

IMPACT OF US INTERNATIONAL AID SUSPENSION IN SOMALIA

As of 25 February 2025



55 :NGOs Responded

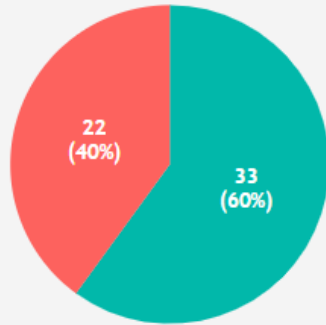
26: NGOs Receive US Funds

8: Sectors Affected by the suspension

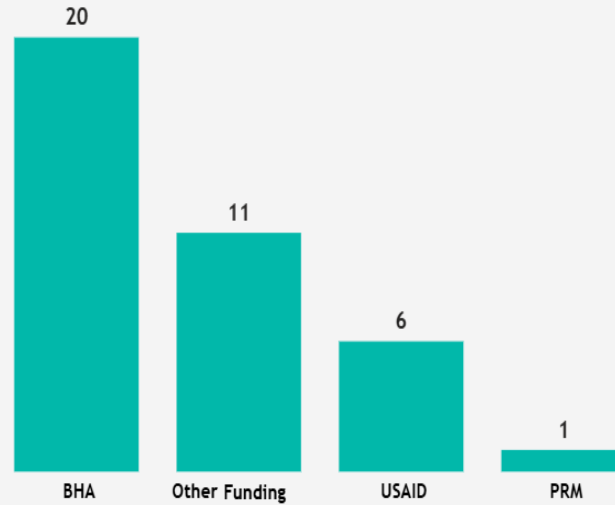
9: NGOs Placed Staff on Unpaid Leave

Response Numbers: International & Local Organizations

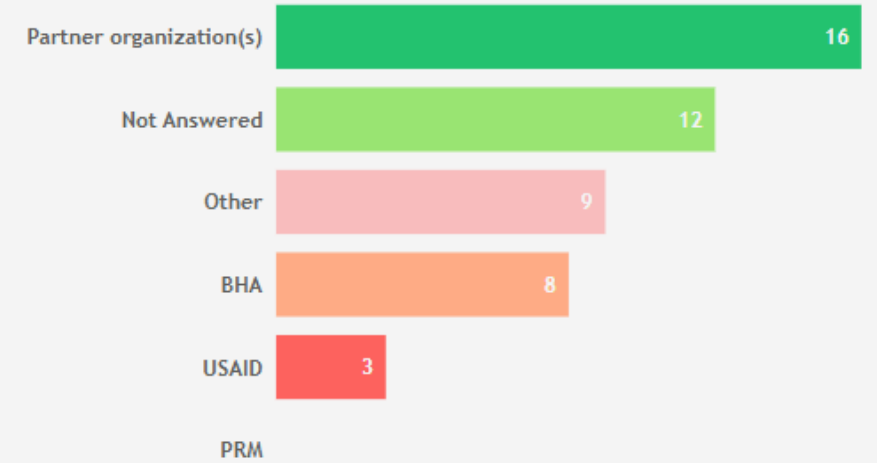
● International NGOs ● Local NGOs



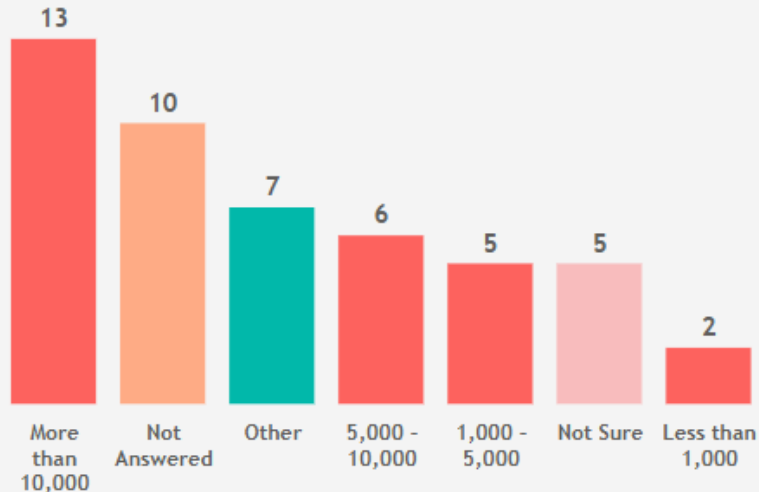
NGOs Fundings



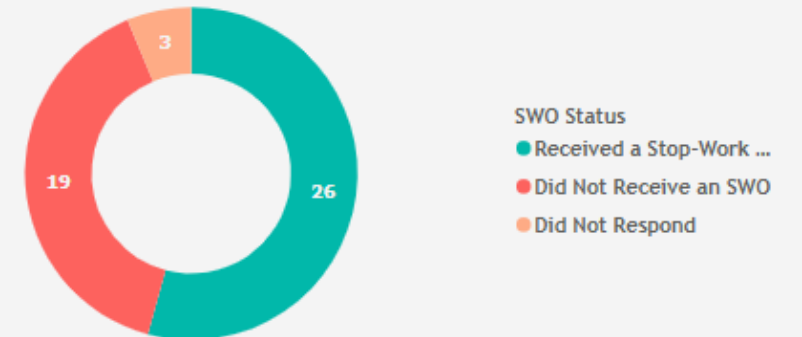
US Funding That Recieved SWO



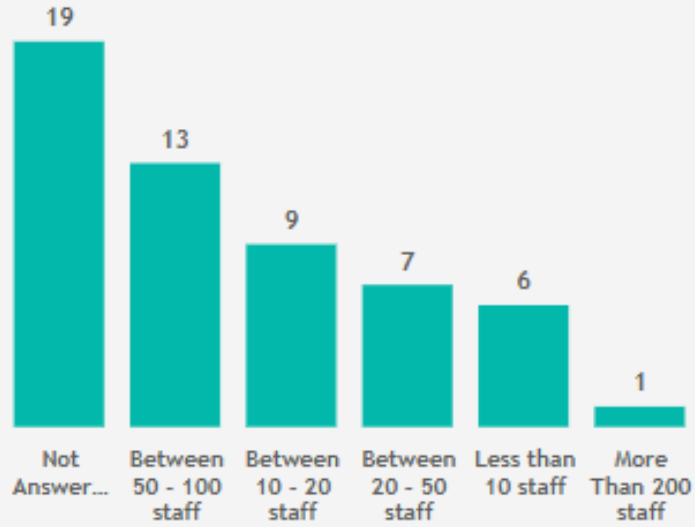
Number of Beneficiaries Affected



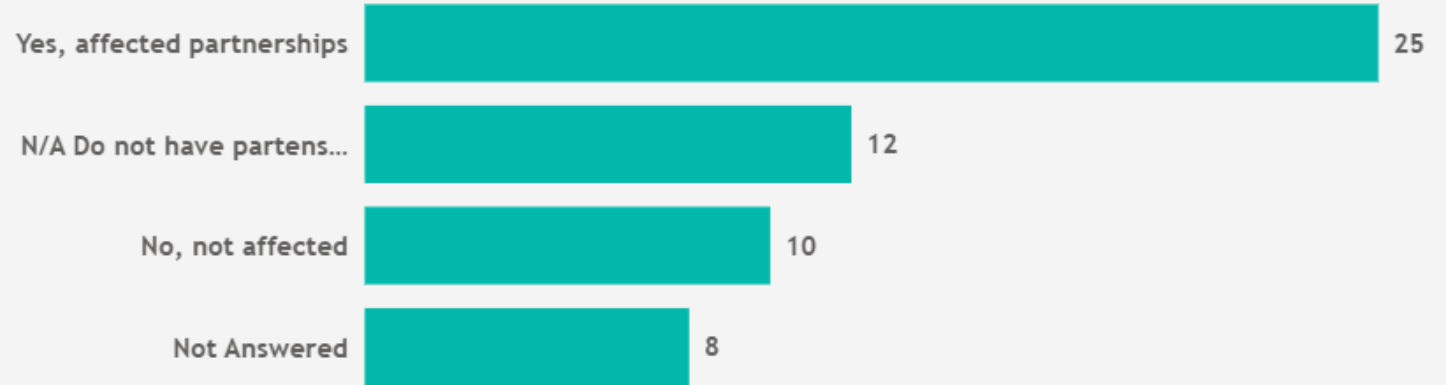
NGUs Received SWO



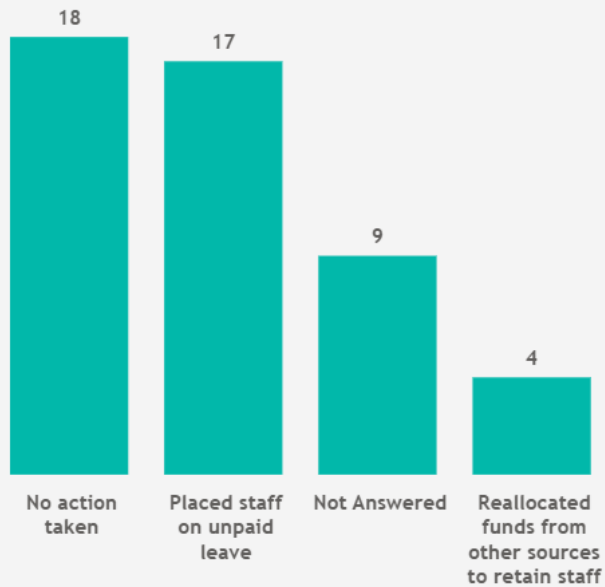
Number of Staff Affected



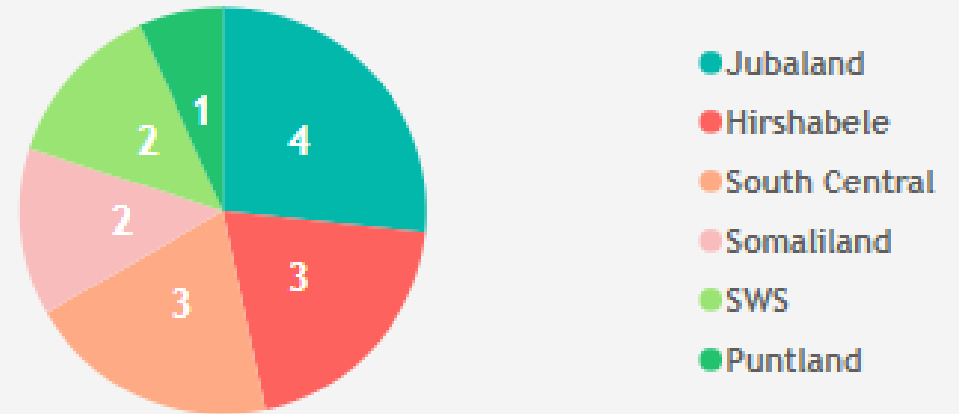
Affected Partnerships Per Organization



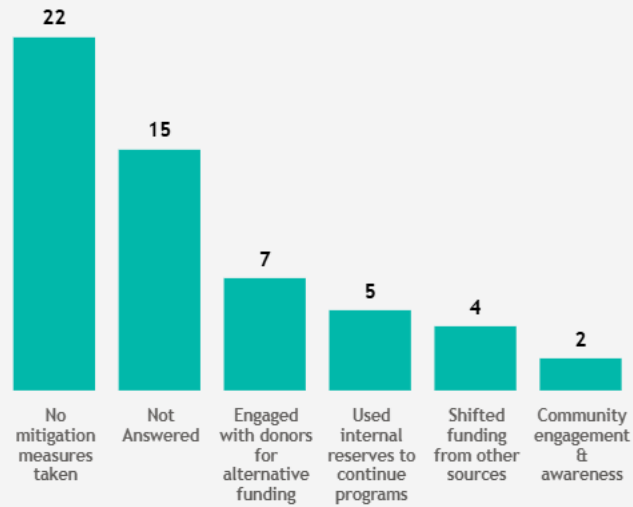
Action Taken Regarding Staff



Location of affected Projects



Mitigation Measure Taken



Sectors Affected Per Organization



Key Findings

Organizations Affected

- 60% of surveyed organizations receive direct or indirect funding from BHA and USAID.
- More than half (33 organizations) received stop-work orders, primarily from BHA or partner organizations.
- National and international NGOs are both significantly impacted, with some organizations halting all projects.

