

HIV Research & Development at Risk

Tracking the Impact of US Funding Cuts

May 2025

Introduction

Tracking the impact of US Government cuts on HIV R&D, with a focus on biomedical prevention

- This document analyzes the impact of US Government funding cuts, terminated projects, and other policy changes on HIV research starting in January 2025
- Since January 2025, USAID funding has been abruptly halted across the agency; for HIV research, putting the future of vaccines, bNAbs, and new PrEP modalities at risk
- NIH research cuts have focused (initially) on diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), gender ideology, vaccine hesitancy and climate with an increased emphasis on “America First” priorities, and pauses in international research, impacting funding for HIV-focused projects
- The President’s proposed US Fiscal Year 2026 budget to begin Oct 1 includes even more sweeping rollbacks to R&D – and not clear how Congress will respond
- This report will be updated to track ongoing cuts and shifts to this work, and to highlight their implications on the HIV response

Tracking US funding Cuts for HIV R&D

Report outline

- NIH: Major retrenchment
- DAIDS Networks: In flux
- HIV Prevention Pipeline: People's Research Agenda in Crisis
- USAID: Dismantled
- Country-level collateral
- Potential impacts
- Now what?
- Resources

Research Under Assault

Trump plans \$18B NIH budget cut, wants 27 centers consolidated into 5

Trump Administration Slashes Research Into L.G.B.T.Q. Health

Nearly half of the N.I.H. grants canceled through early May — together worth more than \$800 million — addressed the health of sexual and gender minority groups, The Times found.

Overseas grants could be ‘closed down’ by NIH under new policy, internal email suggests

Top agency official directs sweeping review of grants with a foreign component

‘Borders on the insane’: New NIH policy on funding foreign scientists stirs outrage

Agency will make researchers outside United States seek grants of their own rather than “subawards” from U.S. scientists

Research Under Assault

High-level snapshot of cuts to HIV-related research

- "Pause"/ban on international research
- LGBTQ study terminations
- Cap on indirect rates in grants to US academic institutions, which provide core building, laboratory and training infrastructure
- Changes in scientific review processes
- Major staff reductions – and forced reassignments

