

IMPACT OF US INTERNATIONAL AID SUSPENSION IN SOMALIA



As of 6 February 2025

38

NGOs Reported

23

NGOs Received US Funds

8

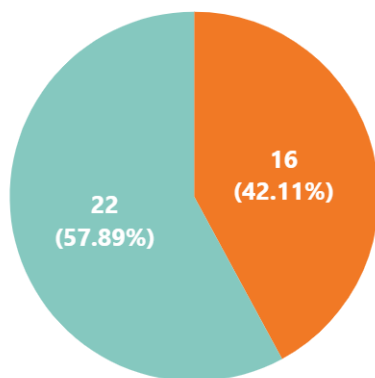
Sectors Affected by the suspension

6

NGOs Terminated Staff Contracts

US Funding Distribution (INGOs & LNGOs)

● International NGOs ● Local NGOs



Funding That Received SWO

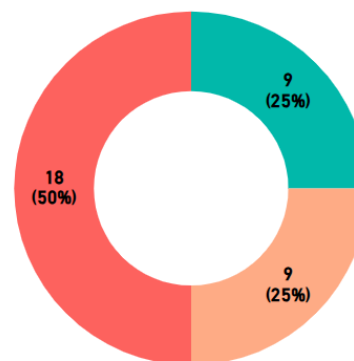


Action Taken on Affected staff



SWO Effect on Partners

● N/A Do not have partnerships with NGOs ● No, not affected ● Yes, affected partnerships



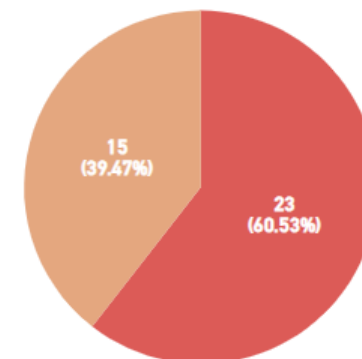
As of February 6, 2025

The aid suspension has significantly impacted humanitarian operations, affecting organizations, beneficiaries, and staff. Out of **38 surveyed organizations**, **60% receive US funding**, with **50% reporting operational disruptions** due to stop-work orders. The sectors most affected include **health, nutrition, WASH, food security, education, and protection**. More than **10,000 beneficiaries** are directly impacted, with one organization reporting disruptions for **over 1.6 million people**. Staff layoffs and unpaid leave were common, with many NGOs in limbo. Organizations urge **donors, governments, and international partners to explore mitigation strategies** to prevent long-term harm.

NGOs Received SWO



NGOs Receiving US Funding



Detailed Impact Report

The findings indicate that the pause of US foreign assistance has disrupted humanitarian efforts, affected hundreds of NGO staff, and left millions without essential service in Somalia.

More than 60% of NGOs operating in Somalia say they rely on US international aid in responding to the humanitarian needs in Somalia, according to the survey.

Organizations Affected: About 70% of NGOs in Somalia – both national and international – receive funds from BHA and USAID, with more than 50% receiving stop-work order from the two US funding agencies, including NGOs that received indirect fundings.

Sectors Impacted: The stop-work order subsequently suspended existing projects affecting the lives of about two million people who depended on the below critical projects:

- Health, Nutrition, and WASH – Disruptions to maternal health, clean water, and life-saving services.
- Food Security & Livelihoods – Cash assistance, agriculture, and food distribution halted.
- Education – School programs including girls education suspended.

- Protection & Peacebuilding – Conflict resolution and support for vulnerable groups disrupted. Distribution

Beneficiary Impact: The stop-work order and the subsequent suspension of humanitarian projects affected over two million people in the country.

Staff Impact: The stop-work order has affected NGO staff with more than half of the affected NGOs, placing 65% of their staff on unpaid leave for “a period of three months”. Many NGOs laid off or placed staff on unpaid leave with 10–100+ employees affected per NGO.

Mitigation Efforts: Affected NGOs have employed cost-cutting strategies that include reducing expenses and optimizing budgets to continue running critical projects. Affected NGOs have started engaging with beneficiaries to explain the aid suspension.

Key Concerns:

- NGO credibility damaged as huge numbers of beneficiaries do not understand aid suspension due to high illiteracy.
- Wasted resources due to stalled projects resulting from the aid pause despite resources allocated and projects launched.
- Calls for donor flexibility to ensure that funding remains effective particularly in dynamic or crisis-prone context like Somalia.

Additional insights or comments regarding the impact of the aid suspension

1. The stop-work order has “harmed” the reputation of NGOs within communities, as beneficiaries do not understand why the aid was stopped.
2. Many projects were halted after mobilization had begun, meaning financial and human resources were already invested.
3. The suspension disrupted critical services in health, water, education, food security, and protection, affecting vulnerable populations, especially IDPs.
4. There is a need for donors and partners to reconsider contract clauses to minimize abrupt terminations and their impact on staff and beneficiaries.
5. Calls for governments and international partners to diversify humanitarian aid sources and explore alternative funding strategies.