

[Long Year of Struggle for Fired U.S.A.I.D. Staff.](#) NYTimes letter to the editor by former USAID Rebecca Levy, 23 April 2026

The stories of those who lost their jobs because of the dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development are heartbreaking. But what makes this a national and global tragedy, not just a personal one, is how desperately these people are still needed at the State Department.

Given the Trump administration's slash-and-burn approach to foreign aid, you might think that the United States is out of the foreign assistance business. But Congress has continued to appropriate funds in many areas the Trump administration tried to cut, particularly those that support the world's most vulnerable children and families.

The most recent budget includes \$915 million for maternal and child health, \$524 million for family planning and \$691 million for basic education, all areas that the Trump administration essentially zeroed out in its budget request. The State Department had never run programs in these areas.

After virtually all of the U.S.A.I.D. experts were fired, who exactly is going to ensure that those funds reach the most vulnerable children and families, now that Congress has restored the funding?

The irony of the bogus "waste, fraud and abuse" accusations hurled against U.S.A.I.D. is that the risk of waste, fraud and abuse is now higher than ever without the experts on board.

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