Declines in HIV/AIDS funding put poorest countries at risk

The extraordinary resources invested to fight HIV/AIDS in low- and middle-income countries ($221 billion from 2000 to 2016) have helped change the course of history.

Deaths from HIV/AIDS worldwide, 1990-2017

A In 1995, 18 million people were living with HIV/AIDS globally and 3 million additional cases emerged each year.
B At its peak in 2006, nearly 2 million people died from HIV/AIDS each year.
C Since 2006, the number of new HIV/AIDS cases has dropped 20%, the global HIV/AIDS death rate has declined 53%, and 16.4 million people in low- and middle-income countries are now on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

However, this progress, particularly in low- and lower-middle-income countries, may be jeopardized by cuts to foreign aid budgets.

Development assistance for HIV/AIDS decreased by $2.3 billion between 2012 ($11.8 billion) and 2018 ($9.5 billion), with additional cuts proposed.

Low- and lower-middle-income countries are especially vulnerable to cuts in development assistance for HIV/AIDS.
Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly at risk from HIV/AIDS funding shortfalls since 58% of HIV/AIDS spending in the region comes from development assistance.

While low- and lower-middle income countries are home to the majority of people living with HIV/AIDS, their combined spending to address HIV/AIDS lags far behind that of upper-middle income countries.

Development assistance represented 84% of HIV/AIDS spending in low-income countries and 56% in lower-middle income countries.

In 2016, low- and lower-middle income countries comprised 73% of countries (22 of 30) with high or extremely high prevalence of HIV/AIDS (defined as 1% or greater prevalence).

In 2016, over 25 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were living with HIV/AIDS.