

## **Elon Musk, State Department workers to be deposed over DOGE dismantling USAID.**

By Julianna Bragg, *Axios*, 5 Feb 2026

Elon [Musk](#) and State Department officials must sit for depositions over their role in dismantling the [U.S. Agency](#) for International Development, a federal judge ruled Tuesday.

**The big picture:** The [order](#) is a win for the anonymous [USAID employees](#) suing over what they say was an unlawful effort by officials of Musk's [Department of Government Efficiency](#) to gut the world's largest humanitarian aid organization.

U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang wrote that there was "no alternative" to the depositions, citing plaintiffs' inability to obtain information through documents or lower-ranking officials, whose deposition requests went unanswered.

- Chuang also pointed to earlier rulings finding that Musk made decisions to dismantle USAID despite lacking formal authority or official approval.

**Zoom in:** USAID's [former workforce](#) of 10,000 managed some \$43 billion in appropriations and assisted approximately 130 countries with disaster relief and economic development in fiscal year 2023.

The [agency's programs](#) prevented an estimated 91 million deaths over the past two decades, including 30 million children, according to a July [study](#).

- Unraveling USAID's could contribute to more than 14 million deaths by 2030, roughly a third of which would be children under 5 years old, the study found.