

**Marocco's Record at AID/State.** By Helen Murphey, *Devex Newswire*, 15 Apr 2025

### **A Taste of His Own Medicine**

Peter Marocco led the charge to dismantle USAID — slashing staff, gutting programs, and overseeing cuts at three other smaller aid entities now suing the Trump administration. But now, [he's abruptly out at the U.S. State Department](#), and **no one seems sure why**.

“Pete was brought to State with a big mission ... He conducted that historic task and exposed egregious abuses of taxpayer dollars,” a senior official tells my colleague Elissa Miolene. In fact, by the time Marocco left, less than 20% of [USAID](#) remained.

Reports often emerged of **clashes between Marocco and Secretary of State Marco Rubio**. Right-wing influencer Laura Loomer claimed he was “FIRE” and blasted the secretary of state [on the social media platform X](#): “Rubio has preserved 18% of USAID under the @StateDept, and an internal debate at the State Department erupted because Pete Marocco wants to shut most of the other 18% down.”

Others have very different views of the former Marine.

“Despite his short tenure, **Marocco has crippled U.S. foreign policy**, left the United States a vastly weaker international actor, one that is less trusted and less respected, while directly strengthening foreign powers like China,” says Chris Milligan, a former foreign service officer who served at USAID under six presidential administrations. “Unless Congress acts quickly, **the damage will be irreversible**.”

Marocco exits just as a controversial USAID-[State Department](#) merger plan hits the Office of Management and Budget. [Democrats warn](#) it carries “legal, financial and national security concerns.”

**Read:** [Trump official behind USAID's dismantling exits the State Department](#)