

10 DONOR ALTERNATIVES TO USAID WITH OPEN GRANT CALLS



Photo Credit: Kayla Bartkowski, Getty Images



The USAID funding freeze announced in January 2025 has wreaked havoc in the development ecosystem worldwide. Humanitarian workers, non-profit staff, international projects, and vulnerable populations across multiple countries have all been affected. To help organizations to function in these challenging times, we have compiled a list of 10 alternative donors with funding calls currently open and available on www.developmentaid.org.

Photo Credit: Celal Güneş – Anadolu Agency

The United States of America has been paving the way and leading international aid efforts for the last 50 years. So, it is no surprise that the aid freeze announced by President Donald Trump on January 20, 2025, his first day in office, has wreaked havoc in this sector. Non-profit, contracted staff, and government employees are being laid off. Vital **projects are being shut down** and **vulnerable countries are losing a critical source of financial aid**.

See also: USAID stop-work orders: Consequences of USA's 'quasi-isolationism' for vulnerable communities and development efforts

As of today, the development community remains unsure how long the freeze will last and what the American foreign aid landscape will look like within the next four years of Trump's presidency. With so much uncertainty, it is time to prepare for the worst and come up with alternative plans. To help organizations to navigate these murky waters, DevelopmentAid has compiled a list of 10 alternative donors with funding calls currently open. In total, there are over 1,100 grant calls to explore but, more importantly, platform members can access thousands of open and forecasted aid funding opportunities in order to diversify and update their strategies in these challenging times.



#1: EuropeAid: European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

The Directorate-General for International Partnerships leads the implementation of global commitments made by the European Union. This EU agency focuses on actions relating to sustainable development, poverty, peace, and human rights.

More about this donor:

Type	Multilateral
Size	501-1000 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	1083

More about EuropeAid funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Education, Energy, Environment & NRM, Health, Law, Youth

Who does it fund? Most calls target non-profit organizations, government bodies, and the private sector although other entities are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Latest open calls:

- **Upholding human rights standards in the criminal justice system**

Pakistan, European Union	€2,400,000	Non-profit organizations
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- **Innovation Fund 2024 Net Zero Technologies – Pilot projects**

Worldwide	€200,000,000	Government or public entities, private sector
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#2: GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (DE)

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit is a German federal enterprise working on international collaborations for sustainable development and education. In 2023, GIZ registered a business volume of €4 billion.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	10000+ employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	41

More about GIZ funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Democracy, Institutional Development & Capacity Building, Macro-Economics & Public Finance, Poverty Reduction

Who does it fund? Most calls target non-profit organizations, the private sector, government bodies, and academic institutions although other entities are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Latest open calls:

- **Sustainable Support to Persons Displaced by Conflict and Natural Disasters and their Host Communities**

Ethiopia	€6,900,000	Non-profit organizations
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- **Climate Change Mitigation Fund**

Sri Lanka	€25,000	Unrestricted, all applicant types accepted
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Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada

#3: Global Affairs Canada

Global Affairs Canada, an entity spearheaded by the Canadian government, aims to build “a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world” by leading the external relations of the country, including international development and humanitarian aid.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	1001-5000 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	38

More about Global Affairs Canada funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Environment & NRM, Humanitarian Aid & Emergency, Poverty Reduction, Science & Innovation, Social Development

Who does it fund? Most calls target non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and government bodies although other entities are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Northern America, Asia, and Africa.

Latest open calls:

- **Canada – South Korea Co-Innovation**

Canada	€400,000	Private sector
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- **Improving the Resilience of Indigenous Peoples to Climate Change in Vulnerable Areas of the Colombian Amazon**

Colombia	Unspecified budget	Non-profit organizations
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Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

#4: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UK)

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is a ministerial department of the United Kingdom's government. This department is responsible for all international relationships, including foreign aid.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	1001 – 5000 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	36

More about FCDO funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Civil Society & NGOs, Education, Environment & NRM, Food Security, Health, Humanitarian Aid & Emergency, Public Administration, Water & Sanitation

Who does it fund? Most calls target nonprofit organizations and the private sector, but other entities are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Latest open calls:

- **Call for Partnership: Growth Advisors**

Nepal		€120,000	Private sector
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- **Innovation Fund for Impactful AI**

Multiple countries in Africa, Asia, and Oceania	€300,000	Private sector
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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

#5: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (AU)

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is part of the Australian government. This department focuses on tackling global challenges and providing support to Australians overseas.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	501 - 1000 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	30

More about DFAT funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Agriculture, Disaster Reduction, Education, Gender, Health, Humanitarian Aid & Emergency, Poverty Reduction, SMEs & the Private Sector

Who does it fund? Most calls target non-profit organizations and the private sector although other entities and individuals are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Oceania and Asia.

