



THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

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Top of the Agenda

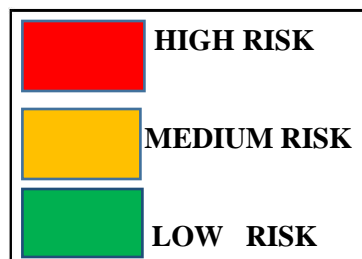
Fallouts of Trump's Executive Order in Nigeria: Programmes Stoppage, Job Losses Trail USAID Funds Freeze

The Executive Order by President of the United States of America, Donald Trump to halt foreign aid to countries has resulted in thousands of employees at the US Agency for International Development, sent on compulsory leave. The order halting the USAID funding to organisations outside the US sent shock waves within Nigeria's development programmes circles with several local organisations that rely entirely on the agency's funding being forced to dismiss staff, cancel programme activities, and abandon life-saving interventions. The order sparked fears of a humanitarian and development crisis and job losses in non-governmental organisations affiliated to USAID in Nigeria. Currently, some of these organisations have shut down, awaiting further directives from their funders. The USAID programmes are crucial for global development, promoting U.S. national security and economic prosperity while empowering self-reliance in recipient nations. In Nigeria, USAID focuses on economic growth, food security, health, governance, gender equality, renewable energy, and stability in conflict-affected areas.

Fallouts of Trump's executive order in Nigeria: Programmes stoppage, job losses trail USAID funds freeze - Vanguard News

ANALYSIS

President Donald Trump's 90-day halt of foreign aid and the closure of USAID sent shivers among African countries. The USAID generally provide critical resources and services in healthcare, education, humanitarian assistance in these countries. This is a wake-up call for African countries including Nigeria that have relied on foreign assistance in these sectors instead of investing heavily in the development of these sectors that are crucial to the wellbeing of Nigerians. The multi-ministerial committee set up by the Nigerian government to mitigate the impact of the USAID closure is a step in the right direction. However, current global events have shown that Nigeria cannot afford to outsource her development functions to external parties. The government must therefore urgently embark on extensive reform and overhaul of Nigeria's health sector and other crucial sectors to meet the needs of its teeming population.



Nigeria

NIGERIA ON HIGH ALERT OVER EBOLA OUTBREAK IN UGANDA

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has placed the country on high alert following the confirmation of an Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Uganda. According to the NCDC Director-General, Dr. Jide Idris, the agency is taking proactive measures to prevent the spread of the disease in Nigeria. Ebola is a rare but severe illness caused by viruses of the genus Ebolavirus, which spreads to humans through close contact with infected animals or human-to-human transmission via bodily fluids, contaminated surfaces, or materials. The disease has led to multiple outbreaks across Africa since its discovery in 1976. The NCDC has activated its emergency response system to enhance surveillance, contact tracing, and infection prevention and control measures. This move is aimed at protecting Nigerians from the potential spread of the disease.

Nigerian Tribune: [Nigeria on high alert over Ebola outbreak in Uganda](#) February 5th, 2025.

NIMET PREDICTS HIGH RAINFALL IN MAY, JUNE

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) has predicted high-intensity rainfall likely resulting in flash floods between May and June 2025 in coastal cities of the country. **The** Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, made this disclosure while presenting the annual climate prediction for the year 2025 in Abuja. He also revealed that the onset of rain is predicted to be delayed over the northern and central states of Plateau as well as parts of Kaduna, Niger, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba, Adamawa, and Kwara. While early onset is expected over the southern states of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Anambra, and sections of Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Lagos, Edo, Enugu, Imo, and Ebonyi. The rest of the country is predicted to have a normal onset. Also, earlier than long-term average end-of-rainy season is predicted over parts of Zamfara, Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Plateau, Bauchi, Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Niger, Kwara, Kogi, FCT, Ekiti, and Ondo states.

Channels: [Nimet Predicts High Rainfall in May, June](#) February 4, 2025

UNILORIN UNDERGRADUATE COMMITS SUICIDE OVER 'HARDSHIP'

A 200-level male student of the University of Ilorin (UNILORIN), Kwara State, has reportedly committed suicide over economic hardship. It was also gathered that the student was on the cumulative aggregate of 4.5 academic standing at the Department of Mass Communication before his unfortunate death. Sources in the university community said that the deceased committed suicide due to financial challenges facing him. It was gathered that the deceased decided to take a poisonous substance last weekend, just after his roommate had left for lectures, leaving a note for his roommate which stated his inability to cope with his financial situation as a reason for committing suicide.

