Logenix Global Insider

The Official Newsletter of Logenix International

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APRIL 2025 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In January 2025, the Trump administration launched a sweeping review of U.S. foreign aid and proposed a major restructuring that includes consolidating functions within the State Department. The following timeline outlines the key developments of April.

April 15 — Trump administration plans to cut State Department funding by half. Read more.

April 17 — USAID leadership issues guidance on global health awards that will continue under agency's narrow focus. Read More.

Administration extends foreign aid review another 30 days. Read more.

April 22 — State Department releases new 'America First' reorganization plan. Read more.

WHAT REMAINS OF USAID?

Of the 6,239 programs operated by USAID, only 898—approximately 14%—remain active.

According to recent Devex articles, these remaining programs have a combined estimated cost of $78 billion, of which $69.7 billion has been obligated (legally committed and designated for spending), leaving $8.3 billion in unobligated funds. These unobligated funds represent budgeted or appropriated resources that have not yet been committed to specific projects or agreements. While they indicate potential funding availability, they do not guarantee future allocations.

Approximately 155 global health awards remain active and Devex reports they are categorized into four key areas: (1) direct health service delivery, (2) procurement of essential health commodities and supply chain management, (3) emergency response to infectious disease outbreaks, and (4) data analytics, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure accountability, cost-effectiveness, and efficiency. In contrast, programs that have been cut—or "deprioritized"—focus on broader objectives such as behavior change, health systems strengthening, knowledge management, general research, and technical assistance not directly linked to lifesaving services.

The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) reports that in FY 2023, USAID obligated or implemented 73% ($6.2 billion) of all U.S. global health bilateral assistance. This included managing 100% of funding for maternal and child health, tuberculosis, and global health security; 99% for family planning and reproductive health; 96% for malaria; 60% for HIV/AIDS (PEPFAR) programs; and 59% for nutrition. Many global health awards are multi-sectoral and address more than one global health sub-sector. However, across all sectors, award terminations have been significant. KFF reports that based on the number of awards (not total dollar value), the total termination rate by sector ranges from 71% for HIV-related programs to 86% for both nutrition and maternal and child health programs.

Although the State Department has taken over the remaining functions of USAID, it is itself undergoing major reorganization and facing proposed budget cuts of nearly 50%. Reports by Devex suggest these cuts would slash foreign assistance by $21.5 billion—a 56% reduction overall—with global health programs losing $5.4 billion. This would leave only $4.6 billion to support critical initiatives like PEPFAR, the Global Fund, and efforts to combat tuberculosis, malaria, and other health threats. While these changes are not yet finalized and require Congressional approval, the potential scale of the cuts creates deep uncertainty about the future of U.S. foreign assistance and global health funding.

GLOBAL MARKET UPDATE

The ongoing U.S. tariff war continues to exert a direct impact on global shipping operations. Although the “reciprocal tariffs” introduced on April 2nd have been paused for 90 days, a 10% minimum tariff on U.S. imports remains in place for global trading partners. This is compounded by a 145% tariff on U.S. imports from China and a retaliatory 125% tariff on Chinese imports from the U.S. In response, a growing number of businesses are shifting their sourcing strategies away from China to Southeast Asia, resulting in a rise in spot rates and ocean bookings from the region.

While comprehensive data is still emerging, early indicators suggest a significant downturn in demand and increased volatility in the ocean freight sector. Some sources estimate that overall booking volumes fell by more than 60% between late March and early April. Tender volume has also declined—down 14.9% year-over-year and 7.6% compared to two years ago.

Blank sailings are widely viewed as one of the strongest indicators of future container demand and overall market health. In response to current market conditions, blank sailings are rising rapidly. As shippers pause or cancel shipments, demand for container vessel capacity declines. Carriers are responding by canceling bookings, further contributing to market uncertainty. By week 18, it is projected that carriers will blank 28% of their planned capacity—more than double the previously forecasted rate of 13%.

OCEAN INSIGHTS

- SHIPPING LINES HAVE STOPPED BOOKING FROM INDIA TO KARACHI DUE TO ONGOING UNREST BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES.
- HAPAG LLOYD APPLIES PEAK SEASON SURCHARGE (PSS) FOR ALL CARGOS FROM ASIA & OCEANIA TO DAR ES SALAAM & MOMBASA DUE TO CONTINUED CONGESTION AND DELAYS. BOTH SURCHARGES BECOME APPLICABLE ON MAY 5.
- CMA CGM ANNOUNCES NEW PEAK SEASON SURCHARGE ON ITS ROUTES BETWEEN CHINA & HONG KONG TO ALL DESTINATIONS IN AFRICA.

AIR INSIGHTS

- FOLLOWING RECENT TERROR ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS IN KASHMIR, INDIA CLOSES PAKISTANI AIRSPACE & ISSUES BAN ON ALL TRADE WITH PAKISTAN.
- INDIA ENDS CONTRACT FOR BANGLADESH CARGO TRANSSHIPMENT FACILITY LEADING TO RATE INCREASES TO THE REGION.
- VIETJET REINSTATES WIDE BODY AIRCRAFTS BETWEEN MUMBAI (BOM) AND HANOI, VIETNAM (HAN).
- AIR NIUGINI DOWNGRADES ITS SERVICE TO PORT MORESBY (POM) VIA SINGAPORE (SIN) FOR THE SUMMER. REDUCING FREQUENCY AND EQUIPMENT ON THIS LANE.
- EMIRATES SKYCARGO INTRODUCES NEW DEDICATED-WEEKLY-FREIGHTER SERVICE TO TOKYO, JAPAN (NRT). THE SERVICES REPRESENT THE FIRST DIRECT, SCHEDULED FREIGHTER CONNECTION BETWEEN NARITA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

In the airfreight market, global air cargo demand saw a drop in demand in Week 16 of 2025, with worldwide chargeable weight declining by -6% week-on-week. The week-over-week decline is similar to the -5% decline in the equivalent Easter week last year. This dip closely mirrors the -5% drop recorded during the Easter period last year. As was the case then, all origin regions reported lower demand compared to the previous week. The only exception was Central & South America, which experienced +2% growth in chargeable weight.

However, unlike last year where rates climbed during the holiday slowdown, this year saw prices fall week-on-week from nearly all origins. Africa (+1%), Central & South America (+2%), and North America (+4%), are the only regions to experience rate increases in week 16. All other regions experienced a decline of at least -2%, leading to a worldwide decline in rates of -2%.

Industry News

Global Container Shipping Volume to Fall 1% on Trump Trade Policies, Drewry Says

“Maritime consultancy Drewry said on Thursday it expects global container port volume to fall 1% as a direct result of U.S. trade policies.”

Read Article

Cancelled Voyages Take the Sting Out of Spot Rate Declines this Week

“Container freight spot rates maintained their downward trajectory this week, as tariff uncertainty continued to plague the transpacific market and demand elsewhere failed to match supply.”

Read Article

US Customs Chaos Means 'More Downside Risk Than Upside Potential' for Air Cargo

“Air cargo growth rate forecasts have been slashed, owing to the weaker economic outlook and the impact of tariffs and de minimis ban.”

Read Article

Thank You

We would like to thank all of our clients and partners for the impactful collaborations both featured and not featured in this newsletter.

Connect with us to learn more

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