



WOMEN'S  
REFUGEE  
COMMISSION

FINDINGS FROM

## A Year of Harms:

The Impact of US Foreign Aid Cuts on  
Women and Girls in Humanitarian Crises



CLOSED

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order instituting a 90-day pause on United States foreign aid, ultimately cutting over \$40 billion in official development assistance, including more than \$10 billion in humanitarian assistance. When the pause was enacted, an estimated 305 million people across 72 countries required humanitarian assistance—the highest numbers in recorded history. The abrupt and unprecedented withdrawal of US foreign aid threw an already overstretched humanitarian system into chaos.

*A Year of Harms: The Impact of US Foreign Aid Cuts on Women and Girls in Humanitarian Crises* is the **most comprehensive synthesis of evidence to date on the gendered impacts of recent US foreign aid cuts**. Using a scoping review methodology, the report draws from 105 sources with evidence from humanitarian crises in 32 countries. This brief presents an overview of one of five key findings: *women and girls are less safe from violence*.

Read the full report here: [womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/year-of-harms/](https://womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/year-of-harms/)

## Women and girls are less safe from violence

The review found extensive evidence that **US foreign aid cuts have ended access to GBV prevention and response services** for women and girls in humanitarian crises, while also reducing quality of care, decreasing trust in providers, and sending a message of impunity to perpetrators.

- More than **\$400 million of US foreign aid was cut** from grants that explicitly mentioned GBV in their title or description.
- Approximately **78 percent of US humanitarian aid to the GBV sector was cut**, totaling at least **\$114.44 million**.
- Evidence of over **3 million women and girls losing access to GBV prevention and response services** in humanitarian crises, though the actual number is likely significantly higher.

Immediate impacts to GBV prevention and response services were reported from humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territories (Gaza), South Sudan, Sudan, Türkiye, Ukraine, and Yemen.

Women's and girls' safe spaces were the most frequently reported service affected. Among countries and regions that reported data on the closure of safe spaces:

- In Gaza, 15 safe spaces have closed, ending services for **90,000 women and girls**.

[read more >](#)

## A Year of Harms: Women and girls are less safe from violence (continued)

---

- In Lebanon, the number of operational safe spaces dropped from 67 to 53, with 12 on the brink of closure, **affecting 30,240 women and girls**.
- In Nigeria, funding cuts shut down 12 safe spaces and limited activities in six, impacting **600 women and girls**.
- In South Sudan, 75 percent of UNHCR-supported safe spaces have closed, ending services for **80,000 refugee women and girls**.
- In Sudan, 40 out of 99 GBV centers have closed, cutting off services for **1 million women and girls**.
- In Yemen, US funding cuts have shut down half of the country's safe spaces, leaving **623,000 women and girls** with few or no alternatives for support.

The report also includes evidence demonstrating the widespread impact of funding disruptions to the GBV sector:

- In Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, funding cuts have resulted in a significant reduction in trained GBV caseworkers, resulting in a **notable decline in case reporting and referrals**.
- In Ethiopia, the frequency of outreach services has been reduced, resulting in **the inability to assist child survivors** in cases of rape.
- In Honduras, nearly half of specialized partners that previously supported GBV response for migrants have shut down, resulting in **rushed GBV screenings and a reduction in disclosure of abuse**.
- In Ukraine, funding cuts **dismantled trusted referral pathways** built over several years of frontline response.

**“ The frequency of field visits has been reduced, meaning some children [survivors] were not assisted in a timely manner, especially in cases of rape, which sometimes exceeded 72 or even 120 hours. As a result, these children were immediately exposed to STIs and at risk of early and unintended pregnancy.”**

SOURCE: **THE ALLIANCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION**