

Who is shaping US Food Aid Policy? By Ayenat Mersie, *Devex Newswire*, 7 Jan 2026

Power center

My colleague Michael Igoe pulled together a clear-eyed guide to [who is shaping U.S. foreign aid in the post-USAID era](#). With “America First” assistance taking form and much still unsettled, **the piece maps the power centers, personalities, and quiet operators** trying to keep the system functioning as it is rebuilt.

For Dish readers, two names are especially worth clocking.

Meghan Hanson is the [U.S. State Department](#)’s senior bureau official for global food security, making her the top official overseeing international food assistance at a moment when roles and responsibilities are in flux. She was appointed by President Donald Trump last January as USAID’s director of policy, just weeks before the agency’s dismantling.

Then there is **Luke Lindberg**, the undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs at the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) and a central figure in the likely transfer of Food for Peace from USAID to USDA. Lindberg is tasked with expanding markets for U.S. farm exports while overseeing international food assistance programs in ways that benefit American producers. As he puts it: “Our intent is that these programs are not eternal, right; they happen, and then they end, and the countries graduate off and are in a better place.”