

**Two more stories about State/AID Budget and Marocco/Lewin Roles.** By Anna Gawel, *Devex Newswire*, 16 Apr 2025

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### **Hitting the Marco**

The Trump administration not only expects the State Department to absorb the vestiges of USAID — not so long ago a \$40 billion agency with over 10,000 workers — it expects it to do so on [a shoestring budget that's roughly 50% less](#) than the previous year. Oh, and foreign assistance would take a big hit.

Specifically, the **proposed cuts total \$28.4 billion** for the [State Department](#) and “former [USAID](#) activities,” a plunge of \$26 billion — or 48% — from fiscal year 2025, which ends this September, according to an internal memo obtained by Devex. Last year, the U.S. government spent \$60 billion on international affairs. But if passed by the U.S. Congress as written, the new proposal would channel \$16.9 billion to foreign assistance, a decrease from \$21.5 billion this year.

Title II Food for Peace — the flagship U.S. program to reduce hunger by exporting surplus U.S.-grown commodities worldwide? Gone. Funding for the [National Endowment for Democracy](#) and United Nations international peacekeeping? Nope. [Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#)? Forget it.

The **proposed cuts are “reckless and dangerous,”** says Tom Yazdgerdi, president of the American Foreign Service Association. “Slashing nearly half of the State and USAID activities that our members carry out — alongside hiring and pay freezes and the elimination of Congressionally-mandated priorities — is not fiscal prudence.”

As of publication time, it's unclear how much of the proposal the State Department has agreed to. Secretary of State Marco **Rubio's signature is required for the budget process to continue**, the memo states, after which the plan will be finalized by the Office of Management and Budget, my colleague Elissa Miolene writes. Only then will the proposal be presented to Congress — a move that is expected later this month, according to the memo.

“There is no final plan, final budget, final dynamic. That is up to the White House and the president of the United States as they continue to work on their budget plan and what they submit to Congress,” Tammy Bruce, the State Department's spokesperson, told reporters yesterday. **“These are not known or finalized, or planned.** Only President [Donald] Trump has that information, and we're going to see it soon, I'm sure.”

**Read:** [Trump administration plans to cut State Department funding by half](#)

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## Trading places

Peter Marocco was a controversial choice to run the State Department's Office of Foreign Assistance, aka F bureau, given that **his apparent mission in life was to gut USAID**. His [abrupt departure](#) earlier this week may have perked up hopes that someone more charitable to foreign assistance would take his place. But, as with most hopes that aid advocates had for this administration, that didn't pan out.

That's because [Marocco's replacement is also an avid budget-slasher](#).

**Jeremy Lewin** — a 28-year-old tech entrepreneur — **was named acting director of the F bureau**. And despite not having any government experience prior to the second Trump administration, Lewin has certainly racked it up over the last few weeks.

First, he joined the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE. Then he became **instrumental in the dissolution of USAID**. And in March, [Lewin became](#) both the agency's chief operating officer and deputy administrator for policy and programs, holding one of the top seats at the same agency he sought to dismantle.

“Frankly **it's just adding insult to injury**,” one former USAID staffer tells Devex. “Lewin has proven to be this administration's henchman and despite being 27/28 and with 3 months of government experience, he has held numerous senior positions at multiple agencies concurrently.”

**Read:** [DOGE staffer takes over at the State Department's office of foreign aid](#)

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