



U.S. Foreign Funding Pause Initial Impacts on NGOs in Jordan

24 January - 06 February 2025

On 20 January 2025, shortly after being inaugurated, U.S. President Donald Trump signed the Executive Order “**Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid**”. This executive order mandated a “90-day pause in United States foreign development assistance for assessment of programmatic efficiencies and consistency with United States foreign policy”. The U.S. Secretary of State was given authority to waive the pause for specific programs and has since communicated internally that waivers are granted for ‘emergency food assistance’ and ‘live-saving humanitarian needs’. While the language of internal State Department communication indicates staff salaries could also be covered, a lack of guidance or clarity has left partners with the responsibility to interpret and manage risks.

Communications from U.S. government sources were subsequently shared with NGO partners in Jordan but with little clarity on the kinds of activities and costs that can continue under current contracts during the review period. As of yet, no clear guidance has been communicated in the country conveying sectors or activities that can continue or which are exempt from the pause, outside of emergency food assistance.

While, in the absence of a dedicated joint humanitarian funding appeal, Jordan is not branded as a priority humanitarian crisis, NGOs, government actors, US government funding instruments and the broader humanitarian donor community collectively support and participate in a complex network of partnerships that ensure access to and continuity of critical and essential services for both refugees and vulnerable Jordanians. As actors look forward and try to forecast how political shifts in the U.S. will influence essential revenue flows that maintain services, the JIF would like to provide **a snapshot of initial impacts of the current U.S. funding freeze on JIF member programming to assist stakeholders in understanding the short-term consequences. The impact assessment is based on input from 26 humanitarian and development organizations and does not reflect the full impact of the funding freeze.**

TOPLINE IMPACTS

Number of individuals to receive service disruptions N-90	35,555 people
Individuals supported by USG funded NGO programs for 2025	5,600,695
Number of affected partnership agreements	79 agreements
INGO USG funding committed to partners for N-90	\$3,869,288
UN funding committed to JIF NGO programming for 2025	\$8,759,457
Staff contracts that have been ended, cut and furloughed	395ⁱ

All dollar amounts are in USD

N-90 is the 90-day review period that is expected to finish around 20 April 2025

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

- At least 7,000 individuals will be (and have been) denied critical clinical health services in the 90 days from the start of the stop order (N-90). These include medical services provided in conjunction with government health services at government clinics but where the government has limited capacity to fill gaps. Key mental health/psychosocial support (MPHSS) and clinical services which have been stood down include the provision of psychotropic medications to patients suffering from suicidal ideations.
- Individuals in need of physical rehabilitation services and requiring prosthetics to resume normal or semi-normal function or those requiring assistive devices, rehabilitation therapy, and related medications and surgeries will be denied this support countrywide for the next 90 days as NGOs played a critical role in extending government capacity to support people with disabilities. Without national backstopping ability, there is concern that disabilities could unnecessarily worsen, and that secondary disabilities may develop if services do not resume.
- Cash and financial support services/advice will be permanently halted to developing small and medium enterprises as part of a countrywide project assisting more than 11,190 businesses. This consortium of projects supports more than half of Jordan's private sector workforce, and as the stoppage continues, it risks having a negative impact directly and indirectly on 55,000 families and 30,000 employees in the future.
- Support and treatment for more than 1,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees who require monthly treatment and care for non-communicable disease (NCD) management. NGOs remain a primary service provider for Syrian refugees seeking NCD care. Procurement of lifesaving medical supplies and equipment intended for 13 public primary healthcare facilities has also halted. Cash payments for health services for pregnant women for prenatal/antenatal and postnatal care, as well as emergency services and referrals, and support for NICU admissions have been cancelled in urban areas where NGO cash assistance is crucial for access to critical public health services.
- Case management for 116 gender-based violence cases and counseling services for 2,555 GBV survivors has been halted. Language in the executive order suggests that these specific services could be defunded.
- Additional multipurpose cash assistance programming for Syrian refugees in urban and non-camp has stopped. This means at least 2,000 individuals receiving emergency shelter assistance will face eviction or the threat of eviction with limited channels for legal recourse and limited capacity to meet rent. Additional needs related to longer-term shelter reconstruction will not be met.

The suspension of assistance across sectors comes at a moment when refugees are considering returning to Syria while having concerns about security and conditions in areas of return. The freeze in funding could become a factor in pushing refugees into an unsafe and uncertain environment.

¹ The numbers in the table reflect the information currently available and are highly fluid. The number of affected individuals (Jordanians and refugees) who have and will experience service disruption during the pause period accounts for some but limited overlap. Affected staff contracts and partner agreements are expected to continue to rise over time.