

## **Global health on US terms.** *Devex*, 27 Nov 2025

The Trump administration is **slowly giving us a clearer picture** of what its “America First” global health strategy actually looks like in practice.

This week, the [U.S. State Department](#) announced a **\$150 million grant** to [Zipline](#) — the American robotics and autonomous drone delivery company — so it can [expand operations in five African countries](#). But there’s a catch: Payments will only flow once participating African governments sign contracts committing to cover the cost of logistics services.

It’s a move that **fits neatly with the Trump administration’s foreign aid goals**: partnering with American companies while shifting more responsibility for health programs onto partner governments.

Former Trump administration officials and African experts alike **have praised the approach**. William “Bill” Steiger, who served as [USAID](#) chief of staff during Trump’s first term, says it’s time for other governments to do their fair share and fund their own health needs. Anthony Mveyange of the [African Population and Health Research Center](#) thanked Trump for prioritizing direct relationships with African governments over routing money through nongovernmental organizations. And Seye Abimbola, associate professor of health systems at the [University of Sydney](#), tells my colleague Sara Jerving the strategy “is far more honest than anything the U.S. government has said about global health ever.”

Former USAID Administrator Mark Green is also seeing the positives. He says the recent partnership announcements with Zipline and [Gilead](#) — for the rollout of the HIV prevention drug lenacapavir — suggest the administration wants to **boost jobs at home and abroad**, scale innovations, and protect America’s health security.

But not everyone is convinced. U.S. requirements for data sharing in its proposed bilateral compacts are **raising eyebrows across the African continent**.

Journalist and author [Emily Bass reported](#) that countries “will be asked to sign a data sharing agreement that could provide the US with login credentials to a sweeping array of national systems for the next twenty five years.”

Abimbola says **the public needs to know what is in these deals**.

“I’m from Nigeria, we have lots of oil that we sign off for pittance, and it bothers

me that it's likely that we will sign off our data and rights to specimens, etc., for a pittance," he says.

**Read:** [State Dept grants \\$150M to Zipline to triple African drone operations](#)

**Plus:** [Will African nations lose their leverage in an 'America First' health plan?](#)