

Most Lifesaving Services Remain Paused: A Rapid Assessment of the PEPFAR Stop Work Order

The January 20 Trump Administration Executive Order freezing all foreign assistance funds for 90 days included funds disbursed under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a historically bipartisan program that has provided lifesaving HIV services since 2003. This sudden cessation of services, including HIV treatment, put millions of people at risk. Estimates predict each day of the freeze about 220,000 people, including over 7,000 children, will be unable to access their needed treatment.

On February 1, a waiver granted to PEPFAR allowed the resumption of some lifesaving humanitarian assistance during the review period. All HIV prevention activities were excluded from the waiver, except for those aimed at preventing mother-to-child transmission. To date, few implementers have been approved to restart services under the waiver, leaving all activities, including treatment, still paused. **As of February 9, the waiver had not reached PEPFAR partners and most services remained paused. Of 65 PEPFAR partners surveyed, less than 10% had restarted providing any services.**

A survey of PEPFAR funding recipients* immediately following the funding freeze shows the freeze has already led to significant disruptions in recipients' ability to deliver lifesaving HIV services.

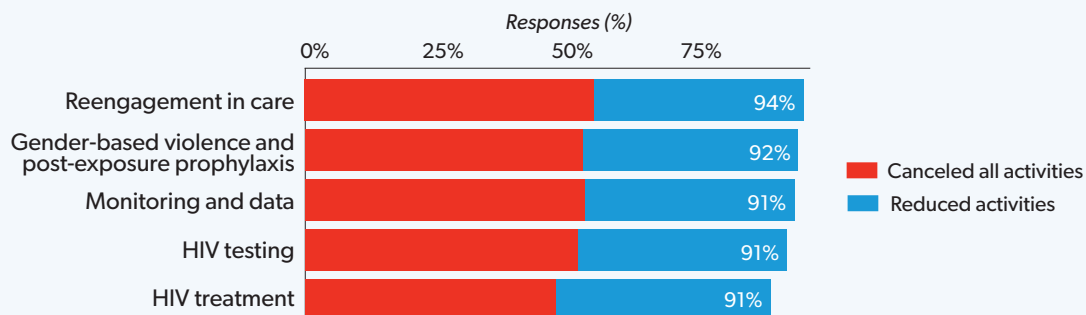
86% reported that their clients would **lose access to HIV treatment** services within the next month unless the freeze is lifted.

>60% reported that their organizations had already **laid off staff**.

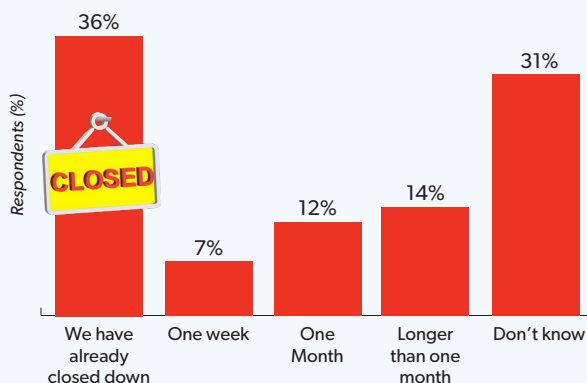
76% described the impact of the funding freeze on their organizational financial stability as **"severe."**

36% said that their organizations had already **completely closed down**.

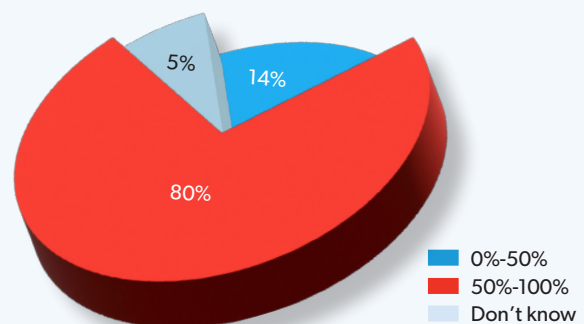
Services most disrupted by funding freeze



How long can your organization continue to operate without PEPFAR funding?



80% of respondents say PEPFAR provides at least half of their organizational budgets



* Survey conducted January 24-28, 2025. Analysis includes 153 respondents from 27 countries, with a majority (61%) from Eastern and Southern Africa.