

**Critical Assessment of recent US - Kenya Health Deal.** By Anna Gawel, Devex Newswire,  
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### **Power imbalance**

Neither good nor bad. That's how Dr. Githinji Gitahi, group CEO of [Amref Health Africa](#), describes the recent [Kenya-U.S. health deal](#).

"At face value, a U.S. commitment of \$1.6 billion over five years looks like an unequivocal win for Kenya's health system," he writes [in a Devex opinion piece](#).

**But dig deeper and flaws emerge.** "If Kenya did look the gift horse in the proverbial mouth, the teeth would reveal a fundamental decay in how wealthy nations now conduct global health partnerships and Kenya's constrained position in negotiating them," he argues.

For one thing, the U.S. has for decades been a pillar of global health funding both for moral and security reasons. Gitahi points out that the founding philosophy of [USAID](#) was that keeping other nations safe helped keep Americans safe too.

"That era has ended. The current U.S. foreign policy doctrine has explicitly reframed foreign assistance as a tool of American statecraft to advance national interests," he writes. "This isn't a minor change. It represents a fundamental reorientation that **global health assistance is no longer primarily about saving lives.**"

"This situation reveals the core problem with bilateral deals," he adds, noting that it **allows the powerful to exploit the weaker.**

**Opinion:** [The Kenya-US health deal is pragmatic, but could have been done better](#)