

The impact of suspensions and reductions in official development assistance on HIV, hepatitis and STIs

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Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes

WHO survey on continuity of HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections health services

The “National survey on continuity of essential HIV, hepatitis, and STIs health services” was developed by WHO’s Department of Global HIV, Hepatitis and STIs Programmes (HHS). It consists of 14 questions and aims to rapidly assess the extent of disruptions to health systems and essential health services related to HIV, hepatitis and STIs. Specifically, it focuses on antiretroviral service disruptions, stockouts, and testing service disruptions. It provides immediate insights into the current countries’ experiences in a rapidly changing context. Issued on 6 February 2025, the survey was addressed to key informants in 55 Member States that rely heavily on funding from the Government of the United States of America. At the end of March 2025, 36 responses were received. These data have been instrumental in establishing baseline information and identifying needs to guide targeted interventions effectively.

The rapid assessment revealed evidence of reported service disruptions in key populations, pre-exposure and post-exposure services, testing and treatment services, and health information systems. The results of this survey are also used to estimate the impact on HIV-related mortality and new HIV infections in both the short and long term, should the Government of the United States of America decide to permanently withdraw its support in these countries.

Rapid WHO country office stock take on impact of suspensions and reductions in official development assistance on health systems

The “Impact of suspensions and reductions in health official development assistance on health systems” is a rapid stock take conducted with 108 of its country and field offices from 7 March 2025 to 2 April 2025. It shows that recent suspensions and reductions in health official development assistance are leading to severe impacts on health systems across all regions and income groups, resulting in significant health service disruptions. WHO’s internal intelligence gathering exercise aimed to identify the urgent support countries need to avoid catastrophic impacts on the health of the populations and to guide monitoring of the rapidly evolving situation.

Results show that:

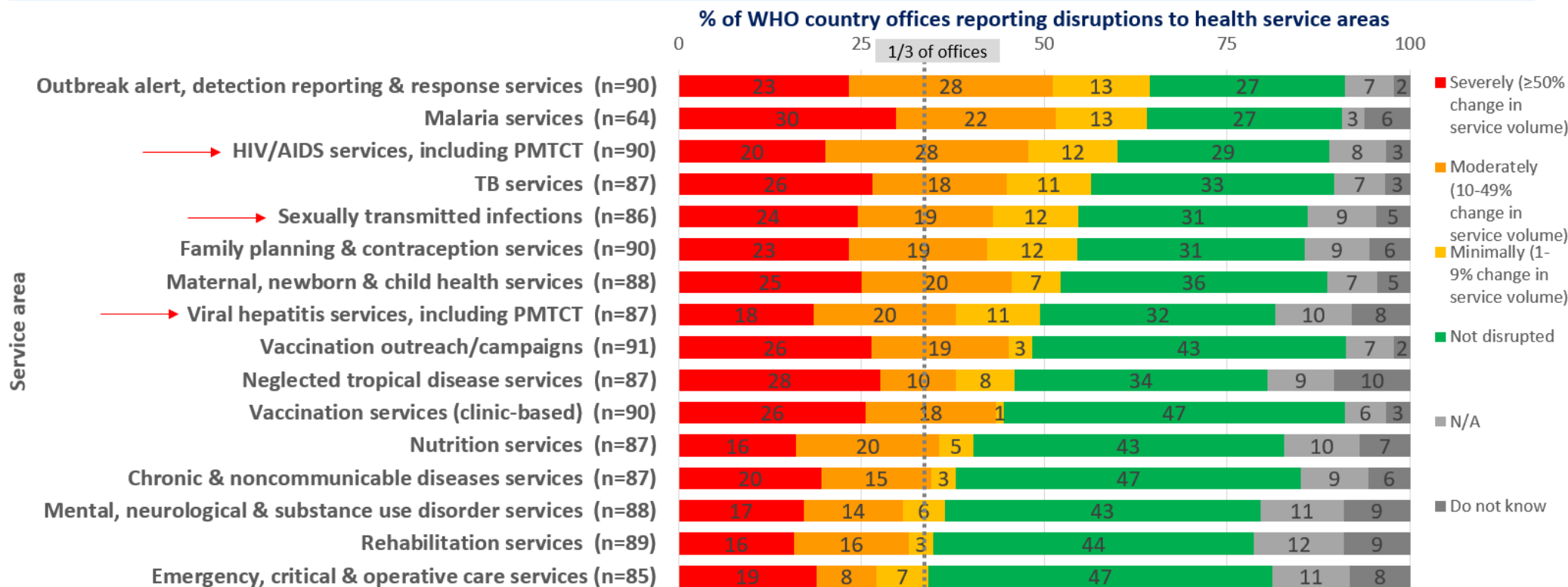
- 1) **Health service delivery is being interrupted in 71%** (75 of 106) of countries in at least one tracer health service area. Moderate to severe levels of disruptions are being reported in HIV services in 48 % (43 of 90) countries, STIs services in 43% (37 of 86) countries, and viral hepatitis services in 38% (33 of 87) countries.
- 2) Major impact has also been observed in the **availability of medicines and health products** where moderate to severe levels of disruptions are being reported in HIV medicines and health products in 36% (32 of 88) countries, STI medicines and health products in 34% (30 of 87) countries, and viral hepatitis medicines and health products in 29% (25 of 86) countries.

