fosters economic growth.

**Call to Action:** Congress must exercise its authority to protect the future of U.S. foreign aid. Congress should urge the administration to obey the courts and rescind the stop-work order and funding freeze immediately. [The USAID Inspector General must also be reinstated.](#) Members of Congress must ensure that the State Department verifies that programs under the waiver have restarted, and that waivers are expanded to include all global health and development programs.

Congress must take the lead in any reforms to USAID. They should protect and fund programs that are needs-based, focused on ending poverty and creating good health, grounded in evidence, and committed to humanitarian and lifesaving impact.

Find contact information for your members of Congress at:

<https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup>