

Newsire

The must-read global
development newsletter

PRESENTED BY [BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM](#)

SEPT. 2, 2025

BY [ELISSA MIOLENE](#)

Today, the few staff left at the U.S. Agency for International Development have been officially severed from the agency. It marks the end of what Jeremy Lewin, USAID's deputy administrator, previously called [USAID's "final mission"](#) — a wind-down period that lasted from March 28 until Sept. 2.

The year of upheaval has left those who worked at USAID — along with the programs and organizations it supported — navigating uncertainty, scrambling to find their next steps as the agency that once defined U.S. foreign aid fades into history.

Also in today's edition: The cost of contraceptives and their unknown whereabouts, and the death (or is it?) of official development assistance.

📌 Devex is officially on [Telegram](#) and [WhatsApp](#)! Join our channels to receive updates on the latest globaldev news directly to your mobile device.



Things fall apart



"The need for your position no longer exists."

That was the blunt message received by thousands of [USAID](#) staffers earlier this year, just weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump's administration began dismantling the agency. Staff were given one of two end dates — July 1 or Sept. 2 — and told that their roles would soon become a thing of the past.

Over the last five months, a steadily shrinking staff worked to shift some of USAID's programs to the [State Department](#) and shutter everything that remained. And now, just three dozen staff will remain at a hollowed-out version of what was once the largest bilateral donor in the world.

"People with decades of government or NGO experience are **applying for junior-level positions just to stay in the sector**," said the head of one aid agency, speaking to Devex Senior Reporter Colum Lynch. "It's not just their jobs, **their profession is being erased**, at least in the U.S. context."

In the past six months alone, more than 10,000 USAID employees have been let go. [Tens of thousands more have been cut](#) from the aid groups, nonprofits, and

development contractors that USAID once funded, making the sector's hiring market into [what the agency head called a "wasteland."](#)

Julia Hurley, a former senior policy adviser at USAID, founded OneAID — an online information hub for the foreign assistance community. She's still applying for jobs, with the number of roles she's applied to now topping 100. Doug Mercado, a veteran humanitarian worker and once a go-to contractor for USAID's emergency surge efforts, saw job after job disappear. Mercado is now volunteering his time with a friend's nonprofit, lecturing about the humanitarian sector in colleges, and working as a security guard at a concert venue.

Others are going down a very different path. Some are toeing the ever-thinning line between humanitarian aid and the private sector; others are tossing neutrality for humanitarian causes that "support America's national security."

"This administration wants to do things differently; let's do things differently," said a former senior USAID official who was recently hired by a for-profit organization.

Read: [Laid-off USAID workers struggle to find work as new job cuts approach](#)

A MESSAGE FROM BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM