

Spinoff of AID's Development Innovation Ventures. Devex, 20 April 2026

Survival of the fittest

The defunct Development Innovation Ventures initiative at [USAID](#) **has found new life in a spinoff called the DIV Fund**, led by the woman behind the original effort, **Sasha Gallant**.

[Its survival is especially crucial](#) in a world where foreign assistance is a precious commodity and scaling cost-effective, evidence-driven models is a necessary new norm.

“If we’re going to deliver on all of the needs of tomorrow with the resources we have today, we need better tools. We need more effective delivery models, and we need cheaper ways of getting it to people,” Gallant said at last week’s [Devex Impact House: The Capital Summit](#) in Washington, D.C. “That is, in a nutshell, kind of the work of innovation.”

USAID’s Development Innovation Ventures was a “discovery engine” that used a venture-style approach to uncover new innovations, pressure test them, and help them grow, she added.

Fellow panelist **Mark Green**, former USAID administrator under the first Trump administration, agreed **the model needs to be preserved — and buttressed by private sector investment** — especially in Africa, which has been hard-hit by the aid cuts.

“Africans are looking for partners. They’re looking for investment. They’re looking for innovation,” he said. “That’s where I think we are right now, and that’s why, for example, the DIV is so important. It creates a mechanism for doing that.”

For Green, **the lesson is not to abandon official development assistance, but to use it better**, my colleague Tania Karas writes.

“All of this is not an argument to do away with ODA,” he said. “It’s to spend it as wisely as you possibly can.”