



COURAGE IN CRISIS

A collection of stories on
the impact of aid budget cuts

PROGRESS IN JEOPARDY

In some of the places where we work, funding cuts either to Oxfam or to our partners and allies, are directly affecting the communities and people we work with. In those contexts, we've interviewed community members about their needs and challenges.

PARTNER IN NEED

Because of how quickly the funding landscape is shifting, the impact is sometimes not felt yet at the level of communities. But our partners are already being impacted. Where this is the case, we've asked partner staff to speak on video about their assessment.



PARTNER IN NEED

GUATEMALA

Context

As a result of the recent cut in funding, the Guatemalan independent medium **Quorum** lost 20,000 USD with USAID, and an even larger sum from NED. The USAID fund was to implement the methodology "participatory journalism" as well as rent a recording studio, incorporate staff to social security, and promote issues of climate justice and environment on their social networks and raise the debate on the same in Guatemalan society.

Impact

Staff enrollment on social security was paused. The team had to let go of two people: a journalist specialized in environmental issues and climate justice, and an illustrator/ designer. As a digital medium that depends on its audiovisual content, this is affecting its reach. Finally, Quorum had to cancel the lease of a space to have their own recording studio. In view of their independency, it is critical for Quorum to have a safe space to conduct interviews, make videos and conduct other communication actions. All in all, this means less independent reporting on climate justice in a restricted media environment.

Products

- Interview with founder Pia Flores – VNR (English + clean version)
- Interview with founder Pia Flores – Full interview videos (Spanish)
- context photos featuring Pia Flores, co-founder Gabriel Woltke and the recording studio they had to abandon.

ACCESS THE CONTENTS



PARTNER IN NEED

BURKINA FASO

Context

The abrupt cessation of U.S. funding has deeply shaken the operational capacity of the aid sector in Burkina Faso. The Permanent Secretariat of Non-Governmental Organizations (SPONG), has confirmed at least 19 of their members are being affected. These NGOs have been forced to suspend their activities, jeopardizing vital interventions benefiting nearly 710,000 people.

Impact

Projects for access to clean water have been interrupted, community health programs have been halted, and psychosocial support for vulnerable populations has been weakened. Additionally, 273 jobs are now at risk, plunging entire families into uncertainty and severely testing the institutional survival of these committed organizations.

Products

- Interview with SPONG President of the Board of Directors Abdoulaye Ouédraogo – VNR (English + clean version)
- Written-up article/blog/op-ed from Abdoulaye Ouédraogo (English + French)

ACCESS THE CONTENTS



PARTNER IN NEED UKRAINE

Context

"The Tenth of April" (TTA) is providing free legal aid, social and psychological support, and direct humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and stateless individuals across 10 regions in Ukraine. Her work focuses on legal assistance, advocacy, and protection services, ensuring that vulnerable communities can exercise their rights and access essential resources.

Impact

USAID reduced funding to The Tenth of April in January. Because of this, evacuations were halted, psychological support disappeared, safe shelters closed, hotlines stopped responding and cash assistance, especially multipurpose cash assistance, was no longer accessible.

Products

- Interview with Aliona Pashchenko, Project Manager at TTA

ACCESS THE CONTENTS



PROGRESS IN JEOPARDY ETHIOPIA

Context

Although Oxfam does not directly receive U.S. government funding, our operations in Gambella (Ethiopia) are indirectly affected because a portion of our WASH work is funded through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which in turn receives significant support from the U.S. government. Following the broader suspension of USAID assistance—which significantly affects UNHCR’s global operations—UNHCR revised its funding commitments in Gambella, including a 50% reduction in its 2025 budget allocation to Oxfam.

Impact

Oxfam is currently delivering life-saving WASH services to seven refugee camps in Gambella—providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education to over 388,000 refugees, many of whom are women, children, and older people. These critical services can be sustained through June 2025, but without renewed funding, our ability to continue will be compromised.

Products

- Written article, including long quotes from both partner and Oxfam staff
- Portrait photos of people interviewed + a few context photos

ACCESS THE CONTENTS



PROGRESS IN JEOPARDY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Context

In the Central African Republic, Oxfam provides humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities on a UNICEF-funded program, in turn supported by USAID funds. USAID recently reduced the UNICEF funding by 625,000 USD, which is approximately 75% of the project budget. This represents a considerable loss of essential resources for the implementation of our programs.