Sectors and Projects Impacted

- Integrated Humanitarian Programs: Health, Nutrition, WASH, and Protection services disrupted.
- Food Assistance & Livelihoods: Over 69,000 households affected due to halted cash and food distribution.
- Education Programs: More than 16,000 students face uncertainty as schools and support programs pause.
- Resilience & Recovery Initiatives: Critical economic and peacebuilding projects suspended.

Impact on Beneficiaries

- Over 1.7 million people affected by suspended aid, including displaced populations and vulnerable communities.
- Families relying on humanitarian cash assistance and food support are left without alternatives.

Staff Impact

- About 36 organizations reported staff impact, with some laying off employees and others placing them on unpaid leave.
- Staff affected per organization ranges from 10 to 100+, with some NGOs reallocating limited funds to retain critical staff.

Mitigation Efforts

- Some NGOs minimized costs by pausing non-essential spending
- Others pursued fundraising or private sector partnerships.
- A few organizations restructured operations to maintain minimal service delivery, while one reported suspension of operations.

Key Concerns

- Immediate humanitarian gaps—essential services are cut off for thousands who depend on them.
- Severe economic consequences—job losses among NGO staff and reduced income for contractors.
- Uncertainty in project continuation—lack of clear waivers or alternative funding means projects could remain halted indefinitely.

Analysis

- The suspension of aid could lead to increased mortality rates, particularly among children with recent reports indicating 1.7 million children under five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2025.
- People in rural and remote areas may be forced to migrate to urban centers or cross borders into Kenya and Ethiopia in search of food and assistance.
- Suspension of building resilience to climate shocks programs could leave communities more vulnerable to environmental disasters such as drought and floods.
- Creating immediate economic hardship to families of terminated NGOs employees following the aid suspension.
- Contractors who were awarded projects have also been left unpaid, further exacerbating economic instability.
- Aid pause is leading to inflation and currency devaluation, worsening the cost of living for ordinary Somalis.
- Impact on economy since many businesses, including the hospitality sector and contractors, depend on the services they provide to NGOs.
- Likelihood of Al-Shabab to recruit vulnerable children from families that depend on humanitarian assistance for survival who often exploit children with a promise of cash.
- The aid pause also threatens to reverse progress made in Somalia's recovery from decades of conflict and instability.
- The suspension has damaged relationships between NGOs and the communities they serve since many beneficiaries with high illiteracy, struggle to understand the reasons behind the aid suspension.
- Hope for many NGOs has diminished after the US Government terminated 5,800 programs, many of which had already been granted waivers to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance.
- The US Government has been categorical in stating that it reviewed all previously terminated programs and determined that doing so was in the US national interest.

Recommendations

- NGOs need to raise awareness about the importance of NGO work and the consequences of funding cuts.
- It is high time to engage with beneficiaries about the impact of the executive order and how NGOs are attempting to mitigate the impact.
- Work with advocacy groups and engage in long-term advocacy efforts to influence U.S. policy on international aid.
- Researching and mapping of new donors for example from gulf countries, private foundations, corporate sponsors, or individual philanthropists.