

US freezes foreign aid for almost all countries including Ukraine, except Israel and Turkey

The US has halted foreign aid for several countries, including Ukraine, but exempted Israel and Turkey. Secretary of State Rubio's directive mandates this freeze, with exceptions for emergency food and military funding for allies. This impacts various aid programs, including PEPFAR, affecting over 20 million people needing HIV/AIDS treatment.



by OJAANK IAS

Comprehensive Freeze on Foreign Aid



Freeze Announcement

The United States has frozen all the foreign aids for several countries, including Ukraine on Friday but Israel and Turkey are exempted.



Internal Directive

An internal directive from secretary of state Marco Rubio, issued shortly after President Donald Trump's inauguration, emphasised an "America First" approach to overseas assistance, AFP reported.



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"No new funds shall be obligated for new awards or extensions of existing awards until each proposed new award or extension has been reviewed and approved," stated the internal memo obtained by AFP.

1 Emergency Food Aid

Exceptions for emergency food contributions

Exceptions for emergency food contributions

2 Military Funding

Exceptions for Israel and Egypt

Exceptions for Israel and Egypt

3 Review Process

All new awards and extensions subject to review and approval

All new awards and extensions subject to review and approval

METHOD TO ESTABLISH AN INDUSTRY

Impact on Various Aid Categories

Development Support

This comprehensive directive impacts various aid categories, including development support

Military Support

The directive also affects military support, notably affecting Ukraine, which had received substantial weapons funding under the previous Biden administration during its defence against Russian forces.

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PEPFAR Funding Suspension

PEPFAR Suspension

The suspension also halts US funding for PEPFAR, the HIV/AIDS programme providing anti-retroviral treatments in developing nations, particularly across Africa.

PEPFAR History

PEPFAR, established during George W Bush's presidency in 2003, has preserved approximately 26 million lives and previously maintained broad bipartisan backing in Washington.



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Exceptions to the Freeze



Israel

The directive specifically excludes military aid to Israel, whose US arms support has increased since the Gaza conflict



Egypt

Egypt, a recipient of substantial US defence funding since its 1979 peace agreement with Israel, is also exempted



Emergency Food Aid

Rubio included provisions for US emergency food aid contributions, which have supported crisis-affected regions including Sudan and Syria





Impact on Global Health Initiatives

20M

PEPFAR Beneficiaries

Democratic legislators highlighted that PEPFAR supports over 20 million individuals requiring medication

63M

Anti-Malaria Initiatives

US-funded anti-malaria initiatives assist 63 million people

Public Opinion on Foreign Aid Freeze

1

Support for Freeze

Yes, It's Necessary for Prioritizing Interests

2

Opposition to Freeze

No, It Could Harm International Relations

3

Public Debate

Do You Support the U.S. Freezing Foreign Aid
for Most Countries?

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