Impact

Discontinued support has affected community members and their families, particularly in the areas of water, hygiene, protection, and food security. Without access to safe drinking water and hygiene services, families face health complications and even death, especially among children. The suspension of protection programs also exposes vulnerable people, including women, children, and the elderly, to increased risks of exploitation, violence, and rights violations. Furthermore, the reduction in food assistance exacerbates the rising rate of food insecure people, malnutrition, and undernutrition, which can affect children's growth and development, while increasing families' vulnerability to crises.

Products

2 videos explaining achievements in our programs, and how budget cuts jeopardize those:

- water, sanitation & hygiene delivery
- food & livelihoods support

[ACCESS THE CONTENTS](#)



PROGRESS IN JEOPARDY SYRIA

Context

GOPA-DERD is the second largest provider of humanitarian aid to Syrian families and Iraqi refugees residing in Syria, delivering essential protection and educational support. USAID has been supporting their work, but earlier this year, funding went down overnight. GOPA-DERD has had to close six community centers, and now no longer has the ability to support Iraqi refugees.

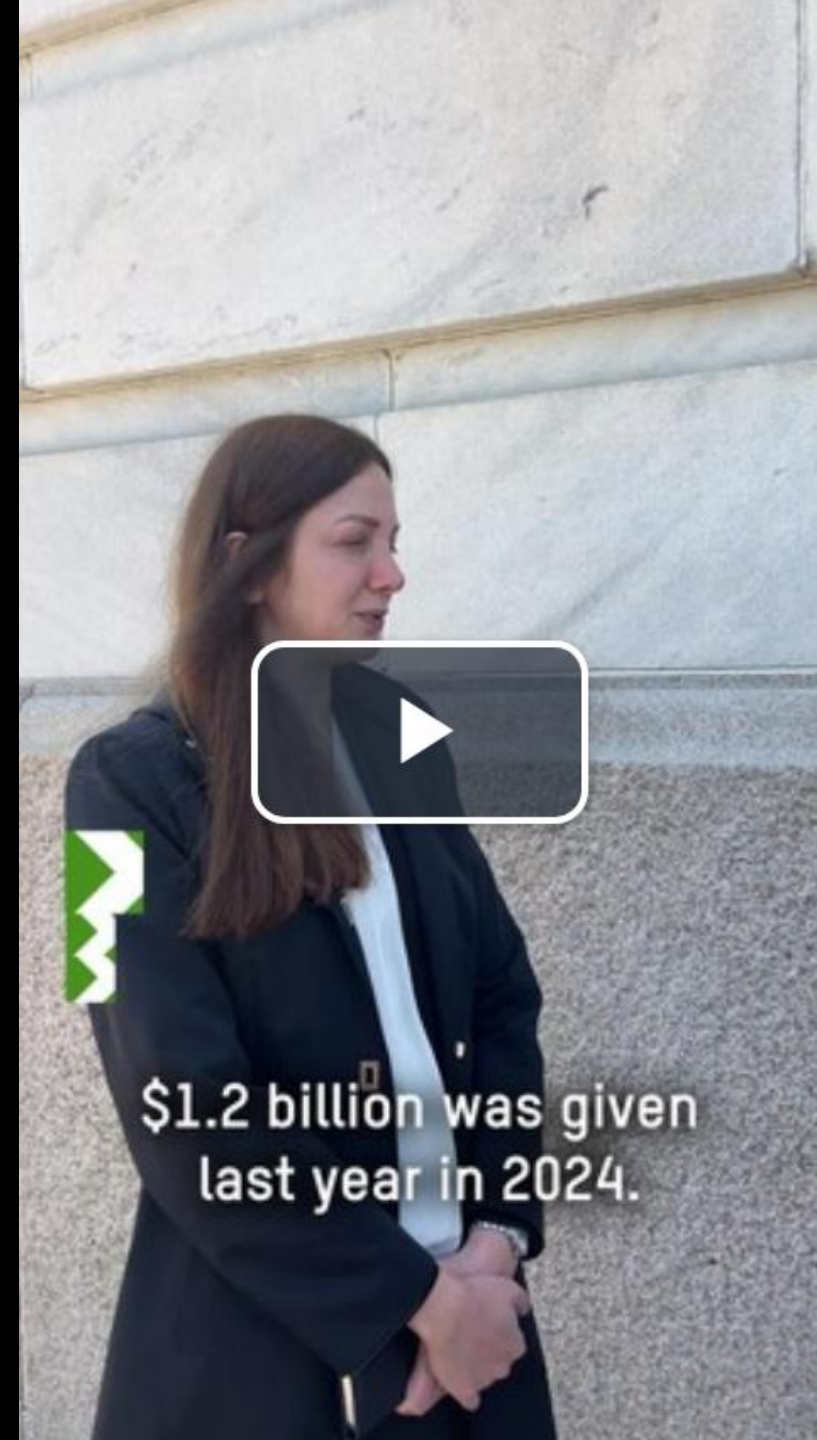
Impact

The program has been suspended, depriving beneficiaries of crucial economic and psychological support, including Rent Assistance, potentially leading to homelessness due to the deprivation of shelter. The interruption of psychiatric medications will exacerbate the conditions of those with serious psychological illnesses. Additionally, the cancellation of educational services is expected to increase school dropouts and exacerbate ignorance due to unaffordable school fees. According to UN OCHA, 200,000 people are without food, and 500,000 will be without water in the next few months.

Products

- Interview with Sara Savva, Deputy Director at GOPA-DERD

ACCESS THE CONTENTS



PARTNER IN NEED

EL SALVADOR

Context

In El Salvador, Oxfam works with partner organization PROVIDA to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants at 10 border points. With no official statistics available, PROVIDA is a key source of evidence of irregular migration in El Salvador. In addition to monitoring, the project also provided migrants with food, water, hygiene items, communications services and psychological care. Simultaneously, another PROVIDA project strengthened wildfire preparedness and response in highly vulnerable rural communities in seven departments of the country. US funding for both programs was cut earlier this year.

Impact