HIV Prevention: People's Research Agenda

Launched in 2024 to amplify advocates' priorities for prevention research



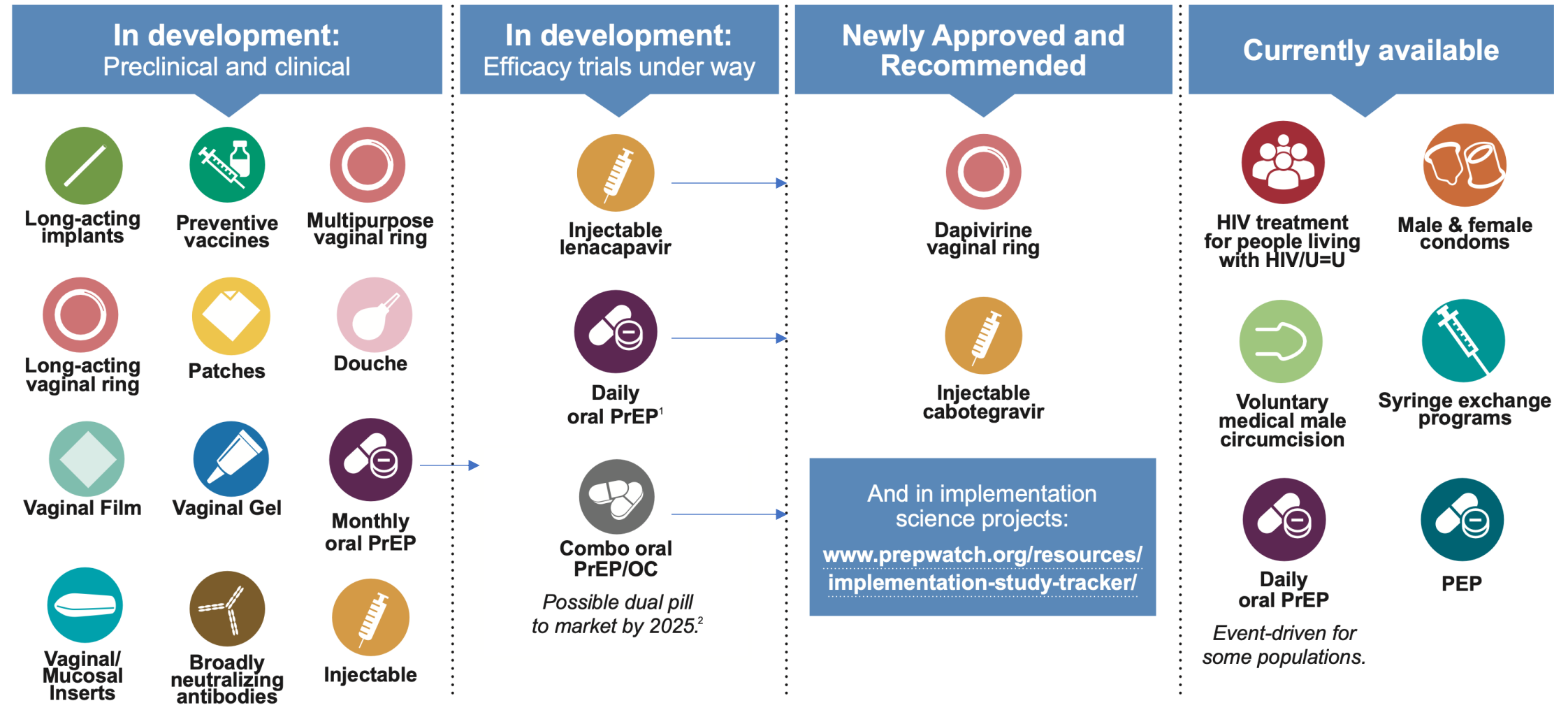
- Provides a clear, concise and collaboratively developed set of priorities for how prevention research should be conducted and what products should be developed
- A living document and tool for communities to amplify priorities in real time, to hold those with most decision-making power accountable
- Reference for funders, product developers and policy leaders to use as crucial decisions are made about what to invest in, where and why
- USG cuts bring "People's Research Agenda in Crisis" – outlined priorities are all under threat; potential for irrevocable damage to critical aspects of research, choice, access

<https://avac.org/peoples-research-agenda/>

PRA: Key Messages at 2024 Launch

- Any product approaching efficacy trials cannot move forward without a clear access plan in place; trials must be conducted in parallel with considerations for access, pricing, and manufacturing
- New products should balance filling a gap in the toolbox with additions to existing products that make them more accessible and streamline uptake (e.g., both longer and shorter intervals of dosing; MPTs; novel formulations, mechanisms of action and/or delivery systems)
- Product development should move forward with greater focus and investment in social and behavioral science and being mindful of structural barriers such as stigma and discrimination
- Field needs realistic Target Product Profiles (TPPs) for all product categories
- There is excitement among advocates about the promise of MPTs, but regulatory pathway brings significant complexity
- Significant time and energy across stakeholders should rightfully continue to be placed into making newly efficacious products accessible

Overview of Biomedical Px Pipeline (pre-2025)



PRA in Crisis: Impact of USAID & NIH Cuts

In development: Preclinical and clinical

USAID cancelled funding for pre-clinical and clinical trials, stunting critical early progress on multiple upstream HIV prevention products

NIH terminated HIV vaccine research, including research on vaccine candidates and bNabs

Long-acting implants, Long-acting vaginal ring, Vaginal Mucosal Inserts, Vaginal purpose vaginal ring, Preventive vaccines, Monthly oral PrEP, Vaginal lenacapavir, Daily oral PrEP, Combo oral PrEP/OC, Possible dual pill to market by 2025?

In development: Efficacy & IS trials under way

NIH and USAID terminated implementation science and acceptability studies which could impact product introduction

Daily oral PrEP, Combo oral PrEP/OC, Possible dual pill to market by 2025?

Newly Approved and Recommended

Introduction of promising new products in development and newly approved is at risk if USAID does not honor procurement commitments and fund prevention programs

Injectable, Vaginal ring

Currently available

Cuts to USAID's PEPFAR funding for prevention products and programs may impact access to available products, but the extent is not yet known

HIV treatment for people living with HIV, Male & female condoms, Voluntary medical male circumcision, PEP, Daily oral PrEP, Event-driven for some populations.

