Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health | William H. Gates Sr. Institute for Population and Reproductive Health

Holding the Line

tci The Challenge Initiative

The first report using frontline data on women's health a year and a half after the global funding cuts:
Observations from 214 locations across Africa and Asia, home to 300 million people.

When the United States dismantled USAID in January 2025, the surveys that would normally measure the damage were defunded, delayed or diminished. In 214 locations across 13 countries in Africa and Asia, the government data systems that The Challenge Initiative (TCI) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health helps local governments strengthen kept reporting, every facility, every month. This report documents the funding crisis from those service statistics, not modeled projections.

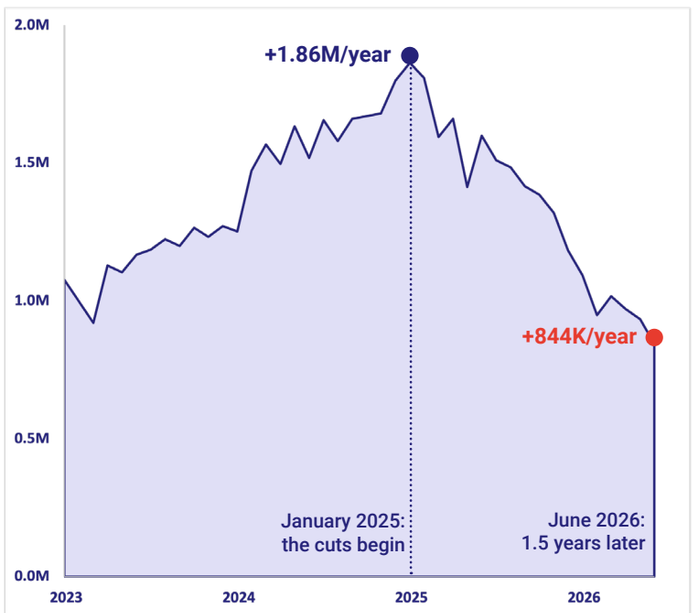
214
TCI-supported locations across 13 countries

17.9M
Women using modern contraception (June 2026)

↑ 137
Locations still adding users (64%), down from 178

↓ 77
Locations now losing users (36%), up from 36

The pace of growth has more than halved



Users added over the trailing 12 months, all 214 locations, January 2023 to June 2026 (government HMIS, unsmoothed).

214 locations at a glance

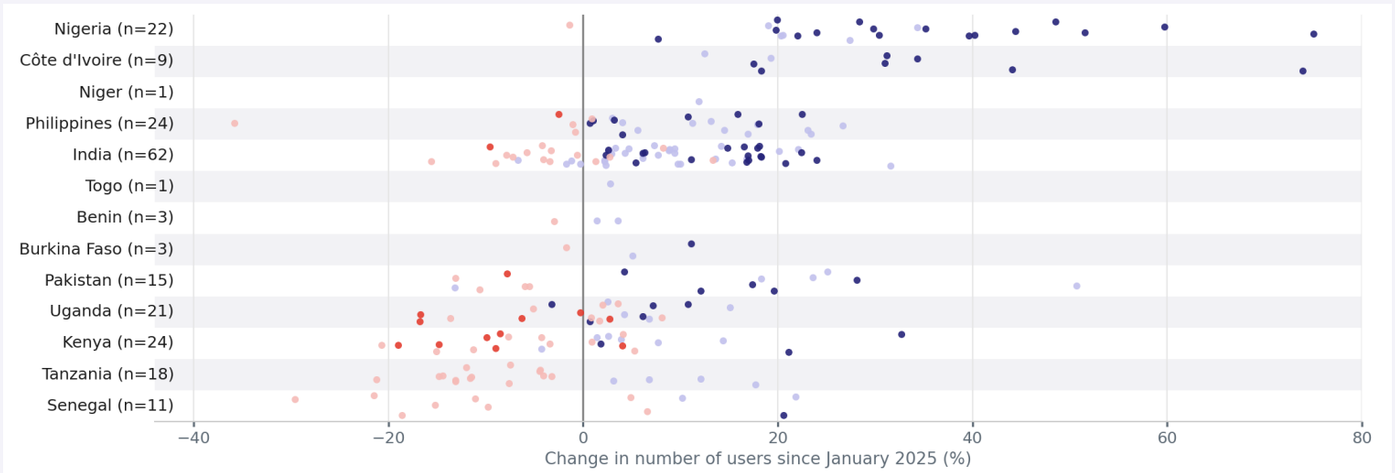
+1.86M/year → **+ 844K/year**
users added, January 2025 (the month the cuts began) — users added, June 2026

Four groups, four responses

- Growing faster than before the cuts (64): no new support needed. The systems that produced the growth are the ones to protect.
- Growing, but slower (73): watching, not rescue. Monthly monitoring, coaching check-ins and protected budget lines so they regain their pace.
- Newly losing users (63): a re-ignition package. Commodity bridge financing, coaching visits restored, data reviews and advocacy for domestic budget lines.
- Losing users before and since (14): intensive re-engagement, comparable to full TCI support during scale-up.

Almost two-thirds of the 77 losing locations are in four countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Senegal. Together, these 77 locations are shedding around 400,000 users a year. They are home to 22.9 million women of reproductive age.

All 214 locations, January 2025 to June 2026: Change in users, colored by current momentum



The ask – by audience

Donors and development finance institutions

Mobilize resources to fund a targeted re-ignition and re-engagement push. Progress is verifiable every month, in the same government data.

National and local governments

Protect the family planning budget lines your systems fought for, and claim the credit when resilience is demonstrated: the growth belongs to the governments that own these programs.

Implementing Partners

The coaching model, measurement methods and diagnostics behind this report are open. We would rather replicate together than compete.

Download the report | Learn more: tciurbanhealth.org | Contact: info@tciurbanhealth.org

Source: The Challenge Initiative, Holding the Line, Quarterly Data Bulletin, Edition 1 (September 2026); government HMIS data from 214 TCI-supported locations, through June 2026.