Channels: [UNILORIN Undergraduate Commits Suicide Over 'Hardship'](#) February 4, 2025

NIGERIA, TUNISIA, AND ETHIOPIA JOIN RUSSIA'S CURRENCY TRADING LIST

Russia has expanded the list of countries eligible for currency trading in Moscow to 40, adding Nigeria, Tunisia, and Ethiopia to its roster. The move, confirmed by Russian officials in an official statement, allows credit institutions and brokers from these nations as well as those from Argentina, Cambodia, Laos, and Mexico to trade on the Russian foreign exchange and derivatives markets. This directive aims to bolster the Russian economy by increasing payments in its national currency and improving the direct conversion system among friendly and neutral governments. Originally, domestic trading in Russia was restricted to local entities. However, this limited liquidity and affected the ruble's exchange rate, especially after Western sanctions led to rising demand for other currencies. Consequently, Moscow began opening up its currency trading sector to other countries.

iAfrica: Nigeria, Tunisia, and Ethiopia Join Russia's Currency Trading List February 5th, 2025.

West Africa

BURKINA FASO DEBUTS NEW AES PASSPORT AMID REGIONAL SHIFT

Captain Ibrahim Traoré, Burkina Faso's transitional president, has become the first recipient of the new Alliance of Sahel States (AES) passport following the bloc's exit from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The passport is being produced at Burkina Faso's migration division in Ouagadougou. Locals expressed optimism that the document could lower trade barriers and reduce high customs fees while enhancing cross-border connectivity. Despite lingering concerns about economic implications and relations with other ECOWAS countries, many in Ouagadougou view the new passport as a tool for fostering unity and driving economic growth. They also hope it will simplify travel between the three countries in the AES – Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. As the AES framework is implemented, the hope is that these changes will open up new opportunities for the region.

iAfrica: Burkina Faso Debuts New AES Passport Amid Regional Shift February 5th, 2025.

INTERPOL CARRIES OUT SUCCESSFUL WEST AFRICA BORDER SECURITY OPERATION

An Interpol coordinated border security operation in West Africa saw 45 arrests and the seizure of drugs, counterfeit medicines and stolen vehicles worth millions of dollars. Operation Screen West Africa, over a five-week period late last year, saw law enforcement agencies from 12 West African countries collectively strengthen border security and disrupt transnational organised crime networks. Among its higher profile outcomes during the 21 October to 24 November operation was detection of a suspected Islamic State member at the Mali-Niger-Burkina Faso tri-border area and thwarting plans of a North African suspect planning to transit through Europe to join ISIS in Syria, according to an Interpol statement.

DefenceWed: Interpol carries out successful West Africa border security operation February 6th, 2025

Africa

DR CONGO REBELS ANNOUNCE CEASEFIRE TO EASE HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS

The Congo River Alliance, a coalition of rebel groups including the Rwanda-backed M23, has declared a unilateral ceasefire in eastern DR Congo for humanitarian reasons, effective Tuesday. The ceasefire comes in the wake of intense fighting in Goma Congo's largest eastern city where at least 900 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced. Although M23 has made territorial gains in other parts of the region and is advancing toward South Kivu's capital, Bukavu, the rebel group has stated that it has no intention of capturing new areas. Nevertheless, the group reiterated its commitment to defend its current positions and protect the civilian populations in those areas. While Congo's government has not yet commented, the ceasefire could pave the way for safer humanitarian aid delivery and renewed peace talks.

iAfrica: DR Congo Rebels Announce Ceasefire to Ease Humanitarian Conditions February 5th, 2025

UGANDA BEGINS TESTING NEW EBOLA VACCINE AMID OUTBREAK

Uganda has launched a clinical trial for an experimental vaccine against the Sudan strain of Ebola following an outbreak that claimed the life of a nurse in Kampala. The trial, initiated just four days after the first fatality, targets health workers and individuals exposed to the virus via a "ring" vaccination strategy—immunizing confirmed contacts and their contacts. Two additional cases were confirmed among the nurse's relatives, underscoring the urgency of containment measures. This marks the sixth Ebola outbreak in Uganda involving the Sudan strain, for which no approved vaccine exists. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus lauded the rapid initiation of the trial, noting that a candidate vaccine system established during the 2022 outbreak of the same strain paved the way for this swift response. Ebola is transmitted through body fluids and causes symptoms including fever, vomiting, bleeding, and diarrhea.

iAfrica: Uganda Begins Testing New Ebola Vaccine Amid Outbreak February 5th, 2025

FRENCH TROOPS BEGIN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANOTHER AFRICAN STATE

France has handed over three military bases to Senegal, beginning the withdrawal of French troops from the West African country at the request of the government. Paris had 350 soldiers stationed in Senegal and planned to reduce the contingent to 100 as part of a broader military reconfiguration in West and Central Africa, where it has suffered setbacks. In November, Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, who has been in office for less than a year, announced his decision to entirely remove the French military presence from his country. He said the French army bases are “incompatible” with the nation’s sovereignty. It was reported that French forces would leave all five military bases in Senegal by the end of September 2025.