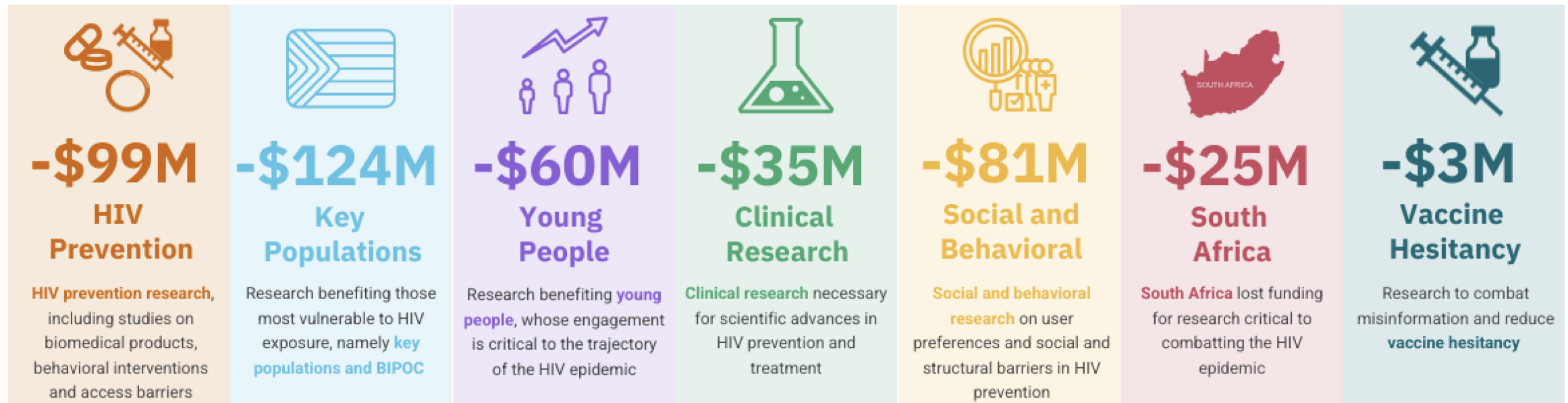
NIH: Major Retrenchment

Top-line cuts

- Thousands of NIH grants terminated as of May 2025
 - 191 HIV-related grants terminated, worth over ~\$200M
 - Primary topics for NIH grant termination: DEI, "gender ideology", sexual minorities, vaccine hesitancy, mRNA vaccines, and South Africa
- No inclusion of subawards to ANY international partners and awards to be handled directly by NIH – new policy coming Sept 30
- NIH's workforce to be cut by 1,200-1,300 staffers
 - Including leaders of NIAID, NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Fogarty International Center, chief bioethicist
- President's "skinny" budget for fiscal year 2026 would codify another 40% reduction, or \$18B in funding, plus \$3.6B for CDC and \$5.2B for NSF

The Cost of Cutting HIV Research

NIH terminated 191 HIV-specific grants in 2025, slashing over \$200 million from key HIV prevention research grants¹

