

Family Planning - AID Nostalgia. By Helen Murphy, *Devex*, 7 Nov 2025

Hello, USAID, my old friend

Jenny tells me USAID took center stage during a session at the International Conference on Family Planning on Wednesday — **not for new announcements, but for a wave of nostalgia**. Former staffers and partners who'd worked on [USAID](#) projects swapped stories about the agency's outsized role in shaping global health and family planning.

They remembered **how USAID helped countries build supply chain systems** and laid the groundwork for today's best practices — from generating evidence for midwives to provide post-abortion care, to integrating family planning into postpartum services. Several speakers noted that USAID had a hand in developing or introducing almost every contraceptive method on the market today.

But the mood turned more somber as they **reflected on what's been lost since the agency's dismantling**. One speaker recalled having to lay off more than 150 people when funding vanished. And in Zambia, a youth organization that had been preparing to lead a major USAID project saw everything collapse overnight when the Trump administration abruptly terminated thousands of grants and awards.

“For us, it felt like you have been dating this person, you are courting this person, and you're about to get married, and he dies, literally,” said Natasha Salifyanji Kaoma, CEO of Copper Rose Zambia.

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