

March 2025 Action Sheet, Global Poverty

Tell Congress: Lifesaving foreign aid must restart now!



The Trump Administration's dismantling of foreign aid is [catastrophic for communities around the world](#). In the U.S., [businesses and farmers are facing economic ruin](#). [Globally, each day without these programs is counted in deaths](#). The administration was ordered by the courts to restart paused work and [release frozen funds](#). Instead, they **terminated more than 80 percent of all USAID programs**.

Even programs granted waivers for lifesaving work for millions of people were terminated. [Huge swaths of tuberculosis \(TB\), malaria, HIV, nutrition, and education programs — and much more](#). Nutrition support for 60,000 young children at risk of immediate death in Nigeria, terminated. The Global Health Supply Chain, which delivered lifesaving medical supplies, terminated. The only source of water for 250,000 displaced people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, terminated. The only operational health clinic in a large part of the Kordofan region of Sudan, terminated. Nutrition and maternal health services for millions of women and children in Nepal and Bangladesh, terminated.

Since the initial round of terminations by the administration at the end of February, some programs have had those terminations rescinded. But even those programs still largely haven't had their funding turned back on, nor gotten any clear guidance from the administration about what's next.

Congress alone holds the legislative and funding authority for this work. They must intervene. Global health and development programs have deep, longstanding bipartisan support. The administration's actions to dismantle foreign aid violate the authority of Congress. These actions go against decades of bipartisan consensus. They defy court orders and basic human decency. We support good faith reform efforts. Ending lifesaving programs overnight and shutting down USAID is not reform — it is destruction.

Congress must assert their constitutional authority over federal spending. It is up to them to protect the future of U.S. foreign aid. They must hold the administration accountable to release appropriated funds. And they must hold the State Department and USAID to account for the outcomes that critical humanitarian and development programs have had in the past, and must continue into the future. These include TB, HIV, malaria, nutrition, maternal and child survival, education, and more. Congress must act now.

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Sample call language to Congress in EPIC format

Call your senators and representative and urge them to reinstate lifesaving programs around the world. Invite others in your network to call their congressional representatives as well. Find contact information at <https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup>. Call every day until Congress acts.

Subject: Restore Foreign Aid Now

Engage: I am deeply concerned about the abrupt termination of foreign aid. This puts millions of lives at risk, hurts U.S. farmers, and undermines U.S. credibility around the world.

State problem: The Trump Administration was ordered by the Supreme Court to release frozen foreign aid funds. Rather than comply with this order to restart paused work, the administration **terminated more than 80 percent of all USAID programs**. Even programs that had been granted waivers for lifesaving work for millions of people were then terminated: [huge swathes of U.S. funding for tuberculosis, nutrition, HIV, malaria, and more](#). The Trump Administration does not have the authority to do this unilaterally. [USAID was established by Congress](#) and is funded through the constitutional authority granted to Congress over federal spending.

Inform on solutions: Bipartisan commitment to USAID strengthens democracy, protects freedom and human rights, safeguards the health of vulnerable populations, and fosters economic growth. Congress must exercise its authority to protect the future of U.S. foreign aid. I know that some of the initial program terminations have been reversed — but many others haven't. I'm counting on you to help make sure they are. Members of Congress must hold the administration accountable to release appropriated funds and reinstate all global health and development programs.

Call to action: Will you demand the administration reinstate terminated programs — especially critical humanitarian and development programs: TB, HIV, malaria, nutrition, maternal and child survival, education, and more? Will you also reassert your congressional authority over foreign aid and urge Appropriations Committee leadership to exercise their constitutional authority over spending?

This is not the time for silence. Congress must act.