

**Mark Green, now head of ONE Campaign, returns to DRM.** By Anna Gawel, Devex, 11 June 2026

## **Long journey**

Improving tax collection and broadening the tax base. Curbing illicit financial flows. Strengthening government administrative capacity and management. Better accounting, reporting, oversight. Ensuring state institutions can fund essential services in a sustainable way

Domestic resource mobilization, or DRM, may not sound glamorous, but **it's a critical plank of helping countries generate enough of their own money** to wean themselves off foreign assistance.

And that's pretty much the stated goal of almost every past [USAID](#) administrator, although one, **Mark Green** — who served under the first Trump administration — made it a centerpiece of his tenure.

Now the newly minted CEO and president of the [ONE Campaign](#), Green is [renewing his "journey to self-reliance" push](#), stressing that it aligns with President **Donald Trump**'s "America First" foreign policy efforts to tackle aid dependency.

And for the self-described "geek for DRM," **domestic resource mobilization is at the "heart" of that journey.**

"One thing is painfully clear: Traditional foreign assistance is no longer sufficient to meet the scale of the challenges and changes before us," Green said during a congressional briefing hosted by the [Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network](#) and Consensus for Development Reform.

"We need to ask ourselves, how can we help countries mobilize and deploy far greater resources on their own, and how can we leverage private capital to advance shared development objectives," he added, stressing that DRM "actually matters."

"It was a cornerstone to our approach. We saw firsthand how relatively modest investments in DRM **could generate substantial economic returns in countries**," he said.

That's all well and good but, like most things in life, **DRM is easier said than**

**done.** Take tax collection for example. In wealthier countries, it's hard enough to get people to cough up more in taxes. In lower-income countries where people already find themselves on the economic brink, it could push them over the edge. And for DRM to work, you need governments with the political will to then deliver the services citizens expect in return for their money.

But if you're able to help countries with the unglamorous task of DRM, **the results can be “transformational,”** said Green, who ironically led the now-shuttered agency that used to offer that help.