- 3) **Wide-ranging impact is being felt across countries following funding freezes and cuts.** 42% of responding offices estimated over 25% of share of total foreign aid for health has been frozen. While some countries are already working to replace the funding from domestic and partner sources, the budget cuts are already translating into increased out-of-pocket payments for people in one-fourth of countries.
- 4) The **pause in foreign aid has led to job losses for health and care workers** in over half of responding countries and significant disruptions to trainings. Community health workers and medical doctors are particularly affected among occupations. Additional affected occupations include nurses, midwives, pharmacists health/HRH information systems staff, dentists, health promotion specialists, social workers and other psychosocial staff, laboratory staff, other ancillary health workers, public health professionals, NGO workers, and other administrative, financial, transport and support staff.
- 5) Over 40% countries experienced disruptions **to key information systems**, including collaborative surveillance and emergency systems, health management information systems, disease-specific reporting systems, lab information systems, and household/population surveys.
- 6) Common **mitigation measures** include reallocating resources, integrating service delivery, strengthening country-level partnerships for delivery of care, and reorienting models of care.
- 7) Nearly two-thirds of countries have **paused operational workplans** and **halted partner coordination activities** due to the current pause in foreign aid for health.
- 8) Countries are taking actions to **improve partner coordination** and alignment of donor funding to national priorities. Countries have also started setting up regular Ministry of Health meetings to review gaps and action plans.
- 9) Countries need **innovative funding** and **resource mobilization, targeted technical assistance and support** (such as around integrating service delivery, **public financial management**, and **procurement of health products**, strategic dialogues for **reprioritization** and **contingency planning**, and **strengthened partner alignment and coordination**. There have been over 250 needs/requests from 81 countries, highlighting the urgent need for support in these areas.

Read more: [Rapid WHO country office stock take on the impact of suspensions and reductions in official development assistance on health systems : summary of results \(10 Apr 2025\)](#) (PDF, 340 kB)

⚠ Extent of service disruptions

- 71% (75 of 106) of WHO country offices reported disruptions to at least one service area
- Service areas **moderately and severely** affected include: HIV services 48 % (43 of 90) countries, STIs services 43% (37 of 86) countries, and viral hepatitis services 38% (33 of 87) countries
- Disruptions for potentially life-saving emergency, critical & operative care are particularly concerning



Note: Service areas are listed in descending order based on overall impact (severe + moderate + minimal)

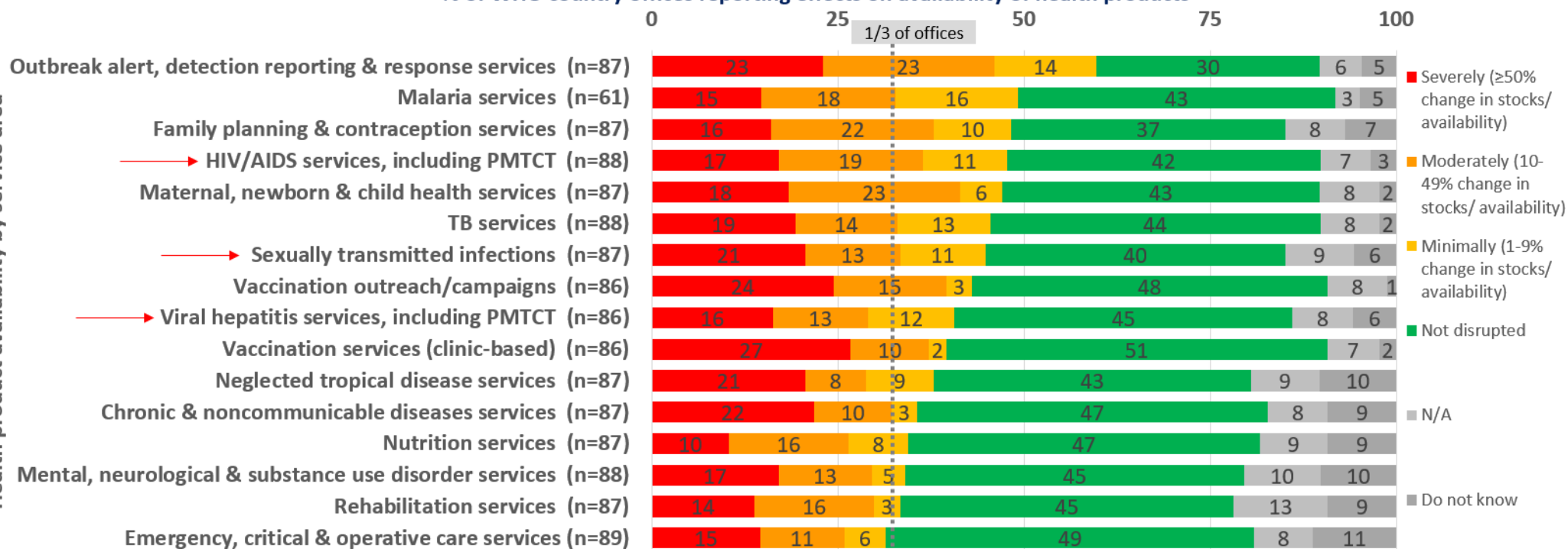
Effects on health product availability

Including medicines, medical devices including diagnostics, vaccines, assistive products and other health products



- Over 1/3 of WHO country offices reported shortages of medicines and health products for key diseases and conditions
- Health product availability **moderately** and **severely** affected for: HIV in 36% (32 of 88) countries, STIs in 34% (30 of 87) countries, and viral hepatitis in 29% (25 of 86) countries
- Shortages of products for potentially lifesaving emergency, critical & operative care are reported for 32% of countries

% of WHO country offices reporting effects on availability of health products



Note: Service areas are listed in descending order based on overall impact (severe + moderate + minimal)

Rapid WHO country office stock take on the impact of suspensions and reductions in health ODA on health systems (10 Apr 2025)