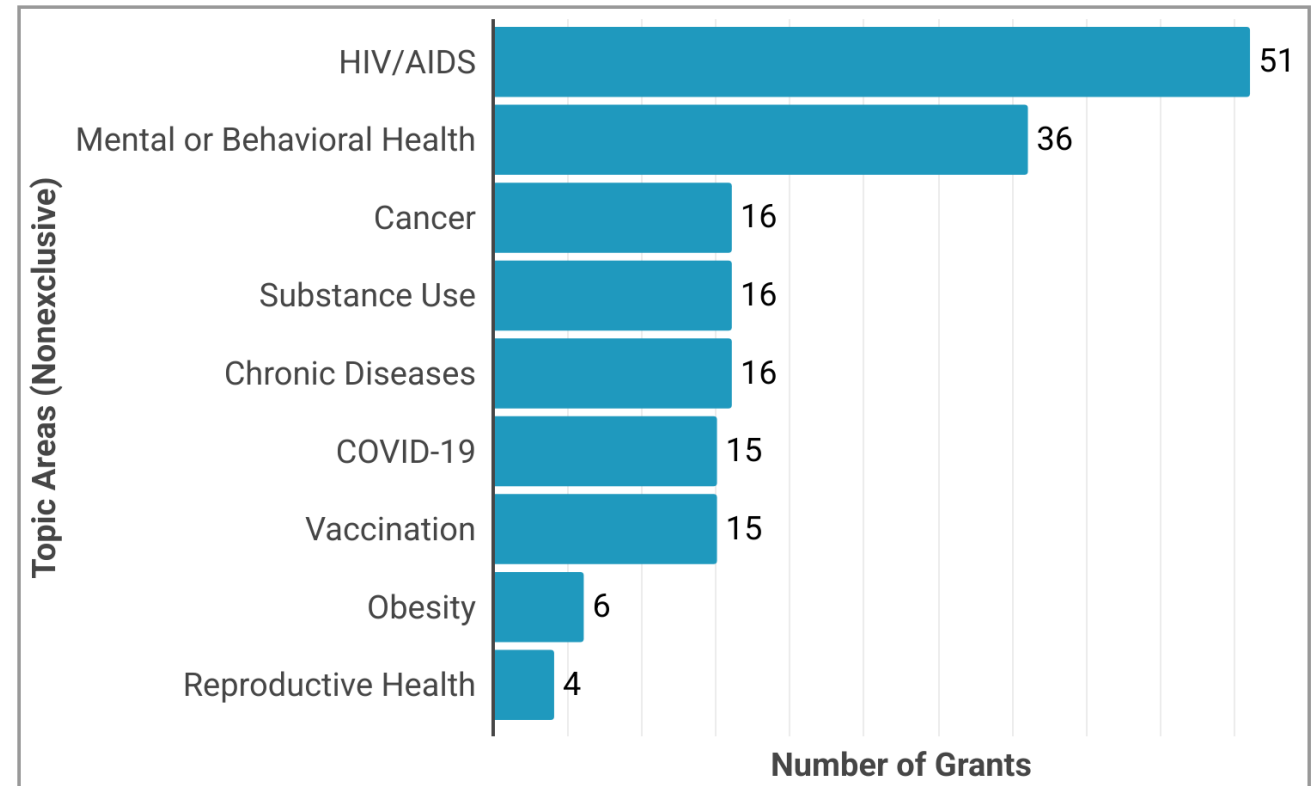


¹Grants may cover more than one research area, so total across categories shown here exceeds \$200 million in total funding lost

NIH: Cuts to Clinical Trials

- Total NIH termination of grants—unprecedented in history of agency
 - \$19B lost funding = 777 terminated grants
 - \$643M = 113 active clinical trials terminated
 - 56% (\$~360M) of terminated **clinical trials** related to HIV

Terminated NIH Grants with Active Clinical Trials



Source: Association of American Medical Colleges

HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Networks

Details on major clinical trials networks


















- 30% of funding withheld from semi-annual Notice of Awards for NIAID's DAIDS-funded trial networks (HPTN, HVTN, ACTG, IMPAACT)
 - ~\$300M per year to networks = ~ \$90M cut for just six months
 - Restricts funding for international research activities
- NICHD-funded Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) was halted in March
 - \$18M cut with immediate effect
 - ATN led pioneering work on HIV prevention and treatment interventions for adolescents and young adults

USAID HIV Research Project Terminations

Tracking the impact of stop-work orders on HIV prevention R&D

- Since January 2025, withdrawal of USAID funding has halted HIV clinical trials, implementation science and the rollout of new prevention options
- Public records of projects receiving funding from USAID have been erased
- Terminations (details on next slide):
 - Promising preclinical HIV vaccine research, including mRNA-based candidates (ADVANCE project, ~\$32M/yr)
 - Early-stage, African-led HIV vaccine R&D (BRILLIANT consortium, ~\$9M/yr)
 - Next-generation, user-centered PrEP (MATRIX consortium, ~\$25M/yr)
 - Implementation science on delivering multiple PrEP options (MOSAIC project, ~\$17M/yr)

