



African  
Sex  
Workers  
Alliance



## Personal stories of sex workers in Senegal affected by the U.S. foreign aid freeze



Senegal



# 1 Introduction

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The recent freeze on U.S. foreign aid has had profound effects on marginalized communities in Senegal, particularly sex workers who rely heavily on international support for health services and social programs. Here are five illustrative stories highlighting the challenges they face:

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## 1.1 Jossiane Struggle with HIV Treatment Interruptions

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Jossiane, a 29-year-old sex worker in Dakar, has been living with HIV for several years. She depended on antiretroviral therapy (ART) provided through clinics funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). With the aid freeze, many of these clinics have shut down, disrupting her treatment. This interruption not only jeopardizes her health but also increases the risk of HIV transmission to others.

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## 1.2 Mariama's Loss of Support Networks

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Mariama, a 35-year-old mother of two, found solace and support in community programs aimed at empowering sex workers. These programs offered education on safe practices, legal rights, and provided a sense of community. Funded by U.S. aid, these initiatives have been suspended, leaving Mariama and many others without essential support systems.

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## 1.3 Fatou's Increased Vulnerability to Exploitation

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Fatou, a young sex worker in Mbour, relied on USAID-funded reproductive health services for contraception and regular health check-ups. With the cessation of these services, she faces increased health risks and vulnerability to exploitation, as access to essential health care becomes scarce.

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## 1.4 Aminata's Experience with Rising Stigma

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Aminata has been an advocate for sex workers' rights in Senegal. The aid freeze has led to the suspension of programs that promoted awareness and reduced stigma against sex workers. Without these programs, Aminata has noticed a resurgence in discrimination and violence towards her community, making their lives increasingly precarious.



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## 1.5 Khady's Battle with Mental Health

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Khady, a 40-year-old sex worker, has struggled with substance abuse and mental health issues. She depended on counseling and rehabilitation services funded by U.S. aid. The sudden halt of these services has left her without support, exacerbating her mental health challenges and hindering her path to recovery.

These stories underscore the critical impact of the U.S. foreign aid freeze on sex workers in Senegal, highlighting the urgent need for alternative support mechanisms to address the health and social challenges they face.

