

[Former A/AID Gayle Smith Interview.](#) By Helen Murphy, *Devex*, 17 June 2026

The aid reckoning

The [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) may be gone, but the fight over what replaces it is just getting started. The dismantling of the agency and the transfer of its remaining programs to the [State Department](#) have **triggered one of the biggest upheavals in the history of U.S. foreign assistance** — raising deeper questions about the nation’s role in the world, the purpose of development spending, and whether there is still political support for a long-term vision of global development.

Few people have seen those debates from as many angles as **Gayle Smith**, who has served as senior director for development and democracy on the White House National Security Council, USAID administrator, and CEO of the [ONE Campaign](#). This week, she speaks to Devex Senior Reporter Michael Igoe for his [Theory of Change podcast](#).

[In this episode](#), Smith offers a candid **assessment of where U.S. development policy goes from here** — and who should be leading the charge.

Listen: [Gayle Smith on the next fight for foreign aid](#)