

COSW CONTRIBUTES TO PODCAST EXAMINING THE TRUMP EFFECT ON AID AND DEVELOPMENT

COSW contributed to a podcast which explores the impact of sudden, wholesale cuts to the USAID funding on health and social services across the global south. The cuts have harmed individual and community health and created substantial unemployment. Media attention has moved on but the destruction and pain remain.



The discussion covers the impact of United States foreign aid cuts on the Commonwealth countries and beyond. The speakers highlight the significant repercussions for vital areas like healthcare, education, food security, and stability in crisis regions, particularly affecting vulnerable populations. They emphasise the sudden and devastating nature of the cuts, which disrupt established programs and livelihoods, and call for urgent cooperation among Commonwealth nations to address the resulting funding gaps and explore alternative support mechanisms. The conversation also touches on the wider context of global development assistance and the need for a sustainable, well-planned approach to supporting health workforces.

To understand the impact and the necessary response, the podcast had input from:-

- **Zeni Thumbadoo** (social worker and Deputy Director, National Association of Child Care Workers, South Africa) on managing the cuts in her organisation
- **David N Jones** (IFCO: Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations and Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work) and **Yinglen Butt** (Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation) on the impact across the Commonwealth and submissions on health and wellbeing workforce to the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in May 2025
- **Judith Diment** (Coordinator Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force, Rotary International) of the impact on polio eradication
- **David Gomez** (Director, Ramphal Institute) who provides a pan-Commonwealth overview and considers likely consequences

Listen to the Bloomsbury Radio [podcast](#) first broadcast on 17 April 2025 (free access).

Ends

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PRESS RELEASE

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NOTE: COSW is an organisation for citizens of the Commonwealth who are interested in supporting social work and social development. It is supported by social work associations in the Commonwealth. It aims to promote and support communication and collaboration between social workers and social work associations of Commonwealth countries, and to uphold and promote the code of ethics of the International Federation of Social Workers. This statement can be found on the [COSW website](#).

See also

[Analysis of the impact of US foreign aid cuts on development and well-being, particularly within Commonwealth countries, with a focus on immediate and long-term consequences.](#)

[Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations statement on global relationships and development assistance](#)

[Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance statement on Freeze of USA Overseas Aid](#)

['This will cost lives': cuts to UK aid budget condemned as 'betrayal' by international development groups](#) – Kat Lay – Guardian - 2 March 2025

[Development Without Aid - Minouche Shafik 18 April](#)

Contact

David N Jones (COSW Secretary General) COSW.cw@gmail.com