Latest open calls:

- **Rugby League in the Pacific**

Australia, Papua New Guinea	€290,000,000	Rugby league
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- **Community Grant Program**

Cook Islands	€60,000	Non-profit organizations, Private sector, Individuals
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#6: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (AU)

SIDA, or the Swedish International Development Agency, is a government entity mainly dedicated to fighting poverty and oppression around the globe. Its operational strategy for 2024-2026 also highlights other key areas of action, including health, climate, gender, and migration.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	501 - 1000 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	24

More about SIDA funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Poverty Reduction, Democratization, Health, Human Rights, Security, Social Development, Gender, Migration, Environment & NRM

Who does it fund? Most calls target nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the government. Other entities and individuals are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Latest open calls:

- Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund

Countries around the Baltic Sea	Unspecified budget	Non-profit organizations, Government or public entities, Private sector, Academic institutions, Research and technology organizations
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- Enhancing the position of women to decrease risk of discrimination and gender-based violence

Serbia	€33,500	Non-profit organizations
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#7: AFD: French Development Agency

The French Development Agency works on behalf of the government to support the achievement of sustainable development goals on an international scale. Climate, biodiversity, and urban development are among the priorities of this entity which has already implemented projects in over 150 countries.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	501 - 1000 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	20

More about AFD funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Education, Energy, Environment & NRM, Finance & Accounting, Health, Institutional Development & Capacity Building, SME & the Private Sector, Urban Development, Water & Sanitation

Who does it fund? Nearly half of the calls target non-profit organizations although other entities are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Latest open calls:

- **East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Program**

Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	€190,000	Non-profit organizations, Government or public entities, private sector, academic institutions
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- **Territorialized Platform for Microprojects**

Multiple countries	€20,000	Government or public entities
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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

#8: SDC: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, or SDC, is incorporated within a Swiss federal department. The SDC is in charge of international activities in the fields of research, culture, humanitarian aid, and other global challenges.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	501 - 1000 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	16

More about SDC funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Education, Food Security, Humanitarian Aid & Emergency, Macro-Economics & Public Finance, Public Administration, Rural Development, Research, Culture

Who does it fund? Nearly half of the calls target nonprofit organizations, but other entities are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Europe and Asia.

Latest open calls:

- **Local Development Fund**

Armenia	€70,000	Non-profit organizations
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- **"My Community Promotes Mental Health" Grant Competition**

Moldova	€10,000	Non-profit organizations, Government or public entities, private sector
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**United
Nations**

#9: United Nations Secretariat

The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization composed of 193 member states. The United Nations Secretariat is one of the United Nations' six primary organizations and its mission is the maintenance of international peace and security.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	501 - 1000 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	14

More about UN Secretariat funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Conflict, Disaster Reduction, Education, Health, Humanitarian Aid & Emergency, Security

Who does it fund? The large majority of the calls target non-profit organizations although other entities are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Africa and Asia.

Latest open calls:

- **UN Fund to Combat Modern Slavery**

Worldwide	€33,000	Non-profit organizations
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- **UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture**

Worldwide	€96,000	Non-profit organizations, Hospitals
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#10: Norad: Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Norad is Norway's specialist body for international aid and sustainable development, operating under the administrative command of the country's government. This agency focuses its work on human rights, environmental sustainability, and climate issues.

More about this donor:

Type	Bilateral
Size	201 – 500 employees
Nr. of open or upcoming grant calls:	12

More about Norad funding opportunities:

Priority sectors: Civil Society & NGOs

Who does it fund? Nearly half of the calls target non-profit organizations although other entities are also eligible.

Where does it fund? Worldwide, but mostly in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Latest open calls:

- **Promotion of Norwegian Arts and Culture in Turkey and Azerbaijan**

Turkey, Azerbaijan	€8,600	Arts, culture, and festival-related entities
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- **Energy Audits and Technical Designs for Small Apartment Buildings**

Moldova	Unspecified budget	Homeowners associations
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See also: [Top 10 foreign aid organizations hiring the most in 2024](#)

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