R.I.P. for Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA). By Anna Gawel, *Devex Newswire*, 5 Dec 2025

RFSA. It's one of those bland bureaucratic acronyms that masks the lifesaving nature of what it represents.

RFSA stands for resilience food security activity, which helps communities bridge the gap between emergency food aid and long-term stability by addressing the root causes of hunger. It's also the latest development-related acronym to be axed by the Trump administration.

Just a day before Americans sat down to eat their Thanksgiving meals, organizations that work to provide food security abroad received an email notifying them that "the Department of State does not intend to obligate any additional incremental funding for future activities" — before throwing in: "We appreciate the hard work you and your team have dedicated to this activity."

That activity was **a small but critical subset** of the U.S. government's flagship Food for Peace initiative, which looks likely to be transferred from the State Department — which has run it since USAID was shuttered — to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which promotes the interests of U.S. farmers, my colleague Elissa Miolene reports.

Whether the move would benefit the interests of people abroad remains to be seen, but the elimination of programs designed to fortify communities against hunger **isn't exactly encouraging**.

"For us, the beauty of Food for Peace has always been that the bulk of it is taking care of emergency needs — and that's for people that need food now," says **Emily Byers** of Save the Children. "But it also recognizes that the most effective way to deal with emergencies is **to stop them before they happen**, so it invested a small part of Food for Peace resources in getting communities to the point where they wouldn't need emergency assistance anymore."

She wonders: "What is the long-term strategy here, if we're cutting out any of the preventive part?"

Scoop: State Department ends support for some food security programs