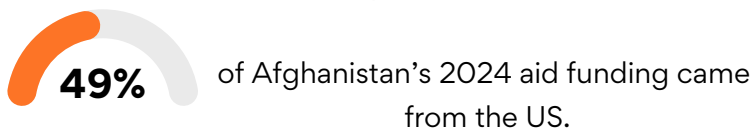
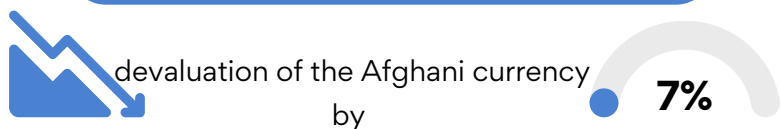


The Ripple Effect: How the US Humanitarian Aid Freeze Impacts CWSA

What Happened?

The US government signed an executive order, triggering a USAID funding freeze that has disrupted global humanitarian aid efforts, and pausing U.S. foreign development assistance for 90 days to foreign countries, NGOs, international organisations and contractors. This has caused devastation to the thousands of organisations reliant upon this funding, with disruption to vital humanitarian, development and peace services.

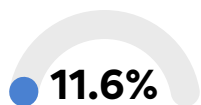
What this means for Afghanistan?



234M USD

planned US humanitarian funding for Afghanistan in 2025.

Funding Capacity Response Only



of the HNRP funded by 3rd February 2025 as



of funds committed by the **US Now Halted!**

22.9M

People requiring assistance according to the HNRP

1200 additional maternal deaths expected and

109,000 additional unintended pregnancies between 2025 - 2028 - UNFPA.

Educational activities halted – especially girls education. High probability of child marriages.



Point to Note

US support for Afghanistan's agriculture sector amounted to over USD 32 Million in 2024, potentially leaving a significant gap in 2025 if this aid doesn't continue or is significantly



14.8 million Afghans are food-insecure & a projected 3.5 million children under age five are expected to experience acute malnutrition (2025).

What this means for Pakistan?

22

organisations working on democracy, education, and minority rights advocacy, directly affected, leading to project closures.

\$845 M

Aid projects suspended .

1.7M

People cut off from lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services.

1.2M

Afghan refugees cut off from lifesaving health services.

60

Health facilities closed.

5

Energy projects that aimed to improve power distribution and promote clean energy investments halted.



Agricultural support work that focuses on improving food security closed.

Education programs aimed at improving girls' education and strengthening higher education systems on hold.



? What this #Fundingfreeze and policy change means for CWSA?

We have been impacted by a **38% funding reduction**, severely affecting our ability to provide essential services to the most marginalised communities, including women, minorities, and refugees.



3 offices shut down

More than **48 million** people in Pakistan's Sindh province lose access to awareness raising regarding rights and civic education and legal protection.

Very limited overhead budgets



38% of total budget cut



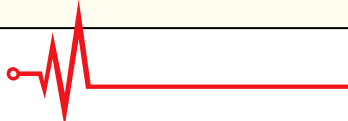
Over **55,000** marginalised community members risk losing access to essential life-saving (health), education and rights-based services.

32 staff contracts terminated



over **300,000**

crisis-affected **Afghan refugees in Pakistan and displaced communities** in Afghanistan are on the verge of losing critical access to **livelihoods, education, WASH, and maternal and neonatal health** support. **As project approvals stall & fundings are cut off, the lifelines these communities rely on hang in the balance.**





The Psychological Toll of Disrupted Aid

The US Government's funding freeze policy has significantly impacted the mental well-being of humanitarian workers and disaster-affected communities. Humanitarian workers face increased stress and anxiety due to job uncertainty and disrupted aid programs, while the abrupt halt in funding has led to disillusionment and frustration. Smaller local civil society groups and NGOs, along with the communities they serve, are the first to feel the impact. Disaster-affected communities, already grappling with trauma, experience additional mental health strain due to the cessation of aid. Both groups may lose trust in international aid systems and feel a sense of hopelessness about their future.

Accountability to Communities at Risk



With shrinking resources, critical accountability mechanisms—such as complaints and feedback systems, safeguarding initiatives, participatory decision-making, and transparent communication—are at risk of being deprioritised by the funding partners. As a sector, we must now allow this to happen.



Since the last two years, I've been receiving free medication and treatment from the CWSA supported MNCH centre. The quality of their services and the medicine provided is excellent. We've been benefiting from these health intervention since its inception in our district. If we lose access to these free health services, we'll be at a big loss. My husband and I are unemployed and live below poverty, struggling to make ends meet for our children. Medicines and healthcare is expensive, and without this support, families like ours will suffer greatly.

Community member (flood affectee 2022), Pakistan.



Social Cost of Funding Discontinuation of key Development, Rights & Peace program

Years of progress on human rights access and promotion risks being reversed:



Loss of Legal Protection

- Stalled amendments to Christian personal laws & Hindu Succession Act.
- Paused legal rights awareness and support, crucial for the empowerment and protection of minority communities.



Collapse of Advocacy Platforms

- National lobbying delegations & minority-led initiatives could disband.
- Minority representation in policy will be severely weakened.

Increased Vulnerability of Minority Communities:

- Education, healthcare & employment gains could be undone.
- Economic opportunities and Livelihood support lost.
- Dismantling of village committees, weakening community advocacy.



Our transformative impact since 2022:



CWSA has been at the forefront of advocating for the legal, social, and political rights of religious minorities in Pakistan. Our work has led to ground breaking milestones, transforming marginalised communities and strengthening their access to justice, inclusion, and participation.



There is already a very limited space in Pakistan to discuss issues concerning religious minorities. The end to advocacy work on pro-minority laws and policies will have a significant impact on marginalised communities in Pakistan.

Humanitarian & Development Staff, Pakistan



For CWSA, these are not just projects—it is a movement for equality and justice. We stand at a critical crossroads: continued funding can solidify long-term change, while its loss risks undoing decades of progress. To continue our work in this region, change is essential. The humanitarian sector must refocus priorities, cut inefficiencies, and make strategic choices to prevent communities from suffering the impact of funding challenges.

The abrupt freeze on the humanitarian aid has left chaos, confusion and hopelessness. This has impacted not only lifesaving, humanitarian programs, but also vital development programs - leaving communities destitute and helpless. The future of the humanitarian sector also looks uncertain, forcing all of us to rethink its funding and operational strategies. -

Humanitarian staff, Pakistan