



WOMEN'S
REFUGEE
COMMISSION

FINDINGS FROM

A Year of Harms:

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



On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order instituting a 90-day pause on United States foreign aid, ultimately cutting over more than \$10 billion in humanitarian assistance. The Women's Refugee Commission report *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. This brief presents an overview of one of five key findings in the report.

Read the full report here: womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/year-of-harms/

Collective efforts help mitigate loss and harm

The report's fifth finding highlights how, despite the harms caused to women and girls by US foreign aid cuts, **communities, practitioners, and policymakers are working to mitigate the loss of resources.**

International efforts

- The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) launched a **Harm Mitigation Taskforce** to provide emergency funding aimed at addressing \$84.2 million in cut funding that would result in 8.5 million people losing access to SRH services.
- International donors such as Sweden and Norway have **increased commitments to SRHR** to help fill the significant funding gap left by the US.

National efforts

- The DRC Ministry of Gender, Family, and Children announced an increase in **national investments in contraceptive services** by \$5 million annually from 2025 to 2028.
- Zimbabwe announced that it will **fill funding gaps in FP programming** through taxes and levies on alcohol, tobacco, and cell phone data and airtime.

Civil society efforts

- In Burkina Faso, 10 out of 14 safe spaces remained open due to **efforts of community-based organizations**, which continued activities from February until June 2025.
- In Uganda, **informal women's groups support GBV survivors** and at-risk girls with awareness-raising sessions, mental health first aid, and referrals to the few remaining clinics.
- In Central African Republic, **women's groups set up food distribution** systems and youth leaders are leading education initiatives
- In Sudan, neighborhood-based mutual aid groups, known as **"emergency response rooms,"** have been recognized as key actors operating in the vacuum left by the US and other donors.