RT: French troops begin withdrawal from another African state February 5th, 2025

RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA: HOW MOSCOW USES DISINFORMATION IN AFRICA

Disinformation campaigns are exploding across Africa, with Russia believed to be the main instigator. A facebook account for instance has gained popularity for canonizing Russia with fake information. According to some profile information, the dubious account seems to operate from the East African nation of Burundi. Over 180,000 people follow the account as a news platform. There are even more obvious lies on the platform. One of them claims a Russian laser weapon once destroyed 750 American fighter planes. According to a report published in March 2024 by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies — a US military think tank — Russia is now the primary agent of such state-sponsored campaigns across Africa.

DW: Russian propaganda: How Moscow uses disinformation in Africa February 5th, 2025

TRUMP PLANS TO CUT US FUNDING TO SOUTH AFRICA OVER LAND LAW. MUSK HAS ALSO CRITICIZED THE COUNTRY

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he will cut all funding to South Africa and has launched an investigation into the country’s policies, claiming that a “massive” human rights violation against white people is happening over a new land expropriation law. Trump made the pledge to stop all future funding on his Truth Social platform on Sunday, writing: “South Africa is confiscating land, and treating certain classes of people VERY BADLY.”

AP News: Trump plans to cut US funding to South Africa over land law. Musk has also criticized the country February 5th, 2025.

AFRICOM CARRIES OUT FIRST TRUMP-DIRECTED AIRSTRIKE ON ISIS-SOMALIA

At the direction of President Donald J Trump, the United States carried out its first airstrike of his second term, targeting ISIS-Somalia operatives in the Golis Mountains. Conducted by US Africa Command (AFRICOM) and coordinated with the Federal Government of Somalia, the strike resulted in multiple militant casualties, with no civilians harmed, according to initial assessments. US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth stated that this action further degrades ISIS's ability to plot and conduct terrorist attacks threatening US citizens, their partners, and innocent civilians.

Defence Web: [AFRICOM carries out first Trump-directed airstrike on ISIS-Somalia](#) February 6th 2025

AT LEAST 10 SOLDIERS IN NIGER ARE KILLED IN AN AMBUSH

Armed assailants in western Niger killed at least 10 soldiers in an ambush on a military unit that had been sent to hunt cattle rustlers in a border region near Burkina Faso, Niger's ruling junta said. The military unit was deployed Monday to catch criminals who had been stealing the cattle in the western village of Takzat, the military said in a statement broadcast Wednesday night.

AP NEWS: [At least 10 soldiers in Niger are killed in an ambush, the army says](#) February 6th 2025

NIGER JUNTA EXPELS RED CROSS WITHOUT EXPLANATION

The Nigerien Foreign Affairs ministry has asked the ICRC to leave the country after denouncing certain agreements. Some foreigners working with the NGO in Niger have already begun to leave the country, and the delegation's office has been closed since Tuesday.

RT: [Niger junta expels Red Cross without explanation](#) February 6th 2025

HUNDREDS OF WOMEN RAPED AND BURNED TO DEATH AFTER GOMA PRISON SET ON FIRE

Hundreds of women were raped and burned alive during the chaos after a Rwandan-backed rebel group entered the Congolese city of Goma last week. The female inmates were attacked in their wing inside Goma's Munzenze prison during a mass jailbreak, according to a senior UN official. The deputy head of the UN peacekeeping force based in Goma, Vivian van de Perre, said that while several thousand men managed to escape from the prison, the area reserved for women was set on fire.

The Guardian [Hundreds of women raped and burned to death after Goma prison set on fire](#) February 5th 2025

UN: DEATHS NEAR 3,000 IN FIGHTING FOR DRC'S GOMA

A senior U.N. official in the Democratic Republic of Congo said Wednesday that nearly 3,000 people have been killed in a fighting between M23 militants and the national army over control of a key eastern city. Vivian van de Perre, the deputy head of the United Nations mission in the DRC, told reporters in a video call from Goma that U.N. teams are “actively helping” the M23 to collect the dead from the city’s streets. She said that, so far, 2,000 bodies have been retrieved and 900 others are in hospital morgues. She continued that “We expect this number to go up,” she said. “There are still many decomposing bodies in many areas.

VOA: UN: Deaths near 3,000 in fighting for DRC's Goma February 6th 2025