USAID HIV Research Project Terminations: Details

Project	Product(s)	Type	Country(ries)	# of participants
	 TAF/EVG Fast-dissolving insert	MATRIX-001 Phase 1 safety and acceptability	Kenya, South Africa, USA	60
	 One month dapivirine vaginal film	MATRIX-002 Safety, acceptability, usability of placebo	Kenya, South Africa, USA, Zimbabwe	100
	 Non-ARV nonhormonal contraceptive multipurpose vaginal ring	MATRIX-003 Safety, acceptability, usability of placebo	South Africa, USA, Zimbabwe	100
	 Injectable CAB, Dapivirine Vaginal Ring, Oral TDF/FTC	Cohort study of safety in mothers and babies exposed to ARV-based prevention	Kenya, Lesotho, Zimbabwe	500-800
	 One-month dapivirine vaginal film plus levonorgestrel (LNG)	Preclinical study	USA	Preclinical
	 BG505 GT1.1 and 426c.Mod. Core-C4b	B-001 Phase 1 clinical trial	Kenya, South Africa, Uganda	48
	 Polyvalent HIV-SET saMRNA vaccine clinical program	Pre-clinical and clinical trials	Multiple African countries	Exploratory
	 CAP 256 based mRNA vaccine candidates incl Africa-based mRNA manufacturing	Development program	Multiple African countries	Exploratory
	 Multiple founder virus-based vaccines	Exploratory program	Multiple African countries	Exploratory
	 Tech-transfer activities in Uganda with SOSIP trimers	Technology transfer	Uganda	Exploratory
ADVANCE	 Mosaic Trimers: MOS1SIP, MOS2SIP, M3SIP8 and MPLA	Vaccine	Rwanda, Zambia	40
	 Multisite Adolescent Girls and Young Women study	MAGY Epidemiological study	Uganda, Zambia, Kenya, South Africa	1,210
	 Injectable CAB, Dapivirine Vaginal Ring, Oral TDF/FTC	CATALYST Implementation Science Study	Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe	7,500
	 Injectable CAB, Dapivirine Vaginal Ring	Policy and programmatic support, including user-centered research and technical assistance	Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Community-based
	 Dapivirine Vaginal Ring, Oral TDF/FTC	Increasing PrEP Options for Women in Eswatini	Eswatini	400
	 PrEP, vaccines and multipurpose technologies	Research translation and preparedness, policy support and advocacy to support prevention research	Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Community-based

Potential Fallout from Cuts to HIV Prevention

Impacts on trials sponsored by non-USG funders

- USG funding is the scaffold on which pharma, philanthropies and other governments invest in transformative HIV & TB science
- Trials sponsored by other research funders build on top of core and other funding provided to clinical trials units and research sites through NIH awards
- USG cuts risk infrastructure, staff/talent, training the next generation of scientists, community engagement, data sharing, biorepositories, etc.
- If South African and other international study sites and participants are excluded from enrollment, follow-up, study completion, and data collection and analysis, ongoing and planned trials are likely underpowered to produce meaningful results, wasting years of work and tens or hundreds millions of dollars
- Trials no longer able to enroll internationally will face delays and increased costs as they seek new sites and study participants elsewhere

Now what?

Action to prevent further harm and continue funding for HIV R&D

- Lawsuits against NIH & USAID
- Advocacy directed at US Congress
 - Monitor, advocate, and activate national and local political action around Fiscal Year 2026 US Budget
- Monitor DAIDS network funding and renewal after 2026
- Advocacy with national governments
 - Potential domestic resources to maintain scientific infrastructure
 - Ensure ethical follow-up with clinical trial participants
 - Adapt *People's Research Agenda* to develop national priorities and accountability mechanisms

Further resources

- [People's Research Agenda](#), AVAC
- [Science in the Crosshairs: Research Advocacy in a Time of Crisis](#), The Choice Agenda webinar recording, slides and resources
- [The Best Investment You Didn't Know You Made: How NIH Funding Fuels Innovation and Economic Growth](#), amfAR
- [Quick Take: HIV Research Matters for America](#), amfAR & O'Neill Institute
- [Impact of NIH Grant Terminations](#), Association of American Medical Colleges
- [Research Matters Advocacy Toolkit](#), AVAC, TAG, HIVMA
- [NIH halts more collaborations with South Africa on HIV/AIDS trials](#), Science
- [We do the sums: The NIH funds \\$350-million \(R6.65-billion\) of research in SA](#), Bhekisisa
- [Inside the Bloodbath at the NIH](#), The Nation
- Weekly [Global Health Watch](#), AVAC