



Press Release

U.S. Aid Suspension Deeply Impacts Civil Society in Tanzania, New THRDC Survey Reveals

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has released new report highlighting the serious consequences of the U.S. funding suspension announced on January 20, 2025. The study, conducted between January and June 2025 through an online survey of more than 200 CSOs, interviews, focus group discussions, and desk review, examined how the halt in support affects Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Tanzania.

CSOs in Tanzania contribute an estimated TZS 2.64 trillion annually to national development. The survey shows that 85% of CSOs depend heavily on foreign donors, particularly US aid. The sudden aid suspension has exposed this dependency and created widespread financial and operational challenges.

Key impacts include severe disruptions in service delivery, especially in health, legal aid, and education. Over 40% of CSOs have suspended or terminated staff due to budget cuts of up to 90%. Major programs such as PEPFAR's HIV/AIDS services, agricultural initiatives under Feed the Future, and civic engagement programs like Tushiriki Pamoja have stalled. Vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and people living with HIV, are already experiencing reduced access to life-saving services. There are also signs of increased gender-based violence, human trafficking, school dropout, and early marriages in affected regions in Tanzania.

Local CSOs have been hit hardest by the funding structure, since only a small portion of the funds (2.6% to 30%) previously reached local organizations directly. Regulatory burdens such as high compliance costs, lack of tax incentives, and no government funding further weaken their sustainability.

Beyond social and governance setbacks, the suspension has created ripple effects in Tanzania's economy. CSOs staffs are struggling to repay loans, affecting bank portfolios and weakening the Tanzanian shilling due to reduced foreign currency inflows. Health, Women and Gender, and Education are the most severely affected sectors. Many CSOs fear closure if no alternative support is secured.

To remain active, organizations are scaling down their work or seeking new funders, though options are very limited. The study calls for urgent short- and long-term interventions to support civil society resilience, including increased domestic financing, improved donor transition planning, reforms to enable local philanthropy, and fairer access to funding for local actors.

Tanzania's CSO sector plays a crucial role in advancing development, democracy, and community well-being. The Coalition urges government, donors, and stakeholders to work collectively to safeguard civil society operations and protect gains made in health, education, human rights, and environmental conservation. The full report can be found in THRDC's website through the link below:

[Report on the Impact of United States Funding Changes on Tanzania Civil Society Organizations.](#)



Taarifa kwa Vyombo vya Habari

Ripoti ya Utafiti wa Athari ya Kusitishwa kwa Msaada wa Marekani kwa Asasi za Kiraia Tanzania

Mtandao wa Watetezi wa Haki za Binadamu Tanzania (THRDC) umechapisha matokeo ya utafiti unaoonesha madhara makubwa ya kusitishwa kwa misaada ya Marekani tarehe 20 Januari 2025. Utafiti huo ulifanyika Januari hadi Juni 2025 kwa kutumia dodoso mtandaoni kwa zaidi ya AZAKI 200, mahojiano, majadiliano ya vikundi, na mapitio ya nyaraka mbalimbali.

AZAKI nchini huchangia takribani TZS trilioni 2.64 kila mwaka katika maendeleo ya taifa. Utafiti unaonesha kuwa asilimia 85 ya AZAKI hutegemea wafadhili wa nje, hususan USAID. Kusitishwa kwa ghafla kwa ufadhili kumedhihirisha utegemezi huu na kusababisha changamoto kubwa kifedha na kiutendaji.

Huduma muhimu zimevurugika. Zaidi ya 40% ya AZAKI zimeripoti kusimamisha au kufukuza watumishi wake kutokana na kupunguzwa bajeti kwa hadi 90%, hali ambayo imeathiri utoaji wa huduma za afya, elimu, na msaada wa kisheria. Miradi muhimu kama ya UKIMWI kupitia PEPFAR, miradi ya kilimo ya Feed the Future, na programu za ushiriki wa wananchi kama Tushiriki Pamoja imesimama. Makundi yaliyo hatarini, ikiwemo wanawake, vijana, na watu wanaoishi na VVU, yanakosa huduma muhimu za afya na ulinzi wa kijamii. Baadhi ya maeneo yameripoti kuongezeka kwa ukatili wa kijinsia, utumikishaji, wanafunzi kuacha shule, na ndoa za utotoni.

AZAKI za ndani zimeathirika zaidi kutokana na ukweli kwamba ni asilimia ndogo tu ya ufadhili (2.6% hadi 30%) ndiyo iliwafikia moja kwa moja kabla ya kusitishwa kwa misaada. Mzigo mkubwa wa kisheria na kutopewa motisha za kodi unaathiri zaidi uendeleu wa AZAKI.

Athari zimeenea hadi kwenye uchumi. AZAKI zimeshindwa kurejesha mikopo benki, hali inayoyumbisha mifumo ya kifedha na kudhoofisha thamani ya shilingi kutokana na kupungua kwa fedha za kigeni. Sekta zilizoathirika zaidi ni Afya, Wanawake na Jinsia, pamoja na Elimu. Baadhi ya AZAKI ziko hatarini kufungwa kabisa.

Ili kuendelea kutoa huduma, AZAKI zinapunguza shughuli au kutafuta wafadhili wapya. THRDC inapendekeza hatua za haraka na za muda mrefu, zikiwemo kuimarisha vyanzo vya fedha vya ndani, kuboresha mipango ya wafadhili wanapojitoa, marekebisho ya sheria zinazozuia ustawi wa AZAKI, na kuhakikisha usawa katika upatikanaji wa fedha kwa AZAKI za ndani.

Sekta ya AZAKI nchini ina mchango muhimu katika kuendeleza demokrasia, na ustawi wa jamii. Mtandao unatoa wito kwa Serikali, wafadhili, na wadau mbalimbali kushirikiana kulinda uendeshaji wa asasi za kiraia na kulinda mafanikio yaliyopatikana katika sekta za afya, elimu, haki za binadamu, na uhifadhi wa mazingira. Ripoti kamili inapatikana katika tovuti ya THRDC kupitia kiungo hichi:

[Ripoti ya Utafiti wa Athari za Kusitishwa kwa Msaada kutoka Marekani kwa Asasi za Kiraia Tanzania.](#)