The reduction in funding led to the early termination of the migration work and the dismissal of 15 members of the technical team, which drastically weakened operational capacity in the region. The wildfire protection program was interrupted too. Both migrants and communities are left to face crisis by themselves now.

Products

- 8-min interview with PROVIDA Project Manager Eduardo González
- b-roll showing the context at the border
- archive imagery showing PROVIDA program work

ACCESS THE CONTENTS



PARTNERS IN NEED SOMALIA

Context

With about 54% of the total humanitarian and development funding for Somalia coming from the US, the funding freezes and cuts has already resulted in immense suffering for the most vulnerable populations. Over 33 organizations have received stop work orders disrupting program and service delivery across multiple sectors – health, nutrition, WASH, protection, and food assistance and livelihoods. The situation will continue to deteriorate with devastating impacts especially on children, women and the elderly.

Impact

We are assessing the impact with 3 of our partner organizations:

- **Gredo** has had to close 15 health facilities. They've also had to discontinue support to 3 schools, as well as incentives for 360 teachers and school heads. In total, 12,126 learners have been affected.
- **Sado** has had to lay off staff and halt its operations. Cash transfers were stopped; WASH and nutrition activities were suspended. Malnutrition is rising and displacement is increasing.
- **SSWC** has had to stop teacher training, school rehabilitation, and efforts to get children to school.

Products

3 interviews with staff members of partner organizations explaining the aid cuts impact

ACCESS THE CONTENTS



humanitarian, program

PROGRESS IN JEOPARDY

DRC

Context

A spike in armed conflict has caused the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance to rise from 6,4 to 8 million in East Congo most recently. Cuts in US foreign assistance (originally providing 88% of the health funding in East Congo) mean that 70% of those will be left without humanitarian aid. 30 international organizations have been affected, and 89 national agencies have had to close down.

Impact

Cholera cases have risen to almost 1,500. Mpox is on the rise and Ebola poses a real threat, as both the government and humanitarian actors struggle to respond. In addition to this, vital development projects have been discontinued, jeopardizing livelihoods and economic opportunities for many.

Products

- an interview with **Manenji Magundu**, Oxfam in DRC Country Director, explaining the impact of the budget cuts on the health crisis in East Congo
- an edited video, written story and photos on the humanitarian crisis in DRC and Oxfam's response
- an interview with **Marcelline Budza**, founder of Oxfam partner and coffee cooperative RWH, explaining the impact of the budget cuts on a project to build a coffee pulping plant

[ACCESS THE CONTENTS](#)

